

THE NORTH-EAST'S OTHER
NEWSPAPER

FEB. 72

MOTHER
10P
NO 2.

GRUMBLE



**MINERS' CLAIMANTS
RIGHTS ~ page 9**

EDITORIAL

Cold 'n grey outside but it's a warm wind flowing through the Muther Grumble Office. Muther's had loads of people dropping in and out after taking the trouble to find us (our office is heavily camouflaged!) and the big news is that the paper is really working. Everyone is spreading good vibrations, involving themselves, getting into each other at the personal level and, above all, creating and moving! In the office on any day there is a real cross-section of people - people seeking help and information - unemployed people, radical politicians, heads, people at school, teachers, and people just dropping in for a cup of coffee which is cool. Just occasionally the heavies from the TV and the press come in to find out what it's all about. A complicated way to discover the obvious - people are all that really count.

Last issue we perhaps didn't stress strongly enough that we want as much stuff as possible. There is loads of submerged talent in the area because good stuff is coming in and we'd be very grateful for art work, articles, humour, cartoons, information poems and letters. It is essential to put your addresses on the material and it should be sent to us at Muther Grumble, 13 Silver Street, Durham City - better still bring it in yourselves. The more Muther receives the better each issue will be; and we really need more. The dead-line for each issue is the 15th of every month. We're hoping more and more people will get it together to contribute and also sell Muther Grumble.



STAGE THREE ...

Muther's future plans revolve around raising money to get all sorts of activities off the ground. We're keen to set up an office in Newcastle run by Don, Andy, Paul, Phil and Joe. We also want to help Fotomyx, who are screening good films in South Shields and are at the moment in the red. The way in which we can raise money is by benefit concerts and they have an additional advantage of providing a really good time. Our first benefit is on Friday the 3rd of March. It will take place at the Exhibition Hall in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, and at present there is a fifty-fifty chance it will be all night, which is what we really want (details of the benefit on page 17). However, extended licence rests in the hands of the powers that be... what price freedom? We are also planning a second gig at the Seaburn Hotel, Sunderland and one in Darlington. Part of the plan is to bring entertainment to the towns that have virtually nothing at present and so if anyone can contact us about large halls which are available in their area we'd be pleased to put on a gig. Muther's really into love, fun and music.

The point to stress is that we will publicise our financial position constantly (especially as far as benefit finances go) and will have, hopefully, bread available. This money can be claimed for activities and projects - i.e. we want to feed it into the community to provide a more wholesome and exciting environment. Money is a really precious commodity these days but understand that it is solely for everybody in the north-east and not favoured individuals.

and now for the boring bits

The following people dropped in, sat about and drank coffee: Ian, Maurice, Mike, Tony, Ken, Dave, Don, Wart, Steve, Andy, Paul, Kev, George, Viv, Janis, Helen, Alan, Geoff, Sal, Bernie, Keith, Bill, Phil, Joe and Jinx.

And this issue appeared. Thanks also to everyone else, and especially Daeha for being good people.

Muther Grumble reps are established at:-

Newcastle: Don, Andy or Paul - Tel. N/cle. 668498.

South Shields: Phil and Joe - 4, Lawe Road, Sth.Sh'ds.

If you would like to be a Muther Grumble rep, please contact us.

Subscribe to Muther G. £1.00 per year (12 issues)

If you want to talk about your grumble, your activity, or simply yourself via the graffiti page, contact Muther Grumble at 13, Silver Street, Durham City, and she'll see what she can do.

The Muther Grumble office is open to give and receive information and advice between 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (with occasional breaks for meals), Saturdays included.

We aim to help people in any kind of difficulty or trouble throughout the region. We will provide help and information about tenants' rights, social security rights, school action rights, and so on.

If we don't know the answers, we will put you in touch with people who do.

We also wish to help with some of the more sensitive issues such as unwanted preg-

nancies, drug difficulties (busts, bad trips, hang-ups and addiction), and racial discrimination.

We have already built up a fairly large library of publications and news sheets which can be looked at anytime you want.

We are short of cash. Cigarette coupons, green shield stamps and just plain ordinary money help to keep things together.

Printed by Daeha of Kidlington, Oxford.

Published by Parrot Publications at 13, Silver Street, Durham City.

LOOK NORTH

TONIGHT; A SPECIAL WORD FROM OUR PRIME CONDUCTOR.



GOOD EVENING, TONIGHT I WISH TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE RECENT



REPORTS OF DRAMATIC INCREASES IN THE SUICIDE RATE OF THE NORTH EAST.



NOW THERE IS NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT THIS AT ALL. ... AS IT'S ALL



PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO END UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH EAST.

By HARRY ZE.

FAIR RENTS

Attendances at the recent Spennymoor and Durham City tenants association meetings, organised to protest against the Government's "Fair Rents" scheme, were 8 and 9 respectively.

It seems barely credible that in Durham's case only 9 people out of 700 tenants in the Sunderland Road area showed any active interest on hearing their council house rents will rise by £1.50 in the next 18 months.

But every house in the area was circularised well in advance of the meeting at the New Durham Workmen's Club on Wednesday, January 19.

The so-called fair rents scheme gives local housing authorities no option but to raise council house rents in April or October.

If the council chooses April, it must impose three rent rises of 50p a time between April and October 1973.

If instead, the council leaves it until October, it must then raise the rents by £1 AND by another £1 in October next year.

There will be a national rent rebate scheme for those many tenants who will not be able to afford the increases.

This will be based on the means test and even then on the gross income of husband and wife, before any tax or other deductions, rather than take-home pay.

Rebates will also be reduced where other wage earners live in the house (by £1.50 for working sons and daughters aged 18 and above).

Also, the rents of more than one million private rented houses will be de-controlled and therefore subject to massive rises starting January 1973.

Unhappily, many low-income families will never claim rent rebates.

There has always been fear and suspicion of town hall administrations among deprived families and this becomes accentuated under the rigours of the means test.

Gogarty.

DOPE GRILL

Still suffering from throat trouble after grilling their students recently are two senior members of staff at Neville's Cross College, Durham City.

My friend "Dossier" tells me that several persons on the college governing body were scarcely pleased about a directive, thought to emanate from County Hall, asking for co-operation in a little informal drugs survey.

Nevertheless, all resident students received a letter, inviting them to a confidential chat with a senior member over "An important matter".

Each student was asked (a) had they ever taken drugs for pleasure?

(b) who did they know in college who took drugs for pleasure?

(c) did they know who supplied these drugs?

(d) would they tell either the police or college authorities about drug activit-

ies in college?

These tactics were, to say the least, unpleasant and led to acute tension among students.

However, the utter failure of this elephantine diplomacy to produce "results" became obvious as the afternoon progressed.

More sober readers will no doubt remember similar attempts by the authorities to probe leisure activities of Durham students.

At the end of last year the Durham Students Union refused to circulate a questionnaire relating to drug use among young people.

This particular thirst for knowledge was masterminded by a certain A. Sharp Assistant Director for Secondary Education in Durham County.

He smokes elegant cheroots and claims to know all about Marcuse and McLuhan.

Jill.

Charity

The Durham Housing Association is still smarting after parting with its solicitor, one John Blair.

The housing association, a registered charity, buys up houses in decaying pit villages and revitalises them, installing indoor toilets central heating and bathrooms where necessary.

And sitting tenants are allowed to buy the improved houses at a weekly mortgage repayment figure lower than the normal rent.

SECURE in their underground 'early warning' shelters behind the catacombs of Downing Street, Lord Rothschild's gang of effete Old Etonians continues to peddle its atrocious rubbish, allegedly in the public interest.

Their latest offering, embodied in the Government's green paper: "A Framework for Government Research and Development", is remarkable, even by their standards, for its blatant lies in support of Heathco's snivelling technocracy.

In brief, the "Bun Boys" are out to smash the research councils and transfer control over all scientific research into the eager mittens of government departments.

This outrageous power

Some months ago, the DHA was approached by the Croxdale Tenants Association and told that about 120 houses in Croxdale Colliery village were available for purchase.

At this time, the legal affairs of the DHA were handled by Mr Blair who operates from an address at Lloyds Bank Chambers, Hexham Northumberland.

For some time after this initiative however, Mr. John Callaghan, Secretary of the DHA, lost track of the negotiations.

"Next thing we knew, the properties had been taken up by Autumn Homes Ltd.," claims Mr. Callaghan.

Sure enough, a planning application for alterations to Nos. 1 - 38, Front Street, Croxdale Colliery, was lodged with Durham Rural Council by Autumn Homes Ltd.

The notepaper of Autumn Homes Ltd. is headed by the names of two directors, J.S. Blair and Muriel Blair.

It is understood that this firm is also registered as a kind of charity.

However, the Durham Housing Association has the consolation of knowing that its legal affairs are now being handled by messrs. Marquis, Penna and Sutton, of Bishop Auckland.

Chris.

FRAME UP

craving, cloaked by a delightful euphemism: "The customer-contractor principle", is causing serious unrest among academics who view with horror the prospect of compulsory research into male cosmetics, ordered by the Grocer himself.

Inexplicably, the "Bun Boys" did not say whether Teethco's customers will be car manufacturers or lowly pedestrians, doomed to slow, choking deaths.

Well might Prof. Bolton, President of the Association of University Teachers, ask at a Durham conference recently: "Who would be in a position to demand res-

earch into pollution of our environment by smoke, noise, D.D.T. or sewage?

"Who would counteract the activities of rings which exclude competition and prevent refinements to improve safety and cost, and who would keep an eye on nerve gas or atomic energy or structural safety?"

The bum boys even claim that the Council for Scientific Policy supports their lunatic ravings, but this is sheer fabrication.

What the C.S.P. in fact say in their latest report is: "We suggest that this nation cannot afford the loss of efficiency, scientific and financial, which this plan would entail".

By Wart, our after dinner correspondent.

a day in the life..

(The instructions, which are reprinted below, were given to shop assistants by the manager of a store in East Anglia.)

"STAFF ARE REMINDED THAT:

1. The store must open promptly at 6.00 a.m. until 9.00 p.m. all the year round.

2. Lamps must be trimmed, filled and chimney cleaned, pens made, doors and windows opened.

3. A pail of water and scuttle of coal must be brought in by each clerk before breakfast.

4. Any employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigars, getting shaved at a barber's shop, going to dances and other such places of amusement will surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and all-round honesty.

5. Each employee must pay not less than one guinea per head to the Church and attend Sunday School every Sunday.

6. Men may take one evening a week for courting purposes and two if they go to prayer meetings regularly.

7. Spare time should be devoted to reading good literature.

(Before readers start doubting either the manager's sanity or our accuracy, we hasten to point out that the above was issued in 1854.)

Street sellers get 2p a copy!

FACE ON THE TYNE

"There is an awakening of public conscience on the part of industry that they are responsible for a lot of pollution and are prepared to do something about it."

- said Mr. Ralph Dyson, Chief Pollution Officer of the Northumbrian River Authority. Well, ICI recently paid out just over £4000 as their part in a survey 'to provide info. for the development and verification of a model' for Tees estuary pollution.

But I hope Mr. Dyson is right when he says that he thinks all the fashionable paranoia about pollution is a bit of an exaggerated scare. Rivers are just too important to us to be able to take the risk. Men have always settled on rivers because they are a vital aspect of man's natural environment; they provide a possible means of transportation, a natural recreation ground, and an essential environment for the wildlife that helps to support man, as well as being a built-in water supply and a natural sewage system.

That is one side of it - man is part of a total system that has grown up to be a complete cycle of mutual support. (That's what society is meant to be too!)

But man is unique in being able and all too shortsightedly willing to mess around his environment, and everything else's: all animals can adapt to their changing circumstances, but only man can adapt his environment to himself too.

That is what pollution is: for the adaptations of the environment that we have brought about have been rarely - and then only accidentally - beneficial in the long term to us and to the rest of nature.

Recently it has become admirably fashionable to bitch about ecology, but it is easier to do damage than to undo it. How do we try and repair the world and still be sure that we're not causing more damage. We spend a lot of time and money putting right one mess only to find it messes up something else that we hadn't realised was connected. The whole of life on earth is too intimately (and delicately) interconnected for us to be sure that anything we do won't have undesirable side-effects. That's why the big scare.

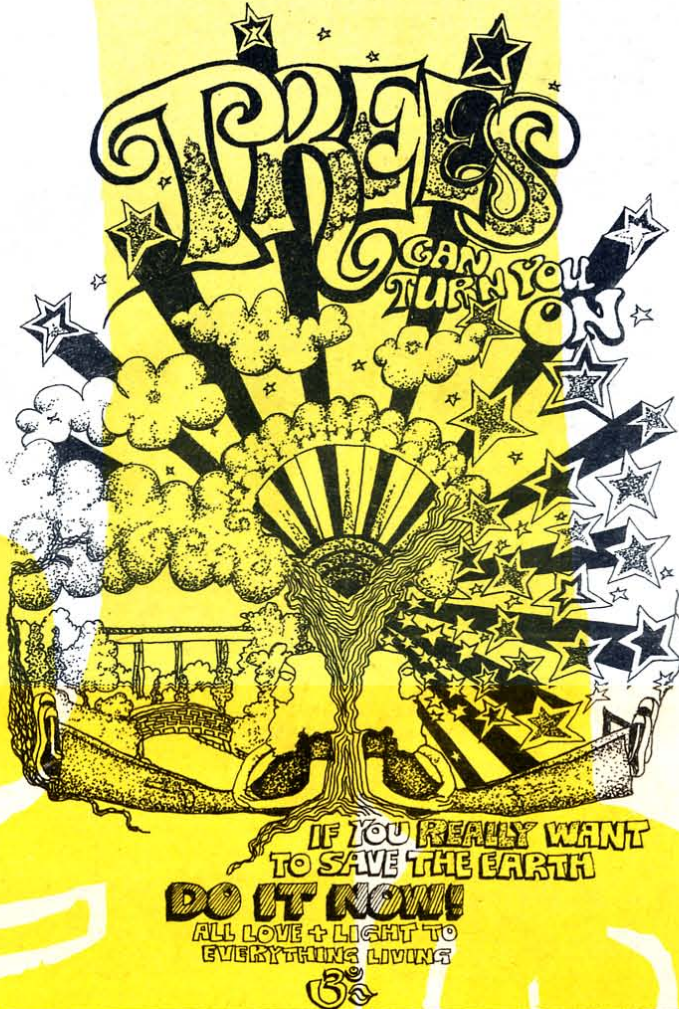
Since the first man ever lit his first fire we have been impinging on the world around us, and the accelerated pace of city growth and the Industrial Revolution have succeeded faster and faster in taking over our environment with biologically undesirable results.

As a natural part of the system the rivers and seas can provide us with an extremely large but finite amount of fresh unpolluted water and sewerage facilities.

But you can push the natural processes too far,

and this is what has been done to the rivers of the north-east. It takes just a short time to kill everything in a river, but it takes decades of dedicated application to restore a natural balance and a healthy river. Both the Tyne and the

Tees have 'achieved international notoriety' as examples of gross estuarial pollution; the Tees is 'probably the most polluted river in the country' - 3 times worse than the Tyne. And some people still do not see why there is such a scare on.



Pollution in rivers takes three basic forms:

- 1) toxic - mainly arising from metal, coking, chemical and tar industries. Many poisons are harmful in concentrations as low as 1:1,000,000 parts.
- 2) suspended solids - arising mainly from collieries and sand and gravel plants - cause turbidity, affecting the life in the rivers by laying down silt on the river bed and cutting out the light.
- 3) organic matter - the main and most aesthetically offensive pollutant of this type is sewage, which is still largely discharged untreated into the rivers, 'a revolting and uncivilised practice.' Organic matter absorbs dissolved oxygen in the water; this oxygen is held in solution to a saturation level of 10:1,000,000 parts of water. If it falls below 70% saturation, most fish will die.

The rivers of the North-East were once famous for salmon. The Tyne estuary does not allow the passage of these migratory fish, except at times of maximum flow when there is a layer of cleaner water on the surface that

the fish can pass through. The whole tidal stretch of the river is grossly polluted by crude sewage. The Wear too suffers from crude sewage, but not so severely, because the sewage outlets are so near the sea. Both these rivers and their tributaries are more or less polluted over a large proportion of their length.

The Tees has a different problem. Most of its pollution is from toxic industrial waste. The last 19 miles of the estuary are often completely denuded of dissolved oxygen.

The smaller rivers of Northumbria are in general of a better quality, and not deteriorating or are even improving. The Tweed and its tributaries are all clean, except the Breamish. The Tweed estuary would be more polluted if the discharges of crude sewage into it were not so near the sea.

And then, of course, all the rivers and their pollutants pour into the North Sea. There are already local effects on the marine life along the Durham coast. But that is another matter...or is it?

So a certain amount is being done. The River Authorities do a pretty good job, but their legal position is limited. While they can supervise all the discharges into - and so the quality of - rivers in non-tidal stretches, they have no control over any discharges that were started before 1960 into the estuaries. And that is most of what has made the Tyne and the Tees 'grossly polluted'. But then, nearly everyone is pretty keen to get that changed.

The problem is time. It's not only the rivers that are getting worse, but the whole pattern of which they are an intrinsic part. We just can't afford loopholes like that - literally on pain of death.

There is a Royal Commission on environmental pollution that has some interesting things to say about the state of our world: "Nothing less than a comprehensive policy for the whole environment will suffice". Yeah, so let's go!

But getting nearer to the practical meat of the matter: "Economic and technological achievements over the last generation have been considerable: they have brought immense and worthwhile benefits to millions of people. But the benefits have been at the cost of a deterioration in our physical environment.. Society has become aware that economic output is not an end in itself. It is only a means to promote human welfare. Unless appropriate policies are adopted, some forms of output can be pushed beyond the point where they make a net contribution to human welfare."

Right on! but if that's so, we've got to get away from evasive action about economics and cost-effectiveness. The commission in a roundabout way make the point that there is no objective sense of responsibility among private polluters, or public authorities, due to the present institutional structure of society.

Responsibility lies with you, and me, and them. It's about time everyone started feeling the necessary urgency: time is not on our side, and we are not yet sufficiently enlightened in our actions. We must all do our bit (but some people's bits are bigger than others!).

So often nothing is done because of the unwillingness of those responsible, not because of lack of technical knowledge or inadequate legislation.

We must balance economics and technology against ecology - and start coming out with wiser answers. See it as gadgets, and advertising, and speed, and flashiness as against green grass, and trees, and kingfishers and salmon, if you like. But make sure you realise you've got to choose.

Beauty lies in ecological repose. Love the beauty of the world, but first make sure it's beautiful.

Maurice.

DOOMWATCH

Tyneside has long suffered under the harsh by-products of avaricious industrialisation, and the scars of pollution are as yet far from eradicated by smokeless zones and redevelopment. While some of the more obvious problems are being tackled, new and subtle dangers are continually arising from technological development.

In the belief that, unprompted, government will only do too little too late, two Newcastle Civil Engineers have recently launched a new organisation to act as a local pressure group for environmental problems.

The aims are simple to state, belying the complexity of accomplishment: 1) find out the facts; 2) tell the people; 3) pressurise authority into action.

In these objects, the group parallels the activity of television's "Doomwatch", and it was after a lecture by that programme's creator, Dr. Kit Pedlar, in last year's Newcastle festival, that Colin Marsh first made public the idea of a Tyneside group.

Despite limited publicity, around 70 people attended an open meeting, at which statistics outlining the immensity and scope of the problem were presented by Dr. Bateman of Durham University. In consequence, the group decided to start by tackling local problems, while lending support to national organisations, as and when appropriate. With no name, and no direct affiliation, the group felt it necessary to pursue some immediate local aims before attracting too much publicity to itself on the basis solely of ideas rather than action.

Subsequently, a number of small groups have taken responsibility for investigating individual ideas, with a view to publishing reports and seeking action once they are well briefed. The general problem of waste disposal in Newcastle is under examination, particu-

larly bearing in mind the recent demonstration that incineration of plastics can produce lethal gases. More and more stores are changing from paper to plastic bags, apparently without consideration for the environmental threat involved. Naturally, paper-making requires deforestation, but this can form part of a balanced cycle of growth, use, reuse, and natural degeneration.

Another group is considering separate waste paper collection specifically for reuse. Jesmond Dene is receiving attention from those concerned to get out and do something rather than collect facts and figures. Do-it-yourself pollution detection has also been discussed, along the lines of the recent river survey sponsored by the Sunday Times. Such investigations could supply independent statistics to strengthen an argument with a complacent authority or short-sighted company.

This need for facts at one's finger tips is well recognised by Colin Marsh and his co-organiser Tony Fisher. Over the last three years, they have been collecting relevant newspaper and magazine cuttings. With the formation of the group, there is now a chance of collating and referencing this information so that they can supply relevant details to members investigating specific areas.

For anyone concerned to do something positive about this crucial issue of the moment, the group hopes to offer a suitable job, in the field, in the library, collecting, visiting, canvassing for support, or doing the inevitable clerical back-up work.

Anyone interested should contact Colin Marsh, 62 Beatty Avenue, Jesmond, N/cle, (N/C 856214) or at work, at N/cle 28511 ext. 2419, for information on forthcoming meetings or group activities. Anyone with ideas for a suitable name for the group will be particularly welcome.

K.A. Pollock

two years ago for the same thing. Some of these charges date back to over a year ago.

These are events told to me by others and they may not be 100% correct.

* A police spokesman agreed that "a number of people" had been committed to the Crown Court for trial on charges of this nature.

A further check with the Crown Court office in Newcastle revealed that at least four such cases were listed to be heard before a High Court Judge starting February 8.

An official at the Court Office also said that three other commitments on similar charges were expected from various magistrates' courts.

The lowering of the age of majority after the report of the Latcy Commission also applies to the legality of consenting homosexuals making love in private. No reasonable man could believe that at least seven such alleged cases were entirely unrelated. (Editors)

"Consumer's guide to the protection of the environment" Jonathan Holliman. pan/ballantine 40p

no bullshit, this really should be compulsory reading if you are at all interested in the world you live in.

don't think that sitting in a cosy house flushing your excreta into the sewers is going to bring about the millenium cos it won't. what you do is the spirit of life injected into your ideas and beliefs, and a cardinal point about this book is that it tells you what you can do. the areas it covers include population, power, transport, and over-consumption. it acts as an environmentalist's "which" in pointing out dangerous products and their alternatives. for all the details get hold of a copy soon, but here are some hints (for your protection).

- 1) stop buying tinned, frozen & "convenience" foods. get fresh vegetables, free range eggs & don't overcook your food. start a compost heap if you have a garden. why pollute yourself?
 - 2) don't smoke (or cut down). if you live near polluting industry, keep your windows shut. if you work in dirty, dusty, or chemical-polluted industry, demand protection from the management. noise kills- ear plugs are cheap.
 - 3) buy a bicycle; it is cheap to run, exercises you and doesn't snort exhaust out of a pipe.
 - 4) don't buy packaging instead; decline aerosols, plastic and aluminium packaging. return non-returnable bottles. don't buy kleenex or any other tissue, disposable paper or plastic goods. finally, remember that there are alternatives to current packaging and merchandising trends. if you purchase a copy of this book, you will save money, your health, and your environment.
- spare a thought for the tree from which it was made.

ohris.

SOLD? SOLD WHO?



In Pursuit

Prof. Philip Abrams, Durham's non-controversial successor to John Rex at the sociology department, has embarked on a two year survey of communes in Britain by courtesy of the Social Science Research Council who gave him almost £4,000 to help him on his way.

The Prof. and two trusty assistants intend to knock on doors of various communes all over Britain asking if they can crash awhile to get into the scene, as it were.

Prof. reckons the family unit has come in for a bit of stick in several post-industrialised societies like our own and so perhaps the commune might teach the nation about alternatives.

Various Government departments, he says, are interested in the alternatives to family life.

And after all, there are at least 100 active communes in Britain, one which even dates back to the 1880's if that isn't a respectable pedigree.

But it is already known that the reaction of some communes to Prof's team of pencil sharpeners has been rather cool, if not cold.

For some communes die rather quickly for personal reasons, money problems, or because they get busted for dope by the fuzz.

However, we have no reason to doubt that Prof is clear in his own mind as to exactly which Government departments will have access to his research findings.

Belinda

Gay Bust

Once upon a time, just after the two murders on the town moor quite some months ago, the pigs picked up a well known old Queen in one of the gay pickup places. They asked this one who he had seen the evening before. He gave the names of about 4 or 5 others, one of them a boy of 16. They were pulled in and gave other names, and the whole thing snowballed. At one time there were as many as 30 if reports are to be believed. Well, the Pigs cut this down to a total of 11, all of whom had been out with the sixteen year old. According to the people involved there were no threats or falls down the steps at Pilgrim Street. Credit where it's due, the pigs stuck pretty well to being gentlemen.

All of the 11 are now remanded to the next Crown Court on charges of Buggery, Attempted Buggery and Gross Indecency.

The 16 year old was busted

UP Tights

Recently at the Johnston School in Durham City, several girls arrived for lessons wearing trousers instead of the regulation skirts. Their entry was greeted by shock, horror and a demand from their teacher either to change into skirts or to leave. They left.

After dinner, they returned and their teacher started to berate them for their unseemly actions. Soon the whole class was in heated argument with the teacher who eventually called in the headmaster who, of course, sided with the teacher.

During the break the kids' indignation spread to other classes, and the afternoon culminated in a near-riot as the kids refused to return to class.

It seems that behind all the trouble is a general movement among the kids to form a school council to give them a say in the running of the school.

Future developments are awaited.

DEAR MA

WHY NOT LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, DONE, OR ABOUT TO DO?
 ALL MAIL TO MOTHER GRUMBLE, 13, SILVER STREET, DURHAM CITY.

Dear Grumblers

The newspaper is really good. It's always helpful to see the odd examples of pure anarchistic logic coming out of a paper. In a couple of articles it was particularly like that. So far the reaction over here has been surprisingly good. I sold ten and got involved in an argument, but it was an old argument, and I remembered the words! Banging your head against a brick-wall in systems unfree, laced with overdoses of just liberal tolerance turns into complete f***** stupidity and builds up

frustrations that are hard enough when it's for yourself, but it sickens me to find my friends having to run the same over the last six years. Some of my kids are going to find life very difficult. I f***** cry when I think of some of these wonderful people going out into that mess and being hurt. I realised a long time ago that to believe in those things you hold dear and to live them you can only expect to lay yourself open to assassination. Beautiful young souls tormented asking me why? And we talk about it and I just want to

keep them outside the murder, the exploitation, the prejudice, the lies and hate, because they cannot understand why it should be, despite their awareness to this and every other dictatorship w****. Sorry look, but things grow more and more intensive every day and you learn so much from the kids it cannot help but make you cry out.

Lots of Love
 Brian
 ps for *** insert your most meaningful hate word.



Dear Mothers,

I went to sign on last week, to find out that my money had been stopped. Off I went to the Assistance. I saw one of the blokes who told me that my money had been stopped because I didn't notify my change of address. I was told to wait till 2 o'clock for my giro. They paid them out over the counter because of the Christmas hols.

After waiting for 2 1/2 hours the giros were paid out but I never got mine. I went back to Reception where I was told to wait again. I waited and waited till 4.30 after other visits to the Reception desk. Then I was told that my giro had been sent. I got lots of apologies from another guy. Altogether I had to wait 5 1/2 hours. When I got my money the next day I had 55 pence less. So I wrote a letter to the manager complaining, stating that I was going to see my M.P. The same day that they received my letter someone came to see me. I got my arrears and normal money and yet again apologies. Next day I got a letter from the manager apologising. He also said it wouldn't happen again. IT BETTER NOT.



Love and Peace,
 Ken

Dear Muther Grumble,

Uncareers is about work people want to do. Most people don't work because they want to - they do it for money, to obtain a comfortable way of life, because it is expected of them; rarely because the work is something they personally want to do and feel should be done. We want to inform people about ways of stepping outside the usual jobs system, and doing something for its own sake.

We began last spring, and are now into the second edition of our 'Directory of Alternative Work', and the whole project is growing. The directory gives information about community action and development projects, more informal kinds of social work, co-operative workshops, street theatre and kids play, free schools, communal living, the non-commercial press - all and everything that concerns people at people level.

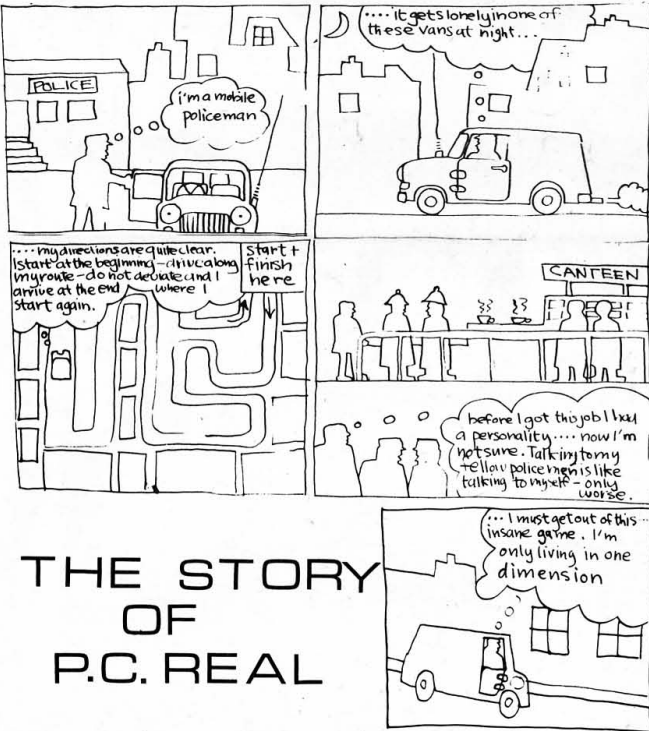
There are many people who would work towards a different society if they didn't feel that supporting the present one was unavoidable. Many of us do jobs that are only bearable if we shut our minds while doing them - it's a pity if we are only alive at weekends, and other possibilities do exist. More and more people ARE beginning to work together co-operatively on projects of their own, and are doing many effective and useful things; however these are not easy alternatives to conventional jobs: many are very imaginative and direct - they try not to limit people to particular tasks; which means both that you can express yourself and that you are subjected to demands that people in ordinary jobs are protected from. There isn't a position cut out for you because you and the people around you are shaping your work.

Everyone has a lot to give, share and use, and very little of that comes from paper qualifications.

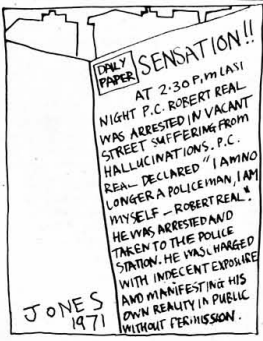
If you are interested please write to us - we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Love,
 Ann.

P.S. The Directory Of Alternative Work can be obtained from the Muther Grumble office.



THE STORY OF P.C. REAL



MARX - GROUCHO STYLE

In a December edition of Socialist Worker, David Widgery, the present editor of Oz, tried to show that the revolutionary poet William Blake should be remembered for far more than his hymn Jerusalem. Blake was also one of the very few Englishmen of the late eighteenth century who supported the French and American 'revolutions' (although he soon realised that these revolutions were not quite what they were heralded to be) and adamantly attacked, until pressurised into other more 'spiritual' directions, capitalist rationality and legalism, racialism, bourgeois morality and the alienation imposed by urban capitalism.

But, by skillfully encapsulating Blake's view of the world within an orthodox socialist perspective, and by labelling Blake as the first revolutionary socialist, Widgery not so skillfully succeeds in missing the very essence of Blake's work. Does Widgery really believe that Blake would not condemn the evils of socialist urbanism as vehemently as those of capitalist urbanism?

The essence of Blake's genius lay in his ability to transcend all 'isms', including nineteenth century orthodox socialism. The theme of his work can be found in Jerusalem itself,

"To Govern the Evil by Good... and abolish Systems."

For Blake the rigid and mechanistic interpretation of the universe, with its concomitant spiritual, intellectual, physical and cultural oppression was the sole and all-encompassing enemy of Life.

Solely feeling Blake's own view, and not applying one's own perspective to his work, this must mean he was opposed to all organised systems of action. As he says in 'The Marriage of Heaven and Hell',

"Improvement makes straight roads; but the crooked roads without Improvement are roads of Genius."

In the last issue of Muther Grumble I said that the Left in Britain and Europe has failed to offer any serious revolutionary opposition to the establishment because it has failed to realise that the conditions and prerequisites for revolution have changed since the days of Marx. A straightforward Marxist analysis of society is now far from sufficient.

Of course, if we disagree with them, orthodox socialists will retort either that we have false consciousness, or that although the revolution has not yet happened, it will inevitably do so at a later date (the date of which is of necessity frequently postponed). Radical youth is at present ineffective because, although many have seen and experienced the new realities and possibilities which are outside the limits of the technocrat-



ic world view, which are therefore defined by the technocracy as fundamentally irrational, nevertheless they are still operating within the traditional political framework of the nineteenth century.

This seems true for the complete spectrum of left-wing organisations in this country from the Angry Brigade through International Socialism to the International Marxist Group. *It is time that the Left arose from their dustbins of history and awoke to the new conditions of 1972.* Marx himself said that "the tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brain of the living. And just when they seem to be engaged in revolutionising themselves and things, in creating something entirely new, precisely in such epochs of revolutionary crisis they anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their services and borrow from them names, battle slogans and costumes in order to present the new scene of world history in this time-honoured disguise and borrowed language."

The content of Marxism, which was so liberating in the context of the newly emerging industrial states of the nineteenth century, is now myopic and conservative in the context of advanced industrial states. As Blake says in 'Milton',

"For the Chaotic Voids outside of the Stars, which are the boundaries of Kingdoms, Prov-

and beauty contained in such colours is like the rainbow." But, unlike the rainbow, they can be grasped.

Perhaps the most important preconditions of human freedom are material; these preconditions now exist in the West, albeit in a very unequal distribution, and the questions that now remain to be solved are how to redistribute these materials equally, and how actually to achieve a state of freedom. There appear to be three essentials for a liberated society.

First, is the reorganisation of the ownership and consumption patterns of the produce of advanced technology. This requires the nationalisation of all industries without compensation, the abolition of private property and ipso facto of the rent system, consumption for use and not for profits, control of work situations by the people in those situations, the scrapping of the war machine, and a greater concern with such problems as interest free aid to underdeveloped countries, the cleansing of the air we breathe and the land we walk on, the creation of a viable ecology.

Second, the achievement of these ends by means of unstructured ad-hoc groups, acting spontaneously. Here the role of groups like the Claimants' Unions and Squatters is very important. But remember, the type of revolutionary group to which you belong will be the type of society that you create. If you want to substitute one elite for another, to set up new leaders in the shoes of the old ones, then join the nineteenth century Marxist groups.

Finally, and back again to William Blake, there is the liberation of the human spirit. Blake's message was that the gulf between the material and spiritual levels of the members of a society which was just beginning to show a huge increase in the production of material goods, was far too great, that this was the great void between Reason and Energy which stifled Life, which placed man in a mental straight-jacket.

Blake's theme was always the liberation of the human spirit from systems, and this was the unifying link between the early political revolutionary and the later Christian visionary. There are many realities. Each man has his own internal reality, and relates and interrelates with the realities of other men.

*"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And Heaven in the Palm of your Hand
And Eternity in an Hour."*

Piers Beirne.

inces And Empires of Chaos invisible to the Vegetable Man."

In his recent book 'Orthodox Consensus and Radical Alternative', Dick Atkinson says that "...the dominant elements in Marx and Marxism are incapable of understanding society ... Marxism is, therefore, at least as responsible as those it attacks for the lack of conflict and radical activity in contemporary social kaleidoscopes. It is the arrogance of certainty, and the terminology, which cut off from political activity all those who in modern societies hanker for some kind of alternative, for some personal extension of control over their lives."

Atkinson says that the scope of Marxists for the radical change which they insist upon is as limited as their unfeeling criticisms of prevailing kaleidoscopes and their insensitive assumptions about what moves real people. Contemporary social life can be understood as a variety of beautiful colours and forms, made grotesque only by the accumulating actions of particular men and particular action-colours.

Brightly coloured patterns exist.

"The point is not just to construct an alternative means of interpreting them by recognising their relation to the actions of men, but, also, to seek to shape and colour our future lives more vividly. The variety

Hey Mister

It was about quarter to ten at night when I met Leo. I left a cold mist flowing through the streets of Newcastle for the hopped grimy warmth of the Victoria & Comet. At first I could not hear what Leo was saying as he raised his head from the glass.

He shouted for the second time above a well-fed juke box. Beer bubbles burst on his lips as he said: "So you want to naa about cardboard* you naa, you asked about it the other week."

"Yes, what can you tell me about it", I said. This is going to cost me another few pints, I thought.

"Well I naa a fella in Gateshead who flogs it." This sounded interesting. I looked away from a grimy-faced man wiping his nose on a snotty wool cloth.

Another pint was bought. I kept to my bottle of Guinness. We talked above a babble of big dipper voices and the raucous laughs of the skinny and fat old tarts dropping to bits, sitting by the walls.

Leo told me that the man in Gateshead had a number of pictures which he was distributing to people to sell in the bars of Tyneside.

Leo wanted those pictures I wanted a story, so we both agreed to pay the man a visit.

We sucked the dregs clear from our glasses. We eased a passage past a big-bosomed bottomed tart, dancing to the juke box with her sad painted clown face thrown back in brown-aled abandon. We shoved our way carefully past her battered-faced admirers, happy in their slow-motion world. Out into the street. Past two tall constables, looking like twin Christopher Lees stamping the mist patiently outside the swing doors.

As the taxi glided over the iron bridge towards Gat-

eshead, I thought about our plan. I was to pose as a representative up from the 'smoke' who was interested in recruiting girls for picture work.

The taxi stopped at the bottom of a row of grimy terraced houses stumbling up a cobbled hill. Leo's features, the lean face and Billy Fury hairstyle, were barely discernible in the gloom.

He rapped on the door. A light burst through the window above the door. The door opened and a bleary-eyed buck-toothed woman peered into the night.

She took us up a flight of stairs, ushered us into a dishevelled room and turned a table light on. The only things which stood out from the assorted junk were a brand new TV set and radiogram and the man, a fat greaseball, sprawled out on the sofa, pissed out of his mind.

The buck-toothed woman shook him. The man emerged red-eyed from his oblivion. "There's some mates to see ya. Tommy, can ya hear what I'm saying?", she said.

Leo took the man into a corner and muttered a few words to him. The man seemed to understand. He told his wife to stay in the room.

We followed him along the narrow landing. He opened a door and a yellow hostile bulb on the end of a black flex burst into light to reveal a small grey bedroom.

The man flopped head-first onto the bed. Leo pulled him up: "Where's the fucking pictures", he demanded.

The man reluctantly lifted the mattress off the bed and gave Leo some magazines with a swaying hand.

He brought out one of those pre-war books with its thick coarse blotting-like

paper. In this case it was the "Golden Wonder book of Trains".

A healthy looking girl and boy looked out from the cover with questioning looks. Above them an express roared down the line.

Photographs were crudely stuck on each page. The first few included girls aged about thirteen dressed in school uniform with their dresses hitched above their thighs with their legs apart, exposing their fannies.

"They're ten bob each," the man said. I nodded my head, pretending to view the pictures with professional detachment.

Further on, girls, partially dressed in uniform, were being screwed in various positions.

There were threesomes, lesbian love and a girl sucking off a man and a man licking a girl's genitals—nothing really out of the ordinary.

Then we came to it. Dogs and girls. A girl, she could only have been thirteen at the most, was on the floor on her hands and knees. A bulldog, with its stubby front paws clasped round the girl's stomach, was screwing the hell out of her.

The girl seemed to be enjoying the experience, at least Rover was. Its mouth agape and its tongue hanging out.

Two young girls lay partially clothed on a bed. Between them lay the bull-dog. The dog lay back in ecstasy with the two girls grasping its bone.

The greaseball was sobering up by now. Suddenly, without any warning, he said he wasn't interested in my proposal. It's remarkable how guys like Tom can sense when something is wrong, even when they are pissed. They have this sixth sense, achieved after a lifetime of double dealing.

I left Leo to complete his business. My night had proved a failure. I learnt no names and addresses.

Further investigations revealed that the girls in

Tom's Golden Wonder book were photographed in Sunderland by a photographer, his front was taking wedding photos and portraits. The girls were recruited from a local secondary school and technical college.

Middle-men like Tommy play an essential part in the cardboard game. It makes it harder for police to arrest the big fish - the photographers, when a seller is picked up for flogging pictures.

At the time of my investigation, Newcastle police were watching the movements of a number of middle-men in the city. They were reluctant to swoop in and arrest the men because they knew they would have forced the racket to earth. The difficulties faced by the police in a probe of this nature became apparent when the head of Newcastle's West End plain clothes division confessed: "If you can smell out a journalist, imagine what its like for a copper".

* Cardboard is the underworld term for pornographic photographs as opposed to pictures in pornographic mags. Jules.

I was walking quietly down the street when suddenly I was ambushed by hundreds of Federal troops with rifles and machine guns who started blazing away at me. Afraid that I would be shot to ribbons (remember Viva Zapata!) I sat down and concentrated hard.

Sure enough it worked - just before they reached me, all the bullets turned into beautiful small flowers and floated gently down to earth at my feet. Still they went on firing, and still the bullets turned to flowers, piling up around me in soft heaps of strange colours and enchanting smells. I suffocated.

Geoff.

leaps into joint second place after awarding himself an 11% pay rise. Now on the £40,000 a year mark, Sir John is jockeying Lord Nelson whose giant G.E.C. company acts as parent for Tyneside's Osram.

Another chart riser is colourful Alf Robens lured by Vickers from the NCB for a mere 30,000 greenbacks a year. Vickers are praying that Lord Robens will do something about the cata-

strophic slide of trading profits by 25% between 1969-70.

But there is still nothing to touch the fabulous F.D. Nicholson, also a director of Hepworths and Guardian Assurance, who paid himself more than £1,000 a week in the last financial year.

And with characteristic generosity, Nicholson waived a commission believed to be somewhat in excess of £10,000.

He decided to make do with just his salary and the £47,250 dividend he received from his personal holding of 289,348 ordinary and 60,889 preference shares in the company.

However, all 219 directors of Muther Grumble have refused both collectively and individually to disclose their unbelievable earnings during the past financial year.

TOP TEN

(Chairmen of firms either based on Tyneside or which have large-scale factory or shop investment in the area qualify for consideration in the top earnings league)

Biggest surprise so far in this year's top ten chairmen is Sir John Hunter who

Firm	Chairman	Salary	No. of Men	Ave Salaries
1 Vaux and Allied Breweries	F.D. Nicholson	£52,121	3,972	£927
2 Swan Hunter	Sir John Hunter	£40,000	24,979	£1,360
3 G.E.C. (Osram)	Lord Nelson	£40,000	Not Known	
4 Taylor Woodrow	Francis Taylor	£35,967	Not Known	
5 Reyrolle Parsons	E.T. Judge	£31,000	22,962	£1,393
6 Vickers	Lord Robens	£30,000	35,722	£1,332
7 Marks and Spencer	J. Edward Sieff	£28,080	34,372	£1,000
8 F.W. Woolworth	E.L. Medcalf	£25,432	94,222*	£632
9 Scottish and Newcastle	P.E.G. Balfour	£18,000	26,175*	£778
10 Richardson Westgarth	A.D. Boyd	£15,518	4,305	£1,693
11 Fenwicks	Trevor Fenwick	£15,188	1,895	£763

* Figure includes part-time workers.



GIVE THIS PAGE TO A MINER MINERS' RIGHTS

The Social Security is a major strike-breaking weapon of the government's. It is in a very good position to try to starve strikers into defeat. The longer the strike lasts, the tougher the Social Security will get. You will have to fight for every penny. But if you know your rights you should be able to get enough money to see you through to victory. Social Security waiting-rooms are designed to depress and bore those waiting to

be seen. Often claimants are kept waiting for several hours only to be told to 'come back tomorrow', or 'I'm sorry but we can't help you'. Refuse to accept statements like these. Demand to be seen, and if you are still refused, demand to see the manager. Try never to go down to the Social Security alone, as witnesses are often essential to force the bureaucracy to give you the money you have a right to. Below is some general information on your Social Security rights.

BASIC WEEKLY RATES:

Striker..... Nil Plus rent and rates in full. Mortgage interest is also paid. Make sure the Social Security pay the rates on a weekly basis.

Dependants aged:
over 21..... £4. 60p
18 - 21..... £4. 05p
16 - 17..... £3. 60p
13 - 15..... £3. 00p
11 - 12..... £2. 45p
5 - 10..... £2. 00p
under 5..... £1. 70p

Strike pay, tax rebates and other income will be deducted from your benefit, except for £1; any part-time earnings of dependants over £2 will also be deducted, as will family allowance.

To make sure you receive the right benefit (this will vary from week to week because of tax rebates) demand form A124A which will have an assessment of the amount of benefit you should be receiving. Never take a loan from the Social Security. If they are willing to give you a loan it is because they realise you need the money. This means that they ought to give you it and not loan you it (Section 13 of the Social Security Act).

Remember NEVER GO TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ALONE.

If they refuse to give you any benefit demand an appeal form. This often results in the Social Security reversing their decision and giving you your rightful benefit, without you having to take your

Section 13 gives the Social Security the power to pay benefit to anyone in "urgent need" — make them use that power!

The Social Security is starting to fight back more and more viciously. Here's what's happened in South Shields over the last few days.

On Friday 21st of January, the Department of Health and Social Security there, used their house union, the Civil and Public Service Association, in a successful attempt to lessen the efficiency of the Strike Claims Committee operating in Armstrong Hall. What happened was that the Social Security told the CPSA local representative to contact Walter Malt, the Durham area NUM organiser, and tell him, as union man to union man, that his boys were making trouble for his poor Social Security boys. The CPSA representative complained about a leaflet produced by the Strike Claims Committee saying it said his boys were strike-breakers. This the CPSA rep. insisted was untrue. Malt accepted his word without checking on the true facts of what was happening in South Shields and instructed his members to 'cut it out'. The leaflet was out-lawed. In fact the leaflet was a very informa-

claim to an appeals tribunal. Remember the Social Security is out to break you. Their tactic is to starve you back to work.

FOR SINGLE STRIKERS:

In making a claim under Section 13 of the Social Security Act 1966, there are some important points that may help.

Section 13 authorises the Social Security to pay out in cases of urgent need only; therefore it's vital to your claim that you have as much evidence and argument as possible to prove your needs urgent.

- 1) Don't let the Social Security argue that you should still have wages left to live on - that was one week's money, and it took one week to spend. (If it took more than one week to spend, you wouldn't be on strike now.)
- 2) Make sure that you have no savings that are withdrawable on demand; if you have, the Social Security will waste a lot of your time telling you that your needs are not urgent if there is any money that you can get hold of at once.
- 3) Get written proof that if you don't pay rent you are likely to be evicted. The Social Security usually refuse to pay for rent at this early stage of a strike unless you are

likely to be evicted or your 'Landlord' (i.e. parents) are suffering hardship as a result of your not being able to pay. They will accept the written word a lot quicker than your arguments - get your landlord to say he will have to evict you if you don't pay your rent this and every week; or your parents to say that they can't afford to keep you and you will have to go. If you are buying your own house, take all your documents so that you can prove the weekly amount of interest, rates and insurance and the difficulties you will encounter with the Building Society if you don't make regular payments.

- 4) If you have HP commitments on any essential goods, show the documents to prove how much per week, plus any letters you may have from the H.P. company threatening re-possession etc. if you don't pay regularly.
- 5) Stress any special essential expenses you may have:- for instance if you need a special diet, get a note from your doctor to confirm it.
- 6) Argue as strongly as you can that you are urgently in need of food, and anything else you can think of that may help to get the money out of them. Don't let them tell you that you must eat at your mother's or girlfriend's or neighbour's expense.... Argue that you must pay your way, no one can afford to keep you.

tive piece on strikers' rights!

On Monday miners appeared at Armstrong Hall to claim benefit and some of them had copies of the leaflet. The leaflet had not been distributed to them at the Hall but as soon as they appeared the manager called his clerks out. The clerks didn't quite know why they had been called out but they didn't go back until it was put to the manager by a Strike Claims Committee member that as manager he had no right to call people out on strike. He had exceeded his authority. He called his clerks back, but not until he had the NUM's area officials agreeing with him that the striking miners could have no representation. The NUM area officials, it is believed, had asked the Strike Claims Committee to disband, but they refused and are challenging the condition agreed on by the manager of the Social Security in Armstrong Hall and the Durham area NUM officials. Remember, ANYONE IS ALLOWED REPRESENTATION. ALWAYS FACE THE SOCIAL SECURITY WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON.

et tu brute

"In the fight for liberty we will strengthen the belief that what people want and need is oppression." This was the idea that seemed to pervade the sorry spectacle of the Institute of Workers' Control national conference on unemployment in Newcastle on Jan. 8th and 9th.

The theme of almost all the speakers centred around the bitter slogan 'The Right to Work'. In terms of this society - and they were talking about now and not the future, this means the right to oppression, exploitation and alienation - not a right I want. But Michael Barratt-Brown, the first speaker, went one stage further. He came out with the authoritarian cry of

"no one should be allowed to be unemployed by law". So much for freedom. The rest of his speech was not so startling - just very naive. Although an economist, it was obvious, when he said that "more government intervention" was needed "to ensure jobs" that he had failed to grasp a rational view of why there's unemployment. Unemployment exists because of government policy.

Ernie Roberts, well known engineering union leader, appeared next, sporting a red shirt under his tremdy jacket. His speech was bad. At one point he said "if the unemployed were allowed to work we'd get rid of social problems". Doesn't he realise that the evil which causes social problems, and is, therefore,

the daddy of them all, is the state? and that healthy employment levels are signs that the state is strong?

Steve Bodington from the I.W.C., the next orator, said with some conviction, "we should make capitalism function to get our immediate aims and then destroy it". Ever heard of the guy who gave the thug attacking him a gun to make him more certain of victory, Steve? The thug killed him.

Discussion was thrown open to the floor at this stage and 'The Right to Work' was endlessly lauded by almost everyone but myself. I told them

my opinions of the work situation and how I, for one, didn't like being oppressed. I also mentioned the political importance of Claimants' Unions (a phenomenon some had obviously never heard of) outside of the work situation. But all to no avail, the "Right" was

mentioned again with much praise.

Many months later it was dinner time; we went to a pub while the rest had the arranged meal which cost 50p (they obviously weren't catering for the unemployed).

The afternoon was equally depressing as we heard shop stewards from UCS, Plessey's and Don River describe the work-ins. They told how the workers had kicked the managements out, how the shop stewards had taken control, and finally how the shop stewards had given the control back to the new managements picked by the government or parent firm. So much for workers' control.

Halfway through the afternoon we left and didn't return on Sunday. There was no point. From now on for Institute of Workers' Control read Institute for Controlling Workers.

Mike

WHO ARE THE BR

FREE SCHOOL

Last June the Scotland Road Free School opened, with five kids, for six weeks. They re-opened in September and now have a roll of 32 kids. In Miles Platting, near Manchester, a Free School will, hopefully, be opening within a year. Other schemes are planned in London, Birmingham, Hull and Newcastle; but this is still not enough. As Roger Featherstone of the Miles Platting scheme said recently: *We need your support. The Free School idea needs your support....the best way to help us and all Free Schools is to start your own Free School.*

There are three main reasons for setting up Free Schools. Firstly, to create an alternative to what is; i.e. free from the present educational framework which is non-democratic and hierarchical, the hierarchy starting with the politicians and ending with the all-powerful headmaster.

Free Schools allow of much greater flexibility in their running; parents, kids and all other members of the school or community can have a say in what the school does.

This ties up with the second reason for starting Free Schools; to be a part of the community rather than simply a building in the vicinity. If the school can take part in other schemes, for example playgroups, youth centres, advice centres etc. then it will be accepted as part of the community and will be able to set up other centres to deal with other community needs. The eventual aim is to create a variety of community action evolving from the needs of the area, and to involve the people of the area in these activities so that these become their activities and not things imposed from outside.

The third reason for the formation of Free Schools is to be an outlet for new ideas in education; to be an escape from antiquated and harmful so-called educational theory.

Examples of this abound - the tripartite system which divides people into types, the academic, those who are good with their hands (?) etc.; streaming with regard to age or ability without concern for the effect on the kids; the stress laid on competition rather than co-operation; and so on.

A Free School is planned for Newcastle - what form will it take? Probably a school for kids aged 5 - 16, although anyone older will not be turned away. This last point is important in an area of high unemployment, particularly among those who have just left school and find it difficult to find things to do with all their time, except vandalism.

For those under 5 there will be a playgroup and nursery school; also there will be an adventure playground. At the moment this is only an idea - what actually happens depends on the people in the community and their needs.

But besides what has been said before, there is one very important reason why Free Schools and other alternatives, such as PNP, Uncareers etc. should succeed.

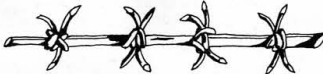
We must help all people see that alternatives are not only possible to imagine, but, by setting up alternatives, show that they are workable. And the alternative schemes must work, for only by such means will revolution occur.

If you'd like to help with any aspects of the Free School then please write or phone the address on the info page.

Dave.

Security is an important factor during the early years of a child's development, and the boundaries imposed by authority are to him a secure defence against the outside world; but a need to develop a mature and well balanced independence means that these boundaries have outlived their necessity after the age of about fifteen. It is then that restraint becomes not only superfluous, but a means of preventing the emergence of a responsible adult, especially in the case of the older school pupil.

Broadly school rules can be divided into two categories; firstly, rules which control the academic side of education, and the specific rules of a particular school. It is the rules of the latter category which pose most problems for the Establishment in enforcing them, and for the pupil in trying to abide by these rules without them becoming an infringement of his or her own personal freedom. Rules which try to govern personal appearance such as uniform specifications and restrictions on the length of hair benefit neither the staff nor the pupils, and rather than aid the pupils' educational progress, disputes over such examples of petty officialdom have led to punishments such as expulsion or suspension which actually diminish or destroy the pupil's academic chances.



An examination of pupil opinion in one of the county's main secondary schools has produced a pretty clear picture of the effect of such unnecessary restrictions. A chief complaint from the sixth form is that length of hair is restricted, along with a ban on beards and mustaches, and that minute details of uniform are rigidly enforced; e.g. the penalty for repeatedly failing to wear a tie is loss of prefect status. Compulsory games are also a point to be considered, especially when time spent on the hockey or football field could be more profitably employed in academic work. From the fifth form comes the complaint that segregation of the sexes is enforced even in co-educational schools. Although this separation is supposedly voluntary there is an official "imaginary line" drawn in classrooms, halls and even school fields.

The prefect system is another subject of controversy. It represents an extension of the control exercised by the staff, and comes under attack not only from the lower school, who suffer under it, but also from many prefects themselves, who believe that their function is unnecessary and dislike being forced to oppress fellow pupils.



Discrimination against girls is another abuse which is not supposed to exist anymore, but is quite strong in many schools. Apart from girls being discouraged from studying sciences, which is nothing but arrant male prejudice (or possibly jealousy), girls in schools are considerably more restricted than boys. In the particular school under consideration rules about uniform are more strictly enforced on the girls, whereas the boys are allowed a certain amount of choice, and in schools in general, minor offences such as practical jokes are punished more severely and regarded as more serious when committed by girls.

The imposition of such rules comes in many cases from the mistaken belief that society can only be perpetuated by the conservation of the prevailing system, but what the traditionalists have failed to realise is that stability is not always achieved by standing still. In the struggle for survival the losers are always those who have retained old techniques to meet new challenges. Society is changing and the adolescent with it, and attempts to deal with the school child of today with the methods of 20 years ago are doomed to a pathetic failure, pathetic because it is the pupil who suffers from the deluded policy of a traditional approach to education. In Britain we retain the anachronism of the absolute educational despot; the head who has total control not only of the internal discipline of staff and pupils, but also of the academic policy of the school, a practice now obsolete in more advanced nations, where the 'director' of the school administers a uniform national policy. The adoption of such a system in Britain would not only level the appalling differences between state schools, but reduce the amount of personal control exercised by the head over the academic direction, and ultimately the future careers of his pupils.



The expulsion of Gary Ronald Smith and Alan MacDonald Kell from Sunderland College of Education - Langham Towers.

We were expelled for our activities outside college hours and premises - in attempting to form a Sunderland Schools' Action Union.

We handed out leaflets inviting pupils, parents and teachers to an SAU meeting to discuss democracy in schools and how to achieve it. We were expelled on the 25 December for violating three rules of the college:

- Ignoring the Principal's warning that our college places were in jeopardy if we persisted in trying to form a school action group.
- Creating ill feeling between our college and schools, thus damaging the relationship between student teachers and schools.
- Giving the teaching profession a bad name (since we are trainee teachers).

We appealed to the Board of Governors who listened in a typically tea-party atmosphere. Although we apologised for our actions, they upheld the Disciplinary Committee's earlier decision. Our last ditch

EXPULSION

AIN POLICE . . . ?

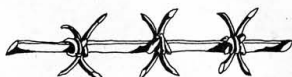
This personal supervision can be beneficial, but in many cases it results in a pupil's progress in an entirely different direction to that which he himself would have chosen. There have been instances where a head's private prejudices have been involved in his sanctioning or forbidding the pupil's choice of 'A' level subjects. And this unnecessary control has in many cases extended so far as to influence choice preferences in applications to universities, colleges and other educational establishments.

It is this type of control which is entirely unnecessary to either the educational welfare of the student or the administrative efficiency of the school. The authority of the head is supposedly a substitute for that of the parents, but when a headmaster exercises such control over his pupils as no parent would ever consider necessary for the control of their own children, there is obviously a fault somewhere in the system. The head

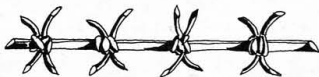
in his position of 'in loco parentis' becomes more of an absolute despot than a father figure, and this is an abuse of his responsibility.
Quote: "Legally, 'in loco parentis' means 'representing a parent' For those over

the age of majority the headmaster could not claim to represent their parents as their parents have no authority over them. So anyone over 18 can tell their headmaster where to stick his maternal affections if he tries to throw that one at them."

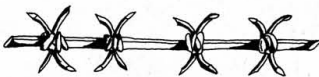
The very fact that headmasters are able to exercise such a control indicates that Britain's national policy of education is at fault and the way things are going no politician is sufficiently concerned to give the whole absolute system the clean out it needs. This means that any change has got to come from within the structure of the educational hierarchy and if it isn't going to come from the top it must come from the bottom, from the people who really matter.



Pupils and teachers will have to make it their responsibility that education in Britain really works - for everybody. Schools are, not merely administrative devices, they are communities with a life of their own, evolving according to the laws of their being, and if hidebound authority is restricting this evolution by its conservative policy, then a disintegration of the system is inevitable.



What can we do to help the evolutionary process? A first step is to set up school councils, school action groups. However pupil power is regarded with distrust or amusement by many people concerned with education - not least the pupils themselves. Our educational system teaches us that politics is taboo, a subject for adults only, and limits social awareness to such valid but innocuous activities as decorating pensioners' bungalows and sponsored walks. This, fostered by the completely exam-orientated nature of teaching, has created the present climate of apathy. What students fail to realise is that the running of their schools could, and should, be in their hands. Through school councils and committees making their presence felt, the school administration can be made to acknowledge that the pupil is a person who attends school to be educated, not to be moulded into that necessary commodity the 'average biddable citizen'.



The school and especially the sixth form, represents a hitherto unrealised asset to those wishing to create a more socially and politically committed society, an asset which is at present wasted because so little is being done to inform pupils of what is going on outside of their own world. If utilised properly the secondary schools could prove themselves a valuable force in the community. With the development of social and cultural activities the unity that is being lost with the disintegration of the mining villages could be rebuilt through the young. If school pupils are not helped to realise their potential and not encouraged to fight against what they believe to be injustice or abuse, we will find ourselves with a generation of adults who are docile, completely dominated by and submissive to the authority of the Establishment.

THINK FREE OR ELSE

Comments on a Teacher Training College

Should a student at Bede ever express dissatisfaction with the college he will be told that he entered of his own free-will after having read the prospectus. The onus is placed on the student; he can leave the college if he doesn't like it. Most stay and the authorities feel justified in acting on the premise that students stay because they wish to learn according to what the college considers to be necessary academic requirements for a potential teacher.

Now in the first place I would doubt that anything so strenuous as an exercise of free-will is involved in making the decision to come to Bede. To say that students want to learn anything at all, let alone the rubbish presented by Bede College academics, is being a bit too idealistic in many cases. Reasons why students come to Bede are many and varied. A lot of students accept from the start that academic life at Bede is a game and they attend the college because if they play the game to the satisfaction of the authorities life can be good; others merely come because they want a licence to teach.

Academic requirements are not great. Students study their main subject plus Education Theory, Basic English, Maths, R.I., P.E., Health Education, and Curriculum Studies. In Education Theory the student is merely required to absorb a number of theories about children's needs, the learning process, the importance of particular subjects in the curriculum, etc., and must be able to regurgitate these theories when asked; it's just like conditioning rats. This sterile attitude predominates throughout all departments. Understandably in such a 'learning situation' it is the comedians and clowns amongst the staff who are popular with the students; not those who show some sensitivity.

If you can get on the same wave-length as the tutors it isn't hard to con them into believing that you're a super-student. The first assignment I had to write when I entered Bede came from the P.E. Department;

"It is one of the prime tasks of physical education to see that the organic state of the body is kept in good repair and to enhance its functional efficiency" - Critically examine this statement and discuss its validity'.

I didn't object to doing the occasional press-up but this sort of thing was a bit rich. I wrote something to the effect that no doubt the advice P.E. experts gave us was very good but if we took this advice we'd be very bored. I also suggested that yoga was more beneficial than physical jerks.

My essay was dealt with very harshly and given bottom marks. "Facts are what we want my boy!"

So the next time when I was asked to write an essay entitled - "To what extent do games satisfy the needs of Primary School children?" I decided to bring matters to a head by copying a page from a book (Pg 109/110, "Education Through Art" - by Herbert Read). It would be so obvious that this page, which literally bristled with the names of anthropologists, psychologists, philosophers etc., was not my own work and the tutor would be forced to accuse me of copying. I would have replied by telling him that he'd asked for facts and that's what I'd given him. The only difference between this essay and the first one I'd written was that this one was full of other peoples' opinions (I couldn't understand any of them) without one of my own. There was nothing which could be called a fact. I got a top mark for the essay with the comment: "High quality of thought



attempt was to get 700 leaflets printed at the Polytechnic, to be distributed at Langham Towers. As it happened a Union meeting was being held about choice of beers: this was leafleted and appeared to get an interested response. We hoped for a militant response from the college - as at Swansea College of Education. No such luck! The students who had promised to try to revive us gallantly appealed to the rest at the meeting but apathy at Langham overrules justice. The Union president said that nothing could be done (although he could have brought the Union out). Being members of the NUS we asked them for help, but they preferred to remain in the wings. (Aren't all unions supposed to support their members against victimisation?)

Neither of us was given a fair chance, though we apologised for our actions - we shouldn't have.

We are both now on the dole.

SION:
JSKI?



cont.
set down and I'm sure you must understand it." Laugh? I thought I'd never stop!

I have no doubt that in theory the college would accept that one of the main aims of education is to free the individual: "Ignorance keeps us in fetters." etc. In practice there is a total lack of any meaningful questioning. You must give evidence of having read the "recommended books" but don't you ever dare express any naked prejudices or opinions of your own. Every -thing is a matter of fact and I'm not exaggerating. Members of staff are totally impartial, totally non-committed to any political, social or emotional viewpoint to a degree which is exasperating. Their efforts at innovation consist of nothing more than attempts to sweeten the pill; trying to make their unattractive, sterile ideas seem meaningful.

They do believe in the good old tradition of liberal debate providing that it isn't going to spread into the dimension where ideas are actually applied. You would think that there would be lively and informed debate of current educational issues: 'the little red school-book', the uproar over a recent sex education film - not a chance. One issue which should be at the top of the list of priorities is the whole question of whether or not education should be made compulsory. The Freedom Road programme, entitled "Education for What?", shown on BBC TV. on Jan 2nd, which dealt exclusively with this question could provide lively debate for months. But such questions are only introduced to the students as throw-aways and the answers left blowing in the wind, as the young Bobby Dylan would say.



In such a hierarchical institution as a teacher training college the outlook of those in authority is obviously of prime importance. Let me give you the latest example of the attitudes of the principal of Bede College, known fondly as K.G.C., to democracy and free speech.

A reporter from the Durham Advertiser, wanting information for an article on Bede College, was given an interview by the principal; several other college authorities were present. After being given the soft patter by K.G.C.

the reporter asked one or two questions regarding a recent scandal, the publication in the college of an anonymous magazine called VOICE. He got no reply to these questions but after the interview K.G.C. rang the editor of the Advertiser and asked if he could see a draft of the article. Christ only knows what he found to complain about because on past performance this reporter is the last person likely to shake the foundations of the Establishment. But K.G.C. did complain; in fact he redrafted the article and asked the editor to publish this redraft. Apparently we are now to be treated to a very boring defense of the disciplinary structure of Bede written by K.G.C. One of the strongest criticisms he made of VOICE was that it was anonymous; there will be no name attached to K.G.C.'s redraft of the Advertiser's article. The reporter has disowned the article and no doubt K.G.C. will remain as modest and elusive as ever.

What in fact did VOICE say? Not very much; it was a pathetic cry in the wilderness. It was not the specific criticisms it made which shook the authorities but the mere fact that it had ever been published at all. Reaction centred around a very uncomplimentary remark made about a member of staff. Personally I think the



most significant item published in VOICE was the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Qualifications Committee of the Academic Board, held on 28th May 1971. Obviously we were never meant to see this document:

Appendix B. Attitudes to work.

A. - Attendance 100%/ excellent contribution to discussion/ leadership in group/ originality/ enthusiasm/ wide reading/ extra work done for enjoyment etc.

B. - Attendance more than 80%/ contributes to discussion and group work/ sometimes keen/ conscientious/ punctual etc.

C. - Average.

D. - Attendance less than 50%/ silent in discussion groups/ poor contribution to group work/ idle/ unenthusiastic/ some-times late.

E. - Attendance less than 20%/ no contribution to discussion or group work/ no interest/ does less than minimum/ usually late.

Accurate attendance records would be an important element in the letter grade for any course where attendance is obligatory

....we do feel that a clear distinction should be made between *assessment on work done* whether in the form of essay, test,....etc., and a *judgement of the man's attitude* to his work based on punctuality, attendance, participation etc. *Therefore we propose a 10 point scale for level of attainment and a*

5 point A - E scale for attitudes.

In an article which Mike Brewer and myself wrote in ISM, the college magazine, we had this to say about the attitude scale:



"Now although we admit that an objective study of punctuality, participation, attendance etc. may reveal the extent to which a student is not committed to his work, it takes no account of WHY this state should arise.... Is the only reason for silence in discussion groups one of poor attitudes to work? Similarly with lack of enthusiasm, poor attendance and the other meaningless trivia which have been suggested as essential to the assessment of students. Has anyone ever been to a lecture course which completely fails to stimulate, deserves not at all to command the presence of students, has so little depth of interest that discussion in groups is not only futile but trivial and boring....."

Four students were discovered to have produced Voice. Two of them were suspended for a term, one of them subsequently withdrew from the college, a third, who was a University student, was recommended for expulsion, a fourth, who had already left the college, was told never to ask Bede College for references when applying for teaching posts.

Several months later Bede students held a referendum on 3 motions concerned with the reaction of the college authorities to VOICE. The following was the result of the first motion:

Motion: "That the JCR demands that the college authorities rescind the disciplinary action taken against the 4 students involved in VOICE.

For - 74
Against - 144
Abstentions- 78
Percentage Poll - 41.4%



This shows an obvious defeat of the motion but what is amazing is the number of dissident voices being raised in a college which is notoriously apathetic or reactionary in its attitudes.

What is the origin of the powers which the college uses in such a heavy handed manner? For this we turn to section 26 of the INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT of the college:

Admission, Suspension and Expulsion of Students.

(11) The principal shall have power to suspend students for any adequate cause to be judged by him. Upon suspending any student the principal shall at once report the facts to the Chairman of the Governors

(11) A student may be expelled by the Governors -
(a) for misconduct, on the recommendation of the principal acting with the advice of a committee of the staff appointed by him to advise on the discipline of the college.

(b) for unsatisfactory standard of work, on the recommendation of the Academic Board.

No student shall be expelled without being afforded an opportunity of appearing in person accompanied if so desired by a friend before a duly constituted meeting of the Governors. Any case of expulsion must at once be reported to the Secretary of State.



You might be imagining that I risk expulsion myself by writing this article. No danger; I've already been expelled, at the end of last term with only two terms left to complete the course. Still, one thing about the lads on the Board of Governors, they're so polite when they stick the knife in you; they didn't tell me I was expelled, they said: "Mr Hill; we must ask you to withdraw".

Alan.

YES DILLY, BUT DON'T WORRY, WE HAVE OUR METHODS; PLANTS, SPIES, PHONE TAPPING, INTERROGATION. WE'LL PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM



A message stamped on a contraceptives machine in the lavatories at Dan's Castle in Tow Law, Co. Durham, reads:-
"Warning-fitted with Murco burglar alarm."

One New Face, The Same Old Myths

A few random thoughts sparked off by some recent movies.

Many critics have been mumbling about recent cinematic revolutions, particularly in the Hollywood cinema. Basically movies such as 'Easy Rider' or 'Vanishing Point' (a sort of 'Easy Rider' in a car) are perpetrating the same myths as any John Ford western - e.g. the individual versus the community - only within a contemporary setting. Bob Rafelson's 'Five Easy Pieces' is a little reassuring - new myths for old; although again, the character portrayed by Jack Nicholson is more akin to the John Wayne character in Ford's 'The Searchers' than to any contemporary figure. The fact is that in an art-form such as the cinema, form and content must go hand-in-hand, and sadly, revolutionary content does not equal revolutionary cinema unless it is accompanied by revolutionary form, both from the points-of-view of photography and editing. Thus 'Performance' makes it; 'The

Strawberry Statement' goes halfway (ironically as it is more a result of the Hollywood dream machine than Hopper's film); 'Easy Rider' makes it only from the point-of-view of sincerity, and 'Vanishing Point' does not make it at all, except from the point-of-view of excitement, and excitement is very subjective. But does Dennis Hopper want to be a new Frank Capra (re: 'Mr. Deeds Goes To Town' and 'Mr. Smith Goes To Washington')? A movie needs far more than sincerity if it is to stimulate both emotionally and intellectually.

The role of the contemporary cinema must be similar to that of the alternative press i.e. to present an audience with a selection of messages, stimulations and choices, hoping to cause some reassessment of the individual's ideas and values. Thus, 'Oz', 'IT', 'Frendz', 'Muther Crumble' etc. are to 'The Listener', 'The Spectator', 'Week-end', 'Parade' etc.; as 'Performance', 'Easy Rider', 'Five Easy Pieces' etc. are to 'The Sound of Music', the 'Garry On' series, Hammer etc. An alternative press is not enough - we already have alternative music - the sooner these are accompanied by alternative television and alternative cinema, the better. There is a weird mixture of the reassuring, the frightening and the bizarre in the fact that Frank Zappa's '200 Motels' is currently the biggest box-office draw in the States. Does this mean that Paul Newman, Steve Mc Queen and Ali Mc Graw will star in Frank's next movie?????

Malcolm Jackson



At the moment you're reading the closest thing to a free newspaper that exists in this area. The idea behind Muther Grumble, as far as I see, is free community communication, the freedom to write and read information from a source without a vested interest in the control of ideas and thus the freedom to develop our own opinion of things. It was something close to this that formed the driving force behind Fotomyx; the hope to free film information/experience from censorship moral or financial.

But first we have to learn that film is more than the medium of the Hollywood morals machine. By using the facilities of a circle of film distributors, who handle the growing wave of experimental/underground films we hope to show a programme of film which demonstrates the potential of the film medium as a total audio-visual experience, as a blending of sound and visual imagery whether as experience, or as an information source.

Just as theatre and particularly music have developed in recent years from the comics of a machine culture to the starships we ride to inner space and universal freedom so film can become a gun, or a pen, in the hands of each one of us. It's only one step from McLuhan's global village to John Lennon's "imagine" and then we can all sing the song together. Thru' technology communicating has become a sensual experience on a world scale - Hendrix was an electric man the land of his lady I.B.M. is the moon in the sky on T.V. is every disco's light show is the pilgrimages to the sounds cities of Woodstock of Bath of the Isle of White.

Is 'Gimme Shelter' a film was 'Easy Rider' just a side show of moving pictures, go see 'Performance' or 'Satricon' and convince me afterwards that you're still worried about the coins you gave to get in the theatre. Go see AC/DC and tell me if theatre is mime or film or live action or video replay.

In film the most interesting and recent developments

are towards the "Expanded" or "syn-aesthetic" cinema which presents experience through image and sound. In the past this has been called underground or avant-garde cinema and films of this nature have been seen as the playground of a financial or intellectual elite, catering to a highly specialised audience.

It's all bullshit. We all have T.V., most of us can listen to the new art of stereo sounds and in the same way film is easily and cheaply available to all of us (25p membership an admission at Fotomyx). Technology has outgrown its masters by mass production and so we have multiple ways of communicating freely and we see film as one of those ways.

We started with no money, no theatre, no projectors, no screen and no film. Also we had no experience and could gain none from the curfewed

streets of the towns. Mainly we were street hustlers pissed off with Mecca and Top Rank Action so we got a hundred others to sign forms saying they wanted to join the Fotomyx film society, collected subscriptions, hired theatre, projector and in three weeks had a magic mushroom first showing. We screened Kenneth Anger's 'Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome' and 'Chumlum' by Ron Rice. They were both highly experimental films; the reception was mixed - I think most of us were simply shocked out of the apathy created by the years of watching narrative film; not experiencing light, shape, tone and sound.

Still we decided to keep moving forward: since then we've shown 'Mare's Tail', a 2 1/2 hour epic by Ken Larcher of which someone said he could watch one frame a day

for the rest of his life and be happy; three films by Danny Seymour, one of Yoko making her film 'Fly'; Paul Sharrit's 'Ray Gun Virus'; Polanski's

'Repulsion' and, our last show at which the film 'Diary of a Shinjuku Thief' was supplemented by some live dance and music by some Sunderland frendz.

This live piece did something we hope to develop; certainly we're a film club but we see a desperate shortage of play areas in the north-east, and we hope to develop into a communications lab and a theatre of mixed means.

Our next show is built around a film portrait of Jagger at Hyde Park and Pennabaker's film 'lpm' featuring Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead, among others. Thus, since the theme of the show is music we hope to present some live sounds as well

members and more people who will take an active part in running the thing.

We aren't a commercial venture, although by their response to our appeals the Northern Arts seem to think we are; also we aren't professionals; we need a mood of total involvement to make each show work.

As for the future well we'll be showing among others Blow up, Pasolinin's Gospel according to St Matthew, Sympathy for the Devil, Wonderwall with George Harrison's soundtrack, Weekend - all in the near future. With each of these films we will be showing a programme of "shorts" and it is these that will describe this "Expanded Cinema". The potential of film as a light show, in fact as a source of total experience is being increasingly appreciated and independent distributors - the London co-op, Twenty-Four Frames, the Other Cinema, Polit Kino, Cineindependent, Fair Enterprises - are endeavouring to circulate the work of the new cinema.

In these experimental films can be seen the cinema of tomorrow and we regard them as the backbone of our programmes and we hope you'll come and experience with us and help us to grow, perhaps show us how to grow.

Thru' technology of mass production all forms of media are available to each of us. Thru' music, theatre, film, and free newspapers knowledge can be passed between us, so we can learn to liberate the tools/toys of communication in our age. If you're into using or making film/video tape/music/word images/shapes or colours please contact us and jump the gap to make the current flow and lets produce movies to show across the sky.

Love Fotomyx

(next show Feb 1st. 7.30pm
Pier Pavilion Theatre,
Ocean Road
South Shields.
For membership contact
Keith or Bill C/O
84, Hawthorne Ave.,
South Shields
tel. S/S 2912)

F L I C F L A C

and if you produce music an' need a venue then please contact us.

Of course our main problem is bread; we managed to present five programmes of film in two months without any grants or subsidies and thanks to the sympathetic theatre management and understanding distributors we're still alive an' growing.

We make no profit and rely entirely on the subscriptions of our members and whether we survive depends on how many of us maintain subscriptions by showing up to the shows. The theatre holds 300; at the moment our audiences vary in number from 60 to 120. In order to survive and grow we need more

Over the hill.....
 You can see me.....
 Try and catch your own cloud;
 there's no room on mine
 Over the sea I float
 don't even need a ship
 YOU CAN'T REACH ME.....
 Don't try walking on the water
 I don't need a freeway.....
 Long dusty road
 Sand blowing turning
 Rain rust red
 Walking towards the empty horizon.....
 No familiar broken telegraph posts
 No roving tumbleweed
Just my eyes
 Then suddenly.....
 Round the corner.....
 Army of skeletal faces,
 Looking to the sky.....

THE MOTHER SHIP!
 Their deliverance!
Sitting here on my cloud, thinking;
 COTTON WOOL DON'T FLOAT!

Army marches
 Hands upraised
 SkyMan returns
 From the sun king's palace

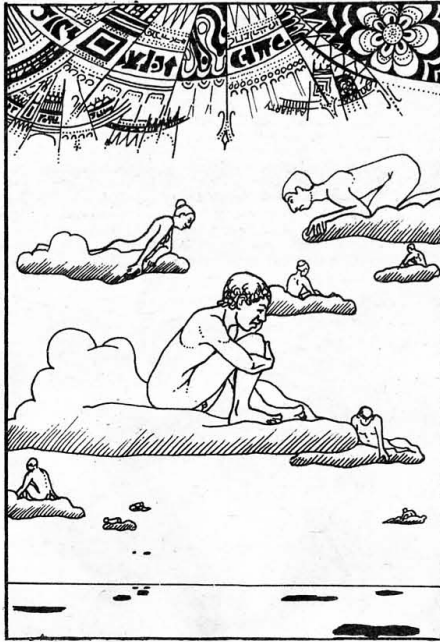
Look up brethren!
 Our salvation!

HOSANNA
 (cracked sky)

HOSANNA
 (rusting sky)

HOSANNA
 (certainly no palm leaves!)

It rains.....
 Army of faces becomes Army of umbrellas
 Welcome to the human zoo folks
 God, it's boring.....
 Where's the wind?



(Question.....
 IS A CLOUD BETTER THAN A BROOMSTICK?)

Oh, here's the first flutter.....
 OFF WE GO!.....

Army of faces becomes Army of umbrellas becomes Army of tears..

YOU FLYING JUDAS!.....

But another cloud appears.....

God, I'm sick of the sky.....

Stepping off my cloud
 I step on the beach
 feel the harsh black basalt
 Pebbles bite.....

See the island.....
 And the hill

I wonder, can I walk on the water
 with holes in my feet?

First step
Water pours through holes
 Sea
 scape
 erupts
 in
 my
 Head!

Expecting to sink,
 Can you imagine my surprise

It's rather like walking
 In a muddy field
except for the water

The island changes during my journey
 becomes the same old cloud
 the same old rat race

Back to cloud nine
but this time it might rain

Over the hill you can see me
 Oh, I see you've caught your own cloud
 Every body's
 on their
 cloud.....
 The army of faces is on its cloud
 AND THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE GROUND.....

Steve Pearce

New Year's Eve In Amsterdam

The Kosmos club was closed, members only because it was full to the brim. The Dutch make a big thing of New Year's Eve, fire-crackers exploding everywhere. We were told there was something on at Moses Church in Waterlooplein so we went on down there.

The Church is situated close to the 'flea market' where you can pick up leather jackets and fur coats (huge selection) very cheaply for the quality they are. Round the corner is a Head Shop - a little expensive but one or two nice things. Opposite, the demolition boys have moved in and initiated the Amsterdam metro. Graffiti everywhere condemning the project. Smashing a beautiful city around, particularly those areas where people have found cheap accommodation and built nice scenes.

Inside the Church were about five hundred people. There was a huge room with a huge carpeted central floor, pillars, pews, and dominating the scene, a vast wall above the altar with a representation of the crucifixion, the resurrection and above if all,

old man God. The overall effect was a gigantic backcloth of Reds, silvers, golds and blacks. At the rear of the Church, heads selling macro-food and hot drinks. No smoking.

Very soon the passageway connecting the Church to the bogs became a comfortable smoking scene. Among the people, three GI's who turned us on to good US grass - forced to wear coloured head-bands round their closely cropped hair to convey to the people where they really were at. One wore huge dark shades and successfully parodied death. Seems the US army is some kind of circus today, people turning on and rejecting the whole inhuman pantomime. The pictures along the wall alternating traditional religious themes and modern expressionism, a real breath of air after experiencing the stuffiness of English churches. A guy, middle-aged, was hassling people for smoking - all that was in his favour, apart for his single minded determination at an impossible task, was the fact that he didn't distinguish between joints and straight, it was just the fire risk that bugged him. He carried on resolutely all evening, some people just gave him what they were smoking, others lit up as he passed on his way.

In Holland shit is virtually legal and there's an even chance that it could be legalised soon. Busted shit is stored by the authorities for a five year period rather than destroyed (?) as in Britain, because if it is legalised it must be returned to its owner. This liberal approach to smoking means that the majority of young people are left alone. The

result has been a relaxed and uninhibited scene - people are much closer together and there's much we can learn from them.

The music was provided by anyone who felt like playing and at first it wasn't too hot. Three guys eventually got a country and western thing together and th. place warmed up considerably. New Year was slipped in and Auld Lang Syne barely survived a bar. People were fascinating - interesting faces, beautiful gear and peaceful. Some of the people who really stuck in the mind were a plain looking girl with a beautiful body dressed in transparent medieval gowns, complete with headdress; a guy wearing pale green tights who was really into his body; guys with bright red hair (used a lot of henna); transvestites; gay people; and a girl who was cut out of her dress with a pair of scissors only to reveal that her legs were ugly and sinewy.

People looked amazed with the church forming their immediate surrounds - people up on the altar, guys leaning on columns, people in the pews with their packs (the Marrakesh express), people sitting rapping on the central floor, dogs and kids running around the pulpit and one of them, a chick, continually sliding down the banister. The church was more than desecrated, it was purified. The 'happening' highlighted today's social hypocrisy, an atmosphere of brother against brother, sister against sister, all in the name of financial advantage and

material comfort; at the same time people who showed they can get together mentally and physically at the same time but labelled the scum of the earth.

At one point a guy leapt into the middle of the carpeted floor, he was short, dark haired and bearded, wore a balaclava and a suit made up of light bulbs, a swirling cloak and large polaroid glasses. He really turned the place on - good poems, set up a chant of "alter the image of the image of the image" and finished with a rousing "hallelujah masturbation" to the tune of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". We stayed on until four, talked and looked at people. The place was quietening down a little, one or two crashing out and the remainder beginning to leave. We left too. It was cold outside - but we were a lot warmer inside. For a short time we had beaten the cold and that must bode well for 1972.



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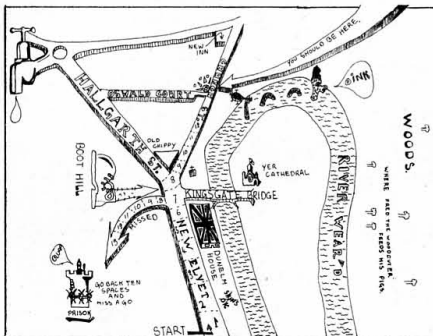
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rupert, magic roundabout
etc etc

	Retail Price	Our Price
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Wayna	2.17	1.95
Orchestra		
In Hearing Of	2.30	2.05
Atomic Rooster		
Isle of Wight	4.99	3.85
Triple		
Jethro Tull	2.30	1.60
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(Each)		
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Frank Zappa	3.75	3.40
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Grateful Dead	3.99	3.50
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Humble Pie	2.99	2.05
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Mothers	2.90	2.50
Peak Out		
Isaac Hayes	3.45	3.00
Sho's		
Woodstock 11	4.30	3.80
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Shelter People	2.05	1.80
Nico		
Chelsea Girl	2.05	1.80
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White Light White Heat		
John Koma's	2.19	1.95
Kanga		
James Gang	2.19	1.95
Live		
Melanie	2.19	1.95
Gotham No		
Faces	2.49	2.15
A Rod's As Good As A Wink		
John Lennon	2.40	2.15
Imagine		
King Crimson	2.30	2.05
Jandek		
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2.40	2.15	
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Mutter Grumble	10	10

A few days ago Harry Krishner was having a party in his flat. There were a lot of people around, but not much noise, as everyone was too zapped. Suddenly the landlord came bursting in and ordered everyone to leave - he said he wouldn't allow guests after midnight. When Harry suggested that there was very little noise and that no-one was being disturbed, he got angrier and angrier, accused Harry of damaging the furniture, and threatened to call the police. Finally he gave him a week to leave.

Too many landlords still assume quite arbitrary powers, as well as taking responsibility for their tenants' moral welfare. The behaviour of Harry's landlord was quite ILLEGAL, and because Harry knew this he was able to stand up to him. However it is very important that everyone should know their rights, which are very extensive, so that the continual hassling of young people is stopped. I shall be dealing in this article with your rights in a furnished house, flat or bedsit, where no food is provided. (If you pay a fair bit for meals every week, you have less security.)

RENT BOOKS

The most important thing to get is a rent book (available from any stationer's), in which to write all your payments and which is signed weekly by the landlord. A lot of people don't bother with one, which is OK till you get hassled, when it becomes your main weapon. So ask your landlord for one - he can't refuse if you pay weekly. Without a rent book you have no legal rights at all, but once you have one the flat or room becomes legally yours so that the landlord has to ask your permission before coming in, and can't go in when you're not there. So when Harry's landlord walked into his flat uninvited, he was in fact trespassing; this even applies if the landlord is living in the same house.

RULES

Your landlord can't suddenly decide to make some new rules up if he doesn't like what you're doing in his house. Any rules he wants you to obey must either be written in the rent book or agreed between you before you move in. It's obviously much better to get things written down so there aren't any arguments later. It's not easy to prove what was or wasn't said in a verbal agreement if you do have to take your case to a Rent Tribunal.

EVICTON

Harry's landlord couldn't evict him. You can't be kicked out for a small infringement of the rules, but only for three reasons - overcrowding, if it can be proved that you're disturbing the neighbours (and they're expected to tolerate a reasonable amount of noise) or if you're not up to date with the rent.

If you are asked to quit remember that you have to be given notice, and that the minimum period of notice you can be given is a month. (This also applies if you leave - although you can try to get away with a week as most landlords don't know the law.) Ignore an order to

leave unless it is in writing - a verbal request (however loud) doesn't count. Then before your notice expires - preferably only a couple of days before; you want to stay as long as possible - put in an appeal to the Rent Tribunal, stating your case. You can't then be evicted until the Tribunal has heard your case, which will take some time. If they decide the landlord has no real reason to evict you, they can give you security for up to six months.

DAMAGE AND REPAIRS

This is complicated, and it doesn't help matters that the law is rather fuzzy round the edges. Lawyers delight in using terms in Acts of Parliament that can be interpreted in any way, and in the case of furnished lodgings there have been few test cases to establish a fixed meaning for words.

Although it's up to you to keep the place in reasonable order, it isn't necessary to leave it exactly as you found it. "Fair wear and tear" on furniture etc. is expected, but that could mean anything, and generally, if your landlord does accuse you of damaging stuff it is up to you to prove that it was falling to bits anyway and that you didn't accelerate the

process.

Don't sign an agreement about keeping a place in repair without getting advice (from us?) first. For example if you agree to "keep and leave in repair" you may have to put a tatty place in order, which could be very expensive.

Two other points. A number of landlords demand a week's rent in advance - this they are not entitled to do, although if your landlord does insist, it's probably not worth an argument.

Gas and electricity bills can also cause trouble. It's up to you to pay unless the landlord agrees to.

Finally if you think you're paying too much rent you can appeal to the Rent Tribunal who can order the landlord to lower it. On the other hand they may decide it should be higher, so it's a good idea to check around and see what your neighbours are paying first.

If you do have any problems come to us and we'll try to sort them out. Don't bother about going to the Rent Tribunal for advice - when I rang them up they were very unhelpful and said they couldn't give legal advice. But don't be put off - the law is generally on your side.

The address of the Rent Tribunal for appeals is: Warwick House, Grantham Road, Newcastle. (tel. 610332)

king and castle



CORRECTION

In Muther Grumble No.1 we said that it was illegal for house agents to charge a commission for finding a flat for you. Apparently this is not strictly true. They can charge you if they do anything more than give you a list of addresses - if for example they arrange an appointment with a landlord for you. So make sure they only supply you with a list and don't let them try to be more helpful.

Ion.

W.R. - MYSTERIES OF THE ORGANISM

Tyneside Film Theatre Public Cinema - Jan 24th for indefinite season.

Wilhelm Reich was a real revolutionary; he was not so much concerned with changing the economic system as with abolishing the sexual system.

The former system is basically a refinement of the forces that indicate human requirements. The latter is usually a perversion of those forces. As WR saw it, sexual repression caused actual physical illness and general human up-tightness such as concern with power and politics. Good orgasms - and here I quote the blurb - were the answer to the world's problems. Free ourselves of sexual repressions and the other problems will soon disappear.

The film shows first interviews with those who knew Reich, and illustrates some of his techniques.

Reich fled Hitler and Stalin to live in the States - where he was jailed and his books were burned. Nowadays I expect he would be jailed if he lived in Russia or Eire and would be a rich man in the USA where his theories have had most practical and institutional acceptance.

After this follows a story concerning two girls living in an apartment in a communist country. One screws while the other preaches Reichian views to fellow flat dwellers. This other is in fact somewhat choosy about whom she will be liberated with: a fellow worker is unacceptable, but a flashy Russian chauvinist ice-skater is just right. I leave you to imagine her fate.

Some nice incidentals - an actual plaster-casting session for those unacquainted with the method of the art - a lonnie running around the city with a gun (toy or real?) - two gay dears strolling around, talking and necking.

A very enjoyable film.

Michael

STEEL CORSET

The campaign concerning the proposed new steel complex at Redcar seems to be reaching its hysterical climax.

The local newspapers carry articles almost every day. All the Teesside MPs and other layabouts make sure they say something every week about Teesside getting the new works. The general feeling is that it will solve the unemployment situation on Teesside "at a stroke".

The estimates of the number of jobs that the new works would provide have dropped somewhat since the original rush of blood to the head.

The figure being quoted now is around 7,000. We have lost 6,000 jobs in the steel industry on Teesside in the last year.

A British Steel Corporation spokesman claims that nearly half of these men who lost their jobs were reemployed elsewhere within the industry.

You do not have to be a great mathematician or cynic to realise that if the Redcar works is built, by the time it gets into production it will employ well under half the number of men made redundant in the previous year or two.

If the new works at Redcar follows the pattern set at Lakenby, it will probably destroy more jobs than it provides. The new BOS plant at Lakenby employs under 1,000 men. Its construction has already resulted in the closure of three of the four open hearth furnaces and the fourth is soon due to close. In all, 2,700 redundancies will be created as a result of the new plant.

Clive Oversby, author of the "Good Jail Guide", spent Christmas in one while waiting a re-trial on a charge of stealing £5.50. He said he told police he took the money as a means of getting inside Gloucester Prison to give it an "arrow rating".

Out of over nine hours of recorded material, Zappa has created a jig-saw that equals that of Burroughs (in writing) and Warhol (in film).

In attempting to look at his work, it is a mistake to take each album as only an individual statement. Each piece of recorded work fits (not always neatly) into the preceding pieces as well as the ones that are not yet written, let alone recorded.

There are songs on an album that re-appear a year or so later on a new one in a different form. Bits keep showing their heads under different titles and in a different form with the voices taking the place of the guitar or brass and in a different time.

A song on 'Freak Out' is also on 'Rubin and the Jets' with slight changes - while a thing off 'Only in it for the Money' also ends the 'ballet' 'Lumpy Gravy' in quite a new shape.

Things slot into each other across a number of years. There are also re-references. Burroughs calls it 'cut-ups' - Zappa, as far as I know, has no particular name for it.

While Burroughs is quite willing to talk about the structure of his writing, in both practice and in ideas behind it - Zappa, possibly due to the people who have interviewed him, appears to be rather unwilling to talk about the 'philosophy' behind his structure of re-appearances.

Zappa has certain human touch points in his make-up

and one of these must be considered in this short analysis of his work...and that is that it must be looked at in two actual sections: what he writes about and the way in which he writes about it.

The first four albums have a very one sided approach in the sense that they all concern themselves with observing different aspects of America and not much else. The first three being weighted very heavily in a 'political' direction while the fourth is concerned with a re-construction of the great American art-form: soft-rock.

A few years ago, Miles wrote this bit in IT in which he referred to Zappa as something akin to one of the old alchemists because he concentrated on only one problem and attempted to solve it by examining it in every possible way.

This way of looking at Zappa is OK as far as it goes but since Miles wrote that, there has been a number of changes. Some of them slight and not world shattering - while others have changed the entire construction of contemporary music.

It was with "Uncle Meat" (not "Lumpy Gravy") that Frank Zappa, for me, became a composer instead of being just a good song writer. "Uncle Meat" contains the entire Zappa recorded persona - and I do not think that it is an incorrect or foolish statement to say that in this album he has managed to cover the entire range of music that has emerged since the end of the war.

This does not mean that he has simply re-constructed note for note what others had already written.

He is one of those unique people who is capable of observing his environment objectively, being aware of most of the musical forces working on and around him - filtering it all and re-constructing his own personal vision of the world.

His methods are varied from one extreme to the other. This can be illustrated by playing the following two tracks off "Uncle Meat": "the Air" and "Dog Breath in the Year of the Plague".

Not only does "Uncle Meat"

cover the musical changes of the last 20 years - it also is the best example of Zappa's own musical philosophy. While on other albums you only get references to other albums - on "Uncle Meat" you get the complete cut-up and re-reference structure. Tracks re-appear under different names with voices doing things that were, a few tracks earlier played by the needs.

If the only thing that Zappa had ever recorded had been "Uncle Meat" then there would be no less doubt, than there is at the moment, about his supreme importance in 20th century music.

"Freak Out"	Verve	Time 57.25
"Absolutely Free"	Verve	Time 38.59
"We're only in it for the money"	Verve	Time 37.38
"Cruising with Rubin and the Jets"	verve	Time 31.01
"Uncle Meat"	Bizarre/Transatlantic	Time 68.53
"Hot Rats"	Bizarre/Reprise	Time 42.23
"Burnt Weeny Sandwich"	Bizarre/Reprise	Time 43.20
"Weasels ripped my Flesh"	Bizarre/Reprise	Time 37.48
"Chunga's Revenge"	Bizarre/Reprise	Time 37.24
"Fillmore East - June 1971"	Bizarre/Reprise	Time 44.30
"200 Motels"	Bizarre/United Artists	Time 79.20

NOTE:

This discography is not complete in so much as I have not included certain albums such as the Wild Man Fischer or the G.T.O.'s etc. and certain 45's such as "Big Leg Emma". If I was to attempt to give a complete list of recordings I would find it both doubtful and difficult since on certain albums his name is not given but it is obvious who is playing guitar or drums or who has arranged or recorded the particular album. And because of this I have limited the discography to only the recordings that Zappa's name actually appears on.

Tony Jackson.

This record is a surprise - a beautiful one, well worth waiting a year for. If you want to take off into another dimension, just dive beneath that mysterious cover (a vast ear covered in water) and turn on to the Floyd's old magic.

Here's a track by track run through of the best yet from 'Pink Floyd'.

Side one opens with 'One Of These Days' which begins with a strange, howling wind effect that made me feel quite cold! Then in comes Roger Waters with a mad staccato bass line leading to Pow! a soaring, swooping, repetitive organ phrase that rushes from speaker to speaker but quickly fades out to drums and Dave Gilmour's spacey bottleneck guitar then back to Waters with a tremolo bass solo interspersed with Floydian whoops and howls. Suddenly he breaks out in a Geordie (?) accent "One of these days I'm going to cuf you up into little pieces!" which brings back the beginning of bottleneck organ whoops and wind.

Track two - 'A Pillow Of Winds' - reminded me a bit of Cymbeline. Beautiful poetry in the lyrics and superb acoustic guitar work laced with quiet bottleneck electric (although I detected one or two prominent mistakes). On the whole this track sets the mood for the rest of side 1 - gentle, peaceful acoustic numbers guaranteed to get even the most smashed heads together! (I know from experience.)

Track three - For me the best track on this side is

'Fearless', an acoustic/electric guitar finger picking duet - with a slightly Indian feel - then the best lyrics from the pen of Waters "You say you'd like to see me climb the hill/climbing/you say you'd like to see me try climbing/ but I'll climb the hill in my own way just wait another day/ and when I climb above the tree line and the clouds I'll look down at the sounds of the things you say today." Then more acoustic/electric duet (but maybe the drumming was too heavy) leading to a verse

There's a rainbow hovering over what promises to be the best north-eastern gig for ages. It's being held in the Exhibition Hall, Bigg Market, Newcastle on Friday the 3rd of March. The place is vast, rambling, plenty of rooms, and so everyone should be able to get into their own thing....

At the moment we're trying for an all-nighter (9.00pm - 7.00am) but we're having licensing hassles so it might be from 7.00pm till 1.00am. We just hope that if it has to finish early those who face a long walk home will have learnt to fly!

It will be a mixed-media happening with music by Pete Brown and Graham Bond (and of course Henry the Horse dances the waltz), Fat Grapple, Raw Spirit, Tony Jackson and the Assassins, Ahimsa, Perception, Les Gofen and anyone else who wants to play. Bring your guitars, bells and long hair. There will also be poetry by Tom Pickard and

about an idiot confronted by a Court who smiles in the face of the law, ending in an excellent recording of the Everton football crowd (!!!) - try and trip to this one then!

Track four - 'San Tropez'. Pink Floyd play at T. Rex - very Bolanesque delivery of a little jazz number about lazing and loving in San Trop. Beautiful drumming - the best on the L.P., while guitar and piano meander in and out of pure 30's jazz licks.

others, films by Fotomyx, conjuring by Steve the magical head, light shows, disco, theatre and anything else anyone else wants to do.

There will be stalls selling candles, joss sticks and assorted head gear (anyone who wants a stall should contact Muther Grumble as soon as possible). We'll be doing all the catering ourselves which will mean good cheap food, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Alcohol won't be on sale we're aiming for total communication and peace.

The evening will cost only 50p per person and the profits, as explained in the editorial, will be fed back into the north-east community. Tickets will be on sale as follows; Newcastle Ultima Thule Bookshop, 22 Arcadia, Percy Street; Shakespeare Etc Osborne Rd, Jesmond. South Shields Fotomyx, 15 Lawe Rd. Sunderland The Durham Bookshop, Vine Place. Durham 13 Silver St.

See you there and remember lots of rainbows go to make.....

Last track is a side-splitter - a good number to roll up for! 'Sheamus' - a little blues about Roger Water's dog crying outside his back door. This track's got it all, Delta bottleneck, barrel house piano and werewolf howls from Sheamus.

'Echoes' - in my opinion the best single track the Floyd have ever recorded - takes up all of side two. I'm very tempted to sum this track up in one word - perfection.

From that beginning of sonar bleeps it develops into symphonic proportions, embodying some beautifully textured vocals and instrumentation. For instance, the first vocal break - the guitar and organ reach their peak, and in come Gilmour and Waters to complement them with lovely lyrics about independence and freedom of expression - "And no-one makes me close my eyes/no-one."

But the middle of this track stuns me - a howling wind laced with the most original guitar playing I have ever heard. In fact it reminded me of some unknown species of prehistoric bird (even more so when actual recordings of rooks follow it up) then some ingenious vocals - "Echo" repeated over and over again weaving in and out of floating guitar and staccato bass, ending in an organ fanfare.

I've attempted to describe the best moments of 'Echoes', but if you want to enjoy this masterwork, take a walk to your nearest record shop and buy this L.P. (worth £2.40 for 'Echoes' alone.)

YA WON'T REGRET IT !!

Steve Pearce

GRAFFITI

CLAIMANTS' UNIONS

Newcastle: telephone N/cle 668498

South Shields, (also Jarrow), 4, Lawe Rd. S Shields tel. 62213. 'Joe'

DURHAM: Muther Grumble Office 13, Silver St., Durham City. 'Mike and Dave'



Interested in White Panther Party phone Clare - N/cle 811599

Wanted by three Grumblers - a house without running water on the walls. Mus' be in Durham City.

A guy what does clothes (eg trousers for approx £2) - contact Simon, 1 Salisbury Gdns., Jesmond, N/cle 6.30p.m. - 7.30p.m. or Sat. and Sun afternoons

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GRAIN 33, Princes Ave., Hull. Health foods, whole foods, macrobiotics, Vegetarian cheese, brown rice, muesli. Very good, friendly, very wide range.

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Send your dreams and hallucinations to Muther Grumble.

Newcastle Free School: see centre pages. Anyone interested contact Dave Ingham, 80 Farndale Rd., Newcastle NE4 8TT. (tel. 39960)

Durham GLP: anyone interested contact Chris, care of Muther Grumble Office.

Newcastle GLP: meet at the Royal Court Grill (buffet) every Wednesday at 8.00 p.m.



Sunderland I.S. every Thursday 8.00pm Londonderry Pub. 'The only true revolutionary organisation in Britain!' Yeaaaah

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Sunderland Conservative Party: meets in the Seventh Sunderland Sea Scout hut Friday nights



National Council For Civil Liberties: helps people defend their rights, and investigates violations of people's rights. 152, Camden High Street, N.W.1. (01-485-9477)

Uncareers: see letters page. 36, Rookery Rd., Birmingham 29.

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Pubs in Barnard Castle are open all day on Wednesdays.

95% of all famous scientists are still alive today.

Don't forget that Muther Grumble has a comprehensive information and advice service.



Helen Berry wants hitchhiking partner to India. 36, Thornhill Gardens, Sunderland.

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FOOD: 'I will exchange good vegetarian food for your old money' Me's Diner, 46, Brentwood Ave, Jesmond, Newcastle 2. Help keep this place open - it's the only place of it's kind in the North. Non-segregational, digs Freaks and straights. Love Mo.



Street sellers wanted all over the cosmos - especially around the north-east and venus. You get 2p a copy plus a free read. Apply MG office, 13 Silver Street, Durham City, or Don and Andy, 10, Ashleigh Grove, Banton Newcastle 12. tel 668498.

BIT
24 hour free information and help service for young people and those trying to create alternatives to society. We're interested in what you're doing and what happens in your area - so please tell us. 141, Westbourne Park Road, London, W.11. (01-229-8219)



Environmental Group: Contact Colin Marsh, 62 Beatty Ave., Jesmond, Newcastle 2. Tel. 856214 or daytime 28511 ext. 2419.

Muther Grumble reporter badly needs beautiful chick with IBM! Apply Wart.

Spectro Arts Workshop: 10, Station Rd., Whitley Bay.

Outsider Community Projects Trust: 4, Shakespeare Rd., Hull.

Hull PNP: Norman and Hilly Clinton, 67, Albany St., Spring Bank, Hull.

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Brief Encounter for traditional/contemporary folk. Write to 5, Albert St., Western Hill, Durham. Or tel. Durham 3504 between 6 and 9 p.m.

MUTHER GRUMBLE badly requires use of a transit van for two days a month to get copies back from the printers.

For real. Nude model wanted for genuine art students. Lousy pay - 65p an hour and fares. Apply Tony, the Muther Grumble Office.

Bishop Auckland Technical College Film Society hopes to be off the ground this February. Join NOW!

Double bedsit to rent. Enquiries by letter to 20, Neville Terrace, Crossgate Moor.

CASTLES:

These are open at 'standard ministry times' (STM) which are, for Nov-Feb, weekdays 10.00am - 4.30pm, Sundays 2.00pm - 4.30pm. There are many other castles but these are not open during winter.

BARNARD CASTLE, County Durham, open STM, adults 2½p children 1p.

DUNSTANBURGH, Northumberland. Open STM, adults 5p children 2½p.

NORHAM, Northumberland, open STM, adults 5p.

WARKWORTH, open STM, adults 5p under 15 2½p.

PRIORIES

FINCHALE, County Durham, STM, adults 5p children 2½p.

LINDISFARNE, Northumberland. Open STM.

MUSEUMS

BARNARD CASTLE, The Boves Museum. Very trippy. Winter hours: weekdays 10.00am - 4.00pm. Adults 5p children 2p.

CHOLLERFORD, Chesters Museum, on Hadrian's Wall. Winter 9.30am - 4.00pm, Sundays 2.00pm - 4.30pm.

DURHAM, Gulbenkian. Oriental Art. Weekdays 9.30am - 1.00pm, 2.15pm - 5.00pm. Sat and Sun 2.15pm - 5.00pm.

NEWCASTLE, Keep Museum. Good views of Tyneside. Winter 10.00am - 4.00pm. Mondays 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

NEWCASTLE, Laing Art Gallery and Museum. Egyptian and Greek antiquities, ceramics, costumes. Groovy. Weekdays 10.00am - 6.00pm. Tues. and Thurs. 10.00am - 8.00pm. Sundays 2.30pm - 5.30pm.

SUNDERLAND, Museum and Art Gallery; things related to S/land. Mon - Fri 9.30am - 5.00pm. Sundays 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

TEESIDE, M/bro, Dorman Museum; zoology, geology, archaeology and tropical fish. Winter weekdays 10.00am - 6.00pm. Sundays 2.00pm - 8.00pm.



and so to bed

Once upon a time, in the fair lands of Pollenilia, dwelt a fair nation of flowers. They lived their lives in peace and harmony, far away from the black lands of pestilence and pruning.

One day, a weed, orphaned in a bitter war in a far off plain, limped by the happy nation, lonely and exhausted.

The flowers offered him their home and reared him through many a bright and sunny day.

Soon he was a fully grown

A NEW SEMI - ACOUSTIC BAND

AHIMSA

enquiries to mike mogie, muther grumble office, 13, silver street, durham.

weed and, with much malice, turned against his former friends and forced them to work long and cruel hours bringing him an excess of food and luxuries, while he lazed threateningly in the sun. Every now and then, he would give a flower who had dared to rest before finishing the arduous task he'd set a painful squeeze with his roots.

After many days of this cruel treatment, the flowers refused to do more for him and, turning their concerted strength against him, flung him from the borders of their nation. There he stayed, hungry and totally unable to supply himself with food, until, realising the error of his ways, he begged their forgiveness.

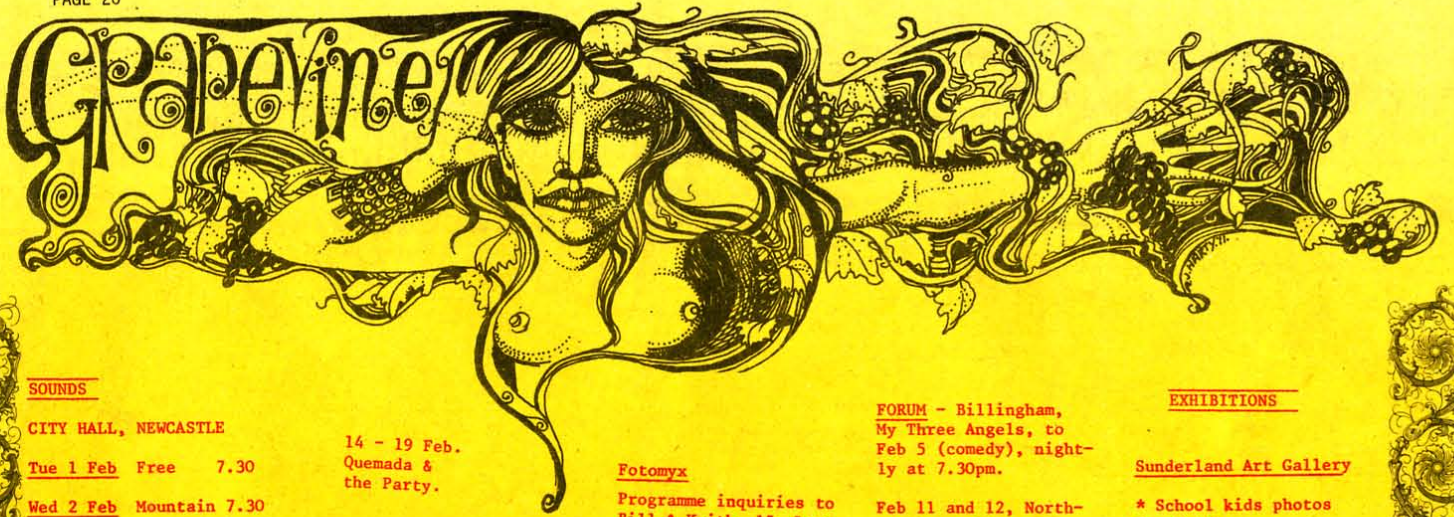
The flower nation, seeing the change in their former lord, welcomed him back with open petals and taught him how to live without having to force others to provide the goodness necessary for happiness.

And one bright morning, shortly after his return to the nation, the weed awoke to find himself a beautiful flower.

Uncle Mike



KEEP SUPPORTING MUTHER GRUMBLE.



SOUNDS

CITY HALL, NEWCASTLE

Tue 1 Feb Free 7.30

Wed 2 Feb Mountain 7.30

Sat 5 Feb Black Sabbath 7.30

Wed 9 Feb Lindisfarne 7.30

Sat 12 Feb Wishbone Ash 7.30

Thur 24 Feb Strawbs 7.30

MAYFAIR, NEWCASTLE

Thur 3 Feb Jimi Hendrix film 'Live at Berkeley'. From the US 2 groups, Cat Mother, Jimmy and Vella 8.00pm - 1.00am 60p

Thurs 24 Feb North Durham RFC. Fame and Price. 8.00pm - 1.00am £1

Thurs 9 Mar Procul Harum

LONDONDERRY HOTEL, S/LAND

Every Sat. Hot Rats Disco at 8.00pm

TOP RANK, S/LAND

Sun 6 Feb Becket 15p members, 20p guests

Sun 13 Feb Free 7.30 to midnight 60p

DUNELM HOUSE, DURHAM CITY.

Wed 9 & Thurs 10 Feb. at 8.00 p.m.: McCloskey's Apocalypse Amazing Punch 'N Judy Show 30p. Tickets from Paperbacks, Elvet Bridge, Durham. Open to the public.

3rd MARCH MUTHER GRUMBLE BENEFIT CONCERT see page 17



FILMS

Tyneside Film Theatre

Cinema 1 (open to all)

1 - 5 Feb. Mysteries of the Organism

7 - 12 Feb. The Ballad of Joe Hill

14 - 19 Feb. Quemada & the Party.

21 - 26 Feb. The Graduate & In the Heat of the Night.

28 Feb - 4 March, Sunday, Bloody Sunday.

Cinema 2 (members only) Annual: sub £1.50p pensioner concessions.

1 - 2 Feb. Medium Cool

3 - 5 Feb. Adalen 31.

6 Feb. Cinema Workshop 7.30 p.m.

7 - 9 Feb. Barbarella & The Love Goddesses.

10 - 12 Feb. The Group

13 Feb only: Sawdust & Tinsel. (movie milestone)

14 - 29 Feb. Quiet Days in Clichy (dirty). This programme subject to alteration if H.M. customs decide they want to keep it.

20 Feb only. International House and Mrs. Wiggs & The Cabbage Patch (movie milestone)

27 Feb only. Detective Story (movie milestone)

DURHAM

Durham Univ. Film Soc. Applebey Theatre-8.15p.m.

2 Feb. 8½ (Fellini)

9 Feb. To be announced

16 Feb. The Bride Wore Black (Truffaut)

23 Feb. To be announced

1 March. Dutchman.

Durham Film Society

At Elvet Riverside or Bede College, Durham City. 7.30 p.m.

3 Feb. Round Up (Jancso)

17 Feb. Intimate Lightly (Evan Passer)

Fotomyx

Programme inquiries to Bill & Keith, 15, Lawe Road, South Shields.

1 Feb. Mixed Media Show with poetry, music and films at Pier Pavilion, South Shields, 7.30p.m.



FOLK

Londonderry Hotel, Sunderland. Every Sunday night at 8.00pm.

Wetheralls - S/land, (between bus station and S/land Poly) every Friday night.

Little Theatre M/bro Folk club meets here 27 Feb and 19 March.



THEATRE

University Theatre, Haymarket, N/cle. Weekly 7.30pm, Sats. 8.00pm. Thurs Jan 13 to Sat. Feb. 5th "Play Strinberg"

Feb 5th "Play Strinberg" an officer and a gentleman driven to the verge of madness by an actress of no talent. Thurs Feb 10 to Sat. Feb 26 "Rosencratz and Guildenstern Are Dead" by Tom Stoppard. A play about two guys caught in the middle. Tues. Feb 29 to Sat March 11 "Faust" by Gert, Marlowe, de Ghelderode, Gounod, C.P. Taylor. The quest for eternal youth.

Gateshead Little Theatre. Feb. 22 to Feb 26, the Progressive Players' present "The poker Session" by Hugh Leonard. A gripping thriller that will keep you guessing.

FORUM - Billingham, My Three Angels, to Feb 5 (comedy), nightly at 7.30pm.

Feb 11 and 12, Northern Dance Theatre, Brahms Sonata 'Nutcraacker' Death of the Maiden Peter and the Wolf 7.30pm

Feb 19 - March 4 Ibsen's 'A Doll's House' 7.30pm and matinees.

ROYALTY THEATRE, Sunderland, S/land Drama Club Who's afraid of Virginia Wolf Feb 8 - 12, 7.30pm.



POETRY

Sat 12th of Feb. Miners' benefit. Readings at the University Theatre, Newcastle, by Tom Pickard, Brian Patten, Adrian Henri, Adrian Mitchell et al. Watch out for other events on the same day.

Poets please contact Muther Grumble about your events.



FAIR

Alnwick mediaeval fair (Northumberland) from June 25th - July 2nd. consists of costumed townfolk, display of 18th century crafts and wares, a costume ball in Alnwick Castle, yard bell drinking contests, traditional quoits matches, folk singers and Morris dancers, Northumbrian pipers, stocks and pillories, barn dances and a Northumbrian

Cellidh, and feasting with ale, wine and Northumbrian mead.

EXHIBITIONS

Sunderland Art Gallery

* School kids photos 2 - 6 Feb. * Dolls in the 19th C. 12 Feb - 2 April.

Durham

* DLI Museum & Arts Centre- exhibition, the Ashington Group, to 27 Feb.

Ceolfrith Book Gallery Sunderland

* Paintings by the patients of the Cherry Knowle mental hospital 10 - 19 Feb.

Whitley Bay

* Spectro Arts Workshop Photos by Paul Archer to 4 Feb.

Teesside

*Adult Education Centre Middlesboro'. Collages and Sketches by Anne Ball. to 4 Feb.

Carlisle

* City Art Gallery Paintings and Drawings by Alan Davy & David Hockney. to 13 Feb.

* Exhibition: Robin Simpson- "Light Structures & Environment. Feb 22 - March 11.

(And Ceolfrith at the Yorkshire Bank, Sld.)

* Exhibition: John Roberts, photographs to Feb 9.

* Dept. of Fine Art, Sunderland Poly. colour projects Feb 9 - March 8

* For other events arranged by Ceolfrith, contact the gallery in Frederick Street, Sld.



If Grapevine is to be successful MG requires more details about activities in the north-east. Write to 13, Silver Street, Durham City. Please - we need you to help you.

Advertisement for instant lettering and Jimmy's program.