

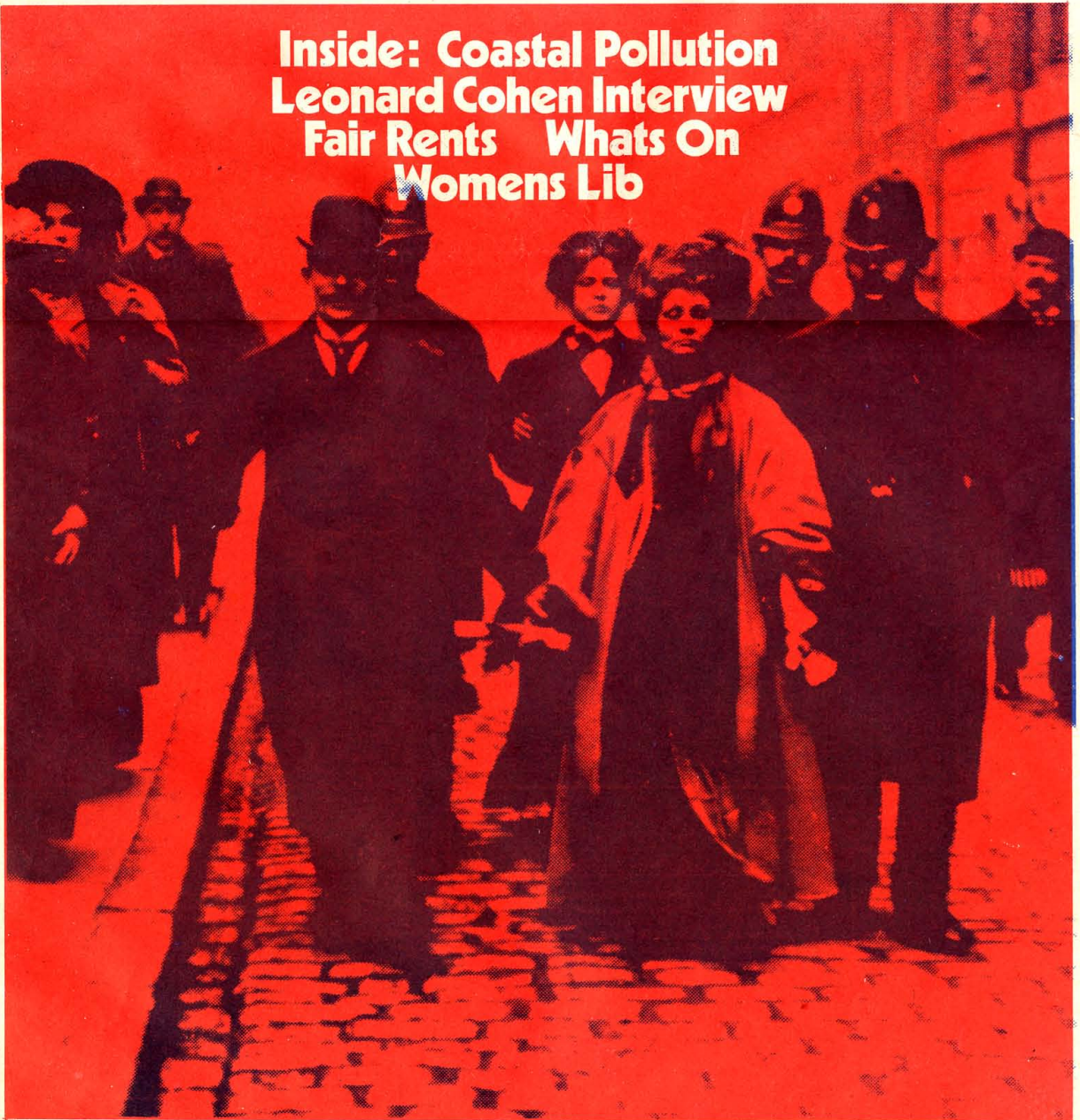
THE NORTH EAST'S OTHER NEWSPAPER

MUTTER GRUMBLE

APRIL 22 2015

NO 4

**Inside: Coastal Pollution
Leonard Cohen Interview
Fair Rents Whats On
Womens Lib**



EDITORIAL

Last edition we talked about our hopes and plans to become a co-ordinating and information agent for social, political and cultural groups and individuals in the north-east. We said that we thought such a body would make existing and planned groups and projects more successful in realising their aims, as many were isolated from others doing similar and complementary projects, and were thus not receiving the assistance and knowledge which were theirs for the taking had they but known it.

Although we felt this was needed, we weren't sure if it was possible. However certain groups, namely the police and their big brother the Special Branch, thought that we stood a good chance of putting our plans into effect, for the time between the last edition and this has been one of peculiar happenings.

Shortly after MG 3 appeared we at last got a telephone installed (61242). Considering the untimely clicks and strange noises experienced by both ourselves and people ringing us we have no doubt that the phone is tapped. So if you have anything private to tell us, please don't tell us over the phone.



A few days after the phone was installed a policeman visited us and asked Mike if he could go along to the station that evening to see the C.I.D. Mike, being a brave lad duly went along to be told by Chief Inspector Organ (that's right) that MG 2 was going to the Public Prosecutor following a complaint of obscenity (see page 5). We have heard nothing since and doubt if we will. Chief Insp. Organ then went on to ask Mike about his whereabouts the previous Sunday when a Bren gun had been stolen from the D.L.I. (war) museum in Durham, saying that Mike was a suspect. The police knew of all Mike's visits to the museum in the previous year. He told them where he had been and was allowed to go. The next day he returned to the station with a witness to corroborate this and was told it was all over. However, the next morning Maurice was woken up by a guy claiming to be from the Special Incidents Squad (Special Branch heavies) who asked him some questions about Mike. When he wasn't able to trick Maurice into making Mike appear guilty he left. Finally Mike went again to the station, this time with legal advisers, and that's the last we've heard.

These events go to show what one comes up against when trying to do something constructive to help achieve a better society. How many people, having read this, do not believe that phone's are tapped, or that these events really happened? People should realise the hypocrisy of a system that whilst proclaiming to support freedom of speech and press employs large numbers of special police nasties to identify, and keep track of the activities, of those people who exercise this freedom, regardless of the fact that they are not breaking any laws.

Anyway, having dealt with events in the past, now to mention future plans.

The activities of many individuals and groups in the area are being hampered by lack of facilities. Many have lots of information, advice and propaganda they want to publish but find this difficult or impossible because of the unavailability of duplicators, typewriters and paper. Obviously it would be financially impossible and wasteful for every group to own its own duplicator etc. and we feel that the most practical solution would be to have a number of duplicators etc. available for use by such groups. So if anyone owns or has easy access to such facilities, and agrees to them being used by others, could they drop us a line giving the location of the equipment, acceptable times for using it, and approximate costs (these, we feel, should just cover costs and maintenance). We could then tell people enquiring about such facilities where the nearest available to them are.

We still need more information and sellers. A paper's only as good as the articles in it and can only be read by people if it's sold in the area in which they live or work. At the moment many of the smaller communities and towns haven't been covered - so if you are willing to sell Muther Grumble (and you get 2p a copy), please contact us. At the moment we're £400 in debt and Muther Grumble's monthly costs are a nerve-wrecking £375, all of which have got to be covered by sales. Our main costs are coffee, printing, typewriter hire, rent, telephone, electricity, stamps, paper and biros (we aren't getting anything out of it). So if you feel the north-east needs a community newspaper, then you're just as important as us in ensuring it has one - and what kind of one it is.



DURHAM: 61242

N/CLE: 668498



UNSUPPORTED MOTHERS

Ion, Maurice, Don, Mike, Andy, Alan, Rick, George, Geoff, Dave, Sally, Joe, Pam, Helen, Captain Moonlight, Jules, Barbara, Tony, Bernie, Toby, Kev, Rich, Ken, Viv, Alison, J'nez, Paul, Ali, Stan, Panny, Claire, Janis, Marion, Linden, NCCU, Chief Ins. Organ, O. B. Mate, and many more.

keep on Grumbling!

If you want to talk about your grumble or what you're doing, or simply yourself contact Muther Grumble at:

13, Silver St. Durham City.
Tel. 61242

Between 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
or Don and Andy,
10, Ashleigh Grove, Benton,
N/cle 12. tel. 668498

If anyone has written to us and not yet received a reply please write again as some of our mail went astray.

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This article is an outline of a strike that lasted nearly six months, was never declared official by the union and which was never given adequate attention in the local press. The lessons of this strike have implications for all workers, especially for those in the General and Municipal Workers Union - the largest union in the North-East.

THE CLAIM AND HISTORY OF THE STRIKE

THE CLAIM:

The 600 Thermal Insulation Workers (Laggers) from Tyne and the Tees were on strike for parity with rates in Scotland where the hourly rate is 73p - that is the basic is 56.5p an hour plus a guaranteed 16.5p. In the N.E., the Laggers only get 56.5p an hour basic rate; N.E. employers pay the full rate elsewhere but not in the North-East.

THE STRIKE:

1971: six months of negotiation between the Branch Committee of Laggers on Tyneside and the Thermal Insulation Contractors Association (TICA) during which the Laggers were pushed between the Northern TICA and the National TICA - and obstructed by "their own" Union officers from the GMWU, Regional Secretary Alderman Andrew Cunningham.

1st November 1971: Strike notice issued by the Branch Committee, the GMWU officials tried to force a ballot (which needs two thirds majority) but this would not have made the strike official because no national agreement was broken (Cunningly employers do not write down all their agreements). 15th November: 300 Laggers on Tyneside came out on strike for parity with Scotland. Although Laggers in Hartlepool and Teeside work for the same employers and are "represented" by the same union official - the 300 Laggers there kept on working for the same rates - and GMWU officials kept pressure on them to do so! Mid-December Tyneside Laggers asked Cunningham to declare the strike official, not to obtain strike pay (which only reduces the SS anyway) but to help with blacking materials and assistance from other unions. Cunningham approached Lord Cooper who didn't even acknowledge the request - in March 1972 The National Exec. of the GMWU decided that the strike would not be made official! January 1972: after many appeals by the Tyneside Laggers

(and much obstructing by G&M Officials) the Hartlepool and Teeside Laggers (300) came out on strike. February 1972: militant picketing of the G&M Regional HQ to try to 'concentrate' Cunningham's mind on the problems of the Laggers. 19th February 1972: 600 Laggers all given the sack - Cunningham's reaction is to speak of this as "tantamount to an official lock-out." Also in February the National Conference of all Branch Committees of Laggers at meetings in Liverpool and London decide on national unofficial support for the strike (and plans for democracy in their "own" union). This National Committee (not an official committee of the G&M) decide on a national unofficial strike from Monday 13th March in support of the Tyneside and Teeside claim. March 1972: at the last minute the national strike is called off and Cunningham and his lackeys make small squeaks about thinking about making the strike official (after it's been going for 18 weeks). What this amounted to was a meeting of the disputes panel (union and TICA) and the National Joint Industry Council (union and TICA). Now (mid-March '72): TICA has made an 'offer' of 10p an hour for time and materials - this is no offer at all - it has always been paid. The men at a mass meeting (22/3/72) rejected 100% any return to work without the claim being met in full.

WORK CONDITIONS OF THE LAGGER

Lagging work is listed by the DHSS as one of the most dangerous occupations - carrying the normal dangers of any structural work, plus airborne and skincarried killing diseases arising from the materials handled: Asbestos (Asbestosis - 24 Laggers died in Glasgow last year from this form of cancer); Calcium Silicate (Silicosis); Fibreglass and volatile plastics (Epidermis) and Glues and Resins (Epoxy Resin for example gives off cyanide fumes when mixed). They are also industrial nomads, sent anywhere, often at a day's notice, to work up gantries and down in the base of boilers, or inside a ship which is being hammered and rivetted on the outside. You may be told (often by GM officials!) that Asbestos has been banned for lagging for two years or more. Try telling that to Laggers! For a start it will take 25 years to eradicate it from their work because old insulation has to be stripped, but anyway it is still being used.

Recently Asbestos Spray material was delivered to one site in Newcastle in sacks labelled 'pig manure' - this disguise connected with the fact that the dockers refused to handle asbestos. Laggers are also like Lepers - because employers are starting to be careful not to employ men with asbestosis above a certain level because they do not want to be liable. So all this talk about medical inspection is simply a 20th century method of fixing lepers bells round the necks of Laggers. The GMWU's answer to this problem is to agree to special Asbestos Squads, that is, Kill off Laggers faster and in batches of ten! All the talk about safety arrangements is just that; talk - go to any site and you don't notice the oxygen bottles, the gloves, the masks the special

showers. Why? - because it cuts down the profits of the TICA bosses. The 'public' wept its heart out for Miners, with full justice, don't forget that all the working class is a special case. There are thousands of filthy, vile, killing jobs and the Laggers is one of the worst because they are split into small groups all over the place.

THE UNION

The General and Municipal Workers Union is run by one man: Alderman Andrew Cunningham. A typical G&M official - appointed Regional Secretary and then he appoints (and sacks!) the lackeys under him. This union is as much responsible for low wage rates here as the bosses; just see how they have obstructed this strike. But then look at Cunningham, chairman of the Durham Police Authority, Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority, Director of Tyneside Airport, Alderman of Durham County Council and (in dear old Freda's name of course) a string of petrol stations and retail outlets. Look at Lord Cooper (General Secretary of GMWU) - director of Yorkshire television, on the Board of the Industrial Society, (have you seen their guide to the Industrial Relations Act?). The action of the officials in the area has been outright obstructive at each stage; not just delaying action but going round and telling GM workers in other areas that they should not send support and money to the Tyneside Laggers because it wasn't official. The activity of the Leeds Official has been the most obstructive in this way. but those in the NE haven't been much better.

But the Laggers (and other trade sections in the GMWU) have learned the hard way how to fight their own union as much as the bosses - during the last year they have worked on establishing a National Trades Section with their own delegate conferences and their own branch cards - so that they can take over their own destiny, their own negotiations, and not hang on for Alderman Cunningham and Lord Cooper to do something - because they won't, ever.

STRIKE BREAKING ATTEMPTS

Apart from fighting the Union, the strikers had to fight strike breaking from the beginning. There was one blackleg firm (Ace Insulation) operating, although originally it was out on strike. A few incidents: at Christmas one employer approached a striker in the Laggers' house, threw down £100 on the table and offered him his job back; twelve of the apprentice

Laggers had visits from Army Recruitment officers (who gave their home addresses away?); employers in the NE have advertised for 'suitable labour to apply insulation materials', but they didn't get far with that dodge; one employer went up to Glasgow (where there are 200 Laggers on the dole) to try to get the Glasgow men to scab; they did not succeed; lastly, Laggers in other parts of the country received a note on the 28th Feb. 1972 (Industrial Relations Act Day 1.) telling them they did not have to belong to a union any longer! As well as all of this there's been the running battle with the SS; there was more success towards the end because of valuable help from Claimants Union comrades, but the lesson had to be learned that the State isn't there for anyone but the bosses. There has also been police protection - for the bosses and their profits.

STRIKE MILITANCY & SOLIDARITY

The Laggers were 100% solid behind the strike; in fact the militancy and solidarity increased over the strike, especially when everyone was sacked on the same day. The obvious obstruction of the GMWU has also made the Laggers feel more united; for example they have seen 'their' National (Laggers) Organiser for the first time for nine years - the last time Brother Lewis was here was to argue for the dilution of the trade! Some of them recognised the red tomato shouting at GMWU HQ as 'their' revered Leader, Andy Pandy Cunningham; they'll recognise him next time! The strike has driven home valuable lessons for organisers and all the Laggers: the need for good internal communication, how to fight the SS, not to rely on the official union but to make links with other rank and file Laggers - all over the country Laggers are seeing there's more that unites them than divides them.

Also the need to make contact with the rank and file in the other unions in the area; frequently the officials there are just as obstructive (perhaps Andy has been on the telephone?) but if the rank and file can be spoken to, the response has been magnificent. Don't forget this strike has been fought on money from other Laggers and other trade unionists, socialists and students. Each strike shows that the real strength of workers is at the basic level, not in union leaders or politicians but in their own power to organise together in militant solidarity.

Tyneside Talk.

STOP PRESS:

On March 30th the Laggers triumphed over their union and most of their employers when all but 70 won a 15p an hour bonus and agreed to return to work. The other 70 will remain on strike until their employers offer them the 15p.

The 70 are still finding that their union - the GMWU - is still refusing to make their strike official - even though Cunningham seems to think the union played an important part in the success of the strike. Cunningham intervened, and as a result a settlement was reached. But would he have taken this five month overdue initiative if it hadn't been for the unabating militancy of the Laggers? Obviously if the Laggers had followed his advice they would be working for 15p an hour less than they are getting now. The Laggers have shown that they don't need a union like the GMWU or people like Cunningham to fight for them. The fact that the Laggers who have returned to work have agreed to support the 70 remaining on strike until their demands are met goes without saying.

Muther Grumble.

LOOK NORTH

TONIGHT, A SPECIAL BROADCAST FROM WESTMINSTER: THE PRIME MONSTER.



ER, GOOD EVENING. TONIGHT I MUST TALK VERY SERIOUSLY TO YOU ALL. DUE TO THE FORCE OF



SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT AT WESTMINSTER, UNDER MY DIRECTION, HAS TAKEN AN UNPRESIDENTED STEP.



WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE OVER DIRECT RULE OF ENGLAND. THIS IS NOT A STEP WE WILL TAKE LIGHTLY OR INDEED WITH WILLINGNESS,



BUT REST ASSURED WE WILL RELINQUISH RESPONSIBILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESTORE THE STATUS QVO.

A. J. HARTY TZ.

It was interesting to hear that after we mentioned on B.B.C. Television the case of Mrs Neary, an old lady in Sandford who is being evicted by Newcastle Council (see last issue), the Evening Chronicle went to see her the very next morning. The story appeared in the Chronicle that evening. Latest news is that Mrs Neary is still there awaiting a Council decision.

Machine technology is now advancing to the point where not only manual but factory supervisors may soon be finding themselves out of work.

For an American company, Western Electric, in conjunction with Bell Laboratories, have invented a computer which can speak instructions to production line workers.

The computer is already so efficient that workers need not divert either hands or eyes from their jobs while orders are given.

J.L.Flanagan, head of Bell's acoustics research department, says the worker who tested the system had never heard synthetic speech before but, despite its machine accent, she had no difficulty in using it on once.

"In fact", said Flanagan, "She remarked that the caricatured nature of the computer speech made it easier to understand when in competition with typical plant noises."

As we all know, the Department Of Health And Social Security shuffles thousands of pieces of paper from office to office. Accompanying these is form EF 196. In the good old days of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance it read:

The accompanying communication appears appropriate to your office and is therefore forwarded for necessary action. The writer has been informed accordingly.

It now reads:
This seems to be yours. We have told the writer we have sent it on.
Makes ya funk!

Of course we all know how our benevolent government wants to help the erring members of our society who have done wrong and paid for their crimes in prison. It is of course their firm intention and wish that such unfortunate people be rehabilitated and helped to live in society with normal people.

So how come the RAF won't accept you for service if you've done time?

Teesside Corporation have just bought 12 1952 buses from Ribble for about £800 each. The buses were used on Motorway runs, and the Corporation has had to take the toilets out, strengthen the structure at the rear, and alter the gear ratios.

The buses will be redundant in two years.

Further news from Teesside Corporation buses. The entire fleet has just been painted turquoise, and now it has been decided to recall them all, as the livery is too monotonous, and add a cream stripe to each one. I suppose they've got to spend their millions on something.

Recently we at last got our phone installed - our first call was from the G.P.O., telling us that they would be coming to connect our phone shortly. Hhmmmm!!

Durham's Students' Union plan to fight council elections in three wards in Durham. In each of these wards, if all the students vote for their candidate they will swamp the polls. It is believed that the returning officer deliberately called a recent by-election when the students had gone down and were unable to vote. So they are worried. But when the crunch comes, will the students whose apathy for voting in their own college elections is renowned, turn out and vote in the city elections? And when it comes down to it should they interfere in a City affair? Watch Muth-er Grumble for details.

This year's annual conference of the National Union of Journalists at Tenby in Wales later this month, promises to be the stormiest yet.

No fewer than 21 motions have been tabled on the agenda calling for either an end to news censorship and discrimination against women, or worker participation throughout the industry.

The Newcastle branch leads the way on worker participation, calling on the National Executive to give journalists the right to discuss with managements the content, staffing and future policy of the medium "with a view to its becoming more responsive and receptive to the areas it serves and the people it employs."

Scared of the police? Feel suicidal whenever you're asked to pay them a visit? Well Durham City police have helpfully stuck up the local Samaritans' phone number in the station waiting room in case you feel you need them in the agonising minutes before, and the time after, your interview.

The North-East's first-ever teacher training school for meditators will be launched in Newcastle this summer.

The school will train up to 200 local people how to teach meditation to others and lectures will concentrate on the philosophy behind the practice itself.

The net is being spread wide in a hope to catch all kinds of people, not just students and drop-outs, so most lectures will be in the evening for the benefit of those who have to work.

The teacher-training set up is an idea of the Mahirishi Yogi who aims to establish 3,500 similar centres for the teaching of the science of creative intelligence throughout the world by the end of the year.

Courses will be open to all. People interested in finding out more should contact Stephen Benson, 71, St. George's Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Tel. 851508.

The NCB has the right to the lungs of a dead miner without asking the permission of the next of kin. They get away with this legally to suit their own ends. There is no law to give the rights over the dead body of a miner to his family who should have that right. It's about time this body - looting was stopped.

Miners' families are not allowed access to the dead person's lungs which belong to the NCB's own pneumoconiosis panel, who decide if compensation should be paid. The law should be changed so that the next of kin can have their own analysis made first and find out from an impartial source if they are entitled to compensation.

In Lancashire the government is testing a new type of electric bus that causes less electrical pollution: eventually they hope to introduce these buses all over the country. But they are also less noisy. Take your choice between choking to death and being run over by a bus you cannot hear.

We should like to give unusual congratulations to the Durham Conservatives for making overtures to their last General Election candidate Mr. E. Greenwood to stand again.

The reason is because Mr. Greenwood has been found guilty of flashing his private parts at local girls in Ferryhill. A nice change from the usual Mary Whitehouse attitudes in that party.

Faced with a potential suspect list of millions of Irish liberation struggle sympathisers, the bombing of the Parachute Regiment H.Q. in Aldershot presents the Special Branch with an incredible task. Intelligence files built up by the S.B. over the years are clearly useless against a national liberation movement whose activities include those of the urban guerrilla.

So on Wednesday 15th March the S.B. busted over 60 known sympathisers of the Irish struggle. Armed with explosives warrants the police ripped off files and address lists from the homes of those raided.

Reliable sources indicate that the common bond between most of those busted some of them belong to the various political groups, including the I.M.G. and I.S. - can be traced back to meetings of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Movement held in a London pub over two years ago, which the S.B. also attended. Predictably enough, address lists were circulated and filled in at these meetings.

Amongst those busted were leading members of the International Socialist group, from whose homes considerable quantities of documents and address lists were taken. In common with other democratic centralist organisations, the I.S. usually acquire the name and address of those non-members attending their meetings, on the flimsy pretext that further information will be sent to them at a later date. In practice these address lists are drawn upon by the I.S. group as contact lists functional in the drive toward building what they describe as the mass revolutionary party.

These files are available to any Special Branch personnel with a search warrant. The political groups are compiling data on subversives for the forces of repression.

When attending any meeting where lists are circulated, it is advisable to give fictitious information. Files on non-existent people would have a dual purpose in disrupting both the democratic centralist groups, and the Special Branch.

EXERCISING SOME CONTROL!

Elswick Action Centre, in Elswick Road, is the headquarters of Newcastle's West End Tenants Association. Every day voluntary workers are there to advise and deal with problems of people living in the area.

On Saturday 18th March, as a committee meeting ended, two men were seen standing outside peering through the window. Workers at the centre suspecting them of being plain clothes police, went out and asked them what they wanted. It was revealed that they were from the Vice Squad and were interested in some V.D. posters displayed in the centre as they had received a complaint.

The two men then went away. They made a phone call and returned a few minutes later accompanied by Sgt. Loveday who is the Liaison Officer at the West End police station and as such is supposed to keep up good relations between police and public.

By this time only one male and two females still remained in the centre. They told the police that they could not

enter without a warrant but although they did not have one they returned all the same. After some argument and strong objections from the two members of the centre whose names were taken, Sgt. Loveday took down the posters. Giving no receipt the police then left with their haul of disgusting porn - three V.D. posters and some leaflets.

A few days before Sgt. Loveday had been asked to leave a meeting of the tenants association and therefore was not on very good terms with them.

Inspector J. Egleton, press officer for Northumberland police, said on the Monday that as a result of a complaint the police had, with the full co-operation of workers at the centre, taken some posters and literature away to establish their origin and whether they should be displayed in public.

The posters were designed by the government sponsored Health Education Council. This is printed on the bottom of each one. Issued by Newcastle's Medical Officer of Health, they carry no pictures or diagrams and

simply outline symptoms and advice on treatment of V.D. The leaflets were from the Family Planning Association and this is printed on each one. A Bill passed in 1970 makes it perfectly legal to display V.D. posters which is something the police should have known.

On Monday afternoon the police press officer stated that no further action would be taken and the posters were being returned, but he had neglected to tell the police at the West End because later that afternoon they told the centre that they did not know, as yet, whether action would be taken or whether the posters would be returned.

However, on Tuesday 21st March the posters and leaflets were returned by an officer who gave no apology. It seems that if you want to know what is obscene don't ask a policeman.

Elswick Action Centre
143 Elswick Road
is open from 9.30am. to 3.30pm.
on Mon. to Fri.
Tel: N/cle 39767.

A week earlier Muther Grumble was informed by Durham police officers that we might be prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act for an article that appeared in our February issue. The article intended to reveal and possibly put an end to the activities of pornographic photographers, and their use of young school girls, in the area. Ya can't win!

The police also thought we'd ripped-off a Bren gun (see editorial). What would we do with one of those?

Meanwhile back at Durham County Police Headquarters three male and three female cadets were dismissed for sleeping together. The three couples were all living at the Cadet Hostel at the time; "The last place you would want an orgy to take place", a police spokesman is quoted as having said.

Don.

How often, when stuck fast in a traffic jam, have you been beguiled by advertisements tempting you to 'hop on a bus', 'let the train take the strain', or be 'car free, care free'?

For most people the reaction is probably to swear silently behind closed windows, in the lonely isolation of their expensive metal boxes, at the suggestion that they have chosen the wrong form of transport. Meanwhile in the stationary bus, passengers enjoy a break from the lurching and pitching, and stare out from the smoky overheated interior, through filthy windows at the line of cars impeding their progress. The only people to move are the pedestrians, quietly choking on the fumes from idling engines.

The scene is so familiar that we rarely stop to think how wasteful it all is, or that the situation is getting progressively worse. Will the future bring only complete stagnation as cars, buses and people are locked in mutual paralysis? It would be conventional to suppose that society will let the balance of forces bring about a suitable change before this final collapse. More likely would be the idea that planning should modify our behaviour by persuasively adjusting the system, a little at a time in response to the immediate problems. A third alternative? Complete coercion; outlawing the car, rediscovering bicycles, feet and public transport.

Tyneside faces the same problems as London, Tokyo and New York City, but with major advantages that it seems intent on squandering. We have less cars, we are smaller and less centralised. More than two thirds of all journeys are made on public transport. We have a major by-pass through the Tyne Tunnel. Despite all this, we have not learnt the basic message of all urban planning: cars and cities don't mix.



Mrs. Neary's house in Sandyford. The only one standing in the path of the new motorway.

Photo by Rik Walton.

travel on tyneside

In consequence, the city is being torn apart to cater for the private car. Motorways are scything through the centre and the suburbs, dividing coherent social units into isolated blocks. Before they are finished they will be overcrowded - so the net improvement will be nil.

Newcastle has just speeded up its smoke control programme to give us clean air in five years. Relatively clean air, that is, as all the extra cars we are encouraging will give us our own version of Los Angeles smog. Aid. Thompson tells us it cannot happen over here, but he is wrong; it already has. See 'Nature' February 18th, for the report of photochemical smog in the Berkshire countryside last summer.

At a recent meeting of Tyneside Environmental Concern, Dr. T.M. Ridley, Director-General of the Passenger Transport Executive, outlined the future for Tyneside's public transport, but complained of unfair competition from the cars. The more cars, the worse the bus service, the more passengers leave to use cars; which slows the buses, which.....

So who made the decision to pander to the private car? Not me, said Dr. Ridley; the expert excuses himself by hiding behind his terms of reference. Irresponsible, said Counc. Jon Davies, who excused the politicians, by saying they cannot be expected to understand the whole problem.

To get off the merry-go-round, and back to sanity, we need greater restrictions on cars - and not just through parking charges; they don't work well enough. There are many methods of accomplishing this, but it is more important to emphasise the necessary changes in public transport. Speed and reliability can be improved by bus priority lanes and roads. Suburban bus terminals with purpose - built free car parks and encourage people to Park'n'Ride. And the buses should be redesigned to assist shoppers.

The city is ringed by small bus stations. These should be linked by a simple circulating bus service, preferably free, and very frequent, to cut out the miserable 10-15 minute walk to shop or office.

All bus services should be integrated with rail transport, including the new underground system. The capacity of this system will far exceed that of the roads, and at much less cost.

What of the other transport that crowds our cities? Freight carrying by road is ludicrously inefficient, having only the advantage of door-to-door service. On short hauls this is essential, but for inter-city traffic, rail freight is a far better bet. Reorganising the rail service along the lines of containerisation for dock handling would enable rapid mass freight transport between large centres, followed by transference to small short haul lorries to cover the last ten to fifteen miles. Such freight centres could be suburban, not inner city, enabling maximum clearance of town roads.

These problems are immense, though even trivial alongside those of London (see Time Out's feature in March). They need co-ordinated far-sighted planning. As long as we remain in love with the car as the ultimate symbol of freedom, mobility and status, we will reject the necessary solutions. And as long as car-owners squeal, the politicians and experts will not have the courage to put people before roads.

One day, of course, the oil will run out, but by then it will be too late. They have not even thought of this. When asked what will run on Newcastle's East Central motorway in 30 years time, Councillor Jeffcock said "I haven't the faintest idea." But then, Counc. Jeffcock is unlikely to be alive in 30 years time, so why should he worry?

Ken Pollock

(Tyneside Environmental Concern)

TOP OF THE FORM

It is an obvious fact that many parts of the educational system are in need of reform. However in the talk of change, one aspect which is often ignored is the system of appointing teachers to positions of responsibility, particularly Head Teachers.

Since everyone has been through the school system it is pointless to go into much detail about how great the powers and responsibilities of Head Teachers are. It is enough to say that they control the activities of the children in their school for 7 hours a day and that they have control over how large sums of money are spent, on books, equipment etc. It therefore follows that the system of choosing these people should be as democratic, and contain as few loopholes as possible.

This however is not the case. There is no national system for this procedure and so the methods used in any one area are left up to the Local Education Authority. This leads to considerable discrepancies, i.e. in some L.E.A.'s. one must be a deputy head before one applies for Headships, in others this is not the case. In Durham County, Head Teachers of Primary Schools are chosen by a committee of 24 comprised of 12 County Councillors, 6 School Managers, and 6 from the Divisional Education Executive. The system varies slightly for senior schools where there is a Board of Governors rather than School Managers. Deputy Heads, Heads of Departments etc. are chosen by the Divisional Executive.

The composition of the committee is an important element. As things stand it usually consists of people interested and active in local politics. The County Councillors are overtly political. The School Managers and the Divisional Executives often contain a large number of local councillors. That these people, many of whom are genuinely interested in education are represented is not necessarily a bad thing. However, the system of choosing the committee could be improved. The obvious gap is the lack of representatives of the teaching profession, a fact their unions have pointed out. Teachers, being employed by the County are excluded from the County Council. Teachers on the

Divisional Executive or School Management are mainly there as individual citizens and not as representatives of the teaching profession. A set number of teachers, perhaps only two or three, on the committee, would be an important step towards a more democratic basis since, after all, teachers are more likely to know the problems involved.

Similarly, there is no definite provision made for parents of children in the school. The way things stand they must act in their roles as individuals but this would mean involving themselves in the whole circus of local politics. Only the most determined do so. And yet there must be several parents interested in education but not wanting to be involved in other aspects of local pol-

present situation. Firstly, because the committee consists in the main of people who have committed themselves publicly to a political party it is unlikely that that they can rid their minds of political bias, no matter how subconscious this is. The job of Head Teacher is apolitical - the committee is not.

Secondly, the bulk of the County Councillors and some of the Divisional Executive are not from the area where the job is. They are therefore often less interested, than for example, parents and teachers would be, and thus it is more likely that their votes could be 'led' by e.g. a persuasive local man.

With the reforms suggest-

number of years, possibly five, in the type of school involved.

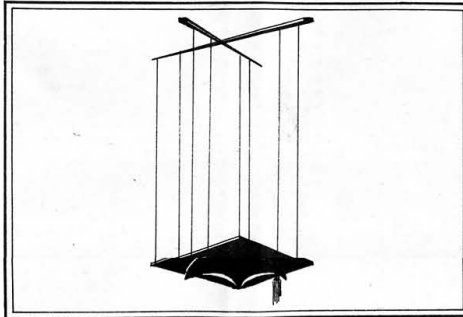
Similarly, in Durham County there is no stipulation about the type of experience whether as a class teacher or a Deputy Head etc. Regulating this factor could lead to a very rigid system, but if applicants had to show some proof of responsibility held, it would prevent the present system, where someone with no experience of school administration could become Head of a fairly large school.

A final point is that it is rare for posts to be re-advertised when no suitable candidate has come forward. The tendency is to appoint. This is particularly relevant to very small schools, Deputy Headships and Head of Departments. To leave the post open while it is re-advertised would surely not cause too many problems and allow for a better appointment.

The system as it is now puts pressures on everyone involved. The members of the committees are making important decisions, often without all the information and advice that would be desirable. Teachers know that to be promoted they will have to go through the system and so are less likely to experiment with their own opinions forcibly when they may gain the antagonism of people later to have influence over their career.

The reforms suggested in this article would help to minimise these pressures. In fairness to the County changes have been made in recent years. The most important of these have been to abolish the system of canvassing, by which applicants went round to visit the committee before the appointment was made. The other was to insist that appointments of Deputy Heads, Heads of Department etc. took place at the level of the Divisional Executive and not as often happened in practice by the School Managers. Both of these moves were obviously for the better, but it is arguable that they did not go far enough and other changes should be made.

Arme.



itics. Surely it would do no harm to provide places on the School Managers Committee for interested parents.

A third point connected with the composition of the committee is that although many are genuinely interested and make an effort to find out about it, they do not necessarily have to know anything about education or the school involved. It would surely be possible for the committee to have a short discussion beforehand with educationalists and the retiring Head Teacher in order to be better equipped to assess the qualifications, which can be misleading on paper, of the candidates and the qualities needed for the position in question.

Having suggested ways of reforming the committee, two points should be made about the

ed above making the committee less political and more involved, through teachers and parents, the chances of this being able to happen would be lessened.

The bulk of the selection procedure lies with the committee but of course the teaching profession is involved. At the moment the applicants must have a set number of years teaching experience but not necessarily in the type of school involved. A senior school teacher can be appointed head of a primary school, never having taught in a primary school. Teachers are arguing that candidates should have, as well as a set number of years overall teaching experience, a set

starting the project immediately if suitable premises and sufficient resources can be found.

START NOW

If the job of finding premises and raising funds etc. is left to the people in the area then it will be a long time before the school will come into being. Our immediate aims are modest, we believe that if we could acquire nothing more than a reasonable sized house or small hall, and begin with

perhaps only half a dozen children then this will act as a nucleus which will draw support, talent and more children - it will grow and extend.

If anybody can provide any sort of practical assistance to get the thing started we'd be very pleased to hear from you. Write to: NEWCASTLE FREE SCHOOL c/o Muther Grumble, 13 Silver st, Durham City.

Dave, Tim, Allison, Alan, June and many more.

N/cle FREE SCHOOL

There have been several meetings so far concerned with the setting up of a Free School in Newcastle. A number of teachers have showed interest and contact has been made with several groups of parents in the West End Area.

Further meetings will be held and it is hoped that more and more parents will become involved in the discussion of whether or not they want a

free school in their area. Meanwhile a number of parents are already clear in their mind that they do want a free school and would send their children to such a school should it be established.

A number of teachers who are interested in setting up the school now feel that there are a sufficient number of parents who have indicated their support to justify

black marks

The following document is given to teachers at Barrington Secondary School, Bishop Auckland by its headmaster.

'Black Marks' are given to children for the 'offences' outlined below. Each 'offence' is followed by its 'Black Marks' score.

Three Black Marks in one week and the child is sent to detention. Detention usually entails copying from the Bible during normal school working hours.

If a child is sent to detention twice in one week he is then put on 'Solitary'. This entails a child working on his own outside the headmaster's office with his door open all the time.

- Date. 1
- 2 in a toilet. 1-1
- Receiving with knowledge of theft. 1
- Smoking or possessing cigs. 1
- Mild cheek, bad manners. 1
- Insolence. 1
- Fighting (serious) in class. 1
- Malingering. 1-1
- Disobedience. 1-1
- Rings or earrings. 1-1
- Gum or chewing other sweets. 1-1
- Disturbing a lesson shouting. 1-1
- Bullying. 1-1
- Foul language to teacher. 1
- Foul language heard incidentally. 1-1
- Dangerous play in yard. 1-1
- Breaking up a game. 1-1
- Truancy. 1
- Lying. 1-1
- Destruction of property. 1-1
- Disfiguring walls. 1-1
- Climbing in toilets. 1-1
- Over wall without permission. 1
- Loitering outside school. 1
- Misbehaviour at dinner table. 1
- Spitting on ground. 1

- Spitting on other child. 1
- Staying out of lesson. 1
- No absence note. 1
- Forged absence note. 1
- Talking in assembly. 1
- Stealing. 1
- Not reporting after being absent. 1
- Leaving PE strip at home after washing. 1
- No apron for domestic science. 1
- Borrowed articles not returned next day. (marks per day) 1
- In toilets after 5 min. whistle. 1
- Snowballing. 1
- Elastic bands, possession or misuse of. 1-1
- Fireworks. 1
- Wearing outer coats in class. 1

Note: Mather Grumble suggests using the above in the home. See how many you can score in a day!

a problem?

Following your Brain Police article (Feb), and references made to Colleges of Education, I thought you may be interested in attitudes of the regulars at St. Mary's, Fenham, Newcastle.

Fenham is notorious for nothing except a sprinkling of drunks (mainly women), a dash of nymphomaniacs (also mainly women), and total unresponsiveness. I wish only to give you a few random quotes; draw your own conclusions:

Education lecturer, after having been given an essay with no bibliography: 'I don't want to know what you think, unless you can back it up with quotes... there should be the minimum of you in your essays - what I want is the ideas of the great educationalists and proof that you've read them... what right have you to say

what you think?' Same lecturer - different occasion: 'while I'm your lecturer you'll write what I want.'

Warden, having rifled through rooms prior to open day 1970: 'Take your disgusting literature off your walls I can't conceive of why you should want leaves - leaves! - in your room; I've put them in the large dustbin at the back of the dining room - you can get them out if you like, but don't take them near your room!'

While I think of it, in December '71, the whole of the third year were suspended for being drunk and disorderly on the night they finished their final teaching practice. Rumour had it, that a local newspaper phoned up to get a story out of it, but our president declined the offer. We like to keep these things to ourselves, it seems.

And when a few wayward first years were found to have men in their rooms outside the stipulated mixed visiting hours, the complete first year resident community were gated. In the words of our Principal: 'My, we do have a problem, don't we?'

Fanny

knickers

A few weeks ago we got a letter from 2 chicks who are at a Private Church School.

The article was too long to print in full, so the following is a shortened version of their complaints.

"We feel that the whole private school system is wrong as it is. It only caters for a small minority of the more affluent members of society... why should we get a better

education just because our parents happen to be richer than some?"

They go on to talk about the suppression they feel in their school:

"When a chick who was told to tie her hair back demanded, quite pleasantly and politely, a good reason why she should, ... she was brought up before the headmistress who told her straight that while she was at this school she had no rights except to ask her parents to take her away."

Another chick got into trouble for being cheeky to a sixth former.

"The headmistress threatened to ruin this girl's career by giving a bad reference to her future employer."

The letter went on to talk about school rules.

"The rules profess to discipline us to take a high place in society... about 50% of the school rules concern school uniform and are trivial and petty. Some of the rules are really weird."

Example 1

In the summer you've got to wear a panama hat and a blazer, not a cardigan which is much thinner.

Example 2

You can't eat in public places in school uniform. It's considered 'not nice'.

Example 3

If hair is past collar length it must be tied back with a school colour ribbon.

Example 4

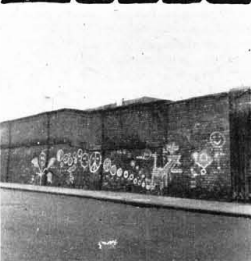
(We left this till last) Winter school knickers must be big baggy green flannel ones and summer ones are supposed to be orange and checky.

"...and tights are not allowed... they are considered unhygienic although the headmistress wears them. We're supposed to wear suspenders and stockings. Cor! We reckon all the freaks will be lying on the pavements to see if we do."

Some very nice people in West Jesmond, Newcastle, have been brightening up the environment in the area by painting some really good, colourful pictures on brick walls. The moonlight decorators have so far added such things as stars, flowers and animals to the scenery in Lily Crescent and Brentwood Avenue.



Photos by Rick Walton.



DEMO

Saturday 25th March was a nation-wide campaign day to point out the abuse of our environment by companies over-packaging goods.

The Northern Branch of 'Friends of the Earth' staged a protest in Newcastle. They were asked to leave some major stores for sticking small notices on some goods that said 'don't buy this article - it's over-packaged'. The notes put on bottles said 'Don't buy me I'm unreturnable'. They also distributed leaflets about over-packaging pointing out a) the added expense to shoppers of packaging b) the added amount to rates to cover refuse disposal costs. c) the effect on the environment by increased demands for refuse tips, trees to make more paper, and mineral quarries.

The demonstrators then went to J. Storey's Ltd., a soft drinks manufacturer in Gosforth to protest against the use of non-returnable bottles. Right on!

If you want to know more about Friends of the Earth the address is 45, The Oval, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

Don.

AGRO?

The Press treatment of the skin heads breaking up or attempting to break up rag day floats is another example of their biased treatment. For many of the youths it was a protest against the affluent (comparatively anyway) conditions of the students on full grants compared with the wage earning and tax paying youths.

Grants are often higher than take home pay, living conditions better than they could afford in a flat or more pleasant than if at home, and recreation facilities at Duneilm House and elsewhere vastly better than the virtually non-existent facilities in Durham. 'et in the Press it was represented simply as skin heads causing agro. A reporter was contacted by one youth (who has longish hair) who wanted their side of the story to be put. A story did appear in the good old Evening Chronicle about attempts to bridge the gulf between skins and students. Meanwhile bitterness grows... and the inarticulate (even if they are wrong in their analysis and actions) have no way of putting their case apart from causing agro.

Sam.



There is a strong feeling growing amongst women that, somewhere along the line to our current emancipation, we have been conned. Groups calling for the liberation of women are springing up rapidly, all over the country. The general reaction to these groups seems to be amazement. What are they on about? They've got the vote, the mini-skirt, and the pill. They already have equality!

But have we? In Britain alone there are over sixteen million housewives, working from twelve to eighteen hours a day, seven days a week. They are doing a variety of jobs, amongst them cooking, cleaning, washing and child-minding, (and apart from the last, who would voluntarily take on any of these tasks!), while having no time off for sickness or pregnancy. They have signed a contract for life which can only be annulled to their disadvantage - the divorce and alimony laws were written and passed by men. If they opt out and leave their homes - and who could blame them - then they have few prospects. A dismal prospect between living on state charity with the social stigma of unsupported mother, or taking a badly paid job with the resulting deprivations for their children, or of signing on for life again with a different master (husband).

A man left with his children does not have these problems. He receives help from the state to employ a woman to care for his children, he is already working, probably at a better paid job than a woman could get, and, perhaps most important of all, he has the unqualified support and sympathy of his friends and neighbours. A woman who leaves her husband and children can only be "callous" - and probably immoral - a man who does the same has been "driven to it".

All the attitudes of mind that are fostered in women from birth, render us unfit to look after ourselves. Women are expected and taught to be the ineffectual things we usually become. We "should" (according to society) care more about our appearance than our minds; after all, that is what men notice. We "should" be incapable of anything that requires a modicum of strength and skill - so we can ask a man to do it for us and reinforce his ego. We "should" get married - so that every man has an unpaid slave and bedmate, to provide home comforts and sex on demand. We "should" bear children - so that men, whose names the children bear, are assured of posterity. This at a time when the overpopulation of the world is one of our greatest problems.

The education we receive, nominally the same that is offered to males, reinforces these myths. Boys are encouraged to take further education, technical training, or apprenticeships. They know that they will have to keep themselves on leaving school, and probably a wife and children too. They are geared towards independence. But few women are prepared for supporting themselves. Although, hopefully, the position will be slightly improved with the increase in comprehensive schools, most girls' schools offer an "education" with a view to improving our chances of securing a mate. We are taught that we should have a basic knowledge of half a dozen subjects so that we can converse reasonably well and attract male notice. Specialisation is discouraged as a woman who shows too much knowledge is liable to frighten off prospective husbands. Physical education was once explained to me as being helpful in preparing the body for future childbirth. Unfortunately, although this is an excellent education if your highest ambition is to achieve the life of a captive housewife dependent in every way on a being who has been taught from birth that he is superior to you, it tends to fail badly for those of us who want to live our lives in our own right. The myth of equal education for women is a bad joke.

Those women who do defy the marriage convention, and take up a career - and even more so the married women who have to work as well as coping with their traditional role within the family, suffer too. This is inevitable in a society that persists in thinking, against all evidence, that woman is capable only of menial and low grade work. Even when doing identical jobs to men, we receive not only less money, but fewer opportunities for overtime and less chance of promotion. Those manmade laws designed to "protect" women by limiting hours worked and night work etc., in fact merely restrict women. We are as capable as men at working out the hours that best suit ourselves - a woman with small children will doubtless refuse overtime anyway - and there is no excuse for preventing those who can, and who want to fit it into their lives from doing so.

The new bill to give equal pay for equal work is another of the government's jokes at our expense. The original wording stated "equal pay for work of equal value". This has been altered (to fit in with a common-market resolution) to read "equal pay for identical work"

which means that merely by changing the name of the job the employers can still give us lower wages whilst remaining within the law.

Probably the most harmful example of man's domination over women, is his belief in his ownership of the body of "his" woman. Many people can see the hypocrisy of society's double standard towards pre-marital sex. Men are merely "having a good time"; women are "promiscuous". But few people consider that it is equally hypocritical when practiced within marriage. Masters' and Johnson's research showed that, of the men they interviewed, approximately 31% had extra marital sex during their wife's first pregnancy, and 28% agreed that they continued having it from then on. None of them suspected their wives of any "infidelity".

There is, of course, no reason why men should not have extra - or pre-marital sex whether at times when their usual partners' desires tend to be waning, as in pregnancy, or at any other time. It shows no lessening of regard for their partners, as they still choose to live together and spend a lot of their time together, whether in or out of bed is really incidental. But, the important thing is, it goes for the female partner too.

It has been suggested that the major cause for the attempts to enforce female marital fidelity was to ensure that the offspring produced were the husband's. After all, it is still really only the women who actually know who fathers their children. But modern birth control techniques can ensure that a woman only conceives when she chooses to, which, while it still does not guarantee fatherhood to the husband, does lessen the possibility of mistakes. Added to the fact that both male and female sexual desires do wax and wane, and there is no reason why two people should always feel the same desires at the same time, plus the fact that sheer boredom with unaltering techniques can kill desire as completely as it can any other vicarious enjoyment, there is a lot to be said for having various sexual friendships going at the same time throughout your life. A lot of men have discovered this, few women dare even contemplate the idea.

Women are, in fact, denied control of their own bodies as much as possible. Although the pill and diaphragm have given us a chance to regulate our own pregnancies (and neither of them are perfect) without having to rely on men, manmade laws still deny us the right to obtain these through the welfare state. And if we cannot afford to buy them, the abortion laws deny us the right to terminate the unwanted pregnancies, unless we meet certain strict requirements. (It might be irrelevant, but I find it strange that to many people abortion is murder whereas war is not.)

A frightening aspect of this constant repression of woman who is no-one unless she is a wife and mother, is the fact that because she has been assigned the household, she is also assigned the care of children. A person who has been restricted all her life, and

prevented from fulfilling herself in any way except as an extension of a man, is in no position to be the constant and only companion of growing people. Children, much more than adults, are constantly exploring, learning, finding out what the world is all about. If their first five years are limited to one house, and one underdeveloped person, then they have little chance of realising their full potential. If there is only one person to do all the things that their size, their strength and their lack of knowledge prevents them from doing for themselves, then they must necessarily relate directly to her, and her tiny world. They have no opportunity to explore further.

The father extends his domination to his children firstly because he already "owns" the mother, she does not exist apart from him, and secondly because both mother and children are economically dependant on him - a major consideration in this society.

Nor unnaturally, the children grow from their identification with their mother to feel that the father's role is the more attractive one. Boys are allowed to follow this path, girls are gently but effectively weaned away from it, into believing that the mother's role is their natural state. Neither of the sexes are given any hint that there might be other family structures, other sexual roles. It is only a few who can step outside of their conditioning and see the system for what it is, and to think of answers for some of the more desperate problems. So the status quo is maintained and each generation's horizons are as narrow as their parents'.

It is this society that believes women have achieved emancipation! Any woman who has escaped the total brainwashing aimed at her knows differently.

But few women would claim that total equality with men is an end in itself. We not only intend to be more free than we are now, we are going to be completely free. To achieve that, the whole of society, men, women, and children must join together to release themselves from their exploitation. But it is certain that whilst there is still a secondary class (i.e. women) amongst us, who are all oppressed, we can do nothing. Until men accept that women not only can, but will fight on the same terms as themselves then they are doomed to failure.

We can no longer afford to allow fifty per cent of our community to be permanently restricted by economic dependence, by having sole care of society's children, and worst of all, by being given a totally false idea of their potential ability and their needs. We must liberate ourselves....

This article is just one view of the situation...it is in no way complete. If you sympathise with any or all of it, and feel that you can achieve more with a group than as an individual, please contact address on graffiti page....

Alison.

The original formulation of the Night Assemblies Bill made it a criminal offence to hold a gathering of 1000 people or more in the open air for any period of 3 hours between midnight and 6 a.m., without applying to a local authority 4 months beforehand and without giving certain financial guarantees. (NCCL release).

During the Committee stage that the Bill has just passed, it has luckily been hassled into considerable revision. Originally the Bill was to receive Government time in the House of Commons - it is a Private Member's Bill; unofficially, Heath will now not allow this extra time. So even if the Bill is to be passed it won't be for a while.

The history of the Bill is interesting. Jerry Wiggin the perpetrator of this attempt to suppress us in the name of law and order, says that the Bill is aimed at controlling pop festivals. But as the NCCL said, no mention is made anywhere of pop festivals. Mark Woodnutt MP, one of the Bill's sponsors, explained his "difficulty" in drafting a bill relating to health and safety at pop festivals, and said such organisations as the NCCL should propose amendments to limit its scope.

Well, they did and the happy result is that lots of people have got cold feet and backed out of supporting the Bill. It has become *bad politics* now that it is obvious that what was on the surface a public health measure was in fact law and order.

The dangers of the original drafting are many. It covered any assembly, and the NCCL was concerned that this would affect charity meetings, trade union rallies, or political demonstrations. Also that it would give too much power to councils and officials who should not have it. Now at the 3rd meeting of the committee stage - after the Dept. of the Environment presented their report saying that the Bill was "bad law" and "not the way to solve the problems of the environment" - a new clause has been added exempting events if they are: exclusively relig-



NIGHT ASSEMBLIES

ious or political: exclusively advancing the views of those concerned in an industrial dispute - with 3 provisos: that they do not last longer than 24 hrs.: that they are not held with a view to profit for the promoters or others: and if they will not be frustrated by a 4 months' wait.

The dangers foreseen by the NCCL have thus obviously been reduced. Strikers will no longer fall under the provisions of the Bill in many circumstances: though they will if they wish to collect strike funds. Similarly events such as the Aldermaston March - lasting more than 24 hrs. - would be affected. The Bill impinges on our basic right of assembly.

The point still holds: *why not name and define pop festivals?* The Bill is a piece of undercover work against our political and cultural freedom. For we should not underestimate the huge cultural importance of pop festivals, or the remaining political power of this piece of "health legislation". It does not say much for the workings of our parliament that it takes such

organisations as the NCCL to protect us against our elected representatives.

At this sensitive cross-over point between the legal and the political, we must be most wary of our freedom being taken away from us under cover of such subterfuge.

Maurice.

Things are really tightening up! The Tories are muscling in on one of the few remaining areas of freedom we still have - namely pop festivals.

The background to this measure has been efforts by a small number of MPs to prevent pop festivals - Mark Woodnutt was successful in preventing the IOW festival taking place in 1971. Mr. Wiggin who is sponsoring the B Bill claims that the legislation is solely to control pop festivals, banning them only if the site is unsuitable (none of the factors is defined: how many points for scenic beauty?) - or if the local authority thinks the festival would not reach proper health and fire standards.

and employers. Recording the ever-increasing amount of unprovoked harassment by the police. Presenting its views and objectives to MP's - both by representation from the organisation and by personal approach by individual members.

Liaising with other homophile organisations in this country and abroad. Helping serious research projects by making information available. Inviting doctors, psychologists, MP's and social workers to attend groups. Making our presence felt - by democratic and responsible methods - at party political and other conferences. Creating a library of pamphlets and fact sheets about all aspects of homosexuality. Making speakers available to other organisations about the homosexual.

This group is one of 36 throughout the country, and is just a small part of Britain's homophile organisation.

On Teesside, we are ve-

ry fortunate to have active groups.

Group 1 meets officially every other Friday and caters for all tastes.

It meets in members' homes or pubs and arranges a wide selection of activities to cover, we hope, the majority of members' interests. There are about 30-40 members attending regularly who live within a fairly wide radius of Teesside.

We have members in Northallerton, Whitley Bay, Darlington, Scarborough, Durham City, Guisborough and Edmondbyers.

Some members frequently have their own private get-togethers in between official meetings.

Group 2 caters more for younger people. It has its own club, which is licenced for drinking and dancing and is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays every week.

Here again, there are plenty of social activities for over 100 members, of all ages, to meet and have

The local authority can also stop a festival "for the prevention of nuisance" - when it is inevitable that an assembly of any size is going to cause some inconvenience or "nuisance". Local authorities tend to be composed of business and trade union interests, hardly a cross section of the public - especially when it comes to defining "nuisance".

The Bill therefore "does not have the guts" (in the words of Keith Waterhouse, Daily Mirror 28/2/72) "to say that its intention is to stamp out pop festivals". He goes on to say that the Bill can only magnify "the appalling relationships already existing between young and old" should the Bill go through.

At the worst then the words of Don Maclean's "Bye Bye Miss American Pye" are prophetically true (the music's dying) and at best (which isn't much) the establishment will be able to absorb "pop culture". The promise of 1968 has already been severely eroded by commercialisation, the musicians caught between a vast, powerful, sprawling pop industry and their own ideals and beliefs (no prizes for guessing the winner in most cases).

The Bill can only reinforce the pressures working against the musicians and the promise of 1968. Honesty and feeling will lose out to the hype and coldness of the entertainment industry. Freedom to enjoy ourselves and freedom to express ourselves are all we have got. Nail this Bill.

Dave.

On a less depressing note, we can look forward to BICKERSHAM FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS AND MUSIC ON MAY 5th, 6th, 7th. Described as a 'Multi-Media' Festival there's Rock, Folk, Theatre, Events (an air display) and Exhibitions. The site is 15 miles from Manchester on the East Lancs Road (A 508). Tickets are £2.25 in advance from 509 Bickershaw Lane, Bickershaw, Lancs. for 3 days, an extra 30p will get you a canvas roof. £2.75 at the site. FURTHER DETAILS ON BACK PAGE.

C.H.E.

Introducing the campaign for homosexual equality on Teesside.

Our prime objectives are:- To promote social and legal equality between all men and women.

To press for further reforms of law which deny such equality.

To eradicate the prejudice and hostility faced by the homosexual.

To work towards the creation of social meeting places where homosexual men and women, and heterosexuals may gather in a congenial atmosphere.

Some of the things CHE has done and is doing: Collecting evidence of discrimination on the grounds of sexual preference, by landlords

an enjoyable time.

It is a warm and comfortable-looking place, just the right size and purpose made for the group.

Whatever your age, you are most cordially invited to join either, or both, groups, whether you are male or female. There's almost as many females as males.

If you require any further details, (there's a leaflet available telling you all about the objects and aims of CHE) or just want to be a guest to see what it's like, with no obligation to join, then write to:

Frank H Smith,
52, Belmont Ave,
Billingham,
Teesside.

I, as CHE organiser of group 2, can assure you of a warm welcome at either group. There is a small nominal sum to join, and if there are any transport difficulties, these can usually be overcome very easily.

who's right to work

Mass Boredom has only recently become recognised as a problem as it has been realised that in an increasingly mechanised society, more people will have more leisure time to fill. But how is it to be filled appropriately? Obviously bingo, longer opening hours and TV do not provide adequate answers. Clearly present society is not capable of filling the time available to us; equally the supposed 'alternative solution' - the "freak" solution - has far too often degenerated into the equally vicious and valueless perpetual trip or high, getting absolutely nowhere on either the personal or social level.

Boredom is not just a problem of the future, when "computers will take over the drudgery, and all men will have time to fulfill themselves." It is a problem now for the hundreds of thousands of unemployed, and for everyone else who does not know what to do with his or her much treasured hours of play away from work. As work is usually boring we want to fill our leisure time as well as possible.

In the North-East a crisis point is being reached. With the closure of the pits and the other centres of employment we are seeing an over-publicised but under-evaluated peak in unemployment. Unemployment on the present scale is not just, or even mainly, a political or economic matter, but a vitally personal crisis for the 1 1/2 million people involved and their dependants - including over 9% of the male working population of the NE.

The sops that we are offered are both totally inadequate and misdirected. The aimlessness of a non-working life for people whose whole cultural (mostly subconscious) outlook has prepared them for no other personal role than

as a worker has led to the slogan "The Right to Work". Surely this slogan approaches the problem - admitted to be a problem - from the wrong direction! The right to work applies only to a now obsolescent life-style. As the strong community ties have broken down, the social life that was the mainstay of the old lifestyle has been worn away and the right to work has become irrelevant. We are deprived of the one thing we have always been told we are fit for - work.

Sociologists' attempts to provide entertainment are not good enough. It is a degradation of a human being to have his spare time, that circumstances have made his whole time, filled for him.

The answer lies at a more profound level: we must cease to regard the non-worker as a social freak, for he will become more and more common: we must begin to think of all men as potentially having the initiative to fulfill themselves. We must all be given the opportunity to be able to think for ourselves enough to fill our own time. In short, we must affirm not

the right to work but the right to find an alternative.

The 'system' as it stands cannot allow us all this. The problem is universal: it is only more apparent in the areas of high unemployment and monotonous and unsatisfying labour conditions. Hairies and skins are equally examples of bored people in a bored society. But are the 87% of the adult population watching TV every evening or the miners who were sent out chopping wood to fill their time while they were on strike (the secretary of one of the miners' lodges in Co. Durham told me that this was a secondary reason for picketing) essentially any different?

We cannot be provided with entertainment. Education should provide an answer, but given the economic factors that subvert and control our every independent thought, the present rigid educational structure does not do so.

We must demand the right to work actively towards a true alternative - a genuine life-style, not a compromise - one of whose prime concerns must be a libertarian approach to teaching. The "Right to Work" where there is no work: education that has nothing to do with today's world, let alone tomorrow's: the stifling of the so-called liberties (see MG3 page 11) that should allow us to work out our own way of living in a screwed-up society: All these add up to an imperative need for active work towards an alternative that will make life liveable for us and the next generation, allowing us to evolve our own lifestyles for ourselves. Whose right to work?

Maurice

costs and values

I've got an idea. Like most ideas it is not original, is very simple and extraordinarily difficult to get down on paper. My idea (I'll call it that) is about the Economy, Employment, Institutions, Organisations, The Community and so on.

I want to start off with the community because this is where you CAN start with making obvious errors straightaway. I live in a community as do we all, but I am also a 'community worker'. I want to look at ways in which health, happiness, security, growth etc. In the community can be inhibited or helped by the application of various resources (in terms of money, organisation, expertise and services).

The premise of my statements ideas and questions is a FEELING that a lot of time and money is being wasted by the administrators who haven't the least idea of or confidence in the community. I keep using that awful phrase so I'd better define it. By community I mean that natural organisation or sets of relationships that arise out of people being together in particular geographical locations and/or with particular common interests. The feeling I have is that there are presently ways in which the administrators of our wealth actually inhibit or at least do not help the situations that their institutions are professedly set up to deal with.

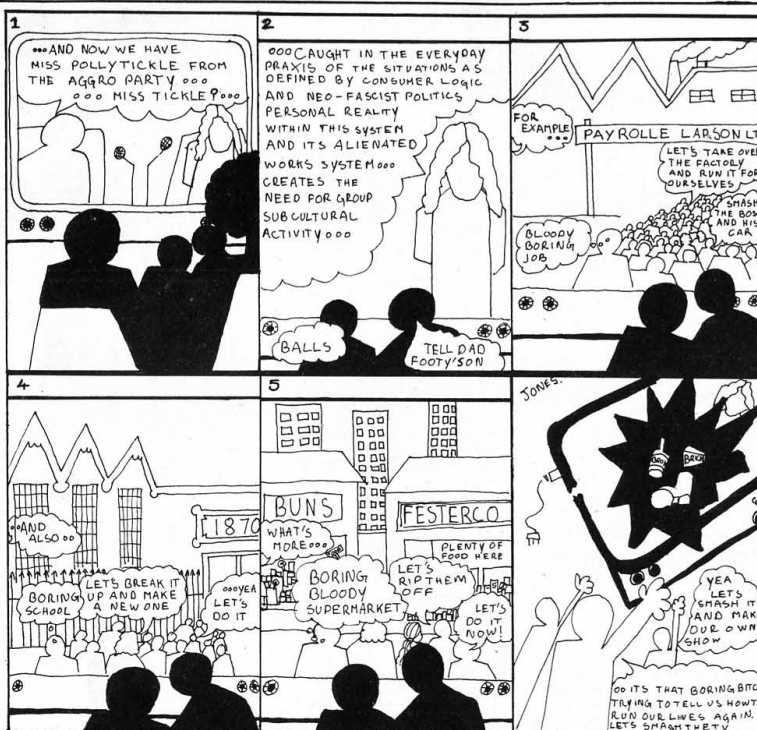
Let us take a case to illustrate. An elderly arthritic lady who will soon have to be admitted to residential care. She gets £6 a week plus heating etc. I don't know precisely how much this all costs, but I can make an informed guess. Administration of her pension and allowances costs as much again as the actual benefit. This money could be paid directly to the deprived person - each old lady could be paid £15 a week. She would now have the resources to visit her friends by taxi, to have her room decorated - to combat the isolation and personal deprivation she suffers through being poor.

Vast amounts of money are being poured into the middle-class poverty industry under the impression that deprivation (ill health, 'poor' education, security etc.) is something to be 'treated' by professionals. Doesn't it seem perfectly obvious that it is PEOPLE who are poor and the best place for the money allocated is in the hands of these people.

These kinds of thoughts are also relevant to the unemployment issue - can we AFFORD unemployment - i.e. the cost of administering the benefits is so high and the allied social deprivation is so costly to treat in terms of a probation officer for his son, free dental treatment etc. etc. How much does it cost to keep a family unemployed?

If anyone has any comments on this article can they get in touch with me through Muther Grumble 'cause I intend to do some costing and analysis when I get round to it and the results of comments and discussions ensuing from this article can maybe go in some future issue of MG together with my own further work on it.

Othrogger



UNFAIR DEAL



One of the basic rights of man is to have a place to shelter, which he can call his home. This society upholds this right in principle but, as in so many other things, not in practice. Many families are either homeless - forced to live in hostels which charge excessive fees for poor, overcrowded living conditions - or are forced, because of the unavailability of acceptable accommodation or lack of income, to live in defeating slums or sub-standard housing. Having to pay for the privilege of living in a house is expensive. One has the choice of having to spend many hundreds of pounds in order to buy one, or many thousands of pounds in order to rent one.

But now, the government has decided that the rents we're being charged just aren't enough. Tenants, it says, should pay a higher price for the dubious benefit of living on a sprawling, repetitive, friendless housing estate, for the rents have been kept too low by an unrealistic housing policy and the Fair Rents (sic) Bill has been introduced to 'right' this 'wrong'. But not only have the rents of public sector housing been too low, but also, apparently, the rents of controlled and regulated tenancies in the private sector have needed raising for they too come under the Bill. Altogether Fair Rents will affect 5,500,000 public tenancies and over 1,500,000 private tenancies.

BEFORE

Previous to the implementation of Fair Rents each local authority set the rents for the houses in its area. These local authorities received housing subsidies from the Exchequer and the rates to help towards the costs incurred in maintaining and replacing these houses.



The private sector fell into two main categories - furnished and unfurnished. Furnished tenancies could, at the insistence of either the landlord or tenants, have their rents decided by the Rent Tribunal; unfurnished tenancies were of three main kinds - unregulated, regulated and controlled - the last of which had their rents controlled at a certain level.

Under the Fair Rents Bill, regulated and controlled tenancies will be affected.

CHANGES

The Government's stated reason for introducing the Fair Rents Bill was to stop the practice of giving subsidies indiscriminately to all council houses and instead help only the tenants who needed it. They plan to do this by the concept of fair rents.

But what are Fair Rents? The Bill defines them as the rent a landlord would charge in an area where rented property was not scarce - i.e. where supply met demand. A fair rent would take in such considerations as location, character and amenities.

The general principle behind this is to enable a profit (probably about 10%) to be made out of renting out houses. Rents will have to be increased substantially to do this. Civil Service leaks have revealed that while the average council rent in the North of England is now £2.38p, by 1976 it will be £4.38p plus £2.00p rates - a lot of money to have to pay out each week for the privilege of living in a council house.

In the public sector the local authority is supposed to assess the fair rents in its area, with the advice of the Rent Officer. Once assessed, the proposed rents are then examined by a special committee drawn from the ranks of the Rent Assessment Panel, who, if it disagrees with the authority's decision has the power to determine what the fair rents should be. This means that a local authority couldn't keep rents down even if it wanted to.

Once the fair rents have been assessed, the current rent will be increased by £26 a year until the fair rents have been reached. Fair Rents will be reassessed every three years.

In the private sector, regulated or controlled tenancies will have their rents assessed by the Rent Officer or decided on by a contract between the landlord and tenant. The latter is far more to the advantage of the landlord than to the tenant as he can force the tenant to agree to a rent by threatening him with eviction at the first possible opportunity if he does not accept his decision, or asks the Rent Officer to assess it for him.

Although the Bill realises the necessity of increasing the maximum penalties for harassment and illegal eviction, it is often impossible to prove that one has been harassed. The fact that tenants in furnished property make such little use of the Rent Tribunal is proof that such bodies cannot stop landlords making fat profits out of their tenants - and all landlords, whether private or public, are out

to make lots of money.

Most private tenants living in previously regulated or controlled tenancies will find their rents doubled or trebled.

REBATES

In order to help tenants meet the increases in their rents the government have proposed a rent rebate scheme for local authority tenants and rent allowance schemes for private tenants. These, they claim, will offset the increased cost of rent for tenants with low incomes or large commitments and, in some cases, lower the amount of money actually being paid as rent. In fact, the scheme seems designed to pay out as little money as possible.

In the public sector the tenant is forced to submit a comprehensive means-test to qualify for rent rebates. This means-test forces the tenant to disclose all sources of income, and threatens him with prosecution under the Theft Act if he leaves any income undisclosed. This means-test has to be repeated every six months. Clearly the government hopes and expects that after a while people just won't bother with the rebate scheme because of all the form filling it involves, and because of the indignity of a means-test. They know that only one in six of the 19000 families eligible for Family Income Supplement apply for it and know

that this is a good return average to work on. This is happening - in Chester-le-Street, only 1000 out of 7000 council house families have returned their means-test forms.

Moreover the rebate is calculated on gross income rather than net income and the maximum rebate possible is only £6.50p a week. Under the scheme, the highest wage earner will become the tenant - even if he is only a lodger, and the rebate will be reduced by £1.50p a week for every non-dependent of 18 years and over not undergoing full-time education or training, £1.00p for every non-dependant of pensionable age not receiving Supplementary Benefit, and 65p for every non-dependant receiving Supplementary Benefit (although the person receiving S.B. should be able to claim this off the Social Security).

What this, in fact, means is that a family would be financially better off to ask a working son or daughter to leave, especially if one of them earns more than the tenant. This leaves a lot of families with the inhuman choice of either breaking up their families and achieving a bearable standard of living or keeping them under one roof and falling deep into debt.

Although Fair Rents will be re-assessed every three years, and therefore will presumably continue to rise indefinitely, there is no mention in the Bill of re-assessing the rebate scheme, which even as it stands now, means that the vast majority of tenants will be paying far more than they're paying now.

In the long run, the effect of the rebate scheme will be to create ghetto situations on



ACTION

Reaction to the Bill is mounting in the North-East. Rent strikes have been planned by tenants in Spenny Moor, Durham City, Bishop Auckland, Gateshead and Newcastle, as well as some smaller towns. However only Durham City Council has decided to make the 50p rent increases this month, so Durham is the only city in the area to have a rent strike before October. The strike is organised by Durham Tenants Association, and altogether about 200 tenants on the Sherburn Road Estate are refusing to pay the increases. These will be collected by members and kept in case of threats of eviction for non-payment.

On the 10th April (print day I'm afraid for us, so no coverage) they will be demonstrating outside (hopefully inside) the Housing Committee meeting in the Town Hall in protest against the Bill. Already some council members have threatened these tenants with eviction if they strike.

It is obvious that Durham tenants face a long hard struggle, which has importance far outside the City Council's area, as the strike is one of the first in the country. The L.A. can be expected to use all weapons possible to end the strike. Thus Local Authorities not increasing their rents until October will have the examples of their April predecessors - and their mistakes - to follow in dealing with the rent strikes of their own tenants. Tenants striking from October will find themselves faced with a local authority drawing on a large number of tactics to fight tenants with. Law and Order raises its blighted head again - this time against the main body of the population and not just against its active minorities.

In an attempt to mobilise effective forces for October, and to try to help Durham Tenants Association till then, tenants associations throughout the North-East agreed at a meeting held in Newcastle recently to form an action committee of tenants in the area to oppose the Bill and make rent strikes more effective. This action is very welcome and extremely necessary as a united struggle will be far more effective than isolated ones.

estates, for tenants will be given houses whose rents they can afford. This will happen because it is an effective way of making money - both by not having to pay large rebates to the poorer families and also by getting the full rents from more financially fortunate families. So poor tenants will get poor houses with little chance of them getting better and every chance of them getting worse as even the cheaper accommodation will, sooner or later, become too expensive for them as 'fair' rents continue to rise.

The effect of the Bill on private tenants in regulated and controlled tenancies is similar, although instead of receiving a rent rebate they will receive a rent allowance (a cash payment provided by the local authority) to enable them to pay the full rent. This allowance is assessed in the same way as rebates, although the progression of rent increases will differ slightly.

The only good provision in the Bill is to make it legally essential for a local authority to obtain a court order before it can evict a tenant. This, at least, will stop the summary evictions practised by so many authorities.

WHO PROFITS?

It is obvious that the Fair Rents Bill is going to take more and more of the tenants' money. But where is this money going to? Basically, private landlords, local authorities, and most of all the government will make substantial profits. The L.A.'s and the government will be splitting a lot of the profits made from council tenants 50-50. The fact that many tenants eligible for rebates won't apply will only increase the profits.

An article on Fair Rents in Mole Express (number 19) assessed this aspect of the Bill very well when it said: "The Tories cover up too much of what they are doing with accusations that Council housing is subsidised too much. But this year (1971), while subsidies to Council housing averaged about £39 per house or flat, subsidies to owner occupiers in tax relief on mortgages averaged about £60 per house."

All the present subsidies to Council housing are to be stopped and eight new ones to be introduced, most payable only if a local authority sustains a loss on its Housing Revenue Account. There will be losses in the first year or two but once the scheme is operating fully, the profit on housing revenue accounts throughout the country, according to the Rating and Valuation Association, will amount to more than £250,000,000."

A large part of the reason why Council rents are as high as they are at the moment is that Councils borrow money to build houses and repay it over a long period of time. For example, to pay for a £5000 house the Council must pay out nearly £30,000 over 60 years at present interest rates of almost 10%. If councils want to make a profit could they not wipe out these debts rather than continue to subsidise money lenders at the expense of the tenant and rate payer?

ALSO...

The Bill is going to encourage people to buy their own houses. If a tenant is paying as much or more rent as he would be a mortgage it is obvious that he is going to say he might as well buy the bloody thing, even though he doesn't like it, the location or the area in which it is situated. The fact that families will not be able to afford a mortgage and will therefore fall into debt will not deter them, for they can't afford to pay the fair rents either. Once they start buying the houses off the L.A. they will then be liable to pay out costs of repairs and maintenance instead of the Council. So we will end up with thousands of families paying for houses turning into slums through not

being able to afford to keep its standards up while the L.A.'s, the banks and industry in general, make vast profits from mortgage interest and loans.



support your local tenants association

What can be done about the Bill? The Labour Party at national and local level has condemned it in the loudest possible terms, saying that they'll fight it tooth and nail. Yet it would be pointless to put our trust in the 'democratic' processes of this country. The Labour Party in Parliament is powerless, and Local Councils can be overruled from Whitehall. Moreover members of Councils who refuse to implement the Bill can be fined up to £400 each.

That is to assume that Councils are really determined to oppose the Bill effectively. For word has come through from Transport House telling them to oppose the Bill verbally and in the Press, but not to interfere with the implementation. They must just stand to one side when the Rent Assessment Panel decides what the Fair Rents should be, and then silently scoop in the profits. In this way councillors will keep both their political reputations and their jobs.

It is obvious that the only possible action against the Bill must come from the tenants themselves - from tenants associations supported by Trade Union rank and file. Their most effective weapon is the rent strike - either total or partial.

When the Fair Rents Bill becomes operational it will be greeted by a whole series of rent strikes - mostly partial - throughout the country. The government must have been expecting this, for they have given Local Authorities a choice of when to increase their rents, thus making it difficult to achieve solidarity.

For, although Councils have to increase rents by £26 by next April, this figure can be obtained in two different ways. Rents can be put up 50p a week from this April, or £1 in October. Thus plans for united rent strikes over a large area covering several different Local Authorities have been dangerously hindered by the L.A.'s raising their rents at different times from their neighbours. Some tenants will be going on strike this April, while others will wait until the increase in October.

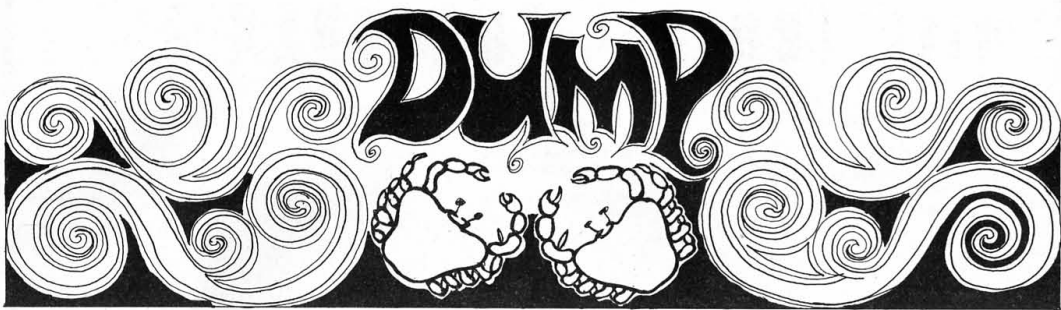
It is worth considering a different type of local rent strike. The Housing Ideas Centre published a pamphlet recently putting forward new ideas:

"What if the money withheld during a strike was put into a common fund and spent on something useful? Even the threat of such action would terrify most councils.

"Think of all the repairs that haven't been carried out and the vast areas that, with a bit of money, could be converted into playgrounds for the kids. WHY NOT WITHHOLD THE RENT MONEY IN PROTEST AT INCREASES AND SPEND IT ON SOME PROJECT CHOSEN AND MANAGED BY THE COMMUNITY?"

All that there's left to say really is POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

Mike and Ian.



There has been much concern shown recently by Seaham fishermen. This has been due to the tipping of coal refuse into the sea at Dawdon and Easington collieries. The years of tipping of this untreated waste has finally told. Now the waters in the area are blackened and this has discoloured the flesh of the male crabs which inhabit the waters all the year round. Now the migratory females are refusing to return to Seaham to mate because of the pollution. This is bad news indeed for the local fishermen.

The Seaham Boat Owners' Association is demanding the withdrawal of a permit allowing the N.C.B. to tip in the sea. There is a ten mile stretch of coast affected by the tipping. Mr. Jack Brennan, Chief Fisheries Officer for the North East sea fisheries Committee says, "If something isn't done quickly the area could become a desert for marine life."

This had led the County Council Planning Committee to call on the Department of the Environment to ban the N.C.B. from tipping waste in the area. The Committee suggest that the waste should be dumped out at sea. They also have plans to spend £800,000 a year on cleaning up the Durham coast. But even if the N.C.B. agreed to tip the waste out at sea this would surely still cause pollution in the area it was tipped and eventually this would be washed up on the beaches. So it seems even the alternative suggested by the C.C.P.C. if accepted would cause coastal pollution in the long run.

But we are told on the other hand that the situation isn't worth worrying about. Dr. David Bellamy, a Durham University botanist, who has been studying the effect of pollution in the North Sea for 15 years accused the county planners of jumping on the "doomwatch" bandwagon. He said that few people wanted actually to swim in the North Sea and the money which it will cost to take the coal waste out to sea in barges could be spent on two or three heated swimming pools at Crimdon. He also said that the problems of coal waste tipping had been going on for many years. I only hope he realises it will continue to go on for many more years if something positive doesn't happen.

Not only is it the coast which is having pollution problems at the moment. There is a row brewing over what use is to be made of the disused coal mine at Silksworth. There has been a proposal put forward by Effluent Disposals Limited to see if the N.C.B. will sell them Silksworth colliery so they can use it to dump up to 20 million gallons of chemical waste into it. This caused an outcry from the public who think that the tipping of toxic waste in a disused colliery in a build-up area could prove very dangerous. The colliery is also wanted by the Sunderland General Purposes Committee who also want to use it for a disposal scheme. The committee would have to balance job potential of the scheme with the resentment and hostility it would invoke with people, it was said by Town Clerk Mr. J. Gardner. He said expanding companies might come to the area if they knew there was a place here to dispose of such waste. He also added that similar projects to the one proposed at Silksworth were likely to be set up in various parts of the country.

When the public outcry was heard as regards the safety of such a scheme Effluent Disposals Limited called in a geological expert from Aston University. After a preliminary exploration of the colliery Dr. William Gaskarth, the expert, said conditions "looked good" for dumping. He said there was minimum earth movement and as far as he could see the rocks were of sufficient strength to contain all pressures indefinitely. Not so easily satisfied was Dr. Malcolm Hooper, head of research in pharmaceutical chemistry at Sunderland Polytechnic. He said he had discussed the matter with two expert geologists who did not accept the idea. He added that miles of gas and poisonous cyanide waste in a hole in the ground seems a very unrealistic and unscientific way of tackling a major industrial and social problem. He also said that the land movement which occurs from time to time could force the waste and toxic gases up through the strata into the water region and out into the atmosphere which could affect the environment not only of Silksworth and Sunderland but the whole of the North-East.

While the experts have been debating

whether it is safe or not to use the colliery as a chemical dump the local people have formed the Silksworth Action Group to oppose any scheme to use the colliery as a chemical dump. There was a recent meeting to formalise the group and set up a committee. One of the speakers at the meeting, Mr. Patrick Boyle, a mining engineer, said the only responsible action to take over Silksworth colliery was to fill the shafts with stones or otherwise the people of Silksworth would be living on a tomb. He asserted that the colliery was linked to the old workings at Herrington which would only spread the danger further. He said that past falls at Silksworth seams were followed by water coming in which came from Herrington Colliery via a hydraulic connection. He added it would be impossible to say how long it would take for poisonous waste to fill up Silksworth and then move upwards. Other speakers mentioned the possibility of dismantling the pit or picketing the shafts, if need be. Once the group is combined they want to make an impact where impact is needed most.

The N.C.B. could possibly have the power to save a lot of trouble. They could stop dumping the coal waste into the sea and start tipping it into their own property at Silksworth. It would stop the sea pollution and stop chemical pollution at Silksworth. Presumably coal waste in the colliery would be a lot safer than toxic gases and chemicals. But seeing as the N.C.B. aren't in the best of financial positions at present they'll be wanting to make as much money as possible out of the Silksworth deal.

The final decision as regards the colliery may end up in the hands of Peter Walker - Minister for the Environment if no settlement can be agreed on. Also, the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Bill was given an unopposed second reading recently in the Commons and the Bill may have an influence on the matter too. The Bill lays down stiff penalties on dangerous dumping of up to 5 years. All's well that ends well?

Could someone please show me the way out of this smog?

Ken

puffouts

Bodies of puffins, those comical little sea birds with orange, blue and yellow bills, are being washed up on Northumberland beaches.

There is now a serious danger that the puffin may soon become as extinct as its near cousin, the Great Auk.

For reports from two of the puffin's favourite breeding grounds at St. Kilda and the Shiant in the Outer Hebrides, indicate that some huge disaster may have overtaken the little bird.

In little more than a decade, say experts, the population of puffins, or "sea parrots", as they are known

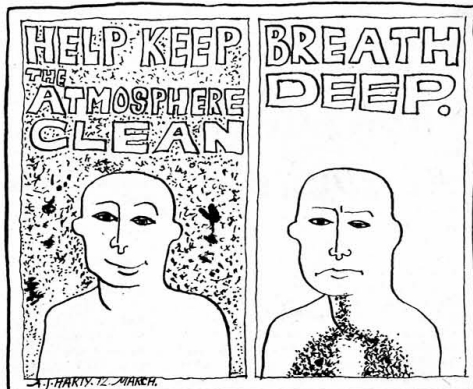
to sailors, has fallen from millions to just tens of thousands.

And now the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has launched an investigation in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy Board to try and find out whatever happened to the puffin.

Mr Colin Bibby, a research biologist, speaking from RSPB headquarters at Sandy in Bedfordshire, said: "The alarming possibility is that chemical pollution of the sea may have led to the deaths of millions of birds."

"Who knows what's being dumped into the sea at this moment, to be discovered only five years later?", he asked.

The RSPB is worried that there may have been a holocaust on the scale of Autumn 1969, when 17,000 dead gull-lemots were washed up on Welsh and English beaches from the Irish Sea.



"WILL YOU GET TOGETHER?"

An interview with the Bishop of Durham

I'm cynical about politicians, on polling day you'll find me in the pub, but being a 'tame anarchist' I'm interested in guys within the existing system who are making things easier for us down trod plebs.

The Bishop of Durham was inaugurated in 1966 and over the years he's earned himself a great deal of respect from all sorts of folk. He's also made a lot of enemies. Perhaps one of the nastiest attacks on him was made in Dec. 1969. Brig. Branson (then chairman of the Northern Counties Conservative Clubs and a member of the Conservative National Executive) had said that in order to crush demonstrations, marches and other left-wing activities the country needed a defence force of "20,000 men and women who must be able to use simple weapons (rifles and machine guns)."

In his reply the Bishop said that if he had to choose between the two he'd choose demonstrations rather than a defence force. Branson reacted with predictable malice.

A POLICE STATE?

When I interviewed him one of the things we discussed was the kind of anti-freedom propaganda which is being churned out in our country 24 hours a day. I said that I felt that Britain is moving towards a police state.

"The SIS (Special Incidents Squad of the Special Branch) are jumping here there and everywhere, what with the Aldershot Bombing, Northern Ireland has got the authorities on their toes, they're getting paranoid. The 'Festival of Light' is an example of the most repressive elements of religion."

"I take all you've said by way of a broad survey. Certainly, as we'd all grant, democracy isn't merely one man one vote as it were, it's something much more free and fulfilling to the individual, that gives the individual status within the whole society. That's why I hate the extremes of both sides."

"What is your attitude to the 'Festival of Light'?"

"I'm always conscious of how complicated these movements are, though I do see the features of it that lend itself to your sort of criticism. When I see the papers there is much of the kind I expected. In so far as it was: 'We're against x,y,z, we deplore all this and we protest against all that...' that would have just put it as dogma in my own mind, but there is just a paragraph here and there which is endeavouring to be positive."

Certainly the Bishop doesn't accept the Church as it is, on many occasions in the past he's been very critical, always emphasising that the Church often fails to be concerned with the realities and injustices of society.

SEX

In May 1970 at the Annual meeting of the League of Friends of Winterton (mental) Hospital he said: "We have to express... this inter-dependence of all of us... the line between the sick and the healthy is by no means easy to draw." But he won't agree with a Wilhelm Reich analysis which claims that social ills arise because society is based upon sexually repressive structures. I.e., I

asked him what he thought about some of the statements made in the 1936 SEXPOL Manifesto:

"Sexual chaos is: referring to the law of matrimonial duty in the matrimonial bed. Contracting a sexual liaison for life without any previous sexual knowledge of the partner."

"Within present structures of society, the permanent marriage bond and chastity before marriage, there has been licensed rape. But must this be so and is it going to be the enhancement of personality to break present structures down?"

"It would be a bold man who could specify what sexual morality is likely to be in the future when you think of words like alternative society. But supposing that it is a fact that many people only find sexual satisfaction worth having after some years of experimenting together?"

"The three areas in which men and women are self deceivers ever are: property, money and sex, folk can pretend to do for the most high flying reasons what in fact they're doing for the most self interested reasons."

Pretty trad stuff, maybe he's right? Who can talk about natural sexuality when you're faced with a consumer society?

CAPITALISM

The Bishop has a great deal of sympathy for the workers, all miners know the support he's given them in the past. When the Fuel Bill was going through the House of Lords in Dec. 1967 he said a lot of good things:

"...the monetary provisions in the Bill are not, by themselves, enough." He said that miners had told him alternative work would not be provided too soon in the area "because the Government fears that if it is it will empty the pits of men."

But if you talk in terms of the 'workers being oppressed by the bosses' once again he is reserved. I put this question to him:

"Capitalism allows democracy for about 2% of the population; the bosses. Do you think the system favours selfish interests?"

"I think Free Enterprise does tend to be segregated to the people who want to be free and they want to be free just by themselves. My instinct is towards social planning but having seen this it can be oppressive on human beings. I'd much sooner have a Welfare State than the kind of state I grew up in, but I can't help but see that this can somehow sap people's individuality."

"Talk about planning: it was 65/66 wasn't it? The Freeze on Incomes. Since then there has been a big spurt on Productivity Deals. Trade Unions grasped at these because they were in a restricted situation, a 3% ceiling on wage rises. The result was that: the workers accepted oppressive work conditions for what in the long run turned out to be no increased wage; trade union democracy, the shop stewards, were flattened until it's come to a head recently. This was laid down in Rootes and ICI documents etc., as a strategy to be applied against the workers."

"Quite honestly Alan, my only comment on that would be that there's so much all through industry that I see as fulfilling nobody in the last resort. There's got to be some radical re-thinking and action."

The most radical re-thinking I knew of was the recent 'Blueprint for Survival', (summarized in M.G. no. 3):

good on the subject and who had actually done it and where they could be contacted; how you could make money by making and selling (eating type) plates, what the best wood to use is and where it could be got from and what the best way of working the wood was; about fabric painting for fun and profit etc. etc.

Well I'm going to do (with help from my friends) one for the North-East. Now the situation in this country may be very different from the states and the idea may not be applicable here, but I'll soon find out because YOU have to write to me telling me about your experiences with various ideas, books, domes, processes etc. and depending on the amount and type of information collected a North East Whole Earth Catalogue of some kind or another may or may not be produced.

If you're still not sure about what the

BLUEPRINT

"I do see quite clearly the futility of this Growth Economy as a way of defining policy. Obviously it could be a proper policy for a limited area for a limited time; but you can't go on growing in all directions everywhere for ever, because somebody else is going to be doing the same. And while it might buy you five years it couldn't help but become completely calamitous in the end."

"Do you find that there's been some reaction to the Blueprint within parliament?"

"As far as the Church goes this whole business of Blueprint for Survival has certainly been very much advertised, referred to, developed - there's no question of this. If anyone takes the long-term view and if anyone should be dissatisfied with the present it should be religious people."

"Have any of the points, lets say, the power tax, the amortisation tax, the tax upon private transport and the encouragement of the railways, have any points....?"

"I can't say we spent hours on that, but in discussion of these things the whole breadth of the problem and the far ranging solution has been the theme. I can't claim to be a leader in this area but certainly there have been two or three bishops who've discussed this with me."

"When I go into industrial disputes it's like going through lush undergrowth in a tropical jungle. You can't see where to cut a way, the factors and features are intricately complex, getting deeper and deeper into the forest of misunderstandings, confusions, short term ideas and so on, and to me the great merit of something like your Blueprint for Survival is, without being married to a conceptual system which can be as oppressive as the rule set down by some body, this has got a kind of dominant idea that is freeing men to see widely."

"But only of course in order to get them more creatively attacking the grass roots problems, I don't want to separate these two at all. I's just that these other issues get discussed in a better atmosphere."

"There was developed in the Northern Province of the Church of England the idea of a project called 'Action North-East'. And what will this do - it won't be a plan, imposed from above, telling everyone what to read and what to do, etc. What it's trying to say is: 'Will you get together?', people of all churches and perhaps people of none, who see a problem they want to discuss, to find an individuality in grappling with a problem which no-one's got the answer to, and hoping the problem can be tackled by action."

"What can the Bishop achieve? I don't know, but personally I feel that if everyone in authority was like him there wouldn't be anything like so much obstruction put in the way of people who are trying to find freedom as there is at present."

Just before we went to print the Bishop had a heart attack. Apparently it wasn't too serious but we all hope that he will have a swift recovery and is going to be active for many more years.

Many thanks to the 'Durham Advertiser' for acting as 'a source' for info.

Whole Earth Catalogue

The idea is simple. A catalogue of 'access to tools' written by people who have used the goods and goodies rather than those who manufactured them. Next to define what tools it will be about.

The American Whole Earth Catalogue was a 300 odd page catalogue telling about what the best wood stove was under certain conditions and where you got hold of it and how much it cost; outlining various techniques of geodesic dome building and where you got the materials and what books were

catalogue should contain don't worry because I don't know either. We have to work it out together. Just sit down and try to imagine that you really know something that someone else would really be interested in (because it's probably true that you do know something) and write and tell me about it. This catalogue will tie in with whatever information services are operating at present and also with the Newcastle Free College of Further Education (about which more later). Letters, comments, jokes, interesting true facts, all greatly appreciated.

OTH (HAPPYFACE PUBLICATIONS)

Roger Booth
51, Larkepur Terrace
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 2DT

Head Boil

Roaring at the ears - shoes melting - feet boiling - wrists wrenchy - teeth and jaw moved big and heavy by 85 steaming black slaves, each with a large wooden handle-bit between his teeth and 3 ropes to manipulate - one for each hand and one clasped in both feet - his waist tied down with leather to prevent any unnecessary movement of bum on bench. Thus did I emerge from the night tunnel of restless body movement. What hair growth that is left on my head became steam that wisped past my left eye - a ball that has bounced in and out of many a brain-cover.

"Surely I am not alone!" I screamed in a low and unreadable voice, and, on its return, the echo got grated and serrated through and over multi-ferrous jagged pots that people have built and called chimneys. "Surrilly - no!lan!" might have been the echo's echo but an extremely dirty white colored Con-dis-corde melted through the flesh of my left ear-lobe on its path to a tasty dish of stewed pound notes, and some of the cooks had chartered it to make sure it got there so I didn't receive the echo's echo.

But the serrated-gration must have sufficiently broken the crust of the brick-broken-mutilated-plastimetal that covers a great deal of the world that is an eyeball and little light yellow green stubs poked through - cos the sun was still there - way up there - even though someone had devised a new kind of force of matter transference and was attempting to move the sun to his own laboratory country where it would be used to grow humlants - in which the old human brain was to be stretched in durable fibrosity and connected inextricably to root and flower - making rings of energy that took their partners for a waltz or a flexi-trot and mutilated their species by being fried on a plate-set plate whose temperature was so great that they never actually touched it but skimmed over, coming off the other side as more-than-when-they-started.

Notwithstanding for that this is predictably possible, the little light yellow green bumpuses poked their little selves up (or out, whichever scale you are looking at the plane terrain of the global strain with for) and waved to each other as a positive signal. And on the third day, some men who thought this to be a favourable sign went forth to water the bumpuses and to bring them to their maturity and wholesomeness. But they should have used ethylene glycol and not water since the bumpuses were a very, very new phenomenon and the little bumpuses melted and formed an impenetrable crust in that area which, from that time on, served to remind the silly pea-brained man species that new thinking is needed for new times.

Ron Geesin

CORNFLAKE

Episode One - The Discovery.

The sun came up over cornflake estate. It was going to be a good day. Marion looked out of the kitchen window, as she washed her dishes, onto the half-completed Greenshit and Bartlett executive housing estate. She felt a little naughty as she wore her skimpy Gay Patee nightie which her husband Ken had bought from a discreet mail-order firm. As she looked over the garden, she recoiled in horror. The gnomes were gone.

Bunty, Bernie, and his little friends - how would her little Adrian take it? - She turned to her husband. Ken was finishing his corn-flakes. A plastic spaceman had stuck in his throat. Fuck, he thought, but did not say it. The Daily Express had got him and, as always, the Guardian remained unread.

She told him the seven gnomes were gone, including her favourite, Bunty, the one with the wheelbarrow. Ken coughed up the spaceman into the orange pulp in his bowl. "Sorry, love, I'm late as it is." He gave her a peck and carefully set the creases on his wide-labelled Jackson pin-striped suit.

She heard his 72' blood red Ford Avenger rev as she tugged at the ribbon on her mauve nightie. - The police - it was the only answer.

They got the message. "Yes, we have had a lot of knicker snatching lately too," said P.C. Pork, as he added two and two together. His course at Hendon had not been in vain.

ESTATE

Marion was reassured as she put the receiver down. But half an hour later, after she had packed her bouncy powdered-arsed baby, Adrian, off to nursery school, she was alone. The gnomes were still missing. She felt uneasy.

She dressed and set off for the furniturama on the High Street. As she walked in, Mr Grundy was his usual smiling self. His eyes blinked sterling. She told him about the gnomes. "Yes," he said, "We've had a lot of knicker snatching lately too, my wife doesn't know which way to turn."

"How are the mortgage payments going?", he said, changing the subject abruptly.

There was a new offer; a free Mantovani L.P. with every 20 teak clothes pegs purchased. Her bargain pocketed, she hurried out.

On her way back, she saw Mr Jones, the batchelor, and gave a genital shudder. He was dragging along his mangy dog. "He's revolting", she thought. "He never changes that long mac". His eyes darted behind his National Health pink-rimmed wire specs towards her meaty thighs. Ken told her it was a nice estate - she sometimes wondered. Jones crept past. She got home and locked the door. She had a baked bean for lunch as recommended by her '2001' Bumper Slimming

Guide'. She took her tablets and looked forlornly through the kitchen window. She recoiled. A gang of seven workmen were sitting of the garden fence eating ham-fisted sandwiches. The gnomes vanished.

Brown, moist, naked backs. If only Ken looked like that she thought as she remembered her Mecca dancing days. But Profit and Gobble Ltd had seen to that. He was developing a paunch.

She sighed and adjusted the Boots reproduction Botticelli which hung limply over the 'Cosi-log' heater. "Another three payments and it's ours", she thought. Too much, the men were still on her mind. She ran up to the bedroom.

BROWN, MOIST, NAKED BACKS. She'd never felt like this for years. Sweater, jeans and bra were floored. She was back in her Gay Patee. She arranged her hair, and stood on tiptoe, by the dresser. Shut! The men had gone.

Sounds of a car. It was five o'clock. "God, not yet". Ken bounded up the path. He opened the door. He was flushed. He shouted up the stairs: "Darling, you'll never guess. The managing director found a gnome in his lavatory this morning. He told me while we chatted about the weekend golf."

He looked up at Marion in astonishment. "Darling, what are you doing still in your nightie?" He looked at her suspiciously. "You're not keeping anything from me - are you?"

Jules and Jim.

Next month: 'Crack-up'.

Lobotomy

Lobotomy is an operation on the brain designed to eliminate "undesirable" or "abnormal" behaviour in the patient. In Britain about 400 such operations are performed a year, and the number is rising. The Washington Post remarks:

"The newest and most threatening development in psychosurgery may indeed be the use of this technology against new "target" groups: neurotics suffering from anxiety, tension, obsessions, and depressions and particularly women, since the ability to return to household duties is frequently regarded as evidence of success. In addition other "social problem" groups are attracting attention: criminals, drug addicts, alcoholics, homosexuals, old people, and hyperactive children."

This idea is apparently becoming quite popular: Professor Delgado, of Yale University, suggests that a billion dollar organisation be set up in an attempt to control domestic and international conflict through operations on the brain.

Moreover after the Detroit riots of 1967, 3 Boston doctors proposed a screening programme to detect brain disease and to treat potential rioters.



The following article is the result of my researches over a considerable period of time. I have sought in vain to publicise my work in the capitalist press. However it would seem that they regard the safety of capital investment as more essential than the health of the community. Or perhaps they deem that I, a labourer (something stuck on the end of a shovel) should leave such matters to the experts, who, after half a century or so of research, are still unable to provide the solution to the degenerative diseases which the population are suffering from more than ever before.

The article makes clear that the recent development of our diet has caused a dramatic increase in a diabetic condition among large sections of the public. The present trend will definitely lead to further consumption of sweetened milk - and increased incidence of diabetes. The article makes the dangers of this diet apparent: it also shows that my medical conclusions are accepted by the experts. What should be clear is the need for further research and surveys on the habits and dangers of foods in combination.

There is tremendous awareness of the danger of cheese consumption, a milk product, and of the dangers of sugar consumption, but there is no awareness of the damage in the combination of both. There is no need to discard anything: there's just a need to stop this combination. Just as we are coaxed - by fancy wrapping, smart packets, the whole range of advertising - to eat chocolate confectionery etc., after verifying that sweetened milk is harmful, we've got to start hearing the other side of the coin - the effects this can have on your health.

Diabetes is a particular condition in which the body finds itself in many of the degenerative diseases. It is the basis of the whole degeneration of the population. It is a basic condition of the body branching off into specific degenerative diseases - heart disease, blindness, lung cancer and certain other cancers.

Quote from Diet in Health And Disease by F.W. Clements M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., F.R.A.C.P., and Josephine F. Rogers B.Sc. "Surveys in Britain and America and figures available from other Western countries all reveal that just under 1% of the population is made up of known diabetics and that there are an equal number of undiagnosed diabetics: authorities believe that a further 2 or 3 percent of the population are potential diabetics, who may develop the disease under certain environmental conditions."

The diabetic condition of the population includes not only that section whose condition we are aware of, but the semi-diabetic section whose impaired metabolism is not sufficiently manifest for them to seek medical attention.

Diabetics who are aware of their condition, seek continuously to maintain health by the measure and selection of materials in their nutrient supply. The semi-diabetics who are ignorant of their condition and living on an uncontrolled diet, are the most vulner-

able section of the population to coronary heart disease, certain cancers and other afflictions closely associated to the diabetic condition. For example, poor eyesight and nervous disorders, both of which are on the increase in this community. The primary factor motivating the chronic diabetic condition of the population is the intermittent consumption of sweetened-milk which encourages the develop-

ment of any predisposition which we may possess to the irreversible biological metabolic disorders of diabetes mellitus.

The relationship between coronary heart disease and the diabetic condition is clinically established and therefore it is unnecessary to add anything to the unquestionable proof that already exists.

Quote from The Story Of Insulin by Prof. G.W. Wrenshall Ph D "Death due to atherosclerosis of the blood vessels supplying the heart - coronary artery disease - is five times as frequent among diabetics as among non-diabetics." The presence of sweetened milk (any combination of milk and

sugar) in the nutrient supply is the primary factor motivating the diabetic development of the population. In turn, the diabetic condition of the population is the foundation upon which rests the high incidence of coronary heart disease and lung cancer, the former emphasised by saturated fat consumption (fat hardened at room temperature) and stress, and the latter by sweetened-cereal and cigarette consumption.

Surveys have confirmed that in a given community, where lung cancer and coronary heart diseases are present, a differential exists between the higher and lower income groups. The higher income group having a greater incidence of coronary heart disease and a lower incidence of lung cancer. This differential is reflected logically in the consumption of saturated fat and sweetened cereal, the former being the most expensive of the two.

Certain tribes of people who have no history of sweetening animal produce, are comparatively free of diabetes, coronary heart disease and lung cancer.

Quote from Canadian Medical Association Journal, 1st Sept. 1959 - article by O. Shaefer "If smoking alone causes lung cancer, we should expect to find many cases in Eskimos and Indians, who almost all smoke quite heavily, mostly cigarettes in recent decades. No bronchogenic cancer has been found, however, in Northern natives by our X-ray survey teams."

Japan is a unique country, in that its industrial development has advanced many years ahead of its food supply. Here is a population living under the stresses and strains of an industrial complex, yet relying mainly on a primitive food supply of fish and rice. Relative to their cigarette consumption and to other populations living in the world's industrial sphere, their incidence of diabetes, coronary heart disease and lung cancer is extremely low. Sweetened-milk is a very recent addition to the Japanese nutrient supply and its growth over the last few decades has been accompanied by an increased incidence of the degenerative diseases.

The Western world has had a tremendous growth of sweetened-milk consumption over the past 70 years, which has affected the entire population, from birth to old age. One is aware of this growth of sweetened-milk in the nutrient supply by the increased popularity of chocolate confectionery, the bottle-feeding of infants and the combining of sugar, milk and breakfast cereals. This part of the world's population, having the highest sweetened-milk consumption, suffers most from the degenerative diseases.

Note: atherosclerosis is fatty deposit on the artery walls.

If what I have written was further substantiated and accredited with doing at least as much damage as cigarette smoking obviously it is going to affect capital investment. Cigarettes are sold for the benefit of capital investment, not for the benefit of the health of the public. Confectionery, apart from diabetes, is well known to rot the teeth. If you are to affect capital investment, obviously it must become a political thing, involving coordinated activity. There's obviously got to be a different political situation where the health of the nation receives priority over vested (capital) interests.

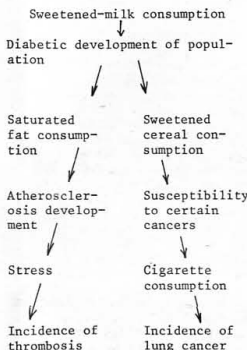
Alan Wales
5 Myrtle Grove
South Shields.

FOOD KILLS

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GROW YOUR OWN

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in
a garden
Than anywhere else
on earth.

Originally I intended writing an article on Organic Gardening. But after careful thought I've decided that the best thing I can do is recommend some books and also mention one or two things that helped me.

BOOKS: Encyclopaedia Of Organic Gardening - J.I. Rodale. All you need to know, from compost to cabbage.

Grow Your Own Fruit and Vegetables - Lawrence D. Hills. (Faber and Faber). More detailed than the above. One of the best books on organic gardening.

How To Enjoy Your Weeds - Audrey Wynne Hatfield. Learn all about the weeds you are bound to have in your garden or allotment, how to use them for food and medicine and to grow better vegetables.

If you want to grow your own pure vegetables then get an allotment. Join both the Henry Doubleday Association and the Soil Association. Both need supporting and will give you

lots of information about organic gardening. Learn about the way insects/plants support each other. Everything has its place. The secret is knowing the balance.

Love your plants. Plants grow best in a loving environment.

Do it slowly. Growing vegetables and flowers brings you closest to that energy that is all beings. In a world full of plastic illusion, aggression and false values, growing and gardening is something totally real. Trust the force that flows through seed, root and shoot. Plants have been on this planet aeons longer than man.

Though books can teach you about growing, the best way to learn is to help things grow and to talk to others who are into growing. If anyone wants to talk about growing organically they can contact me at 51 Larkspur Terrace, Jesmond, N/cle. (Phone:-811876)

Gordon.



If you are ill, and can get a medical certificate from your doctor, you can claim Sickness Benefit. This is a guide to getting it as quickly and easily as possible.

CLAIMING - BASIC BENEFIT

1) Your basic claim is made on the certificate itself. A private certificate is not a claim. It is medical evidence of your inability to work. Ask your doctor for a national health certificate. This is free - he may ask you to pay for a private one: if he insists on this you should change your doctor.

If you are in hospital, you can still get a certificate - if you are too ill, a friend or relative can get it for you.

2) The front of the certificate has two sides; one must be filled in by the doctor. This can cause delay if it is not filled in properly. It must be in ink; must have the name of your illness, and must be signed and dated by the doctor, and have his address stamp at the bottom. He must also say how long he expects you to be ill. This can be days or weeks; the first certificate cannot be for longer than 28 days. (You won't be able to claim if you are staying off work to take care of a relative - e.g. a wife - it would be a good idea to get a bad cold at the same time.)

3) You must fill in the front and back. This is easy enough if you take the questions one by one. Just a few points - when you put the date you fell ill, put e.g. Mon 6.3.72 - that is, the day and the date - and make sure you get the right date for the day, or more delays. Use ink (biro is O.K.) throughout. At the bottom, sign and date it. This makes it valid. Give your National Insurance number if you can.

4) Send it to a National Insurance Office as soon as possible. You can get the address at the nearest Post Office. You have now claimed benefit.

COMMUNICATIONS

The man who does most work on your claim is called a Rater. I did this job for three months in Hackney. If you phone the office this is who you talk to.

He or she is responsible for the progress of your claim. He thinks in jargon, and he goes by the book - which he has on his desk. Just keep trying until you get some plain English.

Your claim should not take more than a week to process. Here are some things that can delay it:

DEPENDANTS

The 'X' you put on the certificate to claim for dependants is not a claim, it is a request for a claim form. You should get this by return of post. Send it back the same way for best results (don't forget, signed and dated, and in ink). Some raters don't touch the basic claim until this form reaches them.

STAMPS

You must have "at least 26 class 1 or 2 N.I. contributions since entry into

SICKNESS BENEFITS

insurance" before you can get benefit at all; and there are other conditions too complicated to go into. In other words, if your cards have not been fully stamped up there may also be delays.

ERRORS

Wrongly filled in forms can cause delays. Also there are God knows how many ways THEY can make mistakes.

FURTHER CLAIMING

After 12 days (not including Sundays) you can claim Earnings Related Benefit (ERS). A form should be sent to you. (Form BF 161).

When you get well, tell THEM or they will pester you. It's in your own interests - you could be due a few more days benefit. The best way is a 'signing off note', which is a final certificate from your doctor.

RATES

The rate of benefit varies. A single person can get £6.00 per week, and up to £7.00 ERS as well after 2 weeks. It could be less, depending on the number or type of stamps on the card they are looking at at the time. (Your "contribution record"). Married women get less (up to £4.20) and people under 18 get less. Married women who have elected not to pay stamps get nothing.

Notice how long your certificate will last, and keep a note of it. (If it is for more than 1 or 2 weeks you should get a reminder on form BF 50B.) When it runs out, get another from your doctor, who must examine you. Fill in the front only, sign and date it, send it in.

The first three days of your illness are not payable.

INVALIDITY PENSION

This normally replaces sickness benefit after 28 weeks of sickness and has a similar basic rate of £6 per week for single people. On top of this Invalidity Allowance is paid to people who become chronically sick while they still have a large part of their working life ahead of them. ERS is not payable with invalidity benefit.

INDUSTRIAL INJURY BENEFIT

If your illness is due to an accident at work, or a "prescribed industrial disease" (e.g. dermatitis) you can claim I.I. benefit, which is more than sickness benefit. There is a section of your first certificate to fill in, in this case, and your claim may take longer to process as a form has to be sent to your employer. This often causes delay when employers do not return the form. However, you

can often get Sickness Benefit while your claim for I.I. benefit is being considered.

I WISH THEY WOULD GET A MOVE ON

If after two weeks you have not had any money, you can help them to move. (A Claimant's Union will be able to help you here.)

You should phone THEM after a week to see what is happening. After two weeks you should go in personally; preferably in the morning. Take a friend or Claimant's Union official with you. Insist on seeing someone about your case.

The first person to come will be the Rater who deals with your claim. If what he or she says is unsatisfactory, demand to see their supervisor. The supervisor has more power to speed things up and make exceptions than the rater.

If you are still not satisfied, ask to see the manager. Insist on it. If you have been badly treated threaten to write to your M.P. and the press. This sometimes works like magic as higher authorities than THEM investigate all such complaints, and they don't want this to happen.

If you still get no results go with all speed to your local Supplementary Benefits office ("Area Office" in the jargon), which is sometimes in another part of the same building but may not be. They will be able to pay you assistance while your claim is delayed. In fact you can go there after a few days if you are really hard up, and you should demand an exceptional or urgent needs payment under Section 7 or 13 of the Social Security Act. This you can claim at any time.

Don't forget to actually write to your M.P. and the press.

WHO WILL HELP YOU?

Yourself, by not allowing yourself to be browbeaten; and your local Claimant's Union, which they dread. (The C.U. will be glad to help you fill in your forms, for instance, and will fight your claims if needed.)

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE ON

If you have a good case, the Assistance people will add to your sickness benefit. (It still won't be enough to live on though. It never is.) This is commonly done when a reduced rate of benefit is paid for some reason, or when benefit is disallowed entirely.

CREDITS

While you are ill you will usually have stamps "credited" to

you. If benefit is not being paid, but you have been told you can have these "credits", it is to your advantage to send in certificates, as these credits are just as good as paid stamps for most purposes, and you will certainly find them useful later.

HUH?

Sickness benefit is not often heard of, or written about, among people who are concerned with outwitting THEM (Claimant's Unions, for instance, and the underground press), but many thousands of people run foul of it every week. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing for THEM.

P.S. PAY DAY

You are paid by Giro Order, by post. This is sent on the same day every week. If this day is not convenient, write to them asking for it to be changed.

Any questions?

Bill.

See Graffiti page for addresses of Claimant's Unions in the North-East.

REMAND

Whilst on remand you have the right to:-

- 1) to read what you want.
- 2) to provide notepaper to write to your lawyer.
- 3) to an envelope for above.
- 4) to an extended visit of 1/2 an hour.
- 5) to see the 'visiting committee' to complain.
- 6) to petition the Home Secretary 'for unusual requests'.
- 7) to see your solicitor outside visiting hours or on Sunday.
- 8) to have vegetarian or Kosher food.
- 9) to keep greetings cards in your cell.
- 10) to attend evening classes.
- 11) to share books with other prisoners.
- 12) to see up to three friends for 15 minutes every day except Sunday.
- 13) to a copy of the rules.
- 14) to your own cutlery, sheets or radio at your own expense.
- 15) to 1/2 an hour exercise each day.
- 16) to learn to read or write instead of work.
- 17) to be visited by a surety at any time during the week.
- 18) to wear your own clothes.
- 19) to have meals sent in at your own expense.
- 20) to make applications to the Governor every day except Sunday.

(from FREN22 No. 20).

NOTE:-

You should no longer be compelled to have a haircut whilst on remand.

NOTE ON ARREST

Remember if you are arrested DO NOT make any statement until you have talked to a solicitor. Too many people get done on their own evidence.

(Reminder from MG3 page 10)

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FAUST

Gulbenkian Studio N/cle

Well, Goethe's "Doctor Faustus", and Marlowe's and everyone else's Faustus were all virtually irrelevant at this 'production' of Faust, which I went to twice.

The cast used some speeches from Faustus to stimulate the 'audience' to discussion and argument, at times fairly violent views being expressed. One 'straight' asked for some Faust - he was treated to a view of writhing bodies showing lechery with joyous abandon. He was disgusted - he'd come for some Goethe or Marlowe not this rubbish. It was

pointed out to him that nearly 200 years ago, Goethe wrote about pressing social problems which are still with us today. Was he so satisfied with society's progression that he couldn't bear to see and hear the traditional lines being used to attack contemporary problems?

Didn't he care about the impersonal system in which a woman could be refused for example National Assistance because she hadn't filled in form ABC, which she couldn't fill in anyway because she hadn't filled in form XYZ. Besides, didn't Mrs Smith know that she was in the wrong department for form XYZ and that she was wasting precious time? So, what? fill in the forms and come back. Don't know your National Assistance number? Sorry, Madam, regulations have got to be obeyed. "Kids, I'll have to starve." "I am bureaucracy - I am only doing my job". So much for bureaucracy - what

about transforming yourself - just use oils and creams and deodorants and cosmetics and hair dyes and take magic pills and potions and go to beauty salons - but when all is done you still are you - the outward veneer doesn't change your character. But that doesn't discourage exploitation - women should have 36-24-36 figures, wear trendy clothes and make-up and look like the chicks in glossy (exploiting!) magazines. Why the hell should I look like that anyway? Oh, I see, so I can find a nice, big hairy muscular guy!! "You too can look like this", says Mr Muscle Man in the mags (as an adoring chick gazes at him). As one guy put it "What the hell do I want muscles for? I'm a lover not a fighter!"

Perhaps some of the audience went away thinking about the ultimate in degradation for women - what else but Miss World; or about Women's Lib., or perhaps some asked themselves if they were being exploited, or influenced by the mass media in the wrong way. Some

must have wondered what is evil? what is the devil? - is he (He?) present in exploitation, greed, anger and jealousy or is he spiritual or, as was suggested, politicians in an evil government. Whatever people thought of Faust being dissected in such a way it was certainly a valuable experiment and it provided a much needed outlet for individual expression. It aroused excitement and emotions among the audience and gave everyone present the chance to express their views on anything. Drugs, life on the dole, politics, lechery, exploitation, Women's Lib, men's and Gay Lib, re-incarnation and self-glorification, are only a few of the topics which were discussed on the two nights I was there.

Of course some people were shocked and a little put out by some of the opinions expressed - but for god's sake don't we need to shake people up and make them think about, and do something about, that oh so perfect system which they are part of. *Jayne*



I guess there will always be a lot of people who are convinced, and who will try and convince others, that politics has no place in music. But you try telling some guy in a band who has realised that the band is never going to 'make it', that he's never going to be far from starving, and that he doesn't even own the equipment he's using - all through the management he's once signed to in good faith 'mysteriously losing interest' - that politics has got nothing to do with music. Maybe you shouldn't be too surprised if he was a little impolite to you!! Mike Evans is a guy whose been through all that sort of scene. First of all the 'Liverpool Scene' broke up, with whom he used to play sax and sing so well, and then his own band 'Highly Inflammable' - mostly because of management problems. But he's not taken it and done nothing - like many have done. After realising the true nature of the politics involved in music, he started the Music Liberation Front - which must be one of the most valid, and needed of liberation movements. To elaborate on the politics of the Music Liberation

Front, and thus what it represents, we have to go back a few years. 1955, 1962 and more recently, 1967, were all crisis points in music. The last great leap forward, the 'progressive' revolution, was especially significant as an even wider proportion of people outside the actual music had their lives affected. Not only had the music changed, but peoples' habits and relationships were altered in the process, and music became the common factor in the various manifestations of a new young radicalism in Europe and America - like it never had been before. *The one thing that has never become radicalised, however, despite all the talk of Freedom/Revolution/Power to the People, is the music business itself.*

There exists this amazing situation of the product (MUSIC) reaching consumers (AUDIENCES) more or less directly (LIVE GIGS), yet the vast majority of the money involved never reaches the musicians. We all know about the overheads and expenses, and if an agent is being employed to secure work then it's worth 10%, but let's remember who's

employing who. Or in the last instance, who are the public paying to see?

Beyond agents come managers, an altogether non-productive entity in most cases. They don't get their bands work (unless they also happen to be the agents and getting the appropriate extra percentages), they don't actually record or distribute records (unless again they are also part of a record set-up), in fact it would be very hard to define what the function of 'management is, in the day of the independent, free-thinking, and presumably not unintelligent musician. Gone are the days when managers "groomed" stars, "directed" music, hyped D.J's. Or are they?

That is the lie of the so-called 'progressive scene'.

The audiences, and a lot of the musicians, really believe that the business has been essentially more honest since flower-power, that your dope-smoking manager has more scruples than your cigar smoking one, that because we've been allowed to sing about the revolution, it has actually happened.

The majority of professional musicians on the rock circuit are neither 'established' stars who can afford not to worry, nor semi-pros who don't need to. The majority, in fact, rely on music for a living, spend maybe five or six days and/or nights in a sweaty van (and hotels if they are lucky), never have hit records, and in most cases make less than what could be called a living wage (certainly less than the national average.) Sure, they're all in it for the love of it, but does that mean that they should never see half of what they have earned, and they could always spread the love around a little in the form of lower fees, if less people were in it just for a profit.

What about the musicians' union?

The M.U. probably functions quite well for the types of musicians it was designed to serve - symphony orchestras, dance bands, and session men; but it is completely out of touch with the realities of the contemporary music scene. It has never had any preten-

tions to want to CHANGE the system, merely to represent its members' interests within the existing framework.

To get down to the real nitty-gritty, the Music Liberation Front intends to: 1) Challenge, with agitation and propaganda, the entire concept of management; 2) Set up a defence fund and legal facilities for musicians in contractual disputes; 3) Encourage musicians to avoid managerial contracts, negotiate their own work where possible, and generally control their own lives; 4) Urge musicians to demand to see all accounts, having independent accountants if necessary; 5) Cultivate a constant awareness of who is employing who; 6) Generally promote a dialogue in the musical and underground press, and in all aspects of the media, arguing from the standpoint of the liberated, self-respecting musician, to the end in view of a liberated self-respecting music.

Although the Music Liberation Front has been in existence for only about six months, it has already had many notable successes. There have been articles in all the main underground papers that can claim a 'national' circulation, items on the radio and appearances on television. In addition several Music Lib. concerts have been staged in Liverpool - gaining the attention and support of many musicians and non-musicians - including George Harrison and John and Yoko Lennon.

One can only hope that the Front will continue to grow, and that musicians will realise the need to unify through such a movement and resist the oppressive aspects of the business they have been forced to accept so far. To this extent, if you are a musician - either solo or in a band, or know of anybody who might be interested, then for more information write to Mike Evans, Music Liberation Front, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool LS 7LR (051 709 3936) - or through Phil Stringer, 153 Durham Road, Gateshead, Co. Durham, NE8 4AR (Newcastle 73092).

Phil Stringer

RUBBER RECORDS

RUBBER RECORDS is a new Record Company based entirely in Newcastle. The label was launched in October 1971 with a sampler "Take Off Your Head And Listen" containing a variety of North-East Contemporary and Traditional Folk Artists, e.g. Lindsifarne (then Alan Hull and Brethren) J.S.D. Band, and others.

The sampler is now followed by the release of 3 L.P.s by The Callies, Pete Scott, and Tony Capstick with Hedgehog Pie. A series of promotional concerts was arranged to coincide with this - the Newcastle date was March 17th, 10.45pm in the University Theatre, and the capacity audience obviously enjoyed the concert.

Everyone got a yellow 'Rubber Records' promotion hand-out, and Andy Andrews, the comper, who also records with them, wore a white 'Rubber Records' T-shirt under his pretty orange boiler suit.

Andy Andrews fits his description as an amiable idiot from Bolton - jumping about the stage - telling funny stories about late-night buses, telephone boxes and policemen, Maniacal laughter and strobe in the title song of his L.P. "Dracula Has Risen From The Grave" - a spine chilling cross between Tommy Cooper and the Bonzo Dog Band.

The Callies on first (now with a female singer) sang some of their own music and a broad range of traditional and contemporary folk. Starting as a beat group in the sixties they've moved through various styles into folk music in the last few years. Mitch, the main singer, puts everything into it - amazing to watch - and their last song "Somebody Depends On Me" was really very



ROD STEWART AT THE 'TOP RANK' SUNDERLAND.

Photo Rik Walton.

strong playing with beautiful harmonies.

Pete Scott. Now playing further out than ever around the country, touring, appearing with big names, and still playing folk clubs. A lot of people round Tyneside have seen him and he's acquiring quite a following, playing all his own work. He sings one line about wanting to be a star. It seems stardom could come his way now, if he wants it. Rubber's handouts revel in his sensitivity and pathos. On stage his mood filled the songs, and judging from the audience's applause there's no doubt he's a good singer/writer with a style attractive to a growing number of people.

The last act, Tony Capstick - mainly a traditional folk singer - appeared traditionally

beviwed and backed by Hedgehog Pie with a crate of beer. Tony Capstick has years of folk club experience, Hedgehog Pie have a great instrumented line-up. His voice, their whistle, acoustic bass, acoustic lead, violin and mandolin produced a well worked out sound. They immediately reached the audience with their brand of entertaining and skillful songs. They played a surprising range from "Rambling Royal", lively instrumentals, to Dylan's "To Romona".

The act was almost cut short through running behind schedule though...although the organisers and anxious management still rushed around, Tony Capstick and Hedgehog Pie kept playing through orders to extinguish fags, take beer off the stage and finished the

concert around two in the morning with all of them screaming "Johnny B.Goode".

The theatre was full. I enjoyed the concert, everyone else seemed to feel they'd had a really good money's worth, and it showed that Rubber have some good musicians recording with them.

Now the rubber label is here local artists have the opportunity of recording on their own doorstep, without the complications of doing everything through London, in a friendly environment, and with national promotion and distribution handled through Transatlantic. Rubber Records also run "Rubber Artists", their own Management/Agency for the "usual 10%".

Rupert Bear

Jethro Tull

Tuesday March 7 - Jethro Tull and Tir Na Nog at Newcastle City Hall.

Tir Na Nog were first to take the stage and produced a good humourous set of about one hour's length. This acoustic set produced some nice harmonies from this duo. Numbers featured by Tir Na Nog included "Blue Bottle Stew", the new single "The Lady I Love" (well worth a listen) and a solo which featured Leonard Cohen's "Bird on the Wire".

Enter five guys dressed out in trench coats and flat caps, namely Jethro Tull. Tull's line-up were Ian Anderson, Barriemore Barlow - drums, John Evans - piano and organ, Martin Barre - lead & rhythm, Jeffrey Hammond - bass. After discarding their coats, Ian Anderson announced that they were going to perform "Thick as a Brick", the new L.P. The set started with Ian on acoustic guitar backed

by Barriemore Barlow on Xylophone, suddenly the lights flashed on and Tull crashed into the number. Ian Anderson dived across the stage mockingly conducting the band as he moved around the individual musicians before going into a solo on flute which produced some real extremes, sometimes gentle and soft and now violent and screaming.

John Evans entered the solo on piano and after a short passage, we were thrown back into some heavy mind shattering rock. The set was then interrupted by a short burst of humour from the band and as the lights came on, it was discovered that a wigwam had been erected in the middle of the stage from which two guys emerged. A flash of colour as lights stabbed on and an explosion of sound as again we hurtled back into "Thick as a Brick" - powerful, heavy and rich in sound. After this incredible passage, a solo from Ian on acoustic covered by his vocals, and the set ended. Tull received a standing ovation to which they returned at least another 30 minutes of excellent sound. A performance which reminded us that Tull are not a band to be easily forgotten.

Andy

Beefheart

The last time the captain was in Newcastle he really freaked people out at the Gogo - his latest concert was no exception. John Peel introduced the show, and before we knew what was happening a ballerina was balleting (!) on stage to cries of "take 'em off" etc. Then came the captain, applause, said "meditation soothes the mind and body" in his most impeccable Indian accent, and off he walked. Following this monumental event, on floated a belly dancer and did her thing to cries of "shake 'em off" etc. The band got on after a very good bass solo from Rockette Morton in fancy suit and straw hat - lots of flash! The captain on stage was a big mountain of a man with a large black swirling coat, backed with embroidered figures, blowing wind, reminiscent of ancient mariner charts. The music was from the 'Spotlight Kid' album and was really good. 'Click Clack' produced some really fine harmonica work from the captain, the other numbers confirmed Beefheart's enormous vocal range

(all 4] octaves of it). Zoot Horn Pollo (six foot six inches tall would you believe) was great on lead, Roy Estrada (ex-Mother) working in all directions on bass, Ed Morimba on drums (wearing briefs as headgear, his hair hanging out like rabbit ears) and Winged Eel Fingerling being himself on lead guitar (featured in Alice in Blunderland).

The audience gave the captain a great reception but seemed a little quiet and stunned at the end. Beefheart's magic and promise is perhaps a little vulnerable when he's before us in the flesh. People seem to prefer the legend and the myth. This isn't to detract from a really great character who is only too human, even if unpredictable, and who leaves Muther Grumble readers the following message:

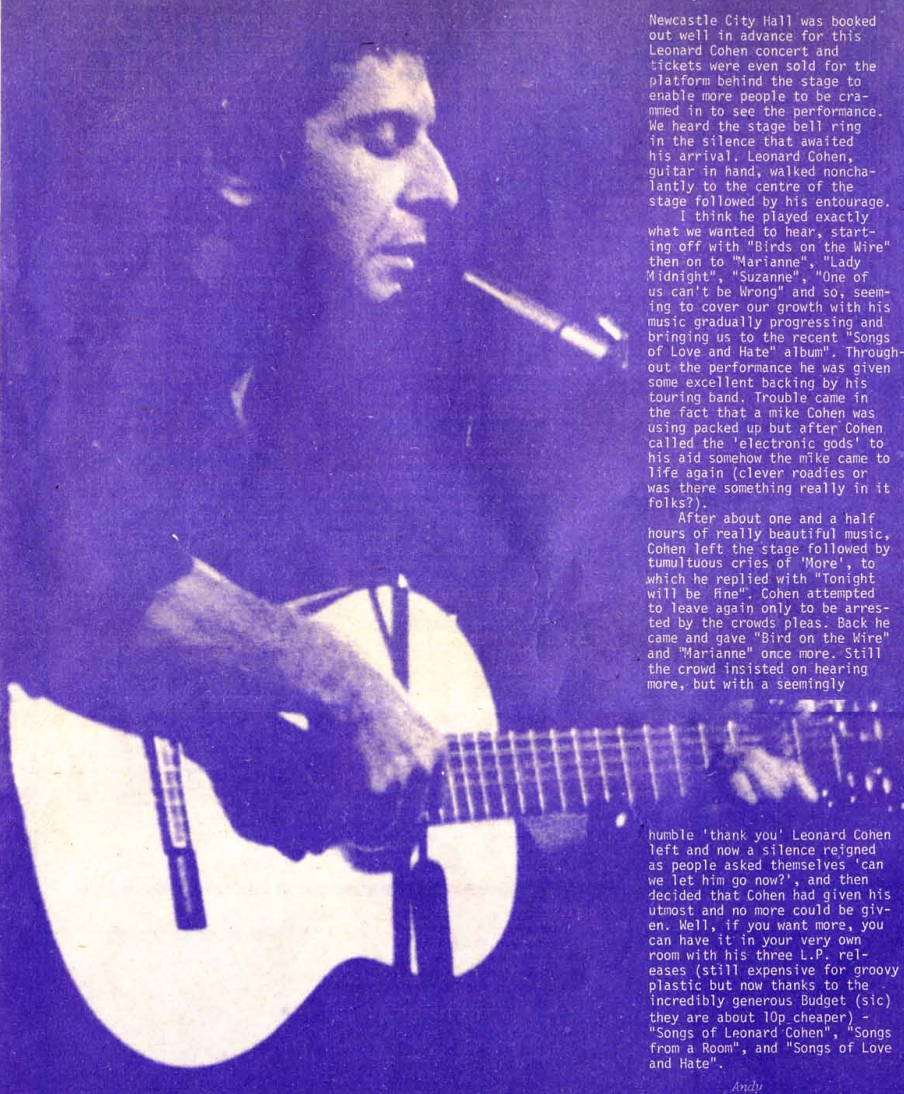
*Love over gold
Everybody's coloured,
or you wouldn't be able to
see them.*

*Don Van Vliet,
Captain.*

P.S. There will be an interview with Captain Beefheart in the next Muther Grumble.

Dave

LEONARD COHEN



Newcastle City Hall was booked out well in advance for this Leonard Cohen concert and tickets were even sold for the platform behind the stage to enable more people to be crammed in to see the performance. We heard the stage ball ring in the silence that awaited his arrival. Leonard Cohen, guitar in hand, walked nonchalantly to the centre of the stage followed by his entourage.

I think he played exactly what we wanted to hear, starting off with "Birds on the Wire" then on to "Marianne", "Lady Midnight", "Suzanne", "One of us can't be Wrong" and so, seeming to cover our growth with his music gradually progressing and bringing us to the recent "Songs of Love and Hate" album. Throughout the performance he was given some excellent backing by his touring band. Trouble came in the fact that a mike Cohen was using packed up but after Cohen called the 'electronic gods' to his aid somehow the mike came to life again (clever roadies or was there something really in it folks?).

After about one and a half hours of really beautiful music, Cohen left the stage followed by tumultuous cries of 'More', to which he replied with "Tonight will be fine". Cohen attempted to leave again only to be arrested by the crowds pleas. Back he came and gave "Bird on the Wire" and "Marianne" once more. Still the crowd insisted on hearing more, but with a seemingly

humble 'thank you' Leonard Cohen left and now a silence reigned as people asked themselves 'can we let him go now?', and then decided that Cohen had given his utmost and no more could be given. Well, if you want more, you can have it in your very own room with his three L.P. releases (still expensive for groove plastic but now thanks to the 'Incredibly generous Budget (sic) they are about 10p cheaper) - "Songs of Leonard Cohen", "Songs from a Room", and "Songs of Love and Hate".

Andy

Leonard Cohen off-stage is not the morose, introverted character that one might expect from listening to his songs and reading his poetry. A very self-assured, wary human being is what I met backstage at the City Hall. He is perhaps a good advertisement for unburdening one's troubles by way of writing and singing.

The majority of his songs are heart-searching expostions of his life and times and I asked him his intentions in making these public-

"When I perform I'm trying to present me - and us - in the hope that my audience can relate to me and perhaps sort out their own troubles. I suppose also it's a case of music soothing the savage breast."

It can be an unnerving experience appearing in front of 2500 people and I asked him how he reacts to an audience, especially in view of the fact that he has done comparatively few concerts:-

"I don't get too nervous on stage - I see how the audience is reacting to the first couple of numbers and I can adjust to this O.K. They were a very good audience tonight and we got in there pretty quickly apart from equipment hassles."

I asked him if his choice of the song "Kevin Barry" in his repertoire had that effect in Dublin where he performed recently (K. B. is an I.R.A. song with the chorus "shoot me like an Irish soldier do not hang me like a dog" addressed to the British Army):-

"I presented this song without bias to provoke people to think

- it was well received in Dublin."

His performance on stage is so similar to that on record that I asked him what were his motives behind touring - other than commercial pressures:- "This is probably my last tour and I wanted to go round and say goodbye to people quietly. I have ten to fifteen unfinished songs and when I finish the tour I'll go back to Montreal and get round to finishing them off. I will also finish a book I have been writing for two years."

Nick

WINGS O.K.

In MG 3's story about Paul McCartney's group Wings playing at a Newcastle University hall of residence, our source got its facts wrong. £201 was taken at the door, and was all given to McCartney. He gave back £40, because Havelock Hall had already laid out that much for a folk concert which they ran free, since it was packed out for the Wings concert. These are the facts brought to you courtesy of the treasurer of Havelock Hall.

BLUES

BLUES FROM YOUR BACKYARD.

A while back some musicians in Newcastle took it upon themselves to record a single. The A-side is 'Highway 61' (an old blues number), and features Jeff Lawson on bottle-neck guitar, Martin Craig on guitar and Mike Maurice on harp and vocals. The other side is Donovan's 'Season of the Witch'. The whole thing is called 'Blues from your Backyard' and is available from Mike Maurice, 3 Moorfield High, West Jesmond, N/cle NE2 3NL. Price 49p.

Pseudos Corner

Under protest I today first listened to 'Neasden' by William Rushton. It came as a great surprise to me that such a motley crew as Private Eye should produce such a masterpiece of wit and confusion as to have even the most sceptical listener painfully holding his tortured diaphragm as he - myself, in this case - sits back to listen for the tenth glorious, unwearying time to the shattering rhymes and cinematic jargonese of Mr. Rushton. On the reverse we are treated to the ringing tones and contrapuntal language of 'The Trout'. Unsurpassable value this rendition - a must for all lovers of Schubert.

One of the best musicians in Britain at the moment.

DAVID BOWIE at the 'Mayfair', Newcastle.

Photo Rik Walton.





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SOUNDS

CITY HALL, NEWCASTLE

Mon 10 Apr Tony Bennett 7.30
Tue 11 Apr Grateful Dead 7.30
Wed 12 Apr Middle of the Road 7.30
Thu 13 Apr Mott the Hoople 7.30
Tue 18 Apr Curved Air 7.30
Sat 22 Apr Glasgow Phoenix 7.30
Sun 23 Apr The Corries 7.30
Wed 26 Apr The Dubliners 7.30
Thu 27 Apr John Mayall 8.00

MAYFAIR - Newcastle

Thu 13 Apr Johnny Walker (DJ) 7.00
Wed 19 Apr Local Groups 8.00

Thur 27 Apr Stewart Henry (DJ) 7.00

Sunderland Mecca

Every Wednesday. Disco 15p

LOCARNO SUNDERLAND

Fri 28 Apr Hawkwind.

Redcar Jazz Club.

SUN 16 Apr Head, Hands and Feet.

SUN 23 Apr Stray.
SUN 30 Apr Fairport Convention.

SUN 7 May Mott the Hoople.

BISHOP AUCKLAND TECH.

FRI 14 Apr. AHMSA in concert. 25p.

FILMS

B. AUCKLAND TECHNICAL COLLEGE FILM SOCIETY
17 Apr Deep End directed by Jerzy Skolimowski 7.00
I May Belle de Jour - Bunuel 7.00

TYNESIDE FILM THEATRE

Mon 10 Apr - Wed 12 Citizen Kane & The Magnificent Ambersons. Cinema 1.
Mon 10 Apr - Sat 15 Aladdin & His Magic Lamp and City Under the Sea (Cinema 1) 1.00 & 4.00pm
Far From the Madding Crowd (Cinema 1) 7.30pm

Thu 13 Apr - Sat 15 Marat Sade (Cinema 2) 6.00 & 8.15 pm

Fri 14 Apr The Head - Cinema 1 11.00pm
Sat 15 Apr Girl on a Motorcycle and Thirty is a Dangerous Age, Cynthia 11.00pm

Sun 16 Apr I Want to Live Cinema 2 7.30pm
Mon 17 Apr - Tue 18 Volcano & A Midsummer Night's Dream - Cinema 2
Mon 17 Apr - Sat 22 The Music Lovers - Cinema 1

Wed 19 Apr - Thu 20 Hamlet - Cinema 2.
Fri 21 Apr Curse of the Werewolf and King Kong versus Godzilla - Cinema 1 11.00pm

Fri 21 Apr - Sat 22 Fidelio - Cinema 2 - 8.00
Sat 22 Apr Every Home Should Have One and Footballers End - Cin 1 - 11.00pm
Sun 23 Wild River 7.30
Mon 24 - Sat 29 The Music Lovers (Cin 1) Husbands (Cin 2)
Fri 28 Dennis Wheatley Double Bill - The Devil Rides Out and The Lost Continent (Cin 1) 11.00pm
Sat 29 ALL NIGHT UNDERGROUND (Cin 1) 11.00 75p
Sun 30 Twelve Angry Men Cinema 2 7.30

Dovecote Arts Centre Stockton.

SUN 9 Apr I Am Curious Yellow.
SUN 16 Apr. Dillinger is Dead.

SUN 30 Apr Taxi to Tobruk. 7.30p.m.
 Tickets 30p, 25p, 7.30p.m.
 Tickets 30p, 25p, 7.30p.m.

TRAD JAZZ

Mondays Park Hotel, Tynemouth - Bobby Carr Band.
Tuesdays Travellers Rest - River City Jazzmen.
Wednesdays Balmbra, Cloth Market, N/cle - Barry Soulsby's Saratoga Jazzmen - FREE.
Thursdays Diamond Inn, Ponteland - Vieux Carre Jazzmen.
Wedsheaf, New York - Jam Session.
Sundays Hardwick Hall Hotel Sedgfield.

THEATRE

TYNESIDE THEATRE CO. at the University Theatre.
Thu Apr 6 - Sat 29 The Cherry Orchard (Chekhov) Eves. 7.30. Sats. 8.00. Matinee 3.00pm Sat Apr 20.
Thu May 4 - Sat 20 Antigone (Sophocles) Eves. 7.30. Sats. 8.00 Student Preview May 3rd. May 8 - 20 DALTA Experimental Theatre Tour. Tickets and further details from Un. Theatre.

N/cle People's Theatre.

MON 10-SAT 15 Apr. Rattle of a Simple Man. by Charles Dyer. 40p. 7.00p.m. (7.30p.m. Tue, Wed)



FOLK

FOLK - N/cle & Gateshead
Mondays Balmbra, Cloth Market 8.00
 Newton Park Hotel, Benton Rd, Benton. 8.00
 Swan Hotel, Heworth 8.00
Tuesdays Bridge Hotel, St Nicholas St.
 Corner House Hotel, Stephenson Rd, Heaton 7.00
 Marquis of Blandford, Westgate Rd.
 New Darnell Traditional Club, off Barrack Rd 8.00
 Balmbra, Cloth Mkt FREE C & W night
 Columba CIU Club, Felling
Wednesdays Honeysuckle, Coatsworth Rd, Gateshead-Blues 8.00
 N/cle Morris Men, West Jesmond Primary School, Forsyth Rd. Dancers & musicians wanted 7.00
Thursdays Chillingham Hotel, Chillingham Rd 7.30
 Bridge Hotel, St. Nicholas St.
 New Cannon Inn, Low Fell.

Folk, Blues & Contemp.
Fridays New Cannon Inn, Durham Rd, Low Fell.
Saturdays Victoria & Comet, Neville St, N/cle
Sundays Gosforth Hotel, Salters Rd, Gosforth

FOLK - Tyneside/Wearside
Mondays Bay Hotel, Cullercoats.
 Royal Hotel Ballroom, Hexham.
 Ye Olde Black Bull Inn, Wylam
 Catholic Club, Cecil St, N. Shields 7.30
Tuesdays Golden Cock Hotel, Darlington.
 Newy
 Newton Hall Hotel, Frammelgate Moor.
 Cannon Inn, Coast Rd, N. Shields. 7.15
 Kings Head, Shotley Bridge.
 Prudhoe Folk Song Club.

Robbie Burns Hotel, Houghton le Spring.
 Dun Cow Inn, Seaham.
 Percy Arms, Tynemouth.
Wednesdays Beaconsfield Arms, Barnard Castle.
 3 Tuns Inn, Birtley.
 Blackbird Inn, Ponteland.
 Cleveland Bay, Eston.
 West Wylam Inn, Prudhoe.
 George & Dragon, S/land.
 Bay Hotel, Whitburn, S/land. c & w.
 7 stars, Ponteland 7.00
Thursdays City of Durham Inn, Durham
 Plough, Ellington.
 Merchant Navy Club, S/land
 Victoria Hotel, Whitley Bay.
 Black Bush, Village Lane, Washington.
 Northumberland Coll. of Educ., Ponteland.
Fridays Ship Hotel, Wylam.
 Lamplglass Club, Ashington.
 Londonderry Hotel, S/land.
 George & Dragon, S/land.
 Red Lion Inn, Trimdon Vill.
 Viking Inn, Jarrow.
 South Tyne Folk & Blues, Station Hotel, S. Shields.
Sundays Folk Forum, Castle Hotel, Market Pl. Bishop Auckland.
 Dun Cow Inn, Seaham.
 Marsden Inn, S. Shields.

Hartlepool Folk Club

Sun 16 Apr Peter & Christine Coe.
Sun 23 Apr Either Rich Fenwick or Ying Tong John.
Sun 30 Apr Diz Dizley

Station Inn, Amble

Dance every Friday - live groups.
Hope & Anchor, Alnmouth
 Folk group every Sunday & floor guest.
Victoria Hotel, Whitley Bay. Folk Club every Sun. 7.30 - 10.30
King's Head, Shotley Brg
 Folk Club, Thurs Nights.

EXHIBITIONS

Geolfrith Arts Centre, 27 Frederick St., S/land.
Apr II - 29 Dianne Tammes, Photographs.

Spectro Arts Workshop, 10 Station Rd, Whitley Bay.
Apr II - 22 Masques & Metaphors - an environment by Sue Aylwin.
Apr 16 - 29 Norwegian Photography. Whitley Bay Library.
Apr 25 - May 20 Photos by Allan Dutton.

Apr 27 Mike Horowitz (poet)
 Pete Scott (folk singer)
 Bay Hotel, Cullercoats 7.30

PUPPETS

Darlington Civic Theatre

18-22 April 7.30p.m.
 The Da Silva "Treasure Island" a puppet spectacular. Tickets 50p, 40p, and 30p.

Dovecote Arts Centre. Stockton.

SAT 22 Apr. Cap And Bells Puppet Theatre. Tickets 30p, 25p.

BICKERSHAW

FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS & MUSIC May 5, 6 & 7.

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 Groups include:- GRATEFUL DEAD, NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE, DR. JOHN, (all on sunday). Others are COUNTRY JOE, DONOVAN, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC, AMERICA, FAMILY, KINKS, INCREDIBLE STRING BAND, DION, many more.
 Theatre groups include:- HANA-NO MASK, CERVANTES, LOW MOAN SPECTACULAR, INCUBUS, and many more.
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