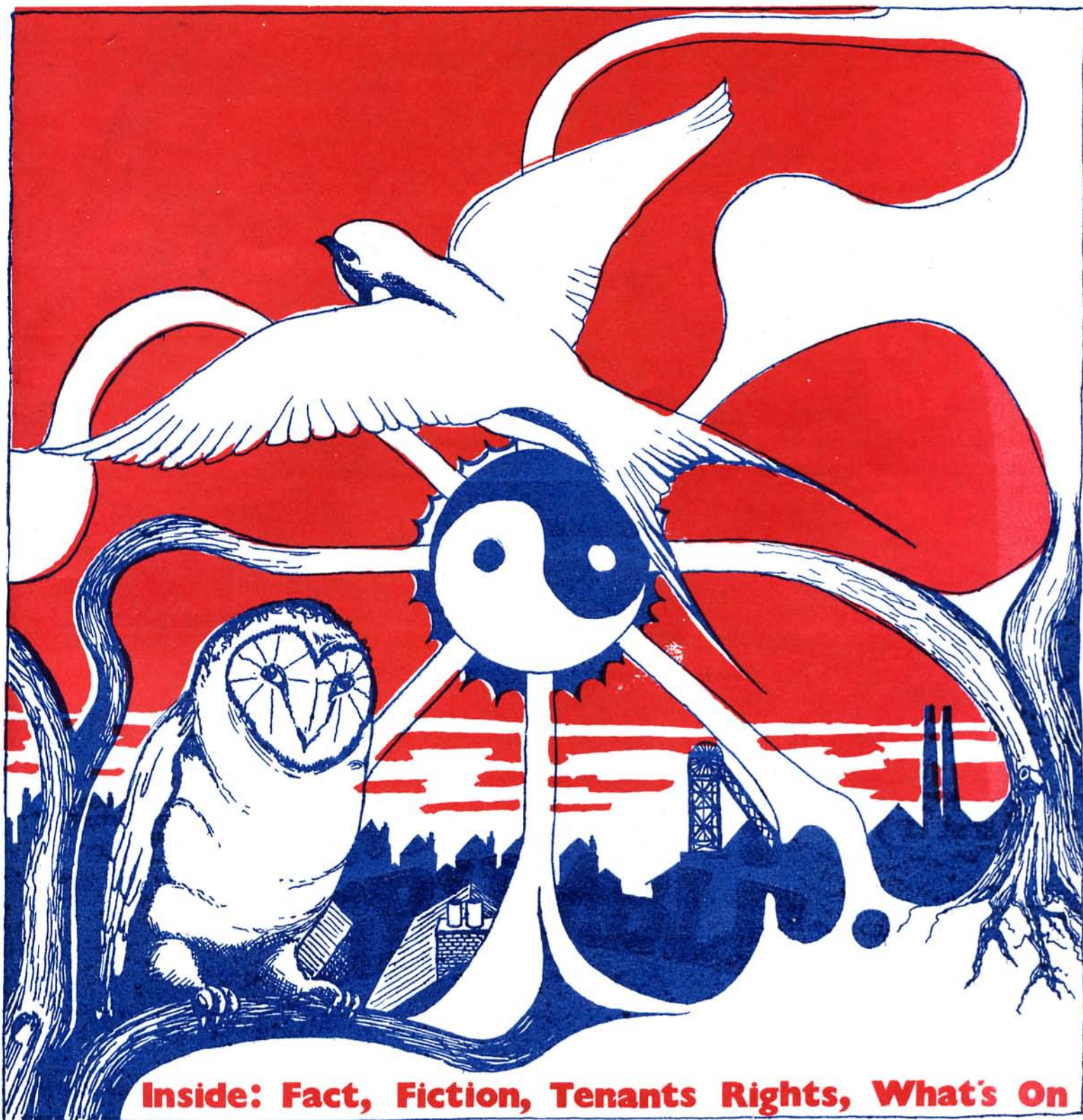


THE
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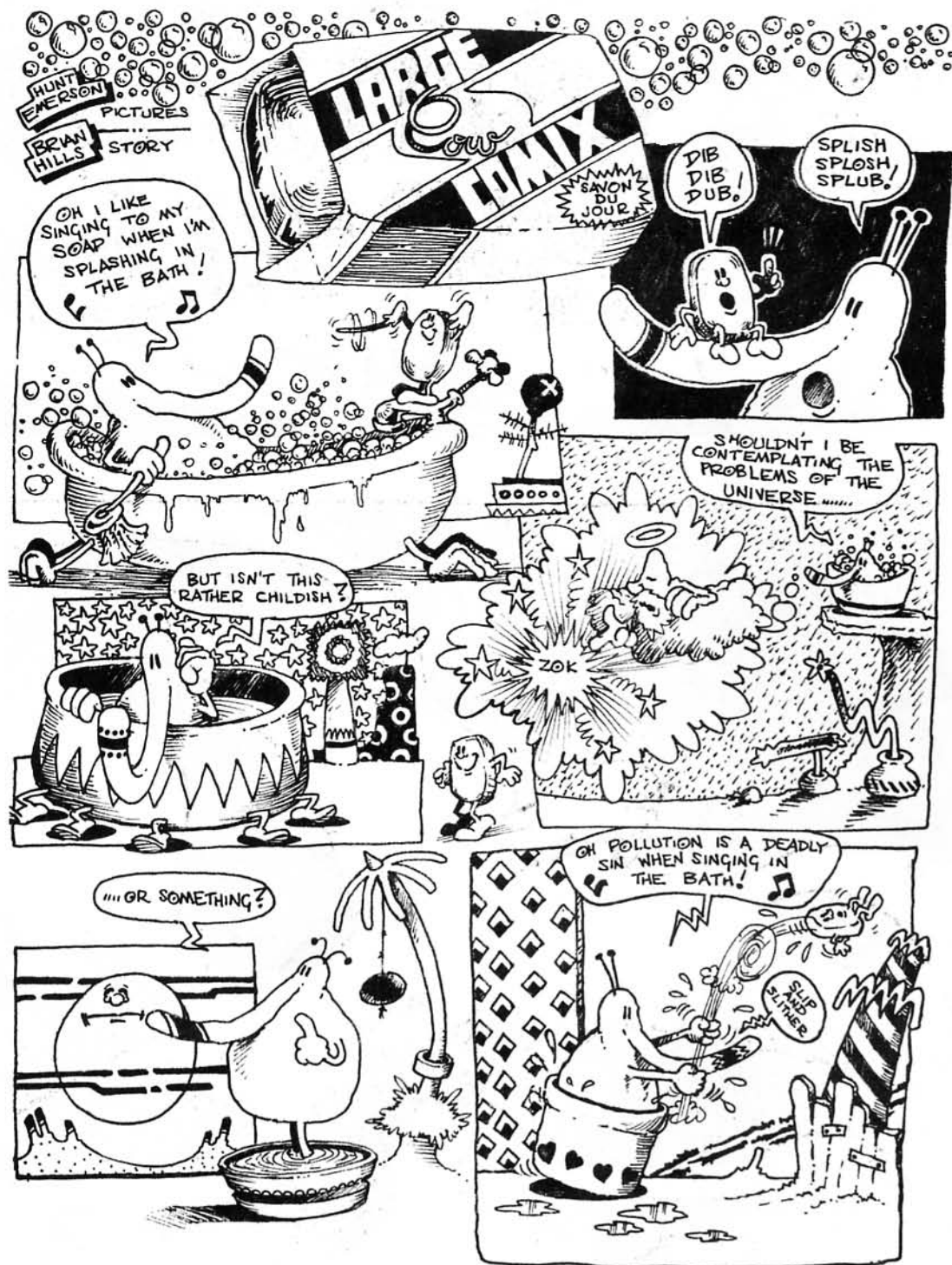
MUTHER GRUMBLE

OCT/NOV
'73 No.16

10p



Inside: Fact, Fiction, Tenants Rights, What's On



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The following are honorary members of the Muther Grumble Editorial Collective;

Edward Heath, Don, Bill, Sue, Mike, Janis, Tristan, Rich (for the amazing covers), Andy, Chris, Rik, Pete, Tony, Tom, Bob, IRON (for the typewriter), Graham, Country Joe and Lou Reed (for the sounds), and Polly (our parrot).

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The Syndicate ... Out of Business

Funny, isn't it, how the proverbial story never dies. The last three articles MG's written on Godfather Cunningham were all published in the belief that they'd be the last, for surely no-one could be so nasty as to take up so much space so many times, and still cause surprises. But don't underestimate delinquents.

For anyone who hasn't heard of the Godfather, a brief introduction. Until recently, Andrew Cunningham was the most powerful man in the north-east. Alderman of Durham County Council, member of the National Executive of the Labour Party, Chairman of the Durham Police Authority, head of the Northern Region of the General and Municipal Workers Union (biggest in the north-east) and Chairman of a dozen or so powerful county council and public committees, this zealot of the revolution and buddy of John R.I.P. Poulson, respected architect and business man, had the area swinging by its toes. Until, one day, he was arrested and charged with conspiring to make lots of money by fixing building contracts.



The Godfather

But that's not the end of the story. By no means. His case hasn't come up

yet, and I'm sure he's doing a lot of work to prove that the charges against him are a complete frame-up and that the fascist police and capitalist press have made the whole thing up in an attempt to discredit him. Sympathising with him, we at Grumble, had decided to offer him some advice and urge him to hire a Public Relations man - namely his good friend Dan 'Spiro Agnew' Smith, who's had a lot of experience with image-building - namely his own. But just before we could get our advice to the Godfather we discovered that Spiro himself had been arrested on the same trumped up charge as the Godfather, which just goes to prove that we shouldn't underestimate the lengths the police will go to, to silence people they feel are a threat to their stability.



Spiro

That two such dedicated socialists could have been involved in corrupt practices is completely unimaginable. Dan, after all, is the former chairman of the Northern Economic Planning Council and the Peterlee and Aycliffe joint new town development corporation as well as past chairman of Newcastle City Council; and the name 'Mr. Newcastle' which was given to him during



Freda (rear view)

his attempts to turn the centre of the city into a glittering mass of office blocks, is dear to the heart of all the people living in the slums of Elswick and the Scotswood Road whom he was so very concerned about.

But this is not the first time Spiro's socialist principles have led him into trouble with the police. A few years ago, Scotland Yard tried to persuade a court that he'd corruptly influenced Councillor Sydney Sporle - leader of the Labour Group of Wandsworth Council (London) and leader of the council - to use his P.R. companies. Comrade Sporle got 6 years but, luckily, Spiro managed to prove his obvious innocence.

But yet more foul things have befallen the luckless duo. Once society has hooked its claws into you there's no letting go. To rub salt into the aching wounds, news has just come through that Andy's sweet wife Freda - named after the Shields ferry - has also been caught in the net and is being threatened with Holloway on the same charge as her men friends. This is an obvious attempt by MI5 at weakening the psyche of the Godfather and Spiro - you know - admit all and we'll make sure she gets off lightly, resist and we'll make sure she's the gov'nor's piece of fluff.

Don't give in comrades. Smuggle any letters out of your cells and we'll print them.

(Muther Grumble is starting a 'Save the Godfather, Spiro, Shields Ferry' defence fund. All donations to the MG Pension Scheme, C/O the Junta, Santiago.)

Council Responsible For Vandalism

If you don't live in Durnam City, or if you didn't read the last issue of Grumble, you might like to know that Flass Vale is one of the few nice open spaces left in the city, and that a firm of builders - Wilson's (Spenny-moor) Ltd. - are intending to build a number of highly priced and very un-scenic houses all over it.

Although this development was planned in the early 1960's, no-one realised what was going on until the builders began to move in their bulldozers about two months ago. There was instant uproar and lots of people started to work really hard to try and save the Vale. People of all kinds of views were agreed about the need to preserve the old part of Durham and, surely, the only part of the town where badgers and foxes live.

Although there was a public meeting it didn't really look as though anything could be done to stop the building because planning permission had been given and had been unopposed for almost ten years. However, something seems to be stirring in the deep labyrinths of the Council Chambers.

Councillor Peter Hepburn of the County Planning Committee blamed the City Council for the huge cock-up (not his words) that had occurred, and accused them of shirking their responsibilities in the matter. There have been proposals which involve stopping the building, but these involve paying the builders compensation which could be as much as £200,000 so that they would make as much as they would from the development without doing a hand's turn. The County Plan-

ning Officer said that he had received a request to take the matter to the department of the Environment but didn't seem to think that it would achieve much. Both the City and County Councils agree that it would be the ideal solution for the City to acquire the Vale and make it public land, but neither Council is prepared to pay the cost, each blaming the other of scrounging and neglect.

While the misers of public money are squabbling, what's happening to Flass Vale? You should go and have a look for yourself. It could be your last chance to see trees and grass in Flass.

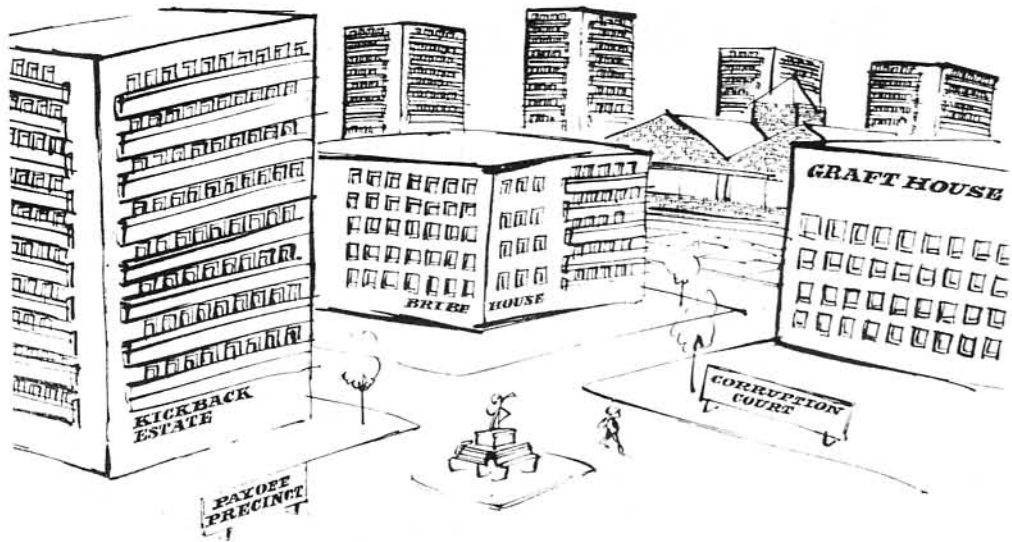
"Local authorities over the years have been partly responsible for vandalism." from Councillor J. Ramshaw who is pressing for the Council to acquire more open spaces for recreational purposes. How about the Vale then?

More

Tower Blocks?

Recently, an enlightened property company called Tweed Investments paid £250,000 for the Horsley Hill Stadium in South Shields. This derelict heap of old buildings was formerly a greyhound stadium, garage and bowling alley and had been standing empty for some time. South Shields Football Club had hoped to acquire the ground as, from the end of this season, they are going to be short of a ground, but, money won and now, Tweed Investments propose to build a nice new supermarket for the site, two sixteen storey tower blocks of flats (didn't anybody tell them?) and some executive homes for the South Shields jet set.

So enlightened are the members of Tweed Investments that they even employed a gentleman whose job it was to call on every house in the area and explain that if anyone objected to their proposals they would build noisy discotheques, dance halls and car parks. They even provided a petition for everyone to sign. Of course, this may sound like blackmail and, of course, it is completely without basis in fact since any dev-



elopment would require permission; but all's fair in the hard world of business and to hell with the people.

As it turns out, this approach produced exactly the opposite reaction. Almost everyone in the area has objected to this proposal, particularly those who were antagonised by Tweed Investments representative.

Since a considerable housing shortage exists in South Shields, few people would object to residential development on the site (a great improvement on the present mess). But tower blocks are not the best means of satisfying this demand (except, of course that it allows about three times as

many flats to be crammed on to the site). The supermarket, large enough to draw trade from those in the town centre, would cause a reduction in standards elsewhere and best serve the lucky people with cars since the site is not exactly served by busses. All very well if you own a car. But since South Shields has one of the lowest car ownership ratios in the country, what about the rest who would have to put up with lower standards elsewhere?

Anyway, the council is churning all this over and what the guardians of the public will decide is anyone's guess.

Kids to get Baths

To follow on from last month's article about the Spennymoor kids' demo., there was a public meeting in the Town Hall, on Monday, September 3rd. The meeting was called so that the council could explain their ideas about a sports and social centre and for the people who preferred a swimming bath to put forward their reasons. The meeting was packed. It was incredible that a public issue had raised so much interest in normally complacent Spennymoor, and the support for the baths was very strong and very noisy.

The council issued very useful little pamphlets explaining the

layout and possible uses of the centre and put forward a number of good reasons why this was preferable, but they couldn't escape the fact that if the people wanted a swimming bath then they should have one. However, the way that the council put their case was a bit disconcerting, there were a lot of half-truths put forward which were only revealed by shrewd and persistent questioning by people who knew what they were talking about, and once or twice it looked as though the meeting had been called to pull the wool over peoples' eyes. The Chairman kept stressing that if they dev-

iated from the original project they would lose a grant from the Sports Council. It later turned out that this grant wouldn't be lost and anyway the grant was only going to amount to about one fifteenth of the cost.

As things turned out, the council decided the next day to build the sports centre.....plus a swimming bath (although its just a small one). Just goes to show doesn't it, that if you want anything you have to fight tooth and nail, and even then they usually give you short measure; however, its better than sitting and hoping it'll drop on your plate.

Join the Army; travel to exotic, distant lands; meet exciting, unusual people and kill them.

Straight from the parrots' mouth...

Just to cheer you up and reassure you that the country's in good hands, here are a few quotes from the notorious Brigadier Kitson, Chief of Staff of the British Army; (quotes taken from Bitman 7)

"The selection of a good cause often proposes severe problems to the organisers of subversion." (because there are so many to choose from)

"The aim of the government is to regain if necessary and then retain the allegiance of the population, and for this purpose it must eliminate those engaged in subversion. But in order to eliminate the subversive party and its...supporters, it must gain control of the population."

"There is of course an element of truth in the idea that an effective intelligence system could be used to jeopardise the freedom of the individual if it fell into the wrong hands, but the danger posed by subversion unchecked by good intelligence is far greater."

"Every effort should be made to retain the respect and awe of the civilian community...If an impression can be built up that although the troops have used little force so far, they might at any moment use a great deal more, the people will be warv."

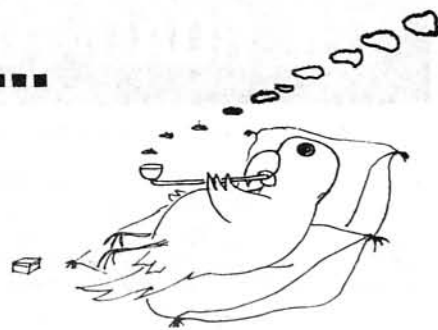
Rumour has it that Teeside Police have recently been issued with a new weapon which has many uses. It can fire C.S. gas, rubber bullets and shot. The barrell is about 20 inches long (remember what sawn of shotguns can do) and, according to one source "it'll blow a man in half at seven feet". Hope they'll never have to use it.

The Commune Movement exists to create a federal society of communities wherein everyone shall be free to do whatever they wish provided only that they do not transgress the freedom of others.

Membership is for people or groups who wish to help actively to build a federal society of communities. Members produce and receive the journal, write and receive newsletters, and hold regional and national meetings to further the growth of communities.

To join, send £1 for a journal subscription, plus 20p, and seven stamped addressed envelopes, (size 9" x 4") so that you can receive newsletters, to: Richard Secombe, 3, Longfellow Avenue. Bath, Somerset BA2 4SJ.

Recently, one of our correspondents was charged, in Newcastle, with "fly posting". The said poster was affixed to a hoarding board around a building site on Northumberland Street, Newcastle. The penalty for the incident was a £10 fine (one poster). Therefore, if H.M. Government want to boost their revenue, surely at one poster for £10, somebody like the Guru Maharaj ji would certainly help to fill the coffers!



SITUATIONS VACANT:- VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A. (Good Prospects for Promotion due to Forthcoming Retirement).

The succesful applicant will probably be aged about 55-60, with a good and honest character and will have had previous experience in the running of a large concern. He should have come from a good working class, negro-japanese-polish-irish family and be prepared to take full responsibility for answering the telephone.

The position is monthly paid and includes luncheon vouchers. Hard graft will be rewarded.

Apply:- R. Nixon, Esq., O.B.E. (V.D. and Scar), White House, Washington, U.S.A., Tel. Watergate '72.

Talking about inflation and the rising cost of living and interest rates, what about the interest the government must be paying.

The amount must be phenomenal and I bet it supports at least half a dozen millionaires. Especially when you consider that they still haven't started to repay any of the capital borrowed for the Crimean War (at least 90 years ago). They're still paying interest on this money. How many wars have they borrowed money for since; how much of your money is just going to pay interest for all of this?



GUY FAWKES
THE ONLY PERSON
TO EVER ENTER
PARLIAMENT WITH
TRULY GOOD
INTENTIONS.

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM — — — —

Free
Society

Chile
Greece
Ulster
U.S.A.



No left turn

So Allende has been murdered. They finally did it, the Brotherhood of International fascism/conservatism/toryism has murdered another leader of human rights. Thousands of people have died in the battles (battles?) in the slaughters of the military take-over in Chile. They are still dying. Trade union leaders are being executed daily, internments, beatings, sporadic fighting, curfew, martial law and all the other benefits of capitalism return to blind power continue.

Allende was the worlds first democratically elected Marxist leader and as the law of averages go it seems not to be the most long lived of careers. In this great western civilization of ours it seems you may as well live by the great Tory ideals of, look after No. 1: I'm alright Jack, fuck you: sympathy is weakness: get to the top no matter who you stand on, kick, kill: because they don't change their programming for no-one, but no-one.

Remember Spain? They are the ones who went to South America and slaughtered a whole race. The rulers of South America are Spanish and the workers are the race they nearly wiped out. Remember Spain. In 36 Franco and his landowners (the money-holders) with the help of Hitler overthrew the democratically elected socialist government. 2 million people died.

This time Allende had even more formidable odds against him. Not only was there the ultra right wing land owners/aristocracy and middle class totally opposing and hating him, he also had American and English tory money barons who had been exploiting the land and people against him and, baby, they are still.

After election Allende did what few politicians do he honoured his promised nationalisation of foreign held investments equipment, mines money, massive housing projects for the abysmally poor working class: major land reform returning land to the people of the land, but he was beset by difficulties. The civil service was too corrupt to be able to carry out its work.

Sales embargos by countries which lost equipment, England and U.S.A. and money (mainly money; that which they were making and were expecting to make). Cutting off American aid and food which caused serious shortages leading to middle class resentment (The No Caviar Blues) which was worsened by a strike by right wing lorry owners and transportation in Chile is a major need. Chile is 3,000 miles long but only 120 miles wide at its broadest part and ranges in climate from tropical to sub-arctic, mountain to desert. As I said he had problems.

American and European wanted him out and with the help of the Army (the Espano recruiting squads of dumb fascists from the middle-class). Nixon knew of the planned coup days before it happened. Washington originally expected the coup on the Monday but it was postponed a day till final plans with the police were completed. Nixon knew it was going to happen, under their beautiful law doesn't that make him guilty of complicity to murder? And Heath what did he know? And Rio Tinto Zinc? Our so righteous leaders in complicity to murder for money. The marrowless philosophy of conservatism collapses.

The Spanish government recognized the fascist takeover almost immediately and shortly after with a

whimper the English Tories "We support the fascist takeover with the resultant murderous scourges of socialist supporters" We support the overthrow of a democratic elected government by terrorists blah, blah, sodden blah." (Ireland is a green and pleasant land in the atlantic) Get them back to work. Before Allende arose (1971) we, no not us them the tory companies exported £22 million of goodies and imported £48 million Oh it would really break their hearts lose that; couldn't trade you see, after they nationalised English holdings, that's unethical.

In these troubled times could it happen here? 100 miles away bullets fly. France is a police state. America owns West Germany, the rich rule Italy and Portugal, Spain is a fascist state. Big money is getting scared. If it can't admit capitalism has failed would it try would it try to build towards 1984 (has it started?) And if it came the year of the Pig in England, my friend, with whom would you stand?



Para-military squad of Chilian fascists recruited to terrorise workers.

Watch

the Skies

The photograph shown was taken in Los Angeles by a member of a well known British band. It is the first publication of this excellent U.F.O. photograph.

As I tried to put across in the first article* I believe that U.F.O.'s are signs of the existence of God. A statement which is open to a thousand arguments but space will not allow them. For this I apologise but ask you to bear with me.

Before the Romans came to this wooded land there dwelt a strange and ancient race. Strange mounds and stones of mystical significance covered the land. Even today 40,000 mounds and barrows (earthworks) and over 900 stone circles remain and how many must have been destroyed? This land I think must have been Atlantis, because the builders of our ancient monuments were a highly civilized race. One Professor of English at Oxford said of a stone circle in the Shetlands that whoever built it was in advance of our civilization. Of course you'll find it hard to find an archaeologist who even believes Atlantis existed, but greater men have said it existed and I'll follow them and intuition.

When the Romans invaded they found a race of heathens who believed in

earth forces and magical persons, who worshipped stones as representatives of God. Within a couple of hundred years the original race retreated to Scotland, Wales, Devon and Cornwall and the only books to come down to us are of Roman date. And they can tell us enlightening things to mention two.....

Around the year 440 St. Patrick and a fellow monk came upon Inys-Wittrin (Glastonbury Tor) after climbing the thickly wooded hill (now treeless) they found a ruined oratory. After a diligent search they found an old, partly destroyed volume of the Acts of the Apostles and the works and deeds of Saints Faganus and Deruvianus and in the back of the book notes saying that the oratory had been built by the

said saints "from Revelation of Jesus Christ and dedicated to Saint Michael, the Arch Angel" after finding this treasure" I and my brother Wellias fasted 3 months, engaging in prayer and watching " Watching, watching for what?

Nearer home Saint Cuthbert while at the Kobey at St. Abbs Head while the others slept would go out at night "to watch and pray". To watch. To watch for heavenly signs?

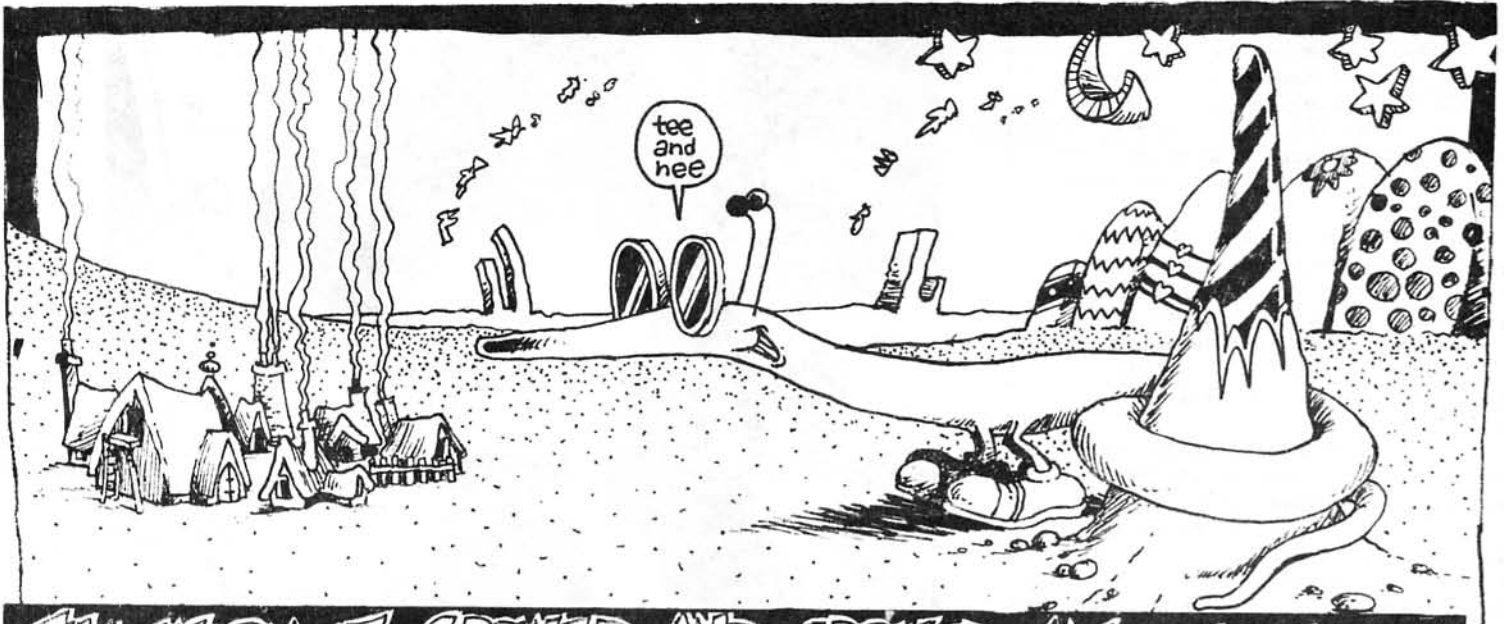
The photograph you see, I believe is a heavenly sign from God or whatever you conceive to be.

Unfortunately here I must finish but would welcome any correspondence and also descriptions of any local sightings with dates etc., if possible.

Watch the skies.

Bob

*See last issue (M.G. No. 15)



**THE WORM IT GROWED AND GROWED AND GROWED -
IT GROWD AN AAFUL SIZE!
IT HAD GREET BIG TEETH AND A GREET BIG COB
AND GREET BIG COCCLY EYES!**

HUNT
EMERSON

I Was A Teenage Letter-poster

The only proven danger in smoking cannabis is that it's illegal. The following is a true account by a 16 year old boy which illustrates that statement well. It is particularly significant in that it isn't a rare occurrence but something that happens much too often.

I had just washed some clothes in the sink and put them in front of the fire to dry. "They'll be okay for 5 minutes" I thought as I left to post a letter.

But, little did this innocent helpless child realize that today, Monday 24th September was going to be one of the most traumatic of his short, innocent life!

Having posted my letter and being new to Shields I was interested in finding a way home through the back lanes. I looked down one which appeared to be a dead end so I turned round to walk back up the road when an unobstrusive bottle green mini pulled over and a young guy with black wavy hair did a pretty bad batman-leaves-the-batmobile-at-speed imitation.

Thrusting an I.D. card up my nose, our pseudo "caped crusader" gabbled "Pleesoficer wosyername?"

"Uy?" asked I, bright as usual.

"Doan mess uz about", added the short "Pleesmans" somewhat burlier companion. (At this point in the proceedings I feel it is my duty to add that this is a fair example of that well known tactic where you get one "reasonable" tyke, sorry, type, who observes that "We've all got our jobs to do etc., etc., bullshit, bullshit.....) And the other guy (normally what is affectionately known as a 'heavy') is all for hammering you straight away. (Unlike the other sly get, who, in his missinformed state tries to lull you into a false sense of security!)

The heavy is the type who hovers in the background breathing "Yuh Bugeryuh" and doing a fairly passable imitation of Gary Glitter (on a good night). He also occasionally finds it necessary to yell "Old me back, old me back, al kill im, so elp me."

This ploy of confusing the "Prisoner" was widely used by the Nazi's so it must be good! (!)

And now back to the story:
Weed: "Wosyer name?"
Heavy: "Yeh, cumon den."
Me: "Duhher...erm! (?) wosuplike, and I know me rights."
Heavy: "Yer've got no rights. Now. Wots your name?"
Me: "I'm saying nothing. Am I being arrested?"
Heavy: "Wots yer name? Yeh bugeryuh".....(Weed - calm down now, don't scare the kid, alright alright son. Now come on. Wosyer-

name?)
Me: "Gibbergibber, twitchtwitch - you're just tryna scare me. Am I being arrested? I've done nothing so you can't arrest me anyway." (So there!) (?)
Heavy: "Now look ear".....

Weed: (Cutting in) "all right, we've reason to believe you're in possession of dangerous drugs, Now. Wotsyername????????(Heavy: "Yeah, das rite.....Duh?") (They had reasonable grounds to believe so, after all I have got long hair!)
Me: "Why me? Worav I done?"
Weed: "Aw cum on"(be a sport?)

Young lad walks through a back alley to avoid police officer!
"Cum on Son."

Me: "Ey!"(Duh) (?) (I saw nothing wrong in this, however he seemed outraged!)

Heavy: "Cum on get in the car." (Unmarked green mini).

Me: "Come off it. lets see your I.D." (Weed shows I.D. whilst heavy shoves me into de van)
In the van, heavy drives whilst

weed sits leering. Heavy is mad.
Me: "I'm allowed one phone call if I'm arrested"
Heavy: "Yer'll get a phone call when I say so. Wosyername?????? (car swerves violently)
Me:.....(false name)
Heavy: "Where jalive?"
Me:.....(false address)
Heavy:"Cum on. There's no such place. NOW CUMON!"
Me: "(Gulp, Kringe, kringe)"
Heavy looks round for an answer. car swerves violently. Weed kringes and looks uncomfortably like a child with a wet nappy thenceforth.

Meanwhile (back at the ranch) I'm attempting the impossible and trying to get comfortable in the back. The swerve knocks me against the doors. Heavy spins round like he's been goosed with a rattlesnake and rams a somewhat podgy finger into my mouth.

"Trying to jump out!!!!" He squeals, outraged.

I kower against doors - "Come off it man."

Heavy: "Never mind that."
(Rest of journey passes. We arrive at crummy back yard of pig pen. Then on to a bare 3rd floor room marked 'Interview Room' (Alias Dracula's tomb). I am sat down in a chair. (Cont. next page,



Heavy: "Now cum on."

(Me think "Hello sailor, come out with another 'come on' like that an I'll smash yer face in!")

Me: "I want to make a phone call" (winge, winge)

Heavy: "When ah say. Where do you live?"

Weed: "How old are you?"

Me: (Konfused) "Erm!"

Both: "COME ON!"

Me: "....." "Okay....." "I'm living at....." "till I get a flat. An I'm 16."

Weed: "Why d'you lie, uh?"

Me: (Think - das right tell de world)

"Er...er...(!) ..Ah! I was scared (!)

...erm, yeh, I was scared!..(The answer he wanted)

Heavy: (Leering) "Ha!"

Me: (Think - asshole)

(Exit heavy.)

Weed: (sits on desk) "Now look son, just across the road from the town hall live 2 of the biggest pushers in town so when we saw you in the lane we thought you were holding for them. And you did give a false name and address." (So there)..

Me: 'I know my rights, I want a phone call'.

(Heavy re-enters, I wince in frustration) "When I say so." he squeals.

Me: (Brightly) "Ah, then am I under arrest? Coz if I am I am allowed a phone call"

Heavy: (Tres de la heavily) "you're here aren't you????? and you'll get a phone call when I say so!!!"

Me: (Think, up yours too, fat ponce)

I had not been told my rights (Anything you say, etc., etc.) so legally I was not arrested. They are allowed to search for dope though and I could have been searched in the street if I had not been unco-operative, heavy's reluctance, however, shows that all was not correct!

Weed: "Empty your pockets."

Heavy: "Aye, dasright. Do im thouroughly, shoes an all" (Exit heavy studying notes made during 'Interview') Pockets - empty, empty.

Weed: (Examining contents of my pockets) "You know you could have made it a lot easier on yourself if you hadn't started on about your rights." (Weed then frisks me and examines a small piece of kleenex tissue (Used to wipe my occasionally somewhat snotty nose) (true).

Me: "I only asked for my rights coz I'm allowed one phone call."

Heavy: (From another room) "When I say!!! Who'd you call anyroad?"

Me: "....." (I named a good friend who would have raised holy hell if I'd been held illegally)

About here I feel it is my duty to inform our younger readers that legal rights, as such, only apply when in the sight of that Great but gullible JoePublic. When you enter a pig pen in the company of 2 or more burly policemen, a wicked fairy (Called Heath) casts a spell which automatically removes all your human, and indeed, humane rights. There now, doesn't that thrill yer?.

(Enter heavy reading notes)"I re

TO: Chief Superintendent Martin White, Central Intelligence Unit, C/O New Scotland Yard, Victoria Street, SW1.

Sirs,

It has come to my attention that a list of names of suspected cannabis smokers has been prepared. I suspect that my name has been included and I wish to know if my suspicions are correct. If so may I register immediately my disapproval of this pernicious dossier and my protest at my inclusion in it. I intend to have my name removed from this list and will take the matter up with my Solicitors and my MP.

Name.

Address.

OR if you prefer to your MP or IT We will pass them on to CARO for use in the battle to change the laws.

Sirs,

I understand that a register of Suspected Cannabis Smokers is now being compiled. As a conscientious citizen I must ask that you include my name upon this list. I have been a Cannabis Smoker and will continue to use the plant in all it's glorious forms.

Name.

Address.

Note. Please reserve an early seat for me when you have the mass arrests. I would prefer to be in a camp near to Seaside Mountains Lakes and Forests. Tick which preferred.

checked, you haven't got a record anyway."

Me: (Think, geraway! bright boy! I could have told you that ages ago, if you'd asked (If I had a record it wouldn't be in my name anyway)

Me: (To Weed) "What am I here now for then?"

Weed: (Fingers poker dice from my pocket) "These could be loaded..going equiped to cheat?"

Me: (grinning)"dats a laff! (Hah!)

D'you wanna game to find out?"

Weed: (reddening) "Duhno, no, erm.

Yes! (Points to door key) going equiped to steal, it might not be yours!"

Weed: (Getting cocky & frustrating)

"You better swot up on your law, you're not allowed a phone call, (so there?)" (This was only coz I was not legally arrested, However, I must stress that in situations like this it is best not to argue coz fighting a case is hard enough but fighting it from a hospital bed is even worse.)

Me: "What a lot of fuss over nowt eh?"

Weed: "Not at all. You might have had some drugs!"

Me: (Gasp!)"ME Ah never touch the stuff (a lie) and I still want a phone call."

(Enter heavy)"You've no rights here!"

Me: (Bravely!) "Yes I have."

Heavy (Still more heavily, leering) "Not ear yer aven't (Jim Lad!?) we're all alone." (!) (erk!;

Me: (Looking up at 6ft. odd Heavy)

"Ye.....ERRRRRRRRRRRRR....

Yeh.....em?.....then again praps not.....duh."

Heavy: "Well just remember that nex time you speak to a police officer. Right?"

Me; (Who, Me?????) Erm? Yuh (Think ah'll remember and have the sense to kik his ass!)

Heavy: (Looking at my 2 silver bracelets)"MMMMMMMMMM nice (?) Lets have a look at yer bracelets"

Me:.....?.....!.....?...(gasp

...(Think, whoops! get him! saucy cat!)....."Yer, why?"

Heavy: (Examining inside rims, for hidden dope?) HMMMMMMM, nice, where do yoo get them?"

Me: "I was given one and bought the other why?"

Heavy: (Embarrassed) "Come on an I'll show you the lift..."

Me: (Think, be like that then. And you know wot you can do with your lift sothere!)

Heavy: (Fumbles with lift buttons. Finally fluffs it completely and manages to get hand caught.

Go straight out when you get to the basement."

Me: (As if I'd wait around) "Tara then see yer around....I mean er (Dam)

And so as the lift doors close on our hero we bid farewell to Shields Pig Pen.

The moral is obvious. Your elligible for arrest if you've got long hair. But just imagine: Every hapless freak in the north east who goes to post a letter being busted for dope: Just be careful with that letter Eugene.

Tenants versus Landlords

It is now one year since the Tory Government's Housing Finance Act - more popularly, and humourously, known as the 'Fair Rents' Act - became law. Muther Grumble looks at how the Act is working, presents a brief guide to tenants' rights and offers some suggestions to all those pissed off with the rent-paying syndrome.

1. FAIR RENTS:

AFTERMATH

At the beginning of this month most of the country's 5 million council tenants celebrated the 1st birthday of the 1972 'Fair Rents' Act with rent rises of 50p a week. Two million of these tenants could not afford their existing rents and were already taking advantage of the Government's rent rebate system, introduced by the same Act. In Newcastle alone more than half the 39,000 council tenants cannot afford to pay their rent in full.

The numbers of tenants now claiming rent rebates exceed even the wildest Tory predictions of 12 months ago; the better-off council tenant is paying almost as much rent as that for a good home in the private sector; more such council tenants are buying their own homes, placing an extra burden on the rapidly deteriorating mortgage system; the Rent Scrutiny Boards, in their 1st batch of final decisions, have in some cases nearly doubled what the councils themselves have estimated as fair rents - and no one can discover how or why the boards reached these decisions or even the names of the people who sit on them. As the working class become less and less able to pay their rents, councils are increasingly turning towards providing more expensive, better quality housing for middle class tenants - the Greater London Council already runs an independent high-rent list for converted properties.

An increasing percentage of the wage packet has to be spent on rent, while rent and rate rebates, together with other State benefits, effectively prevent increases in the real wages of low-paid workers, e.g. for every £1 wage increase, £1 may be knocked off the rent rebate. Big wage claims, therefore, fight the Government's policy of depressing real wages.

The development of large ghettos in our cities is becoming a very real danger. With rents continuing to rise, the SS may feel that claimants are living in places "too large" or "too expensive" for them and refuse their rent money unless they move into worse accommodation, with lower 'fair rent'. Increasingly single mothers, immigrants, homeless and "problem" families are ending up on the older, dilapidated council estates. At the same time, low-earners, claimants and pension-

ers on these estates stand even less chance of being transferred to better estates, because rents elsewhere are considered above their level.

2. RENTS

Last year, with much fanfare, the Government introduced their rent rebate scheme for tenants in unfurnished accommodation. From 28th September rent allowances became available for tenants in furnished accommodation. Needless to say, the new "handouts" do little to alleviate the housing problems of the thousands of young couples in Britain who find suitable, reasonably-priced accommodation almost impossible to find. But if you live in furnished accommodation and have at least one child in full-time education or work training living with you, or if you or your spouse are old age pensioners, then you could qualify for a rent allowance - after living in a local authority district for 3 months! If you are single and aged 30 or over, or if you are married with no children and you or your spouse are over 30, or if you, or someone living with you, are chronically sick or disabled, you're still in line for an allowance, but only if you've been living in the district for at least 6 months. If you move from one district to another and you've been receiving an allowance, bear in mind that you'll have to get through the first 3 or 6 months without one.

Local authorities can use their discretion, ignore all these conditions and still grant a rebate if they think you'll "suffer hardship" if they refuse the money, but it's impossible to say yet how liberally this discretion will be exercised.

Meanwhile, rent rebates for council and New Town tenants and allowances for those in private unfurnished accommodation remain on offer, with bigger rebates and allowances available to the disabled. Sample maximum income figures (before tax) of people in furnished accommodation who can still apply for help with their rent are: single - £25, couple - £35, couple/single parent & child - £40. This reckonable income does not include all of a wife's earnings or anything paid for board by lodgers or by family members for their upkeep. "Couples" do not have to be married. Tenants who receive supplementary benefit are advised by the Government not to apply for rebates but in the North-East local council offices are discovering a lot of flaws in SS information (in many cases you'd be better

off with a rebate), so don't let this put you off.

The rent to be assisted by the rebate or allowance does not include rates, heating, furniture or service costs.

If you are moving into unfurnished accommodation being let for the first time, it would probably be to your advantage to ask for a fair rent to be set by the Rent Officer. If you are dissatisfied with his decision, you can appeal to a Rent Assessment Committee for a final ruling. Landlords and tenants can agree on rent and rent increases between themselves without going to a Rent Officer, but these agreements must be in writing and not interfere with the landlord or tenant's right to apply for registration of a fair rent. Once a fair rent has been registered the landlord cannot charge any more than the agreed amount, although he can apply for a rent increase if he has improved the property or after 3 years have passed since the original registration.

Similarly, a landlord of privately rented accommodation can apply for a 12½% rent increase following improvement works to his property. Once this new fair rent has been registered the landlord cannot normally increase the rent to the new figure straight away - instead, the total rent increase is paid by annual increments until the registered rent is reached. (Where the rent is increased by agreement, landlords and tenants are free to agree on their own phasing arrangements.)

A tenant in furnished accommodation can ask the Rent Tribunal to reduce rent which he considers too high and set a fair rent for the property. An increase in the registered rent will only be approved if the landlord has made improvements to the house, furniture or services, or if he can show that his running costs have risen. (More about Rent Tribunals under Eviction.)

3. RATES

If your rent includes rates you can apply to your local council for a rate rebate. Your average gross income, however, has got to be pretty low - £13.50 if you're single, £16.50 for couples with £2.75 allowed for each child. With a full rebate you pay the first £3.75 of your rates and then only ½ of the remainder: if the rates are £33.75 the rebate could be up to £20, and so on. Apply between 1st February and 30th April for the April-September rating period and between 1st August and 30th October for the October-March period.

4. STUDENTS

With the expansion of higher education and the comparative paucity of State funds to colleges, students are being drawn more and more into the general housing situation. More and more students are forced to look for accommodation outside their colleges, thereby competing with the lower-paid for property to let. Unfortunately, "competing" is the right word - with no experience, in many cases, of life except from within an educational institution, students tend to be able to afford higher rents and also accept worse conditions (sharing single rooms, no cooking facilities, etc.), thereby raising prices and lowering standards for other would-be tenants.

This is certainly true of Durham, where rents have risen dramatically in the past few years while the percentage of students living in college has declined. The university's Accommodation Bureau claims it deals only with the city's best landlords, but this is obviously untrue as many students know to their cost. A Durham council official commented: "Most students are paying through the nose for rent." The situation is complicated by rumours of a blacklist system, but it is time students became more aware of their role within the community as a whole and made greater use of Rent Tribunals and health laws, thereby improving rents and conditions for others.

5. HEALTH

If your landlord refuses to repair dampness, defective windows, leaking roofs, defective drainage, defective sanitary fittings, general disrepair, defective doors, leaking conduits and pipes, defective plasterwork or dangerous wiring, complain to your local public health inspector. The inspector, after visiting your house, can threaten court action against your landlord unless the repairs are completed within a certain time.

6. EVICTION

It is a criminal offence to evict tenants without a court order or to bully or interfere with a tenant to try and make him/her leave, and this includes cutting off the gas, electricity or water supplies. Notice to quit must be given clearly in writing at least a month in advance. Only when the notice has run out can the landlord seek an eviction order at County Court.

Rent Tribunals can suspend any notice to quit for up to 6 months at a time, and, if necessary, can renew the period of suspension when the previous one expires. The period can, however, be shortened if the tenant does not pay rent, damages property or disturbs other people living in the house following the tribunal's decision. Any

notice to quit issued after a tenant has asked the tribunal to fix a reasonable rent will be suspended for 6 months unless the landlord can show good reason for issuing the notice.

The main reason why unfurnished places come up so rarely these days is that it's much harder for a landlord to get tenants out of unfurnished property than it is to throw them out of furnished accommodation. The landlord has to apply to County Court for an "order for possession" which will only be granted if the rent is overdue, or if the tenant is damaging the building or upsetting other people, or, in some circumstances, if the landlord himself or a member of his family wishes to live in the house. This last point is worth investigating beforehand as all too often a landlord will claim he wants the property for his own use and then, as soon as you're gone, lets it out again.

Both Rent Tribunals and County Courts tend to favour their Establishment companion, the landlord, but even if you lose your case you can gain some small satisfaction by speaking for yourself. Both set-ups are very informal, but your landlord will probably bring along a solicitor, which means the affair will be costing him money.

7. ORGANISATION

The best way of fighting landlords from within the system is by forming a tenants' association. Too often in the past these have been formed specifically to fight rent increases, and they have proved no more successful than any factory struggle fought solely on the question of wage rises. It is vital that the rents and housing issue is not separated off from other areas of class struggle. The most successful tenants' associations have produced news sheets relating their own rent and housing struggles to those of other estates and have also organised social activities to bring the community together and at the same time raise funds to pay for leaflets, coaches for demos, etc. As well as demanding fairer rents, these associations have raised the questions of playspace, conditions, amenities and suchlike. If class prejudices - deliberately encouraged by the Housing Finance Act under which council tenants subsidise private tenants and higher-paid workers the lower-paid - can be overcome, new forms of organisation and initiative will have a chance to develop both on and off estates, while those with greatest industrial bargaining power would use this strength on behalf of those forced by necessity to take the lead in rent struggle - housewives, the low-paid and the unemployed.

8. ALTERNATIVES

For anyone unable to afford a mortgage and tired of being caught up in the rent-paying racket there

are two alternatives open - squatting and communal living.

Squatting is the most direct method of fighting back against the bad conditions in which millions of people live and the situation in which houses stand empty awaiting "development" by profit-minded councils, landlords and speculators while thousands of people are homeless. If you want a long-term home, council properties are your best bet - councils are more vulnerable than private landlords in the sense that they're supposed to be housing people rather than chucking them out on the streets. It's worth checking beforehand whether the house you have in mind still offers water, lighting and heating services. Do not damage the building and remember you'll be expected to pay rates. Landlords have to get a court order (specifically naming one or more of the squatters) before they can evict - all other methods, including police "persuasion", are illegal. Once the order has been granted, you can always move on to the nearest empty house and start the process all over again, and move a new set of people into the original building. The more work you do on the property and the more you involve yourself with the community, the more local support you'll get.

With property prices as they are today, it is unlikely that communal living would provide an immediate escape from the rent trap, but it does offer a better situation for the average tenant. Rent, food, services and furniture, etc., would be cheaper for the individual if paid for jointly for a group of people, while the household itself would form a strong unit whenever it came to presenting grievances. Communal living also forms a direct rejection of current social values, doing away with the consumer-based nuclear family set-up and experiencing more open relationships with one's fellow human beings.

Addresses: Family Squatting Advisory Service, 44 Nelson Sq., London SE1; 'Squatters' Handbook' (useful practical info) from 11, Hemingford St., London N1; The Commune Movement c/o Richard Secombe, 2 Chapel Hill, Ashcott, Nr. Bridgewater, Somerset.



GRAPPEVINE

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Films

BLYTH

TATLER CINEMA

Beaconsfield Street
(open to the public)
Oct. 18th (for 3 days)
THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE
UGLY (X) with Clint East-
wood & YORK (U)
Oct. 25th (for 3 days)
CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (U)
with Dick Van Dyke
Nov. 1st (for 3 days)
Glenda Jackson in THE
MUSIC LOVERS (X) & 500
ISLANDS (U)

DURHAM

CLASSIC CINEMA

North Road
Oct. 21st (for 7 days)
LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR (A) &
ON THE BUSES (A)
Oct. 28th (for 4 days)
HOT BED OF SEX (X) &
EROTIC LOVE GAMES (X)
Nov. 1st (for 3 days)
THE THIEF WHO CAME TO
DINNER (A) & THE TRAIN
ROBBERS (U)
Nov. 25th (for 7 days)
FRITZ THE CAT (X)

PALLADIUM CINEMA

Oct. 18th (for 3 days)
Woody Allen in PLAY IT
AGAIN SAM (AA) & RUNNING
SCARED (AA)
Oct. 21st (for 1 day)
STAY AWAY JOE (U)
Oct. 22nd (for 6 days)
THE LIGHT AT THE EDGE OF
THE WORLD (A) with Kirk
Douglas and Yul Brynner
Oct. 28th (for 4 days)
THE CONQUEST OF THE PLANET
OF THE APES (AA) & WHAT
BECAME OF JACK AND JILL
(AA)
Nov. 1st
George Harrison and Bob
Dylan in THE CONCERT FOR
BANGLADESH (U) & THE MOST
DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD
(A)

DURHAM FILM SOCIETY

Room 140, University Arts
Building, Elvet Riverside.
Thursdays at 7.30pm.
Oct. 18th PARTIE DE CAM-
PAGNE (France 1939) &
TORA-NO-O (Japan 1945)
Nov. 1st SEDUCED AND
ABANDONED (Italy 1966)

Nov. 15th KING LEAR
(U.S.S.R. 1971)
Nov. 29th THE PHANTOM OF
THE OPERA (U.S.A. 1925)

GATESHEAD

CLASSIC CINEMA, Low Fell
CINEMA 1 (all for 7 days)
Oct. 21st A CLOCKWORK
ORANGE (X) & KAMA SUTRA
RIDES AGAIN (AA)
Oct. 28th COLD SWEAT (AA)
& THE NEW ONE-ARMED (X)
CINEMA 2 (all for 7 days)
Oct. 21st HOUSE IN NIGHT-
MARE PARK (A) with Frankie
Howerd & THE BIG AND THE
BAD (U)
Oct. 28th BLUE SEXTET (X)
& SO MUCH NAKED TENDER-
NESS (X)
CINEMA 3 (all for 7 days)
Oct. 21st WHERE EAGLES
DARE (A) with Clint
Eastwood and Richard
Burton
Oct. 28th HOW THE WEST
WAS WON (U) with Henry
Fonda

ODEON CINEMA

Oct. 21st (for 7 days)
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
ATHLETE (U) & DIAMONDS
ON WHEELS (U)
Oct. 28th (for 7 days)
THE LOVERS (AA) & BIRDS
OF PREY (U)

NEWCASTLE

A.B.C. CINEMA

Haymarket
Oct. 21st (for 7 days)
BADGE 373 & COOGAN'S
BLUFF (X)
Oct. 28th (for 7 days)
SECRETS OF A DOOR TO DOOR
SALESMAN (X) & CLIMAX (X)
Nov. 4th (for 7 days)
THE FINAL PROGRAMME (X)
Nov. 11th (for 7 days)
PAT GARRET AND BILLY THE
KID (X) & WICKED, WICKED
(X)
Nov. 18th (for 7 days)
CHARLEY VARRICK (X) &
THE GREAT NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA RAID (X)

APOLLO CINEMA

Shields Rd, Byker
CINEMA 1 (all for 7 days)
Oct. 21st THE SWORD IN
THE STONE (U) & THE IN-
CREDIBLE JOURNEY (U)
Oct. 28th THE LOVERS (A)

& BIRDS OF PREY (U)
Nov. 4th LOVE THY NEIGH-
BOUR (A) & ON THE BUSES
(A)
Nov. 11th LADY SINGS THE
BLUES (X) & THE DAREDEVIL
MEN (U)
Nov. 18th LOST HORIZON (U)
& BYE BYE BLUEBEARD (U)
Nov. 25th THE DAY OF THE
JACKEL (A) & SENETRE
7002 (U)

CINEMA 2 (All for 7 days)
Oct. 14th LANGUAGE OF
LOVE (X) & DO YOU BELIEVE
IN SWEDISH SIN (X)
Oct. 21st PRIME CUT (X)
& THE FAST KILL (X)
Oct. 28th A TOUCH OF
CLASS (AA) & THEY CALL
ME TRINITY (A)
Nov. 4th SOUND OF MUSIC
(U)

Nov. 11th COUNT DRACULA
(X) & DORIAN GREY (X)
Nov. 18th FLESH & BLOOD
SHOW (X) & CAULDRON OF
BLOOD (X)
Nov. 25th MAFIA (X) &
MAD DOG COLL (X)
CINEMA 3 (All for 7 days)
Oct. 14th A MAN TO RESPECT
(AA) & THE UNHOLY FOUR (A)
Oct. 21st THE NYMPHO (X) &
THE EROTIC THREE (X)
Oct. 28th CABARET (X)
& THE BORDERS (U)
Nov. 4th EVERYTHING YOU
WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK (X)
& COTTON COMES TO
HARLEM (X)

Nov. 11th THE BRIDGE ON
THE RIVER KWAI (U)
Nov. 18th SOYLENT GREEN
(AA) & THEY ONLY KILL
THEIR MASTERS (AA)
Nov. 25th HOT BED OF
SEX (X) & EROTIC LOVE
GAMES (X)

TYNESIDE FILM THEATRE

CINEMA 1
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Oct. 22nd (for 6 days)
THE AMAZING MR. BLUNDEN
(U) & BINDLE (U)
Oct. 29th (for 6 days)
IMAGES (X) & THE VIRGIN
AND THE GYPSY (AA)
Nov. 5th (for 6 days)
THE GARDEN OF FINZI
CONTINIS (A)
Nov. 12th (for 6 days)
Franko Zeffirelli BROTHER
SUN SISTER MOON (U)
Nov. 19th (for 6 days)
Walt Disney's FANTASIA (U)

Nov. 26th (for 6 days)
THEMROC
LATE NIGHT SHOWS IN
CINEMA 1
Nov. 2nd - 3rd at 11 p.m.
MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN (X)
Nov. 9th - 10th 11p.m. to
6p.m. WAR AND PEACE
(PARTS 1 & 2)
Nov. 23 - 24th THEMROC
(X)
Nov. 30th - Dec 1st
at 11 p.m. SOLARIS (A)
CINEMA 2
(ASSOCIATES ONLY)
Oct. 22nd (for 6 days)
LA RUPTURE
Oct. 28th (for 5 days)
THE WANDERER
Nov. 2 - 3 Friends of
the Earth present A
WEEKEND FOR WILDLIFE
Nov. 4th JEAN LUC GODDARD
will be making a personal
appearance to introduce
his film TOUT VA BIEN
Nov. 11th FILM MAKERS
TALKING
Nov. 12th (for 6 days)
PLOT
Nov. 18th Jazz North East
Presents AN EVENING OF
JAZZ FILMS
Nov. 19th (for 3 days)
SHIN HEIKE MONOGATARI
Nov. 22nd (for 3 days)
Wajda's THE WEDDING
Nov. 25th (for 6 days)
Jan Troel's THE
IMMIGRANTS
Nov. 27th (1 day only)
THE 10 BEST AMATEUR FILMS
OF 1973

JESMOND PICTURE HOUSE (7 days all films)

Oct. 21st BEDNOBS &
BROOMSTICKS (U)
Oct. 28th WHERE EAGLES
DARE (A)
Nov. 5th THE GRADUATE (X)
& WOMEN IN LOVE (X)
Nov. 12th YOUNG WINSTON
(A)
Nov. 19th M.A.S.H. (X)

SUNDERLAND

ODEON (for 7 days)
Oct. 21st NO SEX PLEASE
WE'RE BRITISH
Oct. 28th THE LOVERS (A)
Nov. 4th SCORPIO (A)
STUDIO 1 (for 7 days)
Oct. 21st DUMBO (U) &
NAPOLEON & SAMANTHA (U)
Oct. 28th EVERYTHING YOU

ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
SEX BUT WERE AFRAID TO
ASK (X) & BANANAS (AA)
STUDIO 2
Oct. 28th SUPERDICK (X)
& EXTREMES (X)
NORTH SHIELDS

CLASSIC CINEMA
Oct. 21st (for 7 days)
THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY
(U) & THE SWORD IN THE
STONE (U)
Oct. 28th (for 7 days)
THE LOVERS (A) & BIRDS
OF PREY (U)

WEST MONKSEATON
CLASSIC (for 7 days)
Oct. 21st THE INCRED-
IBLE JOURNEY & THE SWORD
IN THE STONE
Oct. 28th THE LOVERS (A)
& BIRDS OF PRAY (U)

WHITLEY BAY
CLASSIC CINEMA
Oct. 21st (for 7 days)
HOT BED OF SEX (X) &
EROTIC LOVE GAMES (X)
Oct. 28th (for 7 days)
KING BOXER (X) & SUPER-
FLY (X)

MIDDLESBROUGH
LITTLE THEATRE
Oct. 21st - 27th CRIES
AND WHISPERS (X), LES
MISTONS (A) & ITALIAN IN
ALGIERS (U)
Oct. 29th - 31st BLANCHE
(AA) & GOTO, ISLAND OF
LOVE (X)

Rock

NEWCASTLE
CITY HALL
Oct. 19th Nazareth
Oct. 21st Lindisfarne
Oct. 25th Tom Paxton
Oct. 26th Genesis
Oct. 28th Corries
Nov. 2nd The Sweet
Nov. 4th Roxy Music
Nov. 6th Shirley Bassey
Nov. 9th Neil Young
Nov. 21st Uriah Heep
Nov. 22nd Mott the Hoople
Nov. 28th Steeleye Span
Nov. 29th Rory Gallagher

MAYFAIR
Oct. 14th Brett Marvin and
the Thunderbolts & Southern
Comfort

Oct. 26th Suzi Quatro &
Raymond Froggat
Nov. 2nd Manfred Mann's
Earth Band and Renegade
Jones
Nov. 9th Thin Lizzy &
Pat Granple

UNIVERSITY THEATRE
Oct. 31st Hedgehog Pie
Nov. 1st Prelude
POLYTECHNIC
Oct. 26th Vinegar Joe
Nov. 8th Glencoe

ODEON
Nov. 5/6/7th The Who

DARLINGTON
CIVIC THEATRE
Oct. 22nd Labi Siffre

SUNDERLAND
LOCARNO
Oct. 19th Geordie
Oct. 25th Argent, Sharks
& Bedlum
Oct. 26th Vinegar Joe
Nov. 2nd Savoy Brown
Nov. 9th Suzi Quatro
Nov. 16th Beckett
Nov. 23rd Amon Dull II

Jazz

Sunday
DURHAM - Red Hills Hotel,
Savoy Jazzmen
SEDFIELD - Hardwick Hall
Hotel
NEWCASTLE - N/cle Big Band
(Midday) The Guildhall,
Quayside

Mondays
DUNSTON - Crowley Hotel,
Market Lane. Mighty Joe
Young

Tuesdays
BENWELL VILLAGE - The Haw-
thorn, Brass Grown Jazz Band
GOSFORTH - Piccolo Restaurant
River City Jazzmen 15p

Wednesdays -
NEWCASTLE

Wednesdays
NEWCASTLE - Balmbra's,
Cloth Market. Saratoga
Jazzmen (free)
WHITLEY BAY - Granby Hotel,
Old Street, Louis Jazzmen

Thursdays
GOSFORTH - Gosforth Hotel,
Salters Rd., 8.00p.m.
(jam session)

HARTLEPOOL - Nursery Inn,
Alex Hand Band
NEW YORK - Wheatsheaf
(jam session)
PONTELAND - Diamond Inn,
Vieux Carre Jazzmen

Folk

SATURDAY
DARLINGTON Golden Cock
MIDDLESBROUGH Albert
Social Club
NEWCASTLE Barley Mow, City
Road, 8.00 (Trad.)
WALKERGATE Wolsington
Hotel, 8.00 (Nr. Station)

SUNDAY
GOSFORTH Gosforth Hotel
8.00 (Trad.)
HARTLEPOOL Nursery Inn
NORTH SHIELDS Cannon Inn,
Coast Road. 8.00
NORTON The Highland Lad
OSMOTHERLY The Pied
Piper
SEAHAM The Castlereagh
SOUTH SHIELDS Marsden Inn
WHITLEY BAY Victoria

MONDAY
BISHOP AUCKLAND Baxters
Club
CULLERCOATS Bay Hotel
7.30
DURHAM Bridge Hotel
SHERIFF HILL White Swan
8.00
STOCKTON Sun Inn
WHITBURN Bay Hotel
WINLATON Vulcan Rugby
Club 8.00

TUESDAY
BILLINGHAM Black Horse
Hotel
CRAMINGTON Blagdon Arms
8.00
CRAWCROOK Rising Sun 7.15
(Folk and Country)
DARLINGTON The Britannia
DURHAM Marquis of Granby
NEWCASTLE New Warnell, off
Barrach Road, 8.00
Bridge Hotel, Castle Garth
8.00 (Castle Ceididh Club)
PONTELAND Blackbird Inn
8.00
RIPON The Stadley Royal
SEAHAM Dun Cow Inn

WEDNESDAY
BIRTLEY Three Tuns Hotel
ESTON Cleveland Bay Hotel
GOSFORTH County Hotel
(Trad)
GREAT LUMLEY Warriors
Arms

NEWTON AYCLIFFE Gretna
Wedding Inn
SUNDERLAND The Glebe (Folk
and Blues)
WHITBY Plough Hotel

THURSDAY
DURHAM. Salutation
Hotel
NEWCASTLE Bridge Hotel,
Castle Garth, 800 (Trad)
Chillingham Hotel 8.00
(Contemp.)
REDCAR The Royal Hotel
SUNDERLAND Supporters
Club (Folk and C & W)

FRIDAY
ASHINGTON Lampglass
Cellar Club 7.30
HUTTON RUDDY The Wheat-
sheaf
SOUTH SHIELDS Station
Hotel (Folk & Blues)
SUNDERLAND Londonderry
Hotel
JARROW Viking Hotel 7.30
REDCAR The Saltscar
RICHMOND Castle Tavern
TRIMDON VILLAGE Red Lion
Hotel
WASHINGTON New Inn
WHICKHAM Crawley Hotel
8.00

C&W

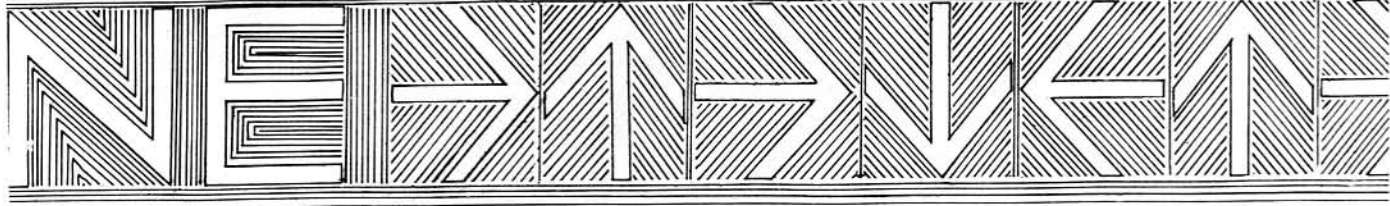
Monday
WINLATON MILL - Huntley Well
Club 8.00pm.
Tuesday
NEWCASTLE - Balmbra's, Cloth
Market (free)

Thursday
MIDDLESBROUGH - Ladle Hotel
SUNDERLAND - Supporters Club
(and folk)

Friday
MIDDLESBROUGH - Albert Social
Club

Classical

DURHAM
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
8 p.m. Allegri Quartet
with Angela Mulsbury (£1.25,
85p, 60p, 40p) Oct. 21st
Nov. 12th 8.15 p.m.
Spectrum, conductor Guy
Protheroe. (85p, 60p, 40p)
Nov. 18th 8 p.m. Northern
Sinfonia Orchestra con-
ductor Janos Furst (£1.25,
85p, 60p, 40p)

ST. AIDENS COLLEGE

Oct. 24th 8.15 p.m.
The Kings Singers (£1.25, 85p, 60p, 40p)
Nov. 16th 8.15 p.m.
Vlach Quartet (£1.25, 85p, 60p, 40p)

NEVILLES CROSS COLLEGE

Oct. 28th 8.00 p.m.
Andre Tchaikowsky (£1.25, 85p, 60p, 40p)
Nov. 7th 8.15 p.m.
Kenneth Sillito and John Streets (85p, 60p, 40p)

VAN MILDERT COLLEGE

Nov. 4th 8.15 p.m.
Northern Sinfonia Orchestra with Denis Matthews (£1.25, 85p, 60p, 40p)

DURHAM CASTLE

Nov. 11th 8.00 p.m.
Simon Standoge, Elenor Sloan and Trevor Pincock (£1.25, 85p, 60p, 40p)

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

Oct. 31st 8.15 p.m.
George Thulbert Ball (40p)

SUNDERLAND

ART GALLERY
Oct. 26th 7.15 p.m. Craig Shepard, piano (50p, 30p)

NEWCASTLE

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET
Nov. 22nd. 8.00p.m.
John Robinson, Harp, Harpsicord. FREE

CITY HALL

Nov. 1st 8.00 p.m.
Prague Symphony Orchestra
Nov. 8th 7.45 p.m.
Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

MIDDLESBROUGH

TOWN HALL
Nov. 7th 8.00 p.m.
Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

CITY HALL

Oct. 29th Humperdink's Medieval play in mime
THE MIRACLE

THEATRE ROYAL

Nov. 6 - 7th LES SYLPHIDES/
THE PRODIGAL SON/CARD GAME
Nov. 8/9th ALLEGRO BRILLANTE/TWILIGHT/THE SWORD/
FACADE.
Nov. 10th LES PATINEURS/
TILT/THE RAKES PROGRESS
Nov. 12 - 17th COWARDY
CUSTARD) featuring the
words and music of Noel
Coward

DARLINGTONCIVIC THEATRE

Oct. 16 - 27th DEATH
ON DEMAND by William
Fairchild (35p, 50p,
70p)
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Oct. 25 - 27th THE
HOUSE ON THE CLIFF by
George Babson (35p)



Variety

BLYTH

WALLOW CINEMA
Oct. 22nd - 27th
Blyth Valley Operatics
present THE SOUND OF
MUSIC

NEWCASTLE

THEATRE ROYAL
Oct 22nd to 27th
Newcastle Amateur Operatic Society present
THE QUAKER GIRL

WALLSEND

ARTS CENTRE
Oct. 25th A GEORDIE'S
NIGHT OUT

HARTLEPOOL

COLLEGE OFFURTHER
EDUCATION
Oct 29th - Nov. 3rd
Hartlepool Operatic

and Dramatic Association
presents OKLAHOMA

THE DOVECOT

Y.M.C.A. ARTS CENTRE
STOCKTON

Nov. 2nd 7.30p.m. Film
MOUCHETTE
Nov. 3rd 8.00 p.m. Poetry
reading by HAROLD
MASSINGHAM
Nov. 8th - 10th 7.30 p.m.
Play. THE TRIALS OF
BROTHER JERO
Nov. 16th 8.30 p.m. Film.
DEEP END (X)
Nov. 20th 8.00 p.m.
Musical event. CONTRASTS
Programme of guitar music
by John Arran and John
Harper.
Nov. 23rd 7.30 p.m.
Film LOS OLVIDOS
Nov. 29th 8.00p.m.
Play, THE PASSION OF
ADOLF HITLER by Bradford
Art College Theatre Group.
Nov. 30th 7.30 p.m.
Film THE EXTERMINATING
ANGEL.

Ticket prices for all films
are 35p, for musical events,
poetry and plays 35p (Members)
and 40p (non-members)

Exhibs.

NEWCASTLE

LAING ART GALLERY
Until Nov. 4th, Cezanne,
Water Colour and pencil
drawings

DARLINGTON

ART GALLERY
Until Oct. 27th
Paintings and Crafts by
the Darlington Society
of Arts

SUNDERLAND

MONKWEARMOUTH STATION
MUSEUM
Until July, 1974
History of Monkwearmouth
MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
Oct. 3rd - 28th
5th Contemporary Hang-
ings.
Oct. 6th - Nov 4th
Paintings by Gerard Fugan
Oct. 23 - Nov. 26th
THE ULTIMATE FRONTIER,
Photographic record of
man's first decade in
space.
Oct. 27th - Dec 9th
Moorcroft Pottery

PETERLEEARTS CENTRE

Until Oct. 27th
Photography by Adrian
McGiven and Pottery and
Model Making, by Stan
and Theresa Fisher

MIDDLESBROUGHUNIVERSITY OF LEEDS ADULT
EDUCATION CENTRE

Until Oct. 26th
THE NORTHERN IMAGE, Photo-
graphs by Dave Sample
ART GALLERY
Oct. 6th to Nov. 17th
Greek Modern Art

DURHAMVAN MILDERT COLLEGE

Oct. 19th - Nov. 10th
Paintings, drawings &
Prints by Alan Tinley
D.L.I. MUSEUM AND ARTS
CENTRE
Oct. 23rd - Nov. 11th
Francis Towne/John White
Abbott. Paintings, Water
Colours and Landscape
Drawings.

HARTLEPOOL

GRAY ART GALLERY AND
MUSEUM
Oct. 20th - Nov. 11th
Sickert Etchings
Until Nov 3rd
Annual Exhibition of
Hartlepool Art Club

JARROWBEDE GALLERY

Oct. 25th Mutations
by Roger Shaw
Oct. 25th - Nov. 18th
WORKS 4 Modern American
Graphic Artists and
Paintings by Chris Baron

Theatre

NEWCASTLEUNIVERSITY THEATRE

Until Oct. 20th THE
CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE
Oct. 25th - Nov. 17th
A WORTHY GUEST BY Paul
Bailey (60p, 70p, 80p,
90p)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL,
GOSFORTH

Oct. 24th (for 4 days)
J. B. Priestley's comedy
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED (30p)



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HUNT
EMERSON

SPOONBISCUIT

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IS A SCHOOL OF MISERY...

... IF IT WASN'T FOR
THE TEACHERS - ALL
THE CHILDREN WOULD
BE FREE!

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BUILD A BONFIRE
PUT THE TEACHERS
ON THE TOP....

PUT THE TEACHERS*
IN THE MIDDLE, AND
BURN THE "B**DY" LOT!

RIGHT ON,
MOLESWORTH!

* alternative version - "prefects".

END

A GOTHIC TALE

Cherry Angelica was walking home after a night's drinking, along a straight road which had at one point a graveyard on either side. One of the walls had recently erected barbed-wire and rough sacking on it to prevent the purient gaze of passing pedestrians and bus-stop travellers. The graveyards were of elaborate victorian architectural design. They had no great deep age. All the tombs were grand and contained the rich. Stone angels stretch out now blackened hands reassuringly to the saddened visitor. As with most good graveyards, ferns were overgrowing freely amongst rich succulent wild plants with purple petals, damp with the tears of the dead. Rodents with sparkling eyes found this an unworried paradise until the plans for the new motorway were put into action. The graves were to be uplifted and taken to another yard and the enormous Gothic gateway to be uprooted and moved also. Angelica was not unlike one of the marble angels which watched over the dead and looked greedily after the living as eventual customers. With these thoughts in mind he noticed a SAFE-CORE guard standing in the shadow of the beautiful arch, armed with a shotgun and dog.

"Oh," Angelica's hands fluttered to his chest. "What a surprise you gave me. What on earth have you a gun for?"

The guard had noticed his lightfooted approach from a distance.

"Av a licence to wound, but not kill."

"But why? What are you guarding, not your virginity?"

"It's the gold and rings they go after."

Angelica gave him an understanding, if sarcastic look.

"They usually do. But is it illegal now?" This passed un-answered. "It must be a spooky job on a dark night like this. Don't you ever get nervous?"

The guard, failing to notice the irony in Angelica's voice, braced himself; "Nar, nar, av a place for a cup of tea and that. Would you care for one?"

The invitation surprised him, but the thought of going through the dank graveyard had a kind of lurid appeal.

"Ee, I don't know, really." Or, 'yes, persuade me.'

"You'll be alright man, the dog's harmless." The huge german alsatian cowed away from an inquisitive look from Angelica.

"I'm not so sure it's the alsatian that worries me."

Through the arch the trees and overgrown bushes were silouetted against a faint skyline. Damn

stone angels. Blank eyes uplifted or turned towards the visitors. Mouths agape.

A lifesize marble Jesus with long hair gently flowing over his perfectly shaped shoulders, hands open and a soporific smile; pseudo-greek tombs with pillors of elegant construction. All were blackened by the rain and industrial soot. Such smooth classical figures reassured the moneyed classes of heaven based on elegance and fine perception. Their houses full of delicate figures with fragile fingers accumulating a consumable value. A taste, or foretaste, of heaven, catches the eye in front of a marble replica of Michael Angelo's David. The perfectly proportioned angels purchased as guardians of the dead. Such peace and beauty ma life worth living for the rich wretches trapped in the otherwise hell of the industrial north.

Angelica and the guard were in a small chapel where the last prayers were said for the fortunately departed. Where tears of envy were shed for those of us lucky enough to be transported to the land of light and white robes, of ecstatic latin choruses and truly transparent smiles, where ever the ground under the naked foot was as soft as soapfoam.

"Through here. This one looks a bit like yee eh?" The guard pointed to a marble angel. This was enough. A laugh perhaps, but sufficient assurance that he was actually being taken for what he was. With trembling fingers he stroked the naked thighs of the winged being by the darkened alter. Both hands pushed his immaculate white hair into shape, instinctively using the angel as a full length mirror. Pursed his lips and followed through, to a smaller stone room with tables end to end around it. Harry, the guard, made tea. Angelica volunteered the lie that he was a visitor from London. Harry replied:

"Av been there once before, about five years ago. I had nowhere to stay and I met this lovely fella who let me stay with him. You would have liked him. Made you want to cuddle him he was such a lovely fella." Angelica shuffled on his chair:

"Oh, yes?"

"Oh, aye, I slept in his bed. There was nowhere else. And he was such a nice fella, ah got up him in the morning." The note of confessional crudity delighted Angelica who with comforting simplicity and encouraging inquisitiveness asked:

"Was it nice?"

"Aye." Harry paused: "Do you like it?"

"Well I wouldn't say no."

"Ad betta tell yi, ah divint take it an ah divint hev it in the moot." Angelica reassured him:

"That's all right, because I do. Both." With that they set to, Harry up Angelica's cherubic arse, across the table.

"This is where they lay them oot, yi know?" Angelica was a bit taken aback and said sarcastically:

"Thanks very much."

The dawn came through with Harry half way down Angelica's throat and a chorus from the nearby convent chapel. Harry made some tea and looking a bit embarrassed said:

"I hope you don't suffer from post-coital guilt."

Angelica flicked his eyelashes:

"I couldn't afford the stamp."

"Oh aye: if you come back next Saturday we can have an orgy. Bring a few crates of beer."

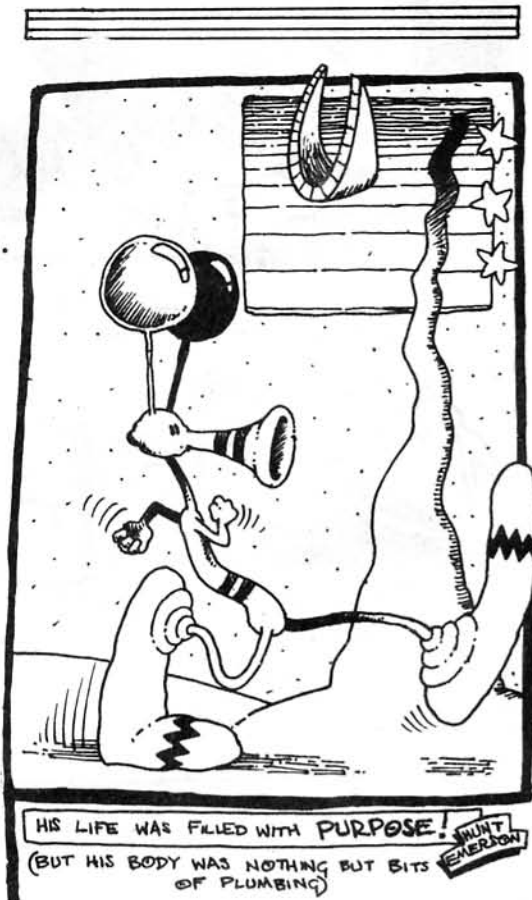
"Just you and me, you mean?"

"Nar ave got about twenty laid out downstairs. Do you want to see them?" Pulling up his pants and issuing a polite refusal, he strode past the altar to the door. Harry shouted after him:

"Me wife doesn't mind. What I do in me own time is me own business, we've agreed on that. Bring a few bottles next time."

Angelica, delighted with the dawn, left the other angels and walked home.

TOM PICKARD



Kids'

Festivals

Summer is past and Winter is pushing us back into our shelters. Now we'll have to play indoors maybe, but playing outside is great, makes you feel a happier animal.

Now in the streets there are puddles, the rain lashes the surface of the concrete road to a grey gloss.

There's a kid throwing bricks into a puddle; 'have you seen any bigger ones?' he yells. There are bricks everywhere and the whole estate is covered with scaffolding, with the watchtowers and outposts of the building contractors. It's a modernisation scheme. Turning the semi's into flats and pushing families out block by block.

No-one here thinks that it will improve life; pushing more people on top of each other so that more people have to use the already inadequate leisure facilities of the area.

The Lords would like to package the people and give them a real treat by building leisure parks.

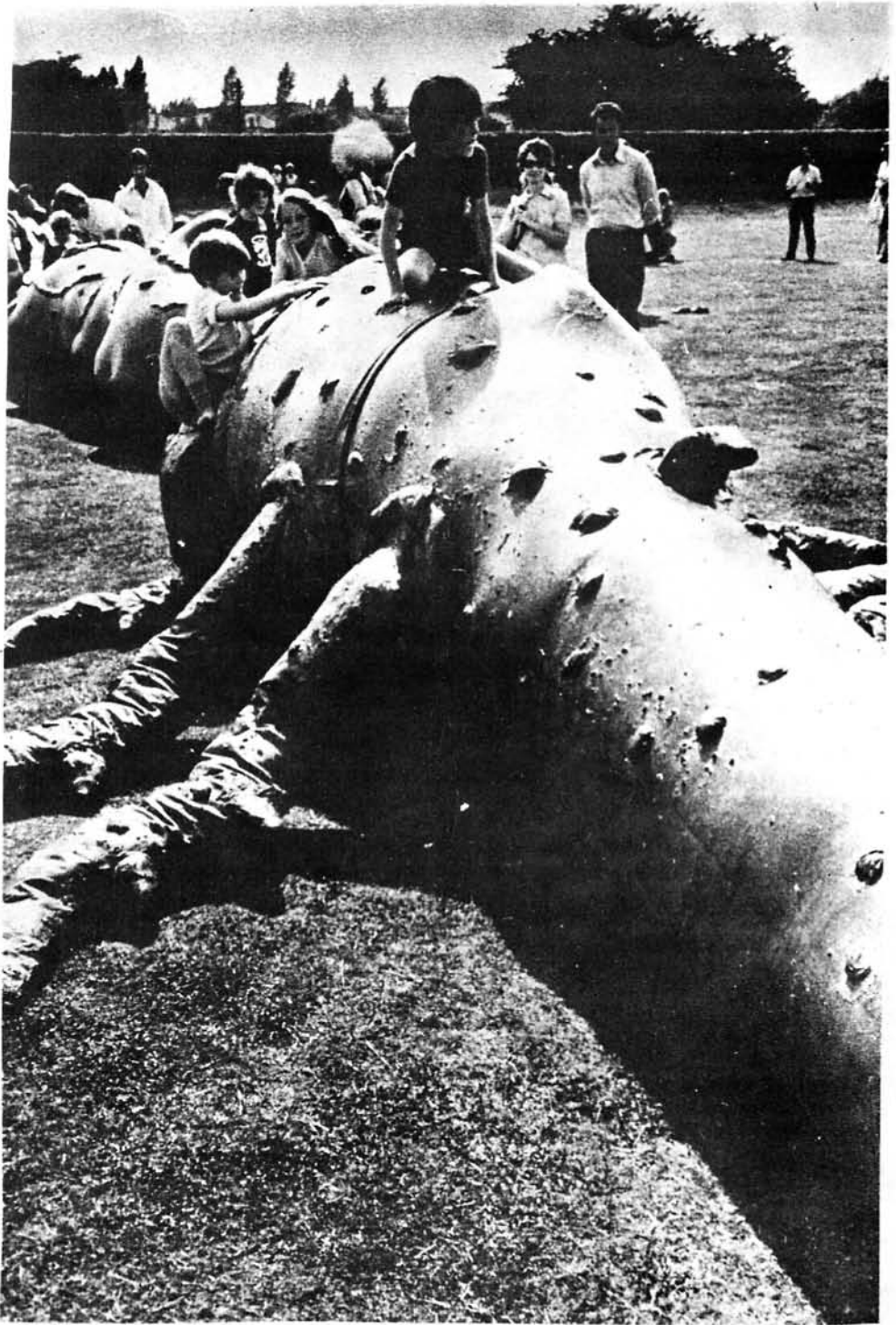
But where will the children play?

They like the scarioiding, it's a great climbing frame, bits of it make good battering rams for a spot of amateur demolition. Kids climb over the carcasses of empty buildings and start fires; it makes for a little more fun than throwing bricks into puddles.

There's a youth club but the authorities don't like the kids to get too near it in case they spoil it. (After all, it's nice to have these places to show your friends, and maybe make a little when you put the contracts out to tender....)

Before they complain about the fact that someone keeps shitting on the steps at the back of the place maybe the powers that pee could open the bogs on the field which are usually kept locked.

Yes, the authorities are quite prepared to give ostentatiously but don't like the people to take. That's all right though - people don't want to have their leisure spent for them. But the people have time and so must have facilities. The area is marked out for special community development by the Home Office and the project that has been set up there to help the people get what they want. Forming tenants associations, and doing things like having the Meadowell Community Festival.



Part of a 170 feet long inflatable monster

Along with a Mini Jazz Band rally and Rock Bands playing thro' the weekend, Spectro Arts Workshop from Whitley Bay turned up to play with the kids.

Playing with Kids isn't all that easy either. Unlike a lot of conditioned adults, kids can't be told what to like and what to enjoy.

It was a lesson for all the Arts Workshop crew that kids would do what they liked: Jo and Alan Davies from London brought gas filled weather balloons. The kids brought knives and dog ends. They who work hard want to play hard and the kids really wanted to do things - but they had the right to say what sort of things. Maybe one of the most successful things was Jules Baker and his inflatable monsters. These were thrown rolled and bounced all over the field. The most enjoyable things were the unofficial sort of events. Next time the Kids themselves should get it all together.

The fire brigade sprayed foam into an enclosure and kids covered themselves in it and in paint. The only thing that caused complaints was when a gorilla like monster appeared on the youth club roof and sprayed people below with a foot long rubber prick. Every parent present expressed anger about this, but otherwise the festival was great.

There have been other festivals this summer and each has been different; Whitley Bay kids were not as cramped as the North Shields kids and so wanted different sorts of games.

But we all need to play, to find our own games. Games help us relate to each other and to our surroundings. If anyone wants to help play with people and to be played with, or has any experience of street theatre, kite building, kids or enjoying themselves they could contact Spectro Arts Workshop, Station Road, Whitley Bay, sometime.....

Durham Domefest

'20 years ago they called it a beat generation, there was rock 'n' roll, then a bird flew in on grass-wings and there was an underground, that went under and we still got rock'n'roll...music has been at the centre of the cyclone that has torn across the minds of the young white west...music that can free your spirit and it has raised for itself a heap of bullshit that ranks very high in the echelons of capitalism paternalism and politico-technocracywith all the agents, record companies and other manifestations of show-biz-big-biz, the sound of musicians souls goes thru too much shit to get to you.....

....so you got a guy on your street corner with a gittar, and he sings real good for free, so you get a lot of these guys together with a bunch of people and you have some fun. Every little town used to have a bandstand, and the brass band would play on summer afternoons and that is where domefest is....there could be a stage in every town park all summerorchestras, plays, poetry readings, dancing, rock music, whatever anybody wanted to do...councils have been apprehensive of hordes of rock

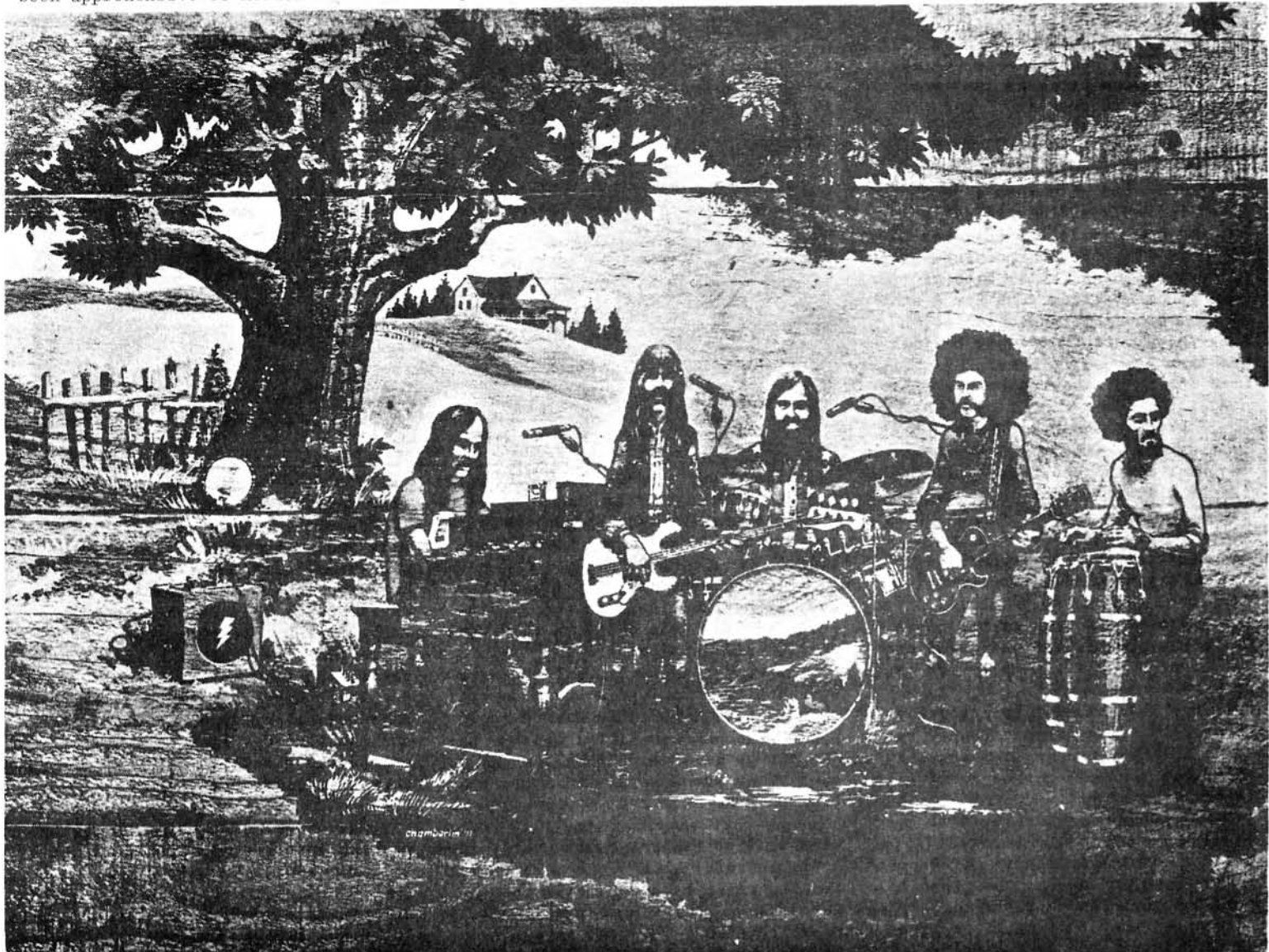
fans, litter, noise, but if it was there every week the whole concept of the pilgrimage to festivals would disappear...it would just be there for people to dig and come and go, it doesn't matter how many people are there, so long as what's there's going and growing, changing, people playing, people listening, changing round, people meeting people, exchanging, relating, being together without the connotations of a scene, an event,money.....a meeting place in a community...in the open air where we belong.

.....there have been two festivals this summer....there were a lot of folk at the first one had a good time, a lot of organisation..... hassling with band times, durham went into free music a little tight and controlled.....the second gig was different.....it was colder less people...but the tightness had gone, all the 'plans' and 'arrangements' were behind us all, the day flowed into evening, people playing and people listening got into itliberation....flow..... domefest has become assimilated by the community, without being absorbed by the established systems of econ-

omics that have come to rule every minute of most people's lives..... and that's the way it's gotta stay !!!!!!!!!!!!! first we were a little earthbound as the energy ground around, then we soared into the air, music, dance, lite, love, after lift-off it won't need much energy to keep glowing, the channels have been opened in durham (and south shields) this summer.....what next....newcastle, gateshead, sunderland, darlington (planning a festival 74) hartlepooland south and north and east and westit's hard to write about the future, it's ridiculous to report on the past.....putting on a festival is a small step for a man and a great step for mankind..... if we can all try to make those little steps.....we're on our way back home to the sun..... wear your love like heaven, there ain't no mountain high enough...

..... an' when you get to the top of the mountain keep on climbing..

Rich.



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For full programme details see centre pages.

Beyond This Horizon

A FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE FICTION

AND SPACE EXPLORATION: Organised

by Ceolfrith Arts, Sunderland

for the Wearmouth 1300 Festival

Oct. 23rd - Nov. 25th

The theme of the Wearmouth 1300 Festival is to remind people of the greatness of the past, but the celebration takes a giant step into the future with 'Beyond This Horizon' - Ceolfrith Arts' Sunderland festival of science fiction and space exploration.

The sci-fi festival lasts from 23rd October-25th November and features lectures, workshops, theatre events, exhibitions, symposiums, poetry readings and concerts as well as showings of science fiction and space exploration films.

We haven't enough space to list the whole programme here (brochures are available from Sunderland Arts Centre, 17 Grange Terrace, Sunderland - send S.A.E.), but here are a few items of special interest:

The inimitable Patrick Moore opens the proceedings on 23rd October with a lecture entitled 'Life Elsewhere?' (admission 40p). Other lectures include David Hardy and Patrick Moore on 'Space Exploration In The Future'

(24th October 30p), Prof. John Taylor on 'Black Holes - The End of the Universe?' (3rd November 25p), 'The History & Evolution of British Sci-Fi Magazines' (9th November 25p), Tom Shippey on 'A Modern View of Science Fiction' (11th November 25p), and Dennis Gifford on 'Fantasy In Comics' (18th November 25p).

At the end of 'Journey Into Space' (2nd November 10p) - an illustrated account of manned and unmanned space missions to date - six projectors with sound effects will take the audience themselves into space. And if you've always wondered what a trip through the universe would be like, go along to Sunderland Catholic Youth Centre, Sans Stréet, on 17th or 18th November, and experience The Lacey Family's multi-media 'Journey To A Coloured Planet' (10p). Another mixed-media project, 'Metamorphosis', shows a microscope's view of the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

Exhibitions include work by David Hardy, David Early, and science fiction cover art by Karel Thole, Eddie Jones, Josh Kirby and Helmut Wenskes. There's also a small group of Symbolist works entitled 'Monsters - Weird and Fantastic', and Eric von Daniken has compiled an exhibition of photographs for the festival on his favourite subject, 'Was God An Astronaut?' Sunderland schoolkids get their chance with an exhibition of drawings, paintings and models on science fiction and space exploration. Most of these displays are on

show at Sunderland Arts Centre, admission 10p adults, 5p children.

'Science Fiction - North East' (31st October 25p) gives local writers, poets and artists an opportunity to read, discuss and show their work. Other symposiums include one on UFOs (3rd November 40p), 'Are We Alone?' (4th November 40p), and 'Genetic Engineering - Need Man Be Modified?' (13th November 25p)

Some of the events already mentioned form part of special weekend presentations for which reduced-price tickets are available. Science fiction films will be shown from 27th-28th October; the programme for 10th-11th November is 'Science Fiction - A New Way of Expression'; there's a 'Poetry & Fantasy Weekend' from 16th-18th November, featuring Adrian Henri, George Macbeth, D.M. Thomas, Adrian Mitchell and others; and November 23rd-25th is a Writers' Weekend with Brian Alderson, James Blish and Peter Nicholls leading the discussions.

Music during the festival includes concerts by Matrix (13th November) and Rob Harper (18th November at Sunderland Empire Theatre), while a new work by Richard Arnell and Edward Lucie-Smith, 'Astronaut', will be premiered on 17th November.

For festival-goers with any money left, a festival bookroom at the Arts Centre (where most of the events will be held) will offer a comprehensive range of SF and space exploration publications, as well as prints, badges and sets of slides.

Lou Reed

The first time I heard Lou Reed was when Rita and Tom were fixing speed. In time they both went over the edge and were seen no more. But it was really spiffing to tie-up to all those golden oldies like 'Sister Ray' and 'Heroin.' It was the happiest time of my life.

Some people lend themselves to mythology without difficulty and Lou is one of those guys. The first time I saw him was an experience that I'll always remember. The tape just made it and the recording was fine, the dope was plentiful and all the lovely ladies had pale blue eyes.

A few days ago I saw something I never thought could happen: Lou Reed, the mastermind behind the Velvets, did a gig in Newcastle and filled the place with small people whose average age was about 13..... and it was so fucking sad to see him dress all those terrifying/funny songs up in flash and bad go-go dancing. The audience was there because Mr. Bowie had been seen around town with him: so the kids there looked like dear David and painted their faces like dear David and it was a sad night and all of their eyes were green and very calculating.

The arrival of "BERLIN" came soon after that night and I wondered just which aspect of the chameleon it would allow me to see. After only one playing I was in no doubt at all. The story-line is simple and I'm sure you all know it by now. The producer is Bob Ezrin and it shows. BERLIN quite simply is the album we've been waiting for since he left the Velvets and the wait has been worth it.

The birth of a 'star' (the new Judy Garland?) is upon us but the death of something far more important is also at hand. Grab this while you can. It just might be your last chance before he goes down under the weight of small excited bodies. Perhaps I'm getting old. BERLIN is a very sad record. It crystallizes the romantic reminiscence that he has always been involved in. It is also very beautiful and very serious and amazingly funny. It's precision is terrifying!



by the Kinks is practically a one-man show

Looking like some refugee from the British Music Hall, Davies sang, danced and fooled his way through 90 minutes of Kinks' hits and golden oldies. It was great to hear old numbers like "Waterloo Sunset" and "You Really Got Me" once more and, even nicer to see a band playin' and diggin' 'Good Golly Miss Molly'. And in the midst of it all Davies sobered things down to give out magnificent renderings of songs like "Celluloid Heroes" and "Sweet Genevieve."

The sound wasn't perfect, the brass section being hard to pick out, but Davies was ably backed up by brother Dave and John Gosling in particular.

Raw Spirit opened the concert and proved competent but unimaginative.

Tristan

The Kinks

THE KINKS AT NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

Ray Davis' recent claim that without him the Kinks would still be a first class band is hard to believe. For, apart from being one of the most penetrating of modern songwriters, Davies is also one of the great performers of rock: a gig



Ray Davies: One-man Show

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ZAPPA
OVERNIGHT SENSATION
THE MOTHERS
DISCREET

I'd have thought that by this time Zappa would have been accepted as the force he is, but unfortunately he seems to be treated as either a joke or a fool. The fact that he is the only musician in rock who is a composer as opposed to just a writer of songs seems to count for very little. Each album he's produced (sixteen counting the new one) has been a totality: a complete statement unto itself, a total composition not unlike a symphony, but in a larger sense each record is a movement of a much larger piece of work that will only end with his death.

This is his most "commercial" album since HOT RATS even though the two are miles apart. It's a nine piece this time - some old faces (Underwood, Duke, Ponty, Marquez) and some new (Ruth Underwood, Ralph Humphrey, Bruce and Tom Fowler) and the combination is the best he's had since the good old days of Black and Preston et al.

The first three tracks could be monster top twenty singles if they were played on the radio - and sure they are the most immediate ones but on the longer tracks there are solos that are bitches of delight. And those nifty vocals on Montana - Son of Uncle Meat? And it's all topped off with a spiffing production. The last line of the last song just about sums it all up: YIPPY-TY-O-AY. Reject this at your peril..... so there!

LARRY CORYELL
THE REAL GREAT ESCAPE
VANGUARD

This record could just be an attempt by some jazz musicians to reach a wider audience or at least to break out of the blind alley that modern jazz is in at the moment. Comparisons with other groups tend to belittle the artists contribution and individuality but are the only way to get across the musical content. There are shades of Mark Almond/Chicago and any other rock group with a brass section involved. Larry Coryell, whose very fine guitar playing is to be heard throughout the L.P., is also responsible for the vocals which are not so fine. On the credits it says there are two people using ARP synthesisers, I never did hear them yet, maybe's they're ultra subtle. Definately music to cuddle up to the moggie with.

PARIS SESSIONS
COUNTRY JOE McDONALD
VANGUARD

Country Joe and the Fish, along with the Dead and the Airplane, were the bands that typified San Fransisco at its peak of musical production. Since that time they have all gone their own ways and it seems many years since we first heard the truly amazing guitar of Barry Melton and all of those other fine people on that first album. It was sunshine and acid: the music of its time as much as anything can be anything of its time.

This record is very different to anything Joe has ever produced before. He's been thru a lot of changes since '67. From acid to solo protest songs to the poems of Robert Service and now to something else that is typical of its time. The main thing running thru this record is 'liberation.' The songs "Sexist Pig" and "Coulene Anne" illustrate this in the sexual sense while "Zombies in a House of Madness" in a 'political' R. D. Laingish way.

Out of the five members of the band three are women which means that he's putting it into practice. One of them is Dorothy Moscovitz who used to be in 'The United States of America' while the other two, as well as the other man in the band, don't ring any bells. Enough to say that it's a fine collection of people and songs, with a lot of good humour, that's given Country Joe his best album since the early days of the Fish.

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND
'BROTHERS AND SISTERS'
CAPRICORN RECORDS

Just to add a bit of excitement to our record reviews, we decided to do something completely different.

Gathered together in a room we placed six relatively sane human beings of varying sexes and put on the album. When it finished each wrote one sentence on their reaction to it. (It must be how democracy was discovered).

Anyway here are the six offerings:-

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This is a chain album..... if you don't send out 10,000 copies you will get 50 fleas a day.

Depends on state of mind, right now it's fresh, scintillating and lerridious!!!

Nice n' easy, Duane's dead but Dickey trucks on, the piano's nice as well, an' das a fact.

Eh! Er...I haven't been listening to it.

Definitely a very nice album from a band who are/should be rated in the same class as 'The Dead' and Airplane'

ERIC CLAPTON'S RAINBOW CONCERT -
R.S.O.

Well, certainly an action packed cast viz. Clapton, Townsend, Grech, Winwood, Capaldi, Karstein and Rebop - all the driving forces from some of the cream (!!****?) of English music and with a lineup like that you can't really go wrong.

"Badge", of course featured ---- Clapton's amazing lead pumped forward by Grech's bass and Capaldi and Kerstein's throbbing drums. This "Badge" certainly adds to any studio recording produced of this number. "Roll it over" - and everybody's having a good time. It's the nice thing about live albums just relax, shut your eyes (not if you're writing) and there's all those bombed people and nice sounds rotating in your head. Anyway, "Roll It Over", certainly isn't one of the album's better tracks as it never really seems to break away from its basic format. A very Traffic/Blind Faith number due more than anything to Winwood's almost distinctive wailing voice. This track tends to lose itself a little and a sigh of relief accompanies Townsends definite closing chords.

Side 2 opens with "Pearly Queen" again with Winwood vocals tending to be lost against the dense percussion and rhythm section meandering on until again the sigh as Townsend blast picks up a roll from the drums and it's finished. (Some of you may like to disagree - please do). "After Midnight", - Townsend laced with Clapton backed by explosive drumming (Imagine that - you can't, oh shit!) Yeah, I bet this lot had a good time, before and probably well after midnight. Production team note - I mean you might have turned Eric up a bit or something, the poor lad seems a bit lost behind the rhythm and percussion again. Now here's me fave., Townsend in his element smashing out the chords while Clapton wanders into beautiful solos which shakes loose the wax from the dark holes in the side of your head.

MAGNA CARTA
LORD OF THE AGES

The group Magna Carta consists of three people, two who play the guitar and sing and a third who only sings, you would never have queried 'listening to the L.P. One of them records with lots of friends who play pedal-steel guitar, horns, drums, etc., etc. It's a bit difficult to decide who is responsible for making this a really pleasant L.P. By far the best track is the title track, the words are spoken and describe the fight between good/evil, or in this case the Lord of the Ages and the Dark Lord, and his allies; death and destruction. Eventually everything turns out rosy and innocence returns to the valley (Earth). For them people that likes movies where the goodies always win.

GRAFFITI

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