

Outta Control

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exclusive! HEALTH CHIEF STRIKES GOLD

ERNEST KIRKPATRICK is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Southern Health and Social Services Board (covering S. Down, S. Armagh and E. Tyrone) A well-paid job, earning nearly £30,000 a year. Some of his antics over the past 10 years or so illustrate well how relations of power are so easily abused.... and how workers, earning but a fraction of Kirkpatrick's rate, get all the stick when THEY ask for a living wage.

One of Kirkpatrick's moves concerns his private manufacturing company operating in Belfast. He is a director. The small factory manufactures alarm systems for the elderly (O.P.D.A.S.... Old Persons Dwelling Alarm System.) These alarm systems are put together with components— (blood-pressure gauges) TAKEN from the Medical Stores Department of Craigavon. Area Hospital. — They are then SOLD BACK to the N.H.S.. No wonder his manufacturing company is economically viable.

A few years back, Kirkpatrick invested £64,000 of Health Board money in the purchase and renovation of a luxury house in Craigavon. Kirkpatrick fooled the Health Board into believing that the house was ostensibly for entertaining visiting dignitaries.....but a D.H.S.S. secret committee investigated the deal, discovered the house was for his personal use and ordered him to sell the house and refund the money to the Board. It all took place in secret.

Being a chief administrative officer is a position of some 'responsibility' — it includes the overseeing of the S.H.S.S.B annual budget of £60 million.

Kirkpatrick deposited the £60M in a current account with the Northern Bank. At a Board meeting last August, the new (ex-British Telecom) Chairman — Patrick Manson — questioned Kirkpatrick about the kick-back which the Board should have received from the deal.... normal procedure in such huge amounts. What happened to it? Where has it been going? It has yet to appear in the annual accounts. O.C. (and Manson) eagerly await Kirkpatrick's reply. (Kirkpatrick is chairman of the Finance Committee.)

Kirkpatrick has his eye on the future as well. As Chief Officer of the Board, he is responsible for current re-organisation and of course, planning for the future. His plan was to take early retirement, on full pension with a golden handshake of £15,000 and then be hired back by the Board as an expensive consultant to advise on their re-organisation. Even his collaborators couldn't handle this one and Kirkpatrick still has to fiddle for his pay.

So, while the hard-working members of the Health Service are offered a pittance to live on and an insulting pay rise....Kirkpatrick expects a knighthood. The purpose of this (true) story is not to tout on a crook.... but to try and show how and where the levels of power exist, how it gets abused at the expense of those who do the work.....who are the ones who get the blame. And it doesn't stop at Chief Administrative Officers. It goes all the way up and all the way across. They're all at it.

MOYARD- D.O.E. & H.E. GUILTY!

In our September issue we recorded the inaction of the Dept. of the Environment and the Housing Executive, in the face of massive leaks in the sewage system of Moyard Estate. Protests and meetings have failed to move these agencies. Local warnings of polio outbreaks and the dangers of gastroenteritis have been ignored. In fact there was a polio outbreak this summer; and on Oct. 14th, a 17-month old baby, Gerard Smyth, died from gastroenteritis.

Moyard Housing Action Committee are used to the evasions and lies of the 'authorities'. But they won't give up and press ahead with their demand for total demolition of the flats, or maisonettes as they are sometimes called. Margaret Keenan and Thomas Holland, from the committee, explained to Outta Control what the committee is doing, why the flats must come down, and what the DOE and H.E. are playing at now.

Our demands are complete demolition of the flats and a completely new sewage system. One of the HE's excuses for not demolishing the flats is that the ground is too soft. One of the points we put across is that if that is so why are flats built on top of it. The average flats have 3 or 4 stories, the highest have 5. These were built in 1963, when the City Council owned them. In '72 the HE took over responsibility from local authorities. At a meeting this year on Oct.5th they said that these are 'inferior' buildings, but they are not their problem because they didn't build them! But when they took over in '72 if they'd done something then we wouldn't have the problems we have today.

A £3½ million improvement scheme was promised by the DOE last April. It was then moved to May, then August, and now they told us they'd start in February. After 3 letters to Mr. Mitchell, asking for a meeting we've had one reply, and only after I phoned his private secretary. Their excuse was they didn't have our postal address, though its on top of everyone of

cont. page 2

CONTENTS — Eastwoods

Abortion, Segregation,

Crass, DeLorean,

Church

etc.

against the

south's ammendment.

Sat. 13th. Bus £5.

Book at Just Books (SEE P.8)

MARCH

cont'd from p.1

our letters. His eventual reply was that we'd get an answer from him in due course, We're still waiting.

CONDITIONS

That £3½ m. scheme is to refurbish the houses with part demolition of the flats. But we want total demolition of the flats and new houses built, as well as general improvement in the surroundings. At the moment there's no park or playground. We've one grocery shop for the whole estate, no community centre, no youth club yet, though there's one to be built in the school. There's nowhere for people to go to. They have to go down the Falls or up to Whiterock. We have proposed a centre, not one with a drinking licence, but one for community activities. We don't know if we'll get it because they are to build a leisure centre over on the Whiterock, though it will have a different function.

Here, there is a high percentage of one parent families, of broken marriages. There's about 150 houses and 400 flats. In some of them there are 8 and 9 children. Altogether there's about 2-2,500 on the estate. A lot of people are moving out to places like Poleglass, and their flats are being reallocated immediately to new people. So there's a shift in the community. A lot of the new people are young, or settled, who've been living with their families for years.

There's been quite a few cases of attempted suicide. There's a lot of drinking, glue sniffing, vandalism, joy-riding like any other estate. The HE have tried to put the problems of the estate down to vandalism. We have our share of vandalism alright, but when there was that polio outbreak, and the baby dying of gastroenteritis, the only statement the DOE could put out was that the vandals were sabotaging the sewers. That's a lot of crap, to put it bluntly. The baby's post mortem has not been published yet, and we think that's very odd. We've been warning of a possible polio outbreak for this past two years. It happened. We said that gastroenteritis, which people have been catching for years, would eventually kill somebody and it did.

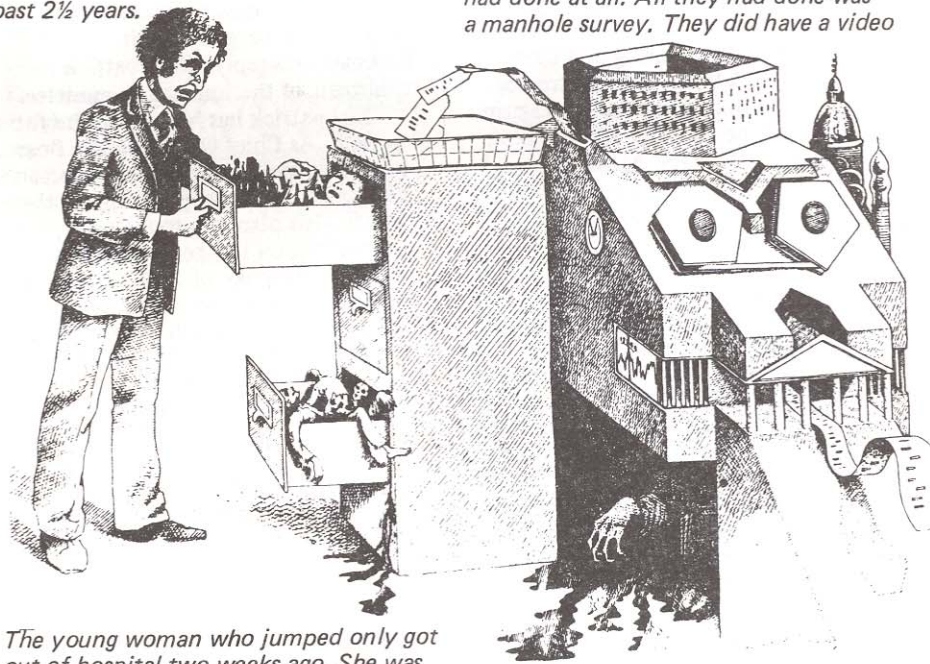
FIRE HAZARDS

On May 15th at a meeting with the HE I brought up the topic of fire hazards. We have no fire escapes or fire fighting equipment in the flats. There's only one door in and out of each flat. We warned of the danger of a fire especially to the stairs. The HE official told us to break a window and jump.

On the 29th July this year a girl did do that. Elizabeth Laden had to throw her baby out of a window 40 ft. up, and jump herself. That resulted in the lock up of the officials in their office, on the 4th of August. People were very angry. The girl had a broken pelvis and broken thigh, and the baby a fractured skull and fractured knee. The baby has a permanent limp and God knows what way the girl will be for the rest of her life. The

tension in the estate was terrible after that. What made people so angry was that they had to stand and watch it, knowing they were helpless. You could not get into the flat, so we had put mattresses and everything down, but unfortunately they missed and hit the ground instead. You were just standing watching that woman throwing her baby and then jumping herself. The other family in the flat had to climb from the top window onto the roof. They had a baby under a year old and had to swing the baby for the ones on the roof to catch. It was terrible to watch.

When I phoned the HE and told Sean Gallagher we were very angry about the fire, He told me to stop being so emotional, it was only an incident! When they came up for a meeting in the estate the residents locked them in. They were lucky that was all, but they were very annoyed and refused to speak to us for ages after that. Now things are back to 'normal' and they're having talks with us. But it's useless anyway, you're just hearing the same thing everytime. That meeting on the 10th Oct. lasted 3½ hours, but we came out none the wiser. Nothing different as to what's been said over the past 2½ years.



The young woman who jumped only got out of hospital two weeks ago. She was given a house in New Barnsley. At the time it happened, Gorman, head of the HE, made a statement in the papers, trying to blame squatters for her having to jump. He said squatters had taken 3 houses which had been allocated to her. Only for that she wouldn't have been in the fire. But the way I look at it, if it hadn't been her it would have been someone else. This is the most serious fire so far. We've had a couple of other serious fires, but luckily nobody was hurt. The living room sockets are inclined to go on fire now and again. You can see for yourself the one in this room has burn marks. There's no earth in the wiring. When the estate was refurbished in '75, there was no rewiring although the contractors were supposed to rewire. The rewiring here dates from '63. In '75

there was a big scandal up here because £4½ million went missing during the refurbishing scheme. The contractors were pocketing some of the money instead of putting it into the flats.

SHODDY WORK

Most of the flats in '75 were derelict. The block I lived in, I was the only one occupying a flat so you can imagine what the estate was like then. There was a shift over of population then. All the rubbish - we have photographs of this - which the work men took out of the flats were thrown down the open manholes. So that could be the cause of a lot of stuff David Mitchell and the DOE are trying to blame people here for.

The HE have refused to let us see any of the records about that period. All they have said is if they're not marked 'confidential' we'll let you see them. Everything seems to be marked confidential. Take the watered down version of the recent sewage survey they showed me. The DOE tried to make out that was a complete sewer survey. I got on to J.W. McDowell Partners that did it, and asked them about the survey and they informed me it wasn't a sewerage survey they had done at all. All they had done was a manhole survey. They did have a video

scan to do a complete survey but they weren't asked to do one.

Booth and Co. are now doing the video scan, but they seem to spend hours on end in their van not doing a thing, and letting on they're working. A couple of weeks ago some of the workmen walked off the estate complaining that they were getting bitten by insects after they had opened the panels for the new pipes, and were coming out in rashes. When they returned the next day they had protective clothing and rubber gloves, and are getting paid 'dirty' money for working in Moyard. The people who have to live in the estate don't get protective clothing or 'dirty' money.

There was a wee lad the other day digging for broken pipes, and some of us,

cont'd from p.2

including a Mr. Sharp from the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, who was with me and a community worker, Rowland Davison, asked what he was digging for. He said he didn't know, that it was all a bluff. He said there's a sewage leak somewhere, but I don't know where it is, I'm just digging. There was a HE worker yesterday who said, when I asked him what he was doing to the broken pipes in the houses. He said this is a complete bluff to take the pressure off. They must be spending near £1million on replacing the pipes, which they are going to have to rip out again because they're not working right.

WORSE THAN BEFORE

We're getting an engineer in ourselves. He's not going to do anything about the system, but is going to advise us on the technical side what we can do. At the moment new pipes are going into all the houses. People before had complaints about leakages, but we've had more complaints now the new pipes are in. The whole estate is getting new pipes, with about 75% already in, but we've had about 50% complaints. In my particular home I had to lift the carpet in the living room, and oil cloth out of the kitchen because the new pipe flowed out all over the place. They are now talking of taking them out and putting in more new ones.

The sewage system was built in Moyard for normal domestic sewage. The Henry Taggart Memorial Hall was always there, but there was never the number of people in it as there is now (army and police). We don't think the system can cope with the over-loading coming from it, plus the storm drains can't cope with what we get from the mountain as well as the estate. That's why we're getting in the engineer to see if its possible for the size and diameter of our pipes to cope with that overloading. It was reported once in the papers that somebody had tried to put bombs in the sewers near the Henry Taggart, and that people had tried to escape from the HT through the sewers, so they've concreted off some of the sewers down there, and we think that aggravates our problems too. At the moment we're putting together documentation, getting support from Trade Unions, Universities, etc. We will keep the pressure up!

PRISON SEGREGATION



During September and October there were confrontations between loyalist and republican prisoners in Armagh, Magilligan, and in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. Also loyalist prisoners have embarked on sporadic protests, initially with destruction of 150 cells at Crumlin Road jail and the H-Blocks, and more recently with a 'no wash' protest in H-Block 7. Loyalist support groups outside have dug up football pitches and bowling greens. At the same time the blanket protest of the republican prisoners has ended and they are being returned to the 'conforming' wings in Long Kesh.

These developments are a result of the Northern Ireland Office's attempts to force republican and loyalist prisoners to mix. Previously prisoners have operated a voluntary system of segregation, by taking alternative days for recreation as in Crumlin Rd. and Magilligan, and by using different yards and canteens as in the H-Block wings. The screws were amenable to these arrangements. Some even preferred them.

The NIO, however, is aware of the advantage this has for the 'political' prisoners, in allowing them to organise. Not only would the command structures operate, but a united front could be presented in dealings with the governor. The NIO also understands the explosive situation it is creating in forcing loyalist and republican to mix. As prisoners from both sides have explained, it is ludicrous to accept the reality of a polarised community on the out-

side, and yet force a mixing in the tense and caged atmosphere of a prison. The risks have been well publicised for many weeks now. So why do they persist?

The reason lies in the purpose of prison. It exists to degrade and break people, not, as liberal apologists claim, to rehabilitate. The authorities do not want a situation where prisoners can gain strength, confidence, and a comradeship.

These prisoners have been on opposite sides of a war on the outside. But all they are being forced to do is watch T.V. and play football together? To suggest this underestimates the intensity of that war, and the significance that brief moments outside of the cell have for a prisoner.

On the one hand the NIO is refusing to treat the prisoners as different or special, in other words as political. It is a continuation of the 'criminalisation' policy, whereby the resistance to Britain's policies and presence are seen as the acts of 'gangsters' and 'criminals'

But it is also about the purpose and control of prisons. The constant tension and fear of forced mixing, keeps the prisoners down. They are wary of each other instead of the screws. Any attempt to organise is seen as a threat by the others. The NIO and the prison authorities benefit from this mutual tension. If this leads to a death in the H-Blocks it will be because they want one.

PAUL CAIRNS

Isobel, Keri and Meabh would like to thank all the kind friends and neighbours who offered support and sympathy during their recent bereavement. It was very much appreciated.

Fuair sé bás i geoiríoch ach anois. Tá a shpioraí in ar n-uchta agus a chorp in ar masc.

Paul Cairns gone! Who was he? A friend, a lover, a revolutionary, a philosopher-mystic, a non-sexist father, an explorer, an innovator: he was many things to many people who he had befriended and who loved him.

He died in Crete in June 82, from a fall while exploring the hazardous cliffs outside Chania. He is survived through the memories of his courageous abilities to cut through meaningless phrases and false fronts; his social progressive activities over the last 14 years; and by his comrade and wife and their two children. Together they challenged many of the myths that keep us under control...

Before he left on holiday he had been active in the Michael McCartan Committee, a local boy shot dead for painting wall slogans. Paul was always on hand to assist people and projects, and help in the community.

We shall all really miss Paul: we are inspired by our memories of him.

REVIEWS



Here's a wee selection of some of the latest books and magazines to arrive at Just Books....

LOCAL. *Cormac Strikes Back - Info. on Ireland* - £2.50. A well produced collection of Cormac's cartoons and other doodles, selected from Republican News and the sadly defunct, excellent 'Peoples Comix'. The cartoons provide a poignant insight into the ins and outs of local politics and feeling, and give us a look in at the goings on in more than one diseased mind. Well worth a look.

Death on the streets of Derry - Tony Gifford QC - NCCL - 75p. Detailed investigation into the deaths of Paul Whitters, shot dead by an RUC officer armed with lethal plastic bullets, and Gary English and James Brown, who were murdered by Lance Corporal Buzzard and Colour Sergeant Smith, drivers of an Army landrover which ran them over. The whole nature of the trial and the events which led up to it are examined in great depth. Most of us are well acquainted with the workings of justice, British and Irish, so the conclusions won't come as much of a shock, but perhaps it'll be an enlightener for some, given the amount of publicity this pamphlet has received.

No place for a dog - Divis Comm. Arts Project - £1.00. A selection of short stories, poems and illustrations as well as photographs from the people of Divis Flats, Belfast. Expounds on the realities of life in that part of the world.

Certainly makes better reading than the Housing Executive annual report.

Under duress - The RUC and the informers. Free. 'Relatives for justice' have produced this free leaflet to clarify the process by which the RUC and legal system are attempting to create a glut of 'willing' supergrass. Short, self-explanatory and to the point. Pick up a copy if you're still in some confusion about this nasty old legal system of ours.

As I roved out - Cathal O'Byrne - Blackstaff - £7.95 (hardback).

"When Cathal O'Byrne roves out he displays all the adaptability of the Well-sian time machine, going backwards and forwards along the road the centuries have travelled, finding by-ways and nooks and old houses and forgotten hillsides where stories are remembered,

EASTWOODS SCRAP....

Eastwoods scrapyard is a landmark in Andersonstown. They are also a landmark in opposing union organising. Nov. 1st. was the start of the third week of a strike by workers who have been paid off in response to their attempts at unionisation. Fifty eight people came out when the firm sacked twelve men, several of whom had been recruiting. Two of the scrapyards shop stewards, Harry Robinson from the T&GWU, and Tommy McGuinness from the AEUW, spoke to O.C.

Harry: On October 14th, we decided to unionise the men in this company, after talking about it for weeks. I started with the burners, labourers, and drivers; and Tommy with the welders and fitters. On October 7th we received our notices. The next day Transport House was notified what had happened, and on October 13th a meeting was arranged with Eddie Carlin, Liam McBrinn and myself to meet the secretary of the firm, Liam Burke and one of the Director's sons, John Eastwood. At that meeting all the unions demands were agreed to. These were that before any redundancies were to take place in the company, all sub-contract labour would cease. If any further cutbacks were needed to keep the company afloat, they would then operate redundancies on a last in - first out basis, with a guarantee that all men who were paid off would be reinstated in their old jobs when work picked up again. All these were agreed to.

Tommy: The T&GWU meeting was at 11.30. At 4pm. that afternoon the AEUW had a meeting with Mr. Augustine Eastwood, the Director, and his son Conor. The same demands were put forward by the AEUW, which were opposing redundancies and outside contractors, and we didn't want labourers doing fitters jobs. During the course of the debate, Mr. Eastwood told our union delegate, Sean O'Neill from DeLorean, not to come down to Eastwoods wielding a big stick. It was always Eastwoods policy for labourers and machinemen to do their own fitting work. But the next day, Thursday Oct. 14th, the Director phoned Eddie Carlin at Transport House and said he didn't agree to the demands. He was informed he was breaking a union agreement. He replied that Mr. Burke and his son John had no authority to make any decisions. Mr. Carlin asked why then were they at the meeting, and he said they had no authority! Mr Carlin said 'Eastwood was putting a noose around his own neck, and the unions would tighten it.

Harry: On October 14th when we went to collect our wages they gave us our cards, our P45's. I immediately notified the union, and on the 15th, Friday, at about 9am, Transport House called an official strike. A strike usually lasts about 5 weeks before it gets official recognition, but this was recognised immediately.

The company has tried several ways of breaking the strike. One way is that sub-contractors are being asked to supply them with gas, oil etc. on the pretence that it's for the subcontractors themselves. A number of them have been caught on and are now under union blacking. McElwains from Ligoneil, came at night once and loaded lorries with

where the passing of some person is still spoken of." Looks absolutely fascinating, but at £7.95 look is all I can afford to do.

NOT SO LOCAL. *Anarchy - 50p.* Occasional Anarchist paper. Articles on the murder of Barry Prosser in his cell at Winston Green Prison. Lengthy section on Cr@ss and Poison Girls, article on Nationalism and War and much more.

Black Flag - 30p. Latest shit on the Malfalkinas, Poland, Italy, China, Britain and the usual interesting little bits and pieces.

The Prisoner - Pat Arrowsmith - £2.95 A novel about institutions and their inhabitants by English pacifist Pat Arrowsmith.

Off the wall - £2.95. A collection of feminist graffiti, including plenty of ideas with which you could brighten up many a sexist advertisement and many an empty hoarding in Belfast. *The end of music - 50p.* Contains sections on The revolution of everyday alienation, white dopes on punk, rebel music and state morality and Music all day helps you... work and play. Critique of the whole punk and reggae scene. A new look at the revolution in the music - or is it? These and many more earth shattering questions of our time answered.

The Snowman - Raymond Briggs - Puffin - £1.25. TO HELL WITH THEORY - THIS IS WHERE IT'S REALLY AT. Brilliant.

Sub. rate £4 for 12 issues.
Write:- OUITTA CONTROL,
c/o 7, Winetavern St.,
Dublin 8.

SCRAP EASTWOODS

scrap for the following morning. But several people who had seen this came to the gate the next morning to notify us. We found out that two loads had gone to Mackies and other loads were due. 500 tons were involved in the contract. Mackies put a stop to the black loads, and McElwains are being blacked as well. Another company tried to supply oil and gas, but we have total backing from all the engineering, transport and oil firms which have a union. No scrap is getting out of the docks, where most of the trade passes through on it's way to Spain. Eastwoods is stopped. There's pickets here in Andersonstown, at the Queens Quay depot in the docks, at a tip head on the Glen Road, and another depot on the old Daily Mirror site on the Suffolk Road, and at the Sirocco Works on the Mountpottinger Road, which Eastwood is demolishing for a housing development.

There are 14 blackleggers in work at the minute. The three unionised electricians reckon they don't have to come out, but we've informed them that no union person should cross an official picket. There's also a number of crane drivers, but there's no productivity. It's just general messing about in the yard, and The company will eventually pay them off. We explained this to people at the time, but they ignored our warning. When they do get paid off and we go back, we're not fighting for them.

Tommy: One of the men who's blacklegging at this time, has a 16 year old son who was paid off at the same time as us. We fought to keep that job secure, but the father walked back into work. Eastwoods have always been hiring and firing young lads at will, which is one of the things we're fighting.

Harry: The blacklegs are not only ignoring the picket lines, but are sometimes working clandestinely at night. They come back after tea and, for instance, load another company's lorries. Eastwoods have said that they'll close the gates of the yard before they'll let any of us back in. If they do, and try to reopen again later, we'll still be there.

They broke the law when they paid us off. When more than 10 men are to be laid off, they have to get 30 days notice, and the 12 of us only a week. They claimed the scrap industry has been hit by the recession, that conditions haven't been as bad since 1926. Our argument is that any cutbacks should be done in a way the union agrees.

Tommy: The union understanding on any redundancies is that there should be no overtime except when, say a machine breaks down, or a special order with a deadline comes in that they don't usually get.

Eastwoods has a history of anti-unionism. The story has it that anyone who ever started a union would be sacked. Men told us we would get sacked because it was the practice. But we went on with our efforts, and their warnings came true. There have been disputes before, but this is the first time they are confronted with a united workforce. The labour relations have been on to the unions who are open for negotiations, but Eastwoods have failed to reply so far. It's up to them.

Harry: The response from passers by has been good. They come up to you, wave, bump their horns. They know the history of Eastwoods.



never had the privilege of seeing daylight, breathing fresh air, feeling freedom. All they ever had was a dark, miserable, cramped and awful prison life.

It's the militancy of the ALF, that's what the IBA can't handle and Channel 4 can't show. The Broadcasting authorities have declared in their Broadcasting Act of '81 that nothing is to be shown that 'incites people to crime' In the case of the Animals film, I'll ask, who is committing the crime?

The other big thing is advertising. They have big difficulties to overcome the contradiction of showing commercial ads for multi-national products, connected with animal exploitation at some level, in the intermission of the film. ADVERTISING is what it is all about and where the money is, and Channel 4 is no different -

And a merry Christmas story.....

Once inside (the factory), the birds are hung by the feet from a moving track, a heavy and difficult job because turkeys struggle hard, and are then stunned by having their heads dipped into an electric bath.

Their throats are slit while they are momentarily stunned by the shock, because it is considered aesthetically important to slit the bird's throat while its heart is beating. This allows enough blood to drain away to produce a pale-fleshed carcass.



THE ANIMALS FILM - TEST CASE

The Animals film, recently shown at Queen's Film Theatre, is the reason for a major row between the IBA and Channel 4. The IBA wants a cut of 12 minutes at the end of the film or otherwise it will be pulled from the program. The Animals film explodes the myth about animal tests in laboratory, biomedical and psychological experiments. As only parts of these tests are for medical reasons, animals are being tortured in experiments to test cosmetics, a new brand of shampoo or toothpaste, car polish industrial chemicals, weapons..... the list never ends. Also tests are carried out in Universities, just to give students something to do, SLOWLY KILLING ANIMALS - A

NICE LITTLE JOB!

The film goes on, example follows example of animal exploitation. The abuse of animals in military tests, the hunting of stags, whales and foxes, the cruelty of pet and fur industries, slaughter-houses and battery breeding.

At the end of the film, members of the ALF (Animal Liberation Front) are interviewed and shown as they release captured animals from one factory to freedom. That is the part that the IBA wants to cut out. They want to cut out the positive side of the film, showing how people can do something about the cruelty - how they can release those animals, who otherwise get tortured to death - animals who have

MUSIC AND POLITICS

↓ A LETTER ↓

↓ CRASS ↓

Both Crass and The Beat, two politico-rockgroups from the summer of '77 and the 2-Tone ska revival respectively, recently played in Belfast. Having been at both gigs I thought that it might be interesting to compare and contrast the different approaches these two groups have to live performance. Crass are an anarchist band and they played on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon last September in the Anarchy Centre to an audience of about 400. They provide a multi-media show which includes prepared videos, films and slides, poetry readings and the distribution of literature on vegetarianism and the CND, as well as a concert of mainly punk music..

The Beat played a larger forum, the Ulster Hall, and to a much larger audience of about 1,000. They are less clearly defined in their political views but are no less serious than Crass about their inspiration. The contrast is that The Beat are a dance band, an intelligent dance band, they play music which makes people dance and songs which make people think! 'Stand Down, Margaret!'/ 'Get a Job!' are important messages we can all understand but they are also melodic, danceable slices of words and music. In comparison to this 'rhythmic rebellion', Crass, when they play, are much more of an 'aural assault' on our sensibilities, the coarse delivery of articulate ideas really seems to defeat the purpose of the authors.

'Punk' has become more of a tribe than an aspiration. 'Punk' was/is not the 'blank generation' but a 'blank cheque which encouraged groups like Crass to put forward their ideas. But Crass are letting the medium become a constraint. Soon they may be unable to reach anyone outside the tribe.

Pop music is a much richer medium than 'punk' - compare the repertoire of The Beat, a combination of reggae, disco, soul, pop and rock, with the primitive thrash of Crass. Dance music can be the most politically potent of all musics, simply because of the way it brings people together. The Beat are a triumph in their combination of popularity, dance appeal and popular political comment.

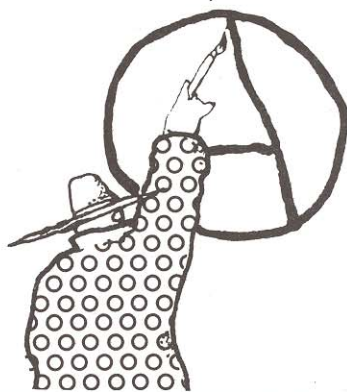


*'You accuse us of disrespect for the dead
But it was you who slaughtered out of national pride'*

Crass and Crass Records have managed to distribute 20,000 copies of their new anti-war single 'How does it feel to be the mother of a thousand dead?'... helped along by the standard shock/horror attention of the British media. Such media attention prompted one Tory fool to try and get Crass prosecuted under section 2 of the Obscene Publications Act. He said - (quite rightly) that the record was an attack on the government, and (quite wrongly) an insult to the families of the dead. The D.P.P. has since stated that the record did NOT contravene the Act - merely the sensibilities of the War-Mongers. Interestingly, during the publicity blitz, Crass did an interview for C.B.S. T.V.... eager to report on anti-war feeling, as they had all their info censored during the war with Argentina. Crass were able to say exactly what they thought about the mad British war-machine, and it has been broadcast extensively in America, North and South (including Argentina!) It's an ill wind.....

The forthcoming Crass single from the A-Centre apparently there's plenty of technical problems, much of the recording is of poor quality..... and it will need a lot of patching up to make a single.

"How does it feel..."...Single now available from Just Books....75p.



Unemployed Conference

Following the People's March For Decent Jobs which was held in July, a conference has been organised by the People's March Committee and Dublin Unemployed Action Group for December 5th in Waterford. The conference will be discussing the way forward

RAMBLINGS

Somehow the system never gets the blame when something goes very, very wrong. Like John DeLorean.....the bizarre man gets the blame, not the system.....the law takes care of the misdemeanor.....the system wins (again). But in one week even more goes wrong: Sinn Fein get 5 seats the key of access to the state media, to responsible opinion. 'Upset'. 'Shock'. 'Brave Face'. This time the system coughs, and the feeling of the anti-system gets another airing. Short-lived - that's the real problem with elections: a glimpse of glory. Next week it's back to squabbling in the newspapers and Scene Around Six. All of history took part in that British Electoral game, and that was the shock.....for them.

But is nothing embarrassing when the figure-head of the free enterprise world gets caught with a coke and a smile? Outta Control couldn't have invented it better. He did it for the people of Belfast as well, he said, and this will be his defence against the F.B. I. spy who encouraged and set up the deal, and supplied DeLorean's share of the money. Cocaine and heroin. Coke - the leaves traditionally chewed by South American peasants to help them through the grinding work, it ends up eating the noses of the rich.....pop-stars, bank managers and business executives. (DeLorean would have done more for West Belfast if he'd shipped the coca leaves over!!) But heroin from the C.I.A.-controlled Thai pipe-line? Helping make heroin available to kids in Dublin. Heroin - from the poppy - from the Mafia - from American security agencies (again!) - from Brit-government-controlled funds. Helping create a brand new Dublin for 14 year-olds who won't see 15..... undoubtedly it'll end up in Belfast maybe even Dunmurry. This we DON'T need.

So it doesn't do to get caught Mr DeLorean. But please don't use the 'poor folk of Belfast' as your defence. Heroin, like a car that flies, is bad news.

for the unemployed struggle. This is of crucial importance now given the onslaught against the unemployed which is about to occur. The government in its economic plan proposes to cut the level of benefit. Also the local authorities rent schemes are being altered which will mean higher rent for unemployed, as well as employed, tenants. Health Services are also being cut back. Jobs are bound to go and services will be reduced or will have to be paid for. I hope to be able to provide greater details of cuts for the next issue of Outta Control. Meanwhile, all supporters of the people's March and Unemployed groups are invited to send representatives to the conference.

* REVIEW *

In Ireland For several years now, anarchist ideas have been made available through a small number of papers (at the moment there is only one ... you're reading it). But we now have a collection of reflective essays from Dublin. Under the title of 'Nobody Rules, OK!', we are offered the views of the Dublin Anarchist Collective.

The collective took some months earlier this year to prepare and discuss papers on various issues - feminism, the church, crime, unemployment, and the north. The effort provides us with a freshness of language and approach in most of its pages.

The section on the north, however, seems the least thought out. Whatever the discussion preceding it, the result comes across as simplistic, almost sloganistic. It is unfortunate that 'the north' is taken as the subject matter, something up there, rather than anti-imperialism, which affects all Irish society to varying degrees. This would enable comrades there to make the critique include their immediate surroundings.

We reprint here one of the small sections 'The Church', which reflects the introductions 'deliberate avoidance of conventional lefty jargon', as well as being an important critique of a usually ignored power structure in our society.

+ THE CHURCH +

The church, built on Christian morality and ethics, attempts not at emancipation but self denial. Society could never have degenerated to it's present stage if not for the assistance of the Church as a whole. The Capitalists, Rulers, etc. of the World, realised long ago what a strong force exists in the Church-indeed and religion- that is the reason they foster it. They know, only too well, that the Church's teaching is the most powerful protection against rebellion and discontent-more so than any guns or bombs. The fathers of the Church can well afford to preach the gospel of Christ for it contains nothing dangerous to the regime of authority.

The machinery, laws, and institutions of Ireland, are based on Catholic theology. The Church upholds the family as the central unit, the marriage bond as the be all and end all. The educational system has been in the hands of religious orders and so from infancy on, a catholic morality was instilled into the majority of the Irish People. Control of fertility (contraception) although condemned in the eyes of the Church so therefore the State has begun the liberation of women. The shift in consciousness, begun by the demand for access to contraceptives, has brought an increasing public awareness of the whole range of sexual problems, an enormous amount of research and public debate is still needed to highlight the scale of the problems. It is symptomatic of the double standard operating in

Ireland that statistics of sexual behaviour are difficult to find-those that exist are based largely on guessing. Estimates of women who travel to England to have abortions (abortions being banned by the Church so therefore the state), are derived from those who give Irish addresses. Estimates of broken marriages are based on those women who receive deserted wives allowance (as divorce being banned by the Church and therefore the state). Thus the most obvious denials of reality are the bans of, contraception, divorce and abortion which proves we live in a priestly, patriarchal, celibate and censorious country.

The history of humanity has been our struggle to control the power of natural forces pitted against us, fertility control is a major step in that control. It has created a crisis within the Church, and crisis in the male-female relationships. The Church in retreat before scientific advances, still arguing about the means - thermometer and charts, versus coils, pills etc. which are irrelevant. The Church has distorted peoples feelings about their bodies and sex, by its own obsession with sin. The virtual monopoly held by religious celibates over the education system, and the strict segregation of boys and girls reinforces this. The Church therefore, especially for women in Ireland, is the greatest enemy of progress and freedom.

Christianity and other religions of any new fangled cults for that matter, do not stand for the spirit of humanity, as many people might argue. The authoritarian structure of the Church, like that of Governments, quenches that very spirit of humanity. So many Irish people despise oppression and injustice and yet confuse the teachings of the church with the struggle for social and economic freedom. Freedom needs courage, daring, defiance and strength, whereas the Church demands non-resistance, with complete disregard of character and self-reliance, and is destructive of liberty and well being. Anyone aiming at radical change in society who wants to be free from dependency and misery must turn their back on the Church. The Church has always instilled fear in us, almost turning us schizophrenic, forcing peoples energies to conflict between body and soul. Not because of any reward does a free spirit take a stand for truth, nor has such a person ever been discouraged because of fear of punishment.

The Church is reformist-always ready to patch up - to stagger on under the order of things, never to destroy and rebuild, which may account for the fondness all reformers have for it. Indeed the whole history of the collaboration of the state, capitalism, and the Church proves that they have perpetuated themselves through the idea "I COME NOT TO DESTROY THE LAW" - which is the key to authority and oppression.

Christ cuts a poor figure indeed compared to the 10 hunger strikers who died and went to their deaths, with more courage and faith in their ideas.

They did not expect eternal gratitude from their comrades because of what they had endured for them; What lack of dignity and faith in himself Christ had that he needed the whole human race to pay for him for all eternity, because he died for them. We didn't hear O'fiach or Daly quoting the gospel "BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED" - we know that righteousness grows out of liberty, of social and economic opportunity and equality. The Church is now talking of excommunicating members of Republican groups, but does not condemn blatant injustices such as the Special Criminal Court, even when it is used to imprison their own members, thus once again playing the age old role of playing into the hands of the State. Nor does it speak out against the stigma attached to unmarried mothers and illegitimate children (for which it is personally responsible) or Capitalism, etc. etc. and yet, it will condemn atrocities in El Salvadore, because it is not on their own doorstep - their hypocrisy and ideas of what constitutes justice is enough to make the mind boggle.

They also like to ram down our throats the oldest cliché in the world "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH" - what an incentive for slavery and inactivity! Because humanity has been meek the earth has been stolen from it. Meekness has been the whip which capitalism and governments have used to force man and women into dependency, into their positions of slavery. How can the meek ever establish economic opportunity and equality?

A worker who knows the cause of her/his misery and understands the makeup of the social and industrial system, can do more for herself/himself and her/his brothers and sisters, than a Christ and all the followers of the Church have ever done for humanity. Certainly more than meek patience, ignorance and submission have done. Never can the Church, under whatever mask it may appear, bring us relief from the terrible pressure of conditions, the weight of poverty, the horrors of gross injustice we live in! The Church is the conspiracy of ignorance against reason and of submission and slavery against independence and freedom. The idea of God is growing more impersonal and hazy. As the human mind is learning to understand natural 'phenomena' through scientific discovery we realise that God is just a list of human attributes, i.e. goodness, generosity etc.etc.

The God idea has been forced to adapt itself to every phase of human affairs according to the necessity of the time. How man/woman will be able to find her/his relation to their brothers and sisters will depend upon how much he can outgrow his dependency upon God, the Church and all such tyrants and authorities.

'No-one Rules' available from Just Book Books, 7 Winetavern St., Belfast; or direct from, No-one Rules, c/o Stephen Woods, PO Box 1305, Dublin 1

ANTI-AMMENDMENT NEWS

The Anti-Amendment Campaign was given a bit of a boost by the publication of the Irish Marketing Survey's poll which showed that of those who knew about the proposed amendment to the constitution to guarantee 'the right of the unborn child'. 36% said they were against the amendment. A sign that up to November, the campaign has been successful at some level. It is my belief that those who know about the referendum are the more middle-class/liberal / 'Irish Times Readers' type who are more likely to be against the amendment.



We should be considering most the 48% of people surveyed who did not know about the referendum. This figure shows a real need for the campaign to get out on the streets and bring the message to working class people in their communities and work-places. The campaign up to now has concentrated on getting the professionals – lawyers, doctors etc. to support them. This has been successful to some extent but not enough. Another survey published recently showed that Irish people disapprove more of abortion under any circumstances than any other country in Europe.

The Campaign has now accepted that it must make a big push to get the message across to as many people as possible. A fairly successful public meeting was held in the South. Inner-city at the end of September. About one hundred people attended and heard various arguments against the amendment – ranging from the very soft objection of Ruairi Quinn M.D. (M.P.) to the stronger arguments of the Right To Choose Campaign.

Members of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)

were in attendance but said nothing. It seems as if they are taking a low key 'let others have their say' approach (except, that is, in Catholic Churches). But the 'extreme right' seem to be getting fed up with this and showed how they could operate when we tried to hold a meeting on the Northside.

Having booked the room, arranged speakers, done thousands of leaflets and worked our arses off we were then told that we could not have the room. The management of the pub – The Black Sheep in Coolock – pulled out as a result of a threat to disrupt the meeting by a small group of supporters of the Pro-Amendment Campaign. It turns out that this group goes under the tag of the Irish House-Wives Union, the leader of which, Bean Ui Cuihin is well known for her right wing attacks on anything which is progressive. She suggests that the pittance called 'Unmarried Mothers' Allowance' encourages women to get pregnant!

After we lost the venue we decided to hold our meeting in the car-park outside. The right turned up, P.A. and all, and made so much noise that nobody could hear what was being said from the Anti-Amendment platform. A bit of Direct Action would not have gone astray! Anyway, the whole event showed their



determination to stop us putting our arguments forward. The Saturday previous to the meeting they had physically attacked Anti-Amendment activists who were leafleting in the city centre to counteract the leafleting of the Irish House-Wives Union. These incidents show the need for the campaign to take a stand against these fascist tactics. We must decide to defend ourselves and not be bullied by right-wing lunatics.

These same lunatics have been given access to Sunday masses in Dublin and other places. A leading member of SPUC addressed masses in Donaghmeade, on the Northside of Dublin. A ready made audience. She did not need to stick up one poster or put out one leaflet to get an audience of a few thousand people. All in stark contrast to what we have to do in order to talk to a few hundred people.

To take our message onto the streets and to show the government the strength of the opposition to the referendum, the Anti-Amendment



Campaign has called a rally against the amendment in Dublin for November 13th. It is hoped that all those against the amendment will come out, show that they won't be intimidated and demand that the referendum be stopped. This rally has taken on a greater significance following the harassment of the Campaign and the fact that this Sunday's Independent (October 24th) suggested that the referendum will be held in December. The wording will be put to the Dail very soon after it returns after its summer recess, which will be this week. All support from the North would be welcomed for this rally. 'Abortion is an issue which does not stop at the border.'

Within the Anti-Amendment Campaign, the Right to Choose Campaign is still working – raising the right to choose argument and arguing that the referendum should be used to put forward the argument for legalised abortion. To rally support for this demand, the Right to Choose Campaign has called an Open Conference for November 20th in Liberty Hall, Dublin. The conference will consist of workshops on topics related to the Right to Choose as well as a plenary session on how we can fight for legalised abortion in Ireland. The conference is open to all who support the Right to Choose.