

Buffo!

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Spectacular Times

Amazing Tales of Political Pranks
and Anarchic Buffoonery

A new edition completely revised and updated

Spectacular Times

"Fantasy will destroy power."
"Laughter will bury you."

Rome graffiti.
1978.

In the beginning

Easter High Mass, 1950.
Notre Dame Cathedral

Just before the High Mass, a small group of Lettrists, including one who had previously intended to be ordained, slipped unobserved into the back of the cathedral. In a side room they caught, gagged, stripped and bound one of the priests. The ex-catholic Lettrist put on the priest's vestments and, just before the service was about to begin, ascended the steps to the main pulpit. A moment's respectful silence. "Brothers, God is dead", he said; and began benignly to discuss the implications of this conclusion. Several minutes passed before the congregation actually registered what was happening. He managed to escape out of the back of the cathedral but the congregation caught up with him on the quais where they proceeded to try to lynch him. The Lettrist, alas, was forced to surrender to the police in order to save his neck.

Christopher Gray
Leaving the 20th Century

Détournement

Subversion - the devaluation and re-use of present and past cultural production, destroying its message while hijacking its impact.



In January, 1982, Paris commuters arrived at Stalingrad metro station (left) and found that its name had changed. Overnight every sign in the station had been replaced in matching lettering with "Gdansk".

February, 1982. The street sign of ave. de Messine in Paris (right) altered in honour of the audacious gangster Mesrine who had been killed in a police ambush.



During the last GLC elections Conservative Party posters had one word flyposted over with another word in the same colour and type-face. The word 'rotten' was substituted for 'better'.

Time Out



In the late sixties a poster advertising Harrods extended opening times - "We clothe very late" - was similarly overpasted. The modified posters read - "We clothe every child in Napalm".

Posters for the ultra-right wing Presidential candidate George Wallace carried the message, "In your heart you know he's right". The most common graffiti addition in the convenient space below these words was "But in your guts you know he's nuts".

BIG BROTHER ISN'T WATCHING US.

THE ONLY TRULY INDEPENDENT NATIONAL NEWSPAPER.

THE GUARDIAN IS BIG BROTHER

TELEVISION REMAINERS

'The Guardian's' 1984 "Big Brother isn't watching us" poster subverted to read "The Guardian is Big Brother".

Socialist Worker
February, 1984

Pre-prepared comments pasted on to posters can make the message easier to read, particularly as designers now give consideration to not leaving graffiti-inviting spaces.



'GOOD MORNING BRITAIN' STARTS 1st FEBRUARY 6-00 am - 9-15 am. 



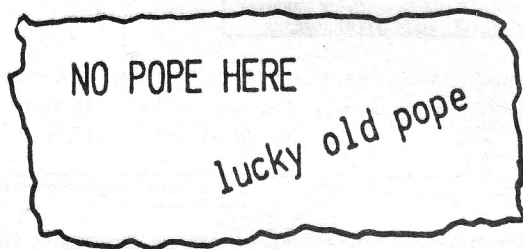
In 1967 Robert Jasper Grootveld began a campaign of painting the letter 'K' (for Kancer) on every tobacco hoarding in Amsterdam. In the 80's groups such as BUGA UP in Australia and COUGH UP in the U.K. (left) specialize in attacking tobacco advertisements. The name of a U.S. cigarette brand (below) is incorporated in the new message on a hoarding in California.



Sometimes painting out letters can be more effective, as in this Conservative Party election poster (left) which originally read "BRITAIN'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK, DON'T TURN BACK".

(photo: City Limits)

Graffiti itself can be subverted with good effect, witness the down-to-earth comment added to sectarian graffiti in Belfast. (below)



The "Metropolitan Indians" of Italy produced parodies of posters and graffiti in an attempt to expose the reality behind the empty sloganising of the Communists and the Italian Left parties. Examples from 1972 include : "LONG LIVE SACRIFICE", "BOSSSES' POWER", "MORE WORK, LESS PAY" and "ALL POWER TO THE DROMEDIARIAT".

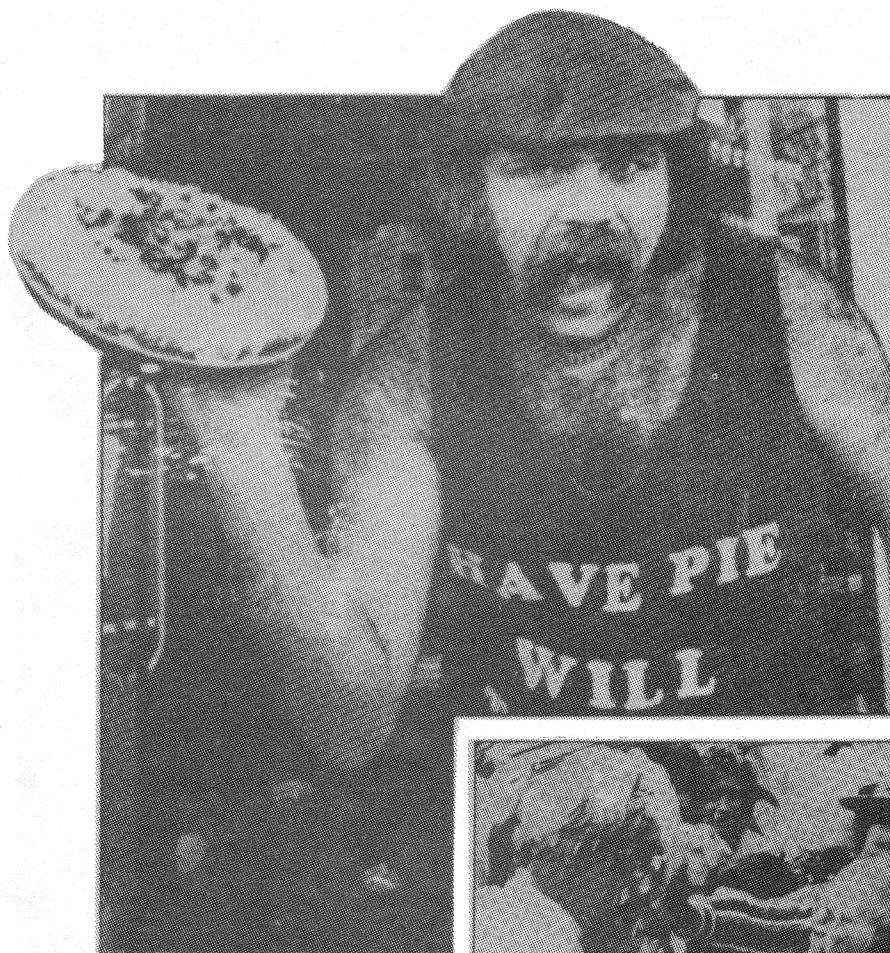
(below) Gothic good sense in a cybernetic age.



"The most effective way of attacking vice is to expose it to ridicule. People can put up with rebukes but they cannot bear being laughed at; they are prepared to be wicked but they dislike appearing ridiculous."

Molière

Simple Simon meets the Pie-person



Yippie Pieman Aron Kay lets us see his wares then meets Daniel Moynihan more than half-way



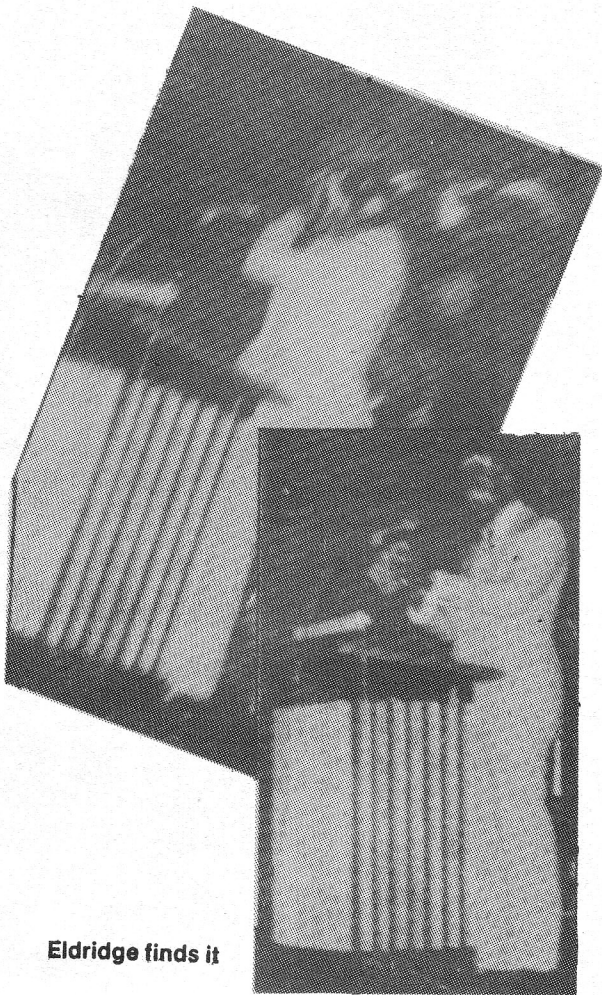
Aron Kay of the Yippies - piester extraordinary of North America - has a long list of 'hits' to his credit including William F. Buckley, Daniel Moynihan and Watergate 'buggers' Anthony Clacewicz, E.Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy. The anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly responded, "At least he had the good taste to use apple instead of something that would have stained my outfit".

Aron's counterpart on the west coast is Vancouver-based Frankie Lee of the Anarchist Party of Canada (Groucho-Marxist). His 'hits' include the Canadian cabinet minister Marc Lalonde and brain experimenter Jose Delgado. Frankie specializes in personalized pies. He hit Delgado with a cow brain and tomato sauce concoction. Delgado asked, "Why me?".

For his hit on revolutionist-turned-religionist Eldridge Cleaver (below right) Frankie used an Oreo cookie cream pie and explained, "Because Oreo cookies are black on the outside and white on the inside, just like Eldridge Cleaver". Frankie struck as Cleaver was addressing an audience of 1,500 at a born-again Christian "I found it" rally in Vancouver. Some of Cleaver's Christian friends caught Frankie in the car park and beat him up.

Religionists seem prone to violent reactions. Guru Maharaji Ji was pied by Pat Halley, a staff member of the Detroit anarchist newspaper *Fifth Estate*. While the guru continued with his message of peace and love, Pat was severely beaten by the guru's followers and suffered a fractured skull.

Other victims react by trying to re-write history. When the "Revolutionary Three Stooges Brigade" pied Donald Speyer of the Dayton Power and Light Company ("Since DP&L are always trying to get a bigger slice of the pie, we thought we'd give them a whole one.") he claimed that he had never been pied. "Apparently", said



Eldridge finds it

And don't forget the gay enthusiast in Minneapolis—their slogan is Kisses and Revolution—who got his hair cut at Moler's barber college, fortified himself with a couple of Burger King whoppers (in case they didn't feed him anything in jail), showed up at a \$75-a-plate dinner for a local anti-gay Catholic archbishop, had himself photographed shaking hands with his quarry (we who are about to pie, salute you) and then achieved communion with the host—not with a wafer of unleavened bread, but with a 69¢ chocolate cream pie from a local bakery.



Anita Bryant gets her just dessert.

the Brigade, "he always goes around with gooey globs splattered all over his face".

When Roy Rogers was opening a new branch of his Roy Rogers Hamburger restaurant chain in Fairfax, Virginia, an unknown young man succeeded where thousands of bad guys in dozens of movies had failed before - he hit the 'King of the Cowboys' right between the eyes with a cream flan.

Gay rights activists have also felt the need to resort to the pie (top left). Tom Higgins struck with a cream pie when anti-gay campaigner Anita Bryant (top right) called a press conference in Des Moines, Iowa to announce the creation of her 'homosexual rehabilitation centres'.

During the late 1970's pieing was almost exclusively a North American activity. Although the Vancouver-based organization PIE (Pastry Information & Entertainment) declared November 4th - 11th as International Week of Pieing, there was very little activity in Europe. In November, 1977, an Anarchist student pied Michael Heseltine with a cream covered apple pie as he finished a lunchtime speech at Leeds University. Enraged members of the University's Conservative Association gave chase but failed to catch the piester. David Frost had to go to New York to get his pie.



ONE IN THE EYE : The Prince of Wales wipes the remains of a foam pie from his face during his visit to a Manchester community centre yesterday.

However, by the early 1980's the pies started flying in Europe. Prince Charles (left) got his in Manchester. A fairly light-hearted hit, but the only recorded incident of a woman piester in action.

Tony Benn (below) got his in Cardiff.

THERE was stunned disbelief at the Wales TUC organised 'Right to Work Rally' in Cardiff on Saturday when an anarchist strolled from the crowd and hurled a custard pie at their diety on the stage—Tony Benn. It was almost worse than pieing the Pope at the Vatican. So great was the shock of the assembled Leftie hacks, that our comrade was able to deliver a short speech along the lines of 'Fuck the Right to Work' before being personhandled away by stewards. After this, and a brief finger-wagging from the law, he made a hasty

exit from the scene of the outrage... which, was just as well because by the time the Lefties recovered consciousness, they were looking annoyed. After this brief highlight the pathetic rally droned on, sending everyone back to sleep with its 'No return to the 30's'... 'Most reactionary Tory government since...' garbage.

FREEDOM

2nd Oct.1982

Social Democratic Party M.P. Dr. David Owen (below) got his in Reading. In an interview with the 'Evening Post' Dr. Owen also felt the need to rewrite history. Although photographs show him being pried from the side while walking with his 'election bus' team, Dr. Death bleated that he had been attacked from behind "while talking to an old age pensioner"!

*Paper plate
overflows with
joy at meeting
Dr. Owen.*



*One of Dr. Death's
aides, having
tried to capture
the piester and
failed miserably,
attempts to
ingratiate him-
self by trying
to clean up the
face of British
politics.*

CHAPPLE AND THE FAITHFUL

IT'S entirely possible that electrician **FRANK CHAPPLE**, chairman of this year's conference, would prefer not to be quoted on the following snatch of conversation over Clive's shoulder.

Union delegate to Mr. Chapple: "What's that motif you've got on your tie?"

Mr. Chapple, who has a few animals on his small-holding in Kent: "Sheep."

Delegate: "How many sheep do you have?"

Mr. Chapple, evidently



seized by a mood of light relief, replied: "Four hundred and twenty thousand."

This, they will be unhappy to have confirmed, is the approximate number of Mr. Chapple's total complement of union members.

A SENIOR race relations adviser to the Police Federation apologised privately last night to his colleagues for referring to coloured people as nig-nogs during a conference debate.

Inspector Peter Johnson, from Durham, made the remark when he was being questioned about crime prevention matters. Delegates at the conference in Scarborough said afterwards that they could not believe what they had heard.

Inspector Johnson, in answer to a question from the floor, said that he worked in community relations. He added: "I was on a working party that was dealing with our coloured brethren, or nig-nogs." Then he realised what he had said, and sat down.

Mr Leslie Curtis, the federation's chairman, rebuked him immediately, and said that such a remark should not have been made and "in no way represents the views of the Police Federation."

In 1975 Gianfranco Sanguinetti - sometime member of the Situationist International and accomplice of Guy Debord - created a scandal in Italy by publishing a fake anonymous report claiming to be a leading member of the ruling class and suggesting that the only way to save capitalism from the wrath of the workers and others, was to work out a common front with the Communist Party.

This ironic report was widely acclaimed and discussed in the press, parliament and amongst leading business figures until about nine months later Sanguinetti revealed himself and the true nature of the document.

Re-fuse

Jerry Rubin, 1970.

"Supposing one day trucks travelled through the city announcing, 'The war in Vietnam is over! The war is over! Turn on your radio for further information.' Within two minutes everybody would be calling their mothers, 'Hey, Mom! The war's over!'. Nixon would have to go on T.V. to reassure the American people that the war was still on."

During the May uprising in Paris in 1968 students and young workers occupied the Sorbonne and the Odeon and barricaded the surrounding streets against the paramilitary CRS. The official Communist Party was less than impressed. When the slogan 'Never Work' appeared on the facade of the Sorbonne the Communist Party daily newspaper *L'Humanite* bemoaned the defacement of the building and wondered how such views could have so easily won over 16,000 students.

The Sorbonne set up an occupation committee and its presses flooded Paris with revolutionary posters and leaflets. The Odeon was the venue of a non-stop discussion. When the CRS used CS gas and riot batons in an attempt to clear the streets and occupied

buildings the students and young workers fought back with cobbles and petrol bombs.

The Communist Party General Secretary George Marchais said that the activities of the students had no revolutionary validity. The students were not members of the Communist Party and, Marchais told *L'Humanite*, the Communist Party is 'the only revolutionary party'.

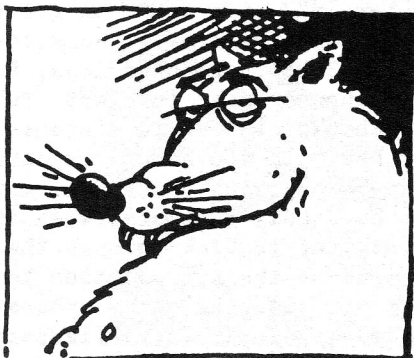
A POLICY of containment in Ulster was the "passport to failure," said former NATO chief General Sir Walter Walker when he spoke to the Surrey branch of The Monday Club, at Camberley's Civic Hall on Thursday.

"The key to success is clear - hold and dominate," he declared.

The general called for a "citizen army" equipped with miniature neutron bombs the size of cricket balls to protect Britain from the advance of world Communism.

Camberley News

11th Feb., 1977



"Spectacular organization is completely out of its depth with this sort of thing. The Marx Brothers have shown what a role can become if you play with it. The only pity is that the Marx Brothers were stuck with the cinema. What would happen if a game with roles started in real life?"

Raoul Vaneigem

It's my party and I'll snub who I want to...

On the 21st March, 1968 the New York Yippies organized a party for 5,000 people. The venue for the party was announced as New York City's Grand Central Station.

In the mid-seventies an organization known as BESA (The Berkshire Extremely Silly Association) publicised a number of 'Silly Events' to which the public were invited free of charge. Those who turned up at the advertised time and place would find themselves present at a tree planting or similar municipal ceremony.

June, 1973: As a sign of the 'truce' prevailing for the Camden Neighbourhood Festival a tug-of-war was organized between a team of squatters and a team of policemen.

The squatters were disqualified and victory was awarded to the police because when squatters started losing ground, spectators broke through the sidelines and pulled with the squatters.

IT

Easter, 1984: When a street procession re-enacting the crucifixion was halted by traffic in west London a group of local youths surrounded the actor playing Jesus, cut loose his ropes, told him to run for it and said that they would cover his getaway.

Ealing & Chiswick Guardian

October, 1972: A thirty-man British Army recruiting team set up a display of 'The Army at Work and Play' on the playing field of Lochend School, Lochend Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow and the local youth showed great interest, turning up in considerable numbers. A cookhouse erected to dispense modern army food ('Forget what your Dad told you about army grub!') was soon smashed to matchwood. Soldiers enjoying a peaceful cup of tea in one of the caravans were hurriedly evacuated when flames, from the bonfire lit beneath it, started to lick through the floor. When the other caravan lost its windows the Army decided to pack up and leave. Two Land-Rovers drove off, leaving their exhaust systems behind: young saboteurs had tied their exhaust silencers to nearby trees.

IT

"Navajo students have been known to engineer mass 'flunk-ins' in which an entire class deliberately fails a test because they know that some students couldn't pass and they don't want to single anyone out for humiliation."

Burnette & Koster

"The Road to Wounded Knee"

In 1983 students at a Danish High School in Aarhus invented a new religion. The students, involved in a youth culture study project, called their new faith Apialketisme and invented slogans such as 'Apialketisme against egotism' and 'Use your taupsi [a fictitious part of the brain] and become happy'. They invented a founder, a ceremony [like TM] and a computer test [copied from Scientology] and handed out leaflets in the street, Moonie-style. To their surprise and shock people did not see the practical joke, instead took it seriously and felt misused and betrayed when they heard that Apialketisme was a farce.

Fair News

STAFF arriving for work at Newbury Magistrates' Court today were faced with a really sticky problem — all the doors were firmly glued shut.

Court usher Mr Norman Chapman managed to get one small side door open to allow

magistrates, defendants, Press and public into the building. But the five main doors remained firmly stuck.

Police stood guard outside the courthouse as workmen tried to free the entrances.

Stamps and Banknotes

The 'friendly policeman' stamp (right) was claimed to have been withdrawn earlier than planned because of the widespread practice of adding captions to it. *Time Out* magazine even ran a competition for the best example. The winning caption was "No, he can't stay even if you do marry him." (one of the children depicted on the stamp was black). *Xtra's* favourite was "No, I didn't kill your daddy."



In 1981 'Friends of the Earth' produced a label - addressed to 10, Downing Street - for people to stick on empty drink cans. The labels carry a message to the Prime Minister on the virtues of returnable containers.

'Friends of the Earth' estimate that a total of 50,000 cans have been sent in this way. However, in April 1981 'Friends of the Earth' discovered that the Post Office were intercepting the cans before delivery. When asked where the cans were being held up the Post Office was unable to answer on 'security grounds'.

Peace News

It is usual for bank staff to remove very worn or defaced notes from circulation but in Chile it became a political duty. This was due to the Chilean workers' habit of writing anti-government slogans on their banknotes. In 1973 the problem reached epidemic proportions and the government was withdrawing banknotes almost as fast as new ones could be printed.

Xtra!

On the 24th August, 1968, Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and ten other Yippies entered the New York Stock Exchange and climbed to the visitors gallery overlooking the main hall.

The Yippies addressed the brokers and traders working below them on the evils of money and greed. Most of the brokers found the incident amusing and at the end of the speech many joined in good natured applause. Then the Yippies reached into their pockets and threw into the air handfuls of dollar bills. As money floated down like autumn leaves the scene changed dramatically. Brokers and traders jumped, pushed and buffeted each other to catch the falling banknotes, others on hands and knees scabbled about on the floor grabbing as much as they could. The security guards arrived and the Yippies were ejected from the building.

Do it!

Jerry Rubin

Bulletproof Glass Encloses Gallery At Stock Exchange

The New York Stock Exchange last night installed bulletproof glass panels and a metal grillwork ceiling on its visitors' gallery for what an exchange spokesman said were "reasons of security."

Work to enclose the 100-foot-long gallery, which in places hangs directly over the desks and telephone booths of clerks and brokers, began shortly after the close of trading at 3:30 P.M. yesterday. The job was expected to be completed before today's 10 A.M. opening bell.

Last Aug. 24 a dozen or so hippies threw dollar bills from the gallery—a display many exchange members do not want to see repeated.

New York
Times

In 1977 the big banks in Italy printed their own small denomination notes in large quantities. Members of the Italian Radical Party collected together 100,000 lires worth of this 'unofficial' money which they took to be changed at the Credito Italiano bank in Milan. The manager fell into the trap and refused to change the notes into 'real' money, thus bearing out the Radicals' claim that "The banks rob and the state is accomplice", and precipitating a near riot in which the regular customers sided against the bank manager and forced him to comply with the demands. The next target of the Radicals is to be a catholic bank since, "The banks rob and the church is accomplice".

Guardian

I.W.W.: Shortly after the First World War, Australian 'Wobblies' suggested a scheme of printing forged £5 notes in order to overthrow capitalism through inflation.

Patrick Renshaw
'The Wobblies'

Don't call us, we'll call you.

In August, 1975 a new telephone facility was installed in the Manhattan Correctional Center, New York to enable prisoners to exercise their constitutional rights to communicate with lawyers and relatives. During its first year of operation prisoners made over \$100,000 worth of fraudulent long-distance telephone calls.

New York Times
23.9.76

Below: Pleasure Tendency sticker for telephone boxes.

**GO ON.
'PHONE IN SICK.**

**There are thousands of things you'd rather
do than work. Do them.**

**But only together can we create a revolution
where pleasure is the only aim.**

"The only safeguard against authority and rigidity setting in is a playful attitude."

Raoul Vaneigem

On the street again

Paris. May, 1968: The first non-university territory to be occupied during the revolt was the Theatre de France at the Odeon. The wardrobe department was raided and dozens of demonstrators came out to face the CS gas dressed as centurions, pirates and princesses.

During the 1981 Brixton riots police signalled their intention to charge one group of rioters by beating out a frightening 'heatbeat' rhythm by banging their truncheons against their riot shields. The rioters responded by beating their dustbin lids - in a cha-cha rhythm.

Sunday Times

1967: Dutch Provos planned to disrupt the wedding of Princess Beatrix to ex-Nazi Claus von Amsberg. Leaked Provo plans included: "during the psalms the church organ will emit laughing gas" - "hidden loudspeakers will blare forth the sound of machine-gun fire - watch the police fire back!" - "horses bolt at the smell of lion manure. It can be collected from the zoo and strewn along the procession route. Oh what fun to see the runaway coach, with Beatrix and Claus desperately clinging on to each other." The massive police presence, enticed by such plans, prevented them being put into action. But the Provos didn't give up. Harry Mulisch wrote in *Delta*: "Then all at once the television picture grew hazier and hazier until the whole screen was white ... suddenly the carriage with the newly-weds emerged from the mist and, when I grasped what had happened, I was overcome with emotion. Other people, with more guts than me, had brought it off, were throwing smoke bombs into living rooms all over Europe, the Soviet Union, United States, Japan, and were being pursued far along the canals and beaten up in doorways by policemen falling over each other to get at them. Others were being shoved up against railings by mounted police, held tight by reins looped around their necks, and kicked senseless by spurred riding boots."

quoted in
Playpower

During the march on the Pentagon, Yippie children moved among the military police guarding the building, gaily unzipping the officers' flies.

Playpower

In 1960 a series of demonstrations were held in Japan against the renewal of the Japanese-U.S. security treaty. President Eisenhower was to make a state visit to promote the pact. However, on the night of the 19th June, 300,000 Sohyo (trade union) members and 40,000 militants of the Zengakuren converged on the Diet (parliament) building in a 'snake-dance'. Then they held a mass urination on the main steps of the building. The Japanese government was obliged to ask Eisenhower to cancel his visit.

Cockburn & Blackburn
Student Power

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 24—It was near dawn when a strange male voice called over the police dispatcher's radio: 'Hello, City Hall. Hello, City Hall.'

The desk sergeant wrinkled his brow. 'Who are you?' he asked the caller.

'I got your car,' came the reply.

'Where are you?' the sergeant asked.

'I'm around Garwood Mills,' the caller said, 'and I'm going to dump it in the water.'

Moments later, the police ascertained that one of their vehicles—Car 81—had been stolen. Late this afternoon the tide receded from the Rhode Island Avenue dock, disclosing Car 81 in the mud of the bay.

—*New York Times*, 25.9.68.

THE latest youth employment initiative, reported by the Irish Times, consists of a scheme by Dublin youth to help motorists suffering the unwelcome attention of traffic wardens. An early beneficiary from the scheme reports that he was approached by a young scamp who offered: "I'll square that ticket for you for £2." The motorist inquired how. "Just you trust me," replied the lad. The intrigued motorist coughed up. The boy ran off down the street to where the warden was writing out another ticket, snatched the warden's book from his hands and vanished into a crowd of shoppers.

'STOP THE CITY' 29th March, 1984: During the attack on the Stock Exchange a smoke bomb landed in the midst of the police ranks. A policewoman picked it up and the national press carried the dramatic photograph of her in the act of throwing it back at the crowd. But this wasn't the whole story. Still belching smoke the canister arced through the air - and landed on another policeman.

On demonstrations groups of demonstrators with cameras and tape recorders should surround newspaper and television reporters demanding to know why they are there, have they been paid to attend, what they expect to achieve, etc. Every way they turn they should find cameras pointing at them and microphones thrust before them to record their every word.

A boy with purple hair trotted up to the Police Control Van and asked for two choc ices.

Ginsberg, 1966

On Hallowe'en Eve, 1968, members of WITCH (Womens International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell) haunted the New York Stock Exchange. The witches, dressed in black fairy-tale cloaks, claimed they had an appointment with the Chief Executor of Wall Street - Satan himself. Commissionaires barred their way so they grouped outside the building and "with closed eyes and lowered heads the women incanted the Berber Yeall - sacred to Algerian witches - and proclaimed the coming demise of various stocks. A few hours later the market closed 1.5 points down, and the following day it dropped five points."

Rat, 1968
quoted in Playpower

Hungary, 1956: Although units of the army had come over to the rebels they had very few tanks to match the enormous amount of Soviet armour on the streets. They made up for this with ingenuity. Planting Hungarian flags on Soviet tanks provoked other Soviet tanks to fire on them. Plastic dinner plates were made to resemble land mines. When tanks stopped to investigate they were attacked with petrol bombs. Grease spread at crossroads immobilized their tracks. Ironically, many of these tricks the rebels had learnt at school from reading heroic communist literature!

George Firsoff
'Spring of Youth'

Iran. March, 1984: Giving out anti-Khomeini leaflets in Iran is a dangerous occupation. Women members of a resistance cell in Kazeroon made four 'sonic bombs' which they planted in the town square. When triggered these non-destructive bombs produce a resounding bang and scatter hundreds of leaflets over a wide area. In Kazeroon the explosions sent Khomeini's guards diving for cover.

Iran Liberation
April, 1984

Paris. May, 1968: Probably the most gruesome protest against the Vietnam war was planned by a group of young French conspirators: The population of Paris was to rise one Sunday morning to find the Seine running blood red and dotted with the floating bodies of dead Vietnamese.

The plan never came to fruition; the bodies were no problem, the deep frozen bodies of dead Asians (who would pass for Vietnamese) were bought in bulk by the medical school for training purposes. They were delivered fairly regularly to the school by refrigerated lorry. Hijacking the lorry would be no problem; deliveries were made at night and no one expected such a load to be of interest to hijackers. The problem came with the red dye. No one had predicted what a prodigious quantity of dye would be required to colour such a volume of water. The quantity required was impossibly large and the plan was scrapped.

Apocryphal

"Make the fog flee before you."

Andre Breton

The Media

In the autumn of 1983 a tape recording of a telephone conversation between President Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher was sent anonymously to newspapers in various parts of the world.

A covering note claimed that the tape was a recording of a crossed line on which was heard part of the two leaders' telephone conversation. In January, 1984 the story was taken up by the *Sunday Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The *Sunday Times* described the tape as part of a KGB propaganda war. The U.S. State Department said that the tape was evidence of "an increasingly sophisticated Russian disinformation campaign".

In fact the tape was made by members of the anarchist punk rock group *Crass*. The tape had been produced by using parts of T.V. and radio broadcasts made by the two leaders, then overdubbed with telephone noises.

ANJARY 1984

How the KGB fools the West's press

How 'Crass' fooled the 'Sunday Times'.

January, 1982. In response to the French Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanite*'s Moscow line on Poland, a group in Paris produced a fake *L'Humanite* supplement on the Polish crisis. This unofficial insert was of the same layout and in the same typeface as the original newspaper. Under a banner headline of "Smash the counter-revolution in Poland!" it explained difficult concepts such as "war is peace" and "slavery is freedom". A picture of smiling and joking Gdansk shipyard workers was captioned "Imperialist agents disguised as workers".

TWO weeks ago, a film crew from the prize-winning American CBS television programme "Sixty minutes" had the temerity to enter the former factory behind Zurich's railway station that has served as an "autonomous youth centre" for the last four months. They were promptly set on by a gang of hooded youths, trussed, and covered with paint.

It emerged later that, so far from being spontaneous the youths had carefully arranged to have a video company on hand when they set on the intruders. The resulting film, after some haggling, was sold to CBS for 500 Swiss francs, thus ensuring that the American public

would see the Zurich youths at their most truculent and, at the same time, swelling a kitty that is helping to pay off the fines of hundreds of youths that have been charged in the last 15 months of rioting.

BBC Radio Norfolk was tricked by a schoolboy into broadcasting a report that snow had forced the closure of his school. More than 500 of the 770 pupils at Northgate High School, East Dereham, stayed away for the day.

The boy, who has not been traced, impersonated his headmaster, Mr John Gibbs, when he telephoned the radio station in Norwich. Mr Gibbs said yesterday: "I was hopping mad. Radio Norfolk need their wrists rapping." The station has apologised.

"After a meeting of the libertarian groups in Glasgow, we prepared a leaflet explaining the facts behind the treatment the Scottish Daily Express had given me over the previous few weeks, citing other cases of Beaverbrook skullduggery, showing what a bunch of twisters they had as reporters. With the assistance of some sympathetic print workers at the Express offices in Albion Street, we inserted a copy of our leaflet inside most of the copies of the morning edition as it came off the machine to be packed. There were a few red faces the following morning when those readers opened their papers over their porridge and read the truth for once. The Express had to print an apology the next day for this unwarranted exercise of free speech, over which the 'Guardian' chortled in two columns."

Stuart Christie
'The Christie File'

Freeze ending

The big freeze is coming to and end. A slow thaw is expected to gain momentum in the next few days and temperatures will climb to 7C over the weekend.

Up and up

RAF search-and-rescue helicopters have flown 187 mercy missions since the blizzards and freeze-up began.

Child-saver

The Government announced yesterday it would give a £450,000 grant to the NSPCC over the next three years — to save children's lives.

'Keep off'

The Government yesterday blocked takeover bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland by both the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Standard Chartered Bank.

Plane iced up'

A witness saw ice crusted on the airliner which crashed in Washington on Wednesday killing 78 people: a U.S. investigator said yesterday.

Inflation steady

Britain's annual inflation rate remained at 12 per cent in December, the same as November, according to the Retail Price Index.

Feathered find

Mrs Marie Tyler, of Sutton Coldfield, who lost a gold ring six weeks ago, believes that one of the birds she feeds found it and put it on her back garden bird table.

Everybody out

Workers walked out on strike when Mrs Thatcher visited Kellogg's giant breakfast cereal plant at Trafford Park, Manchester yesterday.

Rolling on

Two high-rolling gamblers from Las Vegas were thought to be on their way to London after winning £20,000 at roulette in a Northampton casino.

Page one of the January 16th issue of the *Northern Echo* [left] contained a message for the newspaper's new editor, Mr. John Pifer. Can you spot the hidden message?

EXECUTIVES of the Thomson-owned Belfast Telegraph are energetically trying to trace the source of a rash of fake Telegraph billboards which have appeared in the city over the past few days. The posters, which are changed every day or so, are convincing copies of the genuine article except that they give a somewhat misleading impression of the paper's stance on the South Atlantic adventure.

The first appeared early last week and proclaimed: "Penguins Capture the Task Force." This was followed by another, which read: "War is good for business, says British Junta." Yesterday's requisitioning of the QE2 was billed as "Refloated Titanic joins Task Force."

BOX NUMBER REPLIES

Please all Get Fucked No. replies to
BOX..... MORNING ADVERTISER
57, EFFRA ROAD
BRIXTON, SW2 1DA

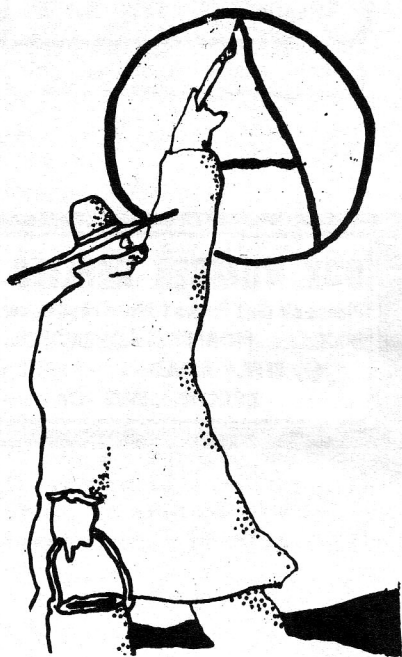
A Revolution is the most practical joke on a society that's a bad joke.

Ken Knabb

But is it art?

In 1958 in Italy, Situationist International member Giuseppe Pinot-Gallizio exhibited the first examples of 'industrial painting'. A machine splodged paint as the canvas was fed through from a large roll. A leaflet by Michele Bernstein read: "Among the advantages...no more problems with format, the canvas being cut under the eyes of the satisfied customer; no more uncreative periods, the inspiration behind industrial painting, thanks to a well contrived balance of chance and machinery, never drying up; no more metaphysical themes, machines aren't up to them; no more dubious reproductions of the Masters; no more vernissages. And naturally, very soon, no more painters, not even in Italy".

Despite their great difficulty in keeping a straight face, the perpetrators exhibited and sold 'industrial painting' in Turin, Milan and Venice.



REWARD \$1000

Police in Brisbane are appealing to the public for information on a prolific graffitist who is defacing Brisbane walls. The only clue they have is that he/she signs off their handiwork with a letter 'A' in a circle.

**FABULOUS RECORD
OFFER**

Loving's Wedding Day Single



yours-for the price of a stamp!

The teen magazine *Loving* ran a 'brides' edition which included a special offer of a song called 'Our Wedding' by a group called 'Joy de Vivre'. However, when readers played the record they found it to be a track from an album by the anarchist punk rock group CRASS. *Loving* described the album as a "sneering attack on love and marriage". The *News of the World* said the title was "too obscene to print".

Women's Voice. Jul/Aug, 1981

In the autumn of 1982 a railway embankment near Reading was the scene of strange nocturnal horticultural activity. The results of this action did not appear until the following spring. First a crop of yellow daffodils appeared in the shape of a peace sign. Over the next few weeks the daffodils died down and the peace sign was transformed into an anarchist encircled 'A' sign, made up of red tulips.

Attempts to decorate motorway embankments in a similar way have resulted in the prosecution of those captured.

IT IS Bank Holiday in the Barbican. A father decides to take his young daughter for a stroll around the highways and byways of Chamberlain Powell and Bon's exciting redbrick development. By and by they chance upon a piece of street theatre — a Punch and Judy show, playing to an enchanted audience of other parents and children. They have been watching for a while when Punch diverges from the traditional story line to give Judy a kiss. Time passes and Punch places his hand on Judy's breast. One thing leads to another and Punch puts his

hand under Judy's skirt. Soon Punch is lifting up Judy's skirt, pushing her backwards and making passionate love. To the discomfiture of several parents and the mustification of most of the children Punch and Judy then begin to indulge in other sexual practices about which this column would prefer not to be specific. And then, like a snow shower on a blustery January day, the eccentric behaviour suddenly stops and we are once more back in the realm of wife battering and small dogs stealing sausages.

SAINSBURY'S
(PECKHAM BRANCH)

FREE SHOPPING!

**OWING TO THE GREAT
SUCCESS OF OUR
NEW STORE, WE HAVE
DECIDED TO HOLD A
FREE SHOPPING DAY**

THIS FRIDAY!

**BRING THE FAMILY
NO MONEY NEEDED**

OFFER LIMITED TO ONE TROLLEY PER PERSON ONLY

**GOOD FOOD COSTS LESS AT
SAINSBURY'S**

One night in 1983 posters appeared in south London advertising a 'Free Shopping' day at Sainsbury's new store in Peckham. [above] On the following Friday Sainsbury's were forced to put up a sign explaining to all shoppers that there was no 'Free Shopping' offer and that customers were still expected to pay for the goods.

New York: The Black Mask group staged a 'mill-in' at Macy's during the Christmas rush. Demonstrators flooded into the store disguised as shoppers, store detectives and counter assistants. Stock was either spoiled, stolen, swapped around or given away. When the police arrived accomplices ensured that respectable middle-class shoppers were mistakenly roughed up and arrested.

King Mob Echo.London.

London: The King Mob group themselves entered Selfridges store in Oxford Street with one of their number dressed as Santa Claus.

Good old Father Christmas toured the store giving away free gifts from the stock on display and wishing everyone a merry Christmas.

Soon afterwards the shoppers were witness to the edifying spectacle

of policemen arresting Father Christmas and snatching back toys from small children.



During the '81 riots many people in Toxteth's Lodge Lane were nervous about entering shops that were being looted. Local youngsters helped out by bagging up a selection of goods and placing them outside on the pavement for collection.

A man walking down Lodge Lane asked a passer by for a cigarette and was given a box of 200.

Freedom

In Bristol a paraplegic pensioner asked to be wheeled into a supermarket so he could get in on the looting.

'Like a Summer with a Thousand Julys'

Trains, Buses & Bicycles

During General Franco's rule a group stopped the Madrid-Barcelona train in a rural area and, before allowing it to continue on its journey, covered the outsides of the carriages with Anarchist slogans. Thus decorated the train arrived at the crowded Barcelona station.

Apocryphal

On Merseyside, one Spring night in 1976, a group of people entered bus depots and stuck official-looking notices inside the buses. The notices read: "EXPERIMENTAL FREE TRAVEL: Due to the sharp rise in administration and collection costs the Executive are introducing free bus travel for an experimental period of 14 days. No fares will be collected on any MPTC services from Monday, 3rd May to Sunday, 16th May, 1976.

News Ltd

1967: Thirty Dutch Provos painted their bicycles white and announced that they belonged to everyone. People were invited to bring their bicycles to the Spui at midnight on Saturday where they would be painted free of charge. Urged on by insurance companies and manufacturers, the police rounded up and confiscated all white bicycles in Amsterdam - on the pretext that they might be stolen.

Playpower

In 1979 the Montreal City authorities turned down a request for a bicycles-only lane on the grounds that it had no funds available for the necessary painting of road markings. As a protest, a group of cyclists painted - overnight - their own cycle lane on 1½ miles of street. The City hired a contractor to paint over the official paintwork.

Open Road

BRITISH rail's two-class system proved too much for a West Berlin doctor who flew into a rage at the behaviour of "aristocrats" in his first-class carriage, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Hermann Hartmut-Bade, aged 38, said he was a trade unionist and wanted to show the first-class passengers how little power they had.

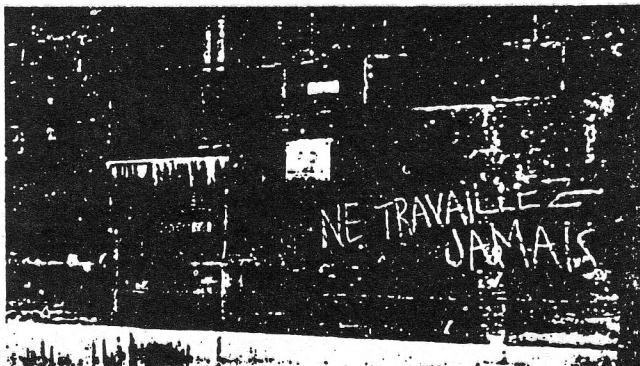
So when the Holyhead to London train stopped near Stafford station on Sunday, he got out and uncoupled the carriage. "I admit I did it, but I do not feel guilty," Dr Hartmut-Bade told Stafford magistrates.

Mr Christopher Lee, prosecuting, said the doctor's action produced a potentially very dangerous situation.

Mr Trevor Mardling, defending, told the court that Dr Hartmut-Bade, a doctor at a West Berlin hospital, had made a political gesture and had no intention of hurting anybody.

The doctor was fined £500 and ordered to pay £50 costs after he admitted unlawfully uncoupling a train brake pipe and power cable.

Workers Playtime



'Never Work'

Preliminary programme to the situationist movement.

During the prolonged strike at Grunwick's, strike-breakers were moved in to undertake the mainly mail-order film processing work. In support of the strikers, local postal workers attempted to suspend deliveries to the factory but, after a short time, their efforts were defeated by legal manoeuvres.

Three months later, postal workers in Sydney, Australia were surprised to find many sacks of mail - recently unloaded from a mail ship - contained packets for a firm called Grunwick in London.

July, 1968: Lisbon bus and train workers were protesting because the British-owned Lisbon Tramways Company would not give them a wage rise. They protested by running the services as normal but staff refused to accept fares. This new kind of transport strike proved very popular with passengers.

New York City: I.W.W. restaurant workers won some of their demands - after a failed strike - by giving customers double portions and making errors (on the low side) when making up bills.

I.W.W.

Detroit,1968: Inspectors at a car factory relieved boredom by taking their jobs absolutely seriously. They began rejecting something like three out of every four or five cars under examination. Some cars were rejected simply because they didn't turn over quietly enough. Management tried to drop hints about inspectors being too punctilious - but were naturally reluctant to state this openly. The inspectors ignored the hints. Unfailingly they argued back that their interests and the company's were identical and thus they had a duty to ensure that only products of the finest quality left their factory.

Ratgeb

France.May,1968: Workers at a large plant making heavy lorries re-arranged the individual letters of the firm's name [BERLIET] on the front of the trucks to read LIBERTÉ.

New York

Thousands of office employees were forced to leave their buildings yesterday as police, plagued by more than 200 bomb threats since a weekend explosion at Kennedy International Airport, stepped up their search for explosive devices in the New York metropolitan area.

A New York Police Department spokesman said that although no bombs were found yesterday,

the threats, many of them apparently made to lengthen lunch breaks, continued to pour into police headquarters.

"The number of calls yesterday and the number today goes up around noon, and if people leave early, we seem to get calls from neighboring buildings," the spokesman.

San Francisco Chronicle

★

Wed., May 20, 1981

New York,1948: In support of a wage demand, some cinema technicians startled audiences by projecting films upside down or on the ceiling, introduced new and alarming sounds and mixed reels from different films.

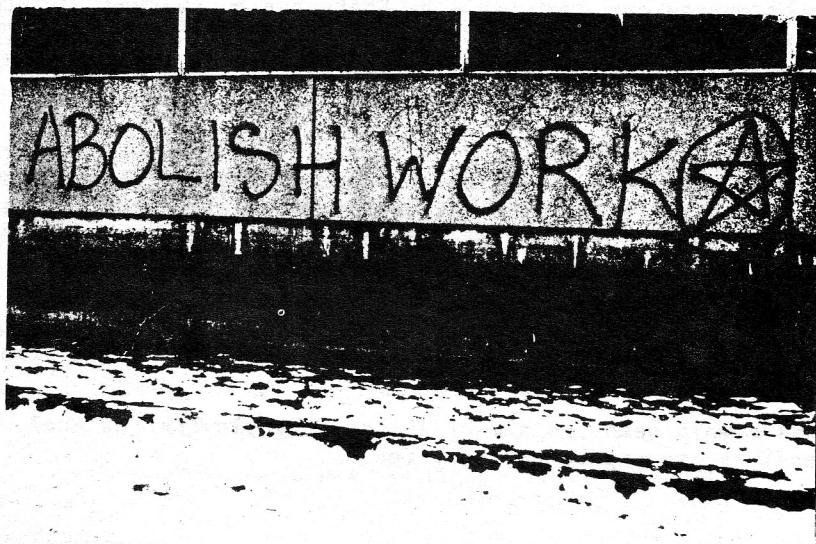
I.W.W.

April,1984: During action against cutbacks in the French steel industry a group of fifty French steel workers occupied a chateau near the Luxembourg border. Having first served each other cocktails, they sat down to a sumptuous lunch that had been prepared for a meeting of steel executives.

Daily Telegraph

Belgium, July, 1983: When the city of Liege ran into financial difficulties municipal employees suffered a massive wage cut - in some cases up to 75%. The authorities tried to break up a protest march of council workers by the use of riot police equipped with water cannon. In retaliation the local fire brigade brought up their vehicles and turned their fire-hoses on the riot police. They then filled the town square with foam.

Tahiti, 1983: As part of an industrial dispute, but wearing their usual broad smiles, their garlands, and their flowers-behind-the-ears, the staff of the Beachcomber and Taharaa Hotels in Tahiti hurled about fifty of the £200-a-day guests into the swimming pools and then pelted them with day-beds and drink tables.



Mr. Luigi Angeli, a factory worker from Riva del Garda, has been given a medical certificate which prescribes total rest until the year 2030, when he will be 99 year old. During his national television interview, Dr. Mario Rizzonelli, who wrote and signed the certificate, said: "Mr. Angeli can live a normal life but he must not return to work under any circumstances whatsoever. He is a very sick man." Asked to describe the nature of Mr. Angeli's sickness, Dr. Rizzonelli said: "I am prepared to discuss the subject with the President of Italy or the chief inspector of social security. But I am not willing to have my recommendation of half a century of absolute repose questioned in public."

Afterword

Acting the Fool is a political act. When pomposity and over-seriousness reign it is left to the Fool to be the voice of sanity. Getting started is easy; powerful cultural symbols can be demystified, and the inauthenticity of advertisements can be exposed, by anyone willing to use a bit of intelligence and a spray-can or felt-tip marker. [As a bonus the new message carries all the visual impact and presentation that the medianiks worked so hard to put into the original.]

But discomfoting trends in popular humour are soon recuperated; television political satire which scandalized the establishment twenty years ago is now presented at peak viewing time as satirical comedy. It may make us laugh, but it rarely does more than encourage our cynicism - as Shakespeare observed, "There is no harm in an allowed Fool". Revolutionary buffoonery must attempt to jolt people out of customary ways of thinking and behaving.

Our pranks have nothing to do with practical jokes. Too often practical jokes are played by the confident and cunning on the helpful and guileless. The message of practical jokes is that we should not be trustful of others, nor be too eager to be of assistance - a profoundly reactionary message.

Revolutionary buffoonery tries to build confidence, not cynicism; it tries to demystify, not alienate. But most of all it brings play back into daily life.

It has always been the aim of jesters, by playing the Fool themselves, to expose the real fools.



"This could be our last chance
to unmake history."

Raoul Vaneigem

THIS ISSUE

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Production by Liz

Cover design by Laura Norder

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Send us £1.00 [or more] and we will arrange for a uniformed state employee to deliver each new issue of Spectacular Times direct to your door - and when your sub runs out we'll remind you.

Audio

'SONGS OF ANARCHISM AND REVOLUTION': Sixteen traditional songs of the international anarchist movement. Various languages and dates - Italian, French, Spanish, German, English, Russian & Yiddish - from Czarist Russia to the Miners Strike.

46 minute audio cassette.....£3.00 (post free)

'THE END OF PREHISTORY': This tape is an introduction to revolutionary ideas using a mixture of theory, humour and music. It was originally produced by a group in San Francisco in 1975 as a three-hour radio programme. Over the past twelve years many of the references have been overtaken by events or become dated in other ways. This edited version attempts to salvage all that is still important and relevant from the original.

90 minute audio cassette.....£3.00 (post free)

Video

Videos are recorded on high grade tape and come in a library case with printed sleeve. They are all recorded on VHS-PAL and can be replayed on all VHS-PAL machines (UK and most of Europe). For multiple standard machines select switch for PAL. These videos cannot be replayed on machines designed to replay only VHS-NTSC (eg Canada and United States of America) cassettes.

'ARE YOU IN A BAD STATE?' A helter-skelter ride from the dawn of prehistory to the present day. Funny and serious by turns. TV will never seem the same again.

**Linny Dunbar, Jo Dunnington and Larry Law.

40 minutes.....£9.50 (post free)

'ARE YOU OCCUPIED?' In March, 1985 a small group of people occupied the old Unemployment Benefit Office in Reading's South Street. For ten days they created what one visitor described as 'an anarchist community centre'. The South Street Squat ran workshops in music, drama, video, singing and poster making, and became a venue for local bands and a theatre group. Anyone can do it.

40 minutes.....£9.50 (post free)

VIDEO DOUBLE: Both the above videos on one cassette.....

.....£12.00 (post free)

£1.20

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