“ADVANCE AUSTRALIA!!”

WHERE?

TREASON
no.15
against nationalism
against militarism
OUT ON THE FARM

CUMAOGUNGGA is a self-managed anarchist farm situated on the western side of the Great Dividing Range, about 100 miles in a straight line south-west of Brisbane.

We see 'a just distribution of societies wealth' as ownership of land by those who live on it and work it. As we see it self-management is not just managing production, but managing consumption as well. That is, taking account of the inequalities involved in the present production of all goods and services, and linking with other self-managed producers to build an alternative structure.

ANARCHIST EATERY OPENING

We've heard that an unemployed cum anarchist Cafe is opening in Melbourne located on Ackland Street in St Kilda. The organisers say the Galleon Cafe will be a place where you can sit down and read books, papers and magazines and eat cheap but good food. They're also interested in hosting anarchist films, plays and art shows, so if anyone has any of the above I suggest they contact the Galleon Cafe at 137A Ackland Street, St Kilda.

JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL?

Jura Bookshop in Sydney have been holding regular discussions and recently organised a dance with bands, Tactics, Saigon Children's Choir, Mutant Death and the Yowies. They've also had their front window bricked twice in the last three months. Due to the frequency of this sort of occurrence TREASON will be running a competition. The anarchist premises that receives the highest number of bricks thru the window in 1985 will win a free page worths of advertising in Treason. All brickings must be authenticated. Brickings by other anarchists will not be counted.

A new anarchist magazine has started in England. Called "GREEN ANARCHIST" it's aims help bring together punks, hippies, anarchists and radical green people.

"We hope to bring together people who see that the exploitative society results in the decimation of natural resources. Anarchist thought has long held that concern for the natural environment is part of the liberation process.

Anarchists believe that institutionalised power in the form of the state, and peoples obedience to that power has resulted in the situation that humanity finds itself. Exploitation is worldwide, modern techniques (ah progress) can cause a havoc that a man with a machete was never able to do. A rational approach to agriculture, transport and production is only inhibited by a power based, financial and political system in which the mass of people are deprived of any control over the forces which govern their lives.

Green Anarchist can be contacted via 68a Cassiobury Park Ave, Watford, Herts WD1 7LE
ANARCHY
what does it mean?

The anarchist philosophy has many facets just as human activity and experience has many facets.

We all know the different strains within the anarchist movement. We have the Christian anarchism of Tolstoy, the individualist anarchism of Stirner, the industry-orientated anarchism of the syndicalists. There are anarchists who put the accent on community living, on economics, on ecology, on education, on sex, on art.

Because anarchism is a philosophy of living, a socio-political philosophy, but in no sense a political party, it is capable of this diversity. It is open-ended. There is no finalised blueprint for success.

Ideas in a blue print become ossified and fixed. It takes battles of soldiers and police, the whole of the civil service and the media, to keep them fixed.

Anything that is really alive is subject to change. If it's true to life it has to be able to adapt and change, and must be capable of variation and diversity as people and life are various and diverse.

The State is an apparatus which is designed to curb diversity and variation, designed to stifle free initiative without which there can be no diversity and variation. The State is essentially a decadent force: with its punishments, and its handouts, its circuses and its class structure, the state is anti-life.

Anarchism affirms life. In the many different areas of thought and activity where anarchists play a part - there is one single principle always present, and that is the positive affirmation of the individual’s right to autonomy of thought and activity, a principle which entails the universal proviso that liberty must be combined with economic equality.

Of course it's not a new ideal. It's the oldest ideal in history. Lao Tse, and Buddha, and Socrates, and Christ, propounded, in different methods of historical settings, the same ideal in the language of their own time and culture.

It's an ideal which has been assimilated and effectively neutralised by organised religion. It's an ideal which is incorporated into the rhetoric of left-wing socialism, as in Lenin, but never attempted in the USSR or anywhere else, let alone practiced. It's an ideal which is the basis of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, but the politics of hierarchy and commodity capitalism could come to terms with it no better than the Communist Party.

People when they come to think about the anarchist ideal often accuse the anarchists of being naive and sentimental in their reading of human nature: as if anarchists believed in the inherent goodness of humanity.

So in attacking the viability of this ideal as a social concept, opponents stress the negative side of human nature. They say that without laws and
Students Speak

By forcing children to act and dress alike, high schools are encouraging us (students) to think and be alike. The ultimate aim is to convert us into factory-fodder: "learning the skills necessary to assimilate into society". High schools are, in fact, a training-ground for our future role in society. If we are trained at an early age to react 'correctly' to the sound of a ringing bell, to stand in lines, to be subservient before teachers; chances are, that in future years we will make model, goggling, citizens.

At school we are taught that instant, unquestioning obedience from those who have no power (students) to those who do have power (teachers) is for the benefit of everybody. Therefore it is safe to assume that when we leave school we will direct this consequently ingrained obedience and subservience towards our bosses and the government.

The horrific reality of this production-line of unassuming zombies marching placidly straight from school onto the chain-gang led us to form the Underground Students Action Group (U-SAG) earlier this year. We are fighting an on-going battle against the student.
TREASON interviewed four Anarchist-Feminists who went to the Women's Peace Camp at Cockburn Sound. For those who don't already know, 400 women camped at Point Peron, at the southern end of Cockburn, from the first to the fifteenth of December 1984. They were there to protest against the use of Stirling Naval Base by U.S. Nuclear armed and sometimes nuclear-powered warships. The base itself is located on Garden Island, which is just offshore from Point Peron. Access to the base is via a causeway, which links the Island to the mainland. However, a short distance from the mainland, is a gate across the causeway. So the actions at the Peace Camp were focussed on getting over, or around, this gate.

I asked them about the organization of the camp...

They believed that the camp was too organized and that too much time was spent on this. In some cases, the running of the camp was considered first when discussing actions — “But who'll look after the camp if you get arrested?”

There was a lack of knowledge about meetings, and although there were to be separate general meetings and action meetings - these tended to get mixed up, and, for example, decisions would be made at meetings where no decisions were supposed to be taken.

The affinity groups didn't perform their role so well and they turned out mainly to be places where people from the same city etc. cooked and slept. The idea that delegate would attend meetings was not followed and so it tended to but everyone altogether. I asked if this worked better than the affinity groups, but it didn't work that well because it meant that everyone had to agree on everything, which was nearly impossible in a group of 400 women. This especially became apparent when the discussion on the main action against the gate was in progress.

There were so many different interpretations of non-violence that there ended up being one group of people who wanted to sit in front of the gate and sing, and another that wanted to go over. The first group thought that people going over the gate were putting themselves in a position where violence could occur (confrontation with the police) and that therefore this action was violent. And as the camp was organized along non-violent guidelines, this action would be considered to be breaking the guidelines.

After three hours it became obvious that people were not going to reach a consensus, so one woman stood up and announced that she was going over the gate in half an hour and would anyone like to join her. She left amidst cheers and clapping and was followed by those women who felt the same. Initially about 35 of the women indicated that they would go over the gate, but during the action 75 were actually arrested for going over the gate or swimming around it, trying to get onto the enclosed section of the causeway.

What happened after you were arrested?

The women were first taken to Garden Is. as once they were over the gate, they had to stay there because the gate was blocked off during the action. Then they were taken to Rockingham, where the authorities realised there was not going to be enough room, and sent 50 of the women off to Fremantle. The 25 at Rockingham were given bail and released, but at Fremantle they were told of ‘bail conditions’, which specified that they couldn’t go onto the causeway. The women refused to comply with this and so refused bail. Then they were told that they couldn’t go to court in the morning because the women were arrested by commonwealth police, and the courts had to get permission to prosecute. The next court sitting was in five days! This then created a problem because some of the women didn’t want to stay in that long, but others felt strongly about not accepting the bail conditions.

Eventually they decided to bluff their way out, as the lock-up was already in a shambles from the large influx of women, and they refused bail again. They were successful and were granted bail without conditions.
I asked them about their overall comments, both good and not so good and came up with this:

Not so good.

— A general feeling that the camp was not empowering because of the limitations of possible actions. This became very frustrating.

— It was too short. By the second week things were starting to come together.

— The child care should have been organized from the beginning to be integrated into the camp. It was already organized before the camp to be separate and this caused a problem, as some people thought that the kids shouldn’t be kept separate.

Good

— That 400 women travelled so far to this camp was inspiring. For some it was their first action of this nature.

— It also disrupted things quite a bit; it cost the Government a lot of money; there were helicopters flying over every day; there were special troops brought in to patrol the fences on Garden Is.; and a lot of police had to be brought in from the country areas.

— The women made their presence felt and made people more aware of the facilities at Garden Is. (eg. the submarine dry-docking facilities)

— And an anarchist-feminist group of women formed out of it and started up in Perth. Yahoo (see contact list)

What was the reaction of the camp towards the media?

Some people relied too much on the media. Actions had to be media stunts for them to have any importance. So the media was being rung up all the time to let them know well in advance of any actions, and in one instance (during the three hour meeting) someone came rushing in to say that the media were waiting and that a decision should be made soon! And then these people were surprised when they got bad reports. They expected good reports all the time.

STOP THE CITY

"NOT JUST ANOTHER DEMO"

The Stop the City campaign (STC) began in London in September 1983 as an Anarchist action to expose the links in the chain between financial institutions and their role in the international arms trade, repression and poverty; ecological destruction and human and animal exploitation. Since then there have been many actions to "stop the city" all over Britain.

However, not all participants or observers agree about their success and/or desirability, but this can be said of any demonstration. There were mistakes but this is inevitable when new types of actions are tried. Surely it is heartening to see actions openly involving thousands of protestors aiming at the energies and imaginations of the public; we can be proud of these actions.

The results have been a very real disruption to the daily lives of ordinary people. They have shown that the system is vulnerable and can be stopped if individuals are willing to act. Certainly the campaign has succeeded in its aim to expose the role of financial institutions in the popular and profitable business of militarism and oppression. It also shows how in our ordinary day to day lives we support those institutions but that just as easily our support can be withdrawn if we do not agree with how our money is being used.

One problem initially encountered was a boycott against the first STC by CND members. Lies spread through the peace movement that STC was a front for violent anarchists and any involvement by CND members would bring their campaign into disrepute. The majority were anarchists but remained remarkably restrained and peaceable, in the face of unprovoked violence on the part of the police, and wouldn’t have been the majority if CND hadn’t boycotted the demo. Reports indicate that rumors came from the national CND. CND leaders have gradually backed down, because of a hostile media, from a goal of unilateral disarmament to a call for a freeze. A freeze brings disarmament not an inch nearer, it just dissipates our main aim; i.e. campaigning for the end of the arms race not an illusion of an end. CND are obsessed with their image and respectability to gain support and more power, just like any other political party. Respectability does not and never has in the past, stopped one missile being built.

As a handful of Anarchists defied the armed might of the state....
Treason

Due to the success and non-violence of the first STC, later actions have attracted co-operation of the CND and up to 3000 people have taken part. Hundreds of people have been arrested, mainly for the usual “breach of the peace”. The nearly 600 police attending the demo received a 35 page briefing for the occasion which explained that “all protesters are anti-establishment, unco-operative with police and some were potentially violent.” Apparently it is also considered that furs and Rolls Royces annoy demonstrators!

However the response from the police was often violent especially in the use of police horses. At one point police spurred their horses through people at the stock exchange and a spontaneous chant of non-violence broke out among punks, pinstripers and the rest. Despite the silence of the press over such incidents, bystanders saw these actions and hopefully drew some appropriate conclusions.

The press preferred to alude more to fluorescent pink hairstyles than to any political content. The numbers quoted in the newspapers were only about ¼ of those actually attending because they didn’t count the protestors that looked “normal” of course this makes the action seem like an insignificant disruption by a crazy minority with nothing better to do. All this points to the action as having hit a nerve, a very important financial nerve of big business and is perceived as a major threat by the authorities.

SELF-ORGANISED PROTEST

The idea of STC was to have a loose overall program with emphasis on decentralization where groups were encouraged to take their own action and make their own leaflets. Participants were to create the kind of day they wanted and to protest the issues they felt most strongly about in a way they felt to be appropriate. There were numerous as-

... IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL IN THE OFFICES OF THE TRANS-GLOBAL DEATH CORPORATION

Treason

Semblably points, where reports on arrests were made, legal support given and messages were carried to and from by cyclists. Types of actions taken by participants included:

- building occupations
- leafleting
- pickets
- graffiti
- bank cash dispensers were superglued
- group of 30 cyclists slowly toured the streets
- people opened and closed bank account
- ALF disrupted the meat market
- 200 people formed a human barricade across London Bridge
- anything that moved was superglued
- military statues were decorated
- jugglers, singers and puppeteers wound their way through the crowd

- numerous die-ins
- phone-ins to jam switchboards
- people walking backwards and forwards to slow traffic and hinder police
- theatre

Because of the non-hierarchical approach and the lack of mass collective decisions, police were left in disarray and often did more to hinder business as usual than many protestors. However some participants were also confused and did not know what to do. Largely this is a fault of the system not the organisers. It is not necessary to consider the demo as one large group pointing out what to do, rather the aim was the opposite i.e. for individuals or affinity/activist groups to take action on their own behalf against issues which are important to them. The only exception being a request for peaceful actions. Rather the problem lies with the conditioning people receive to give up responsibility for conditions around them to a system based on profits and power.

Meanwhile, in the suburbs, uncomprehending consumers watched the spectacle.
A FLY IN THE OINTMENT

ANARCHISTS DISRUPT POLICE WEEK

Readers of treason will have heard about the police harassment of Brisbane anarchists earlier in the year. To bring people back up to date, there were police raids on several anarchist households, anarchists were stopped and searched at both Mayday and Rock against Racism dances, and have been picked up in the streets and escorted to their homes to have the house searched. These encounters with the police often left us with a feeling of anger at our powerlessness.

However, we were provided with the opportunity to retaliate. Suffering from a severe public image problem, the police relations branch of the police force organised an exercise known as “Police Week” in King George Square. The weeks events consisted of a marching Scots band playing ‘Amazing Grace’; gymnastics, dog displays and the various branches (with the exception of Special Branch of course) exhibiting displays of their alleged activities. The idea of course being to demonstrate to the police that we would undertake on our behalf. A group of anarchists decided that it would be only appropriate for the public to be given the other side of the police story.

Write your name here

After much discussion we decided to set up a “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” stall alongside the various police exhibitions. Two leaflets were drawn up - one outlining peoples rights (ha! ha!) when dealing with the police, the other detailing some of the police’s comon illegal and immoral activities. Radio 4ZZZ along to interview police, anarchist and to document any confrontations that might occur.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

With hearts pounding and feeling not just a little nervous, we walked in a group from the city plaza to the square. (We had all agreed beforehand to arrive at and leave the square at the same time so as to prevent stragglers being picked up - the safety in numbers theory). Once there we set up our table stall, handed out leaflets and did some street speaking.

It was not long before we had attracted the attention of members of Special Branch, notably detectives John Bull and Vanadis (spelling?) both of whom can be fairly obnoxious, when they want to be. Bull later made various threats towards azz journalist who attempted to tape a confrontation between himself and an anarchist. On the second day one of our speakers was accosted by Bull when he left early. Bull roughed him up a little and warned that we had better leave the police alone “or else”. It was their week and we’d better not ruin it for them.

Undeterred we remained in the square for the rest of the week, speaking about common police practises such as “verballing” and “giving presents” and the high incidence of bashing and sudden deaths in the watch-house.

Also, for the first two days there was a large poster purporting to show how police have to deal with violent demonstrations. This poster showed one policeman being beaten up by a crowd of demonstrators. The demonstrator however, all had curiously short neat hair and the beefy sort of appearance one usually associates with police cadets. We made a point of discussing with people looking at this poster the curious aspects it presented. By the third day the poster was removed. How embarrassing for them.

LATER. The nervous strain on those of us who attended the three days of police week was quite high. We felt that we would not be given too much trouble whilst actually in the square, as the police would not want to be seen harassing people during a public relations exercise. However we were concerned that there would be reprisals after the event. This concern was perhaps justified when one considers that most of those who regularly attended the police week stall were singled out and arrested at the Land Rights demonstration that occurred a short time later.
If you want a copy of this information for any reason you must supply all the details of yourself you believe may be in their possession. Including dates, court appearances etc. The police under the freedom of information act may not ask you why you require copies of your file, photo, prints etc.

So having paid the set fee or not paid depending on your financial condition you will be sent the gory details of your brush with the law.

To obtain copies of my file for free I had to provide a copy of my empty bank account book. Proof of your identity may be required for Victorinan police.

The federales want $30 and a fresh set of prints for the privilege of prasing a copy from their files.

Incidentally the number of Australians in this particular system must be in the thousands.

So, having obtained a copy of your file you are in a position to request the destruction of the originals. In my case I have been assured nearly all the information held on me has been "removed". I'm in the process of being the remainder expunged. So if your thinking of putting up posters, spraying graffiti or illegally demonstrating don't be scared of being labelled a "criminal". If you arrested and everything you can still clear your name later.

SALUD

Matt

Despite the disparity in lifestyles, tactics and approach, the various tendencies within the anarchists managed to function together until proposals that an Australian equivalent of the German Green alliance be formed. The idea was discussed within the movement at length, with most people coming to the natural conclusion that you don’t set out to destroy something by becoming a part of it, for some however, it seems that their parliametary ambitions had an aura of legitimacy that was unobtainable out there on the anarchist fringe. Instead of storming the citadiels of power they decided to apply for the post of office boy.

Indeed, the legitimacy and respectability conferred upon their debut into mainstream politics has been quite amusing. The Media usually reserve this sort of reception for defectors from the Soviet Union, cosmonauts hellion seeking freedom in our democratic west etc. If column inches in the Courier Mail were any sort of measure of political success (which, fortunately, they’re not) these aging activists have achieved more in the last few months than in their last five years of media ignored activism.

Part of their success of their initial burst of media coverage was perhaps due to their choice of mayoral candidate, Drew Hutton. Drew gives an impression of being a likeable chap, looks totally straight and dependable, and I can even hear some future edition of the Womans Weekly calling him ‘ruggedly handsome’. This being the case, Drew was, in the past, acted as the front man for the anarchists when it came to things like signing leases. It is hardly surprising that the Greens decided to
use him as the front man for their first campaign. Its really a bit disappoointing about Drew though. After his years with the anarchists he really should know better. Will Mayor Hutton be any different from Mayor Harvey? Treason doubts it and passes on this anecdote.

Upon being told that American warships would be docking in Brisbane immediately prior to the council elections our mayoral candidate expressed enthusiasm for their arrival and the resultant political mileage he expected to gain, noting "It’s the first time I’ve been glad about warships arriving.”

But of course, it’s the first time you’ve been playing politics. Like the anarchists say, no matter who you vote for, a politician wins.

THE EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY LEFT: A THORN IN THEIR SIDE

Meanwhile the anarchists tended to watch the Greens formative antics with a sort of disinterested amusement, a nuisance and possibly a threat. This animosity was first displayed when a member of the Greens issued a leaflet which he posted up in West End complaining of a campaign of political censorship. One of the early metings of the green party, before it formally evolved as such, was advertised in poster form, very widely throughout West End for a number of weeks prior to the event. Some three days before the meeting took place, two of these posters were inadvertently obscured by posters advertising the Subterranean Cabaret, a monthly anarchist cultural event. This obscuring of two posters was the ‘campaign of political censorship’. This laughable accusation was nonetheless the first attempt by the greens to discredit the anarchists.

It is hardly surprising, I suppose, that this should occur. Certainly it would be to the Green Party’s advantage that the rest of the anarchists be discredited. It would be to the Green Party’s advantage to have the anarchist movement be left without a public face, such as bookshops, coffee shops. It would be to the Green Party’s advantage also that the anarchist movement be left without a public face, such as bookshops, coffee shops or whatever, through which to launch campaigns and to serve as contact points. It would be to the Green Party’s advantage that they could somehow manage to appear to be the sole heirs to the libertarian tradition. Let us consider the following:

Brian Laver, green party member was recently in Sydney. Whilst there he made comments to the effect that the reason Kropotkins, (Brisbanes vegetarian restaurant and anarchist centre) closed was because of all the anarchist freeloaders. This is a typical Laver slur. The facts are these. The cafe side of Kropotkins was originally one persons project. This person and a number of anarchist friends received wages whilst a number of anarchists donated their services either for free or for a minimal financial gain. Eventually the paid staff left and the restaurant was run by a collective who worked without any pay whatsoever. When this occurred Mr Laver made one of his special appearances, told us we would have no option but to close down now the paid staff had left as we were not competent to run the restaurant and disappeared. In fact the collective managed to keep the restaurant open and the anarchist community fed whilst paying off the original bills, all in the face of police harassment, hostile cranks, and a landlord who wanted us OUT. I didn’t see any freeloaders, but I saw a lot of people burning out thru their commitment to keeping the place open in the face of heavy opposition.

Let us also consider the following. The same Mr Laver was also recently in Melbourne when the Collective Effort Bookshop so suddenly closed down. At the time Mr Laver was staying with two of the collective members who abruptly called an emergency meeting at a time when most of the members were out of town. These 2 members, who had the ultimate financial say over the bookshop, were going overseas and decided that there was no one competent to run the shop in their absence. In the absence of opposition that would have arisen had other collective members been in town, the shop was closed down. These two members also took an executive decision to send much of the shops library and archival material to the Libertarian Information Service, a Brisbane, green party connected body of which Brian Laver is a member.

Finally let us consider Mr Lavers role in recent attempts to close the Red and Black Bookshop in Brisbane. Mr Laver, who unfortunately is closely incorporated into the shops legal structure, has announced that he no longer wishes to be associated with the shop because of it’s undesirable elements and has told the collective that it will cost $1,500 in legal fees to remove his name from the directorship. He suggested that the shop close up and sell off the remainder of it’s stock at half price in order to meet these costs. Two members of the collective, who are also Green Party members, think this is a good idea. The Libertarian Information Service has also been making moves to acquire the shops extensive archival material and library.

Mr Lavers real motives however are to secure the company structure for himself, no doubt intending to use it as a tax dodge as he has in the past (remember that volvo) and to close the bookshop down at all costs. Mr Laver has told the bookshop collective that they must close down voluntarily or he will close them down. He has made it clear that he has a personal vendetta against the shop, stating he does not trust the collective (does not trust them to exist outside the controlling arms of the Green Party that is) and has come out with sanctimonious crap such as “I’m teaching you a lesson in political toughness” and, believe it or not “Life isn’t easy” (doesn’t that sound familiar) Mr Lavers threat to “sack” the collective shows how thin his veneer of social democracy.
The current revival of anarchist activity in Brisbane poses a threat to the Green's electoral ambitions. It is a section of the voting population that the Greens hope to capture, that are most likely to come to accept the anarchist analysis. The Greens are aiming to replace the single issue NDP as the trendy alternative to the ALP. Their survival will depend on their ability to follow market trends and maintain a regular turnover of ideologically hip issues. They'll never 'win power' but they should be able to get enough votes on a regular basis to ensure a steady career in politics.

There'll be no danger of social change through the Green Party, merely the sanctimonious whining of the righteous, safe in the knowledge that they'll never be in a position where they're programs can be enacted. The energies of those who turn to the Green Party because of their concern for environmental issues, will be turned from the task of dealing with those issues to the straw man task of trying to win more votes. Eventually the disillusioned Green Party voter becomes cynical and apathetic, convinced of their powerlessness and their inability to see social change become a reality.

However, experience overseas (and to a smaller extent in Australia) shows that more people who are concerned over environmental issues, nuclear disarmament, animal liberation or social justice are beginning to understand that these issues are merely symptoms of an entire system which is unjust, which needs to be attacked at it's very foundations. Anarchist ideas are beginning to permeate various levels of society to a degree not seen before.

But it is up to us to spread our ideas as far as possible, to reach out and communicate with people who are rightly concerned with the damage being done to this planet. It is up to us to take REAL action for social change, to formulate viable strategies that provide a Real alternative to the faciral machinations of parlimentary power politics. The only limits to our tactics are the limits of our imagination.

ALTERNATIVES TO VOTING

A SHORT LIST OF TACTICS

Symbolic actions, such as:
- formal statements (speeches, letters)
- slogans, leaflets, banners
- demonstrations, protest marches, vigils, pickets
- wearing of symbols of opposition (such as the paper clips worn by Norwegian civilians during the Nazi occupation)
- meetings, teach-ins

Noncooperation, such as:
- social boycott, stay-at-home
- boycotts by consumers, workers, trades, embargoes
- strikes, bans, working-to-rule, withdrawal of bank deposits
- boycotts of government institutions
- disobedience, evasions and delays
- mock incapability ('go slow', 'misunderstandings', 'mistakes')

Intervention and alternative institutions, such as:
- facts
- sit-ins, nonviolent obstruction and occupation
- sabotage (such as destruction of information and records)
- establishment of parallel institutions for government, media, transport, welfare, health and education

TREASON

The TAPELOOPS

The TAPELOOPS are an anarchist band that have been around for some time now. Treason finds out what they're up to...

Kats: It all began around Xmas 1980 when I discovered that by covering the eraserhead of a cassette deck with a bit of cardboard I could dub a layer of sound over a previous layer. At the time I was working as a poet, so this allowed me to make a vaguely musical sort of background for my poetry, using tape loops of broken glass, an out of tune acoustic guitar and so forth.

Treason: How did the Tapeloops get started?

Kats: From there I moved onto a slightly more sophisticated method of recording, by dubbing from one cassette deck to another, which allowed more control over what I was doing. As I went on I became more and more interested in the actual musical side of things, exploring sound and rhythms and techniques, while still saying the things I want to say. Linda started out by helping me with the more complex stuff, and became more and more involved with the projects. John and Scott were both at later stages assimilated in much the same manner.

Treason: Would you say that the Tapeloops have changed a great deal? Say changing from an...
Kats: In essence I think the Tapeloops have remained pretty much true to the original intentions. Our approach to music has always been experimental, we're always willing to explore new ideas and as result our sound has always been a very individual one. In our total approach to music and the music scene we're fairly unique.

At the same time as producing interesting music we've always been interested in communicating with people. If your going to sing you may as well sing about something which you believe is important, even if you approach it in a light hearted fashion. The last thing the world needs is another mindless love song “My woman gone and left me...” etc.

TREASON: How do your politics reflect themselves in your music?
Kats: Well, obviously through our lyrics, but it doesn’t stop there. Too many bands have gone out preaching some form of revolution or whatever, whilst doing nothing whatsoever in their personal lives to make this happen, in fact leading lifestyles that are totally anti-revolutionary and hypocritical. All they’re doing is turning rebellion and discontent into a market commodity. With us our whole approach is a reflection of our politics, not just the lyrics. They way we perform the songs, put out our own tapes, run our own venues and actively try to communicate with our audiences on a two way basis are just as important as what we sing about.

TREASON: You do sing a couple of love songs tho...
Kats: Sure we have a couple of songs dealing with personal relationships, as anarchists we believe the personal is political and there are aspects of love relationships that we wanted to talk about and feel we have valid comments to make. That’s a long way from every song going “oh baby baby give me your love”. However I will admit that we do songs like Louie Louie and Sister Ray purely cos they’re a lot of fun to play.

TREASON: Are you a dance band.
Kats: Oh sure, most of our songs have a very strong rhythmical element and it’s very inspiring having people dancing and having a good time. Dancing breaks down the passive spectator/performer roles and changes the audiences role from passive observation to actually participating in what’s happening. It becomes a very tribal thing and we’ve had some performances which have really been quite uplifting experiences. It’s a pity though that people often think that a song has to go 2000 miles an hour before you can dance to it.

TREASON: Your not about to sell out then and appear on countdown.
Kats: You can trust us! We’re different from all the other narrahar.

TREASON: You mentioned running your own venues, could you tell us a bit about that?
Kats: Yeah, we’ve run three different venues over the last two years or so, which have given local bands and performers a chance to reach an audience. The Milton Hall, the Midnight Cabaret and the Subterranean Cabaret, have been a mixture of bands, poets, plays, bookstalls and general good times. The last, the Sub Cabaret was particularly a community effort, with people from the unfortunately defunct Kropotkin’s taking an active hand in the proceedings.

TREASON: Have you had much trouble with the police.
Kats: They closed down our first place, The Milton Hall. They’re always there, waiting to pick up stragglers and so on. Apathy’s a bigger problem than police. All too often in Brisbane people complain that there’s nothing to do or nowhere to go. We say DO IT YOURSELF. Form your own band, find a venue and start your own scene. Its more exciting and satisfying than passively paying five dollars on so to sit in some boring nightclub.

TREASON: What was the response to your ep FIR IN HEAVEN like?
If your going to “smash the state” then all of its institutions need to be undermined, not one at a time but a simultaneous battering until they all crumble into an authoritarian junkyard where they belong. It is necessary for each activist to choose their specific areas of concern and concentrate their energies there, whether it be animal liberation or feminism. At the same time it is necessary to lead a lifestyle where other areas of concern are not neglected or indeed inadvertently supported due to specialization in other areas. Leading an “ideologically sound” lifestyle amounts to non-co operation to a degree that can significantly affect many institutions. When we realise that we do not need these institutions or their profit motivated lies we can begin to refuse their products and initiate alternatives.

Without consumers the money-go-round cannot continue. The collaboration of big business and governments can transform even an intollerable “wrong” into an acceptable “right” as long as it makes money, usually at our expense. The cost is often our health. The state has many ways to rid itself of its opponents. It can resort to general harassment, prison, mental institutions, economic dependence and unjust laws or by slowly poisoning us with junk food. Junk food makes us mentally and physically unhealthy and therefore apathetic and disinclined to keep up active struggle or even to realise the need for such struggle. The state has institutionalised even food thereby controlling all the strings to our lives. It is up to us to cut the strings and approach a lifestyle as close as possible to our vision of a free self managed society.

The optimum diet is different for each individual but there are some products which definately support the state more than our bodies. Foods in their natural state are healthier, uncontaminated and support big business a lot less than processed foods. Each additional process adds to the expense and so is balanced by cheap slave labour often in third world countries which have other advantages such as union bans, less quality control and the usual tax havens. This means large profits for multi-nationals but expensive nutritionless foods for the fullble consumer. Hence those enlightening ads for packet cake mixes, instant chinese foods and tinned health foods! they will change nothing except to mention your mind. Processed foods contain too much salt, sugar, fat and chemicals which leads to heart disease, cancer, diabetes, tooth decay, obesity, digestive disorders and mental imbalance. The annual average consumption of sugar in Australia is 1.1 kg per week. 2/3 of which is in processed foods eg. breakfast cereals are up to 50% sugar. Of course they add vitamin C to score points on the packet but fail to tell us that sugar destroys Vitamin C! Breakfast cereals costing $1 contain 5c worth of grain and the average price of potato chips in 1980 was $3.80 per kg but consisted of 30c worth of potatoes. Face it, nutritional value adds nothing to palatability or profit and so is ignored. Don’t be conned. Todays corpses are keeping much longer because of the preservatives they contain!

All these tasteless poisons can be bought at the local muzak supermarket which is probably part of the same chain of companies that processed and delivered the food. Don’t be misled by the many different brand/company names used, production of food, its packaging and retail outlets are controlled by a very few companies. This decreases competition and any real variety but of course profits stay high and big business retains its power base so any minority needs are ignored for the economy of mass production. Homogeneous products for a homogeneous society conditioned by grossly inaccurate advertising on T.V. and radio and taught to accept as normal anything that will support big business with little regard for the consequences to the consumer. Consume be silent, die is their motto. Many products are in fact exactly the same, its only the packaging and advertising that makes them seem different. Packaging does nothing but destroy trees and creates a disposal problem which costs $100m per year. Food ads exploit inequities and insecurities to create images of security and happiness that are unattainable. They are simply selling a false and plastic existence. Don’t be fooled by their subtle increased concern for nutrition either as sawdust was added to bread in America and advertised as “added fibre”!

Watch out too for companies cashing in on food products under the guise of “health foods”. They may be just as nutritionally unsound as any other processed food. Many large food companies are in fact buying ou small health food and medicine businesses with the result that quality is drastically reduced. Some comfrey ointment hasn’t even seen a comfrey plant! The following is a guide to nutrition with little support to the system. Remember the closer the food is to its natural state the more nutritious it is and the less likely it is to...
support big business. So stay healthy and alert, its just one way of saboraging the system. The optimum diet for each individual takes lots of experimenting - food should be enjoyed as well as being nutritional. There are basic requirements however that should be considered.

*** Seeds, Nuts and Grains and Fruit and Vegetables: Food co-ops can be joined or formed to buy in bulk thereby making substantial savings and by passing packaging and consumer outlet industries. Remember to thoroughly wash and rinse fruit and veg. Dried foods are much cheaper if bought whole and rolled, broken or round on your own (or the co-ops) grinder. This also means that grains like wheat yield fresh wheatgerm and flour which turn rancid in a week due to an oxidation process. Rancid foods are extremely injurious to health.

*** Vegetable Oils: Nutritional these are essential but only if fresh. Most nuts and seeds quickly go rancid when the shell is broken and to cover the off taste and smell harmful additives are used by oil manufacturers. Only a few oils stay fresh naturally eg. Olive and Sesame oils.

*** Dairy Products: Milk is promoted as a health food but they fail to explain that after pasteurization the enzymes that digest the mucous forming milk fat are destroyed. So avoid gallons of milk and cheese and of course the processed creams etc. and make your own yoghurt.

*** Honey: Raw bulk honey is not expensive, can be used as a substitute for sugar anywhere and is nutritionally sound. Commercial honey is boiled, watered down and has sugar syrup added.

*** Meat and Eggs: There are numerous different approaches to the preferability of vegetarianism. Many believe animal liberation to be a part of the struggle for a new world if so then meat can be avoided. Nutritionally it is not necessary. A low protein intake is far better for you despite what the meat industry funded research may say. It is also necessary to remember the exploitive and often barbaric ways in which animals are housed, shipped and slaughtered and so it may be preferable to become vegetarian until such methods are changed. Scientists in Canada have been trying to breed animals for slaughter without legs and chickens without feathers to save on costs. Rainforests in Brazil are being cleared to make way for cattle farms to produce cheap meat for McDonald’s hamburgers. The animals mental and physical health and vitality suffer, but it seems that cruelty is acknowledged only when profitability ceases.

Both “modern” and “alternate” medicine have their role and can be effective. But the way in which the average person is alienated from an active part in their own health care means it has become the province of experts where knowledge is used for profit and prestige rather than for the welfare of our society.

ADVANTAGES FROM SITTING NUCLEAR WASTE PLANTS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS

#2. Large, multilimbed animals

Everyone is subject to radioactive substances and hundreds of poisons and toxic chemicals everyday of our lives. We live under a system where adverse affects to the environment are largely ignored, it poisons the air we breathe the food we eat and the water we drink. Even organically grown foods are grown in polluted air and watered with polluted chemical water. As well as fighting to change the system to stop such wholesale suicide, there are a few measures we can take in the meantime to protect ourselves:

- buy organic foods or grow your own wherever possible
- wash commercially grown fruits and vegetables carefully with soap and warm water and rinse thoroughly (many chemicals used do not come off with just water)
- to remove arsenic and DDT use a solution of 1oz pure HCl with 3 quarts of water in a glass or earthenware pot, soak vegetables for 5 min then rinse. The solution can be re-used many times.
- stop using household toxic chemicals on garden sprays, air fresheners and insect sprays. This has the added advantage of upsetting the companies involved too. Alternatives can be tried such as a solution of garlic and/or chilli as a garden spray.
- fortify diet with the following supplements which have been found to have specific protective, neutralizing and detoxifying properties:
  - yoghurt — sour milk bacteria neutralizes most poisons specifically DDT and Strontium 90
  - kelp — protects against radioactive fallout and radioactive iodine
  - lecithin — neutralizes all body poisons
  - brewers yeast — protects against pollution and helps the liver to detoxify harmful substances
  - Vitamin B complex — for protection against toxic residues in food. (Whole grains, fresh ground, are a good cheap source — unless you are good a ripping off the health food stores.)
  - Vitamin B1 — specifically for the effects of lead
  - Vitamin B12 — specifically for pollution and carbon monoxide
  - Vitamin C — a strong anti tox-in, protects all organs and glands, take up to 5000mg per day and 1500mg every hour up to 10000mg per day for acute cases of poisoning from any source
  - Vitamin E — for pollutants eg ozone, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. (Cheap sources is from whole grains, nuts and non rancid vegetable oils eg olive.)
  - Vitamin A — for smog protection
  - Calcium and magnesium — neutralizes and helps rid the body fo lead, mercury, strontium 90 and cadmium. (Dolomite powder is a good cheap source or lost of greens and nuts)
- eat an optimum diet.
CONTACTS

VIC
* Libertarian Socialists, C/o Latrobe Uni, S.R.C. Bundoora, Vic. 3083.
* Treason. P.O. Box 37, East Brunswick, 3057.
* Libertarian Workers for a Self Managed Society. P.O. Box 20, Parkville, 3052.
* Galleon Cafe. 137A Acland Street, St. Kilda 3182.

W.A
* Freedom Collective. P.O. Box 203, Fremantle.

A.C.T.
* Black Lemmings. (Canberra Crimes Collective), G.P.O. Box 1814, A.C.T. 2601.

TAS.
* Tasmanian Anarchists. 34 Kennedy Street, Launceston. 7250.

NZ.
* Tu Kuna Te Manu Kia Rere (Blackmail Newspaper). P.O. Box 13-165 Christchurch, Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Anarchist — Feminist Contacts
* Adelaide Womens Liberation. 234A Rundle Street, Adelaide, S.A.
* Perth Anarchist — Feminists. Contact through “Squirrel nutkins” Works Collective, 403 Hay Street, Subiaco, Perth.

Anyone got anymore contacts? Send them in!

NS.W.
* Jura Books, 417 King Street, Newton, Sydney, 2042.
* Redfern Black Rose Anarchist Bookshop, 36 Botany Road, Redfern, N.S.W. 2015.
* Panic Merchants, P.O. Box K153, Haymarket, Sydney, N.S.W.
* Black Ram Books, P.O. Box 271, Kings Cross, N.S.W. 2101.
* The Fanya Baron Library. Contact through Jura Books.
* Monty Miller Press, P.O. Box 92, Broadway, Sydney, 2007.
* Rebel Worker — Sydney group. 1st Floor, 417 King Street, Newtown, N.S.W. 2042.
* Red and Black. P.O. Box A425, Sydney South, N.S.W. 2000.
* Tweed Heads/Kingscliff, People for peace & anarchy, C/- 24 Quiggan Street, Kingscliffe, N.S.W. 2487.

Q.L.D.
* Red and Black Bookshop. P.O. Box 332, North Quay, Brisbane, Qld.
* Libertarian Socialist Organization. P.O. Box 223 Broadway, Qld.
* Catholic Worker. P.O. Box 187, West End, Brisbane.
* Rural Anarchists, M. Palmer & E. Scott, Cumaroogunga, M.S. 508, Warwick, 4370.

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