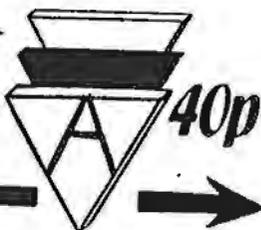


LESBIAN & GAY FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Newsletter 10 Spring 95



ANARCHY
SEXLIB!

THIS NEWSLETTER WAS PUT TOGETHER WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT SUPPORTERS.

Please send us your poems, articles, letters, graphics, news, reviews, cartoons, ideas, thoughts, comments & responses to articles in this newsletter, or anything else you'd like to have printed in our next newsletter. Send your scribbings to LGFM Newsletter, BM Box 207, London, WC1N 3XX. Thanks!!

THE VIEWS OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF LGFM.

ANARCHY = SEXLIB!

LGFM. BM BOX 207. LONDON. WC1N 3XX.

Hello readers! We hope you enjoy this edition of LGFM Newsletter. Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year, if belated. Plenty of interesting things have been happening, as you'll read from various contributions in our publication.

We have decided to change our name from 'Lesbian and Gay Freedom Movement' to '?'. This is where you the readers come in! We've decided to run a competition to come up with a new name for our organization simply because we believe in sexual liberation for all - not just lesbians and gays but for bisexuals, SMers, boy and girl lovers, fat people, the disabled, the old, straights, those who don't define or label themselves as anything, and so on. We need a movement that includes all those groups and cultures. So readers, get your thinking caps on and come up with a good name for the former LGFM. The winner will be invited to spend the night with me the editor or any of my delectable, beautiful colleagues!!!!Get those pens pushing!



Yours ever,

Ed.

HANDY GUIDE TO THE LAW - UPDATE

Since LGFMs 'Handy Guide to the Law' was published in the Newsletter, the Criminal Justice Act, which restricts our liberty in all sorts of ways, has been passed. The Act also decriminalised buggery for gay males and heterosexuals over 18 so the parts of the guide on penalties for buggery are now changed.

Although these changes can be seen as a good thing, what about under-18s? Why should they be criminalised?

Peacemeal tinkering with the law is not the way forward to a society in which everyone's sexuality is respected and there is not right or wrong way to have sex. As a first step towards liberation we need to get rid of all oppressive sex laws such as: public indecency (i.e. gay sex can only be with two people in absolute privacy); the age of consent; the Sadoomasochism laws; conspiracy to corrupt public morals; obscenity; the 'Disorderly House Law', (used against clubs and private parties.

Liberation is not just about changing laws. In order to have a society where everyone could be sexually happy there would have to be a change in the status of and attitudes towards old people, the disabled, children, minority races and cultures, and people who don't fit into the stereotype of what is considered sexually attractive. In the meantime ignore the law!



FREE WOMEN OF SPAIN

WOMEN HAD a major role in the social revolution that swept through Spain in 1936. Anarchist women organised themselves in the 'Mujeres Libres' (Free Women) linked to the mass anarcho-syndicalist union, the 'Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo' (CNT). They had always been active in the Spanish revolutionary movement. One example is Teresa Claramunt, an anarchist textile worker who was active in the general strike of 1902 when women attacked food speculators and stopped buses and trolleys. The organisation, 'Mujeres Libres' lasted only three years when the victory of Franco terminated all hope of social change. But by 1939 it had grouped together over 27,000 women in 147 groups throughout Republican Spain.

Lola Iturbe, who was later to be a leading activist in 'Mujeres Libres' wrote in her article 'Anarchist Communism Will Liberate Women' that: "Only the reign of libertarian communism can provide a humane solution to the problem of women's emancipation. With the destruction of private property, this hypocritical morality will fall by the wayside, and we will be free... We will experience love with the complete freedom of our appetites, respecting all the various forms of amorous and sexual life."

How would the women become involved? In 1933 in Madrid some women active in the libertarian movement sent letters to women throughout the country saying that they wanted to set up a womens' organisation and asking what issues needed to be addressed. There was a large and enthusiastic response. One woman argued: "I always felt strongly that women had to be emancipated. That our struggle was - and still is - more than just the struggle against capitalism... We used to talk a lot about that, insist that the struggle was not just in the factories, in the streets, or even in the 'ateneos'. Women had to emerge as fully equal members of the libertarian movement. As Lola Iturbe remarked in the anarchist newspaper 'Tierra y Libertad' (World and Freedom): "All those 'companeros' (male comrades), however radical they may be in cafes, unions, and even affinity groups, seem to drop their costumes as lovers of female liberation at the doors of their homes. Inside, they behave with their female comrades just like common 'husbands'".

This organisation of some 27,000 women to libertarian revolutionary politics has been hidden from history, receiving little coverage even in the books written by women historians. Things have changed to a certain extent for women, if only in the industrialised countries of Western Europe. Within the anarchist movement, men cannot get away

with things as they could have had before, and it is to be hoped, would not want to. But the liberation of women cannot be subordinated to a vague 'social revolution', or the real social revolution that will take place will itself be partial, inadequate and diminished.

(Taken from 'Organise! for class struggle anarchism' Oct-Dec 1993, Issue 32)

POLICE RAID OF FETISH CLUB 'WHIPLASH'

Recently the police have been cracking down on fetish clubs and the press have been infiltrating private parties and exposing party-goers.

It is a fair question to ask why harassment of clubs should be of concern to anarchists. Isn't it just rich people getting dressed up and paying exorbitant entrance fees and bar prices before getting their taxis home?

Certainly there is something in this but their persecution has much wider implications. To start with perhaps anarchists should defend any group the State attacks and then there is the issue of why the State has chosen S&Mers and Fetishists.

At fetish clubs public exhibitions of sexuality are acceptable - challenging the idea that sex must always be in private. It is also safe recreational sex and a way that new people can learn. I would also say that in my recent experience of going to some of the clubs I haven't seen women being sexually harassed as is so often the case in ordinary clubs, pubs and parties. Women seemed very assertive sexually in whatever role they may have been playing. Turning sex into a type of play is not what the State likes at all. Our rulers like sex to be deadly serious and men and women to play their 'proper' roles.

On October 13th this year I was at Club 'Whiplash'. Everyone seemed to be having a really nice time. There was no drunkenness, fights or unpleasantness. At 2.05am 58 police officers broke in the front door and told no-one to move. They confiscated all the goods on the stalls and seized equipment. Two macho 'plain-clothes' officers in impeccable fetish gear roamed around speaking into their records saying what they had observed when people were enjoying themselves during the evening. No-one was arrested but many club-goers were absolutely terrified and many felt humiliated particularly middle-aged couples and transvestites. When we were eventually allowed out we were faced with police dogs and seven police vehicles outside the club.

The Crown Prosecution Service is considering charges of 'Running a Disorderly House', a law about persistent indecent displays at a premises, dating back to 1751. Since the raid some clubs have closed down and others don't dare allow anything much to happen. The police have been visiting other clubs in a consistent campaign of intimidation.

Stop Press - Whiplash is to be prosecuted



The Safer Planet Sex Diary 1995

Available from Tuppy Owens 135-139 Curtain Rd, 4th Floor, London EC2; £7.99 (inc.p&p)

A great colourful diary detailing sex clubs, services, liberation groups around the world. LGFM is listed. You also get sex position of the week at the bottom of the page. Great fun - really useful!!!!

CONTINUED

In an anarchist society it would be no-one's business what people chose to do with one another, but now this is part of the criminalisation of unconventional sex. A gay pub, 'The Pride', has just been charged with 'Disorderly House' because it is claimed men were having sex in the loos. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act further criminalised computer pornography and the police can now raid your home without a warrant on suspicion that you may have hard-core videos that you might swap or sell. Under the strangely named 'Protection of Children Act' two mothers were arrested and held in custody for having holiday snaps of them breast-feeding each other's children. This was supposed to be child pornography.

Whether or not you are on the fetish scene or like doing or seeing any of these things this clampdown affects us all because it's the State telling us it has the right to control our bodies and our lives.

None of us will be free until we are all free.



WE STILL SUPPORT THE QUEEN!

In the Irish Constitution allegiance is sworn to the Queen despite the fact that the 26 counties are supposedly independent of Britain. Ireland answers to Britain.



The current peace talks have so far achieved nothing. Gerry Adams is busy shaking hands with President Clinton and John Major is calling all the shots.

Ireland is very much a colony of Britain and while Britain continues its oppression we, the British people, cannot ourselves be free.



It is not surprising that the people of Northern Ireland are driven to armed struggle, living in the constant threat of being searched, harassed, shot or imprisoned by Her Majesty's Government.

The British tax-payer contributes towards some one-million pounds a day to fund the British war against Irish and British people in a supposedly democratic country where freedom of speech and movement are cherished.



The peace process is just a sham. Britain has no intention of withdrawing its troops from Northern Ireland. Irish people are still being fitted up and locked away by the British justice system for crimes they did not commit. This still goes on during the peace process.

The LGFM wants liberation for all Irish people and supports the armed struggle against British oppression. Poor Irish workers meet death with a bullet. We have a responsibility as British workers to oppose the British war-crimes in Ireland and fight for complete liberation from State and Church oppression.



****BEN WILSON - PRISONER OF STATE REPRESSION

Update - Ben Wilson is Britain's longest serving gay prisoner, jailed for 'offences' he tells us he never committed in the first place with under-age boyfriends in 1973. He is now serving his life in prison. WHY is he in prison when men who rape with violence are often released after a fraction of this time? Could it be something to do with the fact that Ben Wilson has never agreed that he harmed his boyfriends and that he's taken the British Government to the European Court of Human Rights twice and won? In one case he forced the British Government to change the law and make procedures for life sentence prisoners more open and more fair. FREE BEN WILSON NOW! Anarchist don't believe in heroes but it might be fitting if the next Pride-March were dedicated to BEN WILSON.



The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill having become an Act of Parliament, is having far reaching effects upon the way we demonstrate peacefully and live our lives. As the government tightens its grip of control over our lives people are being arrested as a result of this act.

It is no longer legal for us to have spontaneous or planned demonstrations or actions against State Policy or the rich without police permission. The effect this may have on isolating and dividing dissent against the government may be great. In a country supposedly advocating free speech so many voices and ways of expressing anger peacefully have been silenced and stopped.

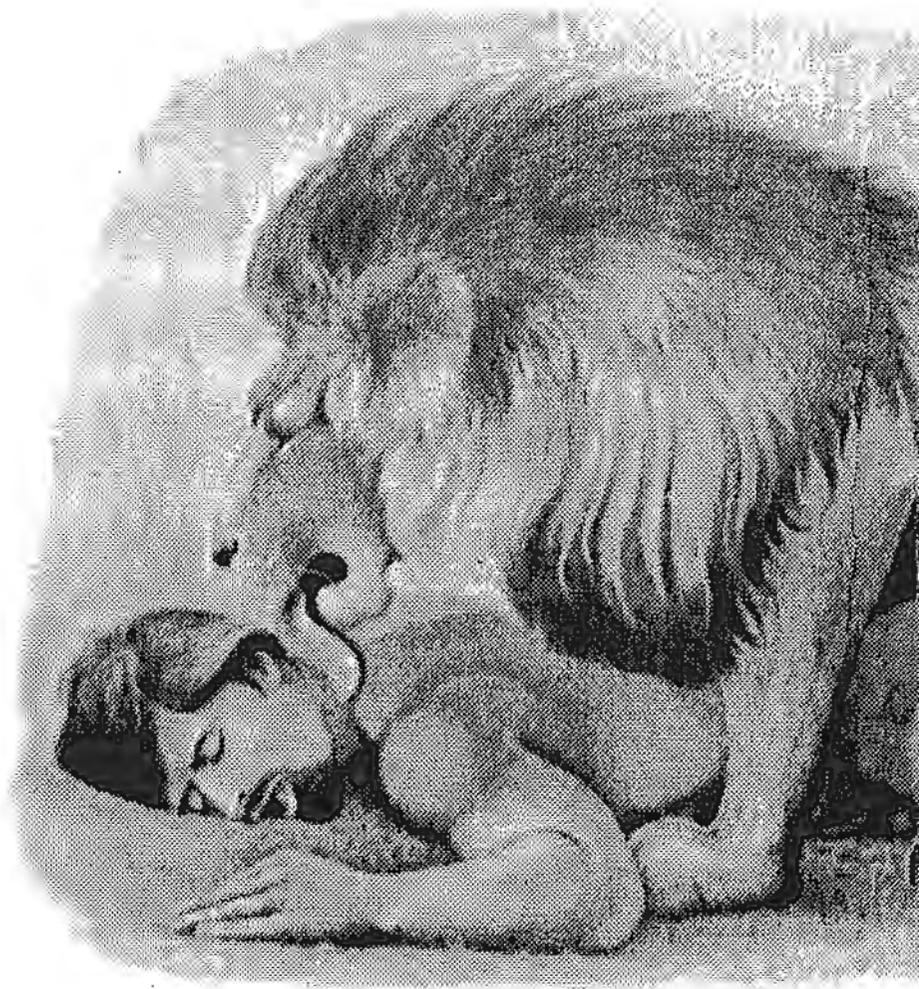
Certain groups such as ravers and squatters, travellers and hunt sabs have been forced into illegality in order to follow their lifestyles or carry out their beliefs. The hypocrisy of the State tries to create anti-discrimination legislation for some groups yet chooses others to be hounded out of society and used as scapegoats for their own policies which cause violence and poverty.

The State makes grudging concessions to gays and lesbians by reducing the legal age for gay sex from 21 to 18 and decriminalising homosexuality for both sexes in the armed forces, but at the same time reduces the rights of squatters, travellers, ravers and those who wish to protest. The State hopes to divide up anger against the system by rewarding some who conform and punishing those who disobey and want to change.

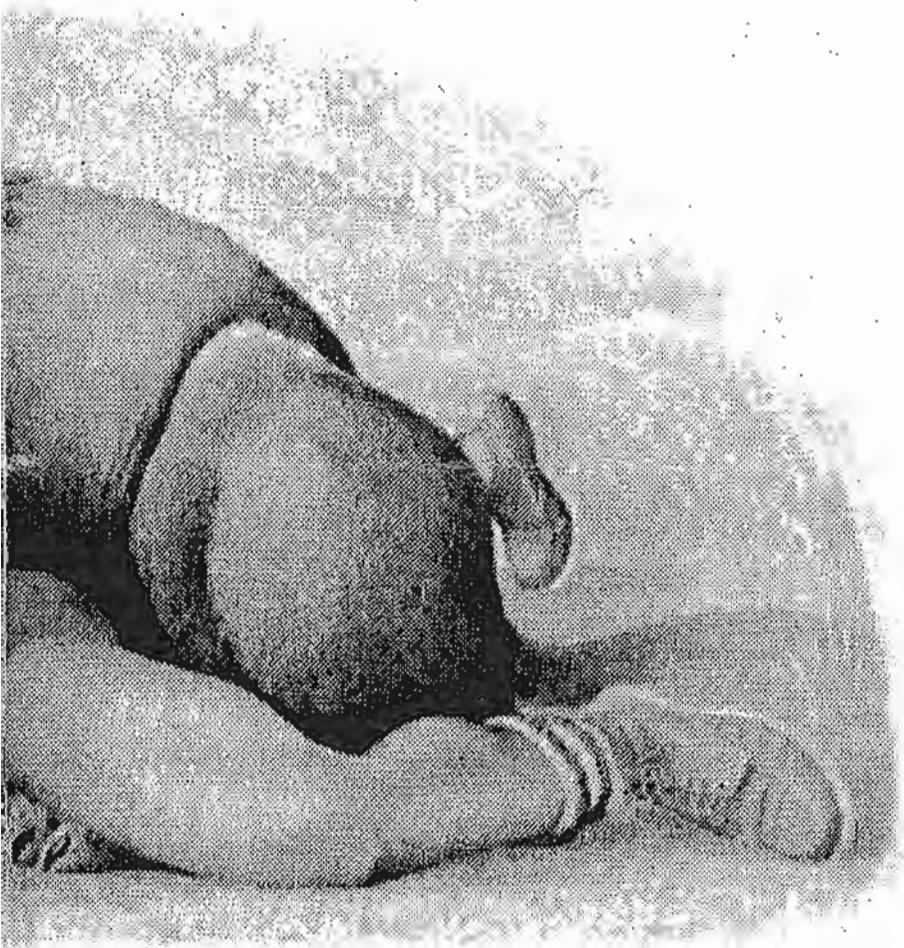
As a young faggot I'm meant to be proud of the age of consent reduction from 21 to 18 for us men loving men contained within the Act. I'm meant to rejoice at the kindness and tolerance of the State in allowing me to follow my perversion. Well all I feel is sick in the gut that so many gays sold out to the State. It was more important to get permission from the state to love and fuck their own sex than to stick with everyone like squatters, travellers and so on who lost what security they had when this became an act. The only permission I need for having sex is my own. No-one has the right to decide when, how or who I fuck. As long as we both consent it's none of their business. The State is assimilating queers the same way it turned punk, the politics and lifestyles, into punk - the fashion-accessory. For many queers who advocate marriage rights, army rights, church rights and so on the mental assimilation is almost complete. For queers, bisexuals, dykes, gender traitors, boy-lovers, S&Mers, girl-lovers, non-conforming hetties, homos, faggots, sexual mutants, drags, femmes, butches and so on the assimilation will never start until society has changed from its oppressive, unequal form to an all-embracing, all equal, all loving, all fun, diverse society. For me in my room the fight to change society will carry on, the fight to get rid of the State won't stop.

I'm not going to be a gay sell-out. For the squatters who can now have violence used against them in evictions, the travellers whose whole way of life is under threat, the ravers who shall be punished for not following the State guidelines for fun, the fight will not be over. Until everyone can live their lives without laws confining them the fight will not be over. The Criminal Justice Act is one piece in the framework of the State's way of control and oppression of us all. Oppose the Act, change society and have fun!!

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT



THE CENTREFOLD



DE-SEXING THE
DISABLED!

=====I N C E S T=====

When I was 8 and my sister 6 we were exploring each other's bodies and wondering why she didn't have a willy and what her extra hole did. As we got older and reached 10 and 8 we found out that when I kissed her vagina she felt good and when I kissed it a lot she had a really nice feeling. We therefore spent a lot of free time rubbing together and having oral-sex and feeling nice about it. During all the time we were playing together we both knew we had to be quiet about it and had broken some kind of rule, and the fear of discovery whilst making it more exciting, sometimes cut short our games. By the time I was 11 and she was 9 we'd stopped playing together as I hung around with older boys.

My personal experience of incest is not uncommon as I know other friends and their brothers and sisters who have played and explored together up the fields in the summer. Why is something that seems so common not talked about in a positive way? There are no statistics for sex between children in the same family. Incest, even between children, is usually equated with abuse which I feel is untrue as people don't usually equate all sex with rape. Abusive relationships do occur between child family members but that doesn't mean all incestuous experiences are abusive. Abuse is a terrible thing - sex is not. Incest can also only legally occur between a male and female - not people of the same sex - strange but true!

As anarchists we should be encouraging people to talk openly about all the taboos created by the State and seeing what foundations they are based upon. We will find they are nearly all based upon the state's need to manipulate and control. Consensual incest for me was a positive experience and also for many others.

When the 'Cement Garden', Ian McEwan's film about incest was shown, I was surprised to hear so many people I knew say how good it was to see and how they no longer felt so isolated with their positive experiences of incest. I'll always feel glad that the first time I came was with my closest childhood friend - my sister.

I was at a feminist event with a woman and she was with someone in a wheelchair who couldn't speak - (except after orgasm) - and couldn't lift their arms. Communication was by use of a board with printed letters and words on it which was pointed to with tongue or nose.

Two feminists I knew who were giving the lecture at the event came up to us. I introduced them to my friend and the person with disabilities. The feminists ignored the wheelchair user and addressed my friend. They asked if she was the facilitator for the day for the user. She replied, "No! This is my lover".

The feminists had immediately assumed that an 'attractive' woman with a physically challenged person must be a carer - not a friend or lover. I think we have a long way to go...before the disabled are thought of as equal and as sexual people.



METELKOVA

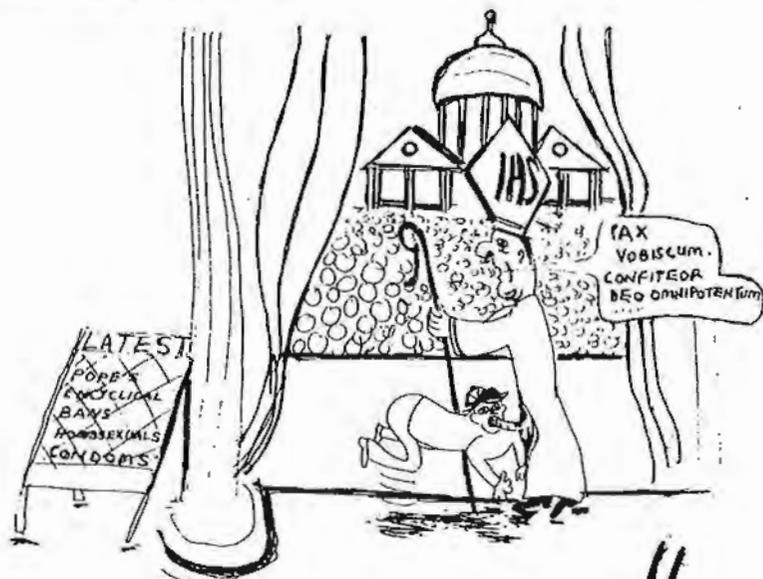
In September I visited the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, to visit a friend and while I was there I went to Metelkova, Slovenia's first squat. Metelkova is in the barracks of the former Yugoslavia's army-headquarters. The squat consists of 7 buildings though two are in a bad state of repair.

The Council planned to demolish the army-barracks to make way for its Cultural Centre (September 1993) and this is when Metelkova Street Project squatters occupied the buildings. The community is now thriving and coming to celebrate its first anniversary.

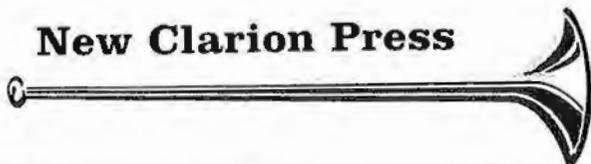
Metelkova has over 50 inhabitants and a wide range of facilities including a hall with seating capacity of 350 (Over 200 bands have played there in the last year, including the 'UK Subs'); 8 studios for artists; Rent-a-Bike; 'Magnus' and 'LL'-clubs (part of the women's centre); practice space for bands; a photo studio; 4 resident punk groups and a puppet theatre. Metelkova is an alternative squat and is open to the residents of Ljubljana and their guests. Getting electricity and water has been a bit of a headache over the past year, this being part of the Council's plans to shut the squat down.

Future plans include building a vegetarian restaurant and workshops for artists. The ex-prison will be transformed into a youth hostel.

The State insists that the squatters start paying rent in the future but the squatters will fight against this. Metelkova is an inspirational project and we wish the residents all the best in their fight to live how they like.



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Nudes Prudes & Attitudes: Pornography & Censorship
Avedon Carol
New Clarion Press 1994 £9.95

Avedon Carol, is a founder member of Feminists Against Censorship, who, in her new book, rejects censorship as the answer to anything and strongly advocates women exploring their sexuality.

Not only does she examine the feminist anti-porn arguments and look at the evidence allegedly linking porn and anti-social behaviour - she clearly demonstrates there is no connection - but she also challenges the whole idea that some people are perverted sexually and some normal. She also bravely tackles the child sexual-abuse panic and denies the connection between child abuse and paedophilia.

Overall this book goes way beyond issues of censorship. It looks to a society in which we all control our own sex-lives and stop stigmatising and oppressing others. To achieve this, enormous changes would have to be made in society. We would have to move towards anarchism in whatever form. It would have been exciting if the implications of this sort of change had been explored. A great book all in all. Buy it!

SPANNER UPDATE



In 1990 Operation Spanner ended with the conviction of 15 men for consenting S&M activities. Three of those convicted appealed against their convictions to the Court of Appeal and to the House of Lords. The appeals failed. The case was referred to the European Commission on Human Rights.

On January 18, 1995 the 'Spanner 3' won with their case at the European Commission. The issue will probably now go to the Court in late 1996.

It is important that the 'Spanner 3' win at the Court. Next time, if someone is prosecuted for S&M sex we hope that there will be a massive rebellion of civil disobedience, powerful enough to force the authorities to retract their enforcement of unjust, hypocritical morals.

Children & Political Action

Naturally , kids do need to be told if they are in danger , if they are harming someone else , if they are winding you up , but the majority of the time kids are simply "bossed" about , as if for the sake of it . The idea of how children should behave , ie. that there is a set way in which children act , this is all decided by adults . Without a doubt , adults hold and exert vast power over kids :

- do as you're told
- do as I say
- behave yourself
- get your elbows off the table
- look at me when I'm speaking to you
- shut up and sit down .

This is so obvious it stinks . It is so accepted that there was recently a very popular kids' cartoon (popular in my nursery anyway) featuring a band of creatures with names like Stop-it and Tidy-up who live in the land of Do-as-you're-told . It even had Terry Wogan narrating it . Sick . That we say kids are "bossed about" is no coincidence ; adults behave like BOSSES and we all know what scum bosses are !! This is nowhere more evident than in that reactionary unit - the happy , gloating "nuclear family" .



Children are taught to be "good" by being humiliated and frightened , growing up in fear of "doing things wrong" or of "being bad/naughty" (ie. rude , mischievous - all things adults cannot cope with in their mundane , planned and inarticulate world) . To deal with pain the child can become indifferent and keep everything inside .

Control of children in schools can be compared to control of inmates in prisons , patients in hospitals or people considered to be "mad" . All these groups are treated "like children" .

"I think childhood was the worst time of my life , and will be until I am 15 years old , because during childhood you are under the rule of your mother and father all the time and cannot do a lot of the things you would like to do , like staying out late or bringing friends home . All I get once I get in at night is "where have you bloody well been all night ? Have you seen the time ?""

"All teachers get in a mood some days , but some are flash . Instead of waiting for an explanation and listening they send you out . Teachers should listen more . We have to listen to them so they should have the decency to listen to us ."

LGFM MEETING REVIEW

On 23rd October 1994 we held our meeting at Conway Hall entitled "Anarchy and Sexual Liberation", as part of the 'Anarchy in the UK' Festival. Our meeting was well attended by supporters and many potential supporters and numbers totalled 57 in all with 20 women, 36 men and a child. There was a good mix of people from different backgrounds and of different ages which lead to positive debate on our demands and views on sexual liberation in an anarchist society. A whole range of sexualities were present to add different points of view to the discussion with people describing themselves as Gay; Queer; Dyke; Sexual Mutant; John Major; Nothing; Heterosexual; S&M; Bisexual and so on. No two people seemed to call themselves the same thing in describing their own sexuality, which brings up the argument that maybe sexual labelling doesn't have any use in the light of such diversity of sexuality.

We debated and talked about many issues such as the empowerment of children by giving them good information on sex and safer sex information. We also looked at the way people perceive certain images of sexuality: a comparison was made of two photographs, one religious, depicting the flogging of Christ; the other was also a flagellation but from an S&M magazine. We discussed pornography and there was general agreement about the need for more diversity to show off the different shapes, sizes, ages and abilities of humanity. We ended the meeting with people saying how they thought sexuality would be in an anarchist society. People hoped there would be a freer sexual and emotional situation and that enforced gender roles, and sexual labelling would go and everyone would be free to live their lives how they wanted. In all it was an extremely good, positive and fun meeting.

L G F M MEETING SURVEY

Of the 57 men, women and children who attended our Public Meeting on Sunday 23rd October, as part of the 'Anarchy in the UK Festival', 30 returned completed questionnaires on sex, restrictions and action.

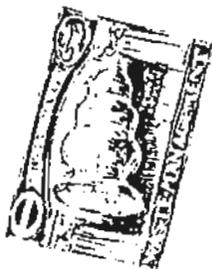
The first question we asked in the Sex section was at what age did people have their first sexual encounter or sex. We had a wide range of answers going from 6 to 29. Almost half the people said between the ages of 6 and 15 and therefore were under any age of consent. Of course this is a small survey but it does fit in with scientific research which shows people do have sex a lot earlier than an age of consent allows. This brings up the question of why people still support the age of consent when it neither stops abuse or rape nor puts an end to under age sex. State control perhaps? Those who had under age partners numbered around half the survey but without asking the age of those partners it is difficult to establish any conclusions because for women having sex there is no set age of consent and until recently the minimum age set for men having sex with men was 21. It was interesting that many who said giving or receiving pain didn't improve sex, did say that being restricted in some way during sex play did improve sex. A few people also admitted in the survey to having animals involved in sex-play whilst everyone, but one, who completed the survey said yes, depictions of sex acts did excite them.

Almost everyone agreed ^{THAT} restrictions by anti-sex laws did annoy them but as to what actually was illegal there seemed some confusion with everyone rightly agreeing that sending legally bought porn through the mail wasn't always legal but there was confusion as to whether love bites were legal or not. Love bites are now subject to debate after the Spanner (Sadomasochist sex) Trial, in which it was pointed out that marks must be "trivial and transient" in order not to break the law - and though love-bites are trivial they do last so aren't transient hence may be a crime.

As to 'action' everyone agreed they wanted to do something which ranged from just ignoring legal restrictions to demonstrating, to getting active and joining groups including LGFM.

The survey wasn't large enough to get strong conclusions yet it did show the diversity of

people's sexual experiences and thoughts during our meeting and a desire to get out, get active and change the system. As one person said, "Maybe we need to aim at changing people's ideas as much as the State and its institutions."



STAND UP FOR FREEDOM!
DONATIONS NEEDED TO BATTLE
ARCHAIC BRITISH CUSTOMS LAWS!

British Customs has determined EIDOS MAGAZINE is "indecent & obscene", according to "section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876". HM Customs & Excise states: "The prohibition is contained in section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876...The material consigned from you ... in the UK contained explicit scenes of fellatio, ejaculation, masturbation and fisting..." EIDOS, an alternative international sex'zine, cannot afford to fight HM Customs & Excise in a British court of law. Therefore, EIDOS publisher Brenda Loew Tattelbaum wants to come to London to defeat HM Customs & Excise Headquarter's Office in the free & open marketplace of ideas. Ms. Tattelbaum will be accompanied by her associate, Bill Baird, whose 31 years experience fighting for sexual freedom has led to 3 U.S. Supreme Court victories.

Demand that your fundamental cornerstone human rights to Freedom, Choice and Privacy flourish and prevail! Don't let government censors decide what you can and cannot receive through the mail.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE! FIGHT BACK!

Contribute to the cause of personal freedom of sexual self-expression by donating cash, airline tickets, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, meals, etc. Help arrange TV/radio interviews, speaking dates, street demonstrations/pickets, etc., etc.

For more information, contact: Brenda Loew Tattelbaum, Publisher, EIDOS, P.O. Box 96, Boston, MA 02137-0096 USA. Or, dial International phone: 010-1-617-262-0096/Fax 010-1-617-364-0096.

**"THE BATTLE FOR SEXUAL FREEDOM
WILL NEVER BE LOST."**

RAID

I'd almost forgotten
until the Coppers came,
for no reason at all,
and spoilt a party
I'd hoped to enjoy;

I'd almost forgotten
My Mother blaming me
for things I hadn't done.
She taught me then
that power isn't fair.

I'd almost forgotten
how dangerously I live,
my fun being thought a threat
to church, to state
and decency.

I'd almost forgotten
what it was to hate
and now I rather doubt
if I'll be able
to forget again.

See story on Whiplash
raid - page 4.