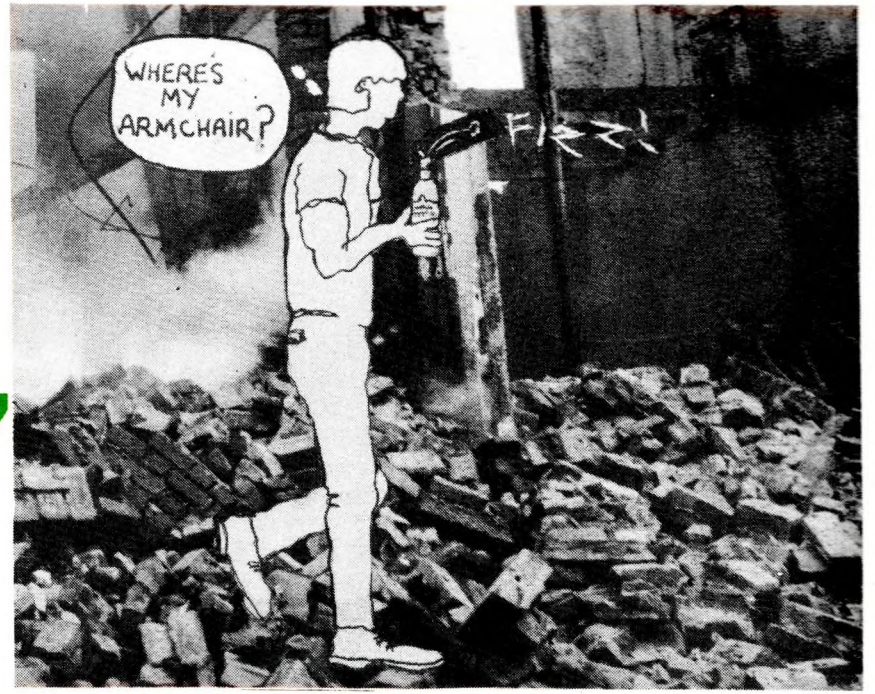


EXTRA!

PAPER FOR THE ARMCHAIR TERRORIST



ISSUE NUMBER 9 30p

Bombs Not Jobs

Fight For Proletarian Redundancies



inside: URBAN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING



Yes folks it's that time of the decade again — we're back! As ever jumping on the bandwagon of (by now) ancient historical events we're making a desperate attempt to cash in on Those Riots

Literally 'cash in' that is we've got a nice little scheme which will benefit us immensely and do wonders for your revolutionary conscience. Let's face it, you reptiles have made an absolute killing what with hauling in all those stereos, video records and all that. All we're suggesting is that you give us a small tithe of say 10% of your takings. Which doesn't mean we want 10% of a colour TV or cassette-deck (we're not into spare parts). No cash is much more fun. It also has the advantage of being much more portable. Also our printers (bourgeois lackeys that they are) tend to look much more favourably on the stuff.

All of which is a rather long-winded and whiney way of saying that, as ever, we're broke (no the proposed takeover by IPC didn't come off after all).

And as ever we're asking for more copy — but please, try and do something of rather higher quality than the half-baked regurgitated drivel which is filling most of the pages of this issue. Quality as Enoch Powell once no doubt said is infinitely preferable to quantity (or not as the case may be).

PS We realise that some readers may not approve of this editorial, but we're printing it to demonstrate the Xtra! Structureless Tyranny's essentially libertarian instincts, as well as its desire to annoy people.

PPS We realise that some readers may not approve of the above disclaimer but (see PS)

Xtra! is published by the Xtra! Structureless Tyranny BCM IT, London WC1 3XX and distributed by A Distribution, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

aunty's fan mail

Dearest Aunty,

You clever bastards have done it again haven't you? 'Riot Guide on Sale at Top Bookshop', a full column in the Sunday Express! We've been trying to write our own adverts for years (well, months anyway), but we never thought anarchists could write their own adverts in the Express.

By Gerard Kemp? Who are you kidding! The shock horror style of the report is obviously your style (and they never left off the exclamation marks either). I can see your print run jumping straight up!

Alright, now get us an advert, please...the Observer will do nicely.

**P.Olemic,
South London Stress.**

(Available from the heart of the Front Line: 121 Railton Road, Herne Hill, SE24, price 25p).

PROTEST

In London, from October 4, people won't be able to save as much on fares by fare-dodging.

For why?

I will tell you.

From October 4, tube and bus fares are being cut by 25%.

Demand Higher Fares Now!

Dear Aunty,

Are recent events in Brixton and other places part of a new Tourist Board publicity campaign? If the sinister people directing the riots are no more than PR men, then it all falls into place.

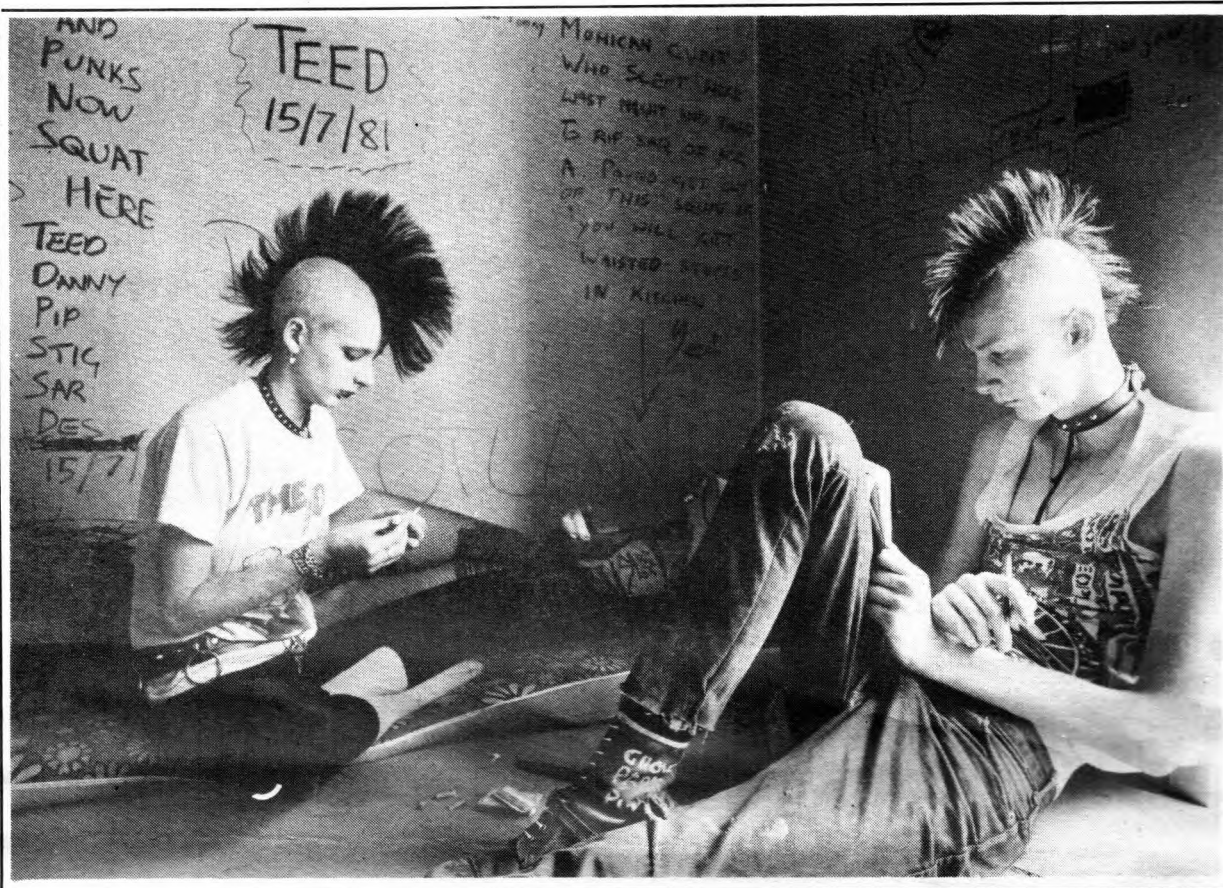
For 'riots' read 'a spontaneous celebration of an historical event....ie the

Peasants' Revolt'.

For 'looting' read 'frenzied late night shopping by loyal citizens impatient to collect Royal Wedding memorabilia.

Of course, I may be wrong about this, but don't all tourists just want to see the sites, and tell us how 'Wonderful' our policemen are!!?

Rattie.



XTRA APPEAL

Joking aside, Xtra! really is in a bad way financially.

Although we sell more copies through shops than any other anarchist paper, we don't get nearly the support through donations — and we've far fewer subscribers.

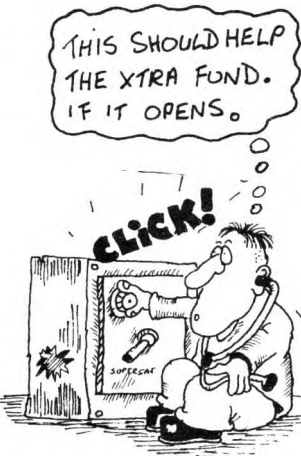
So we've decided to launch a direct plea to you for help. At the moment the picture is as follows:

Approx. costs per issue

Printing	£300
Distribution	£75
Total costs	£375

Approx. revenue per issue

Subscribers (we now have @80)	£20
Donations	£30
Shop sales outside London	£50
Shop sales in London	£15
Street sales outside London	£20
Street sales in London	£100
Total revenue	£235



Theoretically this leaves us with a deficit of £140 per issue. In practice the situation is worse, because our revenue was much less for the early issues (members of the collective are now between them owed @ £1,000) and because for the last two issues bans on marches in London meant no street sales there. (We've tried, but without much success, to sell outside tube stations).

In order to come out at all, we've had to become much less regular and we've had to borrow money from people outside the collective.

Our immediate and pressing debts add up to £200. If you can contribute — however little — please send us a donation to the Xtra! Appeal, BCM IT, London WC1 3XX. (Cheques to be made payable to A Little Bit.) We will be publishing a list of donors in our next issue.

Dear Aunty,

Pay a fine for TV evasion? (Page ten — Xtra! issue number 8). Yes. Your humour is very great indeed. TV? So who wants to watch this crap? (Never mind all the mindless capitalist propaganda). I've no TV and I'm better off for it.

Love and round eyes,
Marty.

WHIZO'IDEA!

Finding it a bit expensive to getting to all those riots?

Then why not buy a British Rail 'Riot Card'? It'll enable you to travel half price to Bristol, Brixton or Toxteth during the riot season.

All you need to do to get this card is: obtain two passport pics of yourself and bring them, together with your passport and personal details down to your local nick.

You'll never regret it!

OUR LINE

The British State

The British State is an oppressive institution, which oppresses people. Something should be done about it.

The wages system

The wages system is basically unfair and something should be done about it.

Capitalism

Ditto the wages system.

Anarcho-syndicalism

Anarcho-syndicalism is a jolly good idea and steps should be taken with regard to this one.

Spain

Spain has lots of revolutionary potential, and this should be utilised to the full.

Britain

Britain hasn't, which is why anarchists prefer to write about Spain.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

For twelve issues, a subscription to Xtra! costs:

Individuals....£4.50

Institutions....£6.50

Overseas.....£7

Pro rata and back issues:

30p per copy plus 15p post and packing.

Please send your money to Xtra!, BCM IT, London WC1N 3XX.

Your name.....
Address.....

Donations will be gratefully received!

AND FROM UNIGATE

The Self-Igniting Petrol Bomb

It is with a profound sense of shock that we reveal to our readers the latest weapon of terror to be unleashed on our beleaguered country: the self-igniting petrol bomb.

It appears that the degenerates who have led the riots need something that is easier to throw from motorbikes, which doesn't use up their matches and which you cannot see coming in the dark.

There have been serious consultations with the senior management of our paper and we feel that it is our duty to publish the details of this horrific addition to the rioters' arsenal of hate and mayhem.

The idea is that a rag is soaked with a chemical which (upon the bottle smashing against the police van), reacts with the chemicals inside the bottle. This creates a spark and the petrol ignites.

The bottle is filled with a mixture of 50% petrol and 50% sulphuric acid (which



Bottle filled with H_2SO_4 and petrol. Rag soaked with KGO_4

you can get from car batteries or from chemistry labs). The rag is soaked in an equal mixture of sugar and potassium chlorate boiled in an equal amount of water.

Finally, the rag is tied around the bottle and we can only hope that the moral decadents using these petrol bombs are careless enough to ensure that the police have fewer of them to deal with.

We print this information so that citizens can be alert and well-informed about the actions of those out to destroy the British way of life. Remember, be vigilant — aim high.

Next issue It will be with a profound sense of shock that we reveal to our readers how certain malignant elements within our society are now making atomic bombs....

M Stirner.



and in the New Evening Standard...

In the interview, Mrs Reagan

said she agrees with capital punishment, adding: 'I think that people would be alive today if there were a death penalty'.

HAMPSTEAD HIT

By Waves of Moderation

A top level investigation is being made into the total absence of riots on the night of 10th August 1981 in the vicinity of Hampstead.

Local police are blaming 'extreme apathetic moderate elements' for a night-long orgy of inaction, in which shop windows remained unshattered, consumer goods remained neatly stacked on shelves, old ladies slept soundly in their beds, with windows completely not boarded up, and black and white youths decided to pack in the action for a while, to get a long night's sleep.

Police were last night warning that 'this kind of apathy, if unchecked, could spread all over the country, thus depriving us of an excuse for carrying CS gas and arms and using water cannons'.

Who is at the centre of these terrifying non-events? Some high-up intelligence sources are pointing the finger at Mr Roy Jenkins and Mrs Shirley Williams, who, they claim, have been 'using deliberately non-inflammatory language aimed at stirring up moderation', and encouraging people to think that there was (in Roy Jenkins words) 'a wight and weasonable way of bwinging stability and harmony to this gweat country of ours'.

And what did local residents think? Typical housewife, Lieut-Col 'Daisy' Flutterbuck (rtd), 196, said 'It was terrifying. I walked down Hampstead High Street that night and felt quite lonely, it was so empty. And when I walked past a skinhead, all he did was say 'Good evening ma'am' and then he gave me a Sony he said had fallen off the back

of a lorry. I mean, where is this country going to when an ordinary decent person can walk down an ordinary decent road in the middle of an ord-

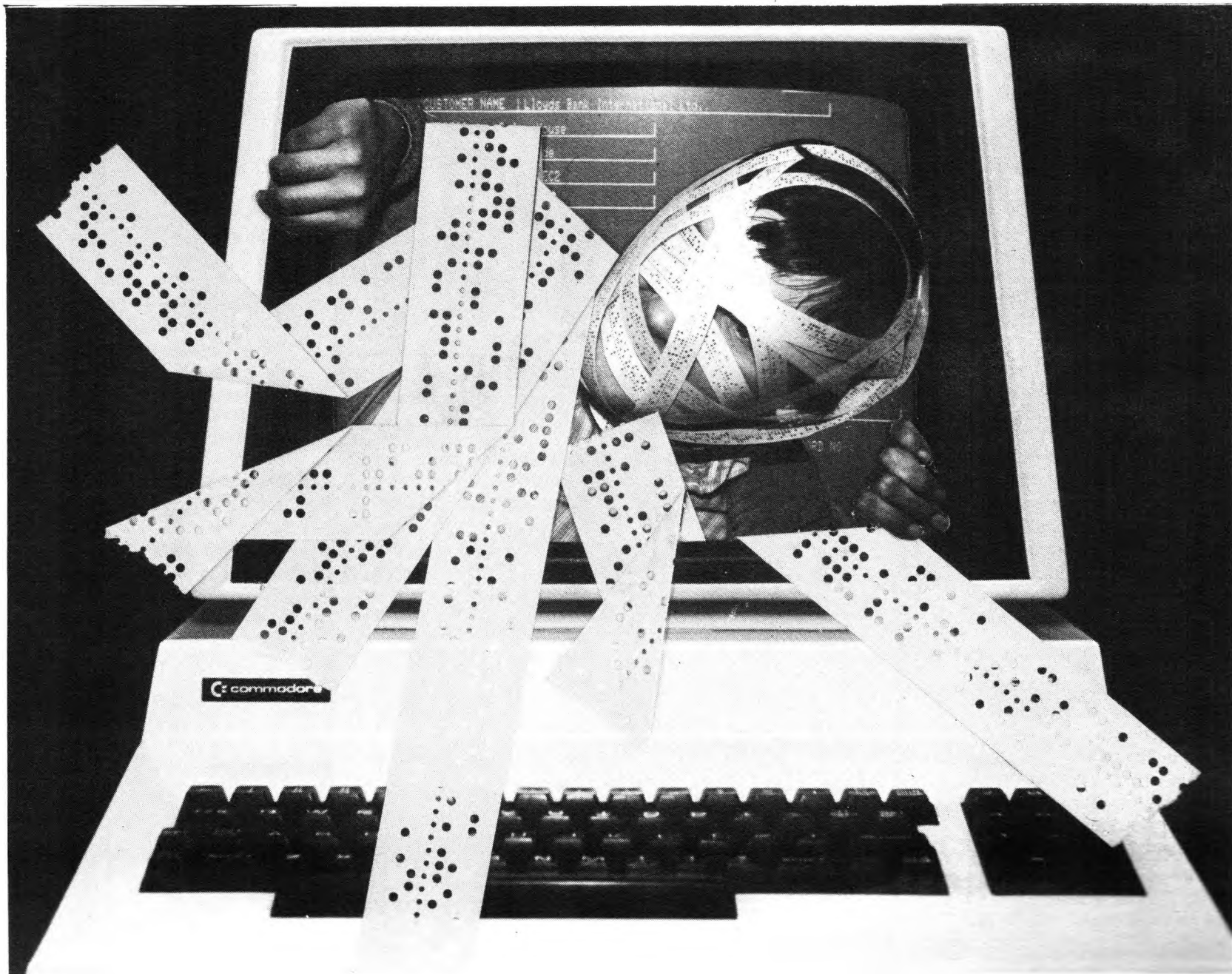
inary decent evening and not get kicked in the ordinary decent teeth, and when ordinary decent policemen can walk down an ordinary decent street without an ordinary decent riot shield to protect them.'

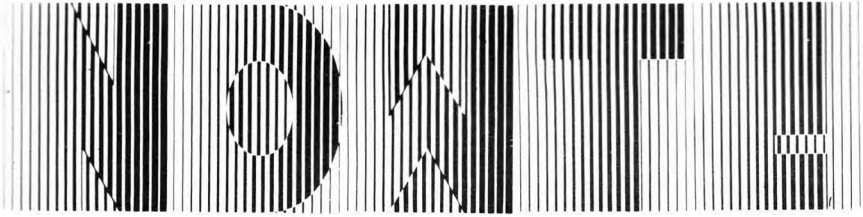
L Nerdley, 43, a hi-fi dealer said, 'This moderation lark is appalling. I ordered my usual level of stocks in anticipation of a looting session and — bang!, this moderation epidemic starts up. I've run out of space to keep it. I've hardly shifted anything recently'.

A spokesman for the police force warned that 'massive layoffs' could occur in the SPG should the 'inaction escalate'.

But, as famous historian

Prof W Arrington pointed out, in times of extreme complacency, Britain has always suffered from outbreaks of moderation. 'It is', he said, 'part of Britain's cultural fabric'. However, he pointed out that such episodes were like sunny weather, generally short-lived and ephemeral, and that 'previous attempts to bring about a moderate society in which everyone loved each other, maaan, and all that crap' had invariably failed.





OK, IF YOU DO GET CAUGHT, they'll probably rough you up! So think: 'I'm a survivor,' relax yourself as much as possible and **DON'T SAY ANYTHING!**

The cops will either take you to a holding cell, which is basically a large room caged off, so at least you'll be with other rioters etc. Or they will transfer you to your local Police Station cells.

They will do a CRO (Criminal Records Office) on you. If you give your name and address, they will visit your home to check if you do live there.

After the CRO the cops will attempt to get you to make a statement. Reply: 'I have nothing to say!' It could be semi-amusing for you, watching cops making up the stories, showing each other often imaginary wounds etc.

Of course it can get a wee bit frightening when they accuse you of things varying from 'you shot the Pope' to 'I saw him/her throw the petrol bomb.' Just remember to reply: 'I've got nowt to say,' and keep quiet. The more you say the better the story they can concoct against you.

You have certain legal rights when arrested, ask them what you are being arrested for. You are allowed to phone (or telegram, if you pay for it) a lawyer or friend.

The trouble is that the police have not been allowing people to phone lawyers and friends. So you should have arranged with friends that if you're not back by a certain time, they should contact a source of legal advice.

It's always a good idea to know where your local legal advice centre is, you can get picked up walking down the street ya' know.

As I said the police will have roughed you up so demand to see a doctor. But no deals! You know, 'we'll let you see a doctor if you tell us...'

The next step could be an appearance in front of a magistrate. If a lawyer or friend does not appear, a person called a duty solicitor (there's one attached to each court) will come to give you legal advice. But the duty solicitor is after an easy life, so he/she will try to get you to plead guilty. If you say not guilty and stick to it, you will appear in court, but not plead.

The cops' solicitor will ask that you are remanded in custody, but you should ask for bail. The police will contest this request for numerous reasons: homeless, no job, no dependents, a squatter, previous form etc. If your request for bail is refused you will be remanded in custody for seven days.

At this point hold your breath and make sure that someone is acting on your behalf. Some prior planning with friends would help. One of the nicest feelings when you are languishing inside, is to know that people are thinking and acting on your behalf.

Your story in the nick will be boring to say the least. However since the confusion of the time of your arrest will be over, your ability to talk to lawyers etc will increase, and so by your second appearance you will have had some time to prepare your case.

Just remember don't panic and repeat the magic formula 'I have nothing to say' when talking to the police and screws.

As a prisoner who has yet to be convicted (the law pretends to pretend that you are innocent till proven guilty), you are entitled to daily visits and certain advantages, which a convicted prisoner is not.

If you have been allowed bail, well you can at least walk around the streets, though there may be restrictions on your movements. And you can prepare your defence as well as being able to go and sell Xtra!

Well, I can't think of anything else to say, except to remember as much as you can of the events in question. Write everything down - any tiny point that can catch out the pigs. Anyway good luck, and I hope you never get caught.



Anarchist Youth Federation

There is a proposal to establish an Anarchist Youth Federation. In an attempt to forge better communication links between groups and individuals a questionnaire has been sent out.

This will provide a basis for a communications network/organisation, with the aim of promoting 'a large nationwide movement of young anarchists, growing rapidly in size and strength and cooperating with the present Anarchist Movement'.

The contact address for the proposed Federation is 109 Foulden Rd. London N16 7NR.

**P38s
NOT
P45s**



Anarchists and Ireland

I, and my most favourite friends think Xtra! is the best and funniest rag ever. However, all of us think that your coverage on Ireland is poor to say the least. How about the following article to redress the balance?

The British Left either ignores Ireland or, when convenient, turns it into another 'issue' to be campaigned around with the aim of recruiting members to their particular sect. Anarchists, and other libertarians have more in common with those fighting the British State machine in Ireland than do the Left, but to our shame we have consistently failed to provide an analysis of the situation and an adequate response to it.

Anarchists are mentally prepared for the inevitable drift towards a Police State in this country, and some of us are making physical preparations for this too. That's why, by ignoring Ireland, not only do we do the oppressed people there a disservice, but we fail to see that Ireland is a testing ground for what will happen to this country.

One small corner of 'our' country has detention without trial, courts without juries and concentration camps. Most, if not all, of one section of the population is on the Army computer at Lisburn.

Army observation helicopters criss-cross Catholic areas all day, at night scanning the streets with searchlights. Cameras are mounted on key buildings throughout Belfast and other towns to keep whole areas under surveillance, and every ghetto has at least one Army/RUC stockade.

Censorship of the Press (and one only has to read European and American newspapers to see the extent of the censorship) is no excuse for British Anarchists not being aware of the situation.

The British ruling class would like nothing better than to pull out of Northern Ireland. It gains no economic benefit from occupying that country. However, their whole rationale for being there is political. They simply cannot be seen to be beaten by the armed force of the oppressed people. And that, quite simply, is why the struggle in Ireland is important to the struggle in Britain.

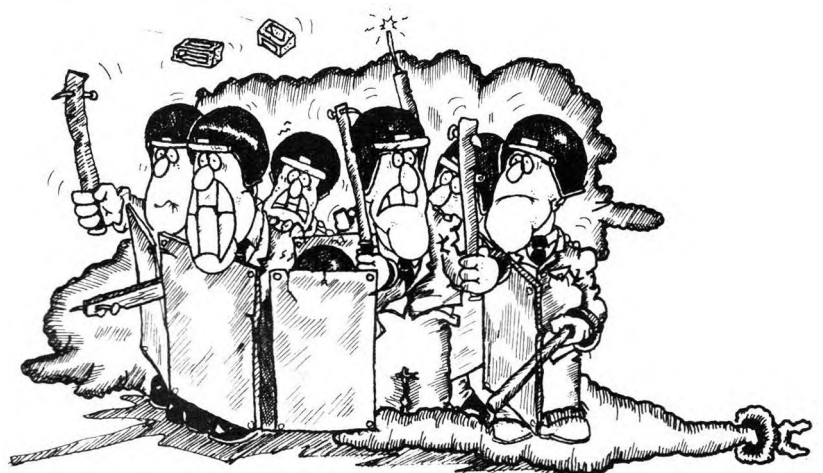
Yes, the Provisionals and the INLA are, despite recent improvements, imbued with an authoritarianism and national chauvinism which we as Anarchists cannot possibly accept. But they are FIGHTING. Moreover, the average volunteer

is a working-class or lumpen proletarian youth, armed and politically aware. The massive periphery of the movement comprises mainly young people who totally reject the society they live in and are prepared to do something about it.

Action here in Britain is crucial, though. Propagandist physical attacks on military/ruling class targets connected with Ireland are necessary right now. The Angry Brigade certainly understood this. And if, as we are so often told in Xtra!, Britain is heading towards an 'Italian situation' then at some time we must go onto the offensive in harassing and sabotaging the British war machine as part of our general attack on the State.

The British Army is now the most experienced and sophisticated counter-insurgency force in the world, and is itching to go into action in this country. They have gone beyond the standard crude approach to internal security (mass random house searches etc) in the last five years and now go in for covert actions, intelligence gathering and the use of high technology. It's about time we came out of our ivory tower and realised that there's a fucking war going on in our backyard and did something about it.

Solidarity
Love
Revolution
G:M from Liverpool



Urban Collective Bargaining: Part 1



BLAZING ANGER!



Attacking pseudo-autonomous groups in the last issue of Xtra!, we said, 'They do not take to the streets, loot shops, fight the pigs with petrol bombs, overturn cars and set them on fire — all the spectacular actions associated with our European comrades'.

Little did we realise, except in the deepest recesses of our imaginations, that weeks later Brixton would rise, going beyond all expectations. And who but the most enthusiastic protagonist could have predicted the whirlwind riots that would devastate the high streets of our cities?

As mere white trash we would, in our own humble fashion, like to take a fraction of praise for predicting these amazing events. But, instead of sinking back on our laurels, we would like to comment on these events and attempt some more, wild and irresponsible forecasts.

It would be pointless to list what happened in strict chronological order, so we will only sort out the facts as they suit us. Don't expect any kind of apologetics for the rioters and looters, we stand alongside them — excesses included. It would, in our view, be equally meaningless to ramble on about social deprivation. Fuck me, don't we already suffer enough from leftists droning on about it?

Brixton carnival....

The day after the 'most serious disturbance in mainland Britain since the war', Railton Road in Brixton gave the impression of a carnival. Despite the police, who were clustered everywhere, people stood around holding impromptu meetings in the rubble of the previous night's entertainment.

In all these discussions, several things stood out. It was not a race riot — all were adamant about that. Contrary to what you may have heard or read elsewhere (why read that leftist and liberal shit?), the only 'demands' heard were for the release of those arrested and for a total withdrawal of all pigs from the area. There wasn't a word about 'jobs', 'Tories out', 'right to work', 'Maggie'. The closest utterance approaching politics was the statement from one fighter that lessons had been learnt from the panthers of ten years ago. Not that I agree with that, but that is what I heard. Another pointed out the slogan we sprayed up a year ago, 'Bristol yesterday, Brixton today'. 'Yes', he said, 'I agree with that'.

Because there was a lack of leftists, the media and police muttered darkly about the riot as being 'pre-planned', 'anarchist-inspired'. 'White anarchists' were reported as being part of the fighting. As if, for fucks sake, we were needed. We were only there as individual fighters.

That afternoon and the following evening, the fight was taken up by fresh zealots — both black and white — and an attack on the police by a couple of hundred youths, many of them very young, set a pattern that was soon to become familiar.

The good, the bad and the ugly..

The three April days in Brixton were impressive for a variety of reasons.

Large-scale looting and arson, the use of petrol bombs against the police, blazing barricades.

But as with all such incidents there were negative factors. I'm not referring to those lurid tales of terrified old ladies and rape. Any Habitat 'comrade' who can dismiss such a brilliant uprising as at Brixton, just because of a few regrettable incidents, deserves an equally dismissive thump in the gut.

No, these 'negative' factors I refer to are the recuperation efforts by leftist scum — by self-appointed 'community leaders'. Because, like Bristol a year before, Brixton was isolated, a vile deluge of human flotsam (politicians of a pinkish hue, journalists, militants

journalists, do-gooders, pundits). Brixton, we were informed, had 'special problems'. A hideous, slobbering old man called 'Scarman' was to head the Government Inquiry. The cowardly, self-appointed 'leaders' called off the protest calling for general amnesty and those charged were left to the tender mercies of the courts. For the moment the uprising had been dissipated. Brixton remained isolated.

For several months we waited, as some of us had waited for years. Finally our patience was rewarded. In July the cities of Britain exploded.



Summer nights

In the first week of July, Asian youth attacked a racist gig in Southall, burning down the venue, pelting the police with petrol bombs and bricks.

Liberals and leftists, of course, tried to justify the action, isolate it by describing it as 'anti-fascist'. Why then did the same youth loot their 'own' Asian shops, one week later? Speculation on the Southall incident faded rapidly, for, a day later in the Toxteth area of Liverpool, black and white youth gave us the most astounding riots yet.

The outstanding features of the Toxteth riots were their duration — with fighting raging until six in the morning — and their extent. Again, it should be noted that the participants were extremely young.

Over that week, Moss Side in Manchester exploded. The next weekend many cities were torn with riots and looting... Umpteen pages have

been written describing the above events. It is our task to comment on them, to look to the future.

As far as these events being 'race riots' is concerned, we don't deny that the majority of the rioters were black. But how does this prove the riots 'racial'? The only whites who were attacked were police. Both black and white youths fought together in these anti-police, anti-authority disturbances.

The reason the bulk of the rioters were black is easy to explain. The blacks simply have more shit heaped on them by society than does the white population. The main racial factor was provided by the police, who stormed into the insurgent areas howling 'Black cunts', 'fucking niggers'. The media and police spoke of outsiders...so, the police are all local residents of the disturbed areas are they? The police talked of ubiquitous motorcyclists, rogue CB breakers co-ordinating the action. But all this garbage about 'outside instigators' deserves to be rejected with contempt. How many of these fire-breathing, red revolutionaries were arrested, dragged before the courts, identified as ringleaders? None. The 'vanguards' only appeared after the events. In some cases, as in Toxteth, to be sent packing. The kids themselves are organised in street gangs. For that is what they mostly are — any leaders come from then disappear back into the crowd to be replaced by others. Talk of SAS men fighting the rioters, or of Russian spies fermenting trouble is merely the same. These riots were the product of spontaneous currents. The currents affected both police and shopkeepers in panics reminiscent of the Great Fear of 1798 (see the book about the eve of the French Revolution by Georges Lefebvre). Most of our comrades should know about this anyway, as they spend most of their time in university studying history. That's why they need us to tell them what's going on in the streets.

While Woolies burned..

Riots could flare up at any time, anywhere. Any minor incident which involves police and youth could lead to widescale rioting and looting. This is now the set pattern.

Don't for one second think that we hold any reservations about looting. As semi-lumpen elements we delight in it. Anyhow, if people can't reappropriate goodies they are denied how can they reappropriate their lives? As for arson, who, apart from 'save jobs' lefties cares two fucks if Woolies or Marks and Sparks burns? We don't.

This blazing anger that has erupted has little to do with 'jobs'. Who really wants to work anyhow? Most of these kids know work is just the same as school, with foremen and other creeps barking at you instead of teachers. Wages are a pittance, some are better off on the dole. If any anarchists or 'revolutionaries' can't see what I'm getting at — the

total alienation felt by these kids and others — then they had better give up this revolution lark and become, as indeed some of them have already, entrepreneurs or junkies, middle class wankers that they are.



The Rule of War...

This is war. The Government and police have not slumbered. What can only be described as internment camps have been erected. The police are now terrorising whole communities causing more street battles, creating more polarisation. Older people are siding with the kids, as they too meet police repression.

On the night that a sea of morons crowded into Hyde Park to celebrate some scabby cow marrying a worthless ponce, the police were celebrating the Year of the Disabled by deliberately running over a crippled youth who was taking no part in the further Toxteth riots. This led to more petrol bombs being thrown at the police than at any other time and only a week later the Chief Constable of Liverpool was stoned by an angry crowd. This small incident raises a few points. In the same spirit a crowd of youths stormed the dock of a Birmingham courtroom, in a vain attempt to free one of their mates. Respect for the law?

Many of the 3,000 arrested over just one weekend will face the full fury of the courts. Many will find themselves in the new holiday camps. Who needs Diplock courts when you have plain old-fashioned magistrates — some of them Labour Party or trade union members. Once the kids realise that punitive sentences (one youth was jailed **eight years** for petrol bombing in Chester) are just another arm of the law, it could well be that magistrates may be paid visits from enraged mobs. They may very well learn the meaning of the terror they inflict, as their houses burn, preferably with them in them.



Continued on page eight.....

Urban Collective Bargaining: Part 2

"I WANNA' RIOT"

Poetry in King's Cross, London. 'I'm fed up with the peace and quiet/ all I want is a running riot.'

Kids singing on a bus at Finsbury Park: 'I wanna riot/a riot of my own'.

People talking in the shopping centres: 'There's some smart stuff there – fancy a bit of late night shopping?'

Suddenly, through ACTION, dreams were translated into reality. Anything was possible. Despair was ending, tactics beginning.

Yes, Geoffrey Howe was right when he said the depression is over. The festival has only just begun!

Police strategy can be summed up as: Contain; Isolate; Disperse (or so it says in the textbooks). Firstly the police will attempt to contain the disturbance, sending in a force to confront the rioters and hold their attention: this force will be little more than a standing target at first, its morale will be low and it could be overwhelmed with determined and intelligent attack. However, in a reasonably static battle, time works against us, as the police will soon be able to bring massive force to bear.

Cordon bleu

Meanwhile a cordon will be thrown round the area, although this takes time, needs co-operation between different divisions and is rarely effective – as at Brixton and Southall. Listen into the police radio to find out where the road-blocks are and where they aren't.

This is where knowledge, or a map of the area is most important. Isolated police road-blocks are an obvious target for us; a small group could carry out a successful molotov attack in a few minutes then withdraw. Ideally, groups outside the main riot area should be ambushing police convoys on the main roads, or just blocking them with barricades. Remember, police coaches are very vulnerable – all that glass and only one-person exit doors. Similarly, even those brutal SPG bastards are not going to be too happy at opening the double-doors of their vans only to receive a proletarian present.

With luck, people will also be busy organising hoax calls to the police telling them of 'disturbances', or 'youths making petrol bombs', or 'a group of blacks outside a jewellers', and if there are enough people the police switchboard will be jammed with incoming calls. This worked effectively in Brixton, by all accounts. Our aim is always either to extend the action, or to make them think it's being extended.

If the police containment and isolation is going well, they will now concentrate their forces for an offensive action designed to disperse the crowd. This is the moment the pigs have been waiting for; they will be brutal – some won't bother with arrests, they'll just club whatever moves; the more cowardly will try and grab somebody so that they can give them a beating in the security of their black vans and get back to the station for a cuppa. Escape routes will be left open to assist this dispersal – at least, if the crowd is reasonably large. If there aren't any exits, they've deliberately planned to crack as many skulls as possible.

Set, but not match

The illustration shows how police propose to deal with 'set-piece'

have superior weaponry, technology and organisation, while the rioters will have forsaken their major tactical advantages – surprise and mobility. The Dublin riot is a good example of what can happen in such a situation.

The police are heavy infantry and

there's wire mesh over the front windows. However, the tyres are exposed to puncturing or burning (use more sugar in the molotovs to make it stick) and the windows can be plastered with paint bombs to prevent vision. Also, water can't go round corners so even a small obstruction will act as a shield. It's hard to manoeuvre this colossus against a small mobile group and the five tons of water is used up in five and a half minutes (though they might use two cannons in tandem). The jet is effective up to 75 yards, where it will fall like heavy rain; under 30 yards it can knock you over. The water can contain a non-toxic blue dye for identification purposes – it's difficult to wash off the skin and virtually impossible to get out of clothes. Of course, if you've just looted a sports shop and are wearing waterproofs and goggles, you won't give a fuck about poxy water cannon.

Plastic bullets are nastier though; about three and a half inches long with a range of about 200 metres and a speed of about 160 mph, they can cause serious injury to the head or genitals. They have a slow rate of fire, but are accurate, can be re-used (so pick 'em up!) and are fired from the same gun, a Verney 1.5" signal pistol, which fires CS. The Charterhouse Subsidiary Company of Schemuly Ltd, Dorking, Surrey is responsible for the manufacture of this particular abomination (hope our Dorking comrades have noted that!).

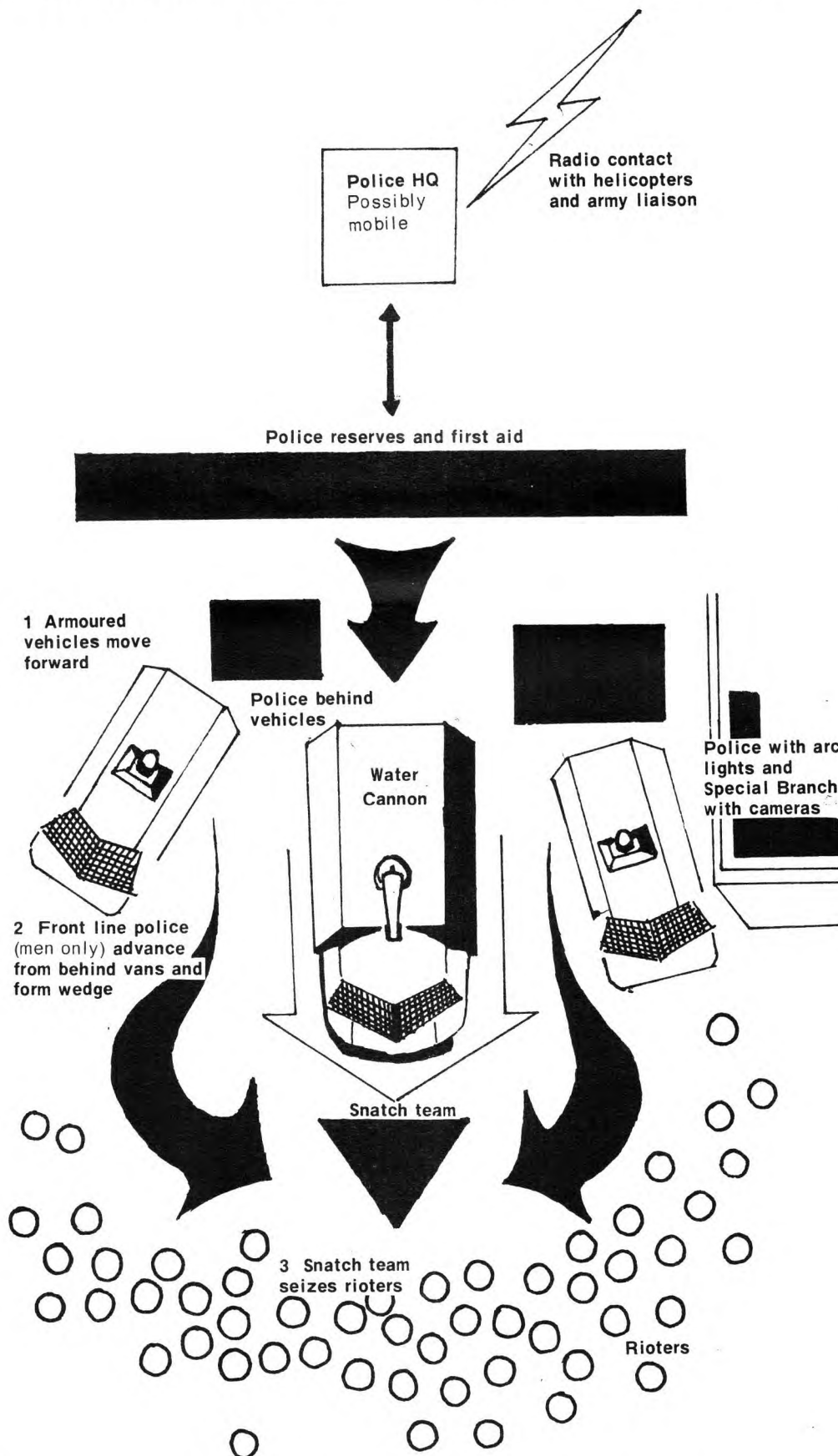
A helmet with a strong, thick plastic visor could be advisable. The police get theirs from Helmets Ltd, Wheathampstead, Herts. But be careful – you don't want it to shatter in your face. Republican youth in Ulster have taken to sheltering behind huge corrugated iron shields.

Gas

CS gas has already been used in Brixton and Toxteth – first used in Vietnam, it had been stockpiled by 36 different police forces as early as 1968. It is a stable, off-white powder that gives off a faint peppery smell and has its effects through settling on the skin, being inhaled or swallowed. It wears off quite quickly once you've left the contaminated area (about 15 minutes), although skin irritation may last longer. The first thing is to make sure that as much of your skin is protected by clothing, as possible. Wear airtight goggles, or a gas mask if possible (army surplus stores?) or try an improvised mask made from a cloth surgical mask with a small gauze sponge soaked in vinegar; otherwise, smearing your face with a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and beaten eggs has been recommended.

Anyone badly affected should be led out of the area and made to open their eyes into the wind (don't rub them!); the skin should be washed with cotton wool dipped in 2:1 solution of water and whisky. After a few hours a cool shower can be taken.

If the riot is in a residential area like Brixton or Toxteth, the police may deliberately fire cannisters into peoples' houses as a way to terror-



confrontations. At present they are using three types of formation: the skirmish line, which will advance slowly, or in quick bursts, without making contact; the wedge, used offensively ('like a knife through butter') to disperse a crowd; and the diagonal line to drive the crowd in a particular direction. Changes in formation will take place quickly to surprise people. If they're trying to disperse a crowd from behind a barricade, they will use a holding force and advance down side streets so that the barricade becomes redundant. Always protect your flanks.

In a 'set-piece' confrontation the police will almost always win – they

we're light infantry – we'll lose hand-to-hand combat unless they're surrounded or outnumbered. We're always better off keeping out of their range and throwing missiles, which will demoralise them as they can't retaliate effectively...yet.

Technology

This is where technology comes in, principally water cannon, plastic bullets and CS gas, all designed to push us out of effective missile-throwing range.

The water cannon in present use is mounted on a 22-ton Foden chassis built by Chubb. There are no ledges or handholds, or exposed hose and

A RIOT OF MY OWN"



'...and there's my no claims bonus...'

ise the community generally. Young children have been murdered this way and houses can be contaminated for days. The house will have to be thoroughly aired and the rooms swept from top to bottom; food will be inedible. Ideally, protect yourself beforehand by fixing iron bedframes over the inside of the windows, as they do in Amsterdam.

The gas is made by the MOD in Nancekuke, Cornwall and the canisters manufactured by Schemuly Ltd. The L3A1 cartridge gives off gas for 10/15 seconds, so there's still time to chuck it back at the bastards. There's not much you can do with the exploding variety, except hope that wind or rain will allay its effects. As for the future, CR gas is already stockpiled, having been used against prisoners in the Long Kesh riots in 1974. Its principal advantage over CS is that it is water soluble.

Snatch squads

The authorities have a great belief in 'leaders' and agitators, and think that if they can seize the 'ringleaders' everybody else will go home. This is part of the reason for the use of 'snatch squads': four or five men without shields, wielding long batons, who will start sprinting 20 yards behind the lines, unseen by the rioters and suddenly burst through and grab somebody.

In Ulster the Republicans formed anti-snatch squads armed with their own clubs, and designed to attack the snatch squad. Snatch squads are vulnerable to concentrated missile fire, but they are used at such close quarters and with such surprise that any organised defence would be unlikely to succeed without prior knowledge of the snatch. This means having some people in high buildings or on roofs, who can see the police manoeuvres and communicate their moves to the people in the streets via walkie talkies, flags or hand signals. (Binoculars would be useful here.) Height is a great tactical advantage — the Battle of the Bogside in '69 was mainly won by the constant barrage of molotovs thrown from the top of flats.

The police will also try to secure a height advantage — indeed they may have helicopters which will relay information about the

movements of the rioters below. Police photographers will also be around and they may have image intensifiers and infra-red to see at night — so always wear a disguise, a handkerchief or scarf is usually sufficient. Also smash the street lamps in the area and use smoke bombs, or just set things alight. Remember, arrests will take place afterwards using newsreels and photos as evidence, so take precautions. To stop police seeing through their visors, shields and wire mesh screens use paint bombs. On the psychological level, police covered in flour and paint look amusing, which must lower their morale a bit.

Away from home

Most of the set-piece confrontations will and have taken place in areas where the police and most of the local community are at war — Brixton,

Toxteth, Moss Side. In such cases, the Contain, Isolate, Disperse strategy will be used. But where the rioters and looters are small in number, or are not defending their own community, the police are using dispersal tactics — this means squads of SPG in vans zig-zagging at high speeds down roads and pavements in order to force people off the streets. They also get fewer casualties this way. It's advisable, therefore, to have escape routes ready through shops; in residential areas front gardens should provide enough cover and a source of ammunition in the surrounding fence or brick wall. Better though would be to build barricades of blazing vehicles, doubled-up if possible. Something that hasn't been tried is a taught cable across the road — enough to disable a car or van.

In dealing with small groups of rioters, the police must also break into more mobile groups, losing some of their advantage in discipline, resources and concentration of force. Nevertheless they still have a centralised communications system and motorised transport; however, we have the element of surprise — we choose the time and place, concentrate our forces, attack and disappear, so that we keep them running round in circles — this sort of urban guerilla strategy is being used successfully in Zurich, Berlin and Italy. The Wood Green riot was an interesting advance in this direction and successful enough without being well-planned or organised: here, the police seemed more concerned with brutally beating up small groups rather than preventing looting.

It's important to counter their advantage of motorised transport by

blocking the streets and building barricades all over the place. We've got to stretch them to the limit — force them to use all their available people and over-extend themselves, then pick off small groups and attack selected targets suddenly and in force, withdrawing before help can reach them.

Anyone who is taken or goes to hospital for treatment should avoid giving their real names, as police may take down names and addresses from the casualty register — this happened in Dalston.

Looting

Finally a word on looting — too much indulgence in this at crucial moments may lose you the battle if there's nobody left fighting off the police. For practical purposes the best shops to loot first are hardware stores, chemists, sports shops and off-licences and clothes shops, which will provide the most useful materials. These are: clothing such as running shoes, gloves, hats and scarves, perhaps goggles and waterproofs; missiles such as bottles, cans, darts, balls, billiard cues, inflammable liquids, paint and alcohol, tools — crowbars, hammers, screwdrivers; medical appliances such as bandages, ointments, antiperspirant and breath freshener (for those close up moments!) etc etc. Then there's the electronics shop — for radios, receivers, walkie talkies and food shops — it's hungry work rioting. As soon as the pigs have been cleared out of the area then get everything redistributed as fast as possible — before the pigs move in and nick the stuff for themselves.

Brian.



Preparation: a petrol bomb factory in the North of Ireland.

BLAZING ANGER!

Continued from Page Five

Liberal arts...

Unlike the liberals who make a lucrative living protesting about the introduction of water cannon, CS gas, plastic bullets, we are punters who will face these weapons on the streets. While the liberals are frightened by the escalation of events, as much as injuries caused by weapons that we will be tasting shortly, we can see the future quite clearly through the clouds of gas.



Many innocent people will suffer. Plastic bullets have a strange habit in Ulster, of killing primary school children. On the mainland we doubt if marksmanship will improve. Parents aren't going to take kindly to kids being killed by crazed cops. The pigs are already kicking shit

out of anybody they catch in riot situations. These people are the lucky ones. The remainder get kickings plus courts.

When the parents, older people, take to the streets, as they will, should these disturbances continue, that is when the situation will become more diversified, in a positive sense. The forces of 'order' will no longer be facing kids armed with petrol bombs and bricks. The older enthusiasts may be armed with shooters. If the police continue their blunders like at Toxteth, we may see the first 'no-go' areas. Already at Moss Side, Manchester, a cross-bow has been utilised during a mass attack on a police station. More police stations, perhaps courts, may soon become inner city illumination.

We must also take practical steps to prevent later identification, such as wearing masks, preventing film crews and photographers from doing unpaid police work. We must also develop better methods of communication, of defense against 'hot pursuit', of disabling police vehicles before they disable us.

Technical knowledge to jam police transmission and communication will be useful, but specialist knowledge doesn't represent leadership and, indeed, should not be an excuse for avoiding the most important work — that of taking the streets.

Left out...

It was interesting to notice the predictable absence of the Habitat leftists from the riots. It seems, that by a remarkable coincidence, a mass outbreak of child-minding and consciousness-raising occurred in the vicinity of Hampstead when the London troubles flared. When rioting first broke out in Toxteth, groups of teachers moved home — out of the area. A drastic cure for gentrification?

Our only role in all this, as far as I can see, is merely to be among the rioters. To push events further perhaps by suggesting attacks on middle-class areas. Our only political role at this point in time is to prevent the left from recouping this rebellion.

So far they have been unable to — let's keep the status quo. Don't think these riots can be recaptured by the Government. They can talk all they like to community leaders. But they can't enter into meditation with the street fighters, whose method of dialogue with the State is the brick and the petrol bomb.

To all those 'revolutionaries' who say, 'But all this has nothing to do with the working class', we raise our eyebrows and ask them if they have ever worked in their lives — and we don't mean working for exams.

To the so-called anarchists who bemoan the lack of direction of the events we say 'that's the beauty of

Just to prove to you that Xtra! isn't the only paper with a sense of humour....

Letter to Soviet Weekly
I lost my wife last November after forty years of marriage and life suddenly became very empty until I subscribed to 'Soviet Weekly'. No tenth rate actresses showing their cleavage, no royal wedding, no Yorkshire ripper.

Friday morning when I receive the 'Weekly' it is like a breath of fresh air blowing through an open window.

FC Knight, Canvey Island.

it all'. The rioters may appear to be fighting in the blind, but they have offered the most radical critique of this society yet. Whether they bombard the police with £300 cameras, as they did at Wood Green, or just scoop them from the windows and loot them. This is surely the only climate possible today in which anarchist-autonomous ideas could take root and spread. So far all the rioters want is more smokey bacon — so far...

A sore throat (and head) somewhere in Hackney. August 1981.

Not everyone is into rioting for anarchy

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Take, if you will, a quick deco at the dialectic of history, a mere glance at the last quarter millenium, and, as my mate Ronnie would say, 'Ask yourself this question' — which has made more impression upon the consciousness of the masses, anarchy or the MacDonald's hamburger?

Enquire of anyone where he or she can get the nourishment of 100% pure soya bean and the reply will not, alas, be from the anarcho-syndicalist press. The intellectual and moral bankruptcy which has served so many so well for so long has left anarchy even beyond the redemption which, in less acute cases, could be afforded by reference to Saatchi and Saatchi.

The popular mien of the anarchist, even those in an armchair, is of one out to cause trouble. Contrast this, dear readers, with the position enjoyed by the MacDonald's hamburger, revered in every home in the land.

Why is this? Could it be (indeed it is) because the hamburger works from the inside. The inattentive attitude to the political system on the part of the masses, who are, after all, too busy getting on with the business of arranging who to invite to munch cucumber sandwiches and sup gin, means that, provided society functions so as not to interfere, there is little hope of illustrating the alienation enjoyed by so many for so few.

The present system is seen as sufficient because its inadequacies are not height-

ened by people abusing it properly. Consider, by way of example, the ripe opportunities afforded by the esoteric subject of company law.

Provisions of the 1948 Companies Act allow directors to

be sacked, and companies to be wound up where the majority of shareholders oppress the minority. Even Department of Trade Inspections can be arranged by those with a few shares. Surely the effort of familiarising your goodselves with the law would pay ample dividends! Be really naughty, exploit the system properly. It is much more fun than suffering from disillusionment following the self-pretence that the revolution is here because a few guys get an over-attachment to unsold consumer goods (shades of JK Galbraith 'Effluent Society'), while the police find new ways to keep fit.

FB.

Shock horror, Express lashes out

BANNED!

A story of everyday, armchair revolutionary folk...

One Sunday our comrade nips along to his local baccy shop to get three packets of Woodbine and a Sunday Express.

Imagine his horror, as, perusing a story labelled, 'Street Guide to Terror', he realises they are talking about Xtra!

'We have been cruelly misunderstood', he cries, 'maligned even!'

'They seem to insinuate that we are out to promote lawlessness and hatred for our wonderful police force!' Forthwith, he puts the matter in the hands of his solicitors.

But then, still reeling from

the shock, our comrade receives yet another blow. Collets have refused to sell the paper any more, which is a pity as it is the big lefty bookshop on Charing X Road which was previously one of its biggest outlets.

'Why have you banned us?' he asks. Only to discover that a 'crime correspondent' from the Sunday Express has been chatting to the MD of



Collets. And that apparently they agree that the contents of Xtra! are ideologically 'unsound'.

Now, our comrade is not going to criticise this (very reasonable) decision, nor will he even point out the defects in Collets' TV security system — even though he knows they will never stock Xtra! again. After all, we're all on the same side, aren't we? They should just stick to selling Marx and Engels.

HERSTORY. Getting it right.

The politics of Feminism conjurs up all sorts of misleading images to men, (politicised men as well). What is needed is a simple 'explosion' of the myths and mystification surrounding womens' struggle for freedom.

The fact is, that male domination over women - the patriarchal society - is the most concerning aspect of the REAL political struggle, both because of its perennial nature and its obvious, concrete existence. Men have spent so much time trying to achieve 'social revolution' (emancipation of the sexes!) that they have missed the most obvious revolutionary struggle: the emancipation of women in the context of the present.

The reading of H1Story offers no real enlightenment for consciousness-raising as it is virtually all masculine in its content and perspective, (this is why in many areas women have been extremely suspicious of organising with men).

They have tended to group themselves separately, to discover for themselves their own HERstory and to attain a feminine feeling of solidarity (for action) that they are denied when participating in groups that are dominated by male organisation, methods and perspective.

A note here should be made on the 'recuperative' nature of the 'womens' libbers' who maintain (essentially) that all that is required for equality are various reforms and for a woman to 'get out there and be equal.'

This garbage is best exposed in the recent tightening-up of the laws regarding abortion (granted in this country in 1968, due to massive pressure from women's groups). The State has realised the revolutionary consequences of giving women some control over their own lives - and is trying its best to severely limit the chances of working class women obtaining abortions.

Once you open your eyes the violence inherent in society against women becomes visible indeed, it is even more blatant than racialism; all centres of exploitation are male orientated, and the various medias come into a standard of their own when it comes to sexism and degrading women: pornography needs no comment.

This is what makes many (if not all) feminists bitter (usually defined as being anti-men), because they see men's acceptance of the status quo as acquiescence to all this sexism, but it is an easy trap to fall into to write men off as having nothing to contribute: men are imprisoned in sexist roles also.

The two main reasons for the patriarchal society are the State and the 'family' - the family teaches subservience/obedience to (male) authority, and brings up girls and boys differently to reinforce these thought patterns (ie the boy with his gun, the girl with her doll. Also the different chastisement methods and the different

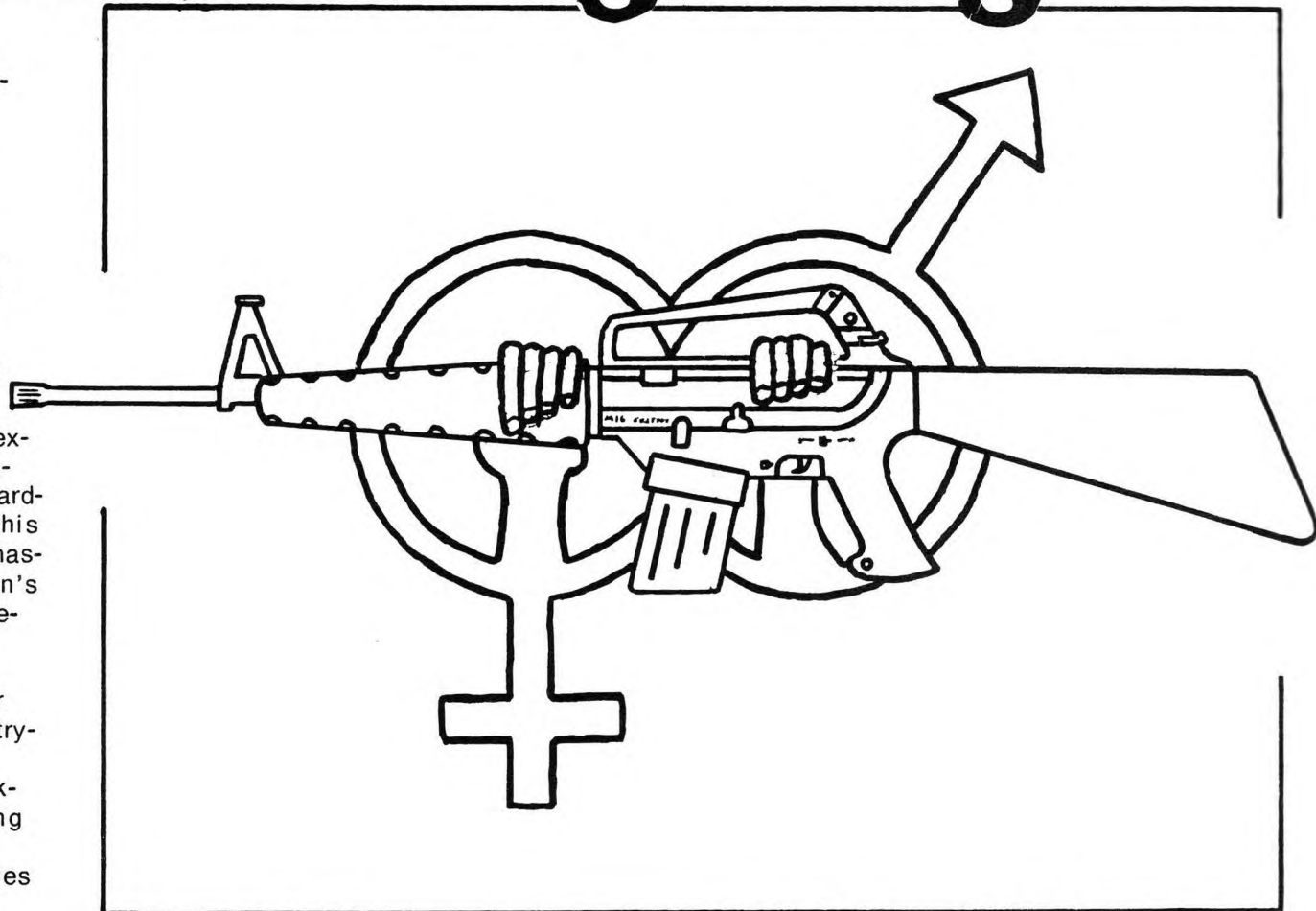
approaches to communication etc).

What feminists demand, quite rightly, is the changing of men's attitudes, and treatment towards them - not waiting for the revolution, but now - and this is something that most men find discomforting, that they must positively get cohesion between what they say and what they do

Being used to rigid, authoritarian, marxist organisation in the factory/office - and not having any sensuality incorporated makes them see political activity as something that is done on a 'part-time' basis, unlike feminist politics - which is lived continuously, and makes the different consciousness needed a daunting task for most.

What makes the politics of radical feminism so fresh and interesting is the refusal to separate the 'reasoning self' from the 'emotional self' - (ie as men do) - their unification in perspective of sensuality, rationality and intuition go to make feminism the most comprehensive, all embracing, ideological perspective on the Left. Their libertarianism is without doubt essentially Anarchist.

Jack Mesreen (NW)



ALL DRESSED UP, AND NOWHERE TO GO?

Feeling left out, inadequate, lacking in confidence? Just fill in the questionnaire and our computer will do the rest.

My favourite riot venue would be (please tick).

TOXTETH SUMMER SALES
BRIXTON SPG BASHING
WOOD GREEN LATE NIGHT
SHOPPING
NOTTING HILL SPRINTING

Special interests:

PETROL BOMBING
LOOTING
VAN BURNING
BARRICADE BURNING

My special skills include:

ARSON
TOSSING THE MILK BOTTLE
CAR THEFT
MUMMY'S A MAGISTRATE
BURGLARY

Using this unique, confidential service your secret desires can be matched with others you never dreamed existed.

Just send your stamped addressed envelope and blank cheque to XTRA! and by return of post we will send you details of your own personal, perfect riot.



AND FROM NEWBURY

Heard the one about the rioter in Chester who got eight years for throwing a petrol bomb?

Well, you won't have heard the case of Sharon Marshall of Newbury.

She got fined £110 and was told that because it was her second offence the Court had seriously been

considering sending her away.

What had she done? The first time she'd been with a girl who'd stolen a pair of jeans...the second time she'd stolen sweets worth 26p.

Now I bet you thought things like this only happened when the state was shit-scared....



LOVE TO ALISTAIR!
Your quota of copies is waiting to be sold when you get out!!!

CRAZY CAPITALISM

The violence and barbarity of the institutions of the state are nowhere more clearly expressed than in the 'health' mental hospitals.

It is to these modern dungeons of inhumanity that people are designated when they no longer conform to the bourgeois codes of thinking and behaviour. Once there, the 'patient' is totally ostracised from society — and is, in many instances, without any hope of ever seeing life outside again.

The disgusting, brutal way in which inmates are treated is virtually never made public knowledge. There was the notable exception of Rampton in Nottinghamshire, but even there every doctor, orderly, nurse and administrator concerned was completely exonerated.

This secrecy is because, like prisons, mental institutions are socially isolated

and — more importantly — everybody in them is classed as defective and a violent danger to the safety of 'the public'.

The definitions of so-called mental illness are in the hands of specialists, who (for all their pontificating) have a narrow analysis of cause and effect; only in the most liberal strata do we see a concern for the massive growth, in the last half century, of stress-related illnesses. This concern unconsciously recognises that exploitative society is the cause of peoples' problems. Indeed, even many physical illnesses are caused through psychosomatic inducement.

(Note here that the SPK —

Socialist Parents' Collective — in Germany, during the late sixties, analysed and located capitalism as the central cause of mental illnesses. This group contributed to the birth of the RAF).

Drugs — both to control the mind and the body are used without any compulsion, and age has no relevance to its usage. Witness the Manchester girl (age 16) who was sentenced to be detained indefinitely for setting fire to a pair of curtains in a council home. She regained her freedom only after a lengthy campaign and four years' of captivity, beatings, druggings. What will compensate her suffering?

Another factor in the analysis of these institutions is the trend over the past ten years or so to dump 'normal' prisoners there — those that have proved too rebellious for the usual methods of containment and recuperation.

Only when we are able to live a life that is not geared to playing roles, monotonous work, suppressed desires and uncreative lifestyles — the goal of anarcha-communism — will the volume of 'mental illness' and its causes be drastically eliminated

The Dark Stranger

PRISON CONTROL UNITS

The use of prison control units marks a significant step in the direction of total state control. The 'official' explanation for their existence is that of 'dealing with' prisoners who are exceptionally non-conformist, violent and a bad influence.

To decode this trash, one should read that they wish to isolate and punish prisoners who are instrumental in getting solidarity together amongst other prisoners, and also those cons that are too politically sensitive to be let out (in the prison) on normal association.

The actual punishment is that of extreme sensory deprivation in the form of total isolation from others in inhuman conditions, ie small, white, concrete cells, with a rigorous routine — strip searches, cell searches, solitary exercise, removing bedding. And the crux of the punishment — which is absolute subservience and obedience to the screws; any slight 'disrespectfulness' cancels out what 'remission' the prisoner has 'achieved' and places him back on day one, 'phase one' of the first 90 days of the special control sentence.

To explain this phasing process — the control sentence is divided into two halves of 90 days (ie total six months). The first half is spent in total confinement and sensory deprivation, with any 'non-co-operation' on the part of the prisoner putting him back on day one.

The second half (assuming he has passed on to it), consists of the prisoner being allowed out with other control unit prisoners on work parties. But again, if he shows lack of (institutionally established) co-operation he is placed back onto day one, phase one and the whole thing starts again.

Only after 180 days of total submission to the screws and authority is the prisoner allowed the 'privilege' (sic) of normal prison association and routine.

Anybody studying this will see that:

a the prisoner can be kept in these conditions indefinitely, that is, until the prison authorities determine that he is broken (as an independent-thinking human being), and that he is willing to be controlled by the screws.

b that the very idea that the normal prison routine and life is something that is privileged — and not a punishment — is held up as a goal to the control unit prisoner.

c that no (liberal-minded) 'safeguards' are possible. Firstly because prisons are mainly structures autonomous in themselves — which can be demonstrated by the differences that occur from prison to prison (ie governor to governor). Secondly because it is always true that screws volunteering for jobs in these units are always the ones who tend to be brutal and fascistic.

d that because the prisoners in these units are cut off from all contact with other prisoners, their conditions — that is their treatment in terms of beatings and druggings — are not observed by others and supportive action is not possible.

e that the conditions themselves, of extreme sensory deprivation, humiliation in the most soul-destroying manner, druggings to control the mind and body, cell searches, strip searches are all an indication that the British state is following West German methods and preparing the ground for control of 'dissidents' — ie political revolutionaries.

M60.

Autonomy Centre

Months of searching for premises and weeks of building and decorating work have finally paid off — London's Autonomy Centre is now open.

The Centre has so far been financed by profits from a Crass/Poison Girls single and from donations and membership subscriptions.

When things get going, it is hoped that people will use it for conferences and meetings, as well as turning up for social events and just dropping in for a chat with whoever is around. Black Flag and A Distribution have offices at the Centre and structureless tyrants from Xtra! are members, so it will be a good place to meet these people if you want to.

For the time being, however, the Centre will be open on Thursday nights from 7pm and on Fridays and Saturdays from 2pm. A Distribution meets on alternate Thursday nights to distribute most of the UK's anarchist publications and would welcome help from anyone with time to spare. Films, debates and

talks have also been arranged for some of these nights and an official opening night, with alternative cabaret comedian, Tony Allen (and friends) is planned for the end of September.

If you want to know more about the Centre, or if you want to join, write to: The Autonomy Centre, O Warehouse, Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, London E1. Membership is incredibly cheap — only £7 (£5 for the unemployed) and it entitles you to reductions to films and social events. Also donations are still needed as the Centre is costing about £50 a week to run.

If you want up to date information about events being run at the Centre, you'll find a list printed in Freedom every fortnight (on the back page). Otherwise you can call the Centre during its open hours on: 01-481 3537.

JOB CENTRE

(MAN OR WOMAN)

JOB

BANK ROBBER

DISTRICT

VARIABLE

HOURS

TO SUIT APPLICANTS

PAGES

AS PER JOB. (VARIES).

COMMENTS

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO THINK AND ACT FAST. MUST BE ABLE TO DRIVE. MUST BE COMPETANT AND FIT.

BASIC FIRST AID

SELF-HELP GUIDE FOR INJURED RIOTERS

When there are riots, people inevitably get hurt. But you don't have to hand them over to the 'experts' — if you know a bit of first aid.

The object of first aid

The aim of first aid in emergency conditions is to prevent further deterioration of the injured person's condition, until medical assistance can be obtained. But before considering what can be done in an emergency, it is worthwhile considering suitable precautions that can be taken to minimise injury in the first place. In a riot ways of avoiding arrest should also be considered, since the police can often inflict severe injuries on their victims.

Prevention — better than cure

Exposed skin is more easily broken or bruised by physical blows, more easily irritated by chemical poisons such as CS gas, or damaged by heat, **not** to mention more easily identified, than is covered skin. Thus, adequate clothing, covering as much as possible of the body is desirable. This applies to vulnerable areas like the head, face and neck, hands and feet.

Stout shoes, or preferably boots will protect against cuts and sprains to the feet and ankles. Gloves will likewise protect the hands and crash helmets, or woolly hats and scarves will protect the head. Clearly mobility is important as well, so it's no use turning up so heavily armoured that you can't move. Leather is the toughest covering and it doesn't let you overheat too much.

Of course, dressing like this signals to the pigs that you mean business and therefore snatch squads may single you out for particular attention. I leave it to you how you balance these pros and cons.

Before you start

Assess the whole situation confronting you. It's no use applying the most elegant splints and bandages if you and your wounded comrade end up arrested, or flattened by collapsing burning buildings. If your patient can't walk, then a simple pick-a-back is ideal — if you're strong enough. If there's two or more first aiders, then stretchers can be improvised from doors, wheelbarrows, supermarket trolleys, or wooden posts slotted through the arms of two jackets and supported with belts. People who have had their spines injured should **not be moved** unless it is essential to save their lives.

First aid problems

The most likely injuries to be encountered in riots are bleeding, head injuries, burns, broken bones, shock and CS gas poisoning. It is not possible to cover in any detail all the possible situations one might encounter, so I shall only deal with the principles of treatment in this article.

Improvisation is the key. Keep calm and cool. If you can't handle the situation, get the patient to a hospital — preferably away from the area if you are worried about being traced by the police. You can always

give a false name and address and think up a convincing story, although doctors usually don't want to hand people over to the cops anyway.

Bleeding

The normal body contains eight to 12 pints of blood, depending on size and weight of the individual and, as blood donors will know, we can easily lose one pint without harm.

Bleeding always looks worse than it is and it is extremely difficult to assess how much blood has actually been lost (if you've ever dropped a pint of milk, you'll know how far that can spread). However, one can look for signs of heavy blood loss. These are: rapid breathing; a pale complexion; and a steady increase in the pulse rate. The normal rate of the pulse of a resting individual is 60 to 80 beats per minute. Practice feeling pulses on yourself at the wrist, in the neck and at the temples.

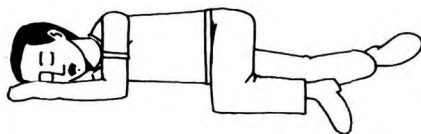
Prevention of blood loss is one of the most important functions in first aid. At the start it should be stressed that tourniquets should never be used. Bleeding is best controlled by applying continuous pressure with a folded pad of bandage or clean cloth for at least ten minutes. (This takes patience!) Raising the wounded part in the air also helps as the heart then has to pump uphill.

Nose bleeds are best controlled by pinching the nose just below the bony bridge for at least ten minutes, with the patient leaning forwards and breathing through his or her mouth.

With large lacerations it may be necessary to pinch together the edges of the wound with finger and thumb rather than using a pad. Once the bleeding has been controlled, a firm clean dressing can be applied.

Head injuries

Where there is a head injury and possibly a fracture of the skull, especially where there has been loss of consciousness, the patient should be kept in the coma position (see below).

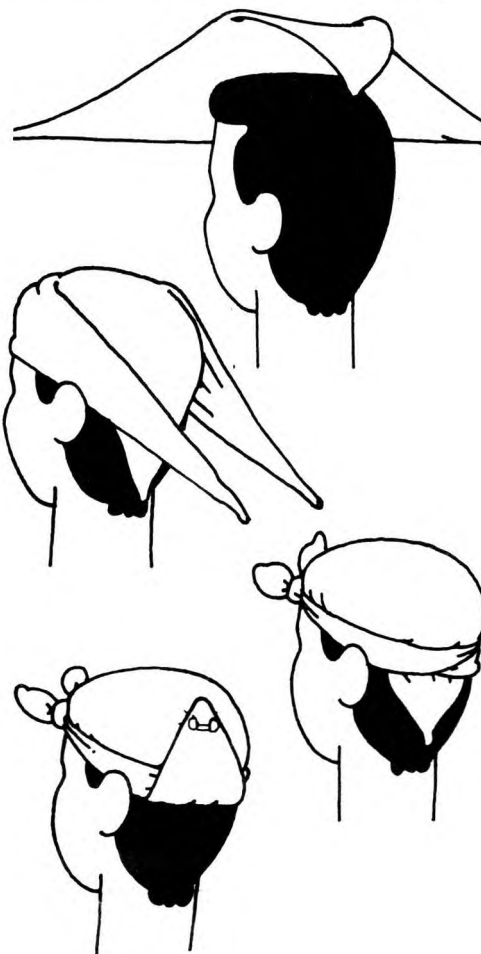


His or her general condition should be observed regularly and pulse and rate of breathing should be recorded. If vomiting occurs, if the pulse rate falls below 60, if there is a difference in the size of the pupils, or there is a change in the level of consciousness, then medical help is urgently required.

Fractures

Whenever a limb looks deformed and is painful, suspect that it has been broken or dislocated. Simple treatment is to immobilise the broken bone, thus easing pain and preventing further damage to the soft tissue, by splinting.

Splinting involves fixing the broken



How to make a head bandage

bone with bandages to a rigid padded object (wood, a folded magazine, or the body itself) above and below the suspected break. Do not try to put the limb back in place. Get the patient to hospital where a doctor will deal with it. This is done under anaesthetic, so don't give the patient any food and drink.

Shock

Shock results from a shutdown of vital functions in the body and is caused by a drop in blood pressure. The most likely causes of low blood pressure in riots are: severe bleeding; severe burns where body fluid is rapidly lost, severe pain (eg a broken bone, or abdominal wounds); and emotional reactions (eg fear or grief).

The symptoms are a rapid, shallow pulse, a pale complexion and often shallow and rapid breathing. The patient is anxious, may feel sick, or actually vomit or feel giddy. There may be some loss of consciousness. contaminated, sponge with cotton wool soaked in a 2:1 solution of Treatment involves laying the patient down with his or her head as low as possible. Loosen tight clothing and keep the patient warm with a blanket or coat. Ascertain the

cause of the shock. If there is little likelihood of the patient requiring anaesthetic, a hot sweet drink will help. Emotional shock, is, by and large, temporary and reassurance and sweet tea soon helps.

Burns

Burns can be caused by heat, chemicals and electricity. The basic principles of treatment are the same.

Remove the patient from the source of the burns (don't electrocute yourself!), take the heat out of the burn by running it under cold water for five minutes (this minimises later damage to the area) and protect it from infection by covering it by clean linen or sterile bandages. Don't burst blisters deliberately. Severe burns require urgent hospital treatment.

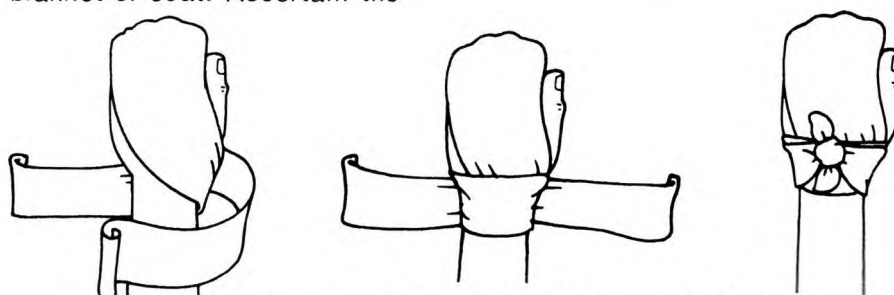
CS gas (riot gas)

This noxious chemical dust is now in use on mainland Britain as well as being used extensively in Northern Ireland. It produces its effects by settling on exposed skin, or being breathed or swallowed. It produces a sharp pain in the eyes, nose, throat and chest, causing the eyes to stream and a choking sensation, followed by fits of coughing, which can be so violent as to induce vomiting. Stinging occurs on shaved areas, or minor scrapes of the skin. Water or sweating makes the stinging much worse and should be avoided.

The effects of CS can be minimised by covering as much skin as possible and an improvised gas mask soaked in vinegar worn with air-tight goggles is supposed to help. The effects get less severe the longer you stay in the stuff.

If you can't tolerate it, then get away to fresh air. Do not rub your eyes. Force open the eyelids and let the wind blow away the dust or wash the eyes with water poured from the inside corner of the eye running outwards. Adding a few drops of household ammonia to the water, or using a one per cent solution of baking soda (a heaped teaspoon per pint should be about right) is even better. If the skin is heavily water to alcohol (vodka, gin or whisky are ideal), with ten per cent household ammonia added, avoiding the eyes. Alternatively, mask the skin with antifreeze, followed by copious amounts of water, again taking care to avoid the eyes.

Dr Jekyll.



Tying a hand bandage. It passes over the clenched fist, crosses in front of the wrist and ties on the back of the hand.

Spot-the-Molotov



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