

Spectacular  
Times

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THE SPECTACLE

The Skeleton Keys

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DOUBLE ISSUE  
REPRINT

## Never go back?

This double reprint was originally published as 'The Spectacle: A Skeleton Key'(1981) and 'The Spectacle: Another Skeleton Key'(1982) [Numbers 8 and 9 in the Pocketbook Series]. Both issues went out-of-print very quickly.

We frequently receive requests to reprint earlier issues in the Pocketbook Series and to explain some of the basic ideas expressed in Spectacular Times. 'The Skeleton Keys' is an attempt towards meeting those requests.

'The Skeleton Keys' is not philosophy pre-packed for consumption. It is just another tool and should only be used as such. Think for yourself - test the ideas you find here. How would you argue against them? How would you defend them against the argument that you have just constructed? Look around. Don't accept anything that doesn't check out in the light of your own experience.

>>>>>>> 1983 <<<<<<<<

## PART ONE

### Once upon a time

Once upon a time there was a revolutionary working class movement - first organised by Marx and Bakunin in the 19th century it has, over the years, been diverted, hijacked and defeated; in the West by the bourgeoisie, in the East by the Bolsheviks.

Capitalism rules. In the West "free enterprise" big business and the multi-nationals - giant corporations with budgets equal to those of medium sized nations. In the East the monopolists dream - one big company - Soviet Union Ltd.

And the workers? - bored to death in a 'peoples' barracks or legless in Disneyland.

the town that has everything, including a billion dollars worth of casino business a year, 12,000 prostitutes and more churches per head than anywhere else.

A 40ft-high glass fibre statue of John Lennon, called Working Class Hero, was put on show at the site of the Cavern Club in Mathew Street, Liverpool, yesterday.

With its modern technology - mass media, rapid transport systems, computers, economic plans, etc, - capitalism can now control the very conditions of existence. The world we see is not the real world, it is a view of the world we are conditioned to see. "They say. They are planning. They are building..." Life itself has become a show contemplated by an audience. That audience is the proletariat. Reality is now something we look at and think about, not something we experience.

Capitalism has made all social relationships commodity relationships. The very structure of our daily lives is based

on commodity relationships. Society is consumed as a whole - the ensemble of social relationships and structures is the central product of the commodity economy.

Carol Ehrlich

Capitalism and the state are genuine social structures, but like most matters of social structure they have also been internalised. In that sense, we are the state. It exists in our minds, and we produce it in our day-to-day existence. The banalities of everyday life, the meaninglessness of most work, our profound isolation from others, and our being treated (and treating others) as objects - these are not by-products of capitalism: they are key mechanisms of social control.

Howard J. Ehrlich



**L'ETAT C'EST CHACUN  
DE NOUS**

## The Spectacle

The Spectacle is not a collection of images but a social relation among people mediated by images....The Spectacle in general, as the concrete inversion of life, is the autonomous movement of the non-living.....the liar has lied to himself.

Guy Debord

In the real world, what is possible is determined only by our resources and the limits of our imagination. But upon this real world a totally fake world - The Spectacle - has been constructed. The Spectacle is a constructed reality.

I wonder if we could contrive...some magnificent myth that would in itself carry conviction to our whole community.

Plato  
Republic 3.414

Talking about life today is like talking about rope in the house of a hanged man.

Raoul Vancigen

Another diplomat, putting a fine gloss on Zia's record since the coup in 1977, commented: "If you take aside the fact that there is martial law here, press censorship, detention without trial, and a ban on political activity, then the human rights situation is not too bad"

"What is possible" has come to mean "What is possible within the society of the Spectacle."

MEN OFTEN APPLAUD  
and miss the real thing. At 2:17

The old terminology of revolutionary ideology, defined when the technology at the disposal of modern capitalism was undreamt of, has proved hopelessly inadequate. Like a fundamentalist preacher trying to come to terms with space travel, we are caught trying to make the new conditions fit the old analysis.

To attempt a description of these new conditions Henri Lefebvre suggested "The Spectacle" as an ad hoc term - a term later defined and analysed



Guy Debord as a stall boy.

by Guy Debord (see left) in "The Society of the Spectacle" and Raoul Vaneigem in "The Totality for Kids" and "The Revolution of Everyday Life".

In this Spectacular Society we are offered the image and never the reality. It is a dream (or more properly a nightmare) come true. It does not satisfy - it cannot satisfy. It offers only the dream of satisfaction.

From time to time the dream even includes the illusion of being awake.

Our life is divided between 'work' time and 'free' time. But we sleep on, buying back in our 'free' time what we produced in our 'work' time. Real life is elsewhere.

Culture as Spectacle covers everything; we are born into it, go to school in it, work and relax and relate to other people in it. Even when we rebel against it, the rebellion is often defined by the Spectacle.

Carol Ehrlich



# CONSUME!

So great was the demand for last week's rip-off fashions that we have another super offer for you today exclusively designed for Sun readers at a price you can't afford to miss.

People go through huge portions of their lives without much consciousness of what is immediately around them. The media have convinced them that what's around them is unimportant. And that's why they're lonely. You see it in their faces. First the little flicker of searching, and then they look at you, you're just a kind of object. You don't count. You're not on T.V.

### Communication 2

McAllen's police force installed a video-camera in its headquarters' interrogation room in the early 1970s. The purpose, ironically, was to protect officers against trumped-up brutality charges.

In two-listed Texas, however, with its long history of anti-Mexican oppression, the camera became a 'training tool' that inspired grim competition. Night after night, officers gathered to watch playbacks of themselves beating up drunks and other alleged lawbreakers.

In one tape, five officers take turns at attacking an unresisting, handcuffed young man. He is lifted by pants, belt and hair, then dropped face-down on the cement floor. His arms are wrenched until he screams. His head is smashed time after time into a table top. Amid volleys of obscenity, he is punched, slapped and kicked as he lies pleading for mercy.

The Spectacle makes spectators of us all. Even the 'extras' want to be spectators of their own actions - as if reality can only be confirmed by.....

.. Seeing something done rather than by doing it.

Two people were arrested: one for resisting an officer of the law, a new offence under section 10 of the 1977 Criminal Law Act, the other for obstruction. A *New Standard* photographer who was held, apparently for obstruction, was released after other members of the press had protested to the police and threatened to put their cameras down until he was freed - a tactic that has been adopted recently in France when press photographers put down their cameras in protest at police behaviour.

**O**f all the events in human history, the one to attract the largest audience was not a great political occasion, nor a special celebration of some complex achievement in the arts or sciences, but a simple ball-game - a soccer match. On a June day in 1978, it is claimed that more than 1,000 million people tuned in to the World Cup Final between Argentina and Holland. This means that something like one-quarter of the entire world population stopped whatever they were doing and focused their attention on a small patch of grass in South America where 22 brightly clad figures were kicking a ball about in a frenzy of effort and concentration.

The very essence of the spectacle is that the spectator should remain passively receptive towards the whole design, however frenzied he is in the pursuit of a particular spectacular myth or fashion.

Alexander Cockburn

Such global 'communities' as this - united only in their passive contemplation of the Spectacle - are fraudulent.

They are crowds of strangers - alienated from almost everything and everyone.

They cheer together, boo together, cry together - it is the solidarity of a shit-scared humanity.

But alienation is good for business.

Alienation multiplies needs (because it can satisfy none of them.)

Which is why we've developed a revolutionary new concept - One plus One.

One side a complete album - Plus a bonus -

One side a blank tape.

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"What's the point of robbery when there's nothing worth stealing?"

Adam and the Ants

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Creating new needs stimulates productivity.

But the Spectacle's immense productivity has become its central problem.

Enormous energy is now devoted to the profitable waste of resources - armaments, advertising, built-in obsolescence, etc, etc.

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The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money...about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.

New Internationalist

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All this conspires to conceal from the people the fact that the material preconditions for social liberation already exist.



## Recuperation

To survive, the Spectacle must have social control. It can recuperate a potentially threatening situation by shifting ground, creating dazzling alternatives — or by embracing the threat, making it safe and then selling it back to us.

### BIG MONEY FROM THE BURGLARY BOOM!

Cash in on vast Security Market installing  
MASTERGUARD/LITE SPY, home and car  
anti-theft systems.

Perfect home based business. No capital

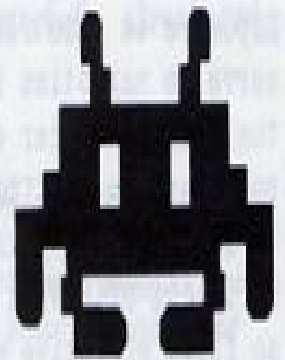
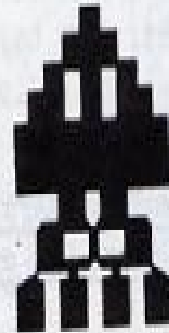
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Follow up service back up

# Peoples march

# for jobs

Just follow  
the yellow  
brick road.:

Getting angry?



Here is your  
enemy.

It can also recuperate a demand by giving us (almost) what we asked for — ad nauseum.

"I remember how shocked I was, the first time I read one of your big circulation newspapers.....crime, divorce, anecdotes, twaddle, anything to keep them distracted, anything to prevent them from thinking."

Aldous Huxley

Just connect to the aerial socket of any colour or black and white domestic TV receiver and to your Post Office installed jack socket and you are into the exciting world of **PRESTEL**. Via simple push button use you are able to view a staggering 170,000 pages of up to the minute information on many services and utilities, order goods from companies, even play games!! All this and more without ever leaving your armchair!

Exposure to this flood of information may serve to narcotise rather than to energise the average reader or listener...In this peculiar respect, mass communications may be included among the most respectable and efficient of social narcotics. They may be so fully effective as to keep the addict from recognizing his own malady.

Paul F. Lazarfeld

Robert L. Merton

1948

If we get bored with all this materialism.....

### A String Box

Country House Price

£9.95 inc

That endless search for useful and original presents. Here is one that is really unusual. This handsome box does

when you find them. It is made for us and only for us, by hand, out of a solid block of mahogany on the Island of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. Each one is turned, then polished, with loving care and attention by one man devoted to his craft and proud of his results. It measures approximately 6" tall by 4 1/2" wide. Postage and Packing £1.10

### Tea Bag Holder

Country House Price

£9.95 inc

Some souvenirs will be commissioned by the limited company set up by the bishops. Papal Gifts Ltd. Other companies who want to use the official motif will have to submit their designs for approval.

.... the Spectacle encourages us to possess experiences (carefully structured, of course.)

**A**MONG ITS attractions, the Great British Alternative Holiday Catalogue is offering an adventure vacation in a Nazi-style prison camp established near Winchester.

Among the features of the holiday camp are: arrival by cattle-truck late at night, barbed wire compounds, search-lights, watchtowers, up to 50 guards in SS uniforms, the stamping of the guests' foreheads with serial numbers, and a week-end of forced labour, dowsing with hoses, and deprivation of sleep.

has been established that your immigration to South Africa will be to our mutual advantage.

The huge complex near Cologne presents fun, adventure, and romance to everyone. A wild west town, a bobsleigh run, a monorail, a pirates' galleon and a haunted castle — all this and much, much more in a clean and charming atmosphere.

Saturday is Phantasieland Day! Our tour includes entrance to the park, and all rides are free!! Only those who have already been to this German jewel will know what awaits the visitor here — it can only be described as an exceptional experience, and should not be confused with the usual imitations, whether at home or abroad.

Time simply flies by in a magical way.

..... and now you've got all that out of  
your system.....

Then it's back to Cologne  
— perhaps for some shopping  
in the renowned Schilder-  
gasse.

You may like to walk the  
city walls, visit the National  
Railway Museum, explore the  
narrow winding lanes with  
their ancient timbered houses,  
or simply browse round the  
shops

The afternoon is yours for  
more sightseeing or browsing  
round the shops.

and all those shopping blues  
will disappear in the colourful  
fun of the Champs Elysees  
with its parade of shops

..... you can get down to the real  
business of leisure time — consuming.

### Urbanism

The Spectacle fills not only time but  
space as well. It is our environment.



The control of our environment has been  
taken from us and put into the hands of  
specialists — architects, planning committees,  
developers, etc. Their object is to organise  
the environment into more manageable  
structures — office complexes, factory towns,  
civic centres, supermarkets, hypermarkets,  
“country” parks.

The result is that huge  
areas of land are now  
totally devoted to work  
and profit with no regard  
for the genuine needs of  
the people living there.

It's not just  
your house  
they are  
after... it's  
your whole  
way of life

BY ANDREW HARRIS

Telford didn't just happen.

It was set up specifically to provide businesses with the ideal  
environment for growth.

full lives

The Borough has  
carefully nurtured industrial estates where advance  
factories are ready for occupation. A skilled  
workforce with firm roots in hard work awaits you.  
And a superb communications network spreads  
branches throughout the UK and abroad.

work better shopping centre

One disappointment is that the local population seem to make no attempt at all to look like the people in the architect's drawings.

*Shopping in Church Street is pleasant - it must be one of the country's showcase stretches of pedestrianisation and if it were not for the gratuitous drowsiness of the British shopper you'd be forgiven for thinking yourself in High Street, Europe.*

DAVID SANDS  
'Shop Property'

The 500 sites are regarded as having the potential of a Flixborough disaster. The chemical plant at Flixborough on Humber-side exploded in 1974, killing 28 people. The safety executive will not publicly identify the sites, it says, because of security and because legislation prevents the giving of commercial information to third parties.

Privately, some executive officials acknowledge their fear that, were the list to be publicised, residents near the sites would press for the installations to be closed down. They are also concerned that there would be a public demand for other smaller sites to be regarded as major hazards—and the executive does not have enough inspectors to cope.

In the mistaken belief that it is "their" street or "their" town, they seem to think they should have some say in the activities of local industry.

Rapid transit systems allow the workforce to be drawn from a wider area. It also allows for centralisation of production, standardisation, monopoly and control. But no matter how rapid these transit systems are - we never seem to catch up with ourselves.

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"In the Global Village everything seems to be happening at the other end of town."

Frederic Raphael

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A curious effect of the development of rapid transit systems is that as the distance between communities closes, the distance between individuals within those communities widens.

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"I've got friends all over the world. I don't know anyone down this street - but I've got friends all over the world."

Tony Hancock  
"The Radio Ham"

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The physical division of our environment serves to reinforce the separation of human activities. Industrial estates, leisure centres, shopping precincts — specific areas and specific times for specific activities. Once the time and place appropriate to a particular activity has been established, we can safely be allowed some say in how that time and space is consumed. Such "participation" just gives us a greater say in the construction of the world of our own alienation.

The sub-division of space is just the concrete manifestation of what has already happened to time.

The divisions of time and space make it easier.....

Most of Mrs Thatcher's speech was a defence of her philosophy that creating wealth was not merely expedient but morally good. Work was good. It was not only a necessity, but a duty and a virtue.

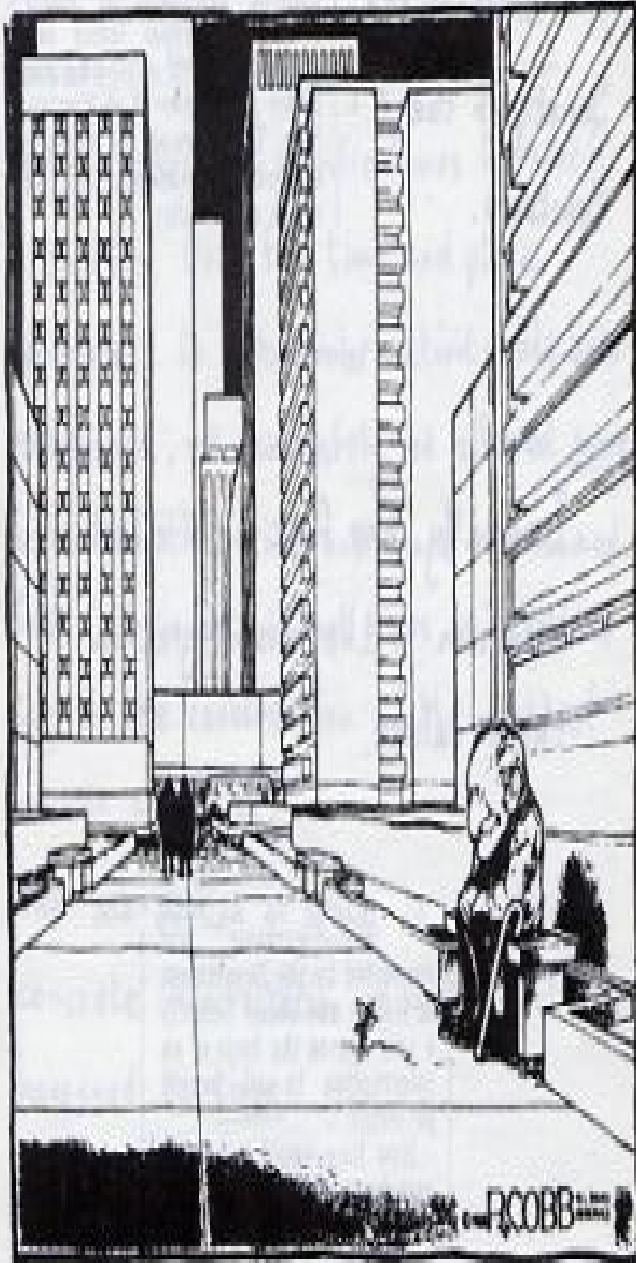
..... to reinforce the values of the Society of the Spectacle.

Another book that provoked the wrath of Mrs Gable's committee had included a sympathetic discussion of Robin Hood. The Texas ladies had about as much sympathy for Robin as the Sheriff of Nottingham. They viewed his thieving on behalf of the poor as "an attack on morality."

Ironically, the first side effect of Urbanism is the disintegration of those values.

A "wargame" was conducted by the Department of Health and Social Security a year ago on the basis of an interruption to all benefit payments.

How long would it be, the game's central question ran, before moneyless people became desperate and ransacked their local shops? The answer, which Lord Soames will no doubt be considering in his bunker, was three weeks.



## PART TWO

"All space is occupied by the enemy. We are living under a permanent curfew. Not just the cops - the geometry."

Attila Kotanyi

Raoul Vaneigem

Town planners, architects and other specialists are organizing the environment into more manageable structures. Physical obstacles are put in the way of the integration of human activities. The ultimate purpose of all centres of population is to serve, in some way, work and profit.

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PARADISE  
SWINDON**  
Business opportunities unlimited

Whether you are an industrialist, investor or developer, the London Borough of Greenwich has something to offer

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Tower Hamlets where your aims are our aims.

**A great place for business**

The temporal and spatial segregation of activities aids social control.

When in a 'work' place during 'work' time we begin to behave accordingly and surrender our desires, hopes, dignity and even our health to the 'reality' of the situation.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work in a factory making semiconductors?

Is it exciting to work with high technology, to wear sparkling white coveralls and bounce along down brightly lit sterile corridors, as if you were in Space Station Alpha?

The reality, of course, is a little different. Marconi Electronic Devices (MEDL) recently opened — if that is the right phrase — the largest clean room in the country in its Lincoln factory.

The 12,500 square foot clean room, positioned in the middle of the factory, is impressive. Wafer fabrication continues in a quiet, cool, sterile environment.

And on the subject of things sterile, the ion implantation

room is not for those who would like offspring.

Over two thirds of MEDL's staff are women. They are overwhelmingly employed in packaging integrated circuits.

The space-age image of the factory hides many boring and repetitive jobs. 'We have to use women, although I suppose in the future we will be using machines,' he added.

'It's really boring,' said one woman. 'My eyes hurt after looking down the microscope all day. I would like to do some of the other packaging jobs, it would be more interesting,' she added.

The technical expert was unmoved: 'They learn to do one job, and get good at it. I don't see why they want to do other jobs as well,' he then added.

It is hardly surprising that the illusion of 'free' time is so attractive.

**MR HARRY** Cunningham of Leeds has been awarded £2000 in compensation for injuries received during a stampede by his fellow workers to clock off.

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A small Scottish company — Bram International at Galaahiel — has produced a computer system which displays to management and workers what they have achieved, what they should have achieved, and their percentage efficiency — minute by minute.

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Work time .....

..... Free time.

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To help you master the electronic game the watch has a built-in demonstration programme so that you can become familiar with the moves before taking the controls yourself. Up to 12 alien ships can attack at any one time, and you put your skills against both fighter craft and the alien command ship, special sound effects indicate a hit or an explosion and the action of the spaceships speeds up as the game progresses. Choose from two levels of skill depending on how proficient you are, and if you achieve the maximum score of 1000 points the watch will even play you a victory salute.

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Spot the difference.

**LEARNING TO PRESS  
THE RIGHT BUTTON**

To maintain this social control the Spectacle must recuperate situations which threaten to disrupt the organization of space and time. Participants are encouraged to become spectators.....

**“Anarchy, theft, class-war,  
BOPPING THE FUZZ.  
SUBVERSIVE.  
VERY FUNNY”**

Guardian



**CAN'T PAY?  
WON'T PAY!**

a farce by  
**Dario Fo**

CRITERION THEATRE Ω  
**COMEDY OF  
THE YEAR**

Ω **CRITERION**

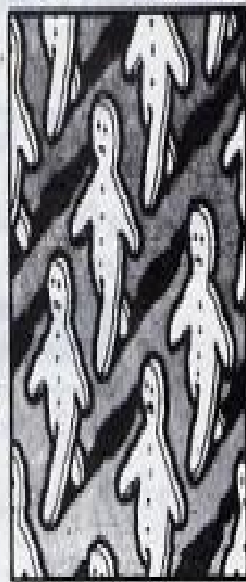
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.....and the whole thing becomes  
just another commodity.



**Specialization** The division of time and space - its specialization - produces people who are specialists. Not the welcome specialist with an uncommon skill to contribute, but the introverted and exclusive gangs of specialists who build their own reality totally divorced from the real needs of everyday life. Even the struggle for social liberation has become a specialization and as such has its specialists (M.P.'s, social workers, revolutionary leaders, radical lawyers, trade union leaders, gurus etc, etc.) Their methods are different and their effectiveness varies, but they have one thing in common; whether by design or circumstance, by machiavellian intent or just a pitious underestimation of what is possible, they always - in the end - sell us out.



Young Socialists on the march for Socialist Policies

"The oldest social specialization, the specialization of power, is at the root of the Spectacle."

Guy Debord



The specialists  
of power want  
our trust .....

Mr Whitelaw said: "Secrecy and litigation cannot be reconciled," and tapping would not work if it could be made known and challenged in court. He says the public should trust the secret decisions made by Ministers and civil servants.

..... and our confidence.



White collar cops: at Toms River, New Jersey, Dover Township Police Chief Richard C. Clement (above left) and Captain Michael Carling model their force's new Ivy League look. All officers from sergeant to captain are getting the new uniform which is designed, says the chief, to eliminate the American policeman's more usual Gestapo look

But just in case.....

We can tranquilise, impede, immobilise, harass, shock, upset, stupefy, nauseate, chill, temporarily blind, deafen or just plain scare the wits out of anyone the police have a proper need to control and restrain."

The Home Office is to test a new form of high-powered strobe gun designed for riot control.

The gun, shaped like a large hairdryer, causes a wide range of effects, from momentary distraction to severe nausea and headaches.

In some individuals it can cause a mild form of epilepsy. Light-sensitive people can be thrown into a fit.

The gun is one of many anti-riot devices which are regularly tested at the Police Scientific Development Branch equipment laboratory in St Albans, Herts.





..... and it's good for business too!

**EFFECTIVE?**

YOU BET!

**36 INCH  
RIOT  
BATON**

Proven especially in controlling riots. Marked from choice hardwood, the KOMAUT BATON has rounded ends, deep longitudinal grooves for sure grip.

Why choose a riot with only conventional weapons when it costs so little for KOMAUT 36" BATONS. Order a supply today ... and be prepared.

"We are poisoned by the Spectacle. All the elements necessary for a cure (that is for the construction of our everyday lives) are in the hands of specialists."

Raoul Vaneigem

".....on the other side of the road is a police station which is built on the original site of the inn of the good Samaritan."

"Your Guide to Jordan"

The servants of the specialists of power are carefully chosen.....

Unemployment means the Army can pick and choose; the average intelligence of recruits has risen, though bright men are not always thought desirable ("If you're in Ballymurphy you don't want your chap saying 'Why me?' when you tell him to shoot the chap on the next roof").

..... and made to feel special.

As their off-duty tee-shirts testified, they regarded themselves as the "premier unit Cobras" (the Cobra being the SPG's adopted symbol), and to rile London's five other SPG units, they would arrive on duty humming, in fine unison, the Dambusters' March.

But, in the end, what do they get — a stick?, a gun?, a funny hat?  
If they are doing so well why are their lives filled with the same mind-numbing mediocrity that the rest of us suffer?



### The good life

BRITONS last year spent more on alcohol, used their cars more, and spent more time watching television.

How long will they stay loyal servants?

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"While it is obvious that details of the emergency powers cannot be made available to the public, it will also be necessary to limit the information given to the middle and lower ranks of the police, security forces and emergency services in case it affects their willingness to perform."

from "Open Road"

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Do they ever wonder whose side they are on.....

Several witnesses including Fleet Street photographers reported another telling incident. A group of plain clothes men were seen hurrying from Brixton police station armed with pick-axe handles bound with black insulation tape. Uniformed police tried to stop them going off to war with these implements. They were disregarded.

..... and who is on their side?

The Brixton fighting had a traumatic effect.

They say that their command structure was in disarray. Among the stories which are now being bitterly repeated is a suggestion that some senior officers removed their own epaulettes so that they would not be targets for the rioters and thus made it impossible for junior officers to know who was supposed to be in charge.

Recent events must have shown those who choose to serve power - when push comes to shove - just how far they can rely on their "superiors".

## Fragmentation

Because oppression is delegated down the power pyramid through specialists, oppression itself is specialized.

While we are highly motivated to attack the oppression that pinches us most, if we concentrate solely on our own particular (specialized) oppression we play into the hands of the specialists of power.

Fighting one oppression we must never lose sight of the fact that it is only part of the total oppression.

Fragmentary resistance may win us some improvement in our own position, we may even win a victory — but for every head we cut off, the monster grows a new one in another place.

"Anything less than a direct attack upon all the conditions of our lives is not enough."

Carol Ehrlich

"Fragmentary opposition is like the teeth on a cogwheel - they marry together to make the machine go round, the machine of the Spectacle, the machine of power....everyone is asked his opinion of every detail to stop them having one of the totality."

Raoul Vaneigem

"CND's position is that we want to get rid of nuclear weapons. We don't want to get entangled with other issues."

Fragmentary resistance is often blind to the total oppression (and to its own absurdity).

CHE, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, is co-ordinating the reform moves and backing the case of a former bombardier in the Royal Artillery, Mr John Bruce, who is suing the British Government in the European Court for court-martialling him last year. He was sentenced to nine months and a discharge with disgrace for having sex with another man while on leave from the Army.

"I was just about to lead two sections of men to Northern Ireland when the Military Police pounced," Mr Bruce said yesterday.

Support Gay Rights!  
Fine.

So that gay soldiers  
can go to aid the  
oppression in Ulster?

"The struggle for something to eat, for comfort, for stable employment and for security are, on the social front, so many aggressive raids which, despite their very real importance, are slowly but surely becoming rearguard actions."

Raoul Vaneigen

All our physical, mental and emotional energy and creativity is exhausted just surviving - just trying to make our existence tolerable.

"The incapacity of many people to cope with the world they live in is not a problem of basic inabilities, but a problem of trained incompetence."

Howard J. Ehrlich



## Therapy

"Certainly a massive propaganda campaign to publicize the possibility of a revolution, of a total transformation of the world is vitally important - but it will prove totally ineffective if it isn't simultaneous with the creation of mass therapy....people in the streets, in the offices and factories know damn well what's going on, even if they can't write essays about all its theoretical ramifications. The point is they can't do anything about it. What needs understanding is the state of paralysis everyone is in."

Christopher Gray

"Leaving the 20th Century"



"Its criteria are only valid for those who accept the Spectacle and are satisfied with playing a role in it."

Raoul Vaneigen

..... and for the rest there are plenty of already recuperated alternatives available.

\* Chile Solidarity Xmas Cards  
Set of eight full colour reproductions of patchwork tapestries. £1.50 (post free) pack of 10 waterproof (And There We'll Be Work For All) card. £1.50 (post free) Both from Chile Solidarity 123 Seven Sisters Rd. Accounts on bulk orders. NT.

**CND**  
Xmas Cards

  
Support C.N.D.  
Silver C.N.D. Badges  
£14 each inc. £1 to C.N.D.  
Hafmark 23mm (1) C.N.D.  
Jackie Jones (1) C.N.D.  
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\* Marxist-Leninist Xmas Card  
Ingenious CPBIMLI card puts Thatcher where she belongs. In the £10 each from Ballman  
CHEQUES & P.O. ONLY PLEASE

Resisting in terms of simple survival condemns us to the slavery of working for freedom.

"People will never break out of their statis for the sake of a minor rearrangement. There have been too many already. Only the hope of a total change is going to inflame anybody. Who the hell is going to exert themselves to get another frozen chicken, another pokey room? But the possibilities of living in one's own cathedral....."

Christopher Gray

we dont  
just want more  
cake  
we want the  
whole bloody  
bakery

**Near at hand,  
another land**

"Our remarks on the construction of everyday life cannot be recuperated by cultural or sub-cultural establishments (thinkers with three weeks paid holiday) for the very good reason that all situationist ideas are no more than the development of acts attempted constantly by countless people to try to prevent another day being no more than twenty-four hours of wasted time."

Raoul Vaneigen

### Liquid protest

A VINEYARD worker, Gerard Stingle, 23, opened the taps of wine casks in his employer's cellar at Nuits St Georges, sending about £350,000-worth of top-quality Burgundy down the sewer, because he "did not like capitalists," police reported yesterday.

Behind the pathetic search for new political parties to join, gurus to follow, gods to worship, new consumer goods, new experiences and new 'alternatives' is a very real need to break out of the Society of the Spectacle (if only for an hour a week).

But having mistaken the Spectacle for reality people try to be "realistic" about their desires — they "know" life can't be like that all the time. Now the new alternatives are "discovered" as fast as the Spectacle can produce them.

So what is to be done?

For a start we can look for opportunities to intervene in radical situations — to try to speed up the revolutionary process. To identify the real demand — the demand for real life; the one demand the Spectacle cannot meet. To encourage people to be truly realistic and demand the impossible.

"Meaningful action, for revolutionaries, is whatever increases the confidence, the autonomy, the initiative, the participation, the solidarity, the equalitarian tendencies and the self-activity of the masses and whatever assists in their demystification. Sterile and harmful action is whatever reinforces the passivity of the masses, their apathy, their cynicism, their differentiation through hierarchy, their alienation, their reliance on others to do things for them and the degree to which they can therefore be manipulated by others — even by those allegedly acting on their behalf."

Solidarity (London)

Inevitably a lot of the time we are going to be made to feel like the Hans Andersen character who didn't know about the Emperor's magic suit of clothes. Communicating is difficult.

In the Society of the Spectacle you can't see the bars until you try to get out.



"I'VE LIVED HERE IN THIS CITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS!... AND NEVER ONCE HAVE I BEEN BRUTALIZED BY THE POLICE!!"



"How is daily life to be reinvented?  
By creating situations that jolt people out  
of customary ways of thinking and behaving...  
..we have to see through the Spectacle,  
destroy the stage sets, know that there are  
other ways of doing things."

Carol Ehrlich



To confront the Spectacle with its  
own irrelevance.

To create - at long last - a situation  
which goes beyond the point of no  
return.

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