

WAKE UP

PUNK FANZINE NO.1 25p



The NEWTOWN
NEUROTICS

XTRACT

MANIA

THE
UNDERDOGS

REVIEWS
+MORE

WAKE UP YOU BASTARDS

WATCHER PUNKS !

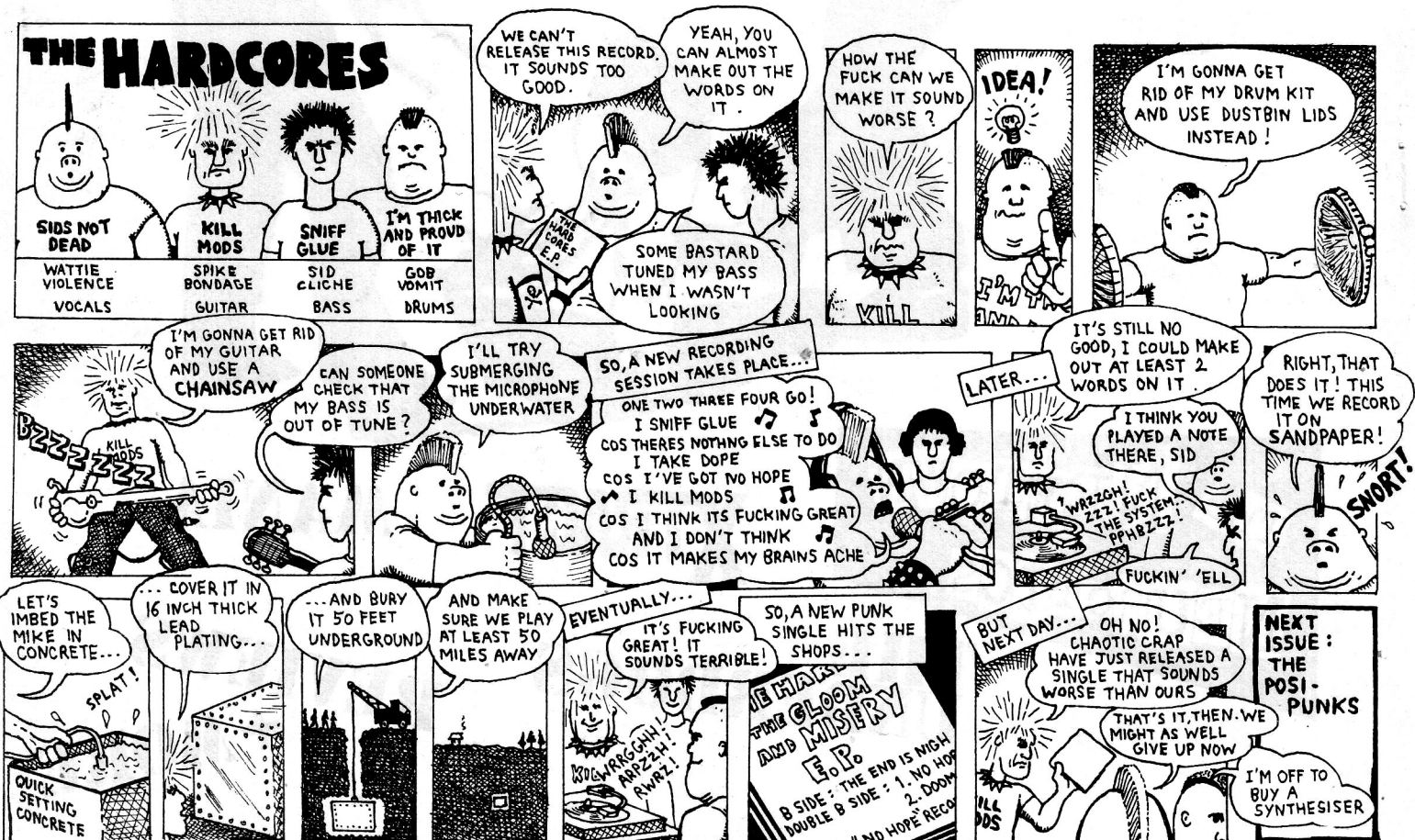
This is the first issue of Wake Up, so theres probably a few things wrong that Ill get sussed out for the next issue (like getting a better fucking typewriter for a start). The next one should be out in November, so any bands who arent too snooty to write, please send in info or demos/records for review (Everything sent will get reviewed). Im sorry about the high price (25p), but that doesnt even cover the printing costs. Im making this fanzine at a slight loss, so anyone who wants to complain about the cost can fu ck off.

If youve got any other complaints or comments though, then why not write in. And if you can interview a local band or write any articles or reviews etc, send em in, and well get em printed. Come on you lethargic bastards, it only takes an envelope and stamp. I want one of the aims of this fanzine to be to have something positive to say, to try and offer solutions instead of just moaning on about no hope all the time, and doing nothing about it. One of the main problems affecting bands is trying to get gigs. So if any venues/ halls, etc, that put bands on can write in with their address and phone no. maybe if I print a list, bands can get in touch with em.

I want to know how many copies to print for the next one, so advance orders will be appreciated. Send 25p and SAE. Barclaycards and blank cheques accepted.

Lastly, thanks to the printers and to all the bands concerned. And thanks to all real positive punks, by which I dont mean posing prats who put on silly haircuts and sing about being in the graveyard. I mean those who think with their heads (not their fists) and realise that if were ever gonna achieve anything, weve got to stop fighting each other and UNITE. Get off your arses and do something fucking constructive.

September 83.



THE UNDERDOGS

WHEN DID YOU FORM ?

The Underdogs were formed in Jan 1982. We were originally called The Revolt, but changed it to the Underdogs when we found out there was another band called that in London. Col, Bill, and U.G. have been in a number of bands since early 1980. None of them got anywhere, but we once did a gig as The Persons Unknown, with Col playing bass, U.G. playing guitar, Bill on drums and a kid called Pete Hollis singing. But this band split up almost straight after this gig.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF RIOT CITY RECORDS ?

We don't reckon much to them. They don't give us or any band much backing. But they're not too bad cos they gave us a chance to do this single. We don't have a contract, it's just one record at a time, so if East of Dachau doesn't sell very well, I don't think they will let us do another single.

ARE YOU MUCH INSPIRED BY 77PUNK BANDS ?

Yes, we're all inspired by them much more than the later punk bands. The favourite band of everyone in the group is The Clash. We all like bands like Slaughter and the Dogs, Generation X, The Drones, UK Subs, and Angelic Upstarts.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STATE OF PUNK IN GENERAL TODAY ?

There's a lot of good bands around like Abrasive Wheels, Newtown Neurotics, and The Expelled, but there's also a lot of rubbish bands around.

WHAT GIGS HAVE YOU DONE ?

We have supported A Church In Ruin, Peter and the Test Tube Babies, The Destroyers, and The Subhumans at the Palm Cove Club in Bradford. And The Destroyers, The Subhumans and English Dogs at Brannigans, Leeds. Our best gig was supporting The Subhumans at Brannigans. We also did a free gig at a local hall with a local band supporting. We do have a lot of problems getting gigs, because we're not on an agency.

WHAT'S THE SCENE IN LEEDS LIKE ?

The only regular club for punks is Brannigans, where they have bands on every week. There is a place 2 miles out of Leeds called Beeston, where at the YMCA they occasionally have bands on.

FUTURE PLANS ?

We have no definite plans for the future, except to do as many gigs as possible, anywhere in the country. We would like to release another record, but won't get a chance on Riot City unless East of Dachau sells. Our only definite gig date is September 7th, when we will be supporting the Toy Dolls at Brannigans. We have a couple more in the pipeline, but there's nothing definite yet.

The Underdogs have a single out on Riot City called East of Dachau, which is fucking great... in fact one of the best punk singles to come out this year, so buy it, OK ?

Thanks to Col for sending me their demo tape. This contains 5 tracks:

East of Dachau/Johnny Go Home/Vietnam/Boys/Late Starter. The quality of the tape is excellent and the band have got a great sound with good tunes and intelligent lyrics. Dachau is the best track, my next fave being Vietnam, but all the tracks are good. I hope they do manage to get another single out, definitely a band to keep an eye on.



U.G. vocals



COL gtr/voc



BILL drm/voc



MARTIN bass/voc

EAST OF DACHAU

A PAPER FLEW IN FROM THE WESTON POLLUTION BOUND THAT WAY,
AND A LITTLE GIRL LONGED TO RUN WHEN SHE READ IT THAT DAY,
BUT FREEDOMS SUCH A MISUSED WORD OVER THE BORDER STRETCHES,
BECAUSE THE STEPPES HOLD NO COMPASSION FOR FREEDOM SEARCHING WRETCHES.

ARE THERE RUSSIANS IN RUSSIA ?
ARE THEY REALLY RED ?
EIN VOLK, EIN REICH, EIN FÜHRER,
BLACK SQUARE INSTEAD OF RED.

MAYBE LIFE IS BAD IN THE WESTERN WORLD WITH ALL THIS FIRST WORLD STRIFE,
BUT LOOK AT THE LEADERS ENJOYING THEMSELVES WHILE THE PEOPLE HAVE NO LIFE,
EAST OF DACHAU THERE'S A VACUUM STATE THE WALLS ARE THREE MILES HIGH,
AND FOR THE PEOPLE THERE'S NO ESCAPE UNTIL ALL THEIR POWER RUNS DRY.

If you dont yet know, Mania are one of the best new bands around. Earlier this year, they released a 5 track demo tape called Madness and Outrage (see review). Theye got 2 trax (Power to the People, and Stick Together) on the compilation LP " Punk Dead ? Nah Mate The Smell Is Jus Summink In Yer Underpants Innit ". And they have 1 track (Blood Money) on the No Future compilation LP " A Country Fit For Heroes " Vol. 2. They dont have a record deal yet, so no singles are out... But just wait until they do!...

The band line up is :

CARL	Vocals
SEAN	Bass
MACK	Guitar
SPOT	Drums

CONTD....

MANIA



GENERAL HISTORY OF THE BAND ?

We formed in October 1981. None of the band has changed, its always been the same. Only Mack had been in a band before, just playing about, nothing serious. We were first called Sub Culture, but heard of a Southern band of the same name, so then we were Fallen Heroes, but in Sheffield theres a H.M. band called Fallen Angel, so we got gigs confused. Plus the fact that it was a very corny name.

WHAT INFLUENCED YOU INITIALLY ?

The first blast of punk influenced us first, but not seriously until SHAM 69 came about. They just seemed to sum up my feelings and thoughts on life. Jimmy Pursey really stood for the kids in his time, despite everyone slagging him off.

Today, we're influenced very rarely by lyrics cos without being big headed, ours are the best we've seen, UPSTARTS excepted. Musically, we just make sure our tunes are up to date, but we aren't competing with anyone.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OI ?

Oi is PUNK, but for some like us, Oi is more acceptable as it didn't mean you had to look shocking etc, which we don't, but it did start off too skinhead, but now its got a happy medium. It did bring a SKINHEAD revival which I'm glad for, as all the punk bands getting stale got a good kick up the arse.

WHAT CATEGORY OF PUNK WOULD YOU PLACE YOUR MUSIC IN ?

Our music is rebel rock n roll for punks and skins and everybody else who wants to listen, cos besides the music we've got a lot to say which any ordinary kid can identify with.

ALL YOUR SONGS HAVE GOOD TUNES, DO YOU THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT ?

We do try to have songs with tunes, cos thats the type of music we like to hear ourselves. Too many bands are satisfied with 100 m.p.h. bollocks with stupid lyrics, they can't progress cos they haven't got the scope to. So you hear one track, you've heard them all, in time, with a decent break, we could write a top 40 hit without losing power, balls and meaning. Like RUTS, SUBS, REJECTS, ETC.

WHAT'S FEARLESS FEW ABOUT ?

Fearless Few was wrote at the beginning of the FALKLANDS FIASCO, when a few of our old school pals were fighting a war. Then the ship Sheffield was sunk and Spots old pal was killed. Its our story of the blindness going into the battle, and the fear of those they left behind.

WITHIN THESE WALLS IS A PRISON SONG. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INSIDE ?

None of us have been inside but loads of mates have, and we wrote that one after visiting a pal in Borstal and seeing how bad it had made him.

STICK TOGETHER IS A RALLYING CALL FOR PUNKS AND SKINS. BUT DO YOU THINK PUNK HAS BECOME TOO DIVERSE TO BE COHESIVE ?

No, not really, cos punk is a bad word given to something good and healthy. It has great depths of feelings, and if it were less hip to dress like a punk, the unity between kids would come cos under all the different clothes most think the same way.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PRODUCTION ON YOUR RECORDED SONGS SO FAR ?

I just hate the two tracks on "Punk Dead", it was done purposely to make us look bad, cos he was fed up with us. The No Future track is a lot better, but we still aren't satisfied. Maybe thats good cos we'll always be trying to be better, song by song.



MANIA

CONTD...

CONTD....

ARE YOU GETTING NEARER TOWARDS THE SOUND YOU WANT ?

We are getting nearer, but as I say it might be that well always be wanting better.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE BAND PROGRESSING ?

If MANIA could get a decent single deal and it did well, wed be a force to be reckoned with. Weve got so much balls and power and lyrics to be overlooked. We want a single, but dont know what. Perhaps an EP would be better.

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Never let them say you cant because you know you can
Everything stood around you was built by the working man
Wheels are kept on turning by the power of the workers sweat
This land was built by you so dont you ever forget

Look they seem so big but its not what it seems
Theyre only above us cos were on bended knees
And togetherness is hope that will be our key
Hand in hand united well fight for liberty

Sit up straight and wipe away the tears that youve let leak
Cos ours is the battle thats yet to reach its peak
The working class will realise our days arent numbered yet
Ours is the generation that no ones gonna forget

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
WE STAND TOGETHER
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
BIRDS OF A FEATHER

MANIA SET LIST

- I. Fight Fight (For The Right To Strike)
2. Within These Walls
3. Power to the People
4. Cheated
5. Dont Need You
6. Shoulder to Shoulder
7. Night of the Long Knives
8. Kids Are Alright
9. Blood Money
10. Diamonds
11. Never Back Down
Never Give In
12. The Boys Are Back
In Town
(Rowdy "Lizzy")

Fanx a lot to the band.
Watch out for more of em
in the future, cos theyve
got a whole barrage of
great songs up their
sleeves.

MANIA DEMO REVIEW

MADNESS AND OUTRAGE 5 TRACK DEMO TAPE

This contains the following trax : Fearless Few, Power to the People, Blood Money, Within These Walls and Red Alert. I hadnt heard of Mania before and to be honest, I only bought it cos they had the same name as the Outcasts song. But I was really knocked back when I played it though, cos its brilliant. Real fucking SONGS. They dont make a manic thrash sound which doesnt mean theyre weak. In fact theyve got far more bollocks and power than most other bands around. The band werent happy with the sound on this and certainly the recording quality isnt too great, but the strength of the songs powers through. Sean also sent me a demo of 2 more trax, Night of the Long Knives and Never Back Down, which are fucking great, an even tighter sound. I dont know if the tape is still available, but if you can get hold of it, buy it. Mania should appeal to anyone who likes Infa Riot, Red

Alert, early Upstarts and Blitz, etc. When they finally get a record deal it should see them capturing a legion of punk and skin fans. ARE YOU LISTENING ?

WITHIN THESE WALLS

WITHIN THESE WALLS I SCREAM AND SHOUT
PLEADING MY INNOCENCE LET ME OUT
I HEAR THE KEY TURN IN THE LOCK
THEYVE COME TO PUT ME IN A SOLITARY BLOCK
COS IN A PADDED CELL THEY CAN'T HEAR MY SCREAM
AND I CAN'T SEE THE SUNS BEAMS

CHORUS : WITHIN THESE WALLS I SCREAM AND SHOUT
WITHIN THESE WALLS I DON'T WANNA STAY IN
WITHIN THESE WALLS I JUST WANNA GET OUT
WITHIN THESE WALLS I'M ALWAYS IN AND OUT

IN SOLITARY FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS
THOUGHT I WAS GONNA BE IN TO STAY
BACK TO THE CELLS WITH THE QUEERS
HOW LONG AM I GONNA BE IN HERE
GOT ANOTHER TWO YEARS OF THIS HELL
WHO CAST THIS EVIL SPELL

BIG GUYS ON YER BACK GOTTA WATCH OUT
AND HOOLIGANS INSIDE WANNA BOUNCE YOU ABOUT
DIRTY WORK WITH BUCKETS AND SPADES
ROLLED UP FAGS NO TAILOR MADE
BUT ON THE IN YOU CAN'T ARGUE
COS PAROLE COMES UP YOURS THE BACK OF THE QUEUE

GOTTA HARD DAYS WORK BEHIND YOU
REALLY HUNGRY WANT SOME FOOD
HALF PAST FIVE WHILE SIX AT NIGHT
FOOD COMES UP WHAT A SIGHT
NIGHTTIME COMES THINK OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND
BUT BROMIDE IN THE TEA BROUGHT THAT TO AN END.



record reviews

IT TAKES TIME TO GET THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION FOR THIS FANZINE DONE, SO BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE ALREADY HEARD OR BOUGHT THESE RECORDS. WELL TOUGH SHIT COS IM REVIEWING THEM ANYWAY.

NEWTOWN NEUROTICS: BLITZKRIEG BOP/HYPOCRITE (double A side single)
This is actually a 3 track EP. Bushell must have been stoned out of his skull when he reviewed this in Sounds. It is in fact another great single from the ALWAYS dependable Neurotics. The A side needless to say, is a version of the Ramones song but with lyrics changed. The other side is a new version of their first (now deleted) single. And mighty powerful it is too, with more hooklines than an anglers convention (See? I can write like Bushell as well). **BUY IT.**

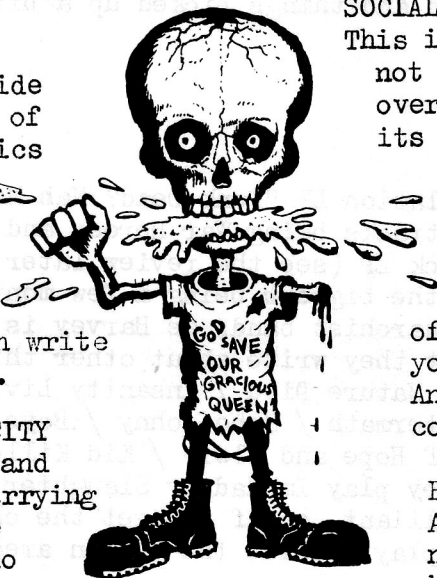
ROSE OF VICTORY: SUFRAGETTE CITY
This is complete crap. Nidge and Mackie were supposed to be carrying on the skunk tradition of the original Blitz. Well theres no sign of that here. Its an out dated pop song (a fucking David Bowie tune). The only reason anyone will buy this is cos Nidge and Mackie are in it. They know this as well. The back cover photo only has them in it...presumably the singer and drummer arent important to the band. This is also the first really awful No Future release (Im ignoring the abysmal Future records). Theres a lot of good bands around who No Future are ignoring. Unless they start signing em up and releasing some decent material again, theyre gonna collapse. The band themselves had better come up with something better, or change their name to Rose of Failure.

LAST RITES: WE DONT CARE

The A side is quite a good tune, and the lyrics are pretty well written. The B side though goes on for too long, and both the trax suffer from poor production. The band are trying a bit better than most and certainly theres potential here, but then I could say that about a lot of bands. If Last Rites want to stay in contention, theyll have to release something better...and try producing it next time.

SOCIAL DISTORTION: I945

This is an American single and its not new at all, but a lot of people over here wont have heard it and its so good I had to review it. It starts off with air raid sirens and then explodes into a brilliant, unforgettable tune. Melodic, but hard fast and powerful, and it puts most of the British bands to shame. If you can get hold of this, buy it. And watch out for their forthcoming LP "Mommies Little Monster".



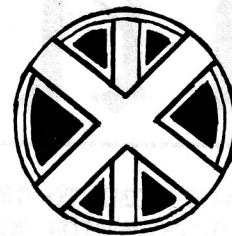
BIG BOYS: FUN FUN FUN I2".6 trax.
Another American one, and again not new, but again you may not have heard of it. 5 of the trax are, well, difficult to describe. Sort of soul/ funk (I think). But on the other track, the title track, they swap around instruments and vocal duties, and the result is a rip roaring punk song, a bit like early Damned. A brilliant tune well worth checking out.

GIG REVIEW NEWTOWN NEUROTICS

WOOD GREEN TRADE UNION CLUB, LONDON 10.7.83.

This wasnt a gig in the normal sense, cos the Neurotics were playing at the end of a mixed "cabaret" of other acts. They came on and slammed enthusiastically into a brilliant set. They played a shortened set, but really put every bit of effort into it and got through some of their best stuff like Mindless Violence, Hypocrite, Kick Out the Tories, Newtown People, and a brand new one No Respect, which had some brilliant guitar work on it. I thought the vocals werent quite mixed high enough, but thats nitpicking cos nothing could diminish the sheer power and intensity of the songs. If you aint seen the Neurotics live yet, do so, cos theyre always brilliant. So chuck away your bleeding no hope gumbie glue sniffer records and listen to some punk with something positive to say. Wake up, theyre talking to YOU!

XTRACT



ANTI WAR

XTRACT formed in 1980 from what was left of another local punk band called Neon Rage.

The line up then was Ox (vocals), Karl(gtr), Cockram(gtr), Mik (bass), Kip (drums). They

played just 2 gigs with this line up, then Ox and Cockram left because they lost interest. They were stuck without a singer for a month, then they met Harvey at the punk club in Bolton (now shut down thanks to the GMP). At the time, Harvey was drumming for another Bolton punk band called Nervous Disorder, but heard they wanted a singer, so joined.

Xtract played about 16 gigs with this line up, then Mik left after arguments... About 11 months ago. So then Rod joined and things picked up a bit. The present line up is ;

Harvey...vocals

Karl.....guitar

Rod.....bass

Kip.....drums

Theyve got 2 tracks on the compilation LP "Punk Dead? Nah Mate, the Smell Is Jus Summink In Yer Underpants, Innit"., the tracks being War Heroes and Aftermath. Earlier this year they released an excellent 4 track EP (see the review later on).

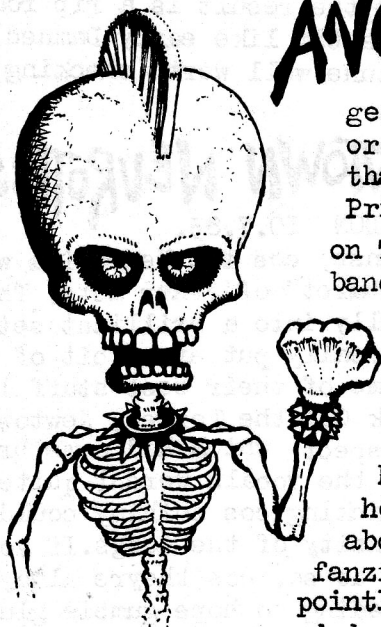
Theyve played over 20 gigs now, the biggest being a few months back with The Subhumans in Huddersfield. Theyre not an anarchist band, as Harvey is the only anarchist in it.

Theyre an anti war punk band, but they write about other things than just war.

Their songs are / The Day Mother Nature Died / Insanity Living / Blame It On The Youth / Eastside Story / War Heroes / Aftermath / Soho Johny / Boys In Blue / Iron Lady / Troops of Fear / This Is Not The Land Of Hope and Glory / Kid Killer / Little Soldier Boy / Waiting for the Genocide, and they play Im Mad by Slaughter and the Dogs.

Ive seen em live, and theyre brilliant, so if you get the chance go and see em (although they havent had many chances to play outside the Bolton area.)

I think the band may be sending me an interview. If so, sorry for not getting it in this issue but itll be a bit late for the printing. Ill get it in the next issue though!



ANGRY

Im sick to death of being unable to pick up a news paper without seeing Charles and Di plastered all over the fucking front page. Every movement, every gesture they make and its major headline news; "CHARLES BLINKS" or "DIANA PICKS HER NOSE". FULL STORY INSIDE. Even worse than that is bleeding colour supplements of that little bastard Prince William. Another thing I hate is every music programme on TV. TOTP, Tube, Switch, OGWT, they all show the same fucking bands...Yazoo, Depeche Mode, Soft Cell, Culture Club, over and over and over again. I cant switch on the bloody TV without seeing a bunch of poofs fiddling with synthesiser knobs. Their entire audience consists of lobotomised 7 year old schoolgirls. Cant I pick up ANY magazine without seeing Marc Almond on every fucking page? I want to batter his face in with a pitchfork, except he already looks like hes had that done. And finally (for now), Im sick of reading about American and British punks slagging each other off in fanzines. Stick it up your arses. This snobbish bickering is just pointless. I like BOTH the scenes. Judge people on what they say and do, not on where they happen to come from. We need UNITY. And by that I dont mean NF or BM movements, who can FUCK OFF.

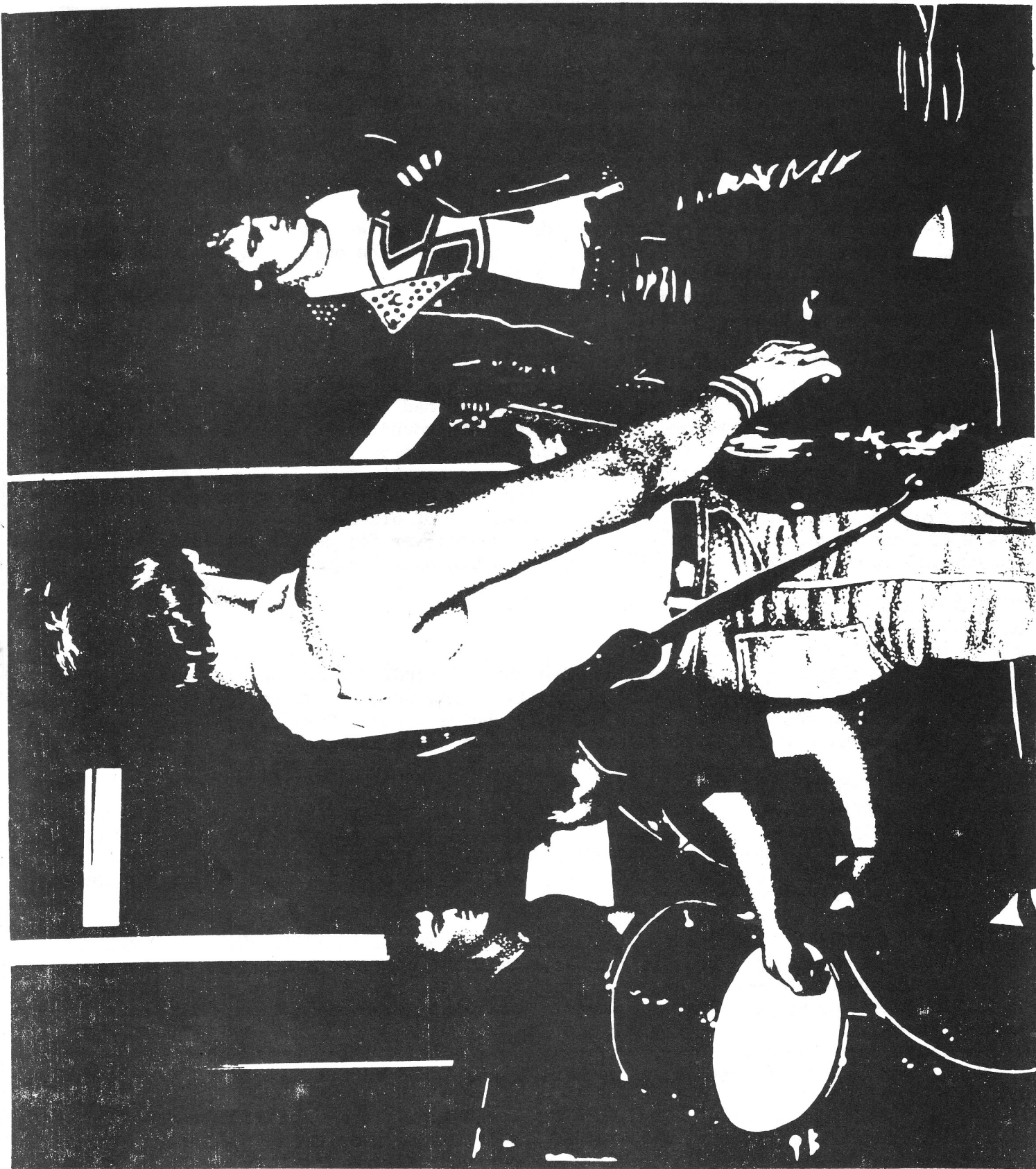
XTRACT SINGLE REVIEW

4 TRACK EP : BLAME IT ON THE YOUTH / WAR HEROES / IRON LADY / BOYS IN BLUE
This is great. What makes it worth getting is the track IRON LADY. This really is a scorcher, I would rate it alongside songs like Countdown and Holiday in Cambodia. Its the kind of tune that once you play it, you just cant get it out of your head; brilliant stabbing guitar and drum work, and great vocals. The intensity of the lyrics just cannot be ignored;

" Its a rich mans Government, no time for the poor

Its a social disease and there is no cure. "

The other 3 tracks arent as good, but nonetheless theyre good solid punk. If the band can come up with more as brilliant as Iron Lady, theyll be a force to be reckoned with. BUY IT !!!



The NEWTOWN NEUROTICS

THIS IS A FAIRLY
LENGTHY INTERVIEW
I TAPED WITH THE
BAND, JUST BEFORE
THEIR WOOD GREEN
GIG IN JULY, WHICH

IS REVIEWED ELSEWHERE

WHEN DID YOU FORM?

COLIN: Oh no!

SIMON: Its really unusual, weve never been asked this before.

COLIN: Shall I tell him, boys?

STEVE: Can you keep it brief?

COLIN: We formed a few years ago, and we had a drummer but we got rid of him for various personal reasons, then we found Simon who we thought was the only thing we could get hold of at the time, but he turned out alright in the end.

STEVE: Yeah, we got used to him in the end.

SIMON: I got used to them as well.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR OLD DRUMMER ?

COLIN: We threw him out. He was influenced by people into believing that he wouldnt make it in punk and he had to go all new romantic, and he had certain personal problems, one of em being he was more concerned with drinking than soundchecks, etc. He was always a bit vague, especially when we started getting more political.

STEVE: Not only that, he suffered from allergies on his fingers, it was so bad that half the time he couldnt hold drumsticks. It was stopping him from playing properly and he had to get drunk so his fingers wouldnt hurt... just out of order.

COLIN: And cos weve got absolutely no sympathy whatsoever for people with deformities, or who are disabled in one way or another, we threw him out. (Laughter)

WHAT INFLUENCED YOU TO START ?

COLIN: Punk Rock.

STEVE: What a cliché.

COLIN: It is a cliché but its true. The idea that if Fredd Bloggs and his band can do it, then anybody can. And it was exciting at the time. And we didnt wanna do blando West coast or heavy metal, so the field we do is the only choice...short fast rock n roll.

STEVE: The main night, the seed was sown at the New Years Eve gig by the Ramones...77.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE CNT ?

STEVE: CNTs a great label, great bunch of people, but the distributions so poor...And as we were desperately in need of some sort of finance behind us, we had to go to a record company that could distribute the records properly, so enough people buy em so weve got enough money to renew the gear and all that, cos basically more people wanted the records than could get hold of em.

A LOT OF YOUR SONGS ARE ABOUT THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO YOU? LIKE MARCH. WHATS THAT ABOUT ?

SIMON: Well, we was doing a benefit for Fares Fair and we found a lorry we were supposed to be playing on the back of. The march started to get organised so we got on the back of the lorry and we got our gear up, went to start the generator and the damn thing wouldnt start.

COLIN: And we were swearing.

SIMON: We were saying naughty words. We said "Penis " and things like that.

COLIN: "You blighter".

SIMON: "Oh what a wheeze" and things like that. And then the bloody march moved off without us and left us there on the back of the lorry. By the time we did get it started they were like 3 miles down the road, so we went off looking for them on the lorry and

couldnt find them. And we got caught in a traffic jam.

STEVE: At one point we had a bus load of people peering down at us.

SIMON: So we just started playing on the back of the lorry. Steve was making up a riff, Colin joined in and then we just played a song, and thats what turned into "March" in the end.

NEWTOWN PEOPLE IS ABOUT HARLOW, RIGHT ? WHATS HARLOW LIKE ?

STEVE: Its a town with no communities in. At least even in run down areas in Britain, it may be a shitty place to live and everythings falling to pieces, but you have some sort of community. In Harlow youve got buildings that are in good nick and fields and things but everyones so spaced out apart from each other that theres very little community feeling. It doesnt matter how many years youve lived there, its rather like waiting in a VD clinic.

SIMON: Not that we would know.

STEVE: People just dont talk to each other, theyre frightened of becoming friendly with the other people, so everyones sort of isolated. You try and organise anything in Harlow and people just dont wanna know because theyre not used to the idea of supporting something within their own town.

COLIN: Its an environment that breeds apathy.

WHAT ABOUT THE LICENSING HOURS ?

COLIN: Fuck em. That song stems from a place we used to go drinking in, which enjoyed taking your money off you, but come closing time they used to get security guards in uniforms coming round to boot you out....smiles all the way through the evening and then come the end they just showed their real faces.

STEVE: Yeah, theres a huge bar in

CONTD...



The NEWTOWN NEUROTICS

CONTD...

Nottingham, theres a downstairs bar that is absolutely enormous and a n upstairs one that gets hundreds of people every night, and come closing time the police come in with batons and tap each table. Its ridiculous. The working class or lower middle class or whatever,

have got enough to put up with, without the establishment telling em when and where they can actually enjoy themselves, so

thats what thats songs about...Its the sort of thing that affects and annoys

everyone. They talk about violence towards landlords on the increase, but theres

an art in getting people to drink up and leave and unfortunately not many people know it. So you get in the situation where someone just wants a drink and they get harrassed by a really stupid heavy landlord, that violence does occur.

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST GIG?

STEVE: We could say Elephant and Castle cos we didnt get to play.

SIMON: Cos we had our gear smashed up by King Kurt, who also closed down Brighton Extremes cos of their attitude and their fans, the way they encourage their fans to smash the place up. Theyre not very nice people at all.

BEST GIG?

STEVE: Sheffield Dingwalls.

COLIN: Well no actually weve had some great gigs when theres no one in the audience. Weve just got up and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

SIMON: I think as crowd reaction goes it was Sheffield Dingwalls.

WHY DO YOU THINK SO MANY KIDS ARE BEING CONNED BY THE NF?

STEVE: Cos theyre gullible. They need scapegoats. Theres so much oppression around em that a lot of people need someone to take it out on. And as the NF, theyre hard, theyre the lads theyre the boys, people are gullible enough to believe what theyre saying and join up. Put it this way, theres a lot of people with a lot of time on their hands and theyre very susceptible. As soon as some sort of idea comes across the horizon, they think yeah thats a great idea, and if it wasnt the NF it would be something else, one way or another. The only thing is, we say, if youre going to put people to some sort of activity to fight off boredom and feeling inadequate and useless, then why not do something thats a bit more constructive than hurting people and generally ruining everyone elses lives.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PUNK GETTING DIVIDED UP INTO SEPERATE FACTIONS LIKE Oi, GRASS, HEDYT, ETC
SIMON: I think it was inevitable really, the way that punk was developing.

STEVE: I think every musical form when it first

starts out tends to be very diverse, but because its new its all put under one label. In 77, a lot of the bands there were a lot different, but there were no labels for em then. It happens with any form of music when its been around for a few years, it starts being subdivided and then the audience is subdivided as well. 60s pop and rock n roll turned into heavy metal or Genesis type sort of electronic drippy rock and then there was folk rock and what happened in the hippy era there was people doing songs about sex and drugs and rock and roll, and then you got the subdivisions coming along and then one of them was Jesus Rock. And believe me, eventually there will be Jesus Punk. Its already started in the States. There are such things as Jesus Punks.

SIMON: The closest weve got is U2.

STEVE: What happens is you get some young Christians thinking hang on, we're losing out here, theres an area where were not having any influence. So they rip their trousers, put safety pins through their ears and tattoo God Loves Me on their forehead and then go round saying "Im a punk rocker and I like punk music but I dont need glue. Ive got a natural high...I just sniff the teachings of the Lord". And then pogo all the way down to requiem.

COLIN: Theyve even got groupies for Jesus havent they. They go round offering you a screw



COLIN

BASS + BACKING VOCALS

if you turn to the Lord.

STEVE: Anythings possible.

WOULD YOU ACCEPT THE LABEL OF BEING A SOCIALIST BAND?

ALL: Yeah. Oh yeah.

STEVE: Theres lots of bands who are.. theyre not politically aligned or anything, but they are socialist bands because socialism taken on its lightest level is really down to tryin to make a better world. People concerned about things that go on around them and try and want things to be more humane then thats socialist in one sense because youve got that sort of socialism. Then youve got socialism which is associated with actually following politics. When the Neurotics first started off, we werent directly political but we were always socialist in those terms.

COLIN: People get this impression of the traditional socialist band as being very worthy, having all the right ideas, but being as boring as fuck. There was a lot of that in the mid 70s and even up into punk with bands like the Gang Of 4. They came on originally with no sense of humour. I mean, it doesnt strictly apply to what were doing. If you want to call it punk rock, fair enough. The kind of stuff were doing is that its one of the most accepted mediums apart from folk music, where you try literally to say something. Now Im sure theres millions of people in heavy metal bands who are socialist, but they dont expand the medium they use to include their socialist ideals into their music. All

MINDLESS VIOLENCE

Mindless violence is a newspaper phrase
Its an excuse to vandalise the human frame
What a clever little gang
They can attack a single man
And then run into the night
Before you see what youve done
Yes you run into the night
Before you see what youve done
Mindless cowards, cos thats what you are
But youll go far youll go far youll go so very far
Have you had your bit of fun
Now youve seen someones blood run
And then you run into the night
Before you see what youve done
And I say to you
What if the old man doesnt pull through
What if the geezer doesnt pull through
Now that the blame lies squarely on you
Mindless violence, what does it prove?
It proves you dont know the people
Who are shitting on you
See the bloodstains on his shirt
Picassos bleeding his other works
Its just another exhibit in a hospital bed
Just another exhibit in a hospital bed
Mindless violence
Mindless violence
Who is to blame?
Mindless violence



STEVE
GUITAR + VOCALS

they can talk about is big legged women, fast cars and rock n roll. So if a few of those concerned said "Its not like that, lets say what we actually feel", then Im sure heavy metal music would have far greater respect than its got... Rose Tatoo, theyre wierd cos theyre nationalistic as well. Very Australian nationalistic, but theyre also socialist. Like Midnight Oil, theyre a very committed socialist band. But theyre a minority, youre talking about 2 bands out of thousands of heavy metal bands. Im sure heavy metal can do a lot more than it does, considering the vast audience its got, these people could get a message across.

WHAT

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN PLACES LIKE POLAND AND AFGHANISTAN?

STEVE: Thats not socialist.

COLIN: The only country in the world with socialism that works is China.

CONTD...

STEVE: Thats not socialism, its communism.

COLIN: Yeah, all communists are socialists, but not all socialists are communists. In a country like China its not a very idealistic form, but they make it work. I mean, THERE are 300 million people in that country. Theyve managed to feed them-

STEVE: Theres still a lot of poverty. The main point should be made that China needs some sort of political system to keep millions of people fed and clothed and alive, and a capitalist system would just never work there at all. It would be a bloodbath cos there would be so many people with nothing and so few with a lot., so the communism of China is something that is a matter of survival. Whereas totalitarianism as far as Russia is concerned is something which is some wierd strain of Marxist Leninist theory but its all been bastardized just so that the government of Russia can keep the screws down on the people, It doesnt mean to say that if youve got an ideology like socialism or anything, that its being put into practice properly.

COLIN: Ithink one of the things weve gotta recognise is the fact that as far as world history goes, socialism is probably the newest political programme in the world today. Theres always been sort of workers movements in the world or even peasants marches right back into the middle ages, but its only become organized and made a political doctrine in the past 100 years.

SIMON: The SWP only started about 30 to 40 years ago, the actual party.

COLIN: Yeah, thats what Im saying. Socialism is a new form of politics, its still a baby so weve got to give it time to mature. Its gone off in some factions and youve got the spoilt brat side of it, which is Russian totalitarianism. But give it time. We will probably never live to see it come to fruit, but it must happen sometime.

SIMON: It will do yeah, as soon as everyone comes to their senses and realises that the society we live in is completely wrong and unfair.

STEVE: Whats happened is that over the centuries, the system has carried on with people always making sure theyre alright but we come into the 20th century, where theres a lot of wealth and a lot of resources for everyone, but its not being distributed. The worlds got overpopulated and the same system that existed in the beginning is still there, and people are dying... In Ethiopia, theyve had so many droughts round about 69 onwards, and what with war theyre all starving to death, while we sit here drinking lager, smoking fags, and drinking cups of tea that people had to slave for a small amount of money to pick. We actually live off the backs of people who are dying continually.

COLIN: Ive got a pair of shoes on, right. Theyre really cheap, they only cost 5 pounds, but they were made in Taiwan, so some person in Taiwan has earned absolutely pitiful peasant wages so I can have something on my feet.

DO YOU THINK THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT AS IT STANDS AT PRESENT IS CAPABLE OF FORMING A VIABLE GOVERNMENT?

STEVE: Well, it may not be the best viable government, but its certainly viable. I wouldnt call the one weve got at the moment viable.

HAS LABOURS PREVIOUS RECORD HELD UP TO THAT?

COLIN: Not so much since say the end of the 50s, cos this country went through an economic boom in the late 50s to late 60s and the labour party was quite happy to go along because at the time most people were pretty happy about the situation. If you go back to the days of Kier Hardy and the first labour government after the 2nd World War, they were truly heroic in the efforts they put in. Anyone who took on the magnitude of trying to set up a welfare state and actually doing it, Ive got an immense amount of respect for.

Now, the labour party is falling apart at the seams because a lot of people have forgotten their old ideas. The young minded in the party are looking back to the early days, and trying to recreate that. And a lot of the middle of the road people in the party are running scared. They seem to have forgotten what its all about. But its got to re establish itself as a sincere party for the working classes.

STEVE: The problem is that the MOR labour party are trying to protect the interests of a section of working class who have tried to obtain middle class values. Theyve got a bit

of money and bought their own home and got a cocktail cabinet and flying ducks and Habitat furniture. Their roots are in labour but theyre aspiring to be middle class, and theres a lot of people like that.

SIMON
DRUMS

CONTD...



The NEWTOWN NEUROTICS

CONTD...

DO YOU THINK THE UNIONS HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH THEIR MEMBERS?

STEVE: That may be true to a certain extent, but basically you've got the Thatcher Govt. with so many people unemployed now, that if anybody tries to strike they're frightened, because if they lose their jobs there's a million or so people who'd be happy to have it, or whatever. Therefore, they're going to be at odds with their union. The unions will say, look these people are gonna have you back in the days when you worked all week for a pittance and if you don't do something now, that's what's gonna happen. But they'll say, yeah but if we fight we're gonna get the sack and that'll be it, we won't have any income whatsoever. So, you'll have a point where the 2 sides come up against each other. That's why Thatcher's policy is divide and rule, and you see it as much from the unions as from anybody.

WOULD COMPULSORY SECRET BALLOTS GIVE GREATER DEMOCRACY IN THE UNIONS?

COLIN: That's an interesting question and I'm divided. In one way I see it as an attempt by the Tories to say to union members, look you can't trust the people that you elect. And on another aspect I think well maybe it isn't such a bad idea. I have to say I'm sitting on the fence on that one.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE TGWU REFUSING TO BALLOT ITS MEMBERS ON THE LEADERSHIP FOR LABOUR?

COLIN: I would personally disagree with that. Obviously we want a situation where democracy and socialism both work hand in hand. But if you get down to basics, there are so many thick ignorant shits in this country, that's why the Labour vote is split up, and that's why the Tories got in. Now you can take the attitude that because we're trying to do the best for people too thick to know, we have to remove some of their democratic rights, in order in the long term to benefit them. But that suggests playing God with other people's rights. I didn't actually realise that what you said had happened, but as someone who believes in the democratic system, I would personally say it's wrong.

STEVE: They claim that to have a secret ballot would take too much time and too much money. I don't know if that's true or not.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE WORST SOCIAL INJUSTICES IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY?

COLIN: Well that's blatantly obvious... racism, sexism, class warfare

STEVE: Basically, what it boils down to is poverty, cos that gives rise to all the rest.

CAN THEY ALL BE SOLVED?

COLIN: No.

WHY?

COLIN: Because human beings haven't developed to the point where us as a race are mature enough to genuinely care about the next person. It isn't human nature at the moment.

SIMON: At the moment there's a thing... I'm alright, fuck the rest.

STEVE: You're ending up with the majority of the world fighting to keep themselves alive, and not thinking about the things that are motivating them or the powers that control them.

DO YOU THINK BANDS CAN CHANGE THINGS, THEN?

STEVE: Well yeah. I'm not talking about major change. I'm talking about the sort of thing that if nobody said anything then you're gonna accelerate the dive into ignorance. When we go up and say something, you're not gonna see us change the world, but you're certainly gonna see an influence within certain individuals. If a lot of people were doing that in enough force, then people would be a lot more aware of what's going on and wouldn't end up whipping themselves as they are at the moment.

SIMON: If we sat on our arses all day and didn't say nothing, it would be even worse... at least we can say we've tried to do something.

COLIN: It would be a very sad state of affairs if the world was full of Kajagoogoo's.

STEVE: Indeed yeah.

SIMON: Ooh to be ah.

STEVE: As we've said before, if you're a living breathing person in this world, you take things from it and I think everyone should give something back. If you're trying to improve the environment around you, you're paying your way. Not so much in money sense, but just in social responsibility.

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS?

SIMON: To enjoy myself, carry on doing what I'm doing for as many years as I can and enjoy myself while I'm doing it.

COLIN: Making enough money out of this to be able to live on it, to be able to afford a roof over your head and food, go down Sainsbury's every week, you know. We don't want a lot. If money comes our way, great, but we really just want to be in a position where we can make enough to get by on. That would be absolute luxury, not to be in debt at all.

SIMON: And have a few Rolls Royces as well.

CONTD...



WAKE UP

It all begins at school when they tell you youre stupid
And the jobs you get offered make a man inconclusive
For years and years theyve been telling you lies
Your full potentials never been realised
And then you slip into the attitude of
I make a mess of everything I try to do

CHORUS: Dont fool about
You gotta wake up and live

Your religions they say it aint worth trying
But Christ Almighty did you need enlightening
Im not talking about a type of new era
Im talking about just enjoying being here
Make the most of your life everyday
And every opportunity that comes your way
CHORUS

Well they got you exactly where they want you to be
Shackled feelings of inadequacy
Its no fun to hide your feelings inside
Feelings you dont understand or describe
It affects everything that you do
Apathy is slowly killing you
CHORUS

What have you done
Yes Im talking to you
What have you achieved
Does it question disquiet in you
Like it still does in me
You dont have any self respect
So youre treated like youre no one
What did you really expect
Well Im talking to you
Im talking to you

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?
SIMON: Id just like to make this profound quote.

COLIN: Here it comes.

SIMON: The neurotic mind rises to truth through that which is a newtown.
STEVE: Now I think youre overusing that, Simon.

Thanks a lot to the Neurotics. There was more said, but I couldn't fit it all in.

CONT'D...

The NEWTOWN NEUROTICS DISCOGRAPHY

1. HYPOCRITE (79) No Wonder Records (deleted)
also on Labels Unlimited compilation LP
2. WHEN THE OIL RUNS OUT (80) No Wonder
3. PISSED AS A NEWT live cassette No Wonder (81)
4. KICK OUT THE TORIES/MINDLESS VIOLENCE (82) CN
Tories also on Militant Entertainment tape
and on Punk n Disorderly compilation LP
5. LICENSING HOURS/NO SANCTUARY (82) CNT
6. BEITZKRIEG BOP/HYPOCRITE (83) Razor records
7. forthcoming....the LP BEGGARS CAN BE CHOOSERS