ANARCHIST NETWORK NEWSLETTER

June 1991

NEXT EDITIONS DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 20th June.

P.O. BOX 150 EAST BRUNSWICK 3057

Union Street Dinner

The next Ⓐ house dinner Saturday 1st of June at 7pm. All welcome.

2nd Renovations Meeting Wednesday 8th May.

PRESENT; Leigh, Susie, Rowan, Stephen and Robert

Susie's Report

Kieran, builder his first quote of $3000 for fixing the roof. Susie then checked to see how much extra renovations would cost. Keiran, said it wouldn't cost much more than the original, then Susie contacted a plumber and the plumber said that he could do the job for cost. That was passed as O.K.

So the details of the renovation work include;

1 Raise the roof
2 Remove the wall between kitchen and laundry keeping the bathroom
3 Keep skylight in kitchen
4 Remove the wall between store room and darkroom and put in skylight

The builder might require labourers, but the plumber definitely will. If the builder starts soon everything in the back will have to be moved.

A working bee to move stuff will be called soon. Susie will call tomorrow to find out when work will start.

The cost of the Newsletter

Many thanks to Murdoch Street for their money. Anyone else who would like to send some too, your support is always welcome. Currently, the costs of producing the newsletter are:-

Postage	$19.35
Photocopying	$15.00
Other materials	$3.00
Total	$37.35

What will we do with the rent surplus?

There may be a Union St surplus. The August 5th extraordinary meeting will decide what to do with it. Suggestions are invited for how to spend it. All suggestions must be printed in the next Newsletter. If you have any suggestions you want the August 5th meeting to consider, the newsletter deadline is June 20th. All questions about what surplus there is likely to be, please contact the Treasurer, Hervé.

Letters!!!

NO SUCH BEAST
THE CARNIVOROUS ANARCHIST

Q :What's wrong with eating meat?
A :Meat is the flesh and various organs of animals and is obtained after their death. Waiting for them to die from natural causes is considered inconvenient so they are killed for the pleasure of humans. Anarchists are against the idea of harming and killing others for mere convenience and killing animals is clearly in this category.

Q :What about free choice?
A :Anarchists are of course very concerned with the individual's freedom of lifestyle but there are times when we don't follow our impulses, even delaying or denying ourselves pleasure when it conflicts with what we believe or the chance of a greater goal. Anarchists believe we should treat others how we wish to be treated thus recognising the existence of others. There is no reason not to extend this to other species.

Q :What about seafood. Surely they don't feel much pain?
A :Certainly simpler species may feel less pain or be less intelligent than more complex ones but how could you say a fish has a right to live where a lamprey doesn't? It's like indulging in just a little torture, rape or murder.

If we are to choose whom to kill by intelligence then can we eat human morons but spare chimpanzees and dolphins who are their intellectual superiors? If we choose by the ability to feel pain then a simple operation and anyone can be on the menu.

Q :What about plants: they are living, too?
A :Indeed they are, and it seems they may have a rudimentary "nervous system" but we have to eat something to stay alive and the difference between plants and animals used for food in our society is pretty major. While those who eat only vegetables are not morally perfect and people who eat animals are not totally evil, we must make responsible decisions about our lives and the obvious place to draw the line is between the two kingdoms.

Q :Isn't it natural to eat meat?
A :It certainly isn't natural to have a diet consisting mainly of meat. Most current health problems are caused or worsened by eating meat. Our small intestines are much too long for digesting large pieces of meat which tend to rot there.

Those hunter/gatherer societies of the colder regions forced to live on a predominately meat diet pay dearly with very early deaths. The majority of hunter/gatherer societies are omnivorous, with diets consisting of 80-90% plant material. A sizable minority are wholly vegetarian.

If you look at our two closest relatives, Gorillas and Chimpanzees, you will find Gorillas are wholly vegetarian whereas Chimpanzees are omnivorous, their diets being mainly plants but supplemented by insects, and small animals under some circumstances to the size of monkeys. It seems reasonable to assume that our ancestors followed one of these diets, perhaps both at different times.

However the most noticable thing about our primate family is our adaptability and we humans have brought that to a fine art. There is no need to feel obliged to relive the lifestyles of our remote ancestors. While admitting our biology we must control our own lives.

Q :What about freeing animals and the vandalism that animal activists cause, isn't that against your pacifist stance?
A :Not all animal activists are pacifists, nor do all destroy property. Indeed the only way to stop people eating meat is to sway the majority to our way of thinking.

However that doesn't mean we should stand by in the meantime and let the meat trucks roll by. Destruction of property can never be considered as important as pain and death. Even avowed pacifists still try to stop injustice. What means used are up to the individuals and groups concerned.

Q :Are there other reasons for not eating meat?
A :There are many. Seafood, for instance is not farmed but clear-felled. Our oceans are being turned into deserts. Cattle and sheep are totally innapropriate for many areas of the world, especially somewhere as fragile as Australia. Cruelty isn't limited to the actual moment of death. In factory farms particularly animal lives are tortured from birth to death. It is also very wasteful. The food that grain-fed cattle eat has eight times the protein of the cattle themselves.

However, farming practices are only one part of the capitalist religon. Money is the goal to which all else is subservient. Better attitudes and a better society go hand in hand but, even with a more just society, wherever there is meat there is cruelty.

There is one aspect of farming however of greatest importance. The brutalization caused by the familiarity with killing.This is borne out in the since-banned film The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Much more gruesome and bloodthirsty films pass without comment.

The shocking aspect of this film however is that the lead role is of a butcher who treats his victoms exactly like carcasses. A dangerous idea which leads the viewer to see that if eating animals is acceptable then so is eating humans, who are animals despite the common belief that we are demi-gods.

The word vegetarian has many interpretations. Some people even call seafood eaters vegetarians despite the absurdity of this. In general use, a Vegan is one who doesn't eat animals or animal by-products whereas Vegetarians include those who eat non-fatal by-products like milk and eggs.

While the word Anarchist also has many interpretations, any meaningful use of the term would have to be incompatable with eating animals. People who eat meat may call themselves Anarchists but it is not true.

All this has been said better before but while people in Anarchist organizations continue to eat meat the facts will have to be presented again and again. People who claim to care about some injustice may be convinced to care about other injustice.

Anarchists who eat meat remind me of the old slogan of the South African Communist Party.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE FOR A WHITE SOUTH AFRICA

Any questions, arguments abuse etc please send to me Brenten Ireland
17 Bedford STREET
NEWTOWN 2042

A.N.N. would also like to receive responses.

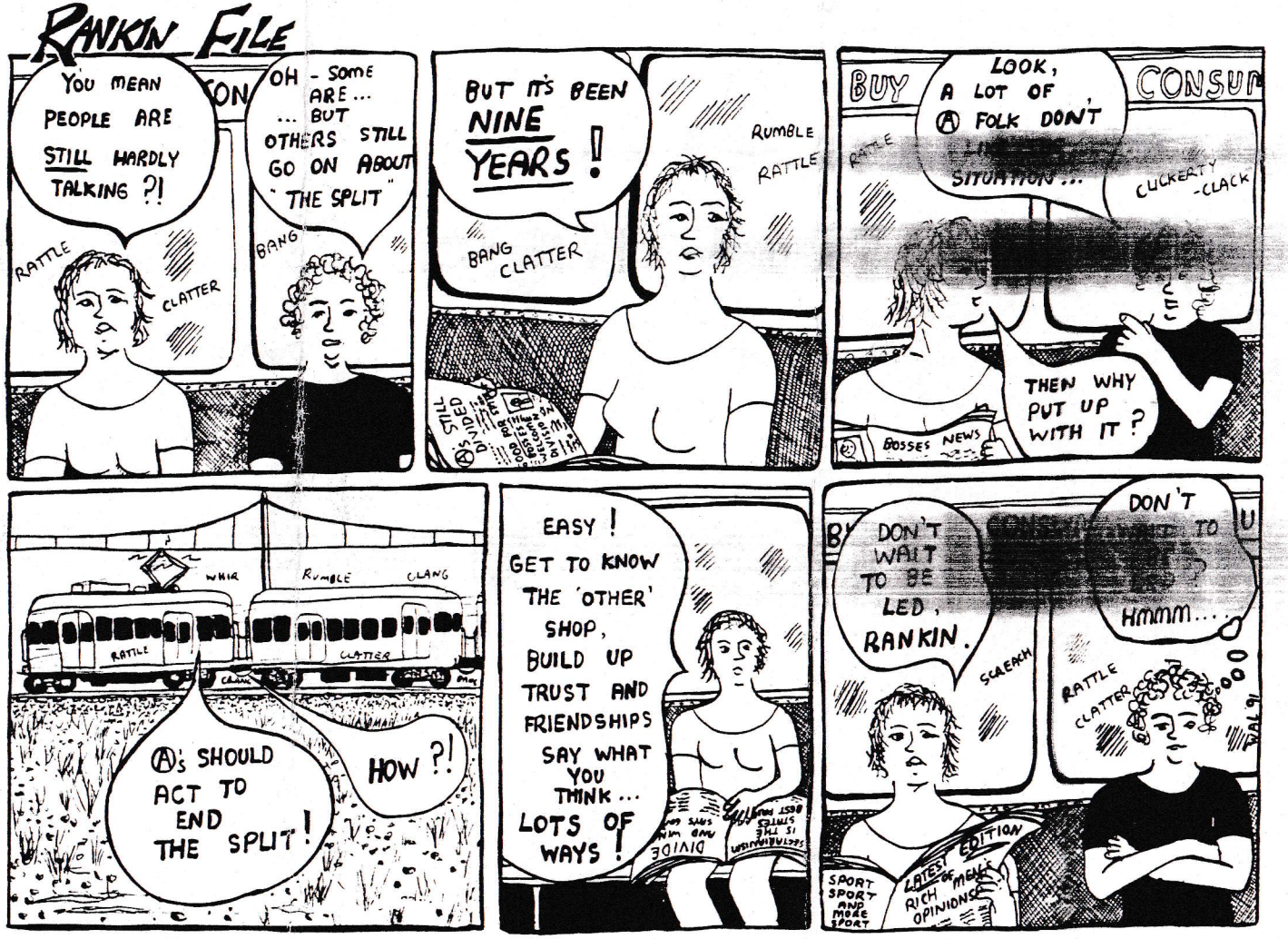
Thanks to Lee for some of the facts.
Thanks to Chris for use of the computer

A.N.N. received the following cartoon and note in the post

Dear Folks,

a cartoon for your newsletter next month. It was in R.W. last edition, but no-one reads that paper anyway, so you might like it as well. It is the first of a series of Rankin File and the A's which should get some debate going [illegible] newsletter.

All the best,



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