

Spectacular Times

number five

Into the Endgame

Pocketbook Series

The Society of the Spectacle had begun everywhere in coercion, deceit and blood, but it promised a happy path. It believed itself to be loved. Now it no longer promises anything. It no longer says: "What appears is good, what is good appears." It simply says: "It is so." It admits frankly that it is no longer essentially reformable, though change be its very nature in order to transmute for the worst every particular thing. It has lost all its general illusions about itself.

Debord.

The underlying fears and frustrations of everyday living which prompted Thoreau's sombre dictum are responsible for bringing sleepless patients to the surgery today. Far from being dispelled by higher living standards the same human doubts and disappointments are indeed amplified by the modern standards of impersonal comfort blamed for phenomena such as 'high flat neurosis'. Faced with a problem which taxes sociologist, psychologist and cleric, the physician must often be content to restore sleep. But now more than ever the choice of method is critical. Recent emphasis on the qualitative as well as quantitative aspects of sleep has made Mandrax an increasingly common choice as a method of encouraging normal sleep patterns. By providing a restful night and a refreshed awakening, Mandrax helps you restore to those who need it, the resilience to cope with the changing challenges of everyday life.

mandrax for your
new sleepless patient

This is the First
Day in the
rest of your
LIFE.

The caller questions you about your lodger. Where does he sleep, where does he eat, does he watch your television, does he go to church with you or to bingo or the bowling rink or the choir? Does he take your children out? Does he dig your garden or change your plugs? Do you wash his underwear or sew on his buttons?

It would be surprising if two human beings living in the same house didn't share their skills and do things for one another. But the reasoning is that this is the way husband and wife live. Therefore you are cohabiting. Therefore you are not entitled to a widow's pension.

Dr Ernest Claxton, co-author of a book on sex education, said: "Young people are actually being told that sex is fun and that everyone can have it. We talk about the closed shop. Well, let's have a closed shop on sex for teenagers."

Plater College, Oxford, a Roman Catholic workers' college, has banned the Oxford Students Gay Society from addressing its students.

"It is not the business of a Catholic college to provide a platform for these people," said the principal, Mr J. R. Kirwan. "I don't invite lepers to come and expose their sores. Why should I give a platform for these people to use to expose their nastiness?"

In the Society of the Spectacle every act which involves caring or sharing, without consumption, is discouraged.

Instead we are encouraged to relate to things. Human interaction is being designed out of the system.

SENSUOUS HAND

A full size replica hand with a middle finger that not only vibrates but with a flick of the switch moves in the most sensuous semi-circular fashion for the most moving sensations.

CODE 668 £7 25

Meanwhile people are turned into objects (and thus into commodities.)

Imagine the chance to travel all over America and possibly even to foreign countries meeting people from all walks of life, appearing on radio and television shows, in parades and as the guest of honor for special events. Imagine doing good things for yourself and others as the National Teen Advisor for Ecology as well as the National Teen Spokesperson for MISS TEENAGE AMERICA'S official charities.

"The Government must recognise the serious disadvantages of allowing large numbers of people to communicate with each other."

Home Office spokesman
on C.B. radio proposals.

Denied the opportunity to relate to each other we are encouraged to relate to things. Friendship becomes customer relations, solidarity becomes brand loyalty, advertising becomes seduction. Consuming takes on all the attributes of an erotic experience.

For 30 minutes a week raging inflation and falling wages can be magically overcome as glamorous prizes (demonstrated by glamorous hostesses) can be 'bought' at about a tenth of their market-price. 'Sale of the Century' gratifies the wildest dreams of the Bargain Hunter. At the end of the show the 'winner' of the 'big star prize' is shown, flanked by Parsons and the two hostesses, beginning the very process of consumption.

Antal Dorati is the conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington and also with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London.

He holds his baton in his right hand and wears his Rolex on his left.

But exactly what return does the arts give business? That question is perhaps best answered by the Sadler's Wells brochure, 'Opportunities for Sponsorship', which insists on sponsorship's cost-effectiveness: 'It is not patronage or charity but the generator of real commercial benefits. These benefits include improved community relations; effective media relations; better employee relations; the opportunity to develop and reinforce important professional and client contacts resulting in increased sales velocity; the opportunity to embellish your image relative to the general public, special groups of customers and the media.'

Every act of human creativity is made subservient to the Spectacle.

Acetylpromazine

For anaesthetic premedication, tranquillisation and chemical restraint

Society takes on all the paraphernalia of the modhouse....

Dr Richard Lambertson of the St Joseph Hospice in Hackney, which takes care of terminal patients 'There is no case for euthanasia,' he said. 'If someone is suffering at such an intolerable pitch that their life has become unbearable, then we are perfectly capable of sedating them.'

..... from which there is no discharge.

"Free at last!
Free at last!
Great God Almighty!
Free at last!"

Martin Luther King

EXPRESS
THE WEEK OF 1978

NOW YOU'RE FREE TO WORK

By Mark St. James. 400,000,000 in the Third World are unemployed. In the industrialized world, unemployment is still a major problem. The world's population is growing at a rate of 1.5% per year. By the year 2000, there will be 6 billion people on the planet. The world's population is growing at a rate of 1.5% per year. By the year 2000, there will be 6 billion people on the planet.

PERSEVERANCE



Some people call it 'nerves.'
When you can't face Sunday tea
with your sister-in-law. And
you jump when the doorbell rings.
And you just plain can't cope
because you feel so tired and tense.
Lots of people feel that way. And
thousands say they've been helped
by Sanatogen. We get letters
every day, telling us things such as:
"It made me able to cope - it
had a calming and soothing effect
on my nerves." Try Sanatogen
steadily for a few weeks, in the
original or new lemon flavour.
**Because nobody likes
'being in a state.'**

Sanatogen
People say it helps

"The only thing I
knew how to do was
to keep on keeping
on."
Dylan.

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT—THROUGH MIND VISUALISATIONS!

The man or woman of your dreams, a new home or car, thousands of pounds—virtually anything can be attained through a simple technique of visualization, declares author G. R. Stevens! Utterly practical and down to earth, this complete course shows how to get fabulous results from simple visualisations of what you want! It is particularly helpful to those who have tried visualization before and failed; it gives the magic key for succeeding every time, not found in other books! **£2.75**

Send cheque/postal order to:
PRILBERT BOOKS (E)
18 Turbot Road, Folkestone, Kent.
Catalogue 30p. *Mall order only*

It becomes obvious that the Spectacle can't deliver the goods. But the system of production has been so mystified that instead of taking the means of production into its own hands, the 'autonomous movement of the non-living' turns into a pathetic cargo-cult.

The Home Secretary, Mr Merlyn Rees, has personally ordered the panel hearing Mr Philip Agee's case against deportation not to give Mr Agee any details of the charges against him.

At one point yesterday, Mr Agee considered walking out of the tribunal because of the difficulties in presenting his case. When he complained he was told by the chairman, former Intelligence chief Sir Derek Hilton: "We are doing you a favour," although Mr Agee's appearance before the panel is part of the procedure laid down under the Immigration Act.

All pretence is dropped.
As the Spectacle crumbles

..... so it is demystified.

MRS ELSIE HOPTON, aged 82, was gaoled yesterday for a fortnight by magistrates at Dursley, Gloucestershire, because she has refused to pay off an outstanding rates debt of £347 at £10 a week.

Mrs Hopton, of Wotton, Under Edge, Gloucestershire, refuses to pay because her land has been waterlogged by a Water Board scheme. As she was led away to begin her sentence, she told the magistrates: "You need poxcaxing."



But rather than
lose the things
it owns
it will
destroy the
whole world.

The Church can be fussy over interior fittings. Mr Lorimer watched one rector burn a magnificent Georgian altar rail rather than allow it to be used for secular purposes and a curate wanted to smash a Norman font at St Nicholas's Church, Ely, another house conversion.

JAGUAR XJ12 5.3



*We're perfectly serious. With selected Jaguar XJ12 saloons ordered from stock for delivery by 31st August 1980, Penta Reading will arrange the supply and installation of a Nuclear Fallout Shelter at your home.

We're not being flippant. There are a growing number of companies in this country who supply and install fallout shelters

so there must be a large number of people who, like us, take the matter seriously.

Mr Colin Croft, director of Nuclear Shelter Constructions, said that another firm "used to peddle plastic flowers to pubs. Now they are peddling nuclear shelters."

Mr Croft estimates that more than 200 new shelter contractors have sprung up

in Britain since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Specifications drawn up by the Home Office are due to be published before Christmas. There will be five different designs, ranging from simple indoor kits and ad hoc garden shelters, to large concrete bunkers, from £300 to £6,000.

**WHEN THE
BOMB
DROPS . . .**

survival is
possible

A group of concerned Cambridge Scientists have formulated plans to protect your family:

Water Softeners

Double Glazing

Nuclear Fall-out Shelters

Personalised Jewellery

Meanwhile

CASH FROM CHAOS

The real danger from nuclear weapons lies not just in their immense destructive power but in their Spectacular potential. For a fading Spectacle the temptation to threaten to go out with a bang is almost too strong to resist. Its end will be a spectacle that will light up the skies of the world.

Remember!

There are just

341

months
of oil left

Did you know that it has been estimated that there would be approximately 65% or less survival rate in the event of a nuclear attack and that without proper protection following, the survival rate falls considerably. We can protect your family by constructing a specially designed nuclear fallout shelter in your own garden.

These constructions would protect up to as many persons as required comfortably for many weeks.

They are completely concealed and shelters of this type are widely used in America.

Don't you owe it to your family to give the matter consideration?

15 million
nuclear
survivors
forecast

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

Tickets now on sale.

..... and when you come out afterwards guess who will be waiting

In order to reverse the course of history, Padway must stem the threatening tide of barbarism. Relying on his 20th Century knowhow, Padway 'invents' or introduces:

- Printing and newspapers
- Arabic numerals
- Double-entry book-keeping
- Copernican astronomy
- The distilling of hard liquor . . .



**Your
'after-the-war'
dream . . .**

. . . is centred round the home. You look eagerly forward to the family reunion . . . war duties ended . . . Dad finished with night-shifts . . . a much travelled lad back home for good.

Yours will be the responsibility of looking after the family's health. Wartime experience has shown you the value of 'Milk of Magnesia', so you won't forget to keep this always in the medicine cabinet as a stand-by against minor upsets of the system.

**'MILK OF
MAGNESIA'**

Trial runs have shown
great promise.

"We all planned to make the listener feel that he or she was living through great times and stirring events and that the radio provided him with the privilege of witnessing history in the making."

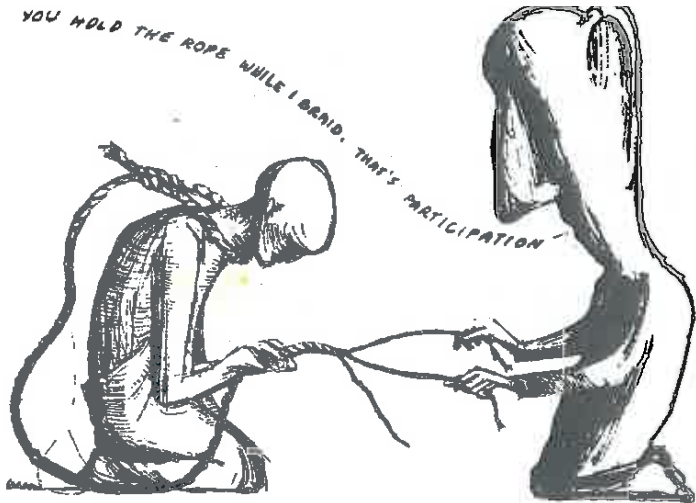
Goebbels

The appearance of democracy is maintained by encouraging us to form opinions on manufactured issues and to take sides in irrelevant controversies.

**"FOR US, MILTON
KEYNES CITY CENTRE
IS LIKE A GLIMPSE
OF THE FUTURE."**

MR & MRS P. DAVIES SILSOE, BEDFORDSHIRE

.....and while we waste our time and energy taking sides in their bogus conflicts, our future is already under construction.

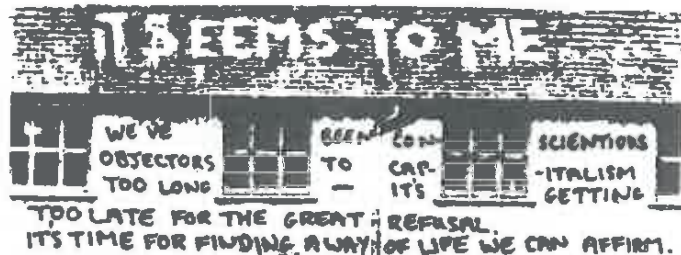


LA NEGOCIATION



LA RUSE

...and we are fobbed-off with "public accountability", "more say in our future", workers representatives on the board, consumer surveys, more "democracy".



Demand real life.
In the Society of the Spectacle that is the only demand worth making because it is the one demand that cannot be met. So be realistic.
Demand the impossible.

TIMES PAST

- No.1 Images - out of print.
No.2 Everyday Life - original edition 20p,
reprint (paper cover) 17p
No.3 The Media - few left (bookshop
returns) original edition 30p
No.4 Fin de Spectacle? - few original
edition 30p; reprint (paper cover) 25p
No.5 Into the Endgame - original edition
35p

ALL PRICES POST FREE.

Also from SPECTACULAR TIMES

"MISSON AND LIBERTATIA"

The story of the 17th century pirate and
visionary Misson, his crew and their
attempt to found a libertarian and
egalitarian community on the island of
Madagascar.

Available : April 1981.....45p (post free)

WANTED!

Your tales, reports and anecdotes of
demystifying events, games, situations, etc, - past,
now or just dreamed of.....

TimeOut

Published weekly by: Time Out Limited,
Tower House, Southampton Street,
London WC2E 7HD. Tel: 01-836 4411.

Every Thursday 40p

peace news
for nonviolent revolution

20p

Fortnightly, produced by non-violent anarchists.

8 Elm Ave., Nottingham, England.



45p

An independent Socialist magazine
produced by the Leveller collective
and owned by the magazine's
supporting subscribers.

57 Caledonian Road,
London N1

STATE RESEARCH

An independent group of investigators
collecting and publishing information
from public sources on development in
state policy, particularly in the fields of
the law, policing, internal security,
espionage and the military.

Published by Independent
Research Publications Ltd,
9 Poland Street,
London W1

Subscription - 6 issues
per year - £5.00

Agitprop

Agitprop is a free listing service for
the radical movement. Deadline for
this page is midday of the
Thursday before publication; Stop
Press deadline is 3.00 on Monday.
All events are public unless stated.
We review new radical pamphlets
and magazines, please send a
copy, with details of price,
publisher's address, etc.

Spectacular Times Pocketbooks

Box 99, Freedom Press,
84b, Whitechapel High St.,
Whitechapel, LONDON, E.1.

Available from most alternative
bookshops in the U.K. Send us
£1.00 and we'll send you each
new issue until the money runs
out.

In Australia : Jura Books,
417, King Street, Newtown, NSW 2042.

In North America : ask New York
City Yippies, P.O. Box 392, Canal
Street Station, NYC, NY 10013.

Production :

Liz and Presto Print, Reading.
Thanks to The Snake for some
artwork effects.

Compiled and Edited
by Larry Law

1981