



TIME MANAGEMENT FOR ANARCHISTS

for productivity tips for creative miscreants

QUIT YOUR JOB
BEFORE
IT KILLS YOU



IN A TIMESHIFTED TORONTO,
POLITICAL FIREBRAND,
EMMA GOLDMAN, IS PAYING THE
RENT AS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER...

...JUST A FEW CUBICLES AWAY
FROM LIKEMINDED HISTORIC
RADICAL **MIKHAIL BAKUNIN**.

SHE'S BEEN SNEAKING IN
HER OWN PROJECTS AT WORK...

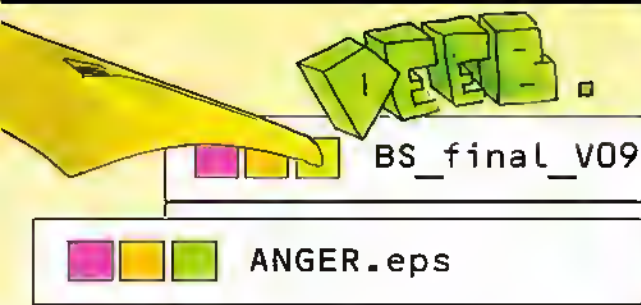
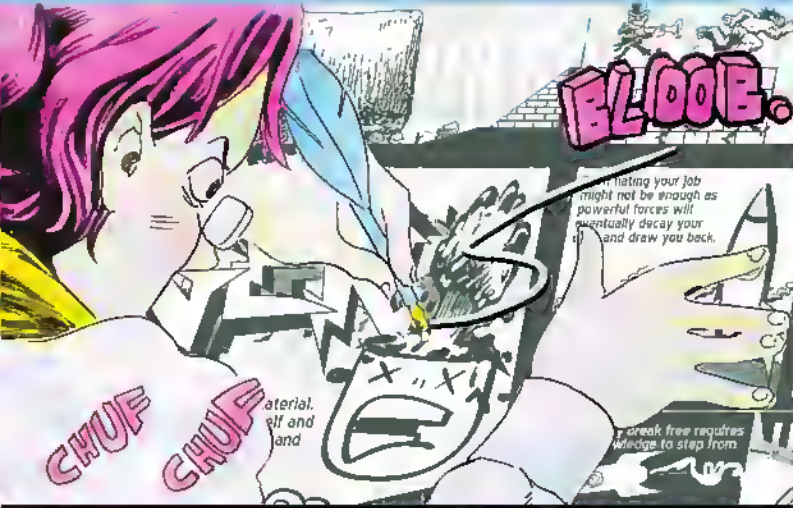
HE'S HER RELUCTANT MANAGER.

THE TENSION IS MOUNTING...



TIME MANAGEMENT FOR ANARCHISTS

BY JIM MUMFORD AND MARC NEILL





BIG SAVINGS



yeeAWH..

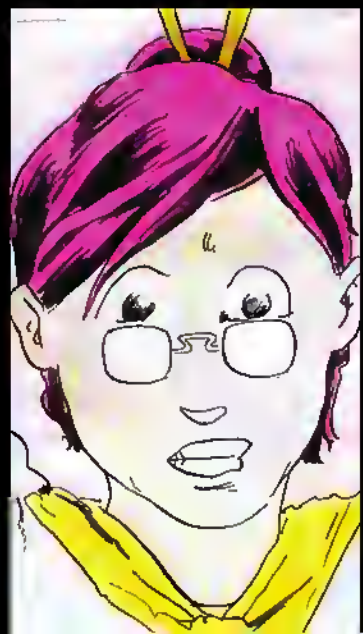
BIG SAVINGS

DOOB.

-- NEW MESSAGE --

MIKE:

The client thinks the kerning is a little tight in this, Emma, could you loosen it up a bit?

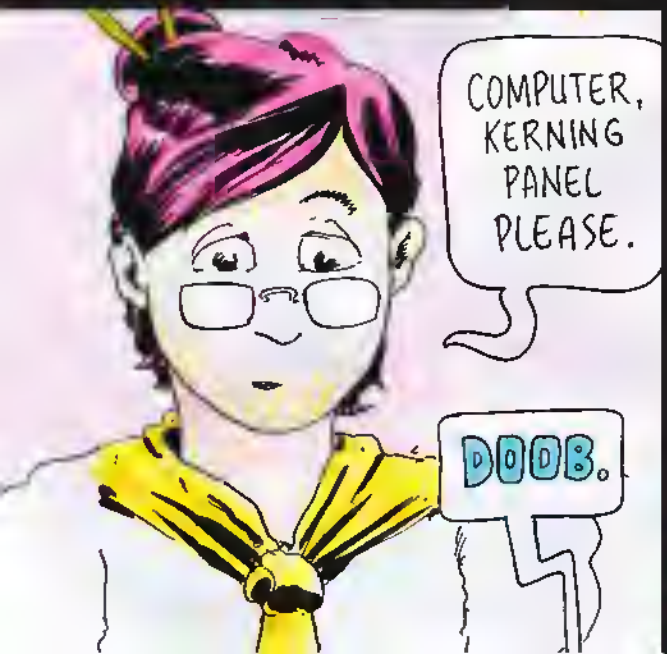
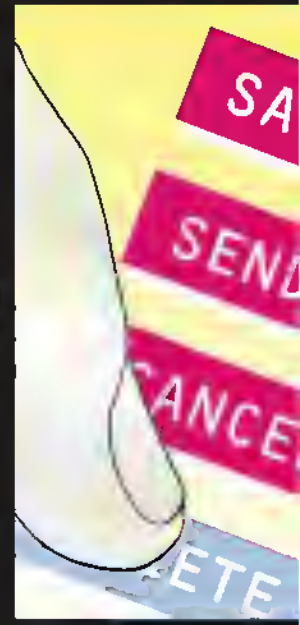




The client thinks the kerning is a little tight in this, Emma, could you loosen it up a bit?

EMMA:

This is the eighth revision on this crappy job. Why don't you tell the client to "loosen up", fuc_



EMMA:

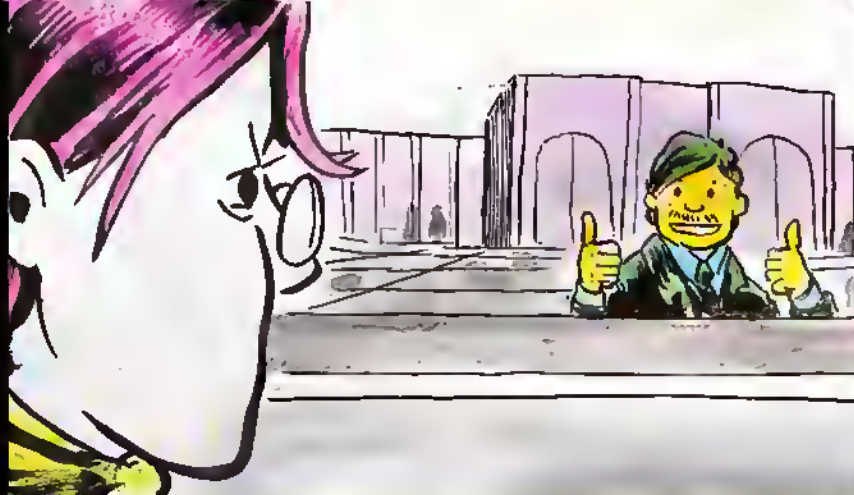
Here.

BIG SAVINGS



MIKE:

Great, thanks Emma that was fast...



ANGER.eps

The Boss/Employee

dynamic is a strong one that pervades most cultures on earth. Like the law of gravity, it was reasonable for much of human history to assume that it's inescapable.



ANGER

is a very potent but notoriously unstable material. It's easy to incinerate yourself and others by using it unwisely, and its byproducts are toxic.

But -- if you're able to work with it --

ANGER makes a hell of a fuel.



KERNING...
...LAPDOGS.

FREE

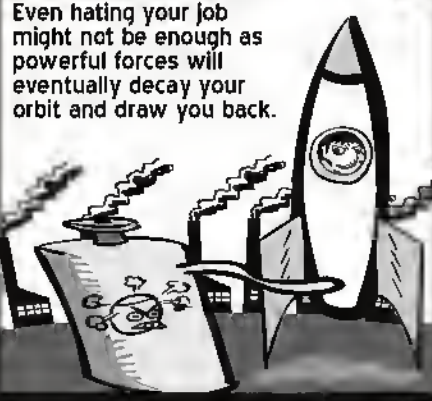
To break free of this dynamic, you can't ride the Hang-Glider of Discontent, or even board a Disgruntled 747.



you have to get yourself a

ROCKET OF RAGE

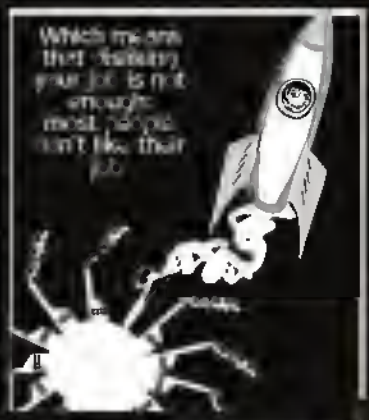
Even hating your job might not be enough as powerful forces will eventually decay your orbit and draw you back.



And to break free of the power dynamic you need a potent fuel.



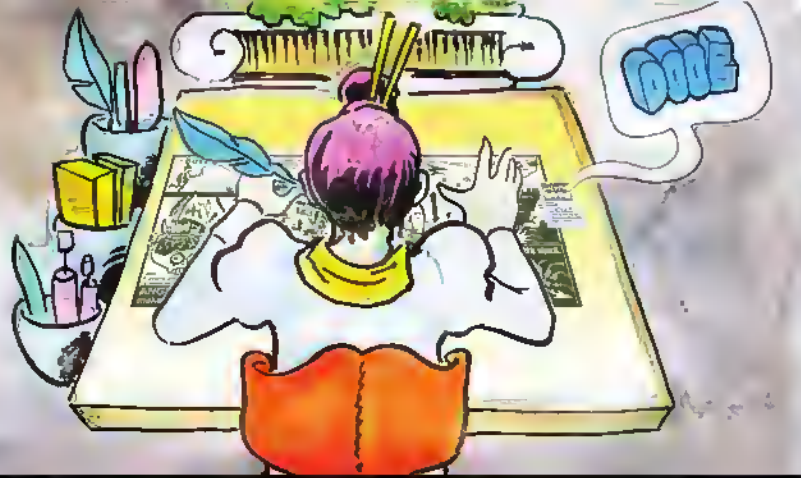
Which means that hating your job is not enough; most people can't like their job.



To completely break free requires the self-knowledge to step from

I HATE MY JOB to I HATE JOBS.





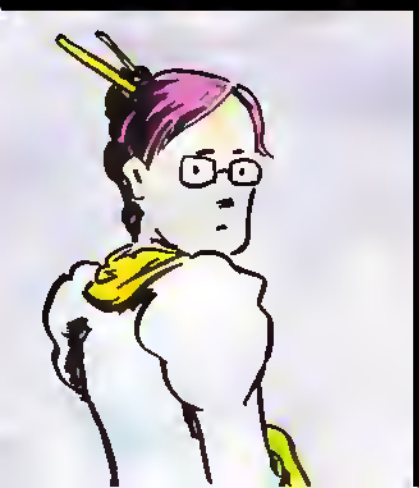
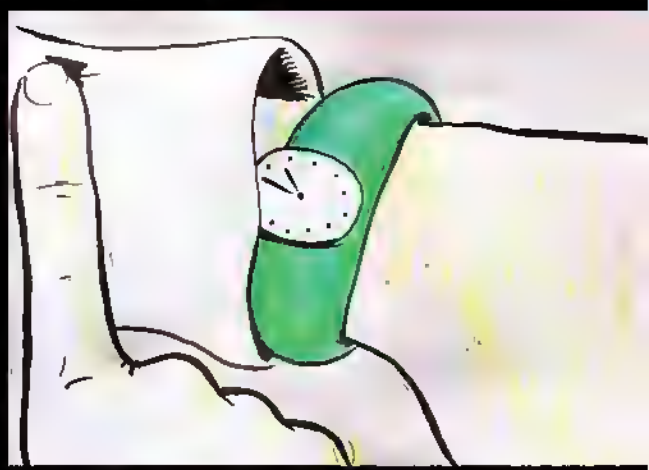
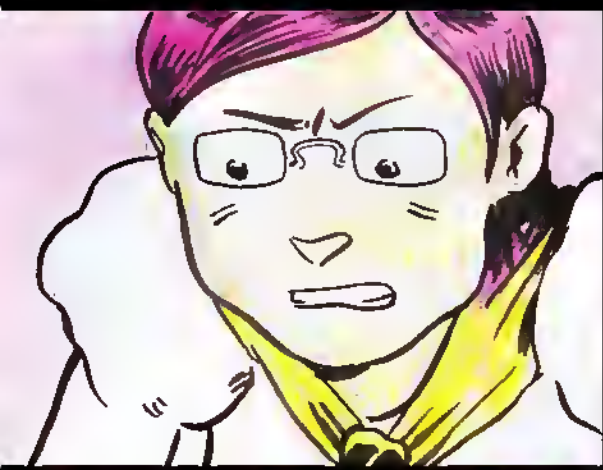
GREAT, THANKS EMMA
that was fast...



-- NEW MESSAGE --

MIKE:

I know this is crazy
but the client now
tells me that the old
kerning is better, but
maybe in bold?



...HE WAS ASKING TO SEE THE FINAL ART..



I GUESS IT'S AN EARLY LUNCH YOU'RE TAKING... UM, WELL..



SO IF YOU'RE BACK IN 45 MINUTES WE CAN SAY YOU'LL HAVE IT TO HIM BY-

BONG



MY LUNCH IS AN HOUR.



NORMALLY, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S CRUNCH TIME... ANYWAY, HALF PAST THEN. CAN WE SAY HALF PAST?



EMMA?

SURE MIKE, HALF PAST -



NEVER.



ONE MONTH LATER...



MIKE?

IS THAT?..

ARE YOU OK?



God! I have to bug Randy again about that deadline... He hates me! I know it. And he's right to. It's such a waste of his talent. That guy could be an art superstar if he ever applied himself.

JESUS! I'm channeling my mother. AND I'm no better. What do I do when I get home? Do I email curators my slides or even go to an opening? NO, I sit on the couch and drink beer. Eat a whole bag of potato chips. A WHOLE BAG! Fat and lazy!

WAAA! WAAA!
Was I born such a crybaby or did I just learn it? Why can I get so much stuff done at work and **nothing** done after work -- when my job is just advertising **B.S.** and **art** is my real passion!



Haven't really done anything artistic since I left school...



But it's the structure. The job and school both provide deadlines, purpose, peers -- it's like they fit you in an **EXOSKELETON** at the age of five.



You grow up within these structures and while you gain a lot of experience doing projects, you never really develop your own muscles.



And then, the day you've longed for for decades is finally here and you graduate...





YEAH, IT'S NOT SO MUCH "THE WHIP" AS "THE SHACKLES."

NICE DRAWINGS MIKE... SO YOU LEFT A WEEK LATER?



IT JUST GOT WORSE, AND WORSE. CRUNCHTIME BECAME DOUBLE-CRUNCH TIME. YOU PICKED A GOOD TIME TO LEAVE.

PICKED A GOOD TIME TO LEAVE.



I WISH I HAD QUIT WITH HALF AS MUCH STYLE AS YOU HAD! "HALF PAST NEVER."


HA!



SO I DIDN'T GET YOU INTO TROUBLE? ...CAUSE WHEN I SAW YOU ON THE STREET EARLIER... I THOUGHT I'D RUINED YOUR LIFE OR SOMETHING.




CRYING MY EYES OUT!
JESUS, HOW EMBARRASSING!




IT'S REALLY WEIRD...


I FIND THAT THESE DAYS WHEN I LISTEN TO THE MUSIC I LISTENED TO AS A TEENAGER I JUST... I GET ALL WEEPY.



IT WAS A REBEL SONG ABOUT FIGHTING THE SYSTEM AND ALL THAT. IT WAS SO INTENSE. I REMEMBER HOW ANGRY AND PUMPED IT MADE ME FEEL...



NOW I FEEL THE OPPOSITE.



IT'S NOT JUST NOSTALGIA. IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. I REMEMBER HOW CERTAIN I WAS THINGS WERE SCREWED UP AND WRONG AND HAD TO CHANGE.



AND NOW YOU'RE NOT?



I STILL FEEL IT... BUT WHEN I RESIGNED FROM THAT HELLHOLE I TOLD MYSELF I WOULD START DOING THE PROJECTS I NEVER HAD TIME FOR. THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS WERE PRETTY PRODUCTIVE BUT...



... BUT THEN YOU FIND YOURSELF COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR GREEN PEPPERS INSTEAD OF DOING WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING.



I SPENT MOST OF THIS MORNING LOOKING AT JOB POSTINGS, AND I KNOW - I KNOW - I'M NOT GOING TO FIND ANYTHING I LIKE.



I'VE BEEN AN EMPLOYEE. I HATED THAT. SO I TRIED BEING THE BOSS...

I HATED THAT, TOO!

I HEAR YA! SO NOW WHAT?

WELL, THERE'S
THIS GUY
**DARREN
O'DONNELL**

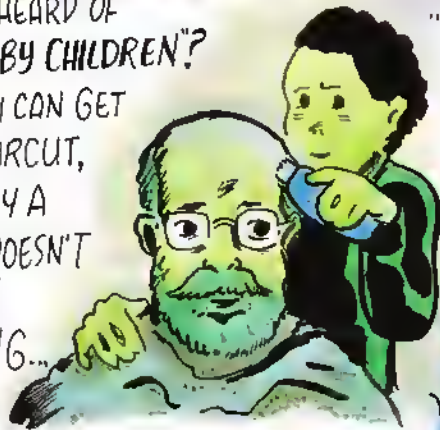


HE'S DONE ALL
THESE WEIRD
PROJECTS.
HE CALLS
WHAT HE
DOES



SOCIAL ACUPUNCTURE.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF
"HAIRCUTS BY CHILDREN"?
WHERE YOU CAN GET
A FREE HAIRCUT,
BUT IT'S BY A
KID WHO DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
TRAINING...



...OR "PARKDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL
VS. QUEEN STREET WEST"?
IT'S LIKE A SERIES OF INTERSECTIONS
BETWEEN ART-HIPSTERS AND KIDS
WHERE KIDS JUDGE ART SHOWS AND
GIVE AWARDS TO THE ART THEY LIKE.



ANYWAY, HE'S A SUPER-PRODUCTIVE GUY,
AND HE WAS DOING THIS THING CALLED
**TORONTO STRATEGY
MEETINGS.**

PEOPLE WHO DON'T
HAVE JOBS MEET
AT 9AM ON MONDAY
MORNING TO DISCUSS
THEIR PLANS FOR
THE WEEK...



ARE THEY AS
BORING AS NORMAL
MEETINGS?



I'VE NEVER BEEN.
I WAS ALWAYS,
YOU KNOW,
AT WORK WORK.

WELL, LET'S
FIND OUT.



THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, 8:45 AM



I HAD THIS ROMANTIC IDEA OF WHAT THE ARTIST IS, FOLLOWING THEIR WHIMS AND WORKING WHEN THEY'RE INSPIRED.

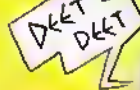
...EVENTUALLY IT WAS CLEAR THAT WORKING WHEN YOU'RE INSPIRED IS NOT GOING TO GET YOU VERY FAR. SO THAT'S WHY I STARTED THE TORONTO STRATEGY MEETINGS.

IT WAS FOR PEOPLE - ARTISTS FREELANCERS - WHO DIDN'T HAVE A TEAM TO REPORT TO. WE WOULD EACH REPORT ON OUR WEEK'S ACTIVITIES, GIVE A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE COMING WEEK AND THEN FIELD QUESTIONS & COMMENTS.



IT WAS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SELF IS ALSO SOMEHOW A SOCIAL ACT, THAT GETTING YOUR SHIT TOGETHER IS SOMETHING YOU DO FOR EVERYBODY.

IT CAME AS A BIG RELIEF TO REALIZE THAT I AM TRULY WORKING CLASS IN THAT TO MOVE MY CAREER ALONG I HAVE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING AND WORK A JOB...



...AND FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE THE KIND OF IDEAS I WANTED TO COMMUNICATE I JUST HAD TO BUCKLE DOWN AND WORK LIKE THE WORKING CLASS JOES MY MOTHER AND FATHER ARE.

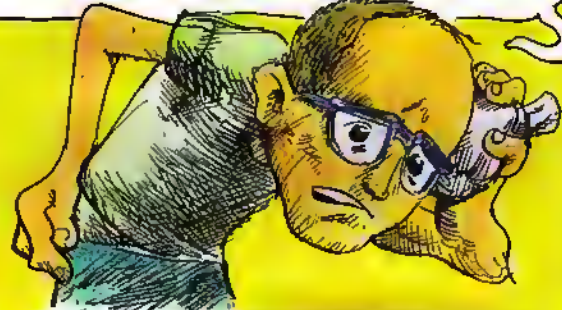


SO YOU WORK
9 to 5
MONDAY TO
FRIDAY?

WELL, NO, BUT I'VE MADE
SOME DEALS WITH MYSELF
WHERE I CAN'T WORK
AFTER 6 PM, I HAVE TO
TAKE OFF ONE DAY A
WEEK— AND **NO ALL-
NIGHTERS.**

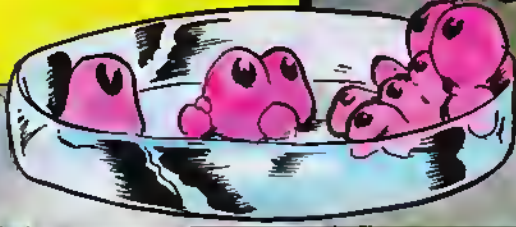
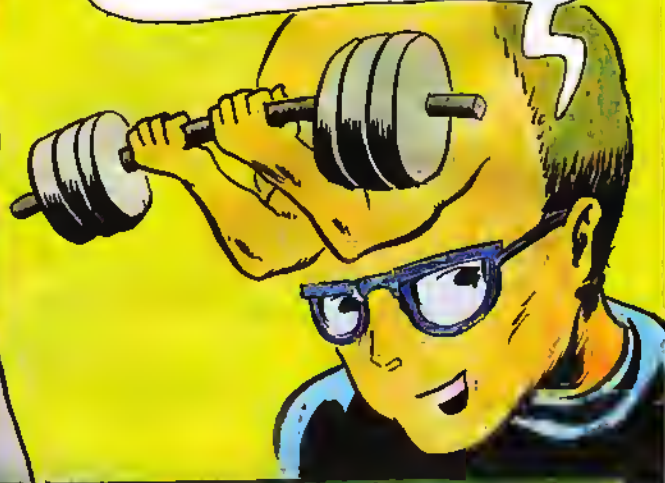


IT'S JUST A MATTER OF... **OKAY,**
I'VE GOTTA START THIS GRANT
APPLICATION TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE
OR I'M GOING TO HAVE A **REALLY**
TERRIBLE TIME. MY **BACK** WILL
HURT AND MY **HEAD** WILL HURT...
IT'S **REALLY** BAD FOR MY **HEALTH.**



AS MUCH AS IT'S A PAIN IN THE ASS,
ONCE I'M IN THE GROOVE OF IT
GRANT WRITING IS ONE OF MY
FAVOURITE WAYS TO THINK ABOUT
THE EVOLUTION OF THE STUFF
I'M DOING.

THE **MORE** I DO, THE **LESS**
I BECOME **AFRAID** OF DOING IT.
THE **LESS** I PUT IT OFF.



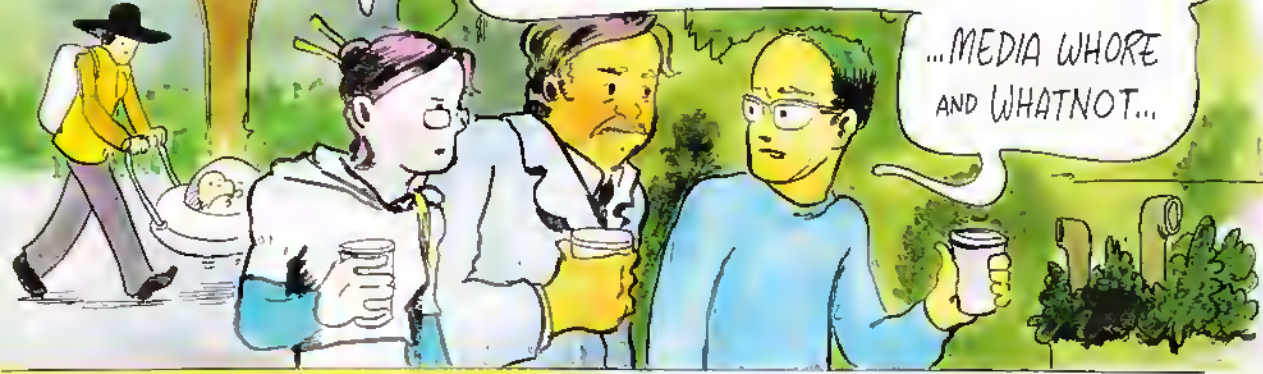
YOU GUYS WANT
ANYTHING?



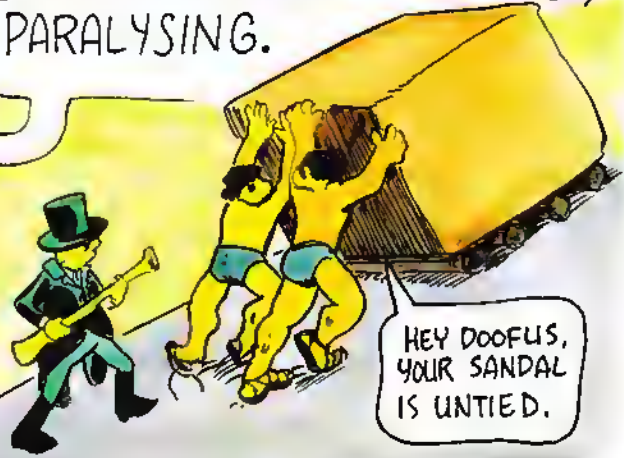
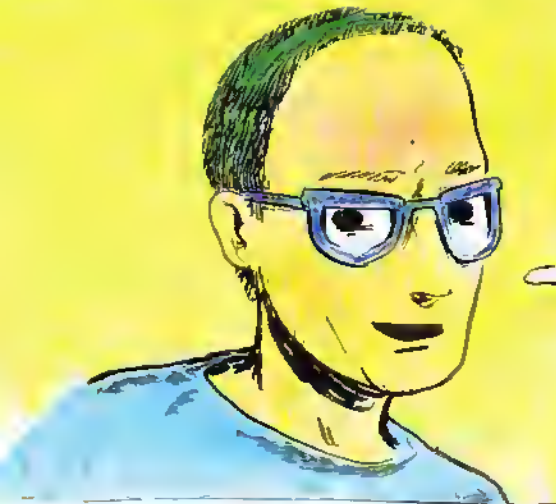
DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN ANARCHIST?

I IDENTIFY AS NOT BEING INTERESTED IN AUTHORITARIAN STRUCTURES & HIERARCHIES BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY THEM, YOU HAVE TO USE THEM. PEOPLE CRITICIZE ME FOR THAT...

...MEDIA WHORE AND WHATNOT...



MY COMPLAINT WITH THE LEFT IS THAT THERE'S A **NARCISSISM OF SMALL DIFFERENCES** AND THAT IS REALLY PARALYSING.



HEY DOOFUS, YOUR SANDAL IS UNTIED.

I THINK IT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WHO'RE IN POWER, WE CAN'T AFFECT THEIR LIVES. BUT WE CAN AFFECT OUR PEERS WHOSE ANALYSIS MIGHT NOT BE AS SHARP AS OURS. WE CAN SNIPE AT THEM AND AT LEAST IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GETTING **SOMETHING DONE.**

TALKING ABOUT CRITICISM, SOME PEOPLE CRITICIZE YOUR WORK WHERE YOU INVOLVE KIDS AS BEING **EXPLOITIVE...**

THEY SAY IT'S **PARASITIC**, WE SAY IT'S **SYMBIOTIC**. THEY WANT IT TO BE **CLASSICALLY ALTRUISTIC.**



I TOLD YOU SO!





I THINK ALTRUISM IS BULLSHIT. I DON'T THINK IT ACTUALLY EXISTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHO ACTS IN WAYS THAT DON'T BENEFIT THEMSELVES, EVEN IF IT'S JUST PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY GRATIFYING.



IF YOU'RE THINKING OF IT WHERE THE BENEFIT FLOWS IN ONLY ONE DIRECTION, THAT IS REINFORCING A DYNAMIC THAT IS HIERARCHAL...

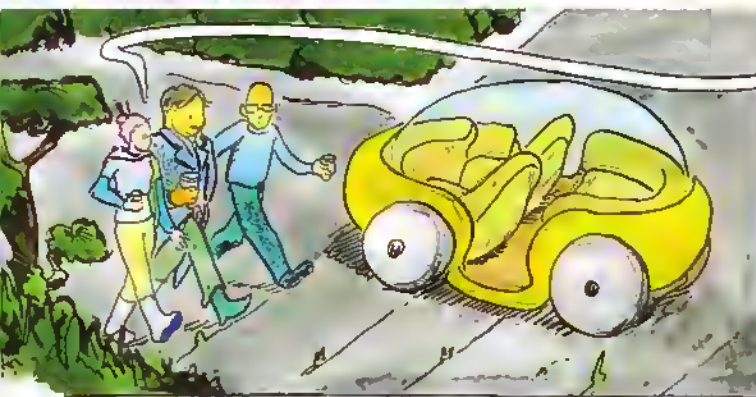
I WANT TO SEE IT FLOWING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

SO THAT IT'S COLLABORATIVE RATHER THAN EXPLOITIVE...

YEAH! I HAVE A COMPANY NOW AND WE'RE WORKING WITH INTERNS FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT'S SOMETHING I RESISTED BECAUSE IT'S WHAT BIG COMPANIES DO - BUT IT'S TURNED INTO A FUN RELATIONSHIP...

BECAUSE WE DON'T MAKE MUCH MONEY AT THIS, SOCIAL CAPITAL IS REALLY IMPORTANT. FAME IS ONE OF THE FEES WE CAN PAY PEOPLE...





SOCIAL CAPITAL? LIKE HOW IT'S EASIER TO GET STUFF DONE IF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU? KIND OF A CULTURAL CURRENCY OR CACHE?



YEAH, BUT IT'S TRICKY - THERE'S AN INERTIA I HAVE TO FIGHT. PEOPLE WANT TO INTERVIEW ME BECAUSE I'M THE FOUNDER. SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT, AND IT'S A HARD THING TO DO BECAUSE I'M AN EGO MANIAC...



BUT ONCE WE SHARE IT - THE BENEFITS ARE SO CLEAR.

SO YOU THINK THERE'S AN ETHICAL WAY TO USE THE METHODS OF THE CORPORATE WORLD?

WHAT ABOUT "THE MASTER'S TOOLS WILL NEVER DISMANTLE THE MASTER'S HOUSE?"



BUT JUST BECAUSE THEY'VE SYSTEMATISED SOMETHING DOESN'T MEAN IT'S THEIRS - DOES USING EMAIL AND BREATHING AIR MAKE YOU A CORPORATE DRONE?

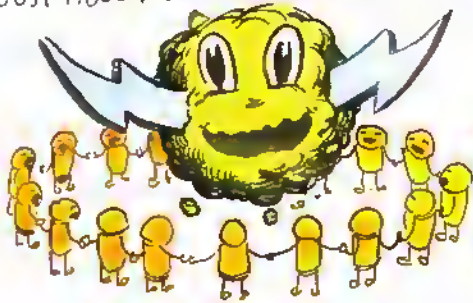
THIS IS GOING TO SOUND WEIRD, BUT I'M INTERESTED IN EXPERIMENTING WITH GROUP PRAYER.



IT'S THIS AGREEMENT TO STATE OUR INTENTIONS OUT LOUD & ACKNOWLEDGE THERE ARE FORCES OR UNKNOWN'S THAT WE ARE SMALL, THAT WE ARE AT THE WHIMS OF OTHER FORCES. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT GOD, JUST ABOUT THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.



IT'S FUNNY THAT WITH THE LEFT NO ONE WANTS TO IMPINGE ON THEIR OWN INDIVIDUALISM SO IT FLIPS OVER TO THIS COMPLETE DISAVOWAL OF PRAYER, TO NOT GIVE INTO THIS COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE.



LIKE BUSH AND HIS FRIENDS, THEY GET UP AND PRAY TOGETHER... WHAT DOES IT DO MATERIALLY WHEN A GROUP OF PEOPLE STOPS... IS SILENT...

FORMS AN INTENTION, AGREES ON THAT INTENTION, STATES THAT INTENTION OUT LOUD, AND DEDICATES THAT INTENTION...



HOW DOES THAT GALVANIZE THEM?

MICHAEL MOORE HAD A QUOTE ABOUT THE RIGHT. THEY WAKE UP AT SIX AM, THEY HAVE THEIR WHEATIES AND THEY WORK HARD AT FUCKING UP THE WORLD... WHILE US ON THE LEFT, ANARCHIST FOLKS LIKE US, WE PREFER TO SLEEP IN...

...AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY, WHAT'S REQUIRED OF US IS SUCKING IT UP & RECOGNISING THAT WHILE IT'S A VERY REGIMENTED WORLD, WE'VE KIND OF LOST THIS ROUND, AND TO WIN THE NEXT ROUND WE'VE GOT TO GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL.



