

TANGENTOPOLI

THINGS THAT HAPPENED No 3 Aug 27 1993

THE LAST DEEP-(Charlie Hall)....Karate black belts on the door one week....ex-paras the next....who this week?....Don't worry Mark "drug free" S we won't tell Tejen....Welcome to Glaston-berry Steve and his share of the new tvc marquee....Quote of the week-What times Toyah Wilcox Playing?....Where was this film crew?...fuck knows....Broadstairs Folk Festival we hear....Has anyone seen Billy "wheres my Giro" Ocean anywhere?...No gossip on Daisy this week coz she's in France with her sis....Charlie Hall arrived not in a BMW Series 7 as we expected but in a battered old orange mini....He was born in Whitstable, he says, and brought up in Canterbury....well well....still bangin' or what?....Back to our loved up house sounds this week....Do we really want to see big name DJ's?...And pay all that money out?...3 tvc DJ's playing 1.5hr sets in rotation from now on....Respeck to mark from Primal Vinyl on his top, dare we say, prog canter....12" of pleasure....missus....the first decent music out of Canterbury since 3rd Mind (remember that label indie kids?)....Andy asked us not to mention his new chum Ms. B. Ong (ho ho)....

tVC BLEAN 21st AUG.-Wow!....What a Party!...400 plus in the open sided Dutch barn....House Monsters all....Plus the tVC DAT tent (Dub+ Ambient+ Techno) making its debut in the cropped corn field....Everyone had settled down nicely by 5am, loved up and anticipating the sunrise vibe when the clouds opened up and it fucking pissed down....oh well....A classic party till 6, reduced to a v. good party till 9....Love to everyone there, thanks for the support!....Plus big thanx to Colin and Suzanna, our fine hosts, for providing an excellent site....Marcus and his Genny....Martin and his retina melting terror-strobe....Ed and his art/noise construction....Bunkum Interiors (Toni, you're sacked)....the DJ's....esp. Ross and Mark for handling the DAT tent....Nagual....plus the 30 odd people, you know who you are, for helping set up the site....and the 10 or so who helped clear up (esp. Kier and his rather soggy posse)....glamour or what?....

The Party?....Quite frankly we were too blitzed to notice what everyone was up to but here goes....A lush factor 10 prevailed, as always, plus large contingents from Whitstable, Canterbury and London added an air of chumminess unseen at many parties....Austin "deadleg" Reese doing handbrake turns on the sodden cornfield in his £150 a weekend rented car....The Wadhurst posse crashed out all night (we wonder why?)....Paul and Mark valiently trying to stay awake (at midnight!)....Thanks for turning the sounds off 2 hours too early lads (you're sacked)...."Summer of '68 Russell aka Rush coatless!!...Need we say more?....lent to some "groovy chick" he says....Nils losing his viginity by playing in the chill tent for 10 minutes....good job on the lights though if we say so ourselves....Paul "everyone rates me" M playing a mindnumbing blend of techno tedium to an undelighted mass of househeads....Ross stealing Mark S's car to crys of "he's got my baby"...Nicky "I LOVE garage" Wilson wooing the delighted crowd with her "mature set"(copyright George)....Alice being "really rowdy"?...never....Nick "the most distinguished man in Whitstable" Stroud quaffing champagne all night and threatening to buy a penny-farthing!....Nobby blowing out an "important party" in London to slum it in Canterbury.....and to snog with Cath in the corn field (no, I don't want one, yes I will have one)....Dave B and Paul (you know we'd pay to get into one of your parties!) plus the rest of the Dr. Seuss crew trying to pay to get in (shock horror)....Harvey having Special K for breakfast then the music stopping (what a bummer)....Danny having a massive sniff of poppers and then going on the giroscope....Vicky (the Penny's token doorwoman) being sick after a particularly heavy sesh on the giroscope....Chris Stone (Guardian Columnist of the year 1994) would like to say that he loves all his friends....Don't we all Chris....

Police say we had a pay party....no way we say....Fire Brigade accused the open field of being a fire hazard!...duh!...we showed them fire extinguishers etc Public Liability Insurance Documents and they fucked off.....A woman 4 miles away phoned to complain...plus there was one other complaint ALL night....Environmental Health arrived and still slapped a noise abatement order on us.....Court appearance in 2 weeks. £5000 max fine.....

Police clamping down strong before implementation of draconian new anti party/traveller legislation (see i-D article reproduced in part overleaf)....We say Fight for yoyur right to Party...

Back to the Summer of Love part 2....new tVC flyers adapted from LSE (way)heyday of political discontent in 1968...Those were the days eh?....Why all this nostalgia for our first summer of love and it's anthems?...onwards and upwards...Tvc.

Canterbury free party 11th sept...Wales....coming soon....Wadhurst 2....coming soon....Lenham....coming soon.....

what's really happening

This spring the Government announced proposals to relieve what Home Office Minister Lord Ferrers called "the immense distress caused by travellers and ravers". The Home Office plans to bolster Section 39 of the Public Order Act and make it a criminal offence to park six or more vehicles on "green lanes, byways open to all traffic and other minor highways". The Department Of The Environment plans "to give local authorities in England and Wales a new power to direct trespassers to remove their caravans from land; failure to comply with such a direction would be a criminal offence". It will also be a criminal offence if a traveller returns "to the same land as a trespasser within three months".

There's rave-specific legislation that empowers police to set up roadblocks, seize sound systems, "direct ravers to leave a site where they believe ten or more are gathered and that a rave will take place", and "failure to leave a site will be a criminal offence and vehicles or equipment needed to continue the rave may be impounded"; merely refusing to leave a party will become a criminal offence.

What's the difference between a rave and a group of mates on a picnic with a ghetto-blasters? What will happen to a group of ten travellers with a PA, or even a good stereo system, when they choose to park up by the roadside?

There are also plans to change the 1968 Caravans Act which made it compulsory by law for councils and local authorities to provide "permanent and transit sites for travellers and gypsies residing in their areas". The Department Of The Environment "propose that the duty which the 1968 Act places on local authorities to provide caravan sites for gypsies will be repealed..."

The final nail in freedom's coffin comes from the Home Office: squats, the urban winter refuges of many travellers (not to mention homeless people) are also to be outlawed. "The government have reaffirmed the commitment made in the election manifesto to extend criminal law to the problem of squatting," explains a spokesperson. Research carried out in September 1991 by Elie Jarret at Bristol Polytechnic revealed that over 50 per cent of all people on the road had at one time been homeless and that seven out of every 14 travellers had lived in squats.

What the government's proposals and changes don't answer is what will happen to the travellers, gypsies, New Agers and squatters once their lifestyle has been criminalised. For what *The Independent* estimates to be 60,000 squatters, 40,000 'New Age' travellers and unknown thousands of Irish and Gypsy travellers without spaces on designated sites, the answer is either to get a mortgage, get a council house or get a cardboard box. You could persuade housing benefit to pay your rent or maintain a mobile existence until you are sent to prison and the government forks out the £27,000 per year it costs to keep you there.

"The question that ought to be asked," offers Shelter's Travelling People's Project Officer, Jenny Smith, "is why is this government intent on criminalising whole communities?"

So far, this has been a summer of cat-and-mouse chases between travellers trying to find sites to park up and police determined to stop them, set against a backdrop of the usual tabloid hysteria about 'smelly hippies' and 'dole scroungers'. There have, as expected, been violent clashes and arrests resulting from the frustration of travellers having their every movement shadowed and policed. John Major's utterances on 'youth crime' earlier this year, where he listed the 'problem' of travellers and ravers in the same speech as the murder of young James Bulger, set the tone that the police have had to be seen to be responding to.

Police intelligence units in Devizes, Wiltshire and Penrith, Cumbria armed with fax, modem, maps and computer terminals are building up a huge database detailing travellers' and sound systems' movements, names, criminal records and vehicle details. Operation Snapshot earlier this year was a concerted effort to photograph the numberplates of any traveller or rural partygoer's vehicle. The police have even recorded the serial numbers on generators and PAs in an effort to monitor the movement of so-called rave and festival 'ringleaders'. Civil rights organisation Liberty believe the police are exceeding their powers. "There clearly is police harassment of the travellers," says Liberty's general secretary Andrew Puddephatt. "Police intelligence should not be keeping tabs on people who have not committed a criminal offence."

There will be few large-scale free festivals this year, nor big free parties. It's too dangerous - who wants to risk getting their vehicle impounded or sound system confiscated? - and anyway, the constant tracking and alleged telephone tapping means that the police have managed to prevent any site becoming populated by potential party-throwers.

It was last year's Avon Free Festival, the infamous Castlemorton, that set the sulphuric tone for all of this. At this four-day outdoor party, it became obvious even to uninformed observers that since the first sound house systems appeared at the Glastonbury Festival in 1989, large numbers of travellers, urban clubbers and ravers had begun to unite around a common goal: having a good time. Through the lens of the popular and right-wing press, Castlemorton looked like a gathering of hedonistic crusties who danced for days on mounds of excrement, piles of syringes, bagfuls of E and fistfuls of drug and dole money.

"Castlemorton was the first time the media and the government realised the size of the problem they were dealing with," reckons DiY Sound System's Harry, "25,000 and up to 50,000 people, by some estimates, under the age of 30 with a slightly different outlook on things were there. No information was printed, it was all word-of-mouth. We didn't even know about the site until 24 hours before it began. All these young people were able to group in one place, set up their own city, an independent state in the middle of the Malvern Hills, a police no-go zone. For a government whose reason for being is to control people, here was a very frightening example of people saying 'we can and will do whatever we like'."

A reaction against both the commercialisation of the post-Raindance rave scene, the limited licensing laws of urban clubland and the super-crustiedom of the Brewed-up festival circuit, the new outdoor parties represented a meeting place for positive, fresh and subversive energies. An alternative to a house scene increasingly regulated by security, high entry and drink prices, these were parties with no admission costs, no closing times and none of the rampant greed and capitalism.

Faced with yet another summer of persecution, DiY 'view' permission land parties, held on private land by invitation of the landowner, as a way forward. They also detail numerous small outfits who succeed by throwing scaled-down free parties, for as few as 50 people, and use PAs with a low volume output to avoid detection.

The free party people, want to preserve a way of working which, if outlawed, would limit them to clubs with 2am (or 6am in some lucky London venues) curfews. "If we took too much notice of these silly laws nothing would ever get done," protests Mark from the Spiral Tribe sound system, 13 of whom are currently awaiting trial for "causing a public nuisance" at Castlemorton, facing sentences of up to life imprisonment.

DiY, and others are doing their best to maintain exemplary alternative lifestyles. And there are countless others searching for new ways to live, make money, care for the planet and each other. They are iconic figures, role models generating ideas and visions that can only benefit the settled community. Of course, if the Government has its way, none of this will exist at all. There will be no alternative. Just enforced conformity to the unemployment, low-grade housing and low-paid work that has become a way of life for so many people in Britain in the '90s.

Liberty, the civil rights organisation, views the new legislation as racist, discriminating on the basis of a belief in property and cultural difference that would never be acceptable if its victims were black, Jewish or gay. John Wadham, Liberty's legal officer, explains that the rights of people to "travel, stop and gather together" are enshrined by both the European Community and United Nations as "fundamental human rights".

As *The Independent* noted sagely, "New Age travellers are developing a culture characterised by anti-materialism, craftwork, music and a passion for freedom and open spaces. It is a way of life that stands in opposition to mainstream British culture in the '90s." John Wadham recognises the government's legislation as an attempt to deal with the "moral panic" raised by the travellers' dress codes, social behaviour, dependency on the dole and unwelcome presence in a countryside owned by powerful Tory land interests. Aware that the government has to be seen to be doing something, he feels that the decision to criminalise travelling people is only the "easy answer".

Motivated by fear of a culture it doesn't understand and pressure from Tory country landowners, the establishment has turned tyrant. The real criminal in this story is a government unwilling to find a legal or economic compromise between the needs of the settled and travelling communities, preferring instead to legislate against a basic human desire for freedom. If 'ethnic cleansing' really is going on, right now, in the English countryside, shouldn't we all be worrying about it?

Aug '93

DEEP UNITY 20

1. Marmion-Berlin EP (Solid Pleasure)
2. Slam-Positive Education (Soma)
3. Gypsy-Skinny Bumble Bee (Limbo)
4. Northwich Cicle-Mau Mau (Centrestage)
5. Disciples of Gaia-The Key (KK)
6. Deep Contest-Riposte EP (FNAC)
7. Funky Punch-Trumpet Release (Loud & Proud)
8. Frank Denato-The Jerk (Mighty Rider)
9. Lattitude-Building a Bridge (Nude)
10. Morning Glory-Feed the Feeling (Primal Vinyl)
11. East Village Loft Soc.-I Wanna Sing... (Black Sunshine)
12. Kingston Black-Afterdark EP (Burning)
13. Richard Darbyshire-This I Swear (white)
14. Key Largo-Heartbreaker (Loaded)
15. TV Junkies-That's It (Razor)
16. St. Germain-French Traxx EP (FNAC)
17. G-Force Affair-Yea Hun (Buzz)
18. Dave Angel-New Orchestrations EP (FNAC)
19. Joe Roberts-Back in my Life (FFRR)
20. Roach Motel-Afrosleaze (Jr. Boys Own)