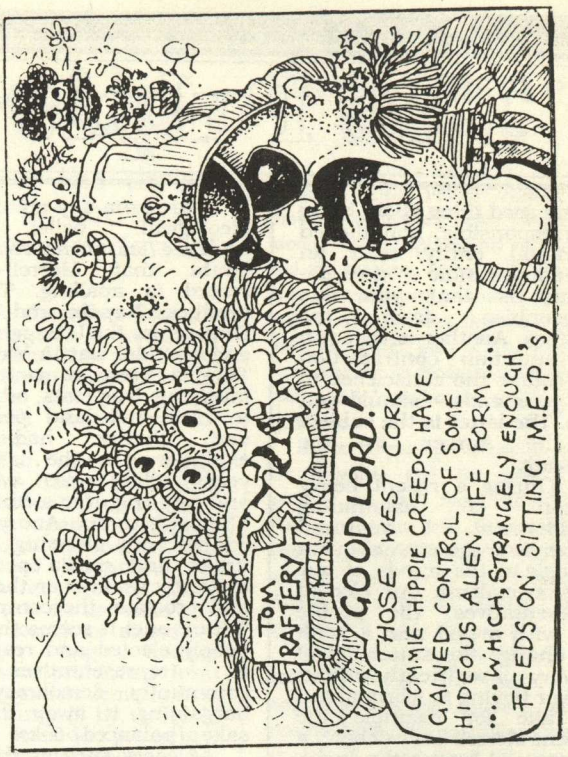
CORK FREE PRESS



CORK FREE PRESS June 1989

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

Scientists who recently discovered traces of CFC gas in human wind emissions, have recommended an 85% cut in the food consumption of the western world by the end of the century.

And wind emissions, they say, are at a dangerously high level due to the combination of two forthcoming elections.

The European Parliament election had been expected to generate a certain controlable quantity of wind, but with the suprise addition of a General election, the problem is expected to abuse all proportion. The effects of this phenomenon in the past have resulted in completely irrational behavour among ordinary constituents, such as voting for preposterously pathetic politicians on the strength of seriously misleading manifestos.

These misleading manifestos are said to be the main constituent of the Wind Emission Factor and threaten the very welfare of the inhabitants of democratic (capitalist) countries.

Brian Murphy, a statistic from Blackpool who went partially deaf while waiting for an operation on a relatively minor ear complaint, described how he was one of the lucky ones: "I voted Fianna Fail last time because they said 'cuts hurt the old, the sick and the poor', but when I realised that they never said it was necessarily a bad thing I thought I was done for. Fortunately I had a spare ear and now I have a hearing aid which I can switch off when needs be". Sharan Blad from Togher has also borne the brunt: "I didn't vote the last time because I think politics is boring, but when my friends went off to England I was more bored than ever".

A commission set up following the scientists recommendations for a reduction in food consumption, have been monitoring progress, and the activities which prevent it, in the European Parliament for some months now. Interestingly enough, they did discover that many present Irish MEPs contributed little or nothing to the Wind Emission Factor in the parliament. But the volumns they discovered between the lines make for grim reading.

The conclusion of their report recommends three clear alternatives to the present unacceptable state of affairs.

(1) That nobody votes; thereby preventing anyone from being elected and thus denying them a platform from which to emit wind.

(2) That more people should play Gaelic football and speak Irish.

(3) That people analyse and scrutinize each candidate's proposals, their credability on past record, their affiliations and their reasons for seeking election. That they avoid if at all possible, those candidates who's jaws are moved by greater men in Dublin; or those who seek to use the election as a publicity stunt for isolated causes while landing on a grossly overpaid career with nothing further to say. That they put people first, recognise a genuine alternative when they see one and vote for change.

LOAFERS BAR



26 DOUGLAS ST

Critical Studies Group Formed

At a meeting in Cork in early May, an organisation calling itself "Cork Critical Studies Group' was set up by people from different branches of the social sciences and from different political backrounds. Its objective is to work towards an alternative intellectual consensus to oppose the present dominance of conservative ideas. The group has decided to organise a conference for the end of June on the theme of the implications of 1992 for a range of policy areas. Watch out for details.

Counselling Service

In these days of crumbling Government responsibility for community welfare, it is re-assuring to know that individual groups are picking up the pieces and providing authentic services for people who need them.

The latest of these to appear in Cork is the **St. Francis Professional Counselling Service.** This service deals with eating disorders, tension, anxiety, and stress, lack of self confidence, lonliness and depression, relationship difficulties, addictions, fears and phobias; virtually anything that two pills won't cure.

It's a confidential community based counselling service provided by experienced and professionally qualified Therapeutic Counsellors.

Further information can be had by phoning 314289.

The Pulpit

One good thing about being an irresponsible, non-aligned individual entity with an incomprehensible nom-de-plume, is that you can philosophise from the sidelines. Another is that you can entertain contradiction and colour the conscience to suit your ends - should you wish. The latter is the subject of the former in the following.

During a recent heavy session of astounding bewilderment, I ventured further into the eternal quest for logic in the minds of our decision-makers; our elected representatives, the people who with a nod and a wink can change the suitability of the very air we breath without us ever having to worry about it. Take for example the present Merrell-Dow debate; a tedious and frustrating one to be involved in, as are any where business interests and the environmentally aware do battle. But on closer inspection a stunningly clear picture emerges.

Apart from any political or ideological belief, the evidence leaves no room for doubt that Merrell-Dow's record is apalling. They've produced Napalm and "Agent Orange" for the U.S. genocidal and ecocidal war in Vietnam; They've been convicted for falsifying drug tests, admitted to river and land pollution and they've had two explosions in the last ten years killing seven workers and injuring over a hundred. The list goes on. And yet our council, our planning board, union and media personell blatantly wash over the facts and proclaim the company a "clean" one! It seems the very peoply elected and respected as representatives of community democracy are bargaining it away for the sake of balanced books.

All cases such as this one contain at least three seperate factions: the local inhabitants comprising of Mr. and Mrs. Soap who's motivation is purely defensive, they've nothing to gain and much to lose. The politicans, commonly percieved as excessively dull and uneducated, who's peculiar back-hand twitching habit has long closed the doors to progress. And the multinationals. **A multi-national will get away with whatever it can get away with because profit is it s priority, and if we want jobs badly enough, it will get away with far more than we can control.**

This was true for the thousands of victims killed overnight in India in 1984 by the American chemical multinational Union Carbide , and it's true for the potential victims of any potential discrepancy by the occupants of our own chemical paradice.

What happened in Bhopal was criminal negligence followed by legal manoeuvers and corruption, which prevented the Indian government and it's courts from securing adequate compensation for the 500,000 dependants of the thousands killed. Other indian - based multinationals rallied round Union Carbide to prevent restrictions being imposed on their ability to exploit gullable countries, and when they suceeded in reducing the expected payout 50 fold, their shares jumped 13%, leaving them virtually unpunished.

The message from this particular episode should be clear in respect of any new applications by companies which pose a risk to public health seeking to set up in this area. The afore-mentioned decision-makers must not use the word *"good"* when they mean *"financially sound"* or *"clean"* when they mean *"white-collared with neat American accents"*. The editor of the Cork Examiner and his buddies in business must already be suffering the effects of involuntary solvent abuse of some sort if their state of mind decrees that those who raise objection to the siting of a chemical company in their locality are damaging the economy and should welcome such a prospect unreservedly.

At the end of the day, it is these peoply who have to breath the local air and who's right it is to extend or withold permission. The fact that we have a penniless government and pushover politicans does not mean that a body of people motivated purely by an uncorrupted concern for community walfare, will in turn be stomped upon.

Labour / Militant

Phony War to End?

The 'phony war' existing between the Labour Party and Militant seems set to end with the launch of a blistering attack on Party leadership and policies by prominent Cork Militant supporter Stephen Boyd.

Since Labour Party's annual conference earlier this year voted to declare Militant a seperate political party, membership of which would be incompatable with Labour Party membership, an uneasy truce has prevailed between the two sides. "There are no expulsions" declared Frank Nash, Labour Party Councillor and whip on Cork Corporation. However, Stephen Boyd's criticisms of Labour are bound to raise the political temperature in Cork.

In a statement issued to the *CORK FREE PRESS*, Boyd re-iterates Militant opposition to Labour entering into coalition with right-wing parties. "Coalition was a disaster for Labour" he affirms. "In the last General Election it's share of the vote fell to 6.4%, the lowest in 50 years. Yet instead of trying to rebuild the Labour Party, these same right-wing leaders are poised to expell hundreds of socialists from its ranks.

Mr. Boyd goes on to allege that:

- the 1989 Labour Party Conference was rigged. Party rules require that the number of delegates that a branch is entitled to send to an annual conference is decided by its previous year's membership. Yet in January of 1989 in Dick Spring's constituency of North Kerry 400 members were signed up as 1988 members. "This action was sanctioned by the Administrative Council of the Party" he points out. "Without this rigging the motion to expel Militant would not have been passed".

- The Labour leadership have a "mercs and porchs" mentality to which end they are working to reverse the decision, taken at the 1987 Party Conference, that Labour would not enter into coalition for at least 10 years.

- The drive against Militant is part of a general purge of left-wing elements in the party who support the 1987 anti-coalition resolution.

Responding to the charge of vote rigging , Councillor Nash argues that it is standard procedure that even up to the time of a conference members could be registered. This year an objection was lodged at the Administrative Council to registration beyond December 31st. At the January meeting it was decided that the final date should be an agreed date in January. This prompted a rush of applications from all over the country. "All I can say is that if you want to find demons under the bed you're going to find them".

Paying tribute to the dedication of Militant supporters, Nash pleaded with them to leave that organisation and stay with the Labour Party. "They are extremely conscientious and hard working, and certainly never spare themselves on behalf of the Labour Party and of socialism. They should choose the Labour Party and its policies as laid down by the annual conference and forget about Militant. It has nothing to offer them".

However Stephen Boyd remains adamant in his defence of Militant and in his criticism of the Labour leadership. "The Irish Labour Party was founder in 1912 on the initiative of James Connolly and Jim Larkin to give political expression to the unions and the working class in their fight for socialism in Ireland. It was not funded to provide Dick Spring and his cohorts with a well paid parliamentary career. Militant is fighting to transform the Labour Party into a genuine socialist party around which a mass movement to change Irish society can be developed".

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Carrigrohane Cock-Up

Concern is growing in Cork archaeological circles at the threat posed to the protected ruins at Carrigrohane Castle by the road-widening activities of the County Council, in contravention of its own development plan **Joe Finnerty reports.**

Since a minor St. Patrick's day rockfall near the castle, perched on top of a large cliff, the "Straight Road" has been closed while the Council goes about its remedial work. However, in true nut-and-sledgehammer fashion, the measures taken to deal with the problem have taken the form of a ruthless clearance of trees and rock using huge excavators. Instead of taking steps to stabilise the rockface - a course of action proposed by independent engineers who examined the site - the Council's strategy is effectively to remove the cliff wholesale.

This style of stabilisation has the characteristic feature of creating more problems as it goes along, weakening hitherto stable structures and providing the rationale for a creeping demolition of anything within reach. What are next in the path of the road-widening juggernauts are the historic ruins of the old castle itself.

The rich irony here is that the ruins of Carrigrohane are listed in the Council's own County Development Plan as an item worthy of preservation. The plan declares that it is the intention of the Council to protect buildings and sites of historical and architectural importance and goes on to say that **"protection in this context means the strict control of any development which might prove injurious to the listed items"** (County Development Plan for South Cork, chapter 10 paragraph 2). Item no. F425 on page 319 Table 5D is "Carrigrohane Castle and Stronghouse".

The present Carrigrohane Castle dates from the sixteenth century, whilst the ruins under threat (the 'Stronghouse') comprise a fifteenth century Turret and two thick walls in an L-shape dating from the thirteenth century.

Denis Power of the Cork Archaeological Survey describes these walls as "very important" since examples of thirteenth century archecture are quite rare. The Turret, a later defensive feature, includes a vault whose plasterwork is 'wiker centred'. The criss-cross imprints of this distinctively Irish style of building which uses a wicker 'tent' to support the fresh mortar, can be seen in the Turret to this day (or at least at the time of going to press...).

What has now happened is that the Turret, which has been resting on solid rock for nearly 400 years with no sign of structural decline (as independent engineers confirmed), is now, after the council's activities, showing signs of cracks. A notice under section 3(i) of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 has been issued, to the effect that the ruins constitute a dangerous structure and that the Turret and whatever portions of the walls the Council deems unfit, will have to be demolished.

The 'clear it away' philosophy that the Council has implemented throughout the entire operation, brings them into direct conflict with their stated intentions for Carrigrohane. A recent ruling of the courts in the case of a similar anomalous situation, in which Sligo County Council was prohibited from using a megolitic cemetry as a rubbish dump (!) by virtue of its being listed for protection in its development plan, would seem to have no small bearing on the Cork situation.

Questions that therefore urgently require answers are:

Why has Cork County Council dealt with the problem of Carrigrohane rockfall in a manner which plainly threatens historic buildings they themselves are supposed to protect?

Is the Council open to legal action on the grounds that its breaking its own rules?

Doesn't experience show the absurdity of having responsibility for curbing environmental abuses placed in the hands of local athorities who very often have created these abuses to start with.

ART ATTACK!

"It is time to re-examine the nature of thought itself" is a weighty quote from a new campaign that not only challanges the merits of art, but calls for it's total abolition.

The campaign, which sees art as "an international commodity to be marketed by a self-perpetuating elite" believes that the abolition of art would pave the way for realistic relief of world poverty. It plans to reinforce this belief in an "Art Strike' between 1990 and 1993. A wide range of publicity through leaflets, stickers and badges carry the message to **"give up art - save the starving".** Theycontrast the illusion of art with the reality of starvation; the liberal appreciation of distortions with the oppression of our responsibility to real, fundamental change.

Originating from San Francisco, the Irish campaign springs from Allihies in West Cork, an area well renowned for its creative, mystic and indeed artistic wealth. Co-ordinator Tony Lowes has had considerable influence in the international campaign, having written concise and challanging books and publicity material. His activities have not gone unnoticed in the local artists havan. At first artists were wearing 'give up art' badges at the opening of their exhibitions because they thought it was trendy. But since the local schoolkids began declaring artists as 'murderers', the trend became a threat and reaction heated up. This reaction is seen as a measure of effectivness and it is hoped this will increase during the Art Strike.

The Art Strike itself calls on all cultural workers *"to put down their tools and cease to make, distribute sell, exhibit or discuss their work from 1st Jan 1990 to 1st Jan 1993"* and *"for all galleries, museums, agencies, 'alternative' spaces, periodicals, theatres, art schools etc., to cease all operations for the same period".*

"Whatever else it is, art is not reality" says Tony Lowes. "Soap operas, novels, movies, concerts, the theatre, poetry; none of these are as real as the starving child is real. We struggle through life in a drugged dream, searching for escape, for brighter fantasys, longer voyages of the imagination, louder music. We turn away from mountains of food that rot in storage while across the globe men grow too weak to eat because it is time for our favourite tv programme. Art is the glamourous escape, without it life would be unendurable; we would have to change this world!".

More information on this campaign can be had from **Publishers Group South West, Allihies, Bantry, West Cork.**

On the Trail of the Cider Pine

Once upon a time there lived in Cork a man called Finbar Appleseed. Finbar liked nothing better to wander around the city spilling his rich seed, and the resulting union with tarmac and cement issued in a most curious hybrid, namely trees that bore pubs (or if you prefer, pubs that bore trees) Now read on as Bodger ,my faithful guide, and I go on the trail of the cider pine.

If you labour up Blarney St from the Shandon end for about ten minutes you can't miss The Joshua Tree on your left. We certainly couldn't, since it was gaily festooned with wrappers from the adjoining chipper (the night's special was, apparently, a vivid curry sauce).

This was an Appleseed pub for sure: two large tree trunks, one supporting a spiral staircase, grew proudly from floor to ceiling, while several of their more diminutive brethern graced the walls and skewered the tables. Alas! Some would never reach the full bloom of treehood, suffering as they did from a nasty case of woodworm.

The Joshua Tree comprised one largish room with the bar in the left-back corner. The stone walls were bare or of an off-white whitewash, the floors of an ersatz flagstone. Lots of knick-knacks, presumably from Finbar's youth, were on display - you know the sort, before the advent of colour photography and flush toilets.

The music was Fanning, the play of silvan light was pleasantly subdued and dispersed. there was a fair crowd for 8.30 on a Monday night, overwhelmingly male and casually dressed. Mainly locals, the initial reception was a trifle frosty - as if we were lumberjacks for god's sake or pub spies, but things thawed out as a victorious soccer team passed around a trophy full of booze. "Heap good firewater", gurgled my faithful guide Bodger (whose face eventually had to be surgically removed from that blissful trough).



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NOTICE BOARD

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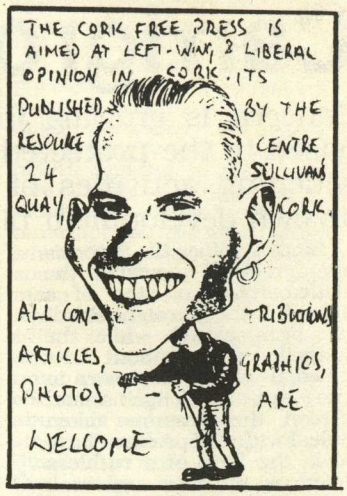
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CONTACTS

Cork Aids Alliance : 537237
Write to 22 MacCurtain St.
Women's Centre : 317660
24 Sullivans Quay. Drop in any weekday except Thursday.
Cork Lesbian Line : 317026 on Thursdays from 8 - 10pm.
Cork Anti-Apartheid : meets 1st & 3rd Wed of every month, Quay Co-Op 8pm.
Gay Information Line : 317026 on Weds from 7 - 9pm.
Rape Crisis Centre : 996086
Write or call to 27a MacCurtain St.



What's Where & When?

THURSDAY 1st

American Waterways Wind Symphony Orchestra : Playing from a special boat on the river until Sun. 4th.
Cork Shakespearean Company : Present "AMid Summers Night Dream" at the Triskel Arts Centre 'til Sat. 3rd.
The Abbey Touring Company : Presents "Boss Grady's Boys" at the Opera House to Sat. 3rd.
C.A.A.T.c. present short plays throughout June. Info - 508398.
Sweat Dance at Sir Henry's : as the term implies, every Thurs night. Bar ext.

FRIDAY 2nd

Bone Idol : De Lacy House.
Scullion : a potential breath of fresh air in The Lobby.
Jenkin's Ear : MoJos; Blues/rock routine from Dublin. New single just out.
Trad Session : The Spailpin Fanach.
Perry-winkle, Traditional & Folk Festival : Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare; for those who will grab the chance an leg it West. (2nd to 4th).

SATURDAY 3rd

Backdoor Blues Band : MoJos - more blues from the Midlands.
Jim McCann : De Lacy House.
(You are strongly advised to head west this weekend).

SUNDAY 4th

TradiSesson: Spailpin Fanach (morning)
Noel & Carrol Reading: Isaac Bells (afternoon)
Jenkin's Ear: MoJos.

TUESDAY 6th

Stargazers : The Lobby.
Reggae Night : Isaac Bells; in the groove.
Live Country Music : Phoenix every Tues.

WEDNESDAY 7th

Band of '89 Final : Sir Henry's; the final hopefulls are 'The Surrealists" (Ennis), The Drive (Limerick), The Outpatients (Dublin), Trupenny Opera (Wexford) plus one more to be confirmed. I tend to go for the ones that don't have "the" as a prefix, but will we ever hear of any of them again?
Traditional Session : Phoenix every Wed.

THURSDAY 8th

Mary Stokes Band : De Lacy House.
Sweat Dance " Sir Henrys.
Acid Reign : Isaac Bells; all the grooves without the tabs.
Meridian Theatre Co. : present 'School for Wives". Two performances a night until Sat 10th at 7.30 and 11.30. ..er..oh yes; in the Triskel of course.
The Stranglers : City Hall; If you're disillusioned,help is at hand; the message is clear; the Men in Black are back.

FRIDAY 9th

Aliby : Local Metal bash (let 'em off)
Ian Richards & the Soulmasters : De Lacys; heard it before and if you like it you'll hear it again.

SATURDAY 10th

Revok : MoJos; Local cover band, a little louder than a jukebox.
Finnigan's Wake : De Lacys.
(just what is it about Saturday nights?)

From now til Fri 16th is a good time to take a rest abroad as the events in the meanwhile are unworthy of publication.

FRIDAY 16th

Nothing Like Strauss : MoJos; as yet no information but we hear they're origional and therefore spared a slating.
Celtic Fusion : De Lacys.
Kinsale Arts Week : Contact Peter Barry (021)774026. (16th - 25th).

SATURDAY 17th

Party Cats : MoJos
Rag a Muffin : De Lacys.
Demented Woman : A once off solo lunchtime play by Ann Shannahan at the Triskel. 1.05pm.

WEDNESDAY 21st

The Stunning : Sir Henry's.

THURSDAY 22nd

Young Bands : The Phoenix; the first of a regular Thurs night gig featuring new bands. Surely a worthwhile exercise and a cruciel breath of fresh air for any budding geniuses. Tonight - **The Chosen Kind.**
Sweat Dance : Sir Henrys

FRIDAY 23rd

Chris Mehan : De Lacys
Tiguana Taxi : MoJos
Walter Raleigh Potato Festival : Youghal Contact (024) 92213/94118

SATURDAY 24th

Big John's Bootlegging Band : MoJos Country rock - music at which to floor pints to beat the band. (and Sun morn).

THURSDAY 29th

Cibeal Festival : Kenmare; tremendously popular arts & music festival, this year toned down and shifted from the June weekend to avoid the disintegration of the festival into a glorified drinking binge. Roughly the same formula though, with an emphasis on up and coming bands. Contact (064)41212.

And so we followed Finbar's trail across the big water and up Barrack Street to Nancy Spain's. No festive wrappers but a considerably deposit of dogshit, albeit as much the same colour and consistency as the curry sauce, greeted us on the threshold. Inside, the first and largest section of the pub, awaited some old friends : tree trunks lining the walls, homely wooden tables, brick and stone. No lords of the forest doubling as pillars were in evidence here, however, only common or urban (wooden) beams. A curious feature was the plastered ceiling daubed with representations of, well, trees.

The bar was to the right as we walked through the second section: this was a lovely piece of tree corpse on which were carved magic mushrooms, which went down well with Guinness at £1.42 a pint.

The crowd was young, mixed and middle class, and the place was filling up nicely as we retraced our steps down Barrack Street at around 10p.m.

Our last stop was a clearing in the cement in Coburg Street called The Hoddie & Stiie . The place was jointed, with a seisiun of sorts in full swing, and it was all strangely familiar, for in a sense we had already been there twice that very night. Those tables, those walls, omigod those dead trees . . .

Happily enough for those subject to the kind of deja vu that affrighted Bodger (my faithful guide) and me, a remedy is at hand. The (wooden) doors of Appleseed pubs constitute a sort of timber-line, through which one can pass into some of the most reassuringly drab, urban, and yes, treeless streets in all of Cork.

