Siouxsie and the Banshee's: The Screem

Like all forms of music,new wave has its different classifications, encompassing: middle of the road, conservative and its radical element. On this continuum, Siouxsie and the Banshees are inhabitants of the radical fringe,as their band name and album title suggest. Siouxsie-sioux, the band's singer, drew her first press notices as a groupie who danced wildly on stage at Sex Pistol shows in London. Not surprisingly, the Pistols are also the Banshees clearest influence. But unlike their predecessors, who preferred to write songs one-at-a-time, The Scream is a concept album.

Through their words and music, the Banshees deliver an integrated assault on modern society and technology and comment on their affects. This is a concept that fits well with the band's grating, mechanical style. John McKay's guitar emits high-pitched squeals and repetitive chord patterns. While the back line pounds out a methodical, mechanical but still very invigorating beat. Rising above the powerful music are the band's intelligent lyrics sung perfectly by Siouxsie who successfully keeps her singing audible above the Banshee's wall of sound, as only a good singer can. The lyrics themselves wail about (and at) television (Mirage), machinery (Metal Postcard), the drudgery of suburban life (Suburban Relapse); the album even includes a crushing interpretation of the old Beatles favorite: Helter Skelter. The "concept" of the album winds up in the final cut (Switch), where the band offers its own suggestions for society's salvage. I won't tell any more than that.

The whole idea works well- even if the Banshees don't convince you to join them, they at least succeed in making you take a hard look at everything around you. In short, their music makes you think, but only if you allow it to. Open your ears and mind to the Banshees and you might be surprised at the quality of what you hear.

Hadji

Anarchism's Words...

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government they can exercise then constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to overthrow or dismember it.

Abraham Lincoln

Society created our problems and only society can erase them.

Scott M. Rodell

Government, what is it but a tradition, though a recent one, endeavoring to transmit itself unimpaired to posterity, but each instance losing its integrity; it has not the vitality and force of a single living man. Law never made man a whit more just; and by means of their respect for it, even the well disposed are daily made agents of injustice.

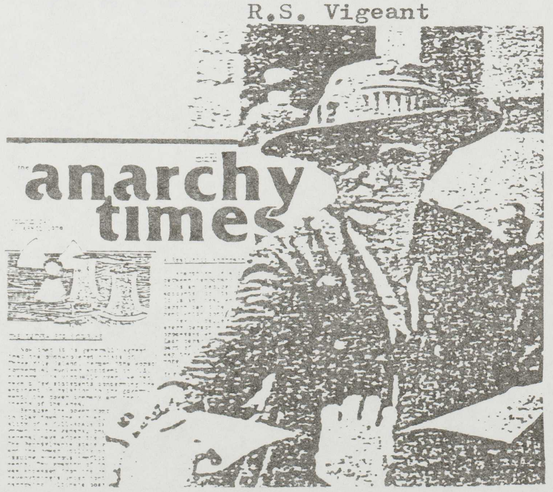
David Thoreau

Rising crime and overflowing jails are not statements against the criminal element but against our government and the soceity it maintains through its laws and imposed institutions.

Scott M. Rodell

Anarchism is a common denominator between democracy and collectivism.

R.S. Vigeant

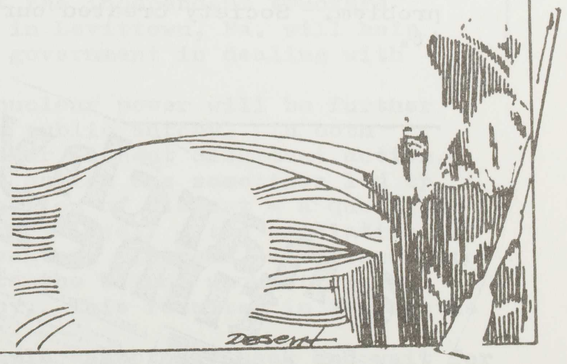


The Spanish Anarchist Collectives

When the Anarchists took over large areas of Spain in 1936, the result was not chaos in an "everyone for himself" world, but rather a situation of order and tranquility. Equality between men and women, as well as social classes, was the rule, not the exception. This feeling of equality spread to the extent that there was no class system. Thus, the highest order of social mobility was achieved.

Once the government was destroyed, the crime level dropped almost instantaneously to extinction. The commonplace crimes of prostitution and theft, which plagued all of Europe's large cities, were virtually unknown to Barcelona. Illiteracy was 70% in 1936 when the revolution struck, but free, non-compulsory schools were soon set up. By 1939, illiteracy was practically unknown. All laws went out with the futile government, yet no serious infraction of the law occurred. However, outlaws persisted in their crimes of jaywalking, trespassing and the like. The police force and a standing army were nonexistent. Still, without a deterrent threat of retribution from established authority, life ran smoothly without fear from criminal element. The reason for such a harmonious way of life will seem quite profound at first, but with thought, I'm sure you will understand. Once the old government power structure collapsed,people suddenly held all political power, no man or woman having any more or less than the next. With this power came responsibility for the welfare of the family and community. Since one cannot exist without the other, one is forced into a position of only doing good for the community. But after all, isn't that what all people wish to do? It wasn't long before this forced condition of mutual trust, equality and absolute freedom grew into a feeling and way of peaceful life which every man strives for. The reasons are clear, simple and logical: man found it better to live in a community where everyone pulled together for the good of the community and thus the family.

If the community is to grow and advance, it must have contact with other communities. Obviously, this applied to the anarchists and the feeling of brotherhood was to extend between communities. The synthesis of this peaceful meeting between different communities was a society of peace, equality and freedom, where ideals were not written down on paper but lived!

Although the life I have just given you a short description of, may seem a dreamy utopia, the conditions I've cited here did exist and the facts are all recorded if you dig far enough and long enough. The choice is now yours: do you choose a life of freedom and peace, or one of agression and war?

Scott M. Rodell