



NICK IT!

walk out of the store with a block of cheese in my pocket and your eyebrows raise in question. I already know your thoughts.

What if I had gotten caught? You are wondering if it's right to steal. Just what does shoplifting have to do with saving the world, after all?

Well, my friend, sit down and open the cheese while I dig the crackers out of my fanny pack. Make yourself comfortable because you've asked a significant question. And I'm sure you can hear the answer, because only last month you and I sat side by side on a logging road, blocking the advance of a bulldozer onto a privately owned old-growth forest.

The notion of private property assumes that land--and all that's on it and under it--can be owned by humans. For this notion to survive, certain factors must exist, among them police, government, nations, states and war. The governments are there to make the laws regarding private property, the police are there to enforce them. If there's a government, there's a nation, and where there's more than one nation, there's war--usually over the issue of private property.

For a person to own something in the first place means s/he has had to work for it, that is, steal from the land. But this is the irony, because how can you steal from something that you are a part of? The Earth would give to us generously on her own terms, but by taking without asking and proclaiming "MINE!", we separate ourselves from nature. This is the root of our problem.

The reality is that we are of the Earth. One cannot own an ancient forest any more than a hardware store can own 60d nails. If we continue to operate under a set of rules that requires we pay for "other peoples'" private property, with money acquired from our own endeavors at exploiting the Earth, then we are supporting the system that is destroying the Earth.

Now, on a more personal level, there are the issues of who to steal from, and with what attitude one should loot. While it's true that all business desecrates the Earth, there are some worse than others. Within the system there are some that are not only trashing the

trust your desires.



"They have to be constantly watched," said the employers' newspaper, *Textile World*, "or they will go from bad to worse in order to make more time for play."

by Nickette

DLM

planet worse than others, but they are exploiting other people by forcing the system on them, forcing them to be part of it all just to survive. To steal from the order-givers is to subvert the system. (To steal from the order-takers is to support the continuation of the system that's destroying the Earth and freedom.) When the poor steal from the poor, those running the show only laugh. Consider, when choosing a target, if stealing from them will in any way threaten their ability to meet their day to day needs or deprive them of what may be their only bit of pleasure. If so, then it can hardly be justified. On the other hand, will stealing from this person or establishment hinder their ability to commit yet more pillage or exploitation? In this case, not stealing is the real crime!

Hand in hand with the importance of conscientious targeting is the importance of thieving with the right attitude. If you steal in order to own things, to guard them protectively and label them "MINE!", then you're really only just supporting the institution of Property. If you steal to share, then this supports the idea of communal use--you are not stealing, you are liberating! Stealing to do actions to protect the Earth (the community with which we share) is sabotage in itself. Besides, it's more fun to share.

Then, there's the very important question, what are you going to do if you don't loot? You're going to work, to slave, in order to survive. And just where will you find time to be an activist if you're busy slaving all the time? Stealing is a monkeywrench in and of itself, but also it frees you to do more monkeywrenching. It frees you to play, to have fun, to be alive. The less you pay for, the more time you have to follow your desires.

By now, you might be asking "What about getting caught?" Is it worth it? First, I can tell you, **don't get caught.**

Don't become a clefto--it's a common problem with beginning thieves. Learn to control your impulse to take things just enough to avoid irrational acts. Most beginners fail at this and get nailed. Beware of the dangers of stealing just for the thrill of it--this too is a

SHARE YOUR SCAMS!

Shoplifting, squatting, freight hopping, stolen phone credit cards, money scams, dumpster diving; these are all ways of resisting the work-beast. Now, I know there's lots of you out there who are proficient at lots of these techniques...and more. Please send in your tricks, scams, swindles, shams, strategies and true stories, so we can share in future issues with other adventurous dissenters. We will probably share your tips with some folks who are currently assembling a work resisters handbook, or you can write to them directly at pob 1131, Eugene, OR. 97440.



(next 2 pgs)

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(with 200 psu)

good way to get nicked yourself! With shoplifting, the most common form of theft, always be willing to put things back if you feel you've been seen. I say these things with a bit of hesitation, as I dream of the day when we can all boldly walk into the city and liberate what will then belong to us all openly and proudly. But in the meantime, don't get caught! (In future issues we would like to print information on anti-theft security systems and how to spot and avoid them. Please send in tips if you have them--or, would someone write an article on the subject?).

However, if you do get caught--at least for something minor like shoplifting--it's not that big of a deal. You may or may not even be arrested. If so you'll probably be released shortly. After going to court you may have to pay a fine, do community service or some such. (Not always: in some towns you do two weeks in jail if convicted of shoplifting, no matter what your sob story. Check the police and court report sections of your local paper to see what type of sentences shoplifters are getting. This is also a good way to find out which stores have extensive security systems as the location of the "crime" is often given in the report.) I suggest you think of it in terms of it being a small price to pay in exchange for how much you've gained. Undoubtedly if you add up the total number of hours spent in the bowels of the system, as compared to your total gain in stolen items, you will find that you were probably earning several hundred dollars an hour--all at the expense of your enemies.

Lastly, I want to tell you, don't be scared. Be a little nervous, wary, very aware and cautious but don't let the leviathan scare you. It is not as omnipotent as they would have us believe. As we know from our monkeywrenching lessons, every monster has it's Achille's heel. Look for it carefully, and take advantage appropriately. And always, always, have fun.