

No.1

#2.00

SQUATTER

COMICS

FEATURING



SQUAT-MAN



SLEDGEHAMMER



SQUAT OR ROT



L VAN ABBEMA '89

A MODERN HISTORY OF SQUATTING ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE

The 1960s were a tumultuous time. Freedom rides in the South and freedom riots in the North were rocking the nation. Hundreds of cities were aflame, fanned by the winds of revolution, threatening the very stability of the US government. The idea of reducing the population of the poor in the cities by destroying the available housing, as a way to prevent further insurrections was an idea that appealed to many in the ruling elite.

By the early 70s, these notions became studies, and then documents, and finally plans to "spatially deconcentrate" the urban centers of the troublesome poor, Black and Latino people especially. These motives, military/control motives, fueled the mechanisms of depopulation and "planned shrinkage" which decimated city after city throughout the decade. From an economic point of view, how can we explain the abandonment of buildings and the rapid deterioration of poor neighborhoods that occurred across the country? Well, as long as the bosses required cheap labor, they built housing for the workers. When the worker was no longer necessary, and in fact became uppity, no new housing was to be built. The housing that poor people were living in became a target for the apparatus of displacement: Red-lining by banks and insurance companies, arson-for-profit, and phoney relocation scams. It became impossible for even the most well meaning landlords to maintain their buildings. Generations of working class ownership came to nought against the more powerful and bigger capitalists who forced both residential tenants and small landlords out of the neighborhoods.

By the mid-70s, the war against the poor was no longer a subject for speculation, for what had taken place in secret in the halls of HUD, in banks and police stations, now showed its ravaged product: war-torn neighborhoods, buildings abandoned, burned out shells, vacant stretches of land where poor, working people once lived. But the state meant to go even further. It wasn't enough to displace the poor. Simply dispersing the poor was not control enough. The state meant to reconcentrate them in shelters.

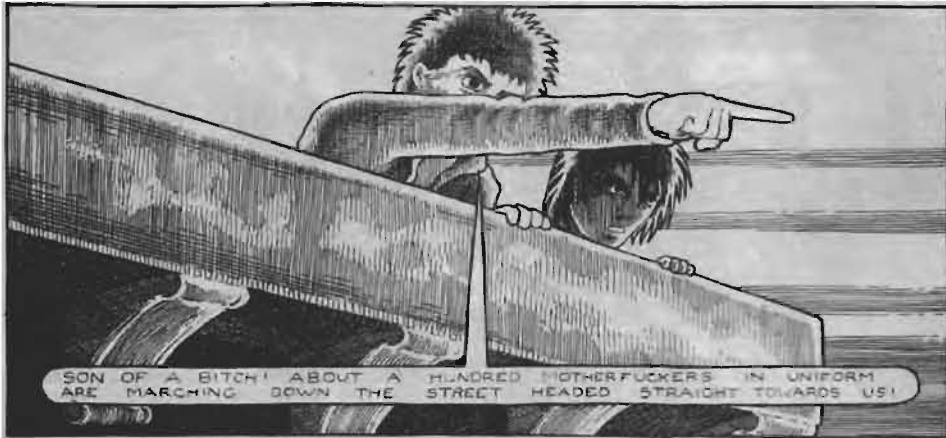
Enter the "Coalition for the Homeless", founded in Washington, DC in 1979-80. Through their championing of "right to shelter" legislation around the country, the legal framework for the growth-boom shelter industry was put in place. The more insidious result of the "right to shelter" strategy was to turn people, including homeless people, away from the obvious solution to the problem, namely taking over the abandoned buildings etc., and get them to settle for the "alternative" of living in a gym or an armory. Some choice!

By the 1980s, federal monies and "emergency management" expertise were fixated upon the "homeless", who now were seen as something other than the poor who had been displaced earlier. The "shelter system" or low-intensity detention of the poor, became the dominant strategy. Those who saw the obvious solution began taking direct action to solve homelessness, at least on a local level. After all, with all of the thousands of abandoned and warehoused apartments and empty land, it seemed crazy to suggest that thousands of homeless victims of governmental assault live in barracks. Squatting became the realistic alternative for people forced to choose between the streets and the life threatening shelter system.

As the 1990s begin, squatting has become a political statement as well as a solution to homelessness. In spite of countless attempts by the city and its police force to remove them from their buildings, the squatters of the Lower East Side have stood fast in the face of evictions, arsons, and even wholesale demolitions. Through mass demonstrations and battles in the streets and courts, squatters have kept their homes, in some cases for as long as 10 years.

In the years to come, as more people become aware of the benefits of squatting, more buildings will be taken. We can expect the state to intensify its efforts to prevent and destroy the squatters' movement. Through mass public support, this genuine people's movement will survive and grow.

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SON OF A BITCH! ABOUT A HUNDRED MOTHERFUCKERS IN UNIFORM ARE MARCHING DOWN THE STREET HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARDS US!



FUCK YOU!

WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY OF THIS SHIT!

FUCK OFF!



THE SHOUTS OF ANGER TURN TO VIOLENCE...

BEFORE THE COPS CAN GET INTO THE SQUAT THEY ARE SHOWERED WITH DEBRIS FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING.



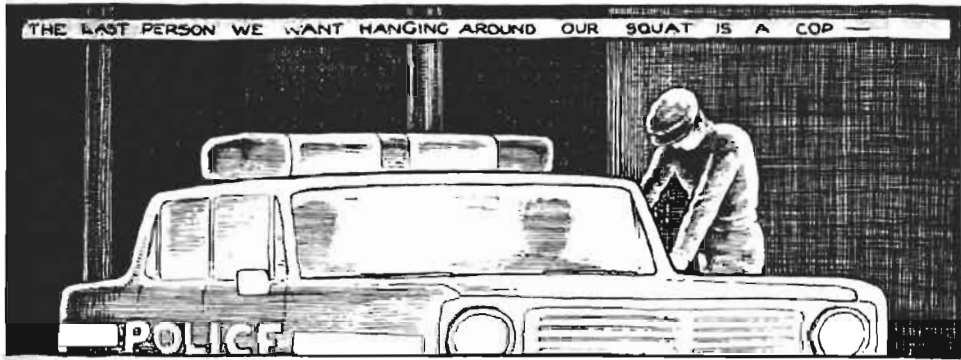
FUCK YOU MAN! WE AINT LEAVING! THIS SQUAT IS OUR HOME!

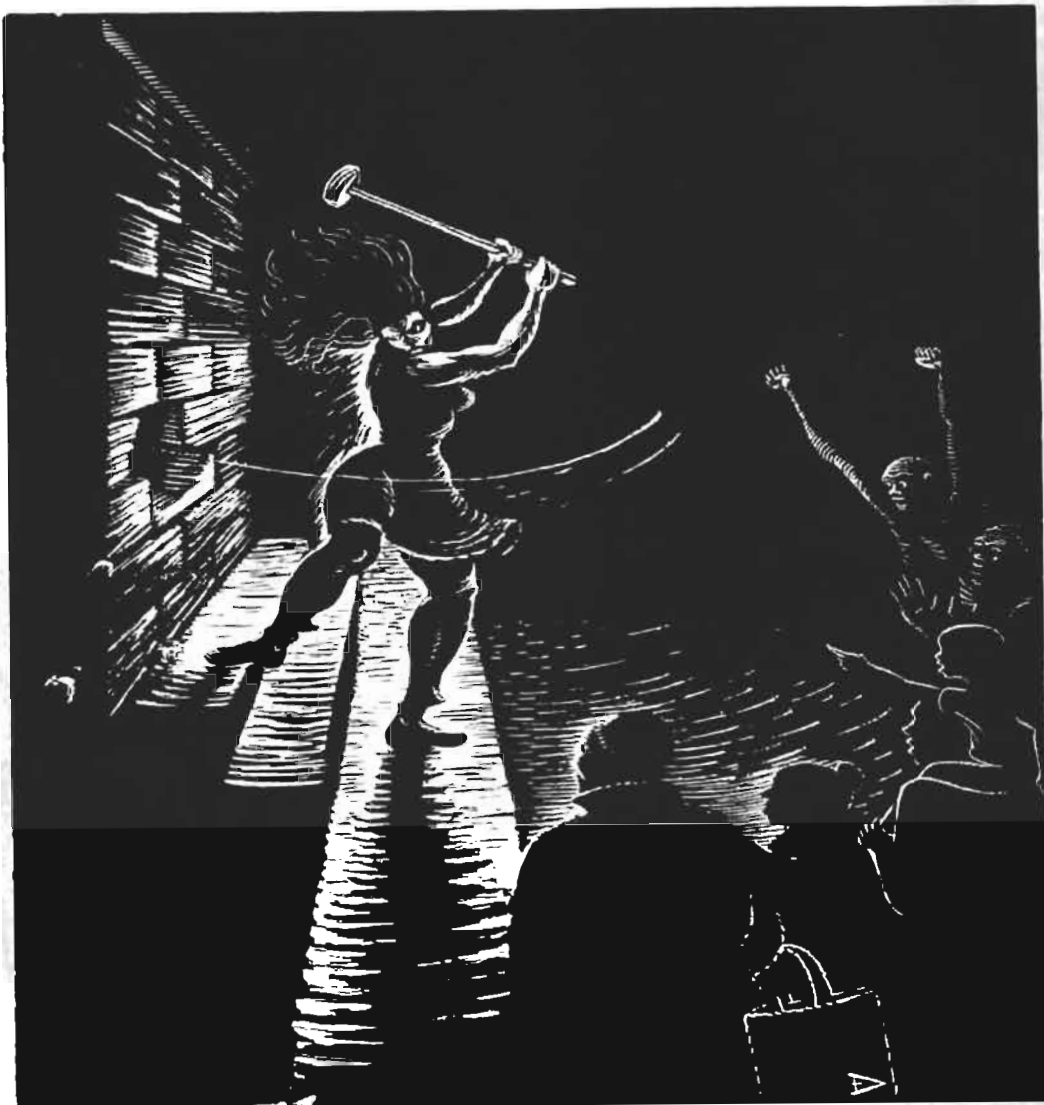


THIS IS CAUSING TOO MUCH PUBLICITY!



RETREAT! EVERYBODY RETREAT!





Eric Drooker

IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK CITY, THERE IS A COMMUNITY OF SQUATTERS OPPOSING THE TYRANNY OF THE STATE...

SQUAT NYC

BY LAWRENCE VAN ABBEMA '90

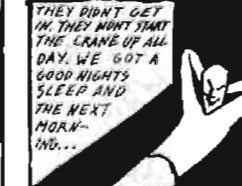
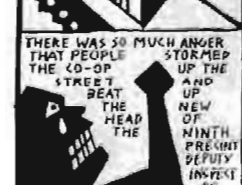
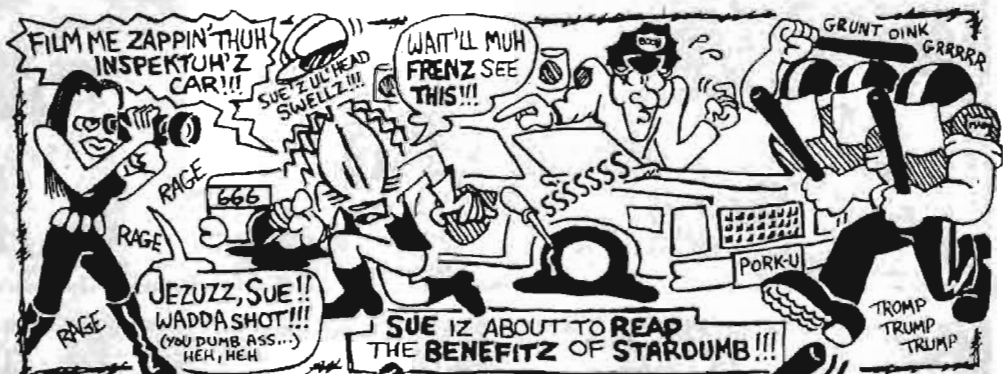


THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF PROGRESS IN THE SQUATTERS' REVOLUTION!



BUT AT THE SAME TIME THERE HAS BEEN A MILITARISTIC WAR ON THE POOR IN NEW YORK!



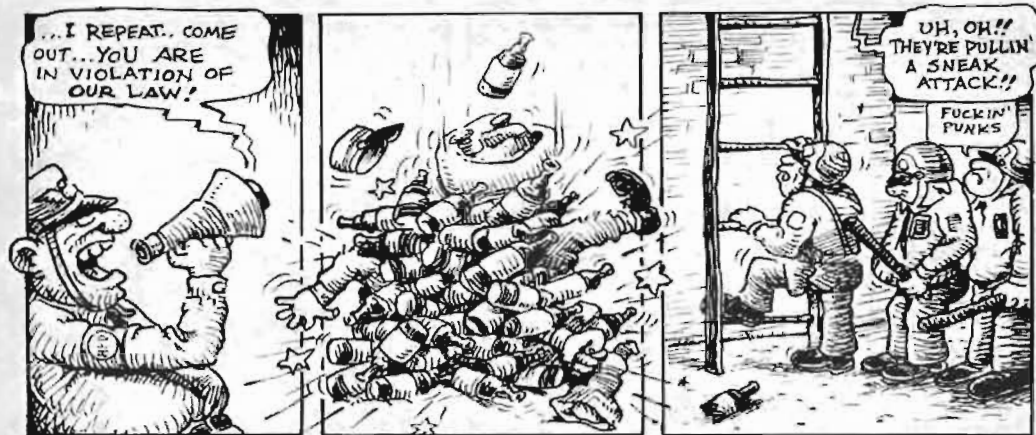




SLEDGEHAMMER SUE!!!

GIT YER ASS IN GEAR!!! HPD AND RIOT COPZ ARE TEARING DOWN MUSHROOM SQUAT!!!
UH THOUSAND

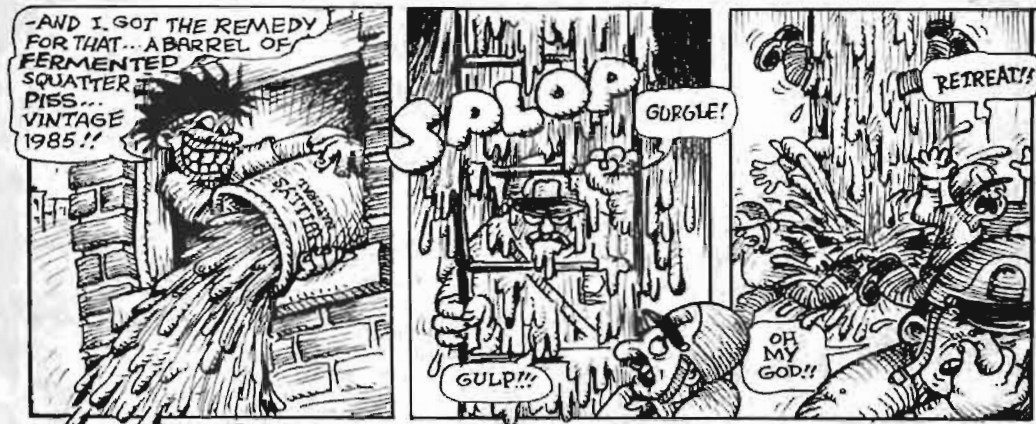




...I REPEAT. COME OUT... YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF OUR LAW!

UH, OH!! THEY'RE PULLIN' A SNEAK ATTACK!!

FUCKIN' PUNKS



-AND I GOT THE REMEDY FOR THAT... A BARREL OF FERMENTED SQUATTER PISS... VINTAGE 1985!!

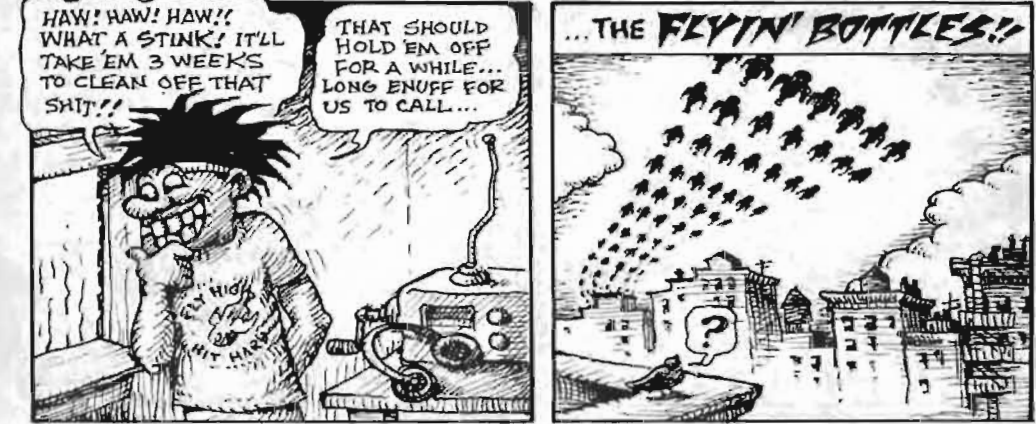
S P L O P

GURGLE!

RETREAT!!

OH MY GOD!!

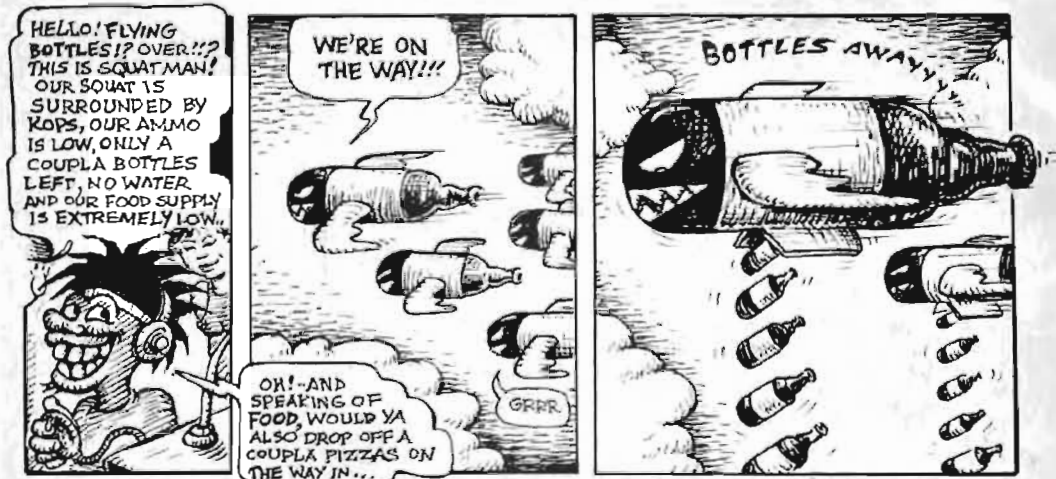
GULP!!!



HAW! HAW! HAW!! WHAT A STINK! IT'LL TAKE 'EM 3 WEEKS TO CLEAN OFF THAT SHIT!!

THAT SHOULD HOLD 'EM OFF FOR A WHILE... LONG ENUFF FOR US TO CALL...

...THE FLYIN' BOTTLES!!



HELLO! FLYING BOTTLES! OVER?? THIS IS SQUAT MAN! OUR SQUAT IS SURROUNDED BY KOPS, OUR AMMO IS LOW, ONLY A COUPLA BOTTLES LEFT, NO WATER AND OUR FOOD SUPPLY IS EXTREMELY LOW.

WE'RE ON THE WAY!!!

BOTTLES AWAY!!!

OH!-AND SPEAKING OF FOOD, WOULD YA ALSO DROP OFF A COUPLA PIZZAS ON THE WAY IN...

GRRR



FLYING HIT HARD

CLONK

BOB



LATER THAT NITE... JAMMIN' AT THE SQUAT...

WOW! THERE'S ENUFF BOTTLE DEPOSIT HERE TO FEED THE SQUAT FOR A YEAR!!

THANKS TO... THEM FLYIN' BOTTLES!!

LET'S PARTY!!

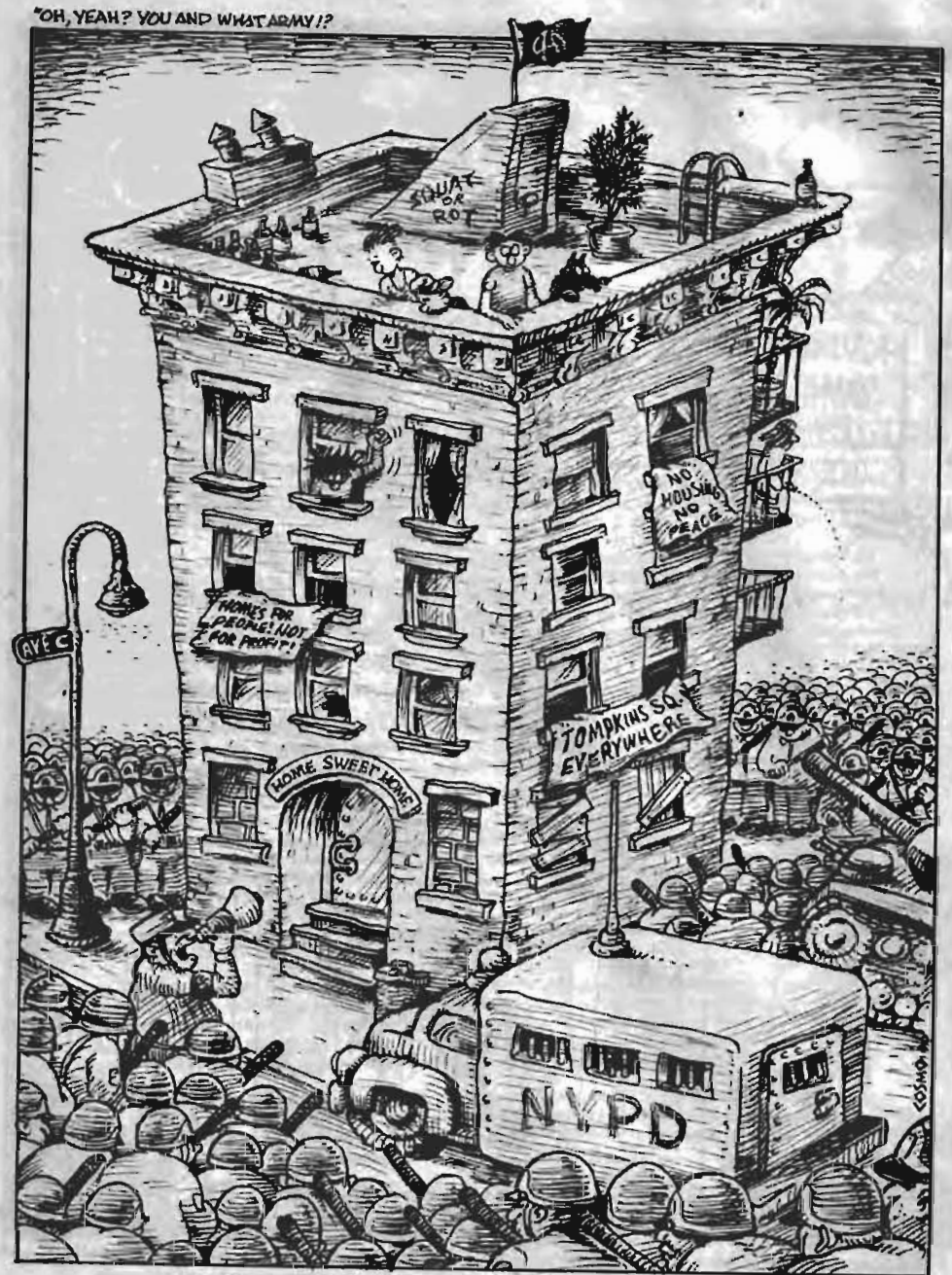
ANY MORE PIZZA LEFT?

YEAH!!

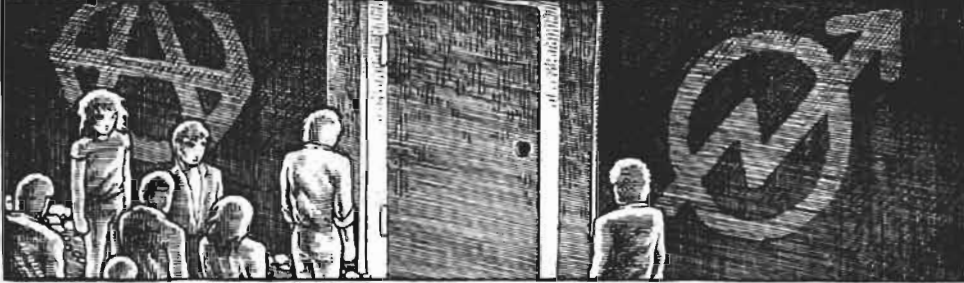
DEFINITELY GONNA BE A GREAT NITE...

WE'RE ONLY A BOTTLES THROW AWAY!!

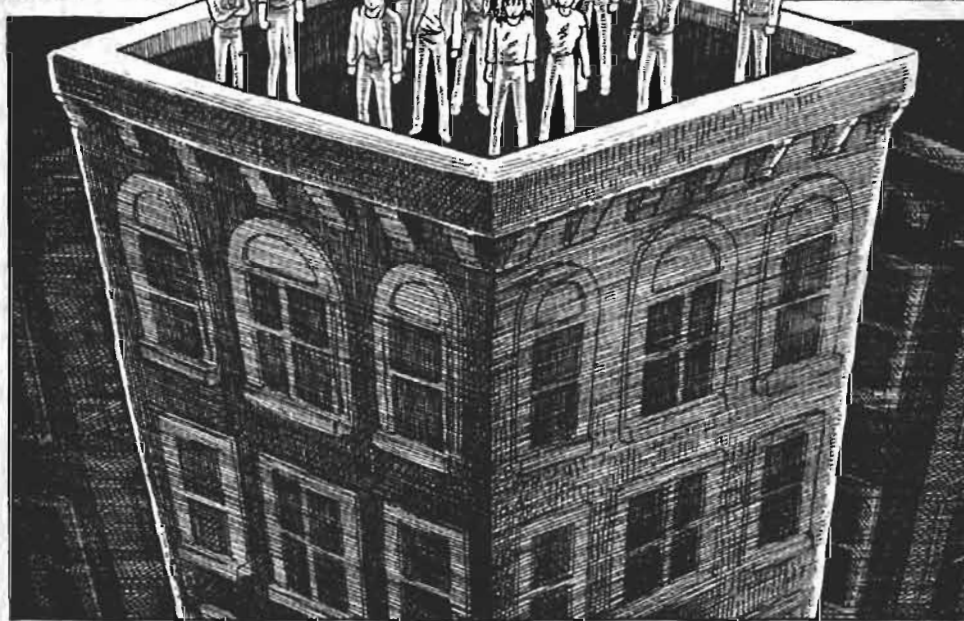
AND A GOOD NITE TO ALL!



AS SOON AS THE COPS LEAVE THE SQUATTERS AND ACTIVISTS ARE ABLE TO RE-ENTER THE SQUAT...



THE REST OF THE DAY IS SPENT CELEBRATING AS THE SQUATTERS HAVE FINALLY ACHIEVED A VICTORY IN THE SQUATTERS REVOLUTION...



SQUAT ART

YUPPIE GO HOME THE NATIVES ARE HOSTILE



COMING SOON



YUPPIE DEATH SQUAD



Welcome to our Humble POLICE STATE
EAST VILLAGE NYC



The SHADOW is the underground newspaper of the Lower East Side of New York City, rising up after the infamous Tompkins Square Pig Riot of August 1988 to fill the void left by the East Village Other and the RAT. Issues covered include government and police corruption and violence, people fighting the state, squatters' rights, homelessness, gentrification, marijuana rights, Anarchy, and MORE!! Current and past issues are available by mail for \$1.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Please send to SHADOW PRESS, P.O. Box 20298, New York, N.Y. 10009.