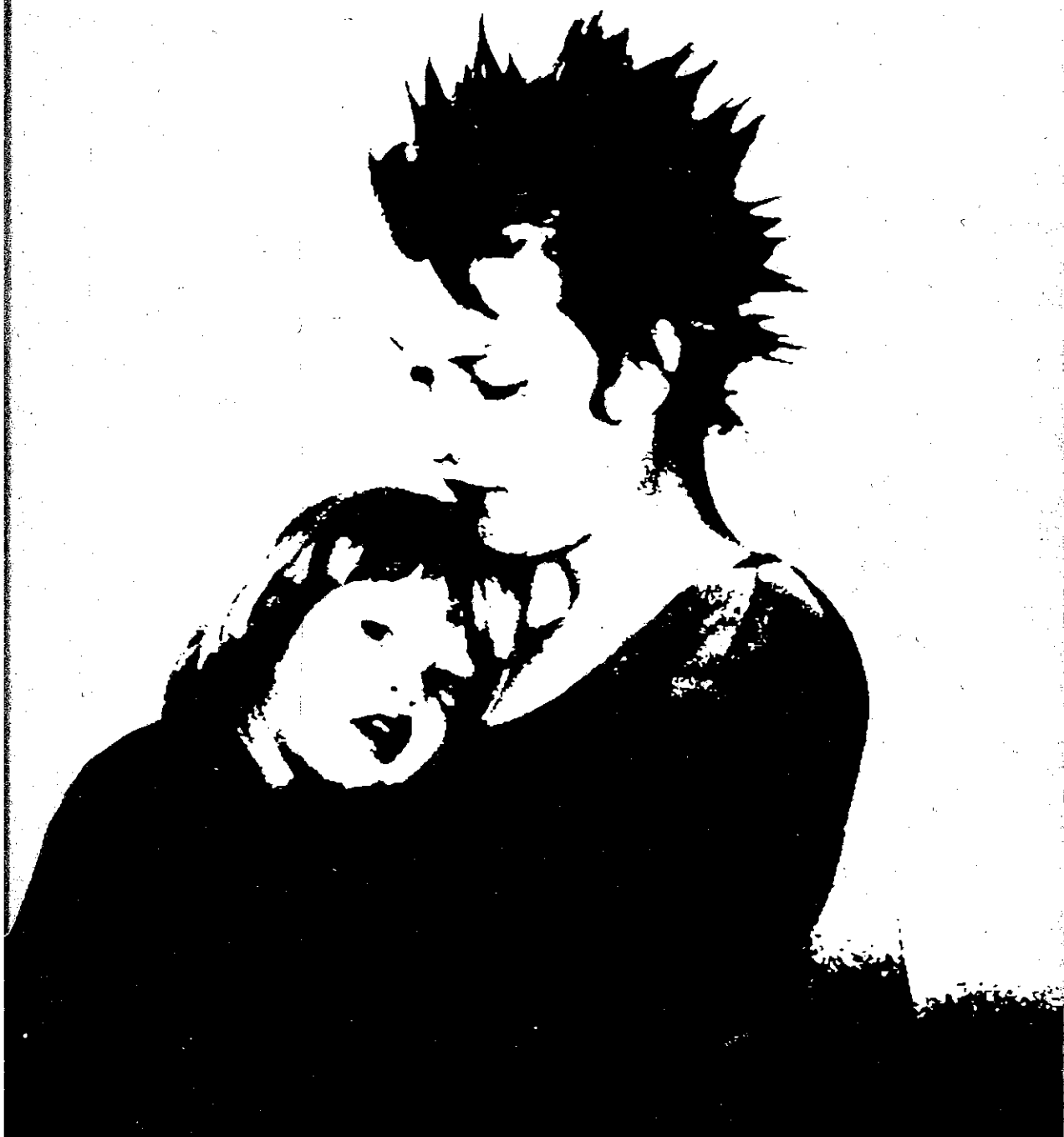


THE FUTURE GENERATION

The Zine-Book for Subculture Parents, Kids, Friends & Others

CHINA MARTENS



"The original punk parent zine."

—Ariel Gore, Hip Mama

THE FUTURE GENERATION

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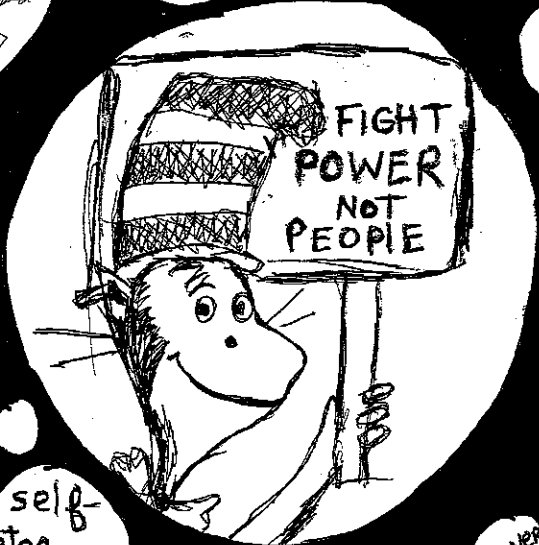


#5,
part II

Question
AUTHORITY



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IDEAS

AND

Action



self-
determined

Kid

power

Issue Five

Part 2

Discipline

INTRODUCTION



The Future Generation is an attempt by me (China) to start an Alternative Parents Communication-Network. This zine is 'bout being A PARENT + about CHILDRENS LIBERATION. WANT to contribute?

ISSUE FIVE: "Violence" (a three PART thing)

Last week, a child about to turn seven was hit in the crossfire and she died. She had been playing on the sidewalk when two men started to argue and shot at each other, hitting her. That was on the otherside of town. But just two blocks from my house, another pointless death happened last month. Three kids, ages fifteen and one thirteen, beat to death a young man with his own baseball bat. Some kids from their school stood around and chanted, "kill, kill, kill, ". Not too long ago, a similar thing happened. People sat in front of the television with glee, shouting "kick ass America, Americas number one" as they watched the bombs drop on Iraq.

So, because of stuff like this, I decided issue five would be about understanding some causes of violence and suggesting ideas on child-raising that would reduce violence in this society.

ISSUE FIVE, PART II: "Discipline"

Most Modern institutions in our Country today teach it is wrong to hit children and recomend other forms of dicipline. The "Gilmartin Report" says that children who are spanked tend to be nervous and be slower in learning things, that harsh punishment leads to a decrease in family communication and is strongly associated with the development of a low self image in children. That violence begets more violence. But on the other hand, it can also create chronic passivity in children, a "follower" mentality.

But the "progressive" discipline recomendad over spanking tends to be a kind of mindfuck instead. It is intended to get similiar results through creating an established order around the person, the atmosphere of submission. This mind controll is always backed up of course, ultimately with force if the first technique fails. Franz Fanon was the person I read which said something like that. He added in colonial countries, the agents of government speak the language of pure force, after he said Americans are mindfucked into being controlled, and it is a lighter task that way. Still as I look around me, seeing children being hit everyday, it would appear the lower classes still use physical punishment over rationalizations. As Colin Ward suggests, the child born into the lowest social bracket has everything stacked against him including his parents' principles of child upbringing.

"Discipline is a branch of Religion. Lack of trust in ones own self; an outside force will compel goodness and truth."

—A. S. Neill

"A child learns quick, from the hatred they find. The children are bred with your pain. Soon they'll destroy, your domain."

—Septic Death

Punishment:

There's Never A Need To Punish Children!

If one wanted to not just prevent abuse but actually do good for a child, one would suspend all punishment. There is no reason to punish children. Time-out (making a child sit on a chair by her/himself to think over what s/he has done wrong) is as different from spanking as wage-slavery is from bond-slavery. Different all right. But not good enough, not freedom. Time-outs are inefficient and they operate on the same principles

as spanking: to guide a child through fear and obedience. What constructive pattern does it teach?

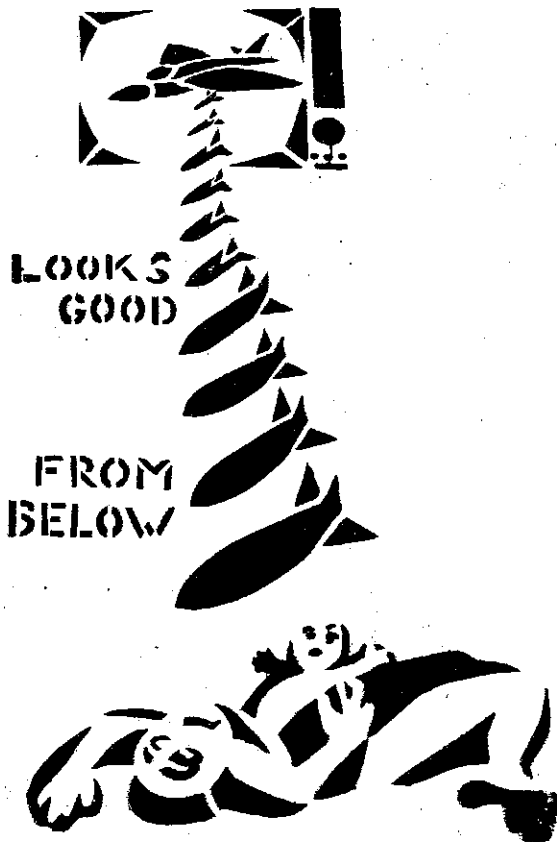
I was reading a paper from a college student who volunteered at a woman's shelter where she watched children. She wrote that discipline was the only part of her job with the kids that made her uncomfortable but that it was necessary and done in the peaceful method of Time-outs in order to protect everyone's security. The children, many victims of domestic violence, were told that this was a safe place. Yet I feel the two examples she gave of using this form of discipline could have been handled much better.

One reason she gave time out was to a child who wouldn't share crayons, after she told him that everyone must share. This is ridiculous to me. To dominate someone into sharing when true sharing comes from a honest feeling to do so—not because someone bigger makes you.

Another reason she gave to use time-out was because a child hit another child. When you remove a child to be punished by sitting on a chair by itself, you can bet that child is not going to be feeling compassion or sorry that it hurt another. No, most likely the child will feel a little angry at you for putting it there. The child hasn't learned a better way to deal with conflict and probably will go on feeling justified in it's aggressive actions. You have robbed the child of the opportunity to learn and feel compassion and tried instead to make fear of punishment by a higher power the motivation to not hurt others. In addition, you have reinforced the lesson that the most important thing is just not to get caught, not that you shouldn't do things that hurt others.

I would prefer to treat this incident as a fact of life and just deal with it. For example: we were at the playground and my daughter wanted to play with a slightly angry older boy who was building sand structures. She came up to him and he was not receptive to her. He threw sand at her. My first reaction was to let them deal with it themselves. She throws sand back. He then takes a lot of sand and throws it at her face and into her eyes. She cries out in pain. "Oh Clover", I crouch by her side with one arm around her and my other hand wiping the sand out of her eyes, nose, and mouth until she is all cleaned up. I comfort her until she feels better. The boy watches this. Then I turn to him, "The sand hurt her." She sees me tell the boy

NO WAR



Sabrina Jones, World War III

this. She resumes playing in the sand, this time he doesn't bug her. She doesn't get as close to him but in the course of the next hour of enjoyable play in the sand they sometimes comment to each other and look at the structures each other build. I give the boy a little attention, because a little is about all he wants from me, over the pyramids he is building. When we leave we wave goodbye to him and I sense that he is slightly less angry then when we arrived; he's had a good time in the sand; and no one has attacked him and blamed him for things. He obviously must be having a hard time so I feel it is important for us to be calm and decent to him.

The children were able to resume their play, troubles were moved through. He had the opportunity, to perhaps, feel compassion for what his actions caused in Clover. He saw my nurturing behavior rather than my first reaction to be with punishment, telling him he was bad, and the extraction of my child. Children need to deal with the realities of conflict. They have us on their side looking out for them but one day they will be on their own with no parents to intervene. The sad thing is when small incidents are treated with big reactions. The situation I just described to you is common, many problems are on this scale. Can you start to see why I believe in completely suspending punishment?

My motivation is parental love and to get results. I learned how to handle this playground problem by watching another parent's reaction to a similar incident when my daughter was younger (a toddler) and the situation was reversed. She pulled another toddler down three feet to the ground, as she scrambled to get over him and up the monkey bars. The parent comforted their child and then told my daughter how falling had hurt him. Obviously, from the look on her face, she did think about the harm that she had caused when she saw his tears. What is more, as they played together, she never did that to him again. She was bigger than him and had learned about her own strength. (Toddlers can act with a youthful egotism and not be aware of consequences of their actions on others. This is what we help them learn.) Meanwhile we didn't treat the smaller child as more fragile than he was. He was comforted and able to resume his playing and was fine. Kids take their bumps and mishaps in stride. That is how

it is with little kids on the playground. My child was that little when she was hurt senselessly by older children once in a while. But you must deal with the situation and not completely shelter your child. Let them step out on their own a little bit. As a whole, I believe there could be a lot less violence in our culture, yet we have to deal with the reality of it.

Violent Physical Force: Culturally Unacceptable

If spanking children was culturally unacceptable, adults who go over the accepted amount of physical punishment and land their children in the hospital, would know it's not ever alright to hit children, so the line of a spanking and a beating would not be as easily slipped over.

I've read that corporal punishment is devoid of constructive education value, since it cannot provide a sense of security and non-arbitrary authority. Rarely, if ever, is corporal punishment administered for the benefit of the child, for it serves the immediate needs of the attacking adult who is seeking relief from his uncontrollable anger and stress. Physical attack by an adult on a weak child is not a sign of strength!

Not a day goes by that I don't hear something of the likes of "I'm going to bust your ass" or "If you don't be good for grandma she will give you a beating". No—laugh the children—We will run away. It is just normal threats and doesn't even scare the kids; its not even uttered with malice.

Yet I can see it is a major preoccupation for children, as in their games they often reenact adult's treatment of them. They gather together and beat a doll—saying it has been bad. Then when they see me they suddenly stop and hug the doll, calling it good. They talk of good, bad, and monsters often.

Spanking perpetuates dependence on spanking for discipline. The child will run carelessly in the absence of the person who spansks it, the child will not listen to words of warning or common sense. This I see just from my own experience. You have lost the opportunity to reason with each other.

When I was in Jamaica, I saw a child whose mother sells fruit in the market playing around and annoying a passerby when the man goes to whack the child in annoyance. The child crouched and picked up a stone to hurl at him. Then the man picked the child up in the air and was going

to beat him—the boy's mother wasn't there to defend him. It all escalated so fast I was yet to utter a word when a Rastafarian came forth and pulled the boy back down. He said "Don't hit the child, you are like the white slave master beating a slave in days of old. Reason with him."

Stories Of Our Past

How much do we define ourselves from the stories our parents told us about what we were like as children? A man who was beaten for breaking the television as a child, says he believes children need to be yelled and spanked so they can learn right from wrong. A girl is told that she never was any good—and wonders if it's true. A woman told me she always has gotten mad a lot—she threw many temper tantrums as a child. "Well, you were just strong willed," I say. My child is strong willed. But I don't ever really remember her throwing temper tantrums, not kicking on the floor and all that. Of course I've seen her rage and she's cried a lot. But if I was saying no to her needs and not respecting her she would have lots of frustrated temper tantrums.

Many people do not know they contain self-motivation for they have never been given the opportunity. They think the authority of their parents saved them from getting in trouble, and therefore, from their experiences, they will use authority over their children.

Every Mother Is A Single Mother

Don't put all the blame on mothers when they yank the little ones arm up and pull him along from the "magical crack in the sidewalk filled with

life he was exploring. A verbal barrage of abuse sputtering from her wicked lips, possibly scarring him for eternity, robbing him of all of the precious wonder found in every tiny human life." (As I read in a children's rights publication)


Yes, I have heard a mother call her kid a brat for kicking a clod of snow; another tell her son that "You can't get through this life without a beating, you have to learn right from wrong" as she hit him for getting tired on a bus ride.

But I have also been there. Been a mother as well as a child. Have you? And it hurts like hell to be turned into a bitch, hurting your child on top of the hurt you feel for being in an overwhelming situation.

I don't think the abuse done to children can be lessened until there is more support for mothers in this society and responsibility taken for including the children in this society.

Class-Conscience Children's Liberation

Once you believe in respecting a child's decisions and in laying off them—you find there is more to it than just a frame of mind and getting the old harmful patterns you grew up with out of your soul. You find your environment may be making you act in ways you don't want to and giving you stress. If you don't have the money to buy respect, space, and attention for your kids—you're out of luck. If you do have that kind of money you should consider the walled garden you're living in and that we are all in this together and affect each other. Of course I am talking about the city living that I am familiar with. Here in Baltimore, Head Start programs for poor kids have



**KIDS ARE
PEOPLE
TOO...**

From "Freedom Voice"

been cut completely in the summer and reduced to half days in the fall. I really wonder what I am supposed to do about Clover's environment. A friend told me that the ratio of funding for a rich white school in the county compared to a poor inner city black school is 6 to 1. Their schools get six times as much funding, while even in South Africa the ratio is 3 to 1. So you don't have to look far for apartheid, do you?

I've read A. S. Neill—saying "I agree, I agree" but I can't let both of us be free. I can't when she is screaming at me in the supermarket and when I am tired walking home. I can't when she demands more than I can give and keeps me from writing. It seems then that she is oppressing me although

I know it's not her fault. And then I'm oppressing her. I think I have it a lot better because I am in the "subculture". Some people have said, "How can I let my child run free when you know the mortality rates for young inner city black boys like my own?" A. S. Neill was working in a privileged situation, but children's liberation ideals still work for us here, its just everyone's specific problems must be dealt with. When we talk of changing how we raise our children and of changing society to be more just and inclusive, we cannot ignore the differences in class, gender and race. We are not all alike, and we do not all have the same amount of privilege—this is important to recognize as we set about the task to make this a more free and less violent world, for everyone.

more than I can give, and keeps me

**IF YA GOT SOMETHIN'
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE GOOD**

**IF YA GOT NOTHIN'
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE
BAD...**

**ASK SANTA
CLAUS**



R. COBB

KEYS TO A HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM :

sunshine

fresh
air

CLEAN
WATER
uncontaminated
soil



PLENTY OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

EAT WHOLE, NATURAL FOODS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, FRESH, IN SEASON, ORGANIC AND
AN EMPHASIS ON GREEN LEAFY VEGETABLES. EAT RAW OR SLIGHTLY STEAMED.

WHOLE GRAINS

NO DAIRY

NO FACTORY FARMED MEAT

(INTERPRETING SYMPTOMS OF PESTICIDE POISONING AS "THAT BUG GOING AROUND" HAS BEEN

AVOID SUGAR : REFINED SUGAR CONSUMPTION WEAKENS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND HAS BEEN
PLICATED IN A NUMBER OF SERIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER AND MENTAL ILLNESS.

GOING
ON FOR
30 YRS)

NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, COFFEE.

GET ADEQUATE REST AND EXERCISE.

NO DRUGS AND VACCINATIONS WHEN POSSIBLE.

HAPPINESS WILL BOOST YOUR RESISTANCE TO DISEASE.

TAKE SUPPLIMENTS AS NEEDED: GARLIC, AFALFA, VITAMIN C, ECT.