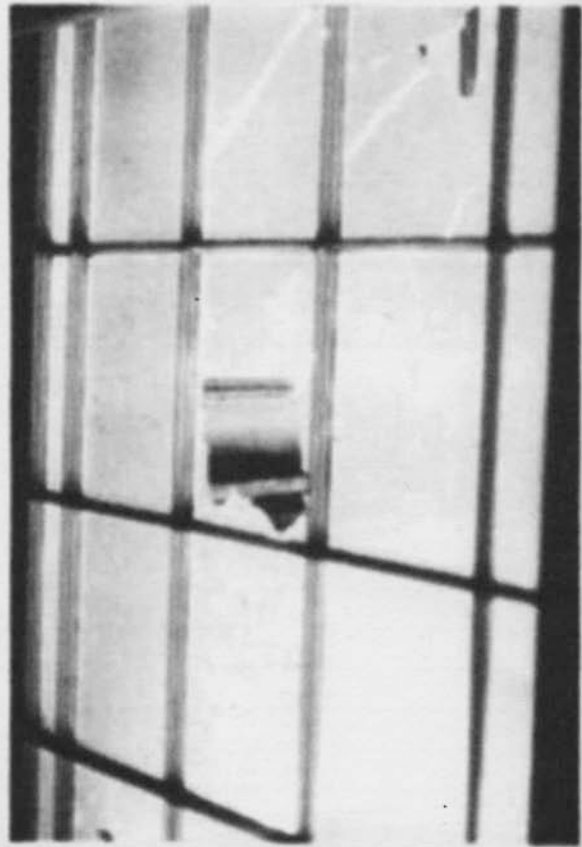



272

PLAY



**IS A REVOLUTION-
ARY ACTIVITY....**



BEAT THE VANDALS...

Extended
with the Coughtrie range of Polycarbonate fittings

low Coughtrie have extended the range of fittings with diffusers or covers made in polycarbonate, the new well-nigh unbreakable plastic. So Local Authorities now have a wise selection in fighting the high cost of replacement caused by vandalism.

We say "well-nigh" unbreakable because we do not claim they are bullet-proof. At the same time you are welcome to try a 5 lb. club hammer on them. We did, and we didn't have much success! It will pay you handsomely to visit for full details of the Coughtrie polycarbonate range.



Let's Tackle Vandalism

Men are men - "Hooligans" are sheep
Be a man - not a sheep



I WANNA BE JUST LIKE MY BIG BRUVVER!

The Vandal

■ ■

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN DAD

Cyprien Gaillard wurde 1980 in Paris (Frankreich) geboren. Er lebt und arbeitet in Paris / Cyprien Gaillard was born in Paris (France) in 1980. He lives and works in Paris



10 Developers as vandals

Dan Cruickshank

"I weep for you," the Walrus said: "I deeply sympathise" With silt and mud he sorted out THOSE OF THE LARGEST SIZE, Holding his pocket handkerchief Before his streaming eyes.

"LIVERS" said the Carpenter, "You've had a pleasant run!" Shall we be trotting home again? But answer came there none— And this was scarcely odd, because They'd eaten every one ! ! .

In a sense, Lewis Carroll's profoundly observed episode of the Walrus and the Carpenter, with their apparent sadness but inexorable appetites, epitomises one type of contemporary large-scale vandalism. This is official vandalism in the name of 'development', or more euphemistically 're-development' which is very often full of regret for the fact that it has been destroying, and is threatening always to destroy, structures which are not only of architectural and historical value, but of considerable worth as environmental assets. As very real assets such buildings should be carefully and lovingly conserved but, some may ask, is their official destruction really vandalism? From the developers' viewpoint could it not be slum clearance? After all, development, which always implies improvement when it is by no means necessarily so, does demand land, and sometimes sacrifice. Our case is that in too many instances, after specific examples have been thoroughly examined in their context, what has happened is vandalism and this chapter consists of a series of case histories which illustrate our contention. All but one of the cases are drawn from London, but they typify what is happening throughout Britain and indeed, throughout the world. They illustrate vandalism, often almost tearfully carried out, allegedly only because of the pressing needs of 'the many'—for the so-called 'public good'. But the 'public' is made up of 'persons' and it is now becoming fairly clear that much of our new urban environment is increasingly less suited to the all-round needs of human beings. Because of that, any environmental asset which may have been handed down from our predecessors must be conserved, not for pleasure only, but because of genuine psychological necessity and those who destroy such assets, for whatever reason, must be classified as vandals. Part of the problem is that not enough people, including the vandals themselves, recognise what constitutes vandalism. A youngster who pulls a telephone kiosk to pieces, or rips up a railway seat, or wantonly carves his name on an ancient monument, or runs berserk over a building site smashing everything that can be smashed, is readily and universally classified as a vandal. But developers who employ a demolition firm to bulldoze historically and socially irreplaceable structures are seen as business

men, or as a democratically responsible authority, carrying out legitimate business. Moreover, the vandalism of the frustrated youngster who for no apparent reason seems intent on smashing up his own immediate environment, is seldom related to the vandalistic mode if by the developers, or to the unacceptable environment so widely provided by development.

And that brings us to another aspect of the problem. It is not so widely appreciated how important environment is; what effects it has on people and their behaviour; or to what extent actual structures may significantly influence environment and people. To illustrate this bit point, let us take an example which because of its extreme nature may serve to reveal the truth. Ask yourself, what would the City of London be if St Paul's and other churches were destroyed, if the Mansion House and the Tower of London and the Monument and many smaller but no less significant structures were all demolished? Without this, would there be a City of London as we know it?

True, they are only buildings, but with the passage of time how many more they have become. And, particularly because so much of the City has been lost, have they not become symbols of continuity whose existence give us a certain environmental solace and sense of security? Fine old buildings in other places do the same. It must be added, too, that mostly they are pleasant, and even beautiful, to look at, what a surely an added reason for their conservation.

But when we ask which buildings should be conserved, and why, there is in fact no real problem. In Britain the government itself has faced and dealt with the matter. It has laid down that structures deemed to be of public importance may be listed as being of Historic or Architectural Interest and once they are listed may not legally be destroyed or altered without official permission. Similarly, provision exist in Europe and America, but for the sake of example let us look at the British scene.

Most buildings dated before 1700 if in anything like their original condition are now listed. Buildings dated between 1700 and 1840 are also generally listed if they have remained more or less in their original condition. Exceptional buildings constructed after 1840, or those that are the work of well known architects, are also listed. There are three grades of listed structures, and the vast majority are listed Grade I. Since the 1968 Town and Country Planning Act the penalties for destroying these listed buildings are:

"(a) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term of not more than three months or a fine of not more than £250, or both; or (b) on conviction or indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or fine, or both; and, in determining the amount of any fine . . . the court shall take particular regard to any financial benefit which has accrued or appears likely to accrue to him in consequence of the offence."

31 Completed glass, judiciously framed in steel



