

## Cockburn Bruce

### "The Trouble With Normal 335"

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Strikes across the frontier and strikes for higher wage  
Planet lurches to the right as ideologies engage  
Suddenly it's repression, moratorium on rights  
What did they think the politics of panic would invite?  
Person in the street shrugs -- "Security comes first"  
But the trouble with normal is it always gets worse

Callous men in business costume speak computerese  
Play pinball with the 3rd world trying to keep it on its  
knees  
Their single crop starvation plans put sugar in your tea  
And the local 3rd world's kept on reservations you  
don't see  
"It'll all go back to normal if we put our nation first"  
But the trouble with normal is it always gets worse

Fashionable fascism dominates the scene  
When ends don't meet it's easier to justify the means  
Tenants get the dregs and landlords get the cream  
As the grinding devolution of the democratic dream  
Brings us men in gas masks dancing while the shells  
burst  
The trouble with normal is it always gets worse  
(Toronto 30/6/81)

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