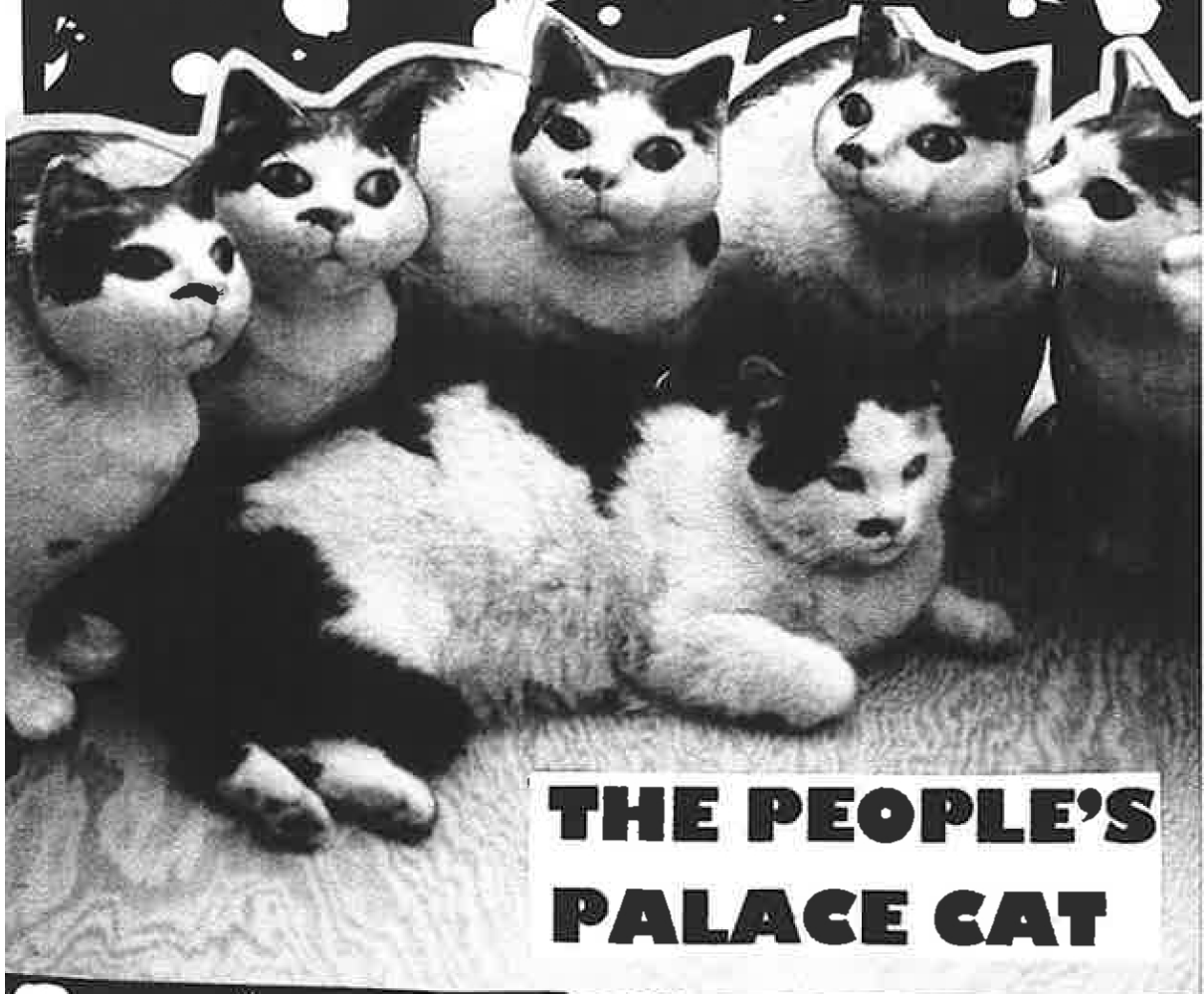


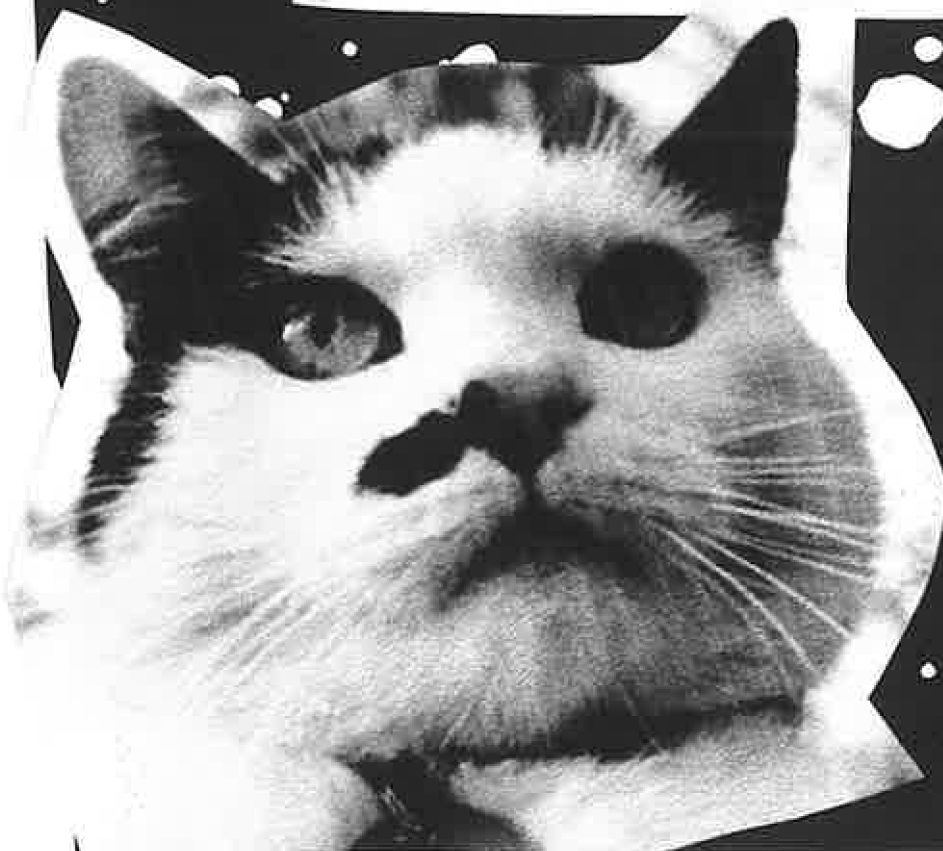
SISTER SMUDGE



**THE PEOPLE'S
PALACE CAT**

**Viva Sister
Smudge!**

A key figure in Glasgow radical history, Smudge served the city well as both rodent operative and figurecat for museum worker picket lines and several campaigns against closures and privatisation.



In the 1980s she was made a full member of the GMB, the only cat to ever hold this position.

SMUDGE VS TROTS

In 1987, following an event in the People's Palace commemorating the centenary of the Russian Revolution, Smudge went missing. Suspicion fell on the event organisers, Militant (a Trotskyist tendency within the Labour Party) who were issued a letter by Elspeth King, curator of the People's Palace and owner of Smudge.



King's letter to Billy Blackstock of Militant demanded Smudge's return: "Our cat Smudge has not been seen since your event in the winter gardens on Saturday night and we can only conclude that she was taken by one of your members."



You may know that she is the most famous cat in Scotland. She has lived most of her life here and will not survive long within the confines of a private household."



Militant denied all charges of Smudge theft, saying to the press: "We reject any suggestion that the organisers of the event have been involved in 'kidnapping', 'abducting' or otherwise removing Smudge from her habitat."

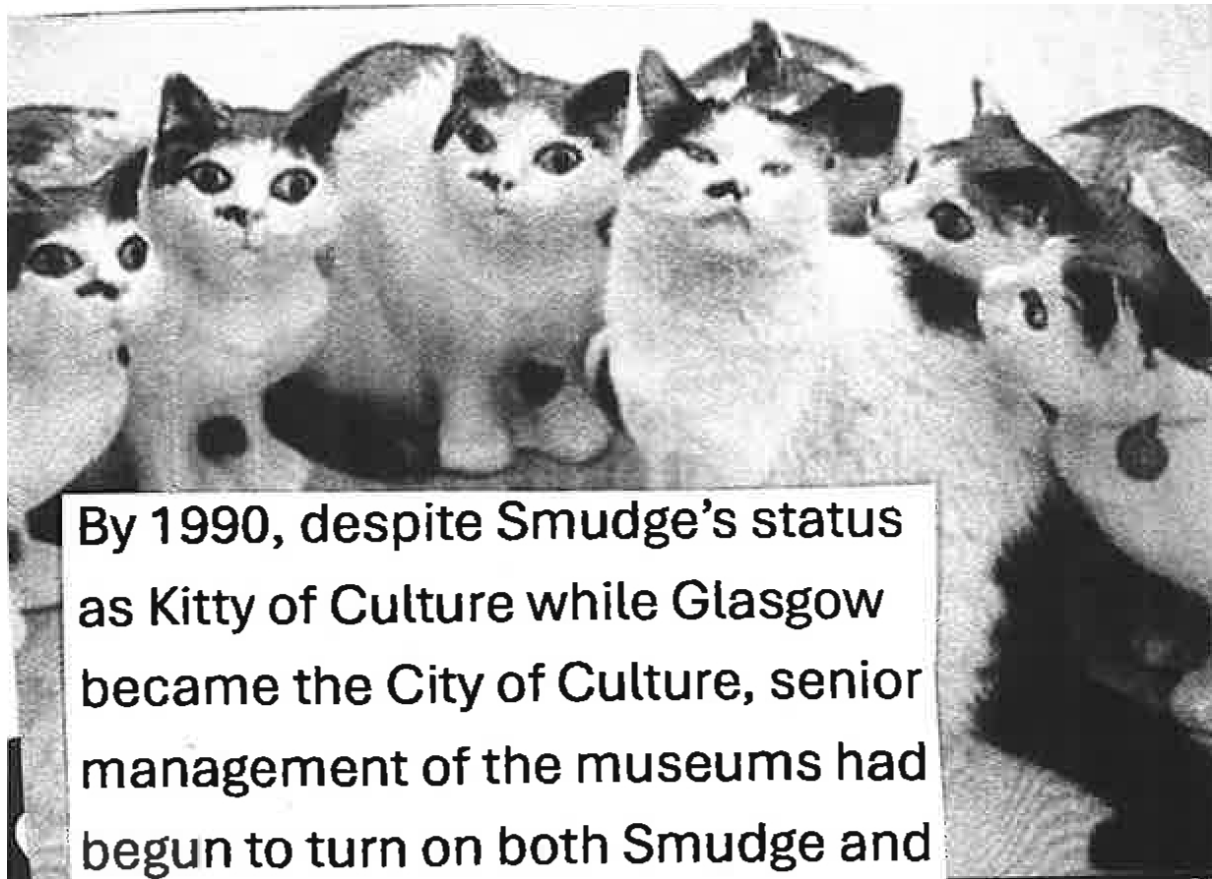


Smudge reappeared three weeks later. Her whereabouts during that time remains a mystery. Elspeth King said "I am so relieved that she is back. People have been so kind in trying to help us find her."



Militant organisers said "It's great. Obviously she just went walkabout. Maybe she didn't like the speeches that were being made at our night, but I'm sure nobody would steal her. We believed the loss of Sister Smudge would be a bitter blow to the people of Glasgow and the entire trade union movement. As a member of the General and Municipal workers union Smudge has a well-deserved reputation as a more capable trade unionist than half of the TUC general council."





By 1990, despite Smudge's status as Kitty of Culture while Glasgow became the City of Culture, senior management of the museums had begun to turn on both Smudge and Elspeth King. Both departed to take up work in Stirling, a gain for them but a huge loss to Glasgow.

Smudge died in 2000. Her long life is commemorated in this plaque at one of the doors to the People's Palace.



Sister Smudge
(1970 - 2000)
was a unionised employee
of the People's Palace
and the only cat ever to be a full
member of the GMB Union

**Radical Glasgow Tours
2024**