

IMPROVISING

Machinists

use their air-guns
which they have fitted with 3-foot-long aluminum
1/4-inch-diameter barrels
for many things.
As their machines run,
they stick the tips of the barrels down
into round cutter holders or whatever weird
cavities they can find on the tooling
they are using or the parts they are cutting to imitate
whistles or horns blowing at shrill
shrieking decibal levels that have their fellow machinists
cringing and covering their ears and trembling with nerves,
and they fit
those halves of cardboard tubes the cutters come in
onto the tips of their air-gun barrels and fire them
like missiles with deadly high-velocity stinging accuracy
into each other's backs whenever
they can.

Only pussies

use those air-guns strictly to blow the metal chips
off their machine tables.

IN TOP SHAPE

As part of its stripping down to a "lean and mean"
status
Goodstore Aircraft Company has closed
2 of its plants and moved all of the tools and instruments
and cutters from its tool cribs in those plants
over to the tool crib in our plant where
the tools and instruments and cutters
sit stacked in chaotic piles and thrown together
haphazardly in unmarked boxes and stuffed
randomly into upstairs drawers and cabinets
where they can never be found for us machinists
by the one lone tool crib attendant who is left
after Goodstone laid off the rest of them
in yet another step in its relentless march
toward supreme stripped down
competitive efficiency.