

JULY 1980....NO.5...

Spence

# Outta Control

## News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective



OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

INSIDE ARMAGH PRISON

## WHO GUARDS THE GUARDS?

Margaretta D'Arcy and Liz Lagrue have now spent one month on the 'dirt protest' in Armagh jail. They refused to pay fines after being arrested during a picket outside Armagh jail. They were sent to prison, By going to prison they will

- \*maintain the right to picket Armagh jail
- \*show solidarity with the thirty inside who are on a no-wash protest for political status
- \*help break the isolation and censorship surrounding this protest.

The following article is based on the first monthly visit of Margaretta, who incidently is the only Southern Citizen in the North's jails;

The most striking aspect of Armagh Prison A-Wing (where 32 protestors are) is

the prisoner's vulnerability. They are surrounded by men - the male screws; the doctor, the six prisoners from Crumlin Road (who are replacing the usual two who do odd jobs) and of course Scott, the prison governor. The frightening aspect of this is the lack of control of the screws, Scott either turns a blind eye to, or encourages, the intimidation.

As for the N.I. Office and Westminster, they want the protest defeated, and give the prison governor sufficient freedom to achieve that. Margaretta D'Arcy, after her first week on the protest, went so far as to say she had the feeling that male screws could come into their cells, rape and then hang the women without being able to stop them.

Although only the women screws have keys they are often accompanied by the men on thier wing duties, and constantly threaten violence using the men..

*Continued on inside of next page*

## SOME RESPONSES

I read the two issues you sent us and was pleasantly surprised. There were some articles and commentaries I really liked. Your paper looks like it could be sold at any newstand. I also have the feeling that you write for a very large public. R.F. for the Free Socialist (Amsterdam).

*On a different line 'their' drug laws and education KILL drug users especially young or inexperienced drug users. Because they treat dope, mushrooms, etc. as the same as smack and downers, and other chemical shit, people who don't know about drugs see no real difference between them. So some kid turns on to dope---great---next week he/she can't find any dope...but someone offers them some other junk. The kid says.. 'Dope was nice and didn't do me any harm, therefore this stuff won't do me any harm'. As a result, all the recent deaths among Dublin teenagers from OD's, and a frighteningly high rate of smack addiction among young folk here.*  
Billy (Dublin).

What's the situation like now between anarchists and marxist-leninists? It's a pity the labels couldn't be set aside for a few years-- after all, the other side can come together when THEIR interests are threatened. I don't know much about anarchism, but it would be close enough to my way of thinking on giving power to every section of the community....self-reliance must be the answer. E.G. Portlaoise Jail.

*I'm delighted to hear that so much literature is being turned out at the moment, but I haven't seen any of it, and am unlikely to.*

N.Murray...Curragh Military Detention Centre, Curragh, Co. Kildare.

A possible and practical notion for solving the 'so-called' housing situation....destroy all the records in all the estate agents offices....overnight they end up not knowing who owns what. Then move into these empty houses en masse.

G.Fawkes (Belfast).

Excellent value at 5p...and,if as promised it appears at least monthly, it will be an important addition to the anarchist press. (Peace News, Nottingham).

*Myself, I've been waiting years for a paper to sus out exactly the right length for itself. If more papers concentrated on making every page as interesting as yours, they'd not only save a lot of paper, but they might be something to look forward to.*

D.C. (Rising Free, London).

## CRASS

When I heard the single from CRASS and the POISON GIRLS, and read the sleeve notes, and laughed at the poster, and wore the badges, I thought....this is great...a real contribution towards a revolutionary anarchist culture.....full of force, energy, clarity, and regeneration.

The music approaches a new form with which to carry the anarchist content. It conjures up the notion of an explosive, dynamic, theatrical performance. The total effect of the music is shattering. The sleeve-notes aren't your usual bull-shit about the personalities in the group.

Instead,they explain the Persons Unknown case (about how the state tried unsuccessfully to put several anarchists behind bars) what anarchism is about, the address of your local anarchist group, and the lyrics of the songs.

Southern studios, poison girls, crass, and crass records have charged nothing for the production of the record. And Rough Trade are distributing it at cost, which means that apart from the cut that the record shops take, all the money goes towards the setting up of an anarchist centre in London. Single available from Good Vibes, Just Books or send to Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Road, London.....only 70p. Get one quick!





cont. from page one

Referring to the origins of the no-wash protest, Margaretta stated that the beatings by male screws on February 7th were deliberately set up. Scott and the screws knew a long time beforehand that there were uniforms in the cells, but used this as an excuse to draft the screws from Long Kesh, in full riot gear, to attack the women. The snooker cues in the common room had been previously removed to ensure the womens' defencelessness.

The attack, and subsequent 3 day denial of washing and toilet facilities, provoked the women on to the no-wash protest, which must have been anticipated by the authorities. It is interesting to note that the screws at that time were claiming for more money, which was subsequently realised with the extra duties and worse "working conditions"

In a similar way, the screws know and accept that there are always some cigarettes (of the thin roll-your-own variety) in the cells. But every so often they use them as an excuse to raid the cells and beat the women.

When describing the present conditions (which are now on a par with the H-Blocks) Margaretta referred to them as trying to get used to a different world. Everyone's previous standards and values had to be discarded. Most of the women are pale and losing weight. Many of them are seriously ill, (especially Maria McClenagran Dolores Price, and Pauline McLaughlin) The doctor is not so much malicious as incompetent. The previous doctor employed in Armagh, had been accused of medical malpractice with drugs, and the present one is alcoholic. Whether consciously malicious or not, the result in suffering is the same.

During the summer weather the conditions are exacerbated by the abundance of flies. The food usually bland, is shared with the flies which have just left the shit covered walls. Greenflies are found on the lettuce and a dead rat was recently seen lying outside a cell door.

The germs which these creatures carry are being passed on to the prisoners. Some

of the women have lost all taste and survive on bread and jam.

Although not as tangible there is an insidious effect on the personality. Apart from the conditions of protest which the women were forced on to-smell dirt, urine, shit, there is the continual intimidation, threatened and real, with insults, degradation, and the pushing and shoving.

This causes dehumanisation and a weakening of self-confidence. The womens personaliti & are being attacked, and they are being conditioned to accept a state of affairs which normally they wouldn't. It is only expected that people try to live with adverse conditions to maintain their sanity These women, Margaretta said, should not have been forced to such an extreme in their demand for political status.

It is vital that pressure be brought to bear on the N.I. Office on who "guards the guards" Demands should be made to allow wing visits by relatives, trade unions, journalists, civil rights groups etc. A precedent has been set by the Belfast Telegraph reporter (Sandra Chapman, who wrote a full page of what must be the most deceitful and opportunistic journalism - second only to UTV's Gary Gillespie on Counterpoints coverage of the H-Block Blocks) T.P.Coogan, editor of the Irish Times got in two weeks ago (the food improved on that occasion). However he was not collecting information for his paper but for a book which caused Liz Lagrue, in one of her letters, to accuse him of making money out of suffering. So other groups, especially the N.U.J. should now put pressure on the N.I. Office. Why have not the Writers Union and the Irish Playwritas Association, to both of which Margaretta belongs, taken up their members case publicly? Has their ink dried up?

*Birthday cards are usually allowed in, so readers should send cards to Margaret Nugent whose birthday is on 28th June, Shirley Devlin whose 3 years on the protest is on the same day and Margaretta D'Arcy won't mind a belated "Happy Returns" for June 14th last.*

## Fuck the Lyric

Theatre is 'the spectacle of the bourgeois or so you'd imagine judging by the theatrical offerings in Belfast. One hopeful sign has been what was known as the 'young Lyric', a group of young actors interested in developing their theatre not to ignore the reality around them. They performed the amazing 'Marat/Sade' in their Cromwell Rd. theatre. Unfortunately their director/dictator/father-figure-S.McCready intends putting the play on in the Lyric--the spectacle chamber! To date, two of the large cast have refused to bend, and won't be in on the performance.

Presumably neither will the original ending of the play, where all the inmates of the mental institution (where the play takes place) escape, run amok amongst the audience, only to be bludgeoned by the guards. The Lyric is NOT the place for a touch of realism.! Radical theatre in Belfast must wait a while longer.

## RIPP-OFF

Whether we like it or not, we all live in a class society. There are those who have, and those who have not...there are those who give the orders, and there's those who are expected to follow.

And there's property. A lot for the few, the rest for the many... but more and more, it becomes the basis of our very existence. Own, buy, consume as compensation for the daily grind.

Everything is there we are told we need, IF we have the money to 'buy' it. So to rip-off the rich to fulfill our needs is one conscious reaction. Ripping-off those who CANNOT afford it is another reaction. It is an anti-social act, it is the instinct of the rich, a product of their culture, not ours!

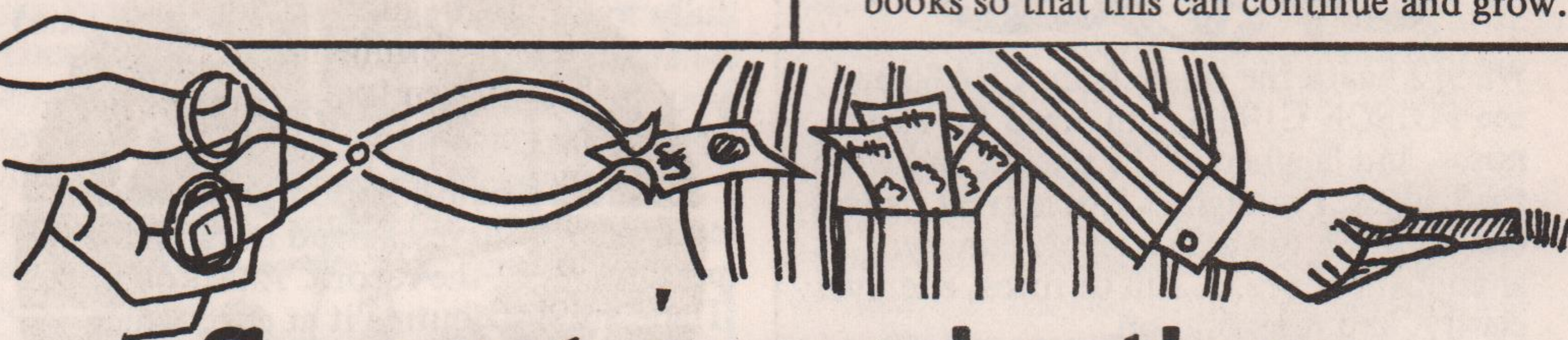
A short while back, the 'prisoners box' (with about £20 in coins) was ripped-off from Just Books. Money collected goes towards the cost of sending books to any prisoner who can ask. Just Books are asking for donations of free second-hand books so that this can continue and grow.

## JOINT PATROL

Following recent revelations in *Outta Control and Liberation* (Paris) about Haughey's drug-smuggling involvement; the Customs & Excise Service are also beginning to "spill the beans".

Mr McAodha, in a forthright speech, strongly attacked politicians for interfering in Customs work. He said: "The amount of interference by politicians in the day-to-day business of the Customs and Excise service is a cause of continuing worry and embarrassment to our members. It speaks volumes for their commitment to the rule of law when, apparently, senior men in Government make demands for favoured treatment for their friends and relatives, sometimes hiding their identity. It is unnecessary to elaborate on what this does for the morale of our members."

However this bunch of kill-joys are more concerned with improving their image and increasing their power, than with exposing the hypocrisy of the regime which puts people in prison for possession of drugs which they supply! Unfortunately "drugs being imported into, and through this country literally by the ton" is not helping Belfast street prices currently at £80 an oz. for imported hash!



## Support nurses' actions

There are about 450,000 nurses and midwives throughout Britain and N.Ireland, represented by 4 unions. On Thursday May 29th the Thatcherite government told a delegation of nurses representatives that they would get "not a penny more" than a 14% pay increase.

For too long the governments and the National Health Hierarchy have used and abused nurses. They show a total disregard for those very caring people who decided to take up nursing. Long after the doctor has dealt with the patient, it is the nurses who provide the support and comfort necessary for recovery. How many miners, power workers, dockers, drivers etc., have received attention from nurses at various times in their working lives and yet gone on to forget all about it? If there was the solidarity in the labour movement which there is meant to be, then the various unions with industrial clout would have come out in support of the nurses claims long ago. Instead of solidarity there has been on many occasions a pursuit of selfish sectional interests which was partly responsible for the "Day of Inaction" on May 14th.

In the struggle against the Thatcherite government the nurses will need all the support they can muster to win their claim. In pursuit of their aims they will initiate strikes, go-slows etc., which in this present economic/political climate is totally justified. To put the nurses down the state will use polarised journalists, reporters and other media people in their service to inundate people with large amounts of anti/nurse/anti-women propaganda. In the forefront of this pro-government campaign we will find their reactionary tabloids, the Sun, Star, and the Mirror. Remember the appalling coverage they gave the power workers, ambulance drivers and hospital ancillary workers when they went on strike?

So more than ever they will need the support of the general public. Don't stand on the sidelines, give the nurses all the support and solidarity you can and help them make the hospitals and the health service something worth having even in this rotten society. Sitting doing nothing is cynical and pathetic. Doing something we learn lessons, raise consciousness and go forward.

The newly-open Giro cafe in Gt. Victoria isn't all that bad when you're framed on a kid-napping charge & given 12 years... Martin Meehan

having their annual conference in Belfast... 1st - 4th July. Included

the locally-made film "Shell-Shock-Rock" is now showing in about northern punk





The Independent Broadcasting Authority are holding a public meeting in Belfast to hear evidence from the public about what kind of commercial channel the North should have. The licence to broadcast is up for grabs. Do we really have much influence in the decision on the type of television we want? What has Ulster Television's performance been like for the last twenty years? If Ulster Television loses the franchise who is the next in line?



#### UTV — Useless TV

And how has Ulster Television fared over the last twenty years? Ulster Television has contributed little in the way of understanding the situation in Northern Ireland. It has went out of its way to mystify and ignore events. There are numerous instances of Ulster Television (aided and abetted by the IBA) of censorship, trivialisation, distortion and lies about what is happening in the North. This has been borne out in documents such as "The British Media in Ireland — Truth: the first casualty" published by the Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland and "Media Misreports on Northern Ireland" by the Workers Research Bulletin.

Ulster Television have periodically opted from the rest of the network from broadcasting politically sensitive programmes. All right for the rest of Britain to watch but they have decided that it is not for the likes of us.

**WE ALL KNOW BROADCASTING IS BIASED.....**

Any resistance to the status quo is distorted all the time by the media—

**outta control  
supplement**

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C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

## TELEVISION: WATCHING BIG BROTHER

strikers, anti-nuclear, women issues. any resistance to the repressive nature of the State, is usually branded as siding with the terrorist,— The reason, the excuse, broadcasters put forward for consistent mis-reporting and blatant bias is the "National Interest". Throughout television and radio, inside the heads of men like Brian Young, Chairman of IBA, the ideology of "National Interest" is imprinted on his brain.

The idea of the National Interest is that politicians, Bosses and workers should be above "sectional" interests. Workers would work, bosses would take the profit made for them by the workers and politicians would be neutral — no matter how many shares, directorships and consultancies to top firms they hold. It says the government has to operate for the good of everybody, so that workers who militantly demand more than their allotted share are acting selfishly, unlike the bosses who take what they want anyway.

*In fact the National Interest is just a subtle way of maintaining things as they are. The "National Interest" is always, when it comes down to it, the bosses interest.....*

....currently its running at about 100% for bosses, 0% for everyone else!

Ulster Television's understanding of the economy is jobs, jobs, jobs. What Sir Such and Such says we need to boost employment. What nice American or German multi-national companies are kind enough to set up in local factories, what government grants are or are not being given to aid employment. Never a mention of who gains, who pockets, who owns, who controls, who decides what and where. Its not in the national interest to think about such things, so UTV don't!!

\* In the eyes of the TV companies, it's never in the "national interest" for a strike to be successful. Because for a strike to bite, it actually has to hurt the bosses. So TV always reports a strike as though it is the workers who are to blame for it, and who are making life difficult for the "public". Instead of it being the bosses who are to blame, and the workers using the only weapon they have.

\* It's in the "national interest" to support law and order. But who decides what is legal and what is not? The State. Who decides what is violence? Why does the television view of violence never include the State? How come the television can so clearly identify "terrorists" yet respect and favourably report the violence of transport planners, the violence of the armed forces, the violence of the housing authorities?

\* It's in the "national interest" to fight inflation. But who's putting up prices and inflation?

.....and so on.....

**HOW TELEVISION KEEPS US DIVIDED IN OTHER WAYS TOO**

\* It keeps people quiet and passive for, on average, three to four hours a day (that's more time than we go out, spend talking

with our family and friends, spend on hobbies or political or social action)

\* It maintains a continuous stream of propaganda aimed at keeping things as they are and maintaining the values of a "consumer" society. Most television people drive E-types and have large, perfect middle class houses and families.

\* It is used as a selective weapon against the working class — to break strikes or sit ins, to confuse and split workers at a critical moment.

\* It creates "popular heroes" — takes working class people away from their roots, glamorises them and encourages them to sell out.

\* It reinforces the isolation of families, each with its own TV, trapped within its own four walls, away from the support and friendship of a larger community.

#### THE IDEOLOGY OF BALANCE

Ulster Television say that they balance programmes. They are obliged to, either by Royal Charter or TV Act. THE WHOLE IDEA OF BALANCE IS NON-SENSE. It's a con, designed to distract people from the real issues. It makes no difference whether an SDLP MP is balanced by a Unionist MP. Neither of them represent working people anyway. And what is the point of balancing a discussion about police or army brutality once a year when the Professionals and the Sweeney are telling you every week what a great job the security forces are doing? Or the SAS can actually show you how to kill—live!

THE VERY IDEA of a "balanced discussion" makes it seem as though on every issue, there is an SDLP opinion and a Unionist opinion and the truth lies somewhere in the middle which is "what the TV thinks". It doesn't square with the fact that the interests of the State will always be in conflict with the people. It make it seem as though every problem can be solved as long as there are enough of the right people on telly talking about it. Its never you or me, its always our elected representatives. It reinforces the myth of doing NOTHING ourselves.

#### ITS A RECIPE FOR INACTION

The out and out right wingers like Paisley and Co know television is a vital front for their reactionary fight but they don't like the ideologies of National Interest and Balance, it sounds too liberal for them, a bit too egalitarian. They don't realise that that is television's strength. It's television's cloak of respectable "neutrality" which makes it such a persuasive propagandist for the system they want to keep.

THEY use our money to invade our homes every night with their lies and their distortions.

#### LOCAL CULTURE IGNORED

Ulster plays or films are rarely made by Ulster Television to display the vast reservoir of local talent of writers and actors. They are forced to emigrate to



find work. One of the Director's of Ulster Television shortsightedness and stinginess with money they have failed to act upon the world wide interest of programmes on Ireland, its social problems and its culture. They tell us about the huge amounts of money needed to make this or that but they are more concerned about paying out the profits to their shareholders at the end of each year.

Independent film makers in Ireland never get a look in and are forced to try and sell their films abroad.

Local script writers are completely discouraged when writing plays about the situation in Ireland. They know from experience the strict controls they would have to go through, the Ulster Television censors diluting any political content so that it becomes meaningless. Film directors within Ulster Television have a built in "self censorship".

Ulster Television has virtually given no coverage to young people or their culture except when it conforms to their ideas. Young pop groups from Ulster, although successful on the mainland were met with initial silence here and forced to emigrate to gain any recognition. Last ditch attempts like the pathetic Gloria Hunniford "Good Evening Ulster" do nothing to convince people they should keep Ulster Television.

So after twenty years of Ulster Television the licence "to print money" is supposedly up for bids.

#### WHO IS THE LOCAL OPPOSITION?

Despite the presence of such "front" personalities in Lord Dunleith consortium such as James Galway, Mary Peters, Frank Carson, Phil Coulter etc., what guarantee do ordinary people have that they will not get more of the same?

The main aim of the Northern Ireland Independent Television is to make a profit for their shareholders (not you or I) which depends on the advertising revenue. And in the end you can be sure they will not put on any programmes which might upset the companies who advertise — their basic concern is with ratings— BIG audiences make for BIG advertising revenues make for BIG profits. This means that sometimes there is a little more freedom in UTV for programme makers AS LONG AS THEY GET THE AUDIENCES — or, ironically because they get no audience. In addition, the pressure to get audiences makes for glossy slick rubbishy glib programmes which support the status quo.

And of course there is the IBA to make sure that they tow the line!

#### WHO AND WHAT ARE THE IBA

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is appointed by the Home Secretary. The IBA exists to make sure the companies it licences play the rules. The rules are laid down in the Television Act of 1954. They state among other things "3.1 (a) That nothing be included in the programmes which offend against good taste or decency or incite to crime or lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling or which contains any offensive reference to any living person."

Brave, sweeping words. But how is the public feeling judged to be offended? What facts are thought of as offensive reference to a living person? It is up to the IBA to decide.

Most decisions are taken by Authority officials, headed by Director General Brian Young (Eton and King's College Cambridge, ex head master of Charterhouse, author of a book called "Intelligent Reading"). They have clear, often unspoken guidelines. The TV companies know what is expected of them, so clashes don't occur very often. Sir Lew Grade withdrew a film on Michael Collins before the IBA had even commented. The "national interest" is protected; programmes maintain "proper balance in their subject matter" and society remains as unbalanced and privilege ridden as ever.



The Lady Plowden, DBE  
Chairman

#### WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES

Blease was formally the Northern Ireland Officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) and has been a leading official in Northern Irish trade unions for more years than many trade unionists in the North of Ireland care to remember.

His governorship of trade unionists in Ireland has born predictable fruits. Unemployment at three or four times the "British average", wage rates at less than two thirds the British average, strike rates the lowest in the UK and Catholic unemployment two and a half times that of the Protestants.

No one could accuse Billy Blease of having the imagination, the ability or the power to be responsible for all this. But he had done little to change it or to fight against it. During his leadership trade unionism in Northern Ireland has avoided taking any political position on the national question of the activities of the British Army.

Such is the record of Billy Blease, with one omission. Blease is also director of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and the only member of that body who lives in Northern Ireland. He is looked to on the IBA as the "Irish expert".



Lord Blease  
of Cromac

Mr. Christopher  
Bland

Another director is Tom Carbery, a former Lt Colonel in the Public Relations directorate of the British Army in India; there is Christopher Bland who is a former director in the Government's Northern Ireland Finance Corporation and a former officer in the British Army's Ulster Regiment, the Royal Inniskilling Dragoons and has an impressive Loyalist background.

There are the usual bunch of Lords and Ladies and the whole cabal is headed by Lady Plowden, former director of Trust Houses Forte whose union busting activities have become something of a legend in right wing circles.

#### SO WHAT DO WE WANT?

##### WOMEN IN MEDIA

Every day of their lives, women are bombarded with unreal and degrading images of women. In plays they are men's stooges; in advertising all consuming, perfect companions/wives/mothers or their bodies used as a sales gimmick; in news programmes they are ignored or treated with paternal amusement. Women are rarely shown as real, thinking, working people and then their hard won programmes are considered of 'minority interest', less important than farming. T.V. is run by middle class males to them women are just pawns in their power game.

The Women in Media group in Belfast try to communicate women's issue through using their own media, pamphlets, posters and video.

For the past two year, Just Books in the centre of Belfast, have been operating a co-operative bookstore. They sell books, magazines, pamphlets, which are not generally available through local bookshops. This literature is produced by groups who have no access to the public through the mass media because of their controversial or radical content.

##### COMMUNITY MEDIA.

For the past few years Community Media in Belfast have been conducting experiments pioneering the use of video as a real communicating medium.

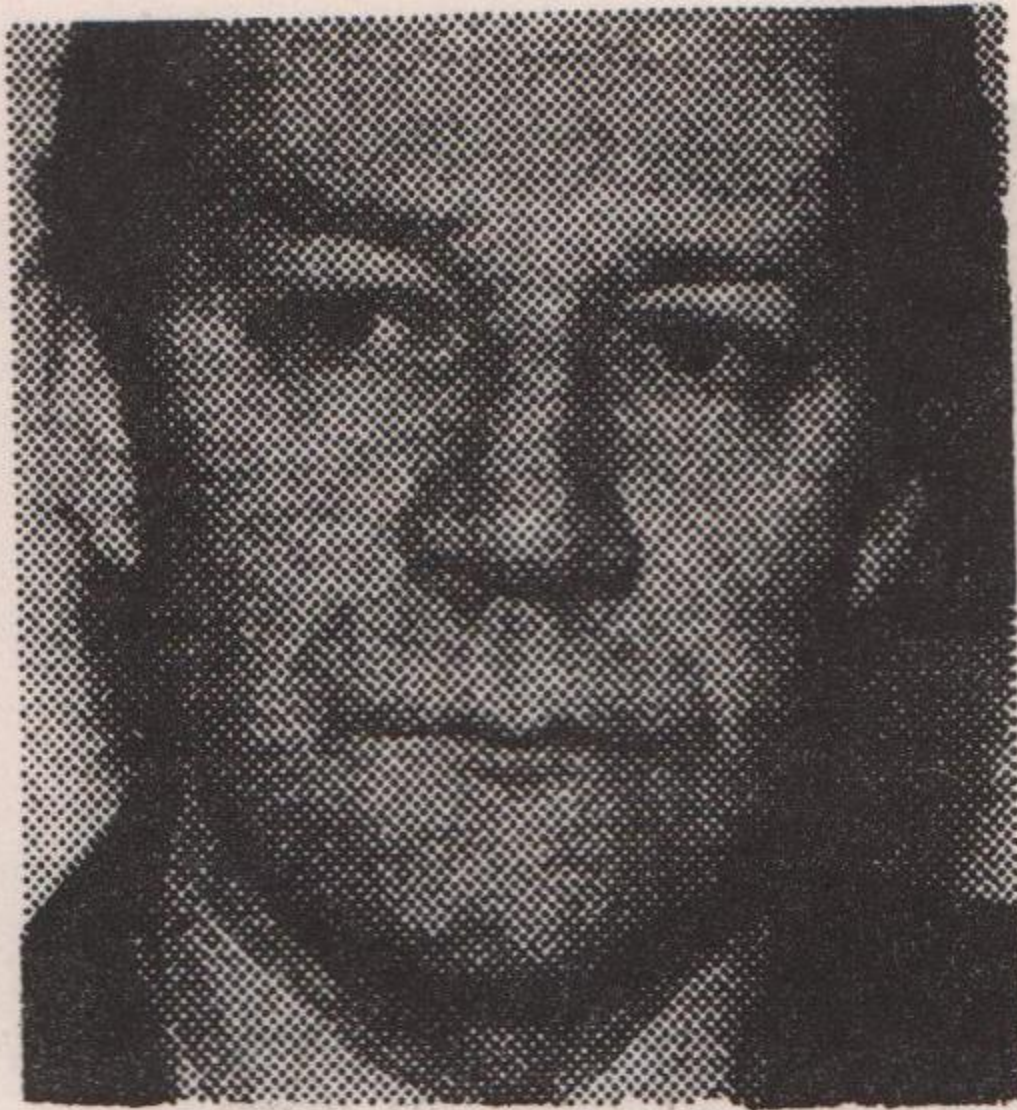
They provide the video equipment which anyone can use to make a TV programme. They attempt to demystify the process of making a programme by giving ordinary people the chance to do it for themselves. Community Media deeply mistrust high specialisation and see it as a divisive instrument of a society anxious to contain creative political energies within a safe framework of well-defined categories and disciplines. They think that people's opinions, thoughts and feelings should find direct expression and not be restricted or remoulded by leaders.

Programmes made are of issues which directly effect the people making them, and can be used to stimulate and articulate the feeling of people within the community.

UTV were approached with a view to transmitting some of the programmes made by the communities. They just didn't want to know. They have never been willing to experiment in community television with communities making and broadcasting their own programmes. Such experiments like Channel 40 in Milton Keynes and Swindon Viewpoint and in other towns like Bristol, Sheffield, Wellingborough and Greenwich have been established for some time now.

What we should be working towards (not that this is likely to happen from public meetings with the IBA) is a decentralised network of groups each producing their own television, and a free exchange with each other of imagination, information and ideas. Ulster Television are considering having a studio in Derry, we should be aiming for television facilities not only in every town in the North but every community. The technology is now available to make this happen. The IBA, UTV, and all the other television networks are not interested in developing understanding — we want a more genuinely democratic form of locally originated television.





Unlike Sir Maurice, Sir Brooks is a married man with a family, but the Northern Ireland Office was not making details public — as a security precaution.

—Guardian.

But courtesy of Outta Control.....

**RICHARDS, Sir (Francis) Brooks, KCMG 1976 (CMG 1963);** DSC and Bar, 1943; Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Office, since 1978; b 18 July 1918; s of Francis Bartlett Richards; m 1941, Hazel Myfanwy, d of Lt-Col Stanley Price Williams, CIE; one s one d. Educ: Stowe School; Magdalene College, Cambridge. Served with RN, 1939-44 (Lieut-Comdr RNVR). HM Embassy: Paris, 1944-48; Athens, 1952-54; First Sec. and Head of Chancery, Political Residency, Persian Gulf, 1954-57; Assistant Private Secretary to Foreign Secretary, 1958-59; Counsellor (Information), HM Embassy, Paris, 1959-64; Head of Information Policy Dept, 1964-65, and of Int. Policy and Guidance Dept, FO/CRO, 1965-66; seconded to Cabinet Office, 1966-68; HM Minister, Bonn, 1969-71; HM Ambassador, Saigon, 1972-74; HM Ambassador, Greece, 1974-78. Chevalier, Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre (France), 1944. Recreations: sailing, gardening. Address: The Ranger's House, Farnham, Surrey. T: Farnham (Sy) 6764. Clubs: Travellers', Royal Ocean Racing.

## Gay Subversives

June 21-29th. is Gay Pride week. Some gays in the South will be fighting court battles to challenge the religious/legal rules which put the state in charge of what we can do with our bodies.

Meanwhile, some gays in the North are attempting to get the European Court to recognise the sexually repressive nature of a northern Ireland 'saved from sodomy'. A unity.

Unfortunately a change in the laws won't alter or create the necessary culture for gay people—all people—to be open and comfortable with their sexuality...though it will remove the emotional and legal harassment so much favoured by the RUC from time to time.

A change in the state laws doesn't challenge sexual repression...it only classifies it. Gay Pride is 'subversive', and for once the state has got it right!

### INTEREST RATES.....

It seems that every non-profit-making paper you read is appealing for something or other....usually money to keep going. Voluntary donations are the alternative to the glossy commodity ads that keeps the capitalist press ticking over.

Outta Control needs some voluntary donations...Send what you can to

**OUTTA CONTROL**

c/o 7, Winetavern Street, Belfast 1.

### AN ANTI-POEM

Hats off to Seamus Heaney (& Co.) the Catholic poet king,  
Privately acquired the public skill of leaching others experiences  
and suffering,

Enough to make him credible, edible, digestable, saleable.

Peering in but confused, detached

The well balanced Northern Irish/British (delete where applicable)  
poet.

Just enough to get bye-bye

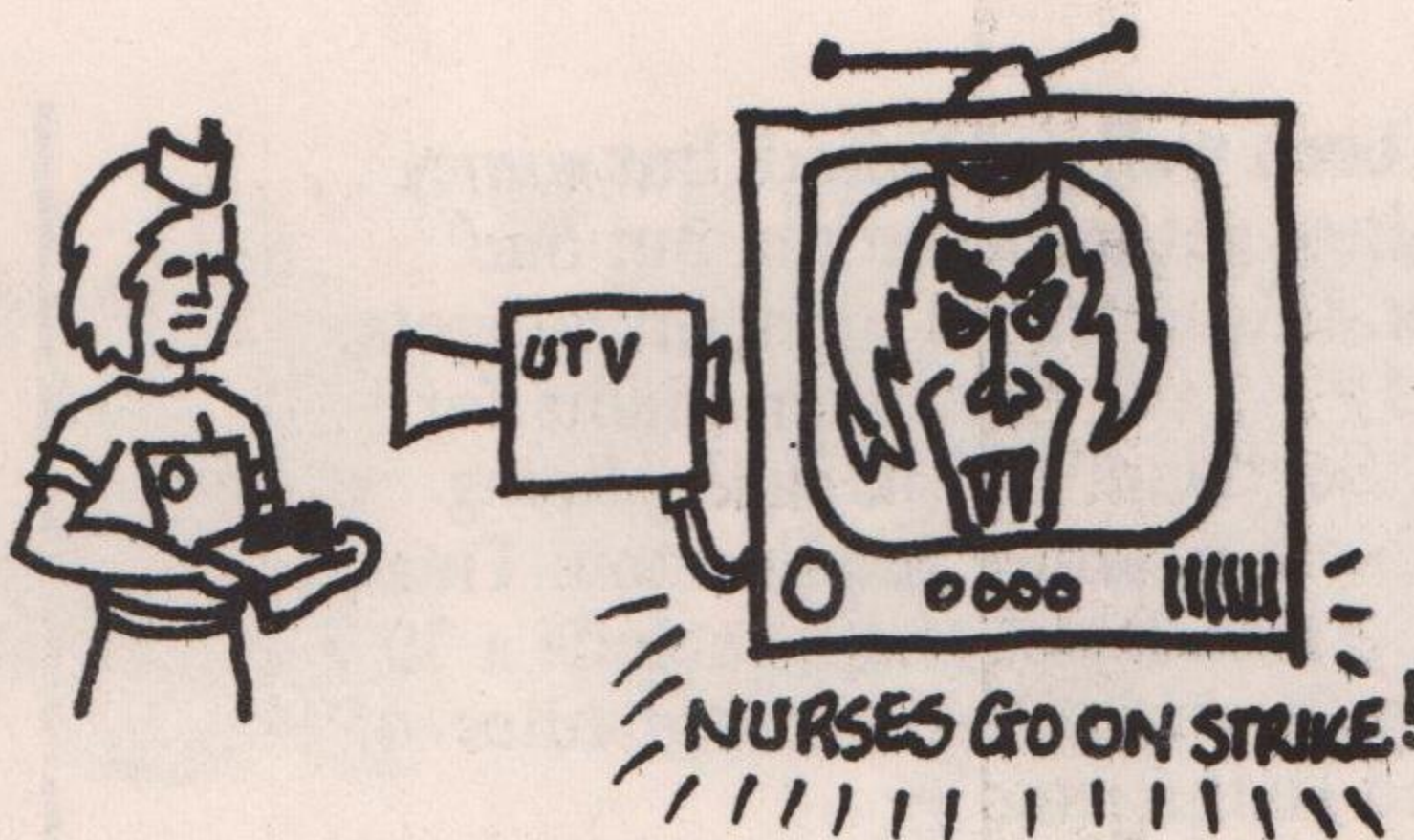
Middle class - middle aged - middle of the road

Tinged and taunted by the troubles,

Ideas gleamed from the media

"Give an account of yourself,

You've nothin' in common with us!"



## DEMOCRACY CHANNELLED

So there we are; we've had our bit of media democracy for another 20 years. The Independent Broadcasting Company duly held its 'public' meeting to find out what sort of commercial television we would like made for us.

It was chaired by awfully nice Lady Plowden wheeled in direct from London. We touched our forelocks and felt deeply honoured. We gave out leaflets (and sold a few copies of magazines outlining what the IBA are really up to in their censorship of programmes about Ireland).

We also had a pretty good idea of what type of person was there. The 'general public' consisted of the complete staff of UTV, 'the ordinary person in the street' carefully invited to congratulate the grand wee job done by UTV, the Northern Ireland Independent Television made up mostly of ex-patriots, the advertising reps, and a large contingent of 'old colonialists' gathering together to justify their presence and control over the natives.

Surprisingly, the first question (from a journalist) asked why the IBA and UTV censored a programme on torture in N. Ireland. 'We're not here to answer that sort of question; out of order, old chap' replied Lady Plowden. If anything, THAT is the sort of question they should have been discussing. But their democratic game continued with the usual predictable and boring comments about UTV, and 'couldn't we please mister have more programmes on adult education, farming, archeology, Irish games, more religion, more brass bands, and please tell us who killed J.R.?'

Of course the IBA rigged the whole thing so that there would be anything but genuine criticism of the media; it was orchestrated to keep ordinary people as far away as possible...leaving a clear field for those with the financial motive to run and control the media on our behalf but for their interest.

One person after the meeting was over asked his friend who was on the IBA Board when the decision to award the franchise was to be taken. 'Yesterday' was the reply 'we will let UTV continue' Ah well!

## CARNSORE 3

The third Carnsore anti-nuclear festival is being planned for August 11-18, again on the 'proposed site' in Co. Wexford. This year, the aim is less passive consumption of stage(d) music, and more involvement of ALL who turn up. Everyone is in on the act. It'll be interesting to see how it goes: we could all learn a lot from each other.

Many people from all over Ireland are helping organise Carnsore....but for some reason some people want to strictly control the content of exhibitions and stalls people want to bring along. This means excluding stalls like those on contraception and H-block who turned up last time. We, as ANARCHISTS, will be there and will support friends and comrades from other groups, organisations, and individuals who want to come along and participate and propagandise their parallel struggles.

## HAVE WE WON?

Since the recent change in the S.government personalities, there appears to be a noticeable change in their attitude towards nuclear power. It's only a few months since the former energy minister--O'Malley-- gave his weekly outpouring to the gullable press, saying how nuclear power was a necessity for our survival(!). Now, the new energy minister--Colley--says there's no rush...maybe it's a bit dear (and at £1 billion it's the most expensive piece of state investment ever!)....maybe industry won't grow as fast as we all knew it wouldn't anyway...maybe public opinion should be considered...etc.etc. Why the 'sudden' change in attitude between the old and the new Fianna Fail?

Clearly the activities of the anti-nuclear movement in every town and village have been vital...what govt. wants to fight an election on the issue of nuclear power? It IS a bit costly too, for the state to undertake, even with the EEC grants; and costs can but grow given the slow awakening of the trade union movements' opposition. But another reason for Colley's enlightenment which shouldn't be ignored is a slight thaw in the EEC determination to have a common, rigid, energy policy. The heat is off, for now at any rate, as the EEC bureaucrats realise that moving too fast towards central European policies could split up the big business alliance. Look at the hassles they're having with the so-called Common Agriculture Policy.... clearly this is NOT the time to enforce a common energy policy! (They probably couldn't anyhow, as the individual capitalist states wheel and deal to get the best terms possible from the oil producing countries.... look at the French govt. who are currently exchanging a nuclear reactor and a uranium enrichment plant with Mexico in return for oil....however the dream of a centralised energy grid is still at the back of the minds of the technical-fix bureaucrats.)

For now it all eases the pressure on F.F. whose economic policies are enjoying such short-term disaster. Nuclear power is still in their heads and must remain so given an economy based on multi-national companies. (And irrespective of all the current public relations exercises concerning alternative energy developments). But the rush is off, the pressure has lessened; the govt. and the businessmen can now choose the time, and not merely follow an EEC directive!



The uranium exploration going on in Donegal has been well publicised, but something is going on in the 'North' as well. It's difficult to get information, but one thing is for sure...and that is the EEC promotion and financing of uranium projects. They recently announced their grant aiding up to 1981, and it includes grants for uranium exploration in Germany, Italy, Denmark, Scotland, and Ireland. Mining companies are given up to 70% of their exploration costs, under the Euratom Treaty and in return the EEC control any uranium found. These latest grants include a 70% grant to Ulster Base Metals, currently exploring the 'Newry and Mourne granites' of S.Down and Armagh., centred around Hilltown and Rathfriland.

## THE MULTI-NATIONAL MENACE

But who are ULSTER BASE METALS? Their registered office is given as Omagh in Co. Tyrone, but UBM is just the northern wing of a group of unscrupulous Irish businessmen who have prospecting licence all over Ireland (62 in all). Their speciality is getting large EEC grants for uranium exploration, and then edging share-prices as high as they will go.

Ulster Base Metals is headed by Patrick Joseph Hughes, a Dublin shark who is President and Director of Northgate, a large multi-national mining company, registered in Canada. Hughes' empire of deals fiddles and corruption, includes a directors chair in Anglo-United (partly owned by Northgate); Hughes and Anglo-United own Munster Base Metals whose uranium drilling rigs are, at present, operating amid the opposition of local people in Donegal. Northgate also own Irish Base Metals, and Hughes is also Chairman and Director here too. It was I.B.M. machinery which was sabotaged again last month in Donegal. It's no surprise that Hughes and the rest of the hoods (known as the 'Newry mafia' and includes such notables as Matt Gilroy, P.V.McParland, and Peter McAleer...the brother-in-law of D.O'Malley who used to be the minister responsible for the handing out of the prospecting licences in the South)...it's no surprise that they also own Ulster Base Metals.

### SO WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Just like Donegal, they get a huge grant from the EEC...they start off with air surveys to test the air for a slightly higher radiation content given off if there are deposits of uranium buried in the rocks. Then, water, soil, and rock tests, finally moving in with drilling rigs to sample the rocks and see if profits are to be had. No publicity, and a prospecting licence granted by an ever-willing government with no regard for the very real dangers to the land and to the people. They promise a few jobs but say nothing of the plunder, destruction, and worry they leave behind in their search for profits. Radiation is deadly; it causes cancer, and can lie dormant in your body for many years before its full effects come out.....and long after the mining companies have left! It contaminates the land, water, and people!

The area being explored by UBM stretches from Castlewellan to Feeny, and from Katesbridge to Kilkeel. Opposition in Donegal started when people found out exactly what uranium exploration and mining means. It's the same battle in Co. Down!

Another multi-national---SABINA-----has been exploring the 302 sq. mile granite block around Fintona (EEC again providing most of the finances). They recently reported 'disappointing results', but their word is not to be trusted.

And opposition to uranium exploration is also developing in Co. Carlow. A friend from there writes....

Maugh Ltd., a subsidiary of the French-government controlled Minatome mining company have been prospecting for uranium in the Carlow area since 1977. These operations are financed by huge EEC grants.

Apart from the normal environmental and health hazards connected with the uranium, the involvement of the French government is particularly worrying because they are one of the few nuclear weapons countries who have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, banning the sale of nuclear weapons to other countries and have, in fact, helped both Israel and South Africa to reach nuclear weapons capability. Minatome, the parent company of Maugh, are involved in uranium mining in Namibia. This uranium is, in turn, imported illegally by the French government for use in its nuclear power and weapons programmes. Local people have only now become aware of Maugh's activities, and the last few months have seen a growing campaign opposing the explorations. Pickets, meetings, benefits, to spread the information about uranium to the local people, the local farmers.

The Carlow anti-uranium activity is very much in its infancy, and needs all the help it can get. Information, literature, advice, materials, and good wishes to...

Carlow anti-uranium group  
c/o 14 Riverside, Carlow, Ireland.

## A Letter?

Dear Outta Control,

I've passed the pickets outside the BBC a couple of times but I still couldn't blow my horn in support of strike to bring back the BBC NI orchestra. I don't feel that the NI orchestra or their music has any relevance to me. They gear their performances towards the middle-classes...and don't tell me that the working classes aren't interested..... They have never once went out of their way to create interest.

I don't wholesale support every strike just because it involves the 'worker'. I see those who decide to work in anti-people jobs as collaborators with the enemy... such as prison screws; people who work in the arms industry; or the security forces. I would give some sort of critical support to strikers who work at producing useless products, and try and create a situation where they could take control of their work-place and use the machines to produce beneficial goods.

Yours Sincerely,

Ernst McNab.

## SABOTAGE CONTINUES

Donegal anti-uranium people are organising an information and fund-raising weekend ... Fri/Sat 27-28th. of June, all at St. Brigid's Hall, Lettermacaward. A Friday evening gig; Saturday spent with Donegal people exchanging ideas and information with themselves, and with other anti-uranium people from all over Ireland. ...with another benefit gig. It promises to be a very useful week-end for those who go along.

Meanwhile the mining companies are having a few problems...as local and national opposition to uranium exploration continues and grows, the share-prices drop up and down on the stock-exchange. They weren't helped by yet another bit of successful sabotage a few weeks back, when one of the two drilling rigs operating was temporarily but well and truly put out of action. The other is at the top of a mountain...it took the mining company 8 weeks to haul it up there... to try and escape from the opposition. Uranium exploration---NO.

## OPEN THE PRISONS!



On Saturday, 14th. June, a 2000-strong march, protesting about the conditions in H-Block and Armagh, was again prevented from entering the city centre. As was said on the platform, the only other time a march was allowed this 'privilege', was when the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression staged a spontaneous strike and march from West Belfast to Transport House after the death of Brian Maguire in Castlereagh RUC station. Will the next time be, when there is a death in Armagh or H-Block? In contrast, almost every other demonstration has been allowed in...the Orange Order, the Black-men, the Peace People etc.

By a massive show of RUC and British Army strength the marchers were stopped at College Sq. where after a short but vain effort to push their way through, everyone

at the front sat down clapping and chanting 'SS RUC'. The tense atmosphere and sit-down tactic was reminiscent of the civil rights days---the difference being the green armoury backing up the RUC.

After the ritual speeches, when people were making their way home, the inevitable brick and bottle sailed towards the forces of 'law 'n order'. And judging by the amount of glass on Divis St. that night the local kids had a go too. If you had passed by Divis the night before, you'd understand why all the milk-bottles had been collected. I've never seen so many troops in such a small side-street, and every single car on the main road, going up and down, was stopped and checked. I'm sure the kids didn't sleep a wink, with the excitement of getting their own back the next day.