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Published by Leveller Magazine (1979) Ltd and produced by the Leveller Collective, 57 Caledonian Rd, London N1, tel: 01-278 0146. Collective meetings held every Tuesday at the office, 7 pm, are open to all, and all contributions — articles, pictures, cartoons, stories or letters — are welcome. National bookshop distribution by Full Time Distribution, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1, tel: 01-251 4976. National newsagent distribution by Moore Harness Ltd, 50 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1, tel: 01-251 9224. Process camerawork by Redesign, 7a Duncan Terrace, London N1, and Community Press, 2a St Pauls Road, London N1. Typeset by Bread 'n' Roses, 30 Camden Road, London NW1, F I Litho, 328 Upper Street, London N1, and Workers Action, 98 Gifford St, London N1. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, London E2.

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Unions take up deportees

THIRTEEN years ago Norbetta Manzanero was raped and became pregnant. Like most people in the Philippnes she is Catholic and as an unmarried woman she was deeply embarrassed about having an 'illegitimate' child. With unemployment at 25 per cent and low wages she found it difficult to maintain herself and her son, so in 1972 she applied for work as a resident domestic with the Grand Metropolitan Hotels in Britain.

She got a work permit and applied to the British Embassy in Manila for a visa. She was interviewed by a young, brash, white, Foreign Office official and asked if she was married. No. He asked her if she had any children, and with half a dozen other people in the room, she was embarrassed and replied, 'No'. She got ' her visa and came to London Living in the hotel she worked hard, sending as much money as she could to her mother. Now her mother is sick and cannot look after the son and she would like to bring him here.

Because of her 'lie' to the official in Manila, she was ordered to be deported on Monday, but like others she may feel forced to 'abscond', as the Home Office puts it. Norbetta is one of some 278 Filipinos and others who came to this country to work in hotels, hospitals, and private homes doing jobs that are unpleasant and badly paid and are now called 'illegal immigrants' because they have children. Most are members of their respective unions and in August the general secretaries, Fisher, NUPE, Albert Alan Spanswick, COHSE, David Basnett, G&MWU, and Moss T&GWU, went to see Evans. Timothy Raison, the Minister responsible for immigration. They demanded a moratorium on all further deportations emphasising what hard workers they were. Spanswick actually blustered: 'It's not as if they were trouble-makers like the Iranians. None of them have ever been in any trouble.' Raison refused, saying each case would be considered on its merits.

So far 65 have been removed from this country, 3 have absconded and 117 cases have still to be decided, while the rest have been allowed to remain.

The Home Office is taking a much tougher line on immigrants. Figures for port refusals, detentions and deportations have been going up regularly since the Tories came to power. Deportations for the first half of this year (509) are almost as high as for the whole of last year (585), but of course they are only following policies initiated by the previous Labour Government.

The trade union involvement is welcomed but it is largely limited to a few full-time officials and some



• Eyes right . . . the British Army Band blasts out the message

THE BAND of the First Battalion of the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire has almost screwed up a move by the British government to get the Pope to condemn the H-Blocks hunger strikers.

When Thatcher flew to Rome on Sunday to persuade the Pontiff to get her off the H-Blocks hook without granting concessions to the prisoners, the old boy turned out to be very upset by the band's participation in an anti-Catholic parade in leafy Lewes, Sussex, on bonfire night.

Resplendent in red, the band, together with another from the Sussex Army/Cadet Force, and thumped 'Rule Britannia' down Lewes High Street, marching under a banner that screamed: 'No popery'. An effigy of the Pope and of a local Labour Councillor

shop stewards. A march against the deportation of the Filipino workers on Sunday was only attended by about 350-400, the vast majority themselves Filipino. The trade union movement has been reluctant to take up immigration issues; on last year's march against the proposed changes in the immigration regulations, the majority were black people, not white trade unionists.

At a meeting of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils Antiracist Antifascist Committee on October 25 some worthy resolutions were passed, but the suggestion that strike action should be taken, especially by workers involved in the mechanics of deportation at the airports, was rejected.

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who had spoken out against the bigotry — was blown up, while the citizenry yelled: "Burn the Pope". The battalion has served in Northern Ireland.

The parade is supposed to be the annual commemoration of the death of the (Protestant) Lewes Martyrs of 1553. It is organised by the Cliffe Bonfire Society, which booked the bands.

The Ministry of Defence has admitted this, though an embarrassed spokesperson said that 'if they'd known the nature of the event, the band would probably not have accepted the engagement' Originally the spokesperson said the bandmaster had not been present. When told there were photographs of the bandmaster in the changing room, he said it was the band's President that wasn't

Asked by a reporter from an Irish paper for an assurance that such participation wouldn't recur, the spokesperson said it would be necessary to 'check upstairs'. After doing so, the spokesperson was unable to give the assurance. The story has been prominent

in the Irish press. And last week both the British/Cabinet Office and the Vatican asked for copies of the Dublin Sunday World that contained it. So when Thatcher flew in on Sunday, Old Red Socks knew all about it...

The British press ... a different story. Nothing has appeared at all. An Irish journalist offered it to the Sun. The matter went up to the editor, Larry Lamb (recently knighted, of course), who said: "We are not in the business of taking stories from Irish papers which would embarrass HMG."

White trade unionists are too concerned with the defence of their jobs to tackle the problems of black workers. What happened to the 'Workers of the World slogan, Unite'?

there.

'An Ireland united and free'

THE HUNGER strike by Irish republican prisoners in Long Kesh prison's H-Block is a month old. Seven men sit starving themselves to death in a British prison; women in Armagh jail are preparing to set out on the same course.

On December 7 the British Ad-Hoc Hunger Strike Committee, chaired by Ernie Roberts, MP for Hackney North & Stoke New-

ington, will be holding a national demonstration in London. The demonstration, which will assemble at Hyde Park, aims to united support across the board for the H-Block hunger strikers and Armagh women.

A similar demonstration took place in London on November 15. The Metropolitan Police grudgingly estimated that 'several thousands' took part (they count up the legs and divide by two...).

The banners on the demonstration (see picture) showed the scale of support for the H-Block men and the Armagh women. Among the Troops Out groups, the left parties and the Irish organisations, there were trades councils, constituency Labour parties, student banners and a large contingent



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marching behind the Women and Ireland banner.

To those organisers who had gloomily been predicting a small turn-out of 2,000, the 5,000-strong march was encouraging. To others, like one particular Irish comrade, the size of the march was an indictment of the values of the British left. He'd been on the big CND march a fortnight earlier, when tens of thousands of people had turned out to oppose nuclear weapons. He was understandably. bitter that so few had come to support hunger strikers who will certainly die unless they receive wide support and their demands are met.

From 1972-76 republican prisoners in British prisons were granted 'special category' status. They were allowed to wear their own clothes, exempted from prison work and could organise their own education and recreation. As part of the Labour government's 'normalisation' programme this status was withdrawn in 1976 and prisoners convicted of political offences were treated as ordinary criminals.

Most republican prisoners are tried in 'Diplock courts', where the judge sits without a jury and 'confessions' are sufficient to secure convictions. Of the 94 per cent conviction rate in the courts 90 per cent are based on confessions, often extracted under torture. Pauline McLaughlin, in Armagh prison, who weighs only 71/2 stone because of an untreated stomach complaint, was convicted on a signed confession, even though she can barely read or write.

The Leveller has received a letter from a long-time subscriber, Hugh Feeney, serving time in Cage 11, Long Kesh, pointing out the absurdity of the situation successive British governments have got into 1976. Summarising the since background, Feeney goes on to say:

mass beatings, the "The obscene internal body search, the degrading mirror search, have all been publicised by the socialist press.

One point which seems to have gone unnoticed, however, is that here in the Cages of Long Kesh, which are only a few hundred yards from the H-Blocks, republican prisoners are recognised and treated as political prisoners. My comrades in the H-Blocks and in Armagh Women's Goal demand that they be given the same recognition and the granting of their five basic demands, which are:-

1. The right to wear their own clothing.

2. The right to refrain from doing prison work and the right to organise their own educational and recreational facilities.

3. The right to send and receive one letter per week, one visit and one parcel per week.

4. The right to free association with each other as political prisoners.

5. The full restoration of all remission lost during their protest.

'The above five demands were granted to republican prisoners in 1972 and have been an integral part of our daily lives here in the Cages ever since. A description of a typical day here in the Cages will refute for all time the lie that the British government does not recognsie republican prisoners as political prisoners.

'In this part of Long Kesh there are three Cages holding republican POWs. Overall control of the camp rests with our battalion staff. Each



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Cage (Company) is run by Company Staff. The Staff within the Cage ensure that the Cage runs smoothly. We do not take orders from the screws and if any business has to be conducted with them it is done by the O/C of the Company or a member of the Staff. Everyone in the Cage is answerable to the 0/C.

'The screws often attempt to undermine the authority of the staff by trying to make personal contact with the men. These at-

tempts always fail and they are forced to recognise our command structure...'

The letter goes on to detail the daily routine in the Cages, a cruel contrast to what goes on just over the way in the H-Blocks.

The Leveller's postbag recently contained a joint letter from the prisoners in the Cages which puts Feeney's account in a broader con-

'The republican working class has, for the last 12 years, been in open and active opposition to the British administration, so even with the mass agitation on the streets of Belfast and Derry, we alone cannot hope to save the lives of our comrades on hunger strike. British governments are not inclined to listen to the wishes of the Irish people. We turn therefore to our ally, the working class in England, who do have the political power to force the Tories to stop their torture of political prisoners.

'This common resistance to the attempted criminalisation of the national liberation struggle in Ireland will greatly increase the unity of the working class in our opposition to imperialism.

'With the assassination of republican leaders by SAS and loyalist terror gangs, open British army intimidation on the ghettoes and self censorship of the media, which has greatly increased as a result of the contrived loyalist hysteria, we appeal to the working class in the less dangerous (at least at present) arena of England to act, in any way you see fit, to save the lives of our seven comrades dying on hunger strike and to end the torture of our 32 sisters on protest in Armagh and our 530 brothers on the blanket in the H-Blocks.

'Already the feminist movement in England has shown the lead with their direct involvement in the protests outside Armagh Goal. Together we can show the their imperialist that Tories chauvinism will not destroy the revolutionary unity socialism '

EILISH GREEN works in a shirt factory in Lurgan, 20 miles outside Belfast. Of her brothers, John was assassinated in 1975, Lawrence is serving 12 years in H-block, and Leo, serving 25 years, is on hunger strike, one of the seven volunteers selected by the prisoners themselves.

Eilish took two days off work to come to England to talk about the way they see things in her family. 'In Britain they seem to think we're all mad Irish. But we're just living our lives like everybody else. The rest of the family of 12 are alive and well and living in Lurgan. I wasn't brought up in a Republican family. It was only in the civil rights in '68 that we began to see the injustice. Everyone became involved then.'

Everyone? She smiles. 'Not everyone, no.' How would she describe the section of society to which she belongs? 'Then it was

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Nationalist. Now it's called Republican.'

What is the difference? She grins. 'I don't know really, it's just come to be called that.'

Is her mother a determined Republican? 'She's a determined mother. Determined to stand by her family.'

What does Republican mean to her, what is her brother fighting for? 'For a new Ireland, united and free.'

Eilish is sensitive all the time to the wide range of political positions covered by the word Republican and she feels that to most people in Britain it is synonymous with 'men of violence'. But in the movement in support of the hunger strikers: 'political views are not being brought to the front. Differences are being set aside and support is asked for on humanitarian grounds.' Supporting the prisoners in their five demands does not imply you belong to any party.



Yard shoot up smack stats

SCOTLAND YARD excelled themselves last week in the Grand All-Comers Drug Value Escalation Stakes. With an announcement of a record seizure of five kilos of heroin worth five million pounds, the Met's Drug Squad has emerged as this year's clear front runners, leaving the previous champions, HM Customs and Excise, a long way behind.

At wholesale prices, a kilo of heroin costs about £20,000, while at street level prices are in the range of £70-£120 a gram. Thus, wholesale, five kilos would be worth £100,000, and at retail it would work out at about half a million. At street level the Yard's five million pounds worth would weigh between 45 and 70 kilos - or somewhat more than could be hidden in four briefcases.

Scotland Yard's exaggeration coup — they do it to emphasise their own importance - was heightened by Fleet Street's usual uncritical acceptance. Warned that the police were up to their usual tricks, the Mail said 'you may be

SMACK.

KEEP DRY



right, but the paper's running now and it's too late'; BBC's Newsnight refused to change it; IRN said 'we have to take the police's word on this one'; the Guardian said they'd look into it — nothing was changed - and the Press Association said it was a bit worrying but they had to take the police word.

Torness antinukers fined

LAST WEEK activists from Hackney Anti Nuclear Group dumped barrels of 'radiocative waste' outside London Electricity Board's showroom in Stoke Newington. Their action was both to protest at the use of the North Lon-



don railway line to transport nuclear waste, and in solidarity with the five people who came up for trial after last Spring's Torness demonstrations. (Leveller 44)

All five of the Torness defendants were found guilty of attempting to rescue a prisoner and Haddington Sheriff's Court fined them between £75 and £100 each. Thirtyfive people picketed the court house during the trial, then went on an impromptu march, through the town, ending up with an hour long sit-in at the South of Scotland Electricity Board showrooms.

The Hackney demonstration, which had been very quietly planned and took the authorities completely by surprise, followed a 'manifestation' a week earlier, when South London Anti Nuclear Group staged their own small picket outside railway stations on the southern side of the river.

About seven per cent of London's electricity is produced by nuclear power from the plants at Dungeness, Bradwell and Sizewell. The nuclear waste from these stations is carried through London by train to be processed at Windscale. The trains pass through Clapham, Stratford, Dalston and Willesden twice a week, and the London campaigners want it stopped.

But while the Central Electricity Generating Board is building new nuclear power stations, and decommissioning old coal-fired ones, a new campaign is building. The CEGB announced plans last September to close down 16 power

stations and decommission another six, but SERA, the Socialist Environment and Resources Association, together with the Anti Nuclear Campaign, is arguing that many of the doomed power stations could be renovated and used for combined heat and power (CHP) plants, which would double their overall energy conversion efficiency and provide cheap home heating. SERA argue that the old power stations are near city centres and thus ideal for CHP programmes. The nuclear stations are generally miles from anywhere and trades unionists are worried about the 3,000 redundancies the CEGB programme brings with it.

A meeting in Huddersfield last Friday attracted about 25 people to launch a campaign to save their local coal-fired station. Supported by Arthur Scargill, local MPs and Parties. campaign Labour spokesperson Alyson Learmouth says that the next stage will be to take their message out on to the streets. At the moment, she says, the left hasn't shown much interest: 'But if the campaign does take off, then they will probably come in and support it.'

Finally, a letter from SCRAM, the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace, notes that we missed some short-listed proposed waste dumping sites off our nuclear map in the last issue. SCRAM's latest leaflet shows the sites, and discusses the difficulties of disposing of nuclear waste without condemning the lives of generations to come. It's available for an SEA from: 2a, Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.

Still secret

THE US FREEDOM on Information Act (FOIA) is always being held up by liberals as the great answer to Britain's secretive state machine. But research in the US indicates its real use is far from the 'sunshine' of easy access to the bureauracy it's often cracked up to be.

In 1978, for instance, more than two-thirds of requests for documents under the FOIA were from companies or businessmen seeking information for commercial purposes. Only five percent were from news media, pushing at the door of secrecy.

Perhaps because of the enormous time and cost that can be involved, many media have not used the Act at all - even, in the case of the New York Times, to find out details of their own correspondents that had been used by the CIA.

There have been cases of agencies refusing to give information to the press of a kind they had given freely before, with the rider: 'Take us through the FOIA.' Often the papers don't bother.

There are also nine exemptions to the Act's provisions, one of them protecting material classified as secret 'for reasons of the national defence or foreign policy.' This has blocked many enquiries.

And the courts have persistently

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refused to overrule agencies' opposition to applications on these grounds. The courts have the power to decide on the classification themselves, but have always refused to do so. Neither will they even let agencies' affidavits in opposition to applications be read in open court; so applicants can't even argue against them.

Bert Benson/PNS

Suicides to be charged

WEST MIDLANDS police are considering bringing charges against two young people who tried to commit suicide last week because they were unable to find jobs.18-year-old Mark Granaghan and 20-year-old Philip Edwards said they were so depressed at being unemployed that they slashed their wrists and then tried to suffocate themselves with smoke from burning blankets at a council flat in Northfield, Birmingham. They were saved by relatives and friends just before firemen arrived.

The police say charges are being considered because of the damage to council property.

Swedish PM on abortions

THE SWEDISH abortion law is a good one — the state provides for abortions practically free and on demand. But feminists are aware that anti-abortionists don't give up so easily, especially at a time when the media is flooded with stories about cuts in government spending - does this ring a bell?

So when, earlier this month, Thorbjorn Falldin, the Prime Minsiter (who voted against the present law), publicly expressed his disquiet about the number of women who were using the government provisions (one in four pregnancies are terminated, he said) the reaction was swift.

On November 11 he had to de-

à AIPIPOLO PERE WA GAUMONT M INEX TYNEEKAN COMING SOON PROVISIONAL PROVISIONAL BOB ROLLING DYLAN STONES WITH GUEST HIGH PLUS THE ELONGATED PYRHOAN PROVISIONAL ERIC CLAPTONS TICHETS

fend his statement in a heated 1 refused benefits since June 12 - 1 another blow in the face. Staff who parliamentary exchange with Communsit MP Eva Hjelmstrom. It was a personal statement outside parliament, he bleated. 'Should I perhaps have lied about my opinions?'

'Not at all,' Eva replied, 'but it was as a prime minister you were speaking, and the thought that you may be working within government to push your opinion is cause for concern.' She also pointed out that her party had never supported the continuing evaluation of the working of the law. Resources would be better channelled into contraception, she said — not least for men. Chris Stretch

Sacked workers fight for benefit

SOCIAL SECURITY Commissioners are to decide within the next few weeks whether 700 workers sacked from the Birmetals plant at Bartley Green in Birmingham are eligible for unemployment benefit and social security. They have been





though over two hundred have since found new jobs.

The workers were sacked because management said industrial action in support of a pay claim was in breach of their contract. Soon afterwards the parent company — Birmid Qualcast

announced it was closing the plant thus depriving the 700 workers of their right to redundancy money. At the same time the DHSS ruled they were still 'in dispute', so they weren't entitled to dole money or social security.

At the hearing of two test cases last week, lawyers argued that the sacked workers could technically be in dispute for the rest of their lives and never be able to claim benefits again.

Even if they win their case, many of the workers are still determined to fight for a right to redundancy money. They feel that Birmid Qualcast deliberately led them into dispute knowing that they could close the plant 'on the cheap'

Last week, the workers had

Botha shown as 'gory specimen'

ART ATTACKS APARTHEID by Martin Lovis is as comprehensible and definitive an indictment of the South African system as you can find. Using the potent technique of photomontage, it is impossible not to be drawn by the power of the images, however much you think you know about the evils of apartheid and the struggle for liberation.

Each of the thirty pictures has accompanying text and/or poems to set them in context. 'Prime Minister' is a particularly gory specimen. South Africa's leader, P W Botha, is depicted as a butcher, covered in blood. Behind him, like slabs of meat, are hung the heads of recently executed blacks on butchers hooks.

The artist, a white Englishman photographic former and retoucher in the advertising world, has been following the apartheid

refused to join the strike voted at a meeting of the Birmetals Social Club to share out over six thousand pounds left in the kitty. The club was being wound up with the imminent closure of the plant, and it means that they stand to take home an extra £80 each. Much of the money was raised by the sacked workers, but when representatives turned up at the gate to attend the meeting they were refused admis-

Euro terror cops meet

A conference on security organised by the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg on November 15. It was attended by academics, police and politicians from all the Common Market countries. The conference will be followed at a later date by a meeting of Interior ministers from five EEC nations.

All the familiar 'experts' were present in Strasbourg, including Britain's General Richard Clutter-

system with a passion that almost entirely overcomes his lack of personal involvement in South Africa.

So far the exhibition has been shown twice, both times in London. It is due to finish at the Africa Centre, King Street, WC2 on November 26. There are promises from the United Nations to exhibit throughout the world, but interest in this country has been minimal. Approaching the Observer magazine, the artist was commended on his ability, but ultimately rejected because the montages 'show the joins'. Which is precisely the point. You don't spend hours pondering the question 'how on earth did he do that?'

Anyone who has access to space for public shows should get hold of this exhibition. Details from The Leveller.

Nick Oakes/Peter Feuilherade

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buck, who lectures at Exeter University, and Paul Wilkinson, professor at Aberdeen and regular media talking head on 'terrorism'. Klaus-Herbert Becker, head of West Germany's anti-terrorist unit, announced that the giant West German police computer at Wiesbaden was to be used as the basis for a Europe-wide 'electronic information centre'.

The Wiesbaden computer has been widely used, with varying degrees of success, in countering the activities of groups like the Red Army Fraction. It has built up the usual general and individual computer intelligence files, and works on a 'key word' retrieval system: 'More comprehensive and sophisticated than any in the world', says the genial Clutterbuck. 'No innocent person has suffered from it. It has already been of great assistance to neighbouring countries in tracing criminals and terrorists ... and above all, it has saved innocent lives.'

Wilkinson's idea for a supranational EEC security body was coolly received, particularly by the Dutch, who object to West Germany's anti-terrorist laws being exported to neighbouring countries.

However, with the resurgence of Nazi activities throughout Europe both the Strasbourg conference and the subsequent meeting of Interior ministers, could be timely. A West German interior ministry official was reported recently as saying: 'Neo-Nazis are now much more in evidence than the left-wing guerilla groups that used to give us so much trouble. We know of meetings here between neo-Nazi groups and the British Movement and the clandestine Column 88.'

The West Germans are particularly concerned at the ease with which NATO weapons get into the hands of such groups. The British Home Office has tended to play down reports of such neo-Nazi European links, but Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad thought to be taking them much more seriously.

Fascist games

MEANWHILE: at the beginning of the month Gary Acres, 24 year old former National Front byelection candidate, was jailed for three years after setting fire to his father's flat, causing £5,000 worth of damage and destroying his sister's wedding presents in the process.

Last August Acres had drunk two bottles of gin at his sister's' wedding reception: by 11.30pm the party was over but Acres insisted the drinking should continue at his father's flat. When his father refused Acres was so enraged tht he went to the flat and set fire to it.

Acres, who won 1,415 votes almost nine per cent of the polls when he fought Battersea North for the NF in the May 1977 GLC elections, has an impressive record



PICTURED above are Philip Blaine and Madeline Adams, reputed to be appearing in Almost Free Theatre's double bill, Power Plays. However, our reviewer arrived for the performance on November 13 at Warwick University to find only two students and a local authority representative, who had travelled from the north with a view to booking Power Plays. After waiting for half an hour they were told there would be no performance.

The Leveller's representative, John Adams, was dismayed at Almost Free's complacency. Surely Warwick students are not so dull that 50 of them couldn't have been winkled out of the bar or their study bedrooms by some last minute live promotion? Yet other Levellers tell me such cancellations are common among touring groups. How extensive is this lack of commitment? "We are still keen to have Power Plays reported, and would like to hear of any sightings: two free seats to Dogg's Troupe's Christmas Show for the reviewer to get the first account to 57 Caledonian Road (for possible ap-

He has been fined for threatening the captain of a Channel ferry, and on another occasion was arrested for having an axe. His girlfriend was given a painful glimpse of the role of women in a fascist society when he lashed out and broke her iaw.

The Old Bailey judge, sentencing Acres on November 7, commented that his history showed 'some degree of mental disturbance'. Defence counsel was more direct and explained that Acres had a problem and wanted treatment.

Later that night the League of St George held another of their Nazi film shows at the councilowned Kensington Library. One participant walked out after five minutes and was applauded when he told anti-fascists outside that the League were a 'bunch of pathetic idiots'.

pearances, see Theatre Listings on page 27).

Even if Almost Free felt they could be blasé about this non-state backed show a meeting called by Braodside Mobile Theatre Workers Theatre for November 27 at Action Space should make them worry. Its purpose is to disuss and devise a defence against attacks on the Arts Council's drama funding from such quarters as Now, the Daily Telegraph and the Conservative Student Association. Many of the groups involved overcame earlier reservations about receiving support from the system that the left wants swept away. Now, the fear is that Thatcher's next round of cuts will obliterate 50 per cent of existing socialist theatre.

Was it a mistake to become dependent upon the state? How powerful is the right's lobby, does it have active support from the rest of the theatrical world, and has the Arts Council been discriminating against hundreds of brilliant fascist playwrights? These questions and more answered in a full report of the meeting, in the next issue.

Lloyd Trott

of violence, even by NF standards. | Among those present were Jim Bowers and Mike Griffin, coorganisers of the cancelled neo-Nazi Remembrance Day parade. Both leading League members, Griffin is a wealthy insurance broker, while Bowers is proud of his collection of swastikas and other Nazi memorabilia.

After the show the Nazis adjourned to the nearby Elephant and Castle pub and were joined by a group of British Movement skinheads. Fighting broke out and spilled onto the pavement outside when former League member Bob Edwards was beaten up for talking to the press. The gang - who kicked Edwards as he lay semiconscious on the ground — was led by League 'Overseas Liaison Officer' Steve Brady, who already has a conviction for assault.

Meanwhile the fascists have been active in other areas too. Gay

FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT

Noise reports that homosexual members of Viking Youth are reported to be drinking and cruising in North London gay pubs and 'recruiting homosexual boys'. Viking Youth is former NF and BM member Paul Jarvis' plaything, modelled on the German Wiking Jugend, and has been trying to recruit boy scouts, apparently with little success. Gay Noise itself has received threats from Column 88, the fascist paramilitary group who recently sent MP Frank Allaun a homb

Last week about a dozen skinheads tried to break up a meeting of the Bodmin Labour Party in Cornwall. Shouting 'Sieg Heil' and giving Nazi salutes, they marched into the hall and scattered BM literature around before being chased out of the hall. It's the first time a BM cell has surfaced in Cornwall — the youths said they came from Newquay - and local Special Branch officers expressed their concern but asked newspaper reporters to play the story down.



equal rights for women in the male stronghold of social clubs. Formed 'last October after a woman was barred from playing snooker in the Wakefield City Club, the Equal Rights in Clubs Campaign for Action now has 150 members and growing country-wide support.

ERICCA's main campaign is against the 4,000 clubs affiliated to the CIU, the Club and Institute Union, which has a membership of more than two million men and was originally set up as the leisure and social arm of the trade union movement. Many CIU clubs still bar women from membership, from

FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT



DESPITE official assurances, the people of Harrisburg face a nightmare of death and disease as a result of what happened at Three Mile Island. In We Are the Guinea Pigs, which received its first British showing at the London Film Festival last

entering unaccompanied, buying drinks, joining committees or playing games like darts and snooker. Clubs are not liable under Section 29 of the Sex Discrimination Act since the law defines them as private places entitled to make their own rules.

Earlier this year ERICCA staged a picket against the semi-finals of the CIU snooker competition at Leeds Angling Club. Committee members drove a van at the pickets, then called the police alleging a riotous assembly. When activists lobbied the annual CIU conference at Blackpool, one delegate told them to 'Get back home and cook the dinner', while the woman reporter from the Morning Star was given the slow handclap when she entered the conference hall

Fragments now

THE FRAGMENTS are carrying on beyond the conference; that was the outcome of the follow-up meeting of Beyond the Fragments supporters on November 15.

There were nearly 40 at the meeting, and they decided to go for regional co-ordinators to get local groups, meetings, activities going. The meeting, in an East London hall, started with a review of the Leeds event, and the discussion of the politics of theproject became so engrossing there was a danger that organisational decisions might go by the board. So the meeting split into three workshops which came up with pleasingly similar plans.

It was agreed there won't be any kind of central committee or national direction. But there does

week, 'official' policies and standards are examined against stark medical and scientific evidence and the facts about 'clean air' and 'acceptable limits'. It shows the enormity of what happens when a nuclear installation goes wrong

have to be co-ordination. The local groups will, therefore, be discussing the future of the Fragments themselves, as well as the politics of their other campaigning. There will be another conference next year; not a general gathering, as last time, and not a 'single issue' one either, but one most likely to discuss political activity in a specific context: perhaps, the state and how to fight it; imperialism/racism; workers' plans. and democratising production; something of that order. The 1,700 waiting for a follow-

up will shortly be getting a bulletin.

Commen A coloured man who knows how to handle women ... Maschem (Pty) Limited is an industry. of dational inoportance, actively involved. th file cheroical industry with a: subbisticated plant South West of onarinesburit. Noght now we re after a c the he bechoical and RACISM and sexism combined: Anti Apartheid News spotted this nasty ad in a South African paper.

Singing nose hits London

PASSERS-BY in London's Oxford Street were recently surprised to find Alvaro, the Chilean With The Singing Nose, giving away hundreds of copies of his second LP, Mums' milk not powder. Almost 500 copies of this excellent album were distributed free by the Chilean refugee whose work is usually greeted with deafening silence in the music press.

'I'd rather give my albums away for nothing,' said Alvaro who saw his sacrificial promo stunt as the independents' response to chart-rigging by the major record labels. 'I press and distribute my own records which means I can do what I want with them.'

Normally resident in Germany, Alvaro is here till the end of the year. His next gig will be at the Comic Strip, Brewer St, London on Sunday 30. Last Sunday his gig there went down well, the audience were in stitches.

French only

THE FRENCH Communist Party (PCF) has started to adopt racist polcies in order to maintain its popularity in areas with a high immigrant population, particularly in Party leader George Marchais' home department of Val de Marne.

The local Communist Party weekly has been-complaining of the large number of immigrants in the Paris suburb of Ivry, and implying that this is to blame for the high

crime rate. Communist local government officials in Ivry are limiting the allocation of cheap housing to immigrant families, an several Communist mayors have attacked the Department's prefect for not expelling illegal immigrants.

The Party's rationale for all this is that the government is plotting to 'destabilise' areas of Communist support by settling immigrants in them. The problem is not that the immigrants are likely to vote against the Communists, as they do not have the right to vote anyway. The PCF is simply afraid of losing popularity if racist propaganda gains ground. It is trying to avoid this by adopting racist propaganda PNS/POUR itself.

Write on

SOMEBODY'S BEEN doing with Milton things naughty Keynes' official borough stationery. A reader has sent us a copy of a letter that's been circulating informing residents about proposals to site Cruise missiles at Molesworth, 25 miles away.

The letter is about: 'the measures we are taking to protect key individuals locally, which we expect to enable the essential aspects of our present civilisation to continue after a nuclear war'. Detailing the shelter provision available, the letter notes that places have been allocated to 'the more valuable members of oursociety, including senior local government officials, certain academics and selected headmasters, members of the police service, medica experts and local industrialists.'

The real wickedness comes in the next couple of paragraphs when CB Richardson, Milton Keynes' hapless Civil Control Officer (Emergencies), that: writes 'although you may not be able yourselves to enjoy a reconstructed civilisation after a nuclear attack' - because, of course, there aren't enough places available — perhaps local residents might write in to the council to nominate deserving people for a place. 'For instance you might like to nominate a friend who has been active in local charitable work or — if you are a businessman — a loyal company servant.'

This kind of irresponsible behaviour will have to stop. Readers who know of similar examples are invited to send them in to us and we will publicise them as part of our campaign to get people to accept nuclear mega-death responsibly...

Articles by-lined PNS are provided by People's News Service. They also provide a research service, company searches, and . produce an index of Britain's community newspapers. Details from PNS at Oxford Hosue, Derbyshire Street, London E2, phone 01-739 3630

Out of the frying pan?

Letters

YOUR ARTICLE On the march again in Leveller 43 was timely. You are right that the ANL has folded having built no basis for a sustained fight against racism. But instead of asking why, you advocate yet another ANL-type movement. While the bosses smash our union rights, push our wages to subsistence levels and implement mass sackings, campaigns like the ANL or CND blur our class interests. They even implicitly reinforce British chauvinism: what better than a CND march to 'unite the nation' against 'US' missiles!

The day to day harassment of blacks by the police and racist attacks are built into this system throught the operation of immigration laws. Racism is not an optional extra for the bosses but a vital part of bourgeois strategy to maintain control. This is why liberal appeals against the more extreme aspects to capitalism are useless. It is no coincidence that it took the police 40 minutes to get to the Asian mosque under attack in Manchester. A Pakistani post office worker whose house we have been defending in East London was told to go back to Pakistan by the police when he went to them for help. The only way that these attacks can be fought is by building workers defence and on the basis of opposition to all immigration controls.

The British Movement marched through central London last weekend. It's about time that the left not only recognises that it has been on the retreat but also learn some lessons from its past experiences: anti-missile, anti-Tory, anti-nazi broad fronts take the working class nowhere but into the hands of the bosses.

> Inez Landa (East London Workers Against Racism)

Motherhood

HAVING HAD three unplanned children because of lack of due care and attention to contraceptives I have never had to face the dilemma of motherhood should I-shouldn't I posed in your article (Leveller 43).

Two points that made my hackles rise were, firstly, the pure self-indulgence of wanting a child for self gratification. I don't know if 'Why Children' went into this vital issue in greater depth than your article – I sincerely hope so.

Secondly, having stated that working class women deserve medals of honour for going it alone, your non mori poll missed a golden opportunity to show samples of them.

Your two working class candidates Pat and Dorothy slipped easily into middle class jargon, attitudes and lifestyles. Is this the unacceptable but true face of the modern feminist, by definition they can't be working class? Penny Newell

PAT MURRAY'S article about motherhood (Leveller 43) might have been about women's liberation, but it certainly wasn't about children's liberation. The article says nothing about the experiences of children and how they feel about being brought up under the arrangements described.

I was brought up by a woman on her own, and definitely did not like it. The experience of being dependent both physically and emotionally on only one person really fucked me up. It was a horrible, lonely, boring experience. And when mother left me to go out to work (even though she may have needed to do so) it was really painful. Children need to have several people to relate to closely. When you depend on only one person you're forced to take take a concentrated dose of that person's hang-ups and mental problems; there's little chance to develop on your own.



The Leveller, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1

To a certain extent my experience must be similar to that of other men, since in many families the father leaves most of the parenting to the mother anyway. I think this explains why men have such strong, mixed feelings of love and hatred towards women in our society.

If we want to get away from this, there are two possibilities. First, retain the traditional family, but involve the father more in childcare. Or, adopt communal child-rearing (as indeed one of the women in your feature did). However, for women to bring up children on their own is only going to make things worse.

I'm a bit worried about the idea of having single mothers, with men 'doing their bit for children' by working in state-run creches. In that kind of set-up the men will not have the same status and permanence as the mother, which may mean that we have a matriarchy rather than sexual equality. Men also won't have any legal protection if the mother wants to take the children away from them and break up the manchild relationship.

Far better to support men's rights organisations such as Families Need Fathers, since they recognise that fathers have rights as well as duties. Perhaps wives could be given greater financial security within the institution of marriage, and in return for this married fathers could get better enforcement of their rights to maintain contact with their children.

I would agree with the feminists that it would be a good thing to break down men's inhibitions about relating to children. But this needs to be done carefully, with the emphasis on choice rather than compulsion. I don't think you can break down men's inhibitions by compulsory parenthood, and when this happens women should try to avoid having children.

David Womersley Poole, Dorset

'The PLP serves **Capitalism and Imperialism'***

AS A CONTRIBUTION to your timely debate on whether socialists should join the Labour Party: Many people recently joined

the Labour Party in the hope that it will become the agency of socialism in Britain. Michael Foot's election as leader encouraged this hope. But it is an absolute delusion.

Foot, like all the other members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, is hopelessly compromised by his political record. As a leading member of Callaghan's pathetic Government, he bears responsibility for spending cuts which closed hospitals, schools, services and factories, putting 500,000 people on the dole, for the introduction of cash limits, for increased spending on missiles, for keeping us in NATO and EEC, and for keeping British troops in Ireland. The PLP served capitalism and imperialism, ineptly but devotedly. This is not to deny the differences between Owen and Benn, but to remind of their similarities. Our class's successful struggles -

against the Corrie bill, against the destruction of ILEA, for example - were won by mass initiative and action, not by people's joining the Labour Party.

> Will Podmore, Member of the Communist Party of Britain, Marxist-Leninist.

How I learned to stop worrying about the bomb and read The Leveller instead . . .

THE POST-REAGAN apocalypse is almost upon us. Go weekly before it's too late.

> Dan Re'em New York

* Letters marked with an asterisk have been cut for reasons of space. LAST SUNDAY the police allowed 600 British Movement filth to march through the middle of London, despite appeals from a dozen organisations — including Westminster Council — that the march should be banned. The marchers were opposed by between 4 and 5,000 anti-fascists, some of them assembled under the Anti Nazi League banner, many more coming from the Labour Party, the Militant tendency and the RCT-led East London Workers Against Racism.



The ANL is being 'revived' with a public meeting to be held in two week's time, and mobilising calls appearing regularly again in the left press. But few of the ANL leadership were visible on Sunday's counter-demonstration, their stewarding was weak and on Saturday afternoon, the day before the demonstration, when supporters called the ANL office for instruct ions, nobody was even there to answer the phone.

The anti-fascists were kept from the BM by police cordons - at least 2,500 officers – following their own march from Portobello Road. Though many people managed to slip through the cordons the opposition to the fascists degenerated into isolated incidents of fighting. A Leveller reporter put a clothes peg on his nose and joined the BM's demonstration. This is his report:

'I went to a pub in the Edgware Road. There were about 60 skinheads in there, three of them wearing swastika armbands, and another one with a swastika T-shirt.

'I sat at a table with four of them who were talking about their experiences in prison. More people came into the pub, including a "respectable-looking" couple in their late twenties, and a man with a BM metal buttonhole badge.

'At two o'clock, groups left the pub and walked down the Edgware Road towards Marble Arch. The police presence was very strong by then and the group I had attached myself to were channelled through a cordon of police into the underpass. On the steps we were all searched by the police: I didn't see any weapons confiscated, but things like key chains were taken by the police.

'About 300 people assembled by then, and we were formed up into a march between columns of police. By the time we got off, I would estimate that there were about 800 marchers, mainly skinheads between 16 and 20, though there were a few younger children, and a small group of punks.



'I seemed to be behind two soldiers: they made reference to 'the sergeant', wore flak jackets, and had army-style haircuts. There were a few older people on the march and one family group. 'As we marched out of Hyde Park, the BM leaders stood on a wall and gave the Nazi salute, which was returned by chants of "Sieg Heil" and salutes from the marchers. We marched up the Edgware Road and they chanted "We are the Whites"; a few people shouted anti-slogans from the pavement, and these were returned by "Death to the Reds", and more chants of

"Sieg Heil".

'A form of mass hysteria built up as the march progressed. People weren't goose-stepping, but they were very purposeful about the way they marched and chanted: an atmosphere of hate and violence underlined it all. It was clear from those I talked with and conversations I overheard that many of those there didn't have any more than a superficial knowledge of what was going on, or what the BM was all about apart from its anti-black and anti-jewish aspects.

'They were all professed racialists, but they seemed pretty shallow and superficial. Some of the skins wore etickers saying: "Repatriation or Race Riots" or "Stop the Race Act". I'd hate to think what this country would be like if any of these people had any sort of political muscle.'

The fascist demonstration broke up after speeches at the top of the Edgware Road and degenerated into scuffling between the BMers, black people, antifascists and passers-by. About 60 of the fascists went off and besieged the Bangladeshi Embassy, while others marauded around the West End looking for isolated leftists. There were 73 arrests many of them BM skins.

Women scorn the ripper

DRESSED TO Kill is showing at the Odeon Cinema in Leeds. It was showing the night the Ripper carried out his 13th atrocity. It was showing on Saturday and Sunday when the national Women Against Sexual Violence conference took place in the city where women are afraid to walk alone in the streets after darkness falls.

The Saturday night showing was disrupted when women from the conference took their Reclaim the Night march to the cinema. Leeds women joined the 400 at the conference, and there were 750 women who marched and picketed outside the cinema and attempted to take their protest inside.

But women at the conference recognised that in terms of the sexual violence against women in society, the Ripper is, to quote one woman, merely "a pimple on the boil". You don't have to go to Leeds to be aware of male violence against women but it sure as hell sharpens the issue and increases women's determination to claim back the day and night. Organisers of the conference made sure that no women left the demonstration to walk home alone, tackling the prac-

London SE15

tice and the theory of countering male violence. In the theory, the Ripper will be disappointed to learn that he is just 'a bridge too far' in male oppression, not a unique myth but part of the pattern.

Discussions at the workshops were charged with anger at being made to feel afraid, in Leeds, in London or Llandudno. They ranged over sexual harassment at work, in the media, in the street and in marriage, and the strategy and tactics in response were equally wide-ranging.

From the starting point of how to protect ourselves, the question of whether female violence against individual men, or concentrate on reclaiming space for women — these were the two ends of the spectrum.

One of the chants of women on the Reclaim the Night march was: 'No men on the streets'. Men should have to explain why they should be on the street, rather than women. Yorkshire police, apparantly unable to trap the Ripper, have often appealed to women to keep off the streets after dark, as a preferred solution. There have been Reclaim the Night demonstrations and other protests by women in the area before.

There was no victim mentality stalking the workshops, nor in the minds of women outside the conference who joined the march.

Women from the conference are sending a letter to the Yorkshire police expressing their anger at the way the Ripper enquiry has been handled, and have set up a monitoring group to look into how the enquiry has been conducted by the police.

A statement from the conference says: Rape within marriage is not yet recognised. Women will not stay off the streets to avoid male violence. Husbands, brothers, sons, fathers, neighbours and complete strangers are violent towards women every day.

'56% of rapes are done by men already known to women. 50% of rapes occur either in the woman's home or in the rapist's and 25% of all violent crime is battering of women by their husbands.

'Rape within marriage is not yet recognised as a crime. All men benefit from this design in condoning male violence. Rape is trivialised and rape is glamourised

'It is a myth that women are only attacked on the streets at night. The more women stay off the streets, the more dangerous it will be for women that have to stay out after dark. Women are always blamed when they have defended themselves. They have been imprisoned and currently the Mawl sisters have been given a three years prison sentence for killing their violent and drunken father. We demand that self defence is no offence and that there is a curfew on all men.'

Women in Leeds were demonstrating against the Mawl sisters jailing outside the Crown Court on Monday morning.

Pat Murray

In response to the recent rape and murder of Karen Davies in Brockley, SE London, a Reclaim the Night march is being organized on Friday 28 November, assembling at New Cross Tube at 6.30 p.m.



A group of four trades councils in the north-east and Midlands have conducted a searching enquiry into Labour's performance in attempting to transform the economy through state intervention at national level. Their conclusion: that the policy didn't and couldn't work . . and that the labour movement should itself work out the real alternatives. Elaine Williams reviews their first report.

THE NATIONAL ENTERPRISE Board was conceived in 1973 in a Green Paper under the chairpersonship of Judith Hart; policy as regards employment needs, Eric Heffer.

Why was the manifesto concept of the NEB unrecognisably changed into the Industrial Bill of 1975? Why were the labour left who conceived its original form defeated? Why did they not relay their defeat to the labour movement? The top 100 British companies were to be brought under government control The criteria for nationalisation and control would be based on government policy as regards employment needs, economic growth, regional planning and diversification of production.

The Minister of Industry (with Parliament's consent of course) would have the power to require unwilling companies to become involved in planning agreements, he or she would have powers for the compulsory acquisition of companies. Nationalised industries would be directly accountable to parliament. The emphasis was placed on shop-floor democracy and the disclosure of information by management.

Faced with a veritable conspiracy between the Civil Service and the CBI the Green Paper never saw the light of day. The final White Paper which emerged in 1975 under the Wilson regime was a different creature altogether from its Green predecessor. The disclosure of information clause was omitted, the Industry ministers had no power of compulsory acquisition. Planning agreements were not compulsory either, and if any company did enter into them there was no power to hold that company to its side of the bargain.

At a meeting 18 months ago, held in a **Commons Committee room between** Tribunites and the four Trades Council delegates, these questions were thrashed out. For many delegates if was their first confrontation with the Labour left. 'Benn made a great effort travelling

around the country holding meetings to sell the NEB to leading militants and shop stewards on a political level,' said John Foster, secretary of North Tyneside Trades Council, prior to the meeting, 'but these policies were not going to deliver the goods, and we say that these people, Benn, Wise and Holland, must have realized too the serious limitations at the time.'

Audrey Wise M.P. was asked if she had campaigned enough for the original Green paper. 'No' she said, 'because we failed. But yes, as much as was humanly possible.' Both she and Tony Benn stressed that only with the backing of the political will of working people would they be successful next time.

But Colin Randall from Newcastle Trades Council felf that they did have the support of the rank and file in 1973, '74, '75, if they did not have it of the TUC. All they had to do was to tap the source. The TUC, he pointed out, had been antagonistic to the inquiry from the beginning. 'They did not like the horizontal nature of our joint venture,' he said, 'Trades . Councils are not usually used for this kind of role, and of course they don't like anything which breaks with their traditions.'

The aim was to encourage people like Audrey Wise to look to that support outside in the way they had not done previously.

John Foster from North Tyneside nailed the crux of the matter when he said, 'The concepts of people like Benn and Heffer mean taking on the multinationals, but are they prepared to do it?' The answer in this report is no. The rank and file must do it first.

The report's content consists of a welldocumented account of the NEB influence on British Leyland's Speke and Canley factories; on Rolls Royce; on the Vickers, Tress, CA Parsons and Clarke Chapmans heavy engineering and power plants at Newcastle upon Tyne; on Alfred Herberts and Chrysler in Coventry; on the Lucas Aerospace and Triumph Meridan workers' co-operatives. The general function of the NEB was to improve the companies as assets, and to turn them back over to the shares market at the cost of high redundancies.

Lucas Aerospace is held up as a relative success story: a lesson to be learnt in terms of fighting for jobs on alternative industrial plans for the fulfilling of social needs.

Trades Councils should involve delegates in housing, health, women's issues, racial, educational and international issues, to gather a more informed impression of what is needed. Research centres to study alternative plans should also be set up, similar to that of the Lucas **Combine Committee at North East** London Polytechnic. 'People have got to be able to see,' is the conclusion, 'that there is a future in their jobs and that it is a future worth fighting for.'

The real value of this inquiry is its unfinished quality. The Trades Councils will meet again in Coventry in February 1981 to discuss the weaknesses and strengths of it. It is, one might say, a report in the process of becoming.

State Intervention in Industry: a worker's inquiry is available from 'Joint Inquiry', c/o Newcastle Trades Council, Centre for the Unemployed, 5 Queen Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, priced £2.00 (£1.50 for order of 10 or more).

TRY TO BUY a BL Maxi; in some parts of the country you would have to wait more than six weeks. BL has none in stock, and all those running off the track at Cowley are spoken for.

The Leveller called up BL's sales division at Bickenhill, near Birmingham, where a pleasant man named Robin Jarman confirmed the position, and added: 'Maxis have been rather difficult recently but we are making efforts to improve them.

There must be some confusion within Michael Edwardes' super-hyped-up management team. For that Maxi track in the North Side assembly plant at Cowley is currently running at less than half speed — ten cars an hour instead of 21 earlier in the year – and is on a singleshift three-day week.

What is going on ? Can it be something to do with the recent pay round, in which Cowley manual workers have twice voted virtually unanimously for all-out strike action ? In which all BL manual workers voted by more than 2:1 on October 30 for such action ? And which all seems rather mysteriously to have collapsed. It can.

Mucking around with the production levels is part of the management strategy to destabilise the workforce, to put more meaning into Edwardes' grand bluff that any strike action, or any settlement at more than 6.8 percent on the basic grade, would mean the closure of the entire group.

The Princess, assembled in the same plant, is also on three days a week, yet try buying a Princess HLS. A BL press officer says the short time working was required: 'to prevent us getting into a position of having to carry too much stock', which is baloney. Because it seems to happen with every wage review, regardless of the trading position - which, at present, is actually booming, with dealers reporting increased interest in all BL models from the great Metro publicity drive.

The Trot press, in its so predictable way, has put down the 6.8 percent settlement to the Stalinist sell-out of the senior stewards, notably Jack 'Son of Robbo' Adams at Longbridge. There is some truth in this - some, but it's nothing like the whole story.

What's happened at BL has been the result of three years of management destabilising labour organisation, of colusion with the unions at the highest national level, and of their mutual suppression of shop floor militancy.

It has been the fourth consecutive annual pay increase in single-figure percen tages. Over these years pay has increased continued on next page



THE BL workforce is just about the most put upon in any major industry. Under the banner of preserving Britain's last volume motor manufacturer, government and bosses have succeeded in breaking them yet again. After three years of five percent pay rises, the sacking of Derek Robinson, 25,000 jobs gone . . . now they've been forced to accept the 6.8 percent deal. How does Edwardes get away with it? Tim Gopsill went to the Cowley plant and found, as he might have just suspected, that union leaders have more than a little to do with it

The 83 mpg sell-out A British deal to beat the workers



altogether by 15 percent. Over the last seven years BL pay has increased by 76 percent, while national average pay has increased by 310 percent: from being 25 percent above the national average in 1973, BL production workers are now 30 percent below the average (£88 a week, compared with £122).

Twenty-three thousand BL manual workers have already been made redundant this year: part of the so-called Edwardes plan, forced on workers by the union national leaderships. The plan's main aim was to close 13 smaller plants and concentrate 'volume' car production in Longbridge and Cowley. But hold on a minute: two thousand have gone through voluntary redundancy (VR) at Cowley. And at the same time Cowley has been taking workers on!

There are two offices in the administration block at the assembly plant, one above the other, where in April, for a period, there were workers being paid off with VR in one, and recruits, for the same jobs, from the Oxford Job Centre, being taken on, in the other.

For the VR scheme has more to do with who goes than how many. The three waves of VR this year have seen off hundreds of shop floor militants, the backbone of union organisation.

VR applications are invited, at generous terms (the average payment being between £4,000 and £5,000). With wages being now so low - morale too - the job is not really worth much, so there's a flood of applicants: more than 2,000 in the wave that followed the imposition of the last (5 percent) wage deal in April. Management then pick the lucky ones, and by some peculiar alchemy all the shop stewards and militants get lucky.

It would be quite unrealistic to blame these militants, to query: what kind of activists are they, who sell their jobs? We aren't talking about your dedicated Trots whose commitment will survive anything. We are talking about the hundreds of workers required in a plant of this size to run the unions at all; they might not be political, as we or, for that matter, they, would understand it. They are just the backbone of labour organisation, and when they snap, it sags. They tend to be independent types, not tied to the job or the living, not the keepers down of heads, but stroppy bastards who say, when betrayed over and again: 'Well, sod

In the biennial elections last December 190 stewards were elected for the Cowley assembly plants. In April, 85 of them were granted VR. In one section - the Princess assembly track — ten out of fifteen stewards went.

The impact on shop floor organisation has been dramatic. Yet the Cowley assembly workers still took up a united stand against the latest offer.

The claim was described everywhere as 20 percent, but that's misleading. It

was 20 percent on the basic grade - $\pounds 17.21$ a week — and the same flat rise for everyone: important, that, in workforce politics, since it's the policy of the TGWU, which represents 47,000 of the 70,000 remaining BL manual workers, for flat rate rises, while the craft unions are for percentage rises that maintain differentials.

The combine committee of shop stewards drew up the claim (it's unlikely, since BL has attacked the combine, stopping pay of stewards attending it, and withdrawing from the engineering industry. bargaining structure of which it was a part, that it'll do so again) but the negotiating structure is different.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) imposed a two-tier system when national, rather than plant-level bargaining was forced in by BL last year. National bargaining is much more manageable for Edwardes, and the structure reflects this.

The main body is the convenors' conference: 250 of them, convenors of each union in each plant. Which means that Bob Fryer, TGWU Cowley assembly, represents 4,500 workers; Bill Roche, TGWU Longbridge, 12,000. But the same voice goes to tiny representations. There are three UCATT convenors, for 27 members, in the whole group, The EEPTU has a convenor for each of the 36 plants, though membership in some is only six or seven electricians.

The actual negotiating body, the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) preserves this majority for craft unions. Of 27 members, 14 represent craft unions. The JNC includes seven union national officers that is, London bureaucrats. The GMWU has a national officer on it, although the union has had only 50 members in BL, and they were all at MG Abingdon, which has closed down ! And the two big unions, the TGWU (unskilled) and AUEW (skilled), have Grenville Hawley and Ken Cure, respectively, on it, to keep the convenors under control.

But even this jerrymandered machine wasn't enough to silence the shop floor this time. At the crucial stage, after the convenors conference had voted (on November 3) by 99 votes to 74 for an all-out strike, it was necessary for the national union general secretaries, the last line of defence before Len Murray himself, to be wheeled in to force a capitulation. The convenors' decision had followed the 2:1 vote for strike in mass meetings. At Cowley roughly 40 TGWU assembly workers had voted against a strike, out

of 3,500.

It is possible to isolate precisely when the tide turned. On the morning of November 4, the manufacturing director in each plant called the TGWU convenor, all with the same message. BL was bankrupt, losses were massive, and a strike would mean closure. But sales were going up, the outlook was rosy, complete recovery was just around the corner. As long as there wasn't a strike.

At Cowley, manufacturing director Andy Barr, a new Edwardes hatchet man, read to the TGWU's Bob Fryer a verbatim account of the speech he (Fryer) had made to 12. Some union national officer had supplied BL with the whole thing. The directors also said there might be

Effectively, that was it. The convenors' in the (closed) JNC meeting the day before. conference was recalled on November 12, Hawley, who leads the JNC in talks, ruled that only he and Cure from the JNC could speak. Fryer tried, desperately, money available, but not on the basic rates. again, to challenge the ruling. Hawley They talked of bonuses. said he was wasting his time: he wouldn't Now when anyone talks to Cowley

workers about bonuses they roll about laughing. Twice in the last three years BL has agreed bonuses — but until this month they'd never seen a penny ! And in drawing up this year's claim the stewards had insisted -no bonuses. Flat rate only.

All that was forgotten when the two sides met again. BL says it was a union decision to do so; somewhere on November 4 a decision was taken at top union level.

On Wednesday November 5 the formal meeting took place at Haseley Manor, BL's country seat near Warwick. Personnel director Geoff Armstrong repeated what the other directors had said: nothing on the basics, but the limit on the bonus could rise from £15 to £22 a week.

The reaction should have been derision, since the existing limit has never been reached. But the JNC was set on a settlement. They asked, would the company agree to consolidate £1.25 a week on the bonus into the agreement? The company would not, and the talks eventually broke up at 2 am with BL's grand offer of the £1.25 a week for eight weeks only.

Call in the General Secretaries ! Phone lines were buzzing that night, between top TUC leaders, and by 9.30 the next morning, there they all were, assembling at BL's London HQ in Portman Square, off **Oxford Street**.

The JNC was out of it now. They were summoned down from Warwick, and made to sit in the basement all day, while the real bigtime settlers did their stuff. There was Clive Jenkins of ASTMS, which is not party to the talks at all. Roy Grantham of APEX (same); David Bassnet of GMWU (remember those 50 late MG workers !); Alex Kitson on behalf of the TGWU's Moss Evans, who was away, and Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW.

Opposite them the diminutive figure of Edwardes, and his industrial heavies. He told the .trembling labour leaders that a strike of more than two days would inevitably mean closure.

An agreement was struck: 'both sides accept their joint responsibility in the continuing viability of BL as the sole remaining major British car manufacturer...' They recommended that the strike decision be lifted, pending two further days of talks on the bonus. There was no negotiation on wages at all.

Next day the convenors' conference and the JNC accepted this and lifted the strike. The two days of talks on the bonus on November 10 and 11 produced precisely nothing: BL in fact withdrew the offer (£1.25 for eight weeks) they had already made; it took all the time to get it back on the table, and that's what they ended up with.

The JNC met. The EEPTU moved acceptance of the offer. Fryer, who had been pulled back into line by a shop stewards meeting at Cowley on November 10, which had voted by 249 to 1 to condemn the sell-out, tried to get the motion ruled out of order, as it went against all decisions taken by workers and stewards. He was overruled. The EEPTU motion was passed by 14 votes



Bob Fryer (left) addresses a mass meeting in the Cowley assembly plant

let him speak even if the convenors wanted him to. The convenors voted by roughly 2:1 to accept the deal, subject only to a last-throw proviso from Fryer, which was accepted, that it be put to mass meet. ings, to be held by November 18.

At the Cowley meeting on November 14, instead of 40, this time seven hands were raised to accept. Even the AUEW there under the leadership of convenor Roy Fraser, who has made such a name for himself as an advocate of differentials over the years, voted to strike 'provided it was official' - a hollow call, in fact, since Duffy was to make it clear that the AUEW would not allow an official strike under any circumstances.

These decisions were the more remarkable since an extrordinary thing had just happened to Cowley pay packets: they ! had got £6 fatter. A bonus ! Ever since the bonus scheme announced by BL in April – like the rest of the deal it was not negotiated with the unions, but imposed - Cowley workers had never seen more than 75p a week, although they were working a five-day week for most of the summer. Then, suddenly, in the middle of a six-week spell of short-time working, a £6 bonus appeared, supposedly based on the successful launch of the Ital, which is assembled in the south side plant, and for which the three-month launch period ended last week. The Ital has remained on a five-day week. But the amazing bonus was paid to everyone.

Workers had their own explanation for the payment as they filed into the 'pallet park' for that November 14 mass meeting. They reckoned it was a bribe. One deputy convenor says: 'It was so transparent and cynical that it actually hardened attitudes.'

The same morning there was a shop stewards meeting at Longbridge. Adams had decided to leave their mass meeting to the last minute - just before the final decision-making convenors' conference

at Coventry. All the plants that were likely to be for acceptance held their meetings quickly, to fuel the press campaign.

The 450 Longbridge stewards voted narrowly to reject. Panic. Adams would have to put that recommendation to the mass meeting.

In fact he was lucky. For during the meeeting, a slip of paper was handed to the platform. It carried the near-unanimous rejection result from Cowley. Had that been announced, the majority would have been much bigger. Longbridge workers would have known they were not alone. And since so many recent BL strikes have been broken by isolation of the plants concerned, that is a vital consideration. Longbridge and Cowley together are strong enough to hold up BL. Singly they are not.

The note was not read out. Adams' The vote was announced as 'three to The convenors' decision was a formal-

mandate was weak enough for him to stand up, the sole speaker, the next Tuesday morning and make a totally dishonest speech. Formally, he put the stewards' recommendation. He added that the dispute was 'unwinnable'. They were facing 'perhaps inevitable defeat'. He added 'I don't want to influence your vote.' two for acceptance.' There was much booing and heckling. Even journalists present felt that was a generous margin. ity. Afterwards Hawley said: 'there is a strong feeling in the plants and it is rather worrying to finalise negotiations under

these circumstances.'

Someone should tell the TUC and the Three days later, angry assembly workunion national officers doing their dirty ers on the Metro line at Longbridge, vented work at BL that the social contract was their frustration when 500 were laid off destroyed. Labour is actually no longer because of a shortage of components. They smashed half-built cars and office windows. in power. What the union leaders have shown over the last month at BL is that Back at Cowley, a new wave of VRs is they are, in fact, operating a social conunder way. Dozens of stewards are said tract with Thatcher and Edwardes. And to have applied. The press officer says the getting nothing in return.

short-time working will stop next week;

full production will resume, and more workers may well have to be taken on before the end of the year.

Things are back to normal, but it was a hasty nightmare for a while.

WHAT IS going on ? Why should the company adopt such apparently lunatic employment and production policies, at a time when sales are particularly crucial? Why should union leaders go to such humiliating lengths to suppress shopfloor militancv "

Both in fact make sense. Although BL spent £40 million on redundancy payments in the first six months of the year -a figure expected to top £90 million by December - they have saved that through the settlement. The full claim would have cost them £60 million. They have got away with £21 million. And they have got a demoralised, divided, workforce.

The unions would say they have kept the jobs. But the assumption that even Thatcher would close down BL is based on a bluff that has never been called, and never will be. For the unions' commitment to BL, pledged at the time of the reconstruction under Lord Ryder and the National Enterprise Board in 1975, will go on. The TUC then promised Wilson they would keep the shopfloor under control, and allow BL workers to be ruthlessly suppressed, in return for state cash. It was, effectively, a clause in the Social Contract.

Edwardes is about to go to Joseph for an estimated £800 million of further investment. He will be able to report the labour position is stable.





Minnion's Vilains

politically — so much of that is academic-

just the specific thing of some little village in Wales, it's international capitalism. But I can't draw that, even though the politics of ecology do seem importunemployment are part of the traditional ebb and flow of politics, the fact that the world is running out of resources involves us in thinking ahead, perhaps for years.'

Minnion may have trouble drawing international capitalism, but he has no problems with famous political figures, particularly men. His Kissinger, for example, has developed from an evil, but basically photographic, image, into a particularly greasy octopus: 'Once someone becomes so obviously a villain, you can start to develop them. With the octopus, which I drew when Kissinger was offering his services to Reagan, I used cross hatching to emphasise his slimeyness'.

He works from pictures, studying them, developing a relationship with his characters, looking for strengths and weaknesses to exaggerate and make his point. The cartoon of Reagan in our last issue, for example, deliberately played up the lines in his neck, where he'd had plastic surgery to make him appear more youthful. Again, John Biffen's head has grown out of all proportion as Minnion becomes more angry at Treasury policies. 'But I find women much harder to draw. It's not just stylistic - though I do like to draw in line and women's faces are generally softer and need crosshatching. Women are much more

sensitive about their image, and of course there aren't so many around in positions of power.

'Thatcher I treat like a man, she has plenty of lines and a nice hard nose to get hold of. Mrs Whitehouse is easy too, she's got a linear face, and Barbara Castle is terrific.'

At this stage, he showed me Shirley Williams, and I didn't even recognise her, while Marie Patterson (women's officer of the TGWU) on the platform of the TUC, is a virtually characterless nonentity next to Tom Jackson's moustache and Clive Jenkins' spectacles.

Minnion's a great admirer of Trog - 'he's brilliant, mainly for technical reasons', and the American Ron Cobb -'he's able to comment on issues that I'd like to be able to do. But generally, on the left, you get a different kind of cartoonist, someone who wants to put their ideas over. I'm not like that, I start off with a style, a technical side.

'I don't like Franklyn of the Sun - it seems so stupid to draw Benn with a hammer and sickle in his hand. But I suppose he caters for that particular market. I don't feel the same way about Jak (in the Standard), though he's right wing too.'

Minnion's a kind, gentle man, and his cartoons reflect that: his is the capacity to wound but not to kill. He draws with skill but little passion, a hardness to the edge, a mean glint in the eye denoting a villainry that really needs the harshness of a Grosz, a Cormack (in Republican News) or Evans at his best in Socialist Worker. But he is developing as his newfound politics grow. The exhibition is worth a visit.

(Heroes and Villains. Turnstile Gallery, Great Turnstile, London WC1. November 27-December 12. 12-5.30)

Suppose the bus conductors refused to collect the fares....That's the kind of scenario for industrial action envisaged by the authors of In and Against The State. Originally published in November '79, the pamphlet went through three print runs and has spawned meetings in Newcastle, Coventry, Liverpool, Leeds and London. Its success has now encouraged Pluto Press to publish it in book form. The story so far is reminiscent of Beyond The Fragments, writes Dave Rimmer, and the book deserves to have a similiar influence.



IF BUS WORKERS were to take industrial action, the pattern of events would typically run: Workers refuse to take the buses out. People resent the disruption in their daily routines. The media mobilises the Dunkirk spirit and the Great British People get to work somehow. Whether the workers win their struggle or not, they won't have been helped by the resultant alienation from the very people (working class public transport users) on whom they should depend for support and solidarity.

The pattern of events could run: Workers take the buses out, but refuse to collect fares. This bugs the authorities even more. Working class people don't suffer at all, in fact they get a taste of what a free bus service would be like, an idea of a socialist public transport. Bus workers will find it much easier to gain solidarity for their struggle.

That's a very simplified example of 'prefigurative politics'. Similar approaches can be found in any aspect of struggle, but it's not just an added dimension in individual instances. It's the basis of a whole form of politics: pleasurable, supportive, self-analytical, continually reworking its own goals and practice, extending, strengthening and popularizing revolutionary politics. Out of the window go most of the stock-in-trades of Leninism: duty, guilt, necessity, leadership, false consciousness, obsessive compulsive neurotics waiting for History to redeem them. Out too go any softly, softly strategies for gradual takeovers of supposedly neutral ideologies and institutions. I'm talking about the idea of a 'culture of opposition', which does not mean the hangovers of 'alternative' culture, building islands of socialism, but developing a culture of struggle.

Hints of it can be found in practice here and there: occupations like that at the Elizabeth Garret Anderson Hospital, industrial strategies like the Lucas Plan. Parts of a theory can be found historically in various art/politics movements, surrealism, Owenism and Syndicalism; and latterly in Gramsci, Negri, Enzensberger, the Situationists, militant anti-psychiatry, Beyond the Fragments, the Women's and Gay movements and elsewhere. The most recent contribution to these politics is a book called In and Against the State by the London Edinburgh Weekend Return Group, a working group of the Conference of Socialist Economists. I went to interview the London end.

Jeanette, Cynthia and Nicola, like the rest of the group, are all workers in state services or in organisations funded by the state, and this is what provides the basis of the book. It was written primarily for state workers, but also for 'clients' of the state, a category which includes just about all of us ...

Cynthia: 'Everybody's involved with the state, from law and order to health care. Few people, if any, can opt out of the welfare state."



Jeanette: 'People's experience with the state seems to be the same in all encounters. You go to the state with a problem that has been caused by capitalism in one way or another ... you're poor, ill, homeless ... yet when you get there you're treated as if it were your individual problem. You get half a resource, but you also get a lot of blame. You don't get assistance to tackle your problem, you get assistance to cope with it.'

The group sum up this as the state giving us 'resources we need but relations we don't'. Relations which divide us, fragment us, individualise our struggles and abstract them from a class basis. Cynthia: 'We tend to think of the state as juggling two balls in the air: one is the good things and one is the bad things. Whereas it's precisely through giving that the state forms relations that are oppressive, to do with class and control. So you can't get the good things without the bad ones: they are the same interaction.' (They felt that the Leveller had in the past concentrated on the repressive aspects of the state to the exclusion of an understanding of the state as a whole. What is more, that it was wrong to treat only the 'reformist' aspects of the state as contradictory. Even if you think there's no-

thing that the police can give us that we need, it's an area of debate that deserves more attention.)

This contradictory nature of the state runs through all the areas it has 'freed' and then hegemonised: housing, health, dole

Cynthia: 'The state is a process of class structuring and domination. It denies us access to certain things – principally the means of production — and also divides us in certain ways (patriarchical, imperialist) against ourselves. Jeanette: 'The welfare state is not just a product of class struggle or of capitalist

'To change relationships we need to fight with a changed relationship.'

logic. It's an interaction between the two'.

But the state is changing. The axeing of many quangos, price control and arbitration mechanisms. The dying gasp of this social control through incorporation was the Social Contract. The group identify two problems here. What they call the 'Keynsian Mode of Domination' 'hollowed out' struggle, weakened it. Now when those institutions are cut - lawcentres, Community Health Councils, for example - there's a tendency to defend them as if they were part of 'our' state without attacking their oppressive form. It's a problem that has implications for all 'fight the cuts' strategies. Nicola: 'Labour councils that are trying not to implement the cuts are suffering from the delusion that we've had a 'socialist state' state from '45, which is now under attack. They don't understand that if they put a leaflet through the door saying 'we've given you wonderful housing and now you've got to defend it', that people aren't going to give two hoots because it wasn't what they wanted in the first place.'

Cynthia: 'To be a proper socialist council they've got to infuse all that they do with oppositional practice.' Jeanette: 'For example in Brent Council,

they oppose Thatcher but at the same time allow the military to participate in the Brent Show.'

'But all this talk doesn't mean that people should take a neutral position on the cuts. We should continue our struggle against the cutting of resources, but attack the form in which those resources are "given"."

Hence the importance of prefigurative politics. But there's another reason Jeanette: 'One of the most serious problems that the Left faces at the moment is that 'socialism' is in disrepute. People



think that socialism is just a bigger ver sion of what we've had since the war. Thatcher is working very hard to encourage that illusion, and the Labour Party don't work very hard to discourage i

Nicola: 'But the reason people voted her in in the first place is because they were pissed off with that kind of state.' Cynthia: "Socialism" either means that or Eastern Europe. We have no vision of socialism.'

Jeanette: 'If we are able to recreate a socialist movement, it must be absolutely clear that we are fighting for something different. And you can't do it simply by writing about it, by describing utopias or by making alternative plans. It is perfectly possible to develop socialist practice within our movement, socialist practice as part of our struggle. People always say that you can't have socialist practice until after the revolution, that's partly true, and in that sense we don't see ourselves as 'utopian'. There are many opportunities for socialist practice that people just see as an added extra. But the idea of prefigurative politics is crucial. It's not just about people being nice to each other, not being sexist, racist etc. Although that does help.'

Nicola: 'Even that doesn't happen though' Jeanette: We get a sense of it in our struggles about the state, because it's clear that that state is dividing and individualising us, our response has to be class-based and collective.'

Cynthia: 'And because the state is telling us what we need, though defining what capital needs rather than ourselves, prefigurative politics also involves asserting our own needs and acting upon them.

It involves embodying a concrete vision of socialism in our struggle, because without one we have no way of struggling. Against the state, it's particularly important because a politics that exists

at the level of demand can't articulate contradictions. To change relationships, we need to fight with a changed relationship.

The one area in which a version of prefigurative politics is being discussed is in the Beyond the Fragments movement. The group are involved, but critical.

Cynthia: 'The problem is linking up you have highly unionised print workers struggles which have no material basis producing the Telegraph, for instance, for connection, just tacking women's and not questioning it.' or gay struggles on to workerist politics. Jeanette: 'And it's no use having ideas Or, for example, the trade unions approach on product without also looking at proto new technology is to retain full employcess. Your health can be ruined working ment by increasing production and conon a kidney machine just as easily as it sumption. That is in direct contradictcan be making weapons.' ion to what the ecology movement is saying about limiting the destruction Cynthia: 'A lot of people are frightened of irreplaceable resources. The practice by the present situation. The development of rightist authority, fascism, the of the labour movement and the ecology movement conflict. There's no way you war drive ... they're panicked into thinking 'we must throw our strength on to can unite these movements unless you the streets.' And while that's important, change your practice.' Jeanette: 'That sounds rather heavy on those things alone can only be rhetorical. the trade unions. Equally you could Very few of us work in the nuclear power say that the ecology movement was failindustry, for example. We have to intering to recognise the role of capital in the vene at a material level, which we can destruction of nature, and having a very only do through our work, through our pressure group approach. Another exrelationship to the state, as women with ample is the way in which black women men, not retreat into the Nuclear Family. are not prepared to link up with the wo-To simply react to the current crisis by men's movement until we recognise that bringing out our banners and to forget our demands for abortion and contracepall the 'little' struggles we've been engtion are not demands that women would aged in the past would be disastrous.' make throughout the world and all the I finish the interview and wander off time, but are historically and culturally down the street to the bus stop. After specific. They're not bourgeois, but waiting ages for a bus, which is full when they are white metropolitan. The extent it comes, I fork out some of the last of to which the women's movement hasn't my dole money and return to my council developed an anti-imperialist consciousflat. As a client of the state these arguness is a weakness we are just beginning ments make sense to me. to recognise.'

'And the fragments often tend to fetishise themselves. They're in as much trouble as the straight groups. They also can't get people along to their meetings, they're also short on imaginative tactics, they're also co-opted and compromised.'

And on workers' plans Cynthia: 'In the state we focus on relations, something also very often missed in the labour movement: to struggle against capitalist relations not just for higher wages etc. Worker's plans concentrate on the product, which is important when

The book comes out on December 9th. Read it. The authors are also available for meetings and workshops.



THE POSSIBILITY of her legal return to Bolivia is nil. She has been named as one of six prominent 'traitors to the homeland', in the familiar double-speak of Latin American military regimes, for defending women's rights and condemning sub-human living and working conditions in Bolivia's tin mines, notably in her book Let Me Speak! Ironically, the July coup found her in Copenhagen as the guest of a UN women's conference.

'This isn't just one more coup like the others,' she said. 'It was much better planned, much better organised, along the lines of those in Argentina and Chile. It is the institution of the armed forces which has taken power, and if García Meza (the current president) doesn't gain international recognition, they can always put in some other military man, perhaps tinged with a pseudo-democratic hue.

The objective of the coup, more ruthless and bloody than any of its 190-odd predecessors, was clear. 'It aimed to destroy the trade unions, the opposition parties and, fundamentally, to strike a blow against the working class, the miners and peasants. Because these are the people who have put up most fight against the military, although the

way in which an unarmed people has had to confront tanks, machine-guns and aeroplanes has been disastrous. 'But, well, the Bolivian people do not give in easily. People say that, with all these coups, we Bolivians never seem to be satisfied with anything, but I think rather that the Bolivian people are a very politically conscious and highly combative class, who don't let themselves be deceived by the tricks which

imperialism uses to justify its domination of my country, disguised one day as democracy, the next as military rule, and finally as fascism. It's the same thing.'

The cycle of military intervention would not recur, Domitila feels, if previous civilian governments had allowed the people to arm themselves. 'Look, the Bolivian people have been aware for some time now that the only way out of this is a revolution — after all, they had the experience of seizing power in 1952, didn't they? The trouble has been, I think, that the political parties have lagged behind the people. It's a bit awkward for me to spell things out concretely, you understand? But the Bolivian people are under such tight control that they're not allowed to



Let me speak!

organise themselves. They know that they have to take power, and that can only be done with arms. They are conscious that the only solution is a complete change of the system — the Central Obrera Boliviana (equivalent of the TUC) was saying so as far back as 1971

'But they also know that it takes some time to prepare for that, and that's why they took part in the recent elections. Because they wanted a constitutional government, a parliament which would allow the trade unions, and also the political parties, to organize themselves better, and speed up the process. I can't say all this openly now because, well, everyone thinks that Bolivia has been fighting for its democracy, nothing more. If we mention the taking of power by the working class, many political parties will be outlawed, and people will say "I told you so, they're communist sympathizers", and the rest of it.'

Under present circumstances, Bolivians are limited to passive resistance. 'The people have fought so many times, and for so many years, against military dictatorships, that they will find their own forms of struggle, no? For instance, the army has gone into the mines, and is forcing each miner to work by pointing a gun at him. OK, so the miners do all the work that is demanded of them, but when the ore comes out of the mine it's found to be pure rock, without a trace of metal! So you see, the miner knows what he is doing. The economic situation is critical. In La Paz, banknotes have been circulating inscribed with insults to the military regime, and García Meza has said that all these notes will have to be withdrawn from circulation, and new ones printed.'

Domitila laughed. 'But there are a

thousand forms of repression. For example, some soldiers in civilian clothes may get onto a bus and shout"Glory to Santa Cruz" - that leader of the Socialist Party who was killed. Anyone who responds "Glory" is arrested on the spot and taken prisoner. What kind of thing is that? It's those paramilitaries who are the greatest danger. There's more than three thousand of them, falangists, drugtraffickers, murderers, who, so it's said, don't earn any salary so have to invent their own ways of exacting fines and reprisals. There are Argentines among them too. Many women are stopped in the street, taken away and raped - it's usual for them to be raped - then threatened with death if they make a denunciation. It's depressing, compañero. On one side the paramilitaries, on another the army . . . and the people who are unarmed.' Domitila's voice fell to a whisper. 'I don't know why the political parties didn't see this coming.

Throughout the conversation her calm, unassuming presence veered between bitter sorrow and being animated by a political vision or by the courage of her people.

'Of course, although almost the whole leadership of the trade unions has been removed, or imprisoned, the leaders at local level have gone into hiding, and they are organizing the clandestine resistance. We know too that the peasants organizations are resisting. It's no coincidence that the peasants' leader, Genaro Flores, has also been declared a traitor by Meza. During the last three years the peasants have put up a great deal of resistance, and they came to the miners' support when the mines were attacked by the army. A lot of effort has been made helping them to understand that we are the same as them, because previously there were many things dividing us.

'The pact which the peasants had with the military made them believe that the soldiers were their friends, and we were their enemies. For example, they were told that miners had a contagious disease which they could catch if they spoke to them. But all those barriers are broken now. I think that's a very positive and important step, and is what the army feared most. It made them bring the coup forward and try to destroy everything they could.

'I think the peasants and workers are, equally, the backbone of a country's economy, because if the peasants don't sow, what are we going to eat, and in Bolivia, if no one works in the mines, which are the main source of foreign earnings, where's the money going to come from the maintain the country? To these have to be added the factory and building workers, because if no one built the houses which the rich people enjoy now, where would they live, and likewise who would run the factories?'

Domitila stressed the value of international opposition becoming less forceful, a little hesitant. But then if you think what Bolivia means to the United States in terms of mineral production, it's not surprising that they're tolerating the coup, because it gives them a better base for repressing the people and controlling them. I. think the best way to carry on opposing the regime internationally is not to recognise it, and to boycott the economy, because the generals are

flocking to world banks in search of funds, and if the boycott can be kept up — together with the internal boycott by the workers which is going on - it will be very important, and force the army into a corner from which the only escape would be a real change. Domitila had just ended a visit to coal-mining communities in Yorkshire and Scotland, which had encouraged her greatly ('we speak the same language'), and was on her way to Sweden, invited by a human rights group. She laughed at the West European habit of treating human rights as something which could be separated from their political context. 'A human being is political from the moment it's born. As I see it, we're divided into three kinds of political people: those who are selfish, individualists, who want everything for themselves, although they don't know what to do with the wealth which they already have. They invent a thousand ways of getting. money out of other people. Then there are those who want everything to be shared by everybody, and others who don't want to get too involved with one side or the other, but who hesitate and sit on the fence. So every human being chooses what kind of political person he or she wants to be, without necessarily setting out to be political. In our country we are taught that it's the worst of crimes to be political, but our whole life is caught up with politics — it's even in the

soup we eat!'

She also questioned some forms of feminism which she had seen in Europe. 'Of course machismo, or patriarchy as you call it here, exists - nobody's going to deny it. But from the moment a woman gets married, having been educated that her function is to fulfil domestic tasks, to the time she ventures out to a union meeting, then dedicates herself to political organisation, and perhaps ends up in exile, as I am, these are battles which, day by day, which becomes a trench across which the enemy cannot pass. That's why one compañero said that you have to politicize not only the children, but even the cats and dogs. How can one

say that it is my father, my compañero, my sons, who are the exploiters leading the world to war and disaster?

'I don't agree with those women who Domilita - clear in her thinking,

say that what has to be done is to defeat patriarchy, because it is the cause of all the injustice there is. I agree with those who believe that men and women should be on the same level, no? I think that man and woman are the two pillars on which society, the whole world rests, and if one of those pillars is higher than the other, well, the world is going to start tottering, as it is doing now. Our task is to make it equal, so that society is balanced, don't you think?' but never taking things for granted. Friendly too — throughout our talk she used the familiar $t\hat{u}$ form. Despite the present military oppression in Bolivia, where all political and trade union activity is banned and government censorship of the media is absolute and because of it - I felt that this humble revolutionary will somehow find her way home.

The struggle continues...

FOLLOWING ON from Domitila's visit new and significant solidarity links have been set up between Bolivian and British miners.

Sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers, Domitila visited the Yorkshire, Kent and Scotland mining areas, where she spoke with members of the area Executives, local branch officials, the men working at pit level, and their wives.

The response was fantastic. Yorkshire, Kent and Scotland inprinciple agreed to consider supporting the mining areas of Huanuni, Siglo Veinte and Caracoles respectively. Huanuni, Siglo Veinte and Caracoles have long histories of militant struggle, and have suffered brutal repression as a result. Immediately after the coup Huanuni and Siglo, Veinte were bombed, while, in Caracoles, over 900 people were massacred.

The Fund, which was set up after a meeting between delegates from the FSTMB (the Bolivian Miners Union), who were on a fraternal visit to Britain at the time of the coup, and members of the Bolivia Committee, is channelling money through to Bolivian workers and their families, in liason with the FSTMB (Bolivian Mines Union) and COB (Bolivian equivalent of TUC).

Inside Bolivia, resistance continues. Miners are sabotaging production, and exports are reported to have dropped by 40% in the last six months. Public sector employees are threatening to strike over non payment of wages.

The IMF may well grant the Junta's request, having met with the financial advisors to the Junta in New York in early November. Neither party left the meeting looking downcast. The IMF issued Bolivia with a US\$17 million loan in August, a month after the coup.

A change in the composition of the regime also seems on the cards. Reports from La Paz indicate fierce jockeying for power within the military, the prime contenders for pwer being the present Interior Minister Col. Lius Arce Gomez, the air force commander General Waldo Bernal and the man who succeeded Arce as chief of Army Intelligence, Colonel Faustine Rico Toro. Despite the murky records of all these men, their accession to power would 'clear up' the face of the military regime in Bolivia (if not change its nature) making it more acceptable to international opinion and Reagan's new administration. García Meza has met these threats with increased repression.

Solidarity, such as that shown by the British miners, is now more essential than ever.

Jenny Vaughan

For further information, donations and speakers contact the Committee for Defence of Democracy in Bolivia, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1. Let Me Speak, by Domitila Barrios de Chungara, is published by Stage 1, price £2.95.

This is the list for the fourth quarter of 1980. You may join for the quarter simply by selecting books to the value of £6.50 or more at book club prices (heavy type)-the normal retail price is in brackets. Books may be collected from Bookmarks or will be sent by post.

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Books

NAMIBIA - THE FACTS: International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa £1.50 pb NAMIBIA - THE FACTS gives a detailed account of the exploitation of a country and its people, from its early colonisation by the Germans to its present illegal occupation by South Africa. The book outlines the events leading to the formation of SWAPO - the liberation movement in Namibia - in 1960 and its activities, both diplomatic

- it has been accepted by the United Nations as the authentic representative of the Namibian people with full observers status at the General Assembly - and military, carrying out increasingly successful guerilla operations and holding down a large number of South African troups.

Published by the International Defence and Aid Fund for South ern Africa, the book describes the denial of human rights to the Namibian people through the introduction of emergency regulations which maintain virtual martial law over large areas of the country: mass arrests, detention without trial, political prisoners and torture are commonplace. Almost every South African military base has an internment centre. At the notorious camp at Oshakati (Ovamboland), 'one secondary school student was toitured there for five days in December 1976 with electric shock, beaten while he was blindfolded, and tied to a pole in the open for several hours. One pregnant woman was tortured in a

similar way and died as a result. Although the UN Security Council declared South Africa's occupation illegal in 1969, successive British governments, both Labour and Conservative, have continued to trade with South Africa for Namibian minerals such as uranium. In 1980, 11 years after the UN demand for its complete withdrawal, South Africa has over ROBERT BARLTR

60,000 troops in Namibia and uses the territory to launch military attacks into Angola and Zambia.

Following the victory of the Patriotic Front Alliance in Zimbabwe, Namibia has now become the focus of attention in the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa. During September an International conference was held in Paris and a UN Mission has been in Pretoria discussing a settlement plan for Namibian independence. Perhaps these initiatives may lead to further progress towards independence, but as Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO, said recently in London "There is no peace in Namibia! There is war first! There is war now!"

Thom Markham

'UNITY IS STRENGTH': TRADE UNIONS IN LATIN AMERICA - A CASE FOR SOLIDARITY: James Dunkerley and Chris Whitehouse (Latin America Bureau, PO Box 134 London NW1 4JY).

EARLIER THIS YEAR a campaign led by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF) succeeded in forcing the Coca-Cola company to terminate its concession agreement with a particularly brutal management. The Guatemalan licence-holders, Embotelladora Guatemalteca, had earned notoriety even by Latin American standards: in the course of a long fight against the establishment of a plant union, they had resorted to the kidnap and murder of union members and labour lawyers, as well as having workers imprisoned on false charges, among other, more familiar tactics.

Concrete examples such as this of international solidarity are, sadly, few and far between. The IUF is almost alone among the International Trade Secretariats in placing solidarity above anti-communism on its list of priorities. In Britain, the TUC's International Department is virtually a branch of the Foreign

Problems in Labour Politics

The first issue of Politics & Power, pub-I lished in the Summer, was found by the Leveller to be 'strong on libertarianism', Tribune praising the 'intelligent, careful and original contributions to socialist discussion'. The second issue is now available, and considers a wide range of political, economic and social questions facing the British left today.

0 7100 0716 7, 272 pp, paper £5.75

Routledge & Kegan Paul 39 Store Street, London WC1

Office, and only the National Union of Mineworkers has established a reputation for direct and effective action on the international front.

The latest publication from the Latin America pressure group, LAB, aims to help put this right. The back half consists of an invaluable country-by-country survey of trade union history in 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries. At the front, a series of essays outline the reasons for the present abysmal state of affairs. The book makes no apology for being polemical. It is bound to ruffle some feathers - with its one-paragraph dismissal of import controls, for example - but then, in spite of its attractive presentation, this is no coffee-table book; it is a call for action.

Anyone relying for

information solely on the press as most people inevitably do could be forgiven for thinking that the Latin American subcontinent is peopled exclusively by military juntas and wild-eyed guerrillas, with the occasional footballer thrown in for light relief. It is true that politics tends to be considerably more polarised than in Europe, with government by 'consensus' replaced by the law of the tank and the machine-gun. Nonetheless, as the authors of this book rightly point out, the underlying struggle is the same: indeed, in many cases it is a struggle against the same employers, as transnationals move out in search of the lowest production costs.

Quite apart from the noble sentiments of international solidarity, it is in the interests of workers in this country to collaborate with their brothers and sisters overseas. 'One of the greatest advantages of their international organisation to the large corporations', the book concludes, 'is the ability this gives them to "divide and rule" their workers throughout the world. Until the workers themselves forge solidarity at that level the opportunities to remove exploitation and transfer wealth to those that create it remain slight."

There can be no underestimating the obstacles that stand in the way of effective international solidarity, and perhaps the greatest of these is ignorance - an ignorance fostered by the mass media. The Latin America Bureau has laid the groundwork with this book for the fight back against ignorance. It is now up to British trade unionists to read it, and to respond to its call for action. There need be no contradiction between this and the struggle at home. As the Chilean Minister of Finance put it earlier this year: 'Margaret Thatcher is moving in exactly the same direction as we are'.

Phil Gunson



Last posers in town; L-R, Karl Marx, Fred Engels, Vlad Lenin and Mao Tsetung

THE CLASH BEFORE AND **AFTER:** Photographs by Pennie Smith. (Eel Pie, £4.50)

SO ONCE AGAIN we ask the question, 'So you wanna be a rock and roll star?' Well, for all part-time dreamers, this book is for you. Posing is the name of the game and the Clash are experts.

It's a pity that Pennie Smith chose the Clash to take snaps of; the book's a kind of 'Nice photos shame about the band' collection. It's spoilt by memories of singer Joe Strummer's yards of speech about how they weren't going to act like stars. Yet we're meant to appreciate pics of Paul Simonon strutting round a swimming pool and Mick Jones playing guitar hero roles.

The black-and-white snaps are interesting on the whole, and do hint at what the atmosphere's like behind the scenes. But the book would be less obnoxious if the Clash thought more about what they're doing and less about how good a pose it is. In one picture, Paul Simonon plays bass in front of a confederate flag to all intents and purposes a symbol of slavery.

I know the Clash would never dream of playing in front of a swastika - and quite right too. The trouble seems to be that the Clash live more clichés than I write. They raised the questions but can't provide any answers. One photo shows Strummer slouched over a mike with his guitar back to front over his shoulder; it has a large question mark painted on it. Exactly -

why?

You see Joe, Mick, Paul and Topper on and off stage. In their dressing rooms and in large cars. The Clash really believe they're the 'Last Gang in Town' and pretend they don't care what anyone says. Well they do, and they sure want to look good while they're saying it. They've become like the trash food Paul Simonon's so fond of eating (or being photographed eating?; tastes nice for a moment, then makes you sick.

The Clash once sang, If someone locks me out / I'll kick my way back in. Nowadays it seems they'd bribe their way back in, or else not bother at all.

Pennie Smith is the New Musical Express staff photographer. And the Clash ...? Phil Brett

SHOESTRING: BBC1, Sundays 9pm. SHOESTRING STARTS with a parody. Eddie Shoestring, Radio

TV

West's 'private ear', walks down a street in Bristol as the opening titles roll. A radio dial is being tuned, and it follows him the way that an assassin's sights would follow their target.

But Shoestring itself is more than mere parody. Gimmicky certainly, with its rationale that Shoestring is employed to deal with listeners' enquiries, and possibly even incestuous, with its local radio setting.

Nonetheless Shoestring is a new type of private eye, different in kind from those other English private eye series like Hazell or Paul Temple. And different too, from those famous American investigators who made the genre respectable, like Dashiell Hammett's Nick Charles or Chandler's Philip Marlowe.

The major crime se.

of the last twenty years have all featured the police in action, a steady progression from Dixon of Dock Green through Z Cars and Softly Softly to the less formal world of The Sweeney - which was still based on the rather improbable adventures of the Flying Squad.

But that progression came to an end with Law and Order, screened in 1978. Written by G. F. Newman and produced by Tony Garnett, it showed the police as they'd never been seen on television; a police force for the seventies.

To follow Law and Order with anything less uncompromising, after the deaths of Blair Peach, Liddle Towers and Jimmy Kelly, and with Operation Countryman in progress, would have been a step back into the moralistic world of Sergeant Dixon. The answer was a change of place and scale: Juliet Bravo on the one hand (if in doubt, set it in Yorkshire) and Shoestring on the other.

Of the two, Shoestring's world is much closer to that of Law and Order. He lives in a world that we all share. He's spent some time in the local psychiatric hospital, and this past comes across in the programmes just as something that's happened, something that could happen to any of us. And he lives with his landlady, Erica. Although she tends to do the cooking, she does work for her living, and she's separated from her husband.

Unlike the classic private eyes - rugged American individualists with nothing to answer to but their own consciences - Shoestring has to work for Radio West. His boss, Don Satchley, Radio West's programme controller, is grateful for the good ratings that Shoestring gets. And he's a 'nice man', a classic liberals who's always ready to get his round in.

But he's not prepared to let things come between him and the smooth running of the station, which to Satchley means big audience figures and good relationships with those in high places on the station's patch. Recently he tried to stop Shoestring investigating a case involving the police drugs squad because the station newsroom needed the cooperation of the police. Moral considerations don't come into it.

And that means that Shoestring ends up arguing with his boss a lot. One day the crunch is going to come - and it's going to be Shoestring that goes, not

Satchley. His adventures show very clearly the ties that bind those who rule us, the money, power and social links that enable them to screw the rest of us.

In one, for example, an electronics company and a debtcollecting agency get together to put another successful company out of business. They destroy its credit worthiness by using their computer company to fake a bad debt, and the owner commits suicide. The idea is to encourage his wife to sell the company off cheap by harassing her for payments on the things they've bought on hire purchase.

And again, there's a drugs squad detective who's come to an arrangement with the area's biggest dealer, to protect the fact that he's having an affair with another police officer. The arrangement involves the death of a small-time crook who's a key witness in a forthcoming trial. Or the successful consultant who's unethically seduced a patient of his. She's since left her husband.

And it's not them who suffer. The consultant doesn't have to face the BMA, while the woman's husband commits suicide.

Sometimes the victim's luckier. The crook who's supposed to get wasted escapes, and the detective gets transferred. And the woman who owns the electronics company sells it for what it's worth - and gets a seat on the board. But even then the two men who put the company out of business don't get done while the bent systems analyst they needed to fiddle the computers goes to the jail.

It's a network that includes Radio West. A lawyer who's cheated a musician out of his royalties is Radio West's lawyer too. And the crooked computer company is used by the station for 'personnel evaluation'.

The message is quite simple. The rich are different from you and I. They use their power to cheat and exploit the rest of us. Sometimes we can catch them out. But it's never more than a holding operation. Mike Craig

Films

KAGEMUSHA, directed by Akira Kurosawa

THE JAPANESE director Kurosawa has been influential; both his cinematic style and themes have been translated into western films - 'Seven Samurai' became 'The Magnificent Seven', while 'A Fistful of Dollars' was based on 'Yojimbo'.

The eagerly awaited new Kurosawa film 'Kagemusha' (or the Shadow Warrior) suffers from a bad case of cultural feed-back - the influence is going the other way now. The



idea of the film was floated to 'movie brats' George Lucas ('Star Wars') and Francis Ford Coppola ('Apocalypse Now') even before production was scheduled to start. The result: 20th Century Fox bought international distribution rights, the film has a score like 'Star Wars' and dramatic anti-war battle scenes like yes 'Apocalypse Now'.

Epics have a bad habit of failing for want of a good script and 'Kagemusha' is no exception. Too much time is spent on hackneyed conspiritorial talk, while too little is given to exploring the potential of the story - of a thief's adaptation to his role as a stand-in for a dead Samurai lord.

Impotent, expendable, the thief plays Shingen for three years, until the eldest son steps in as regent. By now he has become Shingen, as he is initiated into understanding of the Bushido way of the Samurai.

Shingen's death is acknow ledged, and the kagemusha is stripped of his Samurai armour and driven out to watch the final battle, the son, pursuing the imperial ambitions of his father, causes the destruction of the Takeda clan and its armies. The Battle of Nagashino, 1574, marked the introduction of firearms into medieval conflict; the Takeda army is swept away by disciplined musket volleys.

The massacre is the film's most effective passage, revealing the horrific actuality behind the Warlords' chess-game warmongering. The cameras move through dead and dying, intercut with the hilltop view of the bloodied field. This finale serves as a double metaphor: for all the wars that have succeeded Nagashino; and the eclipse of the Samurai by an outside, corrupt power. The victor, with his European-trained army, drinks

wine, and accepts Christian blessing.

The film looks beautiful but overall it must be rated disappointing, as it only briefly captures the intensity of Kurosawa's better works. Lucas would like 'Kagemusha' to promote "a new era of cooperation between the Japanese and American motion picture industries." If this is the product, I'd rather they stuck to their own. Terry O'Brian

TESS: directed by Roman Polanski (seen at the Edinbugh Film Festival).

IN HIS better films (Macbeth, Chinatown) Polanski has treated his subjects with a degree of healthy cynicism for which we may forgive him some of his failings. With his adaptation of one of Hardy's most depressingly truthful novels we have a film with as much cynicism and bite as the Hovis advert.

It is perhaps the shortening of





the title to the central character in Tess of the d'Urbervilles that provides the key to where Polanski went wrong with his latest effort. Hardy did not create Tess as a heroic central figure. The story is not tragic in any classical tradition as Polanski seems to think. The element of fate that brings about Tess's downfall has nothing to do with heavenly forces outside the character's control. Her demise has more to do with her fruitless search for humanity in a society based on dishonest religious values and bereft of compassion.

Polanski drops any reference to the characters' complex trains of thought and offers us nothing in return. Thus whenever Tess gets shat upon yet again we get a close-up of her looking all forlorn and vulnerable. Nowhere does her strength and essential resilience come through. Likewise, Angel and Stoke are drawn with similar ineptitude. In the novel Angel is intensely analytical and wordy. Here his one monologue delivered on their wedding night on the evils of aristocratic decadence was so out of place that the audience at the premiere burst out laughing.

The film ends on a note of tragic glory with Tess's arrest at Stonehenge, therefore losing the bathetic hanging and Angel's subsequent flirtation with Tess's sister. Yet more evidence of Polanski's ham fisted approach to his subject.

Tess will probably be enjoyed by many who have not read the book. Indeed it has its moments. Stoke's bloody end is very well done but then Polanski always was pretty handy with the Kensington Gore. But anyone who has not read the novel would be wise to invest in a copy rather than see this piece of turgid claptrap.

Matthew Diamond

Nusic

CAPTAIN BEEFHEART AND **THE MAGIC BAND; The Venue** 12/11/80

After a long taped intro of south east Asian extraction, followed by a crazed piece of solo bass from Eric Drew Feldman of the current Magic Band, the Captain wanders on to the stage. 'I don't like her either,' he growls. 'Thatcher, And I don't like her dancing partner....Reeaagan. Which hardly qualifies for the most profound thing he's ever said, but let it pass ...

We're at The Venue, where women wait at tables and a jolly voice over exhorts you to 'have fun', where the lux interior pretends to offer escape. It seems an inappropriate location and Beefheart looks uncomfortable. He can't pronounce the title of one song: 'Money always makes me stutter.' People keep on shouting for their favourite tune.

A man with as formidable a history as Beefheart's is bound in some sense of live on his past. A reputation's a reputation, do what you will with it, and what Don van Vliet does with his is a damn sight better than most Californians from he same era. The victim of a lot of mythologising, he hasn't given up yet.

A lot of people here seem to wish he had. Beefheart's part of their past, they've no real relationship to his work - what use to them his anger or compassion? - they want nostalgia. UNwilling to listen, they only hear. During a recitation (appropriately enough) of 'Old Farts at Play' - one of the few quiet moments in the set - there's so much noise from the bozos at the bar that he stops, gestures

helplessly, and then rushes the rest.

But that was the lowest moment. As they run through a selection of revamped oldies like 'Dropout Boogie' and 'Kandy Korn' the Captain's snarls, yelps and octave-leaps command attention, while the renditions of new material plead a convicing cast for the 'Doc at the Radar Station' album as a good home for a stray £5 note, should you have such a thing.

Effortlessly working round rhythms almost too tortuous for the human ear to follow, the Magic Band seem to amaze even Beefheart. He watches them play, shaking his head in mock astonishment, holding out his hat as if to catch the vibes. When he bangs percussion out of synch, or blows a spinetingling peice of free-form sprano sax, it seems almost as if he's trying to compensate for the tautness behind him.

Beefheart is the least relaxed, apologetic at times, pissed off at others, conscious of the demands that are being made on him. 'Jesus, that song was fifteen years old ' he can scarcely believe it. 'fifteen years old'.

Misgivings about the event may have kept me in my seat, but the music sure kept me on the edge of it.

Dave Rimmer

ARETHA FRANKLIN/LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Apollo Victoria)

GOING TO see Aretha Franklin! Whatever she was like, enough of the mantle of successive black 'queen' singers, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, would stick to make it special. Seeing a figure from history, even past their prime, is a little treat to file for the future. "Aretha Franklin?

Uh-huh, saw her one time. Course, she wasn't up to much by then.... (unspoken: but it WAS THE Aretha Franklin!)".

Aretha Franklin At The Apollo! Now why did that sound so impressive? It was a long time before it dawned on me: the Harlem Apollo, a photo in a book of its neon like a beacon of glory above the city, 'soul music's Mecca'. Still, this was the Apollo-Victoria, another gloomy and unhappy venue with seats and high bar prices to set its tone.

You expect showbiz, not to say bullshit, at these expensive do's. From the intro tape (Bridge Over Troubled Water) on, however, it was clear that the nonsense was not to have the saving grace of being overdone. I was all a bit like a two-sparklersand-a-torch lightshow. The buildup wasn't big enough to be more than a bit tiresome. The hired band were banked up on one side in their tuxedoes and the (excellent) backing singers were on a dais on the other.

Aretha Franklin was in the middle, introducing herself with a few verses of Anything Goes. That out of the way, all of a sudden she was singing her first hit, Respect, and it was obvious that her voice is still with her. For a moment it was dramatic, and there were other moments like it throughout her 45-minute set. The voice, the phrasing escaped from the old Atlantic mix which restrained it among the arrangements on the records. That was interesting. She threw it away, though, by chopping songs like Think off before their natural climaxes. The set gave her an easy ride, with false exits and rambling medleys and lots of padding.

I don't expect 'soul' from a professional performer singing ten-year-old greatest hits, but a tighter performance would not have been beyond her. Her voice was plainly much more than adequate; instead, she wasted it on disjointed vocal tricks and repetitions. Perhaps the band had quite a lot to do with it. If the show had been done with panache, it could have worked. It all seemed very old-fashioned - that's not derogatory - and traditional, but not well done. There were touches of gospel excitement going for the show, and she has a great voice, but it was done with too little effort.

The other thing you should know is that the stalls seats were £8 and £10, which is about 20p a minute, and the victims of recession were not there. If they were upstairs they were getting an even worse deal. Now, if you're going to mount a transatlantic tour on the cheap, you should either price it to match or make it count with something that money can't necessarily buy. There were a lot of empty seats.

Album reviews

JOHN HIATT: **Two-Bit Monsters (MCA)**

WHEN DO 'bitter-sweet' love songs stop being realistic and start being mysogynistic? On the evidence of this LP John Hiatt hasn't quite worked out the answer. 'You tell him to kiss away/All those things we could not say', OK. But maybe not 'You said I wouldn't be happy/Without hell to pay' or 'Let's get back to the war'.

Good songs nonetheless, even if the band hasn't quite got the attack to do them justice. And there's a fine version of Edwin Starr's 'I Spy For The FBI'. Mike Craig

ARE YOU GLAD TO BE IN **AMERICA:** James 'Blood' Ulmer (Rough Trade)

'ARE YOU Glad to be in America' is not 'Jazz'. Yet jazz is the teacher, jazz is what informs this music. 'Jazz' gives you some idea of what you might get out of it. It's based on 'Harmolodica', a musical discipline defined and refined by Ornette Coleman with whom Blood worked in the early '70s. Harmolody deals with the autonomy of instruments, their range, the noises you can get out of them. Melody, pattern, and all the other 'rules' of Western music are secondary.

'Are You Glad to be in America' is not 'Funk', although it's certainly funky. Funk is the preacher, the hook-line, the hard sell (and it's big business these days, in white as well as black music). While the other instruments wander where the harmolodic takes them, the rhythm section follows a more conventional route. For those whose ears find the resultant combinations strange, funk is the anchor in the accessible.

'Are You Glad to be in America' is not 'Jazz-funk', even though it grows out of both. As a generic term, 'jazz-funk' is more aptly applied to those bland and chart-bound noises produced by the likes of Tom Browne or Spyra Gyra. Harmolodic funk is jagged, jolting, unkempt. It aims not to soothe, but to interrupt. It might be 'jazz-punk' ...

James 'Blood' Ulmer

it's an appropriate term or not, it does at least point to an answer as to why a label like Rough Trade are releasing an album like this. With every New Wave group in earshot turning to funk as a 'New' form, and with the growth of an area identified as 'jazzpunk', maybe Blood's time to be heard has come. And whether for the right reasons or not, that can't be a bad thing.

Dave Rimmer

Singles reviews

ROBERT WYATT: At Last I am Free/Strange Fruit(Rough Trade)

The joyous lyric At Last I am Free/I can hardly see in front of me, rendered by Wyatt's small, plaintive voice, sits in a spare, bleak backing track. Quite a peculiar effect because words and music seem so at odds. A synthesiser provides some sustaining notes to sweeten it a bit, a piano tinkles... It never seems to get richer, but remains spaced and poignant. In the end it gets to you.

Strange Fruit is treated in much the same way. His sad voice voice, singing very straight, which is really the best way since the song itself is so powerful. Taking it on after Billy Holliday is a brave thing to do, and I think he pulls it off.

PATRIK FITZGERALD GROUP: Mr & Mrs, Animal Mentality, Tonight/A Superbeing, Waiting For The Final Cue. (Final Solution)

This record got the thumbs up from everyone around when I was listening to it. Not one word is thrown away. Animal Mentality is really great, both musically with its repeated piano phrase - it sounds like one of those wonky pub ones — and verbally the theme is that capitalist society would be much easier to cope with if we didn't understand what what was going on. **THE RESISTANCE:** Survival

Kit/Big Flame (Fontana)

Not since Cliff brought out We don't Talk any More has there been as good a pop single as this. Mark Damron has a distinctive fey vocal style, the production is excellent and the playing really right, so that by the time the chorus comes up it's bursting with excitement.

THE METHOD: Chances/Little Lazers

Available from; Harum Records, London. Red Lightning Records, Diss. Norfolk. Virgin Records, London.

The rhythm structure of Chances is much like that of many less skilled 'new wave' bands straight fours - but the drummer has a really nice touch and so many ideas that it coasts beauti-

fully from beginning to end. The song's about trying to scratch some quality living within the present set-up.

LOUDER ANIMAL GROUP: The Fossil Record (An Ears Pop Record)

Through a cacophony of sound a voice can just be heard saying things like constant bombardment by solar radiation' and 'Peking Man'. From this a rhythm emerges, much easier on the ears even it it is rather old fashioned. It's a lament about the pollution of the earth, the transient lot of human kind, references to fossils, ancient man... and so on till the end.

SECTION 25: Girls Don't Count/ Knew Nose/Up To You (Relevant)

Girls Don't Count is boring. Knew Nose has a good bass and drum track, but I couldn't hear the high compressed vocals. And Up To You is much the same. I just can't get into music which seems as monotonous as this, but perhaps I'm getting old.

Barbara Stretch



THE MAN TO SAVE US by Stephen Fagan, presented by **Oxford Playhouse Company (seen** at Oxford Playhouse).

IN THIS new play, the events of 1924-1937 are examined, and its victims are given sympathetic treatment: they include Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour Party, and the English Working Class.

The baddies are easy to spot. The ruthless clear sight of Lady Londonderry and her aristocratic friends puts them (in more ways than one) in a class above fervent MacDonald and bumbling Jimmy Thomas. MacDonald and Thomas may be Tory lackeys (- who bows lowest at the King's audience?) but when it comes to political manoeuvring they are mere amateurs. Lady Londonderry looks on in delight as her husband cuts a wasp in half - it will not realise what has happened, she explains, until it tries to fly away. It is a brilliantly apposite image for the Labour leadership; divided and emasculated until its power and idealism are gone, in the end it can neither sting nor escape.

The hero is the Working Man - represented here by the emblematic figure of George Elliot. He is met at crucial

moments: walking from Durham to London to congratulate MacDonald in 1924; tramping across Seaham Moor carrying a child's coffin in 1933; remaining an uncompromisingly bitter witness to MacDonald's isolation in 1937. He is an uncanny figure - an Avenging Angel of the Working Class who haunts MacDonald and is the fitting witness to the play's action

The stiffness of the first scenes - and the struggles of John Clynes with a recalcitrant northern accent - are left behind however during the course of the play. The performance is brought together by the vigorous figures of MacDonald and Lady Londonderry. He is inspired; completely closed to reason and remorse. Lady Londonderry is matched only by George Lansbury in political insight, and outshines everyone in personal conviction (the play's brief hint of a love-affair between her and MacDonald remains an embarrassing and incongruous mystery).

Considering the play's contemporary relevance, it is disappointing that the central political issues are mostly dodged. How did Ramsay MacDonald convince himself to the end that he was the one true socialist? Any hint that he may have been motivated by ambition or greed is rejected. The play suggests rather that he led the National Government because (1) he loved Lady Londonderry, (2) the King loved him, (3) his dead wife (sic) thought it would be a good thing - solutions which provide little guidance for contemporary socialists still wondering if Labour governments can ever implement socialist policies.

The audience at the Oxford Playhouse clearly enjoyed 'The Man to Save Us'. One only worries that the play may have allowed them to enjoy it for the wrong reasons. The Tories may well be happy if their only opponents are saints, fools, and embittered spectres.

Helen Breen

MAMA'S GONE A-HUNTING: presented by Siren Theatre Company, seen at Hoxton Hall, 5.11.80

This show is an ambitious stab at cramming the history of the world into an hour and a half. The setting is futuristic - an inter-galactic courtroom presided over by an androgynous judge. Woman, it transpires, has had enough of acting as man's lifesupport system and has packed her bags ready to leave and start a new female-dominated society on another planet. Man, clinging onto her apron strings for dear life, is determined to keep her right where she is. Both sides present their case to the judge. The format is perfect, in that it allows 'Siren' to examine women's history, written and

unwritten, from the beginning of time in a series of fast-moving and pointedly accurate sketches.

Space-age the setting may be, but there is nothing otherworldly about their horrifying picture of female existence, painted on a canvas splattered with prejudice, oppression and injustice. Images of women through the ages are thrown up to show that if a woman couldn't be put down at least she could be silenced, starting with a look at the Virgin Mary, the perfect woman, invented by men, for men - not only pure and unsullied, but an unselfish mother too - what a combination! No wonder the rest of us have been feeling inadequate for the last two thousand years....

Mediaeval woman gives way to Victorian woman to Edwardian woman, the first to show real signs of breaking out of the prison man calls her home. Enter the experts. 'Unwomanly behaviour' (like wanting an education and a vote), we are told, was treated as some deadly disease, only to be cured by 'whipping out her ovaries' which were, apparently, the property of the Commonwealth.

Modern woman doesn't fare much better. Caught in a world dominated by media images of beautiful, capable, available females, the need to succeed as a wife and mother has never been greater. The stress, as woman finds herself still essentially powerless, watching as man's 'technological breakthroughs' promise to blow him into oblivion, builds and builds until she can stand it no longer, hence the courtroom.

The sketches are unnervingly true-to-life, the delivery short and spare and direct. The scenes are sprinkled with self-penned songs, dances and a string of shockingly sexist quotes from such diverse sources as Martin Luther King, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Barbara Cartland. Original material works side by side with traditional feminist jokes; ' "It must be difficult dear, walking in those high heels." "Oh, that's nothing. I'm usually on a pedestal." ' All in all, the show exemplifies female humour at its sharpest - acidic and biting enough to be felt, but never allowed to become cynical or hard-bitten. As a group, Siren are a lively and seemingly endless source of talent, completely self-contained as actresses, singers, writers and musicians. They lack a great deal of polish and theatrically still have a long way to go, although they are at least headed in the right direction The fight for equality rages on, but I feel that this kind of clearheaded, warming look at feminism and where it may be taking us could be a greater step forward than all the heckling, haranguing and hindrance in the world.

Margarette Driscoll





Poems and drawings; the launch publication of a new feminist publishing collective based in Scotland. They are anxious to hear from women writers living in Scotland. Contact: Stramullion Cooperative Ltd 1980, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QB.

In The Making The annual directory of

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meet new examples of the

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the same time the DHSS

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tor'. 35p + 15p post from:

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orders)

South Camden CHC, 114

now based in London, are holding a series of meetings to prepare for issue No 8 of

butions and help welcome. Temporary office: 83 Black stock Road, London N4 (01) meeting from the same num-Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey

Two Labour Research Deoyment Act and Short-Time Lay-Off, Redundancy and Company Insolvency. Titles taining detailed information on legal aspects of the new situations which are bound to become more commonplace as the Tories proceed to wreck the country's economy. 50p and 75p respectively from: Labour Researc Department, 78 Blackfriars

The first feminist magazine produced in India by an all woman group has been coming out in Hindi and English since January 1979. Though women everywhere face the same problems and that women in the West can learn

Fabian Tract No 471 looks at the position of blacks in Britain and concludes, probably, from its author's experience, that this country should operate American-style 'positive discrimination' as a first step towards solving longterm problems of racism and racial discrimination. 24 pages, 75p from: Fabian Society,

[11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1 (01) 222 8877

Race Today

November 1980 issue, out now, contains second part of its long feature 'From Bobby To Babylon: Blacks and the British Police' and a retrospective on the recent Jamaican elections. From bookshops 35p, or direct: Race Today Collective. 74 Shakespeare Road, London SE24 (01) 737 2268

SWAPO of Namibia: Information and Comments October issue of the SWAPO Bulletin contains reproduced press items from South African newspapers and elsewhere, plus a new statement of SWAPO's position on talks about the future of Namibia. From: SWAPO Western Europe Office, 188 North Gower Street, London NW1

Turkey Information Bulletin

November issue contains information about the recent coup: background, the new rulers, the effects on the press, the law, trade unions, the economy, arrests, torture and coverage of the coup in the British Press. Available from: Turkish socialists in Britain 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

 Which Venue Now? A survey of the domestic **Proceedings and Magistrates** Courts Act 1978 in Wales has been carried out as part of Welsh Women's Aid's monitoring of changes in the legal position of batter ed women. The survey finds that this act is hardly being used by solicitors or courts, and seems only to have introduced a further stage of complication in the legal process of protection and redress for battered women 7 pages, from: Welsh Women Aid, 2 Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff (0222) 388291

Events



Friday November 28 BROMLEY

Bromley and Orpington CND Public Meeting, speakers: Bruce Kent, Major-General (retd) A E Younger; 'What's To Be Done About Nuclear Weapons?' 8.00 pm, Large Hall, Central Library, High Street, Bromley.

LONDON

Two-Day Socialist Bookfair 1980. The most comprehensive display of socialist, trade union and radical writing from Britain and abroad. Books may be purchased at the fair and trade orders taken. 12.30am-6.30pm (Friday); 11.00am-5.00pm (Saturday). Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1.

Saturday November 29 CAMBRIDGE

Two-Day East Anglian Women's Liberation Conference. Workshops, creche, entertainment and accommodation. 10.00am, both days at International Centre, Gwydir Street (off Mill Road), Cambridge. £3.00 (unwaged £1.50). **Registration forms from** The Women's Centre, 48 Eden Street, Cambridge. Information: Josie (0223) 350577 (day), (0223) 356786 (evening)

DUNDEE

National march through Dundee in support of women republican prisoners in Armagh and the seven H-Block strikers.



Everyone is needed and welcome, assemble in Toft Hill car part, Lochee (signposted from city centre) 12.00 noon. March to city centre. Details: L Green, 17 Lorimer Street, Dundee, Tayside.

EDINBURGH

Gay Rights at Work. Half-Day conference sponsored by Edinburgh & District **Trades Council and North** Edinburgh CLP. The 'fair' sacking of John Saunders has implications for all workers who hold 'dangerous views' or who are 'medically unfit for work'. 10.30am-2.00pm.Speakers bookstalls, coffee. 40p. **Trades Council Picardy** Place, Edinburgh.

LEEDS Trade, Multinationals and Commodities. Leeds University Students Union. Full details from: Third World First, 232 Cowley Road, Oxford (0865) 45678.

LANCASTER Demonstration against gay repression; planning meeting provisionally arranged for weekend 29/30th. Check gay press/ switchboard for details of venue.

LIVERPOOL Mass national demonstration against unemploy ment and the cuts, organised by Labour Party, **Right to Work Campaign** and others. Assembly - 12,00 noon, Sefton Park (Ullett Road near British Rail Edgehill Station.)March to Liverpoo Pierhead for Rally at 1,30 pm. Special trains and coaches from Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, North and South Wales, Coventry, Birmingham, North Staffs. Check locally for availability of free seats for claimants/students. LONDON

Politics of Women's Health. A one-day course. Speakers include Jill Rakusen (coeditor Our Bodies, Ourselves) on 'The politics of information' and Charmian Kenner (Health Education Officer) on 'Health of working-class women — lessons to learn from the 1930s'. 10.00-4.00pm, Richmond Adult College, Parkshot, Richmond (close to Richmond Station). £2.30 waged. Details: (01) 940 5278.

MANCHESTER Frankie Armstrong In Concert. A mixture of traditional, modern and feminist songs. 8.00pm at Birch Community Centre, Brighton Grove, Rusholme £1.00, advance tickets: North West Arts Centre, Lloyd Street; Grass Roots Bookshop, Newton Street; Eighth Day, Oxford Road or Birch Community Centre. Full details:

Jeremy Shine, Radiator, 3 Birch Polygon, Rusholme, Manchester 14 (061) 224 0020.

Sunday November 30 GLASGOW **Campaign for a Scottish** Assembly (an all-party group with support across the political spectrum in Scotland) is holding a oneday festival, with guests Alastair McDonald, Hamish Henderson, Brian Wilson, Russell Hunter; jazz from Frank Pantrini and Alex Dalgleigh. 1.30-5.00pm in the McLellan Galleries, Glasgow. Details: (041) 339 1675/5925.



LIVERPOOL Liberty Hall Film Society showing: Failsafe (Lumet, 1964) 8.00pm Everyman Bistro, Hope Street, Liverpool, members 60p (non-members 85p). Further information: Top Flat, 7 Grove Park, Liverpool 8 (051) 708 7270 (day) MANCHESTER People's Festival. The third organised by the Greater Manchester Area Communist Party. Music, theatre, poetry, stalls. 11.00am-11.00pm, Belle Vue, Manchester 13 (061) 224 5378.

Tuesday December 2 BIRMINGHAM Arts Lab Film Workshop 'TV Material'. 7.30pm, **Tindal Street Community** Rooms, Tindal Street, Balsall Heath. Details: Film Workshop, c/o Arts Lab, Holt Street, Aston, Birmingham B7 4BA or phone Roger Shannon (021) 359 4192; Stuart Daniels (021) 440 4026. LONDON

Four Corners film show (jointly organised by Greater London Arts Alliance and Open Eye (North West and Merseyside Arts Association): You Winning (Barry Bliss, 1978) and The Nosebleeds (Video, 1978). 8.30pm, Four Corners, 113 Roman Road, London E2. Details: (01) 981 4243.

Wednesday December 3 MANCHESTER Gay Centre: Women from the Rape Crisis Centre talk

about their work and the I importance of their organ isation. 7.30pm 61A Bloom Street, Manchester1. (061) 236 6205.

Thursday December 4 LONDON

TUC Month of Action: mass rally at Brent Town Hall against unemployment and cuts. Main speakers Denis Skinner MP, Ben Rubner (general secretary, Furnishing Trades Union). 7.30pm, Brent Town Hall. Details: Brent Trades Council, Richard Lynch (01) 248 7821; Tom Durkin (01) 459 5646. Friday December 5 LONDON

The Bolivian Coup Southern Cone Dictatorships v Andean Democracies, the Carter years assessed -Round-table discussion, chaired by Eric Hobsbawm organised by Committee For The Defence of Democracy in Bolivia. With: Jaime Paz Zamora, vicepresident elect of Bolivia; Jose Luis Roza, former ambassador to Britain; Silvia Rivero, former head of Sociology department La Paz university; Imogen Mark, journalist, Latin American Newsletter. 7.30pm Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1.

Saturday December 6

LEEDS Big Flame two-day conference. Cost approximately £15 for food and accommodation, though foreign observers will be guests of Big Flame and will address the conference on Sunday on nuclear power and energy issues. Full details and registration Big Flame, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1. (01) 250 1293.





The deadline for information to go in Back Pages events listings is Friday of the week before publication. Listings run fourteen days from the Friday of publication week.

Sunday December 7 LONDON 'Don't Let The Irish Prisoners Die' demonstration assembles Hyde Park 1.00 pm. Organised by the Ad-Hoc Hunger Strike Committee, chairman Ernie Roberts, supported by Charter 80, Troops Out. Full details: (01) 267 2004

Monday December 8 LONDON

Planning meeting for National Festival for Women's Rights Against Tory Attacks (May 9 1981). Open to all women's groups, trades unions, Labour Party branches. 7.00pm. Grays Inn Road, London WC1

Anti-Nazi League International Anti-Fascist Rally. Speakers: Renato Zangheri (mayor of Bologna); Henri Buch (secretary general **FASHP**, the autonomous French police union); Leo Heinemann (VVN, Association of Nazi victims in Germany); Tony Benn MP; Paul Holborow (national secretary ANL). Tickets £1.00 (available London left bookshops, ANL, PO Box 353, London NW5 or from University of London Students Union, Malet Street, London WC1). 7.00pm Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1.

Tuesday December 9 BIRMINGHAM Arts Lab Film Workshop: discussion 7.30pm (See **December 2 listing for** full details)

Wednesday December 10 LONDON Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, speaks at a meeting organised by Anti-Apartheid and Namibia Support Committee, in co-operation with the International Defence Aid Fund. The meeting is to commemorate the Windhoek shootings of 1959 and this will be the first occasion Nujoma has spoken in this country for many years. 7.15pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1.

MANCHESTER Gay Centre. Speaker from the Socialist Feminist Group talks about feminism, the women's movement and working with men. 7.30pm (See December 3 listing for full details).

Advance notice

December 12-13: 'People's Welfare and Socialist Medicine — Britain and China'. Two-day conference organised by the Workers' Institute of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. University of London Students Union, Malet Street, London WC1. Details: Workers' Institute, PO Box 226, Brixton, London SW2.

December 13: Domestic Violence Conference '80, jointly organised by Scottish Women's Aid and the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties. Workshops, creche. Speakers: Becky Dobash, Sheila Gilmore, **Eveline Hunter, Fran** Wasoff, £3.00 (claimants £1.00). 10.00-4.00pm, The Music Halls, George Street, Edinburgh.

December 13: ' A luta continua - 1980'. One-day conference on Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Participants include Tony and Kate Gifford, Malcolm Segall, Basil Davidson, Paul Fauvet, Barry Munslow, Colm Froy. Registration starts 9.30am. Fee: £2.00 in advance, £2.50 on door (OAPs and unwaged £1.00 in advance, £1.50 on door). University of London Students Union, Malet Street, London WC1. Details: MAGIC, 34 Percy Street, London W1 (01) 636 7108. December 18: Defend The

Glasgow 2, Mike Duffield and Kirstin Crosbie, arrested under the PTA in August this year for selling the paper Hands Off Ireland, come up for trial. Letters/telegrams demanding that charges be dropped should be sent to

The Procurator Fiscal. Donations to the Defence Fund are urgently needed. Money, cheques to Glasgow 2 Defence Fund, c/o 49 Railton Road, London SE24.



THE RED FLAG: Illustrated Poster (24"x18") of Socialism's Song (five verses). £1 from Glossoprint (L) 62 Spire Hollin, Glossop, Derbyshire.

An annual award of £1000 has been established to commemorate the work of the late Jan Dawson as a film critic, writer and programme adviser, and in recognition of her contribution to the development of British independent film-making.

Applications are invited from individual film-makers, film-writers and those involved in independent British Film culture.

involved in independent British film culture.

The closing date for applications is January 31 1981. Guidelines can be obtained by writing to : The Secretary, The Jan Dawson Award. c/o. R. Shah and Co. Ltd. 25, Newman Street, London W1

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Is the Brandt Commission Report really concerned to make world trade and production more equitable? Or does it merely want to safeguard Western interests? A day-School to examine these issues on Saturday November 29 at Leeds University Students Union. Details from Third World First, 232 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4

PEOPLES' FESTIVAL 80

12 hours of culture, politics and fun. Sunday November 30, 11am-11pm, Belle Vue, Manchester. Featuring 7: 84 Theatre Group, Mick McGahey and Peter Hain on 'How to Defeat the Tories'. Plus Festival of North West films, Children's Festival, Chilean, Irish and Lancashire music. Evening Rock concert, tickets:£2.50 adult; £1.50 non-earners. Organised by Manchester Area Communist Party, 28 Hathersage Road, Manchester 3.





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Edinburgh. Both communities house men (18-30) of various institutional backgrounds. Pocket money Terminationgrants and Time-off accommodation are provided. Write to Bob Stewart, 12a Forth Street, Edinburgh, 031 556 4971 (six months period at least.)

READ "Destiny of the Nations". Lucis Press: Highly rational, though esoteric. From Medhope, Tintern, Gwent, £2 incl. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR Send greetings to political prisoners and their families in South Africa and Namibia. Lists of addresses now available from AAM, 89 Charlotte St. London W1P 2DQ. Tel (01) 580 5311. AAM members and supporters, friends and colleagues are all welcome to send cards of support and solidarity.

Send	to:	Leveller	Classifieds,	57	Caledonian	Road,	London	N1.

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