THIS ISSUE we are giving away Beating the Terrorists, an investigation into the interrogation and torture methods of the Royal Ulster Constabulary by Peter Taylor. With the hunger strike entering its seventh week, this account of how many H-Block prisoners were beaten into their 'confessions' is especially timely. The book is published by Penguin at £1.50, but is free to you if you take out a year's subscription.

We're also still offering E P Thompson's Protest and Survive, which is becoming the handbook of the revived disarmament movement, and Pluto Press's Big Red Diary for 1981.

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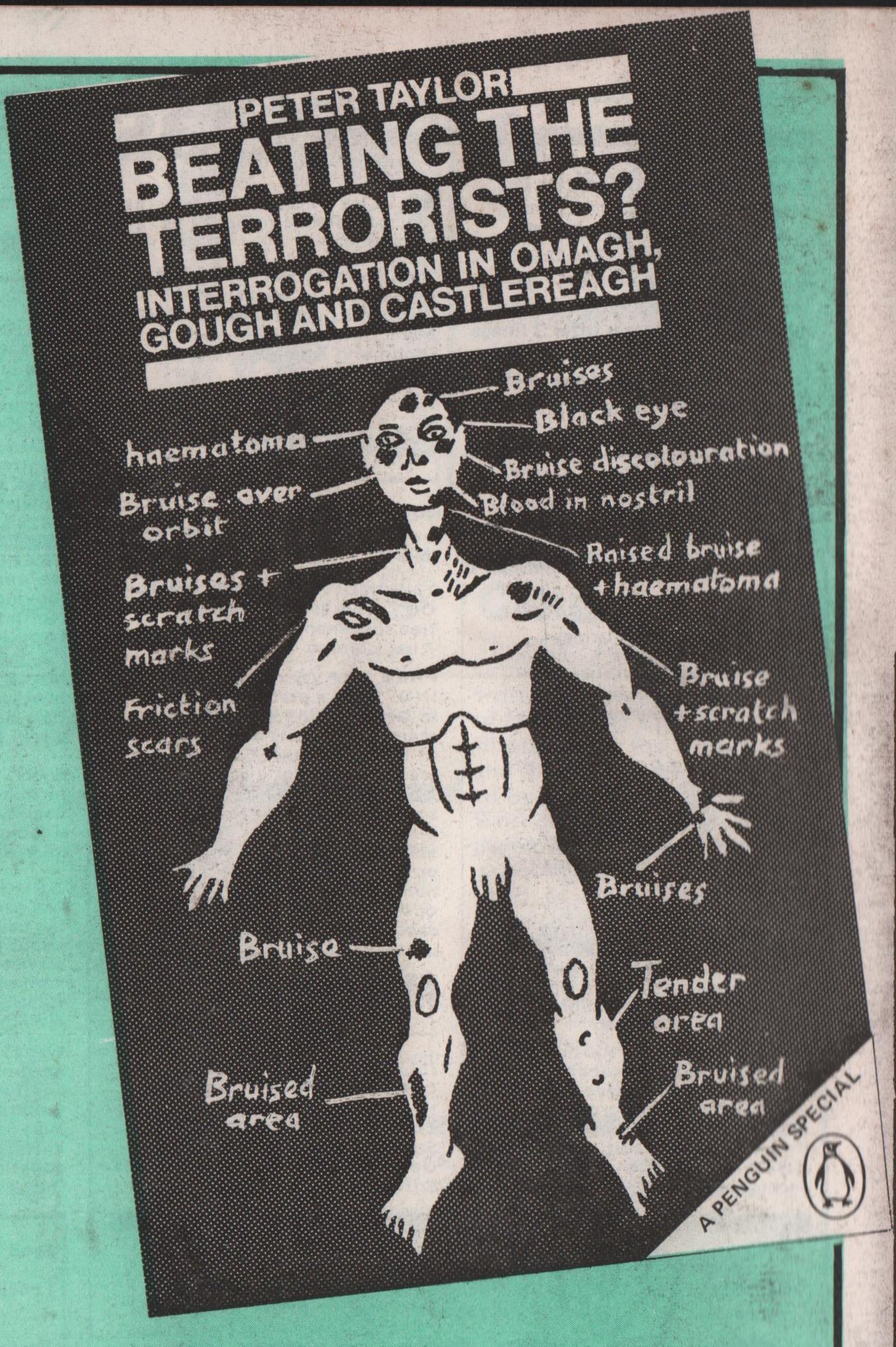
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No 67, January 1981

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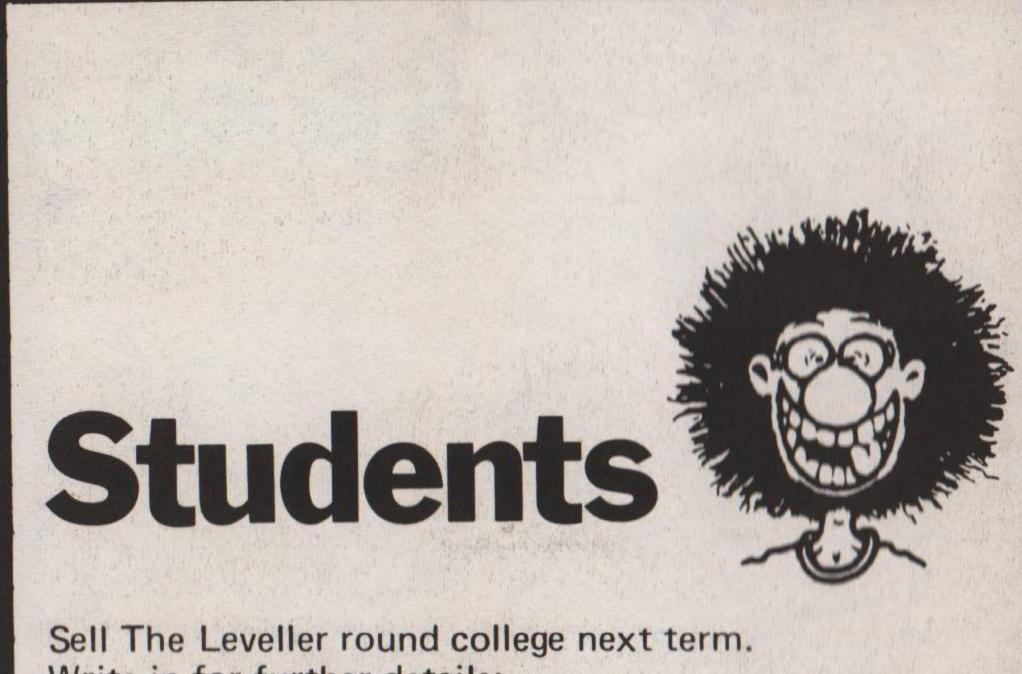
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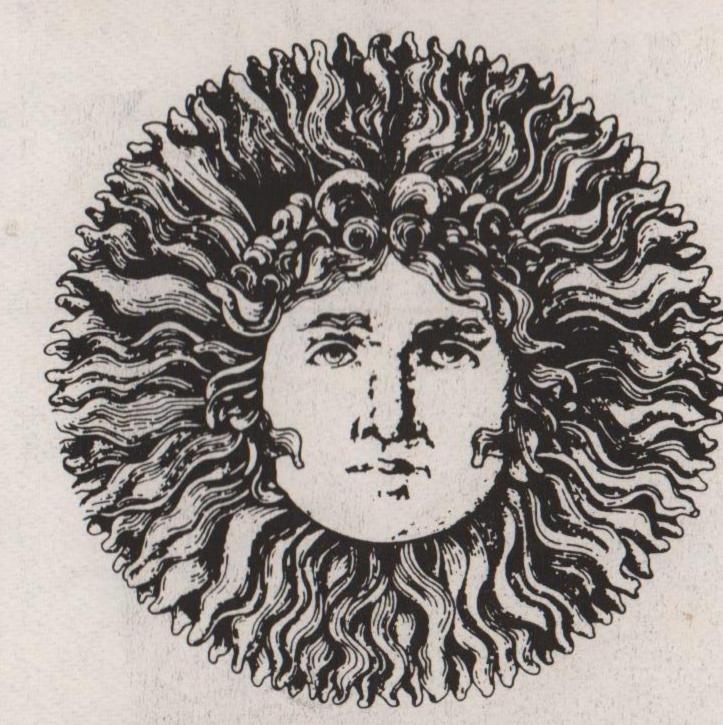
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#### WHAT DO WE WRITE ABOUT?

Our main interests are: Community Technology; Co-ops; Ecopolitics; Fringe Science and Nukes. But we cover the whole alternative scene: over the past year we have ranged from Behaviour Therapy via Canals, Communes, Computers, Compost and Cults, not to mention Earthquakes, Kids, Land Use, New Villages, Organic Farming and Pirate Radio, to Street Fighting, the Third World, Viewdata and Vivisection. In addition each issue contained a rich brew of Cartoons, Gossip, Letters, News, Reviews, Small Ads, What's On and What's What.

ed for ideologues, flat earthers and others who simply want to have their own blinkered view of the world's problems confirmed. It IS essential reading for every open minded Eighties alternativist. Not are we doom-mongers: after nine years hard graft we face the future with guarded optimism: survival, for a mutant, in itself is success, and here we still are. Come and join us!

# UNDERCURRENTS



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#### WHO ARE WE?

The collective is based in London; much of the magazine is written by a loose network of friends and supporters around the globe known as the Collective At Large. Our policy is to go for first-hand accounts by ordinary folk rather than Voleish journalism or ecopunditry a la Resurgence. Anyone who would like to help or contribute should come along to or phone into one of our open editorial meetings, every Wednesday evening at our Clerkenwell office (tel. 01-253 7303).

#### WHAT DOES IT COST?

A one year sub plus TWO FREE back numbers is only £4.20 (£5.10 overseas; US\$12.50 North America). Choose your back issues from UC36 (Kids), UC39 (Communes), UC41 (Co-ops), and UC42 (Protopia: the Dartington model community). Please send the form below with your remittance to: Undercurrents Subs, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1ROAT, England.

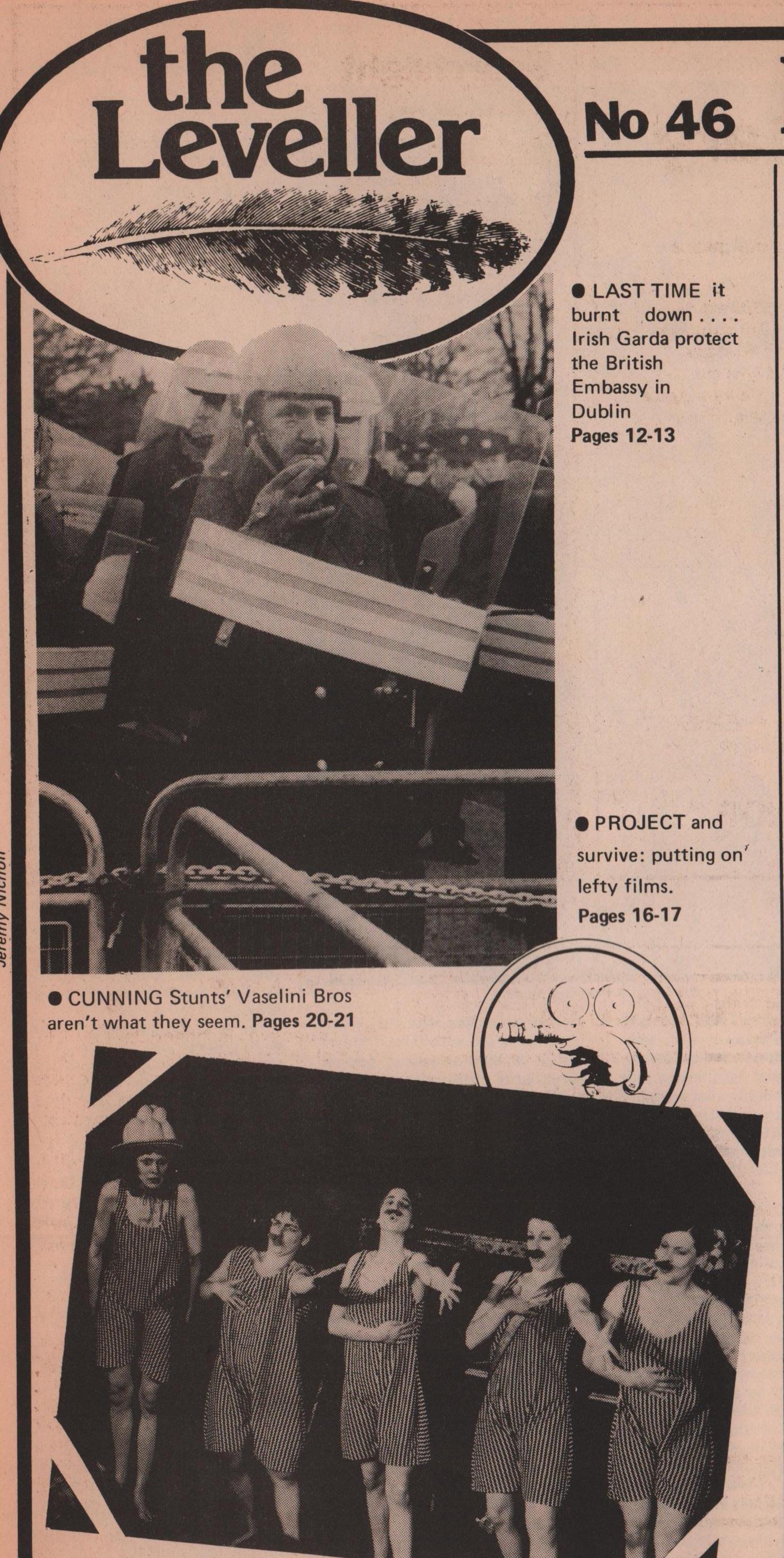
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skipping this issue.

but the muck remains

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away with murder.

POLLUTION

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There won't be a Leveller in two weeks time. You can't get distributors to put a magazine on sale on December 27, for some reason. So the collective is taking a break. Next issue in four weeks, out on January 7.

Cover design by Laurie Evans

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#### Party backs harassed MP

MANCHESTER Moss Side Labour Party's GMC met last Friday and confirmed their support for MP George Morton, who was fined £25 recently for committing an act of 'gross indecency' with another man in a public toilet. The decision comes at a time when gay activists are becoming increasingly angry over police harassment. A recent issue of Gay News, for example, estimates that more than £170,000 was paid out during 1980 in fines and court costs for 'homosexual offences by consenting adult males who thought they were in private'.

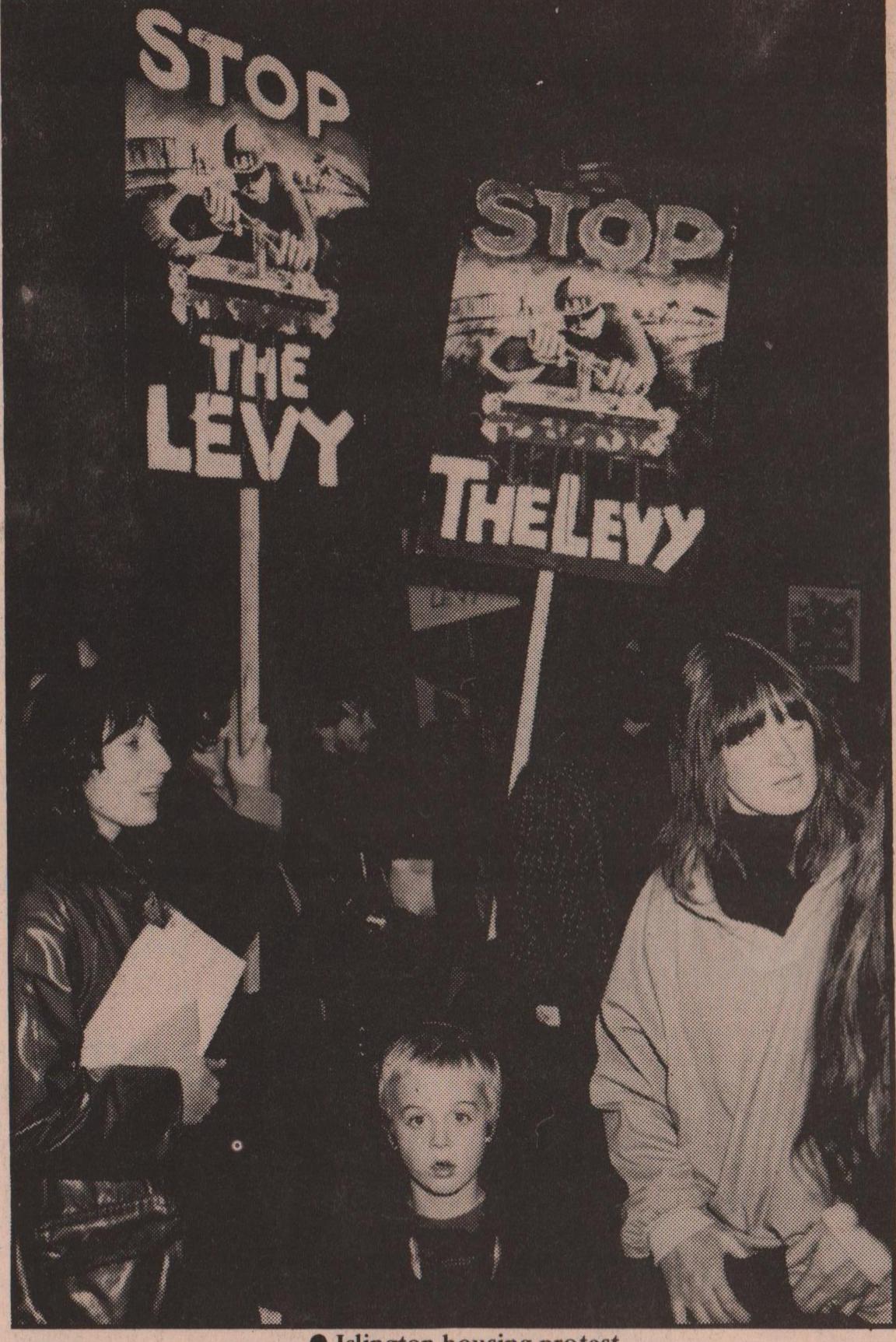
Manchester Labour Campaign for Gay Rights argues that the Morton case: 'merely highlights a trend which has become apparent ever since James Anderton became chief constable... towards using ever greater amounts of police time and resources to spy on toilets, setting up traps in them and even. resorting to using police to actively seduce men in toilets in order to arrest them. Meanwhile, complaints from women in many areas of Greater Manchester about kerb crawlers continue to be largely disregarded by police.'

Morton was arrested for the offence known as 'cottaging', or the
use of public toilets by male
homosexuals who know that certain places have developed a
reputation as places where they can
meet each other and have sex.
Police arrests for this offence in
nearby Stockport have climbed
from 12 last year to over 150 this,
and have led to demands for an enquiry from the chairperson of the
town's magistrates, Jack
Wallworth JP.

Ironically the best known 'cottage' in Stockport is right next to the courthouse. Mr Wallworth told the Stockport Express: 'We have got to protect the public from this sort of thing.... Stockport is becoming renowned throughout the country for these activities.... We must kill this before it gets Stockport a worse name.'

Gay Rights campaigner John Shiers argues that Anderton is mounting a full-scale attack on homosexuals by: 'focusing attention on the area which causes most embarassment both to gay people and to the general public: that is, sex in public toilets.' But the campaign rejects the idea that it's on the increase, saying instead that the police have stepped up their activities. In some lavatories they have constructed spy-holes, and it's common practice for officers to climb over cubicle walls to catch people 'in the act'.

'Cottaging' appears to be the sadder end of gay activity. NCCL gay rights spokesperson Barry Protheroe told the Leveller that the vast majority of people arrested: 'haven't come out, so they don't



Islington housing protest

have any contact with the gay scene and cottaging is their only 'safe' sexual outlet. It's an indication of the social opprobrium that gays are still held in that so many men are prepared to risk it. A high proportion of them are married, or hold high positions. For many men it's the only life that they feel is available.'

Both the NCCL and the Manchester capaigners argue that it's a 'victimless crime' and that most men go to great lengths not to offend the public. The Sexual Law Reform Society want to see the Sexual Offences Act changed so that an offence would be defined as: 'an actual nuisance which is experienced as offensive by aggrieved complainants who are prepared to give evidence in court.'

Morton told the Leveller that he didn't think it would be 'particularly helpful to be labelled as the 'Gay MP'. I want to work as an MP who happens to have a particular sexual preference. But while I'm not concealing the fact that I'm gay, I really want to spend my time paying attention to all the minorities that make up my constitution.

The Manchester Campaign is

seeking a meeting with the Police Committee and with James Anderton to demand an end to policed surveillance and entrapment in public toilets. They hope that control of Greater Manchester will swing back to Labour next spring, and that the Police Committee will then be more answerable to public opinion than it is now. A major national demonstration has been called for the end of February next year to protest at gay harassment in the city.

'What is really sordid is a society which refuses to accept homosexuality', they argue. 'Until public opinion changes, homosexual people will continue to be forced to lead double lives and to seek sexual relationships at the margins of society. The heterosexual majority must face up to their responsibility for this state of affairs.'

### Youth strike

YOUTH ON A Youth Opportunities Programme in Liverpool are to stage a first-ever strike as a protest against the government's decision to freeze a wage rise. The Manpower Services Commission had recommended a 21 per cent in-

crease of £4.70, but the government maintain that the present weekly wage of £23.50 is adequate, although they have already approved a rise for supervisors and adult workers.

18-year-old David Farrington, a GMWU shop steward and YOP worker said they were getting little more than they would on the dole: 'If I was unemployed I'd get £19.25 a week', he told the Leveller. 'After I've paid for transport and meals, I get about 50p more than that. It doesn't seem worth the effort.'

Dave Farrington stressed that they had no quarrel with the MSC, who are known to be sympathetic but powerless to reverse the government's decision. The saving enabled Geoffrey Howe to boast an increase of £250 million towards youth employment schemes in the recent mini-budget.

The GMWU, one of the few unions with a youth section, now has 300 YOP members in Liverpool. They have sent January 16 as the provisional date for the strike and a march through the city. The organisers would like to see similar demonstrations throughout the country from other YOP workers.

#### Homes record under fire

FOR THE past seven months, North London's Islington Community Housing and other short-life housing groups have been waging a protracted and now embittered campaign against Islington Council. The dispute is centred on a £3/week administrative charge which the council has tried to levy on each short-life house in the borough.

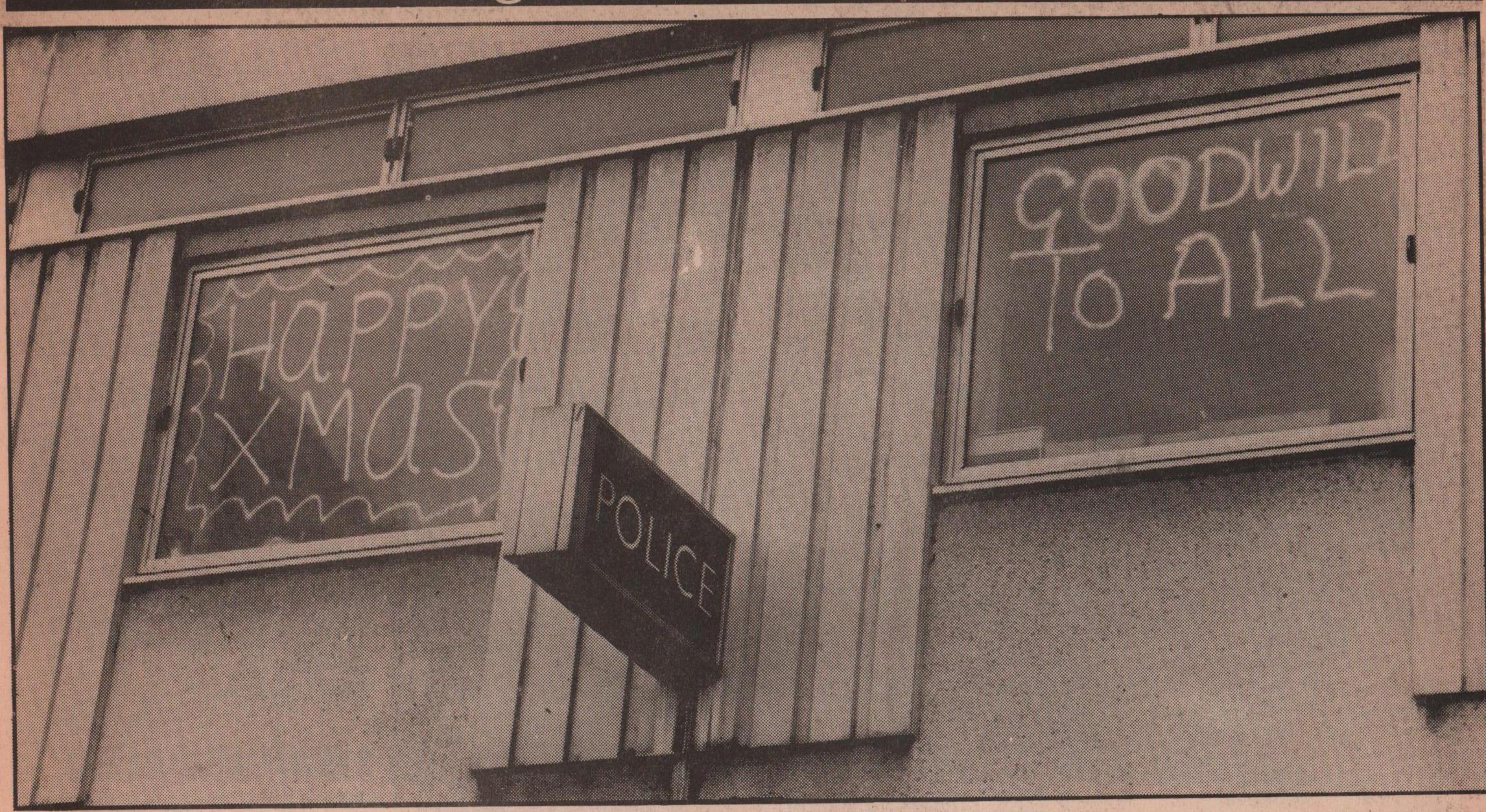
At first glance £3 per week seems a paltry sum, but we are, in effect, securing these houses for the council against vandals, the dreaded squatters and the natural elements — and for these semi-derelict hovels we already pay rates and rent. There are 9,000 empty houses in Islington, and 12,000 people on the waiting list — surely the council could gain more revenue by releasing these houses to short-life housing groups?

What we realise now is that the £3 is merely a surface issue, and there are much more sinister implications.

Islington's Labour Council is falling into step with the current government's policies of discriminating against public sector housing and co-operative self-help schemes in favour of pushing people into individual home ownership. But this is not an option for most people.

Another factor which is weighing heavily on the council's hearts is that short-life housing in this borough houses nearly a thousand adults, most of whom have a fairly high degree of political consciousness. Increasingly, individuals are joining the Labour

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Party to try to inject some sort of realism back into party politics. This is altering the nature of the local party and these Tories in socialist clothing are becoming increasingly uncomfortable in their disguises. Solution: evict all the buggers and let them go and join the party elsewhere.

The time is ripe for all tenants

— council, private, co-operative,
short-life — to mass our own
forces together and thrash this
issue out. Housing a basic human
right — fight for it!

Start by joining our demonstration on December 18 from Richmond Avenue, N1, assembling at 6.00pm for a march to Islington Town Hall where the Housing Committee will be rubbing their hands together and deciding the fate of short-life housing in Islington.

Anton Franks

Islington Community Housing Red thread?

A MOST immediate debate on the role of the armed services and the state has taken place, 2,500 feet up on a ridge in Snowdonia. The SWP climbing group, RED ROPE, had the initiative, as John Lockwood relates...

Two dockers, two teachers and a civil servant were tackling a hazardous route across Crib Goch Ridge on Snowdon, in conditions of ice, snow, gale force winds, and poor visibility. At a point fifty metres out onto the inches-wide ridge, the Red Ropers came across a man white and frozen with fear, fixed to the rock, but on the point of no longer being so.

He was an airman who had been abandoned by an RAF mountain-rescue training exercise, left in a state of total panic, hang-

ing onto the ice-covered rock.

This presented something of a problem for the Red Ropers whose dialectic had never been put to such an immediate life-or-death test. Was it correct to save the life of a section of the state's armed forces?

'Yes, if in doing so the contradictions of his position are made clear to the person and his trust in the bourgeois state is broken', chipped in dockworker Micky.

A fierce debate raged. It was pointed out to the airman that his potential rescuers were members of the SWP mountain militia on a training exercise, and he must agree to a three-point plan if he was to see base camp again:

1. He must agitate to subvert the armed forces. 2. He must shoot his officers. 3. He must desert.

The importance of acting in this order was stressed to him. He agreed to all three points.

He was carried off the rock to safety where, to the surprise of the Red Ropers, they encountered the officer. 'Have you seen my man?', he enquired, the epitome of the officer class. Flight Lieutenant Brace was greeted with the respect due to one of his class from East London dockers.

We must ask: has Flight Lieutenant Brace been court-martialled for leaving a man for whom he was responsible in a position where, beyond a shadow of doubt, and within minutes, he would have fallen to his death...had not another party appeared to rescue him?

Secondly, has our airman kept his part of the bargain? Will the bourgeois state collapse from within? We will keep you posted.

# Holocaust on the rates

LOTHIAN COUNCIL's stand in refusing to take part in plans for nuclear holocaust (Leveller 44) has now been repeated by South Yorkshire Council and the City of Sheffield. For six years the Labour county councillors have been sending members to the Home Defence College at Easingwold for seminars and have spent their ratepayers' money on bunkers in Barnsley and Doncaster. Now, it seems, they have had enough.

Easingwold seminars raised the first doubts in people's minds Debating the county's civil defence policy on October 22, Norman West, a Barnsley miner, spoke scathingly of the seminar he had attended: 'In the first place, it run by the military,' he said, 'it's quite clear, though they haven't got uniforms on.' During one simulated attack, West was told that South Yorkshire had been wiped out: 'We can't afford this out of this year's budget,' he had decided at each crucial step in the war build-up.

Sir Ron Ironmonger, a veteran socialist, and not a panicky person, admitted that he came back from Easingwold 'frightened to death'. A factory siren wailed nearby. There was silence, and a few nervous laughs, before the debate went on.

At the end, the County Council decided by 34 votes to 12 that its own civil defence programme was 'futile in the event of nuclear war'. Further, it condemned the 'irresponsibility' of government attempts to persuade people that civil defence would work.

A week later, Sheffield City Council welcomed this stand and added a few remarks of its own. It expressed its abhorrence of the government's 'war hysteria', rejected 'a defence strategy based on nuclear weapons' and called for a European nuclear-free zone. Among the usual useful names on the mailing list for the resolution (Mrs Thatcher, the local MPs, and so on) were the representatives of Sheffield's twin city, Donetsk in the Ukraine.

It is right, however, to be sceptical about declarations by men and women who happily voted for civil defence spending while a Labour government was in power. South Yorkshire County Council has been singularly secretive about its civil defence policy, and has fobbed off enquirers with mealymouthed generalities. It took part in Square Leg, without bothering to inform its citizens what was being done in their name.

Useful as the South Yorkshire and Sheffield stands are, they can only become effective if backed up by mass pressure, inevitably including civil disobedience. When the first sit-downs start, will South Yorkshire's socialists lead from behind?

John Field

#### Banked-up

ONE MAN, among many, who wasn't sorry to see mercenary recruiter John Banks get a two year jail sentence at the end of November was John Higgins, former British organiser of Provisional Sinn Fein. Banks was sent to prison for demanding 25,000 dollars for stopping a 'bloodbath' in Nicaragua. As part of his defence, his counsel argued that he'd 'infiltrated the IRA' on

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behalf of the Special Branch. 'This critical and dangerous submission: is of tremendous gravity', argued 💥 the brief.

But Banks never came within a : million miles of the IRA: what he did do was to entrap Higgins who had no idea that he was speaking to Banks — in an enquiry about buying some walkie-talkie radios. Higgins was arrested by gun-wielding policemen and well and truly framed (Levellers 6 & 25), after which he received a ten year sentence, reduced on appeal to four years.

Last week Higgins, who now lives in Galway (he was deported under the PTA as soon as he got out of prison) said: 'It was half my fault for going to Hanover Square at all, but Banks was directly responsible for the rest of it. I'm delighted he's now in prison.

'I just wish he'd got a longer term jail sentence so that he would have ended up in jails where there are other Irish republican prisoners. I'm sure they would have shown how friendly they can be towards people like him.'

#### Fire plotters

GOVERNMENT PLANS for dealing with the threatened firemen's strike last month included asking local authorities for detailed information about their plans for strike-breaking. A letter circulated to all Scottish Regiona Councils by the Scottish Home and Health Department on November 20 wanted the provision at each incident of 'a person, preferably with local knowledge (of the location of hydrants, service mains etc.), who represents the authority, can assume overall control of the fireground, and to whom the military commander can look for guidance.'

Attached to the letter was a confidential situation report form requesting data on casualties and facilities in the event of industrial action. Section 2(ii) asked for 'other significant information, ie. the breaking of picket lines' Lothian Regional Council's Fire Board, for one, refused to provide the information. Jon Side

#### Why there is more prostitution

THE NUMBER of women turning to prostitution has grown enormously as a result of the economic crisis, according to the English Collective of Prostitutes. At a seminar on 'Prostitutes and Unemployment' held last week at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts, the collective argued that the motive for becoming a prostitute was always economic: if women received wages for housework, they wouldn't go on the game.

'The money, earned through

it because they want to earn a lot.

Maureen Colquhoun, former Labour MP, told the meeting that she'd had access to a computer forecast of long-term unemployed up to eleven million, at a time when all the party leaders were lying about the figures. 'We must look forward to a different kind of society,' she said, 'where everyone, employed or not, is paid a wage. The only people planning for such a society are the fringe groups." That drew a round of applause.

The collective are campaigning for the abolition of all prostitution laws. They'll be publishing a rights sheet, A Guide to the Rules of the Game: A to Z for working girls in the new year. Chris Stretch

#### X-certificate

'WIELDING a surgeon's scalpel, Bishop murders women and mutilates their bodies in order to possess them the only way he can. Sounds familiar? That's just part of the blurb on the back of By Reason of Insanity, by Shane Stevens, published last month by Sphere and apparently selling 'extremely well'.

Sphere's managing director Francis Bennett (tel 01-405 6683) told us he couldn't see any connection between 'this tense epic of rage, slaughter and a desperate allout manhunt' and the Yorkshire Ripper, though he did admit that placing a large display advert for the book on the same page as the Sun's coverage of the latest Ripper murder was 'not terribly nice'.

Sphere, of course, is an offshoot of 'quality' publishers the Thomson Organisation. The book is getting the full sales treatment at WH Smith, which still refuses to sell Gay News. It does, however, sell ink, tippex, glue and other useful substances very near the book display stand....

Jane Root

#### Shanty-town hospital

STOKE MANDEVILLE hospital (Bucks) has been the centre of controversy for some time. After a roof collapsed on a patient, staff and patients demonstrated. A visit was arranged for the Health Minister and the result was the setting up of the Jimmy Saville Appeal for a National Spinal Unit. Local people did not immediately realise that this would not improve their facilities.

Aylesbury Community Health

Council has now produced a 20 point indictment of conditions of huts in the North Wing. The Area Health Authority wants to keep these huts in use until 1990. They were built to last 10 years in 1939. Mr Smallwood of the Medical Staff Committee told the Leveller last week it was unjust that 'while local people contributed to the Appeal they will be denied general medical, surgical and paediatric facilities which should rightfully be

Two months ago there was another roof collapse. Fungus is prevalent throughout the wing as roofs have been leaking so long. In the kitchens fungus and delapidation 'negate any attempts at hygiene maintenance'. The plumbing is inadequate to keep patients warm and conditions are cramped. As Mrs Lewington of the CHC said: 'the people of this health district are entitled to be nursed in adequate and safe health conditions and not in wards that were due for demolition decades ago'. Paul Chapman

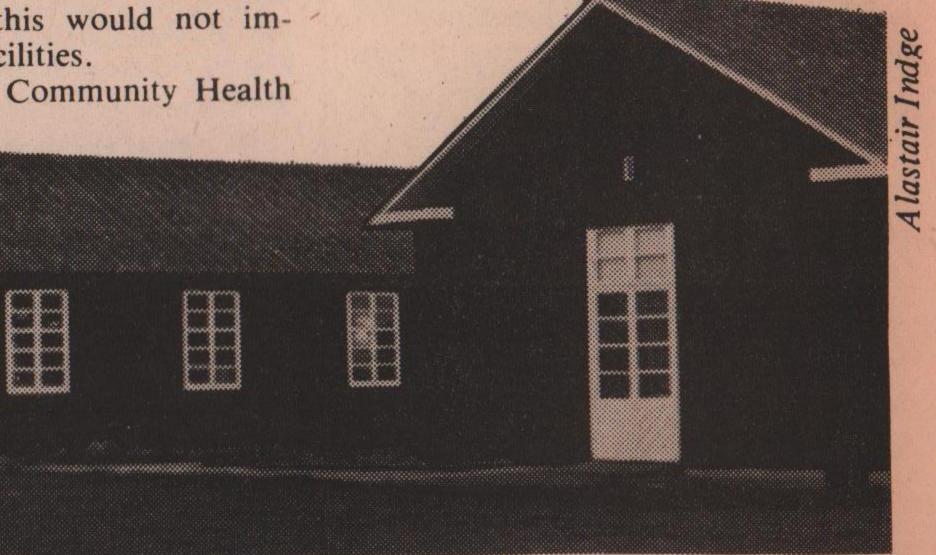
#### Health gamble

THE NEWEST Tory idea for ducking out of adequately financing the Health Service is to raise money by lottery. On Wednesday of this week a conference was taking place in London entitled: 'Running a Profitable Lottery for Hospitals and Medical Charities'.

For a mere £57.50 our Health Service bureaucrats will be lectured by betting industry sharks at the conference, which is being run at the Picadilly Hotel, London, by a private company, Gower Con-

Among the speakers: Roger Withers from Cashcade Lottery Management, part of the tottering Ladbrokes empire.

In some countries lotteries are used successfully to fund all kinds of good things, but experience in particularly with Cashcade, has been poor. In a blaze of publicity Cashcade launched their lottery with dozens of local authorities and charities as the (alleged) beneficiaries two years ago. Since then, all the local authorities have withdrawn, because the returns were nowhere near what Ladbrokes had promis-



• Stoke Mandeville Hospital

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ed, and one of the charities, Make Children Happy, was actually forced into dissolution in a welter of acrimonious litigation.

Now it seems hospitals are being lined up for Ladbrokes' leeching. Fightback Against Cutbacks in the Health Services is picketing the conference. Details from 01-603 3827.

#### Forte 'loves' his laid-off workers

WORKERS at Trust Houses Forte's prestigious'flagship' hotel, the Grosvenor House in London's Park Lane, are furious at the way they are being treated by management. THF have implemented drastic cuts in staffing levels, reducing the total from about 950 to about 800. The major burden of the cuts has fallen on the people who do most of the hard work in the hotel — the chamber maids, kitchen staff and porters — who are having to do twice as much work as before. And the redundancies have been fearful, including as they do some staff who've worked there for 46 years.

Their response so far has been muted: 213 of them signed a petition recently, which has been shamefully presented to the outside world as an argument about stopping the service of alcohol in the staff bar. Sir Charles Forte claims it's the work of a 'few troublemakers', saying that 'morale is high...we are all great friends...I love them all.'

But such baloney won't work with all the staff. Last year the electricians forced the cancellation of the Antiques Fair in furtherance of a dispute, and now some of them are saying they should be taking industrial action once again. Some GMWU members are also arguing for industrial action, while others talk of boycotting the feudal annual Christmas dinner where managers serve staff.

Informed sources within the company say that trade at the Grosvenor House hasn't dropped off noticeably this year and that receipts are good, despite the strength of the pound and the downturn in tourist traffic. Most of the hotel's customers are so wealthy they don't even notice the inflated price levels they're charged. THF's half-yearly profits stood at £19.3m while some of the workers there take home as little as £45 per week after stoppages.

#### Ericca takes the cue

INEQUALITY PRACTISED for more than a century by Britain's working men's clubs has been recently overlooked by the women's movement and the left, but it was brought sharply to the fore last weekend by the first na-

'We recognise that Working Men's Clubs are a major part of many people's social lives. We want clubs to offer a good night out for everyone, not just privileged section at the expense of the rest,' said Chairperson Brenda Haywood

President Sheila Capstick reviewing the campaign's first year said: 'We've picketed clubs and lobbied and we will go on until we win.'

# faces trial

Clare Wigzell, a founder campaign Another member, Ken Capstick, added that now was the time to bring about changes in the clubs movement because new technology and unemployment meant working people had more

year on a surety of £50. The majority turned down the deal and will have their cases heard in the

new year. On Friday September 19 one of the official pickets, Ray Vail, was grabbed by police when he tried to lie down in front of one of the ambulances. He was taken out of the way, lifted up in the air and dropped on his head. He was unconscious and taken to hospital and a deal was made with the police — if there were no charges against the picket there would be no counter-charges against the

At the end of November Ray received a summons on an obstruction charge and now he intends to take out charges against the police for assault. He and other people working for the Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Area Health Authority have been officially reprimanded for their participation in the picket. This intimidation has now been extended and other regional authorities have been asked to report cases of overzealous trade union activity to the ministry.

Mr E Cane, Undersecretary in the Personnel Department P4 of the DHSS, recently sent out a memo to all Regional Personnel Officers saying that people working as hospital administrators were allowed to involve themselves in trade union activities. However, if



DURING THE summer, when conditions are good, fishers working in the Minch off the North-West of Scotland, can earn £200 a week. But in the winter, rough seas, high winds and cold weather make the work dangerous and the fish elusive. If you don't catch anything, you don't get paid.

David Gordon, who's been living in the Outer Hebrides, has spent time aboard trawlers photographing what remains of a fast-declining fishing fleet. His photographs are now on display at the Half Moon Photography Workshop, 119 Roman Road, London E2.

The exhibition is being flyposted outside the workshop because the Half Moon is still being affected by building work. 'We believe this is the first flyposted exhibition in the country', says the Workshop. 'It's certainly one way of making current photographic work accessible.'

# Sit-in picket

IN SEPTEMBER the occupation of St Benedicts hospital in Tooting, South London, was ended by the invasion of a fleet of private ambulances. The removal of the patients took almost a fortnight and by that time 23 arrests had been made. The first of the patients has already died and management knew when they ordered the closure that anything up to 30 per cent of the elderly patients would die within a few months of being moved.

On December 3 when the court cases came up before the magistrates, there was some plea bargaining — plead guilty and you will be bound over, or else you will be tried on the more serious charges. Three people accepted the offer and were bound over for a

FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT

tional conference of ERICCA -

the Equal Rights in Clubs Cam-

paign for Action. Members and

supporters gathered at Belle Vue

Liberal Working Mens Club,

Wakefield, to adopt rules and plan

Sex Discrimination Act to make it

illegal for clubs with members of

both sexes to discriminate against

women and agreed to organise a

lobby of the Club and Institute

Union's Delegates Conference in

Blackpool, in April. They called

on the trade unions, women's

movement, political parties and

club committees to support ERIC

CA's aims: full club membership

for women, equal affiliation rights

to the CIU and a change from

'Mens Clubs' to a non-sexist name.

section of women who rely on

clubs for their social life and who

have little contact with the

women's movement, or other

in their relationships and general

attitude towards women,' said

It challenges working class men

organisations.

member.

time for leisure.

ERICCA is reaching a whole

They called for changes in the

their activities for 1981.

FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT

prostitution, is being used to fill

the gaps in services aused by

government cutbacks', argues col-

lective spokesperson Selma James.

'Attacks on prostitutes are attacks

on all women because prostitution

is just part of the art of survival,

which women have been develop-

ing through centuries of underpaid

stitutes can help to combat the

constant drone from employers

that 'no funds are available'. 'We

know the money's there', she said,

'because we see it'. Another

woman said that she soon realised

that she was being paid out of ex-

York Collective of Prostitutes,

said that in the black community in

the States and in South Africa,

prostitute women are supporting

the community, and that the

money they earn contributes to

liberation struggles. That was true

in Vietnam, it's true in a lot of

that where there are no jobs

available, people turn to fiddles of

all kinds to make ends meet. The

way that the press latch on to

stories about caretakers earning

thousands of pounds from

moonlighting simply proves that

the prevailing idea is that 'the poor

should stay poor or get put in jail'.

earn good money be called greedy

but not bourgeois women who

marry rich men?' was one

woman's reply to the suggestion

that prostitution can't always be

linked to poverty; some women do

'Why should call-girls who

Another woman pointed out

Third World countries.

Wilmette Brown, of the New

One woman said that pro-

work or slave labour.'

pense accounts.

#### FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT fortnight FORTNIGHT



next year some other protective

male doesn't take it on himself to

defy the clear demand of women

for free safe abortions. Liz Storey

BARNSLEY Trades Council is

calling on the TUC to prepare for a

general strike in defence of work-

ing class interests and living stan-

dards. The original call came from

the 9/17 Branch of the TGWU,

Jack Brown, says the local

authorities have gone as far as they

imposed cuts. Now it's up to the

ANOTHER Torness defendant

goes on trial at Haddington

Sheriff's Court, East Lothian, on

January 9. There will be an anti-

nuclear presence at the court, and,

say Torness Public Parks Depart-

ment, 'all are welcome'. They

urgently need donations to pay the

last lot of £500 fines. Money goes

to: Box 23, 163 King Street, Aber-

OTHERS due in court shortly in-

clude Andy Cornwell, one of the

coordinators of the Legalise Can-

nabis Campaign. He comes up at

Acton Crown Court, West Lon-

don, on December 11 on a charge

of possessing 967 milligrams — a

tiny little lump — and will be

pleading Not Guilty. He'll try to

persuade the jury that the current

drug laws are ridiculous rather

than disputing evidence about

whether he had the dope or not.

While we're at it: Undercurrents

reports that a Nova Scotia paper

mill burned 22 tons of marijuana

seized by the Canadian govern-

ment. The magazine says the crop

generated the same amount of elec-

tricity as 100 dollars worth of oil.

Either they've got their figures

wrong or there are some pretty

dopey accountants in the Canadian

paper business.

chairperson, Councillor

fighting government-

their activities were such as to make it impossible to carry out their tasks for management, then this should be looked at more closely. Regional Personnel Officers were encouraged to report all such cases to the Ministry. With the run down of the National Health Service, the demand for total loyalty from those involved with hospital management is going to be severely tested.

# New threat to abortions

IT'S HAPPENING again. This year's Private Member's ballot has produced the usual crop of peculiar Bills, but top of the list are two men who are talking about putting anti-abortion Bills. Number one is Timothy Sainsbury, Tory (Hove), second Donald Stewart SNP (Western Isles).

Sainsbury has two issues in mind. His proposed Abortion Bill would have only one clause, which would either lower the upper limit for abortions from 28 weeks to 22, or widen the conscience clause. Alternatively he has suggested that he may introduce a Bill on 'public indecent' display.

The National Abortion Campaign (NAC) and its Scottish counterpart SNAC hope that Sain sbury can be convinced of the danger of his Bill before January 14, when he must formally submit the title. NAC has appealed to him to reconsider the implications of his Bill, which will only make it more difficult to get safe early abortions, and suggested alternative areas he might examine if he is seriously concerned about women.

Equal opportunities, rape laws, child-care facilities, and laws concerning violence against women have been suggested as areas crying out for change.

If the arguments fail to move him then we will have to fight the battle all over again, and hope that we can win so convincingly that themselves lumbered with South African builders Roberts Construction, have voted to close their £1,200 million account with Barclays Bank. The End Loans to South Africa campaign have welcomed the recent letter from the Labour Party's NEC to all Labour-controlled local authorities, drawing attention to Barclay's heavy involvement in financing apartheid.

LAMBETH Council, who found

FOUR CIA agents working from the US embassy in London have been named by Covert Action Information Bulletin. Chief of Station is Richard P Stolz Jr. Thomas C Shedd is Telecommunications Officer, while Katherine C Hart and Thomas Edward Carroll are the senior case officers. Stateside CIA watchers are predicting an increase in London CIA staffing but they'll find difficulty in naming them if the Intelligence Identities Protection Bill becomes law next year, even if the information was originally available to the public.

\* \*

THE BRITISH Diabetic Association is being pressured to take up the case of Matthew O'Hara, the diabetic who died after being imprisoned in Pentonville last March. Tom Brass, a lecturer at Durham University who's also diabetic, wants the Association to get proper details of the death from the Home Office. People's News Service report that the Friends of Matthew O'Hara have prepared a list of 38 questions for the Home Of fice about O'Hara death. They don't expect many answers but they do want to raise a campaign about the prison medical service.



Census Officers ready for next year's great count-up has found its way into the Leveller office. Most of the stuff is pretty unexceptional but Section 7B.2, which is about dealing with members of the public, advises officers to be 'on their toes' if they get calls from MPs, ethnic leaders, members of pressure groups, and the National Council for Civil Liberties. Officers are advised that if 'it gets too hot, offer to call them back.... Keep to the facts — do not offer opinions'

\* \*

THE NCCL, whose legal officer, Harriet Harman, was found guilty of contempt of court at the end of last month's ludicrous case, have had to pay all their own costs. They're prepared to take their appeal as far as the European Human Rights Commission, but they're worried that could cost up to £20,000. They desperately need donations to cover this: rush them to 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC1 X9DE.

FEMINISTS at Sheffield Poly are campaigning against the group Splodgeness Abounds after their performance at the Poly's Rag Ball in October, Sheffield Free Press reports. The women say that Splodgeness 'intended to be as sexist and women-hating as possible ... there were continuous contempreferences to female genitalia throughout their performance.' Following a fracas at the Rag Ball, rugby-club types attempted to censure students' union president Angela Gavin but after a three-hour debate she was acquit-

BATTERSEA and Wandsworth Trades Council sponsored an enquiry last weekend into the death of Richard 'Cartoon' Campbell, who died in the hospital wing of Ashford Remand Centre last March. An inquest later returned the strange verdict of 'death by selfneglect', but the coroner's jury added a rider criticising Ashford for their lack of care. Now a Judge in Chambers has allowed Richard's parents to appeal against the inquest verdict. Sixteen trade union branches, mostly in South London, have taken up the call for an enquiry into the death: trade unionists can get further details from: 135A, Lavender Hill, London SW11.



THERE'S increasing concern too about the suicide of Richard Giles, who was found dead in his cell at Oxford Prison in October. Not only was a psychiatrist's letter warning of his suicidal tendències mislaid in an envelope of X-ray plates, but a letter from Giles himself, complaining about the behaviour of the police, took nearly five weeks to get from the Home Office to the force concerned.



CINEMA of Women — COW Films — have launched an appeal to bring Radiant Future to Britain. A two-hour German-made documentary, it examines the nuclear issue throughout Europe, the first major film to do so. COW say they need £4,000 to buy the rights, make a print and get a translation. They want the money at: 156 Swaton Road, London E3. Tel 01-515 5547.

\* \*

AND FINALLY, readers of Private Eye will have been shocked to find that the current issue costs 60p instead of its usual 30p. The extra money is to cover the cost of a flimsy plastic record. How much does each record cost the well-known scourge of cant and humbug to make? Precisely 4p.

# Letters

#### Be-bop-a-lula

YOUR ARTICLE on British Jazz, and the difficulties of young male and female jazz persons reveals quite correctly the frustrations encountered by anyone eager to play who finds the opportunities very limited.

What did rather choke me was the insinuation that '50's bebop stuff is a more commmercial form of jazz. Any radical political thinker or musician must surely identify with an art form which 20 or 30 years ago was as rebellious and anti-establishment as today's contemporary jazz.

It is my experience from playing with contemporary and jazz-rock musicians, that those who knock bebop or any of the earlier jazz styles either can't play it or understand it. Any musician of integrity will make an effort to do one or the other or keep their mouth shut.

Edward Davies

W. Midlands

#### Bonfire row

I FEEL your article on the regimental band playing under a 'No Popery' banner at the Lewes Bonfire Parade suffers from naive and shallow political thinking. The Lewes parade, dating from 1553 as you point out, is part of the radical dissent ing Protestant stream of British politics, the same movement the original Levellers also belong ed to, and to which English socialism owes so much.

Just because the catholic minority in the north of Ireland happen to belong to one of the world's most oppressive multinational institutions which has been grinding the people of Ireland for over a millenium, that is no reason for socialists or radicals to defend that institution

I might point out that the last time I was at the parade an effigy of Princess Anne was burned.

Ric Faulkner
Burwell, Cambs

#### More than Ireland \*

THIS YEAR'S Socialist Feminist:
National Conference was held to
discuss the relationship between
women's oppression and
imperialism.

It is therefore with dismay that we read the report of the conference in the Leveller No.43. Despite the number of struggles represented at the conference: Iran, Latin-America, Ireland, the Indian Sub-Continent and colonial minority groups in Britain itself, a reading of the above article implies that Ireland was the major theme of the conference.

We recognise that the arrests of the Irish sisters did create an emergency situation which had to be responded to. However we would like to point out that long term and continuous support does not come just from demonstrations responding to immediate situations, but from developing a political understanding of anti-imperialism and Ireland's place within that.

By concentrating on one aspect of the Irish struggle your report falls into the traditional practise of the left and WLM which analyses political struggles as 'issues' and then of necessity, jumps from one 'issue' to another without seeing the political links between them.

In addition your report obscures the struggles of all other colonial minority groups here who organise to fight imperialism in many different ways and who rightly feel angered by the way their struggles are being relegated to a position behind the struggle of the Irish people.

Similarly, injustice is done to the struggle of the Irish people by isolating it from all other anti-imperialist struggle and redefining anti-imperialism as a struggle that is specifically Irish. The Planning Group Socialist Feminist National Conference 1980

#### Diggers hit out \*

story in The Leveller 44 about Mike Read the treasure-hunter makes it difficult to argue back without seeming to be a supporter of "bosses' organisations" (which I am not). However, I do feel that your reporter has failed to consider certain points, which should be made with regard to treasure-hunting with metal detectors.

The past, especially the archaeological past, is about the common people with whose interests your magazine is concerned, and it should belong to them and be available to them. This is the purpose of museums and archaeological units. Finds from archaeological excavations are almost invariably placed in the keeping of a museum, to be accessible to the general public. Mr Read's finds are presumably sold to private collectors and dealers or kept by himself, as are the finds of most treasure

Archaeological excavation, however, involves more than objects; it examines all the evidence that can be obtained from the ground regarding the past - different levels showing different periods of activity, subtle traces of wooden structures, indications of economic activities and living conditions which often involve carefully controlled scientific methods of recovery. All this is not only disregarded by treasure hunters, it is often seriously damaged or distorted by having a mass of very unscientific holes dug through it.

There is no conflict for me personally in being an archaeology student and a socialist; however, treasure-hunting strikes me as being private enterprise at the expense of the public, if not actual theft of the public heritage (even in the hunter is legally within his rights). If *The Leveller* is

going to take a position on the subject, it should at least consider the issues involved from both the treasure-hunters' and the archaeologists' points of view.

Damaris Dodds,
Leicester.

#### Sunday stroll?

The Leveller, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1

IT'S BEEN a good few weeks since 50,000-plus people came from all over the United Kingdom to walk through the streets of London, many carrying placards, a few banners with slogans condemning Nuclear Power.

They call it a demonstration. I call it a Sunday afternoon stroll, all off to Trafalgar Square to meet the pigeons, or listen to a few speakers who tell you what you already know.

What has it done to help antinuclear campaigns? 40 seconds on TV, four lines in the nationals, a few pages maybe in left-wing magazines.

What should happen is local action, at any governmental establishment that will be used during any nuclear holocaust and not just once every twenty years, but every Sunday, or even better every day.

This way you would contact the local people who will be affected, not the Americans, Germans and other tourists who lined the pavements. You should print addresses and photographs of these places.

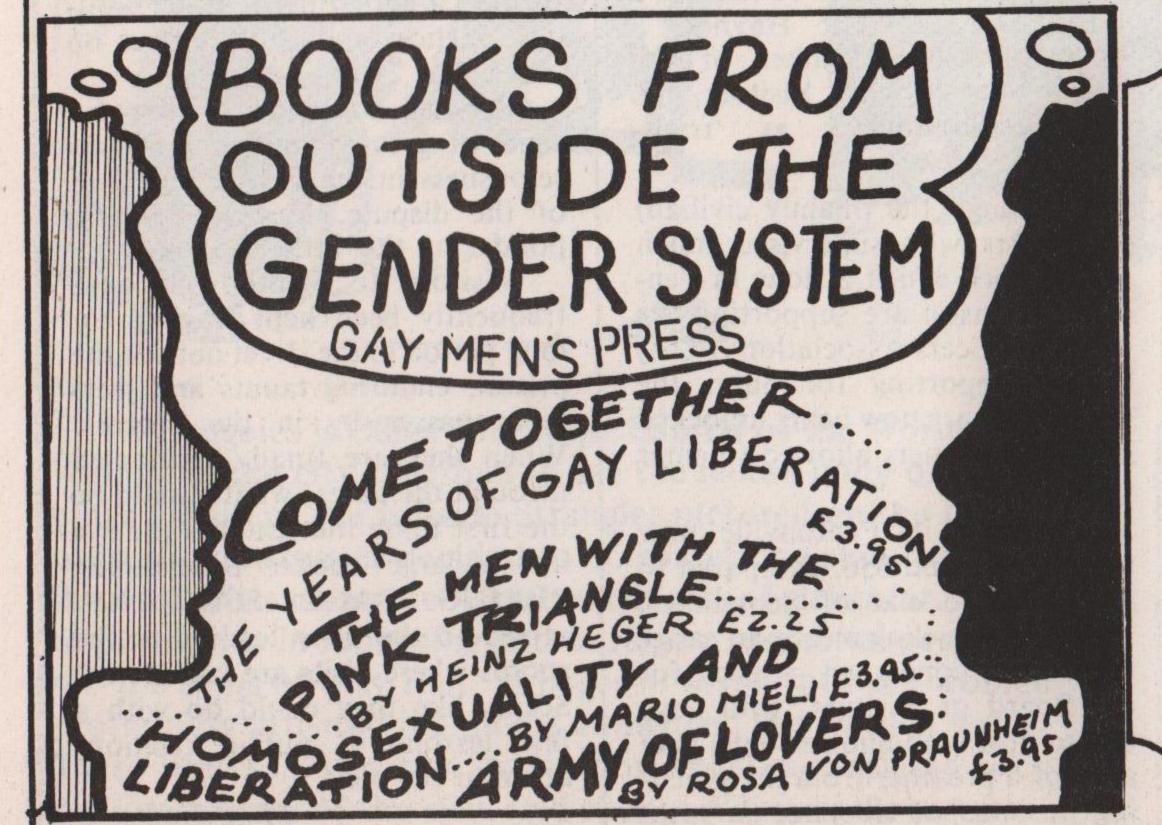
CND tried marching for over twenty years; let's have a new style campaign.

London WC1

#### Win we must \*

You more than win. Not only am I renewing my subscription, I'm also making my brother read your improved fortnightly. As Robert Mark would say: 'I'm convinced it's a major contribution to world safety' – can you get him to do an advert for you? Keith Morgan Cardiff

\*Letters marked with an asterisk have been cut for reasons of space.



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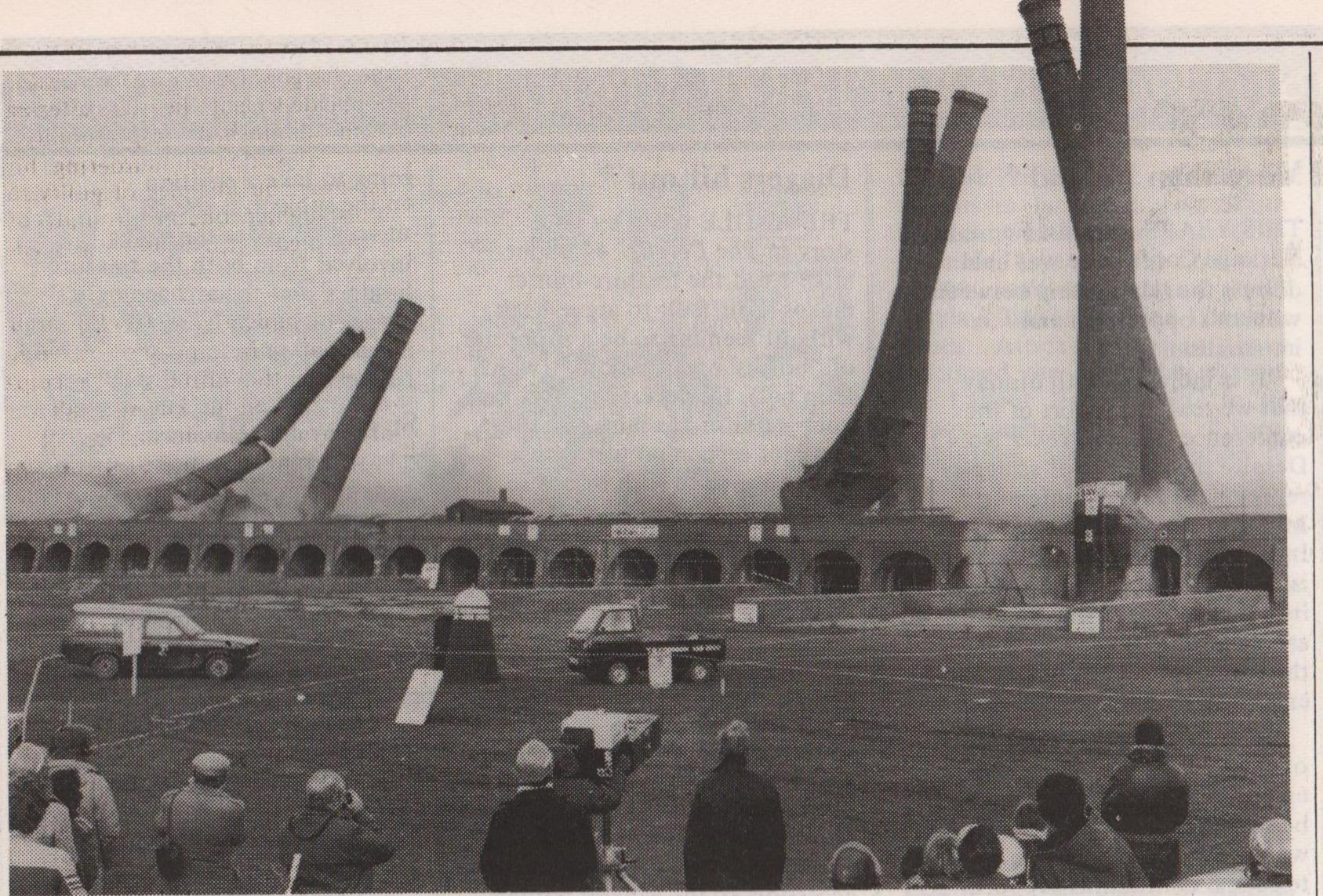
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# The muck goes up the chimney just the same polluted grass. It enlarges bones

ON SUNDAY November 30 the London Brick Company pulled off one of its biggest publicity strokes for years when, with an extraordinary fanfare of trumpets, it blew up eighteen chimneys at the disused Coronation Works just off the M1 at Kempston Hardwick in Bedfordshire.

By demolishing the works, the Company was underlining the fact that it was prepared to let nothing, not even 'environmentally conscious' Bedford County Council, stand in the way of replacing its present ageing works with four 'superworks', whose 400 feet high chimneys will carry its pollution over the seas to Scandinavia.

Two years ago LBC announced that it was going to do everybody a big favour. It was going to knock down all those nasty smelly brickworks — though for years it had been denying that they were polluting at all — and build a superworks to carry the company into the next century.

But instead of shouting 'whoopee', a surprising thing happened. All the people who had been feeling impotent about LBC for so long decided that now would be a good time to make the company clear up its pollution.

There are three major pollutants issuing from the chimneys. The most noticeable of these is the mercaptans, which smell of burning rubber. They are offensive but, as far as is known, harmless.

Then there is sulphur dioxide.
The brickworks disgorge huge amounts of it and it falls to the earth as dilute sulphurous acid—hence acid rain. SO2 has been shown by the government agricultural laboratories at Rothampstead to greatly affect

yields of grain.

Finally, and the least known quantity, is fluorine. It is known that the ingestion of fluorines can affect the cattle which graze off

polluted grass. It enlarges bones, makes joints brittle, puts cattle off their feed, reduces milk yield and brings them to the point where the only sensible thing to do is slaughter them.

LBC got Bedford County Council's Services Committee, and, particularly its chairman, Cllr Keith White, on its side. Among opponents were the leaders of both the Tory and the Labour groups, Philip Hendry and Andy Blowers, respectively.

Although the Environmental Services Committee could have taken the decision, it decided to refer it to the full Council, where recently, after a long and — everybody agreed — remarkably good debate, LBC got its planning permission, but on condition that the company cleaned up its pollution, a condition that operations director James Bristow said was 'impossible'.

LBC then announced that, according to their counsel, the planning permission as given by the County Council merely meant that it should incorporate whatever improvements were vuable, and consequently it would go ahead and seek detailed planning permission which it duly did at the last Environmental Services committee.

All the committee members were agreed on one thing, that no matter what LBC's legal opinion might say, they were quite clear that the detailed planning application did *not* come up to what was required.

Nevertheless, the vice-chairman of the committee, aided by an officer in choosing the right formulation of words, put up a resolution to the effect that the Council be invited to accept LBC's detailed planning application on the grounds that it was the best that could be got.

The committee, which has always had a pro-LBC majority, decided to sendit back to full council 'recommended for approval',

and on December 18 the battle will be fought over again ... a most unusual circumstance. In the meantime there will be substantial lobbying of those Tories who opposed granting planning permission last time.

If LBC wins next time round, the rage of people who fought the company through the democratic process will be terrible ... but impotent. If the company loses, there is nothing to stop them going to appeal or trying again through the Environmental Services Committee. For LBC only has to win once to get its way. The environmentalists have to win every battle, or they are lost.

Mike Rogers

#### Down the nick

THE DISPUTE between the Prison Officers and the Home Office is good news for some of the prisoners.

In two of London's main prisons, at any rate, the falling numbers of inmates and the drasticly reduced intake of new prisoners has led to a dramatic improvement in conditions.

In Holloway, the country's largest women's prison, numbers have dropped from an average 440 to their present level of 320 — a fall which led Pat Haynes, a magistrate and member of the Prison Board of Visitors, to describe conditions as 'transformed'.

Although the (mainly civilian) instructors who supervised much of the work which is done in Pentonville prison are supporting the Prison Officers Association (POA) by not reporting for duty, the workshops are now being unlocked and the prisoners allowed to enter them.

Numbers in Pentonville now stand at around 850, compared to 1,110 at the end of September. Less overcrowding means an easier life for all concerned — even for the Board of Visitors, who have less to deal with and can thus take a bit of a breather from the gruelling business of slapping an extra

three weeks on a sentence whenever a con complains about his breakfast.

This idyllic scene of harmony does not extend to all areas of the penal system, however. From Ashford, a juvenile remand centre in Kent, come complaints of young prisoners — many of them yet to have their cases heard — being locked in cells for 23 hours a day, allowed out only to shuffle around tiny exercise yards for one hour daily. And they don't even get that if it's raining.

Meanwhile, back in the cell-blocks under the nation's police stations and magistrates courts, scenes of unparallelled violation of civil rights continue to occur. Prisoners awaiting trial are not allowed their usual daily visits and have great difficulty in writing letters or even, in some cases, in obtaining a change of clothing.

Outside the walls, recriminations fly back and forth in everincreasing quantities. 'We are extremely disappointed that the Prison Department and the government have refused to refer the dispute to arbitration', said David Evans of the POA. 'Particularly as we made a commitment to accept the decision of any independent third party which properly examined our grievances. This very thorny problem could have been resolved without recourse to our present action'.

The POA will be discussing the future of their attempts to grapple with an intransigent administration at a special delegate conference on the 16th and 17th of this month.

The Prisoners' Wives Service sees itself as 'singularly unaffected' by the dispute, except insofar as they are benefitting from it: 'The police are opposing bail in far fewer cases', they told us, and they have received relatively few complaints from the wives of prisoners about the conditions of those held in police custody (presumably because most of those in that unhappy situation are unable to see anyone).

The judiciary continue to dish out jail sentences hand over fist, with a fine disregard for reality, although they were recently treated to a few stern homilies from Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice: 'Too many people are being sent to prison, and for far too long', he informed a gathering of Inner London Justices and City Justices on November 25th.

Anyone looking for hopeful signs of greater trade-union consciousness in the POA as a result of the dispute, however, should ponder on this little anecdote.

Visitors to Pentonville have frequently been kept waiting for long period in the street outside the prison, enduring taunts and jeers from passers-by in the process. When they are finally conducted through the gates, what should be the first thing that catches the eye but a large sticker proclaiming "BRING BACK HANGING" afixed to the door leading to the rooms where visits are conducted. Seems like they could do with a few lessons in public relations down at the nick.

Mike Simpson.

# Getting away with murder

As male violence against women increases the way the courts deal with the men is becoming an area of concern to the women's movement. Here Joanna Blythman looks at the defences offered in some recent cases.

THE RECENT Maw sisters case in Leeds highlights once again the issue of women who retaliate against violent men, and their subsequent treatment in the courts. The Maw sisters are not alone. Many women are presently serving lengthy prison sentences in British jails for defending themselves violent husbands and fathers: June Greig (6 years). Margaret Crichton (5 years), Margaret Kelly (4 years), to name but a few. But this situation becomes even more grotesque when a comparison is made with cases where men murder their wives.

The male defence to murder or how to murder your wife and get away with it.....

Step 1: Try not to use a weapon. Punching beating and kicking is usually better. In the Maw case, the judge spelled out his sentencing policy: 'Crimes of violence are to be punished: crimes involving the use of weapons like knives are to be punished severely.' This means that a man who beats up a woman over a long period of time until she eventually dies will be treated more sympathetically than a woman who in desperation picks up a kitchen knife and stabs the man. This is illustrated in the case of Gilbert McNally: 'A father who killed the woman he lived with for 17 years

walked free from the High Court yesterday. The judge deferred sentence for two years. By a majority the jury found McNally guilty of killing Mrs Catherine Givan by punching her repeatedly at their home. Mrs McNally died from a brain haemorrage.' (November 1980)

Step 2: Make a point of drawing attention to your occupation and general respectability. In the Tinne case (June 1980) '...Mr Farrel, Advocate Deputy, said it was Tinne's second marriage. He was for 25 years in the Royal Navy and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1969. He was employed as an administrative assistant by a charitable organisation.' In the Vickers case (September 1980) stress was put upon the fact that the accused was '...an eminent surgeon with a post as a consultant at an orthopaedic hospital.'

Step 3: Stop at nothing to blacken your deceased wife's character.

Try one or all of the following pleas in mitigation:

Your wife was an alcoholic: this is usually extremely effective. In the case of Joseph Furey this November '...Mrs Furey died during a drunken row'. 'Blood tests indicated that there was a high state of intoxication.' Mr Furey got four years. Again, in the Tinne case 'the marriage latterly was somewhat impaired by the wife's alcoholism.'

Your wife was senile: this is used only for elderly women at present but no doubt sooner or later it will be used with some success in cases involving younger wives. In October: 'A 78-year old former policeman, who was jailed for two years after battering his senile wife to death, was shown mercy by three judges at the court of criminal appeal. The couple had been married for 45 years but the court was told that in the last years of her life Mrs Hunter suffered from senile dementia.'

Your wife was unfaithful and taunted you about your sexual performance: In September there was the case of Brian Talby: 'He discovered his wife, Christine, in bed with a family friend. When he discovered later that she was planning to leave him for Mr Bolton and take her two sons with her, he attacked her with a knife, stabbing her eight times before she fled naked from the house.' (Mr Talby got three years largely because he also stabbed his 13 year old daughter to death at the same time.)

Your wife was possessed by demons and evil spirits: this should be kept up your sleeve and only used when more prosaic allegations fall on deaf ears. In September, in the famous 'exorcist' killing, the line of defence was that the men were good christians who maintained that they: '...had not intended to kill Miss Rutherford but by beating and kicking her they thought, they were going to force the devil out of her body.' Sentence: three years.

In relation to all these lines of defence, it would appear that little or no evidence needs to be presented to back them up. An allegation or innuendo is usually enough.

Step 4: Say that you were temporarily seized by uncontrollable urges and that you can't imagine what came over you. This is usually a last resort when vilification of the deceased woman fails: 'Mr McNally told the court that he had suddenly snapped when she came home drunk again.' 'Hunter was originally charged with murder but

the charge was reduced to culpable homicide because he was suffering from diminshed responsibility.' 'Mr Talby denied murdering his daughter, but his plea of guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility was accepted.'

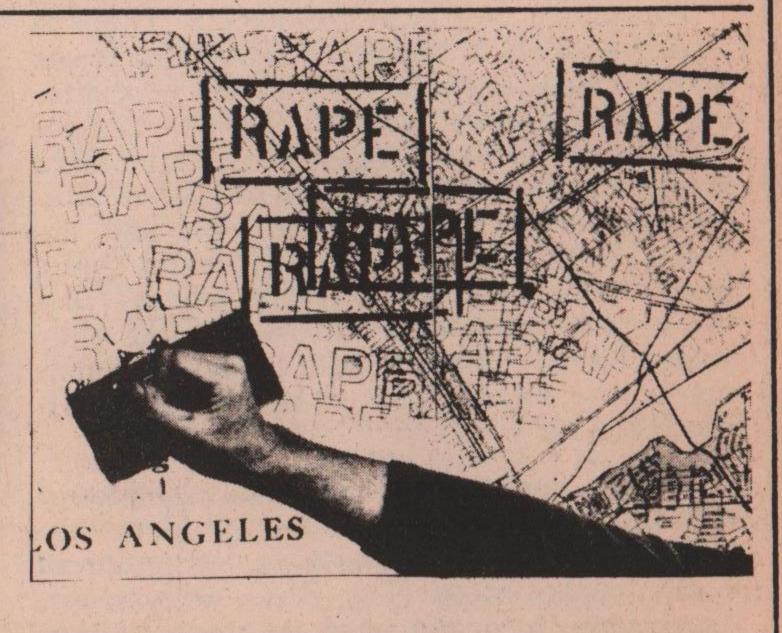
The judiciary are fond of arguing that it is impossible to comment on the fairness of a court sentence without knowing all the background circumstances of a case. Up to a point this is true, but even bearing in mind the individual nature of some cases, it is apparent that a comparison can be made of the treatment of men and women in our courts. It's striking that what constitutes a well-tried plea of mitigation for a man, for example, the wife's alleged alcoholism, is rarely successful when the situation is reversed.

Perhaps the most blatant example of this was the case of June Greig. In May 1979, she was sentenced to 6 years in jail after killing her brutal husband, a chronic alcoholic with a history of violence towards both her and their three young girls. Sentencing her, the judge said that: 'He made due allowance for the fact that her husband sometimes knocked her about ... but that her penalty must be a long term of imprisonment, not merely to punish her but to deter other wives in the same position from killing their husbands.'

What constitutes provocation for a man in the view of the courts is obviously different when applied in reverse to provocation in the case of a woman. The fact that the Yorkshire Ripper's earlier victims were prostitutes was seen as somehow less reprehensible than the murder of 'respectable' girls. In just the same way, men that kill women who apparently fail to live up to the social stereotypes of 'perfect wife', 'dutiful daughter' are dealt with sympathetically, and the male judiciary bends over backwards to protect the traditional power that men hold over women in society.

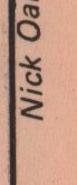






Los Angeles is called The Rape Capital of the World. Women in the city horrified to see the naked body of the ninth victim of the Hillside Strangler pictured on the front page of a newspaper decided to do something about the way the media has created entertainment out of slaughter. Their response was In Mourning and in Rage a memorial performance on the steps of City Hall. 'Images of seven foot tall women profoundly affected the media audience', the women write. Three Weeks in May was also in Los Angeles. Suzanne Lacy got large maps of the city, and stamped deep red every re-

ported rape and in faint red every unreported one. 'Slowly', she writes, 'the maps filled with colour. Red with blood before and still. But now we are also red with rage.' Performance Art and Social Change, which these events were part of, is just one of 'social strategies by women artists' on show at the ICA, The Mall, London, as part of its Issues exhibition. Selected by New York feminist critic Lucy Lippard the show concentrates on women artists whose work deals with social and political concerns. The exhibition runs until 21st December.





Kesh blanket prisoner.

WITH THE media conceding realistic figures for the second of the Dublin hunger strike marches in a fortnight (the BBC's Dublin correspondent. Philip Whitefield, translated the first demo of over 20,000 into one of 4,000) there is now little doubt about the swelling support throughout Ireland for the demands of the fasting H-block and Armagh prisoners.

With nearly 40,000 marching in Dublin last weekend, hostile observers in the 26-County establishment switched to a different tack. One stone-throwing skirmish with the Gardai involving a few dozen teenagers produced a

headline of 'Mob attacks Gardai'. The make-up of the march is a good index of growing support. A fortnight ago about 75 per cent of the protesters came from the six counties, with southern support largely made up of rural contingents. This time the north/ south ratio was 60 per cent, and the latent republicanism of Dublin workers shows signs

of stirring itself. It may have been this that prompted the fossilised Irish Congress of Trade Unions' leaders to appeal to the hunger strikers to end their protest. Ten years of national wage

One serious remaining problem appears to | agreements - Social Contract type deals - | from as far away as Glasgow. As well as the be the choice of intermediary. Cardinal with the Irish government plus pressure from O'Fiach and Bishop Daly have declined the Loyalist workers has neutred the ICTU and role, and John Hulme of the SDLP is un- they, like many others, have not forgotten acceptable to the prisoners. They are adam- the trauma of nationwide strikes, tantamount ant that any discussions must include their to an undeclared general strike, which took own representative, Bobby Sands, a Long | place after Bloody Sunday in 1972.

But wider trade union support is now the National H-Blocks Committee's final target Several trade union leaders such as Matt Merrigan and Phil Flynn, along with many rank and file members, marched on Saturday. And a warning was given to ICTU leaders that they would be by-passed and their members would now be approached direct.

With calls growing for industrial action in support of the hunger strikers, Irish premier Haughey's accord with Thatcher is now crucial for the preservation of 'stability' in north and south. Haughey, the most astute Irish leader since De Valera, told Thatcher in Luxembourg last week that the death of one hunger striker would set the country alight or, as the letter handed in to the British Embassy on Saturday put it: 'The death of one prisoner will reverberate throughout this country and the world, and immediately pose the question of your country's complete withdrawal from Ireland.'

ON SUNDAY at last it seemed as if the British left was beginning to act on the demands of the hunger strikers. About 5000 people just for the immediate five demands. They marched in London and again the banners | are finally for the reunification of Ireland as a reflected broadening support. Some came socialist republic.

banners of the political groups there were trade unions, gay activists and left media

The speakers reported on the solidarity of the Irish people with the hunger strikers and thanked those present for showing their support but asked them to bring along at least one more person next time. All the speakers, from Lord Gifford to a representative of the Scottish Hunger Strike Action Committee, put the demands in the wider context of the continuing British oppression in Ireland and the presence of the British army in the North.

Mairead Nugent's mother, who spoke with quiet intensity, told the rally that her daughter was first arrested at the age of 17 and now at the age of 21 she had joined with two other women in the hunger strike at Armagh. Frequently parents of the hunger strikers were asked why they did not tell their children to stop. 'Our children are adults. They have to be desperate to make this decision and who are we to tell them what they must do. They are desperate enough to die. Nobody can do more than die'. When Mrs. Nugent faltered there were cries of support. 'We know how you feel, we are with you'.

There may not be much more time before the first prisoner dies. Their actions are not

Left: London; Top Right

# public, the other in almost total secrecy.

The public face is in the streets. There is which doesn't have its own banner proclaiming the residents' support for the hunger' strikers. In the New Lodge a huge illuminated H sign on the roof of a block of flats dominates the area. In the Lower Falls and the White Rock there are Irish tricolours flying from buildings and electricity pylons. Last week four men were arrested after they scaled one of the city's most prominent landmarks, the Albert Clock, to hoist a 30-foot H-Block banner.

For the past month a day has not passed without some form of picket, vigil, demonstration, torchlight procession or occupation of a city centre store. The RUC, with a few exceptions, have not tried to prevent these protests. On December 3rd, however, they persuaded Humphrey Atkins to ban student demonstrators from marching out of the university and into the city centre. There were reports that the UDA in nearby Sandy Row had threatened to stop the march if it went ahead.

The appearance on the streets of hitherto inactive students from Queens, the Belfast College of Business and the Ulster Polytechnic is only one indication of the new mood of militancy in the nationalist population. The

# THERE ARE two very different kinds of political activity going on in Belfast, one very Support grows for hunger strikers The public face is in the streets. There is hardly a street in the city's republican areas as government seeks compromise

With Mrs. Thatcher flying in to confer with Mr Haughey, the hunger strikers' demand for political status is fast reaching crisis point. Here Leveller reporters in Belfast, Dublin and London look at the events of the last two weeks, and ask: is victory near?

indications are that the Provisional IRA have been caught by surprise at the strength of the nationalist reaction in Northern Ireland, and have decided to scale down their military activities in the hope that the extent of popular demonstrations will scare the British into concessions.

Many leading republicans believe that even if the men start dying the Provisionals should hold off any retaliatory attacks to see what the popular reaction is. There are some doubts as to whether the INLA will be quite so restrained. Both are believed to think that hitting the British in England and Europe is a better tactic.

Meanwhile, for the first time, there seems to be some possibility of a compromise agreement between the prisoners and the British government that could bring the hunger strike to an end. The Long Kesh hunger strikers are reported to believe that Humphrey Atkins' statement of last Thursday left them enough room to claim that they had won concessions

on each of their five demands.

For example prison work is now apparently defined so as to include education; remission lost by the protesting republican prisoners can now be fully restored; freer association, if not totally free association, now seems to be a possibility, and Atkins claims that the existing privileges on letters, visits and parcels are actually more generous than those the Hblock protesters are demanding. The prisoners' demand to wear their own clothes seems one major obstacle to agreement.

Nevertheless one source close to the hunger strikers told the Irish Times last week that minor adjustments were all that were called for before agreement could be reached. The British will obviously try to justify any compromise by emphasising that it is only part of an existing reform programme for all prisoners in Northern Ireland. But whatever the British say, most people in Ireland will see any such agreement as a victory for the hunger strike.

# Gunning for the poor

IT'S LIKE the Italian earthquake. A big rumble from Reg Prentice shakes the foundations of claimants' lives. Afterwards, under the rubble, the real damage is done, with poor people left to die or, at best, to fend for themselves, without the means of sustenance.

Since the great fraud effort (1,050 new staff to 'save' £50 million a year) was announced by Prentice in February an almost subterranean silence has settled on the Department of Health and Social Security. You might have thought that such an important part of the Tories' attack on the (non) working class would have been kept on the boil. Yet despite questioning from MPs and even TV interviewers, ministers have refused to give any information on its progress; no figures on

the number of scroungers who've been caught out, and not even any fictitious sums of money 'saved'. And the official line is there won't be any kind of announcement until next April or May.

Meanwhile, in offices all round the country, the officials are quietly getting on with it, with a zeal that is upsetting even their own unions and colleagues in other departments.

Tim Gopsill has assembled a heap of evidence, none of it officially released, showing some of what's going on, including that the 'savings' are nothing like the cost of the operation, and presents the picture in a series of tableaux.

THE CRACK detatchment in Prentice's forces are the notorious Unemployment Review Officers (UROs), whose number has been more than doubled, to nearly

But most significant is that around 50 of them have been assigned to the Department of Employment; significant because in addition to interrogating, threatening and cutting off long-term unemployed claimants on Supplementary Benefit (SB), they've now turned their intentions to those on Unemployment Benefit (UB) alone. UB lasts, at the most,

for a year, sometimes only six months, so it's now the fairly recently unemployed who're getting the treatment, even school-leavers and workers made redundant as little as eight weeks before.

It seems these particular terrorists aren't getting the planned results. The DE won't officially admit they are working for them at all, but, privately, figures have been given to the unions, and these show the cost of hiring the UROs is nearly double what they're 'saving'.

The figures only go up to September, but in that month, when there were 40 UROs operating in five of the DE's ten

regions, they performed as follows: Claimants called to interview: 1,647 Interviews conducted: 1,258 a result of URO pressure): 156 Weekly benefit saved: £3,890 Weekly cost of employing 40 UROs:

A union official says: 'It is purely a figures they want.' But the whole pro-

THE DHSS does admit that 'special exercises are part of the overall costeffective aim,' which means that any

In Oldham the URO has got together with local employers and devised the following scheme: claimants are given a blank card, divided into squares. Across the top it says: 'I can confirm that Mr... of ... applied here for work today. I am unable to offer him employment'. the URO, and the employers stamp the card. The claimant is required to report back to the URO every three or four days. If not, a letter arrives, saying: 'I asked you to contact me again within a day or so. A week has now elapsed and I have not heard from you. I am therefore assuming you have found work and no no further action with regard to your

Selected for this treatment are the 'voluntary' unemployed, who have been sacked or left their jobs of their own accord, which is not allowed (six weeks' benefit is stopped anyway); claimants under 25; non-householders and those without dependants.

The Oldham URO uses his powers to force school-leavers into any old dead-end

Number of claimants ceasing to sign (as

statistical exercise, aimed at getting the gramme is more than that. It is a grievous assault on jobless people.

Do as you're told

malevolent scheme dreamt up by local officials has the green light.

The claimant is sent after jobs selected by longer wish to claim (SB) and I am taking

Redundant workers - and the area has a high rate of closures, with the collapse of the textile industry - are called in by the URO after as little as eight weeks of joblessness.

> especially if they haven't called before, and have given no indication they were going to call at all. This is letter A16A(3). It's been

Further sightings please.

job, denying the chance to choose one

Child Poverty Action Group member says

'There is considerable conflict with the

IN NEWCASTLE the forces' recruiting

Sandwiched between signs for the Navy,

WRNS and Marines, and window displays

of militarist literature, is a small new sign:

'Department of Employment. Unemploy-

his base right into the heart of the military

to help particularly school-leavers to find

jump immediately at his order, are sent a

letter: 'I wrote to you recently, arranging

in getting work. However, you failed to

Department's office at Gunner House;

One claimant sent this letter went

joining the forces. He says he's 'dreading

in the North East. In the three months

ended September 30, out of 600 unem-

51 joined the forces. By comparison,

shipbuilding (the big local industries).

That's one in eleven going to prop up

British imperialism in Northern Ireland

So far this year (by the end of Nov-

ember) more than 2,600 had applied to

Gunner House, compared with around

Penton, North East Army Careers

Don't nobody move

on the doormat: 'A Visiting Officer

1,000 in the whole of 1979. Major Jim

Officer, enthuses: 'It is a happy situation

IMAGINE coming home and finding this

called again today and you were not at

home. I now assume that you no longer

require Supplementary Benefit. If this is

Especially if it's your only income;

not the case, please notify the above

received by claimants in Coventry.

91 found jobs in engineering and 46 in

ployed males finding work in Newcastle,

The recruiting drum is banging heavily

call to see me on . . . at . . . in the

Please note that failure to attend may

along and had what he described as 'a

heated conversation on the topic' of

Those taken into his sights, who don't

HQ is neatly named Gunner House.

the right job.

affect your benefit.'

the next visit'.

and elsewhere.

to be in.'

address.'

which might lead to a career. A local

Careers Office over this.'

IN THE NORTH WEST they're running what local staff call 'the knocker exercise'. They're so pleased with it that it's being taken up at national level.

It's arisen directly because of the extension of fraud work. The Special Investigators (SIs) have been through all the 'dubious' cases and tip-offs and got lots of people struck off. Now, as a union official says, 'with the unemployment situation worsening, these savings are evaporating', so the SIs are going on the offensive. They're going round the houses of claimants selected from the lists, knocking them up and badgering them with questions about their means, their dependants, and so on, adding the URO-style threat that if they don't take the jobs they're told to go for they'll be cut off.

Claimants are given three weeks to find a job. In one case, a woman of 47 who was registered as a typist was told by an SI: 'If you don't get a job in the next fortnight, I'll be back to tell you what job to take'. Two weeks later came the instruction to apply for jobs as a shop and canteen assistant. The woman refused and benefit was cut off.

She went to the office and made a fuss, and was reinstated.

Union sources say there's tremendous friction between the SIs and SB officers over this policy. Cases the offices have been carefully working on are brought to nothing when the heavy-handed application of the 'knocking exercise' leads to Ment Review Office', The URO has moved claimants successfully reasserting their

> But the DHSS nationally takes a different view. At a conference of Regional Liaison Officers, held at Dormy House, near Ascot, in September, it was decided to apply the policy all over the country.

Such work is beginning to worry the an appointment to discuss your difficulties civil service unions. The Society of Civil and Public Servants, which, in representing keep the appointment. Will you therefore Executive and Higher Executive Officers includes nearly all fraud staff, has been taking industrial action against it.

In protest at job losses in other departments the SCPS decided in October to stop fraud work by non-specialist officers. The action is continuing; only about half the staff supposed to be working on fraud are doing so, and the test check on claims that are supposed to be carried out - two percent of all claims, at random - simply aren't being done. Staff are passing the cases as checked, when they aren't.

But the UROs are still doing their work of course. SCPS assistant secretary for the DE, David Luxton, says: 'They are the sort of people who believe in what they are doing, the sort of members who can be a bit embarrassing at times. Their whole training is not to help claimants, which is supposed to be the URO's job, but to get people off the register.'

#### State snooper

AS Prentice's new fraud officers pour off their training courses, they tackle the job with relish.

A woman in a small East Anglian market town was prosecuted for fraud in July for not disclosing she was 'cohabiting'.

The woman was in her 40s with two daughters, aged 11 and 13. The father had deserted in 1977 - demoralised by being unemployed. He just went to sign on one day and didn't come back, but moved to another house in the town.

The younger daughter took ill with mumps, very ill. As the woman's own father, who was senile, was living with them and required constant nursing, she became exhausted and ill herself. The

father, who had wanted to come back, but she wouldn't have him, was summoned to help, and he sat up with the daughter for two nights, to let the mother get

Two nights only he was in the house. A day later he called in on his way to work, to see if they were OK. As he left, there was the sex snooper, the Special Investigator, peering from behind a steamed-up windscreen down the street. The woman was nicked. The SI had been waiting there for three days.

The father told the police he HAD been keeping her - because he wanted her back, and with her benefit stopped she was forced to rely on him. He paid her £20 a week and after two months insisted on moving back in.

The woman's independence was destroyed, and then she had the court case. She was refused legal aid — though the beak said later that had been 'a mistake'. Welfare rights workers got to hear of it and took up the case.

The prosecutor said in court that the DHSS were 'very surprised' to see a fraud defendant represented and defending the case. She was aquitted. But the conviction rate for SB fraud is 98 percent, the highest for any offence.



#### Millions robbed

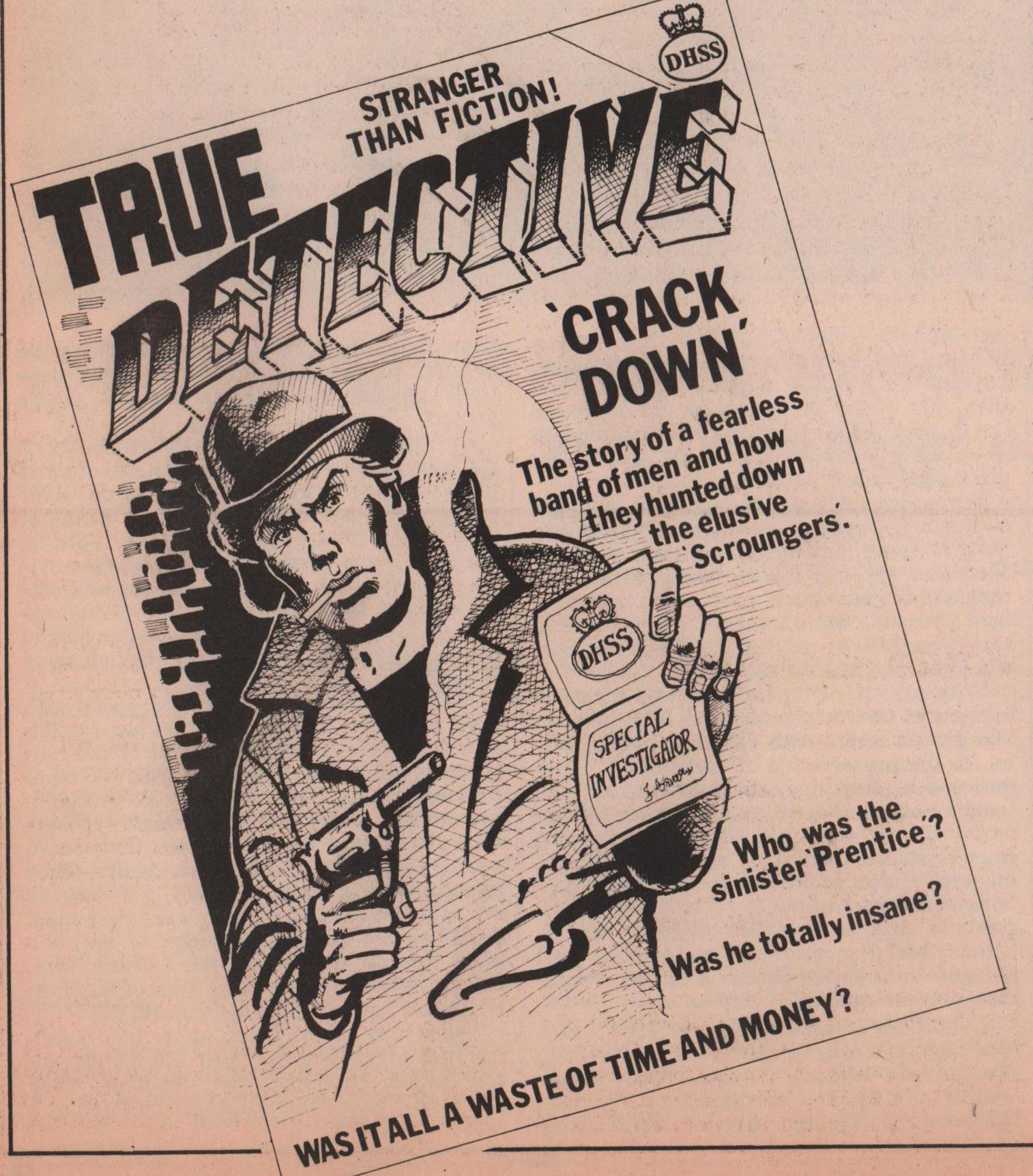
UNDER the blanket of silence the DHSS and DE are conducting the heaviest repression of poor people since the 'welfare state' was founded.

Two new Acts came into effect on November 24, at the same time as benefits were increased, for the first time, by less than the rate of inflation; that strikers' families, or those of workers laid off because of a strike, were robbed of £12 a week.

The Social Security Acts allow for the level of benefits to be cut, relative to the cost of living. In future, at the minister's discretion; for a new breed of Special Case Officers to pry into 'problem' cases but without any powers to 'help' them by ordering special payments. (A family's need to apply for more than one Extra Needs Payment in a year makes them, according to Circular S/5, which has fallen into our possession, de facto a 'problem' case.)

It's not just unemployment benefit recipients that are suffering, but those of disablement, sickness and maternity benefits too. Millions of people. And the perpetrators under under NO real pressure at all. Unions make noises, social and welfare rights workers patch things up here and there, but there is no big national protest, comparable with that against the fact of unemployment, at the treatment of its victims. But people are committing suicide - even, last week, an employer, distressed at having to lay workers off.

Meanwhile, the well-accountanted professional classes, the companies with tax avoidance schemes, the moonlighters of all classes, are getting away with more and more. This is Thatcher's Britain, Year. One, and so far they seem to be winning.



#### WOMEN

Taking A Part Cow. OC, £18 45mins. An experimental film about prostitution, female aspirations and male power.

Soho Cow. £15 20 mins. Hidden labour in London's Soho from secretaries in film companies to sweated labour in clothes factories.

With Babies and Banners. OC £18. 55 mins. A moving and affectionate film looking at the crucial role women played in the Detroit General Motors strike of 1937.

Thriller. Cow, £20. 33 min A feminist murder mystery! Draws on Raymond Chandler, opera and early women's film-making to produce an entertaining and startling work.

Stepford Wives. Contem-

porary £40 114 mins.

A hollywood zombie film, but with Living Dead straight out of Good Housekeeping and Woman's Realm, Frightening, great for starting discussion about media. My Brilliant Career. Mainline. £40 98mins. Rather glossy, but very accessible feature film about a young Australian girl's choice for a 'brilliant career' as a diary-writer over romantic love. Girlfriends EMI £27.50 88 mins. Explores female friendship and the pressures on it. Not by any means a rhetorical feminist film, nevertheless enjoyable (if undemanding) and contrasts strongly with the usual negation of women's affection for

films. Song of the Shirt. OC £40 135 mins or available in 3 parts, each £15. Recent accessible theoretical film centering on women's labour in the sweated industries in the 1840s. Hard work, but really worth it.

each other in Hollywood



#### RACE

Blacks Britannica. OC £30, 57 mins. Originally made for US television, this film deals with West Indian communities in London, re-drawing post war British history from a black working class point

of view. Attica. OC £24 80 mins. Made by a woman, about the prisoners occupation of Attica jail and its brutal supression sanctioned by Nelson Rockefeller.

Southall on Trial OC £16 funded bodies, £8 others. 30 mins. The Open Door programme made by the Southall Defence Committee as a reply to the police, in whose riot in April 1978 700 people were arrested and Blair Peach killed. It Ain't Half Racist, Mum OC £15 31 mins. Also Open Door, it gives short shrift to the beloved BBC notions of 'balance' and 'objectivity'. Clips from Robin Day, Dick Emery etc . . .

#### GAY

134mins. A fascinating, and amusing series of interviews with 26 homosexuals about their loves, lives and quirks - watch out for a hilarious description of gay life in the US women's army. Not directly agitational, but a lightning destroyer of anti-gay myths. A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts. OC £18 25mins. A hilarious film lampooning sterotyped

Word Is Out OC £40

images of lesbians - the biker, the Brylcreamed butch woman going out on a date. Great for a semi-party atmosphere.

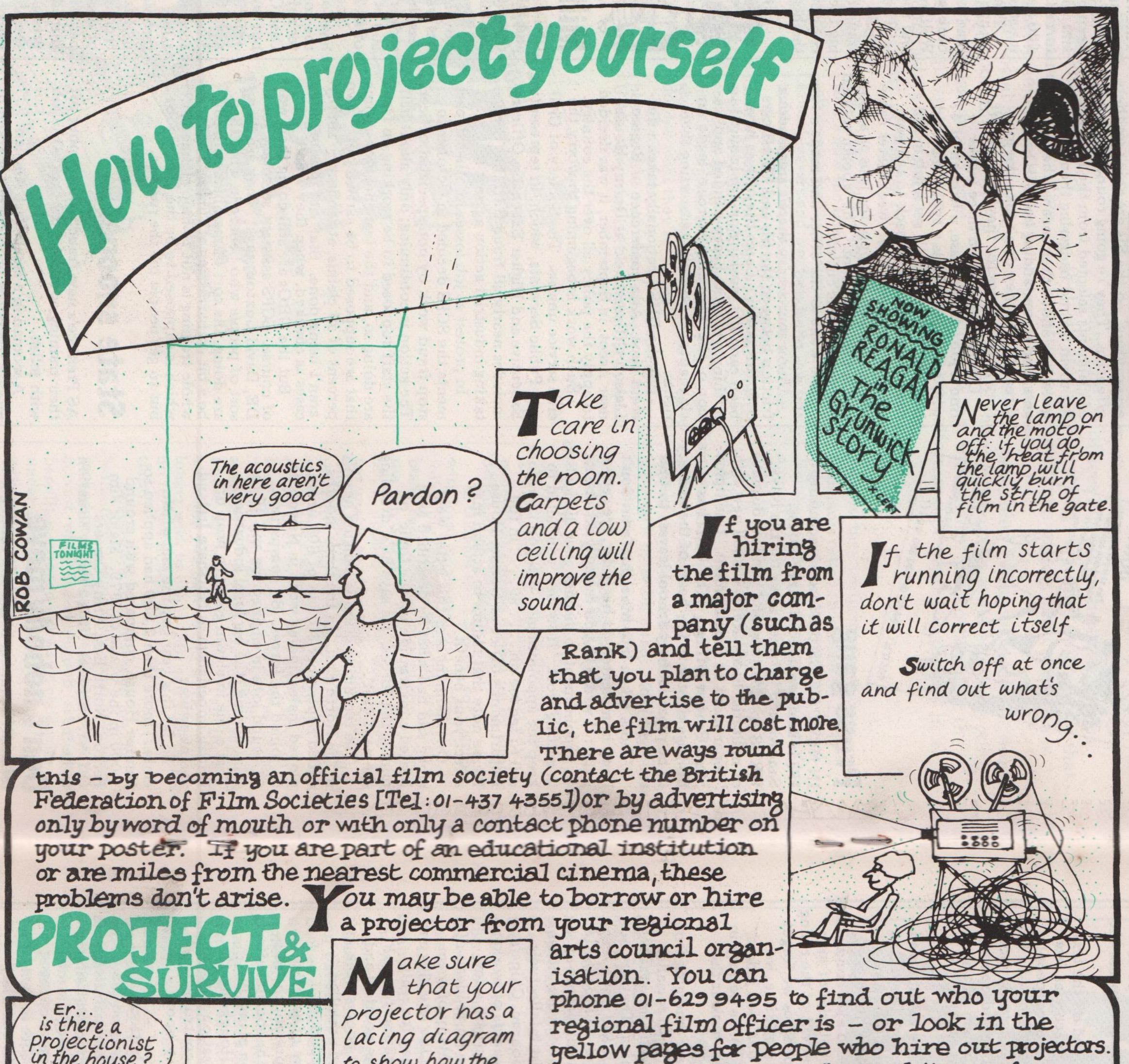
#### INDUSTRY

Look Back at Grunwick OC. £15 25 mins. A tribute to the strikers and a hard look at the role of the TUC after they took control of the

campaign. Modern Times Cinegate £40 90 mins. Charlie Chaplin's exquisitely funny attack on modern capitalism, automation

and the assembly line.

Ever wondered why the local Odeon always shows films the right way up? Why they only have one interval while the last left film you went to had six? Jane Root and Steve Marriot, both veterans of mangled film and smoking projectors show you how to do it below (with cartoons by Rob Cowan) and suggest some films that you might want to show.



in the house?

Union Maids OC £15 45mins. Three women remember struggling for a better deal for women workers in inter-war America-stirring and inspiring

Blow for Blow OC £25 90 mins. A fictional reconstruction of a successful factory occupation by French women workers, moving from random sabotage to taking the boss hostage.

Controlling Interest. OC £17 45mins. How multinational companlies control the lives of people throughout the world. Listen with glee as bosses condemn themselves out of their own mouths.

to show how the

film should be

threaded.

Wobblies OC £35 88mins. Justly renowned documentary tells the story of the Industrial

Workers of the World. Includes songs and slogans - 'Praise the Lord and sleep in the streets'. Totally exhilarating. Harlan County USA OC £35 103 mins. Some extraordinary footage of a coalminers' strike in Kentucky makes this film an all-time classic. The Big Flame BFI £16.50 85 mins. An early piece of TV documentary realism about a dock strike which eventually escalates into a struggle for worker's control. Rank and File BFI £16.50 75mins. Thinly fictionalised account of the Pilkington's strike. Loach's made for TV film is a merciless exposure of the Trade Union hierarchy and an exuberant celebration of rank and file action. Days of Hope pts 1-4 BFI £20 each approx. 100 mins. A quartet of films chronicling a decade of British labour history, from World War I to the bitter aftermath of the general strike. Lengthy but recommended.

#### ANTI-NUCLEAR

The War Game. BFI £15 47 mins. Peter Watkins "documentaryrealist" account of a nuclear attack on Britain. As distrubing as they

come.

The China Syndrome. EMI £50 122 mins. Jane Fonda and Hollywood melodrama combine to produce a surprisingly successful look at the dangers of Nuclear Power. Dr Strangelove EMI £13.50, 94mins. Kubricks incisive examination of the lunacy of military nuclear logic. Better Active Today Than Radioactive Tomorrow. Contemporary £25, 65mins. West German documentary detailing the bitter struggle against the siting of a nuclear reactor in the village of Wyhl.

#### RUSSIA

Battleship Potemkin. BFI £9.50 75 mins. Eisenstein's celebrated montage technique meets revolutionary content. Still stunning after all these years. Man with a Movie Camera. BF £12.50 98 mins. Eulogy to the newly founded workers state, exhilarating and quite,

quite outstanding. Mother BFI £9.50 106mins Classic silent narrative film technique at the service of socialist realism.

he screen: any clean white surface

a brighter, clearer picture. The room

liners and blu-tack work well for

cinemascope film if you haven't got

Plack out the room - black poly bin

awkward windows. ON'T order a

will do, but a proper screen will give

#### IRELAND

an anamorphic lens.

should be at least 20 ft. long.

Patriot Game £35, 93mins. Succeeds as no other tilm nas in capturing the spirit of popular resistance to British imperialism. Something the Foreign Office would rather we didn't watch (see Leveller No.44).

Ireland Behind the Wire. OC £30, 100 mins. Detailed examination of the war and its effect on the Catholic working class. Shot mostly in Derry and features a prolonged, distrubing interview with a Republican internee.

#### INTERNATIONAL

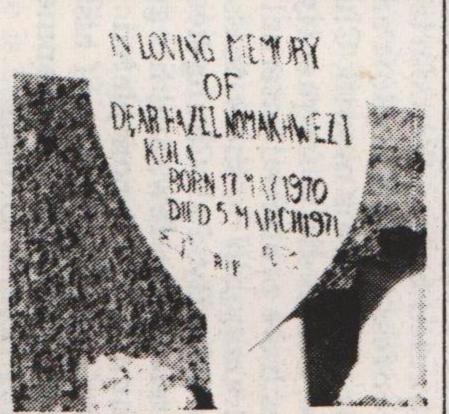
The Spiral OC £40 145 mins. A complex film looking at how the overthrow of Allende's elected Marxist government in Chile was set-up by coalition of reactionary forces. Narrated by Donald Sutherland. ZAP -The Weapon is Food Concord £8.50 25 mins.

A TV programme made by John Pilger of Cambodia Year Zero fame, it is a devastating look at the

way the US manipulates the third world with food

Last Grave at Dimbaza. Cinegate £20 50 mins. A shocking expose of the conditions in Soweto, and the 'tribal homelands' illegally filmed by a BBC camera crew. Caused much aggravation in Johannesburg. . . Abaphuciwe: This

Dispossessed. OC £20 40 mins. Just finished, the film looks at the forced removal of blacks from 'white' areas of South Africa and documents the conditions 'the dis-



possessed' live under. Includes rare footage of bus boycotts when women walk over 20km to work each day. Portrait of Nelson Mandela OC £12 20 mins. A tribute

to the imprisoned African National Congress leader. How Yukong Moved the Mountain - parts 1-5. OC £40 approx 140 mins each. Choose one or two of these five different programmes of film portraits of everyday life in China.

#### GENERAL

Punishment Park OC £30 88 mins. At some point in the future in a near police state US radicals are given the choice of prison or three days as fair game for a national guard unit doing 'necessary training' in the desert. Totally stunning. Culloden BFI £10 70 mins. Made by Peter Watkins, who also made Punishment Park (above) this has 'on the spot' newsreel coverage of the battle in 1745 when the English finally smashed the Scottish army led by Bonnie Prince Charlie. Impossible not to become wholly absorbed.



Family Life EMI £16.50 108mins. A disturbing feature film which finds the basis of a young girl's mental illness in the repression of her nuclear family. By Ken Loach. The Harder They Come. Osiris £40 104mins. Great soundtrack to the classic reggae film of a country boy corrupted by the city. Hollywood on Trial. Contemporary, £30 165 mins. About Hollywood witch-hunts. See your favourite stars become stool-pigeons and watch Jack Warner making a fool of himself, while the film reveals good old

fashioned class conflict in the heart of the dream machine. Winstanley. OC £30. 95 mins. Find out who the first Levellers were in an independent British feature film about the men and women who proclaimed common ownership of the earth during the British civil war. Fat City Columbia £14 95 mins. Made by John Huston, veteran (and brilliant) Hollywood director of love stories looks at life on the, margins for poor whites - picking fruit for a pittance, drinking, small

. Excellent and moving. Point of Order Cinegate £35 97 mins. A compulsive film about the collapse of McCarthy. Hundreds of bogus committee tactics exposed!

time professional boxing

Queimada FDA £114 112 mins. Marlon Brando stars in a story of slave revolt and colonialism at the time of the British takeover of the West Indies. A much praised feature film never properly distributed. Dawson J OC £18 35mins. An interesting short film about ways of making documentaries and police surveillance of trade union activists.

.For more listings see the Other Cinema list (free with SAE from 79 Wardour Street, London). Also see the Third World First Catalogue (60p, 232 Cowley Road Oxford) Women's Own (35p, ICA, The Mall, London SW1) and Films for Socialists (£1, Room 427, Wool Exchange Brushfield Street, London E1). The definite list of all Hollywood films is Films On Offer £3, BFI, 81 Dean Street, London). Socialist film services mill answer enquiries about projectors, distributors etc. Phone 01 247 0335 (London), 0272 551582

(North). TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(Southwest) 0532 460171

Art Eye/Artificial Eye 01 267 6036. BFI 01 734 6451 Cinegate 01 727 2651

Columbia 01 439 7621 Contemporary 01 734 4901 Cow 01 515 5547

01 439 7621 FDA 01 908 2366 OC/Other Cinema 01 734 8508 Osiris 01 580 6765

A RE-RUN of Stalin's show trials - or a move towards 'socialist legality'? Walter Easey, secretary of the Hong Kong Research Project, looks at the Trial of Ten in Peking, and surveys opposition in China now.

# Tradition and the Trial of Ten

IT IS A well known fact that the monstrous tyrannies of the East stage 'show-trials' to discredit former political opponents. Dazed and drugged-looking old men are hauled before the courts and cameras to confess to bizarre plots and fantastic near-coups. This month, China is staging one. Stalin did it frequently; his successors have preferred internal exile or the looney-bin - 'show-trials' got a bad press, evidently. Pak Chung-hee in South Korea tried a few, and his grisly successor, Chun, has just completed another to the eternal disgrace of his American paymasters. Other tyrannies prefer crushing people to death (Kampuchea), shooting them secretly (Argentina), beating to death with cudgels (Amin's Uganda), or blowing them up with car-bombs (Chile, Israel).

Some 'show-trials' are a real socialist necessity - e.g. the trial of mercenaries in Angola for their numerous bloody crimes: an act that both satisfied a local demand for justice and internationally signalled the end to a 'gentleman's agreement' that mercenaries should not be held accountable for their evil deeds.

What sort of 'show-trial' is being held in Peking? How does this fit in with the movements towards democracy and the surfacing of 'dissidents' in China?

The starting point is the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) of (roughly) 1965/75 - now reviled by the present leadership as the 'ten disastrous years'. The GPCR was a gigantic political upheaval that is hard to analyse eyen now: the evaluations of such things by the state, and its organs of propaganda must be taken with a few hefty pinches of salt. What is clear is that during its course nearly every professional party functionary at factory, district, provincial and national level had been given a very hard time mostly at the hands of (very) young Red Guards. This included prolonged imprisonment, death, destruction of the work of a lifetime in the case of some authors and musicians and a pile of personal abuse. In addition, there was a huge enforced exodus of city youth to the countryside (xiafang), either during the GPCR or in its aftermath.

Since the death of Mao Zedong, the Party has rehabilitated its own inner core of cadres and seems firmly in control, and determined that the chaotic conditions that led to their own illtreatment should not re-occur. It is essential to understand the strength of this determination if one wants to understand what is going on now. Hence the moves to "socialist legality", a clear code of judicial practice and so on.

The second factor influencing the current policies is the concerted drive for industrialised modernisation in all parts of China's desperately poor lands. The loss of ten years' worth of scientific and technical personnel is bitterly resented by China's present leaders and has provided an additional spur to the present trial of those held responsible the Gang of Four and a handful of their adherents. Leaving aside the symbolism of the trial, as the final public defeat of the old anarchic policies and confirming

the Party officials in a (finally) safe career, the main thing to be grasped is that the current leadership have recognised that an indispensable component of modernisation is a smidgeon of democracy, particularly the flow of information. Intended to be primarily flows of scientific and technical information (and even then firmly under Party control), the upshot is a freer flow of all sorts of information and opinion. This is the point of entry for the 'dissidents'.

Before returning to the question of dissent and its significance, I think it is worth putting the present trial into a bit of political and historical perspective. The first thing is that it is primarily intended for domestic consumption. No foreign journalists are being admitted and the public galleries at the trial are allotted to people from all over China, including national minorities, who will no doubt have to give extensive briefings to their factories, communes or Ministries when they return home. Such cadre opinion as has emerged since the announcement of the trial seems to indicate that they are impatient with the procedure and would have preferred the Gang simply taken out and shot. This option has already been ruled out by Hua Guofeng in a public guarantee.

The second is that the procedure should not be seen as some sort of ingenious manoeuvre by Deng Xiaoping and his associates to consolidate their position. Their position is as solid as it can be under the circumstances. After all, the Gang had hundreds of thousands of adherents and what we see is a mere ten on trial. This echoes the sort of principles that obtained in the early 1950s shortly after Liberation, when People's Tribunals proceeded against various 'counter-revolutionary elements' They did so in a modest and restrained way, so far as one can tell. For instance, in 1951, a mass trial of the Yiguandao the largest secret society (Triad) around Peking — took place. The membership exceeded 100,000 and they were the main drug-dealers, pro-Japanese collaborators and, on occasion, informers and torturers for the KMT 'Blue-shirts' fascist secret police. The blood of thousands was on their hands. In the end, some 126 leaders were tried and six were executed.

This conforms, as does the present trial, with the general principles outlined by Chairman Mao in his essay on Democratic Centralism (1962) where he said this about the question of arrests and executions.

"We must not arrest people lightly, and we must especially not execute people lightly. There are some bad people, bad elements and degenerate people who have infiltrated our ranks, and degenerate elements who sit on the heads of the people and piss and shit on them, behaving in a vicious and unrestrained way, seriously disobeying laws and discipline. These people are petty Chiang Kai-sheks. We must find a way to deal with this type of people, and arrest

some and execute a few of the worst who have committed the biggest crimes and the greatest evils, because if we don't arrest or execute any of this type of people, we won't be able to appease the anger of the people."

Later on Mao expanded on the text: "We should arrest and execute as few people as possible. If we arrest people and execute people at the drop of a hat, the end result would be that everybody would fear for themselves and nobody would dare to speak. In such an atmosphere there wouldn't be much democracy."

The present Trial of Ten seems well in accord with both the practice of the early post-Liberation and Mao's own directives, and if it looks a bit stagemanaged and vindictive to eyes conditioned by a couple of centuries of jury trial and judges independent of the ruling powers, well it is, but perhaps we forget the jury-vetting of our own time, we forget the class-bias of our own judges, we forget the constant police perjury in our own courts when we look at the procedures of foreigners.

China's 'dissidents' are emerging from the interstices of a return to socialist legality and the democratic imperatives of modernisation in China. They are not having an easy time of it and not a few have been in the nick for their pains. In strong contrast with the dissidents of the USSR — who are (with a few honourable exceptions) anti-socialist intellectuals with a hefty tinge of Zionism, China's dissidents are ex-Red Guards of worker and peasant origins who (with a few exceptions) long for the purer ideals of old-fashioned Maoism. Many of them have been xiafeng-ed in the late '60s and have called in a brave way for real reforms in Party practice and for real notice to be taken of the political and material interests of the poorest folk in China — its peasants and unskilled workers. The Liyizhe group in Guangzhou (Canton) are of especial interest and perhaps represent the misgivings of many about the societal effects of Deng's modernisation plans. In Guangzhou, so near to Hongkong, the effects of an industrialisation without any degree of workers' control is too glaringly close at hand to ignore.

If the GPCR was, at bottom, about the isolation of the Party from the masses, maybe the new marxist dissidents are voicing in their underground mimeographed journals a deepening disquiet about the probable isolation of the technical and scientific elite in Deng Xiaoping's modernised China. They articulate the doubts of the peasants still 90% of China — and it is from those peasants that part of the investment funds for industrialisation must come.

After the trial of the Gang, the efforts of the dissidents and their own political constituency - the peasantry and the unskilled city workers — will be the best clue as to whether the modernisers can drag this huge poor country screaming and kicking into the 21st century without a new upheaval.



# El Salvador Zimbabwe option

EL SALVADOR could see the first direct use of American troops since Vietnam, and a Zimbabwe-style negotiated settlement may be the only thing to head Reagan and his monstrous militarist team off at the pass. It sounds like a screenplay American capital might back. And it is the proposal of a dissident group within the US State Department, opposed to the policy of confrontation with the forces of liberation in El Salvador, which has taken the extraordinary step of releasing an anon ymous document arguing the case.

'Dissident Paper on El Salvador and Central America' comes from the pens of analysts and officials in the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA and the National Security Council, as the Salvadorean war enters a crucial phase. The USbacked Junta has murdered 4,500 people over the past six months; there is an economic crisis and a wave of strikes.

The paper reveals how the Carter administration has been working in the war. Amid the strategy of misinformation and management of international opinion, one important statement is made by these 'wet hawks': that direct military intervention would be 'within a context that gives the use of force few chances to achieve a satisfactory outcome'

But the paper hasn't stopped anyone in their tracks yet. The murder, on November 27, of six of the leaders of the popular broad alliance, the Frente Democratico Revolucionario, by the security forces and their 'plain-clothes' wing, the para-military, caused near panic in the State Department. How could ciliatory talks. The FDR refused. they maintain international support for the supposedly military/civilian Junta when the 'right-wing extremists' held responsible for the murders were backed up with helicopters, planes and 200 uniformed soldiers?

It makes it slightly more difficult for news managers like Peter Deeley of The Observer, who has faithfully peddled the Washington line for months, to keep up the pretence that the Junta, which in-

cludes two token Christian Democrats, is holding the line between extremists of right and left, especially when the security forces are raping and murdering American

Despite the murders, Reagan's men affirmed continued military support. Carter's suspension of all aid, (estimated at 25 million dollars this year) after the murder of the nuns, leaves the Junta struggling till Reagan arrives. But it may provide the FDR with a crucial breathing

Amid international denunciation of the murders, the FDR announced the replacement of the 'fallen men', and condemned the assassinations: 'This action confirms the recent declaration of the Socialist International that this is a military dictatorship confronting the struggle of the people, not a government of the centre confronted by extremes of right and left. '

Rafael Menjivar of the FDR external executive commission based in Mexico said another key element was the first clear evidence of advisors from Argentina and Uruguay; and the commandos on the FDR assassination were led by South Vietnamese personnel, replacing officers eliminated by the guerrillas.

The FDR regard this desperate operaation as a blow to the international initiative, led by the Christian Democrats in the Junta, to promote a 'negotiated way' out of the conflict. After Reagan aides had confirmed military support last week, the CDs asked the FDR for con-

Carter's ambassador in San Salvador, Robert White, has warned the Junta that unless the political killings stop, the country would be fostering 'total anarchy and civil war'. White has been trying to persuade the Reagan team of the necessity of encouraging a dialogue between the Junta and the FDR.

Carter is trying to push a strategy of exploitation with a human face, or, 'normal co-operative relations with

the CD puppets, Jaime Abdul Gutierrez said last week that there would be policy changes and that peace would have come from 'a purely moral drive'. The documents say the best option for the US is to recognise the FDR, and it recommends an end to the use of force and international action to prevent direct intervention by the US. International reaction to intervention would be 'equivalent to that which confronted the Soviets after their invasion of Afghanistan.' It says a negotiated settlement would also be most effective to achieve the two key objectives of US policy in the region, 'limiting Cuban and Soviet expansion and

The 'Zimbabwe option' is raised because the anonymous authors hold that the climate is beginning to approximate to the last months of the Muzorewa regime. What they see as 'most clearly missing in El Salvador is the will of the dominant regional power — the US — to concede that the time has come to grant its recognition to the new emerging status quo'. Negotiations would also serve notice on the hardliners in next-door Guatemala that their time has run out. 'The chances for a less radical and less traumatic transition in Guatemala will be greatly

Their appeal has to compete for Reagan favour with the confidence of right-wing forces in the region. The Honduran, Salvadorean, and Guatemalan armies have agreed on a joint military operation to wipe out the Salvadorean guerrillas. Condeca, as the alliance is known has drawn up plans for 'Operation Sandwich', which could begin this month.

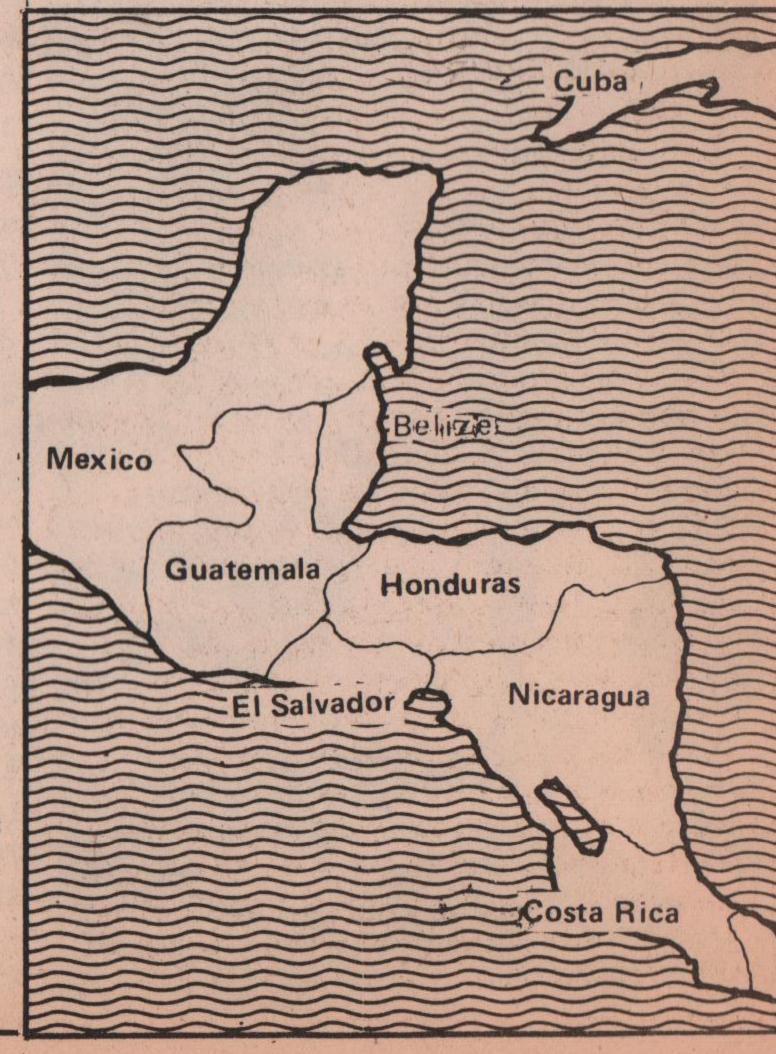
improved.'

General Garcia's Honduran government has already endorsed entry for Guatemalan forces into the country, and the joint forces have been regularly attacking Salvadorean border villages with napalm.

A Honduran official has gone on record saying of Operation Sandwich', 'We're going to wipe them out.'

Pat Murray

THERE is to be a demonstration against US intervention in El Salvador in London on Sunday December 14.



# No stunting their growth

After three years creating a theatrical style that combines acting, mime, singing and dancing with such circus-like feats as fire-eating, juggling, stilt-walking and acrobatics largely seen in one-night performances at touring venues and having just doubled in size to 13, Cunning Stunts are staging their first ever residency, at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, London, until 4th January; a Christmas Show, which through the urgency of the times and their method of improvising from individual members' preoccupations, will present their most overtly political work to date: a positive encouragement to withstand the nuclear threat. Lloyd Trott caught a couple of Stunts between rehearsals.

groups to function fully as a collective. How did the group begin?

It started with two women, Iris Walton and Jan Dungey; though friends, they had worked separately as performers, Iris from 1974 with a mixed group, Still Life Mime Show. They began in April '77 with a lot of small-scale work in pubs, streets, playgroups and OAP homes, testing ideas and skills. Until this recent major expansion, we had grown by gaining two and losing one woman a year, so there has been continuity. Iris is taking a break since finishing 'Runts on the Stoad', late this summer. Jan is still with us, acting as 'co-ordinator' on the present show. Iris and Jan had realised how underrepresented women's humour was in theatre.

Patriarchy has dominated the development of all western culture, including humour, so that most jokes and comic situations are perceived from the male perspective. Look at all the trendy, clown fashion stuff, at the moment - even that is all male imagery.

But wasn't redressing the bias of 2,000 years a tall order for two women? Where did they start?

Well, their perception of the general situation motivated the initial work, but our consciousness has been raised through every new project. They did not start out with an all embracing 'let's put the world to rights' ideology. In many ways, we are still feeling our way, and would regard all our shows in progress, although they may appear to be finished products to the audiences, but there were two basic premises. There was the need to display the absurdity of male behaviour and to present women alone being funny and flouting the prevailing glamorous image of women as entertainers, or as one review said: 'A grossness not

normally associated with women'. These dual aims had comedy as the primary goal rather than a feminist critique. YOU ARE now one of the few theatre, Although much feminist thought and discussion goes into preparation, the group has never been advertised specifically as a women's company; there was no coverage in the feminist press until the end of 1978 and, up to and including 'Ham Fat on the Turn', some reviewers assumed there were men in the company...

'Ham Fat on the Turn' was a kind of feminist pantomime, loosely based on the Hunchback of Notre Dame. We had six performers, playing mostly male characters and dominated by the wicked Ham Fat (the Turn was a river) in black and obsessed with spikes as weapons and personal adornment, and given to singing lyrics, in a deep, deep voice, such as 'Round is unsound, very unsound' and 'Rectangles are for me'. 'Ham Fat tyrannised his chef Vaselini, who had a series of crazy bothers — the brothers Vaselini, as well as caging any birds (played by the rest of the company) he could lay his hands on. Add to this the Quirk, a grotesque creature neither male nor female, whose main occupations were eating bats and running around attempting to poison everybody else, and despite the possibly softening presence of the Strongwomen in their leopardskin diapers and balaclavas - not forgetting Dona Cayote's troublesome love potions (here the plot borrowed slightly from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream') — it is not difficult to see why audiences thought there really were men on stage.

Why this abundance of male characters? Looking back, it was something we had to work through. It was necessary to send up male attitudes, violent or otherwise, before going on to develop our own creativity.

All our shows are built out of improvisations. An individual can have an idea, and lead an improvisation with it or feed it to another, in order to participate herself fully in the exercise.

Alongside whatever project is being prepared there are a series of skill sharing sessions. Every new member is taught to play musical instruments, as well as juggling, conjuring tricks and the secrets of contorting the human body. At the beginning of preparation for a show, everybody, non-performers as well as performers, join in improvisation workshops. On this Christmas show the two designers spent two weeks in workshops before attempting a first sketch. Sometimes women have come to us with no theatrical experience at all. We invite other women, so that there are 20 or more in a workshop. This is the best environment for growth. We have a chance to get to know the other women, in a way, we can never do with an audience of 100 - 150. Only by feeling secure enough to open right out can your creativity really develop.

We try to overcome the gap between us and strangers in an audience by having people participate - not in the old variety fashion of selecting a couple of dupes to be made fools of on stage, but through devices or games, in which the whole audience can be involved. In 'Runts on the Stoad' the audience was, asked to enact the old bag ritual from Godalming, where everyone was given a paper bag to place firmly on their heads and then asked to 'mingle', rustling their bag against others as they wove their way to an entirely new position/seat in the venue. It sounds silly but it did generate a warm, friendly atmosphere.

You had a male child travelling with one plate becoming a mixed collective? We would be happy about men joining us in the long term, though it might be several years before they were given anything really interesting (wicked laughter). As for male companions and other friends: we want the life-style of the travelling troupe to be flexible enough to accommodate having them around, but the Stunts come first. For so long women have had to find a niche in a male world. We want to reverse that and say: 'you want to get involved, well fine, but you will have to fit in where you can. 'Some men, who have seen how far we have come and the direction we're heading in have asked, 'is it possible for men to collaborate in this way?' Frankly we don't think so. Much of our work and our method of creating has come out of struggling against a male-dominated world. Men could make a copy of Cunning Stunts but it wouldn't be the same for them as individuals, because the experience out of which each of us came, could not be duplicated by men, at present.

There seem to be quite a number of nuclear threat theatre pieces around; what led you to choose the nuclear question as a theme for a Christmas Show? Have you anything original to

It is not a matter of choosing in the

normal sense. Like all our work it

was generated out of individuals'

though operating through different

increasingly oppressive to our lives.

ourselves, we have come to recognise

Through discussions with outside

the Nuclear Threat) and among

how much the general lack of

We feel that people have come to

depend on institutional direction in

their lives, so that self-will has been

whittled down to a deathwish in the

face of our war-mongering ministers.

channels. The issue is becoming

In the show there are characters who reappear throughout the evening, but the cabaret element will still be strong, and we have always improvised a great deal on stage as well as in rehearsals. We have researched the nuclear debate quite thoroughly, through wide reading, seeing available relevant films and talking to people who have made closer studies, but there won't be any statistics or current involvements. We had all been graphs on display - the wisdom will be and are active anti-nuclear campaigners, imparted in images and allegory, working within our own style. There is a highpriestess of a mushroom cult - the great mushroom in the sky being worshipped by its complacent adorers groups like WONT (Women Opposed to and lots of songs and laughter. Cult members go round singing, 'we'll all do nothing', 'we all get together and get bombed out of our skulls'. What we are resistance is derived from the prevailing offering in originality (we hope) comes lethargy — the disbelief of most people through our comedy, the opportunity for that anything can be done by them, once audiences to recognise the folly of our our governments have taken decisions. times. The art forms associated with Rock Against Racism, Punk etc., have been very heavy in style, the music surging with aggression. We want to register protest but keep everybody light-hearted.



of your shows. Would you ever contem-

ALTERNATIVE MISS WORLD. Directed by Richard Gaynor THIS FILM is a record of the Miss World Contest 1978. No, not the Mecca/Morley Multinational but an affair on Clapham Common, with most of the contestants men dressed as women. The event was masterminded by Andrew Logan who was attired as a man AND a woman, at the same time.

The bloke behind me said 'Queers', and walked out.

God save the Queen! came over loud and clear as Mis-carriage alias Stevie, a young man from Swiss Cottage, swept down the stairs to be crowned. Apart from his moment of glory we also saw every other contestant from Miss Windscale to Miss Slightly Misanthopic, pouting and wiggling down the catwalk. Technically it was patchy, with some lovely moments lost in bad sound and dodgy camera-work.

I was impressed by the commentary by Stephen Holt, Eric Roberts and Mollie Parkin, who sounded as if they were making off the cuff comments as they watched the first run-through. Molly Parkin liked the idea of filming the occasion because she was so drunk that evening she couldn't remember it.

Aside from the hilarity, some serious points were raised. It is fine to show people having the 15 minutes of fame that Andy Warhol wished on us all. However this rave-up had the ambience of a walking gossip column - an ideal evening out for readers of Ritz. The spirit of the thing was fun, proving that you don't have to be a 'beautiful woman' to be a beauty queen, but it remained a peep-show of how the rich live it

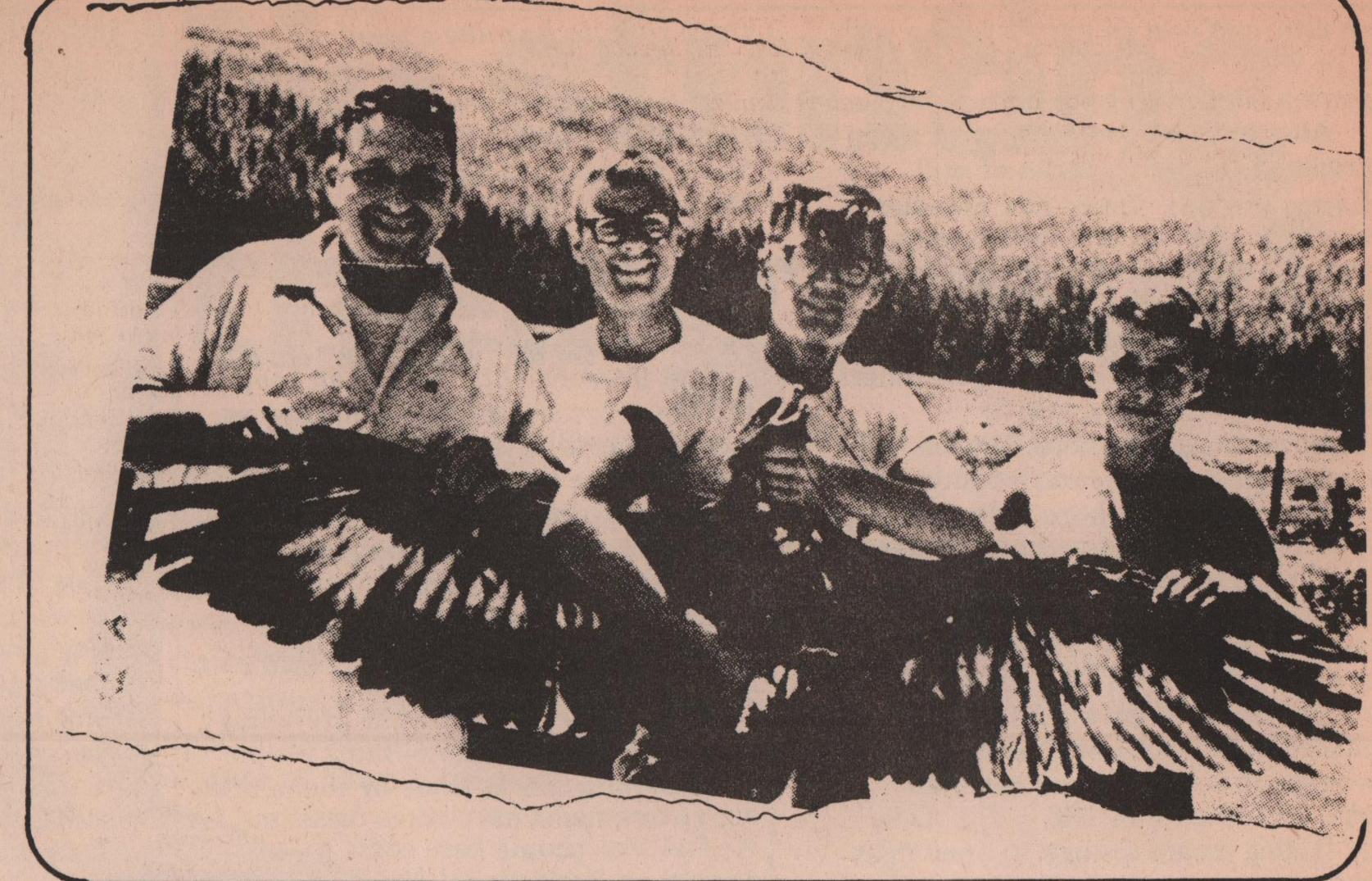
A little less self-indulgence and a bit more attention to detail would have made it a fascinating TV documentary. But as it stands the film doesn't seem to do justice to the event, but is still a thought-provoking laugh and good, dirty, fun.

Sue May

THE FALLS. Directed by Peter Greenway.

MASHANTER FALLACK moved to Berkeley Square from the Canary Islands. Currently she is involved in the Campaign for Avian Terminology (CAT). Ignored by the passing public she is interviewed outside a Golden Egg restaurant while making a solitary demonstration in aid of Sparrow Week, Her placard and protestations address us in a bizarre and unfamiliar language.

So runs just one of the 92 biographies detailed in The Falls. The 92 encapsulated life stories are chosen from many millions on the criteria that they all begin with 'Fall-', they are all the surviving victims of the Violent Unknown Event (VUE). Set in the not too distant future the VUE leaves its survivors immortal, unaging and with an ability to speak mutant languages At no point are we told directly about the nature of the event we can only construct our own ideas of it through the testimonies of its victims. Possible VUE sites are suggested however Norwich, Cockfosters, or more significantly the Goldhawk Road.



The survivors; individual languages, shared names. The Falls.

Throughout the film, as in Mashanter's story, themes of language and ornithology predominate. Many of the VUE victims begin to emulate birds. Bird puns and jokes punctuate the film, as do images and ideas of man-powered flight.

Greenaway tells us there are 92 VUE languages, one for each biography, each has his or her own particular way of expressing or understanding the world. The concerns of biography and flight are poetically summarised by one of the Falls's subjects: "We're all too interested in Icarus and not enough in his father".

But whatever you take the film to be about - language, sexuality, Hitchcock's The Birds, Jorge Luis Borges, or seagulls, above all it is entertaining, with dry hilarious humour that comes somewhere between Rawlinson's End and a Monty Python documentary. The music is by Michael Nyman and Brian Eno.

The film's only failure is its length. Greenaway writes: "An ideal history of the world is most perfectly told by a history of all its subjects. The impracticability of such a history, like a full-scale map of the world, mocks all human effort - a compromise will have to do". I wish he had compromised further since 185 minutes of film is a lot of film to

endure, but don't be intimidated - see it if you get the chance and take a break or miss the end. Since each biography is self contained it doesn't break the continuity to miss some, but if you do, you'll probably want to return later.

P.S. Take the budgie. Chris Bullar

#### SONG OF THE CANARY, directed by Josh Hanig and David

MINERS USED to take canaries down into the pit; if they sickened it was a warning that poisonous gases were present and it wasn't safe to carry on working. 'Song of the Canary' uses this theme, but now workers have replaced canaries, when they sicken and die it is a warning that working conditions are not safe.

film uses two striking examples to make its point: the disturbing statistics for sterility and cancer amongst male workers handling the fertiliser DBCP in California and the incidence of 'brown lung amongst workers in the cotton textile industry in South Carolina.

This American documentary

The problems and policies are described in a series of interviews with workers, employers, doctors and government officials. DBCP is manufactured by the Occidental Petrolium Company, whose doctors had assured em-

ployees that the sickness they were experiencing was not caused by the chemicals they worked with. Independent medical advice showed that 90% of the workers handling DBCP were either sterile or had related cancer. Although this discovery was a shock, lack of other employment opportunities kept them at work. 'People say you're gonna die. Right now my main concern is raising my kids. I've been out there ten years and I just can't quit when I have that much seniority . . . even though I know

doing me harm.' Half the workforce of South Carolina are employed in cotton mills. They work in a humid noisy environment and breathe an atmosphere full of tiny cotton fibres. The film shows them old before their time, crippled by the effects of 'brown lung' - an incurable disease caused by the cotton dust. Although the cause of the disease had long been recognised, employees were never told that it was the environment in which

for a fact that the chemicals are

they worked. Despite the revelations such as these, the profits of companies and corporations continue to take priority over the health and welfare of their employees. Following the outcry over DBCP its manufacture in the USA ceased it is now manufactured in Mexico A safety standard has been drawn up for cotton dust, but, following pressure on the US Government by mill owners, its introduction is being delayed for four years. Meanwhile, textile workers continue to suffer the dangerous conditions.

This film should be seen by all who are involved with health and safety at work, employers, trade union officials, and all those workers whose jobs may bring them into contact with a potentially dangerous working environment. Its message is clearly stated and is a lesson to us all.

£25 to hire, 58 mins from Other Cinema.

Tom Markham

# Books

THE BOOK OF THE YEAR: Edited by David Widgery Published by Ink Links, £4.95

IT SOUNDS a bit like a Crackerjack annual does The Book of the Year. In fact that is really what it is - a bumper annual for overgrown children of the left to enjoy over Christmas pudding and

To quote the editors: 'Our intention is to break up the myths that the national media reinforces and reproduces. To make our own news and our own history.' Quite an undertaking, and one which, despite lots of good photographs and some interesting articles, does not quite succeed.

There are indeed some telling pictures, my favourite being the one of a wild looking Keith Joseph, held back by strong-arm boys and policemen. Above the photograph he is quoted as saying coyly: 'I wanted to hear them', whilst a steel striker adds a more fitting caption underneath: 'The man is mad and bad and we hate him.' But for the most part the photographs are wasted. Often they carry no caption at all, just the name of the photographer, and the relationship between photos and text is loose and sometimes tenous.

The layout of the book also follows the same free pattern. A deliberate scrapbook effect is created, with items following each other in no distinct chronological order. I recognise that this is probably a deliberate attempt to avoid a false regimentation of dates and events, but it has an unfortunate blurring effect, so

that nothing seems to stand out in what has been an outstanding

The text itself is by no means penetrating enough. There are, luckily, exceptional items. E P Thompson's highly credible analysis of the Afghanistan invasion is one I have certainly never read this year in the rabidly anti-Soviet British press. And for accurate and moving impressions of life inside repressive British institutions, the pieces by Melanie McFadyean on Armagh and Ian Breakwell on mental hospitals cannot be bettered - nor can they be seen in any of our friendly dailies.

But these are outstanding in an otherwise rather too timid attempt to reinterpret the year's events. The surface is scratched in this book and a pointer given as to just how far we have yet to go in stripping away the layers of bigotry and distortion that settle like sewage on every event that Fleet Street reports. The Book of the Year is not an alternative analysis of this year's news, but it provides the basis for one. It is valuable just for that.

Barney Bardsley HENS IN THE HAY, poems by Chris Cherry, Ellen Galford, Joy Pitman, Lorna Mitchell, Stephanie Markman; drawings by Dianne Berry and Suzie Innes. Stramullion £1.60.

SMILE SMILE SMILE SMILE: poems and prose by Alison Fell, Stef Pixner, Tina Reid, Michele Roberts and Ann Oosthuizen; drawings by Michele Roberts, Stef Pixner and Alison Fell. Sheba Feminist Publishers. £1.75. FEMINIST POETRY. How does that sound? If I were standing in a bookshop in front of a shelf with that label I might well be reluctant to reach out and take a look, for fear of being irritated and

I thought was bad. What I wouldn't want to find in feminist poetry is a surfeit of inward-looking images fetishising femaleness: wombs, blood, goddesses. What I would be hoping to find would be a trace of the links between myself and the world I move in - an affirmation of the importance of individual experience, precisely because that is something we all share and is

therefore communicable.

disappointed at finding poetry

I wouldn't want to read feminist poetry in which the form had not been given the same attention and care as the ideas it contains; which seemed to say that as long as the message is there, then that's all that counts. But it's not enough for a woman to write about what she sees to make good feminist writing. She must put a lot of effort into choosing the most honest words and effective images. She must work on a pattern the words make.

The Leveller recently received two books of women's images written and drawn by feminists. So what is a feminist image? Sometimes it expresses ideas which are feminist in that they are critical of men and patriarchal rule. Much of the writing in these books is like that . For example:

I might have said I've known your sensitivity, felt your emotions. believed in your feeling and how I've woken like a cracked sky

to see your cool face bland and listened as, at each cock

you've denied your vulnerability. ('Jazzman', Chris Cherry)

my neighbour stuffs a hundred pairs of underpants into the colour telly gone mad kicks the door shut: ain't you finished yet? come on man, machine, ain't got no time to waste

a final shudder the white foam spurts to the drain

later I lie between your legs upon clean linen my laughter stains your white

('Nightshift', Michele Roberts) Others are feminist, because they look at women, putting them

We walked in moonland while the grouse raged at us black peat sprung at our heels white silt of limestone seeped

and everywhere a rumble of landslips, frog's spawn,

ooze of sap.

Walking side by side was easy, with no shocks the land could not absorb.

Diverting you, I poked at lichens, at tree-clefts that rot or ants had chewed.

the world reached over. I sought it, I feared it careful kiss of friendship.

But then the shyest hand in

woman to woman. ('Yorkshire Dales, Easter' Alison Fell)

and return to better-known alleg ancies?

> your friendship is a card too high to gamble. ('Lesbian Poem', Joy Pitman)

Some images are feminist simply because the author defines herself that way. As it says in the introduction to Hens in the Hay: 'Sometimes it's feminist because we're trying to be honest about our feelings as women and sharing those feelings'.

What is there in a ploughed

and the cry of gulls worming? When least expected, when you're tired of asking. when you're past wanting. given up waiting -

don't turn too fast when a playful hand arranges things so cleverly that

understanding is a catch in the throat, a startled eve

and a smile of recognition. ('Winter', Chris Cherry) So if the pit-bing slips or the eggs tumble and break, who else is responsible but the four-year-old with the torn hem, who trials in gangs to yell at Papes, and raids allotments

In this stew of darkness, thoughts can spit. The mother may crumple at the cabbage pot

for a fistful of strawberries.

and the bed in the alcove burn to hell.

('Lanarkshire 1949', Alison Fell) This is just a small selection of the writing I enjoyed in these books. If you see them in a bookshop, don't be afraid to take a look.

Chris Stretch



you do not shrink an accidental contact resist a hand that's placed for emphasis or greeting

but if you saw the flame that runs along my nerves would you reject me

SQUATTING: THE REAL STORY Bayleaf Books £4.50 pb

THERE is no doubt that this 240 page lavishly illustrated publication covers an important aspect of our contemporary social history. 'Written and produced by squatters as the back cover blurb tells us, 'The Real Story' is compiled by

Nick Wates and edited by him and Christine Wolmar, Fourteen individually skilled contributors attempt to cover every aspect of squatting, even touching on squatting abroad.

Colin Ward, one of the contributors, has written a fascinating account of six centuries of squatting, in which he reminds us that we are all descendents of squatters, even 'the Queen with her 176,000 acres'(I can't believe that's the full extent of Crown property) and the 54 % of the population who are owner-occupiers.

Another contributor, Tristan Wood, writes without a trace of irony, an account of how the wellorganised group at Seymour Buildings in Central London (where most of the actions take place) first squatted there in 1975, and by 1978 had become, after signing a leasehold agreement with Westminster Council, effective owners of the building. It's not hard to spot the difference between the group at Seymour Buildings and the 'dossers', predominantly in 'skips', that Colin Brown writes

There are many personalised accounts of 'our squat' and how we 'got it together' backed up by corresponding photos, i.e.used more as illustrations than as photographs. The designer, Caroline Lwin, has handled the abundant material exceptionally well.

Unfortunately, the sum of the parts leaves a confusing whole. While housing remains an increasingly important issue, the book tends to be somewhat boring. Basically it isn't strong enough to spur you on with renewed vigour into the housing struggle. Part of that is due to both visual and verbal overkill. There is too much detail, which is fine if you're into retrospective spotting of friends or buying in order to show the grandchildren, 'I was there'. But it fails to answer its own question on the back page, which is whether squatting is a revolutionary force or just a bunch of hooligans doing their own thing.

If you take out the loaded word 'hooligan', talk about people and really develop that theme, then there is a possibility of combining a retrospective with the problems of today. This lack of a developed analysis is what finally lets the book down. But all the same, for the price of a Chubb lock, it's worth buying.

Chris Schwarz

THE JOHN SMITH SHOW ITV, Tuesdays at 7 pm. THERE'S PROBABLY never been a better illustration of Britjain's class system than The John Smith Show (ITV, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.). Four married couples -Mr and Mrs John Smith as they're called on the programme - are invited in pre-recorded film clips and in the studio to answer questions about their different ways of life. The four couples are: a bus conductor and a cheque processor; a skilled car worker and a clerk; a vet and a teacher; and a solicitor/company director and

his housewife. The programme is introduced by Tony Bastable and Joan Shenton as colourlessly as possible and each week looks at a different aspect of the couples' various lifestyles: earnings, expenditure, leisure activities, children's schooling. It often delves into the most intimate financial detail and the conclusions are obvious. In the first programme, for instance, we learned that the bus conductor pays £1,000 a year tax and the company director well over £15,000.

A later edition dealt with public expenditure and welfare benefits. 'I haven't seen any cuts', said the self-made company director looking proudly at the camera. 'I think it's about time they started making some'. And the reaction to that? 'Well', said compère Tony Bastable, 'we certainly have some differences of opinion here.'

If you're of the opinion that TV should let facts speak for themselves, this is one of the most subversive programmes ever made.

Colin Shearman

# Music

#### Album reviews

GROTESQUE (AFTER THE GRAMME) The Fall (Rough Trade)

THE FALL are like a living fossil. They sound like they're still practising in someone's bedroom, oblivious to the years of rock fashion passing by outside. This group is scruffy in every respect. No doubt they wil carry on making take-us-as-youfind-us records regardless of what anyone says. Three years of talentless loser bands thinking punk gave them a rationale for hopelessness has eroded my tolerance for groups who don't learn to play their instruments. Despite that, I have a sneaking liking for The Fall. When he's not worrying about obscure problems close to the band's heart, Mark Smith does an original and effective line in social caricature

A lot of this LP loses by not being fast or sharp enough. Lumbering music backs involuted, rambling narrative,

Lora Logic. See Wanna Buy a Bridge.





Mark Smith. The Fall are at their best when they sound like aged rockabillies with a disturbing nervous disorder. On one track, 'The Container Drivers', they produce the psychobilly sound which the very contrived Cramps imagine they achieve with their B-movie comic-book stuff. Elsewhere on this album there is insufficient intensity to carry off this dog-in-the-manger, grumpy version of rock 'n roll. No doubt for them their intentions are clear. To everyone else the bulk of the message surely stays well buried in the mix.

The way it works for me is that odd snatches escape from what veers uncomfortably close to poetry. In 'America' "all the English groups act like peasants with free milk". Smith has got the sensibility to write about the world outside political or youth mythology. The streams of narrative have the saving grace of referring to jobs, shopping centres, rates and other

This record makes a good puzzle if you listen to it for those neat and pointed comments which are present in sufficient numbers to sustain a few plays. As far as I'm concerned the most disappointing thing about it is its

necessary concerns of life without

ruining them in social realism.

title, which comes nowhere near the sardonic brilliance of their first album, 'Live At The Witch Trials'.

Marek Kohn

WANNA BUY A BRIDGE, a **ROUGH TRADE** compilation of singles. A SURGE OF SOUND, various artists, VU Records. 'WANNA BUY a Bridge' is a singles showcase to exhibit the talents of leading independents Rough Trade to our cousins in the USA. Not surprisingly, this superb collection became a sought after rarity here and has now been released.

Not a dodo in sight, it's got more new-wave classics than appear on most labels, including, Stiff Little Fingers' 'Alternative Ulster', and The Pop Group's 'We Are All Prostitutes'.

It's all down to taste, but personal favourites would be: Spizz's calculated hit, 'Soldier, Soldier'; 'Skank Bloc Bologna'by Scritti synthesized madness 'Nag, Nag, Nag' from Cabaret Voltaire; and Delta 5's stylish 'Mind Your Own Business'.

Can I have a taste of your ice Can I lick the crumbs from your table? Can I interfere in your crisis? No, mind your own business. Can you hear those people behind me? Looking at your feelings inside me Listen to the distance between us ...

This album has all the strengths of contemporary political music, without the mundanity it can entail. In fact, it is a fine illustration of how good some sussed bands are. Have a trendy Christmas and buy it (every party should have one).

The same can't be said of 'A Surge of Sound'. James Traacy produced several of the bands and collected the fourteen tracks. Neither the cover nor the vinvl give much indication why. It tries, but doesn't get very far. A curious mixture, ranging

ments, like Past Caring's 'Sitting At Home', and the excellent'Out In the Cold 'from the Business. There is a general lack of originality, influences are blantant: 60's Merseyside, Byrds, Damned, Four-track recorded 'Ulster Tour' by Nerve Gas is an exception: Sent away on your Ulster Tour Do you know what your

school punk, Nu-music and New

Yawk Blank Generation posing.

Better numbers fuse various ele-

fighting for? Hawks and Silent Moves show promise but average Subs' 'Left For Dead' and Essential Logic's 'Quality Wax Crayon OK' stand out in this bunch. Listened to together 'A Surge of Sound' emphasises the superiority of 'Wanna Buy a Bridge'

Jackie, Jade, Terry

#### Singles reviews

GIRLS AT OUR BEST: Politics/ It's Fashion (Record Records) THE ABSOLUTE best of this week's bunch; Judy Evans sings her paeon to American electioneering in a beautiful naive deadpan worthy of the Shangri-Las. She loves the Democrats and loves the 'sacred sects', all smiles, kissing babies, marching Left, Right, Left, Right, Like like all great pop it pretends to say everything, with real simplicity, and the musical arrangemet is impeccable. This sweet little tune makes cynicism fun again.

It's Fashion is less comfortable, more discordant - but then it's meant to hit a bit nearer home. They attack mass produced fashion images, but I think the song also points to a more independent-minded authoritarianism; We gotta make sure we're never in line/We are your future and we are fashion. An angular, intelligent track, but it's Politics that has irresistible Commercial Potential. It'll probably be taken straight by Radio One with any luck it will make elections so attractive we won't be able to resist one in the new

BLUE ORCHIDS: The Flood/ Disneyboys. ESSENTIAL LOGIC Eugene/Tame the Neighbours (Rough Trade)

Blue Orchids contain members of the early FII, but the new band is much less of a threat to culture as we know it. Both sides are set in a doom-laden minor key, with rolling organ lines and fine excessive vocals from Martin Bramsch. They have a nice morbid charisma like Joy Division, but with more furious energy. I could only wish for more rough edges - the bank might be almost too proficient for its own good.

Essential Logic are more 'sophisticated' anyway (they have a sax) so that problem doesn't arise. Lora's silvery agile voice is the distinctive mark, but all the instruments knit tightly into an offbeat, de-centred structure. DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHE FREUNDSCHAFT: Tanz Mit Mir/Der Rauber und der Prinz. ROBERT RENTAL: Double Heart/On Location (Mute) DAF are a kind of disco-Kraftwerk, with a far better feel for blank humour than most electronic monotony mongers. Tanz Mit Mir fair thunders along with hysterical intensity. The other side is an opposite, cold, sparse and hollow, a quirky fairy tale in five lines; much more the standard electronic backtrack of the type pioneered by Robert Rental. He returns with a very restrained and tasteful single to accompany his rougher live album with The Normal. It's atmospheric and uneventful.

SKI PATROL: Agent Orange/ Driving (Malicious Damage) Another assault on our collective conscience (whose?) through Agent Orange, the chemical defoliant criminally used against Vietnam. A strong idea opportunistically abused in this song which could be insistent or could be just boring. **ORANGE JUICE: Simply Thrilled** Honey/Breakfast Time JOSEF K: It's Kinda Funny/ Final request (Postcard) Orange Juice is an unassuming arty group, one of the current wave looking to the mid 60's for ideas: their harmonies sound uncannily like the Byrds, but with a nervous backing. Songs you might gently grow quite fond of, but they are not likely to break any ice. Josef K is more stimulating, one track of snappy discordant rock and one smooth elegant song. Josef K. Funny name. A curio.

MYSTERE FIVE'S: Never Say Thank You /Heart Rules the Head (Flicknife) It begins like Stand By Me but

shifts up-to-date with desynchronized vocals and stoprhythms. This band's notorious mysteriousness doesn't guarantee music of much inspiration — and I've had enough of men telling me about a certain kid of girl. Next!

**BEATPUMP: The 5-month Plan** EP. (Slow Lorries Records) A good deal and an honest package from Wakefield - 5 tracks at 33 and a shoestring financial run-down on the sleeve. The initiative is admirable but the actual music doesn't often emerge from its muddy swamps. Stone is the best track bouncing along

ning naturalism and the sort of to another planet.

Once More on Foreign Soil is

they should take more chances,

make a mess, sabotage the dis-

course. How else are we to have

a seductive grimy dirge. But

RED RAGE: Total Control/

MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S

DEEP FIX: Dodgem Duke/

guitar head-banger trash. I

Well! Red Rage is simply the

perennial heavy-metal cardboard

thought it might be a piss take,

but the seal of authenticity is

The other is more forgivable -

Hawkwind helping the Patrick

fun of himself via chunky pop

song. Mainly for the specialists

caster might put on the market

Theatre

NOT QUITE JERUSALEM

by Paul Kember, at the Royal

Court Theatre until 21 December

with a possible 2 week extension.

No matter how anti-imperialist

you are, something uncomfort-

able stirs inside when designated

'stupid English' and ranked as

the least attractive component

especially when the description

is being spat out in no uncertain

Aided by Peter Hartwell's

sun drenched designs and with-

out ever approaching a documen-

tary style Not Quite Jerusalem

takes us on a guided tour of a

kibbutz. Experienced through

4 morally bedraggled English

volunteers, it has both a stun-

of an international gathering,

terms by two very attractive

Israelis.

Dave Milford

It's the sort of record a news-

around December. But then

Reggie did it beautifully . .

Moore of literature to make

the guitar solo. Horrendous.

I Give You This.

Starcruiser.

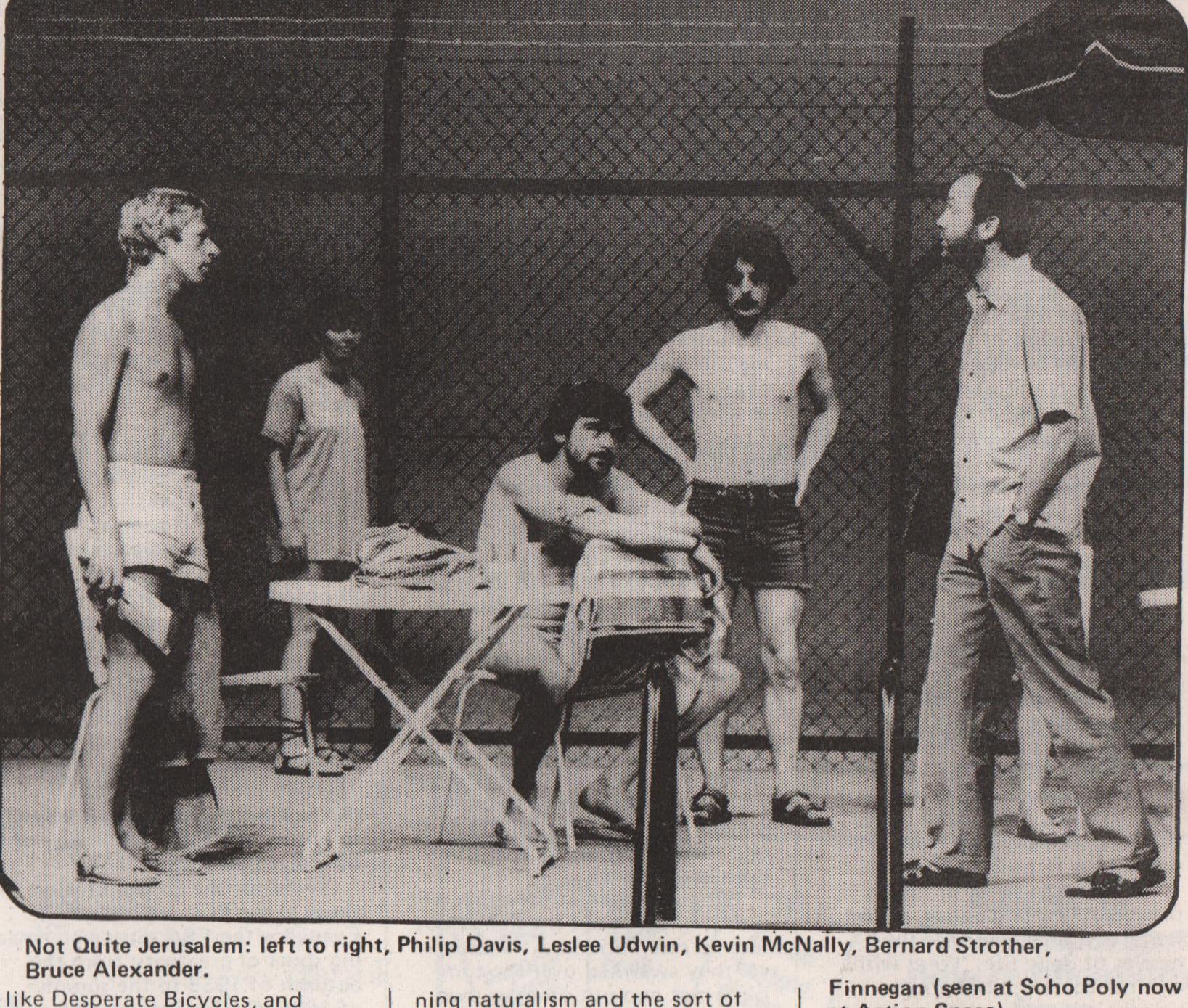
My reservation is over the degree to which we are expected to accept Dave, Mike, Carrie and Pete as representative of England's current state. If it were just an up date of Noel Coward's plea: 'Why do the wrong people travel?' the scathing satire would be bang on target. As it is too much weight is placed on Mike's mystical-socialist-quest for a life style. A less woolly analysis of the English

Nevertheless the central point that England is failing to involve most of its population in the majo decisions of life is well established, through the Kibbutz setting, where participation is all. Not that the Israelis escape criticism but their attempts at a socialist existence are manifested as a positive force. For most of the play Ami, the Kibbutz secretary exudes security efficency and firmness, but in try ing to assess Mike's dilemma, he confesses his yearning to return to work in the gardens, because

In his portrait of Gila, on her last year of military service in the Kibbutz, Paul Kember shows remarkable promise as a playwright She begins as a grunting, aggressive automaton, answering all enquiries with a bullying command to get on with the farmwork, while keeping all the soft iobs for herself, but she reveals gradually a warmth, humour and an understanding of the human condition far beyond her English peers. Leslee Udwin's performance as Gila develops a hypnotic quality that makes her attack on the English all the more painful.

Lloyd Trott

THE IRISH PLAY by Ron Hutchinson. Presented by the RSC at the Warehouse Theatre, Covent Garden. **ACT OF UNION by Seamus** 



cultural shock of being whisked

malaise is required.

the flowers don't answer back.

It's like one long Irish joke, Supporters of Michael Collins and De Valera fight it out over the production of an historical pageant, unable to cooperate about anything. Every character is on the fiddle, from the club president with the building contract to the barman with the cigarette machine. 'That's the trouble with these historical pageants: they're not in modern dress,' remarks one character while another is too thick to tell the difference between the pageant and reality. 'We don't want any Language in the women's section,' the (lone) woman on the club committee. keeps repeating, and the sexism of the male characters is just a joke. There's one socialist - admittedly a boring stalinist - who is undercut and ridiculed every time he opens his mouth.

at Action Space)

IT'S PROBABLY just coinciden-

tal that . . . with the Irish struggle

British state's whole 'Ulsterisation,

Criminalisation, Normalisation'

Republican prisoners' fight for

political status; with the largest

in Belfast and Derry, and an up-

surge of activity here which

demonstration since the early '70s

threatens to wake people up to the

situation . . . that one of Britain's

monoliths should be doing a play

which portrays the Irish as stupid,

Coincidental or not, the fact

that Ron Hutchinson's 'The Irish

Play' finds room for every deroga-

tory stereotype from Fleet Streets'

within a long tradition of negative

propaganda and self-censorship in

tutions. In that sense it's no dif-

ferent from the timely article on

our dominant cultural insti-

IRA 'death squads' in the

Observer magazine the other

phrase book places the play well

largest state-subsidised cultural

greedy, corrupt and liable to

come to blows about anything.

strategy being challenged by the

approaching a new peak; the

Hutchinson (an Irishperson, be it known) seems to think he's making point about politicians everywhere, but the standardissue naturalism of the play (aided and abetted by Barry Kyle's dreary production) doesn't allow that kind of reality. When the play climaxes with the members burning their own club down and fighting in the wreckage, the message is clear: these people cannot govern themselves . . cue military occupation offstage. Irish culture can only dance in the ruins.

A blanketman spotlighted under a picture of the Queen is the final image by contrast, of 'Act of Union', which shows that it's more aptly targeted. Seamus Finnegan's montage of scenes from Belfast life works, in an un selfconsciously Brechtian sort of way, towards the typical rather than the stereotypical. Myths are debunked, fictions exorcised.

In one of a series of mildly provocative monologues, a West Belfast woman describes the hassles of daily life: 'What with all this security, I bet you're wondering how we still manage to plant bombs . . . and we Irish are supposed to be thick.' A Catholic Branchman makes the point that it's not just religion, 'It's politics and religion.'

A sectarian killing (ie the shooting of a catholic) is neatly dissected into the viewpoints of catholic, protestant, nurse and Brit . . the catholic's fear, the protestant's determination, the nurse's sympathy and the soldier's indifference. It's a treatment the audience would do well to apply to the standard media report which gives the 'facts' but hides the context: 'So-and-so was killed in the Short Strand/Ardoyne/ Falls Road/Ballymurphy district of Belfast last night. S/he was 59.

The play doesn't lack for humour or optimism, and nor is it squeamish about violence - either the brutality of the British state or the republican response to it. Its main problem is paradoxically a lack of the one thing that 'The Irish Play' does have although in a reactionary context): a historcal perspective. That, and the absence of any clear political statement aside from a generalised republicanism.

Still, it's definitely in the right direction. See it if you can. Dave Rimmer

Circus Oz 'NO', SHE said firmly, 'We're going home'. Apart from being one in the eye for closest expatriates this determined decision by Circus Oz to return to Australia at the end of their British tour makes it urgent for those who believe that politics can be both fun and professional to see them soon.

Formed two years ago, but drawing on ten years of experimental theatre and circus in Melbourne, the Circus Oz collective of fourteen puts on an impressive and highly entertaining show.

All the elements of traditional'circus are there, including the animal act, but while plate-spinning and juggling can be boring, performed by Circus Oz, with such touches as a GEC megalomaniac and a plate-dispensing Dalek they become engrossing. When the smashed plates become radioactive waste dumped by the clowns into the stalls where noone will notice, the routine has added bite. A trapeze act with the woman catching and supporting the man becomes the 'Equal Opportunities Act' and an incompetent clown becomes Malcolm Fraser, beloved leader of the south.

The only disappointment registered by the child we took to the matinee was that the kangaroos she had seen at an evening show had been dropped from the afternoon performance. This act, which has been the subject of con troversy, delighted her and she certainly wasn't offended by the antics of a mob of randy kangaroos defying their horrible trainer. It seems incredible that an act which is unsuitable for adults, but which the kids seemed to enjoy, should be dropped from the matinee and played to the sensitive evening audience.

Other children at the show who didn't know about the kangaroos had no reservations. At the interval they swarmed over the tumbling mat and put on their own performance, gleefully assisting in the bisection by rope of the vile Alfonso Spagoni. What did they care that he 'nastily' described them as 'polymorphously perverse'? They were having too much fun to notice.

Perhaps the discomfort some people felt during the kangaroo act has less to do with old fashioned prudery than with a more modern problem. It is generally accepted that the strong man and the sequinned made-up woman of traditional circus are offensive. Everybody appreciated the sendup of the usual circus woman in Joanie Spagoni, resplendent in pink tu-tu and high-heeled shoes, topped off by kahki gaiters, battle-jacket and peaked cap, but when the performers were neither clowning in traditional circus gear or sending it up, the impres-

sion was difficult to deal with. Counter-sexist ideology holds objectification a sin and while sitting open-mouthed at the grace of the performers as they swung on ropes or walked tightropes we all made attempts to suppress what amounted to objectification by any other name. The people I was with commented favourably on the hairy legs and armpits of the collective in a vain attempt to identify, but ultimately we admitted that what the Circus was presenting were positive, nonsexist, but definitely sexual, images of men and women.

Liz Storey

# Photos

WALKER EVANS PHOTOGRAPHS 1st - 20th December, Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street Gallery, 309 Regent Street (8.30 - 20.30 hours).The good thing about a retrospective exhibition is that it not only reminds you of an artist's famous

work but gives you the chance to see some of the lesser known pieces This is true of the Walker Evans' exhibition — there is some early work taken on the streets of New York at the time of the Wall Street Crash, pictures of unappreciated Victorian architecture on the east coast of the United States, the 'Subway and Streets' portraits from the 30s and 40s. There is also some of the work Evans produced as a staff photographer for Fortune magazine, in the 20 years after 1943, some of these are presented in the form of original pages from the magazine.

Without doubt the most important images are those from the Farm Security Administration (FSA). The FSA was set up in 1935 as part of Roosevelt's New Deal to help the depression hit rural south and west of America. Photography was used to justify the project to a suspicious Congress setting in motion a project which confirmed the power of photography as a political weapon. It was not the first time photography had been so used but rarely had it been so successful - the 150,000 pictures were seen throughout the world and helped to ensure the passing of many of the New Deal laws.

31 out of the 81 pictures on show at the PCL were taken by Evans for the FSA during an amazing spurt of creativity from the autumn of 1935 to the summer of 1936. During this time he also collaborated with the writer James Agee to produce the book Let us now praise famous men', a study of the lives of sharecroppers and their families in Alabama.

It is interesting to compare Evans's approach to that of his contemporaries, both inside the FSA and out. At a time when

the availability of fast lens, fast films and small cameras made the candid approach possible, he stuck to large format cameras and produced pictures that were

'still as sculptures'. Not only did he steer away from the seductive glamour of capturing the instant, but by selecting largely unemotive subject matter he avoided sensationalism of any type. He was concerned with showing things exactly the way they were.

Evans confined himself to photographing mostly interiors, buildings, billboards and signs, with a few portraits. The interiors are fascinating. They are usually deserted rooms, empty but never sterile. Perhaps just a bed in a corner, or a few chairs and household items. When people are included they are props in thegeneral scene, never the focal point.

His portraits are very quiet and plain. They have no added visual style, just pure representation. The exteriors of buildings, signs and billboards from this and other per iods in his photographic career show Evans as someone with the great ability to observe the commonplace and translate it into something special, making us look again at our own surround-

His pictures have had a great influence over American photography. In particular he paved much of the way for the minimalist school of the 50s, but more importantly, through his pictures he has played a major role in our definition of America in the 30s.

Laurie Evans

This exhibition is available for hire from the Scottish Photography Group, Stills Gallery, 58 High Street, Edinburgh,

Interior scene by Walker Evans



needs more collective members. if you do not think you've got ideas on what we need help with: Writing articles, Sub-editing, Layout, Design, Advertising, Subscriptions, Distribution and Accounts. The collective is open and we accept anyone who wants to come along to meetings, every Tuesday at 7.00 in the office. If you can't make that, then call at the office during the day. (01 278 0146).

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struggle. 12 JAH MUSIC £3.50 (4.95) by Sebastian Clarke. A participant write an illustrated history of music in the culture of Jamaican Rastafarians, including the

14 MICROELECTRONICS. £2.20 (2.95) by the CSE Microelectronics Group. Shows why management are so keen, and how jobs are reorganised, workers isolated and job control lost. 15 DREAMS AND DECONSTRUCTIONS £3.95) (4.95) An illustrated collection of very readable essays covering aspects of the alternative theatre in Britain, edited by Sandy

British reggae movement.

13 THE MEN WITH THE

first-hand account of the life

and death of homosexual

prisoners in the Nazi

concentration camps.

Offers on this list apply only until 31 December 1980.

Special selections for £6.50 each SELECTION A: Titles 1, 2, 3, 13. SELECTION B: Titles 4, 8, 15.

SELECTION C: Titles 7, 11, 14.

Address

Please send me the titles/selections ringed 123456789101112131415ABC I enclose sum of £ . . . . . (minimum £6.50)

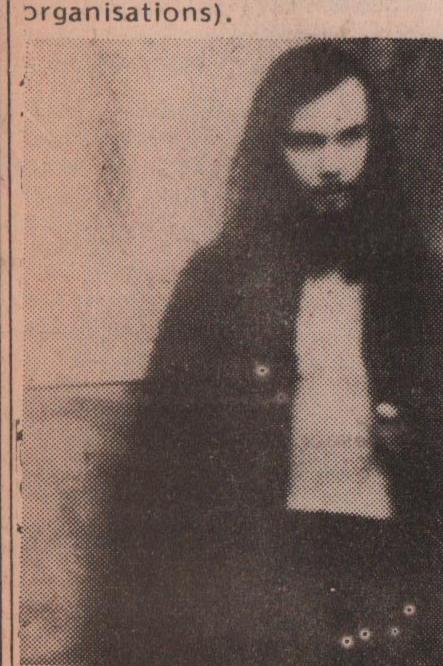
265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

#### FREE NATIONAL LISTINGS SERVICE

OUR listings only run up to Yuletide because bringing out another issue in two weeks' time would have meant the Back Pages team staying up late on Xmas Eve. Instead, the entire Leveller outfit is taking a break until January. The next issue will carry listings for the fortnight starting January 11. Please send details of any events, papers, pamphlets, campaings and so on by January 1, to make sure they're included.

#### **Publications**

LOW POWER RADIO It's quite clear that before we get any low-power community radio stations, the Home Office will insist that an organisation exists to regulate them. Now Broadcasting Rights and Information Project Organiser Simon Partridge has published a paper he wrote for the Home Office's Local Radio Working Party'looking at the problems of developing low-power radio in Britain. Partridge proposes a Broadcasting Licensing Authority which could license not only communitybased stations but also student, hospital and cable radio stations which the Home Office looks after at the moment. And that wouldn't cost the taxpayer anything. Low-power community radio stations could be financed from a variety of sources, including supporting subscriptions, government-funded agencies (like the Commission for Racial Equality or the Welsh Development Agency), and advertising. He argues that the necessary frequency space. tional copywriting are all already exists on VHF. Low Power Radio Services; from 92 Huddleston Road, London N7. £1 (individual/ voluntary organisations), £2 (commercial/statutory



PRINT by Jonathon Zeitlyn, InterAction Inprint, £9.50 hb, £1.90 pb. MARKETING FOR SMALL PUBLISHERS, by Keith Smith, InterAction Inprint, £3.50 pb. Two books from Inter-Action's Community Communications series; both

are clear and comprehen-

Print gives simple illustrated accounts of printing methods likely to be availlable to local groups and campaigns, ranging from typewriters to small offset litho. It spells out how to produce your own artwork and details the perils of \cowgum, along with information about the cost of processes and the machinery needed to do them yourself. Brief information is provided on how to set up a a community resource centre, and if you want more there is a list of printers, a booklist and a glossary to reassure you that 'perfect binding' is not necessarily

There is enough information in Print to help you produce a book, but unfortunately the most exciting book you can print must compete with the thousands of other titles churned out by commercial publishers every year. Keith Smith argues that the main weakness of small and campaigning publishers lies in the promotion and selling of their products. While not advocating full-scale market research and the manipulative hype of commercial publishing, he does draw on the practices of straight publishers to give a step-bystep survival method.

Marketing, according to Smith, must be considered before you even decide to publish, and should influence all your decisions. Design, costing and promodealt with, along with the more obvious aspects of publicity and selling.

Again there is a glossary, booklist and list of useful organisations, along with a very long 'Publishing Check List' which can be used selectively according to the size and resources of the group concerned

A Few Home Truths. Annual Report, Haringey Housing Service 1979 - 80. It's not our habit to publicise hand-outs from local councils, but this report received from the Haringey Borough Housing Officer seemed a cut about the usual. Apologies, certainly, for the bleak housing situation, and a warning of an even bleaker future. But the blame is placed squarelly on the cuts, and there's extensive figures on the provision and allocation of public sector housing, homelessness, etc. From 13-27 Station Road, London N22,

● Association of Radical Nurses National Newsletter invites contributions on nurses' pay and conditions, nurses' roles as women and workers. Send to 20 Melrose Rd, Sheffield '3:

Casting New Moulds — First steps towards Worker Control in a Mozambique Steel Factory.

After the Portuguese managers and technicians fled, workers continued produc-Ition. Peter Sketchley joined them from 1977-79 and In an interview with Frances Moore Lappe he outlines I the practical and political



r problems of keeping the steel mill rolling under workers control. From Institute for Food and Development Policy £2.25.62pp.

Community Arts Hand-

Inter-Action's publishing

wing Inprint has launched a series: first three titles are Concrète Sculpture in the Community, Games-Songs with Prof Dogge's Troupe, and Video with Young People. They draw on the experience of community arts groups, but they're on the expensive side: £3-plus for paperbacks, £7.85 for hardbacks.

of paperbacks based on NS articles in January. Hear This Brother: Women Workers and Union Power. by Anna Coote and Peter Kellner, will be followed by others on phone-tapping, disarmament and media coverage of the Labour

Progressive Voice No 4 Newspaper of the General Union of Eelam students. Information on resistance in Eelam, one of the islands of Sri Lanka that claims independence from central government. Comes out every 8-10 weeks, from BM Box 2860, London WC1

fand the Struggle for Political Recognition, the SWP's contribution to the campaign for Irish POWs. Steve Berry surveys the legal and political background. From Socialists Unlimited, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N N4, 50p.

Stop British Banks' Support for Apartheid End loans to South Africa. Boycott Barclays! Short punchy leaflet on the £1,200m in loans to S. Africa. The big four banks are exposed and alternatives suggested. From ELTSA, 467a Caledonian Rd, London N7.

● Tops Report — Women and Manual Trades Short report on women's ex-

 KAR Nov 1980 More information from the

Fedaii guerrillas on the Iran-Iraq war, drawn from Iranian sources. Special supplement of militant articles and appeals to defend the Islamic revolution. From KAR, 29 Islington Park St, London N1.

Nuclear Disarmament for

Latest CND pamphlet. Betty English discusses arguments for 'deterrence' and the 'threat' from the USSR. 50p, 24pp, from CND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4.

 NS Reports The New Statesman is to publish the first of a series

Socialism and Health 'Fiftieth anniversary issue. It is still necessary to fight for free health care. Articles on Labour Conference, Eritrean refugee camps and local campaign news. From Socialist Medical Association, 9 Poland St, London WIV 3DC. 15p, 12pp.

Street Level Newspaper of the National Housing Liaison Committee, from 35 Deri Rd, Penylan, Cardiff.

To the Bitter Death The H-Blocks Hunger Strike

periences in government retraining schemes for manual and male-dominated skills and crafts. Includes recommendations for improvements addressed to the Manpower Services Commission. From Women in Manual Trades Organisation.

Rights Nov 1980

The NCCL has devoted this entire issue to civil liberties in Ireland, Articles on the PTA and policing in the North, the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act, gay rights and civil liberties in the Republic. From 186 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9DE. 16pp.



 Women in Action A two-monthly journal that aims to be what the name denotes — a voice for women activists campaigning on women's rights in the labour movement. This bumper New Year issue features an interview with women from Gardners; an article by Hilary Wainwright on the Alternative Economic Strategy; low pay etc. From Sisterwrite, Women in Action, Box 2, 190 Upper St, London N1.

#### Campaigns

 H-Blocks Hunger Strike New film, finished only days ago, available for hire from the Other Cinema. Includes footage from inside the H-Blocks and interview with ex-blanketman Tom Hartley. 27 mins, £15 to hire. Other Cinema, 79 Wardour St, London W1, tel 011-734 8508.

Right of Reply Campaign Offshoot of the Campaign for Press Freedom, presses for people misrepresented in the media to have a chance to put their case. membership £3. Details, from CPF, c/o SOGAT, 274/288 London Rd, H Hadleigh, Essex.

Campaign ATOM

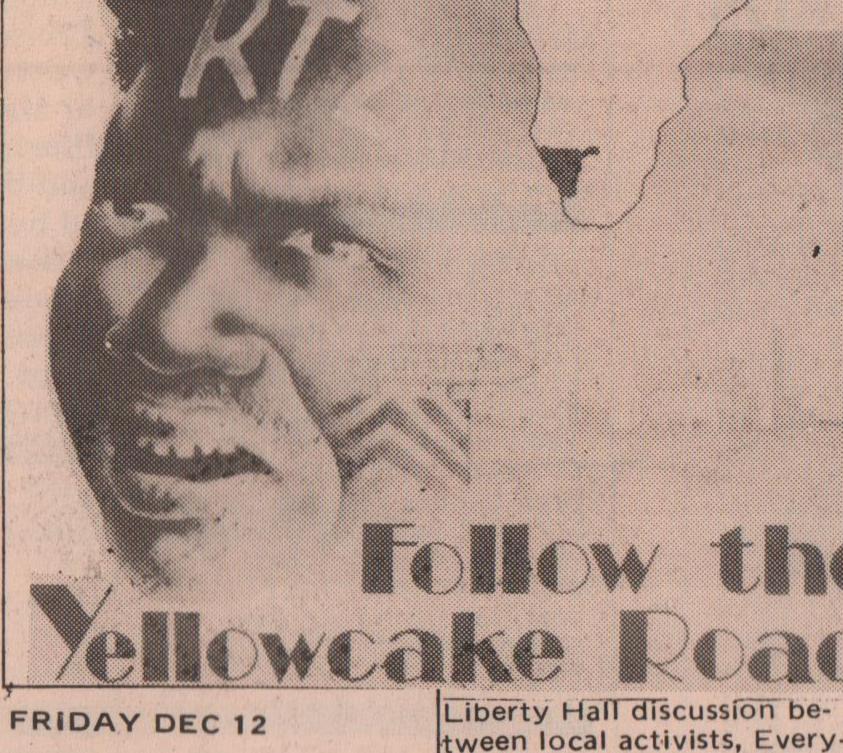
The anti-cruise group has opened an office in Oxford It'll also act as an HQ for the Southern Campaign Against the missiles, which covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire at Oxford Poly. Tickets £3 Hampshire and Wiltshire. The campaign's work has expaned so rapidly, 'it can't be done from cardboard boxes in people's front rooms any more, according to co-ord inator Meg Beresford. Look out Mr Pym! Office is at 35 Cowley Rd, Oxford, tel (0865) 726441.

#### **Events**



THURSDAY DEC 11 LONDON

 European Nuclear Disarmament Meeting Speakers include Ulrich Albrecht, Professor of Peace Research at the Free University of Berlin; French Journaust Claude Bourdet; and Pentagon Papers author Daniel Elsberg. Room 8, House of Commons, 4 pm.



BRISTOL

 A Day of Performance Art at the Arnolfini Gallery Speakers include Rose Garrard on women in performance, writer Jeff Nuttall, and critic Andrew Hill on threatre/dance. £1. Tickets from Katy MacLeod, ment Quay, Bristol I.

OXFORD

Campaign ATOM Benefit Concert featuring Rowan Atkinson, Frankie Armstrong and Leon Rosselson SATURDAY DEC 13

LONDON

First of a series. Derek Jarma on how he made 'The Tempest', with cut-up version of the film. 1pm at Four Corners Cinema, 113 Roman Rd, London E2 (Bethnal Green tube).

 BSSRS Politics of Energy Group seminar on The Politicisation of Nuclear Power in the EEC Introduced by Wolfgang Rudi, Rudig. Action Space, Chenies St, WC2, 2.30 pm. £1 (unwaged 50p). Details

OXFORD

from Peter 986 5286.

Protest and Survive Torchlit procession organised by Campaign ATOM. Starts Cowley Rd Hospital 3.30pm. Details from Campaign ATOM, 37 Cowley Rd, tel (0865) 726441 (day) 47429 (eves) SUNDAY DEC 14

LIVERPOOL

What's going on in the Labour Party?

man Bistro, Hope St, 8pm. 45p (members 30p). Details from Top Flat, 7 Grove Park, Liverpool 8, tel 051-708 7270.

LONDON

Conference on unemploy-Arnolfini Gallery, 16 Narrow Brent Trades Hall, 375 High Rd, NW10. Organised by NW London Month of

Third World Women

Action Committee.

Follow-up meeting to discuss further activities and strategies. Women only.

Follow-up meeting to discuss further activities and Gay Film-makers Workshop strategies. Women only, new-comers welcome. 10.30 to 5pm. The Oval, Harleyford St, Kennington. Food available.

> Anti-nuke films 'Follow the Yellowcake Road' (on RTZ and Nam ibia) and 'Nuclear Waste in the Irish Sea', organised by Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group and Islington Anti-Apartheid Group. Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland

High St, London E8. Demonstration against US Intervention in El Salvador Assemble Trafalgar Square

2pm, march to US embassy.

 Islington Socialist Centre Emergency meeting to discuss the future (if there is one) of the centre. Hemingford Arms, Offord Rd, N1, 8pm.

FRIDAY DEC 19

LONDON

No Nukes Music Benefit Concert featuring The

Thompson Twins (EP and who? - the typesetter), The Lucys and Changing Trains, Brixton Town Hall, Acre Lane, SW2. Compered by Alexei Sayle of Alternative Cabaret. The show will culminate with the release of 300 balloons. Tickets from Rough Trade, Small Wonder, Honky Tonk or Fresh. £1 unwaged, £1.50 in advance, £1.80 at door. SATURDAY DEC 20

LONDON

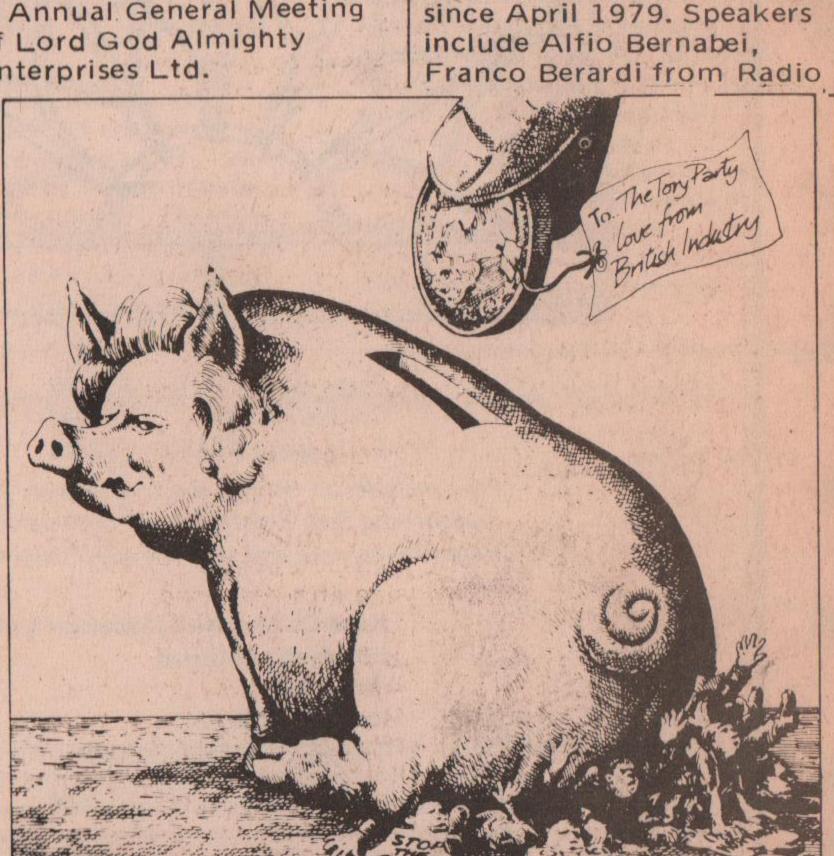
• In the Making

Collective meeting, 2pm, Sunpower Books, 83 Black stock Rd, N4. Anyone interested in helping produce ItM, a directory of co-ops and collectives, welcome. Details 01-226 1799.

THURSDAY DEC 25

THE UNIVERSE

 Annual General Meeting of Lord God Almighty Enterprises Ltd.



THIS postcard is from the Labour Research Department. It states that British industry gave £10.7m to the Conservative Party and other right-wing organisations between 1973 and 1979. It's from a Labour Research cover and is available, at £1 for ten, from LRD, 78 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1.

JANUARY 31

 Association of Radical Nurses Second annual meeting in Sheffield, 11am to 6 pm.

Venue to be confirmed.

Details, SAE to 20 Melrose

Rd, Sheffield 3. MARCH 28

 National Housing Liaison Committee Day of Action NHLC is planning to bring people from all over the . country for a show of solid arity with struggles, in London. They're also collecting signatures for a national petition; 'the point is the collecting and contacting, rather than hoping

Afice and John Merrington

of the Italy 79 Committee.

Details from Les, 01-837

the government will take

Event planned around dis-

cussions of the politics of

autonomous movements,

the state and Communist

Party, and their importance

for revolutionary strategy in

Britain. The event aims to

the 2,000 Italian political

develop pratical support for

prisoners held without trial

their persecution in Italy by

After Marx, April

any notice.'

APRIL 4-6

#### Exhibitions

 Women in Trade Unions Expo at Congress House, TU TUC HQ in Great Russell St. London WC1, has proved so successful it's been extend extended to Dec 18.

• The Price of Life Photomontages from an anarchist and feminist perspective by Catalan artist Eulalia. At Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 until Dec 25, then in Edinburgh, 1st of May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row, from J Jan 10.



60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH13SA lesbian, gay & feminist reading

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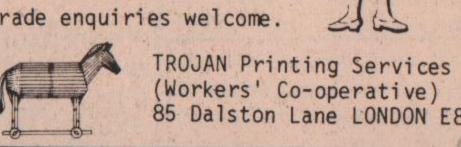
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greetings cards grass green blank inside" £1.15 inc post LEGALISE CANNABIS CAMPAIGN

2 Blenheim Cres London Wll 1NN

POETRY OLYMPICS New Departures has a special Olympian Anthology issue just out, including new works of Beckett, J. Cooper Clarke, Corso, Heany, F&M Horowitz, Ted Hughes, D. Hockney, L. K. Johnson, R.D. Laing, Fran Landesman, Adrian Mitchell, Spender, Heathcote Williams, Russian poets and more — all sent for £1 post free from N.D. Piedmont Risley, Stroud, Glos., GL6

Bruises. Poems and accounts written by women in some of Manchester's refuges. Illustrated by the women and their children. Published by Commonword Writers' Workshop. 68 pages. Available at 50p + 161/2 p. postage from Commonword, 61 Bloom Street, Manchester M1 3LY.

RED BOXES, RED BOXES, RED BOXES, are our advertizing pages for those in the left movement. The rates are less than half those elsewhere in the mag. The basic box is 45mm x 34mm and costs £2.50 and if you want more space you just build up the boxes so, 90mm x 45mm costs £5, 135mm x 34mm costs £7.50 and so on in any configuration you want them. Red Boxes must be prepaid and we prefer camera ready artwork.

1st January 1981.

Thompson at The Leveller, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1. Tel 01 278 0146.

#### Clout

The Story Behind the

THE RED FLAG: Illustrated poster (24" x 18") of socialism's song (five verses). £1 from Glossprint (L) 62 Spire Hollin, Glossop, Derbyshire.

For Marxmas we are offering three insertions in issues 47, 48 and 49 for the price of two. They must be prepaid with camera ready artwork and in to the Leveller before

Anyone interested in Red Boxes should contact Adverts

CHRISTIE, Stuart The Christie file: enemy of the state/by Stuart Christie. — Cienfuegos Press, 17.11.80. — 384p.: photogs.; 21 cm. — ISBN 0-904564-37-1 Paperboards: £6.00 non-net.

**SCOPE:** Personal record of the political developments of the sixties & seventies, & the European libertarian guerrilla organisations, The Angry Brigade & First of May Group.

**CONTENTS:** Political development from the streets of Glasgow; The

Orange Lodge to the Young Socialists; The Labour Party through the clandestine "Scots Against War" & "Spies for Peace" to the Iberian Liberation Council's international struggle against the Franco regime; Arrest in Spain; Court martial & 20 year sentence; Life in Franco's jails; Release; The Anarchist Black Cross; 1968 & the rise of European militancy, The First of May Group; The Angry Brigade; The Special Branch; Arrest & 18 months in Brixton; Prison occupations & demonstrations; The Angry Brigade trial; Acquittal; The Suarez kidnapping; "Person's Unknown" case, etc.

# CIENFUEGOS PRESS

**US Orders to Partisan Press** 

Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL, U.K.

Your New Year Resolution! "I'm going to learn Esperanto" And an Xmas present from us Free copy of "Esperanto for Beginners" Esperanto Book Service, 74 Saxon Road. Hastings.

MIALIST CHARTER BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL Nov/Dec 1980 FORGOTTEN OPPRESSIONS:

- \* Birth and After
- \* Politics of Disability
- \* Old Age Labour After Blackpool Power in Poland
- Anti-Nuke revival + Monitor: Observations and Reviews
- 50p from Left shops. 65p inc p. from: Chartist Publications,

170, Wandsworth Road, London SW8 £3 for 5 issues annually.

# Classifieds

Rates: 6p a word. Ads must be prepaid by cheque or PO made out to Leveller Magazine (1979) Ltd. Subscribers get the first 15 words free. We reserve the right to refuse any ad. Also you can have as a special Marxmas offer 3 linage advertizements for the price of two running in issues 47. 48. and 49 of the Leveller. They must be in before 1st January.

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FOR SALE. Boys bike

Elswick Hopper Thunder

nick, £40. Will accept less

(01) 278 0146 during the

27" wheels made to your

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Friends of the Earth, 30

Fleet 3144 evenings.

GU13 9LO. Bulk enquiries:

Revolutionary Party. 18 Church

free from Christian Socialist

though. Phone Adam:

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Archer 3-speed gears, excellent

BIKE TRAILERS for sale with

Stockwell Road, London SW9. or

Phone (01) 737 2104. Repairs

#### BICYCLE Three-speed, 8 months old, £45. Phone (01) 928 9222 ext. 2654.

THE FIVE MONTH PLAN E.P. by Beatpump. Available through Rough Trade, or direct from Slow Lorries Record, 5 Richmond Road, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire.

#### Going free

FOUR PUPPIES to be given away. Black or Brown male or female. Phone (01)278 9631.

THE INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLogy news letter offers you a free specimen copy. 6 Vale Rise, London NW11 8SD.

FREE TRAVEL ADVERTIS-ING: Want a partner to hitch to Greece with? Someone to share petrol costs on the way to that conference? A third crew member for a canal cruise? We're introducing a new free small ad service for readers. Simply send us your ad, maximum 50 words, and we'll put it in for nothing. No box numbers, no commercial operators, but thousands of eager readers. . .

#### Meetings

ISLINGTON SOCIALIST CENTRE: Emergency meeting to discuss the future (if there is one) of the socialist CEntre. Sunday 14th Dec. at 8pm. Upstairs at the Hemingford Arms Offord Rd, N.1.

#### Wanted

UHURU COLLECTIVE is looking for energetic, radical people to help in their wholefood shop, rebuild the vegetarian cafe and take part in the new developing Resources Centre. Pay is low, but work is varied especially in the Resources Centre where there is scope for new ideas. Please write to Uhuru, 35 Cowley Road, Oxford. Tel 0865

FREELANCE JOURNALIST working in radical publishing looking for somewhere to live in North London Dave 250 1293 (work).

MALE TEACHER (26) seeks own room in shared house or flat. Hackney. Up to £20 per week. Tel 01 249 2835.

WANTED persons interested in forming a Cumbrian Branch of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU). Contact Robin Muir, Kendal 26081.

DRUG RESEARCH PROJECT N.London interested contacting casual/heavy users concerned about medical/social/legal services in area. Strictest confidence. Nell Dip, c/o ISDD 3 Blackburn Rd, London

WANTED - The Leveller is in need of donations of equipment and furniture, chairs, tables, typewriters, rulers, pens, scrap paper. You name it, we need it. There is a free sub with every reasonable donation. Any offers to Adam at the Leveller (01 278 0146).

London worker wanted: Southern Distribution (PDC) distributes radical books and pamphlets to bookshops in the South. £60 net per week. Phone for job description. (01) 251 4976. Closing date: December 24.

#### Miscellaneous

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND interested in CND? Phone Dumfries 4823 for info on coming events, meetings, demonstrations, etc.

SEMPERVIVUM - SCOTTISH directory and articles on Meditation, Yoga, Psychotherapy, Counselling, Groupwork, Creative Therapies. Enquiries to 3, Sylan Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1LH.

CHESTER College of Higher Education offers B.A. and B.Ed degree courses in various subjects including Mathematics, Biology, and Liberal Studies in Science to those with almost any two 'A' levels and suitable. 'O' levels (alternatives such as ONC will be considered carefully). The Biology is environmentally oriented and Liberal Studies in Science is mainly devoted to the social implications of Science and thus should interest Leveller readers. Serving teachers may apply for a one year full time course in these subjects. There is also a B.A. in Health and Community Studies. Details from David Hooper, Science Dept, Chester College, Cheyney Road, Chester.

# 

# TEA

Yes, that's right, a tea towel. But with a difference... suffragette purple with hand written message "You start by sinking into his arms, and end with your arms in his sink". 100% cotton 18" x 30" £1.25 + 25p&p

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#### STICKERS

Suitable for home windows or cars. Bright red womens liberation

symbol on transparent background . . . for fixing on the inside of windows. Size 2" x 4" 50p + 12p (p&p)

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All badges 30p (incl. p&p), 5 for £1.25, 10 for £2.50 (any combination). Please make payable to Spare Ribs Ltd., and send all order orders to Spare Rib Extras, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R OAT.

Please allow 21 days for delivery.

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	of the second control	
	The State of Lay 12 and 12	