

# SEA PICKET

NO. 10

AUG 6th

## July 28th Shipowners get Government Subsidies

All Seafarers must be only too clearly aware that British shipowners are losing money! P&O is a perfect example of this fact! Despite the massive profits these companies are making from the labours of workers around the world the Conservative Government has seen fit to allocate £8.5 million to a scheme which is intended to 'encourage more shipowners to employ British crews.' This money will subsidise flights out to ships in distant waters. It appears that the Government is concerned that in a 'Falklands conflict' then there would not be enough 'loyal subjects' who would be willing to go off and be killed for 'their country.' Obviously those who survive and get home will be sacked!

This money is nothing more than a 'rip-off.' Shipowners, in all countries, don't give a damn who they employ or where they come from. All they want is to pay the lowest possible wages and to make the highest possible profits. This subsidy will certainly help them achieve their latter objective. We will only be able to defeat them when we organise internationally. All workers have more in common with fellow workers overseas than with their bosses in their country.

## August 1st Kings X fire ignored

Although it was virtually ignored by all the newspapers there was almost another major Kings X tube disaster. A fire was discovered in exactly the same area as the fire on the escalator last year. The station was closed for half an hour. Mr Rodney Stewart, an engineer with APV, a contacting firm said: "There were flames but it wasn't completely out of control." In other words there was a bloody big fire which contractors were able to control quickly enough to stop people being killed! Next time though passengers and staff may not be so lucky.

## Sam celebrates

After all the time and money wasted to get back into the Unions Headquarters, in South London, you would have at least expected Sam and his followers to spend a whole day there. Instead he is interviewed by journalists from the Independent at his favourite place, the pub. With a glass of scotch in his hand he tells all those who can be bothered to listen that he 'didn't mind working out of a pub.' Perhaps if he did any work at all it would help.



## Aug. 2nd 6 months on-which way forward?

Six months out on strike. Its a long time and there is no end in sight. P&O are refusing to negotiate and the Union officials are keen to distance themselves from the strike. What can we do? As seapicket has argued from the time the strike began seafarers, taking with them their supporters, must start sending coaches to picket out other seafarers. This should begin immediately starting with Sealink workers at Dover. Some Sealink workers have now crossed the picket line for 4 months. It is all very well being on 'good terms' with them, but the occasional free beers in return is no substitute for a job. Sealink workers are going to be smashed once this strike is over. Get them out and then start building for a national strike.

In addition now that the Union has officially announced that it is 'distancing itself' from the strikers it is even more important that a democratically elected strike committee is formed. This should be elected from the workers mass meetings and every member should be immediately recallable at any time. Clearly all these suggestions will be hated by McCluskie, P&O and the Police but so what!

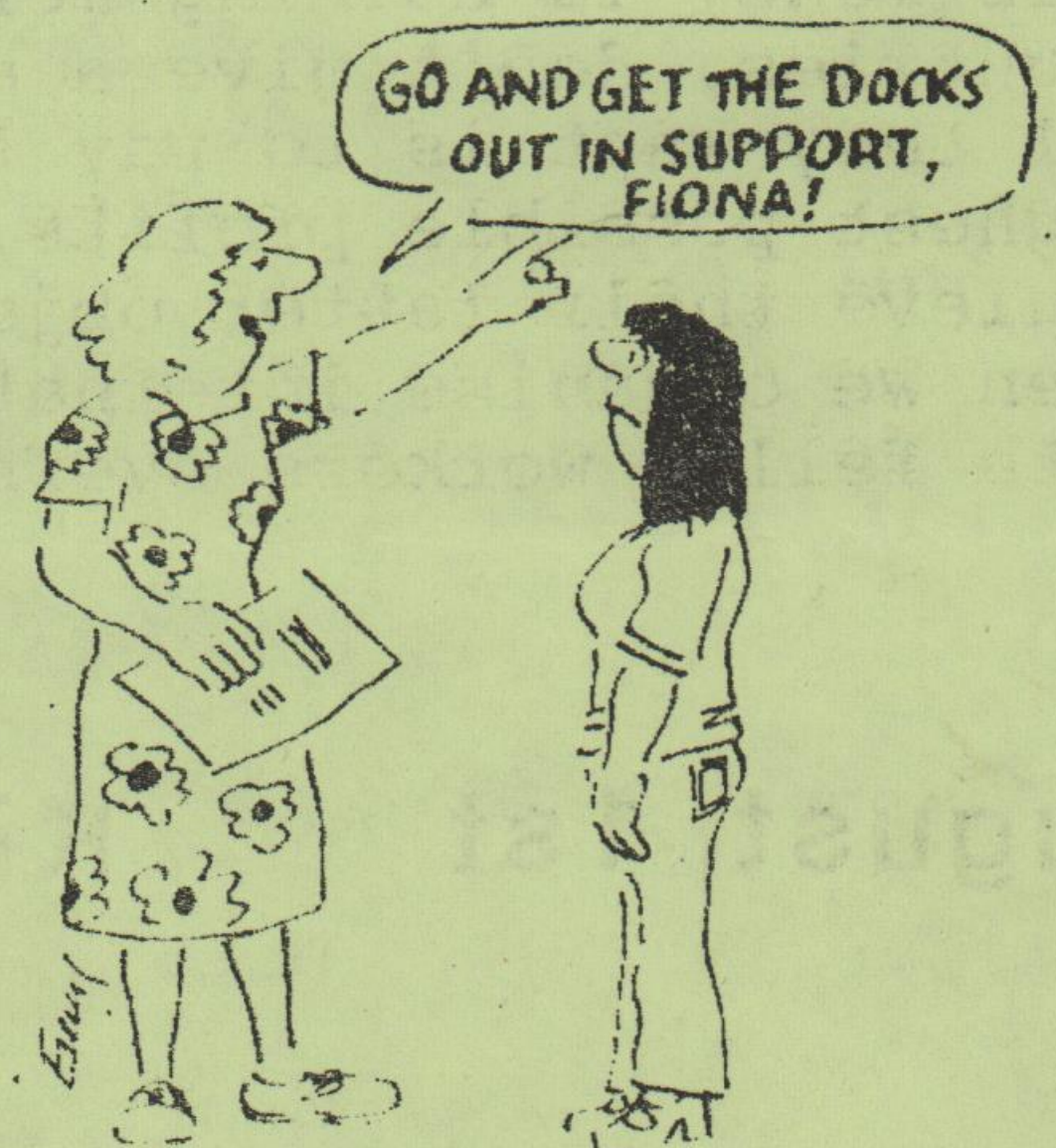
## Callous bastards

On the same week that P&O are able to buy Sitmar cruises for £121 million P&O repeat once again their refusal to award compensation to the 299 survivors of the Zeebrugge disaster. (murder). There can be fewer better examples of the evils of capitalism than this. Even if every survivor only got £10,000 it would still only cost P&O £30 million.

## Vickers Strickers

Great to see that strikers from the Vickers shipyards in Barrow are here today. 'Seapicket' members offer our solidarity greetings to them. Here's hoping that both striking seafarers and striking shipyard workers can link up in whatever way possible. An exchange of information and contacts would be one useful and practical way of offering joint support. Of course one day all workers in the World will need to link up their struggles. Then we will all win.

## Strengthening your hand



## Support Terry French

Terry French is currently being held by the Police for 'unlawful violence.' In Britain only the Police and Army are allowed 'lawful violence.' Terry French is a working class Trade Unionist who deserves the total support of all striking seafarers. No doubt many of the 'officials' will rush to support the Police's view that Terry French is a 'hothead & a troublemaker' but on whose behalf is he causing 'trouble?' Terry French is prepared to fight for working class people's rights. When he is in trouble he deserves the total support of those he has supported.

Comments, letters or suggestions on contents of Seapicket should be sent to 'Seapicket' 489 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU.