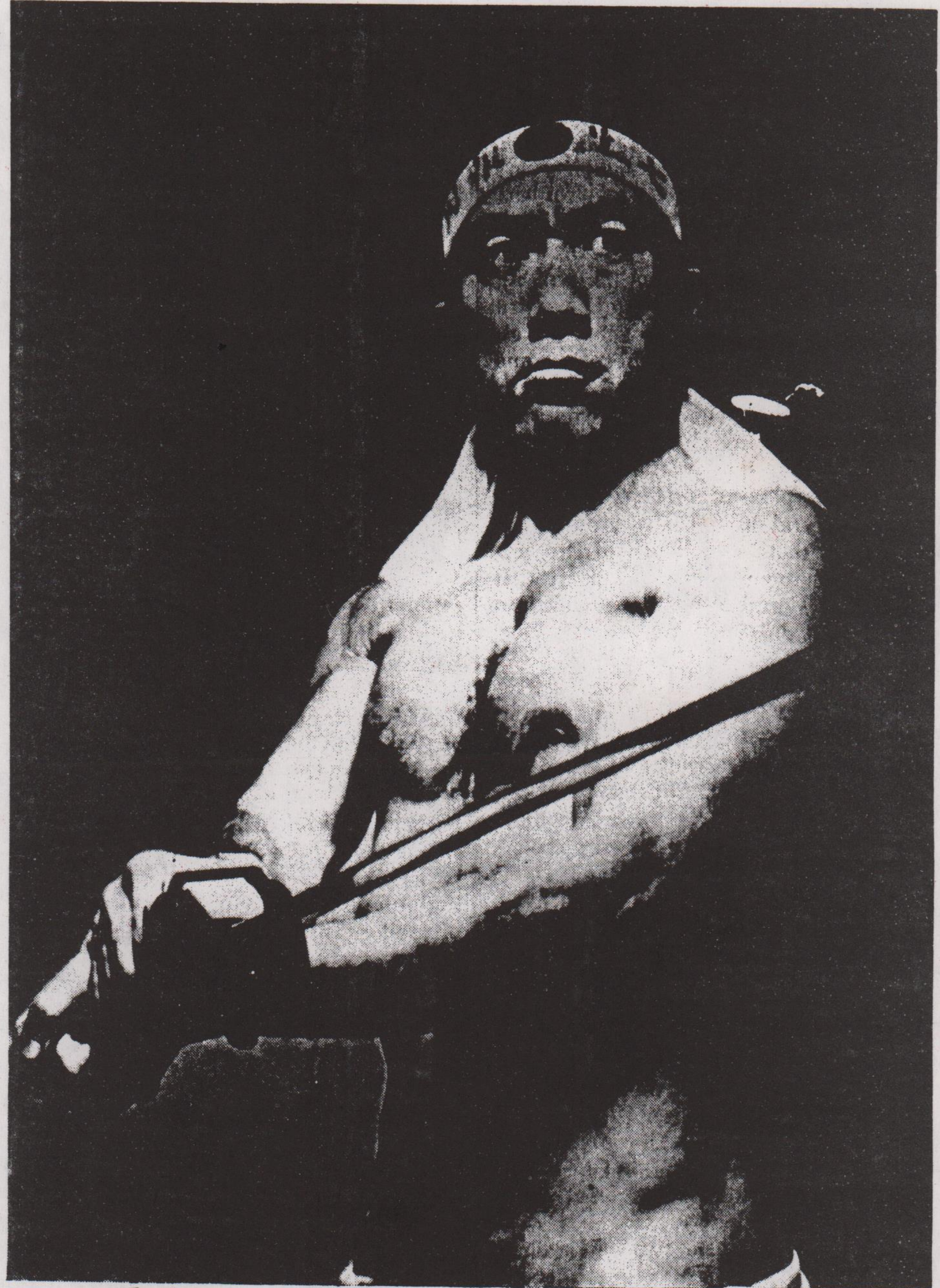


FREE

THE **RAW** EDGE



**UNEMPLOYMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Not The End
A New Beginning**

INTRODUCTION

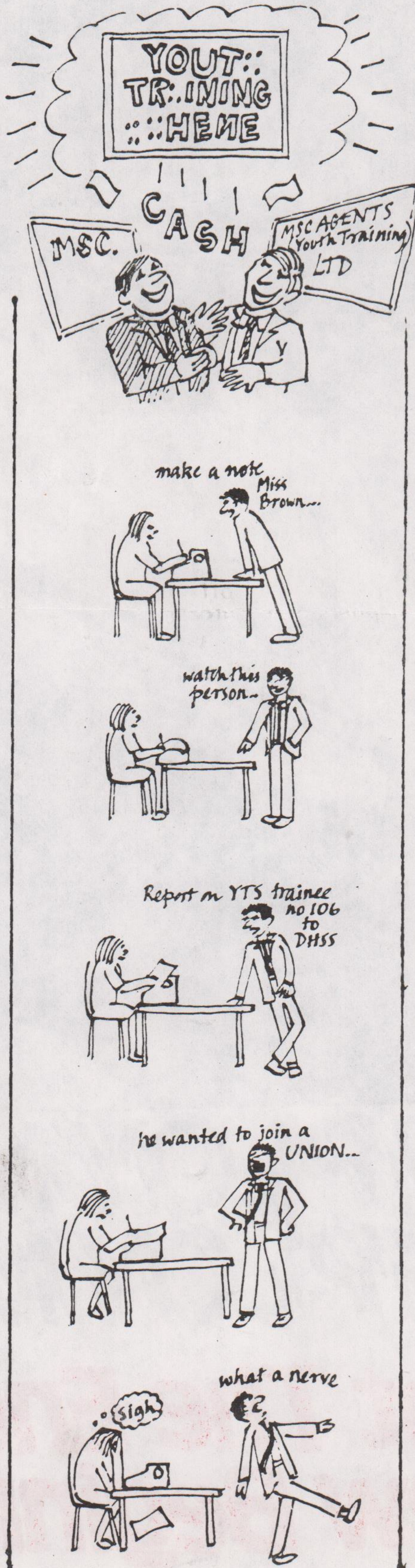
HELLO & WELCOME to RAW EDGE - produced by a group of unemployed folk out of Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre: a voice for and of the unwaged. By 'unwaged' we don't just mean those claiming Supplementary or Unemployment benefit; we include all those who are not earning a living wage and so prevented from taking a full part in society and enjoying its wealth. The opinions expressed in Raw Edge articles are those of the people who wrote them, not the editorial collective. Contributions are welcome, as are criticisms. Donations are also extremely welcome: the paper receives no funding of any sort. If you'd like to be involved in producing the paper, we'd love to see new faces (unfortunately, the EUWC is located in unsuitable basement premises and there is no disabled access).

EDITORIAL

Those without regular employment not only endure real and relative poverty but suffer from isolation, boredom and harassment from the State. The unwaged (not just UB40 holders) are presented as a uniform group which something has to be done about (to). IN fact the unwaged are made up of housewives, pensioners, young people who've never worked, the disabled, workers who've been made redundant, students, and the effectively unwaged on MSC and YTS schemes. For many of these individuals the only choice is between unemployment and long boring hours for low wages. Some consciously choose the first alternative.

We think that mass unemployment is here for the foreseeable future and will increase. Without the real prospect of employment, the attitudes of ourselves and others will have to change. We are not a 'temporary problem' that will go away. WE refuse to be pushed to the edge of society (outtasight outtamind). Neither do we wish to be organised by welfare workers or for the Unemployed Workers Centres to become an alternative MSC scheme. We can act on our own behalf in our own community.

To the unions we offer a challenge. The employed of today are the unemployed of tomorrow. We will support their campaigns for improvements in working conditions and have done so. In turn we demand their support on our terms. We are not campaign or electoral fodder but thinking, acting human beings with concerns, desires and aims of our own!



SOCIETY'S SICKNESS

'It is not a question of being Communist, or Socialist, or Capitalist. What matters is that each system should be human, should be for the people and with the people.' (Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, 1980.)

Not only is the removal of jobs and job opportunities a policy of the government today, as with the abolition of the GLC and the Metropolitan Councils. There is the restriction of basic human rights, that of being a member of a Trade Union, example GCHQ, Along with this stands the perverse dictatorship housed in what should be one of our most human of establishments, the 'SS'. I speak of the unemployment review officer.

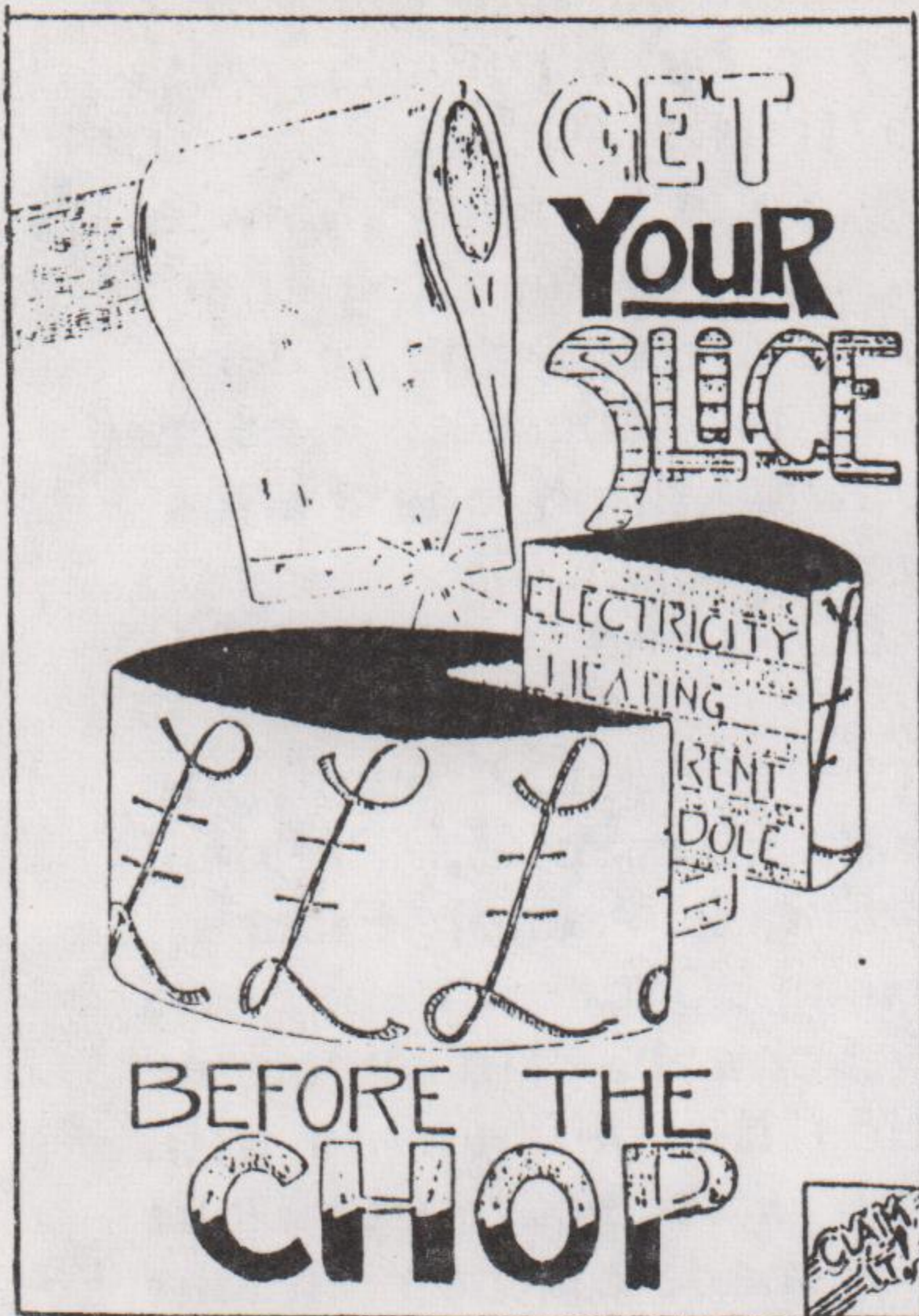
Such a pleasant lady with her talk of how she had been unemployed, and how she was working to help me. Then the fairy tale: 'If all the jobs were filled, if people would take these jobs, then unemployment figures would look so much better.' And doing a job, any job would give so many advantages.

That was the 'carrot' a pretty mouldy one at that. Then the 'stick', 'take a job or lose your entitlement to benefit. 'The THREAT, INTIMIDATION and such ABUSE, 'your not looking hard enough for a job.'

My first response - SHOCK, FEAR, PANIC. My second - RAGE, VIOLENCE. My third - the citizens rights office and the UWC, followed by this article asking everybody who suffers this degrading experience to complain.

Don't let them push you around. Britain belongs to all of us, not just the few with money and power.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO BE CUT!!



There is not enough room in this article to go into detail so only the basic ideas behind I.S. (Income Support) can be shown for what they are - at present.

By April 1987, Supplementary benefit will be replaced by I.S. When for example, a single person, aged 18-25, will receive a flat rate of £25 per week instead of whatever they receive at the moment, (bedsit accom.). Remember the average rate is £30+ and how much will £25 in terms of day to day needs cover in the future! Food, Bills etc cost. Use your loaf!

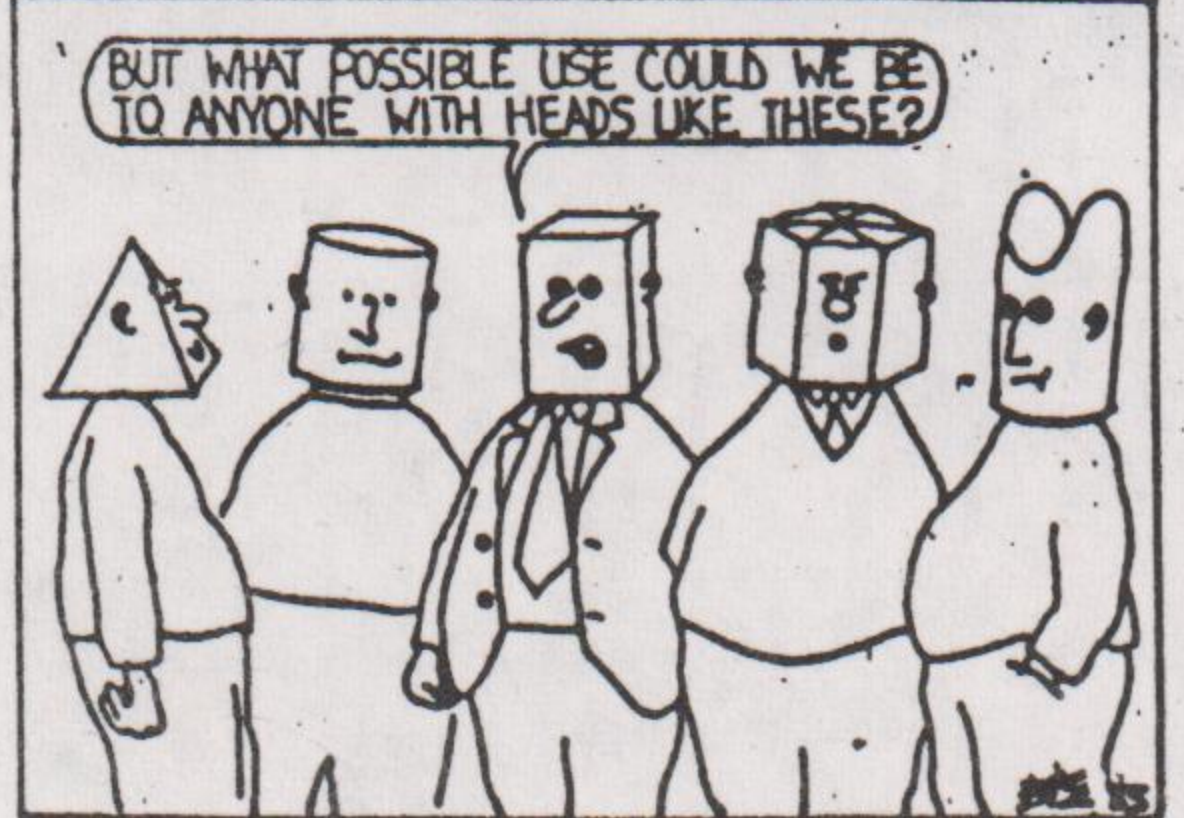
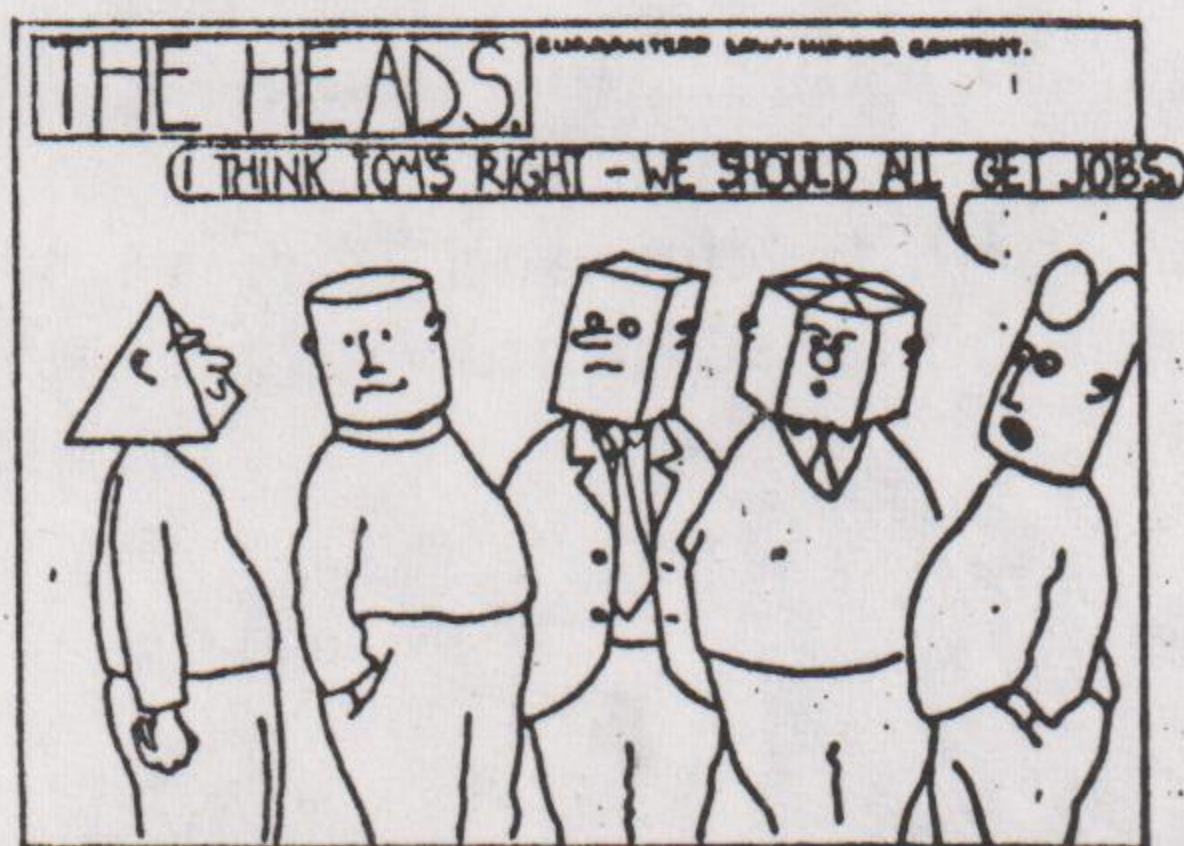
Further explanation and more ridiculous examples to come in the next issue.

The Fowl Review

The Fowler review, as some people have come to know and despise, started life as a green paper named, "The Reform of Social Security - Programme for action." Now the government is shortly planning to make this bill legal.

The social security bill, is going to replace the present welfare state with a system which makes welfare impossible to live on. You're supposed to find work, even if there isn't any. The new system attacks basic rights to welfare, ignoring the contributions via NI and tax which are paid to the government, in some form or other, by everyone.

The Fowler review affects every claimant to the DHSS; unemployed, unwaged, OAP's all sections of our society.



Power can damage your health

President Reagan is taking a long time to die, isn't he.

It is well known that every 20 years or so the American president dies in office. This has happened regularly since 1841, with only a couple of wobbles. The last one was Kennedy in 1963 and now the time has come round again. This means that Reagan is due to die during 1986.

It will be interesting to see what sort of president Mr. Bush makes.



This is just a brief article where I hope to express a few things I have been thinking as a man, about sexism towards women. It's something that is universal, and runs through all types of politics, personal behaviour and ways of living as practised by men. It's also something that can be changed, and instead of feeling guilty, hostile or plain disinterested as men I think it's important to feel and act positively about: to become aware of it, and to challenge it.

Sexism operates on fairly basic, more obvious levels. Women are discriminated against in employment, where they can be paid less, hold less responsibility than men and have the more menial jobs - often they can't get a job at all (apart from the present economic hatchet-merchant). It is rare to find women in strong positions in political parties or trade unions, or in all sorts of other occupations, basically because men have got there first and made the various laws and organisations which make up our society (which may be one good reason why society is in a pretty sorry state). But women can, of course, be found on page 3 of 'The Sun', in countless glossy magazines for men's titillation, and looking after children and homes up and down the country. These are places where women have been assigned, by men. Presumably while we men get on with the serious business of being men (which at it's worst involves things like organising war).

SEXISM

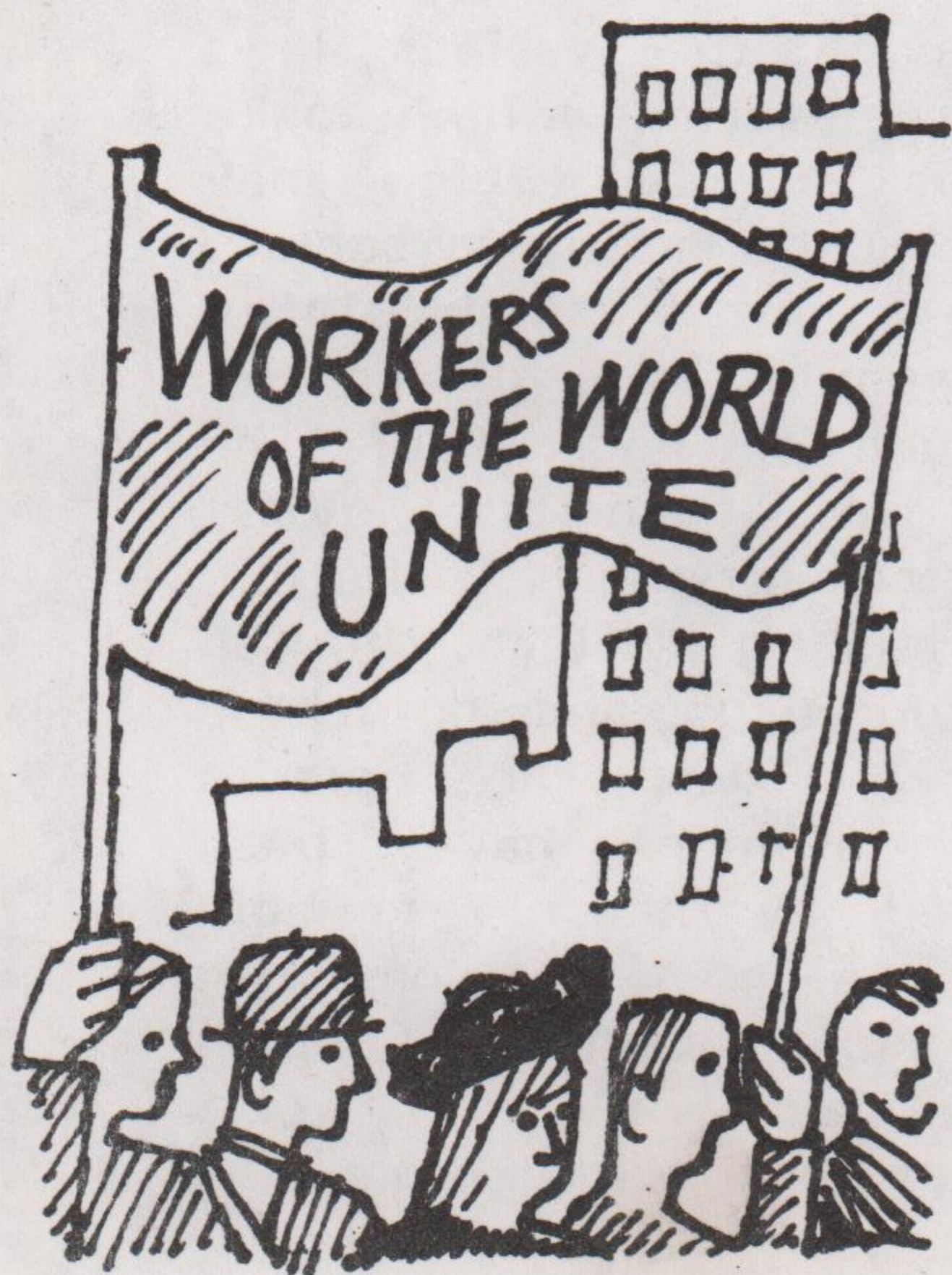
(continued)

I think it is really important that men begin to think about these things in a serious way, and to question our roles, the parts we play in continuing this oppression. Because that's what it is: oppression. It's not some kind of 'side issue'. Women make up more than half the world's population. And yet men conveniently 'overlook' women in the 'business' of everyday living. Unless women are providing some kind of service or support to men as housewives, sexual objects or comforters.

Most men have grown up with this attitude to women because this is what society teaches. And some men have more power than others, oppressing men as well as women. But the most oppressed man still has access to the power over women. It is worth while thinking about this. We have to start facing up to the things that are staring us in the face.

Also we should think about those uncomfortable feelings and dark corners in ourselves. We have been made to compete ("every man for himself"), but we can begin to change by being honest and open with each other. We have a lot to learn. Perhaps we can invent new, ways of talking 'man to man!' Then, perhaps different ways of being men. Not too soon, either!

S. Sutcliffe.



EDINBURGH'S POLITICAL STREET BAND

Edinburgh has long been behind other British cities in not having a regular band to accompany demonstrations, pickets, rallies and such like. This has now changed, as a group of musicians, provisionally called the token gestures, has been meeting since January at 7.00 pm on Fridays at the Unemployed Workers Centre. They are continually looking for new members with or without instruments, whether they have played before or not, who want to play, sing dance or juggle, in order to liven up political gatherings. They would also like to hear from groups organising events who would like them to play and from anybody who could help with donations/loans of instruments or money to buy them.

THE FIRST MAYDAY - 100 YEARS AGO

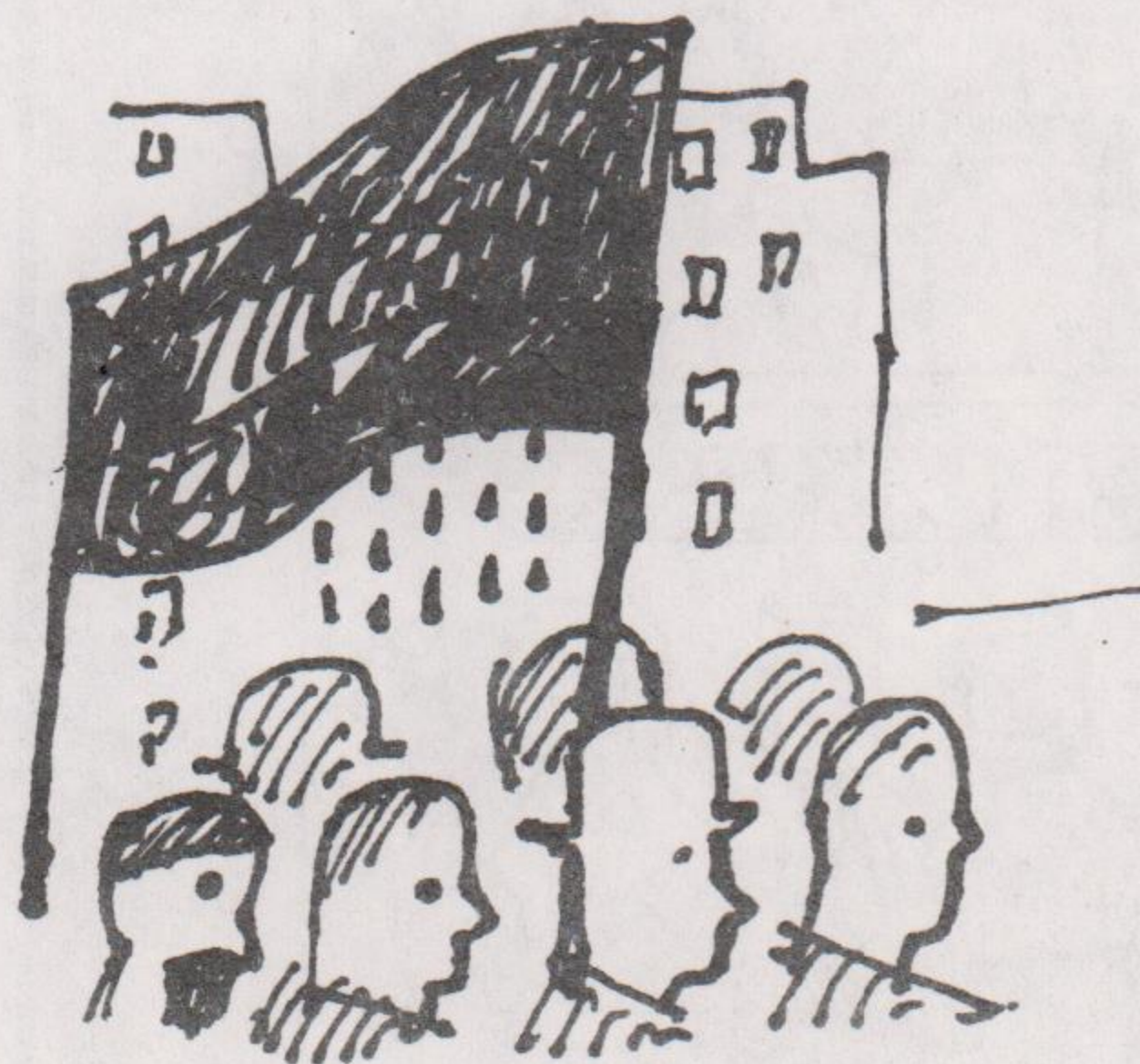
The first of May - Labour Day is the only day dedicated to the working class. How did this come about? On the first of May 1886, 800,000 workers across America went on strike for an 8 hour day. In Chicago, before this strike, 1,500 workers had been locked out by McCormick Machine Corp. over a wage dispute. On 3rd May pickets tried to stop scabs entering the factory. Four were shot dead by the police and many more wounded.

In response a rally was called for the following day at Haymarket Square, Chicago. Speeches condemning the police were given by three anarchist labour activists, Albert Parsons, August Spies, and Samuel Fielden. As the meeting ended 200 police arrived and ordered the crowd to disperse. A bomb was thrown killing one policeman, and wounding several others (six died later). The

Eight men were brought to trial, Parsons, Spies, Fielden, George Engel, Adolph Fischer, Louis Lingg, Oscar Neebe, and Michael Schwab. No evidence connecting the defendants with the bomb was presented, but much was made of their violent criticisms of working conditions. All were found guilty; seven were condemned to death and Neebe to 15 years in jail. The sentences on Schwab and Fielden were later commuted to life imprisonment. On November 11th, 1887, four were hanged. Lingg committed suicide the day before.

In 1893 an enquiry found that the trial was unjust. Fielden, Neebe and Schwab were released. It was too late for the others. Earlier, in 1889, the International Labour Congress, in Paris, unanimously accepted a proposal that May 1st be adopted as a workers' holiday. It is celebrated all over the world but few people in Britain realise its origins and significance. Perhaps during this time of increasing deprivation, poverty, and unemployment, Spies last prophetic words will come true, 'The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today'.

Footnote: Workers in South Africa occupied mines and factories in April to demand May 1st be made a public holiday.



OZYMANDIAS COLUMN



The main problem facing the unemployed unwaged/low waged is isolation. Lack of money stops us from playing a full role in society and brings about a feeling of apathy which reinforces our isolation and cuts us off all the more from society at large. We are the dispossessed and damned near invisible. Sounds grim eh? But it need not be so bad.

The main need is to break out of this apathy circuit. Get involved. Think of this as a time to take stock and find out where you want to go with your life. If you have a TV use the "off" switch more. Too much TV rots your brain, same as reading the Sun makes you go blind. Take chances and try different things.

First: Money.

Make sure that you are receiving all that you are entitled to. Check with the Citizens Rights Office - 47 Broughton St. Don't necessarily believe what the 'SS' tell you, many of whom, though not all, are only interested in making love to themselves and don't give a toss for you as an individual.

Second: Good things to obtain.

UB40 Concession Card:

Costs 50p, from Meadowbank stadium, gives you free entry to public baths, sporting concessions and is useful ID for entry to the Film House, 50p concession, most afternoons.

A personal view for UB40 survival in Edinburgh.

Bus pass:

Costs £16 per month which works out at 55p a day. Gives you the freedom of Edinburgh and widens your choice of things to do.

"Have Pass, Will Travel"

Third: Things To Join: Places To Go.

Your Local Library:

Extensive book stocks, music cassettes and daily papers. A good reference point for courses, local events etc. Also it's warm!

Your Local Political Party:

Labour, that is. No point in joining the SDP (What does the SDP stand for? On a postcard please, send your suggestions for what the initials could stand for, prize of a bottle of cheap plonk, Chateau Picardy for the funniest.)

No, seriously if you are of that persuasion you might as well go the whole pig and join the Tories but check with your doctor first. The main idea once again is involvement. Get Active. Sticking it hard to the Tories. (The Rich, the Yanks).

Courses: Further Education:

You can do up to 21 hours full-time study without your benefit being affected. Most courses are free to the unemployed.

Art Galleries:

Admission free. Use your imagination, pretend you are a tourist, have a cultural day out. Pretend you are in Paris.

Fourth: Cheapo Food Places.

Bread: Crawfords 2nd Day Bakery, top of Easter Rd. Day old bread half-price, wholemeal, rolls, cookies.

Meat: Offal Butcher. Duke St. Stew, mince and liver, very cheap.

Vegetables: Farmer Jack's East London St.

Tobacco: The Pipe Shop, foot of Leith Walk, half ounce rolling baccy at 70p.

Eggs, cheapo coffee etc. Abdul's Cash and Carry, foot of Leith Walk, opposite Peter Symon's, the Caledonian Bar, best run and most hospitable bar in Leith.

Fifth: Clothes: Utensils: Furniture:

Jumble Sales: see Friday's Evening News. Handy tip when buying favour the women assistants, its cheaper.

Charity shops: some are rip-offs, if you are a fella take a girl friend or wife with you, once again it works out cheaper.

Lane Sales: Twice weekly auctions. Thistle St Lane. Good bargains.

Sixth: Other Things To Do:

If in digs, register with the Housing department for a council house. Also try the various housing associations around town.

Write to us with your ideas and suggestions.

We are planning an article on racketeering landlords for a future issue. Send us any dirt on bad conditions with relevant addresses and owner's name. We will present the worst landlord with a dog licence!

Also send us details of good landlords. (No, this does not mean a list of obituaries!)

Finally I would like your opinion on our front cover. It was selected for artistic merit and impact and is not meant to express the Ramboesque values of our time.

So buy a stamp on giro day and drop us a line.

OZYMANDIAS.



"Half sunk, a shattered visage lies..."

Ramesses II at the Ramesseum in Thebes.

AS SEE IT

CUT AND RUN

At least 27 Tory MP's have given notice that they will not be standing at the next election. It is indicative of the representative nature of the party that no fewer than 14 of them are knights. We have heard of rats deserting the sinking ship, but so many so soon? Do they know something we don't?

UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE DOWNTURN?

Is there work after death?

A Raw Edge reader met a friend last week who has a job. He had obtained it by a judicious reading of the death columns in his local paper.

A case of dead men's shoes.....



CHERNOBYL

An exotic name of a far away place - suddenly very familiar. Try practising these names.

**DOUNREAY * HUNTERSTON
TORNESS * CHAPELCROSS
HARTLEPOOL * HEYSHAM
WYLFA * TRAWSFYNYDD
BERKELEY * OLDBURY
HINKLEY POINT * BRADWELL
WINFRITH * DUNGENESS
SIZEWELL**

CALDERHALL/SELLAFIELD

And those are just the nuclear power stations in Britain. Bet you did not think we had so many? The Health Warning the Government does not give.

"Nuclear power can damage the health of untold future generations until the end of time. This may be sooner than you think!"

STOP PRESS TORY MP TELLS TRUTH

John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North and Africa South stunned an audience of the Bristol University Federation of Conservative Students last month when he admitted " The behaviour of some of those here is reminiscent of what happened in Nazi Germany " Nuff said! John.



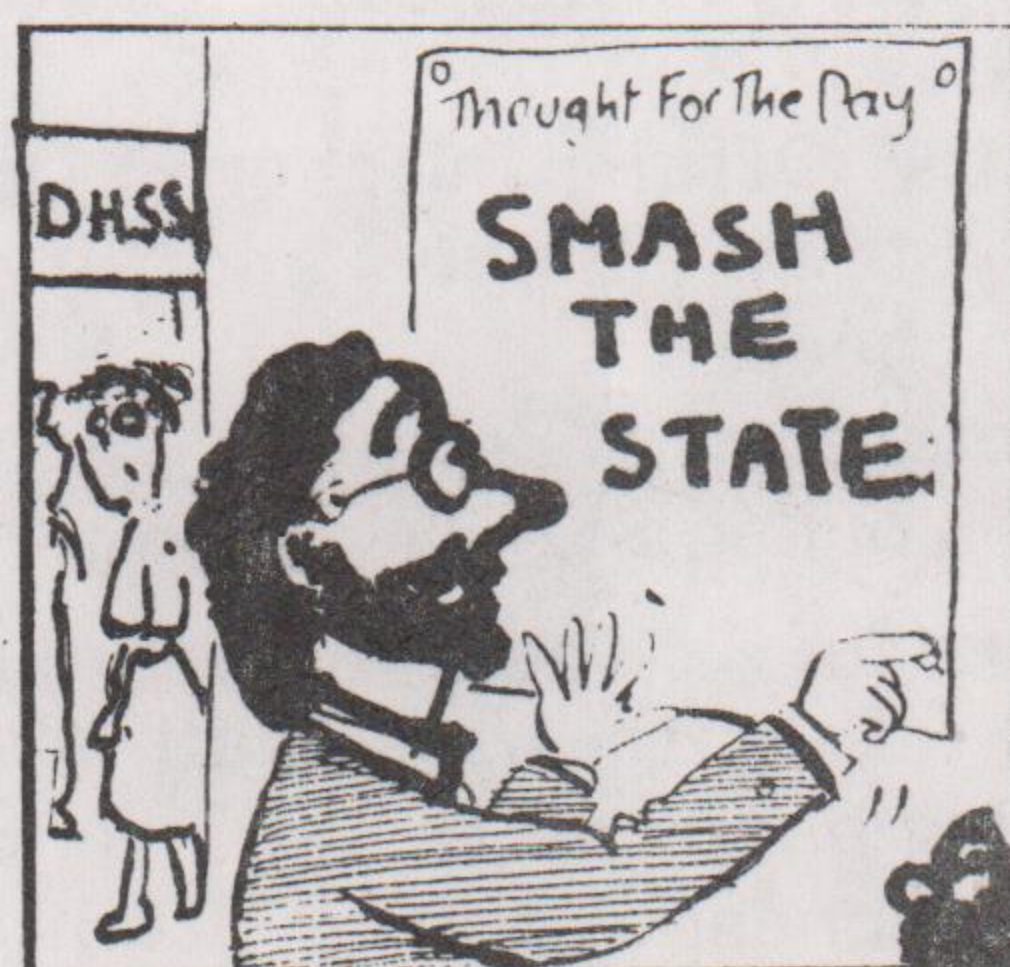
ROOTS.BICYCLE RIDERS

Before the great British public gets too involved in the racial unniceties of chucking out Libyans, Blacks, Irish et al, we should get back to our roots and remember the original foreigners and their descendants in our midst.

The NORMANS.

They should be sent packing.

We could start with NORMAN Tebbit and NORMAN Fowler. On your bikes, boys!



**BEIRUT!
GRENADA!
NICARAGUA!
LIBYA!**

**Where
next?**

BURN! BABY! BURN!



"Together, hand in hand, with our matches and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country."

IS REAGAN THE REAL MADMAN?

Possibly the most confusing aspect of the Libyan bombing in the eyes of the British public, has been the attacks on British and American citizens and installations in other Arab states.

The media has used the cover - all explanation of "mindless terrorism". However, to understand this reaction and the politics of Gadaffi himself, it is necessary to look at the recent history of Libya and the Arab world.

Libya was an Italian colony until World War Two. It was granted independence by the United Nations in 1951. King Idris, backed by Britain was its new ruler. When oil revenues became significant after 1961, the industrialisation of Libya increased. This led to the development of a modern working class, which undermined the old tribal divisions, which Idris relied on to keep himself in power.

In 1967, Israel invaded Egypt during the Six Day War. In Libya workers and students attacked the property of British and American companies because of their support for Israel. This rebellion was pushed underground, by a reign of terror.

In 1969 Gadaffi led a bloodless overthrow of King Idris by the military. The coup was supported by the C.I.A. because at the time Gadaffi was vehemently anti - soviet. However, Gadaffi expelled British and American bases, along with 30,000 Italian settlers. The roots of the coup were Arab nationalism and anti - colonialism, not socialism.

In Gadaffi's view the Arabs are an oppressed nation. The key to this oppression is the Israeli occupation of Palestine, imposed and maintained by Britain and the U.S.A.. Arab liberation depends on the destruction of the artificial boundaries set by the colonial countries and the unification of all Arab states (Pan Arabism).

This explains Gadaffi's support for the Palestinians and other national liberation movements. Many Arabs see Gadaffi as the champion of Arab nationalism. Any attack on him is seen as an attack on arabic aspirations throughout the Middle East.

That this feeling is widespread is evidenced by the fact that even conservative Saudi Arabia, condemned the American bombing. It is also the reason why there have been direct attacks on British and American interests, throughout the Arab world.

The real reason for Reagans' hatred of Gadaffi is that nationalistic, anti - colonial movements, threaten American control over world resources, in this case oil, and hence business profits. Any successful anti imperialist movement could provide a model for others eg. South Africa, Nicaragua.

With the price of oil falling, the strength of Arab opinion in world affairs, has been weakened. This provided a "window of opportunity" to attack Libya. World terrorism was not the reason, merely an excuse.

KINEMA

All the cinemas in Edinburgh, except the ABC Lothian Rd., offer concessions to the unemployed so an outing to see a good film is within reach of most of us.

The cheapest is the Filmhouse, Lothian Road where admission is 50p to afternoon matinees - quite a difference from the £2.50 you'll have to pay at the ABC next door. Remember to take your UB40 with you when asking for a concession.

'Out of Africa' is worth seeing at the ABC where it will be in residence for the next few weeks. Try to see it while it is being shown in the wide-screen main cinema, when it moves to the smaller one, which they usually do with long-running films, the impact of the wide African landscape will be lost.

The Kenya wilderness is the real star of this film, its worth seeing for this alone. Meryl Streep, who is one of the best American film actresses, relying on a passionate acting talent instead of usual Hollywood glamour, plays a Danish emigrant to Kenya who attempts to start a coffee plantation with her new and unreliable husband who spends most of his time on jaunts away from home. Lonely, she meets and eventually has a long affair with a safari guide, played by Robert Redford who shares his love of Africa and its people with her. The film is a nostalgic portrayal of colonial life in the first decades of this century. There are no main roles for Africans and we see only a few patronising scenes with inarticulate servants who provide light relief. In the end Africa remains a mystery. We daily hear the echoes of bloody events in South Africa whose origins go back to the blinkered colonial society celebrated in this film, which leaves one feeling that the experience of seeing it was escapism. Serious films about Africa are long overdue - it is encouraging to see that a few films are emerging, such as 'Ceddo' made in Senegal which was shown at the Filmhouse recently.



So kind of Meryl Streep to prove stars don't always look the part

'Making Jobs In Edinburgh': Report On Conference

Subtitled a 'Popular Economic and Employment Planning Conference' held on April 12th at Edinburgh University's David Hume Tower. Four people from EUWC attended, including coordinator George Wilson, who led a workshop on the role of Unemployed Workers Centres. As the title suggests, the conference was chiefly concerned with generating ideas for employment initiatives in the Edinburgh area, with reference to the District's economic and employment base, and the current crisis in employment.

The trouble with conferences like this is the tendency to generate little more than well meaning hot air. Thankfully, this day was different, and this must mainly be attributed to the inspiring example of Mike Cooley and the body he represents, the Greater London Enterprise Board. Sheila Rowbotham - who, until its recent untimely end, worked for the Greater London Council - also gave an excellent address to the conference, speaking from her experience as a 'popular planning' consultant. No desk-bound bureaucrat, she told of visiting local communities, meeting and discussing with different client groups (such as the disabled), responding to the opinions, knowledge, needs and wants of ordinary residents on possible local business ventures and services. In both his general address, and afternoon workshop on 'Communities & New Technology', Mike Cooley spoke to the point on the general abuse of new technology - how it can dehumanise workers and prevent real workplace learning - in mainstream industry. He referred to YTS and Community Programme schemes as 'Mickey Mouse' training - comparing them with in depth, human learning of traditional type apprenticeship practice. He also emphasised - with the successful record of the GLEB - how socially useful work (services and products) which rewards workers and recipients with more than money can be created and be economically successful. GLEB coordinates research into community needs, design and consultancy (often at

universities and polytechnics where research students may be funded to work on relevant practical projects), resources and funding, in a networking approach to create jobs in the community to meet community needs. It has created 4,000 jobs in London. The same thing could work in Lothian. With the possibility of a Labour majority in the Regional elections, might we see a Region-wide body - similar to the GLEB - working to create new, real jobs to serve local needs? George Kerevan - for EDC - stated that the District council was favourable to the idea of funding research students willing to work on practical projects which could result in socially useful jobs. At the end of the day, at least one practical idea was produced from the floor. If anyone reading this - individual or group - has a practical idea (product or service) to serve presently unmet needs (maybe making use of redundant skills?) why not contact the Dept. of Economic Development and Estates, Edinburgh District Council, 375 High Street (225 2424 ext. 5861).



EDINBRAG

We need more people to come along to Edinbrag (Edinburgh Benefits Rights Action Group) Meetings - 7.30 every Thurs. Unemployed Workers Centre, 12a, Picardy Place. All claimants are invited to attend.

If you canny spell it then here's what it says...

And one of the things it says is that football is run by a lot of mean, greedy people. Hearts deserve their success and while they have improved vastly, they are not going anywhere near a European final. So why since there are such teams in Scotland have Hearts done so well? Most football directors see clubs as exciting business ventures. The team is merely one asset of the business. The results are seen for example, in what Aberdeen did with their European winnings building 'hospitality boxes' to rent to other business, and letting the team stagnate. Gordon Strachan was replaced by Billy Stark.

In a succesful team very little money is spent on new players. Standard logic runs "if we're winning things must be alright." So once teams such as Dundee Utd, Aberdeen and Celtic win domestic honours they decline.

Hearts success, it is widely agreed, is based on their supporters. Their big support has allowed them to spend more freely on players. Once a crisis ocured, the new players were given a long run in the first team. As they played together they improved, now the team are now aggressive and have a good understanding. They deserve success because they do not rely on containment to win matches.

Of the current side, only Robertson and Smith are exceptional players. But it is unlikley that Hearts will use this season's success to improve the team. Next season they may not be so lucky with postponments, injuries and suspensions. Within the year I expect them to be playing containing football like Aberdeen.

Sing when your winning. Hearts fans.

E. Davidson.

ISSUE 1. Not registered at any Post Office. Produced and printed by the UWC, 12a Picardy place, Edinburgh Tel. 557 0718.