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TAKING LIBERTIES

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!!! STILL !!! only 25p
Free to Prisoners

CLOSE DOWN CAMPSFIELD



SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS

INTRODUCTION

Yes it's us. *Taking Liberties* again, still bashing away at the untrendy issues of prisons and prisoners. We know we aren't as glamorous as anti-fascism or as cool as environmentalism (our meetings are sexier though) but we still think that we and the prisoners we support have something to say. This bulletin as usual is here to attack prisons and the greedy capitalist system that builds them, to support prisoners in their struggles, to discuss and expose what prisons, the cops, the 'justice' system and crime does to us and how we can break down the walls, not just of prisons but between so many of us on the outside as well. We know our audience is small but it's growing, and we aren't gonna go away. Anyone out there who reads *TL*,

you're more than welcome to write and send us news, views, replies, graphics, offers of help with our work, abuse, sex toys, drugs, or money. We especially want to hear from prisoners, or people with news about prisoners, police going ape-shit, communities organising against the law or oppression. Also if you think *Taking Liberties* is the most depressing thing since Bosnia, please get in touch to say you want to distribute it in your area. Spread the bad news around, there's enough for everyone. Well that's it. Get in touch, we love to hear from you.

TAKING LIBERTIES
LONDON ABC

C/O 121 RAILTON ROAD, LONDON, SE24 0LP.
TEL (sometimes) 071 274 6655
FAX 071 326 0353

Cover photo:
Bill MacKeith
Mike Ansell

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Prisoners Justice Day is an international day of protest when people remember those who have died in prison, whether this is from the routine brutality of prison life, murder by screws or other cons, or suicide. The protest started in Canada in 1975 when prisoners went on hunger-strike in Millhaven Maximum Secure Unit. Prisoner Eddie Nalon had been left to die after a suicide attempt; the 'panic button' in his cell was disconnected.

Since then a growing number of prisoners and their supporters across Canada and internationally have made August 10th a day of work-strikes, demonstrations, hunger-strikes and actions. The Prisoners Justice Day Committee in Ontario produce a radio programme on the day which is received by many prisoners and they produce a bulletin detailing the protest actions that have taken place.

An important part of PJD is to build solidarity between prisoners, vital to combat the prison attempts at divide and rule and brutalisation. And just as important is building links between prisoners and the outside world, so crucial to break down the isolation of being inside.

Answering the appeal for solidarity, London ABC picketed Brixton

prison in 1992 and joined the protest. Last year saw pickets of Winson Green in Birmingham, Armley in Leeds and Pentonville in London, where a large demo was joined by ex-inmates and Pam Donnelly, whose son Nicky had been driven to suicide in '92 by the notoriously grim regime there.

This year we want to broaden PJD still further. We are asking everyone to get involved and make it as big as possible; a show of solidarity with all those suffering the brutality of the prison system, with a particular emphasis on women in prison. For the majority of women inside, their only 'crime' is poverty: cheque card fraud or shoplifting for food. A fifth of the women in Holloway are poor Latin American or African women who have been given ridiculously long sentences (14 years!) for smuggling drugs. These women are pressured into this by

poverty, and rarely know what they are risking for a little money to feed their families. Women in general are more likely than men to be jailed for a first offence, since any 'criminal' behaviour shatters cherished myths of 'femininity' (like, it's 'unlady-like' to be poor). And the biggest sin is self defence against a violent partner - Emma Humphries, Sara Thornton and Josephine Smith are still inside for these 'crimes'.

Actions are already planned in Birmingham, Leeds, Exeter and London. Contact us for further details, or to distribute leaflets and posters. If you have any actions planned, let us know the details so we can help publicise them.

**Or BE THERE -
Holloway Women's Prison,
4.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday, 10th August.**



CONCENTRATION CAMPFIELD

Campsfield Detention Centre was built specifically for holding asylum seekers and immigration detainees, and is run by Group 4 for profit. A vigorous local campaign to close the detention centre has included demos, roof-top protests, a 'human rights camp', all linked in with detainees' protests and hunger strikes. This article includes some reports of various actions.

As we go to press, we hear that the Home Office has got a High Court order to close the 'human rights camp', which has been outside Campsfield since the national demo on June 4th (there are also plans to disperse the detainees to six national 'centres' based at different prisons). This must be in no small part due to the relentless programme of action against Campsfield, making Group 4's life a misery there.

HUNGER STRIKES

After 10 hunger-striking detainees were released from Campsfield on 6th March, virtually the whole detention centre was on hunger strike 5 days later. And the strike spread to Pentonville, Harmondsworth, Exeter and other prisons we're only just hearing about. The media remained characteristically quiet at what was one of the biggest hunger-strikes this country has ever seen (though *The Guardian* did publish the hunger-strikers' demands

and there was quite a bit of coverage in the local press.) While the mass hunger-strikes have subsided, there are numerous detainees still protesting and various isolated hunger-strikes still going on. The details of the cases are hard to find out, though.

During the strike detainees suffered harassment and intimidation from Group 4 and the prison service's finest; in Campsfield some hunger-strikers were told they would be deported immediately and others were told that they'd be held for an extra 9 months with their appeal procedure suspended. Visitors were harassed and denied the right to take food in case it was used to alleviate the strike. Luxury breakfasts and bowls of fruit (the likes of which you'd never normally see inside) were used to tempt them from their fast. Endless fire drills and a 24 hour tannoy system, heavy surveillance of any group of detainees, turning off radiators at night...the catalogue goes on. A common tactic was to disperse strikers to prisons across the country, and also to deny access to news reports about the strike and any related actions, to try and leave the detainees isolated.

This underlines the importance of demos at prisons and detention centres in breaking down that isolation. One small victory is that Pentonville, renowned



'Campsfield Invaded' - see page 22

for its brutality, suicide rate and racism, has now been banned from taking immigration detainees (no doubt this is also in part due to the 'unlawful' death of Omasasi Lumumba - see bulletin No 9).

Technically international laws say that refugees should not be held in prisons, but it is common here. Haslar, near Gosport, Hampshire, has 85 asylum seekers and is notorious as a shit hole. One asylum seeker commented that "at least in other prisons they treat you like criminals." Immigration minister, Charles Warrdle, likes to boast of the 'hotel-like' conditions at Campsfield, and on the news after the recent riot/uprising (see article) showed great compassion for the fate of some smashed toilet-basins and little for the detainees, several of whom were badly injured. Refugees and asylum seekers are detained indefinitely, without sentence or charge. Whether the view is through the fence at Campsfield or another prison/detention centre makes little difference. Some have fled from torture or persecution, possibly already having spent time inside, only to be greeted with another cell when they get here. The legal treadmill often means months of appeals and counter appeals and in the meantime there's the

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● **NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**
● **AGAINST IMMIGRATION**
● **ACT DETENTIONS**
●

● On Saturday 30th April pickets and demonstrations were held at prisons and detention centres to protest at the treatment of asylum seekers and the racist laws of the Immigration Act. Pickets were held at Brixton prison, Pentonville, Harmondsworth Detention Centre, Campsfield Detention Centre in Oxford,

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● Winson Green prison in Birmingham and Canterbury. Ex-detainees were prominent among the demonstrators. At Brixton one picketer had only just been released two days earlier after spending a year in Wandsworth, and at Pentonville there was a big Zairean contingent. Campsfield, where there is a growing local campaign to close the detention centre, saw an angry demonstration of over 200. At Winson Green there were over 100 people.
●

Campaigns

Concentration Campsfield (contd)

routine racism of the screws, day in, day out. Apparently a favourite taunt at Haslar is "If you don't like the way we do things, just sign here on this form and we'll send you home." The courage of the detainees in staging the recent

uprising, the hunger-strikes and roof-top protests before them, deserves our support. It is vital that the detainees are not left isolated and that the government doesn't quietly get away with its racist immigration policies.

For the latest info contact: Campaign Against Immigration Act De-

tentions - Tel 071 254 9701. Campaign to Close Campsfield, C/o 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

If you are interest in visiting detainees in London, contact Stop the Detentions Action Group, PO Box 207, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5BF - tel 081 571 0676.

UPRISING!

On June 4th 600 people marched against Campsfield and the Immigration Detentions Act. The march was heavily policed, with at least two people arrested. A secondary fence had been erected in early May to prevent a recurrence of the March demo (see elsewhere for details). A camp outside the detention centre was established on the 3rd June, and after the events of Sunday 5th is now permanent.

The Revolt Riot Uprising

On the evening of June 5th, Ali Tamarat, one of the 10 Algerians granted temporary admission, after hunger striking until March 6th, and then re-detained due to addressing the March 29th demo, was informed he was to be deported the next day. He was taken away and a heated argument developed

between a group of Algerians and an Immigration Officer through a locked glass door. The

Immigration officer opened the door, knocking one of them to the ground. The Algerians then ran through to the dining room, taking knives and climbed onto the single-storey roof of the women's quarters. Then a large number of detainees made their way to the courtyard below the Algerians,

turning over furniture, breaking telephones, windows as they went. Group 4 security guards barricaded themselves in the the guards' room. A fire was started in the shop.

Group 4 staff then placed a ladder near the Algerians. Six detainees (not the Algerians) escaped using the ladder, but a seventh was caught and had the ladder pulled from under him. He is now on crutches. Five more detainees got the ladder back and escaped. By this point, almost every detainee was outside. Two hundred coppers entered Campsfield, including fully equipped riot police. A Nigerian woman was pinned down, and suffered a fractured knee-cap. The riot police waited for security cameras to pan past before indiscriminately lashing out. The police and Immigration officials then herded

the detainees into the gym. The Algerians stripped off and slashed their chests with

knives and glass; one dived head first off the roof.

The police arrested at least 22 detainees and took them to Oxfordshire police station for subsequent dispersal to prisons. Ambulances took a number of injured away, but just how many isn't known. The Home Office claimed

that five detainees were seriously hurt, but this is a gross underestimation.

Events leading up to the riot

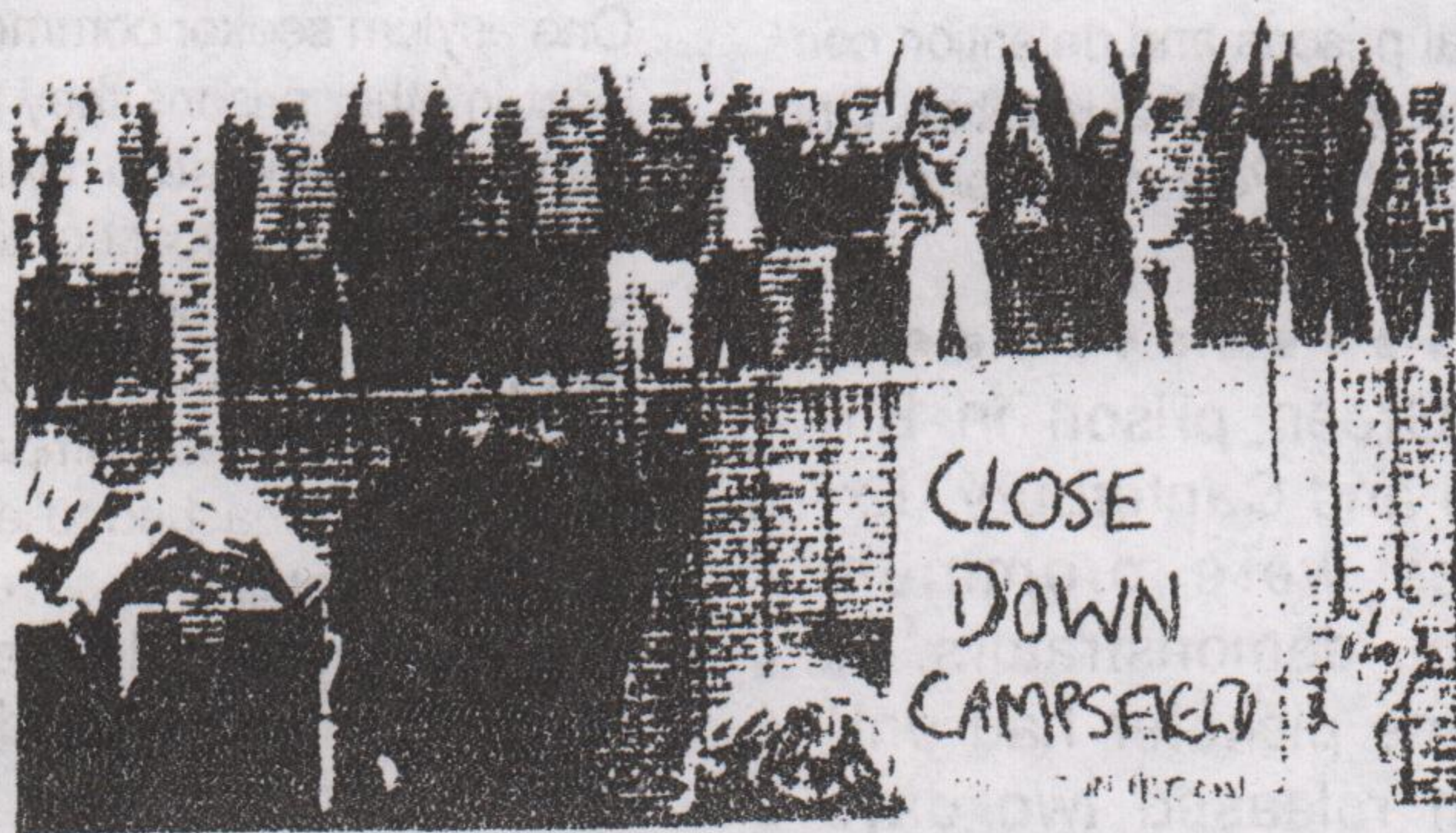
Elizabeth Blanchard had been complaining of hearing voices and requesting medical attention for two weeks, when on the evening of the 24th May a police psychiatrist examined her. She was to be observed every 15 minutes; normally this would have been done by a trained psychiatric nurse, but in Campsfield it was done by untrained Group 4 personnel.

The Immigration Service then transferred her to Holloway prison, she was handcuffed and gagged, according to a detainee eye-witness account (contrary to Immigration Minister Charles Wardle's statement that gagging would no longer be used after the unlawful killing of Joy Gardner). She was left in Banbury police station with no proper medical care for 16 hours. Loss Prevention International, a private security firm, then took her to Holloway, who refused to admit her due to her condition. She was then transferred to Whittington hospital.

The next day 70 detainees held an emergency meeting with Immigration officers about the treatment of Elizabeth Blanchard and the threatened deportation of a Nigerian asylum seeker in less than 24 hours. Immigration officers agreed to postpone the deportation, claiming it was a mistake and promising to give a week's notice in future deportations.

Source: *Campsfield Monitor*.

cont'd on page 22



On May 6th, after three trials and an appeal, Malcolm Kennedy was found guilty at the Old Bailey of the manslaughter of Patrick Quinn and sentenced to 9 years.

cealed from the defence and the jury, including PC Paul Giles, Kennedy's arresting officer, who had a history of violence. Giles is now said to have severe personality problems and to be paranoid, eg, he believes the IRA are out to

have involved every officer on duty in Hammersmith Police Station that night" - what's unlikely about that? It's happened before. Look at the Birmingham 6 case or the Stoke Newington corruption scandal - no cops broke ranks and told on their mates.

FUCKING OUTRAGE!!

He was originally convicted of murder in 1991, but denied it all along, maintaining that Quinn was killed by the police. Patrick Quinn, an unemployed Irish labourer, was kicked and beaten to death in a cell in Hammersmith Police Station, West London, on Xmas eve, 1990. Malcolm Kennedy, who had been put in a cell with him after being nicked 'drunk and disorderly', was charged with murder. The police claimed he was discovered in the cell covered in Quinn's blood, after the killing.

However, Kennedy tells a very different story. He says that through a drunken haze he recalls a police officer coming into the cell and attacking Quinn, preventing him from intervening. He says his shoes were taken from him and used to make prints in the blood to implicate him. He denies suggestions, made by the judge at the third trial, that he could have blacked out and 'killed Quinn without knowing he had done it'. He has stuck to this story through thick and thin from the morning after Quinn's death.

Evidence brought out since his original trial, where he was found guilty and sentenced to life, casts serious doubt on his conviction. A log book from Hammersmith Police Station covering events on the night of the murder went missing, as did some of the note books of officers on duty. These could have showed who went into the cell and when. 'Disappearing police documents' is a surprisingly common feature in cases of people framed up by the police. Station records were incomplete and inconsistent. Confusion still reigns about which cops were where in the station at the time of the murder.

Several cops involved in the case had their violent pasts con-



get him (he is from the Northern Ireland). Another cop, PC Henery, has since left the force with 17 disciplinary charges against him. He refused to give evidence at the trial.

When this and other evidence came before the Court of Appeal in February 1993, they quashed the conviction and ordered a retrial. This started in September 1993, but had to be abandoned when the cops suddenly discovered the missing logbook, which now seemed to support their case on the timings and who had been where. At the new retrial, which started in February 1994, PC Gilkes wasn't available to give evidence, as he was said to be 'mentally unstable'. Suspicious or what? Original evidence that Giles went into the cell later than he claimed, which was denied all along by all the cops involved, points to him as being in on the murder somehow.

The prosecution made much of the fact that Kennedy's description, the morning after the killing, of the cop he says attacked Quinn, didn't fit PC Giles - but if you were blind drunk how accurate would your memory be? The prosecutor rubbished Malcolm Kennedy's evidence by saying "This cover up would

The filth flock together. Anyone who steps out of line and grasses on other cops has no future in the force - it's well known. Or as in the case of Ged Corley in Manchester, if they aren't careful, they'll end up the victim of a frame-up themselves, to discredit them. Besides, to many cops a pissed Irish labourer is fair game, and anyone handy, even a quiet restaurant owner like Malcolm Kennedy, can be fitted up to take the blame. They have that power. Kennedy was convicted of manslaughter this time round,

as the judge said he could not have formed the necessary intent for murder because of his drunkenness - why then is he supposed to have killed Quinn? No motive has ever been put forward.

The cops, of course, don't need a motive to beat someone to death, bar racism and love of violence. All their history shows that. It seems Malcolm Kennedy is doing time for yet another brutal murder by the police. Patrick Quinn joins a long list.... Kennedy's defence lawyers are considering yet another appeal against the conviction, given PC Giles and Henery's absence from the case.

This is the justice we get - a boot in the face, lies and abuse, cover-ups and corruption. Even after four trials Malcolm Kennedy is still inside for something he has not done, and he has lost his flat, his business, everything. For a vicious murder committed by one or more cops. 'And they wonder why we hate them', as the old saying goes.

Send letters of support to:
Malcolm Kennedy, MB0292, HMP Swaleside, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent.

Contact Hackney Community Defence Association, 10a Bradbury St, London, N16 for more info on the case.

SATPAL RAM WINS JUDICIAL REVIEW

On 19th May 80 people picketed the High Court in London, in a loud and lively show of support for Satpal Ram, whose case for a judicial review into his conviction was being heard. Satpal was jailed for the 'murder' of a racist attacker who abused and then assaulted him in a restaurant in Lozells, Birmingham, in 1986.

Satpal defended himself against the man, who had glassed him in the face, with the result that the man later died. Despite it being a clear case of self-defence, the cops charged him with murder. Later on, Satpal's two (white) barristers saw him once for 40 minutes and persuaded him to drop the self-defence plea and go for manslaughter. Trusting his lawyers, Satpal did so and paid the price. He wasn't called in evidence

and his Bengali speaking witnesses were not given translators. In the light of all this it is not surprising he is now serving a life sentence.

Satpal had an appeal turned down on 1989, and last year the Home Secretary refused to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

Satpal Ram defended himself in the face of a racist attack. Since then the whole weight of the judicial system has carried on with the racist attack - no proper defence, an all-white jury, racism against his witnesses, blatant racism throughout the trial. While of course, racist attackers often get charges dropped, light sentences,

or the cops don't bother trying to find them. Not totally a shock given the fact that racists are doing capitalism's dirty work.

Satpal won the case for a judicial review into the way he was convicted - hopefully, if it goes his way, this will force the Home Secretary to send his case back to the Appeal Court. It will be a long hard slog though; the Free Satpal Campaign are asking people to demand that their MPs raise the issue, harass the Home Office, join the campaign, organise meetings...and always support and promote self-defence against racists and the state wherever you find it. Individually if we have to, collectively where we can, getting the self defence in first as much as possible!

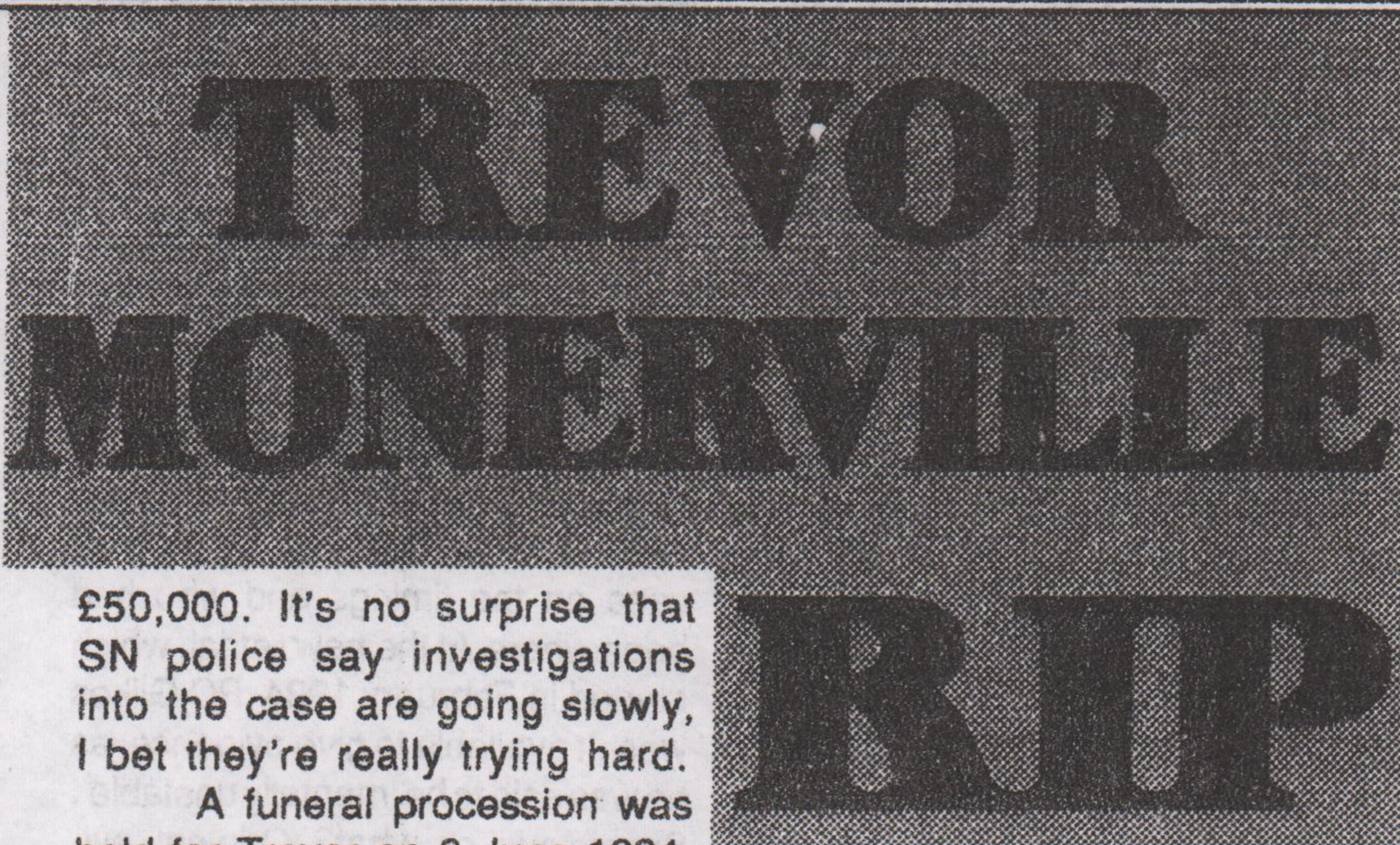
Free Satpal Campaign,
101 Villa Rd,
Handsworth,
Birmingham B19 1NH.
Tel 021 551 4518.

Send letters of support to:
Satpal Ram, HMP Full Sutton,
Moor Lane, Full Sutton
York YO4 1PS.

Trevor Monerville was murdered in the streets of Hackney on 18 March 1994, stabbed 10 times. He was 26.

The last 7 years of his life were dominated by his experiences at the hands of the Stoke Newington police. Trevor was arrested by SN cops on 1 Jan 1987. Four days later, after his family had reported him missing and the police denied knowing where he was, Trevor was 'found' on the floor of a cell in Brixton prison, naked, beaten and bleeding. He had to have emergency surgery to remove a blood clot from the surface of his brain. He never properly recovered, suffering epilepsy and severe headaches.

He was constantly harassed for years after by SN and Hackney cops, as were other members of his family, who stood by him and supported him, and fought to get some sort of justice. His grandparents sued the police after arrests and harassments, eventually winning



£50,000. It's no surprise that SN police say investigations into the case are going slowly, I bet they're really trying hard.

A funeral procession was held for Trevor on 3 June 1994, led by a New Orleans jazz band, to remember a young black man who suffered racism and police violence, leading to mental health problems, and who finally died violently.

Pain, sadness and violence mark out our lives (especially black lives) too often. We have to remember those murdered by the police, or whose lives were destroyed, like Trevor's. We have to build up a

resistance that remembers and takes strength from the need to change FOREVER a society that allows, encourages, gives power and a uniform to racism, forces violence and frustration on us so we turn the anger on each other. We don't want to keep on burying murder victims; we need to bury the racist, violent, capitalist profit system that values human life and love less than wealth and greed.

STOP STRIP SEARCHES CAMPAIGN

Stop Strip Searches Campaign are continuing their opposition to the strip searching of women prisoners, especially in Maghaberry jail in Northern

Ireland, where 22 women were violently and brutally strip searched by screws. This treatment is still ongoing at Maghaberry and is in widespread use in prisons and police cells in England. Its use is being widened, eg, the strip searching of 40 women workers at Asda in Barrow, Cumbria in November 1993, searching for a missing £10! Strip searching is obviously used in a degrading and humiliating way to exert power over women.

The Stop Strip Searches Campaign have info, videos, leaflets, badges and ideas for harassing MPs/forcing trade unions and other organisations to act on this issue.

Get in touch/send donations:

SSSC
PO Box 104
Sheffield 1

Anti-Strip Search Campaign
PO Box 937
Brighton



Paul Steele, framed for robbery and murder by cops in East London, has been moved to Maidstone jail from Whitemoor. Paul was convicted in 1990 for the murder of Joseph Casali, during a street robbery in Leyton; he was 'implicated' by friends who claimed he'd confessed to them and by a co-defendant who says he planned the robbery. Paul denies this; he has always maintained his innocence. There was no forensic evidence, descriptions of the robber don't fit Paul and he wasn't ID'd at a parade. Another transparent fit-up, obvious to everyone except appeal judges who knocked him back in 1992. Paul is fighting for his case to be re-opened.

Write to: Paul Steele, MT3097, HMP Maidstone County Road Kent ME14 1UZ

MURDER BY 'NATURAL CAUSES'



On 10th May, the Crown Prosecution Service announced that they would be charging a detective sergeant and a police forensic scientist with 'perverting the course of justice' in the case of the late Stefan Kiszko. Kiszko was jailed for the sexual assault and murder of a young girl in 1976 (?) but freed 16 years later after evidence, withheld from the defence at the time, emerged that semen found on the girl's clothes couldn't have been Kiszko's as he was sterile. Kiszko had confessed under pressure from the cops, but was later recognised to be 'easily suggestible'.

Stefan Kiszko died last year; as the good old BBC said of "natu-

ral causes". In our book to die after 16 years in prison as a sex offender for something he didn't do means outright murder - by the cops, the courts, and the prison system. By amazing coincidence (or not...) Kiszko's mother, who fought for his release and to clear his name the whole time he was inside, died the weekend before the announcement of the prosecutions was made. Both mother and son, then, are safely dead before the 'justice' system that put them through nearly twenty years of misery has to apologise, or pay any compensation to them.

You can't help being a little bit sceptical, about how far

the prosecutions in this case will go. After the whitewashes over the cops involved in the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad (no prosecutions), the Guildford 4 case (charges dismissed by the Judge) and so on, it's a fair guess the system will look after it's own. At the worst they will be retired on full pension. Go on, surprise us, we dare you.

Out of all this the only bright light burning is the courage of Stefan Kiszko to survive and of his mother, never giving up, determined to see her son walk free. The cops, expert witnesses, judges, prosecutors, who knew they were locking him up to rot in jail for 16 years for something he had not done - these people don't deserve to live on the same planet.

Prisoner Updates

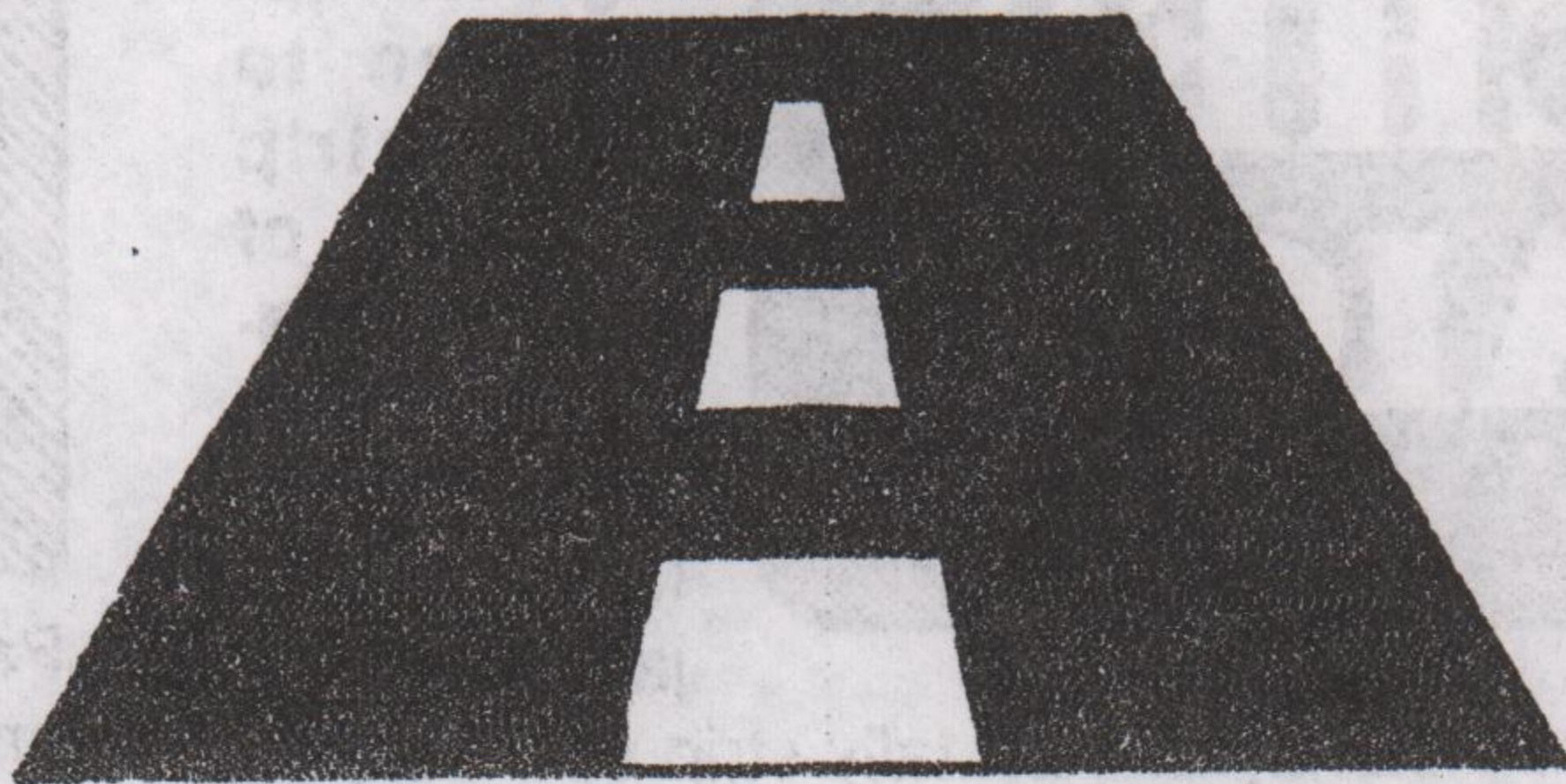
The M25 Three, Michael Davis, Randolph Johnson and Raphael Rowe, are still fighting their 1990 convictions for murder and robbery, stemming from a night of violent attacks by a group of men around the M25 In Surrey.

As regular readers of *Taking Liberties/ABC Bulletin* will know, the three, all black, were framed up by the police, in the face of evidence that it was 2 white men and one black man who carried out the attacks. There was no forensic evidence, several alibis for one of the attacks, and initial (white) suspects, who admitted taking part in some of the events, became prosecution witnesses with the protection of the police.

From the start, it was clear the cops wanted to fit these three

M25

CAMPAIGN



ON THE ROAD TO JUSTICE

into the frame and didn't care how it was done. Last year the three men's appeal was rejected in the High Court and then by the House of Lords. However, they and their families and supporters are refusing to give up: now more than ever they need support. This includes money to cover the cost of campaigning, organising meetings where

speakers from the Campaign can raise the case, distributing leaflets and petitions, letters of support to the three prisoners, and letters to the Home Secretary (at the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1) demanding the case be reopened.

Contact the M25 Three Campaign, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SJ. Tel 0721 582 9120 ext 244. Fax 071 735 1555.

Write to:

Raphael Rowe, MP3660, HM Prison Gartree, Market Harborough, Leics, LE17 7RP.

Michael Davis, MP3661, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd., London W12.

Randolph Johnson, MP3903, HM Prison Long Lartin, S. Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ.

25 YEARS TOO LONG

In August 1969 British troops were deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland. In the subsequent 25 years they have carried out a war of occupation against 'nationalist' communities in collusion with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, loyalist terror groups backed by loyalist politicians, successive governments, the courts and the whole weight of the political system. The broadcasting ban, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and other legal powers, as well as the active support of the media, allows the state to maintain its stranglehold on news and information and send British troops to break down doors, harass and arrest, torture and kill and be killed in our name.

The war in Ireland is a colonial war. The troops aren't there to

'keep the squabbling Irish apart' or to keep the peace, they are there to maintain British rule and support the sectarian Northern Irish 'state'. The war against the republican movement has also proved a training ground for techniques used in policing here - crowd control, surveillance, running agents, or for testing state powers of repression - eg, the 'right to silence' currently being abolished in the Criminal Justice Bill, was got rid of in Northern Ireland several years ago.

The war in Ireland won't end at least until British troops are withdrawn from Irish streets. 'Opinion polls' (for what they're worth) consistently show that a majority of people in Britain want the troops withdrawn.

To mark the twenty-fifth an-

niversary and to restate the case that there can be no peace in Ireland until Britain withdraws, a demonstration has been called for August 13th, organised by the 25th Anniversary Committee, a coalition including the Troops Out Movement and others. The 25th Anniversary Demonstration Committee wants to stage a massive display of defiance to continued British rule in Ireland. They are asking for support - for people to publicise the demo, mobilise as many people for it as possible on the day, and to support the Committee financially up front.

For £50 national organisations can sponsor the demonstration. It costs £20 for local organisations. If you want to sponsor it as an individual, it costs £10. Of course any contribution is welcome. An advertisement in a national newspaper is planned for August. If you or your organisation want to appear on it the rates are the same as those for sponsorship. Posters, leaflets, further details and speakers can be obtained from:

25th Anniversary Committee
BM TOM
London WC1N 3XX.

Kenny Carter, serving life for murder, is now in Whitemoor Prison. Kenny was fitted up for the death of his cellmate, Darren Brook, while he was on a short sentence for robbery in Durham Prison in 1990.

Brook hanged himself in their cell, and to evade their responsibility for suicides in jail, the prison

authorities and police charged Kenny with killing him. Kenny was convicted with the aid of lies from the third man in the cell and plenty of the usual fixing involving the judge, the media, etc.

Ever since, Kenny has been fighting his conviction and proclaiming his innocence, which has led him to be frequently moved from one high security prison to another, constantly harassed and beaten, always on the block. But he will not lie down and accept it. The latest news is that Kenny is likely to be charged with the stabbing of a screw in Whitemoor, after heavy provocation.

A leaflet on Kenny's case can be had for an SAE from *Taking Liberties* - or send us a donation and we'll send you a bundle to distribute.

The following article was sent to us by Kenny on the state of Whitemoor's Blue Spur mini-control unit (see *Taking Liberties no 11* for more info).

WELCOME TO MARION

I read the latest article in bulletin no 11 on the control unit here at HMP Whitemoor, yet must stress that it was not as up to date as it should have been. I was located onto Blue Spur on the 3rd March '94 and within minutes of arriving a friend of mine came up to me and said, "Welcome to Marion, Ken". I knew what he was saying to me. I lasted a total of eight hours before being located to the seg-

regation unit. To update you on events I will start by saying that prisoners on Blue Spur could work if they wanted to, go to the gymnasium and exercise with the rest of the prison (bar A & B wings), giving prisoners on Blue

replied, "When I'm ready and if I'm ready"; this led to me telling him what I thought of him and his attitude! I was also aware that we don't run the Spur, they do. The attitudes of all that I have seen are based on confronta-

KENNY CARTER

Spur that little bit of breathing space.

Yet for no justifiable reason all movement was stopped, no prisoners can go to work, a quarter of a multi-gym was squeezed into a TV room and no exercise with normal location prisoners allowed - everyone now being confined to the unit. There are three dry cells on Blue Spur, which is just another name for strip cells.

The Governor who denies that Blue Spur is a control unit, denies it because it is the truth, and no one likes to hear the truth (authority-wise). The heavy duty psychological control and deprivation techniques are very active. Prisoners have now been dragged from the Segregation unit, back to Blue Spur, the last being Georgie Poole on Thursday 21st April 94.

And what this is called is normal location! Whilst I myself was situated on Blue Spur, what caught my attention was the attitude of the warders on the unit. I said to one, can you go and sort my canteen out for me, he

tion, abusing, taunting, and castigating the individuals on the Spur. I suffered the Spur for 8 hours, that was enough!

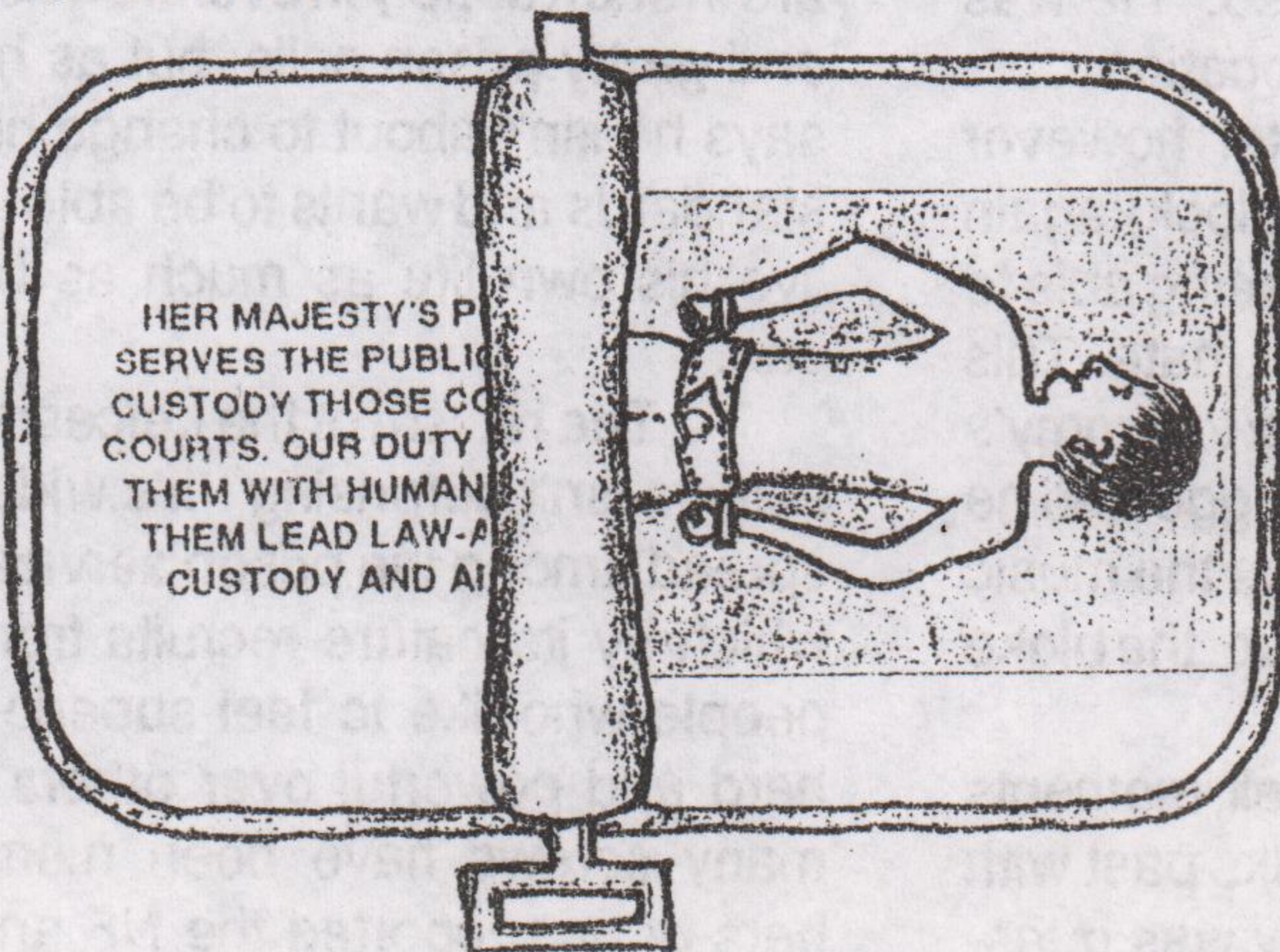
What prisoners must understand is this: **solidarity is the only weapon we have in combatting the injustices of the incarceration we are enduring.** One person can fight alone, but will win nothing in changes: we can fight together and win!

We must open our eyes...we are human beings, not animals, but that is how we are being treated. Resistance - 500 years of it! We can't stop now !!

In solidarity, in captivity,

Kenny Carter AD3434
HM Prison Whitemoor
Longhill Rd
March, Cambs PE15 0PR

* Marion - high security prison in Illinois, USA; the control unit there was a prototype of the movement towards social and behaviour control in prisons, which is now spreading across US prisons and with Whitemoor seems likely to develop here as well.



RACIST BASTARDS

Black prisoner Jimmy King, was recently released after over a year on remand. Jimmy contacted the ABC in March asking us to expose the treatment he received while in Leicester Prison. As soon as he was transferred to Leicester from Lincoln Jail, Jimmy started getting subjected to racist abuse from screws, as he says, "I have never come across so many racist prison officers in one establishment". After a number of verbal threats, from officers, the situation came to a head over a cell mate of Jimmy's, who Jimmy could not get on with due to the man's personal hygiene problems. When he asked to be moved, he was transferred down the block, where the first thing he heard was a screw saying "We've got the bastard."

INTIMIDATION

While on the block he was denied his property, when he complained about this, "4-5 officers entered my cell. I began to back away, saying hold on I only want my property. They formed a tight circle around me, and stated that I am on my own down here and I get whatever they want to give me, and if I want to do anything about it, do it now." As Jimmy says, these screws can intimidate a prisoner on his own, regardless of any rules. When Jimmy came in front of the governor he was fined for "refusing to stay in his cell when ordered to do so." He was put back on normal location.

Three days later however he was back on the block, again seemingly due to not being able to get on with a new cell mate. This bloke seemed to object to Jimmy's music; when Jimmy suggested he ask for a cell change as the music obviously wound him up, the bloke nodded.

Jimmy left the cell; moments later his cell mate walks past with slashed wrists. Jimmy was ques-

tioned by the screws as to why the man had cut his wrists; the implication seemed to be that Jimmy had said or done something to cause it. This he denied, as he hadn't been in anyway threatening to his cell mate. "With that they closed my door and left...about half an hour later, my door opens again and I thought all the screws in the jail was outside my cell. About 10 came in the cell, leaving about the same number of them outside! They ordered me to pack my kit as I was going to the block.

Anyway to cut a long story short, whilst I've been here the Governor has told me that I'm in the block because, although the bloke did not say he did it because of me, I had far too many cell mates in such a short space of time that he

thinks I am doing some strongarming. This isn't the case, I am being picked on because of my colour and my size and appearance."

FUCKING TYPICAL

Jimmy says that as a man who likes a bit of space and privacy, he has had run ins with cell mates. Clearly space and privacy are in short supply in overcrowded and grotty prison cells; but as he says he isn't about to change his standards and wants to be able to live his own life as much as he can.

The racism of the Leicester screws isn't surprising - it's widespread among the prison service, which by its nature recruits from people who like to feel superior, hard and powerful over others - many screws have been members of or supported the NF and

BNP over the years and have made black prisoners aware of it.

MARKED DOWN

There is another element to the harassment Jimmy received - "I think that they are stitching me up because of an incident that happened here a few years ago ('86-'87), when I was battered, nearly to death, for absolutely nothing, and was in the end charged with assaulting one of the screws! I say this,



because apart from them mentioning the incident to me, it is blatantly obvious to anyone that I am looked on and treated conspicuously differently to everyone else." Screws have long memories and an active grapevine - a prisoner who attacks one, or is accused of it, or defends themselves, or who 'makes trouble', or complains, is marked down - however many years later, or whatever prison they goes to, the word is almost always out against them among officers there.

Jimmy King's case is an example - there are 1000s more - of the daily harassment that prison is about: a harassment that is almost designed to isolate, frustrate and wear down anyone who sticks their neck out inside, or who doesn't fit themselves in to the power system.

Jimmy King is now out.

John Bowden, who escaped from prison custody in December '92 while serving a life sentence for murder, was arrested in Scotland on Thursday 23rd June and is now being held in segregation in Perth Prison. While inside, John was a constant

geted as a 'dangerous subversive' and came in for the usual treatment - regular moves from jail to jail, brutality and beatings from screws, such as the one he received in Winson Green in February '92 (for which he was awarded £3,000 damages - ironically withheld as

he was by then on the run.) After 12 years inside John knew he would never be released unless the authorities considered him broken: he

would carry on fighting till he was "subdued or murdered". As a result, he decided to escape as an act of rebellion. He stayed out of the hands of the law for over 18 months.

Now that John has been recaptured, it seems inevitable that he will be allowed now chance to escape again, and that he will get redoubled harassment from screws and prison authorities. John needs letters and cards of solidarity to show that he is not an isolated easy target, but a prisoner with contact outside who has friends who will not forget him. He has stood by other prisoners and fought for a better life - we must not abandon him.

Write to John Bowden 1273/94, HMP Perth
3 Edinburgh Road
Perth, Scotland.

EAST
HAM
TWO,
HOME
OFFICE
NIL

Sam Kulasingham and Prem Sivalingham, two Sri Lankan Tamil refugees framed for the death of three men in a firebomb attack on an East London house, were freed on 27th May, 5 years into their sentences. The court of appeal found that their convictions were neither 'safe' nor 'satisfactory'. The usual police catalogue of corruption emerged; withholding evidence from the defence, unreliable key prosecution witnesses, beating and intimidation of the two defendants, including threats of deportation.

The judge found that there had been "wholesale breaches" of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act. But these are obviously so routine that the police involved felt no need to even attempt an explanation. To top it all off, Mr Sivalingham was refused permission to leave the court because of questions over his immigration status. He was released after Jeremy Corbyn, who had been campaigning for the men, intervened.

JOHN BOWDEN RECAPTURED

organiser and campaigner for prisoners' rights. He was involved in several attempts by prisoners to improve their conditions collectively, including the March '92 work strike at Whitemoor Prison, as well as a series of debates on reform with prisoners and outside visitors in Long Lartin Prison between 1989 and 1991. He also wrote for the *ABC Bulletin*, *Taking Liberties* and the communist newspaper, *Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism* on prison struggles. As he said: "As a prison activist with revolutionary marxist views, I had long considered it my political duty to resist oppression in jail and assist other prisoners to fight for their human rights."

As happens to all prison activists, or anyone who questions, opposes or resists the system while inside, John was tar-

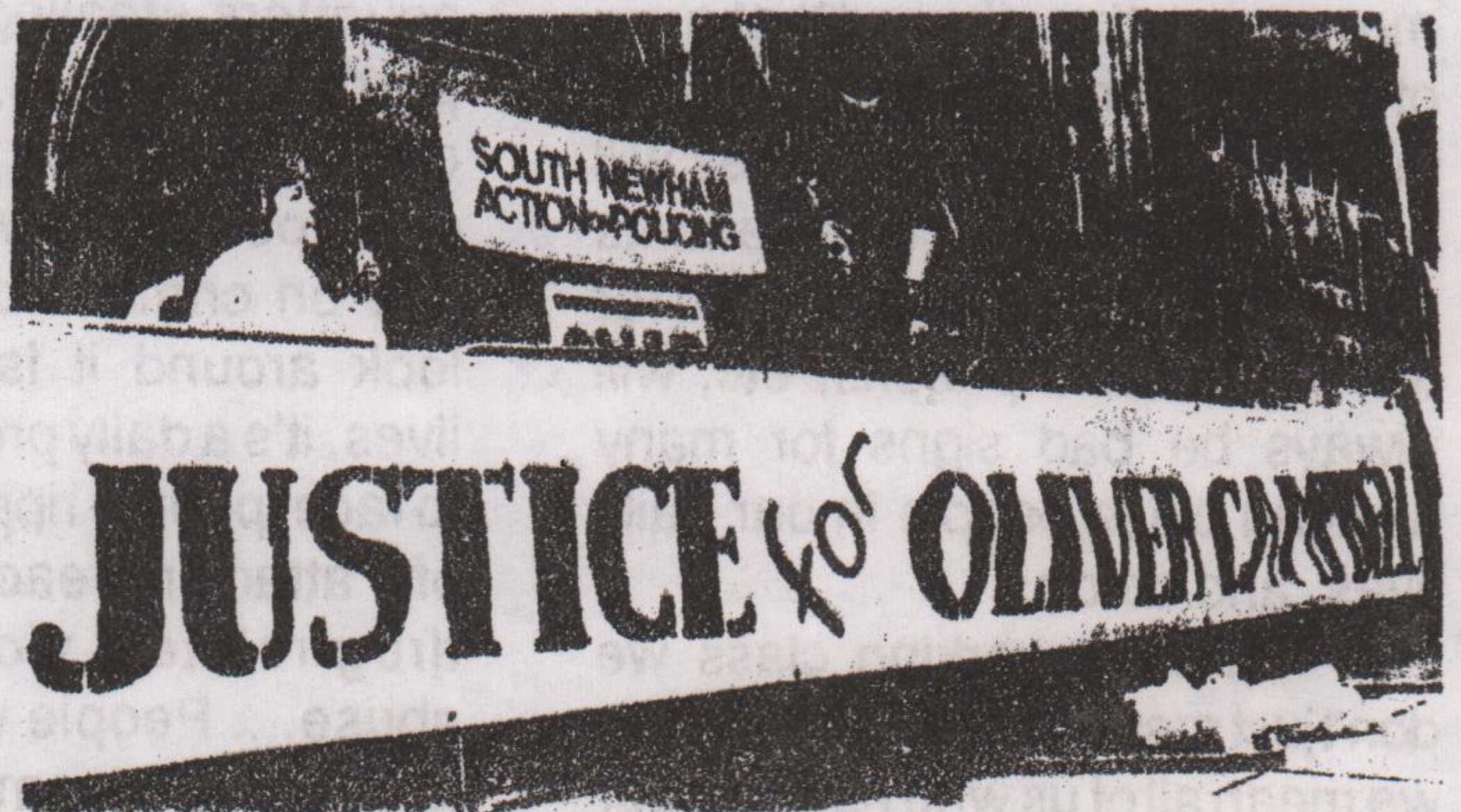
OLIVER CAMPPELL APPEAL

After a delay of over 18 months, the Court of Appeal has finally heard Oliver Campbell's appeal against his conviction. Oliver was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1991 for the shooting of a Hackney shopkeeper, a crime which he vehemently denies. His conviction was largely based on confessions which were made without the presence of a solicitor, and upon a British Knights baseball cap found at the scene of the murder, similar to one that Oliver owned, though there was no forensic evidence to prove that the hat was his.

At the appeal hearing a psychologist's report was presented which acknowledged Oliver's severe mental and learning disabilities. This clearly casts serious doubts on the reliability of his 'confessions', which were later withdrawn when he had proper legal representation.

As we go to press, judgement on Oliver's appeal is still to be heard.

Info: CARF No 21



Feature

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill currently being talked through the British Parliament represents one of the most serious increases in the legal powers of the state for a long time. In previous issues of *Taking Liberties/ABC Bulletin* we've covered some of the clauses in the Bill - abolition of the 'right to silence' in police stations, measures against squatters, ravers, 'new age travellers', and other partygoers, more prisons, tougher sentences, more power for the cops, heavier repression inside prisons, DNA fingerprinting for suspects, new 'terrorism' offences. Since originally drawn up the Bill has had amendments added that make it even more bad news - one example being the power to evict squatters using 'reasonable force'. The Bill in general means only one thing - the criminalisation of more of our lives, the provisions to arrest, convict and jail us easier, and the institutions to stick us in. What about opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill though? How effective are the organised campaigns against the bill? Is there any chance of stopping it becoming law?

KILL

Much of the work being done against the Bill has come from the 'marginalised communities' attacked specifically in certain clauses - travellers, festival-goers and ravers, squatters; the Advance Party (rave organisers), SQUASH (squatters groups), and the Freedom Network (dominated by Green Party types). Also there have been some noises from 'civil rights' organisations like Liberty and Charter 88. In their own way some of the actions against the bill have been very successful - a massive demo of some 20,000 in central London on May 1st has been the biggest.

AT THE EDGE

But the stark reality is that the Anti-Criminal Justice Bill campaign has failed to make an impact on a lot of people. Partly this is due to the effective news blackout, standard media practice on such campaigns until there's some violence, when they start screaming. The same was true of the anti-poll tax movement, though, and that grew of its own momentum. Despite the fact that anti-squatting clauses will no doubt be used to evict tenants as well; that increased powers for the cops, more prisons, etc, will always be bad signs for many working class people in our daily lives, and so on.

And by working class we don't just mean flat cap stereotypes, we mean all of us who have little or no say in the way our profit-geared

society is run - dole 'scroungers', single mothers, pensioners, travellers, as well as those of us with jobs. All of us whose only stake in this society is to work or survive as

THE

best we can, while the rich enjoy the wealth.

Partly tactically though, the opposition propaganda has been limited to 'marginalised communities'. Also, to some ex-

BILL

tent, the state has managed to effectively criminalise many of us already. All the media propaganda about youth crime, the crime wave, Britain under siege, squatters stealing homes, people dying at raves, etc, has fallen on fertile ground. Many working class people DO want 'a tougher line on crime' - because if you look around it is blighting our lives, it's a daily problem we have to face: people ripping each other off, attacking each other, rape, drug-related violence, racist abuse.... People want someone to blame for the misery of a lot of their lives, and the voice of the

state and the middle class saying "Blame the criminal underclass, the weirdos, the immigrants, single parents, young people," are louder and have more resources than us pointing out the criminals in charge of this society, controlling our lives. Even knowing that the system is to blame, we still have to get on with our lives, threatened by burglaries, rape, abusive neighbours or whatever. The so-called protection the state offers us - calling the cops, going to court, etc - pit us against each other and isolate us even more.

The Criminal Justice Bill has been securely grounded on years of propaganda, on the fear that 'law-abiding people are under siege'. The press and the government have joyfully widened the gap that exists between

the hardworking classes and 'drop-out'/'criminal' cultures, exploiting a certain contempt for each other's lifestyles that was there already. On top of this the liberal 'rights lobby' - greens, Liberty, etc, are quite rightly regarded as out of touch with the reality of daily life in many areas. Frightening but true, there is a feeling of being willing to give up 'freedoms' for an improvement in the state of life around them and less chance of being robbed. That people saying this don't see the robbery of our whole lives under capitalism says a lot about the lack of a serious and effec-

tive revolutionary movement in this country.

THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE...

In our hearts a lot of working class people know that all the 'rights' we have are fragile illusions - here today, gone tomorrow. We have no rights that we haven't forced out of the ruling class over the last 600 years under threat of violence, but which can't be taken away by them when we fail to resist. The threat of our rising to destroy them has led the bosses to create a system that is powerful and effective at keeping us down or well off, happy or frustrated, but above all **divided**.

Our rulers are still in control at the end of the day, no matter what rights we have. Justice, for which we often fight, when we struggle against this misery or that oppression, has always been the property of the rich. From summary execution in feudal days, to courts martial and church courts, to the modern jury system, we have never had much power over it. OK, we have juries, but they are restricted, controlled, middle class, no crims allowed. Yeah, sometimes we get off, but the system remains, still in control, out of our hands. And it's always been for us, not them - our robberies and murders are crimes punishable by death or jail - theirs are legal, honourable; war and business, pillars of society. At its heart their justice is simply their power to exploit us.

Coming back to the Criminal Justice Bill - how are we going to stop it? Demanding justice is only a stopgap. We should never stop fighting for better daily existence in the present, we have to, to survive. But in my mind, the Greens, Liberty, etc, are a part of the established order - liberal and radical, but fighting for a more equal exploitation. I'm sick of being exploited, pushed around, arrested; I want an end to it, whether it's by fascist cops or nice democratic cops.

A sign of the marginalising of the opposition to the Bill has

been the almost total lack of questioning the increases in prisons, the DNA testing, the new 'terrorist' offences, or any attempt to broaden out beyond the narrow confines of the 'alternative' scene or the parliamentary scene.

....JUST US

Opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill needs to break out of the margins. In times past, campaigns against new repressive laws have foundered when the Bill became

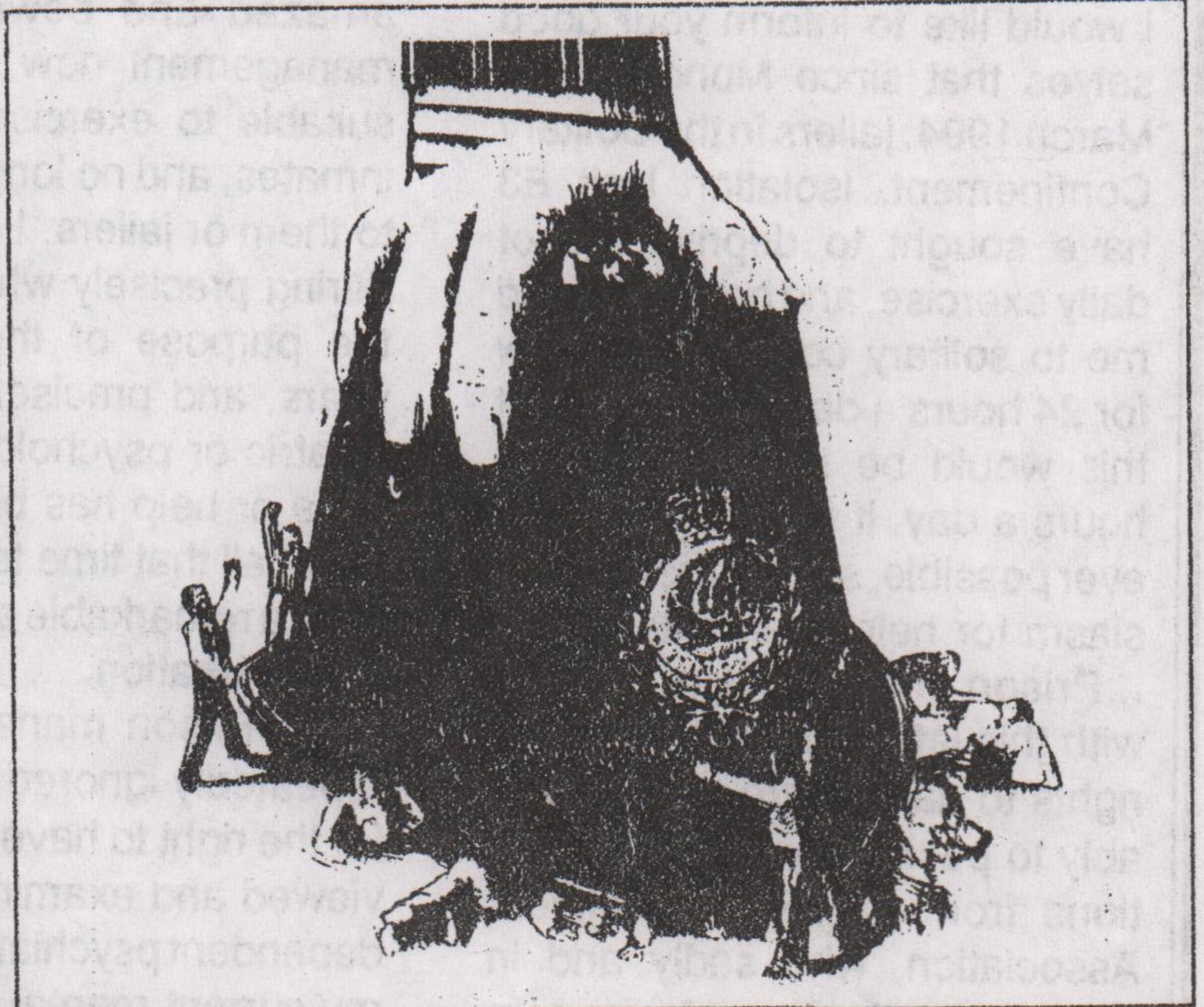
law. Partly some liberals said, we can't break the law now it's in; partly people had little or no strategy for ongoing resistance. With the incoming bill, it is vital to oppose it before it comes in, but the real fight begins

when we start to face it day to day, like we already face all the other repressive laws brought in against us. This doesn't just mean demos at copshops, deliberate trespasses, and voluntarily getting arrested, as the Freedom Network is proposing.

It means ongoing resistance and organisation. It means getting across the fact that crime and justice are defined by the powerful, that the whole capitalist system is criminal. We need to create our own ideas and practical methods for not only dealing with anti-social and terrorising acts within our class and communities, but identifying the real criminals at the top.

It also means promoting understanding of different ways of living, cultural differences, bridging the gap between isolated groups, between law-abiding and law-breaking. Not tolerance but living together, genuine unity of

differing viewpoints. It means finding and spreading ways of taking the resources and spaces we need, including using what they call crime - better ways of getting away with dole fraud, insurance scams, ways to fiddle gas and electric, shoplifting, free travel, defending social spaces - seizing back part of what should belong to us anyway. Crime can be a weapon in our hands in the daily fight for existence - carried out collectively it can be a beginning towards a movement for class control. We



need to spread information to allow people to stay out of the hands of the cops, so we don't get caught or sent down; plus community defence, helping people nicked in resistance and survival, getting them off, supporting them inside.

We need to create ways of supporting people bringing up kids, communal methods of helping people in dire need and under emotional stress - people we now abandon to the state. Supporting people as a community has to help towards turning any violence and hate away from us, against the rich and their lackeys..... Ultimately, it means taking over our areas and kicking out the cops, and banding areas together to take over the whole world - creating the seeds of revolution. It's a long shot, but **it might just work!** It can and will be hard work, but it has its roots in the best elements

cont'd...Back page

Feature

Robert Mawdsley is currently imprisoned in a strongbox cell in Parkhurst Prison. Below we have reprinted extracts from a couple of letters recently received from him, together with his statement on the death of Lawrence Clifton, who committed suicide in his old cell in August 1993.

Statement of Robert J Mawdsley, 467637 Inmate HMP Parkhurst to Solicitor John Ford.

I believe that Mr Lawrence Clifton arrived at Parkhurst Prison very early in July 1993, being trans-

ferred directly from HMP Camp Hill where it was thought that he was suffering from depression and thus might be at risk from committing suicide, this being the apparent reason I am lead to believe he was immediately located in the

Hospital Wing upon arrival.

Unfortunately, and for no apparent reason, Lawrence Clifton was immediately placed in Strip Cell no 16 where he was not allowed any personal items whatsoever, nor was he allowed to take part in any form of association with other inmates nor to exercise with them during, I believe, a period of at least several days he was kept in there. I am aware of this for I myself was located in cell number 19 on F2 landing, which obviously is only a couple of cells distance away. Therefore I am able to hear and observe when I go on exercise, any new arrivals and their names from their cell cards, and I make a habit of taking note, especially of those names (inmates) who end up in the strip cells and also in the Strongrooms (boxes).

I am aware of how prisoners are treated in these cells, and the lack of care they receive whilst in them, the jailers having the attitude that any prisoner in there must be for punishment or for upsetting jailers. Therefore, 'whilst they are in there, let it teach them a lesson and whilst they are in there let us not do anything to help them, for that will not help us achieve our purpose'.

After several days in Strip Cell no 16, Lawrence Clifton was moved by the Hospital MUFTI/C&R Squad to Strongbox number 21. I found this move particularly puzzling since I was not aware of Lawrence having committed any form of commotion to justify his removal there, and certainly being two cells away I personally did not hear Lawrence being disruptive....so the reason also for Mr Clifton being moved to the Box number 21 still mystifies me to this day.

Jailers at the time were in the habit of changing into their protective uniforms and equipment outside the office area of F2 Landing, and from my cell that particular area is only two cells

"Dear London ABC,

I would like to inform your good selves that since Monday 14th March 1994, jailers in the Solitary Confinement, Isolation Unit E3 have sought to deprive me of daily exercise, and have confined me to solitary confinement now for 24 hours a day. I suspect that this would be increased to 25 hours a day, if such a thing was ever possible, such is their enthusiasm for helping inmates here. ...Prison management concur with this latest imposition on my rights to daily exercise, presumably to pacify any adverse reactions from the Prison Officers Association, who sadly and in detriment to the lives of prisoners in such wings, manage and run our prisons, incorporating their own brutal and abusive regimes at their own whim, and contrary to any claims by management that they themselves are in charge.

My argument to management in this latest abuse of my rights as a prisoner, is based on a simple and uncomplicated premise: namely that since 12th March 1991, they have at the whim of hospital jailers accepted any accusations or allegations that I am too dangerous to "associate or exercise" with any other prisoners and that has continually been the excuse by jailers and management throughout the last three years to justify each day, each week, each month, and each year of my daily isolation in solitary confinement.

Given that since the 12th March 1991, no form of psychiatric assessment or review has ever

been conducted to assess my potential 'dangerousness', I am amazed and bewildered that management now argue I am suitable to exercise with other inmates, and no longer a danger to them or jailers. I am left wondering precisely what has been the purpose of the last three years, and precisely what psychiatric or psychological assistance or help has been given to me in all that time to bring about such a remarkable and improved transformation. ...

Prison management has repeatedly ignored my requests for the right to have myself interviewed and examined by an independent psychiatrist to assess my current mental and physical state, and to assess the harmful effects of such prolonged isolation over three years. Since July 1993 I have even been kept on an empty landing by myself, the door to which is kept locked throughout the daytime and where the sense of sensory deprivation is profound and acute. ...Jailers or management...would prefer such matters to remain within the walls of their establishments, and thus not available to organisations such as your own, or our families, for fear you may make other people aware of what precisely is happening on a daily basis behind our walls of secrecy and abuse; in wings or units described by jailers or management as 'Health Care Centres', but which in reality are little different from human zoos...

Yours in comradely spirit,
Robert J Mawdsley

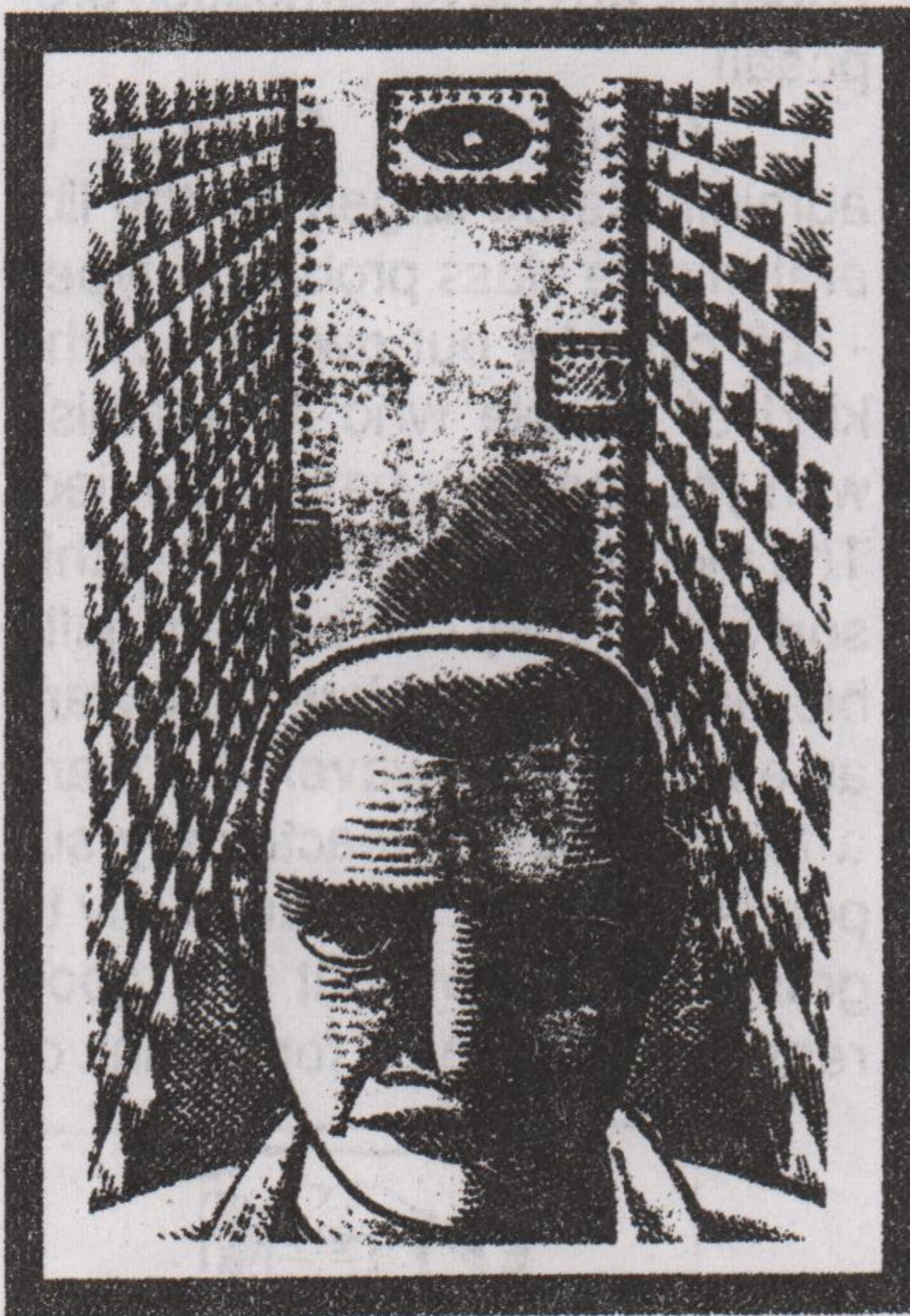
Inside the Strongbox

away, therefore when I hear them changing into MUFTI/C&R uniforms I pay particular attention. On the day Lawrence was removed to Strongbox 21 I was not immediately aware it was him being moved, although I knew it to be close enough for it to be a prisoner relatively close to my own cell. However it was when I took exercise the next morning on the Solitary Confinement Yard that I was able to observe Mr Clifton's cell-card on the Gate leading to the Strongboxes that I knew it to be him and thus took note. From personal experiences I know the effects these cells have on prisoners and the damaging and harmful psychological effects undergo whilst in there. Thus I share with them some of the torture and pain they suffer in these cells, and the psychological effects become even more profound when an inmate is placed in them for no apparent or obvious reason, the same almost when an innocent man is jailed for something he did not do and knows nothing about...

Lawrence would have felt such despair and isolation for I have felt them myself in these very same Strongboxes, and yet I consider myself fairly strong in controlling my emotions, for I have had some considerable experience, and take a daily interest in psychology and human behaviour, yet even I am unable to prevent experiencing such feelings in these cell, having been put through a similar experience as Lawrence, where I myself was removed by the Hospital MUFTI/C&R Squad in March 1991 from a normal cell to the Strong-Box and even to date I have still been given no reason or excuse why this took place. But nonetheless I was kept there for some two months and unfortunately given the lack of protection for inmates in the Hospital Wing from members of the prison Board of Visitors who are

supposed to protect and look after the welfare of people like Lawrence or myself. They often fail dismally even to inquire why prisoners are placed in these cells, and often fail even to visit them weekly, let alone daily.

Mr Clifton was in Strongbox 21 for between four to possibly six days, certainly several days that I can remember, and it was not until Wednesday 7th July that he was moved to my old cell, number 19, only after I was moved out to my current cell. I should of course state that while in cell 21, Lawrence would not have been allowed any personal items of any kind whatsoever, nor would he have been per-



mitted to receive any letters or visits for the duration of his stay there, from friends or family. Cell 21 does not have any furniture whatsoever, and only a mattress without a cover is available for resting on.

On Wednesday 7th July I was taken for a shower at the usual time of approximately 2 o' clock, (which is in an area directly opposite the gate to cell 21), and I recall seeing Mr Clifton's cell-card with his details still on the gate when I left the shower and when I

passed the gate to my present cell at approximately 3.15 pm on that day, therefore Lawrence will have been moved sometime after that, to my old cell number 19 where he finally committed suicide. The TV set was removed while I was taking a shower and upon return to cell 19 awaiting my move to my present cell, the mains wire had been pulled through the hole in the wall and tied outside to the switch. However, the TV aerial lead, possibly some three feet or more was left dangling through the hole almost touching the floor in the cell itself, and I understand the cleaner mentioned that it should be removed before Mr Clifton was placed in there. There was no piping in the cell to protect this aerial. I state that Lawrence was found hanging from the window, but it is equally possible he may have tied the aerial around his neck (given that we are talking of suicide), merely sitting on the floor and then slumping back. I can say that the bed was bolted to the floor in cell 19, thus ruling out that possibility. There is a pipe some 4 inches in diameter running along the back wall of all the cells on F2 immediately under the window, and some 12 to 14 inches off the floor, thus the design of the windows and this pipe is courting disasters of this nature, and I expect similar occurrences in the future.

The opportunity arose for them to be altered in the recent refurbishment of 1992 in the Hospital Wing, but these windows were not altered. Yet on the newly opened A Wing in July 1993 new windows were put in all cells on the grounds of 'suicide prevention' - but for inmates of the Hospital Wing at most risk of suicide they keep the old ones? Mr Clifton's cell-card was marked 'SW' which means here 'Special Watch', ie, an inmate at risk of suicide, but if this is the case

cont/d...Back page

SERVING THE COMMUNITY?

A Seriously Biased Look at a so-called alternative to imprisonment in the UK.

This article is written from experience by someone who has had the joy of doing two stretches of community service, one four years ago and one this year. However, it is not just a personal rant (froth), but an attempt to look at what community service is, whose interests it really 'serves', and what kind of an alternative it really is.

WHAT THEY SAY

Community service in this country, we are told, serves several useful purposes:

- 1) It keeps prison numbers down, while making sure that 'serious but mostly non-violent offenders' are severely punished but not sent down;
- 2) It gives criminals a chance to develop a sense of doing something useful and learn a sense of responsibility;
- 3) The community gains by having these people work on projects that benefit law-abiding citizens, thus paying off their debt to society.

COBBLERS

In fact, the above is mostly a load of cobblers. The reality of community service is nothing so worthy. What it amounts to is slave labour - nicely disguised with a thin layer of liberal gloss, but still slavery. Sure, you are given a choice to go on it - when the alternative is a hefty fine or a few weeks/months in Pentonville, most people would choose it! Yeah, some of it is weeding some kind old woman's front garden...

More and more of it these days though is doing jobs that the local council would have paid someone to do ten years ago - we've been doing such jobs as keeping kids' playgrounds in order, rebuilding walls for a church

group: the latest has been cleaning up the old lido (open air swimming pool), closed 4 years ago, mysteriously leased by the council to two ex-employees to be reopened soon...OK so they claim it'll be cheap entry but still, it's a private business and someone is going to make a few bob....

With the recession tightening its noose around the neck of local councils it's been a nice easy option to get rid of a few staff and get the crims working for free. I wouldn't underestimate the potential for expansion here, either: there have been recent calls for forced CS for the young to "teach them a sense of responsibility", not just from the tory rightwing either - the Labour Party have some such proposal!

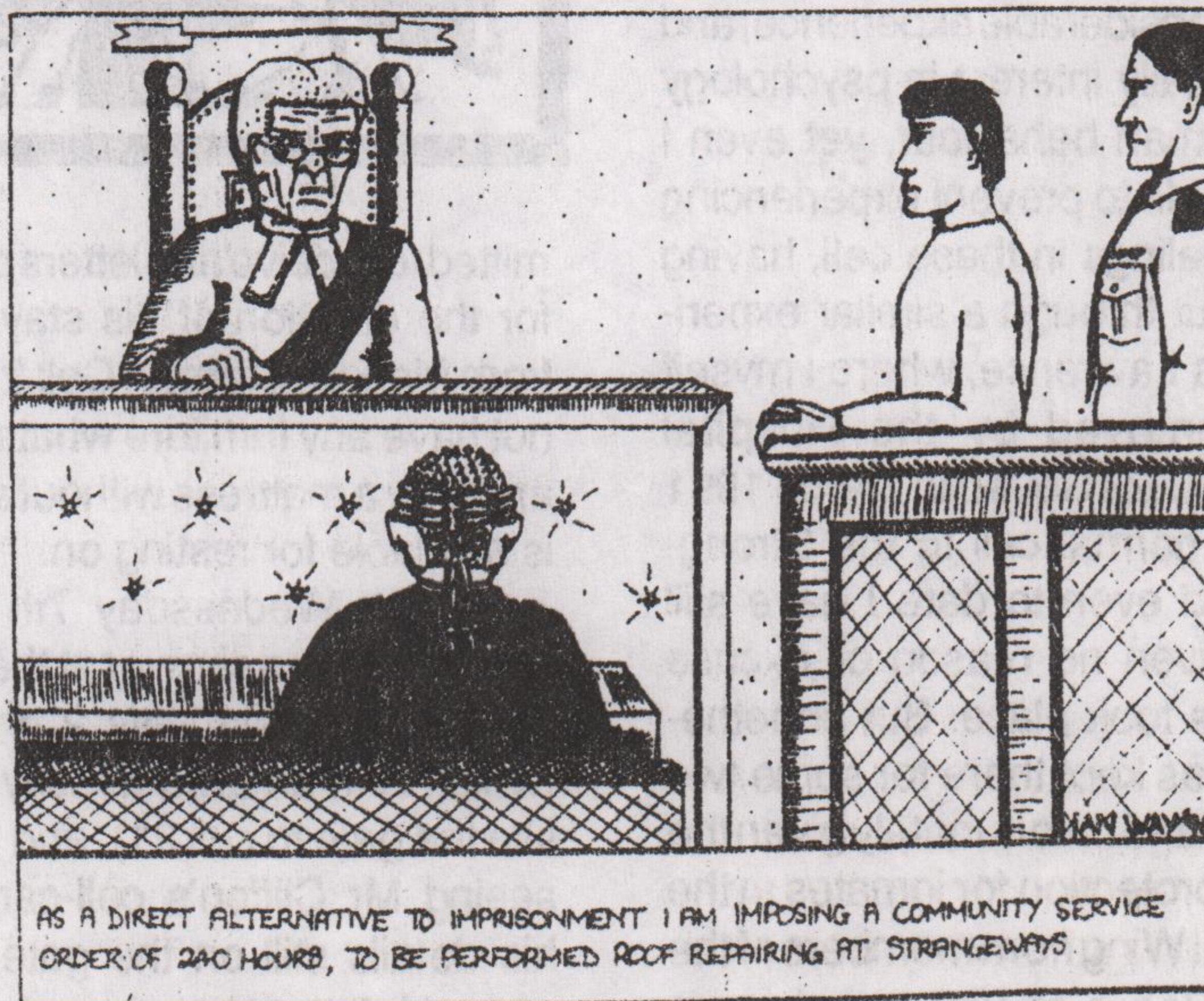
Community Service is administered largely by the liberal middle class probation-types - soft cops for our own good, the kind of people who sympathise with you but their hands are tied. The most positive thing about this sort is that they can be very gullible, easy to manipulate if you want an easy time. However, there are a fair number of reactionary supervisors about, who are likely to grass you up without any good reason if you nip off for a drink or

a spliff (both punishable by suspension, horror!) and forget to come back for 3 hours. If you are prepared to be a little bit canny you can get round them.

Since I first did a stint of CS, they have got very uptight about you getting in on time in the morning - nowadays if you are more than 15 minutes late they send you home, and if you take a week off without good reason you get an Official Warning. I think it's three of these and you can get sent back to court - not healthy. Since a lot of CS is done on a Saturday or Sunday, being so hot on getting in by 9.15 means some people are less likely to go out and get pissed up on a Friday or Saturday night - keeps us off the streets, one less for the cops to deal with, I suppose their reasoning is.

HOW THE OTHER HALF SEE IT

Most of the people I've met on CS have been there for petty theft, possession of hash or other drugs, driving offences, small time fraud, etc. There is a natural resentment at being there at all, especially on hot summer Saturdays. Supervisors on a few grand a year who spend much of their time driving



AS A DIRECT ALTERNATIVE TO IMPRISONMENT I AM IMPOSING A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER OF 240 HOURS, TO BE PERFORMED ROOF REPAIRING AT STRANGWAYS.

For reasons best known to its editors, *The Guardian* chose to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Strangeways uprising with an large article entitled "Secret 'Army' plans mayhem in prisons", 'revealing' a Prison Service 'internal briefing paper' describing 'clandestine movements of high-risk prisoners whose aim is disruption.' The name of the major 'clandestine movement' may sound familiar - the Prisoners Liberation Army or PLA.

It is typical that *The Guardian* should run an entire article based on this 'briefing paper' without seriously cross-checking any of its facts. Had allegations been made by prisoners against their keepers, there is no question that they (the screws, governors, etc) would have been invited to reply. But there was not one comment by any prisoner or ex-prisoner, alleged PLA member or otherwise.

The Prison Service claims to have proof that the PLA was deeply involved in the Strangeways riot. It is strange that it failed to mention this to the Woolf inquiry into the 1990 uprisings, to which it gave extensive and detailed evidence.

According to *The Guardian*, the PLA consists of 'category A prisoners' - those who have committed serious offences and are serving the longest sentences. If this is true, it cannot have been 'deeply involved' at Strangeways where the overwhelming

majority were category B and C prisoners serving short sentences. As for the sensational revelation that 'detailed security files are maintained' on the 100 alleged category A PLA members, this is

CONS' LIB!

scaremongering at its most pathetic, as detailed security files are maintained on all category A prisoners.

The Prison Service is not, however, motivated by a desire to tell the truth but to build up a picture of a turbulent prison population containing armed,

organised factions planning escape and insurrection. So when prisoners rise up against the implementation of Michael Howard's 'austerity' measures and their protests are put down with maximum force, public support will have been bought in advance. It is a sad reflection on British journalism that *The Guardian* consents to be manipulated in the implementation of this strategy in a way usually reserved for the tabloids.

Nicki Jameson.



round checking us off on endless registers come in for a bit of stick, not surprisingly. Some of us on longer hours have been known to express the sentiment that a short stretch inside is less aggro - having so far dodged prison I wouldn't know, but this may be bravado, as many of those saying this have done CS before.

On the whole it's a mixed bag; most of the people I've met would draw the line at robbing in their own area - one burglar pointed out some of the wealthy houses he used to target as we were driving through Dulwich. There are a lot of oddball reactionary ideas about as well: differences in what is seen as acceptable and not. Discussions do go on sometimes about the whole idea of CS: some of the crims there see it as something which they wouldn't mind doing if it did genuinely help people in need of a hand, but resent being used as cheap labour for Lambeth Council. On the whole the people doing CS with me

have been OK, we've had a good laugh a lot of the time.

WHAT ALTERNATIVE?

Really community service does serve a useful purpose - it keeps a section of the middle class in jobs, telling us what to do, it provides free labour and it is a useful method of controlling our movements and pushing us about without the vast expense of keeping us locked up. This sort of project I think is set to expand....not as a real alternative to prison, but in line with it, and in tandem with imposing curfews on some people and the electronic tagging schemes now being tested. The possibility of getting away with an easy ride on CS is offset by the threat of force and prison that lies behind it - the basic threat behind all the 'democratic' institutions in our liberal society.

The propaganda of CS serving a useful role is the same self-justifying line of liberal prison-

reformers - that these repressive forces can be used to rehabilitate people who have fallen by the wayside, that individuals are responsible for turning to crime. Since it is the whole of capitalist society that is the real crime, and the many ways we turn to to survive often offend against capitalist laws, because they make the laws for us, this view is basically bollocks. The 'community' that we are serving is the rightwing mythical 'community' of responsible citizens, playing their part in keeping each other down, spying on each other, individuals, ruled and divided. Schools, work, TV, prisons and many other institutions create this 'community'. If we want a real alternative to prisons, the whole lot needs to go.

We need to create a new community, based on ourselves, working for ourselves and not for profit or any bosses. This sort of community will have no servants - or masters.

Feature

Ever since the Guildford 4 walked free from the Court of Appeal in 1989, to be followed in the years since by the Birmingham 6, Judith Ward, some of the many victims of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, the Taylor sisters and numerous other victims of judicial impropriety, the phrase 'miscarriage of justice' has been on everyone's lips.

tests proved negative concerning the robbery.

During the interrogation of one of my co-defendants that was also tape-recorded by the police, the police openly bragged: "They'll make an example of him, like the Great Train Robbers because of the value, they'll make an example of this because it's the first time it's happened in Britain! That helicopter's been done like this and the prison authorities, which is the Home

was actually caught in a truthful moment and the Home Office really does have the judges under manners, as despite solicitors, barristers etc, telling me not to worry, as "They can't do this", they went ahead and did what they pleased. The judges, the so-called guardians of justice and our society, dismissed defence appeals of abuse of process, that the trial should be heard in London, and more general appeals for justice out of hand. On one occasion during a defence application that the Archway prosecution was an abuse of process, Lord Justice Watkins went so far as to ask in a rather acidic tone if my counsel realised that I was a double star category prisoner, the inference being that a person in my position or security category, (which is decided by the Home Office), could not therefore expect any justice from the courts.

BIASED JUDGE

It was somewhat prophetic of Richard Ingrams to write in his regular column in the Observer during March 1990, when commenting on the six policemen who had then recently had charges against them, which arose out of the anti-Murdoch demonstrations at Wapping, dismissed as an abuse of process by a Bow Street magistrate, owing to a delay in bringing the prosecution: -

"If the accused had been six gentlemen from the East End accused of bank robbery, it is perhaps unlikely that the Bow Street beak would have reacted as he did. So it is not fanciful to suggest that the fact that the accused were policemen carried some weight."

Then to top it all Judge Smedley, on the 14 February 1992, decided to penalise the defence for delays in this case which were without exception wholly attributable to the prosecution, by ordering that the trial start in three weeks time despite defence counsel not being available at such short notice and my alibi witness being in Australia for a period of 6-12 weeks. Judge Smedley ordered that I get someone else to read through the case papers and represent me instead of the counsel who had worked on this case for so long and as such knew the case inside out.

ONE LAW FOR SOME

by Andy Russell

It has finally been accepted that innocent people do end up in jail, and that the police are not as clean as they, or others, would have us believe. Those fortunate enough to have their plight highlighted by the media, and who because of the then subsequent outcry have been grudgingly freed by the Court of Appeal, are only the tip of the iceberg. An innocent person does not only face the problem of corrupt police officers, as all sections of the state apparatus are involved in the judicial process; this includes the judges and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). My own case is, I imagine, but one of many, but because of the brazenness employed by the forces of the state in colluding to deny me access to justice, my case, perhaps more than most, can describe the extent of the state powers when for whatever reason they decide to block the individual's route to justice.

SCAPEGOAT

On 31 January 1988 I was arrested for allegedly perpetrating the escape by helicopter of two prisoners from Gartree Prison. I was also questioned, voluntarily stood on an identification parade and gave forensic samples in relation to the robbery of a security van in the Archway area of North London. All identification and forensic

Office, the ones who rule the judges will make an example and Andy doesn't need a trial... if he goes for trial it's a foregone conclusion, and whether he pleads guilty or not he doesn't need a trial."

Events in both the Gartree and Archway cases have since proved this to be no idle boast by the police.

INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

On 5 December 1988, the CPS wrote to my solicitors saying there was insufficient evidence against me to justify prosecution on the Archway robbery, but my co-defendant would be charged. On 25 July 1989, the CPS wrote to say that I would now be charged with the Archway robbery. There was no further evidence. They had simply changed their minds. The CPS then bypassed committal proceedings by obtaining a voluntary bill without informing the defence. Furthermore they had the Archway trial moved from London to Leicester where the Gartree trial had been heard, and where Justice Leonard, the Gartree trial judge, had agreed that because of the intense local publicity surrounding the Gartree trial, that venue was no longer able to afford me a fair trial on other matters.

The scene was set for a further 'miscarriage of justice' and maybe the boastful police officer

A rather different scene to that leading up to the trial of three Surrey police officers who were accused of fabricating evidence that lead to the wrongful imprisonment of the Guildford 4. Heather Mills reported in the Independent during September 1992 of how that trial had been deferred for an entire year alone, on the basis of unavailability of counsel.

Judge Smedley then ordered that the statement of my alibi witness, Stephen Brown, who would obviously not be able to attend the trial, be read. He even had the affront to say this would be better for me as my alibi witness could not be cross-examined. It was in fact better for the prosecution, as the statement being read, which was after all only a brief outline of the evidence Stephen Brown proposed to give, meant that he could not clarify anything from the statement. During the summing up of Judge Smedley, the jury was told that the defence case was that if Stephen Brown was to be believed then I must be acquitted, but then went on to destroy the version of events described by my witness by stating that his statement could not be right, and illustrated this by saying that on one of the days I was supposed to be with Stephen Brown I was in fact with a person by the name of Richard Smith. Judge Smedley made this statement knowing that Stephen Brown and Richard Smith are in fact the same person. He was also fully aware that the jury did not know this fact.

It is obviously not surprising that I was unjustly convicted and sentenced to a total of 20 years.

REEK OF INJUSTICE

Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, during May 1992, stated that she would not be prosecuting officers of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, as there was insufficient evidence to justify prosecution. I wrote and asked her if it would be possible to alter this decision. The reply stated: "The Crown are bound by such decisions unless further evidence

emerges."

Well the prosecution was reinstated against me without further evidence, despite Barbara Mills stating in letters to the Independent and the Guardian, when defending her decision not to prosecute the WMSCS:

"Our criteria are, and must be the same whether the allegation is against a police officer or member of the public."

Are you beginning to see a pattern? Doesn't this reek of injustice? Furthermore, the old adage of 'one law for them, and one law for us' not surprisingly springs to mind.

WHAT PRICE JUSTICE?



Despite a vigorous campaign by many lawyers, including the Bar Council to have this decision reversed and the prosecution of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad reinstated, the CPS stuck to their guns. They refused to reinstate proceedings claiming that unless further evidence came to light, then they were bound by their original decision. They stuck to this line despite Geoffrey Dear, the former West Midlands Chief Constable, who disbanded the Squad, claiming on the Midlands Report broadcast by BBC2 on 20 November that the Squad should indeed have been prosecuted. Ah well, one law for some! Geoffrey Dear is now an Inspector of Constabulary, and previous to his post as Chief Constable of the West Midlands, had

worked investigating corruption in the Metropolitan Police.

Liberty, formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties, have recently added my case to their file of cases that, in their opinion, warrant further investigation. Justice, the UK organisation that deals with miscarriages of justice is currently conducting an investigation into my case. The senior lawyer for Advice on Individuals' Rights in Europe (AIRE) has agreed to help me fight my case before the European Court if I am unsuccessful before the Appeal Court here in Britain. This is, despite the anomalies in my case, a distinct possibility. The first stage of the appeal process has already seen the single judge refuse me leave to appeal.

This was despite one of my actual grounds of appeal being that the trial judge had erred in law and therefore, I should have had a right of appeal where that particular ground was concerned. AIRE, after considering my case, believe that my trial for the Archway robbery breached Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights several times.

Friends have raised the money to pay for a renewed application for leave to appeal. This application will take place some time this year. I am told to expect an actual date for the hearing of my renewed leave to application for leave to appeal to be fixed soon. However, bearing in mind the attitudes of the Judiciary towards me ever since Gartree, I cannot possibly be optimistic, despite lawyers telling me it was shameful that I was ever convicted on the Archway. I have been kicked in the teeth so many times that I cannot help but regard the forthcoming application as nothing more than the next step towards being able to fight my case before the European Court. After all, what price is justice in a country where, "one law for them and another one for us" prevails?

Andy Russell
JA0233,
Full Sutton Prison (SSB)
Moor Lane, York YO4 1PS.
(Formerly of Bow, East London.)

Flash the Fash

A neo-nazi skinhead attacks an anti-racist demonstration, waves brass knuckles in people's faces and picks a fight. He gets hit with a flashlight. Does he get charged by the police? No. Instead the anti-racist who hit him defensively now faces a possible ten years inside and a massive fine.

Yes, it's not just in the UK that racist attackers get off or never get charged. In Minneapolis, USA, Kieran Knutson, a 22 year old activist, has been charged with two counts of assault, stemming from an anti-racist rally at the University of Minnesota in October 1993, as a counter demo to an announced nazi demo. Daniel Simmer and another racist skin attacked the 100-strong demo, resulting in the scuffle for which

Kieran now faces a minimum 3 years in prison if convicted. The skins have not been charged - surprise surprise, their statements form the basis of the case against Kieran.

Minneapolis, like many cities across the USA and Europe, has seen a rise in racist attacks and in organising by racist groups, preaching the usual white supremacist, anti-black, anti-semitic, anti-gay rightwing bollocks. Organisations like the Ku Klux Klan and Northern Hammer Skinheads are gaining a foothold in disillusioned white working class youth. In Minneapolis they aren't going unopposed though; many anti-racist groups have been getting together to fight them. Kiernan Knutson has been involved in the anti-racist/anti-fas-

cist movement there as well as in many other struggles.

The Anti-Fascist Defence Committee, which has been set up to defend Kieran, is asking for solidarity from around the world to prevent Kieran from being jailed for defending himself against Simmer's attack. Kieran's trial comes up for June 20th: the Committee want people to write to the Prosecutors and demand the charges be dropped. They also need people to publicise the case, and send letters of support/lotsa dosh.

OUTRAGED COMPLAINTS TO:
County Attorney Mike Freeman,
C2000 Hennepin County Govt. Centre,
300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis,
MN. 55415, USA.

Pete Connors Adult Prosecution,
C2100 Hennepin County Govt. Centre,
at same address.

SOLIDARITY TO:

Anti-Fascist Defence Committee,
c/o Minneapolis ABC, PO Box 7075,
Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA.



Boris Dumont is a Belgian anarchist prisoner and ABC contact, who writes for Rebelles and Alternative Liberaire, amongst others. He is in contact with anti-prison groups across Europe and corresponds with various anarchist and revolutionary prisoners in France, Belgium, Spain and British.

He was convicted in 1987 for attempted murder and armed robbery, resulting from a failed expropriation in 1985 "to buy more weapons and explosives for our

BORIS DUMONT

group and for future actions against the system", which lead to his arrest a few months later. He had further convictions for possession of weapons and explosives, possession of cannabis, plus books stolen from the SDRA (Belgian army secret services) about guerilla warfare. He was sentenced to 18 years;

the prosecutor asked for life, but Boris got a reduced sentence due to his young age.

Boris tried to rob an unarmed cash-courier. At the time he was 20, but looked 16. He "had a gun (Beretta 6,35) but in my hands it looked a bit like a toy - it's a really small gun and the guy could think that it was an alarm pistol, so I may have been obliged to shoot him. So I took a knife, because a knife remains a knife whatever the hands of the person who's holding it". During the ensuing struggle with the courier, Boris

stabbed him, leaving the guard in a coma for 15 days and 80% disabled. Boris says "I didn't want to hurt him or to wound him, it wasn't his money, but bosses' money, so I had nothing against him."

Boris and two other prisoners attempted to escape in January '93, through a hole in their cell wall. It had taken more than a month to dig, but on the morning of the planned escape, one of the three snitched to the prison authorities, who found the hole behind a poster.

Boris' earliest parole date was September '91, and he has never even had a day release. Manchester ABC have produced a pamphlet written by Boris on his life and actions, hopefully soon to be published by AK distribution, all proceeds to ABC.

Send letters of support to:

Boris Dumont
Prison de Verviers
81 Chaussee d'Heusy,
4800 Verviers, Belgium

Since November 1993 five Turkish and Kurdish anti-fascists have been imprisoned on remand in Germany, charged with murder, aiding and abetting murder, attempted murder and assault. Fatma, Mehmet, Erkan, Abidin and Bahrettin, arrested in a series of raids in Berlin, are accused of the murder of Gerhard Kaindl, a high ranking member of the 'Deutsche Liga Fur Volk and Heimat', a right wing party trying to unite other fascist groups. Kaindl was stabbed to death during an attack in a Chinese restaurant in April 1992.

The federal police and State Security Service in Berlin targeted the militant Turkish-Kurdish 'Anti-Fascist Youth' group. Allegedly they arrested the 5 on the word of an informant who was involved in the action. The cops raided apartments and followed anti-fascists in 1992. Later that year they claimed they had abandoned the investigation. However the Deutsche Liga's newspaper published the names, addresses and pictures of several people they said had carried out the murder. They also said that all the 8 people who'd killed Kaindl were known to the police. There would seem to be a good channel of info from the police to the fascists. (No surprise.)

The reason behind the arrests and charges is obvious: the cops want to attack the anti-fascist movement, and one of the most

ANTI-FASCIST ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN BERLIN

effective ways to do this is identify 'ringleaders', to unashamed anti-fascists, and get them sent down for a long time. The climate of fear created by the arrests, helped by the media, is an attempt to prevent political action, frighten people from doing anything. It goes without saying that the effort put into nicking anyone who fits the frame for the justifiable homicide of a parasite like Kaindl far outweighs the total work put into 'solving' the 60 racial and other murders carried out by rightwingers since 1989.

Anti-FA in Berlin are asking for solidarity with the arrested comrades - the attempt to crush any action against the rise of rightwing groups in Germany is continuing with the state trying to prevent effective solidarity with the five prisoners. Fatma Balamir, locked up 23 hours a day in the Women's Prison at Plotzensee, has no contact with other prisoners, has been forced to exercise alone, and has been repeatedly harassed and threatened with the block. Erkan has been transferred to the psychiatric-neurologi-

cal unit at Tegel Prison - a place with a grim reputation for drugging inmates into silence. The other 3 prisoners are all being held under isolated and repressive conditions.

A group of supporters are producing a newsbulletin on the prisoners and the trial, called 'Heartbeats'. They can be contacted at:

WRITE TO THE PRISONERS

Send letters to the Staatsanwaltschaft (Public Prosecutor to you) Berlin, z.Hd.Sta. Nielsen, Az: 1 Kap Js 679/92, Turmstr. 91, 10548 Berlin, Germany; with a second envelope inside addressed to:

Abidin Eraslan, BuchNr: 5455/93, UHA Moabit, Alt Moabit 12 a, 10559 Berlin, Germany.

Mehmet Ramme, BuchNr: 5436/93, UHA Moabit, Alt Moabit 12a, 10559 Berlin, Germany.

Fatma Balamir, BuchNr: 950/93/8, JVA fur Frauen, Friedrich-Olbricht-Damm 17, 13627 Berlin, Germany. (Unfortunately we haven't been able to get hold of Erkan and Bahrettin's addresses.)

Support Salvatore!

In December '92 Salvatore Cirincione was arrested in Milan, Italy after having been on the run for 8 years. He was sent to prison in the 80's for being a member of the revolutionary group 'Azione Rivoluzionaria' and managed to escape. But he kept having serious health problems from regular beatings and torture from prison staff. He now suffers from haemorrhage and infections. They just kept him alive, without any real treatment.

In July '93 the prison authorities decided that he must stay in prison regardless of his health problems.

They also said that "as an active anarchist he is a danger to [their] society". Worse than that, the Ministry of Justice has now decided not to supply the medicine he needs to stay alive. Also, he can't go to any good clinics as they refuse to treat prisoners.

Salvatore's current state of health is very bad. Due to beatings and torture he has lost one testicle, he has broken bones around his pelvis, and 'genital apparatus is dead'. Salvatore keeps fighting for his rights by hunger striking - he himself saw two sick prisoners who were allowed to die by the state.

This could and does happen everywhere - behind every so-called 'democratic system' there's an authoritarian state terrorism which tortures and kills. Against the fascist Europe they build we need to show practical solidarity with all anarchist and class struggle prisoners.

Salvatore needs money to stay alive.

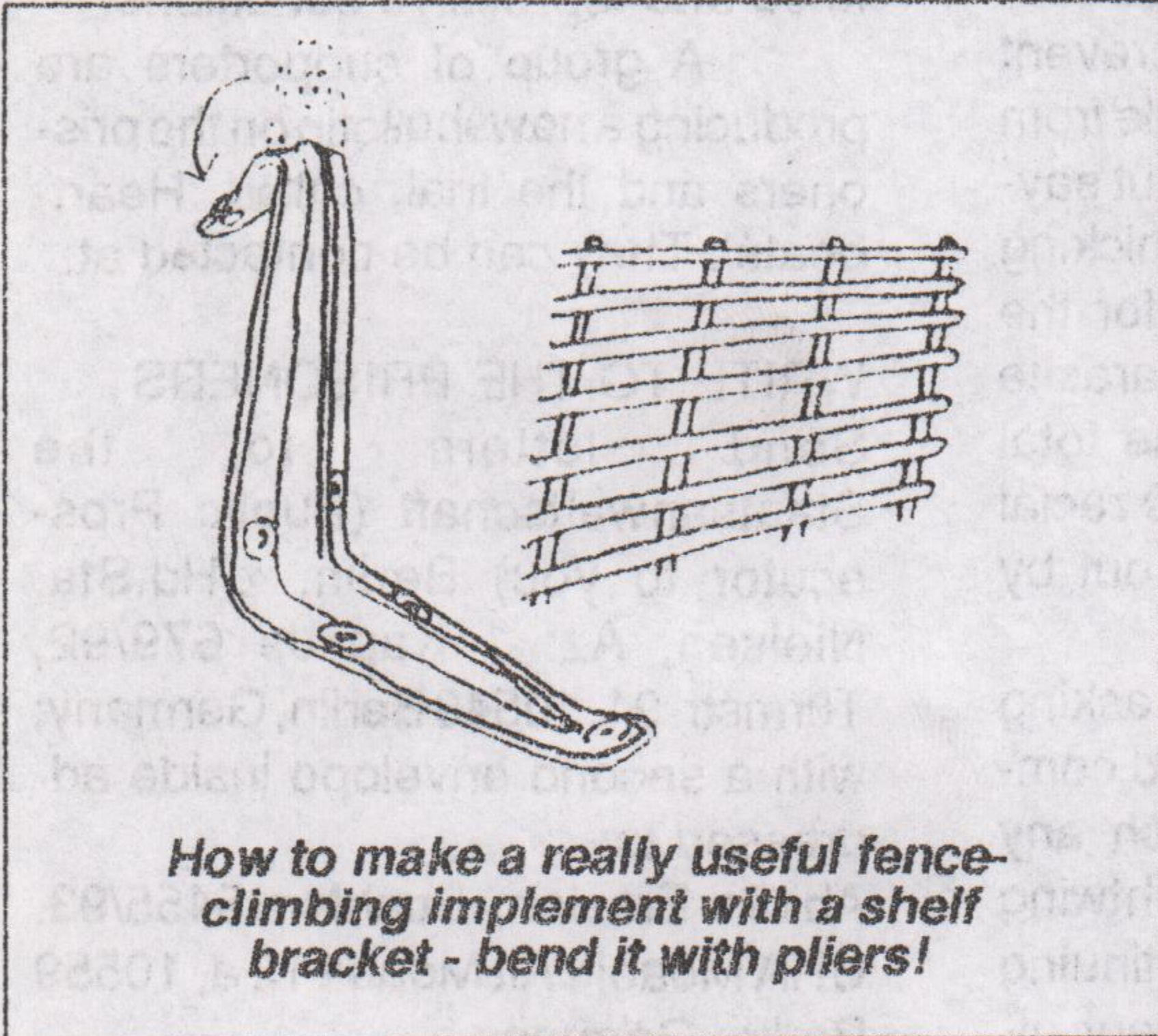
Send cheques payable to: 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, Box 10, London SE24 0LR.

Send letters of support to Salvatore Cirincione, Carcere di san Vittore, Milano, Italy.

For further information contact: Massimo Leonardi
Applequince, Via d. Corui
41-01100 Viterbo, Italy.

Concentration Campsfield (contd)

One of the largest protests and Campsfield Detention Centre took place on Saturday 26th March when over 150 people attended the regular demonstration on the last Saturday of the month. A wide variety of groups and unions were represented, not to mention a number of Algerians who had already been released from the concentration camp as a result of hunger striking. After the rally in the car park was over, Group 4 found they



had rather more to deal with than they bargained for. As the demonstration began to encircle the perimeter fence, activists from Oxford Solidarity Action and Earth First! locked down the camp's two gates, making it impossible for the security to get out. When cautioned that they could be arrested for false imprisonment, the activists responded that Group 4 should be arrested on the same grounds since the asylum-seekers had never committed any crime nor been put before any court and yet were being imprisoned indefinitely against their will.

As protesters lined the outer fences, filling the air with music to lift the spirits of the detainees, a lone individual using hand hooks began scaling the 20 foot high weld mesh fence opposite the refugees accommodation block. Once on top of the fence he unfurled and attached full length banners facing in to the prison. This solitary incursion then became a massive flood when the gate to a neighbouring compound became mysteriously unpadlocked and over 100 people rushed into the detention centre's grounds.

CAMPSEFIELD INVADED

Once inside, a utilities building was occupied and two large trestles dragged out and thrown up against the fence as crude scaling ladders. Ropes and climbing aids materialised so that activists could gain access to the exercise yard in

front of the accommodation block. Three activists, including a fellow Wobblie from Oxford Solidarity Action went over the fence and into the compound, to be grabbed and roughly handled by Group 4 at the bottom of the fence. As they were led away, refugees in the accommodation block started shouting "Vive la Liberte" (long live freedom), exposing Group 4's lies to the refugees that they haven't got any

outside support. The last activist to get in recharged the side gate as soon as he was chucked out.

Naturally, this wasn't all totally preoccupying the front gate guards - someone scaled the main gate, making it impossible to open, and hung balloons in front of the security cameras to prevent filming! At the same time a Ploughshares veteran had successfully eased her way along the top of some 50 foot of fencing and onto the roof of the

accommodation block. At this point, Group 4 realised that they were out of their depth, and called in the TVP. Some 40 officers arrived in nine different vehicles and the police helicopter turned out from Kidlington to hover at a cost of some £800 per hour! As the most anyone was doing was trespassing - not yet a criminal offence - there was little police could do except caution demonstrators that climbing fences would be treated as a breach of the peace. However, protestors got the impression that the cops thought Group 4 should stew in their own shit, seeing as home Secretary Michael Howard is using them to privatise law enforcement.

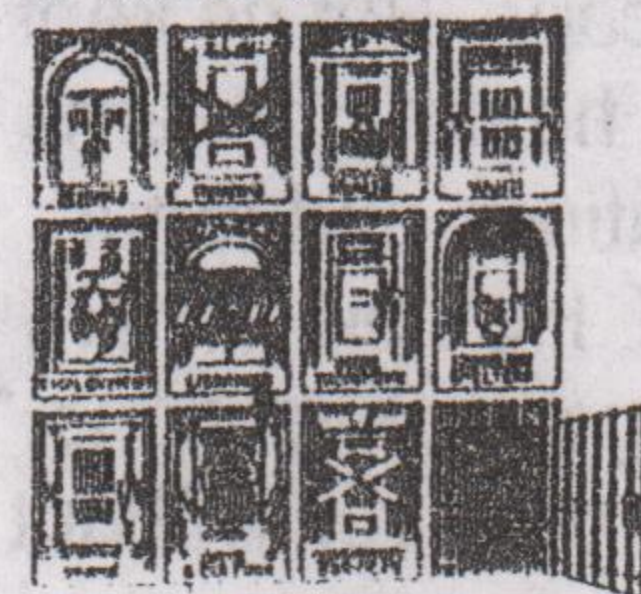
The conclusion to this two hour roof top drama happened suddenly at 6.30 pm. The negotiator and one other man crept up behind the woman whilst she was talking to people below and grabbed her by the coat. She was then dragged along and off the 30 foot high roof with such force that she lost consciousness and sustained severe bruising. Group 4 then panicked again, bringing out a nurse and calling the police back. The latter had left prior to this, having told Group 4 that under no circumstances were any attempts at forcible removal to be made. Returning to the scene they advised the injured woman to do Group 4 for assault.

AT LAST!!! WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR: THE ABC AUTUMN COLLECTION

And these stunning prints are available in a rather clever 'T-shirt' design, in black on white & white on black. They come in one large size to FIT ALL (no body fascism round here) and cost JUST £6.00. Get one NOW, or else.



PRISONS...



OPEN ALL HOURS.

(Please make cheques and postal orders payable to London ABC.)

From off the back of a Group 4 lorry comes... The Anti-Prison Merchandise Page

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£3 a year unwaged
£5 a year waged
£10 a year rich/organisations

If you live in the South East
join London ABC Support
Network - same rates.

PAMPHLETS

From Alcatraz to Marion to Florence - Control Units in the US. See review in Bulletin no 6. Produced by The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown. £1.50 plus 30p P&P.

Down to the Wire. A pamphlet of the prison writings of US prison organiser John Perotti. All proceeds go to help John's fight against the prison authorities. £2.50 plus 30p P&P

No Comment - The Defendant's Guide to Arrest. Advice on what not to say if arrested. Send a small donation and say how many you want (perfect for Xmas and birthday gifts).

One Off. Written by prisoners Paul Ross and Andy Jacubczyk, this booklet is a detailed account of brutality and suicides in the British prison system. £2 plus 50p P&P

A Day Mournful & Overcast. Written by a member of an ex-cons militia in the Spanish Revolution - against hierarchies and prisons. 50p plus 30p P&P

Until All Are Free. The trial statement of US revolutionary prisoner Ray-Luc Levasseur. A searing tale of oppression and resistance. 50p plus 30p P&P.

On the Borders of a Police State. HCDA's latest pamphlet, looking at the latest attacks on us from the police, the law, in the form of far-reaching changes to police powers, and proposing ways to resist. £2 plus 50p P&P.

A Crime is a Crime is a Crime... and Fighting the Lawmen, both published by Hackney Community Defence Association, exposing police corruption, frame-ups and drugdealing in the East London rotten borough of Hackney. 75p each, plus 30p P&P.

The Privatisation of Prisons Four different opinions on privatisation, from 3 prisoners and one ex-prisoner. 30p plus 30p P&P.

POSTERS

Remember We're Still Here - Support Anarchist/Class Struggle Prisoners - an ABC poster in red and black. 50p plus 30p P&P.

BADGES

The Black Cross Fist is now out as a metal badge - send £1.20 plus 30p P&P. For a small extra donation we'll shove in a bundle of leaflets on prisoners and prison issues.

PRISONERS LIST

A list of prisoners the ABC is supporting, is in touch with or knows needs support. Names, addresses, info, so you can write to them. Will be regularly updated. Send in any news or names you know of and we'll try and add them.

TAPES

Nothing to lose but our chains, a benefit tape for Huddersfield ABC. Available from the Hudds address, for £2 plus 50p P&P.

ABC RESOURCES

Send an SAE for any of this stuff - as we are always skint though, a donation would be helpful now and again.

If you want any copies of **Taking Liberties** to sell, let us know how many you want and we'll send you them at a knockdown price. Back copies of the **ABC Bulletin** are available for 10p each plus 20p P&P. Issues 2-7 and 9 left.

LEAFLETS

Crime - Together we'll crack it? The ABC's response to the current crime scare and the Criminal Justice Bill. Send some stamps for a bundle - and give it out in your street, at work, in your community centre, in your mailout, on buses, trains, in the pub, wherever - we've got 1000's!

Solicitors Leaflet and Suing the Police. A leaflet on how to deal with solicitors and barristers if you're going to court should be ready soon, and also one on suing the police.

If you want to distribute any of the above, let us know.

Supporting class struggle prisoners: the ABC intro leaflet: what we see around us, and what we do to change it.

Writing to prisoners: a basic guide for people who haven't written before and want advice.

Practical Support for Prisoners: the ins and outs of visiting, sending in books, papers, tapes etc - what gets in, what gets out.

ABC GROUPS

Birmingham ABC c/o Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B8 3DP

Bradford ABC c/o 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row, Bradford BD1

Devon ABC c/o SWAN, PO Box 4, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0YZ

Essex ABC c/o Box A, 12 Mill Rd, Cambridge

Huddersfield ABC c/o Bradford ABC address

London ABC c/o 121 Bookshop, Railton Rd, London SE24

Manchester ABC Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1

Oxford ABC Box A, 111 Magdalene Rd, Oxford

Sheffield ABC Black Star, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY

IRELAND

Derry ABC c/o Organise, PO Box 5, Derry BT48 6PD

Inside Information c/o Pigeonhole Cl, 11 Forth St, Edinburgh EH1

John Perotti Defence Fund, 45a Bedford Ave, Aberdeen, Scotland

Conviction PO Box 522, Sheffield S1 3FF.

(Organisation that supports framed prisoners)

For international contacts, get in touch with your nearest group.

A RIOTER'S TALE

As years went by in Strangeways jail, the tension grew and grew,
The inmates protest got no response so what else could they do?
The threat of grief was always there but no-one knew the truth
Bad attitudes by all concerned cost Strangeways Jail its roof.
The nineties dawned, the summer came, and then the day of fools,
The day the prisoners went to pray with blades and wood for tools,
The chaplain proctor blessed these men with "The Lord God be with you",
Then a voice rang out, "Now is the time", and they all knew what to do,
The officers fled for they surely knew to fight would mean defeat,
So one by one they turned their tails and beat a swift retreat.
This was the sign of victory and each one lost his frown,
For now the time had finally come to pull that prison down.
The convicts then fled from the church, each one prepared to fight,
The silence fell and one man said, "There's not a screw in sight".
As each man felt disconsolate, at loss of chance to feast,
Till someone said, "Oh never mind, come on, let's kill a beast".
But many cons had other plans, and wanted things they'd seen,
Like morphine in the pharmacy, and sweets in the canteen,
Elation grew as they were given Strangeways on a plate,

David Bowen is serving 9 years for the Strangeways uprising of April 1990. He was on remand for nicking a pair of curtains at the time. David was also recently convicted for 3 years for knobbling the jury over over Strangeways, after letters to jurors were found at his home. He denied the charge, though, as the letters had

They swarmed the landing's open cells, saying "I'm going to find my mate".
Now all this blew up on April 1st, through ignorance and rules,
And none can say they wasn't warned, the Governor, the fools,
The TV made the most of it, with the radio and press,
Who revel in people's misery, as they watched the sorry mess,
And the public came to stand and gloat, and watch the jail burn,
And hustlers soon got onto it, as a chance for them to earn,
While in the jail some skulls got cracked and many minds got scarred,
By sights of nonces getting slashed, or kicked or beat with bars,
While on the roof some lads had fun, stood waving to their mates,
Or picked out screws hid down below, bombarding them with slates.
For four long weeks the prisoners kept the jail under guard,
With the sun above and police below, it really wasn't hard,
And now in Strangeways with changes made, and attitudes improved,
The cons can see they made their point, the day the system moved.
But don't believe that all is well, and happy ever after,
For in the jail you'll often hear a wicked evil laughter,
That laughter comes from in the night and chills you to the core,
As all the boys await the word, "Let's wreck the jail once more!"

David Bowen

been given to him by another prisoner. He has yet to come to trial for escaping from Hull prison during the second Strangeways trial....He needs all the support he can get.

David Bowen DA0146, HMP Walton Liverpool L9 3DF

Kill the Bill

...cont'd from Page 13

of working class self-organisation and in thousands of daily actions going on around us every day. It's not about sacrificing ourselves for some abstract 'community' - it's about us, our needs and desires, creating new communities, new relationships: changing our lives, taking back the whole wealth of the world for ourselves. It can and should be fun as well - a carnival of love and rage. What the 'rights lobby' don't and never will admit is - **IT'S WAR**; it always was and always will be, till the oppressed take power. Concessions might be won but we need to be standing up and saying, "We want the Lot, we'll take this now but we'll be back for the rest."

Repression is part of the war. The capitalists know that they are hitting us hard and will carry on, whenever they can get away with it. There's little doubt that the Criminal Justice Bill will get in. We need to make it unworkable, as we did with the poll tax. Because this is not just the only way to defend ourselves and each other but also holds the potential for a NEW WORLD - one beyond our wildest dreams.

Strongbox

cont'd from Page 15

then it seems to me that treating him the way they did and putting Lawrence through the torture and stress strain of cells 16 and 21 merely encouraged him that enough pain and torture had been endured here and that the body and spirit could take no more of this treatment. There was nobody here willing to protect him as a person, there was nobody he could turn to and there was nobody to help him whilst here at Parkhurst Hospital Wing. It seems to me he was encouraged and assisted to do what he is claimed to have done, rather than helped and prevented from doing it.

Robert J Mawdsley