

1831

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The reason Carlsberg
don't do news sheets

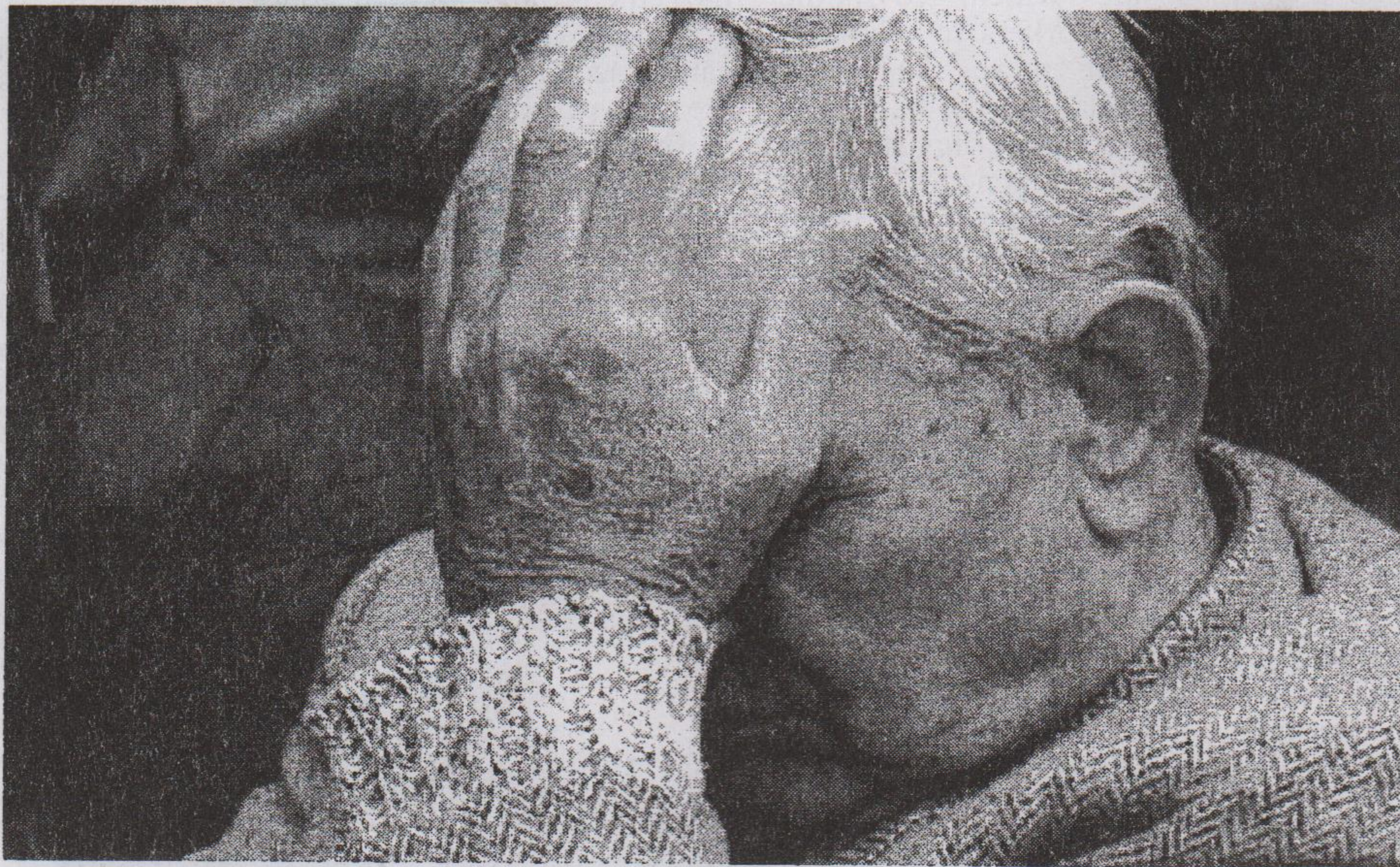
THE COUNCIL THAT DOESN'T CARE

Bristol City Council shows nothing but a cold callousness as it plans to close day-care centres and 10 of its 12 residential care homes. At the same time it has announced the complete abolition of its homecare services. Voluntary care services have also had funding removed.

Under the council's proposals Bowmead, Brentry House, Broomhill, Hayleigh, Maesknoll, St Peter's, Coombe, Rockwell, Wellhay and Greville care home could all close. Many drop-in centres including Lanercost, Lawrence Link, St George, Shire Link, Dover Court, North Bristol Drop In, South Bristol Drop In and New Horizons, are also under threat. Funding for 26 voluntary health and social care organisations are also to be cut leaving many vital services unable to continue, with detrimental effect to many elderly and vulnerable people.

At the time of these proposals being made public councillor Jon Rogers, the cabinet member for care, said it was to free up funds for alternatives to residential care; a few weeks later every council employed homecare worker found out they are to lose their jobs. The complete shutdown of Bristol's homecare services comes despite contrary promises to the staff from cllr Rogers last year and despite the fact that without residential homes to go to more and more people will need care at home.

Many charities which run day-centres and similarly vital services are completely losing their block funding on 31st October, meaning many if not all will soon close. This is part of the councils move to



personal budgets for which not every service user is eligible. It says this will give patients more choice but the end result will be no choice as services are left in precarious positions and forced to close. The spin is just another attempt to make cuts sound reasonable.

However, there is nothing reasonable about these funding cuts. These services are such a lifeline to so many elderly and disabled people that their destruction is nothing less than homicidal. Again the agenda of short term savings and privatisation is being put before the long

term interests of society.

These recent moves by the council are beyond disgusting and it's rumoured that youth services and libraries are also for the chop. Once again the promises that front-line services would not be cut rings hollow; again it's the most vulnerable in society being hit hardest. These spending cuts are about driving down our standard of living to maintain the profits of the rich. We must fight back now.

For more information or to get involved in fighting these closures, go to www.bristolanticutsalliance.org.uk

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OR WEAPONS FACTORY?

Like so many others, Bristol University has deep links with those producing arms for nasty dictators.

Many leaders in the UK spoke in support of protesters in the Middle East this spring. However, they were silent about how the uprisings were put down - using weapons made in Britain, and sold with help from the British government. Large sections of the press have also been silent about the fact that, this September, Britain hosted Europe's largest arms fair. Some of the most oppressive regimes in the world were

welcomed to the government-subsidised fair, to buy weapons that may well be used against their own people. Despite the cuts, the government still spends millions every year supporting arms dealers, who sell weapons that kill thousands of innocent people.

However, arms dealers aren't just in London. To find them, you don't need to look any further than Bristol University. BAe Systems for example - one of the largest arms dealers in the world - is very involved in University life. Despite involvement in numerous corruption scandals, and having sold weapons to dictatorships (including Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe and East Timor), this company is invited back year after year to recruit Bristol students. They are at every

engineering careers fair, where students are told about exciting careers opportunities, with no mention that it might be wrong to work for such a company.

The university's involvement in this deadly trade goes far deeper than acting as a recruitment agency. From 2001 to 2006, staff at Bristol University took on about a hundred military-related projects, taking at least twelve million pounds from arms dealers and military organisations. While students and staff are actively resisting the presence of arms companies, the situation is only likely to get worse. The present cuts mean that universities are acting more and more like private businesses, which rely on money from companies like BAe Systems. Unless we can halt the cuts agenda, the situation is likely to get worse.



University of
BOMBS

SSSTTRRRRIIKE!

November 30th will be round two of the public sector pensions fight.

Public Sector Unions have called for a day of action on November 30th which will include strikes, rallies and other organised events across the UK. The action has been called due to the government's decision to increase workers' pension contribution payments, reduce the payout and raise retirement age. Despite what you may read elsewhere, public sector pensions are not "gold plated", more than half are less than £5,600 a year. Besides which, we should never ask for fellow workers to take less only that we all take more. The TUC general secretary Brendan Barber has stated that the action will be "the biggest trade union mobilisation for a generation" and several unions have already made their ballots for the strikes. It is suggested that up to 3 million public sector workers will be on the strike.

It has come as no surprise that the

Labour Party has pulled away from having any involvement or support for the struggle being as it is full of self-serving careerist wankers. But let's be honest, we're better off without them dead-ending everything anyway.

November 30th will be great opportunity for many of us to demonstrate against the government's austerity measures. Although most of the UK are not in the public sector workforce, this action gives us the chance to continue to build an effective resistance movement; and though these strikes are nominally over the issues of pensions, this can be seen as a more general attack against the austerity programme.

This one day strike will not be enough but it must be a success in order to move things forward. Stay off work on November 30th and join us on the streets!

For more information about events in Bristol go to www.bristolanticutsalliance.org.uk

NUCLEAR MADNESS

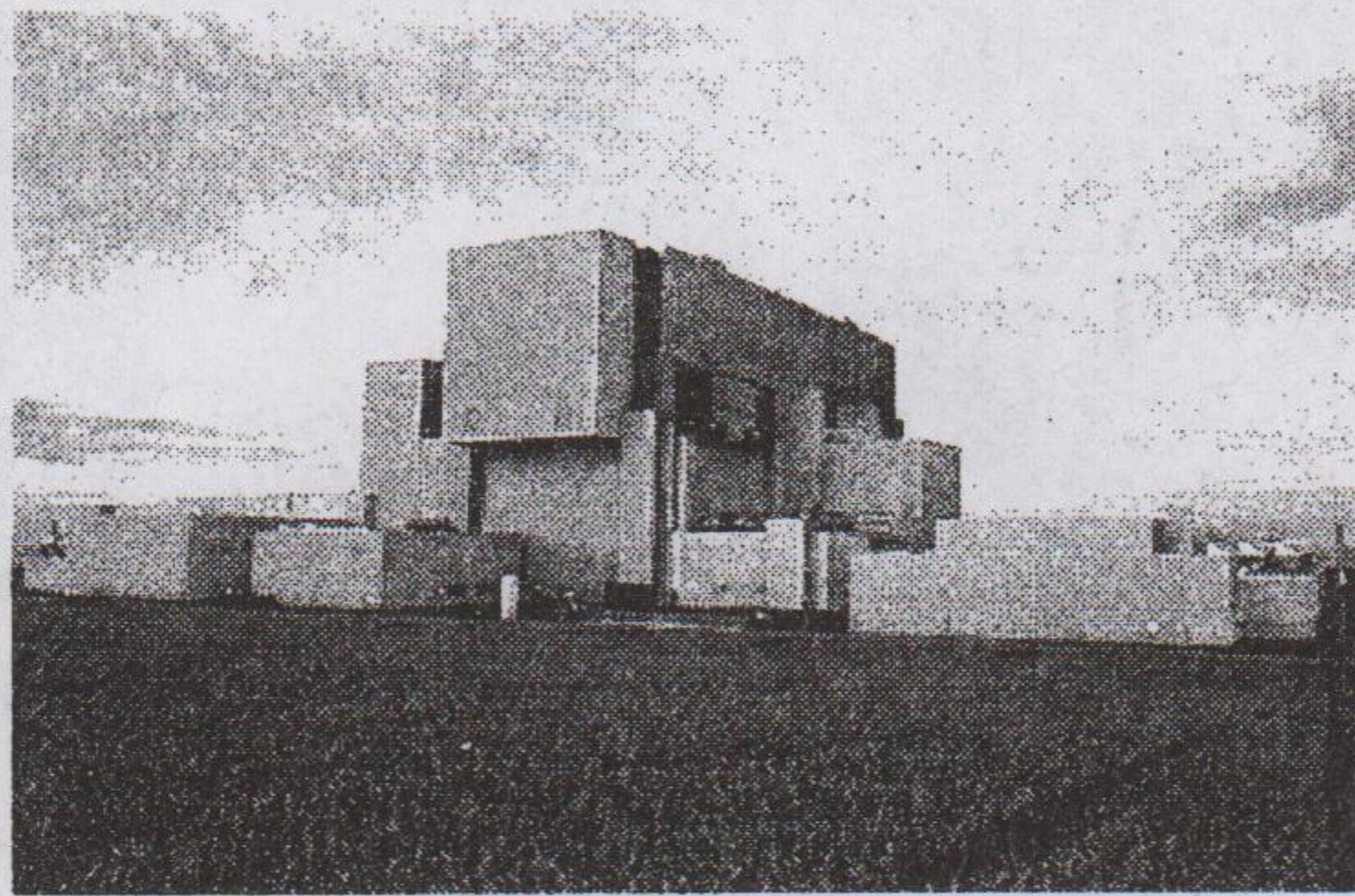
Work continues on new nuclear reactor in Somerset despite protests.

In the wake of the Fukushima disaster in Japan many countries have launched inquiries into the safety of nuclear power, with Germany announcing a complete halt to its program. However at Hinkley Point in Somerset French energy giant EDF is continuing to work on the foundations of a new nuclear reactor.

At the beginning of October 300 people peacefully blockaded the gates to the site. We spoke to one attendee Julia about the reasons behind the action: 'The biggest reason so many people came here is safety. Even without the catastrophic accidents that have taken place, the normal running of a nuclear reactor contaminates the surrounding land and ground water. There is still no way to safely dispose of nuclear waste and it stays deadly for 1000s of years.'

EDF claims its nuclear reactors are completely safe (despite an explosion at a waste processing plant earlier this year), and the government claims that new nuclear power is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, if you take into account uranium mining, construction and waste disposal nuclear power creates nearly as much greenhouse gas as fossil fuel.

The new power plants will cost the taxpayer billions, meet only a fraction of our energy needs and not be ready for 10 years. This begs the question why any government would risk the lives of 1000s for nuclear power. Whilst we may not have all the facts behind the decision, you can be assured that



some people are going to get very rich off the back of these developments.

For more information or to get involved in the campaign against nuclear power in Somerset see stopnewnuclear.org.uk

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, AND PUNISHMENT

Some councils lose it in witch-hunt bandwagon as those councillors wanting to make a name for themselves start punishing rioters' families.

During the flurry of media hype following the riots across the country dozens of councillors have attempted to jump on the 'looking tough on crime' bandwagon. Of course being a councillor rather than an MP means they have limits, they can't vote in strict new laws or bolster police numbers.

There are many things they could be doing to improve community relations, combat poverty and alleviate mass unemployment; they have instead decided to 'punish rioters' by evicting them and their families. Let us think about this for a moment; judges and juries are responsible for punishing people for their crimes. Whatever your opinion of the disorder that rocked UK cities, I doubt you want politicians (not exactly famed for their high moral character) taking over this responsibility.

How would you feel if your neighbour got kicked onto the street because her son stole a pair of trainers? Or if you were left homeless because your sister smashed the windows of McDonalds? It is a worrying trend to see people not remotely involved in offences receiving punishment.

Many people have recognised these measures will only make things worse and the resistance to them has already begun. In Wandsworth 2000 people signed a petition against their council's decision to evict a tenant, and around the country housing charities and local residents have promised to resist future evictions by any means they can. Watch this space to see what happens if Bristol Council tries to start kicking local residents out.

WANKER OF THE MONTH

It has to be Councillor Dr Jon Rogers. We expect compassion from our doctors but this one clearly has none. As a GP he will have taken an oath "to first do no harm" yet as Bristol City Council's health and care executive he is responsible for the most harmful and savage cuts the council is imposing. Attacking the most weak and vulnerable in society by closing care homes and day centres (see main article), his actions will no doubt cause deaths. Wanker may not be strong enough to describe this one.



Bristol Anarchist Federation

Bristol Anarchist Federation is a branch of the Anarchist Federation. It is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. For more information, to join, come to our meetings or if you would like to write an article, visit our website bristolaf.wordpress.com or contact us bristol@afed.org.uk

Please note: all views and opinions expressed in 1831 are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of Bristol Anarchist Federation

