The ruling class needs to

shape a moral climate that is

strict in its definitions and

oppressive to us all. Anti-

gay prejudice does not auto-

matically arise in people and

isn't just a result of ir-

rational ignorance. Oppres-

sion of gays is part of the

ideological control used to

maintain the family unit and

Thatcher's "traditional val-

side the home or breakdown of

In a moral climate that tries to curb women's independence and place fertility firmly under state control, it is no surprise that gains made by lesbians and gays should also be attacked. The whipped-up panic over AIDS has led to general hostility to homosexuality, making gays and those promoting sexual freedom the scapegoats. The moral guardians of the church and state are the cheerleaders for a drive back to the closet for lesbians and gays. What has been achieved over the years in the struggle for homosexual expression and acceptance has been slight but valuable, providing space for lesbians and gays to be open about their sexuality. The most serious threat to these gains lies in clause 29 of the Tories' local government bill. Under the guise of stopping left-wing councils giving money to "minority" groupings like the gay community, it aims to stop the "promotion" of homosexuality. The implications are immense:

* No local authority support for lesbian and gay centres; withdrawal of licences to lesbian and gay venues, clubs and pubs.

* Restrictions on support financial and advertising for advice centres or phone

* No right of assembly for lesbian and gay demos and rallies by restriction on

* The removal of books from public places like libraries and community centres that promote, mention or comment on homosexuality.

* Restrictions on artistic freedom for lesbians and gays as well as on performances, exhibitions, films, etc.

NATURAL

The clause allows for wide restrictions which is clearly its intent. The justification is that lesbians and gays are not only "abnormal" but also threaten accepted social valcan get informed sexual educ-We are asked to ignore that ing that such relationships lesbians and gays can lead can't work - the only probhappy natural relationships; that we can and do sexually mate that stigmatises them. love people of the same sex. Ruling class ideology shuts off such choices and presents only one option - monogamous ten vitally depend on fundheterosexuality. The clause ing. Lesbian and gay teenagtalks of "pretended family ers have the highest rate of relationships". This conveni- attempted and actual suicide. iently ignores the fact that A 1984 study commissioned by

the GLC showed that out of a survey of 500 lesbian and gay teenagers 1 in 5 had attempted suicide; 1 in 10 had been thrown out of their homes and 1 in 5 had suffered physical assault from their families. This points to the very real pressure faced by lesbians and gays trying to express themselves in a hostile and prejudiced society. With the closure of advice centres and helplines where will these people turn? An increase in violent physical confrontation is a logical conclusion of this worsening climate. A 1987 GALOP report showed that physical attacks on homosexuals has increased tenfold in the last 2 years. In the first week of debate on the bill in the House of Commons, the offices of Capital Gay

"underground" out of public view. The mass demonstration and rally in Manchester which may be the last such open and legal demo, showed an impressive defiance to ensure this doesn't happen.

ACTION

To effectively fight the clause we must see it as part of the overall strategy by ues". Capitalism needs to capitalism to roll back the keep traditional sexual roles ideological changes and ad- intact and maintain the famvances made in the '60's and ily as the cornerstone to '70's which saw a shift in controlling and maintaining a sexual attitudes which still convenient labour force. The poses a threat to capitalism. family is a means for stabil-We must argue for workers' ising this workforce through action, the key to resisting the unpaid work of women in the clause, and for gays and the home. Independence outside each other. It needs the family threatens this set action before and after the up. Looking at other attacks bill goes through, involving on nursery and childcare

facilities, abortion rights and general restrictions on women's independence from men there is a definite drive back to the family unit. Capitalism tries to control us not only economically but ideologically and prejudice is central to this. It defines morality through the mass media to stop us moving towards sexual liberation and away from the state-controlled "nuclear" family. Homosexuality also undermines the stereotypes of masculinity and femininity and is a step away from the ruling class' "natural way to be". Tying in the roots of anti-gay bigotry to capitalist morality points to a working class response. We must actively involve ourselves in the struggle for gay liberation. The working class are victims of capitalism's economic and ideological oppression. Our liberation from the profit system means

ues. The few places where real and fulfilling parental This will just be the start people, especially children, relationships exist between unless we can successfully homosexuals and children and counter the bigots. ation face drastic changes. there's no evidence suggest-

> lems arise from a social cli-A major casualty will be counselling services that of-

Mobilisation to defeat the

workers in education and local government refusing to implement the new restrictions. We must show the bigots that opposition isn't confined to under capitalism and for us bill has so far been impress- a defensive "minority" but to gain that freedom we must ive. A powerful arts group includes large sections of destroy capitalism. Gay libhas emerged to resist the re- organised workers. Connec- eration is central to the strictions in those areas. tions must be made in our This can be valuable in the common fight for expression, break capitalism's economic wider campaign but we mustn't organisation and all we need let it dwarf the wider centr- in our lives. With confidence al issues. Our opposition has and solidarity we can resist to draw out what we see as a any attempts to censor or remoral backlash that attempts strict our choices concerning to drive lesbians and gays sexuality and relationships.

gaining control over all aspects of our lives. This means rejecting the divisions capitalist morality imposes on us. We can have no complete cultural and sexual freedom social revolution that will and moral constraints.

Clause 29 is now Clause 28 again.

The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

Nº48 April/May '88

Tax auts for the rich

Bene



Paper of the Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association

THE CHAUSE

Decisive Action or Wasted Anger?

The health service dominates the current political agenda. Thousands of healthworkers have been stirred into action despite Tory propaganda and the back-peddling of their own unions. More significantly, perhaps, is that other workers have been prepared to take illegal political strike action in support of healthworkers. On March the 5th one of the largest ever anti-Tory demonstrations took place in London when over 100,000 trade unionists took to the streets on a TUC march.

However, the march and the campaign around the NHS highlight divisions within the many rank and file healthlabour movement over how to address the issue, what to demand and how to win. The TUC refused to allow any health union speakers on the rally; the no-strike RCN had a large contingent; the SWP and Militant called for a one day general strike to coincide with budget day whilst NUPE and COHSE called for days of action on different days with NUPE organising lunchtime protests instead of strike action.

RANK AND FILE ACTION

The willingness of healthworkers to take action has taken many union leaders by surprise. The 24 hour nurses' strike in Manchester on January 7th forced the government into backing down over the abolition of special duty payments. This prompted stewards in some London hospitals to push for a day of action on February the 3rd. Nurses started leaving the RCN in droves; at Frickley 4 nurses picketed 1000 miners out and car workers walked out at Vauxhall. At the same time strike committees sprang up in the most militant hospitals in London and in other cities and towns. Such rank and file organisation immediately cut across the interunion divisions which plague healthworkers and, furthermore, pointed to an organisational framework to challenge win public sympathy. Other the weak-kneed approach of union bureaucrats. When the newly-formed London Hospital Strike Committee called for a I day strike for budget day, the COHSE bureaucracy, in heavily against any action. order to restore its authori- Nonetheless on March 14th bus ty, called a day of action

The refusal of the health

union leaders to organise effective action has disgusted workers. NUPE bureaucrats instructed ambulance drivers not to strike on February 3rd although the drivers strongly favoured action. Again, NUPE refused to call for strike

who wanted to take action were warned about breaking the Tories have only used the laws when they are confident of not provoking a reaction. If thousands of workers go on Any serious challenge to the social hours. Tories' plans to restructure the health service must necessarily bring workers into conflict with the law.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Opinion polls show that something must be done about the health service, but what exactly this something is, is again the subject of division in the labour movement. The Labour Party has called for action on February 15th and 2p on taxes to fund the NHS

ing slave wages. Rank and file healthworkers must draw the anti-union laws. However, up a list of demands for better conditions based on their own needs, including increased staffing levels, reduced hours, abolition of student/ strike it's unlikely that in- auxiliary rates, and large junctions will be taken out. increases in overtime for un-

FREE HEALTH CARE

Secondly we must demand free health care for all. The the Tories want free health care only for those at the for it. To this end we must of private health care; oppo-

fensive. Healthworkers' anger must not be frittered away on a long drawn out campaign of one day strikes. The 1982 health service dispute, the 1982 and 1987 civil service dispute and the teachers' 3 NHS was supposed to embody year fruitless guerrilla camthis principle but it's clear paign must have shown us that selective action only wears down the workers' fighting bottom of the pile while most spirit and bank balances not workers must increasingly pay the Tories. Only a national health service strike bringcampaign around the abolition ing hundreds of thousands of healthworkers into open conflict with the government can win what healthworkers need. To do this healthworkers must use every meeting, demonstration and day of action to argue for a national all out strike. A significant minority are willing to fight and this new mood must be capitalised on. On the other hand to abstractly call for all out action without having won the arguments first may lead to health union bureaucrats calling a ballot they know they will lose to show that members aren't interested in striking. They know union organisation is almost non-existent in many hospitals and that the vast majority of healthworkers have not taken action yet.

realistic but it's more utop-

ian to believe that public

sympathy and selective action

will force the Tories to

The strike committees must

play the leading role in tak-

ing the dispute on to the of-

cough up.



Strike committees from the militant hospitals must send delegations to weaker ones to address union meetings and argue for action. When days of action are called pickets must be built so they are as ers which are a pre-requisite ition of prescription charges large as possible and must be effective in stopping people ate drug companies' books to going in. Emergency cover inspection by workers. In the must be determined by workpresent such a struggle must ers, not management and set begin with a defence of ex- at lower levels than at presisting services but if we ent. Even the small strikes want the health service which and demonstrations of recent serves our needs we must be months have been inspiring. working in health authority clear that the bosses must be While we seem a long way from offices. Inter-union strike made to pay and that health- an all out national strike we committees are essential for workers cannot fight all on are clear what healthworkers organising a united campaign their own. What is needed is need, what health care we all and all out national strike little short of a general need and what is needed to



Only a National Health Workers Strike Can Win What We Need

officials sent circulars to Yorkshire NUM branches asking them not to come out on March 14th. Both NUPE and COHSE see strike action as merely a show piece in a campaign to union leaders have stifled initiatives for solidarity strike action. When Kings Cross ASLEF branch voted to strike the union came down workers from 23 London garages paralysed London's bus service; in Bristol doctors took strike action. Workers

but doesn't mention health- sition to competitive tenderworkers. We, however, start from the needs of healthworkto a decent health service. We call for a decent living wage for all healthworkers be they nurses, porters, cleaners, catering staff or clerical workers and regardless action is essential for end-

strike. This may sound un- win. SCOTS TAKE TO THE STREETS!

ing of services; an end to

hospital waiting lists; abol-

and for the opening of priv-

OPPOSITION

Scotland and not only in the stration of its kind since since the introduction of '80's. She would be as well NHS is just the beginning.

to take note of the fact that people are willing to take to the streets in defence of basic living standards when she plans to make her next cutbacks. With the introduction of the starvation level social fund people are going to be ground down even more. Thatcher and her cronies are as well to remember that desparate conditions require desparate solutions, just as much here as in any other country. The defence of the

DIRECT ACTION No48

SOCIAL INSECURITY

looking for a place on a YTS

When the government announced its bonanza budget with a 20% cut in tax for the rich, many people were thinking "who's going to pay for it?" well, now we know. The Tories are taking away from those who have next to nothing and giving it to those who already have too much. Britain's top businessmen and women will be thousands of pounds better off each week while the millions who are forced by circumstances into relying on benefits will be pushed way below the poverty line.

essential items like cookers, money lenders or charities, compulsory. such items which have then to such as mugging and burglary. figures, new "employment" is will lose out, some by as cause. much as £13 a week. And on top of all these cuts claimants now have to pay 20% of their general rates.

The Tories claim it's only a case of simplifying the

On April 11th Income Sup- show that only a minority of port replaced Supplementary claimants will gain, and what Benefit. Under the new system they gain is almost nothing millions of people will lose compared to what most will out, with the severely dis- lose. The message is clear abled losing most - up to £46 if you're poor, tough luck! a week. There will be no more Claimants will now increasone-off single payments for ingly be forced to turn to fires, new shoes, etc - in- meaning increasing debt, instead claimants must rely on timidation and humiliation. the Social Fund for loans for Some will turn to petty crime be paid back out of subsequ- Then the government can step ent benefit payments. Family in with more laws and more Income Supplement has been police to enforce them, ever replaced by Family Credit, keen to be seen to stamp under which most families out the crime it helps to

scheme. In other words this makes YTS compulsory for those school leavers without either a job or a place in further education. Also in the pipeline for later this year is the merging of the Job Training and Community Programme schemes into the New Adult Training Scheme. This will mean that those currently receiving £50-£60 a week for 3 day's work on a CP scheme will instead be working 5 days a week for their dole plus a £10-£12 top up. Refusal to take a place on these new schemes is likely to mean that your dole will be cut for 26 weeks. Again, such schemes are in reality

largely low paid, part-time and temporary. What we seem to be moving towards is an increasingly low-waged economy. No longer is the mere threat of unemployment the only weapon employers can use Alongside these attacks on to force wage cuts. If the claimants there are the at- Tories have their way they'll tacks on those who work on be able to set up "training" MSC schemes. Sixteen to eigh- schemes on to which the unemteen year-olds who are unem- ployed will be forced. In ployed will not receive any this way wages can be undersystem and that there will be social security other than a cut. This may well happen in bridging payment of £15 a the privatisation of local But we know this is rubbish. week for a maximum of eight services since, by law, the The system stinks as it is, the new MSC schemes unwork-The government's own figures weeks a year while they are only criteria councils can but those who rule our lives able.

GETWELL ! With the Tories' anxiety to reduce the unemployment

> they must accept the cheapest The new DHSS and MSC changes are an attack on the

> whole of our class and must the DHSS and MSC, alike.

a winners' and losers' game, with few winners and many losers. We, the working class will always be the losers unless we get our act together and begin to organise and be opposed by claimants and fight back - and to begin workers, especially those in with we must organise to make the new DHSS regulations and

want to make it even more of

WORSE PENSION

SOCIAL FUND

Going for a Burton?

THE PICKET OF BURTONS' in Edinburgh over the sacking of Tricia Jennings (see DA 46 and 47) has now been going for two months. So far it has only taken place once a week but we now have sufficient numbers to start doing a second picket. Our regular presence outside the shop is having a direct effect on the volume of trade Burtons' is doing - this is prived by the increasingly hostile and aggressive attitude of the management towards the picketters. Their response to the damage that is being done to their "good name" seems to be to try to blacken Tricia's reputation amont the other workers by telling them lies about her character and the reasons for her dismissal. In order to counter this, we are producing a letter to staff telling them the real facts of Tricia's case and urging them to support her.

The picket has already spread to other places across the country - pickets have been held, or are to be held in London, Norwich, Leeds, Hull, Manchester, Leicester, Bolton and Southampton. It is important that this pressure is maintained and increased as Tricia's industrial tribunal will probably take place about the end of May. Therefore all DAM members and groups should try to organise a picket of Burton's in their area and urge any other women who have been treated in a similar way to join the campaign.

For more information and a EH10



sample leaflet contact: Edin- or: The Tricia Jennings Deburgh DAM, PO Box 516, South fence Committee, c/o Citizens West Post Office, Edinburgh, Rights Office, 43 Broughton EH10 Street, Edinburgh. EDINBURGHSCHOOLstudents, occupational problems that fed up with being trained for affect thousands if not milla job that doesn't exist and ions of workers - dermatitls. then being forced on to YTS repetitive strain injury, ocat the end of more than a de- cupational asthma, back pain. cade of "education" are org-

anising resistance, not only The boss class can see against YTS but also the little advantage in having a system that demands it. The healthy labour force. Safety feeling is that the YTURC brings little commercial adcampaign, calling for a mini- vantage when there is mass mum £55 as an end to "slav- unemployment with hundreds ery", is not enough. They'd applying for every job! 1988 like to hear from any school is the 10th anniversary of students interested in set- the introduction of Safety ting up a national anarchist Representatives, and Safety school students network. Con- Committees. These committees tacts via Edinburgh DAM, have done some good work, but now there is a rising toll of death and disease as the government encourages greed and LAST YEAR ACCORDING to exploitation. Only direct acofficial figures nearly 500 tion by the workers can re-

days off. In addition, there ence heard that many Filipino permits for domestic servants engineering. This has been at amounting to slavery or near the expense of work on the slavery.

people were killed at work. verse this trend. 78,000 were reported to have been injured at work, badly enough to require at least 3 THE TUC WOMEN'S Confer-

are something like 20,000 and Columbian women are being deaths from occupational dis- kept like slaves in this eases every year. Under-re- country by diplomatic houseporting of accidents and in- holds of Middle Eastern famjuries is widespread. It is ilies. Ms Mary Tyler of the thought the true figure is at Engineering and Managers' Asleast twice as high. Thous- sociation told the conference ands of workers become vict- that: "Slavery still exists

ims of skin diseases, back in this country". The Home and joint pains and deafness. Office has abolished work The Health and Safety Ex- from abroad. Employers often ecutive has the responsibili- kept their passports so that ty for enforcing the relevant they cannot leave. There is safety legislation. Between concern that these servants 1980 and 1986 its resources are denied legal protection were cut in real terms. It and employment rights. In our lost more than 200 inspect- last issue we exposed the ors, some 15% of the total. NHS's treatment of a Filipino The Health and Safety Execut- nurse who worked at North ive has therefore concentrat- Manchester General Hospital ed its resources into certain for a year without wages. industries in high profile "Direct Action" wants to hear areas - eg nuclear indus- from you if you know of any tries, pesticides and genetic cases of gross exploitation

for the day before.

the streets in protest at the but also in towns such as Tories' attacks on the Health Inverness where 1000 came Service. In Edinburgh, among out, including workers from the 15,000 who marched in the the McDermotts oil platform largest demonstration of its yards. Local services workers kind for many a year, were miners from Bilston and Monktonhall pits, postal workers, fined to the mainland but homeless action groups and council workers, who took a Orkney saw demonstrations as half day strike in defence of did the Shetlands where some the NHS. The scenes in Edinburgh were repeated across Lerwick in the biggest demon-

ON THE SCOTTISH day of traditionally militant urban action some 80,000 took to areas like Glasgow and Dundee also took a half day strike here. Protests were not constretched out to the islands. 3-500 people marched through

EMPTY POSTURING

The numbers show that people are not prepared to wait 5 more years for a Labour government to break its promises; many cannot wait 5 months, never mind 5 more years of Kinnock's empty posturing, for a return to a decent health service. Thatcher has whittled away at all the advantages the working class has gained in the 40 years

welfare provision. She has managed to cut around the edges of the system - charges for prescriptions, etc - with little open opposition.

However, now that she is cutting, at the insistance of big business, the very fabric of the health service she is meeting with the greatest opposition since the mass unemployment rallies of the early

HEAVEN AND THE HILL

After a 52-hour siege police took over the Stamford Hill Estate in North London on the morning of Wednesday 9th of March. They numbered around 300 and were led by Territorial Support Groups in full riot gear. In the face of this massive show of force little resistance was offered and only 2 arrests were made (for obstruction). The object of the exercise, a mass eviction, was then carried out. Ninety six squats were evicted as well as one tenant by mistake, as the reactionary workers involved let their hatred of squatters run riot.

Squatters claim the length families currently in bed and of the siege as a partial breakfast accommodation. Loc-, flats. victory. They overturned cars al people know there are far to barricade entrances to the estate around 4am on the Monday morning. An argument was soon made to let tenants use one entrance. Masked squatters stood guard at the barricades while local people tried to come to terms with the massive police invasion and its attendant harassment. A good relationship was maintained with tenants and passers-by, including members of the large Chassidic Jewish community, and local opinion is generally in favour of the squatters. Tenants have complained that the squatters were good neighbours and that by evicting them the council have set the estate up as a "muggers' paradise".

CHEAPER

The ever popular London Borough of Hackney has argued all along that it needs to

steel doors. Doing up the empties would have been far cheaper than hiring bailiffs from Reading and 300 police for 3 days. These flats undoubtedly will be renovated (a task facilitated by squatters as empty flats deteriorate quicker) and used to rehouse B&B families but the reason for the evictions is clear. According to Chair of Housing, Brynley Heaven, only half the properties in a habitable condition are squatted - this leaves 1,300 suitable

ORGANISED

The Stamford Hill squated up flats with expensive ters had to be punished as

organisation, around Stoke Newington Housing Action, has worked very well. For the last 6 months council meetings, beginning with the Borough Conference at which the cuts were decided have been occupied or severely disrupted. In most cases squatters and supporters held their own meetings to discuss the housing situation in the Borough and how to fight back. After an initial clash with DLO building workers at one meeting to see their consolidated pay deal voted through, the squatters waited for the vote before occupying the chamber. In return DLO stewards helped set up a delegation to the

they were organised and the

have dropped housing workers "in the shit" over this situation. On Tuesday night, before the eviction, the Directors of Housing and Legal Services stitched up a deal with a solicitor representing some squatters. According to this deal squatters would be given tenancies if there was no violence on Wednesday. Early on Wednesday morning Director of Housing, Janet Jones, went round the allocations section of the central housing office picking out tenancies which were allocated to homeless families and rushed up to the estate to dish them out and lure squatters off. Housing workers had no warning of this and refused to deal with the tenan-

The Shared Singles scheme hasn't previously been implemented and no procedure has been agreed with the unions for this. Housing workers see this as partly an attempt to undermine the unions - the latest in a series of such attempts recently. In spite of a reactionary minority in NALGO, members were instructed not to take part in the evictions and NUPE officers (who have poached reactionary workers from NALGO in the past) did the evicting. The position of the NALGO stewards is that they can't allow the council to arbitrarily allocate housing to anyone and that it must adequately address the problems of the single homeless and not play them off against homeless families. While not opposed

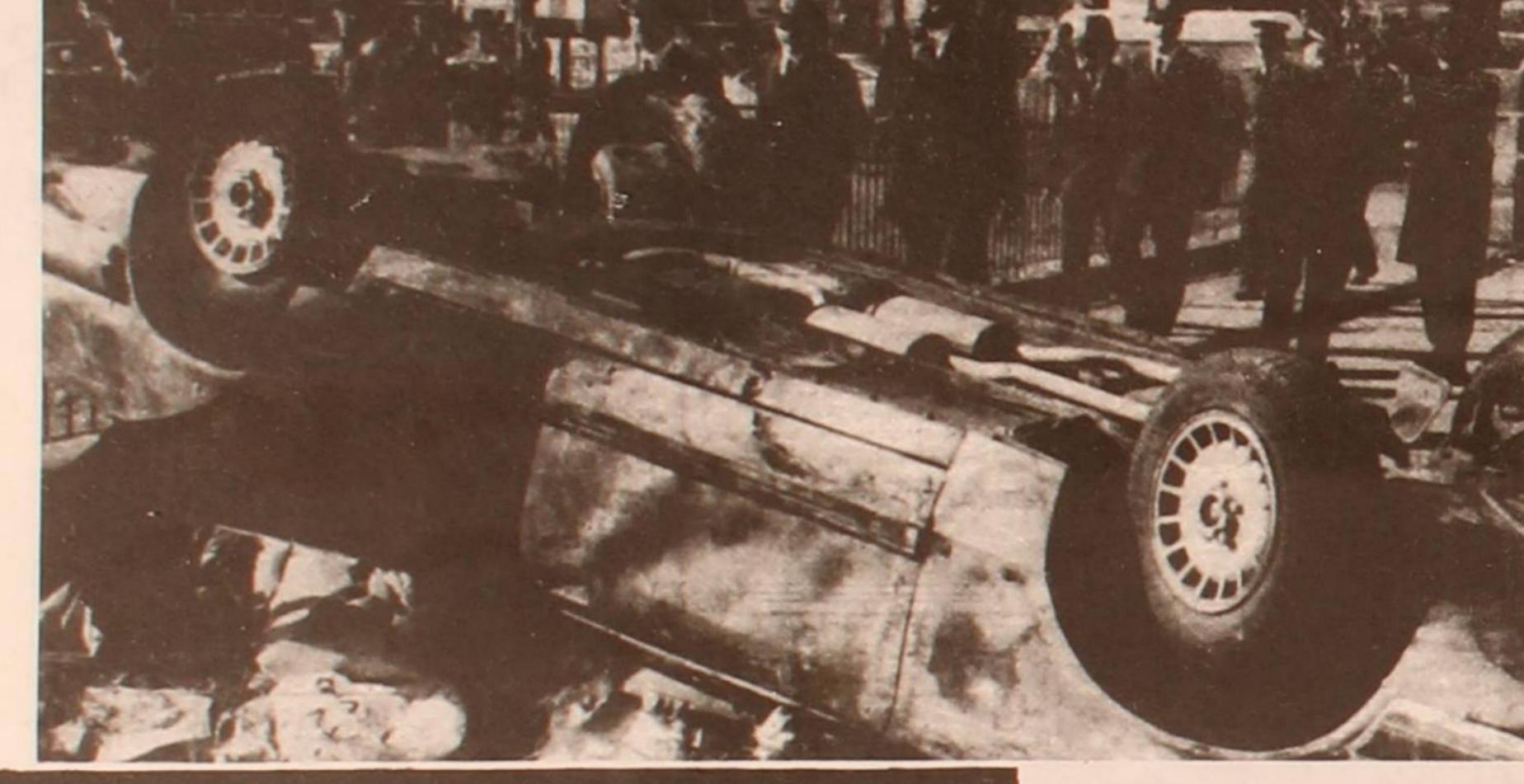
to evictions in principle,

for the sake of control.

BRICK

they oppose evictions purely

Hackney Council's real at-



Same Old Shit!

more empty properties than

squatted ones and that most

evictions only lead to board-

For many years a sickening aspect of the political scene in Britain has been organised fascist groups. Organisations like the National Front have been behind some of the worst cases of racist assault and murder. Through their publications they incited angry white youth to take out their frustrations over unemployment on black people and Asians. But today the National Front claim not to be fascist or racist, condemning the crude racist British National Party "comic", Bulldog, and calling for nazi-ism to be smashed. What is behind this? Has the "change" from naziism to national revolution brought about a new radical NF, a "third way" beyond capitalism and communism as they claim? Not likely!

The NF was at its largest pseudo-green politics and apat the time of the last Lab- artheid-like racial separat- they hope will win them supour government when they at- ism wrapped up in a phoney port in working class areas tracted considerable elector- revolutionary package which it's something they can't and al support. Then, they played mimics many left groups. Much don't believe in. the racist card with sicken- of this has been developed ing skill, claiming to be under the influence of for-"responsible patriots" while eign right wing terrorists has the support of capitalencouraging racially motivat- like the Italian NAR (Armed ism. The NF is only tolerated ed attacks. However, just be- Revolutionary Nuclei). They by the capitalists because fore the 1979 election Mrs believe that the only condi- they will need it for use as Thatcher stole their clothes tions under which they can death squads and "unofficial" in an infamous TV interview, gain are those of total chaos troops when the class strugwhen she spoke of Britain and disorder. They want to gle intensifies. So it's vitbeing swamped by "foreign- turn Britain into a situation al that we smash fascism now ers". So the Tories became like the Lebanon, a country when it is weak and divided the party of overt racism. in permanent civil war run by so it can't smash us later. This, combined with a strong hundreds of fanatical politi- Workers must unite and drive street movement determined to cal armies. This is to be fascist paper sellers off the defeat the NF, caused their achieved, they believe, by streets and out of the footsupport to collapse.

The loss of support led to massive internal power strug- members to become "political be forged in the community gles and the search for a new soldiers" and retain links between black and white and identity within the NF. Many with loyalist paramilitaries unions must be encouraged to of the old leadership were in the north of Ireland, even actively take up the fight purged and new figures rose going as far as gun-running against racism and fascism. to the fore while the new identity became "national re- ANTI-WORKING CLASS volutionism" - a bizarre mix of crude nationalist pride, for them.

the "strategy of tension" - ball grounds where their enbasically terrorism. For this couragement of thugs is dereason they encourage their stroying our game. Links must

However, the old power struggles have not been left behind. The NF has split between the "official" NF and the NF "support group", between the "distributists" and the "strasserites", but both ideologies are just old forms of fascism and nazi-ism. Far from coming up with a new "third way", the NF have just found new names for the same old reactionary anti-working class shit. Their actions and politics have changed little and much of the membership are just the same old moronic skinhead thugs who couldn't spell "national revolution ism". The NF's anti-capital ist line is just a stance

Fascism only gains when it All of this will help us to unite as a class so we can fight not only fascism but

the bosses as well.

next concil meeting and talks with Heaven, described by one UCATT steward as "Mr Ego".

At the Council Meeting on 9th March, when the cuts budget was passed, a delegation of borrowers from threatened community libraries was supported by hecklers. When next business was moved a well organised attack on Brynley Heaven was launched by youths outside the chamber but he was led away, shaken rather than hurt, afterwards. A mild kicking doesn't compare with the violence this megalomaniac and his cronies have inflicted on homeless people in Hackney. It is the state's by a unilateral decision of violence we condemn, not the holding of those in power accountable for their actions.

SEARCHLIGHT

It is ironic that Searchlight should try to smear the squatters by associating them with fascists, as the association was set up to use of state power against what political bosses consid- estates. ered anti-social (ie uncontrollable) elements was a prominent feature of fascism. Housing Association turned The allegations they made are out to be none other than untrue; Steve Martin (UDA) is Brynley Heaven - so much for a tenant; and a small group opposition to privatisation! of skinheads shunned by the Both the cuts and privatisasquatters does not make them tion were stopped by well-atfascists. Apart from insult- tended joint-union mass meeting black and Jewish squat- ings and half-day strikes. ters, it is a convenient be- The Council's deputy leader lief of social democrats that has recently tried to withfascism simply equals racism. draw recognition from some They forget the crushing of stewards, including the conindependent movements of the venor of NALGO, while the working class and opponents of state control because they do it themselves.

The post-eviction situaplicated by how the Council actionary.

titude to housing can be seen from some of the attacks the unions have beaten off lately. These include £1.5 million in cuts, involving the closure of 6 housing bases

and conversion of the Central Housing office into merely a homeless reception centre. That centre has been closed the Director of Housing and the Information Bureau in the Town Hall has had a brick through its window. At the same time management tried to re-introduce a plan involving the creation of 2 Assistant Directors, with PA each, at a cost of £60,000. A housing

take over the management of 2

The chair of the Eastway chair of NALGO has bureaucratically tried to tie the hands of workers who take swift action. With it being implied recently that anarchtion is unclear. Many squat- ists oppose the left because ters now have tenancies and we are reactionary, we reply nearly all the others have that it is state power, which re-squatted. It has been com- the left seeks, that is re-

Thin End of the Wedge Victimisation

see an industrial battle desuch as never-ending Batman, news from America and celebrations in Australia. The cameras have still been working, but certainly not to the experienced standard of those sacked. TV-AM is kept on whirring despite the internal wrangling and dodgy connections with Saudi Arabia.

Sympathy and support from workers outside and inside the union has been miserable. partly due to the union's This could be the standpoint sluggishness. It has relied on its negotiated strengths mission time and coverage is Wardour Street, London, W1V and agreements and is about to see it all washed away. ly get around broadcasting by and Television Technician in Its working practices have been extreme, with demarcaous. Wages have been high for

technical grade. As a result velop with a union ill-equip- the union has a strict policy drawal. Should the unions inped to defend itself. ACTT is on admission to its ranks - 4 volved at LWT fail to respond the technicians' union in the months' application process- successfully many of the 2400 non-broadcast and broadcast ing and 2 years' restriction workers' jobs there will be TV sector. Its members crew to grade and company if ac- at risk - so also throughout all the TV stations in Brit- cepted and then it costs 1% ain except, that is, TV-AM. of earnings a year. In some There the union is in dispute ways it's no wonder sympathy with management leading to is a bit lacking. Yet the rethe recent sacking of those strictions must be seen in a on strike. Secretaries and good light too. The union has management and anybody else achieved a technical excelthey can find have done the lence and has sought to maindirty work since the lock-out tain standards by its agree- are in a most powerful posiand we've been culturally en- ments and practices. Workers tion will prevent the slow tertained by various classics have earned high wages but TV picking off of all those incompanies have also benefitted enormously.

> ory. The ACTT has been com- AM's broadcasting contract. practices, all in the face of only one action - it must be "new realism". TV-AM has all out; there must be a shut proved to be the thin end of the wedge with the union in work. no mood to fight it. Now London Weekend Television is set for massive staff reductions. for the union. TV-AM's trans- theory) sent to: ACTT, 111 limited so it can successful- 4AY. The union's paper Film importing its news and pro- its March issue contains a grammes. But LWT broadcasts diary of the dispute so far, everything - its contingency available from the above adplans and back-up would have dress for 50p plus an SAE.

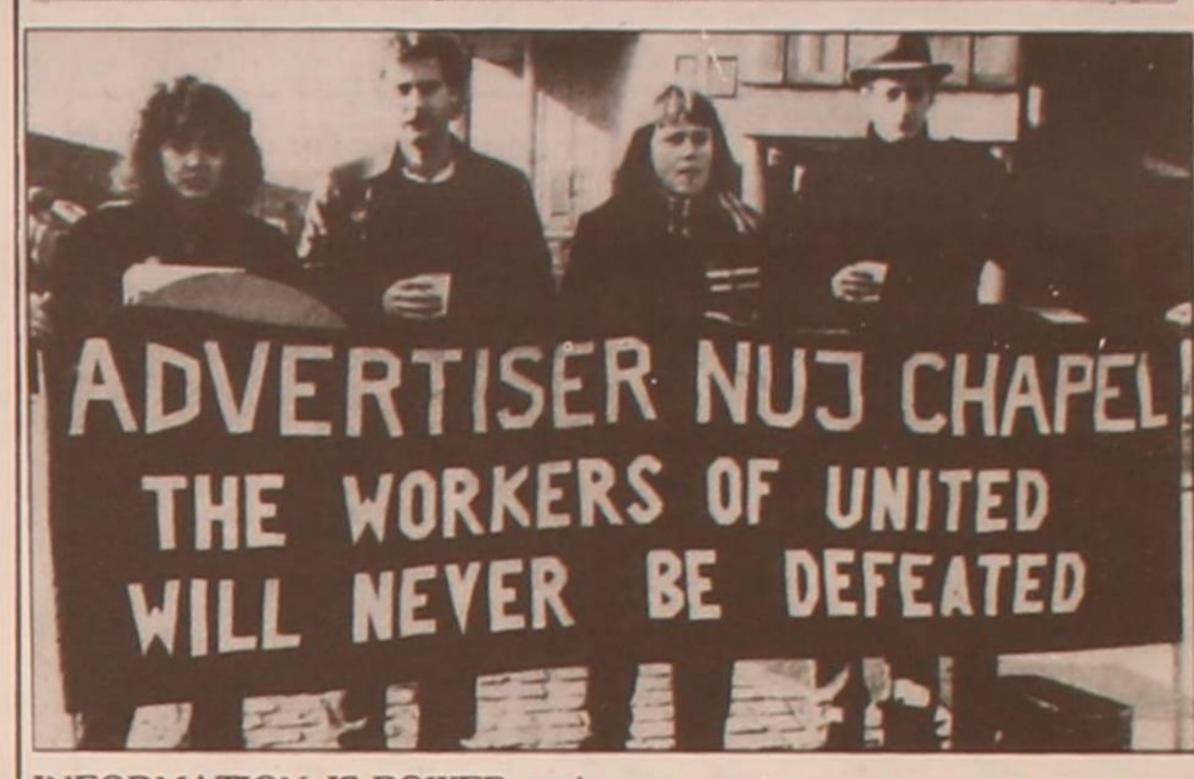
the event of a union withthe rest of Britain's media

It is vital that broad-

casting workers at all levels including BBC and ITV should respond. Only total committed action by these workers, who volved. But they cannot afford to rely on idiots like We have then a repeat of Secretary, and his pleas that the printing industry's hist- the IBA should withdraw TVdown in the television net-

> Requests for further information and donations to the TV-AM strikers can be (in

> > and other union activists, incident. the transparent lie was seen. Eight other journalists came



INFORMATION IS POWER and to collect personal belong-Sapper, the ACTT General control of information is ings until 3 weeks later! control of power. It is for this reason that the ruling class has always kept control promising, and changing its At this stage there can by of the media and kept it out United Provincial Newspapers of the hands of the workers. who own many other local pap-The current wave of attacks ers (as well as being in the on workers in the media in- same group as the Express and dustry (TV-AM dispute, Wap- the Star). The Finchley 14 ping, as well as a number of have sought and gained a good smaller disputes) must be deal of support from other seen as an attempt to re- chapels in those papers, notassert control over the media ably in Sheffield and Leeds

SOLIDARITY

The Advertiser is owned by it must be fought! despite threats of legal action. On March 30th a picket A small but inportant part was held of UPN Headquarters of this battle is the fight at the Yorkshire Post buildby 14 sacked journalists who ing in Leeds. Despite threats worked for the Finchley-based of sacking, the whole NUJ free paper, The Avertiser, chapel took a simultaneous Last November 6 journalists lunch break and marched to were given just 2 hours to join the picket behind their leave the building after be- banner. Builders, electricity ing made "redundant". Manage- workers and a British Telecom ment cited the usual "econom- van all refused to cross the ic reasons" but since those picket line. Unsurprisingly, who were sacked included the neither the Post or Evening NUJ Father of Chapel (FoC) Post printed a word about the

Besides this, local residout in support and were sack- ents in The Advertiser's area ed. The management have used have sent letters asking for strong arm tactics to keep the paper not to be delivthe 14 out, calling in lock- ered to them - some have even smiths and secrity guards and threatened legal action over even refusing the 14 access trespass if it is continued.

End of Scottish Coal

WITH THE PROSPECT of sources. The SSEB plans to of miners drop from 14,000 to other. 5,000. Senior British Coal executives warned that most of Scotland's deep mines has been forced to re-open

clude Scotland".

ian, American and Chinese by a vindictive government.

privatisation of electricity, bring the Kincardine power the SSEB (South of Scotland station back into full pro-Electricity Board) announced duction to burn the imported early in March that it was coal and may also plan to negotiating contracts to im- revive Inverkip as the interport coal and that it did not dict only prevents the use of plan to burn any Scottish imported coal at the Cockencoal from April onwards. This zie and Largannet plants. I would represent a death sen- intends however, to burn only tence to Scottish pits which coal already stockpiled at have already seen the number these power stations and none

As we go to press the SSEB

would be closed with the negotiations with BC after possible exception of Bilston pressure from the Energy Min-Glen if the SSEB plan went ister, Cecil Parkinson, and Secretary of State for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind, but Scottish miners fear that the results aren't known. The BC wants to close the 4 deep SSEB wants to negotiate an mined pits in Scotland and order for up to six million put the responsibility on the tonnes of coal over the next SSEB. An NUM spokesperson two years while BC wants a 12 at the Solsgirth mine, which year deal which the SSEB has supplies the SSEB's power rejected so far. The actions station at Largannet stated: of the SSEB are difficult to "British Coal have said al- understand as they make no ready that they might have to economic sense. Chinese coal close their peripheral pits is subject to lengthy delays in Britain and that could in- in processing and transport; coal from Australia involves high transport costs while BC Although an interim inter- believes it is cheaper than dict to prevent the burning US coal. There is no doubt of foreign coal was granted that these actions are underto BC, the SSEB chair, Don- taken with the knowledge if ald Miller, announced that not the sanction of the Scotcontracts had been signed for tish Office. It therefore can the delivery of one million only be seen as a further tonnes of coal from Austral- attack on miners' livelihoods

Preparing for Battle

COUNCIL WORKERS in Doncaster staged a 1 day strike on Thursday 10th March as a first step in a campaign against attacks by the local Labour council on the conditions of their own workforce. ers and preparing for the Councillors stated their opposition to the flexi-time scheme and had agreed a deal tive tendering". with local brown-nosing NUPE officials to cut the amount of the day covered by the flexible working. They also agreed to abolish flexi for some senior staff (who do not have much sympathy from the rank and file, but are nevertheless NALGO rather then NUPE members. The council propose to "review" the new scheme after 3 and 6 months and it's obvious what that

The struggle in Doncaster is yet another example of a Labour council trying it on with its workers before vicious cuts programme decreed by their political masters. Once again, the Labour Party in power and their "useful friends" in the trade unions are shown to be the spineless anti-working class hypocrites that anarcho-syndicalists have always said they were. The Doncaster camnon-co-operation with coun-

activists are arguing for a in many parts of the country stepping up of action to force the council to withdraw its proposals. The battle must go on - fighting for flexi for more council workbattles to come over cuts, "re-deployment" and "competi-

One thing council workers

up.'). We must prepare for united action by building rank and file communication.

A Doncaster council worker

see as necessary is the link-

ing up of workers in NALGO,

NUPE and the other unions to

undermine the stranglehold of

the bureaucrats, reactionar-

ies and nepotists (look it

Industrial Network Formed

DAM Council Workers organised a conference for local auth- London meetings will be Local Authority Workers Net- to hear from you. work and that the network

ON SATURDAY 20TH February of industrial organisation.

ority workers. Attendance was held every 4 weeks or so with small but keen and, although an open invitation to workers it included a core of DAM from other regions. We are affiliates resolved to organ- looking for a functioning orise on a broader basis. The ganisation meeting regularly bulk of the day was taken up on a regional basis to diswith reports from authorities cuss threats and tactics and and discussion of the experi- organise support and links ences detailed with analysis between groups of workers. of the battles fought and With a functioning network in the tactics used. These were London we will be producing a chiefly in the London Labour free "paper" for news, analy-Boroughs, particularly Hack- sis, comment and propaganda ney and Lambeth, and ILEA (available from the address where big cuts are being below). If you work for a made. It was agreed that local or county council or those present should form a education authority we want

should not merely be a rank Contact: Local Authority Worand file network but should kers' Network, c/o 84b Whitework for the transformation chapel High St, London El.

Fighting for a

Better World

The following article has been translated from

"Lotta di Classe" (Class Struggle), paper of

the Italian Syndicalist Union (USI) which is the

Italian section of the International Workers'

experiences, old and new); the role of revolu-

tionary syndicalism, and therefore of the USI. In

previous issues of "Lotta di Classe" comrades

have talked of the positive elements and the lim-

its of the Comitati di Base (COBAS). We must go

beyond these first considerations to construct a

more articulate strategy for the phase we are now

Association. It analyses the strengths and weak-

unarmed members of the IRA.

others, notably Bloody Sunday

mockery of all the covering

years by British politicians

and the British judicial sys-

HYPOCRISY

Shoot-to-kill shows the

hypocrisy of the British gov-

Aidan McAnespie, a member of Sinn Fein, by a general purpose heavy belt-fed machine gun as he walked towards a shop near a border checkpoint emphasizes this reality. The ed. These events like many ing estates all point to an RUC has claimed that the shooting was the result of an in 1972 in Derry, make a accident and that McAnespie had been hit by a ricochet. up that has gone on over the His family, however, has maintained that he had been continually harrassed by the tem. "security" forces and have engaged a ballistics expert who they expect will confirm that the wounds on Aidan's body could not have been caused by a ricochet or "tumbling bullet". Undoubtedly the RUC and British army in the north of Ireland. They economic and social discrimrefuse to publicly recognise will conspire to sweep this murder under the carpet. But that the British "security" unionist minority that was for the anti-unionist popula- forces are engaged in a war, part and parcel of Orange lutionary class struggle. We agenda" ignores this. If the tion in the 6 counties it is hence the policy of criminal- rule. That state of affairs recognise too that as long as working class in the southern yet one more incident that isation of those involved in was setback with the emerg- troops remain in Ireland the 26 counties, as well as small shows the true role of the the struggle to rid Ireland ence of the Northern Ireland British forces - to silence of British rule once and for Civil Rights Association and and intimidate those who op- all, and the withdrawal of the taking to the streets of pose British occupation.

Dear Friends,

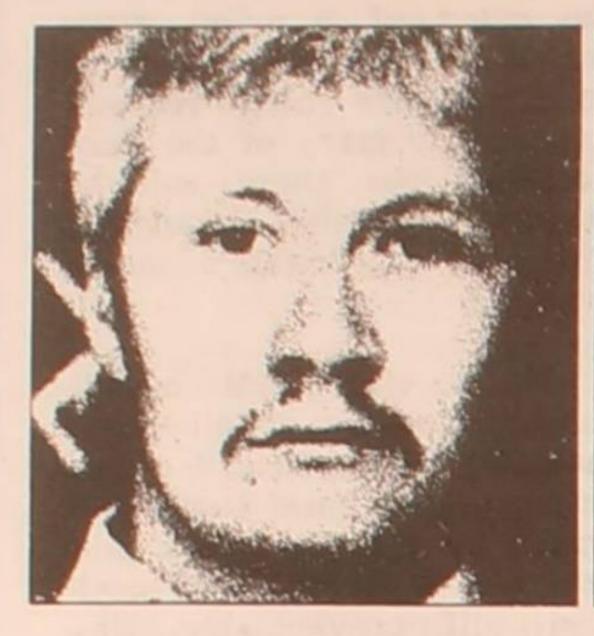
On the 1987 International Women's Day picket of Maghaberry Gaol a young woman, at last year's picket.

protest outside the gates of ate target for execution. But Maghaberry Prison Mairead and | what worries the government, her 2 comrades, Danny McCann of course, is that like any and Sean Savage were assass- state it needs to be the only streets of the British colony ence; violence has to remain self-censorship. Official ex- tacked the soldiers were actof Gibraltar.

We extend our deepest sym-Danny and Sean.

Statement from anarchist women in Belfast.









PAGE 6

The Gibraltar Three

Derry and elsewhere, after

the RUC had lost control of

the Bogside in Derry to anti-

unionist rioters, there was

no going back. The sectarian

statelet had been shown up

across the world for what it

was - a bastion of bigotry

kept afloat by the British

TROOPS OUT

do not agree with the narrow

political aims of republican-

ism or with basing the strug-

gle to end British occupation

on armed struggle and nation-

alist sentiment alone, we do

recognise the need for with-

an end to partition to create

drawal of British troops and

the conditions favourable for

war will continue as will

er likely to admit that it

While anarcho-syndicalists

Long Kesh and Armagh Gaols. At the same time, however, policies of shoot-to-Mairead Farrell, Danny McCann kill, harrassment and threats and Sean Savage, were shot of violence and death against dead in Gibraltar by British republican sympathisers, and special branch officers when the mass raids on and smashthey could have been arrest- ing up of anti-unionist housunofficial war against resistance forces in an occupied territory. That war has the backing of the British government (and the government in Dublin) but is not publicly admitted to.

That a war exists in Ireland is a direct result of the establishment by Britain of the artificial unionist ernment's words and actions majority in the six counties. concerning what is going on This led to the political, ination suffered by the antipolitical status of IRA and large numbers of people, not nore that issue, even if the partition and British occupa-INLA prisoners in the '70's all of them from Catholic As if to emphasize the that led to the blanket pro- communities, to demand equal point, on March the 6th three tests and hunger strikes in rights. From the moment that exists nor to stop its opera-

working class pressure for a withdrawal of British troops.

In Ireland we must see the immediate political agenda.

TIME TO GET OUT

recently released after ten THERE WAS THE USUAL exyears imprisonment, spoke out pressions of horror and disagainst the injustices suf- gust from the British governfered be women, especially ment after a lone loyalist the practice of strip-search- gunman attacked the funeral ing. Therefore, it was with of the three IRA Volunteers great sadness that, one year | killing 3 people. Yet what he later, in the midst of the was doing was following the joy of our celebrations for logic of the British govern-International Women's Day ment's attitude demonstrated 1988 and our protests in sup- so vividly in Gibralter where port of all women, we heard three people suspected of a of the murder of Mairead potential crime were execut-Farrell, the woman who spoke ed. Everyone at the funeral could be suspected of republican sympathies and so, by As we stood in peaceful that logic, became a legitim-

rades and friends of Mairead, killed by the loyalist at- The driver of the car was a tacker, a car containing two "veteran" of the occupation, "You have touched a woman at the procession at 40mph, four years, and knew his way You have struck a rock | mounting the pavement and in- around Belfast. You will be crushed." juring several mourners. As they attempted to escape they were caught and attacked by is that they had decided to the angry crowd. At first the scare the republican mourners media reported that two un- as part of some sick joke and known men had driven at the that it went wrong. The media funeral, were attacked and reaction was one of disgust that there were attempts to that a group of poeple could calm the situation. However, turn on two men and beat them as it became known that the to death. Yet only three days

ive members of the IRA but simply normal people pushed

> with the British state firstly through the fact of maintaining an occupation of the six counties; secondly by adopting a shoot-to-kill policy against the anti-unionist community. To the IRA the two British soldiers were members of an occupying force in the same way that Nazi Germany occupied France. The French

the Gibraltar killings have not yet run their course and many more people may yet die. The blame will be firmly attached to the Irish themselves by the British state and media as further "proof" that only the presence of British troops prevents a bloodbath.

Two men have now been more blased in the best trad- al of the Gibraltar three, supported by the British sceptical to say the least.

British troops were sent on tion. Issues like shoot-toto the streets of Belfast, kill are an opportunity for us to keep the whole matter of what is going on in Ireland under discussion among the British working class. It is our role in Britain to take part in and help build

the development of a united anti-sectarian and anti-imperialist working class movement north and south of the border capable of forcing the end of the occupation. Republicanism can only ever appeal to anti-unionists in the six counties and as such can never mobilise wide enough support. The Sinn Fein leadership with its insistance that "socialism in Ireland is not the future of the Irish revo- on the immediate political numbers of the unionist workshoot-to-kill deaths. This is ing class, are to be drawn not to say that we must ig- into a movement that will end British government are neith- tion then it is clear that socialism must be on the

nesses of the Comitati di Base (the Rank and File Committees) referred to in DA's 46 and 47. Events over recent months in the struggles of the Comitati di Base and the development of the whole Italian political/union scene make it necessary to appraise the situation (in the light of our

going through. Events over recent months in COBAS co-ordinating body in the struggles of the Comitati di Base (rank and file committees) and the development of the whole Italian political/union scene make it necessary to appraise the situation (in the light of our ex- stroys the real class content periences, old and new); the of these struggles. It should role of revolutionary syndic- therefore be opposed and dealism, and therefore of the feated. The workers must de-USI. In previous issues of fend the autonomy of their "Lotta di Classe" comrades rank and file structures and have talked of the positive elements and the limits of to new ruling cliques. the Comitati di Base (COBAS). We must go beyond these first considerations to construct a more articulate strategy for the phase we are now going

through.

The COBAS developed outtrol over workers. The rejection of entryism by 1tself. however, is insufficient be- ents since 1969 show a repettrol. To open the floodgates bodies, collectives and com- frightening retreat which dealternative which can endure. gave workers in the factories

The breakdown of class cobreaking out in various sect- Factory Councils by working the confederal unions but Also in this mould are those, ives, filled with confederalike the tendency in the tion loyalists.

the schools, who want a "5th union" in that sector, transforming the COBAS into yet another corporatist and bureaucratic structure. This divides the workers and denot allow them to fall prey

STAGNATION

The movementism of these struggles, refusing to become submerged in the rigidity of traditional unionism, is genuinely positive and antiside the orbit of the 3 re- authoritarian, but is negatformist union confederations. ive when it becomes an ideol-They have shown again that ogy in itself. Years of exthere's no space within the perience teach us that after confederations for genuine the climax of struggles a 2nd grass roots struggles and phase of stagnation emerges movements. It's an important during which the opposition rejection of the discredited regain ground; the movement union entryism strategy and suffers a dangerous haemorrhof the manoeuvres of those age and grass roots structwho preach it. The confedera- ures become depleted. What tions' logic is increasingly remains is easy prey for the revealed as collaborationist confederal unions or becomes with the system of exploita- the private domain of partion; an integral part of the ties, or grouplets. Those who power structure; and an ap- remain apart are easily crimparatus of bureaucratic con- inalised by the authorities.

cause we mustn't underestim- ition of this. During the ate the reformist unions' "hot autumn" in '69 and the capacity, once the initial early 1970's the movement wave of struggle has passed, seemed capable of sweeping Bologna; the demonstration of to regain most forces and away the old bureaucratic 100,000 in March in Rome, in movements outside their con- union apparatus. Grass roots a few months there was a of grass roots structures mittees sprang up everywhere stroyed that wave of class means going beyond the "move- and the hierarchical Workers opposition. Once again there mentist" phase; combatting Commissions were cancelled was criminalisation; plundercorporatist tendencies and out by the spread of Factory ing by those calling themlaying the basis for a real Councils, assemblies which real power. But much of the movement was later re-absorbhesion (for which the confed- ed by the confederations who odes in following years conerations are responsible) is managed ride out the tiger of firm our position. One case such that the disease of cor- dissent and bring it under is the healthworkers' moveporatism stalks the struggles control. They accepted the ors. This can lead to auto- to remove all rank and file nomous unions but also back power from them and put them to the confederal unions. under the control of execut- militants by reformist unions

The most significant ev-



self-managed way the debate structure parallel to spontaneous grass roots movements they had started. - a revolutionary syndicalist REACTIVATION structure (which is itself rigidly rank and file and

assemblyist) that aims to be

long term, resisting phases

of retreat and representing a

concrete alternative to the

official unions. It is no

coincidence that the idea of

reviving the Italian Syndic-

alist Union gained ground in

1977-8. Certainly the USI is

an organisation with a strong

historical tradition, but it

was reborn mainly due to the

need of groups of today's

workers for a fighting struc-

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We have proceeded on this road, seeing the reactivation of the USI in 1983 and the setting up of industrial networks and workplace and local structures, with active participation in working class struggles which have broken out this year. Certainly we are few (though the organisation has seen real growth and increased intervention), but this doesn't frighten or surprise us in a union/political scene characterised by years ture linking struggles and of compromise, betraval and defending working class in- dispersal of struggle by the terests to the death without confederals; the spread of compromising or conceding to corporatism; and the "I'm althe state and bosses. The USI right, Jack" syndrome. Forsprings then from a number of ward then to build this new experiences - from that of force which intervenes in Other movements, like the comrades active inside the struggles with a correct reconfederations who realized lationship to the movement they were working in vain, and rank and file structures, hierarchy and its collabora- autonomy and prevent their tion, to that of health and manipulation by anyone. But transport workers, for exam- at the same time we have to ple, who lived through strug- start building now the revolgles involving various rank utionary syndicalist alternaand file bodies and finally tive capable of fighting in asserted the urgent need to the continuous battle against

throttled the growth of workers' power in the workplaces. was made easier by those groups of the "new left" (as well as by the traditional parliamentary parties) which managed to capture various parts of the movement and lead them to entryism into the confederations. We remember with anger those who in those days (and still today) theorised about the need to enter the confederations to substitute the bureaucracy with a "revolutionary leadership". It is an old leninist myth (nevertheless adopted by some "libertarian" activists) which led to a mass of new bureaucrats of a so-called "far left" persuasion which to this day is the mainstay

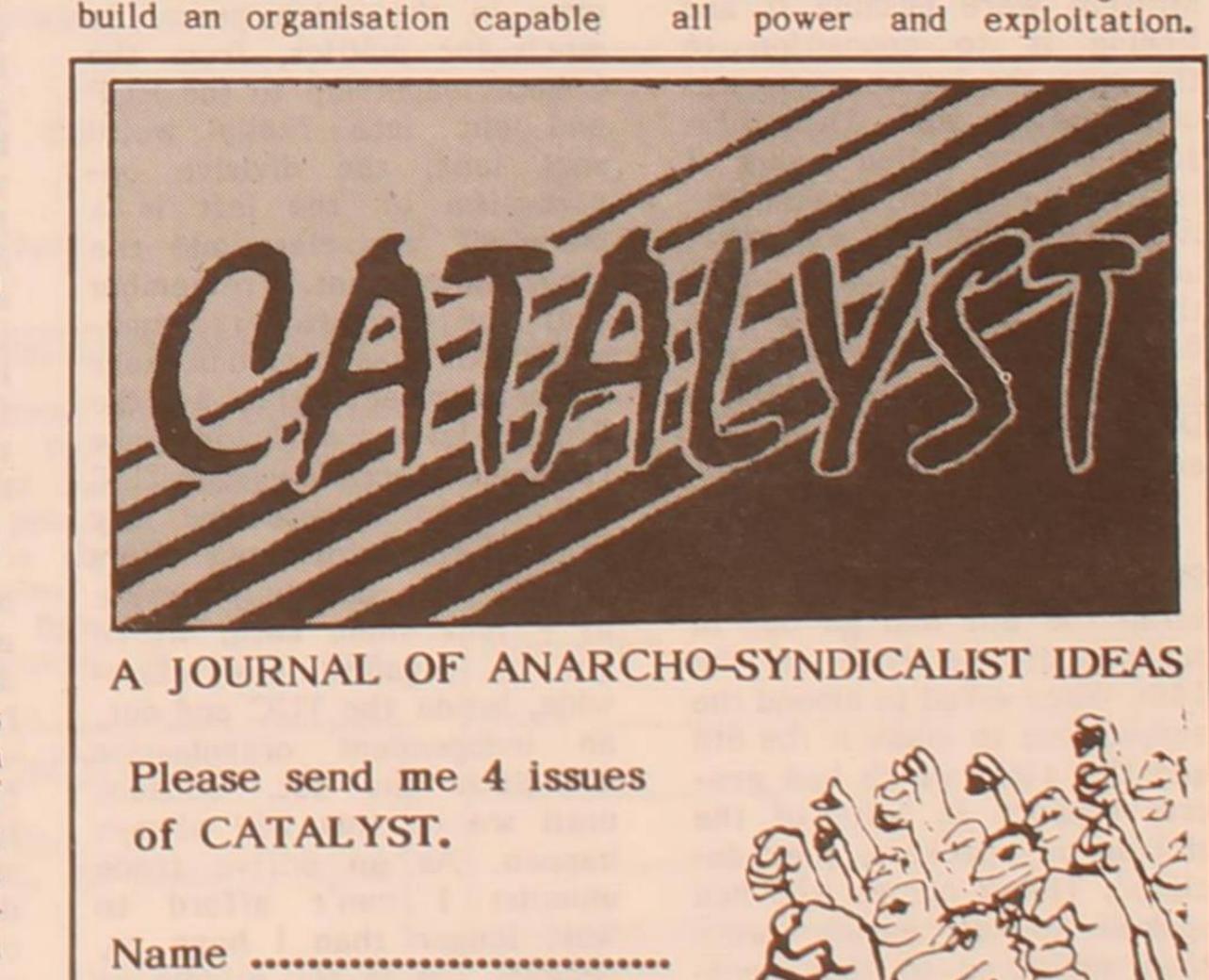
of the official unions' hier-

archical structure.

Comitati Unitari di Base (United Rank and File Committees), also submitted. They only to strengthen the union to maintain and develop their went from hard struggles to recapture by the reformist unions or ended up under the control of organised groups. For those who refused to join the game, who didn't want to fall under the control of the various "churches" there lay state and boss repression. Reformist recapture and criminalisation began a macabre dance around the movement, courting it when it could be deviated and controlled, attacking it when it escaped

FURIOUS STRUGGLES

The pattern was repeated after the 1977 explosion of the movement of the unemployed, low paid and young workers. This time it was even more disastrous. From furious struggles; the barricades in selves the "leadership" and "vanguard" of the movement, reformist recapture and mass disillusionment. Other episment that seemed to overwhelm which later evaporated, with a consequent regaining of and the proliferation of cor- HD1 1XS. porate "autonomous" unionism.





under their direct control. planations that the men were "lost", "confused" and drove Three days later, during into the funeral proccession pathy to the families, com- the funeral of one of those "by mistake" do not stand up. armed British soldiers drove having been in the north for

A more likely explanation

too far by recent events. OCCUPYING FORCE The fault lies squarely

charged with the murder of the soldiers. The evidence is flimsy - they have been picked out of the crowd to be made an example of, in much the same way as the Sharpeville six in in South Africa. After the recent appeal of men were in fact British before there had been the resistance movement was lab-soldiers the reports became loyalist attack on the funer- elled "terrorist" yet was inion of British justice is

NEWS FROM SPAIN

THE INFORMATION HERE is hand, have been at the foretaken from the press of the front of a coherent defence CNT-AIT (National Confed- of the principles of revolueration of Labour - Spanish tionary syndicalism. section of the International Workers' Association).

In October last the CNT-AIT issued a call to activists in the "CNT-Renovada", they can return with the same formed after a number of rights and duties as other splits in the CNT-AIT in the activists. Contrary to rumearly '80's, and to those ours, they won't have to sufoutside of union structures. fer "humiliation". This cor-The disenchantment of activ- responds to the only tradiists and delegates from work- tion the CNT knows - that of places like Ensidesa, Fasa- acknowledging that on the Renault, Casa, the Barcelona road to working class victmetro and the Michelin fact- ory, new mistakes will occur, ory in Vittoria, now return- but that sincere activists ing to the CNT-AIT signi- will always need each other. fies the defeat of a strategy based on a presence in the works' committees (joint committees including management and union representatives). ing forced to subscribe to The loss of purchasing power the Falangist unions (CNS) and the massive increase in company profits could not be seen an interesting new dechecked. By its practice the velopment. Now the Supreme "CNT-Renovada" contributed to Court has declared void the the weakening of the percep- re-distribution of the patrition among workers of the role of union action. CNT-AIT sections, like that in



Dear DA,

March 1988 will probably go down in history as the the 8th there were the ILEA/ which has a really dodgy hisanother hurdle to overcome.

SWP have an amendment in to it, the left can only devide scrap the 8th and go out in us - fuck them both. We've support of the NHS on the got to organise now class-14th. When asked to amend the wide, inside the TUC and out, amendment to make it the 8th an independent organisation and the 14th, which had gen- to ditch the lot, because eral support in spite of the until we do this will always sinking pay packets, they de- happen. As an active trade clined. The 2 nurses who had unionist I can't afford to spoken to us earlier were wait longer than I have to, then subjected to the spect- because I'm in the middle of acle of us voting against this mess. their Day of Action so we could show some support for our own jobs. A special Branch Meeting was supposed to be called to discuss the Dear Editor, 14th, but I think the branch has temporarily sunk under Abortion is oppression. the weight of all this. On a lighter note, our tame Tory Trade Unionist suggested that woman's unforced choice but instead of striking we should the result of pressure from organise a mass petition in people in authority or power. support of the NHS, and I got Many abortions come about be- unborn foetus. Emotive argu- liberalisation being revers- the individual and the comelbowed in the ribs by a col- cause of sexism and rejection ments about the foetus' pot- ed. It is in the context of munity, becoming little more league for adding "don't tell of people with disabilities. ential for life simply con- generalised cuts in the wel- than a front for unscrupulous

The CNT-AIT's call is addressed to those activists who have convinced themselves that they made a mistake, so

The lawsuit concerning redistribution of the patrimony acquired through workers bewhen Franco was in power, has mony earlier carried out to the benefit of the UGT, the Workers Commissions (CCOO), Puerto Real, on the other and ELA-STV, while keeping

> Willis, he's not thought of that one". Not quite the same ring to it; TUC get off your knees - organise a mass petiion. But the worst is yet to

cil who are docking about a lets. third of my week's wages -'cos I work a long Tuesday in support of...the Labour Party. Yup, down in Jubilee month of one day strikes. On Gardens, on the Labour Party bus the leader of ILEA, bless London Bridge Day of Action, him, is addressing us. His message is ILEA is being attory. Orginally, London Bri- tacked because it's Labour dge - a semi-offical cross- Party controlled. Labour conauthority shop stewards' body trol must be retained, so you for London Boroughs - called lot I've sacked to retain a day of action for March that control out there can 9th. Immediately the Stalin- bash me with your banner, but ist/Labour coalition which you'll get nowhere. Not a controls my NALGO branch worker on the platform, no started to undermine it as mention of London Bridge, not Militant were pushing it and even in the union press. So linking it to opposition to much for politics, from the the cuts the bureaucracy was Labour leadership to the RCP collaborating with. Then ILEA and out into really weird Joint Unions called a day of sect land, the divisive opaction on the 8th, in compet- portunism of the left is a ition with the 9th, so event- curse of our class and the ually London Bridge called labour movement. I remember their day for the 8th. The that the revolutionary syndi-8th was then sold to us as a calist CGT was formed because joint ILEA/London Boroughs of similar activities by the Day of Action but not without French left, we should draw the same conclusions. The TUC will control and defeat any Come the Branch Meeting, working class movement within

> Broke And Knackered, But Still Fighting, Hackney.

Many abortions are not a

the CNT-AIT out. The CNT-AIT's National Committee considers this as a first acknowledgement of the popular and historical base of the to confirm the original de-

engaged in the maintenance of social peace.

The National Committee also sees this as proof that representation can be achiev-CNT. But it will have taken 5 ed without having to particiyears for the Supreme Court pate in electoral games in tional rights of those unions historical patrimony impound- whole.

ed by Franco's dictatorship, the return of which the Spanish government is delaying. But here again the CNT-AIT remains the only example of revolutionary syndicalism. So they acknowledge that the companies co-management bod- patrimony is for the use of cision of the Constitutional ies (works committees). In- all workers, unionised or Council. The "socialist" gov- directly, this judgement is not, and will open all cenernment shows it only wants the beginning of a positive tres distributed to it from to recognise the constitu- solution to recovering the the patrimony to workers as a



Many abortions leave women damaged, some of them will not be able to have more

A male-dominated society they would rather empty wom- in authority which oppresses strike against a labour Coun- en's wombs than men's wal- women. But your argument state and is an attack not

> Above all abortion kills human beings.

> > REPLY

Yours for life, DF.

Your arbitrary assertion of a number of, often contradictory, points makes any constructive reply extremely difficult. On the whole, however, your argument can be reduced to two main areas of concern. The first of these is that abortion, in itself, is oppression, is damaging and "above all...kills human beings". The remainder of your letter, however, argues that it is the control of abortion by a male-dominated society which is oppressive. It would seem that, in argutotally contradicting your-

Abortion is not in itself oppression. It is its control and restriction by those in authority which is oppressive. Furthermore it is neither damaging nor murderous. If carried out correctly there is no reason why abortion should cause any damage. Indeed it is important to point out the many damaging effects of pregnancy on a woman, especially if that pregnancy is unwanted. It is only if forced into self-administered or backstreet abortions that women are at risk of damage or even death. If your statement that abortion "kills human beings" (which is extremely ambiguous) refers to GPs. this particular aspect we may be in some agreement! I suspect, however that you are referring to the life of the

fuse the whole issue. Only if a woman decides to continue with her pregnancy does this potential have any validity.

As I have said, it is the

control of abortion by those linking this oppression purely to sexism and prejudice against disabilities is particularly oversimplified. If, as you suggest, "a male-dominated society legalised abortion because they would rather empty women's wombs than men's wallets" why then, in the eighties is that same society imposing increasing restrictions on abortion? Contrary to your argument women's access to free abortion on demand is central to their freedom and equality in society. Only through having total control over their reproduction can women hope to have equal access to the labour market and so gain econo-

mic independence.

Current legislation governing abortion dates back to the 1967 Abortion Act. The main reason behind the passing against abortion and yet ing of this act was that, in for women's equality you are such a time of economic boom it was in the interests of the capitalist state to increase women's access to the expanding labour market. In addition to this reason public concern over the horror of back street abortions and the popularity of the idea of "social planning" for "incapable" and "irresponsible" parents were also behind the passing of this legislation. The 1967 Act did not so much legalise abortion as give the state control over abortions which were already happening illegally as well as the power to decide who should and who should not have abortions. The Act states that abortion is illegal except under certain circumstances which must be approved by two

> Now that capitalism in the 80's is in economic slump we are seeing this so-called

fare state forcing women into caring roles and so restricting again their access to the labour market that David Alton's anti-abortion Bill has won such popularity. Such a backlash is purely in the interests of the capitalist only on women but on the working class as a whole.

Yours L (for DA Editorial Group).

The article "Anarchists & Theory" (issue 46) features a pamphlet criticising the role of animal liberation in the wider revolutionary struggle.

"Animal lib cannot be considered a central task in the overthrow of this exploitative and oppressive system."

Suggesting animal lib "rebels" should "clear the mind of the debilitating ideology of the A-L movement".

All ideologies are a handicap but the understanding of animal exploitation as part of the complex web of exploitations that make up an oppressive system, is essential. The exploitation of humans and animals is, in fact, inseparable (environmental destruction, wasted resources, the testing of weapons and dangerous drugs, etc).

The A-L movement can only be effective to the extent it branches out and becomes part of the wider revolutionary movement. The accusation of "side issue" can equally be applied to any single issue, be it fighting for the rights of workers, women or racial minorities or whatever.

at least as shrouded in ideology. The fight for more money for the Health Service is one example. It is a dubious service that by its reliance on professionalism and high tech "cures" undermines the autonomous health care of

Other issues than A-L are

and profiteering drug com-REPLY

All such issues must be aries our aim is the liberadebated without ideological tion of the human race from bias if effective action is exploitation and oppression Activists concerned with we're concerned, come second whatever issues should be place. Personally I don't beturning their attentions to lieve that "all living creatthe institutions which create ures on this planet have an and perpetuate active and equal right to live out their passive compliance with the natural lives" as Carl T state. In this society the (letter in DA 47) claims. If in nearly everyone's home. certainly top priority.

As working class revolution-

to assert that "our meat eating is directly depriving people in Ethiopia and other countries of food" (Carl T). This illustrates the failure of A-L ideology in under-

Yours in solidarity, John.

in their many and varied tough luck. In fact a surplus forms. Animals, as far as of food is being produced and then destroyed to keep prices up.

something that it considers als that genuinely help peomore objectionable than any- ple suffering from disease or main culprits must be compul- my flat is over-run with thing else and then attempts illness. Also there is nothsory education (a minimum of cockroaches then I think it to build an ideology around ing wrong with having a chem-11 years of state indoctrina- is legitimate to call in pest it. But this is nothing more icals industry - the importtion) and the media, especi- control. In my view, some than moralistic liberalism ant point is that industry social system that puts human ally television - the polit- animals are more important because it fails to tackle must serve our needs first, with ordinary ician, salesman and policeman than others, but humans are the real causes of misery in than the drive for profit. people in control of what's our world. The fact that A-L This, of course, is only posmilitants are causing milli- sible under a different soc-It is certainly incorrect ons of pounds worth of damage ial system. to the same companies that exploit people as well as animals is irrelevant because fighting to save the health it changes nothing and be- service amazed me. Perhaps if sides, those companies were he ever needs an operation he targetted for their treatment would prefer to be surrounded standing the system we live of animals rather than peo- by amateurs using low-tech

under. People in third world ple. If workers in a meat equipment. And I'm sure that countries starve simply be- processing factory were hav- a diabetic would be pleased cause the economic system ing a really hard time they to know that their regular that operates throughout the would get no sympathy from doses of insulin are unworld is based on profit - the animal libbers who would dermining their "autonomous and if you can't pay up it's rather see them on the dole. health care".

As for drug companies and

John's criticism of people

The main culprit in our chemical firms, the problem society is not education, nor here again boils down to the the media, or Margaret Thateconomic system they operate cher even. It's the social Just like CND and the in. There is nothing wrong system that dominates every-Greens, the A-L movement sees with producing pharmaceutic- thing - capitalism, and education, the media and the state are there to ensure that we accept it, whether we like it or not. The solution is to organise towards a new going on. Clandestine activity will no change anything only a massive mobilisation of working class people towards social change can change things. To succeed we need to be organised and politically conscious without leaders.

DAM Contacts

Midlands

The state with its well

developed skill for self-pre-

servation has avoided even

making these issues for seri-

ous debate, let alone subver-

sive action.

DIRECT ACTION No48

to be taken.

Corby/Kettering ----- c/o DAM National Secretary, Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

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Leeds ---- Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 2.

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Norwich ----- Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich. Oxford ----- Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

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For contacts in S. Wales, Midlands, East Anglia, Kent, etc, write to the National Secretary, c/o Cambridge DAM.

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DAM Civil Service Workers --- c/o South West London DAM.

DAM Council Workers ---- c/o East London DAM.

DAM Despatch Riders ---- c/o Deptford DAM.

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DAM Healthworkers ---- c/o Cambridge DAM.

DAM Postal Workers ---- c/o East London DAM.

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don WC1N. Ford Workers Group ("The Combine") ----- c/o 634 Green Lane, Ilford,

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Nottingham Anarchist Socialist Group ---- Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.

Organise ---- c/o Just Books, 7

Winetavern Street, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

DAM Aims and Principles

1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

2. Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.

3. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit. 4. In order to bring about the new

social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the workplace and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all bureaucracies, All such workers' organthan divide the workers' movement. Any perts.

and all delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

6. We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling

. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and environment.

8. The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarchosyndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, workers themselves and must unite rather bureaucrats, bosses and so-called ex-

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers' Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarchosyndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association. This was formed in 1922 and has national sections in more than dozen countries.

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