

The bosses' backlash in the coalfields shows no sign of relenting. A clear pattern of systematic victimizations is evident - not only a retribution for the Strike, but an attempt to break and isolate militant miners and crush the basis for any renewed fightback...

Nationally, about 790 miners are still sacked: in the Yorkshire area, 3 of those victimised have not yet been to court... so much for the Coal Board's claim that only those convicted of violence or serious intimidation would lose their jobs. Many sacked miners are not receiving any payments from the D.H.S.S., which regards them as 'still in dispute' with their employer.

At Wistow pit, on the Selby coalfield, two strikers - Tony Howe and Laurie Brown - were sacked in March for 'theft of N.C.B. property'. Both were subsequently cleared by an industrial tribunal, but the Area management has still refused to reinstate them (an appeal is in process). Ken Ambler from the same pit is awaiting trial on a similar charge, but the N.C.B. have found him guilty anyway and sacked him - it just happens that during the strike Ken was one of the most active militants in the Selby area. Other miners at Wistow have only been reinstated after having been forced to make personal apologies to scabs who they'd upset during the course of the strike. In contrast, one of the 'supercabs' at Stillingfleet colliery was caught filling his car boot with Coal Board equipment on Thursday, 2nd of May - he went back to work, as normal, the following day.

A classic case of victimisation has been that of 25 miners from Fryston pit. Last November, they were arrested following an attack on megascab Michael Fletcher. Fletcher himself was discharged from hospital after a couple of days, only to be rushed back later by ambulance when it was heard that N.C.B. boss Mac Gregor was arriving to visit the 'hospitalized' martyr with a full press entourage - we're told that they only just managed to get Fletcher back into bed in time. Meanwhile, the strikers were charged with affray, aggravated burglary and the ancient offence of 'besetting', and remanded in prison. The police then dropped these charges and pressed completely new ones of riotous conduct - some five year prison sentences are not unlikely if the trial goes badly. While on remand (for up to 3 months), some of the Fryston miners were kept as 'Category A' prisoners (the same as murderers and rapists), which amounted to 23 hours a day solitary confinement. On release, bail conditions included the by-then usual curfews and exile orders. Most of these involved have been reinstated by now, although seven are still sacked - and all of them face eventual trial, with the eight most serious cases coming up at Leeds Crown Court on October 14th.



Rebuilding militancy in the pits is not going to be easy when the N.C.B. can pick off activists with immunity. Yorkshire Area N.U.M. voted (although only narrowly) against the 50p a week levy for sacked miners. At Wistow, for instance, about 100 out of a workforce six times that size are contributing voluntarily to the levy, and two scabs have just been elected to the branch committee. The 'Yorkshire Miner' has carried the headline 'Reinstatement Now the Most Important Campaign', but in practice the only effective political and financial support for sacked miners has come about through their own efforts and through the work of local solidarity groups.

Apart from a few honourable individual exceptions, the Party-building sects of the Left now seem to have little energy to spare on the fight over victimizations - they've obviously turned elsewhere in their desperate search for new recruits... so it's up to all those groups and individuals who genuinely support the miners' fight to step up campaigning. There are numerous ways of supporting victimized miners:

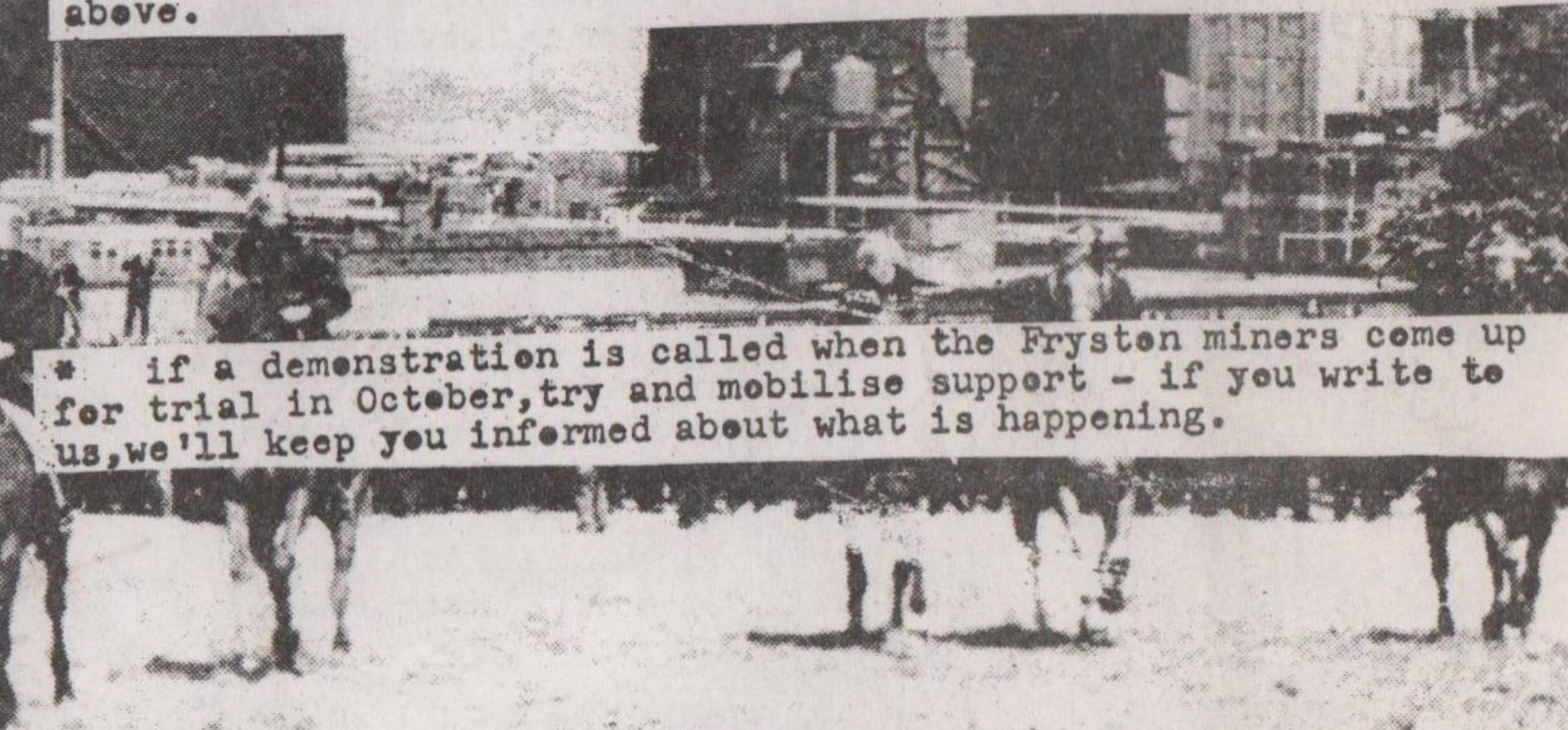


\* write to imprisoned miners - they must not be forgotten: they have been criminalised because they fought for their jobs and their class. Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee (c/o 4, Rockingham St., Fitzwilliam, nr. Pontefract) issue regular bulletins about imprisoned miners and will provide up to date lists of who is in jail where and for what sentence.

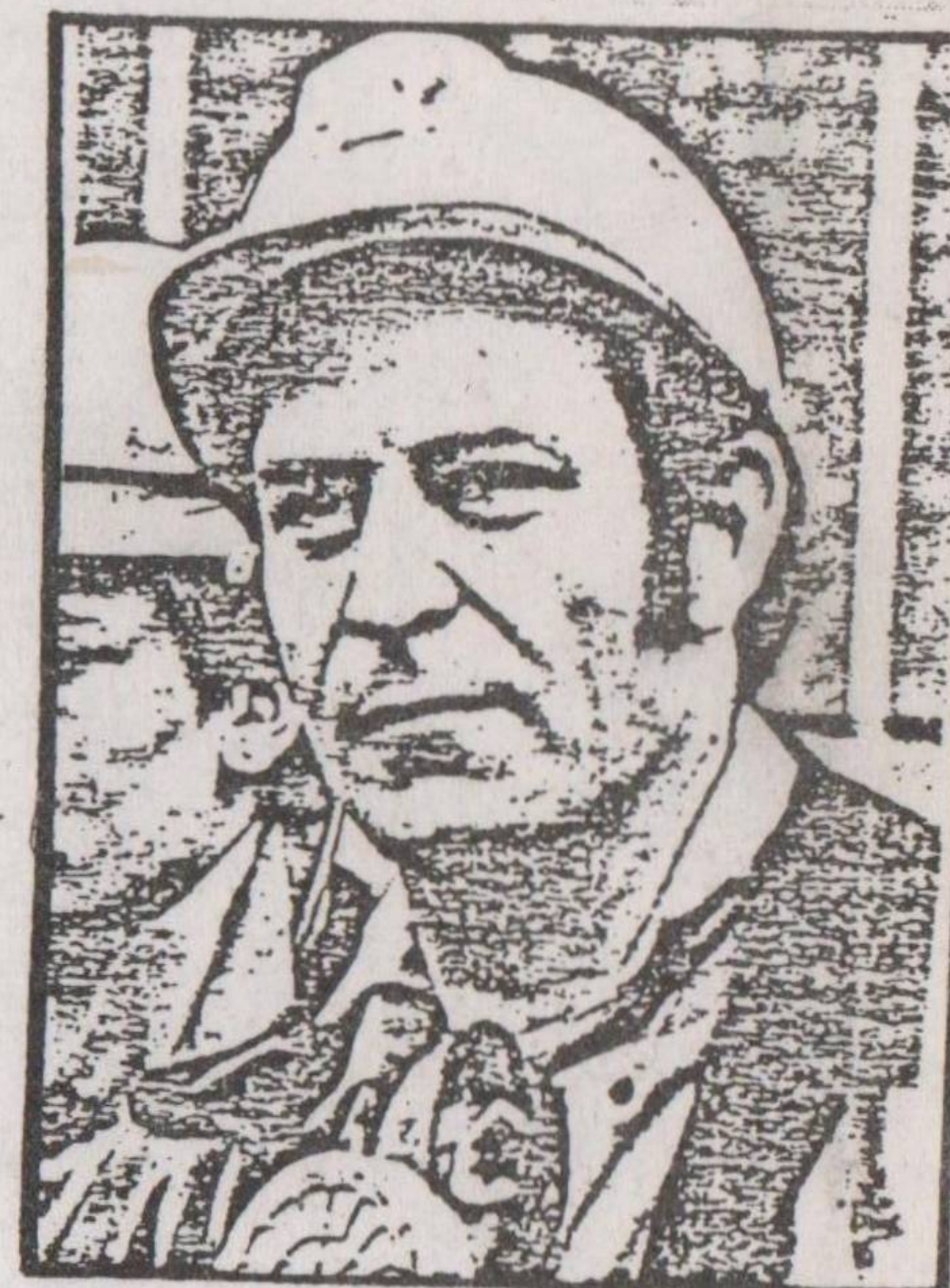
\* raise money for sacked miners - from what we've heard, funds from the official N.U.M. 'Miners Solidarity Fund' have not been especially forthcoming in some cases, which makes the financial situation all the more desperate. Any source of money - benefit events, collections etc - needs to be tapped. The miners at Fryston who are still out are getting particularly short - York Miners Solidarity Group (c/o 57, Micklegate, York) will pass on donations to them.

Also remember that many non-miners have been brought to court because of their activities during the strike, and now face heavy fines - see page 2.

\* spread information about what is going on. Regular news can be found in 'Counter Information', 'Jobs Not Jails' (South Yorks Defence Campaign, c/o Sheffield Centre Against Unemployment, 73 West St., Sheffield 1), the Fitzwilliam Prisoners Aid Committee bulletin and most N.U.M. publications. There is no better way of giving people a first-hand account of what went on in the strike, and of N.C.B. and police tactics in its aftermath, than organising a public meeting addressed by victimized miners: if you're in the Yorkshire area and you want to contact speakers, get in touch with either the South Yorkshire Defence Campaign or the York Solidarity Group; in the Durham area, contact the press office, the miners hall, Redhills, Durham (phone Durham 43515). Also, if you have any information concerning victimizations, contact one of the sources mentioned above.



\* if a demonstration is called when the Fryston miners come up for trial in October, try and mobilise support - if you write to us, we'll keep you informed about what is happening.



• Terry French Kent Miner  
Serving 5 Years In Wandsworth  
For Fighting For The Right To Work  
Serving 1 Year For Assault  
4 Years For Being A Miner

DO NOT FORGET

Support sacked miners

# RED ON BLACK

ANARCHIST-SOCIALIST PAPER OF THE NORTH-EAST 20p



sackings, show trials, imprisonment

fight victimisation!





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 IN THE NORTH-EAST THERE IS A SERIOUS GAP IN INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE CLASS STRUGGLE FROM A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE - "RED ON BLACK" IS ONE ATTEMPT TO FILL THAT GAP. THIS FIRST ISSUE HAS BEEN PRODUCED LARGELY BY A GROUP OF ANARCHIST-SOCIALISTS IN YORK - IF THE PAPER IS TO DEVELOP, WE OBVIOUSLY NEED MUCH MORE INPUT FROM OTHERS WHO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE ITS AIMS. WE ARE EAGER TO RECEIVE NEWS, COMMENT, ARTICLES, REPORTS ETC., WHICH SHOULD BE SENT TO: SHELF 22, COMMUNITY BOOKS, 72 WALMGATE, YORK. NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS PROVIDING REGULAR NEWS AND ANALYSIS FROM A SIMILAR VIEWPOINT INCLUDE: "COUNTER INFORMATION" (bimonthly - free from Box 81, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh), "BLACK FLAG" (fortnightly - 40p from 121, Railton Road, Brixton, London), and "DIRECT ACTION" (monthly - 20p from D.A.M., Box 102, Hull).  
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#### RAILWAY JOBS THREATENED

As part of a general policy of cutbacks in the British Rail Engineering LTD, 120 jobs are to go at York carriage works. Nationally their plans will account for the loss of 4800 jobs and the closure of the Swindon works. BREL argue that redundancies are inevitable and are making great efforts to justify this - ie that modern trains need "less repair and maintenance". Despite this, Rail workers believe different, that cuts in jobs are aiming at increased profits, while public services, especially the inter city 125 are suffering from breakdowns and delays as the result of inefficient maintenance. Evidence suggests that job losses are the result of Government pressure - this is starving British Rail of the funds it needs for

investment and is laying out plans to make BREL a separate "competitive" company. Fears that train building may stop altogether are reinforced by policies aimed at making BREL into a "profitable" company.

At York it appears that no action will be taken over the 120 job losses, and reports suggest that BREL policy was met more with relief than shock, that so few jobs were actually to be cut. In Swindon though, workers backed by a local support group are preparing to resist and in Glasgow successful strike action has already been taken. At the moment it is hard to predict whether or not nation wide action will be taken by rail workers to oppose job losses, one can only hope so.

#### MINERS' STRIKE-SOLIDARITY APPEAL

c/o Clydeside Press,  
 53 Cochrane St.,  
 Glasgow G1 1HL.

To: all libertarians and working class organisations who gave real support to the fighting miners.

Dear Friends,

Many people contributed to the miners in their struggle against the bosses. Many more went through the motions of support or paid lip service. Out of all the sections involved in real solidarity, none stands out in sharper relief than the Clydeside Anarchists.

During the Strike, the Anarchists sustained some 33 arrests. They undertook daily collections (without permits) which raised more than £10,500 - most of the money going to strike centres in Ayrshire.

On 4th September, 1984, twelve anarchists stormed the 13th floor offices of the scab firm Price Waterhouse. After barricading themselves in with steel shuttering, they held the premises against the police in an attempt to get the South Wales NUM hardship fund restored to them. In this action they were reflecting a widespread protest against the Sequestrators.

As a result they were fined a total of £2,000. Because they are unwaged or on low pay this fine will be hard on the individuals. We are, therefore, launching an appeal to the genuine militants who supported, by word and deed, the just struggle of the miners. Please give generously as further trials for the illegal collections are in prospect. It is recognised that support of this appeal in no sense involves endorsement of the anarchists' political philosophy.

DONATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO:

Miners' Strike - Solidarity Appeal, address above

\*In the event of the Appeal becoming over-subscribed, the balance will be sent to the NUM victimization fund.

## SELF DEFENCE-NO OFFENCE

On 7th April 1984 the Asian community of Newham was the victim of a series of racist attacks from white fascist thugs...they included a violent assault on a partially disabled 16 year old youth who was beaten with a hammer. Later on at the Duke of Edinburgh pub, passing asians were attacked by 15 to 20 armed racists who were drinking there, but on the arrival of the police it was an asian who was arrested. In the following weeks 6 other asians were arrested and detained on flimsy excuses, 5 of their number being refused bail, while in contrast the three white youths detained were neither held in custody nor refused bail. After 7 weeks the police finally prepared their case and charged the seven with AFFRAY AND CONSPIRACY TO CAUSE CRIMINAL DAMAGE, exactly the same charges made against the "Bradford 12" and "Newham 8" of 1982. In reality the Newham 7 were been criminalised for their attempts to defend themselves against racist attacks, something which the police had failed or were unprepared to do. The forces of "order" are claiming that the event is just "gang warfare", but their actions show that it is a "Test case" which if won exposes the entire Newham community to racist intimidation, brutality and even murder at the hands of Fascists.

More recently, on 22nd May Parvais Kahn (aged 17) appeared in court badly bruised after the lunch time break, the victim of severe beatings he had received from his prison guards for refusing to eat meat pie of religious grounds. This was obviously a racist attack, but the court judge refused to take immediate action claiming that, "there are bound to be two sides to any story. It may have to be investigated, but I do not make any order at present". It is frightening to see how confident the police are in openly racist activities like the cell beating of a defendant who would appear before Judge and Jury that very afternoon - of course if organised police violence had been acceptable during the miners strike the law could easily turn a blind eye to the assaults on black asian communities. This is also seen in the violent police attacks on the 27th April demo at Newham this year, where shouts of "Fuck off Pakis" were frequently heard coming from riot police lines.

The role of the state in the case of the Newham 7 has been to reinforce racism by criminalising those who are prepared to defend their communities against it - in the same way that the courts were used against the campaign to kick the leading nazi Patrick Harrington out of North London Poly and against student Unions' No Platform policies. Similarly Britains immigration laws are also racist, distinguishing between whites like Zola Budd who received citizenship within 10 days and Asian/Blacks whose families are split up by deportations. These "Apartheid" laws also cause blacks and Asians to be held indefinitely at detention centres, police searches without warrant and the humiliation of forcing non whites to reveal passports at Hospitals and the DHSS. The British state is riddled with institutionalized racism...can we look to the agencies of this state to combat racial oppression? Clearly not, we must look to our own autonomous actions, as the Newham 7 have shown. (I.K./AS)

THE NEWHAM 7 ARE CURRENTLY ON TRIAL - THE CASE IS EXPECTED TO GO ON AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF JULY: PLEASE CONTACT THE DEFENCE CAMPAIGN URGENTLY FOR UP-TO-DATE NEWS AND INFORMATION ON SUPPORT ACTIVITIES...

contact -  
 SHEFFIELD NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN - phone Sheffield (0742) 618646  
 NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN - Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7 (01 555 8151)

**SUPPORT THE  
 NEWHAM 7 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN**

"UNTIL ALL ARE FREE, WE ARE ALL IMPRISONED"



The contradictions existing within 'pop' music are pretty obvious - On the one hand the "rock business" is notorious for its ruthless, cut-throat commercialism, making music just one more commodity to be reckoned in terms of profit or loss; on the other hand, many people see music not just as a product to be consumed but as their own means of self-expression. In our society, most of us passively consume music, television, books etc as pre-packaged entertainment - a culture which we buy and behold, but don't actively create and make use of ourselves.

This passivity and acceptance of what is fed to us can only be challenged if people who want to make music (or writing or whatever) on their own terms take it into their own hands to do so.

Music Collectives have been formed in many areas in the past few years - there are now 17 in the N. East. There are considerable differences in the ways in which Collectives organise themselves, but there is a general commitment to democratic control and active participation. Collectives are an attempt to reclaim control of music by those involved in making it - offering an alternative to the domination of the record companies, radio stations and local profiteers (promoters, commercial venues etc.) In many cases, by removing the criterion of "commercial acceptability", Collectives have provided an opportunity for some radical, innovative music to reach wider audiences than would otherwise be the case.

In Sunderland, the Collective has been able to operate various venues under its own control - gigs have been run largely on trust with admission charges kept as low as possible and "with very few rules except those of common sense - such as no glue and no glass". In Middlesbrough, Collective policies are discussed at large weekly meetings and PA and recording equipment has been acquired which would normally be too expensive for most local musicians to have access to.

The Middlesbrough Collective, (amongst others) has run successful benefit gigs for the miners and for the Cleveland Rape Crisis Centre. It has also decided not to give gigs to any bands with racist/sexist material, following an incident where one outside band made anti-Jewish remarks. The Collective supported an Anti-Apartheid picket of Leo Sayer after his tour of South Africa.

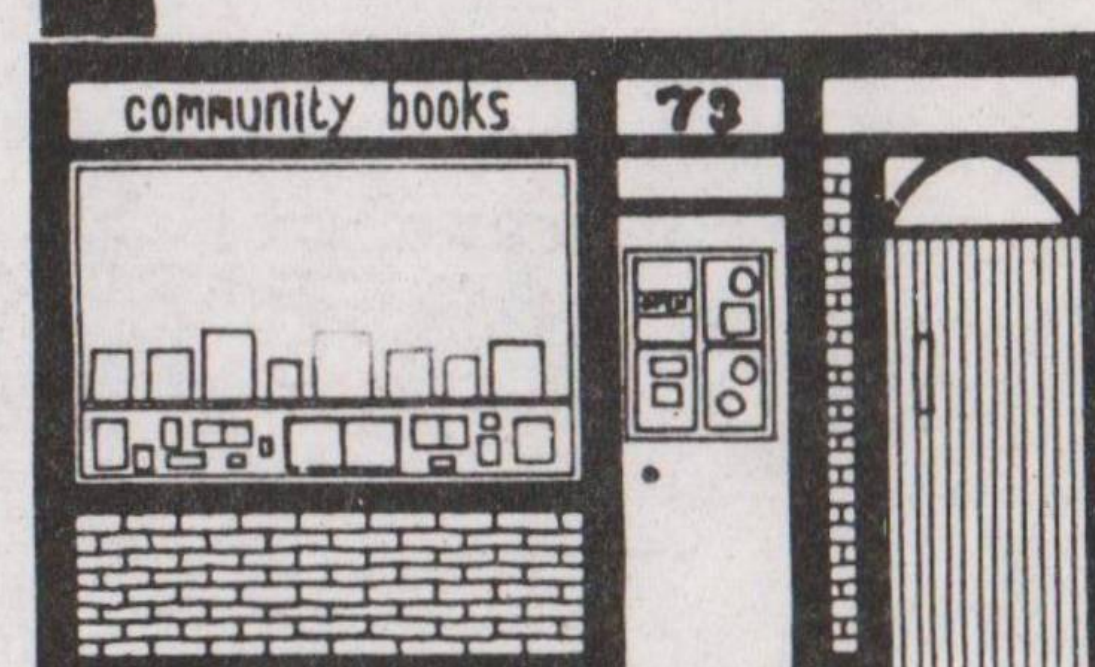
Some Collectives are simply co-operatives organising gigs for local bands. Others run wide-ranging facilities such as poster-printing, schemes for sharing equipment and low price cassette releases of local music.

It goes without saying that there are problems. There is a strong temptation for Collectives to compromise their intentions in order to scrounge money off local councils to buy equipment with. In practical terms, there is little choice but to seek funding from grant-giving bodies, but some Collectives have become bogged down in the bureaucracy of getting grants at the expense of other work. Apart from the danger of becoming mere Arts Council-approved, conservative 'community co-ops', Music Collectives also run the risk of degenerating into inward-looking cliques of would-be rock stars which reflect rather than challenge the whole individualistic mentality of the rock and roll industry.

The most important role of Music Collectives is to bring people together to learn how to take control of what has previously been largely beyond their control. People can be involved to whatever degree they choose: all the work is shared between members - many members aren't musicians themselves, but just interested people wanting to participate.

(M.H./C.B.)

## YORK COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP 73 Walmgate



OPEN

TUESDAY FRIDAY.... 10.00am to 5.00 (closed 1.00 to 2.00)

SATURDAY...10.00 to 5.00am

## news

At the end of April, a "Stop the City" demonstration took place in Norwich, during which the Area HQ of Barclays Bank (one of the biggest economic collaborators with South African fascism) was damaged with smoke and paint bombs. Many of those involved were arrested in the days following the demonstration, and now face various charges - several are expecting spells in prison/detention centres.

Learning from their experience, those involved have asked us to pass on some advice to anyone taking part in protests which might involve direct action - never carry diaries/address books with you, and don't keep any information relating to the action at your place of residence. As they say - "The powers-that-be recognise a very serious threat to their authority in direct action, and will come down like a ton of bricks on those who advocate it."

For more info, contributions to fines etc, contact RESIST, c/o the Greenhouse, 48 Bethel St., Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR.

A benefit gig was held in York on June 25th for sacked and victimized miners on the Selby coalfield. THIRST, MALCOLM'S INTERVIEW and THE NEUROTICS played, and the atmosphere was excellent - unfortunately the turnout was lower than expected and the individuals who put on the gig are now having to fork out from their own pockets to cover the losses - however, nearly £100 was raised at the gig from collections and a raffle which went direct to sacked miners...

FOR INFORMATION ON NORTH-EAST MUSIC

COLLECTIVES CONTACT :-

MIDDLESBROUGH MUSIC COLLECTIVE

90 120 VICTORIA ROAD

MIDDLESBROUGH.

## THE DECLINE OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN HULL

## DEATH of a CITY

This year Bob Battersby, Hull's Euro MP, working to change EEC policy in relation to Humberside fishing, stated "I intend to see that the river Humber gets an all weather fishing fleet that will be able to go out into the North sea all year."

Such optimistic hopes are indeed a sad reflection on the situation Humberside finds itself in today; once the major fishing centre of Britain, providing jobs and security for all, and sending out its large Deep water fleets as far afield as Iceland and the White sea.

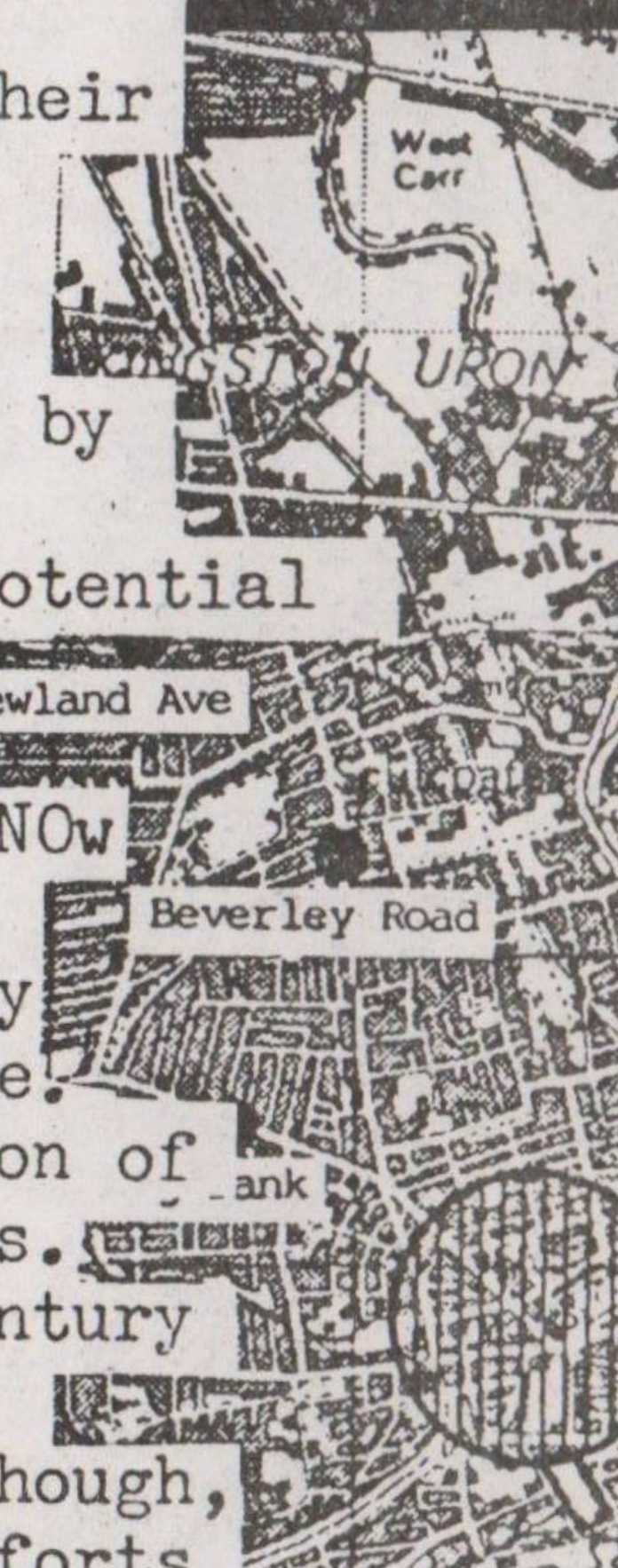
Within barely 8 years though, Humberside fishing activities have more than declined, the industry has been decimated. In 1976 "middle" and "deep" sea trawlers landed 278,000 tonnes of fish, but by 1983 that figure had dropped to only 75,000 tonnes, while related employment has fallen from 3810 jobs to 1452 respectively, over a 50% reduction.

Hull no longer possesses an effective "deep water" fleet and only 9 "middle" water trawlers remain based there, landing Cod, Haddock, and Plaice, providing about 130 jobs.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS AND ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THIS? The Yorkshire and Humberside Economic planning board attribute it to a number of factors. Firstly, the international "Cod Wars" which resulted in agreements of North Atlantic powers to impose 200 mile coastal limits, have effectively removed prospects for "deep water" fishing in the traditional locations. Not only this but EC Common Fisheries policy has reduced legal catch quotas, in 1984 for example those for the North Sea Cod fell by 12%, hindering further any chance of reconstructing the industry. It is also claimed that both Hull and Grimsby are bad port locations for the Northern fishing grounds, while their landing charges are described as "uncompetitive". Finally, due to changing circumstances the "Associated British Ports" are reluctant to give financial aid to port reconstruction, and are actually threatening the William Wright and Albert docks, which provide necessary repair facilities, with closure. Luckily this judgement is being contested locally, but if carried will mean the loss of many jobs in ship repair, overhaul and fitting, added to those already slashed in fishing. This is simply because the BPA consider Hull's commercial docks to be incapable of subsidising a "loss making" fishing industry.

The decisions of governments and economic planning committees are destroying the lives of ordinary people, and threatening their communities; complex economic and political agreements are beyond the control of the Humberside workers but it is they who must suffer. In Hull there is a sentimental attachment to the fishing industry, and with its rapid and uncontrolled disintegration people are losing their hopes and motivation, producing a kind of psychological depression, as one local official commented, "people here are rather self-effacing, they're surprised if anything good happens to them". As the "Cod War" agreement was made without much consideration for the social factors involved it is looked upon as a "sell out" by the people of Hull, just as it would have been to Icelandic workers if "British interests" had been triumphant instead. Besides the fact that Hull's brilliant potential as a fishing port is now wasted, decline has created a hostile and pessimistic attitude towards a government that has done nothing to relieve the agony except give Hull "intermediate" status in its supposed economic development programme. Now entire communities like Hessle road, the town within a town, once proud of its prosperity, are to be uprooted and demolished. For Hull's 10% unemployed, in a city once dependent upon the sea, there seems to be little prospect of a bright future. Declining wealth, job opportunity and living standards accompanied the destruction of the fishing industry, and have caused depopulation, almost 25,000 since the 1970's.

In 1980's the "Hull Fishing Vessel Owners Association", after almost a century of activity fell into liquidation, leaving a vacuum which the "Hull Fish Landing Company", with the aid of the city council are attempting to fill. Despite this though, the powers that be, ie the BPA and the government are looking to destroy any efforts towards improving port facilities, however insignificant, because their general economic priorities have been fixed regardless. Even with the new city council urban development scheme, and the continuation of processing (mostly foreign and Scottish fish) there is little hope for those who have already lost their livelihood. In reality Hull, like many other "non EFFICIENT" parts of the British economy has been abandoned, lost its potential in the eyes of the capitalist system, while its communities are left with nothing, to face unemployment and desolation.



KINGS



## scabs against apartheid?

On 16th June, thousands marched through London against Apartheid. This display of mass anger against South African fascism can only be welcomed, but the demonstration was full of lost opportunities. The route passed by many of the institutions which are the lifeblood of Apartheid - the Dept. of Trade, branches of Barclays bank etc, and although there were some token pickets, there should and could have been some more effective action taken...although this would, of course marr the respectable, law-abiding, apolitical image that the Anti-Apartheid Movement leadership seem so eager to convey. As it turned out, we trudged along empty streets being subjected to the terminal boredom of robotic Trotskyists chanting their slogans to themselves. The march rallied in Trafalgar Square, yards away from South Africa House. The embassy was closed (it was Sunday) and heavily guarded by police, but it seems tragic that there was no action whatsoever taken against it: fighting Apartheid has got to mean direct action, not moralising from Church dignitaries and trade union bureaucrats.

What was thoroughly nauseating was to have arch-scab Neil Kinnock telling us that the answer to Apartheid was to vote for him at the next general election. Anyone who was involved in the miners' strike will recall that Kinnock shat on the miners again and again - something which he's still keen on. Kinnock talked about the tremendous courage of black resistance to a police state and the need for solidarity - fine words, but what about workers' resistance in the coalfields of Kent or Yorkshire?

Fortunately, Kinnock did not get away unscathed - his speech was repeatedly interrupted by barrages of heckling from a sizeable minority of the audience, particularly Anarchists and SWP supporters. Choruses of 'SCAB', 'JUDAS', and 'WHAT ABOUT THE MINERS?' left him noticeably ruffled and resulted in us being threatened with physical violence by Labour Party hacks.

## SMASH APARTHEID - SMASH THE STATE

Recent months have seen a determined fightback by workers in South Africa, against the viciously repressive bosses and their openly racist state. This struggle has seen the emergence of a number of Unions organising workers in an attempt to better working conditions and pay. However, one Union has set its sights higher than this. The syndicalist South African Association of workers unions. (SAAWU) which incorporates over 100,000 workers and is the most militant of these unions is openly committed to destroying capitalism.

The SAAWU represents a shift away from guerilla action towards challenging the state on an economic basis. It organises workers on an industrial basis rather than on a craft and trade basis, rejects any involvement with government created institutions and is independent of all political parties. It is committed to a policy of direct action in taking on the bosses, rejecting independent arbitration or negotiations through officials.

Although nearly all its members are black, its policy is non racial. The SAAWU sees Apartheid and racism as major enemies of workers, and recognises that Apartheid is closely linked with the development of capitalism in South Africa. Only when capitalism and

the state are destroyed will Apartheid be smashed. Besides organising workers into one general union the SAAWU also organises amongst working class communities. High rents, squalid housing and forced migration are as much a part of exploitation as low pay and poor conditions in the factories and mines. The SAAWU is opposed to the repressive puppet governments of the "Tribal Homelands" as much as it is to the South African government.

The SA government has become extremely alarmed at the growth of the SAAWU and has attempted to destroy its militancy. It has tried to force it into the established channels of state mediation and arbitration machinery, has arrested its entire executive several times and regularly raids its offices. Its most active militants are continually under the threat of death. Despite all this the SAAWU continues to grow and heighten the class struggle against the bosses and the state.

Apartheid is an integral part of South African capitalism. The bosses and the state apparatus they control maintain Apartheid so that they can hold on to the power and wealth they have accumulated through the exploitation of the working class. Apartheid will only be destroyed when capitalism is smashed and a free and equal society based on workers' self management has been brought about. The SAAWU aims to do this standing on the front line of class struggle in South Africa.

HYPOCRITES AND PARASITES LIKE KINNOCK HAVE NO PLACE IN ANY GENUINE STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION - KICK THE BASTARDS OUT...

on a more positive note, the Direct Action Movement distributed information about the work of the South African Association of Workers Unions on the demo, which we reprint here...

## ANTI-RACISTS UP AGAINST COURTS...

York University is a sedate, quiet place with a small, largely upper-middle class student population - hardly the sort of place where you'd expect an important political struggle to be brewing. But it is - over the student union's policy of picketing racist speakers off campus.

## PICKET STOPS MP

Last November John Carlisle MP - known by some in the House of Commons as "the Right Honourable Member for Africa, South" - was invited to speak by the Federation of Conservative Students. Carlisle is a member of the racist Monday Club and an ardent apologist for fascist South Africa; consequently he was stopped from getting on campus by a picket of about 250 anti-racist students, mobilised at a couple of days notice.

The students union at York upholds a specific policy of denying access to Union facilities or a university platform for racist, sexist or anti-gay agitation. Similar policies are held by many student unions, and 'No Platform' has been consistently backed by clear majorities at recent union meetings. With encouragement from the F.C.S., the university administration has brought in the courts to break 'no platform' - riding the hobby-horse of "freedom of speech", they suggest that opponents of racism should "fight thought with thought and word with word" and are seeking injunctions against the union on the grounds that the policy contravenes the university charter and thus violates civil law.

Using the prospect of prosecution as an excuse, the Liberal/SDP majority on the S.U. executive have scabbed out of taking on the admin, and are refusing to carry through democratically-made decisions. The Liberals have to fob off students with a meaningless compromise that would supposedly bring no platform 'within the law'. In attempting to undermine militant anti-racism, the Liberals have tried to substitute passive cross-campus ballots for the participatory democracy of union mass meetings - when this failed, their members on the executive resigned and sought re-election as a mandate to sell-out. The result was a slender majority for the scab candidates, although their 'alternative' proved the least popular in a farcical 'consultative ballot' which they instituted a week later.

The admin's propaganda assault on No Platform has centered around the argument that our opposition to racists and fascists organising merely arises from a clash of opinions - the tragic absurdity of this position was shown earlier this month when a gay left-wing activist had his room firebombed.

University of York

## UNIVERSITY NOTICE

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY

The University's policy on freedom of speech is as follows:  
"A University is a place in which opinions, however should be allowed expression and discussed. It should be a University must safeguard itself by ensuring a free expression of such opinions is possible, meeting or to"

No Platform is not about some abstract "freedom of speech" - in practice no such absolute right exists in our society as we can see from phone-tapping, D-notices, BBC news censorship (openly admitted to during the Falklands war), the use of troops against Molesworth peace camp and the treatment of Ponting and Tisdall. Neither is No Platform about stopping access to ideas - IT IS NOT A MORAL ISSUE, IT IS A POLITICAL ONE: IT'S ABOUT US ORGANISING OURSELVES TO SMASH FASCISM. At Harrogate F.E. college, the students union fell, through manipulation, into the hands of the National Front - after it had dropped its No Platform policy. According to the NF paper 'Spearhead',

"The fight for the minds of the British youth is continually taking place in the seats of British learning. We can, if we are determined to do so, make massive inroads into the technical colleges, universities and schools." Clearly fascist activity depends upon us allowing them to propagandize and organize first.

The importance of the administration's action at York university is that it is a test case for breaking the political autonomy of student unions - several leading Tory ministers have implied their support for the admin (Keith Joseph described no platform as 'barbarism'), and invitations to both Carlisle and fellow Monday Clubber, Harvey Proctor have been issued by York F.C.S. Similar confrontations seem to be in the air elsewhere, and this appears to be part of an orchestrated move to 'clear the decks' for a new round of education cuts by weakening 'stodgy' student unions -

Clearly what is happening at York resembles other cases where the courts and police have been used to reinforce establishment interests against opposition - with the Newham 7, for instance, or in the NGA dispute or any number of instances during the pits strike. We argue that this lays the basis for building links with other struggles: THIS IS NOT AN ISOLATED STUDENT ISSUE, AND CANNOT BE FOUGHT SUCCESSFULLY AS SUCH. We recognise the political role of the administration as our bosses who, just like the NCB, are quite prepared to use the state machine against us: IF YOU SUPPORT OUR POSITION, OR WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT PICKETS IN THE EVENT OF CARLISLE OR PROCTOR BEING BROUGHT IN, PLEASE CONTACT US...

ANARCHIST GROUP OF STUDENTS UNION,  
GOODRICK COLLEGE, YORK UNIVERSITY.

## MORE NEWS:

### CULTURE SHOCK FOR THE ROYAL REGATTA...

Every year Henley on Thames plays host to one of the most important events on the bourgeois social calendar - the Royal Regatta, a long weekend of boating antics for the viewing pleasure of hundreds of upper-class bloodsuckers. The air will ring to the sound of "O.K. Yah" and the Rollses will be double parked: but this year the atmosphere of wealthy complacency will be shattered by the presence of hundreds of angry 'undesirables'.

The wholesale state violence seen during the miners strike has shown what happens to those who challenge the interests of the class of parasites who patronise the Henley Regatta. Uniformed thugs with sledgehammers, helicopters and riot gear have carried out bloody attacks on people involved in the Stonehenge festival - now it's our turn to attack the culture of the rich, and make them feel it...

The protest at Henley is being initiated by CLASS WAR and similar groups - to us, their idea that society can be changed simply by 'bashing the rich' is a dead end, and in some circumstances could only serve as a diversion from more effective activities. However, actions like Henley give people willing to take direct action an opportunity to go on the OFFENSIVE, taking the war going on in society into the playgrounds of the rich.

HENLEY...JULY 12th...HENLEY...JULY 12th...HENLEY...

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