

# RESISTANCE

No.4 Apr-May '97

election issue . . . election iss

## LABOUR? TORY? same old story!

AS THE CAMPAIGN officially got started, Newcastle's prospective candidates kicked off their round of door to door electioneering. Funny that - the last time any of us saw these would be politicians was in 1992, during the *last* election campaign. Remember what they said then? Remember all the improvements they promised?

This time round, and here they are again - promising the world and delivering nothing as we expect them to. It is amazing really - most people we talk to realise that voting is a waste of time, unlikely to make any difference to their lives, and each time we let them get away with it. Whether it's cash for questions, government cover ups or council corruption, politicians, both local and parliamentary prove time and time again that they're only in it for themselves.

### They need us

Not content with huge salaries, they want to rub our noses in it by voting themselves a massive payrise, while we are expected to live on slave wages or a crap giro. Meanwhile, the politicians look for scapegoats for the mess they and their rich friends created in the first place: single mums, the unemployed, young people, foreigners, and let rich bastards like Winston Churchill MP cream millions off the National Lottery for a set of old documents that belong to the "tax payer" anyway. Politicians are liars and parasites - They need us, we don't need them.

### Taking control

The truth is, whoever wins the election the result is always the same - massive

**After months of speculation, the Tories finally announced the date the election will be fought on. The media saw this as a good omen for a Labour victory - MayDay. Ironically, those who struggled to establish the 1st May as a day of international solidarity between working people would be turning in their graves at the farce the date has become. In this issue of Resistance we take a look at the politicians, the sleaze, the corruption, the endless ad campaigns and ask: what difference will any of it make to most people?**

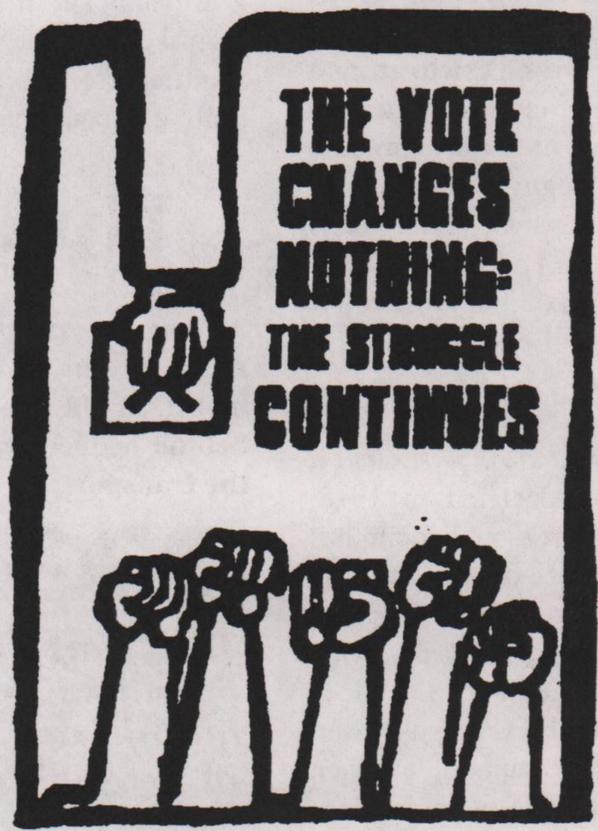
attacks on working class people. Refusing to vote is an act of resistance against those who claim to act in our interests. This on its own however is not enough. Politicians can offer us no solutions, only more of the same. This is because they are part of the problem.

We can start by taking control of our own lives, so we can sort out the mess that they have created - they won't do it for us. We've proved before that we can stop the politicians by Direct Action and we can do it again. The Poll Tax was beaten by mass resistance and a refusal to pay, not by waiting for a miracle from a Labour government. More recently, Direct Action has forced the politicians to massively cut their spending on road building, which is destroying our communities, our

environment and our health. The next government will be the most right wing in living memory, with even more attacks on our class on the agenda. The time for resistance is now.

### Resistance is building

People all over the country are realising that voting changes nothing. April 12th sees a march in London which will bring together struggles from all regions including the Magnet workers dispute in Darlington. The message of these diverse struggles, which include environmentalists, strikers, asylum seekers, the unemployed is the same: "take direct action in the streets, in the fields and in the workplace, to halt the destruction and create a direct democracy in a free and ecological society" (Reclaim The Streets).





## **GIT OF THE MONTH** **Judge - Mental**

Judges tend to wind up most people, more so us at *Resistance*. This issue's git of the month is a top north east judge who seems to be continually making a nuisance of himself. Not content with doing the state's law and order dirty work, he has also got a nasty habit of letting his personal bigotry get the better of him.

Judge Crawford seems to have forgotten that slavery ended (at least in name), and described to an assembled court on Newcastle's quayside how his friends "work like niggers". Not only was the old git racist, but he was also implying that he and his cronies work hard. As if!

The only work this Cambridge-educated toss pot appears to do is to make life difficult for others. In 1992 he was given an official warning for sexually harassing his female staff. Interestingly, his racist remarks were only highlighted because a passer by wandered into the court to kill some time.

Of course, most of us avoid courts like the plague, but it would be interesting to find out what these senile old farts get up to, day in day out. Here at *Resistance* we've already reached our verdicts and are putting on our black caps to pass sentence now (well, ski masks actually).

## **LABOUR New and Old**

BY THE TIME you read this we could well have a Labour government, or be about to get one. The election result seems a formality. Unlike Labour's apologists on the left however, we'll not be celebrating a Labour victory, as we have no illusions about New Labour, and no fond memories of the old one. Although some so-called socialists are having doubts about New Labour, most on the left still cling to the hope that Labour will bring something positive for the British working class. Let's put an end to this nonsense.

"The Labour Party is not a class party, but a National party" so they declared in 1918. There you have it. The reason Labour has never done anything for our class isn't because of "bad" leaders, difficult social conditions etc., but because that's not what the party is about. An example of Labour is their treatment of the dockers, a group who currently require all our support. When Labour came to power in 1945, within 6 days they had sent troops into the London docks to break a strike. They used the troops against the dockers repeatedly, in 1946, 1948 and 1949. Such was old Labour in its socialist

heyday. Just imagine Tony Blair and the rest of the fuckers in the current leadership. This was *before* they nicked the Tories law and order policies.

It is a pipe dream to expect that salvation lies with election of another Labour government. They would do what their predecessors did, and probably a lot worse. The strength of our class lies in self organisation, in the work place and in the community, NOT in the ballot box. Real change can only come through mass direct action, now and at every time. So lets not rejoice or moan about the election. Let's organise for the future!

## **Alleycat Attacked**

Alleycat books co-op, Newcastle's radical book shop was recently spray painted by fascist low lifes. While not exactly major, this is part of a continued campaign.

The most recent attack saw the shop daubed with C-18 logo's and swastikas. This follows two years of attacks while the shop was based in Durham. Alleycat responded "*Fascists thought they could close us in Durham, but instead we moved to larger premises in a larger city. We were not intimidated then and we refuse to be intimidated now*". Good stuff. What's also needed however is support for the shop. The fascists won't close Alleycat, but capitalism can be hard on a non-profit co-op.

The best way to help is to buy from the place. While keeping the shop going, it also helps with our own vastly important education. Incidentally, just around the corner is Thomas Miller's Auctioneers, which is currently trading in Nazi militaria, as current nazi's target Newcastle. They recently sold a black leather Luftwaffe flying suit, which could only excite fetishists, nazis, or a mixture of the two. Also for sale are battle flags, SS arm bands and medals. Obviously we're not surprised that a business has no shame in profiting from this, but who are the people willing to cough up for this junk?

## **Nukestop!**

A convoy carrying nuclear warheads received an unexpected welcome last month as 50 protesters jumped out from behind hedgerows and headed straight for the transporters.

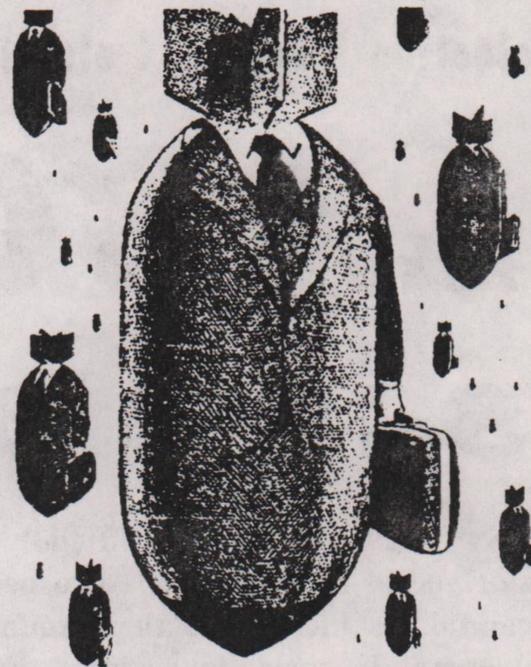
## **ORGANISE!**

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The warheads, each ten times more powerful than the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima, were on the final leg of their journey from Aldermaston in Berkshire and heading for Faslane submarine base on the Clyde in Scotland. These convoys pass dangerously close to Gateshead and Newcastle as they regularly travel to Albermarle barracks in Northumberland for a stopover.



### **NUCLEAR WAR BALLOT**

**YES**  **Let's have a nuclear war.**  
**I'm sick of waiting.**

**NO**  **I'd rather wait a little longer.**

You only have one vote.

The welcoming committee locked themselves onto the underside of the lorries while others climbed on top and danced on the roof! The drivers had 2 hours to admire the Northumberland countryside as Ministry of Defence Police became increasingly agitated by the surprise visitors.

Despite the scale of the action, the longest convoy delay ever, the Police only made 9 arrests for "Breach of the Peace", a bit of a sick joke considering the breach of everyone's peace these weapons of genocide would cause if they were ever used. Nice one!

### **Coming up . . .**

**April 12 / 13th:** March For Social Justice / Reclaim The Streets. London. Newcastle ACF and others will be at this one. Phone 0191 519 2257 for transport details.

**May 1st:** Oh dear oh dear. Reclaim MayDay by showing the next government what you think of them. (pssst) Spectacular direct action planned - contact PO Box for more info (sshhhh!).

**May 3rd:** Newcastle Green Fair. Leazes Park. All Day. ACF stall and discussion.

