

May 1968

State Terrorism

London ACF is holding a public meeting on the events of May 1968 in France, with a French comrade involved in them and now active in railwayworkers struggles. We have a tentative date of May 12 at Conway Hall, but keep a lookout in the next EW and other papers for confirmation, or write to the London address for details.

After the French government bombing and murder on the Green ship; in New Zealand, comes the SAS shooting of unarmed Irish Republicans. This event has grim and ominous overtones. It sets a precedent for the shooting down of unarmed people in the street, suspected of subversive ideas and activities. In this way capital punishment has been reintroduced by the Tories and executions without trial have now taken place. The SAS are allowed to operate freely, and the government gives them a free hand to do what they want, while the toothless Labour 'opposition' fall over each other to be patriotic, praising the 'action' read murder.

Discussion Meetings

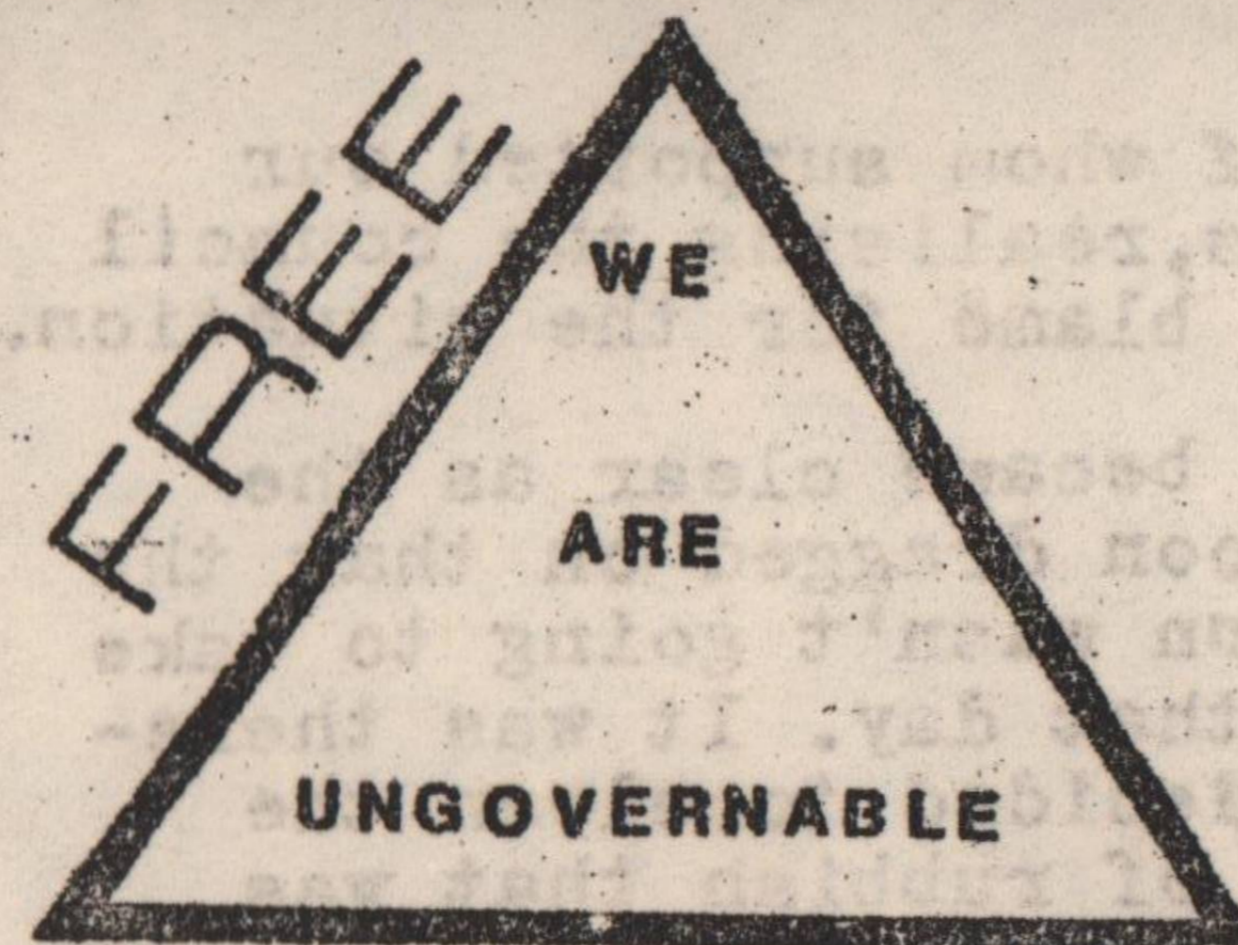
Forthcoming London ACF discussion meeting

- Abortion 26th November 1987
- Housing 10th December 1987
- Individuality 14th January 1988
- Urbanisation 28th January 1988
- Sexuality 11th February 1988
- Technology 25th February 1988
- Family 10th March 1988
- Leisure 24th March 1988
- Education 7th April 1988
- Health 21st April 1988
- Future Society 5th May 1988

Meetings start at 8-30pm and are held at Marchmont Street Community Centre Marchmont Street London WC1 (nearest tubes: Russel Square, Kings Cross, Euston)

These meetings are free and open to all.

Produced by the ACF c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 7QX



THE ENEMY WITHIN

MAR / APR

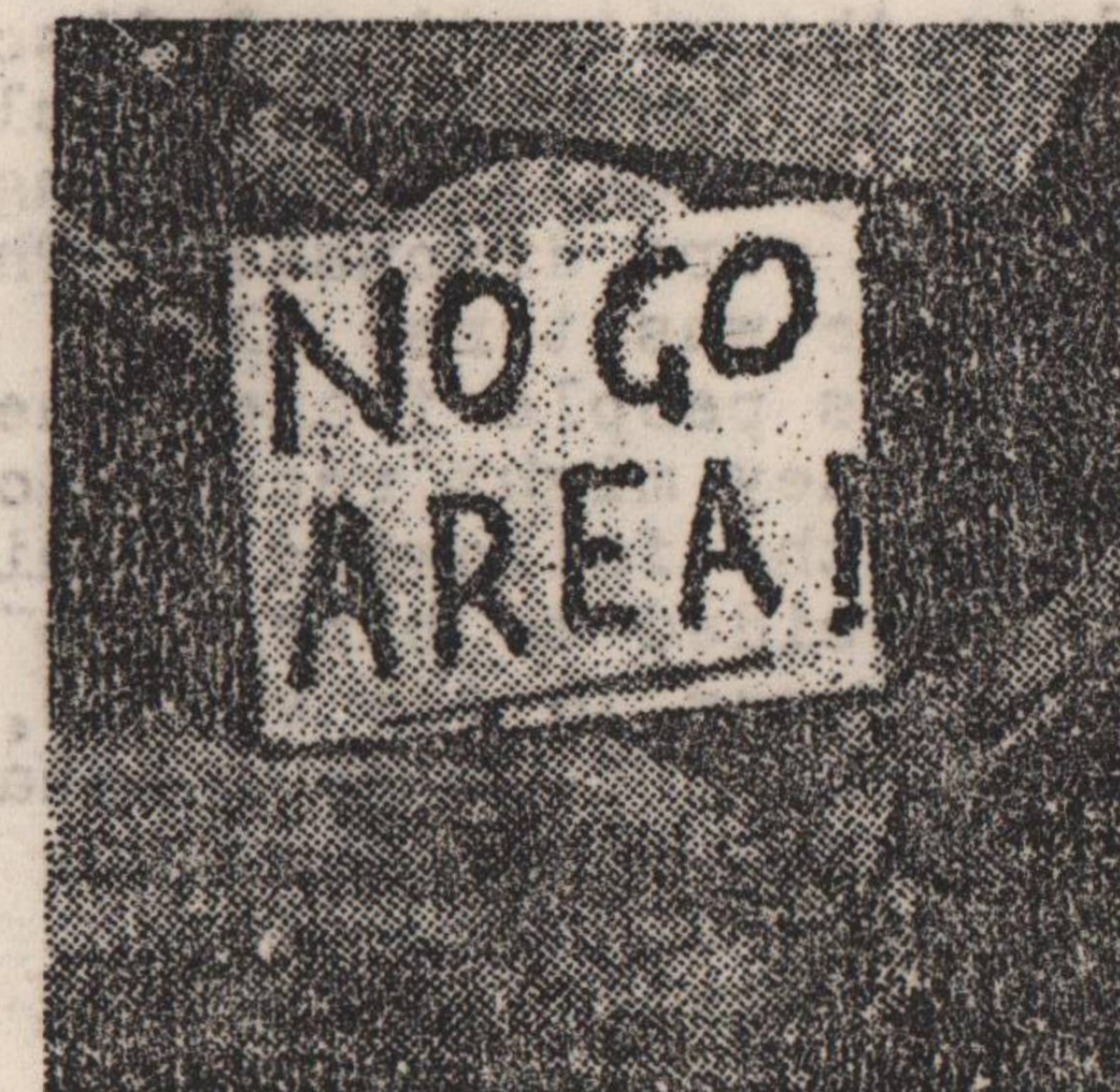


Heaven Gets Hell

Brynley Heaven, Hackneys' housing chief, recieved the beating he deserved on the 9th of this month, at a council meeting. Heaven is responsible for the eviction of 120 squats on the Stamford Hill estate, he is also guilty of constantly giving misinformation to the press during the 3 day occupation of the estate, by squatters & their supporters.

The arguement over squatters in Hackney has been going on for some time, the final decision to evict the estate being a political one, based on prejudice rather than housing 'need'. With over 800 properties officially unoccupied in Hackney, there is no need to add another 200 people to the already high homeless figure. Secondly it is doubtful Hackney can even afford to renovate the empty flats on Stamford Hill.

Because of the organised nature of squatters on Stamford Hill, they were able to call in support to resist the



CUTS? WHAT CUTS? THE HOMELESS STILL GET GIVEN ONE OF THESE TO LIVE IN... WHAT DO THEY EXPECT ... HOMES?



BOZ

most of whom supported our actions, realising the council was to blame for the situation.

It became clear as the afternoon dragged on that the eviction wasn't going to take place that day. It was therefore decided to clean the estate of rubbish that was spilt the previous evening.

Monday evening & Tuesday day were quiet, and rumours about cops arriving were less numerous. The cops were obviously waiting for tension to fall & numbers to dwindle. By Tuesday evening, however, numbers had increased again and the mood was good.

On Wednesday the inevitable happened, the cops swamped the estate in riot gear & the bailiffs began to evict people. Any kind of forceful resistance at this stage would have been fruitless. Overall, however, the actions over the 3 days had been successful, as the bailiffs were held off for the period & the estate was made a 'no-go area', the cops have previously vowed this would never happen in London.

Support demonstration also took place outside the British embassy's in Den Haag & San Francisco, on Monday.

evictions & defend the estate from bailiffs & cops. On Sunday, meetings were held to explain the situation & discuss tactics of resistance. People began to gather that evening & actions were discussed. The atmosphere was tense all evening, as people feared the kicking they might receive off the cops the following morning. It was decided to barricade the entrances to the estate, this began at 4-30 am, donated cars, skips & large dustbins did the job nicely.

The fireworks & blazing cars that evening had the desired effect of scaring off the bailiffs & cops. The morning saw people in joyous mood, bands played and breakfast was served. The morning was spent guarding barricades & letting tenants off the estate.



YOU WHAT !

The latest edition of Searchlight, the investigative anti-fascist magazine, contains an article purporting to be an expose of fascist infiltration of the squatters movement. Not only is it a gross distortion of the truth, but many unsubstantiated and disconnected 'facts' are put together to show that the anarchist movement itself is being infiltrated by fascists. Our comrades of the Direct Action Movement are referred to as a 'squatters' group. The presence of one tenant on the Stamford Hill estate with a fascist past is meant to taint the reputation of the squatters there, one ex-fascist, now a confirmed anti-fascist working at Kulak Press, who have printed DAM material in the past, is produced as evidence! Some ACF members were at Stamford Hill in the few days run-up to the eviction—we saw no fascists, but did notice the solidarity expressed by many in the local Jewish community.

Poll Tax

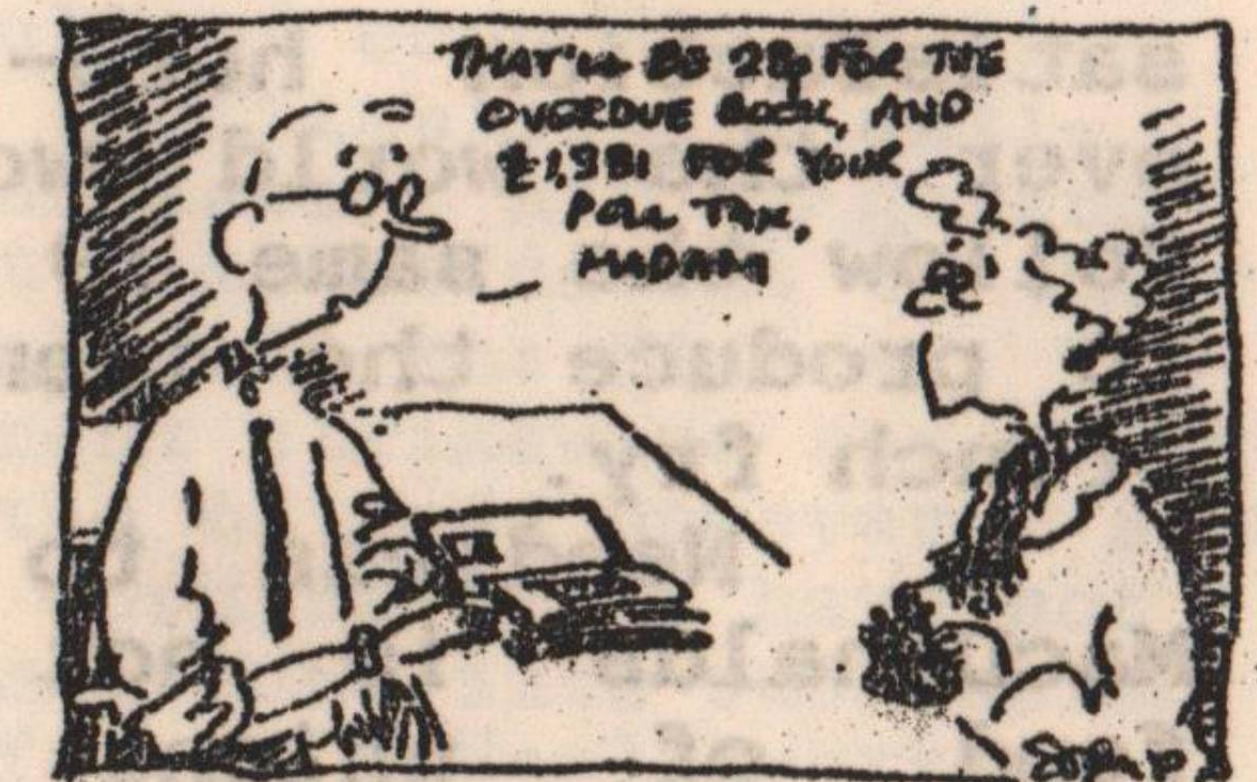
Electoral registration has decreased by 20% in Scotland over the past year, reflecting peoples unwillingness to pay the Poll Tax, it also demonstrates how highly people regard 'democracy', as they've also forfeited their vote.

England has also been following suit with 28 out of the 38 Metropolitan authorities reporting a decrease in registration also, compared with the previous year.

Law & Disorder

What we all knew anyway was validated by Amnesty International last month. That is, that the interrogation of 'suspects' after the Broadwater Farm uprising, was contrary to basic human rights. Unfortunately the government refuses to listen even to groups like these these days, unless of course they're accusing the Russians or Argentinians of something.

Elsewhere, the cops plod on in their usual bungling & heavy handed fashion. In Manchester, for example, god has obviously frowned upon people celebrating their birthday, after a quick call prophet Anderton had 150 fully kitted out riot cops surrounding the house. After making a forceful entry in to the house, 15 people were found partying inside, a clear riot situation there.



BIGMAC BARSTARDS

The golden arches of MacDonalds are known all over the world in such diverse countries as Spain Singapore and the Soviet Union. It makes £1.32 million profits a day in branches in 45 countries. Though the countries eagerly welcome MacDonalds- What benefits does it actually bring?

In Britain, MacDonalds is part of that service industry that Thatcher sees as providing jobs for the unemployed, especially the young. 3/4 of MacDonalds workers in Britain are under 21, unprotected by Wage Councils and therefore earn well under £2.00 an hour with no benefits or security. The work is unstable, varying with the season. And it couldn't be more boring! No room for job satisfaction here- all over the world workers follow the same 19 steps to produce the identical french fry.

Needless to say, MacDonalds is not very fond of unions. For example it claims to have no union members, and in San Francisco it uses lie detector tests to weed out union sympathizers.

Apart from the treatment of the workers, the product itself -an overpackaged tasteless blob- deserves the worst possible fate. We pay for cheap rubbish which provides no nutrients despite claims to the contrary. Vegetarians are certainly not welcome with the cult of the beefburger. And who knows how many trees are cut down to supply all the layers of packaging that are a nightmare to the roadsweepers.

Why do people all over the world continue to flock there in droves?

The TGWU and the GMB have been trying to unionize workers but with little success. High turnover - 200-250% in London- makes it difficult to organise, But McDonalds is just the sort of industry that desperately needs organization, internationally preferably, following the example of the hotel and catering demonstration in Mexico city which won full after a three week picket.

But the big question to ask is why do people have to spend their time bored out of their minds producing such shit in the first place?

Disaster-Prone

Contrary to the Bosses' propaganda, many of the disasters suffered by working class people are avoidable: they are a direct result of a worldwide system based on power & profit for the few at the expense of the rest of us. We are only useful as Labour & Consumers (of what we've produced).

Some disasters & 'accidents' are so commonplace that we hardly notice them: the many maimed & killed by road traffic everyday (rapid transport of consumers, producers & goods for profit), illhealth - injury & death in workplaces.

Droughts do not automatically mean disaster: when peo-

ple control their environment they cope. The Ethiopian Famine was caused by Colonialism & its legacy. The African economy was devastated by Slavery (15 million people kidnapped), the theft of the best land & the imposition of an export economy (including cash crops). Most food grown is exported while the majority starve lacking land to grow their own or the money to buy it with. Inappropriate farming methods (monoculture, pesticides) & land use also contribute: India will suffer

Information from "Working in BigMac" Available from Transnational Information Centre, Poland St., London W1.

the same fate within 10 years unless deforestation is reversed (rainfall is decreasing, wells drying up & soil being lost).

The King's Cross fire was a disaster due to the new highly inflammable plastic tunnel linings, Cuts in safety staff & lack of emergency equipment-training & plans. Speculation about an 'arsonist' & eulogising about staff heroism is a smokescreen to divert us from blaming L.T Management. Similarly with the Zeebrugge

Ferry: the roll-on / roll-off design was condemned as unsafe years before, the lessons of a previous near accident were ignored & the ship was overloaded. Will the Townsend-Thorensen (now P&O) Bosses be tried & punished? -No, any more than those responsible for Bhopal (Union Carbide), Thalidomide (Distillers), Windscale (BNFL) etc

Strikewave

According to the experts British workers were cowed as a result of economic decline, low profitability, anti-union laws, strong government, & the defeat of their 'vanguard' the Miners. The current strikewave has changed the climate however & shows the working class have not been ground into submission: Seafarers, Healthworkers, Carworkers (Ford, Vauxhall & Landrover), SS-Dole-Jobcentre staff have all come out.

The Carworkers action was a particular shock to pundits.

After the successful imposition of mass redundancies & 'new working methods' (increased exploitation) over the last few years, & after a long period of industrial 'peace' from these traditionally militant workers. At Ford the workers rejected a negotiated deal between Union Bosses and Management because the pay increase was too low (in the light of Ford's huge profits), & new working methods were unchallenged. Despite the usual talk of 'final offers' the Management were quickly forced to negotiate as all Ford's European operations were hit. Union officials only negotiated an improved pay deal, which the majority of workers accepted after much pressure from the Unions. There was much resentment - more could have been won & crucially Management's plans for the content of work were ignored. The moral blackmail the State has traditionally used on Healthworkers to impose super-exploitation & prevent resistance no longer works; they are at the end of their tether. ACTIVE solidarity from other workers is vital: strikes by Miners at Frickley (Feb 3rd), Vauxhall workers at Ellesmere Port (Feb 11-12), Busworkers and Postal workers (14th Mar.) are encouraging examples of what is needed.

As the Miners' & Printers' strikes showed, no group of workers can win on their own. It is vital that struggles are controlled by everyone involved (through mass meetings, strike committees made up of mandated delegates etc) - full participation makes the struggle stronger & avoids sellouts by leaders or representatives.

Clause 29

Gerbill

15,000 people turned out to support the march in Manchester organised to fight Clause 28, outlawing the 'propagation of homosexuality'. The ACF fully supported the march, and we turned out with our banner.

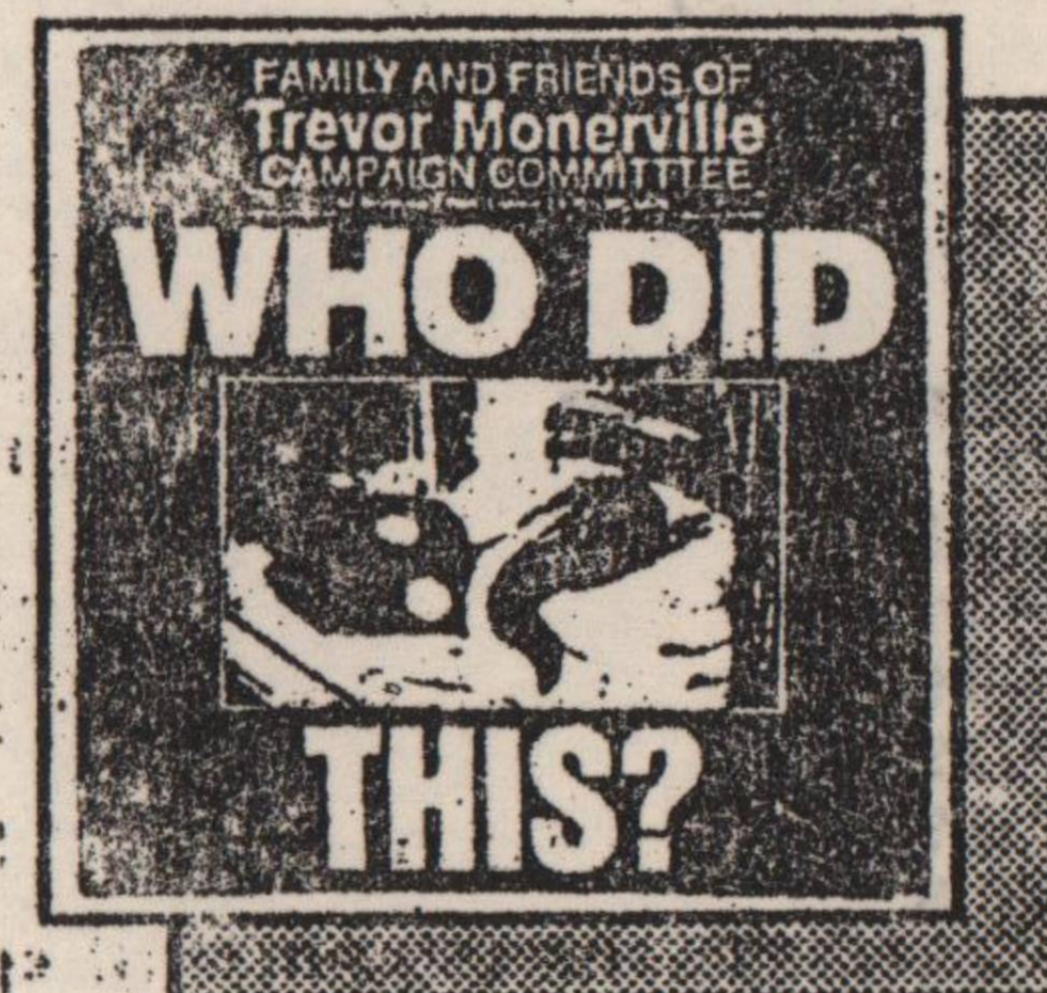
There was a real fighting spirit on the march, showing that many gay people are refusing to be pushed back into the ghetto. However, what was noticeable was the cooperation between the march organisers and the police. The cops had a low profile, while the stewards did their work for them, making sure a nice respectable march didn't get out of hand. The gay establishment, tied to daft reformist solutions and a 'gay capitalism' feels worried by the militant outlook of many gay activists.

The same scenario could be seen on the march organised by the National Union of Students, where NUS stewards kept things 'under control'. When a sit-down in Whitehall outside Downing Street took place, the stewards made sure that no one else joined it, and persuaded those taking part to give up. Again and again, we are seeing this sort of 'secondary policing', to preserve 'law and order'. Another disturbing feature about the march was the failure by the NUS to get the support of other people effected by the Education Bill, teachers, lecturers, schoolstudents, manual, clerical and library workers in schools and colleges.

Trevor Monerville

When will the Police leave Trevor alone? Not satisfied with beating him up, giving him brain damage, they continue to hassle and intimidate him and his friends. In the last fortnight Trevor has been repeatedly stopped in his car by the police. Just coincidence? No way, they knew it was Trevor.

The recent onslaught on Trevor follows his "audacity" to question the brutality of the Police force; he is preparing a civil action against them for serious assault, and the brain damage they caused while he was in custody in January last year. The beating that the cops gave Trevor has left him with impaired vision, and suffering from epileptic fits.



Not surprisingly there has been no let up in the bullying and intimidation of Trevor. On March 1st he was arrested for supposedly breaking bail (the Police had got it 'wrong' again, and had to release him) after being fitted up with charges of attempted robbery, causing actual bodily harm, and assaulting a Police Officer. These charges are an attempt to cover-up for what they had done to Trevor: at first they denied that they had Trevor in custody, it took his father nearly a week to find him, he was at Brixton prison about to undergo brain surgery.

The Police are using their public endorsement, (most people support them) as well as believing that they are a law unto themselves, (especially with the black population whom they endlessly seek to criminalise) to brutalise as they wish, to accuse whom ever they like, of whatever they like, and to cover-up for their own thuggery.

The Police must not be allowed to get away with brutalising us. We must look out for our own, protect and support those in our communities. Trevor must be supported in his fight against the Police, who are paid to look after the rich and powerful, have seriously beaten him, and will continue to intimidate, beat and kill us. They can be stopped if we stand together against them.

contact:- FFTMC
Family Centre
50 Rectory Road
London N16 7QY

Workfare No Thanks!

The strike by Dole - DHSS - Jobcentre workers (against sackings) could hinder or stop the April SS Cuts if it becomes Londonwide / National. It could also lead to mass action by claimants if Giros are stopped (as in April - May, 1987 when a number of Town Halls were occupied). Remember the WEEK OF ACTION MAY 11 - 15 called by Alliance of Unwaged Organisations - oI - 80I 5629 (c/o Claimants' Union).