

20267C

CLASS WAR



No. 62 CAPITALISM? TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT!

50p

BACK

TO



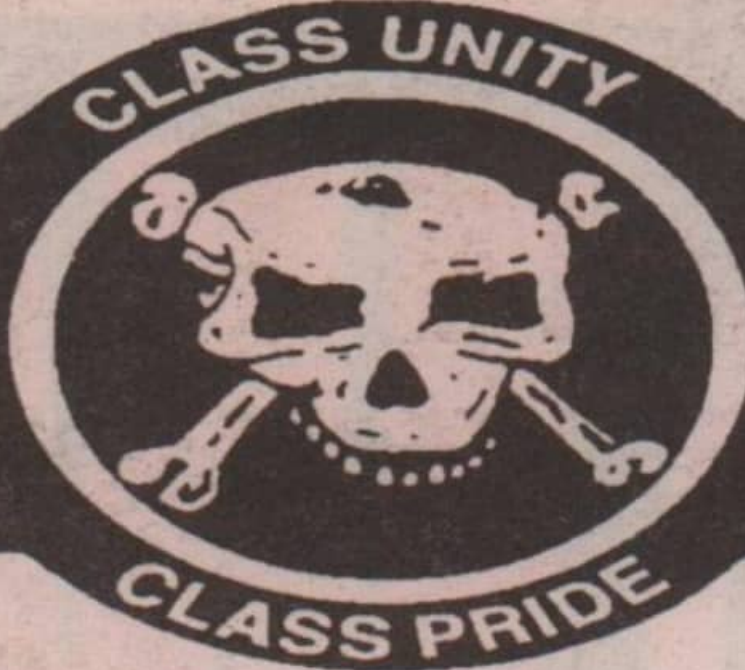
BASICS:

CLASS UNITY, CLASS PRIDE, CLASS WAR

INSIDE: NEWS, VIEWS, FEATURES, POLITICS, SCANDAL & MUCH MORE!

CLASS WAR IS THE PAPER OF THE CLASS WAR FEDERATION.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US TURN TO PAGE 13.

CLASS WAR



The struggle against the pit closures is over - the pits have been closed.

This was not a struggle about "economics" or "profitability": it was a struggle between the working class and the ruling class.

COMBATIVE

The miners were one of the most organised, most politicised and most combative sections of the working class. It was for this reason, and this reason alone, that they were taken on and viciously attacked by our 'rulers' in 1984/5, followed by the 'death blow' in 1993/4.

WE can't mess about with any false delusions about this fight: the miners have been defeated.

LESSONS

What we must all learn are the lessons from the defeat. WE face a greedy and savage enemy who will not stop until all us are driven into poverty,

isolation and misery UNLESS we take them on and stop them.

The lessons are that we must never trust any union leader, Labour MP or wooly-headed do-gooder.

The 'public opinion' that gets brought up whenever we riot, fight back, strike or organise our lives for ourselves is a myth - we must never choose to listen to it - it's the non-existent voice of "the silent majority".

What that means really is the voice of the bosses' and politicians' papers and TV stations.

What we have to listen to are the voices of working class people when they are in struggle against the class enemy: and that enemy can take many forms - the boss, the corrupt MP, the cops, the press, the Royals, the anti social elements of our own class, the middle class who seek to control us for the bosses, the fascists.

Things are down to us,

and only us.

No one else can speak for us or act on our behalf. If we want something to change, then we have to change it ourselves, without any beating around the bush.

Some people will bleat about the TUC, the Labour Party, the 'fact' that "it's terrible to break the law". We say: the meek inherit nothing except the horrors of capitalism.

THIS IS CLASS WAR

This is a war, a class war and we will only win it if we dump all the dead end roads of the union bosses, the weak-kneed lefties, the racists and sexists, the nazis, the scum in Parliament and their lying media.

Quite simply, the class war is being fought every day by the boss class and our class - every day in every place - it is OUR fight, a fight to the finish.

BACK TO WHAT BASICS?

FOR THE Tories, the 'back to basics' scandals could not of come at a worse time.

Because 'back to basics' itself was an attempt by the Tories to turn the spotlight of media attention away from the crippling economic situation, and onto something they thought they were on firm ground with.

For the last ten years Britain has been in a state of 'permanent recession'. With very few exceptions, for most people it has meant signing on, a crap, low paid job or no pay rises.

If you did have a job, you could borrow money, at high rates of course, but then there was the constant worry of how to pay it back if you lost your job. Many couldn't, and hundreds of thousands had their houses repossessed.

BLAME

The media and the Tories speak of the the 'boom' years of the late 80's - what boom years? Unless you had a high powered job in the financial services industry the chances are this 'boom' was what was happening to other people.

So we get around to the 'current' slump (or if you're working class, the same one that's been around for a decade). Now the Tories can't blame it on 'problems' they inherited from a Labour government, (like they did in the 80's), because there hasn't been one for over 15 years.

They can't blame it on high pay rises, because unless you're a company boss you haven't had one. They can't blame it on 'cheap foreign imports' because Britain now has one of the 'cheapest' labour costs in Europe.

So who's to blame? Well there is no one to blame, this is the nature of capitalism. Capitalism can only work for as long as the many produce wealth for the few. This means that under capitalism there will always be poverty, unemployment, hunger and going without. Whilst for the few there will be riches, greed, luxury and having to much.

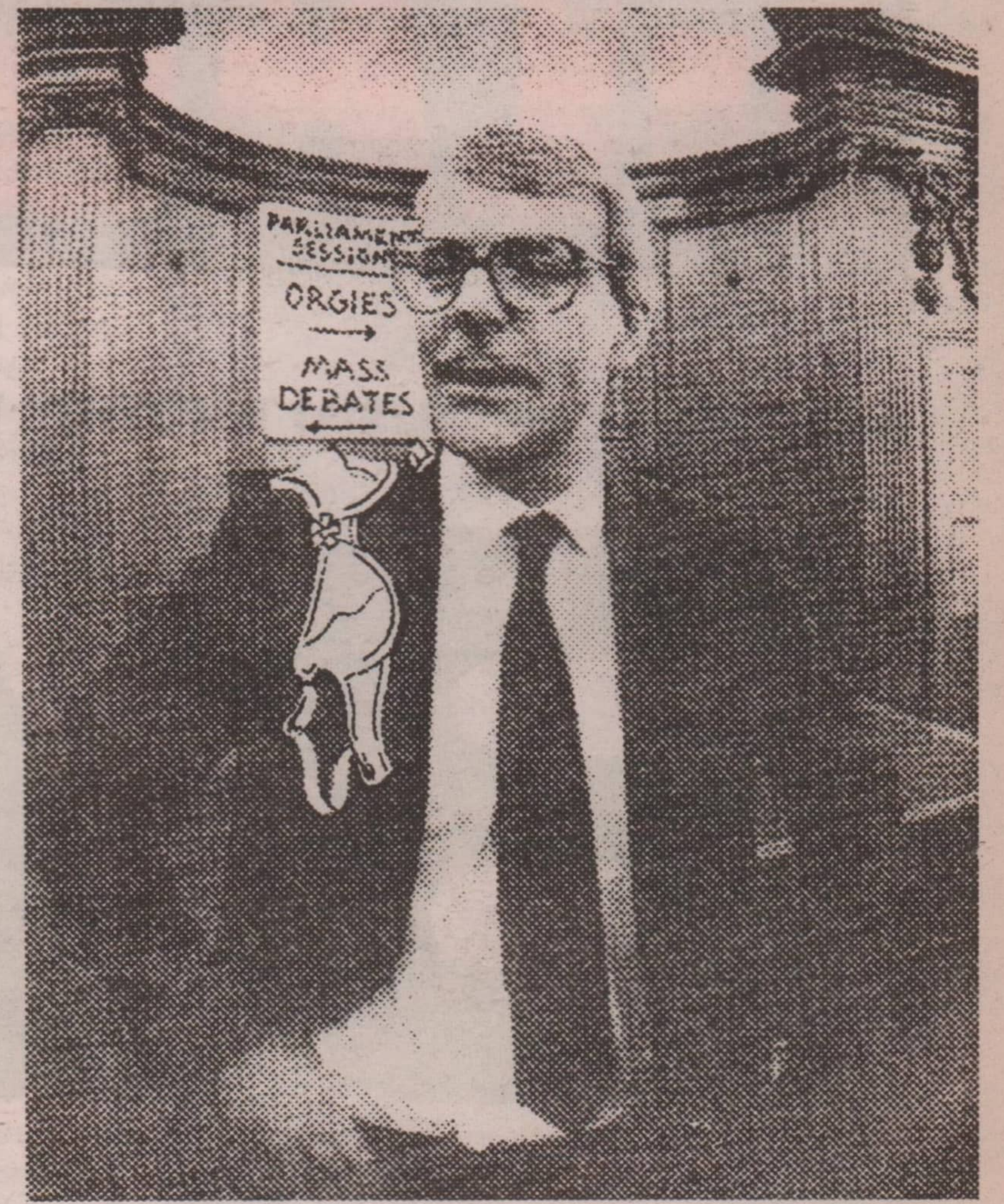
ENEMY WITHIN

In short - 'winners and losers'. And by its very nature capitalism can only 'work' with more 'losers' than 'winners'.

This has always been the case. But in the past the bosses have been very good at diverting our attention away from this obvious point.

Since the last war the 'evil empire' of the Soviet Union was the 'enemy without' that we must guard against. Waving the flag, they said "things could be bad here, but just imagine what they'd be like under Russian rule".

This went on for over 40 years. There was also the 'enemy within' which we were being constantly told about. At various times it was; 'dole scroungers', trade unionists, pickets, blacks, travellers, poll tax protesters, drug users, joy riders, the list is endless.



All these groups of people were used to frighten and confuse the rest of us into toeing the line and getting on with being a wage-slave. They were also used to make us identify with our bosses and rulers, instead of with other working class people. Divide and rule, it's the oldest trick in the book, one which the Tories and media are expert at.

Only now things have become a little unstuck. With state communism going belly-up, they can't trot out the 'evil empire' line any longer. Crime used to be a good Tory vote winner. But crime has become a huge growth industry and even they are having difficulty coming out with the 'party of law and order' story.

MORALITY

So what's left? Single mums, council house queue jumpers, video 'nasties', ravers, child killers, people who smoke a bit of draw and stay up late. All these, and many more, are the new 'enemy' of the Tories and media.

'Let's blame everything on them, and people will forget who really is to blame', is how their logic works. So the Tories come out with 'back to basics' and make out that they are the guardians of the 'old' morality in a sea of sex, drugs, crime, greed and hypocrisy.

Of course nothing could be further from the truth. The

Establishment (which the Tory Party is a part of), which has run Britain for hundreds of years is about the most corrupt, deviant, lying, twisted, inbred, group of people ever to ask for a 'pack of three' at the chemist.

ANIMALS

When they're not having it off with the chamber maid, it's because they're at it with a rent boy. When they're not stealing from the poor box they've got their fingers in the till. Their motto is "do as we say, not as we do", the champagne flows, and anything goes, (see the film *Scandal* for further details).

The only ones who aren't stealing from the rest of us, or having it away with children and animals, are the ones who've become so inbred all they can do is sit in the House of Lords, getting £100 a day to sleep in front of the cameras.

These people, used to getting away with it for generations, don't think anything of preaching morality to the rest of us. But with 'back to basics' they've come unstuck. And have been left standing on very dodgy ground.

So don't be surprised to see 'back to basics' quietly dropped, and anarchist, drug taking, single parent, alien storm-troopers from the red planet back in the news.

You heard it here first!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

THE POLITICS OF CLASS WAR

As the left in Britain and elsewhere cry into their beer over the failure of their plans, we in Class War think it's about time to throw their methods into the dustbin of history and return to the basics. We argue here for the recreation of an independent revolutionary movement within the working class inspired by the best traditions of unity and solidarity. This is our unfinished business.

WHAT THEY SAID...

"Statement of political intent from Britain's only credible revolutionaries... relevant, thought-provoking, often amusing.. " THE FACE.

"...reveals a thoroughly reactionary disdain for the whole theoretical and practical struggle... to build a mass party capable of smashing the state and overthrowing the capitalist system." THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

the politics of Class War

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TIME TO DI

● One of the saddest events of last year was Princess Diana's announcement that she was going to give up public engagements.

The poor darling. *Class War* has always been sympathetic to the plight and suffering of the royals.

Our suggestion to Di is that she gets back into her old habits, such as popping pills and throwing herself down stairs, head first.

That way she'll end up with only one public engagement - three or four days, in a coffin of her choice, lying in State.

TELLING PORKIES

● In 1972 the Royal Ulster Constabulary appointed, for the first time, a Public Relations officer.

With the RUC not being exactly whiter than white it was a handy thing too.

They definitely got the right man to save their bacon, because its just been revealed that his previous experience was with the Pig Marketing Board!

ROGUES GALLERY

It may be merely misfortune, or a bout of bad luck, but it could be something deeper, more sinister... like something from a Stephen King book, or a late night 'B-movie': 'The curse of the Tories'.

Either way, since Christmas, the public image of the Tories has plummeted from bad to worse, with a storm of scandals hitting the headlines.

In fact, it is almost as if it is Major who has cursed himself and all who sail under him, through the reciting of an ancient spell: "SCISAB OT KCAB", which when spelt backwards reads; "BACK TO BASICS".

LYING SCUMBAGS

But there again, like the Parties' manifestos, this could all be a load of fictional crap. The truth of the matter is that they're all a load of hypocritical, lying, deceitful scumbags, each with their own skeleton in the cupboard waiting to fall out. The only thing half of them are really good at is holding the door of the proverbial cupboard shut.

Some of them, however, aren't so good at it and it seems when one bit of shit hits the fan, they've all got to follow suit, like playing a perverse game of 'one-upmanship'.

We may wish this latest bag of revelations to be revenge for the endless attacks on single mums or homeless people, but it's more likely that the lazy press could find nothing more to write about in their post-Xmas bloated state.

STOCKING FILLERS

But what now? What of Milligan's plastic bag and stockings episode? It, like most of the other sordid scandals to have surfaced has been dropped like a ton of bricks by the press. OK, so reading about this bunch of tossers private lives is about as exciting as scoffing a packet of dry cream crackers, but as soon as the heat is on, the lackey press divert our attention to the likes of Torville and Dean.

The scandals will continue to break. The windbags on all sides of the house will continue to gas on about whichever scandal is flavour of the month, be it the "Supergun, arms to Iraq" affair, or the Malaysian Govt. aid for arms' quarrel. The one thing they won't do is split on each other... 'old boys club' and all that. They'll leave that to the press, and the press will control what, and when we get to hear about 'your' MPs hypocritical activities.

LAUGH

We can only laugh at their predicaments, and take the whole lot of them and their lying, scheming policies and flush them down the pan.

But when the bastards mouth off about something and do it themselves, then they should expect to pay for their lies. And when it comes to paying for it, they haven't even begun.



MILLIGAN: AN UNHEALTHY APPETITE FOR ORANGES.



YEO: SNIDE, HYPOCRITICAL TWO FACED GIT.



CAITHNESS: 'LENDING A HELPING HAND' TO THE WORKING CLASS.



DUNCAN: MORE BEHIND THAT TOOTHY SMILE THAN HE LET ON.

CLASS WAR SCANDAL CHARTS

To help you keep up with the latest and hippest of hypocrits hobbies, we bring you the Class War 'scandal charts'; the who, what and where of political embarrassment. Here are the latest highest climbers in the rogues gallery.

- STEPHEN MILLIGAN** ex-MP; always outspoken in the 'Hang them or gag them' debate, sleazes his way to the top with his 'pass the orange' party trick. When trying this trick at home, readers, remember to take the plastic bag off your head first.
- TIM YEO** ex-MP; helping the cabinet with their studies on single mothers by creating two himself. Always willing to help the party was Tim!
- ALAN DUNCAN**; formerly parliamentary under secretary, revealed more than a toothy smile when his under hand 'cash for council houses' deal came to light.
- DAVID ASHBY** MP; who has spluttered his way from his Leicester constituency into the scandal columns everywhere, by admitting to not very much at all. That's what we like; not missing a chance get your mug in the papers, especially when you're a snivelling no-hoper like Ashby.
- GARRY WALLER**; MP for Keighley, took Yeo's lead and spilled the beans on the previous bean spilling he had done with the now secretary -to-the-Chair of the Right wing 1922 committee. He has of course been admirably co-operative with the Child Support Agency.
- LORD CAITHNESS**; sleazily squeezes into the top six by doing us all a favour and adulterously driving one of his own (his wife) to shooting herself. His placing in the charts could only have been improved by getting himself topped as well.

BURN!

In February, a cop car in Dunstable, was torched after being broken into in the local village hall car park.

Inside the hall, two cops were giving a talk to the local parish council... you've guessed it: **on how to combat crime.**

SAD

It comes as sad news that we report the safe return of two British MPs released from Somalia recently.

Tony Worthington, Labour MP for Clydebank and Milngavie, and Mark Robinson, Tory MP for Somerton and Frome, had paired up and popped over to the war torn African country on a week long "fact finding" tour. During their 'VIP' nose-about, they were abducted by Kalashnikov carrying locals.

WHINGED

"The issue became what they did with us... whether we should survive or not" whinged Worthington, now safely back in his labour held constituency.

If only the Somalians had rang the constituents of this pair of parasites before deciding!

Fame for five minutes

In a piece of inventiveness, a man calling himself 'Neil' cunningly enjoyed the hospitality of the posh Glencot Hotel in Wookey Hole, Somerset, recently... for free.

After telling staff and guests at the Hotel he was a historian working for channel 4, he entertained them with tails of the film industry while enjoying bottle after bottle of champagne.

After the guests had gone to bed he made a sharp exit, along with paintings, posh rugs and silverware.

WITHOUT CONSENT

IN the last week of February, Parliament decided not to make consenting sex equal for gay and straight people, in the eyes of the law.

The legal age of consent for gay men is now 18 years, not 16 as for heterosexuals.

To show their anger and disgust, protestors got very close to storming Parliament and gave the cops a bit of exercise into the bargain.

MORE HYPOCRISY

And all this, right in the middle of wave after wave of MPs' sexual shenanigans. It would be a complete joke if it wasn't for the fact that if you're a practising gay man, under 18 years old, you're a criminal!

We believe that your sexuality is your own - unless you harm or exploit someone else, then what you do sexually is up to you, and isn't anyone else's business.

We also support the anger and outrage felt by gays and lesbians whenever they are discriminated against because of their sexuality.

We aren't under illusions: a lot of homophobia (anti gay and lesbian feelings) exists

amongst the working class, and this must be fought and shown up as the nonsense and ill-founded prejudices that it is.

CONSERVATIVE CLUB



"Too right; bloody perverts"

It's also obvious, by sheer weight of numbers, that the huge majority of gays and lesbians are members of the working class.

The way to challenge prejudice and victimisation is not

to expect help from government, cops or the media: they all benefit from feeding off these things, if not creating them.

IN THE PINK

The way to create rights is to take them; the way to create solidarity between working class gays and lesbians is to organise without do-gooders or professional politicians sticking their noses in and trying to run things.

And one thing's sure: they'll never be able to enforce their pitiful law...they never managed it before, after all.

SELL CLASS WAR!



Your path to endless riches and wealth... or not. Either way you get to keep upto 20p per copy.

Send £2 for each 10 copies to PO BOX 524, LUTON, BEDS, LU1 1QS.

Go on, give it a go. You know it makes sense.

the slaughter of the coalfields

"The present has been taken from us: the past and the future however belong to us and we shall guard them jealously"

'PIT SENSE Vs. THE STATE'

A History of militant miners in the Doncaster area

Phoenix Press £4.50
PO Box 824, London N1
9DL

"IN ONE week British Coal have wiped out the entire Doncaster coal-field including my own pit, Hatfield Main.

The last of the Northumbria coalfield has also been wiped out, following Durham, Staffordshire, Kent, and Lancashire. The last pit in South Wales, and the last one in North Wales are now in the firing line and it seems little can save them.

More pits have now been closed than the original 31 that the Tories said they were going to shut in October '92.

BITTER

It is devastation of massive proportions. 'The public' who in October '92 were shocked into action, seem transfixed by the relentless wanton vandalism, and there has been little response outside the coalfields themselves where the impact is heartrending.

The last day of production for my pit was on December 3rd. It is beyond comprehension that all this, all of this enormous effort, all this history, all this sheer joy of fighting back for community and resistance is finally defeated.

This union and its values have been my soul as it was for my Dad and Grandad, and this is true of most of the miners who after

generations of bitter class war are now being wiped out to total extinction.

The mental torture and emotional impact can only be compared to that experienced in a big national or local disaster with widespread loss of life - yes, its that profound.

Class War began its relations with Hatfield Main, and the miners, the day it was born in the fire of the '84 miners strike.

Invited to Class War's first conference as a fraternal speaker I began "comrades and fellow hooligans" for Class War had struck a cord with the young militant miners who had thrown all caution to the wind and took the bull by the horns, or more precisely, by the balls.

Class War, the paper, was hailed as a triumph by pickets who in all other cases despised left wing papers. Copies changed hands like no other literature I've seen before.

Class War, with our help, was able to focus in assistance which other groups couldn't reach.

MORALE

Doncaster had a community of single lads living together in flats and young couples living in town, many were bikers, heavy metal and punk culture people.

Although they were



THE HIT SQUADS

miners they did not conform to stereotyped images, didn't live in the villages, and as such missed out on food aid and morale boosting parties.

Their 'welfare' was 'Beethams', a biker/heavy metal pub in the market place, and it was from here we based Beethams Miners Support Group. Class War supporters travelling up from London to give financial assistance and support were able to extend support for this group from Anarcho and gay groups in different parts of the world. And we distributed weekly, sometime twice weekly, subs as the money came in.

Needless to say this cash was more usually spent on 'the broon dog' than a square meal but that's the choice I would have made too if I had had no dependants.

Class War and the Direct Action Movement gave other tangible support. Doncasters' pickets were unusual in that a number of 'hit squad' type activities were organised by the official NUM picket H.Q.

The area had 2000+ pickets on call at any time, and the supply of high powered Black Widow catapults was gratefully recieved. It is Doncaster's militant and far left historic credentials which has caused its totally unjustified extermination.

Your coverage of our actions frequently featured the Hatfield pickets, not just because they are such a photogenic lot, but because they did such outrageously

'Class War' things with which you could identify.

Your decision to publish the *Heavy Stuff* special, 'Coal Communities In Conflict', predicting events such as they have actually turned out, and offering a historic context to the current slaughter of the industry, was an act of comradeship with the whole of the mining communities.

STRATEGY

And it gave US the opportunity to put forward an analysis of the situation as WE saw it ourselves, as against the learned gentlemen queueing up to explain it to us.

Of course that analysis was written a clear two months before the 'shock' October '92 announcement of 31 pit closures and posed some tactical ploys, which, as it turned out were neutralised by the time the other side's strategy was revealed. But taken in its context it was of great value to us.

When the struggle was picking up again you did us the honour of presenting images of Hatfield male and female pickets in your special edition 'Bring Back The Hit Squads' [Oct. '92].

And Class War cannot have failed to notice the return of the compliment, as the Doncaster young miners adopted YOUR medium when painting their own home designed massive banners, which embarrassed the TUC big wigs no end but brought a cheer to the hearts of the miners and their

families. Remember the "BOLLOCKS JOHN MAJOR!" and "WHO THE FUCK'S ROY LINK?" Comrades that was your inspiration alone.

I conclude this article as a tribute to our slaughtered communities and our proud union, we thank you for your comradeship during the last period of our social and political life, with the final statement of the mass meeting at Hatfield Main (see page 5).

Incidentally, the reference to 'imports' in it is not another moan about foreign coal (our branch has always opposed the call for 'import controls') but to show the stupidity of a state firm called **British Coal** shutting down British mines and filling the domestic market with imported foreign coal sold as 'British'!

NOT ALL LOST

In final conclusion, our union was a strength for our class, we were a weapon of struggle. Our defeat and decimation clearly cannot make us stronger. The loss of 40,000 more trade union members will not be, as some say, a sign of strength and growing radical anti-union consciousness.

In our case at least it will be its direct opposite. The Hatfield miners and their families intend to found an Association to maintain community responses, and intervene on a national scale, on a social and political front so that all we have learned, and been, should not be totally lost."

David Douglass
NUM
and Class War Colliers

PITS UPDATE

With the closure of the Hatfield and Goldthrope collieries, the once mighty Doncaster Coal-field has been laid low.

Some private buyers are poking over the remains and many of the lads are pinning their hopes on two or three of the collieries reopening: believing that these latter day coal owners can't be much worse than the bastards from British Coal who just ground us into the dust.

Markham has been sold to Edwards; Rossington to Budge, both have promised union recognition and comparable wage and safety standards. Hours however are likely to be long and union bargaining power is zilch.

Worse in the bunch is Hatfield itself, where the dictatorial management have launched a buy-out bid. Workers at Hatfield are currently the lowest paid in Britain, which is just where the management team want them.

We threatened strike action but they informed the workforce that everyone would be sacked. The Unemployment Benefit Office then kindly notified everyone they would stop there dole money for six months. With treatment like this, many of the ex-Doncaster miners are concluding that they are better off being killed outright than a slow torture schemes like this.



STATEMENT of the FINAL MASS MEETING of HATFIELD MAIN NUM BRANCH

THE MEMBERS of the NUM at Hatfield Main Colliery have been in continuous struggle against pit closures since 1983.

In the year long strike men from this colliery distinguished themselves as being among the most loyal and valiant fighters in Britain. The period after the strike were years of dedicated commitment to pulling the colliery from the edge and bringing it back into profitability.

Our efforts were frequently bedevilled by Coal Board management pursuing a different agenda, one that included ever greater attacks upon union rights and democratic working practices. In resisting this we fought alongside our comrades who had been victimised in the Kent coal field and struck with them as well as Frickley and Bentley when they had their disputes.

Despite our agreement to new incentive schemes and multi-skilling, our co-operation was never enough and management persisted in attempts to break the workforce from the union resulting in Hatfield leading the South Yorkshire coalfield strike of 1990, in which our officials were prosecuted in the high court and received writs for millions of pounds and had wall to wall injunctions. With a new manager the branch attempted again to find new relations, for the sake of our mutual survival only to be met by a government plan to wipe out 31 of the remaining collieries including ours and the rest of the Doncaster coalfield. It is to their upmost credit that the members of this branch responded once more to the call for action, balloting 75% in favour

HEROIC

The Hatfield banner together with our wives and children have marched the length and breadth of Britain in protest at the massacre of our collieries. Women from Thorne and Moorends in particular have taken initiatives of the most heroic kind, while the chambers of parliament have rang to our voices. Our delegates have lobbied and picketed union branches, of all descriptions, in an effort to bring around generalised strike action against job losses. But with the exception of our comrades on the railways and in local government we failed.

As miners born and bred of generations of miners we were not surprised at the inaction of the TUC general council, but our failure to mobilise the rank and file of big and powerful unions is what has ultimately damned us.

On the production front, to stop the pit at this stage, when we could clearly be in a break even position by May at the latest, when new well equipped faces would be waiting; and access to over 200 million tonnes of prime reserves would be in sight, is nothing short of an act of criminal vandalism.

Hatfield had fought hard to get out of the power station market and had been totally successful in establishing new high proceed markets; indeed Hatfields proceeds are already the highest in Britain. To be told by the area director that this colliery's markets will be filled by BRITISH COAL importing foreign fuel for our own customers is a national scandal.

The new director says we are being closed, in part, because of our "attitudes". He should know that faced with the murder of our communities and the loss of our livelihoods, that attitude is one of deep disgust. His lack of faith in us is mutual - given that in two months he has wiped out an entire coalfield, and one with the cheapest coal and most productive collieries, as well as those with the best commercial markets. Far from facing the sack for gross inefficiency he appears to be just the stuff of British Coal senior management in the 1990's.

So we come today to decide on whether to take the colliery through the extended review procedure, knowing that no pit has ever been spared, even in the event of winning the appeal, and threatened with the loss of £7000 and more favourable bonus assessments.

STRENGTH

The imminence of privatisation and even more attacks upon terms and conditions with the repeal of the Hours of Work Act, and the Mines and Quarries Act, we reluctantly agree to withdraw from the review procedure. Under no circumstance do we agree with the closure of this colliery or the loss of our jobs. We thank our men and their families for the magnificent support and strength of conviction they have given this branch and the union at large. We know that whatever they do, and wherever they go, they will keep proud to our heritage, always join the appropriate union and never crossing a picket line of any worker in dispute.

Exhausted and demoralised, the present has been taken from us. The past and future however belong to us and we shall guard them jealously.

Mr Houghton [British Coal area director], John Major, Margaret Thatcher and the rich folk you represent; this moment is yours, but you shall never take from us our dignity as workers who have fought for justice and a better world.

You may disperse us from this spot, this moment in time, but our conviction shall remain wherever we go and in the generations of post miners children who follow us.

THE FUTURE IS OURS!

This is the unanimous decision of this branch 27th
Nov 1993.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

"They must never be tolerated"

The East End of London has seen more than 7 major racist attacks, mainly on teenage Asians, and many other incidents of abuse and intimidation this year.

This obscene violence, carried out by groups of white racist meatheads, has increased massively since last September, the month when Derek 'IQ of a herring' Beackon was elected as a British National Party councillor on the Isle of Dogs in Tower Hamlets.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Whether the people of Beackon's ward voted him in as a protest vote against inefficient, corrupt and generally useless Labour, Lib Dem and Tory councillors and a ridiculous housing policy and run down homes; whether Tower Hamlets has more than its fair share of racist idiots; or whether typical nazi thuggery and intimidation of Black and Asian voters allowed Beackon's slim victory is not most important to what's going on now.

With its HQ not far away in Welling, the BNP is using this part of London as its active base, a place with a high percentage of poor working class Asian and black people, and some sort of recent racist tradition whipped up within its white working class.

BOOTBOYS

The BNP bootboys think they can beat shit out of Asians and Blacks as a 'show of strength', and scapegoat them for the shit we all have to live in, courtesy of capitalism and the bosses.

This is absolute nonsense, but it creates problems for the working class, and terrorises its Asian and Black members.

The Newham Monitoring Project firmly believes that the cowardly and vicious attacks by groups of BNP nazi nutters on single people is designed to 'step up its campaign of terror' before the council elections in May, with the BNP trying to make politics all about black and white, and not about VAT on fuel, attacks on single mothers, the Child Support agency, anti



BY MAKING SURE THESE SCUM NEVER GET THE SMALLEST CHANCE

social crime and all the other things that really affect all our lives.

As Asian and Black groups get together and get political, learning self defence, and keeping community and solidarity together, it's obvious they're not prepared to take this nazi nonsense.

ONLY WAY

But the only way to stamp on the fascists is if they are literally chased out of town by their class - and that means working class people of all colours, ages and both sexes.

It is not enough to slap ourselves on the back because a few BNP sad-arses got kicked in here and there. They must never be tolerated, never allowed to spread their race hatred, violence and lies, never allowed to split our class and waste our valuable time battling it out meaninglessly amongst ourselves.

Racism, facism and the BNP will grow, just like the capitalism they support, unless they are stopped. Like the man said: By Any Means Necessary.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANTI FASCIST ACTION
GROUP VIA LONDON AFA:
BM 1744, LONDON WC1N 3XX**

UP IN SMOKE

Miners are now faced with yet more pit closures as British Coal starts to really turn the screws. The number of mines left is 17 and falling fast, and surprise surprise, the number of privately-owned pits is going up and up.

Many coal workers can't stomach seeing their pit closed only for some City shark to buy it up and re-open it with even lower wages and fewer safety regulations.

TIPS FROM ABROAD

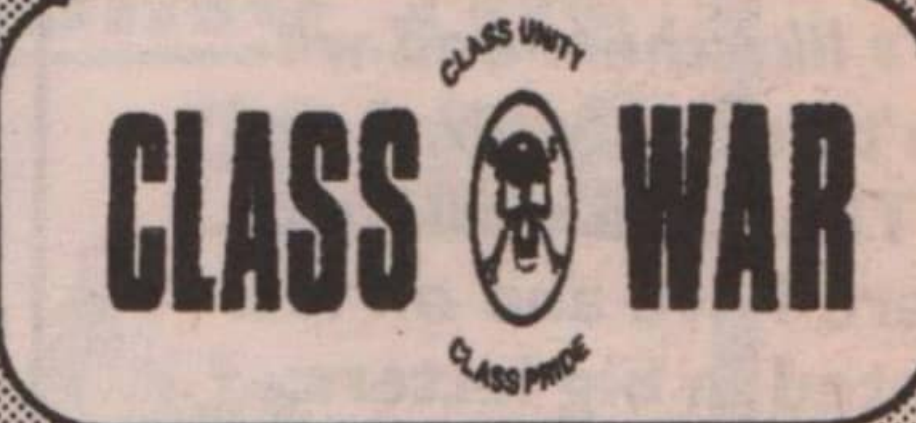
They might like to take a tip from Italy where chemical workers in a State-owned factory found out that the bosses were planning to lay them all off.

Eight hundred workers barricaded themselves into the factory and poured liquid phosphorous onto the ground outside the plant, causing a major fire and just missing some very explosive storage tanks. Meanwhile in a night of serious rioting, relatives and supporters attempted to occupy the local council building while others blocked a railway line.

Those inside the factory made it quite clear that they would destroy the plant if the company went ahead with the lay-offs... Now that's what we call 'asset-stripping'—class war style!

BASEBALL CAPS

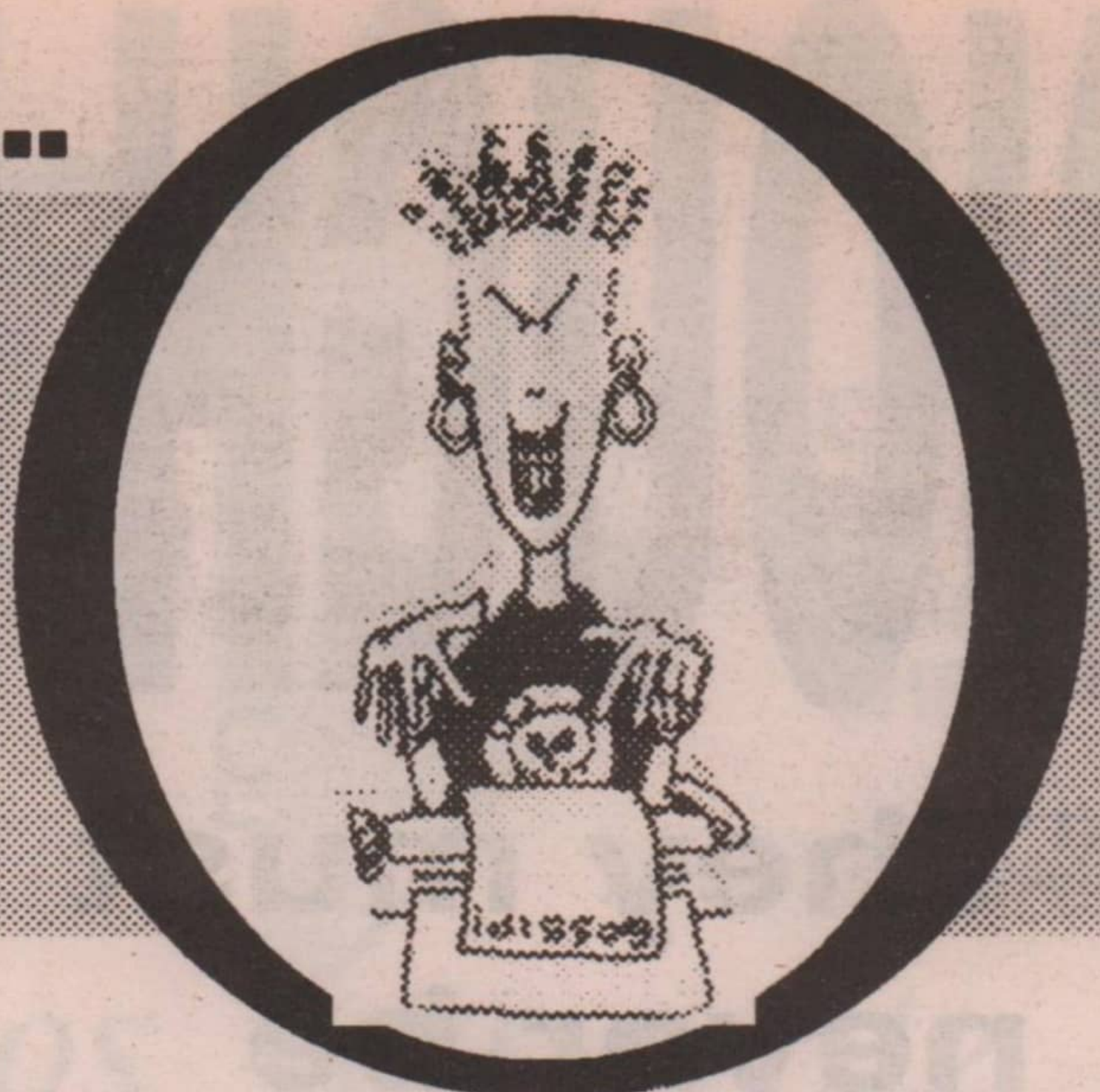
WITH ONE OF CLASS WAR'S BEST LOGOS EMBLAZONED UP FRONT, ON A BLACK OR RED CAP.



"SOON TO BE BRITAIN'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER STREET WEAR ACCESSORY". SERIOUSLY HOT STUFF FOR THE SPRING AND A SNIP AT: £4.50 inc. p&p
SEE PAGE 14

crafty, cutting comment from...

SALLY SKULL



KEEP OFF THE GRASS

You can tell you're getting old when the police start looking younger and younger—spotty-faced virgins with squeaky voices, razor rash and balls that haven't dropped yet.

And the younger they get, the more they act like spoilt brats, the kind who won't let you play with their football unless they get to pick the team first.

The latest complaint from the bastards-in-blue is that the number of informants they can use (round our way we call them grasses) is dropping off dramatically. Oh dear...

The trouble started last autumn when the cops got the nod from upstairs that they were to use more grasses to improve the clear-up rate. At the moment, less than 1 in 4 crimes end up with someone being caught and charged. OK, the cops don't give a toss about most crime, as long as the people hit are working class, but a low clear-up rate doesn't look good on the news.

So the police started cultivating more grasses. The only problem was that in a recent court case, the judge ruled that all prosecution evidence must be revealed to the defence. And that includes the full identities of informants. Whoops!

"The police in England and Wales are dropping about one case a week on average to protect informants," bleats Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Ridley of the Met.

And even when cases aren't dropped, there are problems. "There have been four cases where we had resettled informants abroad. Criminals then went to great lengths to find them and kill them." Tragic.

Come off it, Brian, you'll never make Brain of Britain.

The problem with informants, narks and grasses isn't that the police can't use them. It isn't that the police can't protect them. It's much more basic than that: we don't like them and we won't put up with them!

There's a wall near where I live and on it is painted in big letters: 'KEVIN IS A GRASS'. I don't know who Kevin is, I'll probably never meet him, but every day I walk past it and I think 'thank fuck I'm not in his shoes...' That's what solidarity is all about and it's something that no amount of police whining will undermine.



STREET JUSTICE

The police might get younger every day, but so do our 'have-a-go-heroes'. These days, it seems that the forces of law and order are just as likely to get jumped outside 'Mothercare' as outside city centre pubs.

WPC Gill Pavitt is the latest to get a taste of street justice. A couple of weeks ago she was called out to an estate in Berkshire after reports of 'offensive behaviour'.

When she got on the streets, she suddenly found herself surrounded by a mob of screaming kids wearing balaclavas and ski masks.

"They steamed straight into me and over me. I could see sticks—they looked like fence posts. They knocked me off my bike and I was surrounded. Some were on top of me."

The WPC claimed that those involved in the attack were as young as 12—her superior later described the whole incident as "unprovoked" and "cowardly".

Now, I'm not a bloodthirsty lunatic, and I don't get my kicks out of seeing people lying bleeding in the road—even if they are coppers. But there's a couple of facts about this story that you won't read elsewhere.

Number One: as my dad says, "keep your eye on the ball, not the man". Pavitt was attacked not because she was a woman, not because she was on a bike, not because her star sign is Libra... The kids who laced into her were screaming "Fucking pig!" That's why she was jumped. It's the job and not the person.

And Number Two: only a devious, lying flat-footed bastard with a tit on his head could possibly think this attack was "unprovoked". Every day it's a fresh round of stories about bent coppers, frame-ups, beaten confessions, wrongful arrests, deaths in police custody. Just how many provocations are we meant to take?

So if people feel the need for a spot of "preventative self-defence" (bash them before they bash us), then I'm 100% behind them.

Meanwhile, Benetton have been quick to step in after the recent success of their latest advertising campaign (where posters and newspaper adverts showed the bloodied T-shirt and combat trousers of a soldier killed in Bosnia).

Their new campaign will feature the blood-splattered shirt of WPC Pavitt—wrapped around an orange and rammed down the throat of a Tory MP...

OLD BOYS JOB CLUB

No 2 in a series of jobs you're unlikely to be offered

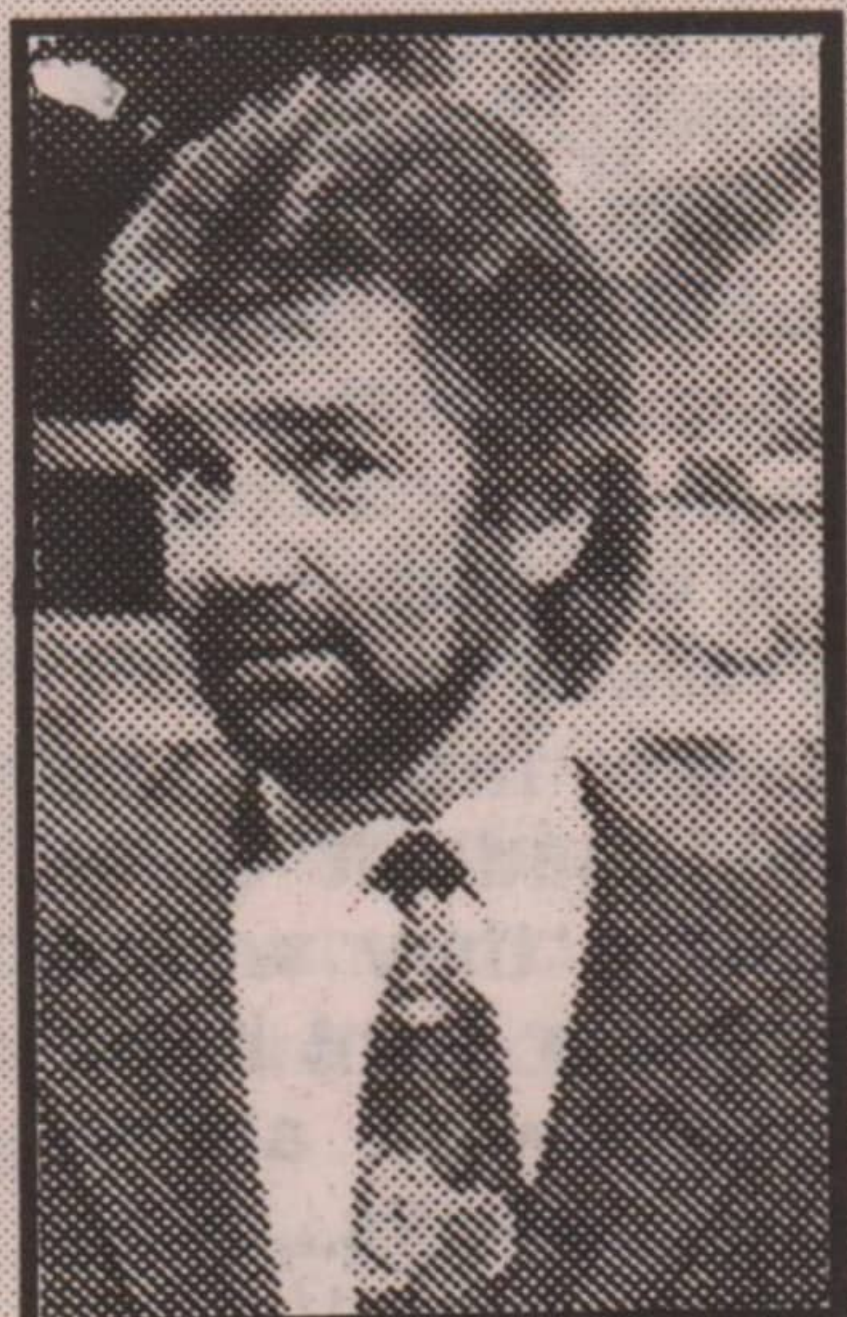
NOEL EDMONDS

Qualifications: You will need a long tongue, a brown nose and a huge wardrobe of tasteless clothes. Ability to be smug and patronising essential. TV experience not necessary.

Salary: £2.5 million per year. And that's just from the BBC. Other payments to come from your own company (Noel's Corporate House Party) which will hire you out for private parties—rates starting at the bargain price of £40,000.

Perks: 850 acre estate in the West Country, crammed with Range Rovers, racing cars and a helicopter. Guaranteed knighthood within twenty years.

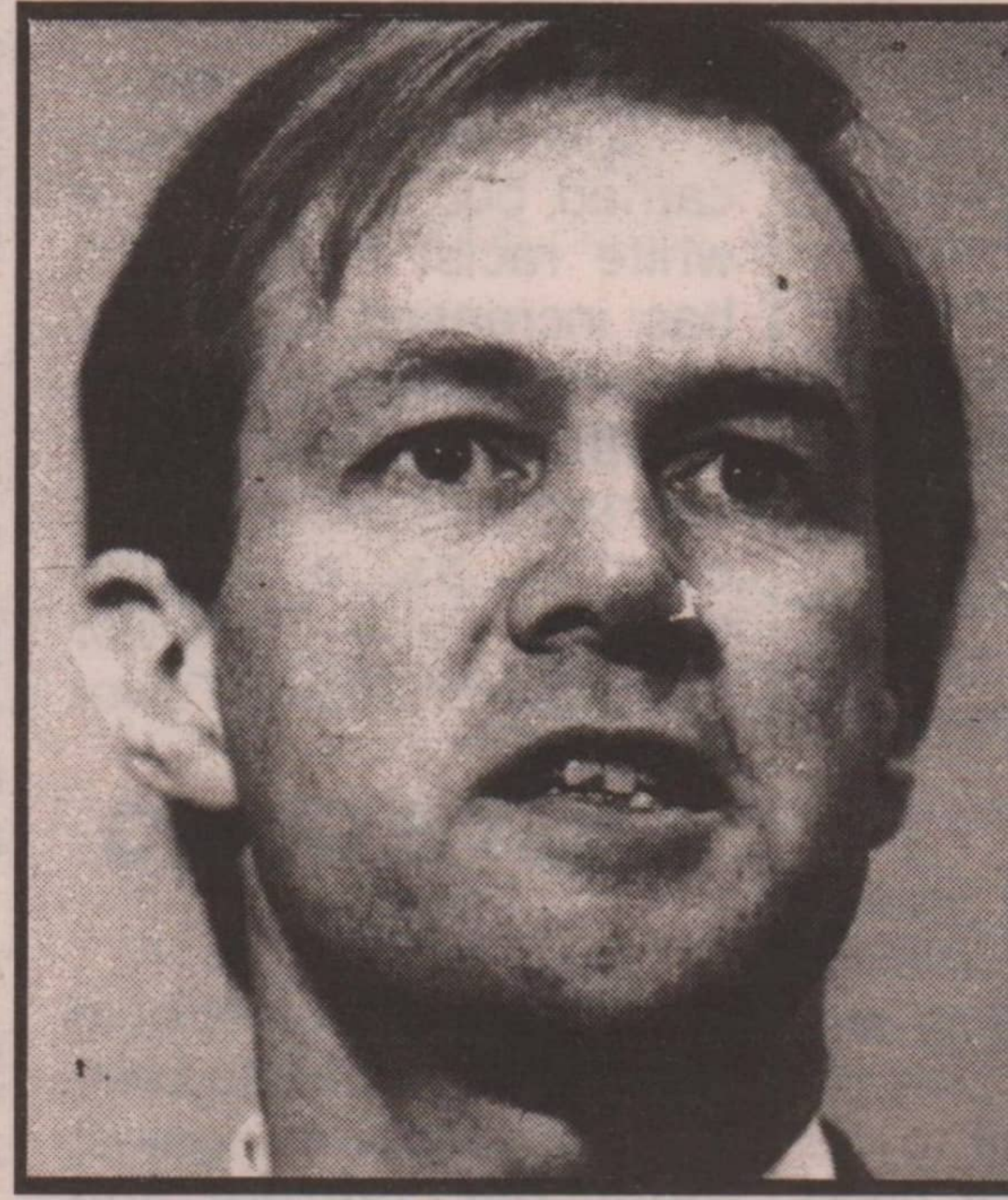
Post presently filled by Noel Edmonds.



SCUMBAGS AT THE CSA

I'd rather eat my own shit than work at the Child Support Agency. That's the new department set up last year in a blaze of publicity about tracking down "absent" fathers and making them pay for the maintenance of their kids.

Of course anyone with half a brain cell realised that the CSA would never really look after single parent families as the propaganda suggested: the whole thing is just another way of



cutting back on welfare benefits. For every pound that a single mum on Income Support gains from an "absent" father, a pound comes off her benefit. It's simple economics for the bosses: screw the poor again and again.

This explains the loopy decisions the CSA has come up with. Where I live, a postman has been told that he must pay £100 a week towards the upkeep of his daughter—out of a wage packet of £158. Elsewhere in the country it's the same. Meanwhile the government still try to claim that it's a battle between men and women, rather than between us and them. Just how stupid do they think we are?

Death threats, bomb hoaxes, intimidation and abuse are now almost daily events at CSA offices around the country. The six main CSA centres are almost all in areas of very high unemployment (surprise, surprise), but sickness levels are at record levels and large numbers of people still want to leave. The ones who stay are very nervous about admitting where they work.

And it gets better. People have started going over the heads of those in the front line to get at the bastards who are really responsible. Peter Lilley, the scumbag in charge, has had his home attacked, and security around him has been tightened.

Lilley and all the other rich scum should know by now that those who play with fire are likely to end up burned. Anyone got a light?

PRIZE PRAT

Say what you like about footballer Justin Fashanu, but there's two things I'll always respect him for.

First: he was the first British sportsman to be out and proud about being gay. Nice one.

And second: err... OK, I'll admit it, Justin's become a prize prat. Not content with turning into a born-again Christian ("I believe strongly in a spiritual world and in Jesus Christ"... Jesus Christ!), Justin decided he wanted to be a squeaky-clean Tory as well. And he just couldn't work out why no-one liked him any more.

When he found himself playing for Scottish Premier League side Hearts on a wage of "only" £1,000 a week, it wasn't enough to keep him in his wealthy habits—champagne, nightclubs, luxury flat, and the rest.

So Justin did the unthinkable. He admitted



sleeping with two Cabinet ministers. "Three-in-a-bed gay sex romps" screamed the tabloids—until Justin confessed he'd made it all up just to get his hands on the £300,000 he was offered for the story.

Call me old-fashioned if you like, but there's two things I'll never understand. One is people who smile at you and wave while they're crossing your picket line. And the other is people who could even think about sleeping with a Tory.

And for that, Justin, you will never be forgiven...

THE MAN FROM DELMONTE SAYS: "Yes, Yes, YES...!"

"Get back to basics. Screw an MP."

T-shirt doing the rounds in gay clubs

"I hope Stephen Milligan died a happy death."

Ian Jack ex-colleague and close friend of Tory MP Milligan who died with a smile on his face, a plastic bag around his head and an orange in his mouth

"He was almost boringly normal."

Andrew Neil, Sunday Times editor and close friend of Milligan. Of course if you get your kicks by ramming your tongue up Rupert Murdoch's arse, everyone else must seem very boring...

"The Conservative Party was in the doldrums before the scandals and they have not helped. There have been so many banana skins it has been almost incredible."

Betty Turner, lifelong Tory Party activist. And you thought they just used oranges...

"I do not choose to continue living."

Tragic suicide note left by Tory councillor Dr Michael Dutt after it was found that he was heavily involved in Westminster's 'homes-for-votes' scam where poor and homeless working class people were shunted out of the borough to make way for loyal Tory voters

"If you pursue and hound and terrorise ordinary people trying to do a decent job in public life, all that's going to happen is that nobody will want to do it."

Dame Shirley 'Tesco' Porter, ex Tory leader of Westminster Council cries into her champagne after the death of Dutt and explains the best way to de-select the council

"If you tell people that John Major is doing fine, showing firm leadership, and the economy is picking up again, they will either collapse in hysterics or walk out."

Anonymous Tory MP on why it's safest to be a lying two-faced bastard

PANTSDOWN PUBLISHES

Prime waffler Paddy Ashdown has just published a book. You might wonder how the ex-army captain got the chance while he's spending every waking hour fighting for us.

BEYOND BELIEF

"Beyond Westminster - Finding Hope in Britain" is based on 'Pantsdown's' 1992 tour of



Britain. You might remember the TV and newspaper hype about him wandering the length and breadth of Britain, visiting ordinary people.

This was all part of the bonding politician's attempt to get away from "the fuggy atmosphere of Westminster" and to see how ordinary working class people live.

So, after visiting estates like Hartcliffe and Withwood in South Bristol, and getting all upset, in a jolly liberal way of course, about the "lost generation" of working class people forced to live in poverty and deprivation; the shit health-care and doctor's dismissive attitudes; "Third World standards" on our estates... what did Paddy do?

Did he threaten to burn down Parliament if the needs of the people weren't met? Did he transfer huge wads of

cash from Lib-Dem Party coffers to people who really need it? Did he shell out personally? Did he leave his party as the hypocritical piece of crap it is? No, Paddy wrote a book.

Not only did he waste energy trying to make a name for himself as an author as well as a bad politician, but he wrote about things that are common-place to the growing majority of people in Britain.

No doubt proceeds from sales are going to Paddy, and the Lib-Dems, with maybe a little token amount going to charity.

Either way, it makes Ashdown show himself up as he is: a parasitical posing dogooder in a position of power, pretending to care but really getting fame and fortune off the backs of working class people.

brain dead..

WHO SAYS politicians are greedy, lazy and above all stupid?

Well we do for one! And if more proof were needed, read on.

Councillors held five, roudy meetings, spread over three months, to come up with a name for a new auditorium.

The councillors, in Grimsby, Humberside, even set up a special committee (complete with expenses) to look into this massive problem.

The result, well they ended up calling it... the Grimsby Auditorium!

SASSY NEW STICKER

SCREW THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT



GIVE SNOOPERS GRIEF NOT INFO.

● available from **BIRMINGHAM CLASS WAR** (see page 13 for address)

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

Mexican Uprising



● **THE NEW Year in Mexico saw a well trained and well armed rebellion by peasants who had enough of living in poverty.**

The 2,000 peasants, many of them women, formed themselves into the Zapatista National Liberation Army and took control of four major towns in the South of the country.

Their targets were the police and military, government buildings and rich landowners who hire gunmen to drive the peasants of their land.

They were also fighting against the North American Free Trade Agreement.

NAFTA will make the poor poorer, and give a free hand to the bosses to exploit workers and peasants.

As we go to press the Mexican government is still not in control of areas of the South.



FROM POLL TAX TO TOLL TAX

The Tory ideas for battering the poor seem endless. No sooner has the boot been put in with poll tax/council tax, than they're planning a new 'toll tax' on our roads - trying to squeeze more cash out of us and putting obstacles to our travelling freely.

GOING BACKWARDS

This harks back to the old turnpike gates when the likes of Dick Turpin had to do a runner from the law by dodging these barricades.

Tolls on motorways fit in

with the transport and government bosses' measures to make us cough up or price us out - it's a trick relearned from Italy and Germany, for example.

This is coupled with further attacks on our mobility, like the introduction of ID cards for benefit claimants - just to keep us there, physically and financially.

Obviously these measures need to be thwarted as soon as they arise, by all means necessary.

Travel and transport, in the view of the capitalists, are purely for trade. We recently

had the case of the St Austell, Cornwall, lorry driver: his truck was unfit to be on the road, he hadn't got the right licence, he drove his truck through 2 shops and KILLED a woman. He was fined £300 and given 5 penalty points.

If that had been your or me on a weekend drive with the kids, we'd be all over the local media with calls for us to be hung or, at least, jailed for life, but we wouldn't have been making money at the time, like the trucker was.

It just goes to show the contempt the old, bloated, corrupt 'justices' and how much they value the profits of their friends in high places.

fed news

● The Class War new members' pack is now available for all you red-hot class warriors who want to join the Federation.

It's free from the National Secretary: see page 13 for address.

● The Class War Supporters' Bulletin No. 8 is just off the press, and goes out to all new Turbo subscribers and bulk orderers of the paper. If you want a copy, order one up on the form on page 13.

NOTHING T

ON DECEMBER 15th 1993, the leaders of the British and Irish governments, John Major and Albert Reynolds announced their 'historic' peace declaration.

According to the media this declaration made significant progress on the road to peace in Ireland.

It did nothing of the sort. Immediately afterwards the pair went their separate ways and since then their respective governments have continuously contradicted each other over what exactly the declaration means. With the British in particular going out of their way to reassure the Unionists.

So what's it all about? The first thing to say about this declaration is that it has nothing to declare. Despite the so called 'historic' nature of the document it actually contains very little that wasn't there before and sod all of any real significance.

CONFLICT

The media, reckoning that most people would probably never read the full text have been bombarding us with details of the 'brave steps forward' contained in the document.

These 'brave steps forward' include the statement that 'Britain has no selfish strategic or economic interest in Ireland'. This is nothing more than repeating a statement made by British Minister Peter 'babbling' Brooke back in 1990. It is entirely consistent with Britain's on-going claim of neutrality in the 'Irish conflict'.

It is also stated that Britain

will not stand in the way of a united Ireland. Fair enough, but the British establishment has always claimed that it will only stay in the North of Ireland for as long as the Unionists want them to. They even say this in the 1986 Anglo Irish agreement (the Hillsborough agreement).

In fact, in the 12 points of the Downing St declaration Britain's willingness to stay is stated no less than eight times.

No surprise really - John Major has been eager to point out that his party's full name is the Conservative and Unionist Party - and it was only through a secret deal cobbled together with the Unionist MP's that the Tory's survived last year's vote on Maastricht in parliament.

Exactly what the Unionists were promised for saving Major's skin is uncertain. But the Ulster Unionist Party leader James Molyneux has revealed that during the negotiations between Major and Reynolds leading up to the declaration, he had twice weekly meetings with Major, and he claims that he effectively 'neutralised' certain proposals from Reynolds.

MISTAKEN

Molyneux has also stated that "no unionists who read this document can call it a sell out", which is true, considering that under its terms the

unionist 'constitutional position' is now guaranteed by the Irish, as well as the British government.

The supposed aim of the declaration is "to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted". Very ambitious, you could be mistaken for thinking.

But at no stage does the document make any reference, even in passing, to the real causes of the conflict - British Imperialism and its consequences: The partition of Ireland, the division of its people and an artificial, sectarian state. A state that is created, supported and propped up by British money and guns, and is under military occupation.

PROPAGANDA

Now that we've established what this declaration is not, let's be clear about what it is - an attempt to defeat, or at least isolate, the Irish republican movement.

Wrapped up in a muddled and tortuous rehash of 25 years worth of British and Irish policy and propaganda, the main point of the declaration is an offer that if the IRA call an end to the armed struggle Sinn Fein can become part of the 'democratic process'.

The success or failure of the declaration depends entirely on whether Sinn Fein (and more importantly the IRA) accept this condition.

The careful consideration that has been given to the document has more to do with the current state of the Republican movement than with anything contained within it.

The fact that the republicans are even taking this seriously is an indication of the dead end they have reached, a few years ago this would have been dismissed out of hand as the nonsense that it is. At this moment in time they have placed themselves in a very dangerous position.

An acceptance of this declaration would be an acceptance of all the political implications contained within - that the responsibility for the conflict does not lie with Britain, that the IRA are the major obstacle to peace, that the sectarian nature of the Northern state is not worth mentioning and that somehow the artificial Unionist majority created in Britain's interest is now legitimate.

If the terms of the declaration are not accepted the British and Irish governments will have won a propaganda victory. The Republican movement will be seen to be responsible for the violence and any 'security measures' deemed necessary will seem more acceptable.

That a crackdown is



planned is not in doubt - Douglas Hurd has said as much; "If you are not going to go for that at the present time, then security measures against you will be intensified and you can expect no let up and no quarter on that front".

TREATS

Threats such as these are nothing new. Back in 1921 the then Prime Minister Lloyd George forced a treaty upon the Irish with the threat of an "immediate and terrible war". As a result of this treaty Ireland suffered a bloody and bitter civil war, in which thousands lost their lives, partition was guaranteed and the roots of the present conflict were laid. There are valuable lessons to be learned from this.

To understand the current thinking within the Republican

movement we have to look back at its development through the last 25 years of war.

Central to the Republican struggle has always been the armed struggle. Political developments have always been based on conditions arising from the military campaign - its successes, its failures and its shortcomings. The emergence of the 'Irish peace initiative' (ie the Hume/Adams talks) is, obviously, no exception.

The current phase of the armed struggle erupted in 1969 when armed defense was needed against rampaging Loyalists, and after British troops were sent in to 'stabilise' the crisis situation the Republicans went on the offensive. Political and tactical

disagreements led the newly emerged IRA to split into the Official IRA and the Provisional IRA.

DOMINATION

In 1972 the Officials called an unconditional cease-fire and since then the Provos have been the main military opposition to British rule. Groups like the INLA, despite some notable successes, were never a serious challenge to the Provo domination of the military front.

In the early 70's there was a common belief that all that was needed to get the Brits out was one more big push in the military campaign. After a number of 'big pushes' the troops hadn't left and the 'year of victory' hadn't arrived. There was a realisation that



REPUBLICAN NEWS

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"I CANNOT FORGET THAT I WAS CROWNED QUEEN OF ENGLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND"

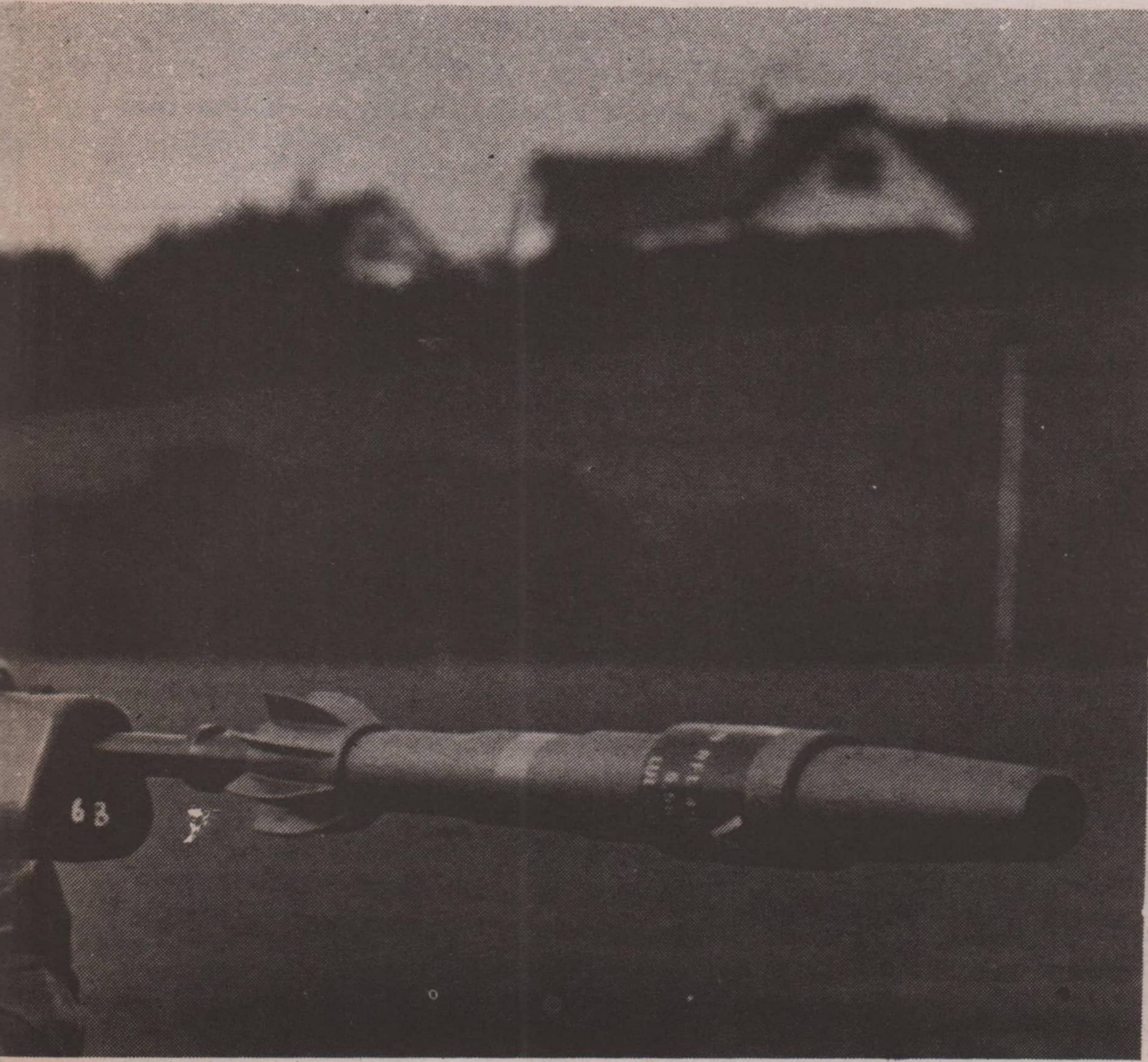


SHE WON'T!



John Major - pictured with members of the armed wing of the British government.

TO DECLARE



what was in progress was a long war of attrition, to wear down Britains resolve to stay. The leaking of a top secret report that admitted that the IRA could not be defeated militarily was a great morale booster, but it logically led to an understanding that the opposite also held true - that military action alone could not force a British withdrawal.

STRATEGY

There was a need to 'broaden the battlefield'. After the election successes associated with the H-Block hunger strike the now famous 'armalite in one hand and ballot box in the other' strategy emerged.

Soon, Gerry Adams was a Westminster MP (not taking his seat) and in 1986 Sinn Fein (SF) dropped the traditional republican policy of abstentionism from the Southern parliament.

These developments were fully endorsed by the IRA army council (which

despite the media claims is a separate body from the SF leadership). The on-going armed struggle was still considered to be the cutting edge. The joint military/electioneering strategy has not been entirely successful.

SF's electoral support has remained solid in the six counties. However, the gerrymandering of electoral boundaries, a staple feature of the Northern state, has effectively neutralised the Republicans electoral strength.

Even their safest seat, Gerry Adams in West Belfast has now gone, toppled in the 1992 general election by an unholy alliance of the SDLPs Joe Hendron and Loyalist extremists.

In the South electoral support has been fixed at about 2%. Despite widespread disillusionment with the major parties this has not changed. Even the Labour party, with a track record of

betrayal has had an 150% increase in support these past years. Danny Morrison, a significant figure within the Republican movement, has said "the South is the key", so there is something seriously wrong here.

BRUNT

There is now widespread war weariness within the six counties. For the past 25 years the British state has faced courageous and determined opposition, the backbone of which has been working class communities. These have borne the brunt of the suffering, making many sacrifices and facing great hardship.

There have been countless deaths and injuries - there are hundreds in jail and families have been torn apart and destroyed. Those who have been fighting back have been condemned and stigmatised by everyone from the right, through to the left, liberals, the media and the church.

They have remained undefeated, and now they are expected to accept that the end result of all this is to join the "democratic process". Simply that: no withdrawal of British troops, no disarmament or even disarmament of the police force, no release of any political prisoner, nothing else - only an opportunity to sit down and negotiate their future with those who's aim up to now was to grind them into the ground.

To sit down with people who have always regarded them as scum, who have complied in and excused murder campaigns against them and who have forced a military occupation upon them. Quite simply, Re-

publicans are being invited to accept the Northern state (sectarian as it is), becoming part of it as a pressure group within, with those who've done everything possible to uphold the rotten entity for over 70 years.

So the 'broadening of the battlefield' has not progressed the Republican ideal one bit. The armed struggle is unable to force the Brits out. The election strategy can go no further than making SF part of the political process, corrupt and rotten as it is.

The formation of a National block; (the SDLP and Irish government included) is a joke. These fellow Irishmen have been amongst the Republicans worst enemies. History shows where such cross class unity leads.

If indeed 'the South is the key' then claiming unity with political gangsters like the much hated Reynolds is not going to win any friends. The SDLP are middle class sell outs, long hated by republicans.

INDEPENDENT

The Republican movement is facing disaster. If they reject the declaration they can no longer continue their current strategy. They will, to coin a phrase, have to get back to basics.

The socialism of the Republican movement is the legacy of James Connolly. He was very clear about Ireland's revolutionary future. "The working class are the sole incorruptible inheritors of the fight for Irish freedom".

Only a working class movement in the 32 counties, whose ultimate goal is to declare themselves free and independent can achieve this. Unless the current republican movement accepts this and

does more than pay lip service to socialism then the future is bleak.

As we go to press it would seem that the declaration is to be accepted, if the British give some verbal assurances. An important power, that has not done a honest deed in Ireland for 800 years is now

expected to do the decent thing. This cannot be presented as progress - politically it amounts to little more than an unconditional surrender.

This may be in the Connolly tradition, but unfortunately we're talking about Billy, not James.

Class War believes that the Northern state must be destroyed and the border removed.

This is not because we are nationalists - we know that there can be no cross class national interest - but that the partition of Ireland stands as a barrier to workers unity.

We want to see a movement that can put the power in the hands of the Irish working class, and kick out the bosses, be they orange or green, native or foreign.



A cartoon from Glasgow based Young Tories magazine *The Baby Blues*.

Their proposal for the Six counties if the Downing St. declaration fails???



A SOUTH ARMAGH SIGNPOST



this land is ours

In Britain half of all private land is owned by 1 per cent of the population. Three quarters is owned by less than five per cent.

In 1993, according to official figures, 400,000 people were homeless. Even if you multiply that figure by four to count the hidden homeless, they'd all still fit in the 765,000 private homes that are currently standing empty in the UK.

Land ownership is big business. Holding on to property is much more important than the lives of working class people. That's why the government is protecting its rich friends by bringing in the new *Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill*.

IT'S CRIMINAL

Among other things the Bill turns trespass into a criminal offence and gives bailiffs new powers to forcibly evict squatters. Gypsies, travellers, squatters, the homeless and anyone who fancies a day out in the woods will be hit first.

But with house repossessions still rising, tenants getting fewer and fewer rights and the countryside being carved up every day for opencast mines, Channel Tunnel projects or new motorways, this Bill is a massive attack on all of us.

Not content with cutting wages, cutting benefits and slashing public services, the bosses are now trying to tell us where we can walk and where we can live, and we can't tolerate that sort of nonsense at all.

THIS IS OUR LAND

There's only one way to beat this Bill, and that's not to write endless letters to your MP begging them to vote against it.

The Bill might still be going through Parliament but in that Old Boys' Club it's as good as passed already. Overturning this law means fighting it where it really counts. On the streets, in their rich mansions, on their country estates.

This land is our land. It was stolen from us and we should be taking it back. By any means necessary.

A bitter harvest

Seven printers - all members of the Graphical print and Media union (GMPU) were sacked from Harvest printers in Macclesfield, Cheshire in July 1993.

The 7 refused to sign contracts disowning their union, and also refused to work overtime as and when the company demanded it. Not that Harvest's management have ever been too keen on sticking to agreements - they refused to pay the nationally negotiated pay award most other printers paid in 1992.

TORY BOSSES

In an attempt to make Britain more attractive to international investors the Tories are constantly telling everyone how they have tamed the countries workforce.

During the 1980s the focus of class struggle certainly switched away from the workplace to the community. But up and down

the country there are many, often unreported, disputes that show the working class has plenty of backbone.

That's why the magnificent seven at Harvest deserve our support, both financial and physical. They can usually be found on picket duty at Park street, Macclesfield.

LEND A HAND

Donations and enquiries should be sent to:

Sacked Seven, 39 Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2D7

The Chairman, Managing Director and Principal Shareholder of Harvest Printers is **Mr. GNM McMahon**. If you don't like the way he treats people, why not tell him so on 0625 426583?

Class war supports, wherever possible, the struggle of working class people in the workplace. If you have any news on a dispute, or are in dispute yourself why not get in touch with your local group or contact our hotline on 0272 870050

CHOP THE BASTARDS

SEEING THE WOOD FOR THE TREES

Recent editions of **CLASS WAR** have featured news of the Governments plan to sell off our forests and our access rights to them.

Well, it looks like the Tories are getting the message and getting cold feet.

Privatising Britains forests would mean the loss of most of our historic access rights to them. The new private owners would not have to guarantee access on the old footpaths and bridleways, and you can bet your life they wouldn't want us lot wandering around, getting in the way.

GORMLESS

A bunch of 'top' boffins, originally gathered together as the **"Forestry Review Group"** to look at privatising the Forestry Commission and the forests, have decided it's not such a good idea after all. *Well, that's smart! There's plenty of us normal people who've known that all along.*

The push to make a fast buck has been spearheaded by scheming John "God told me to do it" Gummer, with John Majors backing all the

way.

The gormless plan was openly denied in Majors pre-election speeches. No surprise there

However the two Johns plans were never well met. As

Axing the forests could bring the Tories a swift £1 billion, but it looks likely to cost them tens of millions a year afterwards. Trying to keep some kind of public access, and the rambling

boffins look likely to suggest the more gradual selling (also known as "selling on the sly") of the forests. This they want to do by first renaming the FC as the 'Next Steps Agency', making it sound like an extra from Songs of Praise, and then increasing the commercial side of it (ie. selling more a little at a time).

STEALING OUR LAND

Let's face it; they'll try anything, any hair brained idea, and don't care how it affects the rest of us.

The working class has enjoyed rightful access to Britains woods for centuries. But already since 1981, the FC has sold off a half a million acres, bit by bit. We are only "allowed" to 19 of the 544 woods sold in the last three years. *It is*

clear; if we let them, they'll screw it up for us, with this like they've done with everything else.

They're our forests and we intend to keep them that way. If they succeed in stealing the rest, it may trigger the introduction of "slash and burn" techniques in removing unwanted dead wood.

And we're not talking about the forests here!

well as massive opposition from groups like mountain bikers and rambles, it didn't go down well with timber processing companies who fear losing their regular timber supplies.

Although we might be winning the battle, the war is far from over.

While rambles rantings may have played a part, the more likely reason for the rethink is the true cost to the Government.

Tory-voting hoardes quiet, would cost the Government a small fortune in compensation. This is on top of the loss of profit from lost timber sales.

SCHEMING BASTARDS

Although the massive selling of woods seems to have become another thorn in the side of the Tories, the thieving bastards have another trick up their sleeve. The scheming civil servant



TO THE MOTORWAY

In Wanstead, North London, people are getting used to broken promises.

They were promised the M11 link road would be tunnelled under their village green, but they're being given an urban nightmare. They were promised justice, but they got a kick in the teeth from the Met.

The M11 extension into London is not a popular road.

While the crumbling, run down Underground gets pricier and pricier, with thousands sleeping rough, the plan is to knock down 350 houses to bring more traffic chaos and pollution into Wanstead's back yard.

All this is for the 'Transport Lobby': the bosses of road haulage, car, road building and petrol companies: and

certainly not for our benefit.

It's no great surprise then, that when contractors Norwest Holst put up fences around Wanstead's George Green, in December last year, 400 locals tore it down.

On December 6, fifteen busloads

of cops tried to evict 250 protestors from the central point of the protest: a beautiful, 300 year old chestnut tree, slap bang in the way of the motorway.

Resistance was so strong that the powers that be brought in 300 cops for the protest that included local pensioners and schoolkids who told the cops to 'grow up' and 'you're a disgrace, get a proper job'.



The protest was relatively peaceful, bearing in mind the fact that old folk and kids' safety had to be thought of. It delayed the felling of the tree by 8 hours, but feelings are high and locals say this is only the beginning.

There are now serious plans to cock up the road building plans: including the squatting and barricading of the 350 houses set for demolition. These plans will have to take on the cops, Council and road builders in a slightly less symbolic way.

Governments build roads for profit. To do so they'll cut through anything: beautiful land, animals homes, and maybe your house. To build the roads, they dig quarries the size of mountains, to further ruin OUR countryside.

The Wanstead protestors have said NO to this and Muckspreader says **Good on 'Em**.



METER BEATERS

opposing VAT on fuel bills...our way!

'WE CAN'T RELY on politicians or leaders to do things for us we've got to organise and do it for ourselves.'

That was the message going out to build for a NO VAT ON FUEL public meeting in Hornsey London and it is being echoed from Cornwall to Lothian. Resistance to the FUEL TAX is growing. Local groups are forming and those groups are starting to network with each other.

LINE OF ATTACK

Some towns have already seen demonstrations such as a funeral march in Birmingham (highlighting the extra 10,000 deaths the FUEL TAX will cause) and a picket of Kenneth Clarke's surgery in Nottinghamshire.

Many more protests are planned for April when the first 8% is due to be introduced. All the groups seem to be agreeing the same five basic lines of attack:

* **Mass non payment of the VAT element.**

* **Direct Action against the property of gas and electricity boards.**

* **The development of local community networks to support non payers, encourage non co-operation with the fuel boards and distribute**

RIP OFF FUEL BOARD LTD. 1127111

GENERAL TIPS

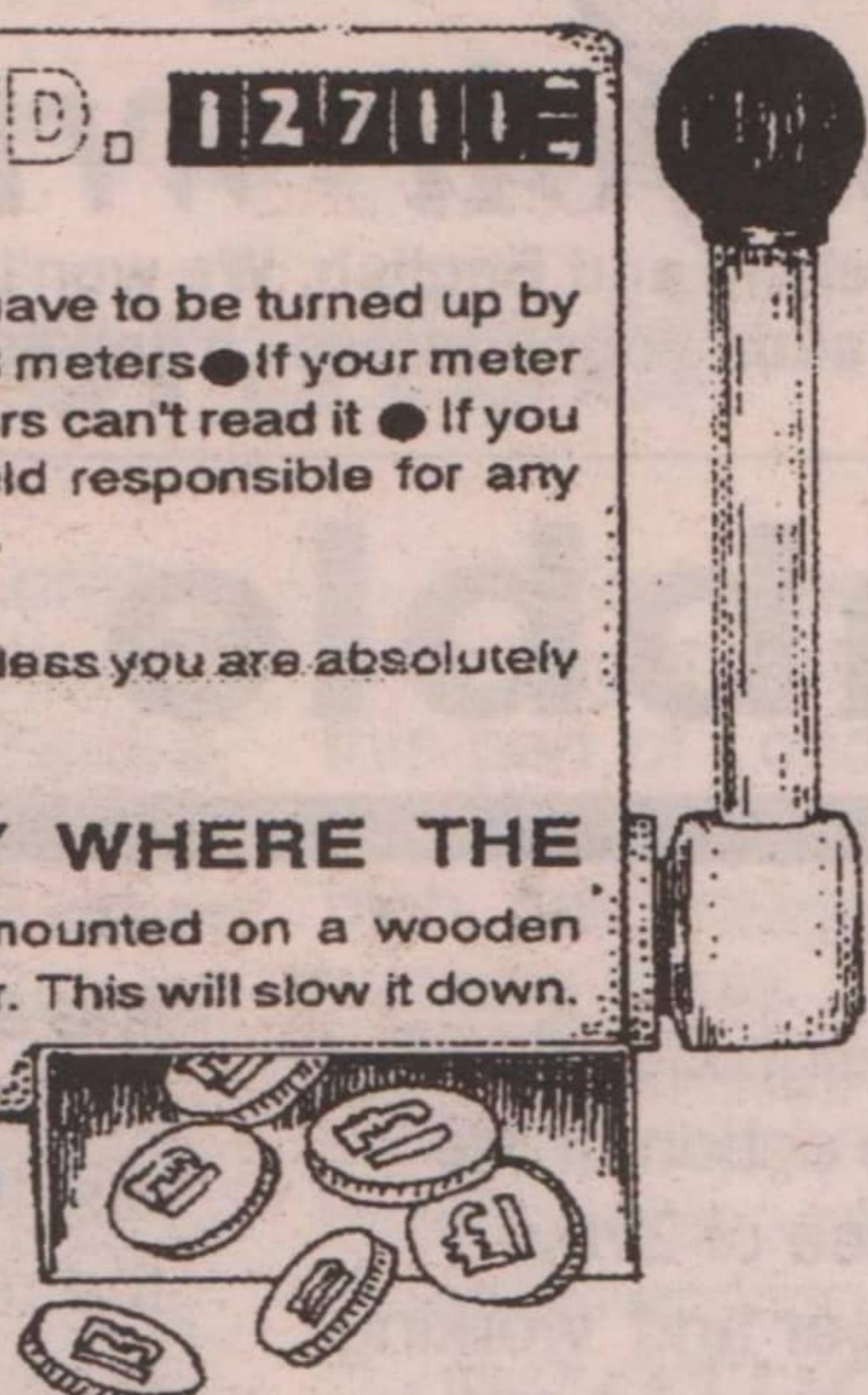
● Don't let anyone one in to read your meters ● Token meters have to be turned up by meter readers, don't let them in ● Absolutely refuse token or card meters ● If your meter is indoors and visible from the street cover it over so that snoopers can't read it ● If you can, change your bills into a false name; you can't then be held responsible for any whopping bills - the person moved and you have just moved in.

FIDDLES - WARNING Don't attempt the following unless you are absolutely sure you know what you are doing.

ELECY (NON TOKEN) METERS ONLY WHERE THE INCOMING CABLE IS PLASTIC: The meter is mounted on a wooden board. Remove the screws from the top corners and tilt the meter. This will slow it down. Take your own meter readings.

WARNING Don't buy stolen elecy cards, you will still have to pay for the elecy used and so end up paying twice!

Let us know of any other useful tips or fiddles.



information,

* **Blockades and physical resistance of disconnections**

* **Appeals to workers not to carry out disconnections.**

THE COLD WAR

The battle against FUEL TAX is going to hot up over the next year. Although introduced in April some people won't be getting a bill until three months later.

The immediate priority for the NO FUEL TAX campaign must be to build the resistance to meter readers. Especially for those on token meters as it is expected that they will be trying to gain entry to turn meters up to take for the 8% VAT.

Also many first bills where VAT is due for only part of the period covered, most fuel boards will have to estimate the VAT.

If they have to estimate the bill in the first place we could create a great opportunity to snarl up their system with complaints about how the estimates are worked out and by arranging for the meter reader to call and then not being in.

After all that, a mass non payment of the FUEL TAX would really piss them off. Even more if people were using their imagination and making up their own cheques to pay the part bill. As long as your account number's on it

you can use anything as a cheque, even a fridge door.

Using a homemade cheque or paying as late as possible is a valid contribution for those that haven't the confidence (yet) not to pay.

ORGANISE

Groups in Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and Wrexham are willing to help others set up new groups, if you want help get in touch now via:

NO FUEL TAX, c/o PO BOX 85, BALSALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B12,

or let them know if anything is happening in your area. Give a contact through which other NO fuel tax groups can get in touch.

GOULD R.I.P.

Brian Gould, Labour MP for Dagenham, has announced that he's leaving politics. Thank christ for that, it's just a pity it's not the planet.

Sharp Brian thinks the next Labour government will be one he couldn't support or serve in with any great enthusiasm. *Hypocritical pig!*

BUGGER ALL

He spent god knows how long, with the likes of Kinnock, butchering everything about the Labour Party remotely worth keeping, which, admittedly, was very very little; and trying to appeal to the yuppies, and the chattering and middle classes to vote Labour in.

Gould isn't leaving because he's disillusioned, *he's leaving because he's not all that popular with the party hierarchy and there's bugger all chance of him becoming Leader or deputy Leader.* Plus the fact that the temptation of being offered the high-flying jobs at Walkato University (in his native New Zealand) and at ITV were too much for this so-called socialist.

MONSTER

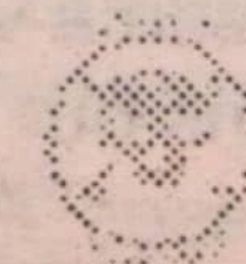
But if double-dealing scum like our Brian can realise that the Labour Party really isn't a runner, then why can't the likes of the Socialist Workers, the Militant, the unions etc., and stop trying to put it 'on the right track', helping to create yet more false illusions.

It's way past time to kill off the Labour monster that has lead the working class up the garden path with empty promises so many times this century.

NO DIFFERENCE

Gould has argued that there's very little difference between the main parties - *there's no difference.*

Whether he becomes a university chancellor or political 'expert' on the telly, Gould was always just another capitalist who's done his time and is moving on to greener pastures.



cops fail in frame up

An attempt by the West Midlands police and a Birmingham City council official to frame a bloke for 'arson endangering life' has been foiled.

With the help of the local ABC Prisoners Support Group, Ron Bevan destroyed the fabricated evidence against him and walked free from Warwick Crown court after 5 minutes.

BEAT THE BASTARDS

This is another great example of how we can beat the bastards if we stick together and share our skills.

An ABC activist involved said "Ron takes most of the credit for smashing this frame up. He has put a lot of time and energy into defending himself. The ABC's role was mainly giving him support, encouragement and advice where Ron wanted it. We helped him gather some of the evidence and stand up to his solicitor, who was a wanker. Being framed can be like a bad dream, is it really happening to me or am I going mad? With our experience of other cases we could clarify what was happening and assure Ron that he wasn't imagining things."

HELL

After thirteen months of hell whilst facing the charge Ron is now enjoying taking the police and council to court.

He is determined to make them pay for the shit they have put him through and hopes it will be an encouragement for others who have had similar experiences.

THE FRAME:

Ron lived on his own in Shottery Grove. He was one of only five tenants left living on a run down estate that was being cleared for demolition.

Most of the houses around had been burnt out by bored youths and stripped out by tatters. There were regular fires and break ins. Life in the Grove was a nightmare, and Ron was taking the council to court because of the way they were dealing with his transfer.

In November 92 Ron went out for the evening for a few beers and to get some electricity tokens.

He returned home at midnight to find first that his back door had been forced open and his telly was missing and then he told by his neighbour that there were flames coming from his back bedroom window.

REFUSE

The police and fire brigade were called out. Cops, desperate to get someone for all these arsons, tried to get him to make a false statement that would have incriminated his neighbour's son, but Ron refused.

His house was badly damaged and he was moved into a house which he had been offered on transfer by the council before the fire but hadn't decided whether to accept.

The frame on Ron was sparked off by the local housing official Phil Grainger who saw this opportunity to discredit Ron in his complaint against the council. Phil

Grainger works regularly with DS Kenny the pig in charge of investigations. Phil Grainger initially pointed the finger at Ron and was prepared to make a few false statements to help DS Kenny get a bust.

LIES

With the lies from Phil Grainger it was up to DS Kenny to provide the finishing touches. He tried the nice cop 'Say it was an accident and we won't take it any further' approach. He tried the nasty cop 'I'm going to call your 7 year old grandson into court as a witness against you'.

Both failed but only just. With out a confession it was going to have to go the full length.

Ron decided he was going to get evidence by using a concealed tape recorder. He succeeded in getting Phil Grainger on tape denying all the evidence he was giving in court.

He also recorded conversations with other housing officials that totally discredited Grainger and recorded strange visits to his house from a housing inspector sent round to find out what Ron was up to who amongst other things admitted to being a mason.

SCHEMER

A short while before the trial when Ron had got his defence together he told a council bloke that he had recorded all the conversations. He knew Grainger would get to know.

The police wouldn't allow him to retract his statements and so Grainger had to refuse

to testify in court. As he was central to the prosecution case they had to withdraw their case.

Incidentally Grainger has been off sick ever since.

BEWARE!

A few tips and things to watch out for that comes from Ron's experience are;

The police trying to get him to make a false statement

The police didn't investigate the burglary.

Trying to get a confession by saying no charges will be brought if you just say as they suggest.

These are things to watch out for. They may be early warning signals that you are being framed.

If you are being framed and would like some advice, help or to know if any help is available in your area contact

BRUM ABC, PO BOX 3241, SALTLEY, BIRMINGHAM B8



SUING THE COPS

A well produced and clear to read leaflet on how to go about suing the police is available from:

HARINGEY SOLIDARITY GROUP (HSG), PO BOX 2401, LONDON, N8.

- The leaflet covers briefly:
- What you can sue for
- What kind of court case it will be
- How much you could win
- What are the costs involved

Give it a read. We all could do with nailing the bastards some time.

SUING THE POLICE



A growing number of people are suing the police for damages to cover the cost of making a complaint against the police. You receive for this one £1 if you are successful you get financial compensation (small and £2) you are notified that taking out a complaint against the police costs money.

CLASS WAR LETTERS

remember keep them short sharp and straight to the point.

CW Letters page
PO Box 1021
Edinburgh
EH8 9PE



—we print 'em 'cos you write 'em—

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and to sort out your spelling and English. We won't change their meaning, honest! If you want us to reply to any of the points you make, remember to add your address - it makes it much easier to write back to you.

GET A GRIP

Dear Class War

In the centre pages of CW 61 you seemed to be saying that the present political set up at a local and national level is no better or worse than a fascist dictatorship? Get a grip. If you really believed this you would be out bricking the Labour party, the Greens and the liberals as well as the BNP and NF. This doesn't seem to be the case in practice, so why do it in your centre pages?

Parliamentary democracy is where we, the working class, are given a very limited say in which group runs our lives for the benefit of the bosses. People endure this situation without actually agreeing with it. A parliamentary democracy is not a real democracy. A dictatorship **forces** the ideas of the ruling class onto the working class, and we don't have any say about this at all. Fascism is where the ruling class have the **co-operation and agreement** of a sizeable part of the working class—in effect a reactionary mass movement. Personally I don't want any of the above, I want working class social revolution, but I'm not so daft as to fail to see which side my bread is buttered on **at the moment**, are you?

I personally think the centre pages did a lot of damage to class war and the good anti-fascist work class war does. People have been coming up to me to ask what the hell CW was trying to say, I didn't know either.

There were good and valid points in the centre pages, but overall it was wasted by a loony-off-the-wall-ultra-leftist load of old bollocks.

Yours comradely
Kevin, Edinburgh

rabble hero

Dear CW,

I was passing the High Court in Dundee, looking for some action at the 'mass demo' in defence of Drew McEwan, SWP member and 'working class hero', and was disappointed to find only two local SWP members. I asked them if the riot was over, they told me that they had cancelled the demo because 'the trial had been postponed' because the law were scared of their defence witnesses: university graduates, social workers, professors and generally people of substance. They said that the judge will now realise that good old Drew is not 'Just one of the rabble' who stood on the picket

line at Timex, Timex workers included eh? I turned away from these two idiots, thinking 'Socialist Workers Party?, the real working class?, what a bunch of shits.'

Well, a Class War member, and one of the 'rabble' still has to stand trial in Dundee, should we ask the SWP's defence witnesses, the professors, social workers etc. to speak in his defence? 'Cos unfortunately Class War has only ordinary working class people, and no 'people of substance. Or maybe good old Drew will do the decent thing for the working class and do the time for everyone nicked at Timex.

Andy, Dundee CW

education for all

Dear Class War

In CW 61 you report on students inviting David Irving to a meeting, then slag of student societies; 'Students societies are made up of the future ruling class and bosses'. By these societies I assume you mean right wing political societies, of which in my own university there is but one.

Of course my own judgement is shaped through by being at The University of Greenwich, formally Thames poly, which is not exactly salubrious, but most of the students there are working class. Many students are forced to college by the prospect of perpetual unemployment and social security clampdowns. Students are apathetic, but are also one of the poorest sections of society.

Just remember;

Traveling expenses	AXED
Housing benefit rights	AXED
Inflation index grants	AXED
And now 30% of the grant	AXED

Energy, anger and militancy is rising in the student population, and is already being expressed in sporadic occupations of colleges throughout the country, conspicuously unreported in the media.

I hope you take more seriously the rights of workers to a good quality, free education, and not allow access to further education to be conditional on being rich.

Fraternally yours,
CS Zacharia, S. London

STATE OF THE UNION...

Dear Class War,

We were disappointed you decided to print DD's letter in Class War no. 61. This letter contained a childish attack on the Anarchist Communist Federation which was devoid of any politics but full of insults. Yes, there is a need for debate in the revolutionary movement, but descending to the level of playground is counter productive, if not counter revolutionary.

Just for the record, no, we're not 'middle class', yes if having a vision of

the future society we desire is 'utopian' then we are 'utopianist' and finally, as far as we are concerned 'individualism', as opposed to 'individuality', is the negation of communism, and we fight for communism, we are not defenders of 'individualism'.

Yours in the fight against sectarianism and for social revolution.

FC, for London ACF

Dear FC,

The letter from DD did make a contribution to the debate about unions, he also used about 14 words to make a comment about the ACF. We don't necessarily agree with everything in this letter either. On the other hand you have just used a whole letter without saying what you do or do not think about unions and workplace organisation...

For the record we do support workplace organisation, for the workers, by the workers. We support workers using any weapon against the bosses—no matter how white (eg. the current unions) that weapon is, by all means necessary.

RURAL TRADITIONS

Dear Comrades,

It was good to hear from a fellow class war poacher, Mick, in issue 61's letters page.

I've been poaching since I was a kid as well as being politically active for years. Over this time I've got really bored of hearing the sanctimonious middle class prats who often comprise the animal lib scene, preaching about how cruel hunting is—usually whilst wearing leather jackets and boots.

I reckon hunting is actually more humane and ecologically sound than buying meat from a butchers—at least the animals are not stuffed full of chemicals, as well as being one in the ear for the rich landowners.

Poaching is an ancient rural working class tradition and we don't want wimps coming into our areas and ordering us to give it up. It's time Class War had more articles on the battle waged against gamekeepers etc.

Another point I'd like to make is that we all have years worth of skills evading police and gamekeepers; estates in Scotland have even started employing security firms of ex-SAS soldiers—but we are successful at outwitting these so-called supermen as well!

Yours faithfully,
Anthony, Hearts CWF (personal capacity)

PS, I've heard that home-made catapults can be just as good as the bought ones—apparently 1/4" elastic from fishing shops, or surgical rubber tubing can be very effective with ball bearings or steel nuts.

con party

Dear Class War,

I'd like to know what your readers opinions are towards the Labour Party and voting for it? In my opinion I don't think any politically conscious revolutionary Socialist should even consider wasting a vote for this spineless anti-working class organisation, what do this heap of garbage do when it loses an election—but lurch even further to the right; instead of learning its lessons and adopting radical socialist ideas.

Many of the 'left' Labour councils pride themselves for having a high rate of collection for the Poll Tax. For this read 'they are more than willing to send in brain dead neo-fascist thugs into the homes of people too poor, sick or disabled to pay this stinking tax. And they ask us to vote for them. They should be confined to the dustbin of history.

The labour party has **always** been the bosses 'con party'—brought out to appease the working class when it looks like the boss class might be hitting a sticky patch.

When will class conscious workers realise this too. I say no to Labour, no votes for it and no support for it, lets build a revolutionary alternative now.
Love And best wishes,
Jim, Leeds

CLASS WAR NOTICE BOARD

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SEND TO: P.C.W PO BOX 108, PLYMOUTH, DEVON

anti racism demo

19th March '94
from Spitalfields Market,
London E1
at 11am
(nearest tube: Liverpool St)

marching to: London
Fields for 2pm

GET IN TOUCH!

EAST SCOTLAND: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh
EH8 9PW

WEST SCOTLAND: Glasgow CW, PO Box
1008, Glasgow G42 8AA

NORTH:

NORTH EAST: Leeds CW, PO Box HH57
Leeds LS8 5XG

NORTH WEST: PO Box SWDO, Manchester
M15 5HN

EAST & WEST MIDS.: PO Box 2531,
Smethwick, Warley, B66 2NH

WALES: c/o CSG, PO Box 368, Cardiff CS2
1SQ

EAST ANGLIA: PO Box 467, London E8 3QX
LONDON: As above

SOUTH EAST: Temporarily use above London
address

SOUTH WEST: PCW, PO Box 108, Plymouth,
Devon

IRELAND: PO Box 5, Derry, Ireland BT48 6PD

NATIONAL SECRETARY: PO Box HH57,
Leeds LS8 5XG

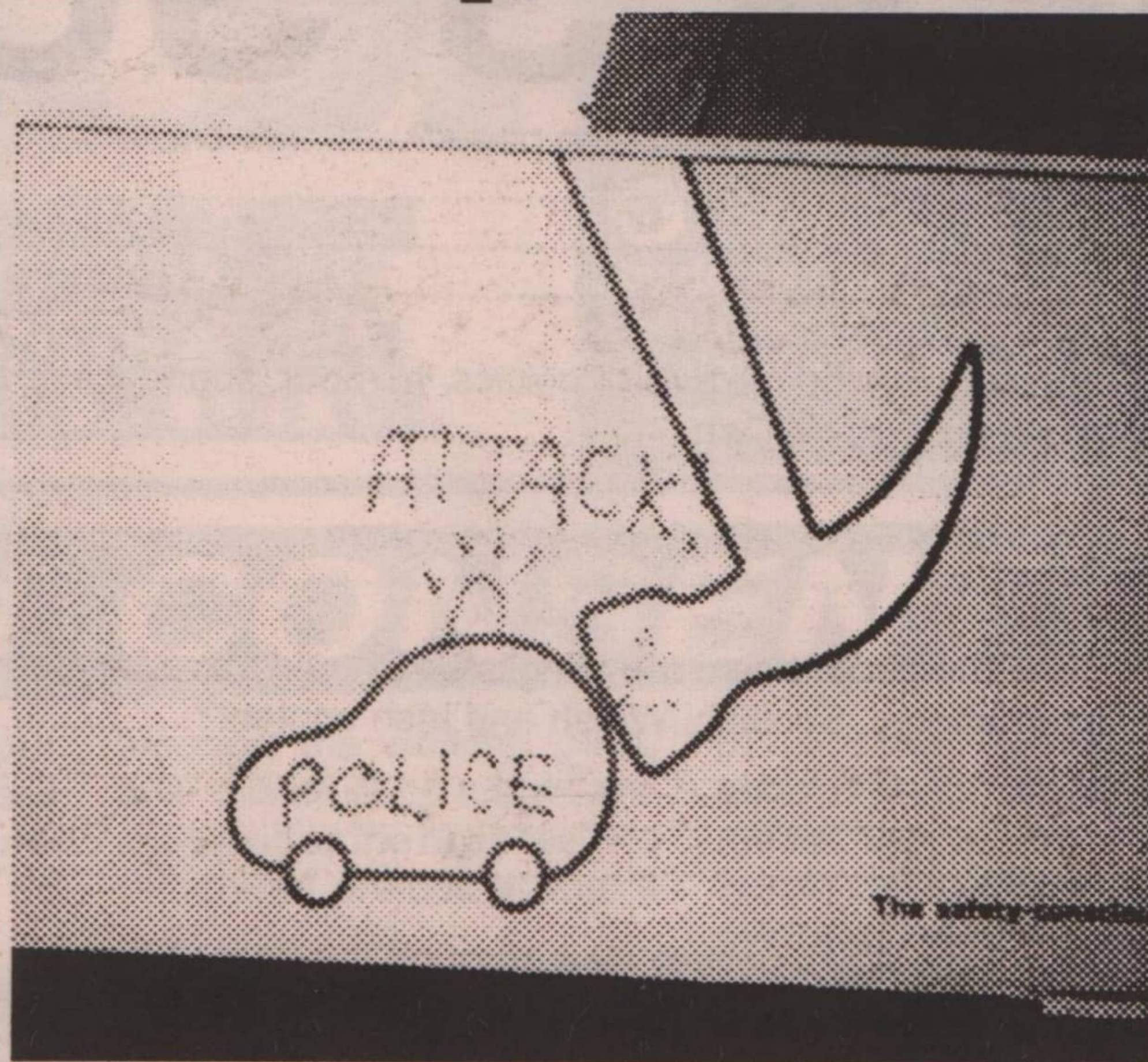
INTERNATIONAL ADDRESSES: Contact
International Secretary

CLASS WAR International Secretary: See
National Secretary address

BULK ORDERS of *Class War*: PO Box 524,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1QS

Class War is active in most towns and cities. If you want to find out more and get involved in your area. Write to your closest regional secretary. **DON'T FORGET**, there's probably a local Class War group closer to you than the regional address.

☆ grafitti competition ☆



This issue's tenner wings its way to Andy in Leeds for hammering out some class friendly DIY on a local billboard - we're sure he had a smashing time.

All graffiti comp entries to:
PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EG

13

THIS IS CLASS WAR!

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to do something about the society we live in.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

This society is divided into classes based on power and wealth. The ruling class, who are supported by the middle class; and the working class. Such a society is the cause of most all the problems experienced by working class people the whole world over.

This can only be sorted out by the destruction of the ruling class by the working class: this is class war.

Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience: using direct action against the institutions and individuals that cause them. There is NO alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the class war - but as mass class violence, out in the open. Not elitist terrorist actions.

Class society creates other oppressions based on sex, ethnic origin, disability, sexuality etc. To the ruling class, this 'justifies' extreme exploitation of people placed in such groups, and divides our class.

The class war MUST fight all these divisive oppressions, on all fronts.

Above all, the CLASS WAR FEDERATION believes that politics is life and life is politics. We reject the so-called 'revolutionary' left. Politics must be fun; it's a part of everyday life and must be able to take the piss out of itself.

OUR AIM

The aim of the CLASS WAR FEDERATION is not to lead, but to increase the militancy of working class peoples' attempts to solve their problems - through propaganda, active participation, and debate as equals.

WHAT WE DO

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION produces and distributes propaganda: a paper, discussion and debating magazine, other books and pamphlets, as well as local and national leaflets, posters and newsletters.

We're involved in working class struggles and we encourage involvement in the Federation, to do the above - for discussion and for a laugh!

CLASS WAR NATIONAL SECRETARY

PO BOX HH57
LEEDS LS8 5XG
WEST YORKSHIRE



class war

merchandise

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there's only a limited few Class War 1994 calendars left..snap 'em up now!

★ READER'S SURVEY ★

We thought it was about time that new and regular readers of *Class War* had greater say in the way the paper is written & produced; what you'd like to see more of, and what you'd like to see less of. So, we've compiled this list of questions to get your brain cells ticking. As we're getting better equipped in the regions, we'll be having a lot more regional, Scottish and Irish pieces in the paper - and thanks to all the subscribers who donated their hard-earned dosh to our computer fund...any more cash'd be massively appreciated and well used (and not for nights on the beer).

As an incentive, the first 10 people who send completed surveys will receive a funky Class War baseball cap. So get scribbling!

Are you a regular reader? If not, how often do you get *Class War*?

What do you think about the layout and looks of *Class War*?

What are the best things about *Class War*?

What don't you like about the paper?

Do you think the mixture of politics, humour, scandal etc. is about right? If not, why not?

Does the paper seem too "English"? Should there be more international, Scottish, Welsh and Irish content?

Are Class War's politics clear through the paper? If not, why not?

How do your politics/political ideas compare with those expressed in *Class War*?

All readers are welcome to write to the paper: letters, articles, news cuttings, questions etc. Have you done this? If not, why not?

What would you like to see more of in *Class War*?

What would you like to see less of/none of?

Why do you buy/read *Class War*?

How many others read your copy?

Do you think of yourself as interested in, a supporter of or a member of *Class War*?

Have you ever got in touch with your nearest *Class War* group? If not, why not?

Feel free to use extra paper.

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CLASS WAR

Reviews

CINEMA



Gerry Conlon (Daniel Day-Lewis) gets the full treatment from the cops

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER (15)

This film is brilliant. It starts off in Belfast where a young working class bloke, Gerry Conlon, is up on a roof nicking lead. The nervous Brits mistake him for a sniper and open fire. All hell breaks loose as Conlon runs through houses and back-yards whilst the rest of the Catholic community close ranks to protect him and attack the soldiers. Armoured cars appear, plastic bullets are fired and a mini-riot follows, all because Conlon was up on a roof prattling about as he went about his business.

Conlon is just your everyday bloke, with an everyday family: a respectable dad at work, despairing at his son's lack of responsibility and a mum coping with a teenage son and a very straight husband.

And then there's the auntie who's gone posh in London (Annie Maguire). Conlon is packed off there to sort himself out, but things don't quite work out that way. On the ferry over to England, he bumps into Paul Hill, and together they hit London to smoke dope and make free love. In a squat they meet up with Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson.

This all happened in the early 1970s, when the IRA was running a big campaign in England. The British state wanted blood and the media whipped up an atmosphere of intense hatred towards anyone who was

Irish. Four innocent people—Gerry Conlon, Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson—were sent down for life.

But this film doesn't follow the Guildford Four. It's more about Gerry Conlon and the relationship between him and his dad, Giuseppe. It's about the shit that flew when an Irish Catholic working class bloke was in the wrong place at the wrong time and spent almost 15 years in prison for it. It shows not only how the four were set up and sent down, but also seven of Conlon's relatives—including his aunt, two of his cousins (aged 12 and 15 at the time) and his dad, who died in prison after serving five years.

'In the Name of the Father' has got a real 70s feel to it, groovy clothes, bad haircuts and all. It made me laugh and it made me cry, but most of it all it made me angry. And even though it's a true story glammed up and re-written for the movies, you're left hating not just the individual coppers involved but the whole of the British state—the press, the courts, politicians and the rest.

Just when everyone has forgotten how 15 years were stolen from four young people's lives, this film throws it back in the public eye.

There's just two drawbacks to all this. Emma Thompson is one, but luckily she's only in the final bit. And the IRA are portrayed throughout as cold, calculating bastards. Despite this, you're left knowing that under this class system, real justice is impossible. There's only one solution...

OUR HOUR OF THE PIG (15)

The theme of this film is the decay of feudalism and the spread of liberal scientific and modern ideas, represented by a lawyer from the big city setting up a practice in a backward village in medieval France. It's an interesting subject but there is no attempt in this film to link these social changes with

the development of capitalism and so no real criticism of 'the wheels of progress'.

The scene is set at the beginning of the film when we are told that in France in the 15th and 16th centuries "animals were subject to the same laws as humans".

Whoever made this film missed the point—in pre-revolutionary France, some humans (ie the peasants) were subject to the same laws as animals. The ruling class were subject to nothing of the sort! The

peasantry were treated as less than slaves and could be legally killed, raped, owned etc as long as it was by an aristocrat.

The film revolves around a court room drama as the lawyer is called upon to represent a pig falsely accused of murder. Once this is established, the plot falls flat and only the sex scenes are of any real interest.

All in all, a real missed opportunity.

TELEVISION



Things you won't see on *The Bill*: outside the Old Bailey, Stoke Newington police queue up to face corruption charges

THE BILL

ITV Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8.00pm
If you ever thought that maybe TV was manipulated by the powers that be to create a vision of the world that suited themselves, then watching *The Bill* recently will have confirmed that thought.

The Bill got a reputation for being both realistic and 'hardcore' in its earlier episodes. Although it's still brilliant entertainment, these days it pushes two myths: first, that there is a separate 'criminal class'—'slags' and 'villains'—who 'do crime' and are generally inadequate; second, that the police, while not the *Dirty Harry* kind (outside the law but executing real justice) are impartial.

If this is meant to convey a message, it is that there is an ongoing war fought on our behalf by the police against the forces of disorder. These criminals can't be decent people, like you and me—they behave in a completely unbalanced way, they are sullen, they shout a lot and they are quick to attempt to use violence.

Occasionally the series touches on the issue of 'bent coppers', falsifying evidence etc, but only ever with the intention of securing a difficult but warranted conviction. They are, in a word, 'safe!'—the kind of coppers you would want controlling your neighbourhood.

The trouble is, the real world isn't like that. Everybody breaks laws. There isn't some shady underworld network that commits every crime, from writing graffiti on the local bus shelter to serial murder. Most crimes are never 'solved', unlike on the Sun Hill 'manor', where nobody ever gets away with anything, good overcomes evil and there is always a happy ending. In Sun Hill (an area of great social deprivation) either your mates grass you up or there's enough evidence to send you down. In any case, you might as well come clean!

And there it is in a nutshell—in *The Bill* nobody ever refuses to admit to a crime, not after the Bill explain to them why it is in

their own interest to do so. *Class War* readers will know that in a police station (or car) you should never admit to anything.

The real police want convictions. More than that, they want working class convictions, and if they can't get them within the law—their own law—they'll fit people up. Even if they were impartial upholders of 'the law', the law itself is not impartial. The law is an instrument of class rule. The rich make the laws to defend their way of life; the police are nothing more than their lackeys.

The Bill mystifies these arguments. Yet again it's a case of TV reflecting the kind of world which the producers wish we lived in. One which suits and reflects their narrow experience of life and their middle class tastes.

But *The Bill* is also more than just crude State propaganda saying 'Cops=Good, Villains=Bad'. It's part of the cultural surgery performed by the middle class on behalf of the ruling class. In their pathetic liberal way, the writers of *The Bill* probably see themselves as presenting 'challenging role models' and raising social 'issues'.

For example, one character recently introduced is a woman Chief Inspector. Not only a woman, but a black woman at that. In spite of the fact that in the Metropolitan police force there are no women Chief Inspectors and the chances of there being a black woman CI are as likely as pigs sprouting wings tomorrow. And of course not only is she a brilliant copper, she's cheerful *all the time*... Get real!

The Bill is on three times a week and probably seen by a thousand times more people than ever see a copy of *Class War*. If people's attitudes were really formed by the media, then the British police would be the most loved in the world. But the truth is a million miles away. Despite the best fantasies of TV scriptwriters, reality intervenes. We all know what the cops are really like. Behind the propaganda of Sun Hill lies the reality of Stoke Newington, the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad and the Guildford Four...

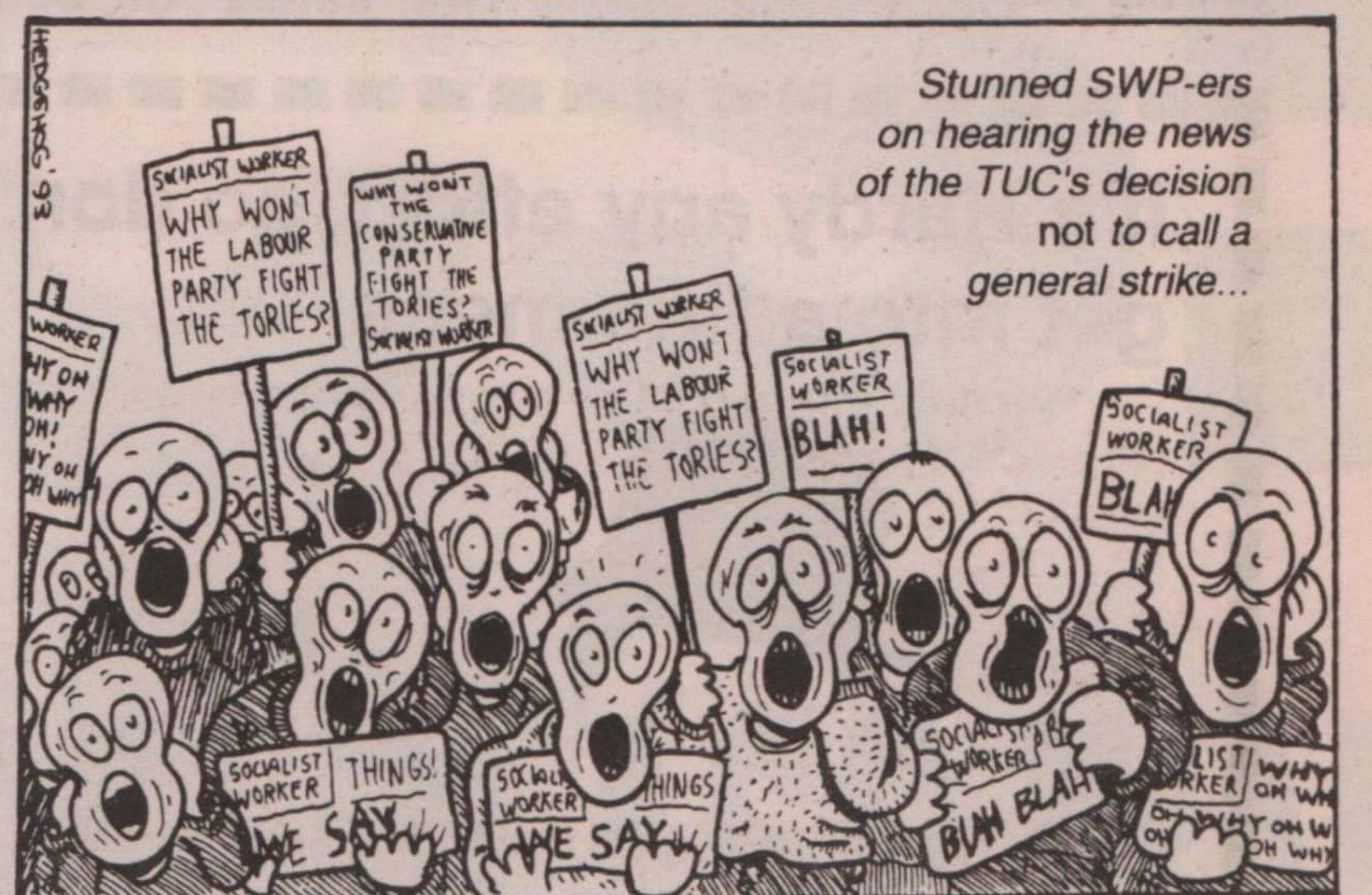
IN PRINT

CARRY ON RECRUITING

Trotwatch
(AK Press/Trotwatch, £2.95, c/o Box NDF, 72 Radford Road, Hyson Green, Nottingham NG7 5FT)

This new pamphlet is a welcome look at the antics of the Socialist Workers Party, those sad bastards who hang around shopping centres at weekends trying to flog their paper to students.

Using the SWP's own writings and actions it shows just how hollow their claims to be revolutionary are and just how patron-



ising, opportunist and self-serving the Party bosses are.

It's written in a witty way and isn't aimed just at 'politicos'. However, in places it does tend to get bogged down in the intricacies of the SWP's internal

politics—as if we're really interested! And at £2.95 it's ridiculously over-priced...

Overall, it's an excellent and useful pamphlet which should be compulsory reading for anyone even thinking of meddling in the murky world of the Left.

CLASS WAR WORLD OF

THIS IS

YOU CAN RUN... BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

After the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, *The Sun* sickened the people of Merseyside by printing ludicrous lies and allegations about the behaviour of Liverpool fans.

Merseyside folk responded in the best way possible by hitting the paper in its pocket - *insiders say they lost 200,000 sales*. A long overdue boycott begun, which is still on today.

After the death of Sir Matt Busby in January, undertakers assistant, Tony Gibbon photographed Matt's

body, cut off locks of his hair and stole the body's ID tags - he planned to sell them all. And what lowlife rag did he choose? You guessed it. But, still smarting from the Liverpool boycott, *The Scum* decided not to inflame Manchester as well, so reported Gibbon to the police.

HIDING FROM A HIDING

Since Manchester cops told him they couldn't guarantee his safety, Gibbon has left his home at *Shadow Moss Rd, Wythenshawe*.

Plundering a dead body, then trying to sell bits of it to a sleazepaper suggests one thing - leave Britain, Tony. But then, as there are United fans all over the world...it could be a case of "you can run, but you can't hide."



GIBBON - with the coffin

A STARRY, STARRY SIGHT!

DURING THE 1913 lockout, a general strike in Dublin, the workers formed the Irish Citizen Army.

This was one of Europe's first workers militias taking on the cops and scabs.

BORING

They adopted as their flag 'The Starry Plough', seven stars on a blue background. Now, 80 years on, the Starry Plough is flying again, thanks to fans of 'Bohemians FC', a North Dublin football team.

Pissed off with seeing boring and irrelevant banners at their matches they decided to capture a piece of Dublin's proud history of working class struggle.

A Starry Plough, in the teams colours of red and black can now be seen at their games. The man who made up the banner for them, Jer O'Leary said;

"It is meant as a tribute to the struggle of Irish men and women in the days gone by. It's good to see lads in a world of increasingly selfish values remembering the struggle of

their forebears at the turn of the century."

Football matches are one of the few places where working class people still gather in thousands, and are an ideal place to present our own politics - whether its through remembering our own heroes, or getting our propaganda across outside.



FIGHTING TALK

It's currently fashionable for liberal and lefty groups to whine about domestic violence, sexual attacks on women, racist attacks and so on...

Class War absolutely condemns these attacks. Our Sports Desk suggests the wet and woolly left drop their SWP placards for a minute. Then they should take notice of a growing trend that many women, Blacks, gays and Asians have got into: learning martial arts.

But not content with learning the "sport" just for the sake of it, these sections of our class have taken it a step further by forming their own self defence groups. These aren't controlled by the cops, the council or some self-appointed community leader or whinging lefty.

PRIDE

This trend reflects the fitness and solidarity necessary to take on the sexist and racist elements that seriously fuck things up for our own class.

The sense of self-

achievement and pride that martial arts can create is a million times more useful and effective than the beer and dope sodden outlook of many of 'the whingers'.

WISE UP

So, before you're ready to deliver a swift Dragon Stamp kick to the forehead of the nearest wife batterer or racist bootboy, get some details and information about available training in your area from:

The Martial Arts Commission (see phone book for tel. no. and address).



WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE - KNOCKOUT!

It's Hardy any effort, so don't get into a fine mess



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