

CLASS WAR

CLASS UNITY
CLASS PRIDE

CAPITALISM: IT'S STONE AGE...

ISSUE 64
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994 50p

CLUB TOGETHER...



..BEAT THE BOSSSES

ROCK-HARD NEWS, VIEWS, SCANDAL & SPORT



what we say

THIS IS A WAR TO THE FINISH

This Summer saw the ruling class, the bosses and politicians step up their war against the majority of the population - us, the working class.

We've seen a grinning puppet set up as the leader of

the Labour Party: a bossaselicker if ever there was one.

We've seen enormous, obscene pay rises for the captains of industry, at the same time that the signal workers are attacked in the papers and Parliament, sim-

ply for fighting for a better standard of living.

CRIMINAL

There is no doubt that capitalism is lurching from one crisis to another. The things they do to us are part of their war

against us. A war to keep us slaves to their economy. A war to make us cannon fodder for their horrific mistakes.

They think that by introducing law after law, like the current Criminal Justice Bill, they can tie up 'loop-holes' and criminalise us at the drop of a hat if we do what we want and exercise the freedoms that are

OUR right.

They have created a situation where the gap between us and them, between rich and poor, between their laws and what we know is real justice, is getting bigger and bigger.

This is their side of the class war and only WE can fight it. They, their courts, their managers and police have no interest in a



better world for us. They receive power and privilege, at our expense.

Our aim is simple: a better world. The tools we must use are class unity, class strength and class war.

Class War is the paper of the Class War Federation. For more information about us turn to page 14 or ring the Class War Hotline on 0272 870050

IDENTITY CRISIS

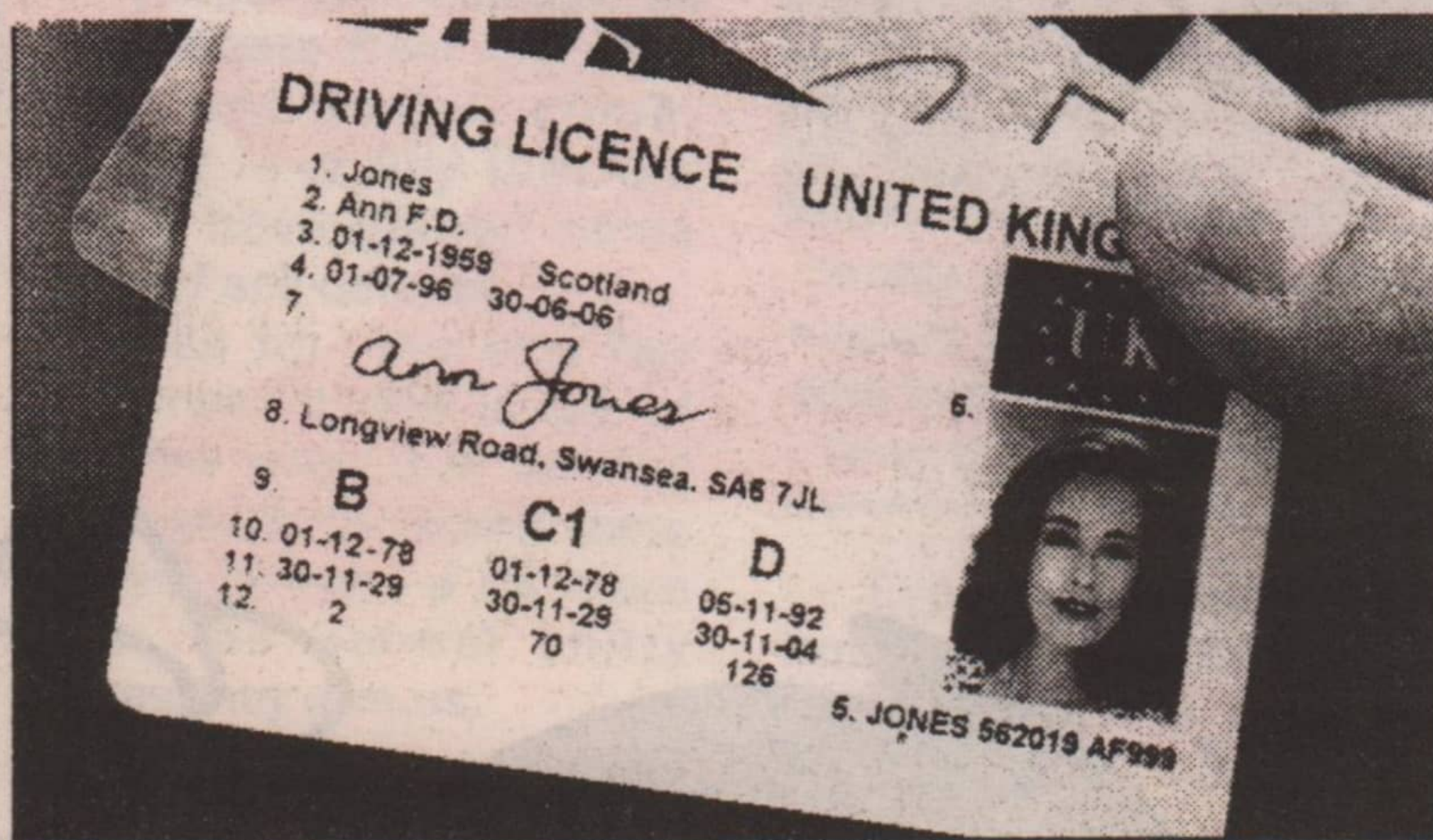
One of the first things the new bastard, Transport Secretary, Dr Brian Mawlin, has announced is a massive change to driving licences.

By 1996, new provisional licences, then the existing 28 Million full licences will be replaced by bits of plastic, with the holder's photo on them. Plans are underway for them to include microchips that can carry all sorts of information about you: blood group, medical record, National Insurance number, and although they don't admit it, probably your criminal record.

FAILURE

After the government's failure to push through football ID cards, this is their next best thing: a far reaching ID card that it's harder, but not impossible, to avoid forging or having.

Tory and Labour tossers waffle on about 'Bringing us into line with Europe'; they're keeping very quiet about



whether they'll try to make it law to carry the new licence at all times.

We do know from many European countries is that if you don't carry your ID card you can be nicked and seriously hassled. If you do, one stop and search by PC Plod and the cops know plenty about you.

There's a whole list of implications if we let them get away with introducing these cards - more drivers being stopped, more people

being nicked, less chance of fobbing the law off with false names and addresses.

NOT VERY GOOD

But just like government, they're not very good at making their own plans work, after all who's going to do their dirty work? They're going to lay off 700 Swansea DVLC workers by 1997. We send our solidarity to these workers and wish them well in any strike action and sabotage they see fit.

RACE TO JAIL

Amazing as it may seem, the powers that be have just cottoned on to the obvious: their very own legal system is racist, and they're throwing up their hands in mock horror.

A Home office report, published this August, shows that the prison population has an obscenely high proportion of Black, Asian and Chinese prisoners, far outweighing the national population figures.

It also proves that non-white prisoners are given longer stretches for the same crime as white prisoners. Not that the majority of prisoners should be there in the first place.

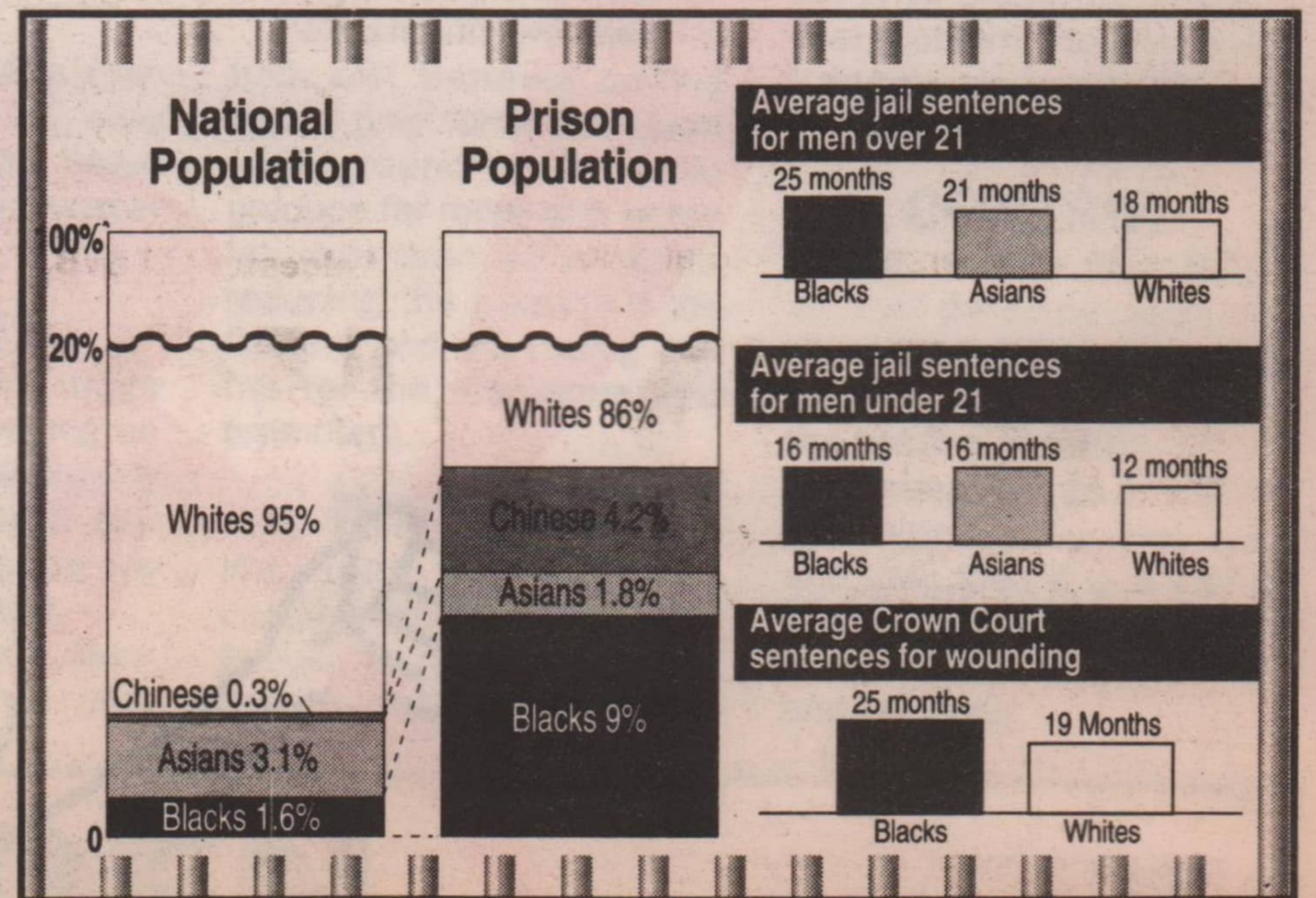
While Class War isn't suprised at the blatant proof that from judge to screw, racism is the order of the day, we are sickened by the mock

suprise and pretend outrage that MPs and their Select Committee are showing.

The ruling class and capitalism depend and thrive on the false divide that racism creates between Black, White

in a society run by the bosses for the bosses, they will use and believe in tools like racism and racial stereotypes.

To destroy racist behaviour, we have to destroy the monopoly of the institutions



and Asian. It helps them try to confuse us: anything that inhibits our side of the class war is good news for them. It's therefore logical that

that cause it. And that makes Michael Howard, Home Secretary, one of the first to go to gaol without passing go - permanently.

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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WAR DIARY

- 27 June** Police come under a hail of bricks and bottles when they move in to close a 'blues' club in Chapeltown, Leeds.
- 29 June** Police in Leeds are set upon by a mob of 70 teenagers after they try to arrest a 20 year old man. One copper injured, hit with a wooden club, and one police vehicle is damaged.
- 1 July** York postal workers stage a lightning strike when a shop steward is suspended. He is reinstated before the end of the day.
- 3 July** Hundreds of people take part in a mass trespass on the site of the M3 extension at Twyford Down.
- 17 July** A policewoman's nose is broken when 200 people turn out to stop a man being arrested on the Bilton Grange estate in Hull. The crowd narrowly fail to overturn a police van.
- 20 July** A bus driver in Wolverhampton is sacked after an argument with his manager about proposed roster changes. Colleagues stage an immediate one-day strike and he is reinstated.
- 20 July** A hundred-strong mob smash their way through locked doors at Hackney Town Hall in London during a protest against the Criminal Justice Bill.
- 24 July** Part of the crowd on the march against the Criminal Justice Bill almost pull down the gates at the end of Downing Street, as fighting breaks out with the police.
- 26 July** Three police are injured by a crowd of 100 youths in Gloucester.
- 4 August** Just three hours of strike action makes management back down after they suspended a hospital porter for refusing to do work that was not part of his duty.
- 12 August** An unnamed woman police sergeant was foolish enough to get involve in a 'disturbance' in Peterborough on an August weekend. The people at the house she went to didn't appear to need her 'help' and assisted her departure with a baseball bat in the chops.

ROBIN HOOD

Thomas Brennan gets a badge from the War Diary team!

Tom used to be an amusement arcade manager for the 'entertainment' giant, Rank, in Coalville, Leicestershire.

That is until he decided his bosses had well enough loot to share - so he lightened their pockets of £8,800.

Obviously having a class consciousness to be proud of, rather than skipping off to America with his wife, Tom and she took a holiday in Ireland. On their return, he gave all the rest of the cash, £5,000, to poor people on the streets of London.

He's currently on a six-month stretch for this act of heroism.

If any readers know which gaol Tom's in, let us know so we can send him some goodies.

Battling with bailiffs, crunching coppers or telling management where to get off? Maybe you've had a "little chat" with anti social criminals in your community? Whatever's going on in the class war, we want to know. Send your news to: WAR DIARY, PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL



TRAIN SPOTTING

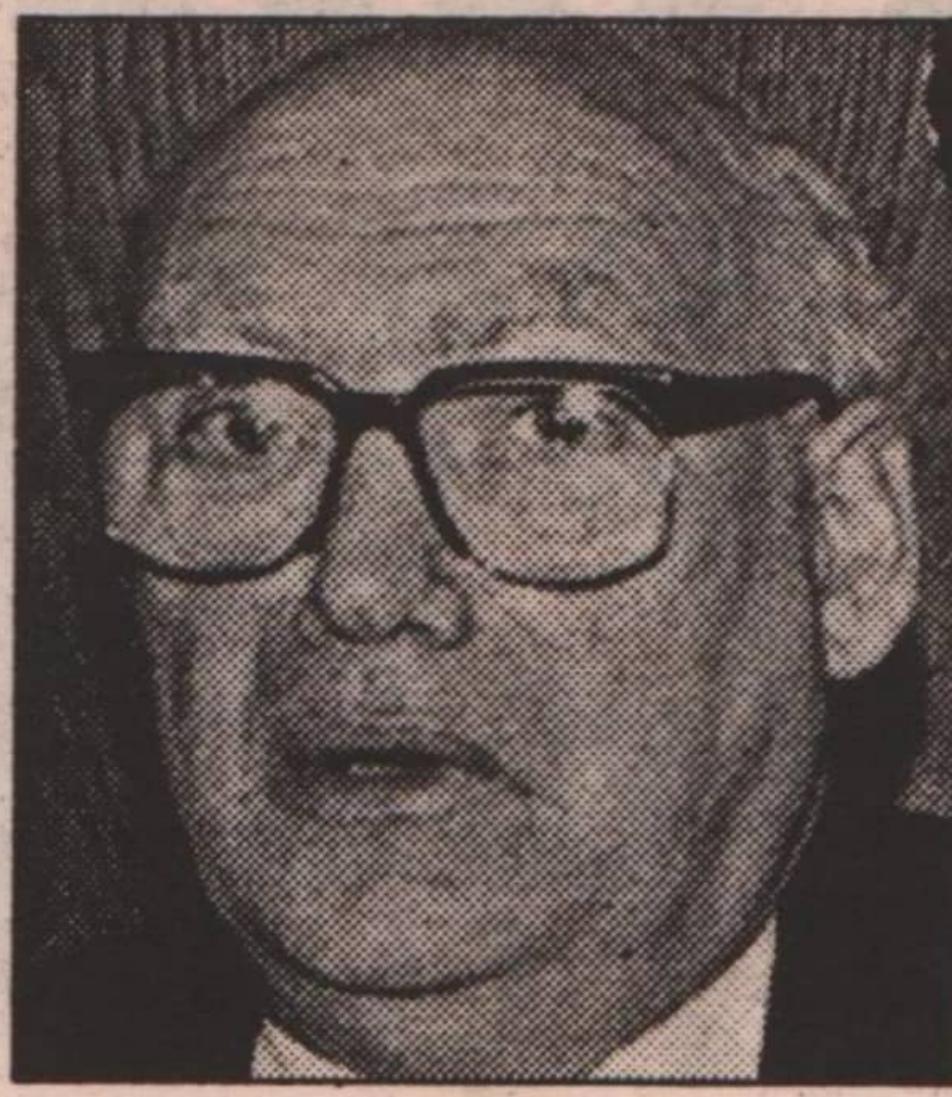
The rail strike, made up of a handful of one-day strikes and 48-hour stoppages, needs more action and more support or it may not succeed.

The dispute over pay, by the 4,600 signalmen, has reached deadlock, with the government telling the rail boss, Railtrack, not to budge an inch or even re-offer the poxy 5.6 per cent pay rise the Transport Minister put the brakes on before the strike. It's obvious that the gov-

ernment's intention is to beat the signalmen and demoralise the rest of the working class by showing us that strikes are pointless. With the massive public support the signalworkers have, this looks unlikely.

LEADERS

Time after time, union leaders let us down. Ultimately they are on the side of the boss and the status quo - they don't want us to win anything but the occasional



Jimmy Knapp: Bloated old toad

pay rise, which is just deciding the rate at which our work is exploited. So it's quite safe for the likes of Labour's John Prestcott to be a darling of the unions - as they stand they are no challenge to capitalism, government or the boss.

To win a strike, certain things are vital: the will to win, solidarity from other workers, and the willingness to break the law. Naturally this means dumping the fat cat union boss for a start.

This is what the RMT needs if it hopes to win the rail strike and to succeed in bigger and better demands; without action from other industries, they're out on a limb.

KNAPP OFF!

The railway workers don't need Jimmy Knapp or the 'mediation services' of ACAS. They need to call on other workers and non workers to do what they can to make the bosses' lives hell, so they knuckle down and pay up.

A BETTER PLACE TO BE THAN THE RMT

On June 19th the Industrial Workers of the World held its fourth national meeting since the British section was re-formed in 1993.

The IWW is growing, with groups in London, Swindon and Oxford, and numerous members all over Britain.

DIRECT ACTION

The IWW originally came to be in 1905 in Chicago, and it played a significant part in the revolutionary current that swept the world then. There were large groups in Canada, Australia, Mexico, Chile, Ireland and Britain. The USA membership peaked at 130,000.

Workers in all industries are welcome to join. Bureaucracy is kept to a minimum, and democracy to a maximum. Direct action is the preferred tactic to get better wages and conditions right now, and to bring about the end of capitalism in the long term.

The IWW in Britain is currently trying to organise and is leafletting in industries where it has members: retail, the railways, the Post Office, food processing factories, the Civil Service and despatch riders.

If you want information, contact: Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. Tel: (0533) 661835

BLAIR IN BED WITH MURDOCH!

The election of Tony 'Blah' Blair as Labour Leader comes as no surprise, as Labour shifts ever further to the right in an attempt to gain the support of the bosses: a dead-end road for us, if ever there was one.

Reports that Rupert Murdoch may support Labour at the next election will be

Justice Bill, because he didn't want to be seen as soft on crime and thought it was good in parts. Clearly those on the left who say it'll all be okay when Labour get elected will have to think again or vote Liberal Democrat.

Like John Smith, another middle class lawyer of Scottish origin, Blair can never be

LAND AHOY!

It is the rich who control and reap the rewards of capitalism, at our expense. They do this with more than just enormous bank accounts and lives of lazy overstuffed decadence.

The rich, whether they're individuals like the £120,000 a year boss of Railtrack, or

international media ring that pumps out lies, and shallow 'entertainment'. In other cases it is quite simply ownership of huge areas of land, and the power to rent it, build on it or destroy it, depending only on profit margins.

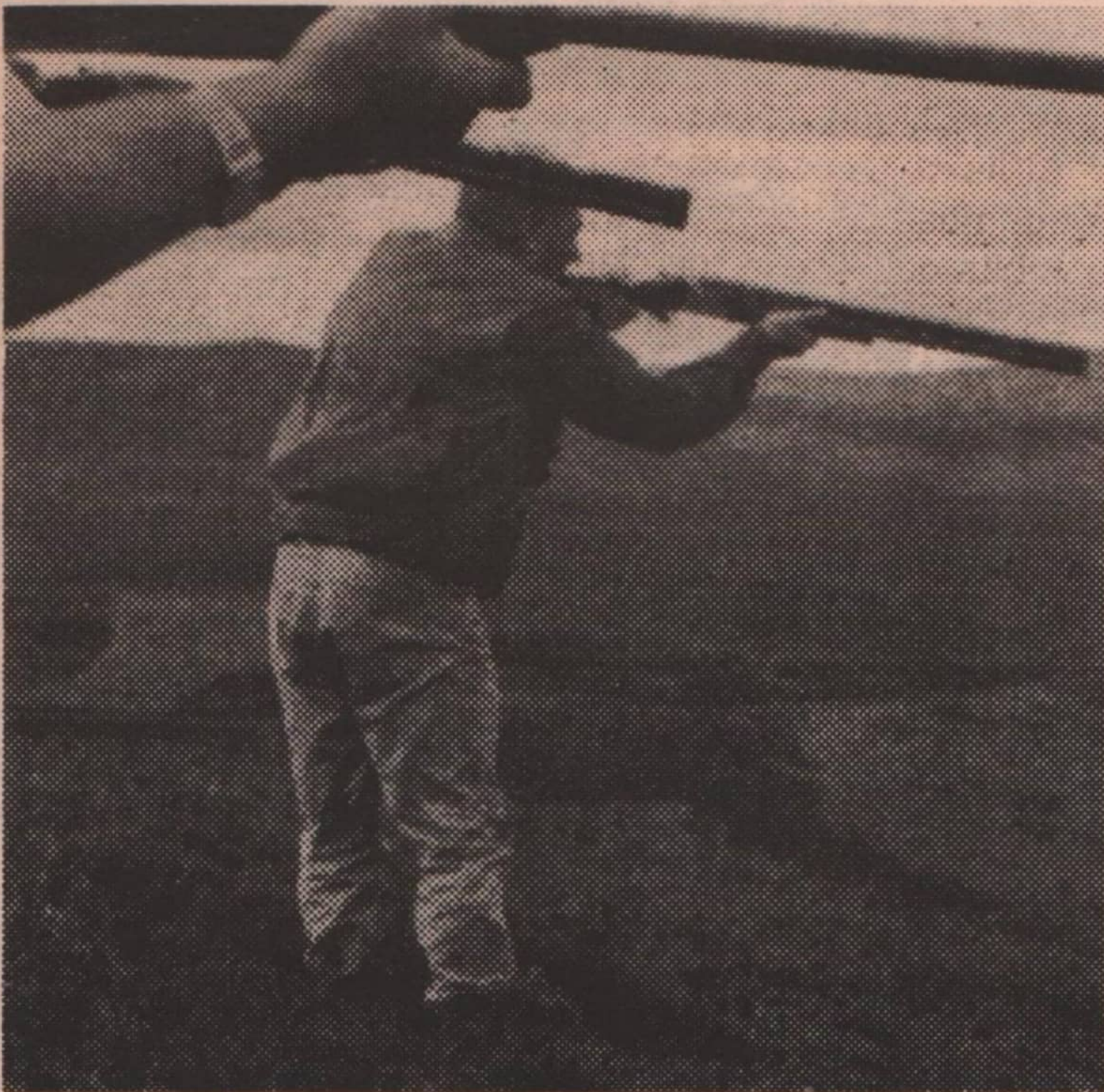
Recent reports show that Britain's top 10 landowning families are amongst the richest in the world. This list has hardly changed in over a hundred years. The Buccleuch, Sutherland, Atholl and Seafield families were all in the top 10 list compiled in 1870. Proof positive that the rich stay rich and protected. We pay rent, taxes, and they profit from land that by right is ours.

IT IS OURS

The Forestry Commission, The Ministry of Defence and electricity and water companies all own huge areas of land, and again, we pay for their privilege and profit.

This is basic capitalism, and it works like this from Scotland to the South Pole. If we are going to change this so we can have a world where we all get what we need, where resources are shared, these parasites, feeding off our land and, polluting it as they go, are going to have to go.

When the press tried to talk to the Duke of Atholl about his riches, they were told: "The Duke has left to go grouse shooting". Forget hunting animals, now is the time for an open season on the rich.



Got a grouse with the Duke? Open fire!

organisations like ICI, The Crown Estate or BP, they keep themselves in their positions of power and control by owning the 'means of production'.

In the case of Rupert Murdoch, this is an

BUNCH OF SPANKERS

Following the rantings of Health Secretary, Virginia 'Smack' Bottomley, over the rights of parents to hit their children "for their own good", junior health minister, John '6 o'the best' Bowls, has opened his right-wing gob.

He wants to allow childminders to dish out "corporal punishment to their charges". In plain English, he thinks it should be legal for people to whack kids they are paid to look after.

This follows a Sutton Council childminder, Anne Davies, being sacked for refusing to promise not to use corporal punishment. Not

suprisingly, she got her job back after a High Court battle.

The sickness involved became even more apparent when Tory MP David Shaw said, "We are talking about discipline with love".

SICKNESS

So what are these derranged and perverse politicians talking about? That if a childminder 'loves' a child, then they have a perfect right to hit them and get paid for it? Sounds just like the cops.

If parents don't abuse kids, but smack them to avoid greater harm ie when a child

keeps wandering close to danger, like a boiling pan or busy traffic, then that's sense. But making it law for childminders to 'care' for children using violence against them as they see fit, is taking the insanity of 'Back to Basics' and good old stinking Victorian Values to new depths. It begs the question - what hell do these people put their own kids through?

To earn their money, the do-goody social workers should lay off working class kids and pay a visit to the Bottomley and Bowls households.



Murdoch: puppetmaster

seen as proof of this shift.

Blair is the son of a Law Lecturer, who went to public school and then Oxford, before becoming a lawyer himself in London. His well-off middle class background makes him perfect as leader for the 90's Peoples Party, and his reformist, moralistic, christian socialist ideals contain no threat to the ruling class and no benefit for us.

USELESS IDIOT

Indeed the powers that be will see him as the ideal next PM: a useless idiot who can be used to contain working class anger, while they, the bosses, continue to stick the boot in.

Already described as Labour's most right-wing leader ever, Blair showed his true colours recently when he refused to oppose the Criminal

a traitor to the working class because he was never on our side in the first place. And again like Smith, the best place for him is 6 feet under, the sooner the better.



Blair: puppet

The only thing Blair offers is a nicer capitalism, and the only support the working class should offer him is 5 minutes of our time to bury him along with the whole rotten Labour party.

TOYS FOR THE BOYS

Now all police areas have guns, and just love playing with them.

The bullshit and white-wash that the likes of Paul Condon, gov'nor of the Met, have spouted is that armed crime is on the up so they're going to fight fire with fire - a very expensive and daft theory if you ask us.

While Class War won't cry for too long if Officer Dibble gets both barrels, it's common sense that if anyone's intent on robbery, if cops carry guns, villains will take them too, if only for self defence.

Probably the worst two things about police with guns are 1. That they're armed and our enemies and 2. They're stupid:

In early August a 'suspicious unshaven stranger' was spotted in Heytesbury, Wiltshire, and armed police were sent in. This involved guns, a helicopter and three cars. The cops managed to arrest the terrorist: a local Council Tax Inspector!

WITS AND FISTS

While Class War supports action against bailiffs, DSS and Child Support Agency snoopers, tax inspectors, or any other unwelcome trouble that invades our communities, we've only had to use our wits, fists, boots and bottles. Before, that is...

CENSOR THE CENSOR

James Ferman, the toerag director of the British Board Of Film Classification, wants ID cards for school children to be brought in.

What he says is that this is to prevent kids having access to videos, cigarettes, alcohol and fireworks. Our bet is that the state will be use this as another feeble excuse for the causes of crime, and a backdoor method to bring in a national ID card system, to control us even further. After all, if we get used to them when we are kids, we'll be used to them as adults?

DRUGS

Ferman went on to tell the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee that depictions of drug use should be censored - this is an attack on youth because he wants to ban the making of educational drug films showing such things as safer preparation and injecting of drugs: education that could save lives.

IF YOU WANT PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR

Recently, there's been an increase in attacks on eco-protestors, travellers, squatters and people partying.

At Solsbury Hill, near Bath, Avon, one demonstrator was thrown onto fencing materials by the hired thugs from Reliance Security. In all the anti roads, squatting and freedom to rave campaigns, this is an all-too similar story. Meanwhile, a group of travellers in Oxford had their vehicles firebombed by lager louts, and in Greater Man-

chester a masked armed gang wounded 3 travellers.

BIGOTRY

This tallies with the atmosphere of bigotry devised by the government against groups who we are supposed to see as different from the way they want us to be.

Divide and rule is the oldest con in the book, and people who want change and protest must be careful not to allow the ruling class to alienate them from the rest

of the working class.

Such attacks on people who want a better world are a lesson on the dishonesty and impracticality of the pacifist crap inflicted on protestors by a minority of liberal "Keep it nice and fluffy" idiots who's heads are in the clouds, and who's hearts are in the middle class.

It's high time protestors started getting angry and getting in a bit of self defence training and stopped being used as doormats.

LICENCE TO KILL...?

Recently released figures show that assaults on staff at work have more than doubled in a decade.

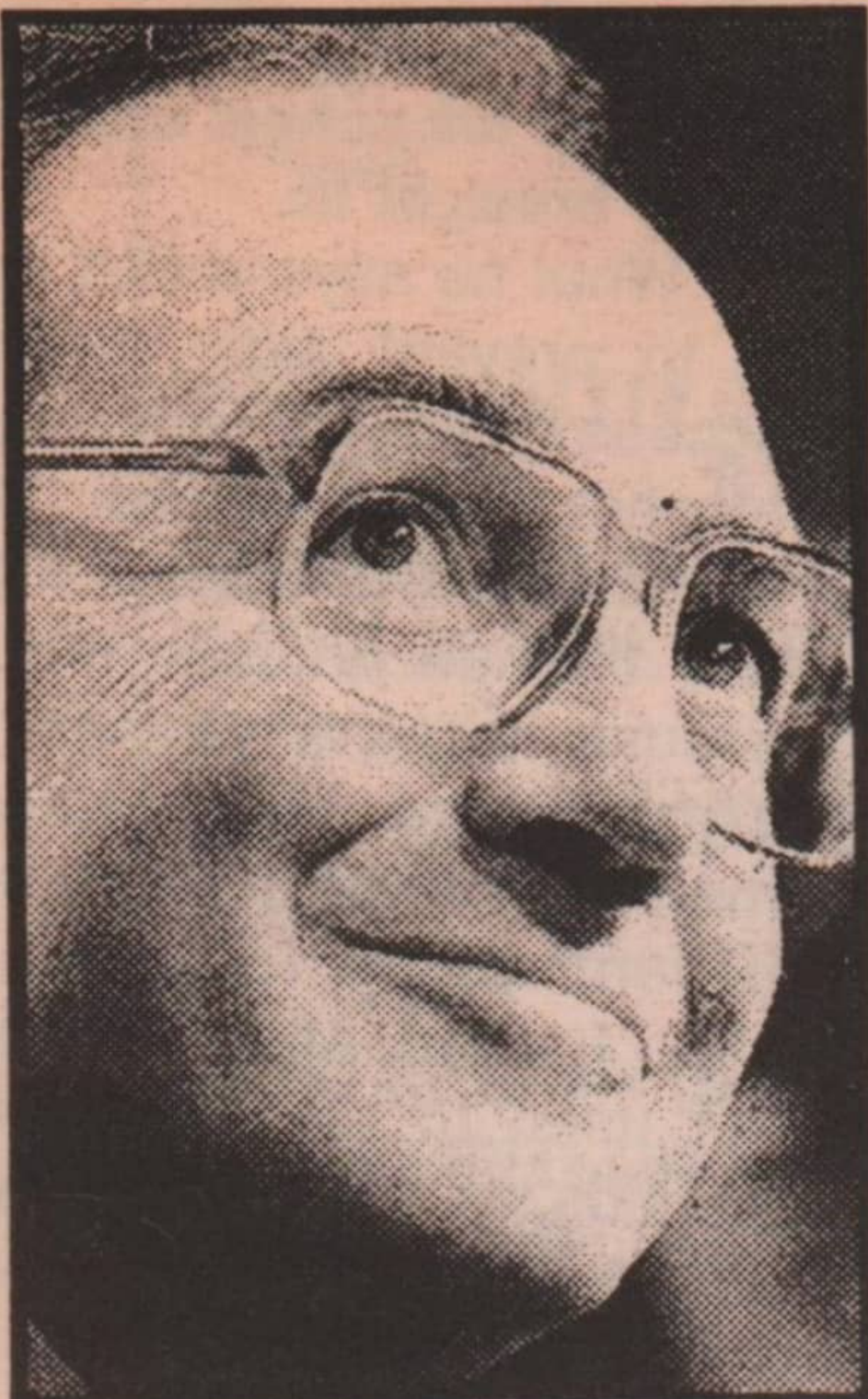
Physical attacks on workers are getting worse and are rising faster than any other form of violence. Bad news?

Read the small print underneath where it says which 'workers' they're actually talking about: 'unprovoked' attacks on bailiffs have hit record levels, GBH against the Plod is up 55% and the last three years have seen 138 assaults on TV licence collectors. Tragic...

BAD APPLES, STINKING ORCHARD

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Trefor Morris, has just produced his annual report. As well as moaning that the number of grasses has dropped, Trefor reports that he found "unacceptable levels of prejudice, sexual harassment and racist exchanges" in the police force. Shock horror!

When Trefor says levels are unacceptable, maybe he means they are too low. Avon & Somerset police have just sacked PC Phillip Headley for persistent sexual harassment. This is of course the same PC Headley who drew up a code of conduct for police officers and received an 'equal opportunities' award from the Home Secretary just five months ago...



Carless and clueless

CANDY FROM A BABY

West Yorkshire's finest Twocers have been in action again, this time nicking the official bullet-proof limo that belongs to Home Secretary Michael Howard.

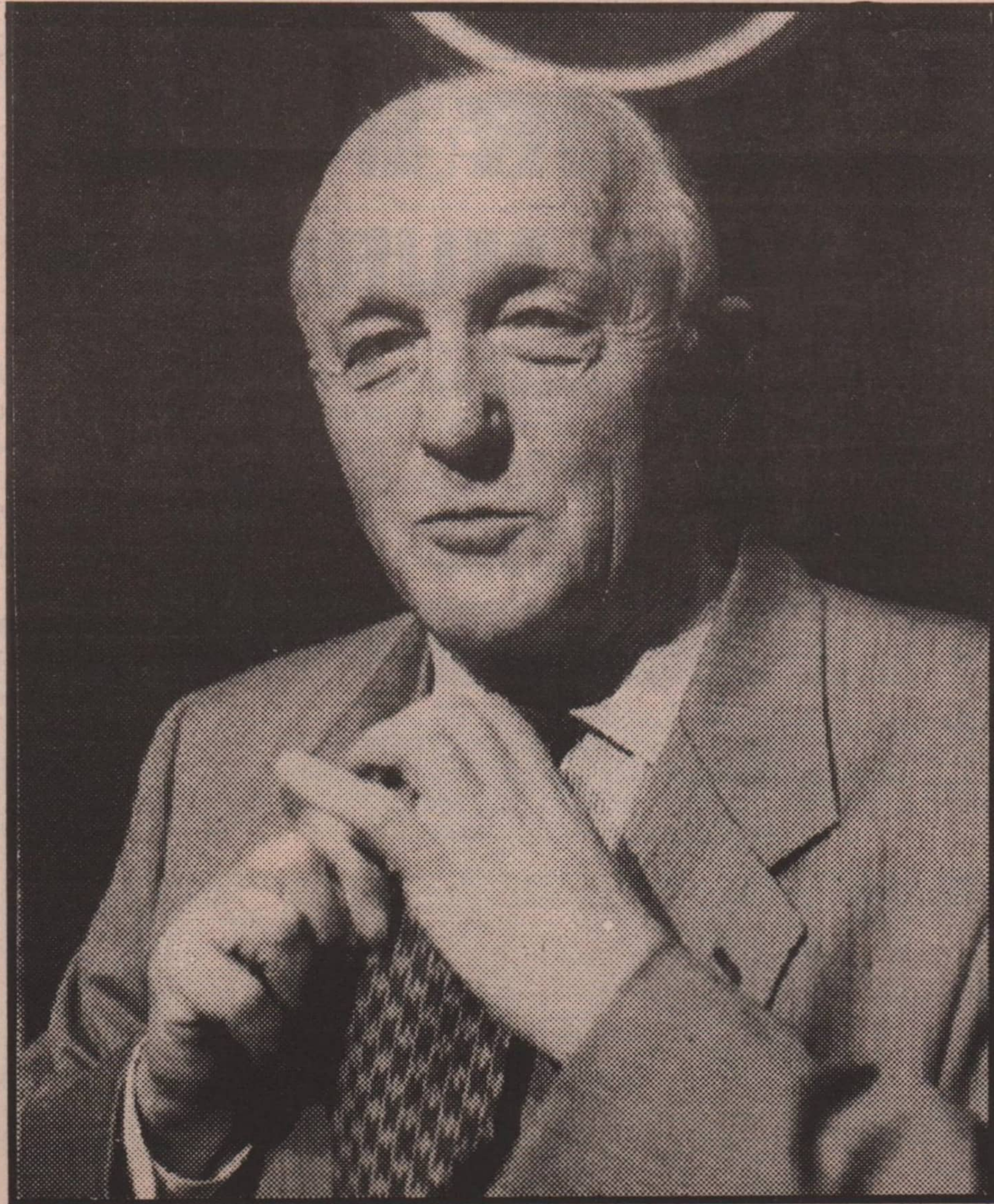
While Howard travelled up to Wakefield by train, his chauffeur drove the motor all the way from London just to meet him at the station. For some reason Howard doesn't feel happy about walking to the bus-stop like everyone else.

When the chauffeur pulled into a service station for a slash, the car vanished. It turned up a day later, without the wheels, but sadly no-one had got round to cutting the brake cables.

Better luck next time.

TIGHTENING OUR BELTS...

...AROUND THEIR NECKS!



ICI boss Ronnie Hempel gets sized up for a noose

This autumn will see yet another turn of the screw when American-style Workfare gets introduced to Britain.

In return for taking up shitty slave-labour 'jobs', we'll get a little extra benefit. Those of us who refuse will have our benefit docked. It's called 'freedom of choice'... free to be slaves or free to starve.

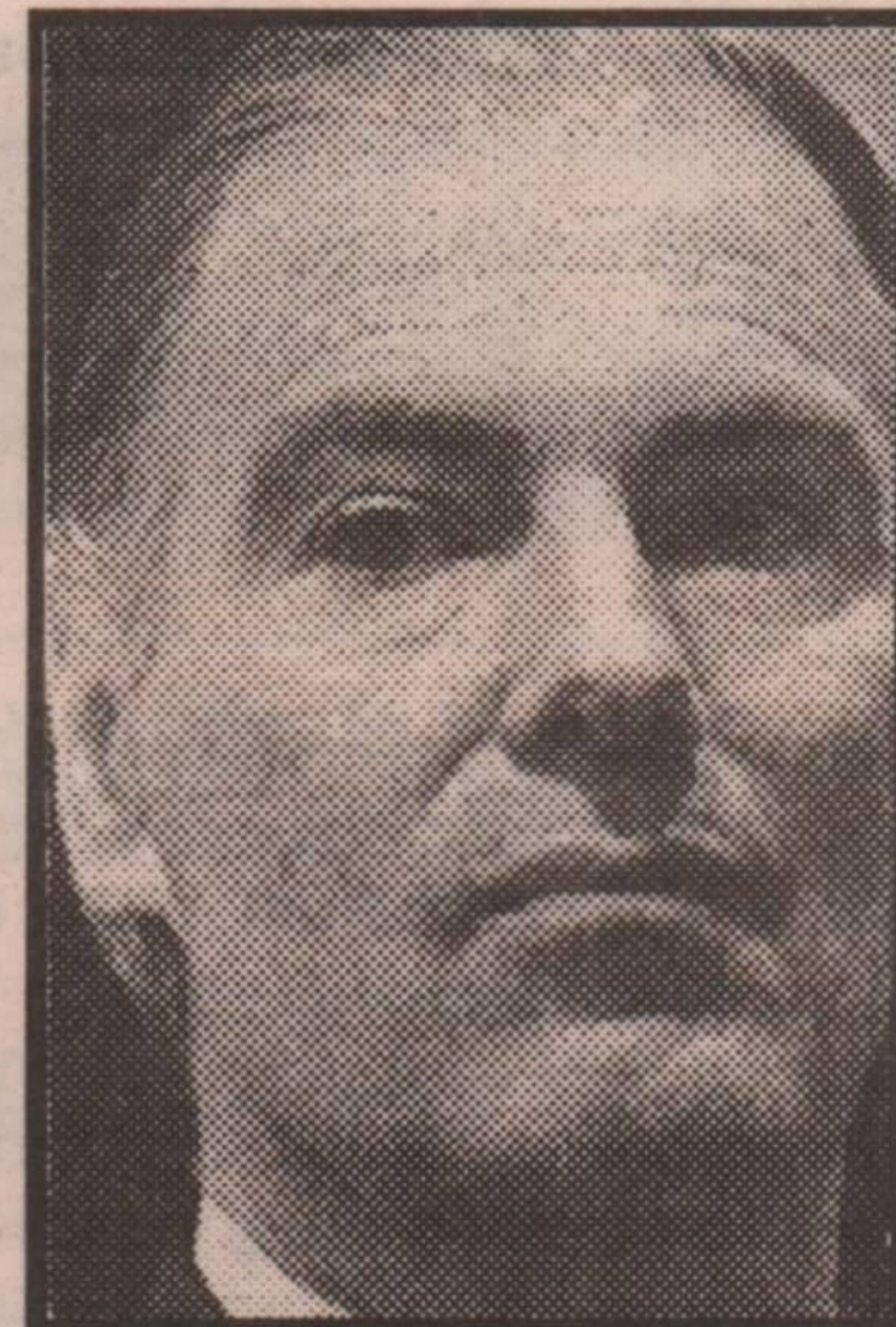
Alongside Workfare we can look forward to another campaign of lies, smears and outright propaganda directed against working class people who claim benefits—the so-called 'dependency culture.'

Scum like Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo (who each claim a staggering total of £64,749 a year for being in the Cabinet) will spend hours slugging off 'scroungers' and 'DSS cheats'.

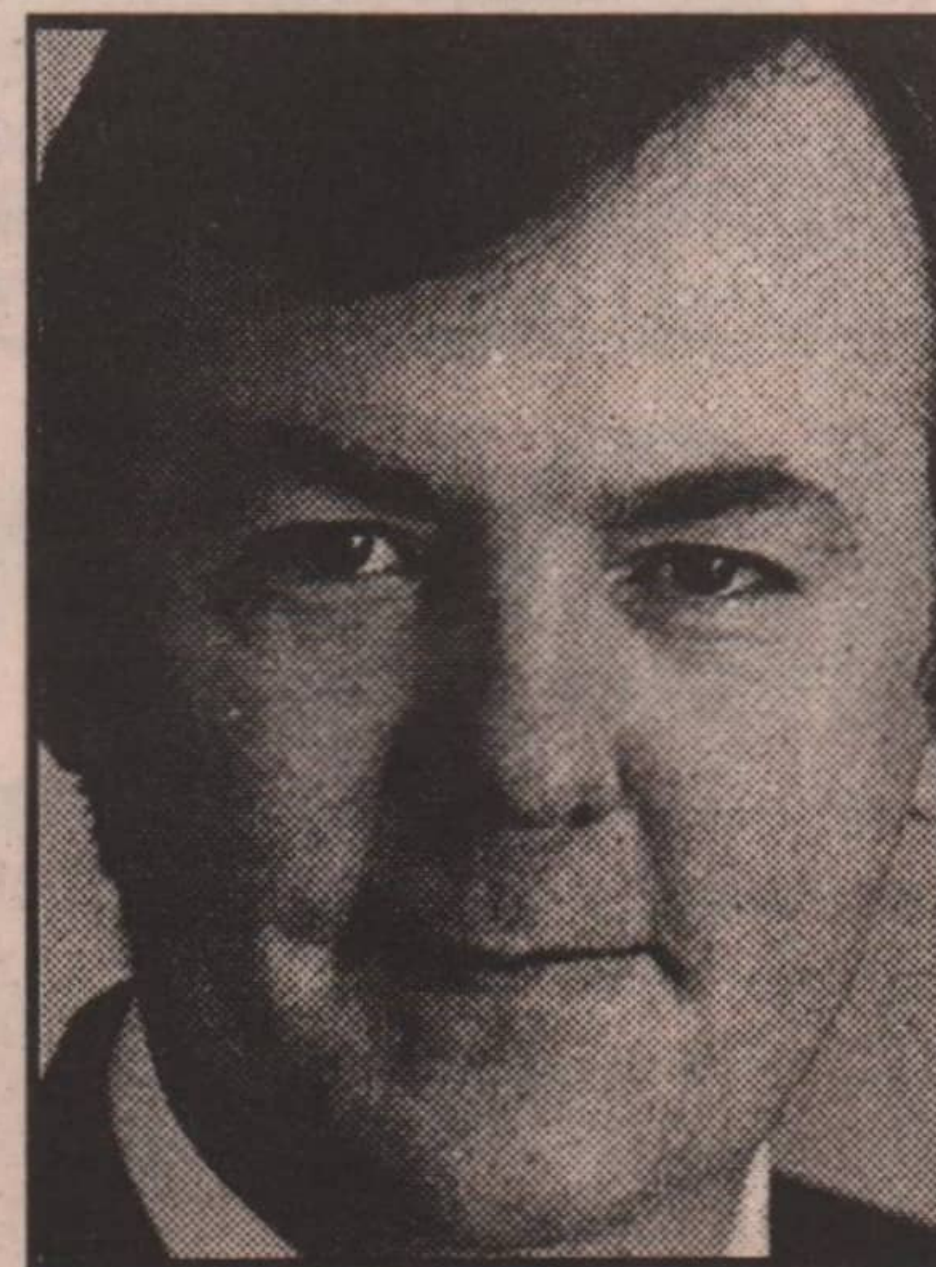
PATHETIC

As sure as eggs is eggs, Labour politicians and trade union chiefs will condemn Workfare as an attack on the 'deserving' poor, on those of us who "want to work but can't find the right job."

But they won't admit that Workfare isn't just about those of us who are on the dole or claiming benefits. It's an attack on all of us—a modern version of the same old trick, pitting one section of our class against another, driving down wages and telling us all how we can and



Vallance: arrogant shite



Chinless Wanless

can't run our lives.

While we're getting saddled with speed-ups, cut-backs and increases below the rate of inflation (if we're lucky), it's boomtime in the boardroom. Over the last year top directors in the big companies have been getting an average salary increase of 25%!

BANKERS

At NatWest for example, bosses are planning to axe over 4,000 jobs. Those who survive may find that they're on 'performance-related' pay—which means they're just as likely to end up with a pay cut as an increase.

None of this applies to the overpaid and underworked directors. Derek 'Brainless' Wanless, the free-loading chief executive, got a very tidy rise of 31%—lifting his salary to a massive £350,000.

Meanwhile at British Telecom top dog Ian Vallance (£564,000) took a break from guzzling champagne to announce that 50,000 jobs have got to go. Was his job one of them? Was it hell!

Between April and June this year BT pulled in profits of £781 million (that's £100 a second!), but managers are more desperate than ever to attack the working conditions of those engineers who haven't yet been made redundant—bringing in compulsory weekend working, 12 hour rotas and abolishing overtime.

The biggest gravy train of all has been the con of privatised water companies. The last five years have seen our water bills go up by two-thirds while company profits and bosses' salaries have rocketed through the roof.

Sir Desmond Pitcher is chairman of North West Water. While manual workers have been offered a pathetic increase of 2.5%, Sir Des is lapping it up with £383,000, which works out at £167 an hour!

When some upstart dared to criticise this gigantic pay-packet, Pitcher snapped back "You get what you are worth." Well, we sat down and worked it out Des: on performance-related pay we'd happily give you a bucket of shit a week...

CHAMPAGNE

It's the same story at companies across the country: we get bombarded with lies about pay restraint, "all pulling together" while the bastards on the top floor are living it up better than ever.

Of course, Blair and the Labour leadership wring their hands and cry crocodile tears about how terrible this is.

They'll talk about the 'greedy' mates of the Tories, but they won't mention champagne socialists like Lord Hollick, chairman of the Meridian company which has just taken over Anglia Television—immediately sacking 170 workers.

Hollick's not the only one: senior wanker Jon Norton; publishing tycoon Paul Hamlyn, boss of Reed Books and owner of a £200 million fortune; Peter Clark, managing director of the investment group Media Ventures; Northern Foods boss Chris Haskins—these scum are all active Labour Party supporters.

WARFARE

From where we're standing it's very clear. Left wing, right wing, all bosses are the same: that's why we don't give a toss about the Labour Party. All they want to do is run the system a little better—maybe cut the top pay rises to 10% and chop our wages a little more slowly. Big deal!

We know that the real fight is elsewhere. Every hour we snatch back from the boss, every timesheet we fiddle, every 'Restart' we refuse, every time we give them two fingers—that's where our power lies.

The bosses know it too. They're not scared of Blair and his grinning cronies (some, like Murdoch and Sainsbury, are already starting to kiss his arse). What really terrifies them is our power.

And that's why they're rushing in Workfare, job cuts, closures, salary rises—they're all part of the same strategy, to make sure that profits keep going up and that our class is kept in its place—working our guts out to keep them in luxury.

For every hour and every pound they steal, we'll make them pay ten times over. And a time will come when these underworked and overpaid bastards will be up against the wall. They want Workfare? We'll give them warfare...

EIGG ALL OVER HIS FACE



Schitbag Schellenberg

The Hebrides, the idyllic, peaceful, weather-beaten islands off the west coast of Scotland may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of the class war.

But on the island of Eigg, the inhabitants' main preoccupation, apart from sheep-farming, is battling to get rid of stuck-up rich bastard Keith Schellenberg.

English-born Schellenberg has been playing the colonial aristocrat since buying the island in 1975.

But he's not been

content with charging rent to the people who live and work on the island while he lives a life of idle luxury. Now he seems to think he's got a god-given right to decide how they can spend their time and run their community—he's set himself up as some kind of eighteenth century feudal laird.

BANNED

The islanders have declared their independence and set up their own administration, even though Schellenberg

has banned them from using the village hall, and they're busy trying to raise funds to buy back their homes.

TORCHED

As if to prove that wherever class society exists there will always be conflict, some islanders have taken a step further along the road to revolution.

Schellenberg's vintage Rolls Royce and fire pump were mysteriously torched earlier this year. Sadly Schellenberg wasn't in

them at the time.

What's more, when the mainland cops turned up, the islanders closed ranks and no-one could be tempted to grass up the arsonists.

DROWN

The islanders will soon kick Schellenberg out, preferably into the sea. If he doesn't drown, we want Schellenberg to know that Class War can always find him a new home as soon as he gets ashore. Just pick any cemetery...



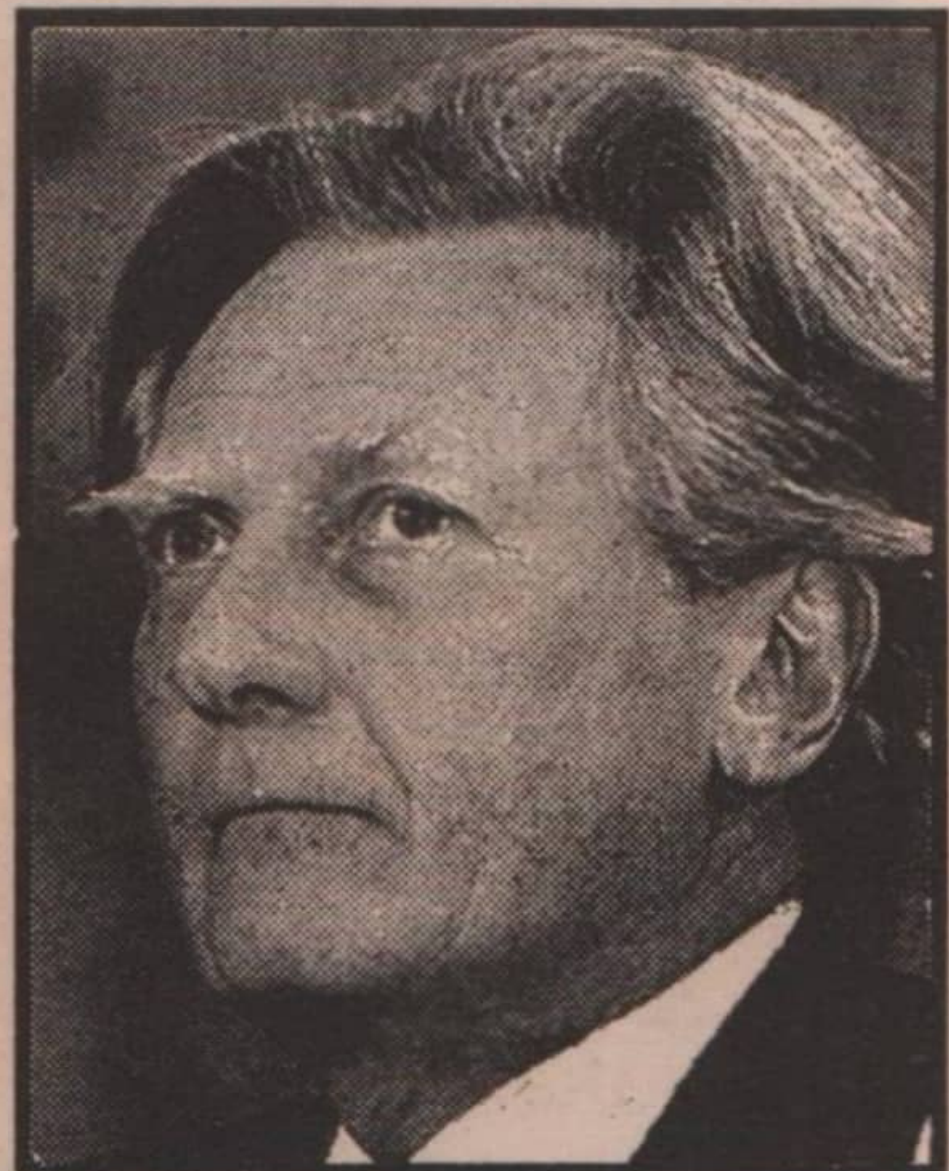
SORTING IT OUT

As the Post Office becomes the latest public service to come under attack, *Class War* takes a special look at how Postman Pat's fighting back...

Privatisation of the Post Office has become a big issue. Like Heseltine's programme for shafting the miners, it's a classic case of a service being dismantled and flogged off for the benefit of the fat-cats in the City.

Now workers in the post are facing the loss of 6000 jobs with the closure of main sorting offices, designed to 'streamline' the service and maximise profits. Heseltine's plans are just the thin end of the wedge - over 40,000 jobs could go down the drain in the next five years if management's proposals go unopposed.

And this from an organisation that made over £300 million profit last year alone from our hard graft.



Millionaire toff Heseltine: get ready for another heart attack

LIES AND LIES

The amount of bullshit that Cockburn (Post Office chief) and his cronies have been spouting is incredible. First they tried to convince us that privatisation wasn't on the cards, while at the same time wining and dining with the City money-grabbers, discussing the best way of shafting us.

We were told the more we boosted productivity and made more profits, the less need there would be to cut jobs. Of course, as we saw with the miners, this acts to increase the probability of being sold off - and privatisation goes hand in hand with redundancy. Well, redundancy for the workers but higher pay for the bosses.

USELESS

The response of the union (UCW) has been - surprise, surprise - one of complete compliance. Like the bunch of bureaucratic tossers they are, they don't want any dispute that would jeopardise the comfortable negotiating patter they have with their management chums.

So they've accepted it

all - they've allowed the increased use of casual part-time workers (who undercut us and break solidarity) and local office agreements (which undermine our strength nationally).

And they've swallowed the division of functions within the post - this meant that 'legally' we could not take action over the recent post office counters dispute as it would be 'secondary action' because the counter workers are supposedly employed by another company.

LILY-LIVERED

UCW chief Alan Johnson's tactics for resisting privatisation and further attacks on our working conditions are exactly the same as was tried with the closure of the mines two years ago - going cup in hand begging for concessions from backbench Tory MPs. And we all know what happened to the mining industry.

We as workers in the front line should be showing the most effective way: hit the bastards in the pocket where it hurts most.

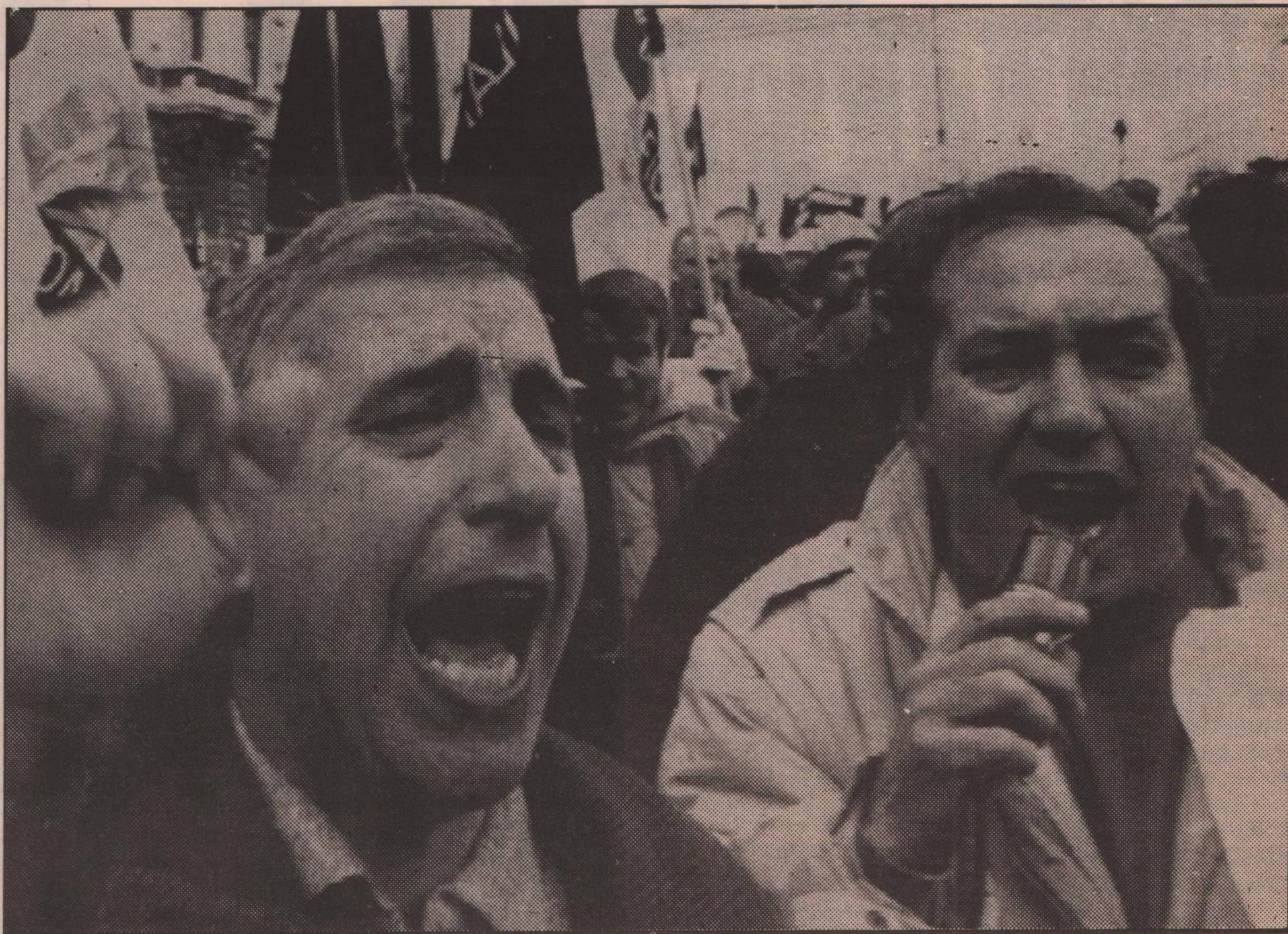
If there is a strike, the union will do its best to keep a tight rein on any kind of action, with talk of proper ballots and no effective picketing: we must not let these lily-livered bureaucrats tell us how to run a dispute. That is our business and ours alone.

As workers in the front line we should be showing the most effective way: hit the bastards in the pocket

FIGHT BACK

In the last year 80,000 postal workers have walked out 'unofficially' to protect their interests (see the account on the right). The more of us that are aware of these disputes and support them through taking action in our own offices, the more chance these disputes have of winning concessions.

The more concessions won through our own actions, the more our confidence grows and management are put on the defensive. Sod them and their law - it's there to be broken



and has been on many occasions by other groups of workers.

Of course, striking is not an easy option for any worker, particularly those with kids or a mortgage. But as the action spreads, the more confidence we will have and more workers who will join in the struggle. This is the snowballing effect that scares the shit out of management and government, because they know they and their laws will be swept aside.

GOING FOR IT

But we don't have to sit back until we're in a position to strike. We can start by recognising the hypocrisy of management propaganda which stresses 'customer care' while cutting back more and more services in the name of profit. We can ignore their demands for increased productivity and efficiency which will lead only to privatisation and redundancies.

In fact, we should be as inefficient as possible at all times - for example, it's easy to carry out individual as well as collective 'work to rules' and management can do sod all about it. The more we bite into their profits, the better.

Communication is all important: as long as we're isolated from each other, we are weak.

It is not just a matter of strength between offices. The false divide of 'workers' and 'public' has to be undermined: we're all in this together and we must fight together, united as a class.

We say bollocks to productivity and bollocks to privatisation. We aim to control our services both in how we do the job as workers and in how these services are distributed as a community. Our class will accept nothing less.

The following is a report by a postal worker about a dispute at his office - though we don't agree with everything that is said, we feel that it should offer encouragement to the rest of us.

At 9.15am on Friday 24th June, the early shift at Mount Pleasant Post Office in Farringdon, the largest sorting office in the country, walked out on strike in support of Milton Keynes postal workers. Milton Keynes workers had walked out two days earlier because local managers had decided unilaterally to use casual labour rather than give their regular staff overtime.

LOW PAY

Overtime, unfortunately, is a necessity in the post office because of low basic pay, and we are against the exploitation of unorganised casuals who have no rights and are used by management to undermine the union. The post office sent out lorry loads of diverted mail from Milton Keynes to offices all over south east England.

They had also taken out a high court injunction against the UCW (Union of Communication Workers) nationally instructing them to disassociate the union from the Milton Keynes dispute, because they had not had a ballot.

We decided to refuse to handle any scab mail

A lorry load of diverted mail arrived at Mount Pleasant on Thursday night, but remained unloaded all night. On Friday morning management threatened to suspend us if we would not handle it. We immediately walked out and held a meeting to discuss the situation. We agreed that to handle mail from another office in dispute would mean an end to any collective strength.

SCAB MAIL

We decided to refuse to handle any scab mail and stay out until the dispute at Milton Keynes was resolved. The 300 early shift workers immediately surrounded the building with pickets, bringing out the late shifts and night shifts; hundreds of people took part in picketing and even non-union members stayed out.

The only people who crossed the picket line were about 20 casual workers.

By 10pm 1,700 sorting staff were out. Similar action also took place at Northern District Office (Islington), Romford, Ilford, Cambridge, Dagenham, Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Bedford and about 20 other offices around south-east England. By Saturday around 30,000 postal workers were on strike.

ON YOUR BIKE

Our national union officials were meanwhile distancing themselves from the dispute, afraid of seizure of union funds. At Mount Pleasant, managers distributed two 'union bulletins' from the UCW headquarters urging us to return to work. A similar letter was sent to our homes on Saturday morning, again quoting our General Secretary.

However, the workforce stood firm, refusing to be intimidated by legal threats and on Saturday afternoon the Post Office met with local union reps to settle the dispute. The members at Milton Keynes voted to accept the agreement and return to work, and consequently the other offices returned to work during the Saturday afternoon and evening.

On Monday morning, Milton Keynes walked out again because of victimisation and their treatment on returning to work. Northampton walked out in support again.

The Post Office took out injunctions against UCW officials at local and national level, and under this pressure Milton Keynes voted to return to work, having received an undertaking that no-one would lose their jobs as a result of the dispute.

TAKING ACTION

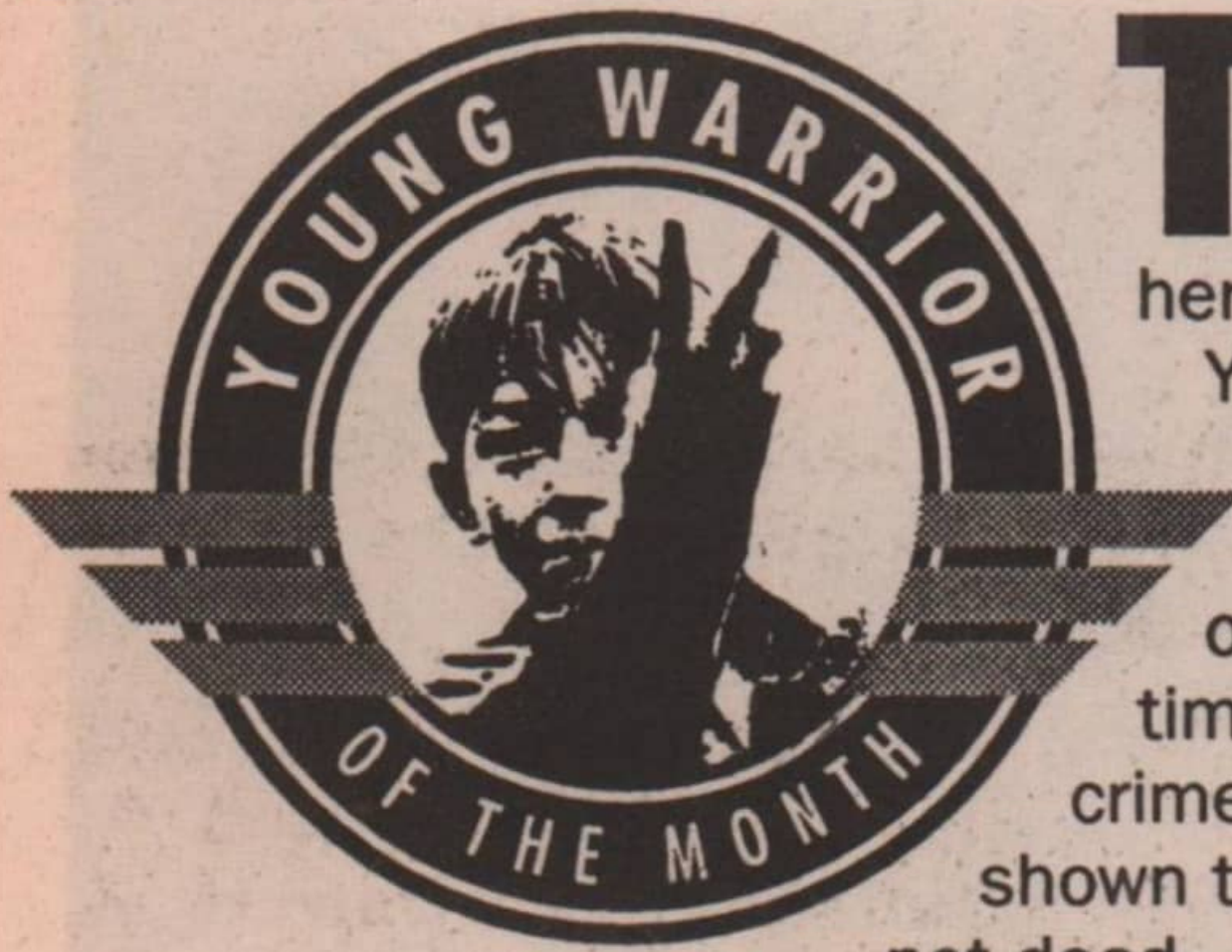
This dispute shows that the Post Office is determined to manage by fear and legal bullying. But it also shows that workers are prepared to take action in defence of basic trade unionism despite the cowardice of national union officials and in defiance of management's intimidation and legal threats by the High Court.

It is virtually impossible to take industrial action legally in this so-called democratic country. That being the case we are forced to defy the courts to defend our basic rights as workers and trades unionists.

(Taken from 'Striking Out in Hackney', an occasional bulletin produced by the Hackney Trade Union Support Unit (c/o Colin Roach Centre, 10a Bradbury St, London, N16).



SALLY SKULL



This month's award goes without a doubt to the unsung teenage heroes of Otley in West Yorkshire who decided that an empty luxury home was too good an opportunity to miss. In a time of rising anti-social crime, these youngsters have shown that 'community spirit' is not dead—especially if it comes in a bottle in some yuppie drinks cabinet...

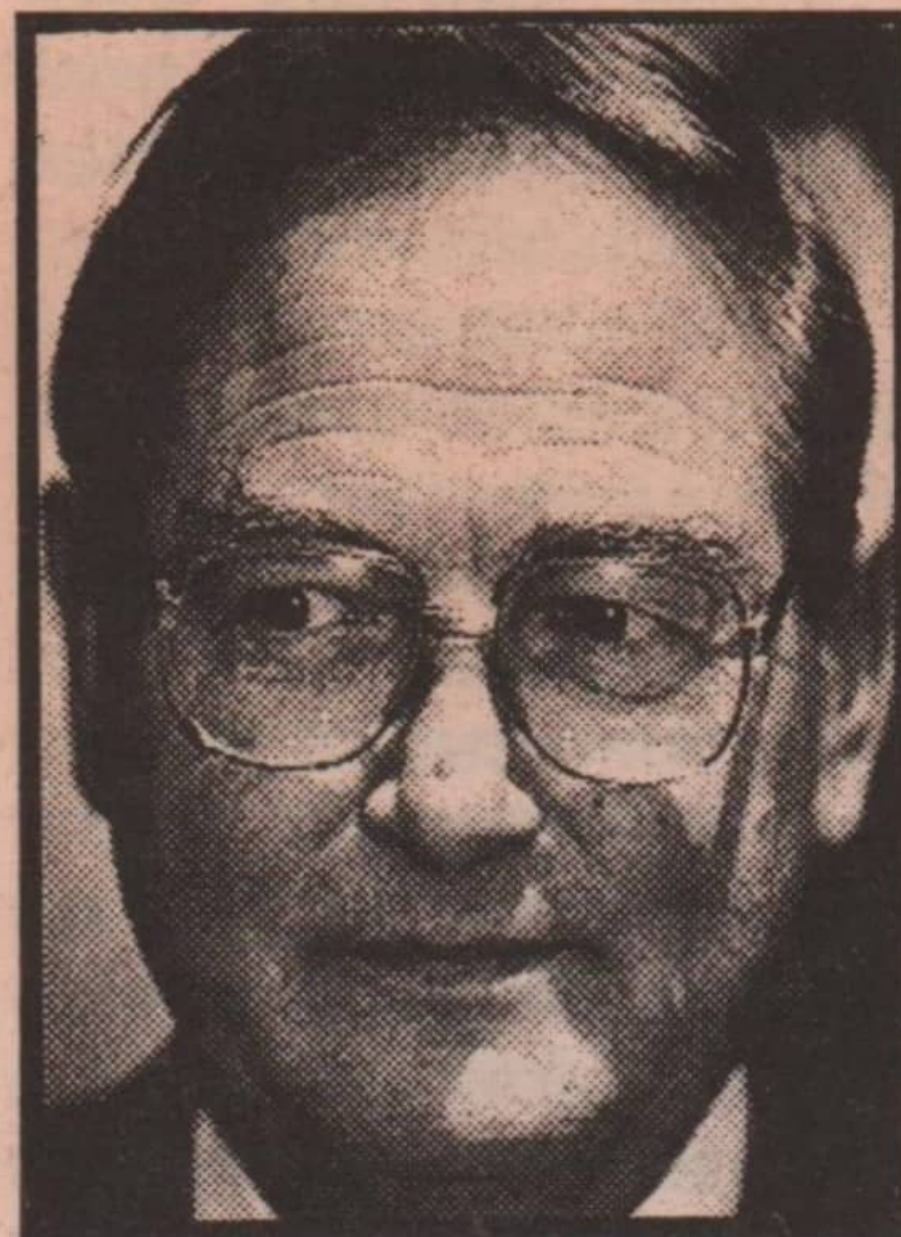
The story began when local toffs Roger and Jacinta Glover took their four daughters to France in June, leaving a key to their house with a neighbour. Somehow the key got into the 'wrong' hands, and before you could say 'squat the lot' a four-day party was in full swing.

According to police reports, half a dozen 14 to 16 year olds rampaged through the house, helping themselves to anything and everything. The cop in charge of the investigation explained: "The children were basically living in the house as if they owned the place." That's what I call style!

They guzzled £250 worth of champagne, sank countless bottles of malt whisky, raided the freezer and ruined £6,000 worth of carpets. A barbecue was set up in the house's six acre grounds and the kids partied night and day in the garden until the hi-fi blew up under the strain. Meanwhile every bed in the house was slept in and local youth took the opportunity to get some tasty new clothes for free.

Total damage for the four-day binge is estimated at well over £12,000. Roger and Jacinta are reported to be "heart-broken" and are planning to sell up and move—they haven't twigged that for puffed-up scum like them there can be no escape. Let's hope they leave a forwarding address... Just one complaint: where was my bloody invite?

OLD BOYS JOB CLUB



No 4 in a series of jobs you're unlikely to be offered

GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

QUALIFICATIONS: A little basic mathematics may be useful, but don't worry too much if you're thick as shite. The right attitude and the right old school tie are more important than knowing the price of a loaf.

EXTRA SKILLS: Successful applicants will be expected to repeat the phrase "The Government's got it just about right" several times a day. The job entails a number of five-course dinners: applicants with ulcers and heart trouble may find this aspect demanding.

SALARY: A modest £227,444 a year (that's £875 a day for candidates who can't work it out). But a chauffeur-driven navy blue Daimler is part of the package, along with at least 30 days foreign travel a year.

Post presently filled by Eddie 'Steady' George



"Yikes, Rufus! It looks like we're going to get bashed again!"

ETON TRIFLES

All that rugby might put hair on your chest but a recent court case shows that it's no match for righteous class anger and a sense of humour.

Last year, four bright young things sneaked out of Eton and decided to find an off-licence when Daddy's champagne ran out. But they hadn't reckoned on the local youth who quickly spotted them on the way back and taunted them with chants of "Toffos!" Realising they were about to get a spot of instant street justice, the brats called on all their inherited and in-bred intelligence and ran up a dead-end. Then the fun started.

First the toughs grabbed the toffs' rucksack, broke open the bottles and had a small party. Meanwhile Lord Snooty and his pals were forced to stand with their arms stretched out while members of the gang took it in turns to belt them. When the case came to court a few weeks ago, one of the pampered pups whined: "I was made to do some press-ups by a youth with long greasy black hair. On the second one his boot came down on my back, which hurt." He was then pushed up against a wall so another member of the gang could practise karate kicks in his kidneys.

All four parasites were 'asked' to redistribute their wealth: they willingly handed over their cash, watches and credit cards. And then came the icing on the cake. As one poor little rich kid explained, "Before we were allowed to go we were forced to hit their knuckles with ours and say 'respect'."

Respect? I've always said the privileged scum of Eton, Harrow and all the rest should be taught a few permanent lessons about respect for our class. Respect due!



SCUM

The only thing I remember about science lessons at school is the experiment which shows that scum always rises to the top. Victor McGeer is living proof.

Back in 1991 the transport company TNT decided to sack 600 drivers (mind you, I half-think it served the bastards right, after they scabbed through the '86-'87 Wapping dispute...).

McGeer, a national officer with the Transport & General Workers Union, was called in to negotiate on behalf of the drivers but was more interested in pissing it up with TNT management than fighting the case of the sacked workers.

The drivers lost, and two months ago McGeer was 'mysteriously' appointed head of employee relations at a TNT-owned company.

From bossing us around at the T&G to bossing us around at TNT, McGeer is a man who makes dogshit look appetising...

BAG O'SHITE

"Apartheid had armies, tanks, international business and a brutal state on its side. We had placards, meetings and marches. Yet our side won."

Socialist Worker, 23 July 1994, p11

"A major strike in South Africa shows how little the bosses and the police have changed since the elections which saw apartheid ended."

Socialist Worker, 23 July 1994, p13

"It is like re-arranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. There's no difference between the parties. We're being asked if we want shooting, poisoning or hanging."

Anonymous Hull docker sums up the new Labour leadership

"No-one can tolerate people who send hypodermic syringes, razor blades and excrement through the post to innocent officials."

Peter Lilley, the man in charge of the Child Support Agency, bleats and whines about the hate-mail CSA offices have been getting... OK, Pete, in future we'll make sure it all gets sent direct to you

"If a woman takes offence to us saying 'bitch', that means she must be one."

Big-time rap producer Dr Dre proves that you don't have to be a sexist dickhead to work in the music industry—but it never did him any harm

"A lot of these royal apartments are really just equivalent to council flats. The great majority are quite small and ordinary."

Michael 'Arsewipe' Peat, the Queen's director of finance, tries to justify spending £1 million on tarding up just two of the Queen's flats—including the one he lives in

"It was really scary."

Railtrack spokesman after 3 scabby managers at an East Anglia depot are kicked out by 30 striking signalmen who surround them, yelling and making sheep noises. What will they do when we turn really nasty...?

"We will not favour trade unions over employers."

With thousands of workers on strike in South Africa, Nelson Mandela offers living proof that spending half your life in jail won't stop you acting like any other boss



TAKE AIM AND FIRE

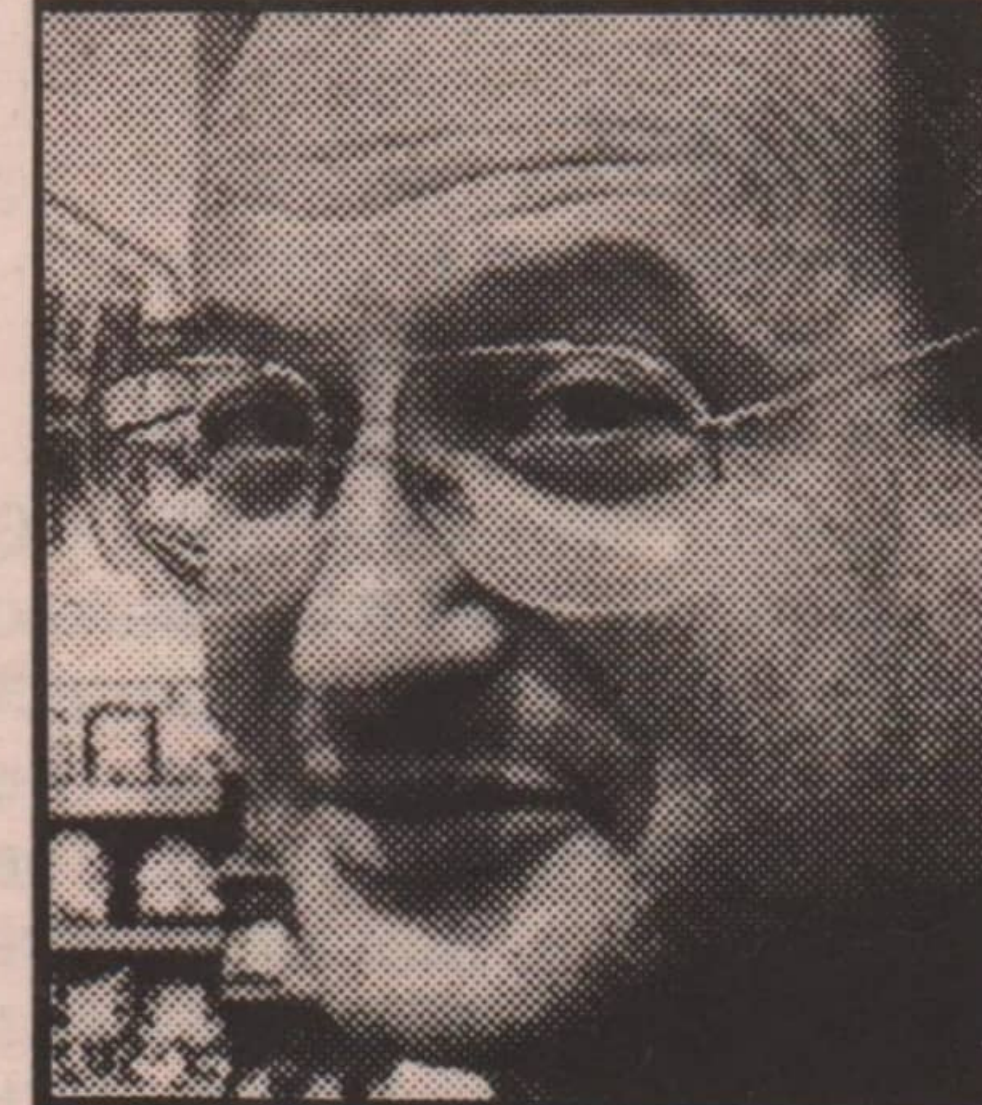
It was only a few years ago that bullshit about "a classless society" was all the rage. These days only deranged Labour politicians and people taking vast amounts of drugs still talk that language. The rest of us know what we've always known. If you're like me and find it essential to have a target for your hatred, here are the top three rich bastards in Britain. As they say, "these are the men to blame".

Top of the shit-list is wide-boy-turned-porn-poking **PAUL RAYMOND** (left) who also wins this month's Sally Skull Sleazy Slimeball award. Raymond has a personal fortune of £1,650 million—compare that to the recently released figures which show that 13.9 million adults and children are living below the official poverty line. Mind you, money can't buy happiness as Raymond's pampered daughter found out when she OD'ed in a seedy drugs binge. **VERDICT:** Stuff his mouth with copies of *Men Only*, and rip out his heart

with a plastic fork.

DAVID SAINSBURY (right) is next, valued at £1.38 billion. This is a particular wind-up for me as I'm still banned from entering any of his shops (a small shoplifting charge, although I prefer to call it wealth redistribution). The Sainsburys are by far the wealthiest family in the UK (the Buckingham Palace mafia can only manage 11th place). **VERDICT:** This bastard likes to dabble in party politics and has recently started arse-licking Tony Blair. A good old-fashioned mob stoning is in order just to show him what working class power is all about.

Finally just below Sainsbury comes the banker **SIR EVELYN de ROTHSCHILD** (£1.35 billion). But if he thinks that having a name like Evelyn is punishment enough, he's totally mistaken. **VERDICT:** Garotte the old git with cheesewire.



COPS ARE MURDER

A lot of criminals have been walking free from the courts recently. First there were the cops accused of fitting up the Guildford 4, then those accused of fitting up the Birmingham 6, the Darvell brothers, and the Tottenham 3; and most recently, almost all of the pigs from the Stoke Newington Drug (dealers) Squad.

To this list of freed perjurers and dealers can be added the murderers from Hammersmith - the police involved in the case of Malcolm Kennedy and Patrick Quinn. Malcolm, a middle aged, slightly built man, with no history of violence, was arrested for drunkenness in the early hours of Xmas Eve 1990. He was taken to Hammersmith police station and locked in a cell, where he fell asleep.

COWARDLY

He was woken by a struggle in the cell between a copper and Patrick Quinn. He tried to intervene but was punched unconscious. Later he was woken by three policemen in the cell. Patrick's body was on the floor, all but one of his ribs smashed, his heart and spleen crushed, his face pulped. The three cops told Malcolm "You did this." Malcolm was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in mid 1991, but then the cops case started to fall apart. It emerged that they had altered the time of another arrest in order to get two officers - Emlyn Welch and Paul Giles - out of the station at the time Quinn died, and the more the paperwork (that is the paperwork that hadn't been 'mysteriously lost') was examined the more it looked like the cops were lying about the whole course of events that night.

COUNTER ATTACK

The case went back to the court of appeal which allowed a retrial so a jury could hear all the evidence. At the appeal court PC Welch revealed that he had conveniently 'found' his 'lost' notebook. He'd had

it in a wallet stuck behind his new notebook and had carried it around for months without knowing! Unfortunately for PC Welch when he was asked to show where he'd had the notebook, he couldn't fit it back in the wallet.

MAD PIG DISEASE

When Malcolm's retrial began it looked like he had a good chance of being acquitted, despite Welch's girlfriend sitting in the public gallery so she could tell the bent bastards what the other witnesses were saying. It looked even better when Giles started to give his evidence. As he started to crack up - drinking 13 jars of water a day - it not only became obvious that he was tangled up in a web of lies, but it seemed possible that he would give up and name the real murderer(s). Then a cop sitting in court as an exhibits officer suddenly found a vital piece of evidence as he flicked through files. Despite the fact that three separate investigations had searched that file for that vital piece of evidence and not found it, the judge refused to accept that this was a blatant forgery and abandon the trial, and instead, the biased scumbag stopped it on a technicality.

Just before the new trial began, the prosecution announced that PC Giles had gone mad and couldn't give evidence. It has since emerged that this 'madness' is only bought on by questions about Quinn's death. This trial ended with the jury, under pressure from the judge, finding Malcolm guilty of the compromise charge of

manslaughter. Malcolm is currently serving 9 years and is appealing again, despite the fact that this means he may serve more time.

ANYONE

Malcolm needs all the support he can get. What happened to Malcolm and atrick could have happened to anyone - we've all been too drunk to get home at least first that ended in murder - a murder the cops will definitely get away with as long as Malcolm's suffering for a crime he never committed, instead of one or more of those bastards. For more information caontact: Free Malcolm Kennedy Campaign, c/o Colln Roach Centre, 10A Bradbury St, Dalston, London, N16 9JN

OPEN THE DOOR FOR THE BRIDGEWATER FOUR

Since 1978, Michael Hickey, Vincent Hickey and Jimmy Robinson have been imprisoned for the murder of newspaper boy Karl Bridgewater at the Yew Tree Farm in Staffordshire. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy has died in prison. All four men are innocent.

The prosecution case against the Bridgewater 4 has been destroyed. Prosecution witnesses have retracted saying they were mistaken or lied because of police pressure or inducements. The confession, 'given' by Patrick Molloy (which put them all in the frame) was not made by him and was only signed by him after continual beatings and isolation for ten days. Numerous witnesses confirm that the four could not have been there when Karl was murdered. There was never any forensic evidence, no prints, stolen goods,

identification and no murder weapon found.

INNOCENT

Everybody knows they are innocent. The wankers in wigs know they are innocent and the Home Secretary, Michael 'Lock Up Your Kids' Howard knows it. When first sent down for the murder of a kid, the four received regular beatings from screws and inmates alike.

However that soon stopped when other prisoners listened to their side of the story. During the 16 years they have been banged up Jimmy, Michael and Vincent

cially for the high profile cases like the Birmingham 6, Guildford 4, Cardiff & Tottenham 3, etc. Even the knobs at the top would choke on their words as they tried to say", 'British Justice is the best in the world'. For us it has confirmed what many of us knew anyway; the filth are brutal, bent scum. Solicitors and barristers are usually spineless middle class gits who don't want to endanger their nice cosy relationship with the legal bigwigs. The media are a bunch of lying bastards who love a conviction. And the big wigs are a bunch of senile, bigoted, rich bastards that hate working class people.

RELEASE

To release the Bridgewater 4 would damage the government at a time when they aint exactly got many friends anyway. And so it seems that no matter how much evidence is submitted, how many documentaries, books, forensic scientists and witnesses say they are innocent the state is determined to hold on to the four until they can find a suitable moment to reluctantly let them go.

FIGHT ON

As time goes by, the state hopes that interest and hopes will dwindle. After 16 years inside there's a minimum of nine to go for Vincent and Jimmy and Michael, being in at Her Majesties Pleasure (kinky kicks for Queenie), means he has no release date. The Home Office are sitting on a load of new evidence at the moment and in June this year it was disclosed that the police have fingerprints from the retrieved stolen items...none of which match any of the four. Staffordshire police are refusing to release the prints.

ACTION!

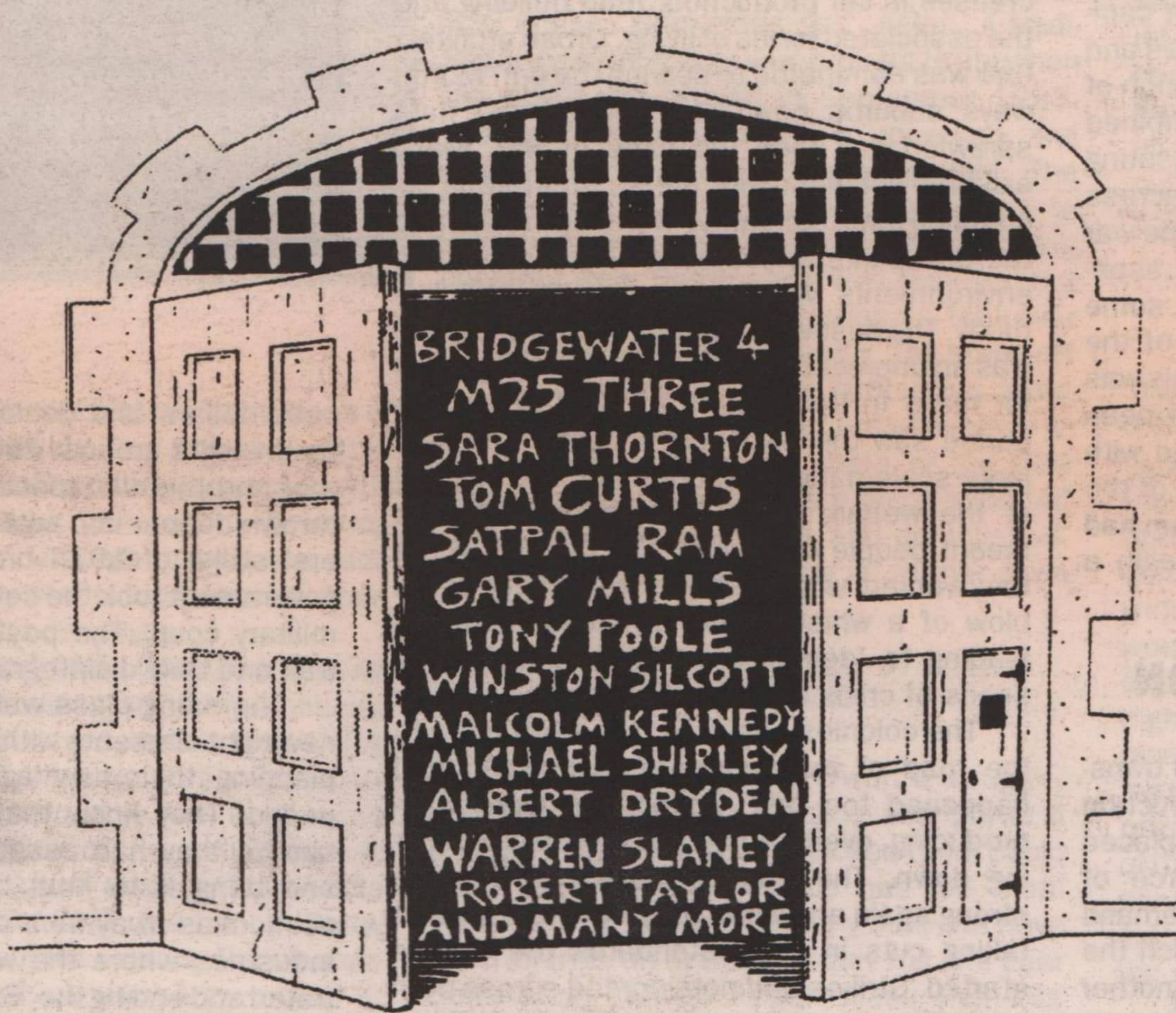
The Bridgewater four need support and action inside and out of prison. There are campaign groups in Brum, Bristol and London. On Thursday 15th September there will be a picket of Stafford Police HQ from 1 - 2:00pm, to demand the release of the prints.

CONTACT: Bridgewater 4 Support Group, 129a Seven Sisters Rd. London N7 7QG.

PRISON

THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THEY LET YOU IN FREE

PRISONERS OF WAR



THE CLASS WAR

SCREWS BEAT SATPAL

Satpal, as featured in Class War 63, has been attacked by screws in Full Sutton for smoking in a no smoking area!

Following the attack he has been moved to Durham nick 'because he's a disruptive prisoner'. He's being kept in segregation for 28 days and refused medical treatment. Attempts by his supporters to visit him were refused on the grounds that 'there's not enough room'. Defiant as ever, Satpal went on hunger strike.

A MAN OF LETTERS

Satpal had written to us recently to say how chuffed he was that several people had been in touch offering support following the last issue of Class War. So get your pens out and let's give him a boost. It also pisses the screws off when prisoners get a lot of mail - especially if the screws are trying to isolate them. WRITE TO: Satpal Ram E94164 HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HU

have held many protests including hunger/work strikes, and rooftop protests lasting for over 80 days.

On November 24 1983 Michael went up on the roof of Gartree prison. On December 25, he got a whole Xmas dinner sent to him on lines by the other prisoners. Their note said:

"Xmas dinner from D Wing, from your mates below. We wish you luck and hope something is done soon".

THE ENEMY

But the Judicial System is still shaky following the spate of successful appeals - espe-

NEWS FRONT

REFUGEE RAGE

Forty, mainly Algerian, refugees took over part of Kassel prison in Germany.

Having had their applications for political asylum turned down and facing deportation, they rioted, taking a warden hostage. The armed police who tried to storm the building were beaten back as thick smoke rose above the prison

from fires started by the rioters.

Their demands were for a bus and free passage to a neighbouring country. You would have thought the 'authorities' would have been glad to see the back of them, so cheaply as well, but instead they gathered their forces and eventually overpowered them.



ROADS

The current anti-roads movement, like Class War, has developed as a response to the liberal environmental and peace movements of the 1970s and '80s which failed to radically challenge the capitalist system which consistently fails to meet the basic needs of the majority of people on this planet. To see whether this movement has any relevance to the wider class struggle we must examine its development, and the changing forms of transport favoured by capitalism throughout history, all in the context of the class struggle.

The industrial revolution saw new forms of transport appear. First the canals, and then the railways, brought a new lease of life to the young capitalism. Factory production could be located away from the source of raw materials, industrial concentration was increased and the emerging new social relations - especially wage slavery - were reinforced. The industrial working class was being forged. In the colonies, the railways opened new supplies of raw materials and markets for the finished commodities. The actual production of the rail industry itself became an engine driving capitalist expansion as it demanded large amounts of coal, iron and steel. The invention of the combustion engine was not far away and it would herald a new period of war and capitalist expansion.

By the end of the nineteenth century the world had been carved up among the imperialist powers and fresh non-capitalist markets needed for capitalist expansion were becoming exhausted. War between the major capitalist countries for control over resources and markets was inevitable. The concentration of workers in large industrial areas, combined regular economic crises, led to the pulsating emergence of the labour movement across Europe. The preparation and onset of the war led to industrial production increasing, especially in the sectors of aircraft and to some extent tanks, making the obedience of the working class even more necessary. This was guaranteed by the leadership of the European labour movement but when confronted with the Russian revolution, and the reflux of the class struggle across Europe, capitalism had no option but to end the war and begin a period of reconstruction.

COUNTER-REVOLUTION

The combustion engine revolutionised transport. Car production, and the reconstruction of the means of war, grew rapidly and replaced the steam engine as a driving force of capitalism. It consequently fuelled the demand for oil and steel, and consumers, which the fight for access to these would lead to another war. The strength of the working class continued show through in strikes and parliaments but the massive measures taken to ensure the counter-revolution, elimination of revolutionaries and new social relations at the factory level (Taylorism), began to take effect and were completed with the rise of fascism and Stalinism. But once again, economic crisis re-appeared and dragged the

world into another slaughter in which 50 million people died.

The outcome of the war depended on which side could achieve and maintain air, naval and ground superiority. Initially the German war machine had the upper hand, but the intervention of the USA tipped the balance by supplying superior equipment. During the period they had not been involved they had improved engine and material design, and they had the atom bomb, which they used with such devastating effect. The economic cost of the war was also immense and the reconstruction of western Europe was paid with credit largely supplied by the USA. Thus they held sway over the 'free world' during the cold war.

CONSENSUS

The next twenty five years saw further increases in car production, road building and the associated forms of living. Urban architecture was dominated to serving the car. Motorways, suburbs, new-towns and high rise flats sprawled out upon the ruins of war. Many existing working class areas, steeped in resistance and solidarity, were flattened and the occupants relocated to these alienating environments where many of us still live today. The post-war boom continued and there was an unprecedented rise in living standards for many in the centres of capitalism. This period saw the discovery of North Sea gas, large scale nationalisations and the building of the welfare state. The labour shortage meant people could pick and choose where they worked, wildcat strikes were called at the blow of a whistle, skill divisions hardened leading to 'demarcation' disputes. But the seeds of crisis were germinating.

The colonies began to take even more to the road of independence. Expansion had happened too fast. Economies were over-producing, overheating, and growth was slowing down. The working class had become strong again and when they were told to start taking cuts in living standards the trouble started. Strikes and riots spread across both western and eastern Europe, especially in Italy and France (both triggered by car workers) where general strike of May 1968 saw 10 million workers involved. Troops were sent into Northern Ireland a year later. The USA was stuck in Vietnam. The cuts in, and defence of, living standards rumbled on into the oil crisis of 1974. The middle eastern oil exporting countries had grown fat on a diet of



Group 4 squatted some of the land at M65 threatened Cinder

petro-dollars and decided to start throwing their weight around. Prices went through the roof and the oil-dependent economies were thrown deeper into crisis. In Britain, the miners' strike of 1974 brought down the Tory government took the country to the verge of a military coup. The post-war consensus had well and truly disintegrated.

The ruling class watched with horror but new-right elements within it had already been planning their new agenda since the war ended. They knew that for their system to survive they had assault the working class and bring it to heel by restructuring their economies away from dependence on heavy industries where the workers were concentrated and ending the 'Spanish practices' that stood in the way of deeper exploitation and higher productivity. Competition amongst capitalist countries had reached such a height that those who wanted to succeed had to be that much leaner and fitter than the rest. A brighter capitalism had to be sold to the masses. It simply had to have less enemies, more people had to have a share in it. We all had to be home, car and share owners. Rampant individualism had to be encouraged instead of solidarity. The defence of the ideology of car ownership and the road lobby was to be pivotal in this battle.

THE NEW RIGHT

By the late '70s and early '80s the new-right had captured leadership of their parties and were beginning to get into power across Europe and the USA. When the conservatives under Thatcher won in 1978 they wasted no time in putting their plans into action. Nationalised industries were broken up and sold off. Anti-union legislation was brought in. The dismantling of the welfare state began. State powers were strengthened and local government had its teeth ripped out. Wave after wave of militant workers were challenged and defeated, in which the unions and Labour party were often implicated. Traditional industries such as ship building and car production were allowed to relocate in far-eastern countries such as South Korea where labour was

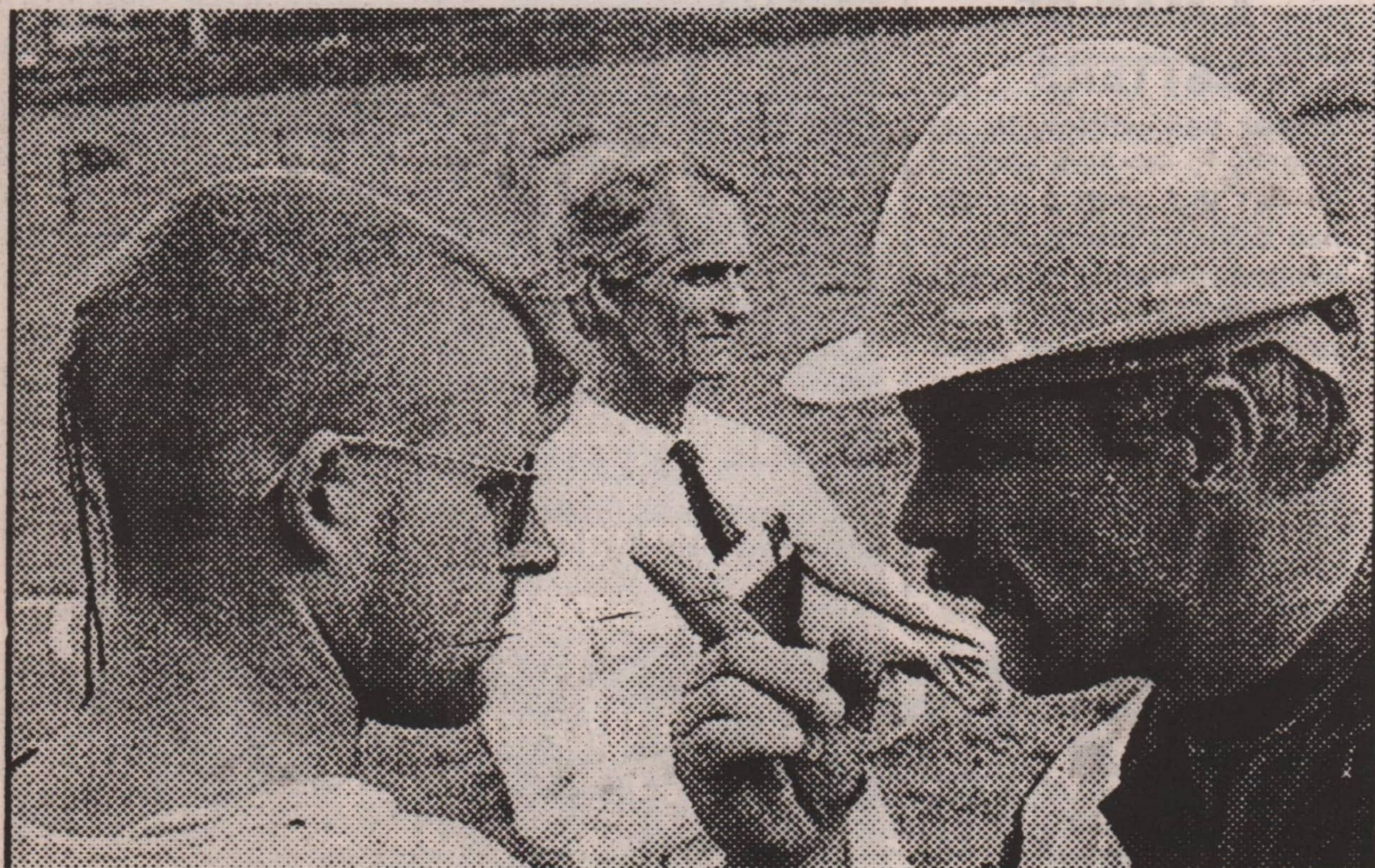
cheap and disciplined. Those that couldn't be relocated, such as mining, were simply scuppered or 'resized' for privatisation.

The working class still existed, despite talk of a classless society, but was changing in content. New jobs were mainly in the service sector - part-time, low paid, unorganised and increasingly meant for women. Any new factories often used micro-technologies, robots and management techniques developed in Japan that relied on discipline and a lack of

A brighter capitalism had to be sold to the masses. It simply had to have less enemies, more people had to have a share in it. We all had to be home, car and share owners. Rampant individualism had to be encouraged instead of solidarity. The defence of the ideology of car ownership and the road lobby was to be pivotal in this battle.

traditional forms of workplace organisation. But a large section of the working class was still 'blue collar'. The current rail strike is still proof that a few thousand workers in a key sector can inflict massive disruption and economic losses for the employers. Murdoch knew this when he decided to distribute newspapers by road and many bosses will be thinking along the same lines now.

By the end of the '80s much of the new-right's agenda had been established, and continues today, but the economic crisis had not been overcome. The boom years had been financed on credit and the bubble burst on Black Wednesday. Unemployment was rising. The deepest capitalist recession ever engulfed the planet. It is no accident that this coincided with the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war. As the steam escaped from the international economy, the state capitalist countries of the east collapsed under their own economic contradictions and came to the west cap in hand for aid and trade. The 'new world order' was proclaimed. Gulf war came and went. It was stage managed by the USA in an attempt to prove it



Anti-roads protestor and security guard chatting at Solsbury Hill

'O RUIN?



Path Wood in the Cuerden Valley, Lancashire, and clear-felled it.

was now the only surviving global cop, although the fiasco of its intervention in Somalia made this harder to believe. The evaporation of the discipline imposed on Yugoslavia by the cold war has seen it explode into a bloodbath on the doorstep of Europe which the imperialist powers seem intent on increasing. The genocide in Rwanda is another symptom of capitalism's decline into all out barbarism.

This brings us to the present - continuing

sold to the masses. It simply had to had to have a share in it. We all had s. Rampant individualism had to be The defence of the ideology of car was to be pivotal in this battle.

economic crisis, further cuts in government spending, more privatisations in the pipeline and continuing unemployment. We seem to have talked little of the anti-road struggles so far but it has been necessary to explain the theatre in which they and the class struggle are being acted out.

RESISTANCE

Opposition to the negative social and environmental impacts of capitalism are as old as this system itself. The 1700s saw resistance to the Enclosure Acts. The 1800s saw the Luddites breaking of new forms of machinery; the Factory Acts aimed to curb the use of child labour and the other excesses of *laissez faire* capitalism; the Chartist movement fought for basic rights for the poor; the early trade union movement fought for the right to combine and improve workers rights; the co-operative movement provided cheap food and housing and decent working conditions. This century has seen the further growth of the labour and conservation/environmental movements -

sections of which have become institutions of capitalism themselves. The reaction to this process of recuperation is often expressed by disillusioned younger generations breaking away from the main-stream to form new radical currents, many of which become recuperated themselves as they age.

The development of the Class War Federation is a good example. Many early members were previously involved in the peace and animal rights movements. The class consciousness of these people was heightened by the class struggles of the early '80s and the lack of radical intent amongst the middle class leaderships of CND, the Labour Party, and the liberalism of the existing British anarchist movement. These elements moved to the more revolutionary and populist politics of the early *Class War* paper and developed their own organisation which still holds to the principles of working class solidarity, the revolutionary destruction of capitalism and the building of a true communist society on its ruins. A brief look at the history of the environmental movement in Britain will also show this process in operation. The 1970s saw the formation of the Green Party, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, all of which espoused the need for radical change to protect the environment and the people living upon it. Greenpeace especially went in for direct action against nuclear power plants and whaling ships. The boom years of the late '80s saw the high point of the environmental movement in terms of votes for the Green Party and membership of the pressure groups. The fad of 'green consumerism' reached its peak before sliding into the ethical capitalism epitomised by the Body Shop, and Ecover (now owned by Group 4). The recession put an end to the Green Party, while Greenpeace and FoE are now multi-million pound pressure groups with a much reduced, and passive, membership.

Events began to mirror those of the American green movement which had developed both 'deep' and 'social' ecology currents. Due in part to the failure of pressure group tactics to slow down the road building programme, some environmentalists broke off and formed a British Earth First! movement committed to 'deep' ecology, direct action and civil disobe-

dience, and a more red-green section collected around the *Green Revolution* paper which sought to link environmental protection with social revolution. Others, alienated by the middle class elements within the pressure groups, merged with the Class War Federation.

TWYFORD DOWN

The first test for Earth First! was to try to halt the extension of the M3 through Twyford Down. The aim was to occupy the site with many protesters, cause maximum disruption and economic expense, and force the abandonment of the scheme. After some early success the protesters were cleared away by the police and Group 4 security teams and the extension is going ahead as planned. The government then announced the postponement of over 100 controversial road schemes, some would say due to the anti-roads campaign, others would say merely because of cuts in government spending. A combination of the two is more likely.

The next focus was against the M11 link road through east London, although the locals were more worried about the demolition of 350 houses than trees and fields. A traditional legal campaign was brought to life when the bulldozers arrived in September 1993. Veterans of Twyford Down appeared and chained themselves to the equipment. The contractors then fenced George Green in Wanstead and prepared to fell a 300 year old chestnut tree. Some earth was removed but the protesters, now joined by locals, took over the site and replaced the earth. The stand-off lasted a month until the protesters were removed with force by the police and Group 4. The tree was felled and some of the 350 threatened houses that were being squatted were cleared of protesters and demolished. The protesters are now 'dug in' further down the road at Leytonstone.

FLUFFIES

To date, Earth First! hasn't won a struggle, and the ferocity of the police and Group 4 methods of removal has knocked them back. Their policy of non-violence has left them vulnerable to attack and many activists have been injured, as at the Solsbury Hill site near Bathaston in Avon. Middle class elements are now in control at many of the protest sites, and some protesters turning up 'tooled up' for action have been turned away for fear of causing bad publicity. It is clear that EF! has lost any edge that it once may have had - they had become 'fluffy'. A response has been the appearance of the Earth Liberation Front (the elves) who are committed to more extreme methods of action, from phone threats, to trashing road building machinery, to violent

confrontation with contractors and police. Press statements that the elves are linked with *Class War* are unfounded, although we can understand why they take such action, and are moving to more revolutionary conclusions, given the lack of spine shown by much of the Earth First! movement.

The question for us is this - have these anti-road struggles any relevance to the working class and our struggle against capitalism? *The answer has to be yes.* If your homes and surrounding areas are going to be decimated then you have to resist, by any means necessary. Some may say that by putting the site workers in danger is anti-working class. Many of them have families to support, they are glad for the work and 'are only doing their job'. But the same can be said for the police and security teams. When it comes down to it the class war is a messy business. Working class people will be pitted against each other - whether its fascist confronting anti-fascist, scab against picket, or contractor/security versus anti-roads campaigner. If those who do the bidding for the bosses understand the possible consequences of their actions (that their health is at risk) and continue to carry out the orders then they shouldn't complain if situations get out of hand. They are all capitalist companies exploiting their workers' labour. Some of these road companies donate most to the Conservative Party - they deserve all they get. And by the way, parcel bombs are out of the question, the bosses rarely open their own mail.

SOLIDARITY

The revolutionary movement should work towards the generalisation the various anti-capitalist struggles into a broad assault against this system and the creation of an equal, fair and sustainable world society. How could the current anti-road struggles be linked to the wider class struggle? One obvious situation would be for them to show solidarity with the striking signal workers by having 'eco-action' nights when the strikes start, and making it clear in press releases that they are supporting public transport against the domination of private transport. The impending privatisation of the rail network will see a reduction in many services and an exodus to the roads, and the extra spending on roads will further reduce the amount spent on trains.

History has shown that capitalism does indeed create its own gravediggers, that involvement in struggles raises the class consciousness of many of those involved and leads them to revolutionary conclusions. This process will continue until the battle is won. Let's get out there and nail the bastards!



More action from Solsbury Hill. The site gets cleared 'by any means necessary'.

+ HOUSING SPECIAL + + + HOUSING SPECIAL + + + HOUSING S

HOMING IN -

The Tories often spout rubbish about freedom of choice.

What they don't say is that this freedom of choice depends on your bank balance. The rich have plenty, the poor, little or none. The few remaining residents on the deserted and virtually derelict Elgin Estate in Westminster, London, are prime examples of this.

Many people can't choose their homes, they are at the mercy of the local council. If the residents of the Elgin Estate had any choice in the matter they would want to move somewhere better.

UNFIT

Instead they are forced to remain in housing that a recent report by the Housing and Development committee of Westminster council described as "unfit for human habitation."

Many flats on the estate have no heating or lighting and some flats are without running water. Why is the estate in this derelict condition? After all Westminster council is a Tory flagship council, it receives huge subsidies from central government.

It's due to a deliberate council plan, the now infamous 'homes for votes' policy. Westminster council decided that to maintain Tory control of the Borough they must force traditionally La-

bour voting working class people in the estates out.

So regardless of any suffering caused by the 'homes for votes' policy they deliberately ran down the working-class estates, and when they became unfit to live in rehoused the tenants outside the Borough.

The homes were then renovated and in many cases deserted estates were bulldozed so luxury flats could be built on the sites. Then loyal Tory supporters were offered these homes at 'give-away' bargain prices.

Such a policy of mass driving out of people from their homes and communities for votes has no parallel in recent history in Britain.

The true extent of this attack on our class only became apparent when Tory councillor Dr Michael Dutt committed suicide when an inquiry finished. The bosses had to choose a scapegoat. Dr Dutt realized the powers that be had chosen him.

As for the victims of the 'homes for votes' scheme? These people are no longer considered worthy of media attention. Once thriving communities like the Elgin Estate are now an empty shell.

Freedom of choice? The only freedom capitalism allows us is the freedom to be oppressed, exploited and treated like dirt.



Buttsbury estate - redevelopment equals destruction and annihilation

IT'S ANOTHER...

ANTI-CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL DEMO

OCTOBER 9TH CENTRAL LONDON

FURTHER DETAILS T.B.A.

FACE MASKS ESSENTIAL

★ ★ ★ LEAVE YOUR JUGGLING BALLS AT HOME

★ ★ ★ IT'S TIME FOR SOME WORKING CLASS JUSTICE

TOP THE TOFFS!

'I ORDERED HER IN THE WAY ONLY AN ENGLISH LANDLORD COULD'

Just in case there is anybody out there who thinks we do live in a classless society, read on.

When a toffee nosed landlord, who owns an island in Cumbria, was found guilty of using abusive or insulting behaviour, he told Furness magistrates he was no ordinary offender.

LANDLORD

"I belong to the class of people who provide officers of the realm," he said. "You have not got before you one of your drunks or loud mouths from the filthy town of Barrow, where nobody comes from unless they have to."

Scholes, the landlord, described himself as a "social superior" of his tenants.

This fine example of years of upper class inbreeding had abused two of his tenants after he tried to hit one of them with his Range Rover. Representing himself in

court, his defence was that he nearly hit the woman because it was his right to! "I ordered her in the way only an English landlord could."

He added "I had to set an example to these lowbred individuals. This is a private landlord with private tenants on private land - not the back streets of Barrow-in-Furness."

But this "social superior" was definitely inferior in the brain department. He conducted his own defence, not the best idea as it consisted of him explaining his right to assault his "inferiors", and amusing the court with his story that the only reason he was in the dock was because one of his tenants was conspiring with a copper who used to dance about naked except for his helmet!

In case anyone would like to discuss this matter with him further he lives at; Holme House, Holme Island, Grange, Cumbria.

NORTH-WEST Evening Mail
The Voice of Furness and West Cumbria
Thursday June 23 1994
Tonight's Weather: SHOWERS

GRANGE TOFF SLAMS BARROW RIFF-RAFF

'Superior' ex-lawyer fined £100 for foul-mouthed abuse

ALLY superior landlord who Island mansion near Barrow fined £100 for using abusive and insulting behaviour, he told magistrates he was no ordinary offender.

Mr Scholes, the landlord, described himself as a "social superior" of his tenants. This fine example of years of upper class inbreeding had abused two of his tenants after he tried to hit one of them with his Range Rover. Representing himself in court, his defence was that he nearly hit the woman because it was his right to! "I ordered her in the way only an English landlord could."

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STATELY: The mansion on Holme Island

Mr Scholes said he had to set an example to these lowbred individuals. This is a private landlord with private tenants on private land - not the back streets of Barrow-in-Furness.

Mr Scholes was fined £100 and ordered to pay costs.

AL + + + HOUSING SPECIAL + + + HOUSING SPECIAL + + + HOUS

ON HOUSING

HAT'S OFF

The Cathall Road Estate in Leyton, East London, stands directly opposite the row of squats in Claremont Road that is obstructing the Mill link-roads construction.

While the Cathall Road estate is being spared the fate of hundreds of other homes in the area - demolition to make way for the Mill - it's not being spared by the bosses by any means.

After all they are always eager to put the boot into working class people. The local council (Waltham Forest) is implementing government policy by imposing the HAT (Housing Action Trust) scheme on the Cathall Road estate.

CONTROL

HAT schemes are basically attempts to privatise council estates. They begin with local councils offering the private-sector control of estates to improve the quality of housing, especially on neglected rundown estates (usually deliberately neglected by councils to force tenants into accepting HAT schemes).

However, once the private

sector takes control of estates and invests money to renovate them the only purpose of the scheme is to make the investors' profits. So residents are forced out to make way for wealthier 'private' tenants. Working class communities are destroyed and whole areas social character is changed.

Council housing is the only option for those who can't afford a home in the private-sector. By bringing in HAT schemes and 'right-to-buy' schemes and reducing the council housing stock this option is removed.

The result is obvious for all to see - ever increasing homelessness and families forced to live in overcrowded conditions in squalid, pokey bedsits and the like.

This policy has been met with resistance and successfully defeated by many estates. HAT schemes have been withdrawn by councils in estates across Britain after those communities rebelled against the proposals. In Newham, East London, and in Hull, HAT has been defeated.

The HAT schemes are part of the same Tory plan as hospital 'trusts' and schools opting out of local authority control, a long term plan of privatising public services.

This policy has been met with resistance and successfully defeated

Tens of millions of people can't survive without public services whether its housing, healthcare, education or social security. They can't afford to buy these 'services' from the private sector.

These schemes must be fought. This can only be achieved by united action by the community threatened by the HAT scheme. But the only way to stop these attacks forever is to destroy their source, the real 'evil empire' - capitalism.

BATTLE OF THE BUTTSBURY ESTATE

If there's one thing the Tories love doing most (apart from having a wank with an orange in their mouth, and a rope around their neck) it's cutting public services.

That way they can transfer money from their enemies; the working class, to their friends; the wealthy middle classes and the rich.

The Buttsbury Estate in poverty ravaged South Ilford is a current victim of the 'economy measures' the government is inflicting on working class people everywhere. Redbridge council, in a cost-cutting frenzy, is 're-developing' the estate.

This basically means that a working class estate and community is being bulldozed and annihilated. The residents have fought a prolonged and determined campaign to save their community from destruction against stiff odds.

Not only is Redbridge council, with Tory government support, attacking their community. But also private businesses have joined the assault by putting in bids for the land the estate occupies.

The residents brave and

determined resistance to the councils plans included turning up at Ilford Townhall when Tory Housing minister Michael Howard paid his Tory councillor cronies there a 'flying visit'. Residents were determined to confront this rich smug scumbag and vent their fury on him.

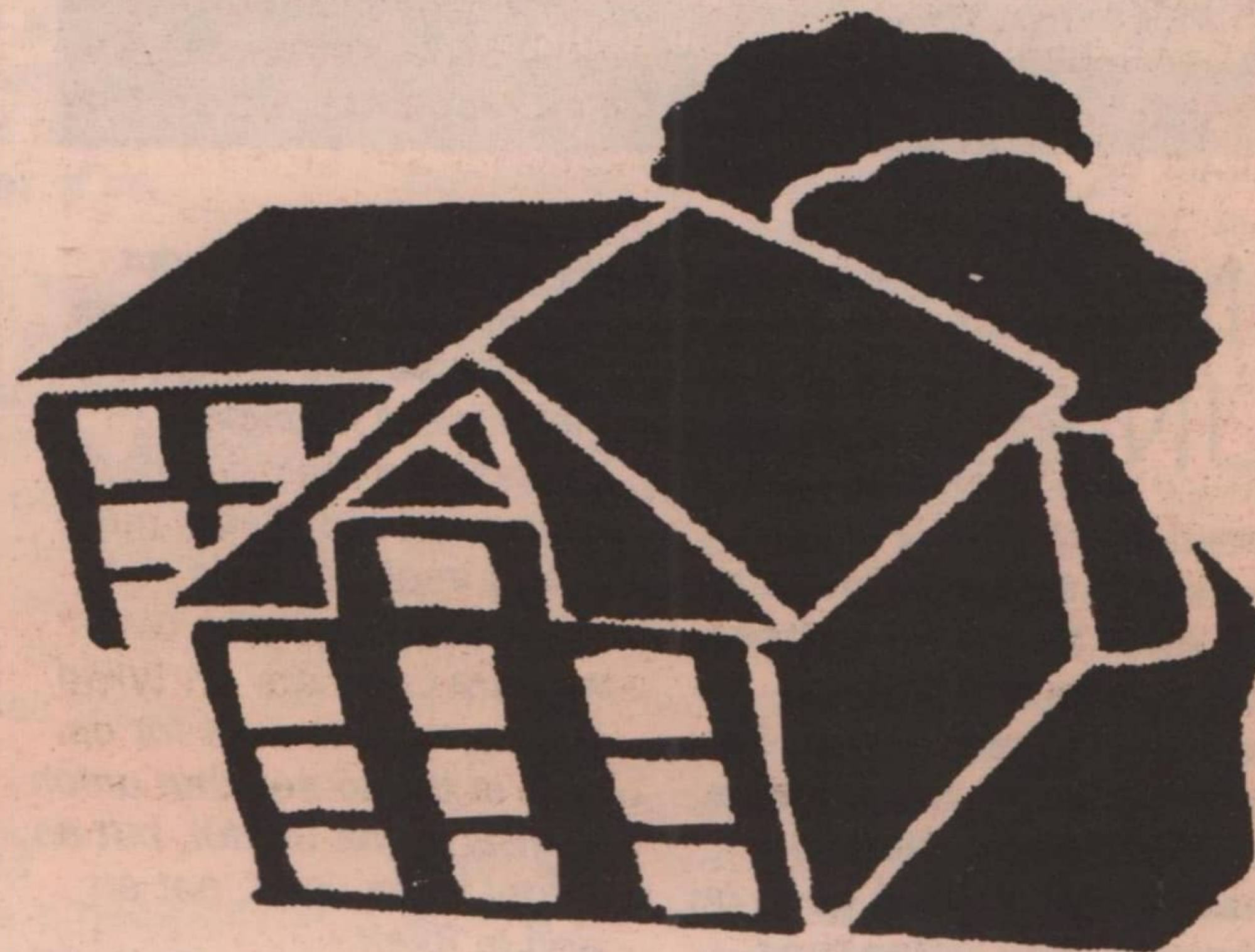
DIEHARD

But the battle for the Buttsbury estate is slowly but surely being lost. Although individual 'diehard' families on the estate refuse to move,

most have little choice but to accept rehousing as a reprieve for the estate seems highly unlikely.

Battles like this rage daily in communities and estates across the country. Individual communities that take on the state go down in defeat. What is needed is unity among all working class people, and support for other communities and groups that take on the state.

Remember, an injury to one is an injury to all.



WAR DIARY EXTRA!

We continue Page 2's War Diary reports of this summer riots with an eyewitness account by a CW correspondent from outside the Downing Street gates on the criminal justice demo.

"It was a lovely sunny day and as we reached the gates we decided to tell John Major what we thought of the bill personally.

CHARGE

Whilst we were trying to break through the gates, the old bill decided to get stuck in with a horse charge from behind some other gates on the opposite side of Whitehall followed by lines of riot cops trying to split our forces in two.

With a swift and effective counter attack we forced the coppers to retreat in disarray to behind their barricades, we had control of Whitehall again.

AMMO

They tried another charge about ten minutes later which was again easily beaten back.



"Your going home in a St John's Ambulance" - riot cops on duty outside Downing Street.

After thirty minutes or so it was obvious we weren't going to break into Downing Street so the crowd began to disperse, besides it was fucking hot in our masks (always cover up, remember the Welling photo's).

A good result, 2-0 against horse and riot cop charges. This was despite the lack of ammo and the Social Workers Party stewards who seemed intent on protecting the Police."

With unrest about the bill

going unreported in the media we at Class War promise to keep you in touch with all the latest events.

Match reports (treated in the strictest confidence) to Class War Sports Desk, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

● Three coppers, all members of the notorious West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, have recently been found guilty of torturing a Birmingham man, Derek Treadway, into making a confession which put him away for fifteen years.

Mr Treadway, who had plastic bags forced over his head, was awarded £50,000 by the High Court.

What's going to happen to the coppers? Nothing, as usual. Just like the two top cops who recently got let off for fitting-up the Tottenham 3, no cops have ever been found guilty for; Orgreave, Wapping, the Battle of the Beanfield, the Birmingham 6, the Guildford 4, the

Magulres, the 11st could go on forever.

The Criminal Justice Bill demo shows how some sections of the middle class view the cops. Leaflets were being openly given out asking people to "stay fluffy" and not get involved with any trouble!

These clueless wonders, and other pacifist prats, should have stayed at home with Mummy and Daddy. They probably see the police as Dixon of Dock Green type figures, there to help old grannies across the road.

Idlots like them should be shown that they and their middle class hippie ideas will not be tolerated.

SELL CLASS WAR



Earn extra cash, and help to do your bit in the war, by flogging Class War to your work/school mates, neighbours, friends etc.

Just send £2.00 for ten copies to PO Box 524, Luton, LU1 1QS.

Also available £1/£2 and £5 packs of the current front cover flyposters in full colour A2 size from same address.



LETTERS

WE PRINT'EM COS YOU WRITE'EM

CW Letters Page
PO Box 467
London E8 3QX



STAR
LETTER

EAT THE RICH

Dear CW

I recently attended a friend's wedding reception at a local luxury hotel, it was one hell of an experience. This was the first time I've ever observed the 'capitalist pigs' up close.

The hotel residents and fat business men in the bar made it abundantly clear us working class oiks were not welcome. As we sat in the bar cursing, swearing and being as offensive as possible I hit upon an idea - why not organise a large group of homeless/unemployed people to hold a mass trespass on one of these places similar to civil rights actions in 60s America?

The security in these places is piss-poor, usually consisting of an old man holding doors open so that rich shits don't have to exert themselves. The upper classes regard these places as their domain where they can go and escape the nasty commoners. They ought to be educated to the fact that workers find such places deeply offensive, I personally find every luxury hotel an insult and kick in the teeth to every unemployed man. (And woman! - CW)

Give the scum the message nowhere is safe from workers' power!

'Mad Mike', Paisley

P.S. I had a 'magic marker' on me so I left a few messages on the shithouse doors.

GRAFFITI COMPETITION



This issue's tenner is winging its way to the anti-M11 campaign as requested by the person who took the photo—don't forget to send all your wonderful graffiti competition entries to PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX. Every one that's printed gets a tenner!

IN THE UNION

Dear Class War, As nurse rep. for Unison at my local hospital I've been involved in negotiating with management over the last year. This deal 'allows' staff at the hospital to have a say in what goes on through their union reps

The management decided to have a signing ceremony to 'celebrate' this deal, (which is our right, as the working class, to have a say in our working lives), union full-time officials thought this a great idea and sat down to free champagne and buffet while the staff have just faced a 50% increase in prices at the canteen with no pay rise and job cuts for canteen staff.

As long as I'm in Unison I won't accept management bribes to stay sweet. Unions are in existence to create a powerful force against the management not to provide high wages and a cushy lifestyle for bureaucrats such as Jinkinson.

I refused managements champagne but happily take full staff nurse wages for every minute of union work I do!

As class warriors we should take our rightful place in the union most appropriate to our job and work towards our class goals of removing the management wasters and running our own jobs and lives.

Bill

CW REPLY: Most of us in Class War have no doubts about whether unions themselves

will enable us to run our own lives and jobs - union bosses are like any other, they have a financial interest (i.e. their salaries) in keeping the status quo, only ourselves alone can successfully win the class war, we can't rely on union bureaucrats to do it for us. This is not to say that union activity is not useful, but as a tool to be used, not an end in itself.

KILL A COP

Dear Class War, Did you know that the authorities in Leeds have decided to pull down parts of Chapeltown - to stamp out crime they say - as though it will vanish somehow once they've done this!

However, the real reason they've done this is to get round a ban the residents put on the cops to stop them coming into the area.

It's well known the cops are spineless scum who intimidate, assault and fuck people over when the odds are stacked in their favour but this stunt really is pathetic!
Yours, a class warrior,
Leeds

"IT'S ALL WORDS"

Dear Friend I don't know if you're interested but I'm secretary (voluntary) for a disabled group, as I am

GET A GRIP ON REALITY

Dear Class War,

All pop and rock music - in fact the entire concept of a 'youth culture' - is a con-trick to neutralise working class resentment. Here's how it works.

Via 'youth culture' the younger working class is told (both covertly and directly) that something is more important than their class status - namely their age, or 'youthfulness'. Consequently some working class kid at a factory bench thinks he has more in common with some rich brat like Amanda de Cadanet than with older members of his own class.

Thus his class resentment is neutralised, not fanned, by the very concept of 'youth culture'. Pop and rock music thus serve to divide the working class and neutralise their resentment in a very powerful yet subtle way.

No class warrior should even listen to rock or pop music - it's an upper middle class rip-off, a total wank

disabled and have to somehow survive on state benefits.

This government hasn't got a clue what it's like living on state benefits. The 'Care in the Community' charter is a farce and it's all words.

There are disabled out there that need help but can't get any because they can't afford to buy the services i.e. home care etc. The present government kick people down when you are on benefit, freedom of speech, movement, strike or any other kind of gathering.

The people do not seem to have a voice or power any more. This is not democracy, this is a Big Brother dictatorship.
Yours sincerely,
Carmen

devised to protect the establishment. Do a little research - nearly everyone involved in it has at least a 'comfortable' background. Proof of all this is the fact that the Socialist Wankers are so into it!

Last but not least, even at its most pseudo-rebellious pop and rock music serve as a safety valve to harmlessly release working class resentment into channels that do not threaten the ruling class - silly clothes, sexism, bad attitude to family and peers, inter-class conflict, punching the air like some demented wanker, to name but a few.

Despite the marginalised middle class status of pop/rock at present, it remains a potent weapon in the ideological arsenal of the elite.

Like the so called revolutionary left, it mirrors rather than challenges the existing class structure.

Yours sincerely,
Johnny, Warrington

TOP COP!

Dear Class War, Oh, I don't know why you lot are always slagging off the police - they do sometimes get it right.

Take my recent example: my bastard landlord's trying to evict me (just cos I haven't paid any rent for the past few months - I'm skint and anyway we shouldn't have to pay for somewhere to live)... anyway, one nice summer afternoon a load of cops charge round to my house, kick all the doors in and smash all the windows. They said they were looking for drugs but of course they couldn't find anything.

The result: the bastard landlord's stuck with a house no-one will rent off

him! So thank you, Northumbria police.

And maybe we should keep this in mind for the next time we're getting evicted. Just pretend to be a concerned neighbour and grass up those filthy young people down the street - and the landlord will end up with a house that no-one wants!

Love, Samantha, Gateshead.
PS Manic Street Preachers vs Chumbawamba: if pop stars are going to pretend to be 'revolutionary' and then do nothing about it except sing songs, then they're all wankers, no better than Dire Straits and Phil Collins. And what does anyone think about the current trendy politico bands like Senser, Family Cat and S.M.A.S.H.?

LET'S ALL GO MENTAL IN THE COUNTRY

Dear All

I don't think I'll be reading the paper again as I have no desire to be associated with an organisation that is made up of 'ordinary people'.

How dull! Like Terry Firth, I also look at home on the terraces. Unlike him I'm not likely to be off 'turning on' other people because they look a bit odd after the match.

If Class War wants to be a federation of grey heterosexual males with 2.2 children then that's up to you and Terry and his mates, I suppose.

For me - I've had enough of being pushed around because I don't fit in - what I want around me is a group of fucking weirdos who don't care how I look.

And dancing around a camp fire sounds like more fun to me than staying at home all night to worry about if I'm ordinary enough to be let into your club.

Yours for an unusual, exciting and free society,
Ben

CW REPLY:

I think it was made quite, plain in the last issue that it doesn't matter a fuck what someone looks like. Obviously you're a lot more bothered about appearances than we are!

REVIEWS

IN PRINT

COP KILLER

Donald Gorgon
(The X Press £4.99)
"We're tired of being used, of being abused. We assert our right to defend ourselves by any means necessary..."

When Lloyd Baker's mum is gunned down by the cops on a bungled drugs raid, his world falls apart. Gradually though his anger hardens and he sets out on a one-man mission to settle the score and bring a bit of people's justice to the streets of London.

Published by the same people who gave us the 'black gangsta' *Yardie* series, this is a brilliant book—fast-moving, violent and extremely sussed.

But unlike the *Yardie* books, *Cop Killer* isn't full of harder-than-hard macho bollocks and it isn't scared to tackle real issues. Lloyd sets out with just one goal, to hunt down his mum's killers. But when his investigations bring him across a local crack-dealer who's making a living by spreading shit and misery among the black youth, Lloyd's aim is 100% true!

Cop Killer—a totally cool read and our nomination for this year's Booker Prize...



PAPER BOYS

This is an excellent little read, a first-hand account of the 1986-7 printers' struggle against Rupert Murdoch's News International—the view from the picket line.

Here we have 28 action-packed pages of the adventures of the Dangerous Brothers, the Bomber, the Windmill, the Student, and others: battling it out with the cops ('paper boys'), carrying out raids on dist-

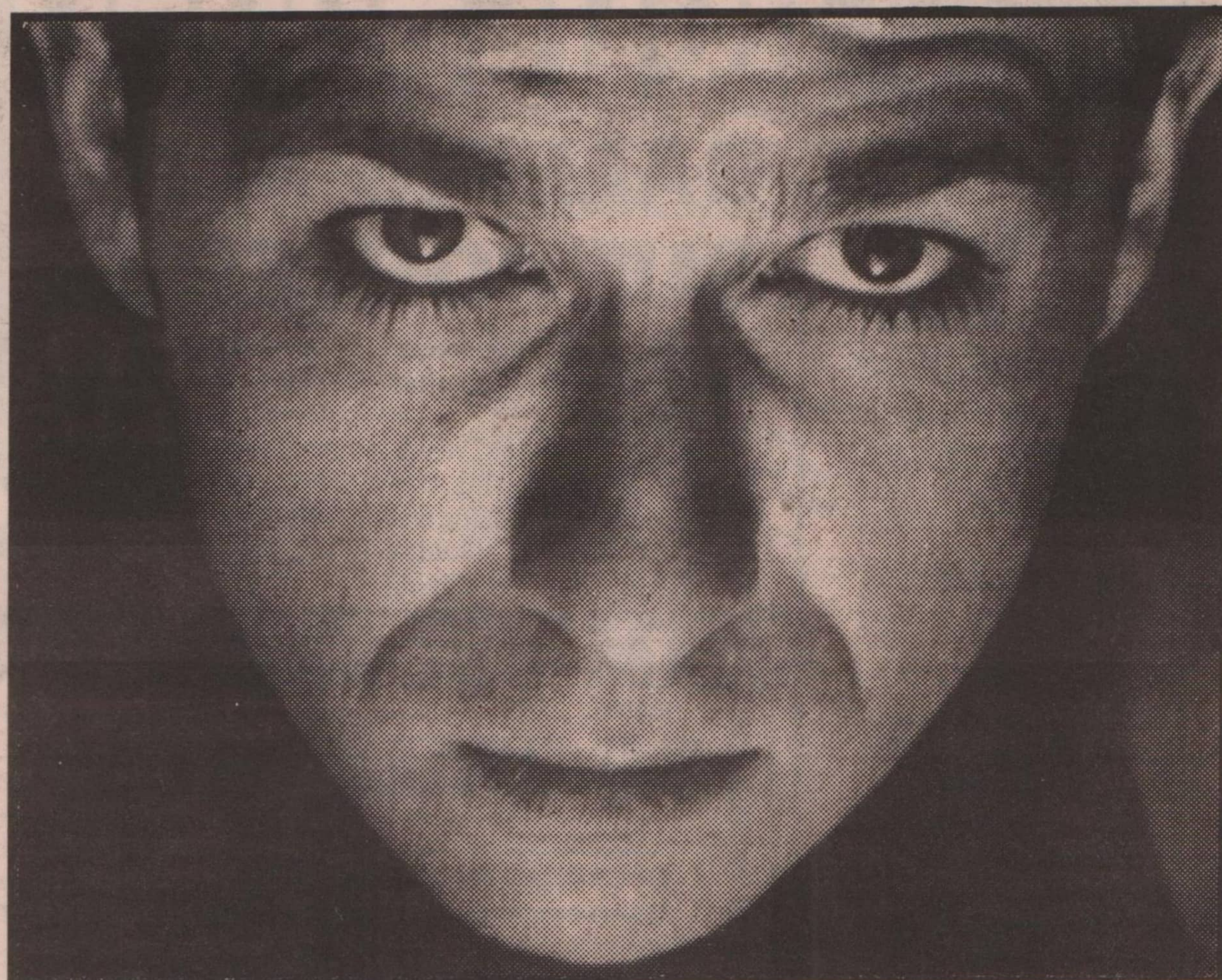
tribution depots, and attacking scabs and scab lorries. This is working-class history, written not by academics but by an ordinary working-class bloke; and what's refreshing, especially with all the 'non-violence' crap which seems so fashionable at the moment, is that he takes it for granted that fighting cops is okay.

Throughout this booklet the message is very clear: all bosses are bastards; neither police nor state are impartial—both are our enemy; scabs are scum; and union officials and leaders are simply soft cops.

Paper Boys is an inspirational little booklet: when the working class struggles, when the working class fights back, we gain confidence, we learn how to best organise, we learn tactics, and we are able to overcome our fears.

"Everything they [the backsliders, scab lovers and careerists] organised was rubbish. Everything that was good was organised by pickets. Outside the control of the coppers in flat caps." Available from AK Retail, 22 Luton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PE for £1.30 incl. p&p; cheques payable to AK Retail.

CINEMA



Local villain: Tommy does his best to look like a nasty piece of work in *Shopping*

SHOPPING (18)

Top cop: "What's prison taught you, Billy?"
Billy: "Don't get caught"

The first quarter of an hour of *Shopping* is an absolute belter. When Billy gets released from nick, the first thing he does is meet up with Jo, his joy-riding sidekick, rob a BMW from right under its yuppie owner's nose, and set off on a mad drive across the city. They spray-paint 'chase me' across the car boot and when the cops get on their tail, Jo leans out and pelts them with all the shit tapes she can find in the car—Billy Joel, Dire Straits, Whitney Houston... The audience whoops and cheers.

Shopping is being touted as the sexiest, most controversial film of the year: it definitely isn't that, but it will do nicely until the real thing comes along. Set against a background of inner-city wasteland that looks like a left-over from *Mad Max* and *Escape from New York*, *Shopping* is a British film about joy-riding, ram-raiding and surviving in a dead-end economy.

While Billy is the typical anti-hero, who gets his kicks from adrenalin and getting one over on the cops, his rival on the estates is Tommy, a man who has 'evil villain' written all over him. Tommy does much the same as Billy, but for him ram-raiding is serious business, a way to make big money and become a full-time gangster.

Tommy has the massive headquarters, the mobile phone, the drug-dealing. But Billy has the edge when it comes to walking with a swagger and being cool. After Billy lures the cops into a massive ambush on the estate, one of Tommy's sidekicks says it all: "To the kids up there he's a fucking hero!"

Add to all this a pumping soundtrack full of the likes of Utah Saints, One Dove, and Credit to the Nation and you can see why it took the film censors almost two months to decide whether or not to give *Shopping* a certificate. It's a film that glamorises joy-riding, shows cop cars being trashed while they're parked outside the station, BMWs and Porsches being nicked, shopping malls ram-raided and destroyed, and includes a full-blooded assault on police officers with a fridge and a shower of bottles, bricks and petrol bombs...

In the end though you can see why it wasn't so difficult to slip *Shopping* past the censors. For all its 'rebellious' style, it is just another teen exploitation flick, another cynical 'youth' movie. With a script that looks like it was cobbled together in half an hour down the betting shop, it's full to bursting with cliches, poseurs and bad acting. It's set in a kind of *Mad Max* city with no name, where absolutely no-one seems to have a job apart from the cops. On top of that no-one seems to have any family or any relationships apart from hanging out with other young joy-riders: Billy's dad appears for all of 30 seconds and doesn't get to say one word.

All this isn't just bad film-making; it's also a way of making *Shopping* more fantastic, less real, less of a threat. "I mean, it's only a film; no-one really wants to kill the police, do they?" And, in case you still haven't got the message that crime doesn't pay, the very predictable ending hammers it home.

But if you can forget all that, *Shopping* is still an unmissable feast: bold and trashy, it's the only film this year that will show you the full effect of a fridge being dropped from 30 feet onto a cop car. **Enjoy!**

VIDEO

SMALL WORLD

Undercurrents, #1
This is a collection of short films, lasting 85 minutes in total, documenting various struggles not covered by the mainstream media. The two longest films are a twelve-minute piece about the Public Order Act and Criminal Justice Bill, and 35 minutes on the campaign to stop the M11 Link road.

It's a sound idea and some of the footage is really good: it's great to see people singing and dancing with confidence, and generally having a good time, in defiance of cops and bailiffs.

But singing and dancing on its own isn't enough and I found a lot of what I saw and heard disempowering. The protesters filmed here are all brave and committed to what they are doing. But I saw far too many of them being led away by cops or resisting arrest only passively. I heard too many complaints about the police "not doing their job properly"; about "so-called 'democracy'"; and about "us becoming as bad as them if



we resort to violence".

Let's be clear: the job of the police is to protect the rich, their profits and 'the system'—they always do it 'properly'! That's what democracy is all about. So if we are a threat to capital and to profits (and like squatters, etc. the anti-roads movement is such a threat) then capital and the state will use any means necessary to try and crush us—any bollocks about non-violence can only weaken us.

Available from Small World, 1A Waterlow Rd, Archway, London N19 5NJ for £4 (unwaged) or £8 (waged) plus £1.50 p&p; cheques payable to Small World.

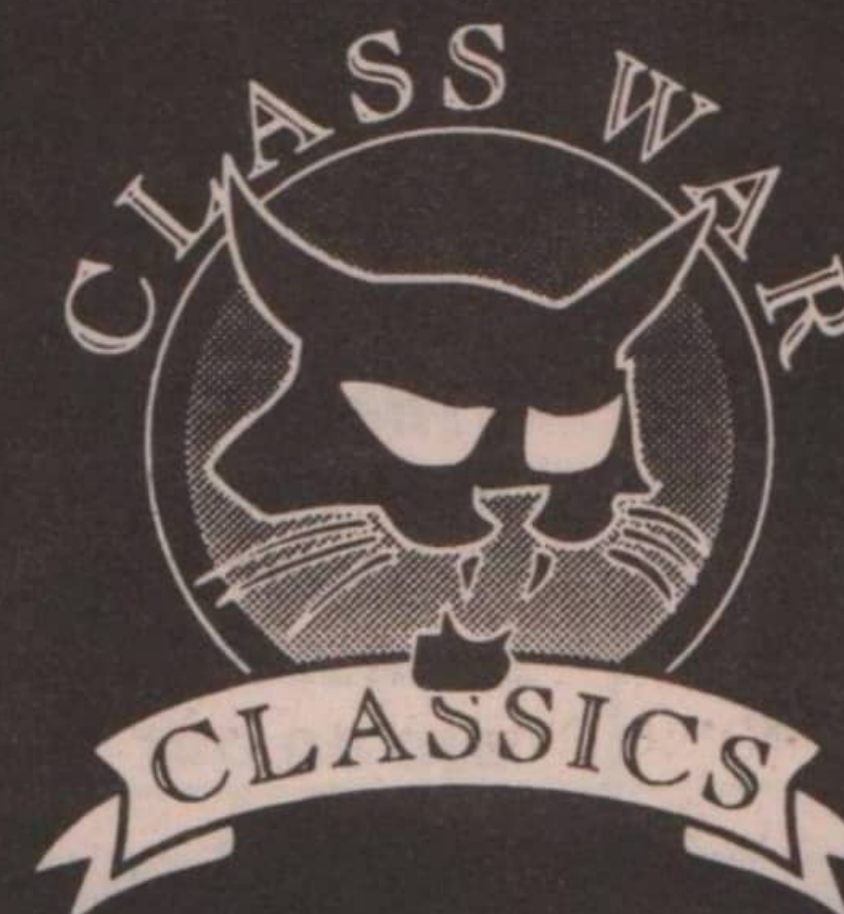
BOBBY SANDS, ONE DAY IN MY LIFE

Mercier Press, Dublin, 1983, £4.95 (ISBN 0 85 342 912 X)

Bobby Sands was sentenced to 14 years in prison for possession of weapons. He went on to become the first of ten republican prisoners to die on hunger strike in 1981.

This is the most moving account I've ever read of one person's struggle against the naked brutality of the state.

Long Kesh (now officially called the Maze) is a hell—the Republican prisoners are daily, routinely and constantly



subjected to harassment, terror, beatings, drenchings in icy water, minute body searches and other humiliations.

Bobby Sands and his comrades never give up. Throughout everything they maintain their will, their courage, their commitment, their faith in themselves and in each other, and their humanity.

Despite being in prison, despite all the deprivations, solitary



confinement... despite everything, their struggle always continues.

Written on toilet paper with a biro refill and smuggled out hidden inside Bobby Sand's own body, no review can possibly do this book justice. It doesn't matter what you think about the IRA—just read it.

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Class War is active all over Britain. 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.

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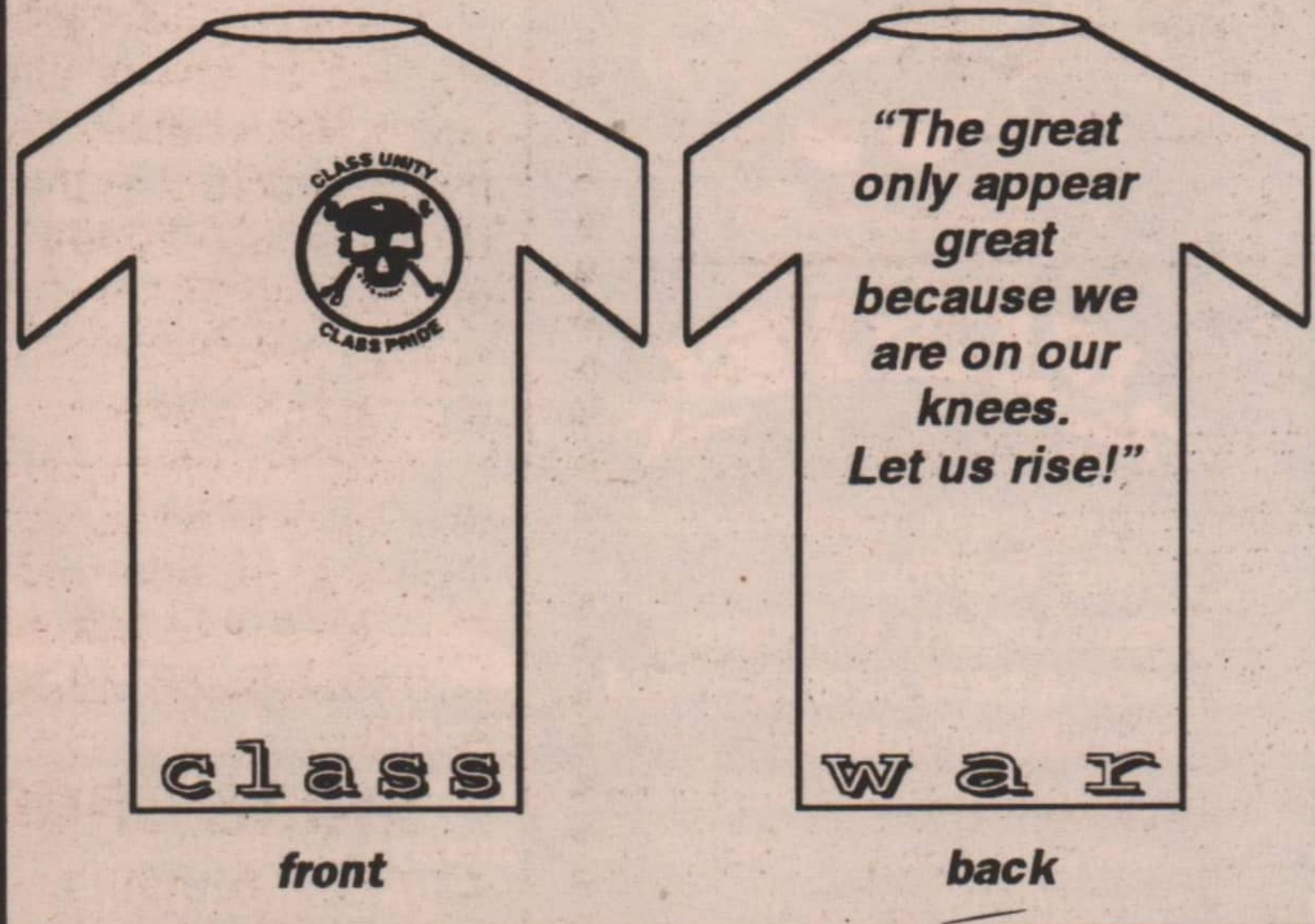
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CLASS WAR

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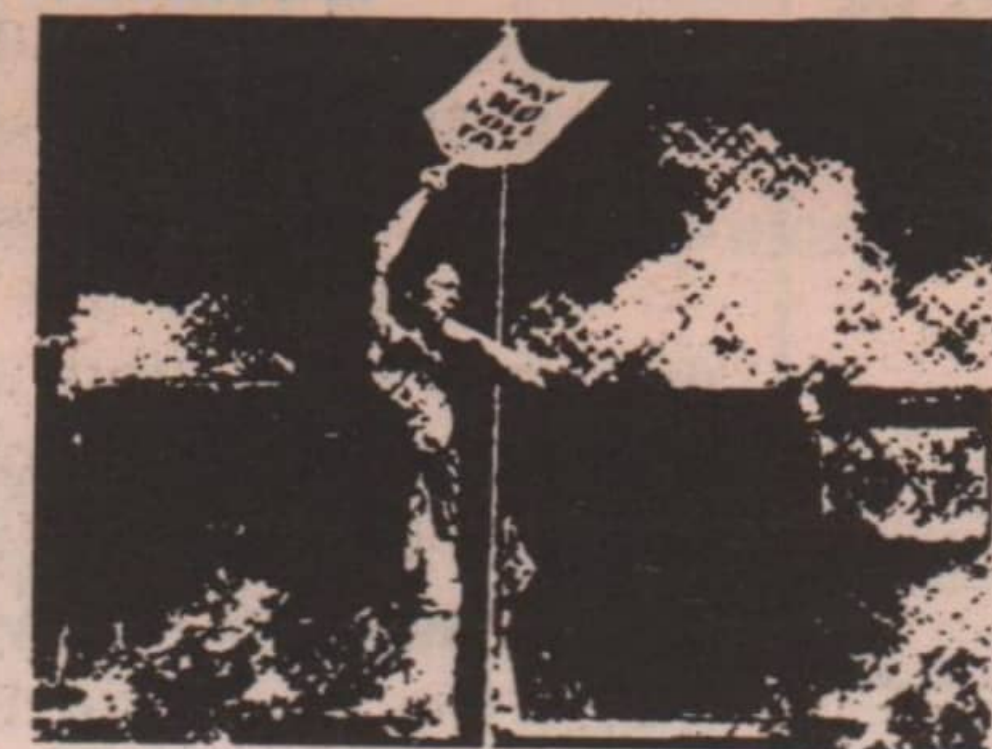


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THIS IS CLASS WAR!

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 of the problems experienced by working class people the world over.

This can only be sorted out by the destruction of the ruling 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 people's 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**



0272 870050

FANTASY FOOTBALL

...COS IT'S ALL WE CAN AFFORD!

The football season is here again and if you think that football is still the people's game, then think again. Our once proud working class game has been changed without trace over the last few years, and it's big business that now calls the tune.

Manchester United, one of the biggest, richest and most powerful clubs in the English league have released a new football strip 'surprise surprise!'. It's their fifth one in two years. The shirt to mere mortals like ourselves is priced £40. It's no wonder Man United's turnover last year was £30 million, and only half of that came from ticket sales.

The ordinary supporter is being ripped off left right and centre, as are workers at the clubs. In previous *Class War* issues we have revealed that waitresses in the United executive suite only get £13.75 for a six hour shift!

No wonder Man United's share prices have risen from £2.50 in 1992 to £6.95 now. On who's back has that been made?

NET PROFITS

All the Premier clubs last year made an average profit of £1.46 million while the First division clubs made a loss of £332,000. Blackburn spent £13.09 million last year alone on players. How can lower division clubs compete? They can't because the big business bosses don't want them to, or they would share some of the profits made by the greedier Premier clubs.

Look at Millwall, one of the lucky First division clubs, it's profits leaped to £1,374,000. But then it's no wonder as seat tickets more than doubled from £8 to £20 this season.

Tottenham have just spent £4.6 million on two players (Klinsmann and Dumitrescu) but their share price has rocketed at news of the signing, and this is after having points deducted for illegal payments to players.

All this money in the game

must help the supporters. Not a chance. With the change to all seater stadiums, the chairmen and directors know that they can charge what they like for seats, and the

fans don't start hitting back. Already all around the country we have seen mass demonstrations against managers, directors and chairmen. Trevor Summers, who has just



Don't let our game take a dive too

ordinary working class football fan is being priced out of the ground.

The story is the same at clubs all across the country. We get ripped off so directors can drive their Jaguars and Mercs and holiday four times a year in places that the average football fan can only dream of. The message is clear, the football league is a filthy reflection of the society we live in, where the rich get richer and the working class get fuck all. The clubs now exist to make money for fat old rich share holders - football has become a sideline.

STRIKE BACK

Anybody fancy a go on 'fantasy football league'?, because that is all we are going to be able to afford if the ordinary

quit as chairman of West Bromwich Albion, may give us a hint of the way forward. Before resigning he told reporters that "My wife and my sons have received some nasty threats over the past few months and it's not a pleasant experience." What a shame. Perhaps other fans around the country could get in touch with their directors and tell them what they really think about the new admission prices etc.

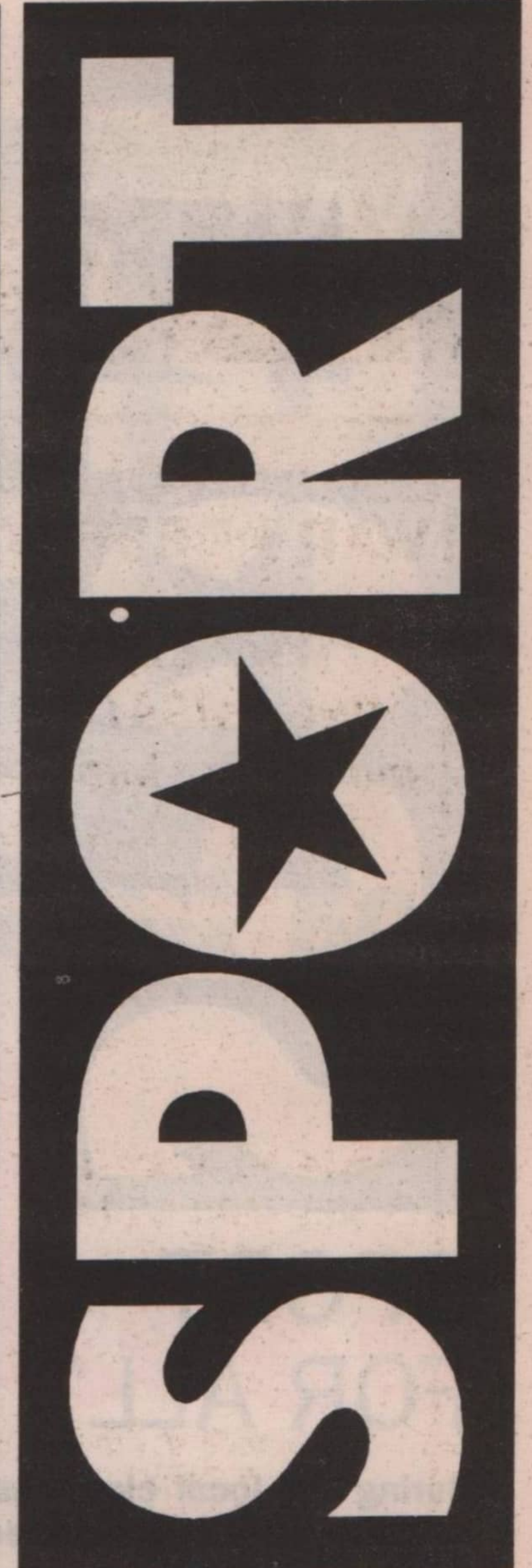
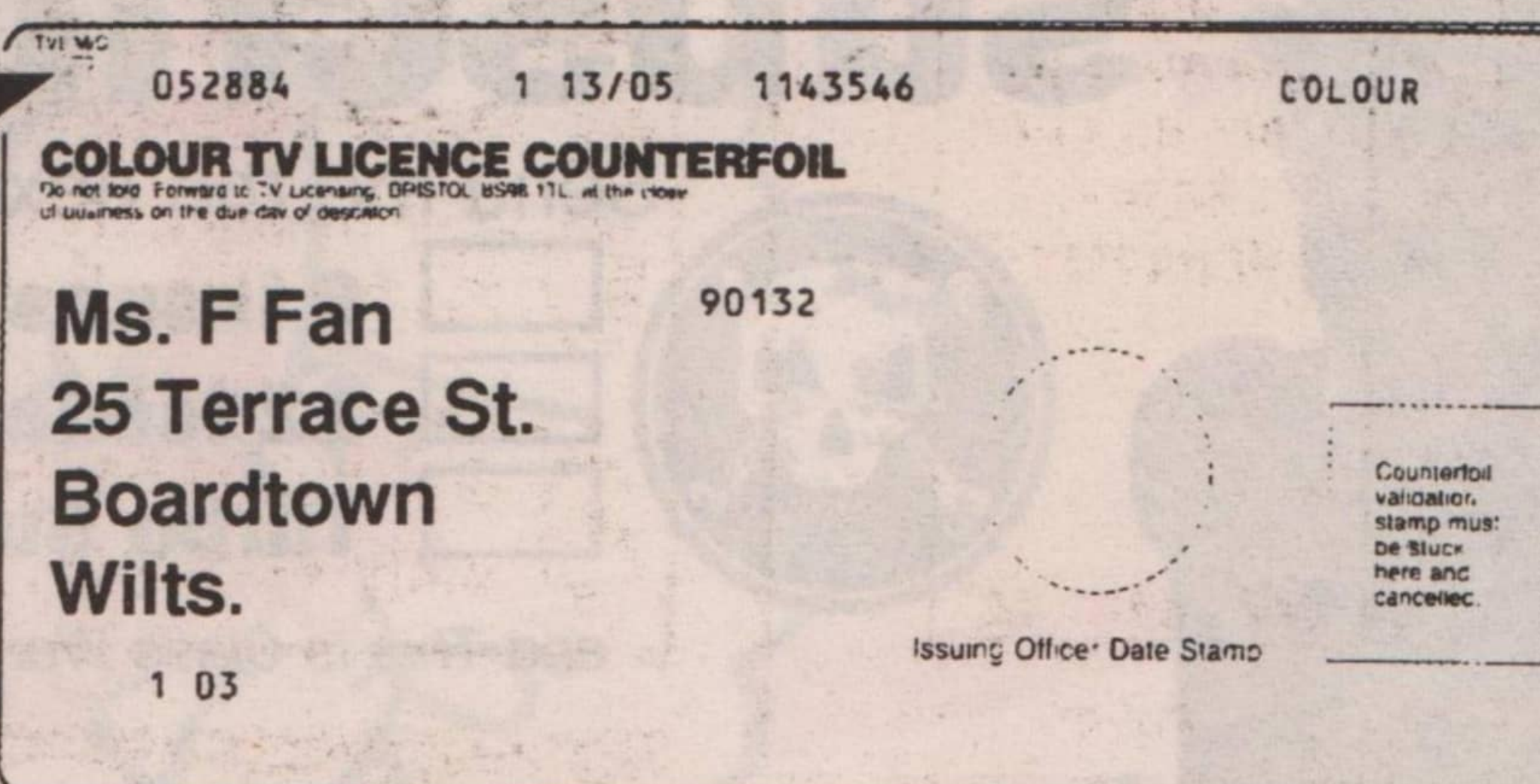
And maybe, just maybe, we will be able to bring back to the fans a sport that we all love, a sport that has been hijacked by the greed and capitalism in this country. As Celtic fans would say 'Thiocfaldh Ar La' (Our Day Will Come!).

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SMILEY LOOKS AT THE GAME

Here at *Class War* we have taken a look in to the Crystal Football to see what is in store for our game IF the bosses and big business get their way.

BEFORE THE GAME

No longer the charged atmosphere of fans chanting for their teams from the terraces. Instead a quiet crowd sits eating volavonts and petit fois, being entertained by live opera singers. Meanwhile huge screens flash up the clubs shares news.

THE MATCH

Polite applause only please. In the match we visited, three 'clients' as the spectators will be known, were escorted from the 'arena' (not grounds anymore) by private security for standing up after a goal.

Two others were not allowed in because litter was found next to their seat last week. There were no fouls during the match as footie is now a non contact sport. The only stoppages were for adverts.

AFTER THE MATCH

This is when the 'clients' are allowed to stand, clap and cheer. Not for their teams but for the directors as they leave the executive box whilst predictions of next weeks share prices are flashed around the arena.

Clients unprepared for this show of loyalty will have their ID cards removed for the next three matches, pending an investigation by the club's Board.

MORE SPORT

All that remains is the unpleasant task of getting home, which means having to run the gauntlet of missiles and abuse from the gangs of working class youths that still enjoy the age old sport of whacking the rich and their middle class lackies.

SPORT

SPORT FOR ALL?

During the local elections, the ANL/SWP plastered many cities with posters giving dire warnings that if elected the BNP and the NF would ban rave and soul music.

Those unfortunate enough to attend the SWP's flag waving conference, Marxism 94, found that the fascists aren't alone in attacking people's leisure habits. Throughout the building TV screens only showed the message "the organisers of Marxism 94 have requested we do not show World Cup coverage".

After all, how could a game such as Brazil v Holland possibly compete with gripping political meetings such as "Is there any socialist opera?" or cries to support Tony Blair?

The arrogance of a supposed 'revolutionary' party telling its members what they can and cannot watch in their own spare time tells us much about how any future society governed by these gangsters would look.

SWP members who missed that game may be interested to know that a tape of the match is available from London Class War for £5 (please make cheques payable to 'Class War') - and we promise not to tell your central committee.

HIT THE BOSSES

Following the death of Bradley Stone, after challenging for the British super-bantamweight title, we yet again hear calls for the sport to be banned from the middle class do-gooders.

Whilst it must be recognised that boxing is dangerous, it should also be seen that it is a sport that is taken up almost entirely by working class youth.

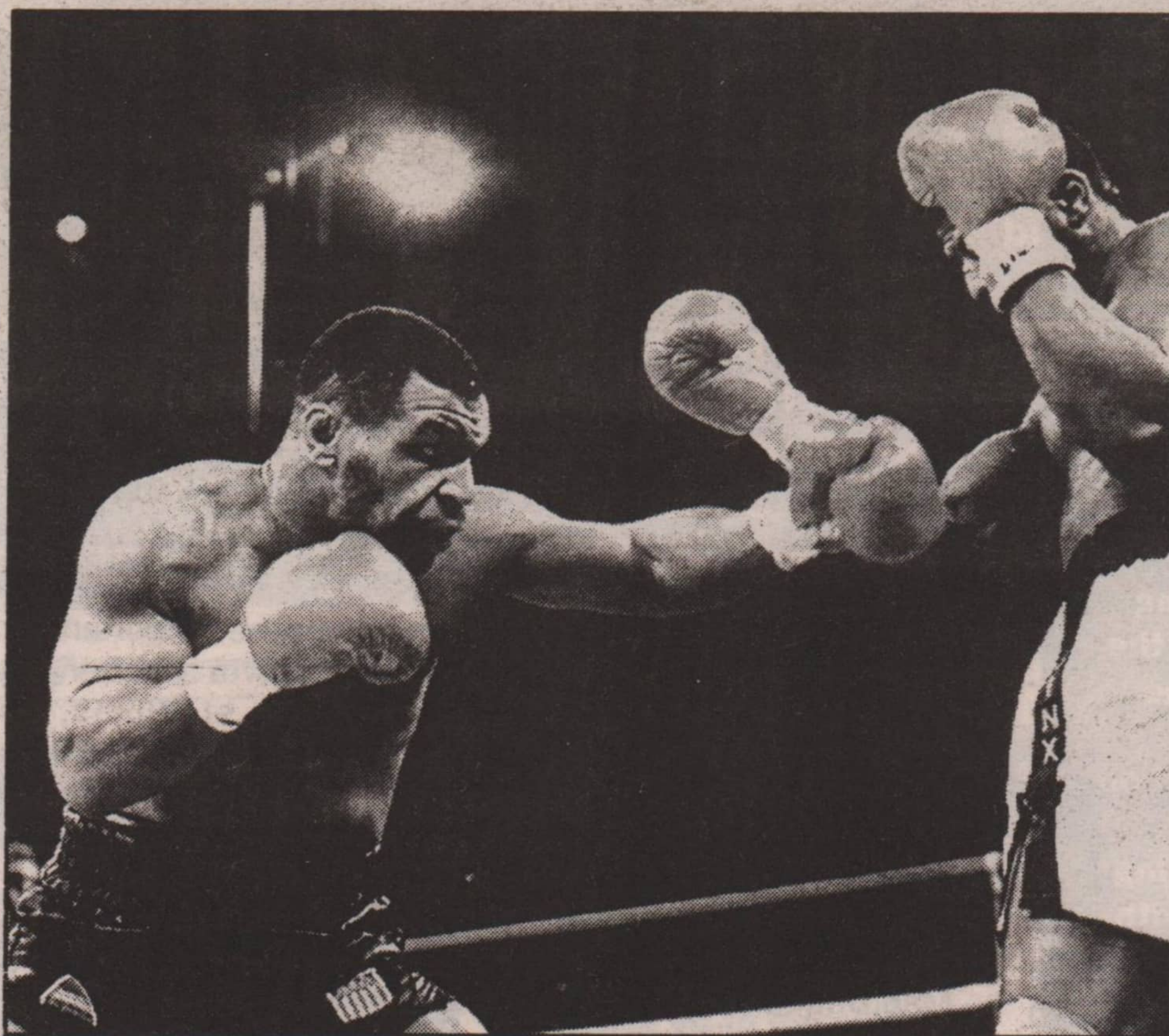
Young working class men, and now increasingly women, enter the sport because of the shit that capitalist society throws at them.

Faced with violence on the streets from the cops and anti-social crime, boxing is a way that our class have gained some form of self-defence.

Also for the very few who make it, this is one of the few ways that working class youth can make some decent money, a lot more than the normal shitty wages they give us.

MONEY

Bradley Stone was going to use the paltry £8,000 prize from the fight as a deposit on a house and Michael Watson (who almost died in the Eubank fight) earned £50,000 - which would have taken him at least four years to earn in his previous job as a van driver.



"Is this a civilised society? Once we get a civilised society then I say perhaps we should concern ourselves with banning boxing, but let's get a civilised society first" - Terry Marsh, former undefeated world champion boxer.

Even these purses are nothing to the £1,000's that the tossers from the British Medical Association earn, one of the biggest lobbies to ban boxing. Remember these are the people rip us off through the fund holding system: it doesn't matter if we get better as long as they make a profit.

Anyway boxing is not the most dangerous sport by a long way: between 1986

and 1992 whilst one man died from boxing, 46 died from ball games, 31 horse riding and 412 in water sports.

COPPERS

And what about the thugs who go around stamping on each others heads playing rugby, a lot of them are coppers so I suppose we shouldn't be surprised.

Remember Wade Doolley, the Blackpool pig,

knocking out a Welsh player in front of millions, if any of us had done it to him we'd have been in the cells, trashed and sent down for a year or two!

Why don't the middle class toss-pots call for these sports to be banned rather than boxing? It's because they don't understand our way of life and the shit that everyday life deals to us.

They have a patronising attitude that makes them think they know what's best for us, they try to run our lives all the time and the call to ban boxing is just another example of this.

We should tell them to fuck off! Banning boxing would only force the sport underground which would produce far more and worse injuries than at present, reducing the purse for the fighters and increasing profits for the managers and promoters.

RINGSIDE

We think that the rich bastards who milk the sport should be made to provide greater medical services

and back up at the ringside, facilities which would probably have saved Bradley Stone's life. At the moment boxers have to pay for their own medicals. There are also many other ways that the fight game can be made safer - having fewer rounds for example.

Boxing like the rest of society should be seen in class terms. Chris Eubank likened the promoters to the bosses and the fighters as the workers.

Don King, a complete wanker if ever there was one, took a young black street fighter, made a fortune out of him and when he couldn't cope with his new fortune dropped him to let him rot in jail.

We of course think Mike Tyson was a menace to society, hitting his wife and raping a young model, but we think that King is as much to blame for creating that problem. He should be banged up and the key thrown away!

CONTROL

Boxing, as with other forms of self-defence, will not disappear whilst we have to protect ourselves against the bosses society.

Boxing will go when we get control of our own lives and until then it is a way to survive in this society and a useful skill to bash the rich and the cops!

IN THE LIONS DEN

We received the following report from a Millwall fan in response to the article about the Millwall/Derby match in our last issue

Even walking to the ground the atmosphere was like a cup match. The new den was packed to the rafters, with everyone singing their hearts out, wicked!

Half an hour later we are five goals down on aggregate, the fans are on the pitch and the players are sprinting off. So what happened?

STAND AND SING

Frustration and anger have been building up at Millwall for ages. We've got an all seater stadium

that we never wanted but were given anyway.

We want to stand up and sing for our team, not pay £10 minimum for a seat in a ground that's so quiet at half-time it feels like a library.

RIP OFF

Then there was the Lions card rip-off, similar to Arsenal's bond scheme, give us your money and we'll take the piss out of you! On the night the old bill surrounded half the East Stand so no-one in the lower section could see.

Then they started pulling fans out and arresting them for no

reason, the fans reacted in the traditional fashion and charged through the police lines onto the pitch.

All this was left out of the media coverage which made out that all Millwall fans are subhuman scum who should be drowned in Bermondsey docks.

NOT PERFECT

Now Millwall fans aren't perfect, attacking players is bang out of order and there is also a big problem with racism, however the fans don't run around in hooded tops waving burning crosses!

There is racism at all football clubs which reflects the racism that

runs through society. It remains to be seen what the FA's decision will be about the riot but, like at Tottenham, it will be the ordinary fans who suffer - not the rich bastards on the board or the cops who caused the problem.

KICK THEM OUT!

All they're bothered about is making a bit more money out of us or splitting our heads open, whilst we care about how the team is doing.

A lot of Millwall's problems could be got rid of if we kicked out the rich bastards who run the club, but to deal with the racism, it's up to us the Millwall fans to sort it out!

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