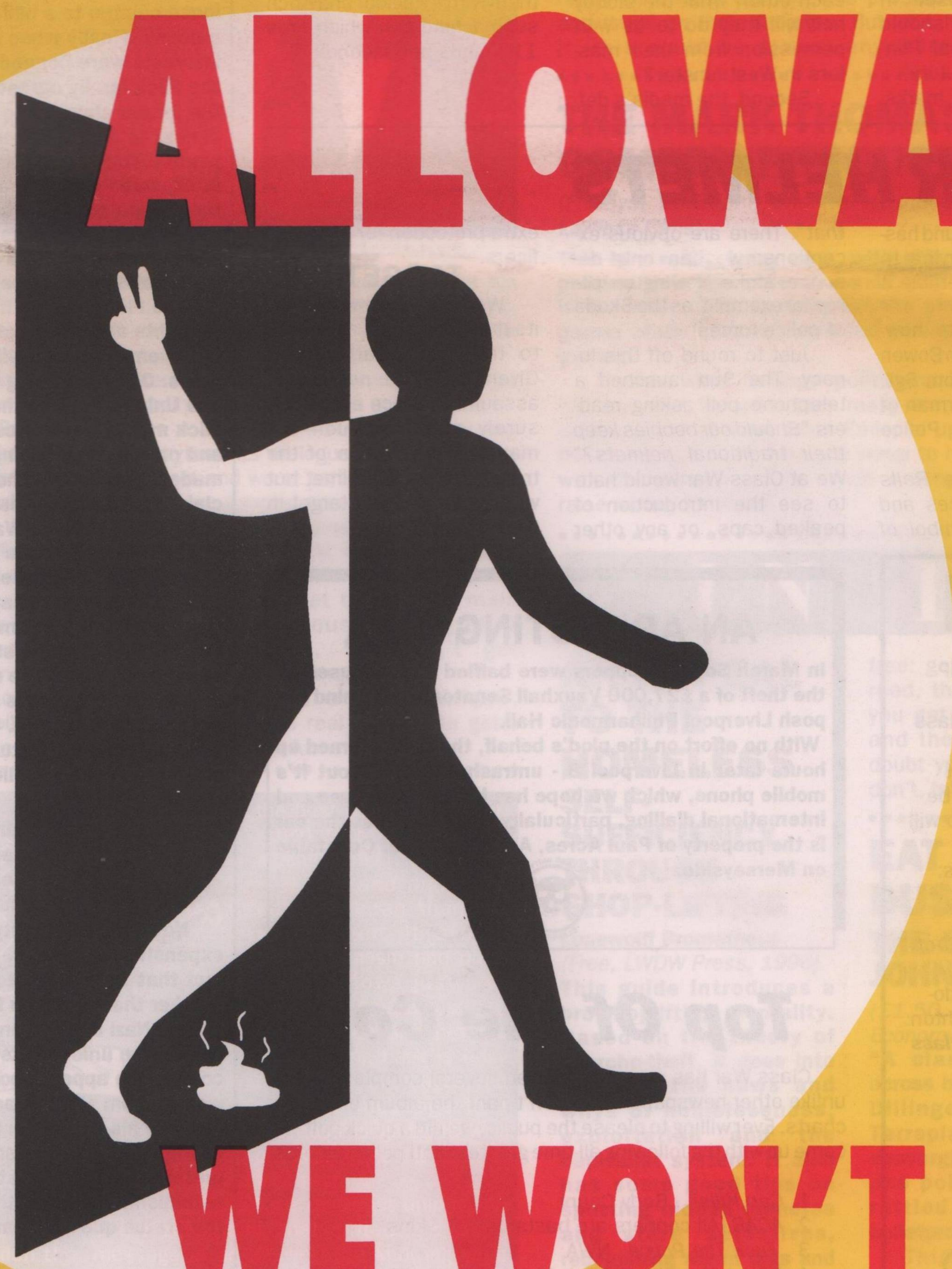


# CLASS WAR

BIRDS PUT THE TURD IN CUSTARD  
BUT WHO PUT THE SHIT IN No 10?

ISSUE 71 50p  
APRIL/MAY 1996

# BOB-A-JOBBY SEEKERS ALLOWANCE



# WE WON'T WORK FOR SHIT PAY!

NEWS, VIEWS, REVIEWS AND A SHIT-LOAD OF SCANDAL...  
IT'S ALL IN YOUR SUPER STEAMING CLASS WAR!

# SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM!

Anyone who remembers the Gulf War will remember the numerous cases of what was known as "friendly fire" namely the remarkable ability of American troops to shoot soldiers who happened to be on their own side.

Class War is delighted to report that this trend has now spread from the US army to the Metropolitan Police. Three members of the crack (or should that be cracked) Tactical Firearms Group managed to shoot each other at Bishopsgate police station whilst cleaning their guns.

They must not treat their guns very kindly at Bishopsgate as one bullet apparently went through one policeman's hand, passed through his colleague's leg and then hit the third man in the foot - a class conscious bullet! Whatever next, police horses that only trample their riders? Judging the ability the cops seem to have at shooting themselves in the foot (literally), we at Class War may have to change our position and call for the immediate arming of the police. Our researchers managed to find these examples from around

the country:  
**1990** - Hull: PC Bob Wellings shoots himself in



the leg.  
**1992** - London: A bumper year! Not only did a Scotland Yard marksman manage to shoot Top Of The Cop himself during a chase, but royal bodyguard Des Stout managed to shoot himself in training. Perhaps he should take one of the royal Princesses with him in future!  
**1993** - Essex: A marks-

man shoots a policeman chasing suspects in Chingford.



**1995** - Bristol: Police man at Avon Street station shoots a colleague in the thigh. A little higher next time please!  
 More seriously, if this is what these fuck-wits do to each other, what the bloody hell will they do to us with permission from their masters in Westminster?  
 Second, the media's def-

erence towards the police means that in recent years the police have pushed via the media, and got, an ever increasing array of new toys - side handled batons, pepper sprays, CS gas etc. Who's to say guns for every officer won't be next?

Whist the sight of the pigs shooting one another cheers everybody up, some of the above incidents happened in public places - it could have been you or me who got shot. Recently two police marksman entered B&Q in Audenshaw, Tameside, carrying their guns. Were they chasing international terrorists? Ambushing armed raiders? No. They were there to do some shopping.

The subsequent outcry - and the fact staff thought they were armed robbers means they're unlikely to do that again. But we must be willing to challenge armed police when they start appearing in our communities - after all do you trust any of them with a Heckler and Koch submachine gun which fires 11 rounds per second?

## OFF WITH THEIR HELMETS

The award for the daftest press article so far this year goes surprise, surprise, to our old friends at Wapping, *The Sun*.

The decision of Greater Manchester Police to replace helmets with American style peaked caps, sent *The Sun* into apoplexy.

However, unable to find any members of the public who actually gave a toss, they

ended up phoning around has-been entertainers trying to get quotes on how terrible it all was.

The classic quote however came not from Jim Bowen or Faith Brown but from Sgt. Stuart Nicholls, Chairman of the West Midlands Police Federation.

"Britain has the Rolls Royce of police forces and the helmet is a symbol of

that". There are obvious exceptions: we can only describe Stoke Newington police for example, as the Skoda of police forces!

Just to round off this lunacy, *The Sun* launched a telephone poll asking readers "Should our bobbies keep their traditional helmets?" We at Class War would hate to see the introduction of peaked caps, or any other

extra protection for police officers.

### TARGET

We do think however that its time for a small alteration to the traditional helmet. Given the large number of assaults on police each year, surely public opinion demands the retention of the traditional police helmet but with a bloody great target in the middle!

### Willie Tamson RIP

Died in early February from a heart attack in HMP Saughton, Edinburgh. He will rest with all the other working class heroes. We will never forget a solid class warrior who was never frightened to speak his mind against the machine that held him prisoner. A 101% anti-screw crew member and a good friend who will be missed by all. And to John Hogg, another friend who will be missed by all. B Hall and C Hall HMP Saughton raised money for the wreath. *Farewell fae the troops: Willie T - Jacko, Suff, Hoggy, Eck Dow, Jamsey Boy, Bonzo, Belly, Alex, John O'Connor, Westy, Allan Mc, Aldo, Mark Durie and your good friend Stevie Boy. Roof Top Posse: Saughton Division.*

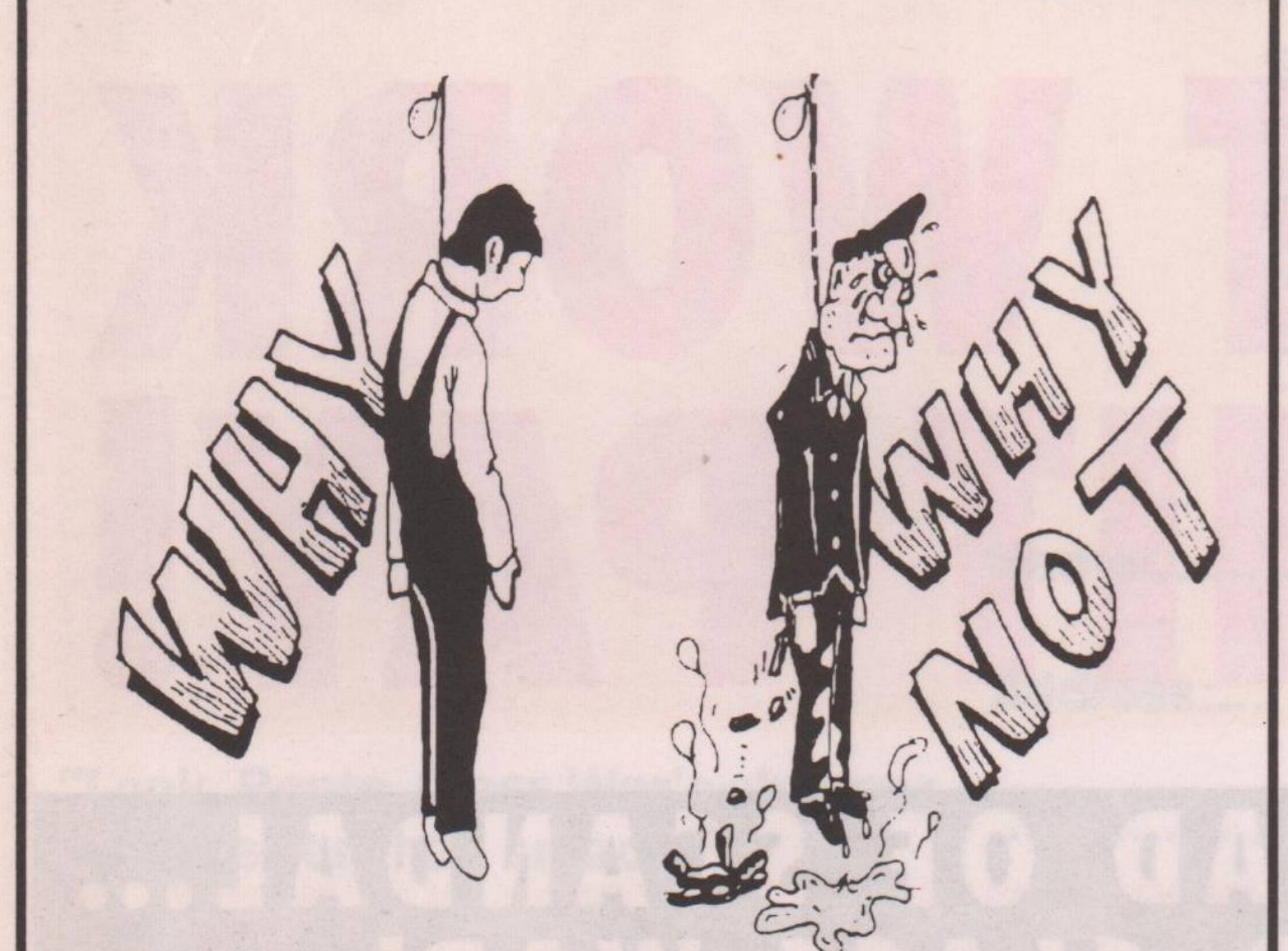
Dave Clark and all at Class War send their condolences to the family and his adopted family in Saughton.

**Working class anger never sleeps - working class honour never dles - Our Day Will Come.**

### AN ARRESTING IDEA

In March Scouse coppers were baffled and bemused by the theft of a £27,000 Vauxhall Senator from behind the posh Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

With no effort on the plod's behalf, the motor turned up hours later in Liverpool 8 - untrashed but without its mobile phone, which we hope has had plenty of use and international dialling, particularly in this case as the car is the property of Paul Acres, Assistant Chief Constable on Merseyside.



## Top Of the Cops

Class War has recently received several complaints that, unlike other newspapers, we don't print the album or singles charts. Ever willing to please the public, we did a quick poll and came up with the following all-time greatest anti-police records:

1. Cop Killer - Body Count
2. ACAB (All coppers are bastards) - 4 Skins
3. Fuck The Police - NWA
4. I Shot The Sheriff - Bob Marley
5. 911 is A Joke - Public Enemy
6. Police Truck - Dead Kennedys
7. Pigs - Cypress Hill
8. Who Protects us From You? - Boogie Down Productions
9. Millions Of Dead Cops - MDC
10. Cops for Fertilizer - Crucifucks

You'll notice our chart is dominated by Hip-Hop and Punk - if anybody knows of any anti-police country and western, or if you've got an exclusive copy of Diana Ross's cover version of "Fuck The Police" let us know .....

Oxford University would never name a professorship after Fred West. But they have just named one after the Flick family. Compared with the Flicks, Fred and Rose West are Grandad and Grandma Walton.

The man who built the family fortune was Friedrich Flick. Despite his name, Flick wasn't behind the natty haircuts sported by Charlie's Angels, and more recently, Hugh Grant. Flick's achievements are far less benign than a bout of bad fashion. He was responsible for the death of 40,000 Jews. Flick was a Nazi supporter and a close friend of Himmler's. During the Nazi era his factories and mines were supplied with (mostly Jewish) slave labour from the concentration camps. Conditions were so appalling that Flick had to keep asking his Nazi friends for more slaves: the ones he had kept dying on him...

At the Nuremberg Trials Flick was convicted of having used some 48,000 slaves. Only 8,000 survived the experience. After the war an unrepentant Flick reinvested the money from his factories and mines. He became the main shareholder in Daimler-Benz and was a billionaire by the time he died in 1972. That money is paying for the £350,000 professorship at Balliol College, Oxford.

Initially the post was going to be named the Flick chair, but accusations of taking blood money led to it being renamed Gert-Rudolf Flick - in an attempt to pretend the money was associated only with the grandson. Oxford protested that the money wasn't blood money, because the bulk of it had been made after the war. They conveniently left out the fact that the Flick family refused compensation to the former slaves, and that Friedrich Flick added insult to injury when he said he might consider compensation if the survivors could prove they were German. The amount being claimed by the pathetic number of survivors was loose change to a billionaire but Flick never parted with a penny. Finally when some of the family business interests were flogged to the Deutsche Bank in 1986, the Flick family agreed to give 'token compensation' to the former slaves who were still alive. For being worked almost to death they were paid just short of £50 per person. They wouldn't have got anything if the Flick family hadn't been scared of bad publicity damaging their share prices. Even if Friedrich Flick hadn't made the bulk of the billions the Flick fortune would still be blood money; empires are built on cruelty and exploitation rather than benevolence.

The Flick chair is in 'European Thought'; the thoughts and philosophies of the Flick family and others like them are responsible for some of Europe's darkest hours. Oxford is being paid £350,000 to rewrite history. The University is on the one hand claiming that the Flick money doesn't come smelling of the holocaust, and on the other saying that lots of rich people have made money out of the slave trade and nobody's claiming that their descendants are guilty of living off blood money. Class War are! It's impossible to be a multi-millionaire and a decent human being. Conscience is too much of a barrier to success.

It's no surprise that Oxford took the money and agreed to give fascism a good name. Oxford and Cambridge are the first privileged steps into parliament and big business. The nearest thing that Britain has to an honest politician is somebody who, when they are bought, stays bought. Oxford teaches its students that you can't make a fortune without breaking a few heads - in Friedrich Flick's case 40,000.

The reforming of The Sex Pistols shows that principles and dignity are the first things to disappear on the way to making a million, or six to be more precise.

Not even a publicity campaign master-minded by the expensive PR agency, Poole Edwards, could hide the fact that The Sex Pistols' latest moves are even dumber than the time they got Ronnie Biggs to dress up in a Nazi uniform and sing lead vocals. Twenty years on and the union jacks decorating their press conference appear about as subversive as inviting the woman from *Hello!* magazine. She wanted to know how much of his time John Lydon now spends in L.A. Not enough. The bastard should get back there and stop pretending that he's still threatening the establishment. He is the establishment. To bring down the status quo he'd have to jump off a building.

There are some friendly 'estate agents' who'd happily supply such a building for Lydon. JUSTICE? In Brighton recently opened an 'Estate Agents' for squatters.

The shop window had photos of desirable properties and handy hints on the easiest ways to get into them. 'Real' estate agents were incensed at people helping themselves to homes. As one idiot with too much money and not enough sense put it: "This is terrible. People can't move into houses just because there's no one living in them." Oh yes they can!

# NOT FIT FOR APES IN A ZOO...

Yet women prisoners at the new Eastwood Park Jail near Bristol are being kept in cells which under international law are unfit for the housing of animals.

## UNTRIED

On the 1st of March 1996 50 women prisoners, mostly as yet on remand and therefore untried never mind actually sentenced and the rest having been sentenced for non-violent offences, were transferred from the older Pucklechurch prison to the newly converted (from a former youth detention centre) Eastwood Park.

The majority of the cells in Eastwood Park measure 6 feet by 6 feet, which is 30% smaller than the minimum size laid down by the Prison Service's own standards. Cells of similar dimensions at Portland and Dartmoor were demolished in 1878 on the grounds of being "degrading and inhuman". Plans for this prison were "slammed" in 1995 by the former chief inspector of prisons, Judge Stephen Tummin, who warned the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, that these cells are HALF the size of those in other women's prisons. One wing in this jail has 26 "slightly" bigger cells - 6 feet by 10 feet - which are reserved for those prisoners who "behave exceptionally well" and have earned a move under the prison service "enhanced incentives" scheme.

## DOUBLE STANDARDS

The prison service's own operating standards (published in 1994) state that -

"The minimum size of a cell or cubicle for refurbished accommodation should be 5.5 square metres." However on 24th February 1996 a prison service spokesman said "Those standards are not legally enforceable. They merely set benchmarks by which we can measure things. Although the cells are below minimum size in the standards, the cost of enlarging them would be disproportionately high." He also claimed that the women would only use their cells for sleeping in, before admitting that most people do not sleep for 14 hours a day, the minimum time women are expected to spend cooped up. The Supreme Court in the United States set a LEGAL minimum cell size of 80 square feet - more than twice the size of cells in Eastwood Park.

## HOME COMFORTS!

The female prison population in Britain is currently around 2150, having risen 40% in the past 2 years. One third of these women have been imprisoned for defaulting on fine payments or for non-payment of the TV licence. Only one third of all women remand prisoners actually receive a custodial sentence - the other two thirds are either acquitted or receive another form of sentence. A Home Office study in 1991 found that 56% of female SENTENCED prisoners are mentally ill. Female REMAND prisoners have long been recognised as MOST LIKELY to attempt suicide or to mutilate themselves. Many of the former Pucklechurch women are sexual abuse survivors and had been receiving therapy in either the "airy, spacious" 12 bed hospital or one of the 15 "sheltered accommodation" cells there. Eastwood Park has only one 10 bed hospital to serve the needs of both mentally and physically ill women. 50 women were transferred to Eastwood Park on 1st March. It will eventually house at least 134 women. Around half of the women moved from the former prison at Pucklechurch are mothers. Facilities for them to spend time with their children have not as yet been built.

As the women were moved in during the first week in March, conditions in Eastwood Park were found to be much worse than expected. Women are not allowed to have plants or flowers in their cells nor keep craft items such as knitting needles and wool. They are allowed only TWO evenings of association per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During this time they must make their phone calls (providing the phones are in working order, which they were not in the first week), have their showers or baths (one bath, to be shared by the women of two wings, had no running COLD water initially) and use the gym or pursue other activities AND AT NO OTHER TIMES. Also in that first week, there was no work or education available, so the women were spending up to TWENTY TWO hours a day in their cells. For two days there was no heating (leading to women having to lie under their covers with their clothes on to keep warm) and the halls were still dusty from building work still in progress. One woman, who managed to have a letter smuggled out, described the cell as "slightly larger than a double bed" and lists some of her "home comforts" as a door that cannot open fully, a bed that takes up half of the cell, an almost inaccessible sink and a bookshelf that can be reached if she stands on top of the toilet.

## "EXCELLENT"?

Despite all this, prison service officials claim that the women "like" the prison and find the facilities to be "excellent". This basic regime - "a tool to assist ... in improving control" - means that the women are lying on their beds from 5pm to 7am. Even the screws are pissed off claiming it makes them feel like "Concentration Camp Guards" This treatment is nothing short of institutionalised abuse of vulnerable women and anyone who condones it should be walled up in one of these cells till they rot.

If you have any information or stories or articles on any prison abuses or changes in regimes. Contact the INSIDE OOT collective at the Glasgow PO box 1008 Glasgow G42 8AA.

## BUNGLING BOBBIES

Bungling bobbie's broke into a hotel room and put 31 year old forestry foreman Willie McAllister's hotel room at 1.30am and then put him through an humiliating strip search and intimate search including bending over to check he was not hiding anything and went all over the room looking for drugs, they then ordered him to get dressed and marched him outside in full view of other guests too search his van, after finding nothing they said sorry and let him get to bed. ONLY TO WAKE HIM UP AGAIN AND ASK HIM IF HE HAD SEEN THEIR WARRANT AS THESE USELESS PRATS HAD LOST IT..



## HOSPITALISED COPPER

Cor! What a shiner! What with the increase of cop helicopters, the use of pepper spray, CS gas and long-armed truncheons, and their usual meat-headed violence, you'd expect better than this from the Plod, wouldn't you? However, when WPC Vanessa Greening of Strathclyde Constabulary stepped in to help a fellow copper make an arrest, she was physically prevented by a small group who were having none of her interference.. she was, well, eyeballed.



"Not like that mate... Torch the bastard!"

Pictured is Frank Stott of Scottish firm, ICL 'Technical Plastics'. When he's not supplying British police with riot shields like the one he's demonstrating, he flogs electroshock batons (illegal in Britain) to brutal regimes abroad. These batons are used for torture as often as for 'riot control'.

The British ruling class love the Stotts of this world, and are obviously keen to turn a blind eye.. but we're not! Some day these sick bastards will get the shock of their lives, and no plastic shield will save them.

## STRATHCLYDE BOSSES BOW OUT WITH BIG BINGE

Cash hungry Strathclyde Regional Council bosses paid more than £2,000 for 44 community workers to have a 1 day training course at a top hotel on the banks of Loch Lomond. As well as a buffet lunch they were wined and dined at night on the £50 a head beano. As councillors raise taxes and cut services they send staff to line the pockets of hotel owners and subsidise the holidays of the well-heeled. Nobody thinks training in people's jobs is a bad idea but this council has hundreds of halls and community centres and it's own catering firm (the largest in local Government control and 5th largest overall in Britain).

## FILLING BANKBOOKS OF THE RICH

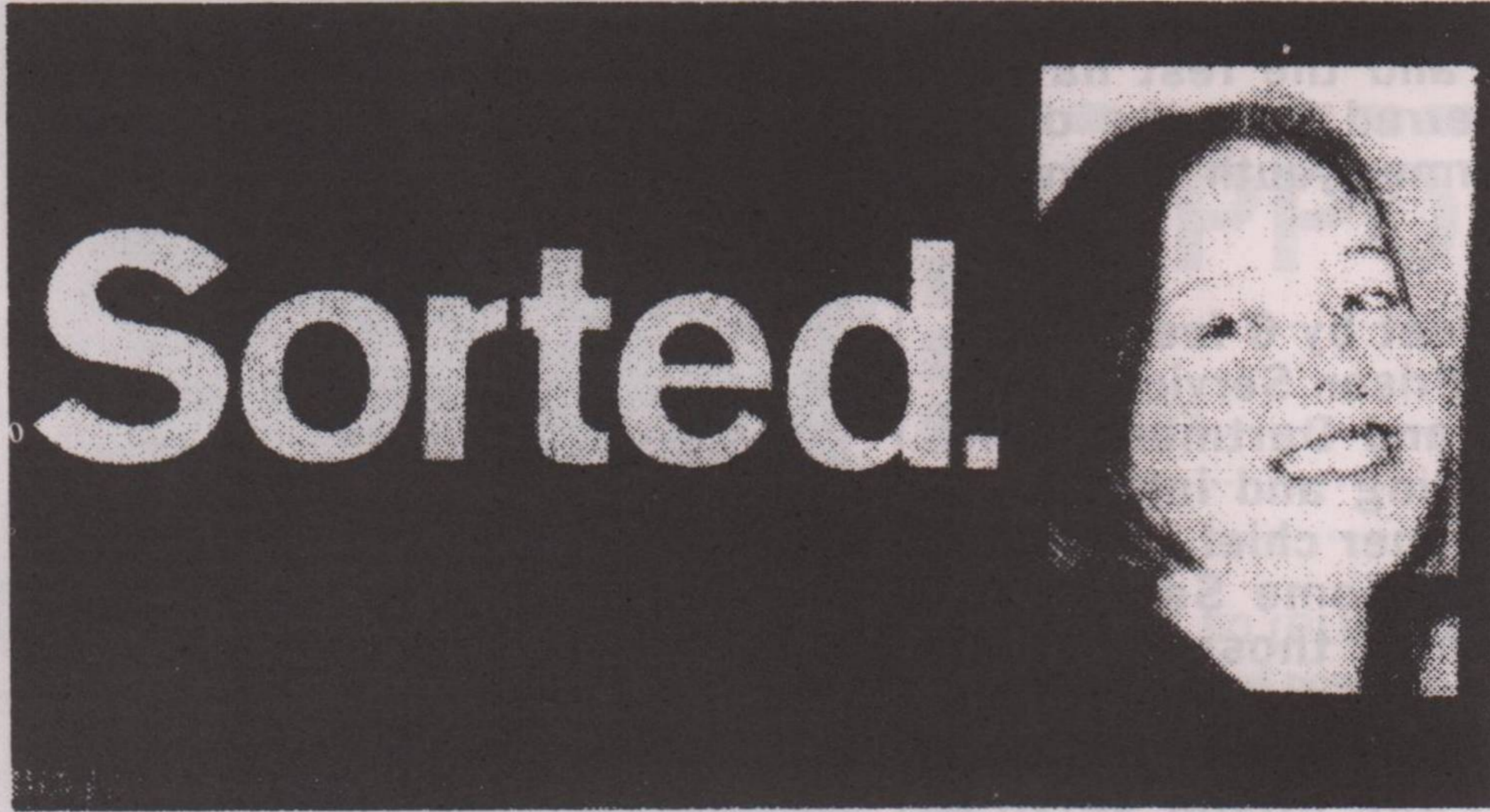
SURELY THESE ARE THE VENUES AND RESOURCES THAT SHOULD BE BEING USED INSTEAD OF BLOWING OUR MONEY IN THIS WAY AND HELPING TO FILL THE BANKBOOKS OF THE RICH.

# DEATH BY DISINFORMATION

After the recent, tragic death of teenager Leah Betts after taking her first ecstasy pill, the government controlled media launched an hysterical witchhunt against drug use.

The coroners inquest later revealed that she had actually died not from the E, but from drinking an excess of water. What is actually needed to prevent drug related deaths is honest factual information on drug usage combined with pharmaceutically produced drugs, as opposed to the bilge like propaganda produced by the establishment.

If you want to try E for the first time, it is advisable to start with half a tablet to test for allergic reactions such as skin rashes etc.



## DEATHS

Ecstasy related deaths have also to be seen in context, since 1987 there have been 60, this compared with the 1992 deaths from tobacco at 223,109 and alcohol at 3,565 - and that excludes deaths when under the influence. As conservative estimates put ecstasy consumption at 1 million doses per week, thus the death risk is about one in 6.8 million.

The fact that Leah Betts father worked for the drug squad and her mother as a nurse in drugs counselling shows the futility of the governments lies, and their refusal to get real, coupled with their authoritarian, paternalistic approach to what we do with our own bodies will undoubtedly lead to more unnecessary deaths in the future.

## ANTI-SOCIAL

Another aspect of the illegal drugs trade is that anti-social activities can often come with it, ie. people stealing off their friends and neighbours to fund their drug use, and wars between drug gangs (in the USA, the filth often stir up trouble between gangs to provoke this- how long will it be before they start doing it here to turn working class communities into war zones?)

What communities have to get across is the message

## Yet another example of bollocks

that if people have to steal to buy drugs, don't steal off your own - go to the rich areas and steal off them, don't sell nasties such as heroin or rip people off by cutting drugs and don't give your own community aggro.

## GETTING HIGH

The furore over ecstasy has also clouded another important factor, that dealers will sell E in preference to other drugs such as LSD due to the higher profit margins involved. Cannabis, magic mushrooms, DMT have been in use for thousands of years (LSD was discovered over 50 years ago and has been in widespread use since then) with no physically damaging effect. However at the present time these well tested drugs are not widely available, thus forcing people who want to get high onto drugs which may not be suitable.

*Suggested further reading on the safety aspects of E etc are "Ecstasy and the Dance Culture" by Nicholas Saunders Acid Dreams - the complete social history: CIA, 60s and beyond by Martin A Lee and Bruce Shlain*

# IF THE KIDS ARE UNITED

Much debate on education in recent years has centred on the importance of school children learning the 3R's.

We at Class War could not agree more. The 3 R's should be drummed into school children from Day 1 - the all important R's being Resist, Rebel, Revolution!

ripped up schoolbooks. The police then turned up and showed how hard they are by arresting a 14 year old girl. We wonder how long kids at some posh public school would have to wait if meningitis had been rampant in their area (we should be so lucky!)

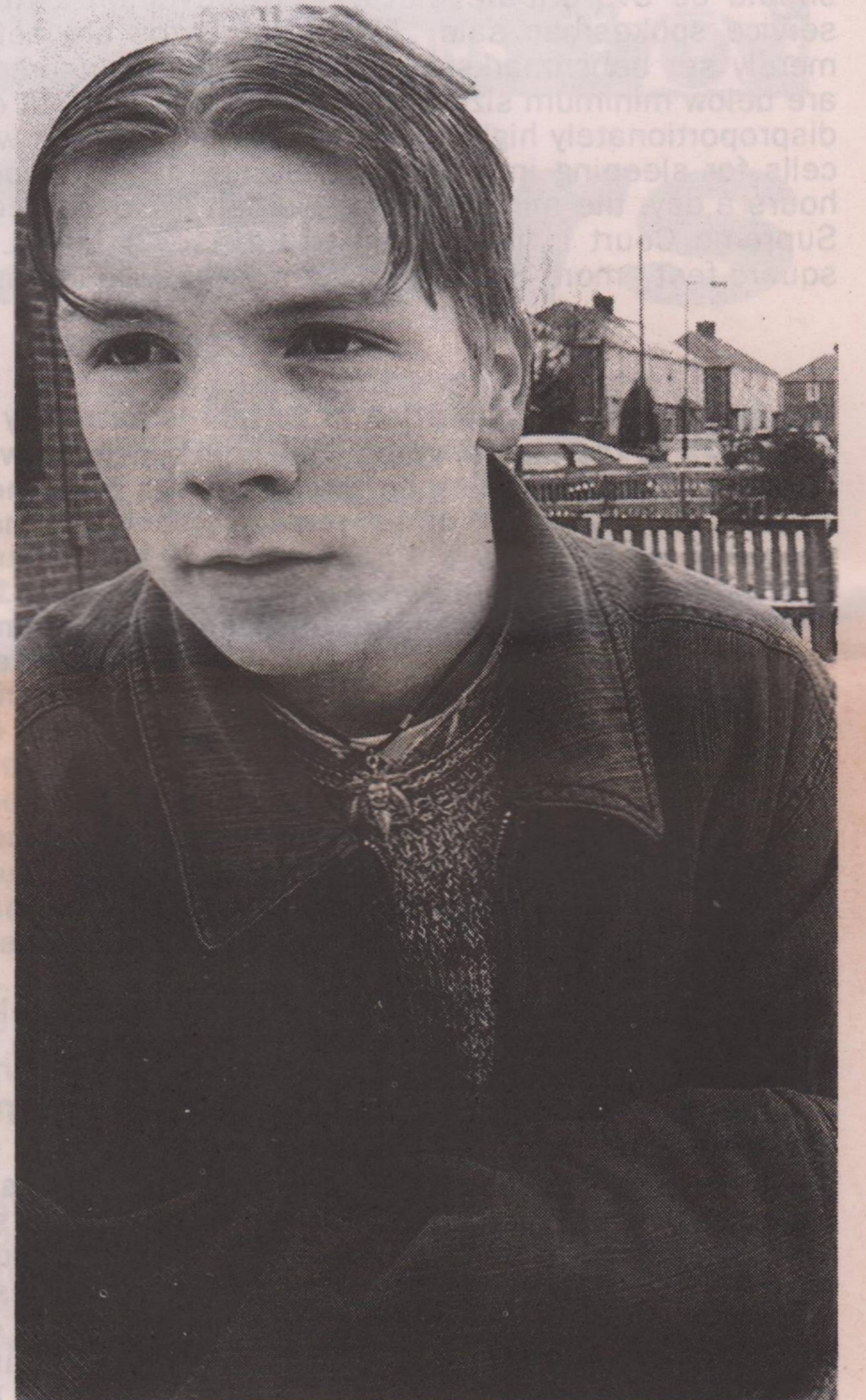
## CLASS WAR

### EDLINGTON

A good example of this comes from Edlington comprehensive school in the ex-colliery village of Edlington, Doncaster. After

They definitely seem to learn young in Edlington as this is the third pupils strike in the past 12 years.

1993 saw one in support of the campaign



Class War says - teach 'em young!

## CRASH BANG



We always thought you had to be mad to like the Royal family, but Bernard Quinn from Weston-Super-Mare shocked even us.

Quinn was arrested back in January in Liverpool for breaching security when Anne Windsor (alias Princess Anne) was visiting Liverpool to patronise local people.

The policeman who arrested Quinn told the court that Quinn was obsessed with Princess Anne "He told me in the past he had entertained sexual fantasies about the

Princess Royal and had been involved in a car crash after imagining a session of sex with the Princess Royal"

We know that the mind can wander during long car journeys, but the thought of Princess Anne naked is enough to make even the strongest buckle.

We publish Mr. Quinn's picture, not to mock the afflicted, but as a warning for all our readers who drive. If you see Bernard Quinn in your rear view mirror get out of the way quick!

## TIP TOP

There is some debate as to whether or not people should leave a tip when eating in restaurants or cafes.

Often you've paid enough for the meal already and tipping can be seen as condoning the shite wages many waiters and waitresses receive. Then again you can usually be sure a tip will go to the worker concerned, and not into the bank account of some fat bastard boss.

There was no such ethical debate for Kevin and Ian Maxwell, sons of the

former Labour MP and Daily Mirror owner, Robert Maxwell, when they went out for a meal during their trial for fraud.

## CHOKER

Kevin Maxwell told the Mirror "A waitress who served me said she hoped I would choke on the meal after having been given all those millions"

Any other examples of service of this quality would be welcome. In the meantime we are happy to make the unnamed waitress our worker of the week.

## KEEP ON RUNNING

Since the introduction of Crimewatch UK, our television screens have been swamped with real life cop shows and reconstructions of true crimes.

Invariably these reconstructions feature a smirking copper bragging about how he caught "chummy" due to a mixture of good old-fashioned police work and skilled implementation of new technology -DNA, video surveillance etc.

## ONE OFF

The message behind the news is clear - you can't get away with anything anymore, no matter what you do we'll catch you. Given this its always nice to hear about one that got away.

Detective Inspector

Graham Sterry has recently been whingeing to the Hackney Gazette that he still has not caught up with a Stamford Hill man who was charged with riot after the 1990 Trafalgar Square riot against the poll tax.

## BATTERED

DI Sterry is not pursuing his prey 6 years on just because loads of cops got battered though. "We owe it to those affected by the riot and to the defendants who have been up and taken their punishment"

We're sure all the people jailed for fighting the poll tax would be absolutely devastated if anybody got away with it. All we can say to Stamford Hill's answer to Ronnie Biggs is keep on running mate!

a rise in cases of meningitis in neighbouring towns, there was mass inoculation of school children in Retford and Rotherham, but not in Doncaster.

Then when a primary schoolgirl in Edlington went down with meningitis, 100 pupils at the comprehensive walked out on strike demanding mass vaccination.

## EGGS

When teachers tried to order the kids back in, they were met with eggs and

against pit closures, and 1984 saw the kids demonstrate against the police occupation of their town during the miners strike.

## FULL SUPPORT

Sadly it now seems the local education authority are now trying to expel some of the kids who walked out. However as the parents fully support their children's actions, there shouldn't be much chance of that - and also, as we all know, if the kids are united, they will never be divided!

## GRASSES

Many people have started growing their own marijuana to ensure quality and low price, but we have to issue a word of caution. One company, Sunlight Systems - who sell growlights and cannabis seeds, have been supplying their mailing lists to the filth, resulting in the arrests of home gardeners. If you buy stuff like this we urge you to use cash or postal orders and dummy names and addresses.

# LET THEM EAT BEEF!



## anti election alliance



CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE,  
HOLBORN, LONDON WC1

NEAREST TUBE: HOLBORN  
(Central Line)

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 1996  
(1.30 - 5.30pm)

**A MEETING TO DISCUSS OUR AIMS AND  
METHODS**

**ALL WELCOME - HOWEVER COPPERS, STALINISTS AND  
OTHER SUCH INADEQUATES NEED NOT ATTEND!**

## INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ASSOCIATION

The Class War Federation broadly welcomes the development of the IWCA.

This is because it *appears* to show that a section of lefty groups have at last adopted a non-dogmatic, anti-Labour Party position that recognises the independence of the working class and of the need for community based struggle.

However, history tells us that the gap between what lefties say and what lefties do is often vast.

As a Federation we have grave suspicions concerning the motives of some of those parties involved.

Accordingly, the Class War Federation is going to closely monitor the development of the IWCA, which includes a degree of involvement within it. We wait to see if this is a genuine initiative or just another bunch of lefties desperately trying to recruit members from each other.

Watch this space.

## Independent Working Class Association

**The Moment of Truth**  
In June 1994, the media reported that Labour had recruited only 6,000 trade unionists from the 4,000,000 political levy payers offered a vote in the leadership poll. Since then Labour has recruited well in excess of 80,000 target figure. But if they are not trade unionists who are they? Activists within the Socialist Workers Party who will be campaigning for Labour at the next election already know the answer. "All the indications are that the electoral support and possible membership emerges from the thoroughly rattled middle classes and not from the working class at all." Former deputy leader Roy Hattersley concurs. "We live in the age of the almost universal middle class - what they want from a political party is prudent compassion. The near unanimous support for cautious altruism is an electoral blessing."  
(Founding Statement, 21 October 1995)

**O**ne of the most significant developments for American was the Black civil rights movement, which was to go far beyond the call to end segregation. From King to Malcolm X, there was a spiralling of demand which shook the foundations of America - Black Power. Elements of the emerging Black Power movement were openly revolutionary. The Black Panther Party were one of the principle agents in this leap from rights to revolution.

Their influence went right to the heart of the black urban ghetto; whilst allot of revolutionary politics, at that time, were based on the student movement, the Panthers were class based and believed in radical community struggle. This made them 'number one threat to internal security' according to Hoover, director of the FBI.

They made many mistakes, but they also made many advances for grass roots development of revolutionary class struggle.

Deriving its name and its infamous symbol from the Mississippi-based Lowndes County Freedom Organisation, the Panther Party of Self-Defence was founded in the fall of 1966, in the Oakland area of California by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.

Newton and Seale, both fed up with the inaction of many of the so-called black cultural/nationalist radical groups which knocked around on the campus scene but failed to relate to the brothers on the block' in any way.

They drew up a ten-point platform which reflected many of the needs and demands of black radicals, and more importantly the needs of the oppressed black communities of America.

The programme in itself was not unique, some have said it resembled the Nation of Islam's programme. But unlike the Black Muslims, the Panthers were willing to implement their programme in imaginative and practical manner.

Their first moves in the Oakland bay area was to arm themselves in defence of the black community from the racist police force. To implement point seven of their programme, which related to the brutalisation of the black community by the police, they decided to patrol the police patrols, to stop the police harassment and violence.

The idea of patrolling the police was not unique to the Panthers. After the Watts riot of '65 (which was provoked by police violence) there were similar initiatives to keep tabs on the police. The Panthers would take it a step further by arming their patrols in the tradition of the American Constitution, (the right to bear arms), and within the Californian state penal code relating to the public display of arms.

Armed defence within the Black civil rights movement had already surfaced with the actions of the Deacons of Defence, who were formed to protect the Civil rights marches in the South from attacks from the Klan. Also Robert Williams, who wrote Negroes With Guns, had also an influence on this controversial, but infamous policy, of the Panthers.

The patrols were initially a success, with the Oakland police department being put out of joint by this unheard of step to limit their power in black community. Cops were initially frightened by the Panthers' action, and the cheek of it, as well as the courage to do it. These were no arm-chair revolutionaries.

The police were ironically turning away from harassing black residents, but turned their zeal on the Panthers themselves. Petty indictments and showdowns were becoming more frequent. The Oakland police Dept. had also approached a Republican statesman, Donald Mulford, to introduce a bill to ban the wearing of guns in public. It was made clear that the legislation was designed to disarm the Panthers, legally.

The Oakland-based group decided to react to this by staging an infamous display of arms, at the State Capitol building, in May 1967. It was a media coup which was to propel the Panthers onto the stage of American politics.

Up until then the Panther Party constituted a relatively small group, who had a bit of a favourable reputation in the Oakland Bay/ San Francisco area.

the message of the right to bear arms when confronted with a racist establishment struck a cord with many militants around the country. Branches and chapters starting popping up all over the country.

Meanwhile the party started getting organised, the police were putting the heat on them; the Mulford 'anti-Panther' Bill was passed, making it illegal to carry guns in public, so the Panthers could not effectively carry out their patrolling of the pigs (a term that they first popularised), not without deaths and many arrests. It was a tactic they could not effectively use against them any more.

By the end of 1967 they had the Panthers' Minister of Defence, and effectively the leader, Huey Newton behind bars facing a long jail sentence and possible death in custody, for a shoot-out that left him injured and a cop injured, and another dead. He was imprisoned for three years, until he was released on appeal.

There was a massive 'Free Huey' campaign which was important in mobilising support for himself and the party from many quarters.

With Newton behind bars, the police were stepping up their repression of the growing movement around the Panthers. Raids on party offices and homes of members, shoot-outs, frame-ups and assassinations were carried out by various police departments. It was getting so bad that many were convinced it was a national campaign/conspiracy to wipe out the party.

Bobby Hutton in Oakland. Fred Hampton, a charismatic leader who had some influence of the Chicago gang scene, i.e. politicising them.

He was killed in a raid when he was drugged by an FBI agent who had become his bodyguard!

Bunchy Carter and John Huggins were killed by members of a rival group, Ron Karenga's bogus radical group United Slaves, (US), in UCLA in Los Angeles. Evidence points to the fact that the US gunmen were FBI agents, and Karenga was connected with the Feds.

It was becoming apparent that it was not just over-zealous police departments attacking the Panthers, it was something allot bigger. The FBI's COIN TELPRO (Counter Intelligence Programme), was behind much of the party's problems. In 1968 the Feds turned their attentions to the BPP. An FBI memo by J. Edgar Hoover to his field agents, outlined their strategy:

**"to exploit all avenues of creating...dissension in the ranks of the BPP recipient offices are instructed to submit imaginative and hard hitting counterintelligence measures aimed at crippling the BPP"**

The Hoover had been trying to undermine the black civil rights movement, and then the emerging Black Power movement for quite some time. Harassment of Martin Luther King and various other black leaders

**ALMOST THIRTY YEARS SINCE THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CAME INTO EXISTENCE, MARIO VAN PEEBLES, OF NEW JACK CITY AND POSSE FAME, DIRECTED A FILM OF AMERICA'S MOST INFAMOUS BLACK REVOLUTIONARIES. WE TAKE A BRIEF LOOK AT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AS THEY SEIZED THE TIME**

had been top on their agenda. FBI directives were quite clear on this; internal memos stated: 1] To stop any alliance of any Black nationalist or radical group emerging, and 2] prevention of a new black messiah which could unite the black communities.

Tactics that were employed were covert. Agent infiltration and provocateur activity; frame-ups and tampering with evidence, also discrediting of the organisations targeted as well as stirring up hatred within and outside organisations, and often puerile actions like fake letters and cartoons that had devastating effect.

tampering and outright set-ups. L

In fact it became clear that the Party was being infiltrated, this was easy because it was a mass organisation which expanded in a short space of time. Many of the informants and agents were likely to have been drawn from the Ghetto Informant Program. Most informants were criminals who swap long sentences for paroles in return for becoming agents for the Feds.

The weaknesses of the BPP were exploited to the full. They centred around the way the organisation run itself and was developing: vanguardism and strong centralist leadership, and the cult of personality.

From the start, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, started the party and stayed in the most powerful positions. The vertical structure of the party, based on a central committee controlling ministries, and in turn organising different sections of the party, based on government type positions in the upper echelons of the party and at the rank-and-file level members were organised with military



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# TO THE PEOPLE

# THE ANTHER PARTY NCE

style positions of captains and troops (cadres).

Such a structure was to breed undemocratic authority and unquestioning obedience as well as creating distance and inequality between members. Whilst being disciplined had a tendency to move to elitist and authoritarian solutions to problems faced by the Panthers.

Prominent members like Geronimo Pratt questioned the validity of vertical structures of the party, in favour of more horizontal (cell type) structures, because the movement was so widespread, which would empower local leadership. He was accused of being too militaristic, and even being an agent, by Newton.

The problem of infiltration was blurred with the dissension. Newton and Seale were convinced that all dissension was the work of the FBI agents.

Lack of debate and a shared political vision was at the root of the party's problem. The direction of the party and its internal handling of the war of attrition that the state was waging on the party were at the heart of the split which effectively ended the unity of the party.

Also a point of contention was the allocation of funds as well as unjustifiable expulsions.

The split became personified by Newton and (then exiled) Cleaver. But the split was not just between the two leaders but between the rank-and-file and the leadership. Cleaver was an opportunist who wanted to see the direction of the party changed.

He was not supportive of the community programmes, but favoured a military strategy. He saw the dissent in the party and used it to further his own agenda.

Instead of debating the issue of how the party should move ahead he created factionalism and split the party between the East and West coasts. With the aid of FBI meddling which exploited the situation to create distrust amongst members.

Newton resolutely tightened his grip on the party centralising the efforts of the party in Oakland using the community programmes. Whilst Seale and Elaine Brown ran for various political offices, dragging the Panthers into dangerous waters of electoral dead-end road of representative politics.

Many who saw the direction of the party becoming more reformist left the party. The party's enterprises which raised and the funds raised many doubts.

Newton's personal style of leadership had changed since he had returned from prison, and it got worse with each crisis faced by the party. The capacity for self destruction was only second only to the FBI's onslaught on them.

The same pressures which were to nullify the militancy of black communities in the coming years started eroding the influence and direction of the Panthers.

Huey Newton and Dave Hilliard got into coke addiction and all its inherent side effects. Newton went on the run for murdering a prostitute who insulted him and pistol-whipping his tailor into a hospital theatre, residing in Cuba.

His descent of rage made expulsions of even his closest friends and allies commonplace. He died in 1989 in a bust-up over drugs, his descent was well publicised by the papers as personification of the bankruptcy of the Panther Party.

The leadership went to Elaine Brown who continued in the same style of iron hand control of the party moving away from revolution.

Members who had been forced underground by state harassment and by their disillusionment at the lack of revolutionary focus formed the loose network known as the Black Liberation Army.

The Panthers were by far the most progressive of all black movements. They believed in the class struggle as the ultimate destruction of white supremacy and capitalism. They were supportive, particularly of 'lumpen-proletariat' alliances and organisations. These they saw as the natural vanguard in a revolution.

For them, it was Class not Race, that was the important factor that defined them from other Black nationalist organisation.

Their ability to reach into the community and politicise it is a fine example of how revolutionary politics can set the agenda. The patrolling of the police and the populist community programmes, which are sources of inspiration, needed to be developed into a thorough doctrine of revolutionary struggle.

The base for the Panthers were their own communities, the patrolling served as practical response to a social problem the police. The Community programmes (which were aptly named survival programmes - pending revolution) not only could alleviate the harsh conditions faced by the black communities, but could also create a demonstrative alternative to the capitalist system - however limited.

An ex-Panther, turned anarchist, Lorenzo K. Ervin, who spent 15 years inside for his part in the struggle, outline the concept in his book **Anarchism and the Black Revolution**. But, in common with the

Black Panthers, Black Autonomists believe that ... we can begin to turn our communities into dual power communes, from which we can wage a protracted struggle against capitalism."

This concept of creating a community of resistance, a Black Commune, in the heart of the most deprived areas of America was not fully developed due to the party splitting and because there was not a full understanding of how the programmes could develop to its full revolutionary potential.

The concept of community control and the concept of dual power communes, may appear similar but are drastically different. Dual power envisages an alternative and oppositional to the status quo institutions like federal and local governments, businesses etc.

Community control can be de-radicalised if it moves into the arena of local political machinery, and thus isolated from the people.

A clear revolutionary vision and program was lacking on how this community activism could unleash the black communities revolutionary potential. It did create viable forms of mutual aid, solidarity and galvanised the community into controlling its own affairs, i.e. self-determination.

The Panthers, unlike many political groups in the black community or left wing parties, was not that sectarian. They had based much of their activity on building alliances.

Their influence was fuel for many revolutionary organisations. The Free Huey campaign managed to galvanise many different factions around the issues facing the radical movement in the USA.

The alliance with the Youth and Freedom Party (basically the party of the Yippie movement), educated the white student radical to the struggle being waged by black militants, and their subsequent repression. Though their hippy liberalism was an obstacle for anything lasting.

The Students for Democratic Society (SDS), were a better political ally, has they understood and supported the Panther program.

The more important alliance between the BPP and students was with the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC), who under the leadership of Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown and James Foreman had undergone a transformation of a liberalised civil rights group into a black militant grouping which first espoused the notion of Black Power.

Huey Newton recognised the organisational strength of the SNCC, and believed that a merger between the two parties is what the black liberation movement needed.

The brief alliance failed to become a fruitful merger, for a number of reasons, mainly misunderstandings and some mistrust.

Clabourne Carson, a black historian

**The Panthers Speak - Philip S. Foner.**

**Panther - Melvin Van Peebles.**

**About the BPP and the film.**

**Black Panthers for Beginners -m Herbert Boyd.**

**Plus books by various BPP Newton, Seale, Cleaver.**

**It may be debatable on whether given a different approach to the internal organisation and external relationship with the movement and the community they may have overcome the on slaughter directed at them by the Police and the FBI.**

**This feature is limited by time and space, we suggest to all radicals to get down and selze some of these books to righteously enlighten yourself on the Panthers and Black struggle.**

points to a deeper mismatch; 'At a deeper level, the Panthers failed to recognise that the BPP's hierarchical leadership style contrasted sharply with SNCC's decentralised structure'.

The fact that SNCC had to divorce themselves from a where liberal leadership meant they had a hang up with white revolutionaries, unlike the BBP who encouraged them.

If the two organisations merged fully then the history and out come of both may have been different. Both had contradictions which led to their demise, one way or the other.

The Panthers class politics meant that it readily came into alliances with groups like themselves based in what Marx called the lumpen proletariat. Often left wing parties regarded this section of the working class as backwards or reactionary, favouring the workers movement.

The Panthers conversely believed that this super-exploited section on the proletariat were in fact a vanguard for revolutionary struggle.

They worked with groups like the Young Lords Organisation, who were revolutionary Puerto Ricans, had many of the same principles and politics and practices like the BPP. They were involved in practically extending the revolutionary beliefs through practical programmes i.e. community activism and community programmes.

The Patriot Party, which was organising poor whites into revolutionary struggle and strongly allied themselves with the BBP.

**But** the Panthers did suffer from a number of weaknesses and contradictions which contributed to their demise

Power to the People was the slogan popularised by the Panthers. Leaders like Newton recognised the problems of vanguardism but failed to initiate the political practice that would break down the reliance in politics, of the relationship between people and party.

The counter-revolutionary method is to destroy the party and the movement, thus the peoples link with revolutionary struggle is severed.

If however the party can create revolutionary activity beyond their boundaries, that is distinct and coherent enough to produce revolution, then the problem of political repression becomes a wider social issue and more problematic for the state.

**The** BPP relied upon a traditional Marxist-Leninist centralist style of organisation, which was a weakness in its struggle to revolutionise the black community.

The state constantly kept removing the leadership, thus curtailing the effectiveness of the BBP to run its affairs let alone wage war on capitalism. As for the cult of personality syndrome, it allowed the excesses of power to drive a wedge in the party. The human weaknesses of individuals become a political problem due to their authority.

**E**ssentially the Black Panther party was one of the most important revolutionary group to emerge out of the Sixties.

With their emphasis of direct action in the community, and by addressing issues such as police racism and poverty people could relate to their revolutionary message.

# BREWING UP INSIDE

## THE COMING CRISES: RIOTS IN BRITISH PRISONS

It is certain that people who are no danger to ordinary people - those caught for a scam or two, haven't got a TV licence, got in a punch up or whatever, will be crammed into British prisons in even greater numbers next year. There will be unrest - demonstrations, sit-ins, work and hunger strikes and riots.

When events take off Michael Howard and co. will have blood on their hands. This looming crises has been set up. There's nothing accidental about it because it will be the result of decisions taken now. The prison authorities are well aware of what they are doing and have ignored all the government reports that have been written about life in prisons after other riots.

### UNITED

CLASS WAR unconditionally supports actions prisoners take against the screws, governors and prison itself. The only way to win in the long run is for as many prisons to go up at once. Whether the protest is peaceful or violent is for the prisoners to decide according to the conditions in their nick. Where possible links should be made with other struggles on the outside as the Strangeways Rioters linked up with the Poll Tax Riots. All efforts should also be taken to build support for the prisoners either by a presence outside the walls or by taking advantage of the fact that lots of pigs will have their trotters full dealing with the prison disturbance. And when prisoners start on the only prison programme we support - DEMOLITION - a passing bulldozer would come very welcome.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

Most people thought after all the Tory MPs were found shagging everything that moved except their wives (...and let's admit it who could blame 'em.) that 'Back To Basics' died with Stephen Milligan (the one they found tangoed in womens undies with a bag over his head - hopefully he made a will and left the undies and bag to some other wanker in the Tory party.) But the policies about 'crime' survived despite the uproar.

In 1993 Kenneth Fat Bastard Clarke, Home Secretary at the time made it easier to give tougher sentences for minor offences. Restrictions on bail and early release followed. Then came the Criminal Justice Act which criminalised a lot of activities that had been legal, that is raving and party going, travelling and hunt sabbing. The scum in wigs and the magistrates have taken up the call of the slime in the media and have scapegoated prisoners for the ills of society by upping their sentences. In the jails this has created conditions which are barbaric. In Dec 1992 there were 40,666 prisoners in England and Wales, in December 95 there was 52,731, and the figure is rising.

### OVERCROWDING

After these latest proposals for no parole and longer sentences the 'oh so nice' liberal prison reformers estimate there could be 70 - 80,000 inside by the year 2000. Thirteen prisons are already holding 30% more prisoners than capacity resulting in 2 or 3 in a cell where they have to use the same loo or bucket in front of each other. Where these conditions exist they exist for all prisoners and since 1993 more trivial offenders and the poor are being sent down. Holloway for instance is filled with women who are shoplifters, drug users and TV licence evaders. When the prisons inspector went there they stormed out after seeing rats, cockroaches and piles of rubbish. Also many with mental health problems are finding that 'care in the community' actually means being banged up in nick...and if you think that health care out here is bad imagine having Tebbitt as your doctor and screws as the nurses, free to do as they wish and it's all hidden behind the walls. Nightmare material or what!

Overcrowded prisons particularly have always had bad conditions. Apart from often being filthy you get brutal staff, high drug abuse and bullying. Spending on prisons comes much in line with spending elsewhere in the welfare system - cut it back as far as you can, scapegoat a section of our class for the poor quality and increase repression of those opposed to cuts.

### SCAPEGOATS

Soon we will see burning prisons and the Home Secretary and media will be blaming mindless, violent criminals and not government policy. But we know it's not true and that if any of our scams were found out or if the pigs just take a dislike to you - it could be any one of us on the inside driven to the point of breaking. **They are in there for us - we are outside for them.**

### WHO'S RIOT?

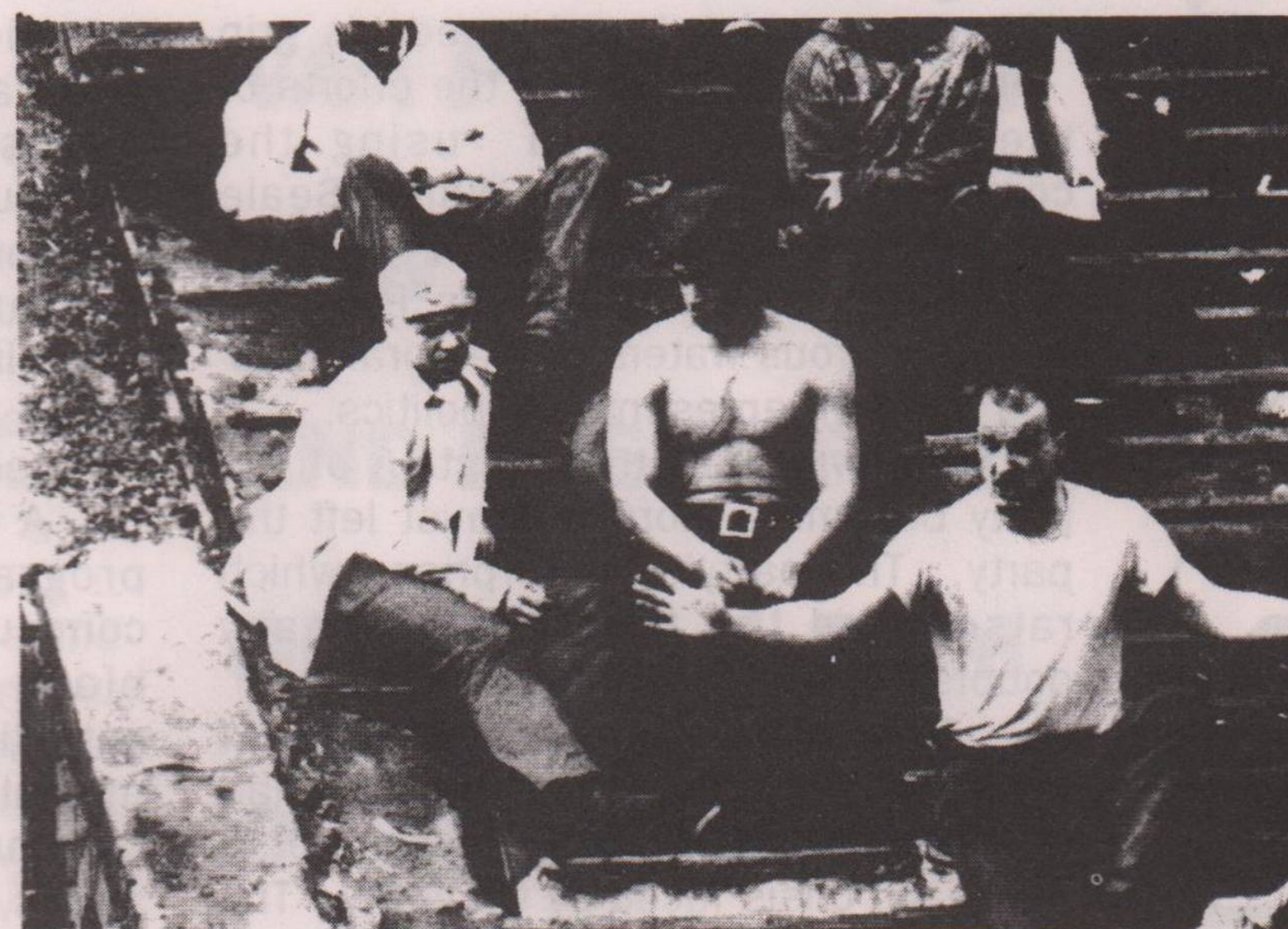
For the past 18 months HMP Glenochil has had a lot of money spent on it (new roof, doors, wall cladding, security system and in cell power points.) all in preparation for market testing.

Glenochil looks like the first Scottish prison to be put up for privatisation, although this is denied by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). The morale of the staff is at an all time low as they fill in job specifications ready to be used in tendering. There is a feeling of insecurity and dread hanging over them and the governors of whom there are about a dozen for a prison with only 360 prisoners. Would a private company employ that many? I doubt it Group 4 may not be able to keep hold of prisoners but they can count.

The management style is aggressive and confrontational. Many of us see this for what it is - a deliberate attempt to stir up trouble and try to save their jobs. After all, how could the government bring in Group 4 in the wake of a riot?

Any rookie screw knows that if you want to keep peace in a prison then you don't mess with the food or the visits. Until recently

the food here has been above average but it has become worse over the past 6 months, until we now live on toast. Our visits have also been cut from a minimum of 6 x 90 minutes to 3 x 1 hour per month. If I were a governor and was out for trouble, I couldn't think of a better way to do it.



We see exactly what they are trying to do and do our best to make sure they don't succeed, but eventually the dam must burst. But what happens when it does? That also is all too predictable - headlines in the press declaring Glenochil the scene of 'a war between drug barons' - Bullshit! Of course there are drugs in Glenochil as there are in every prison, but on nothing like the scale they claim. After the riot here in 1988, the then governor, Jackson, claimed that he had stopped £0.5 million worth of heroin entering Glenochil - in his dreams! Mind you this nutcase was later arrested for having CS gas and solid

shot cartridges in his office. His trial was postponed for various reasons such as his daughter was on holiday from school and he wanted to take her to France (...just try that one next time you are due for trial.) Unfortunately the cretin died of heart-attack before he could be tried and so

saved the SPS a lot of embarrassment.

### BULLSHIT

Recently there was a stabbing here which was the result of an argument over footie. Predictably the press came up with the story that it was over a £3000 debt for crack. There has never been crack in a Scottish jail but that doesn't stop the SPS inventing a story that will have the rabid right wingers howling for the return of the cat.

It is reported that at a recent meeting in the governors office the following conversation took place:  
Gov. "I've just spent £3.5

million, wouldn't it be a pity if it all got smashed up."

Screw "Are you suggesting that we stir up unrest sir?"

Gov. "I'm suggesting you look after your jobs!"

Shortly there after the first newly refurbished hall was opened with lots of petty rules. One week later it suffered major fire damage and they had the gall to act surprised.

These people are playing with our heads to serve their own purposes. These local government servants are doing their best to defeat government policy. But they aren't stupid; when the shit hits the fan they will walk away smelling of roses and the blame will be landed at the door of 'the animals' and 'drug barons' - US!

The courts send us here and hold these people up as role models. They say that we would be better people if we emulated them - I'd rather choke on my own vomit.

By a  
CLASS WAR Prisoner

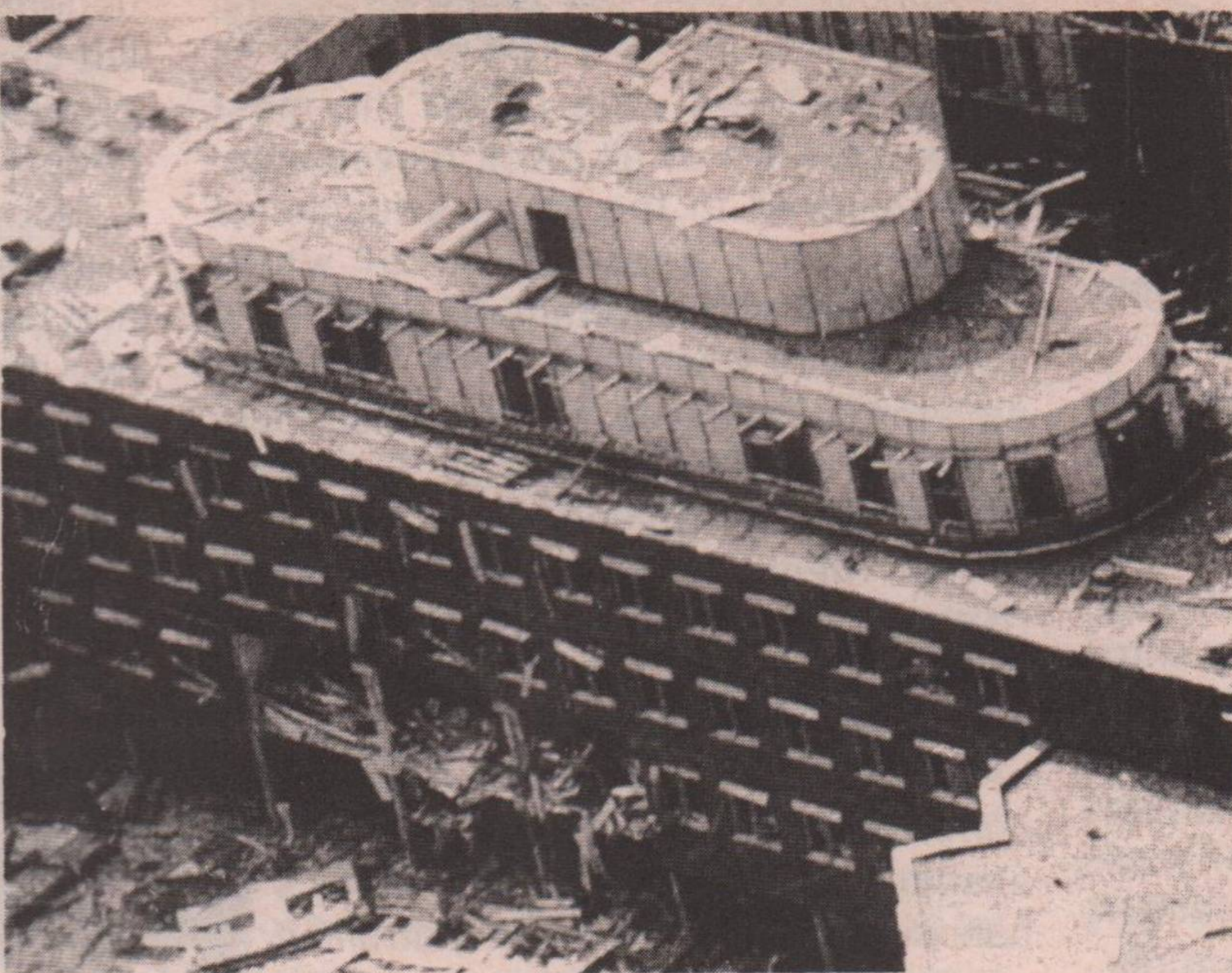
## HASSLE IN HESSEN

In 1994 plans to open another prison in Welterstadt (Hessen) Germany to hold prisoners with AIDS and immigrants got blown off schedule when someone decided it would be better as an open prison. The German authorities believe the bombing was the work of the Red Army Faction but still haven't found out who did it so they are attempting to scapegoat anarchist activists.

Three months after the bombing a male member of RAF was found murdered. At the same time a woman was captured and sent down for the bombing, however no evidence against her has been found. She was given a heavy sentence of 20 years.

### PLANT

An undercover cop had been working within the local anti fascist organisation in Frankfurt. He knew the people that are now being scapegoated for the bombing, he was a



friend of a woman in the squat where they live. He sold her a motorbike with sidecar just before he disappeared because they found out that he was an undercover agent. Since this time there has been five searches on the squat. On the second raid the sidecar was taken away and found to have materials for making bombs built into it. Effectively the undercover cop had planted these on them. Andrea who bought the motorbike is on the run being sought by the authorities in connection with the prison bombing.

Her former home is constantly searched by the pigs trying to find her whereabouts. (The pigs claim that Andrea is forming a new terrorist group in alliance with Kurdish militants.)

The people remaining are constantly under threat of being arrested for shielding the one on the run or being accused of the bombing themselves. They are regularly pulled up in front of Judge Beyer who is the main judge involved, they are repeatedly asked questions, if they fail to answer any then they risk

being sent down for six months. Under the Terrorism Act if the authorities think you are withholding information you can be sent down for six months. So far this has happened to six of them - four of which are still in prison. (Nik Augerer, Jens Wissel, Cornelia Radler, Petra Schimazek.)

Most of them started out being called as witnesses by the prosecution only to find that over time they now find themselves being investigated for carrying it out - even though one of them was inside at the time of the bombing.

Send letters of support for translation via their supporters at Enfoladen Fritze, Leibziger Strasse 91, 60487, Frankfurt, Germany. Send letters of protest but don't put anything that might jepodise their position to Judge Beyer Ermittlungsrichter, am BGH, Herren Stasse 49a, 76125 Karlsruhe, Germany.



ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR AN ABC PAMPHLET

# WHY PRISONER SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY DAVID BOWEN

People who read this should take the time to stop and at least give credit where its due - that's to those who take their time (and cash!) when they could pay "lip service" and say the right things instead but they didn't, they put it into action to produce what you're now reading by me! Not exactly Karl Marx I admit but I never claimed it would be.

People should first of all get out of their heads that "we prisoners" are mad, sad and dangerous bastards who you shouldn't pass your address on to! While its true in prison there are of course those groups of individuals, I'd say 80% of the prison population, do not by any means fall into that bracket! Most people who find themselves in Jail would go to one of the lower "Cat" prisons but those of us with "Long bird to do" go to dispersal and even here I've got to say that most lads I've met up with I knew from Lower Cat jails on previous sentences they are now doing 4, 5 or 6 years but cos they won't "buckle down to Sirs rules" they are classed as subversive and sent to dispersal Jails.

Speaking for myself by the very nature of my "crime" I'm singled out "on Arrival" for special watch - I'm doing 13 years for the riots at "Strangeways prison" however I do not consider myself mad, bad or dangerous! I do admit that 'sad' comes into it sometimes when I think 13 years!- I was remanded to Strangeways prison before the riot for the crazy and dangerous

stand up for themselves. So I got paid back when the charges were handed out for the riot not only did I get the honour to be first charged but I also got the longest sentence out of everybody charged in connection with Strangeways- not bad when the riot started in the convicted side of the jail and I was on remand even better when the riot lasted 25 days and I stayed 3 days! It made ringleaders somewhat

about who killed themselves in jail due to having no outside help which leaves you very vulnerable to the state and system- especially if you arrive at the jail "marked".

Its very strange I received a letter from Nottingham ABC (Anarchist Black Cross prisoner support group) asking me to write "something" on why you should get involved when the night before a kid hanged himself in the next cell I'd just given him a cig- his name was Gary Brittan he was thirty doing 4four and a half years for burglary of shops (fair game in my book). It seems I will have to attend my first inquest!! I hope its my last- I don't somehow feel it will be.

Your letter to a Con could give him hope when he most needs it- like when the shit has been kicked out of him by six screws (as I've had) or he has been injected with knockout drugs (as I have) when he feels like topping himself (as I have) you could help save him with letters to renew his hope when all else is gone (as I've had).

**Get involved- tomorrow it could be you!...**

**"Your letter to a Con could give him hope when he most needs it, like when the shit has been kicked out of him by 6 screws..."**

o f f e n s e of...erm...stealing three pairs of curtains from Do-It-All..I thought Do It All was a general invite and I literally "Did Most Of them!" I had a great flat believe me the curtains would of looked fab with the furniture I'd had off MFI earlier that week! So I found myself in Strangeways- then the riot came and it was curtains for me due to the fact that in prison I stood up for prisoners who couldn't/wouldn't

pissed off I can tell you!

So I hope you now accept we are not all about to "kill" one and all if you choose to write to us. The truth of the matter is (like I am right now) a lot of people are sat in segregation units up and down the U.K. with no visitors and nobody- at the total mercy of what the screw on duty wants to do! Your letter to a prisoner could really mean you save his life. I've known more than I wish to think

## DR DOLITTLE (does little for us)

**"You scratch my back and I'll lick your arse" is the motto being used at Nottingham Trent University.**

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, MP for Nottingham Rushcliffe and general Tory shitbag, is to receive a honorary degree.

After the

nomination was made public, students and lecturers protested against the proposal offering a petition signed by 2,850 students, whoopy fuckin do!

### BROWN NOSE

Chairman of the governors, Sir David White, stressed that the award was for Ken's service to Nottingham

and the country over the years. "He has been a good friend of the University during the transition from a polytechnic and we are pleased to make the award."

### UNDERLYING

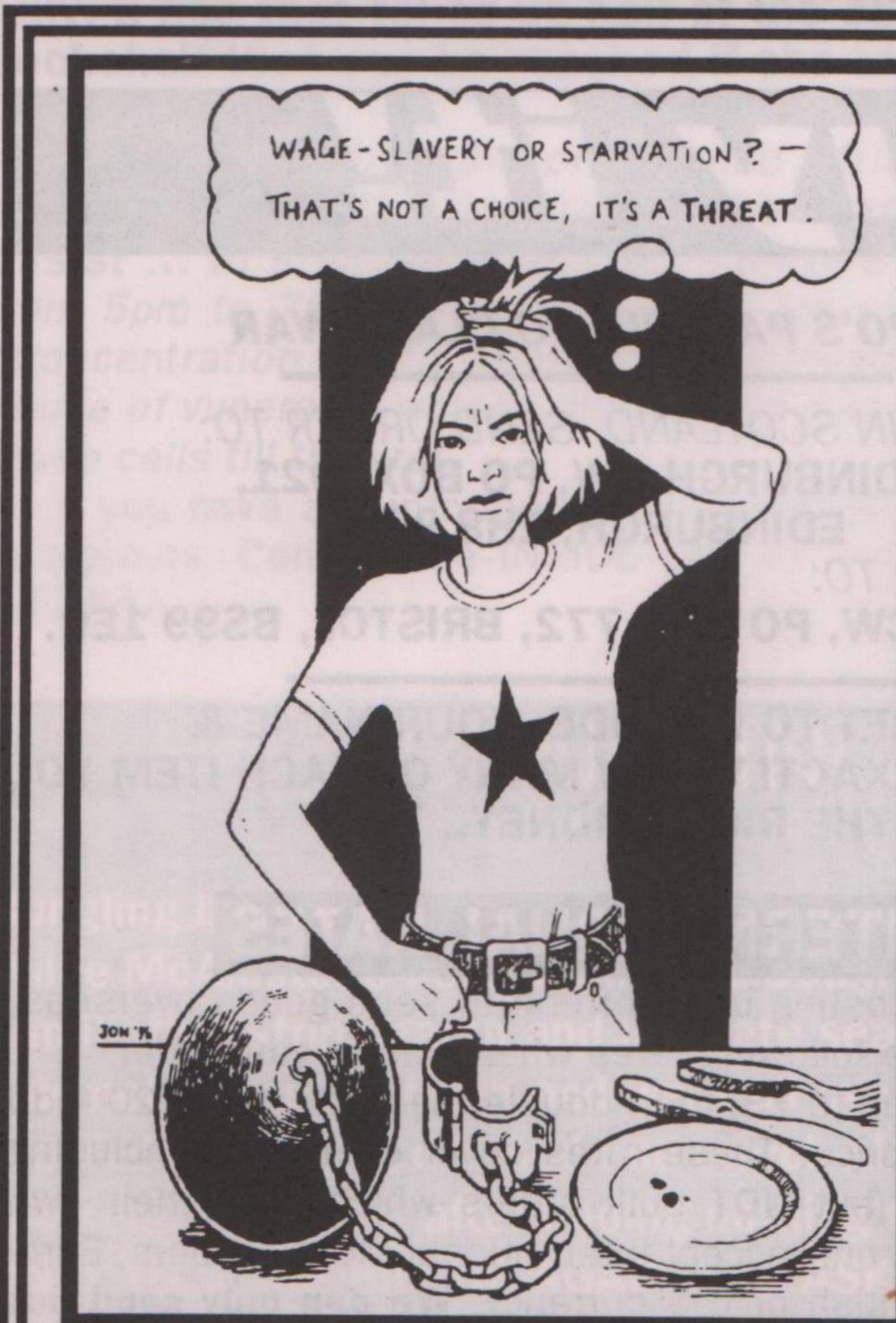
If you want to know what happens after the ceremony, the university spokesman

spells out the intentions. "There is no exception of an on going relationship but we always hope to get one."

If you have any problems with this, or any problems with Ken give him a ring:

**Ken Clarke**

Nottm 0115 9233950  
London 0171 2195189



## J . S . A NO FUCKIN' WAY!

THE JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE IS BEING INTRODUCED BY THE DOLE IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR. THE AIM IS TO IMPLEMENT TIGHTER METHODS TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE DOLE AND INTO SHIT JOBS WITH SHIT PAY FOR SHIT GAFFERS. THIS IS A SOCIAL CONTROL MEASURE DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE WORKING CLASS, BOTH WITH AND WITHOUT JOBS, INTO A COWED AND DESPERATE WORKFORCE, WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY SHIT THE BOSSES SERVE UP TO US. WE SAY BOLLOX!

### MARCH & DEMO

1.00pm TUESDAY APRIL 9th

assemble: geraldine mary hamsworth park  
lambeth rd (over lambeth bridge) london  
nearest tube: lambeth north (bakerloo line)



## 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!

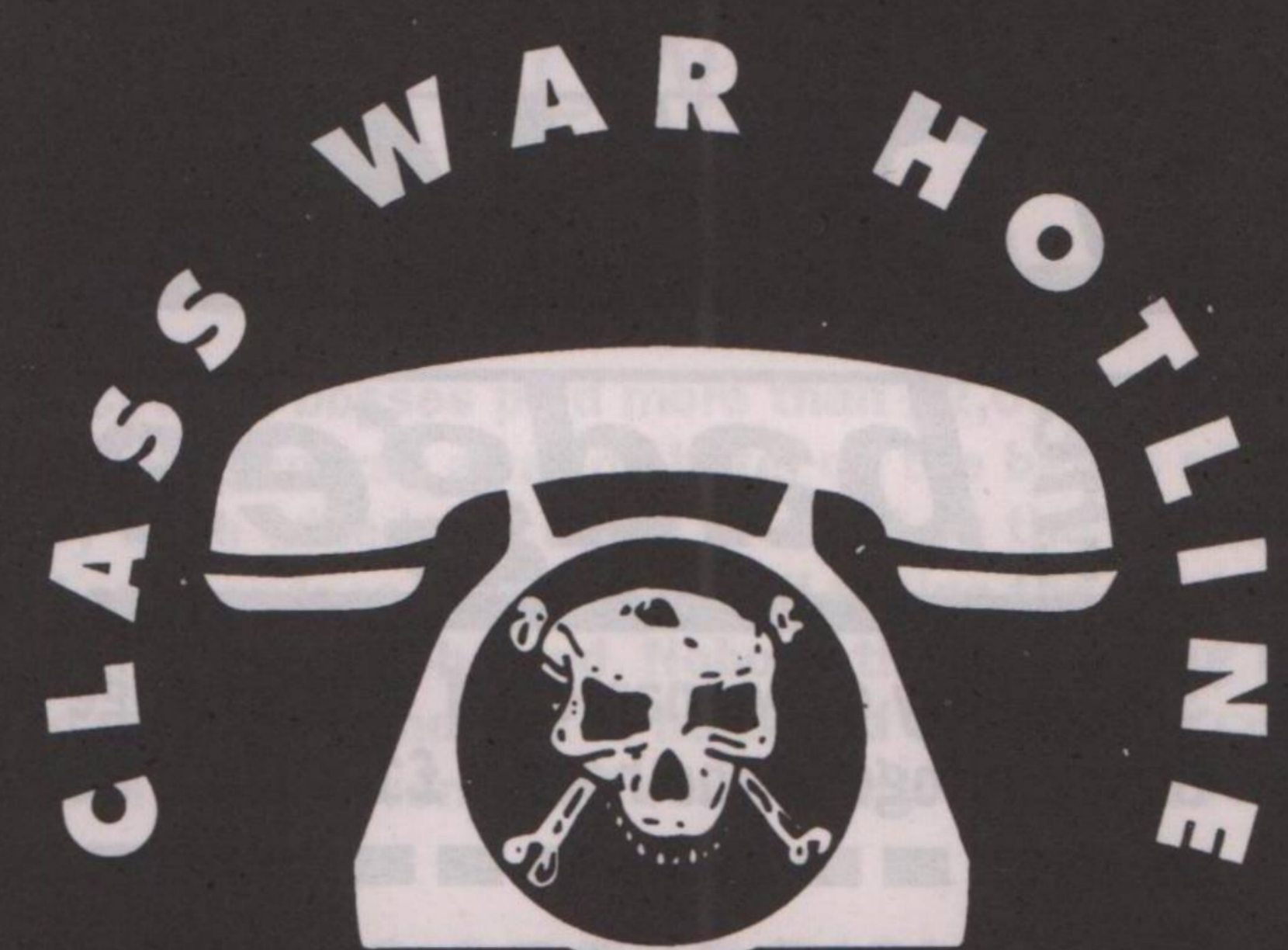
## CLASS WAR

NATIONAL SECRETARY

PO BOX 3241

SALTLEY

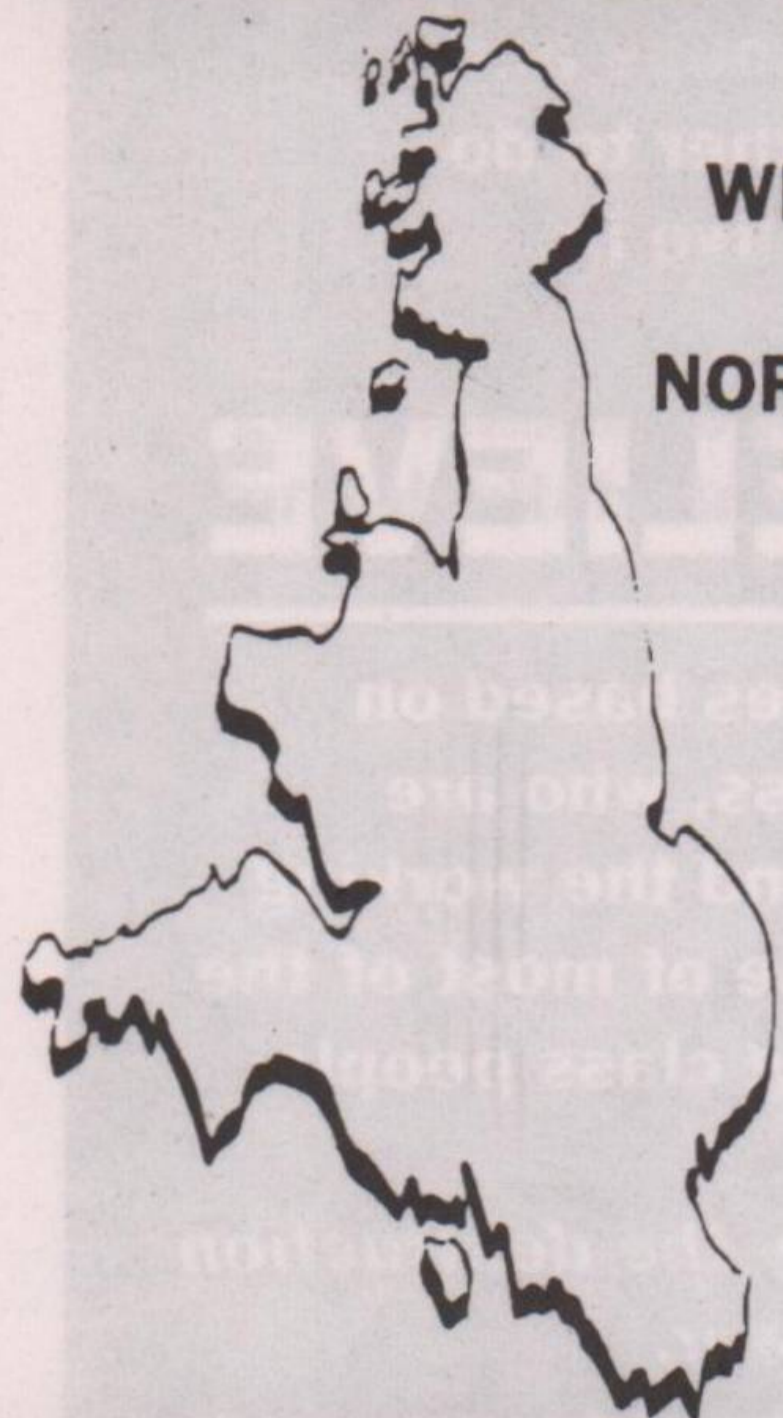
BIRMINGHAM B8 3DP



**(0117) 907 3667**

# CLASS WAR contacts

## IT'S GOOD TO TALK!



EAST SCOTLAND: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW  
 WEST SCOTLAND: Glasgow CW, PO Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA  
 NORTH EAST: Leeds CW, PO Box HH57 Leeds LS8 5XG  
 NORTH WEST: Department 81, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW  
 WEST MIDLANDS.: PO Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B8 3DP  
 EAST MIDLANDS: PO Box 192, Nottingham NG1 1FT  
 EAST ANGLIA: PO Box 192, Nottingham NG1 1FT  
 LONDON: PO Box 467, London E8 3QX  
 SOUTH EAST: Temporarily use above London address  
 SOUTH WEST: BCW, PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EG  
 IRELAND: PO Box 4297, Dublin 1, Elre  
 NATIONAL SECRETARY: See West Midlands address  
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It's packed with news, views, debates and decisions that the Fed has been making and having. It also has updates on what's been happening both regionally and

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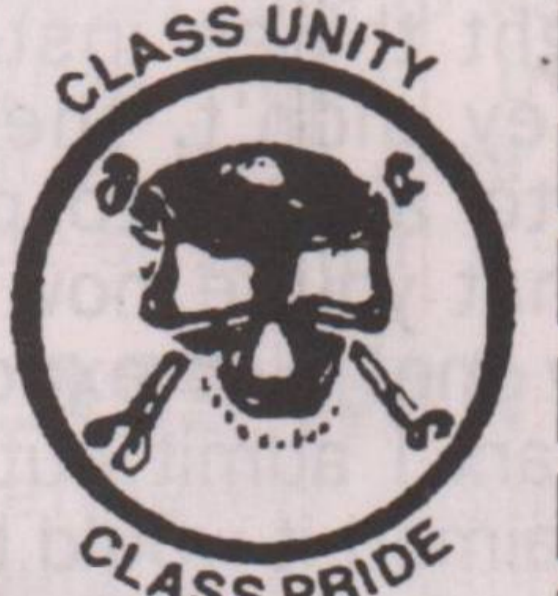
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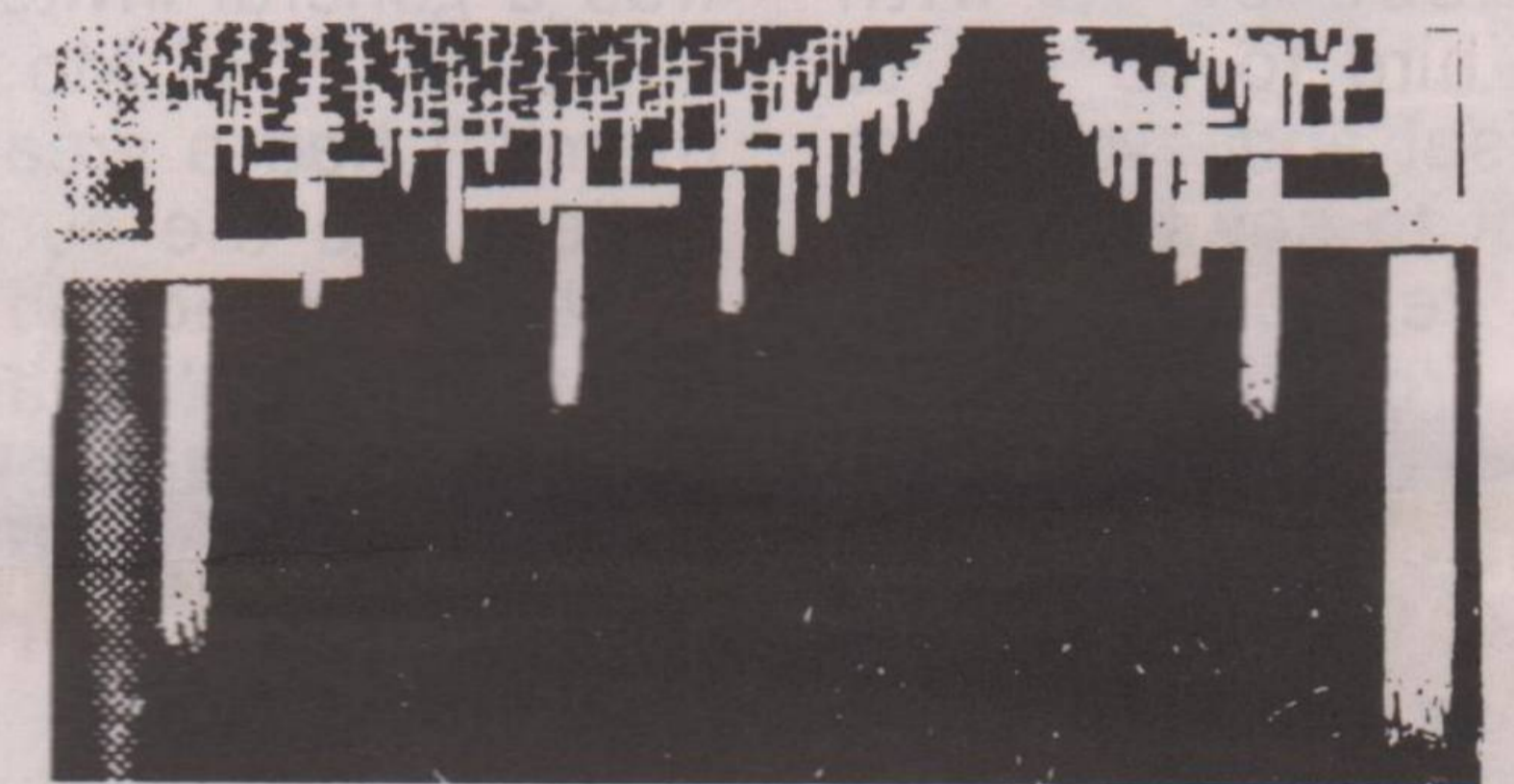
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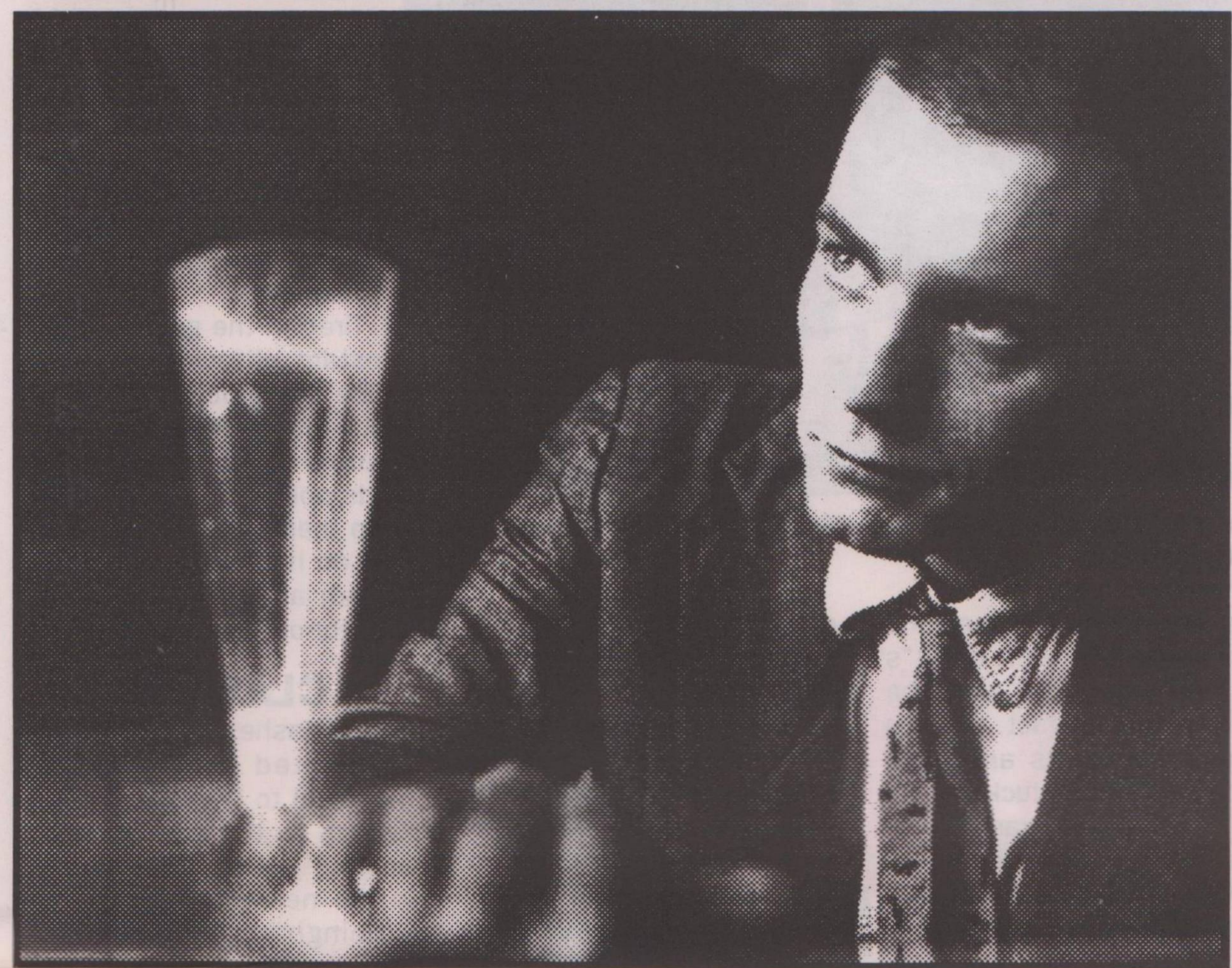
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# REVIEWS

## CINEMA



**TRAINSPOTTING (18)**  
 Basically, if you haven't already seen it, make sure you do—and don't eat a heavy meal beforehand. Shit, heroin, blood and tears, and none of it the glorified moral hobbyhorse Hollywood stuff either. Based around a group of working class blokes in Scotland, who divide their time between sex, drugs and football—chancers whose lives split and divide depending on their reliance on heroin—here's a film stuffed to the gills with the kind of real life you don't often see in the cinema.

Without coming on all righteous, *Trainspotting* lets us into the fucked-up, depressing world of junkies on downward spirals whilst throwing in enough humour to avoid forcing us to wade through a toiletful of piss-stained morality. One minute you

follow the main character as he sticks his head into a fetid bog to retrieve his drugs, the next you're laughing as you watch these lads trying to score at the local club.

There are too many memorable scenes to pinpoint—the speedfreak at his job interview is a screamer—suffice to say the film's rhythm, its dialogue, and its mixture of the best and worst parts of life leave you gobsmacked. Jumping from numbing violence to clever slapstick, *Trainspotting* is one of those rare films—honest without being dour and unattractive.

Shit, you even get to see the main character unglamorously pulling off a condom after sex. You don't get Schwarzenegger doing that...

*Trainspotting* is a treat—unique, entertaining, and as real as cinema gets. Now go and see the fucker.

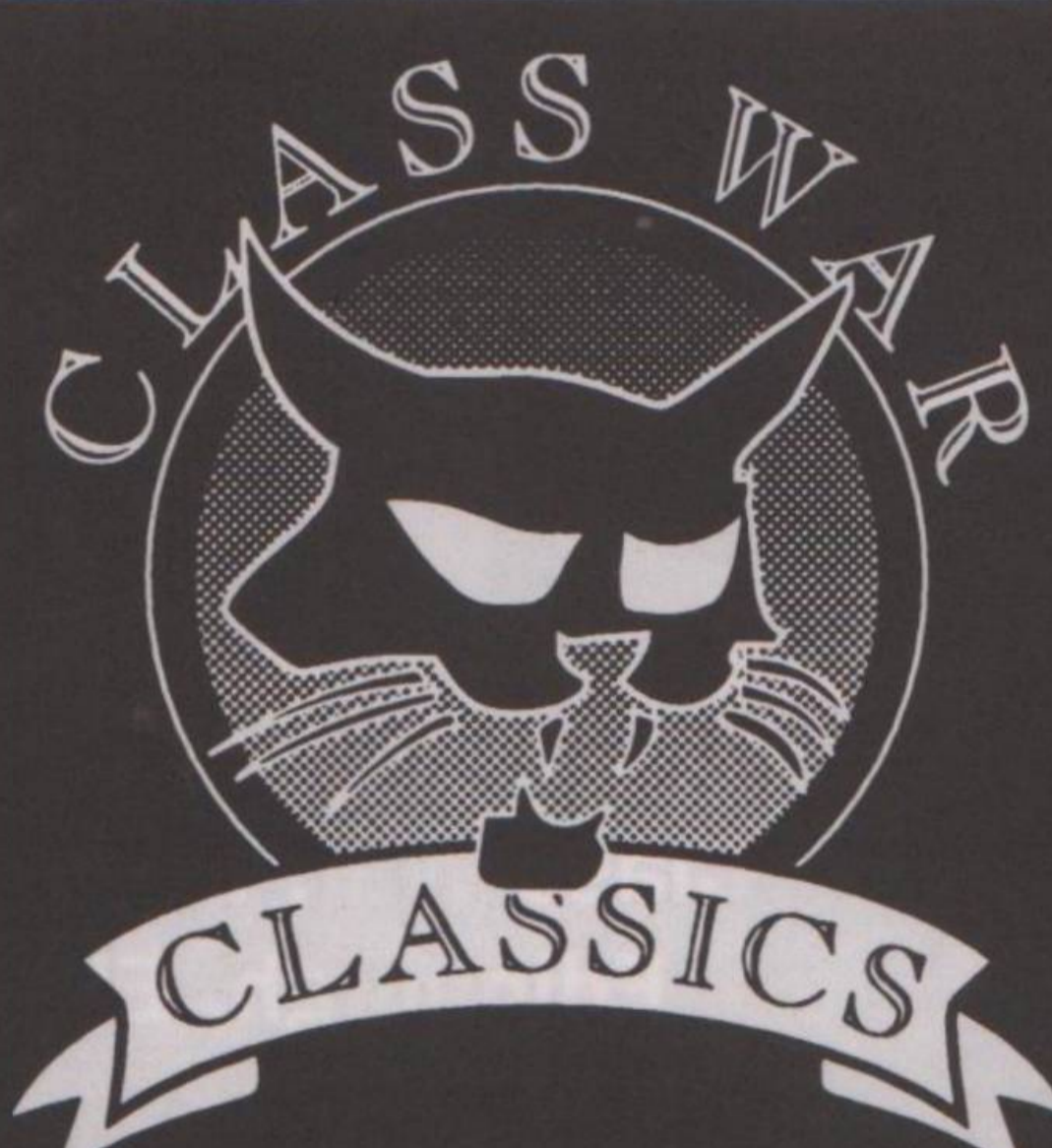
### MATEWAN

(Written and directed by John Sayles, Red Dogs Film Production)

Sometimes it all seems as clear as, "Me Tarzan! You Jane!" *Matewan* is a well-told reminder of, "Bosses bad! Class struggle good!" Set in West Virginia in the 1920s, *Matewan* is the true story of a town

that's owned by the coal company and its inhabitants who aren't. As one of the main characters puts it: "There are two sides to this world: them that work and them that don't. You work! They don't! That's all you have to remember about the enemy!"

The enemy in *Matewan's* case is a coal company who think hiring thugs to kill the miners (see *Miners' Strike* 1984) is a reasonable reaction to people going on strike and setting up a union. Dirty tricks bounce off every frame as the company attempts to smash the strike by hook or by crook—mostly by crook. *Matewan* is a community united—they'd have to be against a company which recognises that



the best way to break the spirit is to set striker against striker.

Like *Land and Freedom*, *Matewan* sharpens your anger. It avoids sentimentalism and quite rightly shows just how brutal the bosses can be. *Matewan* doesn't pretend that fighting back is easy or safe, but it leaves you with the message that the boss is going to kick

you whether you organise or not. It's better to kick back and kick first.

Knowing what we do about unions, no one's pretending that *Matewan's* union message is an answer. But knowing what we do about the bosses *Matewan* still tells a story which is as relevant today as ever. And for once Hollywood didn't manage to rewrite the script to get Demi Moore's tits, Michael Douglas' arse, or a romance with Billy Crystal in it. What you get is real people fighting for their lives... and sometimes winning.

(Unfortunately *Matewan* isn't yet available on video; try and catch this classic on Channel 4).

## TELEVISION

### BAND OF GOLD

(Sundays, 9.00pm, ITV)  
 Set in Bradford, this is the second in a series which follows the lives of five working class women surviving poverty and abuse. One way or another they are all linked to prostitution, and that's how they meet. Each woman has gone through hell, but together they prop each other up and work towards making life worth living.

It's not all doom and gloom, though. The women are all hard and witty, there are kids involved and even the odd romance. Their lives are complicated and they're all pretty well sussed. Power games, whether from police, parents, pimps, punters or pushers, don't go down well as one man found out in the last series when he had boiling water poured over his dick!

*Band of Gold* is a bit of a touchy subject in Bradford—it seems like not everyone's ready to accept that there's prostitution and drugs on their doorstep. But let's face it, this could be almost anywhere. If



anything, this programme brings the harsh reality of surviving into your living room—not everyone's cup of tea, but you might learn a trick or two, or just enjoy the sweet justice as another businessman gets his throat cut.

### THE MARK THOMAS COMEDY PRODUCT

(Fridays, 10.30pm, Channel 4; made by Lawless Films)

This is a really funny man, with shit hot politics. He's part stand-up comic, part out in the real world, gunning for the power games of the establishment and society in general.

Thomas likes to show politicians and big business for what they really are. He sent a tanker of water from 'Ethiopia' up to the headquarters of Yorkshire Water to help with the drought and he made a song to raise money for them:

*Yorkshire Water, Don't they know it's bath time in Rotherham...  
 ...let them know the taps are on out here...*

Needless to say, the stuffed arseholes at Yorkshire Water wouldn't accept the gift and a tanker full of water went down the drain, along with the other 700 million gallons leaked every week...

On another episode he stuck a couple of ice cream cones on to a tank, drove it round to William Waldegrave's London mansion and asked him how he could export it to a "mate in Iraq". Brilliant!

If you missed it, you'll just have to cross your fingers and hope Thomas can wangle another series out of Channel 4.

## IN PRINT

### AN APPEAL TO THE HOMELESS SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH SHOP-LIFTING

**Lonewolf Prometheus**  
 (Free, LWDW Press, 1996)  
 This guide introduces a pro-shoplifting mentality. Based on the theory of anarcho-theft, it goes into some of the hows and whys of homelessness, exploitation and the capitalist system. It also has some good tips on spotting hidden cameras and store detectives, recognising alarm tags and finding blind spots.

It advises on what sort of clothing is best-suited for the job and whereabouts on the body is best for storing your stolen booty. None of this stuff is new—shoplifters have been doing it for years—but the pamphlet is

free: get a copy, give it a read, then give it a go. If you get caught, tell them and they can revise it (I doubt you can sue). If you don't, tell your mates.

### EAT MY DUST

**THE STORY OF JOHN DILLINGER**  
 (£1.50 + 50p P&P, Black Economy Books, 1995)  
 "A classic auto chase across half of Chicago with Dillinger gunning his Terraplane between two converging trolley cars at one point... The bullets rattled off Dillinger's bulletproof vest."

This is a pamphlet about the 1930s American outlaw John Dillinger—the fastest mind and the slowest gun in the mid west. It tells the story of how he came to be a bank robber and ends with him running rings around the cops and the Feds, possibly

even staging his own death.

The tale is told more than sympathetically—his lack of bloodshed is played up, as is his legendary coolness. It could easily be accused of romanticising him, but at the time he was a hero to many. In the middle of a depression people saw him as getting one over on the banks and the government, who were both as popular as herpes.

In Britain we have a fine tradition of making heroes out of criminals. Whole footie terraces singing "Harry Roberts is our friend, he kills coppers" is definitely something to be proud of. And it's nice to know that our American cousins think the same way.

To sum up—this pamphlet is a right good laugh.

Both these pamphlets are available from  
 AK Distribution:  
 PO Box 12766,  
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 Scotland

# SPORT

## OUT OF SIGHT - OUT OF MIND

It does not take a genius to recognise that world sport jumps to the commands of world capitalism.

This year for example sees Atlanta, home of Coca Cola, host the Olympic games, the second time in twelve years that the United States has had the games.

### AMERICA

The last World Cup was held in America, even though football has absolutely no roots whatsoever in that nation. Clearly he who pays the piper calls the tune. But the lack of roots was obviously shown by their utterly pitiful pitch performance in the actual tournament.

One problem with these enormous sports events however, is that they focus the public's attention on a particular part of the world and people can end up seeing things other than the advertising hoardings for Coca Cola and Pepsi.

### COVERING UP

A good example of this comes from the cricket World Cup, hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Whilst most press headlines completely centred on the missing backbone of the Australian and West

Indian teams, who refused to go to Sri Lanka because of the current bombing campaign by the Tamil Tigers, the Indian government was desperately trying to cover up something it didn't want the rest of the world to see - the utter poverty of the country.

Unfortunately for the Indian government far too much space was being taken up around Calcutta's Eden Gardens cricket stadium by poor people. Even worse, much of the commercial activity in that part of Calcutta was not being carried out by respectable multi-nationals but by (shock horror) streetside hawkers and vendors.

### BURNING DOWN

As willing as any government to dance to the tune of big business, the Indian government made a decision to act. The police were sent in to burn down shanty towns around the ground and street vendors were forced out of the area.

Not content with burning down people's homes, the authorities then employed hundreds of extra workers to polish walls and clean the streets in time for the opening ceremony - we will see how much of this clean-



The real Calcutta (before the cricket World Cup bosses have started)

ing work goes on when the tournament is over, but it's a fairly safe bet it won't be very much. In fact, we can cross our hearts and hope to die - it will be fuck all.

Any similar examples of sweeping things under the carpet would be very much appreciated at our Sports-

desk, in particular from English cities in the run up to Euro 96.

One more thing - for the duration of Euro 96, pubs in Manchester will be open till 2am and nightclubs till 4am. If they can do that for one month, why not all year round?

## SPECIAL PIGS THAT RUN AWAY

Some excellent reports have been reaching the Class War sportsdesk about the Birmingham v Millwall match earlier in the season.

Whilst all premier league fans know that the filth at Aston Villa are some of the worst going, it seems their porcine colleagues at St. Andrews got all jittery at the thought of Birmingham and Millwall fans clashing, and bottled it in a big way.

### SUBURB PIGS

Large numbers of special constables were drafted in from suburban areas of the West Midlands police district, many of whom looked like librarians dressed up in police uniforms - presumably because some of them were!

Tired of the goading and constant attacks on them inside the ground, the Millwall fans declined the hospitality of the West Midlands police (who wanted to keep them in the ground for over an hour after the game ended) and smashed their way out of the ground.

### CLASHES

In the clashes that followed a mounted police charge managed to knock a police-woman to the ground, and another police horse got it in the neck (literally) off a Birmingham fan. Many of the "Specials" were apparently white with fear, as clashes continued all the way to New Street station.

Class War opposes - and always has opposed - football hooliganism. Fans should be recognising what they have in common with one another, not fighting over club allegiances.

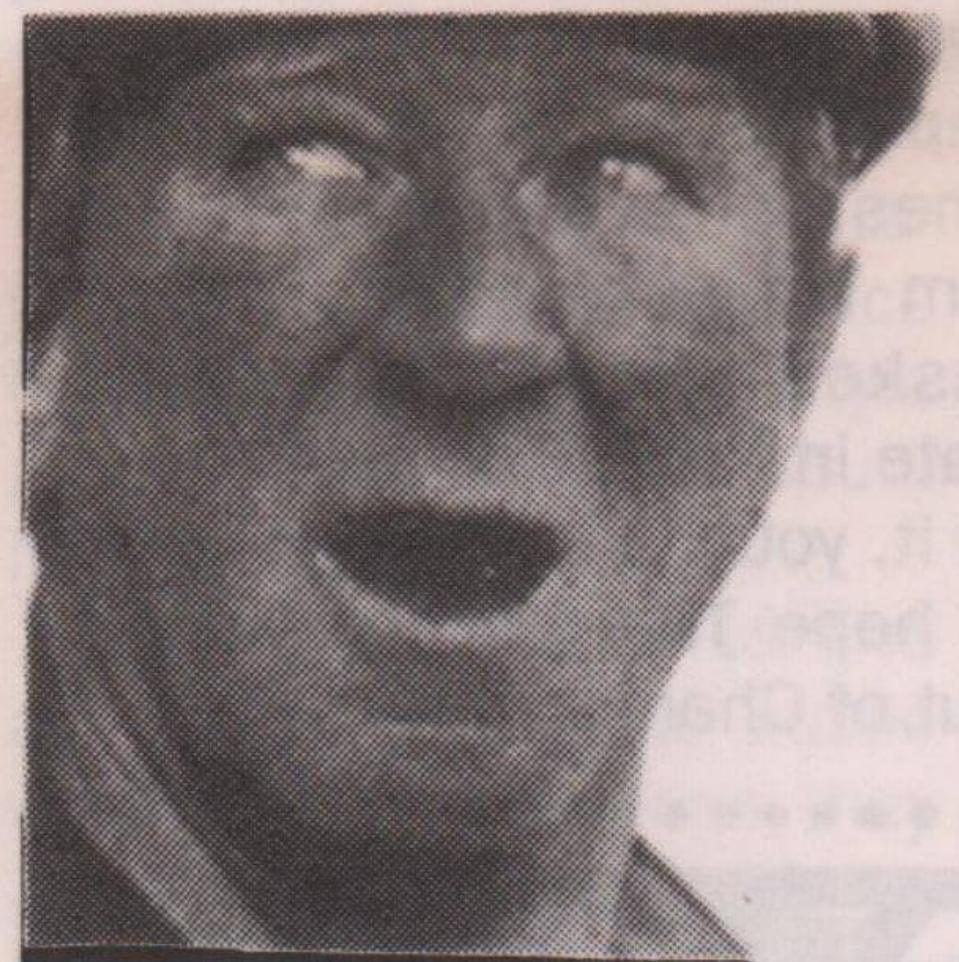
### KILL THEM

However there can be no doubt that "high profile" games such as Birmingham v Millwall or Leeds v Man United can provide an ideal opportunity to take the battle, not to rival supporters but to the real enemy, the police, who try to swamp big games with extra officers. As they found out at St. Andrews, such tactics don't always work.

## BAD COMPANY

It was no surprise to see Millwall manager and former Irish International Mick McCarthy resign to take over from Jack Charlton as the Republic of Ireland's manager. We have to wonder however, whether Mick McCarthy really has any idea where his new job in the Republic's hotseat might lead.

When Charlton resigned, BBC Radio 5 approached the Irish striker Niall Quinn for a quote. According to Quinn, Charlton's popularity is such that whilst Irish households once had pictures of the Pope and



President Kennedy on the mantelpiece, many now have a picture of Jack Charlton as well.

Why would anyone want to put Jack Charlton in such awful company? Then again as he's the only one of the three who has ever done anything for Ireland at least he's sure to stand out!

## CUP OF WOE

In recent years many football fans, particularly those who are unemployed, have been priced out of attending games at the bigger clubs. £15 is considered cheap to watch a Premier League game.

Given this, you would expect lower division and non-league teams to be falling over themselves to appeal to these disenfranchised fans. One such team, Enfield Town of the ICIS Premier League, normally charge £4.50 to stand or £5 to sit down.

Fans turning up for their FA Cup 1st round replay

against Newport Isle Of Wight were somewhat pissed off to find an admission charge of £6, for what was after all still a game between two non-league teams.

### RIP OFF

What they did not know was that those friends of football, the Football Association, had set a MINIMUM admission price for all FA cup ties of £6. As its their competition, any clubs that don't abide by this run the risk of expulsion. Enfield had to toe the line.

Whilst there is a lot we could say about this - like when are the FA going to start imposing a maximum charge of £10 and stop the pricing of working class fans out of the game - the ending to this story perhaps sums up English football as it prepares to enter the 21st century.

### BASTARDS

Enfield won the game, and in the second round got drawn at home to another non-league side, Woking. Did Enfield petition the FA, demanding the right to stick to their normal admission

prices? Did Enfield decide to stick reluctantly to the £6 entrance fee and apologise to their fans for having to do so?

The answer in both cases is - wait for it as it's going to be a real surprise - no. They increased their prices to £8. Bastards.

All this goes to show that the gap between the Premier League and non-league teams may be immense in terms of finance, but in terms of attitude it's very small indeed. And the good news to end it all with? Enfield lost!

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