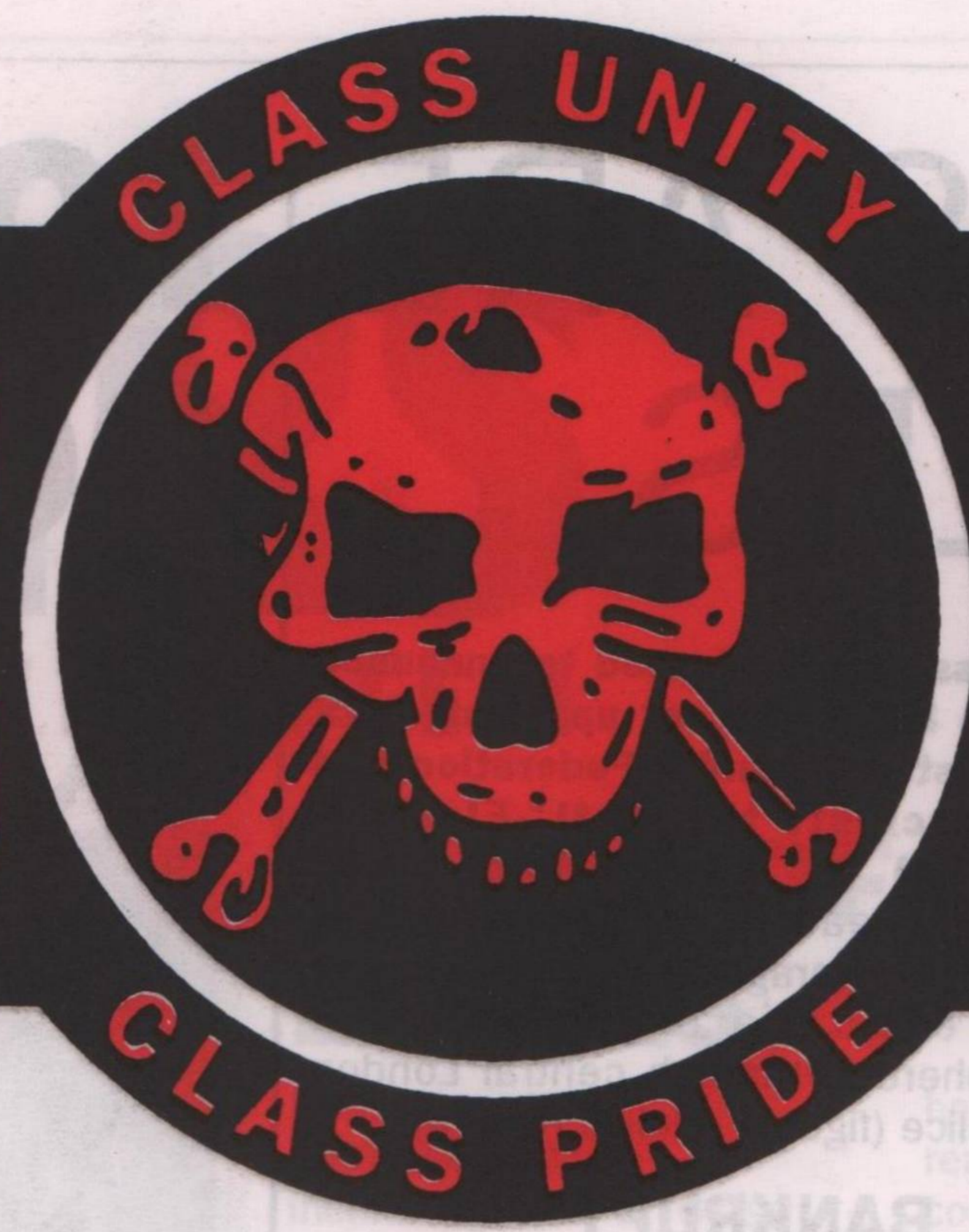


CLASS WAR



CLASS ANGER: BIGGER THAN LINFORD
CHRISTIE'S LUNCHBOX...

ISSUE 72 50p
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996

OLYMPIC SPECIAL



IT'S GOOD TO TORCH!

NEWS, VIEWS, REVIEWS AND ABUSE—IT'S ALL
IN YOUR SUPER SPECTACULAR CLASS WAR!

POLITICIANS ARE ALL WANKERS



A smug Tory ght

London Class War is pleased to announce that we are helping to set up, along with the Anarchist Communist Federation and Green Anarchist, the Anti-Election Alliance. (AEA)

Long term readers of Class War may remember the coverage we gave to the last AEA, which ended in a 1500 strong march being shepherded through central London by 2500 police (figures - Police Review)

BANKRUPT

But the aim of the AEA is not merely to say "Don't Vote" nor has it been established simply to organise a one-off demonstration and give lots of coppers Saturday afternoon overtime.

We aim to stress the sheer absurdity and bankruptcy of the electoral system and how it has served not to emancipate the working class but to emasculate it. "Do nothing and the vote every 5 years" is the message behind the whole spectacle.

DESERVE MORE

If you think you deserve more than an opportunity to put a cross in a box once every 5 years we urge you strongly to read the general statement and constitution of the Anti-Election Alliance.

CONSTITUTION

1. The AEA is a network of individuals and autonomous groups seeking to dispel the myth of capitalist democracy.

2. The actions of the network are co-ordinated by meetings of all those involved.

3. All groups and individuals can act as they best see fit to further the aims of the AEA as long as it is in agreement with the political statement and constitution of the network.

4. AEA meetings will delegate those responsible for funds, mailing lists, public statements and operational decisions. All these delegates will be empowered by general meetings of the network and will be responsible to the whole organisation for their action between meetings.

5. General meetings of the AEA will be held regularly, specified by the previous meeting, allowing time for minutes to be distributed and considered, allowing for practical deadlines.

6. While aiming for consensus, general meetings reserve the right to defend the network by exclusion of those opposing the aims of the AEA.

7. AEA resources will be available to all groups and individuals if approved by general meetings.

8. The AEA welcomes independent initiatives by groups/individuals, in broad agreement with its aims while not under the AEA umbrella.

GENERAL STATEMENT

* The AEA is an alliance open to all anti-electoral, anti-state, anti-capitalist groups and individuals. We are opposed to racism, sexism, homophobia and the other manifestations of state power.

* The state is inimicable to a free and equal society. It cannot meet our needs and cannot be reformed. It must be abolished by revolutionary action.

* Electoralism fosters the illusion the

state is legitimate. By voting, we surrender our power to the state and consent to its rule. Direct action gives us power over our own lives, not voting. Electoralism is just a diversion from the route to a free and equal society - working class revolution to abolish the state

The AEA can be contacted at BM Box 357, London, WC1N 3XX or by writing to any of the sponsoring groups.

COMMUNITIES AGAINST GOLF

News often takes a little while to reach Class War from Mexlco, but when it does its usually well worth the wait. Take this little gem from the rural town of Tepoztlan, where state officials and private developers want to develop a posh tourist facility, including a golf course.

Such developments have become all too common in the world's poorest nations, with "golfing holidays" in countries like Thailand for example providing a cover for rich businessmen on the lookout for child sex and prostitution. In the meantime vast quantities of useful land is handed over for rarely used golf courses.

HOSTAGES

The residents of Tepoztlan seem to have a tremendous aversion to golf however and at one point stormed a house where developers were meeting with state officials, taking them hostage. This was

followed by the resignation of the mayor, but such compromises only served to spur on the locals who switched their attentions to the town hall. This was barricaded and successfully occupied, with effigies of the city officials hung from the roof.

SOUND ADVICE

Better still, the mostly indigenous occupiers were very reluctant to negotiate with the authorities, saying that the mythical Indian king "the son of the wind" was telling them not to trust officials. Sounds like pretty sound advice to us!

As per usual the government dominated media opposed the sight of working class people acting directly in their own interests, denouncing the occupiers as "drunks". If anybody knows the outcome of these events, please write in and let us know - the people of Tepoztlan have certainly got off to a good start.

TOP OF THE COPS (REMIX)



Chief pig surveys wreckage after class conscious vandals stole his car and burnt it out

After listing the Top 10 anti-police records of all-time in the last issue of Class War, we were inundated with letters of complaint from readers whose favourite records had been left out. Ever willing to redress the balance here is our second top 10 cop crunching records.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Filth | - Credit To The Nation |
| 2. Son Of a Copper | - The Exploited |
| 3. Sound Of Da Police | - KRS One |
| 4. Sa Prize (Part 2) | - N.W.A |
| 5. God's Cop | - Happy Mondays |
| 6. Police Oppression | - Angelic Upstarts |
| 7. Please Mr. Officer | - Pharcyde |
| 8. JD's Gaffelin | - Ice Cube |
| 9. Carnival Cops | - The Goats |
| 10. Police Story | - The Partisans |

Rumours that we intend to put all of the above on a compilation tape - all proceeds going to the Police Benevolent Fund - are completely unfounded.

CLASS WAR NEEDS YOU!

Although Class War often gets press cuttings and articles sent in to us, one thing we never seem to get is articles or news about industrial disputes unless individual members or supporters are involved.

Working class struggle

takes many forms and shapes, and although the emphasis of the class war may have switched from the workplace to the community (for example the campaign against the poll tax or VAT on fuel) the superb strike of Liverpool dockworkers

shows that wherever there is a boss and a worker there is conflict.

Please send any news you think we should be aware of to: London Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

ON THE WATERFRONT

Not something you'll have heard much about in the national media, but there's a helluva fight going on on Merseyside.

Liverpool dockers have taken on £130 million turnover *Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MD&HC)* and may well be winning. No fly-by-night dispute, it's being going on since September last year and is part of much longer-term battle between dock bosses and workers.

What's more, this particular struggle is spreading...

THE NATIONAL DOCK LABOUR SCHEME

In 1989 the government abolished the National Dock Labour Scheme, which guaranteed workers certain rights and conditions of employment. Backed by anti-trade union laws and massive government handouts, the port employers succeeded in defeating the following strike and since then have been derecognising unions, cutting wages and safety standards, and introducing part-time casual work in all British ports. **Except** Liverpool.

Liverpool was the only port where a trade union force of dockers continued to exist. Before the '89 strike there were over 1,000 dockers in the Mersey ports. At the end of that year only 400 remained. While the shareholders of the MD&HC coined government money (£312 million+ in '89), followed by huge Euro and City Challenge grants, dockers have had a continuous battle to maintain the conditions and union organisation which took 100 years to build.

LOCKED OUT

MD&HC has been trying the usual divide-and-rule tactics: taking on workers on different terms and conditions, then attacking workers one group at a time. Last year it imposed a work con-

tract on the dockers after issuing each of them with a 90-day redundancy notice. It also advertised their jobs in the *Liverpool Echo* in an attempt to enforce the contracts through fear. But an attack on a group of 80 workers resulted in an unanimous strike ballot, strong picket lines and a complete stoppage of work. The bosses' response was to lock out all the dockers.

The company has now readvertised those jobs and tried to re employ some dockers on an individual basis. These personal contracts offer jobs on new conditions: no union, lower wages and the necessity to work with

shoremen on the Atlantic coast are refusing to handle scab cargo from Liverpool.

Atlantic Container Lines, MD&HC's key customer, has announced it's switching to Thamesmead port instead of Liverpool. This is a result of the decision of Sweden's dockworkers' union, *Svenska Hamnararbetarbundet*, to delay every vessel of ACL coming into Gothenburg port for up to 12 hours.

Companies calculate delivery times to the minute and expect shipping companies to turn their vessels around in the shortest possible time. The cost of the Swedish dockers' action to ACL can be counted in £millions. In addi-

ing for similar support in South America and the Pacific Rim. They've received pledges and donations from port workers right across Europe, from Antwerp, Hamburg and Sweden, down to Bilbao in Spain. In Australia and New Zealand. AWS ships have been impounded for debt, with the line's financial crisis partly caused by the frequent hold ups of their Liverpool ships.

JITTERY BOSSES

Port bosses are certainly starting to panic. *Liverpool Ship Owners and Port Users' Association* boss, Terry Malone, called on other customers to "Hold the line and keep faith in the dock company". Bernard Cliff, MD&HC boss, has issued a statement saying: "The company can survive this".

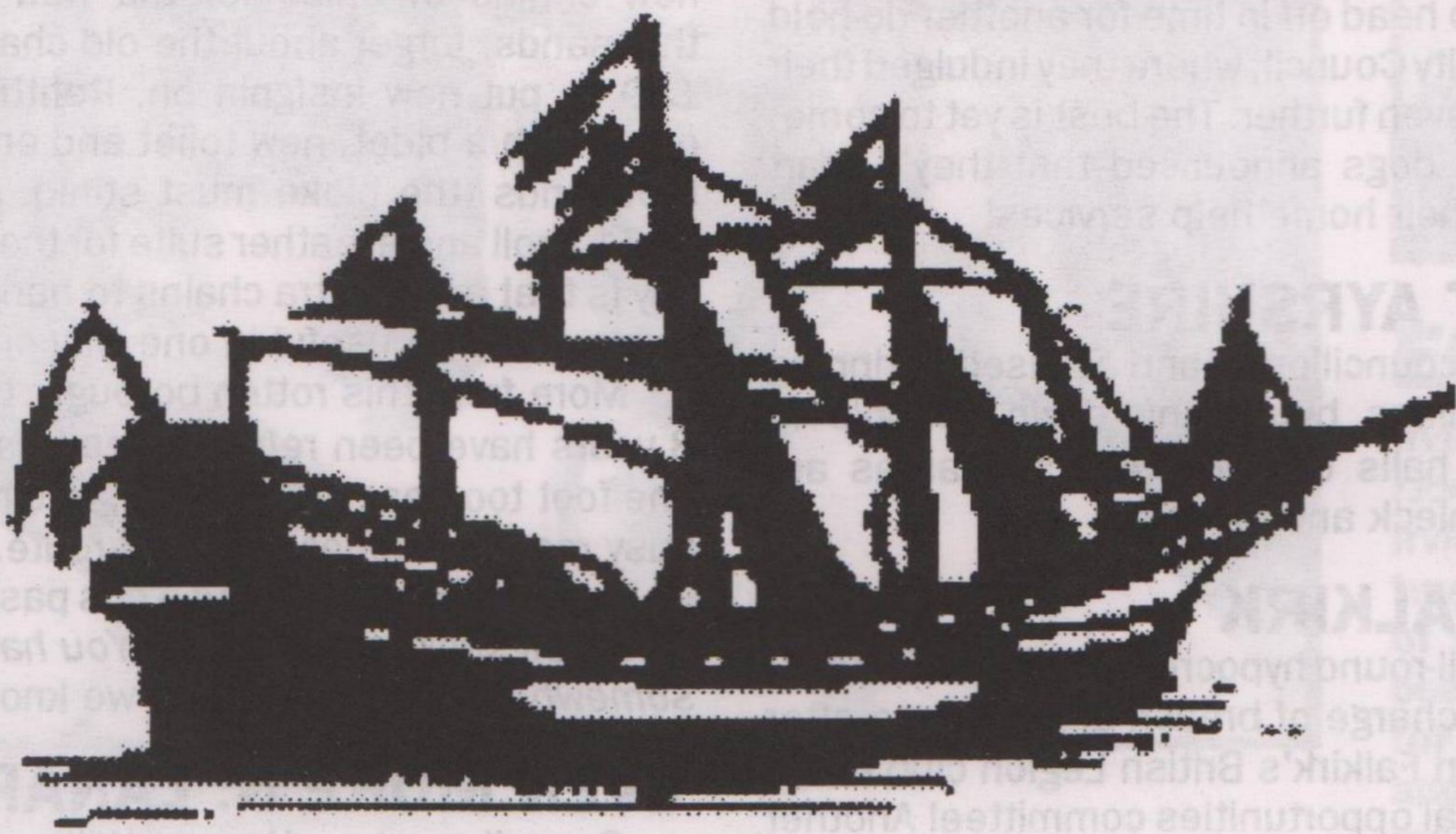
But all the time the price of MD&HC shares are falling and insurance and other costs to the companies involved are spiralling as they try and cope with delays and uncertainty. Poor Bernard may soon be fighting for his worthless job just like the locked-out dockers.

We want to see Merseyside better know for successful working-class struggle than for Liverpool AFC or Brookside.

**Contact: Merseyside Port Shop Stewards Committee c/o TGWU, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool
Tel: (0151) 207 3388
Fax: (0151) 298 1044**

THE DOCKERS' CHARTER

- No return to casual labour.
- Real jobs for unemployed people in Merseyside, in a profitable and expanding port.
- No victimisation.
- All sacked workers to be reinstated.
- Reinstated trade union recognition and recognise elected shop stewards.



part-time, casual labour. MD&HC has declared its intention to use scab agency *Drake International Ltd.*, to vet applicants. Dockers in other parts of the country remember this company for their '89 strike-busting activities.

A WORLD PICKET LINE

As well as successfully picketing the port of Sherness (Kent), which is owned by MD&HC through *Medway Ports Ltd.*, Liverpool dockers have received international support.

Rank and file members of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) on the US East Coast have respected pickets of Liverpool dockers in Newark, New Jersey. More importantly, American long-

shoremen there have been occupations of ACL offices by the Syndicalist movement in both Stockholm and Gothenburg.

ACL was also hit by action from the US longshoremen and the refusal of tug-boat men to cross picket lines mounted by Mersey Dockers and the partners' support group, *Women of the Waterfront*.

Other shipping lines may well follow suit, hurting MD&HC even more: their shares have been plummeting. Dockers have vowed to target the Canadian shipping lines, *CanMar* and *Cast*, which compete with ACL. *Andrew Weir Shipping* is another likely casualty, its vessels already suffering a near-total boycott of Liverpool trade in Portugal, plus go-slows in Italy and Greece.

Mersey dockers are look-

HOLLEY SHIT!

After sponging parasite Princess Anne's odious offspring Peter Phillips allegedly got a kick in the head during a 'drunken brawl' with local lads in the Scottish seaside town of Lossiemouth, we've decided to nominate another ruling class rat who's equally deserving of a swift kick in the cranium.

This issue it's Camelot boss Tim Holley who's just awarded himself a modest rise of £475 grand, which of course he urgently needs as he's currently slumming it in a £2.5 million mansion in Surrey.

While millions of working class folk are blowing their wages and dole in the vain hope of a chance in a billion lottery jackpot Tim has already won the lottery of life.

Never mind the kick in the head, a bullet in the head is definitely in order for this privileged parasite.

ANIMAL FARMER

East Anglia has always been regarded as some sort of 'rural paradise'. This lovely definition only applies to the rich scum that live there.

However a recent report carried out by the Low Pay Unit has finally made them realise that rural bliss just isn't the case. According to the report 21.2 per cent of households are living in poverty.

NO UNITY WITH UNISON

The report was put together for Unison's anti poverty campaign which is calling on politicians and employers to find a way of solving the problem of poverty in East Anglia. Most of the poverty is in rural East Anglia where most of the work is farm work and the employers are rich scum farmers who pay the people they employ shit wages. Trying to get them to help solve the problem would be like trying to teach a penguin to fly a plane. As for politicians, they only care for their own personal interests, usually gained at our expense.

We believe the way to stamp out poverty in the rural areas of East Anglia would be for the farm workers who are paid so badly to take over the farm collectively and use the farmer as a scarecrow. Maybe the farmer's crap taste in expensive clothing would be enough to scare any crow for miles around.

BAILIFF BOTTLES IT IN BROWN BRITCHES

Five years on people are still getting hassled for their poll tax.

But one Ipswich resident refused to take it laying down when a bailiff pushed his way into his home. Scumbag bailiff David Hibberd and a colleague turned up at 49 year old Alan Taylor's home with the aim of seizing £436 worth of goods or cash that was 'owed' in unpaid poll tax. Mr and Mrs Taylor tried to shut the door on them but the bailiffs forced their way in. Hibberd got hold of Mrs Taylor and pinned her arm against the wall.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

She had been recovering from a nervous breakdown and Mr Taylor had given up work to look after their three children. Without hesitation, Mr Taylor went upstairs, grabbed his shotgun, returned and offered to do a bit of community service by blowing the bastards brains out. Actually the gun wasn't loaded but Hibberd's trousers certainly were. As he legged it before you could say "Harry Roberts is our friend".

Hibberd scuttled off to the police station, who sent around a load of armed pigs who nicked Mr Taylor. But he got off with a suspended sentence.

Bailiffs are vermin who do the state's and the landlord's dirty work, preying on the worst off and least protected in our communities. Any bailiffs reading this should take care - next time they might be facing a lot more than soiled underwear.

CLEAN GETAWAY

A prisoner whilst being held on remand at Norwich Jail, decided that he had had enough of prison food and decided to leave jail early.

When a friend somehow managed to fax the jail some fake documents, enabling him to be released. It wasn't until some time after his departure from Norwich jail that the prison warden soon realised that the documents were actually fake. But by that time it was too late and he had made his getaway. If any readers have friends and relatives in jail, and have access to a fax machine, get your dialling fingers working

COPS WITH AMNESIA?

Police memory was actually put to the test a while ago when the local Ipswich filth on their way to a call out managed to lose control of their patrol car and crash it.

The patrol car ended up being wrapped around a tourist signpost which was situated on the Cornhill in the centre of Ipswich. Which happened to be a pedestrian zone. We are convinced that the driver simply forgot how to drive. So let's hope they kept it up... the more solid objects, and not people, they crash in to, the better.

VIOLENT MEN AND VILE JUDGES

Norwich Justice for Women is fighting for the release of a 32 year old woman from Kings Lynn.

Josephine Smith was convicted for the murder of her husband Brian on 30 November 1993. The court had heard evidence of Josephine suffering years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse which Brian used to control her life. She had previously tried to leave him but he threatened to track her down and kill the children rather than let her go. Josephine borrowed a gun and said it was her security to get away. This was not planned murder but the actions of an abused woman desperate to escape and protect her children.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

Josephine says she killed him "To get away safely; to get the children to safety with no fear of him coming after me". The judge has recommended that Josephine serves 12 years of her life sentence.

Josephine is appealing against the sentence, while in February this year, Roy Greech was given two years probation for killing his wife because she was having an affair. He stabbed her 23 times and left the knife in her throat before calling the police. The pig of a judge said, "You have not only been a man of good character but you are a good man also".

- 70 Women a year are killed by partners or ex partners.
- 12 Men a year are killed by female partners they have been abusing.

A RIOT STATE

The summer season got underway early on the Bellinge estate in Northampton on May 31 when over 100 youths fought the police in pitched battles.

Five arrests meant it looked like being a re-match the following night, but saturation policing managed to keep a lid on things. Less than a week later and we're off again, this time in Leeds. 50 riot police were lured into an ambush with hoax calls saying shops were being looted, only to find it raining petrol bombs on their bemused heads. Festivities continued into the night with running battles masked youths vs. the cops.

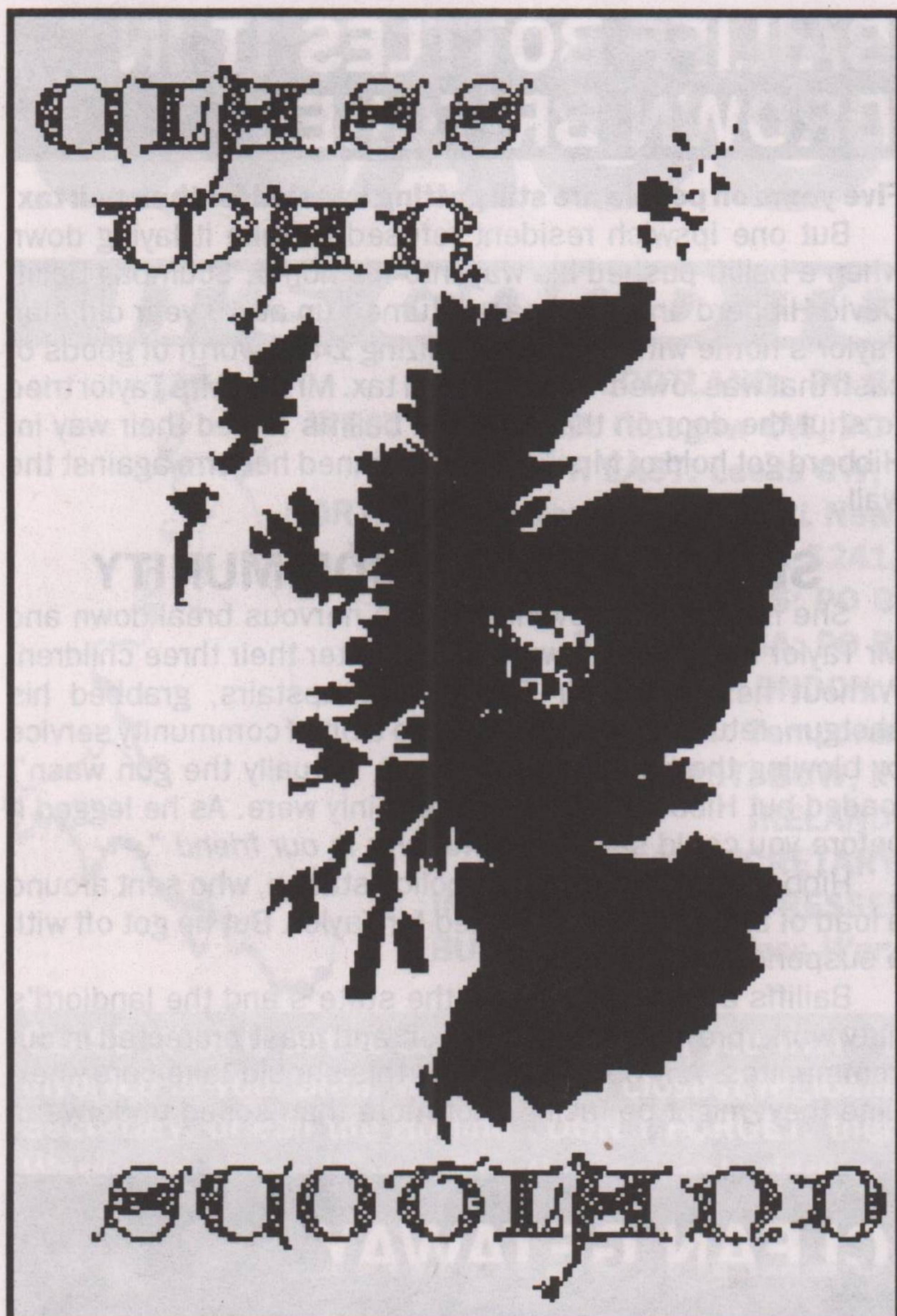
These look like being the first of many riots and cop-twatting activities in working class 'resorts' throughout Europe. So don't miss all the fun in its less dangerous than backpacking in Beirut and more fun than a Club 18 - 30 holiday.

AbSoLuTe BaRgAiN

A fifth anniversary celebration of the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot. A Class War benefit tape featuring:

Danbert Nobacon / Punk Aid
Chumbawamba / Roy Bailey / Conflict
Cuckooland / The Maddening Crowd
The Ex / Robb Johnson
Josef Porter Wat Tyler / Ewan McColl
& Peggy Seger

A bargain at only £2.50. Available from Ipswich C.W
PO BOX 87 IPSWICH IP4 4JQ.



WATER FIGHT

Things are looking up for Lothian Communities Totally Against Water Privatisation (TAP) campaign. Their aim is to resist the new "privatisation by the back door" quangos appointed by Michael Forsythe, Secretary of State for Scotland, last Spring.

These new, allegedly public, bodies are now in charge of Scotland's water and sewerage but organisations against them have been given a boost by the enthusiastic involvement of water and sewerage workers who are watching their workplaces, prepared for privatisation.

Workers feel that their futures are threatened as cuts are made, and that health and safety regulations protecting both them and the public and being flouted by management - for example, unclean sewage equipment being used at water supply worksites!

TAP ON THE HEAD

A well-attended demonstration outside a water plant at Niddrie, Edinburgh, drew good support from the workers and local people. This signals a new stage in the campaign. Incidentally, after the demo, some folk went on to a local house to prevent sheriff's officers visiting a poll tax non-payer (and after all these years!), and succeeded.

Earlier this year TAP successfully disrupted several water authority meetings and launched a local non-payment campaign, against the new tap tax.

TAP are contactable on: 0131 229 5912

SPEED

Bus companies, *Rapsons* of Inverness and *Scottish Citylink* of Glasgow, were had up by watchdogs at a public enquiry recently.

The profit-crazed companies decided to break the law, and possibly a few bones, when they set bus timetables that were impossible to meet unless their drivers exceeded speed limits.

In one case, a driver sped past 13 of the 14 stops on his route as he desperately tried to keep to the bosses' timetable. Some drivers did over 70 mph in a 50 mph zone; others drove at almost 80 mph at times for over 15 minutes.

Nonsense like this puts both passengers and staff at risk and endangers drivers' jobs. In fact, the only things in this case that should be travelling at speed are *Rapsons* and *Citylink* bosses... vertically at the end of a rope.

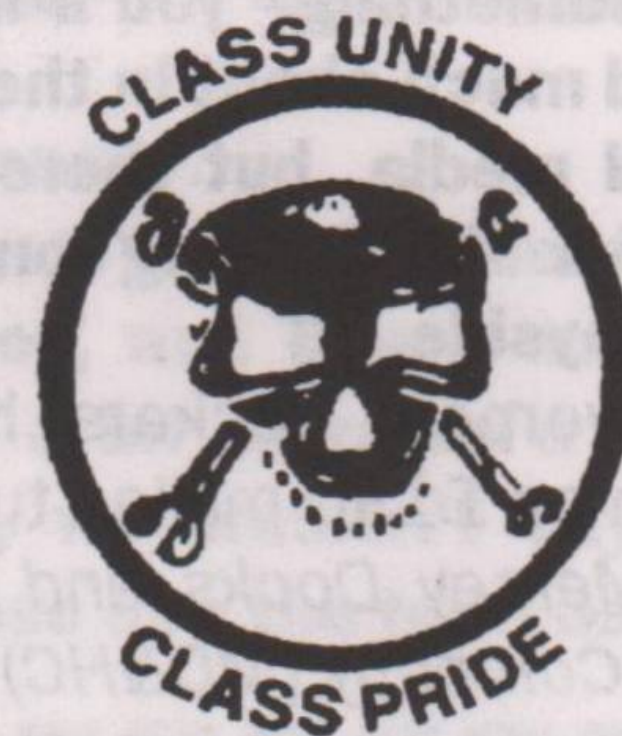
TAX FACTS

Tax Centre One, in East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire, is officially the worst one in Britain, and that's saying a lot. The employed snoopers of the centre are facing the sack after a series of major cock-ups that could leave working class Scots out of pocket.

Inland Revenue papers show how these fools had issued incorrect tax assessments; had a poor enquiry system, and had issued the wrong tax codes to people who could least afford to pay.

The mistakes mean that low paid workers in Scotland pay too much while higher tax payers are not paying enough, as usual. So if you're not a tax dodger, make sure you're not being overcharged by the Inland Idiots.

SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES



ROUND 'EM UP AND SHOOT 'EM

After the dramatic shake-up of local authorities in Scotland, on April 1st, the abolition of the regions, and the creation of single tier unitary authorities, has the standard of local government and councillors risen dramatically? Are the people glad in their brave new world? Let's have a look...

TAYSIDE

Scottish National Party (SNP) controlled **Tayside Regional Council** showed it could enjoy a good wake when it got its money's worth with a 7-hour piss-up, for Labour and SNP assholes. At a cost of £1300 these parasite spent tax payers money getting stuffed on the grub and legless on the booze. Many of them managed to head off in time for another do held for the outgoing Dundee City Council, where they indulged their official worthlessnesses even further. The best is yet to come: in the same week these dogs announced that they'll start charging elderly folk for their home help services!

EAST AYRSHIRE

In rural **East Ayrshire** councillors stand accused of ripping the heart from communities by closing down schools in villages with no shops, halls or pubs. Affected areas are Hurlford, Muirkirk, Auchinleck and Moscow.

FALKIRK

SNP councillor, and all-round hypocrite, Thomas O'Dea, of **Falkirk Council**, faced a charge of breach of the peace after singing sectarian songs in Falkirk's British Legion club - he's Chair of the council's equal opportunities committee! Another Falkirk nob SNP councillor is Jamie Rae, who faces charges for mortgage, benefit, and home loan fraud scams. He's also up in front of the beak for indecency, selling porn videos.

GLASGOW

Glasgow City Council got on the list by getting a pensioner, recently treated for cancer, stuck in a lift in an old folks' complex in Maryhill. Tom Powell, 84 years old, was stuck for 12 hours overnight. He pressed the emergency button to hear a pre recorded message telling him help was coming... he got no help until someone heard his shouts. Glasgow officials shrugged it off by saying there was a fault in the phone line.

RENFREWSHIRE

A councillor there spilt the beans by stating that 'highly secret' documents relating to drugs, fraud and graft investigations had been dropped by the Procurator Fiscals' office for no good reason and that jobs had been given to the relatives and friends of top council members.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE

This council comes top in the list of wasters. They put the cost of kids' swimming lessons from £13.75 for ten to £28.20 for eight. Never mind, they've spent the extra dosh wisely: two new chains of office for the new council at a cost of £ thousands; forget about the old chains that would have cost £89 to put new insignia on. Refitting the chief executive's office with a bidet, new toilet and en suite shower cost more thousands (the bloke must stink). Add to this wallpaper at £271 a roll and a leather suite for the corrupt old git. All we can say is that a few extra chains to hang around the neck of this swine could be useful in one way or another.

More from this rotten borough: two children aged 11 and 8 years have been refused free bus travel because they live one foot too near their school, forcing them to trudge along a busy road or a lonely isolated route. The bus company won't let them travel free without a bus pass or money for their fares. A council spokesman said: "You have to have a cut off point somewhere". Precisely, and we know just where to cut.

EVEN MORE N. LANARKSHIRE SHITE

Council-employed lawyer, William Patterson of Motherwell, was recently caught red-handed with video tapes of under age sex involving young boys. Pervey Patterson had 56 porn vids and indecent photos of children which he admitted were "suspect". The films were so iffy that the court had to be cleared before they could be shown.

All in all, in an ever-changing world, it's reassuring to know that the people who control our lives, locally or nationally, are just as bigoted, privileged, corrupt and perverse as ever. A change in a council's name certainly hasn't changed the nature of working class enemies.

WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?!

No *Class War* reader could be under any illusions about our attitude to the girls and boys in blue, but even the following piece of news had us rolling about, wetting ourselves with laughter.

In July the grey man, our beloved Prime Minister, bestowed a great and shiny honour upon one Police Constable, Jeff Birkin.

The award for bravery, unsurprisingly sponsored by the Police Federation, seems to have been the 'Go on, you're a copper, risk your life

for the sake of a petty crime award', and quite frankly, we're all for it.



What a Birkin' Idiot

It could be argued that 37 year old Bristol cop, Jeff, should have the grey matter to avoid daft situations, but then he is a policeman.

The copper was off-duty when he saw some supermarket staff chasing a nicked BMW car, so he sprang into action and tried to stop it (mistake number 1).

When he couldn't and was knocked on to the bonnet, he decided to spread-eagle himself and hold on by the wipers (mistake number 2). As the car got to 40 mph,

some long lost brain cells must have activated and he jumped off before being crushed against a parked van.

Avon and Somerset Chief Constable, David Shattock, was orgasmic with excitement: "I'm extremely proud of PC Birkin... we are holding ceremonies to reward officers like him increasingly frequently".

Well now, if it's near death experiences the cops are after, where are my car keys?

OBITUARY

Albert Isidore Meltzer
(7.1.20 - 7.5.96)

Albert Meltzer died at the age of 76, after a lifetime dedicated to anarchism.

It came as no surprise to his friends and comrades that the stroke from which he never recovered happened at an anarchist conference. Despite his ill health he had continued to fight for the abolition of the state and all political authority. His beliefs made it impossible for him to live on his knees. He had recently published his autobiography, 'I Couldn't Paint Golden Angels' (available from AK Press), was an editor of 'Black Flag' anarchist paper, and was involved on the Internet.

A revolutionary is an ordinary person who makes extraordinary things happen and, by definition, Albert was a revolutionary. His determination was inspiring - he believed that impossible was possible, but with typical modesty he described his life as that of a commonplace worker. He had worked as a copytaker on the *Daily Telegraph*, a fairground promoter, a second-hand bookseller and had even sold jokes when he was hard up.

His passion for boxing got him interested in anarchism. He recalled that most of his pals in the boxing fraternity were on the left because the natural enemy was the upper middle class from which the fascists came.

Albert never lost hope or optimism. He was committed to the Spanish Resistance during Franco's regime. It was said of him that "There surely can't be a country in the world where someone doesn't owe him a debt of gratitude".

When anarchism grew in the 60s, 70s and 80s, Albert was in conflict with the academics and pacifists who were trying to repackage anarchy in liberal and bourgeois clothes. Anarchism has always been a revolutionary ideology of working class struggle. He wouldn't let the "modernists" rewrite our history and this earned him the reputation of a sectarian - but it was this 'sectarianism' that made him a leading figure in the post-war international anarchist movement.

Albert's funeral was joined by over 200 friends and comrades, in a procession to a packed crematorium where no priests were present. Instead, a comedian in the pulpit, and a home video of Albert crying with laughter. Marlene Dietrich's "See What the Boys in the Backroom Will Have" played, followed by a haunting vocal solo of "Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?" The booze-up began in earnest, as he had requested, in honour of the one person missing.

Albert Meltzer will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION. AUGUST 10TH

Saturday August 10th is Prisoners Justice Day (PJD) - an international day of action by prisoners and in solidarity with prisoners. Support for PJD has grown over the past four years that it has been marked here in Britain. This year prisoners up and down the isles will be taking whatever action is appropriate within their prison. On the outside there will be a march from Holloway to Pentonville and pickets are planned for outside four other prisons including one in Scotland.

PJD was started in Canada at Millhaven Maximum following the suicide of Eddie Nalon in 1974. Eddie was very depressed and was protesting at his being held in solitary confinement without reason. The screws refused to move him back into the general prison population and instead of keeping him under observation put him in a cell on his own where the panic button had been disconnected. Left isolated and with the means to take his own life Eddie slashed his wrists and his cries for help went unheeded. The next day some prisoners took action and went on a food and work strike. They also held a commemoration service for Eddie and decided that they would make the day of his death a day to remember all those that die as a result of prison conditions and a day to focus on the true facts about life in prison in an attempt to gain some improvements.

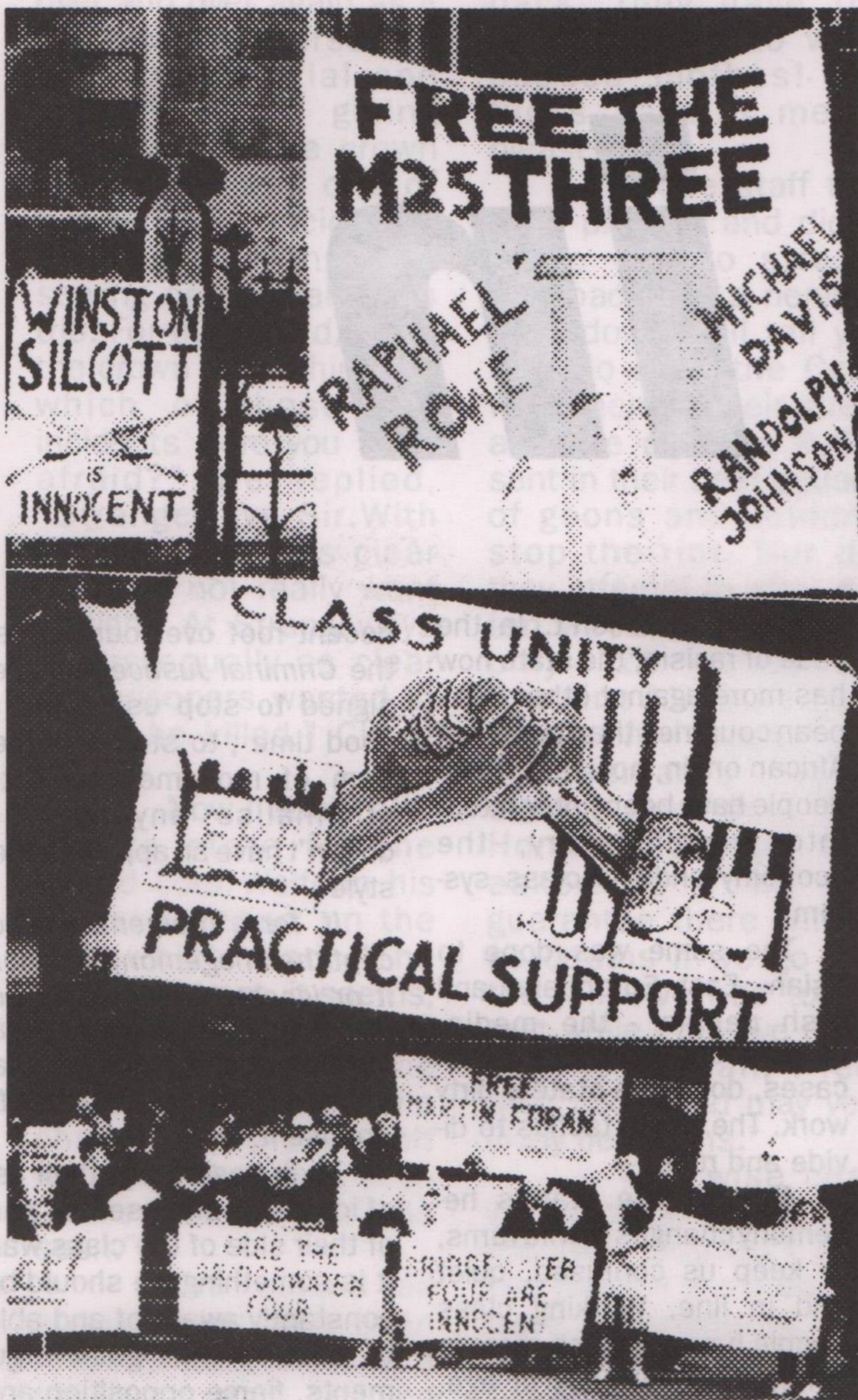
The next year over 1000 prisoners at Millhaven joined the strikes on PJD and soon it was spreading from prison to prison and then across the border into the United States.

PJD is still biggest in Canada and the States where 1000's of prisoners strike whilst supporters hold pickets, memorial services, have a prisoners radio station and gigs.

BACK HERE

Outside prison PJD in different towns has focused on different aspects: women in prison, framed prisoners, against the death penalty, etc... This has meant that PJD has brought together different support groups on the outside and should continue to do so. The main function of the various pickets and marches is to raise the profile of prison struggles in the locality of the prisons and where possible through the mainstream media. This not only adds strength and a voice to the protests behind the walls but also offers support to the friends and relatives of those locked up. There are people who care about what is going on behind the closed doors.

Over the past twenty years we have seen a savage attack against our class, started



by Labour and carried on by the Tories. Over that period we have seen a drop in wages, a rise in taxation (shifting from tax on income to tax on spending) and a reduction in what we get in services for our money.

The result is a drop in our overall share of the wealth that we create. Also within our class, in an attempt to divide us, we have seen a growing gulf between those in the better paid jobs and those that are long term unemployed.

Aimed at one end of our class we are fed the false notion that if you have two people in work and can afford your own house, car, etc. then you are now no longer working class. You have gained class mobility. (Of course any illusion about where you are at is soon shattered when your gaffer decides that he can make more profit by moving the company to some other area or country and you are down the road with your house repossessed and in debt because of negative equity.)

At the other end of the scale we have the media scum favourite - the 'new underclass' - the long term unemployed, those dependent on benefits, the inner cities, and what was sometimes referred to as the old criminal class. Whether you have a bit of material wealth (house, car etc.) or if you have never had a job in your life it makes no difference you are still working class.

But the effect that this economic attack on us has had is to isolate the poorest section of our class, whole communities in some cases

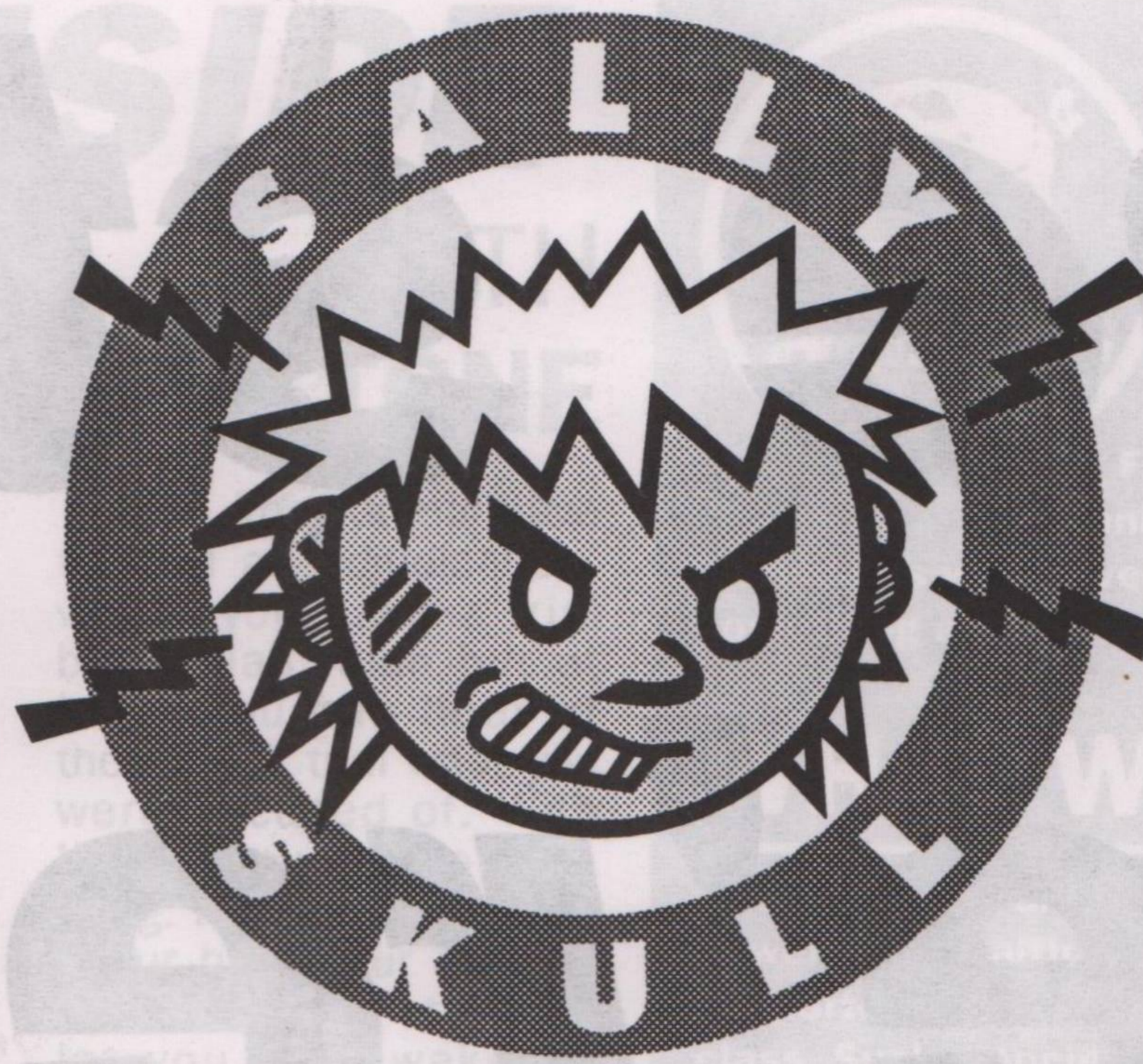
and where this has happened other means of getting by, topping up your measly income, have had to be resorted to. Hence the rise in crimes against property, frauds and fiddles that has taken place over the past twenty years.

The state's response is to try and contain crime within the poorest areas and jail as many people for as long as they can so as to scare others away from doing the same...cos, let's admit it, if you can make yourself even just a hundred quid or so a week selling dope or flogging stolen goods, you ain't going to be interested in working for some fat capitalist bastard for forty hours a week in return for a shit awful wage, are you?

DEMANDS

The result of these policies is that they have now got a crises in prisons and all efforts are being made to isolate those that fight back not only through ghosting and segregation on starvation diet and censorship of mail but also with a shift towards making what were previously seen as entitlements, such as visits being made into privileges to be earned by good behaviour. These control techniques could become the focus of the demands made by prisoners on PJD. An end to ghosting, segregation and the scrapping of the three tier visiting system.

For details of PJD in your area contact your local CW group

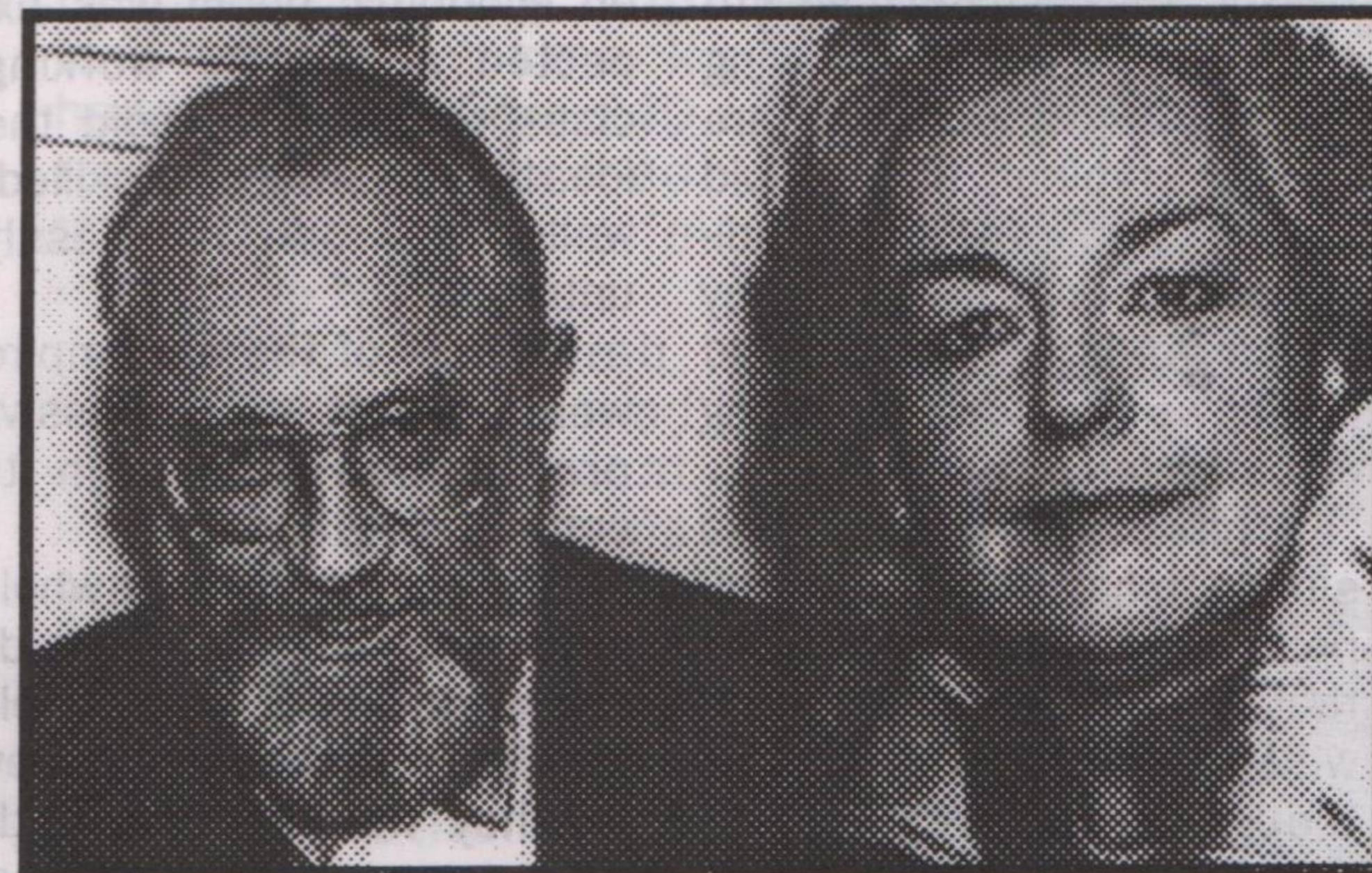


The nostalgia for the days when you could get the staff - and the scullery maid's extra duties included furtive sex alongside scrubbing off burnt porridge - has resulted in more than a repeat showing of *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Having an au pair and lady who comes in to 'do' every day is now passé among the rich - the latest fad among the wealthy is live-in servants. The number of butlers, maids and chauffeurs has doubled in London over the past two years.

But keeping up with the Windsors requires more than imagining oneself to be a used tampon or throwing oneself into a cabinet of best Crown Derby. It means under-paying one's employees wherever possible. Royal household staff are among the lowest paid domestic workers in London, and "hate" working for the Royals. At any one time, around a third of the workers at Buckingham, Kensington and St James Palace are looking for other jobs, "anxious to escape the drudgery and low wages".

The butlers who run the Royal households earn around £12,500 a year, the chambermaids who deal with the Royal public hairs and Royal tide-marks, £3.50 to £4.00 an hour. Wages for office cleaners in London are between £4 and £7 an hour: basically Royal servants have to accept half pay for the privilege of washing the green stuff off the Queen Mother's teeth. It's a dirty job but some pleb has to do it...

BRAINLESS...



Don't lose your head... Prince Ernst Leopold and Princess Sabine Margarethe take the easy option

Washing one's own undies is obviously considered a fate worse than death among the Royals. The Prince and Princess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha blew their heads off with hunting rifles to avoid it. Prince Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (the Queen's cousin) and his wife were worried that their ailing finances would mean stepping down from their lavish operatic upper-class lifestyle to the 'only-two-loos' world of the golfing middle-classes. The thought of a Rover, a Sainsbury's shopping trolley and business instead of first class travel was just too awful. They rammed rifles under their chins and said a last romantic "toodle-loo". Their brains mucked-up the interior of the white Mercedes. The surviving family are offering £3 an hour on the clean-up job. More difficult to whitewash is the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha families history: the Prince's grandfather, Charles, was interred after the Second World War for his Nazi sympathies.

THE EX FILES...

Royal blood usually ensures a less than tenuous grip on reality, but second in the 'I am Julius Caesar' stakes has to be popstars. While the rest of us are making contact with the electric board in the vain hope that we can stave off disconnection, musos are communicating with extra terrestrial life forms. Ageing newsagent lookalike Neil Young claims he's had word from silver spaceships and a holocaust is nothing to stress out about. In the event of a big bang, the actors from the Smash ad are going to whisk us all into another universe. Jimi Hendrix featured an interview with a man who claimed to be an extra terrestrial on the track EXP. David Bowie, in addition to being a crap actor, shit art critic and naff painter has also found the time to be a world authority on UFO's: "I made sightings six, seven times a night for a year. We had regular cruises that came over."



Meanwhile the Sex Pistols have obviously joined the ranks of the less-than-lucid. The Filthy Lucre Tour destroyed the small amount of credibility Lydon had left (Cook, Jones and Matlock all studied at the Rod Stewart finishing school for rebels: tight trousers, no balls.) Critics were divided on the reunion; the Scandinavian public weren't. At the Pistols first gig of the tour in Finland, Lydon's cry of "Do you want more?" was answered by a broken bottle. Then more bottles. At the Roskilde festival in Denmark the bottles hit the stage during the first song. Bottles were hard to come by since they weren't allowed on site, so the inventive Danes filled cans full of gravel. After one song the Pistols left the stage in a bruised sulk, only to return 15 minutes later and have Lydon over-enunciate: "Don't throw bottles at us. Throw them at crap bands." The Danes carefully considered this for six seconds and then chucked everything that wasn't screwed down at the stage. As they say, we're all in the gutter but some of us are throwing bottles at the stars.

the state we're in

Never before in living memory have the institutions that rule us been so blatant in their attempts to keep us down.

The last few years have seen politicians and bosses of all political colours give up any pretence of progressive policies as they accept the New Right agenda and move the centre ground ever further right.

With the growth of multinational corporations and the goal of these to control industry, production and profits in whole continents, it's clear that these corporations have an increasing alliance with governments and therefore have greater say and influence over what governments do.

VICTORY

For example, European capitalism needed the 'Reunification of Germany', (an opportunity provided by the collapse of state socialism) so the Berlin Wall came down. The media portrayed this as a victory for 'democracy' and the TV showed pictures of delighted people clambering over the ruins of the Wall. The effect of reunification was to create a larger space in which capitalism could expand and profit. European governments were all for it, because the hidden agenda was, and is, to create a European economic block to compete with larger powers like North America and Asia.

The result has been a large increase in income tax on workers in the comparatively well-off ex-West Germany, to pay for it. So European capitalists and governments get what they want, sell it to us as a lovely idea, and working class people pay for it through the nose. The best we can expect when they do this are token benefits which they can take away when they feel like it, or when their books don't balance.

A good example of this is what's happened to our National Health Service. The Welfare State was set up quickly after World War II. History books portray this as a victory for progressive ideas and the paternalistic state. They neglect to say that after the horrors of war, and scarce little to show for it apart from horrific loss of life, British people wanted a better life and it was the threat of social revolution that forced the British state to provide us with our rightful dues. In this case education, health care and a benefits system.

When the state decided that these tokens of a better life were not affordable to them any more, when the 'Boom Years' were over, they began to cut back on their provision; and they're now hacking away like crazed psychopaths. This doesn't mean we pay less tax for the loss, quite the reverse, and for most of us a quick visit to a hospital or a school is a nightmare of peeling walls, overcrowding and tired staff who are lacking in numbers.

Needless to say, it is us who suffer and pay for this in equal measure. What better way to control a population than by panicking it into buying private health care, private education and getting an overdraft to pay for it? People tend not to think about social change and a better world when they're struggling to avoid repossession and to pay the bills. What better means of control than to show us the horrors that the state has created if we don't toe the line.

Because Britain is no longer a heavily industrialised country, the state no longer needs a fit, healthy and educated working class. If you accept this then government policies over the last twenty or so years suddenly become clear.

The bosses and politicians need less of us to work. However, rather than paying us to produce what we need, or to pay us to enjoy the time they owe us, they use the media to try to con us into believing that those without work are lazy or criminal, and should accept crap pay and conditions. This does go some way to control 'the masses', and it shows the power of ruling class hegemony.

This is a long word for a simple thing: the set of social, political and economic values that the ruling class have and which are put upon us as though they are fact.

With a capitalist economic and political spine to it, the hegemony of the state and its governments constantly adapts to changes in conditions and situations. The structure of a capitalist class system has also changed, particularly over the last 50 years, but the essential ingredients are still the same. Don't let anyone try to persuade you any different - there may be comparatively well off working class people, some of whom have more money than some middle class people, but NOT more power or status. In a class system, power counts.

This goes hand in hand with the changes in the state's hegemony: its main function is to reinforce its ideology, and present it as fact or common sense i.e. *anything else would be stupid or dangerous*; another is to confuse people into accepting any old shit they care to throw at us. The mechanisms that the state uses to do this are often very effective, at least in the short term, but usually very contradictory and hypocritical.

In the 1990s, the state depends very heavily on working class peoples' acceptance of state hegemony. **It is probably their most loved and most useful tool in social control.**

There are countless examples of the way in which the states hegemony can be shown to be utter bollocks. Here are a few:

The British ruling class took a leading part in the colonialism of various continents. The peoples of these countries, their land and resources were exploited, and, in effect the rulers of 'the developed world' fucked them up the arse with a broomstick. The state portrayed this wholesale barbarism with its accompanying exploitation, repression and slavery, as a pioneering advance.

Later, some of the same peoples were invited to join Britain's 'brave new world', after the Second World War. What really happened is that an economic boom was expected and white working class people were sold the idea they could all have skilled, well paid work; hopelessly untrue.

People of the old empire were subject to a massive propaganda campaign to come to England.

The aim was to get a whole load of cheap labour in to do the work that British people had been conned into believing they wouldn't have to do any more: road sweeping, bus driving, factory shift work etc.

Within a few years of this dream collapsing, the state had finely tuned its racism to blame these migrant workers for various problems.

FAULT

Divide and rule tactics were employed, and still are today. The media of the day was packed full of racist cartoons and lies. Racism, scapegoating, lies, have been and are being used to persuade us that the mess the state puts us in is somebody

else's fault. It isn't. In the case of racism, the state now has more against other European countries than people of African origin, now that these people have been 'integrated' into wage slavery, the economy and the class system.

The same was done to Asian, East Europeans and Irish people - the media, bosses and police, in both cases, doing the state's dirty work. The same tactics to divide and rule.

And so, the state's hegemony changes in wild turns, to keep us confused, quiet and in line. Working class people have so much more in common, regardless of age, race or gender, than we could ever have with the people who rule and exploit us - this is why

decent roof over our heads; the *Criminal Justice Act*, designed to stop us having a good time, to stop our freedom of movement and to criminalise anyone who doesn't have an approved life-style.

If, for a moment, we accept their hegemony, support it or ignore it, we will be accepting increasing social control and conditions that make it harder and harder to oppose it.

Their hegemony, their list of ideals, is an essential part of their side of the class war. It is something we should be constantly aware of and able to destroy with good arguments, fierce opposition and class struggle politics. The old vanguardist Left has failed in this task, and is floundering

What we are arguing for is for the pile to come down in our favour, cut down and controlled by us, consciously, carefully and with a view of the tasks that lie ahead of us in creating a world where capitalism, hierarchy and inequality are a dim and distant nightmares that we won't tolerate the return of. This is a long and hard process that requires certain things.

The way that states, governments and capitalists function are different at different times. The histories and cultures of working class peoples all over the globe are diverse too, with different emphases at different times.

So it would be patronising, arrogant and inappropriate to produce some 'grand plan' of how we can win our world back from the scum who control it and us. However we firmly believe that some things are vital.

Unless we understand the international and national class systems we live under, our histories, our differences, our diversities, our common interests, our allies and our enemies, we can never achieve...

CLASS UNITY

If we can achieve a consciousness of who we are and how we came to be where we are, we can share our interests and unite around them.

CLASS PRIDE

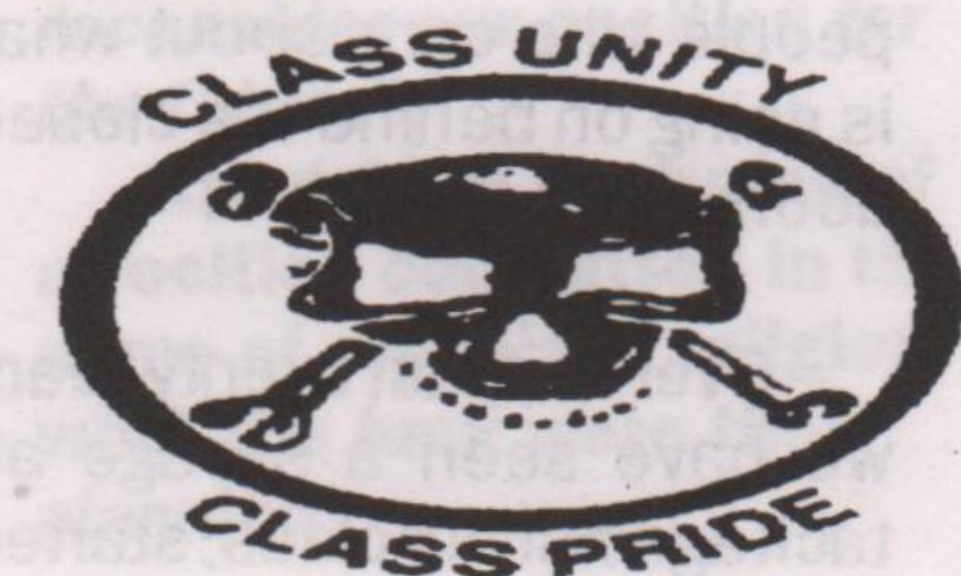
It is vital for us to be, and to do, what is necessary to be proud of our class and what our class has, can and will do.

CLASS WAR

We took our name from the ongoing class war, the struggle that happens every minute of every day all over the world. With class unity, we have a chance of winning this war and creating a world based on equality, freedom from prejudice and oppression; where our well-being is paramount and where we produce what we produce and do what we do for the common good, in solidarity with each other.

This war will not go away, it is a product of capitalism and class structures. We must win it or be its servants. There is no choice.

AGITATE, EDUCATE, ORGANISE!



"Because Britain is no longer a heavily industrialised country, the state no longer needs a fit, healthy and educated working class. If you accept this then government policies over the last twenty or so years suddenly become clear."

the state and its agents spend so much time on reinforcing their hegemony: they push the line that we have very little in common with anyone but our own families. What 90% of the world's population have in common is the need to do what is necessary to create a better world.

Other recent examples of state hegemony are the Tory 'Back to Basics' campaign, laughable in the face of so many Tory MPs having affairs and being corrupt; the new *Asylum Bill*, an blatantly racist and brutal policy designed to allow only wealthy 'refugees' to live in Britain; the *Jobseekers Allowance* and the *Spotlight on Benefits Cheats* campaign; the additions to the *1985 Housing Act*, making it even harder for the poorest and most needy of us to get a

without a direction.

It's 1996 and conditions are bad. Poverty, crime, unemployment, bad health care, shit welfare benefits, a housing crisis of massive proportions, a huge increase in the gap between rich and poor.

Whether the state figurehead is Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro or Bill Clinton, they all doff their caps to capitalism and its demands. Make no mistake, they will be as vicious and brutal as they have to be. They will make laws to outlaw us, use their militaries and police to enforce them and bury us if they see the need. While they oversee and encourage working class peoples' suffering and us taking their problems out on each other, they are on to a winner, at least until the whole pile come tumbling down.



ON THE INSIDE

WITH BASIC BOW BLUNDERSTONE

Greetings from the house with many bars but no beer. Yes it's the 'insider' writing from the inside where I am to give 'Joe Public' a look from our view, which is down the green line marked 'Non VIP Route' of jail. I'm sat here on Good Friday listening to 60's and 70's on the radio thinking there is very fucking little that's good about this Friday except due to 23 hours bang up I see very little of the Gestapo which suits me fine.

Welcome to H.M.P. Blunderstone (don't you love them bars). For a start it strikes me as a very odd name to call a jail and doesn't surprise me that it took a ten man committee to come up with this title,...on expenses of course!

Because of Howard the Coward bringing in all his vote grabbing policies, the screws are in their apple cart and take a great delight in their new 'tough' stance. Howard is now going to do away with remission and parole. I think this is fab news because maybe then those Cons who think of 'Me, Myself and I' will wake up and realise that if we are not careful many of the 54,000 in prison will not see the light of day. Again, the only way to make sure this new crap gets put on a re-think is Direct Action - RIOT. Prisoners must realise we are following America day by day, what they do today we copy tomorrow, lock downs, total isolation for months on end etc. These new rules, regarding remission, is nothing new. Had Strangeways prisoners not said "FUCK THIS" and wrecked the whole jail these guidelines would of been brought in 5 years ago, Strangeways put those plans back in the safe! Direct Action will do the same to these new rules, I'm sick of hearing these sad screws with their 'Don't fuck with me' look saying, "We could of ended it after one day if we had been allowed to go in".

Now let me please correct this myth for most of those screws who say it, like true P.O.A policy, wasn't even there at the party to go in and stop it. So allow me to please put the facts, I call 'em facts because I was there, I was that soldier and we came, we saw and we conquered. Now instead of repeating, "We could

of taken back that jail" over and over again as if to convince yourself of this, at the trial one young officer giving evidence for the crown said, "...it was one of two terrifying incidents" in his life along with serving on the Falklands trip. For the record, when the crown asked him, "At which of these two incidents were you most afraid?" He replied, "Strangeways Sir. With the Argies it was clear they did not really want to fight. At Strangeways it was equally as clear the prisoners wanted to kill or be killed." Clever chap!

Now I would also like to state for the record Lord Wolfe in his massive report on the riot, which read, "The staff could not, it seems, leave the building soon enough even before the prisoners came from the chapel and those staff who did stay left as soon as the first Con could be seen."

The remand jail should never have been involved due to being a totally separate building from where the rioters were. Lord Wolfe again stated, "For the life of me, I can not fathom

prisoner should fight back, they have the fucking front to wear padded clothes! For fucks sake, I mean, please!!!

Those staff that were present and didn't retire due to stress, flashbacks or a nervous breakdown, will tell you as I do now, the Cons were there in their street attitude and the P.O.A sent in their best squads of goons and couldn't stop the riot. Nor did they attempt to after day ten when, I might add, only 25 prisoners remained. Could they take it back? A spokesman's words outside were this, "The Home Secretary has asked us if we can guarantee there will be no deaths if we go into the jail. I've had to tell that while I feel we could re-take the jail, I feel their could and may very likely be deaths."

This wise chap was spot on and believe me they couldn't give two fucks if them deaths were us prisoners. The spokesman meant staff!

Never before have I had the honour to sit and join in spirit and fight with such brave Cons who were there for

They do not have to hold an adjudication, where you have a trial blah, blah, blah but at least you can hear at their mock trial what you were accused of. With 'Basic' you get no such thing. It's enough to say, "Your behaviour is such your on basic" till they let you off - wake up lads.

I read the other day that in Alcatraz, in the U.S.A, the poor chaps only get two 1 an half hour visits a month. Well on 'Basic' you get one 1 hour visit a month - wake up lads. It seems solitary didn't work and they now put you on 'Basic' till they decide you are cured. One kid on it at the moment has started his 12th week as we speak. I am into week 2 of many I fear! Whitemoor prison 'review' prisoners every 6 months when they are on it.

The prison service has made 'piss samples' compulsory. Which is great news it's official 'cos they've been taking the piss for years. If they want our waste lads do as y'all get told and let em have it - by the fuckin bucket over their heads. They'll think twice before asking again, believe me! Add some sugar for sticky effect. If you can't afford sugar use porridge it's free and plentiful. I'd like to point out most lads who smoke Hash are forced into taking Heroin for fear of losing 28 days because Hash stays in the system for 3 months, with Heroin it's only for 3 days. So for people who have never tried Heroin take it to beat the piss test and find (like many before them) they like the feeling, ending up leaving jail as smack heads needing from £40 to £400 a day to feed the habit - nice one Howard ya NOB.

And to finish, I've got a report of mad cows disease here at Blunderstone: she's about 22 stone and is a Governor grade. Cons should be advised to steer clear of this bitch. She is lethal and Blunderstones very own S.S. Bitch Of Blunderstone 'only obeying orders' type.

Next time I'll write and fill you all in on prison life but I'm sorry if I rambled on with myself, I had to some things off my chest. I must rush off to have a wank before Howard puts a fuckin ban on that as well.

"Again, the only way to make sure this new crap gets put on re-think is Direct Action - RIOT."

why the staff evacuated the remand side of the jail."

Well Wolfey baby, I'll tell you a wee secret Son, it was plain and simple.....they shit themselves. They knew they had ALL in their time abused a prisoner and now them prisoners were not going to be kept in line with the threat of 3 days in solitary with only a bible, I've yet to work out which of those two was the punishment. No, no the power of the pen with their silly 'ya on report son' wasn't goner work that April 1st....it was no joke, it was the real thing. What's more some staff actually believe Cons are really scared of them as an individual and they think it's nothing to do with the fact that when they do kick the shit out of some poor fucker it's always 20 of them against the Con and just to play safe, in case the

all those who had enough shit off this sick system. At night, in those riots, I heard the laughs of those poor fuckers who got hanged, the guilty as well as the innocent. The walls, what were left of them, rejoiced I swear that day. So please no more of this 'we could of taken it back' bollox. It's an insult to the lads who served for 25 days with the riot. Where ever you are, be it in jail or out, I salute you lads. 'The Boy done good', that includes those not charged, a good 800 rioted not just 32 as charged.

Now I predict an all hands on deck. At the moment jails have started what they call 'Basic' routine, which means you will get put on isolation: 23 hour bang up with 1 hour exercise a day and £2.50 spends if you have cash of your own. If not you get nothing!



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

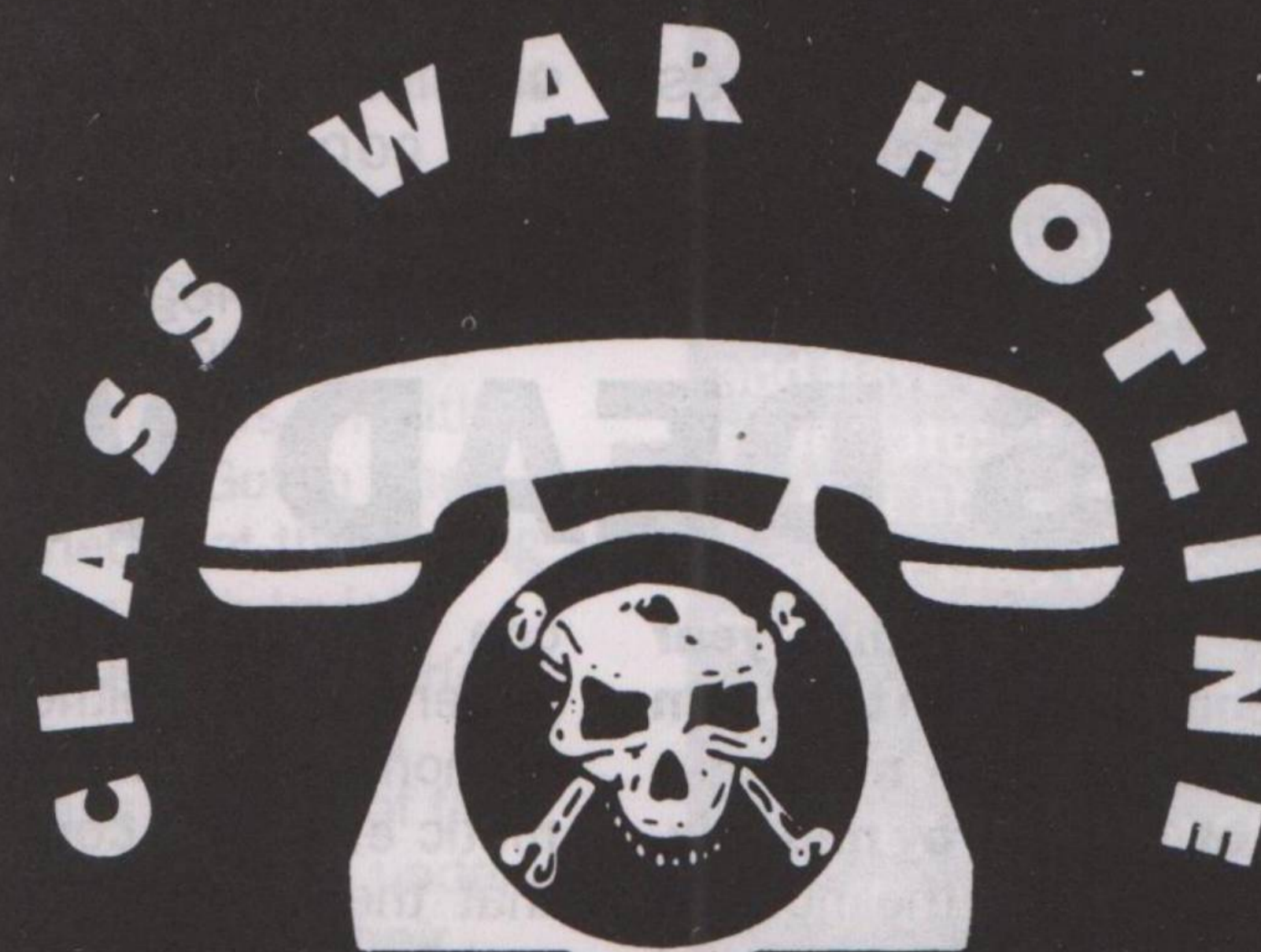
The aim of the CLASS WAR FEDERATION is not to lead, but to increase the militancy of working class people's attempts to solve their problems—through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.

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



MORE INSIDER DEALINGS NEXT ISSUE



GUN TERROR AS COPS SCREW IT UP AGAIN!

Cops threatening an innocent man with guns is another in a long line of police 'over reaction'.

This latest sickjoke, in an increasingly long line of them involved the armed section of Strathclyde police. Duncan Johnston was stopped at gunpoint, ordered to "Drop the toilet roll" and forced to lie on the ground, handcuffed and pinned to the ground while being interrogated for two hours.

TRIGGER HAPPY

A team of self-styled SWAT squad shithheads aimed Hechler and Koch assault carbines at Duncan as he returned from buying some bog roll for a disabled friend - the guy must have been too scared to explain that they'd obviously got the wrong person. Mind you, previously, they've ambushed kids in a park who were armed to the teeth with an air rifle and water pistols, and other deadly ruffians with capguns.



BULLY BOYS

Bully boys in helmets and flak jackets may be having their own perverse idea of a laugh, or may be barking up

the wrong tree, with wrong information (we suspect both) but we should leave them no room to act out their macho fantasies, least of all on us. The picture above shows

us several things: the untamed violence the state has in store for us; the ridiculous and dangerous mistakes the cops make, especially now that that pillock of a Home

Secretary, Michael Howerd, has just armed them; and the fact that not only did they terrorise the wrong person (if their was a right one), but they also managed to get the press

pomographer, sorry photographer, there to watch them do it, as the picture from a Scottish newspaper tells. They can only do 'press stunts' like this if we let 'em:

CS gas, guns and armoured cars have not kept the working class quiet in Tahiti, Berlin or Belfast and they won't do it here.

STOP PRESS.. The 'TREASON IN THE PARK' music festival, August 17, Kelvin Grove Park, Glasgow, Scotland

THE NEXT BOGEYMAN

Now that the government no longer has the Soviets, miners or pit bull terriers to blame for their crap system, they're searching for new scapegoats.

In Scotland, in May this year, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Governor General Michael Forsythe, launched the 'Scotland Against Drugs' campaign at a cost of £1 Million, backed by Labour, the Lib-Dems, and the Scottish National Party (SNP), and millionaire owner of Quickfit garages, Tom farmer, showing that 5 in a bed will go, if you push hard enough.

ENEMY WITHIN

Toffee-nosed Tom spoke in militaristic tones of drug users being "the enemy within", never mind the big dealers and the

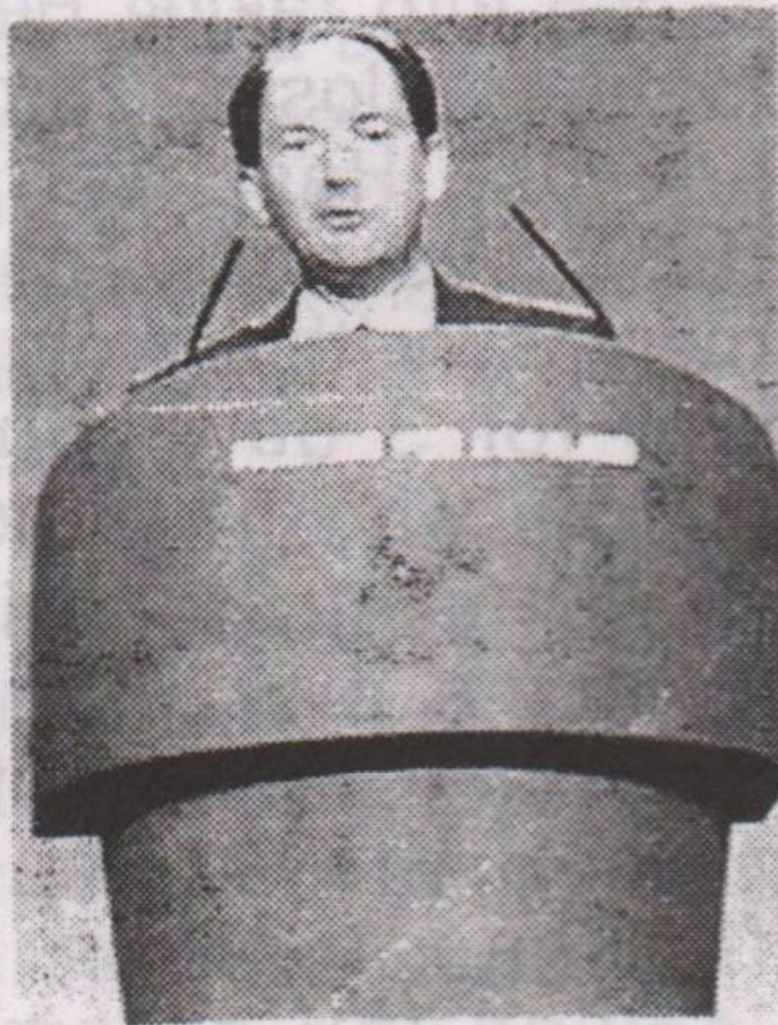
multinational producers of legal drugs.

So, here lies the tactic: the continuing myth of the right-wing invention, 'the underclass'. Although it's true that some drugs can fuck you up, and some users are not very well as a result of their habits, most people aren't in that situation at all.

NONSENSE

Coupled with this, in the awful social conditions we live in, a war against the pleasure principle is a nonsense in itself.

But such a war enables the ruling class and its friends like Tom to play the law and order card once more, allowing them to put on more pressure to give the cops and MI5 the sweeping powers they already use, legally or not,



Michael Forsythe... or is it Bill and Ben? Flubadub!

to attack us, the people.

A bit of sound advice may be to clue up on how to behave during a police 'interview; any 'dodgy' names, addresses and phone numbers in your book should be coded or not there in the first place (don't risk your mates getting a visit from the Plod); you could keep 'fake drugs' about you, like Oxo cubes,

herbs, talc, crushed up aspirin, to waste the cops' time and to throw them off the scent; but most of all, oppose the cops and the coppers' narks.

If you need good advice on drugs and the law, contact:

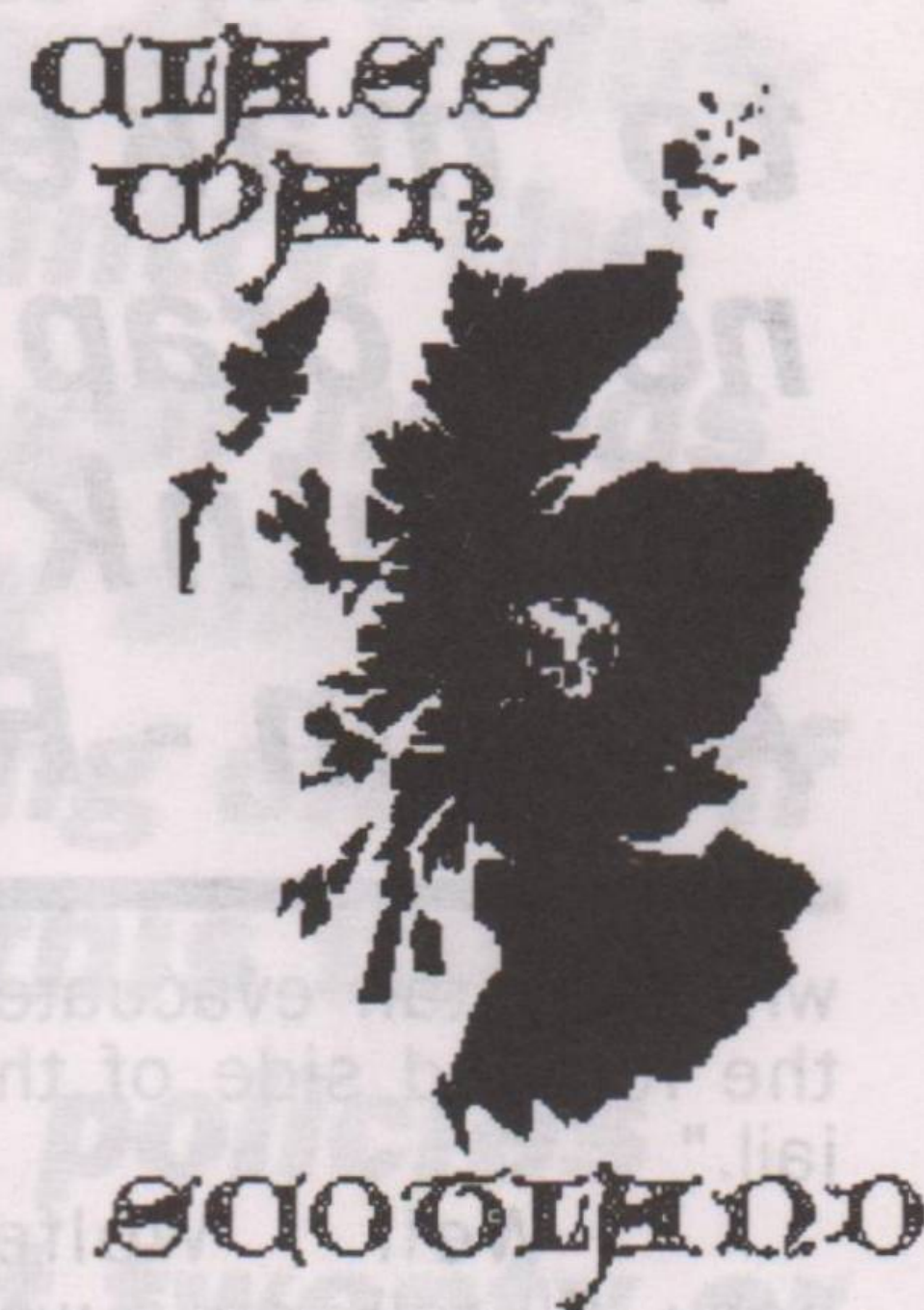
RELEASE, on their 24-hour hotline, tel: 0171 603 8654 or write to Release, with an SAE: 388 Old Street, London EC1.

LIFELINE, 101-103 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LW Tel: 0161 839 2054

The *Class War* centre page article, 'Crack, Smack, Whizz!', on our attitude to drugs, is available on request.

on doing their job effectively. If you want to get involved in keeping them involved, Contact: **Class War Prisoners, PO Box 1021, Edinburgh.**

Stand firm!



BOSS IN DUNG DRAMA

Trainee farm worker, Nell Ross, did what we've all wanted to do at some time or another.

When his boss got stropky, he picked up a handful of pig manure and rubbed it into her face and then grabbed her by the hair and shoved her head into a pile of pig shit for a full minute.

Although Paul was already busy working, Penelope Penny, manager of Parkside Pig Farm, Oldmendum, Aberdeenshire, told him to get a pig from its pen, and criticised him for working slowly.

Although Paul copped a conditional discharge from the Sheriff, he literally gave some shit back to the boss, and as far as we're concerned, came up smelling of roses.

TWISTED TURNKEY TRAILS TEENAGERS

Police stations civilian worker, Paul Egan of Kilsyth Road, Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire, worked at Glasgow's Maryhill cop shop.

His job was locking prisoners up in their cells, until he was found guilty of following girls aged between 13 and 15 years, while driving around in his car. Paul's downfall came when he was caught for using the police computer to check if the girls he was harassing had reported his pervey passions.

Obviously takes one to catch one.

CHRISTIAN GUNS

Callous Mormon church bosses in Scotland organised gun lessons for children as young as 12, only a few weeks after the Dunblane Tragedy. Church leaders refused to apologise for their actions. Bishop John Keogh, would only state that "We would reconsider our position for the future".

Apart from centuries of atrocities committed in the name of organised religion, what the fuck were they planning?

IT'S DEAD WRONG

Every five days this year someone has taken their own life in a UK jail - making a total of 35 dead by mid-July.

Since 1994 the number of prison suicides has shot up - proof positive that overcrowding and maltreatment have taken their toll on the mental well-being of many a

con. Life on the inside isn't getting any better either: prison authorities have made cosmetic efforts to convince us that they're trying to make cuddly social workers out of their screws, but prisoners know this is another joke to keep truth from surfacing. Some prisoners have dis-

covered that sticking together against the powers that be and becoming politically active can be a good laugh, positive and keep away those feelings of isolation.

They are spreading the word but they need all the support they can get from people on the outside to keep

REVIEWS

CINEMA



Secrets and Lies: who needs Hollywood shite?

HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT (15) NOW AND THEN (15) MOONLIGHT AND VALENTINO (15)

Girls' night in... The release of all these 'chick flicks' was delayed to coincide with the European Championships. The logic was that while the men gathered round the telly screaming for MacManOhMan-OhMan, the women would tire of asking: "Why is the goalie wearing a different outfit?" and take themselves off to the pictures. The distributors got it wrong. Given a choice between seeing Poborsky worry the ball and Winona Ryder go for a knee hug, we went for the football.

In *How To Make An American Quilt* Winona Ryder is girlie-ness at its most cloying. She plays her own over-privileged self with annoying regularity. As in *Reality Shites* she's supposed to be re-evaluating her life, only in this film she's got a whole battalion of glamorous feisty grannies to help her. If I was her granny I'd tan her arse and disown the spoilt bitch. As Alan Partridge puts it: "This is good, clean slush and that's not going to happen." Anybody wanting to see a generational saga where women have personalities instead of a twinkle in their eyes and a shared tub of ice cream, should opt for Wayne Wang's superior *The Joy Luck Club*.

Now And Then is Demi Moore in serious actress mode... she's wearing glasses and her shirt stays on. A cheesy coming-of-age film that's less raw and interesting than adolescent acne. Big stars like Griffiths and Moore wouldn't allow themselves to grow up into just anybody, so four mates from a

town the size of a Smartie are supposed to turn into a doctor, a best selling author and a huge Hollywood star. As dull as the *Gaby Roslin Show*.

Moonlight And Valentino is another dose of pretty yuppies holding hands and snuffling round a camp fire. All these chick flicks are dressed up therapy sessions. In *Moonlight And Valentino* we get a wide range of characters: neurotic, recovered neurotic. Whoopi Goldberg has her wise, concerned face on. When directors want somebody to explain the meaning of life, they get Whoopi Goldberg to grip a piece of antique furniture and hold forth. Hollywood needs to ask itself again: "What do women want?" More football!

SECRETS AND LIES (15)

Almost everything we see on the big screen has been through the Hollywood filter. Anything approaching real experience ends up on the cutting room floor and the warts get airbrushed over. Mike Leigh's skill in *Secrets And Lies* is that he's left the warts in and you still come away empathising with the characters.

All the frustrations of family life sit side by side with loyalty and affection. The things that families keep hidden under the stairs jump out, but the slanging matches aren't as strong as a family's eventual acceptance and liking of each other. Timothy Spall is absolutely brilliant as the photographer, who always tries to do the right thing. In the past Leigh's been accused of sneering at ordinary people's lives. *Secrets and Lies* isn't a cheap jibe at our pretensions and foibles, it's an insight into the way we're all slightly odd but we help each other out, even love each other better, when push comes to shove. **Brilliant...**

TELEVISION

TOP OF THE POPS

Fridays 7.30pm BBC1

This is the programme that most people love to hate - full of crap bands, hyped-up presenter and a wacky audience.

It used to be even worse, when everything was mimed, 'Legs and Co.' couldn't dance and the presenters were all hairy DJs...

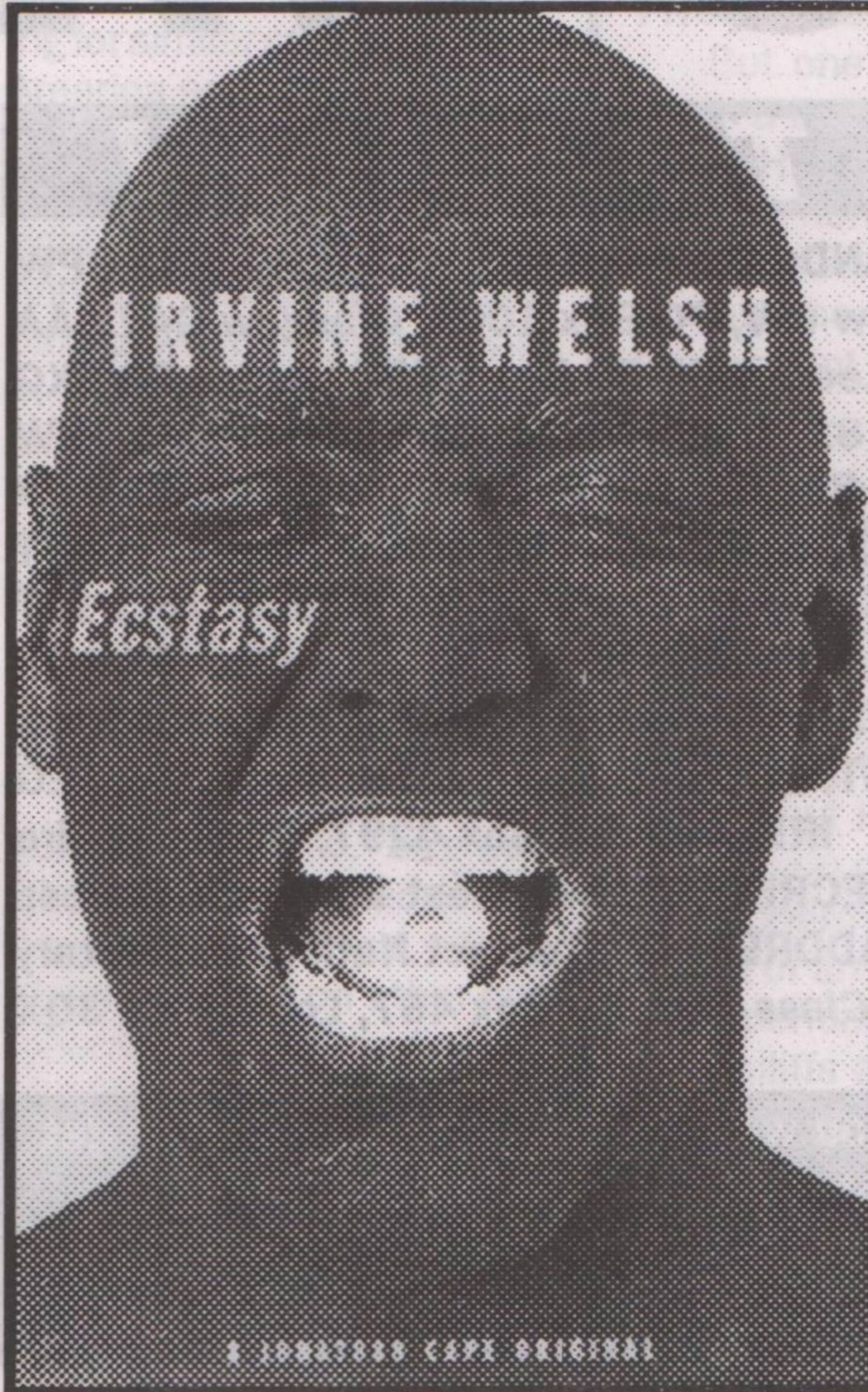
In the 90s they're trying to keep up with the times and prove to us that TOTP isn't dead but alive and kicking. So now we've got live acts (even by satellite), sexier

dancing alongside bands and presenters from god knows where.

They may have speeded up the pace, and shifted TOTP back a day. But this programme is still seriously lacking... 'I thought it was then' and it still is. It was crap, is crap and always will be, as long as it's aired at teenage hormones and the music industry's bank balance. Doesn't the fact that the Sex Pistols can appear alongside the likes of Peter Andre say it all really?

Anyway, good to see the British public hasn't lost its sense of humour: 'Three Lions on a Shirt', several weeks at no. 1!

IN PRINT



ECSTASY

Irvine Welsh
(Jonathan Cape £9.99)

Irvine Welsh seems to be everywhere you turn these days. After the massive success of the film of *Trainspotting*, Welsh has been officially pronounced 'Mr Hip Writer for Today's Youth'. Chatshow appearances, readings at clubs, profiles in style magazines... the man can do no wrong.

The brilliant thing about *Trainspotting* (the book) and Welsh's other books (*The Acid House* and *Marabou Stork Nightmares*) is that they've been read by the kind of people who'd never be caught dead reading 'literature'. Yet in the first two of these three short love (loved-up?) stories, it looks like Welsh has lost the plot. How are we supposed to relate to a Barbara Cartland character who ends up taking E, or a Jimmy Savile character who's shagging corpses in a hospital mortuary??

But wait! All this shite is forgotten by the time of the third tale, 'The Unde-eated', where Welsh is back on top form, laying into all the usual suspects. Magic! Buy, borrow or steal this book (but skip the first 150 pages...).

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY BRAVO TWO ZERO

(and 48 other SAS books)

There've been so many books written by and about the SAS I've become convinced that someone has started a creative writing course at their base in Hereford. The chinless generals are concerned that fifty books, a TV series and a board game have destroyed the mystique of the SAS. They're afraid people will find out that their main skill seems to be the ability to lie in a ditch for a long time.

From what I've read, the generals have nothing to worry about: the books contain more porkies than police evidence. "I killed 50 Argies with my left hand, 20 with my right, leapt over a tall building and out ran a speeding locomotive". If you look at the supermen closer to home in Northern Ireland, the reality is a bit different. They were being used as government death squads, ambushing the IRA. Despite having all the advantages the state could provide, they not only succeeded in getting themselves killed at an embarrassing rate but managed to continually shoot 'civilians' who happened to be in the area. Now if only they had a brain cell each...

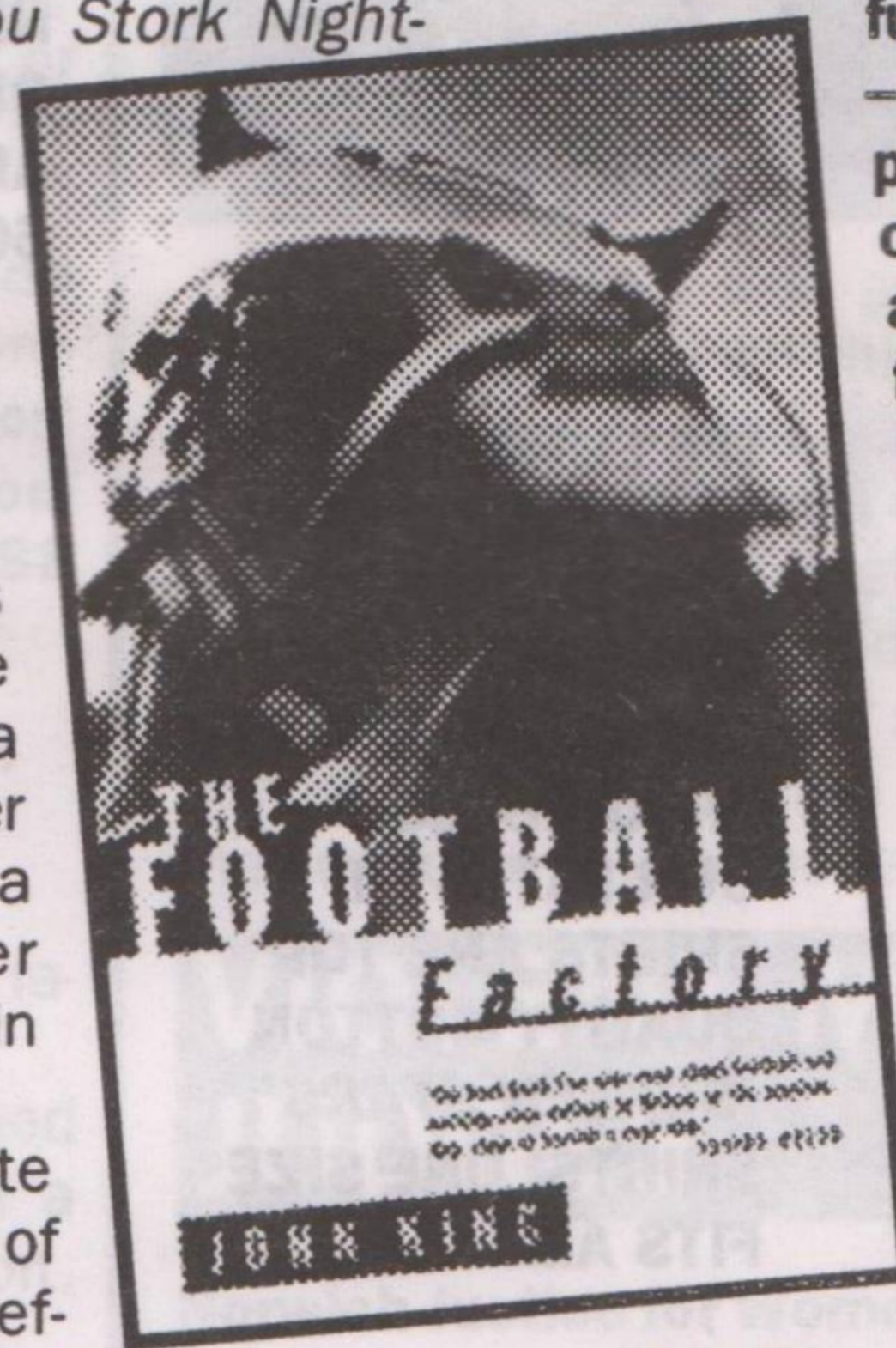
THE FOOTBALL FACTORY

John King
(Jonathan Cape £9.99)

What a surprise. Euro 96 happens in England and all of a sudden the shops are full of bursting with football books - books by players, books about players, books about TV coverage of players, books about books about football, books with a football on the cover but fuck-all inside...

Luckily *The Football Factory* is one of the better efforts. It mainly revolves around Tom Johnson, a Chelsea supporter and 'hooligan', although bits are also written through other people's eyes. If you're offended by casual racism and fucked-up attitudes to women, then you're better off skipping most chapters and heading for 'Tottenham Away' - where the Old Bill take a terrific beating - and 'Bombay Mix' which is more anti-racist than a million Anti-Nazi League demonstrations.

A mixed bag, but well-recommended.



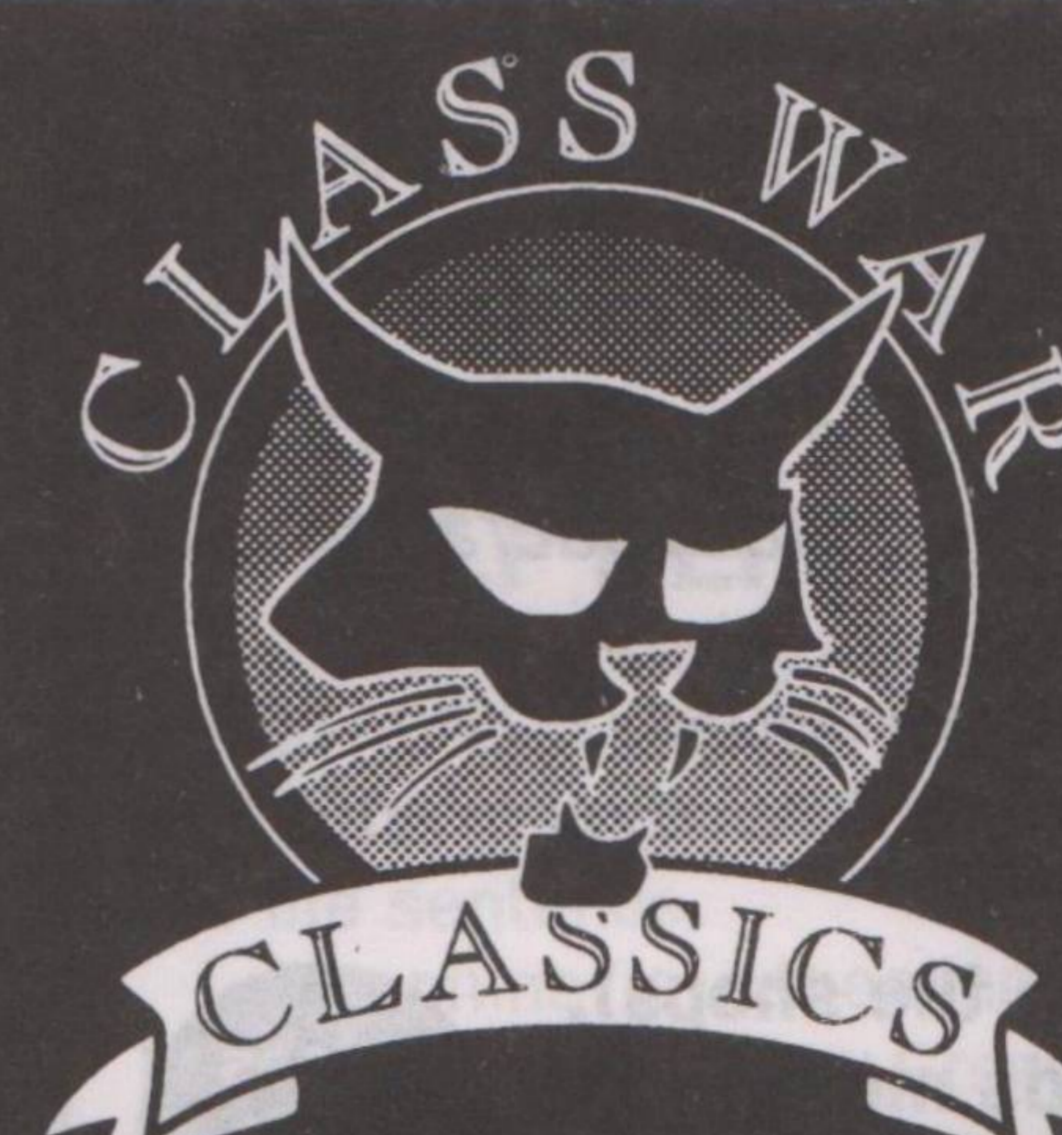
WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME

Marge Piercy
(Women's Press, 1976)

Connie Ramos is mad. Like crazy. Mental. Not all the time. She likes to have a little fun when she gets the chance, share a bottle of wine, spend time playing with her daughter. But she gets mad when people try and treat her like shit. Connie's a single mum. She's Mexican-American and she's a woman. She's also poor. So she gets treated like shit a lot.

When her niece Dolly's pimp starts beating on Dolly in Connie's own flat, Connie gets so crazy she smashes a glass jug into the man's face. They declare her insane and she's put into an institution.

Throughout the story Connie is faced with two choices: she can either



accept 'what's best for her' - drugs, accept the way things are, being treated like shit; or she can fight. Finally her only route back to 'normality' is participation in a mind-control experiment using electronic brain implants.

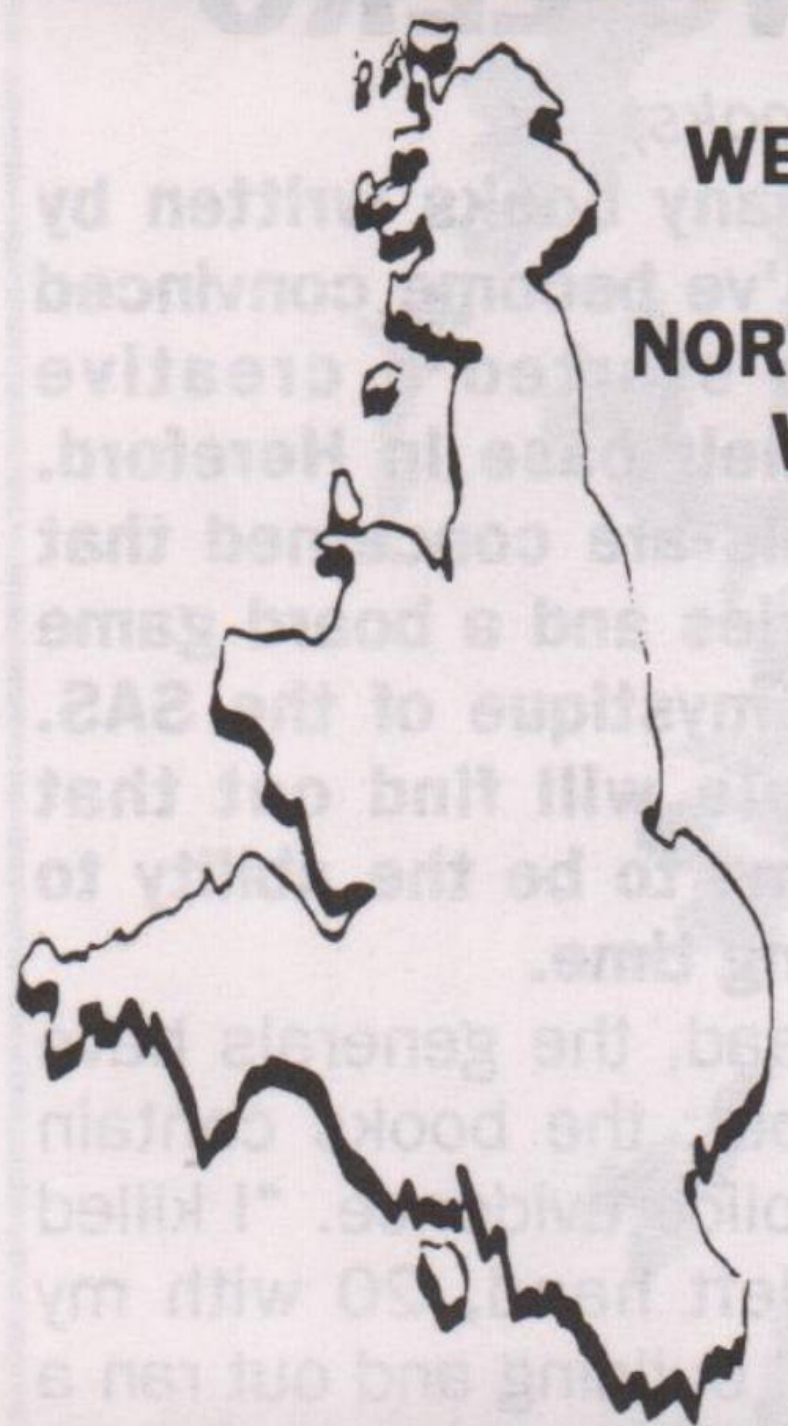
Here the story flips into science fiction mode. Connie is also a 'catcher'. She is able to visit the future. She visits a communist-anarchist utopia and then, in one nightmarish trip, she visits a future hell, no less convincing. Connie's friends from utopia are worried - because their own existence is in jeopardy. The future depends on the present just as the present is rooted in the past. Their future utopian existence is dependent upon Connie and people like her making the right decisions in the present...

Marge Piercy has written a wonderful story, a true classic that stretches from grim realism to total wacked-out science fiction. The politics are spot-on too, when you think about it.

All records, books, magazines etc for review should be sent to: **The Reviews Crew** c/o Class War, PO Box HH57, Leeds LS8 5XG, West Yorkshire

CLASS WAR contacts

IT'S GOOD TO TALK!



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CLASS WAR is active all over Britain. If you want to find out more and/or get involved in your area, write to your closest regional secretary/National Secretary, or call the Hotline. DON'T FORGET, there's probably a local Class War group closer to you than the regional address. If not, why not form one?!

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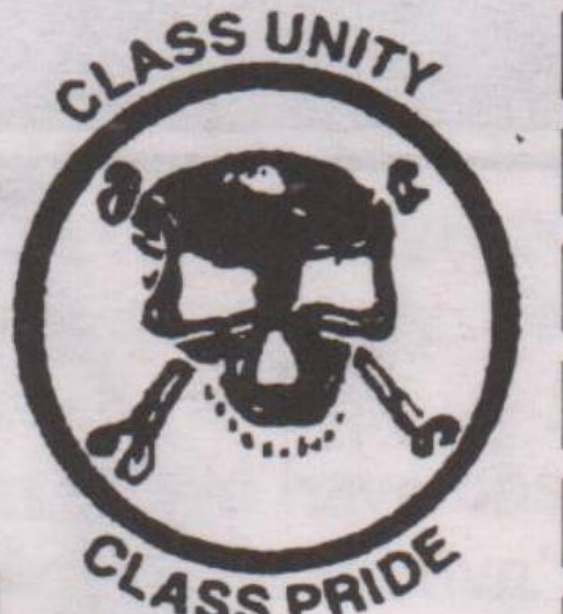
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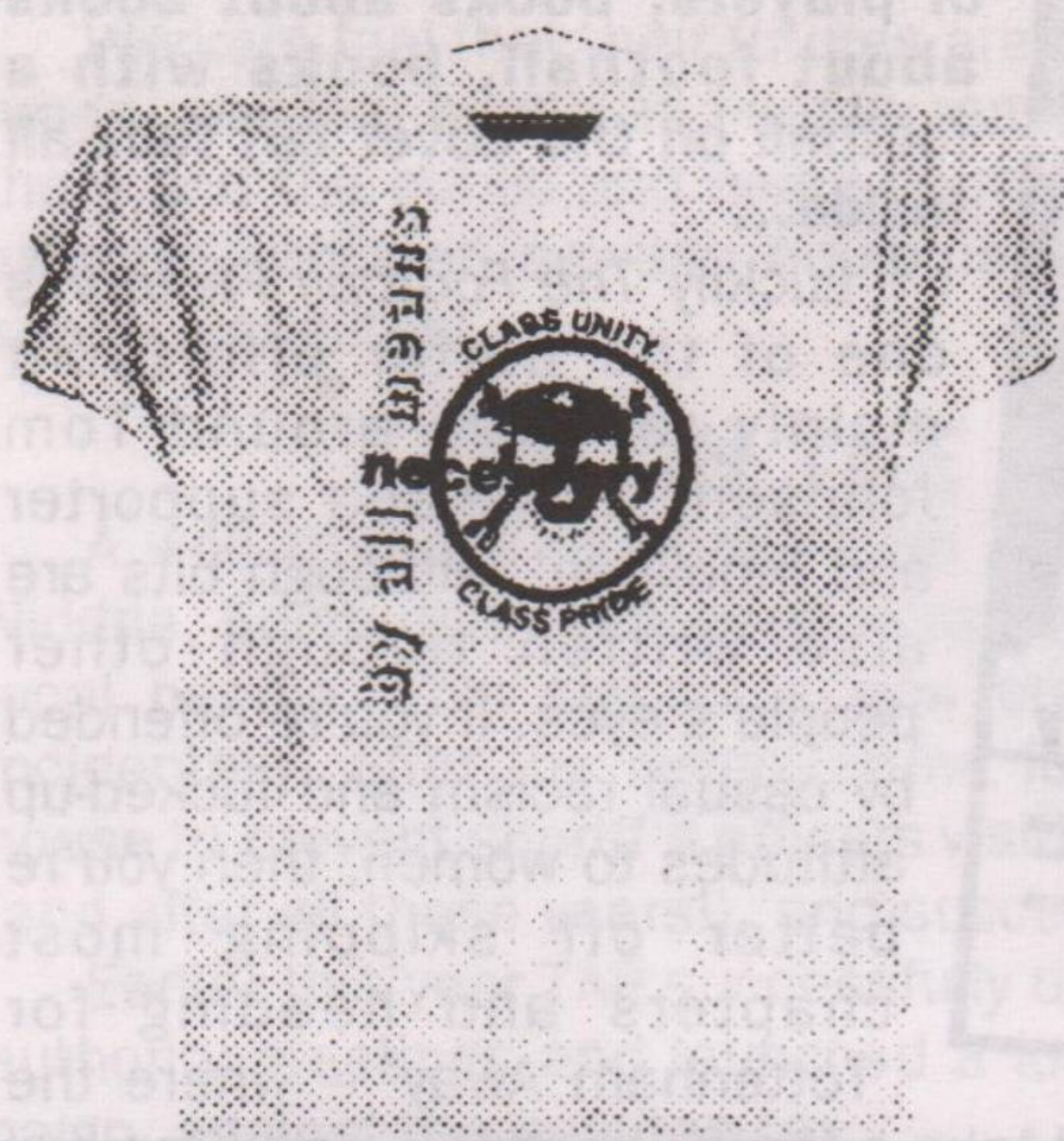


CLASS WAR HOTLINE: (0117) 907 3667 (normal BT rates)
 CALL US WITH YOUR NEWS, VIEWS, INFO., SCANDAL AND QUESTIONS



happy shoppers

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'BY ALL MEANS...'

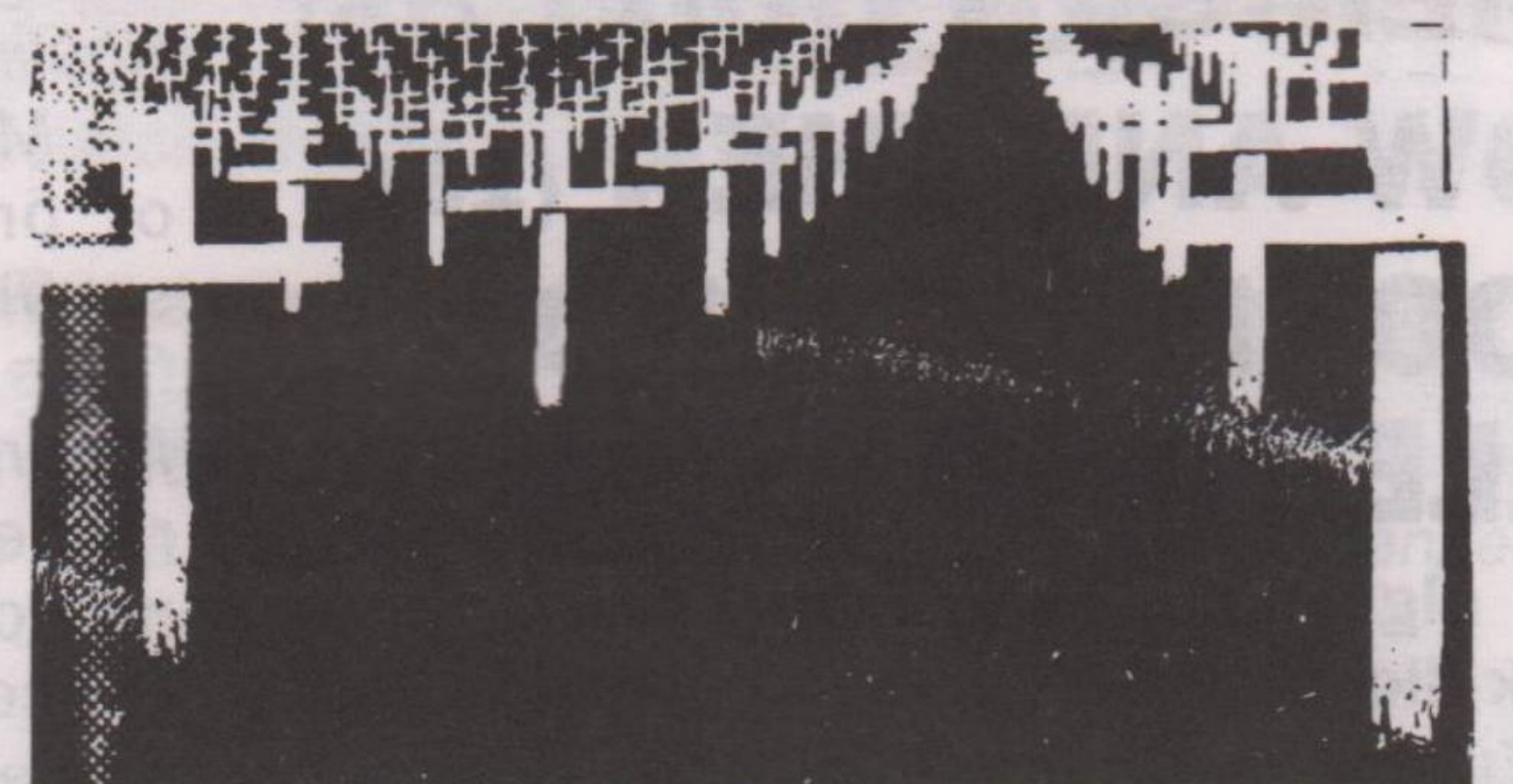
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LETTERS

WE PRINT 'EM COS YOU WRITE 'EM

CW Letters Page
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BOXING CLEVER AND BASHING THE RICH

Dear Class War,

In reference to your past articles on boxing, I would like to say that I think you are missing the point. Fair enough it does offer an escape from the drudgery of working class life but essentially all boxing is a way for fat rich bastards (who are usually white) to get their jollies off watching two working class boys (usually black) beat the living shit out of each other. While we are being taught to beat the brains out of each other and not to think, the scumbag promoters get rich off working class blood. What I would like to see is these fighting skills being used on the coppers, promoters, politicians and all other rich filth.

Yours, Gerry, Paisley.

CW Reply: A good case in point is how one of the promoters of the fight for the WBC Super Middleweight title in Feb 95, Don King, has left the challenger, Gerald McClellan to rot in hospital after promising to pay his costs. Come back Terry Marsh (who is incidentally a militant anti-fascist) and finish what you started!

BUNCH OF SAD LEFTIES

Dear Class War, I have seen some inconsistencies in 'Class War' over the years but never one to match your brief article on the Independent Working Class Association (trying saying that after five pints!). If you fear it will be "just another collection of sad lefties trying to recruit each other", why bother giving these characters any space?

Having seen two of the leaflets produced by the IWCA so far I would say that it already is a sad bunch of lefties trying to recruit one another. Whilst Class War's name may shine out on the leaflet like a diamond in a

heap of manure, I see no reason for you to be in such company. I thought one of your beliefs was that the left have failed (and deserve to fail) in this country and should be avoided at all costs.

Yours, David Parker, Ramsgate, Kent

PUTRID PORRIDGE

Dear Class War, I have now had an opportunity to see your latest issue. Frankly I am appalled at some of the contents (only some? shame - CW). I expect that

will not come as much of a surprise. The tone of much of the material is clearly intended to incite violence which is highly irresponsible.....

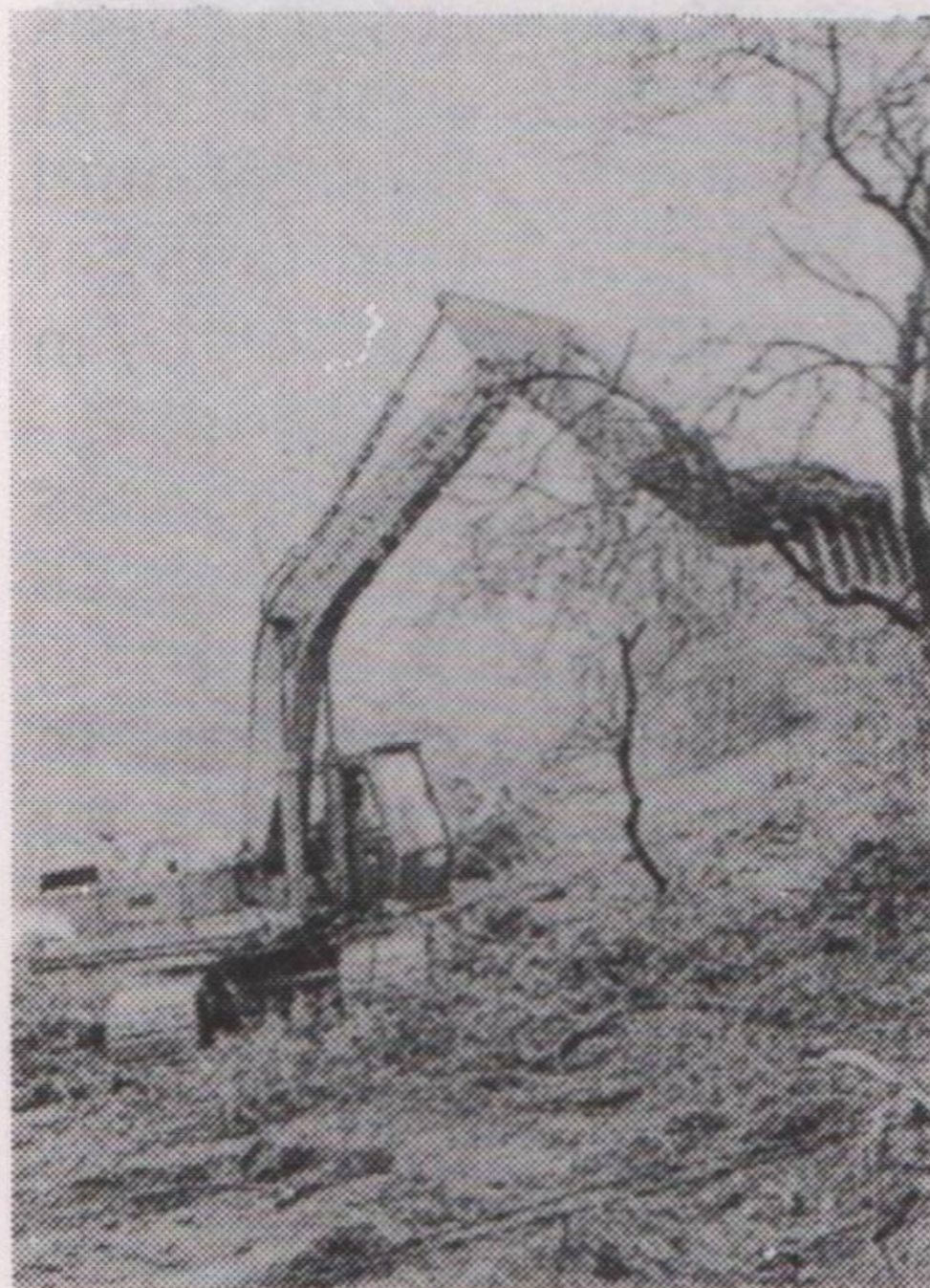
Yours Sincerely
 John H Gerrie, Head of Communications, Scottish Prison Service, Calton House, 5 Redheugh Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 (telephone number 0131 244 8476)

CW Reply: above is an excerpt from a reply to a letter concerning prisons in Scotland. Much of it goes on in the same vein so we thought that we would save you from that. However, if you have any views on the Scottish Prison service we are sure that Mr. Gerrie would appreciate you sharing them with him.

TURNING THE TABLES

The last 5 years has seen an unprecedented increase in the size of the private security industry, as the businessmen of Britain struggle to defend their property - and their profits - from those who wish to apply a little unofficial "tax" to their earnings and redistribute a little wealth along the way.

In addition to the uniformed guards that are



Another defeat

now to be found in virtually all town centre shops, the private security industry has ventured into the environmental struggles that have been fought across Britain in recent years.

STRONG ARMS

Some of their activity has involved strong arm tactics against protesters, but another element has been to infiltrate movements to build up evidence on activists that can then lead to court injunctions or even more serious sentences.

We are glad to report however that the environmental movement has been building up intelligence of its own. During the struggle to halt the Newbury bypass, protesters settled on

a tactic of economic sabotage by delaying the developers as much as possible, literally struggling to defend each tree.

Disgracefully some experienced mountain climbers received large sums of money to use their expertise, not to help the people defending the trees, but to help the police get them out.

We are pleased to report however that for a couple of months now a leaflet has been circulating in the green movement identifying some of the mountaineers responsible.

Class War is pleased to add our weight to this little campaign - the guilty men being Ian Harrison, Andy Coish and Paul Newton of 1 Lismore Road, Meersbrook, Sheffield. Their employer is Richard Turner Ltd of Old Tupton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

DO THEM IN

There used to be an old saying in prison "if you can't do the time, don't do the crime". So far this gruesome threesome have been widely condemned by their fellow mountaineers and banned from the indoor climbing centres in their home town. We are sure more is to follow - if you can't do the time don't do the crime!

More importantly all sections of the radical movement need to follow the example of the anonymous leaflet distributors. The people waging the class war against us - and the planet - have names and addresses and we should not be afraid to shout them from the rooftops.

DAVID ICKE - WHAT A WANKER!

If anybody has worked harder to discredit green politics than the Green party, that person must be the self-styled son of god/twat in turquoise David Icke.

Whilst most people's careers have improved after leaving Coventry City, Mr. Icke's seems to have nosedived through a series of bizarre transformations. His latest book "And the Truth Shall Set You Free" (at £19.95 a pretty dear truth) was refused by his earlier publisher Gateway due to Icke's descent into anti-semitism and conspiracy theory.

BOLLOCKS

In this book Icke makes extremely unpleasant assertions that a "Jewish clique" financed Hitler to power in Germany and he expresses sympathy for the historical revisionism (holocaust denial) that has dominated the thinking of many "intellectual" fascists in recent years.

Nor has Class War escaped Icke's evil eye. Class War has always warned against those in the environmental (and in the past anti-nuclear movements) who wish to commit all protestors to non-violent demonstrations, at all times, at all costs. We have always argued we cannot go into battle with the forces of the state with one arm tied behind our backs never mind two.

PACIFIST NONSENSE

David Icke seeks to return the green movement to its pacifism at all costs days and disgracefully accuses Class War of "undermining struggle" by taking part in what he calls "violent clashes with the police during peaceful protest marches"

it is hard to think of a better example of the pot calling



the kettle. It is David Icke's anti-semitism and failed pacifist ideals that undermine struggle, not the occasional well directed brick or spiked tree. And anyway who needs an excuse to fight with the police?

Had the disgraceful clearance of housing in Claremont Road, Leytonstone to make way for the M11 extension occurred in west Berlin (where pacifism is far less common) there would have been days of rioting. Instead the area was lost with a whimper, not a bang, the green establishment winning the philosophical battle, the police and road contractors winning the war. For a man who pertains to be a radical, Icke talks and acts like a Conservative and a prejudiced one at that.

More detailed information on David Icke's sorry descent into anti-semitism can be obtained from Open Eye magazine, BM Open Eye, London, WC1N 3XX. Tel 0956 250654.

GERMANY SHOWS THE WAY

On Tuesday 7th May, 15,000 police and border guards were deployed to prevent anti-nuclear protesters acting against the shipment of nuclear waste from the world's largest nuclear reprocessing plant in La Hague, France to its storage place in Gorleben, Germany.

DIRECT ACTION

Like their comrades in Tahiti, many German activists know that direct action gets the goods. The shipment evaded surveillance teams from Greenpeace, but at Gorleben over 3000 demonstrators fought bravely against police armed with tear gas and

water cannons. Enterprising protesters had also sabotaged railway line along the route.

Shamefully, a Greenpeace spokeswoman stated that they "condemned the violence of the protesters". This clearly shows the bullshit of such liberal environmentalists - when the struggle is the environment against the state, they always support the state - Well we at Class War condemn the violence of the police, the state, nuclear weapons and also the green establishment who try to hijack struggle. We will never condemn the heroism of those struggling for a better world.

MCLIBEL TRIAL - THE STRUGGLE GOES ON

Previous issues of Class War have highlighted the valiant struggle of 2 environmental activists from London who are being sued for libel by the McDonalds corporation.

Their "libellous" claims included common sense assertions that McDonald's are lying when they describe their food as nutritious, that McDonald's do not allow their workers to join trades unions and that far from being an ecologically friendly company McDonald's have actually harmed the environment.

As the trial has progressed it has become clear that it is in fact McDonald's

who are the liars. For example McDonald's spent many years encouraging customers to put polystyrene packaging into a separate bin, promising it would be used for recycling into objects such as plant pots and coat hangers. It was not - instead it was all dumped.

Gems such as this have become commonplace during the trial, which is still continuing at The Royal Courts of Justice at The Strand, London WC2, and should last for the rest of 1996. Further information on the McLibel Support Campaign can be obtained c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX.

SPORT

DICING WITH DEATH

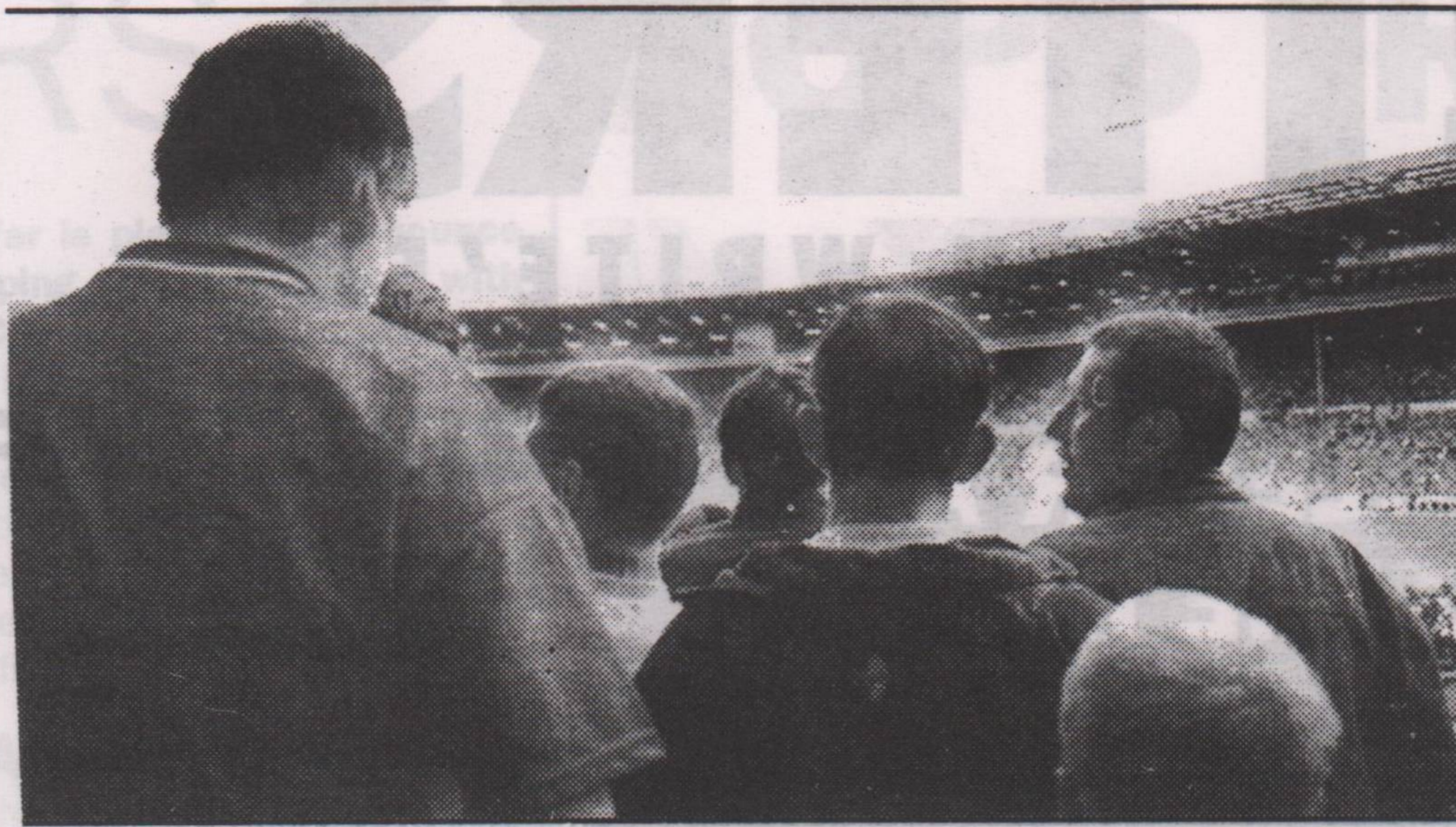
For most people the 1996 Cup Final will be remembered for Eric Cantona's winning goal and Manchester United winning the double. For many fans who were at the game however, and particularly those who entered the ground by the gates at Turnstile J, it will be remembered as a day when people - in their dozens - could have been killed entering a football ground.

From 2.30pm onwards the stairway up to Turnstile J was blocked solid with hundreds of fans unable to move either backwards or forwards. For those who reached the top of the stairs, it was even worse as a desperate surge took fans towards then away from the turnstiles.

Many fans were crushed and others broke out into panic. Only when it was clear there was a major crowd problem was it announced that fans could use their tickets at other less congested turnstiles - a case of too little too late.

OPEN THE GATES

When fans reached the gates at Turnstile J panic stricken gate staff simply waved them through without inspecting tickets, as did the police and stewards



The view from Wembley (and that's not mentioning the crush to get in, the overpriced crap food, the expensive tickets...and more)

who normally search fans as they enter.

When fans demanded in the strongest possible terms that police open the emergency exit to let the crowd in they refused - presumably so as to prevent people entering without tickets - yet the gatestaff were letting people in without tickets anyway!

NEAR DISASTER

This near disaster was ignored by all the national newspapers, and covered in detail only by the Manchester Evening News, although even they sought to cheapen the story - do we really need to know that

"Lee Sharpe's model girlfriend was another caught in the crush?"

The Taylor report, which investigated the 1989 Hillsborough disaster was allegedly designed to prevent incidents such as the above.

SAFETY

Clearly the imposition of all-seater stadiums has done nothing to increase the safety of spectators, but much to price working class supporters out of the game. (it was conveniently forgotten by Taylor that the 1985 Bradford fire occurred in a seated area and that the seats may even have impeded peoples escape)

No clearer example of the effect of the Taylor report can be seen than at Manchester United for the 1996/97 season. Seats in the central section of the lower tier of the new stand will triple in price. Season tickets that in the old stand had cost £340 will now cost £1169 per year. Any fans who could pay this amount and wished to return to their old area were told they could not even if they wished to - it was to be an "executive area".

CHANGES

There is little doubt that football in England has changed more in the last 10 years than it has in the previous 30 and the Taylor report and its implementation has played a central role in this change for the worse. Manchester United - probably the most reviled and at the same time the most popular club in England - are the living embodiment of this.

MASKS

How many times do we have to say this? Whilst it was excellent that Newcastle United fans took out their frustration at not winning the Premier League by looting the city centre rather than fighting with rival fans, the inability of fans to cover their faces when committing offences threatens to be a disaster.

Newcastle, like many town centres, boasts extensive Close Circuit Television (CCTV) and smug police officers expect hundreds of the thousand strong mob to be convicted. A simple scarf across the face would have been enough to give disguise to the happy shoppers of Tyneside. Sitting in a prison cell is a harsh way to learn a lesson - mask up. At the cup final many Man United fans wore Eric Cantona masks - perhaps its time somebody in Newcastle made a killing selling Peter Beardsley masks!

IDIOT

With the cricket season in full swing we are being treated to the frequent views of Ian Botham about what is wrong (and occasionally what is right) with the summer game. Having failed in his bid to become one of the England selectors, Botham is desperately trying to maintain a high media profile so he can bid again to get onto a panel he once denounced as "gin-swigging dodderers".

Sadly much of Botham campaign's is not based on his achievements as a player or his ability at manipulating the media, but on his patriotism - yet Botham does not even live in England!

Whilst draping himself in the union jack and telling the Evening Standard "I doubt if anyone cares more passionately about England than me" Botham is also a tax exile and lives on Alderney in the Channel Islands.

As such he can only spend 90 days a year in England. As the cricket season lasts for considerably longer than 90 days, Botham was presumably intending to select players by watching them on the telly! With commitment and passion like that its no wonder English cricket has been in the mess its been in for the past few years!

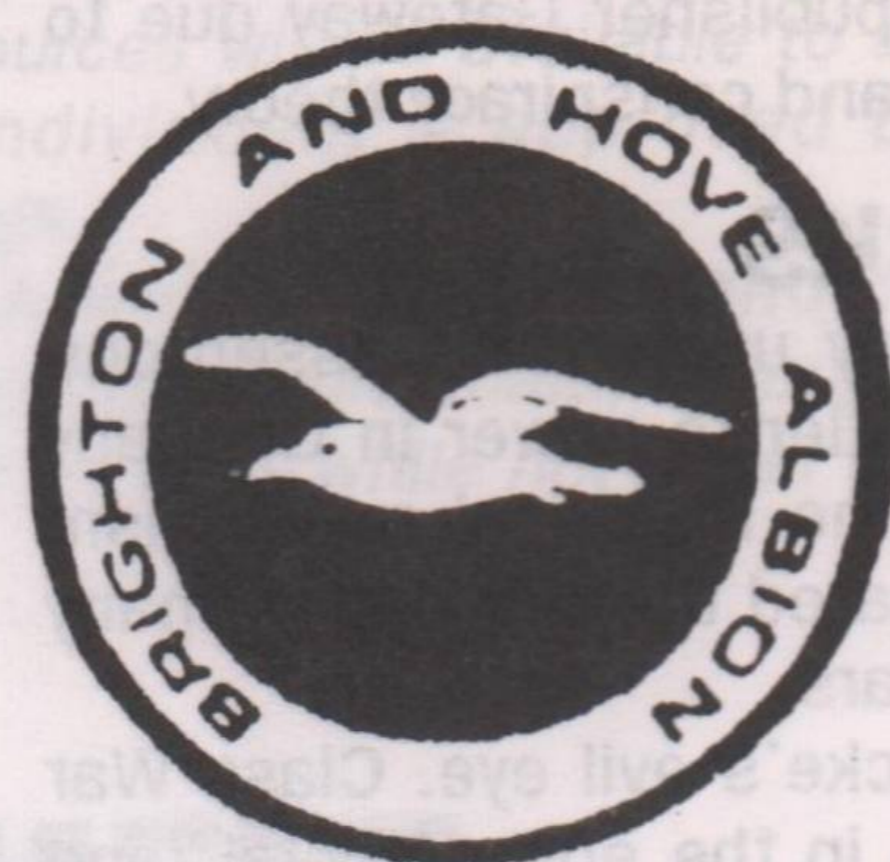
CLASS JUSTICE - BRIGHTON STYLE

One of the highlights of the last football season was the excellent combativity displayed by Brighton and Hove Albion supporters at their game against York City.

Brighton, who as recently as 1983 were in the first division and played in the cup final, have been in decline ever since. The fans rioted in protest at the sale of the clubs ground to a property company, Chartwell Land, who were threatening to sell the ground unless Albion leased the site back for £480,000.

BLOCKED

Plans to ground share with Portsmouth - over 40 miles away - were blocked by the football league. Incensed at



the behaviour of Brighton's chief executive and deputy chairman David Belloti, fans broke into the ground and daubed slogans saying "sack the board" across the pitch and then even on the seats where the directors normally park their fat arses.

Sadly all of the directors accepted police advice not to attend the match for

their own safety, and so did not get to see the fans handiwork.

Just 16 minutes into the game fans invaded the pitch at what they feared could be the last match ever played at the ground. In a good old-fashioned bust-up fans pulled down the goalposts, fought with police and rampaged down the players tunnel - just in case Belloti and co were hiding down there!

The damage to the goalposts meant the game was abandoned at 3.34pm - one of the earliest abandonments ever of an English football match.

NEW BOSSES

The match was eventually played at 11am on a

Thursday morning, so high were police fears of a repeat performance.

A new consortium (more rich bastards) has now taken charge at Brighton and the club will be back at the Goldstone Ground again for the new season, although sadly in Division 3.

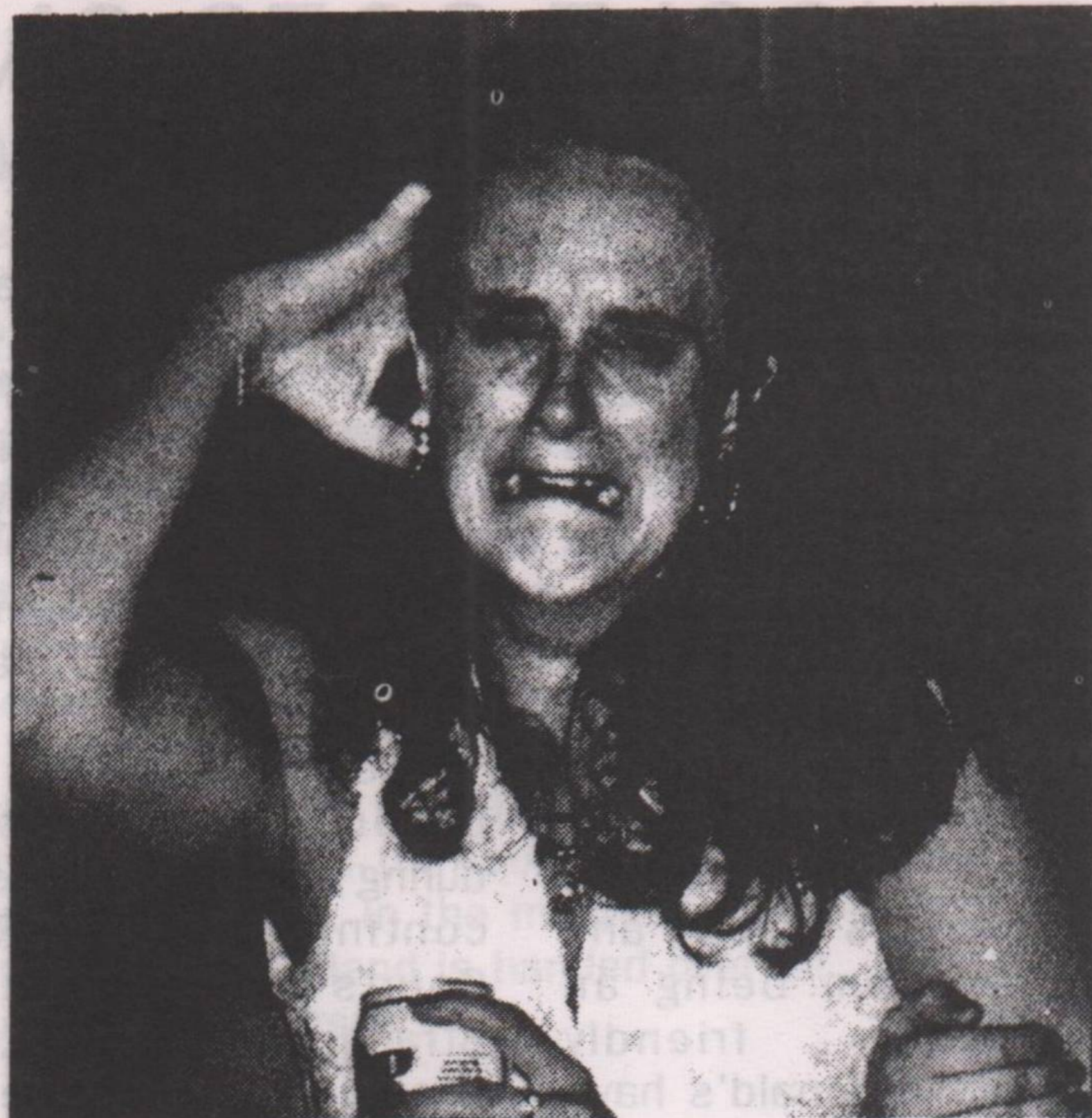
VIGILANT

Now is the time however that Brighton fans should be at their most vigilant. Consortiums, directors, managers and players all come and go. The only permanent thing about football is its fans, something that scum like David Belloti (who will spend the rest of his life hiding from Brighton fans) has now discovered.

RIP-OFF

Since English clubs were re-admitted to Europe in 1989, fans who have tried to follow their teams have faced a particularly dirty rip-off. The common practice, started by Manchester United, is to only sell tickets to fans going on organised club packages. These are invariably grossly overpriced and shepherded everywhere by hundreds of surly police officers. Fans who travel independently run the risk of arrest.

All of this may be coming to an end. The European Parliaments committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs has urged the European Commission to take action against any clubs which link ticket sales to travel packages. This should mean that the fans of British teams due to play in Europe are free to hitch-hike, fare dodge, hire cars and generally move across Europe at their own pace, going where they want to when they want to. As for the money certain clubs will lose when nobody goes on their poxy trips - tough shit.



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