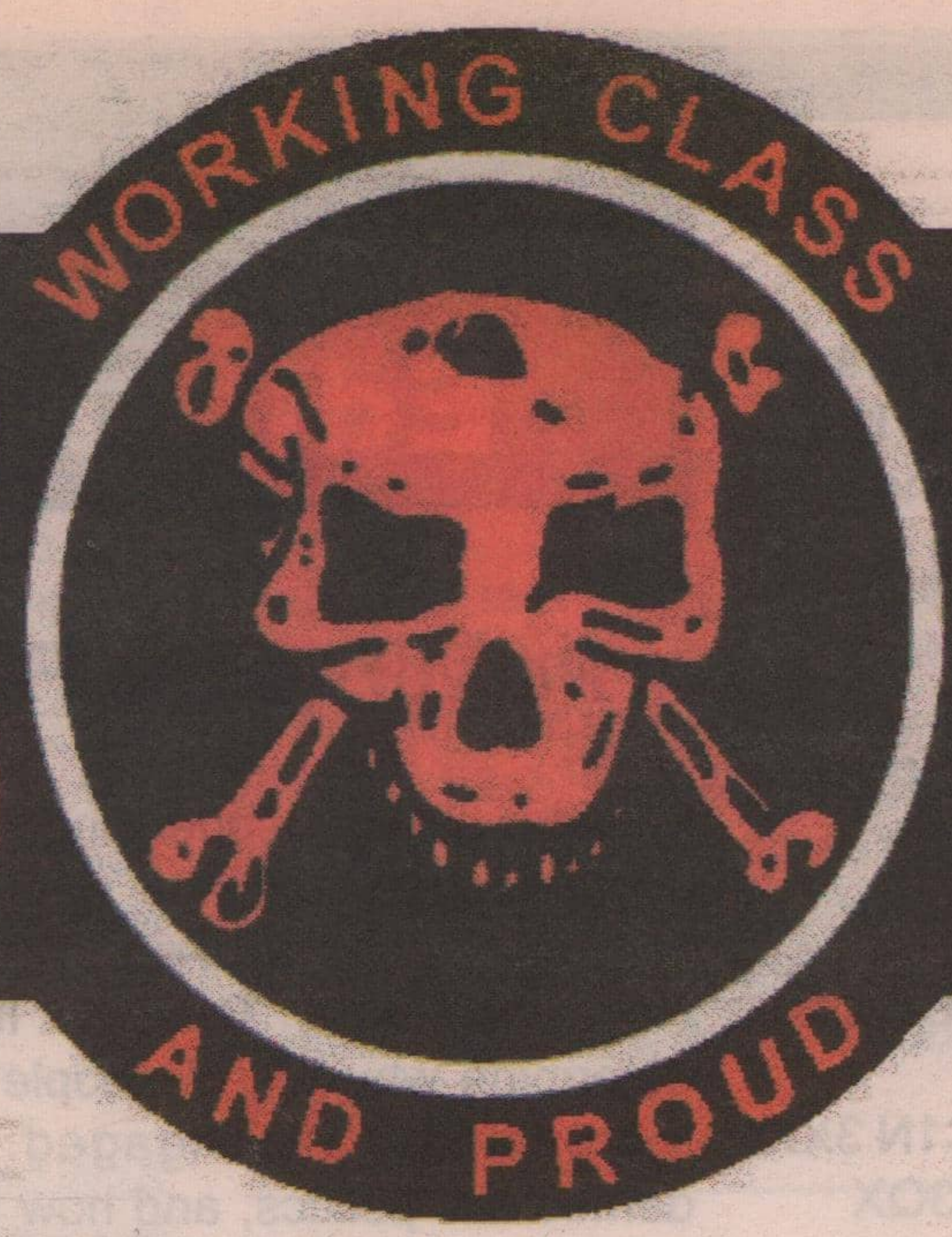


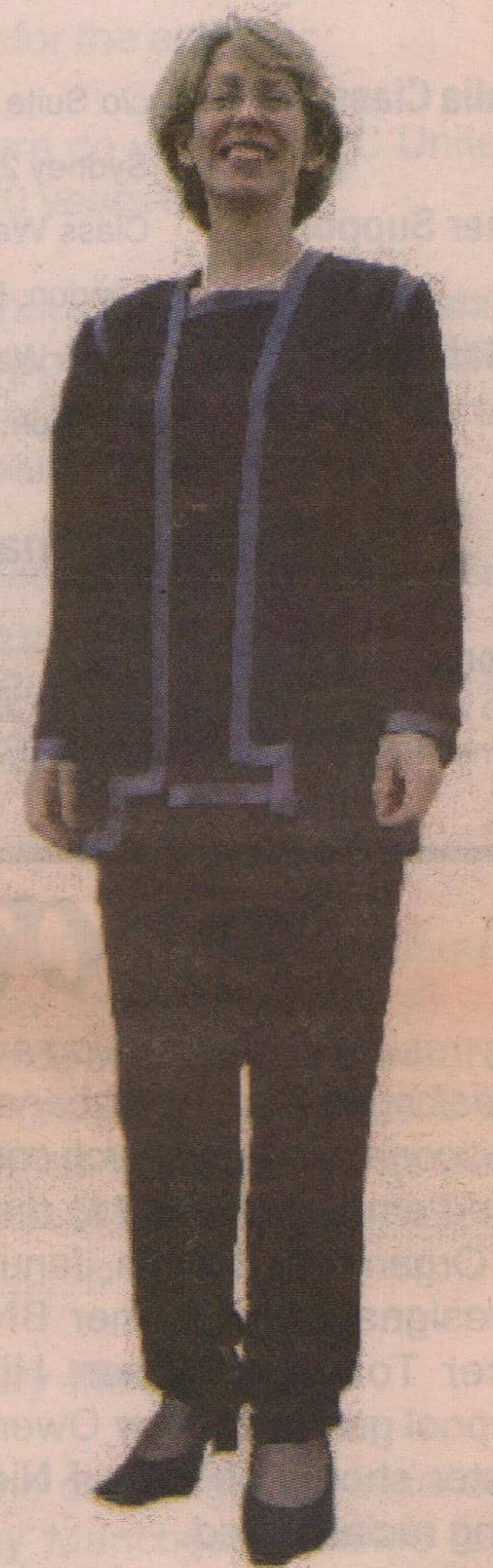
CLASS AND PROUD WAR



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Issue 90
Summer 2006

Mess with our health, and we'll mess with yours!



RUN DOWN PATRICIA HEWITT, NOT THE HEALTH SERVICE!

News, views, hospitalised cops, anti-fascist struggles, mad mullahs, FC United interview, Broadway Market and much much more!

CLASS WAR CONTACTS

At the time of writing Class War has members in Doncaster, Dublin, Durham, Glasgow, Guildford, Kent, Leeds, London, Luton, Norwich, Preston, Reading and Southend. To get involved, please contact one of the groups below, or the National Secretary.

- Website** www.classwar.org
- National Secretary** cwfnatsec@yahoo.co.uk
- International Secretary** cwfintsec@yahoo.co.uk
- Doncaster CW** doncasterclasswar@yahoo.co.uk
- Durham CW** Tel: 07931 301901
- Essex CW** BM Box 357, London, WC1N 3XX
- London CW** PO Box 467, London E8 3QX
londoncw@yahoo.co.uk
- Norwich CW** PO Box 487, Norwich NR2 3AL

Industrial Contacts

- Miners Advice** www.minersadvice.co.uk
- Australia Class War** c/o Suite 20, Princess Highway, Sydney 2224, Australia
- Prisoner Support** Class War Prisoners, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX
- Hunt Sabs** Class War Hunt Sabs, PO Box 135, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5SA

International Links

- Autonomous Action**
A group with very similar politics to Class War, active across much of the former Soviet Union. Check www.avtonom.org for details

QUOTES

"Tony resigned after making a serious error of judgment in speaking to a non-member about matters which could be misconstrued and which could thereby possibly have caused embarrassment to the party"

BNP Organisers Bulletin, January 18 2006, announcing the resignation of former BNP Group Development Officer Tony Lecomber. His crime? Approaching Liverpool gangster Joey Owens, suggesting a Cabinet Minister should be shot if Nick Griffin were jailed for inciting racial hatred.

Given Lecomber was once jailed for just 3 years for trying to bomb political opponents, the fact he is yet to be arrested for incitement to murder in this case comes as no surprise.

Editorial

Power to the People?

Power is an independent inquiry into Britain's democracy established and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd. It was set up to determine why British people have become increasingly disengaged from formal democratic politics, and how to reverse this trend. It set about resolving three main issues;

- The survival of Britain's democracy when politicians are perceived to be uncaring and unlistening.
- The revival of politics when party political support is diminishing.
- Increasing voter turnout despite the common feeling that elections are a charade.

It is, to all intents and purposes, a report that attempts to formulate the revival of the legitimacy of the status quo, not to revolutionise the distribution of political power. They comment, 'The British parliamentary system of elected representation and considerable executive power was built in an era of very limited educational provision and in which deference and rigid hierarchy and static social relations were taken for granted. This explains why so many British citizens now no longer feel formal democracy offers them the influence, equality and respect they believe is their due.'

The power commissioners want us to become re-engaged with formal democracy. They feel this would:

- Give legitimacy to government. Decreasing electorate turnout weakens the mandate of the elected party. In the last election, more people refrained from voting than voted Labour. And the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who rules by virtual presidential power, only received some 24,000 votes himself.

- Improve political equality. Many people feel totally disenfranchised, their views are not represented.
- Improve effective communication between the governed and the governors. (Actually when I have bothered to vote in the past I've voted to be represented, not governed - a naive disappointment. Representation does not occur, which in turn leads to being disenfranchised)
- Improve the calibre of political recruit.
- Prevent the rise of undemocratic forces.
- Prevent governmental authoritarianism

However, for all this pro-governmental tosh, it did come up with some interesting reasons for Britain's mainstream political malaise.

Contrary to the assumptions of political analysts, the public are not apathetic. There is massive involvement in pressure politics, e.g. signing petitions, supporting consumer boycotts, and joining campaign groups. It's formal politics that turn people off. Electoral turnout has declined for general elections since 1997, and has been low for other elections for many years. Political party membership is diminishing, and MPs, MEPs and councillors are distrusted.

People are not sick of formal British politics because they are apathetic, negative or inadequate human beings. They feel that they are ignored and powerless, and that party politics restricts their options.

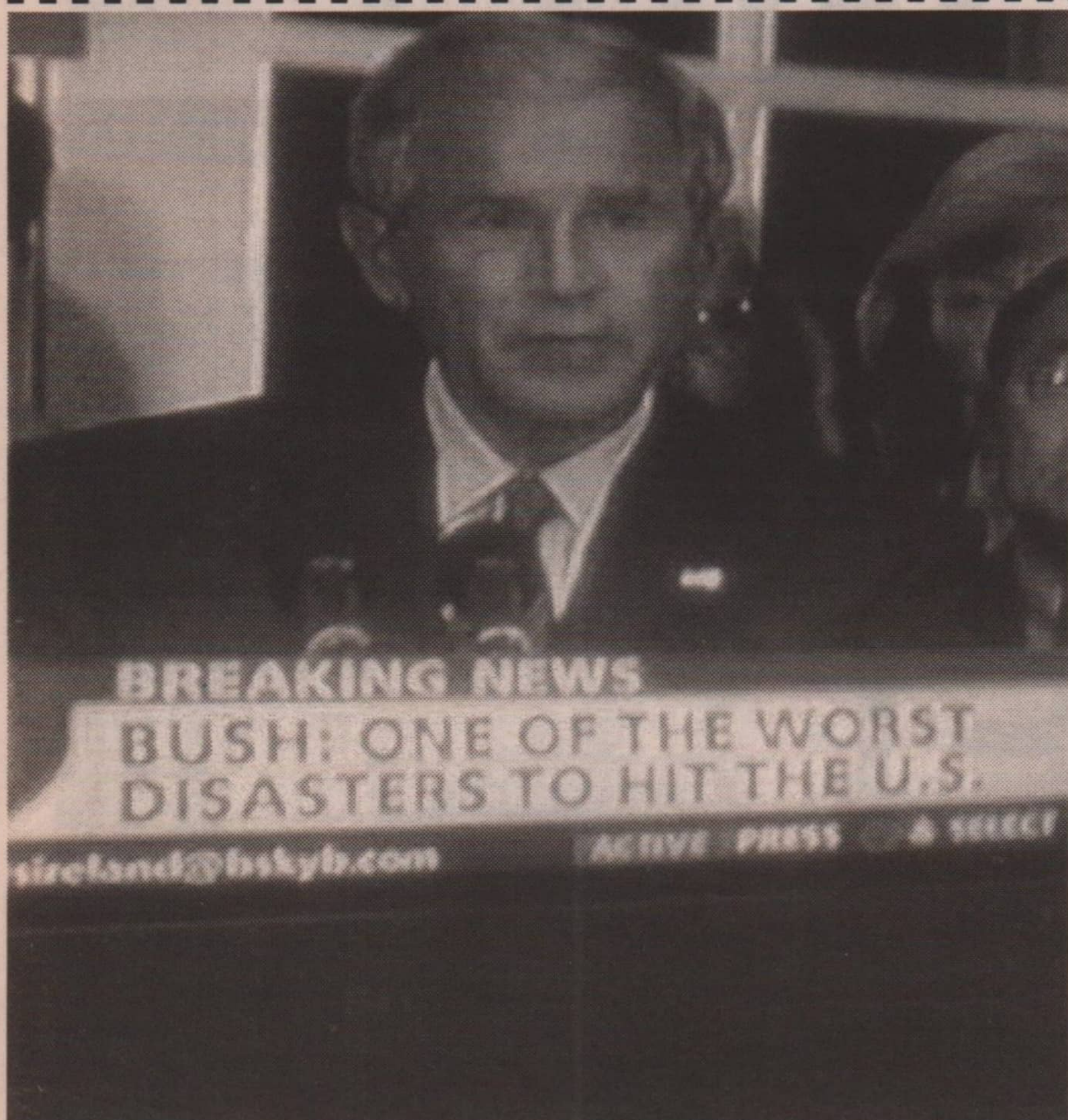
British parliamentary democracy doesn't work, other than to advance corporate exploitation. The ballot box offered by parliamentarians in any guise is no means for change. The reinvigoration of the status quo, as recommended in the Power Report, is not going to work, other than to delude the electorate.

Time for riot and revolution?

Class War National Secretary

The National Secretary was appointed following the introduction of a comprehensive new recruitment and selection policy. A nightly cocktail of red wine and Stella was imbibed, and the poor sap agreed to accept the role of Class War National Secretary. Subsequent administration of ever increasing amounts of the cocktail have done nothing to deaden the consequences of that decision.

Please address all general queries, membership enquiries, and/or loans for honours to the Class War National Secretary at the following address
cwfnatsec@yahoo.co.uk



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If They Had Brains, They'd Be Dangerous



Welcome to Class War's regular round up from behind the thick blue line.

Let's start with **Hampshire Constabulary**, where an unnamed officer reported he had lost his utility belt, handcuffs and CS spray on the ferry from the Isle of Wight. The crossing was delayed for 50 minutes, and two further crossings cancelled as a full search was launched. Eventually someone had the brains to look at the island's Newport police station, where the bungling bobby had left them!

Over to **Merseyside** – Hello to the hard working staff and officers at Eaton Road police station in West Derby. When a one-man riot attacked the station last November, some 20

windows, four cars and several doors were smashed up. Sadly the station was unmanned at the time, and as officers had forgot to set the burglar alarm, the police were only alerted when a neighbour phoned them! Commented Chief Superintendent Andy Ward "It is unusual for police premises to be targeted in this way".....

SO14 (Metropolitan Police) - One specialist armed protection officer whose star is not in the ascendancy is PC James Steel. Guarding the royal family can be pretty boring, so rather than sit about Balmoral twiddling his truncheon, PC Steel decided to nip to nearby Ballater for some shopping. Sadly his fellow officers were not informed of his urgent trip for shortbread and postcards, and sounded the alarm that he was missing, presumed kidnapped!

Rather than share his shortbread, on his return PC Steels's superiors ordered him back to London. Some people have no sense of humour!

Bedfordshire – All police forces recognise the importance of technology when monitoring suspects. This principle

was certainly adopted by Bedfordshire officer Calvin McCann, who placed a miniature surveillance camera in the bedroom of his female neighbour. McCann, who pleaded not guilty to charges of voyeurism, resigned from the force after being jailed for six months.

Our winners this week are the dog loving officers of **Lancashire Constabulary**, sadly facing legal action from a PC Anthony Eccles of Merseyside police. PC Eccles was pursuing three suspects when a Lancashire dog handler joined the chase. Seeing a heroic struggle between the forces of law and order and criminality, the Lancashire police canine had no hesitation in savaging PC Eccles! All this whilst his handler attempted to regain control of his police van, which was rolling forward as he had forgotten to engage the handbrake. Keystone coppersy at its finest!



Calvin McCann - Pervy peeping plod

Flaming Hell! What a Scorcher!

The most popular chant from the French mob of stone throwing youths is 'police everywhere, justice nowhere'. We at Class War could not agree more and take our hats off to the brave class warriors across the channel as they do battle with the police and state.



French fuzz flee from flames

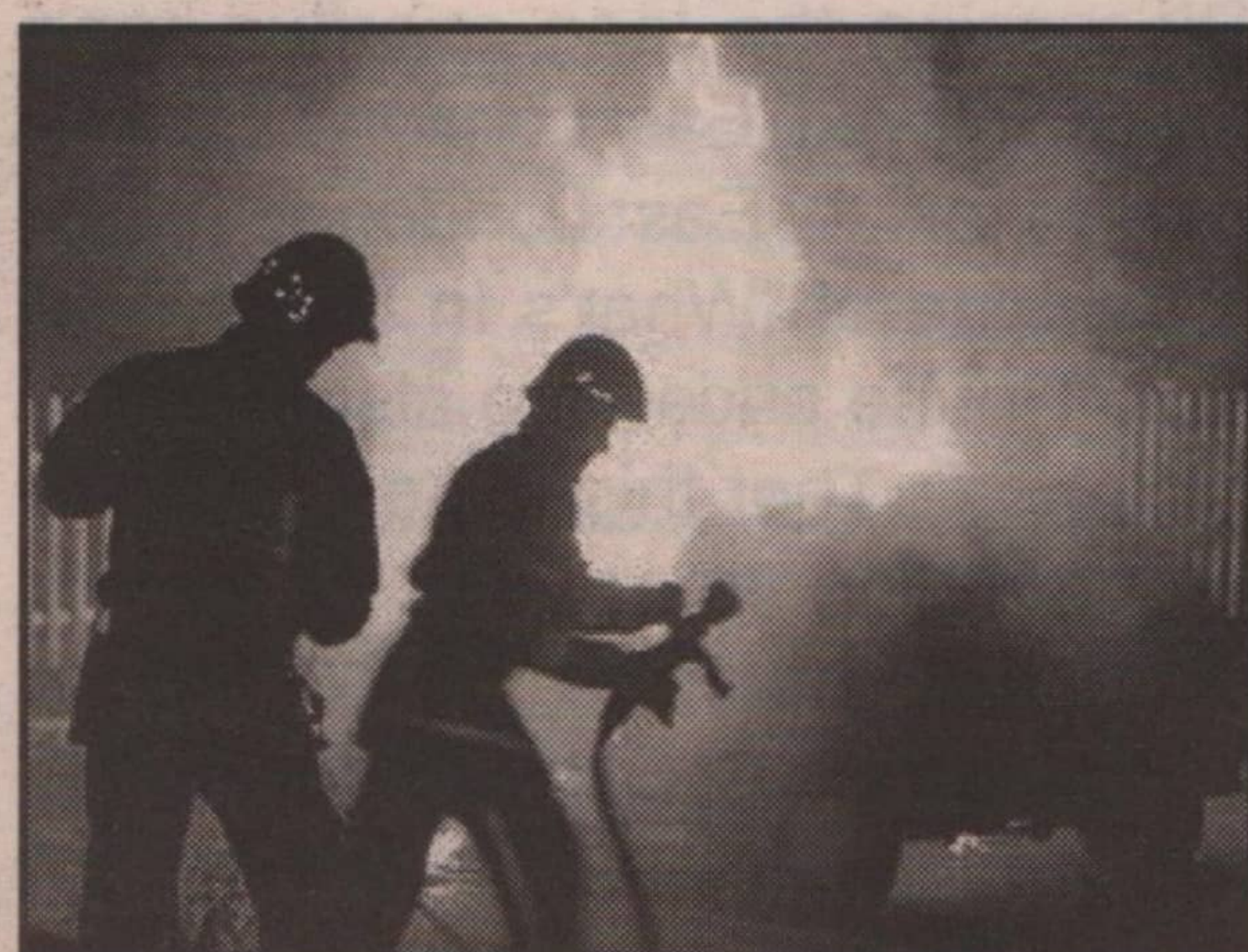
The riots we saw on our TV screens last year were the result of police racism and fragmentation in the inner cities. The new wave of riots are a direct response to the government's attempt to make it easier to sack young workers - but the French working class are having none of it! This is a great opportunity to link the riots of the inner city with the trade union movement and radicalise a whole new generation of the French working class and that seems to be just what is happening – fantastique!

Despite encouragement from the Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy (France's no. 1 pig) the cops got a nightly battering with the number of injured approaching 500! After one of the recent riots Monsieur Sarkozy took officers for cocktails and canapés to lift their spirits. The French youth have taken to giving the hated CRS

some (Molotov) cocktails of their own! One officer was reported as appealing for calm complaining that he too was opposed to the new laws! What can we say – thick as pig shit!

Whilst last years riots could be portrayed by the French government as about racial disharmony and tension, the proposed labour laws took on French youth in its entirety, with no exceptions. It was a bit like the introduction of the Poll Tax in the UK, when Mrs Thatcher made the fatal mistake of taking on the entire working class at the same time. She lost, and when the French rioting continued into April, President Chirac realised he was going to lose too, and he announced the scrapping of his proposals. So much for "peaceful protest" being the only type of protest that works!

The coming weeks and months however will determine whether the French government really has climbed down, or if they are merely looking to buy to time before launching a further assault. Either way, working class youth in France appear to be up to the challenge!



Burn, baby, burn!

QUOTES

"There are few people I have had to deal with in 30 years in public life I trust as totally as I do him. He not only has my confidence, he is the best news that London policing has got".

London mayor "Red" Ken Livingstone, discussing the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Ian Blair (Evening Standard, 24/8/05) We wonder if the family of Jean Charles de Menezes agree?

Back by popular demand its your....

Page Three Hospitalised Copper

Cor What an Eiffel!

You sexy French thing you! Its Vive la France this issue, and that especially applies to this uniform wearing Gallic beauty. He was strutting his naughty stuff down by the Seine, only to find Jacques Chirac's proposed labour laws driving French workers insane! Oh la la!



Oui, oui, oui!

On the Rack?

Although it is nearly forgotten, the Automobile Association was originally formed to protect drivers from police speed patrols. Sadly things now seem to have turned full circle, with both the AA and the RAC working, not for the public, but against them on behalf of the police.



RAC - Royal Automobile Cops?

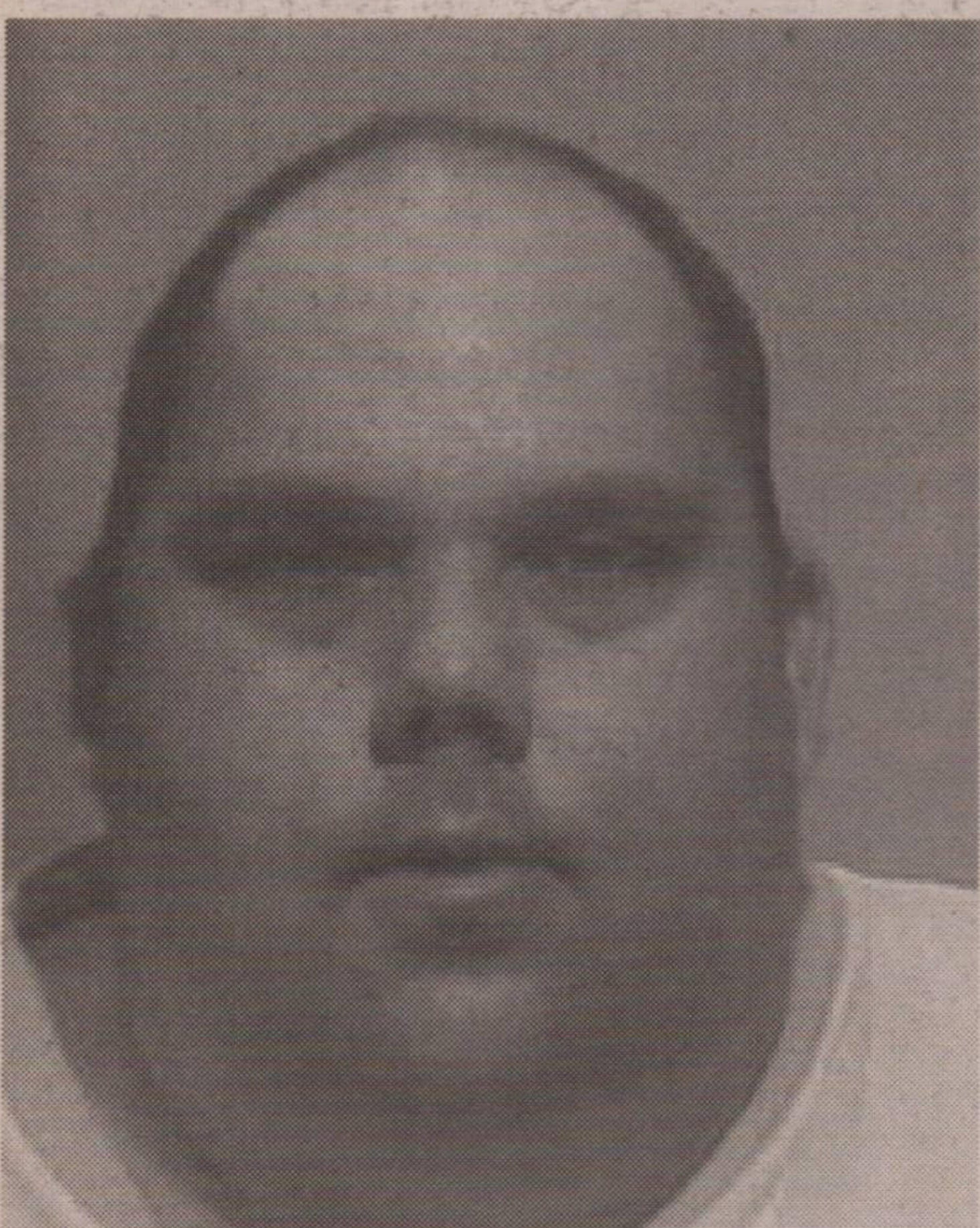
In Northamptonshire the RAC are currently taking part in a pilot exercise where patrol crews who do not have a call out go to high crime areas, and report any crimes occurring to the police. If deemed a success, the pilot will be spread nationwide. When asked if they planned to follow suit, the AA stated that its staff already "regularly help the police".

Given the amount motorists pay in road tax, insurance and speeding fines, for very little return, both the AA and RACs members would be better served by organisations that represented their interests, rather than playing cops and robbers. Perhaps its time the AA went back to its roots?

You Fat Bastard!

You have to admire the nerve, if not the diet, of fast food addict George Jolicoeur. Weighing in at a mere 21 stone, George's scam was to go into fast food restaurants pretending to be a police officer. He would then order a series of milkshakes, insisting they were for colleagues. He would return to the restaurants later, claiming that hairs had been found in the drinks, and demanding a refund.

His scam apparently worked "hundreds of times" before his eventual arrest. Class War passes no comment, except to wonder why it took so long for anyone to think there could be something wrong with a 21 stone policeman demanding free milkshakes!



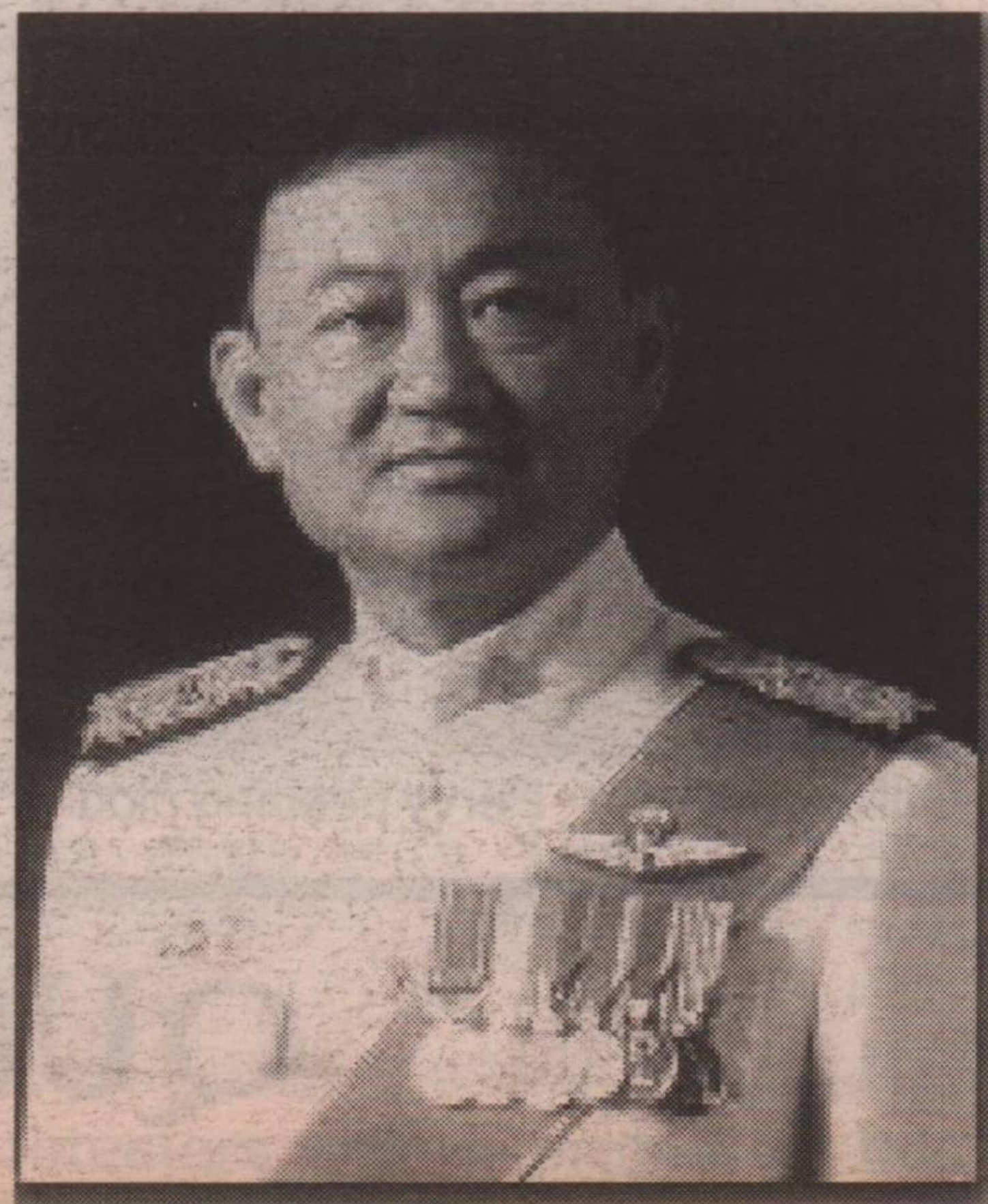
An all too convincing cop?

Testing Times

The former Education Secretary Ruth 'Opus dei' Kelly wanted to see the introduction of drugs testing in schools. Class War offers the new Education Secretary, Alan Johnson, a deal - introduce random drug testing for 5 years in the House of Commons, and we will support its introduction in schools. Deal?

Tied Up?

The last few months have seen serious political tension in Thailand, where Prime Minister Thaksin faced repeated accusations of corruption. Considering he owns most of Thailand, many Thais are now coming over to the view that he should not be running it as well!



Thaksin - Top Thai Twat

As recently as 1992 the Thai military interfered in anti-government demonstrations, killing over 50 demonstrators. Given this the rumours of a military coup in the country, during both February and March, were taken seriously despite the size of Thaksin's parliamentary majority, and his calling of a general election, held on April 2nd.

All is surely well though in Thailand – as The Nation newspaper reported in early March that the Royal Thai Police was receiving riot training in Bangkok – from the Public Order Branch of the Metropolitan Police. Having caused a fair few riots in their time, who could do the job better than the Met?

Did You Know...

...That the minimum wage for a British army soldier serving in Iraq is £13,866.35 per year, or just £265 a week.

Compare that to the salary "earned" by the man who sent them to war – Tony Blair receives £183,932 per year, a little over £503 pounds per day.



Recycled Rubbish from the Mayor

When not sucking up to Chinese dictators or insulting Jewish people, Ken Livingstone is officially Labour's Mayor of London. Over twenty years ago he held the same position as head of old Greater London Council. The GLC was famed for bombarding Londoners with newspapers, leaflets and adverts telling people how good a council they were. Clearly the GLC disagreed with the maxim that actions speak louder than words! As London Mayor, Ken Livingstone has continued this trend, treating Londoners to a regular "free" newspaper, the Londoner, shoved through their door each month proclaiming how great Ken Livingstone, and the Greater London Authority is. This publication is of course not free at all – it is paid for by all Londoners in their council tax. That people might prefer to have the streets cleaned more, or have extra buses on their roads, does not occur to "Red" Ken or his cabal.



"Red" Ken looks rather blue...

Many residents in East London are distinctly lukewarm about London hosting the 2012 Olympic games. How lucky East London has been can be seen by the fact that Livingstone now sees the need to produce a special local edition of his rag, imaginatively entitled East Londoner, to publicise the event and all the inevitable gentrification that goes with it. This manages to drag out a succession of celebrities (all long divorced from East London) such as David Beckham and Barbara Windsor to tell us how excited they are by the proposed regeneration of the area. Not so excited of course that they wish to live here again though! Discussing the long overdue (and much delayed) East London tube line, we are told by East Londoner, under a heading of "What's In It For You" that "House prices are also likely to increase". That this is portrayed as a good thing, in an area of chronic housing shortage, is a typical Livingstone insult. East London needs lots of things – Ken Livingstone is not one of them.

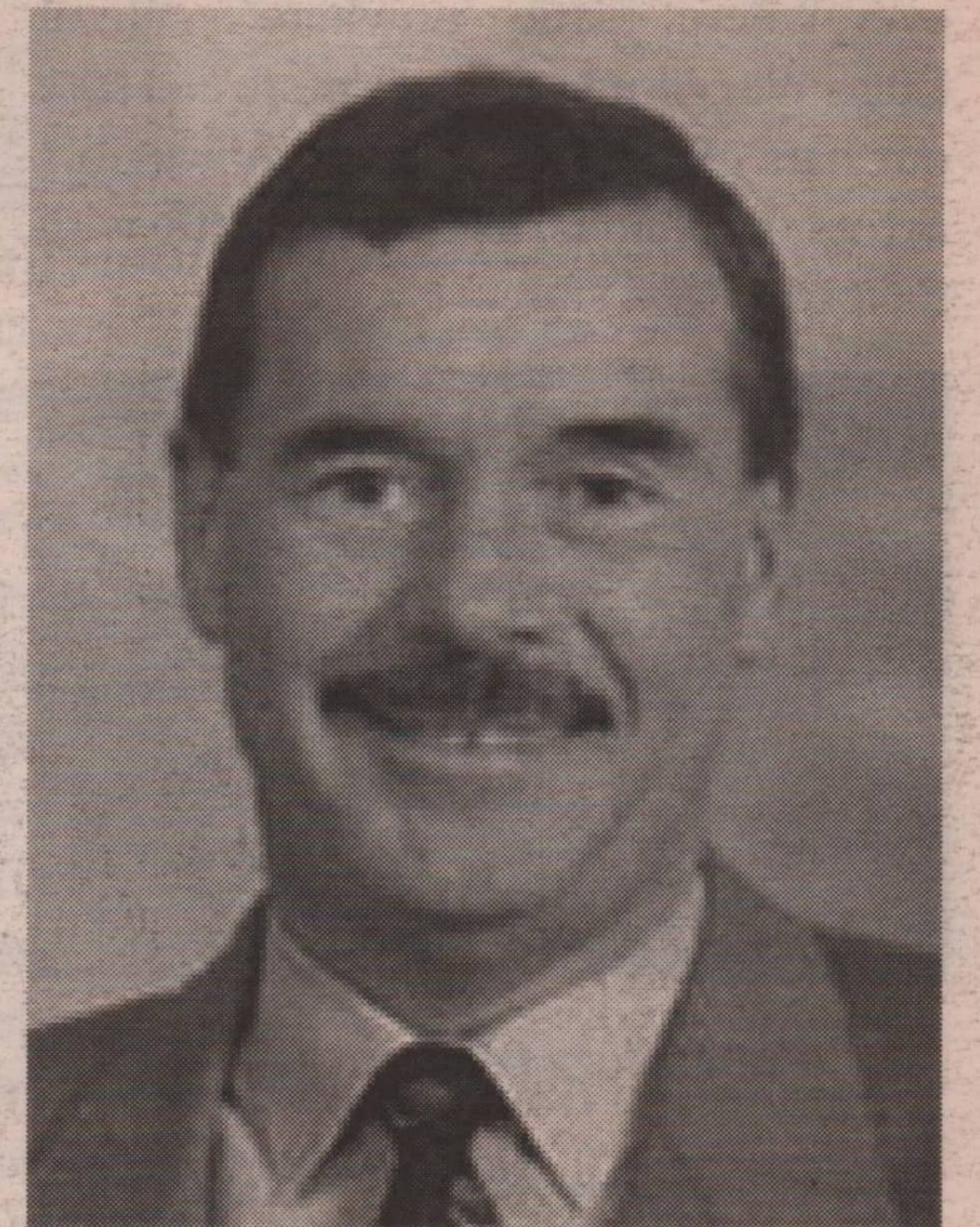
Mack the Knife

"We think that there is a claim in civil law and we want to make sure that the money goes back to the people — miners and their widows — to whom it properly belongs. We're talking here about some of the most vulnerable members of our society. What's happened to them is diabolical."

So said Labour peer Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate, President of Action Group for Miners. He was discussing the scandal whereby miners who have received compensation for health problems as a result of their profession, see some of that money siphoned off in legal fees. For all it's fighting talk though Mackenzie's "Action Group" is a business like any other, earning a fee for each case referred to solicitors.

Few however are better placed than Lord Mackenzie to spot any diabolical treatment of miners. As plain old Sergeant Brian Mackenzie, he led police support units in Easington and Tow Law in Durham during the miners strike. Durham saw some of the bitterest violence in the strike, and Mackenzie, in his autobiography condemned pickets as "bullies who used mob violence". There are certainly no bullying pickets in Durham today – thanks to the combined efforts of the police and Margaret Thatcher, Durham has no coalfields at all.

With friends like Lord Mackenzie to help them out in their time of need, mining communities do not need enemies!



Lord Mackenzie - Don't Believe The Hype!

Unlucky for Some!

If you think we have a useless bunch of fucking idiots in our royal family, thank your lucky stars you are not Malaysian. That poor country has no less than 13 royal families!

Whether any of the thirteen families has produced a dipstick quite as useless as Prince Edward, as stupid as Prince Harry, as bigoted as Prince Phillip or as forlorn as Prince Charles is however pretty hard to imagine!

Class War Bonfire Night Party – London Fields, Hackney.

5th of November 2005 saw London Class War hold it's first ever bonfire party. Being a Class War 'do' we didn't feel quite right burning Guy Fawkes (the only honest man to enter Parliament) so we burnt Margaret (hurry up and die) Thatcher instead! Revelers got in the party mood by fetching their own politicians to throw onto the fire as well as enjoying fireworks and carry out's from the local off licence.

Never one's to disappoint the boys in blue turned up to try to put a dampener on things. They questioned one of the Class War organisers under the Terrorism Act to which they got the reply "I think your about 400 years too late" and "What next you gonna ban Christmas?"

The crowds of people gathering must have made the filth a little twitchy as they retreated to watch from afar. The fire was quickly built with some huge logs courtesy of Hackney Council and it wasn't long before Thatcher and the rest were burned at the stake!

With such an enjoyable and successful night had by well over 100 people London Class War hopes to repeat this event again this year - see you there!

Supporting the French Rioters - 10 November

A baker's dozen turned up to picket the French embassy in support of the rioters that shook urban France to its core last winter. Activists were met by at least 70 of the Met's Territorial Support Group and Forward Intelligence Team cops. Who said there's never one around when you need one!

This made doing anything more than handing out a few leaflets extremely difficult, so it was decided rather than sit about waiting for the police numbers (and harrasment) to increase, to pay a visit to nearby Harrods, in case any members of the French ruling class were to be found inside.

This caused panic amongst the police, who seemed to assume criminal intent (entering Harrods is not a criminal offence, although we are sure a few members of the royal family wish it was!) Cue more police overkill, two arrests for nothing, and a tactical retreat to a nearby hostelry.

Antifa Mobilisation, London 23 February

One of the new developments on the far-right is the support fascists are getting from those around specific music and counter-cultural scenes. The skinheads of the past are now sometimes being replaced by followers of black metal, darkwave,

neo-folk and even some Goths. Perhaps Sally Webster in Coronation Street really should be worried about Rosie!

Antifa got a good contingent together to oppose a gig by Grand Belial's Key, scheduled for Slimelight in Islington. On the day, the owners pulled the gig, leaving the men in black to find a new venue at very short notice.

This message did not seem to reach a few gormless concert goers, who were chased around Islington for their trouble. We suspect the unexpected exercise, and the fresh air, will do them good!

Anti-War March, London March 18

The most noticeable thing about the anti-war movement in Britain, as "led" by the Stop the War Coalition, is that every event has got smaller and smaller since the peak of 15 February 2003. All this despite the fact that opposition to the war is stronger than ever, and Blair appears to lack any exit strategy from Iraq.

Thirdly the march mobilised around the slogan "defend the Muslim community". Given that Londoners have suffered grievously in the past year due to the actions of Islamist terrorists, this is not a straightforward line to sell to the general public. "No to racism and terrorism" would be a far simpler slogan, but getting a sustained condemnation of terrorism out of STWC is as likely as getting Bin Laden to shave for his next video. Given all this nonsense Class War gave the march a miss, save for a quick scout about at the start of the route, and a good drinking session at a nearby pub. A special mention however must go to the Westminster Council "Heritage Wardens" who patrolled Parliament Square before the march moved off, making sure no items were sold from the many stalls that were set up, and ran to get a policeman if they suspected a pound coin had so much as changed hands. It is good to know we are paying our council tax for such a valuable service!

UK, shows it is either a lot more tolerant than people think, or that it is content to give idiots like the STWC enough rope to hang themselves with.

Here is the text of the leaflet Class War members distributed at the march:

NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR

TROOPS OUT NOW!

Victory to the Iraqi workers! Down with the 'resistance'!

The war in Iraq shows no sign of ending. Whilst Bush and Blair gear up for a further bloody assault, this time on Iran's 'Mad Mullahs' (a war that will be paid for in the blood of thousands of ordinary working class people, Iranian and American), the ordinary people of Iraq are the bloody playthings of western generals and religious maniacs.

There is no answer for the workers of Iraq from the fundamentalists and nationalists of the 'Resistance' who butcher men, women and children in the name of 'Allah' or 'nation'. (Neither do the puppets that dance Bush's tune in the palaces of Baghdad offer any solution for the people of Iraq - there can be no free workers movement under the bayonets of the United States Marine Corps.

The Working Class has no country! The main enemy is always at home!

The war abroad is mirrored with the war at home. The cops who murdered Jean Charles De Menezes are still out there, guns in hand, waiting for the next poor lad to walk into their sights, meanwhile the tube workers who risked their lives to save those caught in the 7/7 bombings are forced to strike to defend safety whilst the bosses and the press drag their names through the mud.

The so-called left in Britain, who lead the STWC, hide their timidity at home with their bloodthirstiness abroad, giving full support to the religious maniacs and Ba'athist (pro Saddam) fascists that dominate the 'resistance' in Iraq. In doing so they reveal their contempt for the Iraqi working class in its struggle to emerge from both Saddam's dictatorship and US occupation. Here they show their contempt for us too; for the British working class, the answer is 'Pussy' George Galloway, for the Iraqi working class it's a Jihadist suicide bomb.

It is no solution to cheer the killing of US and UK working class youth who have been fooled into joining up. Stupidity and poverty are not deserving of a death sentence! We want those kids home where the real war is..... the class war.

DOING THE BUSINESS

CLASS WAR IN THE AREA



This march perhaps more than any other, showed why the STWC has led the anti-war movement into decline. Firstly the event proposed nothing new other than marching from A to B - if that tactic worked, it would have stopped the invasion of Iraq in 2003. People can of course see this, and so stay away in significant numbers.

Secondly to appeal to the "Muslim community" (a community seemingly without any divisions of race, gender, class or politics according to the organisers spin) the reasons behind the war are portrayed dishonestly. A war for oil and US domination is instead portrayed solely as a war against Muslims. This is doubly disastrous as it plays into the hands of those Islamist organisations in Britain who wish to organise Muslims solely around religion and identity politics, and who have exactly the same message - that the invasion of Iraq is only about attacking Islam. Again, those who disagree with the STWC "analysis" again stay away.

Wandering down to Trafalgar Square to leaflet the end of the march, we found that STWC had another surprise for us. One of the speakers on the platform was Hassan Zargani of the Al-Sadr Movement in Iraq. Who are they? Their Islamist beliefs have not stopped them taking a seat in the proposed Iraqi government. So much for opposing the occupation of Iraq! Armed members of this movement carried out a vicious attack on students in Basra on 15 March 2004. The victims included female students who were targeted with inhuman brutality for not observing Islamic rules (as interpreted by the Al-Sadr Movement, of course). There were many casualties, including a female student who was seriously injured. The attack was strongly condemned throughout Iraq, and students organised demonstrations and a protest strike. Don't expect to read that in Socialist Worker.

That the British state (continuously denounced as racist and Islamophobic by the likes of STWC) lets scumbags like Zargani into the

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX



New Labour Prisons?

Class War recently corresponded with a prisoner in HMP Dartmoor, who had some interesting insights into the changes that the UK prison system is currently undergoing. We reprint some of his comments below:

"I was released from here in January 1987 – so I suppose I qualify as an old lag! Also spent time here in 1992 and 1993. In those days this place was the dustbin of jails, used for punishment. It was the jackboot of capitalism. Now it is unsure of itself, although there is a totally new ethos. Most of the far right wing screws have been sacked or left.

The catalyst for change was the death of a Bristol bloke called Dennis Stevens, murdered by screws. Big cover up.

It is now very Blairite... spin, schemes and no substance!"



Dennis Stevens - Murdered in jail

Trafalgar Square – I'll Be There

Class War is calling a celebratory party at 6pm in Trafalgar Square on the first Saturday after Margaret Thatcher dies! The passing of the most hated Prime Minister this country has ever seen will be celebrated in style! If you lost your job in the 1980s, or fought for the miners, fought the Poll Tax, threw a brick at the cops in Brixton or just hated the bitch and everything she stood for – we look forward to seeing you there. Make sure you bring a bottle.

Trafalgar Square – I'll Be There!

6pm on the first Saturday after Margaret Thatcher dies

Drugs and Justice Behind the Wire

Elsewhere in this issue we review the autobiography of former World boxing champion Terry Marsh. In several of the interviews he has done to promote his book, Terry has talked about his experiences in prison – this is a typical example from an interview given to the Metro:

"It appears to me that the only beneficiaries of the current drug policy are the Police Federation, the Prison Officers Association, the Law Society and the drug barons. I didn't know anything about drugs until I went to prison. The whole thing needs a 'root and branch' look at it. It suits the Prison Officers Association to have it like it is because there is a guarantee that when the prisoners go out of the prison gates, they will be back in six months. It's not really in the interests of prison officers to have them reformed in my view.

On the issue of prison disciplinary procedures, we cannot do better than repeat these words from the same interview

"There's no justice when it comes to disciplinary procedures for prisoners. Screws are always right and the prisoners always wrong – they haven't got a chance. So they come out bitter and twisted and who can blame them if they feel alienated. They feel they are not part of society and, if a sense of community spirit was there before, it isn't any more. On remand, I saw how Britain treats prisoners who are unconvicted and we have the audacity to sit in judgement of other countries".



Terry Marsh - Sticking it to the system

QUOTES

"Some of Chiang Mai's tourist policemen can hardly walk, and some could not run. Few can speak any Thai apart from ordering a beer" A letter in Thai newspaper The Nation (8/3/06) following the recruitment of Westerners resident in Thailand to the Royal Thai police!

Prison Radio

This is an American project that aims to bring the voices of prisoners onto the airwaves, particularly by using the Internet. The site can be visited at:

www.prisonradio.org

Particularly recommended is the section of the site devoted to speeches and interviews from jailed American activist Mumia Abu-Jamal. Some 150,000 Mumia CDs have been sold, and listening to on-line clips it is easy to understand why!

Welcome Back!

To Australian Class War supporter Stuart Highway from Northern Territory, who recently served three months in jail. We knew Stuart worked the authorities so hard inside they were glad to see him leave. It is good to have you back mate!



Execution As Policy

Four members of the fascist prison gang the Aryan Brotherhood, are currently on trial in California, on racketeering charges. The Assistant Attorney of the United States is demanding the death penalty in the case, on the grounds that as the prisoners involved are already serving life, there is no other adequate punishment they can be given. Michael Emmick comments "This case is fundamentally about power and control of the nations prisons".



The Aryan Brotherhood - Never trust men with beards

Class War has no support for the Aryan Brotherhood – if these four Nazis are executed they will not be missed. The issue here is the precedent the American "justice" system is trying to set – that if you are in jail anyway, they have the right to kill you as a routine method of discipline.

Does that sound too different from something the Nazis themselves would come out with? How long until execution is being recommended as the only response for prison riot or refusing orders?

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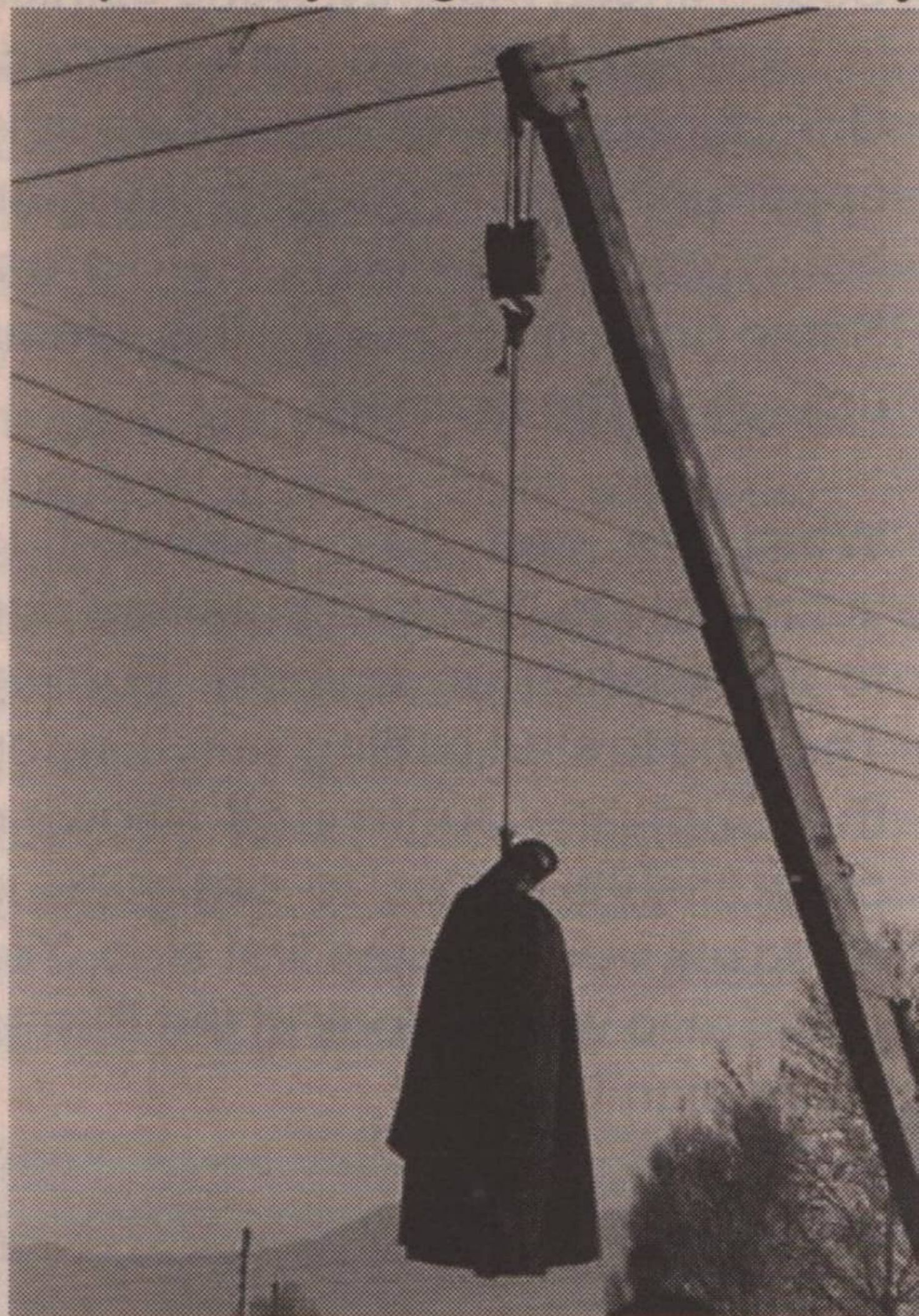
Class War takes a critical look at the world's fastest growing religion.

Islam: A History

Islam means 'submission'. Submission of your whole existence to what your god decrees. It was thought up by the supporters of a seventh century Arabian gangster in order to consolidate their criminal organisation's hold over the region. It is followed by over a billion people on this planet.

Muhammad was the 6th century equivalent of a travelling salesman or lorry driver. He drove his goods caravan and camel train across the Arabian peninsula, buying and selling cheap trinkets, dates, nuts, spices and fancy goods. He was born on April 20, 670 AD. Like all self-important nouveau-riche types, he embellished his family tree to claim a direct descentance to Abraham, the founder of the Jewish religion, of which Islam is a branch just like Christianity. However, despite the Arabs claiming to have invented arithmetic, Mo's followers weren't too clever at sums as his family tree goes back 23 generations to Abraham - approximately 2,700 years, meaning each father would have to have sired a baby boy at the age of over 100 years. What is more plausible is that Muhammad was from a well-to-do business-class family.

Mo was brought up by a Bedouin wet-nurse in the desert, but lost both his parents young. He was raised by



The hanging of Ateqeh Rajabi

his uncle Abu Taib, a big business mogul in Mecca. He was given his own branch of the family business to take care of when he reached manhood. At 25 he married his 40 year old boss and had some nippers. After she snuffed it, he started going into caves on his own and taking drugs. He was hallucinating all sorts of mad shit, seeing heaven and hell, going on fanciful journeys and even talking to the angel Gabriel! It was his ageing wife, in her late fifties, who had first called Mo a 'prophet'. Whether she was humouring him, massaging his tender ego, or just

having a laugh is of no matter as Mo decided that he liked the idea of being 'god's sole messenger on earth'. Her cousin was a Christian and backed him up, probably to try and recruit him, but Mo considered himself the prophet, not Jesus.

Mo tried persuading everyone that he was in direct contact with the Judeo-Christian god. Most people ignored him, but gradually he gathered together a bunch of cranks who thought he was the top boy. Mo was frustrated by the Meccans' adherence to idolatry and multitheism, and his group of hardcore Abrahamists were forced to flee to the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia for refuge. Mo however stayed in Mecca, until his family died, and his funds began to dry up. He then had another bout of bad dreams and hallucinations, this time involving a long journey to Jerusalem, and a discussion with Moses, Abraham and Jesus. He believed that he was the next prophet.

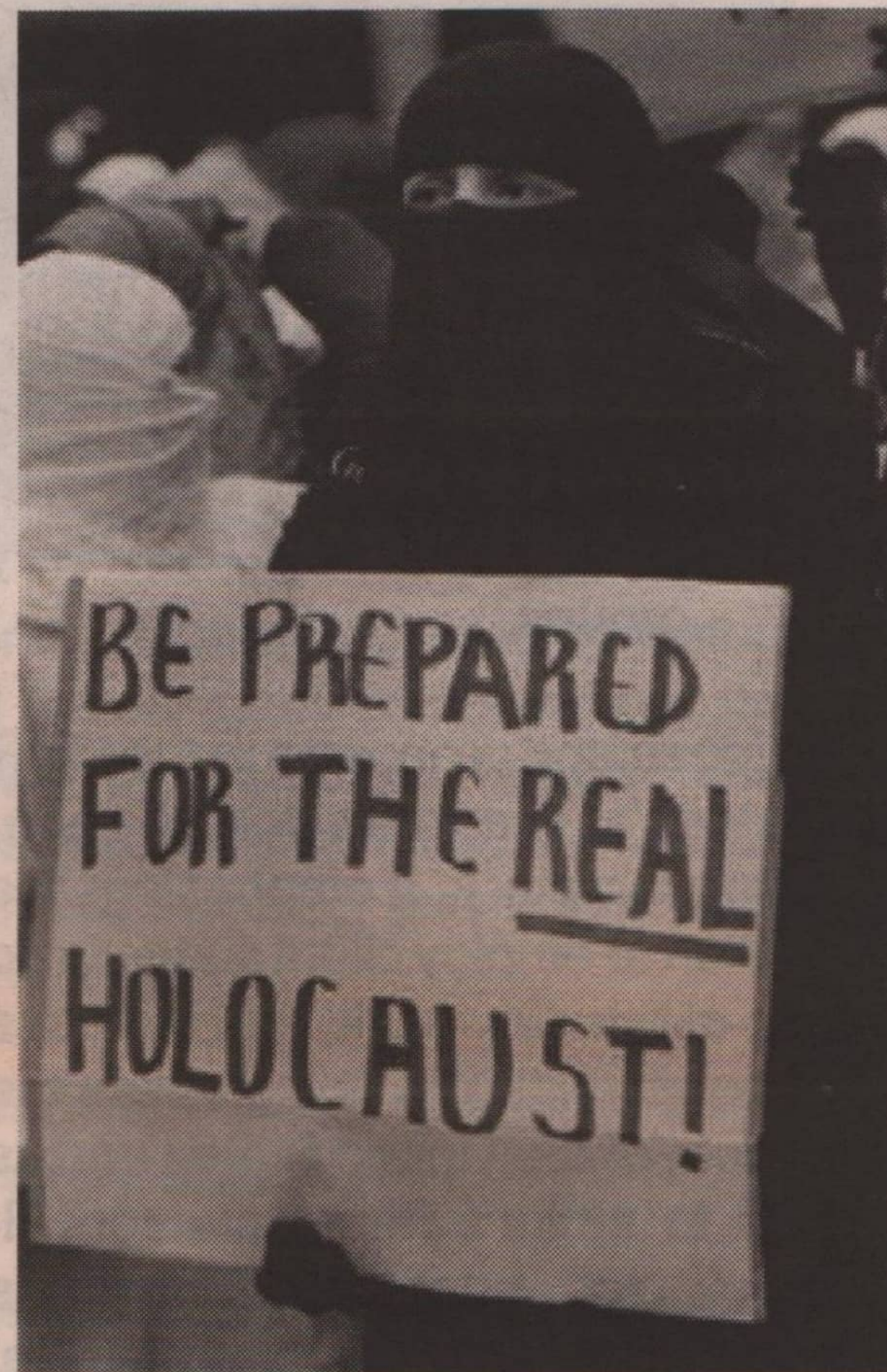
These delusions of grandeur were clearly going to his head, and surrounded like Elvis by a gaggle of yes-men and 'friends', he cut off all links with his family and moved to Yathrib, now called Medina. There, he and his gang started a protection racket, whereby non gang-members, Jews, Christians and multitheists were taxed. Mo's Gang then became highwaymen, holding up caravans from Mecca. This racket grew until these armed thugs constituted his own private army. Many Meccans were murdered in cold blood by the criminals. After one slaughter, in Badr in 624, his flunkies declared their boss to be the son of god, or 'god father'. All Jews were now expelled from Medina, and the remaining Medinans forced to acknowledge Mo's rule. Mo, 52, then married his business partner and friend's 6-year old daughter, Aisha, who became the third of his 12 wives. It is a good job the News of the World was not published in those days!

A protracted war broke out between the Medinan gang of Dirty Mo, and the Meccan gang led by Abu Sufyan. After the Battle of the Trench in 627, every Jewish man in the area was beheaded and the women and children raped and enslaved. Three years later Muhammad commanded an army of 10,000 men and forced the city of Mecca to bow to his rule, on pain of death. He now controlled all business in the Arabian peninsula. Mo snuffed it two years later, on 8th June 632, aged 62. Only his daughter Fatima from his first marriage survived him, and he refused to allow a woman to take over his gang.

A feud broke out between his son-in-law, Ali, and his adviser, Abu Bakr as

to who would succeed Mo. Ali was defeated, and his supporters became known as the Shi'at Ali (advocates of Ali). Abu Bakr took over Mo's empire and began waging war against the Bedouins, Persians and the Byzantines.

Over the next two centuries, Dirty Mo's unique mix of gangsterism and hero worship was forced upon the rest of the region - from north Africa to India, and from Turkey to Madagascar. It grew into a ferociously superstitious cult, where any criticism of the legacy of Mo was considered blasphemous and punishable by death. His cult became known as 'The Submission' or 'Islam' - and all free will and reason



is replaced by the literal living of their lives by the Islamic FAQ, known as the Quran, which spells out the rules and regulations of being a proper Muhammad fan.

His followers are still divided between the Shi'ites (Ali) and the 85% of Moslems who call themselves Sunni. There is a huge tourism industry whereby cult members across the world visit Mecca to throw stones at it, the Haj pilgrimage. Unfortunately this is the point when fanatics tend to get a bit over excited, resulting in stampedes and other disasters which have "blighted" the Haj in recent years.

All sorts of shit is banned in Muslim countries - homosexuality (punishment - death), masturbation (amputation), communism (death), and adultery, whereby any woman who so much as even talks to another man may be punished.

This is the insane, sick belief system defended by liberals, and even some socialists today. Do you submit to it?

Islamic fundamentalists please note: Any fatwas as a result of this article should be sent to Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

As Capitalism is Global, So too is the Class War.

It would be the crassest act of stupidity to believe that we could overthrow capitalism here in Britain without similar revolutions taking place across the world. If there were not then, no matter how heroic or brave an isolated revolution was, it would be crushed by the combined might of a vengeful boss class.

The working class has no country - we gain inspiration and confidence from the struggles and victories of our fellow workers throughout the world, and we try to draw the lessons from their defeats so that we can ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated.

Unlike the middle class left we in Class War don't think that we have all the answers. We don't create 'Internationals' made up of a few dozen people scattered across the globe in order to proclaim our 'revolutionary wisdom' to the unhearing multitude. Instead we stand in solidarity alongside all who stand up and fight back against the brutality of the capitalist system and for a world free of both the bosses and the state.

Class War welcomes international contacts with fellow revolutionaries who agree that it is necessary to smash both capitalism and the state. Please contact us either at the following address:

Class War International Secretary
PO Box 467
London
E8 3QX
United Kingdom

or at our new international secretary email address:
cwfintsec@yahoo.co.uk



Our International Secretary on manoeuvres

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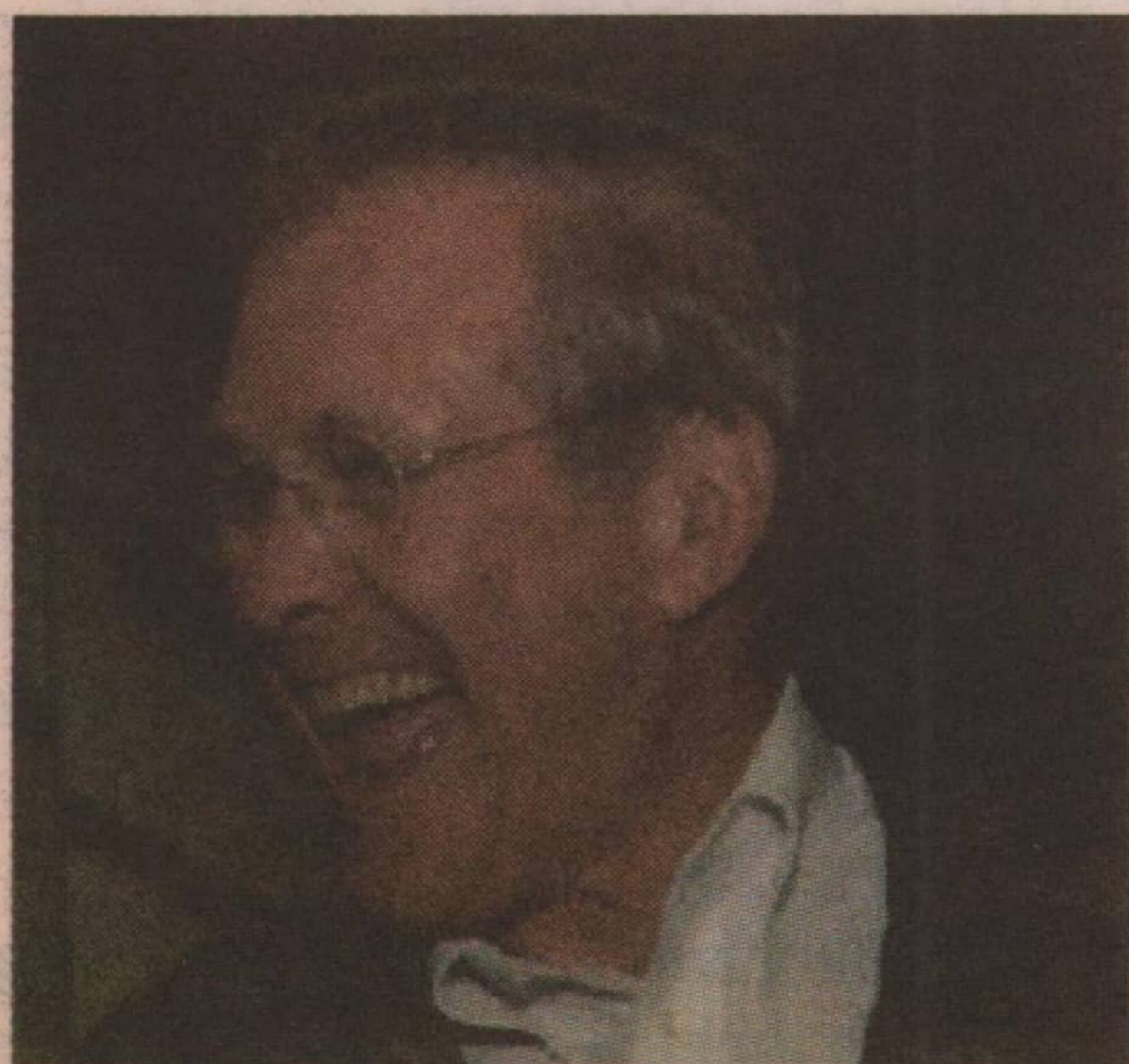
"The law, in our experience, has also displayed a complete disregard for such illegal hunting, with police forces the length and breadth of the country failing to enforce the Act"

The Hunt Saboteurs Association breaks the shocking news that the police are not neutral, to a stunned membership, April 2006.

The Long War

It's official, 'Pinky and the Brain' are the policy strategists for the New American Century. They are, of course, planning world domination. However, this is a strange description. There are many in the White House and the Pentagon who fit Pinky's character, but apart from Condoleezza Rice who is a perfect lookalike for the Brain, not too many have any (brains that is)

America is fighting what it now calls a 'long global war,' it is no longer merely the 'war on terror.' This is an even more ominous proposition than before. The USA has given itself the right to fight a perpetual global war of military, economic and cultural domination. You might say that it has always done this, albeit covertly or even deceptively, but now it has openly outlined its vision of domination in 'The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review' (QDR).



Today Iraq, tomorrow the world!

Currently, their main overt interest is centred on Iraq and Afghanistan, but they are preparing to defend all US interests, wherever they desire, forever.

The long war is intended to extend far beyond Iraq and Afghanistan, and in common with their usual manner of operation, will include what they define as irregular warfare. In recent years, U.S. forces have been engaged in many countries to eliminate popular opposition by helping their right wing partners to police and govern their nation states in the benefit of US interests. This sphere of operations has included gun running, drug cartels and paramilitary death squads.

When Bush took office in 2001, the US was still on a redundant Cold War footing, but now they have engineered (with the help of their 'terrorist' protagonists) a terrifying era of the unexpected and the unpredictable - terrorphobia. They have used this to transform their military forces to better fit the needs of the 'New American Century.' A century of US world domination. The U.S. global military force now emphasises its ability to take action in so-called trouble spots across the globe.

The QDR is a reflection of the Department of Defense's thinking, and illustrates their military strategy.

This includes:

- A permanent US wartime footing. Peacetime planning is now considered redundant.
- Actions in countries they are not at war with, but considered by the administration to be used as safe havens.
- Pre-emptive aggression to shape the future for the benefit of US interests.
- Massive investment in military equipment to ensure combat readiness anywhere in the world, and battle hardened forces (this of course will necessitate perpetual military actions to gain experience of warfare.)
- An extension of 'multiple irregular, asymmetric operations,' an increase in covert operations, including the training and arming of various right wing paramilitary groups.

The ideas and proposals in the QDR provide 'a roadmap for change, leading to victory.' It emphasises the intention to employ client states to do more of the dirty work, and increase pre-emptive strikes. It increases the freedom of the United States and its allies to strike without consent. It seeks to sustain America's advantage over potential competitors.

Alarmingly the intervention in countries where US prime interests may be abandoned is a primary objective. They seek to shape the choices of countries at what they call 'strategic crossroads.' Anything that opposes US demands will be nullified as official US policy.

Deterrence is to be strengthened. A wider range of conventional options in addition to nuclear deterrent will be introduced, including a small number of Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles for use in conventional prompt global strike. There will be more use of unmanned aerial vehicles to increase persistent surveillance, and the development of the next generation long-range strike systems will begin.

'Tonight Pinky, we take over the world.'



Banging About Burma

A Viewpoint from our South East Asian Correspondent

There's not a lot of column inches written about Burma, very few demonstrations, certainly no one on the left gets the slightest bit bothered. Yet the sufferings of the many subject peoples of Burma and the Burmese people themselves eclipse anything suffered by more fashionable causes – such as the Palestinians or the Tibetans.

Burma was born out of the Second World War. General Aung San formed the Burmese Liberation Army to fight against British colonialism and allied himself with the Japanese. By 1944 however he became disillusioned with the Axis cause and his army became the anti-fascist front and allied itself with British forces and taking part in the liberation of Rangoon. However in the post war period he was assassinated by pro-fascists just before independence.



Aung San - Murdered by fascists

After independence in 1948 Burma pursued a democratic path but this was rudely disturbed by a military coup in 1962 by a group of generals styling themselves 'the Burmese Socialist party' thereby gaining the support of the Soviet Union and western communist parties. Over the next 16 years a combination of corruption and incompetence turned South East Asia's richest country into one of it's poorest. The military dictatorship was absolute, all opposition banned and ethnic minorities persecuted leading to several groups – the Shan, Karen and Mon peoples being in armed rebellion. These people are still subject to torture, imprisonment,

murder, dislocation, rape and forced labour. Hundreds of thousands have been murdered since 1962.

In 1988 the Socialist party's leader died and there were free elections, which were massively taken by Aung Sang's daughter Aung Sang Kyu. However the military took power again and Aung Sang Kyu was imprisoned.

The army renamed Burma 'Myanmar' which is viewed by non-Burmese in Burma as Palestinians might regard the occupied territories as being named 'Greater Israel'. Burma continues to wage war against its minorities with impunity. It is protected from the United Nations wrath by an alliance of world human rights arch-villains such as Zimbabwe, Syria and China. The generals are kept economically fed through deals with China (who needs access to the Indian Ocean) and Thailand, who though nominally a US client has been ruled on the whim of Tycoon-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinwatra who made vast personal deals with the Burmese regime.

Here in Thailand all we can do is help Burmese refugees escape to Malaysia as they are not safe here - the Thai government will deport any Burmese back to Burma. Until progressives in the west are prepared to give the same time to these oppressed people as they do to the Palestinians and did for the South African majority, world opinion is unlikely to be influenced. Unfortunately since this offers little opportunity for Trots and Islington bon-vivants to attack their great Satan (the United States) this seems unlikely at the moment.

What we can do? Thailand is vulnerable to Western pressure due to its reliance on tourism. Forcing Thailand to start putting sanctions on the Burmese Junta and allowing progressive forces to organize in Bangkok would be the first step. You might also want to look at the Burma Campaign UK at:

<http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/>

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1/8th page - £20

We reserve the right to refuse adverts from hippies, known rip off merchants and people with their eyebrows too close together.

The following article is taken from the Broadway Market campaign website <http://34broadwaymarket.omweb.org>

Most people in Hackney have heard about the protests going on in Broadway Market over the last three months. Since November members of the local community have been occupying Francesca's Cafe and held many protests and public meetings and generated nationwide interest in the campaign. The focus has been on two longstanding businesses which have been at the mercy of property developers looking to cash in on the gentrification of Broadway Market - Tony Platia was evicted from the cafe he has run for 31 years and Lowell 'Spirit' Grant has been threatened with the same treatment. Tony & Spirit are popular local figures who ran shops used by local working people who can't afford to use the new boutiques and upmarket cafes that have sprung up in Broadway Market. Their situation is the consequence of Hackney Council's pro-big business policies - over the last decade the council has been selling off its commercial properties to rich investors at knock down prices often leaving long term leaseholders in the lurch. The effects of this can also be seen across South Hackney as former public buildings suddenly become yuppie flats.

PROTECT BROADWAY MARKET FROM CORRUPT DEVELOPERS! WE WANT OUR CAFE NOT YUPPIE FLATS!

WHAT HAPPENED TO 34 BROADWAY MARKET?

Everyone in the area knew Tony Platia, who had run Francesca's Café from these premises for 30 years. Tony was evicted on 1st July 2005 and had his livelihood destroyed. Tony was part of the local community and on three previous occasions local people rallied round to help prevent his eviction by bailiffs but in July, 10 bailiffs and 50 police turned up to throw him out. Tony was evicted by Dr Roger Wratten, a property developer who also owns numbers 2, (previously the site of Little Georgia) 4, 6, 30 & 32 (the



Campaigners work to reopen the cafe

former Market House Pub) in Broadway Market and the land to the rear of numbers 26 - 36, along with many other local sites. These include the cleared warehouses at the junction of Queensbridge & Whiston Roads, where he has now begun work on building 132 residential units. Tony is not alone - this has happened

time and time again in Broadway Market - 'Spirit', the proprietor of the shop at number 71 also attempted to buy his property in 2001 but he was also ignored, his property sold for less than he was offering to pay and he is now also facing eviction by developers. Similar things are also going on in Dalston Lane. Hackney's sell-off of commercial properties was a travesty. The Estate agents appointed by the Council sold £225 million worth of properties for just £70 million (depriving the people of Hackney of £150m) and the majority of these went to wealthy off-shore developer cartels who made an absolute killing at the expense of the

The Battle Of Broadway Market

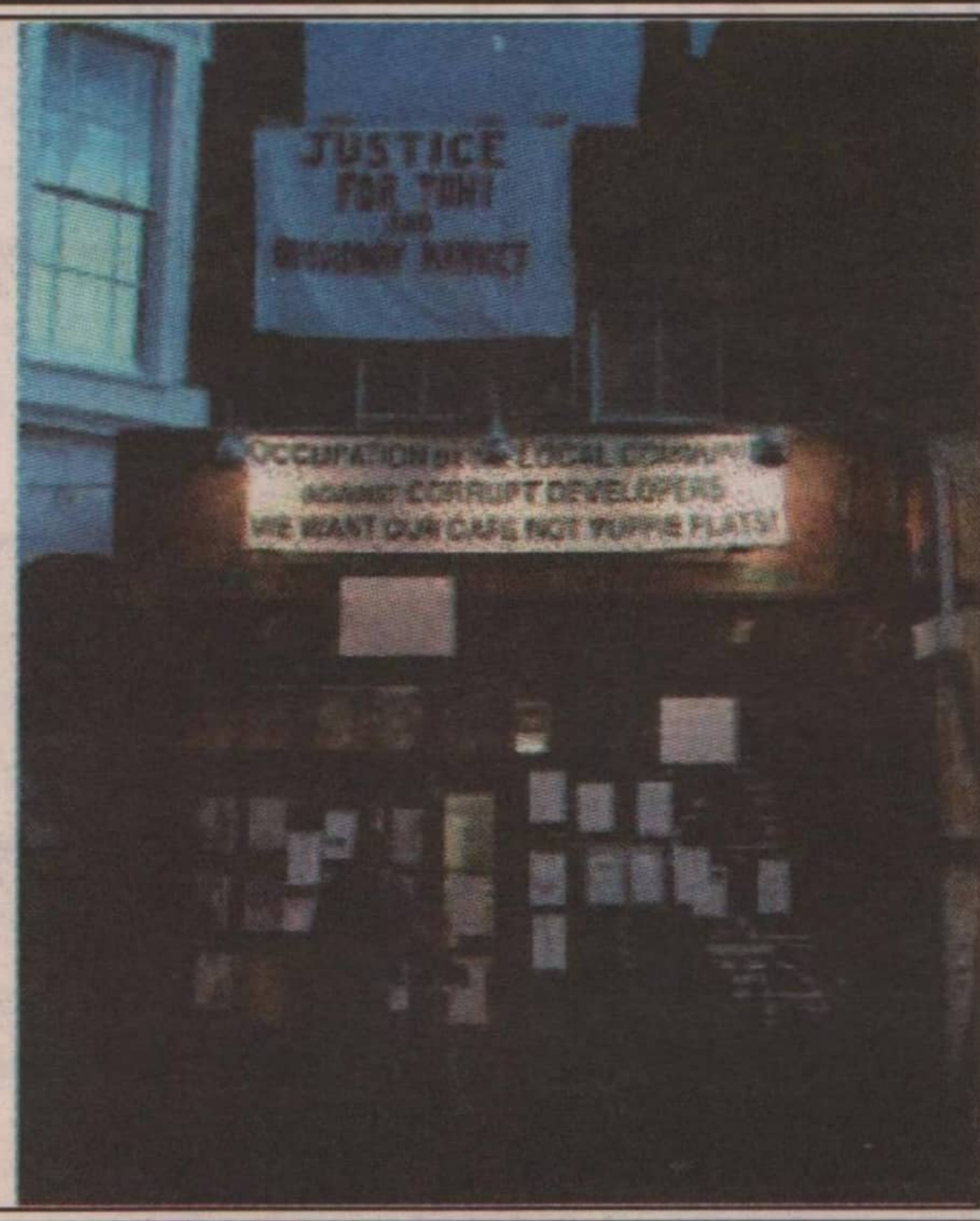
people of Hackney.

WHY OCCUPY THE BUILDING?

Dr Wratten now wants to demolish 34 Broadway Market to make way for the development of flats. As there are serious questions about his acquisition of the premises, and his planning permission we have decided to stop the demolition by occupying the building. The campaign demands a full investigation into the corrupt property sales in Hackney, including those in Broadway Market. Also, the campaign wants to have Tony's Café back. While many locals are pleased to see the street become more active, they also recognise that many of the new shops and initiatives are not for them but for wealthy newcomers to an area that has suddenly become trendy and desirable. Tony's was a place frequented by a broad cross-section of the community. What has happened in Broadway Market is part of a general attack on local people in this area. Many are sick of being treated like 2nd class citizens, having their local amenities closed (Haggerston Pool), their estates run down or privatised, their schools demolished and handed over to big business (Laburnum School), and publicly-owned property handed to developers for a pittance.

Hackney Council seem to be interested only in the interests of the well-off and big business. Most people in Hackney feel pretty disillusioned by mainstream politics. The dismal turnouts at elections show how far removed the major parties are from the reality of people's

lives. What has happened in Broadway Market over the last three months has re-awakened many people's interest in local issues. This is because events have been led entirely by residents who have had enough of the empty promises coming from Hackney Town Hall and taken matters into their own hands. What has been achieved has demonstrated the power of independent action. The Occupation of Tony's Café captured the imagination of the press and has been reported in most newspapers in the UK as well as in many other countries. The astonishing rebuilding of the cafe on Boxing Day



after the developer evicted protesters and tore it apart demonstrated the power of collective action. This defiant act strengthened the resolve of those involved and made them more confident.

Broadway Market Gentrification - Hackney Says No!

Class War recently spoke to Arthur Shuter, one of the campaigners in the Broadway Market area, and a candidate for the anti-gentrification Hackney Independent in the May 2006 council elections.

Class War: How did you get involved in the campaign?

Arthur Shuter: I was acting for Tony, Spirit and others, mainly in Broadway Market, and began raising questions with Hackney Council about how people were being treated. When the answers were unsatisfactory I made a formal complaint to Hackney Audit & Anti-Fraud and to the Met. I attended court when Tony and Spirit were facing eviction and it just snowballed from there.

CW: What has been happening lately with the campaign?

AS: See the website <http://34broadwaymarket.omweb.org> for latest updates. Also, there is regular leafleting in Broadway Market itself.

CW: Are local working class people involved?

AS: The most surprising thing about the whole campaign is that a complete cross-section of the community have been supporting us

from the very beginning. Local working classes were very onside but showed only limited inclination to get actively involved. Some of the major support - and donations - have come from the middle and upper middle classes who use the Saturday market.

CW: What outcome would everyone want especially concerning Hackney council?

AS: The Scrutiny Committee reported their findings on 20th March and have recommended that 14 units in Dalston Lane (sold at auction for a pittance in 2002 to an offshore developer) be taken back by CPO and that the Council should retain the option to repurchase 34 and 71 Broadway Market. Talks are underway now regarding 34.

CW: I went to the meeting at the Church Hall in Hackney when Deputy Mayor Jessica Crowe got a real pasting, what do you think Hackney Council's next move will be?

AS: See above!

CW: Some of the other campaigns starting in the area are around the theatre in Dalston and Spirit's campaign. Is this going to get bigger?

AS: Absolutely. There are plans to keep things going although we have to be aware of Court actions.

CW: What have the boys in blue's attitude been like towards the campaign?

AS: Hackney Police do not want to know. The Yard had to draft in 70 old bill from Croydon to evict the occupiers of Tony's cafe on 23rd February. The locals are keen not to get involved in the Dalston Theatre eviction which is going no where at present.

CW: Has there been any interest from political groups?

AS: Andrew Boff (Conservative!) has been a massive help. He is also Secretary of Broadway Market Traders & Residents Association.



Protests after the eviction

Other groups have been showing support. Labour are steering clear of course. Three of the occupants of Tony's Cafe (including myself) are standing as candidates for Hackney Independent in Haggerston ward where the Tories have stood down

Continued on page 10

The Battle For Broadway Market

and asked all their supporters to vote HI.

CW: The dodgy dealings of Hackney's Labour Council were well exposed in your newsletter - do you think getting this information out helps the campaign?

AS: People are desperately waiting for updates and weekly newsletters are now being produced.

CW: What contribution - apart from stacks of cash - can people make?

AS: Cash is obviously important. But time and energy are equally valuable. Just being in Broadway Market to help with giving out leaflets, collection buckets and other various 'shows' which we try to put on to keep the opposition on their toes is always a big help. HI have leafleting and canvassing to get on with and are looking for support on this.

Class War would like to leave the last words to café owner Tony Platia, quoted earlier this year "It's all being killed, all the ordinary people pushed out. They're taking from the poor and giving to the rich. Look around you."

You can find out more about Hackney Independent by visiting:

<http://hackneyindependent.org/>

Each issue Class War brings you more evidence that if they appear good for nothing, the ruling class do at least manage to give us a laugh!

10	Lieutenant General Sir Reddy Watt	The General Officer Commanding British Forces, Northern Ireland. No wonder the IRA called a ceasefire – they were too busy laughing to shoot straight!
9	Lord Frederick Ponsonby of Shulbrede	Another reason to demolish the House of Lords, prick by prick!
8	Sir Chips Keswick	Director of mining conglomerate De Beers, Sir Chips is also a Director of Arsenal. Chips is apparently short for Chippendale. What next, Billy the Fish on the board?
7	Caird Forbes-Cockell	A solicitor with experience in both London and New York, Mr Forbes-Cockell must be the only person called Caird in the entire world.
6	Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake	Well we had to have at least one member of the Countryside Alliance on our list, and who better than this witless board member!
5	Mrs Biddy Trouton	She was Joint Secretary of the Exmoor Foxhounds, but now hunting has been banned we are sure this Biddy is obeying the law, just as she would expect us to.....
4	Richard Face	A former Labour Minister in New South Wales, Dick got into serious trouble in 2004 for misusing his entitlements.....
3	Randy Bender	As everyone hates estate agents, we can only assume Randy's parents had a vision of what their son would become!
2	Baroness Davina Darcy de Knayth	We doubt Davina had to pay to get her seat in the House of Lords!
1	Chief Inspector Randy Otter British Transport Police	We are sure insults are water off an otter's back to this guy, but really, what were his parents thinking!

Silly names

You're poor, you're ill and you won't live long

Health inequalities increased between rich and poor areas in Britain during the 1980s and 1990s. The current government has done nothing to reduce these inequalities. In fact inequalities in life expectancy, income and wealth have widened during their administration.

Twenty years ago, the World Health Organization set up Health for All 2000. 38 targets were set out to reduce inequalities in health. The main aims were:

- Ensuring equity in health by reducing gaps in health status between countries and between population groups within countries
- Adding life to years by helping people achieve, and use, their full physical, mental, and social potential
- Adding health to life by reducing disease and disability
- Adding years to life by increasing life expectancy

Recent studies have shown that the Health for All aim of reducing inequalities between groups of the population failed abysmally. In fact, the opposite occurred.

In 1997 Frank Dobson, then Secretary of State for Health, stated, "Inequality in health is the worst inequality of all. There is no more serious inequality than knowing that you'll die sooner because you're badly off."

Hazel Blears, prior to her becoming the Home Office's main police state proponent said, "Tackling health inequalities is a top priority for this government."

In 2001 two national targets for 2010 were announced:

- To reduce the gap in infant mortality across social groups, and
- To raise life expectancy in the most disadvantaged areas faster than elsewhere.

However, new data shows increases in health inequalities in the early years of the 21st century in the UK. Life expectancy continues to rise in the most advantaged areas of the country at a greater pace than in the poorest areas.

Income inequality has remained at its greatest for the last 20 years. These

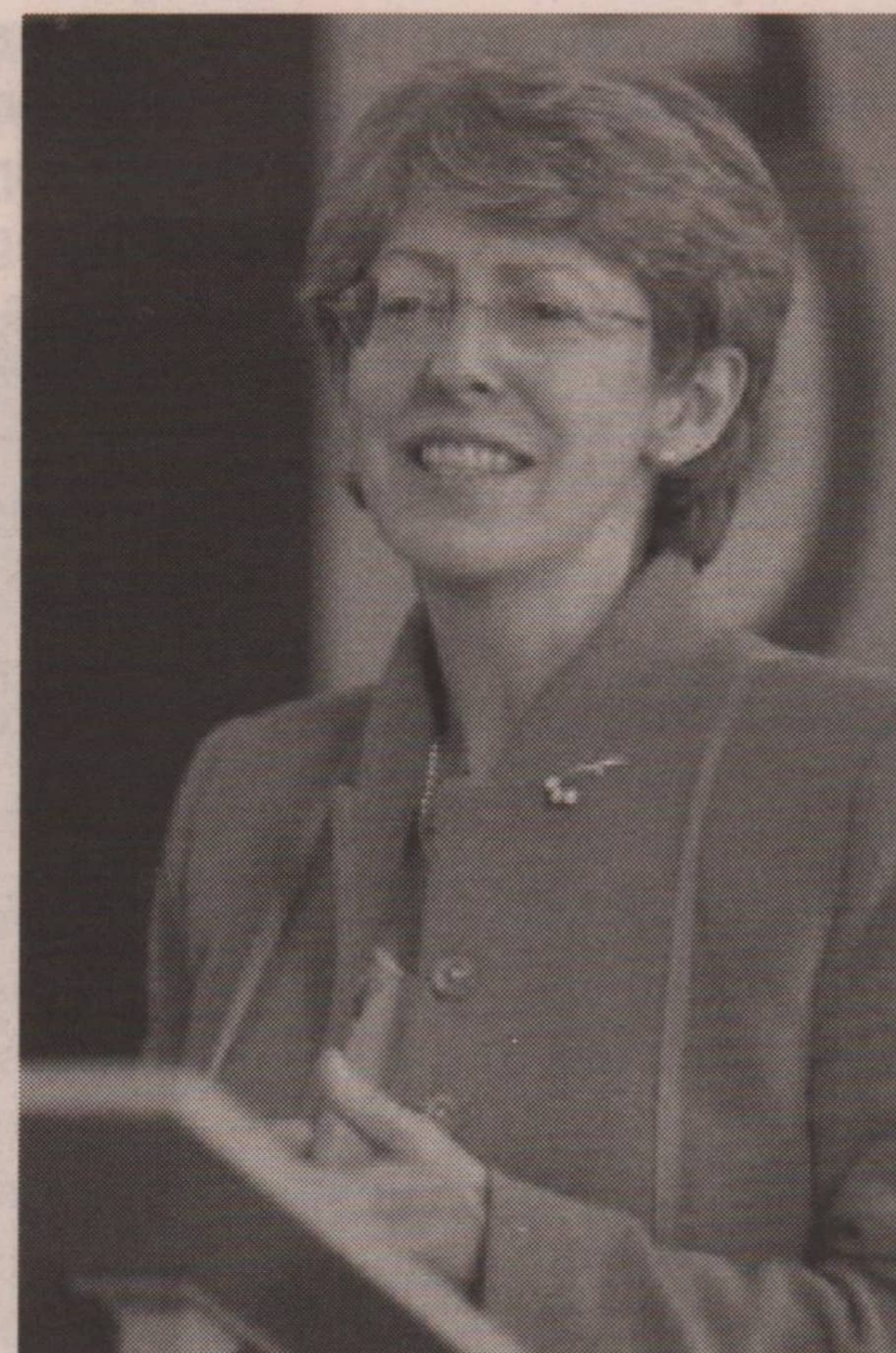
record level inequalities began in the 1980s and have continued throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s. The poorest 10% in society now receive a mere 3% of the nation's total income, whilst the richest 10% receive more than a 25%. Income inequality is not the whole story though.

Wealth is even more unequally distributed than income. Wealth reflects lifelong circumstances, and

can include savings, and other assets such as house ownership. Increasing inequality in wealth began in the 1970s, and has widened particularly since 1995-6. From 1990 to 2000 the wealthiest 10% of the population increased its share of the national wealth from 47% to 54%. The top 1 percent's share rose from 18% in 1990 to 23% in 2000. In the ten years up to 2003, housing wealth for the richest 10% of children increased by 20 times more than that for the poorest 10%.

For some health outcomes there will be a delay in terms of the effect of material circumstances. The full effects of current income inequalities on health may not be immediately visible. Wealth inequalities, however, reflect the accumulation of lifetime dis/advantage. The growing inequalities in wealth hold little hope for future trends in health inequalities, they will be transmitted to and magnified among future generations.

(Reference: *Health Inequalities and New Labour: how the promises compare with real progress*. Mary Shaw, George Davey Smith, Danny Dorling. Published BMJ 30 April 2005)



Smug And Smarmy

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH COUNCIL HOUSING?

The right to buy council houses in parts of the Highlands has been suspended to protect affordable stock. East Renfrewshire is the first council in Scotland to be given permission to ban council house sales, a policy that was introduced in the 1980s by Thatcher.

Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm said, "There is compelling evidence of substantial pressures on affordable housing in the areas the council identified."

Margaret Davidson, Highland Council's housing convener, said the move was driven by a severe shortage of affordable housing in many areas. The right-to-buy policy in Scotland continues to drain housing stock of about 11,000 homes a year, with over 440,000 lost in the 25 years since it was introduced.

Why the hell isn't this suspension being extended throughout the UK?

In England, the number of families waiting for a council house has soared by more than 50 per cent during Labour's time in power, and now stands at 1.5million.

Only one new social housing unit is built for every five sold off under the right-to-buy scheme, this means that the supply of council properties for families on the waiting list is dwindling every year.

In Doncaster, the Council owns and manages 25,000 properties – houses, bungalows and flats. Nearly half (42%) of Council tenants are over 60 years of age and over half (53%) of tenants say they have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity. The Council currently re-lets 2,700 properties a year.

Last year the Council sold off or disposed of 1,737 homes - 5.5 per cent of its stock. 1,685 individuals or families are now classed as homeless, three years ago the number had been just 375. The number of people in temporary accommodation waiting to be allocated homes has also risen while waiting times increased to as long as five months.

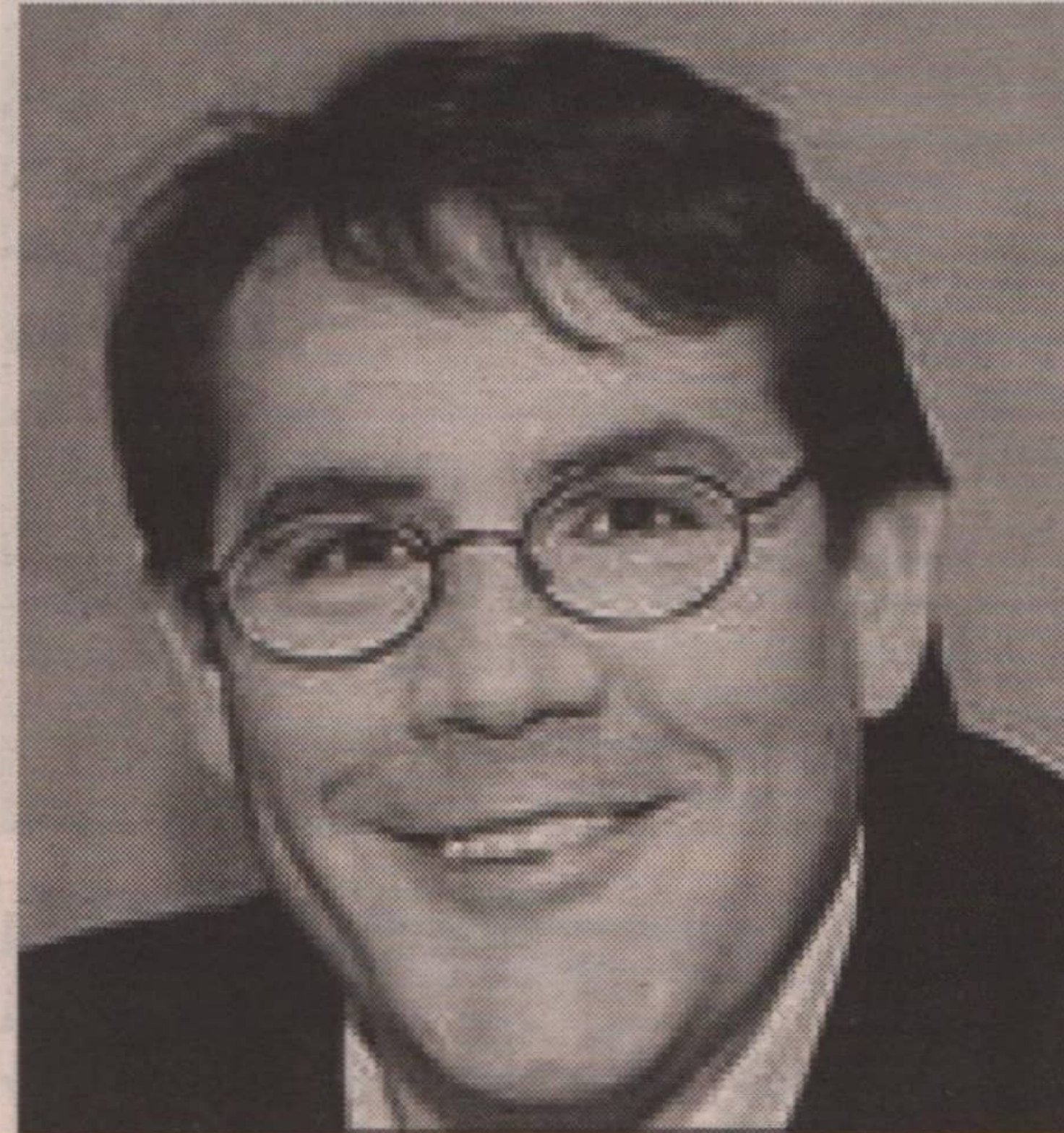
There were 13,080 applicants on the waiting list (at December 2004) compared to just 5,943 in September 2003.

And now the housing stock has been transferred to an ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) after consultations and a ballot.

In November 2000, the tenants were told by Gary Allen, the Head of Housing Services, 'Remember - the tenants of Doncaster will have the final say in what happens to council housing in the future. Changes to the ownership of council homes cannot happen without the support of tenants. Where there is a proposal for any change of ownership, Government rules require that tenants are balloted and that there is a majority decision in favour of the

proposal. It is this ballot that will decide whether or not the Council will proceed with that option. The Council will work closely with tenants to decide on the best option for Doncaster, but tenants will have the final say on which option is introduced. Whatever option is chosen the council will ensure that tenants rights will be protected, rents will be kept affordable and council housing will meet the standards of the 21st century.'

In 2005, the elected Mayor, Martin Winter, said, 'you told me that the



Martin Winters - Would you trust this man with your home?

majority of you (78%) wanted the Council to continue to own your homes – you wanted the "stay as we are" option.'

But bugger it; he's still gone for the ALMO.

How is this supposed to help the provision of affordable housing? After a specified period, the ALMO will be able to increase rents to the 'economic' level. Currently this would mean a 100% increase (if privately rented accommodation is compared with council rentals.)

The measures to privatise the housing stock, introduced by Thatcher, and now strengthened by Blair, will only serve to further increase homelessness and financial pressures for the working class and shore up the profitability of the housing market for the privileged.

Stick Your ID Cards

Class War fully supports the campaign against ID cards. Life is difficult enough as it is without having to produce an identity card every time some little Hitler decided he needs to know who you are.

The best way to fight ID cards is to do nothing. The poll tax was ended by one thing – people not paying it. By not buying an ID card (what sort of society is where you have to "buy" your identity?) and ignoring all correspondence on the subject, we have every opportunity of nobbling ID cards at an early stage. It is time to do nothing!

You can find out more about opposing ID cards by visiting

<http://www.no2id.net/>

ISACC Sucks

The introduction of ID cards in society is being mirrored by greater surveillance and monitoring in the workplace. On the London Underground this involves the introduction of ISACC – Integrated Site Access and Competency Compliance.

ISACC involves a workers fingerprint or Iris being scanned, encoded and placed with a photograph on a readable chip, onto a work ID card. This card will also record a workers certification and hours worked.

In summer 2005, Metronet (one of the operators of the tube) agreed with unions that the card would not be used to clock workers hours, or to discipline staff. Come this February however, and Metronet adopted the exact opposite position. Cards would monitor hours and could therefore be used in disciplinary cases. Familiar bogeymen were also dragged out to justify ISACC – management claimed it would tackle abuse of employment law by illegal immigrants.

By March Metronet were up to their

tricks again. Now they were claiming that the 2006 pay increase would be linked to..... full co-operation with the introduction of ISACC! Metronet are not waiting for agreement however – attempts are already being made to install reader devices and to butter staff up into accepting the scheme. ISACC is already being opposed, and importantly not just by union officials but by rank and file Underground workers. ISACC's database looks worryingly similar to the sort of capacity the state will have if ID cards are successfully introduced, and (as another example of Big Brother) all cars journeys are recorded.

Put simply, the government will know who you are, what you are doing, where you have been, who you are with and where you are, from the moment you get out of bed, to the moment you return to it.

Is that something you want? Certainly, the RMT don't think so, and have pledged strike action to oppose this draconian measure.

Workplace Tagging

Tagging is usually something associated with prisoners serving out their sentences. Often we are told lurid tales of the crimes being committed by tagged people who the tabloids insist should still be behind bars. Less publicised by the media is how tagging is increasingly being used, not in prisons, but in the workplace.

Last year the GMB union exposed the use of arm and finger computers, worn by staff in warehouses. Orders are beamed to the worker, and the device calculates how long it should take them to go from one part of their workplace to another, as well as counting "sufficient" time for breaks and visits to the toilet. The workers position is known at all times due to

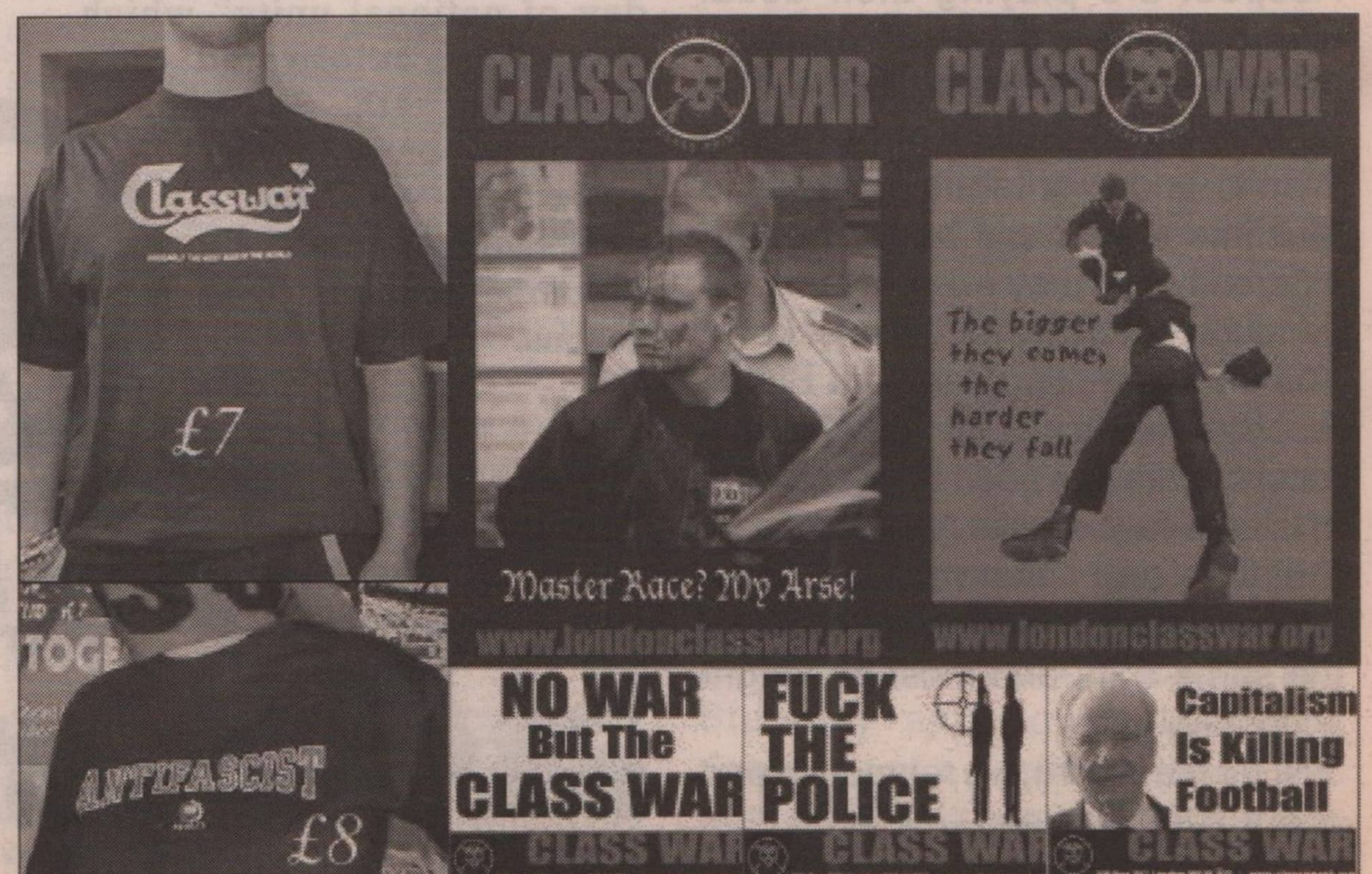
GPS technology.

Workplaces were identified in 33 towns and cities that were either using this system, or would soon be doing so. In one (unnamed) workplace using tagging, labour turnover was over 300% in just 12 months.

Unions do not have a good record at successfully resisting the implementation of new technology that demeans those using it, so it is hoped that the GMBs press release is backed up with some action. Acting General Secretary Paul Kenny commenting "They can afford to operate a humanised supply chain. They should do so quickly otherwise the GMB will ensure the shelves do not get filled".

Merchandise

A full list of currently available items is on the website, www.classwar.org. Cheques to the London address. Many more sticker designs available on the site, 50 for a quid!



Different Faces, Same Shit

Way back in 2002 Class War pointed out the similarities between BNP leader Nick Griffin and Islamic preacher Abu Hamza, of the Supporters of Shariah organisation, better known for his time preaching at (and outside!) Finsbury Park mosque.

For all the outraged votes Hamza's lunatic behaviour brought Griffin and the BNP, the men actually agreed on far more than they disagreed. On issues as diverse as trades unions, Jews, women, socialists, schooling, homosexuality or the media they have far more in common than not. Yet Class War was virtually alone in pointing this out. People did not seem to notice that whilst the BNP picketed Finsbury Park mosque in September 2002, that July Griffin had been quite happy to share a platform with Hamza at Cambridge University.

For some members of politically correct left-wing organisations, even criticising Hamza meant Class War was taking part in a tabloid witch hunt and siding with racists. Our response to that is simple – by not criticising Hamza we would be aiding and abetting racists.

Officially the tolerance of the British state was eventually exhausted by Abu Hamza, and he ended up on trial for incitement to murder. It is equally likely that Hamza was prosecuted at the behest of the Americans, or because Britain's spooks had tired of an "agreement", known as the Covenant of Security, where Islamic fundamentalists were allowed to live in London in return for them not carrying out terrorist activities here. Coincidentally (not) Hamza's trial occurred at the same time that Nick Griffin was being tried for inciting racial hatred. Hamza, who appeared even madder at his trial than usual, was jailed for seven years. The more eloquent Griffin, against whom a much weaker case existed, was cleared on some charges, but faces a retrial on others.

All of a sudden it became fashionable to compare the two men. "Two faces of Hate" announced the March issue of Searchlight, whilst Respect's Tower Hamlets organiser wrote to the Islamic press comparing the differing results in the respective trials. Here Respect are playing their usual double game – appearing to condemn fascism and fundamentalism, whilst at the same time encouraging Islamic fundamentalism by saying to Muslims – you are being treated differently. Did they expect Hamza to be found not guilty for fucks sake?

The best recruiting sergeant British fascists like Nick Griffin have had in recent years has been the behaviour of Islamo-fascists like Abu Hamza (in the UK) and Osama Bin Laden abroad. They are different sides of the same coin, and most be fought accordingly.

Just for the record, we reproduce part of our 2002 article:

Nick Griffin	Abu Hamza
Is the leader of a group of bigots	Is the leader of a group of bigots
Lost an eye throwing bullets on a campfire at a fascist conference	Lost an eye fighting for the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan
Is believed to be completely crap at handicrafts	Is known to be completely crap at handicrafts
Is given lots of money by gullible followers so he does not have to work for a living	Is given lots of money by gullible followers so he does not have to work for a living
Wants to see an all white Britain with the persecution of those who do not submit to the BNP leadership	Wants to see an Islamic Britain with the persecution of those who do not submit to Sharia law
Believes homosexuality should be banned	Believes homosexuality should be banned
Has a conviction for inciting racial hatred	Ought to have a conviction for inciting racial hatred
Is opposed to white people having relationships with people from other races	Is opposed to Muslims having relationships with people from other religions
Believes the Holocaust did not happen	Believes another Holocaust should happen
Believes Muslim youths are terrorising Britain	Believes Muslim youths should be terrorising Britain

Serious Times in Russia

The murder in November 2005 of Russian anti-fascist Timur Kacharva in St Petersburg brought the issue of the far-right in Russia back to international prominence.

Perhaps most hypocritical of all was the coverage in alleged anti-fascist magazine Searchlight. Having spent most of their history slagging off anarchists, even smearing them as fascists, Searchlight cried crocodile tears for Timur, a well-known anarchist.

Hilariously, given the admitted links between Searchlight, the police and the security services, Searchlight criticise one of the Russian anti-fascist organisations Nashi (Ours) as a "state-sponsored caricature of anti-fascism". Considering Nashi was set up by President Putin, that is hardly rocket science, but given Searchlight's close relationship with Labour, they are hardly in a position to condemn "state sponsored anti-fascism". As the saying goes – it takes one to know one.

One of the organisations that is involved in fighting fascism in Russia is Antifa. This report concerns some of their actions around Russia's "day of national unity":

Last year "our" government invented a new "patriotic holiday" – "The day of national unity" which should be celebrated on November 4th. So, this Friday in some Russian cities there were nazi demonstrations and, of course, counter actions.

In St. Petersburg nearly a thousand people took part in a nazi demonstration. But it was attacked by a brave Antifa squad of 40 lads with baseball bats. Nearly a dozen boneheads were kicked, but then riot police finished the fight. On November 6th in St. Petersburg there was an Antifa demonstration of nearly 700 people with different political views: liberals, anarchists, communists and even Trotskyites.

In Moscow the Nazi demonstration was unexpectedly big – 3,000 people strong from some seven Nazi parties. During the demonstration there were a couple of small attempts at counteractions by anarchists, communists and liberals. But in the evening near "Chistie Prudi" subway station in a park, loved by Moscow boneheads, there was a fight between Nazis and Antifa with nearly 150 participants. As Antifa attacked suddenly, several boneheads were kicked severely. The fight was interrupted by riot police.

What Next for Andy Carmichael?

Having been a Conservative party activist, a double glazing salesman, a fascist, a spook and a rent boy, former NF big cheese Andy Carmichael is currently trying to find a publisher for his life story. Here's a tip for you Andy – leave out the bits about double glazing and someone might be interested!

Fascist Fools

On April 1st Class War published an April fool about a trades union we had allegedly helped set up for Ladyboys in Thailand. We should have known however that when it comes to political April fools that we cannot hope to compete with the BNP!

Forgetting that April fools should be carried out before midday, the afternoon of 1st April saw the claim appear on the BNP website that Nick Griffin, his wife and fellow party members had survived an assassination attempt, whilst meeting fellow "nationalists" in Sweden. Griffin, who certainly seems to like a jolly, was in the country to address a meeting of the fascist National Democrats. Originally the BNP claimed that a pipe bomb had been found on board a train on which the one-eyed king was travelling. "Swedish communists" were apparently to blame for this heinous attack.

Further analysis revealed that no bomb was found on any train, merely that a suspicious device was found at a train station. Indeed, it was not even a viable explosive. If Griffin's fantasy was devised to get some mainstream media publicity for his international wanderings, he was to be sorely disappointed. Even the slowest journalist on Fleet Street can spot a joke on April 1st.....

Upwardly Mobile

One of the BNP's highest flying members at the moment is Sadie Graham. Formerly a Brighton Hunt Sab and anarchist, Sadie has been climbing Nick Griffin's greasy pole so rapidly she is now the BNP's Director of Group Development.

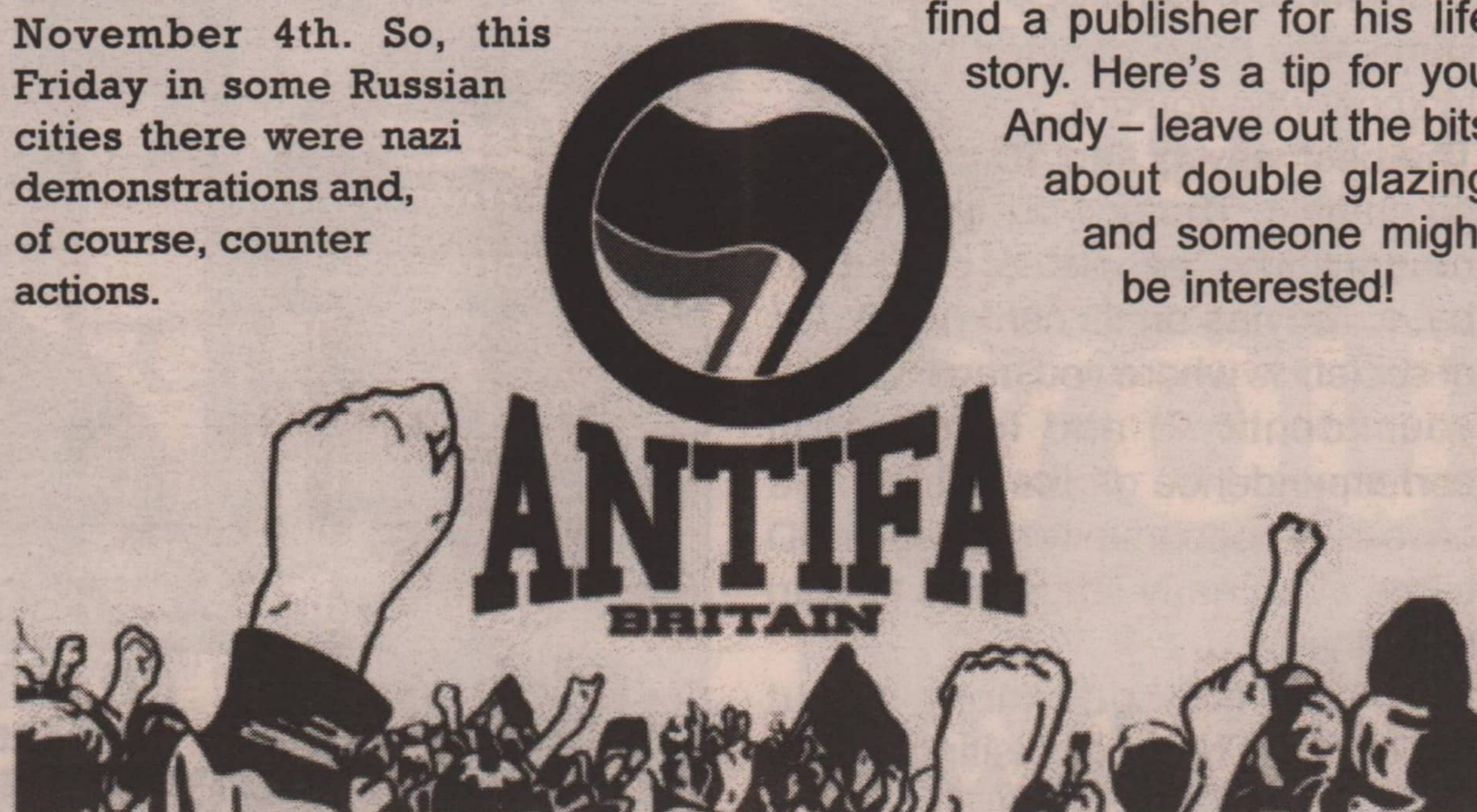
Curiously she has been able to do this with most BNP members unaware of her political background. More curious was a piece in the March issue of Searchlight, which could have been an advert for the advancement of Sadie Graham.

We hope the money is good Sadie.....

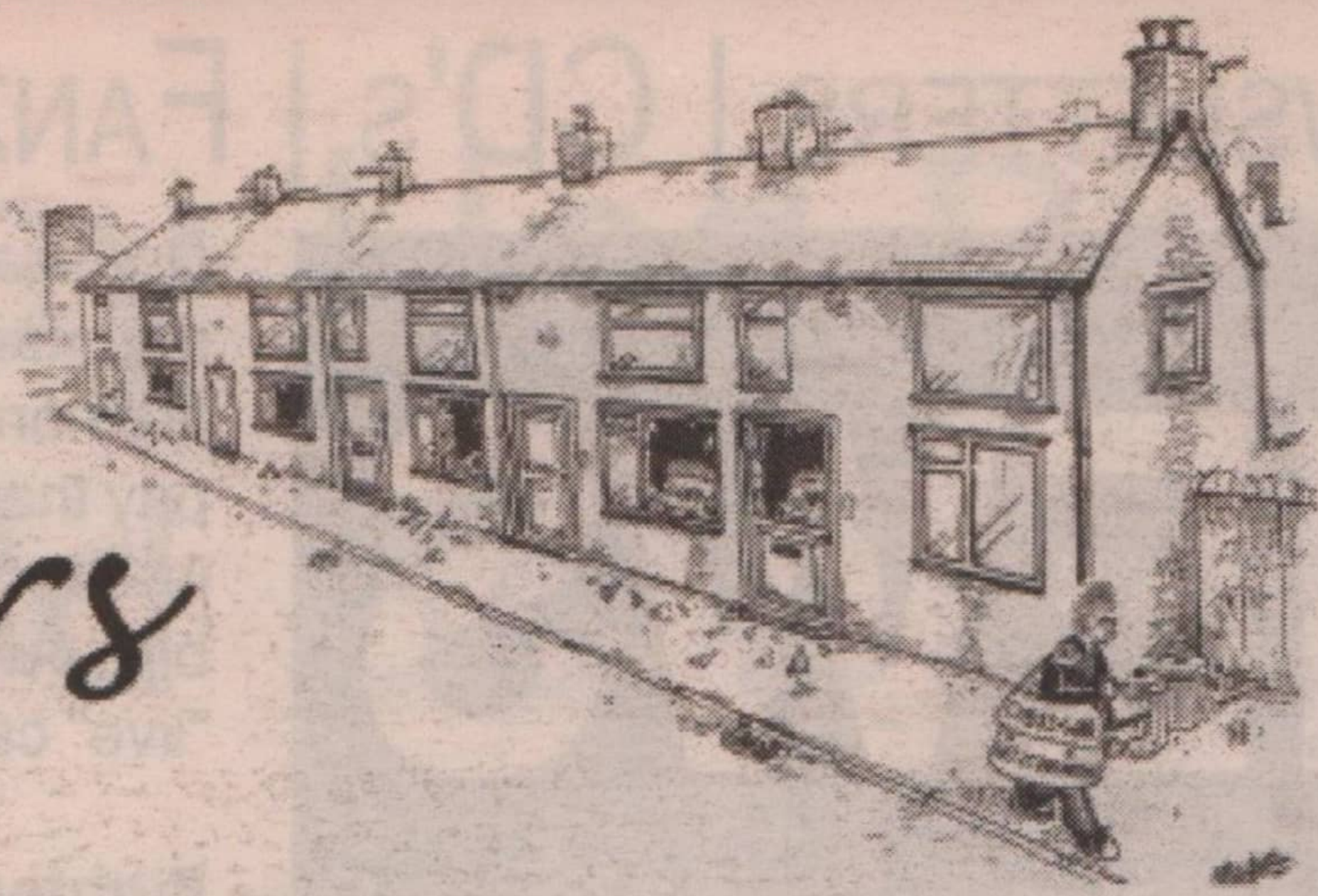
Dr Johnson Turns In His Grave!

Other fascist chumps this issue are the individuals (or even individual) who has treated canal users in north London to a series of fascist leaflets, glued anywhere they may be seen. Sadly for all the talk of defending England from external (and internal threats) these patriots have made one major mistake.

If you are going to style yourselves as the English Defense Association guys, why not spell the second word in your title as defence, rather than using the American word defense? Given the EDA cannot even defend the English language in their own leaflets, it remains to be seen how they intend to "defend" a country of some 40 million people!



Letters




Britain Bombing Britain

Dear Class War,

I have enjoyed issue 89, but I think you might be wrong about the July 7 bombings. An Israeli security firm took over the security of the Underground in April 2004. The photo of the four bombers is a superimposed picture of them at Luton station – look at the pole going through the blokes head at the back. This all points to a conspiracy by Israel and Britain to bomb the underground and then blame Muslims, plus bring in more Nazi oppressive laws against us.

Stuart,
Surrey.

 CW reply: Sorry Stuart, but we think you are barking up the wrong tree here. Indeed the video Al Qaeda released in September showing one of the bombers, Mohammed Siddique Khan, stating his intentions, rather blows your theory out of the water.

No Respect


Dear Class War,

This Respect Bill? Does it mean an end to fat police pouncing on the opportunity of ransacking people's homes, dragging the squashed victim from their beds, manhandling them into police vans, to be arrested on the flimsiest of evidence, for dropping litter?

Perhaps it means an end to the wrath of mounted cavalry and baton wielding constables with dogs, upon peaceful demonstrators with tambourines, whistles and squeaky toys?

Or even an end to innocent commuters being the target of Army Intelligence fuck up's, and being gunned down by trigger happy cops, who are judge, jury and executioner. Whatever it means, it means bollocks.

Stewart,
Northants.

 CW Reply: Respect has to be earned, and after nearly a decade of new Labour, one word that does not come to mind is "Respect".

On the subject of fat cops Stewart, check out the pictures section of our website, where we are inviting people to send in snaps of their local cops down the kebab house. We are not expecting to be short of pics.....

Balled Out!

Dear Sir,

On 17 October 2005 I sent you a letter asking you to insert the following advert in your newspaper:


Force the Queen to abdicate?
YOU CAN!
www.ianball.me.uk

Enclosed with the letter was a cheque for £15 – this being payment for the advert. Now, I have checked with Broadmoor's accounts department and they have informed me that you have not cashed the cheque, so presumably, you are refusing to stock the advert. I have no doubt that the reason for your refusal is that you are too scared to insert the advert because Frank has informed you of the exceptional factors that make me the most dangerous working-class dissenter this country has ever had so you are afraid to help me because, if you did, you would be subjected to an incredible amount of additional heat from the establishment and you would be forced to close your organization down.

Although it is understandable that you should feel afraid, you should not let your fear overcome you to the extent that you abandon all your principles and capitulate to the authorities. I have been subject to 30 years of absolute hell because I refuse to abandon my principles, so you can imagine how I feel about you for submitting so easily – just because you will go out of business. I believe you are just a lily-livered coward who is not up to the job and that if you can't stand the heat you should stay out of the kitchen and stay at home with the womenfolk doing your knitting.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Ball,
Broadmoor Hospital,
Berkshire.

 CW Reply. Ian your advert is on page 6. Hope you like it! For readers who are not aware of his case, Ian has been inside since the mid-70s, when he was arrested for attempting to kidnap Princess Anne and shooting two police officers.

Class War
PO Box 467,
London E8 3QX

londoncwf@yahoo.co.uk

THIS IS CLASS WAR

The Class War Federation is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to change the Society we live in, to improve the lot of working class people. This Society is divided into classes based on control of its institutions and wealth. The Ruling Class - those who "own" the factories or natural resources - whether it's through shares or being chairman of the board etc., who are under normal circumstances supported by the Middle Class - those who gain their position in society by patronage of the Ruling Class - who carry out their dirty work of controlling and (dis)organising the working class who do all the necessary work. Such a society is the root cause of most of the problems experienced by Working Class people the World over. as the Ruling Class has every intention of keeping its privileged position it must be destroyed- this is Class War.

Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience and to provide for ourselves.

It is not about becoming better treated slaves but masters of our destiny. Direct action is necessary against the individuals and institutions who stand in the way of this. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the Class War - not as elitist terrorists but as an integrated part of the Class - they started it, we'll have to finish it!

Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling Class often use these to divide our class. We must unite on the basis of we have in common our Working Class backgrounds and needs. The Class must fight these divisions, on all fronts. Above all the CWF believes that politics cannot be separated from life - and life from politics. We reject the missionary/ righteous so called "revolutionary" Left. Our politics must be fulfilling and relevant to our every day lives.

Working Class people must take responsibility for their progressive revolutionary politics - fly by night middle class radicals have been the bane of our movement for as long as the Working Class has existed.

OUR AIM

Therefore the aim of the CWF is to increase the militancy and self awareness of the Working Class in defending their interests and solving their problems. We do this through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.



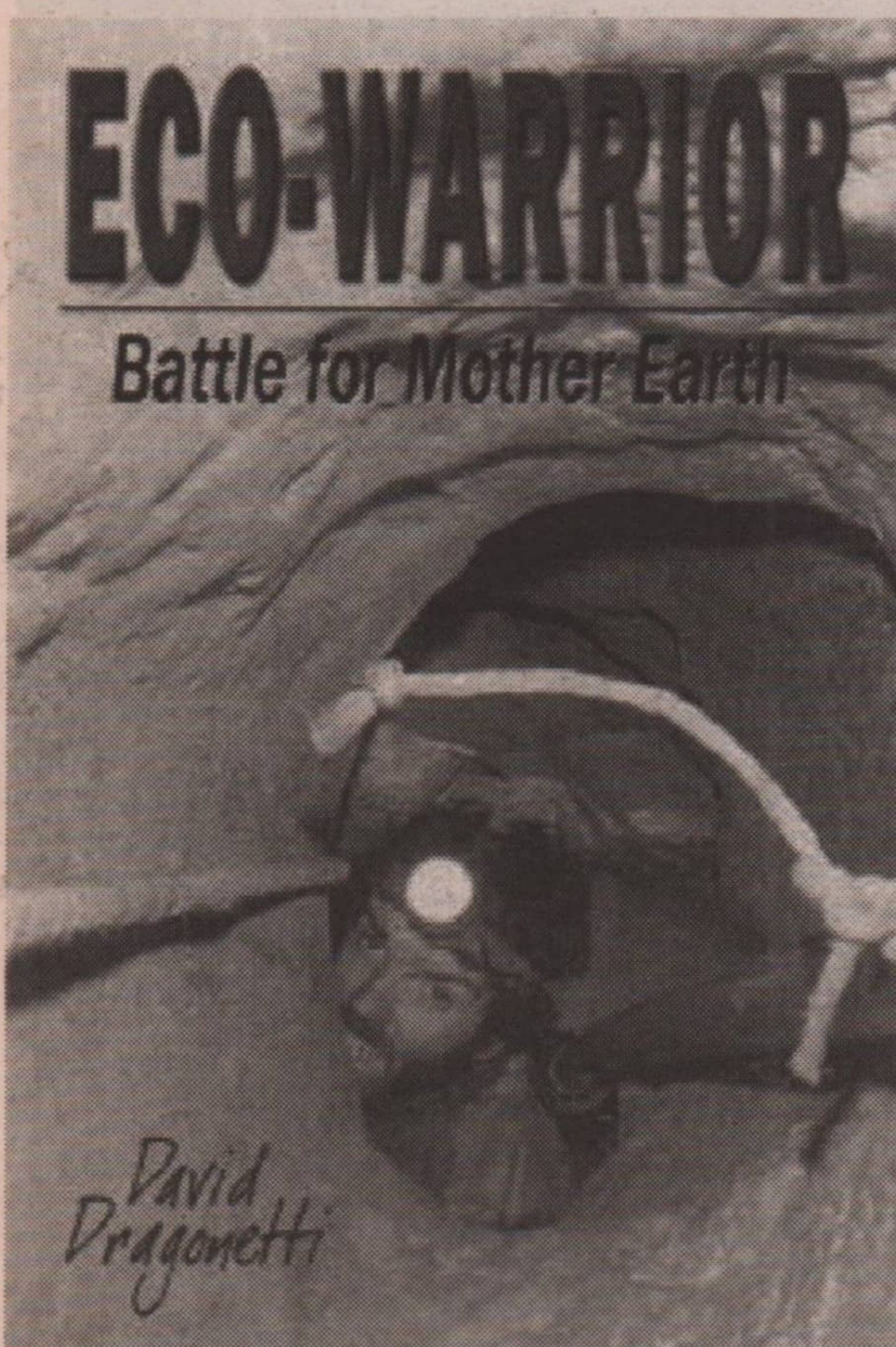
BOOKS | NEWSPAPERS | RECORDS | NEWSLETTERS | CD'S | FANZINES | VIDEOS

The Eco-Wanker

Eco-Warrior - Battle for Mother Earth
David Dragonetti
Rosedog Books - \$27

This is a thoroughly poisonous book. I have no hesitation in advising Class War readers to avoid it like the plague. It is simply shit. The concept seemed to be to do a 'Football Factory' style pulp story around the 90s anti road movement and Dave Dragonetti, or 'Disco' Dave as he claimed to be known has come up with the goods. To be frank as I first started reading this I was convinced that it was a complete piss take. 'Dumbo Dave' is a cardboard cut out straight from the pages of the Daily Mail or Viz. Starting the book as a drugged up scrounger in Amsterdam (having run away to avoid paying the Poll Tax) he fails in his aim of becoming a mercenary for the fascistic Croatian army by turning up a year too late, before returning to the UK and becoming involved in the anti CJB demos and then the anti road movement. Now I know that many of us do stuff before we become politically involved that later we find embarrassing, but as this tosser ends the book bemoaning the fact that he was too unfit, due to the drug taking, smoking and drinking that took up most of his 'full time' activism that he was unable to 'serve his country' in the Gulf war and instead had to 'make do' with the T.A, we can assume that he didn't change too much along the way.

Despite 'Dipshit' Dave and his publisher's best efforts this is also a dull and repetitive book. Every protest proceeds in the exact same manner - Dildo Dave arrives at an established camp, scrounges as much money as he can, whether by signing on, selling stories to the press and mooching off the 'despised 'non professional' activists, then spending the cash on drugs and booze before crawling into tunnels for increasingly symbolic and formulaic confrontations with police and bailiffs.



"Disco Dave" gets down...a tunnel

REVIEWS

Dirtbag Dave hates everyone, from the everyday general public (who he regularly describes as fascists) to his fellow activists. His real bile is for anyone who actually wants to change the system (see especially p.296) and he takes the view that capitalism is woven into human society since the dawn of time 'and that to try to 'ban' it was the stuff of day dreamers'. In fact the only people who 'Dickhead' Dave finds himself repeatedly in sympathy with are the pigs and the bailiffs. Every confrontation finds him making friends with the poor hard working family man bailiff or the always much put upon police officer - in contrast it is the protesters who are invariably violent.

This ends with 'Dismal' Dave describing the attack on the twin towers as part of the same movement as the anti-globalisation protesters and in protest at this 'violence' he applies to join the SAS! Personally, there would be no reason to bother with shit like this if it wasn't for the fact that throughout the book 'Doughnut' Dave publishes the real names and uncensored photos of his fellow activists' faces thus assisting his police friends in continuing with their job against those who may think that principles count more than a quick buck. The anti road protests involved real issues and those involved showed real heroism and bravery in their struggles, which inspired thousands. Dogshit Dave pisses on them all in his pursuit of cash.



Undefeated and Unbowed

Undefeated - My Story
Terry Marsh
Self-published, £20
Order from www.terrymarsh.biz

Sporting autobiographies are two a penny. Henry Cooper has written three at the last count. George Best wrote more than he had livers - and that is saying something! It is perhaps because there are so many, that the good one's actually stand out. "Undefeated" stands alone, not merely for its honesty, but the range of experiences it shares with the reader.

Eastender

From his birth in east London in 1958, until 1991 (when the books narrative ends) Terry Marsh fitted in more than many people manage in a lifetime. A career in the Royal Marine Commandos, life as a fireman, an amateur then professional boxer, media celebrity, a remand prisoner and defendant at the Old Bailey, all are relayed to the reader in an easy-going, self deprecating manner. At times it actually sounds easy!

Marsh touches on his working class upbringing in Stepney, where his parents cared for his disabled older brother in difficult surroundings. Like many Londoners of their era they took the opportunity to move to better surroundings in Essex, but this is no clichéd tale of East End boy made good, indeed he is at pains to point out that despite living in Stepney for 48 years his dad appears to be the only person there never to have met the Kray Twins!

Marine

Joining the Royal Marines whilst still a teenager, Marsh gives an interesting insight into the selection, training and life of a Royal Marine. It is unlikely to be one used for promotional purposes by Marines recruitment officers. A picture easily emerges of officers who are indifferent or even callous to those in their charge, whilst Marines try, collectively, to get through a recruitment process that is designed to separate them into competing, atomised individuals. Whilst the Marines would no doubt claim the end justifies the means, a slightly unpleasant picture emerges, which is amplified by the pages describing Marsh's service in Northern Ireland, in the republican stronghold of South Armagh. Supposedly fighting the IRA, Marines instead sit about bored, or carry out tedious searches designed to do little more than harass and provoke Catholic residents. They don't put this in the adverts.

Despite all this, Marsh set his heart on joining the Special Boat Service, before coming out of the military intending to improve his education. Instead he switched from amateur to professional boxing, embarking on a career that would give him British, Europe and World honours.

Unusually he did much of this whilst maintaining a day job - that of a fireman. It says much about the poor pay that firemen receive that this job is described as merely paying the bills, whilst the money to actually "live" came from boxing.

Fighter

As a boxer, Marsh was skilful rather than explosive in the ring. His autobiography rather understates his abilities, and whilst some personalities emerge from what was a very good era for British boxing (Nigel Benn, and promoters the Maloney brothers) they are sketches rather than detailed portraits. Having become World Light Welterweight Champion by beating the American Joe Manley, a new life opened - that of the media celebrity. What happened next is not unique in boxing - a dispute with a smooth talking, somewhat slippery manager, followed by financial difficulties and a feeling of a loss of control. Here some humour still emerges - in his first title defence Marsh was aghast when "God Save the Queen" was played, and deliberately jogged on the spot rather than standing stiff as a statue. Despite a nasty cut, he did what he set out to do - to make one successful defence as World Champion.

Going Down?

By now Terry Marsh's legal dispute with his manager, Frank Warren was getting ever more complicated, heading towards the libel courts, and attempts at becoming a fight promoter himself had got off to a slow start. Family and health problems (his wife Jacqui is portrayed as a sort of Footballers Wives character throughout the book) clearly did not help his situation. When Warren was shot and seriously injured in Stratford in 1989, Marsh was not originally a suspect, although Warren had recently brought libel proceedings against him. His subsequent arrest, and time spent in prison on remand are described in detail.

One of the ways you can always tell the police have little or no case against a defendant is when a central plank of the prosecution is the testimony of a fellow prisoner. Time after time cases have centred not on evidence collected by the police before or shortly after arrest, but instead on evidence dubiously obtained from within the prison system. Sometimes we are expected to believe a defendant who never agreed to say a single word to the police whilst being questioned, gets straight to prison, finds the biggest scumbag in the whole jail and immediately starts bragging to him about what he has supposedly done. Such was the case with Terry Marsh. Life, outside of the police mindset, is simply not like that.

Fighting back

Remanded in custody charged with attempted murder, Marsh spent time in three London prisons, spending time on the block on each. The banality and sheer stupidity of prison life, and in particular prison officers, has rarely been detailed with such gusto. Viewing prisoners who meekly do as they are told as collaborators, Marsh quickly became a marked man as far as the authorities were concerned. This resistance inspired other prisoners – in one of the most exciting narratives Marsh stands his ground with a group of screws in Wormwood Scrubs. His offence? Refusing to tuck his shirt in. Surrounded by more and more officers, Marsh was resigned to a beating until a fellow prisoner urged him to stand his ground – the screws were losing their nerve. He walked through their lines untouched, to pats on the back from his fellow inmates. This was a testing period for those running Britain's prisons. The Strangeways riot and poor industrial relations between the Prison Officers Association and the Prison Service stretched the authorities in a way they had rarely been tested before. Of these "disputes", Marsh is scathing "Double their money and they will be willing to have six to a cell. It was the first industrial dispute where I have had no sympathy for the union". Interestingly he is far from scathing when describing the IRA prisoners he met in HMP Brixton, with whom he played many hours of scrabble. His life had turned full circle.

Fighting Dirty

That the police were willing to fight dirty to convict Marsh is clear from several unexplained events, be it curious letters sent to Marsh whilst he was in jail, to people approaching members of his family whilst he was in custody, asking if they could obtain access to firearms. Marsh's wife was "looked after" by female police officers whose brief even extended to doing her shopping for her.

The vultures of the tabloid media also circled, desperate for the big story – about Terry Marsh if he was convicted, from Terry Marsh if he was found not guilty. One female journalist even hinted she wanted a relationship with Marsh on his release, to try and secure his story. Marsh does not overly dwell on his dramatic acquittal at the Old Bailey, and shows little triumph that his eventual libel action against Frank Warren went ahead, resulting in what could be best described as a narrow points victory. Instead, the impression is left of a man who appreciated the simple things in life all the more for nearly losing them.

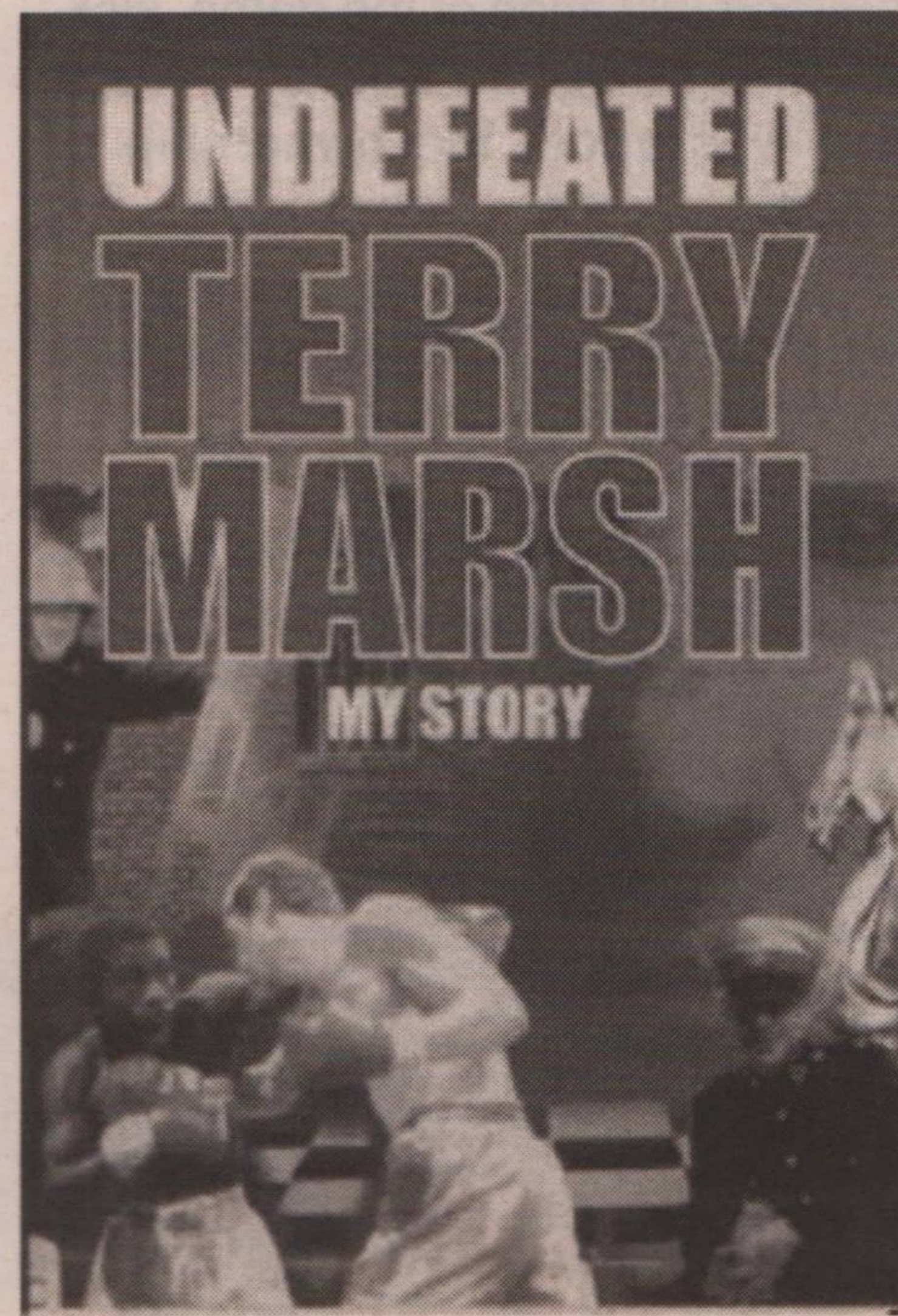
The more things change...

"Undeclared" ends, rather abruptly, in 1991. As such it is a snapshot of a

life, and a world that has changed. Or has it?

Instead of being unpopular in Northern Ireland, the Royal Marines are unpopular in Afghanistan and Iraq. The prison service has strengthened its control over prisons, some of which are now privatised, but the problems of hard drugs and overcrowding inside are worse than ever. Solidarity amongst prisoners is however, sadly, well below the levels that it was in the early 1990s.

Boxing is continuously referred to as being a sport down in the dumps, yet it continues to provide an excellent living for a few, and a harsher life for many. People said much the same 14 years ago. And last year an



unbeaten World Light Welterweight champion was involved in an increasingly bitter dispute with his manager. For Terry Marsh, substitute Ricky Hatton. For Frank Warren, substitute..... Frank Warren!

Undeclared

As a book, it is possible to find faults with "Undeclared". Boxing fans may have preferred more detail about some of the fight characters Marsh undoubtedly met, whilst those expecting tales of celebrity drug taking and partying will be disappointed – when Marsh succeeded in getting a date with Miss Isle of Man, he was horrified to turn up and find she had brought her boyfriend with her! Although the issues Terry Marsh faced with epilepsy are mentioned, the reader is not informed if these problems persist today.

Given the book trades increasing dominance by a few big publishers, and a decreasing number of book stores, self-published titles like this, which have not kissed the hand of the safe, corporate chains are to be applauded. That however is not the reason to buy "Undeclared" – buy it because you will laugh hard, you will wonder, and most of all you will learn something – about sport, about politics and about life.

Another Christie Cracker!

Without a Glimmer of Remorse
Pino Cacucci
Christie Books, £9.99

Over the last thirty years, Stuart Christie's brought out a number of significant anarchist books, 'The Christie File', 'Towards A Citizens' Militia: Anarchist Alternatives to NATO and the Warsaw Pact', to his updated autobiographical trilogy and the reissue of Carr's book about the Angry Brigade.

'Without a Glimmer of Remorse' carries on this tradition. It is a very detailed and well-constructed novel based about the life of Jules Bonnot, the famous French anarchist at the turn of the last century.

This extremely well-written book held me spellbound - I read the 360 pages in one long sitting! I would recommend this book very highly indeed, a worthy addition to any anarchist's library.



Manchester United!

Continued from page 16

common response is that we are 15 years too late - football has already died as the game most working class people knew in the 1970s or even the early 1980s. Is it too late to save the game?

FCUM: No, if it was too late, we'd have given up and would all be now spending our afternoons trawling round IKEA. I think with the growth of supporters trusts and clubs like ourselves and AFC Wimbledon that are supporter owned, then we can start re-claiming the game.

CW: The club is sponsored by the Bhopal Medical Appeal. How successful has this relationship been?

FCUM: Very. The way we organised our sponsorship was not to simply put a tenure out to the highest bidder, thus not giving an advantage to those that have the greatest ability to pay. We set up a 127-club (named because of the 127 years of United's history) in which anyone who wanted to sponsor us, all put in an equal amount of money, which would enter you into a 'draw'. You could then be drawn out of the hat to become anything from a sponsor of a player, to the main club sponsor. That the Bhopal Medical Appeal got drawn out to become main sponsor was entirely fitting and hopefully they will have benefited from our profile.

Supporters have already raised a lot of money for the appeal.

CW: Where do you want FC United to be in 10 years time?

FCUM: That's up to the membership. The supporters will dictate the direction of the club. It can go as far as they want it to do.

You can view the FC United website at <http://www.fc-utd.co.uk/> and Bhopal Medical Appeal website at <http://www.bhopal.org/>

FC United DVD

FC United of Manchester continue to make new strides in football – a football club run by, and for fans. The club has recently produced a DVD of their first six months, costing £12.99, available from www.fc-utdshop.co.uk

Continuity MUFC

One of the campaign organisations set up by Manchester United fans who carried on going to Old Trafford is the "Love United Hate Glazer" group. It is not hard to spot their campaign literature around Manchester either!

You can visit their website at www.fight-for-united.com



Join Class War!

Membership is open to anyone who agrees with our aims and principles, and who has been in touch with their nearest group for three months. It also helps if you want to kill the Queen!

There is a £12 joining fee (£6 unwaged) and those who can are also encouraged to make a small monthly contribution.

Drop us a line to get involved!





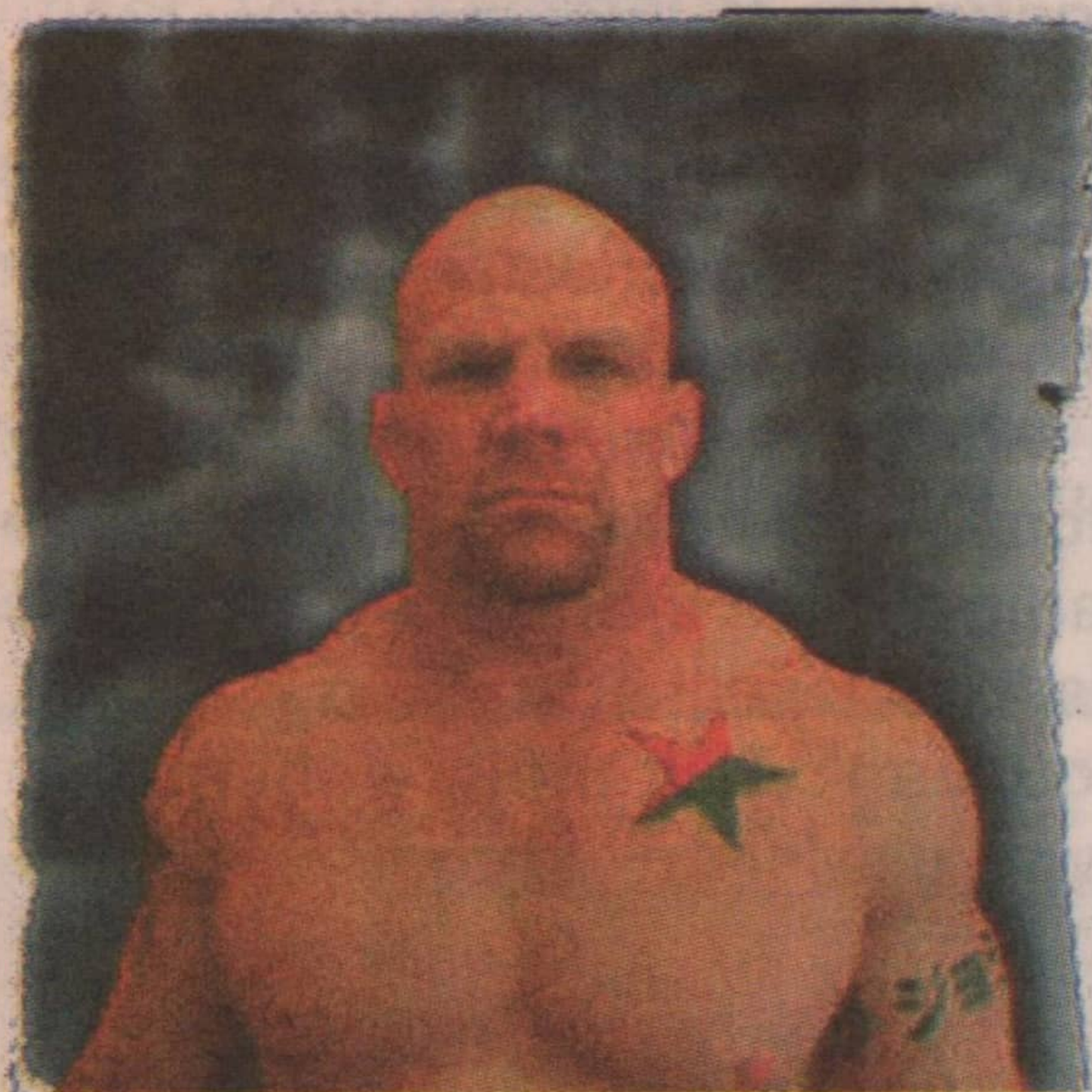
Jeff Monson – Fighting the Good Fight

Anyone who is a fan of Mixed Martial Arts cannot fail to have noticed Ultimate Fighting Championship Heavyweight fighter Jeff Monson, or as he is often referred to in American fight magazines “the controversial Jeff Monson”.

Not only is Monson a class struggle anarchist (you can hardly fail to notice his tattoos) but he is an articulate advocate for a better world in each interview he gives. An IWW member, Jeff recently visited Manchester, doing a seminar for the Solidarity Federation at the Basement cafe on Lever Street.

In UFC 57 in early February, Monson choked his opponent Brandon Lee Hidell in just four minutes. UFC 59 saw Monson win a heavyweight title eliminator against Marcio Cruz, which means he should fight this year for the heavyweight title.

Keep fighting the good fight Jeff!

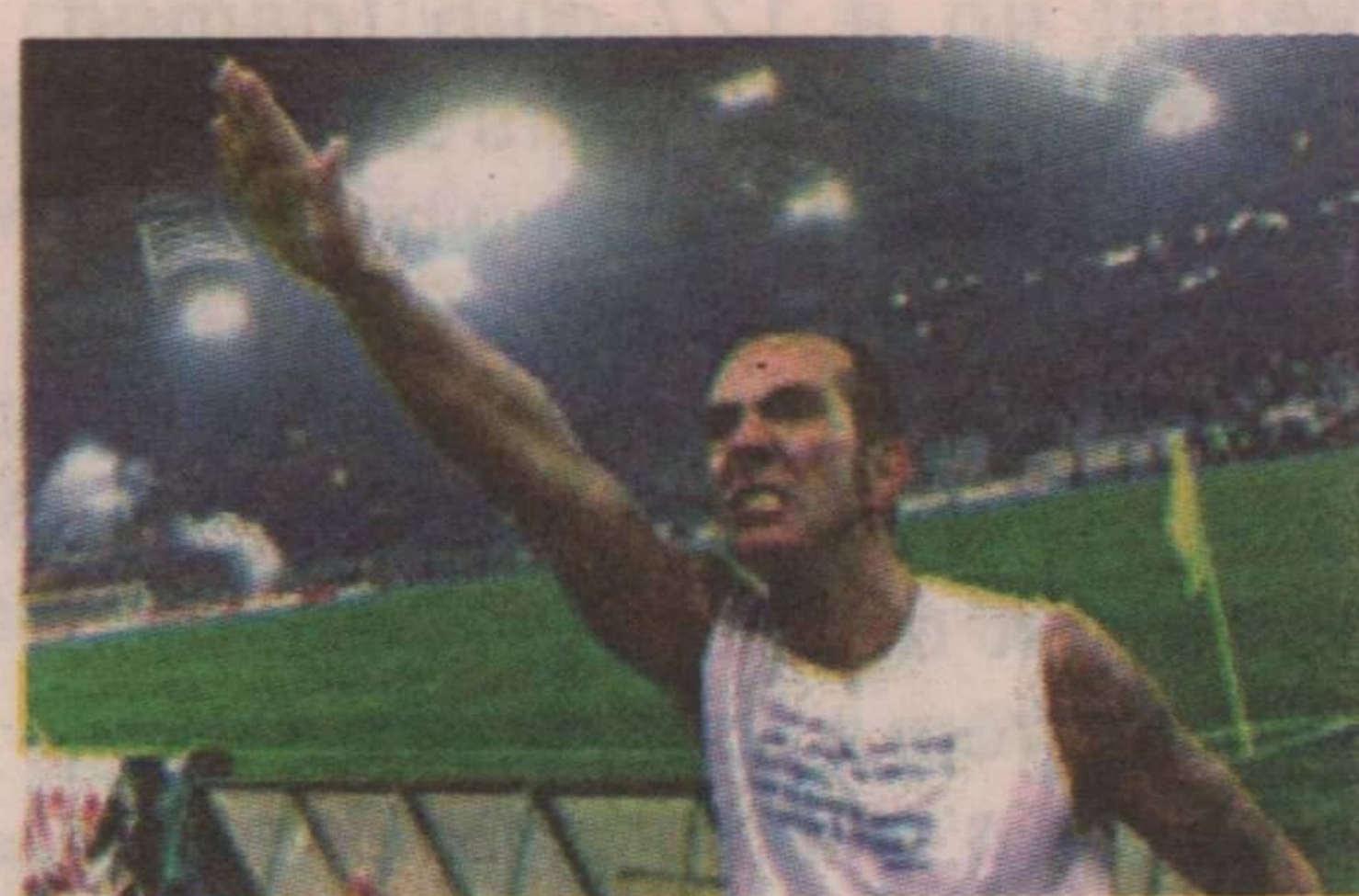


Hero?

True Saints

Rupert Lowe is not exactly the most popular Chairman in football. Southampton's rugby loving Chairman has led his club out of the Premier League, and appears unable to keep any manager at the club for any length of time. Promotion back to the Premiership seems some way off.

Quite how Lowe expects any “football man” to work with former England rugby boss Sir Clive Woodward is a mystery to everyone except Lowe. Woodward's time in Southampton has not been entirely wasted though. He has inspired Saints fans to one of the best football songs we have heard for years, to the tune of Swing Low Sweet Chariot: “Swing Lowe, swing Rupert Lowe, swing him from the Itchen Bridge”!



Zero!

Piss Off Paulo

The tedious behaviour of Paulo Di Canio, and his obsession with playing to the fascist gallery at Lazio continues. Twice in the 2005-6 season Di Canio was in trouble with the Italian FA for giving the fascist salute at Lazio matches. In his autobiography Di Canio spoke of his admiration for Mussolini and his own right wing beliefs.

Can we suggest that if Di Canio loves Mussolini that much, he emulates him at the first opportunity?



Mussolini hanging about in Milan, 1945

Manchester United!

Class War was pleased to have the opportunity recently to interview Jules Spencer, a spokesman for FC United of Manchester. Their opposition to big business and the commercialisation of sport is an example to all football fans.

Class War: What can you tell us about the origins of FC United?

FC United: The idea was first mooted in 1998 when we were fighting the takeover of BSKyB. As we defeated Murdoch it was put to bed and then resurrected during the Glazer battle. But whilst Glazer was the catalyst, the formation was just as much about the state of Premiership football, i.e. the price of tickets, the commercialisation of the game, kick-off times being dictated by TV etc, as it was about the ownership of United.

CW: How does FC United differ from any other football club?

FCUM: It differs from most in that it's owned by its members, i.e. the supporters. They dictate policy and the direction of the club. Tangibly this manifests itself as not having a shirt sponsor, not being overtly commercial, being not for profit etc.

CW: How did Manchester United react, as a club, to the formation of FC United?

FCUM: They haven't commented publicly apart from one director who claimed we were simply a smaller version of Manchester United. Which spectacularly missed the point.

CW: Nearly all Manchester United fans were opposed to Malcolm Glazer. By leaving and forming your own club, did you in effect take the most militant fans away from the scene of battle?

FCUM: I think you're now seeing supporters increasing the profile again of the campaign against Glazer. Many that threw their support behind FC United did

so because they had campaigned on a “no customers = no profit” basis should the eventual worse happen. Therefore many believed they couldn't contradict that belief. Rationally there could only be one decision - to hand in their season tickets, but emotionally it was obviously much harder and one that we all had to reconcile with ourselves.

CW: How do you feel about those who still support Manchester United?

FCUM: I still support Manchester United. As do the majority of FC United followers. It's just many of us choose to spend our Saturday afternoons differently, by not giving Malcolm Glazer any of our money. But we do not claim to be morally superior than those who still go to Old Trafford, nor do we demand that supporters hand in their season

tickets en masse. We simply provide an alternative for those that do.

CW: FC United's support already dwarf's that of virtually every other club in non-league football. What sort of reaction does the club, and its fans get, when you travel to away games? Especially at clubs with facilities, and background's very different to what many FC United fans were used to?

FCUM: The reception has been great. There are a couple of clubs that have refused to grant concession prices for kids, that has irked, but in the main it has been great to make so many new friends. With 2000+ supporters traveling to away games every other week we often provide more than two seasons worth of income for the host club which will hopefully help sustain this level of football for years to come.

CW: How would you describe the standard of football in the North West Counties League?

FCUM: You'd be surprised. We have several players who have played several divisions above our league. And more than a few who were good



enough to be at league clubs as youngsters, but for whatever reason slipped through the net.

CW: The campaign against Malcolm Glazer ultimately lost - he owns Manchester United and his son's run it. With hindsight, what could the supporters have done differently?

FCUM: Ultimately we suffered because we were a PLC. But I reject the notion that United's success was down to the PLC or that we were happy to reap the rewards. Many of us did object to the PLC and we won trophies because of the manager and the players. Not because we were listed on the Stock Exchange. More money went out of the club in dividends than went into strengthening the team. As for doing more, United fans waged the most comprehensive campaign seen in British football. That it was ultimately unsuccessful probably says more about the state of football than it does the campaign.

CW: We do a propaganda sticker - “Capitalism is Killing Football” with a picture of Robert Murdoch on it. A