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CLASS WAR A R Summer 2008

CLASS WAR



DEATH TO ESTATE AGENTS!

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SMASH FOXTONS

RDF INTERVIEW

MAY 2ND AND BEYOND

ANTIFASCISM



For the last 6 months CW in London has been doing what it promises on the packet – getting anarchism back out on the streets where it belongs.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

In November we defied a massive police presence and marched on David Cameron's house in Notting Hill – more than 100 strong with at least another 100 pissing it up in the local pubs. The first BASH THE RICH march for over 20 years started the ball rolling with many a fine banner and the first outing for what was to become the CLASS WAR YOUTH DEATH BRIGADE. In February six fearless Class Warriors unveiled our Class War banner in the face of 15,000 coppers in central London. Our BOO A BOOBY campaign was well reported and we spent a happy hour jeering the nonplussed coppers. Once again FITWATCH provided excellent support. Back out again in March we picketed Foxtons estate agents in Islington on a Monday afternoon. Foxtons had a ring of police around it and inside it – plus private security guards. At this rate we'll bankrupt the Met if nothing else. Our FUCK FOXTONS leaflet was well received – everyone hates these bastards and we'll be back for more on May 31st. A Fuck Foxtons WEBSITE also proved a hit with graffiti artists all over London.

FIREWORKS

On Guy Fawkes' night this year we'll be urging people to make the bonfire with estate agents signs – the biggest conflagration of these yuppifiers ever seen will glow across London.

ONWARDS

CW has also been active establishing the London Anarchist Movement and in the campaign campaign against the mayoral elections on May 2 – see this issue.

So we've been bold and got back out on the streets as we said we would. This is just the start. If you're into Class War then now's a good time to join (or rejoin!). As Sid Waddell would say 'It's the greatest comeback since Lazarus!'

Any Time, Any Place, Any Where....

Our small group arrived in Oxford at 6.30pm. We decided to have a quick scout about and within twenty minutes had located the BNP drinking in 'The Mitre' pub on the High Street. They numbered between ten or twenty and were all suited and booted. Having sorted a base of our own not far but a little more discreetly tucked away, we met with other Antifa members to plan our nights fun and games. The boys in blue were out in force and were none too happy with our roving band of black clad activists walking and running around the streets of Oxford. The fact that we just would not stay in one place seemed to really get on their nerves but Oxford is a beautiful place and there was lots to see! We managed to get to the main demo in Cornmarket Street where the assembled UAF mistook us for the fascists. Some things never change...

Thames Valleys finest then decided they were not going to allow us to join the demo so we decided it was time to test their fitness levels and take them for another jog around the city. With everyone now split the word was put about to regroup at the rendezvous agreed and within forty five minutes the group was at full strength again and ready for round two.

A spotter was dispatched to the Mitre to check on our knuckle dragging chums and to our surprise the word was that they

IT WOZ FOXTONS WOT DONE IT!

The International Monetary Fund has stated that the UK has experienced one of the world's "largest unexplained increases in house prices" over the past decade, and house prices are 30 per cent too high in the UK and could soon crash.

IT WOZ FOXTONS WOT DONE IT!

(Them and their fellow greedy bastard counterparts country wide)

The BBC TV Whistleblower programme found agents putting forward false offers, faking landlords' signatures and falsifying documents to inflate property prices.

Foxtons' avowed intent is to drive up house prices. They also take a bigger commission than any other agent to flog each house, which they justify by wringing the highest possible price from buyers. This has the knock-on effect of changing the social make-up of areas, as working class locals are priced out of their own areas and wealthy incomers.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook said it has identified a "house price gap", which is the difference between the price of a home and the country's economic fundamentals, which include salaries, interest rates and population growth.

Ominously, a similar IMF report at the end of 2007 found the U.S. housing market - currently in meltdown - was just 10 per cent too high. This report adds impetus to our campaign against estate agents, the facilitators of gentrification, and particularly Foxtons.

We will be picketing Foxtons in Islington (Upper Street) on 31 May from 3 onwards. Contact the London address for further information.

were still inside. The group then made its way through the back alleys and much to old bill and the fascists surprise we emerged from an alley directly opposite the pub they were in. Feeling a little thirsty from our sight seeing tour we headed straight for the pub where around half a dozen of Griffins finest were milling around outside with more behind the doors. As we approached them a few choice words were exchanged and the big bad boys of the BNP retreated behind the pub doors. Our invitation to dance being so rudely turned down was taken up by the filth who by now had realised just who we were and what we were up to! We were herded away in the direction of the main demo and now entered Cornmarket Street in full voice with the Antifa chant echoing off the walls. We think the UAF lot just about got it the second time around!)

After a very noisy twenty minute protest of our own we decided to head off and celebrate a good night in Oxford. We were pursued by half of Fleet Street to a local bar where,



PICKET

**Foxtons on 31st. May 08
From 15.00 pm onwards.**

There's no such thing as a good estate agent. They all profit from, and facilitate, gentrification. We've been ripped off by them, and are sick of them driving up house prices in our part of town. They bump up prices so that amenities like shops and pubs close down or change to yuppie wine-bars or patisseries. And they help yuppies move in, which creates a vicious spiral of decline in working class areas.

Foxtons are here to drive up house prices, it's their avowed intent: their founder Jon Hunt, who sold up last year and pocketed £370 million, liked to talk of 'going to war' for his sellers. Foxtons takes a bigger commission than any other agent to flog each house which it justifies by promising to wring from a buyer the highest possible price.

There is however a lot that can be done before then (and afterwards!) - and not just towards Foxtons. Many estate agents routinely break the law by placing advertising signs without permission on council property, and sometimes on private property. One very simple way to fight back against the damage estate agents are doing to our communities is simply to take these signs down where ever you find them. Don't let them advertise - illegally - over-priced properties in your community.

after a quick drink we were allowed to go on our merry way, after of course being stopped and searched...again!

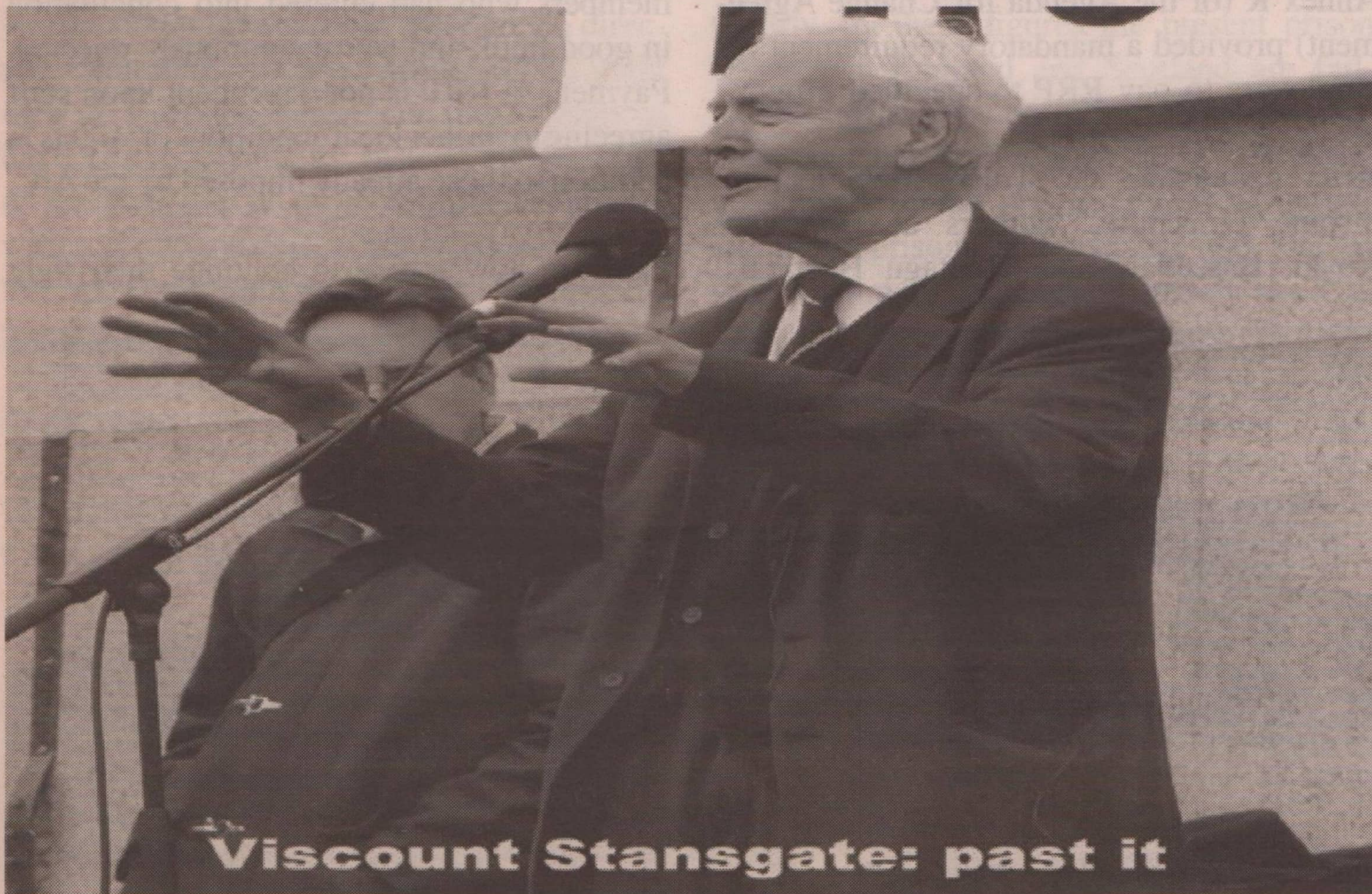
Our own little band were followed yet again by two plod who were neither fit or clever enough to keep up with us as we gave them the slip for the third time in the evening, with help from a passing taxi, the grounds of Oxford university and a fifteen foot wall which we had to drop over. The theme tune of the great escape being hummed as we went!

Well done to everyone who attended, especially those that travelled from the other side of the country. Were sure you'll agree the trip was worthwhile and a success.

We at Antifa would also like to say well done to the people who managed to get inside the debating chamber and disrupt the evening. We all know if these scum ever got to power they would never afford us the free speech that they were there to debate about last night.

Lets all keep up the pressure.
No pasaran!

CLASS WAR'S OPEN LETTER TO THE STOP THE WAR COALITION



Viscount Stansgate: past it

As everyone knows, the Stop The War Coalition did not do what it says on the tin – they did not stop the war. Indeed the occupation of Iraq continues. Below is the text of Class War's leaflet distributed at the Stop The War demonstration in London on March 15th.

FIVE YEARS ON - WHY ARE WE STILL MARCHING?

IF MARCHING CHANGED ANYTHING THEY'D ABOLISH IT

Back in 2003 the Stop the War Coalition had two tactics to prevent war in Iraq: marching from A to B and then going home, and marching from B to A and then going home. Neither of these cunning plans worked, but they seemed so good to Tony Benn, Lindsey German and their friends it is all the StWC's done to stop the war. This may let them claim the moral high ground: but how many divisions can that muster? Any superiority this might give them has, anyway, been squandered by their adherence to tactics which have failed to achieve their stated objectives. The British state has faced StWC down once and knows it can do so again if, for example, it chooses to partner the US in an attack on Iran.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Thankfully not all protestors followed the supine policies of the StWC. School and college students walked out of their institutions, disrupted traffic, and showed a willingness to wrestle with the police. When demonstrators travelled to disrupt the Fairford airbase, there was no 'right' to demonstrate, only the illegal actions of the police. Clearly they recognised the threat posed by direct action to the Government's war plans, even if the StWC could not.

Gordon Brown is committed to the neo-conservative project. Those who celebrated Tony Blair's resignation ought to consider that he handed over at a time of his choice to the successor of his choice who shares his politics. Britain remains in the missionary position and will remain so regardless of whether Bush, McCain, Obama or Clinton's on top. Given this, a militant anti-war movement is as necessary as ever. Sadly the StWC is as impotent now as five years ago.

TALKING A GOOD FIGHT

To cover up its flaccid nature, the StWC has as many excuses as an incapable lover. Their 2008 pamphlet begins with the following astonishing claim by Viscount Stansgate (Tony Benn): 'The Stop the War movement is the most powerful and influential popular political movement of my lifetime and possibly of any period of our history'. If the last five years have been a victory, we would have hated to see a defeat! Such lies can also be found amongst the witterings of the SWP leadership, with John Rees informing us that 'Tony Blair was Britain's worst ever prime minister' (has he never heard of Margaret Thatcher?) and that 'we [the StWC] had driven him out of office'. This is nothing short of collective delusion and helps explain why the 1.5 million marchers in 2003 have been followed by ever decreasing turnouts. Working class people are used to being lied to by mainstream politicians – we do not need such lies from the self-proclaimed leaders of the anti-war movement as well.

Given it has been such a flop when it matters, the Stop the War Coalition needs a good dose of Viagra. We are calling on demonstrators today to let the Stop the War Coalition leadership know their feeble approach satisfies only the state and the war-mongers.

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 do 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 the 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 common basis of what we have in common - our Working Class background 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 everyday 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.

Class War membership is open to anyone who agrees with the above, and has been in touch with their local Class War group for 3 months. Membership is £12 waged and £6 unwaged per calendar year – although you are free to pay more if you want to!

To contact your local Class War group, visit our website www.classwar.org

You can speak to Class War on 07986 041 207

Postal correspondence to Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

The Class War National Secretary can be contacted at cwfnatsec@yahoo.co.uk

Our International Secretary (when not on manoeuvres with the Zapatistas) is at cwfintsec@yahoo.co.uk

Doing It In Donny

INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY DONCASTER AND BASSETLAW ENGINEERING STAFF

In a farce of biblical proportions, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust continue to tread their lonely path as the only Trust in the entire country refusing to honour a national agreement on terms and conditions.

Despite mounting pressure from all sides, the Trust disgracefully continues its policy of ignoring its contractual obligations by withholding a wage premium payable to qualified craftspeople since the implementation of the Agenda for Change (AfC) agreement in October 2004.

Craft workers are among the lowest paid staff in the NHS and the Recruitment and Retention Premium (RRP) was intended to raise wages of qualified craftspeople up to a level comparable with outside industry, and to ensure the NHS was not disadvantaged in the labour market. Without this payment, craft workers at Doncaster Royal, Bassetlaw and Montagu Hospitals are paid £3000 per annum less than their colleagues elsewhere in the NHS.

In April 2007, Unite, the union, won a tribunal on behalf of four craft members working at Newcastle Hospital Trust, which sought to opt out of the agreement. The tribunal found that payment of the premium was a contractual obligation and the members were entitled to the payment.

In January this year, the union, acting against Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, won a tribunal case against the employer which wanted to opt out of payment of the RRP to those employed after 2004. The judge concluded that the claimant had, 'suffered an unlawful deduction from wages contrary to the provisions of Part II of the Em-

ployment Rights Act 1996 in respect of failure to make payments to him of the recruitment and retention premium applicable, and that Annex R (of the Agenda for Change Agreement) provided a mandatory requirement for employers to pay RRP to specified groups.'

After exhausting the Trust's own lengthy dispute procedure, workers at Doncaster Royal, Bassetlaw and Montagu Hospitals,

This contemptible attempt to link payment of monies owed under AfC to a local productivity agreement was seen as a slap in the face by members who had entered into conciliation in good faith, and was unanimously rejected. Payment of RRP is not dependent upon staff agreeing to further local conditions or targets in addition to those already imposed by the AfC.

Staff are now forced to continue their fight



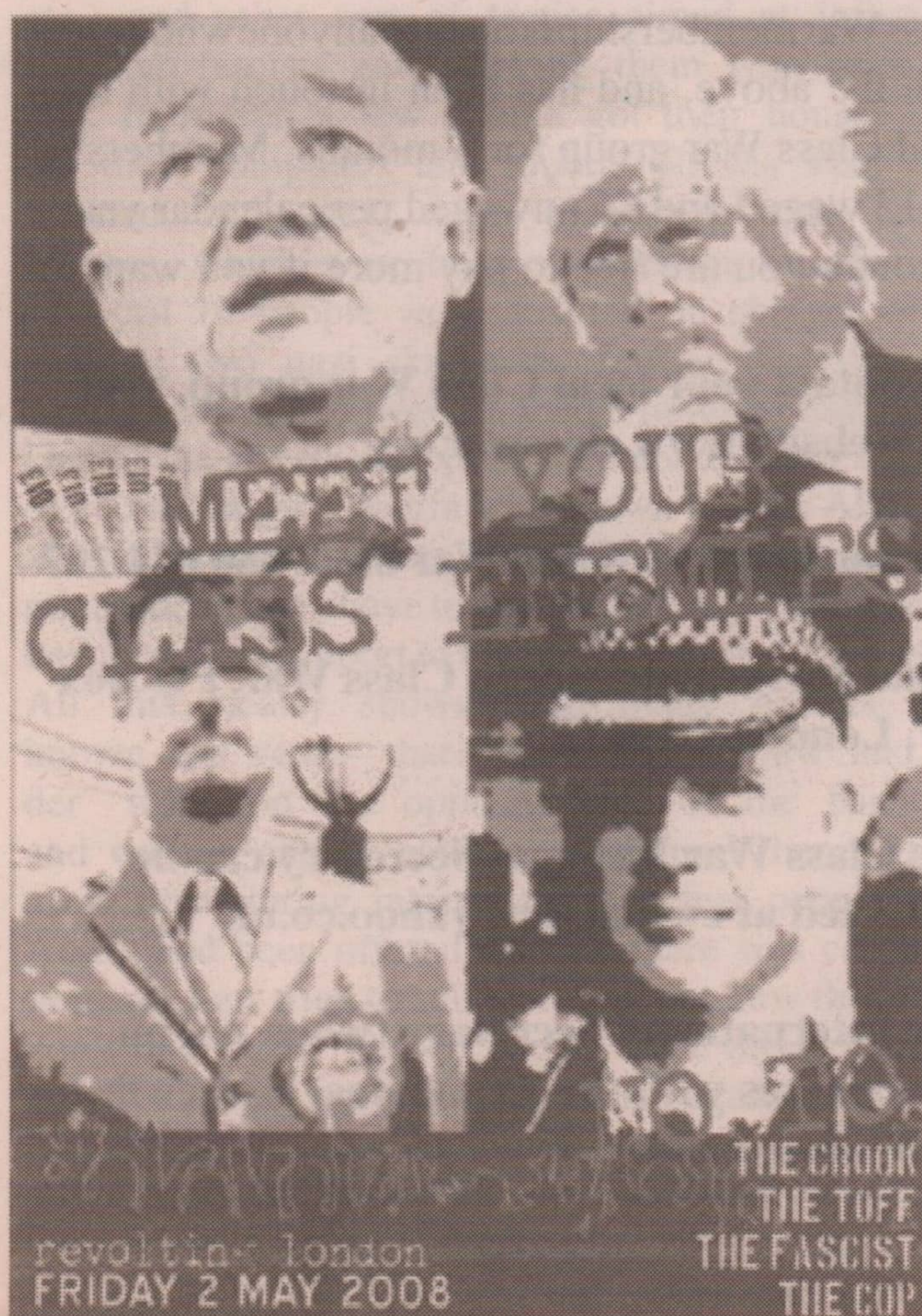
were forced into strike action last November in pursuance of their claim. This action was suspended when the union agreed to enter into discussions facilitated by ACAS on behalf of its members, in an attempt at conciliation. These discussions concluded on 25th Feb. when the Trust representatives insisted that payments of RRP be linked to a local productivity agreement, which included;

- An extension of the working day
- A reduction in overtime
- Reduction of sickness absence rates
- Review of charge hand role
- Use of mixed-economy – meaning the introduction of private contractors to the department
- On-going review of the self financing nature of the agreement for future years

for justice by resuming industrial action, whilst heading for a Tribunal hearing later in the year. It must seem unbelievable to the public that the Trust conducts business in such a shameful way, trying to alleviate its financial woes by robbing its workers, and is prepared to squander still further taxpayers money by paying barristers to defend a position that is completely untenable.

LATEST:

Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust have now agreed to 'be bound' by the forthcoming employment tribunal's decision, and the series of strikes has been called off.



May 2nd - and beyond



**6pm
City Hall
The Queen's Walk, Tower Bridge**

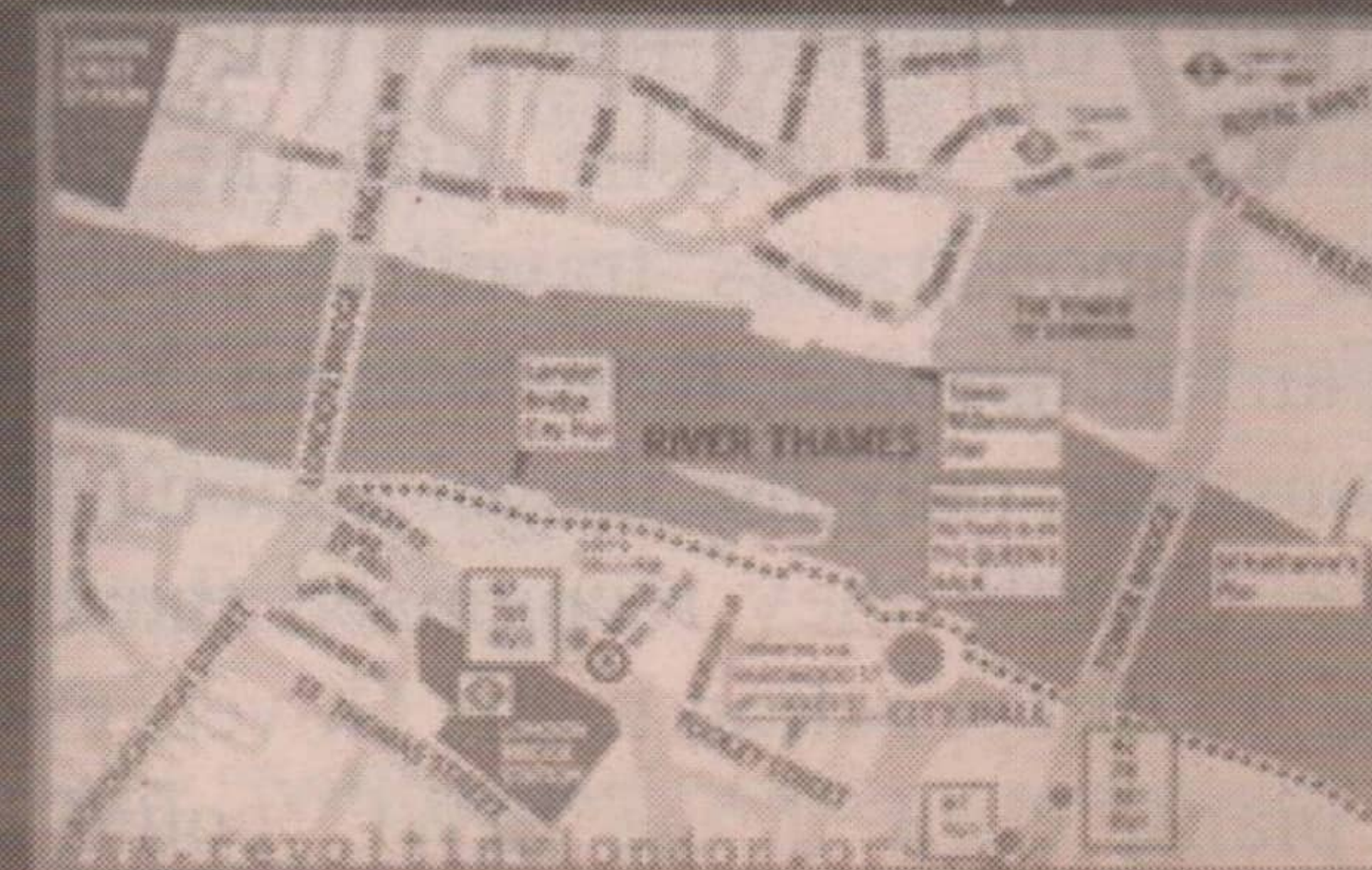
We all know politicians are lying, corrupt, self-serving parasites -
It's time we let them know

THIS IS OUR LONDON
not theirs, their party's or their paymasters.

On Friday May 2nd we will confront our class enemies at the
Mayoral election results reviving a great radical London tradition -

It's time to take to the streets and claim back our city.

6pm
City Hall
The Queen's Walk, Tower Bridge



Danger - Religious Reactionaries Of All Shades Stirring

"In the current climate, those people, those communities who shout the loudest, those communities who put the most pressure on central government, either directly or through the democratic process or through the voting patterns, get a lot of attention. Those communities that stay silent, that haven't got a voice, which basically are very tolerant, don't get a look in." From "Connecting Britain's Hindus" a report published in 2006.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has far more in common with the Imam of Regents Park mosque than he has with the average, secular man and woman in the street. And he knows it.

Religious people, for all their apparent differences, stick together when push comes to shove, as can be seen in the united front they put up when faith schools come under scrutiny. Religious leaders, of all faiths, have also many years

of experience mobilising their congregations to further their interests, almost without exception to the detriment of the non-religious in the broader community.

Of course they're in favour of faith schools: the Jesuits famously said that if they were given a boy for seven years, they'd make the man. Religion is largely about discipline, and the effect on the children who attend faith schools is sadly all too clear – their results are gained at the cost of the closing of minds and moulding of children into robots in waiting. There's little good to be said about government education policy: but their vigorous defence of religion should at the very least raise eyebrows.

Five hundred years ago, Machiavelli showed how religion reinforces the legitimacy of the state – and the falsity of religion – when he described how an ancient Roman king hit on the idea of bolstering his authority through the creation of a spurious religion. Nothing has changed. The multitude of cults we're faced with now are all as artificial and false as the religions of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The fusion of the Christian religion and the state is as explicit now as ever, with the Queen as 'Supreme Governor' of the Church of England. Religions from the various Christian cults to Islam or

Hinduism all extol submission to authority, which is in large part why their input into the indoctrination of children is encouraged.

But it's not just their role in education which disturbs us, though that's bad enough. The involvement of churches and mosques in charity is not altruistic. Religions seek to present their members as 'good' members of society, not least through their so-called concern for the poorest members of society. Yet if they really meant to do good, after hundreds of years of charity you'd expect the poor as a group to be no longer with us. Religious charities have an interest in keeping working class people

down, holding us up as images of the feckless and workshy to be overcome. Conversion narratives purport to show the convert found success and fulfil-

ment after finding 'god'. One convert I used to know, a man who partied hard, claimed to have seen 'god' in a breadbin! Once 'born-again' he changed from being open-minded and tolerant to a small-minded bigot. Religion thrives on the unbeliever as an other to be brought into the fold, to make them part of the Christian or Muslim 'Continuum', which bears more than a passing resemblance to the Star Trek Borg Continuum.

Christian or Muslim communities thus become less communities of solidarity than communities of competition where members must be 'in good standing', within the community of hidebound belief. These so-called communities are cross-class bodies which necessarily reject class identification. This works very well for the middle-class, in whose interests religion essentially operates, and far less well for working class believers. In Christian churches the middle classes' ideology is reflected back at them – while for working class believers these become aspirations, their experience is derided at every turn. Religion's message becomes, for them, a promise of the good life in the next life, and not in the here and now. It is a source of hope for the hopeless, but all the worse for being a business like any other, where hope is sold again Sunday after Sunday.

Religious leaders are some of the largest con-men in history, with their hypocritical concern for the poor and the underdog. Their profit from the poor and the unfortunate is wrung from the alienation of the working class. Working class believers are mobilised by the hierophants of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and so on to further the interests, not of the class or of the poor, but of the hierarchs whose interests are served by their continued subjugation. Unnatural cross-class religious 'communities' serve to undermine the very virtues we seek to promote, the virtues of working class solidarity and working class culture.

Good work has been done against one cult – Scientology – recently by the internet campaign organised by Anonymous. Much remains to be done; we need to understand this long-standing foe of the working class before we can defeat it. The Ramadan issue of Touch of Class – out on 1 September – will address this subject in detail, and not just by looking at the 'usual suspects' of Christianity and Islam.

A Statement From Yorkshire Anti-Fascists

BNP Venues Attacked - No platform for the fascist BNP.

In the early hours of this morning (14-03-2008) several Leeds venues recently used for meetings of the fascist British National Party were attacked. The BNP have used these venues on a number of occasions, and the venues were in full knowledge of whom they were hosting.

The venues were:

**Ireland Wood Social Club, Leeds
The Dog & Gun public house, Killingbeck, Leeds
Woodkirk Valley Country Club, Tingley, Leeds**

The attacks on the venues took the form of damage to property, comprising glued locks and the smashing of several windows with red paint being thrown inside.

The purpose of this action is to send a clear message that we will do all we can to prevent the fascist BNP spreading their racist poison within West Yorkshire, and will actively confront those who provide them with resources and/or attempt to turn a quick profit from assisting them. Nick Griffin and his shabby cohorts may wear suits and ties instead of blackshirts, but we are not fooled as to the true nature of the fascist BNP.

Yorkshire Antifascists



Today's pig, tomorrow's bacon!

Michael Todd, chief Cunstable of Greater Manchester filth was found dead at the foot of Snowdonia on Tuesday 11 March. Class War supporters will remember this particular wanker as the top cop in charge of the May day demos (the ones not that long ago which used to be good). In 2001 he gave 66 TV and radio interviews about the May Day celebrations whipping Londoners up into a state of panic which meant the Met could then get away with heavy handed policing. He was tipped to become the future commissioner of the Met and was famous for such stupidity as allowing himself to be shot with a Taser gun! Shame it wasn't a loaded rifle it would have saved him the bother of getting pissed and topping himself!

On Monday 10 March, family members became worried after they received threatening text messages from the top plod, and Llanberis mountain rescue team were sent out to look for him. I have a sneaking suspicion that they didn't look that hard because it took them 24 hours to find him at the foot of the mountain!

'Sweeney' Todd may be gone, but he's not forgotten! He's up there with other cops who've died in strange and amusing ways - like PC Joseph Daniels, who choked to death on his false teeth when he ran to assist in an arrest in Holborn in 1892, or PC Albert Goodsall, who died in 1948 - 'his death was hastened by excessive hours of work as Federation secretary'!



Will nature make a man of me yet?

Joke Welsh Mining Industry's rejoicing after they find copper at foot of Snowdonia.

Other pig jokes.

Q: How many cops does it take to tile a bathroom?

A: Depends how thin you slice em.

Q: What's the difference between chopping up a cop and chopping an onion?

A: You don't cry when you chop up a cop.

FITWATCH

FIT Watch was set up last summer to oppose and monitor the activities of the Forward Intelligence Teams. These are cops who routinely harass and intimidate protesters (for full background see www.fitwatch.blogspot.com). Since our inception we've had a presence at a number of demonstrations, including January's protest against the Police Federation march and the 15 March Stop the War Coalition march.

And it's been working. FIT are being made to feel uncomfortable. They've been forced into a reactive situation and it is empowering because we have seized the initiative.

FIT Watch can be done by anyone and can be as passive or as confrontational as you wish. Here are some tactics we have found to be effective:

1. Holding large banners in front of photographers. This is particularly effective with double sheets on sticks which can block a camera from a distance. This is the least confrontational way of blocking photography.
2. Taking photos of them. They really don't like this but it isn't illegal. With any photos it's always good to either try and get the cop's number in the shot, or note it down.
3. Following the FIT. Pick a team and tail them. Turn their tactics onto them - everything time they send a text message look over their shoulder, listen to their phone conversations, look at what they're writing in their notebooks.
4. Watch out for group huddles, especially with senior officers and go and unobtrusively stand by them. This disrupts their briefings and there's always the possibility you might learn some useful information.
5. Upload any information gathered about the FIT to www.fitwatch.blogspot.com or email to defycops@yahoo.co.uk
6. Put yourself physically in the way of the camera men by standing constantly in front of the camera and constantly shadowing them. This has been the most confrontational tactic used so far and has therefore been the one people have been arrested for. However it has also been possible to do this without arrest.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: ANY ACTION INVOLVING THIS LEVEL OF PROXIMITY TO FIT TEAMS MEANS THEY WILL TRY AND ENGAGE YOU IN CONVERSATION. DO NOT ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.

There have been some FIT Watch arrests. These have been for obstructing the police, but despite their best efforts the cops have yet to succeed in gaining a conviction for that. For example last autumn, two FIT Watchers were acquitted of obstruction following cop witnesses being shown to have 'exaggerated' in the witness box. Trying a different tack, the police made two arrests at the Police Federation demo, saying they were 'obstructing the highway' and blocking 10,000 coppers! Whilst this case has yet to come to court, it seems safe to say that a conviction is unlikely.

Most recently, at the 15 March Stop the War march four people were arrested for 'intimidating a FIT team' under trade union legislation. Once again, a result for the plod would seem a distant prospect.

The message is clear: carry on FIT Watching - they don't like it up'em!

MAD OR BAD?

Long term readers of Class War will be aware of the ex(?) MI5 spy David Shayler. Since leaving the security services after making the remarkable discovery that MI5 is a reactionary organisation that breaks the law at will, Shayler and his former partner Annie Machon have adopted a succession of guises in order to earn a not so honest crust.

When posing as public figures, civil libertarians and anti-war activists wore off, in 2005 both suddenly joined the 9/11 'Truth' movement. For those lucky enough not to have en-



tered these ever decreasing circles, truth activists basically believe the 9/11 attacks (and even the 7/7 one's in the UK) were 'inside jobs' carried out by an ever shifting cast of suspects that at different times includes the US government, the UK government, Israel and indeed pretty much everyone except for Al Qaeda.

Even though Machon's 2005 book "Spies, Lies and Whistleblowers - MI5 and the Shayler Affair" regards 9/11 as an attack by Islamist terrorists that demonstrated the need for a modernised, more efficient security service, the conspiraloons of the 'truth' movement took both Shayler and Machon to their collective bosom. Something they may now regret.....

In August 2007 Shayler announced to a

stunned audience in Glastonbury that he was the Messiah, something he repeated shortly afterwards at a London press conference attended by several leading 9/11 'truth' activists. Oddly Shayler's personal benefactor, Belinda McKenzie, who heads the 'Highgate Hub' group of 9/11 activists, appeared to tolerate this poor man's David Icke with a sort of bemused indifference. Eventually the 9/11 truth movement rallied its forces, attempting to either censor references to Shayler's actions on their webforums, (Tony Gosling leading the way here) or to denounce those raising the issue as in some way abusing the mentally ill (author Ian Henshall pushed this line). There are two problems with this – firstly it ill becomes the 'truth' movement to censor references to the actions of a former MI5 officer, especially when they are so keen to accuse everyone else of cover-ups, dishonesty and denial. The second question is perhaps the bigger one – is Shayler actually ill, and if so does he himself genuinely believe he is the Messiah? He is certainly far from convincing in this role – footage of Shayler at his London press conference, especially when not aware he is being filmed, indicates not a man possessed with Messianic zeal, but instead suggests a nervous actor trying to remember his lines. Indeed Shayler quickly becomes crabby when asked awkward questions or heckled - people suffering from mental illness rarely have the sort of self-awareness Shayler still possesses.

But what of his former partner in crime, Annie Machon? By February Ms Machon was shackled up with the big cheese in the Dutch 9/11 truth movement, and was increasingly looking to 'spread the message' internationally. Then came the clumsy announcement, which surprised most 'truth' activists', that the Highgate Hub, Ms Machon and co were to resign their positions from the UK and Ireland 9/11 Truth Movement, and to concentrate their work on the new 'Make War History' (MWH) campaign. More importantly Belinda McKenzie was taking her cheque book as well.....

Taking your lead from Bob Geldof's pathetic 'Make Poverty History' may seem a strange way to start a campaign, but MWH is one of these campaigns that starts off badly, seems destined to peter out in the middle and then get worse before it falls down completely. Astonishingly they believe that International Law can be used to stop war (have they not noticed the invasion of Iraq?) and that not only should Britain and America's political elite be tried with war crimes, but that this is a realistic objective. The end result of this nonsense appears to be very little, but early signs indicate a movement based not around mass activism, direct action or popular protest, but one based around the arguments of lawyers and legal experts. As Annie Machon well knows, the state can more than deal with that.....

For more on the dangers of the 9/11 Truth movement, we strongly recommend the website www.911cultwatch.org.uk Secondly Class War readers may wish to note that two long term critics of the 'truth' movement, Paul Stott and Larry O'Hara, are currently researching a

book on the truth movement, The authors can be contacted c/o London Class War.

LEGAL

Restrictions on legal advice at police stations.

Naturally our readers would never break the law or get into trouble with the police but as a matter of academic interest we thought we'd let you know about the latest government cuts to the rights of people who've been arrested.

Since 1986 everyone who was arrested was entitled to free legal advice from a solicitor of your choice. If you didn't have a preferred solicitor you could use a "Duty solicitor" drawn from a rota of criminal solicitors in the area. From 21st April this is no longer the case.

Instead a new quango the Defence Solicitor Call Centre (DSCC) will decide if you deserve a solicitor or if you get advice by telephone from a call centre - the Criminal Defence Service Direct (CSDS) which is not staffed by qualified solicitors.

This is how it works. The police should ask you whether you want legal advice and if you have a preferred solicitor. They will then phone the (DSCC). Their rules say if you have been arrested for a non-imprisonable offence you will be given only phone advice unless you are to be interviewed, under 17 or require an appropriate adult. However you have no way of influencing this decision. (you could ask for a Judicial Review by the High Court but it will be hard 'cos you will be in the cells and can't contact your lawyer)

If the DSCC should deign to agree you getting a solicitor to attend the police station they will call either your brief or the duty solicitor. If they cannot contact your chosen solicitor within 2 hours they will contact the duty solicitor instead. Further changes under the guise of "best value" are in the pipeline restricting the number of law firms who get legal aid contracts reducing your choice yet more.

If your mates contact a solicitor on your behalf that solicitor is supposed to call the DSCC to check you have not called the duty or another solicitor in which case they will not be allowed to attend the police station. Obviously there's an exception if you are rich. If your willing to pay for a solicitor you can still contact them direct.

You can read the new Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) codes of practice on the home office website. <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/> While the changes are detailed on the Legal Services Commission site.

The rights that people got under PACE were not achieved by liberal do-gooders or the kindness of the government and police but were forced on the state by the anti-police riots of the early 1980's. So if you want to prevent a return to "Life on Mars" policing you know what to do.

THATCHER..... HURRY UP AND DIE! FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

Now like everybody else in this country, us at Class War HQ are getting increasingly pissed off with the 'iron lady's' refusal to pop her clogs. The dizzy old bag gave us a little bit of excitement on 8th March when she was rushed into hospital, only to leave us all disappointed when she was given the all clear. The question that should be asked is 'How long can she keep this up for?!' Below is a five point plan of how we can speed up the glorious day. I mean, come on, Trafalgar Square has been booked for two years now!

Stick the Thatcher hurry up and die poster, from the centre spread, up in your work's canteen, local pub and house window.

Send her bottles of bleach (remember to rub off the bit that says do not drink).

Graffiti your local area telling everybody about the party in Trafalgar Square.

Start the chant 'Maggie Maggie Maggie Die Die Die' at demonstrations, football matches, etc.

Make a voodoo doll of Maggie and stick pins in it or microwave the fucker.

Now if we all follow these five simple steps we will be pissed in Trafalgar Square before you know it!



Essential wear:
Cut out keep on
at all times.

I request that in the event of my death any part of my body may be used for the treatment of others. However, no part of my body may be used for the treatment of members of the British National Party, serving or retired police officers, members of the British Royal Family, or anyone entitled to sit in the House of Lords.

Name: _____
Date: _____
Full signature: _____



I would like to help someone to live after my death - but not someone who should be dead anyway

www.classwar.org.uk

MARGARET THATCHER



HURRY UP AND DIE!

**COME TO THE PARTY
IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE:
6PM ON THE SATURDAY AFTER SHE DIES!**

CLASS WAR

Class War Interviews

Chris Bowsher

MILITARY SURPLUS

Class War had a great day out in Notting Hill last November 3. Not only did we see the launch of the new Bash The Rich campaign but we were also lucky enough to bump into Chris Bowsher of the recently reformed band Military Surplus/Radical Dance Faction who came down to meet us.



Military Surplus and later RDF began in the late 80s in Hungerford during the days of the media's vitriolic campaign against the 'Peace Convoy' which at one point was estimated to hold up to 20,000 people living in vehicles trying desperately to escape the poverty and violence of Thatcher's inner city Britain.

Bowsher's music was at the forefront of a movement in which thousands gathered at the now almost extinct free festivals that took place across the countryside for well over a decade.

His writing used the anger of punk, the searching inspiration of anarchism, and approached it with the mellow determination of reggae.

The Poll Tax riots, working class life, and the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, were some of the many subjects hauntingly and stompingly tackled by the Bowsher pen.

With a new album to be launched in the very near future we should be in for a treat.

Anyone too young to have seen the man, the band, and their music the last time around, really needs to get off their butts and away from their computers, and head for the nearest venue Military Surplus/RDF are playing.

And if you still don't get the message? Forget it, you're already dead!

It's really good news you're performing again,

loads of people talking about it, after splitting in the late 90's what brought you back? Was it a bit worrying reforming after being away so long?

What brought us back was the death of a mate called Paddy aka John Barry. I met a couple of the old Military Surplus people at the funeral, and we decided Military Surplus was such a great band, much greater than RDF, and that was the band we meant to reform, but as everyone knows RDF that's what we went with.

A tad worrying definitely reforming especially after the first rehearsal because I felt the time and place was wrong but after a couple of rehearsals it slipped into gear and it was going nicely, so you know... Now I'm not worried because I think this is the best line up I've ever worked with. All are people involved in my doings over the years and with a good pedigree. After Surplus, Steve Swann formed Dub Warriors. Murph and keyboard player Martin were both Rhythmites. Cruickshank is back on drums, he was original RDF, and Steve Swann's son Matty Mann on bass so he's grown up with it. And long-term fan and devotee Karen Ricketts is standing in for Lin, and if and when she gets back up there, hopefully Karen and her will click.

Also this endeavour is centered on my poetry and Steve Swann's songwriting and great singing.

Things must have changed, for instance you certainly aren't playing any of the big free festivals like in the late 80's/early 90's coz there aren't any, how are you finding the new festival scene now?

I find the new festival scene seems to be totally system controlled, for instance like Beautiful Days, everything had to stop at 2am, so people looking to carry on the night, it just wasn't there. If you were an artist you were lucky because at least there was a back stage bar.

As for free festivals, well all I can say is thank you to the Occupational Hazard lot who arranged Mitchel Deven which WAS like the old days and DID go on all night, and even though the police tried to stop it they did fail, so if people did want to try it all again it could still happen. If enough numbers arrive at the right place at the right time, it could still work. But I worry about today's kids, there aren't enough of them fighting for it, too busy in cyber space.

Going back to the old days, how did you discover you had this amazing ability to get these poems and songs down and were there any specific politicising events that kind of rocked you over the edge?

Well with poetry and writing I think I've always had a bent towards it, I won't say a gift or a talent as I wouldn't be so immodest, but there were events that enabled me to use the ability to produce pieces such as Tiananmen Square and funnily enough if you want to know the truth about that song I had a cat called Mr. Meeps who died at 4, he was born at the foot of my bed by my feet and he died the night after Tiananmen Square, the band were broke down in a car park in Trowbridge, and on the news came that the tanks had gone into Tiananmen Square, and the Ayatollah had died! And watching all the events building up over in China I then sat down to write about them using the sadness I felt for my little cat into that poem. That's why I think that's perhaps one of my best pieces of work. It was in prison where I seriously worked on the skill side, that was from '83 to '84.

The whole convoy thing that was wipped out after the criminal justice legislation, how do you see that stuff now looking back, and a difficult one, how would you advise young people today to organise themselves.

Yeah that really is a difficult question but as for the convoy, it wasn't wipped out by legislation, the criminal justice act is a terrible bit of legislation, and it has contributed to the police state we know today, but I think the travelling Convoy was wiped out by heroin, which I think was Special Branch who pumped it into the sites. It was a city thing, you never saw it in the country and then suddenly all the free festival people are hooked on heroin, so these people weren't going to move around hooked on gear, they were going to stay where they were, close to their source.

As for advising young people today? Buy an ambulance, turn it into a habitable home and get moving around!

I was chatting to an old friend recently about those days on the road and he reminded me of a mutual friend Jim Baker who I haven't seen for years, but it reminded me of being really young and asking Jim why he was on the road and he told me that the reason was that it was the most amazing political statement he could make, that really got me at the time, do you see it like that?

I saw it as a political statement in as much as a statement of freedom, and I agree with Jim in the statement he was making and I've got to say after hearing from him recently he's still out there fighting, they were squatting land in Pangbourne within the last year. What worried me about the free festival people and the site people was how all-encompassing it became, like it was with Fred and Paul from the early RDF line up, they started to be-

lieve that only their lifestyle and only their viewpoint was cool, and they were above everybody else-nothing else mattered...

Like he lives in a house therefore he's scum sort of thing...

Yeah that's it, all encompassing, but you know, some people had only been living on site two months and suddenly what, they were totally sussed thinking they were better than people who'd been all over. That's what worried me about site life, it became a little too concentrated on the minutiae, whereas I like a wider brief...I'll go live on a site and I'll go live in a flat, wherever I lay my hat....

But I would like to see a return to those days, I really would.

As I was saying before, the paying festivals having to stop when the council say and all the organisers walking around on eggshells- "You've got to stop now, you've got to stop now..."

Whereas we want the freedom, that's the idea of it, we want to get out of the cities and into the fields where we can have a good time free of the hustle, you cant smoke in here-you cant do that in here, you cant do the other in here, we want to get out there and be left alone. And that was the only movement that provided it.

I remember you playing at a Class War benefit or conference many years ago in London, you and the band were always very supportive to CW and other anarchist groups, now you're a bit older and a bit wiser, things have changed, family and stuff, have you calmed down or is it all still there?

I haven't calmed down in the slightest. It's all still there and I'm still a very strong supporter of Class War because I'm a real working-class boy and always will be, my roots are working-class and I'm proud of that and I'll fight for that until my dying day.

What's coming up for the band now, new cd's, festivals, you're back for good I take it?

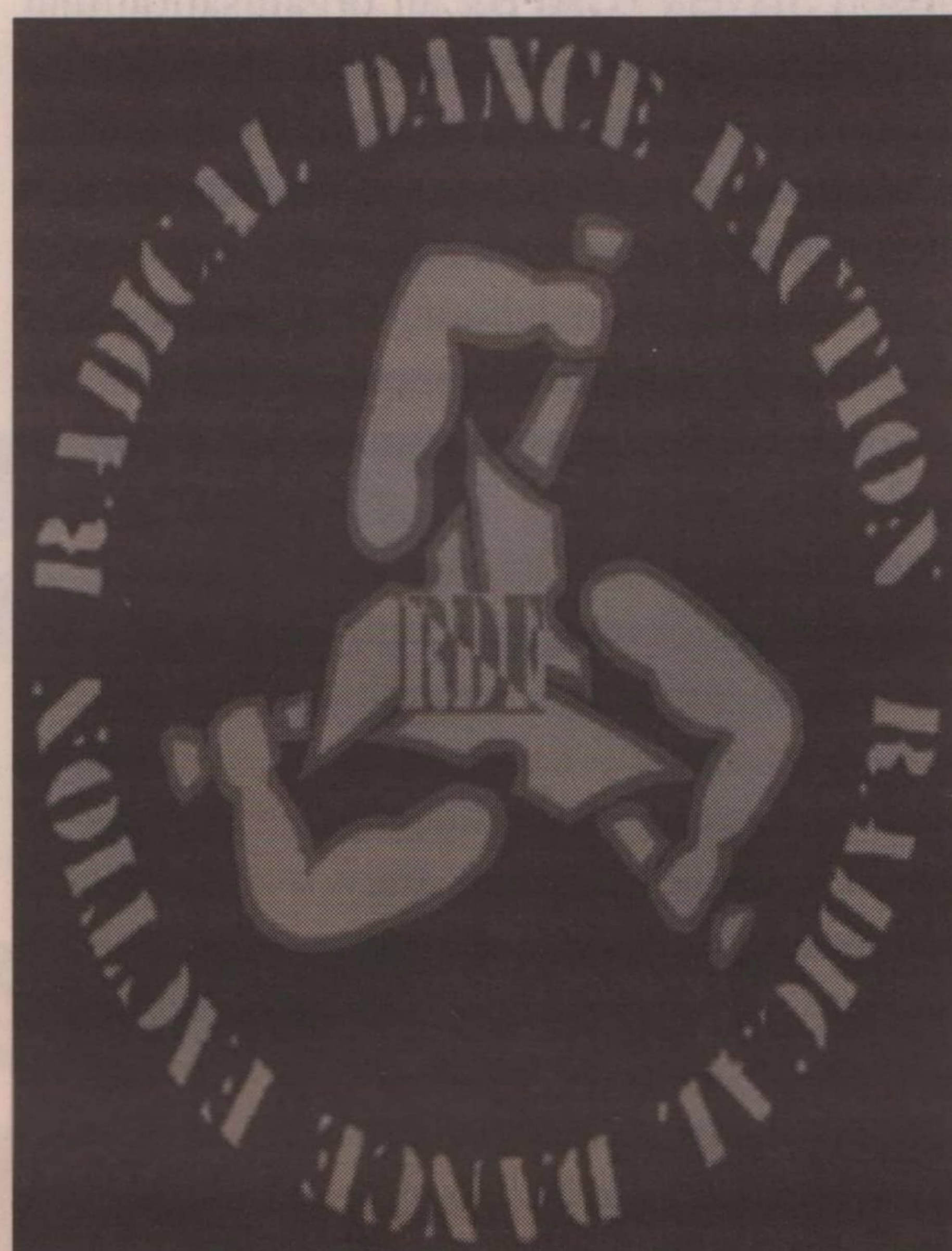
We're certainly back for a while. We're kind of back because I've got a son now and I wanted him to know that I did have an artistic life, and because its going well and the band line up is so good I want to see this band grow and become what I think it can become. We're going to make an album, in the near future, it's going to be called Ammunition, the tracks are all lined up ready to go. Gig wise I don't know, we were going to do a gig at the Amersham Arms but they insisted that we told the audience to turn up with ID, so apparently I have to be the policeman myself, so we pulled it. But watch this space.

Ok, where the fuck can we get copies of previous albums like Borderline Cases, are they going to be made available, what's the score on that?

Well at the moment they are held by Southern, a company in Wood Green who insist they're not a record company, but they are

a record company, they hold all my work going right back to the early Refuge recordings. I've asked for the masters and the chance to make some money from them as they have, but they won't give them to me. I've recorded a copy of Landing Party off of a test pressing, taken a master off of that, so that is going to become available. I'm hoping to do the same with Borderline Cases, once again watch this space.

Is there anything people can do to put pressure on Southern to release your catalogue of work to you? It strikes me as well out of order you can't get hold of what is rightfully yours.



I suppose people could make serious demands! Southern hold my entire back catalogue as I said, all the way back to the early Refuge recordings in Reading, Borderline Cases was taken to them finished, that's pressed and recorded, they say that the money from that was swallowed up by producing the album Wasteland, but that is beyond me. Wasteland sold at least 25,000, I know people in Australia and America who have got it, so that's right across the world and I haven't had anything but a mechanical royalty ever, never a profit royalty, never a publishing royalty. I signed a bad deal, I was naive, but Southern, under the guise of being Crass's company, or an anarchist company, they use that to rob people blind, they took my sons heritage and I want it back. The more people that know about Southern the better.

We'll make sure people know.

To finish off, on this Bash The Rich day launch of the anti-gentrification campaign, if you could get close enough to Cameron's house to launch a brick with a note wrapped round it through his window, what would it say? Cameron, you can take the boy out of Eton but you can't take Eton out of the boy. You are a spoiled little shit. We know how you treated 'slave earners' in hotels, restaurants and bars coz they didn't dare answer back, you and your Hooray Henry Crew. In the class war the enemy is easily seen. You are a shit to your core, a spoilt little cunt and it's 'bang to rights' - you belong with your back to the wall with a bullet coming!

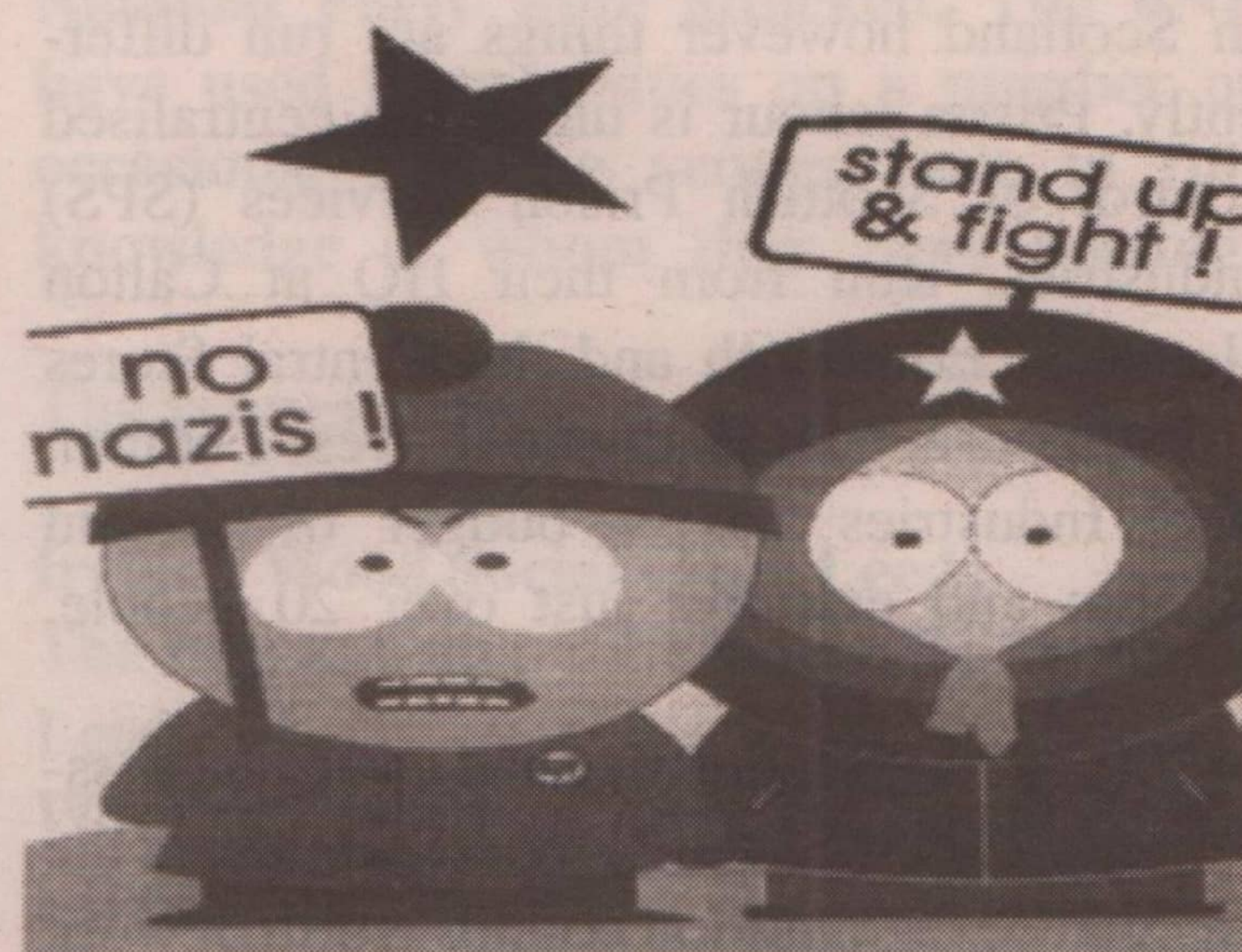
Military Surplus/RDF 's new album Ammunition is due out at the end of March. Keep an eye out on their Myspace page

<http://www.myspace.com/militarysurplusrdf> for further details

IN THE AREA

Saturday April 19th saw the fascist British People's Party attempt to hold a conference in central London. The BPP is the latest in a long succession of groups that have attempted to take a more overtly Nazi position than the BNP, and although considerably smaller, it makes a lot more sense to squash these clowns now rather than wait until they actually are a threat.

A lively anti-fascist presence in central London on the day ensured that most of those who attempted to attend the event were denied their afternoon of drinking, stiff right arm saluting and moaning about the Jews. Quite how these 'patriots' are going to save Britain when they cannot even get themselves to a pub on time is beyond us! Whilst many Nazis simply decided to give up and go home, four more determined Aryan warriors decided to debate the issues of the day with anti-fascists, an area where they came off second best, after a full and frank exchange of views. Anyone going on the BPP website is currently treated to a recording of Sir Oswald Mosley encouraging his fellow Blackshirts to "guard their flame well". In the case of the BPP, the flame currently appears to be more of a fag end than anything else!



You know it makes sense!

LETTERS PAGE

A Famous Belgian Writes

Dear Comrades,
After a break-up with the Committee for a Workers' International I am now looking for a new international organisation. I used to work for the Belgian section of the CWI and for their international.

Would it be possible to organize a discussion on the major issues of Trotskyism and the differences between your international and the CWI?

Comradely,

Jan "Gel" De Neys

CW Reply: No.

A CAPTIVE WORKFORCE? THE CRISIS IN SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE INDUSTRIES

If you are nicked and sentenced and find yourself detained at HRH's Convenience, there is a chance that you will be offered work [where available] for a pittance as an alternative to being banged up all day. This can take one of two forms. Either you are involved in the day to day maintenance of the prison itself - cleaning floors, picking up litter, working in the laundry or kitchens. Or prisoners can be offered the dubious privilege of a place in the workshops and, even in a few places, on the prison farm.

In England and Wales the administration of this is in the hands of individual prison governors. They can negotiate contracts with outside firms who want products produced in prison workshops - your double-glazing made at HMP Wolds and Blakenhurst or your electrical components assembled at HMP Lewes and Bedford. Governors can also set local variations in the basic rates of prisoner wages paid under the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme. Under this scheme, prisoners can do a full week's work and be paid as little as £4.00 [the basic minimum wage], though the current national average is around £9.60 for a 32 hour week.

SPS Industries

In Scotland however things are run differently. Prison labour is under the centralised control of Scottish Prison Services (SPS) Industries. Run from their HQ at Calton House in Edinburgh and the Central Stores at Faulhouse, near Bathgate in West Lothian, SPS Industries has a budget of around £2.50m and employs just over 20 people.

In 2002-03 SPS Industries had a very successful year. The SPS annual report trumpeted the fact that "over a million pounds worth of work previously carried out abroad being won for the Scottish Prison Service Workshops." Income from SPS Industries' sales was at an all time high of £2.99m, from total sale value from production of £5.42m. In the same report, under the slogan Leaders In Prison Correctional Work, they also told us that "The Royal Mail awarded SPS Industries their Gold Award for outstanding achievement in supply of metal fabricated postal trolleys." All this was illustrated in a series of pie charts and histograms in a colourful appendix. Heady days indeed.

By 2005-06 the appendix was no longer a feature of the annual report and annual income from sales had fallen to £1.77m. SPS Industries were no longer featuring as a success story and the following year, the last for which figures are available, income from sales had fallen to just £1.13m. During that period SPS Industries has lost a

number of high profile clients due to a combination of factors. One of these is the bad publicity generated by the Campaign Against Prison Slavery (CAPS), an organisation that campaigns against IEP and for the right of prisoners to gain meaningful training and educational opportunities within prisons, and their website naming and shaming companies that exploit prison labour. This naming and shaming internal SPS sources tell us led to Gleneagles Hotel pulling out of their contract with SPS Industries for the manufacture of their laundry bags within weeks of being named the website's "Company Of The Month". Gleneagles of course deny this and say that it's simply because they had found somewhere cheaper.

The other main cause is the actions of the prisoners themselves in resisting this exploitation by throwing a clog in the works: packed items missing a component, bed frames that mysteriously collapse because someone forgot to put a bolt in the correct place. All exploited workers know of ways they can silently fight back.

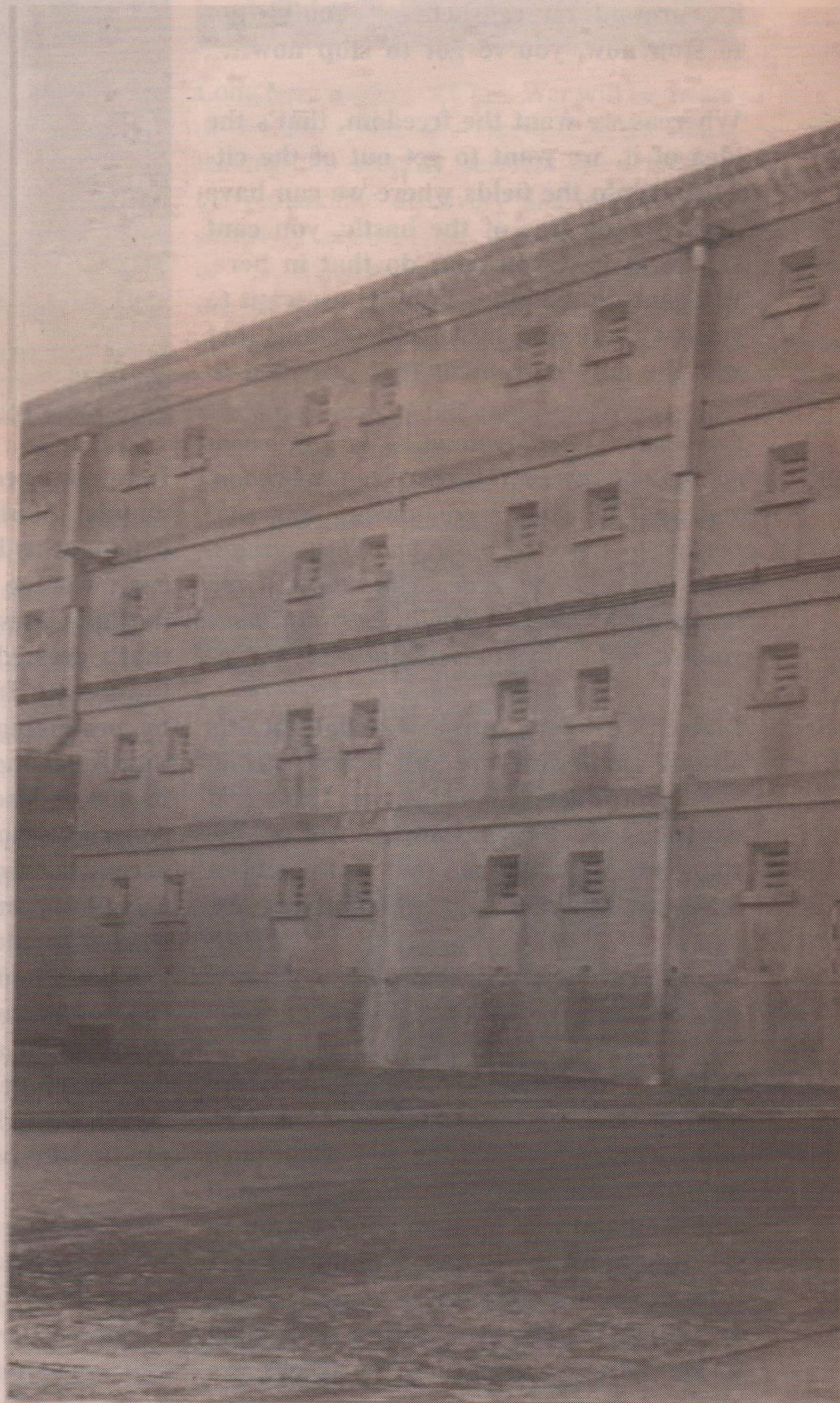
Crisis, What Crisis?

In addition to the collapse in sales and loss of contracts, now even the staff at SPS Industries are beginning to abandon what they perceive is a sinking ship. At the beginning of February this year CAPS learnt that Tony Simpson, head of SPS Industries, had had enough of the bad publicity and pressure to improve sales. He was leaving to head the new PPP prison at Addiewell, West Lothian. No sooner had CAPS discovered that Nigel Ironside, governor of HMP Dumfries, would replace him than our sources told us that he had had second thoughts and is now reluctant to take up his new post. Other staff members, including a storeman and a member of the sales staff at Faulhouse have also left their posts within the last month.

On top of this, Paula Arnold, deputy head of SPS Industries, is leaving her post and will instead be conducting a review of SPS Industries itself. This, we understand, is with a view to some form of restructuring, probably including the selling off the Central Stores at

Faulhouse, and will also seek to find out why sales figures have plummeted in recent years.

We at CAPS of course welcome this review. It offers an unmissable opportunity to change the whole ethos of prison work and training. Instead of the present situation: very limited training in workshops that follow production line principles, producing items for contracts with outside firms or, in the case of SPS Industries' line of Athol garden furniture, stock



for wholesale to gardening centres; prisoners could be offered an integrated system of training and education addressing the very real needs of the prisoners rather than the prison industries' need to produce a profit. This integrated system would obviously need to include programmes to address the literacy and numeracy skills that the majority of prisoners lack.

One possible model for change within the workshop system of SPS Industries is that

followed by the Barbed design company operating out of HMP Coldingley. This project was set up by the Howard League for Penal Reform as a social enterprise. It has trained and employs 9 inmates paid at minimum wage rates rather than the paltry rates paid to other prisoners. The workers even pay tax and NI contributions and are able to save towards their eventual release and contribute to a collective fund that donates to victim's charities. The project also employs a highly skilled studio manager but there are no directors exploiting a captive workforce to build their own private fortunes or shareholders to have pay dividends to. Instead all the profits go back into the project. Barbed is unique within the prison system but offers an innovative and controversial alternative to the traditional model pursued by the prison industry.

Some Facts

"Thirty per cent of offenders were regular truants from school. Almost half of all male

- more than 50 per cent of people on probation are unemployed.
- according to the Home Office, lack of 'education, training and employment' is the single greatest factor behind offending
- this exceeds all other factors, including housing, relationships, drug and alcohol abuse
- offenders released from prison without a job are twice as likely to re-offend as those released with employment already lined up.

Clearly, by these figures the present prison regimes in England and Scotland are failing. Yet what does both the present government and the Tories want to do? Increase investment in the prison system by building more prisons and increase the rate of privatisation of the present prison stock to cope with the ever-rising prisoner numbers.

This is plain stupid. The money should be going into efforts to decrease offending rates. And the only way to do this is by tackling the training of prisoners and the provision of employment for ex-offenders. The review of SPS Industries could just be the ideal opportunity to turn the thinking of the prison industry on its head.

The Campaign Against Prison Slavery

Something else that could come out of the impending review might be some answers to questions that CAPS have been asking under the Freedom Of Information (FOI) Act but have so far failed to gain satisfactory answers to.

In early 2007, CAPS was informed by SPS insiders that a major contract between SPS Industries and Airsprung Beds had been misnegotiated and that SPS Industries were making a large loss on it. This flagship contract was for the supply of platform bed frames and divan bed bases, made at HMP Shotts, to Airsprung, a Wiltshire company that supplies finished beds to Argos, Bensons & The Bed Shed amongst others. Airsprung Beds supplies the raw materials [wood and metal fixings] and ships it up to Shotts. The prisoners make the frames and an outside contractor than transports the palletised frames to the Fauldhouse depot 10km away. Airsprung lorries then transport them down to their Wiltshire factory.

For each bed frame or divan base SPS Industries earns between £2.15 and £4.30, depending on the model. Now the average lorry load from Shotts to Fauldhouse should cost about £160 for 100 bed frames i.e. £1.60 per frame, but our sources tell us that the contract only allows for transport costs of 30p per frame! Something somewhere does not add up.

CAPS, through a number of FOI applications, have sought to clear up this discrepancy but to no avail. Scottish Prison Services claim that the 'official' costs "are subject to 'the public interest test'" and as such will not be disclosed in response to out FOI Act requests because "this information may have a detrimental commercial impact on the company." Additionally, they tell us that for them to calculate the actual transport costs for a single bed would cost more than the Act's statutory cut off figure of £600, beyond which an organisation can refuse to pursue a FOI request.

This is clearly a very curious situation. Any commercial company worth it's salt will keep a very close eye on the on-going running costs of any contract that it negotiates to ensure that said contract remains viable. In fact, SPS Industries carry out quarterly 'contract reviews' examining material and transport costs the profitability of all their lines except, we are again told by internal sources, the Airsprung Beds contract. We have since referred this to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

If our information is correct, this would mean that the Scottish tax payer has effectively been subsidising a private company to the tune of tens of thousands a year and that efforts have been made to cover this fact up. Now, we can only go on the information supplied to us in confidence the SPS insiders and the more than grudging responses that have come from SPS Industries itself. We could of course be totally wrong but all the evidence we have seen so far points to just such a scenario.

You can contact the Campaign Against Prison Slavery at:

againstprisonslavery@riseup.net

**Campaign Against Prison Slavery
P.O. Box 74
Brighton
BN1 4ZQ**

07876 396676

ANTIFA



IN THE AREA

www.antifa.org.uk

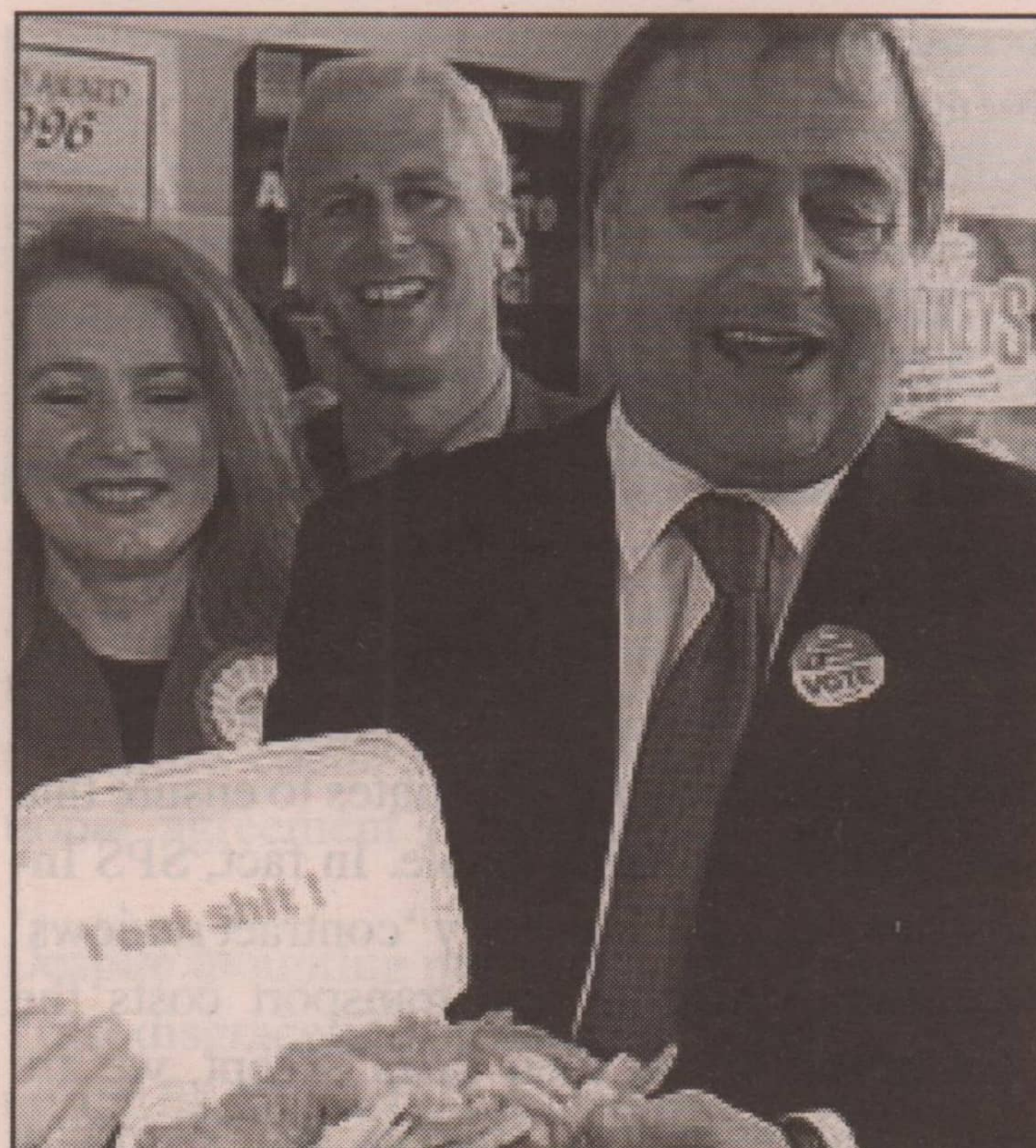


prisoners were excluded from school. Over half of prisoners have no qualifications at all, and more than half of all prisoners are below the level expected of an average 11 year-old in reading, writing and maths." This is a quote from Neil Bentley, the Director of the CBI Public Services Directorate in a speech titled 'The Business Of Reducing Reoffending' to a HM Prison Service Industries Forum in 2006. He also went on to point out that at present:

- 76 per cent of offenders leave prison without a job

Class War Quiz

- Q). Where will you find Prince William in his RAF helicopter?
- Flying the battlefields of Afghanistan?
 - On a dangerous mission in Iraq?
 - Parked up in his missus' back garden at the cost of at least £30,000 to the tax payer?



Class War Quiz

Who ate all the pies?

Shocking news that 2 jabs Prescott is bulimic! The fat fucker is even sick of himself! What was he worried about? The price of petrol in his 2 Jags?

- Q) How many pies does it take to make Prescott sick?
- 10
 - 20
 - 36

Heard in London around the 19th. April

What's the fascists word for retreat?

Come on then, You reds.

(works well to the sound of an ambulances)

ANTIFA news from Poland

Repressions against Anti-fascists in Bialystok

Last year there was a period of serious increase in activity of local neonazis. From attacks on "unPolish" looking people, through to the desecration of a Jewish cemetery, monuments and local buildings were covered with nazi slogans and these sort of events became daily bread in Bialystok. Local Anti-fascists didn't leave this situation without reaction and decided to take matters into their own hands. Nazi slogans were painted over, thousands of Antifa stickers covered the city and nazi bandits themselves became the target of repeated attacks. News about Antifa started spreading fast. This didn't make the "guardians of law and order" very happy. Police began a campaign directed at local Antifa members-stop and search, detentions, the confiscating of legal self defence weapons and trying to fine people for their possession! There were attempts of psychological warfare (writing letters to parents of people etc.) and other sort of tactics aimed at intimidating Anti-fascists and showing them who rules the city. In March a few people got their houses raided, their computers and mobile phones were confiscated and they were presented with absurd charges, which were later overthrown. On the 13th of April 10 people were arrested on charges of assaulting two nazi skinheads. Earlier that day one Antifa activist had been stabbed 5 times by nazi scum. During the arrests cops pretended not to notice a group of Nazis charging Antifa with drawn knives. All of the arrested Antifa activists were held over night and then released, but they have to pay about 450 pounds each of bail money and report to the police station once a week. All this clearly shows what many Antifas have known for years- that "guardians of law and order" stand on the opposite side of the barricade and we can expect nothing good from them. At the same time during interrogations a few people from Antifa had been offered deals if there was co-operation and cops tried to sell stories about how they "also don't like Nazis" etc. Of course those offers were ignored- after all our main slogan is "against state, police and Nazis". Far right and guardian dogs eventually always end up on the same side-more and more facts show that some Nazis give information to police and on this basis a few people have been arrested.

ADVERTISEMENT

PROJECTILE 2008: The Fourth Annual Festival of Anarchist Film, Culture and Politics, Star and Shadow Cinema, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Friday May 23rd - Monday May 26th 2008

Irrepressible, unstoppable, the Projectile Anarchist Film Festival returns for its 4th year. Films, discussions, practical workshops, panel debates, Q and As, music, poetry and art installations will be squeezed like veritable sardines into the four days. We'll also be having a wee chat via a live webcast with one Noam Chomsky...

Friday 23rd May

You can call into the Star and Shadow from 5.30pm to buy your ticket, have a drink or something to eat (veggie food and the bar will be available throughout Projectile).

Projectile 2008 however, really begins at 7.30pm with a live web link to the world's favourite libertarian socialist, Noam Chomsky, including a Q and A on anarchism. Famous initially in the field of linguistics, Chomsky has become the leading theorist of American power and foreign policy.

The webcast will take place in Room 001 in the Newcastle Business School and School of Law Building, City Campus East at the University of Northumbria (though check our website closer to the time for confirmation of venue). The session is free to anyone purchasing a weekend or day pass to Projectile. For others, we are asking for £5 to cover the room/equipment hire.

After the Chomsky webcast we return to the cinema for an acoustic set and late bar, headlined by founder member of Roaring Jack, Alistair Hulett. In an eclectic career, the Glasgow based Hulett has drawn on our radical history, from the Peasant's Revolt to the Poll Tax Riots.

Saturday 24th May

Day two of Projectile opens with the documentary Ethel MacDonald: an anarchist's story. This looks at the remarkable life of the Motherwell-born MacDonald who made English language broadcasts from Barcelona at the height of the Spanish Revolution. Later she became the 'anarchist pimpernel' assisting libertarians to flee Franco's repression. After the screening of An Anarchist's Story, there will be an opportunity to question the filmmaker, Mark Littlewood.

Whatever happens, our struggle continues. This is not the first time the forces of repression have tried to suffocate Anti-fascists resistance in Bialystok. They didn't manage before, they will not manage now. Our ranks are growing all the time with people that have had enough of Nazi bandits and enough of waiting for somebody else to solve the problem for them. In the meantime legal help for activists facing charges is being organized.

Antifa- the struggle continues!
(if you want to help with legal costs write to: barbarians(at)riseup.net

Wroclaw 12/04- fascists try to march but they fail

On the 12th of April two Polish nationalist organizations NOP (National Rebirth of Poland) and ONR (National-Radical Camp) held a march in the city of Wroclaw (South Poland). First they tried to legalize it under the pretext of "commemoration of nationalists killed by Communists and Nazi regimes" (how funny taking into account that lots of nazi skinheads were expected to turn up as well) but when they got refused they finally got it legalized, two days before the march, by claiming the "commemoration of Katyn victims" (Katyn was a prison camp in Russia, where thousands of Polish P.O.W.s and policemen were executed by Soviets in 1940). Antifa wasn't left with much time to mobilise. In the meantime a group called Young Socialists called for a legal counterdemonstration. During the day about 200 fascists and some Nazis turned up. The Anti-fascist counter-demonstration was small, about 30-40 people strong. There were also a few dozen militant anti-fascists from all over country hanging out in the area. A few times fascists were attacked, each time most of them legging it, unwilling to confront Antifa. One was hospitalised after being beaten unconscious by Antifas just moments before a

Other Saturday highlights include a roundtable discussion on current struggles and a talk on the Paris Commune by Newsnight Industrial Correspondent and author of 'Live Working, Die Fighting: how the working class went global', Paul Mason. Films include The Free Voice of Labour: the Jewish anarchists. Day two of Projectile ends with a line up of local and national bands, headlined by anarcho-punk legends Oi Polloi, gigging till late.

Sunday 25th May

Highlights of day three include a second roundtable discussion, this time on class and community struggle with contributions from groups such as Glasgow Praxis and Haringey Solidarity Group. The session will try to learn some lessons and consider what class politics might look like in a local setting. On day three we'll also be hearing from Chris Reeves of Platform Films, makers of The Miners Campaign Tapes; Not in My Name and Proud Arabs and Texas Oilmen.

Sunday films include Jean Vigo's classic Zero de Conduite, the once banned surreal rebellion against institutional repression, and Les Lip: L'Imagination Au Pouvoir. Finally, from 8.00pm we'll be hosting a night of DJs, Ska and our own Autonomix Collective.

Monday 26th May

As a bonus, this year's Projectile coincides with the Bank Holiday, allowing an extra day of films and workshops. This all begins at 11 am with Porto Marghera: the last firebrands - an account of the struggle for workers autonomy (operaismo) in Italy during the 1970s. Other films include Camcorder Guerillas Health and Solidarity: Scotland and the Zapatistas - introduced by Mike Valance. There will also be a discussion on prisons and punishment, along with spaces for ad hoc meetings put on by those attending Projectile.

Costs and Accommodation

Full Weekend Passes for Projectile cost £25 (or £10 unwaged/low waged), though no-one will be turned away. Day passes and 'per film' options are also available (see website for detail)

As in previous years, free accommodation is available for those travelling from outside of the area (bring a sleeping bag and let us know beforehand).

Keep in Touch

fascist group was ready to launch an attack on more liberal anti-fascists. Many more had been injured (see pictures). On the side of Antifa there was only one person slightly injured. Police decided to stop the fascist march before it really started, they cordoned them off and then detained those that refused to move. Antifa scouts overheard some fash pleading to police to detain them because they were afraid to meet anti-fascists again. So much for brave white warriors...At the end almost all of them had been detained, fined for different minor offences and released in the evening. There were some Antifa arrests and 5 people got charged with assault and had to pay between 250 and 800 euros of bail money and have to report to the police station once a week. The organizers of the legal counter - demonstration didn't bother with the arrested people and didn't organize any legal help at all, disconnecting themselves from militant Anti-fascists. Following a nationalist internet forum Antifascists had been amused to read lots of fearful comments instead of the usual "antifa ha ha ha." The best comment posted was of one nationalist saying "My doctor told me that my nose will never be the same again". The liberal media were all in shock of what happened, because it was anti-fascists openly attacking right wingers, not fitting into the criteria of helpless victims or righteous self-defence. Antifa has shown once again what militant resistance should look like and how successful it can be! At the moment there is money being organized for legal help and to cover bail costs but if you can help please do. The bank details are below:
Jakub Gawlikowski
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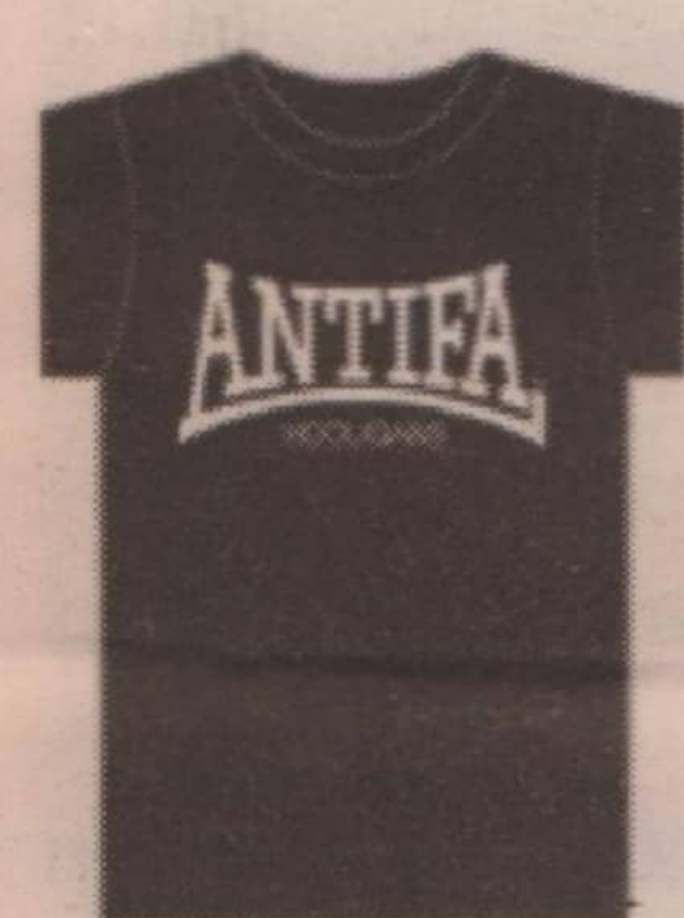
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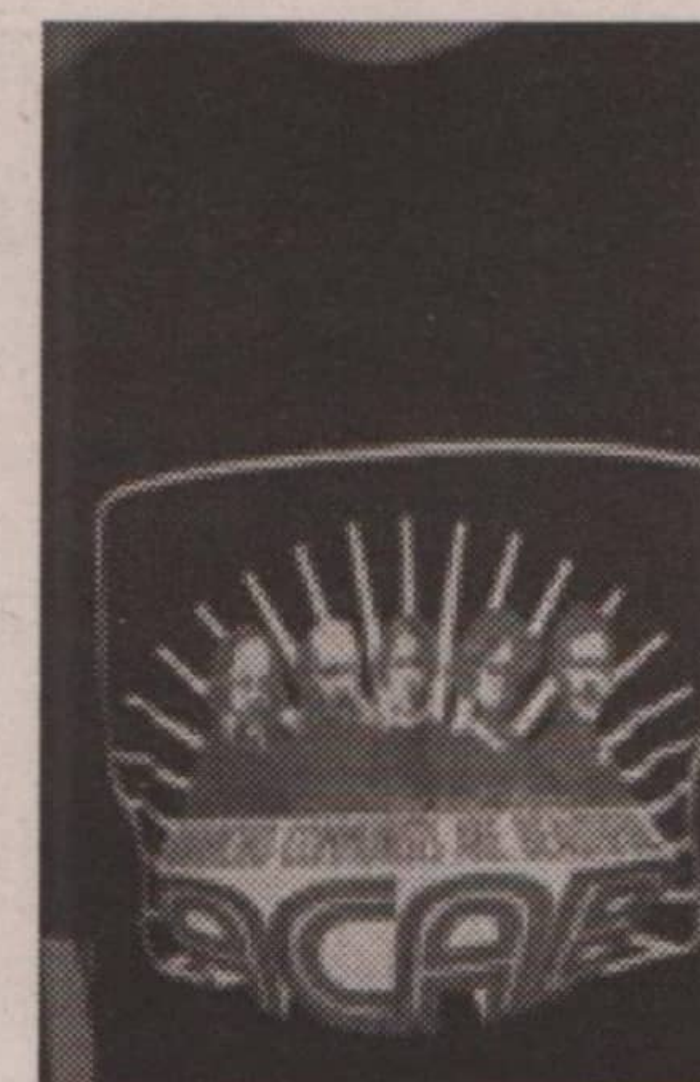
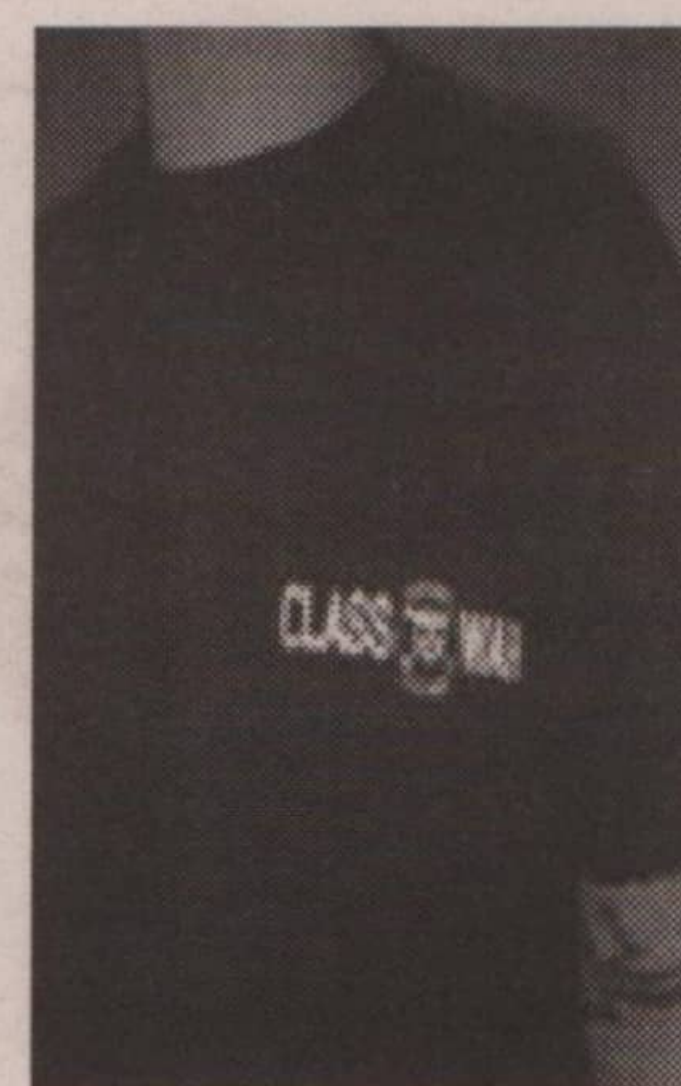


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And write "NOTASIAN" on the transfer slip. beaten unconscious by Antifa's just moments before. people have been arrested. have intention to po. to confront Antifa. One was hospitalised after being

Sports Round up

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

The policing of the Olympic torch's progress through London on April 6 was not just a one-off. It marks the start of the Olympic policing we can look forward to more of. The show of strength put out by Commander Bob Broadhurst and his colleagues was intended to convey a message – one it was hard to misunderstand. But it also sends a message they probably didn't intend: that they are vulnerable.

Sunday, 6 April, was one of the worst days this year, cold and wet. Yet hundreds of eager demonstrators gathered across London to disrupt the triumphal display the Chinese desired. And the best efforts of the Metropolitan Police's finest – Territorial Support Group and Forward Intelligence Teams – were insufficient to prevent their humiliation as time and again their plans went awry. Time and again brave men and women came close to successful torch grabs. The numbers who turned out showed how unpopular the Olympics in China are – and the police response told its story of how aware the authorities are of this. Commander Bob Broadhurst's claim that his cops deserve a medal tells its own story of how badly the police were rattled by the demonstrators; they clearly did not expect that level of protest.

The Chinese saved a vestige of face by their mobilisation of a rentamob of students. Chinese students studying here are the children of the Chinese elite, who can afford a deposit of thousands of pounds to come to study here – they aren't the children of the Chinese workers or peasants. The Chinese govern-

ment also managed to mobilise a number of Chinese business people and their employees to come out and support the torch – tactics which, if anarchists or workers adopted them, would be vigorously condemned.

There are clear lessons to be drawn from the events of 6 April. Foremost among these are

delegates will set out on their special reserved lanes for the games in Stratford and Hackney. When 2012 arrives it will be the site of popular protest against these political games.

The events on the Olympic relays in Paris and London show that effective resistance is possible, that the spectacle of the Olympics can be disrupted, and that there is a swell of popular support against the foul charade. This support must be built on and not let ebb away – the Olympic show cannot be allowed to go on. Contrary to government claims it is not a showcase of amity and sportsmanship. The modern Olympics are not based on some ancient Greek amateur contest outside the rest of society – they are based on an invented tradition, a very political tradition constructed around nationalism and national superiority – a tradition for whose origins you need look no further back than 1936 and the Berlin Olympics.

The anti-Olympic momentum must not be It is important to increase the pressure, both for this year's Games and as we move forwards to 2012. The London Games have already seen major attacks on the working class in East London, through the stealing of part of Hackney Marshes and the eviction of hundreds of people. Stratford, Homerton and Hackney Wick are on the frontline of gentrification in the run-up to 2012, gentrification orchestrated on a scale not seen for many years. The actions against the torch rally on 6 April are, once again, the start, not the end, of things.

that the centre of London is set to be a site for public discontent with both the Beijing and London Olympics. It is there that, between now and 2012, the ceremonial propaganda camera opportunities will be held. It is there that the embassies are. It is there that, in 2012, the International Olympic Committee delegates will be housed and wined and dined. And it is from there that the del-

ting the jobs to build the Games' infrastructure.

It's been clear since well before July 2005 that hosting the Olympics would entail an assault on the working class of east London. All that remained obscure was the scale of the attack. This is now becoming clearer, as the final plans show how little local people were ever expected to gain from this once-in-a-lifetime shafting.

As gentrification moves King-Road in Hackney, Homerton and Hackney Wick east of the – and Newham imminent prices national continue

fication up the sland south Homerton Hackney in the borough much of – face gentrification as house buck the trend and to rise in expectation of rich pickings in the next few years.

With the seizure of a large part of Hackney Marshes for a carpark, and with the prospect of a post-2012 infestation of yuppies, the future's not bright for east London. Resistance to the Olympics and their legacy can still influence the 'legacy' of the Games, a topic we hope to return to as the Games get ever closer.

Ungdomshuset 1 Bastards 0



Class War HQ can proudly report, that the "homeless youths" in Copenhagen, now seems on the verge of getting back their stolen property. Through more than a year they marched through the streets, for their demands and is now getting a result. A house of equal size has been appointed 1,5 miles from the old one. The keys are supposed to be handed over on the 11th. Of June 2008.

However knowing the Danish politicians and their skills of breaking promises, we wanna see it happen...

"Therefore demo's as usual every Thursday 17.00".

For more info check www.ungdomshuset.dk

OLYMPICS

A new report out backs up what we've long said: that east London will be harmed by the 2012 Olympics. The report, by the New Economics Forum, says that the regeneration – so crucial to the London bid – is likely to turn into gentrification. It points out that local people aren't get-

YORKSHIRE REPUBLICAN ARMY

As I'm sure most Class War readers are aware, the super reds - Barnsley Football Club have had an amazing FA cup run beating Liverpool at Anfield and Chelsea at home. As I've been off work with a broken arm for the last tow months I've been lucky enough to go to all the games. Sadly we were knocked out by Cardiff at Wembley in the semis. Check out the YORKSHIRE REPUBLICAN ARMY flag, I'm sure you will be seeing it around on demos, at gigs, etc. The last and only time Barnsley won the FA Cup was back in 1912 the same year the Titanic sank!



Let's hope we don't have to wait that long to get to Wembley again...

This year's FA Cup's finally been a really good one, with the usual suspects knocked out. It's very rare for smaller clubs to get a look-in so late in the competition, a refreshing change from the dull fare served up in the last few years. Perhaps Cardiff can upset Pompey – be interesting to see them on tour in Europe!

