

BRISTOL BROADSHEET

no 7

LOCAL NEWS

YUPPIES TAKE OVER NEW COUNCIL HOUSES

The Baltic Wharf saga rolls on. Yuppie property speculators carry on making a packet but remember why those flats were first built. They were originally designed to be council houses. With 20000 people homeless in Bristol the idea seemed a good one. But the council claimed they couldn't find the money. Instead a Building Society put up the money, it was called a joint partnership scheme. 36 were to go to old people at a reduced price. Not rented mind you, they had to be SOLD. Around 100 were to go to people on a housing list at a reduced rate, and another 100 on the 'open' market.

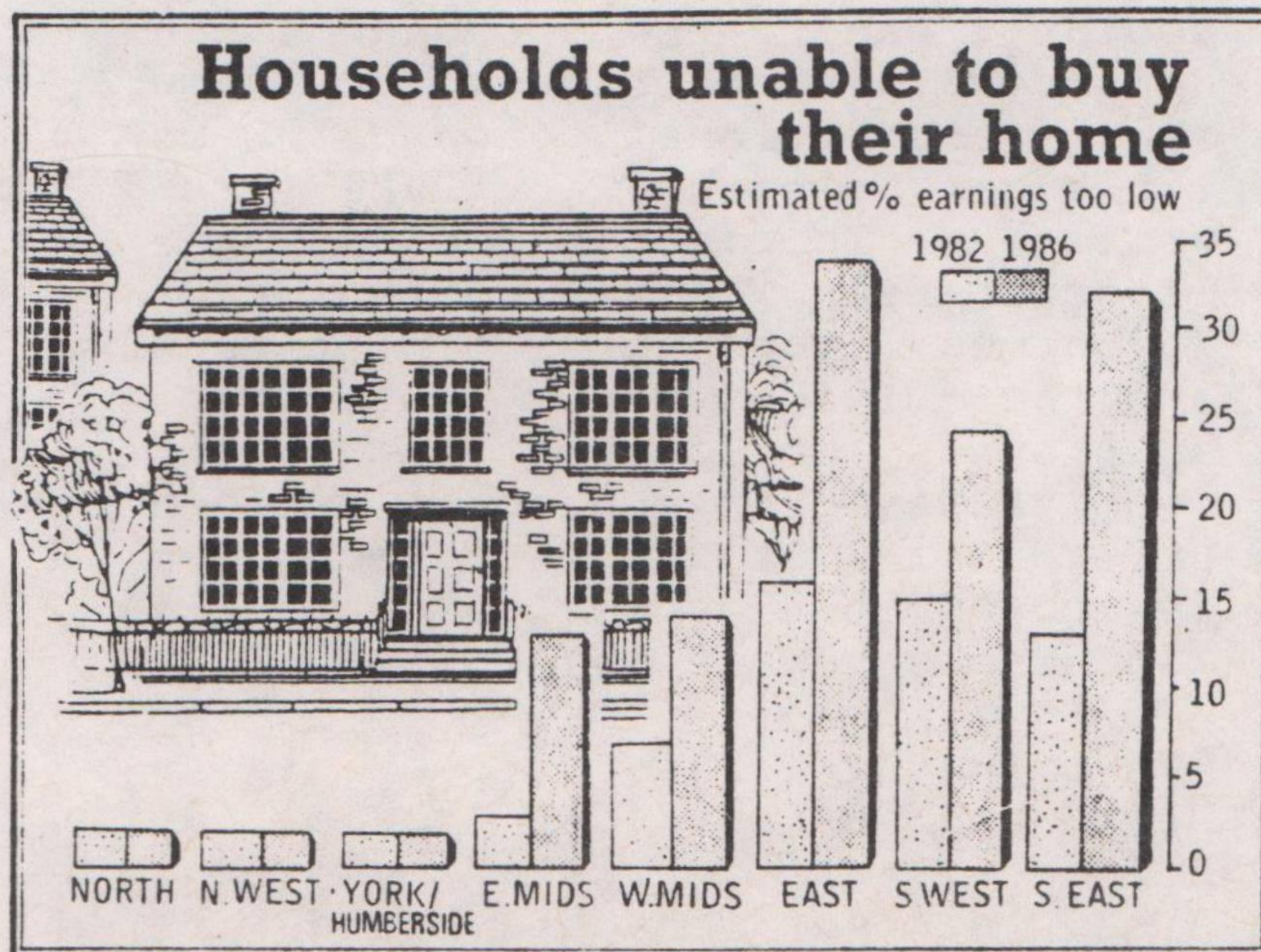
But open to who ? ONLY 12 PEOPLE ON THE COUNCIL HOUSING LIST COULD AFFORD TO BUY THEM. So in the end the rest went on to the open market too, and sold off to rich Yuppies. Since then, prices have rocketed. NOW a ONE BEDROOMED HOUSE costs £55000 !

We say, when it come to a roof over our heads it's us or them. Let's show these rich kids what we think of them.

"NEW HOMES FOR THE RICH"

Bristol Class War would like to send greetings to the builders who did such a bad job on those new yuppie houses opposite The Ostrich pub. Apparently no sooner than these wine swilling vermin had moved in the Yucca plants, the walls started to crack and the ceilings let in water, forcing the scum to beat a hasty retreat to the Draganora for a while. We think Arnos' Court or Greenbank cemeteries would have been a better, if less temporary place to house them.

EVENING POST SAYS "1/3 of Bristol People will Never afford to buy a House Here."



The percentage of households unable to buy their homes because their earnings are too low, based on average earnings and house prices in each area.

MAXWELL AIMS TO KNOCK DOWN A WORKING FACTORY TO BUILD "YUPPIE" HOUSES !

It would seem that arch-scumbag Robert "I'm a socialist but.." Maxwell is about to show some more sickening hypocrisy in our neck of the woods. last year Maxwell's printing company bought out Bath based Stothert and Pitt and now wants planning permission to build yuppie homes on its factory at Bitton. Although Maxwell claims there will be no job losses, we find this a little hard to imagine as to build the homes we assume the factory will have to be knocked down. It seems that Maxwell believes the Green Belt is something you get when you're quite good at judo as these homes would be built on non-development land. Still, I suppose that matters little if you're rich enough.

COPPER ATTACKS TEENAGER

A hearty pat on the back goes to the four Bristol teenagers who made a citizen's arrest on an off duty pig in Union St. Apparently the policeman smacked one of the blokes in the mouth and followed them up the road asking for a scrap as one of them had been found not guilty of a criminal damage charge previously and made the porker look a right idiot. Anyway, when the lads turned round and nicked him, he took to his legs and was found cowering in "Giovanis" cafe (where the filth found him).

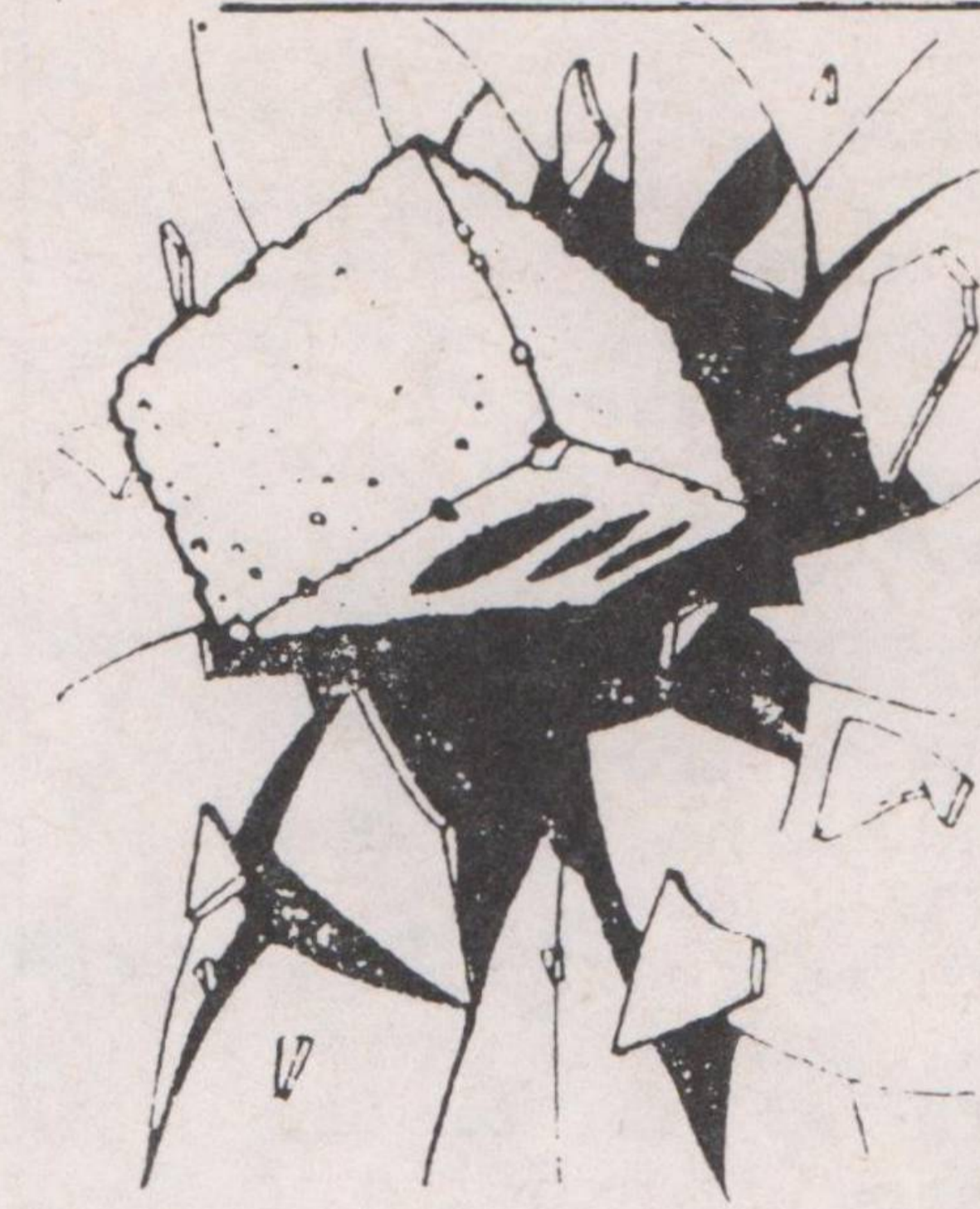
Save Arno's Vale Cemetery

All across Bristol, the shock of the plans to demolish Arno's Vale Cemetery has rocked working class families. The owners say they've run out of room, so there's no profit to be made; ONLY GRAVES TO BE TENDED AND GRASS TO BE CUT.

After taking families money when they bought a plot, now they intend to move all the bodies.

AND THE LAND? The owners want to develop it. So far most talk has been of a supermarket on this prime city centre site. But the new East St ASDA is only a short drive away.

We predict that if we don't stop the plan, we'll see Yuppie housing on the cemetery. It's time for the people of Brislington and the surrounding area to join those with family buried there. We have to tell the developers they will be stopped. That we will not just go to meetings only to be told we're over reacting with our anger- That we will put a stop to profit-making at the expense of so much pain and anguish for the families of the dead.



THE HIT LIST

SCUM

Whether it be racists, bosses, bullying teachers, scabs or coppers send us details, names and addresses to Box CW.

Only one address this issue, that of the Bristol National Front.

PO Box 447,
Bristol BS99.

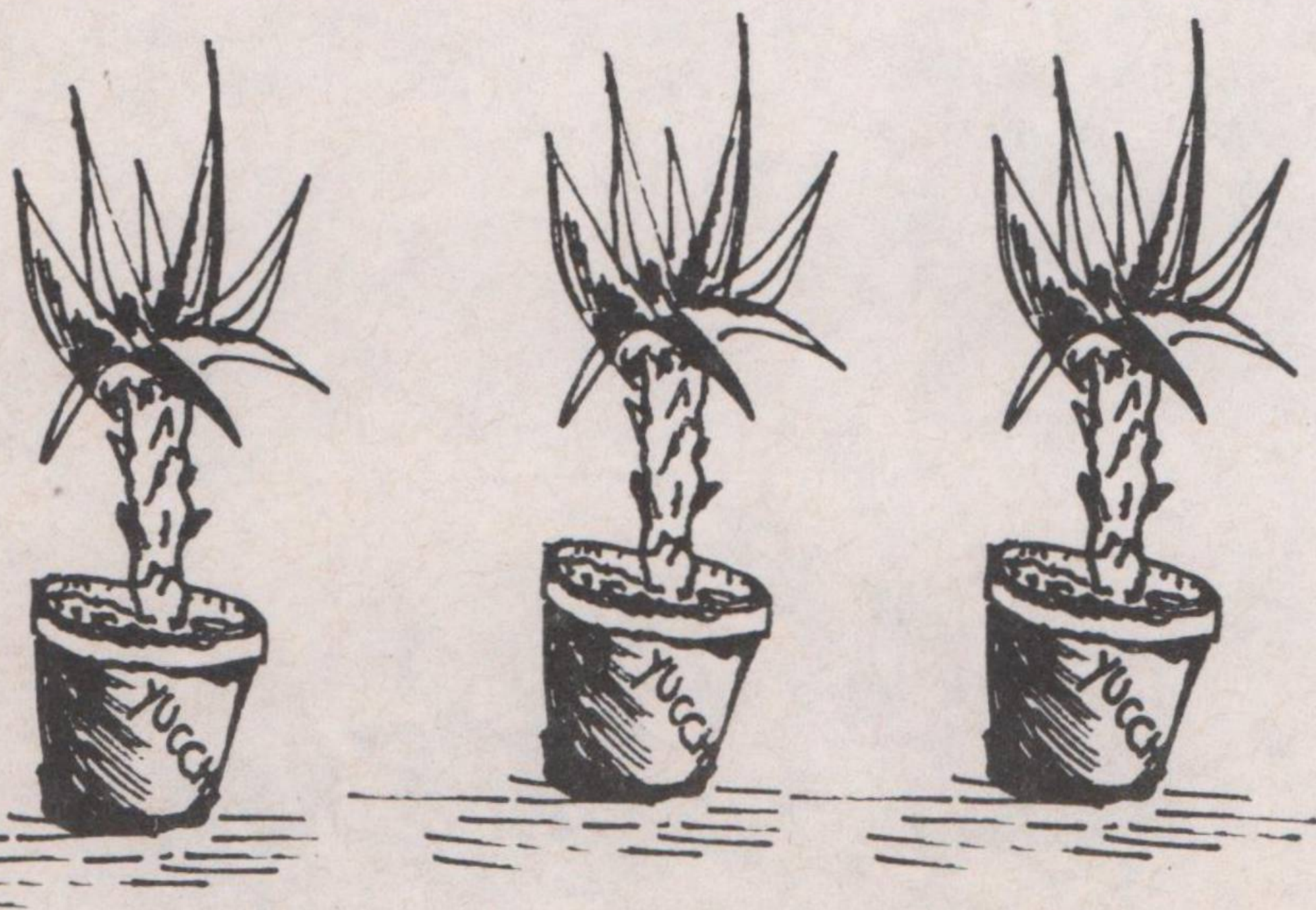
It's time these racist scum were given a real beating.

The "Bristol Broadsheet" is a regular paper produced by:-
Bristol

CLASSOWAR

If you agree with the ideas expressed here or you have any news of community campaigns in your area, Please contact us by writing to

Box CW,
Fullmarks Bookshop,
37, Stokes Croft,
Bristol.



WE WILL NOT BE GOVERNED!

The History of the Kingswood Colliers

Over the years a lot of bullshit has been spoken about Class War, especially that we are mindless lunatics because we believe in violent direct action against our oppressors rather than lobbying them or using other forms of passive protest. The people making these assertions think that we don't fit in to the "way to get things done", for as Kinnock said during the miners strike, "Violence is alien to the British tradition". This of course, is absolute crap and we feel it is about time we reclaimed our history, from those who wish us to believe Britain has a tradition of passive protest, and hopefully trace the existence of some of our ideas in past working-class history.

For example, in the 18th century the colliers of Kingswood were known as a "set of ungovernable people - famous for neither fearing God or regarding man", and as we shall see this reputation was justly earned.

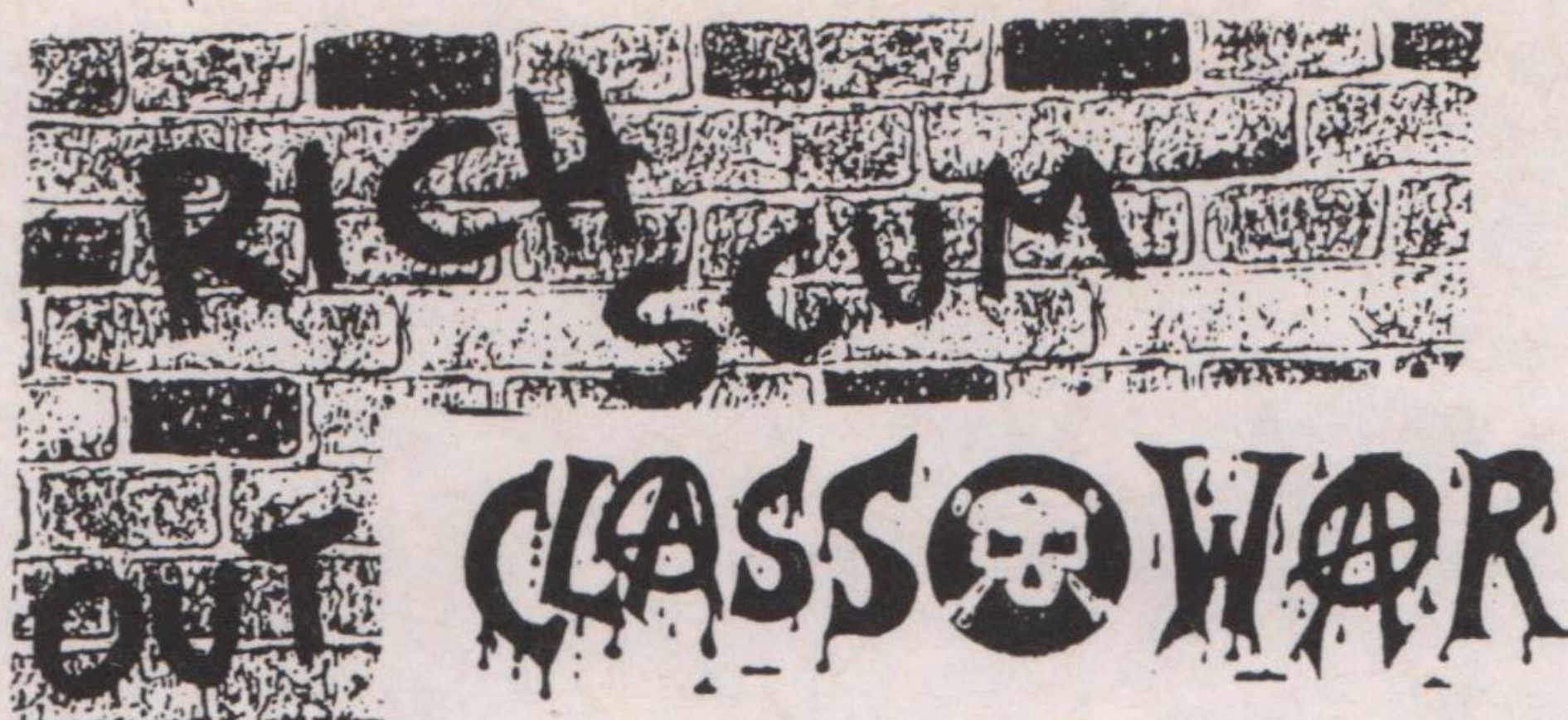
Although the people of Kingswood lived in virtual independence for some time and behaved more or less as they pleased, due to the impossibility to enforce any kind of law, the first major disturbance started in 1709 when bread prices shot up so high it was nearly out of reach of the poor. 400 Kingswood colliers, armed with cudgels burst into the city, and along with Bristol's labourers, demanded food. Seeing the threat of the cudgel rather than some crap petition the council agreed. So most of the crowd started to go home, however a number wanted to scrap with the militia anyway and got nicked. This came to the attention of the homeward bound mob who promptly about turned to rescue them. The militia became so scared at the thought of the pasting they were going to receive, that they freed the prisoners and legged it.

The next time the ruling class of Bristol was to incur the wrath of the Kingswood colliers was in 1728 over turnpike taxes (although in 1726 they had shown class solidarity with the rioting weavers of Wiltshire by sending up mobs to aid them in their industrial dispute). The colliers were unhappy over having to pay to transport coal into Bristol, and that the turnpike trustees had the power to remove furze and heath from common land. Great numbers of colliers "marched through the city with clubs and staves" pulling down any turnpike they came across. The mayor wrote "had any opposition been made the consequences would have been fatal". Some gates were reerected only to be redemolished within hours. The colliers, whom Bristol was heavily dependant on for fuel, had called a strike which forced the council to bring coal from Swansea. However, as soon as the coal arrived the Kingswood men returned to work thus costing the council £215. The turnpike trustees then believed the troubles were over and rebuilt the turnpikes. However, a gate was burnt near the Downs and 4

colliers were arrested. Fortunately the troops left for Ireland the next night, so every turnpike was demolished and the joy of the rioters that evening was rounded off with the release of the 4 arrested as no law existed against damaging turnpikes. In remittance the turnpike trustees abolished charges for animals carrying coal. However, this had little effect as one of the trustees had his house attacked by 400 colliers who threatened to demolish it with him inside. The Duke of Newcastle rode to the scene with 20 men but couldn't pacify the crowd who then demanded ale off him to go home (Fuck transitional demands Leon let's get pissed). The Duke later wrote - "The insolences of the rioters are now greater than ever and armed troops instill no terror in them". Indeed their destructive spirit was so great that within two years every turnpike between Bristol and Gloucester had been destroyed, the Duke commented - "God knows how it may end".

In 1738 the colliers rose as one body and struck due to a pay decrease. They trashed several pits, stopped coaches bound with rich scum headed for London and demanded money, ransacked a boozier and forced the so called "Civilised colliers of Brislington to join them in their 5 day riot.

However, in 1739 the opiate of the people ie: religion reared its ugly head in Kingswood and proved for a while to be a calming influence on the colliers - so much so that 2 officers rode into the area and leveyed an execution with no bother whereas they would



previously have been too scared to enter - proof that church and state work arm in arm and Charles Westly is directly responsible for that executed man's death.

Fortunately by 1753 things started to heat up again. Apparently there was a food shortage and the miners learned of a Bristol wheat shipment about to be exported. Hundreds made way to the council house and once again a drop in the price of bread was agreed. However some people plundered a ship anyway and were nicked - the rest who were previously happy then turned on the militia, secured the men's release, smashed every window in the council house and left vowing vengeance. All this came 2 days later when 900 colliers and weavers headed for Bridewell prison, trashed it and generally rioted in Bristol taking 3 rich scum hostage whereon imprisoned them in a mine. They then tried to raise a revolt in the countryside and promised to return armed to the teeth leading the mayor to claim - "The task of repression may be beyond our force".

The colliers also waged a vendetta on local rich bastard Mr Brickdale who left for London. However, on anticipating his return every coach entering Kingswood was searched and robbed. A high treason charge was brought against 2 of the rioters, however the militia couldn't get them out of Kingswood as it was a "no-go" zone.



Also if any readers have problems with baliffs evicting them they may like to try this tactic used in 1795 - As the 2 baliffs approached Kingswood the alarm was given. Colliers then surrounded them put them in a pit and kept them in it for 12 hours, brought them up, gave them a glass of gin with some gingerbread and then again - "immersed them into the dreary bowels of the earth" for another 24 hours. On release the baliffs were fined 6s 8d for their "lodging" and made to sign an oath never to trouble any of them again.

From history therefore, we can see that in Kingswood there existed a working-class militancy over issues that affected them, and solidarity with others' actions. Most important though was the use of confrontation to achieve their aims which put the shits up the council every time. The rioters had no leaders and needed no vanguard to decide what they should do next or what the correct strategy was. They also had a close community which regulated itself and didn't need the interference of cops/the state. Indeed, when the state tried to impose its law the community would close ranks and drive them out, as they abided no law beside that decided and enforced by themselves. So next time anyone tells you violent protest achieves nothing, or that we need cops/vanguards, or that rioting is alien to "the British way of going about things", or finally that Class War have no historical tradition, tell them to read up on some history.

NEXT:-

BEDMINSTER or St. JUDES

