

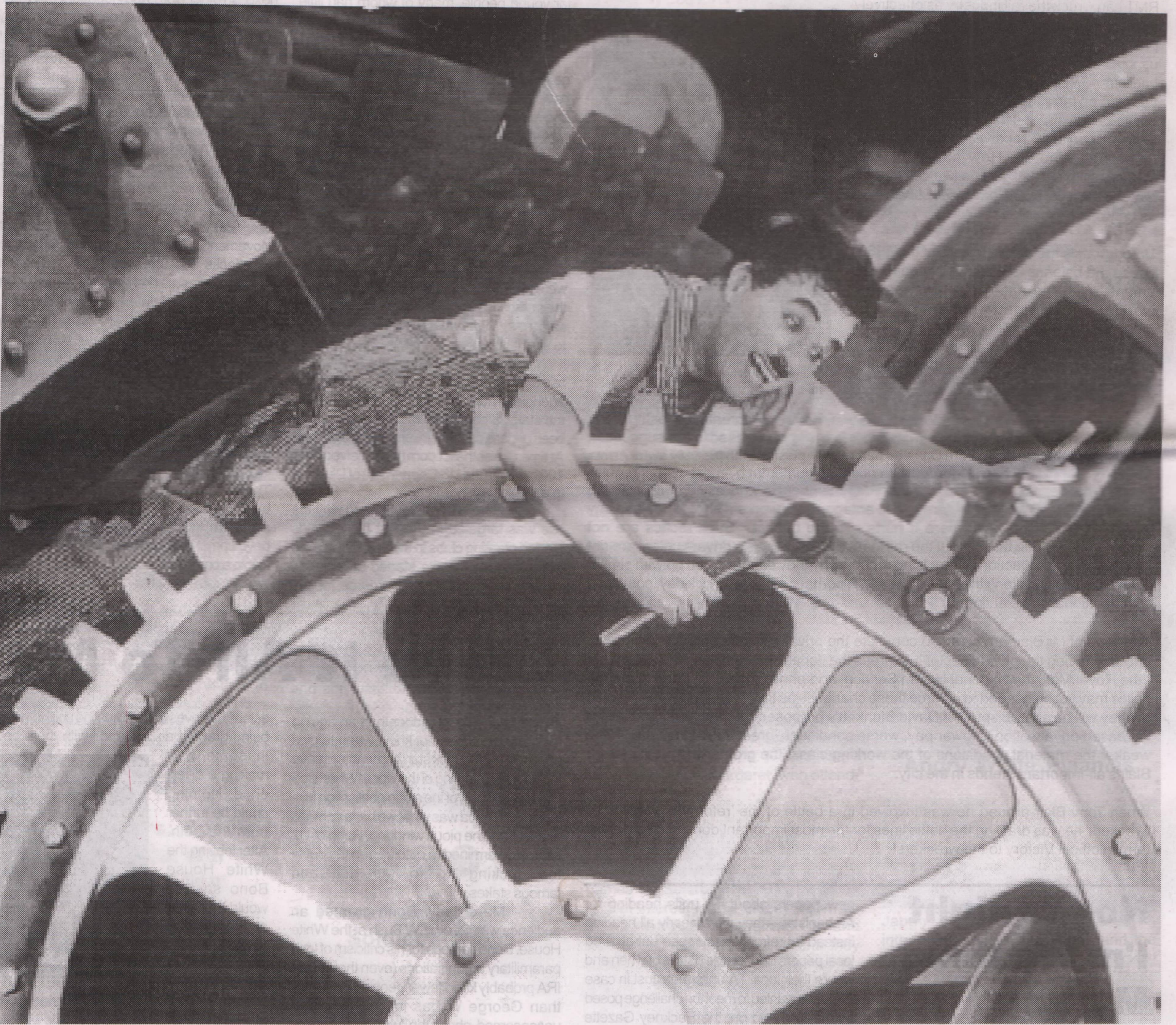
CLASS



WAR

NO CASUALIZATION!

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VICTORY TO THE WRECKERS!

News, views, war, sex, dead Royals, International Noise Conspiracy
and much, much more!

EDITORIAL

Unions Up Their Game

According to the media, the move to the left in certain unions - in particular the RMT, Aslef, CWU, Unison and the civil service PCS has caused palpitations in the Labour party. The media has even dusted off 1970s style red scare stories, particularly about Bob Crow of the RMT. However, in most instances the union leadership has done little more than recognise what most of their members realised years ago, that new Labour does not even pretend to fight for the interests of the working class. As the union leadership are guaranteed nothing by Labour, eventually even they have tired of giving Tony Blair a blank cheque in return.

Blair, by talking of the "wreckers" who oppose his transformation of the public services, was in reality repeating the 1980s language of Thatcher. Then those who stood in the way of Thatcherism were the "enemy within". Now if you oppose Blair's completion of Thatcher's privatisation project, you are a 'wrecker'. Quite how the RMT can wreck the rail industry as effectively as the privatisation started by John Major and presided over today by Tony Blair is beyond us, but the media has happily aped whatever briefings new Labour's spin-doctors have given them. Even though the proposed changes to postal services sound far worse than the services we currently receive, criticism has at times been muted. How can the nasty inefficient Royal Mail give us two deliveries a day and the nice, cheap privatised service give us only one?

Unfortunately the union defeats of the 1980s tipped the balance, substantially against the unions. With the anti-strike laws, smaller workplaces and generally lower union membership, the strikes of the 1970s and 1980s are not going to be re-created however much the likes of the Socialist Alliance wish they could be.

It is time to fight the next battle in the class war, not try to recreate the last. Unions today have to box clever. One sign that this is being recognised is the suggestion from RMT members of No Fare Days as part of their dispute with the truly awful Arriva Trains Northern. ATN are regarded with absolute contempt by most of their regular users. What better solution than for RMT members to work as normal, but not to collect any fares? No commuters will be antagonised, workers should not lose any pay, but ATN will be hit where it hurts - in the pocket. Such tactics are not necessarily suitable throughout the rail industry. ASLEF, as a drivers union, are not involved in fare collection. There is no reason why they cannot come up with similar innovative thinking along the lines of the RMT, perhaps a phone in sick day, combined with traditional strike action.

The aims of Mr Blair are clear. To complete the privatisations begun by the Tories, only expanding the private sector into areas the Tories sometimes shyed away from - the Royal Mail, the National Health Service, and parts of the Civil Service. As the police may yet be needed to enforce these changes - as they were in 1984-5 - it could be they will be spared some of David Blunkett's proposed reforms. The outcome of increased privatisation is lower pay, worse conditions, greater job insecurity. The weaker the material conditions of the working class, the greater the profits for Mr Blair's all-important friends in the city.

When Tony Blair argued he was involved in a battle of the 'reformers versus the wreckers' he was drawing the battle lines for the most important domestic fight of his term in office. Victory to the wreckers!

Not Tonight I'm Washing My Hair

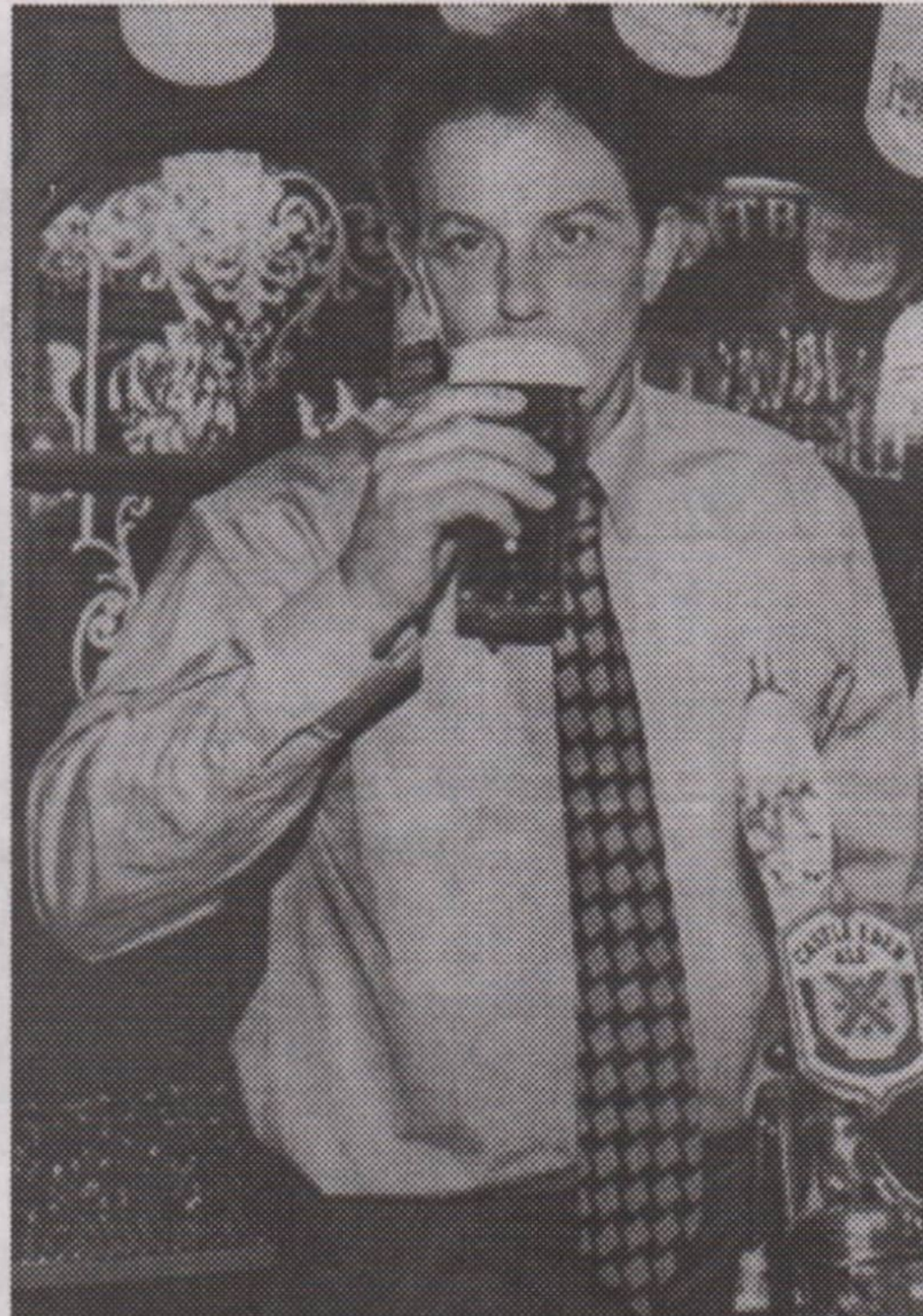
One of the sadder individuals in every pub is the local TA man. We all know the army will take pretty much anyone these days, but standards in the Territorial Army are even lower! Hilariously George Bush's "War on Terrorism" has led to the first compulsory call up for TA soldiers for some 46 years, and a fair few weekend warriors have been looking to wriggle out of their commitments ever since! To quote Lt Col Paul Fox "A few people have said they do not want to go. We have a lot of people who are having to make contingency plans for domestic reasons and work"

Even better was the Ministry of Defence's press release in January which spun a load of nonsense to gullible local

newspapers about TA units heading for Afghanistan - they were nearly all heading instead for refresher courses - but allowed local papers to insert the details of when and where their local TA units met. Just in case Al Qaeda wanted to meet the challenge posed by the TA head on, the Hackney Gazette kindly informed readers when and where the Shoreditch TA meets! Who said military intelligence was a contradiction in terms?

Obituary- Jack Dunn

On 14 March Jack Dunn died. He had led the Kent miners through the great battles of 1969, 72, 74 and in retirement in 84 and 92. An accomplished speaker and great character he was one of the legends of the NUM, too many of whom have died just recently. The union, and the working class movement at large are the poorer for their loss.



It's time to call time on Tony

Raise The Fist!

On January 24 2001, in a joint operation, the LAPD, the LASD, the FBI and the Secret Service raided the home of Sherman Austin, the 18 year old webmaster of Raise The Fist, an LA-based anarchist web site. All the equipment used to host the site was confiscated and Raise The Fist was effectively shut down for over a month.

Raise The Fist had attracted attention from the authorities from day one because of its uncompromising political attitude. Unlike many anarchist web sites this was not a site limited to the academic world or ghettoised in the subculture of the already existing anarchist movement - it was a popular forum for young people, many of whom had little previous exposure to revolutionary politics other than Rage Against The Machine lyrics.

Raise The Fist's success was in getting those people, who otherwise would have spent all their time sitting around on their backsides with their friends just talking about how much mainstream society sucked, to actually think about practical strategies to resist the system and get involved in the anti-capitalist movement.

In the last few months before the raid, Raise The Fist and its numerous spin-offs (the LA Anarchist Collective, Revolutionary Graffiti Front and International Collective for Class War) were attracting more and more attention from the authorities and the public alike. It is fairly safe to say this is what provoked the attempt to shut it down.

Austin's first statement following the raid explains the fascination law enforcement agencies had with Raise The Fist right from the start: "Since 1999, raisethefist.com has been under extensive government monitoring. At times, raisethefist.com has received over 100 hits from the US Department of Defense in a single day."

And he is in no doubt as to why the site was targeted in the first place: "Kids started creating clubs in their schools called 'RaisetheFist'. People started utilising the collective as a powerful resource for the

activist/anarchist community."

On February 2, Barely a week after the raid, Austin was singled out for arrest at the anti-World Economic Forum protests in New York City. Bizarrely, after intense questioning he was released the next day and immediately re-arrested by the FBI under the Patriot Act. 12 days later when the still unclear charges were finally dropped, Austin became the last protester out of over 200 who were arrested at the WEF summit to be released.

As Austin's lawyer Susan Tipograph said: "The government arrested him out of the blue and then reversed themselves out of the blue. Who knows what they're going to do next?" In other words they just kidnapped him - like the Canadian police kidnapped key Anti-Capitalist Convergence organiser Jaggi Singh at last year's protests at the FTAA summit.

This campaign of harassment and intimidation against Austin and Raise The Fist can only be the result of a co-ordinated operation. A decision was taken to neutralise his activities, something the FBI did in a much more widespread fashion in the 60s against individuals in (among other organisations) the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks and the security clampdown in America, it seems likely that we will see more of this in the near future.

All the more reason then to congratulate Austin for the way he has bounced back in defiance of all attempts to silence him. After a few problems obtaining backups of their site, and a search for a suitable host which thankfully didn't turn out to be Bill White (an extremely dodgy "anarchist" who associates with neo-Nazis and is thought by many to in fact be working for the secret state!), Raise The Fist is now back online. Hopefully the site's best fist raising days are still to come!

To keep up to date with the latest developments in the Raise The Fist saga (and to join a community of rebels with attitude), go to www.raisethefist.com.

Leave It All To Me

If there is one thing sadder than an ageing rock star who does not know when to give up, it's an ageing rock star who wants to save the poor and starving of the world. Whilst Bob Geldof's criticism of the anti-globalisation protestors in Genoa was what we have come to expect from the pious windbag, Bono of U2 seems determined to outbid even Geldof in the sucking up to the rich and famous stakes.

March saw Bono granted an audience with George W Bush at the White House. Bono, famous for his criticism of Irish paramilitary organisations (even though the IRA probably killed fewer people in 30 years than George W has in one) seemed unconcerned about the 'war on terrorism' concentrating instead on discussing Aids and US aid to the third world. Like Geldof, Bono

actually believes that by meeting politicians and being granted an audience with them he is in some way making a difference. Nothing could be further from the truth. After leaving the White House Bono said "It would be easier and hipper for me to be on the barricades with a handkerchief over my nose - it looks better on the resume of a rock star"



Peas in a pod

The message from Bono is in fact rather similar to that from Bush, Blair, Clare Short and other politicians in this field- leave it all to me, I can make a difference. Bono seems unaware that it is politicians - and in particular their beloved global capitalism - that has got the world into the mess it is currently in. Equally Bono and Geldof seem incapable of any self-analysis of their own actions- is Africa in a better state today than it was before Live Aid? Not from where we are sitting its not.

Perhaps the next time anti-globalisation protestors gather a few bricks could be saved up for Bono and Bob Geldof's limousines?

Three Strokes And You're Out

February saw Princess Margaret finally getting round to doing what her sister has found so difficult to do dying. Whilst the loss of this parasite, who could not even run a bath without scolding herself will save us a few quid in taxes, the most satisfying outcome was the public response. Nobody gave a fuck, and the media had to reign itself in after a couple of days because they realised mass hysteria was not on the cards.

Windsors Give the Public What they Want - More Royal Funerals!

We are all used to Prince Edward and the other stupid royals wasting our money - how on earth he can retire at his age when the rest of us are being worked till we drop? But although we are paying for their parties, there are at least some we can gatecrash - their funerals.

Despite Class War negotiating long and hard with Satan to take the Queen mother away from us all sooner we couldn't convince him. But the jubilee has got off to a cracking start - with two less of the scroungers to pay for.

When Old Yellow Tooth, finally decided to join her daughter and husband, the Royal PR Department went into overdrive. They claimed that the multi-millionaire bigot with an income of just 5 million pounds a year and just 50 live-in home helps, who got private operations that were denied to millions of working class people on the NHS, was 'everyone's grand mother'. That she single-handedly won world war two despite appeasing Hitler and encouraging surrender negotiations in 1940.

Employing the kind of doublethink that would have Stalin or Tony Blair green with envy, the Windsors promoted her as a kindly old lady. Yet her compassion for her family lead her to hounding the mother of her great grand children to repeated suicide attempts. Her love of animals meant introducing her daughter to the joys of bloodsports. Her life was not just of unbridled privilege and casual sadism, she helped support a number of traditions that will continue after her - her heroic stand for Rhodesian and South African Apartheid continues to this day with Prince Philip, and we hope he will continue to follow his mother-in-law's lead - as quickly as possible.

Her death was supposed to make us all the more compassionate for the Windsors and to make us dimwits want

to celebrate the Jubilee. Instead the near constant royalist propagandist has turned apathy into antipathy. Hatred for the privileges, the brutality, bigotry and militarism of the royals is being translated into street protests against the House of Windsor. We loyal subjects of MOVEMENT AGAINST THE MONARCHY - are organising our own fitting tributes for Golden Jubilee.

Several protests are already planned in amongst other places Bury St Edmonds, Brigend and Sheffield. In London there will be an Execute the Queen Street Party starting in Tower Hill, by the Tube, on June the 4th, at 10.30am. June 4th is the highpoint of Pro and Anti Jubilee celebrations with other anti-monarchist organisations such as REPUBLIC encouraging its supporters to protest on this day. By the time you read this there will already have been the April 29th 'Choke On It' protest against the Queen, other living ex-Prime Ministers at a dinner given by Tony Blair at 6pm by the gates of Downing Street. As always with MA'M events bring your means of protest with you, including banners and whistles.

We cannot have a fair, decent and just society and still have some people who think they are kings and queens and the rest of us are their servants. So join in the anti-jubilee celebration and we may yet abolish the monarchy sooner rather than later.

To find out more contact MAM at guillotine66@hotmail.com or visit the website at <http://www.fuckthejubilee.com> or write to us at the MAM PO Box 14672, London E9 5UQ (please enclose a couple of stamps). If you don't like any of our events, then organise your own and if you want help promoting it, just let us know.

Don't Bankroll The Bastards

The governments desire to chip away even further at our pay and conditions makes it even more essential that trades unionists are not paying the political levy to Labour. If you are a member of a union affiliated to the TUC, it is quite likely you are. You have the right to opt out of the

political levy whilst still remaining a union member in good standing. Exercise it. You should be able to make all the arrangements you need by talking to your personnel department. There is also a form that can be printed off the Class War website at www.classwaruk.org

International Hospitalised Copper!



These two Buena's Aries beauties got bashed in last years rioting that brought the collapse of the Argentinean government. It seems that some of the things the anti-capitalists have been saying have been proved right, or at least as far as large sections of the Argentinean population are concerned. Either way we are glad to see so many people laying the blame where it deserves - at the hated political class in that country, and when they cannot be found at their lackeys - the police.



I Was Third In Line To The Throne But Then I Got High

Under age drinking, drug taking, wild parties at all hours. We blame the parents! The news of Prince Harry's antics were a reminder, once again, that the main centres of drug use in Britain are not areas like Easterhouse or Tottenham but in reality are areas like Eton and Tetbury. The only difference of course is that you are unlikely to get nicked taking drugs behind the walls of Prince Charles Tetbury mansion or in the grounds of Eton. Nobody in Harry's circle has been charged with any offences either, despite the fact that somebody will have been making some pretty serious dosh selling drugs to these wealthy parasites. Last

year Tom Parker-Bowles, son of the royal bit on the side and future Queen Camilla Parker Bowles, was exposed as a regular coke user. One law for them?



Harry and William with pal Guy Polly at Twickenham. Do you think they paid for their tickets?

Royal Travelcard

If you went into your local train station and offered to pay a tenth of the total cost of your ticket, you would be thrown out on your ear. If you are a member of the royal family however, things are somewhat different. Should you wish to travel any distance the RAF's 32 (Royal) Squadron



will fly royal parasites for a tenth of the actual cost. This perk was actually taken away from the royals in 1998, but has been restored, according to evidence given to the Commons public accounts committee. How many other of the 'concessions' the Queen has made to her critics in recent years have been restored in a similar way?

If They Had Brains They Would Be Dangerous!

Welcome to Class War's regular look at the greatest minds in British policing - the easiest column to write in the paper by some distance! Thanks to the readers who sent us clippings from their local papers - keep them coming to the London Class War address!

Lets start in the sunny climes of the Caribbean, where officers John Sutton and Cromwell Warrican joined former Chief Superintendent Phil Harding and Kingsley Labourde on a fishing trip with a difference. They were fishing off West Caicos when their ship sank following a burst water pump. Minus their boat, the sharks were soon circling and whilst Harding and Labourde were rescued by a Cuban tug, in some of the best entertainment since Jaws 1, 2 and 3 Sutton and Warrican provided a delicious main course of bacon for the Caribbean's undernourished class conscious sharks. Delicious!

Gloucestershire

One man who gets a little jittery and jumpy when a full moon is approaching is Sgt Jason Keates of Stroud police. Rather than recognise that many people enjoy nothing more than a few beers and a punch up with his officers because they are bunch of dickheads, Sgt Keates explains rowdy behaviour in the town as being due to a much higher force. A full moon. "When there's a full moon people go mad, I've noticed it before" What could possibly be mad about having a few drinks and wanting to smash Sgt Keates in the face? More seriously how long can it be until David Blunkett introduces a curfew on nights of the full moon?

Metropolitan Police

Under Sir John Stephens, the Met's media machine has never been as busy. Barely a day goes by without a Met sourced story appearing in the media demanding more resources, more officers, newer, bigger better and nastier weapons, new laws to arrest Londoners with. In fact one of the few things they never seem to have the time to get round to is actually policing. Take for example PC Andrew Quinn who joined the Met in 1991. He got the staple excuse of all skivers, the bad back, whilst doing his initial training. He was then sent to work at Belgravia police station on 'minimal duties' (minimal duties in the Met - a contradiction in terms!) but went off sick with stress. Ten years later he was still off sick, forcing The News of the World to describe him without a hint of irony as "the sickest copper in Britain". During his time off sick PC Quinn 'earned' £300,000 in wages. Nice work if you can get it!

British Transport Police

Staying with skiving, PC Christopher Parkin from Harpenden, Hertfordshire managed to have his cake and eat it. Spending his days with his wife, he would

spend his evenings with his mistress, telling his wife he was on duty as a Scotland Yard firearms expert. In reality he was off sick with ME. Unfortunately as with so many cops a real mixed up bastard lurks inside a real mixed up bastards exterior - Parkin's double life was exposed after he was arrested for pestering his mistress with phone calls, and he has been suspended from the BTP. It would be nice to report he had lost both his women due to his philandering - sadly he has not - his wife is standing by him. Behind every stupid man it seems, there is an even stupider woman!

Nottinghamshire

Congratulations to the Mansfield officers who had been issued with a £65,000 CCTV video camera, mounted on a tall mast on their van. A shame then that it was destroyed the first time officers had to drive under a low bridge. Lets hope the damages are taken out of their wages!

New York

Given the emotional outpourings of support they have received since September 11th, it would surely be impossible for the New York Police Department to be regarded as an oppressive force doing the bosses bidding against other groups of workers. Not so. In the eyes of many New York firefighters, the NYPD's new image lasted until 2nd November last year. Then the NYPD threatened to mace and baton charge firemen demonstrating against Mayor Guilani's decision to cut the numbers working at the World Trade Centre site looking for bodies. Five cops were hurt and ten firemen arrested in the clashes. 265 firemen died at the World Trade Centre.

Metropolitan Police

As usual its a strong showing in this competition from the Met! Our commiserations must go to PC Dan Lichters from Albany Street police station in Camden. Having once gained fame as the youngest policeman in Britain his career has taken a bit of a knock. Following the media's revelations of PC Lichters relationship with comic Michael Barrymore, Lichters has had his undercover career curtailed, and is now back in uniform. Lichters moaned to the Daily Mirror - "I was working on the robbery squad in plain clothes. It meant being out in an unmarked car, stopping robbery suspects. But being linked with Michael means the crooks around Camden and Kings Cross know who I

am. People recognise me all the time" Class War strongly condemns the residents of north London who have taken to shouting "Awight" at PC Lichters as he goes about his beat, and we regard those who have been encouraging him to use Michael Barrymore's swimming pool as having a very sick sense of humour indeed.

Our commiserations also go to Inspector Kerry Anderson and (ex) Chief Superintendent Kevin Pitt, whose attempts to cement Anglo-Lithuanian relations got somewhat misconstrued by both the media and Lithuanian police. Pitt, the district commander for Stockton-on-Tees, was part of a delegation from Cleveland police advising the Lithuanian authorities on anti-corruption investigations. Work hard play hard is clearly the motto in Stockton-on-Tees, as Lithuanian police found Pitt and Anderson, somewhat boisterously standing next to the Presidential Palace in Vilnius, with a large yellow puddle stretching from the palace wall to their wet shoes. Things took an even worse turn on the way to the nearest police station when according to the Lithuanian Police Commissioner "one of the Britons became ill and vomited in the police car." CCTV footage revealed what the Vilnius police commissioner described as "an outrageous deed, a humiliation of the office of the president" Pitt pleaded guilty and was fined £35. It proved to be the most expensive penny ever spent by a British police officer as he has been required to resign and the University of Teeside, Cleveland Police's partner in anti-corruption strategies dropped the force so as to keep up its own contracts in the Baltic state. The government of Lithuania has ended all contacts with Cleveland police. Britons holidaying in



Ex-chief superintendent Kevin Pitt - the man who pissed off the Lithuanians

Vilnius this year would be well advised to make it very clear that they do not come from Cleveland!

Normally the performance of Cleveland police would guarantee them a clear victory in Britain's stupidest police stakes, but the entertainment provided to Londoners, and users of the website urban75.com, ensure that there can only be one winner this issue - Commander Brian Paddick of the Metropolitan Police. There is perhaps a decent human being struggling to get out of 'Brian The Commander's' police uniform. By instigating the decriminalisation of soft drugs in Brixton, Paddick has at least attempted to adopt a sane approach to one of London's most pressing issues. Unfortunately you cannot reform a dinosaur like the Met, and Paddick has to have been naive beyond belief to think he could get away with posting on a radical website criticising his employer and debating the effects-good and bad-of his decisions with the people who pay his wages. The ensuing media frenzy at least



Anarchy may be attractive Brian, but you still look a twat in that uniform

delayed the media/police campaign against May Day, and has put the Scotland Yard press office at times firmly on the defensive. Seeing police officers briefing against each other is a sight for sore eyes - thank you Brian!

Big Brother Is On His Way

The little known Technical Committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) hope to get a new toy in a few years time. Richard Brunstrom, Chief Constable of North Wales and head of the ACPO Technical Committee reckons it will be only 5 years until face recognition technology will allow his force to catch speeding motorists. Currently this technology is supposedly being used to identify airline terrorists. As per usual what is supposedly protecting us from death and destruction today, will be used against us all tomorrow. Drive without out a seat belt, drop a cigarette butt, ride your bike with a faulty front light - big brother will arrest you.

At the moment the comprehensive database required - of every face in the UK - does not exist. But the gradual introduction of photographic driving licenses and Mr Blunkett's eventual introduction of identity cards, make it only a matter of time. Unless we do something about it.

A campaign against ID cards is a must. Another impressive act was in Kings Langley, Herts where vandals have devised a novel way of dealing with speed camera's. An old carpet placed over the camera, then set alight has been proved to incapacitate the camera. The question is do we stand up to Big Brother, or do we wait until they put security camera's in our living rooms to monitor our behaviour?

Elton John Launches Commemorative Queen Mum Single

Elton John is to rework Candle in the Wind for the Queen Mother. The new version will be as follows:

'Goodbye rancid hag,
Though you never worked at all
You had the cheek to drink for hours
Until you couldn't talk.
You'd crawl under the table
And you'd shout out to your crew
To spend our hard earned money
On a horse at 5 to 2.
And it seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Waxy, stiff and pointless
And you reeked of gin.
And I would have liked to meet you
To tell you this
Your sponging, parasitic life
It really took the piss.

World War 2 was tough
Though rationing, it passed you by
You had to manage with pheasant
And duck, and veal and pie.

And weren't you all at Windsor
When the Germans hit your place?
Still, at least you're able
To look the East-End in the face.

Goodbye rancid hag
From the man who's pleased to
see you go
If Maggie's due there with you soon
Perhaps you'll let us know

The Aftermath of Genoa and Anti-capitalist protest: The future

Some of the British people arrested at Genoa at the violent raid at the school on the Saturday after Carlo Giuliani was murdered by the Italian filth on the Friday have started their own campaign. In consultation with Amnesty and several lawyers, and after large amounts of press publicity here they are spreading information about what really happened and screened a very good video about the events in a large hall at a central London university. See www.genoajustice.org for more details.

Prior to the events in Genoa police attacked a large demonstration against the World Bank on 24th June 2001 in Barcelona. Witnesses claim that the police attacked the peaceful march with rubber bullets and batons for no reason, and proceeded to rout a huge crowd from the park with repeated charges.

Then of course it was last year's showpiece event at Genoa in July, with hundreds hospitalised and one dead protester, Carlo Giuliani who was shot by police. POLICE MURDERERS.

Later in the year Police attacked a peaceful march of 2000 in Canada on 19th November 2001. They stormed into the crowd trying to get their hands on a dozen peaceful youth in masks, and battered anybody who dared to speak out against the practice of throwing the youths onto the ground.

Of course these events have led to prolonged arguments over the nature of the Black Bloc, and the future of anti-capitalist globalisation practice. Purist anarchists like the Workers Solidarity Movement published a mostly boring and wrong in places critique of the Black Bloc. They said that the Black Bloc doesn't build anarchism on the ground (and they as 'meeting' bores can dominate us all) this is facile we think because many of us involved in Black Bloc type actions ARE also engaged in other and more long term work. As usual the bores can't see the popular dynamic that confrontation creates and sustains. If we were left to their boring tactics and presentation skills we would still be wandering the streets of some hamlet on the west coast of Ireland trying to build an anti capitalist movement of 'local people in our area'. Fair enough if that's what the WSM do, but we somehow suspect in 10 years time they will still be talking about it.

Black Bloc actions represent nobody but ourselves on these large international actions; it is not our job to protect people on the marches though we should have some responsibility towards our comrades on the march. However, we cannot be responsible for what the police will do, especially if you wander round the inside of a trashed bank after it's been smashed up by the Black Bloc... Common sense isn't it? People on the anti capitalist protests must realise that protest is not solely walking like sheep behind an SWP banner, it means being able to tactically asses what is going on at any demonstration. Where are the police moving to or concentrating their forces? The peaceful must also realise

that the police are amoral, they do what is effective for them, and if that means beating the helpless then that is what they will do.

The SWP, trying to claim the leadership of the anti-capitalist movement, naturally has to have a go at their 'competitors', the anarchists in the form of the Black Bloc. In the first Socialist Worker after Genoa they published a lot of shit, and this was followed up late last year by Alex Callinicos in International Socialism. In echoing a lot of supposedly anarchist critique, Alex finds another way of saying that the Black Bloc doesn't build socialism but this is simplistically assuming things about Black Bloc participants that is not true, for we are often engaged in other movements and some of us are trade unionists as well.

One of the more interesting articles to come out is "Genova and the Antiglobalization Movement" by George Caffentzis and anonymous Italian comrades. www.midnightnotes.org/pamphlet_genova.html

As the listing of police violence above starts to indicate, and as George shows, the international state violence shown there was agreed by the heads of state of the capitalist global command system, as the G8 can be accurately called. At least the Italian army, navy, air force, and police were moved into a state of war against demonstrators, and the massacres continued into the school and torture of the arrested in the prisons. Subsequent raids last year, new police brutality against peaceful people of the White Overalls in Jan 2002, and raids on Indymedia Italy in February 2002, throughout the length of Italy, are examples of the blatant repression on our movement (see www.indymedia.org) Its clear that the suspension of human rights was agreed in advance by heads of state, as Italy is a signatory of the Human Rights convention which is a prerequisite of EU membership. Not forgetting the 100 police raids with over 60 arrests in September 2001, where the police trashed computers as well. (Schnews Fri 21st Sept 2001) And they ask us to respect private property!

Clearly there is activity to be done where you live and work, but the world capitalist command and control organisations need to be protested against as well. The next big one is in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada. Chosen because supposedly they can protect it from protesters in a remote mountain region. Well here's news to the world leaders and their lackeys the police, experienced protesters and risk assessors have already cased the place and have spread around the news that the terrain is ideal for protesters and crappy for cops in large riot equipment, the road and forest are huge and it's vulnerable all along the way. Protesters will be setting up camp early so nobody will be able to sneak in, and their already is a rolling programme of events and training to prepare, starting 3 weeks before the summit itself officially commences on June 26th.

Wankers - Literally!

The recent rise of lap dancing clubs across the UK have given local councilors another opportunity to live it up at other people's expense. Councilors in Stockport, Greater Manchester and Wilmslow, Cheshire have used the licensing issues these clubs raise as an excuse for beans at our expense. Cllr David Owen, a Labour member of

Stockport council commented "We need to see a demonstration to make sure punters get value for money"

As Cllr Owen seems to be giving us a pretty clear demonstration that we are not getting value for money out of him, lets hope his constituents stay at home the next time he comes up for re-election.

Tightening The Noose

One of the characteristics of new Labour's domestic policies has been its ability to get away with far more direct attacks on working class people than the Tories ever did. In particular organisations like Liberty (formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties) have acted like rabbits trapped in car headlights, unable to comprehend that the powers of the state and its agents are increasing all around us.

One sinister aspect of this is the increasing number of joint operations-sometimes by as many as four government departments, usually aimed at people heading to or from work. Typically a roadblock is set up by the police, although the road signs are usually from a section of the Department of Transport, such as Vehicle Tax Licensing Inspectors. Making up the numbers -in the cases we are aware of- have been Benefits Agency Fraud Inspectors and immigration officials. The transport officials sometimes film proceedings, or take pictures of car tax discs or license plates. Targets tend to be people driving works vans (the fabled white van man) and cycle couriers.

Even 10 years ago such random harassing of people going about their business would have brought a storm of protest. In the whole of the debate about stop and search, the use of police officers to stop people going to and from work has not even been mentioned.

It is worth remembering that the inspectors present -rather like ticket inspectors on the bus or tube- have no powers of arrest. Often the only powers they have is the ability to blag and threaten you with an arrest they cannot legally make and the police are reluctant to make on their behalf.

We are aware of cycle couriers being asked repeatedly for their national insurance numbers. You do not have to give them this information, but you will risk arrest if you fail to give your name and address to a police officer. Tell all the other officials present "no comment" or "none of your business". They have no powers to arrest you. Cycle couriers can also assist each other by circulating information about these road blocks via their radios and mobile phones. Lets make the bastards work for every scrap of information.

On a similar topic, British Transport Police have taken to wondering around train stations in London and Manchester with sniffer dogs and approaching people traveling from A to B. If the dog smells drugs on you, or the officer claims the dog does (which is a lot more common) an arrest is made. Whilst the media focuses on the debate about the de-criminalisation of soft drugs and experiments in areas such as Lambeth, the reality of the BTP approach is more random policing, more harassment, more stop and search. Bastards.

CLASS WAR CONTACTS

E Mail	classwaruk@hotmail.com
Telephone	07092 170105
Website	Official website under construction, details to follow. In the meantime check www.tao.ca/~lemming/classwar for all the latest Class War news, views and bile.
Australia	Class War, Suite 20, Princess Highway Sydney 2224.
Cheshire CW	cheshire_cw@yahoo.com
Essex CW	BM Box 357 London WC1N 3XX
Europe	Class War Europe Postfach 160 127 33721 Bielefeld, Germany
Glasgow	glasgowcw@hotmail.com
Hunt Sabs	Class War Hunt Sabs PO Box 135 Basildon, Essex SS15 5SA
London CW (Also South & West Yorks temp contact)	PO Box 467 London E8 3QX

We also strongly recommend checking the following website - www.minersadvice.co.uk

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX



Fact Not Fiction

"You asked what books I'm currently reading? Just some fiction stuff from the library here because that's all they have. They don't want you to get too smart because you might not come back to prison in the future."

This quote, from US prisoner Randy Capps in a letter to Class War in February, illustrates the importance of providing material support to prisoners, both at home and abroad. Class War will provide whatever support we can to our prison contacts. We also recommend prisoners get in touch with London based Haven Books, who operate a free books to prisoners service. They can be contacted at **Haven Books, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3XX.**

Ray Gilbert

In December 1981 Ray Gilbert was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Twenty one years on, he's still inside - currently in the Close Supervision Centre at Woodhill. Ray refuses to admit his guilt and has fought his conviction and often enough the prison system itself - since the day he was sent down. Alongside John Kamara, Ray Gilbert was convicted of the murder of Liverpool bookie John Suffield. Ray was a mixed race kid from Toxteth, 22 years old, with a speech impediment, and a history of involvement in petty crime. There was no evidence against him at the time of his arrest. He was not picked out on an ID parade, there was no fingerprint evidence, no blood samples connected him to the crime. Until she was threatened with prosecution, Ray's girlfriend gave him an alibi. Ray was held for two days and two nights in custody without representation. Under pressure, he signed a confession. A renowned psychologist, Olive Tunstall, reviewing the confession, has said that the confession should be treated as unreliable on the basis of "Mr Gilbert's personal vulnerability at the time, and his youth, limited education, abnormal

personality, stammer...and a profound fear of being physically assaulted emanating from early childhood experiences." In his statement, Ray also implicated John Kamara. John served twenty years in prison until the Court of Appeal overturned his conviction. In setting the conviction aside, the Court of Appeal implied that at least part of Ray's confession must be untrue. Yet Ray Gilbert remains inside.

There is other evidence, ignored at the time, which points to Ray's innocence. John Suffield had bought a pint of milk and a newspaper and placed it on a shelf within the shop. This suggests that the prosecution claim that Ray and an accomplice waited outside for Suffield and then bundled him into the shop is wide of the mark, and that the killer or killers might have been in the shop when Suffield arrived to open up. Evidence that a customer had threatened to return to sort Suffield out the day before the murder was also not properly pursued. It did not help that Ray pleaded guilty, or that he made a similar admission in 1982, after his conviction, admitting guilt but exonerating John Kamara. Ray explains that he was under pressure while on remand and then while held in local jails after conviction, by the associates of the real murderer, to stick with his confession or put himself and his family at risk. From the moment he was able to escape the influence of these associates, Ray denied his guilt, and has done ever since, even though his refusal to admit guilt has meant that he's remained in jail for five years over his tariff.

Ray Gilbert has refused the easy option - he's fought for his innocence and refused to concede and inch to the prison system. He deserves our support.

Write to Ray Gilbert (H10111) at HMP Woodhill, Tattenhae Street, Milton Keynes MK4 4DA.

Write to Home Secretary David Blunkett raising your concern that the Parole Board refuses to release Ray Gilbert because he refuses to admit his guilt at Home Office, 50 Queen Annes Gate London SW1H 9AT

Write to Criminal Cases Review Commission, Alpha Tower, Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1TT, raising your concerns re the conviction and asking them to look at the new evidence, including Olive Tunstall's report, in Ray Gilbert's case.

Super Shelley Stops Sutton Censorship

Congratulations to prisoner John Shelley, who has scored a goal against HMP Full Sutton in York. John had been stopped from receiving material from Class War and Haven Distribution. However following a legal challenge Full Sutton conceded that such a ban would infringe prisoners rights to freedom of expression, which are protected by Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Class War urges any other prisoner being bugged around by the authorities to take a similar stance. Well done John and three cheers also to the Prisoners Advice Service for their work on the case!



Swedish Comrade Requires Support

Jonas Enander has just been given two years and 6 months for his part in the anti EU protests in Sweden last year. Letters to Jonas Enander, KVA, Aby-Funbo 755 97 Uppsala, Sweden. To contact the Gothernburg prisoner solidarity group e-mail: solidaritetsgruppen@hotmail.com

A Penal Third Way?

Its amazing how easily some people are fooled. David Blunkett's recent speech to the annual prison service conference had The Guardian pissing its pants with excitement over "a historic switch in penal policy", a "politically bold and admirable move" and a break with the "prison works" approach of Michael Howard and Jack Straw.

The cause of all this hysteria was Blunkett's announcement of a plan (the details of which remain unclear) to remove short-term prisoners from the prison system- a "third way" between community programmes and prison. Various ideas are apparently under consideration-intermittent custody (part community, part prison) a new intermediate sentence (special open prisons or hostels) or custody minus (a suspended sentence under which offenders complete a community

programme) The liberal over reaction was such that it was possible to wonder whether they'd listened to what Blunkett actually said.

In the run up to the 2001 general election the Home Office released a statement setting out New Labour's crime policy for the next term-Criminal Justice: The Way Ahead. Contained in it - alongside plans to scrap the double jeopardy rule, ban "aggressive" defence cross examination etc was a proposal for a scheme called "Custody to Work" whereby short term sentence prisoners would be expected to work in privately run prison workshops for prison wages as part of a "job training scheme" for employment on release. The Way Ahead moved from suggesting that poverty was a cause of crime to suggesting that the solution to crime was the imposition of the discipline of low paid labour on the working class. Blunkett's new proposals take the idea one step further. In his speech he states "I am interested in creating special open prisons and hostels which would deny liberty but allow offenders to work, to learn new skills."

In other words, far from being a "liberal" alternative to custody, the hostels and open prisons, the tagging schemes and weekend options transfer the site of imprisonment to within the community. The open prisons and hostels become modern day workhouses for the New Labour poor. The logic of "Custody to Work" has not been abandoned. Blunkett has recognised, with a prison population of 70,000 and rising - the majority women, boys, petty offenders and the mentally ill, that "prison is an expensive way of denying people liberty." The liberal left's excitement only goes to prove how far removed they are from the everyday life of those of us most likely to run the risk of jail. Part of the task of building a working class movement that does not just exist in the shadow of liberal reformism but represents the interests of the working class itself, has to be organising resistance to the expansion of prison labour Blunkett and co intend - whether in jails or in the new workhouses of the penal Third Way.

Martin Ward

Martin Ward died on remand at Woodhill prison on 19th February 2001. The inquest into his death ended on 15th February 2002 with a verdict of death by natural causes contributed to by neglect. The inquest revealed that an agency nurse visiting Martin found him hyperventilating, coughing up blood, and suffering from acute stomach pain. Despite this he was refused permission to see a doctor, and as a result did not receive the medical treatment that would have saved his life. There have been seven suspicious deaths at Woodhill in the last year. Our prisons are not just dumping grounds and cages for working class people, more and more frequently, they're becoming our graveyards as well. The Irish Deaths in Custody Campaign is calling for an independent public inquiry into Martin Ward's death. Contact them at PO Box 29644 London E2 8TS Tel: 07931 844969

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To advertise in Britain's best selling class struggle Anarchist publication, please contact London Class War. Rates are:

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

Diary Dates

Monday April 29th

6pm onwards

Movement Against the Monarchy call a demonstration against the 5 living current and ex-prime ministers who are having dinner with the Queen and Prince Philip at Downing Street. Lets be there to make a noise against them... Followed by a MA'M video at another location from 9pm onwards... call MA'M on 07931 301901

Tuesday 30th April

7pm

Why is Hackney up for sale? Come to an open meeting of the Hackney not for sale group. How the borough got into the mess its in and what are the alternatives for the future. @ the Old Fire Station, Brooke road, Stoke Newington, N16.

Tuesday 30th April

7pm

Robert King Wilkerson ex-Black Panther released in 2001 after 27 years in prison talks about the injustice of the Louisiana criminal justice system. Venue tbc. Call 07786716335 for details.

Wednesday 1st May

International Workers day. Actions include **9am** Solidarity demonstration with the Wombles at Horseferry Road magistrates court.

Midday Trade Union march from Clerkenwell Green. This year the unions have to put up with Globalise Resistance not us.

1pm Mayday in Mayfair - Be there or be square.

5pm Soho Carnival Parade. Assemble Old Compton Street, London, W1.

Friday 3rd May

11am

Prisoner resistance! Introduction to the UK Prison system, reform and revolt. Call 07786716335

Sat 4th May

Brockwell Park. Legalise Cannabis day in the Park. Look out for Commander Brian Paddick!

Sunday 5 May

1pm-5pm

Manchester Radical Bookfair. At Merci, Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Ancoats,

Manchester M4 7HR. Class War will have a stall - come over and get involved!

Sunday 5 May

Midday onwards

Loony Left Football tournament and Hackney not for sale picnic. Both kick off in Clissold Park from 12 noon onwards.

Monday May 6th

10am-5pm

Anarchist bookfayre The Exchange community centre, Sebbon Street, Islington, N1. Visit the Class War stall and many others.

Monday May 6th

6pm Class War show the Australian Class War video "Incitement to riot" followed by a discussion on how police tactics during public order situations have changed over the past few decades and news from Mayday. At the London Action resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate street, London, E1. Nearest tube Aldgate East or Whitechapel.

Sunday May 12th

7pm

Class War meeting at a prestigious central London location.

June 1st

Anti Royal Street party and parade in Kennington. MA'M parade the Guillotine to the venue and meet at the Brixton Ritzy at midday.

June 4th

10.30am

Anti Royal Street parade. Tower Hill 10.30am for the Execute the Queen festivities. Come dressed appropriately with drinks. Axes and guillotines welcome. Old crones should come with large amounts of knitting.

August

Great British Beer Festival. Contact the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) for details.

November 21st-22nd

NATO Summit, Prague. The first NATO summit to be held in the former Eastern Bloc. With George Bush topping the guest list a lively couple of days is expected! For more information contact: intersec@csaf.cz

Queen Mum- Good Riddance!

Hopefully your hangover has now subsided and the champagne stains have washed out of your trousers! Saturday March 30th finally saw the Queen Mum do the decent thing after a record 101 years of sponging off the British taxpayer, and what a party she started! Within hours of her death large numbers of Queen Mum Good Riddance stickers were being displayed in pubs and clubs across the country. Despite a well concerted media blackout they continued to go up in towns and cities across the UK. Well done to all concerned!

A special mention must go out to residents of Wareham in not so sleepy Dorset. After sycophantic Mayor Doreen Cleaton opened a book of condolence to the old bag, within two hours it had been filled with appropriate responses! "Fuck you shifface" and various other swear words that we agree with entirely!

The Class War on Mayday

At this time of the year we remember our movements dead and fight for the living. Four innocent anarchists were hung in Chicago fighting for the 8 hour day in 1887, and May the first became International Workers Day the whole world over. The Mayday struggle has become almost a ritualistic time for the police and media to gather names and faces and generally spread lies about the movement. This year we've got a political show trial not unlike the one in Chicago in the 19th century. Victory to the Wombles! With the Post office workers under threat this is also the time to show active solidarity and build an effective fightback on the industrial front. No Casualisation!!

Class War?

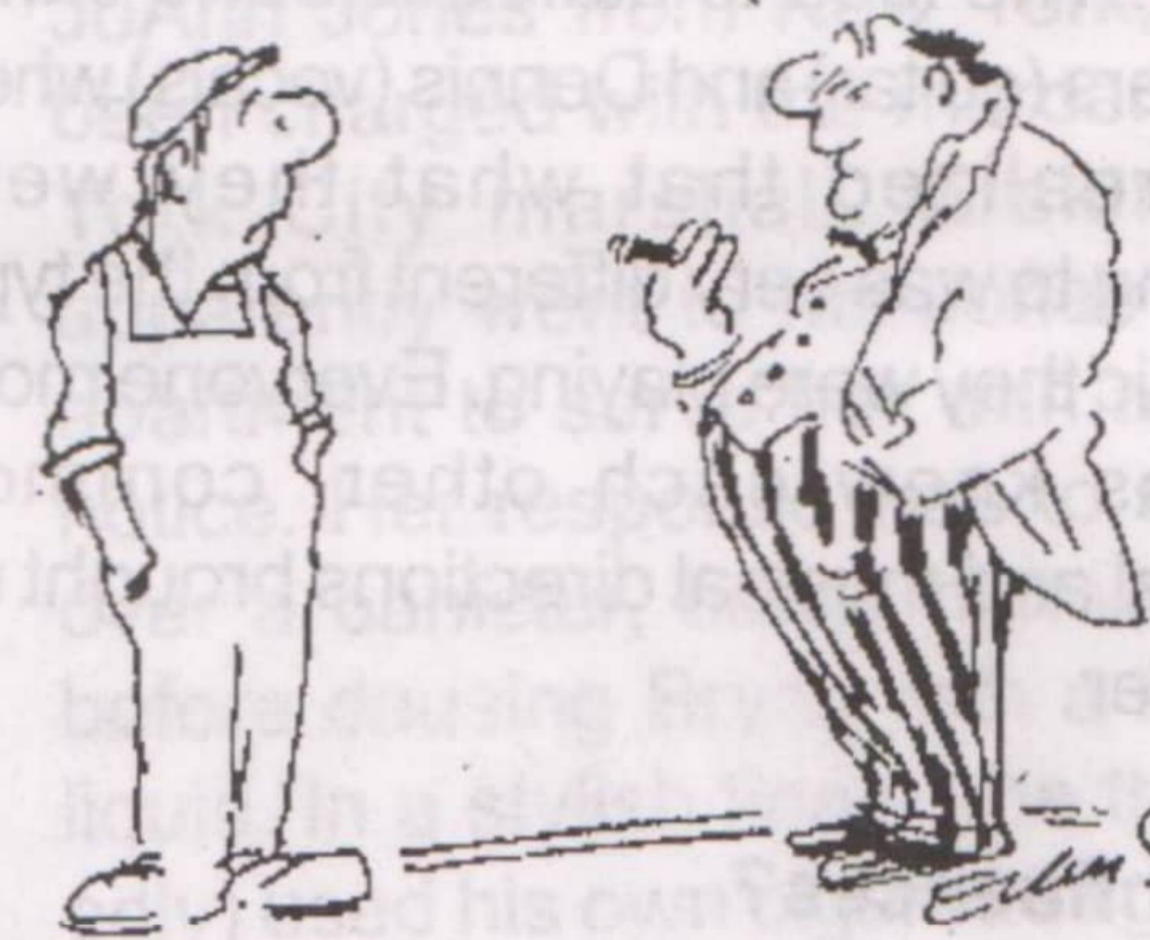
All in all this years African Nations Cup was a bit of a disappointment. Defensive football and tired players ensured the BBC coverage was often not worth staying up for. Spare a thought then for the pupils of Nyabonhase school in Kenya who rioted for two days after authorities refused to put a TV in their dining room. Allegedly led by a 9 year old they attacked the headmaster, poured petrol over him and were only prevented from setting him on fire by the intervention of armed police. What will they do if they miss any of the World Cup coverage in June?

Police and Thieves?

According to recent press reports, Hackney now has more shootings and stabbings than Soweto, once considered the most violent city on earth. Odd then that the Metropolitan Police can spare large numbers of officers in the borough to take pictures of people going in and out of a social centre. Most evenings The Radical Diary at 47 Kynaston Road, Stoke Newington is monitored by a team of uniformed officers, complete with cameraman. It has been raided twice. In a clear attempt to disrupt the centre's political activity its computer has been confiscated.

Local residents, who would be lucky to receive anything more than a crime number if mugged or burgled, have been appalled at both the scale and frequency of the police operation. All in all the Met have achieved only one thing in Kynaston Road - bringing local residents into the Dairy and into greater contact with those using it. It is probably as close to community policing as the Met are ever likely to get!

Oh, im the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers beer!



"Its great to see how the community can make a real difference to the place where they live."



Councillor Jules Pipe-Gotcha!

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Re-generation, Lord Falconer, whilst visiting a tree planting ceremony in Stoke Newington, London, in January. Unknown to Falconer one Hackney resident had indeed made a real difference earlier that day, hitting Hackney council leader Jules Pipe in the face with a pie she had baked for Falconer! Well done Agent Just Deserts!

Class War Small Ads

For Sale - A wheelchair, a pair of walking sticks and an unopened Easter egg. For more information contact Buckingham Palace on 020 7930 4832.

Wanted - Builders to remove old boiler from Windsor Castle. Must be CORGI registered. Please phone Windsor Castle on 01753 869898.

Mind Your Language

A translation of the "This Is Class War" column in this paper, and a translation of the subscription details are now available in Swedish. We hope to make Class War literature available in further languages over the next few years, with German, Greek, French and Vietnamese translations of the "This Is Class War" column in the pipeline.

We are also looking into the possibility of making Class War available on cassette tape at some stage in the future.

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The Class War Interview

The (International)

Noise Conspiracy



Class War recently hooked up with the Swedish hardcore band The (International) Noise Conspiracy. They took a break from touring and recording classics such as "Capitalism stole my virginity", to answer our stupid questions.

Class War: tell us a little about the groups history etc.

(International) Noise Conspiracy: we have all been active in bands in Sweden for several years, some better known than others. The idea to start this band came from Lars (guitar) and Dennis (vocals) when they realized that what they were listening to was very different from the type of music they were playing. Everyone more or less knew each other, common political and musical directions brought us together.

CW: Influences?

INC: Lots of different ones, eg the Clash, KRS 1, Emma Goldman, MC5, Dead Kennedys, EZLN, James Brown, the Intifada, Guy Debord, Billy Bragg, Karl Marx, the Stooges, The Who, Deep Purple, Slayer, The Last Poets, Durruti, Manic Street Preachers, K Foundation, Discharge, Public Enemy, Majakovsky, NWA, Napalm Death, Harry Cleaver, TLC, Gang of Four, Ebba Gron, Miss Elliot, The Jam, Noam Chomsky, Michel Foucault, Crass.

CW: Did you have any particular ambitions or goals when you started the band?

INC: We wanted to be the most physical and intellectual radical band in our time.

CW: Where do you stand on the political scale?

INC: We think the lyrics speak for themselves. As a rock band we have freedom to move between different ways of looking at and analyzing society. We obviously want to be associated as a band with radical left politics.

CW: Are any of the band active in particular organizations and how big is the Swedish anarchist/syndicalist movement?

INC: No-one in the band is a member of an organization but everyone is politically active. It is very hard to be active at home when we are touring for a large part of the year (as Class War went to press the INC were due to tour the UK) The Swedish anarchist movement is alive and well which is good. But it is small and powerless in the bigger political arena. The syndicalist union SAC is tiny with only 8,000 compared to the social democratic labour movement.

CW: What is the movement going through since the anti EU demonstration in Gothenburg, organized by several continental Anti-Fascist Action groups last year and what has been the reaction?

INC: Gothenburg brought a political awareness to a lot of people. What happened provoked a lot of people to take sides in the political arena. 25,000 people demonstrated against the European Union meeting, the visit of George Bush and the expansion of neo-liberalism. This resulted in rioting and the famous picture of a Swede being shot in the back by riot police. The mainstream media in Sweden for a long time only showed what happened through the eyes of the police and politicians but lately intelligent and critical views have been given some space (!) and criticism has emerged of those in charge.

CW: A Class War member in Germany saw you play there and thought you were superb, what did you think to the German gigs?

INC: Germany is one of those countries we always return to and play in. We are doing really well there at the moment, a lot of that is because the choice of local music is not that great. Everyone there says the best bands are coming out of Scandinavia and England at the moment. Germany appears to be turning into Europe's Japan. All the bands we know play to really enthusiastic audiences. Germany is the only country where you get criticised for not playing long enough when you have been rocking your arse off for more than an hour.

CW: What are your views on the Afghanistan/USA conflict and the so-called war on terrorism?

INC: The attack on the World Trade Centre was tragic, because the people that were there were workers, surely well paid workers but still workers. What the USA are trying to do, and manage quite well with in this war is to exterminate all traces of opposition and obliterate the fact that the WTC bombing happened for a reason. There are obvious reasons why people in the Arab world, Asia, Latin America (all over the world) hate and despise America and their foreign policy. America is ignoring these facts and are building yet another aircastle through

bombing Afghanistan's infrastructure and that is leading nowhere, just thousands of innocent people slaughtered.

And it works... We were touring America a few weeks after the attack at the WTC and the start of the 'war' and could see how it affected people there. If the yanks were nationalists before then that is nothing in comparison with what they are now. Everywhere there were signs saying things like 'In God we trust - united we stand'. And half the cars we passed had the American flag and stickers saying "Don't mess with the US" etc. Slogans that you would never get away with in England or Sweden. It was all horrifying and scary to see, but in the same time we also got the privilege to meet Americans that think in a different way and they have a rough time I can promise you. Its not easy when the two major news channels call the war against Afghanistan "the war between good and evil".

CW: If you could choose to tour with any band from any time and place who would that be?

INC: I was just reading the book about Motley Crue, "The Dirt". It seems like a lot of fun stuff happened on their 80's tours. It would have been fun to have been around back then. So I guess we go for them.

CW: Is fascism/nazism a big problem in Sweden these days?

INC: Organised fascism is going down- the biggest Swedish racist party has split

into two parts and will do very poorly in the coming autumn election. But the prejudice it feeds on is still there, they are represented on a few council's in the south of the country.

The anti-fascist movement has been quietening down a fair bit, but it still does a lot of preventative work and keeps itself well informed and updated on the nazi organizations.

CW: Anything else to add?

INC: Keep up the fight!

The (International) Noise Conspiracy have an English language website which can be viewed at

http://alt.digitalfarmers.com/tinc/english Those with posh computers will be able to download Mp3's of several tracks and view "The Reproduction of Death" video.

DISCOGRAPHY

7" The International Noise Conspiracy/ Separation Split
7" Plays Abolish Work
7" The Conspiracy
7" T.I.M.E.B.O.M.B
7" The Subversive Sound
CD The First Conspiracy
CD/LP Survival Sickness
CD/7" Smash It Up
CD/7" The Reproduction Of Death
CD/7" Capitalism Stole My Virginity
CD/LP A New Morning Changing Weather
CD/7" Up For Sale

Vibration White Finger

The DTI are still prattling about. By Christmas 2001 132,000 claims had been received. Only 17,000 have had final settlements. The DTI still refuse to conclude settlement figures and scales on the impact of the disease, and worse, are going nowhere with the problem. Most likely they are waiting to see the extent of the problem before they come forward with figures. In other words they have a pot of money or figure in mind and are waiting to see how many will be involved in the share out before they can work out any specifics.

Meanwhile specialist medicals are still log jammed with queues - it is

taking 12 months just to be seen. Against this background the government is to bring the shutters down on new claimants - September 2002 is the closing date for miners claims. At the time of writing there does not appear to be any deadline for workers in non-mining capacities.

Potential claimants - not just miners but any industrial workers are urged to contact:

The Miners Advice Centre, Emerson Avenue, Stainforth, Doncaster.
Tel: 01302 841 365.

The advice is free, without obligation and given by an expert in the field.

Doing The Business

Welcome to Class War's regular round up from the front line of direct action.

November 18th 2001 Stop The Bombing Anti-War March, Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square

The biggest march in London since the country bumpkins shuffled into town in 1998, crowd estimates varied from 100,000 (CND) anything from 20-50,000 (the media) and at the lower end of the scale to 36 people and a border collie (the Metropolitan Police). Size of course is no guarantee of quality and as well as the expected peaceniks and university lecturers there were some very, very mad mullahs indeed, one person even spotted Abu 'Wanker' Hamza of the Finsbury Park mosque, who famously lost both his hands whilst fighting for the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan. It is one thing to oppose George Bush bombing the towns and villages of the poorest nation on earth, another to be seen on the same side as people who make Ian Paisley look progressive. Pleasingly the collecting buckets waved by some of the most earnest looking Islamic organisations present were largely ignored, and the Anarchists present were able to give out a message of No War But The Class War that contrasted with the purely anti-American statements of the last century left.

This march was the first outing for our Carlsberg style banner 'Class War - Probably The Best War In The World'. Unfortunately somebody was so taken with the design they robbed it whilst we were holding a post march de-briefing session in a West End hostelry. A disappointing end to a somewhat mixed day.

December 13th-15th 2001 Resistance Is Sprouting - Demonstration against The European Summit in Brussels

Managed to get a cheap crossing on Wednesday night to get to Brussels on the Thursday morning. Just in time for a big trade Union demo, which was cack, they kept throwing firecrackers on the floor for no apparent reason which was a bit odd. Still beer was cheap, strong and plentiful, but it was a totally useless demo where zero of interest happened.

On the Friday morning went for a bit of a look around the city's historical sites and managed to be stood in the road when all the delegates were being shipped in by police escort in limo's, as there was only four of us somewhat hung over and tired flicking V signs and abuse was all we could muster, shameful really.....

The main demo was also disappointing very few of the demonstrators even considered ignoring the police approved route (despite no police in sight) meant we went no-where near the red zone. Some banks and a police station (sadly no gun store, people did check) got done as did a bunch of posh cars, all seemed a bit easy. Then we went back to the convergence centre - the police laid siege to the place, the use of water cannon was horrible as it was fucking freezing the whole time (-4C),

a bit of too and fro and they backed off, people left. We stayed until 10 then left, apparently at 10 past 10 the cops came back, beat up and nicked everyone who was left which was about 150. Bastards.

The Saturday was the Anarchist demo which was good. It started as only a few thousand, and the march went through a poor immigrant area of Brussels quite peacefully, then went into a posh area and people took out banks, posh shops and cars. When some posh twat started to complain that his Merc was being smashed up he got a volley of bricks - nice! Police seemed to be fucking pussys but in other parts of the demo there were some nickings and the use of water cannon was fucking vile. However considering the amount of Molotovs and other stuff they got thrown at them, the police barely seemed able to respond.

December 20th 2001 Picket Of The Home Office for Mark Barnsley

A freezing cold day and a disappointing turnout - we were only seven or eight strong. Still the presence of ourselves plus two shivering coppers was enlivened by the arrival of none other than the Home Secretary himself, David Blunkett. With the plain clothes cops in his Jag showing no inclination to get out, Blunkett was led through our picket on the arm of DCI Bryan Drew Head of Strategy at the National Criminal Intelligence Service, with the two uniformed cops having kittens at their lack of back up. We were able to give Blunkett a nice bit of stick, the third time he has been personally confronted by campaigners for Mark in less than a year. Having escorted Blunkett into the building, Drew, last seen briefing Donal Macintyre before his Macintyre Undercover 'investigation' into football hooliganism, came out again, presumably to get Blunkett's dog, which had been left in the Jag!

February 2nd 2002 Anti-Fascist Mobilisation, Bielefeld, Germany

This was to oppose a march by the fascist NPD, who were protesting against an art exhibition "The Crimes Of The Wehrmacht". Their route was set to follow one used by nazis in 1936, when Hitler aimed to build a mini-Nuremberg in Bielefeld with a 36,000 capacity stadium. We used mountain bikes to great effect early in the day to get some people away from the massive police operation. Along Am Langen Kampe residents displayed 'Nazis Raus' in their windows - Nazis Out. By mid morning pigs from Bonn, Bochum and Dusseldorf had arrived to help the strained resources of Bielfeld's constabulary, although they were still managing to keep on top of things. We had joined up with AJZ community group and people from a local cultural centre but found attempts to get through their lines were refused if 'you look like you are from the left spectrum'. Attempts by the AJZ group to steam the lines were repelled by

pepper spray, nasty, nasty stuff, a lot worse than CS.

The only option was to go round the city in small groups to find an opening in the police barricades. Success at last as a group of 8 NPD strolled past us. The last turned and we were able to have a toe to toe with them, but plod were soon on to us again. The cops had to be distracted if we were to get through and this was eventually done in spectacular fashion by basically 70 of the crowd running into the opposite direction and the numskulls followed. This too-ing and fro-ing went on for the best part of an hour, by which time the NPD had marched off home.

March 2nd 2002 Anti-Fascist Mobilisation, Bielefeld (again!)

Numbers were much smaller this time, with only about 450 NPD and 3000 anti-fascists on the streets. Leading Flash, Christian Worch, got a stone through his car window en-route. As before there was no chance at getting at the main group, although six strays were spotted. As we chased them one, who obviously had a pair of bollocks, turned to protest. Sorry mate, my fist slipped!

The police were particularly brutal, and fully earned the chants of 'Ich bin nichts, Ich kahn nichts, gibt min eine uniform - I am nothing, I can't do anything, give me a uniform'. They also used the kessei (kettle) tactic which many English Class War members are fully familiar with! As the Nazis passed our location everything to hand was thrown at them, including (I don't know how) human faeces! One cop, who attempted to take a beer bottle off a protestor was

hit with it, squealing in anguish. As the fash reached the station we were kept in the kettle, the police eventually charging the crowd that had been taking the piss out of them for a good 30 minutes. We linked arms, eventually forming a human barrier that was 5 deep.

In all 19 arrests -all anti-fascists- were made. Later that night a concert was held locally by the excellent Swedish band The (International) Noise Conspiracy and we were able to gather to discuss future tactics. Watch this space!

13th March 2002 Police Federation Demonstration, Westminster

When the filth came to London on 13 March, we were there to welcome them! About thirty anarchists (and the samba band!) made our presence felt outside the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, drowning out the poxy bagpipe band the cops had brought. Some inventive people had made artistic anti-police placards, and we showed the cops how to demonstrate, properly. Though they had the advantage in numbers (most of us have got proper jobs to go to!) our intelligence and hearty chants told. Unfortunately, Paddick didn't turn up to see the 'Anarchy is Attractive' banner, though 'May Day' Todd did. All round, an away win.

When it comes to doing the business however, we all have to doff our caps to JoAnn Jones from New York, who has been charged with the murder of a New York City marshall. Erskine Bryce apparently went to Ms Jones' Brooklyn apartment to serve her with an eviction notice. Her response was to shove him over a banister, batter him with a stick before dousing Bryce with a flammable liquid. In a stylish finale she then (allegedly) used his own cigarette lighter to set him on fire! Way to go Jo!



German anti-fascists doing the business

Out On The Streets

New Labour has a Stalinist obsession with figures and statistics. One area where the government has been persistently accused of fiddling its performance figures is that of measuring homelessness. So as to show that street homelessness is falling, many rough sleepers are simply not counted as being homeless. Another tactic is to encourage the homeless into (very) temporary accommodation whenever an audit of rough sleepers is due. When the audit is completed, and the figures are down, the rough sleepers return to the streets.

In Hackney, New Labour's policies

of privatisation have added to the problem. 109 families were evicted during the disastrous ITNet fiasco, where the payment of housing benefit was privatised. Whilst ITNets share price rose, families were evicted. The Hackney Independent Working Class Association is campaigning for all those evicted to be re-housed, and make the point that had middle class families lost their homes because of problems with a mortgage company, new Labour would not stand idly by. The Hackney IWCA can be contacted at Box 48, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS.

Royal Fail Announces Job Cuts

In 1996, the plot to privatise Royal Mail, masterminded by Michael Hesletine, the man who destroyed the mining industry, failed. It was referred to as 'a privatisation too far', by those Tory M.P.'s whose in-trays were overloaded by the blue rinsed country set who could see the village sub-post office closing down.

Tony Blair, of course walks where Thatcher feared to tread, Helped on by a £1 million donation from the Communication Workers Union, the Labour Party is pressing ahead with privatising all sections of the Post Office. Already gone are the Engineering Department and Quadrant, the catering arm. Now Labour sights are firmly set on letter and parcel deliveries. To achieve this, massive job cuts which will lead to a deterioration in services have been announced.

First to be singled out is Parcelforce. Separated from the rest of Royal Mail by the Tories as part of their privatisation plans, Parcelforce soon began to lose money and was left to wither on the vine. Rather than reintegrate parcel deliveries back with letter deliveries which would have made sense, Labour simply chose to carry on as if Parcelforce didn't exist and left it to run with a top heavy management who were out of touch with both employees and customers. This is shown in their aborted plan to attempt the delivery of parcels in inner city estates at evenings. Staff did not wish to deliver in poorly lit areas alone and customers did not wish to answer doors after dark to total strangers.

Now, 15,000 Parcelforce employees are to lose their jobs in what has been described as 'just the start, not the end' of redundancies within the Post Office Group.

All together, some 40,000 out of a workforce of 200,000 will lose their jobs.

Rank and file workers were not taken by surprise at the announcement. For many months now, Royal Mail's junior managers have been issuing warnings against those workers who have taken time off due to sickness or accidents on duty. There is the strong belief that the issuing of such warnings is now automatic and part of an overall plan to reduce staff levels without paying redundancy money.

Warnings have been issued to a postman in the North West after he was hospitalised with a case of meningitis and a post woman who had to have surgery for the removal of a breast lump.

Staff on long term sick (long term being defined as a period of three weeks for the purposes of Royal Mail) have been called in for interview and dismissed by sector managers. These have included staff who are off sick due to road traffic and other accidents sustained while in Royal Mail employment. Royal Mail employs it's own doctors and nurses who examine staff to determine their fitness for work. This is very much a case of 'who pays the piper calls the tune' as the Royal Mail doctor or nurse are often at odds with their N.H.S. counterparts in their findings. It goes without saying whose advice management listen to.

The only people who seem to be taken unawares by the announcement are the leadership of the C.W.U. On the very morning the job cuts became public news, the C.W.U. General Secretary, Billy Hayes stated to the news media that this should not be allowed to happen under a Labour Government. Hayes must have spent the last five years on a desert island to have missed Blair's agenda. Hayes is something of a Labour-left Lord Lucan. Since his election in a piss poor turn out of voters, he seems to have gone missing, leaving all public duties to his Blairite side-kick and defeated opponent, John Keggie. Billy Hayes, former militant from Merseyside and John Keggie from Red Clydeside, know which side their bread is buttered on. They signed a 'no strike' deal with Royal Mail towards the end of 2001. Publicly the deal is hailed as a success. Privately, both sides know that on any given day, unofficial industrial action will hit any part of the postal service. It is nothing unusual for two or three delivery offices to be on strike in London at a time.

These strikes are usually due to heavy handed junior managers who bully newer staff or as in one tragic case in the Midlands, harass black workers. This is well known to the C.W.U. who issue warnings against harassment in their journal, but seem reluctant to take any steps against the perpetrators. The strikes have been

seized on by the tabloid press as evidence of militancy within Royal Mail and of uncontrollable elements within the C.W.U. The latter is undoubtedly true. Left with no guidance from the C.W.U. workers have in many cases decided to take the fight to management themselves. There is little or no trust between local reps and those at branch level or above. Full time union representatives are seen as being aboard a gravy train and often seem more concerned with claiming expenses and grabbing overtime. The result is that rank and file staff act, and in many cases act with success, against the will of officials from the union.

Talk is of withholding payment of the political levy from Labour. The Socialist Alliance would like to get their hands on this cash so they can become 'New Old Labour' and continue to rule over us. The fact is that many members of the C.W.U. have taken the initiative themselves and contacted the union to cease making the contribution to the political levy. Once again, the rank and file are ahead of the game while the union bosses flounder.

The new Chairman of the Post Office is Allan Leighton. Recently brought in after a spell with Asda, he stated staff might like to consider taking no pay rise to help Royal Mail out of the hole it has dug itself. This from a man on twenty times the basic salary of a postman/woman and on far less hours a week. Leighton also sits on the board of Leeds United F.C. The same club which will have to sell off many of it's players in the close season to clear it's debts. Hardly an endorsement of business acumen there then. Leighton is in the mould of obnoxious 'here today, gone tomorrow' opportunists so favoured by Blair and who have brought the Post Office from 608.m a year profit, to 1.5m a day losses. The multi-million pound cock-up with the name change to the ridiculous 'Consignia' and back again has made management a laughing stock.

No one is held accountable for this state of affairs and the whereabouts of the missing millions remain a mystery. Balance this with the two year suspended dismissal a worker can expect for failing to get a special delivery letter signed for and it's easy to see why discontent is rife.

The Government solution has been to appoint Gregor McGregor as postal regulator. His recommendation is to turn over those parts of the postal service which still make cash to private firms who will pay only the minimum wage to a casual staff.

This will mean an end to second deliveries and the extension of first deliveries to four hours each, with mail being delivered later in the day.

Trolleys which can carry multiple bags of mail are being trialled. The hope of staff will no doubt be the provision of toilet facilities on the trolleys as the idea that workers might just not be able to cope with four hours of walking without needing a piss seems to have eluded the brains of the outfit.

All is not lost however. Billy Hayes has promised strike action if there are any compulsory redundancies. We wonder if this will resemble the 15 minute strike the C.W.U. ordered selected staff to take in support of the wage claim and carefully designed to cause least disruption to Royal Mail at the end of March.

Or possibly the anti-privatisation demonstration called at a time very few C.W.U. members could have made it and which became an excuse for a spot of Trot placard waving.

It will make no difference as workers will arrange their own opposition independently of the mob based in C.W.U. House, Wimbledon or indeed any other party political opportunists with their own agenda to impose their form of dictatorship on our class.

The message to Royal Mail bosses, union bosses, and the left-wing vampires should be "Fuck Off, Do one!" Loud and clear.

Where's The Money Gone?

Officially the purpose of government is to ensure the security and prosperity of the people. In the United States, each President is felt to be obliged to ensure that the current generation of Americans is more prosperous than the last. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have made it clear that a core aim of their government is the elimination of child poverty, albeit within the extremely distant target of twenty years.

British workers already work longer hours than our counterparts elsewhere in Europe. Now it seems that not only are we going to have to work longer hours, but that we are going to be expected to have far longer working lives. Both the Pensions Policy Institute and the TUC have warned that economic conditions, and the weak nature of state provision, will mean a longer working life for all of us. Many workers in their 20s and 30s will have to retire, not at 65 but at 72.

Given that New Labour insist that society is now more prosperous than ever before, we feel justified in asking exactly where the national insurance contributions and taxes paid, in the billions, have gone? Given the massive technological development in most workplaces in the past decade, how can we have to work for longer than we did in the era before internet, e mail, desk top publishing etc? The answer is of course that we are being screwed. We may be working harder, we may be working longer. But the profits created are going to a very small, very greedy group of men and women who want us to carry on toiling for them for as long as possible. Pensions might not be the sexiest of subjects, but to many young people the fate of your pension is the clearest example of just how capitalism, and capitalists are screwing us all.

If You Can't Stand The Heat

The news that Prince Edward has burnt his hand whilst cooking a steak comes as no surprise, following his aunt's famous inability to run a bath. What next for Britain's most useless family? Prince Charles drowns whilst trying to flush the toilet? Princess Anne chokes whilst putting on a blouse? We all know that upper class idiots cannot cope without the workers to run society, but the royals appear to be the only family who would actually starve to death without their servants!



Tory boy didn't privatize the Royal Mail

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Hard hitting debut novel by Class War founder Ian Bone.

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In The Hands Of The Enemy - Mark Barnsley's Struggle For Justice

£6

Published by Mark's campaign group, this book covers a brief history of Mark and the campaign for him, before various supporters write of their experiences campaigning for Mark and against the state. Includes articles by members of Cheshire and South Yorkshire Class War. Recommended.

Class War 2002 Anti-Jubilee Calendar

Lots of royal baiting alongside crucial anniversaries from working class history. If you liked our Y2K calendar, you will love this! Last few to clear at £2.

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10 Class War designs, envelopes provided. Ideal for your boss this Christmas. £1.50

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Videos

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Hard music and even harder action of community fightback from around the world. Produced by Australian Class War £6.00

And I Know Why I Stand Here!

Excellent video about the fans of the staunchly anti-fascist football club St Pauli. £5.00

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Notes From The Borderland

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Issue 4 of the magazine that takes a long hard look at the grubby world of politics and the secret state. Required reading for all serious anti-fascists. We will also have issue 5 when it becomes available.

Bash The Fash - Anti-Fascist Recollections 1984-93-K Bullstreet

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The first of a series of recollections from active anti-fascists.

Beaten Up Fitted Up Locked Up - Mark Barnsley and the Pomona Incident

£2

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A manifesto for the new millenium.

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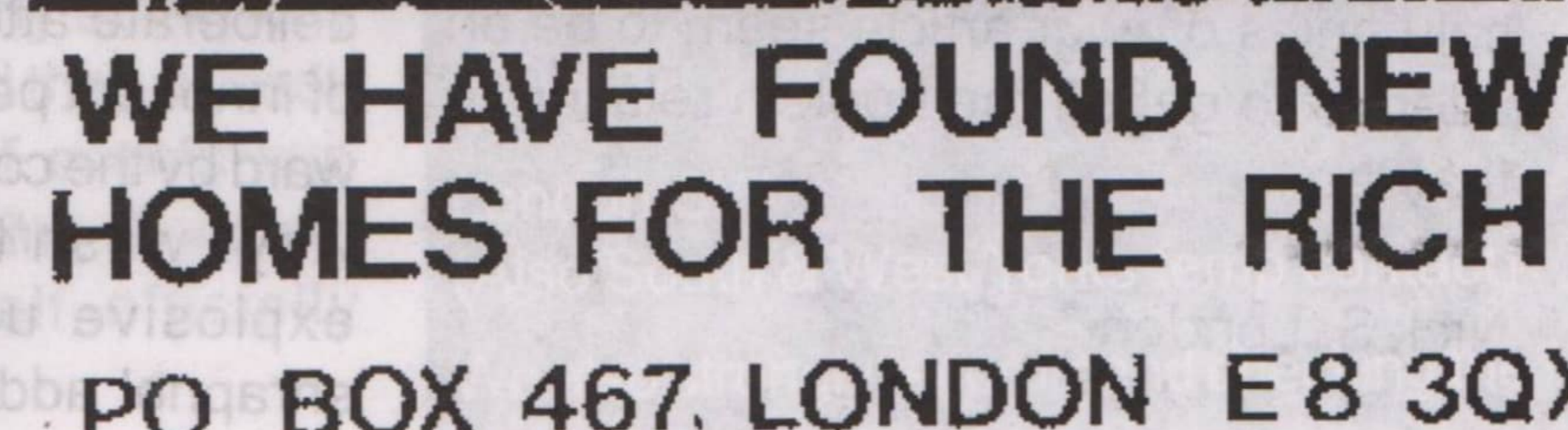
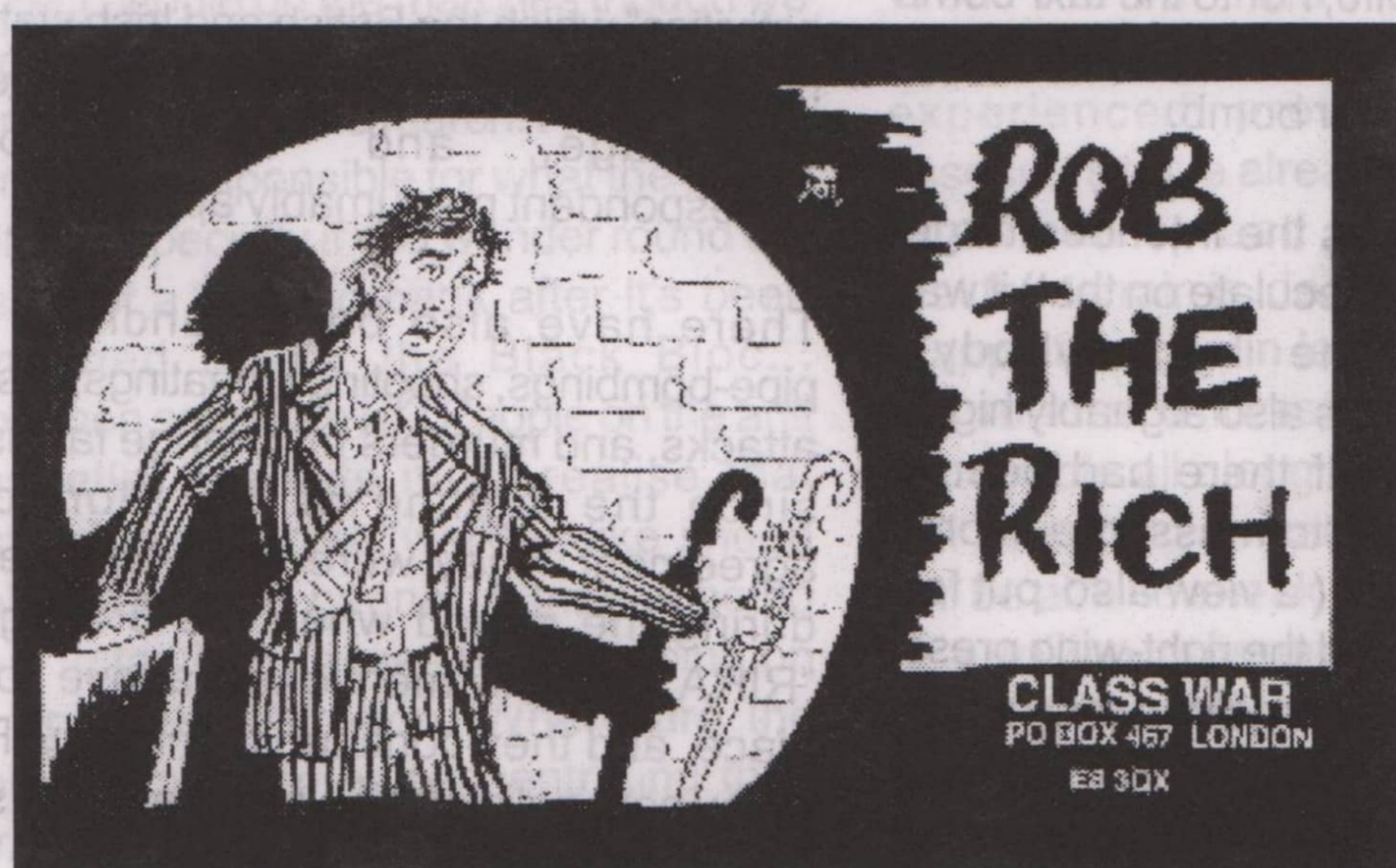
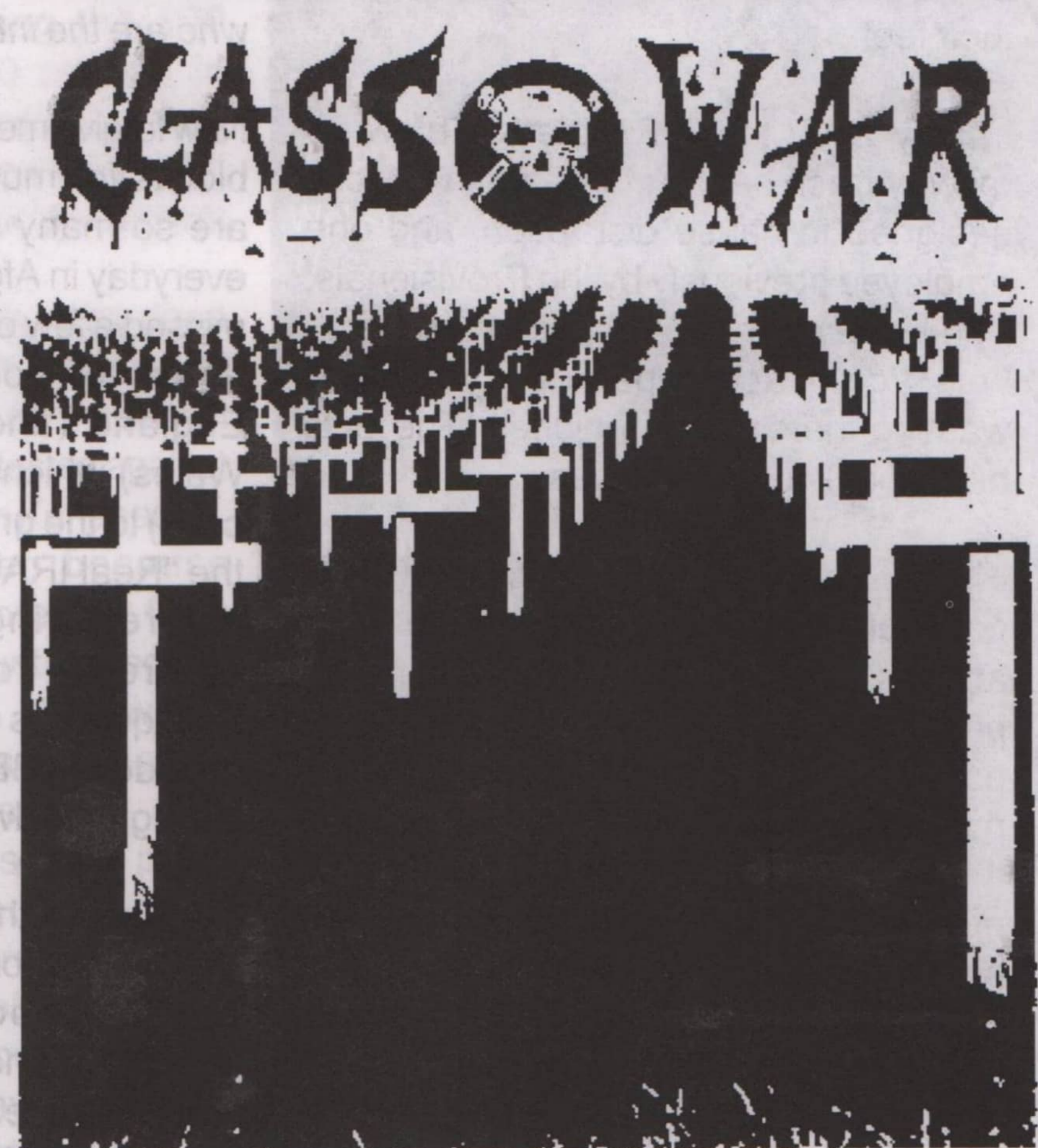
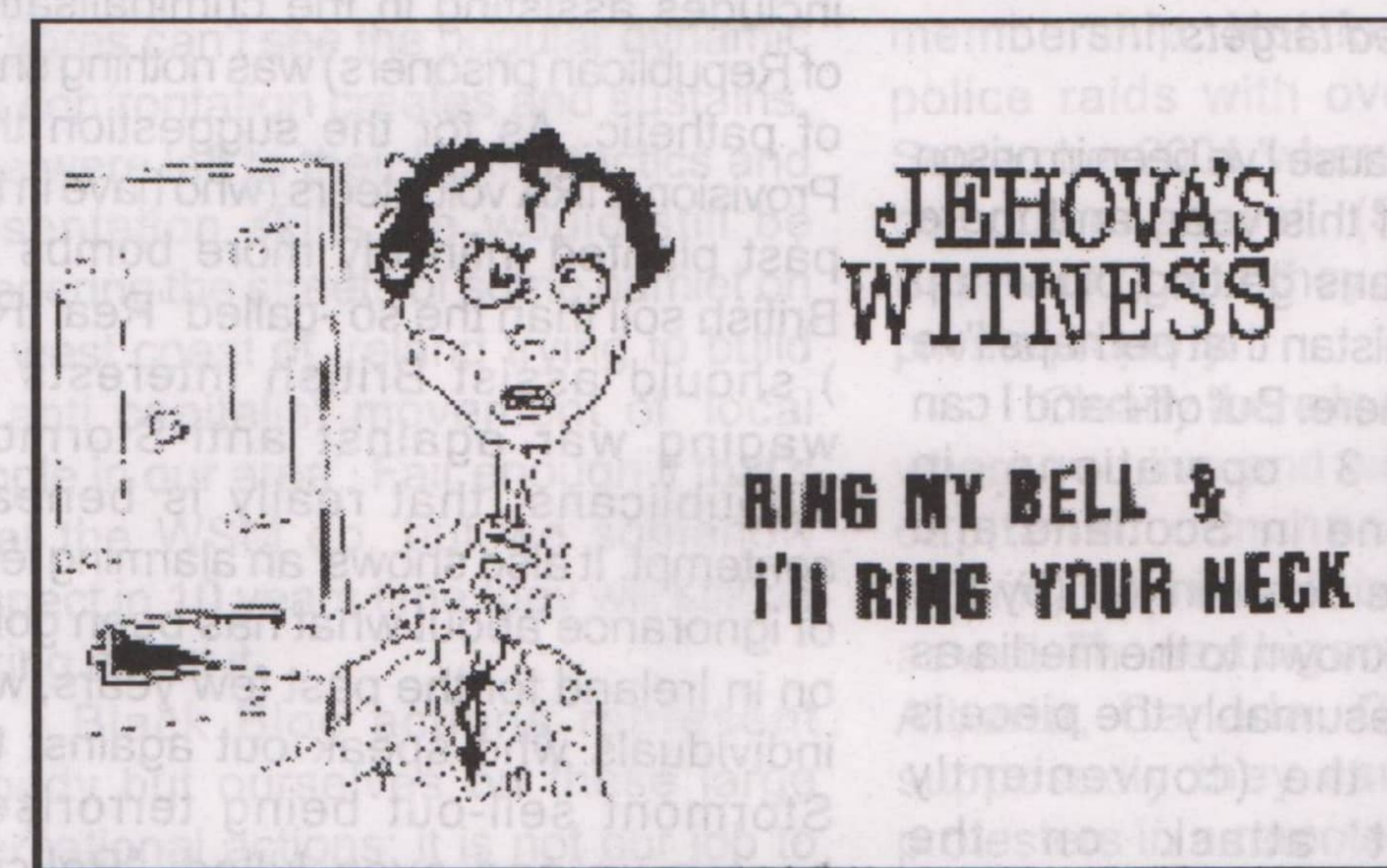
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LETTERS

WE PRINT 'EM COS YOU WRITE 'EM

Playing The Numbers Game

Comrades!

Cracking paper! A jolly good read! Quick point on the race article (Establishment Anti-Racism, Making Things Better or Worse, Class War 82) What's an ethnic minority? If ethnicity is culture and culture is day to day living, why the fuck am I in a different group to my black mates? We eat, work, dress, play, ruck, fuck and rave the same yet culturally I'm with the ethnic majority? Do what?

Culturally I have nothing in common with middle class farmers or the Oxbridge mob. If we are placing class over race lets not get sucked into the dividers and rulers warped way of thinking. Lets think about what we are saying.

How can 5 billion people of colour in a world of 6 billion be a minority? When it comes to class, our class we are almost 6 billion. The working class is the only culture I want to be associated with.

In for the long haul,

Paul.

CW Reply: The same here! The point to remember is that we unite on the basis of what we have in common - our shared class interest and background. Views that put race ahead of class have been dominant on the left - and across the political spectrum - for a generation. The events of 2001, with riots in several English cities and clear distrust between white and Asian communities in others show those politics have failed. The working class either unites and fights its corner, or it divides on racial grounds and fights amongst itself. Its that simple.

Our article on the Real IRA in Class War 82 provoked two critical letters.

Dear Class War

Your issue 82 contained an article "Bag Full of Bombs, Heart Full of Hate, Head Full of Shite" which purported to offer a critique of the Real IRA. The article accuses the Real IRA of "operating outside the struggle of the working class" and targeting "ordinary working class folk" in its bombing campaign in England. The article concludes that the Real IRA are "anti working class and reactionary."

It is legitimate to criticize the effectiveness of any tactic employed in pursuit of a progressive goal. It appears to us that it ought not to be legitimate to base such critique on accusations unsupported by facts. It is suggested that the Real IRA have no mandate. It is certainly the case that they have a base of support which sustains them and which agrees with their political analysis, buys the paper the Sovereign Nation which supports their aims, and provides recruits for the Real IRA itself. It is a fair bet that the base of that support is bigger than

Class War's. Since when did revolutionaries need the consent of the majority of any constituency however defined in order to pursue a political goal? The idea of political action is to:

- 1) target a defined enemy and
- 2) to act as a "propaganda of the deed" in pursuit of the goals of the organisation concerned.

The Real IRA do not claim to have the support of a majority of nationalists. They do have a critique of the peace process - it is set down in the pages of Sovereign Nation - it is odd that that critique is neither mentioned nor analysed in your article. Given the Six Counties remain under British rule, given that both Loyalist and RUC attacks on the nationalist community continue night after night, given the issues raised by the process of demilitarisation - it ought at least to be accepted that a critique of the peace process is possible, and any response to the 32 County Sovereignty Committee and the Real IRA be based on that ground.

As far as deliberately targeting the working class is concerned, it's bullshit. The Omagh bomb - wherein a clear warning was given- has the fingerprints of the state all over it. The RIRA 's activities in England have included the rocket attack on MI6 HQ, 2 small bombs in Hendon - no injuries, the BBC bomb in Shepherds Bush, clearly intended as "spectaculars" - no risk to the public so far as we can see: a bomb at Hammersmith Bridge intended to cause maximum disruption, but again, no obvious risk to the public, and the Ealing bomb-wherein:

- 1) a warning was given and
- 2) the explosive content of the device was such that CCTV pictures showed passers by yards from the blast who remained on their feet.

In July 2000 the RIRA tried to blow up railway track near Acton - again a tactic designed to cause disruption, and one employed previously by the Provisionals. The November 2001 Birmingham bomb was again accompanied by a clear warning-there were no injuries. The facts here speak for themselves.

Finally your article asks the PIRA to come off cease fire to wipe out the RIRA and its supporters. If this weren't so pathetic it would be a disgrace. Macho posturing from an organisation unable to pursue such an agenda itself. The fact is the Real IRA have a number of prisoners now in British and Irish jails, denied political status and subject to harassment and oppression. Even if you disagree with their strategy, it seems to us you have an obligation to support their prisoners. The calumnies of your article seem to be an attempt to get off the hook in relation to that fact.

Nick S, London.

Dear Comrades

Was issue 82 the "Anti-Terrorism" issue or something ("The Real IRA- Bag Full of Bombs, Heart Full of Hate, Head Full of Shite")? Very topical.

Class War has rarely had anything coherent to say about British imperialism in Ireland and the armed response to this and Orange fascism in the Six Counties, least of all in the days when "uncritical and unconditional support" for the Provisional IRA was the prevailing (if unofficial) CW party-line. Therefore it is doubly regrettable that an opportunity to mount a critical analysis of the prevailing situation (including the politics and tactics of Ogligh na h Eirean-the so-called "Real IRA") should be so carelessly squandered. The piece published last issue was disgraceful, not least because of its abandonment of accuracy in favour of smear and insult. Let's at least try to stick to the facts. Despite a combination of fleetingly half-sound analysis and a lot of distorted rubbish used to shore up the evident lack of research and understanding that had gone into the piece, its central premise was fundamentally flawed. Whatever criticisms we as anarchists may have of the so-called "Real IRA", to say that they are deliberately targeting and seeking to kill British civilians is palpable nonsense. Omagh was an atrocity, and despite the evident state collusion that allowed it to happen there can be no excuses given by those involved in carrying it out (nor have I heard any given.) But despite the cross-referencing, the piece was not essentially about Omagh, specifically referring to an "intention to massacre scores of innocent people"-working class people in England, Scotland, and Wales". The impression given by the piece is of a widespread bombing campaign systematically targeting British civilians - "it is the ordinary persons in the street who are the intended targets."

Now forgive me, because I've been in prison blocks for much of this year, and there are so many civilians getting blown up everyday in Afghanistan that perhaps I've missed a few over here. But off-hand I can think of only 3 operations in England (and none in Scotland and Wales) which have been linked (by the cops) to the group known to the media as the "Real IRA". Presumably the piece is not referring to the (conveniently ignored) rocket attack on the headquarters of MI6, nor to the taxi-bomb outside the BBC. So that only leaves the Ealing Broadway car bomb.

Certainly, if this was the intended target (and we can only speculate on that) it was a very poor one by anybody's standards, and it was also arguably highly irresponsible. But if there had been a deliberate attempt "to massacre scores of innocent people" (a view also put forward by the cops and the right-wing press) why wasn't a larger amount of explosive used, why was no extra shrapnel added, why was an accurate

warning given, and why was the car parked on the zigzag lines of a pedestrian crossing with the hazard warning lights on? When you look at the true events surrounding the Ealing bomb (including police attempts to cause civilian fatalities) it is little wonder that the mainstream media coverage quickly dissipated. Let's also not forget that not only has responsibility for the bombing never been claimed, but nobody has been arrested in connection with it. So any attempt to link it to the so-called "Real IRA" is currently nothing more than speculation.

The right of Irish men and women to resist the imperialist occupation of their country is surely (for revolutionaries) unassailable. To suggest without basis, that those who reserve the right to resist occupation are somehow, intrinsically "right-wing" is not only disgraceful, it is plainly ridiculous, and shows a fundamental ignorance of the politics of the situation (if not of politics in general.) It is also a slur on Irish revolutionaries who are at the sharp end of repression by the British and Irish states (where a growing number are "interned" merely for alleged membership of a proscribed organisation.) It is not long since you were sending CW to at least one serving Ogligh na hEirean POW.

Possibly even worse than the "fascist" slur (which CW has all too often fallen victim to itself, along with regular accusations of the fetishization of violence) is the characterisation of those still committed to armed resistance (or at least reserving the right to engage in it) as mere "psychopaths" and "escapees from some mental institution." This is little different to the racist smears used to falsely characterise the Irish people and the Irish freedom struggle for centuries, and it is a shameful argument to use. Margaret Thatcher may have attempted to publicly deny the political motivation of Republican volunteers, but even she did not try to claim that the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland was nothing more than some form of mental illness.

There is much that could be said in CW about the Irish struggle, and about the politics of armed struggle in general, but you really need to be able to do better than this. The vacuous analysis of the Stormont sell-out and the decision of Sinn-Fein to administer British rule in 6 of the 32 counties of Ireland (which includes assisting in the criminalisation of Republican prisoners) was nothing short of pathetic. As for the suggestion that Provisional IRA volunteers (who have in the past planted infinitely more bombs on British soil than the so-called "Real IRA") should assist British interests by waging war against anti-Stormont Republicans, that really is beneath contempt. It also shows an alarming level of ignorance about what has been going on in Ireland for the past few years, with individuals who speak out against the Stormont sell-out being terrorised, beaten-up and even killed. "Policing activities" which the British and Irish states have been glad to ignore, if not actively encourage, and which your correspondent presumably applauds.

There have also been hundreds of pipe-bombings, shootings, beatings, arson attacks, and murders by Orange fascists since the signing of the Stormont agreement. They were still widespread during the period when the 3 alleged "RIRA" attacks mentioned above took place, and they continue to this day. For many nationalists, the war in Ireland is still

a daily reality. Yet your piece mentioned none of this, presenting a false image, and thus removing the context of armed resistance.

The first casualty of war may indeed be the truth (closely followed by some poor souls in the Third World usually) But truth shouldn't be a casualty of "Class War."

By all means necessary
Always in struggle
Mark Barnsley
31 October 2001
Whitemoor Prison, England.

CW Reply: The piece you criticize was obviously not intended as a heavy theoretical and historical analysis. It was a short response to what we see as unprincipled and undisciplined attacks on working class areas. We currently sell, and published, Dave Douglass' book "All Power To The Imagination" which to some extent represents the theoretical background to our critique of the Real IRA and its devil may care attitude.

That is not to say we have not made thorough analyses in the past - in our former theoretical magazine (*The Heavy Stuff Issue 5*) our position in solidarity with the then Provisional IRA campaign was quite unequivocal. That support came at a time and in a context of the nationalist communities of the six counties fighting an all out war. As a class and as an oppressed nationality, against the British state, its soldiers and the loyalist death squads. In the face of bitter repression by the state, through murder and internment without trial, the bombing campaign against the British mainland was initiated. That bombing was part of the context of the overall struggle which people of both islands could see. Although we had reservations about the dangers of innocent civilians lives being lost, and harsh criticism of the more thoughtless and irresponsible bombings, overall we recognize it was part of a mass armed uprising.

None of this is in any way comparable to the Real IRA, who do not as you appear to suggest represent the continuing struggle of Irish freedom fighters. As you correctly state violence against the nationalist community continues. Pipe bombs, murder, even pickets of children going to school. Has the Real IRA defended this community? Has it been engaging in attacking the loyalist paramilitaries behind these attacks? No it has not. The loyalist proto fascists were not on Hammersmith Bridge, they were not in the BBC car park at Shepherd's Bush but that's where the Real IRA decided to carry out its attacks. Omagh, targeted by the Real IRA in its most infamous attack, actually had a Sinn Fein majority on its council at the time.

We believe in mass class action, not some armed adventure by a few individuals without any mandate from the community they claim to represent. If you cannot see that planting a car bomb in Birmingham or Ealing is more than likely to blow up and kill passers by (yes, even if it has got its lights flashing) and the outcome be used to whip up anti-Irish feeling and political reaction you really do need your political eyes testing. The state may well have its fingerprints "all over" the Omagh bombing, but our outrage was based on the fact that the harsh lessons of Omagh have not been learned. A pile of bodies on a pavement in England is not going to deter loonies throwing pipe bombs at Catholics across

the water, unless you somehow reason its getting your own back, as if working class people in Ealing or Birmingham are responsible for what the British state does in Ireland.

A fuller version of this reply is available on our website. Those who wish to continue the discussion can do so on the discussion board at www.classwaruk.org

Crippled?

Dear Comrades,

Whether you are for or against what the Americans are doing in Afghanistan, one thing that is certainly controversial is the damage caused by weapons of mass destruction. In Serbia the Allies deliberately destroyed bridges and vital services. This was a deliberate act to deprive Serbia of a viable infrastructure and industrial base. The same is now being perpetrated (or was) against Afghanistan. Whoever gains political ascendancy over the ruins will have to deal with US destruction of the infrastructure.

This destruction is a deliberate ploy to render Afghanistan crippled for the foreseeable future, such is US hatred for any nation which dares to oppose its programme of world domination. This is true of its campaigns against Iraq, North Korea and in south east Asia.

Yours,

A Scottish Comrade.

CW Reply: You could actually take your analysis further back to the 1940s, and how after destroying much of Germany and Japan, the Americans financed the re-development of those countries, on their terms. Their aim is always to win the peace, even if they do not always win the war. As a final point though, the Afghans have at times done a pretty good job of destroying their own infrastructure in the past 20 years!

Stool Pigeon?

Dear Comrades,

I have just learned some information I would like to share with you. Watching Crimewatch there has been an inside view of a police cell. One surprising trick is that the inmate gets his/her shit analysed if the police think they have swallowed any important evidence. How do they do this?

The inmate does not know that everything flushed down the toilet goes to a special transparent container located in the basement. Once there, with a pair of gloves the pigs can examine the evidence.

Yours,

Anon, postmark obscure.

CW Reply: Just goes to show that policing really is a shit job!



THIS IS CLASS WAR!

The Class War Federation is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to change the Society we live in, to improve the lot of working class people.

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

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

It is not about becoming better treated slaves but masters of our destiny. Direct action is necessary against the individuals and institutions who stand in the way of this. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the Class War

- not as elitist terrorists but as an integrated part of the Class - they started it, we'll have to finish it!

Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling Class often use these to divide our class. We must unite on the basis of we have in common our Working Class backgrounds and needs.

The Class must fight these divisions, on all fronts. Above all the CWF believes that politics cannot be separated from life - and life from politics. We reject the missionary/ righteous so called "revolutionary" Left. Our politics must be fulfilling and relevant to our every day lives.

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

OUR AIM

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

Join Class War!

Class War membership costs £12 per calendar year (£6 unwaged) and is open to anybody who agrees with our politics and has been in touch with their local Class War group for 3 months. Drop us a line to get involved!

Discussion Page

The Class War website now has a lively discussion page, where you can find handbags at six paces on a whole range of issues. Just click on the heading "discussion board" and scroll down to the bottom of the page.



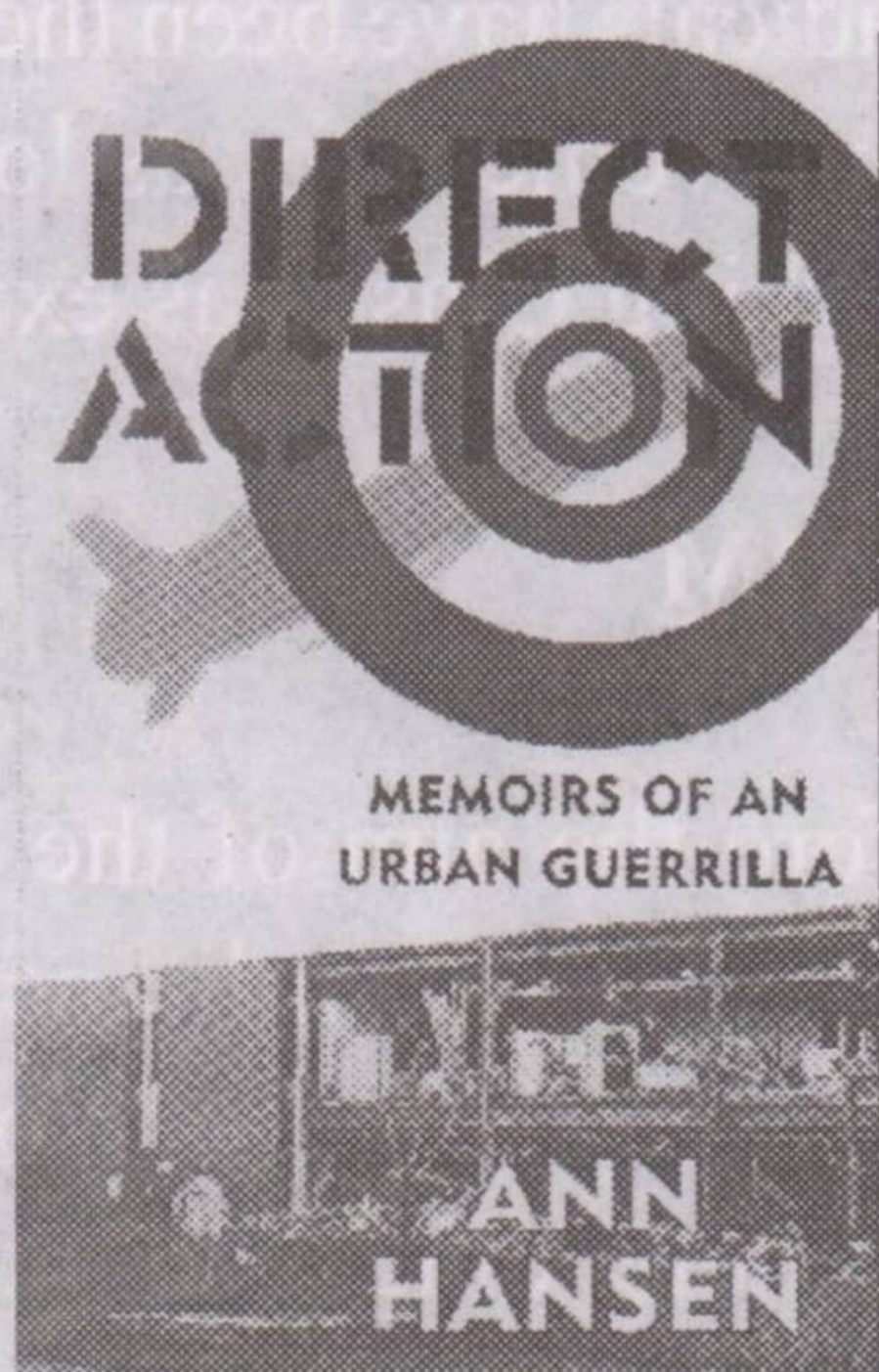
BOOK REVIEWS

Direct Action - Memoirs Of An Urban Guerilla

Ann Hansen
AK Press/Between The Lines £10

Ann Hansen was one of the five members of a group, Direct Action, who emerged from the Canadian Anarchist movement in the early 1980s. They carried out two major bomb attacks - against the Cheekeye-Dunsmuir power station on Vancouver Island and the Litton Systems factory in Toronto, where guidance systems for cruise missiles were made.

Hansen's book is written in part in the style of a novel giving dialogue and actions to characters based on her own reminiscences and insight into the police and security services investigation against her and Direct Action. The book certainly manages to be a much better read than DAs communiqués which managed to be both moralistic and as dull as ditchwater. Its strengths include Hansen's brutal honesty and the detailed re-creation of the groups actions from shoplifting to car thefts, graduating to armed robbery and bombings. The character of the other members of the group emerge as Hansen illustrates the internal dynamics of an organisation of just five people fighting, in splendid isolation, the Canadian state.



The book illustrates, again, the weaknesses of both the North American left and the limitations of "terrorist" campaigns. The name and actions of an associate group - the Wimmin's Fire Brigade, who attacked sex shops, reads like some bad piss take of feminists in *Private Eye*, whilst it is clear that a small group of people cannot blow up the social relationships of society, especially if they distance themselves from the rest of that society. Worse still class rarely warrants a detailed mention.

In bombing Litton Systems, DA injured 8 people, 4 seriously. Their bomb exploded prematurely after security guards failed to fully understand a telephone warning and

police officers dithered over evacuating the factory. In their communiqué after the bombing DA laughingly commented

"We did not expect this kind of slow and indecisive response from the authorities."

If you place your political credibility - and more importantly people's lives - in the hands of security guards and police officers (neither the sharpest set of tools in the box) you run the risk of public criticism and personal guilt that DA admitted to the court upon conviction. They were big enough to recognise this, and it is important that others do.

In her final paragraphs, Hansen reaches many conclusions on tactics that Class War would sympathise with and her (brief) comments on this also have relevance to the debate on the Black Bloc that raged after last years demonstration in Genoa. If Hansen has a message it is that being passive is to be fought against at all costs. On that we agree with her.



White Riot

Nick Lowles
Milo Books £7.99

The cover of this book tells us all we need to know about the would be paramilitaries of Combat 18. Of the two nazis posing on the cover, one is pointing a gun at his comrade. The other seems to have severe difficulty in doing up his trousers. If these are the people that are going to "save" the white race, it really is time to go down the pub and give up.

Given that Lowles' Searchlight organisation promoted C18 so assiduously in documentaries on three separate television channels in the 1990s, a sober assessment of C18 was always unlikely. For some reason Lowles seems determined to give the impression that C18 fuehrer Wilf Browning is a really nice bloke (we hope they are paying you well Wilf) and the role of militant anti-fascists in undermining and hurting C18 is, as usual with Searchlight, completely under-reported and devalued. C18 were humiliated in London in January 1994 when nazis traveling for their memorial gig for Ian Stewart Donaldson were routed by Anti-Fascist Action. Both before, and especially after this incident C18s violence, although unpleasant, was usually confined to soft targets like the Anti-Nazi League or SWP.

One area the fash appear to have been leagues ahead of their opponents is in the money making stakes. Well

organised gigs, T shirt sales and professional CD production appear to have brought in vast sums of money to their movement. There are lessons to be learned here for progressive organisations, although hopefully they will not stick as much of it up their noses as C18 did!

For Class War however, the significance of the book also comes in what it does NOT say. In the early days of C18 Searchlight accused former Class War member Tim Scargill of passing information to C18. They also made similar allegations against two people known to many Class War members - Larry O'Hara and Malcolm Astells. Searchlight even told the *New Statesman* that the C18 attack on the anarchist Freedom Bookshop in Whitechapel could have been committed by Class War. None of these allegations are repeated or even alluded to. This obviously begs the questions did Searchlight ever believe their own claims in the first place? If not why make them?

Another interesting oversight is the failure to mention Leeds Nazi Tony White, who stole an address book from the Northern Star offices in Leeds. This gave C18 access to a long list of names, addresses and phone numbers of trades unionists, socialists and anti-fascists. Whilst his actions are referred to on a couple of occasions White himself is not named, even though he is again active in the far-right, this time with the National Front. The difficulty for Lowles of course is that many on the far-right - and many in the anti-fascist movement - believe White is, or was working for Searchlight. Now that would be a story worthy of a Panorama documentary, somehow we don't think Lowles will be making it!

Minus 1 skull out of five!

The Essential Ewan MacColl Songbook: Sixty Years Of Songmaking

The Peggy Seeger Songbook: Forty Years Of Songmaking

Pub Oak Publications, £22.95 each

Between the two of them these singer-revolutionaries notched up 100 years of struggle and celebration of life, labour and love in song. Ewan was a voice for three generations of working class socialists, perhaps best illustrated by three songs from different periods all of them hits in every sense of popularity and popular consumption. The Manchester Rambler (1932) Dirty Old Town (1949) and The First Time Ever (1957) Over the years many bands and singers dipped into Ewan's work - The Dubliners, The Pogues and even Elvis, although whether he knew he was singing from the work of a Scottish Communist is not known.

Together with progressive producers, singers and working class activists Ewan and Peggy developed a new art form in the shape of the radio ballad. It reached millions, was inspired by work and struggle and glorified the lives of working people and those outside the mainstream of society. It was the cornerstone of the

folk song revival of the 1960s and 70s and saved countless songs from extinction.

Virtually every activist, radical trespasser, union militant and class warrior will have come across Ewan's work. This book reflects these decades of bitter and optimistic struggle. It is compiled and annotated by Peggy Seeger, with a foreword by her brother Pete. These books are extraordinarily comprehensive and filled with illustrations and the music to accompany the songs.

Peggy Seeger was a comrade, lover and co-singer of 30 years, as well as making a contribution in her own right. An expert on stringed instruments, her banjo was a weapon aimed at the system in all its guises. The emerging third world revolutions took her into conflict with her native USA - or at least its state - for she honoured the American working class and was one of its finest spokesmen. During the height of the cold war their visits to China and Chile, solidarity with Vietnam and concerts for Latin American guerillas ensured an exile from the States that only ended with Ewan's sad death.

Critics obviously will point to Ewan's "Stalinism" although this had been rooted in the anti-fascism of the second world war. In both China and Cuba he saw what he thought to be refreshing signs of working class democracy and anti-bureaucratic struggle. Many of the Communists of the war period had similar visions. In retrospect Ewan might be the first to concede they had placed too much trust in characteristic leaders and images. Their optimism was a little too premature and more than a little naive. However it is not to such leaders that their songs were devoted, but to the people of no property, the people of no position, the industrial workers, the fighters, the protestors.

These two books are monuments to working class culture of the past and visions of hope and change for the future. Their ingenuity and poetry will live long beyond their lifetimes and will continue to inspire the struggles at the sharp end of the class conflict.

Both books can be ordered in the UK by phoning 01284 707050 or by e mailing orders@musicsales.co.uk

each

Monarchy In The UK

by Homebrew

One of the perks of doing the Class War mail is now and again you get a free CD! Homebrew have just released this very topical anti royal rant with some excellent lyrics to get the blood flowing if you know what I mean! My personal favourite line is

"Burn down a castle, kill a Princess, it won't be any hassle to finish off the rest, cuz the guns are loaded and pointed right at you!"

Top fucking marks boys!

You can contact Homebrew at: homebrew@zoom.co.uk or c/o 6 Mowbray Place, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 1RF.



The Stars Tennis Balls

Steven Fry
(£7, Arrow)

Moab is My Washpot

Steven Fry
(All good bookshops)

We're taking the opportunity to review Steven Fry's latest book to comment more widely upon his work and society. Firstly The Stars Tennis Balls is an absorbing read (or listen if you have it on tape) The plot is quite complicated and when you think an escape heralds the end of the book it is really just entering its second half. Clearly the depth of knowledge Fry has about culture, economics and globalisation means he has written a book for it's time, including topics such as drugs, the informal economy, the secret services, political corruption, the media and new technology to frame a convincing and clever story. Including the traditional elements of a novel; that of adventure, betrayal, loss, and love. From being a bit familiar with his work and the man himself; Public school, Oxbridge, Fry and Laurie, Blackadder etc we can comment a bit about his political views that seem to come over, and do in places, in his work.

Firstly we must say as a gay man, a writer, and ex-con he is not unlike Oscar Wilde who he played in the film of the same name, but we know there are vast differences as well. Respect is due to Fry for some of his work and politics, for example with young offenders, as he was himself (credit card fraud) However there are some areas where we have serious disagreement that perhaps emanate from our respective class backgrounds. Whereas Fry comes from the rural southern middle class who went to all the educational institutions of privilege and natural order perhaps we shouldn't be so surprised... That is he appears to be at best neutral towards Foxhunting and the Monarchy, and he does talk about them in a fairly positive light in his autobiography. This is a shame really for generations of working class trade unionists, socialists, anarchists and Marxists have despised both of these 'institutions' as having no conceivable place in a future 'socialist' society.



Secret Soldiers: Special Forces in the War against Terrorism

Peter Harclerode

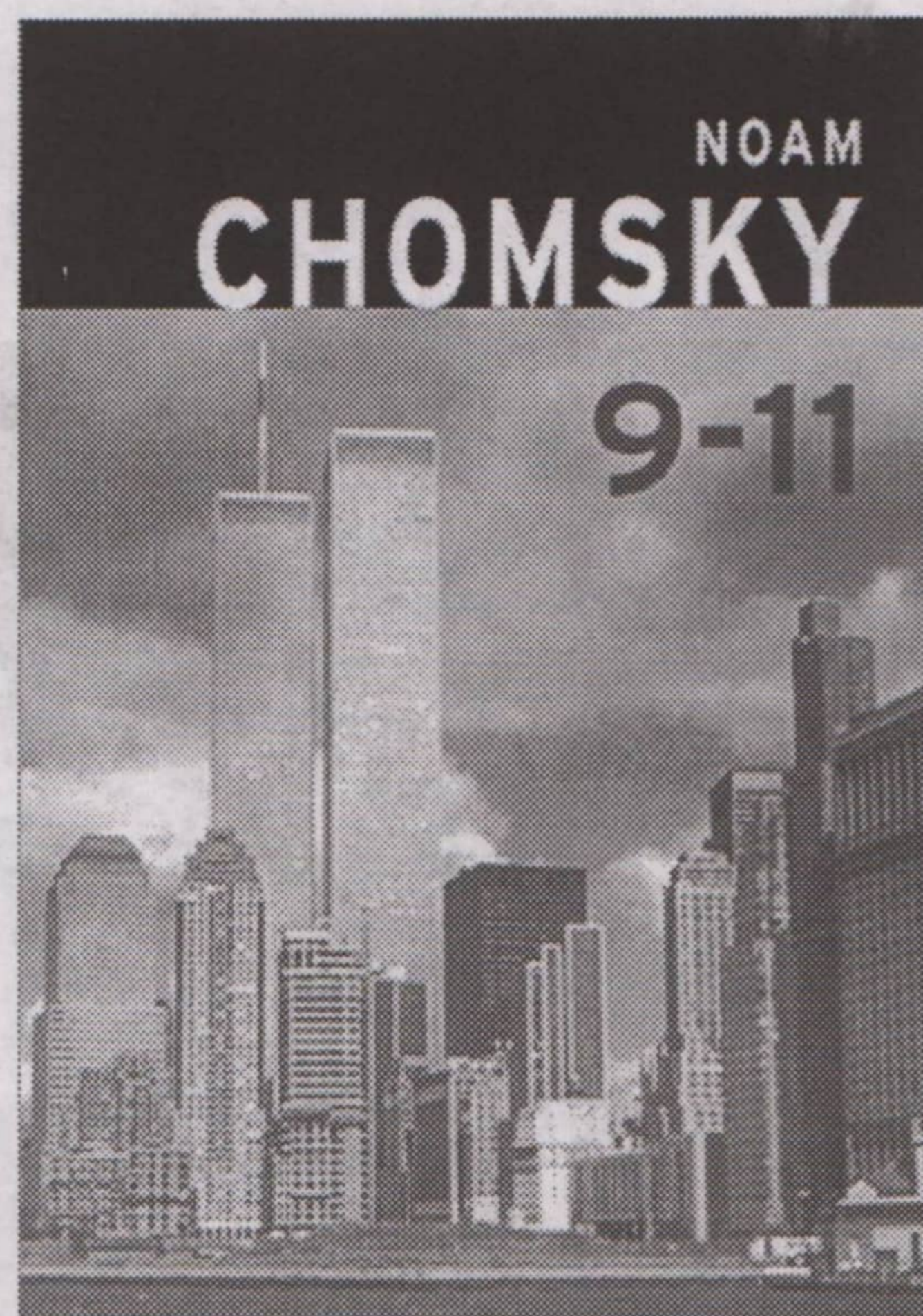
This is a fascinating and frustrating book. The subject is a very interesting one, but this book, which promises a lot, left me feeling a bit let down. After Harclerode described the Red Army Faction's Astrid and Thorwald Proll as 'a couple', when they were brother and sister, I started noticing a lot of things which didn't add up. Mostly these were small things, but it's very annoying reading a book and having to check all its assertions! For students of counter-terrorism the best thing about 'Secret Soldiers' will be its bibliography; its content can be better gathered elsewhere. Though there is a valuable book about special forces in counter-terrorism to be written, this is not it.



9-11

Noam Chomsky
Seven Stories Press

This is one of the many books rushed out in the publishing frenzy following September 11, and it shows. It's full of repetitions and inconsistencies, which even the book's editor is forced to acknowledge. For students of Chomsky '9-11' contains little new, and there are better introductions for those new to Chomsky. Some books are better left on the shelf; this book should never have seen the shelf in the first place.



Deck The Redneck

Punk/Hardcore Fanzine,
40 pence from Box Sabs,
4 Onslow Road,
Southampton,
SO14 0JB

This is a lively fanzine that manages to cover several different topics in a light-hearted humorous style. There is a brief look at prisoner support, a 7 page Bristol special that covers community activity and ace local football team The Easton Cowboys, plus some gig and record reviews. On the downside the fanzine is laid out in the style of far too many fanzines and sadly all punk fanzines. It probably looked original in 1977, now it looks clichéd and idle. Still its got spirit and that's what matters.



Kuwasi Balagoon: A Soldier's Story

Solidarity Publishing

Kathleen Cleaver and George Katsiaficas eds: Liberation Imagination and the Black Panther Party

Routledge

Kuwasi Balagoon was a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. He was one of the New York Panther 21 subjected in 1969 to an attempted frame-up by the FBI's COINTELPRO programme and, as an underground member of the clandestine

political-military BLA, was jailed for 75 years to life for the attempted \$16 million robbery of a Brinks truck making a bank pick-up. At the time of this trial Kuwasi was a fugitive, having escaped from a New Jersey State prison in 1978, where he had been sent after convictions for bank robbery and a sniper attack on the police.

If you wanted a model of what a committed revolutionary should be, Kuwasi was probably it. As he put it in his Brinks trial opening statement

"Before becoming a clandestine revolutionary I was a tenant organiser and was arrested for menacing a 270 pound colonial building superintendent with a machete... Being an organiser for the Community Council on Housing I took part in not only organising rent strikes, but pressing slumlords to make repairs and maintain heat and hot water, killed rats, represented tenants in court, stopped illegal evictions, faced off City Marshals, helped turn rents into repair resources and collective ownership by tenants and demonstrated whenever the needs of tenants were at stake."

The Cleaver and Katsiaficas work has a more academic orientation, but it nevertheless contains a lot of useful material, including a detailed history of the BLA, the FBI campaign against the Panthers, the influence of the BPP within the white left, and a detailed examination of black fighting formations by Russell Shoat -jailed in 1972 for an assault on a Pennsylvania police station following the murder of a black youth by the police. Much of the practice of the BPP stands as the most useful model of working class self organisation to merge from the sixties' left, and this book gives us some insight into why.

Kuwasi died of AIDS in jail in 1986. By

Sit Down If You Hate The Royals

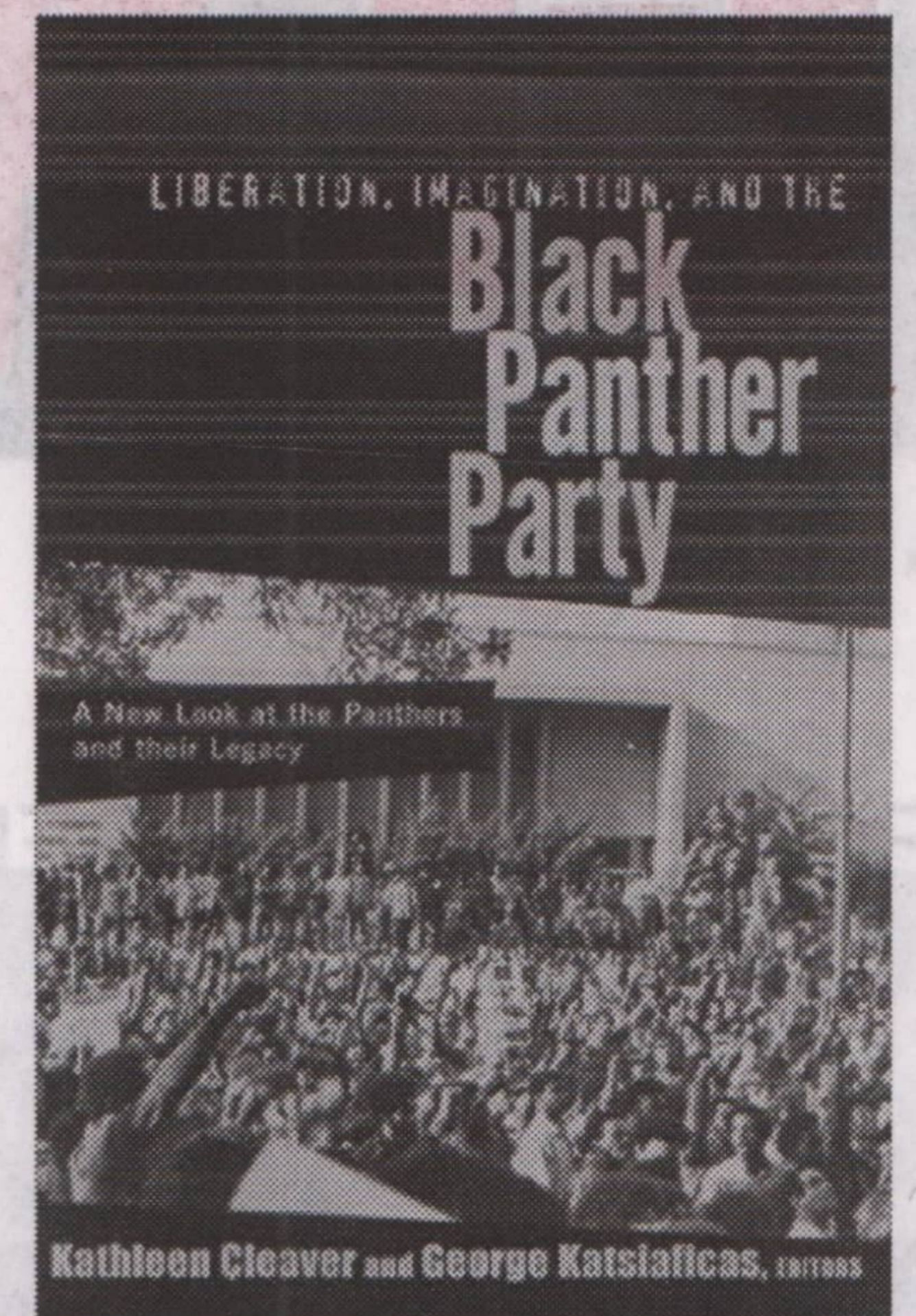
The death of one of the more useless royals, Princess Margaret, was hardly news to shake the world of football to its foundations. The foppish Margaret spent most of her time in either the West End or her Martinique holiday home. We are aware of no instances of Margaret even attending a football march.

All the more curious therefore that the Premiership and the Football League ordered a minutes silence be held at all games on Saturday February 9th. The lack of interest in this elderly rich wino was perhaps best illustrated by the Sunderland fans who stood up until they realised who the mark of respect was for, and promptly sat back down again.

Glory Hunter

If there is one thing any true football fan hates, its the glory hunter. The horrible snidey little boy who was supporting Blackburn Rovers when they won the league, switched to Manchester United when they won it, switched to Newcastle when they looked like winning, then switched back to Manchester United when they actually did. If these characters do manage to stick with one team, they invariably get tickets for the big games, and never bother with the League Cup ties on cold Tuesday evenings. During the various gushing articles about the Jubilee it has emerged that chief

his death, he'd developed an anarchist critique of the BPP and BLA and written widely of the need for a working class-orientated anti-imperialism. Kuwasi said of the left



"They are too elitist to even want to organise the working class and they fear them like the plague because (the left) are largely petty bourgeois, college students, white collar workers etc."

He wrote also that

"By not engaging in mass organising and delivering war to the oppressors we become anarchists in name only."

Kuwasi tried to show by example - and his example is one we can learn much from.



parasite Elizabeth II is perhaps the definitive football glory hunter. Her first match? The 1953 FA Cup Final. Other than the 1966 World Cup Final and the 1996 European Championships Final every game she has attended has been a FA Cup final. Still, at least she was happy at Euro 96 - the Germans won.

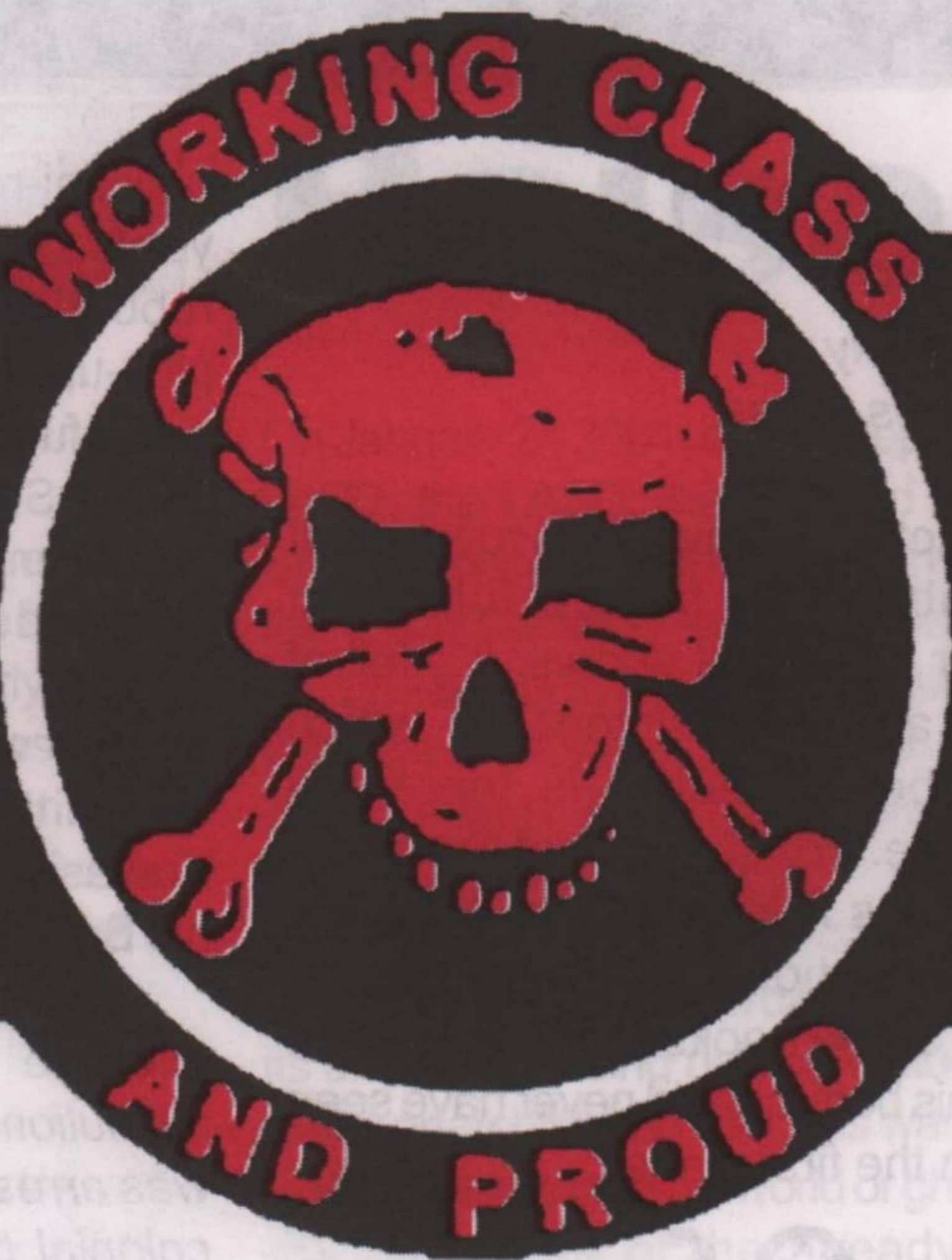
Angry White Pyjamas

Robert Twigger
Phoenix Books, £7.99

This is currently the most hyped book on martial arts, and tells the story of a year or so in Twigger's life, learning Aikido in Japan. Twigger's book serves as an interesting insight into Japan and the nature of Japanese society, especially when he enrolls for the year long Tokyo riot police course in Aikido. Oddly civilians and non-Japanese nationals can take this course, and Twigger is at pains to point out that Japanese cops are better integrated into society than those in the west. We are sure they are still bastards though!

Twigger gives us some insight into the historic nationalist and right wing nature of Aikido (as well as the racism of Japanese society) and the sheer hard fucking work of the training. Worth reading if you are currently thinking of visiting Japan - if you can afford it - and probably worth reading if you are interested in martial arts. If not give it a miss.

CLASS WAR



FINGERS CROSSED!



GOING, GOING, GONE!

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