

# Taking Liberties

Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross

No. 5

## STRANGWAYS SHOWTRIALS

On January 14th, after nearly 2 years, the Showtrial began of the 6 men being FRAMED for murder and the 3 for Riot and GBH, arising out of the Strangeways Uprising of April 1990. The whole Showtrial is being conducted amidst some of the highest security ever in British Courts; anyone entering Court 3 undergoes a thorough bodysearch and is given a special security 'trial pass'. The prisoners themselves are kept in a specially constructed dock with strengthened glass sides and an opaque top with their backs to the public gallery (to prevent escape!). Glass panels have also been built on top of the public gallery. This oppressive atmosphere is designed to alienate the prisoners from family, friends and supporters and also to put over that these UNCONVICTED men are animals, highly dangerous and guilty. This will no doubt influence the Jury.

### THE FIRST WEEK

On the first day the murder charge against Nick Webb was dropped when the State offered no evidence. He pleaded guilty to Riot & Conspiracy to Riot instead and is to be sentenced later. An ABC comrade in the court reported



## FREE KENNY CARTER

"I WRITE IN HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP AND SUPPORT ME IN MY PLIGHT. I am 21 years old and one of many hostages held in captivity by an unjust and inhumane system of total corruption. I was FRAMED two years ago for the death of my cell-mate, everyday protesting my innocence in some way and will continue to do so." Kenny Carter is serving a life sentence for a crime which didn't even happen. In 1990 Kenny was serving a sentence for robbery (cont.P.2,

supporting class war prisoners

## SUPPORT THE STRANGWAYS SCAPEGOATS!

Picket the Trial at  
Manchester Crown Court  
no.3, WEDS FEB. 12th &  
26th, starting at 10 30 am.

that he looked very ill, could hardly talk and could not walk without assistance, but what is up with him is not clear. His solicitor told us this was the reason for the deal being made.

On day 2 the state went through its well rehearsed fairy-tale of how the Uprising started, who led it and why, concentrating on the treatment of the 'beasts' or 'nonces' by the other prisoners. "Hours of sheer hell followed for the Rule 43 prisoners", the prosecution whimpered. The State will no doubt avoid the question of WHY prisoners could not take any more brutality and took control of the prison. On Day 3 the State called its 1st witness, Rev. Noel Proctor, Prison Chaplain, who gave his account. Just to balance it out, here's the statement Paul Taylor read out to all those in the Chapel; P

*"This man has spoken about the blessing of the Heart and that Jesus can take away the hardening inside your hearts. I would like to talk to you about the anger, bitterness, resentment, contempt and frustration breeding inside of your hearts through the somewhat ignorant attitudes of the Prison Service; the seeming unconcern and indifference exhibited towards you and I".*

Proctor admitted tension over prisoners grievances had been gathering for weeks and said Taylor (in the above words) had stirred up the congregation in such a way that we got an immediate reaction". The Screw Bancroft then named Spencer as having jumped onto his seat (cont.P. 4 )



# FREE KENNY CARTER

(CONTINUED)

and was sharing a cell with 2 other inmates, Darren Brook and Jason Rochford. On Jan 4th Kenny and Jason found out that Brook was a sex offender and weren't keen to share a cell with him. Because of this a fight broke out. The next evening there was a second fight between Rochford and Brook. Later that night Kenny was awakened by Rochford saying that Darren Brook was dead. Kenny saw Darren hanging from the bars of his cell window.

The next day both men were interviewed by the police, who seemed to accept their account of what happened. However, on Jan. 16th Kenny was again interviewed and told that Rochford had 'come clean' about what had happened and was claiming that Brook had been killed by Kenny. This was disbelieved by the pathologist, and Rochford's seven statements to the police contained numerous contradictions. During the trial which began on Nov. 26th, the judge advised the jury to ignore these contradictions and yet the prosecution was allowed to stress that Kenny's first statement to the police was inaccurate as he had not told them about the fight in the cell. Also Kenny had an important witness, a prisoner called Thomas Powell who stated that Rochford was heard talking to another inmate saying the police had told him that either he or Kenny would be charged, and that they wanted Kenny even though he hadn't killed Brook. Whilst in the charge room at the full committal hearing, Kenny saw Powell but immediately 2 police officers stood in front of him. Since then Thomas has never given evidence for Kenny and didn't attend any day of the trial.

After being ordered to reach a unanimous verdict, the jury found Kenny Guilty and he was sentenced to Life.

Since then Kenny has continually protested his innocence and suffered because of this. He has been on several dirty protests, on the first of which he threw a bucket of excrement over 2 screws. In revenge for this he was overpowered by 9 screws and badly beaten. A female screw dragged her fingernails across his face, back and testicles.



Kenny has refused to keep quiet and has spent long periods in solitary and has suffered constant physical and psychological abuse. He has recently been moved from Gartree to Frankland and is again in Solitary.

The screws have had it in for him ever since he was first sent down for robbery. While he was serving his sentence he often had to share a cell with sex offenders and informers.

It seems like Brook's death provided an ideal opportunity to frame Kenny and at the same time cover-up the first prison suicide of the year.

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT  
TO KENNY CARTER :  
AD 3434, HMP Frankland,  
Brasside, Durham.**

## NECHELLS 14

These are 14 youths are being FRAMED for murder but have not yet been committed to Crown. The police case nearly fell apart when their main witness, 15 year old Peter Boddington, made a statement to his solicitor retracting his evidence saying the police had bullied and bribed him. But he was picked up and held over the weekend for 'his own protection', taken to a football match and 'persuaded' to go back to

his original statements. Solicitors were stopped from seeing him. Birmingham ABC have 2 jumpers bought for him by the police.

At the start of the trial 2 police sat in front of the witness box and were giving Peter directions. They were removed after complaints. Several other officers taunted the 14 whilst in court.

During the hearing tensions rose with numerous people thrown out of the public gallery and 6 people arrested including 3 of the accused as they left court, for public order section 5. These charges have been dropped and an action to sue the police is underway.

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## MARTIN FORAN RE- ARRESTED!

Recent bad news is that Martin Foran, on the run since June 1991, has been re-arrested in Birmingham. He is now in HMP Full Sutton and his number is C51796, so please send him letters of support.

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## ROBERT TAYLOR

Just to say thanks for all the letters of support supporters have sent him; he'll answer all letters soon but has no date yet for appeal.

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## GLEN LEWIS

Has been moved and is now at HMP The Dana, Salop, Shrewsbury, SY1 2HR. Also has no news of an appeal date yet.

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*Taking Liberties*

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# Snippets

It was **HMP Canterbury's** turn recently to be condemned by Judge Tumim, Chief Inspector of Prisons, as being 'squalid' and 'lacking in facilities' for visitors etc. No wonder the Home Office takes no notice of his recommendations - there'd be no more prisons left.

Thirty-two cells in **HMP Albany** were damaged by fire in early January, noone was injured, after a blaze broke out in the TV room. Sooner or later the authorities will get the message; several times last year inmates deliberately started fires in Albany.

**HMP Moorlands**, the £53 million "Showpiece Jail", was again trashed by inmates over the holiday period. The previous time was in August of last year, shortly after it was first opened (causing £88,000 damage). The Home Office and Screws claimed the riot was because the Youths want 'street credibility', which Moorlands doesn't give them (unlike Armley and Hull). Have they not stopped to think that perhaps the reason is plain & simply that **PEOPLE DON'T LIKE BEING LOCKED UP!**

However, general concensus amongst prisoners is that at least at Moorlands you can have a smashing time!

Three prison officers from **Armley** will appear before Leeds Magistrates next month charged with assaulting inmates in the hospital wing. No doubt they'll get a pat on the back and be back on duty soon.

On January 15th, a prisoner escaped from a bus taking him from **Armley prison** to Leeds Crown Court to face burglary charges. Police are also searching for 2 prisoners who escaped from a bus taking 15 men from jail to court in **Liverpool**.

George Purdy, aged 22, of Consett, Co. Durham, was found hanged in his cell on Jan. 20th. He was on remand for alleged wounding & drug offences. There were 41 'suicides' in british prisons last year.

The Home Office has cut bread for prisoners from 6 to 4 slices at tea-time, due to (it says) 'prisoners feeding it to pigeons'. If this is the sort of petty thing the HO stoops to, what chance is there of serious reforms?



## VALENTINE COOKE RELEASED

Valentine Cooke, **FRAMED** by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad for Armed Robbery in 1989, had his conviction quashed by the Court of Appeal on Jan. 14th. Yet another innocent man having to rebuild his life after corrupt and brutal coppers have had their way. The NABC wishes Valentine all the very best and all the happiness he deserves.

## GRIP

"Gay Rights in Prison" exists to support Gay prisoners, and to work towards equal rights for Gays in prison. It can be contacted at: c/o 69 Cowcross street, London, EC1M 6BP.

## GET PABLO OUT!

Manchester and Bolton ABC held their 3rd Picket of the Spanish Consulate in Manchester in Support of Pablo Serrano, the Spanish Anarchist prisoner denied his automatic right to parole because of his principles and past role in prison resistance. Because of the level of protests in Spain at his continued detention, the prison authorities have now given him a clear warning that he will be transferred to the paramilitary police control which would mean virtual isolation.

**The next picket of the Spanish Consulate (70, Spring Gardens, Manchester) will be on Wednesday, February 12th, from 12 noon till 2 pm.**

### AT THE FOOT OF THE WALL

This is the title of a book proposed by Abel Paz, author of "Durutti; the people armed", about his prison experiences under the Spanish dictatorship (1942- 1952). Abel is still alive and well and living in Barcelona; he has no money to publish the book but feels strongly it should be done...to fight back against the blanket of lies that now covers the time and as a duty to all those who didn't survive and died for Anarchist ideas. This is a book written by a man who, like thousands more, was robbed of the best years of his life by a totalitarian society. Others, like Victor Serge, called prison "The Black Corner", which along with the expression "At the Foot of the Wall", aptly describe prison experience. The world of the prisoner seen from this angle, is always the same; wall, corner, darkness, and bars. Abel Paz got out of prison to go into exile in France in 1953. From there he denounced his prison experiences...as well as the concentration camp regime which held sway in Spain under Franco. Donations, however small, are vital. Send them to ;Diego Camacho, Banco Banesto, Cta.N. 1237- 271, c/. Providencia 64, 08012 Barcelona. Correspondence to; Abel Paz, c/ Verdi 109 3-2, 08012 Barcelona.

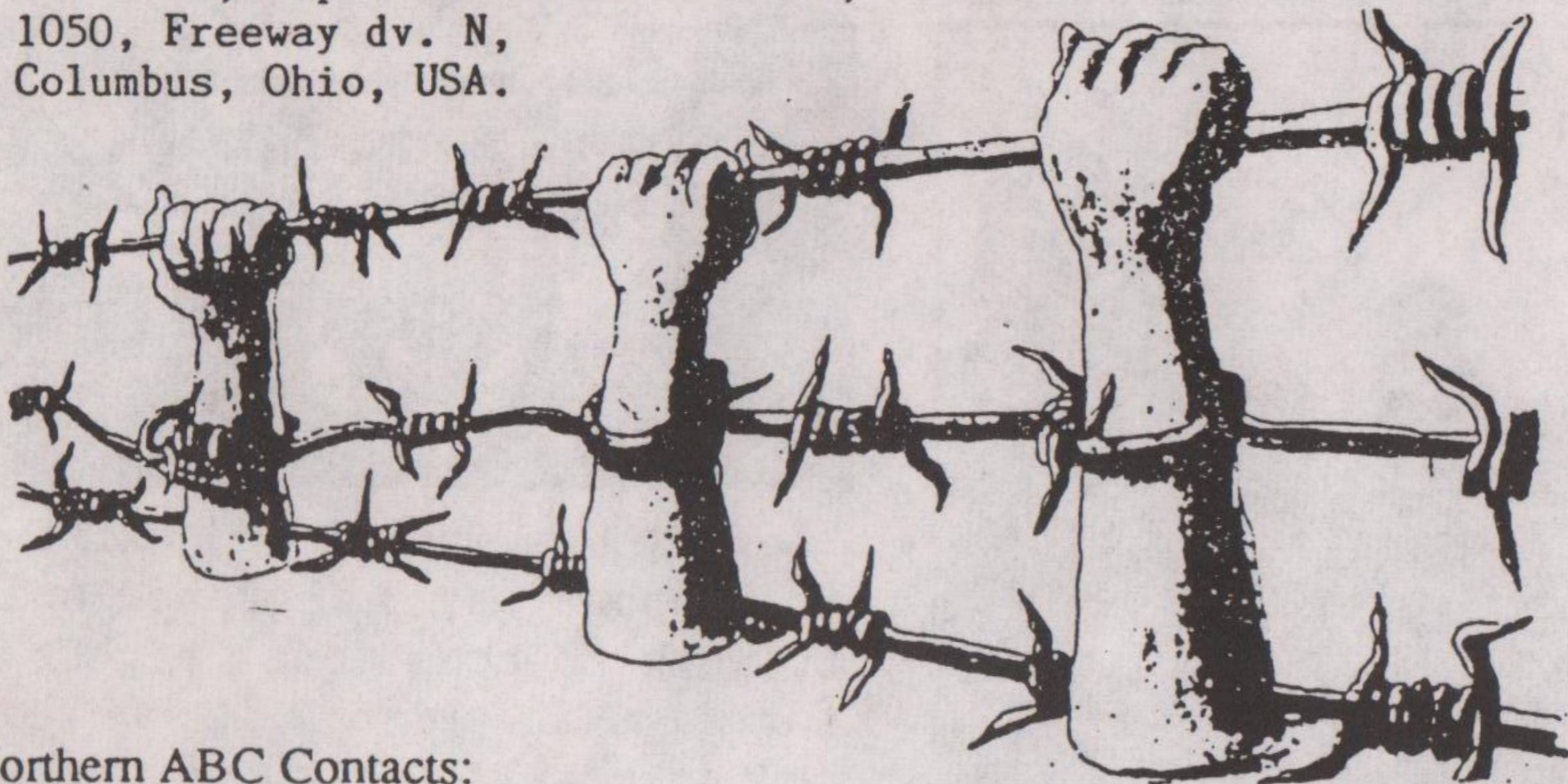


**RELEASE JOHN PEROTTI NOW!**

John Perotti, US prison resister and hostage of the Ohio state government, has now stopped his hunger strike, launched last October in protest against his solitary confinement on a framed escape charge at Mansfield prison. John was again found guilty of conspiracy to bribe a guard to bring in a gun which earned him 75 days in 'the hole' (punishment block). Having done a previous spell of 38 months 'supermax isolation' and then just 3 weeks out in general population, John now faces solitary for the foreseeable future on 'security grounds'. This hasn't however stopped him from carrying on with his criminal appeal against the fabricated assault charge that gave him 7 more years of prison, although the Ohio prison dept. is trying to smash him with this latest frame-up.

John needs letters aswell as money for his appeal. Donations should be sent to Edinburgh ABC. Protest postcards are available from Bolton ABC. Letters of protest to;

Mr. Reginald Wilkerson,  
Director, Dept. of Rehab. & Corr.,  
1050, Freeway dv. N,  
Columbus, Ohio, USA.



Northern ABC Contacts:

**SHEFFIELD**

P O Box 446, Sheffield

**LEEDS**

Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds

**MANCHESTER**

Box 8, 1 Newton Street, Piccadilly,  
Manchester

**BOLTON**

P O Box 47, Bolton

**LIVERPOOL**

P O Box 110, Liverpool L69

**EDINBURGH**

c/o: EHSA, P O Box 421, Edinburgh

**PRESTON**

P O Box 172, Preston

**BRADFORD**

c/o: 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row,  
Bradford

**BELFAST**

P O Box 148, Belfast BT1

**LEAMINGTON SPA**

Box 1, Gaia, 22 High Street, L' Spa

**OTHER CONTACT:**

'Conviction' P O Box 522, Sheffield

**STRANGEWAYS.** (cont. from p.1)  
waving two chair legs and shouting "let's do it!". The second week of the trial has heard evidence from prisoners against the men. As we go to press the 300 prosecution witnesses initially offered by the state has now dwindled to 182.

**SPENCER PUBLICLY BATTERED BY POLICE DURING VISIT.**

John Spencer and Miller are no longer QE - they have retracted their statements and all the prisoners are sticking together, so the police, as natural allies of the screws, are on the warpath. Last week, during visiting hours at the CDCs, John Spencer had his nose and an arm broken and received serious heads cuts when he was battered by atleast 8 police in view of prisoners and visitors. This barefaced police brutality is no doubt a signal to the others of what might lie in store for them. They will not break our spirits - solidarity is strength - **VICTORY TO THE STRANGEWAYS SCAPEGOATS!**

## Poll Tax Prisoners

The following are the prisoners remaining from the Trafalgar Square Riot Trials. Please continue to give them the full support they need and deserve!

**BRIAN TAVARES** - MV3239, HMP Camp Hill, EDR Nov.'92.

**TIMOTHY DONAGHY** - MW0105, HMP Downview. EDR Feb.'93.

**SIMON RUSSELL** - ND1666, HMP The Mount. EDR Sept.'93.

**MARK HUTCHINS** - MW2737, HMP Coldingley. EDR'92.

**MATT LEE** - paroled January 24th, 1992.

Prison Addresses;

HMP Camp Hill, Cussold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30.

HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2.

HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Ave, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Rd, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24.

For up-to-date info on imprisoned non-payers ring TSDC on:  
071 738 7586

or write to ;

TSDC,  
c/o Brixton Law Centre,  
Brixton Road,  
SW 2.

### Taking Liberties;

All contributions are very welcome - news, letters, articles, artwork, coments etc. to;

*The views expressed in Taking Liberties are not necessarily those of the NABC as a whole.*

**Taking Liberties**  
PO Box 446  
Sheffield  
South Yorks

### Get your regular copy of Taking Liberties;

Free to prisoners - just let us know. For others; send postage, and specify number.

*The next TL should be out in about a month, as we try to make it more regular.*

Any donations towards the cost of printing and mailing out the newsletter would be warmly received !! All cheques/PO's made payable to "ABC" and sent to Box 446...  
Thanks.