

# M25 Three appeal announced

After months of being kept waiting and deceived by the Home Office, the 'M25 Three' (see TL no.9) have finally been given a date for their appeal hearing. It is to be heard before the full Court of Appeal on **Monday 21st. June 1993 at 10.00 a.m. at the Court of Appeal, The Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London.**

The Campaign is asking for all supporters to attend a picket outside the court to start at 9.00 a.m. before the appeal starts.

Please reply in writing if you can attend to:

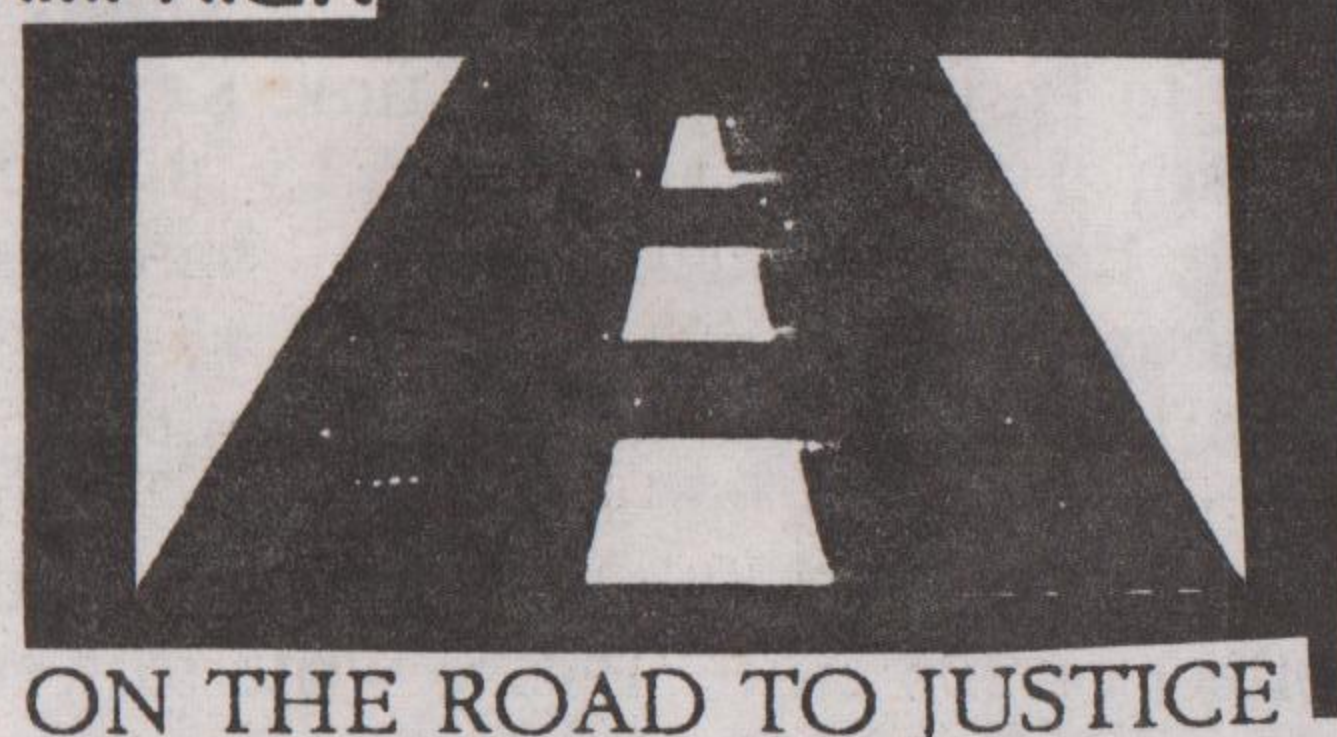
Joanne Rowe, Ground Floor, 42B Copleston Rd, Peckham, London.

And a reminder of the addresses of the 3 men:

Raphael Rowe, (MP3660), HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leics.	Michael Davis, (MP3661), HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Shepherd's Bush, London.
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Randolph Johnson,  
(MP3903),  
HMP Long Lartin,  
Evesham,  
Worcs

**M25  
CAMPAIGN**



## Paul Steele

Paul Steele is another victim of British "Justice"; wrongly convicted of the murder and robbery of a man carrying money to a bank, he was sent down in 1990.

The case against him was based on circumstantial evidence and relied largely upon what Paul was alleged to have said to friends, although he made no formal confession. The murder took place on 22nd December 1989 and was witnessed by 2 passers-by. The murderer left a hat, a knife sheath and a watch behind as he fled, all of which were proven not to belong to Paul.

The eye witness said the murderer was clean shaven at the time of the incident; Paul was bearded. In the I.D. Parade that followed, both eye witnesses failed to pick out Paul and instead identified 2 people of mixed race. Paul is black and has darker skin. Another feature of Paul that the eye witness never mentioned in their accounts is his 3 large gold teeth in the front of his mouth.

Paul had an appeal turned down at the start of the year, but feels that they had decided long before he reached the court to turn him down..

Letters of support please to:  
Paul Steele, (MT 3097), 'C' Wing, HMP Whitemoor,  
Longhill Rd, March, Cambs, PE15 0PR.

## Judge Tumim at it again

After damning reports on Styal, Brixton, Dartmoor and Glen Parva, Judge Tumim has now picked on Bristol prison. His report states that it is "still overcrowded with few facilities for inmates, despite riot damage repairs." It concludes that basically nothing's changed since the 1990 riots; it's still a squalid, inhuman dungeon. Tumim is typical of the 'concerned liberal' whose attitude is not that prisons are by nature brutal and degrading and 'concentration camps for the working class', but that they're necessary only, can't they be a little bit nicer, please.

## Apology:

*In Taking Liberties no. 9 we printed a photo of John Bowden alongside an article about his escape. We realise that this was not only careless and insensitive in the circumstances, but also potentially harmful to John. We apologise sincerely for this error*

All contributions are welcome - articles, letters, news, comments, cartoons etc- and any donations towards the cost of printing are most welcome! Please make cheques/postal orders payable to ABC and send to P,O, Box 446.... Ta!

The views expressed in Taking Liberties are not necessarily those of the ABC as a whole

**Taking Liberties, P.O. Box 446, Sheffield.**

# TAKING LIBERTIES

20p/  
Free to  
prisoners

number  
10

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Belgian Jails  
Legal Aid

Newsletter of the Anarchist Black Cross

# STRANGEWAYS

Three years on

On April 1st, 1990 Strangeways in Manchester saw the first of the prison uprisings, alongside that at Hull, and other 'serious disturbances' (!) at Long Lartin, Dartmoor, Bristol, Cardiff and a rooftop protest in support of the Birmingham 6 at Gartree, that swept across Britain that month. Some 26 prisons went up from April 1st to 9th 1990.

## The Uprising

At around 11 a.m. on April 1st, a disturbance towards the end of the Sunday service led to some 300 Strangeways inmates taking control of the chapel and beating off prison guards' attempts to regain it. Barricading the chapel they proceeded first into A-wing through the ceiling, then rapidly throughout the prison, releasing fellow prisoners as they went with sets of keys taken from the screws. Inmates were soon reported on the roofs of E- and F- wings as they took the high ground and shortly after 11.15 a.m. the screws evacuated the whole of the prison. At about 12.20 the remand centre was also taken by the inmates but by 7 a.m. the next morning already nearly 1300 prisoners had surrendered, been released or recaptured and moved out of Manchester, although some 150 or so were still in control of the prison. At around 10 a.m. the prison authorities regained control of the remand centre and then the next day (April 3rd) they retook E- wing and held the barricades on F- wing. Two days on there were only about 25 prisoners left holding them off. By April 13th their number was down to 10. Three days later 3 of these were recaptured and then on April 20th 4 Control and Restraint (C+R) units moved into the chapel. Military intervention had been considered but was decided against. Another 3 days passed and another prisoner was taken as he was tricked into talk of negotiations, whilst the Home Secretary instructed C+R commanders to devise a plan for the retaking of the prison. All this time the men had been appearing regularly on the roof, shouting messages down to the gathered press, family & friends, as the authorities tried to drown them out "panama city style". The extensive media coverage of the siege was out of the hands of the authorities despite their efforts to control it. Down to 6 men and just before 9 a.m. on April 25th, 8 C+R units involving about 100 screws moved

into the prison. Just over half-an-hour later one prisoner surrendered as the remaining 5 made it to the roof. Eight hours later it was all over.



Lasting a full 25 days and rendering the prison virtually uninhabitable for months to follow, Strangeways was caught fully in the glare of mad-dog media hysteria - The Sun as ever led the tabloid press with headlines such as "12 DEAD IN JAIL DRUG RIOT", "30 DIE AS JAIL MOB DEFY COPS", and 'BODIES CUT UP AND DUMPED IN SEWER'. All false as it turned out, although one man was to die later in hospital. Throughout the prison system inmates lashed out in anger and frustration at the conditions they had to endure but the media focus was very much on Strangeways cont. P. 2

**supporting class struggle prisoners**

(continued from front cover)

The government "Report Into The Prison Disturbances of 1990" admitted that the events at Strangeways were "the worst in the history of this country's prison system".

The cost of repair and refurbishment to one of Europe's largest prisons was put at some £60 million. It cost another £20 million to re-house prisoners in police cells as prison protests kicked off across the country. The day before the Uprising at Strangeways, the Anti-Poll Tax demo culminating at Trafalgar Square had erupted in the heart of London. "NO POLL TAX HERE" read one banner unfurled from the rooftop at Strangeways. These were indeed tumultuous times!

## The Showtrials begin

Nearly a year on, March 13th 1991 saw the start of the committal proceedings against the Strangeways rioters. The accused were to be tried as public scapegoats for resisting an antiquated prison system designed to dehumanise and crush the individual into submission and compliance. Charges were to range from murder to riot; to conspiracy to riot, to grievous bodily harm and to criminal damage in the planned second and third trials. The defendants having been divided into 3 trial groups, 14th January 1992 saw the start proper of the first of the showtrials in Court 3 of Manchester Crown court amidst conditions of absurdly high-profile security. The defendants were housed in an enclosed, specially constructed, roofed dock, virtually hidden from view from the public gallery. Anyone wanting to enter the public gallery was liable to be asked to submit to a police bodysearch and supply them with a name & address.

All this to impress on everyone (jurors in particular) just how dangerous (and surely guilty) the criminals being dealt with here must be.

The oppressive atmosphere also served to further alienate the defendants from their families, friends and supporters. Subjected to continuously intense pressures they were being tempted with tranquilising drugs in order to bear the strain. Many of the men were in poor psychological states. On the first day of the trial defendant Nick Webb was physically supported into court, obviously in a very poor state.

Police investigations were extensive in preparation for the trials and they put a lot of time and energy into trying to extract evidence and persuading (i.e. bribing, threatening and intimidating) prisoners into informing on one another. One of the defendants in the first trial had given evidence in this way despite later retracting his statement, as many others also did, and was then to appear in court visibly battered with one arm in a sling after police were seen on January 22nd beating him up in the Central Detention centre (CDC) adjoining the courts. Unsurprisingly the judge failed to pass any comment on his battered appearance. Then on March 2nd 1992 the murder charge was dropped - the one man who was to die 2 days after being taken from Strangeways to hospital (Remand prisoner Derek White) could not be confirmed by the pathologist to have died as a result of injuries sustained during the Uprising (the press had claimed numerous deaths of Rule 43 prisoners, often sex offenders segregated for their own safety).

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The Second Anniversary of the Uprising on April 1st 1992 was marked by a demo and march in support of the defendants from outside the virtually rebuilt Strangeways prison (ironically now heading the list for continuing the British prison system's steps towards privatisation), to the Crown Court, where the previous year a 1st Anniversary picket had been held. Throughout the trial the crown Court was the setting for a series of pickets. Conditions in the CDCs were poor and contact difficult to maintain. At weekends defendants were ghosted out to various prisons and police holding cells.



Then within a fortnight of the 2nd anniversary rally, having pleaded not guilty throughout this 12 week state-sponsored farce, the first of the 3 proposed Strangeways Showtrials ended with the acquittals of Alan Lord, Andrew Nelson, Martin McLatchie and Brian Parke.

Paul Taylor though got the maximum sentence possible for riot and on April 16th 1992 was sentenced to 10 years; John Spencer was sentenced to 8 years; James Miller got 7 years and 'Tiny' Doran got 4 years - all for 'Riot'.

The total cost of the trial was put at more than £100 million by the Guardian newspaper (17/4/92). The State prosecution though still intended to pursue Andy Nelson and Alan Lord into the 2nd Showtrial planned for later on that year, on charges of conspiracy to riot and for GBH and affray, respectively. The Government inquiry into the Strangeways Uprising, the 'Woolf Report', concluded in Feb. '91 that "the physical conditions, in addition to being grossly overcrowded were still insanitary and degrading", but the State was to remain persistent in its pursuit of 'named ringleaders' (!) to scapegoat for the disturbances and their sheer scale. **cont. on P. 9**

# Christine Sawbridge

## Victim of 'Joint Enterprise'

Christine Sawbridge, currently in H.M.P. Drake Hall, is one of a growing number of people convicted by the state by the use of 'Joint Enterprise'. This usually means that if a person has witnessed a crime being committed but had no part in the crime itself, the state can put forward that it was a 'joint enterprise', resulting more often than not in the conviction of innocent bystanders. Where the people involved are linked in some way, the chances of conviction multiply. This is what happened to Christine at the hands of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

*"I am now 24 years old and have been in prison for 8 years & 8 months. I have been in St. Charles YTC, Bullwood Hall, Styal and finally here. To be honest, I often wonder how I have managed to keep myself together throughout the years incarcerated in cells. If it wasn't for my family's support and the belief in my innocence, I would be totally lost to a system which degrades and drains life.*

*Only in October of last year did I finally realise that writing to the Home Office was a complete waste of time, and I needed to get my voice heard more publically. I refuse to be kept in the closet, shut away as though I do not exist - the fact is, I am here and I'll be here until they admit they make mistakes".*

Raised in a very strict religious environment, Christine was singled out and bullied at school for being 'different'. Eventually she 'rebelled', which brought her into conflict with her parents. It was at this time that she met her co-defendant ('T'). She was 15, he was 19. Gradually he became extremely possessive, almost paranoid about her fidelity, checking up on her constantly and on occasions used violence against her. On June 23rd, 1984, after spending the evening in their local with family & friends, they both left the pub and as they walked he harassed Christine about a bracelet he'd given her, asking why she wasn't wearing it. At this point Christine screamed at him and left him to go to Mrs. Ethel Cawood's house (a friend of Christine's), where she'd left the bracelet. Ethel let Christine in after checking who it was and told her she'd put the bracelet safe. They talked for a while sitting on the sofa together. It was then that 'T' came to the house. Ethel answered the door and came back into the room obviously afraid; 'T' came in 'ranting' and struck her with a bottle at which she fell behind the settee. Then Ethel began to scream, at which point 'T' came running back 'like a madman' and stabbed her.

*"I saw the whole thing, but I just couldn't get a grip of what was happening to Ethel, to me - it was crazy, so senseless & so horrific. I just ran out of the house, ran as fast as I could to my house on the next road. I can only assume 'T' thought here was another man and wanted to try & catch me in the act".*

During the time that followed Christine did not say anything about what had happened to anyone, through a mixture of her own fear & repulsion at what had happened and due to threats and violence from 'T'.

*"I didn't go to the police or my family. I didn't feel there was anyone I could speak to. I'd become estranged from my parents, hadn't seen my friends for weeks and I was distrustful of the police. 'T' was the only one who knew what he had done and he did everything to ensure I kept my mouth shut".*

This silence was interpreted at the trial as compliance in the murder and was a major factor in Christine's framing.

Christine was subjected to both physical & mental abuse by her co-defendant, he raped her and she was kept locked in a room for hours. He even discussed her 'suicide' with her, pressing a knife into her wrist, scarring her.

On July 11th at 8 a.m. Christine was questioned and held by the police. She was allowed no legal representation, nor were her parents allowed to see her (bear in mind she was only 15 and this was the year of PACE) until after her formal arrest.

'T' was charged immediately, but Christine only after 'T' had made a statement with the now infamous REYNOLDS & PERKINS of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad which badly incriminated her. She was then charged with murder. At court they even produced a 'confession' unsigned by Christine, but signed by a WPC, stating she'd gone there on a 'joint enterprise' to rob Mrs. Cawood's house.



*"I have never killed anyone in my life, yet I sit here doing a life sentence. I still have no planned release within sight. I have often wished I could have helped Ethel by trying to stop 'T'. I wish I'd have screamed, shouted, done anything, but the fact is I didn't - but how can they say it's because I agreed to what he did? How can they say it's because I'm callous & evil?"*

## THE 'EVIDENCE' THAT SENT CHRISTINE DOWN

The state's case was fabricated in several ways:

- 1) 'joint enterprise' between 'T' & Christine to rob, based on statement from 'T' with help from Reynolds & Perkins.
- 2) presentation of a leather skirt with blood on it, supposedly worn by Christine at the murder, showing 'evidence' that she too struggled with Mrs. Cawood.
- 3) a link was found on the carpet, which the police allege was from Christine's bracelet - again showing signs of a struggle. **Continued on page 4**

The prosecution suggested that Christine struggled with the victim, supposedly backed up by the blood-stained leatherskirt and the 'link' from 'her' bracelet. But as Christine states:

*"I have always denied that I wore this skirt at the scene of the crime. The prosecution's account placed the crime a whole 5 hours earlier than it actually happened. The reason for this, being that they could use the leather skirt as evidence against me, as I was wearing it up until just after 5 p.m."*

Christine's innocence (dismissed by the court of appeal at the Strand on Oct. 7th, 1986) can be proved by statements from people all in agreement that the crime cannot have taken place these 5 hours earlier. The 'Link' factor in the police case can also be disproved, as can the 'skirt' factor. Great play was made by the judge in his summing-up on both 'Joint Enterprise' and Christine's 'Silence', heavily inferring the guilt these implied. Three times the Jury were unable to reach a verdict on Christine. Eventually she was convicted by a 10-2 maj. and detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure.

*"I am not a murderer, I have never killed or harmed anyone in my life. So why am I being kept locked up for so long? I will never stop struggling to clear my name"*

Letters of support to Christine (D30409);  
Drake Hall, Dylan house, Eccleshall, Stafford.

### JOHN McGRANAGHAN - more injustice

Released by the Court of Appeal in Oct 1991, conclusively cleared of all charges by forensic evidence, John McGranaghan had just spent 11 years in Britain's worst jails, categorised and stigmatised as a sex offender and treated accordingly, subject to constant victimisation and cruelty. John did not take his false imprisonment lying down and fought vigorously for his survival. He spent over 8 years in solitary 'in the interests of good order and discipline' and was moved between jails 30 times. He struggled constantly to prove his innocence and to defend his human rights; he was involved in a number of collective protests to highlight conditions in the special control units at Lincoln & Hull. The climate of psychological terror carried out against him (by screws and prisoners alike)

came to a head in Gartree in 1991 where screws were constantly inciting other prisoners to ostracise John and attack him. John defended himself against a screw and was charged with GBH.

When John was released, the Appeal Judge said the case was a 'clear miscarriage of justice'; however the GBH case has not been dropped and John is in court in Leicester on April 5th.

Is 11 years imprisonment for something he did not do enough? Since his release John has suffered a stress-related heart attack. What will they do if he is found guilty - send him back to prison?

Unless the state is made aware that people are concerned, John may yet be returned to prison to serve another sentence.

## Legal Aid Scandal

The Lord Chancellor's department is continuing the process of removing that tiresome tenet "innocent until proven guilty" from the farcical British justice system by refusing legal aid in all but the most exceptional of circumstances.

In October '92 the 1991 Criminal Justice Act came into force and it basically encourages magistrates to give community sentences rather than jail terms. All well and good you might say. However, couple this with the 1988 Legal Aid Act - to be eligible for legal aid you now have to meet one of three criteria:

- will you suffer loss of livelihood?
- will your reputation be damaged?
- will you go to prison if convicted?

With the possibility of the last point now more remote it means that any previously convicted (no reputation) unemployed person will be refused legal aid.

The effects of this are outrageous. For example, in Sunderland an unemployed 17 year old with 2 previous convictions was charged with going equipped for theft. He was refused legal aid and consequently will be forced to plead guilty (despite wishing to plead otherwise) or defend himself. Even more sinister is the case of a man, with many previous convictions, charged with burgling a supermarket. He admits the 'offence' and, although the magistrate may consider a jail sentence, he has been refused legal aid.

*A calculated attack on the working class and what few rights they have in a legal aid system where money means not guilty and poverty means guilty?* No, the Lord Chancellor Lord Mackay says his "priority is to protect the poorest people".

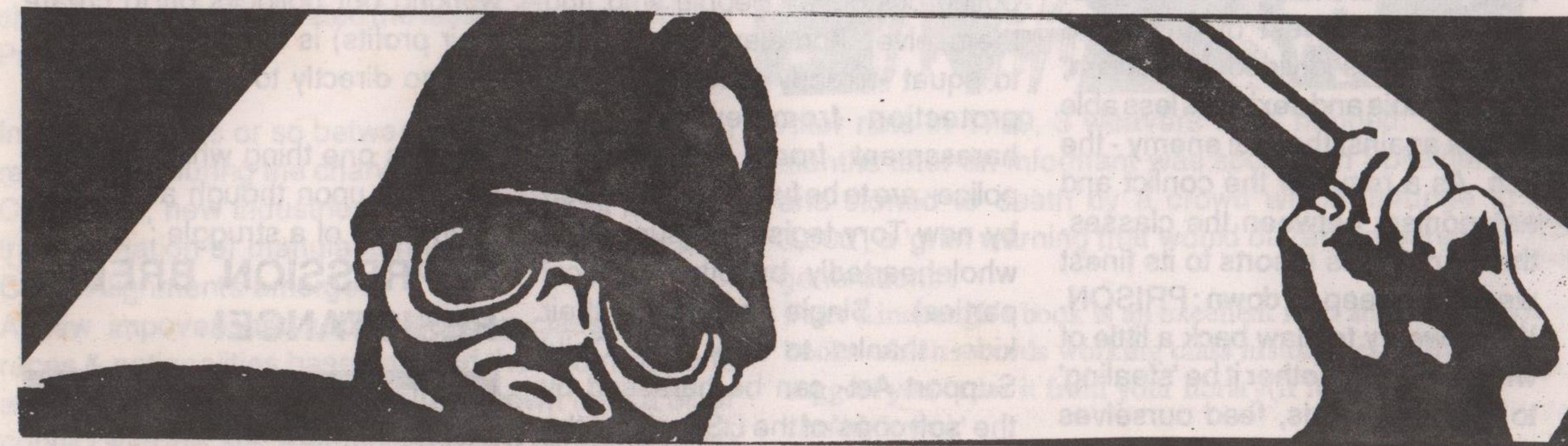
*The working class paying for the bosses' recession through cutbacks, again?*

## Murder most legal

Malcolm Kennedy, framed and sentenced to life for the murder of a cellmate in Hammersmith Police Station in 1990, has had his case sent for retrial. He has maintained his innocence all along and stated the murderers were the police. Both men had been arrested for Drunk & Disorderly and in the morning Pat Quinn was found dead in the cell with serious internal injuries, 33 rib fractures and severe head and throat injuries. At the time of the trial no motive was put forward for Malcolm Kennedy committing the murder; he told the court he was in a stupor and a forensic expert stated the injuries could not have been inflicted by the trainers Malcolm was wearing. But they could have been inflicted by police issue boots, of course... which is what his defence put forward, "a cover-up operation organised by the police to suppress the truth and use Malcolm Kennedy as a scapegoat".

Liddle Towers, Colin Roach, Jamie Stewart and thousands more have died at the hands of the British Police while in custody. Now one more goes on the list - Patrick Quinn, murdered by the police. Malcolm Kennedy is innocent. His retrial is scheduled for September 6th, 1993 at the Old Bailey.

The fact is that beatings, humiliation, stripping away of all dignity, torture and murder are part of the state's weaponry against prisoners. These things are not rare occurrences but regular happenings in the life of prisoners and are endemic to the role of police and screws. All screws and police officers know these things go on, some go out and do it, others keep quiet about it, where the cover-up and scapegoating comes in. When was the last time a police officer or screw was prosecuted for murder though? On the occasions that enough doubts are raised about deaths in prison/police custody (with hard proof to back them up) the police officers or screws come up with the same line about 'there being a struggle and restraining the prisoner' and the inquests/courts swallow it, hook line and sinker. Police investigate police, the state will always defend its own people and we're left with the knowledge that they've got away with it again. The answer to these problems lies in our own hands. Our strength lies in solidarity - sticking together to refuse to allow ourselves, friends and comrades to be treated like this. The only way they'll ever stop is if we - as a class - make them.



Omasase Lumumba, aged 32 nephew of Zairean President, died in a struggle with prison officers less than 2 months after seeking asylum in Britain. He was held in Pentonville prison to await the outcome of his application for and it was while there that he died at the hands of the screws. The POA and screws involved said at the inquest that he "had been calmed using home Office approved restraint".

Well, we know the Home Office hates foreigners and asylum seekers so much it is cutting the right to appeal, is speeding up deportations and wants to fingerprint the children of asylum seekers on entering the country (in line with the rest of 'Fortress Europe') but we didn't realise part of this policy was to sanction their murder in prison.

Unfortunately Lumumba isn't the first prisoner to die in prison - whether as an indirect result of the brutality, inhumanity and degradation there or directly at the hands of the screws - and he probably won't be the last. Barry Prosser is just of the many other men murdered in prison.

# Daylight Robbery

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This article is intended to start discussion around the 'criminalisation' of the working class. The second part of the article is an account of the use of hanging by the Ruling Class in the 18th Century to 'deter' those working class people who dared to steal to survive, and is contributed by Peter Linebaugh.

As Capitalism lurches from crisis to crisis, the Ruling Class look to protect their interests, wealth and privilege with more determination and greater desperation than before. For the working class this means more bare-faced and severe oppression. Workers are told that their shitty wages aren't shitty enough and that to 'save jobs' and 'tackle inflation' (and 'stimulate growth' as they like to put it) they must take a pay cut or pay freeze. At the same time, bosses, directors & executives of the same companies are gifting themselves pay rises of £150,000 and more. Welfare benefits are slashed to save the Government money and people lose their jobs by the thousands in what the capitalists like to call 'rationalisation'. Just look at the Miners - 30,000 jobs gone with a sweep of the pen and that's without looking at the overall effect this massacre will have on the mining communities, with all the jobs linked to the coal industry.

In order for the ruling class to be able to maintain their plush & privileged lifestyles, we are forced into conditions of want and abject poverty. Unemployment, poverty, bad housing, homelessness are all too quickly becoming the norm for more and more working class people. The state, not averse to kicking us while we're down, seeks to divide us in this time of struggle, and, as in the rest of Europe, a working class divided by racism, homophobia and sexism is less able to fight against the real enemy - the rich. As a result of the conflict and antagonism between the classes, the ruling class resorts to its finest weapon to keep us down; PRISON. When we try to claw back a little of what is ours, whether it be 'stealing' to clothe our kids, feed ourselves

and families, or even enjoy life a little, the State tries to stop us.

## WAR OF ATTRITION

If caught we face the police, courts and prison. If you can't pay the Poll Tax you face up to 3 months inside. If you're homeless you can be done for 'vagrancy', 'obstruction' or whatever they want. If you're on the dole and get a little side job they can do you for trying to eek out a living. If you're black, Irish, or just look

names of absent fathers for maintenance money. This puts many women who've escaped violent men at the risk of these men finding them. If you fall behind on mortgage payments you are likely to lose your home through repossession within 3 months.

## WHOSE LAW IS IT ANYWAY?

In short, the working class is criminalised by the state for no other reason than to keep us down and to protect their flash

## MOTHER JAILED FOR SELLING CARAVAN

A Judge who said it was a woman's function to "upset men" jailed the mother of a 5 week old baby for contempt of court. Judge John Lee jailed Angela Humphries at Worcester County Court for breaching an order forbidding the sale of assets pending her divorce proceedings. Her 'crime'? She sold a caravan for £340. Angela, who has 3 other kids, sold the caravan to raise cash after she'd been forced to move out of her home by a repossession order. Until she's released, her kids are being cared for by a relative.

Do we need any proof that the ruling class are making us criminals?

different you're likely to suffer police harassment, stop and searches, being pulled constantly and having your home raided. If you're gay and out in public with your lover a public show of affection could land you in police custody. People who find themselves homeless but choose to squat - already virtually without protection from eviction and harassment from authorities & police - are to be further criminalised by new Tory legislation (supported wholeheartedly by other political parties). Single parents and their kids - thanks to the new Child Support Act - can be harassed by the 'soft cops' of the DSS to give the

lifestyles. The laws we break are laws dreamed up by politicians, Freemasons and ruling class scum - we have no say in them. Our only purpose in life, as far as the ruling class is concerned (when we're not working our bollocks off to create their profits) is to break their laws and go directly to prison. What a deal.

There is one thing which can also be relied upon though as life gets even more of a struggle;

## REPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE!

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# HISTORY BY THE NECK

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The development and refining of the use of brutal punishment, imprisonment and legitimised murder as weapons the Ruling Class used (and continues to use) against the working class is documented in Peter Linebaugh's book "The London Hanged". This is a crucial book if we are to understand this development thoroughly, and is based on a study of 1,242 people publicly hanged at Tyburn between 1703 & 1772. Peter Linebaugh himself taught at Marion & Attica State prisons in the US and he explained the book in a letter to TL:

**"Though not a prisoner, though not in prison, I write hopefully that you will recognise the interest of the material I have discovered to prisoners in prison. This book records the stories of the 1000s who were hanged in England. There is a story that rulers prefer to have forgotten. The men & women were exploited to the end. The point of this book is simple. The means of life were taken away (expropriation). People had to 'steal' what was theirs anyway (appropriation). They were hanged when caught, thus making it easier to take away even more of the means of life. Slave-slavery and wage-slavery were introduced by a government which ruled by hanging".**

In the 18th century the gallows at Tyburn were the scene of 'legal massacre'. Dickens called it the 'punishment of death' and for those who passed under the gallows at Tyburn, it was known as 'the cheat', 'cramp jaw' or 'breath stopper'. Capital punishment here means punishment for crimes against capital and in the vast majority of those hanged, the hangings were for **THEFT**. Necessity drove the country's poor into an inevitable conflict with the laws of a privileged and ever wealthier ruling class - no surprise that exploitation was the cause of the 'criminal activity' of the working class, with little distinction between the poor and 'criminal' population. At the Middlesex Sessions (court hearings) of 1740, the stolen goods included; a silk night-gown, 7 gallons of Cherry beer, a coat, a waistcoat, a pair of leather trousers, a linen apron, 2 flaxen sheets, a pair of buttons, a silver spoon (out of the mouth of some rich bastard, no doubt) a cloth coat, 10lbs of roast beef, a ream of paper, 3 pints of rum... Mary Greenaway, a servant, (for example) was hanged for stealing a hat and Elizabeth Stevens, a washerwoman, for pilfering laundry. Just as each hanging was supposed to renew the power of sovereignty (respect for the Crown, courts, City and church) each also repeated the lesson 'Respect private Property'.

In the 100 years or so between the English & French revolutions, during the changeover from Feudalism to Capitalism, new industries, new divisions of labour, a transformation of manufacturing methods and a new Class Alignment emerged.

A new impoverished urban working class of many races & nationalities based around the booming ports and expanding textile areas, was thrown into a bitter conflict with the 'silk-wearing, bowing & scraping ruling

Some of this article was blatantly plagiarised from a review in 'Socialist Review'. We make no apologies for this!

class'. As people stole to live from the rich-pickings of their work-places (a custom up till then accepted by the bosses) so laws were brought in to outlaw this, and the ultimate penalty for breach of these laws was hanging. "Laws grind the poor and rich men rule the law" went the words of a popular song. As hangings became more frequent, so the attitude of the working class to them changed. As a Spitalfield ballad put it "We cannot be hanged more than once". Its use as a means of 'detering' the 'criminal class' - or 'dangerous classes' as they became known - did, however, become less frequent following the Gordon Riots in 1780 and the successful mob assault and arson of Newgate Prison. By this time the London working class had experiences of war, slavery and revolution and began to get up off its knees. There was an increasing number of reprisals against the rich and powerful and forms of organisation were beginning to develop amongst groups like the Weavers of Spitalfields, which called for effective repression from the ruling class. The Weavers wore disguise, armed themselves 'with cutlasses and other weapons', wrote threatening letters to master manufacturers, had their own language and regularly rescued imprisoned comrades.



After riots in 1769, 3 weavers were hanged. A few months later an informant was spotted in Spitalfields and stoned to death by a crowd which 'thronged to 3,000', a 'grim warning that would be remembered for generations'.

Peter Linebaugh's book is an excellent read and one of those books which records working class history best. But we suggest you order it from your library (if it hasn't been closed down).

# Never Stop!

This is the text of a letter sent to us by Belgian comrades framed in Verviers Jail:

Before talking about our personal situation and, by the same way, about the situation of other Belgian prisoners, it's better to explain briefly the situation in our country so as this will be understandable to everyone.

1992 has been the year of increasing repression inside (& outside) the jails; of course, this repression isn't new but this time it's really worse than before; worse because of some events that occurred last summer especially. It's not our intention to analyse these events but rather to look closer at the consequences of one of them.

During summer '92, two young people, aged about 25, savagely killed a young man and his girlfriend- after raping her- and these 2 murderers also committed several attacks in the country. One of these 2 criminals had been on parole for a few months and the other one was on a "one day out of jail"(sort of "day release").

The violence of the murders and attacks they committed were highly covered by the media at the time -for example: the creation of a petition by the victim's parents and friends;a petition that received more than 300,000 signatures and was sent to parliament! All this had immediate consequences - an incredible hardening of the public's opinion about Belgian prisons and inmates. The 'logical' result of this hardening of public opinion is actually felt in all the Belgian jails by an almost systematic denial of all the requests for parole or for a 'one day out'. This abstraction of liberations provokes in the prisoners' families and in the jail population some big deceptions and breaks all hope for any anticipated releases. The effect of such a situation is defined by an increasing 'electricity in the air' of all the jails where many inmates, sentenced to life or to 10, 15, or 20 years are framed.

The situation is really bad for many(most) prisoners; some of them get depressed or try to commit suicide, some others try to escape.....

It's in this special political context that we want to talk now about the last events that occurred to us.

During the month of December we decided to assert and to define our political militance in a new way. As revolutionaries we decided to stop according the little trust remaining in

us to the diverse frames of the system ruling the Belgian jails. This new definition of our militance has been, firstly, to plan an escape and, secondly, the willing of a total struggle against all the government's repressive institutions.

We won't explain the details of our escape that failed after more than a month digging a hole with sweat & blood, but we'd like to give some info about our actual situation.

We've been framed for 7 and a half years and for 12 years respectively,, which means that -theoretically- we could both have been paroled many months ago; even many years in Serge's case. But in the first case as in the second, nothing's been given to us yet: neither a 'one

day out' or parole! All is always refused. We don't deny the facts why we're in jail as well as the reason why we've been framed but we strongly protest against the length of this. Normally (but what's 'normal' here?) jail is said to be expiatory (we wonder how!), but here it's becoming eliminative!

For our escape we've been placed in a punishment cell and we're now in something like a maximum security unit but we don't care! The struggle continues, everywhere, all the time and by all means necessary!

Once more, the politico-repressive system in Belgium shows its real face as part of what will be in the next decade, in Europe, the imperialist oppression: a huge unification of totalitarian repression against opposition. As revolutionary fighters we have to unify ourselves- no matter which country we come from -to fight against imperialist supremacy in the eastern countries that aims



to divide us before destroying the weakest ones of us. LET'S UNIFY OURSELVES! FOR A EUROPE WITHOUT ANY CLASSES! FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF IMPERIALIST JAILS! FOR THE VICTORY OF OUR FIGHT - NEVER STOP FIGHTING, TRYING, SHOUTING & RIOTING! SOLIDARITY WITH ALL COMRADES FRAMED IN IMPERIALIST JAILS!

**Boris Dumont & Serge Mandelier:**  
Prison de Verviers,  
81 Chaussee d'Heusy,  
4800 Verviers,  
Belgium.

Please send letters of support in English, French or Spanish

## Strangeways (cont. from p. )

Then, as the trial moved into its 9th week on December 7th, a daring escape by 2 of the defendants en route to court from Hull prison, where they were kept at weekends, rekindled the media's attention. **Mark Azzopardi** was recaptured on January 27th 1993, but **David Bowen** to this date has evaded the clutches of the law. Continuing their mockery of the State's so-called 'justice system' and their appointed keepers 5 more defendants then successfully escaped whilst in the custody of prison officers on Feb. 17th! By removing a ceiling panel in their holding cells and crawling along a ventilation duct into an empty courtroom, the 5 men then walked out through the judges' corridor, passed a judge (he thought they were workmen) through a fire door and away!

The following week, on Feb. 23rd 1993, the jury retired to consider their verdicts, quite amusingly with only 5 of the original 12 defendants left in the courtroom (although one was sick in hospital).

Unfortunately **Barry Morton** was recaptured early the next morning in Liverpool. Re-incarcerated for only 3 weeks though **Mark Azzopardi** was again one of the successful escapees, as was **Alan Lord**, who in June 1990 had escaped from Greater Manchester Police's prize 'secure' copshop at Astley bridge near Bolton.

Over the next few days, as the jury began to return their verdicts, **Andrew Nelson** (again) and **Darren Jones** were acquitted. It now remains to be seen whether Andy will appear in the 3rd Showtrial group.

## Sentenced

The remainder were all to receive very stiff sentences: **Kevin Gee** and **Glyn Williams** got 10 years - as did **Alan Lord** in his absence.

**Anthony Bush** and **David Bowen** got 9 years in their absence.

**Barry Morton**, **Mark Azzopardi** and **Mark Williams** got 8 years apiece.

**Nathan Gaynor** got 7 years.  
**John Murray** got 4 years.

(**Earl Fahey** pleaded guilty before the trial proper in October and got 5 years).

In his summing up of the 2nd Strangeways Showtrial on March 1st, 1993 Judge Michael Sachs stated that ;

*"Your complaints about the prison regime, real or imaginary, could not excuse any of you taking part in the longest, most expensive and most violent prison riot in the history of this country"*.

Demonstrating the slick but obvious way the State avoided and denied any political or social reasons for the Uprising and also that he, like all judges, knows which side his bread's buttered in the class struggle. (Continued on back page)

## Taking Liberties - page 9

# PRIVATE HELL

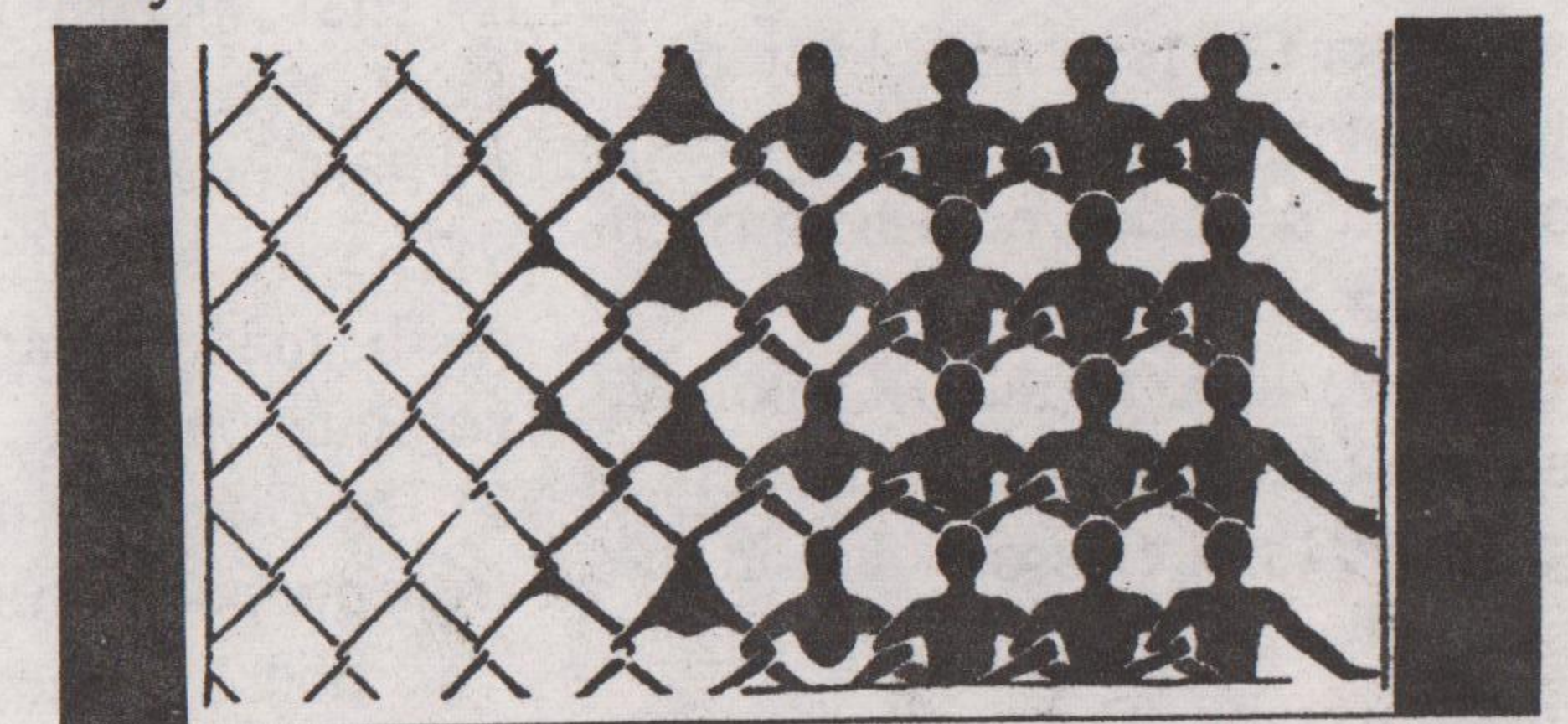
In the first week of April the Prison Service left the direct control of the HO, becoming a Whitehall agency with **Derek Lewis** as its Director General. This man has a policy-making role to draw up a detailed programme to build a 'viable private sector' to manage some of the 130 dungeons in England and Wales. A few months before Lewis took on his post, **Robin Halward** became Governor of Strangeways (formerly deputy to **Brendan O'Friel**). He promised a "new, humane, positive and challenging regime" for all prisoners.

*These two events are not unconnected:* a whole host of private companies - including the Prison staff of Strangeways- are lining up to line their pockets by bidding to run the newly-reopened Strangeways as Britain's 3rd private hell. Who are they?

- Custodial & Escort Services Ltd (Securiguard)
- Securicor
- Group 4
- UK Detention Services Ltd
- MANcare Ltd (Sodexo)
- Premier Prison Services (subsidiary of Wackenhut from USA)

Lovely people. And of course they have our best interests at heart. Or have they?

An inquiry was launched at the end of April into allegations that the Director of Corporate Corrections of America (**Don Hutto**) was being taken to court by prisoners from American jails charged with TORTURE. CCA is part of a consortium, United Kingdom Services, with **John Mowlem & McAlpine** which will run the 2nd private prison, **BLAKENHURST** from May.



And for all those scabs on the left (SWP, Militant etc) who insist that screws and coppers are just 'workers in uniform', here's what the POA says about privatisation;

"We are totally opposed to it BUT we decided we should support the bid in principle for market-testing". Just in case there's ££££££££ to be made ripping off your own class, you scabs.

## T.V or not T.V

For those who don't follow the politics of prisons, and quite properly couldn't care less, the Governor is obliged to spend the Common, or General Purpose Fund, monies on/for the general benefit of prisoners. The only facility we have (in Blundestone) that is of general benefit is the TV and video.

That is the Governor's obligation to us, but we have no obligation to the Governor in this respect. We may volunteer a contribution, but we cannot be penalised for refusing to help defray the cost, as we have already paid via the Common Fund. So quite a few of our enlightened colleagues choose not to pay. Good luck.

This is one of the very few prisons that tries to charge prisoners for television or video hire. This is also one of the most cost-effective prisons, and to those who pay; the governor is in no doubt, very grateful for your help. She gets a good slap on the back, while the lads who pay get a kick in the bollocks.

TVs have been in prisons since the 60s and became general to all prisons in the 70s. This was not for inmates benefit alone, nothing ever is. The cost of film hire went up from £7 a weekend in the 60s to well over £30 for some old crap 10 years later. The total cost of seeing one film a week would be around £500 for a small nick.

Then we look at the HO policy, under pressure to give prisoners a great deal more association in the past few years, than they were used to coping with. The result of having a load of prisoners on the loose with buggers all to do would obviously result in a serious management problem. So the Governor can cut down on staff, saving a lot of cash and solve a control problem, just by putting in TV. The real master stroke, however, is getting the silly inmates to pay for all this.....

The expense of a TV & Video comes from the Common Fund and just because we don't pay into this directly anymore, it ain't extinct. The Governor is obliged by the HO to maintain a General Purpose Fund from Canteen profits etc and send a fair old lump of it to the HO once a year. The rest of the money can be used only for purposes that benefit prisoners generally; and as said before the only facility here that the majority of prisoners benefit from is TV & Video. In a letter sent by Lord Ferrers to Woy Hattersley (MP), he stated; "Until 22nd February, 1990, a weekly contribution was made automatically from the pay of all inmates. This policy was then changed so that contributions would not be taken automatically, but could be sought on a voluntary basis."

This was because a prisoner, named Mark Leech, made a name for himself by learning law and fighting the system and won the right for prisoners not to pay. Why help the Governor by giving money when you don't have to? There's no parole in it!

In his letter Lord Ferrers specifically states that "video screenings" are made available through the Common Fund, and this, by implication, means TV, as a video cannot work alone. So what are we left with? 1) The Chief Minister at the HO, Lord Ferrers, states TV is paid for by the Common Fund. 2) The law says that prisoners cannot be made to part with money by compulsion.

3) The Governor may seek monies from prisoners on a voluntary basis. This does not mean prisoners can be threatened (pay or no TV); neither does it mean prisoners can be put on report for watching TV having paid the Common Fund but refused the extortion.

4) If you pay extra? You are an arsehole.

**ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS  
BLUNDESTON**

## Bridgewater 4 knocked back again

Jimmy Robinson, the oldest of the 3 remaining men in jail for the 1978 murder of Carl Bridgewater, staged a 82 day rooftop protest at HMP Gartree over the Home Secretary's refusal to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. Now aged 59 he climbed onto the roof and painted 'Carl Case Whitewash' on the roof. He also said:

*"It is the only way I can show the world our disgust that such significant material amassed by our legal representatives has taken us precisely nowhere"*



Another of the 3, Vincent Hickey (aged 38), was found in his cell-bed on Feb 16th with razor slash injuries. He'd been moved from Long Lartin in Nov. '92 for treatment for a nervous breakdown. His mother, Ann Skitts, said:

*"He has tried everything to prove his innocence. This, I believe, was his last resort"*

How much longer must these men be left to rot by the State? Already one of them has died in prison. We can't let the state get away with this! Letters of protest to the Home Secretary at;

(Home Office,  
Queen Anne's Gate,  
London, SW1H 9AT.)

Taking Liberties page 10

## Stoke Newington Corruption

Investigations into drug-dealing, perjury and fabrication of evidence at Stoke Newington police Station have led to the release of 4 people jailed for possession of drugs. The 4 - Ida Oderinde, Rennie Kingsley, Dennis Tulloch, and Everard Brown - maintained the drugs had been planted on them and at their appeal the Crown declined to contest the case. All 4 cases were unconnected, a sign of the extent of the dirty tricks these cops get up to. One former D.C Roy Lewandowski, had been jailed for 18 months last year for stealing property from a manslaughter victim's house. Three others had been suspended and others fallen 'under grave suspicion'. All officers involved in the 4 cases are either suspended or under investigation. The fact that all 4 released are black is also important, as Rennie Kingsley said; "There is a lot of racism in a system which only takes the word of police officers. The officers who raided me were all white and the people in the court were all white".



Time

At the time of the offence I was at home the day in question no street did I roam the alleged offence was nothing of my doing can innocence be anything that needs proving?

I was minding my own business and quite straight when the wicked one arrested me with hate in a cell they gave me water and said 'Cheers' they gave me judge and Judge gave me 2 years.

poem by Benjamin Zephaniah  
(from 'The Dread Affair')

## Kenny Carter

The Authorities and screws have been up to their usual tricks in their treatment of Kenny Carter but Kenny has not let them have their way. While at Full Sutton Kenny learned that one of the young men pressured into making a statement by the police which helped to convict Kenny, has retracted it. The con in question has also stated that just like him, many others were pressured into making statements against Kenny. Also while at Full Sutton, Kenny and about 20 others took part in a Hunger Strike; it lasted 30 days and was "because of my case and conditions...I was on a full protest which consisted of no food, no liquids and 2 days later when the captors knew it was getting tense they swagged me out to Long Lartin." Kenny was then shipped out to Armley, Leeds for a 28 day lay down. (This was all taking place at Xmas) Kenny was involved in a fight with some screws and was then on his way to Bristol - he was then ghosted to Winson Green where he had serious threats made against his life by the screws, along the lines of 'remember what happened to Barry Prosser'. Kenny was kept awake at night by the screws refusal to turn off the strip lighting in his cell. When Kenny remedied this himself by ripping it out "two hours later I was rushed and given the liquid cosh, a needle up the ass and blackness." Before ending up at the Special Unit in Milton Keynes (where he is now), Kenny was also ghosted to Parkhurst. All the time Kenny is having his personal things confiscated by the screws and generally hassled to make his life hard - as if it isn't hard enough anyway.

It isn't all bad news though; it seems that at last some of the media are taking an interest in Kenny's case, something which if handled properly could have a big effect on his case. Please write to Kenny to let him know he's still got loads of support and to give him a boost:

**Kenny  
Carter (AD3434),  
HMP Woodhill,  
Special Unit,  
Tottenham St,  
Milton Keynes.**

Taking Liberties

In the rush to get TL printed the end of the Strangeways article was omitted(it is not on the back page as stated). Here it is, we hope this oversight hasn't spoilt your enjoyment of TL #10. (cont. from p.9)

## CLASS PERSECUTION

And so this mammoth trial is set to further continue. The defendants are being tried for their actions in fighting back against a brutal and inhumane prison system necessitated by the inequalities and injustices with which our class-divided society is shot right through. These are the real issues behind the Strangeways showtrials, State 'justice' and the prison system, not the farce in Manchester crown Court that is condemning these men to further years wasted in society's more concrete prisons. Despite the impressions we might get from all the horror stories portrayed by the media, the prison system is not in actual fact brimming over with sex-crazed, axe-wielding psychopaths straining to get at us. This is a myth created to keep us in fear of prisons and those unfortunate enough to do time in them. Which isn't to say that all cons and ex-cons are complete angels either but the vast majority spend time inside for 'petty crime' - theft, burglary, non-payment of fines or taxes etc, in short getting by outside the rules enshrined in law by the rich and powerful to ensure that they remain rich and powerful at our expense.

To be sure, we're often the victims of these 'crimes' as well but only because we can't afford complex security systems nor the full weight of the law as exercised by top-money lawyers. So the rich get richer as the poor struggle amongst themselves to survive and in order to keep us under control enough to profit from our labour the bottom line of the 'justice' system, the prisons, await those of us that break their rules and get caught. And as has been amply highlighted in the last couple of years those guardians of the law, the filth in blue, aren't too fussy about who they pick up just so long as their clear-up rate looks good.

## THE AFTERMATH OF STRANGEWAYS

Alan Lord was recaptured in Salford on 6th March 1993 and 2 days later Mark Azzopardi turned himself in. On March 10th Antony Bush was again taken into custody whilst to this date David Bowen and John Murray remain on the run(good luck to them!). In the third trial some 27 men await to be tried. The first completely refurbished wings at Strangeways are expected to reach completion later this month and the prison expects to be fully operational by Autumn 1993. The tenders have already been invited from private contractors for the staffing of Strangeways prison.

On May 16th 1992 the Prison Security Act 1992 came into force, mainly to make provision for a new offence of "prison mutiny" and directly as a result of the wave of uprisings and disturbances ignited by events at Strangeways - the maximum sentence is ten years.