

ABC Merchandise

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FROM ALCATRAZ TO MARION TO

MUSIC

INSIDE FOR US. - 90 min. punk compilation tape. 31 bands, Class War Prisoners Benefit. £2

NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS - 90 min. tape, diverse mixture of music, ABC benefit. £2

TAKING LIBERTIES - 7" E.P. 6 tracks of political punk with lyric & information booklet ABC benefit. £2

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POSTCARDS / POSTERS

REMEMBER WE'RE STILL HERE. 2 colour ABC poster-75p
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL BENEFIT POSTCARD - Colour reproduction of a painting by U.S. Anti-Authoritarian political prisoner Larry Giddings. (produced by New York ABC).35p

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IN THE STRONG BOX - Robert Mawdsley - An account of life in Parkhurst prison's isolation, "strongbox cells". 75p

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UNCONTROLABLES DOSSIER - Articles

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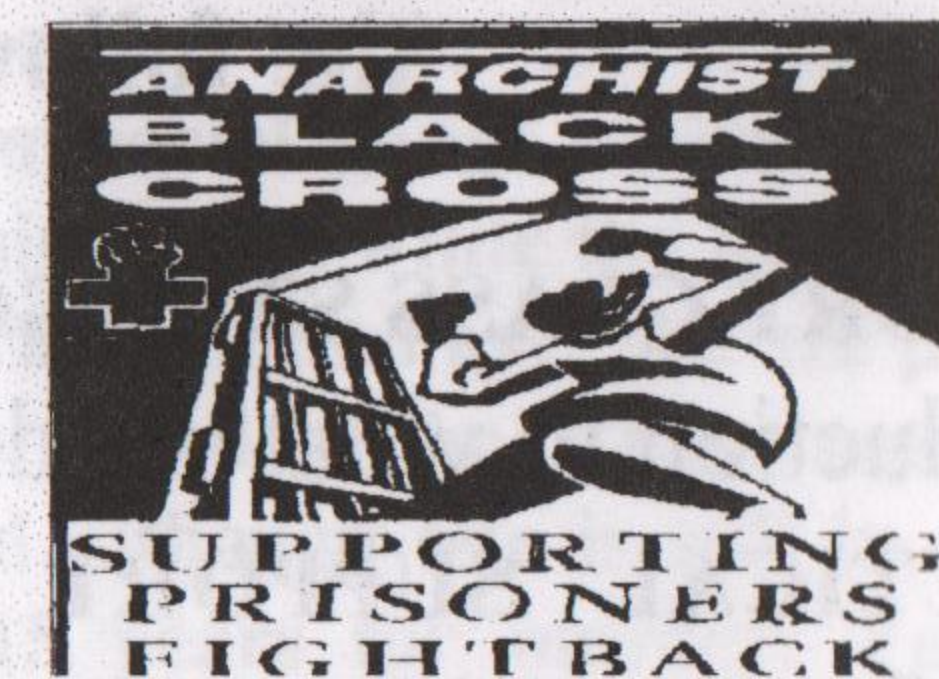
UNTIL ALL ARE FREE - The Trial Statement of Ray Luc Levasseur - Written from the experience of a working class revolutionary sentenced to 45 years for conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government. 75p

WHY ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN ? - Larry Giddings - An interesting account of the activities and political development of an anti-authoritarian, political prisoner in the U.S. 75p

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Taking Liberties



50p
Free to prisoners

May '98

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE GREAT ESCAPES ...

Editorial

Welcome to Taking Liberties the paper of the Anarchist Black Cross.

This is the first issue for almost a year, sorry for the gap. Over that time there have been some changes that we hope you will like. TL will definitely remain a paper about prison by prisoners and those involved in prisoners support, but we want to broaden it out as well and encourage articles about other issues after all just 'cus you are inside doesn't mean that what is going on out here isn't relevant.

We are also going to lighten the overall tone of TL where we can. Obviously there are issues to be addressed that will remain heavy stuff but when possible we will be putting in a bit of humour so that it becomes a more enjoyable read. This is partly in response to comments from prisoners who said that whilst they found TL

well researched and on the mark ... it could make one hell of a depressing read.

The last issue of TL (Summer 97) was the drugs issue. The input from prisoners and the responses we got to that were great and we think the idea of having a theme running through the issue is a good one. So we will be sticking with that and welcome all suggestions for topics to be covered in the future. At an ABC Network meeting we drew together the following ideas: Education and Recreation in Prison, Anti Social Crime, Criminals, CCRC, Appeals etc, Racism and Women In Prison. As always we welcome articles and comment from prisoners and hope that the next issues will carry a higher percentage of such.

Please note that after a bit of a rejig in the ABC Network the Sheffield address is where you send all contributions for future issues. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those in London that have

kept Taking Liberties going over the past years and put so much time and energy in.

The articles that appear in TL do not necessarily reflect the views of everyone in the ABC Network. All articles will be published unnamed unless requested otherwise.



... your new editorial group!

All being well the next issue of TL will be winging its way to you at the beginning of August, so we need your articles or ideas by July 1st.

Our idea for the next one is racism inside and outside nick. We're e sure you've loads to write about so hope to hear from you soon.

LIST OF ABC GROUPS

Birmingham ABC - PO Box 3241, Salfley, Birmingham, B8 3DP.

Brighton ABC - PO Box 2971, Brighton. E. Sussex BN2 2TT

Huddersfield ABC PO Box 381 Huddersfield HD1 3XX

Leeds ABC - c/o LAG, 145 - 149 Cardigan Rd, Burley, Leeds. LS6 1LJ

London ABC - c/o 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0LR

Newcastle ABC - c/o PO Box 1TA, Newcastle, NE99 1TA.

Reading ABC - Box A, Risc 35-39 London st. Reading, Berks. RG1

Sheffield ABC - PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY.

Somerset ABC PO Box 478 Taunton Somerset TA2 7YR

Wolves ABC - PO Box339, Wolverhampton, WV10 7BZ.

OTHER CONTACTS

Conviction - PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF.

(Supports Framed Prisoners.)

Haven Distribution - BM Haven, WC1N 3XX. (Books Free to Prisoners)

GANDALF 6

Editors of Green Anarchist were sent down for three years for conspiracy i.e. reporting in a positive light acts of resistance. Whatever we think of GA (and we do have more than a slight problem, with the paper and organisation) we are anti-censorship, and believe in fighting laws that prevent publication and distribution of political material. Three are on bail pending appeal. The remaining two are going to trial as we speak. More info contact:

GANDALF Defendants Campaign, PO Box 66 Stevenage, SG1 2TR.

WOT! NO PRISONERS LETTERS?

We apologise for the lack of letters and other contributions from prisoners in this issue. This is a temporary hitch caused by the break in production and re organisation of the Network. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible... do not adjust your set

DIRTY PROTEST AT WHITEMOOR.

As we go to print we have received information that at least three prisoners in the block are on dirty protest due to a variety of repressive acts from the screws...legal mail being tampered with, racism, etc...One of the men is Tony Bush a veteran from Strangeways. All strength to their actions. We welcome any news on developments there.

DEIRDRE RACHID IS INNOCENT!

What about the real Deirdre's?

On Sunday 29th of March, the 'Great' British Public were in a state of shock, as Coronation Street's Deirdre Rachid was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for mortgage and credit card fraud. Tears were wept in households around the country and Granada Studios switchboards were swamped as the shocked soap character was led off to her fate. As usual the media hyped up the public hysteria, and 'free Deirdre' T shirts were hastily made by those wishing to get in on the act.

Morning TV took up the case, as did Labour MP Fraser Kemp, vowing to launch a 'free the Weatherfield 1 campaign'. To top it all 'our glorious leader and man of the people' Tony Blair had to have his say, but doesn't he always?. Maybe this was tongue in cheek, but what a cheek they've got considering the number of real Deirdre's languishing in the prison system, fitted up for crimes they did not commit.



As Coronation street fans ourselves, we can appreciate good drama when we see it. Moved by the portrayal of a crushed woman going slowly mad, feeling powerless, helpless, voiceless as she experiences the inhumanity of the prison system firsthand. Finally to add insult to injury, she is barbarically subjected to the chemical cosh because she does not quietly accept her fate. The reason we feel moved by this is because we know that hundreds of women and men in the prison system today suffer similar kinds of agony every day, but unlike Deirdre, a fictional character, nobody knows their plight apart from those friends and family who also go through this living hell. This is our tribute to all the brave women imprisoned for crimes they did not commit, who constantly fight for their voices to be heard, to proclaim their innocence and gain their freedom. Here are some of the real Deirdres. Lets take real action and support them however we can.

Clare Barstow - Jailed for caring.

In 1992 Clare received a life sentence, convicted of the murder of Cathy O'Neill for whom she was a carer. There was no forensic evidence to link her to the crime. It was pinned on her largely due to circumstantial evidence and her post traumatic stress response to finding Cathy stabbed to death by an intruder.

CLARE BARSTOW, INNOCENT.



Sue May - Jailed for convenience.

In 1993 Sue was convicted of the murder of her elderly aunt Hilda Marchbank. Despite other suspects being available and unidentified palm prints, fingerprints foot prints, fibres etc Sue was an easy option for the police who fabricated conversations and pinned the crime on Sue on the basis of one handprint of unknown age. She is now serving a life sentence.

SUE MAY, INNOCENT

Annette Hewins - Serving 13 years in a British prison because she was kind enough to give her niece a late night, lift to the garage. A mother of four young children convicted in 1997 of arson with intent to endanger life following a house fire in which a mother and her two young children died. This crime is likely to be drugs related and is nothing to do with Annette who even went to the police station to offer information.

ANNETTE HEWINS, INNOCENT.

Donna Clarke - Convicted alongside Annette Hewins and sentenced to 20 years. Her only crime was that she had an affair with the victims boyfriend prior to the fire. The main prosecution witness was a 17 year old girl, who during the trial became increasingly confused about the facts and had clearly been pressurised by the police to change her previous statements.

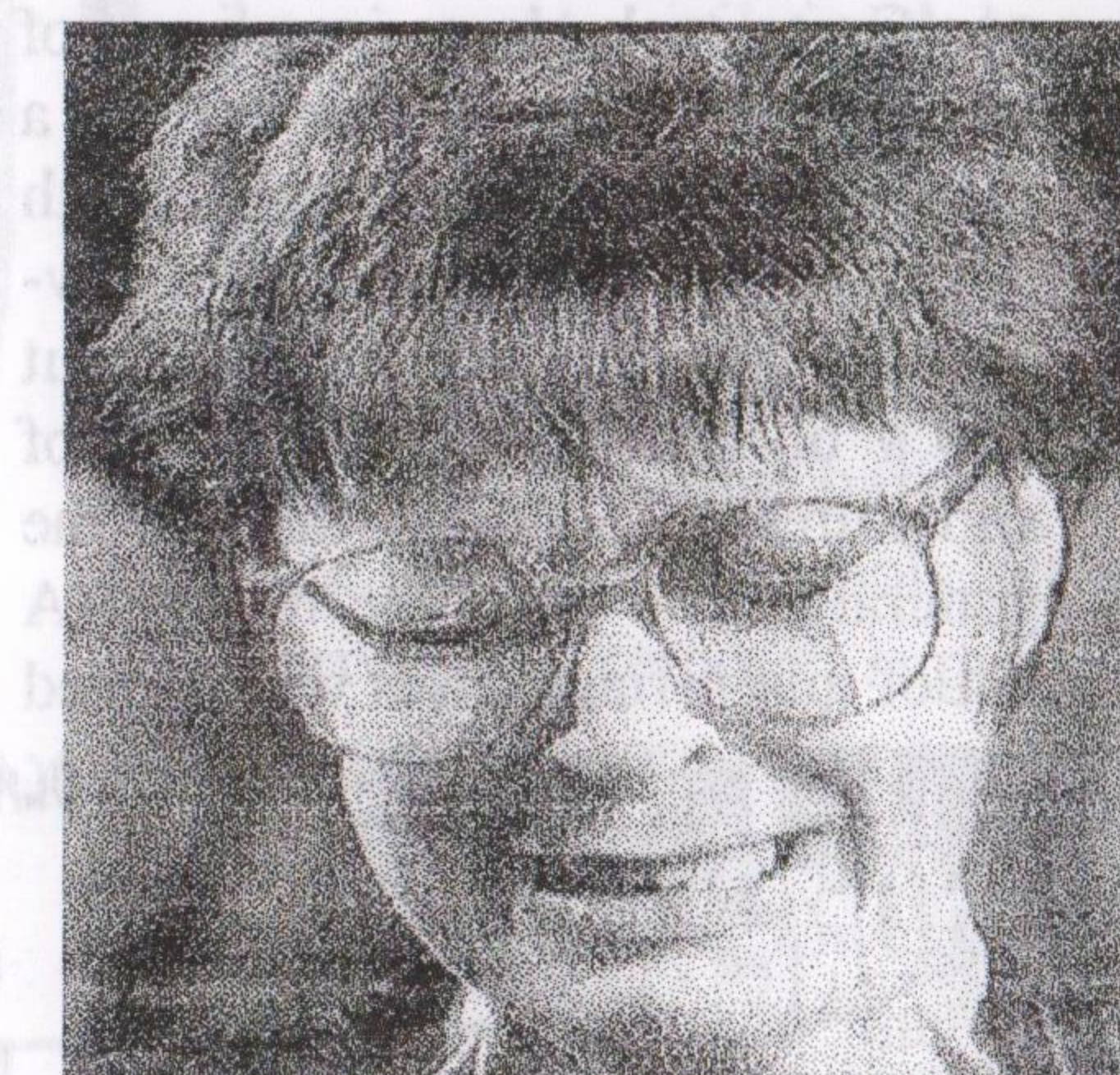
DONNA CLARKE, INNOCENT.

Denise Sullivan - Jailed for four years in 1997 because she changed her statement in relation to Donna Clarke. Denise was convicted of perverting the course of 'justice', otherwise known as 'trying to stop the police from fitting someone up'.

DENISE SULLIVAN, INNOCENT.

Samar Alami - A political activist, framed by the British and Israeli States and convicted of possession of explosive substances and firearms. She was sentenced to 20 years in 1995. She has always spoken out against attacks in Britain and viewed them as dangerous as well as damaging to the cause of Palestinian liberation. Despite this she was fingered for two car bombs aimed at Jewish targets in 1994.

SAMAR ALAMI, INNOCENT.



November saw Birmingham as the focal point of Hunger for justice (HFJ), a 48 hours hunger strike to publicise cases of miscarriages of justice and to bring attention to the extreme lengths that prisoners are forced to go to gain basic treatment in prison.

Starting noon on the Thursday, ending noon on the Saturday, it involved over 100 prisoners in 32 different prisons. A core of 24 supporters on the outside, from 15 campaigns, were also on hunger strike. Numbers of protesters were up to 40, on the first day, whilst picketing the CCRC (criminal Cases Review Commission) building.

HFJ was launched with a press call outside the CCRC, followed by leafleting from a mock cell in the city centre. The night was given over to a well attended public meeting of around 70 people chaired by Birmingham ABC (BABC). The main speakers being Anne Whelan (BRIDGEWATER 4), George Silcott (WINSTON SILCOTT), Valerie Davis (M25 3), Sue Caddick (EDDIE GILFOYLE), Nikki Scott (GARY WARD), and speeches by Action Against Injustice and BABC. Other campaigns spoke of their particular histories and hopes for the future.

On Friday morning a picket of Winson Green took place in support of imprisoned asylum seekers. Then a march to town that met up with others in the city centre, where everyone then helped to hand out 100's of leaflets, collect a lot of signatures on petitions, talk to the general public and the media. A list of miscarriage cases was handed

in to the CCRC and a couple of the commissioners came out to listen to campaigners.

A march on Saturday was attended by around 50 people, with the notable support of the striking Hillingdon Hospital workers and the Liverpool dockers who came to offer their support. The end of the march signalled the end of the hunger strike, and after a vocal appeal for justice for all the prisoners who had taken part, every one went for a well deserved curry.

The idea of organising a public hunger strike with the CCRC as a focal point, had been raised. So instead of working on two or three small actions, campaigns and organisations agreed to combine their efforts to make one really effective protest.

BABC originally had the idea for HFJ to raise public awareness of as many campaigns as possible and the lengths that prisoners go to protest their innocence. Unfortunately the news coverage was patchy around the country and varied a lot, putting across a narrower view of the protest, specifically that the focus was only on the CCRC. This was not down to any lack of enthusiasm on the behalf of the campaigners, who spent weeks priming the media. A lot of the campaigners present were prepared to take direct action to complement the main protest. Sadly for many reasons this did not happen. All efforts were put into publicity; leafleting, radio and TV interviews etc.

That the focus of HFJ was moved more towards miscarriages of justice cases, at the cost of other issues was clearly a mistake. That some prisoners have put ideas up for the next HFJ is very encouraging, but future effort will now focus on Prisoners Justice Day (for details see later in this issue).

The lesson learnt was the power of solidarity, built on consensus, with mutual respect and trust. Many of those who took part, inside and out, came away feeling very positive. It certainly boosted morale for some of the campaigns, and prisoners this really brought them out of a feeling of isolation. There was a lot of support for the idea of linking up as and when possible.

An informal meeting on the Friday evening discussed the idea of a future action under the banner of 'Convoy for Justice'. A march to, or in London, to lobby Jack straw, was suggested. BABC is more than willing to attend and help with meetings and prison demos, to give the 'convoy' momentum. We are interested in building links between prisoners and helping campaigns, but not lobbying the state.

Vast differences were exposed in the development of campaigns, highlighting the need to exchange skills experience and resources. In response to requests from campaigns and individuals BABC will be hosting a day / weekend of workshops on various aspects of campaigning - producing propaganda, building support, dealing with legal representatives and the press etc.

It came as no surprise that the prison authorities stopped information about HFJ getting in. Because of this, details were not received until the day, and in some cases not until it was all over. So the idea that prisoners would feel more secure in the knowledge that others were fighting back, especially in the same prison. With this in mind it was suggested that a list of prisoners on the ABC's list, with consent, could

be circulated.

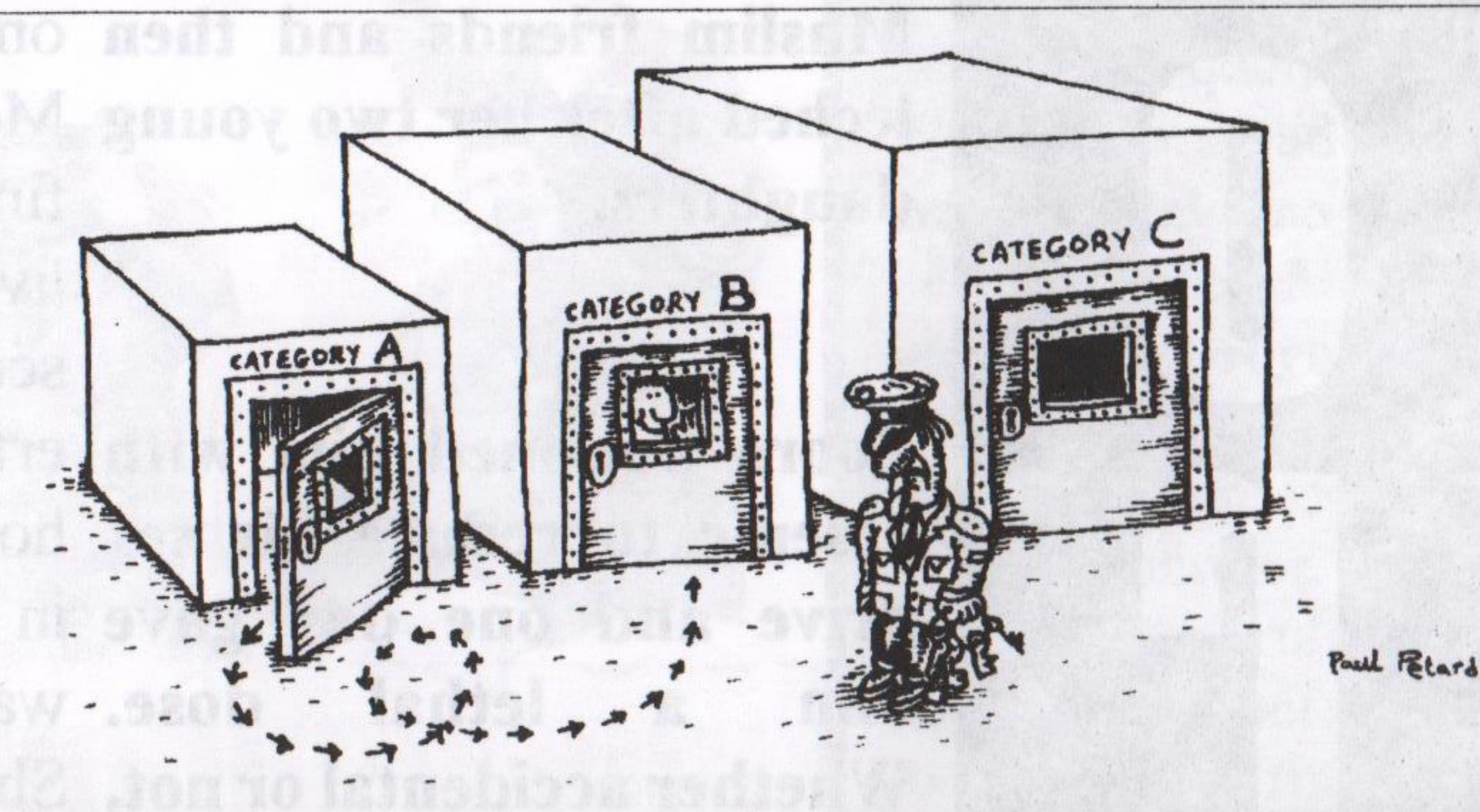
That the ABC can be of help to people who are wrongfully convicted is part of our fight, but we are not a 'miscarriage' organisation. We are not in the business of lobbying MPs and begging the Legal system for a 'level playing field'. The ABC can see beyond this and act accordingly. We are struggling against all that suppresses us as a class, and in par-

ticular, the Penal/ Legal system. We start from the point that all cops are rotten, all the courts corrupt, that their laws are aimed at the working class. *We do not want their prisons! We want our vengeance!*

We support prisoners in the day - to - day struggle to survive. That actions support our class and cause discomfort to their system is a good starting point. You don't have to riot to get support.

There are many issues that were raised during HFJ and are still coming up. TAKING LIBERTIES will try and expand upon these ideas of how greater solidarity, self determination and mutual aid, can be developed between prisoners and with the wider community.

As the saying goes **If we all spit together we can drown the bastards!**



Great

ESCAPE FROM SALSATRAZ

Mexican Prisoner Juan Lopez escaped from jail in January 96 after using acidic Salsa sauce from 6 years of jail house dinners to dissolve the bars of his cell window. Imagine what the stuff would have done to his guts if he had eaten it! So, after his final supper he did a runner and as you can imagine the guards were fucked off cus they never did KETCHUP with him.

OVER THE WALL WE GO....
Another tale from Mexico in February 95 prison guards in Calaya got a bollocking after 6 inmates escaped during keep fit sessions in the exercise yard. The convicts apparently bounced over the wall using the trampoline.

GET YOUR FAX RIGHT
Jean Paul Barrett was serving 33 years for forgery and fraud in Tucson Arizona until his somewhat pre-

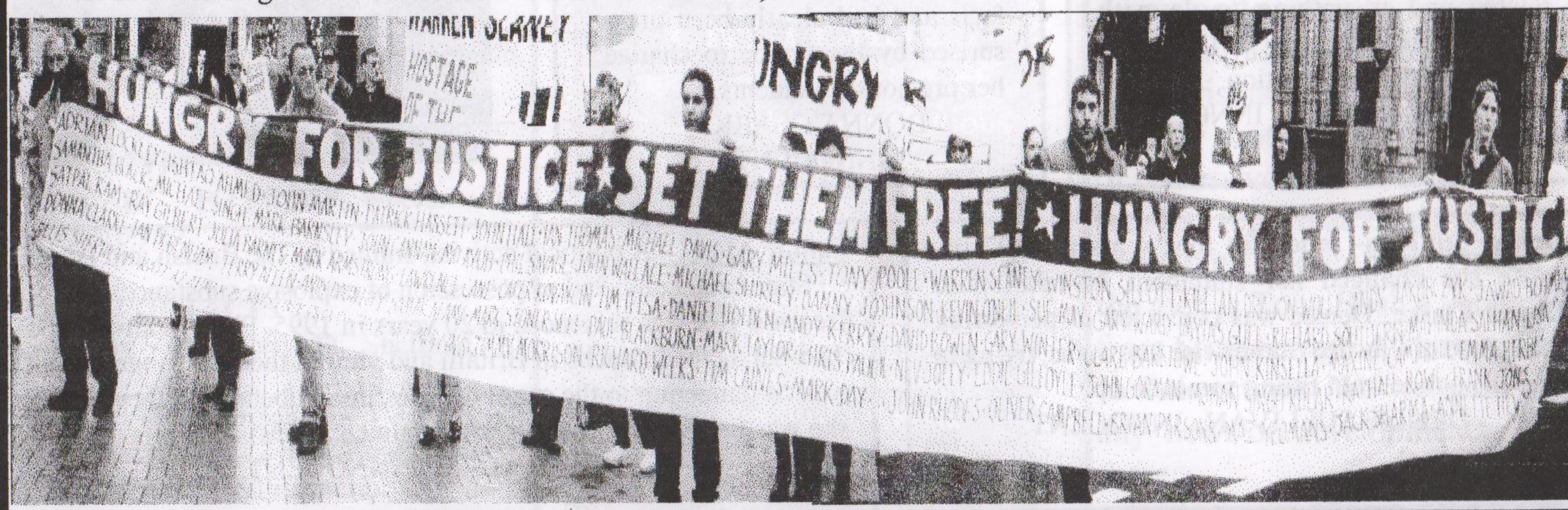


mature release in December 91. Someone faxed a faked release order to the prison and even though the document lacked coding or a phone number the thick bastards bought it and let him out. It was believed that someone had got hold of a real court document tippexed out some of the information, copied it then typed in the false release or-

der before faxing it. Barrett's absence wasn't discovered until three days later when he was due for a court appearance..

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

It seemed the best way to keep Donald Bissell, Terry Sledge and Brian Castleberry quiet in their cell at the Fauikner county jail in Arkansas. Let them play monopoly. All three were awaiting trial on various theft and assault charges in November 94. But they never got to court. Instead they used the tiny wheel barrow playing piece from the Monopoly set as a screwdriver to remove supposedly tamper resistant screws on an airduct covering, then crawled through the ducts to the roof and lowered themselves three stories to the ground using a rope made of bedding. Then they stole a pick up truck (no not the car from the Monopoly set ... I mean don't get ridiculous!) and vanished into the distance with £200 and a get out of jail free card.



Escapes

Zoora Shah

Zoora Shah is a working class Pakistani woman who's had a crap life that's been fucked up by men who, in her own words, "treated her like a matress". One man in particular completely controlled her, used her as a mule for his smack dealing, regularly raped and kicked the shit out of her, hospitalised her, prostituted her to his Muslim friends and then leched after her two young daughters.

Zoora poisoned him with arsenic to reduce his sex drive and one day gave him a lethal dose. Whether accidental or not, it was good riddance to filthy scum and he got his just deserts. Zoora however got 20 years for killing the bastard. This is her story.....

Zoora Shah is an illiterate woman from Mirpuri in Pakistani Kashmir, who was brought to Bradford in the early '70's as a teenage bride for an arranged marriage.

She was beaten by her husband and treated like a servant by his family. She had a number of abortions to avoid having girls and lost one baby because of her husband's violence. He threw her out in 1980 when she was pregnant with their third child because he married another woman. She was homeless and destitute, with two young children and pregnant. She stayed briefly with relatives of her husband, went to hospital for her third child and was even-

tual thrown out of this house because her two kids had got TB. She found a new place which was a dump, - one room with one heater, no bathroom and an outside toilet. She lived there with her new-born baby and two kids, and was so poor that they lived off Weetabix and watered down milk.

An Asian neighbour took pity on her and introduced her to Mohammed Azam to help her find somewhere decent to live. Azam was a married rich scum business man and property owner, who bought a house for Zoora in Bradford in his name because Zoora was unable to get a mortgage. She paid the mortgage repayments with benefits and money from her factory wages. But Azam wanted more than the mortgage paying off, he demanded sexual favours whenever he visited, which was sometimes three times a day. He raped her in the cemetery where her children were buried; in the back of cars with a bloke in the front driving; at home while her kids were in the next room; when she was recovering from operations and his beatings. She frequently went to his relatives for money to pay for abortions.

Not only was Azam a rapist scumbag and violent bastard, he was also a smack dealer with a number of guns and knives in his possession and had "friends" all over the country. He sent Zoora to Pakistan to return with a jacket stuffed full of smack. Her family found out and sent her home before the jacket arrived, ruining the deal - she

returned to Azam and was raped in the cemetery as punishment and beaten so badly she was hospitalised.

Azam was eventually arrested and sent down for dealing, but even inside he continued to control Zoora's life. He prostituted her from prison, so she had men from the community knocking on her door demanding sex. When Azam was released he threatened to evict her - rent for the house included being pimped by him.

She contemplated suicide and took a number of over doses of anti-depressants and pain killers, but never saw it through because of her kids. She bought arsenic from Pakistan and fed it to him in small doses as people told her it would reduce his sex drive. His impotence made him aggressive and he beat her badly. By this time the bastard had started eyeing up her daughters, so she arranged a marriage for one of them quickly to get her out of the house, but Zoora was scared for her other girl. One day in 1992 she gave Azam so much arsenic that it killed him.

Zoora pleaded not guilty in court, and declined to give evidence, ashamed of her sexual history and scared that she'd be branded a whore by the community, ruining her children's prospects of marriage. She was convicted in Leeds Crown Court and given a 20 year tariff for convictions including murder, attempted murder and solicitation to murder.

Her Appeal was heard in the Royal Courts of "Justice" at the end of March this year and the jury's still out - probably can't decide whether she's suffered enough. We'll let you know when they've made their minds up.

Donations can be made to the Free Zoora Shah Campaign, set up by the Southall Black Sisters, 59 Norwood Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4DW. Tel 0181 571 9595. 0181 574 6781.



"you sure this isn't entrapment, Sarge?"

PSST..

Jack Straw denies Prison officers strike action, and it makes them sick!.... Prison budget cut, again... Jack Straw's son collared for drug dealing... Walton cons refuse to come off exercise - around a 100 join in... Britain's oldest prison got smashed up.....Woodhill on line as Britain's Alcatraz... Asian Dub Foundation release record about Satpal Ram - played on Radio 1...Prisons to introduce compulsory DNA testing.Peace talks may result in early prisoner release in the six counties....Masons are being forced to disclose members who are cops, but judges are totally resisting. Are they just duplicating the paedophile register?... CCRC have said Joan of Arc might have case for appeal & are prioritising it ...Ex-Black Panther Lorenzo K'ombo, arrested in Australia. The state was forced to release him after international protest... CS gas standard issued for coppers...Ronnie Easterbrook's hunger-strikes forces authorities to decategorise him... Scotland given semi-independence, seconds out for the bout between Edinburgh & Glasgow... New Labour set about wholesale benefit cuts, targeting single mothers, OAP's & disabled... Access to media by prisoners has been heavily restricted after test-case overturned.....England &



Nine asylum seekers from West Africa held at Campsfield house detention centre, Oxford are being charged for their part in protests against their detention. All have been charged with Riot and Violent Disorder under the Public Order Act. This is the first time detainees involved with protests inside Campsfield have been charged. The cases of all nine will be heard on 1st June at Oxford Crown Court.

Over the years we've been appalled at numerous decisions in which prisoners have been punished, and brutality meted out to non-conformist inmates. We intend establishing our own firm of solicitors to challenge all aspects of prison life. Ranging from Judicial Reviews, transfers, racism, theft, property claims, assaults etc.

We are looking for nominees to establish a firm set up with independent trustees. We are also looking for interested people to run this organisation, with donations from prisoners, families and interested bodies. At the moment it is in discussion stage with the legal aspects to be covered, i.e. registering the firm.

For more Information please contact:- T. Birley at HMP Full Sutton or R. Gilbert HMP Woodhill Unit, CSC B wing, Tattenhoe st., Milton Keynes. MK4 4DA. All Ideas are welcome so come together and lets commence the fight back.

FREE BOOKS TO PRISONERS
 RADICAL & REVOLUTIONARY CLASS STRUGGLE, ALTERNATIVE BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES AND MUCH MORE... SEND AN SAE FOR A LIST.

HAVEN DISTRIBUTION, BM HAVEN, LONDON W6 9REX

Scotland qualify for World up...Ladbrokes refuse to take any more bets on Queen Mum being the next royal to die - Princes Margaret close in 2nd place... European Court of Human Rights have ruled that governors are not allowed to stick their fingers in their ears & hum loudly at adjudication... Judges want the right to set tariffs without interference from Home Office.... Hillingdon strikers are still out... So are the Magnet Strikers, most of the Dockers have settled... Con wins the right to be moved from a cell shared with a smoker, after judicial review... Chumbawamba get to No. 1 & miss the chance to brain John Prescott with a metal bucket. Still on Prescott - recent reports that he was bitten by a macaw happily appear to be true - a little birdie told us that the macaw is still recovering... Prisoners are being fed British beef - Home Office denies bringing back the death penalty... Enoch Powell (buried in Warwick if anyone fancies some grave-dancing).....Some blond bint called Diana, Makes a full page spread in Paris, This season i will mostly be wearing a body bag!....

LONG HOT SUMMER OF '72

PROP (the Preservation Of Prisoners Rights) a prisoners union was formed in response to the shit awful conditions in British prisons and as a means of breaking the Home Office monopoly on what information came out of prisons. At the time there had been about fifty collective prison protests between January and May of 72. The Home Office only acknowledged a third of them, officially the others 'didn't take place and the growing unrest was largely ignored by the press. They had an initial list of 26 demands including trade union membership and to negotiate pay and conditions, legal advisers in confidence, access to the press, parole, education and training courses, independent prison inspectors, adequate exercise time and facilities, independent medical advisers, as many letters as you want and more.

The history of penal reform is filled with largely futile efforts by liberal middle class tossers who often wouldn't involve or consult with prisoners as to what they wanted. So whilst accepting

a role that the liberals can play, full and free membership of PROP was only open to any person who is or had been banged up in any one of the various detention centres that HMG have so graciously provided for us. For those that hadn't been 'inside' there was associate membership. They would pay subs for themselves and the unpaid subs of a full member with a commitment to establish and maintain contact with their full member and help them out within reason. Only full members would be able to take up positions and vote at any meetings.

They issued a Statement of Intent which read 'to preserve, protect and to extend the rights of prisoners and ex - prisoners and to assist in their rehabilitation and re-integration into society, so as to bring about a reduction in crime.'

A press conference launched PROP and most nationals carried stories. The Times heading read 'A PROP for Prisoners' and the Sun read 'A Union For Old Lags'. But the word was out and most prisoners

"Brixton prisoners had been granted concessions which enhanced the use of collective action to get change".

found out about PROP through the media. The media interest continued when PROP claimed to be in contact with an escalating prison crisis. This was confirmed when a note from a prisoner was smuggled out of Brixton the scene of many protests.

Over the first two weeks of PROP's existence the prison protests grew and by the end of the month over 2500 prisoners had taken part in mainly sit down protests. At Armley all 996 men took part in a 24hr sit down. PROP rallied support outside the walls and managed to get only 27 people there. For an organisation claiming 500 members it was poor but the media covered it and PROP's image as a big organisation remained intact (interesting that now a picket of 27 outside a prison would be considered large).

Flushed by it's initial success PROP announced a further escalation in the protests and announced an all out national jail strike on an unspecified date. This was put out to coincide with the POA conference and totally upstaged the screws. All the papers carried the looming strike and carried PROP's demand for negotiation to start over the 'restitution of basic human rights for prisoners'. Meanwhile Brixton prisoners had been

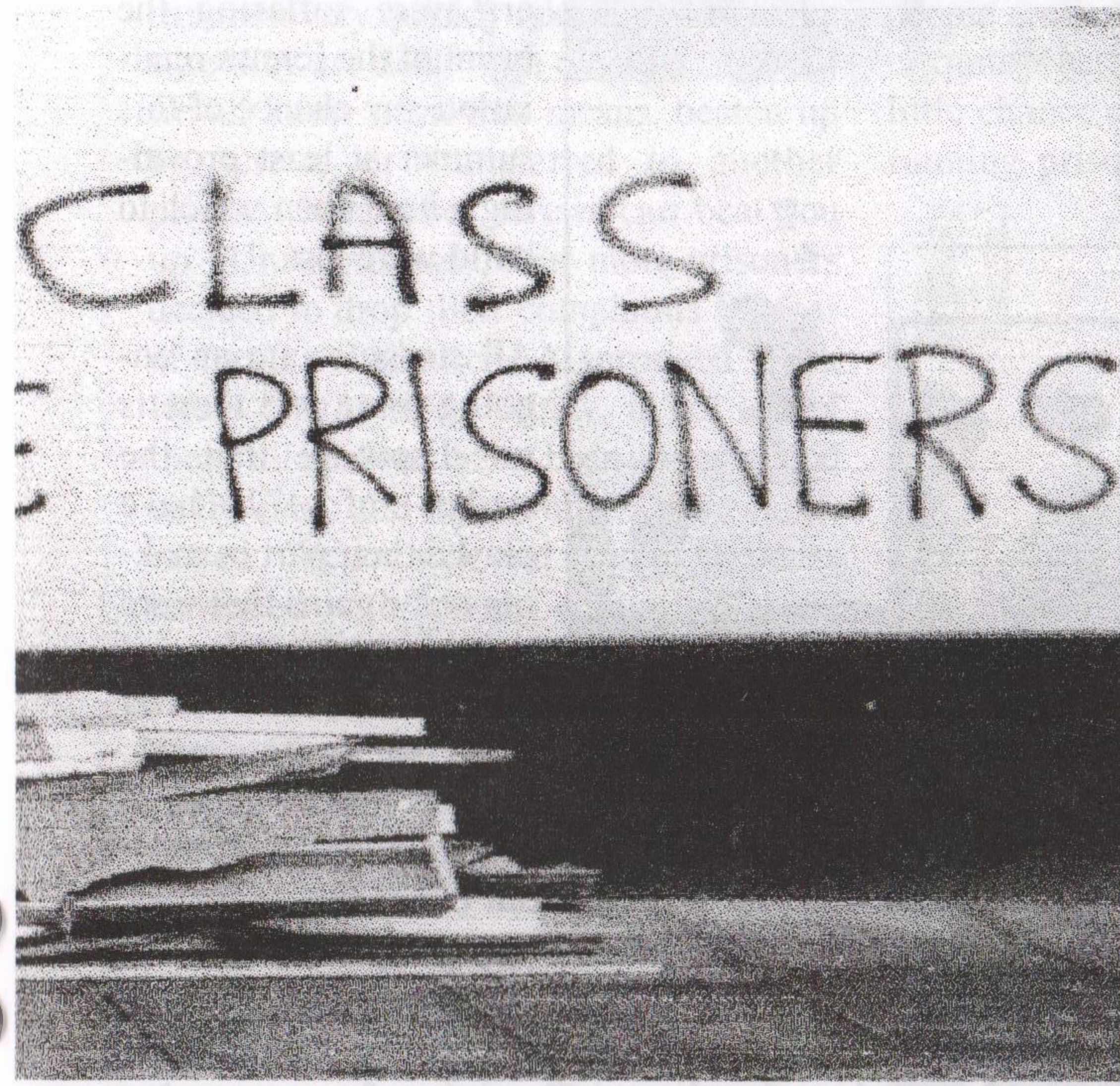
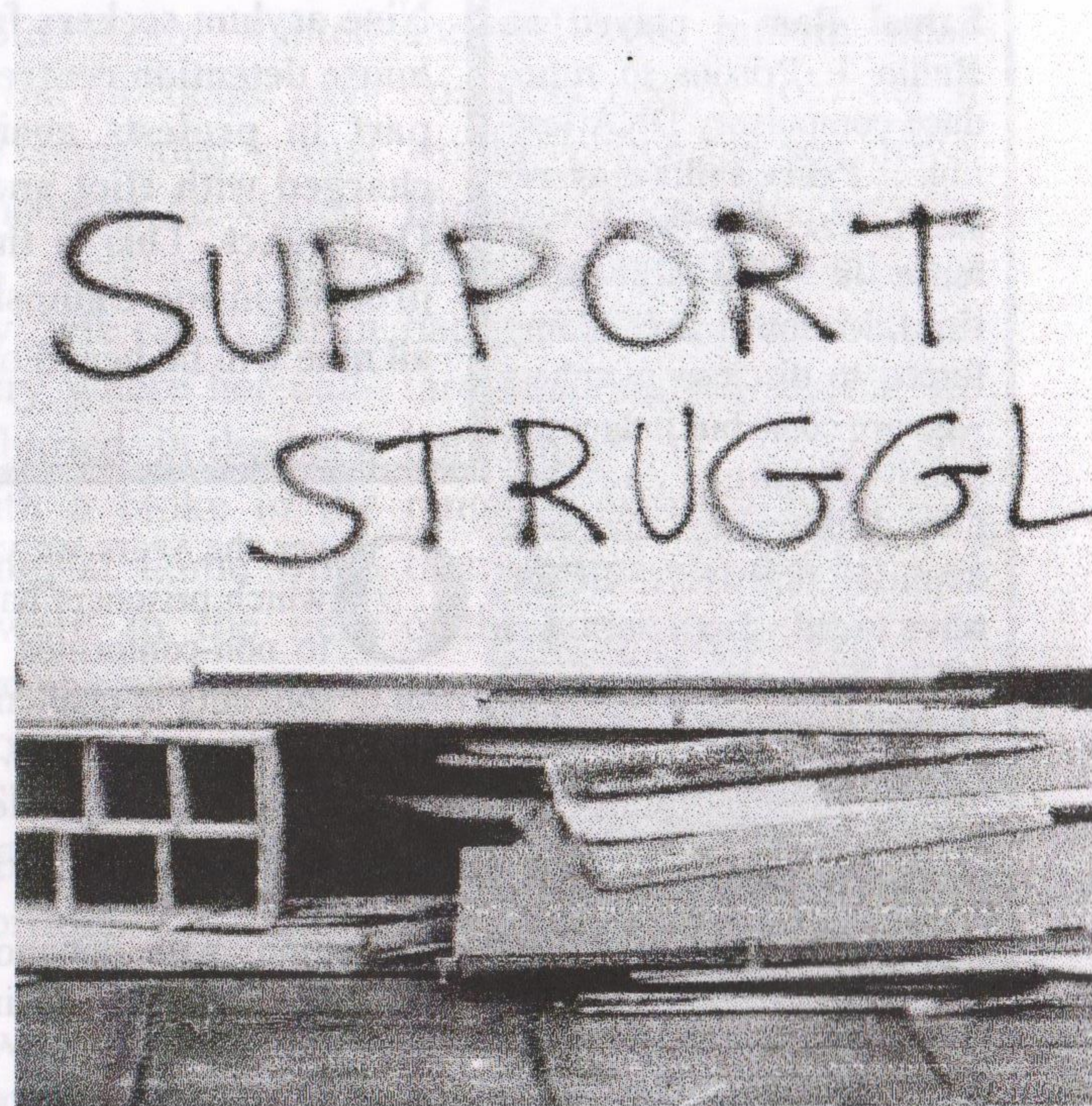
granted concessions which enhanced the use of collective action to get change. PROP's demands for an escalation were therefore met.

Some early problems had been identified being the lack of outside support for protests and the communication between those on the outside and those in. Virtually all prisons were suppressing PROP material and not letting the cons know. Despite these set backs PROP continued to gain

support in and out of the prisons. The strikes continued and the screws got more and more agitated. Against an individual they would just go in heavy handed but when they are up against large numbers they had to back off.

The start of June saw a further 20 protests. The frustration was too much for the screws and they started targeting 'leaders' who got a kicking and then ghosted but in some instances this had the effect of simply spreading the troubles to other prisons. The screws wanted to create riots, provoke the inmates who up till now had been peaceful in their protests.

Protests continued and the Home Office refused to recognise PROP and so they



There's no doubt about it PROP showed how the media could be a potent weapon. PROP claimed to be in contact with every penal establishment and the media imagined hurriedly scribbled notes being smuggled back and forth whereas the reality was that the media spread the word. On July 21 every national paper, TV and radio carried the date of the strike. By August 4th prisoners in Durham had heard so much about the strike that they thought it had Home Office backing! The whole prison took part.

PROP wanted to organise two protests outside one in the north and one in the south. But having suffered embarrassingly low turn cuts at Armley and Brixton decided to focus on Gartree in the midlands. At 8am the PROP press officer arrived to be met by

a barrage of press a thicket of cops but no other protesters. The governor came out to say there was no support for the strike and as he spoke a sheet was unfurled from a cell block reading 'Gartree 24hr strike is on.'

During the day the media contacted PROP with names of prisons and estimates of those taking part asking PROP to confirm the figures. Along with calls from visitors etc. this was how PROP got it's initial picture of the success. The Home Office

blundered and denied strikes taking place only to be confronted with photos of the strike taking place. In all 33 prisons and an estimated 5500 (official) and 10000 prisoners took part. On that night in Sweden a wave of strikes hit jails with 60% of the population taking part. The media coverage was total PROP in it's role as publicist for these events had done it's job well.

As news of the Brixton prison concessions spread prisoners found the confidence to flex their new found source of strength. PROP threatened to call a Walk Out at open prisons which could force the Home Office to cram everyone into closed prisons which would only heighten the problems and lead to more protests. This was PROP's desire.

During the demos at Brixton prisoners had virtually taken over the running of the prison, if this was to happen across the country some believed that many of PROP's demands would have to be met, but it didn't go that way.

Towards the end of August the POA began a 'Get Tough' policy with an overtime ban and stoppage of visits and classes where protests took place. Albany

screws rejected the policy and wanted stricter punishment for every infringement of regulations. Leading up to this Albany had released details of a Mafia-type organisation made up of notorious long term prisoners - It was clearly implied that these men had taken over the prison and a mass escape was being planned. Official sources said that prisoners were locked down and a search started. The prisoners became hostile and a riot broke out, bedding was flung from windows and fires lit. The fire brigade took two hours to damp the flames.

The truth was that the screws dragged the search out over three days and when they ripped up photos belonging to one prisoner he smashed up his cell and six others followed suit. A towel and a mattress were set fire to and put out immediately. Hardly a riot!

None the less tensions were high and more sit downs and roof top protests flared up, the publicity went world wide. At Dartmoor screws stopped work when they were told that the Home Office policy was not to punish peaceful protesters, 250 men were staging a sit down. The screws only returned to work when the governor told them action would be taken. The Home secretary was called back off holiday and immediately met with the POA again refusing to meet PROP. He gave the screws the go ahead. Kangaroo courts sprung up and some 1700 men were disciplined, some losing over two years remission. Hundreds of men were kept under Rule 43 'removal from association' or Rule 48 which concerns disciplinary charges for anything up to a month. The screws

"..prisoners found the confidence to flex their new found source of strength."

picked out the leaders and in their usual cowardly way handed out some savage beatings. This all guaranteed further conflict which in turn would 'justify' more control and repression that was where

the POA's interests lay.

At this crucial time PROP started to deteriorate. They had not been able to activate any number of people on the outside and so the organisation relied on the efforts of a few crucial people. PROP was plunged into a self inflicted state of paralysis - no voice could be raised in protest and the savagery of the beatings and discipline being handed out.

The beatings were particularly severe at Gartree that had seen a three day sit down followed by work strikes. Things exploded when one November evening a group of about 14 prisoners in the full glare of floodlights and view of screws took clip-pers to the first of two perimeter fences. They were immediately surrounded by 'so many screws you couldn't count them' with dogs and riot sticks. From the dining hall the rest of the prison watched the obviously and inevitable failure of this attempt. The

screws closed in, all the prisoners in the dining hall were shouting 'Get Back' Leave Them'. The screws attack was ferocious using the dogs and hammers taken from the engineering block, the dining hall exploded within minutes the whole place was wrecked. From the barricaded C Wing, unable to help, the men could see some of the escapees lie unconscious for up to a couple of hours.

As the troubles at Gartree faded, the publicity of that incident against the general background of a summer of discontent raised demands from various reform elements including Law Lords who threatened to stop sending people down unless steps were taken to stop the 'moral, mental and physical deprivation in prisons'. A Human Rights Commission recommended a range of reforms - access to prison rules, end of censorship of mail, extended welfare service, merge the prison health service with the NHS and reduce the lengths of sentences to cure overcrowding. It also asked for an inquiry into the Board of Visitors and called for legal representation and media access at internal disciplinary hearings with the right to appeal.

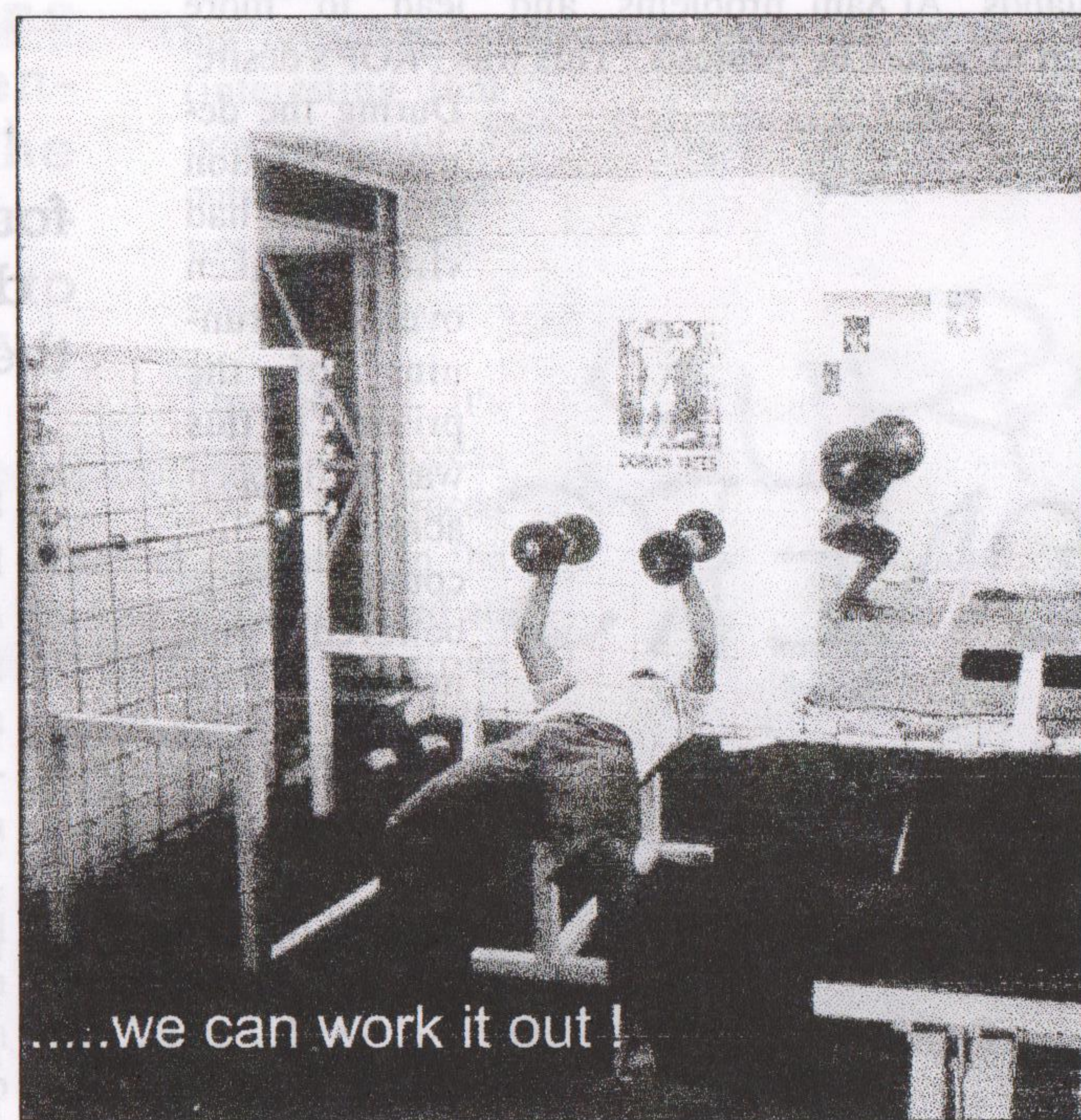
Once more PROP were conspicuous by their absence from outside Gartree and when prisoners in B wing took over the phone line they didn't ring PROP but phoned the press directly. PROP through out it's time had claimed a support that it never had. There is no denying the wider support for it's aims but they always played up the actual hands on support they had. PROP may well have had 500 members but they did fuck all. PROP was structured with a small Executive and largely inactive membership. This didn't change as the situation did, there wasn't any effective decentralising of responsibilities or communication. And so through out this period of high profile mass action PROP failed to get more than a couple of dozen protesters outside a prison even on August 4th!

Consolidating inside support was even more difficult and PROP failed yet again. Of course the screws were censoring any incoming mail and PROP knew that. They failed to make the visits to pass word in (even at Gartree where they had wide spread support) and left prisoners

feeling that they were being ignored by the very organisation that was claiming to represent them. Prisoners were happy with PROP's demands and at first genuinely welcomed their part in the struggle. But by the autumn their main contact in Gartree wrote telling them of the disillusionment and concern for the future of PROP as a determining force.

"Do prisoners want or need to consider the development of any such movement that can provide voice for the opposition to the tide of tightening regulations".

Whilst P R O P had the idea for membership, prisoners were never asked to take it up. This meant there was no way of measuring PROP's real support but more importantly it was indicative of an arrogance of attitude where by the prisoners were not encouraged into any positive commitment to their organisation. It seems the prisoners were expected to carry on with the



.....we can work it out!

protests whilst the outside Executive would make demands as the leaders and have full decision, or indecision, on the strategy for making gains from the struggles. The undemocratic nature of PROP was rife. The Executive and leadership was self-elected and there was no mechanism to challenge them. So bitter feuds between differing political lines and personal clashes dogged PROP from the start. Given the internal weakness it is probably a good job the Home Office refused to recognise PROP as it seems certain that they would have soon been co-opted and

made ineffective that way. Organisationally it was a nightmare and was inevitably going to implode. No internal democracy, lack of contact with the prisoners, failure to provide the welfare service it stated it would (due to lack of finances and people to carry out the work), lack of strategy or focus of their demands and a blind use of the escalation of strikes combined to make a cocktail lethal to any movement. In both the USA and Scandinavia it had been seen recently that the escalation strategy leads to a repressive clamp down. PROP's efforts simply to increase the strikes and not deal with any of the problems above meant that at the crucial time of the backlash PROP was totally unable to defend it's 'members'. On the contrary due to the level of isolation between PROP and the inmates the disillusionment felt by many only added to the attacks by the authorities. By the autumn of '72 PROP had become a dirty word amongst prisoners. Their day was over and because of the wild claims of the leadership and their masquerading whilst prisoners were suffering the brunt of the screws retaliation any chance of this summer at least providing a base upon which to build were lost.

All struggles are an on-going thing and there is no disputing that the strikes of '72 have played their part in making some gains that were seen in the '70's and later. But like other gains that workers make, they are not to be taken for granted and through out our class we are suffering the effects of those gains being taken back

off us. In prison access to the media is under threat. Resources for courses are being cut, what prisoners can receive is constantly being restricted and legal aid is harder and harder to come by. By and large the claw-back is going unchallenged. Do prisoners want or need to consider the development of any such movement that can provide voice for the opposition to the tide of tightening regulations. One glaring lesson from the history of PROP that the desire for any such organisation has got to be from the prisoners.

In mid March complaints were made by 8 prisoners and the Board Of Visitors at Wormwood Scrubs about staff beating prisoners up. Solicitors acting on the prisoners behalf asked that the alleged perpetrators were suspended pending enquiries.

As news broke, staff at the prison staged a walkout in protest at the allegations, and about "a lack of support from local management". Amid all of this, and in no way connected, was the appointment of the new governor Stephen Moore, who replaced the acting governor Michael Gordon!

Of course the Deputy Director of Prison Service, Tony Pearson, claimed there was 'no evidence' of any beatings.

So despite screws having access to important documentation and witnesses and the victims making complaints, nothing was done. The only two named prisoners were transferred, one to hospital (to patch him up after his beating?) and one to another prison. Pearson added "if we get the names of the other prisoners we can then very quickly take action to make sure they are dealt with quickly...." Well, we all know what that means, beaten up by screws or transferred to another prison where other screws can beat you up. Unsurprisingly, four more prisoners decided to drop their complaints for fear of further retribution. A surprised Mark Healy (POA) said, "Many, if not all, of these allegations have been investigated in the past, and my members were exonerated. We are sick and tired of all being tarnished with having committed some sort of crime".

Mark Healy makes several interesting points, namely that prisoners should: 1) get the shit kicked out of them, 2) do as they are told, 3) do not complain, 4) face further beatings if they do complain, 5) if they persist prison officers will say its not true, rubbish all the claims of abuse, and then go on to say it is unfair to put prison officers in the stressful situation of someone from the media asking you questions about your guilt. Seems reasonable!

However, by the 31st of March the prison service had to eat it's words, and confirmed a press statement that 8 screws including a senior manager had in fact been suspended following the allegations which had now become the subject of criminal investigations by the Met., assisted by the former governor of Long

Lartin Peter Atherton. Well no biased investigating there then! An interim report released that day disclosed that in five of the cases there were, to quote Tony "I've seen no evidence" Pearson, "serious questions" which needed answers. Solicitors said that they "...now had 20 current and former prisoners who would be talking to the police." The allegations went back as far as 1996 and included racism, beatings and intimidation. One inmate said that he had been assaulted almost every day for a month.

Sounds Familiar

The comments made by David Wilson, former assistant governor at Wormwood Scrubs, gave an insight into how prisons are really run. On the outside it's all men in suits, management speak, posh accents, budget meetings with the minister and flip charts. Whilst inside, prisons are continuing to run as ever with the same old shit. "I could never work out who was in charge" whines Wilson, "and remember being excluded from some areas of the prison... officers barred the door and would not let me in". Most people are bustin' to get out of prison! It is quite clear to see how inmates have little chance of redress. If the screws are running prisons, abusing their supposed

superiors, imagine what is happening to the prisoners!

Meanwhile back at the Scrubs

April fools day saw nearly 100 screws at Wormwood Scrubs on 'sick leave'. The mass absenteeism was a POA protest against the suspension decisions. The POA said their members had all gone to their GPs because of the enormous pressure caused by "media attention and poor management". The cons were really sick when the screws came back.

What Now?

So it's business as usual: prisoners complain of mistreatment, screws deny it, the prison service denies it. The POA bleat on about being short staffed and deals are done. The only ones that suffer are the prisoners, ghosted, beaten up and abused.

Lets take it no more, prisoners and supporters on the outside should not let the Scrubs fiasco disappear. Whatever prison you are in, get the stories out contact your solicitor, write to TL, organise in your prison and organise on the outside - NOW.



...at Medway young offenders unit

Prisoner Justice Day

August 10th is set aside every year to commemorate those who have been murdered or driven to their deaths at the hands of the prison system. This is not to say that the rest of the year we carry on business as usual, and don't give a shit what happens to working class people inside, but it is a day which marks the death of one particular prisoner at Millhaven Penitentiary, Canada in 1974 that of Eddie Nalon. After a suicide attempt Eddie was left to die when the panic button in his cell 'failed' to work. Prisoners at Millhaven responded with a hunger strike, and their own memorial service.

Since that first protest in 1976 prisoners work-strikes, hunger strikes and other actions have marked August 10th and have spread within the prisoner community to become an international day of action. As important as the protests are the links which have been created between prisoners and communities. If we are to contribute to the struggles taking place inside and prisoners are to contribute to struggles outside we have to do all we can to further these links. In Toronto supporters produced radio programmes, with contributions from those inside. They held press conferences and rallies. Demonstrations showed a community angry about state murder of people in prisons. Other forms of support have also marked the day. The 'Rock Against Prisons' gig in Toronto in '94 attracted over 500 people for a good knees up, and raised funds into the bargain.

The ABC network in this country has organised demonstrations at many prisons and cop shops, to show our solidarity, and to remember thousands of working class prisoners who have died. But more than this we need to publicise how and when prisoners kick out against the system. So often we don't get to hear what really happens in nick. The home office and prison authorities will use all kinds of tactics to deny collective resistance, to pit communities against prisoners, to isolate prisoners from each other.

The media adds its own spin with endless items spouting on about how soft prison life is, and how prisoners are living in the lap of luxury, while everyone else is working themselves into the ground. Fuelled by an obsession with reporting crime, the media feeds us its crank fantasies about criminals it says it is helping to protect us against. It would have us believe that people in prison are nothing more than animals. What we're talking about are most 'crimes' being directed against property, and people being sent down for petty offences such as unpaid fines. We're talking about our class whether a father, daughter, neighbour or friend. Most of us know someone who's

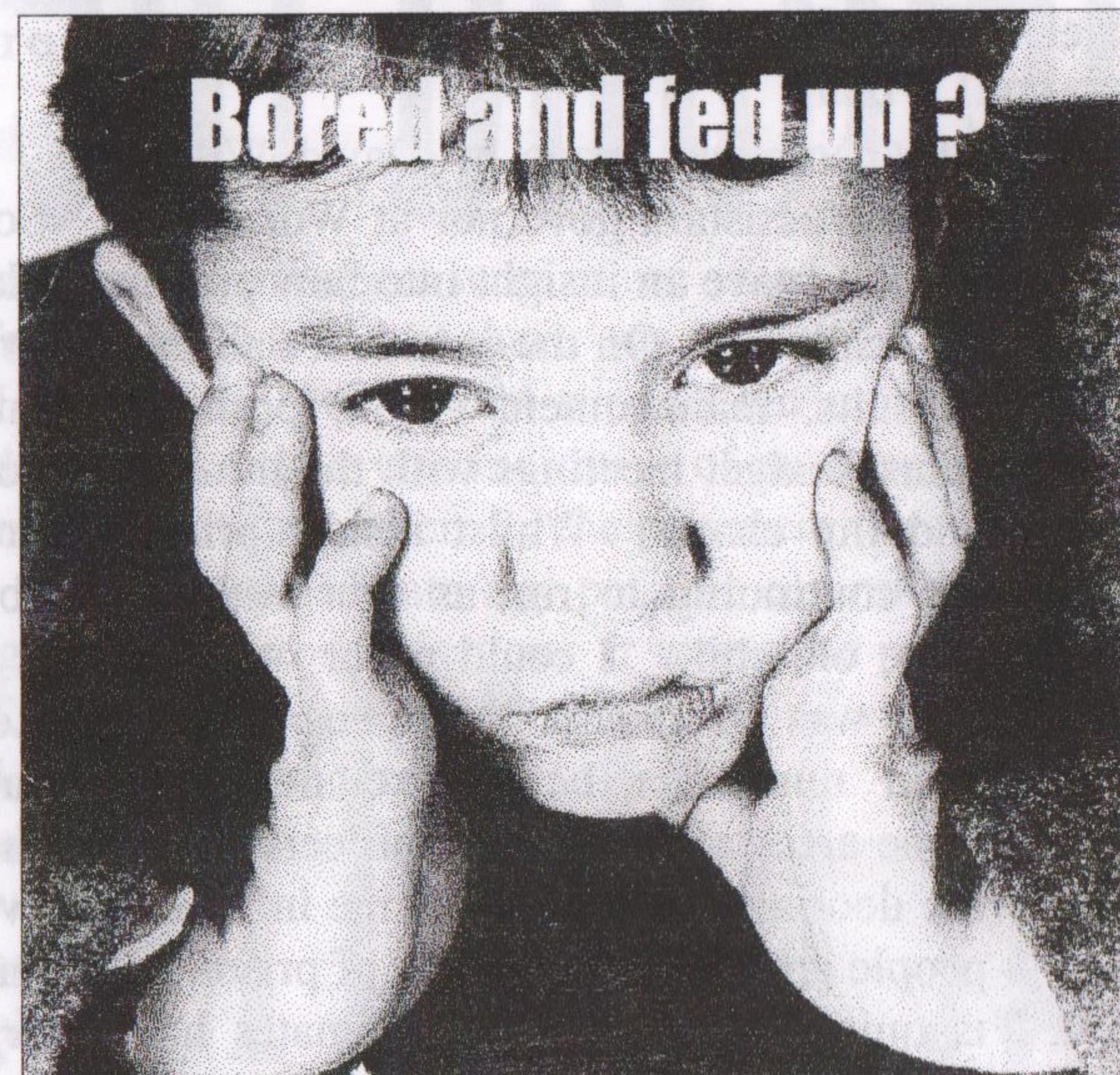
in nick, someone who's on the fiddle, or have come up against the law at some point in our lives.

Prisoner Justice Day is a day we should also remember a history of collective and individual struggle. Intervention in working class life inside causes as much anger and frustration as that on the outside. The Dartmoor mutiny of 1932 kicked off with the introduction of 'special' sound-proofed cells and a 23 hour-day lock-up. The mutiny saw 100's of prisoners terrorising well-armed prison staff, and effectively took control of the prison. At Parkhurst in '69 screws cancelled outside working parties, and prisoners were forced to make mailbags. But it was scrapping their footie matches which finally pissed them off. They kicked off in that year with the most fuck-off riot since Dartmoor. Recreation has always been seen as an area of prison life that the authorities can 'giveth and taketh away'. There was a mass protest (Durham 'football mutiny', 1967) when prisoners were refused permission to retrieve their ball from a security area!

The 80's saw a succession of full scale disturbances at many major prisons, from rooftop protests, hunger strikes to full on riots. Just 5 prisoners landed Wormwood Scrubs with a £20,000 bill for damages caused in 1980. Imaginative young prisoners at Risley remand caused £2000 worth of damage by flooding a water tank in the roof, making a wing uninhabitable for a month. Between April and May of '86 there were disturbances in 46 prisons in England, described as the 'worst nights of violence the English prison system has ever known'. With riots in 22 prisons, and 45 escapes the prison system were starting to get a bit hot under the collar.

Prison riots in the early 90's echoed urban riots in Cardiff, Oxford, Tyneside and Handsworth, downtown areas from which many prisoners tended to be drawn. It's partly for this reason that prisoners should not be isolated in their struggle on the assumption that they are only concerned with life inside and can therefore only make contributions in prison.

The day following the poll tax riot in 1990 saw the beginning of the most unprecedented prison protest in the history of British jails. The Strangers uprising saw 25 days of rioting, and the prison brought to a standstill. Prisoners hung anti-poll tax banners from the rooftop in solidarity. Word spread about the riot there were 6 further disturbances at Glen Parva, Dartmoor, Cardiff, Bristol and Pucklechurch. Even the introduction of a new offence for prison mutiny of maximum 10 years did not quell the outbreaks of



working class anger from prisoners who'd had enough. These examples of prison resistance are just the tip of the iceberg. Our history shows us many more, taking many forms- small and large scale- the traditional and the bizarre.

Prisoner Justice Day has focused on various issues in the past, such as women in prison/ deaths in custody. We've already had ideas for this year on how to make the day bigger and better. But we want to hear from anyone who has any burning ideas, or who would like to take part, prisoners, campaigners or supporters. We can put prisoners in touch with each other who

are taking part in the day. Campaigns will also be joining in. Some suggestions so far have been street actions, prison and probation centre demo's, and leafleting, some prisoners have already told us that they are going on hunger strike. Or maybe someone could organise a gig, or some event it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom.

Maybe prisoners have tried things inside we haven't heard about. Send your ideas to 'Taking Liberties' (see contacts). We'll be covering ideas for Prisoner Justice Day in the next issue so drop us a line!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION - AUGUST 10TH

Seven screws from Blakenhurst prison, were suspended in march after an inquest jury returned a unanimous verdict of the unlawful killing of **ALTON MANNING** in 1995. One witness described how he was put in a neck hold, with one screw on each leg and each arm. He died of asphyxiation as he was held face down. This prompted Richard Tilt's (Director-General of Prison Services) response that black people are more likely to die from "positional asphyxiation".



How about more black people are more likely to die from state racism. Pressure is now being applied to prosecute the screws responsible. For more info contact the *Justice for Alton Manning*

Campaign, 339 Dudley rd, Winson Green Birmingham, B18 4HB.

The public enquiry into the investigation of the murder of **STEPHEN LAWRENCE** is now underway. Stephen died in a racist attack in South East London in 1993. The enquiry is presided over by Sir William McPherson of Cluny, but it is Edmund Lawson QC will determine the direction of the investigation, the very same who defended the coppers in the Guildford 4 case! Over the next few months the panel will consider a whole series of police fuck-ups. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner for the Met. seemed to think that the police 'should have done bet-



ter', but were in no way racist. Yeah, surely he means should have done better at covering their tracks.

All charges have been dropped against **ROISIN McALISKY** after doctors decided she was medically unfit to stand trial. She is still receiving treatment at Maudesley hospital, on a voluntary basis, in a mother & baby unit. Pressure was put on the German Government to issue extradition proceedings, despite Roisin looking totally different to the eye-witness description. Her treatment at the hands of the authorities include being strip-searched 72 times in 48



hours. She is suffering from severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

MERLE AFRICA, one of the 9 MOVE prisoners died Friday 13th March, in Cambridge Spring prison after 20 years inside. One of the nurses said that she had died through tumours which had developed through years of beatings by the screws. The authorities are trying to make out that Merle had ovarian cancer which spread through her body, causing blood clots which killed her. As the family protest, no one dies after 20 years in prison of natural causes. Messages of support to Friends of MOVE, P.O. Box 14129 London W12 8GR.



Racism... the scourge of our class. Next issue deadline July 1st.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ITALY
Dozens of anarchists have been arrested or imprisoned since 1995 due to the underhand efforts of a public prosecutor named Marini who's been attempting to jail as many anarchists as possible (who he particularly hates) before he retires. Marini has even gone so far as to create his own evidence in the form of a totally fictitious 'International anarchist terrorist organisation' he's calling O.R.A.I. in order to frame well known militants for a variety of unsolved crimes and acts of sabotage which happened since

the 80's large antinuclear struggle in Italy. Latest news is that the following prisoners have now been released due to an 'irregularity in the judicial process': Alfredo Bonanno, Emma Sassosi, Salvatore Gugliara, Christina Lo Forte, Antonio Gizzo, Orlando Campo, Paulo Roberto and Giuseppe Stasi. Jean Weir is out but under home arrest. In France Massimo Passamani has also been released. There will be a trial of other anarchists implicated in the Marini frame-up in Rome later this year. For up-dated info. Centro Documentazione, Asilo Occupato,

V. Alessandria 12, 10152 Torino, Italy.

SPAIN

On 18th of December 96, four Italian anarchists (trying to raise financial support for imprisoned anarchists in Italy- (see above) attempted a bank hold-up in Cordoba (Southern Spain). As the four were about to make their escape from the bank a security guard tried to stop them. They disarmed and took him hostage to ensure their safety, leaving by car. They drove into a police ambush, at the moment the anarchists had to stop their car, a shoot-out began. Badly wounding the

hostage and 3 of the anarchists who tried to defend themselves by shooting back. Two policewomen were killed, but the anarchists were arrested and badly beaten leaving one of them (Giorgio Eduardo) disabled. Since then they've been in the most repressive Spanish prisons where they have to suffer cell raids, total isolation and often torture and beatings by guards. One of the four (Michele) recently transferred to a 'normal' category prison. Their trial started on 20 April 98. They are also being charged with 3 other bank robberies in Spain. Send moral support to these prisoners by writing to: Michelé Pontolillo- Apdo de Correos 33271 Gijon Villabona, As



turias, Spain Giorgio Eduardo Rodriguez-Centro Penitenciario de Badajoz km 7.300, 06061 Badajoz, Spain Giovanni Barcia & Claudio Lavazza-Prison provincial de Jaen II, Carretera Bailen/Motril km28, 23080 Jaen, Spain

SUPPORT LIBERTARIAN PRISONER RAFAEL BALLARIN. (Rafa), is from a small town in Northern Spain and has no criminal record. On 1.12.96, while walking through Madrid, Rafa and his girlfriend were brutally attacked by a gang of 7 neo-

nazi's. They were both knocked to the floor under a hail of blows from chains, sticks and boots. Under this assault Rafa pulled out a small knife and tried to defend themselves both with it. Rafa stabbed one of the attackers, who died instantly. Rafa and his girlfriend managed to run away. Three days later he was arrested and put in prison. Press coverage of the incident was limited to the police version of events where Rafa was described as a 'dangerous punk' who without reason, attacked some 'helpless students', reducing the whole incident to a weekend fight. In fact this is not true at all, these 'young students' are in fact an ultra-fascist group and some have criminal records for similar attacks. The mortal wound that killed one of the attackers was only 1cm deep, which shows that Rafa didn't intend to kill anyone. In this situation Rafa had the legitimate right to defend himself and should be released and completely acquitted at trial, due to take place this summer. Send messages of solidarity to: Rafael Ballarin Bergua- C.P. Madrid III, Carretera Pinto-S.Martin de la Vega km.5., Valdemoro 28.340 (Madrid) Spain. For more information and copies of a petition to demand the release of Rafa please contact: Madrid ABC - Paseo de Alberto Palacios, N. 2, 28021 Madrid, Spain.

TURKEY

Osman Murat Ulke (Ossi) is a Turkish anarchist, conscientious objector and an active member of the War Resisters of Izmir (ISKD). In 1996 he refused to do his military service and was arrested by the Turkish Military Court. After being in prison for a few months and going on hunger strike he was released due to a successful protest campaign both inside and outside Turkey. Unfortunately 4

months later he was arrested again and sentenced to 10 months for 'desertion', 'repeated disobedience' and 'discouraging people from military service'. The courts are now trying to jail him for up to a further 16 years. The Turkish state, which is

still at war against the Kurdish people, sees people like Ossi as a threat. They tried to prevent the spread of his actions by imprisoning him but already Ossi's actions have become an alternative model in the eyes of young people who are also under the threat of compulsory military service. Support Ossi by contacting the Turkish authorities demanding his release.

The Turkish Consulate- Rutland Lodge, Rutland Gardens, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1BW

Send angry faxes to the following: Prime Minister of Turkey- +90 312 418 5341 Minister of Justice- + 90 312 417 0476 Ministry of Defence- +90 312 324 4627 Ministry of Interior- +90 312 318 1795

Send words of support to: Osman Murat Ulke-1 Taktik Hava Kuvvtieri Komutanligi, Askeri Cezaevi, 3 Kogug, Eskisehir, Turkey. For more info contact: ZAK-c/o PO Box 2474, London N8. (ask for their free newsbulletin Firari) Tel/Fax: 0181-374-5027. e.mail-



POLAND

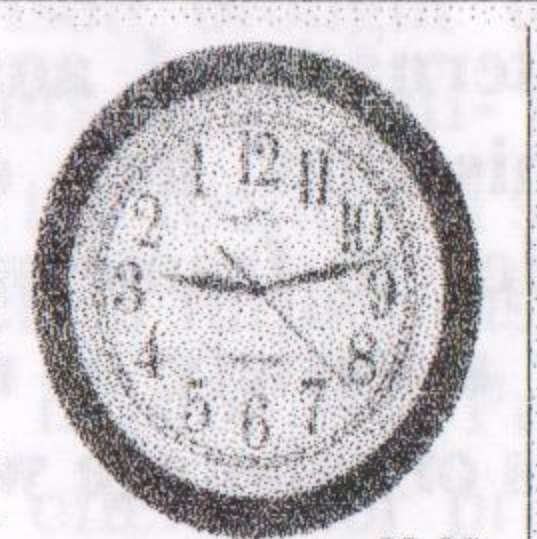
As reported in previous issues of Taking Liberties, 5 people were convicted last year for the death of a neo-nazi during a confrontation between neo-nazi gangs and local youth of Rodomsko who had got together to do something about these antisocial gangs which had been terrorising them while the local authorities turned a blind eye. We are pleased to hear that 4 of the 5 have now been released although one is still in prison doing 15 years for murder. You can send letters of support to him at: Tomaz Wilkoszewski - Zaktad Karny, Ul. Ciupagi 1, 03-016 Warsaw, Poland

LATE NEWS

Ali Khalid Abdullah has been moved to Lakeland Correctional Facility, 141 First Street, Cold Water M.I. 49036. USA

For regularly updated info about international prisoners or for a copy of the ABC International Prisoners list contact Huddersfield ABC

The clock that goes BACKWARDS smart accurate 11" screw-proof, quartz wall-clock. A must for all those doing time.



Taking Liberties wishes you a Happy Easter and remember...

...do the right thing!

The Anarchist Black Cross is a revolutionary organisation that works towards the abolition of the prison system as part of the class struggle. We recognise that prisons are an integral part of the class system and vital to the survival of capitalism and the preservation of the rich/ the ruling class. Prisons can only be abolished as part of a social and economic revolution that destroys capitalism.

Although we welcome changes in the prison system which makes life easier for our comrades inside, we know the prison system cannot be reformed out of existence. We don't believe we have the solutions, but we are working class people who have faith in our class to find those solutions. We have many ideas on how this can be done, and are willing to work, discuss and swap ideas with others.

We work with prisoners, their families and supporters on the outside, to educate our selves and other working class people as to the true reality of prisons. This exchange of information is a crucial part of our work.

We support such prisoners as: Revolutionary, anarchist, political prison

ers, and other working class people jailed for resistance to capitalism, e.g. strikers; People framed by the cops for things they haven't done; Prisoners fighting back against the prison system from inside; Working class people jailed as a result of having to break the law to get by; People resisting injustice in their lives, e.g. women jailed for killing violent and abusive partners/rapists, people jailed for resisting racist or police attacks.

We will not support any one involved in anti-social and oppressive crime, i.e. rape, child abuse, racist attacks, on that basis alone; Crime that is anti-working class, e.g. mugging/burglary of other working class people, in short robbing your own. However we recognise the destructive effect that life under capitalism has on our behaviour, and will consider each case individually.

The ABC is a national network of local, and autonomous groups, meaning that each group is free to carryout work demanded by their local situation. However, each local group is, as a part of the collective, responsible and accountable to the other member groups.

What you can do
Support prisoners. People inside need letters of support, visits, money and practical help. If you arnt sure how to go about it, ask for our leaflets on writing to prisoners and practical support (see back page)
Distribute information and news. The ABC has leaflets on prisoners cases/ prison issues. You can also sell copies of **Taking Liberties/** tell your mates in side about us.
Subscribe to Taking Liberties; see back page. You can also distribute copies. Or send us loadsamoney!
Send us news about prisons or prisoners; if you are inside, drop us a line and let us know about conditions, resistance at your establishment.

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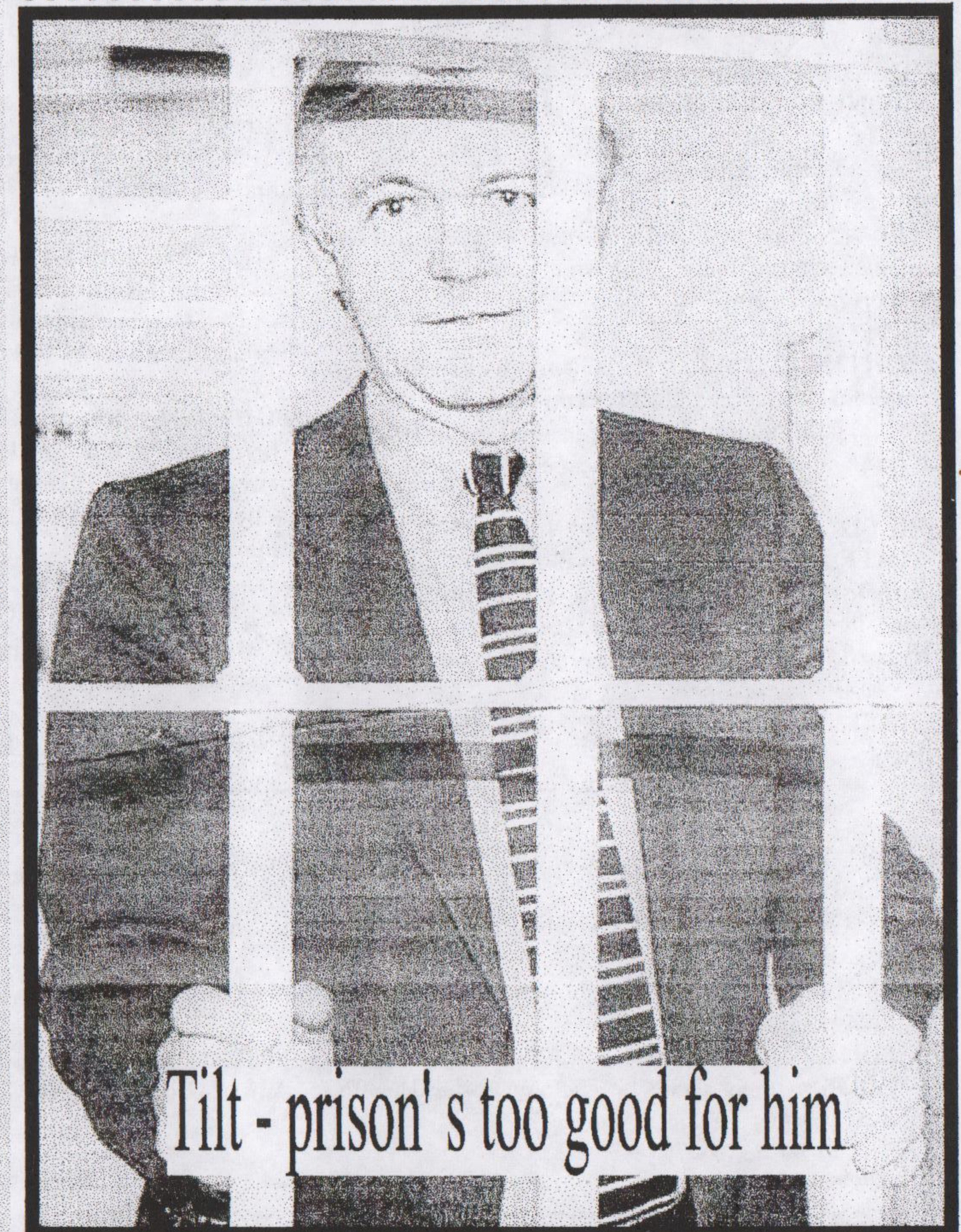
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 UK; £3 Unwaged,
 £5 Waged,
 £10 Organisations.
 For Details of international subs write to ;
 Huddersfield ABC



ABC PUBLICATIONS
 Send an SAE or stamps for any of the following:

- SUPPORT CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS -** An Introduction to what we do and why
- PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR PRISONERS -** What/how you can send into prisons, letters, visits etc.
- WRITING TO PRISONERS -** Advice if you're writing for the first time
- ABC PRISONERS LISTS (U.K. & INTERNATIONAL)-** 2 lists of prisoners we support/know need support
- NO COMMENT -** Updated defendants guide to arrest
- SUING THE POLICE -** Useful If they've beaten you up or abused you
- GETTING THE BEST DEFENCE FROM A SOLICITOR -** Some experience and advice
- PRISONER REGULATIONS -** most up to date England & Wales; Also Scotland & YOC

TOP TARGET



Tilt - prison's too good for him