

# TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN AFFILIATES

## ANTI-POLL TAX ORGANISATIONS

Abercromby APTU  
Aberdeen APTU  
Abeyhill APT Group  
Aylesbury Vale APTUBarnsley  
Campaign Against the PT  
Beacon Lough APTU  
Belper APTU  
Bridgewater APTU  
Broughton/Inverleith APT Group  
Broughton (Salford) APTG  
Cambridge APT Campaign  
Camden Stop the Poll Tax  
Camden Council WAPTU  
Canton APT  
Chorlton APTU  
Clapton APTU  
Clifton/Hotwells APTU  
Craylands APTU  
Crookesmoor Against the PT  
Doncaster APT Campaign  
Dalston APTU  
East Herts APT Fed  
Gravesend APTU  
Greenwich Against the PT  
Hackney A PT Fed  
Hammersmith and Fulham APT Fed  
Headingly APT Campaign  
Heeley ATPT  
Hertfordshire APT Fed  
Highfields APTU  
Isle of Dogs APTU  
Islington ATPT  
Kettering APTU  
Ladywell APTU  
Leeds Fed. of APTGs  
Lewisham APTU  
Lincoln APT Campaign  
Llandrindod APTU  
London APT Fed  
Long Eaton APTC  
Merchiston/Morningside APTU  
Middlesex Studnts ATPT  
Middlesbrough APTPT  
uirhouse CRAPT  
Nottingham APT Fed  
Pembury ATPT  
Peterborough APTU  
Plymouth APT Fed  
Prestonfield & Dis. CRAPT  
Pudsey APTU  
Rotherham APT Fed.  
Sciennes/Marchmont APTU  
Seven Dials APTU  
Sheffield ATPT  
Southville & Ashton APTU

St. Albans ATPT  
Stockbridge-Newton APTG  
Stockport APT Fed.  
Sunderland Central APTG  
Swindon APTU  
Taunton Deane APTU  
Tower Hamlets ATPT  
Town Fields & Wheatley Apt  
Victoria APTU  
Wandsworth ATPTT  
Watford APTU  
West Hampstead APT  
Wirral APT Fed  
York APTU

## UNIONS

Barnsley TUC  
Barrow TUC  
Bath TUC  
Brighton, Hove & Dis TUC  
Camden TC  
CPSA DHSS Central Branch  
GMB TU 200  
Hackney NALGO  
Hammersmith and Fulham TC  
Haringay TUC  
Hynburn TUC  
Leicester & Dis TUC  
Llanelli TC  
Lambeth TUC  
London Institute Student Union  
MSF St Pancras Branch  
NATFHE  
NewtonAycliffe & Dis TUC  
North Staffs TC  
Swindon TUC  
Southwark TC  
TGWU 6/538 (Kirkby)  
Wisbech & Dis. TUC  
Wirral TC  
York TC

## OTHER

Advisory Service for Squatters  
Anarchist Black Cross (Leeds, London)  
Books and Crafts  
Brand (Norway)  
City of London Anti-Apartheid  
Cleveland NCCI Group  
Direct Action Movement-IWA  
East London Red Action  
Hackney Solidarity Group  
Leeds Anarchists  
Leeds Area Teachers Association  
Lewisham Women and Employment Project  
Liverpool Anarchist  
London Anarchist Community Federation  
London Greenpeace  
London Revolutionary Communist Group  
Manchester Class War  
Newham Green Party  
Pitstop  
La Procedure (France)  
Rank And File Teachers  
Ruud Network (Red Network, Holland)  
Southampton Anarchists  
Unemployed Workers Charter  
Warzone (Belfast)

In addition there have been over 100 individual affiliations. If you are involved in an organisation and their name does not appear, why not make sure that it's in our next issue — we still need lots of support to make sure that the courts aren't used to rubber stamp the frame-ups.

I/We wish to affiliate to the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign:

Name of Organisation/Individual: .....

Address: .....

Contact Person: .....

We enclose £.....

£5 — Local,  
£10 — District,  
£25 — Regional & TUS

**Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign,**  
c/o Haldane Society of Lawyers, 205 Panther House,  
38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP Tel: 071 833 8958

# STAND FIRM

NO.4 OCTOBER 1990 PAPER OF THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN

# BACK ON THE STREETS



## The Battle of Trafalgar

The October 20th London March, initiated by the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign (TSDC) was the first opportunity to show our resolve to demonstrate in the London streets again since our magnificent 200,000 strong March 31st protest. On the day, police violence provoked a night-long battle resulting in 520 arrests. If the authorities' aim was to discredit our movement in the eyes of millions of potential non-payers, and to drive us off the streets — *they have totally failed!*

## Solidarity

The Trafalgar Square defendants, forced to attend political show trials in Magistrates Courts, have been handed down heavy fines and sentences. Most charges are either trumped-up, are ludicrous 'offences' (i.e. shouting), or are justified self-defence against police brutality. In the first Crown Court hearing, Rob Robinson (who kicked a police van being driven into a packed crowd) got *two years jail* (See letter inside). More such savage sentences are in the pipeline unless there are **MASS PROTESTS**.

The TSDC, run by and for the defendants, is giving unconditional, moral, practical, legal and financial help to all those facing trial — and more and more trials are now being adjourned, charges dropped and 'not guilty' verdicts achieved. We have organised many

protests  
outside  
prisons, courts,  
and police  
stations and a

National and International Day of Solidarity on 19/20th October. The truth is at last coming out and the authorities are being forced onto the defensive.

## WE CALL ON EVERYONE TO JOIN THE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

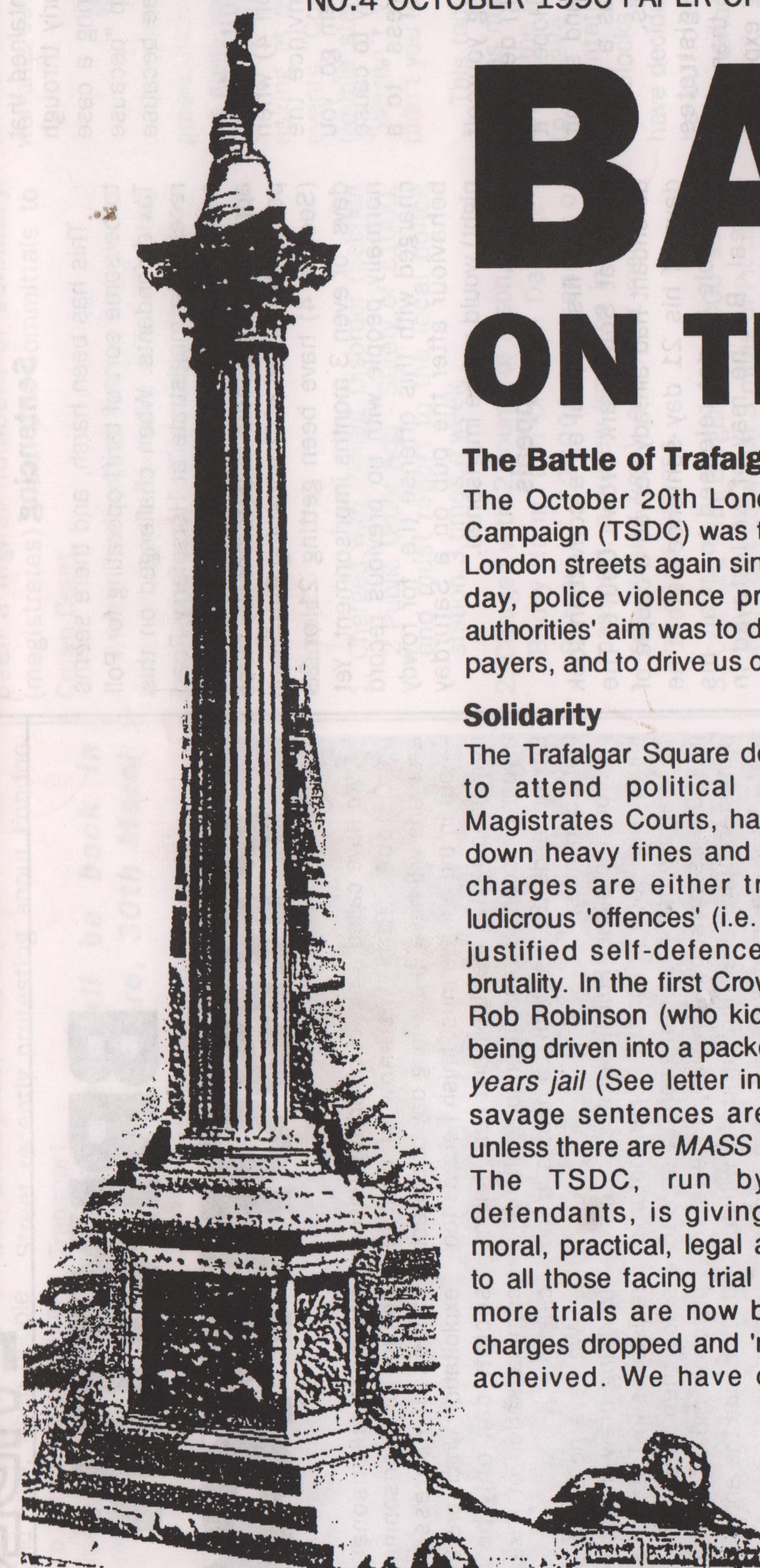
## We Will Win

The Poll Tax will be defeated by mass non-payment and non-co-operation. Court action against non-payers or protestors will only expose the weakness of the authorities and strengthen our resolve to fight for justice.

We are winning the argument so they use fear. But we are many and they are few, and we are on the march ...

## ...WE WILL WIN

Due to the Disability Consortium rally, we have not returned to Trafalgar Square for October 20th. However, make a date in your diary for 30th March 1991, for the Trafalgar Square reunion, one year on.!



# STOP THE SHOW TRIALS



## NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE FUND

The Nottingham Defence Fund (NDF) was set up immediately following the Trafalgar Square demonstration. An 'open meeting' had already been planned for the 1st April, by local anti-poll tax groups in Nottingham, to discuss the way forward for the local campaign. This was felt necessary because of frustration and anger at the inertia and inactivity of the Nottingham Federation (dominated and stitched up by the 'Militant Tendency'), in the face of problems confronting the local campaign, and similar problems nationally that the 'All British Anti-Poll Tax Federation' has equally failed to address.

Needless to say, none of us expected that this meeting would be talking in terms of a police riot - and legitimate working class resistance and fight back. But as it happened, this had to be the main topic of discussion. About 80-90 people attended from local groups, including 5 or 6 Federation Officers, and their supporters. From the outset, the Federation took the position of *condemning* the rioters - and the meeting became extremely heated when one of their members declared that she actively supported handing *names to the police*. The meeting ended with almost unanimous condemnation of The Federation, and a group of defendants and supporters deciding to set up the *Nottingham Defence Fund*.

### What we are

From the outset - like the TSDC - we have always had a position of giving *unconditional* support to *all* people arrested not just at Trafalgar Square, but on any anti-poll tax demo in the Nottingham area. This includes four people arrested in Nottingham after the "Robin Hood" Council Chamber occupation in early March.

Our aims are to provide a forum for defendants to air their views and share experiences, and to help co-ordinate local resistance to the massive State frame-up. We are also determined to pay all travel and court costs, and all fines, that defendants incur.

To this end, we have regular fortnightly meetings, attended by defendants and local anti-poll tax activists from six different groups. We have produced two local newsletters and a leaflet, explaining who we are and what we do, and have held several benefit gigs, often co-ordinated with local anti-poll tax groups who support us. In all, we've raised over £600, and hope to raise more with gigs, collections etc., leading up to Xmas.

Of the people that we know of who were arrested at Trafalgar Square from Nottingham, four have had their charges dropped or been found not guilty, one has been sent to prison for a month (for nothing more than throwing an empty tin can that hit no-one!), another fined £150 for a similar offence, and three are yet to stand trial. The four Council Chamber defendants will be tried in November.

Needless to say, there's plenty more we could be doing, but with so much going on at the moment, people and resources are thin on the ground. Recently, however, we've sent speakers to Bilborough, Sneinton, Beeston and Long Eaton anti-poll tax groups, to discuss the issues raised by Trafalgar Square, and point out how organisations like the TSDC and NDF are needed to co-ordinate resistance against the bailiffs and police. Generally, we've been very well received, and for those that think that working class people can't organise themselves and fight back, forget it - most of us are just dying to have a go at this shitty system.

Finally, if anyone knows of any Nottingham or East Midlands defendants, please let us know and encourage them to contact us at:

Box DF,  
72 Radford Road,  
Nottingham;  
or phone Nottm (0602)  
692056.

In solidarity, Will Scarlet (for NDF).

## GET ACTIVE WITH THE T.S.D.C.

The T.S.D.C. has held pickets of the courts where defendants have appeared, prisons where convicted or remand prisoners are being held, police stations where we were held on the night of March 31st and of the media for acting as police touts.

The first picket of Pentonville prison on July 31st had over 100 people from Anti-Poll Tax Unions like Tottenham, Hackney, Southwark, Tooting and Camden. The prisoners held out a banner from their cells saying 'Pay No Poll Tax' while they waved and shouted to us. In response to the press coverage of March 31st we went to protest at Mirror Group Newspapers HQ bringing banners with police officers engaged in acts of mindless violence on them "IF YOU KNOW 'EM - SHOP 'EM" ran our slogan - exactly the phrase Maxwell's Organ had spat at us! Incidentally, it comes as a complete surprise that the Crown Prosecution Service have been so busy trying to cobble together coherent cases from the literati amongst the Met. police that they have neglected to bring charges, even of simple Perjury, let alone, GBH, ABH, Attempted Murder, Attempted Homicide with a Van, Riding Horses over a crowd, Breach of Immigration Procedures (when they toolled up in Riot gear inside the South African Embassy) - Against a single officer!!

More recently, we picketed Rochester Row police Station where over 109 prisoners were held on 31st March up to 9 to a cell. Some of the prisoners had been beaten up whilst in custody.

On Sunday 22nd July we took a flying picket to Brixton Prison where many anti-poll tax defendants are being held. We went round the back of the prison where we could be seen in Lyham Road by the prisoners, chanted slogans and spoke via a megaphone to them.

There have been actions all over the world against the Poll Tax being introduced in Britain and in solidarity with those of us arrested on 31st March, including a picket of the British Embassy in Warsaw. We have held national defendants meetings to co-ordinate legal defence and build up a picture of the events of the day. Gigs and benefits have gone ahead in London, Bristol and Birmingham (organise one yourselves if you know any bands or artistes).

We meet regularly every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1 and that's where you can come to get involved and find out more about us. Every Monday evening we have a working meeting. So come along and join the Action!!!

## LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

These are couple of the letters we have received from defendants. In particular we hope to have more letters from prisoners to make sure that their voices get heard!

### South African Embassy arrest

I was arrested on March 31st outside the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square. I was thrown to the ground by a policeman in full riot gear, my heads banged on the pavement and my arms secured behind my back with plastic tags pulled savagely tight round my wrists.

By this time, my face was pouring with blood and I could not breathe because the cop who arrested me had his knee in the small of my back and was pressing down on my ribs with the full weight of his body. I was subsequently charged with "violent disorder" and "criminal damage" to the South African Embassy. Surprise, surprise!

I am a member of the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG) and the Treasurer of the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, and the cops all know me because we picketed the racist Embassy non-stop for 1,409 days and nights and we are still there every weekend. (The good news is the cops have just offered to make a substantial out of court payment to me for previous arrests in the same spot outside the Embassy in 1987).

Then they dropped my charges to "threatening words and behaviour", "criminal damage" and "assault [on the] police". Guess what? With these charges, I don't have the right to elect to have a trial by jury. A familiar pattern for those of us arrested on the demo. I'm in court on Wednesday October 31st, 12 noon, at Horseferry Magistrates Court so please *come and support me!*

Richard Roques

### Letter from Robert Robinson, HMS Prison Camphill, Newport, Isle of Wight

I am one of a number of people who was arrested during the anti-poll tax march on March 31st 1990. I was accused of kicking and punching a police van and was taken to Bow Street Police Station where I was told I would be charged with malicious damage to a police van.

I asked to see a doctor who came a couple of hours later. I had cuts and bruises on my hands and face. I told the doctor that I thought the big toe of my left foot was broken where the police van had rolled over it. I asked him to have a look at it, but he declined. I told him it was really painful and I asked him to write it down in his notes - which he said he would do. However, when it came to the trial, he said that I had never mentioned it to him! I asked the sergeant for a solicitor, and to have somebody informed of my arrest - which I was refused. So much for he 'right to a solicitor'.

The day after I was arrested, I was charged with 'malicious damage', to which I made no reply, but was also charged with 'violent disorder' to which I replied: "It's a stitch-up!". The police wrote down "no reply" and threw me back in the cell. The next day I was taken to Bow Street Magistrates Court, where I finally got a solicitor. I ended up in custody for four months waiting for the trial.

One week before I went to court, I was told by my solicitor that my case would not be up until September or October. About five days later, on Sunday July 22nd, the Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign staged a picket outside Brixton Prison where I was being held. The picket was for people like me who had been arrested as a result of the march. Two days after the picket, I was brought to court for my case to be heard. I should not have been in court as the TSDC were still trying to

contact witnesses of my arrest. I find it pretty weird that my case came up so soon, and can only figure out that the Brixton authorities got my case brought up because of the picket.

I was wearing an "OK, who framed the rabbit?" logo t-shirt. The judge told me to take it off as it might influence the jury! The evidence against me was six police officers stating what I had done, which was, according to them "lead a crowd of 30-50 people in attacking a police van"! The police said that I ran up to the van and kicked it and tried to punch it. However, they had already said that the van was barely moving because the road was jammed solid with people. How, therefore, could I run at the van?

The police said that I was of "scruffy appearance" and was dressed like an anarchist! The trial lasted for three days in all. The prosecution told my barrister that he *knew* it was a *fit-up* but he had to do his job. The judge summed up and might as well have told the jury to find me guilty!

By the time I had said a few words to my barrister the jury were back with their verdict. They must have just had a smoke and said "that's enough time - he's guilty!". I couldn't believe it, 15 minutes for a jury to reach their verdict! I think once the jury heard it was "the poll tax riot", I was guilty!

The judge got the prosecution to check up and see if anyone else had been brought to trial for the same thing, but it appeared that I was the first. The judge then told me he was going to make an example of me - which he sure enough did. I got sentenced for two years for "violent disorder" and nine months (to be served concurrently) for the "malicious damage" charge. The prosecution then asked for £500 compensation, but the judge told him he wouldn't impose that on me, for which I told him "thanks!".

Robert Robinson (aka Simon O'Reilly) RA0741, HMS Prison Camphill, Newport, Isle of Wight.



# T.S.D.C. NEWS

The first flush of magistrates court cases has now died down to a trickle and the Campaign is now preparing for the major show trials of those on riot charges. This first wave of cases has shown us what to expect from those who sit in judgment. Although the rate of conviction (about 70%) is an improvement on the 'norm' in magistrates courts - an "impressive" 95%, the severity of the sentencing is unprecedented.

A common charge such as "Threatening Behaviour or Language" (Section 4 Public Order Act 1986) normally carries a penalty of a fine or a Bind Over for first offenses. Trafalgar Square defendants have been receiving 21 or 28 day prison sentences in nearly ALL cases.

This informal sentencing policy is being carried out by a small group of stipendiary magistrates (professional magistrates at the top of the hierarchy who are allowed to act as judge and jury on their own, answerable to no-one) who have volunteered to try these cases - whilst admitting "off the record" to solicitors and court clerks that they view anyone who was arrested on the day or subsequently as guilty of criminal charges "for being there"!

Now, many of the cases coming up are crown court trials where the police will have to spin their lies to the more unfamiliar and skeptical members of a jury. Up until now many police have shown nervousness over appearing before such a critical audience and many cases have had charges dropped down to ensure a nice, safe hearing before an understanding police stipendiary.

It has been important, right from the initial hearings on 2nd April, when people where people were processed in an atmosphere of extreme media hostility, for the state to feed the press and stifle

opposition to the way trials have been rushed through regardless of the actual evidence. The Campaign sees a need, now more than ever, to publicise the truth about the police attack on the demonstration in order to stop the frame-ups.

Recently, a lot of the TSDC's work has gone into sorting out the march for October 20th. Originally, there was to be no demonstration on this day, so the Campaign proposed to hold one in conjunction with the London Federation. Two months of heavy wrangling later, the final details are;

9.30-10.30am	Picket of Horsferry Road Magistrates Court
10.30am	Move off for a feeder march down to Kennington Park
12pm	Join the London Federation Anti-Poll Tax March as a TSDC contingent
2pm	Rally with the London Federation in Brockwell Park
4.30-6pm	Solidarity Picket outside Brixton Prison, Brixton Hill

We are not marching through Central London as the *Disability Consortium* have already organised a mass demonstration in Trafalgar Square against the attitudes of able-bodied people towards people with disabilities, particularly regarding Town Planning and transport whose pathetic limitations imprison them just as surely as the authorities criminalise us. (20 people with disabilities, were arrested in Oxford Street recently protesting about London Transport.

**But we shall be back in Trafalgar Square, 30th March 1990 .....**



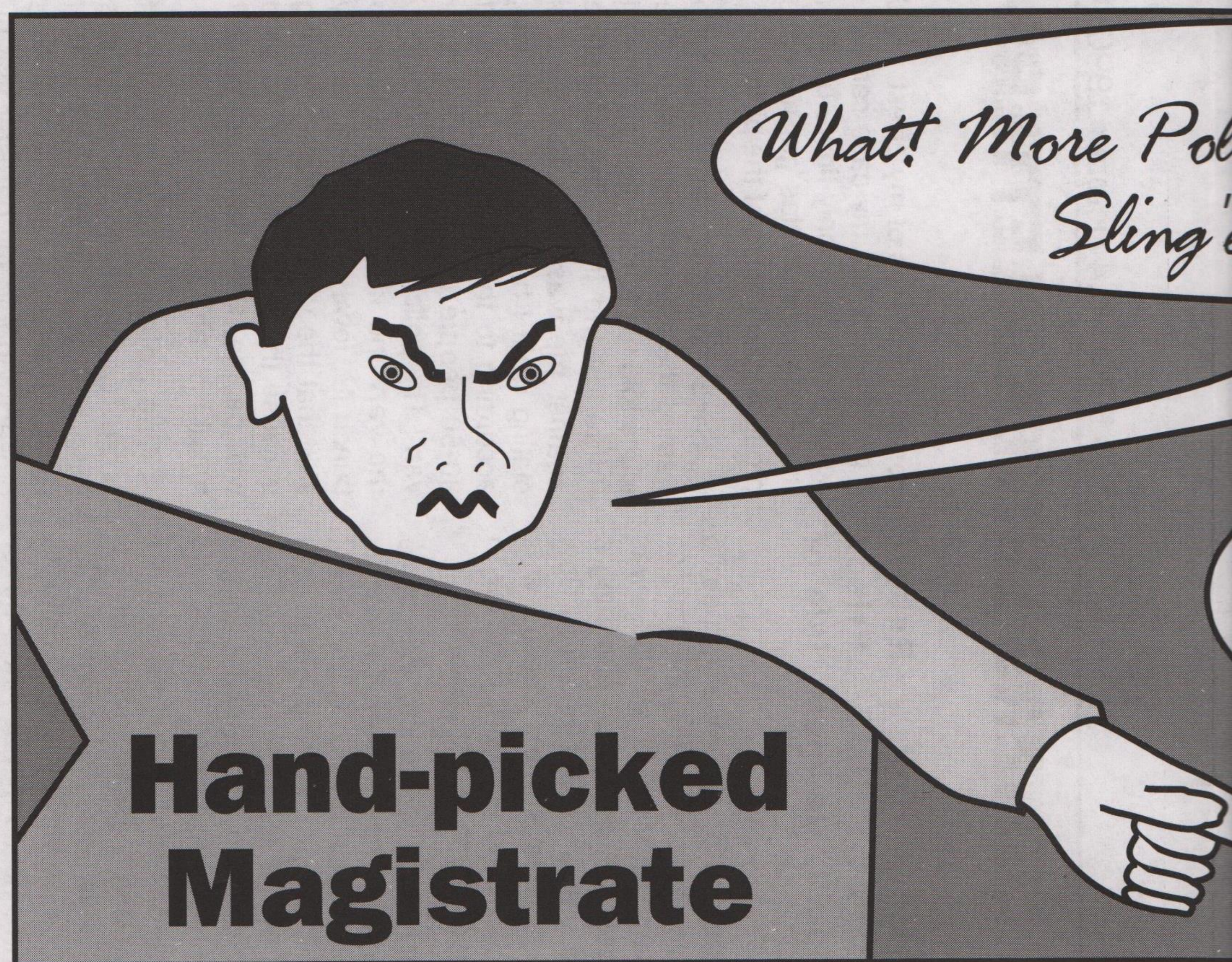
Anti-Poll Tax demonstration: Warsaw Poland 31st March 1990

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

We have called an International Day of Solidarity with the defendants to co-incide with the October 20th March. As can be seen from the photo, people in Poland have already been showing solidarity with the struggle against the Poll Tax. Some of our contacts abroad are not content to simply carry out solidarity protests around British premises abroad — they want to

march with us on October 20th. So we shall be expecting several contingents from the continent!

We shall have a full report back on international action in the next issue of *STAND FIRM*. If you have any contacts abroad, please make sure they get TSDC material.



## What's happening

Since 31/3 there has been a constant flow of cases through the courts. The TSDC was monitoring up to about 20 a week during April and May, but this has now fallen to an average of about 5 a week. The drop is partly due to a fall off in the number of court appearances, but also because we have lost track of a number of defendants.

Many court appearances have just been bail revues or adjournments (for either the prosecution or the defence to seek more evidence) resulting in another date being set, but recently there have been a higher numbers of summary (magistrates) trials, and committals to Crown Court.

A lot of defendants (particularly on the lower charges: Sections 4 (threatening behaviour) and 5 (Disorderly Conduct) of the Public Order Act, and Obstruction, etc.) have been on unconditional bail. Others haven't been so lucky; for example:

1. Charged with Violent Disorder (Section 2 Public Order Act) - Surety of £1000, and must report to the local police station 3 times a week.
2. Charged with 2 counts of Arson, Actual Bodily Harm, and Criminal Damage - Surety of £20000, surrender of passport, a curfew (must be in before pub closing time), and must reside at his home address.
3. Charged with Burglary - £1000 surety, and can't go within 3 miles of Piccadilly Circus. The Magistrate (Dave Hopkins) refused to reduce the surety to an affordable £250, and although he did reduce the area ban to 1 mile of Piccadilly Circus this wasn't much use to the defendant who had to go to prison until a surety could be organised.
4. Charged with Violent Disorder, Burglary, Attempted Criminal Damage, and Disorderly Conduct - This defendant had been on conditional bail for months until he came up before (you guessed it!) the Notorious Roger Davies. Davies asked the prosecution "Why aren't there any conditions imposed upon this defendant?". He was informed that conditions hadn't been considered necessary so far and that the police had not requested any. Davies wasn't satisfied: "All of the Poll Tax Riot defendants that have come

before me have had conditions imposed." So they were! (Can't attend demonstrations in Trafalgar Square, and must reside at home address). Anyone without a fixed address hasn't stood a chance of getting bail at all.

Some defendants have just wanted to get everything over and done with as quickly as possible. On person who'd had to travel some distance into London already couldn't afford to do so any longer, and so decided to go ahead without legal representation. Others have taken a different approach — a number have failed to appear, but they now have warrants out for their re-arrest.

### The Summary (Magistrates) Trials

One of the main tactics used by the prosecution is to suggest that defendants are guilty because they hadn't left the area of the disturbances by a certain time, asking at every stage of their account of events "Couldn't you see that there was trouble starting? Why didn't you leave?", "Weren't you frightened?", — "So why didn't you leave?"

This tactic is being quite successful for them as many magistrates seem willing to ignore the fact that it was often impossible to leave (with crowds, areas of confrontation, closed tube stations and roadblocks all to be avoided), and seem to have decided that it's a criminal offense to be curious, stunned or interested in extraordinary event!

Another trick (used by the prosecution when a defendant is accused of attacking the police) is to ask suggestive questions, such as:

"You thought the police were going the wrong way about clearing the crowd didn't you?"

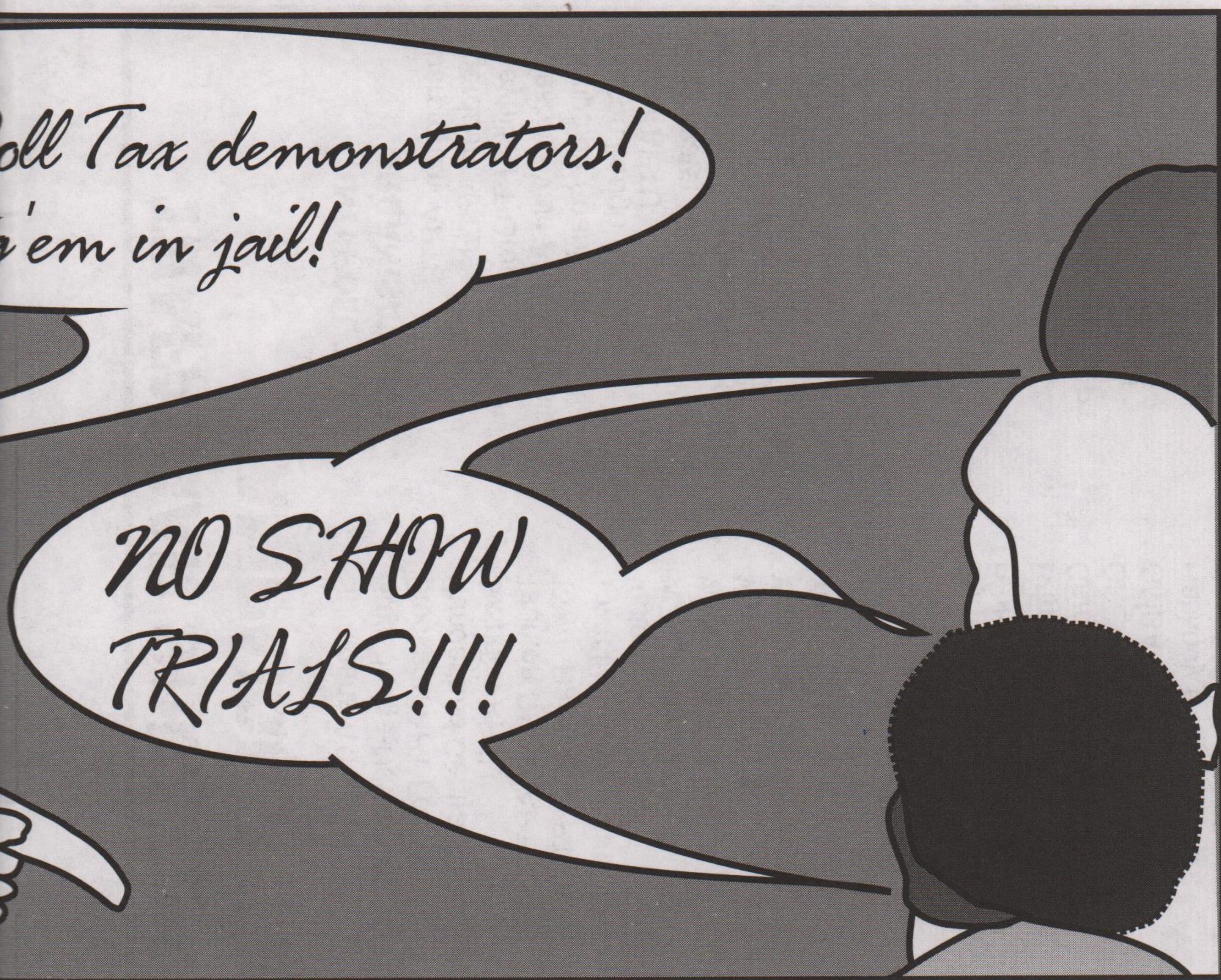
"And they were being too aggressive weren't they?"

"So you were angry at them, weren't you? ...."

Having the "wrong" political viewpoint can also help prove you guilty. In some cases the prosecution have spent about 50% of their time trying to establish the political affiliations of the defendant. These trials are very political!

But the CPS prosecutors do provide the odd laugh. One tries to criminalise everything:





## ing in the courts

"So! You were eating **Sandwiches** were you?!"

For the defence, one of the main areas of dispute has been the identification of the defendant between when they allegedly committed the offense and when they were arrested. Questions were asked about the distance of the officer from the defendant at the time of the alleged incident, and whether or not the officer had been able to keep his/her eyes on the defendant until they were arrested, despite being under a hail of missiles. This becomes even more valid if the officer was wearing a helmet with a visor. Whilst some officers have maintained that they could see perfectly clearly through their visors, one explained during a case in June that he had his visor up "because when it's down it's hard to see because it's all steamed up!"

One person was acquitted of threatening behaviour (Section 4) when the counsel was able to convince the magistrate that "Fucking let them go, you bastards!" were not words likely to cause "alarm, harassment or distress" to a police officer.

The self-defence (protecting yourself and others from police attack) defence has not been much used yet. Hopefully it might be possible to do this, and submit evidence on police behaviour as a whole at some of the Crown Court trials.

Unfortunately, most magistrates believe the police much more than they believe anyone else. Pam Long explained in one case "I have no doubt as the sincerity and honesty of the police" (and that was when she was acquitting someone!)

It's also been rather easier for the prosecution to persuade magistrates to adjourn than it has for the defence. Compare these two cases:

- 1) Roger Davies refused the defence in one case an adjournment to allow the viewing of video evidence, saying "I don't rely on VCR evidence". He then tried and convicted the defendant: "We all know this was not a peaceful protest, XXXX was part of it."
- 2) In a recent case one of the (many) things that the defendant was accused of was the repeated biting of his arresting officer's hand (whilst his own hands were 'cuffed behind his back!') The defence gave the prosecution a

nasty surprise by bringing along a dental expert with a mould of the defendant's teeth. His statement said that the defendant's teeth could not have produced the marks on the policeman's hand — and this from an expert who has only ever worked for the prosecution before! The adjournment requested from the flustered prosecution was granted despite the fact that only eight minutes had passed of the two days set aside for the case, and that the defendant had gone to great trouble to assemble character witnesses for these days!

### Sentencing

This has been harsh, and there seems to be some sort of tariff operating for Poll Tax defendants. When challenged on this recently, a magistrate at Horseferry Road said "There isn't a policy, there's an approach."! (Is there a difference?) Most people convicted of Threatening Behaviour (Section 4) have been getting 21 or 28 days, or even 3 months imprisonment. Yet normally people with no previous record charged with this offense (i.e. for rowdy behaviour after the pub on a Saturday night) would not be imprisoned.

### Appeals

The first appeal on a conviction took place at Southwark Crown Court. The defendant had already served a couple of days of his 21 day sentence before he was able to get released to await his appeal. But he may of well stayed in there. Just like the original magistrate, the bench of one judge and two magistrates managed to overlook the fact that the act for which he was accused — throwing a traffic cone 40ft — would require superhuman qualities! Hopefully, future appeals on both convictions and sentences may be more successful.

We only know all this because of our efforts at court monitoring each appearance. We need lots of help with this, and with chasing up defendants and solicitors that we have lost track of. In the next few months the Crown Court cases will really get going and many of the defendants concerned will be going on "warning lists" which means that we can only find out when their trials will happen through constant phoning. So if you've got some spare time .....

EVIDEONCE  
EVIDEONCE  
EVIDEONCE  
EVIDEONCE

Many of the TSDC supporters have been asking us for film other than that screened on Channel 4's excellent DTV documentary "battle of Trafalgar Square". DTV were helped by the TSDC in that we located independent film for the documentary and kept it safe from the interfering 'long arms of the law' during production. Furthermore, solicitors acting for us, succeeded in forcing the cops to hand over film, and now, photos that they seized from the media during the Cmr. Roy Spam witch-hunt against Poll Tax demonstrators. It came too late to be of use to DTV's tight production schedule, but it has been labouriously 'logged' by our hard grafting video editors, and many solicitors have used it to trace witnesses and obtain adjournments ... even acquittals, based on previously withheld police 'evidence'.

Some of the 'sound-bite' out-takes from the films do contain many surprising comments by certain technicians. They are undoubtedly of interest to many people after the police attempt to make Trafalgar Square the graveyard for democratic protest (and another 15p + VAT for Westminster Council, the U.K.'s No. 1 Memorial Crushers).

The real battle will come when the unseen film is shown at the Crown Court trials, at which some defendants face life sentences from juries who could have been influenced by the context in which photo-ID was paraded in the press.

We will defend the people who defended our demonstration from police attacks — with the *aid* of the same media weapons used to slur their brave stand against those in authority who contemptuously call democratic protesters 'enemies of freedom'!

If you want to help with the cost of the work involved in processing some 60 hours of film/video and sorting some 30,000 photos into recognisable chronology, please send us a donation now. We were able to obtain £2,500 for buying copies of tapes and £3,000 for copying photos — this all went direct to the lawyers involved and will all be used solely for these purposes. Whilst we acknowledge that good progress has been made in terms of building up some strong defense cases, an overall video must be produced which can give a clear visual record of the colonial style policing on the 31st to the jurors on the Trafalgar Square trials. The cost of a cheap editing suite is currently £80 an hour! —'Ere now, maybe you'd be hard pushed to spare a 5p bit, or you're a socially conscious star of stage, gramophone, even CD, with a surplus £80,000 you never got round to spending on that 20 second video-promo — even *you* can ease your assets and watch your contribution to the TSDC grow into a cinematic epic; a record of one of the all-too-rare days that the public said "Enough is *enough*" in twentieth century Britain. Like all the publications banned for public consumption during one trial or another, "The Battle of Trafalgar II" must be shown — if only as an antidote to the editorial blinkers of the press on police violence.

EVIDEONCE  
EVIDEONCE  
EVIDEONCE

## BRIXTON PRISON PICKET

We have called a picket of Brixton Prison on October 20th. We know of course everyone will have had a long day of protest — but in the end we must finish here as too many people have met their end here. Facing a year of record deaths in prison nationally, Brixton leads the way with 15 deaths in the last 15 months.

From the outset Poll Tax protesters have known they face prison. In Northampton a 75 year old man has been given 14 days to pay up or prison. Already dozens of protesters have been thrown in jail *without trial* — two are at present in Brixton prison. The government propose throwing even more people into these decaying victorian ruins when they are already lethal dumps.

Those already criminalised are predominantly working class, many are Black, many are young. Many have a history of kids homes and council hostels so under-funded and under-staffed that graduation through borstal to prison is the direct consequence of government planning. In this society, the "criminal" is as much needed as the lawyer and judge. For without the "criminal", what need for police? And without the police, who would attack Anti-Poll Tax demonstrators? Without the "criminal" what need for prison? And without prison, where do you put those people who will not knuckle down to the economy, who will resist the knuckles, boots and truncheons of the police? "Criminals" are not simply products of this class society — they are necessary to its very functioning just as the forces of repression. We do not say that Poll Tax resisters are a separate case — that they

are *political* prisoners. We question the politics of imprisonment. We say that the crimes of oppression, repression and exploitation which are the daily reality in this society can only be covered up by the criminalisation of a section of the working class.

We have no doubt that the *Strangeways Uprising* drew direct inspiration from the resistance in Trafalgar Square. We know that since then there has developed a strong prisoners movement in this country. We know that despite the appalling conditions — often banged up 23 hours a day 3 or 4 to a one-man cell with the notorious mufti squad (screws in riot gear) to beat us up — there are hundreds, maybe thousands of people who would rather go to prison than pay their Poll Tax. We know that some of us are already there:

**Robert Robinson**, a.k.a. Simon O'Reilly, RA0741 (write both names on the envelope) HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight. Convicted. 2 Years for kicking a police van(Sec.2 P.O.A.) See letter this issue.

**Chris Sawyer**, MT3920, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT. Convicted.

**Paul Jacob**, RA0771, HMP Brixton, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, SW2. Remand.

**Karl Hernan**, RA0881, HMP Brixton, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, SW2. Remand.

**NO MORE DEATHS IN PRISON  
DEFEND THE PRISONERS MOVEMENT  
STOP THE CRIMINALISATION  
OF PROTEST**