

The cycle of repression and resistance at Albany has a long and well-documented history:

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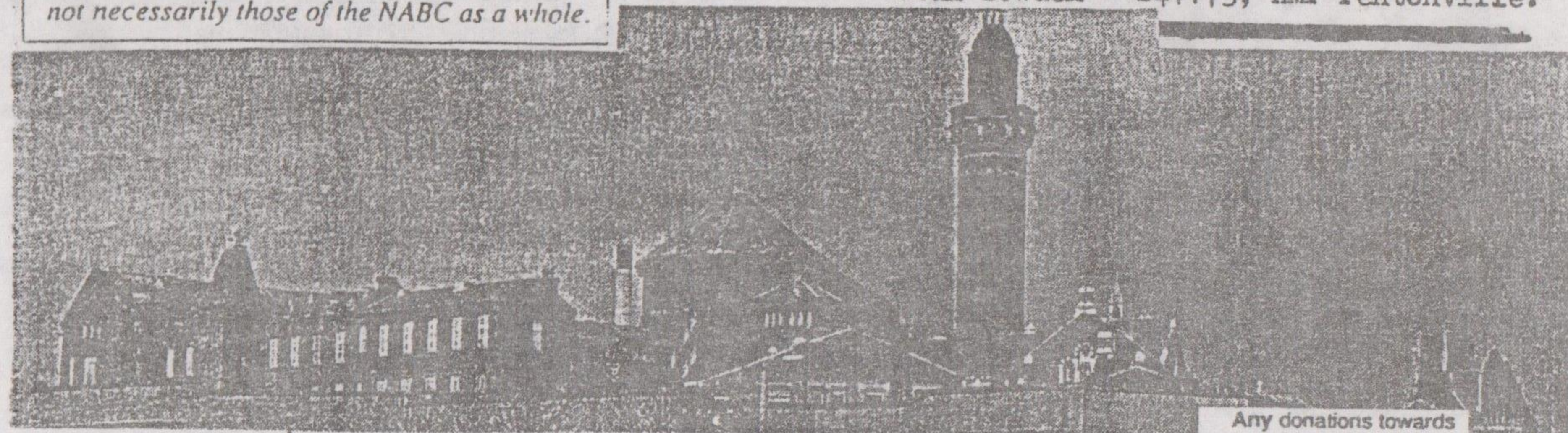
The views expressed in Taking Liberties are not necessarily those of the NABC as a whole.

- * 1970 : additional fences, T.V. camera, geophonic alarms, and a new segregation unit were installed. Albany witnessed its first acts of prisoner rebellion ; fires were lit and peaceful protests were organised.
- * 1973 : more security hardware was introduced at the prison and screws and their families picketed the prison demanding greater repression against the prisoners.
- * 1983 : Albany erupts in a full-scale 'disturbance' and prisoners stage a well-publicised rooftop protest. Damage to the prison is estimated at £1 million. Albany now entered its final oppressive phase, becoming an Alcatraz-like hate-factory and dumping ground for 'recalcitrants' and trouble-makers' - a disproportionate number of whom were black and Irish. The 'controlled unlock' regime at the prison, POA -inspired and instigated, was designed purely & simply to crush resistance and prevent organisation amongst the prisoners; in fact it had quite the opposite effect.
- * 1985 : 5 screws hospitalised after a 'disturbance' on B- wing.

Fires and sporadic smash-ups continue unabated. The decision of the HO to effectively close Albany as a dispersal prison represents an acknowledgement on their part that all the repression & brutality has failed; that far from breaking the spirit and resistance of prisoners the lock-downs and denial of human rights served only to fuel their struggle.

The lessons of Albany are clear: if prisoners organise and fight for their rights, in the face of whatever repression, they will always ultimately win. The prisoners of Albany are to be congratulated for their success in defeating a prison administration that has yet to learn that no amount of brutality and oppression will keep the lid on when prisoners fight back.

John Bowden - B41173, HMP Pentonville.



Taking Liberties ;
all contributions are
welcome - news, letters,
articles, art work and
comments etc to;

The next TL should be
out in about 2 months

Get your regular copy of TL:
free to prisoners - just let us
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Any donations towards
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mailing out the
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warmly received !! All
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Thanks.

**TAKING LIBERTIES : P.O. BOX 446, SHEFFIELD,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE.**

August 1992

Taking Liberties

Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross

Robert Taylor back in custody

Robert Taylor was FRAMED by Manchester Police in Jan. 1989 for Armed Robbery, receiving a 12 year sentence. After over 3 years inside and threatening hunger-strike, Robert got his appeal on May 18th this year. Once more Greater Manchester Police succeeded in their attempts to keep Robert inside. The appeal was thrown out of court. In a letter we received shortly afterwards he said;

"I just wonder what you've got to prove to these bastards, you can ask anyone who was there, it was so blatant that they'd been at it, the whole thing was a farce"

It really is astounding; during the appeal the CoA heard that Karl Hodson was 'induced' by GMP to name Robert as the gunman with him, Hodson being supplied with smack as part of this inducement. Shortly before the original trial (where Hodson was main prosecution witness) Hodson 'escaped' from prison with the best wishes of GMP. Hodson was told by DC Ray Morris he'd be looked after if he fingered

Robert. It also came out that the ID parade was rigged in which 2 out of 6 witnesses picked Robert (see TL no.2), although all had described the gunman as white. Robert, of course, is mixed race, but just so they knew what to do, DC Morris was there to give the cues.

So, Robert went back to prison, another example of justice denied by a corrupt system - the cops give the judges the backhanders, and a masonic handshake seals it. But the story doesn't stop there.



RUN, ROBERT, RUN

On June 6th, Robert was given a days leave to see his sick wife. He didn't come back. When the justice system fails you, you have to get your own. During the 4 weeks that Robert was on the run the Manchester Evening News went all out to destroy his

(cont. on P. 5)

INSIDE : strip searching/women in prison/special hospitals/Albany/poll tax prisoners/M 25 Three/police racism.....

supporting class war prisoners

Important Notice

As you will no doubt already be aware, "Taking Liberties" has been around now for 18 months. In this time, we've reported on many aspects of the British Prison System and the situations of many of our friends & comrades inside. This is not an easy task. Virtually all the information we get comes either from prisoners themselves or their supporters on the outside, and although we put great trust in our sources, checking the validity of the info we receive is a long and not always successful job. It is vital that info we receive is checked out, to avoid putting about misinformation about prisoners and what's going on in prison, BUT this is not always possible.

It has been brought to our attention that info we have recently printed concerning a prisoner is not altogether correct and we have been criticised for not checking our info properly. Although we accept this criticism and acknowledge a mistake has been made, we must stress that when writing or sending info, prisoners & supporters must be completely honest and refrain from bullshitting, as this puts in a very difficult position.

We are here to support our friends and comrades inside and we can only do this properly if the info we get is honest, direct and totally straight-up. This not only strengthens the trust between us but also makes our job easier.

Thanks for your support and co-operation - here's to another 18 months!

Special Hospitals & Prison Officers' Association : Caring the shit out of you

The recent deaths in questionable circumstances of Orville Blackwood in Broadmoor, Sean Walton in Ashworth and only last month of Bryan Marsh in Rampton, have opened up what goes on in Britain's so-called 'Special Hospitals'. What has been revealed is a real can of worms that all from the POA to the Home Office are hurriedly trying to cover up. There are currently 1700 'patients' in 'special hospitals for dangerous offenders', in Ashworth, Rampton & Broadmoor. The fact that the POA is the primary union representing nursing staff speaks volumes about the standards of care a patient can expect to get.

The POA has never attempted to hide its desire that special hospitals be run like prisons, using the age-old reason that top security is needed to 'protect the public'. Such arguments mask the brutal, degrading regimes which prefer punishment and drugging to medical care as a response to the patients' needs. So what is going on?

The recent inquiry into brutality by POA nursing staff at Ashworth SH was brought about by the death of Sean Walton in 1988. He died in a locked security room 16 hours after being beaten on the head with a snooker cue by a member of staff and then being sedated with a double dose of pimozide, an anti-psychotic drug. During the inquiry the POA whined on about a "McCarthy-style witch-hunt". It seems they can't bear the truth about their sick, depraved & corrupt behaviour going public. But, since the death of Sean Walton and with the deaths of Orville Blackwood & Bryan Marsh, the calls for the POA to get out of 'specialist medical care units' such as Ashworth have got louder & louder. The inquiry heard claims by other staff of:

- * POA staff using a pig's head to terrify patients
- * use of a brain-damaged patient as a human ashtray
- * death-threats linked to the fascist British National Party

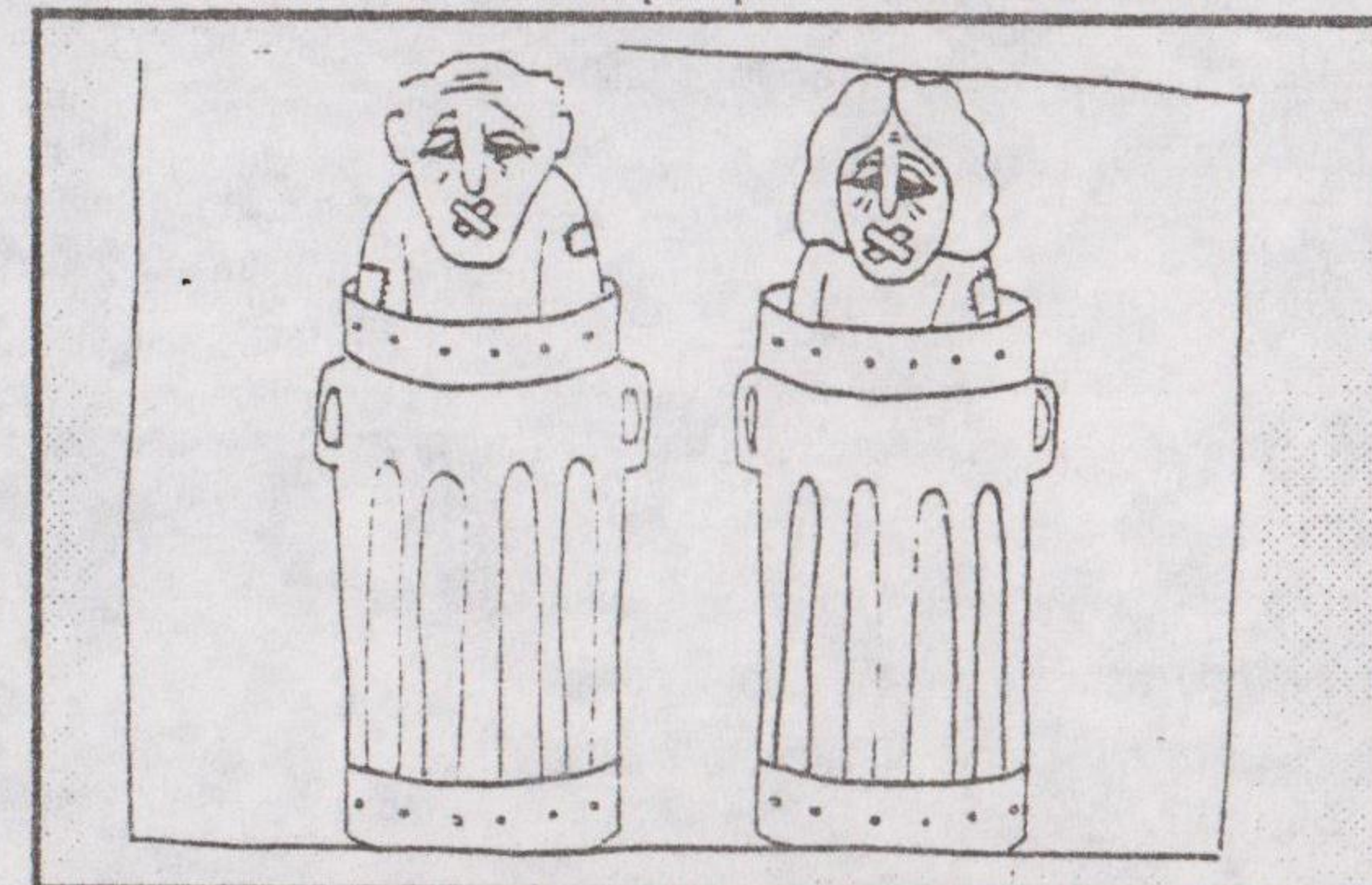
The POA walked out of the inquiry in a pathetic huff, claiming it had 'an hidden agenda', namely saying good-bye to the POA in special hospitals. Well, we'd like to do more than 'say goodbye'. These scum are taking liberties with working class people everyday and are not accountable to anyone. institutions such as Broadmoor are frightening places, most prisoners' nightmare, all too easy to get sectioned to, virtually impossible to get out of, and once you're in, you've had it. Who's going to listen to a Broadmoor patient? Frequent use of ECT and mind-altering drugs such as largactyl to control and break prisoners is rife which

along with physical and mental abuse creates an atmosphere of pure terror. Unlike prisoners in mainstream prisons, most patients in SHs cannot organise or build solidarity with each other. SHs are a 'dumping ground' for the mentally ill and many subversive or 'difficult' prisoners end up there to be 'recuperated'. For those people who are mentally ill, the last place they need to be is in an institution like Broadmoor.

The death of Bryan Marsh

On May 31st Bryan Marsh, an inmate at Rampton SH for 12 years, died while (according to the POA version) 'being restrained after becoming violent'. A patient witness however, told that an argument broke out over medication, during which Marsh did not become violent but was restrained & removed by 5 staff. An ambulance was called but turned away. Marsh was then found dead. Nine POA staff were arrested in connection with the death.

How many people must die in these modern day bedlams, hidden by secrecy and the POA, before things change? If special hospitals are to function as caring institutions and not as prisons then the POA must be kicked out and their places taken by nurses who have the best interests of the people in them at heart.



BOOK review

"Prisoners, Patients or People?" - by Rik Henderson and Mark Wallis, published by "Freedom into Action", BM Box 37, London, WC1 3XX.

"It's time for a rude awakening", so say the authors of this book. It is an open attack upon the use of Mental Hospitals by the State, and talks realistically about this method of social control. The political nature of the institutions is examined by 2 former hospital workers in a down-to-earth way; the non-intellectual language used in the book lead it to be rejected by many mainstream publishers who were afraid of its direct attitude. "Freedom into Action" is a non-profit making publisher "dedicated to exposing human rights abuse in all its forms". (cont. P.5)

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strip - searching in Maghaberry

The following is the text of a statement sent to TL by Women POWs in Maghaberry Prison about the events on Monday 2nd March, when every woman in the gaol was subjected to a strip-search, most of them forcibly. This example of state-sanctioned sexual abuse took place during the build-up to the women POW's International Women's Day celebrations a time when the women are involved in contributing articles, statements and poetry to events they can't attend. Although it happened over 3 months ago, we feel that the gravity and importance of this event needs as much publicity as possible, which is why we are printing it so late.

A chara,

On Monday 2nd March women POWs were told that a search of the gaol was to take place and that we would not be unlocked. A short time later women were informed that they would each be subjected to a strip-search. The screws were informed that POWs' objected very strongly to this unprecedented outrage. POWs were threatened with loss of remission, solitary confinement if they did not comply with the order to strip naked. This threat was intended to coerce women into subjecting themselves to the indignity of a humiliating strip search, however we decided to resist and defend ourselves as best we could in the circumstances.

What happened over the next 10 hours can only be described as sexual, physical and psychological torture. Gangs of screws dressed in riot gear and armed with batons and

shields entered the wings. A gang of screws entered a cell and set upon the defenceless woman inside, in each case up to 16 screws. The POWs' were seized and dragged to the floor, their faces pushed tightly into the floor so they couldn't see their assailants and their mouths covered to stifle the screams. Once inside the screws began to remove the women's clothes until totally naked. Every other woman in the gaol could hear the attack as it took place so in actual fact each woman spent the entire day listening to comrades being sexually abused before and after her own turn came.

The use of strip-searching has been well-researched and it has been concluded time and time again that this practice has NO security value. Society rejects such barbaric behaviour as sexual abuse.

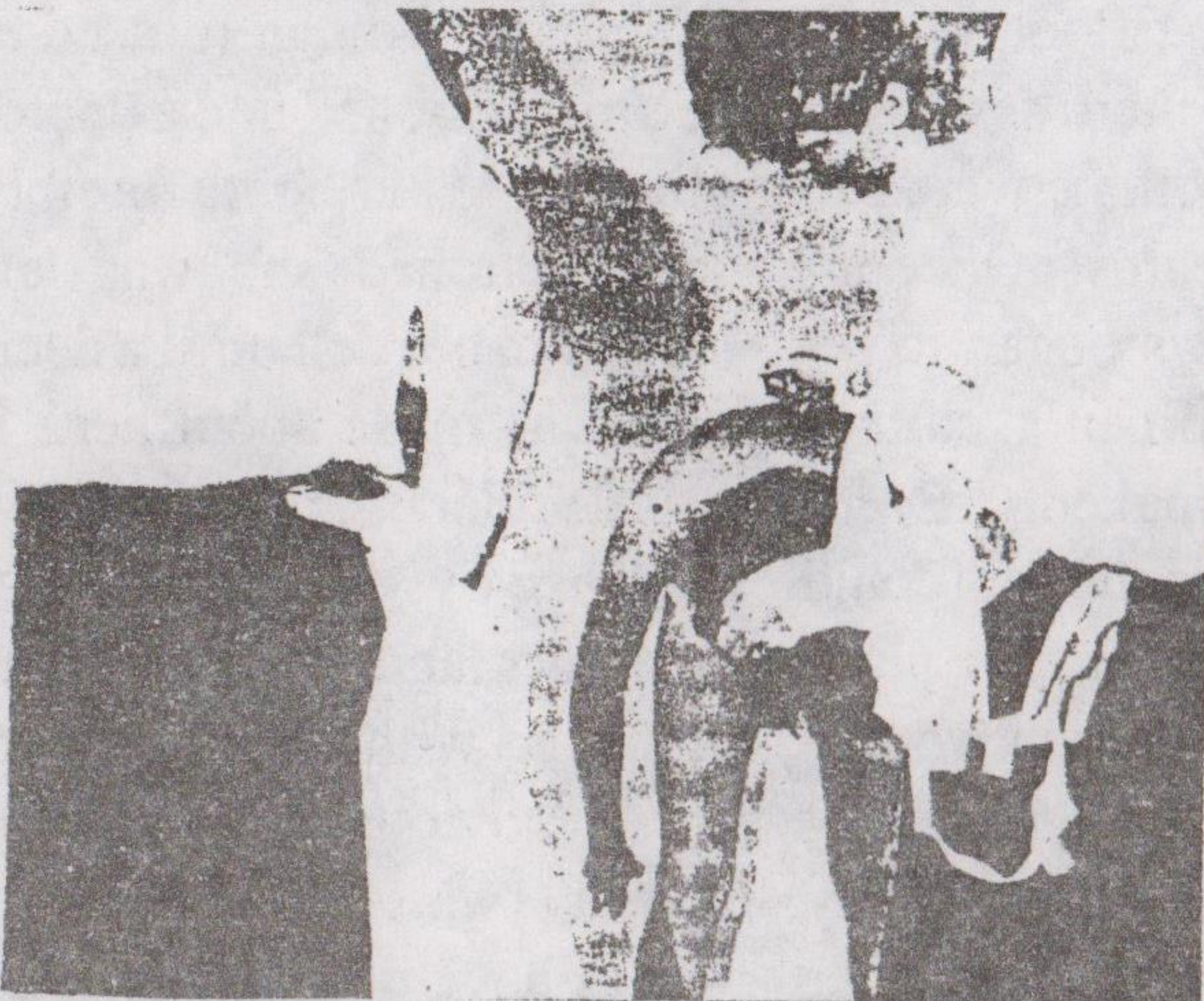
It is no accident that the men

made the decision to pursue this line on 2nd March (and only in the Women's gaol are prisoners expected to strip totally naked when being searched).

When one woman refused to be strip searched and a doctor objected to her being forcibly strip searched she was locked in her cell until a decision was made about her. It was decided that she could be searched by MOs using metal detectors and then she was unlocked with security clearance. Obviously this form of search (which none of us would have objected to) was enough to satisfy security requirements. Why then was the forcible strip search of women pursued? One can only conclude that degradation control and submission rather than security were on the agenda. Through the actions of the N.I.O and prison administration right down to the screws who participated in the

assaults, the clock has been turned back to November 1982 when strip-searching was introduced for the first time (but never carried out en masse on the wings). The feeling of tension and anger within the gaol is impossible to describe. The Board of Visitors were in the gaol on that day. One member of this supposedly impartial watchdog body stood and watched women being striped naked. We regard their presence as participation and their silence as consent. They are no longer welcome in this gaol.

We have given individual statements to solicitors while the N.I.O embark on a game of pass the parcel of blame. Statements about the events of 2nd March emanating from that very much undermined department range from the bizarre to the downright insulting. Phrases such as "women over reacting", "unnecessary violent reaction", "routine search" have been employed to describe 10 hours of systematic abuse of women prisoners. All 21 women who resisted the sexual assault on that day sustained injuries of some description. One woman received bruising to her face and was temporarily transferred to an outside hospital, others are awaiting the result of tests to determine the extent of their physical injuries. Women acted in self-defence in trying to ward off attackers in riot gear; that there isn't more hospital cases is no thanks to the screws.



What is incalculable is the psychological scars that women now have to bear. Women who must now spend years in the very cells which we were violated with such vigorous enthusiasm. The N.I.O want to terrorise women prisoners, to beat us into submission because we continue to defy their attempts to impose their will on us. This they call the battle for hearts and minds!

It is only one part, a disgusting and deplorable part, of an overall policy to try and control women prisoners pursued by the latest Governor to arrive in Maghaberry. It is no surprise that this has happened as he has done his

utmost

- * to cut women off from each other by denying association

- * to cut women off from their families by ensuring that originally bad visiting conditions are now deplorable

- * to cut women off from their communities through the worsening censorship of literature and letters.

The latest step in this process is the attempt to dehumanise women by forcing their way into cells, stripping away our personal clothing, invading the most intimate and private parts of our bodies and all the while inflicting physical and mental pain.

To add insult to injury the women POWs are now to be charged with assault. What will happen to the male & female screws who took part in the attack on March 2nd - medals?

Is Sinne,

Marie Wright, Ailish Carpell, Shauneen Baker, Bernie reilly, Patricia Deane, Louise Nash, Karen Quinn, Pat Moore, Annmarie McKee, Paula Burns, Donna McMenamy, Rosaleen McCorley, Carol Cullen, Mary McArdle, Theresa Browne, Bronwyn McGahan, Geraldine Ferrity, Ann Cavanagh, Mary Ellen Campbell, Frances Symington, Tereas Malocco, Maureen Delaney.

MARTIN FORAN

New developments may mean liberty for Martin soon. The Crown Prosecution Service has made available forensic evidence hitherto kept secret. This evidence demonstrates clearly that Martin could not have committed the crime for which he was sentenced. The West Midlands Seriously Criminal Squad has been in possession of this evidence since 1984!

Unlike Judith Ward, however, he is not as yet being allowed bail and seems likely to remain in prison (HMP Wellingborough) until his appeal. Martin also has in his possession patently doctored custody sheets which alter the time of his arrest upon which his conviction hinged. Why he is not being allowed bail is a mystery, given that his health is very precarious. He has been transferred to Wellingborough, however, where conditions are more amenable. He is, naturally, very, very happy. Letters of Congratulation to Martin foran C51796, HMP Wellingborough, Northants.

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(cont. from P.2)

"Prisoners, Patients or People" includes interviews with ex-'Mental hospital patients' imprisoned for up to 70 years for being poor, homeless, orphaned or disabled. The anger of those held and left to rot inside Victorian asylums is shown as a natural reaction to inhuman conditions.

This book is not 'nice', but is intended to shock, disturb and to educate us as to the history of discrimination against those of us who do not fit in. Asylums, workhouses, hospitals and even the Nazi death camps have all been excuses for getting rid of certain 'unfortunates' within society. This book describes the use of lobotomies, electric shocks, brain surgery, confinement and other forms of torture.

This book also talks positively about the need for ordinary people to look at alternatives to the institutions and to looking at ways of dealing with our mental health problems. Above all, this book is about fighting back against those who seek to divide and rule us, and it's about starting to care for ourselves and each other.

(any prisoner wanting this book please contact Leeds ABC).

ROBERT TAYLOR (Cont. from front page)

credibility. Obviously if you've done 3 years of a sentence for a crime you didn't commit and the CoA knocks you back then most people will jump at the chance to get away. But the MEN had none of it. With the sort of anti-working class reporting they're famous for, they ran a story of how Robert had been in a car chase with the police and got away but only after lobbing out a gun and ammo. Whether that is true or not (Robert understandably feared the cops would kill him), the MEN used it as a way of re-emphasising he's a violent man so must've been guilty, thus trying to frighten away public support for him. Days later another headline read "Fugitive warns: I'll kill police family" supposedly coming from a threat made by Robert. Again bullshit to create the image of an 'animal'. It appears that DC Ray Morris was put in hiding when Robert went on the run, afraid of the consequences. So he should for the misery and injustice he and his colleagues have inflicted on Robert Taylor and others.

May you all flee in fear of your lives.

Robert was re-captured at the beginning of July and is now back in custody. He now faces charges including failing to return to jail, conspiracy to rob and firearms offences. Please send letters of support to Robert

Robert can be contacted :

AK3468, HMP Full Sutton

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POLL TAX

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Tim Donaghy ; HMP Downview, 3 years (section 2, POA). Tim got knocked back on his first parole; the reasons for this are not known, but the parole board failed to fully investigate Tim's external circumstances; out of all given long terms only Tim & Brian Tavares were refused first parole; both are young black defendants (Brian is now out). If Tim's next parole is refused he may not be out until Feb. '93. A campaign to free Tim has been started - since then Tim has been given "special leave" to apply for parole, several newspapers having reported on Tim's campaign.

COLCHESTER 16 TRIALS * 8 Convictions * 8 Acquittals

The 2nd group of show-trials finished on Fri. 12th June and out of 7 defendants, 3 were acquitted.

*2 were acquitted due to 'unsafe evidence'

*Gladwell & Tomlinson pleaded guilty to section 2 of the POA ('Violent Disorder')

*Dean Mackie was found not guilty of Riot but guilty on a 10-2 majority of 'violent disorder'

*Graham Mann was found guilty of 'riot'

*David Rigo was acquitted after the jury insisted that Sgt. Stokes evidence from the 1st trial (based on a video) be replayed. It showed that Stoke's evidence could not have been true - he admitted that 'his evidence was mistaken'. It is clear that the 2nd trial was based less on a collective defence than the 1st one - one of the lawyers said "It's gone brilliantly; if we get a conviction today, it's the fault of your banner over there". Another said in his summing up "this is not a political trial, this has nothing to do with the Poll Tax". Who needs the prosecution with a defence like this?! If the defendants get sent down it's likely that some of them will change their lawyers....



Both Dean & Graham will face sentencing on 21st July - it is likely that Gladwell and Tomlinson will also be sentenced on that day.

COLCHESTER PRISONERS

TERRY FROST ; DL1911, HMP Wayland (D-Wing), EPD December 6th, 1992. EDR June 6th, 1993. Terry was found guilty of 'riot' (section 1 POA) and got 2 years on April 6th.

ANDY HESTER ; NL2430, HMP NORWICH. EPD October 6th, 1992. EDR April 6th, 1993. Found guilty of 'riot'.

CHRISTINE HAMMET ; TV0063, HMP DRAKE HALL. EDR Aug 20th '92.

M25 campaign - On the Road to Justice

On the night of 15-16 December 1988, 3 masked men conducted a series of violent attacks just off the M25 in Surrey which left one man dead, another wounded, 2 houses robbed and four cars stolen. The tabloid press dubbed the perpetrators the 'M25 Gang' and a £25,000 reward was put on offer. A major police man-hunt began.

Victims of the robberies stated that at least one of the attackers was white. The police stated in a television appeal that they were looking for 2 white men and one black man.

In March 1990 after a 6 week trial, RAPHAEL ROWE, MICHAEL DAVIS and RANDOLPH JOHNSON were convicted of murder and robbery and sentenced to life imprisonment. All three are black. They were convicted on the basis of contradictory, uncorroborated, circumstantial and accomplice evidence. Alibi evidence for the accused was never challenged by the prosecution; it was simply ignored.

ALL 3 HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROTESTED THEIR INNOCENCE.

A TRIAL OF ERRORS

The trial was a catalogue of 'errors', with police and judge in cohorts.

The M25 Three were convicted

- * despite the fact that 3 of the main witnesses against them admitted in court to stealing the car used by the attackers, owning the air pistol used during the attacks, supplying the masks which prevented positive identifying of the attackers

- * despite the fact that these same witnesses gave contradictory evidence in court, matched the only fingerprints found in the attackers' car

- * because these same witnesses gave the time when the accused were said to leave their home, placed the 3 in each others' company, described the accused as wearing dark clothing

- * despite the fact that the evidence from victims said that at least one of their attackers was white

- * despite the fact that the judge noted one witness had changed his evidence because the police had told him his original story "did not fit the times required"

- * despite the fact that the only forensic evidence was at best inconclusive; no independent forensic tests were carried out.

- * despite clear breaches of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act,

whereby the police conducted unrecorded interviews with suspects, these suspects became prosecution witnesses

- * as the judge made major errors during his summing up when he announced that "in the napier of fence there is some fingerprint evidence against Rowe". There was NONE.

- * despite the fact that both Raphael Rowe and Michael Davis had alibis, verified by 7 witnesses, which prove they were at specific addresses at specific times that evening, prove they could not have been at the scene of the first of the offence, so could not be guilty of the series of attacks.

As Raphael Rowe wrote to TL;
"For years I have cried my innocence. I hope, I don't know how I've hoped for so long. I grip my innocence and believe in it being proved, it's just scary to think how much longer it will take".

Letters of support please to Raphael Rowe; HMP Gartree.

For more info contact:

M25 CAMPAIGN
ON THE ROAD TO JUSTICE
 46 Atherfold Road, Clapham North,
 London SW9

ROTTEN TO THE CORE

It is commonplace amongst police apologists to suggest that racism in the force is the result of a few 'bad apples' who tarnish the otherwise respectable, reliable and honest face of British policing. We are constantly reminded that certain irregularities are bound to exist and that this unpleasant aspect, although admittedly unhealthy, is a problem that can be faced and duly eradicated. What a load of BOLLOCKS!

Take for instance the recent case of Malkjit Singh Natt, a resident of Newham in London, who in response to police harassment since 1989 carried a tape recorder with him on the advice of friends. When arrested by the police in Jan '91, the unsuspecting coppers let their mask slip and subjected Mr. Natt to a barrage of racist abuse whilst in the car on the way to the station. For example:

Officer; why don't you go home?

Mr. Natt; what?

Officer; why don't you go home?

Mr. Natt; what's go home?

Officer; Go home, you know, India, Pakistan, or wherever you fucking come from.

Mr Natt's experience of direct police racism is not something we should be surprised at. For thousands of black people daily, police violence is a fearful reality. Recent HO reports at 2 London police stations show that young black males are about 10 times more likely to be stopped & searched than the average for the population as a whole. Meanwhile, the police try and make us believe that they are doing their utmost to cement genuine links in working class inner city areas in the hope that a mutual understanding can be forged between them & the community. There's no point in trying to con us into believing that racism in the police force can be tackled and eradicated - the police are racist because the state is racist and the police are there to serve the state. The 2 coppers who abused Mr. Natt lost one day's pay. These

ROTTEN TO THE CORE(Cont. from P. 6)

bastards are back on the beat, pissing themselves laughing. Some attempt at combatting racism.

We must realise that no amount of public relations exercises and smiling coppers can ever get rid of racism in the police force. Neither can it be defeated by pretending to 'weed out' cops to be made an example of. Racism is an integral part of police culture. The answers to racism must come from our class, in our communities and workplaces. We must be organised to deal with police violence and racism whenever it raises its filthy head.

IN BRIEF

MANSFIELD PRISON in the USA is currently under 24 hour lockdown, following the stabbing of a screw. The screw in question had been harassing prisoners constantly and so was dealt a little justice by someone who couldn't take any more crap. The screws' union is now demanding more security for its members and visits have also been stopped.

ALAN REEVE is currently coming to the end of a life sentence in a Dutch prison (see TL no.4) and as if he has not been through enough, the British HO want to extradite him back into Broadmoor where he previously escaped. He will be fighting his case all the way so he doesn't have to go back to one of this country's mental torture chambers. More news as we get it. Alan welcomes letters of support, though he can't always write back.

Alan Reeve
 Beethovenlaan 1
 7002 MJ Doetinchem
 Nederland

REMAND PRISONERS at Horfield Prison, Bristol, threw rubbish and shouted abuse as Princess Anne unveiled a plaque yesterday at the reopening of A Wing, damaged by remand prisoners during riots in 1990.

US CONTROL UNITS are exposed in a new booklet available, dealing with the spread of control unit prisons such as Marion in the USA. Entitled "From Alcatraz to Marion to Florence", it is an incredibly detailed and consequently frightening report on the development of CUs and as such should be read by all concerned with what is planned for Britain's prisons. It is available from TL and costs £1.25 (plus s&e for non-prisoners only and all money raised will go to the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown.

STRANGWAYS SHOWTRIALS; More Scapegoats to come

The 64 day showtrial of the 8 scapegoats culminated in the acquittals of Alan Lord, Andy Nelson, Martin McLatchie and Brian Parke. But 4 men received savage sentences- Paul Taylor got 10 years, John Spencer got 8 and a half, James Miller got 7, and Tiny Doran got 4 years. In addition to this Nelson & Spencer got 18 months for 'contempt of court'. Naturally, throughout the trial virtually nothing was reported of the reasons which drove then men to take to the roof - the disgusting conditions and attitudes of the prison authorities. The shock horror tales of murder and mayhem which prevailed however **MUST BE DISMISSED** for the lies they are - no one was convicted of murder, it's official - there was no murder at Strangeways.

Though they've been acquitted, Alan Lord & Andy Nelson now face charges in the next group of defendants. The state is out to get them and has given itself another chance.

As Eric Allison (ex-prisoner) stated in 'FRFT';
"They received savage sentences. They will not have an easy time inside; those in charge of them will not forget how the protesters took control of one of the flagships of the penal fleet; how they humiliated the prison service in general and Strangeways in particular. We, prisoners and ex-prisoners, must not forget them. Nor must those who purport to be friends of prisoners disown these men - we owe them a massive debt. They must not be forgotten."

Andy Nelson - AK3869 HMP Preston

Alan Lord - HMP FULL SUTTON



STRIP SEARCH ORDEAL OF VISITORS has led to 3 people suing the Governor of HMP Frankland and the Home Secretary for damages for false imprisonment & assault. The incidents took place in 1988 and sparked a week long rooftop protest by prisoners. The 3 were taken to a small room by screws and told to remove their clothes, after being told that unless they agreed the visit would not go ahead. According to prison rules, visitors can be stopped and searched but NOT stripsearched. This is yet another clear case of the state seeking to intimidate prisoners and their families.

ONE OUT, ALL OUT

As we got to press, the following Framed prisoners have their cases referred to the Court of Appeal ; Michael Royle (Manchester police) on July 26th M 25 3 on July 27th and Glen Lewis (West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad) faces his re-trial on July 20th.

Added to this, Paul & Wayne Darvell were released and their sentences quashed after 7 years of a life sentence.

Since the release of Keith Parchment in July '89 (which led to the exposing and disbanding of the WMSCS), 11 men framed by the WMSCS have been freed and their convictions quashed. At the end of May Robert Haughton became the 11th after 5 years behind bars. Glen Lewis should become the 12th.

What is certain though is that true to its nature, the state will not bring any of these WMSCS scum to court for the misery inflicted on innocent people. Barbara Mills, the new Director of Public Prosecutions, announced there'd be NO prosecutions of any officers in the WMSCS, as it was "not in the public interest" and there was "not enough evidence".

Bollocks.

The hypocrisy is so blatant ; not enough evidence to convict innocent men, but they are convicted, more than enough evidence to send down & throw away the key on the WMSCS officers, but not even a prosecution.

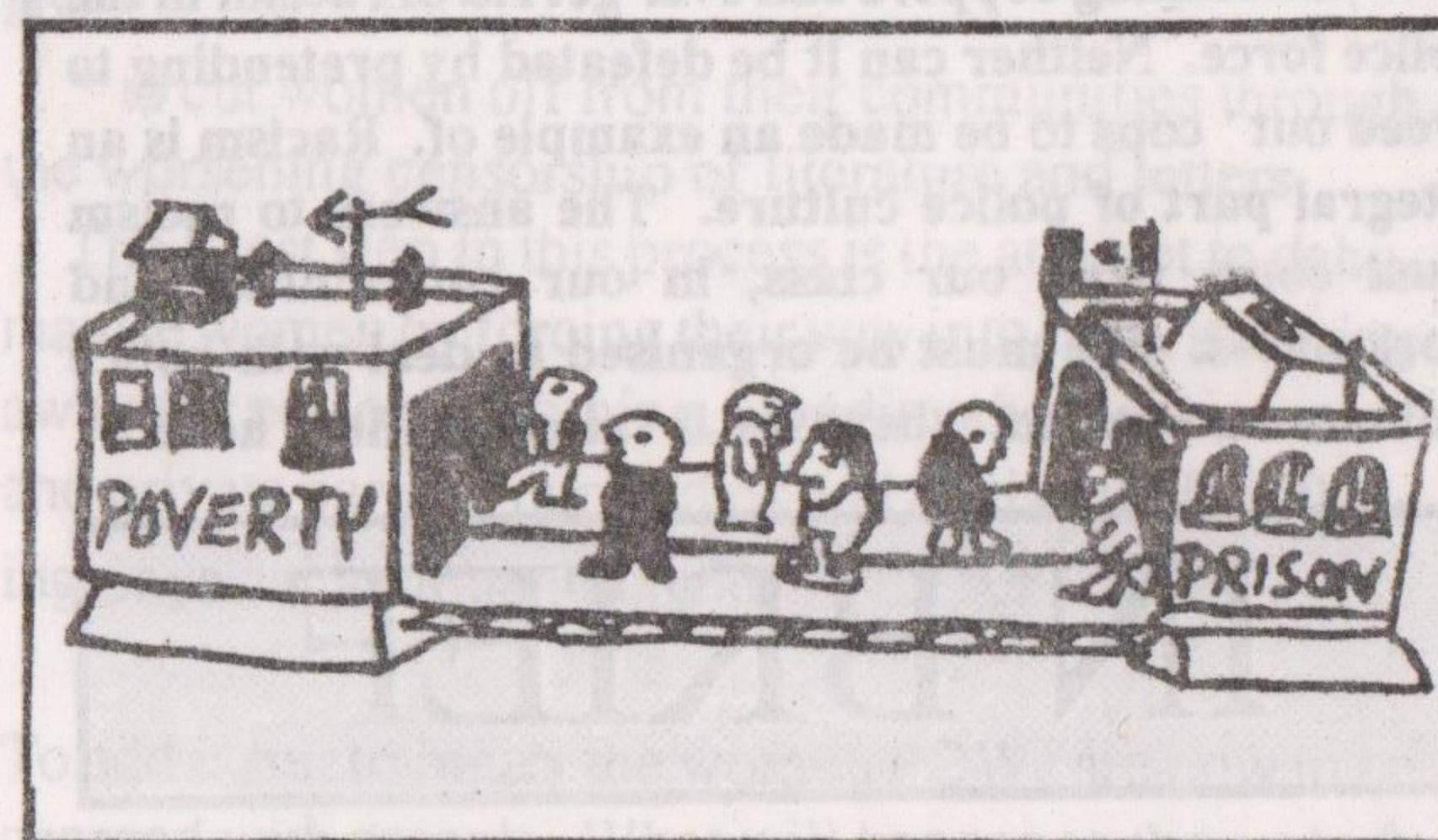
Still, we should not expect our jailers to be our saviours. That these men have been released is nothing short of a miracle. But the state, as brutal as ever, will not prosecute those who do its dirty work for it.

After all, where would it be without them ?

BEG, STEAL or BURN

The Home Office has forecast a 25% increase in prisoners by the year 2000. As well as creating hysteria among the 'law & order brigade', this would, of course, justify a huge and costly prison building programme. After all, the state has to have somewhere to put all these 'criminals'. For anyone with any brains it's obvious that there'll be a rise in 'crime' (i.e. more of their laws broken) as long as our living conditions get worse ; less jobs - with the ones that exist being disgustingly paid - decrepid housing, increased bills and rising cost

of living, reduced benefits, run-down estates - all mean that the only way for working class people can survive is to rob or fiddle, either way we're 'committing more crime'.



As political, social & economic repression continues, so there'll be increased revolt in our communities & inner cities, increased rioting & looting and DIRECT conflict with the state. We have no choice but to fight back, to voice our anger in the only way the state understands.

Prison	No. of prisoners	% overcrowding
Gloucester	195	82
Chelmsford	392	69
Birmingham	925	63
Durham	939	62
Leicester	322	62
Leeds	944	51

Most Overcrowded Prisons - NACRO figures)

WOMEN IN PRISON

- * women are 3 times more likely than men to be jailed for a 1st offence
- * 76% of all womens' crimes are theft-related
- * population of womens' prisons has doubled in the last 20 years

These few statistics confirm what's been long thought; not only do working class women get a shit deal on the outside, but as soon as they 'commit a crime', they are punished harder than men. It has often been said by ex-women prisoners that the first crime they commit is by being a woman, by becoming a 'criminal' they've stepped out of conformity in the eyes of the state - they're no longer little 'passive' housewives, but must be either 'mutants or defenceless morons led astray'. There are no images of strong women in prison and no true representation of why they are in prison. (cont. P9)

WOMEN IN PRISON (CONT. FROM P. 8)

This suits the state, it's in its interests that women in prison are seen as 'different from other women'. The same goes for men to some extent, i.e. they are stigmatised & ostracised by prison, but the effect for women is different. Networks of support exist for men and they're more than likely to get support from their families. Women, however, tend to be ditched by their families and have little or no support while they're inside. If they've kids then unless their families take care of them, they'll be taken into care or fostered out (especially bad for single parents). As a result of the pain and upset caused by this separation, most women prisoners choose to get out as quick as possible, to do their time as easily as possible to get back to their families. Basically, most women have a lot more to lose by going to prisoners as in most cases they are the primary carers in the family.

As the statistics show, 76% of all 'crimes' are theft-related : women are often jailed for stealing nappies, sanitary towels etc as well as clothes, food. The state in all its patriarchal glory, wants timid, subservient women who accept their roles and get on with having babies and looking after the men. Where women transgress from this the police, courts and prisons are waiting for them.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE BRUTALITY OF THE STATE TOWARDS WOMEN PRISONERS IS THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PREGNANT PRISONERS

A 22 year old pregnant woman prisoner in HMP Holloway was told last month that her baby would be taken from her within 6 hours of being born, and fostered out until her release in 1994, because there was no place for her in the Mother & Baby Unit in Holloway. Not surprisingly, she protested that she was losing her baby as a punishment. "Normal procedure" is to be allowed to breastfeed for 4 weeks and then be given a place in the Mother & Baby unit, but as a result of the lack of places she had been turned down.

MOTHER & BABY UNITS. The original 17 bed unit in Holloway was closed due to cockroach infestation. There is now just a 12 bed unit laughingly called "Hi- Babes". Throughout Womens' Prisons there are only 37 places in units in STYAL & HOLLOWAY & ASKHAM GRANGE, with 67 outstanding applications and 40 pregnant prisoners at present. These women will all be punished by having their babies taken, and the babies will be deprived of their natural mothers.

So; the woman not only loses her liberty, she has to face life without her baby - this is a direct attack on both mother & child.



Obviously, prison is no place for a child to grow up, but the best interests of mother and baby cannot be to forcibly split up the 2 within hours of birth.

Whereas in Askham Grange and Styal M & B units, women are allowed to keep their babies with them until 18 months old, Holloway's prison mothers can only keep them until 9 months old. This again is a barbaric and tortuous practise.

STOP PRESS: due to public outcry the HO has given the woman & baby a place in the M & B unit in Holloway

END OF THE ROAD FOR ALBANY

The following is a shortened version of an article written by John Bowden, a prisoner in HMP Pentonville (see TL 6).

"The decision of the Home Office to remove Albany from the dispersal system this summer and relocate its population elsewhere is final confirmation that the most oppressive and conflict-ridden maximum-security prison in England has been decisively junked by the resistance of the prisoners themselves.

It was created in 1968 as one of a group of max. sec. dispersal prisons designed to contain what the system classified as its most 'dangerous' and 'subversive' prisoners. Always a frontline of struggle, the conflict at Albany has been a model for confrontations throughout the long-term prison system generally; from 1968 onwards, the inexorable drive towards absolute control and obsessive security, the caging-in and locking-down of prisoners at Albany, has been challenged and resisted at every turn by the prisoners themselves, to the extent where the prison has finally become 'unmanageable' and obsolete as an instrument of repression. (Cont. on back page)