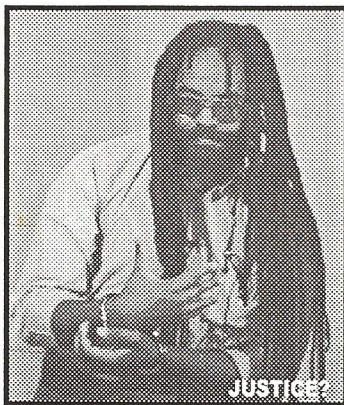


## MUMIA ABU JAMAL EDITORIAL



Action in solidarity with Mumia, and was followed by solidarity broadcasts from Interference FM on the 5th and 12th. Since then there have been film showings and banner drops over the M32 as well as other efforts to raise awareness of Mumia's plight.

Mumia was sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. He has been on death row ever since, and has had no physical contact with his family in all this time. He has never touched his grandchildren.

Judge Sabo, who presided over Mumia's case has sent more people to death row than any other member of the American Judiciary, and is a member of the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police – which is now actively campaigning for Mumia's execution.

Mumia has always protested his innocence and claims that he was framed because of his positive coverage of MOVE (the radical Black

anti-capitalist autonomist group), whilst working as a radio journalist. Also his membership of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defence ensured him a government file from the age of 14.

During his trial, Mumia was denied his constitutional right to conduct his own defence, barred from the courtroom at certain times and subjected to extreme judicial bias.

These facts were reiterated by Amnesty International in a report it published in February. The report documented improper judicial procedures, dodgy forensic evidence, police intimidation of witnesses, and an obvious bias against Jamal from Sabo. Furthermore, Amnesty stated overall failure of Jamal's trial to reach minimum international standards of justice and judicial fairness.

Mumia's life currently lies in the balance waiting to hear whether or not he will be granted justice. The time for action has never been greater.

Welcome to the better-late-than-never, Mayday 2000 edition of ASW. Chock full of info on local campaigns and activities, new groups and a sprinkling of international news (and hopefully not too many mistakes). Also included in this issue is a free Mayday pullout with carry-ons and contacts, a brief history of Mayday.

First off, hope you all have a top day out on the 1st and remember to keep us informed of what went on. Send in pics, reports and comments on your own experiences.

Also at the moment we are in desperate need of more news from the region, so please e-mail us, use the post or give us a call to say what's going down.

We also need more money. Unfortunately this capitalist economy we live in doesn't make concessions for small-scale radical newsheets. So keep those stamps coming, and any cash or cheques would be gladly received.

## HINKLEY STINKLY

Controversial nuclear plant Hinkley 'A' was dealt a fresh blow when atomic engineer John Large called for it to be permanently shut down. He exposed serious design and operation flaws during a public meeting in Taunton this March, claiming the 35-year old Hinkley 'A' would fail an operating license if built today.

Large outlined how a fractured

coolant duct could cause an uncontrollable uranium fuel fire due to 'embrittlement' of the reactor shell, which lacks the globe-shaped 'secondary-containment' required by modern regulations.

In February an Environment Agency enforcement notice on the station would have closed it down if it hadn't already been shut for long-term repairs. It follows the discovery that plant operators

BNFL passed doctored safety readings to the EA for two years. BNFL's Chief Executive recently resigned over falsification of documents for MOX fuel sent to Japan. Jim Pagington of the EA said the real readings could show Hinkley breaching pollution targets. They may also prosecute Hinkley over faulty cooling pond filters discovered last year. Meanwhile the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

has shown concern about rising levels of waste stored at Hinkley, which if exposed to water could cause a hydrogen fire.

The Stop Hinkley group is calling for the plant's immediate closure to prevent unnecessary build-up of waste, and want public consultation over plans to use Hinkley 'A' as a nuclear dump.

The campaign also planned street theatre for Chernobyl Day, April 26th.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NO MORE MONKEY BUSINESS

Infamous monkey farm Shamrock has shut down after 46 years in business. The Sussex farm, where monkeys were bred for scientific experimentation worldwide, blamed the closure on animal liberationists' non-stop campaign which has seen constant demonstrations highlighting Shamrock's activities, and involved mass blockades and appeals to Shamrock workers.

ff: STSM, PO Box 3090, Brighton BN1 3QU 07020 936956

### GENETICALLY MODIFIED TRUTH

A new report called 'Biotech - The Next Generation' savages claims by genetically modified food corporations that GM food provides health benefits. It says that promoting balanced diets, tackling poverty, improving sanitation and raising educational standards would address poor nutrition in developing countries better than GM crops. The report also calls claims made by biotech companies that GM food would enhance diets in the western world as "much hyped".

### ETHICAL INVESTMENT?

Animal rights activists have adopted a novel tactic in their campaign against notorious animal experimenters Huntingdon Life Sciences. The BUAV Reform Group have taken to holding pickets/demos outside the homes of individual shareholders in Huntingdon. Some shareholders were so disgusted to learn of Huntingdon's devilish operations that they have joined the group to discourage others investing in animal abuse. An earlier anonymous campaign reportedly convinced enough institutional investors to shy away from HLS to slash 30% from share values. The protests outside shareholders' homes - whose addresses were located by a simple check on HLS at Companies House - have been entirely non-violent.

### "FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD"

Like many other Free Mumia groups around the country, Bristol had the unpleasant experience of legendary Trot bandwagoneers - the Socialist Worker's Party - attempting to use the life of a political prisoner as a springboard for getting some new recruits. The Bristol group was strictly non-partisan so that all efforts could be focussed on saving Mumia's life. However, the SWoPies refused to honour the original agreements that it had made with the group, and used the March 4th demonstration as an opportunity to make a few bucks by selling papers.

# FED UP WITH THE FIT UP'S

**Reclaim The Streets' demon status in the wake of J18/N30 stepped up a notch in Bristol this month with astonishing revelations from the Police in a trial and a lengthy smear story across five pages in local paper the Evening Post.**

At the Bristol Crown Court trial video evidence taken at the July '99 Bristol Street Party by the Avon & Somerset Constabulary helicopter contradicted Police statements. Police had initially arrested the defendant - who had stopped on the other side of the road to watch the RTS but who was unconnected to it - to prevent further breach of the peace, claiming he was coordinating the protest.

Ground commander Chief Inspector Brian Schofield, his tactical adviser PC Alistair Price and helicopter observer PC David Chapman tied themselves in knots after the video proved both Schofield's and Price's accounts - that Chapman gave a clear description of two men, one of whom the defendant matched, whom he believed were RTS organisers - wrong. Instead, the video recorded Chapman describing "lots of people on pedal cycles with mobile phones" in vague terms. On cross-examination Price admitted that his "recollection was completely wrong" despite his notes being written just hours after the incident.

Apart from the Police being caught fitting the evidence around the arrest, there were sensational disclosures from Schofield on the Police objectives for the day. Schofield revealed that their strategy was "to keep protesters away

from the city centre, and to try and keep the motorway open"; given that neither of these objectives were met despite the massive Police operation, it would appear CI Schofield felt he had a lot of egg on his face. Furthermore he admitted he knew his subordinate Inspector Creed had been in contact with RTS coordinators before the event, yet claimed he himself did not know the outcome of these meetings. When pressed, he admitted that Insp Creed had actually introduced him personally to an RTS negotiator at the Castle Park gathering point.

Meanwhile the Post devoted a long article - plus lead editorial - to a character assassination of someone they claimed was Bristol's "Reclaim the Streets supremo".

At face value it just seems to be a typical hack job from a reactionary provincial rag. But certain elements suggest a specific political agenda. Firstly there is the context: the story appears long after the event, and there is no court case being reported. Second, there is the content: much is made of his "middle class upbringing" - it was even titled "Middle Class Warrior"; the paper also mentions his arrest at an earlier RTS and that his leg was broken at the Carnival Against Capitalism - hinting he is a violent person. So why?

The mention of MayDay, June 18 and Reclaim the Streets in the piece are a clue. In the run-up to MayDay and the new Terror Bill, most national papers have carried scare-stories about activists, employing the same phrases or sentiments: "eco-terrorists", "so-called/self-styled anti-capitalists", "organised over the internet" etc. Many contain

ludicrous assertions that are quickly recirculated in subsequent reports - for instance, the unsourced Sunday Times article last year claiming RTS in London were "stockpiling illegal weapons worth thousands of pounds" (17/10/99) has been recycled several times without proof; an Observer piece (31/10/99) rehashed old smears about treespiking in the US, again falsely claiming that it was a widely-used tactic and that it had killed people.

One constant in reports is the juxtaposition of descriptions of property damage at mass actions with activists' own words, often with the effect of making the activist - and by extension all activists - appear either deceitful or naive.

Perhaps the most telling element to this disinformation is the mixture of accuracy with outright falsehood; in the Evening Post article there is the contrast of the legwork of the bulk of the feature, tying in many elements going back five years, with the statement "Attendance [at London RTS meetings] is strictly by invitation only" - despite the easily checked fact meeting times and locations are publicised on the RTS infoline, and meetings are open to all.

All this evidence - innuendo, unsourced smears, crude inventions, the same words and phrases cropping up constantly - point to one thing: a concerted effort by the State, through the Police, the secret police and their media conduits, to utterly discredit and fragment what is an ever-growing, global movement fighting capitalism.

## PISSED WITH "THE POST"

**Following the Bristol Evening Post's smear article on Reclaim the Streets 15 activists tried to get a group interview with the infamous hack Chris McGuire (the article's author) to discuss issues of accuracy and press accountability.**

Broadly based around the: "I am Spartacus" theme, the mob dressed up with labels stating, "middle class wanna'be," "Spartacus" and comments in a similar vein.

Specially prepared for the action was an edition of "The Evening

Pest" a spoof of the Post that certainly had more integrity as well as an accurate account of the Post's real agenda and sensationalist antics.

Despite the anarchist pranksters attempts to keep the whole show on a very tongue-in-cheek, non-violent line, Post workers got steamed up and heavy handed. Probably incensed that anyone would dare to question their obvious purity, also the passers by who made comments on how the paper had always printed rubbish really got their goat. The

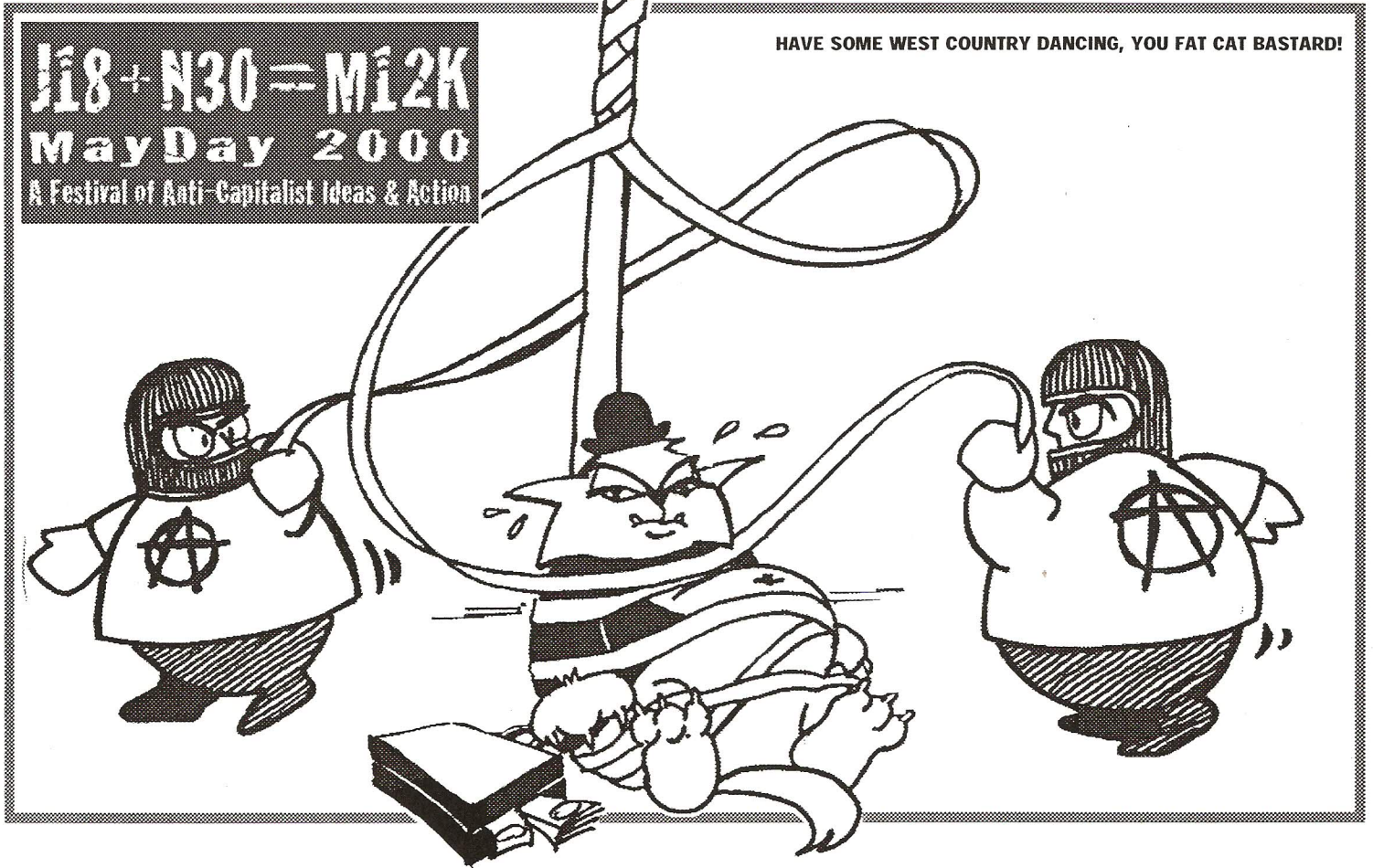
police were called and two protesters were arrested for Breach of the Peace but were released later without charge.

Chris McGuire's journalism is a list of right-wing, bigoted rants against homeless people, beggars, activists and environmentalists, to name a few. He specialises in personal rants that victimise and sensationalise issues, with no intent to make progressive contributions. watch out for this one in the future. His e-mail address is in the Post, so let him know how you feel.

# MAYDAY MADNESS

**J18 + N30 = M12K**  
**MayDay 2000**  
A Festival of Anti-Capitalist Ideas & Action

HAVE SOME WEST COUNTRY DANCING, YOU FAT CAT BASTARD!



# WHY MAYDAY?

**Mayday 2000 will see hundreds of thousands of activists taking action against the destructive forces of global capitalism. While many people will be packing their cars for a long weekend by the seaside, other will be reclaiming Mayday and showing that there is more to life than a Bank Holiday.**

May 1st is the next Global Day of Action Against Capitalism. It follows on with the energy and determination that was present at J18, N30 and most recently the A16 demos against the IMF summit in Washington. Groups have been organising for Mayday for months and actions will be taking place in over 52 cities in 17 countries worldwide.

Activities will be diverse and range from strikes and traditional revolutionary marches, to Guerrilla

Gardening, street theatre and book-fairs. The main thrust for the day – apart from the obvious desire to slay the beast of global capitalism – is to reclaim Mayday as a festival of resistance.

Traditionally a Pagan celebration of Spring, fertility and harmony with nature, Mayday was an annual event for centuries. That was until it was outlawed by killjoy Puritans in the 1600's, who wanted to extend the time spent at work to support the newborn capitalist system.

The spirit of Mayday continued as an act of defiance, but did not emerge as a mass celebration until it was declared International Worker's Day in 1889. This was in response to the execution of the Haymarket Martyrs. The Martyr's were 8 anarchist men who were arrested and tried for their

libertarian beliefs, after being present at a rally in Haymarket Square, Chicago on May 4th, 1886. The rally was part of a US and Canada-wide general strike that kicked off on Mayday to campaign for an 8 hour working day. 5 of the men were executed, one committed suicide and the other two were released a couple of years later, when it was revealed that the bomb thrower had been a police agent (surprise, surprise). Ever since Mayday has been an important day for the international labour movement

This year the combination of the Pagan focus on rebirth and renewal, and the celebration of political radicalism, provides an important opportunity for a global festival of diversity in the face of the monolith of neoliberalism.

The global resistance movement is

growing daily. Before the tear gas had cleared in Washington, people were mobilising for May 1st and planning to shut down the next IMF summit in Prague this September. No matter how the world's media corporations try to reconstruct a protest in an attempt to deny it its power, the mere fact that the number of mass mobilisations against capitalism and all of its undemocratic institutions, is increasing is undeniable.

As such, M12K is a prime opportunity for the celebration of strengths through diversity and global solidarity. It emphasises the importance of revolution as an everyday dynamic process, combined with the need for all of us to deal with each others differences, and to focus on working together to provide for our common needs.

**"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE"**

