

LISTINGS

MON. JULY 1st - National Anti-Bailiff Day of Action, organised by Class War.

TUESDAY 2nd - Class War Public Meeting, Mount Carmel Parish Club, 33 High Park St, Liverpool 8 Starts 7.45pm

SAT & SUN 6TH & 7TH JULY - Wirral Green fayre, Royden Park, near Frankby, Wirral. L.A.G has had a stall at this in recent years.

TUESDAY 9th - Class War Public Meeting, The Market Pub, Prescot Rd, Old Swan. Starts 7.45pm.

SEPTEMBER - CLASS WAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. (For more details write to P.O.Box)



Liverpool Anarchist group
meets every Monday at 8pm

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MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER

20p

NUMBER
29

JULY
AUGUST



LAUREL AND HARDY VISITING
WALTON

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER
P.O.BOX 110
LIVERPOOL L69 8DP

HELLO AND WELCOME!

This is our last issue of the summer, the next Merseyside Anarchist comes out in September.

Due to increased printing costs the price of M.A. will be increased to 25 pence, starting with the September issue. New subscriptions after this will cost £3.50 for the year.

We're always looking for new distributors for M.A. so if you think you can flog a few copies, get in touch with us at PO Box 110.

This issue was produced in more of a rush than usual, so please excuse the greater number of typing errors!

There's quite a range of articles this issue, including an update on the Liverpool council strike, the Walton by-election, info on bailiff busting, and - the best news of all - a report on Martin Foran's recent escape.

Happy reading! We'll see you in September.

THE EDITORS

AS EVER, THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHOR AND NOT NECESSARILY OF LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP AS A WHOLE.

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at the address above.

DEADLINE AUGUST 26TH.

BASIC ANARCHISM.

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it. Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which go from the original soviets of the Russian Revolution to the Miner's Support Groups of the 1984/5 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to ruling class power is continual and ever-widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP.

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL STRIKE

Most of the country must now know about the long-running strike by Liverpool's binmen as the dispute has been widely reported in the press and on TV. However, the strike is just part of a wider dispute between the council and its workforce.

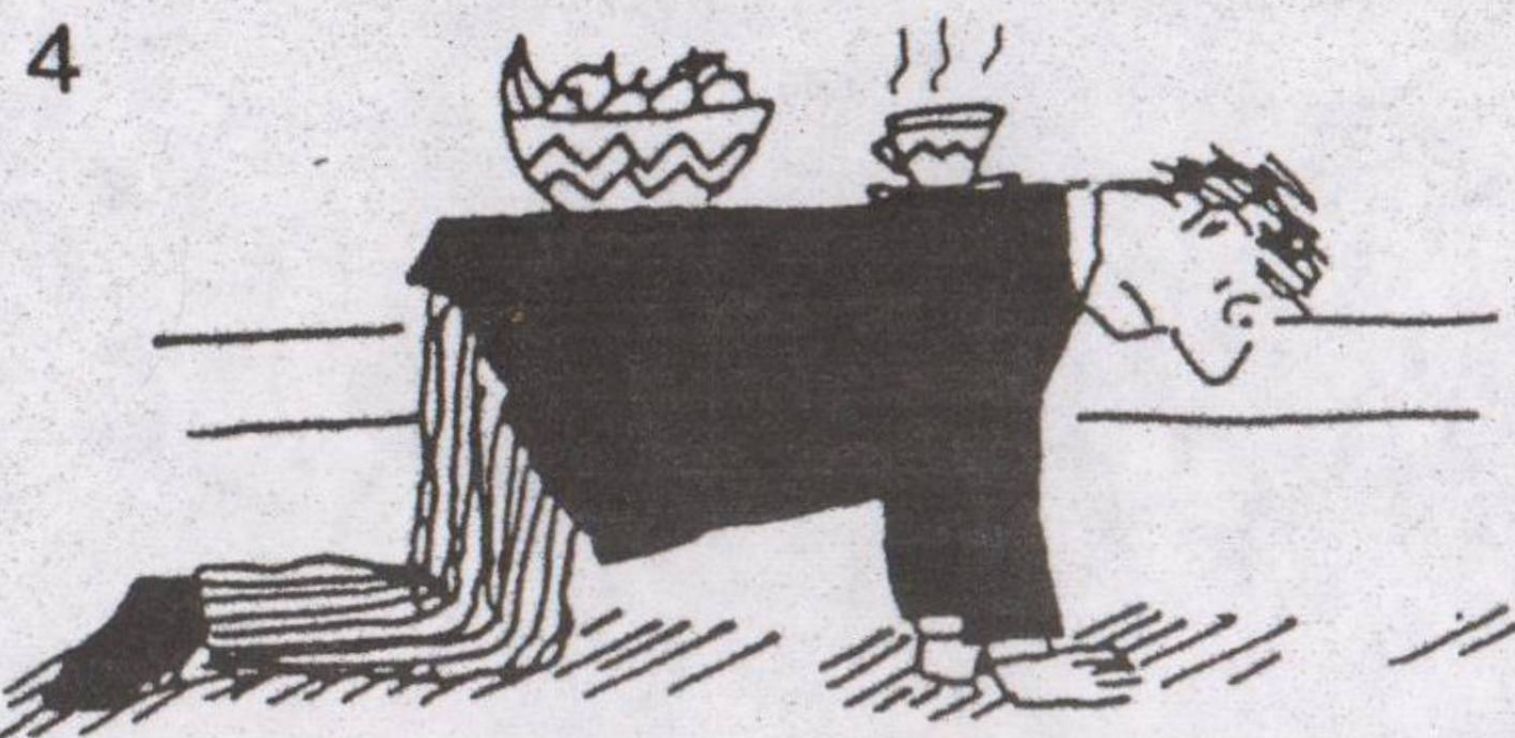
The latest development in the binmen's strike is that the council last week voted to employ a private firm, Onyx, which is based in France. This will mean 460 binmen will lose their jobs. The private firm put in a lower bid for the rubbish collection contract than the council's own workforce, but they are employing only half the number of workers and it's probable that they offer worse working conditions and lower pay.

The council's workmen had up to now been unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement to clear the backlog of rubbish (the council's idea of 'negotiating' seems to be to issue ultimatums and threats.) But on 25th June the workers reached an agreement to clear the backlog - their redundancy payments are no longer threatened and they have agreed to work two hours per day overtime. But this is not the end of the matter. The GMB is due to ballot its members on further strike action next week.

The binmen are not the only council workers still on strike. Cemetery workers are working to rule and may yet go on all out strike. The cemetery workers are likely to be targetted for compulsory redundancies, as are drugs liaison unit workers and security staff. The council needs to sack a further 180 workers. Originally 94 building and maintenance workers were to be made redundant. But at a full council meeting both the Broad Left councillors and the Liberal Democrats voted against this - to the annoyance of the 'moderate' Labour councillors.

The Liberal Democrats are not opposed in principle to redundancies; they





101 USES FOR A DEAD COUNCILLOR No. 12: The Coffee Table.

voted for the binmen to be made redundant and the refuse collection service privatised. Voting against sacking maintenance workers is simply a symptom of their inconsistent and populist policies. Liberal Democrats in Liverpool have always made big promises about providing their voters with decent housing; 'improving housing repairs' is a perennial feature of their election platform. But at heart the party has always been anti-union.

The drugs unit workers are now on strike as are 200 treasury staff. This means that many people will not have their claims for housing benefit and poll tax rebates dealt with. But it also means that the poll tax will not be collected, and rent arrears are not being pursued. Housing allocations are

being held up - which is giving more people the incentive to squat.

It's possible that 13 members of the council's capital finance branch may be called out on strike. These workers are responsible for processing loans taken out by the council and arranging repayments, so if they are called out the city's finances will be crippled.

This dispute is not about 'saving money' but about attacking the unions. The GMB in Liverpool was at one time dominated by Militant and it's probably no coincidence that it is now mainly GMB members who are being targetted for compulsory redundancies.

The local press has consistently taken the line that the unions need to be squashed and the anti-union propaganda it turns out is enough to make any-one puke. The Liverpool Echo has refused to take adverts putting the trade unionists point of view. But it didn't mind printing 'answers' from the private firm Onyx to the unions criticisms and fears. The answers are non-answers. None of the unions questions about health and safety, racial equality and national pay bargaining are honestly met.

The dispute is still far from over. Watch this space for further updates.

No action against Poll Tax dodgers for past 3 months

Councillor Storey also pointed out that if local magistrates argue they don't have enough courts for the large number of defaulters, the council could make rooms available in its annexes in Dale Street.

A spokesman for Liverpool City Council said that members of the local authority's finance and strategy committees were told in May that the treasury department's computer did not have a big enough memory to cope with the large number of defaulters.

CULSHAN

Takeaway Service - 80% Reduction
your order than collect or a time to suit yourself.
ONE TWO SITTINGS AT WEEKENDS
and 9.30 a.m.

051-427 2273 (over)

TRAVEL

CRUISES

Liverpool's army of Poll Tax dodgers have escaped prosecution for the past three months, it was revealed this week.

And now Council leader Mike Storey, who cannot cope with the huge number of defaulters.

Explained Councillor Storey: "According to my information, no legal proceedings have been instigated against Community Charge defaulters since March.

This is absolutely disgraceful when you consider that people who have paid are being pursued for payments.

Report by MARTIN HOVDEN

towards their Poll Tax while 250,000 paid in full or in part.

He added: "It was a local authority just part for the computer 124,000 will end up next few weeks and all paying nothing.

"We should be taking action every day and every week to recover the Poll Tax payments."

WALTON BY-ELECTION

BROADSIDE!



Lesley Mahmood first salvo of campaign

'Face me in
jobs debate'
challenge
by Mahmood

The death of Labour MP Eric Heffer, the member for Liverpool Walton constituency since 1964, has prompted Liverpool's Militant - influenced Broad Left organisation to stand a candidate against the official Labour - candidate, the party's North-West regional organiser Peter Kilfoyle. (The Broad Left consists mainly of Labour Party members, with a good number of Militant members some of whom have been expelled from the Labour Party). In a vote amongst the Broad Left, city councillor and Militant member Lesley Mahmood was selected over two other hopefuls - Frank Mills (one of the 47 Labour councillors disqualified from office in 1987), and Tommy Smith, a researcher for the city council's Hillsborough support group project.

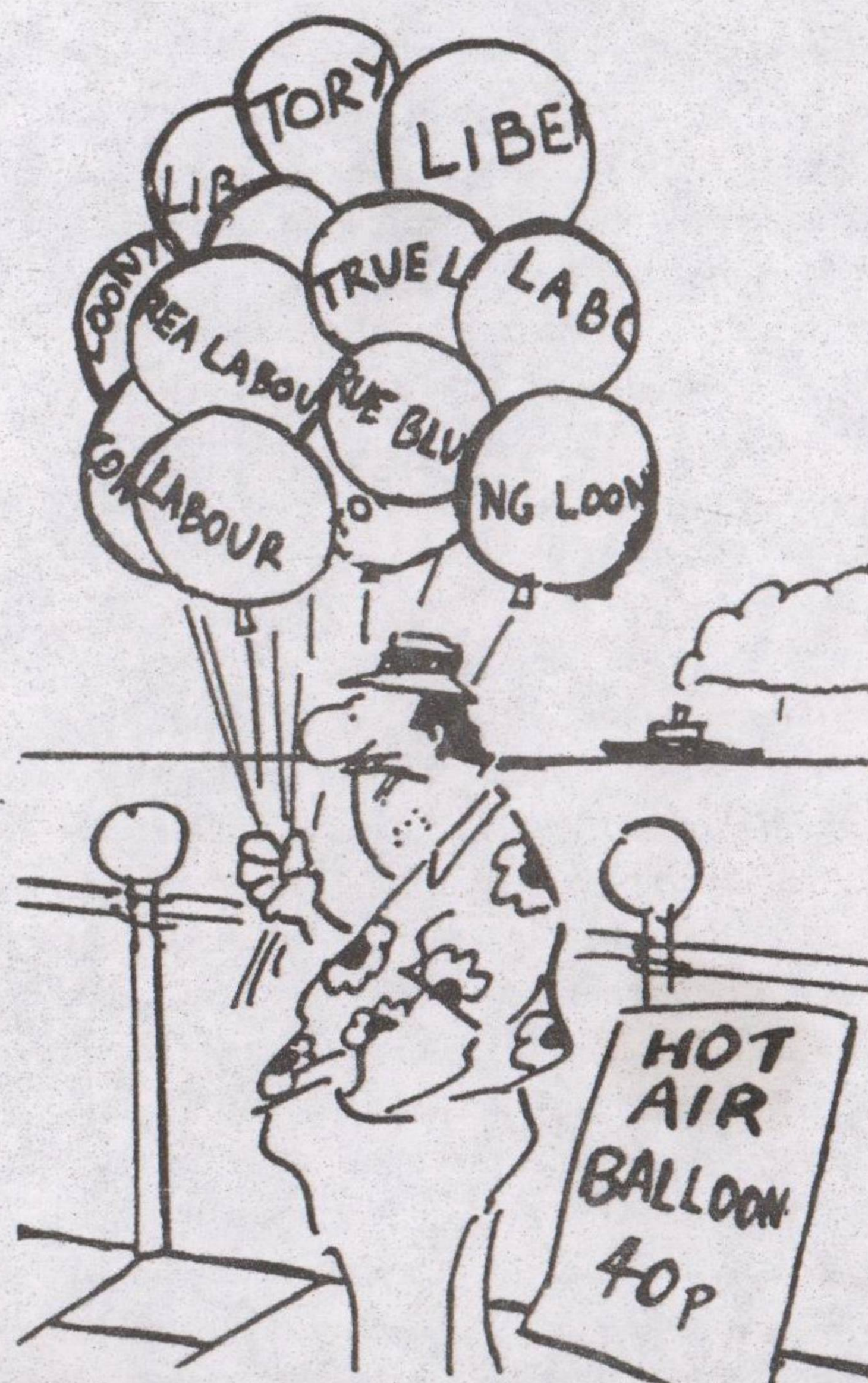
The Broad Left in Walton have accused Peter Kilfoyle of being imposed upon the constituency without any selection meetings or democratic consultations. Kilfoyle's supporters deny this, but the fact that Kilfoyle is widely perceived as Kinnock's hatchet man against the left would be sufficient reason to stand against him anyway.

The Broad Left stood six "independent" councillors in the May local elections, against official candidates imposed on their wards by the party's National Executive. Five of them were elected, standing on a platform of opposition to redundancies in the council workforce, to the poll tax, and to rent rises. They obviously believe that this will be a winning formula for a by-election. Militant supporters have told this writer that, even if councillor Mahmood doesn't win, the Broad Left would be satisfied if she just received a good number of votes. Even this, they believe would bring some kind of recognition for their organisation.

Councillor Mahmood and her supporters and helpers in Walton will no doubt be expelled from the Labour Party, as the candidates in the local elections have been. Even those who canvassed for them are liable for expulsion. Militant MP Terry Fields has so far resisted repeated invitations to come out in favour of councillor Mahmood in the by election. All this makes a mockery of Militant's often - repeated contention that the Labour Party can be moved further towards what they please to call "true socialism", by operating inside it. What happens when you do that? They expel you! Militant have parasitically burrowed into the hide of the Labour Party for twenty six years, and what do we finish up with? Neil Kinnock, and the most right-wing policy document ever produced by the Labour Party. Meanwhile,

So dependent are Militant on the aura bestowed upon them by their association with the Labour Party that councillor Mahmood is campaigning under the banner of Walton "Real" Labour. For all their arrogant drivel about being the only "true socialists", Militant dare not operate except under the banner of the Broad Left, using the magic word "Labour" in all their election propaganda.

Central to Militants programme is the election of a Labour government, committed to "true socialism", which will pass an Enabling Bill which will bring the top 200 companies in the country under democratic workers control. It has been suggested that this is just a tactic, to get people to realise the impossibility of achieving socialism through the parliamentary system - just as if the capitalists are going to fork over the whole lot because of a decision at the ballot box! If this is the case, then they are going to have to make it clear at some point. Otherwise, all they are doing is helping the working class to foster fatal illusions in reformism and the lie of progress through the ballot box.



...out for justice!

ALSO, I CANNOT AND WILL NOT PAY FOR MEDIVAL TREATMENT. I WANT THE TREATMENT ON THE NHS AS I AM ENTITLED TO, BUT I WILL NOT HAVE THE OPERATIONS WHILE AT THE MERCY OF THE PRISON WARDERS. I WILL HAND MYSELF IN WHEN A DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR MY APPEAL."

MARTIN FORAN JUNE 1991

MARTIN FORAN JUNE 1991

Despite the lack of evidence, Martin was found guilty and sentenced to ten years. One of the officers who gave evidence is now being investigated for fabricating confessions in other cases.

The victim of the crime says the robbers were young with Birmingham accents. There was no identity parade. Martin Foran is middle-aged, and has a strong Limerick accent. On the night of the robbery Martin was having problems with his car, which the prosecution claim



was used for the getaway. He has several witnesses, including AA and RAC engineers, who saw Martin and have made statements that his car was broken down. Detective Inspector Paul Matthews of the SCS claimed Foran made a verbal admission when first arrested.

Despite Foran's denials and claims that the custody record had been altered, he was convicted and sentenced to eight years.

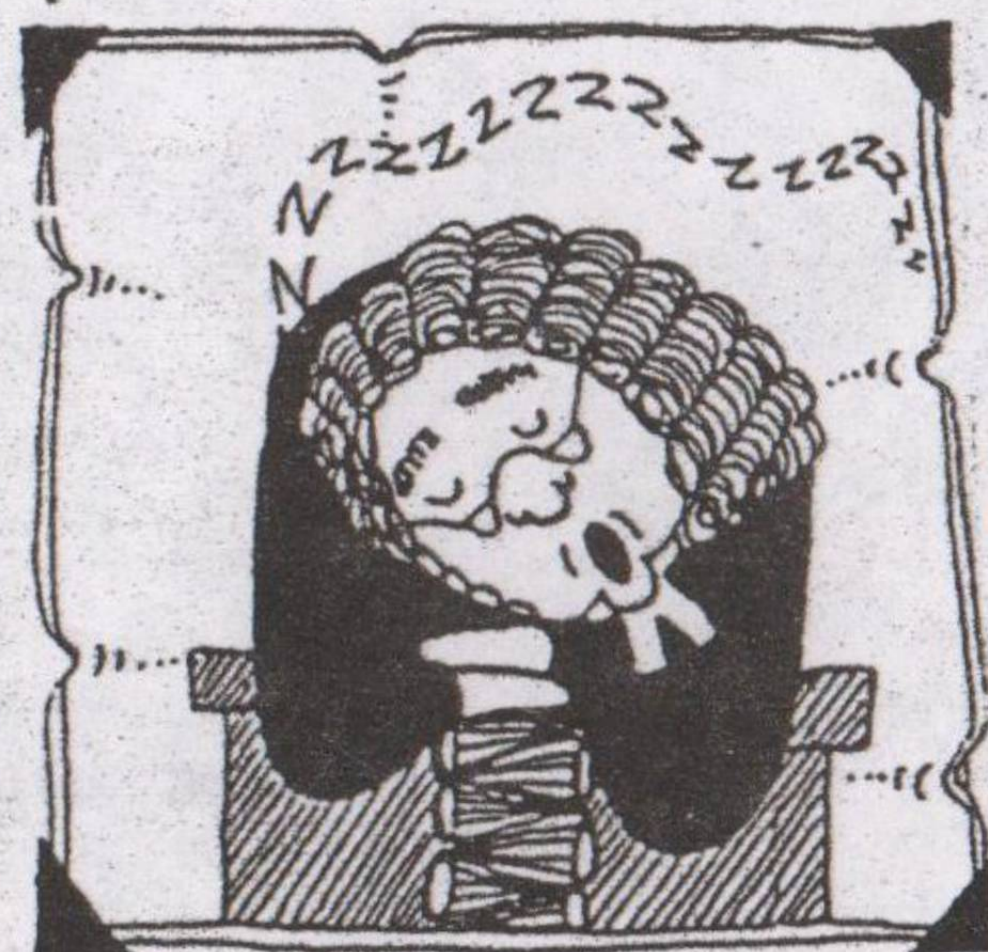
While he was in prison, Martin developed a bowel complaint and needed a colostomy operation. However, this operation was botched, the colostomy was done too low

Then on the night after he'd had his operation, Martin was kicked and beaten by two prison warders and had his colostomy bag ripped off. He eventually successfully sued the two screws concerned, but so far he has not been paid a penny of compensation.

As a result of the beating, his condition became worse. The botched colostomy leaked stomach acid on to his skin and he had tapeworms crawling out of his belly. Because he was constantly moved from one prison to another, he was never able to get proper medical treatment, and was told he would in any case have to wait years for an operation. Paying for a private operation was considered, but this would cost thousands of pounds and Martin simply does not have the money. In addition to this, Martin now has cancer in one eye.

Finally, sick of years of campaigning to prove his innocence without result, Martin has escaped from custody and is on the run with his family. We have no details as to how he managed it! But apparently when he went to hospital for treatment he managed to give the prison warders who were with him the slip. When the police went to call on his family, they too had disappeared.

We wish Martin luck, and hope he stays free.



Meanwhile, money is needed to carry on his campaign to prove his innocence, and to fund his appeal case later this year. Please make cheques payable to:

MARTIN FORAN DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
c/o Box 7,
190 Alum Rock Road,
Saltley,
Birmingham B8.

CONVICTION

Conviction came out of the Martin Foran Campaign, and started operating at the end of 1990, originally with two members in Sheffield. We wanted to stress that Martin Foran's case was not unique by any means, and that there were other 'framed' prisoners suffering in British Jails who had little support.

We wanted to carry on with Martin's whilst highlighting other cases of a similar nature. Obviously with the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad malpractice being covered in the summer, there was also a practical need of a group who would support prisoners who had a chance of exposing their 'wrongful' convictions, but who had little outside encouragement to fight. The emphasis of Conviction is on Britain. This is deliberate because many people here, even the more radical elements will ignore injustice when it takes place at home. There seems to be a whole section of the population who will have some knowledge of 'human rights abuses' when they occur thousands of miles away but are unwilling to challenge the malpractice of the Judiciary at home. Any struggle for human rights begins here and now in this country, not in Latin America or South Africa; it is also hypocritical to protest about wrongful imprisonment in foreign countries while arrogantly assuming that the British state is not capable of such behaviour. Besides we have the potential to challenge a situation we have direct contact with, and far less chance of resolving injustices abroad.

'Framing', 'Miscarriages of Justice', or 'Wrongful Imprisonment' are terms used to impose a sentence on a person for a crime they did not commit. Conviction feels that these prisons need particular and coverage. Firstly there is a strong humanitarian argument to condemn the unbelievable suffering these inmates must go through. Being imprisoned for any offence can be a hard and brutal experience. Being jailed for something one did not do can mean a longer sentence in practice as to obtain parole a person has to confirm their guilt and express remorse for their action - something they can not do if they have not committed the offence in the first place. Moreover they have had no personal gain whatsoever from the crime they allegedly were connected with. Also framed prisoners who protest their innocence often get targeted for harassment within the prison system itself because they are challenging the whole right of the Judiciary to take away their freedom in the first place.

Secondly we feel that framing is not some sort of tragic mistake which the legal system refuses to acknowledge, framing is used by elitist society as a form of social control. Certain sections of the community are criminalised. For examples of this one only has to look at the mass framing which occurred in Britain in 1974-5 after the IRA had killed a number of people in a bombing campaign; some 18 Irish people were 'fitted up' in response to this, being Irish is some how a pretext for being



denied justice. Moreover the men jailed for the Carl Bridgewater murder were working class petty villains, and because of their background were somehow considered as fair game by the police to be in the frame for a very serious charge. For many years now the Black British youth have complained about being harassed by the police, and being 'fitted up' for offences. Other groups in society are vulnerable; police harassment of Gay men has increased over the years and ever summer we witness the Police and Courts trying all sorts of tactics to stop so called hippies from getting to Stonehenge, framing is thus apart of a wider system to repress certain groups of people. A final comment on the matter; a 'Conviction' member was writing to people who had been jailed for

STORMIN' NORMAN



NEVER DIE
OLD SOLDIER Norman Shaw
became the first pensioner to be jailed for non-payment when a South Shields court sent him down for two months. But 71 year old Norman still refuses to pay, and said that he regards himself as political prisoner.

How can I support prisoners ?

WRITING TO PRISONERS

Prison isolates people from the outside world. Besides visiting, writing is the most important thing you can do to help break down that isolation, so that the prisoner does not feel forgotten. If you can't think of much to write just send a card wishing them well, it is the fact that you have bothered to write that matters. If you know a prisoner personally it is especially important to write as obviously contact from old friends is valued. But this does not mean that if you are a stranger to the prisoner that won't appreciate your letter. Remember all letters to prisoners are opened and censored so don't write anything that could jeopardise future actions or someone's freedom.

Don't expect a reply to your letter as prisoners are restricted as to how many letters they can write each week. Sometimes prisons restrict the number of letters a prisoner can receive, this is less likely to happen if letters are not too long. Generally it is best not to write more than 4 sides writing paper or 2 sides A4 paper per letter. Most prisons do not allow letters sent in with no sender's address on them. It is possible to use a false address, but bear in mind that a prisoner may reply, so use an address you can get post from.

VISITING PRISONERS

Remand prisoners (that is prisoners who have not yet been tried) are normally entitled to a visit of at least 15 minutes every day except Sunday, although some prisons differ from this. Prisoners can normally have up to 3 visitors per day, but they all have to visit at the same time. If a prisoner does not have a visiting rota, try and let them know a week or so in advance that you are coming so that they can inform you if someone else is going that day.

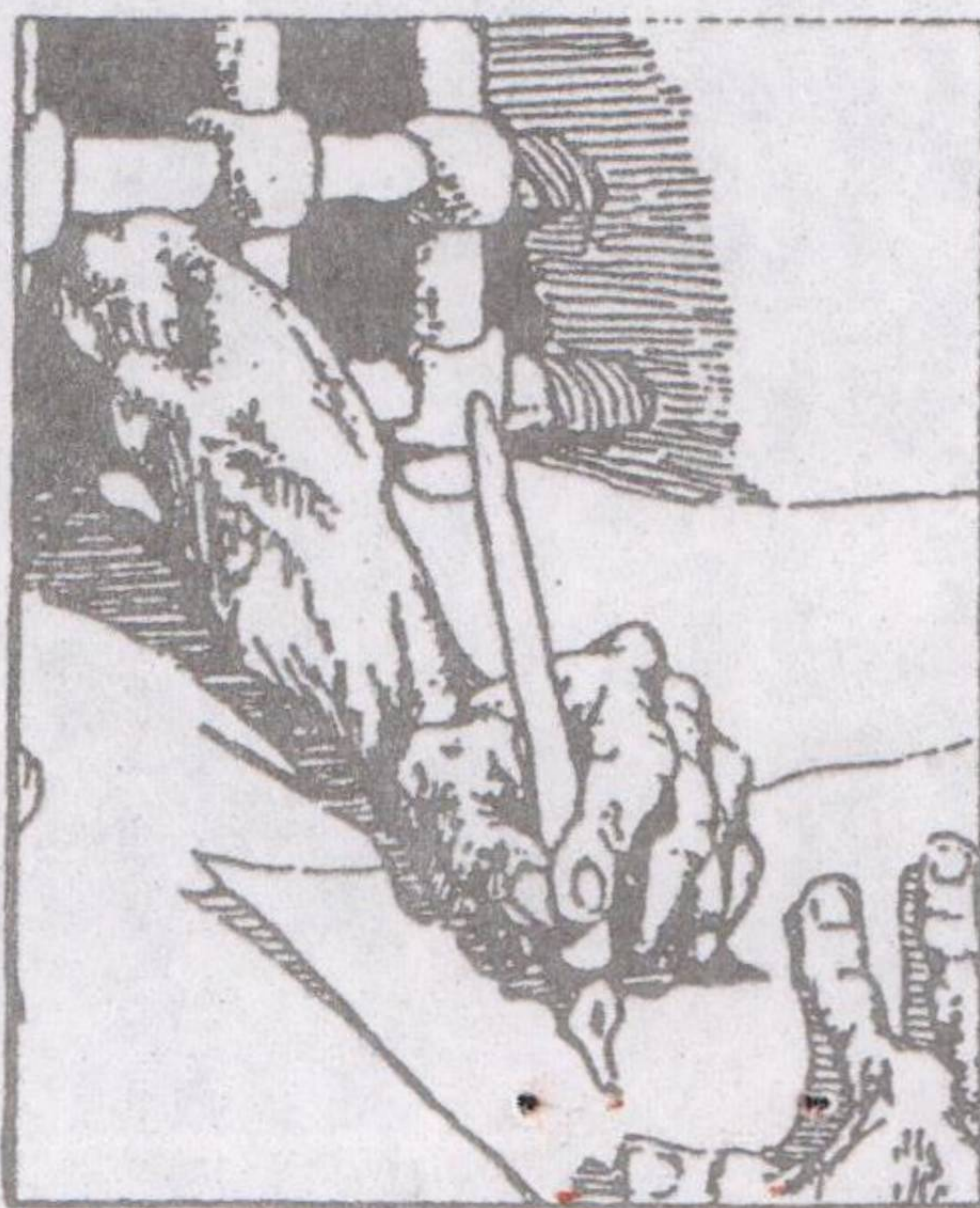
Convicted prisoners are entitled to one visit every 2 weeks if they are under 21. Over 21 are entitled to one visit per week, although many prisons allow one visit every 2 weeks. Prisoners have to send out a visiting order (v.o) to the persons they want to visit them. Visits are normally a minimum of 30 minutes and often 1 or 2 hours.

NEWSPAPERS

Most prisons have a newsagents nearby which supplies newspapers to prisoners. The prison will tell you where the newsagent is. Newspapers and magazines for prisoners will have to be ordered and paid for at the shop. The prison will also tell you how many papers and magazines each prisoner is allowed. Alternative magazines have to be sent direct from a bookshop or the organisation producing them.

BOOKS

Some prisons will accept books handed in or sent in by friends. Most prisons demand that the books are new and sent direct from the bookshop. Obviously you have to pay postage to the bookshop. Some community and alternative bookshops will send on books not bought in their shop so if you have a book that will pass as new, then it's worth asking if they will send it. It's important that it is clear to the prison that the books have come direct, so ask the bookshop to enclose some headed notepaper or stamp the parcel with their address. The procedure varies from prison to prison, so check with the prison in question.



WRITING PAPER

Remand prisoners are normally allowed to use writing paper, envelopes and stamps sent in to them. The writing paper should not be wire bound. Convicted prisoners are not allowed to use any writing paper etc. other than that supplied by the prison. They are also not able to use stamps sent in from the outside, but if they receive any they will be converted to cash and put in the prisoners account.

MONEY

Some prisons allow money to be handed in on visits. Otherwise, money can be sent in. It's not a good idea to send cash as it may go missing; Postal orders are acceptable as are cheques which should be made payable to the prisoner. They will then have to sign the back of the cheque and so they will know of any money received. The prisoner can use the money to buy food, tobacco, toiletries, stamps, etc.

FOOD

Since 1st March 1988 prisoners (both remand and convicted) are not allowed to have food sent or bought in from outside. Food sent in is normally destroyed or eaten by prison officers.

CASSETTES AND RADIO

Prisoners are allowed a radio with medium and long wave bands only. Some prisons demand that an earplug be supplied as well. Cassette players are often allowed with headphones. The cassette player must have no recording facility. Prisoners can have pre-recorded tapes but in many prisons they must be sent in direct from a shop. Both radios and cassette players must be battery powered - Duracell batteries are not allowed.

TOILETRIES

Most prisons no longer allow toiletries to be supplied from outside. Normally the prisoner will be able to buy them from the prison canteen or if not then some prisons allow them to be ordered from shops outside.

REMEMBER

Whatever you are thinking of sending to a prisoner (except money, stamps, paper) find out first what the prisoner wants as often there is a limit on what can be received. Also, as there is such a wide variation between what different prisons allow, always ring the prison and check what they will accept

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

It is essential that prisoners are supported as they are inside for us. They have been imprisoned because they are struggling for a better world, like all of us. Furthermore, supporting prisoners can help to break down the myths and mystifications that surround prisons, creating fear in us. It is a good idea to set up local Prisoners' Support Groups to ensure that there is regular and organised support for prisoners. Even one letter can be a good boost for prisoners. And there is so much more that we can do - publicity, visits, financial support, regular letters, pickets of prisons (if the prisoner agrees), campaigning for better conditions for prisoners, continuing the struggle. We must never forget prisoners as they need our support.

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

Info based on a leaflet by S.A.R.P. (Support Animal Rights Prisoners) and Plymouth ABC.



offences relating to the March anti-poll tax disturbances regardless of their 'guilt'. He had a letter back from a young man who had been framed for assaulting a police officer outside Hackney Town Hall during an anti-poll tax picket. Fighting had broken out between a section of the crowd, the Police charged. This bloke did not run because he had not been involved in the trouble, but he was assaulted and arrested then later framed. The police regarded anybody present as being a criminal, and were interested in arresting a quota of protesters, the implication being that by joining such a protest people had placed themselves outside of the Law.

One criticism directed at our work is that concentrating on framed prisoners we somehow imply that every other inmate should have been jailed. 'Conviction' members as individuals often have a good record for supporting other prisoners struggles and prisoners who are not fighting their convictions have sent messages of support. This criticism rarely applies, and so far no prisoner has made such a view known to us. In fact our experience and our

contacts have helped other groups, and we have tackled other issues that affect all prisoners, such as the denial of health care to inmates, in some depths.

The emphasis of 'Conviction' is on giving to prisoners, we are not an academic organisation or intending to offer long and complex political ideological explanations for the current injustices we come across. Activists may well have their own political views on these issues, but our priority is active solidarity.

So far we have brought out three newsletters detailing cases of framing, corresponded with many prisoners and offered advice and support to them and their relatives. We have publicised cases to the media, and to a range of political and welfare groups. We also compiled a fund raising benefit L.P. Justice is our Conviction on State Injustice label cat.no. SIJ1. Members have also done some prison visits. People are welcome to subscribe to our newsletter or to join in.

Mike Shankland 'Conviction' P.O. BOX 522 Sheffield S1 3FF.



Anti-fascists mobilised to counter the NF on June 15th. The NF Flag group claimed it'd hold a rally outside Manchester

Town Hall - to "protest" at a meeting of theirs being banned.

The counter-march and rally was well attended - with over 100 anti-fascists - and ended up by the town hall.

Less visibly (no-one was selling papers), Anti-Fascist Action members and supporters - anarchists, Red Action, etc. were waiting for the "master race" to turn up. In the event, the nazi rally didn't take place. Very few nazis showed their faces, and those that did soon realised their mistake. One anti-fascist was arrested, but later released without charge.

We've long known the fascists have lost their marbles. Increasingly, it seems, the "hard men" of the extreme right are losing their bottle as well.



ReVIEW



REVIEW: 'LOVE AND RAGE'

This is a relatively new "revolutionary anarchist newsmagazine" from North America. It is written collectively by groups around the USA and aims to be accountable to them for its content at regular editorial conferences.

The first section of its political statement says:

"LOVE AND RAGE IS REVOLUTIONARY"

"We support the overthrow of all forms of authoritarian social relations and the creation of a society based on co-operation, solidarity and mutual aid. We recognise that social revolution can only be made by the oppressed majority of humanity in a movement that they control themselves. We support the use of whatever means are necessary to emancipate humanity and bring an end to the war, poverty, hunger and misery generated by the existing system. We support the emergence of a fighting movement as a step towards making the social revolution."

Although there's no specific mention of creating a "working-class based movement", there is nothing here for class struggle anarchists to disagree with.

The rest of the political statement outlines the paper's commitment to anti-racism, anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism and anti-sexism. It also includes a paragraph on the "struggle against the domination of the natural world" - recognising that capitalism's destruction of the natural environment is linked with its oppression of people. Even more important is the statement that 'Love and Rage' is anti-statist and opposes all

states whether they call themselves communist or capitalist. Although it should go without saying that anarchists oppose all forms of government, this is not always clear to non-anarchists.

Despite its tabloid-size newspaper format, 'Love and Rage' includes theoretical articles as well as news. Recent issues have included articles on anarcha-feminism; sexism, sexuality and gender roles; reprints of the AWG articles on "Organising for Anarchy"; an article on how to set up a local anarchist group; democracy within anarchist groups; anti-imperialism; and ecology.

Most of the news articles concern anarchist activity within the US, but the paper is very internationalist. It includes two regular international features: 'ON GOGOL BOULEVARD' which is about anarchism in eastern Europe, and a page about Black Cross prisoners. At least two pages are given to news from around the world, and there is a section in Spanish.

'Love and Rage' is refreshingly varied in its content, and although it includes news about the actions of the US environmentalist movement (environmental concerns being generally scorned as reformist and middle-class by British anarchists) its general content puts it firmly within the tradition of libertarian socialism.

Two good reasons to subscribe to 'Love and Rage' are its frequent articles on sexism and related topics (Topics all ignored by the British anarchist press); and its international news.

An international subscription costs 12 US. dollars, which should be sent to:

LOVE AND RAGE
BOX 3
PRINCE STREET STATION
NEW YORK
NY10012
USA

Unfortunately, we don't know of any distributors in Britain for the paper.

BAILIFF BUSTING

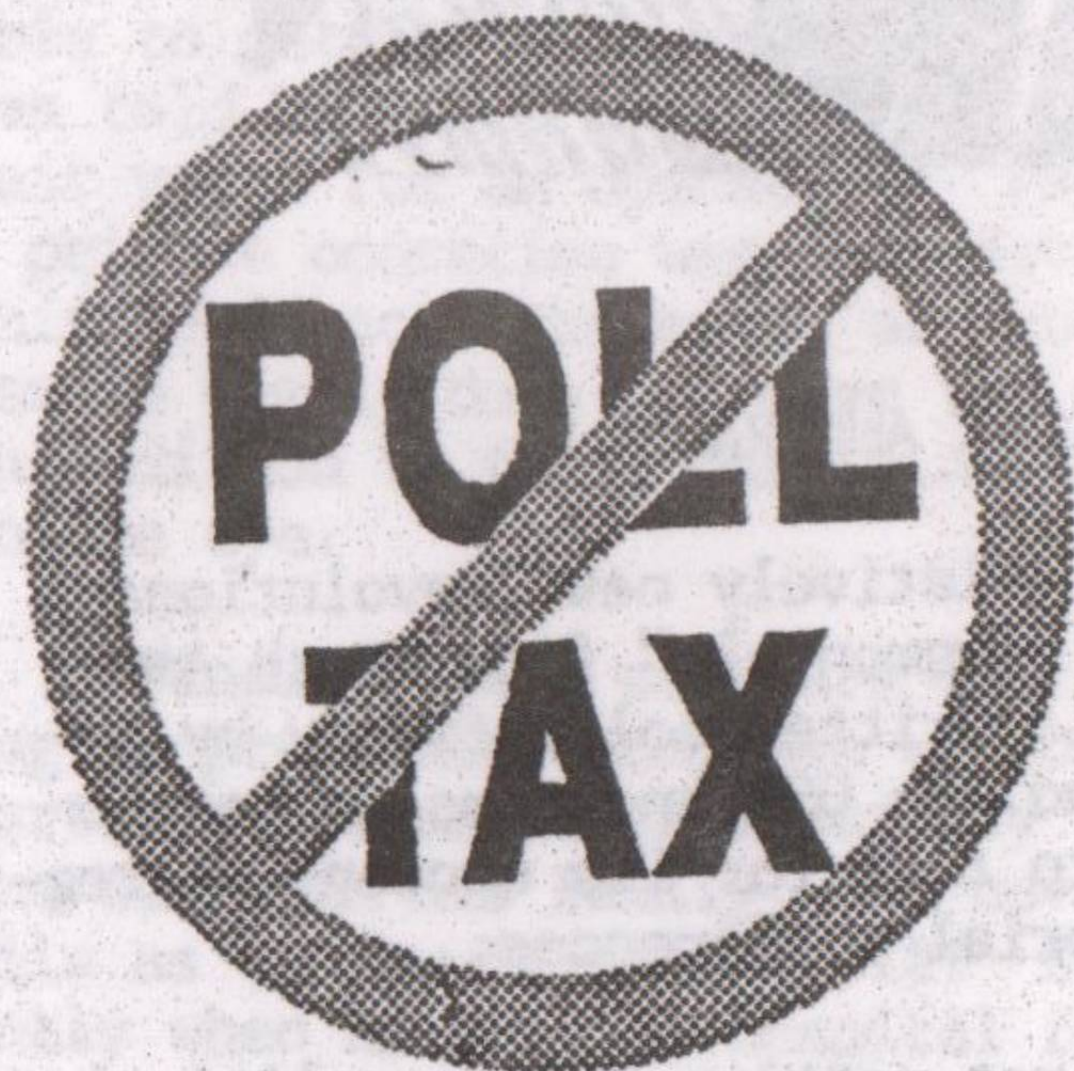
Despite using bailiffs against people who have not paid their poll tax, local authorities have met with little success. The Department of the Environment has released official figures showing that moves to collect the poll tax have "failed totally" in 80 per cent of cases !

Bailiffs attempts to take peoples' goods have met with a "low success rate" due to "defaulters being aware of their rights in relation to access to their property."

Liverpool City Council has started to use bailiffs against non-payers and local anti-poll tax unions are preparing to defy them. Pickets were set up outside some houses recently, that had been threatened with a visit from the bailiffs, and bailiffs discovered in Peel Street, Liverpool 8, were run out of the neighbourhood by local people.

However, so far Liverpool has seen nothing as spectacular as some of the anti-bailiff activities reported in the last CLASS WAR issue: when bailiffs in Buckinghamshire went to seize the property of an elderly man, he opened fire on them with a rifle; a bailiff living in a village near Bristol had his front door bricked up by bailiff busters; another bailiff who had his home address printed in Class War now needs a police escort whenever he goes to present poll tax cases in court.

There are any number of ways to harass bailiffs and put them out of business if you use your imagination. All bailiffs are legitimate targets, whether at home or at work. There is a National day of action against bailiffs on JULY 1ST, organised by the Class War Federation in association with local anti-poll tax groups, and naturally the Liverpool Class War group will be taking part in this! Liverpool City Council are currently using Gaults bailiffs, 6-8 Castle Street, Liverpool 1, against non-payers. We're still trying to find out information on the names and home addresses of local bailiffs, any information can be sent in confidence to PO Box 110.



Here are some facts about what bailiffs can and can't do:

*Bailiffs cannot break into your home or force entry in any way.

*There is no such thing as a "bailiffs warrant" or court order giving them the right to enter your home.

*You cannot be arrested or fined for not letting them in.

*Bailiffs are private debt collectors hired by the council. They have no police or court powers.

*They can only enter if you let them in. Don't open the door to them, talk to them through the letterbox.

*They can enter "peaceably" through unlocked doors and windows - so keep them locked!

*Ignore them if they say they've laid claim to goods by valuing them through the window, or other such lies - they can only do this if they get in.

REMEMBER - THERE ARE ONLY 1 000 BAILIFFS FOR ALL THE COUNCILS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, AND CLOSE ON 14 MILLION NON-PAYERS.

CLASS WAR

PUBLIC MEETING

DON'T VOTE FOR US

COME AND HEAR THE POLITICS OF CLASS WAR

VENUE: MOUNT CARMEL PAROCHIAL
CLUB, 33 HIGH PARK STREET, L8

DATE: TUES. 2ND JULY, 7-45pm

VENUE: THE MARKET PUB, PRESCOT ROAD,
OLD SWAN.

DATE: TUES 9TH JULY, 7.45pm



ALL WELCOME!



DAM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1991

At the end of May the anarcho-syndicalist Direct Action Movement - the British section of the International Workers Association (IWA) - held its annual national Conference.

This was a very successful, positive three days - leaving the DAM a stronger, tighter organisation. Well attended - including observers from Spain, Sweden, and the IWA Secretariat - much of the discussion centred on DAM's emerging

industrial strategy. Those who read "Direct Action" or this Newsletter will know that DAM sees the building of

anarcho-syndicalist networks within industry as a priority.

These networks will not emerge from nowhere, and the practicalities of bringing anarcho-syndicalist ideas into the workplace - to prepare the ground for establishing such networks - was gone into at length. A national Network Forum has now been set up - based in Manchester - to coordinate this approach, provide practical help (with speakers etc.), and to generally aid in the spreading of



network information. Council workers and healthworker networks are in the process of being formed, to add to the already established Education Network

To complement the pushing of workplace organisation, the need to build anarcho-syndicalist locals was also agreed. In the long term, the aim of such locals is to be local federations of industrial networks and general membership branches (in areas where no networks exist). This could also involve unemployed and other unwaged groups.

In the short term the aim will be to push out local propaganda, to provide a base from which networks can emerge, and to fight around local working class issues such as housing, health, etc. Direct links will have to be sought with workers, in conjunction with the relevant networks, as well as links built with groups involved in other issues which affect our class - such as anti-deportation campaigns etc.

While anarcho-syndicalists recognise that the main area of working class power lies in the workplace (hence DAM's industrial strategy), this does not mean that "bread and butter" economics are the be-all and end-all. The aim is not a purely industrial movement, but a class movement fighting for social revolution

Internationally, a report was given by the IWA Secretary on the contacts established and maintained over the past year - including Russia, the Ukraine, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, etc. An account of the collapse of the Communist and Christian trade union internationals - and the corresponding rapid growth of the social democratic ICFTU (to which the TUC is affiliated) - was also given.

An International health workers Conference is to be held in October or November this year. Delegates are expected from as far afield as Asia, Latin America, and Russia. A European Conference called by the Spanish CNT - to prepare for the consequences of the Single European Market - is also being planned.

From the local to the international level, organisation has always been at the heart of Revolutionary Anarchism. Social Revolution isn't a game for fly-by-nights. It needs serious preparation.

Anarchism needs to move out of the margins to centre stage - to build a strong base of support in working class life. This is what the DAM is aiming for. This year's DAM Conference was a definite step in the right direction.

LETTER

Dear M.A.,

Thank you for producing no.27, yet another excellent contribution to the continued "rebirth" of anarchism. Thanks especially for your efforts in reporting on the war in the Six Counties which as we all know is distorted beyond belief in the mainstream media. "The Captive Voice" as reviewed should be, as you say, read by all revolutionaries. Anarchists must be seen to support the fight against Imperialism wherever it exists, especially when it's as close to home as Occupied Ireland.

However, and here is where I sneak in some criticism, we should never forget we are anarchists, and as such we have fundamental differences with Republicanism, and that these differences should be included in magazine articles, if only for the benefit of non-anarchists who are (hopefully) reading M.A.

As anarchists we cannot and do not support a bourgeois "catch-all" Nationalism. Although this can fight against imperialism, it, by its very nature, cannot extend the fight to include Capitalism and the State.

Also, anarchists everywhere oppose the Leninist politics and methods of organisation adopted by the IRA.

In conclusion, while respecting the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination, and supporting the general struggle, anarchists must always seek and give aid to genuine libertarian socialist elements within any anti-imperialist movement. Only in this way can we help forge the working class unity necessary to defeat the real enemy of us all - Capitalism.

Yours in solidarity,

DMH, Co. Durham.

CLAUSE 25

Clause 25 - legitimising discrimination

November 1990 saw the publication of the Criminal Justices Bill, which includes the notorious clause 25.

The government has published a list of serious sex crimes which they intend to punish with up to 5 years imprisonment followed by five years psychiatric supervision. Alongside child abuse, incest and sexual assault, they have listed three consenting homosexual acts. The three acts of consenting homosexual behaviour are described legally as:

1. HELPING YOUR FRIENDS - Procuring of homosexual acts (section 4, 1967 Sexual Offences Act)

This could be any way of helping two men have sex, even if they are over 21; eg. lending out a spare room, introducing two men to each other in a pub or club.

358 CONVICTIONS/CAUTIONS IN 1988

2. PUBLIC AFFECTION - indecency between men (Section 13, Sexual Offences Act 1956)

This could be any expression of gay affection outside the home, not only cot-tagging but also kissing, hugging and holding hands.

1496 CONVICTIONS/CAUTIONS IN 1988

3. CRUISING - Solicitation by a man (Section 32, Sexual Offences Act 1956)

This could be chatting some-one up, exchanging phone numbers, smiling etc.

698 CONVICTIONS/CAUTIONS IN 1988

These are currently illegal but now we see the government wanting to make them into serious sex crimes. The Government position now seems to be that Clause 25 should only contain offences with a genuine 'victim' - importuning and procuring included.

But there is the problem that although these offences may have genuine victims these laws are all too often mainly used to regulate wholly consensual behaviour and the threat of imprisonment will remain in such situations.

Clause 25 is one of several attempts to reimpose a definition of acceptable gay sexual behaviour and can be traced back to

the Sexual Offences Act 1967 and before. In short, you can be gay, but you must behave at least in public, straight. A problem then arises when a large part of the Lesbian and Gay community is not prepared to live "suitably discreet lives", and why should they? The present government's policy of promoting the family as the ideal social unit and of defending society from attacks by 'immoral forces' has shown that our time has come for a concerted reimposition of the frame of acceptable gay behaviour.

Various elements in their strategy have become evident in the last couple of years (eg Clause 28) and in the last few months of 1990, with the continuation and escalation of extensive policing of public gay sexual behaviour. Dated misplaced laws are being dredged up to ensure successful prosecutions. Also, an appeal which the use of local bye-laws against men arrested for alleged offences of public indecency has been halted. This decision allows the continued use by the police and the courts of such provisions- something they are already taking full advantage of. Men charged with such offences are likely to be refused legal aid and appear unrepresented, and therefore become another of the courts' convictions.

Clause 25 fits in here- determined policing and prosecution policies will be incorporated with stiff sentences.



FOSTERING BIGOTRY

Paragraph 16 of the Children's Act guidelines made its first appearance in December 1990 too. This provision is badly worded, and is solely designed to exclude many lesbian or gay couples of households from the fostering and adoption of children.

That is questioning lesbian and gay men's ability as foster parents. If these guidelines become law, it will mean banning local authorities from encouraging lesbian and gay men to foster. One more shining example of the state's bigoted, moralistic view of what is 'natural' and 'unnatural' behaviour.

Until now the government has claimed that these guidelines will only act as suggestions for Local Authorities. Paragraph 16 states: "The chosen way of life for some adults means that they would not be able to provide a suitable environment for the care and nurture of a child...No-one has the right to be a foster parent...Equal rights have no place in fostering services." Many groups and bodies wrote to the Department of Health asking it to rethink its position, no-one wrote in support. The National Foster Care Association is calling for a rewording of the paragraph, which recognises that no-one has an inherent right to foster, but that lesbians and gay men should be judged on the same criteria as everyone else.

If the wording remains unchanged, many local authorities will be banned from continuing the outreach work aimed at encouraging lesbians and gay men to foster. So now we see that gay rights have no place in fostering services, due to not providing so-called 'fit' role models of the family unit within society. Yet again another attack on lesbians and gay men, designed to drive people underground and further legitimise bigotry and discrimination.

Together with Clause 25, paragraph 16 we are facing the effects of Clause 28, introduced three years ago and also a wave of police attacks, who are clearly more interested in trapping gay men in public toilets and raiding pubs, than they are in investigating gaybashing. But this isn't surprising to any of us, it's just part of the wider offensive by the state on the rights of lesbian and gay men in this country, and are ultimately part of an attack on the rights of all people to express their sexuality.

Further developments designed to re-define and regulate a code of acceptable gay behaviour can be anticipated as this government has launched its moral offensive against the gay community and is setting out to create a climate where repression of homosexuality is considered normal and is out to 'recriminalise' lesbian and gay sexuality by one means or another.



Doesn't there exist a big enough barrage of laws, rules and attitudes to deal with already? Obviously not, now not only do we have to deal with discrimination at work, the courts, the police, and violent attacks by gay bashers, but still more legislation and together with that an increase in repressive, homophobic views towards lesbians and gay men.

The people at the front of the anti-Clause 25/paragraph 16 campaign, 'Outrage' and 'Stonewall Group' are not responsible to the lesbian and gay community and are certainly not representative of them. Their demands reflect the professional middle-class attitudes of the gay movement with no incorporation of building for a class based lesbian/gay movement whatsoever.

It is clear from demonstrations and actions that have already occurred, that lesbian and gay men are of course very angry and we need to build on that, making sure the campaign is class-based with a view to involving as many lesbians, gay men and supporters as possible, because how can we expect to fight the system if we then indirectly enforce it ourselves? The best and only way forward for lesbian and gay liberation is through class solidarity, linked with other grassroots struggles and movements, working to remove all forms of oppression and discrimination, and not trying to gain short-term improvements to our oppression under capitalism.

KATE, MANCHESTER

(article originally printed in the Class Struggle Anarchist Network bulletin)