

# Free tea-bag! **DIY** price - what you can afford

## Who we are

For one thing we're anti - media. We're also trying to provide an alternative to other forms of communication, e.g. T.V., Radio and papers, the aim of which is to keep us ill-informed rather than well-informed.

The aim of this paper is not to express any party political line but to express the way we feel, and hopefully, if you're willing to contribute, the way you feel. (that doesn't mean you have to write in perfect english !)

What we believe. We have no respect for or belief in any form of authority - including government. We believe that people can run their own lives and that this won't result in chaos - but because you might not agree, it doesn't mean we'll exclude you. This paper is about true free expression. But we've got to be realistic. If money is limited then space is limited and your article may not be in the next issue, but the articles (please keep them short) will be printed eventually. If this paper is to carry on, then it needs your articles. That's what the whole papers about - not us telling you but as far as possible, everyone having a say.

INSIDE: Glenochil Detention Centre Rape, Aeden Hotel Fire, Teachers Strike, Faslane, Poems, Cartoons..

## The Westlands Saga

WESTLANDS - why did Heseltine resign ? Will the Labour Party top the polls? Is Thatcher a liar? Will unemployment go up again? (and will it be ignored again?) How much of a pay-off will Brittan get for resigning? Will Neil Kinnock and his croanies get off the fence and say something worthwhile? Why weren't top officials in the Civil Service allowed to speak at the enquiry? Why did no-one shout "democracy" when the Westlands board changed the shareholder votes needed to marry Westlands and Sekorski/Fiat from 75% to 51%? Why, yet again, did the employees at Westlands have no say in this decision? Why do you always feel you've only been given 1/10th of the information ! What is the hidden truth? Confused? You will be after listening to the half-truth media version of the Westlands Saga.

## Chanel no.5 (or 6,7 ....?!)

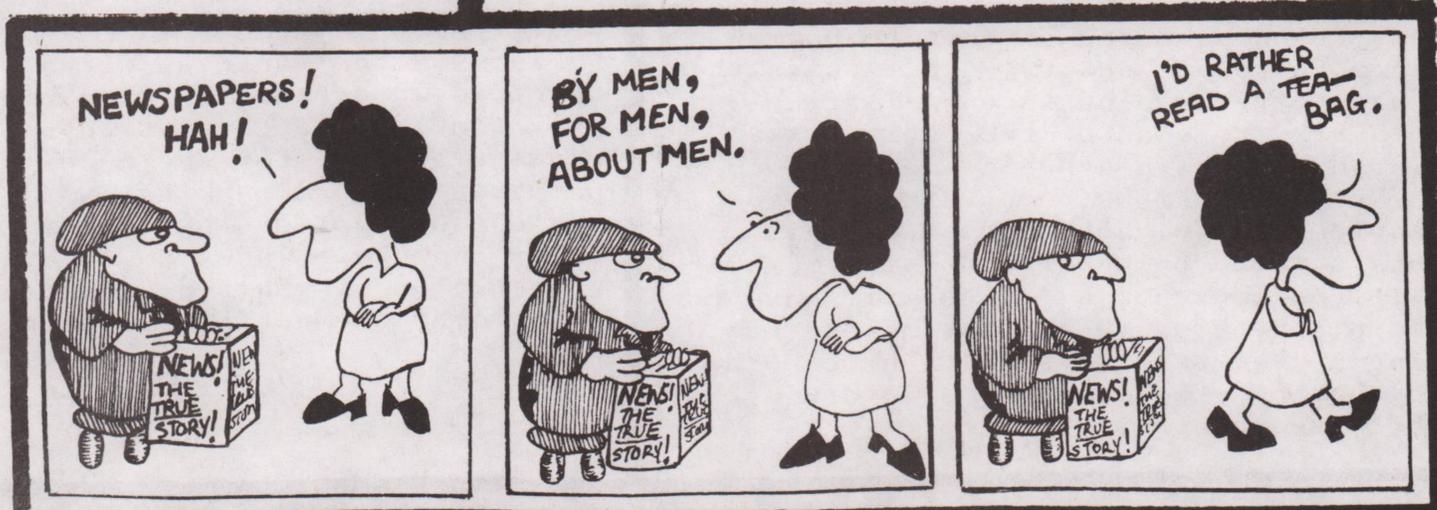
It's now been decided that there'll be a twin rail link between Britain and France. It's using £2 billion of our money and we weren't even consulted. Thatcher hardly even consulted her own cabinet before giving the go-ahead, so what more can we expect ! Couldn't the money have been put to better use elsewhere ? All we're getting is an extravagant rail link. The only pont of this, as far as I can see is to create a large profit for a few large companies.

What else are we getting ? Dover and Calais will be turned more or less into ghost towns, as the channel link will bypass them. Approximately 5,000 seaworkers will lose their jobs. The countryside around Folkestone will be destroyed with hundreds of tonnes of concrete. Towns and farmlands will be under the same threat.

What about the tunnel itself ? The risk of fire could be enormous. Once passengers are inside their cars, inside the trains, they cannot leave. What if their was a leaking fuel tank and someone threw a match or a cigarette stub out the window ? The train could turn into a tunnel of fire with the loss of maybe hundreds of lives.

Everyone seemed to be so wrapped up in the exciting prospect of a channel tunnel that we hardly heard these viewpoints.

The twin train tunnel may be the cheapest solution but is it the safest one and is it the one which benefits the most people ? I think the answer is no.



If this morning is a sad song,  
 sing on  
 such an old song, don't mind,  
 sing on.  
 Keep on, don't mind, sing on.  
 If all the world was as gentle  
 as the breeze within my hands,  
 if all the days weren't  
 numbered  
 for all those who walk aimless  
 down the high road;  
 If the space between us was  
 as solid as I feel it,  
 there'd be no sad song.

If all this world was  
 our world,  
 not mine, not yours.  
 If all this world was  
 our world,  
 ONE we'd be  
 can you see  
 If you open your heart you can whisper, new song.

## Aeden Hotel Fire

Do you remember the evacuation of Yemen. Brave 'True Brit' Britania and all that. During the exchange of fire, between the two rival factions trying to gain power, Aeden Hotel was bombed and this started a fire. Those in the Hotel did not run - 'everyone for themselves' - for their lives. Instead they put out the fire. A British man their said: '...there was no leadership, we cooperated together to put out the fire. No-one panicked'. These people were of different nationalities, some from the Soviet Union, yet they did not go for each others throats. Instead they worked together to put out the fire.

People can act for others and themselves without official organisation. This is demonstrated in situations where officials aren't there to take over and take the credit.



## Teachers Strike

I support all strikers who are doing so for a good wage and a better life. The media describe them as strike-mad, greedy, cruel to cause discomfort to others by striking. But people who go on strike face hardships and insults and still carry on - because they are striking for a principle, for a right to live well. For their families to live well. A strike is the last resort.

But with the teachers strike I have a dilemma. For a teachers job is to force kids to repeat mindless facts in exams instead of helping them to think and act for themselves. Kids are forced to go to school and many are made to feel inferior which can affect them for the rest of their lives. Many teachers are oversized bullies.

Everyone is entitled to a good wage and teachers, in obtaining that, I support you. But I don't support your behaviour in the classrooms.

I think there needs to be more action alongside the strike: sit-ins, petitions, rallies, all round the country not just in large cities. There needs to be a better attempt to communicate with more people and try and involve them more. Why has there been no factual leaflet about the strike to counter the anti-strike mass media. Why not have a public meeting.

Very few unions, parents, teachers, pupils, people seem to want to counter this governments attacks on our freedom. Inevitably strikes will not be enough. Action will have to be more bold, attacking the roots instead of just scratching at the skin. These will have to be run, at the bottom - the grassroots - involving all, not by the bureaucrats at the top.

## DO-IT!

On the 24th August, 1968, Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and ten other 'Yippies' entered the New York Stock Exchange and climbed to the visitors gallery overlooking the main hall.

The Yippies addressed the brokers and traders below them on the evils of money and greed. Most of the brokers found the incident amusing and at the end of the speech many joined in good natured applause. Then the Yippies reached into their pockets and threw into the air handfuls of dollar bills. As money floated down like autumn leaves the scene changed dramatically. Brokers and traders jumped, pushed and buffeted each other to catch the falling bank notes, others on hands and knees scrabbled about the floor grabbing as much as they could. The security guards arrived and the Yippies were ejected from the building.

In 1979 the Montreal City Authorities turned down a request for a bicycles-only lane on the grounds that it had no funds available for the necessary painting of road markings. As a protest, a group of cyclists painted - overnight - their own cycle lanes on 1½ miles of street. The city hired a contractor to paint over the unofficial paintwork. (!)

Open Road.

# Glenochil

Many of us are probably unaware of the existence of Glenochil Detention Centre and that it is just four or five miles from Stirling. Even more of us will be unaware of what goes on there. Did you know that in the last 3 years 6 teenagers have died in Glenochil? There was a death before that too, in 1981.

Accident? No. These deaths were no accident but the result of the pointless and inhumane 'short, sharp, shock' approach of the Scottish prison authorities towards young people. Relatives have spoken out against the brutal regime. Young people are being harassed, brutalised, tortured and finally driven to death. Last year there were 25 suicide attempts in Glenochil. The facts speak for themselves! Why call for yet another public inquiry? There has been seven inquiries into the seven deaths already and no-one was blamed except the prisoners themselves. A public inquiry would be yet another whitewash while the deaths continue. Quote from magistrate :- "...accidental death while experimenting with hanging." "...accidental death while faking a suicide attempt for manipulative purposes." Very funny. No-one 'experiments with hanging themselves or slashing their wrists out of curiosity. Inquiries are cover-ups and only pretend to show concern. The government picks the board of inquiry itself so what more can you expect? The government won't discredit itself!

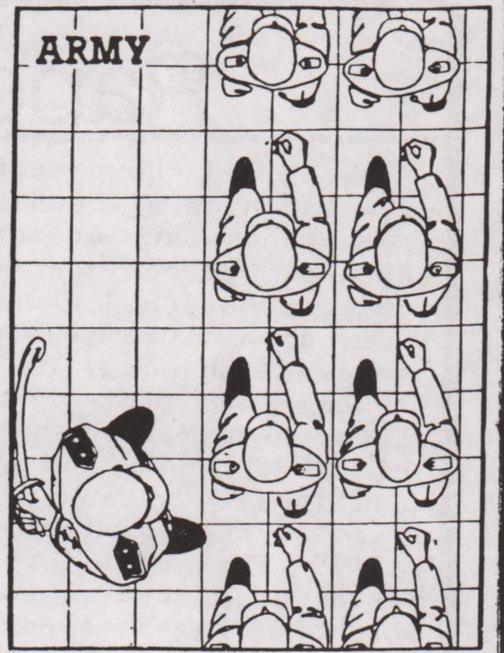
Glenochil is a punishment camp for young working-class people. You won't find any rich people there. The government is systematically destroying these young peoples chances in life. Deliberately. To make them submit.

Many young people are jailed as a direct result of police

harassment. Many have been drawn into the world of hard drugs in response to the pointlessness of their lives. Others have actively rebelled against the authorities that run our sick society.

The governments answer? To raise the wages of the police and the army and the prison officers who try to terrorise us into submission. The most brutal prison officers who have been involved in offences within the main prison system are 'dumped' on Glenochil. Is it any wonder that the regime is so brutal?!

This subject needs to be discussed more - perhaps at a public meeting?

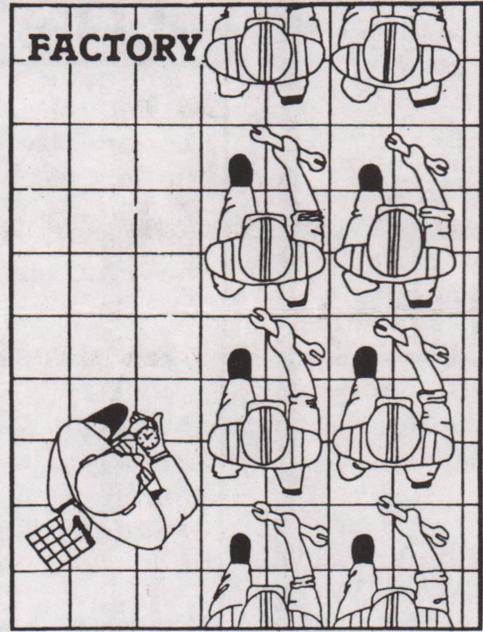


# Committment

Sometimes I feel that although people might believe in something, whether it be a political cause or community issue or whatever, they at the same time refuse to believe that things can change.

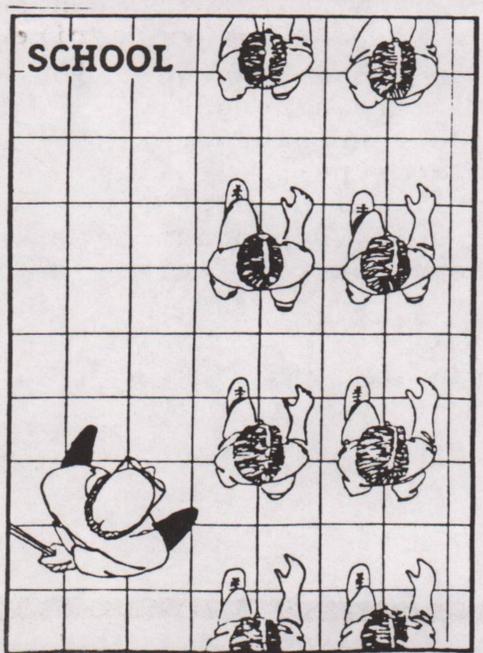
Are people scared of believing that they can actually change things if they have the willpower and the committment to do so? Maybe it's because if you wholeheartedly believe in something and believe that you can change things, then it will change your life, the way you live. Hopefully you'll try to live in accordance with your belief. A lot of people, I feel, would rather go round with their eyes blinkered rather than accept their belief as part of their lives. It's the easy way to do it.

It's one thing believing the system is wrong and must be destroyed but it's another thing acting on that belief and changing the system. It takes more than just believing - it takes a lot of committment and a certain amount of self-sacrifice. I often wonder whether that's too much to ask of people. Judging by the actual levels of committment. You can't change the world if you expect to remain unchanged!



ARE YOU BORED WITH THE NEWS? SO AM I, SO ARE WE.  
 WITH HIJACKS AND PLANE CRASHES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION, PARTY POLITICALS AND MORI POLLS, IT ALL DEPRESSES ME.  
 WITH STRIKES AND THE UNIONS, PEACE TALKS, THE ROYAL FAMILLY, VIOLENCE AND POVERTY.  
 ARE YOU BORED WITH POLITICS, SO AM I, SO ARE WE  
 THATS JUST HOW OUR LEADERS WANT IT TO BE.

WHY DO WE SIT BACK AND LISTEN? BE SILENT, CONSUME, THEN DIE.  
 WE ALL HAVE THE IMAGINATION AND THE POTENTIAL,  
 TO CHANGE OURSELVES AND OUR LIVES; TO ENJOY LIFE, NOT DIE OF BOREDOM, LIVING A '9-to-5' LIFE.  
 THE ABILITY IS IN US.....  
 FIND-IT, AND BOREDOM WILL DIE.



# Rape

Rape, and the threat of rape are the ways in which all men keep all women in a constant state of intimidation. I feel that now, in our society, rape is no longer considered wrong. Rape has become the end result of the male view of women as sexual objects.

Women and girls are attacked, molested, raped, even killed daily in this country. This is not news and rarely makes the headlines. How can it - after all, this is an 'accepted' fact of life. Remember in 1983 the press coverage given to the sexual assault of a young boy in Brighton? Public response was enormous. Money poured in. The tone of the media was one of anger and outrage. When do we see this in cases of sexual violence against women and girls? We don't.

The rape, murder and assault of women and girls is not the result of insane, individual acts by insane, individual men - this is the picture of the rapist which is encouraged by the press. Worst still, it has become accepted as the 'norm'. Statistics show that in more than half the cases of sexual assault, the man isn't a stranger or 'mad lunatic' as we are led to believe. The man is known to the victim - as a friend, workmate, relative and appears very 'normal'.

Rape also occurs within marriage but the law refuses to give even basic protection here because the law sees the wife as her husband's property - it gives him the right to her body at any time!

The risk of sexual violence in our community is enormous, as is the silence that surrounds it. If you are a woman and would like to help victims of rape and sexual violence, please contact Central Region Rape Crisis Group, Falkirk, P.O.Box 4.

## SOME USEFUL BOOKS

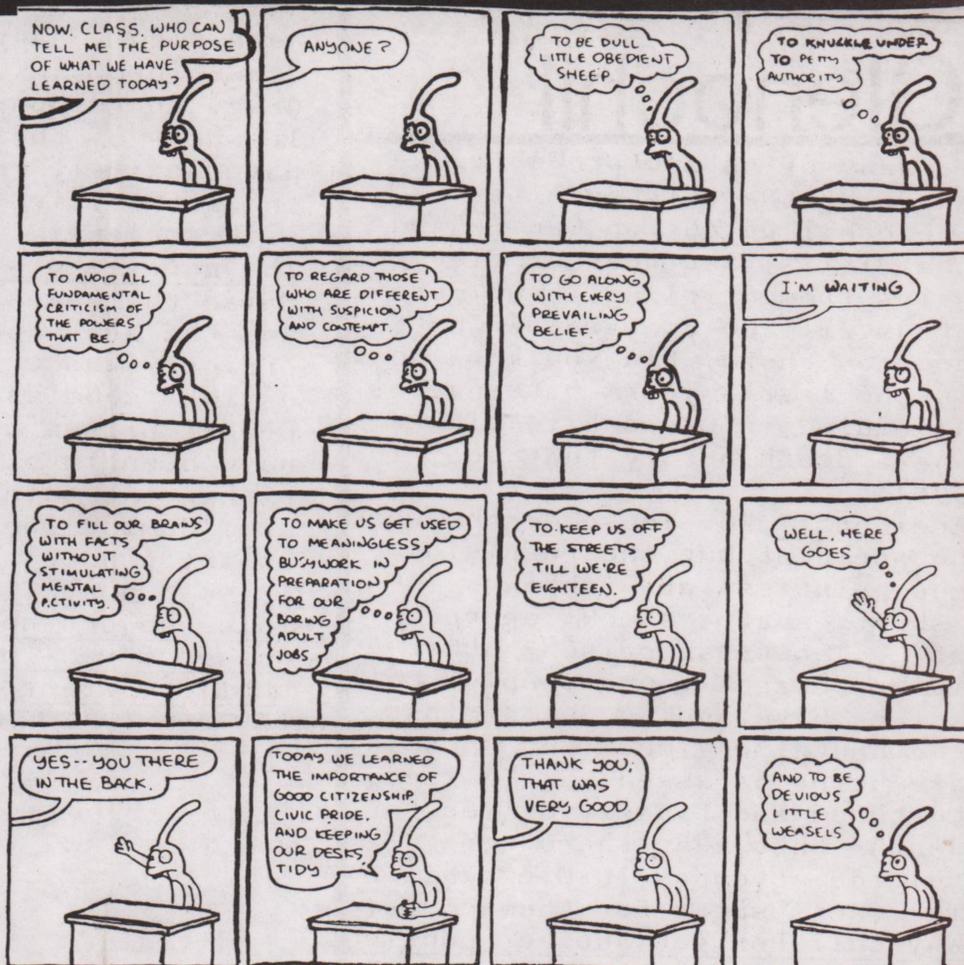
"SEXUAL VIOLENCE. THE REALITY FOR WOMEN"  
London Rape Crisis Centre. Womens Press

"FATHER DAUGHTER RAPE" Elizabeth Ward.  
Women's Press

# Faslane

Faslane Peace Camp is next to the naval base that is the future site for the TRIDENT MISSILE SYSTEM- an £11 BILLION project that if ever put into practice would obliterate millions of innocent lives. It is not defensive it is OFFENSIVE. The peace camp needs your support be it money, blankets, tarpaulin, paint, duplicating paper, hot water bottles. taking part in non-violent actions to turn the tide on trident'. Address: Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. FEB 14-17  
Forthcoming actions: .ORANGE ACTION.

This involves a Ceilidh in Alexandria on FRI 14. Street theatre all SAT in Dumbarton. 'Driveaway the Darkness' that night with Bonfires & Torches around the base. Then various NVDA (non-violent - direct action) actions on Sunday & Monday.



# The riot approach

During the 1981 Brixton riots, police signalled their intention to charge one group of rioters by beating out a frightening 'heart-beat' rhythm by banging their truncheons against their riot-shields. The rioters responded by beating their dustbin lids - in a cha-cha rhythm.

SUNDAY TIMES

## TOXTETH RIOTS 1981

Many people in Lodge Lane were nervous about entering shops which were being looted. Local youngsters helped out by bagging up a selection of goods and placing them outside on the pavement for collection.

A man walking down Lodge Lane asked a passer by for a cigarette and was given a box of 200.

FREEDOM

# Why don't you?

Have you any criticisms/comments/contributions. Was DIY difficult to read, too political, not relevant to you or people in Stirling. Send in your own contributions - local people taking on those in power to get more say in their life; alternative groups. Better still do your own magazine/newsheet/leaflet. The more people taking control of their own lives, the better we all will feel. DIY is solely dependant on donations so we welcome money as well. Contact;

Dunc and Nic,  
30, Upper Bridge St.,  
Stirling.