

TAKING LIBERTIES

number
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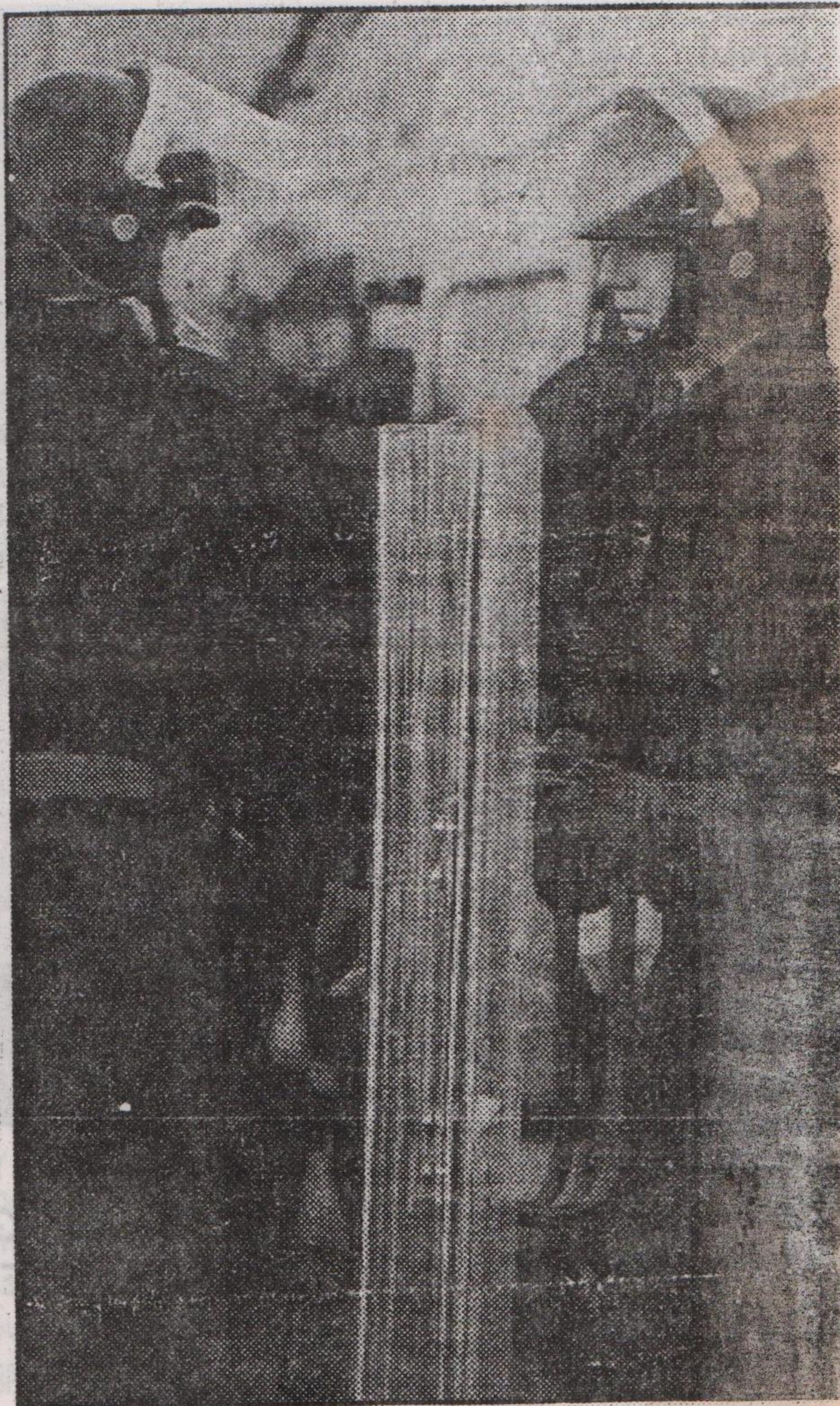
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Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross

PRISON RIOTS REACH a HIGH POINT

Serious disturbances erupted at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk on November 24th after an escape attempt by two men. More than 100 prison officers in riot gear were called to Highpoint after about 140 prisoners took control of 2 wings. Police surrounded and sealed off the prison. Prisoners gave themselves up after ten hours and the Home Office spokesperson stated there was "no violence or injuries" and they didn't need "to remove anyone forcibly". Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the prison itself; one wing was virtually unuseable, or seriously damaged in HO speak, and the other although well-smashed up was being used the very next day. Damage included wrecked doors and furniture and partial flooding from pipes ripped from the walls. It appears that the prisoners took control when officers were searching the prison and taking a roll-call after the 2 escapees were missing. Both the men were recaptured in the prison grounds. This all follows disturbances at Highpoint in March when 3 screws were injured. 60 prisoners have since been transferred for their roles in the 'disturbance'.



DONATIONS WELCOME

SUPPORTING CLASS WAR PRISONERS

FREE THE M25 THREE!

In a letter recently sent to TL, Raphael Rowe described his appearance at the Court of Appeal on October 20th:

II

What happened was we went to the CoA on the 20th expecting a postponement for legal matters. However, the prosecution had some "sensitive material" they were not sure if they could or should disclose to our defence. At this point the 3 High Court judges (Lord Chief Justice Taylor, Hutchison & Holland) retired for half-an-hour to consider this issue. They announced in open court that they considered the material 'highly sensitive' and cleared the court, save for defence & prosecution counsel. However, our defence walked out because the judges offered the contents of the material for them to read on the condition they do not inform the solicitors or clients. There then followed a 2 and a half-hour closed court discussion between prosecutors & judge about what to do. The case was adjourned until January.

The James Bond cry of 'National Security' is, I suggest, undemocratically abused to the advantage of both the judiciary and the executive, and to the disadvantage of the citizen. It results in total disregard for the rights of the individual!

Likewise, 'Public Interest Immunity' can often be used to protect a criminal from prosecution on condition he implicates some other possibly innocent party. Again, the defence do not have the full right of reply, especially as can be the case, their right to examine evidence in court is arbitrarily taken away from them.

Further still, professional conduct and loyalties prevent defence counsel from hearing the very evidence initially collected against their client.

A defendant in a criminal trial should have an automatic right of access to all evidence, with a right of reply to either challenge or confirm, justify or explain.

My barristers have been gagged, WHY? I must know, for after all, it is my life that is at present balancing precariously on the scales of justice".

Contact Raphael Rowe: **MP 3660, HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7RP.**

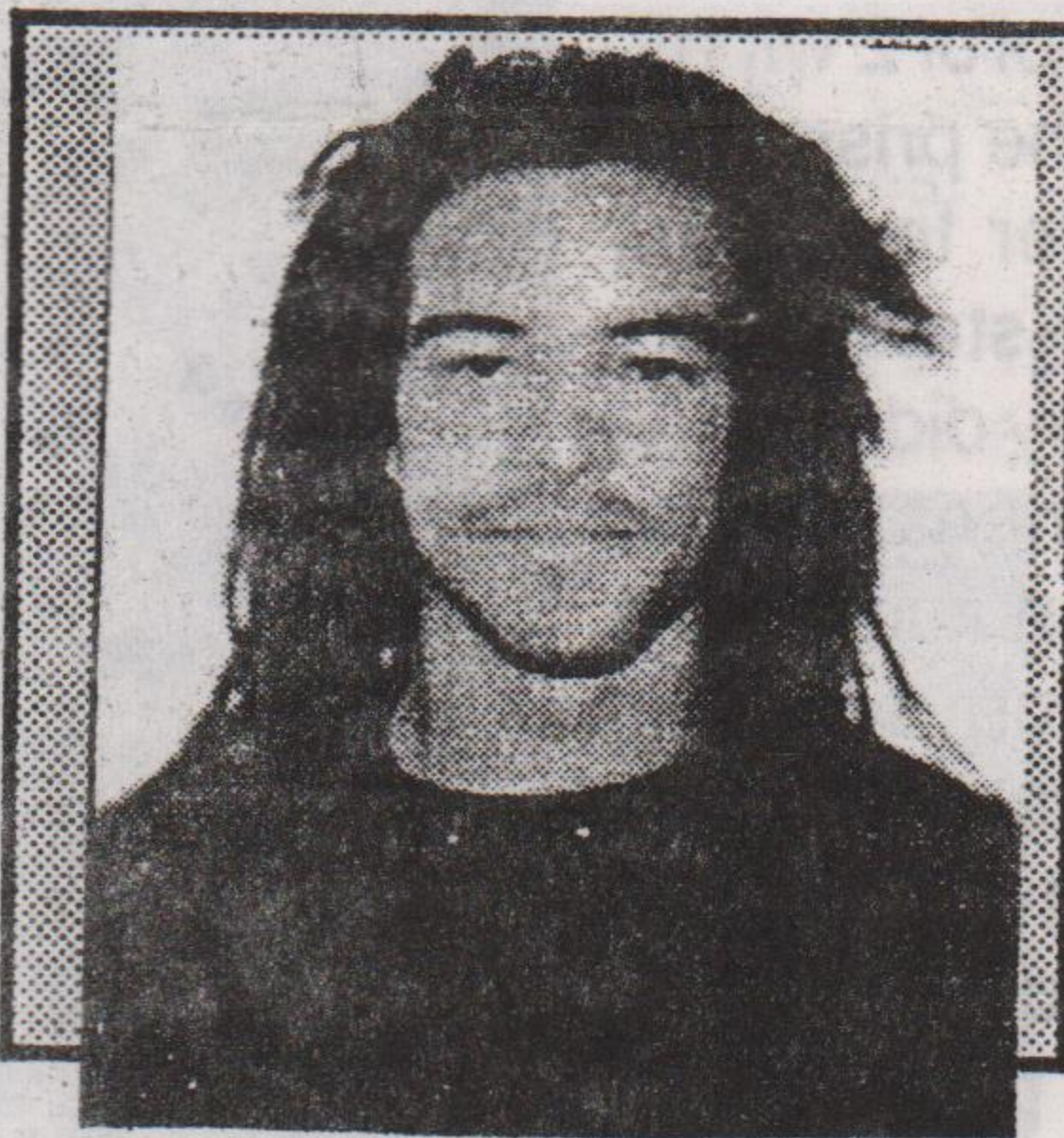
Stop Press

The M25 Three Campaign will be presenting a petition to the Home Office (petitions can be got from the Campaign at the given address). Raphael and the campaign are appealing for supporters to show support outside the Court of Appeal in London, on January 21st- 25th.

Please contact the Campaign at; **105 Fernley House, Vestry Road, Camberwell, London SE5.**

TL

Tom Manning (see TL no. 6) has been moved and his new address is: **10373 -076, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, Illinois, 62959, USA.** Harold Thompson also has a new address: **93992, LCRCCF GUILD 2, ROUTE 1, BOX 330, TIPTONVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA.**



PRISONER NEWS

Kenny Carter has been moved yet again. He is now (AD3434) at;

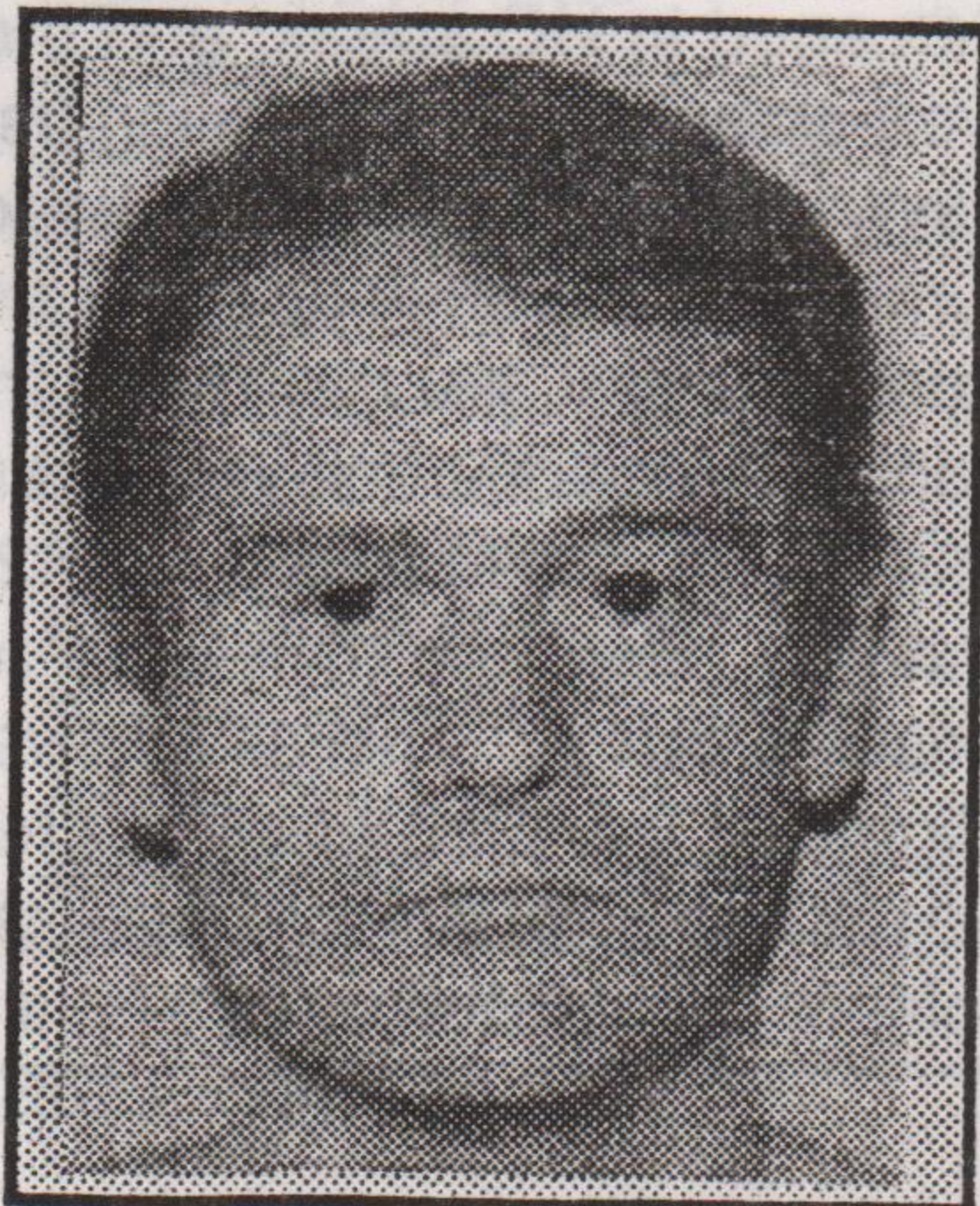
H.M.P Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcester.

Andy Nelson is at H.M.P Full Sutton at weekends while the 2nd Strangeways trial is on.

Noel Nelson (see TL no. 4) is now at H.M.P Downview.

John Bowden - regular contributor to 'Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism' and now & again 'TL' - has gone on the run following an escape from his prison escorts while visiting his sick father. John, jailed in 1982 for murder, had been given permission to visit his ailing father. During the visit he apparently took a call in the flat and told his prison escorts that the house was surrounded by armed men. They then removed his handcuffs and John legged it! He wrote in a recent statement;

"My escape was achieved without violence and despite characterisation of me as a dangerous killer by at least one tabloid, I will continue to offer no violence in efforts to remain free".



John wants to highlight "the predicament of a particular group of prisoners (lifers) who through a process of arbitrary and negative labelling are virtually denied any reasonable hope of leaving prison alive".

BYE BYE BALLY

This article was written by Keith Mann, in custody since his arrest in October 1991 on arson charges. His co-defendant in that trial is now serving a 6 year sentence. Keith's sentencing has been delayed as he is currently involved in other trials around the country.

Forensic science advancements are seemingly boundless. The fingerprint technique is no longer anything clever, people are on a daily basis being convicted of crimes without the help of fingerprint evidence. Forensic scientists can glean evidence through blood samples, sperm & saliva; even hair tells a story.

Three groups of 'criminals' best known for their use of balaclavas to protect their identities when committing their chosen crimes - bank robbers, ram raiders and Animal Liberation Front Activists - are all regularly filmed in the process; the blaggers (bit o' prison slang) by bank/store security cameras and the ALF by lab security and more so by themselves. The latest development in forensic science is set to negate this form of disguise.

It's hard to believe even with today's technology that it would be possible to see through a balaclava, but that's just what Professor Richard Neave reckons he can do.

Certainly there's no questioning his credentials; he is the person who rebuilt the face of the 2,000 year old iron age man found in 1984, and knowing only the approx. age of Karen Price (murdered 7 years previous to her discovery) he, using clay, rebuilt her face. So good was the likeness that as soon as the model was released by the police (in search of identification) a name and photograph of Karen Price were offered.

To help improve these innovative techniques he now works alongside Dr. Peter Vanezis whose credentials are equally impressive. He runs Britain's first facial identification centre, which was launched in June '92 at the Charing Cross and Westminster Hospital in West London, and was called on to help

identify victims of the 1987 Kings Cross Fire, the Deal bombings & the Falklands War.

The good news for the aforementioned law-breakers is that this revolutionary technique - known loosely as 'facial mapping' - isn't, at the time of writing, acceptable in court as conclusive evidence. The first attempt to convict on this evidence was in 1989 when James Ryan was indeed convicted with the help of expert witness professor Neave. However, after Ryan had served 2 years of a 9 year sentence for attempted armed robbery the Court of Appeal overturned the conviction saying the methods used to identify him were unsatisfactory..



Very recently someone else has been convicted on the same kind of evidence, his appeal has doubtless gone in and I wager Neave's evidence will be overturned again. But for how long? It can only be a matter of time before his evidence is accepted.

Hi tech frame-ups

They also have possible competition. Police forces are now using the 'E-fit system'; this is capable of being fed a picture of an accident victim with serious facial injuries and will bring it back to its original state. Similarly, it is capable of

magnifying facial features from a scene-of-crime video and will superimpose the results onto a police photo of the suspect.

I, along with one other person and with the help of other I.D. evidence have - according to Thames Valley Police - been identified in 2 laboratory sites during raids. It is for the court to decide whether we were there, but at best I was arrested and had I not already been in custody I would have been remanded pending trial. My co-accused is still at large and long may she remain so.

So what when this evidence is accepted? Then what? Will the police be able to go through all those raid photos (going back years) which the ALF have released for publicity purposes and put the people behind them in court? Doubtful. To begin with they need a photo of the suspect. It's also restrictively expensive. It's unlikely to get quite so ridiculous but given the time, people "masked or otherwise disguised" are likely to face a previously unimaginable problem. Even without the blessing of the courts, the police will know who has done what. For the people concerned this isn't a healthy state of affairs.

As Keith gets moved regularly (at the time of writing he has been in 5 prisons and over 10 police stations) letters of support can go amiss. Therefore letters of support should be sent; NE 0316, c/o Animal Liberation Investigation Unit (ALIU), P.O. Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX.

They will be passed onto Keith - wherever he may be!



JENNY WILCOX

Jenny is 31 and has been in prison in Ohio for 8 years. She was given more than 5 life sentences for alleged child abuse. She is not guilty.

There was an investigation in Jenny's town "because of a report that some older children had been 'experimenting sexually' with younger kids. The boys involved were talked to and told not to do it again. Later, people in the community found out about it and word got around. At one time as many as 16 people were suspected. All of them, except Jenny and her boyfriend of the time, fled. She and her boyfriend went to the police to clear their names and answer questions."

They were both convicted.

Jenny had a court-appointed Attorney, who did not present any of the evidence in her favour, not even calling any character witnesses. The State had no medical or forensic evidence, which should have gone in Jenny's favour. Jenny's only defence was her statements that she did not do it.

The children testified against her - and it is known that at least one of them rehearsed his testimony with the judge himself.

When Jenny was convicted, she had 2 small children, one of whom now lives with her sister-in-law, the other with her (alcoholic) ex-husband.

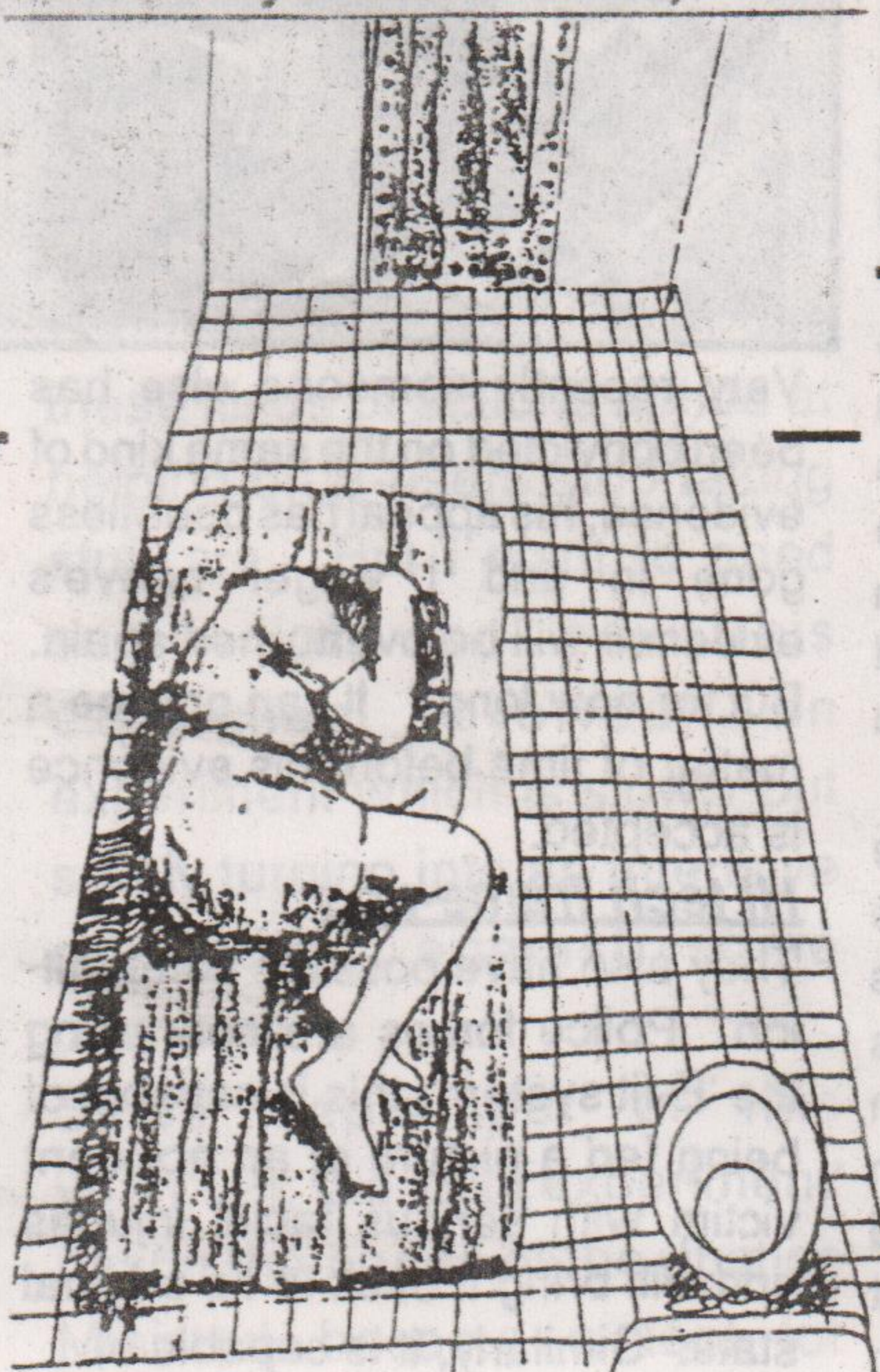
There are several people involved in a campaign to prove Jenny's innocence, including a journalist and Investigator called Marty Yant, author of the book 'Presumed Guilty' about innocent people in jail in the USA, and also a psychiatrist, Dr. Gardner, who is a specialist in cases of false allegations of child abuse.

More detailed information about Jenny's case has been promised, and a longer article will hopefully come from that. For more info in the mean time please contact Sheffield ABC.

Please send letters of support to Jenny Wilcox-17815,
Unit 5 FPRC,
1800 Harmon Ave,
Columbus,
Ohio,
USA,
43223.

End of a sparkling "criminal career"

A 74 year old pensioner, Charlie Cowden, was finally forced to put an end to his 'criminal career' at the Old Bailey. When the silver-haired man walked into a building society in May, staff thought it was a joke until he pulled out a pistol and shouted "This is a raid - get your hands up. But armed police were waiting for him on an informer's tip. Charlie got a 2 year suspended sentence since he has a heart condition, could not pay his bills and wanted cash to care for his friend, Rosie Hiscock, also 74.



Peruvian Anarchist Jailed

On October 27th, 1991, Anarchist comrade **ANDRES VILLAVERDE** was accused of an act of sabotage and detained. He was taken by National Police to the district's headquarters. Three days later he was interrogated by DINCOTE (the counter terrorist agency). When no tangible evidence was found to back up the charge, Andres was accused of being a member of 'Sendero Luminosos' ('Shining Path') and taken to Castro-Castro, Peru's maximum security prison. Because 9 months have passed since his detention and his case has not even been opened yet, an international campaign is developing to gain his release. **Messages of protest should be sent to;**

*Sr. Presidente Alberto Fujimori,
Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza de
Armas, Lima 1, PERU.*

The campaign for the release of Andres can be contacted at;
'Love & Rage', P.O. Box 3 Prince
St. Sta., New York 10012, USA.
We have no address for
Andres as yet.

Paddy Murphy

By the time TL hits the streets our friend and comrade Padraig o Murchu (Paddy Murphy) should have been released. Due to be released on December 8th, we wish him all the best and good luck for the future!

Eamon O'Donnell - on the blanket

Eamon O'Donnell has been held on remand since June, facing allegations of arson and criminal damage. Since July he has staged a blanket protest:

"I am aware that all remand prisoners are entitled to wear their own clothes, hence I am on the blanket. Meanwhile I am being denied exercise, I have no association with other prisoners and I am being prevented from attending a communal religious service".

Eamon has also been regularly deprived of sleep, and on a number of occasions been subjected to brutal stripsearches. Letters of support to Eamon O'Donnell:

CX 1344, HMP Wakefield, Love Lane, Wakefield. Letters of protest to the Governor.

Caption Competition!

Due to public demand, we have decided to revive the idea of a caption competition as first announced in TL no.4!

Every issue will feature a picture of some body(famous or otherwise) in an un compromising position. We'd like you to come up with something to go with the shot. First up is the one from TL no.4 - a snap from the glossy HO brochure, "Your career as a Prison Officer", depicting a scene from daily life inside prison(it's true!). Best one will be printed and winner receives an ABC t-shirt or £2 Postal Order.



After Police officers from Stoke Newington(officers Lewnadoski and Carroll) were 'revealed' as doing the organising in 'organised crime', by planting crack on people, selling the drug and lining their pockets on the misery of working class people, more has come to light about the goings on in Stoke Newington. At Snaresbrook Crown Court, a £5,000 crack case against Ray Simpson was dropped, due to totally misleading evidence from none other than Stoke Newington cops. Who's the chief witness against Simpson? PC Terence Chitty, who is up to his neck in it. He's currently under investigation by Scotland Yard for 'trying to organise a police drugs ring, planting drugs on a suspect, fabricating evidence and lying on oath'. Sounds like a normal copper to us. However, another 50 cops, past & present from SN are also under investigation for the same racketeering and anti-social crimes. Just goes to show that those liberals who whine on about a few bad apples have no idea.

There's no home like Lindholme...

In H.M.P Lindholme the food is really disgusting. Alright, you do get a choice apart from take it or leave it. You have a variety of choices but just hope you're not at the back of the queue, because all the good stuff goes first, naturally. It's not the actual choice of food because that is quite good. It's the way it's prepared and cooked. Shit.

The screws were ok with me. I just kept myself to myself but what got your back up was stupid little petty rules carried out by certain screws whenever they felt like it, e.g. on a boiling hot day they sometimes wouldn't let you outside for some fresh air until bang on time. Most of the time none cared because there were no problems. In fact more problems were caused by being locked up when it was red-hot in the daytime. There is plenty of grass for inmates to walk on/sunbathe etc and it wasn't put to full use. The association times are weekdays 5.45 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. The same weekends only from 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. and 1.45 - 3.45 p.m. There's a goes gym limited to about 200 and around 650 inmates in Lindholme. So, it's first come first served. TV on each wing and pool table if it's not smashed up or cloth ripped or balls/cues nicked.

Accommodation is mainly dormitories, 13 to a dorm of mixed ages. So what you get sometimes is twelve 21-25 year olds and a 55 year old. Not very good for the older man.

My feelings on the prison system are it's just really fucked-up. There's really loads to sav on

the subject, like how each nick's different. the only way to get a true account is to experience it yourself.

Gadz, Sheffield.

Belgian Jails

One year ago, in September 1991 precisely, an experiment began in Belgian jails, an experiment that aimed to prevent drug-using amongst prisoners. This experiment was based upon urine analysis for people who are/were using drugs. All the drug-users and all the presumed ones were invited to urinate twice a week in a flask! Then, this flask was sent to a lab to be analysed. If the result was positive the prisoner would be led into an agreement with the Director of the jail and with the different doctors. The agreement would be to try and reduce the amount of drug in the urine until a complete stop in drug usage. I don't want to judge what use these kinds of actions aimed at helping drug-users stop taking stuff are. But I want to shed some light on how this experiment evolved; an experiment which is slowly but surely turning into an intensive repression against some prisoners.

Since September of this year ('92), the 'pilot experiment' has (in the hands of the Justice Minister) become a tool for blackmailing the prisoners over their liberty. This awful guy

gave his consent to the extension of the experiment in all Belgian jails and- here is the problem- the results are now taken into account by the Commission charged to examine all prisoners' anticipated release. It means that the prisoners who are 'positive' have only a small, small chance to be released on parole. But, anyway, the prisoners will be free one day, perhaps at the end of their punishment, that's a fact. All this experiment is for absolutely nothing, except to delay the release and to make this harder for the guy who can't get day-release before parole (in Belgium it's the same Commission that looks at release dates and day-release). Now I want to explain the adverse effects of this experiment...

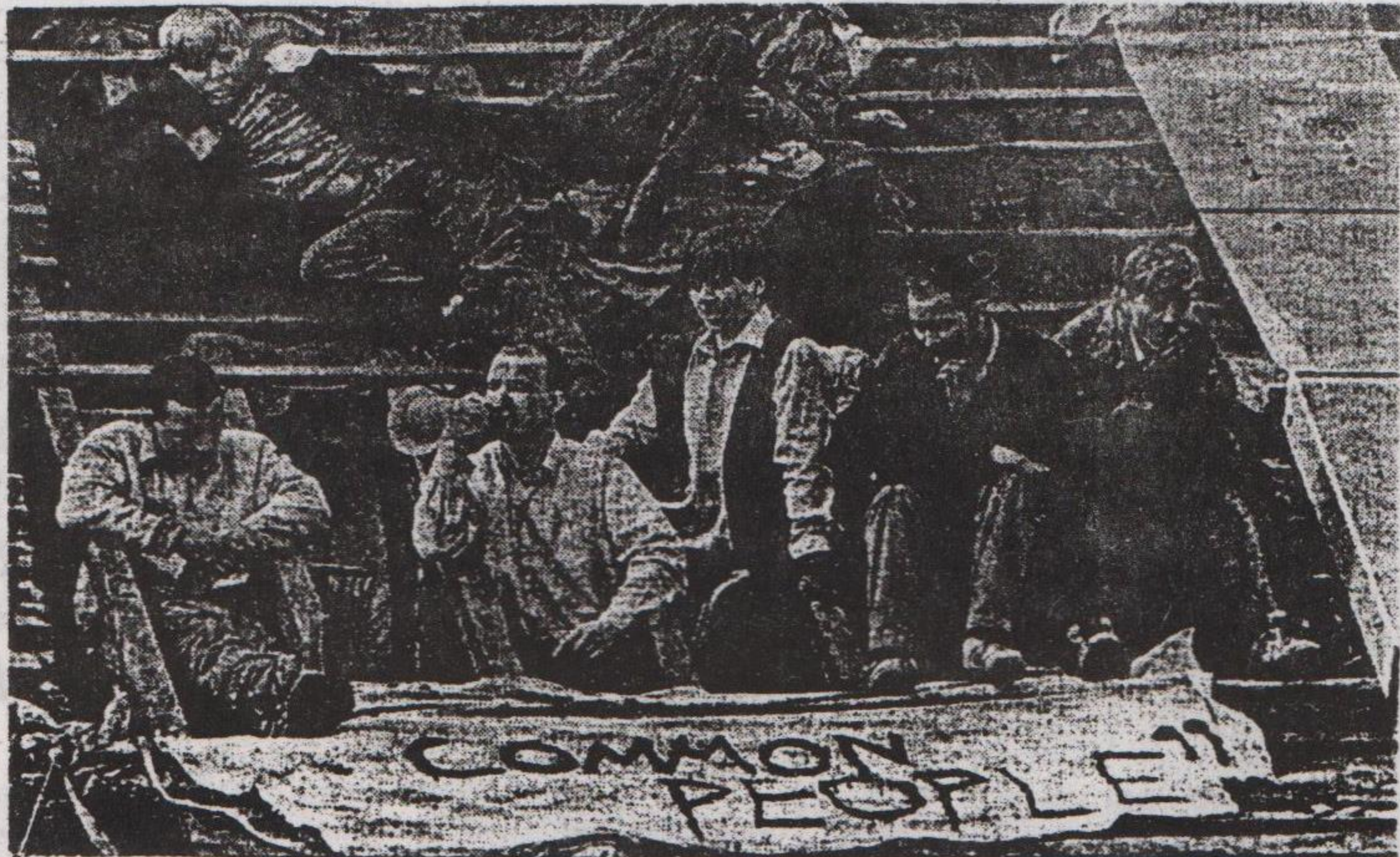
Some prisoners- drug-users but also non-drug-users- refused to participate in this experiment by not going to the clinic to urinate in their flasks. This denial is understandable for 'positive' drug-users but also for the other ones that think they have nothing to prove about their 'non-toxication' or don't want to urinate under the eyes of a screw (into an unsterile flask at that). All these guys were really astonished when they received a form from the Director, explaining that, because of their non-participation in the experiment, all day-releases were stopped and that the visits in a common room were also stopped: they have to see their families 'behind the glass' for a minimum of 3 weeks! The administration seems to forget that jails mean deprivation of

It's a dog's life...or is it ?

This article was written by Graham Galloway, a prisoner serving a life sentence at H.M.P Blundeston(see TLno. 8).

A prisoner is de-humanised and patronised by police, solicitors, probation officers and screws. They have to. I have some impressive qualifications, a masters ticket, chief engineers ticket, and a wide experience of sea trade, man management and so on. If the police etc met me as a man they would feel inferior and wouldn't be able to do their job. This applies to many people in prison. Therefore we are made to accept that we are inferior, by patronage etc. They take away our individuality by taking away our clothes, putting us in shabby uniforms to reduce the whole to a common denominator. Our skills and qualifications are made as nothing, because we are only given menial tasks, so that very intelligent men and women are reduced to thinking that the job of picking up shit thrown from windows is a job to go for. It gets you out of the sweatshops, and you are given a red band! One step away from the common herd, but towards what? being a screw, people who are unemployable rejects, yet don't have the guts to fight back. Some icon to aim for! The result is that our brains are put in neutral, we accept we are of no value, no intellect to offer, our lives are a mockery. Here we are being told when to eat, to wash, to shit, just like a dog, so we become dogs. When the screws are happy with us, we laugh and joke with them, call them by their given names if we feel cheeky, and do little jobs that we think will please them. Just like dogs. When the screws do something we don't like, we gather together and snarl to impress each other, while the screws have a good laugh at our frustration.

Sometimes one of us dogs bites, or sometimes we attack as a pack. This is very rare as it goes against our conditioning, and that's why Strangeways was so very successful, they were mostly remand prisoners, not yet conditioned, not yet dogs. But what happens when dogs bite?



They get put down!

It is totally immaterial that the dog was brutalised, the dog has no voice(TL don't gag us -keep going) and a master is always in the right. If we hurt a screw he gets a holiday or full pay, while he recovers, and a very handsome wad of compensation.

So what can a dog do? We can defy the conditioning, retain our humanity and study the enemy! We have many sanctions used against us, but the major one is the law. It takes many years to become a lawyer, but when you look at it, that's mostly bullshit, form-filling, Latin and crap. Study criminal law and it quickly becomes familiar. The law is only a game. Noone expects to play football without learning the rules, and noone should go in for breaking the law without a grounding in its rules, otherwise pain results. If us dogs start to quote law, we are laughed at, called 'jailhouse lawyers',

ridiculed and made to feel very uncomfortable in our new role. This is enough to deter most people, as to be standing out from the crowd can bring disaster, suspicion - is he a grass, a nonce? But fight this for a bit and respect comes. The screws will do their utmost to trip you up, make you small in

the eyes of the other prisoners, because they know that if every prisoner realised he was a man or woman with rights and a brain and a will to use it, then this small community would be seen in its real perspective - fifty moronic apes trying to regulate 200 intelligent human beings. And if that happened, the prison system would collapse and they know it.

There is a place for violence in the great scheme of things, but when you have no choice of movement, no choice of weapons and you're handcuffed, it wouldn't always be rational to choose violence, as freedom is an essential prerequisite. There is only the law. So we study the basics; prison rules. We can get the Prisoners' Information Pack and learn our basic rights. Then when we get put on "report", we don't go before the Governor and shout, we study a little book they like to keep secret - the 'Manual on the Conduct of Adjudications'.

(continued on back page)

It's a dog's life - cont.

The law in microcosm. We start to fight with the weapon of the ruling class, and they show respect and worry. I've had ten 'nicks' against me in this place, and I've only had one stick. Usually I've had to appeal to the Home Office but I've got there eventually.

Now I've taken out a summons against the Governor in the County Court, over her re-directing & sending back my mail, which is illegal. That won't get me anywhere in itself, but it does give me access to a lever and it's attainable on my sorry finances. The most important 'wise saying' in these places is 'you can't beat the system' - what bollocks! Be equal to any other man or woman, or be a dog and you deserve a dog's life. Had a letter yesterday from the Avon & Somerset plods, they have appointed a senior bod to look into my case and the many claims I made about police 'malpractice'. However, they must protest at the 'tone' of my letter. I'm heartbroken. The bastards lied, fabricated evidence, were deceitful and downright criminal in their efforts to convict me. I have lost my life really, and they are so sensitive & delicate that they can't handle being confronted with the truth.

Anyway, the fight goes on all over the world, in groups and in isolation. Prop up the flag,

yours in Solidarity,
Graham Galloway-
TD60799,
H.M.P. Blundeston,
Lowestoft,
Suffolk.

Correction :

It was wrongly stated in TL no.8 that Graham is preparing his Grounds for Appeal. However, as he wrote; "I had my appeal heard 2 years ago, what I'm doing now is taking the Home Secretary to the High Court to question his authority in not referring my case back to the CoA in the light of all the reasons I gave him".

TL

Belgian Jails(Continued)

liberty but surely not deprivation of human rights!

It's incredible that a prisoner who refuses to participate in the stripping away of his own responsibilities and refuses to be treated like a child, is considered to be 'intoxicated' and is punished therefore in the same ways..

Some will pretend that this action aims to stop the illegal entry of drugs into the prisons and that's a point of view but people shouldn't forget that there are many other ways to get drugs inside.

Lies? well, can the authorities explain how a prisoner comes to have a pistol in a jail(it happened last summer during an escape from Lantin, another Belgian jail)! There's only one way to find a gun ; by having the

complicity of a screw.

Bribery of the screws? Not exactly, but more an example of the screws attitude of "find money in all possible ways".

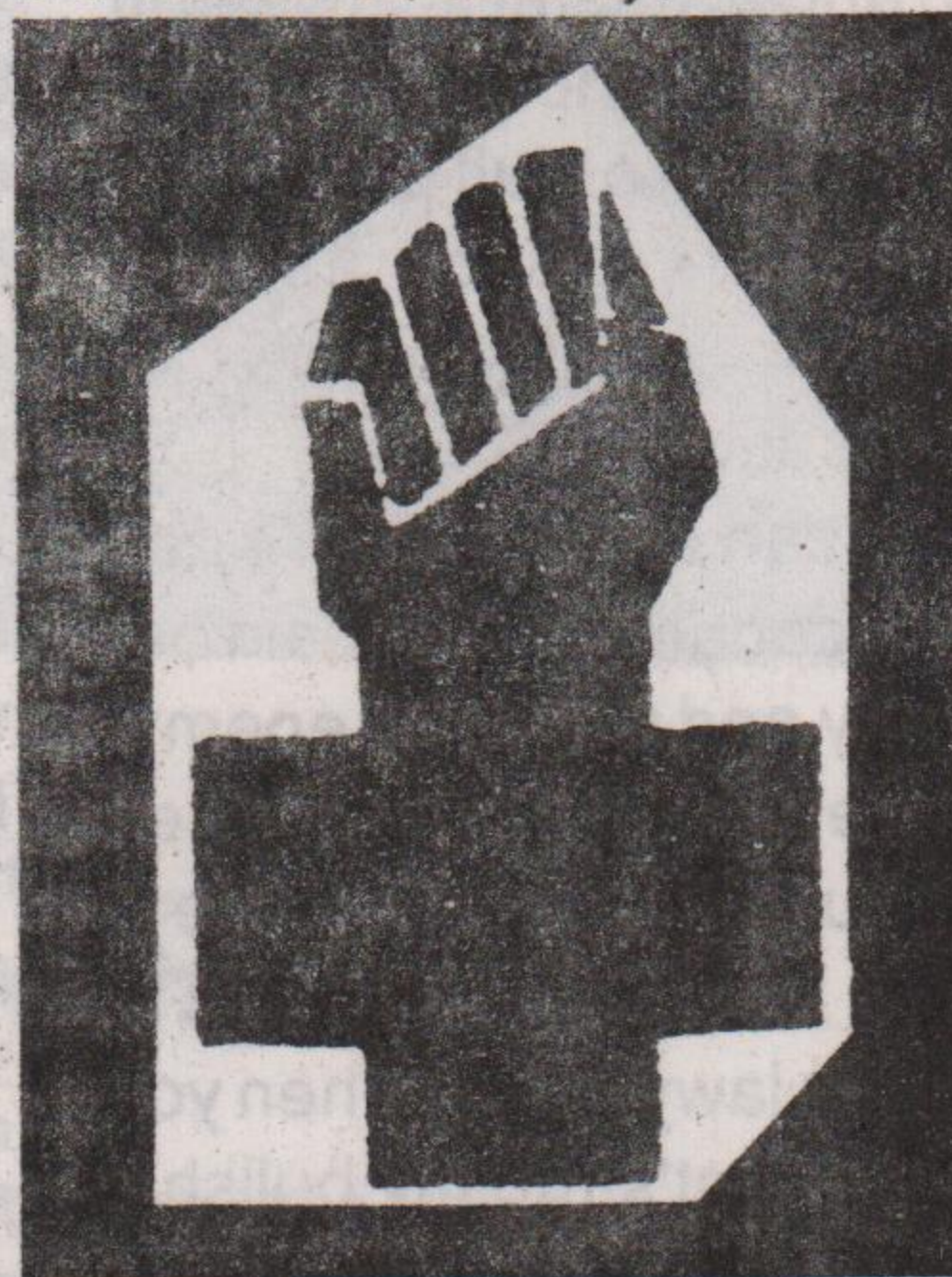
To finish with I'd like to say that everybody may have his own view on these events; here are the forms sent to prisoners that refuse to participate in the experiment. European unity will be achieved under the Flag of Repression, we all know that. but can you imagine millions of potential prisoners obliged to urinate in a flask if they want to be free? It's closer to Orwell's 1984 than to democracy.....

Boris Dumont,
Verviers Jail,
81 Chaussee d'Heusy,
4800 Verviers,
Belgium.

CONTACTS:

Aberdeen ABC: PO Box 248, Aberdeen.

Birmingham ABC: c/o Box 3, 190 Alum Rock Rd, Saltley, B'ham 8.



Bolton ABC: c/o Manchester.

Bradford ABC: c/o 1 in 12 Club, 31 Manor Row, Bradford.

Derry ABC: c/o Organise, PO Box 5, Derry, BT48 6PD.

Essex ABC: c/o Neil, Dept N, PO Box 1327, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Edinburgh ABC: c/o Shrinking, PO Box 610, Edinburgh.

Leeds ABC: BOX JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds.

Manchester ABC: Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester.

Newcastle ABC: PO Box 1QF, Newcastle, NE99 1QF.

Preston ABC: PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs.

Sheffield ABC: Address for TL.

All contributions are welcome - articles, letters, comments, cartoons etc and any donations towards the cost of printing are most welcome! Please make cheques payable to ABC and send to Box 446....Thanks

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