

# JOHN PEROTTI

John Perotti, whose brave attempt to unionize prisoners in Ohio we reported in our last issue has recently written to us giving an update on his situation.

The courts refused to recognize the union branch which 400 prisoners wished to set up (and which had already been accepted as an official branch by the Industrial Workers of the World - IWW). This is now being appealed. John himself has been kept in Solitary since a cell fire in December (cause unstated) in which he suffered third degree burns and had to receive skin grafts to his hands. They have confiscated all his personal property and his legal work.

He also details apathy and opposition from inmates, a new generation of prisoners "mostly drug addicts and men with no principles. They're satisfied with a TV set and three meals a day. The few who have principles and ideals are locked down in isolation. They've closed down all the dayrooms here and plan to start 'unit management' as in Federal prisons, yet the men aren't even thinking about rioting or protesting."

John continues to struggle despite these disheartening conditions and represents his fellow prisoners in cases against the screws. We re-affirm our admiration and support and urge you to write to John at: John Perotti 167712, PO Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001 and donations to Joan Perotti 1142 Hall Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107, USA

## ANIMALS

For those who wish to communicate sympathy and support those in prison for animal rights-related 'offences', including Ronnie Lee and others who received 10 years, we recommend you write, enclosing stamped addressed envelopes, to Support Animal Rights Prisoners, BCM Box 5911, London WCLn 3XX

If you wish to ban foxhunting in this county then contact the recently formed Oxfordshire Anti-Death Sports Soc., c/o 20 Sandleigh Rd, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, Oxon. Tel Oxford 735105.

Truly the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable, and there is a real chance of banning it. Hounds off our Wild-life!

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CALL IT  
SOCIALISM,  
COMMUNISM,  
ANARCHISM  
OR WHAT  
HAVE YOU...  
THE FUTURE  
IS FLEXIBLE.  
ALL I KNOW  
IS THAT THIS  
PRESENT SET-  
UP IS ABOUT  
TO COLLAPSE  
AND HISTORY  
CAN'T GO  
BACKWARDS  
!!

## FIGHT THE ALTON BILL

Oxford FAB were instrumental in arranging coaches to London for the national anti-Alton demos on January 21st as well as organising a successful local demo on January 16th. But the fight goes on and needs your ACTIVE SUPPORT. It is incredibly important that we don't let women's legal rights to abortion, limited as they already are, be successfully restricted. Alton and his supporters have openly admitted that their eventual aim is to outlaw abortions altogether, with all the obvious and tragic consequences. This section of defence of legal rights is just as vital as the struggle against NHS cuts which threaten to make abortions practically impossible regardless of the legal situation.

OXFAB meet every Wednesday at 8pm at the East Oxford Community Centre, Princes St and are contactable at Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Rd, Oxford. A University FAB group meets at Wadham college every other Wednesday at 8pm (next meeting March 2nd).

SEE EVENTS COLUMN....

## EVENTS

The Oxford Disputes Group meet at the EOCC every Tuesday 7-8pm.

The Oxford FAB Group meets every Wednesday at EOCC at 8pm.

Oxford Gay and Lesbian Organisation meet every Wednesday at 6pm at the Old Fire Station (George St).

Oxford Anarchists meet every other Tuesday at EOCC at 8.30pm, next one March 15th, possibly with a video.

March 14th: COHSE Day of Action against NHS cuts. Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign march against compulsory YTS will march with health workers in solidarity at 10.30 am from Arthur Sanctuary Hse John Radcliffe Hospital.

19th March: National March against Alton coaches 9.30 am St Giles, 9.40 Transport Hse (Cowley Rd), 9.50 Original Swan, Cowley, 10.00 Headington Post Office.

1st -4th April: National CND March to and demo at Aldermaston. Contact local CND.

8th April: National Day of Action against Clause 28. Contact OXGLO.

28th April: Anarchist Bookfair at EOCC

30th April: March against Clause 28 in London, contact OXGLO.

EOCC=East Oxford Community Centre, on Princes St, off Cowley Rd.

Sorry this is so inadequate, partly due to our incompetence but also to our own busy-ness and the failure of anyone to let us know about their campaigns. Next RN due in May: LET US KNOW WHAT IS BEING ORGANISED IF YOU WANT FREE PUBLI-CITY!!!

# RESISTANCE NEWS



INCORPORATING  
COUNTER INFORMATION No 2

## MARCH 88

The first thing this issue must acknowledge is the overwhelming mass of information coming in on a daily basis about the wave of disputes across the UK and Europe. Since many of these disputes are still happening and circumstances changing every day we would recommend following them closely in the daily media (wary, of course of misinformation and distortion in all media, Left and Right). In Resistance News, therefore, there is little or nothing on the largest happenings such as the Fords dispute or the growing NHS campaign. We recommend that you attend the Oxford Disputes Group meetings at 7pm every Tuesday at the East Oxford Community Centre if you want up to date news and to be involved in active support.

Equally, we don't produce this for people to feel a vicarious glow of satisfaction at the resistance to exploitation put up by others. We publish addresses so that you can send them money, support and enquiries. It's called solidarity and it means making an effort.

please keep us informed of your initiatives and local events you are organising. Thanks.

## KEETONS

The Keetons workers are still on strike after 38 of them went into dispute in July '86 over lay-offs and unsafe working conditions (see RN 1). 27 are still in dispute and in their latest newsletter they express their thanks to all who have supported them, particularly in their Xmas appeal. A few days off were managed over the festive season by using less men for picketing but on one occasion it was necessary to rush extra support there after 4 drunk scabs arrived, smashing signs and intimidating the 2 pickets present. There is a quick turnover in the scabs employed and machinery is being returned to the factory in faulty condition due to substandard work.

Despite refusing to attend negotiations ever again in November '87 the boss, Doyle, requested two consecutive meetings in January this year. They offered pathetic redundancy money for 18 of the strikers and 9 to return to work as new starters but with an insurance policy against sacking or redundancy. The strikers, refusing to be divided, rejected this offer and continued their demand for a full reinstatement.

It is vital that we continue to support these strikers financially so they can continue in their struggle. They have been on strike for well over a year and so receive no strike pay. Send donations and enquiries to Keetons Strike Cttee, AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield, S1 3HE.

## DON'T GO P&O

The 2,300 members of the National Union of Seamen employed by P&O at Dover are on strike. P&O want them to work a new system of 7 days on 7 days off, staying on board ship for 24 hours a day during that 7 days and being paid only for 16 hours, "resting" the other 8 without pay and on constant standby for safety drills etc. As one striker put it it's like being asked to live in your factory. The NUS argue that this system will increase fatigue and thus increase the chances of another ferry tragedy (Townsend Thoresen is owned by P&O). P&O also want 500 redundancies. As usual Union support has been minimal, officials backing down after early public defiance. The NUS members in Dover who work for Sealink are still working, otherwise it would be illegal "secondary action" and so lay the Union open to sequestration. Nevertheless there are now less than 20,000 NUS members and only 350 ships in the UK merchant navy. It is obviously in the interests of all NUS members, and particularly the Dover Sealink workers to stand together now and fight back or there will be no hope for any seamen. The NUS cannot be an effective union if it allows itself to be crippled by laws (Whose bloody laws?). The Union should exist for the workers, not the reverse.

Send messages of support and donations to NUS, c/o Magness House, Mill Hill, Deal, Kent. Tel 5828433. Cheques made out to "Womens Support Group, Deal". Magness Hse is on loan from local NUM and over 100 seamens families eat there daily, Solidarity Forever! Contact Oxford Disputes Group for local activity.

## CLAUSE 28

Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill currently going through Parliament is designed to make it illegal for local authorities to "promote" homosexuality. In its narrowest conception this is an outrageous expression of bigotry but its incredibly vague wording makes it open to widespread abuse in the hands of the viciously homophobic sections of our society. Local opposition is being organised by Oxford Gay and Lesbian Organisation (GLO) who meet every Wednesday at 6pm at the Old Fire Station, George St.

# MARTIN FORAN UPDATE

Martin Foran was framed for a robbery. When the case came to court the man who was robbed stated that Martin was not the man who had robbed him. There was no ID parade, neither were there any witnesses to the incident. He was convicted on the word of one policeman. Once imprisoned, Martin, an Irishman living in this country for many years, protested his innocence with rooftop demonstrations and as a result has been in solitary confinement for the last few years.

His health began to deteriorate while in prison but he was refused medical treatment until he was so ill that he had to be rushed to an external hospital where a colostomy was performed. In order to get this treatment he had to take as hostage a prison officer

At one point, some three wardens came into his cell, beat him up and wrenched his colostomy bag off.

Martin recently saw a specialist at St Mark's Hospital, London, and he has been informed that his lower intestine has to be removed because of his deteriorating medical condition (see previous *Black Flag's*). The tests also revealed that his nerves are all dead on one side of his spine. Martin believes this is a direct result of the beating he received from screws after his colostomy.

In the meantime Leeds Black Cross has been authorised by Martin to open and handle a campaign bank account. The authorisation is as follows (quoted from a letter to the Secretary of Leeds Black Cross - dated 11-12-87):

*...what I plan to do is set up two funds - one with a solicitor to cover legal defence, one fund with you to cover leaflets, printing bills, postage... Thought you would best be able to sort money out, cover all costs, and if possible help my wife out... To start the defence fund will you split the cash you have raised, send half to the solicitor, you keep half for the fund.*

At the time of writing Leeds Black Cross is opening a bank account in the name of Martin Foran Support Fund, the account number will appear in the next issue. Please make cheques, etc payable to that fund and send to Leeds Black Cross, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 1. All the money in this account will cover campaign costs - eg, leaflets and also for Valerie (Martin's wife) as and when she needs it. Obviously the more money that is raised the more campaigning that can be done, and more quickly.

The defence fund is being managed by Martin's solicitor - Roger Merry, Wilkes Solicitors, 9 Garfield Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight. This will pay for his legal costs in suing the Police, etc. Cheques should be made payable to Martin Foran Defence Fund Trust.

At present although £250 has been raised by Oxford Black Cross, Plymouth and ELDAM, it has all been sent to Valerie for Xmas so there is NO money to start the accounts off. Leeds Black Cross suggests that if people raise money at benefits, etc they split it 50/50 and send half to each fund.

In the meantime Martin sends thanks and greetings to all comrades who have been supporting him in his struggle for justice and freedom.

## BOOKS

In keeping with the current wave of self-organisation of workers outside union bureaucracies (especially Italy Spain and Belgium) we have on offer a few copies of books analysing recent assembly movements. There are a few copies still in EOA Books of some of these but contact us at Box A if you have trouble obtaining them.

"Wildcat Spain Encounters Democracy, 1976-8" 130pp. £1.50 about the widespread assembly movement after Franco's death, information and Polemic.

"International Dockers Struggles in the 80's" 66pp (a4) reprinted texts from the still-functioning Spanish dockers assembly - the Co ordinora; analysis of Danish, UK and Spanish dockers struggles. £1.40

"France goes off the Rails" 38pp (A4) £1, analysis and reprinted texts from the students and rail strikes in France 86-87

We also have copies of "Miner Conflicts - Major Contradictions" analysis of the UK miners strike written at the time but still relevant, 31pp (A5) 20p

These texts were produced by different organisations.

## SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The first issue of the Solidarity Network Bulletin is now available and recommended as a source of info on disputes that the media won't give and we don't have the space to. A one year subscription is £6 (£3 unwaged) individuals, £10 organisations. Individual copies can be bought at meetings of the Oxford Disputes Group, the local 'branch' of the Solidarity Network (see Events column). Local contact is T. Richardson, 2 Allin Close, Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

## GERMANY

On 27th November the closure of a Krupps steel works in Duisberg was announced, with 5,500 redundancies. An immediate strike organized by a general assembly of all the Krupps workers led to a rapid spreading of the strike and over 300,000 workers participating in a day of action on Dec. 10th. In Duisberg alone 80,000 went on strike. It had been announced in Spring that there were to be 30,000 redundancies in the steel industry with the goal of concentrating the industry in Duisberg. The Krupps closure in November showed this to be a (successful) lie designed to divide the Duisberg steelworkers from the rest of the industry.

Solidarity in this latest eruption has been tremendous, involving workers from many different sectors (Opel cars, transport and post workers) and especially significant in the linking up of the miners and steelworkers struggles. The miners union has publicly opposed this cooperation, warning of the "danger of subordination of the miners demands to those of the steelworkers". Both industries are fighting mass redundancies and the workers have continued to organise and cooperate despite union sabotage and restrictions.

(source: World Revolution, Feb 88)

## DEFEND THE NHS!

The struggle to defend the NHS seems to be taking off in earnest, and is both too large and too dynamic for us to cover adequately. Oxfordshire Health Emergency has already held public meetings and were involved in the 500+ strong march against cuts on January 23rd. They are contactable at 36 Old High St, Oxford, OX3 9HN. Why not contact them with a donation or any queries, or affiliate...

## NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS

### VICTIMISED MEMBERS

(To the NUM Special Conference 2 2 88)

Three years on and our Union still has 300 unemployed members, victims of the year long strike are still being persecuted by the state and Coal Bosses.

Three hundred, once proud working miners now reduced to living on handouts, taking themselves and their families from a proud class in society, to a level that they had never dreamt of.

Our victimised members realise now, more than ever, that their only real allies in life is the National Union of Mineworkers, and the progressive sections of the Labour Movement.

Victimised miners are still being segregated from working miners by the Coal Board.

### PENSIONS

Victimised miners have lost up to 4 years pension credits, an average of £8 per week on their pension. Rule changes were made for working members to buy back credits for lost contributions between 1984/85. No such arrangements were allowed for our victimised lads.

### UNION RECOGNITION

All local Branch officials and committee members dismissed during and after the strike are not being recognised by the Board. At the pit, Betteshanger, where there are still 30 victimised members, all three officials are not being recognised.

In reality it is now the Board who choose union representatives not the members.

### WELFARE

The Coal Board have not been satisfied with just supporting changes in the Coal Act regarding union representation on Welfare committees. C.I.S.W.O. have now changed its' rules to the effect that any victimised member being nominated by his Branch to a regional committee will be automatically disqualified from such committees. I wonder how the U.D.M. voted?

We are disappointed that the issue of Victimisation has not been agendered at this special conference.

We therefore appeal to delegates to support our claims for:-

1. A victimised member to have a non voting seat on the N.E.C.
2. A Special Delegate Conference to formulate National Policy on Victimised members.

### KENT VICTIMISED MINERS

National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign are contactable at 26 The Avenue, Durham.  
(source: Solidarity Network Bulletin)

## DEFEND THE LEICESTER TWO

Throughout the print dispute between News International and the print workers Murdoch was able to totally rely on the state, through the police the judiciary and the laws, to defend his attack on the print workers and their supporters.

The print workers had to rely on the support of other trade unionists and supporters. The Leicester Trade Council supported the print workers by setting up the printworkers support group. Two of the most active people within the support group were the Trades Council delegates, Sue Faulkner, a NUPE shop steward, and Ross Galbraith, a TGWU branch secretary.

During the strike they were both accused of "conspiring with person or persons unknown to cause criminal damage to TNT and News Fast Ltd. in Leicester and elsewhere in England and Wales". They both appeared at Leicester Crown Court on 6th of July 1987. Ross was sentenced to six months imprisonment suspended, plus a payment of £600 compensation to TNT and £70 costs. Sue's sentence was a conditional discharge but again £600 compensation and £70 costs.

Donations are urgently needed to cover these penalties - they should be sent to the Trades Council Defense fund c/o 138 Charles St Leicester.

(source: Solidarity Network Bulletin)

## SENIOR COLEMAN

Senior Coleman is a Manchester engineering firm which makes air distribution equipment. It is part of Senior Engineering Group, which has extensive South African links. A month after buying the factory in October 1986 a new "efficient" management team was sent in, no doubt reflecting Thatcherite, anti-trade unionist group chair, Roland Smith.

Within weeks they tried to impose new conditions. After union officials referred them to agreed procedure a meeting was arranged for January 22nd between the union (AEU), management and Engineering Employers' Federation. It never took place. The week before management imposed new time-sheets. The next day 4 workers were sacked within 4 hours for refusing them. On January 19th a secret ballot voted 110 to 2 for strike action unless the 4 were immediately re-instated. Management immediately started an intimidation campaign - threatening phone calls and letters telling strikers they would all be sacked. On January 21st all strikers were sacked, a scab workforce recruited from local job centres started work the next day.

The Senior Coleman strike is important locally with both management and workers keeping a close eye on it. A defeat may mean an onslaught against workers in the North West. Positive aspects are the keenness of strikers to link up with other disputes and the emergence of a support group. Together with others the picture is rosier. Donations and messages of support should be sent to: Senior Coleman Strike Committee, AEU House, The Crescent, Salford.

To our present knowledge there are still over 40 Coleman workers striking. Since they have been on strike for over a year they no longer receive strike pay. Talks in January prevented a planned visit to Oxford but the talks broke down and they may yet visit. Keep an eye open for public meetings and send donations to the address above.