THATCHER UNMOVED AS M.P. HUNGER STRIKER NEARS DEATH!

All four of the hunger strikers are now in the prison hospital. Bobby Sands is now seriously ill. He has lost over 31 pounds, He has been on hunger strike for 49 days and his family has been told by the doctor looking after him that time should now be measured in days rather than weeks.

Frankie Hughes has had the slowest weight loss of the four, having now lost 15lbs. He is feeling tired and his tongue is dry. Ray McCreesh has lost 15 lbs and is having frequent headaches. Patsy O' Hara has suffered the fastest weight lost of over 21lbs now.



BOBBY SANDS MP

With hunger striker Bobby Sands getting elected as MP by the people of Fermanagh it has undermined the argument of Thatcher and Atkins and co that only a small number of people support the hunger strikers' demands.

IF VOTING COULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM, THEY WOULD ABOLISH IT!

There was a move to expel Bobby Sands from the House of Commons. In other words if it came to it, they were prepared to 'fuck' the electoral system if it didn't suit them. The liberals felt that this expulsion was a bit too extreme, and anyawy this one man was no threat and would soon be dead anyway.

SS RUC

The electoral support has obviously needled the authorities who can be assured of cooling their anger by acting with an even heavier hand as evidenced in the past week, towards H.Block supporters. The forces are especially eager to contain any demonstrations within the ghettoes.

ALL RIGHT FOR SOME.....

The demonstrators hadn't a chance to get near the City Hall in the recent rally. The RUC (backed as usual by the Army) stopped and arrested people who were on their way down to the city hall. Although earl' ier on in the day they allowed an ICTU March and Rally at the City Hall as part of the Unions Week of (In) Action. There we had the same boring, bureaucratic farts who repeatedly tell us how bad things are for us (which we already know), how jobs Continued on back page



YOUTH MARCH

On Sunday March 29th, Youth against H-Block/Armagh staged a march from Whiterock to the City centre — Of course the march didn't get there.

The marchers were stopped in College Sq. and faced with a cordon of Brits and RUC who were happily clicking cameras.

Stewards held the militant marchers back from the line of security forces and eventually got the youth to sit—but not for long....From the back came a jeer followed by a bottle. From then on rioting broke out. The youth moved back to Divis flats where they had lots of ammunition and cover from the plastic bullets. The noticable difference between this march and others was the large scale involvement of all present.

Although a few people did get hit, the youth took it all in good spirits and were totally undeterred. The youth were eventually forced back to the flats with the Brits behind, but the Brits did not stay long as they were met with a barrage of objects and noise from the flats, with tennants helping the marchers. The Brits soon retreated and all was calm.

That march has proved that still the militancy of the Irish youth has not been broken and the peoples answer to the Brits and RUC is still the same—OUT!

But, like everything, it had it's faults—but the fault was not the youths, but of those who did not attend and participate as they usually do on such occasions.

sad it is that the youth (The slaves of slaves of slaves of slaves) get no recognition. Is it merely for fashion and credibilities sake that people recognise certain class struggles and leave the unfashionable until it becomes popular?

BRIXTON INSURRECTION

You will by now be aware of the anti police riots, the establishment of a temporary no go area and the attacks on property in South London, around Brixton, during 10-12th April.

By Monday 13th, the area was under a full scale police occupation. We contacted a friend who helps to run an Anarchist bookshop ('121'), in Railton Road, centre of the insurrection and who lives in the same area. He told us that the bookshop, which had up a poster supporting last years Bristol rict, was one of the few shops not wrecked and burned out.

Inside the half mile long no go area, he said that communication and co-operation between all people young and old, black and white was on a level he hadn't experienced before. Because there were no leaders or organisations manipulating them, those involved were able to use their creativity and determination to defend and EXTEND their resistance.

Realising the dangers of being isolated, groups of people spread out into nearby areas to attack police and property. It seems that people and private houses were not attacked. Police had to turn the local police station into a fortress to protect arrested prisoners. It is clear that the only "outsiders" were the police and the thugs like Whitelaw who ventured into the area. Our friend also said that people are jubilant and have a new confidence in their ability to resist the State.

The demands for the withdrawal of the police echoes similar desires in Belfast. We would like to see the entire working class of London and Belfast seize control of the city and kick out all police and soldiers. And then other towns....and Europe.....and......

POLAND

On March 17th. in London, the windows of the Soviet airline offices—Aeroflot—were smashed and the words 'Remember Krondstadt' daubed on the walls. This action commemorated the suppression of the Krondstadt Soviet (workers council) in March 1921 by the Bolshevik Red Army led by Leon Trotsky, which resulted in the massacre of up to 8:000 revolutionary sailors and workers who tried to defend themselves. They had called for the Russian revolution to be continued against the party then in power.

DIVERSIONS

Over the past year, summary execution has been the key Army/Police strategy in dealing with young "joy riders" in West Belfast.

The latest fatal incident took place on the 28th. March on the Grosvenor Road, after three young men in a stolen car were chased from Smithfield by a UDR landrover patrol. The UDR (predictably) said that they saw a gun being pointed at them from the back seat of the car. They opened fire, killing one person, Patrick McNally, and capturing another. Local witnesses to the killing say that at no time was there a gun in evidence - not that the UDR seemed to care, putting on an exuberant "victory" display of clenched fists for the occasion.

This was only one of many such incidents to take place recently. In the past 18 months, three young people have been shot dead, another 38 recieving gunshot or crash injuries, and two more dying in crashes. The usual Army/Police justifications are that they find it "impossible" to distinguish between joyriders and terrorists, or that a gun was seen to be pointed at them and that young people engaged in such activities could only expect to "face the consequences," although they're usually shot in the back. Local Priests and Politicians have made much the same sort of statements, "They can only expect the consequences," coupled with calls for the return of the RUC into the area.

The incidence of thefts from local people, savage beatings, rapes etc. has also increas ed, causing increasing fear and uncertainty in the community. Young (and not so young) hoods seem to be gaining increasing strength. The RUC, having been somewhat excluded since the establishment of the No go areas, are attempting to use this as a pretext for their return. Indeed, some of the hoods have been found with guns which were known to have previously been in the posession of the RUC. For their part, the Provos haven't had much success with their policy of Kneecapping as a preventative threat....seen by many as being indistinguishable from state rule by force of arms and fear.

The situation is pretty difficult to work atThe RUC and their dirty tricks. the Army/UDR and their policy of shoot to kill, the hoods ripping of those who can least afford it, going for soft targets such as old and single people. The RUC certainly know what they're doing in their attempts to bring about 'normalisation'...already their 'soft arm is moving in.

Last Summer, amidst a blaze of publicity, "Extern Organisation" announced that they were intending to start a new scheme -The West Belfast Auto Project-by which young persons engaged in joyriding would be referred to them, to be included in their project. Extern is a four year old

body, consisting of social workers, probation officers, lawyers and other people 'wh ose professional activities are concerned with the criminal justice (sic) system in N.Ireland." Other activities of Extern include 'Probationary and after care hostels'. They describe their aims as being 'primarily diversionary and preventative? In other words, channelling what the state would regard as potentially dangerous energies into safe, controlled projects... A public relations exercise in what legal, approved and granted bodies can achieve.

Externs arrogance in analysing the conditions that young people live in disgusts: "Taking and driving away motorcars has become a feature of the youth sub-culture in the West Belfast area. It has replaced for those involved, the excitement which they found in street incidents at the height of civil unrest. It is symptomatic of the adolescent stage of development (we'll beat it out of them eventually), it provides the opportunity to impress the peer groupbeing involved in taking and driving away confers status and esteem

So, Externs objectives are not concerned with changing the way in which people relate to motorcars as "status" symbolsof course not-the need to achieve and impress is supposedly a healthy thing-one of the foundation stones of the present society in which the real needs of people, old and young, aren't facilitated for Externs role is merely one of containing the frustration that exists as a result of a highly alienated society, televisions and drink ing clubs to temporarily relieve the misery (artificially), creating a misery of their own, "diverting" they call it. What we do not need is another cheap vanguard, telling us to look away from ourselves to a foreign body who will take on the responsibility of solving all -they won't. What it means is leaving all to a system which is trying to regain respect and return the police into the midst of our lives. (Extern admit that, to be successful, they need to work alongside the police). This is one of the roots of the alienation...so many groups and organisations, armed or unarmed, who we are told to leave all problems to. We are told that it is unnecessary for us to even think about such problems as joyriding...leave it to the system. If we are ever to take our lives into our own hands, we should immediately address the problems around us, without such obstacles to REAL community involvement as social workers, probation officers, arrogant middle class liberals "doing their bit" for the social good.

In Spain there exists independant 'cultural centres," rooms, houses, cafes, where people go to meet, discuss and learn from each other and work on problems which are immediate to their lives, unlike our 'own' state run community centres. Hopefully in the next issue, we'll be carrying an article that we'll be able to learn something from. PS. Isn't it funny that almost all buildings for sale in the working class ghetto areas sell with licenses for the sale of alcohol?

THEY MARCHED THEM UP TO THE TOP OF THE HILL AND THEY MARCHED THEM DOWN AGAIN.

On Saturday 28th March Ian Paisley held the final Carson Trail rally in demonstration against the Anglo Irish discussions. A counter flow system operated with as many people coming down the hill from Stormont as going up at any one time. The bands as they arrived at the feet of the Carson statue turned and dandered back down, whether to march up again or just to keep on walking to the pub is anyone's guess. Its no wonder the 'big' man intermittingly kept shouting 'And they are still coming in the gate'.

The march was solely a numbers game—the guesses wide and varied from 100,000 (Paisley) 30,000 (RUC) just under 10,000 (Irish Times) between 5,000 to 6,000 (meself). Peter Robinson took great pains to intimidate the media into reporting the large turnout...not often is it possible to walk up to the main platform without having to push through a crowd.

Impressions varied-it wasn't quite the drunken atmosphere of other loyalist/orange marches. It was slightly more colourful than an H Block demo with a lot more bands in their day glo oranges, reds, whites and blues....the right hand straight up to God during the I swears echoed fascism...the short prayer lasting well over a quarter hour damning everybody and everything and containing the usual religious hocus pocus wasn't even entertaining and attracted the 30+ age group only. (1,000 actually stayed for the meeting). Whereas everyone younger was attempting to make a day of it...whether that was boozing, queueing up to buy crisps or scrapping with the Glen skinheads.

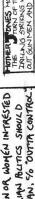
Well, phase two has ended and the talks are still going on...and go on they will whether Haughey Thatcher say they are/aren't cause they always have been whether directly or indirectly through the E.E.C.

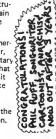
S-ELECTION

Even full of holes, Reagan is still yving with Thatcher as to who can snarl the loudest at the Russian war-lords, who in turn are busy trying to stop most Polish people from claiming back some of their lost dignity. The big-Time generals are blundering and spending their way to wards a war.....any war. So preparations

are being made at all levels late last month even the 26 local district councils were given their instructions by the NIO as to how to behave when things got outtal their control. Basically the local councils have no real say in the command structure the British Govt, would set up if nuclear war was triggered, or even if the local scene got too hot to handle....The main centre of control would rest in the secret Govt/military bunker at Armagh, housing the "centre for regional control." This bunker is the nerve centre, sending out instructions to four military area controls, again in secret underground bunkers (like the one up the Malone Rd.)

The job of the 26 regional councils is merely to supervise what is left of a disaster. to take orders from the police and military to bury the dead, to hoard the food. That these little self-opinionated fools can sit down and talk about such madness, take their brief from an insane government with a police and military back-up and then ask us to VOTE for them-any of the them-in May, is beyond comprehension.





CND: Disarming reason we have the bomb is due to the development of the state, capital, multinationals who manipulate and exploit on that strength. Nuclear power is not very different in that it is developed by the

About 200 attended the CND lecture/meeting at Queens University on Tuesday, 2nd. April. The panel numbered four, a chairperson, two political hacks, Kilfedder of the 'Popular Unionist Party,' and an unknown from the SDLP, plus Bruce Kent, director of CND.

Kilfedder kicked of with a half hour oration about how good he was to be opposed to nuclear missiles, considering many a good 'un has been pushed into the political wilderness for such a stand.

The person from the SDLP was barely audible, muttering something about "the crisis" before his beard engulfed his throat.

Lastly Bruce Kent spoke, an extremely articulate, smooth and witty deliverer who launched straight away into the CND analysis of why we have nuclear missiles. Firstly, we heard of the institutions who foster confrontation, domination....the State. churches, multinationals etc...and because of these characteristics, these institutions have forced us to live under a nuclear threat. The CND director then made proposals as to how we should best oppose the Trident missiles etc...and that is through these very institutions who have created the confrontation, domination, exploit. ation and hierarchies. Indeed the churches should be at the forefront of opposition to nuclear missiles! In fact, it is obvious that all these institutions should be got rid of.

The local Belfast CND branch takes the Bruce Kent analysis to an extreme. They state on their application form that they are opposed to the removal of any uranium from Ireland unless there are some guarantees that it won't be used for missiles.... and who is to give these guarantees? Of course—the state, the same state who's pushing to have nuclear missiles, and also to build them, which is a totally absurd suggestion.

Opposition to the nuclear arms race then has to follow certain lines suggest the pannel, a pannel which represents the thinking of CND in general and CND Belfast in particular.

Kilfedder is convinced that the best strategy is to write to your MP, and when he asked how many of the 200 present had in fact written to their duly elected represent atives (id:) he was met with silence. There was only one sensible voice who suggested that they wouldn't even talk to their MP if they called to their front door.

CND opposition is one of co-option, where you join CND, pay your membership and the committee will do the rest...it will petition, appeal or whatever on your behalf...occasionally they will ask you out to participate in a march from point A to B and so participate in the numbers game.

Passive marches of this kind will do nothing to change the state's plans on nuclear arms, as can be seen from the massive and ineffective CND rallies of the '60's. The renewed intrest now seems to have been stimulated by the growth in the independant anti-nuclear groups, but is much more superficial. CND policy is one of opposing the bomb alone — it does not involve itself with nuclear power, uranium mining (unitself in the production), the existence of armies and ecological questions. The

reason we have the bomb is due to the development of the state, capital, multinationals who manipulate and exploit on that strength. Nuclear power is not very different in that it is developed by the same people for the same objective, one of centralised exploitation. To be opposed to one we've got to be opposed to the other. To be opposed to the nuclear industry in total is to be opposed to the notion of the state and exploitation — This is one responsibility which can't be co-opted to the CND committee. CND's support seems to be based on open - style protest, but requiring no opposition or resistance to the state.

A question that must be asked is why were the special branch invited along to stand at the back? Plus, who did the inviting? I also think that the whole format of the meeting must be questioned. What is the benefit of three personalities regurgitating words to bolster their failing egos? In the discussion that followed, why was it that only a dozen or so people participated? Were the other 190 empty of thoughts and suggestions? — I think not.

I think it would have been a more worthwhile evening if organisers energies had gone into seeing that there was information available that could have been brought away, read, and thought about. Also, every one present could have broken up into workshops and discussed, rather than differentiating between Trident and Cruise missiles, how they are going to challenge the nuclear state and get on with it. Create your own independant groups, ideas and activities.

Hunger Strike

As far as we know, the 31 Marxist and Anarchist prisoners of the Red Army Fraction/2nd. of June Movement have called off their hunger-strike. This follows the death of one of the hunger strikers. They were demanding to be treated as prisoners of war, get free association and. communication, an end to electrical surveillance and the release of two who are critically ill.

Despite deliberate media silence, many actions—occupations, demonstrations, riots, pickets etc.—were carried out in support of the prisoners. Since the death, rioting has occured in several West German Cities and is likely to continue, with the police on alert for riot duty.

on alert for riot duty.
"Amnesty International"now say that they
will take up the prisoners case (which they
have supposedly been doing since 1979),
all though on previous performances, we
can expect very little from them.

MAKE RIO TINTO STINK ...

Irish and British anti-nuclear people are planning activities against Rio Tinto Zinc.... May 4th.—11th.. They are the world's most corrupt and powerful multi-national mining concern and amongst other things, are directly responsible for thousands of deaths in Namibia......in their attempt at extracting uranium to feed the western nuclear machines

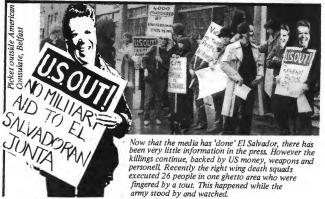
May 4th.-11th....to make Rio Tinto Stink!!

Govt. at Work

The British war machine is spending £3000 million on their air defences. A large chunk

of this -£100 million-is going to go to U.K.A.D.G.E United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment (improved!).... the communications network which manages and directs the nuclear weapons. A large part of this bill-80%-is being donated by the US dominated NATO. Most of the money will be spent on 50 underground "command and communication centres."...many will have computers to handle information from radar aircraft and new radar installations. Planes and remote fixed radar will feed information to central control centres, where it is decided which missiles and which aircraft will attack and kill -already 2 new military radars have been ordered...at Buchan in NE Scotland and Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

Twelve such stations will be built in the 1980's, and when war is imminent, when the British/US generals are ready to attack the radars will be moved to a 'safe' site. It is thought that one of the 12 mobile radar units will be at Bishopscourt, and in time of war moved to St. Angels (Fermanagh) or near Ballycastle. But won't the Russians respond and go for them there? Not quite. the British and Americans plan to build decoys...radar that will transmit identical signals, give out the same amount of heat... so that any retaliated strike with a nuclear warhead will head for the decoy. So the mobile radar at Bishopscourt gets shifted North....is it a decoy station that the British military are currently building at St. Johns Point in SE Down, a mere 12 miles away from there? Wouldn't it be a pity if the entire population of Downpatrick and the surronding area were to get wiped out -just because the British war mongerers operated a decov?



Hunger Strike cont. from Page 1 are scarce, how the welfare state is crumbling, how the government is going in the wrong direction and please go quietly home and see you same time next year (hopefully we'll have wised up to them by then).



Workers on their day of action in support of the Hunger Strike were also prevented from entering the city centre at College Street on their way to hold a picket outside Transport House, the ITGWU headquarters, rioting followed when the demonstration broke up.

OCCUPY!

The GPO occupation in Royal Avenue in the City Centre was short lived as once again the RUC moved quickly in and again arrests were made.

BETTER LATE?

Undoubtedly and unfortunately things really will 'take off' one way or another where the last hunger strike left off ie: when Bobby Sands is about to die. There will be fewer mass organised events and more spontaneous actions.

CONFUSION

There is still concern about the rather confusing end to the last hunger strike. With the prisoners relying on the goodwill of the British Government to carry out the verbal agreement to meet the prisoners demands and then reneging surely history and indeed their own situation has taught them not to trust the Brits. And the Brits arrangement was even more suspect when before and after the Hunger Strike they repeatedly stated that there would be no sell out and not giving in to the prisoners demands.

THE WAY FOR GETTING THINGS DONE

When the last hunger strike was declared 'over' most action groups 'stood down'. However they should have been encouraged to continue to wait for the final out come and even taken up other issues.

It was clearly demonstrated that a lot of local groups were effectively able to carry out dynamic and often original actions and propaganda collectively and individually. As people felt directly involved they were able to do things for themselves without being led by some political party. or central committees. Local organising led to people frankly debating the wider situation they found themselves in.

HEADS ON THE BLOCK

Five years of protest by the prisoners has not won back political status but has shown that only through the support and actions of people outside can their demands be won. A lot of people actively supporting the last hunger strike were harassed, beaten up, fined and imprisoned and murdered because of their actions. Therefore the prisoners inside should have a responsibility towards informing people and not just consulting their political

groups as to any negotiations with the government. This would clarify publicly any agreement which the British state might reach. They would find it more difficult to winkle out of it.

NO CENSUS

The mass burning and non return of the census forms has provided yet another way of resisting Thatcher. Some local groups have merely said'no status', 'no census while other groups have exposed the real role of the census as vet another weapon to use and sorted us.



Shooting the women who may well be classed as an event of the crite for simply collecting the characteristics forms is certainly grabbing the wrong end of the stick. If it was indeed carried out by an anti-H Block supporter, she did not deserve to be shot because other people decided to co-operate and fill in their forms. Are the 23,000 people employed by the state also enemies? The action of seizing the census forms from the collectors can only lead to government delay in getting them again or prosecuting those who have not returned them,

FLECTIONS

With the timely death of Frank Maguire in Fermanagh, this had given the opportunity to put forward Bobby Sands as a candidate. It was a straight fight between Unionist Harry West and Bobby Sands (the anti unionist candidates having temporarily withdrawn from the contest until Bobby Sands resigns or dies when the election can be 'properly' fought),

Although not going directly forward as a Sinn Fein candidate but on the label as an H Block prisoner, standing Bobby Sands is a departure for Sinn Fein who have usually abstained from and boycotted elections in the North, They didn't recognise the British State (though they go in for elections down South thus showing that they are ultimately statist) However will the voting of the IRA O/C

Bobby Sands be seen by Sinn Fein as the total legitimatisation of the military struggle or do the votes of the Fermanagh people simply mean a peaceful way of rejecting Britain's policies/presence or for humanitarian reasons or is there no alternative but to vote for Bobby Sands to stop a loyalist getting the satisfaction of being elected?

DON'T VOTE: ORGANISE

Perhaps people should have ignored the democratic process and abstained from this and any other election farce thereby supporting the prison struggle indirectly and rejecting the electoral system completely. Okay, West would have got in but the system of money and power continues to dominate us all, one way or another so what difference does it make who gets

The election has provided an armchair 'spectacle' for the pople of Fermanagh and and the mass media. The organisers believe it is useful in gaining publicity in the mass media. But the reliance on bourgeois media only reflects our own weaknesses in communicating and reinforces the idea

that after a period of silence on the prison issue, TV is once again 'interesting'. Ultimately it will do more harm than good

EXTREME DAMAGE

The media were hysterical in equating a vote for Bobby Sands as a vote for terrorism little expecting him to win. The media have hung themselves with their own words. And probably many others by insinuating that everybody who voted, supported the military campaign, justifying them as legitimate targets in the eyes of the lovalist paramilitary groups.

Poland cont, from Page 1 **GENERAL STRIKES**

Their programme (which is available at 'Just Books') is similar in some ways to the demands developed by the working class resistance in Poland.

At present in Poland, there is a class war. In every workplace, people have created assemblies of ALL the workers, co-ordinated in each town and region by Workers Councils of recallable delegates. They resist by seizing directly all factories and offices in a region (like the week long general strike and occupations in the Bielsko-Biala region in March), as well as some Govt, buildings. There was also the four hour TOTAL general strike on March 27th

Such working class solidarity is on a scale rarely experienced anywhere in the world before, and is a lesson and inspiration to us all.

WHAT CHOICES?

The Polish ruling class has two major choices-to concede reforms, or to oppose with their army (if they will fight), backed by the Russian Army.

But there is a world wide economic recession, and everywhere people are being forced to accept worse standards of living conditions, coupled with increasing state repression. At the same time, all Govts. grow more ruthless in order to defend themselves. They are unable to concede any more reforms or improvements to us.

So what choices for those working and living in Poland? If they seek reforms (as they are at present), the rulers will continue to encourage the growing Solidarinosk bureaucracy. They will use it, coupled with the Catholic church, to institutionalise and divide, weaken and control the workers councils and assemblies. In this way, resistance could be undermined, then defeated.

However, the other choice is for social revolution, the seizure of all production (already proved possible) and the streets and land too, under the direct control of the people themselves (not the new Solidarinosk officialdom). They will need to

defend it with arms, and to call for solidarity and similar action amoungst workers throughout Europe (East and West), spreading across the whole world. After all, we are all in the same boat when it comes down to it, and the alternative seems to be to accept as inevitable a world war and annihilation

Occupations are on the increase in Ireland (like Euroweld) and Britain-it's about time they were spread, co-ordinated, overflowed into the neighbourhoods, and moved onto the offensive against this exploiting and destructive system.

As we seize control in this way, we would begin at the same time to transform our lives and environment,

Galning From Outta Control Women's Supplement The right to vote, or equal or demands, but true emancipa polls, nor in courts. It begins that women learn that lesson from its masters through its that woman learn that lesson freedom will reach as far as.

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

CONTRACEPTIVE JAB
ROYAL EXPERIMENTS ON WOMEN

In the early seventies a new contraceptive drug was added to the existing list. The new drug was hailed widely as an answer to all women's problems concerning pregnancy. Why? You might ask—was it safer? was it more effective than the pills in existence? did it have no side effects? On all these questions the answer was a resounding no—but it did have one different feature from other contraceptive drugs. You didn't take it once a day-it was injected, only once every three to six months and you were guarded for that whole period. No more worries about forgetting, easy, quick and cheaper.

Well, that was what the drug company who produced it claimed anyway. The drug was marketed in the USA by a company called UpJohn—its name was Depo Provera. In the USA though, to sell a drug you must have the approval of the Food and Drug Administration. As with all drugs the FDA initiated investigations and in 1971 refused it a licence, banning the drug after research show showed that it caused breast cancer in dogs. The Upjohn company immediately appealed the decision but ten years later the drug is still banned in the USA and more recent research has shown a connection between cervical cancer and depo provera.

So after that you might be forgiven for thinking that that was the end of it....you were wrong. Upjohn having spent a considerable amount of time and most importantly money on the development of depo provera had to make up their losses.......and they have. They simply exported the drug out of the USA to any country that wasn't as fussy as the US Food and Drug Administration. In practical terms that means most Third World countries and also many European countries including Britain—but we'll return to that.

This process is known as 'dumping' and is a common practice in the USA. Drugs, chemicals, pesticides and baby products have all been dumped on the third world when turned down or banned in the USA. Although the US government has banned the item if we take depo provera it is the US government under the guise of the US agency for International Development that exports the item. AID buys up large quantities of products to send to developing countries— in particular it buys up contraceptives because it believes that people outside the USA are breeding too much and should be stopped.

It then distributes these products at a cost to countries around the world and South American, African and Asian women end up using products which have been declared unsafe for American women. So over 5 million women in 70 countries have used depo provera despite the huge risks involved

dizziness and headaches AND a high chance of infertility. The problem though is that once you have the injection them the side effects are with you until the drug wears off—there is no way to stop it.

Upiolin themselves recommend that the drug should only be used in cases where a woman has completed her family, or in older women where all else has failed—yet the drug is used wholesale as a family planning method among young women throughout the third world.

But lets get nearer home. In Britain the Committee on Safety of Medicines who control drugs does not have the power that the FDA has—so although it has approved Depo-Provera for 'short term' use it has no powers to ban it. Consequently Depo Provera has been used and continues to be used in Britain and is recommended in MIMS- a monthly reference index of drugs sent free to doctors. In the

The drug is injected by a doctor or nurse and is effective for up to six months depending on dosage. As well as the links between depo provera and cancer, the drug itself has many side effects including constant nausea,

We would like any woman who wants to make comments, write articles/small news items, coming events to contact us at C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1. Tel:25426

HOSPITAL CRECHE CLOSURE

The day care nursery at the Royal Victoria is to be closed down at the end of May. It was one of three nurseries in Northern Ireland, all privately run, and had provision for seventy children, with another hundred on the waiting list. This is just another example of how the cuts in public expenditure are affecting the workers—both the bus service and the internal bank, both important facilities for people working in shifts, have already been closed down.

Hospital work is not a nine to five job and apart from the usual difficulties (sickness, lack of permanancy) women face when leaving their children with childminders, or relatives, the women affected at the Royal will have the extra problem of finding someone to look after their young children at unsuitable hours. This may well prove to be impossible and will force them to consider part time work or unemployment.

The provision of nurseries in Northern Ireland is scandalously non existent. Three years ago the British Government's White Paper 'Policy and Objectives for Daycare and Education for the Underfives' was advocating the doubling of nursery schools and playgroups by 1983, which although it hasn't happened yet, would still have been hopelessly too little to affect the situation.

Women have always had to work outside the home to supplement the family income or because their men were unemployed. The closures and the cuts are forcing women back into the home: and the State is in no way going to make it easier for them to compete for the few jobs going by providing good child-care provision. There are already hundreds of applications for jobs in the Royal and they are interviewing 50 people after selection procedures for low level jobs.

The State has always used women as pawns in the struggle to find and keep employment. During the last war the Ministry of Commerce ran day care nurseries in Northern Ireland because women were needed to work in industry. When the war ended and some of the men returned they were all closed down so that the women would be forced to leave their jobs for the men. The Ministry in their circular of 1945 reinforced this by a great discovery of the time 'the best place for a child under the age of two is at home with his mother'

This view that women should be at home caring for their children and husbands is a relatively new idea. From the seventicenth century onwards, the family has become a centre for childcare and work is seen as an activity done outside the home.

Where did all the creches go?

The view that women should remain at home is reinforced through the media and the State by the lie of the ideal familytwo parents, father employed, semi-detached house with car and the requisite two children-that the majority of us do not fit into this prescription is obvious. The role of 'mother' is exaggerated. There is no way that a woman has unlimited time and energy to spend with her child. For a start she may have two, five or ten other children to consider, as well as all the other domestic chores and financial hassles to consider. She may not want to fit in with the State's stereotype and want to carry on with her work. A purpose built day nursery, playgroup, creche, or nursery school is a stimulating environment, probably much more so than the home. Children need to mix with other children of the same age and whether it be for two and a half hours at a playgroup or all day in the nursery, women need the break too. A child cooped up at home with his/her mother all the time is more likely to emerge the aggressive, possessive ego centric clinging to mother five year old we have all either been or seen-the junior version of many grown ups around him/her.

WE WONT LET ANYONE CHOOSE FOR US OUR BODIES OUR CHOICE

On the 8th April Dr Harvey Jackson was jailed for three years for performing three abortions. At his trial the judge said that although Jackson had probably acted out of feeling for the women, abortion was none the less a serious crime in Northern Ireland. It appears that Jackson did not charge very much for his services in one case £4, and in another £20, and his defence council argued that both these sums were offered to Jackson, as he would have helped the women involved for nothing.

In all three cases the women involved suffered some sort of complication after the abortion, one woman died though she had been to another person before she came to Jackson and so he was not held responsible for her death. Jackson also had a drinking problem and the abortions were carried out in unsanitary conditions and in a crude and dangerous way.

These three cases point to a simple truth - that whatever the danger to them selves women will have abortions. The fact that abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland just means that if they don't have the money to go to England then they will find other means which may have tragic results. Whatever we may feel about the way that Jackson carried out these abortions, it is clear that he acted out of concern for the women involved. His sentence is an indictment of both the legal and the medical professions here who can stand by and let women suffer needlessly because they cannot obtain free and legal abortions here. The results of the court case should not have been a prison sentence but a call for legal abortions in Northern Ireland, for until that happens there will always be such cases and women will continue to have illegal abortions here, or be forced to go to England to have one. After only four months of 1981 the figures for women going to England for that purpose has almost doubled, that means that the total figure for the year is likely to be well over 3000, and taking Ireland as a whole that could be around 7000!

PEGGY SEEGER - in concert

Congratulations to the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement for one of the best concerts in Belfast in a long time. The concert was the one organised for International Women's Day this year. It was held in the McMordie Hall at Queens, and followed the rally in the city centre earlier that day when the theme was women's health.

The concert was in two parts, the first contained several women entertainers who sang in a variety of languages, and proved that the women's movement here has a wealth of talent where music is concerned. It would be a good idea to get them all together again soon. The second part of the concert was given over to Peggy Seeger, who opened by apologising for her star billing, and praising the women who had gone before her. She was accompanied by her son, and together they played and entertained us for the rest of the evening.

I must admit that I went to the concert with some trepidation - I had heard

records by Peggy Seeger before and didn't really like them a lot. But the live Seeger does not compare with the recorded one. She was amazing on stage, vital, humerous, and at one with her whole audience.

The evening ended with all the performers back on stage singing with the audience "The women's army is marching'. We all left in a jubilant mood, as befitted international women's day. I hope that it won't be too long before we get to hear Peggy Seeger again in Belfast.

CONFERENCE ON IMPERIALISM UNITY MEETING

Once again this year, many British and international feminists arrived in the north to picket Armagh prison on International Women's Day, to show their solidarity with the protesting prisoners there. The preceding day had seen a conference on women in Irish society, and their relationship to the anti-imperialist struggle. Badly planned with very few women from Belfast turning up, and many more women-up to 400 instead of the expected 80arriving from overseas, the conference was disappointing. It was very much a speakers to the auditorium affair; no workshops to talk and explore ideas in greater depth. Maybe that would have been difficult to organise for 400 women at such short notice, I personally don't think so. Perhaps it wouldn't have felt so important if we hadn't been subjected to a series of statements about policy from the various groups, admittedly some of the more cliched coming from British feminists 'belonging to a revolutionary movement, blah, blah,.....

The best and certainly the most courageous speech came from a member of Women Against Imperialism. She spoke of how their time and energy had been spent on the Armagh/H-block issue, to the exclusion of the many struggles that feminists in the north had been fighting. An exclusion that had helped to break up the group and make them feel more and more isolated. Sadly this speech was not taken up and debated. All too often we are presented with the simplistic idea that the priority is national liberation and feminist issues will be sorted out later in a united Ireland (in about six weeks time if you need an abortion!).

But the reality isn't like that. Imagine for example, if you were a single parent for whatever reason, death, separation, prison, probably living on social security, maybe wanting to get a job, but with well over IOO,000 unemployed in the north, it becomes a question of luck more than ability, experience or qualification. There is no one to look after the children anyway because there are no full day nurseries. Money is short you witheld the rent and rates in the protest at internment or got behind with electricity payments so the Payment for Debt Act takes £II per week out of your supplementary benefit before you even get it We all know that the list is endless and not by any means restricted to single parent families. Women have committed suicide, taken alarming doses of valium, abandoned new born babies, shoplifted, or prostituted themselves or their daughters under the pressure. Feminists have always been the first to raise these issues and actively campaign, many of us have been through the mill and can't ignore them even if it does seem impossible to fight them all at once, and yet still recognise the importance of defeating imperialism. If there is to be

another conference next year perhaps we could talk about these issues.

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

When I heard about the new Sinn Fein Women's Programme, I thought of the amazement generated when feminists read their first policy document 'Eire Nua' - they had simply forgotten half the population in their united Ireland, women this document is an attempt to remedy the situation.

During the last two years there has been increasing support for the protesting women prisoners from feminists in Britain and abroad. In the light of this it has become embarrassing for Sinn Fein not to have a programme on women because there is a lot of potential and importance in such international support. As any group though can write up a programme, the test will be whether Sinn Fein gives active support to the issues they have

So what is in the document? Well there would be divorce, equal oppurtunities for women in employment, changes in the educational system particularly to eliminate sexism, contraception would be available within the family, all in all a lot of stress has been placed on passing laws to make women more equal - laws which we know from experience can be broken, repealed, ignored or have so many loopholes to be useless anyway.

The main criticism has to be the 'there will be no abortion 'clause, 'for this is a very Catholic country, and the majority of women don't want them anyway'. Since when has Sinn Fein recognised majorities? Besides which over 5000 women leave Ireland north and south every year to seek abortions in England. over IO years that starts mounting into quite a sizeable number the majority of whom are Catholic! To ease the situation there would be no illegimacy, as if that is the only reason women have abortions. No law will remove the stigma, and the social and economic difficulties of having a child on ones own - that is where action is needed. The choice whether or not to have a child should be the woman's choice and hers alone, only she can decide what affects her. No woman should have to genuflect before any state, any state's morality, or any state's religious lies and beg for an abortion. Finally, lesbianism doesn't get a mention!

We were told that this was the first step towards a programme on women and that some Sinn Feiners felt that it didn't go far enough. It reads like the sort of list that feminists might compile of issues to be dealt with in the short term (although I doubt if many feminists would accept its shortcomings), rather than a picture of a society where women are liberated and not oppressed.

TORY TO THE ARMAGH WOME

The Unity Meetings are open to all women and to all women's groups. They take place every month and have instigated campaigns such as the Debt Campaign, Abortion Campaign, Rape Crisis Centre etc etc.

The Unity Meeting of April 4th was a noisy experience. We hope that it was not too overwelming for any woman who was there for the first time. As we tried to make our voices heard above the sounds of children playing at our feet, we decided that a creche was absolutely essential-how we organise one is to be the topic for discussion at our next meeting

The meeting decided that a women's newsletter for the North would be invaluable in developing contacts and providing a forum for communication. The first issue-for women only-will be out at the beginning of May.

The main discussion concerned the local Government elections-what could the women's movement do to make its presence felt?

A series of questions are being compiled and sent out to candidates asking their views on childcare, health, equal pay, low paid women workers, cuts in the social services etc. ... which will also be sent out as a press statement, Many issues will be raised at this election, but it will be the first time that women have made it plain what their priorities.

Next Unity Meeting: 9th May at 11am, Women's Centre, 18 Donegall Street.

Deadline for articles for newsletter: 27th April. Send articles to women's

NOTE: 16th May-International Day of Action on Contraception, Abortion, Sterilization. Stalls in Commarket from 11am, Disco Students Union in the evening.



A society which is geared towards all people's needs, where no one, especially children, is underestimated, is not a pleasant dream, unobtainable and idealistic. To want community nurseries community after school day centres, nurseries in places of work which are controlled by the people who use them. is not a luxery that we forego when the State wants to crazily balance the books. The closure of the creche at the Royal will become an important issue during the next two weeks and all support should be given by feminists to the hospital workers in the fight to save their creche.

FILM REVIEW

If you want a good night out, lookout for the film Nine to Five when it comes to Belfast. The plot is simple enough - three secretaries decide to take revenge on a boss who treats them like servants and family pets and who is in their own words 'a sexist, egotistical, hypocritical, and stupid bigot'. Having chained him up in his own palatial home, they procede to run the office for the next six weeks, raise productivity, job satisfaction, and general happiness by putting the workers needs first, during which time no one misses Mr Hart - the boss.

The three women involved are Lily Tomlin head of the section who had taught Hart



"Hire him.

He's got great legs."



his job, and for her efforts was passed by repeatedly when promotions were made and given to men; Jane Fonda a woman who has never worked outside the home until her husband runs off with his secretary, and she suddenly finds she needs the money; Lastly there is Dolly Parton who no one will talk to because they think she is having an affair with the boss, while in reality she is repeatedly fighting his lecherous advances off.

Having taken enough of Hart's insults and demands they team up in an attempt to regain their dignity and self-esteem, and the result is a very funny film full of slapstick, jokes, fantasy scenes, and one with a hardedged feminist message. The film shows how secretaries are exploited by their bosses, being called girls by men younger than them, doing the bosses slopping in their lunch hour, having their ideas poached and never being given any credit for them, being used as sex objects, and as coffee makers.

The film points out that most of the work done in any office is done by the women workers there not by the boss, and that doing without him for long periods proved no problem at all.

The three women were not as divorced from their sisters in the typing pool, so they proceed to instigate a whole programme to help the workers - a creeche, flexible working hours, job sharing, individuality, and better pay. All works beautifully until the boss escapes, but we won't tell you the ending - suffice to say its a happy one.

We don't agree with all the sentiments expressed in the film, as it is firmly rooted in the capitalist way of life and no real criticisms are made of that. On the other hand though the film does show the possibilities when workers do things for themselves and work co-operatively and imaginatively together. And its really good to see real women portray ed, living real lives on the big screen - a must

DEPO PROVERA

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

middle seventies the drug was used experimentally in the poorest and highest unemployment areas of Glasgow where it was felt that women were unreliable and that injectable contraceptives were the only guarantee of no ptegnancies particulary amongst so called 'problem' families Depo Provera has also been used on mentally handicapped women and women in mental hospitals. It is also used for the treatment of menstrual disorder or where women have a history of painful periods.
The CSM recommended that depo provera should be used in only two cases-where a couple are waiting for vasectomy or where a woman has been in contact with german measles and should not conceive for a certain period. But there is nothing to prevent a doctor using a drug in whatever way they choose and it is clear that CSM's guidelines are widely disregarded.

In Northern Ireland the situation is no different. Depo Provera is being used here Over the last two years Depo Provera has been dispensed by the Royal Victoria Hospital to women both as a contraceptive and to clear up menstrual problems. The RVH is clearly running some sort of experiment, it is fully aware of the dangers of the drug and the guidelines laid down by CSM, yet it has never informed any women of its dangers, in fact few women have even been told the name of the drug they have been injected with. In recent months several cases of prescription by GP have come to light in Northe Northern Ireland—so the drug is effectively being used on a widescale.

The medical profession is once again treating women as guinea pigs and testing drugs without the consent of the women involved.

If your doctor offers you a wonder contraceptive that you get through injection as him/her what it is called.

Remember the following:

- 1. Depo Provera has been linked positively with both breast and cervical cancer.
- 2. It has particulary upsetting side effects
- 3. It may cause infertility.
- 4. It has been BANNED in the USA.

You have the right to refuse to be experimented on— USE IT.

...and for those of us trying to get pregnant

Present studies indicate that the average male sperm count is declining at a fast rate—in 1923, it was around 100 million sperm, per cubic centimetre of semen—today it is around 50. (20 or below is regarded as sub-normal) Why? The decline is linked with a dramatic rise in the last 30 years of chemicals—in particular pesticides such as DDT and agent orange, and in radiation levels as more nuclear power stations are built Other causes include sterlising agents used in hospitals, regular smoking of marijuana and increase in VD levels. Men at greatest occupational risk include

workers in Medicine, Dentistry, smelting storage, battery production, chemistry, bakeries, glass factories, radar, aviation, radiation and X rays.

AND MALE IMPOTENCE -

Often male impotence is linked to psychological problems—stress, anxiety in performance, general worries, but the following have also been given as causes and should be considered if the problem arises:

1. Drugs like tranquilisers, antidepressants Taganeitt (for ulcers) excess alchohol,

heavy smoking of both marijuana and tobacco and high doses of Aspirin.

- 2. Diabetes, where nerve damage has occured.
- 3. Prostrate operations.
- Operations on the Colon and virtually all abdominal surgery will cause temporary impotence.
- -Remember though- Occasional impotence is "normal" in all men.

DETEN IN IRELAND, WITH DAMP + DARK WEATHER, ONLY LEAVES ARE HAILVESTED. TE PLANTS FLOWER, THE POTENTCH + YIELD WILL BE INCREASED, SO IT'S HANG PLANTS UBSIDE DOWN IN BLEST TO LEAVE THEM UNTIL SEPTEMBER (OR THE 1ST FROST) OR WHEN A DARK ROOM + LEAVE TO DRY THEY HAVE THUY FLOWERED ... HOMEGROWN ERASS IS USUALLY BRIGHT FOR 2-3 WERTS. CREEN + FAIRLY POTENT!

AFTER ABOUT 3 to 4 MONTHS OF GROWING, WIEN THE LIGHT DAY BECOME SHORTER THE PLANT FLOWERS. THIS USUALLY HAPPENS BITWEEN JULY AND LATE SEPTEMBER. THERE CAN BE FEMALE + MALE FLOWERS ON SEPTEMBE PLANTS OR BOTH ON ONE PLANT.

LEGALISE DOPE -

SITES: THE MOST IMPORTANT NEED OF A PLANT (ESTECIALLY MARJUANA) IS LIGHT. THE SUNNIER THE SITE IS, THE BETTER-A WINDOW WHICH FACES SOUTH, TOWARDS THE SUN, OR A FIELD WHICH I'S NOT SHADOWED, ARE BEST. SOIL SHOULD BE RICH, AND TOO HEAVY OR CLAYISH.

MALE FLOWERS LOOK LIKE THIS

FEMALE FLOWERS IF NO POLIEN GETS NEAR

WHERE THE SEED IS THE FEMALE FLOWERS, THEY GROW INTO LARGE, START OF POTENT CONES, SO

SON BACKWINDOWSILLS FALING SOUTH. IN GREENHOUSES, IN CLEARINGS I'N FORESTEE OR FIRDS, AMONG GORSE BUSH OR ON CANNABIS, MARIJUANNA, OR WASTE GROUND ARE GOOD SITES-ANYWHERE FOR FROM BABYLON

OPEN OFTER 3 OR 4 DAZE!

HARUESTING THE FLOWERING MALE PLANTS ROP POLLEN

GRASS, HASH, CANNABLS RPSIN (LIKE THE SAP)

观观200000

+ HOW TO GROW IT!

ALL COME FROM THE SAME PLANT -

HEMP (ALSO THE

(ANNABIS PLANT) WAS ONCE GROWN IN

FRELAND FOR IT'S FIBRE.

PROPS

LARGE NUMBERS OF FEMALE FLOWERS TORM

SEED IS

FORMED AND FLOWER

BEGIN'S TO DIE ...

"ONES"

F PLANTING IN CONTAINERS, THE BIGGER THE CONTAINER, THE BETTER. EVEN CASTIC BAGS H PRAINABE BOTTOM WORK WE

IF THE SOIL USED IS RICH FROM THE BEGINNING, KANNABIS PLANTS WON'T NEED ANY FOOD (THOUGH THELI'LL TAKE ALL TIEY GET). INFORMATION ON SOIL + RICHNESS IS EASY TO GET-ANY "GARDENING

BOOK (CONCERNING DOPE OR NOTE) CONTAINS NOTES ON THIS SUBJECT - SHIT + STAWBED, BONE MEAL + DRIFD BLOOD AND EVEN DEAD LEAVES ALL ENRICH THE SOIL AND SHOULD BE DUG INTO THE SOIL AS FARLY AS POSSIBLE.

PEST'S - ATT GREEN FLY, SLUGS AND CEPTAIN OTHER PESTS SOMETIME FITTACK DOPE PLANTS-PLANTING GARLIC NEAR-BY DISCOURAGES THESE FOST'S-THEY DON'T LIKE THE SMELL.

PLANTS CAN THEY GROW . ..

AFROM THE MOST POTENT GRASS AVAILABLE If YOU FOR AROUND, MOULL EVENTUALLY FIND SEEDS S. AFRICAN SEEDS ARE BEST FOR THE THE MODE LIGHT SEEDINGS (AND ITZISH YEAR BECAUSE THE PLANTS BIGGER PLANTS) GET, THE FASTER! FLOWER EARLIER THAN OTHER TYPPS

GZASS (AISO CALLED CANNABIS + MARIT -

OF THE "PARENT" PLANT ... SO USE SEEDS

LUANNA) + THE POTENCY OF PLANTS IS

MAINLY DEPANDANT ON THE POTENCY

SEFDS COME FROM IMPORTED

PLANT DOFF INDOORS (EREANHOUSE, WINDOW SILLS) ANTTIME FROM EARLY MARCH TO LATE JULY (PLANTS STARTED IN JULY ARE SMALL, BUT IT'S SOMETITING ANYWAY). ANY CONTRINERS (AN BE USED AS SEED-BOXES, BUT ITS BETTER IF THEY HAVE INDIES IN THE BUTTOM! TEEP THE SEEDS IN A WARM PLACE (SOAK OVERWITE IN WARM WATER FIRST) + THEY'LL COME; UP" IN ABOUT 3-20 DAMS!

GROW TO

6FT TALL N IRRUND

