

OUTTA CONTROL

New Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective



SPECIAL STATUS FOR N. IRELAND

Ten prisoners have died on hunger strike in their fight against criminalisation. All the 5 demands have not been granted, but the concessions won (only prisoners in N.I. can wear their own clothes and get 50% remission and the strike itself, coming after 5 long years of the blanket and no-wash protests, have shown the world these prisoners are political. The publicity generated concerns not only the prison issue but the whole question of Britain's right to be here.

Offshoots from the end of the strike will undoubtedly be a campaign in British prisons to get these conditions; and an effort by Irish prisoners there to be sent to prisons in Ireland. There is the potential here, on the basis of the courage and militancy of the republican prisoners, for all prisoners to challenge the label of criminal, and the rest of us to question the nature of prison itself.

LOYALIST REACTION

During the brief loyalist hunger strike, that potential was strong, but the manoeuvrings of the unionist politicians, the churches and the UDA destroyed it. Today Paisley threatens a reaction against the concessions by the NIO, ignoring the 300 loyalists in the H-Blocks who will also benefit. The UDA stated before that their prisoners would accept any concessions won, but now have to cover themselves by saying that its 'a victory for violence'. What they mean is they weren't prepared to fight for them. With cap in hand approach, they complained that the NIO had ignored their delegations for improved conditions for 'conforming' prisoners. It is doubtful if Paisley will get any real support since the concessions apply to all.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

Although they lost 10 of their best people the republican movements have gained publicity and support. There has been an increase in recruits and finances to the IRA and INLA in response to the intransigence and repression of the British government. Much of the media coverage has identified them, especially SF/IRA as the sole protagonists in the hunger strike protests; and through elections there

are 2 IRSP (and 2 PD) councillors and one SF member of parliament. It will be very interesting to see what social and political statements Owen Carron now produces (if any) that the strike is over. If Adams stands against Fitt in the next election, will the new attitude in favour of electioneering force SF to come up with answers other than 'Brits Out'.

The H-Block/Armagh Committee concentrated on the lobbying of priests and politicians, and it was these forces by their manipulation which helped defeat the hunger strike. This concentration shows a bankruptcy of political ideas. Republican News, while offering detailed reports of protests and explanations of the prisoners motives, made no real attempt at analysing how the hunger strike could have won, other than parroting the SF leadership's lobbying tactics. The last H-Block committee elected in Dundalk consisted of no new people who were likely to adopt a

fresh approach but was made up largely of the old nationalist brigade.

AFTERMATH

There have been many people outside the republican groups who were fined and imprisoned for the protests. The arrests will continue for the protests. The arrests will continue for previous action. Recently in the South a young man received 8 years for burning down a castle, to highlight the H-Block issue. The National Committee has a responsibility to defend and support these people, in addition to the efforts of local committees who can't bear all the costs, nor don't have the resources of publicity.

There may be a period of quiet in Long Kesh and Armagh for a few months, but the struggle will inevitably continue, and we hope it will not only be an extension of the fight against the British, but also against prison itself.



Religion began when the people of this

earth tried to work out the fertility of themselves, the fertility of the land, the effects of the sun and the moon: later, as it got itself organised in the hands of a 'few', it became the path to 'knowledge' as defined by that few. Now, it works as a control over and above us. A control that operates through fear and guilt; the emotions of the mind they prey upon. A bit like the 'state', that body of opinion-makers, laws and law enforcers; all those who seem to have the say over our daily lives. Like the church, the state operates by putting fear in our heads, and punishment in the here and now to our bodies.



With the church, our heads are strictly finite, an empty case to be filled by a limited line of thought - what they tell us. The state allows us to think what we like, though spends a considerable amount of energy making sure we think what they like.

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THE POLICE ARE CEMENING

When it came to showing to millions of viewers each week the scenes of inner city blight, houses that aren't fit to live in, kids with nowhere to play and the continual Army/Police presence it was too much for the BBC.... They deemed the video which accompanied the 'Police's' new single as too political. They were afraid that even showing the social conditions was dangerous and might suggest to people in Britain that all was not quite as normal as the British Government would have them believe and that the appalling conditions may even be why people are resisting. But don't be fooled into thinking that the 'police' are concerned about the situation here (what with their ex-CIA manager and their third world tours pushing western consumer culture, not to mention their generous handouts to a social democrat line magazine).

Crass info.

Meanwhile the next single from the Crass is about - guess what - yes, Ireland. After paying them a visit we can assure our readers that they aren't the usual rip-off and sell out types, but feel sure that the single will benefit people here in some way. They have another project in the pipeline concerning Ireland which could involve you. Watch this space for further info....

Footnote: When asked about their last visit to Dublin, the Police singer Sting said, "There were young kids up at the front throwing bottles at my head, saying that we were cultural agents of British Imperialism." !!

'WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?'

This heading has become a bit of a standing joke when people are talking about the present strategy (if it is one) of the IRA leadership. At not one stage in the H-Bomb Hunger Strike did there come from this quarter a clear and easily seen position. So it begs the question what are you going to do now? We have watched, and in many cases been amazed, by the speed with which this organisation changes its mind as to how and where they will allow the people to act. From encouraging resistance to outright oppression of the same resistance, we have watched them wavering and dithering as they strive to control the uncontrollable/rebellious and, in the main,



Continued from front page

All this helps to explain the hysteria of the moral and legal authorities to 'mind-altering' drugs amidst the jargon about fear for our safety, protection of the young etc., etc., they set strict legal and moral limits on our experiences. If they were so concerned with our health and our state of mind, wouldn't they do something about that which is destroying us? about lead in the petrol? or DDT in every vegetable? or men walking about with guns? No - they are too busy in case our minds - our bodies - get outta control. Maybe we could think independently, maybe we could act independently. But we are forbidden the use of those drugs available around us which can teach us, which can alter our perspectives, our way of looking at our day-to-day existence. Maybe that boring job isn't worth it any more; maybe the rules and regulations, the do's and don't's of church and law just don't make much sense anymore. Maybe the *potential* of our daily life is something other than it is. To think like that is to think revolution-ary, which is always the fear of church and state.

But that is not to say that a handful of magic mushrooms will change the person, will bring a revolution in Lady Dixon's ...

every and any attempt at resistance that undermines the IRA authority. It isn't new and it isn't correct. Why is it that they feel threatened when at the same time they mouth phrases and make statements about revolution? From policing marches to prevent a riot with the tools of the free state government, they have now arrived at the position where they threaten the people who riot in the aftermath of a hunger-striker's death - and worse.

The Divis flats are regarded by even the most conservative of people as no more than a ghetto. In the mind of many others, Divis Flats, like Ballymun, are the edifice of corruption and graft. They are not fit for human habitation and should be, like all the other hovels in which we are forced to live, destroyed, and replaced by structures and accommodations that humans can live in, without having to worry about where the young people can play and whether or not the winters will bring pneumonia and all the other afflictions that Divis-like ghettos entail.

Yet what do we see? In this, of all areas, one of the most deprived in an already poverty-stricken wasteland, the local priest and his cohorts descend with brushes and paint in a perverse 'Clean Up Divis Campaign' - and who is it have threatened local people not to interfere in the forthcoming spectacle? None other than the IRA. How can this statement of policy be reconciled with the facts of Divis and the other deprived areas of the country in general? This priest is foremost in condemnation of the people when they act to resist their oppressors. Are we to witness the IRA pandering to the demented notion of a priest that poverty looks a lot better with a coat of paint? Or that a bottle of disinfectant will remove the appalling stink of the carcass of this sick society that is so well symbolised in the Divis flats?

No-one, I am confident, likes dirt, and few would regard it as pleasurable to

the means of altering the mind can be abused just as it is used. But as long as hallucinogenic mushrooms are kept in the dark, a sin and a crime, then our use and our knowledge can only get warped by their interference. Magic Mushrooms have been used throughout history from 'christians' and 'jews' to 'druids' and 'witches' but always by the few, eager to keep the knowledge, the experience, from the many - to have power over them. Such power in ourselves - each and every one of us - the church and state will always try to prevent.

But care - magic mushrooms which are springing up in all the parks, golf-courses and horse-manured fields of Ireland, are a bit different from state-approved, profit-motivated drugs like *valium* and *alcohol*... the experience is a bit different from the rosary or a few hymns! Start small, have someone who *knows* them to identify them. That way, the experience spreads and abuse is easier to avoid. It is best to TAKE them along with someone who has experimented before. The effects are monumental; not at all easy to describe..... Suffice it to say that you are altering the state of your mind from its everyday closet. You break out of the very clearly def-

live in decaying surroundings, but there is a clear distinction between self-imposed decay and the type of decay that Divis flats suffer from. As with the other ghettos, it shares the distinguished Housing Executive as landlord, and though, as a body, they inherited the rent books from the old Corporation, they are the responsible body - as they will often remind those in arrears of rent! It isn't for the people to put a brave face on their social inequality, neither is it for the priest or the IRA to aid in this masquerade - which would be really funny if it wasn't such a serious matter.

There is no option to the people of Divis. The fact is, they are the victims of other people's greed, and their sufferings will not be alleviated by brightly-coloured paint or other decoration. It is a bit like offering someone with bad breath a bottle of mouthwash. What the person really needs is a healthy diet that will prevent such a problem. So too, with the people of Divis. They need better and more comfortable homes if they are to prevent outbreaks of brush-wielding priests outraged by the unsightly state of the poverty in Divis. Why, for instance, doesn't the priest go along and make noises with the people who claim the rents but not the social responsibilities of these blocks of builders' profits?

- From a political prisoner in Northern Ireland.

Letter from a Belgian after a visit here.....

..But it reminded me too much of the German occupation at the time, and although I was only 10 by the end of the war I have had enough fears to have certain feelings now when seeing armed troops and police on the streets. But to tell you the truth, in a way I find it worse to have to see the RUC than the British, because the RUC should be your own people. It was the same thing in Spain when I made a quick trip there in 1971 or so.

ined strictures of our day-to-day existence in a way that few can achieve by mere experience alone. In altering your thinking - and acting - self, you need to be in 'safe' and relatively free surroundings, somewhere you can wander physically and mentally. It is NOT recommended to try magic mushrooms anywhere where police, parents or unsympathetic people are about ... you are going out of your head as you have known it, and it's enough to deal with yourself without having to relate to those laying the 'heavy norm' upon you.

Take them when you FEEL you are ready for an experience quite unlike any other not when someone forces or persuades you. Likewise, to spike anyone is a mean and dangerous antic and you'll get rewarded accordingly.

Legal Note: the active ingredient of psilocybin mushrooms is outlawed, and placed alongside heroin and cocaine - Class A - under the Misuse of Drugs Act . . it carries big penalties! However, you're only guilty if you 'make a preparation'. Picking mushrooms and eating them is not a crime, nor is the possession of mushrooms which have 'dried naturally in the sun' before you pick them. And believe it or not, they sometimes do!

LOVE AND RAGE: Entries in a Prison Diary by Carl Harp, the murdered N.American Anarchist. His struggle for survival and sanity against violence of the prison system. (see article) Available from Just Books, 7 Wintertown St, Smithfield. Price £2

*BLACK STAR - the first Anarchist paper from Ballymena. Articles on Anarchy, Jack White, Poland, Marriage, Religion, El Salvador and Nuclear Weapons. "An historical document, though the J. White article has a couple of dubious assertions" I. Paisley. (Available at Just Books)



James Rafferty and Jack Hassard are two names the RUC would like to forget.... or silence. Last week Rafferty was charged with the murder of 2 RUC men, and Hassard spoke in his defence.

Their names were first linked in 1976. After interrogation at Omagh RUC barracks, Rafferty was taken to hospital for treatment. His case was one of many where systematic torture was used to get 'confessions', and which was exposed internationally by Amnesty International and Peter Taylor's book 'Beating the Terrorists'.

Then a member of the Police Authority, Jack Hassard, (also an independent councillor and ICTU representative on the PA) found his allegations of torture were substantiated by medical evidence. He began to push Chief Constable Newman for a prosecution against the RUC involved, but with little effect.

Rafferty took out a civil court action which has yet to be heard. Hassard, after 2½ years of pressure on both the RUC and the DPP, won a partial success. In December 1980, a tribunal, under the terms of the N.I. Police Act, was set up into the allegations.

In a clever move though, The Defence counsel, Ferguson, asked Rafferty if he was area O.C. of the Provisional IRA. The Chair, Gibson, and prosecution counsel, Boal, both advised Rafferty not to answer, whereupon the RUC walked out. The Tribunal had no power to sub-poena their evidence, so it soon ended. But as a result, 4 RUC detectives (one chief inspector and 3 constables) were charged by the DPP with causing actual bodily harm. The trial is the first of its kind and is due soon.

It is more than coincidence that Rafferty was re-arrested last week for 2 murders in early September. What is strange is Rafferty's apparent watertight alibi with dozens of 'respectable' citizens to testify as to his whereabouts. It is also known that he's been under constant surveillance since his first release. Jack Hassard appeared at his remand hearing and said that because of his interest in Rafferty since 1976, he believed him innocent.

If and when the case comes to court, (internment by remand is not uncommon) Rafferty will have spent many months in prison. It is likely that during the RUC detectives' trial, he will still be in prison.

This will give the RUC three advantages - He is punished for alleging assault;

The charge against him, even if dropped, will stick like mud (it is alleged he is on a loyalist hit squad in Fermanagh); and the RUC on trial won't look so bad if their accuser is in prison, suspected of murder.

FRONT ORGANISATION

The BBC has recently hand picked a new batch of puppets which it can use to give the impression that the media is fair, balanced and democratic. The BBC will no doubt use this committee in rubber stamping its consistent censoring and distortion of what's really going on here.

Most of the notables on the council are, of course capitalists who will be only too glad in cooperating as its in their own interests to maintain and reinforce their position and ideology. Of course we have the token liberals to give it credibility, like John Freeman, Secretary of the TGWU and Hugh Frazer, director of the N.Ireland Voluntary Trust, but I guess that they have already sold out by sitting along side such shits.



Meanwhile our Berlin correspondent writes....

"A week of constant demos, some riots, and reflection on the killing of the young demonstrator - forced by a police charge into a busy road and knocked under a bus. Now there is the amazing memorial in the road where he was killed - which is a 'shrine' (non-religious) of flowers and poems and candles, plus displays, and the graffiti all around the area, plus mattresses and tents where scores of people sleep every night. There's always a couple of hundred people milling around, and the road is, permanently blocked in one direction. The pigs don't know what to do, and it's right in a main part of the town - a very wide commercial street.

Yesterday, an ordinary 45 year old bloke in a Mercedes (!) refused to stop when told to by a pig - who then panicked and shot the driver dead. Gets more like Belfast every minute...."

SQUATTING



The state maintains that every family has the right to a home, yet thousands live in overcrowded conditions, in slums, in cars, in caravans, in hostels or doss in the streets.

So why no action?

Everyone is aware of the appalling housing situation, thousands are affected by it, yet it has remained an area of little agitation or activity. Fragile links between protestant and catholic groups engaged in some form of agitation are easily broken by sectarianism or the priority given to the national question.

Housing action groups have been manipulated by political parties for their own ends and by government city council agents who clearly channel peoples energy into forming committees to meet with bureaucrats, into signing petitions, and advice centres which only offer words and not houses.

Individuals, fed up with sub standard housing or even worse, no house at all, are forced to squat. When faced with the threat of eviction



On the 5th of September 1981, the anarchist prisoner, CARL HARP, was found dead, with his wrists slashed and hung by a telephone wire in his cell in Walla Walla prison in Washington. The State declared it as a suicide act, but people who know about Carl's life and his work in prison know it was MURDER.

Having been sentenced to four consecutive life-terms for rape and murder (Carl maintains his innocence) he decided to fight the prison regime and the State, by any means he had inside the prison. He evolved, through a constant and intense struggle with the State, into an anarchist, and co-founded the anarchist Black Dragon Collective, and their publication 'Black Dragon Anarchist'. His revolutionary work in prison included the churning out of letters to the outside, helping other prisoners in their legal questions, teaching some to read, and writing books.

He was threatened (two years ago) to be killed, after he had taken ten staff hostages, together with two others, to high-light the poor prison conditions.

Carl Harp won several suits against the State, made the judge declare Walla Walla as 'CRUEL AND UNUSUAL' and was awarded \$7000 for being illegally kept in segregation for 14 months.

He was a THREAT to the State. They hated and feared him. So they killed him.

: In Memory of Carl Harp :

the housing executive are finally forced to offer you some alternative accommodation. It is difficult to get support as most people see it as queue jumping with the weakest going to the wall.

In Britain, the anarchists pioneered squatting, it was a great form of direct action, it forced the state to admit that there IS a housing problem, and it introduced people into alternative ways of living. Most squatting took place in the private sector, which eventually led to heavy confrontations during evictions. It did a lot to thwart the property speculators plans. Empty council property was also squatted which forced the councils to make all sorts of concessions and build more houses.

In Northern Ireland there happens to be very little squatting in private property, which is mainly in middle class areas. This factor would make potential squatters isolated and vulnerable to police/army harassment and sectarian attacks. It restricts squatting to working class ghettos which are largely owned by the housing executive.

Squat now while stocks last!

Perhaps more attention should be given to the University area. There are empty houses and being a middle class mixed area is less likely to hostile attacks. Along with the Catholic church, Queens University own a lot of houses and would be less likely to go for all out confrontation, as this might highlight their role as property speculator. Squatting would challenge the private landlords in that area who flagrantly exploit the need for homes by demanding figures as ludicrous as £200 a month for a flat (next time give your landlord what you think is a reasonable figure!) And just think of the potential of the Russell Court Hotel, which has lain empty for years whilst it could be housing hundreds who are in need of a home. Queens University were thinking of buying it from its present owners, CIE (the Southern Transport Company...but surely there are people more deserving and in need than students!

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

With the H-Block campaign dying out in the South, it seemed a mistake for the State to charge 19 people in connection with the Embassy riot. This case could provide a rallying point for people and an opportunity to attack the repressive machinery of the South, especially the Special Criminal Court. Whether this happens or not depends on whether people in the South can be motivated enough to do something about repression and become aware of the parallels between North and South.

But the fact that the people were arrested in the first place cannot be taken out of context. Some people have cynically suggested that it was done because the Special Branch had nothing else to do! This denies the fact that the cops have not been sitting around on their arses for the last few weeks.

We have a new coalition government and for all its Liberal/Social Democratic mutterings, one of its central concerns is law and order. This is especially important now that 'the recession is getting deeper'. Unemployment is increasing - officially, there are now 130,000 unemployed. Also, people are beginning to experience a real cut in living standards. Inflation is presently running above 20%, having increased by 5% in the last three months. The dole is going up by a pathetic 60p in October. In this kind of situation resistance could easily grow. The coalition are making sure (or at least trying to) that it does not occur.

The German word 'Tu wat' means 'do something'. So during August and Sept. a 'Tu wat' festival occurred in Berlin. Below are some thoughts and accounts on what happened during a part of that month.

BERLIN 81

Those involved in challenging the state, capitalism, and the patriarchy are all part of 'the movement'. How individuals and groups organise is very different from here in Ireland, or even in Britain. There are few influential groups attempting to 'build their party'. Anarchists, socialists, womens collectives, gays, punks, individuals are all part of that movement. Socialist/Anarchist groups are few and far between because these philosophies and to a lesser extent feminist philosophy are accepted rather than having to be argued for.

Another new type of political philosophy has developed, especially among the punks, where the notion of the 'revolution' will never come about. The struggle is today and now, a struggle involving yourself in everything on a day to day basis - transport, entertainment, drink, housing are all stolen, liberated, taken or what ever - so there is a constant battle with authority.

The present strength of the movement comes from the squatters. Berlin at present has 10,000 empty buildings which are used in the game of property speculation, building luxury apartments, office blocks, and of course there

Their outlook could be summed up by saying that they want to show firmly 'who is the boss'. The cops have adapted this attitude and, looking back to the last coalition, they know they can get away with anything they like. The last coalition was notorious for its law and order outlook. It brought in 7-day detention, and under it the 'heavy gang' were free to do as they pleased. They beat confessions out of people, which were judged to be 'valid' in the juryless Special Criminal Court [not dissimilar to the conveyor belt in the North].

The cops are very conscious of the fact that the coalition now rules. Around the city they have become more cocky, and at least some people have been severely beaten.

In Crumlin (a working-class area on the South side), on the 22nd of August, two men were picked up by the Crumlin Gardai. One of them was so badly beaten that they had to call an ambulance to the station. He had to spend 13 days in hospital recovering. It seems that this was in retaliation, because these two had complained about being stopped, held at gunpoint, and searched, the week before. The injured man was later charged with assaulting a cop.

A Picket was called by the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, to protest about the beating. In the course of organising it, they discovered that the cops were involved in harassing and beating local youths. One family in particular, where there are 11 children, was getting a bad time of it. All of the kids had been involved in the

is a housing shortage more acute than most European cities. Berlin attracts so many young people because it is governed not by W. Germany but by the 'Allied' Powers. They go there to escape compulsory conscription.

One hundred and sixty buildings are squatted. Each building is usually 5-6 stories high which were already divided into flats and can house between 100-150 people. Those who are involved are not interested in negotiating with the state. The local parliament has attempted to integrate the squatters, by having dialogue with an aim at reforms, such as legalised squats similar to short life property in London.

There is a struggle against the state, and housing as a basic need is only part of that struggle. Other areas include prisons, capitalism, anti-imperialism, anti-nuclear, gay politics and feminism. Actions and the spreading of information against multinationals, banks, department stores continues. I didn't see one bank which didn't have its windows smashed - the banks no longer replace the plate glass but rather glue more glass on over the holes and cracks.

Activity has increased greatly around prisons since many people have been put away over squatting, anti-imperialist activities and during the last hungerstrike. The political prisoners in Berlin (RAF and 2nd June members) receive a special status - that of isolation torture. Their campaign in the past has been one of attempting to win the same conditions as the social prisoners. It seems likely that they will restart a hungerstrike during October for that end.

The state has made obvious its recognition of

H-Block campaign. When they turned out for the Picket, one son was told that he would 'get it' by the cops.

On the 8th of September, his brother was forcibly abducted, taken to the grounds of an old manor and beaten to shit. Perhaps it's no coincidence that Ned Ryan, who was head of the heavy gang, is now stationed in Crumlin.

In Ringsend (also on the South side) on the 13th of September, a 17 year old lad was arrested and taken to Irishtown Station. Here he was beaten, kicked and had his head knocked off a wall. When his father complained, he was ignored (as usual). In this area youngsters are being constantly harassed.

These are just 3 incidents where attention has been drawn to them. Others are occurring but have gone unreported. Also, the harassment of those still involved in the H-Block Campaign continues. The cops are determined to show that they are the boss.

As the recession gets worse, the occurrence of such incidents is likely to increase. Also, we should not think that having a Fianna Fail government would make any difference. Under it, people were equally harassed; especially H-Block activists. But under the coalition, the prospect of harassment has increased. Hopefully the trials of the 19 people will be used to expose the repressive nature of 'the Free State', and show that the 'bosses' can be challenged.

the political motivation of many of the social prisoners in that they are building a new isolation/high security prison for up to 200 prisoners and Berlin has only 12 RAF prisoners. After a demonstration led by a punk band, protesting against the new prison, the police fired tear-gas and chased demonstrators into the underground where they indiscriminately went into the carriages and beat up people whether they were on the march or not.

An anti-imperialist demonstration against the visit of Haig to Berlin attracted 80,000 and there was fierce street battles afterwards. In Berlin not only can you be arrested for offensive weapons, but defensive ones as well. This includes having a scarf, or being in possession of a 'lemon' (by squirting into the face this can help to offset the effects of tear-gas.)

One of the biggest surprises for me was the strength of the counter-culture. The movement has its own bars (one was called after Bobby Sands), cafes, films, videos, cabaret, daily newspapers, bookshops, halls, free schools, cityfarms, social centres, printshops (both litho and silkscreen), etc., etc.

Something which impressed me took place at a mass squatters meeting to decide what action to take during the proposed eviction of 8 houses. There were no groups, parties, or collectives there arguing their line - but rather 300 individuals who all had opportunities to say what they wanted, and many did. No chairperson was required and as is unusual in mass meetings, women dominated.

Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

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

Mondays child is born with force Thursdays child, the same, of course....

If you are pregnant and living in Fermanagh then you can accurately predict that your baby will be born on a Monday or a Thursday during the working day. Some Some natural births do occur spontaneously but it is evident that obstetricians in the Erne hospital in Enniskillen, the only hospital in Fermanagh serving the whole county, are over enthusiastic about inducing birth and there may be as many as 80% of births induced for reasons of administration and social ease.

Induction was the thing in the middle seventies with over half the births in Britain being induced and one or two hospitals reaching the 80% mark. It has now become 'unfashionable' and hospitals like the Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast for example are cutting induction rates down to what is thought medically necessary—around 5%-10%. In fact it is possible to have a Leboyer type birth in the RVH on request.

Much of the controversy has centred around the hormone oxytocin, which is used widely to stimulate contractions. The problem with oxytocin is that there is no safe standard dose and a woman on an oxytocin drip has to be constantly monitored with special equipment to see whether the uterus is under or over stimulated. It needs no stretch of the imagination to see

that half a dozen births being induced at the same time with short staffing or other emergencies happening, are not going to get the constant monitoring, accuracy and sensitivity that there should be and midwives often do have to look after 2 or 3 labours at the same time.

A woman on an oxytocin drip is more likely to rupture the womb or to give birth by Caesarian section. Her blood pressure may rise and foetal distress particularly the baby's breathing is more likely. In view of the high infant mortality rate in Fermanagh anyway this becomes even more worrying. Many mothers who have been induced complain that their contractions have speeded up so dramatically that they have lost control over their relaxation techniques—some women have not been able to relax at all during contractions because of the speed with which one contraction overlapped another and they were in continual pain.

In America the FDA has withdrawn its approval of oxytocin for induction and doctors can only induce for medical reasons like toxemia, diabetes or distress in the foetus. What this has meant in practice is that more inductions are shifted into the 'medically necessary' category. In this country there is no control whatsoever over the use of oxytocin and it is therefore important that all women are informed of the risks involved and of alternative methods plus the choice to have their

TURF LODGE FLATS-OLDIES REPLAYED

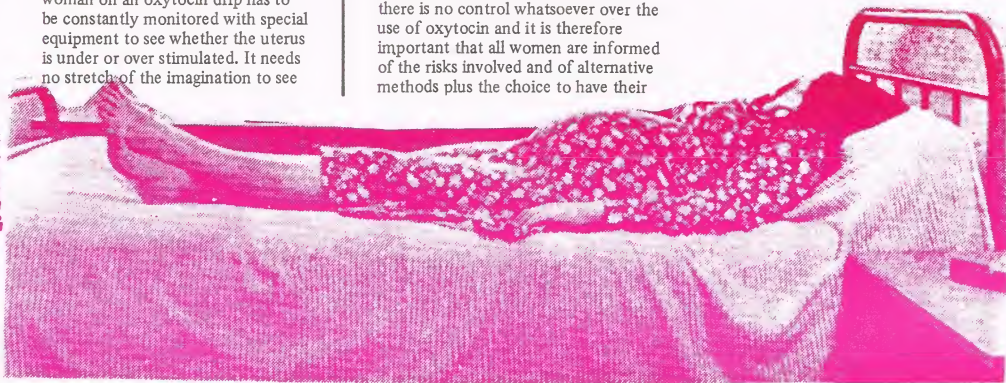
Some years ago Rosie Nolan took her own life. She hung herself in a flat in Turf Lodge, finally giving herself release from the depression induced by her surroundings. Her action provoked women in the area in similar conditions to get together and demand that something be done about the situation that they lived in.

Turf Lodge flats were built in the early sixties. As time went by it was clear that they had been built in a hasty and unplanned way that suited the building contractor (and saved him a great deal of money) but not the future tenants. Materials had been cheap and costs had been cut to a minimum again at the expense of the tenants. Condensation is a fact of life,

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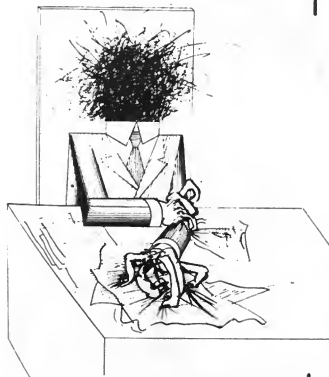
baby naturally (over 90% of births have no complications). Women in Fermanagh do not have this choice, they are being pressurised into induction for hospital convenience and routine—and often they are ignorant of the risks.

Women in Fermanagh are not allowed any choice as the only other hospitals, Omagh and Newry, are miles away, and their only alternative is to 'fiddle their dates' and hope they go into labour naturally before they are taken in.



Out of work on the Falls

September 8th was the date when school leavers could sign on for the first time if they had left school in the previous six months. The queues outside the Falls Road dole office stretched far down the road and seemed to stay around the same size for most of that Monday and the following few days. The office stayed open each evening to seven and half seven trying to cope with their 'normal' business and this new influx. The Falls Road dole office is a place where every taxi stops passing the people streaming down to sign on, through the deafening turnstile, worn shoes and boots looking out of place on the dark brown carpet lit up by the sun glinting through the tinted windows. Identical security women in their uniforms with their faces caked with powder stand at each entrance and doorway and security cameras peer round every corner, inside and out as if someone is watching from a hidden room. Never a word is uttered as you sign on except maybe what held you up this morning. The man behind the desk is in a different world.



In the weeks to follow people were to be given signing on times as late as 6.30 and 7.00pm—the Falls Road dole is one of the busiest in town. One of the ways around it has been to make all those over 50 sign on only once in 3 months! For them the message is clear—don't call us, we'll call you....your working life is effectively over.

Paid work in our society is generally repetitive and boring—it is a means to gain money. When all is said and done

there are very few people who would willingly go on working if they could get the money some other way. But money is important in our society, it brings status, it makes life more comfortable, more bearable and for all but the idle rich to get money you have to work. That is the message of school—work hard and get a job at the end, of the media, get promotion, more money and spend etc.

If you can't work for whatever reasons sickness, disability, age, gender or because you can't get any then you are penalised. You are given a handout by the State to make life not for living but subsisting, so small that you can only get basic food (if that) so you can't afford to get too warm, or drink too much, or get out of your area very often. You are a reject, a scrounger. Very often those out of work come to believe this message, they begin to see themselves as the State sees them—worthless, a parasite living off others, they blame themselves for their situation. Sometimes though, the unemployed become angry and challenge the State and its forces as happened in Britain this summer when young people, black and white, decided they had had enough of weddings and spendings when all they had was street corner—they knew who was to blame.

On the Falls Road this week the mood was bleak. Street corners are heavy with young men and women quietly talking and looking. The bookies are doing a roaring trade and the pubs are fairly full though the customers didn't go up to the counter too often. In the shops the selection is narrowing because customers stick to basics and luxuries like biscuits or butter are not in too big a demand. Depression is all around you. And the situation is not helped by soldiers patrolling constantly stopping the groups at the street corners to hassle just to give themselves something to do. It's ironic that most of those same soldiers joined up so they didn't have to stand on similar street corners in Bradford or Hull or Newcastle upon Tyne! The oppressed make the best oppressors.

Women on the Falls are bearing the brunt, trying to make inelastic money stretch, getting into debt, borrowing from the credit unions for the 'extras' like shoes and underwear. The tickman has again become a familiar visitor on a Friday night about teatime—the dole cheque would have come that morning.

Repression, oppression, degradation—call it what you will but the people of the Falls have been kicked, beaten and battered to their knees, like people in so many other communities here. Violence has been a presence on these streets for over 10 years now, the potential for more stands on the street corners and all the youth employment schemes, training centres and job centres in the world won't stop it. Even the state, well practised in the arts of cunning and pulling the wool over our eyes can go too far—the harvest has yet to be gathered.

For better or worse and worse!

The recent debates over the changing of the Irish Constitution particularly in relation to divorce, have been more concerned with making the 26 counties more acceptable to the loyalists in a future United Ireland, instead of being directed at the mess that exists in the South for the 50,000 people whose marriages have broken down and the many more who are denied the right to contraception and abortion.

If certain polls and politicians are to be believed, there is a majority opinion in the South that the ban on divorce should be removed and that each individual has a basic civil right to divorce and that with the holding of a referendum, this ban would be removed.

The Catholic church, whose strength and influence in the thirties and forties resulted in the ban on divorce and other reactionary social policy, have not remained silent this last fortnight. It was remarked that 'people who advocate divorce will do more harm to this country than the men of violence' and Catholics are urged to accept the totally out of touch with reality solution of 'the family that prays together, stays together'.

For many women, especially those who have been battered and abused, had to put up with excessive drinking and misery, there is a need to be emotionally and legally free from the husband and to ensure that there is no harassment in the future. It is possible to obtain a legal separation in the South but to do this both sides must co-operate and many women have complained that their husbands have laughed at them when they suggested 'anything legal'.

Men are also much freer to desert, especially to England, where there is no need to give any identification and it has proved impossible for the woman to find her husband and claim maintenance from him. Men (and women) who desert are also able to obtain a divorce in England on those grounds because they are domiciled outside of the Republic although the status of the spouse left behind remains unchanged—the divorce is not recognised.

Social policy, particularly in relation to the family and the rights of the individual—divorce, contraception, abortion, homosexuality—is archaic in the South and has become a huge public problem. The Irish Constitution, steeped as it is in 1930's Catholic preachings, is totally unsuitable for a modern society and people are rejecting what has been aptly termed finding an Irish solution to an Irish problem and demanding a secular society.



Continued from page 1

as is damp clothing and bedding, growths over the walls and the incidence of bronchitis and related diseases. The final straw came when sewage started to leak into the flats particularly after rain and the whole area was rife with rats and other vermin which tenants despite all efforts could not get rid of. The Housing Executive who were responsible for the flats kept fobbing off the tenants and denying their complaints in the press, inferring that the tenants had brought the conditions about themselves.

The Women's Action Committee led by Kathleen Tibideau pressured, picketed demonstrated and used every means possible to bring attention to their plight. Finally an independent firm of surveyors were brought in to assess the flats and the Housing Executive agreed to accept their findings. The report was a great victory for the women—it said that all the complaints against the flats were correct, the flats were unfit for human habitation due to bad construction and poor quality materials and they recommended rehousing for the tenants and that the flats should be knocked down. Publicly embarrassed, the Housing Executive gave way and agreed to do so. The women's committee had been vindicated.

After the euphoria had died down the press forgot about the flats and moved on. Unfortunately though three years later, most of the tenants have not

moved on they are still living in the flats. Why? Because the Housing Executive still hasn't rehoused them and asserts that it won't have houses until at least 1985!

The Women's Committee have been forced back onto the streets again. Conditions in Turf Lodge are now worse than when the report came out because some tenants were rehoused and their flats bricked up—leaving lots of space for rats to build nests and tunnels throughout the complex. They have already picketed the HE offices. The HE have predictably responded by saying they have not got any houses. The tenants say refuse to move out of the area (to estates like Poleglass or Antrim/Craigavon) and the tenants reply why should they, they have been there for many years, and that the Housing Executive is responsible for the state of living conditions in the Turf Lodge flats. The result is stalemate. Meanwhile women must worry about their children being bitten by rats, about contamination from sewage and about damp. The attitudes of the state is clear....the working class is never a priority, they can be allowed to live in conditions like these because their bargaining power is small. Pot holes in the streets of the Malone Road area on the other hand must be mended immediately—it's very bad for car tyres you know.....

The Irish Women's Diary and Guide Book is just out. There is a major section on women in Northern Ireland. Topics such as single parents, education, unemployment, poverty, social welfare, biographies on women in Irish history, violence, justice, law and health. It's a pity they couldn't have found a more appropriate cover, preferably done by a woman. Diary costs £2.10. Available from Just Books, 7 Wine-tavern Street, Belfast.



IRISH WOMAN'S
DIARY 1982

CRAWLEY CRAWLS ON

Last July Gaining Ground exposed the activities of the boss of the Central Library....Mr.Crawley.....who abused the workers, made dictatorial decisions and provoked much anger and resentment when he banished the kids library to some obscure corner replacing it with a 'business reference' section.(something the library already had). After reading the article in GG he threatened to sue but changed his mind when he realised that most of what had been said was actually true.

Three months later, the dictatorship of the amazing Mr Crawley shows itself again. He has decided to move the central library lending HQ (ie: that bit where all the branch libraries get their books) to the Shankill Road Branch. As over 50% of the staff in this section are Catholics (in the Belfast meaning of the word) they have been forced to ask for transfers. Once again a total disregard for the people who actually do the work in the library is displayed by Crawley. It seems that he is trying to create Ireland's first only prestigious REFERENCE library....and doing away with any contact with the people. This aim is helped along by moving the lending HQ out of the building.

Crawley got an OBE for his troubles in 1980 and obviously wants to retire with a knighthood. If the 'kids library' were to be transferred to his plush office for a day or two that might thwart his plans.

DON'T QUOTE ME...



Mr. Prior after visiting the Kesh on the Hunger Strike declined to answer further questions saying "there will be plenty of time in the next few days, I am digesting things very carefully"

Ian Paisley on Mr.Prior "He didn't understand anything about the Ulster Special Constabulary which he seemed to think was some sort of unofficial Protestant paramilitary grouping" and that Mr.Prior displayed "the belief that the Stormont administration felt when the Official Unionist Party walked out"

Peter Robinson DUP on the Taoiseach and proposed constitutional changes "perhaps one of the first admissions from a leader in the Republic of Ireland that the state there was built on a sectarian base" Why does such clarity set at the border?

Cardinal To Mass O Fiach on the ending of the Hunger Strike "Thank God, its ended"

Mrs.Prior in Robinsons and Cleavers "I want to get a pair of pyjamas for my husband and some tights"

WOMEN TORTURED IN TURKISH PRISONS



The Centre for torture where many women and men are brought to for internment is called DAL (dayak adama lazimidir) which means translated "people need corporal punishment!" It makes it obvious from the very start what sort of treatment prisoners have to expect there. In Turkey the police don't need any justification for to intern people, its enough to be a suspect ed 'anti-fascist'.

In DAL, heavy torture is a daily routine. They let people stand on one leg, fingers touching the wall for any length of time from 1 day up to 10 days. During this they don't get any food or water and are not allowed to go to the toilet. When they get weak and fall down, they get beaten up. These methods described are only used to prepare people for the real torture which takes place in three special rooms. The most common forms are electric shocks on parts of the body (Falaka), beatings with a stick on the feet tearing out of single eyelashes and finger nails, beatings while having ice cold showers, cigarette burns and so on....to just about the maximum people can take without dying. The torture is so calculated. One reason for this is that once people are dead they can't talk and give information any more and the other reason is that it would appear bad in front of the European Parliament where there has been a lot of discussion about the 'violation of human rights' in Turkey.

A woman prisoner reports after 4 months detention in the women's prison in Ankara.

We, the prisoners, felt the effects of protests from other countries very much.

We are certain that our torturers have got the order to be careful and not let prisoners die. I heard of a case of a pregnant woman: the police didn't beat her and she wasn't treated with electric shocks.(cause those methods could have led to death for her and the unborn child) yet she was burnt with lit cigarette all over her body and her eyelashes were torn out. The pain she suffered was equally bad. But she didn't die. In another case the torture was stopped because of the breakdown of the tortured woman. In many cases the police treat the prisoners after torturing them. After the revolt the internment period was increased to 90 days so the cops have the possibility to detain prisoners as long as all the wounds have nearly or completely gone.



The women's prison in Ankara

For a long time there was only one prison MAMAK, for political prisoners in Ankara. Since MAMAK became too small , all the women were transferred into a second prison a transformed 'school complex' . In the womens prison there does not exist any military

education as in MAMAK. The big pressure lies really in the torture, because they can take the women away to the centre DAL whenever they like. In many cases they have been taking relatives, wives, brothers and sisters of the male prisoners to the DAL to put pressure on the male prisoners to talk.

Resistance

There have been some actions and protests in the women's prison. On the 7th May 1981 all women prisoners took part in a solidarity action with a group of women prisoners who were not allowed their weekly visit. Everyone refused to go to the visit and there was a protest of the parents and relatives outside the prison for a whole day. After this incident the cops made the prison conditions worse. They introduced military education for about 50 prisoners, whom they accused of having led the protest action. But they had to stop doing it after two days because all the parents demanded of the 'security council' to stop the punishment. The prisoners inside have only a certain amount of abilities to protest and there is a lot of solidarity action needed from the outside.



A few hundred women marched 6 miles from the border at Muff to join the Derry Civil Rights Anniversary March last Sunday, 4th October. Women have always been in the forefront of the campaign for the prisoners demands and some relatives of the dead hunger strikers attended the march.