

# **DIRECT ACTION**

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**The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism**

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# **DON'T MENTION THE WAR!**



Germans are arrogant; Italians are cowards; and Swedes are sex-mad - such national stereotypes are assumed and lampooned in such things as the TV series 'Allo Allo'. But then again the English are portrayed as stupid with plums in their mouths.

When Nicholas Ridley spoke of arrogant Germans who want to have financial domination of Europe, he was playing the politicians' safe card - nationalism and bigotry. The British distrust of Germans grew out of 2 wars where the population was subjected to anti-German propaganda, when stupid things like attacks on dachshunds and imprisoning of German anti-fascists happened. John Cleese's 'Don't mention the war' sums up British assumptions about German arrogance and lack of humour. Unfortunately for Ridley things are rapidly moving toward a more united Europe and what was safe 10 years ago is now the route to resignation.

1992 brings about free trade within the EEC; there is talk of monetary union and even of us all using the same cash. Although there are some good points about the opening up of Europe - like the ability to travel and work where we want - the extended markets are for the benefit of the bosses, giving them greater protection against American and Japanese competitors.

As the bosses unite, we must also unite and organise as workers, as the unification of Europe will mean attempts to drop our living standards to that of the lowest, not raising them to that of the highest. We need real organisation of working class people meeting and exchanging ideas and experiences.

Unification will help to break down differences between western Europeans, but could lead to a more insidious,

greater western Europeanism. With the opening up of eastern Europe, there are greater opportunities for the European bosses. This will mean factories moving east, cheap imports and immigration. This could result in an anti-slavic attitude developing amongst the western European working class - something the 'Red Menace' scares never achieved. The break up of the Soviet Bloc with rising nationalism, religious bigotry and racial tensions could add to the development of chauvinism in the West.

We must not allow our need to organise against a stronger and united bosses' Common Market to make us western European nationalists. The working class is international and we must unite with fellow workers everywhere - in eastern Europe and beyond - regardless of what borders the bosses and states draw around us.

**Direct Action Movement — International Workers Association**

# Scuppering The Sherriff

On 10 July a secret press conference called by sheriff officers in Glasgow was invaded by 50 anti-poll tax protesters. The sheriff officers were concerned that attacks on them was leading us 'on the road to anarchy'.

As just one example, in May 200 anti-poll tax demonstrators gathered in Paisley to stop a pointing, the first stage of a warrant sale. As it turned out it wasn't for non-payment of the poll tax but demonstrators stayed anyhow and told the sheriff officers where to go. The sheriff officers claimed they had been receiving abusive phone calls at home and that their children were being picked on at school. Of course these people know all about intimidation as they are professionals at the game.

### ASK NICELY

On 4 July, a seven day hunger strike held in Glasgow's city centre to protest at the deduction of poll tax arrears from single parents' income support ended. It was supposed to be followed by a march to Strathclyde Regional Council Headquarters. The hunger strikers just happened to all be members of Militant including a number of full-

timers like Tommy Sheridan. Because of Militant, the Strathclyde Anti-Poll Tax Federation has been begging the Labour controlled Regional Council to set up a hardship committee for non-payers on income support. 'It would be a symbol of their support for the fight against the poll tax' said Tommy Sheridan.

Contrast the direct action methods used to take on the

sheriffs with the individualistic methods used by Militant to let their fellow party members get away with attacks on the working class.

In the finest tradition of their continued 2 year symbolic fight against the Tax, the Regional Council have said that warrant sales are now inevitable in Strathclyde. They admit to a £87 million shortfall in poll tax collection which could increase next years poll tax by £106.

Glasgow DAM



## Minimum Sacrifice

The poll capping assault is threats in the poll capped on. The plan for compulsory zones comes a full frontal redundancies are now coming attack on terms and out into the open (a figure conditions. Vacant posts are of 800 has been floated in being frozen across the Haringey).

Along with the redundancy onto already overworked staff. In Doncaster they propose to change the pay day from the beginning to the end of the month - in effect this means going without pay for two weeks! One councillor said workers should be prepared to make the 'minimum sacrifice'. When did they ever make a 'minimum sacrifice'?

Anger is growing and there are signs that large numbers of council workers in the poll capped zones are prepared to make a stand under the banner of no redundancies, no cuts in services, no attacks on conditions and local agreements. Make the government pay!

## Open Forum

Eighty odd people from all over Scotland and five from England converged in Stirling on 30 June for an Open Forum on the poll tax. There were no main speakers, motions or elections and 'charismatic leaders' were conspicuous by their absence.

What did happen was lengthy debate in the form of small groups and reportbacks to the full forum followed by more discussion. The talkshops were split into five morning and five afternoon sessions - practical information on building communication networks in the morning, and in the afternoon the story so far and likely

developments.

It will take some time to see if the purpose of the day for better communication and coordination between the regions is taking place. If there are criticisms of the day, apart from under representation from some areas, they would be that the forum was two years late in getting organised and we've only got ourselves to blame for that. The next one will be easier.

Provisional arrangements for the next forum are for Edinburgh 29 September. Details nearer the time.

Edinburgh DAM



# We'll Support You Evermore

The media has been full of Arthur Scargill, Russian gold and dodgy dealings. We are not interested in the finer points of the case, the legal niceties or whether Scargill and Heathfield are innocent or not. These are not issues for anarchosyndicalists to concern themselves with.

During a dispute, raising money is essential. Where that money comes from is not so important - as long as there are no strings attached. Ideally, cash should be raised through the solidarity of the working class. If not, it should be obtained directly from the bosses with gun in hand.

Once cash has been raised it is crucial to keep it out of the hands of the state. But this is of secondary importance to putting it into the hands of those for whom it was intended. Playing clever games by following the advice of

legal whiz kids and stashing it in inaccessible bank accounts achieves the same aim as the sequestrators: those on the front line are denied the means to fight.

During the miners strike there were cases of creaming off of donations. There was a lot of cash floating about and some activists were tempted. But there is a

major difference between pocketing a tenner and organised fiddling. Clever dealings over house loans definitely comes into this latter category.

Whether officials in the NUM were legally corrupt or just morally so isn't our concern. That is up to those who raised the cash and those for whom it was

intended to sort out. What we are concerned with is the total corruption of unions in this country.

The real corruption that exists has less to do with money than it has to do with ideas. The idea of working class organisations has been destroyed. Today we see the situation where there are 'member' and 'the union'. The union means paid officials and all the experts, solicitors, researchers, accountants, etc who are all paid very well out of the workers' dues.

### SICK

Whether Scargill fiddled a loan of £100,000 to buy a house is not important. The fact that he could buy a £125,000 house at a time when a terrace or pit house was going for 10,000 is the real crime. The fact that he paid back the so-called loan when members of the NUM

would have struggled to get a £20,000 mortgage is sick. The fact that it was at a time when miners had and were being evicted for debts built up during the strike just makes it worse.

Working class organisation must be built that will fight against the corruption of elites and experts. This can only be done by having no paid officials and no permanent office holders. All decisions must be made by working class people and not by lawyers and bankers or any of their ilk because they have their interests and we have ours.

Those who chanted 'Arthur Scargill we'll support you ever more' in 1984 didn't realise how true that was, because the fact is that they will be supporting Scargill and all like him until the day they die. Financially, at least.

Malc, Doncaster



# 35 HOUR WEEK ?

With the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions (CSEU) targetting 60 companies around the country for indefinite strike action in pursuit of a 35 hour week, the campaign is once again in focus. The long drawn out strike at British Aerospace resulted in the campaign slipping out of the news. Despite BAE vowing never to give in to militancy, it gave in after 18 weeks.

This is the first time in 10 years that the engineering unions have undertaken nationally co-ordinated industrial action. The question facing engineering workers is less whether strike action can win, than whether its main demand for a shorter working week is one that addresses our problems and needs.

Since 1979 the CSEU has made the campaign for a 35 hour week a central focus of its collective bargaining strategy. Instead of a fight to reverse the 10 years of punitive productivity and flexibility deals, attacks on wages, conditions and jobs, we have a campaign for a 35 hour week which in effect is a diversion from the central question of pay and productivity, and a diversion from the failure of the union bureaucrats to fight to defend and improve wages and conditions.

These union bureaucrats talk of a shorter working week giving engineering workers more free time. The factory where I work on Merseyside is one of the 60 targeted and most people here see a shorter working week as an opportunity to work more overtime to make ends meet.

The proportion of manufac-

turing workers doing overtime rose from 26.6% in 1981 to a peak of 41.4% last year with back-breaking productivity drives imposed by the bosses in recent years, another factor ignored by engineering union boss Bill Jordan.



With an extraordinary 70% increase in productivity over the past 10 years, it was Jordan who suggested to employers that the unions should draw up proposals for a long-term agreement covering pay, working practices, collective bargaining arrangements and cuts in working hours. Jordan stressed that the proposals would be aimed at increasing efficiency, productivity and competitiveness, drawing praise from the Engineering Employers Federation director, Peter Brighton.

Last November the national negotiations for the 35 hour week broke down. This left workforces to fight their own local battles. Virtually all of the settlements so far have involved strings. In a report by the Industrial Relations Services published in the Financial Times (Mon May 21), it states 'companies surveyed recouped some of the hours cut by better use of eliminating tea breaks, curtailing washing time and enforcing bell to bell working. More

flexible working arrangements such as multi-machine operation and multi-skilling form a second method of financing deals and these are likely to prove longer lasting in their effects.'

The bosses have always told us that productivity drives were in our interest but the recent experiences of steel workers at Ravenscraig and workers in the coal industry show that co-operation with management will never guarantee jobs or living standards.

There are 2 million engineering workers (800,000 of whom are affiliated to the CSEU). Together they are a force to be reckoned with, but as employees of individual companies they are easy to pick off by ruthless and aggressive employers. This dispute could have been solved early by sharp national action - instead union bureaucrats have delayed action on a national and local level and have preferred to treat management with kid gloves.

Management are now telling us about falling profits and harsh economic conditions in order to resist our demands for better pay and shorter hours. We cannot have any truck with their calls for soft treatment, we need decent pay rises in order to have a decent standard of living. The time has come for us to take control of this dispute into our own hands. The union bureaucrats have avoided confrontation with management. We cannot let them stitch up deals behind closed doors. We need more take home pay and we want a cut in hours. This is the time to fight.

G. Parker, Liverpool

ruling class a little bit !

DIWU also took an active part in supporting the Ambulance workers and has received quite a lot of attention in the national and local media. Most importantly, the DIWU has widespread popular support among the vast majority of despatch riders/couriers, although the actual membership figures are not massive yet.

Simply by surviving one year the DIWU now has the distinction of being the longest ever running organisation for workers in the despatch industry. This industry has a high turnover in the workforce which has made it difficult to unionise before, and it is a

# Tele-con

It seems every time you open a newspaper or turn on the telly that you are confronted with appeals to give to charity, to help grannies, abused children, the blind, or to 'save our hospital'. Out of a sense of duty or perhaps more often guilt, people often put a coin in the cup or tin or clip out the coupon and post off their cheque, usually with the feeling of having 'done the right thing'. But is it really the right thing and do those on the receiving end really want handouts?

Recently, one group of people almost always portrayed as helpless and needing of charity protested against such an image. Disabled people demonstrated outside the studio of London Weekend Television on 26 and 27 May over the yearly Telethon, an event which raised over 24 million. The demonstration was organised by the Campaign to Stop Patronage, a group of people sick of the patronising 'freak show' nature of events such as Telethon. The Campaign wants all charities for disabled people to close and their funds diverted to be used by disabled people to campaign politically for rights.

As for the corporations, according to 'Disability Now', 'the Tower Thistle Hotel, who presented a cheque...had 16 seconds of airtime and donated £2,500. They would have paid £3,000 for the same amount of advertising. No wonder big companies love charity! According to a columnist in the same paper, a leaflet entitled 'Why Help Telethon' claimed, 'By being part of Telethon 90 your company... will get a reputation as an organisation which cares about people in the community. It's good for corporate awareness, good for staff morale, good for customer morale, good for recognition'.

So instead of falling for the ploy of needy people - of patronising images of helpless victims - we should be encouraging self help, mutual aid and the empowerment of our class, recognising the special needs of disabled people. Many disabled people are



constant struggle for the DIWU now.

During its first year the DIWU basically consisted of one 'General Membership' branch, the Number 1 Branch, made up of workers from many different firms. Now the Union is getting bigger and so we are starting 'Workplace Branches' at various firms. This is an exciting and necessary development.

The DIWU also wants to expand outside of London so if you know anybody who works in the industry please put them in touch. Write for a free copy of DIWU's newsletter, 'Despatches' - see page 9 for address.

quite rightly fearful of the service cuts and of the 'community care' plans of the government and the possible situation of increased dependence upon the good will of individuals and of big companies. We must fight against the cuts which endanger our standards of living but also look ahead to alternative ways of living. We don't want a bigger and better welfare state - we want a self managed society based on needs and abilities. To achieve our goals, we must start preparing and organising now, all of us, disabled or not.

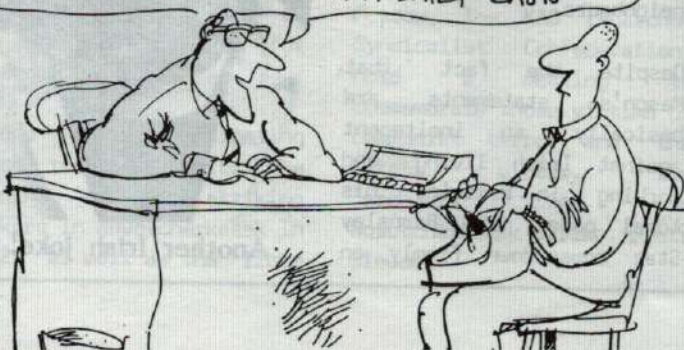
Donna South Yorkshire DAM

## DIWU

The anarchosindicalist union in London for despatch riders, cycle couriers, drivers and office staff, the Despatch Industry Workers Union, recently

celebrated its first anniversary. The DIWU's first year has been quite eventful, with disputes against West One Despatch and First Courier Despatch. The Union has received threats of legal action on three occasions so far, so it must be worrying the

WE HAVE A GENEROUS PACKAGE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, SON, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS



# GLASGOW - City Of Defiance

The Labour controlled Glasgow District Council have a vision of Glasgow where, working hand in hand with big business, the city will become a sanitized tourist attraction, a safe haven for yuppies and rip-off property developers and a jamboree for the bourgeoisie. Behind the advertising campaign of Saatchi and Saatchi, the 'Year of Culture' has more to do with power-politics than culture, more to do with millionaire developers than art.

The European City of Capitalist Culture title was passed on from Paris. Glasgow has historic links with Paris that the city fathers would rather we forget. Over a hundred years ago refugees from the bloody repression of the Paris Commune sought political asylum in the poor but generous and hospitable communities of the Worker's Glasgow. They made their own contribution to the growth of socialist ideas and attitudes in the city. This was in the days before Labour Party style collaboration with capitalism gave socialism a bad name.

## IMPERFECT

The issues involved in the Year of Culture have come to a head with the non-appointment of Elspeth King as the Keeper of Social History for the city. This was a post she was forced to apply for though she had already been doing the job as curator of the People's Palace for the last 16 years!

In that time, despite a painfully low budget, the People's Palace still managed to increase its number of visitors from 120,000 to nearly 1/2 million. Elspeth King made the mistake of being working class, a woman, and not being prepared to tow the Establishment line. In the words of Neil Wallace, senior official of Glasgow District Council's Festival Unit, 'Ms King had an imperfect understanding of how political systems work and how they can be used as allies'.

The council would rather waste £5 million on the Glasgow exhibition, a sanitized version of Glasgow's history and a

flop. The main purpose of the exhibition is profit not enjoyment. This is something the new Director of Museums in Glasgow, John Spalding, approves of. Unfortunately for him, the exhibition has been a financial disaster as it has broken with the tradition of being free, costing £4 a head, unlike the People's Palace which has never charged admission.

## BATTLE GREEN

Glasgow Green, on the north bank of the Clyde, is the oldest of the city's parks. It owes its origin to the common land of the burgh. It is also a very lucrative spot for property development. Having allowed it to become derelict, the District Council plans to hand a third of the Green

over to private developers. They plan to turn it into a Disneyland type theme park. Attractions include a croquet pavilion. Very useful for the local residents!

Time and time again Glaswegians have risen up when the Green - the People's Park - has been under threat, from the Chartist and anti-slavery demonstrations of the 19th Century to the anti-poll tax campaign of today.

In 1931 Glasgow Green again became a battle ground for free speech and working class resistance. After penniless tramp preachers were sent to prison for speaking without a permit on the Green, a Free Speech Committee which included Guy

Aldred, was formed.

In 1907 Aldred set up the Industrial Union of Direct Action with John Turner and was well-known in Glasgow for a generation as an anarchist orator. As the struggle widened to include the unemployed and to take on the capitalist system, the Free Speech Committee turned into a permanent Council of Action. A rally was called - 100,000 gathered on the Green, armed with sticks. The rally was not allowed by the police and when they attacked, rioting broke out which lasted over the weekend.

## WORKERS CITY

The Workers City group began as a collection of writers and artists in opposition to the spectacle of the Year of Culture and over the months its outlook has widened. Workers City helped to launch the Elspeth King Defence Committee. They've organised a number of free social events, one of which turned into the first May Day march on 1 May seen in Glasgow since the 1920s. In the tradition of Guy Aldred and other socialist speakers and agitators, a free speech platform was set up on the Green.

The platform was set up in opposition to the Labour



Party/Trade Union platform, held after the official Sunday afternoon May Day stroll. This was previously known locally as the 'March of the Living Dead', until the influx of anti-poll tax groups livened up this year's march. From the platform local people spoke out against the District Council's plan to privatise 60% of the parks' department which will lead to hundreds of redundancies and against implementation of the poll tax.

Local government in Glasgow has failed in its attempt to have working class history and traditions rot away in dusty storerooms or cleaned up beyond recognition. This year has seen all that's positive in our culture come to the fore in the shape of the mass Pay No Poll Tax Campaign, with well over 40% non-payment in Glasgow.

Glasgow DAM



## Beam us up Scotty

In the early hours of Tuesday 12 June a bizarre incident happened at Ebrington Barracks in Derry City. Two squaddies climbed a roof, fired plastic bullets at the sergeants' mess, and demanded £40,000 and a helicopter getaway.

The British army refused to confirm reports that they threatened their colonel

when he tried to talk them down. According to an RUC spokesperson, 'no-one really knows whether this was a drunken escapade or a question of soldiers cracking under stress. They are under enormous pressure and know the next patrol could be their last'. I blame it all on television myself. No Strangeways, no comment.

## 'Irish Joke'!

Following the bombing of the Carlton Club by the IRA all sorts of people have been calling for 'extra vigilance'. The former Labour Northern Ireland Secretary, Roy Mason, has urged people to report suspicious activities to the police. By 'suspicious activities' he means Irish people hiring cars, booking short stays in guest houses and using lock up garages for short periods of time. Needless to say, this has caused resentment amongst the Irish community who say this is basically a call to people to spy on their Irish neighbours.

Despite the fact that Mason's statements are basically an incitement against Irish living and working in Britain, his local paper, the Barnsley Star comes down firmly on

his side. It's editorial on the subject said: 'But in the present situation it is inevitable that innocent people will feel the backlash from the violence of a tiny minority of their countrymen. It is time for cool heads, commonsense and traditional Irish good humour until happier times!'



Another Irish joke!

# White Workers And Racism

The following article is taken from 'Ideas and Action', paper of the Workers Solidarity Alliance, US section of the IWA.



The recent murders and other incidents\* should be a reminder to us all as to how, close to 35 years after the start of the modern civil rights struggle, the position of minorities in the so-called 'melting pot' of New York City and other urban centres is still tenuous and vulnerable. It should serve as a reminder as to how both physical danger and psychological terror await black and latin people who cross into the 'forbidden zones'. Yusef Hawkins, Michael Griffith, Willie Turks and others before them, lost their lives just because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This is not to disregard the consistent attacks against other groups, especially gays and lesbians, or the regular anti-semitic and anti-Asian incidents that occur throughout the U.S. It is certainly not to disregard the continuing violence against women that permeates our society. Nor is it to downplay or excuse the attacks against innocent whites by minority youth who are directing legitimate anger at illegitimate targets.

However, it is the problem of race relations that plagues all the urban centres of the U.S. today, in each case with potentially disastrous consequences. Many of the 'social issues' of our day - crime, drug abuse, poverty and so on - have an important racial dimension in that they impact far more severely on minorities. As a result, politicians and demagogues on both sides of the racial divide have arisen who use code words, rhetoric, or in some cases espouse open hatred to gain power and privilege for themselves and their friends.

But how do we as anarchist unionists and fighters for the freedom of the whole working class see these problems and pose solutions? Sometimes we have been accused of being over-

simplistic and unresponsive to the special needs of minorities by sticking to the fundamental principle of inter-racial solidarity of all working people. Our critics can point to the relatively small number of minority workers who can be found within our ranks (as small as those are already!)

We should certainly not retreat from the principle of inter-racial solidarity, especially in the face of the common enemy who is attacking working people every day. But I would say it is true that we have not given enough attention to this area in its more concrete dimensions. As a result, political opportunists of various stripes, such as nationalists and Leninists, have gained some ground in minority communities.

One of the problems created by the rise of political opportunists is that they have in large part ignored the issues and concerns among white workers that lead to fear and racial hostility in the first place, in some cases making white workers indistinct from the racist power structure. There is an element among these opportunists that thrives on racial hostility, using it to justify their presence on the political scene. As a result, the racial problem is only aggravated, and poor and working people on both sides suffer.

## 'WHITE SKIN PRIVILEGE'

Back in the late '60s when many of the Leninist and nationalist groupings had their beginnings, a theory was put forward that white workers were essentially bought off by imperialism.

This theory, which gained some acceptance, said that white workers had gained a 'white skin privilege' by sharing in the exploitation and oppression of the 'Third World' and of minorities here in the U.S. Indeed, minorities in the U.S. were seen as 'internal colonies' of U.S. imperialism, entitled to separate status as nation-states.



Organised racism - a real threat

Accordingly, white people in general, workers or not, could become true revolutionaries only by renouncing their privilege and accepting the 'leadership' of people of colour. Trade union or other struggles that primarily involved whites were seen as detracting from the real struggle for 'Third World' liberation. The fact was that many white radicals who put forward this idea were mostly of middle or upper class origin themselves and assumed their guilt and confusion was shared by all white people.

We reject this idea first of all because history shows that white workers do not in any real way share in the 'crumbs' of imperialism. The relatively higher standards of living of workers in Western countries is a result of a combination of factors, primarily the unequal development that is inherent to capitalism as well as over a century and a half of workers' struggle. In reality the rise of imperialism and the repressive and militaristic forces it engenders has been to the detriment of the workers' movement in Europe and the U.S.

Yet it is clear that the type and severity of exploitation that occurs not only in the 'Third World' but among minorities in the U.S. is different than that suffered by whites in many cases. Furthermore, the cultural heritage of racism and European ethno-centrism has led to serious threats

Workers of the World (IWW) supported Southern black struggles against lynchings, in some cases by armed self defence. Today we defend this position.

But assuming this process of forming autonomous organisations were to take root in minority communities, how would white workers relate? Granted that in a best case situation these groups would be an integral part of an overall class movement - but is the role of white workers only to lend moral support? Clearly this type of passive role would be in contradiction to the type of empowerment that we as anarchist unionists advocate.

White workers are clearly not an ethnic or cultural monolith. Based on their various identifications, many of them would be part of the same process of autonomous organising as minority workers. Members of the black and latin communities also have other identifications based on culture, gender, sexual identity or other special issues that cross racial lines.

Some might argue that this whole process would seem confusing and fragmenting as well as somewhat far-fetched. I would argue instead that it reflects the reality and complexity of individuals' lives and identities in a complex society, as opposed to trying to put people into constricting categories. Further, it would promote a more profound sense of unity and solidarity by showing the interrelatedness of all cultures and groupings.

Further, in the course of development of the class struggle, a key purpose of these organisations is to break down social and economic inequality between the various sectors of the working class. Thus the development and success of autonomous minority movements and their demands should be seen as a prerequisite for real working class unity. Ultimately white workers must come to see that the advancement of the quality of life for minority communities can only benefit them and their struggles as well.

## AUTONOMOUS MOVEMENTS

Anarchists and libertarians of all types have historically supported autonomous movements and organisations of oppressed people on the basis of race, culture, gender or other special characteristics. Anarchist unionists in the U.S. have taken part as well, as in the 1920s when the Industrial

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## Racism...continued

### 'ZERO SUM GAME'

We need to understand that the types of demands we are talking about go far beyond what is usually put forward as 'affirmative action' or 'integration'. These types of programs are usually pushed by trade union bureaucrats and reform-minded employers and politicians in large part to pre-empt the self-directed struggle of minorities for real equity. These also at times deliberately pit white and minority workers against each other by presenting the situation as a 'zero-sum game', that is, the more and better jobs for minorities means fewer and worse jobs for whites.

In this regard we should also look at the fears and misunderstandings of some white workers when faced with the rising demands of minority communities. It should be noted that many of the worst racist incidents that have occurred in New York City and elsewhere have taken place in white working class communities on the periphery of the city, places which white workers saw both as the realisation of their own struggles for a

better standard of living and as a haven from the decay of the inner city. The activities of right-wing political groups and organised crime in those areas should not be ignored either.

### DIALOGUE

But the way to break through the fears and confusion of these white workers is not through confrontation of the type that is appropriate for dealing with the ruling class. What is needed is dialogue - a chance for all parties to vent their feelings, even if what comes out at first is anger and frustration. What can result in the long run is better mutual understanding.

One of the barriers to this kind of dialogue is sometimes our own fears. It is difficult to deal with workers who exhibit attitudes such as racism, sexism or homophobia. Yet common sense should tell us that people don't leap into revolutionary anarchist consciousness all at once. Each of us has known at least one co-worker or neighbour who might be quite militant in the context of a community or work-

place struggle but who had less than progressive ideas in other areas. If we disregard or refuse to talk to people like this in a meaningful way, we will have little influence and our numbers will remain small.

### UNITY BASED ON COMMON INTERESTS

But dialogue simply as an end to itself is only for those 'touchy-feely' types who don't believe in class struggle in the first place. At the same time as striving for better understanding between white and minority workers, we should be developing ties based on common interest. Class organisation has to be based first and foremost on material issues along with common beliefs as reinforcement.

To sum up, there is no easy or single answer to the problem of white workers and racism. We need to break out of the old state thinking that has stood in the way of inter-racial workers' solidarity. We need to challenge ourselves in a way that does justice to our tradition of innovative thinking and that is relevant to modern conditions. Above all, we need to confront the current divisions while being able to look forward at the same time to a new era of unity within diversity.

\* Yusef Hawkins was a 16 year old black youth killed by a white mob in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, which mistook him for the boyfriend of a young white woman in the neighborhood whose inter-racial dating they objected to. Michael Griffith was killed in Howard Beach, Queens, by a white mob which chased him onto a highway where he was hit by a car. Willie Turks, also black, was killed in Brooklyn by a white youth after leaving a shop in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. All of these are overwhelmingly white working class areas.

police are now and have always been a violent arm of State repression. The new truncheon is just a sign of how the police now want to be seen. Worn hanging from the belt, like a gunfighters' six-shooter, the new truncheons are a message to the public. They are only the tip of a very nasty iceberg which includes plastic bullets, electric cattle prods, drug darts and of course live rounds. All these weapons are aimed not at criminals but at strikers, demonstrators or anyone else who stands in the way of the British State.

Tom, Leeds

## ITALIA 90

So it's over. Anyone who loves football (as well as a few who don't particularly) will have had their eyes glued to the telly watching the matches for over a month. Everything which makes football the greatest spectator sport in the world was there: skill, controversy, drama. Football is to modern industrial society what the circus was to ancient Rome.



Anarchist poster

Before the thing kicked off 26 workers had been killed in the rush to get the stadium ready on time. The mafia (political and criminal) had of course taken their cut. Not a few Italians asked themselves if the £3 billion spent on ITALIA '90 wouldn't have been better spent on housing, hospitals etc. But the ruling class of the world's fifth industrial power (after France, before Britain) wanted to show the world the face of modern, prosperous Italy, an integral part of the emerging European superpower. And, to be honest, the stadiums were beautiful. The huge cost in human and financial terms is an obscenity of course. But I don't think it's very useful for revolutionaries to indulge in sterile moralising on these occasions. It's much better to be a cynical participant in what is, whether we like it or not, a huge popular festival. Point out the obscenity of space age stadiums next to slums, yes. Say it's bread and circuses today like it was 2000 years ago in Rome, yes. But anyone who isn't stirred by such world occasions is missing something inside. Football at its best is an artform. Someone who can't appreciate it is as much a philistine as someone who can't appreciate a great painting or sculpture.

Did the English football hooligans cross the Alps like some latter-day barbarian army or were they provoked by the police, Italians, or by the Dutch fans? There's probably an element of truth in both

versions. Police everywhere are bastards and they won't hesitate to get stuck in on any pretext. But there's no doubt that there are still some English fans who continue to believe they have an Empire and act accordingly when abroad. The Roman fans sing a version of the Marseillaise and the English were singing 'Land of Hope and Glory'. And anyone who'll prance about in Union Jack shorts must have dangerous illusions of superiority.... But not all English fans are drunken animals, no matter what that chinless wonder of a Sports Minister Colin Moynihan says.

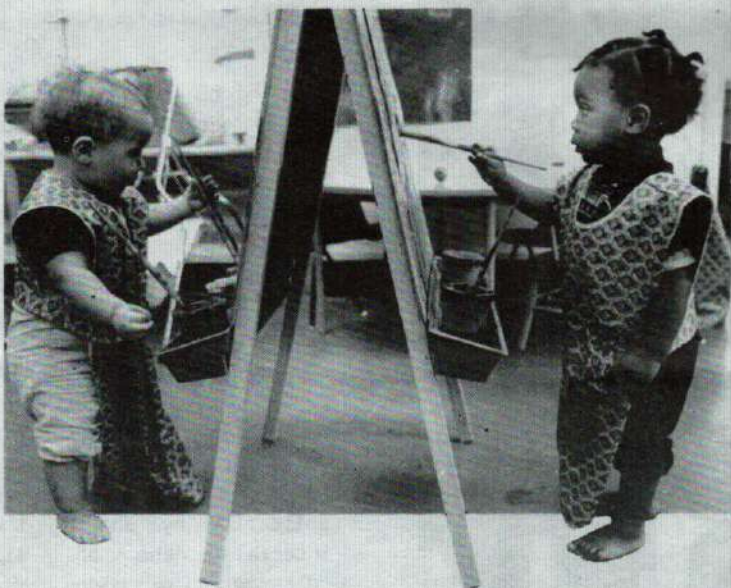
Nationalism generally is one of the unattractive sides of events like the World Cup. It's a natural human feeling to shout for the team from your town or country. But when it becomes an exercise in flag waving (even if your team is a heap of shite) or worse, when it becomes war by proxy, the football is irrelevant. After Germany won the World Cup there was not only jubilation back home, there were also mob attacks on foreign workers (with nazi skinheads to the fore of course).

I'll remember the World Cup for some moments of absolute magic from Toto Schillaci, Roger Miller, Matteus, Lacatus, Michel, Scifo etc. Some of the football was great, some indifferent. The best team went out in the semi finals (and I don't mean England). But I'm glad to have been a witness.

During the World Cup strikes by essential industries in Italy were outlawed. On 11 July there was to be a General Strike. The diversion is over... DM

## Irlanda 90

Sports Minister Colin Moynihan had a field day inciting police violence against English football supporters in Italy, but he didn't mention one of the nastier incidents of football violence at an early stage of the tournament. Scotland got defeated the same night England drew with the Irish side in their first game. This defeat was taken badly by a foot patrol of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in the Lower Falls area of Belfast. Local people celebrating the draw with England were attacked in two locations with volleys of plastic bullets, and two youths stopped in the street were beaten up and hospitalised. How about a ban on uniformed football supporters in the Six Counties?



Victims of bigots, both black and white

## Teenage Mutant Ninja Cops

Beat cops will soon be patrolling with 'new' Karate style truncheons according to an announcement at the recent Police Federation Annual Conference.

The new truncheon, described by one delegate as a 'weapon of the 1990s' is in fact nothing new at all, being an ancient martial arts weapon called the Tonfa. The weapon became popular after it was adapted by American police in a plastic form under the dramatic name 'The Prosecutor'. British cops, jealous of seeing these side handle batons on TV cop

shows like Hill Street Blues are now demanding ones of their own.

Naturally, there have been howls of anguish from various 'soft left' and liberal sources for whom the term martial arts equals violence (ironically the Conservative Government used the same logic when trying to ban weapons like the Tonfa in 1988).

However, once again these people have missed the point - giving police new truncheons won't turn British police from PC Plod into Robocop because the

# CARRARA

Carrara is a town in Italy with a long and distinguished anarchist tradition. As in much of Italy, France and Spain, it was anarchism rather than marxism or social democracy which dominated the early labour movement. And Carrara remained an anarchist stronghold long after anarchism had lost influence elsewhere.

The workers in the famous Carrara marble quarries won the 6 hour day in 1911. For many years the anarchist Alberto Meschi was Secretary of the local Trades Council and most of the organised workers belonged to the Italian Syndicalist Union

(the USI, the DAM's sister organisation in Italy today). Carrara resisted the blackshirts as the fascists came to power in the early 1920s (financed by the industrialists). In 1926 the Carraran anarchist Gino Lucetti attempted unsuccessfully to assassinate the dictator Mussolini.

In 1943/44 the anarchists played a dominant role in the partisan Resistance to the fascists and nazis. (The post war 'democratic' State tried to present some of the anarchists with medals in recognition of their Resistance activity but the anarchists refused them.)

## LIBERATION

In 1944 anarchist partisans took a building in the main square (Piazza Matteotti) by force of arms from the fascists. (Carrara was liberated before the Allied Forces reached it.) The National Liberation Committee and the Allies recognised the right of the anarchists to have a local in the building. From then until this year the 'Germinal' anarchist circle (affiliated to the Italian Anarchist Federation or FAI) had occupied one floor of the imposing building.

For some time the 'owners' of the building (known as the Politeama) had sought the eviction of the Germinal circle, so that the building could be developed for luxury apartments. The Politeama is privately owned (and the anarchists always paid rent) but it was built a century ago on public land so legal ownership was disputed. In any case the anarchists refused to move out. They'd been there for 45 years during which time the premises of the Germinal circle had been used not only by the anarchists movement but had also always been made available to the people of Carrara for exhibitions, classes, cultural events etc. As far as the anarchists were concerned the Politeama was public property, and they'd won the right to use a part of it back in 1944.

At 4 am on 23 March the authorities launched an obviously well planned operation. 200 police and carabinieri descended on Carrara to take possession of the Politeama. They were armed with pistol, sub-machine guns and tear gas and would no doubt not hesitated to use them if they'd met resistance. Piazza Matteotti was held by this army of occupation which so resembled the blackshirts of old and under its protection bricklayers were brought in to reduce the size of the entrance and put up a steel door. The local people were frightened and angry. The FAI weekly, 'Umanita Nova' talks of even non anarchists amongst the onlookers shouting 'viva l'anarchia'!

## FIGHT BACK

## EVICITION

Last year the local authorities granted the 'owners' an eviction order against the Germinal circle. In September the authorities made a first attempt to carry out the eviction but were unable to because the entrance had been barricaded and comrades had been mobilised to defend the anarchist circle.

The anarchists called an unauthorised protest demonstration two days after the eviction on 25 March. 300 - 400 comrades marched through the town, stopping at the Town Hall and Communist Party local to denounce those responsible (the mayor is a member of the CP). The demonstration finished in Matteotti Square where a few hammer blows were enough to break through the new entrance to the Politeama hurriedly built two days before. At this point the large force of riot police assembled charged, pursuing demonstrators into neighbouring bars and hitting by standers who had nothing to do with the demonstration.

The anarchists held meetings to gain the support of citizens and explain their refusal to move. There were strikes in solidarity with the Germinal circle amongst students and marble workers. In October a demonstration and rally in support of the Germinal circle drew anarchists to Carrara from all over Italy, and even from abroad. Meanwhile the authorities were planning their next move...

In April the police carried out over 50 raids on the houses of anarchists and those on the revolutionary left who defend the Germinal circle and on the anarchist press in Carrara under the pretext of looking for bombs and guns. The May Day demonstration in Carrara called by the FAI saw an unprecedented display of State force, an operation estimated to cost as much as the value of the disputed building! The atmosphere during the demonstration was tense but passed off without major clashes. But the fight for the Germinal circle will go on. Watch this space.

Source: 'Umanita Nova'



## Siouda

DAG4 carried an article on the murder of soviet anarcho-syndicalist, Piotr Siouda. We now have further information from the Italian anarchist weekly 'Umanita Nova'.

According to the press agency of the SMOT (free union activists) the evidence of one of the doctors who examined Siouda's dead body, which gave important clues as to the manner of his death, was systematically ignored at the inquest. So much for glasnost!

Siouda was investigating those responsible for the gunning down of striking workers in Novotcherkassk in 1962, as well as the links

between the KGB and clandestine Stalinist groups. It is evident that influential and powerful individuals were not prepared to allow the truth to be told. Piotr himself confided in friends shortly before he died that he believed he would be assassinated.

On 2nd June demonstrations were held all over the USSR to remember the anniversary of the 1962 massacre. In Moscow, the KAS (Anarcho-Syndicalist Confederation) held a meeting to commemorate those victims of communist terror and the latest victim, the 'archivist' of the Novotcherkassk strike, Piotr Siouda.

## Gay Solidarnosc

Lech Walesa, leader of the Polish union turned political party, Solidarnosc, made some pretty disturbing comments in April. Speaking at the Solidarnosc annual conference in Gdansk, he promised that if elected President he will 'eliminate' gays and drug takers from Polish society.

Lurking behind the man with the moustache is the face of Catholic reaction - long an enemy of our class. A spokesman for FILO, a Polish gay magazine, compared the situation to Germany before the war, and gay activists are taking the threat very seriously.



Walesa - a throwback to Nazi Germany

# Minimum Force

On Thursday 21 June at 6.00 am police raided 6 flats and houses in the Stamford Hill and Dalston areas of Hackney. 11 people were arrested on suspicion of offences ranging from theft of a traffic sign to violent disorder and criminal damage. The raid was carried out as part of Operation Carnaby which was set up following the 31 March Poll Tax demonstration in London. Some of those arrested are involved in their local anti-poll tax group. The raids were carried out in a paramilitary fashion with at least 60 police officers involved, some in plain clothes, others wearing bullet proof vests.

They entered premises using extreme force and intimidation. Doors were smashed down with sledgehammers and people dragged out of bed. The police also entered with axes raised, gassed a dog, took up a floor, smashed furniture and fittings, broke telephones, left homes open, took belongings, entered through windows, threatened occupants, smashed a heating duct, took money and in one case 9 men charged screaming into a bedroom where a mother was sleeping with her 10 day old baby.

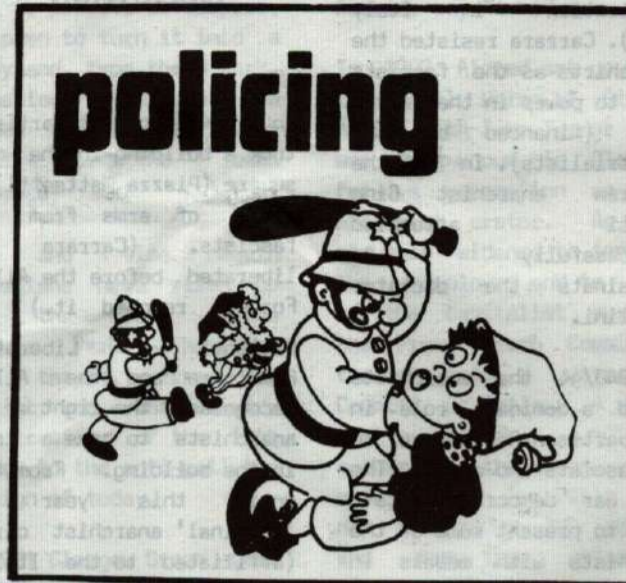
Four people were charged with violent disorder and 7 were released on police bail pending possible public order offences. One person was not granted bail and is held at Wormwood Scrubs due to allegations of assault in the process of his arrest.

Due to the seriousness of the raids (ie damage to property, assault and intimidation of defendants and other occupants of the flats), reports appeared in the national newspapers and on tv and radio. Also, questions were raised in Parliament. Scotland Yard issued a press statement claiming the area was a 'hotbed of anarchism' and claimed all those arrested were anarchists or animal rights extremists. In a radio call-in, Commander Roy Ramm (in charge of Operation Carnaby) stated 'the minimum amount of force needed to deal with these type of people was used'. When questioned further about allegations of doors being sledgehammered down, he stated 'when you're dealing with barricades, this action proves necessary'.

All the addresses were ordinary homes in Hackney and as it was 6.00 am when

people were still in bed, stories of barricades are total fabrication. This is clearly an attempt to criminalise and intimidate a local community where there are active anti-poll tax groups. We must not allow local communities and anti-poll tax groups to be criminalised. We will be fully supporting all those arrested from the raids.

For further information, contact Hackney Community Defence Association  
50 Rectory Rd, London N16



# Wobblies Bombed



IWW organizers Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were seriously injured 4 May when a bomb exploded in Bari's car during a tour of the San Francisco Bay area to organize support for ongoing efforts by environmental activists and our union to stop the destruction of northern California's few remaining old growth redwood forests. The lumber industry has already mowed down most of the redwood forests that once covered the region, destroying fragile ecosystems and permanently throwing tens of thousands of our fellow workers onto unemployment lines. IWW members in the timber industries working together with local environmentalists (most notably the direct action organization Earth First!) have demanded that companies stop clearcutting and convert to sustained growth harvesting. This is the only way to preserve the region's forests, jobs and communities.

Yet the timber companies persist in levelling entire forests in search of quick profits, demonstrating the same reckless disregard for the long-term survival of the forest and the jobs it supports as they do for the health and lives of the

workers who produce their wealth. (Government reports indicate that logging is now the most dangerous industry in the US). Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney have been working for the past few years to bring environmentalists and timber workers together, to recognize their common interests and to act upon them.

The 24 May bombing was the second attempt in less than a year to kill these fellow workers. Last summer a logging truck rammed into their car, demolishing it and causing serious injuries to Bari, Cherney, Earth First! activist Pam Davis, and Bari and Davis' four small children. Since then Bari has received dozens of death threats. Local law enforcement refused to investigate unless (until?) someone is killed. In this most recent attack Bari suffered a broken pelvis, injuries to her right leg and face and serious internal injuries. She remains in serious, though stable condition in Oakland's Highlands Hospital. Cherney suffered a broken arm and injuries to his right eye in the bombing.

### FRAME-UP

Rather than seek the perpetrator(s) of this attempted assassination, Oakland police arrested Darryl Cherney as he was released from hospital, subjecting him to a 7 hour,

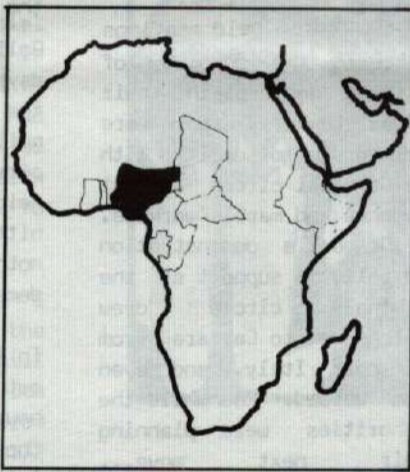
all-night interrogation before allowing him to contact an attorney or friends. Police have made clear their intention to arrest Bari as well as soon as she is well enough to leave hospital. Although prosecutors have not yet pressed charges, Cherney was released only on £100,000 bond. Arraignment on charges of possession and transport of an explosive device has been postponed until June 18th, at which time prosecutors will indicate whether or not they intend to proceed with this transparent frame-up.

IWW branches are calling for international demonstrations in support of Darryl and Judi and in support of ongoing efforts to save the redwood forests and to unite environmentalists and timber workers in fighting our common enemy. As Ukiah (northern California) IWW delegate Anna-Marie Stenberg notes, 'The responsibility for this violence is on the shoulders of corporate America and their right hand, the law enforcement agencies. Timber and mill workers are victims of this violence as much as activists are'.

Please send messages of support or write for more information to:

IWW  
3435 N Sheffield #202  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
USA

# FREE THE NEPA 11



The Nigerian Axe/Association of Libertarian Socialists is asking for help in the release of NEPA 11, workers who went on strike for better conditions against Nigeria's National Electric Power Authority in 1988. Their life sentences have been reduced to 10 years. They are M.A. Odedina, S.F.Adekunmi, C.N.Olafor, D.A. Olatoke, J.N.Olotu, C.E.Dortie, B.B.Dye, K.E.G.Okoroafor, E.Eguakegbe, E.O.Kuye and J.K.Olatunde.

Please send protest letters to Ibrahim Babangida, Office of the President, Lagos, Nigeria.

The Axe (GPO Box 12859, Dugbe Ibaden, Nigeria) and the Awareness League (40 Samuel Mbah, POB 28, Agbani Via Enunga, Nigeria) have asked for correspondence, radical publications, books, etc from abroad. Please send materials in plain envelopes.



# Reviews

## The Formula Pushers

### Infant Food Multinationals Breaking the Rules 1990

This 16 page document explains in detail the marketing strategies of companies such as Nestle who are pushing milk substitutes in many countries of the Third World. At first these companies often give baby milk substitutes away free to hospitals and clinics and convince medical staff and mothers that the best thing for newborns is not natural milk but their artificial substitutes.

Once the mothers have left the hospitals their breasts have dried up and can no longer supply natural milk and are therefore forced to carry on giving their offspring the substitute. Now, however, the baby milk is not free and high prices have to be paid for it. This

leads to mothers over-diluting the milk in order to save money and often using contaminated water. The result is that the babies suffer Bottle Baby Disease, which claims more than 1 million lives a year.

As a measure to combat Nestle and other firms a second international boycott of their products has been in operation for some time. This boycott is co-ordinated by the British section of the International Baby Food Action Network which has 140 organisations in 70 countries.

The message is loud and clear:boycott Nestle products!

For more information write to Baby Milk Action Coalition, 6 Regent Terrace, Cambridge CB1 4UY.

Richard, Manchester DAM

## Trafalgar Square

409 people were arrested on the day of the huge anti-Poll Tax demonstration in March, and over 100 have been arrested since. The Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign has been set up, involving defendants, solicitors and anti-Poll Tax activists, to co-ordinate legal defence and to oppose what amount to show trials as well as the hysterical media witch-hunt and continuing police harassment of anti-Poll Tax activists.

IF YOU ARE A DEFENDANT OF A WITNESS THEY URGENTLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

The TSDC meets every Weds, 7pm in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2. For more info write to TSDC, Room 205, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP (phone 071-833-8958).

As 'Black Flag' put it: 'The Trafalgar Square 500 are the first victims of a confrontation with the State which can only intensify, and it is around these 500 that we must build the solidarity that will take this campaign through to victory'.

# Contacts

### NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Secretary c/o Manchester DAM  
International Secretary c/o Edinburgh DAM  
For further information about the DAM-IWA and its activities write to the National Secretary

### SCOTLAND

Edinburgh DAM, PO Box 516, Southwest DO, Edinburgh EH10  
Glasgow DAM, PO Box 239, Glasgow G3 6RA

### NORTHEAST

Leeds DAM, Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS2  
Middlesbrough DAM c/o Leeds DAM

For contacts in Bradford and Huddersfield write to NE Regional Secretary c/o Leeds DAM

### NORTHWEST

Burnley DAM, 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancs  
Liverpool DAM, PO Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP  
Manchester DAM, PO Box 29, SW PDO, Manchester M15  
Preston DAM, PO Box 172, Preston, Lancs PR1

For contacts in Bury, Cumbria, Lancaster and Stockport write to NW Secretary c/o Manchester DAM

### CENTRAL

Nottingham DAM, PO Box 12, Carlton, Notts NG4 3SW  
South Yorkshire DAM, PO Box 106, Rotherham S60 1NW  
Leicester DAM c/o Nottingham DAM

For contacts in Corby, Scunthorpe and Leamington write to Central Region Secretary c/o Nottingham DAM

Bristol DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol

For contacts in Somerset and Plymouth write to Bristol DAM

### SOUTHEAST

Norwich DAM, Box DAM, 48 Bethel St, Norwich  
S.Hertfordshire DAM, PO Box 245, St Albans, Herts

Deptford DAM, PO Box 574, London SE4 1DL

E.London DAM, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX

S.London DAM, PO Box 761, Camberwell S00, London SE5

N.London DAM, c/o 187 High Road, London N22

For contacts in Kent and Reading write to SE Region Secretary c/o N.London DAM

### INDUSTRIAL

DAM Council Workers c/o Manchester or N.London DAM

DAM Despatch Workers c/o Deptford DAM

DAM Education Workers c/o Manchester DAM

DAM Railway Workers c/o Manchester DAM

### OTHER CONTACTS

Sheffield Healthworkers, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY

Despatch Industry Workers Union, PO Box 574, London SE4

Anti Nuclear Network, Box 30, 187 High Road, London N22

ASP(anarchist publishers), BCM Box 3174, London WC1N

Black Flag(anarchist monthly), BM Hurricane, London WC1N

Organise(anarchosyndicalists), 7 Winetavern St, Belfast 1

## Chatty Bit

Regular readers will have noticed a few changes in 'Direct Action' as of last issue.

DA has a new editorial group (members of S.Yorkshire DAM), a new production group (members of S.Yorks and Manchester DAM), as well as new printers, Clydeside Press in Glasgow.

Necessary technical changes have meant a temporary drop in quality in the way DA looks but we do intend this to be only temporary. So, for those who were worrying, the red will be back!

It was decided at the DAM National Conference in May that DA should return to being a strictly monthly paper, and we intend to carry this out.

We would also like to repeat that DA does not just accept articles from members of the DAM. Having said that we cannot guarantee to print everything we receive (there were good articles that had to be left out of this issue due to lack of space).

We believe that one sign of a good working-class political paper is a large and lively letters page. If there's anything we print that really gets up your nose or fires you with revolutionary enthusiasm WE WANT TO KNOW!

Finally, our thanks to all those who have written articles (whether printed or not) or who have otherwise supported us over the last few months. Our thanks also to the comrades at Clydeside Press.

DA Collective

## Subscribe!

If you support 'Direct Action' and want to help it to continue and to improve, one way you can show it is to take out a SUPPORTERS SUB (12 for 12 issues).

If you take out a supporters sub now you will receive, while stocks last, a copy of the book, A YEAR OF OUR LIVES, the story of the Miners Strike in a Doncaster pit village.

Any other financial donations will, of course, be very gladly accepted.

### ARTICLES

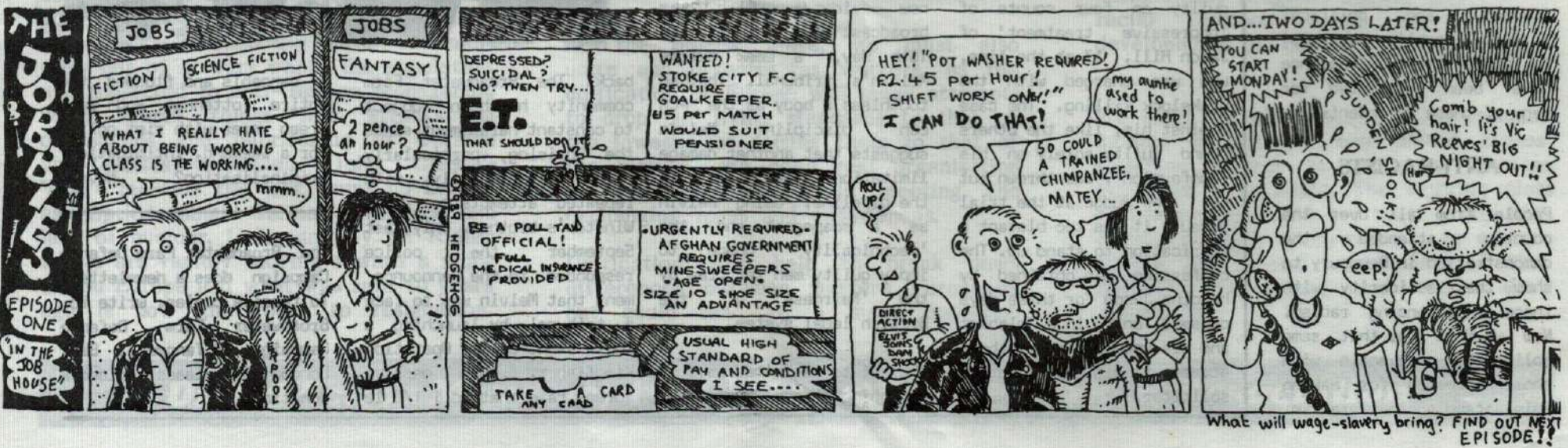
AND LETTERS TO...

PO Box 106

Rotherham

S60 1NW

Deadline  
14th Aug.



# DIRECT ACTION

DEWSBURY 82 INNOCENT  
National Demo - Sept 1st - 1pm  
Leeds Trades & Labour Club,  
Chappletown Rd.

## DEWSBURY 82

On Saturday 24 June 1989 the black community of Dewsbury was savagely attacked by both the police and the fascists of the British National Party (BNP). People from the Asian community together with white anti-racists responded to defend themselves and the black community.

The BNP's supporters and other racists were allowed to freely roam the streets and pubs of Dewsbury, randomly attacking any Asians they came across. They were also allowed by the local council to hold a rally outside the Town Hall, protected by the police.

### POLICE IN DEWSBURY

The police action on the day was also one of intimidation and provocation. Over 750 police, some in battle dress charged the peaceful demonstrators that were opposing the presence of the fascists. The police wanted a confrontation and mass arrests and their actions on the day ensured they achieved exactly this. On the day, they arrested 59 people, mostly Asian youths. Since that day, fishing raids by the police have netted a further 22 from Leeds, Batley, Dewsbury and Sheffield. The courts in turn have continued the criminalisation process begun by the police. Bail conditions for some of those arrested are on a par with South African 'banning orders'. Passports have been seized, severe curfews imposed and political activity (public meetings) to prove their innocence have been restricted for many of these defendants.

### ANTI-RACISTS

People from all over the country attended the demonstration in Dewsbury to show their solidarity with those experiencing racism. Now we must show that same solidarity once again with those arrested for making this stand against racism.



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL.

Whilst racist violence continues to escalate, those

fighting against it are continually being criminalised by the police. The racists and fascists, on the other hand, are allowed freely to attack black people, safe in the knowledge that the police will not even attempt to stop them. The police are clearly on their side. We cannot rely on them to stop the rising tide of racist violence. We must organise ourselves to stop it, just as the various Asian Youth Movements showed us not so long ago.

### TODAY'S POSITION

Almost a year since the demonstration to oppose the

BNP most defendants have now been railroaded through the magistrates courts and given conveyor belt justice. Whilst some have managed to prove their innocence, the vast majority have been given very heavy fines.

With 25 of these defendants facing more serious charges, the police have decided to stage a political show trial starting on 3 September in Leeds. This will be the biggest political trial for many years. It involves the biggest number of people being tried together for the 'crime' of opposing racism.

### SELF-DEFENCE

We need to remember that this trial is about the issue of black self defence against racism and police brutality. Only mass

political campaigns and strong black community support can win this trial. We need this support and mass mobilisation NOW to show the police and the courts we will not allow them to criminalise black and white anti racists.

All charges on that day are political and stem directly from the fascist presence and the attack on the crowd by the police. Please show your support and solidarity by sponsoring and attending this National demonstration.

For posters, further information or if you require a speaker, please write to:

DEWSBURY 82 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN  
Kirkless Black Workers Group  
c/o SKCRC 24 Westgate  
Huddersfield  
West Yorkshire

## Frame-Up Collapses

The police officer responsible for framing the Tottenham Three (Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Enghin Raghip) for the killing of PC Keith Blakelock during the 1985 uprising on Broadwater Farm Estate in North London, is to be disciplined.

Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin is no lowly scapegoat (he is currently head of the Met's Organised Crime Task Force), as he was in overall command of the investigation following the uprising, and to discipline him is to question the whole 'investigation'.

A Police Complaints Authority tribunal found Melvin guilty on four counts of 'oppressive treatment' of Jason Hill, 13 at the time, who was charged with the Blakelock killing. The case against him, like the others found guilty solely on his 'confession', was thrown out by the judge at the trial because it was too blatant a fabrication to stand up. The confession was obtained by holding Jason for three days dressed only in a blanket and his underpants, without access to his parents or a solicitor.

The confessions of the Tottenham Three were forced by similar treatment. Winston Silcott is alleged only to have said that no one would testify against him....some confession! Mark Braithwaite suffers from claustrophobia and signed a 'confession' in the hope of getting out of a cell. Enghin Raghip's IQ has been assessed at a very low level which would suggest that it was easy for police to pressure him into 'confessing'.

The Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign are calling for the Home Secretary to review the cases in the light of Melvin being disciplined, and of new evidence which was broadcast in a TV program on 16th May, a week before Melvin's tribunal. That so toothless a body as the PCA can discipline Melvin suggests that another damage limitation exercise is in the pipeline, using Melvin as a scapegoat and the 'technicality' dodge to imply guilty men set free by the 'fairness' of the British legal system.

The state has other ways of punishing those who fight



back. The Broadwater Farm community has been subject to constant harassment since the uprising, particularly of the Silcott family, with repeated attempts to frame Winston's brother. Only last September the police responded to the announcement that Melvin was to face a tribunal by launching a media stunt called Operation Kingfisher. This massive 'drugs raid' netted 1 1/2 lb

of cannabis and flooded the entire Tottenham and Wood Green area with riot police for a weekend. Intimidation? Criminalisation? Never!

The Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign does a newsletter. To receive copies, write to: Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, 79 Tangmere, BlF, London N17. Please enclose a donation.