

contra FLOW

European Counter
Network (*London*)

SEPTEMBER 1993 - FREE

SENTENCED TO DEATH:



and many more...

JOY GARDNER :

Murdered by police, August
1993.

OMASASE LUMUMBA:

Killed by screws in Pentonville
Prison, October 1991.

PATRICK QUINN :

Killed by police
in Hammersmith
Police Station, 1990.

NICHOLAS DONNELLY:

Committed suicide in
Pentonville Prison,
March 1992.

ORVILLE BLACKWOOD:

Killed in Broadmoor Special
Hospital, August 1991.

COLIN ROACH :

Killed by Stoke Newington
Police, January 1983.

PHILIP KNIGHT:

Committed suicide while on
remand age 15, 1990.

PAT MOLLOY:

Framed by police, died in
prison 1980.

McLIBEL NEWS - MAASTRICHT EXPLAINED? - DEATHS IN CUSTODY - GOLF
WAR - ACTING UP IN BERLIN - STRIKES STITCHED UP - PLUS NEWS FROM :
IRELAND, PERU, GREECE, DENMARK, AND MUCH MUCH MORE.

Contraflow

Hello everybody,

There is great happiness in our collective hearts that we have been able to bring you another issue of CONTRAFLOW. As usual, you can find our reports of various happenings, manifestations and confrontations plus some other political novelties, maybe!

The idea of a London Office of the EUROPEAN COUNTER NETWORK has more or less been realised in the year and a half that we have been functioning. We have the simple technology (computer and modem) for plugging ourselves into the Network and we have access to cheap printing (duplication) to enable production of a regular Bulletin.

Right now, printing and mailing costs for each issue stand at over £200 for 1100-1500 copies. Piles of CONTRAFLOWS are distributed to bookshops and other community-orientated spaces all over London and single copies get sent to community groups, Anarchist groups etc worldwide.

I suppose, the idea this introductory ramble is trying to get over to you is the same idea (dream) that we started off London ECN with - to encourage other groups in the UK to start their own local office and local Bulletin, and for those regional ECN poles to link up spreading their news and receiving ours.

At last years Anarchist Bookfair in London (Oct '92), we held a meeting about ECN and got a mixed response. It was still early days at that time for

us and we hadn't even really had a chance to get ourselves going, let alone inspire a nationwide rapid communication link-up. Today, we have sorted many of our problems and hesitations about working through ECN and we have managed to maintain publication of CONTRAFLOW, so we feel that we can now start to encourage again those who were interested in forming their own group. With the hopeful start-up of FAST BREEDER (see below) and the continuation of our projects, things should be very easy for comrades and friends to get going and plug themselves in. We hope that you might get in touch with us, come to one of our ECN working meetings, encourage local campaigns or groups to construct a UK ECN net. All this and more.

Well, rant over! It's so nice to have these chats, isn't it. None of us can work in a vacuum, so get in touch with us, even if just to tell us that you are alive (or to exchange your letter, leaflet, pamphlet, magazine, newspaper, book, thoughts, criticisms etc or your wages for forthcoming issues!)

We need money because we never have any and stumping up the cash for successive CONTRAFLOWS is going to get harder and harder. We welcome pillowcases of money stolen from banks, of course but will accept stamps on a one stamp=one issue basis.

You can send cheques made payable to A.HODSON (we trust him!)

Be seeing you, until next time...and the rest of it,



c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., LONDON SE17. UK

European Counter Network

The ECN is an evolving network based on the exchange of information between computers via telephone lines. At present it connects a number of different radical/activist groups in Europe, as well as having links with the USA. In addition to circulating news, the ECN can be used to organise and co-ordinate activities (e.g. organising simultaneous demonstrations in different countries).

London ECN exchanges news regularly with the network. If other groups would like to circulate material they have written on the network, they can send it to us on disk in ASCII format (for instance we have circulated stuff by CARE, Bad Attitude, Counter Information, and the Anarchist Black Cross).

The Fast Breeder collective is in the process of establishing a computer bulletin board in the UK which will enable people to communicate directly with each other every day. There will be an ECN space on Fast Breeder. (contact: Fast Breeder, BM Jed, London, WC1N 3XX, UK).

ACTIVE DISTRIBUTION
BM Active, London, WC1N 3XX
Cheap and friendly Anarchist mail-order (and more!!)

Interesting Publications

BAD ATTITUDE
C/o 121 Railton Rd, London SE24. UK
Radical womens paper with worldwide news and features. Getting better issue by issue.

AUFHEBEN
c/o Prior Hse, Tilbury Place, Brighton. UK
Revolutionary perspectives - Issue 2 just out with stuff on Yugoslavia, Somalia, Decadence and more. Invaluable analysis.

NO COMMENT - A Defendants Guide To Arrest
SAE (donation, if poss.) LONDON ABC, 121 Railton Rd. London SE24
Vital advice to keep you out of jail if you get nicked by the cops



ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK
c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 2DE. UK
Informative mag supporting direct action resistance against Nuclear Power.

CARE
BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX
Excellent non-sectarian anti-racist, anti-fascist news and analysis.

COUNTR INFORMATION
Pigeonhole Cl, c/o 11 Forth St, Edinburgh EH1, Scotland

ARM THE SPIRIT
PO Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1PZ, CANADA.
Brilliant coverage of armed (and unarmed) struggle all over. Very up-to-date with censored news.

A LIE TOO FAR
c/o 151B London Rd, Camberley, Surrey. UK
Disturbing allegations concerning Searchlight anti-fascist mag's hidden agenda - Essential reading for anti-fascists.

PRISON NEWS FROM THE ABC

PRISONERS CALL THE SHOTTS

105 prisoners in Shotts Prison, Scotland's main high security prison, took over D Hall on the 8th of June. Several screws were injured, including one who was stabbed in the chest. 31 prisoners gave themselves up on the night of the 8th but 74 more occupied D Hall for 23 hours until the siege was ended peacefully after negotiations. £100,000 worth of damage (about the cost of keeping 15 people in jail for a week) was done to D Hall, including some cracking graffiti along the lines of "Anti Screw Crew", "D Hall No More", and "Run Screw Run". The riot was sparked off by prison authorities' ordering some visitors to be strip-searched, allegedly for drugs, though harassment of visitors to high security jails is an ongoing tactic designed to discourage visits and isolate prisoners even more than they are already.



- in May 1990 9 prisoners went on dirty protest after being put on report;
- in September 1991 there was another riot by 53 cons;
- in August 1992 a screw was held with a knife at his throat for 21 hours;
- in June this year, just before the riot, there was a rooftop protest by 2 prisoners.

Keep it up lads!

The press got all steamed up about how the riot was taking place in a so-called "modern prison" with "good" conditions. The trouble at Shotts shows though that prisoners aren't just concerned about fiddling little reforms: the fact is that no matter how cushy you make out you're treating people a prison is a prison. Prisoners are pissed off with BEING LOCKED UP. No liberal reformer has got an answer to that one.

M25 3 LOSE APPEAL

On the 29th July the 'M25 Three' - Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis and Randolph Johnson - had their appeals against their convictions dismissed in the Court of Appeal. The three men were jailed for life for murder and robbery after a night of attacks near the M25 Motorway in Surrey in December 1988, in which one man died (see *Contraflow* no. 6). Witnesses and victims of the attacks described two white men and one black man, but the police fitted the three, who are all black, up, using initial white suspects who admitted taking part in the attacks as prosecution witnesses. There was no forensic evidence and Raphael and Michael had alibis for the first attack. Despite all this they were convicted in March 1990.



The Appeal lasted a week in June but the judges reserved their verdict, upholding the convictions on the 29th. The judges said there was no basis for "even a lurking doubt" about the convictions. Evidence on whether witnesses were paid a £25,000 reward was withheld from the defence. The three men and their families who are supporting them all the way say the campaign will continue, and the case has already been referred back to the Home Secretary. Raphael Rowe's sister Joanne says "There's no stopping us now. We will fight and fight and fight. We will see our brothers out on the streets no matter how long it takes."

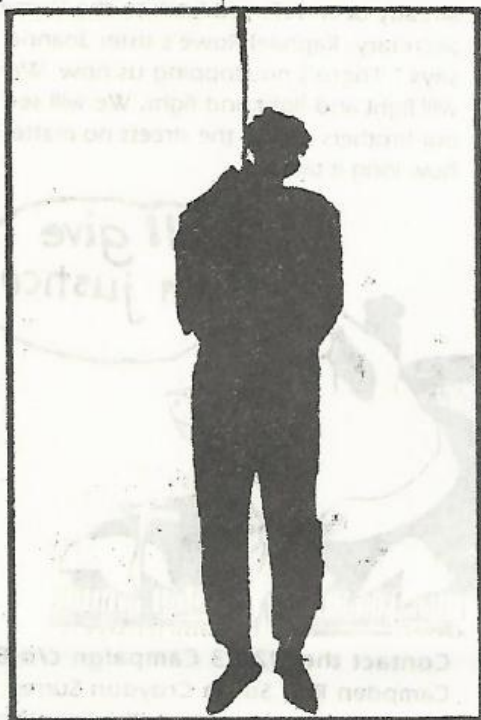


Contact the M25 3 Campaign c/o 8 Campden Rd, South Croydon Surrey, CR2 7EN. As yet we don't know the whereabouts of the three, get in touch with the campaign or London ABC for more info.

"UNLAWFUL KILLING" IN PENTONVILLE

In July an inquest on the death of Zairean refugee Omasase Lumumba in Pentonville Prison found that he had been "unlawfully killed". Lumumba died in October 1991 "while being restrained" by 6 screws while awaiting deportation, having come to Britain in August of that year as a political refugee (he was the nephew of the first Zairean president Patrice Lumumba who was overthrown with CIA backing in the 60s). According to the screws he was being held on the ground by four officers when he started struggling so they began to strip him, but he was able to lift all four of them off the floor (including a screw weighing 17 stone!) so 2 more joined in. Omasase died in the struggle. An original inquest was not allowed to bring in the unlawful killing verdict but the outcry after the cover-up forced the second inquest where it took the jury 25 minutes to conclude that he had killed by "improper

methods and excessive force". Funnily enough this is only the SECOND TIME EVER there's been such a verdict on murder by screws, and no police or prison officer has ever been convicted after this type of result. Not very surprising, when in this case the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled out any criminal proceedings BEFORE the second inquest. You can get away with murder if you've got a uniform.



MORE ON PENTONVILLE.

Meanwhile it seems Pentonville screws are still at their brutal racist worst : eight algerian men who were detained in Pentonville, also after escaping violence and torture at home, reported racist treatment in the prison. The eight were released by the government on the 28th of May - "coincidentally" the same day as a hundred-strong demo outside Pentonville in support of them. With the new Asylum law threatening fast-track deportation for refugees the government is looking to criminalise asylum-seekers and is using places like Pentonville to detain people as well as opening new detention centres like the one soon to be opened at Kidlington, near Oxford, with capacity to hold 200 people. Over 10,000 black people are detained in this way every year in Britain.

Contact the Stop the Detentions Action Group, 18 Spillman's Rd, Rodborough, Stroud, Gloucestershire, for info on resistance to the racist imprisonment of refugees.

(Info nicked from CARF Magazine,

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

Prisoners Justice Day is commemorated every 10th August to remember prisoners who have died in prison, whether as suicides, murdered by screws or from the routine brutality and isolation of being inside. The day of demos, hunger strikes and actions by prisoners and supporters began in Canada in 1975. London ABC held a demo at Brixton Prison in 1992 to remember all the prisoners who had killed themselves or died of neglect in the prisons notorious F Wing (since closed down - see last Contraflow). This year the ABC Network held demos at Armley, Winson Green Prison and Pentonville Prisons. Over fifty people attended the picket of London's Pentonville Prison including at least 2 ex-prisoners and Pam Donnelly, whose son Nicholas committed suicide in the prison in March 1992 after protesting about the brutal conditions he was held under. The demonstrators held placards remembering the four prisoners who have killed themselves in Pentonville in the last 18 months and the murder of Omasase Lumumba. We also used a megaphone to call attention to Pentonville's crimes.

Seven people picketed Armley Prison in Leeds, which also has a history of deaths. They were joined by a group of kids off the local housing estate.

40 people picketed Winson Green Prison in Birmingham, including ex-prisoners and representatives from framed prisoners' campaigns.

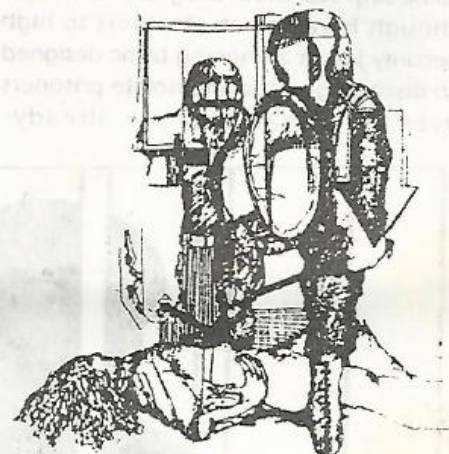
Anyone interested in helping to make next year's Prisoners Justice Day a big and angry event get in touch with London ABC.

THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

The above info on prisoners was put together by London Anarchist Black Cross, which supports working class people in prisons. We support prisoners who have been locked up for resistance to the power of the rich, as well as publicising the cases of people framed by the police and spreading news about the reality of prisons and the cons fighting back inside. Where we can we support prisoners with material aid, demos, letters and through our bulletin which comes out every 3 months. Send a donation for more info to London ABC, c/o 121 Railton Rd., London, SE24. Tel 071 274 6655 (ansaphone messages).

POLICE KILL DEPORTEE

On Wednesday the 28th of July immigration officers and police broke without warning into a flat in Hornsey, North London, to detain Joy Gardner, a jamaican woman aged 40, so they could deport her as an "overstayer" in Britain. According to the official version Joy resisted being arrested, and was forcibly restrained by several cops, who sat on her chest, strapped her into a body-belt with handcuffs on it and taped over her mouth with a piece of sticky tape. (This was not admitted at first by the cops involved), in front of her 5-year old son. As a result she couldn't breathe and the blood supply to her brain was cut off. She developed brain damage, went into a coma and later died. Her son is said to be seriously traumatised, having witnessed the whole thing.



There was an immediate outcry from the black community, which forced the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to look like he was doing something - he announced the temporary suspension of the police squad which handles the forced deportation of "illegal immigrants" - known as SO1(3) - and of 3 of the officers involved. On the following Tuesday there was an angry demo of 300 people outside Hornsey Police Station where members of Joy's family spoke. The demonstrators blocked the road in protest, amidst appeals for calm by the local MP, Bernie Grant, who is trying to defuse the anger into the usual legal and futile channels. A demo was also held on the 7th August - over 1000 people marched to the police station. According to other people who have been deported from Britain, taping over the mouth, as well as taping people's legs together, is fairly common in cases where the police expect resistance to the deportation. SO1 (3) has reportedly been used in 25 cases this year.

A FRAMEWORK FOR FRAME-UPS

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORT

Following the release of the Birmingham 6 the Royal Commission was set up 2 years ago with a brief to reform the criminal justice system in order to prevent similar mis-carriages of justice. In the short period of time elapsed between the release of the commission's extremely long and poorly written report and this consequently brief sketch of it's contents, it has become apparent that the only relation the Royal Commission's report could be said to enjoy with it's original aims is that of the exact opposite.



From supposed concerns arising from the imprisonment of innocent people the agenda has been swung around to concentrate on the problems of the police in their efforts to bang people up. Consequently one of it's main recommendations is the removal of the right to trial by jury.

As has been much reported, juries have shown increased unwillingness to accept the kind of shit the police have routinely been expecting to pass off as evidence in court. The simple fact of ordinary peoples' resentment at having their intelligence insulted by uniformed half-wits, never mind being party to locking others up on such a basis, has finally come home. It has therefore been recommended that the decision as to the suitability of trials to go before a jury be left up to magistrates. Magistrates of course get paid vast amounts of money for getting their intelligence insulted on a regular basis while still coming up with the 'correct' verdict.

The following details a few of the more disturbing recommendations so far unearthed from the commission's report.

- Recommendation in regard to 'rogue' cops (see CF 6) is to give senior officers more powers. This will translate, should it be taken up, as more leak-proof cover ups.

- to make defendants disclose their defence to the police before trial.

Just how this will be used is too obvious to require comment.

- that judgments made in the case of R. v Edwards(1991) and R. v Ward (1992) 'go too far', in the commission's words, and should be overturned. These judgements require the prosecution to reveal cases where allegations have been made against police officers and juries have disbelieved their evidence. Hackney Community Defence Association, in their July 12th press release stated, 'events at Stoke Newington police station, and Operation Jackpot have a direct bearing on the commission's recommendation to challenge the Edwards ruling' (see CF 6 again).

- to allow police to take saliva samples from suspects for DNA

profiling. This goes along with a recommendation for the setting up of two DNA profile banks. One for use by the police in criminal investigations, one for 'research'. The 'research' bank which is claimed to be for the purpose of establishing whether two people can have the same DNA will, however, file it's samples by name (not 1,2,3 etc. ie anonymously, as is usual in such studies). We can only assume the worst from such an explicit and unusual recommendation should it be taken up.

In their statement HCDA said - "many victims of police crime appear before magistrates charged with offences against the police; time and again these people are unjustly convicted by magistrates, some are lucky enough to win their cases on appeal. Magistrates' courts were originally called Police courts, this is still an appropriate title as magistrates have far too cosy a relationship with the police to ever be considered impartial..... there is nothing in the report which will prevent another Birmingham 6".

On July 12th HCDA picketed Stoke Newington police station. A 40 ft banner stretched in front of the foyer read- "POLICE FORCE POLICE LAW POLICE STATE".



"Anything I say will be taken down and used in evidence against you..."

GUILDFORD 4 - PIGS CAN FLY

On Wednesday May 19th 3 detectives involved in the Guildford Pub bombing investigations were cleared of all charges against them at the Central Criminal Court. They were on trial accused of 'conspiracy to pervert the course of justice'.

The Guildford pub bombings took place in 1974 - they were part of an extensive IRA campaign in England that year - the first involving large numbers of deaths. 7 people were killed and 60 injured. The police quickly got to work fitting people up. This was duly done, and in 1975 4 people were jailed for life - Gerry Conlon, Carole Richardson, Patrick Armstrong and Paul Hill. Campaigning for their release went on for years - as with the Birmingham Six it was a long time before any significant progress was made. The state was finally forced to act after the 4 had spent 14 years in prison. In 1989 they quashed the convictions against them - the pressure of the truth was finally too much even for the Tories. In doing this the government preempted the appeal which was due to take place at the beginning of 1990. At the time the impression given out was that of 'coming clean' - far from it - the government did not want the appeal because they knew that a lot of new evidence of corruption would come out. As Paul Hill has said, the attitude of the justice system seemed to be that it was performing a magnanimous act, and the Guildford 4 should be grateful for their release - the judge presiding over the 'appeal' hearing made no expression of regret for all the time they had been locked up.

The convictions were reversed when detectives from an outside force discovered 2 documents in the Surrey police archives that clearly pointed to a conspiracy amongst the police. These were the supposedly handwritten confession of Patrick Armstrong and a type-written version which had additions hand written on it. The type written version together with the additions was almost identical to the handwritten version. It was obvious that the type written version must have come first, making it also obvious that the police had lied at the original trial. This alone was enough to persuade the Director of Public Prosecutions to reverse the convictions. The judge at the hearing said that he hoped prosecutions against the policemen involved would go ahead quickly.

They did, but only after 3 and a half years of delaying tactics. In the meantime a judicial inquiry had been set up into the Guildford case. Part of the reason for the delays was to make sure this inquiry could get nowhere - it was severely limited in it's scope because of the ever imminent trial of the policemen.

The trial finally started in April 1993. Right from the start it was completely stitched up so that there was no chance of any convictions. It became a retrial of Patrick Armstrong, around whose confession the

case centred. It was widely reported that he had refused to testify - this was simply not true - he was never given the chance. The defendants did however refuse to testify - not surprising since they hadn't got a leg to stand on. In 1989 they had said they 'could not provide a satisfactory explanation for the two documents' - pretty much an admission of guilt. At this trial however their statements said that the handwritten notes had come first and they 'could not remember what the type written notes were for'. This obvious bullshit was not seriously questioned. As the trial went on the Patrick Armstrong was reconvicted in the eyes of the jury - the defence still claiming after all these years that he was a member of the IRA.

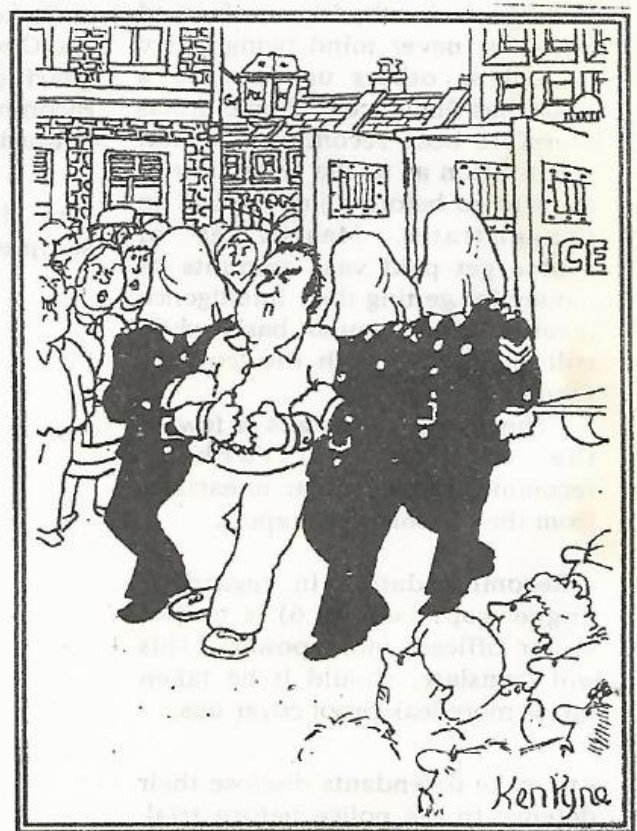
Despite the totally ridiculous contradictions involved, the men were found not guilty. Armstrong said after the trial " it was a whitewash - I don't know why they bothered going through the motions."

Paul Hill was also despondent after the trial. He is still waiting for his appeal against the Brian Shaw murder conviction. He was found guilty of murder in 1975 by a Diplock (no jury) court in Northern Ireland. This aspect of the case is a much bigger problem for the state than the Guildford bombings. On the day the Guildford convictions were quashed Paul Hill was flown to Belfast and appeared in court there. This court released him on unconditional bail - the Shaw murder conviction was not quashed. So for the last 3 and a half years Hill has been free to come and go as he pleases while still technically guilty of murder. And there is no

easy way out of this bizarre situation for the government. In the Guildford case they put the blame onto a few Surrey police officers. But in the Shaw case if they were to reverse the conviction that would expose the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the whole system of Diplock courts in Northern Ireland. 85% of Diplock convictions rely solely on confessional evidence. They desperately do not want to set a precedent with Paul Hill. Which is why they keep offering him parole - which he keeps refusing.

Kenneth Clarke said after the trial - " we should get that particular incident back in proportion - and put this whole unhappy episode behind us " - unfortunately for him and scum like him it won't go away. The government and judiciary continue to lie and manipulate over this case and many others. It doesn't seem to matter how much crap they talk or how often they contradict themselves - they plod on regardless, and an uncritical media mostly lets them get away with it. 4 months ago Kenneth Clarke (then Home Secretary) said there was no new evidence to grant an appeal in the Carl Bridgewater case. Then the foreman of the jury that convicted them said they were innocent - then so did the forensic psychologist that the Home Office themselves hired to investigate the case. Now at last there may be some progress in this case as well.

You can bet that the legal system will slime it's way out of that one as well. The liberals are upset because they see 'British Justice' being compromised. They still cling to the idea that there could be such a thing as justice being administered by such a system, even after the exposing of so much corruption and conspiracy.



self defence is NO OFFENCE

15/6/93:- 3 Asians charged with violent disorder and assault after a gang of white youths had launched an attack on their community were finally found not guilty by a jury. The other defendant of the "Drummond Street 4" had charges against him dropped on the second day of the hearing.

At the end of April last year 5 white youths armed with hammers etc. drove to Drummond Street, North London, a centre of the local Bengali community and started to threaten people and shops. The police were called, but didn't arrive until 40 minutes later, by which time the local community, having had much experience of racist attacks and police inaction, had fought back, with one of the attackers getting quite damaged. The police raided homes in the area to find people to charge, arresting 5 but dropping charges against one, and although the white youths were also arrested, charges against them had been dropped by a magistrate at an early stage.

The drummond street 4 campaign can be contacted c/o 1 Robert St London NW1

MORE POLICE RACISM

Kentish Town police, responsible for the Drummond Street arrests, carried out another attack at the end of June. Rita Porter, a black mother of two, was at the local Electricity Board office trying to get her electricity connected in a hurry because she and one of the children were unwell. When she didn't get satisfaction she refused to leave until it was sorted out. 8 cops arrived, separated her from her 3-month old baby, which according to witnesses was thrown like a rugby ball, wrestled her to the ground and handcuffed her, in front of her 3 year old daughter. Despite the fact that Ms Porter's arm was broken, the cops decided to charge her with assault.

On July 10th about 75 people demonstrated outside the police station to demand that the charges be dropped. The demo was livened up when everyone decided to go and visit the Electricity Board office, without warning the cops, and then marched back to the police station once the cops had arrived. The charges were then dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service and there will now be an official investigation into the actions of the police, with Ms Porter considering suing.

On July 13th a 40 year old black man was assaulted by 6 cops who broke into his home in Camberwell. They turned up after a court official had tried unsuccessfully to recover a fine for not having a TV licence. The injured man is being charged with affray and possession of an offensive weapon.

POLICE VICTIMISE SQUATTERS IN SOUTH LONDON

In recent months there has been an upsurge in police activity against squatters in Brixton, South London.

On 18th May police raided a party at a squatted house. Initially they had been called by neighbours complaining about the noise. When 2 officers were refused entry a large number of riot police turned up and proceeded to smash their way into the house. By this time there were only 12 people left in the house. All were arrested and many were assaulted. 2 people were admitted to hospital that night. Injuries included broken fingers, cuts bad enough to need stitches.

Most of those arrested were charged with Violent Disorder, a serious offence which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years. Bail was set at £1000.

Also this year there have been at least 4 early morning raids on squats in the Brixton area - all on the strength of ridiculous warrants eg. looking for 'stolen electrical equipment'.

There seems to be a general policy of giving 'European' squatters a hard time. The large number of French, Italian and German squatters in Brixton are constantly victimized. (although U,K squatters get hassled and evicted too) Many people have been driven out of the area by it. A defence campaign was set up for the Arlingford Rd defendants. and with an amazing show of solidarity, money was raised in a few weeks to fulfil bail conditions. although some of the squatters were kept in jail until the money came through.

CRIMINALISATION OF SQUATTING BACK ON THE PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA

Recently the Tories too began their campaign against squatting, with an announcement that there would be a new law passed in the Autumn, to criminalise squatting. This has been expected for a couple of years now - it had been delayed for various reasons, partly due to problems with the Maastricht treaty. They didn't give out any details of what the new law would contain - apparently that will be announced in the autumn. Media coverage so far has been surprisingly sympathetic, emphasising the already large number of homeless people in London.

For the latest on the anti-criminalisation campaign - SQUASH. 2 St Pauls Rd. LONDON, N1. UK. (Tel 071-226-8938)

Workfare?

Take a Walkman!

The Job Centre in Lambeth, South London was occupied by angry claimants in early July as part of ongoing resistance to the new 'JobPlan' scheme and attacks on claimants in general. JobPlan is a new one-week compulsory course for those unemployed more than a year, the usual patronising 'help' and advice on competing harder with others for whatever jobs may or may not be available, more hassle to get people off benefits.

16 Lambeth claimants sent on the course one week found the conditions unbearable, a stuffy crowded room, 'spring water' bottles filled from the tap, apart from there being no good reason to be there. They told the organisers 'Instant Muscle' that they wouldn't participate unless conditions were improved, and entertained themselves reading papers and listening to Walkmans. On the second day they were told to go home and that their benefits would not be affected.

If you are sent on a JobPlan course:

- *} Turn up. They expect and want loads of people to stay away so they can cut our benefits.
- *} Get any local claimants group etc. to leaflet when you're meant to arrive. Talk to the other conscripts.
- *} Tell the organisers that you're there under protest, that you should be able to leave without your benefits being affected - if they agree get it in writing. If not, draw up a list of demands and tell them you won't actively participate.
- *} Take a book, Walkman, paper to write applications for the job of head of the World Bank, to put notices in the window saying 'help, we've been kidnapped'..... hell, you don't need us to tell you how to have fun.
- *} If your resistance succeeds at all, write a letter to the local paper to encourage others, or else write to complain about the waste of time, taxpayers' money etc.

One reason we don't have full-scale workfare here is that the government is scared of bringing large groups of claimants together, so if we destroy JobPlan we can keep it that way. But they'll still be after our benefits.



STRIKING TIMES

TIMEX RUNNING OUT

On June 15th management at Timex in Dundee announced the closure of the plant in December to try to break the determination of the 343 sacked workers to continue fighting, but failed. The workers voted overwhelmingly to refuse company proposals for an 'orderly closure' of the plant, under the appalling conditions they were sacked for resisting. Instead the workers are stepping up the struggle for reinstatement without the proposed attacks on wages and conditions. The attacks cover practically every aspect of conditions and wages, from a £30 pound a week cut, to the imposition of 'Japanese style' practices (and tests to see if the workers are suitable) to loss of canteen subsidy, holiday benefits, job security.....

KEPT IN THE DARK AND FED BULLSHIT

On July 24th a rally was held in Selby, Yorkshire, in support of 89 women workers locked out for 8 months by Middlebrook Mushrooms. The workers had already accepted a pay freeze and over 300 redundancies, when management also tried to make overtime compulsory and at lower rates. When they tried bringing in casual labour at even lower rates, while negotiations were still going on, an overtime ban was implemented. Having failed to recruit many workers at the new rates, management started to issue new contracts with the worse conditions to the existing workforce, and when plans were made for a strike ballot, the 89 were dismissed.

PARLIAMENT - THE BIGGEST PIT OF ALL

The pit camps and protests of Women Against Pit Closures and the miners continued on July 5th with a 24 hour vigil opposite Downing St and a lobby of Parliament. The Labour and TUC hacks tried to turn the event into a press call - even John Smith came to pose, having first made sure that Arthur Scargill wasn't around to ask him awkward questions or,



"So long, partner!"

horror! appear in the same photo. The parliamentary games, select committee etc have been revealed as a farce to defuse the anger of last October when thousands marched against the threatened mass pit closures, and to bring the Tory dissenters back into the fold. The conclusions of the Select Committee were never voted on, of the 12 pits that were meant to have been saved 3 are already closed and another 3 under immediate threat, and the £500 million aid banded about has been cut by 99%. The only money that has been seen has been for enhanced redundancy offers, special offer only, that are hard to resist under these conditions.

The UDM, the union set up to break the 1984/5 strike has been used to put a democratic face on closures and distance the government from the destruction. At Rufford in Nottingham, one of the 'safe' pits, the UDM voted by a majority of 20 for the pit to close, while the 75 NUM members, plus NACODS deputies continue fighting. This from a union founded by crossing picket lines for the sake of the "right to work"! At nearby Cotgrave the UDM made a secret deal to agree closure in return for favourable transfers for their members.

BURNSALL STRIKERS ATTACKED FROM ALL OVER

The strikers at Burnsall, mainly Asian women, have been attacked by scabs, by the police, and now told by the union that the strike is off.

Shortly before the first anniversary of the strike in Smethwick, West Midlands, the picket and supporters were attacked by scabs, one of whom had only started work that day and had been constantly threatening the workers. One of the strikers was stabbed in the hand and will probably lose the use of his thumb and a finger, but the police, true to form, arrested him, another striker and a supporter on Public Order charges.

Then the union, GMB joined in on June 10th by telling the workers that the strike was off and if they tried doing anything they would lose all financial support. The union even told them that if they went on the planned national demo they would be arrested! After some confusion the demo was cancelled and replaced by an indoor rally.

Paradoxically, one of the demands of the strike was for union recognition! one for adequate health and safety, which because of the strike has been improved, for the scabs! and the other for equal pay. Strikers and supporters are determined to continue the struggle and have demonstrated outside the GMB head office.

THE WORKING CLASS HAS NO WORKPLACE

One of the effects of all these sackings and disputes has been to bring them all together, with the Rufford pit camp and others giving support to the nearby Middlebrook workers, the sacked Crawley dustmen, predominantly white and male, joining the Burnsall picket line, everyone going up to Timex, and Timex workers going everywhere. A five-day march was organised ending at Parkside pit camp and involving various issues and disputes, and the number of 'unite the struggles' meetings, conferences, organised by the North West Miners Support Groups and others require their own constant calls for unity.

continued next page

Solidarity action with the Timex workers has been spread to Oslo, where Timex owners Olsen's offices were picketed and had their windows smashed, and to Connecticut USA, Timex HQ where workers have expressed support. In Dundee there were solidarity strikes from local workers (including a non-unionised workplace) for a day of action in April, and postworkers and TGWU drivers have refused to go to the plant.

The campaign to boycott Timex and Olsen products is spreading with some success. Burnsall's products had to be dropped by Jaguar due to workers' solidarity action there. Middlebrook Mushrooms are obviously not good enough to eat, and the company is owned by Booker plc, them of the Booker prize, so maybe we'll see some solidarity action from the novelists? Support must also be continued and extended for those arrested and charged on the picket lines and demos at Timex and Burnsall, and any others.

London Timex Support Group
c/o Lambeth Unemployed & Trade Union Resource Centre
12-14 Thornton Street SW9 OBL
071-733-5670

National Miners Support Network
218 Eversholt Street NW1 1DE

071-388-7961

Burnsall Strikers Support Committee (London)
c/o Londec, 205-217 Instrument House WC1
071-713-7907



Nurseries occupied

Since May 5th two nurseries in Islington, on the Harvist and Springdale estates have been occupied by a Parents Action Group, supported by the staff. This was due to the two being chosen for closure by the council, while two others also had their places cut. Despite lobbying of the council and support from some councillors (one of whom was then suspended from the Labour Party) the staff were given 3 months notice, on May Day! The occupation has local support, including from teachers who held a one-day strike in solidarity and against threats to their own jobs. But they need more support in the form of bodies to ensure that the buildings are kept occupied 24 hours a day especially at weekends.



Stop Press

HOSPITAL OCCUPIED

At the time of going to press, University College Hospital (UCH) in Central London has just been occupied by striking workers in response to threats to jobs, the service and the possible threat of closing all or part of the hospital as a result of the imposing of market forces.

Many other London hospitals are in a similar position, but so far campaigns have tended to be localised. Hopefully this will start something new.

COUNTY HALL OCCUPIED

On June 10th County Hall, former home of the Greater London Council was occupied for 24 hours in protest at its proposed sale as a posh hotel, and the destruction of local democracy and services.

The 15 occupiers from a variety of community and campaign groups entered claiming to be Open University students, then rushed past the security guards and took over a room facing across the river to Parliament. 2 large banners were hung out, saying "County Hall reclaimed for London" and "London's Town Hall", but a third one showing London's unemployment figures was found to be too large (appropriately) to use.

After trying to break into the room the security guards and police eventually gave up. Some of the security guards became quite friendly, talking about how much better conditions had been under the GLC, workers called in to take down the banners decided not to, and the chief cop even put some of the occupiers' case in a radio interview. Local radio and TV gave coverage to the occupation, but the only Londonwide newspaper, the rightwing Evening Standard ignored it, being involved with the Confederation of British Industry in setting up their own "London pic" - yet another bosses' council for making London more business friendly.

Messages of support were received from the occupation at Parkside colliery and from other groups, and some gathered outside the building, though never enough at one time for the proposed public debate. Statements were sent out, including one to the Japanese company planning to buy the place, and the occupiers committed themselves to continue

fighting the sale, and the increasing takeover of the city, services and whole areas of land (eg Docklands) by 'Quangos' (Quasi Autonomous Non-Government Organisations - unelected bodies, mainly government appointed and business-dominated) since the abolition of the GLC in 1986.

YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'VE BEEN QUANGOED!

Of course if the GLC had not been abolished it would now be going the way of other local councils, making cuts, selling off services and falling into bed with business and Quangos. The relationship between local and central government, business, the voluntary sector and local communities has been totally restructured over recent years, with Quangos playing an important part, and with us losing out all round. The main problem is not, as the left careerists complain, that Quango appointees are contributors to Tory funds, which isn't always the case, and what's so good about companies that decide there's better things to spend their money on? Nor is it particularly that they aren't elected - with Norman Fowler and now the head of Camden Council talking of councils only meeting once or twice a year to issue irrelevant contracts, elections become even more irrelevant. The problem is that Quangos have been structurally positioned within the tentacles of the state to ensure that funding and resources are distributed on a competitive, market orientated (or rather market simulating) basis. Although councils have effectively accepted this logic themselves, often collaborating with the Quangos (though councillors on quangos represent only themselves), Quangos have rerouted money and resources out of their clutches. Councils will soon be just organisations for collecting money (and jailing non-payers) to pass on to central government or private contractors, with Quangos and businesses given free reign to try to create competitive business-friendly environments. The gloves are off but the goalposts have been moved, to slightly mix the sporting metaphors.

If County Hall is to be reclaimed properly (rather than symbolically) it won't be to reclaim the throne for Ken Livingstone, but to house the homeless instead of rich tourists, as a centre for full and open debate on how to get back the resources stolen from us, and to bring free festivals back to Jubilee gardens and the streets. 24 hours was a start, but next time we'll occupy a room with a toilet!

A. occupier

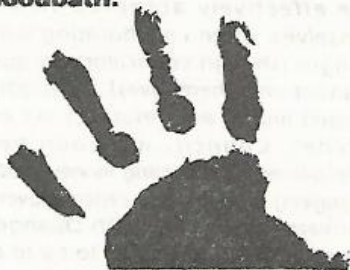


ANTI POLL TAX PENSIONER JAILED FOR 3rd TIME

Norman Laws, 73 year old anti Poll Tax activist has been jailed for the third time by South Shields magistrates for not paying the third and final year of the Poll Tax. This time he was given the 90 day maximum, instead of the 60 days the last two times, so he'll be out in early October, again. The court would not listen to legal argument, and Norman was dragged away before he'd finished attacking the court, the council and the government. send letters of support, now, to:

Norman Laws CD3317
HMP Holme House
Portrack Lane
Stockton on Tees
Cleveland

Another pensioner, 79 year-old Syd Richmond, was recently jailed for 1 month by Mansfield magistrates for non-payment. Syd, who refused to stand for the magistrate, is a veteran of Dunkirk, 40 years as a miner, and an impoverished childhood after his father died in the 1914-18 bloodbath.



DON'T GET CAUGHT

If you get a summons for commitment (or a 'means test'), don't go to court - they're nasty places, and they could send you to prison.

If you don't attend, they get a warrant out for you, which the bailiffs or council officers or occasionally cops will try to serve on you. But they can't break in to get you, and have to serve it on you personally, so if you're not there they can't do anything. They may also try to get you on the street, at the dole office etc. but they still have to know its you, and can only use 'reasonable force'.

Normally the warrant is without bail, so you just have to sign to say you'll turn up next time, but in some areas they impose bail

conditions or take you straight to the court if there's hearings that day. A few areas try arresting people before the summons, so you must always be careful when answering the door.

COULDN'T PAY

If you go to court take a friend along to take notes (in case an appeal is necessary) or to let others know if the worst happens. You have the choice, of course, of trying to play by their rules (though they can't always be trusted to) or following the lead of Norman, Syd and others, by going down shouting.

The court should first decide whether the council have followed the correct procedure, and whether your non-payment was caused by 'wilful refusal' or 'culpable neglect'. you can argue over whether the



bailiffs actually tried to recover the money, over proceedings being out of time if it was more than 6 months since the bailiffs gave up, and any points you think might be useful. You are meant to take evidence of your financial position at the time of the liability order to show whether you could have paid, and will be asked why you didn't. If the court decides that non-payment was due to inability rather than 'wilful refusal' or 'culpable neglect' they can write off the 'debt' or part of it, but it isn't easy to persuade them.

STILL CAN'T PAY

Next they want to see details of your current financial situation, basically so they can decide how much to order you to pay it off at. Most hearings end with an order to pay off the 'debt' at a certain amount a week/month (either with

a 'suspended sentence' or left to the council to bring you back if you're naughty) so unless you tell them you're not going to pay, you shouldn't get sent down at this stage. If you don't keep to the arrangement, you should get the chance to argue that your conditions had changed to get another arrangement, but there is a definite chance of getting sent down. If you decide that its time to pay to keep out of jail and you're on Income Support, you can argue (when the council is going through what it did to get the money) that they should have tried getting it from your benefits first, as this way they can only take it in smaller amounts than what the court would probably order.

If you get sent down, have someone contact a friendly lawyer to maybe get an appeal together, and any local APT or other support groups.

The maximum sentence is 3 months and its a civil matter so you don't get a record and get a few more rights inside. If the 'debt' is paid



you'll get out, with money taken off for time done, eg if you've done half the time you only pay half the 'debt'. If you complete the sentence there is nothing more the council can do to get the money out of you.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS
March on the BNP headquarters!
Saturday 16th
October
1pm
Winns Common,
Plumstead, London
SE18.

TWYFORD RISING activists sent down

The fight is still on at Twyford Down, a stretch of countryside full of ancient monuments, burial grounds and Celtic field systems, near Winchester, to prevent the construction of an extension to the M3 motorway.

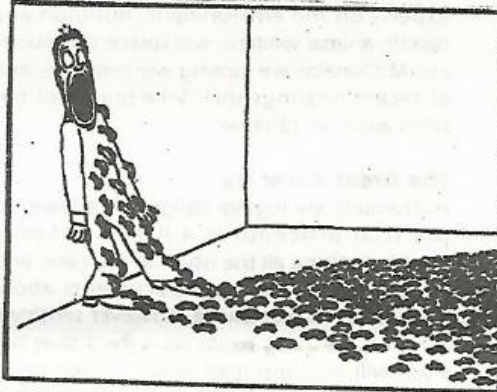
On Mayday weekend, work was halted on three sites by 150 people and construction machines were sabotaged. Operation Greenfly on 22nd May saw 200 protestors occupy the site of a temporary bridge despite a huge police and Group 4 (private security firm) presence. 52 people were eventually nicked after refusing to leave the site.

On the 26th May, Mrs Justice Ebsworth made orders for "Interim Interlocutory Injunctions" on 74 protestors forbidding them to go near the M3 site until 21st July when a three-day High Court hearing will try to make the injunctions permanent. Private security firm Brays Detective Agency, working with the cops and Group 4, sneaked around to come up with 64 named persons for the injunctions. Group 4 incidentally are linked through share deals with Ecover, the big and trendy "environmental" manufacturer!

The protests have cost Tarmac, the development company, an estimated 1.75 Million pounds.

On 4th July, about 600 people stormed through fences to reach the enclosed land that has been destroyed by the so-called development and a party started to reclaim the land. About 16 people broke the injunctions, risking up to 2 years in prison. Finally, when a splinter group from the demo attempted to reach well-protected machinery, 27 people were arrested.

On the 23rd July, the High Court jailed seven of the injunction breakers for 28 days



each saying that it was necessary to uphold the "rule of law" despite Twyford protestors saying that it was in fact the actions of the Dept. Of Transport that were criminal.

The fight, despite the use of the courts and the unprecedented use of injunctions on activists, continues with a summer of action promised.

Twyford Down Alert: Tel: 0703 611561.

The fight to save Oxleas Wood from the construction of the East London River Crossing (ELRC) in South East London looks like it may be over. After a monumental battle in the Courts (British and European), it looks like the work of a dedicated few activists has paid off (alongside fears that any attempts to start construction of the planned four-lane motorway at Oxleas Woods would see a massive Twyford Down-style direct action campaign with hundreds of ready and willing eco-saboteurs pulled in from nearby London). In theory, the Government has pulled the plugs on the ELRC although the project's "line order" is still operative. If the "line order" is cancelled then the twenty years of public enquiry's would need to start again. Hopefully though, the Government's sounding of the death knell for the road project is genuine (good old Government's eh?).

Anti-ELRC activists are still fighting the plan, just in case - Contact: People Against The River Crossing, 10 Greenway, Chislehurst, Kent. BR7 6JE

INTERNATIONAL EARTH NIGHTS

A call has been put out for International Nights Of Sabotage against "road construction, vivisection labs, anti-union corporations or oppressive State legislation" etc. from Halloween (Oct 31st) to Guy Fawkes Day (Nov 5th).

It is hoped that a broad alliance of all environmental, animal liberation, worker and revolutionary groups will take heed of the dates and grab their tool boxes, head on out and do their thang!

EARTH LIBERATION FRONT



BIG MAC ATTACK

Below we outline the case so far and recent events in the fight put up by Dave and Helen, the two activists currently being sued by McDonalds. It is an amazing and deeply personal stand against big business intimidation of its critics and the courage and commitment of these two individuals deserves our support in any way possible. The fight against McDonalds is no single-issue campaign but a fight at the very heart of the modern machine, against wage slavery and exploitation, against ecocide, against insane consumerism and for taking control over our own lives. The trial will hopefully reveal the unpalatable truth about their worldwide operations (and food. Yuki) We ask that our friends and comrades in the anti-authoritarian community put their resources behind the **McLibel Support Campaign** and for **Contraflow** readers to get involved too!

The Road to the Writs.....

In 1985, London Greenpeace, a small independent collective active since 1970, initiated a general anti-McDonalds campaign to try to coordinate and strengthen opposition to McDonalds anti-union, low paying, animal exploiting, planet wrecking business. October 16th (UN Food Day) was declared World Anti-McDonalds Day with protest held against the company all over the world and a six-sided factsheet "What's Wrong With McDonalds: Everything They Don't Want You To Know" was produced and subsequently distributed worldwide in local translations.

McDonalds initially tried to ignore the effect of the opposition but then changed tack and stepped up their propaganda efforts to project McDonalds as a "green, caring" company. On the other hand they used the legal system to suppress critics by threatening costly and time-consuming libel cases. The Scottish TUC, green and vegetarian groups, labour research institutes, *The Guardian*, Channel 4 and others all incurred the legal wrath of McDubious.

Then, in September 1990, after sending spies to London Greenpeace meetings and events, individuals connected to the group had writs served on them, alleging that the Factsheet was "libellous". McDonalds were threatening activists in order to censor the production and distribution of anti-McDonalds material.

Rather than halting protests, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, the McLibel 2, backed by London Greenpeace and the McLibel Support Campaign, have resolved to fight the case all the way through to reveal the truth about McDonalds and to fight the mutinational's intimidation of its critics.

The Legal News So Far

The fast food giant have admitted that its not their case that Helen and Dave ever wrote or printed the Factsheet but they've refused to drop the case claiming that the defendants

handed it out on a couple of occasions! The McLibel 2 have attended 12 preliminary High Court hearings and drawn up long and complicated legal documents. McDeath's tactics were to drag out the proceedings hoping to financially cripple the McLibel 2 but once they realised that Helen and Dave meant to fight them all the way, they dramatically speeded up the process, and piled on the workload for the defendants. Normal procedure is that each side must disclose all relevant documents and then a couple of months later, witness statements are exchanged. However, the court turned this on its head and instead ordered the defendants to serve the statements of all their witnesses in three weeks. This was an attempt by McDodgy to get the case thrown out by the back door, in the hope that due to lack of money and experience, they would be unable to get all the statements they needed in that short period. Despite this, 65 people were served for the defence including 30 experts on the environment, nutrition and health, animal welfare, workplace conditions etc. McDonalds are looking worried now, and at recent hearings their Vice-president has been along to observe.

The Great Cover Up

McDonalds are legally obliged to answer in pre-trial procedures a list of defence questions about all the issues in the case, and to hand over all relevant documents about their practices worldwide, however sensitive. They are refusing to do so, afraid that the truth will out, and their critics proved right. Instead they have been providing bland policy documents and accounts of charitable activities. The court is colluding with this coverup. McDanger is also applying for the trial to be without a jury, saying that it would be too complicated for jury members! What are they afraid of?

Support The McLibel 2

The defendants have been greatly encourage by just how much opposition there has been worldwide against McDonalds, in solidarity with themselves. local pickets of McCancers happen every week, money is raised for the expensive task of fighting McDonalds' team of legal people, a McLibel Solidarity day was held and also a large march against McDonalds in London.

What Can I Do?

Of course its vital that support grows as the trial looks likely to happen at the end of 93/start of 94.

The McLibel 2 are calling on all concerned and campaigning organisations and individuals to pledge to defy libel threats and freely circulate anti-McDonalds literature, whatever the verdict at the trial (Pledge forms available from the Support Campaign - see below). Already over HALF A MILLION leaflets have been handed out on the streets since the campaign began.

Other important support work includes:

- * Protests at local McDonalds. Leaflets available from Veggies, 180 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham, UK at approx £9 per 1000 plus postage. badges and posters also available. **Remember October 16th** is Worldwide Anti-McDonalds day, plenty of time to get your local thing going or come to the **National Demo in London** (Euston Station at 1pm).
- * Circulate details of the case as widely as possible.
- * Send in information about McD's practices (news cuttings, research material, personal experiences etc)
- * Raise money for the McLibel 2's case (both are unwaged).
- * Get local groups to send messages of support and donations and to include McLibel updates in their mailouts/papers.

McLIBEL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN:

c/o 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1, UK (071-837-7557)



IRISH NEWS

□ PLASTIC BULLETS FLY IN DUNGANNON RIOT

The RUC opened fire with live and plastic bullets during a riot in Dungannon in the early hours of Sunday July 25th. Trouble begun on the Saturday night as people were leaving local pubs and discos. Loyalist bigots attacked local catholic youths with bottles, and with typical even-handedness the police intervened to allow the loyalists on their way while attempting to arrest those under attack.

In the ensuing riot the RUC and British army charged the youths down the street, firing between 30 and 40 plastic bullets, as well as some live ammunition. At least four people were injured by plastic bullets; one man received serious chest wounds and had to be placed on a ventilator in South Tyrone Hospital, another suffered a broken arm.

The riot followed a period of increased harassment of local youths by the crown forces, with people being stopped regularly in the streets, forced to empty their pockets, and held for long periods of time.

□ CAMPAIGN AGAINST WATCH TOWER

People in the Rosemount area of Derry are campaigning against a new British army/RUC installation (pictured above right). They say "In February this year, the people of this community awoke one morning to find a huge watch tower erected practically on our doorstep". The tower is an invasion of the privacy of local people, and the constant noise,

bright lights and surveillance is causing stress among the residents. Contact: **Rosemount Tenants Association**, c/o Rosemount Resource Centre, Baldrick Crescent, Derry B48 0HP.

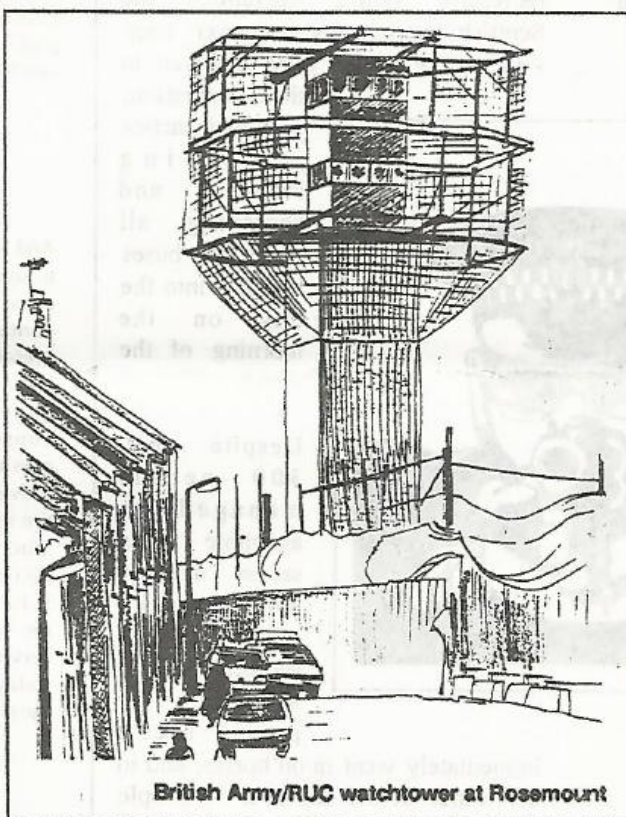
□ "INTERNAL EXILE" FOR DERRY MAN

22 year old John Matthews from Derry has been expelled and banned from Britain, despite being born in Liverpool!

He was served with an exclusion order under the Prevention of

was kept in prison until July 6th accused of hijacking a taxi. He was then released when the prosecution admitted that they had no evidence against them.

Matthews said: "I was just an unfortunate Irishman who was arrested. I didn't even fit the description, but that didn't matter. They interfered with witnesses, they went out of their way to bend the facts to fit the case. The only reason they dropped the charges was because the public uproar was so strong. They were hoping for a poor Irishman with no real contacts".



Terrorism Act. Such orders allows people to live in northern Ireland, but not to travel to England, Scotland and Wales. Since the PTA came into force into 1974 more than 300 such exclusion orders have been served on Irish people. This is particularly ironic, as the British state claims that its presence in the north is justified as "Northern Ireland" is part of the United Kingdom.

John Matthews was one of ten Irish people arrested in the wake of the IRA's massive bomb in the City of London in April. All the others were released without charge, but Matthews

Matthews' ordeal did not end with the dropping of charges against him. He was immediately rearrested and served with an exclusion order. Despite his innocence the British Home Secretary alleged that Matthews had "terrorist connections", a very serious accusation that places him in grave danger from pro-British death squads operating in the north of Ireland.

□ BORDER BUSTERS IN ACTION AGAIN

The campaign against military closures of roads along the border between the north and south of Ireland continues. In July local people once again re-opened the Lackey Bridge crossing on the border between the counties of Monaghan and Tyrone. A few days later the crossing was destroyed once more by the British army.

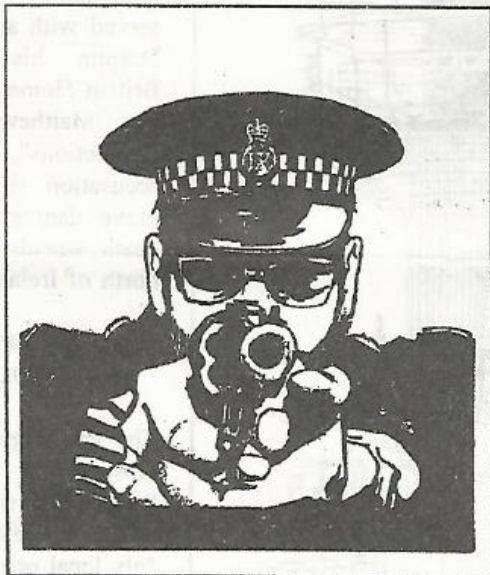
As we reported in Contraflow no.5, Lackey Bridge and other border crossings have been re-opened on numerous occasions as communities resist the disruption of their lives by the British military presence. Each time they have been destroyed or blocked again by the crown forces (with the tacit support of the southern state), who seek to restrict access across the border to a few major roads under their control.

Sources: *An Phoblact / Republican News, Troops Out.*

□ CHECKPOINT CITY

The Corporation of London have reacted to the two IRA bombs of the last year by installing a security cordon around the financial heart of the City. 18 of the 26 roads leading into the city have been closed altogether, with 24 hour police checkpoints on the remaining roads. In addition, there are extra armed police, surveillance cameras, and sniffer dogs in the area. Two van loads of the police Tactical Firearms Unit, armed with semi-automatic rifles, are on permanent duty in the City, and there are plans to introduce closed circuit TV cameras at the checkpoints that will photograph every vehicle passing through.

Police at the checkpoints are acting illegally in stopping and searching cars. Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, they can only stop and search if they have grounds of "reasonable suspicion". Simply driving a vehicle into the City hardly qualifies in this respect, but try telling that to a cop carrying a Heckler and Koch carbine!



When the roadblocks were introduced at the beginning of July, there were some small protests by the Campaign Against Militarism (a front for the Revolutionary Communist Party). Apart from this, there has been very little opposition. There can be no clearer example of the dangerous implications of the British state manufactured "anti-terrorist" consensus for people in Britain as well as in Ireland.

□ POLICE ATTACK IRISH MARCH IN EDINBURGH

For the second year running, Labour-controlled Lothian Council banned the

annual James Connolly commemoration march in Edinburgh. Connolly, the Irish socialist executed for his part in the 1916 rising against British rule, was born in the city 125 years ago.

In 1992 the Council used the excuse of threats from loyalists and fascists against the march to ban it. This year they also used the excuse that a British soldier from the city had been shot dead by the IRA while on duty in South Armagh earlier in the year.

The James Connolly Society decided to attempt to defy the ban, and on June 5 they faced one of the most repressive police operations the Scottish capital city had ever seen. Four police forces were involved in the operation,

with their tactics including stopping and searching all trains and buses heading into the city on the morning of the march.

Despite this, 300 people managed to assemble at a secret meeting point in the city centre, and they set off on their march. The police

immediately went in on horses, and in the course of the day over 50 people were arrested. Over 100 people picketed the St Leonard's Police Barracks where 14 people were being held. The police agreed to release prisoners from London as long as the crowd dispersed.

24 people now face charges relating to the march. Jim Slaven, JCS spokesperson, has been accused of "organising an illegal procession". Funds are urgently needed to help pay the fines of those arrested.

Send donations, messages of support, etc. to: James Connolly Society, PO Box 4, Prestonpans, East Lothian, Scotland.

DISCOVER E.C.N

Our Italian counterparts have been hitting the headlines again lately. On June 6th, page 11 of Corriera della Sera had the juicy headline "EXTREMISTS INFORMATION NETWORK DISCOVERED BY ANTITERRORISM".

The Italian media first took an interest in the ECN after the international meeting in Venice in June 1991. Of course their interest wasn't in the novelty and potential of a new independent international form of communication but the 'alarm' of the Interior Ministry's "Antiterrorist (sic!) Nucleus", as in "the technological capacity of the autonomi arouses concern", "mysterious", "dangerous". This line continued in January 92 with the annual report of the 'Security Services', even reaching the evening TV news, and again this year. Some of the weeklies have made an exhibition of themselves with colourful portrayals of "youth customs" and improbable profiles of cybermilitants.



And now the latest from the Corriere; "According to some indiscretions there is a real information network of the left extremists..... on the content of which nothing precise is known at present..... but its name is European Counter Network". This reliance on 'indiscretions' and vagueness about content is surprising considering the openness of the network, connected to numerous social centres, movement radio stations etc. and the fact that the institutional press have already written so much about it. It is also surprising that the security services have to 'discover' it so often. Surprising, but also offensive considering that the real secret networks, those which the security services have no need to discover, are again today carrying out bombings and slaughter in the cities of Italy.



BREAKING THE BAN IN BELFAST

In a historic demonstration, up to 15,000 people marched on Belfast City Hall on Sunday August 8th. The march is held every year to mark the anniversary of internment in North of Ireland, when hundreds of people were imprisoned without trial in 1971. There is no internment at present, but the British state still has the legal powers to bring it in if they choose.

The demonstration is not simply a commemoration of the past however; it is also a reaffirmation of the continued resistance of catholic/nationalist communities to British rule and its oppressive effects. This year for instance, one contingent of marchers highlighted the case of the Ballymurphy Seven, local youths facing trial on serious charges on the basis of confessions beaten out of them by the police.

What made this year's march different was that it went into the City Centre to finish at the City Hall, the bastion of loyalist protestant domination of Belfast. Marches from catholic areas have been banned from here since the origins of the Northern state in the 1920s; the ban was first broken by a small Women's demonstration last year, but this was the first major republican march to break out of nationalist areas into the heart of the city. Speakers at the end of the march made it clear that it was not a triumphalist rally, and that they did not wish to replace protestant domination of the city with catholic domination. Rather they were affirming that it was their city too and they weren't prepared to continue to be discriminated against.

Pro-British death squads gave their

answer that night, when the loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters murdered Sean Lavery, the 21 year old son of Sinn Fein councillor Bobby Lavery. Sean was sitting with his family in his front room when gunmen sprayed the front of the house with bullets. Another local catholic was beaten to death in the loyalist Shankill area.

The march came at the end of two weeks of community festivals in West Belfast, Ardoyne, and other working class catholic areas. The festivals included music, plays, sports, parties, Irish language events, and much more. At a prisoners day at the Irish Republican Felons Club, prisoners who took part in the mass escape from Long Kesh prison in 1983 described how it was done, while later in the week there was a big reunion for ex-prisoners. Despite the continuing sectarian murder campaign by pro-British elements, the overall mood was one of celebration and defiance.

** note on terminology: by this I mean those communities where the majority religion is catholic, and most people see themselves as Irish rather than British. Of course many 'catholics' aren't religious, and they might not all describe themselves as 'nationalists'. Furthermore, not all nationalists are catholics, and they don't all live in 'nationalist areas'. In the eyes of the state and its allies however, anybody from these communities or anybody associated with them is regarded as 'disloyal' and can expect to face discrimination and oppression. It is against these people (who make up around 40% of the population) that the bulk of the military / repressive apparatus is directed.*

RARA (Revolutionary Anti-Rascist Action) Bomb.

On the night of June 30th - July 1st, RARA bombed the DIA on the fourth floor of the Ministry of Social affairs and the Ministry of Employment building in The Hague.

The DIA is the part of the Ministry for employment which every day organises raids, together with the police, to catch illegal foreign workers. With the attack the RARA, in their statement said

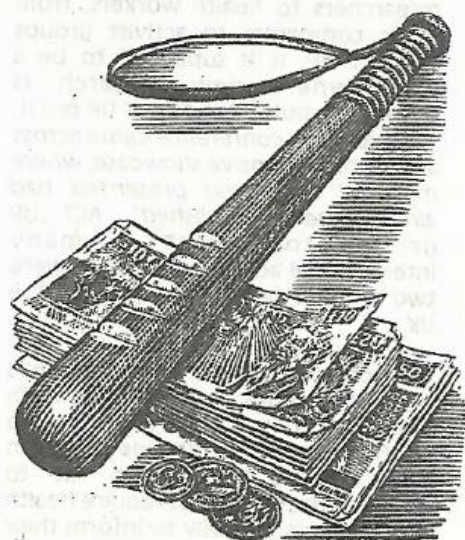
that they wanted to make these people hunters feel how it is to be a target, how it is to get hunted.

The action: half an hour before the bomb exploded the fire department got a phone call. There were no injuries. The bomb, hidden in the toilets, blew a big hole in the back wall of the building, damaging a lot of offices and the elevator. It also smashed the automatic fire extinguisher system creating a lot of water damage.

The reaction: as usual. According to the media everyone was shocked. Some immigrant organisations said they could understand the action but most said that it wasn't positive for immigrants and refugees.

This has been the first RARA action after two years of silence. The RARA started up in 1985 making militant actions against companies involved in South Africa (Shell, Macro). In 1990 they changed tactics, attacking instead state racism in Holland. Two years ago they made bomb attacks against the Ministry of Justice and on the house of the Secretary of State. The secret police (BVD) and the police have worked hard to find something out about RARA, but after 8 years there are no people from RARA in prison. In 1988 ten people were arrested only to be released again some weeks later because the cops couldn't prove anything. One person was sentenced to five years, but after several months in isolation had to be released because the cops had made legal mistakes in their evidence. The police say they have a quite a clear picture of who the RARA members are, but are unable to prevent any action and don't have enough evidence to take them to court.

The RARA declaration consists of 4 pages and they also wrote to a left radical paper a few days later. In both they said that other actions will follow.



□ HIV + REFUGEES WIN BATTLE

Haitian refugees with HIV and AIDS have won their struggle to be allowed to enter the United States. Some of them have spent as long as 20 months in detention at the US military camp at Guantanamo naval base in Cuba.

Although the refugees had qualified for political asylum, they were banned from entering the US because of immigration rules refusing entry to HIV-infected immigrants. However in June a federal judge ruled that the Haitians should be allowed in.

This decision follows a long fight by the refugees in what was virtually a concentration camp, holding over 200 HIV-positive Haitians at one time. Earlier in the year the refugees staged a hunger strike to draw attention to their plight, with one saying: "Just because someone has been diagnosed HIV positive, does that give them the right to create a living hell for those people?". In March there was an uprising at the camp, with rocks thrown at military personnel and 12 camp houses being set alight and destroyed. There were also solidarity actions in the United States. On March 15th, 40 people were arrested after blocking New York's Fifth Avenue.

The first group of refugees arrived in Miami in June. Jean Edouard told the press that "This has been like a prison. No, this is worse than a prison", and that some people had talked of killing themselves if the judge had not ordered their release.

□ ACTING UP IN BERLIN

ACT UP groups from Leeds, Manchester, London, Norwich, and Leicester, went to the International Conference on AIDS in Berlin in June. The conference is a huge annual event bringing together thousands of people working in the AIDS field, from researchers to health workers, from drugs companies to activist groups like ACT UP. It is supposed to be a place where new research is presented, but as Leeds ACT UP put it: "This year the conference came across as a highly expensive showcase, where most of what was presented had already been published". ACT UP groups took part in many international actions, and there were two demonstrations focusing on the UK.

One action attacked the Government's new guidelines on HIV+ health workers. Although there have been no confirmed cases worldwide of health care workers transmitting HIV to patients, the guidelines require health care workers with HIV to inform their

employers and encourage people to report their fellow workers if they suspect them of being HIV+.

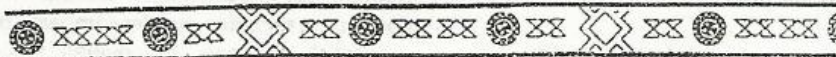
The second UK action on June 10th focused on government cuts in funding to HIV organisations like the Terrence Higgins Trust and London Lighthouse. At the demonstration a procession of activists marched through the conference centre slapping bunches of false ten pound notes. After a speech, health minister Virginia Bottomley's name was spelt out on boards and was revealed to be an anagram of "I'm an evil Tory bigot". At this point Virginia Bottomley herself arrived (a gay man in drag from the famous Tutenhaus Lesbian and Gay squat), and the individual letters of her name were all burnt. ACT UP then symbolically burnt massive cheques to illustrate the effects of the recent funding cuts in the UK.

Info from: ACT UP Leeds, Box 293, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT.



□ OUTRAGE ZAP CPS

Lesbian and gay protestors invaded the offices of the Crown Prosecution Service to protest against the CPS policy of prosecuting gay men for victimless "crimes". During the Outrage protest on July 22nd about 25 demonstrators barged past security guards and ran upstairs blowing whistles, sounding foghorns, and sticking up posters. The demo caused intense embarrassment to the CPS, as it exposed the poor security in its City of London HQ.



FRONT ABOVE

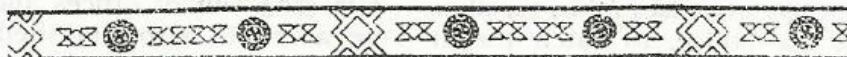
All shirts are XL size, printed in black on raw unbleached cotton.
£6.00 each (inc p&p).
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 OH-TOH-KIN IS A RADICAL PAPER WRITTEN BY & FOR NATIVE PEOPLES. THE NAME MEANS, "STRENGTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS."

BACK-PRINT BELOW.

OH-TOH-KIN



MASS TRICK

On the 2nd June 1992, the majority of the Danish population voted NO to the Maastricht Treaty. Between the first referendum and the second one in May 1993, a "National Compromise" had been drawn up by the Socialistisk Folkeparti (*Socialist People's Party*) who had played an important role in bringing about the rejection of Maastricht at the first referendum. It was this compromise that was taken to the EC Summit in Edinburgh in December '92 and approved by the other EC countries. The Socialist People's Party had changed their position on Maastricht with the hope that they would participate in a new government together with the Social Democrats. After the Edinburgh Agreement, the Social Democrats and Liberals joined together to form the new ruling coalition, and dumped The People's Party.

The agreement contained a number of reservations about Maastricht which proposed that Denmark would not enter into the common currency arrangement, have no participation in an EC Army and retain Danish citizenship. In the Danish parliament, all parties (except the right-wing Progress Party) passed the National Compromise and a 2nd referendum date was set for May 18th. The result of this referendum was - 57% for Maastricht and 43% voting against.

Whatever the tinkering around meant to the voters, the whole EC project is up for re-negotiation in 1996, rendering the whole referendum meaningless in the first place.

EC-Free Zone Declared

During the Anti-EC concert in Blagards Square, the 'YES' vote became obvious so most of the crowd went down to a street that leads into Norrebrogade (a main traffic artery for the city) and began to block it at both ends with mobile workman's huts. More people arrived to swell the crowd of about 500 and soon barricades and fires were lit to close off the sidestreets and the area was declared an 'Union Free Zone'. About an hour later the cops came by to check out the scene and began to attack the crowd with huge quantities of tear

gas forcing people to Sankt Hans Sq, which due to restoration work yielded a ready supply of paving stones, old and new. From this point on, the resistance started to get really heavy and the cops were made to retreat several times. The usual anarchic party tricks were deployed - banks attacked, cars burnt, molotovs and that and then the police started to fire on the crowd with live ammo. Eleven people were shot including gunshot wounds in the jaw, arms, legs and stomach. At this point the crowds were split but smaller groups of Anti-EC union protesters continued to resist until 4am.

Those who were taken to hospital for gunshot wounds were arrested and hauled before court the next day. All in about 28 folk were arrested and 24 cops were injured. The next day, the media was full of horror stories about serious injuries to the police but this turned out to be (surprise, surprise) untrue, the injuries being confined to a few broken fingers and headaches. All those arrested are now released and facing trials for many different charges. One person has already been sent down for 60 days.

The following night, some more smaller scale rioting occurred and on the 22nd May, 2000 people demonstrated in Copenhagen against the shootings, behind the banner "*gunpowder and bullets do not stop the fight against the Union*". The demo went to Vestre Faengsel prison to call for the release of those still imprisoned.

Solidarity actions happened in Stockholm where the Danish Embassy was smashed and demos were staged in Oslo, Stockholm and Trondheim, Berlin and Berne. On the night of 21st/22nd, the Danish Consulate in Groningen, Holland was attacked and two Danish concerns were trashed in Amsterdam as well as an EC Info Office being set alight..

a Midsummer (symbolic) burning of EC leaders were also planned. According to *The European* newspaper, which had the front-page headline "*Summit Threatened By Anarchist Violence*", a posh dinner at the Tivoli Gardens for EC ministers and lackeys was scrapped for fear of confrontation. The paper also gave its readers a guide to Europe's Autonomous scene - "*Violent By Nature*", no doubt boosting the sales of Palestinian headscarves across the EC, which *The European* reported were de rigueur for any self-respecting autonomen Black Bloc.

What's It All About Then, Eh?

Most importantly, whatever, the media said, the people who were rioting, were rioting against the proposed EC State because they are resolutely opposed to **all** states and **not** because they were against Maastricht on purely nationalistic grounds. Danish activists summed up the situation -

"We are not alone ! It was clear that many different people actively participated or sympathised with the rioters. The reason is that many people are sick and tired of all the garbage that politicians spew forth daily. The anger is there because those of us who live in the poorest working class neighbourhoods, such as Norrebro, Vesterbro, the ghettos of Copenhagen, the weak and outcast in society always pay the highest price for the governments crisis policies. Irrespective of whether it is a conservative government or the present social democratic government, the reality is that the EC long ago became an instrument of Western European capitalism that has one goal - not just in Denmark but throughout Europe and the rest of the world - to make the rich richer and the poor poorer."

B

A

M!

An international call to action was announced for the EC Summit meeting in Copenhagen on 21st/22nd June. On Sat 19th, autonomous groups held a demo and there was a large meeting the next day to discuss many different topics and perspectives. A Left-Wing/Autonomous bike ride to the summit and

GREEK NEWS

Some recent ANARCHIC ACTIONS IN ATHENS

A pupil's protest in January burnt out an Army lorry and smashed the windows of the luxury 'Great Britain' hotel. Another pupil's demo four days later burnt two of the city's buses (the subject of a recent and militant strike); a demo was held for striking ~drug-use prisoners~ outside the Korydallos prison; On 4.2.93, during a GSEE (worker's union) demo, the offices of the ruling New Democracy were attacked as well a branch of Barclay's Bank and two posh cars; a Security Cop at an anti-military concert is beaten and relieved of his handgun.

Another pupil's march on 12.2.93 results in a SKY radio van being burnt out and a TELE-CITY TV van being attacked during a three-hour fight with the police. No arrests; on the 2nd March, the cinema Filip is attacked with molotovs forcing the moving of a fascists meeting there to elsewhere; Rabid Anarchists molotov a bank on 30th April; 30 anarchists attack a cafe in Brahami, an Athens suburb, which is a fascist hang-out.

On Mayday, anarchists throw petrol bombs into an Economic Revenue office in Exarchia (infamous Athens 'radical' area) A Mayday concert is held in support of Georges Balafas and Kiriakos Mazokopos and an anarchist presence appears in the Mayday march. Squatters held a 'Do It Yourself' festival in Athens on 18th June and anarchists in Thessaloniki recently held a two-day meeting with videos and discussions about the 'autonomous anarchist movement' in Spain.

On 13 April, a cop on the island of Poros, off Athens coast, kills two young people in a bar. The next day, local inhabitants attack the police station, breaking the windows and throwing in firebombs.

Source:

Anarchic Intervention, PO Box 30557, 10033 Athens. Greece

Kiriakos Mazokopos was arrested on 7th November 1990 at a hospital where he had gone after an explosive mechanism had accidentally gone off in his hands causing the loss of his left eye and his left hand. The next day, the cops discovered guns and ammo in the warehouse where the above incident had taken place. Mazokopos was charged with theft and possession of explosives plus causing an explosion by negligence as well as participation in the execution of a Korydallos Prison psychiatrist, on the sole evidence of a pamphlet found at the warehouse for which Revolutionary Solidarity had claimed responsibility. Mazokopos at the time was the correspondence secretary for the Union Of Anarchists Of Athens to which the pamphlet had been sent.

As a result of his arrest, activists Koyannis, Bouketsidis and Bergner were all arrested and imprisoned for being part of the MAZOKOPOS GROUP !! They were reprieved after a long hunger strike. The arrests was followed by the enactment of an Anti-Terrorist law, the State's refuge when their force of social control and repression is challenged or questioned.

The security forces charged Mazokopos in as many ways as could be squeezed out of the warehouse incident. In the trial, Mazokopos admitted to having rented the warehouse using a false I.D in 1983 for storage of an anarchist archive. In 88-89, two other persons (who he refused to name) took it over, the explosion occurring during Mazokopos's last withdrawal of his archive.

The Court sentenced him to 17 years in prison despite being discharged of the murder of the prison psychiatrist.

Comrades and friends of Mazokopos are continuing in their financial, political and moral support for him and wish to make his campaign an international one and for actions to peak during his second trial. They say **"Greek consulates and embassies are some of the sites where international anarchist solidarity can be demonstrated"**.

TALK, PUNK, OR
ELSE WE KNOW
YOU'RE GUILTY!



We hope that we can highlight Kiriakos Mazokopos's plight and encourage actions for his release in the U.K.

Contact:

Anarchist Initiative, PO Box 11251, 59110 Thessaloniki. Greece

More Peruvian A's Nicked Campaign Continues...

The International campaign to release Peruvian anarchist prisoner Andres Villaverde continues. Jailed since October 1991, he has still not been brought to trial.

On May 9th this year, the anarchist Victor Navarro Huarmiyuri was arrested by DINCOTE (anti-terrorist agency) while leaving the Castro-Castro prison in Lima after visiting Andres. Also arrested was an older brother of Andres.

US citizen of Peruvian descent, Pablo Salazar Deveraux, a writer for the US anarchist paper *Love And Rage* also visiting, managed to avoid detention because the prison security did not realise that he was part of the group. Those arrested are being investigated as possible members of the Peruvian Communist Party-Sendero Luminoso (PCP-Shining Path). As anti-authoritarians, neither of those arrested would support such a viciously authoritarian group.

The next day, Victor's residence was raided and the following morning DINCOTE issued orders for the arrest of Pablo but, by then, he had flown out of the country. On May 13th, they ransacked the houses of his uncle and cousins and were staking out these homes in case he returned.

Anarchists from the US, Canada, Germany and Spain immediately sent money to Peru to facilitate their release although at the time of writing we do not know if they have been bailed. Fears are that through this investigation, DINCOTE will try to characterise the Peruvian anarchist movement as pro-Shining Path and increase the repression of anarchist activists.

continued next page



Andres trial is likely to start in July before a Faceless Tribunal (the judges wear masks) where normal legal rights and production of evidence are overlooked. Amnesty International has documented DINCOTE's infamous use of torture and rape of its prisoners.

Support is vital - money being needed badly to feed the prisoners who unless food is brought in from outside friends, do not get fed. Such international campaigns have been proven in the past to be successful and save the lives of imprisoned friends abroad. It is vital to raise awareness of the case of Andres Villaverde and friends to remind the Peruvian State that we are watching every move they make and will not forget those they have detained. Pickets and actions at Peruvian interests are welcomed.

Money (all contributions will be acknowledged) can be sent to -
Peruvian Solidarity Project c/o WSM P O Box 1528, Dublin 8, Eire.
 Source: Workers Solidarity (address as above)

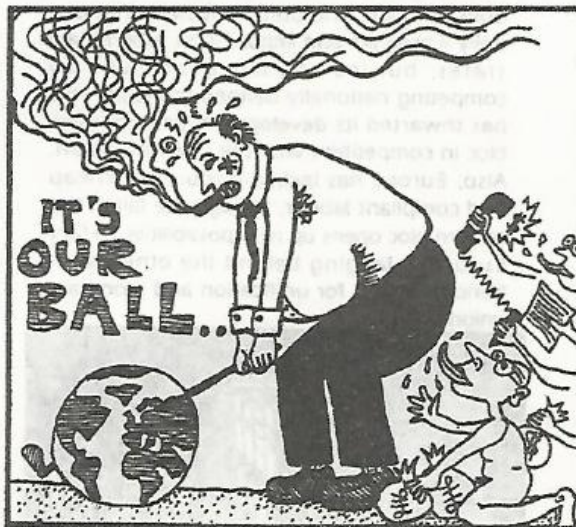
GOLF WAR HOTS UP!

Golf might not be the exclusive property of the rich and powerful, but today it plays an increasingly important role for the ruling class internationally. Golf courses are not just places where the rich relax after a hard day's business - they are often the places where business is done, and deals are made.

Like everything else they do it is at the expense of the rest of us. To satisfy their demand for new golf courses, with the accompanying luxury hotels and leisure facilities, people have to be driven off the land, and the environment damaged.

"Practically the entire top layer of Indonesian society - the president and his ministers, bankers and chief executives, top civil servants and military officers - all have one thing in common: hitting a little ball on the green".

In a country where 27 million people live below the official poverty line, millions of pounds are being spent on new golf courses - 12 new courses will be finished this year. Land evictions have gone hand in hand with this development.



Resistance to this process is increasing. A few years ago plans to extend a golf course on to native lands in Canada led to a massive revolt by the Mohawk people. And in April 1993, the Global Anti-Golf Movement was launched at a conference in Malaysia attended by delegates from Japan, Malaysia, Hawaii, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The conference statement described golf courses as "another form of monoculture, where exotic soil and grass, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides and weedicides, as well as machinery, are all imported to substitute natural ecosystems... The environmental impacts include water depletion, toxic contamination of soil, underground water, surface water and the air".

Indonesia is in the front line of the golf war. According to TAPOL,

In April this year, 800 people from four villages in West Java demonstrated against plans to transform their agricultural plots into a golf course. 14 people were arrested. Previous resistance has had some success: in 1989 frequent popular protests at Cimacan in West Java led to the abandonment of a proposed golf project.

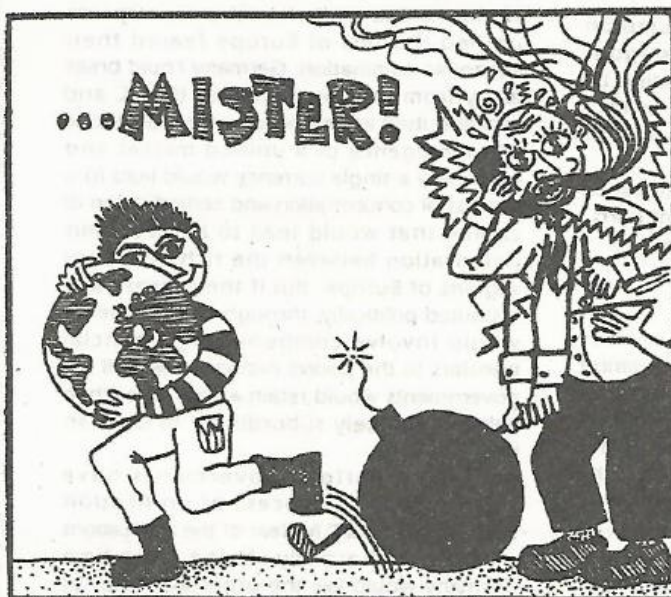
To mark World No Golf Day on 29 April, the newly-formed Movement Against Golf Course Development demonstrated outside the Indonesian parliament in Jakarta. How long before the struggle is carried into the heart of Home Counties England?

Info from TAPOL (the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign), 111 Northwood Rd, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW (tel. 081 771 2904).

SERBIAN STRIKES

It's nice to hear about about some other strikes besides air strikes in former Yugoslavia. On the 28th July the Guardian newspaper carried an article saying that a general strike had been called in Serbia for the following week (i.e. the 2nd-6th of August). Apparently "Union leaders said they were being pressed by a disaffected rank and file." At the same time farmers

in Vojvodina were blocking roads with their tractors in protest at low grain prices offered to them by the government. We have been able to find out if the general strike actually took place but it seems unlikely that journalists would exaggerate the level of class struggle in a country as vilified as Serbia - discontent would imply that maybe there were some "Good Serbs" who didn't deserve to be bombed! We would appreciate any information our readers can provide.



MAASTRICHT

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION (?!)

While politicians use big words and clever jargon to keep us folk in the dark, the Maastricht treaty and all that it implies is in fact not too difficult to understand. It is not something that should pass us by as too incomprehensible or something that does not concern us. The question of European unity brought up by the Maastricht Treaty is a matter of how the ruling class is to re-adjust and re-organise itself against us in the New World Order of free market economy, arising since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc.

GLOBAL CAPITAL

Firstly Maastricht enshrines the free market above all else. The past 20 years have seen massive growth of global finance capital and the disintegration of the national economies that underpinned the old world order. Billions of dollars swish around the globe at the touch of a button in search of ever greater profits and interest, without being regulated by state action.

With the decline of state regulation of economies the threat of serious dislocation and financial crashes becomes ever more probable.

In response to this we have seen ad-hoc interstate co-ordination on a global level - such as the G7 summits, bringing together the major western industrial powers, so as to impose some form of control. We have also seen the development of 3 regional 'blocs' that have emerged in an effort to consolidate capital accumulation at a supra-national level. It is within the context of this new economic reality that the reasons for European unity and eventual monetary union can be found. In the "Old world order" the threat of "communism" served as a unifying force that consolidated the western bloc under the leadership of the USA. But now, with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of state "communism" in the east, the old certainties of East-West confrontation has ended.

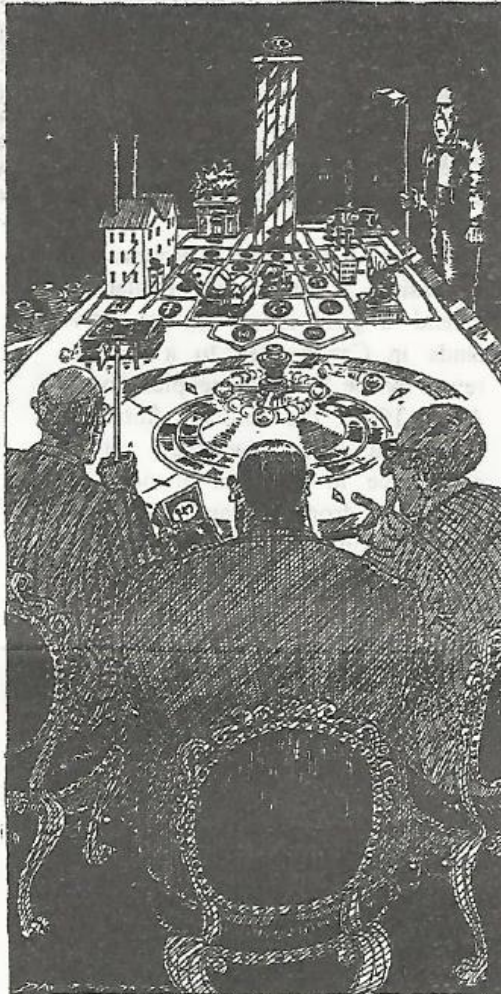
The old eastern bloc is trying to jump on board the new European bandwagon, opening themselves up to exploitation by western markets in an attempt to attract capital and avoid becoming a 3rd world in Europe.

As we witness the collapse and disintegration of eastern Europe into its constituent parts, western Europe is intent on unification.

EUROPE

The purpose of this unification is to organise Europe into a more powerful economic force to compete within the emerging New World Order, dominated by 3 fiercely competitive blocs: the Pacific region led by Japan, the Americas led by the USA, and Europe. The relations of the various ruling class factions both between and within these emerging blocs and their relative strengths with regard to each other and the proletariat are far from settled.

Compared to the other two regions Europe does not have one dominant state that can unify a program and impose it on subordinate states, but instead has been riven by competing nationally defined interests. This has thwarted its development as a cohesive bloc in competition with the USA and Japan. Also, Europe has lacked a source of cheap and compliant labour, though the fall of the eastern bloc opens up new possibilities. In fact Europe is lagging behind the other two - hence the rush for unification and monetary union.



GERMANY AND THE EEC

Germany has always been a strong economy within Europe and when the country was unified the rest of Europe feared their economic domination. Germany could break away from the constraints of the EC and establish itself as the power in central Europe. The emergence of a unified market and eventually a single currency would lead to a process of concentration and centralisation of capital that would lead to an economic polarisation between the rich and poor regions of Europe. But if the process was instituted politically, through the EC, then it would involve compensatory financial transfers to the poorer nations, where all the governments would retain a say rather than being completely subordinate to German interests.

Hence the various governments have accelerated the process of unification through the EEC for fear of the implications of a unified Germany. At the same time Germany would like the other EC states to bear some of the costs of German unification. And so the Maastricht Treaty.

THE CONSEQUENCES

What the euro-bosses want is to turn Europe into a unified superpower with its own army and a modern efficient economy based on a flexible labour market. All barriers to free trade within Europe must be removed. The consequences of this for the working class in Europe are not pleasant. They include:

1) The cutting of the social wage (social security, health care, education...) in countries where it is more "generous". From the bosses' point of view this has to happen or else everybody will go and live in Holland! Within the Treaty are a set of 'convergence conditions' committing the euro-bosses to take a hard line against the working class. These commit governments to strict and onerous monetary targets, which demand that public spending should not exceed 3% of GDP, that the national debt should not exceed 60% of GDP, that inflation should be brought to within a couple of % of the lowest in the EC. In the absence of a worldwide economic boom this automatically means a major confrontation with the working class across most of the EC.

2) The restructuring and destruction of old-fashioned industries such as coal and steel (or, rather, the acceleration of this process).

3) Increased repression against immigrants and refugees coming to the EC. Already the EC states have an agreement that if you are refused entry to one EC state you can't enter another one.

4) Increased cooperation between the cops of different states. It's still sometimes possible to escape the attentions of the pigs just by crossing a border, even if you're wanted for a fairly serious crime. This will soon change.

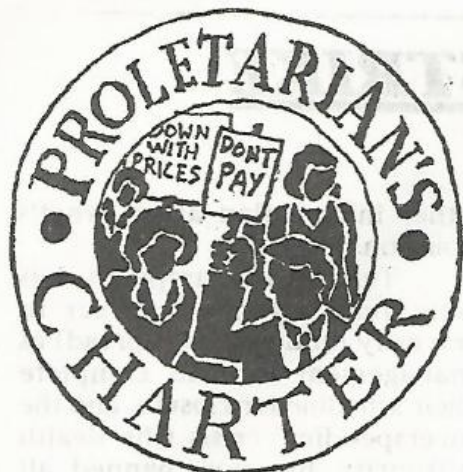
5) Destruction of traditional forms of agricultural production for local markets. Everything will be produced for the world market. Among other things this will be more environmentally destructive.

6) A single system of taxation across the EC. This will almost certainly make things worse for us proles, e.g. VAT (Value Added Tax) being charged on basic necessities in Britain - at the moment it's not charged on food fuel or children's clothes but soon will be charged on fuel.

For the working class outside the main blocs it will mean even greater impoverishment as economic power is concentrated even more thoroughly into the hands of the most developed nations.

BANKERS, PIGS & A MASS TRICK

By a commitment to the convergence conditions and eventual monetary union, the economic flexibility each government has in diffusing class confrontation is removed (unable to make tactical retreats). So each government's political sovereignty is lost. Many of the European ruling class fear not only this (as did Thatcher) but also the undermining of their nationalist support with the threat to national sovereignty and identity. All economic policy making power will be in the hands of the self-appointed



directors of a central 'European Bank'. MPs elected to the European parliament will have no power to change things.

So the debate within and between ruling class factions about whether to agree with or to oppose it goes on. The leftwing of capitalism, such as the British Labour Party, want greater powers for the European parliament and the strengthening of the Social Chapter. They want the construction of a new European identity with perhaps various sub-national identities. Rather than a bankers and pigs Europe run by bankers and pigs they want a bankers and pigs Europe run by a new euro-intelligentsia. This makes a lot of sense since almost no one actually believes in Europe as a nation - apart from those who work for the EC bureaucracy in Brussels. There are still plenty of idiots ready to die for Britain or France but who's willing to die for Europe? Where is the stirring European national anthem? Politicians talk about a 'Europe of the Regions'. What they mean is that there will be a single economy and increasingly a single state but the bosses will still be saying "work harder or those Scottish/French/Danish bastards will get the order instead of us."

The Right, whether dressed in smart suits or green bomber jackets, present themselves as the enemies of a united Europe. In reality the sort of racism and petty nationalism they promote fits in very well with the Euro-bosses plans. The only real 'eurosceptics' are those who want to burn all flags and tear down all borders!

Much of the above was taken from an article in *Aufheben*, issue 1. This gives a fuller understanding. See page 1 for address.

**MARCH AGAINST WAR
MARCHES IN PEACE**

On Saturday 7th August, fascists attempted to attack the Campaign Against Militarism's *March Against War* on route through Central London and also at the final rally and festival in Kennington Park, South London. In the main, confrontation was minimal due to police moving a group of thirty fascists out of the area and because the march contained a number of anti-fascists who had turned out specifically because of the threat of fascist attack.

The march is held annually by the Irish Freedom Movement in North London and nazis and Loyalists always harangue the demo from the sidelines and try to attack if they can. This year the Irish Freedom Movement turned the march over to the newly formed Campaign Against Militarism, although both groups are campaigning (read 'front') groups for the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) who always use their events for hardsell and recruitment for their exciting Trot version of the revolutionary process. Many anti-fascists were uneasy about turning up to the demo because the RCP supports the Serbs in the Yugoslavian situation but felt obliged to defend the demo from Nazi attacks.

**BUT THE FASCISTS
GO ELSEWHERE**

A lot of the Nazis, unable to confront the March went back up to East London which could be considered to be their stronghold. At some point in the early evening a group of these shit-for-brains came to the George And Dragon, a licensed squat housing quite a few people and tried to bust in, breaking some windows in the process. One anti-fascist from the house was caught and beaten, resulting in him being later taken to hospital. Local anti-fascists have collected money for him and he is now recovering.

A group of people came up from other parts of London to try to help clear up the damage but they were unable to get to the George And Dragon due to fascists remaining in the area. Some other people, heading for a social after the march, were also caught and beaten up by the fascists.

SOURCE : participants versions !



☐ **SOMALIA DEMONSTRATION**

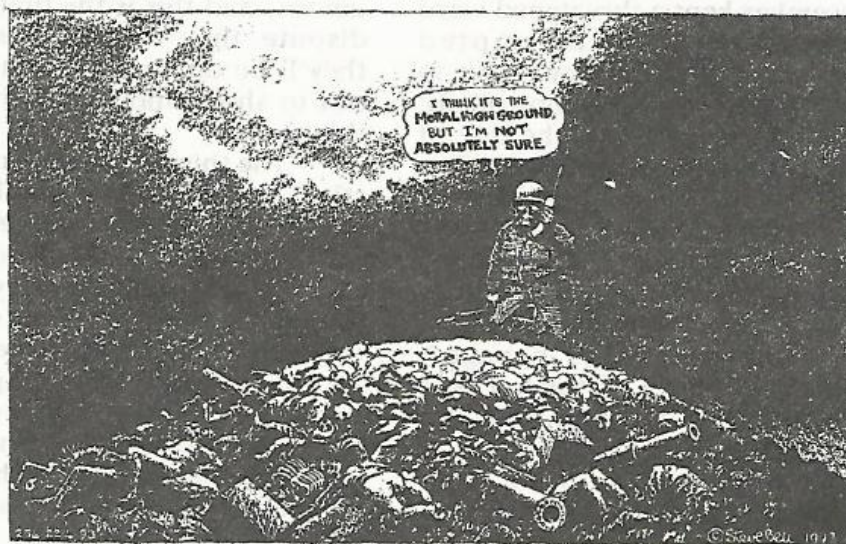
Nine Somali demonstrators were arrested outside the American Embassy in London during a protest against the US attack on Mogadishu. The demo took place on July 14, two days after US/UN forces slaughtered scores of Somalis in their capital city.

The US attack, and the massacre of 20 unarmed Somalis demonstrators by UN soldiers have exposed the true face of "Operation Restore Hope". These incidents are just the tip of the iceberg of routine harassment of people in Somalia.

For instance, Belgian UN troops have been accused of beatings and racism by the international aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). One MSF official said "I know of one case where a group of women was kicked and beaten to the ground. When we told them to stop, the soldiers said they were sick of Somalis".

Belgian soldiers entered wards at Kismayu hospital and exposed their genitals to women patients. In April, a Belgian paratrooper was sent home after beating up a Somali aid worker and seizing the vehicle for a joyride.

sources: *the Voice*, 20 July, *Weekly Journal*, 22 July.



STOP PRESS : HOSPITAL STRIKE

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL,
CAMDEN, NORTH LONDON.**

Nurses and porters at UCH have been on indefinite strike (with emergency cover) since August 17th. This is part of an attempt to prevent the imminent closure of UCH. Catering, ancillary and clerical staff there also struck for a day this month, as have workers at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Middlesex hospitals. Around this a general campaign to 'save the NHS' has got under way.

There is a lot of support for the strike - ambulance workers are refusing to move patients; patients are refusing to be moved; BT and other workers will not cross the picket line to dismantle the wards; posties have been leafleting their rounds; and Goodge St. tube workers are using the station tannoy to report on the strike. There was a walkout by some Camden Council workers to join the picket line, and Camden play workers and housing workers say they will strike if management try and close the hospital.

Also since the strike began there have been two unofficial marches - one through Central London (about 1,000 people) and one through Camden; occupations of the chief executive's office and UCH foyer (this is proving a good tactic - an occupation of UCH last December kept a threatened ward from closure); an attempted disruption of Bottomley's visit to the Whittington (TSG controlled); and a mass picket on the day of the (planned) closure of the first ward, as well as the daily pickets.

Many of these actions have been spontaneous - the planned events turning into other things (though now the campaign is becoming more stage managed, with less chance of this). There was another picket at UCH on 3rd September.

In response to all this, management have been using agency nurses to try and break the strike and undermine the

strikers control of emergency cover. They have cut the strikers (union) phone line, and refused them (and even non-striking RCN nurses wearing support stickers) access to the building - as a result of this ban five nurses now face the sack for trying to provide emergency cover.

As for the union, UNISON, although they have officially recognised the strike, they have dissociated themselves from the unofficial action, sending circulars to other hospitals ordering workers not to support it. They've been meeting with lawyers to suss out how to bring it under their control, and trying to channel all energy into a pathetic 'day of action' organised



for November 11th. UNISON has only been in existence since July 1st (a merger of public sector unions) and this is the first major dispute they've recognised so they'll be doing everything they can to show who's boss through this one.

The third bunch of potential stitch up merchants involved is the SWP. They have successfully managed (so far) to take control of the campaign, as they have many members amongst the strikers, including shop stewards. As usual their tactic hinges on trying to further involve the union bosses (ie, let them get a better foot in the door with which to put the boot in). They seem to control all speakers at public meetings and rallies, as well as all

other information about what's going on.

This strike/campaign has only just begun - it is set to intensify (and possibly spread) as management try and complete their schedule for closure, and the 'overspending' crisis (the Health Authority has now banned all 'non-urgent' operations at the Middlesex until April next year) also spreads.

Health service management know a successful closure of UCH is crucial to all their other plans of closures/cuts/regradings. The stakes are high. The strikers know this also. Their action is not to 'protest': they are actively trying to fuck up management's plans. Obviously they can't do this alone.

At this stage in the campaign it feels like 'anything can happen' - it's not yet stitched up. Get involved

UCH Demo, Thurs 16th September
Ring 0860 370 523/525 for info

TIMEX UPDATE.....

On Sunday 29th August, the company abruptly closed the Dundee plant, without warning, months ahead of the announced schedule. They decided to cut their losses and moved out in the middle of the night. However the strikers are planning to carry on the campaign against Timex. Next month claims for unfair dismissal will be heard by industrial tribunals. The strikers have also complained to the police about thefts from sacked workers' lockers. Thousands of pounds worth of measuring equipment went missing after the workers were sacked - presumably stolen by the company.

The campaign against Timex products has had a fair amount of success. Many shops are refusing to display Timex products. The company's plant in France is being picketed, and the strike committee are considering picketing the company HQ in the United States.