CLASS WAR Olympic Special PRESENTS

CHARIOTS OF FIRE!
As the rich get richer they're into flaunting their wealth in our faces. In Somerset in mid July the latest "Gate Crashers Ball" happened. It's for young public school types and the £40 tickets are only available through their exclusive circles. There was lots of talk locally about banning the horses and the pubs were closed and the police were called. In the end there were no raids and no riot cops.

Meanwhile in the towns and villages of Somerset and other rural communities young working class men and women are forced to carry Identity cards or they won't get served in pubs.

THE DAY THE PUBS RAN DRY

June in Dublin, fire saw 3000 bar staff in 600 pubs on strike. They demanded money, not time off when laws were abolished enforcing the traditional Sunday "holy closing". A "Quick Victory" would have been our battle cry!

LATE NEWS
We've just heard off our Irish correspondent that the striking bar staff asked for support from pubs in rural areas, unfortunately they had never heard of the "holy hour"!

THE DRINKERS FRIEND

WE SAY

BATTERED BOBBY No11

B. C. Curry told how he was walking along the town's main street when attackers pounced on him from behind. He came round four hours later at Chesterfield's Royal Hospital, where he was treated for facial injuries.

Colleagues found the detective wandering around the street looking dazed.

B. C. Curry is convinced his attackers knew he was a policeman.

Detective tells of birthday attack ordeal

The last few years have seen our free time being generally mucked about with by the ruling class. Whether it's drinking, sport, sex or just going out together we are being attacked day by day.

DRINKING

The government has just changed the law on opening hours. The rich want more profits out of us by making drinking easier but what they don't want is the results: street violence, attacks on the police and riots. So what do we get, more pub time and MORE police, ID cards, raids and arrests. They have never given a shit about how many peoples lives have been wrecked by drink, the deaths the broken families. They only take notice when we get out of hand, when we cause them trouble. They want us drunk but not disorderly.

GOING OUT

Large groups of working class people together are now seen as a "potential source of public disorder" whether it's at football, a gig or a club. The police are fully trained in riot tactics, video surveillance, ID checks and plain clothes work. This is all to deal with us when we go out. They try to stop or restrict as many working class events as possible, from the Notting hill carnival to gigs, football matches, fancy pubs and clubs. They want us to be seen and not heard.

SEX

AIDS has been the best thing to come along in years as far as the ruling class is concerned. They've used the justified fear in people to back to the values of Victorian England. This means they do what they want in their sex lives whilst we are told to stop with one partner and those of us who are gay come under increasing repression. They treat our sex lives as their property.

New police policy has been introduced to "catch trouble makers BEFORE they get out of the pubs" which means raids and arrests in many rural areas.

In Coventry a bylaw now makes it illegal to drink in public places. Other towns and cities are already thinking of introducing similar bans.

They tell us it's drink that makes us riot at the weekends, our message to them is wait till we are sober and there is no where to go. Then the trouble will really start.

Their campaigns aren't about controlling "evil" drink they're about controlling the working class. They want us quiet at work, quiet at rest and quiet at play.

IT'S WAR

VIOLENCE IN RURAL AREAS

POLICE FORCE BOUNDARIES ONLY

The Assistant Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, Brian Phillips, said: "The other night, in a rural area, policemen were reenacting with late night drinkers and came out to find their panda car turned on its side. Down here, people used to run away if they saw the blue light coming down the street, now they may well stand their ground and have a go."

Incidents of public disorder involving more than 20 people in non metropolitan police forces 1987

**Incident occurrence are not included**

0-1
1-4
5-8
11-31

Sex attacks add up to this. We are supposed to be grateful for a job, obedient at work and seen and not heard in our spare time. Unfortunately for the ruling class and their lackeys the police and politicians the future is not going to be nice and cozy.
From mid July to mid August the main part of the Rock Against The Rich Tour with Joe Strummer and The Latino Rockabilly War, and reggae band One Style went around the country. Starting in Leeds and finishing in Aberdeen the tour took in most major UK cities. It was a great success with over a third of the dates being sold out, and hopefully a reasonable amount of money being raised for a variety of good causes; eg S. Yorks sacked miners, community resistance and anti-poll tax groups in Scotland etc.

We haven't worked out how much we've got to give to these groups yet, but as soon as we do we'll print a full list of who got what in the paper. Several police forces seemed to work themselves into a total frenzy about the whole thing, visiting venues in advance with horror stories of major riots, insurrections, etc, etc all on their own doorstep. Course if this didn't work they just threatened to take away the venues drink licence or shut them down altogether. Still the tour went on and despite their best efforts the old bill only managed to spoil the fun a handful of times. A few people moaned about the ticket prices - we tried to keep them as low as possible (between £2, 50 & £5.00 with discounts for 1800's were possible) but it wasn't always easy.

The tour running costs were very high even though all the bands were doing it for expenses only, and we did want to raise a bit of money for different groups as mentioned before. Course it aint over yet there's still going to be loads more Rock Against The Rich gigs around the country so keep a look out for more details - even better, organise your own, if you've got mates in bands or whatever then put on a gig in your home town and keep the message loud and clear.

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TOUR T-SHIRTS

Sold out on the tour but now available again. Three designs are available...

* "I HATE YUPPIES"
* ROCK AGAINST THE RICH
* R.A.T.R. TOUR T-SHIRT

Class War Ltd

They all cost £4.50 and are available from CM T-Shirts, PO Box 467, LONDON E5 9YX.

Also available are large size tour posters at £1 also from the above address.

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THE BIG SIXTY

Well no one thought we were going to get that many votes did they? Alright 60 is pretty pitiful but seriously though, we never went into the election with any illusions that votes were what mattered most to us.

We got what we wanted...

*National publicity on TV, radio and the press*

*John Dulgan our candidate (a building labourer fresh out of the Labour party after 20 years on/off membership) saying on the news "The only way the working class will get power is by taking it themselves...voting will change nothing"*

*The Tory candidate getting beaten up by local people (the press tried to keep it quiet)*

*10,000 leaflets got to local working class people who now know what we've got to say.*

20,000 working class people in North Kensington neither had a vote nor bothered to vote. We neither expected nor particularly wanted these people to vote for a Class War candidate, but to some of these people cynical about politics we got across that there is an alternative to this shit...not a different "party" but that the solution to our problems lies within our communities and workplaces, within us as the working class, not in elections, but in hard united action.
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE

ANTI YUPPIE ACTION WORLDWIDE

It's not only in Britain that working class communities are under threat of destruction. The same thing is happening all over the world...from Scotland to South Korea, the Isle of Dogs to India working class people are being pushed out of their areas to make way for the rich. But THERE IS RESISTANCE...

There was an "anti-yuppie" riot in New York's Lower East Side on the 6th August, when hundreds of youths clashed with 450 police in the most serious outbreak of public disorder in the cities recent history.

During the hot summer the tenement buildings in the area became so unbearable that people spent as much time outside as possible. One popular haunt of the young people is Tompkins Square Park where they often have all-night parties. However yuppies have recently begun moving into the area, willing to pay $1 million for a luxury air conditioned "condominium" in the neighbourhood. The rich newcomers complained to the authorities that the noise from the park was keeping them awake at night. Worried, no doubt, that the resulting yuppie fatigue would cause the imminent collapse of western capitalism, the city council slapped a new curfew on the park. The locals didn't take it lying down. They organised a night time protest march which was attacked by mounted police and riot cops. But the locals fought back...so effectively that the authorities have been forced to repeal the curfew until the end of the summer at least.

"GENTRIFICATION IS CLASS WAR."
"Die Yuppie Scum." Banners and T-shirts emblazoned with these slogans came out in force recently in New York in a demonstration against gentrification which turned into a full-scale riot. Dozens of people were injured as protesters and riot police turned a Manhattan neighborhood into what one local newspaper described as "something like a war zone". At one point, demonstrators attacked a newly renovated luxury apartment building, ramming a police barricade through its glass doors and working its lobby.

The riot sparked a city which is used to a regular diet of nightmarish individual acts of brutality but has not seen much political violence since the 1960s. "Class Struggle Protests Along Avenue B," announced a New York Times headline, accepting the demonstrators at their word: "We are going to fight the enemy. Our enemies are the miniatures, the authorities, under threat."

Shades of Class War anarchist in London Docklands?

Class war? A parochial affair in New York until it was transformed into a big event by police over reaction when they turned out to stem the tide of protest

A "YUPPIE FREE STOCKHOLM" demonstration was held in Sweden recently (see photo). Hundreds of protesters took part and ended up attacking the Grand Hotel in the capital: NICE ONE SVEN!

Whirlwind

On one occasion police were pelted with rocks during a protest march in Whirlwind. Despite the protesters' defiant cries of "Yuppies to the moon!" and "Marching to a different tune" the riot police managed to hold them off.

Brutality

If you think that's tough try to explain... We were caught in the middle of a clash between police and yuppies in downtown Chicago. The police are trying to quell the yuppies using their high-powered water cannon and stun grenades.

The fight was over a housing complex and the yuppies were demanding the talks over the issue.

"Yuppies are a problem" said Whirlwind.

The Garden of England" is how the poet's like to describe the county of Kent, giving the impression of peace and tranquillity. However, in many of the communities situated around the county the class war rages no less fiercely than elsewhere in Britain. One area of struggle is the predominantly working class north west corner of the county stretching from Dartford to the Medway towns.

Yuppies

The increasing shortage of development land in London has encouraged property companies to look to North Kent for sites for their luxury housing developments. The recently completed M25 and improved A2 and M20 roads have made the area a viable alternative to Bickleigh for yuppies who can now drive to their jobs in the city in under an hour.

Yuppies to the moon!

Kent's got a problem.

Activity was banned from the area in the 1960s when the yuppies invaded the area.

Yuppies to the moon!

Resistance

However the proposed developments are not going ahead unopposed, especially in the rural areas.

In mid July 600 angry villagers from Whirlwind packed a public meeting to hear details of a proposed development by Norwood Holdings. The 500 acre project includes 259 houses, a luxury country club and two exclusive golf courses. The company are trying to "buy off" the villagers by offering other leisure facilities for their use, but they made it clear that the company would not get their way without a long and vicious battle.

In nearby Whirlwind the local council want to let Crest Homes build 27 luxury detached houses (estimated price £200,000 each) on an ancient playing field. But in a council-run poll seven out of eight villagers voted against the plan, even though Crest are offering a bigger modern leisure facility next to the existing site. There is no guarantee that the council will halt the plans.
SAFE TO GO DOWN TO THE WINE BAR

SQUATTERS

During the past few months the authorities in several major cities have launched attacks on some of the well established squatting communities in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. They want the squatters kicked out so the land can be used for building luxury housing schemes.

In Copenhagen, the "BZ" squatters (famous for their militant defence of their homes) successfully fought off a large army of riot police who were attempting to evict their squat in Baldergrage using tear gas. However the threat of eviction remains so the barricades have been strengthened and other local residents kept informed about what's happening.

MILITANT ACTION

These successes (just two or three of many) show how sticking together to take direct action can really get results. They show that we do have the power to stop the rich pushing us about at their will.

In the UK much of the "anti-yuppie" struggle has so far been characterised by minor acts of vandalism (smashing up cars etc) carried out by small groups or individuals. Such action is an expression of class anger but can never be as effective as organised collective actions such as the above. It is these that we should be aiming towards if we are serious about wanting to reclaim our territory and our lives from the rich.

Anti-yuppie link in sprees of car attacks

Vandals caused thousands of pounds damage to "yuppie" cars in a string of seven southern counties.

In an apparent anti-yuppie backlash, the vandals smashed windows, slashed tyres, and dented doors and wings in attacks that stretched along the A343 road from Newbury, Berkshire, to Mary Bourne in Hampshire.

Two at Kenton, including a gold Mercedes 200E worth £17,000, a Land Rover and a Escort Cabriolet Turbo worth £13,000 and a BMW 318i worth £11,000 were damaged.

The owner of the Escort, Mr Robert Chaliss, 26, of Conder Green, an expensive area of Newbury, said last night: "There seems to be no reason for the attack."

"Maybe someone had had a few beers, got jealous and just wanted to have a go at some of the richies."

Fear is growing that the attacks are linked to a breakaway campaign against upmarket squats and squatters in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire by the Wessex Freedom Front which has threatened to burn down luxury homes.

MEDWAY AND DARTFORD CLASS WAR GROUPS CAN BE CONTACTED VIA THE LONDON ADDRESS.

COMMUNITY

There is a very strong sense of community in these villages and residents are concerned that an invasion of selfish, money-grabbing yuppies will destroy this. How far they are willing to go is hard to say, particularly as the villages are far from exclusively working class and the richer residents (whose houses have the best views of the country side) are the ones who tend to take control of the local "action groups".

Anti-yuppie sentiments have already expressed themselves in nearby Gravesend in the form of attacks on Yuppie cars. One Saturday night in July 20 cars were damaged in one street in the town.

OLD BILL

Meanwhile the local constabulary are rapidly realising that they are not the most popular people in town. The local youth seems keen to improve on their lowly eighth position in Class War's Rural Riot Top Ten in our last issue.

COMMUNITY

At the beginning of July more than 60 men and women pelted four cops when they tried to arrest a man outside a nightclub in Dartford. The doors of a cop car were buckled beyond repair as members of the gang tried to tear them off. One cop was hospitalised and two people arrested after police reinforcements were rushed in from Sevenoaks and London.

On the same night in Gravesend a cop had to be rushed to hospital after being headbutted to the ground and then given a good kicking by an angry crowd when he tried to breath test a driver.

In a well publicised incident a cop was beaten up as a 60 strong crowd cheered when he attempted to intervene in a domestic dispute on the Sheppway Estate in Maidstone.

FANTHORPE'S SOUR

Two hundred officers turned out for the bandantly in a country, though yesterday after being ordered out of a room for drinking after hours.

Two hundred officers turned out for the bandantly in a country, though yesterday after being ordered out of a room for drinking after hours.

YUPIE SPEAK

Relaxed and self-assured, ipping and ipping and making it. I've always been like that.

And Andrew chips in: "Being a millionnaire isn't particularly rich. I don't know, what?"

"Don't they call anyone with more than $100,000 a millionaire now?" muses John.
**THE GENERAL’S POLE-AXED**

Jareuelski’s cold warriors had the wind put up them in the last couple of weeks. The unrest in August had the geriatric generals reaching for their exit visas, as flights to Moscow seemed ever more attractive. The biggest wave of strikes since 1981 rocked Poland, from simmering Gdansk to good old Gdansk the Polish working class showed they are far from beaten.

**IGNORANT**

There will be no repetition of the ugly scenes at Dover car

**SCAB QUEEN TAKES AWAY**

Postman Pat fights back

As Class War goes to press a national postal strike is looming up. This about the image of the “happy postie” doing his duty for the “Royal Mail” was buried, good and proper. Postal workers are amongst the most exploited sections of the working class, working long hours for low wages. The latest strike is not just about bonuses but the pay rise that hasn’t been paid, the introduction of video surveillance at work and demands from the management for increased productivity. Let’s give them all the support we can.

**CHARGE**

Encouraging news for British workers. So far in 1988 1.9 million working days have been lost through strikes. Nurses, car workers and seamen made a great start to the year so we should easily top the 1987 figure.

**FROM BELGRAVE TO BARROW**

In YUGOSLAVIA (7/8/88) 4000 demonstrators, mostly shoe workers, stormed the parliament building demanding to be paid their wages and protesting about the cost of living. BARROW in FURNACE in Cumbria has seen a massive struggle. The Vickers shipyard that dominates the town has been on strike for weeks. Workers are refusing to be forced to take all their holidays on the same fortnight of the summer so the bosses can close the factory and save profits.

With the boom in Britain crashing round our ears, interest rates and inflation flying up, we say to Nigel Lawson “up yours”. No one has been fooled by your attempt to buy favour with tax cuts. Most of us lost more in benefit cuts than we gained in tax cuts. Inflation has already stolen back the tax person a week we got off the budget and those of us who are trying to buy houses are now paying even more in interest rates. The whole of the working class is losing out whether unemployed or in work. The lefties say it is “mismanagement” but we say there are no “good” or “bad” managers only “hard” and “soft”. There are those who enforce pay cuts and job losses with smiles and those who kick us in the teeth. It’s just the same with politicians.

Since 1974 recession and slump has dogged the world. The 1987 crash heralded the next stage. We have been under constant attack throughout this period. We’re losing more power cuts and been forced to accept longer hours. Lawson like any politician has tried to disguise the bitter taste of the pill but he can’t disguise the fact that capitalism is a rocky old system lurching from boom to bust, with us at the bottom. He’s tried to give the bosses big profits at our expense and keep the economy going for their sake and not ours. He is pig ignorant if he thinks we are going to take it. This time when our class goes out to bring home the bacon lets make him and his kind the main course.

25/8/88 Nurses at London, Sheffield and Manchester took industrial action in support of their pay claim.
Dear Class War,

I've noticed that you don't have a letters page so I thought you'd like to start one.

What I like most about Class War is the way that, unlike other "political" papers it doesn't go on and on about "after the revolution etc etc". I like the way it talks about doing things NOW, to improve our lives NOW. I think one of the best things about it is its no-nonsense approach to dealing with anti-social criminals, muggers, rapiasts and other class based crooks. Now, I had better say right here that I am not some right wing vigilante type who has simply picked on this one aspect of class war to proclaim myself a "Class War Anarchist" but I think that commy defence is as important as any struggle which our class has to deal with.

Most other papers and groups, both anarchist and left wing only seem interested in the police defending themselves when they are attacked on the grounds of race or sexuality. Of course they are quite right to support such sets as what about other attacks on members of the working class? After all, race and sexuality are not grounds for an attack, they are simply excuses. I assume that people like the MCP, SNP etc are in favour of intervening to stop such attacks but if they see someone getting mugged in the excuse that he supports another football team, follows a different youth cult or anything of this kind then they tend to intervene then? I suspect not. However I would like to think that most supporters of Class War would do something. These thugs are among the worst oppressors our class has. They keep us off our streets and out of the pubs, clubs and football grounds which are the rightful property of our class. The struggle against them is exactly the same struggle as the one against the landlord, the Employer, the bigot and the rich bastard.

I think that Class War's stand against anti-social criminals is going to attract a lot of working class people who are, hopefully, beginning to see through, the idea of the police as our protectors. They don't protect us. They are not meant to. There aren't enough police to protect Old Age Pensioners (apparently) but there seems to be plenty to protect royalty, break up picket lines, beat up hunt saboteurs etc. The main problem in defending our communities against muggers, thieves, racists etc is the police. The police is simply an arm of the bourgeois regime. For the working class, anyway. Remember that guy with his sword stick on the London underground not long ago? He ended up in court I bet he wouldn't have got away if he had been royalty or rich. The point is that a hell of a lot of people sympathised with that guy. What if we have to get across to people is that if they agree (quite rightly) with breaking the law if they feel they have to to protect a basic human right (in this case physical protection) then why not in order to protect other basic human rights, homes, healthcare, the environment on which all life depends? You can't believe in government on the one hand yet on the other be prepared to break that governmemts laws. It is hypocrisy. If you are honest you have to declare yourself an anarchist! Think about it.

MICL Middlesborough.

CLASS WAR BIKERS

The fat scumbags in parliament see bikers as a threat to their normal society. We are a large minority of mainly working class people, united by a love of motorbikes. We have a strong tradition, built up over the last twenty odd years, of support for each other and a healthy dislike for authority.

Rich, parasitic, chauffeur driven MPs have been making policies enforcing a series of laws against our freedom to ride, so as to slowly wipe us out.

Most bikers realise this and are aware that we must put up a united front to show that our culture will not be destroyed that easily.

Many bikers have joined groups like MOTORCYCLE ACTION GROUP or gone to demos like the recent one at Hyde Park. Hyde Park attracted enough bikers to block up London for the day. While these actions show our strength and determination to stand together, we as bikers in Class War realised they don't go far enough.

As long as there is government there will be more and more laws against us. Believing this we've formed CLASS WAR BIKERS which is not only against biking laws but against the system which makes them. We believe bikers should join the class struggle so our culture can survive.

If you ride a bike and hate the government and the Rolls Royce driving politicians who are trying to stop you, then fight back with Class War Bikers.

C.W. Bikers can be contacted through Derby Class War Group.

Thanks to Mike for the idea, the fact is that we won't have much of a letters page if you don't write, so put pen to paper today.

Aims & Principles.
1. We want to destroy capitalism and its class system and replace it with a free and equal society where people have complete control over their own lives.
2. We believe that the most important division in society is between the working classes and the ruling classes and its agents. We accept that it is sometimes difficult to see which side of this division people are, and to complicate things further, people may move from one side of it to the other depending on changes in their personal situation or in society at large.
3. We are opposed to all forms of the state including so-called 'communist' states.
4. The struggle of the working class is inseparable from the struggle of the world against fascism, ignorance, oppression, and capitalist exploitation. The struggle for political and social freedom is a battle for the future of the human race.
5. We consider that the pursuit of power is not only an act of aggression but an act of aggression.
6. We believe in the right of all oppressed people to make their own decisions about their lives. We believe in self-determination and direct democracy.

The CLASS WAR CONFERENCE, which meets twice a year, will decide the policy of the federation. It will exclude any groups or individuals from being acting against the Aims and Principles.

We accept that the CLASS WAR FEDERATION is not the only valid way of opposing the state but we believe that all forms of organising will be more appropriate to other people. We will work with other working class groups when our struggles coincide.
I SHOULD COE COE

Seb Coe, the ugly face of yuppie athletics not content with making millions for running round the asphalt for one hour and a half minutes, now wants a free meal ticket to Seoul. That was the sickening story of July. His Tory friends in the media and government hysterically portrayed him as God's gift to international athletics, while the other hardworking and poorly paid contenders selected in his place continued to destroy him on the tracks of European stadiums.

Now it appears that Coe's support comes not because of any belief in his recent mediocre ability but because he is a long standing member of the Conservative party. Coe has voiced his wish to stand as a candidate for the Tories, and a medal in Seoul would have greatly increased his chances of success in a political career. Let's run this bastard into the ground.

SEOULED OUT

Latest news from the Olympics is that walls have been built along 100 miles of the Olympic torch route to hide the shit housing that working class people have to live in. To cap it all the residents of these areas have been asked to pay for it! This comes after over 100,000 people have been evicted from their houses to make way for property developers.

Do the decent thing - SUBSCRIBE
Dear Class War
I want brain damage,
please send me the next
☐ 12 issues (cost £3-50)
☐ 6 issues (£1.75) of Class
War to: Name
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Send to: PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX.

WHATS UP SPORT

So now our sports centres and playing fields are to be sold off. No doubt the fields in desirable areas will soon sprout luxury housing. In many towns sports facilities are already bad or non-existent, you have to book weeks ahead at sports centres and now it's going to get worse. When they are owned by big business what's the betting the prices will rocket and they start looking for a more exclusive type of customer.

We'll be left with what they can't make a profit out of second rate facilities where much needed repairs will have to wait. The result will be swimming pools, running tracks and football pitches left derelict.

As communities we have to resist further closures and attempts to cut back. It's often easier to keep things open than it is to get them open once the shutters are down. Neither can we let facilities in our towns and cities to fall into the hands of property developers and big business. They'll only be really safe when they're in our hands.

FOOTBALL SHORTS

"It's disgraceful what people are trying to do in the leagues centenary year. Some might argue that it has become a Wall Street game, with money being the most important consideration but I think we owe the game more than that."...Gordon Taylor, leader of the Football League Players Union.

"The survival of soccer as a spectator sport is in question"....Margaret Thatcher 1988. Thanks for the warning.

CLASS WAR GROUPS & CONTACTS

BRIGHTON: c/o Brighton Bomber, Prior House, 6 Tidbury Place, Brighton.
BRIMINGHAM: CAMERAMAG, c/o Box Office 6, 3 George St, Birmingham BI2.
BRISTOL: PO Box 499, Bristol BS99.
CARDIFF: PO Box 157, Cardiff CF5 1YE.

LIVERPOOL: PO Box 110, Liverpool L69
LONDON: PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.
LUTON: PO Box 196, Luton LU2 9CQ.
NORTH WALES: c/o 8 Collective, UCW Student Union, Deiniol Rd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2TH.
PLYMOUTH: PO Box 105, Plymouth PL1.
SOUTHAMPTON: c/o Rumble, Box R, 4 Onslow Rd, Southampton.

For WORKINGTON, MALVERN & WORCESTER, BRADFORD and MANCHESTER C.W. groups contact the BRISTOL address.

For DARTFORO & GRAVESEND, DERBY, SURREY, MIDWAY, SHERFORD and SHERBURY C.W. Groups contact the LONDON address.

If your area is not listed and you want to set up a local group please write to the LONDON group.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Striking French shipyard workers earned themselves some international publicity when they halted the "Tour de France" cycle race for 15 minutes during its first stage. The strikers protesting about the loss of jobs had warned the race organisers that they would block the giant suspension toll bridge at St Nazaire. However they promised to let the riders through after they were allowed to make a presentation to Guido Bonet, winner of the previous days time trial.

The strikers kept their word...by blocking all the toll entrances except one, allowing the riders to go through in single file but halting the advance convoy of publicity vehicles and team cars. The race was halted. The demonstration was largely good natured but towards the end fighting broke out between the strikers and race guards. The publicity was smacked up, a particular target of the strikers was the Volvo carrying Luis Ocana, the 1973 tour winner who was reporting the race for Spanish TV. Ocana is a known right wing extremist and supporter of the French National Front. Luckily for him he managed to escape.