

CLASS



WAR

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
TODAY'S POLITICIANS = TOMORROW'S DOG FOOD

ISSUE 67
APRIL/MAY 1995 **50p**

**THE MEDIA MADE THEM
SUPERSTARS.
WE'LL MAKE THEM
WISH THEY'D
NEVER
BEEN
BORN!**

NATURAL BORN

PILLOCKS!

**INSIDE: SCANDAL, NEWS, VIEWS & REVIEWS PLUS THE LOWDOWN
ON GREEN POLITICS - ALL IN YOUR EARTH-SHATTERING CLASS WAR**

WHAT WE SAY

The Barings Bank crash shows once again how fundamentally fragile capitalism is.

How a few mistakes on a computer, or in an office, can throw an economy into turmoil.

How the movement of massive amounts of money, that is repre-

sented by nothing more than a slip of paper, or just electrons on a VDU screen, can put thousands of people on the scrap heap.

SPIVS

It also show that the whole poxy system is run by, and for, a mixture of the Old Boys network and

spivs out for a quick buck, and that's even before the scum who run the state get involved.

Unfortunately so far only one of these spivs has taken a big fall, and we are truly sad to see that the Queen's stolen wealth was specially protected.

Don't you just hate

it when that happens? Still, don't worry, there'll always be a next time.

MP's have, for once, been setting a good example for the rest of us.

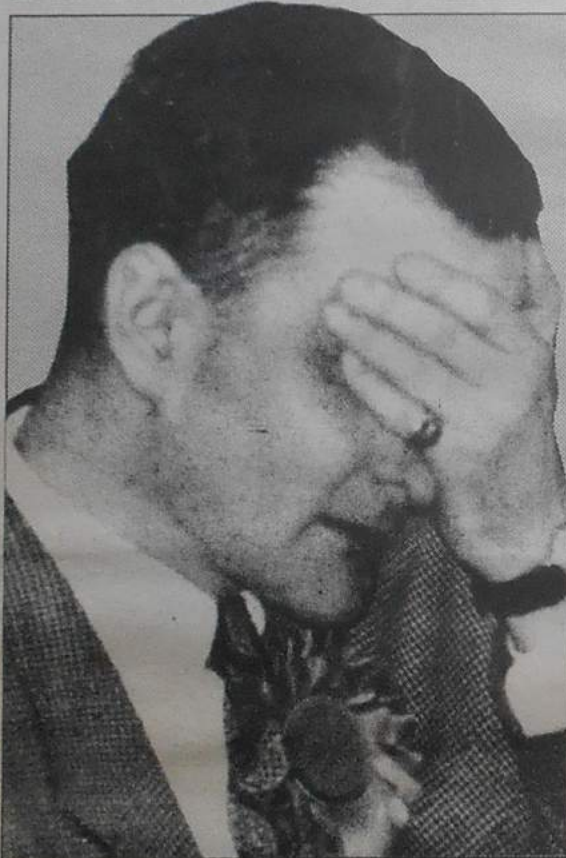
They've only been turning up for work three days a week and have voted them-

selves a pay rise way above inflation.

BASTARDS

But since MP's of all parties love to lecture us about working harder, for less money, (you're pricing yourself out of a job they tell us), we can't really call it "setting a good example".

It should be called: those dirty, stinking, hypocritical, overpaid, lying bunch of bastards who are only good for doing space walks without a safety rope are at it again.



Ha! Ha! Ha! - Scots Tory git can't believe his eyes as his party get's the heave-ho.

DON'T ENCOURAGE THEM

The Tories got a right good hammering in the Scottish local elections, a fact that will cheer up many working class people pissed off with living for so long under their rule.

The stage looks set for this humiliation to be repeated in the May local elections in England and Wales.

But the important percentages that came out of the election weren't that the Tories came in fourth place with a poxy 11.5%, or that Labour took over 50% of the seats. The important figure was that only 40% of the electorate bothered to vote.

What's significant about this is that it's not even 40% of the people who voted, it's only 40% of those who are eligible, and registered who bothered.

The fact is that most ordinary people have no faith in politicians, no matter what party they represent. The May elections will see a similar minority of people vote for who rules us. As will the general election, which by the

look of things won't be too long coming.

The electoral system is a con. The Tories have only been able to remain in power, at a national level, by mobilising the 8 million rich voters it needs each time. As far as the rest of us are concerned, we can go screw ourselves.

LIES

It's these same voters who Tony Blair is desperately trying to get to vote Labour next time. This is why he's no better than the Tories, and why anybody who puts any faith in him will soon be kick-

ing themselves for being conned one more time.

Politicians of all shades worry more about people not voting than they do about losing their seats. They crap themselves that we'll see through their lies and distortions and realise that we are perfectly capable of organising our own lives. Who needs corrupt, power hungry leaders and bosses?

So whether it's local or national elections; don't vote - it only encourages them.

SPECIAL - Why Labour are crap. Page 11.

TURKISH DELIGHT?

Islamic bigots in Turkey bit off more than they could chew when they machine-gunned a cafe frequented by Alavites (a non-conformist Muslim order).

Alavites, Kurds and left wing groups demonstrated against this attack. The state, knowing which side it's bread is buttered, responded by shooting the demonstrators.

This in turn led to a week of heavy duty rioting in Ankara and Istanbul, (the most significant since the 1980 military coup) and left 30 dead and at least 100 seriously injured.



SPECIAL

The weekend at the end of March/ beginning of April kicked off in good style for residents on the Halton Moor Estate in Leeds.

Things began when some obviously well-organised joyriders used three cars to ram a cop car on the estate. The cunning drivers used the three robbed vehicles to box the panda car in while the joyriders escaped.

We only hope the motors were robbed from the wealthy and not their own.

Two of Nottingham's boys in blue have taken a beating recently in what the Police have called an outbreak of "unprovoked" attacks, as if you needed a reason to attack a copper!

The first happened in the Sneinton Markets area when the cop concerned was on night time patrol. His attacker apparently ran up and punched him repeatedly in the face until he lost consciousness and fell to the floor.

A couple walking home were the first to find the

battered bastard, who, when he came round could not remember enough details about the attacker to make an arrest.

ESCAPE

The second incident happened a couple of weeks later, in early February, when another birdbrained bobby, a PC James Taylor, was on routine patrol in Aspley during the early hours of the morning.

His attacker approached him and swung a scaffolding pole into his face leaving him with a broken nose and con-

By 7.30pm on Friday night, the plod had been instructed to go and make some arrests, but the organisational skills of the estate's youths came well into play - within seconds of the police's appearance, between thirty and forty youths, tooled up with sticks, flooded to the Coronation Parade and Neville Road areas.

The cops needed to call 50 of their colleagues to help them out with the battering they were taking, as the running battle continued. Unfortunately, things were "calm" in about an hour.

Interestingly enough, a Class War roving reporter collared a taxi driver for a chat. The man was adamant that the "Lads and lasses up there are as good as gold" and only cause bother for the law.

Seems as though the people of Halton Moor know who to target, and when.

MATCH REPORT:

ONE COP CAR KNACKERED, TWO COPS HURT, TEN ARRESTS...

cussion. Even though the filth soon surrounded the area, the wily warrior managed to 'slip the net' and escape.

Nottingham police have such a notorious reputation for fitting folks up and harassing people that it's not surprising that someone wanted some payback.

As we go to press PC Taylor and his luckless mate are recovering at their homes until fit for duty.

Lets hope that their convalescence is both long and painful.

DO YOUR BIT FOR THE... CLASS WAR

AND EARN EXTRA CASH!

Yes, you can do your bit in the war, and earn extra cash, by flogging Class War to your work/school mates, friends, neighbours family etc.

Just send £2.00 for ten copies to Bulkorders, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX.

Also available, £1/£2/£5 packs of the current front cover as huge A2 flyposters. From the same address.

Cheques/P.O.'s to Class War. Overseas orders: please write for price.



LIVING OFF IMMORAL EARNINGS

In the run-up to the next general election we will have to get used to the sickening sight of Tony Blair and his wife Cherie Booth, grinning inanely, like dumb actors in toothpaste adverts, at countless photo opportunities.

Whilst we're sure all *Class War* readers would love to wipe the smile off Tony's smug face, *Class War* can reveal that Ms Booth is just as nasty a peice of work.

NASTY

A barrister by profession, Booth is one of the leading authorities on the jailing of poll tax debtors. In February 1994 she wrote a document for a poll tax enforcement conference advising local authorities on the quickest way to arrange prosecutions.

Booth doesn't just talk nasty though, she acts nasty: in November 1993 she per-

suaded the High court to uphold the jailing of two poll tax debtors from Blackburn.

During the coming general election campaign, Ms Booth will be accompanying her husband on many of his walkabouts.

Wouldn't it be a shame if during their canvassing this gruesome twosome met someone who Ms Booth helped jail?

Tony Blair - an apology.

In Issue 66 of *Class War* we referred to the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition as "chlpunk face", and "chlpunk chops".

We now accept that this was a gross libel against all decent chlpunks, and we humbly apologise for any offence we may have caused.



Tony Blair - a whore for the law!

IT'S GOOD TO TALK - PART 2

After we printed an article about the phone system in CW66, *Class War* received the following information. Anonymous of course, with a request that we print it to see if any of our readers might have any use for it. Being the kind, caring paper that we are, here goes.

David Irving:
Home phone: 071 4999409

Judge Pickles:
Home phone: 0422 352215

David Mellor:
Mobile phone: 0831 851349

Michael Howard:
London home phone: 071 7302706
Constituency home phone: 0303 813164

Michael Heseltine:
Home phone: 071 2356787
Country home phone: 0295 711765
mobile phone: 0836 226444

Jeffrey Archer:
Albert Emhankment
London SE1
phone: 071 7350077

William Waldegrave:
66 Palace Gardens Terrace
Kensington
London W8
phone: 071 2298499
Constituency home phone: 0761 241487

Nigel Lawson:
2 Stafford Mansion
Albert Bridge Rd
London SW11
phone: 071 2283192

Cecil Parkinson
77 Brook Street
London W 1

Jonathan Aitken
8 Lord North Street
Westminster
London SW 1

We should point out that by dialling 141 before the phone number disguises the number you're ringing from. But calls of a certain nature should *only* be done from a phone box anyway!

RUGGER BUGGERS

Regular readers of *Class War* will know that we have little time for the England Rugby Union team.

That's because it's packed with coppers, solicitors and other such scum - and in the south of England, generally speaking, the game is run by upper class arse-

holes for middle class fools.

Well, our disliking of them increased massively when the team had a practice session which featured the stuck-up royal brats Princes William and Harry, plus their idle rich parasite mother, Princess Di.

The Princes couldn't go to the Grand Slam decider

against Scotland because another royal would be there (how upsetting!) - so those arselicking players of the England team put on a private show for them.

PUNCHBAG

Unfortunately, none of them took the opportunity to

drop-kick one of the princes through the posts, though it must be said, we would be surprised if they did.

But if the royal brats have any spare time on their idle hands, we could suggest an outing with the *Class War* boxing team: we've got a need for a new punchbag, or two.

SELLING THEIR LABOUR

The latest thing the Labour Party has got into a flap about is people being ripped off by the government.

At last, are they going to do something about people trying to exist on the poxy amount of benefit we get?

Are they going to do something about the 2,000 old people who die of hyperthermia each winter because they can't afford to eat and heat their homes?

Are they going to do something about the chronic lack of NHS beds and the millions waiting for treatment?

Are they bollocks. They have got stirred up about those people who had enough spare cash to invest in energy shares, and who weren't able to make a quick profit!

BIG BUCKS

The Tories knew that there was going to be a particular report that would cause energy share prices to fall, but they still went ahead and sold the governments last remaining shares in a privatisation scheme that was sup-



posed to make big bucks for their friends in the City, and quick bucks for those with enough cash to invest.

Only news of the report caused energy share prices to slump and no quick profits were made.

Labour then spent three days harping on about this 'scandal' on any news programme that would have them. They accused the To-

ries of insider dealing, which breaks down as not playing fair on the stock market.

But since when has the stock market been fair? Insider dealing is the meat and potatoes for the scum who make millions by investing on inside information that they got from one of their posh friends in the know.

Remember the scandal when Jeffrey Archer made

£80,000 out of the inside knowledge his wife had told him?

The new look Labour party has completely abandoned working class people, and seeing them moaning about the rich not being able to make an 'honest' profit on the stock market shows what their new priorities really are.

CLASS WAR



FOR A WORTHWHILE EDUCATION

LEARN THE
THREE 'R's:
**RESIST,
REBEL,
REVOLUTION!**

PROS AND CONS

Class War looks at why women are attacked... for earning a living!

The recent mobilisation of men in parts of Balsall Heath Birmingham to drive prostitutes (sex workers) off the streets has divided the local community: sympathy for the prostitutes and anger at the bigotry of the 'pickets' is growing.

SCAPEGOATS

What seemed to begin as a genuine move by local people to deal with kerbcrawlers was turned into a moral backlash. After attempts to get the police and council to take action against the kerbcrawlers, anger was wrongly turned against the women. The women have been scapegoated for the problems caused by male kerbcrawlers. Many other local women, who did not comply to 'strict dress codes', also suffered the same abuse from men on street corners. The 'pickets' claim success. Many women have moved, some having to sell their houses at a loss, and the problems caused by the

kerbcrawlers have simply moved with them. But no account is being taken of the effects on the prostitutes. The loss in wages, the added danger of working in an area they are unfamiliar with and the loss of support that they did get from some sections of the community in Balsall Heath.

The whole saga was a missed opportunity to build solidarity between us by addressing the real problem which was the behaviour and attitude of the male kerbcrawlers.

MISSED CHANCE

A missed chance to understand a bit more about the prostitutes and support this group of low paid women workers.

Being a sex worker is hard enough. All over the world women (and men) are driven into prostitution by financial needs. If women get a job they are often paid less than men. But a lack of jobs available, scarce childcare and training



can freeze women out of the jobs market completely. As many women have lost their entitlement to benefit over the past years - prostitution can seem the only alternative.

And that is how we should see prostitution - it is another shitty job. The pay is better than a lot of jobs but the terms and conditions are not up to much.

Balsall Heath's sex workers has given no long term solution to these women's needs. Instead they are made more vulnerable to attack.

Right wing bigots and their friends in the media have

conned some local people into giving yet another group of workers a load of bother. The conservative morality that has been used to turn people against prostitutes has the same anti working class roots as the shit that causes racism, homophobia, sexism and all the other prejudice that divides working class people.

WHO'S IN BED?

Let's just look at the bed partners of the 'pickets': councillors, local church leaders and an MP, all middle class tossers after power and control.

As workers we have far more in common with prostitutes than we do the likes of Madame Jill Knight, Birmingham MP.

After all, it is the likes of her that create the poverty that drives all of us into selling our minds and bodies for a wage.



ON THE BUSES

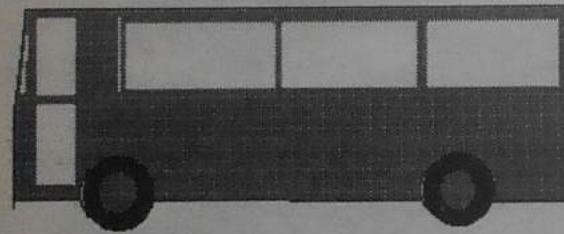
Following disruption to the bus services in Homerton and Hackney, East London, after a CS gas attack on a driver, London Class War flyposted this message on the Kingsmead and Clapton Park estates:

"PUBLIC WARNING: Most residents of Homerton and Hackney Wick will be aware of the recent disruption to evening bus services in the area, caused by unprovoked assaults on bus drivers.

The people responsible for these attacks are complete scum. Those of us who live in Hackney cannot toler-

ate this disruption to a vital community service. This end of Hackney already has one of the worst public transport services in London. There is no place for anti social crime here or anywhere else in Hackney.

without fault in this affair however. They could put conductors on the evening buses or make the drivers security screens safer. They choose not to. It wouldn't be anything to do with the cost involved would it? Hackney is the poorest borough in the country, and until poverty is relieved, people will seek alternative means to improve their living standards. Anti social crime (attacking other working class people) is no solution. Class War is. If those responsible for the attacks are in need of someone to threaten then we suggest the following much



more worthy target: John McCafferty (Leader of Hackney Council), 17 Bayston Road, Stoke Newington, N16."

One person who was particularly taken with the leaflet was John McCafferty himself who told the local paper "The response of Class War... shows them in their true colours." Yes it does John, and we're proud of it!

The Hackney Gazette also said our leaflet incited violence and threatened McCafferty. Considering he has presided for years over some of the worst public housing in the country (and has done alright out of it!) Class War doesn't need to incite anyone to take action against this slimey wretch!

If those responsible continue to put in jeopardy a community service, the people of Homerton and Hackney Wick must sort them out. These wankers are fucking the rest of us over!

Nor can we call on the Metropolitan Police to solve the problem. The racist thugs of Hackney police are more interested in keeping us in our place than serving the community. They would rather disrupt our sleep in that bloody helicopter of theirs than help any of us.

Capital City Buses are not

LIVE BY THE SWORD

The past weeks have seen an increase in demonstrations against cuts in services. At this time of the year councils are setting their budgets and council tax for the next year. It's at this time that many cuts are announced.

Up and down the country schoolkids, under the guidance of their head and teachers, are lobbying council meetings to protest at cuts in education. Firefighters, local government workers, teachers and health workers have marched to rallies and raised petitions. Even some Tory councillors are supporting the protests.

As ever the lefties are likely to organise a string of walkabouts with placards to see who can get the best head count. And what difference will it make? None. It never has and never will.

PISSING IN THE WIND

Symbolic shows of public support, that have no connection with any meaningful on-going resistance have no effect on the government at all. However they do provide the opportunity for a bit of electioneering for the opposition (usually Labour). Councils when confronted with these mild mannered orderly

protests claim to be innocently trapped in the middle. "It's central government... blame the Tories" they whinge. Some have even claimed to defy the government by setting budgets above that laid down by Westminster.

A CUT ABOVE

How they get their extra spending money is by raising the council tax!

So, let's get this straight: their show of defiance is to make us pay more for less! Fuck me, roll on May, can't wait to go give them my vote.

Let's admit it, that's what this furry of protest is probably all about; it's the start of the local election campaign. The 'labour movement' (lefties and trade unionists) can be seen to be 'fighting' back when in effect all they are doing is defusing a bit of anger, deflecting blame away from local councils, wasting people's time and energy and the conclusion of all protests is that we should 'vote Labour'.

Basically they achieve nothing beside leaving those people who they use feeling disempowered and disillusioned. Yet another defeat,

MESS WITH OUR HEALTH AND WE'LL MESS WITH YOURS

FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

HOSPITALS FOR NEED NOT PROFIT

CLASS WAR

PO Box 3241 Saltley B'ham B8 3DP

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT CUTS IN OUR SERVICES OR TAX RISES TO PAY FOR THEM

because after the elections the protests die down and the cuts quietly take place without any real fuss.

The only way to fight against the knife of the cuts is by the sword.

Slice up a bloated hospital manager, give the nearest nob's school a good can-

ing, run down a councillors housing (if you've got a JCB, otherwise a well aimed brick gets the message over), take wild cat strike action, use sabotage... let our minds (and bodies) run wild.

We reckon it's just what the doctor ordered... and it's definitely well overdue!

GET AWARE

The last issue of Class War contained a report on the England v Nigeria match where Nigerian activists distributed leaflets denouncing that country's military dictatorship.

For the past five years the Awareness League - a revolutionary group of about 1000 members - have done their best to fight the Nigerian ruling class from within Nigeria.

Despite the arrest and detention of many leading members the Awareness

League, it is still politically active.

With the downfall of apartheid in South Africa, Africa has been removed from the trendy lefties' list of good causes.

WHATCHA' NEED?

What the Awareness League require, however, is not the bland slogans of the Trotskyite left, but the decisive support of class struggle activists from around the world.

In particular they require: Literature - in particular class struggle books / pamphlets. Money. Music tapes - particularly pop, reggae, soul or rap (anybody sending Morrissey tapes will have them returned). First Aid kits and rehydration salts. Condoms and AIDS awareness literature.

Due to the current climate in Nigeria it is not possible to send donations direct to Africa - the Awareness League is currently forced to operate

from safehouses which frequently change at short notice.

All donations should therefore be sent initially to:

THE RED & BLACK CLUB
UNIT 7
THEATRE PLACE
489 NEW CROSS ROAD
LONDON SE14

ROCKETS AWAY!

French workers have been putting us Brits to shame as usual. While British unions spout hot air and tug the forelocks to management, French seamen were setting alight Meridian scab ferries.

The British media has portrayed the seamen as being up their "typical chauvinist tricks" and not "playing fair" with foreign workers. The opposite is the truth. The editorials are saying that the French government should get its act together and that it has little to do with us - we say that it's the British working class that needs to get its act together and that the dispute has everything to do with us.

CHEAP LABOUR

Meridian (a small British ferry company) has been hiring cheap Polish labour (paying them a quarter of what the French seamen earn and a third of what British seamen get). There can be no doubt that Meridian are the capitalists' Trojan Horse and will be used to drive down the seamen's wages and conditions - just like Eddie Shah did in the print industry. The answer to this was blockaded ports and closed down docks - plus an attempt to burn out one ferry and skirmishing with the police. This combativity was backed up organising together.

The French seamen are helping to keep wages up for all European workers (and ultimately all workers) - their struggle is not against foreign workers, they have no objection to Polish workers being employed: but they must be employed under the same conditions.

Governments and capitalists try to divide the working class through national boundaries because they know our true interests are international. They want to keep us separated and don't want us picking up any good habits from the French workers for a start! But when it comes to finding cheap labour or breaking strikes, our enemies never stop at geographical boundaries.

SOLIDARITY

The English Channel constitutes one workplace - so why should there be separate workers' organisations on either side of it? Our strength lies in our solidarity and our unity and this shouldn't be prevented by arbitrary lines drawn on paper. British unions and workers should be ashamed of themselves: we get paid less because we put up less of a fight than the French workers. And in the long run, this will drive down their wages as this country increasingly becomes the scab of Europe with its cheaper labour.

It's no good whining about anti-union legislation. We have to recognise that their tactics get results, like a quarter more pay plus more time off and better working conditions.



Anyone for bacon and eggs? A French cop is splattered by a well-thrown egg - we are pleased to report that bricks, bottles, flares and petrol bombs were also used against the forces of law and order.

WORK IS SHIT

If you've ever been near a demonstration, you've probably heard people chanting about "the right to work". People demanding jobs - and jobs now. From the way it is talked about it, you would think that they were demanding something beautiful, something exciting, even a bit passionate.

But no, they're not: they're talking about waged work, the work that we do which creates wealth for other people. When "right to work" is chanted what is actually meant is "right to be exploited, to be screwed, to be shat upon".

NECESSARY EVIL

Work is shit - but unfortunately it's also a necessary evil. Most of us have to do it - getting up in the morning and forcing ourselves onto the treadmill of drudgery and despair. We don't do it because we like making money for our bosses, or because we like being given shit wages, or because we like risking our physical and mental health.

We do it because we have to - jobs offer money (although it's never enough, it never properly compensates us for destroying our lives). And jobs offer a chance to get out of the home and be in a different



Are you having fun? On the way to work...

environment with different people.

EVERY MORNING

In some cases (if we're really lucky) our job might give us the chance to feel that we are doing something productive or creative. (But we still have to get up every morning for it). And at times of struggle and defiance within the workplace, there can be a real feeling of collective power.

But most of these things - the money, our

workmates - can be had outside waged work. We don't need bosses to give us money, especially when they steal twice as much from us with their left hand as they give with their right. Bosses can't give us friendship or support or help us feel creative.

Yet whenever the right to work is mentioned, no one ever talks about the right to loads of money or the right to free beer or the right to enjoy ourselves. It's just simply the right to work

and the right to have a boss. And we all know what that means.

The working week is a never-ending series of acts of submission to the foreman and the manager. We are expected to be grateful to them for the "privilege" of being slaves in their factories and their offices.

NOTHING

But we are nothing to the bosses except economic units. They will only want us as long as we're making a

profit for them. Work like that is just imprisonment in an invisible cage of boredom, frustration and alienation.

Most people realise this, to a greater or lesser extent. Most people would rather not have to do waged work - but then if the alternative is the poverty plus aggravation of the dole, work it is - and that certainly doesn't mean that everyone is happy working!

LOTTERY

The national obsession with the Lottery (the biggest capitalist con-trick for a long time where we pay more taxes for a dream that will never happen) shows how much people love work. Everyone is hoping that they will win.....when there's more chance of being runover by a bus! At least joining a works syndicate is some collective workplace action.

There might be the odd idiot who will babble on about "the dignity of labour" - more like the dignity of total submission! As long as waged work has existed, there has always been resistance and rebellion against it: from striking to skiving off sick via fiddling the timesheet or burning down the factory, the message comes over very loud

and clear: work is shit and there's a damn sight more to life than having to work away our lives for some boss.

Come the revolution, waged work will be abolished and work itself will take on a different meaning. It will still (at times) be hard and certainly will be necessary, but when we are freely doing it for ourselves and for our class then it will be nothing like the drudgery and slavery that we currently have to suffer, the waking nightmare of waged work with some rich bastard looking over our shoulder and making sure that we're making enough money for him.

FIGHT

In the meantime, we'll fight tooth and claw for what we can get. We'll fight for more money and better conditions and fewer restrictions (though it has to be said at the moment it seems more a matter of defending what little we've got).

And we'll rip them off at every opportunity (a noble working class tradition). They might think that they have got away with it, that we're docile and happy in the working world - but the truth of the matter is that we aren't and we know that our time will come.



GETTING SHAFTED

This month's big buzz word in management circles is 'flexibility'. Read between the lines and we all know what this means: more and more of us are working part-time, doing shifts, having to accept temporary contracts, or working at home. Job Centres proudly advertise jobs for £1.40 an hour. Slavery is back in fashion.

A 'flexible' workforce is one that's more easily shafted by the bosses: we're 'flexible' because we're expected to bend over and take it up the arse any time they like.



Twelve salaries and Dogbreath Mellor still can't afford to visit a dentist: pass me the hammer ...

But if you're a chinless wonder with a name like Ponsonby-Smythe, 'flexibility' means a different thing altogether. Shitbag MPs think nothing of pulling in half a dozen extra salaries on top of the £33,000 a year they get for turning up to the House of Commons a few days a month. Superstud David Mellor is a director on eleven separate companies, taking his annual packet to a whopping £350,000. He's not

the only one: a record numbers of MPs of all parties have been forced to declare second, third, fourth and fifth jobs—and that's just the ones they've admitted to in public.

Even when things get tough, these bloated lardasses manage to give the word 'redundancy' a whole new twist. When he was caught with his pants down, Mellor got £8,000—just for resigning! That's peanuts compared to the treatment doled out to four directors of the Kingfisher group. After the group (which owns Woolworths and B&Q) raked in less money than usual, four of the fat cats at the top got 'sacked'—and shared a £3 million pay-off.

Well, two can play at the flexibility game. Here at *Class War* we're prepared to offer these free-loading bastards another couple of jobs to add to their portfolio. They can choose from a temporary contract as sitting targets for our anger, or a more permanent position as dog food...

OLD BOYS JOB CLUB

No 7 in a series of jobs you're unlikely to be offered

RADIO DJ & MEDIA PERSONALITY

QUALIFICATIONS: You should possess at least one old school tie, and you should have spent a minimum of three years at the Jeremy Beadle Charm School. An ability to patronise ordinary folk and treat us like idiots will be much appreciated. Ideally your name will include the words 'Chris', 'Tarrant' (or possibly 'Evans').

EXPERIENCE: Public school in Birmingham, then years spent cultivating contacts in local radio, national radio and TV.

SALARY: For churning out inane crap on radio, you will be paid the pathetically small amount of £1.3 million. But in your spare time you will be able to top this up by churning out inane crap on various TV appearances. If you're still finding it a struggle, there's a whole bunch of inane crap which needs advertising on radio & TV: these voice-overs should net you another £1 million a year.

Post presently filled by Chris Tarrant, soon to be replaced by Chris Evans



KIDNAP!

The hated Child Support Agency is under massive attack, but it hasn't taken long for the bastards in power to come up with a new way of hammering single parents.

The latest sick brainwave is about snatching kids away from parents on a massive scale. They call it "a major method of childcare." To me it's nothing less than kidnap.

Professor 'Dick-brain' Whitfield is the man behind this twisted idea. He wants social workers and soft cops to put non-stop pressure on single parents to make them 'give up' their kids for adoption.

"Love is often about sacrifice," says this scumbag. "Giving a child up for adoption may well be the greatest love a mother could show her child."

This is the same old Government bullshit about single mothers making bad parents... It's the old lie about single mums not being capable of giving their kids love, the same old fear of working class people who don't (or won't) live in happy Habitat families.

Whitfield and scum like him must be even thicker than I thought if they imagine we're gonna stand and watch while they cart off our kids to provide ready-made families for the rich.

Putting this man's head in a liquidiser may well be the greatest love we can show for our class...



Once again, the Young Warrior of the Month award is winging its way to a gang of anonymous teenagers. This time it goes to those battling boys and girls who surrounded little James Major (John Major's brat of a son) at a works do for Marks & Spencer staff in Cambridge.

The trouble started when the M&S crowd bumped into another bunch of workers. Poor old James was backed into a corner by party-goers who shoved him and taunted him for being the Prime Minister's son. A witness said: "They were ranting and raving, pushing and shoving and James looked worried." Things were starting to get seriously out of hand... but unfortunately James' boss managed to step in and rescue him (but not before he'd allegedly peed his pants!).

The anonymous witness added: "Poor James always seems to run into trouble at parties." Better luck next time...



BARCLAYS WANK

Got a spare brick? Do us all a favour and send it in the direction of whizzkid Martin Taylor. He's the tosser at the head of Barclays Bank, who've just announced record profits of £1.86 billion. That's good news for the board of directors: the 16 lazy bastards who sit around the table share a cool £3.37 million in salaries... and that's not counting bonuses, backhanders and bungs. Taylor himself took home a massive £737,000 last year: that works out at over £14,000 a week.

It's no secret that Barclays have made this money by screwing the working class blind: sacking workers, closing down branches and creaming off profits. Those workers who have managed to survive the cuts have not got a lot to look forward to. On the day that the board crowed about their record profits, they offered employees a pathetic 2.75% pay 'rise'. That's below inflation, so for those of us who live in the real world effectively it's a pay cut...

Not surprisingly Taylor is top of the shit-list for Barclays workers. But the good news is that he's on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It's well-known that he's always been a few cans short of a six-pack; but there are now definite signs that he's flipping out big-time. This is Taylor planning his retirement (at the age of 42!): "One of the things which always struck me in the Chinese tradition was the two-way pull between the Confucian and Taoist traditions which enabled somebody who had been holding a lot of power at court, when they were disgraced, to go away to a remote part of the empire and have water lilies and write verse. Gosh, I think that would be nice!"

Somewhere watery? Somewhere remote? We look forward to the day when Taylor retires... Maxwell-style!



An exemplary copper: child abuser Don Mackintosh

PIG SICK

The latest rumour doing the rounds is that the police are considering copyrighting the name 'police' and taking legal action to prevent private security firms from adopting their image.

Keith 'Porker' Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire says, "We feel we should be more robust in defending our

image and trade marks of the police."

Exactly what image is Povey talking about? Does he mean the likes of PC John Corr from Cambridgeshire who manned a helpline for people in distress? Corr spent years in the force sexually harassing women who rang the helpline.

Or maybe Povey is thinking about Sgt Don Mackintosh from Stockport. Mackintosh was a Manchester copper for 33 years and retired last year with a medal and a £52,000 handshake. On the day of his retirement this scumbag was finally nicked, charged and found guilty of using his position to sexually abuse young boys over a period of ten years.

Quite honestly I don't know what Povey and other top porkers are so worried about. Sure, the private security industry is booming, but at this rate it'll be years before they manage to sink to the pigs' level.

LUCKY NUMBERS

Today's lucky number is:

73,000

It's the exact number of times over the past five years that the cops have had a sound beating at the hands of working class 'have a go heroes'.

"If we are serious about winning power, we should not be afraid of changing our party"

Labour leader Tony Blair celebrates as the party changes its name to the Sad-Arsed-Bastards-Who-d-Love-To-Be-Tories Party

"In a democracy there has to be a critical mass of confidence in the criminal justice system and I think we're perilously close to dangerous levels of lack of confidence in the system."

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police chief, explains why the Met uniform is being updated next year to allow all officers three pairs of brown trousers

"I was brought up not to talk about money."

Rich-bitch Elizabeth Hurley who's just landed a £1m deal with Estee Lauder. Of course the real reason Hurley finds it hard to talk about money is because of the silver spoon that's been stuck in her mouth since birth

"The outcome I have always sought is a modern cost-effective railway."

John 'No thanks, I'll go by limo' Welsby, the new boss of British Rail—he takes home a very cost-effective salary of £180,000

"I don't know how I cope some days. I hear of colleagues cracking up and I wonder why it doesn't happen to me. You just despair and wonder what you've managed to do all day."

Bob Duncan is having a hard time as boss of top-security Wakefield prison. Razor blades and barbiturates are in the post to you, Bob...

"It's the boys and girls frae the schemes that cause the bother. The ones with the shell suits and Reeboks."

An anonymous security guard at the site of the M77 extension in Glasgow. And we all thought that the real threat to road building madness came from rattle-taggies and dogs on bits of string...

"What's the point? I've voted for years and look where it got me..."

Honestless Big Issue seller in Manchester neatly sums up the Class War election dilemma: vote with our feet, fists or a broken bottle!

GENETIC CRIME ?

February 1995 saw the circus come to town. It was full of slapstick nonsense and daft antics, but none of it was very funny, and no one fell off the trapeze, more's the pity.

The Big Top event was a conference put on by the Ciba Foundation with 'scientists' flocking to Britain from all over the world, like crazed pigeons, to discuss 'genetics and criminal and anti social behaviour' - whether we have a 'crime gene' and if it is determined from our genetic make-up that individuals are more or less likely to break the law, particularly in terms of 'violent crime'.

The prize side-show attraction followed hot on the heels of \$Millions of American research on the subject. Needless to say, the obscene waste of US dollars has proved little more than Coco the Clown is alive and well and living in the White House.

Even the scientific notaries who attended the conference admit that it's a long shot idea even that it could be discovered in the future that a certain combination of genes may influence a person's criminal dabbings.

Realistically, there is no single gene and there is no proof. But there are right wing political interests and scientists in need of work. A year or so ago there was the same high profile bullshit about isolating the 'gay gene' - the idea being that a foetus in its mother's womb could be identified as gay, lesbian, or straight in its sexuality.

WHO'S INTERESTS?

At the same time, the arguments rage about identifying foetuses with physical and mental disabilities, with the emphasis being on whether 'To abort or not to abort?'. What the mother wants seems not to be taken into consideration. But high finance scientific research isn't ever done primarily in our interests anyway.

So, why bother? Could it be that the powers that be are jolly keen on providing adequate care, opportunities and support for all the little gay, disabled and potentially criminal foetuses, while they lie blissfully unaware in the warmth of the womb? No. If you believe that, you've prob-

ably recently blown your own big top.

The reality is that government and state will fund the 'scientific research' that seeks to prove their points for them, no matter how many millions of useful cash is wasted into the bargain, or how daft and inaccurate the results are. If they could provide solid evidence that 'criminals' are the result of a nasty little gene that only some of us have... then the argument about whether to abort foetuses that would be born as criminals and 'a burden to society' will begin. More realistically, expensive, unnecessary research would go into the control of 'the criminal infant' from day one.

DOESN'T EXIST...

They won't find such a gene. It doesn't exist. If it did, it would have been isolated by now and the media would be full of it. But that doesn't mean that some scientists won't be paid, from our taxes, a living and fat research grants in high tech laboratories for years to come, to carry on their absurd work.

As a whole group of scientists at the conference ob-

served, it is social conditions that cause us to 'become criminal': our environment, the conditions we have to live in. The things we have to do to live.

When it comes to investigating the potential for sex crimes and the will to inflict harm on innocents, perhaps these scientists should be slicing open a few Cabinet ministers, judges and top civil servants to take samples of their DNA.

As long as there is poverty, racism, exploitation and suffering; as long as we live in a world governed by the few for the few at our expense, a world of class and hierarchy, the majority of the world's population will break the law and become 'criminal' to live rather than survive, to create a better life, sometimes just to feed our kids.

If we're not harming our own, all power to us. We deserve the world, not just a new pair of genes.



THIS IS CLASS WAR!

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION is an

organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to do something about the society we live in.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

This society is divided into classes based on power and wealth. The ruling class, who are supported by the middle class; and the working class. Such a society is the cause of most of the problems experienced by working class people the world over.

This can only be sorted out by the destruction of the ruling class: this is class war.

Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience: using direct action against the institutions and individuals that cause them. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the class war—but as mass class violence, out in the open, not elitist terrorist actions.

Class society creates other oppressions based on sex, ethnic origin, disability, sexuality etc. To the ruling class this 'justifies' extreme exploitation of people placed in such groups, and divides our class.

The class war must fight all these divisive oppressions, on all fronts.

Above all the CLASS WAR FEDERATION believes that politics is life and life is politics. We reject the so-called 'revolutionary' left. Politics must be fun; it's a part of everyday life and must be able to take the piss out of itself.

OUR AIM

The aim of the CLASS WAR FEDERATION is not to lead, but to increase the militancy of working class people's attempts to solve their problems—through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.

WHAT WE DO

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION produces and distributes propaganda: a paper, discussion and debating magazine, other books and pamphlets, as well as local and national leaflets, posters and newsletters.

We're involved in working class struggles and we encourage involvement in the Federation, to do the above, for discussion and for a laugh!

**CLASS WAR
NATIONAL SECRETARY
PO BOX HH57
LEEDS LS8 5XG
WEST YORKSHIRE**



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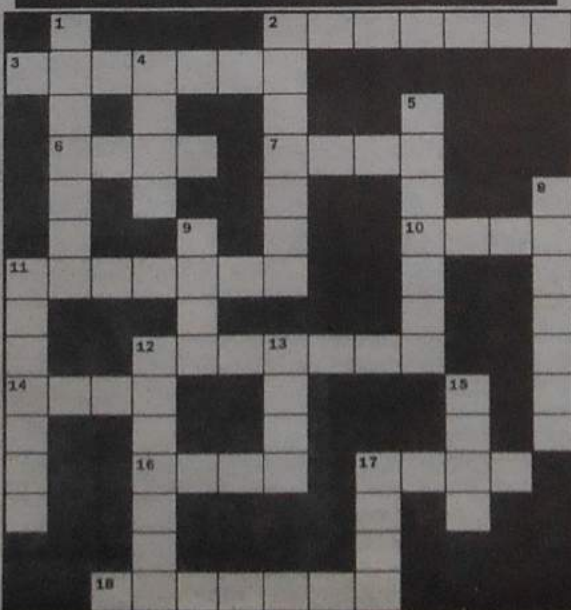
UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

the politics of Class War

ACROSS

2. Who are the real spongers? (3,4)
3. Rob 'em instead of the poor. (3,4)
6. None of us will ever be this. (4)
7. Military leaders, big landowners, top judges, heads of industry, top cops, bishops, newspaper barons and aristocracy are all (4)
10. Ost..... A large bird that runs. (4)
11. They play polo. (3,4)
12. Educate their kids at Eton, Oxford and Cambridge. (3,4)
14., scum in red coats that go hunting
16. The people that rob the most from us are the (4)
17. The police are there to protect the (4)
18. A bunch of toffee nosed, inbred, hypocritical parasites. (3,4)

PRIZE class crossword



The first correct entry received at the Bristol PO Box gets a *Class War* pressie... include your name and address.

DOWN

1. Who's to blame for most of our problems (3,4)
2. Finish off this well known chant: "The rich, the rich, we've gotta get rid of (3,4)
4. We'd all be better off without the..... (4)
5. They have plenty of valuables worth removing from them (3,4)
8. The middle class do their dirty work for them (3,4)
9.mond, North Yorkshire (4)
11. The people with ultimate control (3,4)
12. They lead cosy lives at our expense (3,4)
13. We may work all our lives, but we'll never be (4)
15. Tea biscuits (4)

class war looks at animal & eco protests... does class struggle fit in?

THE VEAL THING

The 'animal' and 'ecological' movements have cropped up in the news increasingly over the last decade. There's been a rush of media coverage of anti veal export and anti roadbuilding protests.

Shops from the local veggie/health food store to Tescos are all doing a roaring trade with vegetarian and non animal tested produce for us all to snap up. Your local bike shop probably flogs trendy looking face masks to help you inhale a little less pollution as you pedal to work.

WITH THIS GOING ON...

A lot of people buy these products, believing that they're doing the right thing... so what's it all about?

The point is that the world is pretty fucked up; not because we are idiots who don't know how to look after our planet. In fact, quite the reverse: what we face is a by-product of the barbarism of capitalism, an economic system, that dominates the world and chews up and spits out anything it can if a profit is in the offing. With the power and money lust it has, capitalism pollutes our land and waterways; kills our kids off with leukaemia from nuclear reactors; keeps animals in horrific conditions before they're butchered; it leaves millions starving, attempting to force feed the rest of us with junk food. It's no wonder that many people adopt vegetarianism, tie themselves to bulldozers about to lay waste to our forests, or try to smash the shit out of lorries carrying veal calves. But this changes nothing significant in itself.

...AND IF THIS IS SHIT...

Anger may be vented and, if we're lucky, we get a bit of public interest. The same media controlled interest we've seen on the TV and in the papers recently. The single issues that are easily manipulated, then ignored; with the same self-appointed, middle class gurus of 'the movement', mouthing off their morality, and very little politics, like pious arrogant priests, as though it was OUR fault! Middle class leaders are created from these bigmouths and, eventually, the bosses negotiate with them and may see fit to create an overpriced, 'green', 'animal friendly' product to mug us with, using the profit to finance their dodgier ventures.

...WE'LL DO THIS!

So where does that lead us? To inactivity and acceptance of capitalism, just because single issue politics are rubbish? No... What we're arguing is that most of the horrors of the world, and most of the problems that face us, are created by, and certainly used by, capitalism and its ruling classes.

For a healthy world, the working class needs to liberate itself and then get on with the business of cutting out the cancer of capitalism, not just helping it to squeeze one or two of its spots.

BACK TO



A BIT OF ROUGH AND TUMBLE WITH

The past six months have seen a lot on TV about the wave of protests against live animal exports. But just how far are the demonstrations getting, and how far will the demonstrators go?

There is a growing awareness amongst most Tory newspapers and TV media that these protests are in some way linked to the earlier and still ongoing anti-road sabotage and anti-Criminal Justice Bill (CJB) resistance. The question they ask themselves is how are these protests linked and how should the government and cops respond to "manage" the situation?

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER...

In their search for "talking heads" the TV news give a platform to organisations like *Compassion in World Farming* and others, to claim "leadership" of the anti-export protests and to slag off "non-peaceful" protesters. As usual there is the same old bullshit about the "tiny violent minority" and that old chestnut: "outside agitators".

On the other side, groups like *Earth First* claim to represent the more "militant" side of the protests and compete with *Compassion in World Farming* for the right to speak to Newsnight "on behalf of the movement".

Meanwhile the likes of the *Guardian*, interview the white, Home Counties, middle class protesters they can relate to, about how "disgraceful" the police have been. On the other hand the Tory middle class papers rake up the usual conspiracy theories about a small group of "agit-professionals" travelling around the country stirring it all up. As ever, with these conspiracy theories, behind the sinister and shadowy "outside agitators" they see the hand of Class War.

...WHAT LEADERS?

Of course this is laughable. The people protesting against animal exports, roadbuilding and the CJB are not under the control or leadership of any organisation, particularly not the *Class War Federation*. While *Compassion in World Farming* and *Earth First* battle it out for the prize of "representing the movement" to the media, *Class War's* aims remain "...not to lead, but to increase the militancy of working class people's attempts to solve their problems". The question is what have these protests got to do with working class people's struggles?

A MIDDLE CLASS MOVEMENT?

Are the protests against animal exports and road-building purely middle class? Well, there are certainly a lot of middle class people involved. As ever this involvement translates as almost complete domination over the organisations that are struggling for the right to play middleman between "the movement" and the media. After all mediating is what the middle class are for in a capitalist society.

However there are plenty working class people who take part in the protests and the pickets. The men and women in the balaclavas jumping up and down on top of the lorry cabs and putting the windows in with pick axe handles, as well as taking part in the push and shove with the cops, are in direct conflict with part of the profit-making business and, perhaps more importantly, are having fun doing it. It is a matter of fact that many of these people are not middle class martyrs.

It's important to remember that any movement offering clear targets, simple tactics involving direct action that ordinary people can get involved in, and a chance to fight and outmanoeuvre the cops while frustrating some shithead boss's attempt to make a profit, are always going to attract working class people sick of passively watching TV or reading papers or books.

The question is, in a capitalist society, why pick on one aspect of capitalism and not another?

Although we have already said that most of the people taking an active part in these protests are not being led or controlled by anyone, it would be stupid to ignore the fact that at least some of the protesters are motivated by a set of values which see the "exploitation" of animals and the "destruction" of the environment as important things to fight against.

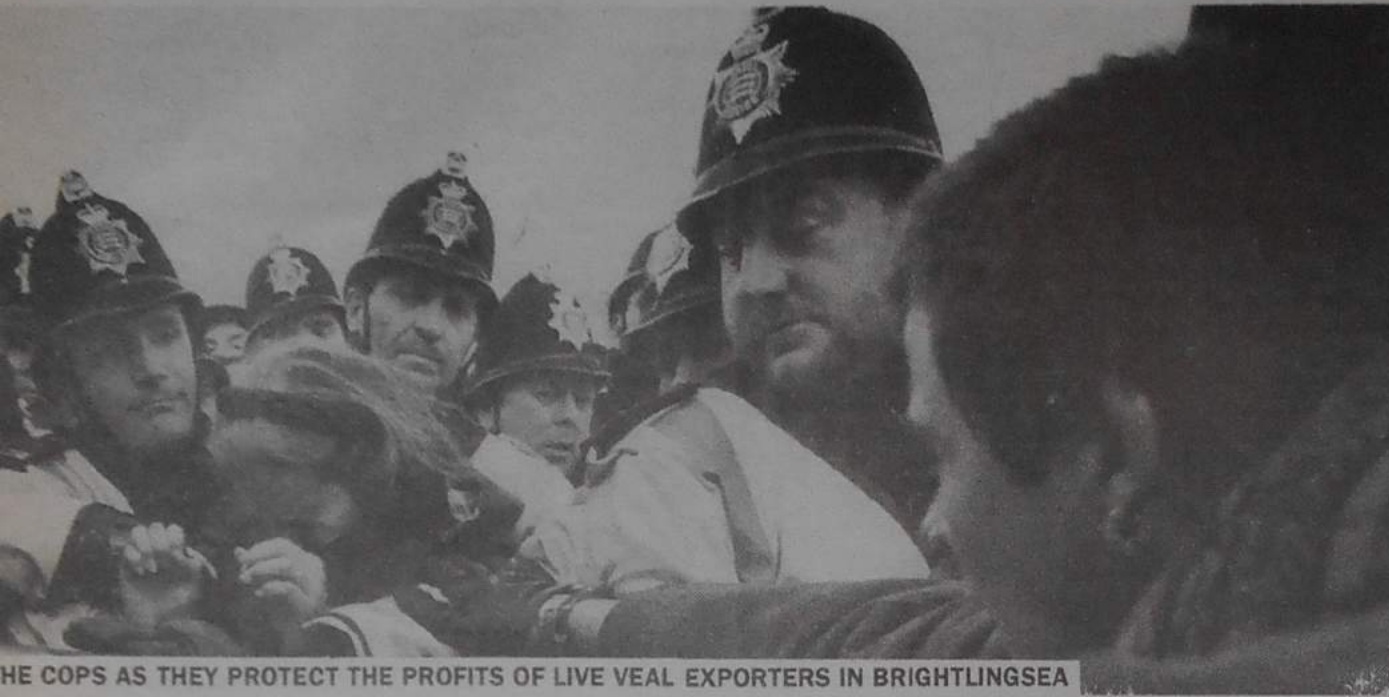
ANIMAL RIGHTS - LIBERATING THE INNOCENT

There are people who argue that modern industry causes cruelty to animals which are seen as "innocent victims" and that all people, regardless of class, have a moral duty to "help the helpless" and "speak for those who cannot speak for themselves". We say bollocks to that.

To question what is "immoral" within the production process, before tackling the issue of working class people taking over control of the production process, is to put the cart of ethics before the horse of power.

To prioritise the suffering of "helpless victims" over the suffering of working class people who have the power to

THE PLANET?



THE COPS AS THEY PROTECT THE PROFITS OF LIVE VEAL EXPORTERS IN BRIGHTLINGSEA

destroy the capitalist system that continually denies us control over our own lives is a mistake.

Worse, it shows that some people have bought into the capitalist promotion of pity and self-sacrifice politics, with all its comic relief style reforms. By saying that helpless victims are innocent, the media implies that those who are not helpless are somehow guilty. This power of the media to judge who is innocent and who is guilty is always hidden behind the phrase "public opinion", while the solutions go no further than offering charity.

Anybody with half a brain knows that this "public" opinion is really the opinion of Rupert Murdoch, the government appointed BBC directors, and the rest of the ruling class and their middle class media puppets. In 1984 the miners were not helpless victims, so the media teamed up with the cops to stick the boot in, all in the name of "public opinion".

Class War said then, as now, "Fuck public opinion, fuck the helpless victim shit". We support all working class people fighting the cops, bosses and the ruling class state.

When, nearly ten years later, Michael Heseltine announced more pit closures, the media safely presented the few remaining miners as "helpless victims" and, surprise surprise, there was an

class people we reject that in our everyday lives through solidarity, having a laugh, and the self-confidence of defying the bosses and the cops.

However, some middle class people seem a little more fucked up than this and try to find meaning in their lives by fighting for rights for others rather than aiming for working class self-liberation which they obviously can't identify with.

From their point of view, the less capable the oppressed are of speaking for themselves, the better. Animals are the perfect victims because they are incapable of acting or speaking on their own behalf. Working class people can always tell you to fuck off, animals can't.

MOTHER EARTH - THE ULTIMATE PASSIVE VICTIM.

There's more to the current wave of protests than animal rights, however. The anti-roads protests again attract a lot of different people willing to confront the Ministry of Transport's minions and the cops for a variety of reasons.

Some, however, have definitely nailed their flags to the mast of green politics and the liberation of "Mother Earth". We are faced with groups with ridiculous names like "Earth First", and "Earth Lib-

eration is, amongst other things, endangering the complex balances and cycles of the environment that we need to live in. But the question facing the working class people of the world is how we can take control of the global system of production and distribution. We agree with the slogan "think globally, act locally" but what we want is the revolutionary destruction of capitalism by the working class, not merely to reduce exhaust emissions.

All religions require priests, and the moralities of Earth-Mother worship and animal rights are no exception. At every level there exist people assuming a higher moral ground than the rest of us. While the Tories in Government force us to endure conditions under their warped moral crusades (that they themselves are the last to follow), movements like animal rights do not escape the existence of 'holier-than-thou's'. Enter the morality police.

These moral cops are so fucked up they get pleasure out of going around slugging off working class people for consuming the products of our capitalist society. They do not however attack the consumption of all capitalist products on the grounds that they are part of the world-wide profit system which exploits the working class. A system which means, for example, that over 4000 people a week die before their time due to work-related illnesses or accidents, in this country alone.

Instead, they denounce only those who consume products which are made from animals or whose production involves animal suffering. We already have far too many police in this repressive society, the last thing we need is another set of self-righteous arseholes declaring themselves our enemy and attacking us or, more likely, slugging us off from within the safety of their own little ghetto.

A LIFESTYLE IS NOT A RELIGION

Even more irrelevant are the "back to the land" types who seem to have forgotten that a large proportion of the world's working class have never left it. These people, most of whom are from urban backgrounds and have never worked on the land, think everybody should abandon the cities, houses, night clubs and fashionable clothes and haircuts, and take up some semi-nomadic existence roaming around the countryside, collecting their gnos and dancing naked around campfires. Well, it ain't my idea of a good night out, but if it rings your bell, go for it.

But we must remember that as the working class, we are individuals who share a common position in the capitalist power system, not a community based on shared tastes. As individuals we are all

different and have differing tastes but recognise each other as members of the working class in opposition to the capitalist class who own the means of production and the money whose need for growth through profit, currently overrules our needs and desires. What we have in common are the conditions of enslavement by the capitalist class and their middle class servants, and the need to work together in order to free ourselves - whether we share the same tastes or not.

NEVER MIND THE GREEN BOLLOCKS - WHAT ABOUT THE ACTION?

What about working class people who don't give a damn about the politics of animal rights or Mother Earth? People who get involved because you can have a laugh running rings around the cops and you can actually have the satisfaction of seeing some results for your actions?

On *Newsnight* on the eve of the funeral of Jill Phipps, the woman who was killed on one of the anti-export protests at Coventry airport, her brother urged people to join the protests claiming it was a "just cause" and that "at the end of the day we are not asking for too much".

This second comment reveals many protestors for what they are - demanding the government to pass new laws for reforms. If the government bans live animal exports, the protests will stop. If the Ministry of Transport stops building new roads there will be no bulldozers to lie in front of.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION?

'Victory' for these struggles will not destroy capitalism or, to say the same thing another way, bring about the liberation of animals or the self-liberation of the working class. The point is that when we talk about the revolutionary destruction of capitalism we are asking for 'too much'. We are asking for something the government and the ruling class cannot possibly give us, even if they were all suddenly seized overnight by a desire to destroy themselves. That is why the liberation of the working class can only be self-liberation. We cannot demand that power over our own lives be given to us, we will have to work out how we are going to create our own power and destroy that of the capitalist class. We will have to work this out in the practice of fighting the enemy.

We should not allow the argument over productive tactics, or means, in reformist struggles to blind us to the difference between the aims of reformist struggles and the aim of revolution. Struggles for animal liberation, if they are to have been won, MUST be part of a wider struggle - the class war. If not, they are reformist struggles, designed to adapt capitalism. We should only accept its destruction for the benefit of all people and therefore all animals.

Of course all struggle against the capitalist system begins with partial struggles against particular aspects of the system. Some reformist campaigns involve virtually no working class people or are soon taken over by the middle class - these campaigns are totally irrelevant and sterile. What counts is whether those partial reformist struggles which do engage working class people, can help in the process of learning how the capitalist system works and how better to fight it.

What must be fought against is the use of partial struggles by middle class idealists to try to impose their fucked up morality and confused and anti-revolutionary worldview on ordinary people attracted by the chance to "have a go", and learn how best they will fight capitalism.



STRANGELY ENOUGH, AND CONTRARY TO THE OPINION OF SPECIAL BRANCH, CLASS WAR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH, AND NO SUPPORT FOR, THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

outpouring of public sympathy for the miners by the very scum who'd attacked us in 84/85. Even the *Daily Mirror*, of "Scargill takes Libyan cash" fame, came out on the side of the useless demonstrations.

Capitalist society tries to get us to accept that only money has value and that we, as individuals, are worthless unless we have money, property, skills, good looks, etc. Of course as working

eration Front". Here we are definitely leaving the realm of strategies and tactics for working class self-liberation and moving into the realm of religion. We have to remember that we human beings alone have the power, and thus the responsibility, to determine how we produce and distribute the things we want in our lives on this planet.

It is a fair point to make that the current system of production and distri-



ROAD BOLLOCKS SAYS POLLOK

WIMPEY THUGS UNDER FIRE AS LOCAL PEOPLE FIGHT BACK

The residents of Corkehill near Pollok on the south side of Glasgow recently took to their streets as an occupation force of over a hundred cops, security guards, tree fellers and construction workers invaded them early one morning.

The first local people knew about it was when a local youth was dragged from a caravan occupying the new M77 motorway, thumped and held on the ground by four burly security guards and held on the ground. A well liked local community worker was also woken up by his tent being ripped away and a squad of hired thugs sat on him until he was ejected from the area.

As hundreds of local women, men and children flooded onto the streets, cops and security guards erected barricades, cops on the outside, hired thugs on the inside.

THUMPED

Local people were heard to ask security guards how they felt about attacking people of their own class for £3 an hour when the cops standing in front of them were on about £25 an hour. A local man refused to move off a public footpath to allow a van along it and, in front of hundreds of witnesses, was punched in the face by one of the boys in blue.

The local and national press have given some coverage to the campaign against the road but to read what they are saying you would think that the campaign was only about saving a 250



Photo anti-copyright Scumwatch/Lucha pics

year old woodland and not about the people of some of the most tightly knit and politicised schemes in Glasgow fighting back against an attack on their living conditions by the fat cats of Strathclyde regional council and Wimpey construction.

And that the protesters were all tree dwelling crusty types and not a large local and working class grounded campaign, the people of the camp at Pollok Free State are also working class people with respect for others of their class and have no illusions about the dynamics behind this assault on the environment by the road-builders.

MAD AXE-MAN

This road is going through some of the most working class communities in Glasgow, to let people from some of Ayrshire's wealthier areas

get to their nice jobs in the city centre.

It passes within fifty feet of peoples' homes but twists miles out of line to avoid passing across a private golf course.

Previous incidents in the history of this road have involved MP, Alan 'Mad axe-man of Pollok' Stewart threatening protesters with a pickaxe... apparently he just picked it up to stop some one else getting it! While accompanied by his teenage son (carrying an air pistol) and hundreds of police being taken off a murder hunt in

Ayrshire to look after the interests of the people they are there to protect: big businesses, all at a time when the chief constable, Leslie Sharp, is pleading poverty.

Security personnel have been very abusive to local people calling women "cows" with other sexist names, generally giving out abuse to locals.

Local school students have been one of the groups at the forefront of the campaign with selective strikes and direct actions (after all they are the ones who will get asthma from the exhaust fumes) and over four thousand people took part in a large illegal march from Glasgow city centre to Pollok Park ending up in a mass occupation of the Wimpey site compound.

WORKERS QUIT

Several security workers have already quit because of pressure and appeals from local people, six of them walking off the job and joining the protests in solidarity with the local people.

Others have left because of poor pay and conditions on the site (no tea breaks etc.). Local feeling is running high and if you know anyone who is involved in the construction or security of the project, perhaps you could drop a line to Class War's Glasgow PO Box as there are many people who could handle a robust debate with them without the cops present.

As one local said to a security man "I would rather be a grass than do your job!" This road can still be stopped and if you feel you want a piece of the action, get in touch via the PO Box.

CARDINAL'S LABOUR PAIN

Cardinal Thomas Winning, Top Scots Roman Catholic, has been having a go at Tony Blair for being a feeble twit who wouldn't know a principle if it was shoved up him. While we wouldn't argue with that, the cardinal's motives are the usual bigoted trash you would expect from a church leader. He's pissed off because the labour party would not allow a "pro-life" stall at it's Scottish conference.

ANTI-CHOICE

Pro-life, S.P.U.C. and their like are, of course, anti choice: dedicated to preventing women having the freedom to choose abortion. They want to force on us legislation that would re-criminalise abortion and persecute women who tried to evade the law, not to mention the 99 women who died in 1967 the year after legalisation. Then they have the cheek to call people who oppose them "totalitarian" for refusing to allow them to peddle their vile propaganda. It's about time we told this lot to S.P.U.C. OFF to the dustbin of history. While we're at it why not chuck the labour Party there too.

RAVING HYPOCRISY

The anti-fun lobby have been having a field day at the inquiry into the tragic drug related deaths of three people at the Hanger 13 rave club in Ayr, late last year. There were calls for the club to be closed down and the usual hypocritical rubbish about drugs was bandied about. Alcohol related deaths seem to be exempt from this hysteria. Have you ever heard

calls for a pub to be shut down when a customer wraps themselves round a tree on their way home?

'Drugs', including ecstasy and alcohol, have certain dangers which should be carefully considered. A healthy society would educate people properly about how to use and cope with drugs safely without feeding them a diet of ignorance and lies.

VIGILANTE MEN

In February Southouse Medway, a council scheme on the outskirts of Edinburgh, saw the vigilante killing of a child-molester.

The man, Lawrence Leydon, had ignored repeated warnings from local people to leave the area, and the council had ignored a residents' petition to move him.

The situation came to a head when some men burst into his flat late at night and stabbed him to death. Neighbours heard his cries but ignored them, some of them in the belief that he was just being beaten up.

Working class communities have a right to defend themselves against anti-social criminals, but vigilantes **must** be answerable to their neighbourhoods and can't be given a free hand to pass death sentences.

CONTEMPT

The community closed ranks to hinder police enquiries and, in a revealing twist to the incident, the cops so keen to catch the vigilantes, ignored local concern about the whereabouts of Leydon's neighbours: a prescription drug addicted couple who had been badly upset by the incident; 3 weeks later the couple were found dead, probably from overdoses.

The cops' only concern in the situation was that someone was stealing their thunder and their contempt for the community was obvious.

BOSSES CITY?

A new report from the Glasgow Development Agency, the body responsible for a lot of the "renaissance" of the city in recent years, shows that all the efforts and millions poured into making the city more presentable for tourists, culture vultures and big business have been a waste of time from the point of view of Glasgow workers! Now there's a surprise.

How much more money have they wasted preparing this report which any working class person in the city could have prepared for them long ago? The report tells us:

- Long-term unemployment is rife in Glasgow.
 - Workers from outside have taken the best of what ever new jobs have been created.
 - Most of the new jobs (in 'service industries' like catering etc.) are badly paid.
- If the idiots have only just noticed all this, what planet have they been on all these past years.

The main purpose of the "regeneration" has been to attract business - in other words to make the city a more profitable place for bosses to be. The principle is the same as the method used in the third world - known as the "trickle down" effect - if you make the rich richer maybe some of the wealth will trickle down to the working class people below. But since the rich are selfish parasites who make their money by ripping off working class people in the first place, the whole idea just doesn't seem likely. That's why the third world is a mess and it's also why Glasgow is still going down the drain.

If Glasgow has a bright future it is through the rediscovery of the working class's proud tradition of solidarity and struggle, not some sad-arsed effort to butter up the bosses. The whole thing has been a sham, designed not only to make Glasgow a bosses city, but to bury the real Glasgow and it's history.

IT'S A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT SICK NICK

Nicholas Fairbairn, ex top judge, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross and disgusting bigot, did us all a favour in February by finally kicking the bucket at the not-so-ripe old age of 62, after years of knocking back expensive malt whisky by the crate. The papers and telly used words like "Maverick" and "eccentric" to describe this vermin, who blamed the poor for poverty, women for rape and immigrants for racism. We prefer to go for words like "PERVERT" and "SCUM".



His comments on various social issues were enough to make any sensible person want to see his head on a pole.

- "What is a skirt but an open gate?"
- "I see no reason for anonymity of rape victims. Are women so feeble that they have to be protected? Not at all they are the tanteses."
- "Britain is being swamped by immigrants of every colour and race."

SAD EXCUSE

The question is how can such a sad excuse for a human being get so much media attention and sympathy? The answer is of course that the whole country is owned and controlled by wealthy bastards not so different from old Nick. One fewer is good news - but there are plenty more where he came from. Our main regret is that he died from natural causes.

SELFISH

Fairbairn's family selfishly turned down requests from Class War to donate his body for research. Our scientific wing is looking into ways of resurrecting rich-scum so that we can kill them again - PROPERLY.

DO US A FAVOUR... SCRAP LABOUR!

**A LOCAL
ELECTIONS
SPECIAL ON
THE PARASITE
PARTY**

The coming May elections will be the first test for Tony Blair's 'New Labour Party'. The Tories look as though they'll get a good thrashing; and after 16 years of their rule, many are looking to Labour for a better society.

This is a dangerous, dead-end illusion. Labour are an openly capitalist and anti-working class party. They've never been socialist. They are unable to escape capitalism's contradictions and its current crisis, which will only get worse, no matter which party is in power.

CLAUSE BORES

The recent debate over Clause 4 of the Labour Party is part of a wider campaign to defend the 'democratic' lie that elections are worth taking part in and that our interests and voice lie in Parliament.



MEET THE NEW BOSS...

The working class is told to believe that there is no alternative to capitalism and the parliamentary system, and that the class struggle is a waste of time. Remember Neil Kinnock's insult to those fighting the poll tax and the police: "Toytown revolutionaries", he called us.

The Labour campaign is designed to drown working class identity and revolutionary class consciousness in a sewer that they call 'the people working in partnership'. If it doesn't look as though there is a solid '2 party system', they think that we will turn to revolution. So the ruling class has been grooming the Labour Party as a possible future government.

ANTI-WORKING CLASS

Labour has never had anything to do with working class power or socialism, or even the defence of our interests. The party's history has shown the exact opposite to

be true - that it is reactionary, and opposed to our interests. For 80 years the Party has taken part in anti-working class butchery and connivance. It has suppressed countless strikes, and denounced 'illegal' methods of class struggle. It sabotaged the 1926 General Strike; a week after its election in 1945 it sent troops in against striking dockers; it presided over testing the first British atomic weapons; and it was Tony Benn who sent the British Army into Northern Ireland!

So what about the welfare state, Labour's proudest achievement? The idea for the welfare state came from the Liberal Party. It was taken on to stem the rising tide of revolution and class anger, and was used to churn out a fatter and better educated working class, ready for more exploitation and possible

on the condition that public spending was cut and wage increases were frozen. This resulted in the 3-day week, a vicious attack on the working class. Such policies were vigorously put into action by the Labour Party. When British capitalism was on the point of collapse and a military takeover and civil war were being prepared for quite openly, Labour stepped in to 'save' it with austerity and unemployment.

The economy briefly recovered but by the end of the '70s things were worse. The 'Winter of Discontent' was a workers' response to savage Labour spending cuts and pay freezes.

In May 1979, the Tories took over as the economic crisis, caused by overproduction, still gripped the world, and caused recession after recession. The Tories responded with unemployment, even more spending cuts and a restructuring of the economy which favoured the service and part-time sectors - both notorious for shit pay and bad working conditions.

LEFTIST CRAP

It would be stupid to fall into the trap of blaming the current state of society and the economy on the Tories, like Labour and the Socialist Workers Party do. If we did, it'd be easy to say: "Let Labour have a go, they can't do much worse". But things are this bad because of the huge, fundamental contradictions and barbarity of capitalism, no matter who is currently the captain of its team, Major or Blair. If there is a Labour government, they will only be able to use the same few tools the Tories are using now - the most vicious one being attacks on the living and working conditions of the working class.

The limp 'mutiny' over the rewritten Clause 4, which used to be a hollow commitment to 'common ownership' (nationalisation), has been led by the likes of Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill. This is to be expected and the party tolerates such people to provide some credibility among the unions and other 'radical' elements of the Labour Party.

However, other Trot groups outside Labour, like the SWP, the WRP, and Socialist Organiser, have jumped to the defence of the old Clause 4, because they've stupidly linked state capitalism with socialism, and somehow in the interests of the working class. They keep on spreading this lie while they also try to kid us that they're revolutionaries!

Groups like this are afraid that if the commitment to nationalisation goes, then Labour will become openly capitalist, like Mad Bill Clinton's Democrats. In fact, in a very recent issue of Socialist Worker, the paper warns that: "Left to himself, Blair would probably like to turn Labour into a version of

the American Democrats, an openly business party with no organic links to the working class."

This is true and we shouldn't give a toss! Why bother defending a party that has never defended us, and has always been jerked by the bosses' strings anyway. And why the fuck should a so-called bunch of 'revolutionaries' like the SWP, want to put any effort into saving Labour from itself anyway?

When it comes down to it, the Labour Party supports capitalism. When it comes down to it they have and will go to any lengths to keep capitalism intact - especially from the threat posed by us, the working class

It is true that Labour has many working class members, but so does the AA and the RAC! These people share Labour membership with middle class, privately educated, reactionaries and reformists - we'd recommend the AA any day, it provides a better service.

It's history shows that Labour, whether in power or

more revolutionary. So they are helping to revive Labour as an alternative to the Conservative Party. This is designed to ensure the future stability of the country. They use the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the current disorganisation of the class struggle to allow them breathing space to strengthen Labour and push the idea that it should be their puppet next, letting the Tories sit in opposition for a while.

The fact that Rupert Murdoch is saying he would support a Labour government, is proof enough of this. During the '80s, his media empire gave enormous backing to the Thatcher regime. The ruling class backed her because she best defended their interests, money and power; especially with attacks on the working class to make



...SAME AS THE OLD BOSS

opposition, has always been a loyal defender of capitalism against the working class. If the likes of the SWP and the WRP had an ounce of revolution in them, they'd join together in destroying it. Instead, they do the opposite and keep playing the role expected of them by the ruling class - to keep whinging about Labour's 'move to the right' and the joys of state capitalism. Afraid of losing the little influence they do have, they put their own interests way ahead of those of the working class itself. As a result, they're just as much of a hindrance, full of lies and as irritating as Labour itself.

After 16 Tory years, the ruling class are worried that the working class will see through the lie of 'parliamentary democracy' and become

the economy more 'competitive'. The fact that John Major hasn't come up to scratch like she did for them, and put the economy back on its feet, explains why the ruling class is so impatient to change its tactics and put Labour in power.

When Murdoch and the boss of Marks and Spencers talk highly of the 'New Labour' Party, they are not concerned about the well being of the working class. They are reinforcing the myth of democracy and are warning to the party because it's promising them better conditions for capitalists to exploit us than the Tories are. Tony Blair has stated that Britain must have a highly competitive economy. This means less workers doing

more for less pay. This anti-working class message was recently pushed by Labour's Shadow Chancellor: Labour would make sweeping legal changes to create "A coherent, pro-competition policy... lower taxes for investors... ease the laws on insider share dealing". So, Labour is an openly capitalist party. The Clause 4 debate is aimed at giving the appearance that there is change within Labour, while it's the same old capitalist lap-dog.

Coupled with these poisonous politics, there is a massive effort going in to the myth of democratic choice. People who believe that voters choose their government have got it wrong, and have been sold this myth. If the ruling class took away vocal and financial support for a party, when the media tells voters who to elect, when a fresh 'alternative' party has been groomed ready for years in advance, the decision has already been made by that ruling class.

If the ruling class want a Labour government, as is the case now, then they'll make it happen. Just as Thatcher was dumped when she'd served her purpose, the Tory party will be dumped if the ruling class feel it's better for them to have Labour as their puppets.

In North America, the Republicans were put into opposition after their reign in the '80s, the Reagan years. Clinton's Democrats may well not be up to snuff, so the Republicans are being prepared to take power at the next presidential election.

The same looks set to happen here. The US Democrats had to introduce massive public spending cuts and had their health care reforms ripped to shreds. No party anywhere in the world can escape the need to gain a competitive edge over its rivals and make the working class pay for it. This is how capitalism works.

The working class then has no need to be diverted into the dead end of parliamentary (lack of) democracy. It has to fight for itself.

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

Our class can best serve itself by fighting the class war, for the world we want, no matter who the boss is, no matter who is in power. This may mean pressing for more and more improvements in our lives and our working conditions, especially in the light of the worsening economic crisis. When we fight like this, we come into contact with the barriers capitalism puts in our way.

The working class is massive and covers the whole globe. It can tear down these barriers, destroy the capitalists and their methods, and build a world that is free of poverty, war and chaos. We have our world to win. This is our alternative.



LETTERS

WE PRINT'EM COS YOU WRITE'EM

CW Letters Page
PO Box 467
London E8 3QX



NEVER TOO YOUNG

Dear Class War

I just had to drop you a line with this info.

A friend of mine associated with the local general hospital in Southampton told me of a large strapping pig brought into casualty on a Wednesday night after being laid out by a 12 year old! You are never too young to start. Love the paper.

Keep up the good work, see you on the barricades,
K. Southampton

THE POLITICS OF CONVICTION

Dear Class War

Your article on drugs, how drug laws are used against police targets and your warnings of the dangers was good and useful. I would like to add warnings about police involvement in drug dealing. Our Manchester informants tell us the drug supply business in Manchester is riddled with grasses, including agents provocateurs and undercover agents.

They say you can't survive as a drug dealer and stay out of prison unless you're supplying information (at least) to the police. There are indications this happens everywhere that drugs are openly available - Stoke Newington, Glasgow, Nottingham...

Probably the worst danger of becoming a drug user is that of being grassed up to the police - becoming a name on their records, subject to surveillance, suitable for being fitted up or pressured into becoming a grass. There are always means of coming off drugs, but no way of coming off police records.

We're not just talking about working class users here. Lawyers are notorious for being coke users - and if we know that, so do the police. Next time you're in trouble with the law, check out your brief for any drug habit and relationship with the local CID. If he or she is aware that the police can easily destroy his or her career, how dedicated a fighter for truth and justice is a lawyer going to be?

Checking out dealers and lawyers for something they want to hide isn't easy, and the only way is to ask other customers about them and find out what their records are. Even so, nothing is certain, dealers can do time and lawyers can win defence cases and still be subject to police control. What we need is more information about local situations to be made

public. Class War has a good record for doing this, and it would be good to see more info coming in from readers about what's going on in their areas.

In solidarity
Conviction

CW Reply:

Conviction is a group which watches the police and blows the whistle on their scams and highlights injustices. They can be contacted at PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF. Since writing to us, Conviction have been having their mail tampered with by the State, so they must be doing something right!

GOT THE NEEDLE

Dear Class War

As a person who has been addicted to something all my adult life (30 years) I believe I know more about drugs than yourselves (I doubt that - CW) or any of the so called experts.

Your article makes the typically bourgeois mistake of understating the effects of alcohol and overstating the dangers of all other drugs. I have been an alcoholic for the last ten years and alcohol is the only drug that I cannot seem to exercise any control over (neither has any other drug made me feel so ill).

Further, your article states that heroin has an aging and damaging effect on vital organs, the brain in particular. There is no evidence to support the contention that pure heroin can damage any organ. What makes heroin dangerous is its illegality. It is liable to be cut with dangerous substances. Also the strength of individual "deals" can never be known so there is the danger of overdose. There is also the danger of

GRAFFITI COMPETITION



The tenner this time goes to a reader who was recently abroad in France where he spotted a poster for Le Pen and couldn't resist the opportunity to leave his mark (unfortunately he didn't know French but he reckoned that the fascists would get the drift of what he had written) - nice one! Send all your entries to PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX - if it's printed, you get a tenner!

MORE ON ANIMALS

Dear Class War

In issue 66, Mick the Class War poacher slags of animal liberationists for being middle class - this is bollocks.

It's the animal welfare/rights people who run the national organisations eg NAVS, BUAV etc who are predominately middle class (who I don't believe want animal liberation 'cos they'd lose their cushy jobs) and attract other middle class people to join up. The majority of activists are working class.

I wouldn't have any qualms about stringing up the rich, fascists or the hunters
Yours
A, Bristol

Dear Class War

Where do you get your info from Mr

Poacher? Searchlight? The people who keep saying that animal liberationists are infiltrated by fascists are the same ones who keep saying it about Class War. The State are just playing divide and rule.

Sure there's maybe a few people who used to be in the NF, as there are in Class War - it's no big deal, we know people change.

All Ronnie Lee and others said was don't get into a state because someone went on a march years ago. CW have said the same.

Yours for total liberation
AA, Reading

CW Reply:

This debate has been covered from all angles now, so please no more letters on this issue unless they are particularly original.

PROLETARIAN SHOPPING

Dear Class War

I write to you on the recommendation of a fellow con called Paddy who is already an avid reader of your paper.

I'm doing a seven stretch for the attempted murder of a gamekeeper who caught me knocking off a bit of free grub for me and my lass. He took a shot or two at me and missed - I never.

Four years on I'm writing to you lot as you send a strong message to which I can relate in every way. The land where this took place belongs to an ex-Tory MP who is now a cattle farmer who lives in Bucks.

Well back to your paper - I didn't realise there were so many like-minded people about until Paddy lent me issue 49, it's powerful stuff, just what the Tory wankers need their grubby snouts rubbed in. Not just them but every one who plays the game their way. All the best
Ben, Northants
P.S. How about a "Slap a Screw" campaign in the next issue?

CW Reply:

Good idea about "slap a screw" - send your entries in - and any prisoners wanting a free subscription, just drop us a line.

SOME SCUM IN SALFORD

Dear All

Revolutionary greetings. I thought your readers might be interested to hear about two class enemies oppressing the proletariat of Salford.

They are City Treasurer Alan "Two Chins" Westwood and Finance Committee Chair Bloke Bernard "Manning" Pennington.

They both appeared in a free local rag commenting on the case of 64 year old Mrs Margaret Purdy who has heroically defied the Poll Tax by not paying a penny and who was up in front of the beak in December. Amazingly she was given a 21 day suspended sentence and ordered to pay at 50p a week (I was charged a tenner a fucking week).

Anyway, Herr Westwood and Von Pennington reared their ugly little heads to say their piece. Alan "Vivienne" Westwood said "I was appalled...I was so incensed I have written to the magistrates, the DOE and the Lord Chancellor to protest...however, I am please to say two more defaulters were sent down".

Bernard "Right-On" Pennington continues "If I had my way she wouldn't go down for 21 days - it would be more like 6 months". Yes and if I had my way Bemle-Boy, you'd go down 6 feet.

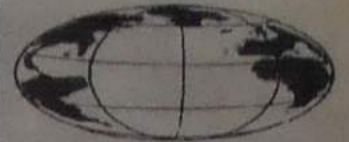
Any class warrior wishing to take up the matter with specky-twat Westwood or flash-in-the-pan Pennington, write care of The City Treasurer, Salford City Treasurer, Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester. No parcel bombs though, you might injure a postal worker. Communism or Death
Bary, Manchester

CW Reply:

If any other readers want to us to publicise any particular scumbags in their area, send the details in.

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and to sort out spelling and English - we won't change their meaning though! If you want a reply, please remember to add your address.

all around the world



MEXICAN STAND OFF

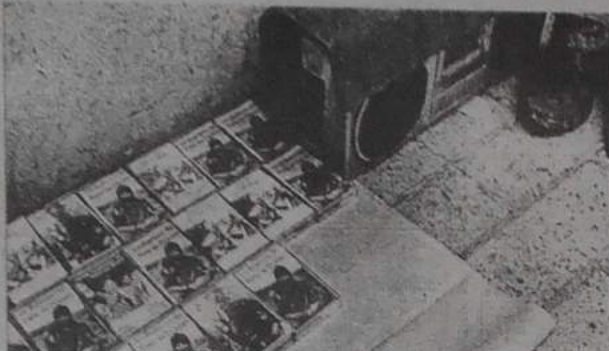
The economic crisis that brought down third world economies in the '70s, and the Eastern bloc at the end of the '80s, is affecting the Western bloc. The latest victim is Mexico, on the border of the last superpower.

Mexico was central to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the economic bloc set up to rival Europe and Japan. It was supposed to provide cheap labour for American companies, and the 'trickle-down' of wealth was to create new markets for America: Mexican workers buying US products with their pitiful wages.

SHAFTED

When the trade barriers did come down, the Mexican economy wasn't strong enough to take the strain. Since December 23rd 1994 the peso has been drastically devalued by 60% against the dollar. The stock markets of Latin America plunged 20% and capital fled the region back to safety in America.

The new president, finance 'expert' Ernesto



Zapatista cassettes for sale: what the hell are they up to?

Zedillo, is begging for international financial support to rescue the economy. America has promised a \$50 billion stabilisation package, and the IMF is forking out too. The strings attached to these loans are screwing the Mexican working class. The first 2 months of '95 have seen 250,000 workers made unemployed, with another 500,000 planned soon. Wage rises have been frozen at 7%, interest rates have rocketed 50%, public spending is being slashed, petrol went up 30% overnight, electricity went up 20% and inflation is

allowed to soar. All this on top of a 40% fall in living standards since 1980.

These measures are bound to lead to a rise in anger. The Mexican ruling class is aware of this danger and is uniting, offering democratic reforms and fresh multi-party elections (the *Institutional Revolutionary Party* has ruled Mexico since the '20s). The democratic trap is being opened wide to stop any escalation of the class struggle.

The Zapatista revolutionaries have responded in an unrevolutionary way, by call-

ing a ceasefire to allow the government time to contain the situation! We'll have to wait to see how the Mexican working class respond to that.

BANKRUPT

The collapse of the Mexican economy tears to shreds the lies we're hearing about global economic recovery. Capitalism is bankrupt, floating on a sea of credit. The Mexican crisis can only make the situation worse as the US withdraws from the world economy to shore up its own flabby economy. US bosses hesitated over whether to give aid to Russia and Eastern Europe, but have wasted no time in rescuing Mexico. When the Berlin Wall came down the US proclaimed the 'new world order'. Since then it has all gone badly wrong. Their final military withdrawal from Somalia and setbacks in attempts to dominate the Balkan area show that the US can't live up to its title as 'world cop'.

The collapse of the current global economy is possible. With it will come further unemployment and poverty for the working class from Mexico to Manchester to Moscow. By waging class war against these attacks, the working class can turn it around and create a world where poverty was the nightmare of capitalism.

RWANDA: WHAT HAPPENED?!

April sees the first anniversary of Rwanda's descent into chaos and genocide. Over one million people were killed and half the population were made refugees, still too afraid to leave their camps in neighbouring countries.

The media portrayed the conflict as 'primitive tribal war' between Hutus and Tutsis. But you don't have to look far to see 'boss nations' at work.

Until 30 years ago Rwanda was a Belgian colony with members of the Tutsi tribe installed by the colonists as the ruling elite. When Belgium left, Rwanda came under French imperialism, ousting the Tutsi minority in favour of the Hutus. Ever since there has been a civil war, a conflict which cost a million lives until April '94.

PULLING STRINGS

This conflict was made worse by the effects of the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. French imperialism had been defending the Western bloc in much of Africa, propping up local regimes against the 'threat' from Russia. But the end of the Cold War brought in a 'new world order' where the idea of 'each state for itself' reigns. So Africa has become a battleground between the French and American ruling classes, who's goal is control of the Middle East.

The conflict in Rwanda shows this situation clearly: the Tutsi dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was trained and equipped by Britain and the US, with bases in Uganda, an ex-British colony.

The early '90s saw advances for the RPF against the government of President Habyarimana who, with the help of France, responded with death squads. The situation was so bad in '93 that the French army intervened to save the government! An unexplained plane crash that killed the presidents of

Rwanda and Burundi was the spark that lit the fire. The RPF launched a massive attack and within months had swept away the old regime. The resulting massacres were nothing to do with blind tribal hatred: they would never have happened if the 'great' powers weren't directing events behind the scenes.

The smokescreen erected by these powers quickly began to clear: French UN 'peace keepers' occupied the south to protect the government from the RPF, while US and British troops were in RPF territories setting up field hospitals, rebuilding roads and bridges, and helping the new RPF government.

One year on and the situation remains unstable. In the refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania the evicted government is regrouping. It's virtually running the camps and controls aid, ensuring that most of it goes to its army. In Rwanda there aren't enough people to bring in the harvest and the economy is in deep crisis.

In Burundi the government is incapable of stopping armed gangs destroying villages just for revenge. All they can do is catch the odd 'criminal' and allow the crowds to cut him to pieces and stick his head on a pole as a lesson to the rebels. Conflict between rival Hutu and Tutsi gangs isn't confining itself to Rwanda. More refugees are fleeing the capital into Zaire stretching supplies of aid.

The chaos of the region has nothing to do with 'primitive barbarism' or unexplained madness. It is a direct result of the rotting capitalist system, which causes imperialist powers to fight for the smallest advantage over their rivals. The lives of the poor and exploited count for nothing.

Wherever in the world, the imperialism of capitalism is behind every act of barbarism, and it must be destroyed.

A LOAD OF BALKANS



fight. Far from trying to bring peace to the region the 'great powers' are showing once again that the war in the Balkans is totally of their making, not some sort of 'ethnic' conflict.

The positions they are taking over ex-Yugoslavia, like a dangerous game of international football (US/Germany vs. Britain/France) are bound to cause greater tensions within the UN and NATO.

The US, with no ground troops involved, will again be pushing for the lifting of the arms embargo when the

fighting begins. The British and French, with thousands of troops involved, fear a difficult withdrawal and the embarrassment of relying on the US for assistance.

The 'special relationship' between the US and Britain is at an all time low, with the US directly intervening in British domestic policy in Northern Ireland. The escalation of the war could shatter NATO once and for all, and Europe's future will look increasingly unstable and chaotic, unless the international working class get their hands on power.

The conflict in ex-Yugoslavia may have been out of the news recently but the warring sides haven't chosen the road to peace. The fragile ceasefire of January 1st is gradually breaking down and the fighting season is about to begin again.

All sides in the conflict, and their imperialist backers, have used the recent period of relative calm to prepare for the extension of the war zone. The US has been busy 'sponsoring' the Muslim/Croat Federation in the south. Although the organisation is, on paper, a support group called the 'Friends of the Federation' it's been set up by the US to give it economic and political support. Austria and Germany have been invited to contribute.

The British and French ruling class have been negotiating with Serbian and Bosnian Serb officials on the latest peace plan, trying to get an agreement before the US/Germany alliance gain the upper hand in the region.

While the discussions took place Bosnian Serb

forces were attacking the Bihac enclave and seizing their weapons back from UN sites. Russia has also been in on the act with an agreement to break sanctions on Serbia if the arms embargo is lifted on the Bosnian government army. One observer asked:

"Is Washington prepared for a renewal of the war with Russia backing the Serbs?"

The US has also given the green light to Croatian prime minister Franjo Tudjman's plans to recapture the Krajina region of Croatia occupied by the Serbs since January '92. The border between both sides is policed by 12,500 UN peacekeepers but their mandate has run out. Tudjman rattled his sabre saying he wanted them all out by the March 31st but backed down, on advice from the US and Germany, saying 6,000 could stay (in reality not enough to stop a Croatian advance) and buying more time for the US to supply the Croatian army.

The scene is set for a further escalation of the con-

UNITED COLORS OF CAPITALISM?

The civil war, raging in Algeria, is portrayed in the Western media as one of democracy vs. Islamic fundamentalism. This is a joke.

Like Rwanda, it is an example of imperialist nations using local gangs to do their dirty work for them. That another war can break out in the Mediterranean proves how barbarism affecting the rest of the globe is moving closer to the industrialised centres of capitalism.

ELECTIONS

The latest conflict began when the French-backed secular government cancelled elections in January '92 just as the Islamic parties looked like winning; so military took control of the state. The Islamic Salvation Front's (FIS) military wing, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), declared war on anyone with French links. Since then

30,000 people have been killed for the sake of Allah. Most victims are civilians and the resulting wave of refugees from the conflict is being used as a weapon to destabilise France.



There has been a wave of suicide bombings and assassinations: journalists, politicians and the families of the police and army being the favoured targets. The conflict spilled onto French soil when

the fundamentalists hijacked a French plane recently.

As part of its offensive against France in Africa, the US, with the aid of Britain, is backing the FIS. It's no accident that Britain is harbouring the leadership of the FIS and that British journalists have had access to FIS camps in Algeria. On the other side the unpopular Zeroual government is being backed to the hilt by the French government in their repression of the population and the FIS.

GANGSTERS

The Algerian economy is in a bad shape with unemployment rising, a factor in the government's poor showing in the cancelled elections.

Repression by the French government is also being meted out to those of Algerian descent living in France.

The working class ghettos where many of these people live are virtually under siege, treated with apartheid-like measures.

The situation in Algeria shows that boss nations will 'sponsor' any group that can help their interests. When there's a chance to destabilise an imperialist rival (France) the US decides to back...the fundamentalists!

The sham of the 'international community' of governments working together for world peace is exposed. In Bosnia the British and French are allied against the US; in Algeria the British are allied with the US against the French. Such is the danger and self-serving hypocrisy of 'every state for itself'.

Capitalism is decaying and cannot save the future. That job lies with the international working class.

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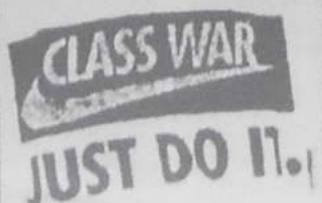
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REVIEWS

FILM



Bandit Queen (18) is the amazing true story of Phoolan Devi, India's very own Robin Hood. In 1968 Phoolan—a girl from one of the lowest castes—was sold as a child bride in exchange for a handful of coins, a bike and a cow. Raped by bandits and viciously humiliated by upper caste men, she became a bandit herself. For years she ran rings around the cops and the army and was adored by millions for her attacks on the rich. Sadly it looks like Phoolan lost the plot: she gave herself up, did 12 years in prison and was released last February. The word is that she is now planning a career in politics (!) which just goes to prove that putting faith in any leaders is pissing in the wind... Meanwhile, back in the real world, the Indian government has banned the film, but the class war is still raging. The women above are members of a militant low-caste group, tooling up in preparation for recent state elections... Bullets not ballots!

LENNY (18)

Video (107 mins) starring Dustin Hoffman
If you get pissed off with all the Red Nose Day rip-off—T-shirt, video, book and bit of red plastic for the car—you could do worse than buy, rent or rob this video. It's a lot funnier (and has a lot more to say) than the wet liberal offerings of Lenny Henry, the hypocrisy of Billy Connolly or the embarrassing (and crap) David Baddiel.

Lenny is filmed in black and white as part documentary, part life-story of working class Jewish comedian Lenny Bruce. It's the story of how one man achieved fame, a criminal record and eventually death.

After years of hacking it as a two-bit comic in dives and strip joints in the late 1950s, Bruce is offered big money to "just get on stage and say what you think." He takes a few seconds to say yes and then rapidly rises to notoriety as the darling of American radicals and trendies and as the US establishment's 'Deviant Number One'.

From coast to coast Bruce was hounded by the cops and pulled through the courts for obscenity and possession of drugs. His real 'crime' was that he stood up and gave his audience a side-splitting account of the hypocrisy, racism and injustice of American society, its laws

and morality. He pulled no punches.

The famous 'cocksucker' trial is a good example. Lenny uses just one prop, a newspaper, and starts in on how ridiculous homophobia is. Two gay schoolteachers have been sacked and then jailed for their sexuality. It's even more ridiculous because they were both good at their job and well-liked by their students. Bruce points out that being gay doesn't make you more likely than anyone else to sexually abuse kids.

His punchline is that "the kids didn't go home after school and say 'Mommy, today we had 10 minutes geography and 5 minutes cocksucking'." For making this point, Lenny Bruce went through the courts for years, charged with obscenity.

"Hello, I'm the sick Lenny Bruce," he announced, referring to another newspaper article. "I'll tell you what's sick. Zsa Zsa Gabor coins \$60,000 a week for appearing in Las Vegas. A teacher in the same state gets a salary of \$6,000 a year. That's sick."

Without Lenny Bruce, the likes of Robin Williams would never be able to pack the audiences in and use the word 'fuck' while taking the piss out of the President or yuppie coke freaks. In fact as motormouths go, Lenny Bruce had a lot more to say than Mr Mork-and-Mindy.



TELEVISION

OPRAH RICKI LAKE VANESSA

Virtually all the time, ITV, C4, BBC2

Welcome to TV Hell, the land where talk-show hosts outnumber real people three to one and where reactionary bollocks is dressed up as daytime entertainment. Oprah is the self-confessed queen of this type of show; lately she's been challenged by young upstart Ricki Lake and the British Vanessa. But any differences are purely cosmetic: essentially they all follow the same format.

First there's the controversial subject: 'Ricki reunites families separated at birth', 'What men think about their bodies', 'Man-eating mothers-in-law', 'My husband stole my child', 'Women whose grandmothers were abducted by aliens', you get the picture.

Then there's the hostess full of probing, incisive questions: "Wow!", "Really?", "When he put the gun to your head, weren't you scared?" Finally add a touch of personal therapy and pop psychology: "I want you to tell me about the pain that's inside you...", "How does that make you feel as a person?"

These are the equivalent of modern day freak-shows, where working class people get walk-on parts as 'tragic victims' and Oprah gets us to 'feel' for them. It's only when reality gets in the way that the whole thing falls to pieces. When Oprah did a special after the LA riots, she bust a gut trying to be 'down with the sisters'—but it was so insincere it made you squirm.

The worst thing of all is that these prog-



The desperately un-outrageous Vanessa: "Next week we meet people who've given their local MP a good battering..."

rammes pretend to care. Like soap operas, everything is geared to making us feel that we belong, even if we're watching a bunch of people in a studio four thousand miles away. When real working class communities have been destroyed, we can resurrect that good feeling with the flick of a switch.

In the meantime I'll spend my days dreaming of the moment when they do programmes with titles like 'I chopped a copper's head off and stuck it on a pole'...

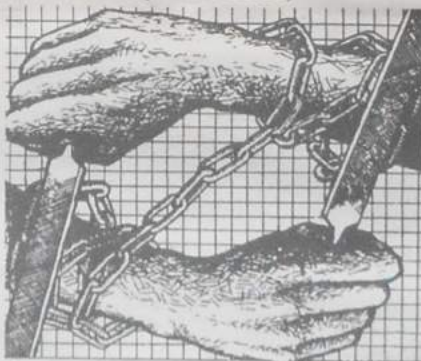
IN PRINT

FIGHTING TO WIN

Boris Dumont

PISSING IN THE SAME POT

Robert 'Chick' Taylor
(Black Economy Books £1.50)



Robert Taylor and Boris Dumont are serving long prison terms and Black Economy Books have produced two short booklets covering their respective case histories. Taylor and Dumont have arrived at prison via different backgrounds, where Robert is a self-confessed villain and Boris is a full-time revolutionary. Their commitment, however, to their freedom is unquestionable.

Fighting to Win and *Pissing in the Same Pot* are the first offerings from Black Economy and are intended to provide a brief insight into the lives of these two prisoners. While tales of guns, armed escorts, media overkill and escapes are compelling reading, the men also have much to say about their own characters and determination not to disappear into the prison system.

In 1989 Robert Taylor was convicted of an armed robbery on the strength of a rigged identity parade. Taylor eventually ends up recaptured and on trial for deciding to do a runner. The trial's a joke—the police contradict themselves and the judge reaches a compromise to save face. As Rob Taylor says: "18 months for having a sawn-off shotgun with one up the spout and safety off? That tells you what the judge thought!"

Boris Dumont was caught at a police checkpoint in possession of subversive literature en route to Holland. Dumont was wanted in connection with the robbery and assault of a cash carrier and was recognised from a drawing. Boris tells of his life before and after his trial in 1987, including an escape bid that was betrayed to the authorities by a fellow prisoner. Both titles are recommended reading.

'Fighting to Win' and *'Pissing in the Same Pot'* are available from AK Distribution, 22 Luton Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH8 9PE

THE POLITICALLY CORRECT GUIDE TO GETTING LAID

Tuppy Owens
(Planet Sex, £1.99)

The introduction to this book reads: *'Politically correct persons live their lives by their right-on, non-sexist, non-racist, non-ableist, non ageist, eco-friendly ideals. It's utterly uncool to chat anyone up, approach people you feel attracted to or ask for a date. It is equally taboo to dance with anyone except your mates, admit to sexual frustration or the desire to flirt. Thus single PCs have no obvious means of initiating their monogamous ideal with a significant other. Sadly the PC becomes SIC—sexually incorrect.'*

This book should be required reading for all the sad politicians in the world. It's sexy, it's fun, and it takes the piss out of both the robotic society we live in and the alienated ideologies that claim to represent an alternative view.

The fact that political activists of all factions ignore sexuality says a lot about their own stunted growth and the repressive nature of their parties—actually just a form of neo-Christianity. This is one of the most important areas of human life and has the potential for liberating us from our isolation and alienation.

It's no surprise that those in power spend vast amounts of resources on censoring, banning or perverting sexuality to prevent it becoming a threat. Ignore at your peril!

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SPORT

THERE'S ONLY ONE ST. JAMES PARK

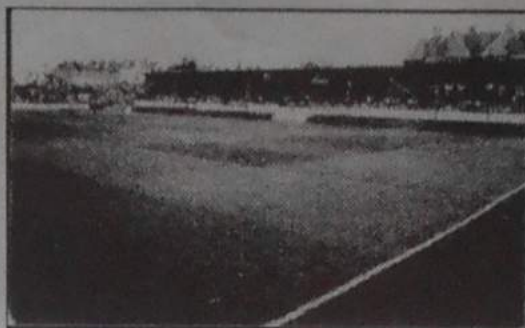
In fact, there are two - for the moment. One is the mighty stadium which is home to a resurgent Newcastle United, triumphant at the top after years of also-rans or worse. The other is another home of football, but this time the club has never even been an also-ran - and its home will not be there for much longer.

At the opposite divisional end to Newcastle lurk the not very well known Exeter City. Taken over by administrators earlier in the season because of serious financial difficulties, their ground St. James Park is having to be sold to pay off the creditors.

STRUGGLE

Exeter are just another victim of the increasing commercialisation of football. There are a whole horde of clubs in the lower divisions who are struggling to survive - at Leyton Orient the PFA (the footballers' union) are having to help pay players' wages, Gillingham are on the verge of bankruptcy and there are plenty of others.

There's nothing new in this: for as long as football



One of the St. James Parks (soon to be supermarket or something)

has been played, clubs have come and gone due to financial problems. But what is new is the pace is increasing - and the gap between the top and the bottom has widened significantly.

AT THE TOP

For those at the top (the Man Uniteds, the Tottenhams, the Liverpools, etc), life has never been so good. They have literally a license to print money - and this means that the people who are actually running these clubs view football as an opportunity to make large profits. Although these people might talk of their love for the club and

the game, their words would be empty if big losses happened or their credibility undermined.

They would be off sooner than you could say "first division" - unlike the rest of us poor mugs whose commitment to a club goes a lot deeper than a mere financial balance sheet. In fact, this is one of the attractions of football: it is where we can get away from talk of money and worry over cash flows, where we can bury ourselves in something that takes us beyond our all too restricted reality.

At Man United, it is planned to spend £28 million on rebuilding the

North Stand. Sums like these would save many a lower division club from financial hardship and bankruptcy - but the spending of this money will not even benefit United fans.

WHO PAYS?

When the Stretford End was redeveloped three years ago it was the fans who had to pay for it with increased prices of up to 60%. As night becomes day, the same will happen with this new stand.

So all these vast sums of money have not even really benefited the fans of the top clubs. And as far as the smaller clubs are concerned, it is business as usual - like in the world outside football, there is most definitely no "trickle down" of wealth (more like a trickle up!).

But for those at the top, their bank balances are looking good - so good, in fact, that ex-Arsenal manager George Graham could call £425,000 an "unsolicited gift". To virtually all fans, £425,000 would mean an end to a life of work and drudgery. But as far as Georgie is concerned, it is only a gift

and he was doing nothing wrong when he accepted it.

RESULTS

At times, pressure on the clubs has led to results for their supporters. Getting together and struggling for



Give us a gift Georgie

better conditions is a lot better than just sitting there and moaning.

One of the most positive developments in the last few years has been the growth of football fanzines and independent supporters' associations. After all, even in these days of massive TV coverage and payments, it is the fans who keep the clubs alive - without us the game would die.

TARGETS!

Amazing isn't it the way the media think they can control the way people think. After the riot by England fans in the friendly game against Ireland the media announced (and it was official) that football was now the preserve of the YOB!

Funny though, that before the match-fixing allegations, the Cantona affair and the Dublin riot I was part of an elite group of supporters like Martin Amis, Nick Hornby and Salman Rushdie who were changing the face of football for the better. My team shirt had become a fashion statement; it was no longer a club badge but a 'chic emblem'.

Nothing has changed in fact... I still go to the same old shabby pub in Leyton before (and after!) the game and sing the same songs with the same crowd. For people who supposedly spend a lot of their time at football matches, writing in the papers and spouting on TV, the pundits are out of touch. They're spending too much time in the executive boxes for their own good. Mind you, I hope they're all still there when the fuckers are burnt down. The truth is that football fans have style, wit and intelligence but we just can't stand Amis, Hornby and Rushdie!

REEFER MADNESS

The most stupid saga in the series of supposed scandals (anything to sell the newspapers and keep the pundits busy!) that have rocked the football season has been the suspension of the Crystal Palace striker Chris Armstrong for, horror of horrors, smoking dope.

Despite the fact that cannabis is liable to damage your performance rather than enhance it - this probably explains why Armstrong has been so pathetic in front of goal this season - he was banned by the FA and missed crucial League and Cup games including the League Cup semi-final against Liverpool (which Palace lost).

No-one would oppose sportsmen being banned for

taking performance enhancing drugs such as steroids or amphetamines, but the Football Association has no right to pry into footballers' social habits.

Drugs testing is now becoming as common in sport in this country as it is in America - it has been stated that 9 footballers have tested positive for "social" drugs (ie cannabis, not alcohol!) this season, although their names (apart from Armstrong) have been kept secret.

SPLIFF UP!

And in Rugby League the Bradford Northern full-back David Watson is facing a life ban if he gets caught again - he tested positive for cannabis in 1992 and then recently refused to

give a sample which resulted in a four month ban and a £2,000 fine.

But Armstrong never received any formal hearing, he was simply banned by the FA from playing "until further notice". This notice was served when Armstrong had completed a round of patronising rehabilitation courses (no doubt having to promise never to do it again) and passed a further eight drug tests.

Showing the same weakness that seems to characterise all trade unions, the PFA have failed to oppose these bans, meaning that in years to come most clubs will have players "unavailable for selection" until the bureaucrats of the FA let them play.

OUT OF ORDER

Class War was delighted for all decent working class Chelsea fans with the home win over FC Bruges. It was ironic, given the recent events at Lansdowne Road during the England/Ireland match (and the links between some Chelsea fans and the far right), that their great performance was led by black players, who also scored both their goals.

NO PLACE

Football is a multi-racial game, both on pitch and terraces and there can be no place for BNP/whoever to divide us up on grounds of colour - lets kick them into touch! But it should also be said that there can be no place for the authorities either. The Belgium

police's rampage against Chelsea fans during the first leg was completely out of order and showed the authorities' attitude clearly: keep them controlled and treat them like filth.

Upwards of 1000 fans were held overnight in a vehicle depot and then deported, virtually all for the major crime of being a football fan. It might be more subtle in this country, but with the surveillance and other forms of control the police rarely have a need to be so obviously brutal.

And just because they are seemingly softer (ie don't truncheon you for just looking at them) doesn't mean their attitude is any different. As far as they are concerned, we're still the scum of the earth.

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