

CLASS WAR



THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE
JUST US



ISSUE 66
FEBRUARY/MARCH 1995 50p

relieve executive
stress....



*execute
these scumbags

INSIDE: SCANDAL, NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS—PLUS A SPECIAL
REPORT ON DRUGS IN YOUR SOARAWAY SPECTACULAR CLASS WAR

WHAT WE SAY

Tony Blair, posh bastard leader of the new look Labour Party has embarked upon his crusade to get Labour to drop Clause 4 of their constitution.

So why is chipmunk face spending so much time, energy and money on this?

Well, Clause 4 is the section that commits Labour to nationalisation, its also its last connection to socialism.

The problem for him is that as he wants Labour to be a pale blue version of the Tories, having something calling for socialism in their

constitution is a contradiction to far.

When he started his campaign he said that he wanted to take "politics closer to the people". Unfortunately Chipmunk chops was talking about those rich bastards who vote Tory, so obviously he was talking about 'people'

in the broadest sense of the word.

● Talking of two-faced politicans, capitalist Russia's treatment of Chechnya in 1995 is the same as the Soviet Union's treatment of Hungary in 1956. Both are cases of greedy

imperialist regimes throwing their weight around. Showing that the only real difference after the fall of the Eastern Block is that a senile politburo has been replaced by a drunkard president.

It doesn't matter what name a leader gives their politics, they all have the same

message: do as you're told or we will smash you.

The Chechens have shown a lot of backbone, now all they have to do is stick Yeltsin's imperialist flag where the sun don't shine.



THE DIRT ON BURT

The hated Child Support Agency have fallen to new depths.

The Social Security Minister, Alistair 'I really don't care' Burt has tried to defend the Agency's perverse methods of using children's 'income' in their calculations when working out parents maintenance payments.

SAVINGS

In two recent cases, a fourteen year old Scottish girl, who lives with her Dad, had the 94p per week interest on her £700 childhood savings taken into account when the Agency were working out how much maintenance should be paid for her nine year old sister. Her savings were for buying birthday and Xmas presents.

This obviously isn't even a sick joke or a one-off mistake. While Burt was defending this policy in Parliament, it came to light that the CSA had actually counted a teenager's £5 paper round money.

The reason for this obscene behaviour is that the bankrupt policies of a bankrupt and corrupt government are designed to pay out as little as possible and take from us as much as they can.

If you happen to be claiming the pitiful 'benefits' they give out (Child Benefit, Income Support, Family Credit etc.), you become an easy target for the Agency, for who it's all too easy to track you down and investigate your finances and private life.

All the crap about the CSA being set up to hold 'absent parents', especially fathers,

to ransom, to support their families, has been proven to be a political lie: the intention is to make us all, especially the poor, responsible for every penny we need to keep us surviving.

The more they can legally force out of us, the less they need to spend. It is this brutality that they hope can result in tax cuts for the well-off, their favourite vote winner.

Mr Worthington, a Social Security Department spokesman said: "I can understand the anger of these people". Well, he'd better get used to it because they ain't seen nothing yet!

More on the CSA further on in this issue.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

British Telecom seems to spend most of the extortionate amounts of money that it's screwed out of us on very pricey advertising campaigns.

At the end of 1994 Bob Hoskins (once a decent actor now a money-grabbing 'professional Cockney') did the adverts for 'call return' in a blaze of glory - this was the new system that allowed people to find the phone number of the last person to call them...

TWISTED

One of its, believe it or not, positive uses is to reduce the number of obscene phone calls, a very real problem for many people, especially women. The anonymity of the phone has allowed some anti

social idiots to terrorise others. Within a week of this system going operational, there was the first result.

A woman had just received an obscene call so she dialled 1471 to get the number of the caller, and then proceeded to dial it, and low and behold she got through to her local cop shop!

The P.C. Plod who made the call is now up on charges and is currently suspended. Positive proof of exactly how twisted and incredibly stupid the police really are.

Some whinging liberals have got all upset about this technology, claiming that it's an infringement of our individual privacy.

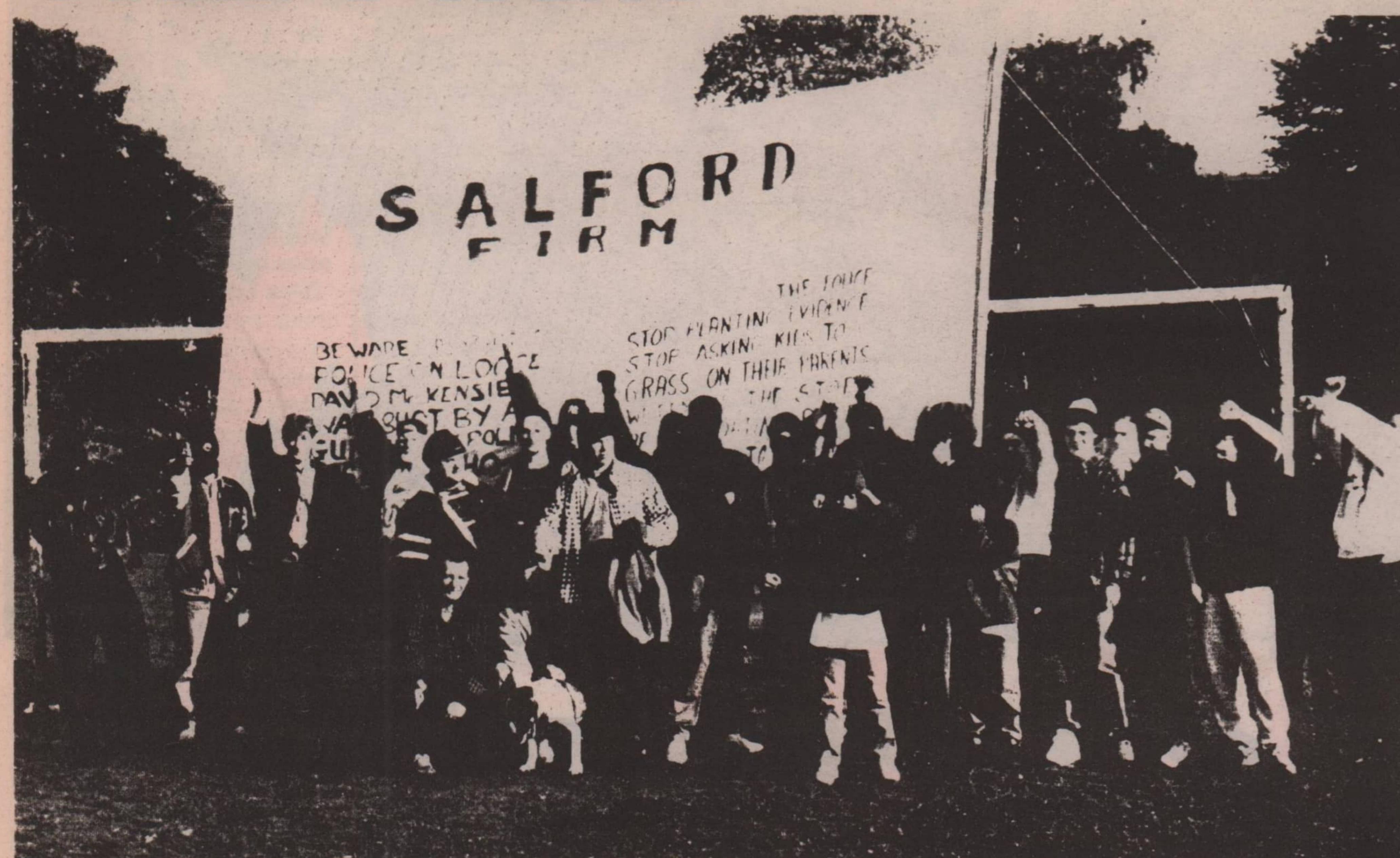
The truth is that the telephone network has been used to tap our phones and our workplaces for years. In

PERVERTS

Of course, this means that when we're settling a score with the boss, the cops or the local council leader, we should always use a public phone box - and obviously, when using a personal phone, it's worth remembering that anyone could be listening.

But if this new 'call return' screws up the activities of perverts and cops, then lets use it. No one should have to put up with obscene calls.

THE FIRM



Some of the Salford Firm in action

Not long after the massive anti-Criminal Justice Bill demo in London late last year there was one in Manchester.

The organisers were the usual mixture of Social Workers Party members and a few middle class students. But the participants included many local people who had come along to find out more about the Bill.

Also present were youths from the estates of Salford who were not going to miss an opportunity to have a go at the cops.

CONFUSED

Marching with their banner, the Salford Firm were the most confrontational section of the march and caused the SWP organisers and the law

equal amounts of stress.

The SWP were confused and frightened by working class people who didn't want or need their 'leadership', and the law spent the whole day shitting themselves that the situation would 'get out of hand'.

As it was the Salford section got the most cheers and applause from the crowd that gathered on the route and at

the rally, and their speakers were the most vocal.

After the rally the cops reported that an 'unknown group' had attended the march and that they weren't widely supported!

But they weren't fooling anyone and their lies are a sign of how worried the filth get when working class people organise outside of the middle class left.

WAR DIARY

3 November '94: £50,000 worth of damage done to 15 BMWs, Mercedes and Porches within 5 minutes by two men walking down a street in London's wealthy Cehlsea. Flower pots were hurled through windscreens. One car owner described the men as "obviously very angry".

21 November '94: A single mother petrol bombs Hackney Police Station, East London.

23 November '94: Three fire bombs are thrown into a police station yard in Cambridgeshire, setting fire to one car and a garage.

24 November '94: Inmates of Full Sutton prison try to burn it down for Xmas by putting aerosol cans in the oven.

25 December '94: Christmas break... but not for all; Two coppers hospitalised by a large crowd outside a club in Northampton.

31 December '94: Britain's longest ever strike at Keetons in Sheffield ends after 8 years. "We've lost the war, but we won a few battles along the way" said one striker.

2/3 January '95: All 68 prisoners in Eventhorpe prison's C Wing riot, causing £10,000 worth of damage. Prisoners rampaged through two wings and started fires which lit up the windows in a seasonal display for the locals.

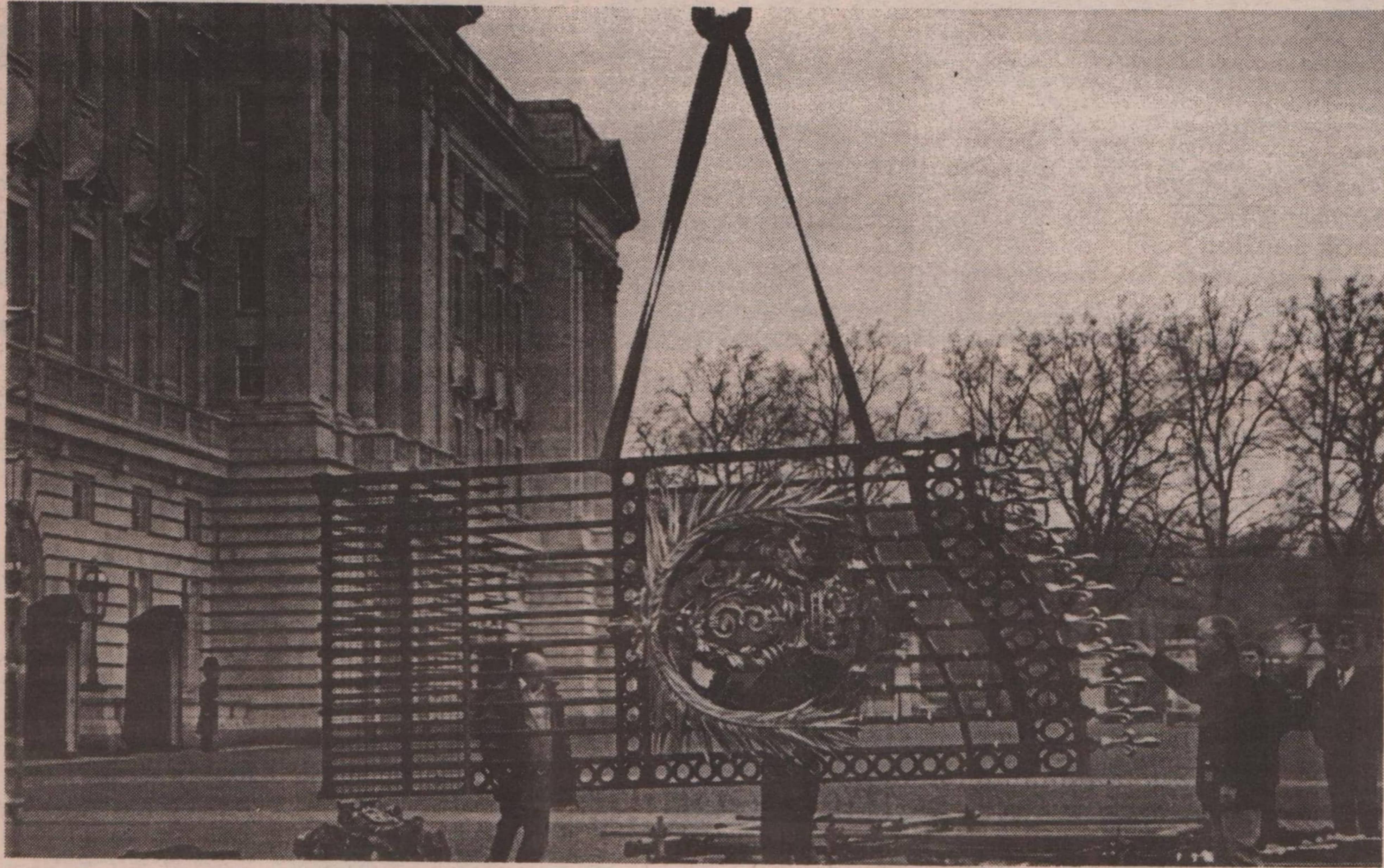
On the second night, the other wings joined in. One screw injured.

6 January: WPC hospitalised by a rottweiler when she tried to arrest its owner on suspicion.

13 January: One Yorkshire bloke who couldn't sleep, drove all the way to Buckingham Palace and rammed the gates.

We can always use your contributions for the War Diary. Help us make 1995 a full and exciting year. All contributions to the Leeds address.

GATE CRASHER OF THE YEAR!



So can you think of anything better to do on a sleepless night? Our heartiest congratulations to the driver of perhaps 'the most ambitious ram raid in history'. All the way from Wakefield at 4.30 am, to bring down the gates of BUCK HOUSE. Nice one!

PARTY POPPED

Pew! What a scorcher! That Michael Portillo may be an ultra-right MP, but he sure knows how to hold a fine knees up. Or should that be punch up.

W'S THIS FOR N YEAR'S TRE'



For when the Tory MP for Enfield decided to hold a posh party to celebrate his 10 years as an MP, there were more than just one or two gate-crashers. In fact, more like 200.

But Class Wars says "more the merrier". It's a shame we couldn't all have made it! Pompous Portillo had booked Alexandra Palace for his £20,000 celebration, and invited his obnoxious 'friends' to the ball for £30 per head.

Little did they know they'd have to cower behind lines of riot cops to get to the door, and would have their ball gowns 'altered' on the way in with as many different flying foodstuffs as the pissed off locals and protesters could lay their hands on.

Despite the SWP's megaphone whining, merriment among the gate crashers was had to the full, with sing-alongs of old time favourites such as "kill the Bill"

EXCLUSIVE

Although entrance to the somewhat exclusive palace was, *somewhat unfairly in our view*, refused to the gate crashers, many found well earned refreshment at the local hostelry. With the festive feeling really flowing now, many returned to Portillo's bash after the boozer, where we are reliably informed half a dozen of the posh cars received new paint jobs. At throwing out time, sorry after

the 'finale' at the Ball, many of the gate crashers forgot their class inequalities to give the party goers a "helping hand" on their way.

SLAPPING

Final reports suggest that more than a couple of posh party goers found loitering afterwards (with some lame excuse that their Rolls Royce wasn't 'working') got a good slapping along with another bunch who were jumped while changing a tyre, and a third tory arse licker who was just far too gobby for his own good.

That's the problem with the rich. They speak so much shit, and don't know when to shut up.



HAPPY HUNTING!

January 1994 saw the nicking of a group of BNP'ers after the annual march and rally to remember the victims of Bloody Sunday.

Frustrated with their inability to attack the march itself, they crept around later that evening and attacked Irish targets in Kilburn, London.

Surprisingly the filth actually arrested some of them and took them to court. The case ended recently and to everyone's surprise they were found guilty and six of them were sent down for twelve months.

These pieces of nazi filth are the class enemy and should be stamped on with the utmost brutality. Not that Class War would ever suggest doing anything of that nature, but we know that many

copies of Class War do the rounds in nick, and perhaps some spirited prisoners would look forward to the idea of a quick discussion about politics with these scum;

Neil Keity (age 24 from Birmingham), Andrew Coleman (23 from Skegness), Stephen Large (24 from Tunbridge Wells), Lane Chittenden (25 from Tunbridge Wells), James Gowers (23 from Leytonstone) and Martin Huggins (26 from Meriden).

Also inside doing four years is fat nazi Simon Beggs who's had to go on Rule 43 (with the sex offenders and grasses) for his own protection after the batterings he's received inside. Last we heard he's in a nick well away from his South London home. Not hard to spot, he has a Screwdriver tattoo on his forehead!

A TIGER IN THE TANK

It is with glee that we report the sighting of a tank advancing on Downing Street. A 24 ton former army Centurion roared up Whitehall and stopped at Downing Street for a battle of wits with Major ("not a difficult one to win, that one" we hear you say).

Unfortunately though, nothing was damaged except perhaps some police pride and a few security service nerves. The cops were unable to do anything as the tank was totally road legal and the driver had a license.

The tank headed a protest against the Criminal Justice Act, and after stopping off at the pub, the driver decided to pop in to put the willies up Grey John.

Usually the owner leaves the tank parked in front of his local cop shop at South Norwood, where it collects daily parking tickets, and cop cars crash into it. They just don't seem able to tow it away.

Now if only the owner could team up with the next Buck House gate crasher, they could really bring the house down.

EVENIN' ALL

Our ongoing reports on daft officers of the law brings you a tale of stupidity above and beyond the call of duty:

DOZY BASTARDS

Sussex plod win the 'useless bastards of 1994' award, pipping other police forces at the post for the title. Having stuffed themselves at their Xmas dinner at a hotel in Hove, forty of East Sussex's finest decided to sleep off their excesses upstairs.

They awoke the next morning to find the downstairs bar in a right mess, but not as a result of their evening's revellry. During the night the downstairs bar had been broken into and relieved of its stock of booze and cigars by some timely raider. As they say; 'let sleeping dogs lie'.

SHAFTED

Second place in the Useless bastards contest goes to nine bungling bobbies from Coventry, for their elevator antics.

While on an undercover drugs raid in a block of flats in Coventry, the nine porkers squeezed into a lift built for eight. Not unexpectedly, the lift broke down trapping the coppers a foot off the ground floor.

Unfortunately, their shouts for help were heard by a resident who offered to get the police.

"We are the bloody police" the captive cops replied. The red faced bobbies were eventually freed 43 minutes later. It seems even while riding a lift the boys in blue think they're above the law.

POLICE RAIDED

All too often our homes are raided, turned over and wrecked by a gang of macho coppers. Often we have to pick up the bill while they got the wrong address.

So it's a pleasant turn around that in late November 1994, it hit the papers that Sergeant Steve Powell returned to his home in Bronham, Bedfordshire, from sick leave at a rehabilitation centre.

What he found was one seriously trashed house and an interesting new paint job over his walls and carpet. The dining room table was given a subtle engraving, with the word 'pig' carved into it.

At the foot of his stairs, his cop uniform was ripped up and painted. The jacket was burnt and a message was left next to it:

"It's a shame you weren't in it".

Although Porky Powell received a whopping £10,000 in insurance money, it must remain quite clear to him what side of the fence he and his like are on. And it isn't the same as the rest of us.

PIG MEAT

In mid-January, a copper from Stone, Staffordshire, returned home from his night shift. While his wife was making the breakfast he came on to her, feeling a little aroused.

The daft Plod wrapped a slice of bread around his dick - we can only guess why - but his frolicking was literally cut short when the family's pet labrador leapt up and took a bite.

A fellow copper said of his colleague afterwards: "He has been banned from having sex for a few weeks" ... well at least it'll stop them breeding for a while. A police spokeswoman went on to say that "We couldn't possibly comment on what a police officer does in his spare time".

We could. Fair play to the labrador! The law's been put out of action, as the saying goes... by any means necessary.

WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

A night out in January for a bunch of off duty coppers in Liverpool turned sour on them as they were recognised and set upon in a pub. The six were dealt some class justice and packed off to casualty. But only after the comrades getting three more of their colleagues involved and hospitalised too.

Meanwhile, help was on its way for our black and blue bobbies in the form of back-up. Unfortunately it never made it... the driver, in a fine show of professionalism, managed to overturn the van on the way!

Final copper casualty count: 14.

RICH DIET

Six members of a South Korean gang have been sentenced to death for eating the rich. The gang had conducted a series of kidnappings and murders and had set about the quite reasonable task of ridding South Korea of its obscene rich, even at times, eating them.

When caught, the gang had amassed a stockpile of armaments, and got hold of a list of the areas most wealthy, with a plan to systematically doing away with all the names on the list.

While being questioned, members of the gang said they were planning on killing as many rich people as possible. One added that his only remorse was that he'd "not killed more of the rich kids who lead lives of luxury in Seoul's trendiest district".

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

What a shame to hear that the sex spies of the Child Support Agency (CSA) are crackling up under the strain.

These tax collecting, perverted lackies were losing no sleep over wrecking other people's lives... we will only take comfort from hearing that a few of them are having sleepless nights. The embattled



scumbags of the CSA are getting it from all sides.

SLAGGING

Not only maximum grief from 'victimised mothers' and fathers angered by their interference and the subsequent hardship, but now even the Ombudsman has given them a slagging off.

Once more the result is

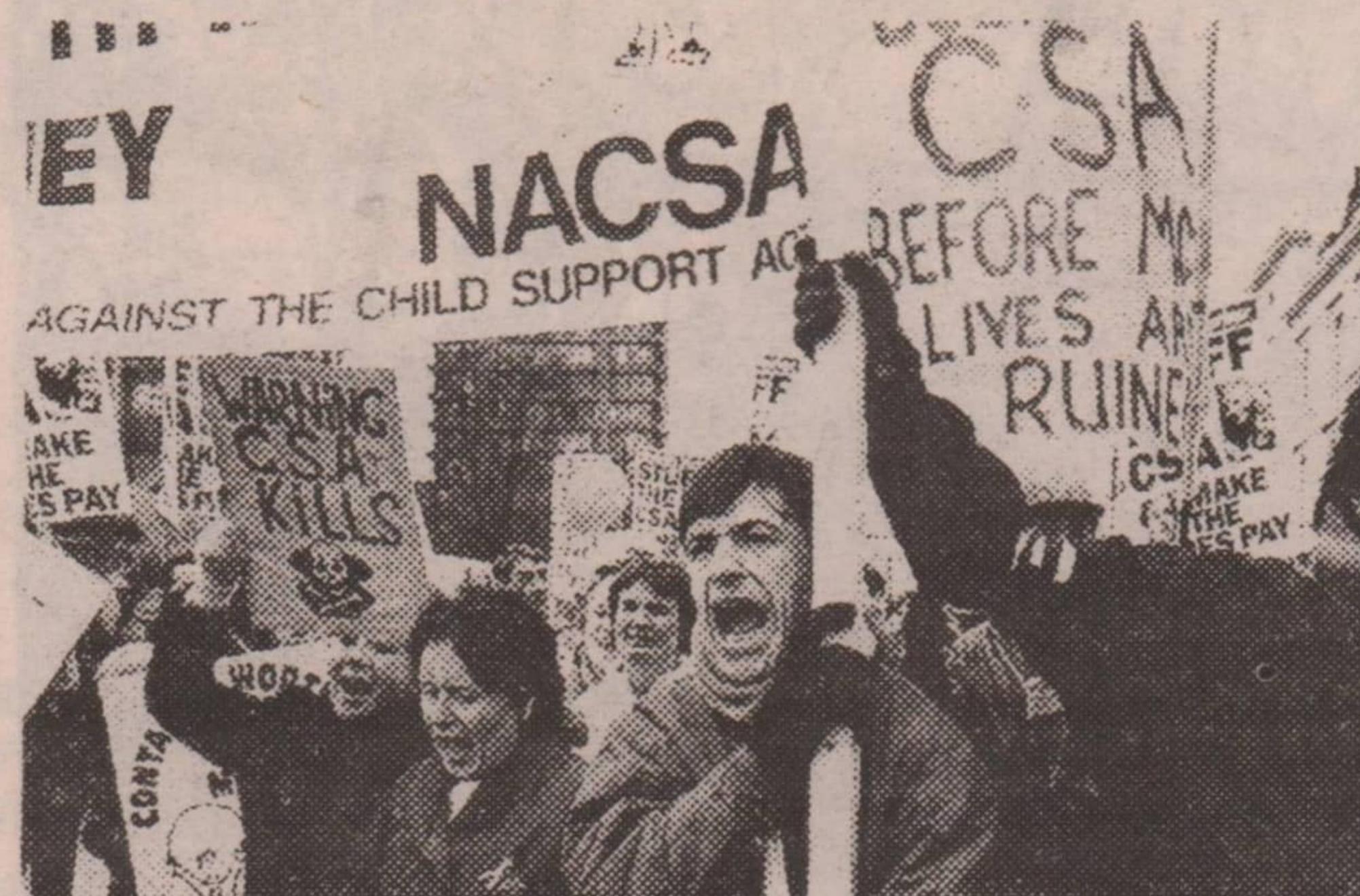
that the government have been forced to make major reforms.

These reforms include: a reprieve for 350,000 absent fathers who have already made deals with the mother to keep his identity hidden and for the mother to continue drawing benefit, the reassessment of about

The pressure is being built up by the numerous campaign groups, the 'growing conspiracy' between parents not to give information and the increasing threats to their own safety.

AGGRO

Whilst the CSA has been faltering its opponents have



launched a 'by all means necessary' counter attack.

Clearly identified as the tax collecting spies that they are, people are being encouraged to 'find out where they live, where they drink and harass them.' With staff wages between £8,000 and £11,000 / year, many backed down at the first taste of the shit they get off people. The

national enquiry office has to keep its location secret and many of the staff there are said to be on the verge of nervous breakdown. So keep those calls as abusive as possible - give 'em a ring and an earful even if you haven't got kids.)

The CSA doesn't support single parents or their chil-

dren it is simply a means for the government to cut down on its welfare costs. Most large towns have a campaign group or advice is available through your local Claimants Union etc.

Look right for a few basic tips that can help.

CSA BUSTERS

● You do not have to claim maintenance. You can not be forced to.

● A mother need not name the father if she does not know him or if naming him would put her or her child at risk of 'harm or undue stress'.

If you are called in for an interview:

● Don't go.

● Lie. You can say any of the following:

"I slept with more than one partner / the cabinet / a rugby team"

"It was a one night stand"

You met him on holiday

"He's left the country"

You don't remember his name

You don't know where he is

You were raped

He is violent and would take it out on you and your kids

The kids would be very distressed if he came round.

● Don't let the DSS intimidate you

● Take a friend with you to the DSS. They can be present and can either take notes or tape the interview.

Insist on getting the name of the interviewer.

● Use the short birth certificate. It doesn't name the father and it is free.

● Report all threats by DSS officers to a local law centre, Claimants Union AND the numbers below.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND HELP CONTACT:
Kings Cross Womens Centre on 0171 837 7509
Tottenham Solidarity Group on 0181 802 9804

EVERTHORPE... THE FIRST OF MANY

Well they don't piss about up on Humberside do they! This year's award for the first prison riot of the year goes easily to the inmates of Everthorpe Jail who could only manage to hold back until January 2nd and away they went.

Tensions had been building up over the Xmas period and trouble was expected.

Not wanting to let the screws down the lads of C wing saw their chance of glory and just at bed time, somewhere between having their mugs of cocoa and the governor coming round to read the bedtime story and tuck them in, bang!

Furniture and fittings were wrecked, pipes were wrenching from the walls causing flooding and an office was set ablaze. On to D wing they moved and for a few hours the calm of the prison was smashed.

Eventually the wings were

re-taken by the screws and about 70 inmates from C wing were shipped out to other prisons to restore order.

Just like a recurring nightmare, the following evening the inmates of A and B wing claim second place in our awards as about 100 of them went on the rampage again causing about £10,000 worth of damage.

SCARS

Having transferred most of the prisoners to other prisons Everthorpe was back under control. But the scars will remain and will add to those left by the constant resistance in prisons. With a flurry of breakouts and a tragic suicide in Dartmoor, the prison service has been in the spot light.

The strain is showing, especially at the top. A report has found 81% of governors have real problems thinking, sleeping, reading, listening

or concentrating. In fact the only thing they don't have problems with is shitting themselves.

CHINLESS

But of course none of this is news to us. We know that governors are a bunch of chinless fuckwits and of course they have problems like 'fear of company'. That's because they are surrounded by a load of people that would like to string up the wing screws with the governor's guts and let 'em dangle.

To all prisoners of the class war we say 'keep up the pressure'. A special Class War trophy will go to the first nick that can push their governor over the edge. Now that would be a welcomed prison death.



CLASS WAR IN PRISON

More prisoners are taking up the free subscription to *Class War*.

With *Class War*'s humorous flavour, it's "a breath of fresh air" as one prisoner put it. The paper gets passed around within the prisons where we have subscribers, but we would like to see it getting into every prison. So, if you know anyone that is inside and would like a bit of 'fresh air' take or send in a copy of *Class War* along with a stamp so that they can get their order in.

MORE LOLLY THAN SENSE

Kids in Staffordshire have been taking to the streets to oppose cuts.

The county council has announced plans to cut the jobs of 120 lollipop carrying crossing wardens. We wonder what savings they make per child killed or injured as a result of these cuts.

Initial protests appear to have been symbolic - aimed at raising awareness of the issue. That they have achieved and confidence will have been gained but we all know it takes more than 'good media coverage' to win.

CUTS

Many cuts in services create the potential for a strong community based resistance. We are sure the working class of Staffordshire have plenty of ways of displaying a bit of class anger. They will soon drop the idea when we've barbecued a few councillors skewered on a lollipop like a giant kebab. Warning: should you try this one at home, don't forget that councillors are not fit for human consumption.

LICKED

Linking up across the county and mobilising people who use other crossings has got to happen fast. Uniting service users to act outside of the controls and influence of the labour movement.

In the next issue of *Class War* we hope to report on how it's not lollipops but Staffordshire County Council that is getting the licking.



STINKS

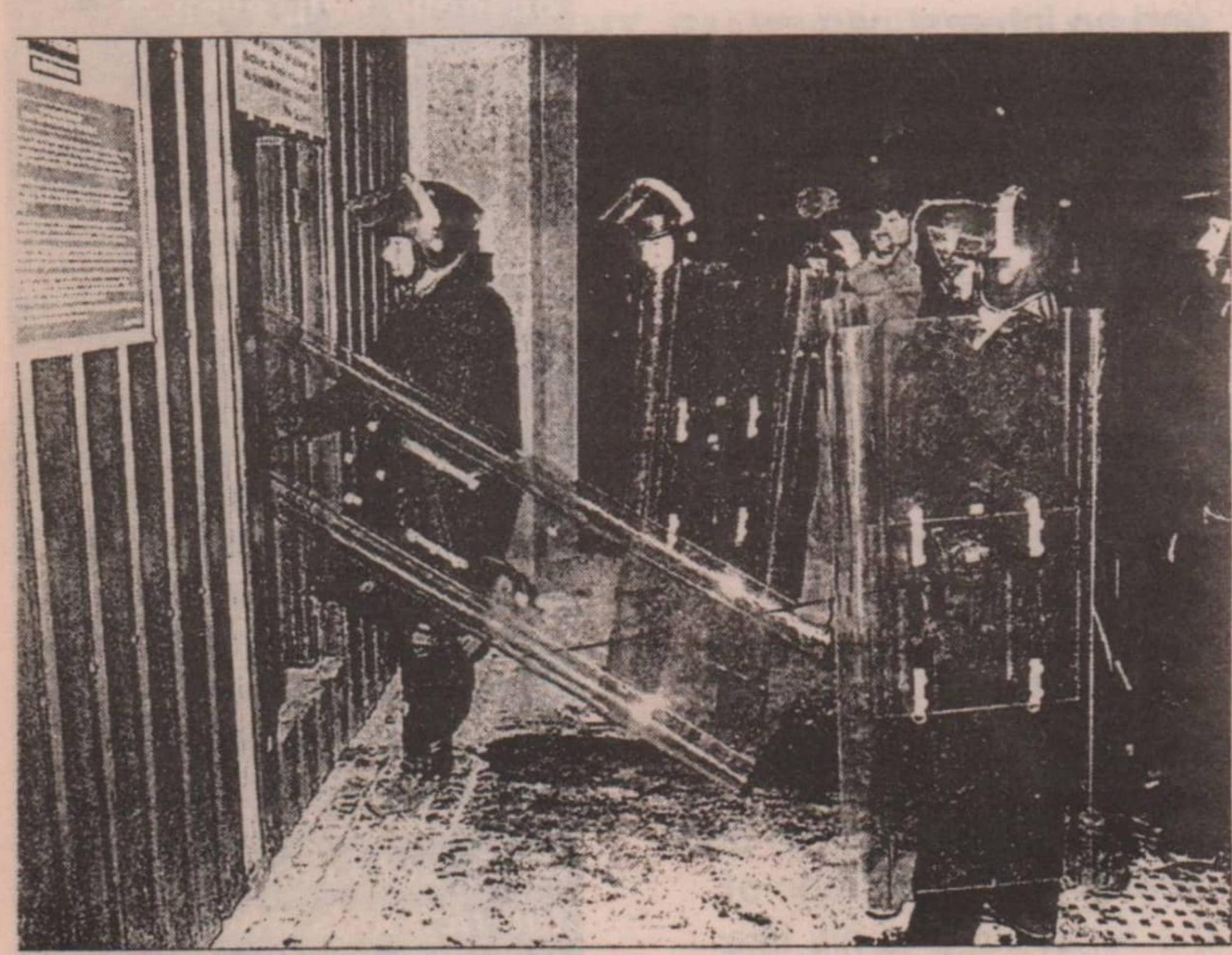
The only Body Shop product I would use is the 'Roddick Bubble Bath' made with their blood and tested on the rich. Demand this product will be very high so it might be an idea to go in and order your bottle in advance. If you want some of the 'Body Shop Stinks' leaflets so that you can piss off your local shop write to:

London Class War BM Box 357 London WC1N 3XX

ONE STEP ON

Satpal Ram, (see issue 65) won his fight for a Judicial Review of his case and is now waiting for confirmation of a date for him to go back to the Court of Appeal.

A large noisy picket supported his December court hearing and despite the cold a good day taking the piss out of the pomp going in and out of court was had by all. The next hearing is expected in March and this issue's front page will definitely be flavour of the month.



IF YOU'VE FINISHED..CAN WE HAVE OUR PRISON BACK?

FEELING FAIRLY CRAP

Every month it seems as though there is another "new" issue. Once it was devill dogs and teenage mothers, now it's royal divorces and...er...the "feelgood factor". This is certainly one of their funniest fantasies. Week in, week out journalists and other such low life puzzle over the fact that we aren't feeling very good despite all the (according to them anyway) positive economic news.

We are being flooded with stories about how low inflation is, what successes British trade has achieved: inflation is low (though last month it went up - so much for predictions!), unemployment is falling, the economy is growing. The fabled "green shoots of recovery" seem (according to the pundits) to have taken hold.

BOLLOCKS

As one pundit, Professor Cary Cooper from Manchester, declared back in December: "any economic indicator you want to choose...Britain's got one of the fastest growing economies, low levels of inflation, reasonably low levels of interest rates". But still we're not responding as we should - there's no talk of a boom and the general feeling appears to be one of keeping your head down rather than dancing in the streets.

There are endless surveys that state the obvious: in one recent poll, 33% said that the economy had deteriorated last year and 38% said it had been static. And only 29% thought that their personal finances would improve this year. It's the feel bad against the

feel good - and the fact that most of us feel fairly shit is puzzling the pundits because it doesn't add up in their figures.

Perhaps the key word is "their figures". This endless series of economic figures relates to their economy, not ours - so what if there is "high export led growth"? It matters nothing to us unless it means more money in our pockets and more security at work.

MORE WORK

And there's the point - this economic boom is the result of us getting more and more screwed at work. We're getting screwed in a whole load of different ways: from pay going down the pan to imposed flexible shift working. The nature of work has changed in the last 20 years and is now becoming much more a place of insecurity and short-term contracts.

For bosses, the in-words are contract working, part-time working, deunionisation, streamlining, new shift patterns, personal contracts, longer hours - but much less overtime because increased production is mainly a result of all this flexible and part-time working.

PRESSURE

For us, this just means more pressure, more demands, more work. In the USA (which is at the leading edge of these changes), manufacturing employees now work an additional 17 days a year than they did 10 years ago.

The old certainties have disappeared and there is a wishful looking back to the 1950s and 1960s when full employment supposedly



One way to feel good - Belgium miners discuss class politics with a police officer

allowed us to walk out of one job and into another. But there is no point in nostalgia (and it should be remembered that we were just getting the meagre crumbs off their table).

REALITY

The reality that we are facing can't be changed...or at least it can't be changed by wishful thinking or wallowing in past memories. The past is in the past and what we have got to deal

with is the present: and that means dealing with bosses who are seeking to do us over in new and better ways.

They have tried to fool us with their talk of "trickle down of wealth" - so what? We're still stuck in tedious jobs, fearing the next slump. This trickle down is just empty propaganda - it means nothing.

Water bosses have had rises of up to 571% since privatisation, with 25 of

them becoming at least £500,000 better off and 5 now millionaires.

FORGET IT!

Yet what about the workers (the ones who actually do the work) in the water industry? There have been redundancies and greater pressure in the workplace. While those on top are laughing their way to the bank, it's more of the same for us.

It's no surprise that so

many of us are feeling fairly crap - but one recommended way to beat the blues is to take them on and give two fingers to their wealth and power.

It's at times when we do take them on that we actually start feeling better, because then we're no longer being trampled upon and treated like shit, like some disposable commodity. We at Class War say "f**k your feel good factor - let's get even".

LIFT UP THAT FROCK!



The pope - biggest pervert of all

We at Class War hate all forms of prejudice, especially when it is being spouted from the hypocritical wankers in the Catholic Church. Remember that these are the people who keep spouting on about our moral and family values. Apart from the fact that they cause misery to millions worldwide by imposing their shitty views of contraception and abortion on the world's poorest people, it is these tossers who are total wankers when it comes to gay issues.

The official Catholic position on homosexuality, which shows what warped minds they've got, is that it isn't a sin to be homosexual, but it is a sin to practice homosexuality. Just out of interest, is it then a sin to have a wank whilst thinking about gay sex? But apart from the theological arguments why do they condemn something they are up to all the time?

The Archbishop of Dublin was said to have been shocked by the discovery of the body of a

This involved Father Brendan Smyth who had been travelling round molesting young boys. During the time he was carrying this on, the Catholic Church knew what he was doing and kept moving him round to prevent scandal. All this did was give the pervert a fresh supply of young boys to abuse.

CELIBACY

Further to these instances there was also the case last year of Bishop Eamon Casey who had a child from an affair, a funny vow of celibacy that one. We could go on for ages about the hypocrisy that comes from these puritans of the 'God squad', don't forget that evil old witch Mother Theresa.

It is against these forms of institutions that we have to fight to free ourselves, so if you are at a loose end and have a spare match why not go and burn down

the nearest church or, this is one for antisocial criminals like people who rob fellow working class people, why not go and nick the collection or the Church silver.

OUT THEM

Getting back to the subject though, as we at Class War hate this shitty attitude to gay love and are prepared to fight all oppression. We are prepared to put our money where our mouths are; if any of our readers out there want to 'out' any gay priest or politician who are being totally hypocritical wankers, like the gay lovers Lilley and Portillo, we will print their names, just write into our London address. You never know one of our reporters might even have some fun with some on the job verification!

Until we overthrow these institutions of prejudice and the bosses system that put them there working people will have to put up with being oppressed. We want a society where all are equal regardless of sex, sexuality or race and are prepared to fight to get one.

PIG SICK

It's alright for some as they say. It's certainly alright for our beloved upholders of law and order, the trustworthy thin blue line that stands between us and chaos.

Not only do they get massive lumps of cash for doing very little, not only do they get nice uniforms and shiny truncheons, not only are they hated and loathed by a wide section of the working class - they also completely take the piss as far as sick leave is concerned!

GOOD KICKING

On average, a London cop has 12.5 days off sick a year. Unfortunately, not that much of all this sick leave is due to violent assaults (we've still got a lot of work to do!) though it could be said that much of it could be due to a widespread fear within the old bill of getting a good kicking.

But not only is your average pig skiving off sick, he's also a complete lazy and incompetent bastard. They can't even do their job! All studies of police efficiency have shown that

they haven't got a clue (not that we're particularly in favour of police efficiency of course!).

If we did as little work as them and took off as much sick, then we'd be out of the door quicker than you could say "old bill".

This doesn't mean of course that we're against people calling in sick or dosing around - in fact, we think that it's great. The more time off sick, the less work done: that's the trick.

SLAVERY

It's one little way of getting back all that which has been stolen from us. If we are going to have to slave for a living then we might as well make it as bearable as possible.

Obviously, we want a lot more than the right to phone in sick regularly - like the right not to have to continuously struggle to survive.

But in the meantime we might as well do it as much as possible. After all, if such utterly unproductive parasites as the police can get away with it, why can't we?



Sir Ian Maurice Gray Prosser might be smiling now—but what he doesn't realise is that he's about to drink a pint of piss donated by his grateful employees... Prosser is better known to workers at Bass breweries as 'Prosser the Tosser'. I can't think why. I mean, he's not a jumped-up little shit who's just given himself an 18% pay rise to a massive £595,000... is he? And, surprise, surprise, after years of sly backhanders to Tory party funds, Prosser also got knighted in the New Year Honours. Which nicely rounded off 1994—a year when he made over 5,000 workers redundant, scrapped the annual Christmas party for company pensioners, and gave himself a 'performance-related' bonus of £144,000. Scumbag. I bet he doesn't drink Carling Black Label...

OLD BOYS JOB CLUB

No 6 in a series of jobs you're unlikely to be offered

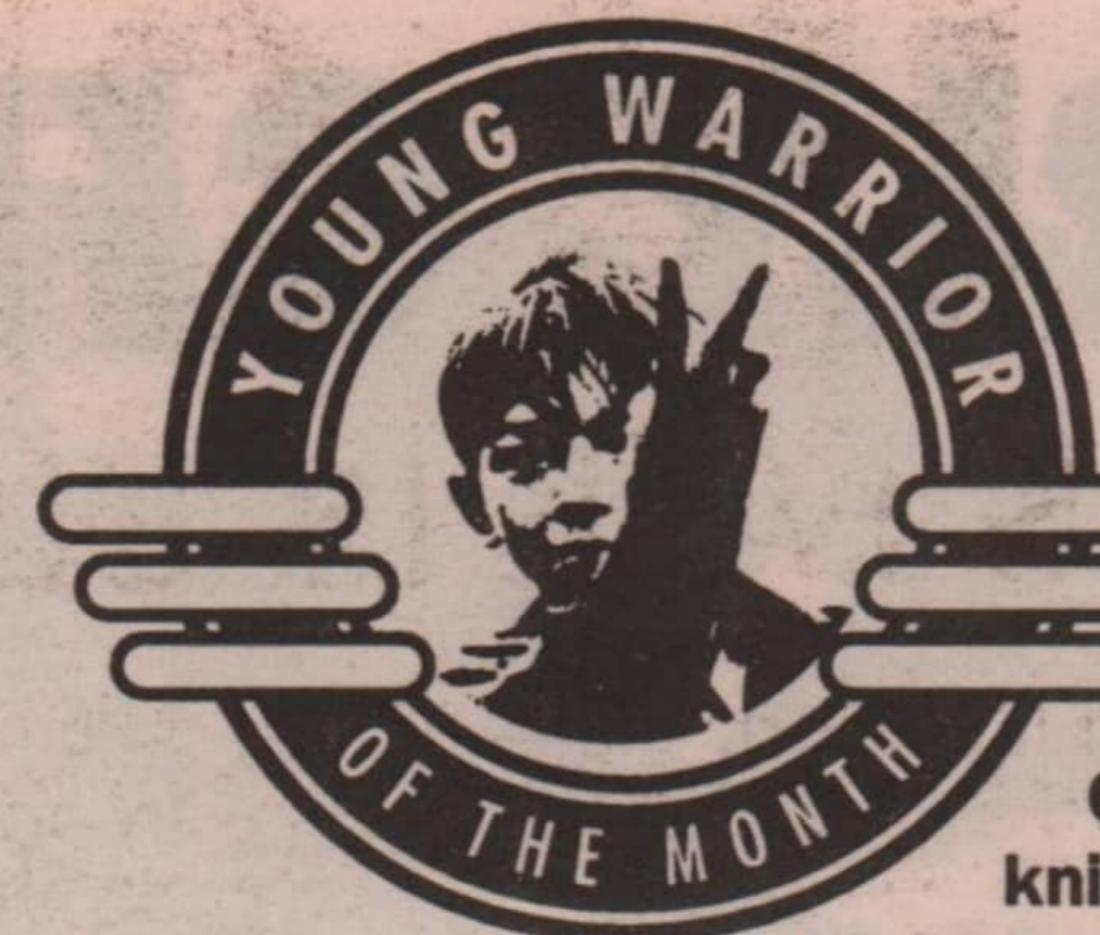
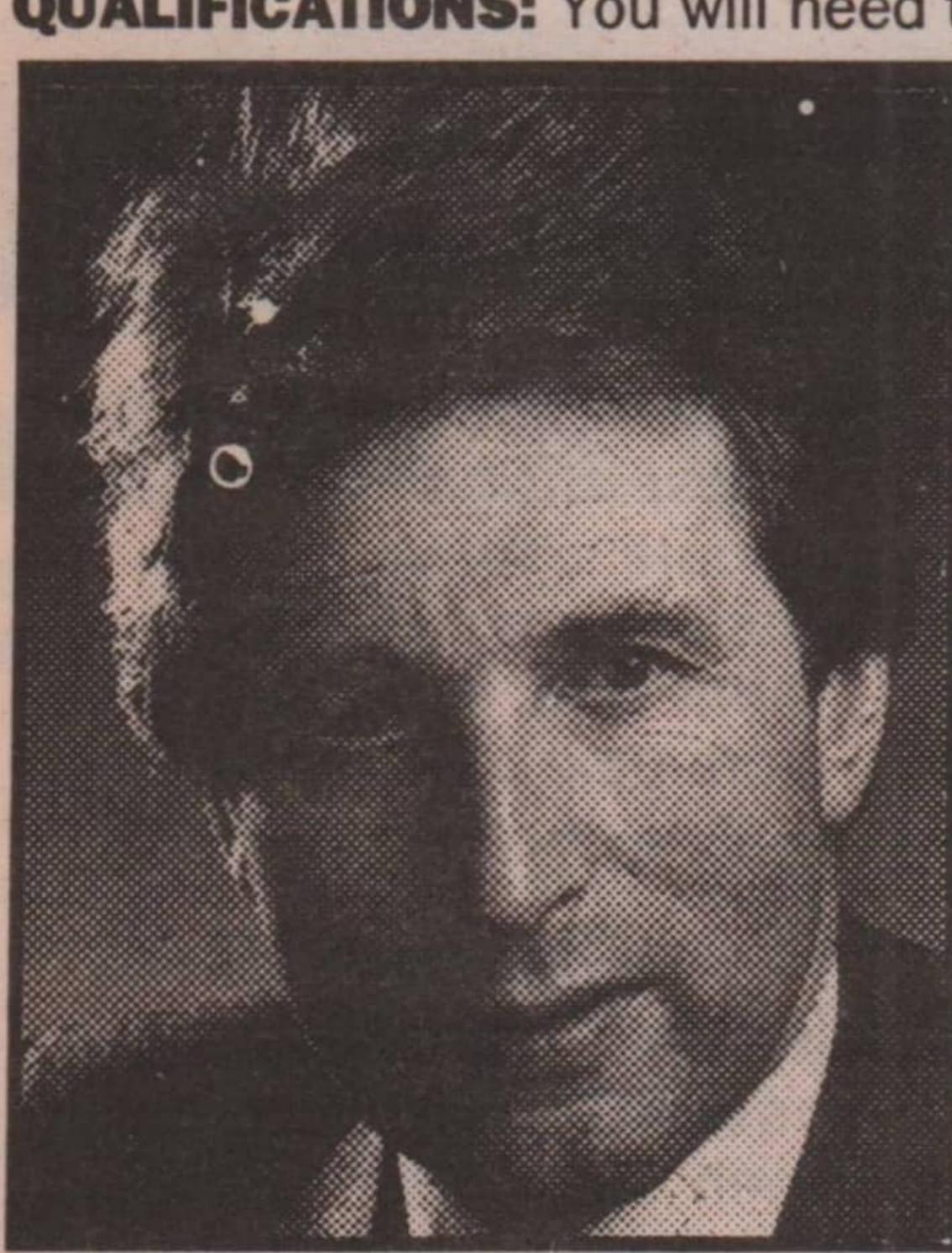
TV JOURNALIST called DIMBLEBY

QUALIFICATIONS: You will need to have an extensive family background in TV. You should have at least one brother called David working in TV as well as a father who spent his whole BBC career sucking up to the Royal Family.

EXPERIENCE: Public school in Surrey; member of the exclusive Vanderbilt Racquet Club; close friends with every Tory shit you can think of (William Waldegrave, Chris Patten etc); best mate of Prince Charles.

SALARY: For doing Brian Walden's old job—an hour long programme once a week, interviewing the rich and powerful—you will only receive £125,000 a year. To make ends meet, you should be prepared to write books and make films about complete strangers... like Prince Charles, Chris Patten and every Tory shit you can think of. With any luck you'll make at least £1 million in publishing deals and serialisation rights (and that's not counting royalties from book sales). You should aim to spend this on making more films and writing more books about friends in high places. That way you can make sure that your pampered children get an equal chance to carry on the family tradition.

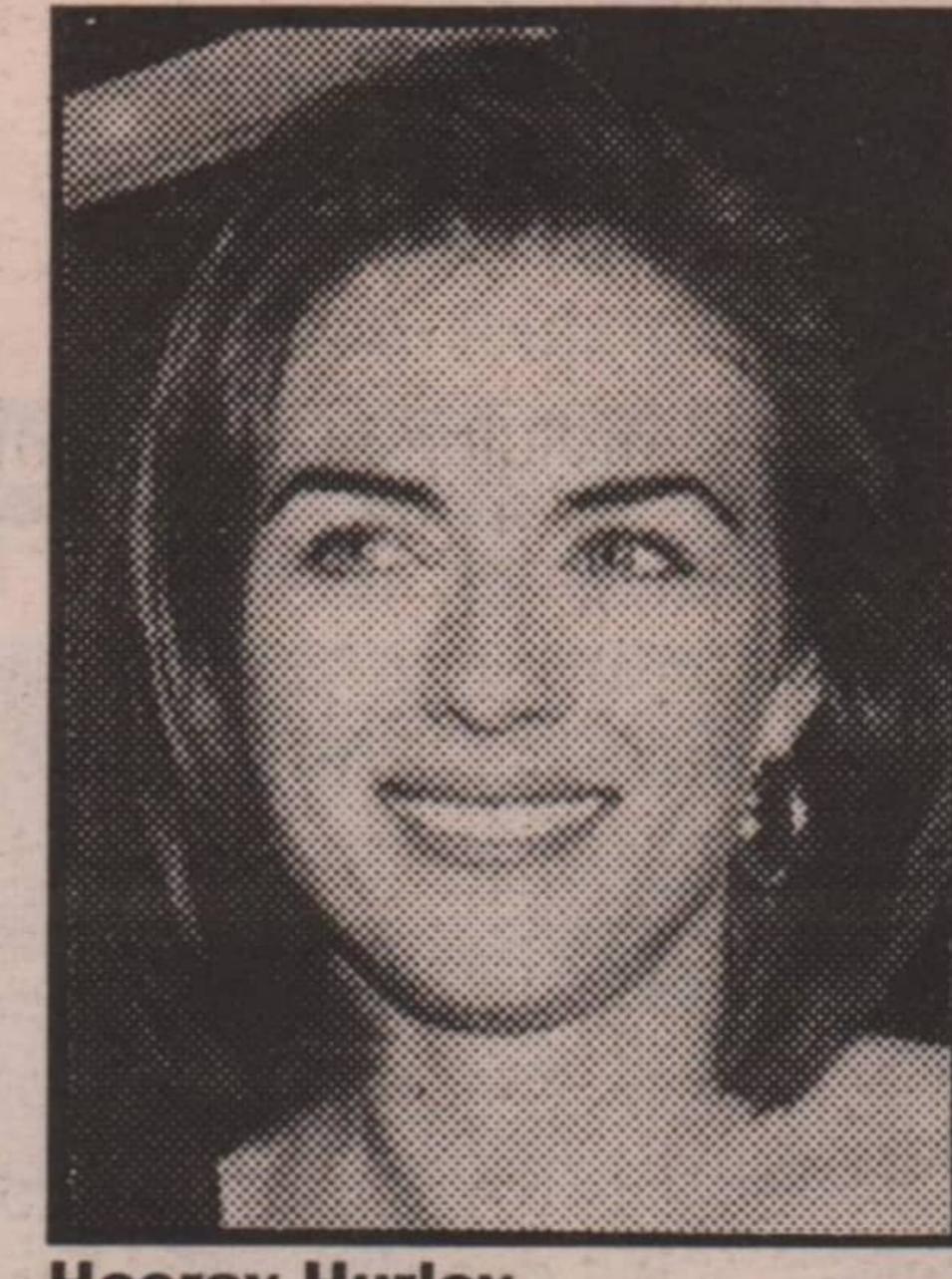
Post presently filled by Jonathan Dimbleby



Now I'm not normally keen on armed robbery in the street, but this time I've got no complaints. Let's face it, Liz's main claim to fame has been (a) getting her face in the papers for going out with poncy actor Hugh 'Four Weddings and a Plum in My Mouth' Grant and (b) getting her face in the papers for attending a film premiere in a dress that cost almost as much as a new hospital wing.

She's talentless, toffee-nosed and a total waste of space. As far as I'm concerned she got off bloody lightly... when I get hold of her, it's gonna cost her a lot more than a handful of notes.

After ploughing through a bulging mailbag, the *Sally Skull* jury has unanimously decided that this month's prestigious *Young Warrior* award will be shared by four enterprising (and anonymous) teenage girls. At the end of last year they did the whole world a favour when they came across actress Liz Hurley in Chelsea, West London and relieved her, at knifepoint, of her cash.



Hooray Hurley

"The whole protest movement is composed of decent, ordinary, middle-class people."

Animal rights activist Mrs Anne Baker-Smith explains why protesting about the export of calves for veal is no substitute for full-blooded class war

"Calling a woman a slut is really a term of endearment."

Underneath Kevin Costner's Hollywood Nice Guy image beats the heart of a 100% Hollywood Wanker

"Bugger the next election. What difference is it going to make if we have Clarke or if we have Blair... I cannot tell you my contempt for those shits."

Labour MEP Ken Coates finally wakes up to what we've been saying for years

"I am not a cabbage." David Blunkett MP shows the kind of intelligence we've come to expect from Labour's Shadow Education Secretary

"There is no God-given right for any person to decide to be idle and to live off others."

...unless you're a top boss, a member of the Queen's brood, or just one of Michael Portillo's well-heeled mates

"I compare it to prison. The beauty therapists are all like prison warders. You don't have to think for yourself."

A smarmy guest at the luxury Ragdale Hall health farm, where a two night stay will set you back over £200

"I have to balance a safe staffing level against something that is unsafe. You can always be in danger of going over the top."

Roy Smith, governor of Everthorpe Prison, puts his foot straight into his mouth: with over 120 prisoners currently on the run, these days there's no shortage of people going over the top

"I don't really believe there is such a thing as a true homosexual. It's a name we give to an arrested emotional state."

Jeremy Marks, the leader of an evangelical Christian charity which "aims to turn gay men straight". Class War aims to turn religious bigots like Marks into dog food

FULL TOSS

Ex-Pakistan cricketer Imran Khan is the latest sportsman to suffer from the Justin Fashanu Syndrome. Fashanu made a prize prat of himself by coming out as a squeaky-clean Christian Tory. Now Imran Khan has proved that he's also two stumps short of a wicket by becoming a born-again Muslim.



Aristocrat and tosspot

Not so long ago Khan was a jet-setting playboy, partying with the rich and famous in glamorous nightclubs all over the world. Now he's spouting reactionary religious crap, saying "The West is falling because of their addiction to sex and obscenity". With the backing of the former head of Pakistani intelligence, this aristocratic shit even seems to be setting himself up for a career in politics. It's been a short and dangerous journey from fast bowler to fundamentalist bollocks...

DICK BRANSON

As everyone knows, it's brown trousers all round for cops in the UK these days. Hardly a day goes by without the poor little lambs getting a battering in one way or another. Nothing new to us there, you might think.

But when American cops heard this, they were horrified and decided to practise some good old ruling class solidarity. Las Vegas cop Lt Dennis Cobb



Scumbag Shami Ahmed

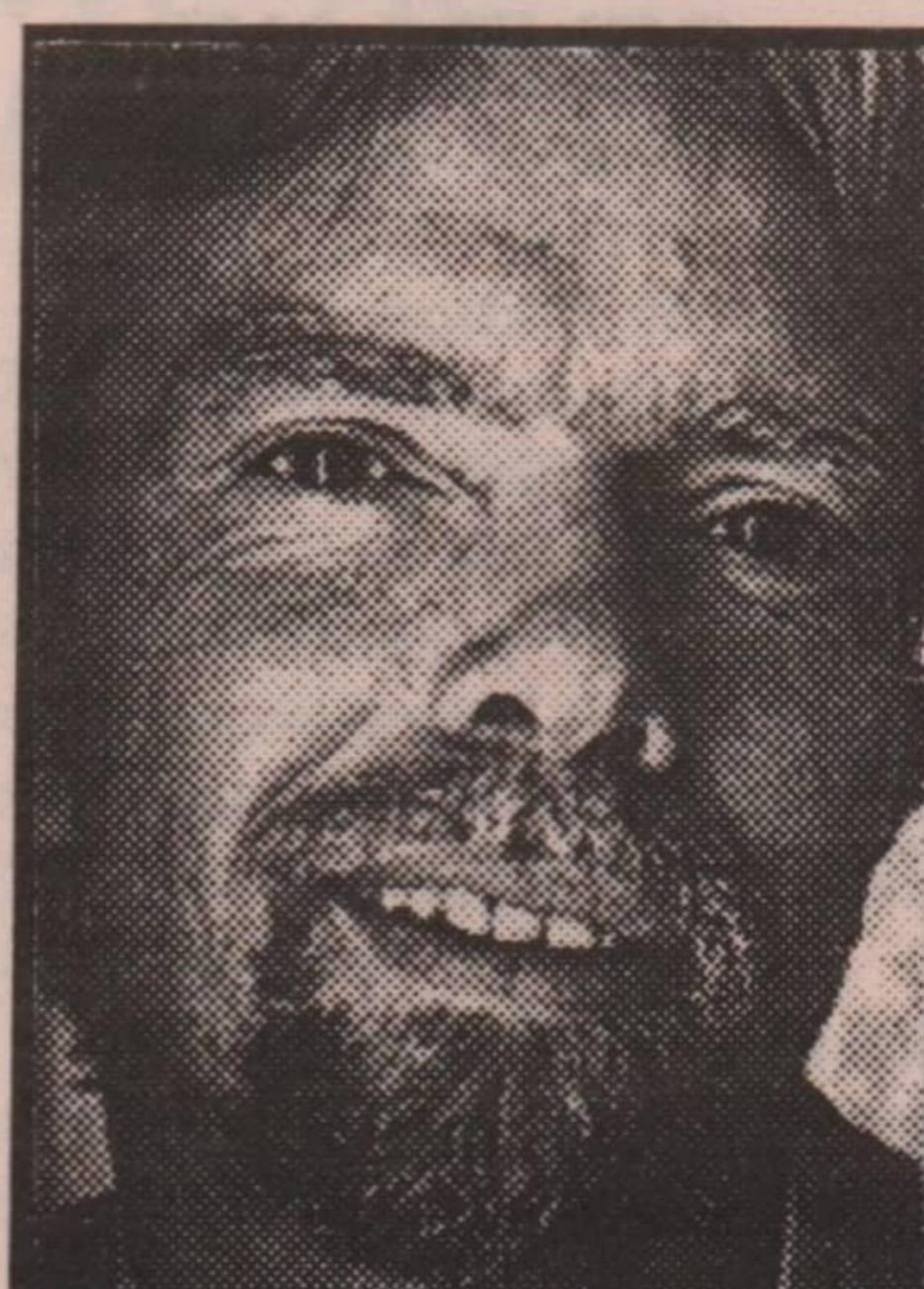
LITTLE SHIT

He's 32, drives a "simple" Bentley Continental and he's already worth £45m. Shami Ahmed is the boss of jeans company The Legendary Joe Bloggs Inc Co and he's one of the new breed of little Tory shits. Ahmed boasts that "I'm not actually very good at figures. I just like pressing the keys and seeing £29.99 go up." In eight years Joe Bloggs has exploded from being a tiny backstreet clothing firm to a multinational fashion empire with a turnover of over £30m a year.

So where does it all come from, this wealth? And where does it all go? Is Ahmed a Boy Wonder with a golden touch, making millions to plough back into the community from where he gets his ideas? Is he shite?

The answer is pretty simple: "We are creators, not manufacturers. We think up the styles, then have them manufactured by other people." These "other people" include prisoners at Walton jail in Liverpool. Instead of making mailbags, inmates there get the privilege of cutting out Ahmed's fabric patterns and making them up for just £8 a week. With that pittance you have to work five whole weeks before you can afford the cheapest shirt in the Bloggs range. So much for 'streetwise' fashion...

Needless to say, Ahmed denies that he's a leeching bastard, using sweated labour to line his own pockets. This maggot has the cheek to say "we view it as more of a charitable investment, although we would be delighted to see a profit in a few years." Prisoners at Walton tell a different story; they say they'd be delighted to see Ahmed and his cronies for a few minutes to give them a swift lesson in exploitation and class violence.



set the ball rolling by sending his own bullet-proof vest to a copper in

Glasgow. Since then tons of US body armour has been donated by police departments across the States. Problem: how to get this stuff across the Atlantic? Step in Richard Branson, everyone's favourite arsehole. Every week he flies it into the UK, free of charge, on one of his Virgin Airways planes.

Three cheers for Mr Branson? More like three swift blows from a baseball bat. He can wear as much body armour as he likes, but this prat's days are truly numbered.

CONFFLICT IN CHECHNYA

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S FATE IS SEALED IN GROZNY

The eruption of the conflict in Chechnya is yet another result of the chain reaction of fragmentation affecting the ex-Soviet empire.

Chechnya declared independence from the Russian Federation three years ago and began to exercise control of the oil reserves under the Caspian Sea with the co-operation of Russian officials.

With the Russian economy in trouble, and social tensions rising, Yeltsin decided to divert attention from these problems by reigning in the rebel Chechen republic and restoring national pride through a war. But the medicine has only made the patient more sick.

The initial military campaign was badly planned and

used badly-trained young conscripts who soon refused to fight the smaller but stubborn Chechen fighters. Splits began to appear in the Russian army commanders and Yeltsin himself took control of the unfolding slaughter of civilians and the relentless bombing of Grozny.

Clinton gave Yeltsin the green light to protect the Russian Federation's territorial integrity, calling it a purely 'internal affair'. The West still sees him as the best hope of bringing Russia further into the market economy. But the European powers were soon complaining about human rights, threatened economic sanctions and froze a huge trade agreement with Russia. The International Mon-

etary Fund is also considering halting a \$13bn stabilization loan which could be used to fund the conflict.

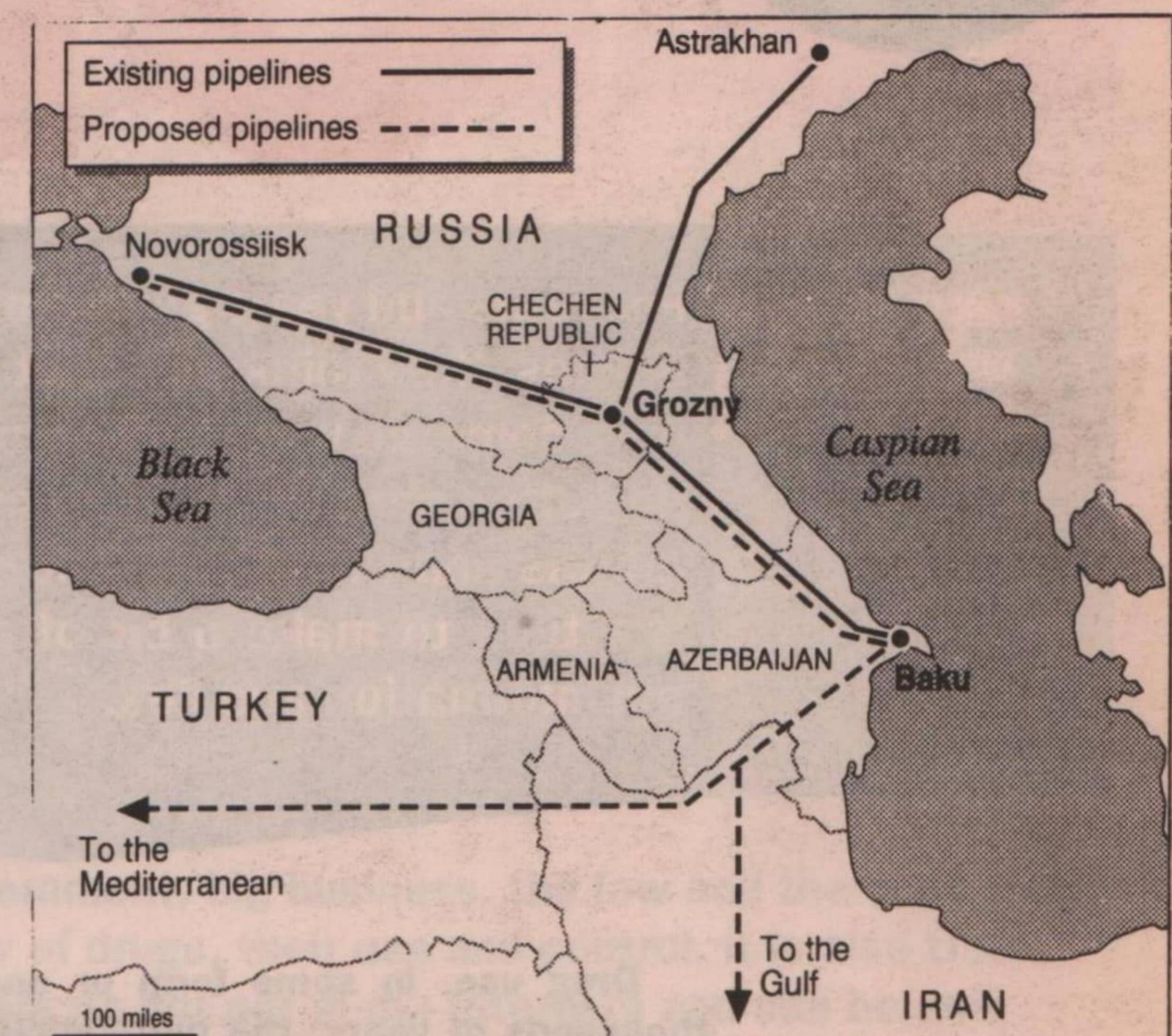
The conflict in Chechnya holds the seeds for the complete unravelling of the reforms brought in by Yeltsin. The Russian economy is in crisis. The war in Chechnya is costing it \$30 million a day and if it continues into the spring the whole economy is most likely to collapse under the strain. Public spending would be slashed, inflation would rocket and the money invested by west would go up in smoke. The ensuing political crisis would lead to the fragmentation of the military and loss of central control of the massive nuclear arsenal.

Eastern European coun-

tries such as Poland and Hungary are also alarmed at their neighbours return to militarism as a way of solving disputes. They have called for the rapid expansion of NATO eastwards to give them protection but Russia has clearly stated this would cause trouble for the region at the CSCE conference in December.

The war shows not the advance but the desperate weakness of Russian imperialism. Russia's drive to remain a great power forces it towards war to halt the disintegration but can only make the situation worse.

So once again we are faced with the question only our class can answer "socialism or barbarism"?



Grozny once stood at the centre of a vital oil network

THE BATTLE FOR BOSNIA

IMPERIALISTS FAN THE FLAMES OF WAR

Nowhere has the hypocrisy of the new world order been more revealed than in ex-Yugoslavia. From the beginning of the war the great powers have portrayed their intervention as 'humanitarian' while behind the scenes they continue to make the situation worse.

Yugoslavia was a Soviet-backed federation of regions held together by the discipline demanded by the cold war. The collapse of the Eastern Bloc led to its rapid fragmentation in 1991. Germany encouraged the independence of Croatia and Slovenia to increase the German state's sphere of influence and give it access to the Mediterranean.

In the same year, Serbia declared independence and its army invaded neighbouring Croatia. Russia, Britain, France and the US backed the Serbs to teach the Germans a lesson. Then, in '92 the Serbs moved into Bosnia to complete the task of uniting with Serbian derived forces (as they had done in Croatia) and declare a Greater Serbia. Unable to make a reliable ally out of the traditionally Russian and French-backed Serbs, the US saw an opportunity to gain a foothold in Europe and combat Russian ambitions within Serbia so they switched sides to support the independence claim of the Bosnian government.

Little effort was made by the UN and NATO to intervene directly in the conflict while all this manoeuvring was taking place. Serious splits were opening up in these organisations because of the shifting alliances. A series of peace plans and ceasefires were made and broken rapidly. The Bosnians were encouraged by the UN negotiators to make the best of a bad situation, cut their losses and accept a negotiated settlement. But they remained intransigent. Strengthened by US support they re-organised and carried on fighting, clawing back lost



territory. The UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), supplied largely by Britain and France, was limited to the 'humanitarian' task of protecting aid convoys and suffered several embarrassing set-backs at the hands of the Serbs.

THE BIG STICK

Within NATO, the US tried to flex its muscles as the world cop by demanding the 'big stick' tactics used in the Gulf War - the lifting of the arms embargo on the Bosnian forces and the use of air strikes against Serbian lines. These calls were rejected by the British and French who had troops on the ground and were intent on sabotaging American ambitions. At the end of May '93 the main powers signed the Washington Accords confining the UN and NATO to a 'humanitarian' role

The re-entrance of Russian imperialism on the world scene, combined with the American's new found confidence, in no way re-creates past Cold War 'stability'

and limited air strikes. These could only be asked for by the UN Secretary General who opposed them and the Clinton administration suffered a serious set-back in its ambitions. Bombing raids were only grudgingly used in Sarajevo, Gorazde and Bihać when UNPROFOR troops themselves were under serious attack.

The US suffered another defeat when a negotiated peace agreement was made for Sarajevo. The British and French gloated at this suc-

cess achieved without the use of the big stick. Realising its weakened hand, made worse by failing to hold together Bosnia intact to create a firm bridgehead, the US concentrated on the creation of the Croat-Bosnian Federation in the south-west (promising them the recapture of the Krajina from the Serbs) and bolstering the Bosnian and Croat armies which the American CIA now basically run.

With the bombing of the Sarajevo market in early '94, and the later attack on Mostar, came the opportunity for the US to go on the counter-offensive, show up the impotence of the European powers, and press for air strikes. These finally took place but the impact was lessened with the Serbs withdrawal under UN Russian observers, so to drive the message home the US shot down four Serbian planes in an exclusion zone that had been broken hundreds of times before. The re-entrance of Russian imperialism on the world scene, combined with the American's new found confidence, in no way re-creates past Cold War 'stability' but increasingly adds to the chaos because they bring with them internal instability and ambitions of access to the Mediterranean. It strengthens the atmosphere of 'each state for itself'.

The isolation of the Bosnian Serbs from their Serbian parent-state has also made things worse. Like rats trapped in a corner they have

GANGSTERS

The situation as we enter 1995 does not look good. The current ceasefire is breaking down and the new US Republican majority are becoming louder in their criticisms of the Europeans and in their calls to lift the arms embargo and bomb the hell out of the Serbs.

Add to this the Russian veto in the UN of a resolution criticising the Serb offensive in Bihać, and their refusal to have the war mentioned in the document ending the December CSCE conference, and the match moves closer to the dynamite. The UN sees this and is using the current ceasefire to get ready for any necessary evacuation of its troops.

INSTABILITY

So what of the future? It's pretty safe to say that things won't get any better. If the Bosnians accept the peace plan this would not send out signs of peace. The Serbs would say that 'might is right' and would soon be looking to expand again. If the UN pulls out the war would intensify and inevitably drag the US

SOMALIA

ANOTHER COWBOY JOB

The second act of the new world order was the American-led Invasion of Somalia named 'Operation Restore Hope'.

Although the rains have returned bringing a bumper harvest, Somalia is sliding back into chaos. The rival gangs have returned to the streets of Mogadishu to terrorise the local population. So much for restoring hope!

The 1992 invasion and following aid programme cost over \$2 billion and the lives of 36 soldiers and thousands of civilians. The remaining population saw little of the money and aid. The US troops left in May '93 after failing to line up their chosen puppet Aideed and his National Alliance Militia to form a government. The UN 9,000 strong force has started evacuating

the area already and the last troops should leave at the end of March. The retreat is being hampered by the rival factions and 30 UN troops were taken hostage in January.

The NAM and rival militias have already resumed sporadic gun battles and are preparing to fight it out for the vacated port, airport and UN compound. Some of the local population are fleeing the area to the relative safety of the rural areas.

Operation 'Restore Hope' is another embarrassment for the UN. Hope is the last thing that has been restored. As the General Secretary of the NAM puts it, "Their policy was the 'new world order' and it failed. We were the testing ground and they failed. They tried everything, and everything is failing."

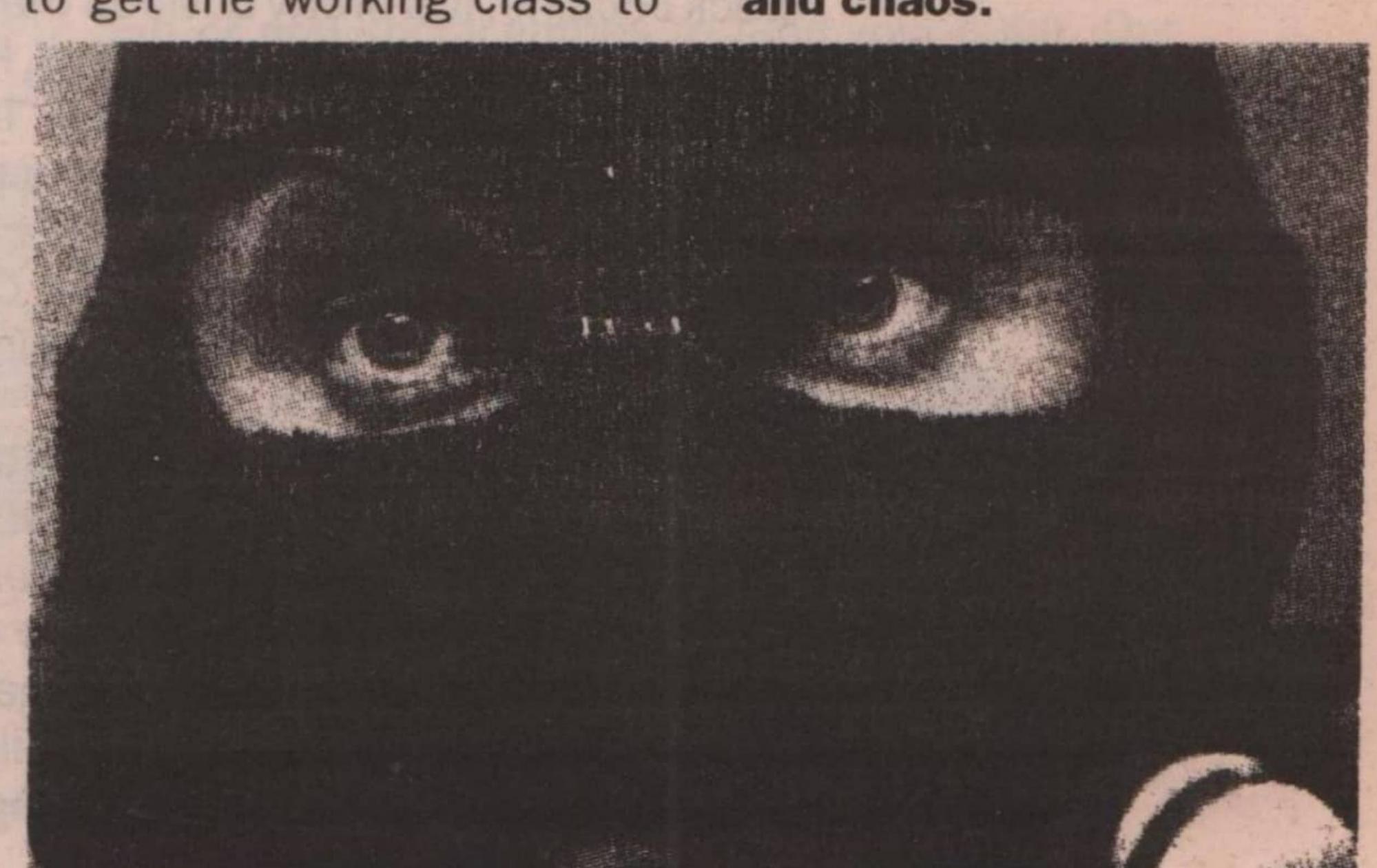
and Russia into direct conflict. All imperialist tensions would be raised to a much higher pitch and the chain of conflicts would spread since all states are imperialist.

Some might ask 'why is it relevant for the working class to understand these shifting imperialist alliances?'. First of it tears away the illusions put about by the ruling class that they are acting in 'humanitarian' ways to solve mere 'ethnic conflicts', that the 'international community' is working together to bring peace and stability. Nothing could be further from the truth and this facade is dropping the more these rivalries intensify.

Secondly, by presenting these illusions they are trying to get the working class to

support their actions and leave the terrain of the class struggle. By revealing imperialist rivalries we are showing once again that the working class has no interest in supporting any fraction of the ruling class and that only by waging the class war at home can we show our solidarity with the victims of these conflicts.

Capitalism is wrotting on its feet and is dragging down one country after another into a spiral of chaos and war that threatens the survival of all humanity. Capitalism is at an impasse. It contains no hope for humanity. Only the working class can show the way out by destroying capitalism and creating a world society free from war and chaos.





taking
the wraps
off drugs

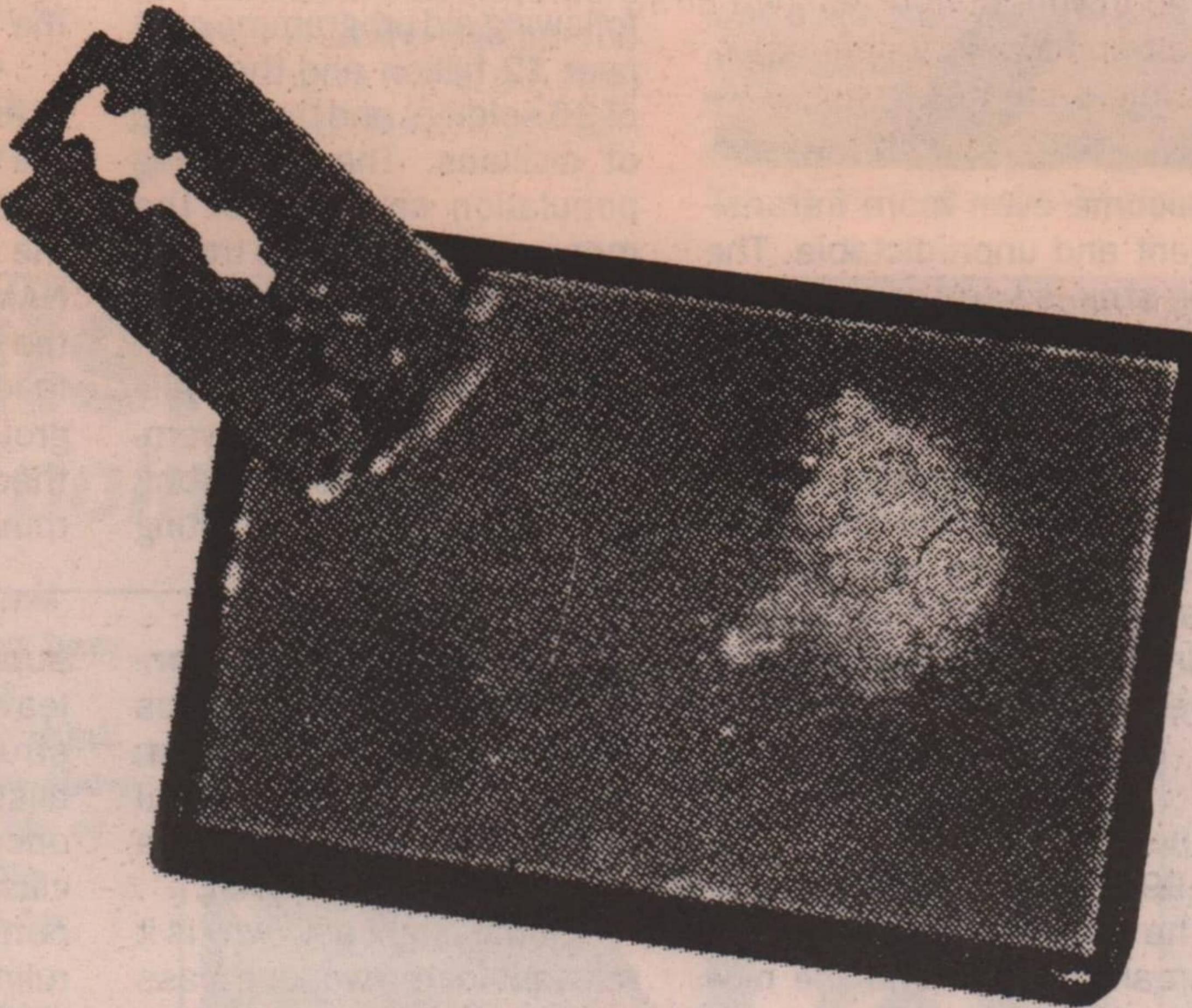
SMACK! CR

For years and years governments, the press, the TV, hippies, 'free thinkers', doctors and drug companies have come out with conflicting, sometimes laughable, and often dangerous, statements about drugs: their effects and the people who sell and use them. It's time to make a bit of sense of this jumble of misinformation and lies.

Drug use, in some form or another, has been with us for thousands of years: the cultivation and use of cannabis, opium poppies, alcohol etc. Contrary to the ridiculous stereotypes put out by the media, drugs are not simply just used by weirdos and the hippy elite; they are widely used by most age groups and sections of society. They are a part of modern day life, whether we like it or not, and they are likely to stay that way. So, let's cut the crap and have a sensible discussion on the subject.

All types of drug are currently available to anyone who wants them - probably at an extortionate price, and of a low quality, whether prescribed by your local GP, administered in a hospital, or bought in the pub or club you use. This makes a complete comedy of the media debate on whether drug legalisation would "open the floodgates" to crime, prostitution, child corruption and anything else unpalatable they can come up with to win the 'law and order' vote.

What the government and State really want is to keep control. They drive amateur criminals underground and it is they who get caught, from time to time, and have their assets seized, possibly doing a spell at her majesty's pleasure. The only people who do, literally, make a killing out of drugs being illegal, are the Mafia, the Triads, the drug squads, customs officials and, of course, the huge drug companies and breweries like Procter and Gamble and Ceiber-Geigy. Not forgetting to add all their friends in business and government. The one thing these outfits have in common is the desire to make a fat profit, whether by legal or illegal capitalism.



MEDIA HYSTERIA

Government propaganda is based along the lines of "just one puff of a spliff and you'll become a junkie rent boy and catch AIDS". This isn't really believed by anybody, but its effect is to disinform, to confuse us about what drugs are, their effects, what and how much is OK to take.

The hypocrisy of encouraging a nation full of valium addicts and alcoholics, all perfectly legally, while pulling out all the stops to portray bug-eyed ravers and travellers, totally off their heads and a danger to us all, is part of an intended policy of drug control, that is based on social control and profit, rather than giving a shit about the lives most of us have to lead, and the artificial escape some of us take by using drugs.

While surveys say that 1 in 10 North Americans have tried the drug crack cocaine, it's pretty obvious that the majority of these people are not drug crazed, gun-toting lunatics. However, importing this idea, and the media frenzy that goes with it, from the States, makes it all too easy to point at young people especially, having a good time and say: "There you are, they're all nutters on crack/smack/ecstasy...all the more reason to push through the Criminal Justice Bill". A Bill, incidentally, that is all about social control and nothing to do with drug dealing or consumption.

The establishment has painted itself into a corner with its own propaganda. It cannot admit that it has spent decades ruining people's lives and wasting taxpayers' money lying to the public.

Drug prohibition shows us very clearly that government, and its medical technocracy, deem us unable to make our own decisions about our bodies and our lives, while their policy is to try out any old pharmaceutical on us. Valium is highly addictive, as is methadone,

the drug prescribed to people coming off heroin. They are both highly dangerous, have horrific effects when you stop taking them, and can kill. However, they are legal and huge taxes are paid on them to government. For some perverse reason, this makes them suitable to launch onto us, while cannabis, not exactly a killer at all, remains a legal no-no, whatever the likes of Paddy Ashdown or some top cops have to say on the subject.

Again, the name of the game is control, under the guise of moral rights and wrongs. The establishment's moral argument in itself is pretty stale: it wasn't some shady back-street dealer who put thalidomide on the market, after all.

CENSORSHIP

Alcohol is the drug responsible for 50% of domestic violence, over 20% of child abuse and 25% of emergency medical admissions. Along with tobacco and tranquillisers, alcohol causes infinitely more suffering than drugs like ecstasy and LSD. The fact that the State very definitely prefers us to buy and use one set of legal 'downers', while totally condemning other illegal drugs, says a lot about their mentality and their motives.

"...The authorities prefer a situation where the only meeting places is the pub. By the time you've talked your way through the problem you're too drunk to do anything about it."

Banning certain drugs makes sure of three main things: 1. They become ridiculously overpriced; 2. They have generally crap quality; and 3. There is very little adequate information about what they are, what they contain, how to take/experiment with them.

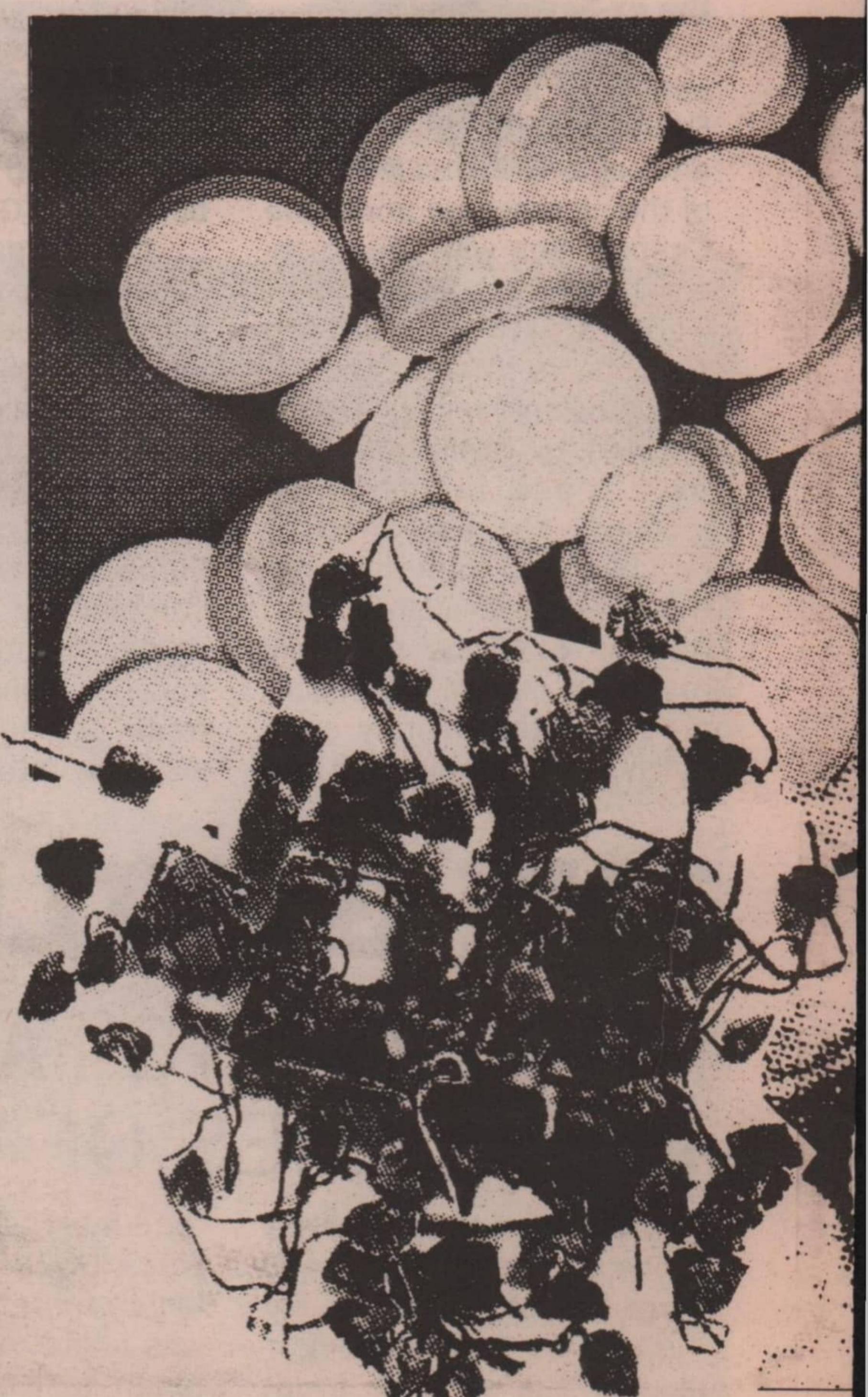
Ecstasy is a case in point. It costs 34p per tablet to produce. LSD costs 10p per dose to manufacture. But 'E' sells for £10-£15 per tab. You may be lucky and get some actual MDMA (the drug it's supposed to be), but any old shit is used to produce pills for the market and turn a fast buck: the veterinary anaesthetic, ketamine, amphetamine sulphate ('speed') or something powdered up and used as a space filler, like aspirin or glucose.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary's, "drugs war" has very little to do with taking scummy or violent drug dealers off the streets or reducing anti social crime. Nor has it anything to do with providing us with an informed choice about drugs. It is about law and order and keeping us where the politicians' morality wants us to be. "Get pissed and pay the tax, but we'll nick you if you want to get stoned." It is as daft, brutal and hypocritical as this.

DRUGS WAR

It has been known for years that the police use the drug laws to harrass young people, ethnic minorities and those they suspect of being part of a 'counter culture'. To compare, in Holland, cannabis is legal and in Thailand you can order a magic mushroom omlette in a restaurant. Neither of these countries have experienced a breakdown in the sanity of their populations, or a rise in anti social crime because of this legality. But where drugs are illegal, the police have a vested interest and powers to raid your home. Only recently, Stoke Newington police in London were seizing drugs from one dealer, fitting up another and flogging the drugs to unsuspecting punters. Likewise, it's well known that if you happen to know certain Customs officials, you can get cheap decent quality drugs and no questions asked.

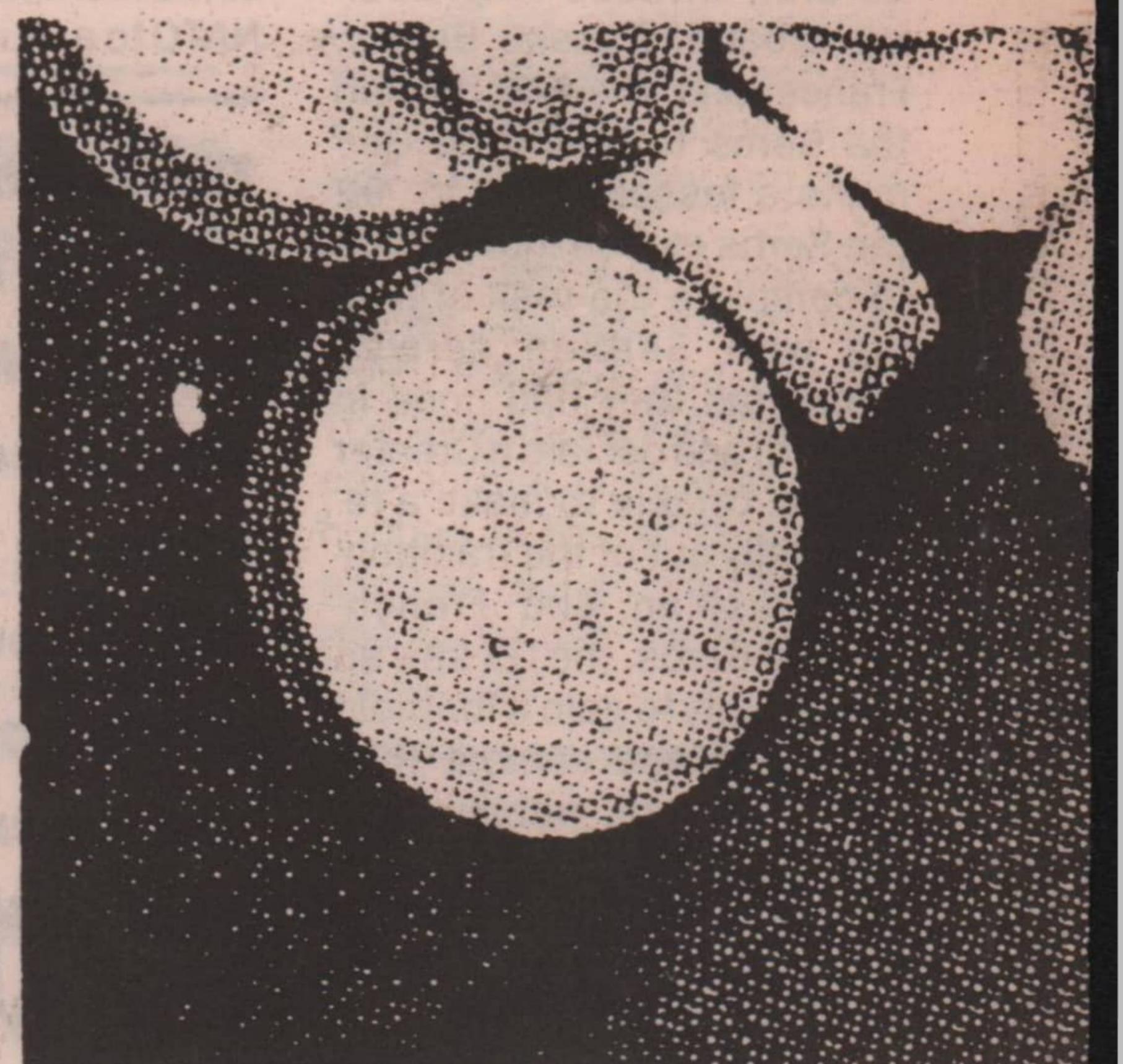
The social and economic situation in which people buy and sell drugs is carefully overlooked by the bosses and lawmakers - for every token smackhead or glue sniffer that gets hauled through the courts for burglary or



other "drug related crimes", there is a right wing 'newspaper' ready to pounce, ranting and raving about 'lawless youth', 'irresponsible parents', 'lack of proper values' or any other shock slogan they can use to effectively blame the working class and 'criminal gangs' and to carefully gloss over the facts: most cultures throughout history have used drugs and ours is no different. Many (working class) people have to live in hideous conditions brought about directly by the class system and its screwed up economy.

OPIUM OF THE PEOPLE

If these people choose to use drugs as a light relief and temporary escape it is understandable, almost logical, given the shit world capitalism has created for us. At least, it



would be logical if drug use increased class consciousness and the struggle for a better world. Unfortunately it rarely does, however much 'insight' and 'goodwill' some druggies claim they get from their chosen drug(s).

We aren't suggesting that we should all make an informed choice, find some finest quality cocaine, snort it up our hooters and wash it down with some mescaline syrup. Drugs are not an answer to any problem, social or political and their use can be dangerous, in various ways.

Just as psychotropic drugs are used in mental institutions to sedate and vegetate 'difficult' people, sweeping them cruelly under the carpet, many people use drugs as an

CRACK! WHIZZ!

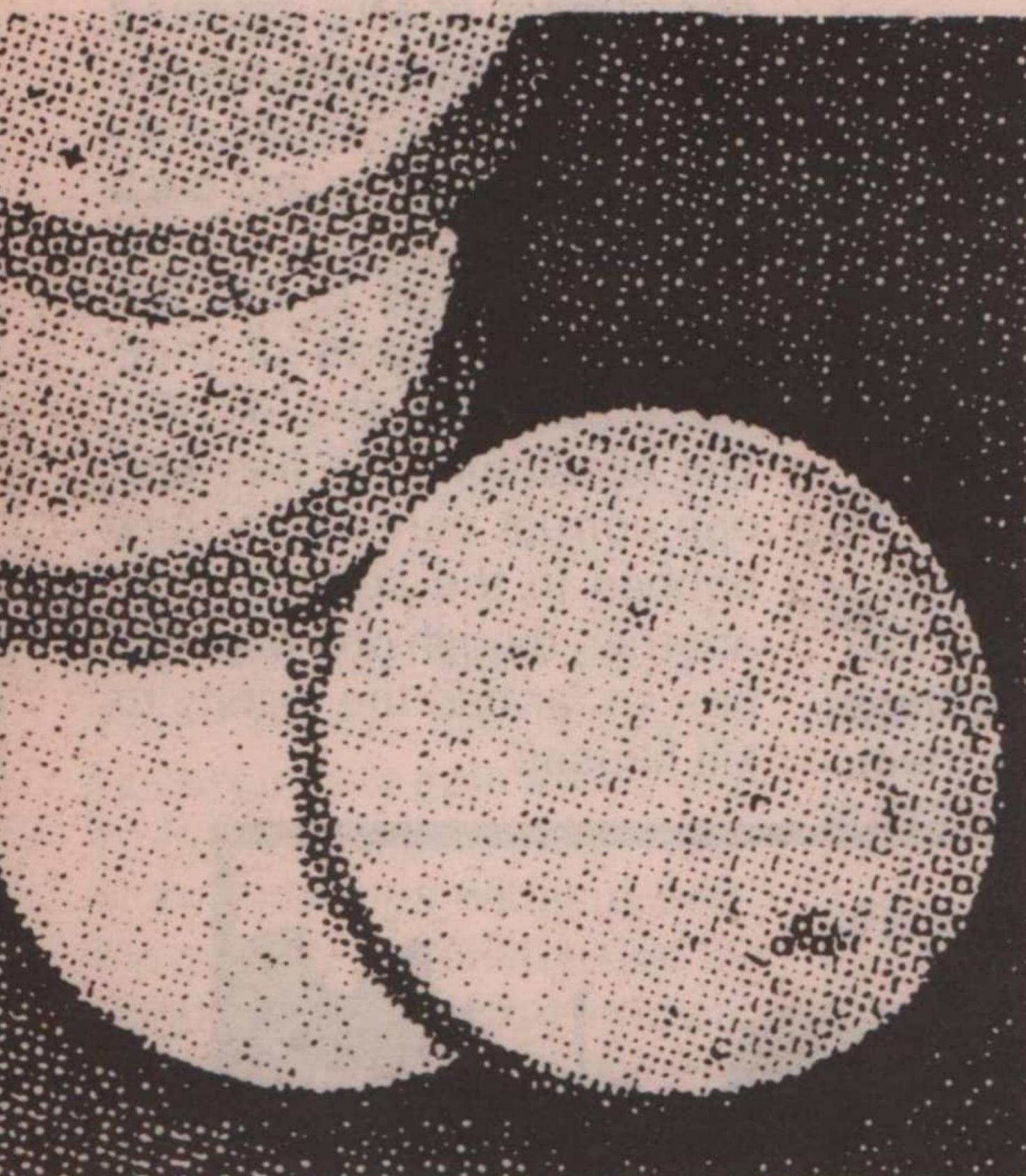


escape from social alienation and in fact sedate themselves.

As long as you pay your taxes and don't use up too much of the State's time or money, being sedated is a place they'd like you to be. You are, after all, no threat.

However is is true that the majority of people use drugs with a bit of common sense and few ill effects, leading healthy, fulfilling and constructive lives.

BUT, others spend a lot of time off their heads. When people are regularly off their heads they are at best a pain in the arse, and at worst exhibit signs of mental health problems or do anti social things. However irritating or stupid this may be, if there weren't so many lies and so much hypocrisy concerning drugs, people may well be able to avoid



getting in a complete mess with their drug use.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

So why do we use drugs? Could it be because the world we live in isn't exciting or rewarding enough? Or that many of us are made to feel socially alienated and useless?

Or that many of us try to relieve the stresses of living under capitalism and wage slavery with a few smokes, a couple of pills or a few pints?

We think that yes, the above is true; and it won't be until we create a better, fair, world

SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

While it's obvious that government, big business, the law and the cops retain a corrupt and hypocritical view of drugs, their use and control, it is also true that some drugs and some users do not act in our interests and can be anti social if not dangerous.

DRUG CONTROL

The way that the State uses drug control works in many different ways. Some of the most dangerous and addictive drugs are encouraged. Their use, whether legal or not, can screw up the user, mentally and emotionally; cause serious money problems and destroy families and friendships. People under stress, with problems caused by the world we live in, a capitalist shit heap, are sometimes too desperate or unaware to swallow any old bullshit their GP, pub landlord, dealer or psychiatrist serves up. Rather than supporting people in overcoming the difficulties they face, the medical profession finds it very easy to prescribe barbiturates and tranquillisers. The same goes for 'drowning your sorrows'. Prescribed drugs or alcoholic drinks will not solve your problems: they will knock you for six and make you feel that maybe the problem isn't all that bad; they can also cause addiction and an inability to deal with day to day life - they make the problem worse and make you less able to deal with it. They can also make you dependent on what the State will provide - a dangerous situation in itself!

TOTALLY MENTAL

A lot of users say that drugs help you 'forget yourself'. Whether life is miserable and you choose to obliterate your feelings with alcohol, smack, trangs etc. or whether you've had mental health problems and have had prescribed psychotropic drugs like modicate injected in your bum or pushed down your throat, the results are the same: you forget yourself and slip into a lethargic haze. This is to be avoided at all costs and solves no problems: it creates them for you and your class.

BAD GEAR

Until we are in control of our lives and can freely make the choices we want, if we do take illegal drugs, we have to know about their strength and their effects. There is no room for moralism here; it's quite simple: if a drug benefits you and does you little or no harm, with you in control of it, then that's a fair choice. If you develop a habit for the 'nasties' like heroin (smack, browns) or crack cocaine (rocks) then the chances are that unless you're a child of the rich (and plenty of them have terribly sadly overdosed recently), you're likely to take up some anti social crime to fund your habit - robbing off your own class, mugging, etc. You can fuck up your family and friends into the bargain. People who get into this state are not 'expanding their minds' or 'experimenting'. They are screwing up their heads and their bodies at the expense of those close to them.

It must be common sense that it's better to get help than a drug habit, however self destructive you feel, or whatever a shit hand capitalism has dealt you. The follow-on from this is that if you're drug dependent or off your head a lot, you won't be very useful in destroying the class system that has caused your problems in the first place.

THE WRONG VEIN

Like we said, we should know about the drugs we're taking: whatever bullshit glamour is attached to some drugs, they can turn you into a useless wreck.

Apart from using stuff like LSD (acid, trips) too much and staying permanently in cloud cuckoo land, there are very obvious dangers with injecting drugs. The most common drugs that are injected (shot up, jacked up, banged up) are heroin and amphetamine sulphate (speed, whizz, Billy). Using needles isn't a very clever idea: you may get the immediate hit and a maximum effect from the drug, but you are at risk of seriously damaging your body. Both heroin and speed have ageing and damaging effects on your vital organs, the liver and brain in particular.

Obviously, the dangers of sharing needles, sharing illnesses (HIV+, hepatitis etc), and overdoses are real.

Building up a drug habit that means you're using needles in mentally unhealthy and may well put you in the addict category. It's been said that at this stage, you're not taking the drug, the drug's taking you. The drug becomes less fun and so do you; you will be a pain to your family and friends; you can end up with serious mental problems; acting like a wanker; and you may find yourself resorting to daft or anti social crimes to fund your habit. Our advice is DON'T use needles, and don't use heroin. It's not as good an experience as it's made out to be anyway.



FURTHER READING

- 'Drugs' - Arthus Moyse. Phoenix Press. ISBN 0948984 12 0
- 'LSD - A Total Study' - Dr Siva Sankar
- 'LSD Psychotherapy' - Dr Stanislav Grof
- 'Here and Now' issue 14. £1.20 + large SAE from PO Box 109. Leeds. W. Yorkshire LS5 3AA
- 'E is for Ecstasy' - Nicholas Saunders
- 'The Mushroom Grower' - Agarikon Press. From Compendium Books. Camden High St., London NW1.
- 'Pihkal' - Alexander and Ann Shulgin (from Compendium Books)
- 'The Essential Guide to Growing Marijuana in the British Isles' £3.50. + large SAE from 'Head'. BM Uplift. London WC1 3XX

LABOUR, TORY - OF THE MINERS

The mining communities struggling to survive the closure of the pits or those having to come to terms with the newly privatised industry had a few more things to think about just before Christmas.

The first was the official hand-over of the industry from "nationalisation" to private coal owners. Following on from that came the bare faced announcement by Mr Blair, leader of Her Majesties Loyal Opposition (opposition to what), that he would under no circumstances be renationalising the coal industry. If he had a chance to come to office.

CHALLENGE

Finally came the exposure by *Guardian* journalist Seumas Milne, in his book *The Enemies Within* and also in the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme, of the deep involvement by MI5 and other secret service forces in covert actions to defeat the miners and discredit the NUM and its leaders.

We can note here that although much of the Anarchist left see no revolutionary

potential in rank and file union struggle, the State is not so myopic and actually targeted the NUM alongside the IRA as the two insurrectionist organisations in need of their attention and counter insurgency measures (read the book). How are these events linked as clearly they must be?

The connection lies in the States perception of mining communities as working class bodies most likely to make an all out challenge to their authority.

Christ knows they have had plenty of experience of the miners and their families taking up the challenge and doing all sorts of illegal and "non constitutional" things over the last three hundred years. Including on numerous occasions armed insurrections and acts of "violence and riot" even down to the 1984/85 strike.

Thatcher saw the miners as "Enemies Within" against the "Argies and IRA" who were the enemies without. Indeed the State spent and lost more revenue in its war against the miners than it did in the Falkland war (around £20 BILLION).

It was this perception of the miners as a revolutionary force, and a vanguard sector of the whole of the working class which forced Labour to Nationalise the mines at the end of the Second World War.

Not that this form of State control was what the miners had aspired to. Miners for centuries had demanded workers direct control of the mines, free fuel for the people, and safe democratic control of the industry.

HATED

Nationalisation, in the form it was introduced, was a sop to the more radical plans of the pitmen themselves. Miners grumbled that "same gaffer's behind desk" and it was true, many of the hated managers of the coal owners remained on as hated managers of the NCB.

Many of the coalowners carried on with a life of Riley as hefty compensation was paid out year by year, decade by decade, for pits which had long since closed. But nationalisation was a step forward, it marked the industrial muscle of the miners. It brought in far reaching unmatched

safety legislation and welfare provisions making it the safest mining industry in the world.

The despotism of the old owners, for the proceeding centuries, had been marked by monumental slaughter and virtual slavery of the workers. By contrast, same old gaffer's or not, the world was not the same in terms of health and safety and collective bargaining.

The power of the miners as a national force increased with the creation of a single industry and a single union. It was to become instrumental in the smashing of Tory pay restraint in 1972, and then the government itself in 1974.

The government was turned out not "constitutionally" by the ballot box, but the power of workers on the streets and solidarity blocking action right across Britain.

SCABS

Labour, coming to office against this backdrop and with the miners still on strike, desperately sought to disarm them so that neither they nor the Tories could again be brought down by industrial action.

This set in chain a number of covert plans, by BOTH political parties to first weaken and then destroy the Miners Union. The whole rigmarole of the strike breakers, the scab trucks, the special Police forces, the surveillance, the expansion regardless of cost of Nuclear Power etc. was set in chain.

With it too came Labours reintroduction of contract work, imposed over the top of countless ballots and high court appeals on an unwilling workforce.

Labour conspired with the NCB to break the unity of the miners by recreating wage and earning differentials. Not least those favouring Not-



Stella Rimington head of MI5.

tingham and the Midlands against the rest of Britain, and thus creating the fault lines through which the Tories, when their turn came, would build the UDM and the scab operation.

The story of the epoch struggle of 1984/85 has been told before, but what must never be lost sight of is the clear admissions, now, that we came within a Gnat's bollock of winning.

"Thatcher saw the Miners as Enemies within"

A second victory for the miners and the working class movement who backed them,

against the forces of the State, again on the street and not through the election of a political party at the ballot box, was terrifying for BOTH political establishment parties.

It's the reason why Kinnock lined up with so many dubious and shady characters to derail the miners offensive. It is the reason why, despite our defeat in the strike the NUM was still seen as too strong, and the dirty tricks department of MI5 assisted by Kinnock, Maxwell and the *Mirror* set up the "sting" story about slush money and back handers.

The aim was to rob the miners themselves of their class standing and dignity. The allegations fell flat, and one corrupt conspirator has bobbed to the surface after another, though only Maxwell has so far had the dignity to kill himself.



Mining communities take on the State.

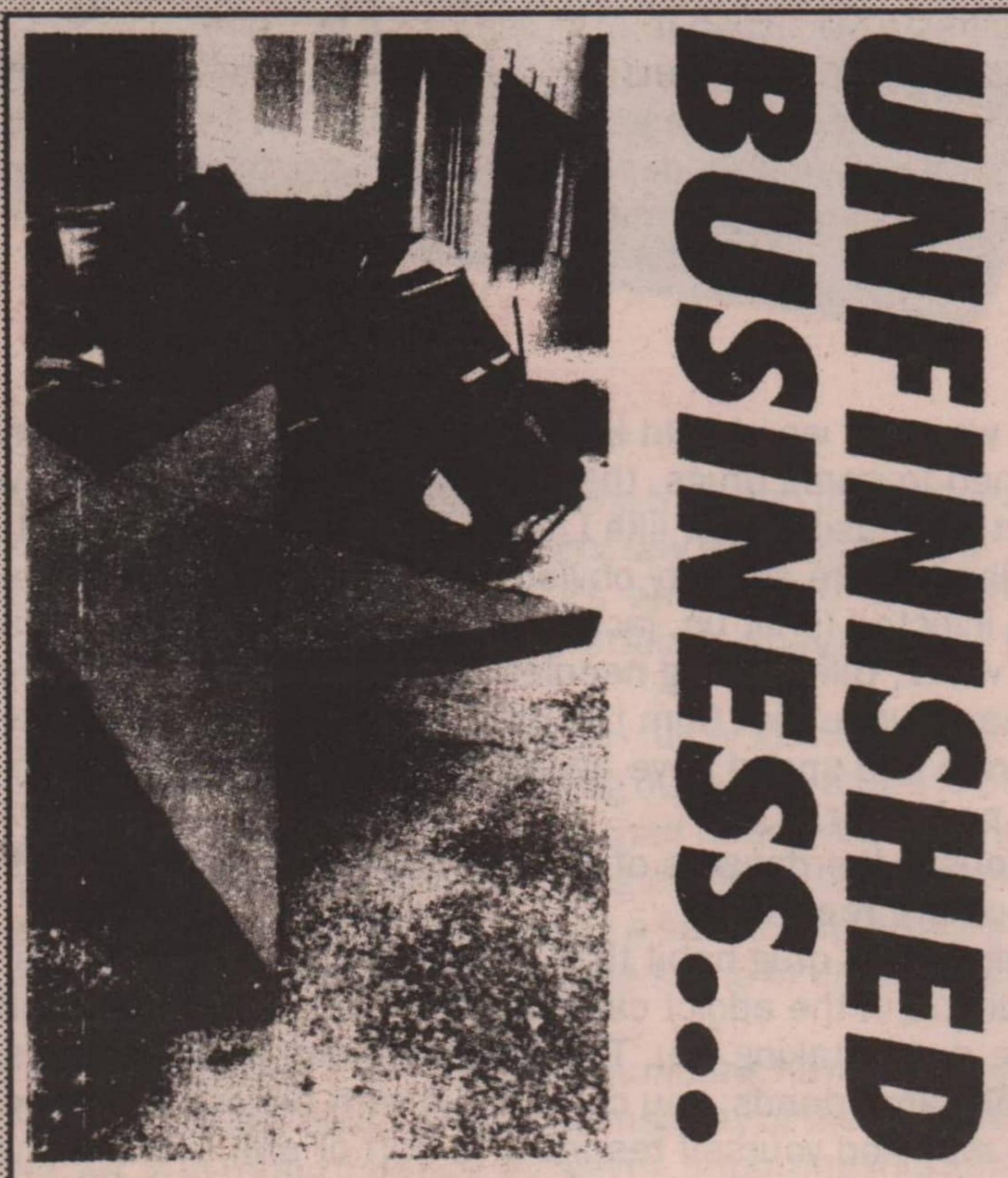
UNFINISHED BUSINESS the politics of class war

As the Left in Britain and elsewhere cry into their beer over the failure of their plans, we in *Class War* think it's about time to throw their methods into the dustbin of history and return to the basics. We argue here for the recreation of an independent revolutionary movement within the working class, inspired by the best traditions of unity and solidarity. This is our unfinished business.

WHAT THEY SAID...

"Statement of political intent from Britain's only credible revolutionaries... relevant, thought-provoking, often amusing..." THE FACE

"...Reveals a thoroughly reactionary disdain for the whole theoretical and practical struggle... to build a mass party capable of smashing the State and overthrowing the capitalist system". THE WORKERS' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY



the politics of Class War

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ENEMIES

Privatisation marks a defeat for the miners insofar as we didn't have the strength left to stop it.

Arthur Scargill, and some others, believed Mr Blair and his colleagues would give us it back by renationalising the industry, giving back our bargaining power by turning the generators over to British Coal, and repealing all the anti-union laws.

Seriously comrades, does anyone imagine that after turning heaven and hell to help smash the Miners, capitalism's reserve team, the Labour party, are going to equip us with a nice set of shiny hob nail boots so we can kick them right in the boulders again, for that most assuredly is what we would do.

"There is a growing resistance by ordinary people, in their own communities to all forms of State control and authority."

This is CLASS WAR and there are some features which are fairly certain in the way it's played. The only way we would ever get it back is if we were strong enough to take the whole caboodle, lock stock and barrel, without the approval of Parliament.

The power of the miners in industrial terms is broken. It's a bitter pill to swallow and many will not do so. But that doesn't mean the inspiration and political consciousness of the miners as communities with a long history of anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarianism cannot fire the souls of a thousand diverse struggles such as we see breaking out right across this island.

The attempts to stop the murdering bastards with their Veal calves, for example, would be assisted by an experienced miner with his paint injected egg-bomb to splatter on the truck windshield, which blinds the driver, and can't be wiped off.

CONTEmPT

Likewise we would know not to wait at the dock itself but a mile down the road with a good bevy of iron ball bearings and a "Black widow" catapult.

There is a growing resistance by ordinary people, in their own communities, to all forms of State control and authority. The pointer is swinging back to working class direct action.

Blair and his Labour leadership have shown nothing but contempt for the working class and in particular those voters who have always put their trust in Labour.

Increasingly it will be these people, the very best of Labour's traditional supporters who will stick two fingers up at the whole political circus. It's been a long time coming, but this is the real political change we can look forward to 1995.

The growth of libertarian revolutionary alliances at work, and in the communities in general and around single issues.

We have much to look forward to despite MI5, Stella Rimington and that whole bucketful of slime monsters that occupy the room at the top, Mr Blair is more than eligible to join them.

David Douglass, NUM Branch Delegate Assistant Secretary, Hatfield Main, (blacklisted unemployed and victimised for the last 12 months) Class War Colliers and the I.W.W.



SELL CLASS WAR



Earn extra cash, and help to do your bit in the war, by flogging *Class War* to your work/school mates, neighbours, friends etc.

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

Also available £1/£2/£5 packs of the current front cover flyposters in A2 from the same address.



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**



0272 870050



LETTERS

WE PRINT'EM COS YOU WRITE'EM

STAR LETTER ANIMAL REICHS

Dear Class War

The letter in CW 63 from Shalra of California, attacked me for my way of life, via the usual barrage of animal rights gobshite, where does she get off?? What the fuck gives her the right to tell me how to live my life? I won't take it from social services, the government and definitely not from food fascists.

I have a family who I love and want to look after to the best of my abilities. I will do everything and endure anything to make sure that life is a bit more bearable for them.

The "struggle" for animal rights is just sentimental, elitist clap trap, it is a pointless movement which involves some very dodgy people, including a number of neo-fascists. It is the typical domain of privileged kids who feel that they have to be fighting oppression, despite never having been oppressed themselves, just another middle class guilt trip and a whole bunch of philosophical wanking.

I am not a "hard man" but I realise that while a rabbit or a deer is a marvel of nature, when the dog hits it, it's just meat plain and simple.

I know where my meat comes from, it ain't macho, it's natural and I am responsible for it all. If some folks can't stomach it, don't eat it, but don't start telling me that NOT giving the landlord a pain in his pocket will make it better. I cost him £3,500 last year, maybe more, and I'll carry on with it, it feeds me, I can sell it, it hurts the rich wanker's pocket and it gives me entertainment.

Go on any council estate in the country and you'll find a few blokes with lurchers or working terriers, hunting is a big thing with a hell of a lot of unemployed geezers, it's free food and a good laugh.

Finally if these people don't want to hunt the "bunnies", how the fuck are they gonna deal with stringing up the rich?? Ronnie Lee of the ALF has stated that fascist animal libbers should be welcomed into the movement as animal liberation is all that matters. In short "Shalra", the animal rights movement has fuck all to do with the class war. DON'T VOTE!!

Mick - the Class War Poacher, Barking, Essex.

CW Reply:

While a lot of your criticisms are quite accurate, you can't dismiss all animal liberationists as middle class wankers.

A (large) proportion of these activists hold, or come to hold decent class politics and many take animal rights on board as an extension of their already egalitarian and libertarian politics. And, many would have no qualms about stringing up and gutting any fascist!

A TOUCH OF CLASS

Dear Friends

I would just like to offer the steam from my piss to all fellow anarchists out there who hate anyone remotely connected to the middle class. The working class comprises 75% of the population and is capable of single-handedly overthrowing all state machinery and completely smashing the capitalist system.

But for this to occur, the working class needs to be united, and the capitalists use such tools as racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism etc to MAKE SURE THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN. Yet when the revolution happens what the fuck are you going to do? Hold someone at gun point, consult the "Penguin Dictionary of Sociology" to find out if they're middle class or not, and then put a bullet in their heads??

I've been told by a friend that I am bourgeois (note correct spelling) just because I smoke cigars and have a CD player when this friend knows full well I was brought up by a single parent who ended up

peeling spuds for a local farmer to make ends meet.

No matter what class a person is from, if s/he is genuinely committed to kicking fuck out of this stinking, miserable, decadent system, I will consider this person as much a comrade as those who will march in combat with me during the uprising. They may have the guns but middle class or working class we've got the numbers, and, when we actualise our aspirations and build a society based on equality, freedom and expropriation of resources there won't be any classes left to pigeonhole people in. So it's a bit stupid whinging on about it now isn't it?

Yours in comradeship, Andy, St Ives.

CW Reply:

Class War does not believe that everyone who is not working class should be put up against a wall (though it's tempting sometimes) and indeed has some middle class members who are good activists (but not too many!). Our position is that the revolution is the task of the workers as a class and not some middle class intellectual party/leadership. What you have to realise is that only a section of the middle class will come over

to the side of the revolution, the rest will remain the reactionary lackeys they've always been. As for working out what class someone is, if in any doubt, consult your copy of 'Unfinished Business'!

NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE ANARCHISTS!

Comrades

It is of course easy to see the rationale and justice in our own particular sexual options and practices, those of others seem bizarre and perverted, simply because they are not the people, sexual genders, age group or practice which turns us on.

Class War's particular hang up is the age of consent. On a number of occasions you strongly imply that people under the "age of consent" should not have sex with whoever they want to. The last edition qualifies that young people "naturally" have sex with one another, but sex with adults is only conceived as being the

result of bribes, power or threats. This is just plain and simple bigotry and means young people below the age of the state's legal consent CANNOT in fact truly "consent". What utter nonsense.

You cannot deem to make decisions like that on behalf of young people, those decisions they must and do make for themselves. ALL sexual relations of whatever age or gender can be manipulated, and subject to abuse in no case can these be said to be freely consensual at ANY AGE. Likewise, it is perfectly true that SOME young people may on occasion quite consciously and freely decide to engage in sex with adult(s).

Whether you like it or not, and one frequently defends sexual practices and options which are personally repugnant, that is a right for both parties which we must defend. Age of consent laws, like most laws, are not there to protect young people, but to deny them the right to choose freely and practice their sexuality with whomever they choose. One would have thought Class War would be at the forefront of that defence not perpetuating narrow minds and repression.

Frank, Sheffield.

GRAFFITI COMPETITION



The tanner this time goes off to Andy from Wigan for that short, simple and very sweet message - remember to send all your entries to London CW, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX - if it's printed, you get a tanner!

NATIONAL WEALTH SERVICE

Dear Class War

In issue 65 "Taking more than a Liberty" it was like a breath of fresh air to realise that someone had the bottle to expose medical abuses in the NHS.

Unfortunately, what you revealed is just the tip of a very large iceberg. No doubt Class War readers know about the awful treatment meted out to mental patients in this country (sleeping rough, terrible landlords, victimisation by neighbours etc). But are you ready for the dirtiest cheap labour scam ever?

I attend the mental health department of a major London hospital, the Charing Cross. I'm a patient of the Gender Identity Clinic, since like most patients there I am what the tabloid press calls a transsexual.

The first thing I noticed about the patients there is that there is not one black face amongst them. At my first interview with a psychiatrist there, I was told that they didn't treat homeless people either (but not in front of a witness). I attended hospital for three years after that, but received no medical treatment of any sort.

Then, the top consultant got to the point. They didn't treat unemployed people either. This was a particular blow to me. I had heard about mentally ill people being used as cheap labour whilst I was living on the streets. So I asked

the consultant who referred me to the gender clinic if this was a possibility. In his own words "no one is going to force you to do anything against your will". Now, it doesn't matter what you think of the unemployed, tricks of this sort are just plain wrong.

To get back to the Gender Clinic, however, what this "compulsory employment" rule means is that only middle class careerists need apply for treatment. Think about it, how long do you think a transsexual would last in a sweatshop or a dangerous London building site?

Most strangely, you can only be treated by the Gender Clinic if you first undergo "alternative medicine" treatment. This is only available privately and costs over £3000. Very few people ever actually receive any treatment from the Gender Clinic, most of these are high-profile ones you may have seen on documentaries.

Only once did I personally meet a patient both before and after her treatment. In this case the treatment failed painfully. It makes you think doesn't it? The top consultant has often been interviewed by the media. Occasionally one of the more sussed interviewers asks him about the "employment" issue. The consultant always changes the subject quicker than you can say oestrogen. Keep up the good work. Jennifer, London.

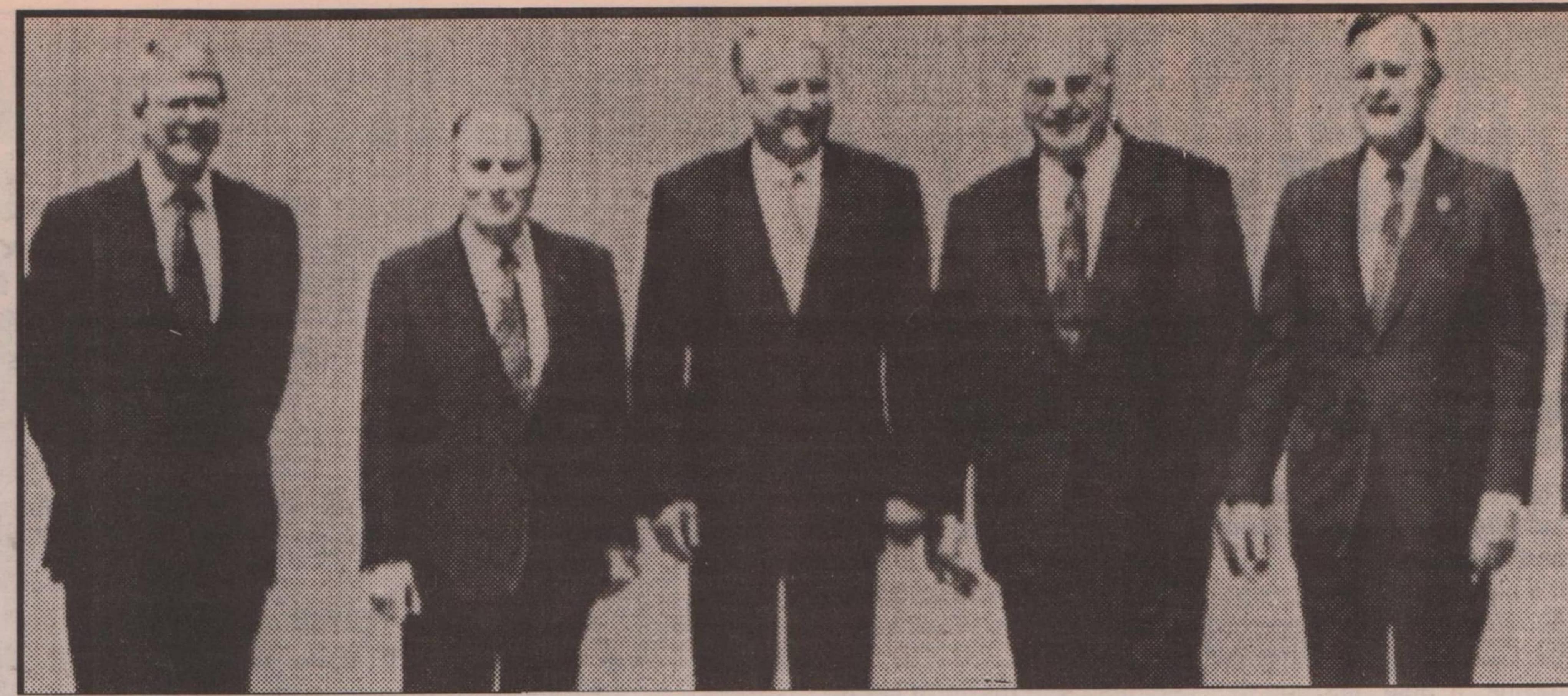
From Bosnia to Rwanda, from Chechnya to Algeria, the media bombard us with images of war, genocide and suffering. The feelings of despair and confusion they evoke are reinforced by the commentaries which spread lies and illusions about how these situations arose and how they can be stopped.

There is a big responsibility on revolutionaries to tackle the lies and illusions spread by the ruling class, give alternative working class perspectives and constantly stress the need for revolution as the only exit to the chaos and war that engulfs humanity. On these two pages we hope to do exactly this. Those who run and hide from grim reality are deserting their class brothers and sisters who desperately need our solidarity and internationalism.

IMPERIALISM

The end of the Cold War was heralded by the Western powers as the dawn of a new era of international peace and co-operation. But as the dust began to settle it quickly became clear that the opposite was true as the Gulf War and the spread of the conflict within ex-Yugoslavia were to show. To make sense of these events it is once again vital to look back into the blood-stained history of capitalism.

At the turn of the last century capitalism was still a relatively young and emerging system that still had frontiers to push back and territory to claim. Each major power had their own colonies to plunder and national economies to expand. The wars and economic downturns of the mid 1800s were merely the growing pains of an increasingly dominant and expand-



The gangsters lined up at the G7 Summit in 1992. Bring forth the firing squad!

NEW WORLD ORDER, NOW WITH ADDED CHAOS AND EXTRA WAR!

ing system, punctuated by the occasional emergence of the working class onto the stage of world history.

Towards the end of the 1800s capitalism began to change, both economically and politically. Many companies began to merge together and cartels and monopolies formed to eliminate competition and rig the market to their advantage. The export of money to developing countries became more vital than the export of manufactures, which put Britain, 'the workshop of the world', at a disadvantage. Finally, the end of the century saw the frenzied acquisition of colonies and eventually the final partition of all of the world's territories amongst the world's great powers. The more capitalist

economies grew in size and multiplied, the more the shortage of raw materials was felt, the more intense the competition and discovery for these raw materials, the more desperate the struggle for a bigger slice of the shrinking cake.

Capitalism had moved from colonialism to capitalist imperialism. The only outcome could be regular periods of mortal combat between the imperialist powers for the re-division of already dominated areas. Capitalism ceased to be healthy and vibrant and passed into an era of decline and senility. Just like previous empires, it had emerged, matured and finally began to tear itself apart. The first world war was supposed to be the last. It would have

been if the following revolutionary wave that rocked Europe and the East had been victorious. Instead the counter-revolution took hold and led to another bloody world conflict which saw the state capitalist Soviet Union return to the imperialist fold.

THE COLD WAR

The decline of Britain as the major power, and the virtual elimination of German and Japanese imperialisms, left room for two superpowers to emerge. The Cold War was on. Armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons, both the USA and USSR began to form their blocs. Conflicts unresolved and problems caused by the world wars were crushed under the weight of discipline demanded by the

two sides. Wars were increasingly fought by proxy. The superpower gangsters got their henchmen to do their dirty work.

The major economies recovered from the destruction of war but towards the end of the 1960s they began to falter. This was accelerated by the re-appearance of the working class on the scene in the wave of strikes and protests that ebbed in the mid 1970s. By now the global capitalist system was deep in crisis which continues to this day.

The pressure of the Cold War was too much for the Soviet economy to take, and five years ago it disintegrated. The discipline the Cold War demanded was lifted and unleashed a situation of

'everyone for themselves'. New nation states declared independence every day and many went to war as soon as possible. Control of nuclear weapons became blurred. Iraq invaded Kuwait but met with the USA's determination to prove itself as the only global cop - a claim rapidly losing belief. The remaining imperialist powers - US, Britain, France, Germany - fell overthemselves to recognise the newly independent states that best suited their interests and to get one over on their rivals.

REVOLUTION

It is this new atmosphere of fresh imperialist rivalries and a decomposing capitalist system that is behind every conflict and international development that we see today. The great powers are encouraging war everywhere. No matter what they say about reducing tensions and restoring stability they can only do the opposite. Capitalism offers no way out of this impasse - it can only drag humanity closer to the brink of total destruction.

Wherever you look the same answer cries out everywhere - the need for the working class, the **only** revolutionary class, to unite and rise up against the forces of chaos and destruction as it has done before.

Capitalism holds no hope for humanity. As the attacks upon us become more intense, the need for a revolution climbs further to the top of the agenda. It is by no means inevitable and will need immense courage and determination. If we don't make it happen we face a future much worse than the present. What better reason is there to get on with it?

INSURRECTION STOPPED GULF WAR

Iraq's 1991 invasion of Kuwait led to the massive allied invasion and bombing of the country 'into the dark ages'. But as the dust of the 'Desert Storm' operation finally begins to settle it's clear that the war was ended by the desertion and insurrection of thousands of Iraqi working class conscripts.

For many years the West had strongly supported the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist Party, especially during the eight year war with Iran. The war drive and militarisation of society had maintained the social

peace, but by the end of the war the economy was in ruins and class tensions were intensifying. Saddam had two options - either force an increase in oil prices to bring in more revenue, or go back to war. The first choice was blocked by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, so his decision was to invade Kuwait and claim its rich oil fields.

The US jumped at the chance of asserting itself as world cop and led the 'liberation' of Kuwait with the initial aim of deposing Hussein and getting a more disciplined puppet installed. Faced with

such overwhelming military force, thousands of Iraqi soldiers - the majority of them working class conscripts - deserted the front and returned north to turn their guns on the Iraqi state. This action sparked uprisings in the south around Karbala and Basra, and in Kurdistan to the north. In Karbala the Ba'athist Party headquarters were torched and several officials hung in a nearby mosque. The media portrayed these uprisings as mere nationalist or religious disturbances but they were clearly working class insurrections. There is a long history of resistance to middle class Kurdish nationalism by the local working class and soon after the war the Ba'athists and Kurdish political leaders were treated with equal disdain.

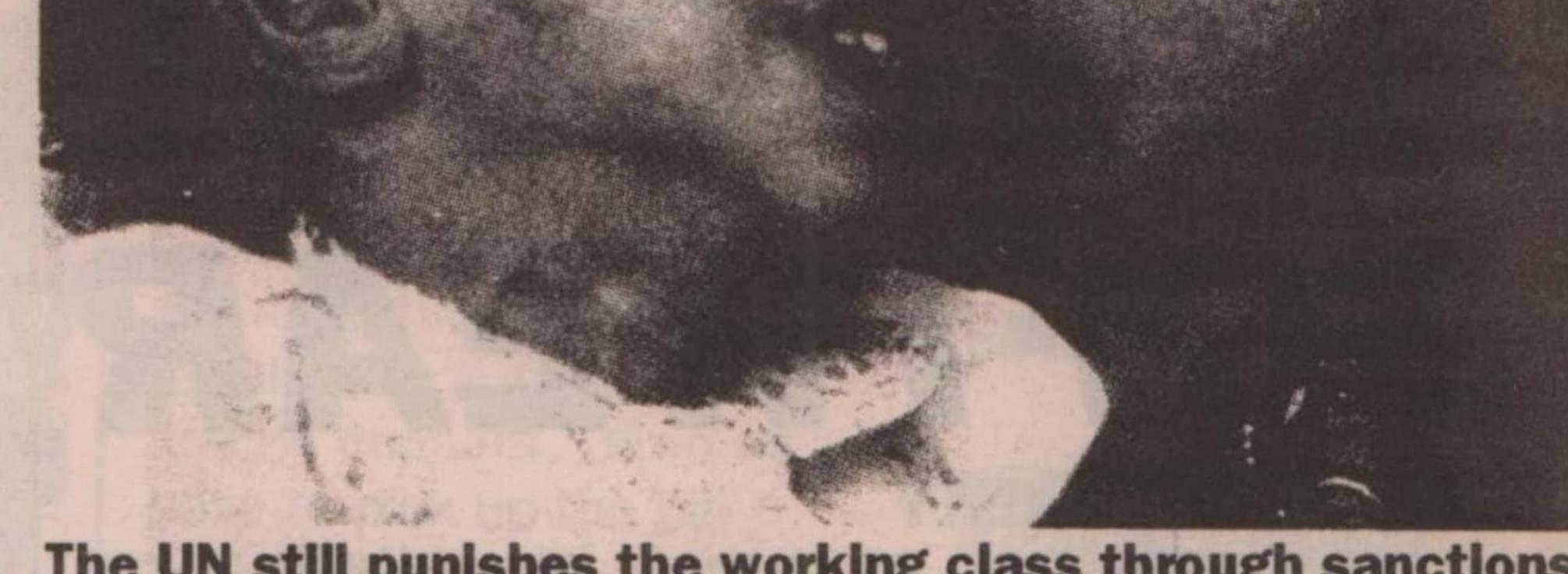
PARTNERSHIP

America watched these uprisings in horror, and with the threat of them becoming established and spreading all over the region Bush changed his attitude to Saddam Hussein realising he was the only one that could suppress the local working class. The two gangsters went into partnership. To the south the USAF and RAF continued the air assault and massacred

the returning mutineers on the road to Basra in order to save the Iraqi state from destruction.

All plans to crush the elite Iraqi Republican Guard were shelved and they were allowed to finish off the remaining insurgents. During the ceasefire negotiations the US insisted on the grounding of all fixed wing aircraft but the use of helicopters for counter-insurgency were permitted for "administrative purposes". In Karbala and nearby Najaf 16,000 rebels were killed or had their ears or hands and feet chopped off.

Once the southern uprising had been quelled attention was focused on the north where the uprising had become more established. The western-backed Kurdish nationalists, with a long history of assassinating class struggle militants and compromises with the Iraqi state, did their best to support Saddam's regime by disarming returning deserters and returning them to Baghdad to be arrested to prevent the revolt from spreading. The Kurdish nationalist radio station also exaggerated the threat posed by the presence of demoralised troops still loyal to the government and advised



The UN still punishes the working class through sanctions

people to flee to the mountainous border regions where many of them starved and died.

The war was ended by the refusal of the Iraqi working class to take part in an imperialist conflict and the following insurrections. They were defeated by the combined efforts of the local and international ruling class, and once again nationalism has served as a stumbling block for working class revolutions.

CONFUSION

The war not only resulted in the defeat of the Iraqi working class but also revealed the confusion and low combativity of the American, and to a lesser degree European, working class due to the disorientating effects of the collapse of the Eastern bloc. The anti-Gulf War movement was dominated by pacifist elements that refused to confront the ruling class with a class war at home and its

symbolic protests only contributed further to the feeling of helplessness when faced with the state's war machine.

The failure of the working class to recognise its own class interests as distinct from the 'national interest' and to sabotage the war effort can only serve to deepen the division of our international class along national lines.

The present upturn in the class struggle is causing the great powers to hesitate over acting decisively in present areas of conflict, especially Bosnia, and we must make sure that all imperialist adventures are met with waves of strikes, riots, desertions and mutinies. Our slogan must be, 'Fight the class war, not imperialist war'.

(This article is closely based on a leaflet produced by revolutionaries in Iraq and Britain. For copies of the full text send a donation to: BM CAT, London WC1N 3XX.)



Iraqi conscripts turn their anger on the bosses

CLASS
WAR

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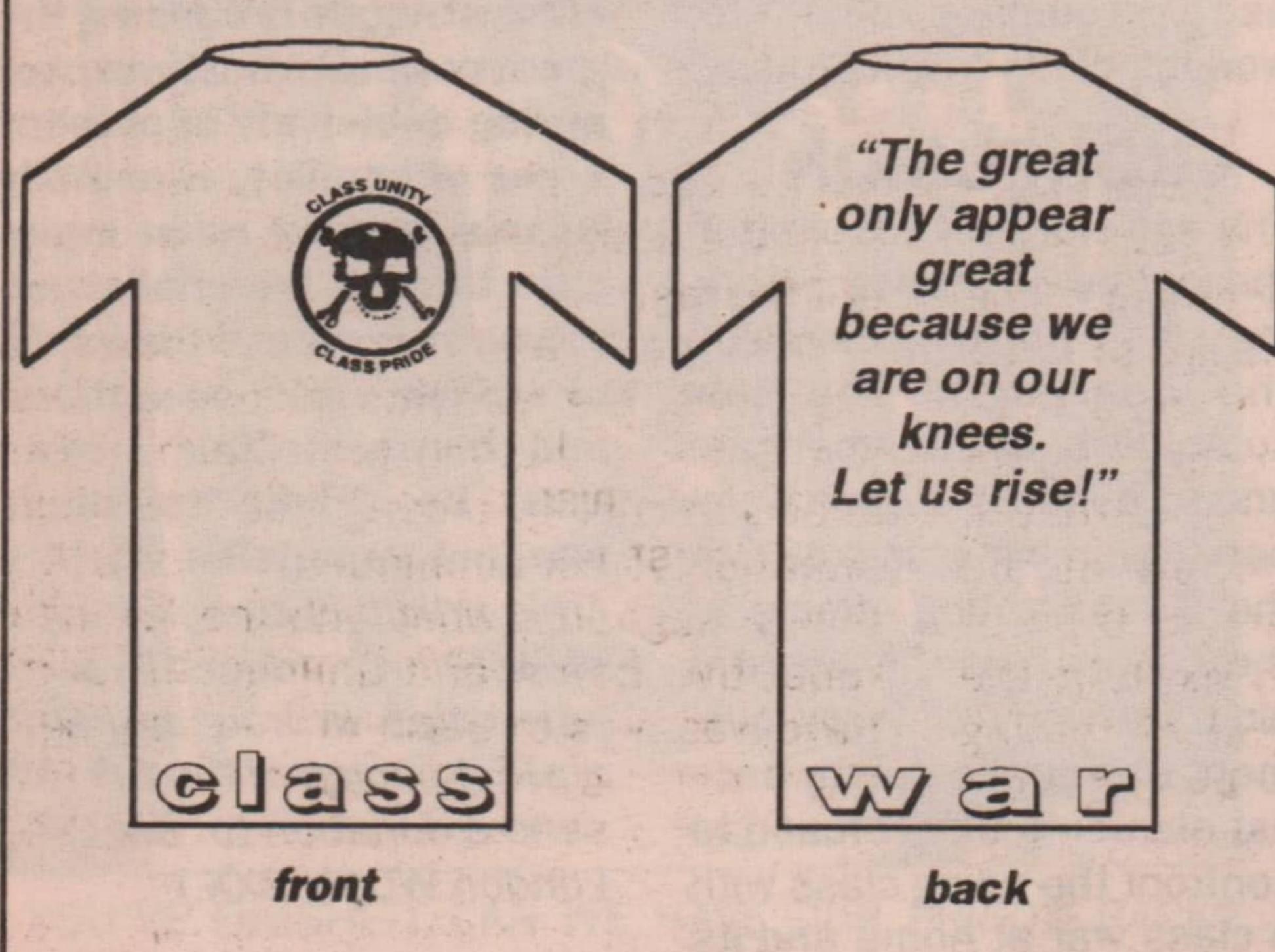
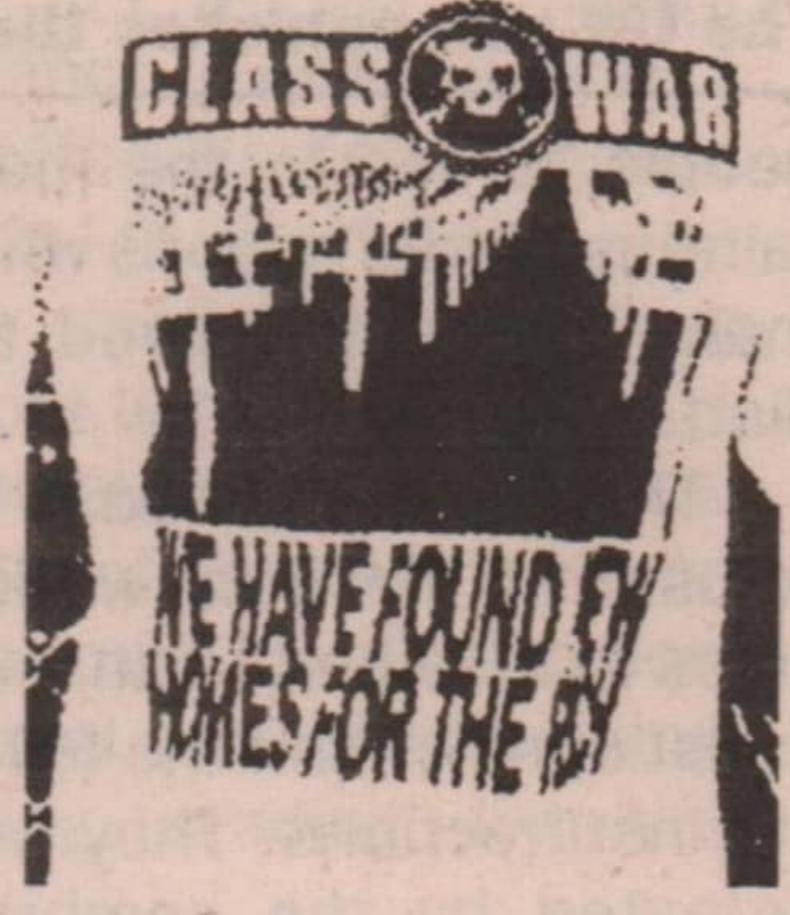
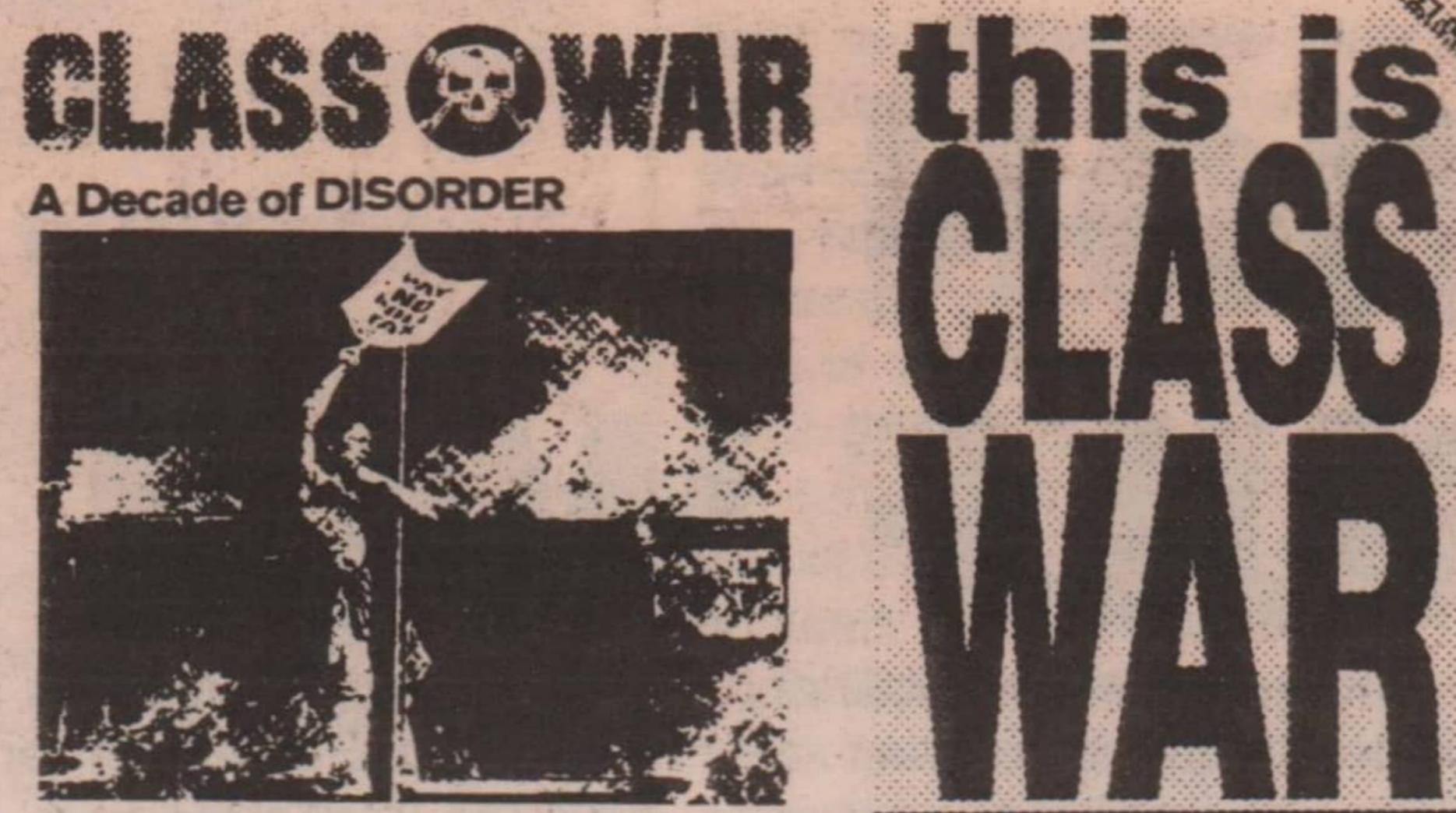
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REVIEWS

F I L M

NATURAL BORN KILLERS

(18???)

(or around £7 from your local dodgy video dealer)

Silence of the Lambs was a Hollywood mega blockbuster, a film about a loveable homegirl FBI agent and an equally loveable genius who happened to brutally murder people, cook them and wash them down with a glass of chianti. *Henry Portrait of a Serial Killer* was a little more real with its insight into the life of another human butcher. Neither of these films got banned, and *Silence's* cast can live off their fame for the rest of their lives. So why the fuss about *Natural Born Killers*?

Natural Born Killers advertises itself as a "bold new look at a country seduced by fame, obsessed by crime and consumed by the media." A bit pompous, but let's turn the lights down, slam the pirate copy into the VCR and see what it's all about...

We won't ruin the plot for you, but the bare bones go like this. Micky and Mallory were both systematically violently and sexually abused as children. They meet by chance and fall in love (or lust—it doesn't really matter which). The first port of call is killing off Mallory's parents: her father because he raped and beat her, and her mother because "you did nothing to stop him". And off they go, telling Mallory's kid brother "You're free now." They marry each other and become Mr and Mrs Knox—what follows is a honeymoon during which 52 people end up dead. Violence is what they grew up in and violence is what they are.

From murder, love and capture, to a brutal prison regime, through to 'freedom'—*Natural Born Killers* is no more violent than the latest *Nightmare on Elm Street* rehash. Forget all the tabloid bollocks about copycat killings: that's just a



distraction. The truth is that this film makes a few points that the state, the cops and the censors would rather you didn't see.

The cop tracking Micky and Mallory is an evil, screwed-up sexual sadist. The prison governor is useless, stupid and incompetent. And the media is an ugly profit-seeking vulture, picking over the bones of anything that ups the TV ratings. All in all, it's a damning comment on the hypocrisy of a system which encourages a love/hate relationship with serial killers like Ted Bundy (or Fred West here in the UK).

Natural Born Killers doesn't say serial killers are cuddly or loveable, but it does portray them as screwed-up people; it points its finger at the law and the media; and with no 'good triumphs over evil' ending, it refuses to toe the Hollywood line. In fact it seems to say "America, what the fuck do you expect?!"

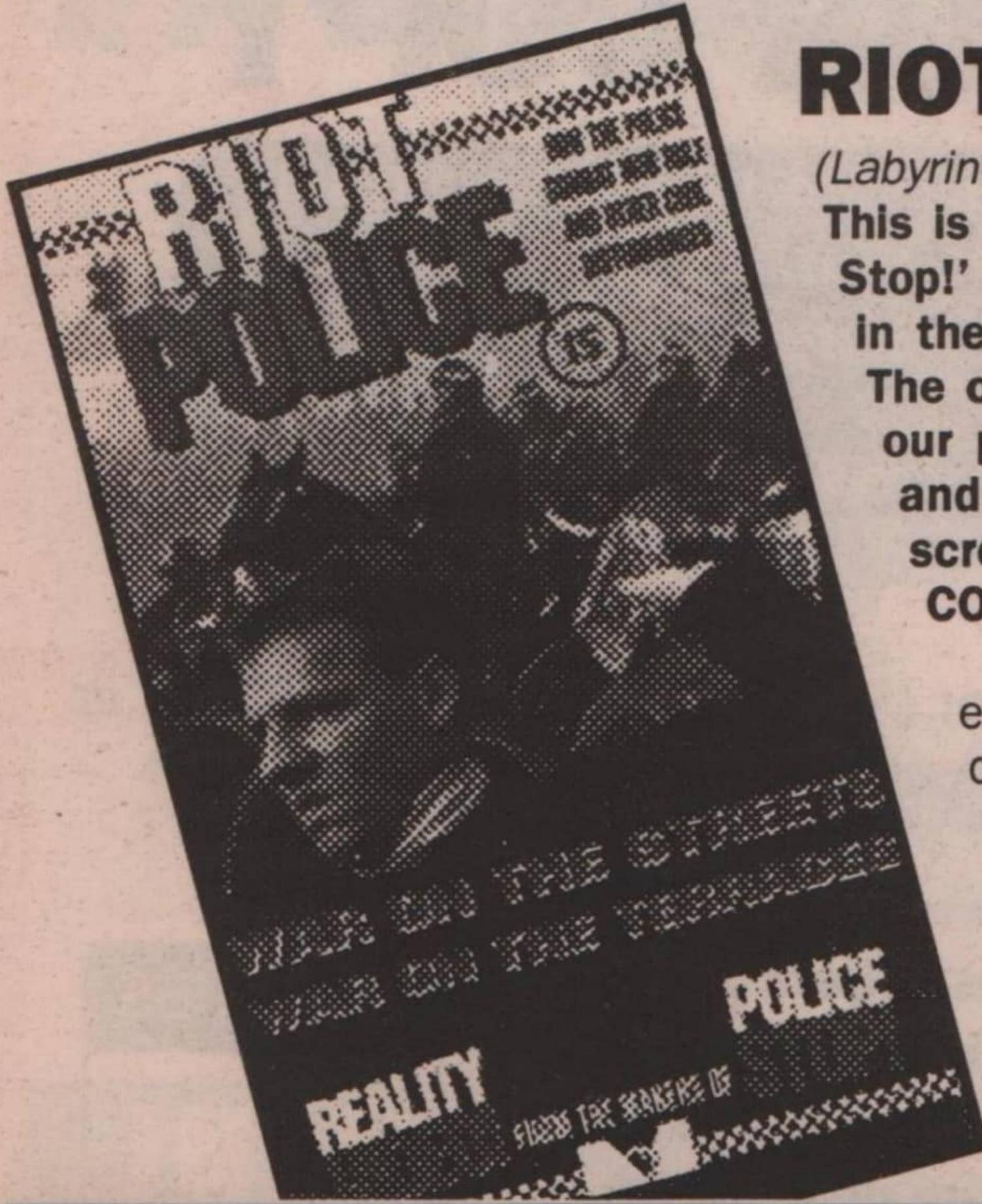
The UK censors now seem to have backed down but if you can't wait for the official release, you should be able to get hold of a pirate copy in most city centres...

RIOT POLICE

(Labyrinth Video £10.99)

This is a video about real life riots from the 'Police Stop' stable. If you've ever seen any of the videos in the series you'll know exactly what to expect. The commentary sounds like a 1930s newsreel—our poor battling bobbies keep a stiff upper lip and hold the thin blue line. But the message screaming from the picture is clear enough: ALL COPPERS ARE BASTARDS.

A couple of embarrassing Mickey Mouse experts are wheeled on to try and give it a documentary feel, but really it's just an excuse for some gratuitous riot scenes—and that's all right with me. The footage isn't as good as it could be, but there's enough shots of pigs in flight to get you going. So turn down the sound on the TV, put some thumping music on and get yourself all worked up for the summer.



All records, books, magazines etc for review should be sent to: The Reviews Crew
c/o Class War, PO Box HH57, Leeds LS8 5XG, West Yorkshire

TELEVISION



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturdays BBC1 8.00pm

Well, what a surprise! The Lottery has turned out to be just another way of ripping us off. OK, the government was made to back down on more VAT on fuel, but they pump up the price of drink and fags and then sting us with the Lottery. Only this time it's a bit different—this one's a tax on hope. It's not compulsory, but if you're not in it, you can't win it, and

most of us are desperate enough to try anything.

By spending money on 'good causes', the Lottery gives the impression that it's a painless way of raising money to fund worthwhile ventures. Balls! If the Sports and Arts Councils are so important, why should we pay for them twice—once in our taxes, once in the Lottery? Anyway, who gets to decide what a 'good cause' is? Some stuffed suit who thinks that little Lord Fauntleroy is real life. Take a look at the board of directors of Camelot (the people who make the profit): it's wall-to-wall scum, with directors from the likes of Barclays Bank, ICL Computers & Cadbury Schweppes. Even Peter Imbert, ex-top cop of the Met, has managed to get his little piggy snout into the trough.

Don't get me wrong—I've bought my fair share of tickets. As far as I can see, there are two ways I'm going to solve all my problems: having a revolution or winning a million. OK, the first one's a lot more likely than the second, but I like to hedge my bets... When the Lottery was launched, William Hill said they'd give winning the jackpot the same odds as Elvis landing a UFO on the Loch Ness monster. By my reckoning, when the King does crash-land on Nessie, I'll be well pissed off if I didn't put a fiver on it while I had the chance.

In the meantime, if you're a Lottery winner who can't work out how to get rid of all that cash, send a blank cheque to Class War, PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EG...

IN PRINT

INLA - DEADLY DIVISIONS

Jack Holland and Henry McDonald
(Torc £9.99)

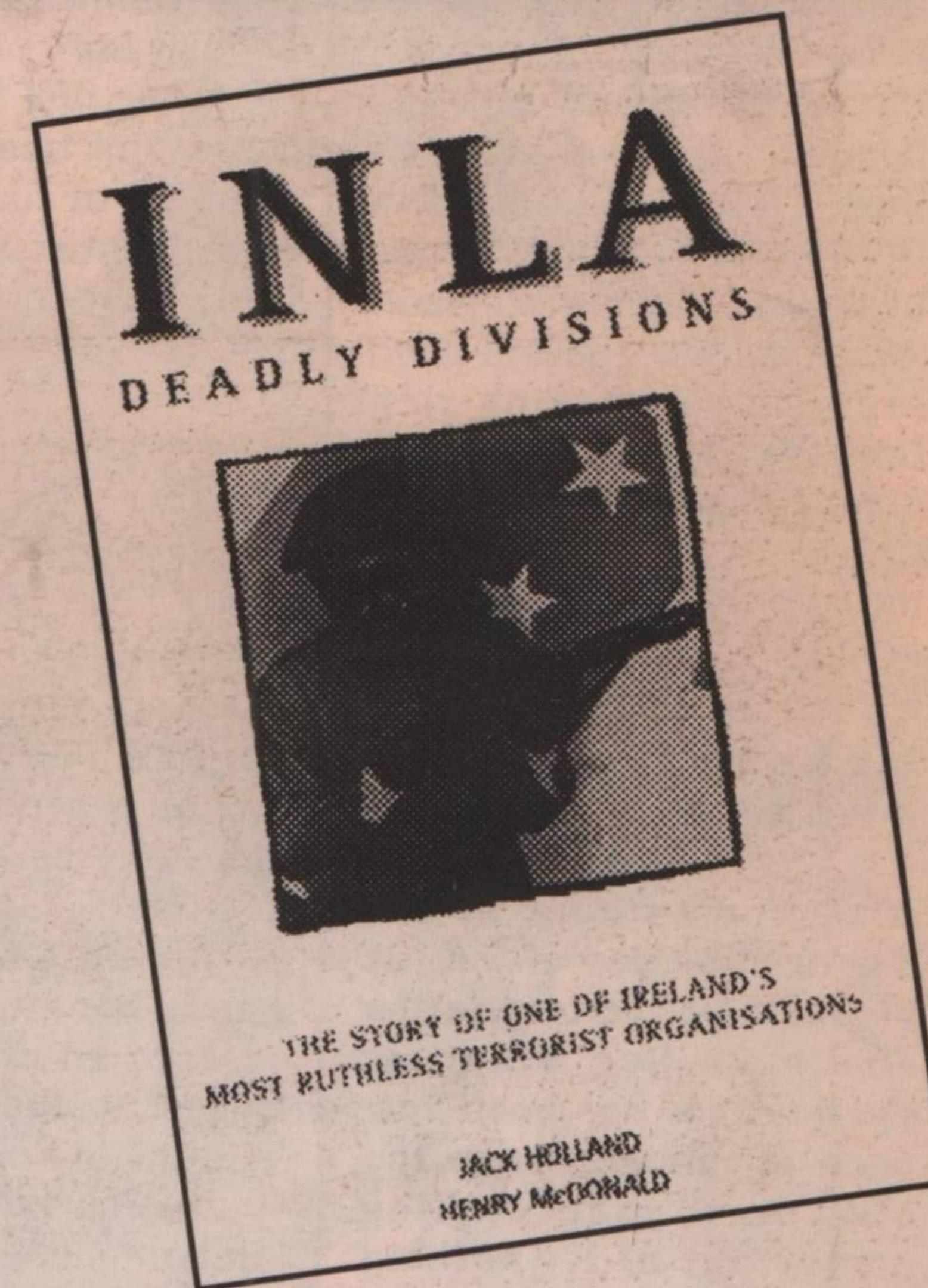
On the afternoon of Wednesday, 5th October, 1977 Séamus Costello was shot as he sat in his car at the corner of Northbrook Avenue, Dublin. Costello was the founder of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and of its political wing the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP). A Labour Party government minister once said of Costello: "They will have to shoot him or jail him, or get out of his way, but they certainly won't stop him. Costello, the revolutionary Marxist socialist, whose ambition is a secular, pluralist united socialist republic, won't go away until he gets it."

Costello was killed, not by his enemies in the British state, but by Jim Flynn, an ex-'comrade' in the Official IRA. An epitaph to two other members of the INLA, shot dead ten years later in Dublin, stated that "revolutionaries are dead men on leave." This was certainly true for many members of the organisation which Séamus Costello founded.

Deadly Divisions tells the story of an organisation which seemed to promise so much to many republicans and revolutionaries, but ended up embroiled in gangsterism, drug dealing and faction killings.

The INLA/IRSP was founded on 8th December, 1972. It declared itself a socialist organisation and later the IRSP was to claim to represent the ideas and practice of Marxism. Despite all the fine words and talk of socialism, the INLA/IRSP still saw itself as part of the nationalist community from which it emerged and saw defence of that community as one of its primary duties. In this it was no different from the Provos. The INLA/IRSP never quite sorted out the relationship between the armed wing of the movement and the party. In later days politics became, as it always does, subordinate to the military campaign.

This book traces the development of the movement which claimed to aspire to a 32-county socialist republic but whose members, almost from the beginning, engaged in sectarian murder. But the authors don't look very closely at the reasons for this. They seem to think it enough to use the INLA to explain the failure of the republican goal of forcing Britain out of Ireland. OK, the book gives a good insight into the personalities and background of what became one of Ireland's most violent political organisations; but it



treats its subject as a spectacular and gripping story; it makes no attempt at a political understanding of the history and circumstances which brought the INLA into existence and which ultimately led many of its members to their graves.

This is the first book to deal with the INLA and so it's well worth a read. However there is definitely a need for a critical study of the politics of this movement, which can show the need for revolutionaries to finally break from the failed path of republicanism. That book is still waiting to be written.

ALIEN UNDERGROUND

Techno theory for juvenile delinquents! This is a new magazine covering the dance scene and it makes a welcome change from the inane commercialism of the likes of *Mixmag*.

As well as record reviews and interviews, the contents include articles on the Criminal Justice Bill, illegal raves in Israel, morphing, propaganda and anarcho-situationist communiques (oo-er!). A very timely magazine, what with the law against repetitive beats and unlicensed parties. Rave was ours to begin with—this magazine might help us take it back from the police, promoters and brain-dead music industry. Just send 4 x 25p stamps to Alien Underground, BM JED, London WC1N 3XX

CLASS WAR

A RIGHT CHARLEY

Welsh Rugby has been at a pretty low ebb over the past few years, however Class Wars sports reporters have discovered that there is nothing wrong on the terraces.

Back in October Llanelli had to abandon plans to play 'God Save the Queen' before their match against the touring South Africans because they were scared that it would be booed in front of the visiting 'Prince of Wales' Charles Windsor. Welsh activists have a good record of attacking rich targets, from posh holiday homes to bombs planted at Charlie's investiture. As they say in Wales - Cadwch o'n bigog - keep it spiky!

NICE ONE

It's good to hear of the recent struggles of fans at Sheffield United to give the chairman, Reg Brearley, the boot. He has been accused of running down the club and just making money out of it (nothing new in football chairman doing that it must be said).

There have been demonstrations against him and there's now a Blades Independent Fans Association set up (contact them at PO Box 111, Sheffield, S8 7YU). It's a good start!

THE GREAT FOOTBALL RIP-OFF

SOCCER MERCENARIES

The media loves to portray footballers as stupid. Anyone who saw the press conference where Paul Merson admitted taking cocaine will realise that this can sometimes be a pretty easy thing for them to do. The downside of this is the over-exposure given to dull, well spoken players such as Ray Wilkins, Gary Lineker, Lee Chapman and, worse of all, Trevor Brooking.

One player Class War would like to hear more from is the Wales and Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall. Southall is one of the few Premier League keepers not to wear the silly goalkeepers jerseys that have become the norm over the past few years, and reached their peak with that outfit worn by Campos of Mexico during the World Cup.

TALKING SENSE

When asked to wear something other than his usual black jersey Southall replied "I can't wear silly jerseys can I? I've had this argument with the marketing people and they say the silly ones sell. The kids want them, but the prices are silly too".

In the last few seasons, there has been a growing turnover of football shirts. Manchester United have just launched their sixth



Working class hero: Neville Southall and that shirt

different strip in a mere three years - and their latest one was on the market just three weeks after Christmas.

United are not the only team to do this. All the top Premier League teams are putting new shirts on the market seemingly as fast

as the designers can dream them up (or rather that should be nightmare them up!). And the England national team have also got into this scam.

TURNOVER

Last year Manchester United had a turnover of £43.8m - of which £14m came from merchandising (and 4 years ago it was only £2m).

It is sums like this which have allowed them to fork out £7m for Andy Cole. But we're having to pay through the nose to go to the ground or get some satellite dish to see the match.

It's nothing more than another rip-off, a con-trick designed by the flash cats who run football.

We are treated as gullible fools by these people who know all too well our love for the game.

Like all other areas of our lives, football is controlled by the rich and that means that we're always going to get a bad deal.

In the decade since over 15,000 Celtic fans travelled to Manchester for Lou Macari's testimonial match, Glasgow Celtic have been in much demand as opponents for testimonial games.

With all the gate receipts for testimonials going to the player concerned (as if they didn't get paid enough anyway), Celtic with their thousands of supporters across the country can always guarantee a good crowd for such games (or at least better than normal!).

Traditionally, testimonials have been friendly matches between a players' current and former club, but the huge crowds drawn to the subsequent Bryan Robson and Mark Hughes United v Celtic games has resulted in many Premier League players using Celtic to ensure themselves a fat payoff.

NO CONNECTIONS

In the past few years, Celtic have been approached to play for Tony Adams at Arsenal (who has no Celtic connections whatsoever) and Graeme Sharp when he was playing for Everton. The fact that Sharp is actually a Rangers fan presumably forced all concerned to reconsider!

Celtic's last appearance at a testimonial - a recent 6-0 thrashing by Liverpool in Ian Rush's benefit match - was the last straw for most Celts. 9000 fans saw a weedy performance that had Celtic fans wondering how the players could afford to take time off from training to travel to England for such a meaningless fixture.

ONE DOWN...

The ousting of the Kelly family (though they were simply replaced by another rich tosser, Fergus McCann) showed that pressure from fans can have an effect at football clubs.

Celtic supporters need to leave their club in no doubt that testimonials should not be allowed to distract players mid-season - and Celtic's players are not used as football mercenaries by already wealthy players who have no connections with the club.

IT'S ALL SWEET FA TO US!

After failing to qualify for the last World Cup, the English Football Association realised that the only way to ensure qualification for the 1996 European Championship was to host them!

Euro 96 is set to be the biggest football tournament held in this country for 30 years. The build up to this jamboree does little to fill most football supporters with confidence. Many tickets have already been sold to fans willing to pay in advance for games that may not even involve the team they support! It doesn't take a genius to work out that many of these

tickets will end up in the hands of the touts and ticket agencies who leech off the fans.

ELLAND ROAD

England have also announced that they will play their first game away from Wembley for 30 years, when they play Sweden in a friendly at Elland Road in June - good news to those fans who are fed up of going to the over-priced dump that passes for a national stadium.

Those who attended the lucky win over Nigeria last November (£3.50 for a programme, a fucking rip-off!) even had the insult of



Terry talks bollocks

receiving advertisements for theatre shows with their tickets, the only theatre seen on the night was Terry Venables comic tragedy of a team.

Our Tel, the only manager in the country who looks and acts like Mike Baldwin, handed out a leaflet before the match asking the fans to respect the Nigerian national anthem.

Venables was not only talking the biggest load of bollocks since Bobby Robson asked his team to 'play with the Falklands spirit', he misunderstood the feelings of the Nigerian fans who were handing out leaflets and holding up banners denouncing the military dictatorship and calling for the release of political prisoners.

As for the English anthem, the only argument

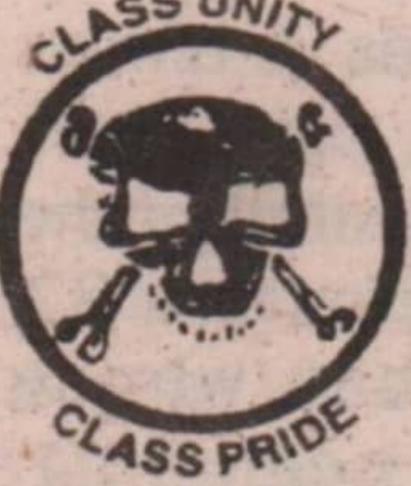
Class War have about the Royal family is about whether we should shoot them or hang them! Sadly some English fans sing this awful nationalistic shit.

These fans and Terry Venables should explain what those inbred pillocks have ever done for us except spend our money! They couldn't give two tosses about how the team is doing, they are off killing foxes or playing Polo while we are paying over the odds to watch the game we love. Finally, the sports editor would like to wish all football fans, especially sky blue fans, a happy new year.

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