

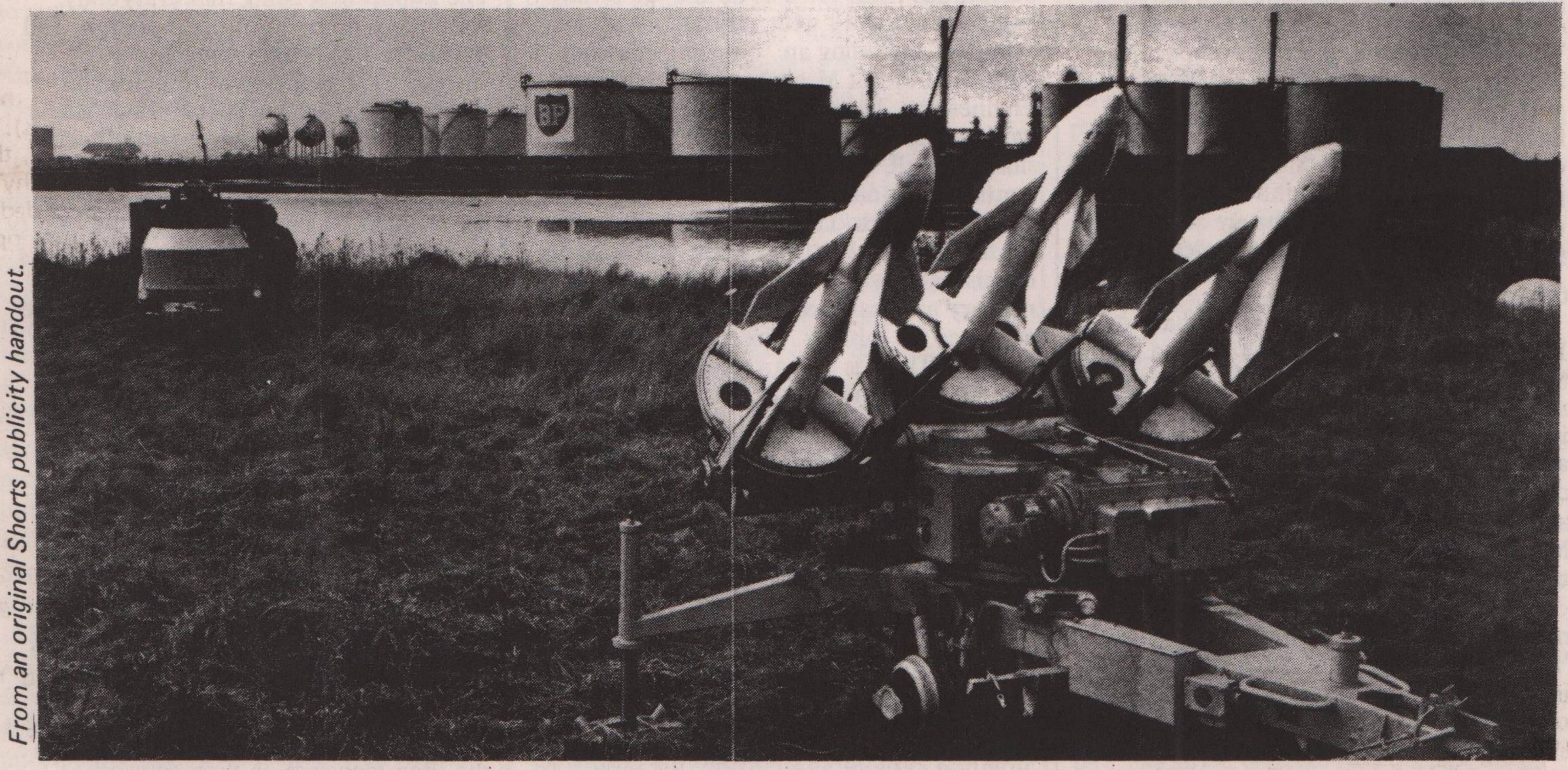
# Shorts control

Now 8 Pages!

## BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

Sold with **GAINING GROUND**

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From an original Shorts publicity handout.

### THE SHORT WAY TO ARMING THE WORLD

A modern industrial society means a modern Military society ...military spending, military projects are THE biggest single factor in the British economy, more than £12 billion spent this year alone (and this doesn't cover the billions lying in the South Atlantic). Shipyards, aircraft manufacturers and electronic components firms are the big three to gain ... it is to here that government (ie. our) money gets directed, both for the initial research and development and the finished equipment. But research and development costs are so high and so likely to double every few years that an ARMS TRADE is vital to (re)cover costs. And with most of the Western industrialised world busy competing and selling - its the Third World that forms the basis of the arms trade - its here that the west finds its market. Two thirds of the arms trade is the transfer of weapons and parts from the industrialised world to the third world (spurred on of course by oil money); the Third World is the 'cream' of the contracts as big prices are demanded and received. The race to militarise every available piece of land, sea and space is on ... money and energy seem to be unlimited ... modern research becomes military requirements, military specifications. Any spin offs to the rest of us are purely coincidental.

Belfast, naturally enough is not immune to such militarisation. Not only is it the battleground for the British Army and

police to perfect the weapons of counter-insurgency, but Belfast also plays an integral part in British arms manufacturing and sales. And Shorts Missile Division is at the centre of our local armaments industry. The Ministry of Defence invests annual sums of £40 million in Shorts and over a period of years over £200 million has been spent on developing the Blow-pipe missile (a hand held supersonic guided missile). Similar sums have been spent researching, developing and manufacturing the Sea Cat and Tiger Cat missiles, and military skyvans. Shorts, as they claim in their own publicity are the 'close range missile specialists', so 'successful' in their sale of weapons of death that the Queen has seen fit to honour them with industry awards. 'Success' is measured in the quantity of overseas contracts and as often as not it is the possibility of overseas contracts that determines the research in the first place. The sales representative for Shorts is the 'Defence Sales Organisation' DSO, a secretive section of the Ministry of Defence. Through complicated deals, public relations Royal visits and exhibitions they peddle the wares of the British armaments manufacturers. (They plan to hold another British Army equipment exhibition at Aldershot in June and on display will be a full range of Shorts equipment). Hypocritically enough, they are still peddling vast quantities of arms to any Third World country with the money to pay ...

even in the middle of a war with a country they themselves helped arm! It was the DSO who sold Tiger Cats, Sea Cats, and Blow-pipe missiles to Argentina ... despite an arms embargo since 1976 (Usually the DSO aim to arm both sides of a conflict and then sit back and monitor the performance of the arms - not this time around!).

Shorts have been as successful as any at Third World deals. Not only Sea Cats, Tiger Cats and Blow-pipes to Argentina, but this 'special low-cost hardware' has gone to 20 other foreign navies and armies. Most if not all of these deals are shrouded in secrecy, but it is known that Sea Cats have been supplied to Brazil (over 100), to India (nearly 150) Libya, Nigeria and Chile: Tiger Cats to the Shah of Iran and Jordan (who in turn sold off this old stock to South Africa), Blowpipes to Israel and Malaysia and military skyvans to Panama and Botswana. How many people will be slaughtered through that lot?

The more missiles fired in the South Atlantic, the more ships that sink, the more the future brightens for our 'strategic' industries - Shorts and the Shipyard. Last week Shorts started overtime working for the first time in years.

It is time for disarmament, not the escalation of war production. It is time to use our engineering skills for socially useful purposes - NOT KILLING!

**CONTENTS : Castlereagh, Rock Flop, DeLorean, etc.**

# Militarisation of Education

At the top end of the educational system, (university) much of the funding is military inspired, military funded, and has a military application. As often as not, social benefits are coincidental, mere public relation spin-offs, used to justify it all in the first place.

British universities have always been in the 'moral' dilemma of the independence of education versus funding with strings - this has existed almost as long as the funding! Recently, however, it enters a new phase, with outside funding seen as necessary, something to be welcomed. This is the outlook of Keith Joseph: to encourage universities to go for industry grants, to educate and research along the lines demanded (and paid for) by modern capital. As education funding continually gets cut, the qualms of university workers disappear. Their salaries are at stake. *Queens University Belfast* is typical of the modern university.

British and N. Irish universities have over 100 contracts (1981 figure) financed by the Ministry of Defence, and nearly as many more funded by the British nuclear establishment, the UK Atomic Energy Authority and NATO. This does not take into account contacts carried forward from previous years, as most big contracts are for 2-3 years. Many of the projects are listed nowhere - on 'security' grounds.

The contracts at Queens are many and numerous, and have been going on since the 'fifties. Instrumental in much of this funding were the activities of the Vice-Chancellor, Arthur Vick, OBE, Chancellor from 1966 to 1976 when he left for another post at Warwick University in England. Vick started his military/academic career during the war, and from 1950-1959, he was Deputy Director and then Director of the Atomic Energy Research Laboratory at Harwell, during the 'cold war' nuclear arms develop-

ment. From 1961-'64 he was Director of research at UKAEA, and Member for research 1964-1966. Simultaneous with researching nuclear application, he was also on the Nuclear Safety Committee 1960-'66 - a trifle ironic! He became Vice Chancellor in 1966, and from 1969-1976 he was 'academic advisor' to the Ministry of Defence. He was certainly well-placed to over-see the military/nuclear contracts to various Queens departments, during the '60s and '70s, and still on-going.

Precise information is, of course, Top Secret, but from 1978-1980 the MOD have had contract work with various Queens Departments, including an on-going contract with the Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. There is also sponsored nuclear work at the Chemistry department. Most sinister of all, however, is the work being constantly funded at the Dept of Pure and Applied Physics. This includes highly complex laser research, (Queens is a world leader in this field) which has many, and primarily, military applications, including precision guidance for missiles. The military link-up is obvious. There is also a very close computer link-up between Queens and Southampton university. Southampton is Number One of the military-funded universities in Britain, closely followed by Imperial College, London, then Leeds and Newcastle. The UKAEA is no stranger to the Students Union at Queens, either, giving regular promotion talks and exhibitions to attract recruits.

There is also a fair degree of commercial contracting and funding; all Departments eager for the cash. The Political Science Department, for instance, are grant-funded by, amongst others, Irish Base Metals, the uranium explorers! Ostensibly, the money is to research community conflict in Ireland!!

The days of the University as a cocooned environment for the middle-classes, have long since gone. They are an integral part of our military/industrial society.

And the returns are more than ideological.

Radio-active wastes have spread throughout the Irish Sea to endanger the whole East coast of Ireland.

Of the many disadvantages this island suffers from having anything to do with the British industrial nightmare, perhaps the one which will last the longest is the consequence of Britain's nuclear policy, and in particular, the "problem" of nuclear waste. Both Britain's so-called "civil" nuclear programme (still blundering along at top speed and top cost) and military programme, produce vast quantities of waste each year - ever since 1945!

Most of this waste, and the waste from other countries, too) is "reprocessed" at Windscale, more or less straight across to England from Belfast. The low-level waste is discharged straight into the Irish Sea, along with the contaminated wastes of a 9-year long leak which all the "experts" failed to detect. Most other nuclear countries have banned sea-dumping as being so unpredictable as to be dangerous. The British authorities somehow use the same arguments to justify dumping it openly into the sea. Even plutonium from British nuclear weapons programme gets dumped via Windscale, making it the single most polluting nuclear establishment in the world!

So, who decides on what's going on? It's a handful of "experts", answerable to no-one but the British government. Certainly not answerable to us who receive their exported, cancerous, pollution and none of



their electricity. These "experts" work out "acceptable" limits of pollution by changing everything to money costs: so many deaths per year, so many malformities, have a price-tag, and it is this price-tag which the "experts" use to regulate pollution, not the dangers to people, or to the environment. It was the "cost" factor which initiated the whole programme in the '40s. It is "cost" which determines controls, or lack of them. The "experts" argue over data like it was

This is the first of our Good Grief columns - where we invite internationally unknown opinion makers to make a few.

## Good Grief!

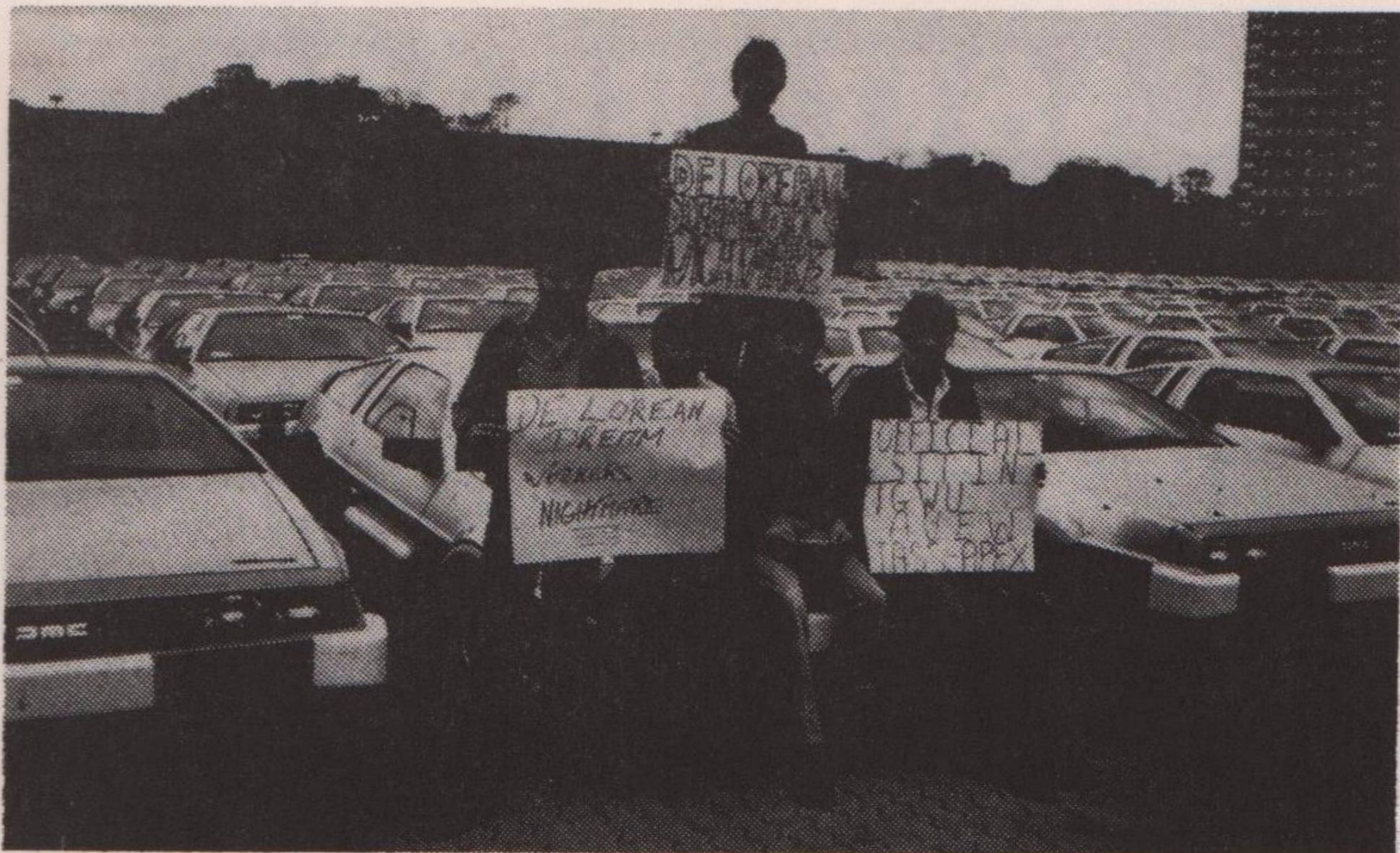
THE DREAM IS OVER, THE NIGHT - MARE BEGINS. These two slogans were carried by an unemployed DeLorean worker during the week at a City Hall walk-about to highlight unemployment. The slogans in fact highlight the pathetic aspirations of the Labour Movement in the North. If you have a job you live in Fantasy Island; if not, it's Devil's Island. The implication being that everybody was hunky dorey until the recession. Tell that to people of Ballymurphy or the Creggan. The reality is that sectarianism was the price the Loyalist workers gladly paid to alienate themselves from their fellow workers. The Labour movement acquiesce to the capitalist plans for the six counties. It simply isn't just the beauty of Protestant culture that the Brits allowed the secession of the six counties from Ireland. Llyod George told Carson he was going to have his Northern Ireland whether he liked it or not. Northern Ireland was part of the Brits military/economic strategy and if sectarianism would help, let them bang their drums. The cuckoos (!) have come home to nest in Rip Van Winkles hair and woke him up to the nightmare. One ex-worker bitterly commented that the Circus had come to town. The leadership marched the trade-unionists round the City Hall like tame elephants. No trumpeting. No political rally. No dissent. Those that had work were marched back to work, to build troop carriers, missiles, whatever. the shop-stewards, in their suits, went in for tea with the Lord Mayor. The DeLorean contingent went back to climb over the stable door that was shut after the nag had bolted. Not only has the Labour leadership sold out to imperialism but they make no attempt to relate to the products of their labour. Poverty is awful. People need money to survive. But to build motor cars that only hold a couple of Americans to flash themselves!

THE BRITS ARE WONDERFUL. Not only should we sing praise for their gifts of democracy and justice. They have taken their gifts to the South Atlantic, a prison ship and 1,000 rubber coffins. When the Irish resist against the odds it is explained in fascist cultural terms as the Celtic death-wish. But a thousand rubber coffins is rather bizarre attempt to explain life after death.

THE B.B.C. CONCEDE A HALF HOUR programme in Urdu early Sunday mornings, practically in the middle of the night, about 9.15.a.m. Despite the Indian sub-continent having 400 different languages it is necessary for the programme presenter to insert certain words in English - 'technology', 'successful', 'control'

- SILAS ARBUTHNOT.

toys, and the scientists, whose views are respected, are those who support the least control, the least cost. It is no wonder, then that the top posts in the British Radiation Control Board are ex-executives of the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). Who is going to argue when your job is guaranteed for another few years, if the research "results" are what is wanted? The end result is total lack of effective control over what gets pumped into the Irish Sea from Win-



# DE LOREAN OCCUPATION

Adam Butler said, shortly after the occupation of DeLorean in protest at its closure, that the workers were 'jeopardising the future of the company'!

De Lorean (luxury) Car Co. has finally been closed by the receivers Shewell and Cork. All 1,500 employees got the 'We regret to inform you' letter on Tues. 25th May. They collected their last pay packet one week later, which they were supposed to work anyway, and not even received the week in lieu they were entitled to. The letter also revealed that they were to receive only half the holiday pay they had earned. If they wanted to claim for anything further, the letter continued, the money 'will, subject to certain limitations, be paid by the Dept. of Manpower Services'. In other words, they'd be lucky! This contradicts the promise three weeks ago by Shewell to pay in full all the money commitments.

The day following the announcement, a mass meeting of workers decided unanimously to occupy the factory. The main aim was to demand the continuation of production. This was based on the Government sponsored Cooper and Lybrand Report which declared the plant 'viable'. The workers argument is that the factory will probably be sold to another car assembly firm, and they want to keep the workforce intact. Otherwise if they are forced to reapply, the militants will be unlikely to get employment. One consortium at present interested is headed by Colin Chapham of Lotus connections.

In the meantime they want the government to pay a temporary employment subsidy, as they bear most responsibility, being the major shareholder. It is interesting that DeLorean (USA) owes DeLorean (UK) £20 million.

If the above demands are refused then the workers want £2,500 in compensation to each employee irrespective of job or service. They point to the case of Strathearn, a similar short stay multinat-

ional in West Belfast of several years ago. When it pulled out the company was forced to pay compensation over and above the legal redundancy requirements. Because DeLorean is in receivership, the workers don't even get that minimum.

## OCCUPATION

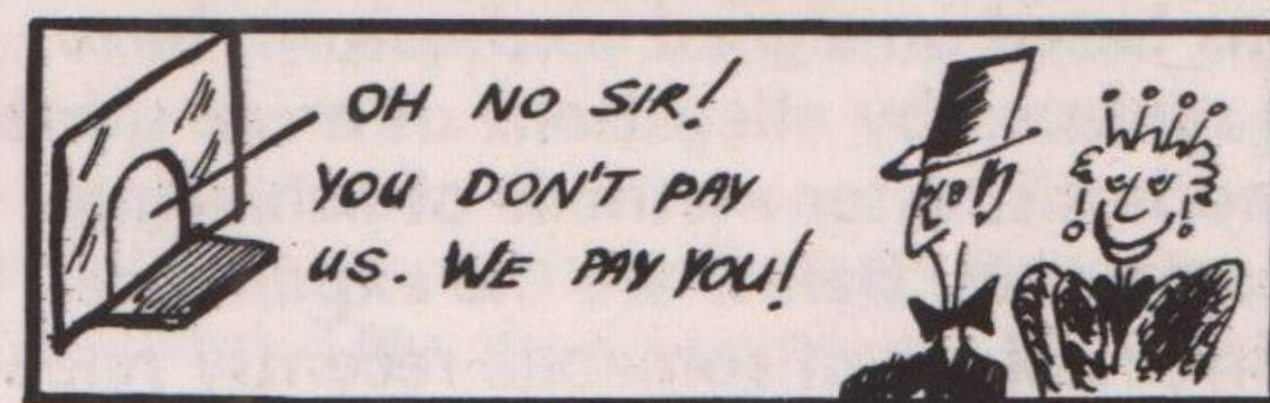
The most valuable assets in the plant at the moment are the spare parts, which the Industry minister, Butler, wants released for US salesrooms. They include engine parts made by Renault; panels pressed in Carlow by a German firm; and the air conditioning system from Norway. There are also several hundred completed cars at the plant. Should the RUC attempt to invade the plant, with a court order, and remove the cars, they would find it difficult to transport them, as unions at the docks and airport have given a commitment not to handle DeLorean products.

The workers have organised a rota of limited numbers every 12 hours, mainly to guard the gates, both to prevent material being removed, and vetting those coming in. As from Mon. 31st only 20 people from management are allowed in - they are from the wages, personel, and receiver staffs.

The shop stewards committee (composed of TGWU, TASS, AEU, and APEX) has become the occupation committee with the three convenors remaining as the chief negotiators. Any decisions on the main demands will be taken at mass meetings.

One of the main problems the workers face is long term commitment. The receivers decision to introduce a one day week, months ago, has (predictably?) led to a lack of communication and a weaker sense of solidarity than usual. But the shop stewards plan to organise a series of socials to counteract this. They will be held in different parts of the city to accommodate the different areas the workers come from.

## Keeping Friends in High Places Culturally Happy



The city council now gives an annual grant of £60,000 to the Arts Theatre and the Arts Council gives £33,000. Both councils are in addition writing off the Arts Theatres accumulated £47,000 deficit by contributing £27,000 and £20,000 respectively.

The city council gave the Ulster Orchestra £33,000. The Arts Council gave £434,500. The Opera House gets a grant of £370,000 from the Arts Council and the Lyric Theatre £170,000.

## PUNKS PO-GO-NO-GO.

On 16th December 81 part of the newly completed Ulster Hall floor collapsed. The city council blamed the punks for causing it by their pogoing. In fact the band playing that night was the Human League so it is hard to imagine many punks weighing in to pogo.

£1/3 million was recently spent on improving the Ulster Hall. -- £23,000 of which was used to lay a new floor. Maybe the floor collapsing had something to do with the fact that the contractor, to cut costs had the joists 9 feet apart instead of the previous 6 feet. The council were told that to make pogoing possible it would require £28,000 for reconstruction.

To cover up they will no doubt make the punks pay by banning punk bans from playing.

P.S. They also spent £135,000 on fixing the Ulster Hall's organ, and another £6000 has been asked for.

## TIME TO FIDDLE

The Ormeau Road Gas Works clock will soon be showing us the real time again and only at a repair cost of £18,480 plus VAT. It's certainly worth keeping the gas industry ticking over. (Actually it's cheaper to give everybody in Belfast a watch!)

Last year, 6 Iranian students, vocal in their opposition to the Ayatollah, were murdered at various German universities.

## #SHORTS#

### RESEARCH CAUSES WAVES!

The U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, (UKAEA) funded the Civil Engineering Department at Queens University, to the tune of £46,000 from 1979-1981. The money was to be used for the development of 'wave-power'. Queens' engineers did make some break-throughs, but no sooner had they done so than the UKAEA ceased funding. The UKAEA and the British government have decided against any alternative to their nuclear policy, no matter how small.

That's why Japan is now interested in carrying on with the Queens 'wave project' - not Britain!

### AYATOLLAH SPY

At the recent CND demonstration from Stormont to Botanic Gardens, a group of Iranian students spotted another Iranian student (who was an Ayatollah supporter) busily photographing them as they passed the gates of Queens University. They were carrying placards which condemned the brutal Khomeini regime. When the local 'ayatollah' was challenged by the students he started yelling for RUC help. The RUC quickly bundled in, took the names of the protesting Iranian students, threatened them with assault charges and let the 'ayatollah' keep the incriminating photographs. The photographs (along with the names and addresses of the students) are intended for the Iranian Embassy in Manchester.

### DEFECTIVE ??

The punk band, the Defects, were recently the subject of an article in O.C. Some of their lyrics were strongly anti-authority. Two, in particular, attacked the notion of prisons, and the brutality of the RUC. But in the May 12th edition of "New Musical Express", Gary, speaking of their (temporary?) move to London, says, "Coming from Belfast you can't really be a political band cos everyone says you're just another group making a fortune out of the troubles."

If you were political you wouldn't make a fortune !!

# INSIDE THE BOWELS OF CASTLEREAGH

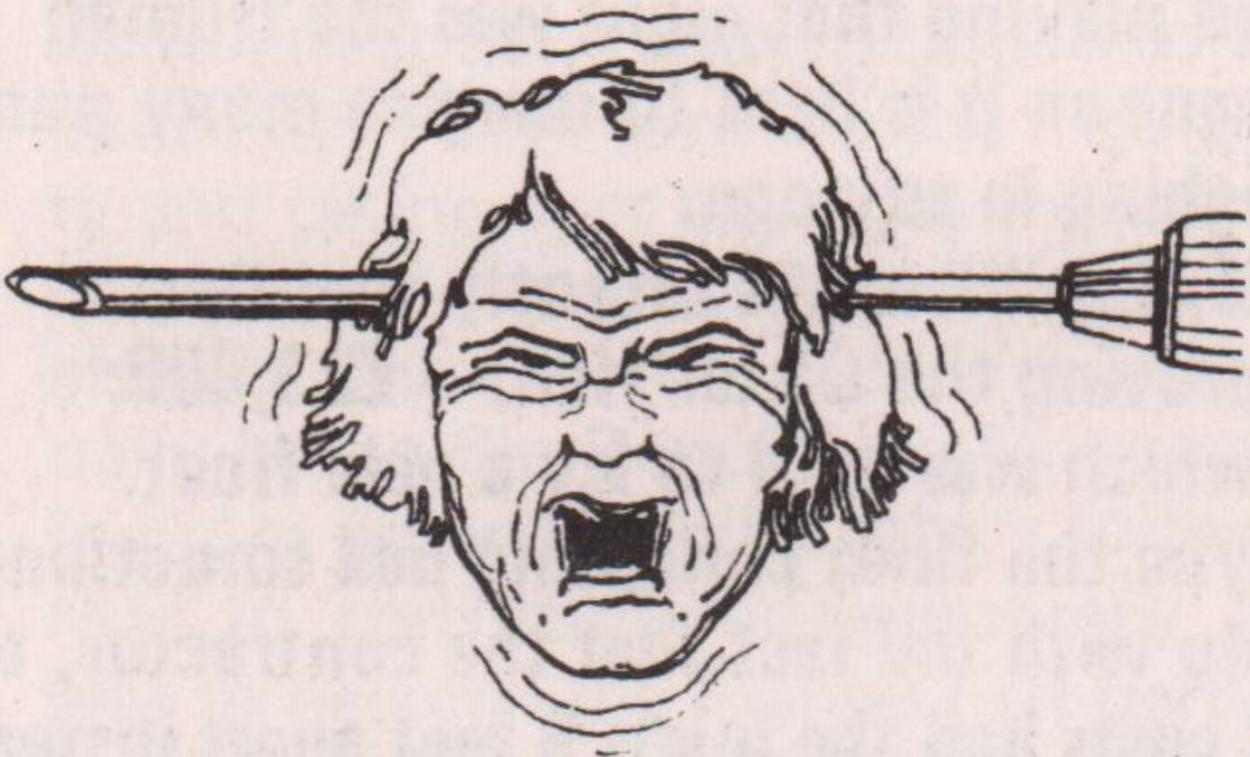
CASTLEREAGH RUC Holding Centre is central to Britain's conveyor-belt system of "justice". The allegations of physical violence, leading to a 95% rate of court convictions based on signed confessions, have been replaced by allegations of more subtle but no less sinister methods of achieving the same ends. Below are the experiences and impressions of someone recently released from Castlereagh.

## REPUTATION

The violence still goes on, despite denials, but most people now don't receive physical violence. The main thing they rely on in Castlereagh is the reputation it has. The fear that something is going to happen to them, rather than the thing itself, is what makes people give information, and they play on that. The threat of violence is always there, and especially gets to people who are there for the first and second time.

## C.I.D and S.B.

The Special Branch and CID (also known as the Regional Crime Squad) have two different functions. The SB lift is usually Section 11 of the EPA (3 days) with the intention to gather and collate information through interrogation. It wouldn't normally be to press charges, unlike the CID. Their 7-day lift is often to get a statement and to prefer charges at the end. The SB also use the 7-day and there are times they and the CID work together. The techniques to get information are probably the same.



## FIRST INTERVIEWS

The purpose of the first couple of interviews is to find out what sort of character they are dealing with, whether you're nervous, etc. These are very important, especially as regards someone who replies, however briefly, to their questions. Small points can be used later. e.g. they will always enquire about a suspect's family. In the first interviews there won't be violence, or the threat of it. You'll be told it's serious, but not serious enough to destroy your life or send you to prison. So they'll ask you things like "are your parents in good health", and, if you're foolish enough to say, for example, that one of them had a heart condition, they'd make a note of that and use it later on. In the next few days they would refer to your mother or father, and how all this is affecting them, and how it will affect them greater if they do something, and go on to threaten you with various things. It's important not to give information about your family - you're not obliged to anyway. In those stages, if you don't give the information they want, they'll accuse you of obstruction and say you must be a Provo or involved in some way. Very often, people not involved want them to know they're not involved, even though they know already, and talk. They try and convince the interrogators of their innocence, and, in so doing, give more information, which will be used later on in the interviews.

## THE CELL

Castlereagh is a form of sensory deprivation. There's no reading material, not even the Bible. The walls are all the same colour. The only furniture is the bed and a chair, both chained to the ground. When you're nervous or apprehensive, it's hard to sleep. But even for people who aren't, it's difficult. The light is on constantly, and the heat changes. Whether it's deliberate or how the heating system works, sometimes it's hot and sometimes cold. There's no contact with any other prisoners. If you try and make contact with another prisoner by knocking on the wall, the uniformed peeler will come in and stop you. They act as jailers on

the corridor. The meals come regularly. The police continually tell you that the meals you get are the same as theirs. They must be mad to accept it. It's totally tasteless. They often mess with it. Spit on it, or take bites out of it, or it would be cold. If you were late coming from an interview, they wouldn't keep it hot.



## "IT'S ONLY A JOB"

Martin Lynch tried to portray in his play the differences between the uniformed and plain clothes branches of the RUC. The image is that uniformed peelers are somehow decent people. It's only a job, they're only reservists, and they try to be kind to people. But that's only part of the softening-up process, part of the illusion. The main aim of the RUC is to break the resistance of a prisoner. If they can't break that through violence, because they can't use it as much now, then they will use the psychological approach. If a suspect could identify everyone in the place as an enemy, if everyone was antagonistic towards the suspect, then it would only stiffen that resistance. The approach wouldn't be as crude as the classic police procedure with the good and the bad policeman. It would be more subtle. The uniformed people would show a bit of kindness. Also, in the interrogation, to try and break your resistance, they would try and convince you that the police aren't all bad; and through propaganda or incidents the suspect would know of, that the only bad people in society are the IRA or INLA or their supporters.

## SEVEN DAYS

The 3-day holding period is usually for the SB to collect information. They also use the 7-day, as well as the CID who want a conviction at the end. The use of the 7-days has different purposes. Some people are lifted regularly. They know they won't get information out of these people, so what they're trying to do is to destroy their lives. If someone is in employment, they try and get them the sack, trying to get hardship in the home break up families. With people who are lifted regularly, very often they simply leave them there 7 days and don't come near them. You can imagine the strain of sitting for up to 4 days without any contact. Some people have said they look forward to interviews in a situation like that. The opposite of that are those who are continually interrogated over the 7 days, as many as 34 times. The interviews would start at 9am. If they were going for a confession, they would have a team of 6-8 detectives acting in pairs on one prisoner.

Say in a team of 6, the 3 pairs would have different approaches. There would be a pair continually threatening violence, 2 not so aggressive, and the 3rd ones hard to predict. One of the teams will be saying they're trying to help. Sign the statement and it'll be better for you. They would threaten you with the other team. "These other lads are young, not long into the game, and could use some violence if you're not careful." These constant interviews can wear a person down. There could be 2 interviews between 9 and 1, which would last a couple of hours each. In the afternoon and evenings 2 interviews each, sometimes up to midnight. The effect of being questioned on the same subjects by different people so many times is part of trying to wear a suspect down both mentally and physically. With the difficulty in sleep, the constant interviews and threats, many people, towards the end of the 7 days, find it difficult to take. The promises of no more questions asked once the statement is signed, no matter how limited, is attractive. But you'd be foolish if you thought they wouldn't press on after you committed yourself. The worst thing is to admit anything, that you saw anything, or did anything. Once your resistance is broken down, it would be easy

for them to break you completely, and get you talking.

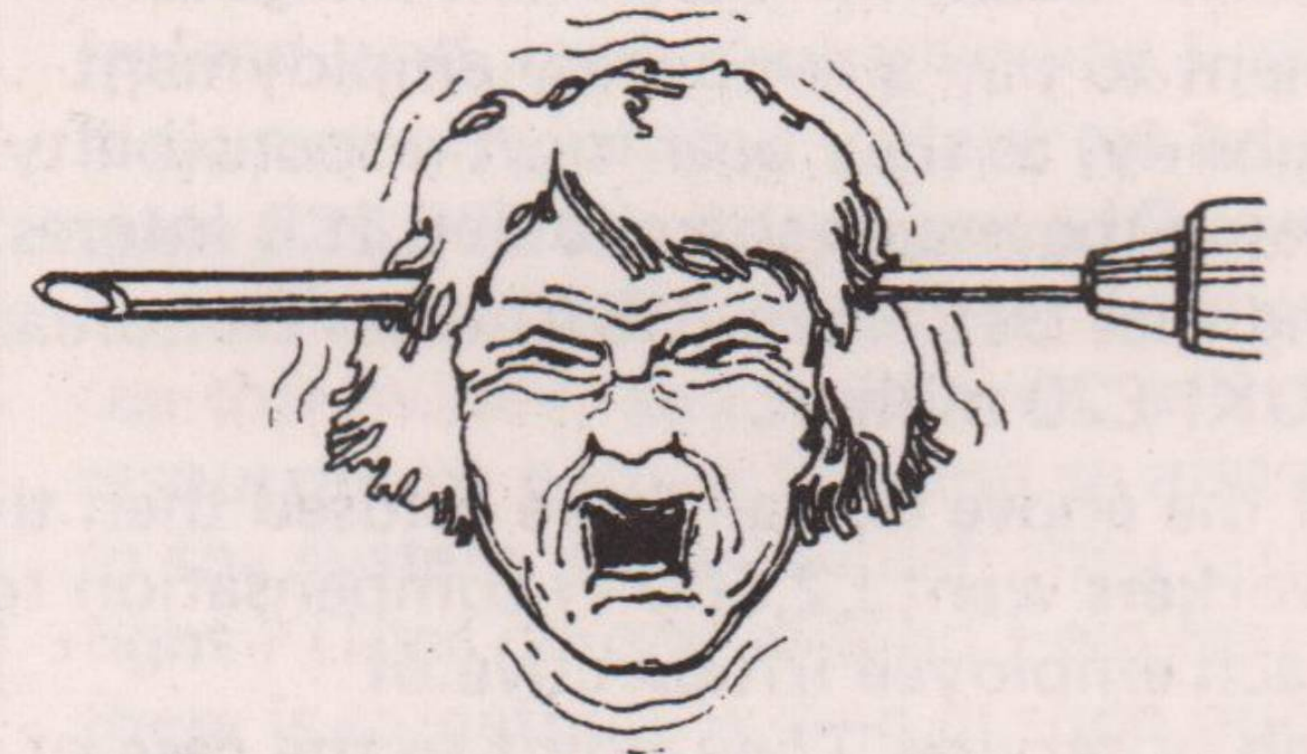
## THREATS

If they get someone who isn't afraid of punishment, of going to prison, they usually make threats directed towards the family. And they often carry these threats out. If they're questioning someone about arms possession in the home, they'll threaten to arrest the wife or husband or children, and they often do so. The prisoner doesn't only have the worry of him/herself, but of relatives. Sometimes very old people have been arrested, and the prisoner told the parents are being subject to violence. That type of pressure is hard to take for anybody. Some people can take any amount of torture or pressure themselves but sign statements when people they love are under pressure. And the relatives would be under the same kind or pressure and they might sign statements.

I know the case of a man who had his wife in the next interview room. He was taken to the door of the room, saw his wife along with about six detectives, was brought back again and he heard the shouting and screaming of his wife. They tried to get him to sign a statement under that immense pressure.

If they don't arrest members of the family, they would threaten people with the UDA or UVF, and see to it their names were passed on to these organisations and they would detail incidents of sectarian murders and describe the victims; what way they were tortured etc. They would refer to the case of the Ahoghill grocer who was killed by the RUC constable McGaghey and say there are some bad apples who might give your name and see that you were killed. Sometimes they would come out and say you know there's corroboration between the SAS and the loyalist murder gangs, and would give evidence such as the Turnley murder where the SAS worked with the McConnell brothers from Larne. That threat is one the prisoner knows can happen, and is part of the intense pressure. One team would work along one line of threat, and another along another line, and a third usually older and more experienced, seemingly more respectable, would explain to the prisoner how beneficial it would be to cooperate, how they would speak for him or her in court.

Money would be offered as another inducement for information, especially by the S.B. during the three day hold. The offer is usually under threat as well. The money is simply a way out.



## VIDEO

In the morning before the interviews the six detectives in a team have a conference. If it's a CID/RCS lift they would write everything down that you said and at the conference it would be discussed by them, senior detectives, and specialist psychoanalysts. They would also rerun the video recording of the interviews and try and interpret the responses of the suspect, eg. body movements, whether s/he is nervous and at what points etc.

According to the Bennett Report recommendations there is some decent uniformed cop, somewhere in the bowels of Castlereagh watching what the camera in each interview room records to make sure the suspect isn't being tortured. In fact the video is there to be used in the conferences.

If they can realise at the conference a suspect is worried about, say, an ill parent, they'll keep on about it, and try and wear the prisoner down. After 3 or 4 days, they'll themselves begin to wear down. According to some RUC reports,

they say the suspect will usually break in the first stages of being interviewed. If someone can resist the first three days they'll probably resist the full seven days.

They would probably have another conference in the afternoon. The most important interview for them is at night, because of the body changes people go through at night, and the effect night time has on peoples minds. Night time is usually reserved for the threats.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

They try and break a person through attacking person's political beliefs, by continually talking about unsavoury aspects of what's happening, such as the policing methods of the provos, like kneecapping and execution and bombings that have gone wrong like La Mon. With that being constantly what the prisoner hears, s/he will put to the back of their mind the sort of repression the RUC and British army are engaged in themselves.

They would show people photographs of the victims. Many people would recognise that as an accident but the RUC would try and convince people it was deliberate murder. These photos are shown very late at night when a person is weary and dejected. In that condition it can be terrifying. It's totally different than seeing a photo in the light of day and in a normal situation. They would try and make a person feel responsible, however remotely, for these murders. The majority of people who find themselves in Castlereagh aren't members of the IRA or INLA or whatever and haven't any involvement in their activities. What they won't show are the victims of plastic bullets and other forms of repression.

They have used the statistical evidence given by Robert Kee in his TV serial on Ireland, where in the last programme he said that most victims resulted from IRA violence. But that includes republican combatants. There have been more civilians killed by the RUC, British army, and Loyalist assassins than through IRA violence. Through the interviews you can see that what is seen as only sectarian killing serves also a political purpose in terrorising the 'nationalist' community. People are threatened with it in Castlereagh.

#### POLITICS

As well as trying to shock you, they try and find out what type of politics you have. Very often they ask you directly 'Are you a marxist, a social-democrat, or what ever'. Its part of the system of building up a file on someone, who they find interesting, to use later on. They can then tell what circles you move in. They often try and engage you in political debate. They've sometimes said they admire for example certain members of the IRA, or of the nationalist community, people who stand up on their two hind legs like to refuse to recognise the court. That's aimed to get someone into their confidence, to engage them in political debate, in no matter how limited a way. It's also a way to gather information.

#### HALLUCINATIONS

If they have to use different approaches you know you're doing well. One technique is that once you are used to seeing the same 6 or 8 detectives, just to see somebody different come into the room can have a shocking affect. There is the dread of what might happen, which is how a lot of Castlereagh works. They've used a very big character with an aggressive face to come in on his own and just sit beside you saying nothing for 20 minutes. It can scare the shit out of you because you expect every minute to be hit. But then he just gets up and goes out. The detectives claim later they don't know who the suspect is talking about, so creating self-doubt and fear of hallucination in the suspect.

Its known that lack of sleep, intense anxiety, and paranoia can cause hallucinations. Some people claim that drugs have been used because the hallucinations and intensity of fear have been so strong. This sometimes from people who have been in Castlereagh or some with frightening experiences before which they could handle. It would be out of character for them in an interview room with only the threat of violence to experience intense fear. Since the days of internment there has been consistent allegation of drugs being used.

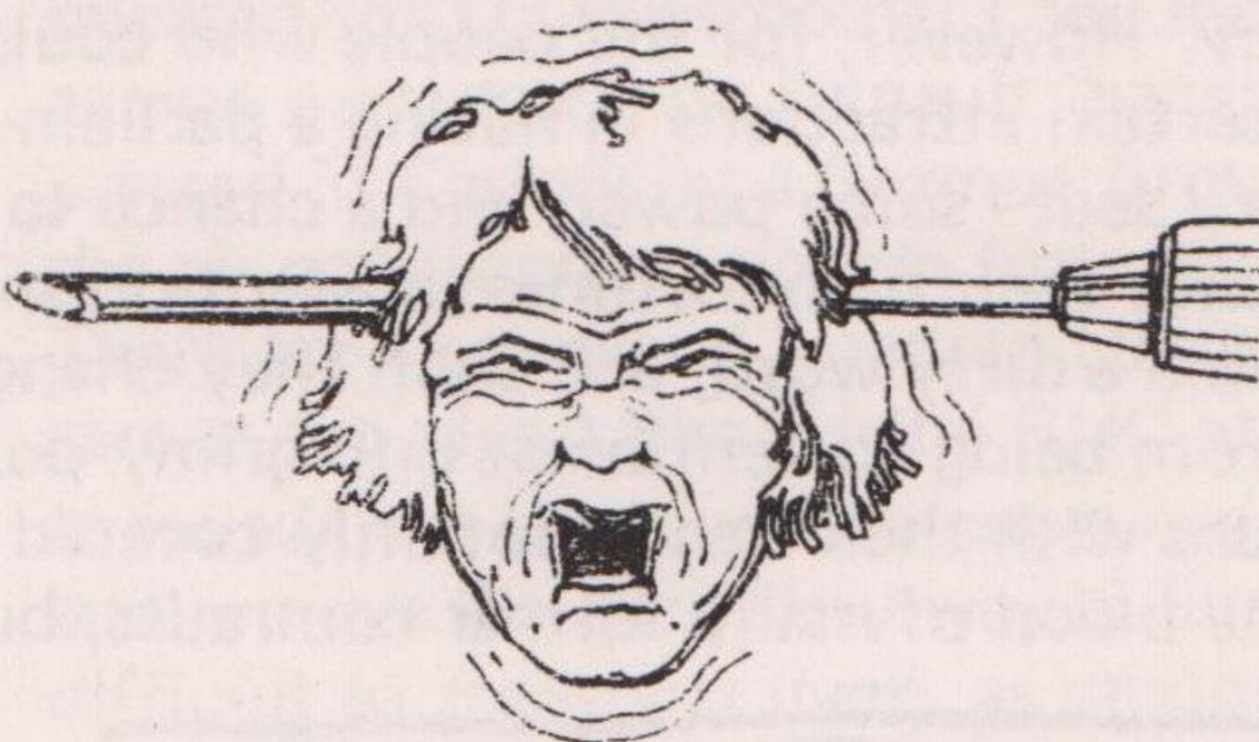
#### COURTS

They would try and confuse the prisoner about court procedure, the attitudes of judges, and what was admissable evidence, The statements of other people who aren't prepared to turn Queen's evidence aren't admissable, but if they detect during the early interviews that a prisoner isn't too aware of court procedure they would, say, threaten to use another persons statement in court, which they can't.

They would try and prevent people from getting solicitors like Oliver Kelly, PJ McCrory, and Pat Finucane. They seem to think those people would give better advice though I don't know. They advise people to get Trevor Smith. Solicitors like him have come to Castlereagh and advised prisoners to sign statements.

#### HISTORY

The whole thing is very complex, the no. of things they can use to try and break a person. If they are confronted with someone who has a weak knowledge of our history, but would see themselves as being politically involved or whatever, they can display to the prisoner that they know more about the history of the country or of the various political movements, it can lead to a person being demoralised, begin to question themselves and their part in political activity.



BRIAN MC GUIRE

There is constant reference to Brian McGuire, who died in Castlereagh. Very often they try and convince the prisoner that they did kill Brian McGuire. They say 'we hung him in the cell and we'll hang you'. Sometimes they say Brian hung himself because he couldn't stand the thought of his mother knowing what he was supposed to have done - they say he was involved in the killing of a peeler. They say he couldn't take it anymore and even describe how he is supposed to have killed himself - He took the sheets from his bed down to the toilet and wet them. When he brought them back and they were taut, he linked them through the grill and then hung himself. Sometimes they'll say to a prisoner 'you're in McGuire's cell' and play on the religious belief in ghosts and spirits. They'll even dim the lights to add to the fear. This shows the total involvement of the uniformed RUC in the whole process.

#### DOCTOR

The police doctor records in exact detail what the prisoner eats. If for example the prisoner isn't eating, they could take from that, he or she must be worried. Its in their interests to give regular meals, to be better able to monitor. The Bennett Report helped the RUC. It created the misconception that doctors in Castlereagh are somehow on the side of the prisoner. During the time that Dr. Irwin kicked up, a doctor appeared on TV and said no-one was ever tortured. The man was obviously a liar. They directly collaborate with the RUC. There's been the cases of those who can't sleep - it is difficult to sleep anyway - the doctor would prescribe sleeping pills. Very often these are so strong that in the first interview next morning the prisoner is virtually still sleeping. They're being questioned in a drugged state and might say things they would not want to say. I've known someone who signed a serious statement against himself which will earn him a lot of years in prison because he was so tired all he wanted was to go back to the cell and sleep. That was the direct result of strong sleeping pills.

#### RELIGION

Some of the interrogators have proven to the prisoner that they're Catholics, and have quoted people like Bishop Daly, O Fiach, and the Pope. They try and destroy a persons belief in himself, to disorientate him, if he is a Catholic, as the majority of those who go into Castlereagh are. The most famous quote is the Pope's one from

Drogheda when he spoke out against violence. They often relate basic Catholic moral teaching about killing and things. They would use this tactic if they thought from the earlier interviews that you might be susceptible.

#### WAY OUT

You could nearly sum the whole thing up with a series of psychological shocks and a systematic attempt to wear a person down physically, plus the offering of a way out. They never say you are finished, your life is in ruins; they'll not say that till after, if you're foolish enough to sign a statement. Then they'll taunt you. Until then there is an offering of an escape route, such as a reduced sentence, or the promise of a deal with the judge to get a suspended sentence. They're open about their personal contacts with judges and Queens Counsellors. They have and can do deals for people. Very often what they say is truth, from the threats of assassination to the promise of a deal.

## Walter Murray

*We were sorry to hear of the death of Walter Murray, brother of Noel, who is in the Curragh prison. Walter, who lived in Birkenhead, was 49, and the father of 7 children. He had previously been seriously injured in two separate accidents, when run down by cars. On the 14th January, he had a fall and was paralysed, dying the next day. He will be remembered for his work in England, touring the country and speaking to groups during the Murray Defence Campaign, which prevented the southern state from hanging Marie and Noel.*

*Noel, himself, recently was paid back the £1,000 which the Garda confiscated when they arrested him in 1976. Other good news is that the Curragh military prison is to close down this year. Noel and the other prisoners will be transferred to either Mountjoy or Limerick, where Marie is being held. Marie is taking the finals of her degree course, and, if successful, will be the first prisoner in the south to get a degree.*

## bigger and better but dearer!

After two years, we're now in a position to expand O.C. to eight pages every month. We have the time and the people. What we need to develop is better distribution, and more information and response from outside the collective.

We would like you to pass on news and experiences about where you live or work. If you know of any events or campaigns we should cover, let us know too. If there are articles or letters which you would like to comment on, we'd be glad to print them as letters often produce interesting debates.

We are also asking sympathisers to take copies of the paper to their local news-agents, or sell them at meetings or in the street. Just ask us for a trial number and see how it goes.

O.C. is produced by the Belfast Anarchist Collective. Subscription rates are £4 per year, but may be revised next issue.

Contact us by phoning Belfast 25426, and ask for the Outta Control Room (!)

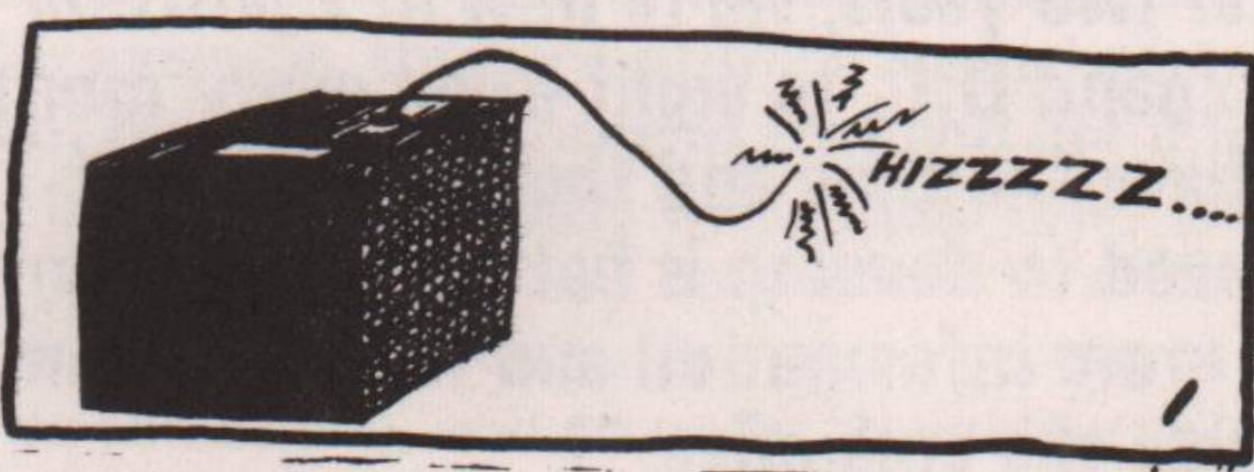
Or write - Outta Control  
c/o 7, Winetavern St.,  
Belfast 1.

# ELECTIONS AID OPPRESSION

The following article was written by someone who used to be a member of the Republican movement.

The debate that comes out of the question of participating in elections, and which surrounds all or any moves in the general direction of 'constitutional democracy', by movements such as that represented by Sinn Fein, is complex and not to be considered lightly. This is not a case of where if they do not win today they can always play again tomorrow. At the very heart of the question is the more pertinent point of whether or not Sinn Fein are being drawn slowly, yet surely, into the mire of corrupt and already discredited establishment politics.

The history of Sinn Fein itself demonstrates to us, throughout the years, that this policy of taking part in elections for purely symbolic and momentary gestures has led, in all cases, to elements within the Sinn Fein party and Republican Movement being influenced to think along 'constitutional democracy' lines. In all cases it led to a *split* in those ranks, which resulted in the degeneration of the struggle overall, as well as wrecking the Republican Movement of the day. The examples are there for anyone to see. The 1922 Treaty Elections when the vast majority of both the IRA & Sinn Fein voted in their separate assemblies to reject the Treaty. This led to a section of Sinn Fein forming the Fine Gael party and taking over power as the Government of the 26-county Free State. It was also the cause for the Civil War, and eventually led to the Republican Movement being torn asunder, whilst others followed the road to 'constitutional democracy' in what was to become the Fianna Fail party under Eamon de Valera. The latest example was in 1969/1970, when the then Republican Movement split on the issue of elections & of Abstentionism. We have all seen the results of that in the Free State, and in the North, where Sinn Fein, The Workers' Party, would do any demeaning thing demanded for some or any form of recognition from Westminster/Stormont/the Dail, anywhere, so long as it is respectable - which means is *thought respectable by people like Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.*



## ABSTENTIONISM

This word came to mean, for those engaged in the struggle against the British system of colonialism/imperialism in Ireland, a refusal to take part in the elected assemblies of Westminster, or any 'Parliament' set up in Ireland designed by the Brits. It was never an enshrined 'principle' of the Republican Movement until they had an Ard Fheis (Annual Convention) and embodied it as such in 1922. Up until this time, it was a tactic used to embarrass the Brits, as was achieved when **Bobby Sands** was elected in 1981. This tactic of Abstention also went hand in hand with the Republican Movement setting up alternative administration in Ireland during the years 1918-19 1922; this stemmed from the successful 'Limerick Council' of 1917. At this time, the Brits imposed a modern siege of Limerick and the people, through their own efforts, and utilising what was to hand by way

of organisation - Trade Unions, Parish and community associations - took over, and not only ran their own lives, but even printed their own form of money - and they didn't even have a licence! This demonstrated the depth of feeling and ability of the people to administer the things that were essential to their lives, without a parliamentary body sitting on high ordering them around. And so it became a revolutionary experience that transformed the lives and attitudes of many Republican thinkers, some of whom, even yet, draw parallels between Limerick 1917 and the setting-up of the Soviets in Russia (at which time those Soviets were revolutionary in character). In effect, this meant to the Republicans of the day, and was passed on to those successive generations, that Abstentionism was not just some worth-while ploy or tactic, but when linked to an *alternative* administration undermining a system which they knew to be corrupt, Abstention was a revolutionary policy. However, for the people who could see certain attractions in having a parliamentary seat - some power, and a chance to enhance their own fortunes, abstentionism became a dirty word, and soon they changed from being abstentionist into grimy politicians with their hands not only covered in the blood of many former comrades, but



covered also with money and a lot of power. This is the danger inherent in electioneering even on the abstentionist or non-participation platform; it leads into the world of grimy little power-mongers like Gerry Fitt and John Hume, Ian Paisley and Oliver Napier. They spend so much time in the company of politicians that they begin to think, look, and talk like them. Who, for example, in 1922 would have dared suggest that Eamon de Valera was a traitor to the cause of Irish freedom from England? Who indeed could suggest that any of these fine revolutionaries would become *Traitors*. The only one that I can think of is Liam Mellows. He was executed by the Free State Government, and one of his statements on Participation, as opposed to Abstentionism, attests to his conviction that when these people get into a position of government, they do not wish to leave. To paraphrase: "And when you have this government (Free State), who is there to stand up and tell you that your actions are wrong? When men get into office, they seldom wish to leave, and will do almost anything to retain it."

The policy of fighting elections leads to the dilemma which will soon face all those within the Republican Movement. When does Abstentionism cease to be a revolutionary and principled policy, when there are enough candidates elected to make participation a worthwhile tactic, and then a principle, or when there is an all-Ireland election and what will be the real difference then?

There is an alternative to this creeping sickness of involvement with corrupt and oppressive systems. It is an extension of abstentionism to *the building up of an undermining alternative to governments in Ireland - the history of which governments show them to be nothing more than pawns of money-men, and very often of foreign gov-*

*ernments, not only the British.* They do not act in the interest of people, they act to oppress people, and, for the most part, cause only misery and suffering for those same people they claim to represent.

No-one would claim that the people in the Republican Movement are not sincere; and their predecessors; Collins, de Valera, McGiolla? Who would say that, they too, were not sincere? Once. It is not the people who are corrupt, and certainly the ideals they profess to hold do not seem corrupt, but *why*, when there is a chance for government, do these ideals suddenly vanish, as in the cases of the above-mentioned? It is because these *systems of government* are corrupt, and have a corrupting influence on all who come to regard them as a means to an end.

## POWER...

This is a word which has come to mean, for many people, the *goal* of their struggle. The power to rule and govern other people is contained in all houses of Parliament, or, where that does not exist as a system of government, in one-party states. This power is to be derived from the people, and it is through elections that we get the chance to vote for the party that we want to govern us. Where is the difference between the parties? In the 26-counties, Britain, or anywhere else, all of the parties seem to be only interested in one thing - Power or Office (the nice word for it). Sinn Fein, SDLP, DUP, Fianna Fail, OUP, all have one thing in common - a desire for power. Although they disagree on fundamental issues, such as under what conditions they want the power, the common factor still remains - that they would like to rule.

## PEOPLE.

This is the most abused word of them all in the world of politics, constitutional democracy-style. And listening to people like Thatcher and Haughey using the word is often a sickening experience. The popular will, as expressed by the people, is a much-heard phrase which means *nothing*. It is only by remaining *within the people* can a true and successful revolution take place in Ireland, and, instead of spending time and resources on elections (Sinn Fein have set aside £26,000 for the proposed Prior elections this year in Belfast), why do they not use this money, and their time, and other resources, to help in forming an *alternative* to the system against which they claim to fight? Does *no-one* in Sinn Fein feel that there is something wrong in such priorities? Are the people prepared to support Sinn Fein whilst they continue to give apparent support and encouragement (and receive like-wise from the Brits and their



new assembly? Even Austin Currie has called the Sinn Fein party "agents of British imperialism", and whatever crime Austin Currie has been guilty of, it sure as hell isn't fighting or opposing British imperialism in Ireland or anywhere else! There is a reasoning why the Brits are pleased that Sinn Fein are taking part in elections. They know that for Sinn Fein to get votes that there must be an easing away from militarism, and that means a run-down of the IRA

contd. next page.

# CHINA - DISSENT AND RERESSION

'One of the areas in which we are most active is solidarity with the members of the so-called Democracy Movement, many of whom were arrested in Peking a little over a year ago'. The speaker is a Hong Kong anarchist by the name of Mok, one of three such comrades who visited Italy four years ago to participate in the international symposium on the 'new masters', held in Venice, 25-27 March 1978. Now Mok was back in Europe this time eager to contact other anarchists, but also to contact international organisations like Amnesty International which are specifically concerned with state repression, torture, disappeared persons and prisoners of conscience . . . 'of which there are very many in China today. In particular, we are mobilising in support of some of them . . . take, for example, the case of Lau San Ching, a young man (born in 1953) whom I know personally and have a high regard for. Ever since the mid-70s he has been active in various campaigns (over the demilitarisation of 1975, or the Tein An Men Square incidents in 1976, etc.) promoted by the opposition. In February last year, he returned from a trip undertaken to contact dissidents in Peking and Shanghai, only to be stopped at the border searched and interrogated. Then, in April 1981, the internal situation in China took a turn for the worse. There were arrests of oppositionists, among them the delegates from many spontaneous and unofficial groups who had gone to Peking hoping to regularise their legal positions. Last December, Lau San Ching then left Hong Kong for yet another trip to China undertaken in order to visit the relatives of some arrested dissidents. He was due back on 27 December but we have had no news of him since. For a long time we were able to discover nothing. Then, at last, his father who had gone to Canton, learned from police that his son had been arrested there. But he has not been able to see his son and this is all that we know about him.

"Elections" continued

campaign against the Brits. This run-down of activity is well enough balanced by an IRA capable of much more decisive and concerted attacks on the British government's forces in Ireland, than it presently carries out. The reason for the slackening off, then some attacks, not only shows the IRA to be capable, but allays any suspicions amongst their rank and file of any dwindling of commitment to the struggle along military lines. Anyone who doubts the IRA ability should bear in mind their quite unique organisation, which after *twelve years* of continual pressure and almost constant losses in personnel and material, is still as capable of escalating the struggle onto the same levels of 1972-1973 then as now. They choose not to, and they are headed on a course that will see them still effective operationally for as long as they are of use to the party. Their use is dwindling, and they risk losing their commitment to freedom in the same way as their former comrades.

*Elections aid oppression!*

Out of solidarity with those arrested in China in April 1981, the various Hong Kong groups which concern themselves with state repression inside China (Trotskyists, anarchists, other marxists groups etc.) made several moves on 4 and 5 April last (among these a demonstration outside the New China news agency in Hong Kong) to highlight their predicament. These same groups coming together under the umbrella of the Chinese Democratic Movement Resource Centre publish a monthly English language bulletin of information regarding the repression in China. Mok was at pains to explain that the bulletin eschewed political analysis of any sort and sticks to hard news, gleaned wherever possible. Analysis of a libertarian stamp and, more generally libertarian views may be found in the magazine 'Undercurrent'. Publication of the magazine 'Minus' which used to be numbered as a count-down towards the fateful year 1984 has been ceased, although the name has been retained as the title of a libertarian theatre company (of which Mok is one) which calls itself the 1984/1997 group (1997 being the year of the expiry of Britain's lease on Hong Kong and the end of its days as a colony).

Our inspiration is the Living Theatre Troupe and we have already put on 4 different shows. In addition to the theatre group we also have a rock band which plays a rock version (with the lyrics adjusted of course) of the classic 'The East is Red'. There is another area, too in which we are busy at the present time . . . the new plan for a decentralised administration as proposed by the Hong Kong authorities. This is in fact a new deception by which the authorities hope to prettify themselves so as to delude the people. And also we have for sometime been active in solidarity work on behalf of the Polish workers'.

"Exporting Pollution" cont.

scale, what gets taken up in the food-chain and eaten by us, and what ends up *killing us*. Most of our "local" fish comes from this heavily polluted belt around the Isle of Man.

If that wasn't bad enough, the British government have now abandoned all plans at any *high-level* waste disposal on land. (At one time, test-drillings were carried out in the Mournees to see if there was a suitable site for burying high-level nuclear waste.) Instead, they intend dumping at sea, 380 miles S.W. of Ireland. International regulations, which prohibit such dumping, are easily got round, as the British nuclear authorities merely re-classify high-level waste as being no more dangerous than low-level, after it has been stored and monitored for a while! Britain is the *only country in the world* dumping high level waste into the ocean; Ireland and Portugal are the two countries who will suffer most.

*The more nuclear waste that gets dumped off the S.W. coast, and the longer that Wind-scale is allowed to exist, then the more Ireland becomes ringed with another country's cancerous poison.*

*(The scientific back-up for everything in this article is contained in a recent report by the Pol. Ecology Research Group, 34 Cowley Rd. Oxford. "The Impact of Nuclear Waste on the Marine Environment". Research Report RR8. March 1982.)*

At this point, our conversation veered on to the subject of the situation within China, I asked Mok what impact and echo the events in Poland had had in China, at least so far as he could tell or find out from Hong Kong.

'Initially, the Chinese government gave developments in Poland great prominence obviously for anti-Russian motives. However the barrage of news reports about the autonomous trade union struggles of the workers of Gdansk could not but have stimulated a wish to imitate them on the part of the liveliest sections of Chinese society. The authorities then clamped down on the reports and, to all intents and purposes, imposed a news black-out on the issue. Meanwhile, however the seeds had been planted and the process of setting up tiny free trade unions (not under party control, and thus illegal) suddenly accelerated. From the first national gathering of this youthful union movement went those delegates who turned up in Peking and were arrested a little over a year ago. And the repression which ensued has led to the close-down of those spontaneous newspapers not aligned with the authorities and which had begun to appear in the chief cities. Today the situation in China is one of complete darkness once more'.

Mok points out that the Democracy movement embraces a spectrum of tendencies, including pro-Western as well as avowedly revolutionary currents. 'It is in the latter that those most close to anarchism are active. So far as we know to date, no one has come out and admitted his anarchism but libertarian concerns are evident in the positions of those who profess themselves marxist but criticise those in power. On the other hand to call oneself an anarchist in China is to ensure that one disappears. Of that we are 100% certain'.

*The above article is taken from the Italian paper A RIVISTA ANARCHICA, May '82.*

## more shorts

FLAG DAY(S)

The Department of the Environment (London) passed a circular to all public bodies, requesting them to fly the flag on the birth of the Princess of Wales' baby. Due to the unpredictability of the event, contingency plans had to be laid down:

*"a. If an announcement of the birth is made before 1.00 am on any working day - Monday - Friday flags should be flown on the same day.*

*b. If announced after 11.00 Monday - Thursday and at any time on Sunday flags should be flown on the following day.*

*c. If announced after 11.00am Friday and before midnight on Saturdays no flags will be flown." (!)*

*It appears that the Drug Squad have given up their friendly little talks in schools, as they discovered that it was actually encouraging people to experiment. Perhaps if they were to retire altogether they'd discover that the 'drug problem' would disappear with them.*

Cafe Despard  
Political Cabaret and Disco  
Markets Social Club June 25<sup>th</sup>  
9 till late £1.

# FESTIVAL ROCK SABOTAGE

**BELFAST** had its first free all-day open air rock festival for 12 years, as part of the Belfast Civic Festival

An event which can be expected to attract thousands, only succeeded in getting a crowd of a couple of hundred (and then mostly friends of the nine groups who were playing

**WHY ?**

The festival organiser and his employers, the Belfast City Council, were determined to sabotage it from the start.

Mike Mitchell, the City Council's £16,000 a year chief public relations officer, invited a 6-person committee to organise the festival's music events. He accepted the initial idea of a week-long event in the McMordie Hall, consisting of 3-6 groups playing every afternoon, plus a 2-day free festival in the Ormeau Park, as put forward by the enthusiastic committee. The plans looked good on the City Council's minutes, showing that Mitchell was doing a fine job in catering for the youth.

**MULTINATIONALS : BUSINESS MUST BE NORMAL :**

Especially as the City Council were being put under pressure from Superintendent Turkington, Inspector McFarland and representatives of the Belfast Large Stores Committee, who met the City Council, to see if something could be done to get rid of the hundreds of young mods, rockers, punks, heavy metallers from the city centre every Saturday afternoon.

(Ironically, they were the same bunch of shits that, when the A Centre was going, done their best to get it closed !)

**BAD FOR BUSINESS. . . . .**

Every Saturday, shoppers felt threatened

by the scores of youths, with nowhere to go or nothing to do, who simply walked en-masse round the city centre. This intimidation of shoppers led to a deterioration of trade, said the large store owners. And they can't have anybody fuck up their capitalist consumer industry.

"The Belfast Civic Festival should help alleviate the problem" assured Mike Mitchell, getting well in with the Council, and covering himself.

(The next Council's meeting is to be addressed by assorted representatives of youth organisations, who also hope to solve the problem of finding a place to put the youth. No doubt these authoritarians will get money for more ping-pong, snooker, nice coffee bars and other disciplinary devices into their sterile environments.)

**ROCK FOLLIES.**

However, as the weeks passed, it was obvious that Mike Mitchell was not in the least bit interested in putting any of the grand rock plan into action by getting permission from the various City Council bureaucrats.

**WHO'S BOSS**

The committee had booked Blues artist Memphis Slim to appear in the Ulster Hall. Mitchell also included on the bill, without consulting the committee, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, at a cost of £2,200 (providing Mitchell with a possible back-hander from their Dublin promoter Gerry Harford?)

**TOKEN GESTURE**

It was only after 4 of the committee threatened to resign that a day event in Maysfield was hastily put together. The rock event

was allocated a mere £1000 for 9 bands, 2 of which were from England. (£450 was used for the stage erection !)

**GET TO WHERE YOU BELONG.**

The Maysfield Leisure Centre didn't feel like having the assorted riff-raff inside their premises ('no toilets' they said, despite the fact that they have had concerts in there before.)

The rock event was allocated a small tarmac site, enclosed with 10' high mesh wire, backing onto the most polluted area of the Lagan (thanks, once again, to the City Council.)

**CLEVER BASTARDS.**

The RUC said they would send along 25 plain clothes men and 2 vans to be at the rock groups' disposal (such nice chaps). That being duly noted in the minutes, they later withdrew their men and vans. Why? They realised they would not be needed, as Mitchell would see to it that few people would turn up.

**NO NEWS. . . . .**

Despite the fact that the Festival had given enormous publicity to the Miss Belfast Beauty Competition (for which celebrity Diana Dors received £1500) and other assorted trivia, there was practically no mention of the free rock festival.

**IS GO NEWS. . . . .**

No Belfast Telegraph ads, no wall posters, they didn't even mention it in their Civic Festival newspaper. It was not surprising few turned up.

The bands were given just enough money to cover costs.

**REVOLUTION : FESTIVAL OF THE OPPRESSED**

At the end of the day's event, about 50 punks hung around hoping to hear an impromptu session from a local punk band. The band were hassling the organisers on stage to get a chance to play, but were promptly removed by the RUC, one person getting his jaw smashed and being arrested. The rest of the punks then threw bottles at the RUC, and they disappeared into the west.

If given a chance, the rock festival could have attracted thousands. But who's interested in doing anything for young people, except they have something to gain from it?

**...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS.....**

Mike Mitchell, city council's PR organiser, has been suspended ! Presumably because he over-spent his budget. In addition to the Civic Festival money, he used up all the cash set aside for the Folk Festival.

Or..... is there more than meets the eye ??



## The Slaughterhouse

In Coolock on the northside of Dublin it seems the cops have been hassling people so badly that the station there is now known as the Slaughterhouse. The harassment was brought to the attention of the Prisoners Rights Organisation (PRO) by a woman whose son had been held at that station after he had been arrested. The woman's husband has gone to the station when he heard the son was there. He asked to see the son but all he got from the cops was a vicious slagging because of his speech impediment. They accused him of deliberately sending his son out to rob and refused to let him see him. He eventually left but

returned to ask if he could see the son the next day. The cops reacted to this by dragging him in and batoning him. He was then arrested and charged with causing a breach of the peace.

After the woman had brought this to the attention of the PRO other incidents of brutality came to light. It seems that its mainly teenagers who are bearing the brunt. One bloke had a pot of green paint poured over him, another had his ear ring torn out while another had his head put in a desk drawer, which was then slammed shut. A young boy of 15 had to spend three days in hospital after he has been to the Slaughterhouse.

In reaction to all of this the PRO organised a picket on the station. A young boy who was hanging around waiting for the picket to start was pulled into the station and questioned. When the picket started and the cops clicked away with their cameras from inside the station he was told to identify everybody who was on the picket. He was warned against ever picketing the station.

The day after, all the local people who were on the picket were visited by the cops and threatened with being arrested for picketing (though it is legal). It seems that the cops are going to respond to the people by resorting to more harassment. A public meeting has been organised in the area to start a fightback.



# Gaining Ground



## Sold with Outta Control

"Power to no one, and to every one : To each the power over her/his own life, and no others."

(From 'Sisterhood is Powerful', printed in New York in 1970.)

Message from the Gaining Ground Collective:-

"We are at present discussing the future of Gaining Ground, so that this issue, and perhaps the next two issues, will be interim ones to precede what we hope might be a much-improved anarcho-feminist paper. One idea under discussion is the possibility of producing a much-expanded feminist journal which may be published at 2 or 3 monthly intervals. This could be produced independently, thus (we hope) attracting interest and support from other feminists in Northern Ireland, and giving us the opportunity to expand our range of content and to treat some subjects in more depth. The new paper would be distributed independently and we would, of course, carry over all existing postal subscriptions.

Some members of the Collective are busy with writing contributions to a book on women in N. Ireland, which will include sections on women at work, the family, women and the political situation, and so forth - the same members are also busily compiling a general information and Resources Pack for women. So, as you can see, we have much to do, and much thought to give to that which concerns us.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions as to the production, distribution and content of the feminist journal now under discussion, then we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please write to us (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope if you can, if a reply is required) c/o Just Books, 7 Wine-tavern Street, Belfast 1.

Yours (in mind-boggling discussion !),

Gaining Ground Collective



As anarcho-feminists, we aspire to have the courage to question and challenge absolutely everything - including, when it proves necessary, our own assumptions.

## War and Peace ?

IT IS extremely difficult for us to comment on the present war in the S. Atlantic without seeming to offer a standard 'left' response to the atrocities there.

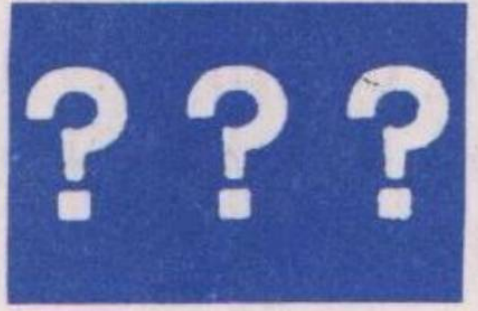
Media coverage, glorifying the roles of those who are commanded by others to burn the enemy alive, has sickened us, particularly the ways in which relatives & friends of the dead have been used and exploited in the other 'war' of oppressive propaganda.

One young lad, who we spoke with recently in Belfast, summed up our feelings with regard to the British media:

"See when that Argentinian boat was blown up and there were 300 Argentinians dead or something, nobody says nothing. See when that boat, the Sheffield, was blew up, and there was 30 dead, everybody cried. The 'Sun' turns round and says 'only' - only ! - 200 Argentinians were ever killed and lucky there was 800 survivors, see that in the 'Sun' ? I've never read anything like it in my life."

Coverage of the war, which concentrates on 'facts' and 'figures' and which does not investigate or consider the wider human implications, neatly takes the collective mind of its audience off the ways in which power drunk politicians the world over continue to exploit and oppress us, it relegates coverage of the war in the Middle East to pages that we can't even find, and nowhere is to be found (surprise, surprise) the continuing death toll in Northern Ireland, which is a direct result of occupation by the British state.

Yes, "Rally round the flag !" time is upon us, and while we're at it we'll have all those cosy fireside chats about elections. The populace fall for it again and again and its kept governments in control for centuries !



Has anyone compared the very different ways in which the media and the British people have responded to this year's calls for peace and reconciliation by the Pope ; i.e. those he gave whilst in Ireland in 1979, and those recently given whilst in England?

We know, we don't really have to spell it out, but did you notice that nowhere, *nowhere*, were those people who launch missiles which burn people alive in their planes called 'terrorists'. But then, that's not surprising, is it ?

### NEWS FROM MOUNTJOY

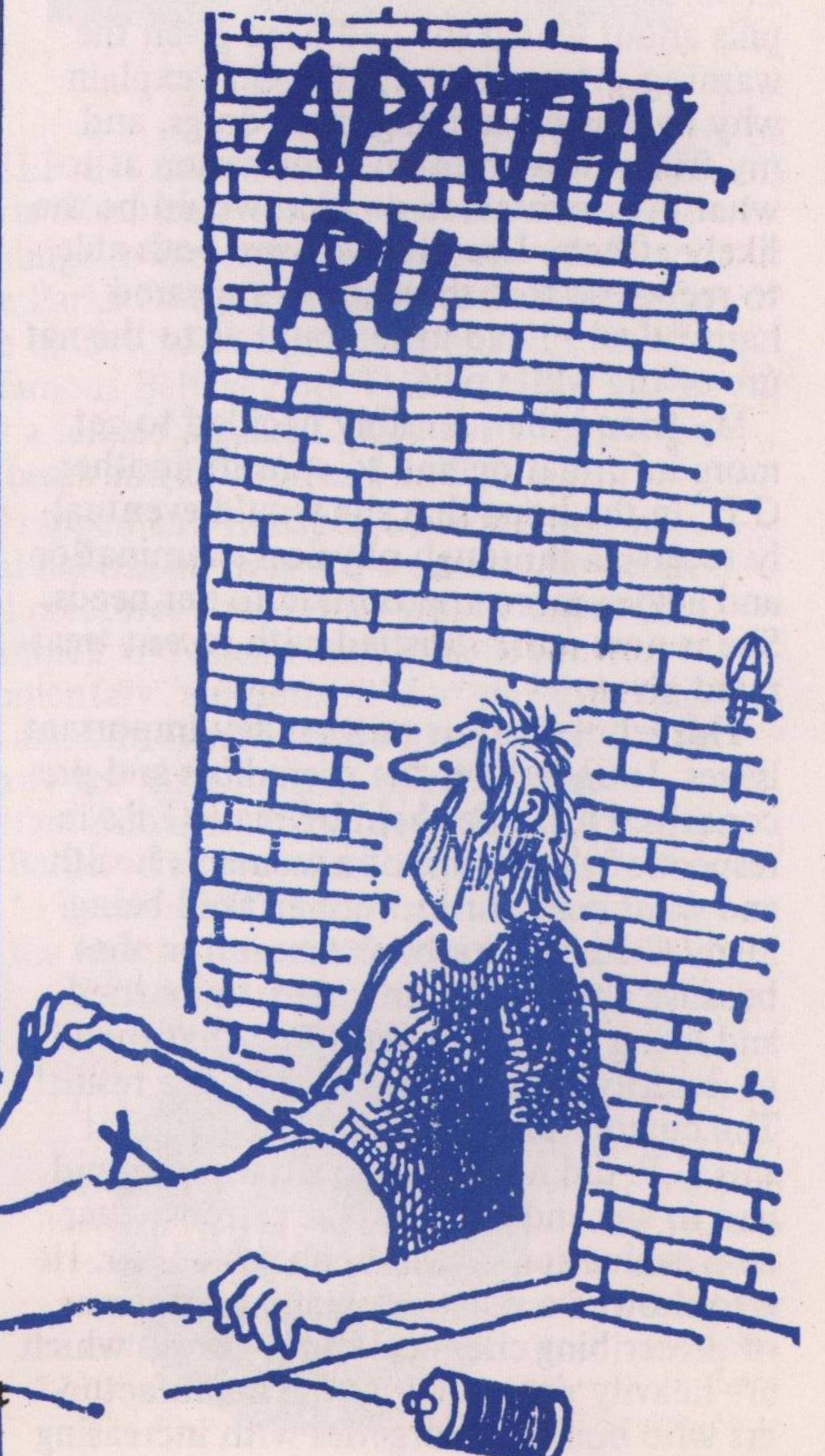
We have heard recently that the medical facilities in Mountjoy womens prison are not at all what they should be. There is the recent case of a woman who was five and a half months pregnant. One day, during recreation, she got very bad pains. She asked to see a doctor. He never arrived. Instead, the priest came. He chased away all the other women prisoners who had gathered round to help the women. They were then all locked in.

The doctor eventually arrived at 12 o'clock the next day. The woman was sent to hospital where the accompanying screw insisted on sitting almost on top of her, claiming she was 'a security risk' (the woman is a junkie). Eventually the woman was granted temporary release.

Apparently, the doctor in Mountjoy does only a three-day week. So, if you're sick when he is off, it's tough shit. It seems that no effort at all was made to get help on the Saturday - the day the woman was taken ill.



To transform the world and to change the structure of life are one and the same thing.





## WOMENS HEALTH

RECENTLY a friend of mine consulted her (male) G.P. She was feeling generally run down and tired and felt in need of some kind of medicinal tonic to restore her energy. The G.P. seemed more interested in her social life than in her physical condition. She was faced with questions as to whether or not she was working, why she had recently changed address, and, after a cursory examination of her *tongue*, was prescribed massive doses of a tri-cyclic anti depressant, a drug which he himself described as dangerous ; telling her to keep it out of the reach of children and warning her that it might have side effects. She came home clutching a tub the size of a yoghurt carton, filled with coloured capsules, which he claimed were a tonic, and a small brown bottle containing the white pills about which she had been given the warning. At no time did the G.P. explain why he was prescribing these drugs, and my friend was given no information as to what they contained or what would be the likely effects. Luckily, we were both able to recognise that these drugs appeared harmful and I had little doubt as to the nature of the white pills.

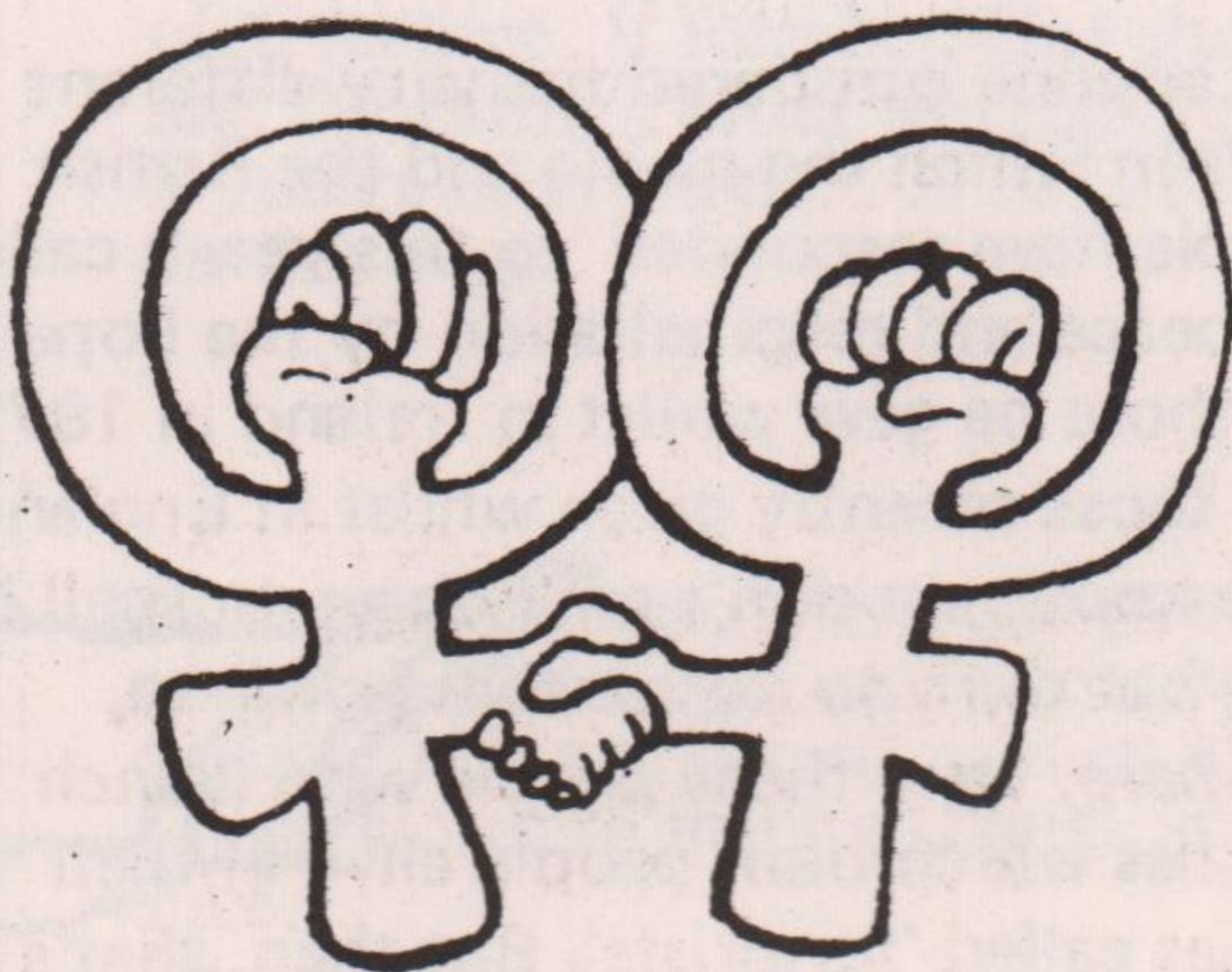
My friend then sensibly decided to get more information and to consult another G.P., in the hope that she would eventually receive a thorough physical examination and advice more appropriate to her needs. She is now more satisfied with recent treatment given.

This whole matter raises many important issues. It underlines the prejudices and preconceived attitudes held by male G.P.s in respect of the nature of a woman's health and what constitutes, for her, well-being. Many G.P.s still harbour the notion that because a woman is unwaged, unmarried, and living an independent life, that she is necessarily prone to depression as a result! The cursory examination indicated that this G.P. did not listen to what my friend had to say and did not take seriously her own evaluation of what concerned her. He also showed a reliance on standard forms of prescribing chemical drugs - drugs which are heavily promoted by the manufacturers who bombard surgeries with increasing

amounts of slick advertising and gimmicks. Luckily, my friend had the good sense to recognise and reject this abysmal standard of medical "care". Not all women are armed with enough information or determination to enable them to make such a judgement, and many women fall victim to dependance on drugs which they do not need and which can ruin their lives.

In closed communities, served by a 'family' doctor, the G.P. can acquire over a period of time a great deal of information about families and about the social and political nature of the area in which they live. Movement of population can be monitored as can the social and political relationships which prevail in clearly defined areas. A Doctor who may have political aspirations is in a strong and privileged position, from which he can use information to further a political career and to claim understanding of, and control over, a section of the community which he claims to serve. It is not surprising then, that some women, vaguely aware of these implications, will be reluctant to discuss some aspects of their lives, and, as a result, be reluctant to complain about the standard of medical treatment and more likely to accept, unquestioningly any treatment prescribed.

All of this underlines the need for women to try to establish more clinics such as the 'Well-Woman' ones, which are run *by and for women*. Only then will we be able to control our own bodies and reach greater understanding of our physical and emotional needs - and to take our own responsibility for them.



We have heard some reports recently that there are discussions under way in Belfast to establish just such a clinic at Dunluce. We would be glad to receive more details as and when plans get under way.

## Reports

The Gaining Ground tour of Scotland was successful and very enjoyable for the three members of the GG Collective who took part. We toured with a Tape and Slide programme which took as its subject political, social and sexual aspects of life in Northern Ireland, primarily, though not exclusively, from a woman's point of view. We will be reporting back in the next issue (we hope) but in the meantime would like to thank members of the groups in Scotland who made us very welcome, provided accommodation and meals, and who organised efficiently in their areas. Thanks are also due to the Womens Group in North Devon, who organised a venue for us in that part of England, and to friends in London who did likewise.

We learnt a lot from the tour and made many new friends, who, we hope, will keep in touch with us. Plans are being discussed to transfer the programme onto video, so that it will be more easily available to interested groups. We hope to tour more extensively in England later this year.

Thank you once again, to all who helped us.



THE warm summer in Belfast has brought out a particularly nasty rash. Not, as you might assume, on our bodies, but on gigantic hoardings all over the city - a nasty rash of sexist advertisements. The one that we single out this month for a dose of our wrath and contempt is one that the manufacturers of 'Elbeo' stockings dreamt up..... "Pretty girls legs don.t ache", which depicts a stereotyped image of a 'pretty' woman standing 'confidently' next to a park bench on which lies a (supposedly) exhausted dog. The dog looks doped (ALF please note); the woman looks smug. All we have to say is 'This sexist crap makes us so ANGRY !!!!' What about you ?



## They Call Us Names .....

APART from the traditional facilities offered by schools and churches, there is very little on offer in Northern Ireland for young people of school age. Commercial centres cater for changing fashions by exploiting the spending power of some youngsters, with a glittering, but superficial, mixture of clothes, records, discos, cafes and other trendy paraphernalia. It's just too bad if you have no money - then you have to fend for yourselves in a social atmosphere that is not generally sympathetic to the needs and the imaginations of young people.

On a recent rainy Saturday, in the centre of Belfast, we spoke to three young women from Dungannon (all still at school or at college). Here is some of what they had to say:

"We don't live here; we've just come down here because we've absolutely nothing to do.

We've come from Dungannon.

There's nothing to do there. They're just different from us. We're the only ones (punks) down there. They call us names and that, we're just looked down on. We've come down here to join up with a few people down here. There's no life up there at all.

We just meet friends down here, like us. Just get to know them. That's the only reason we come down.

There's nowhere really that we can go. We've heard about the Harp Bar and the Pound Club here, but we haven't got down to them yet just because we've no transport down. We just lead a real boring life compared to the people down here of our age. We got here by bus, so we have to spend money on transport as well. That's another disadvantage to us.

We come down most weekends.

We live with our parents and we get on with them, but they don't agree with what we like - our clothes or our taste or nothing. Mine don't anyway. But we get on with them OK - they let us come down on a Saturday. They wouldn't let us down at night as there's no way home.

They'd rather we looked normal! Normal people! Wear jeans and jumpers and all like that.

We don't earn money, but they give us

money to buy whatever clothes we like, so that's good enough.

Their attitude in general is awful - it is compared to the people here. They can do whatever they like. It's not only our parents, it's the people in Dungannon, like:

we're just laughed at. They call us names - down here they don't, it's completely different.

We just talk to people, the people that we know and whoever does know us they'd say to us: oh we would know you, you're dead on when we talk to you. Just the police stopped us a few times, hassled us once or twice.

And the future?

We hope to have a group, we're working in a group. An all-girl group. We're practising at the minute - it gives us something to do. We don't go out anywhere because there's nowhere to go. Nobody really knows about it. Round Dungannon we just wouldn't have a chance - no way!

One young lad that we spoke to outside Woolworth's had even fewer prospects for a rainy Saturday afternoon in Belfast. We asked what he was likely to be doing that day -

Nothing. Go in the subways sometimes, or go to another guy's house. There's nothing to do in this dump.

I used to go to the A Centre, that was cracker, that. Is it opening again, no? It was good, somewhere to go on a Saturday. It was better than down the subways. There's nowhere to go at night. Nothing. Down the subways again. The cops book you and all, sometimes - tell you to move on.

I'm on the dole. I've been on opportunity schemes, but we just got messed about - didn't do nothing really. It was something to do during the days. I used to do art at school and I'd like to do something like that, but it still costs money so it does. I get £16 a week. I got mine the other day and it's spent already.

*This year alone more than £12 billion is being spent on the arms trade and on military projects. Our money goes to research and develop weapons of destruction. Unemployed young people hang about the streets to find what amusement and interest they can. Under the drone of British*

army helicopters they stand rejected by a state which they in turn (many of them) reject. Frustration, and even despair, are not far away. With little resources of their own, and precious little support from those in 'authority', from those who do have access to facilities, or from those who profess to care about 'the problems of youth', the future for many young people who do not conform to traditional moulds is very bleak. Acutely aware of their situation, most of them still find the odds too great and live their lives from day to day, with little expectations of the future.

Northern Ireland has the highest prices, the lowest wages, the highest rates of unemployment, the worst housing, compared to other parts of Britain. The British state, which has kept a military garrison here since 1922, is one of the world's leaders in the export of the most highly developed technology for burning people alive.



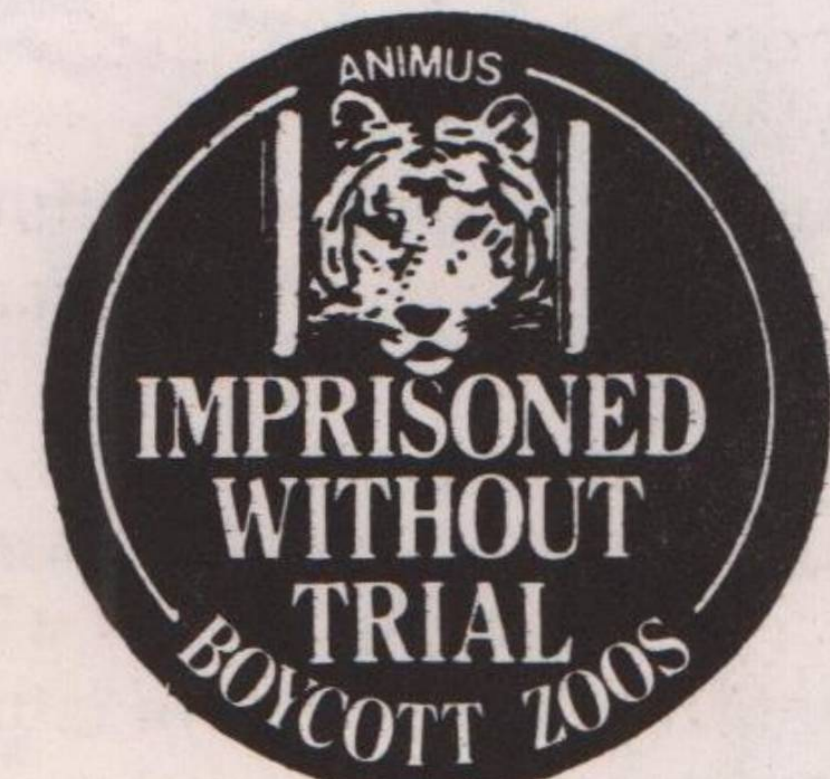
Short Brothers Ltd of Belfast are to supply Argentina with Seacat ship-to-air missiles. Also Tigercat surface-to-air missiles; 10 to Marines, 10 to Army.

'Power-mad fiends' who would unhesitatingly launch hydrogen bombs to save a flag, seem to delight more in administering 'short, sharp shocks' to young people than in listening to what they have to say and in encouraging them to live free and happy lives.

## Zoos

BELFAST City Council continues to exhibit its inhuman priority when it comes to spending our money. On Thursday 6th May, the Parks Committee approved an expenditure of £47,350 to purchase animals for the infamous Belfast Zoo. This included £750 for a female jaguar, £8,000 for 2 female polar bears and £2000 for 2 Indian lions.

Trapped and transported from their natural habitat all over the world, these beautiful creatures (once free) will be caged in cramped and alien conditions to provide momentary 'amusement' for human beings. As anarcho-feminists, we have called consistently for the abolition of all prisons - Belfast Zoo is no exception. As inhabitants of Belfast city, we want homes and streets fit to live in - NOT the vicarious 'pleasures' of the sight of caged animals.



# REVIEW

## CRUSHING SQUASHED FLIES

useful in self-defence. There is though, no substitute for taking a self-defence course  
judo, Karate, Kung fu etc. For more details see p 31

EYES - WILL REFLECT YOUR MOOD. THE MORE CONFIDENT YOU FEEL, THE STRONGER YOU WILL LOOK - AND BE!

TEETH - BITE

POCKET - CONTAINS TORCH COMBINING ALARM

FINGERS - PINCH AND SQUEEZE TENDER AREAS OF SKIN

FIST - PUNCH. LEARN HOW TO FORM A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE FIST, WITH THUMB CURLLED AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR CLENCHED FIST

SHOPPING BASKET - HIT OUT. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU CARRY IN SELF-DEFENCE - IT COULD BE USED AGAINST YOU EG. RAZORS, CHAINS OR A GOOD IDEA IS TO CLASP YOUR BUNCH OF KEYS IN YOUR FIST, WITH A KEY BETWEEN EACH FINGER



HEEL - SCRAPE DOWN SHINS

HEAD - FOR THINKING!

BACK OF HEAD - CAN BUTT BACK

VOICE - HAS MANY USES. WITTY QUIPS TO DEFLATE EGO, SCREAMS TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, AND AN AGGRESSIVE YELL AT THE SAME TIME AS A WELL-AIMED PUNCH OR KICK IMPROVES YOUR STRENGTH NO END

KNEES - JABBING BLOW TO FACE IF BENT OVER YOU, OR GROIN

LEGS - RUN SELF DEFENCE AIMS TO TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE SWIFT MOVES THAT GIVE YOU THOSE FEW SECONDS ADVANTAGE IN WHICH TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE

## WOMEN AS REVOLUTIONARIES

From time to time, we shall present brief notes about women of the past and present, who, through their words and lives have brought much inspiration to the present-day women's movement. The first person that we feature, here, is EMMA GOLDMAN.



Emma Goldman left Russia at the age of 17. She lived and worked amongst activists and intellectuals around the turn of the century. She was an alien, a practising anarchist, a labour agitator, a pacifist in World War 1, an advocate of political violence, a feminist, a supporter of free love and birth control, a communist, a street-fighter for justice. She lived her life with passion and profound thought. She worked in many area of the radical movement, lecturing, writing, haranguing, and publishing to bring her ideas to the world.

She was a devastatingly honest woman, who spared herself as little as she spared anyone else.

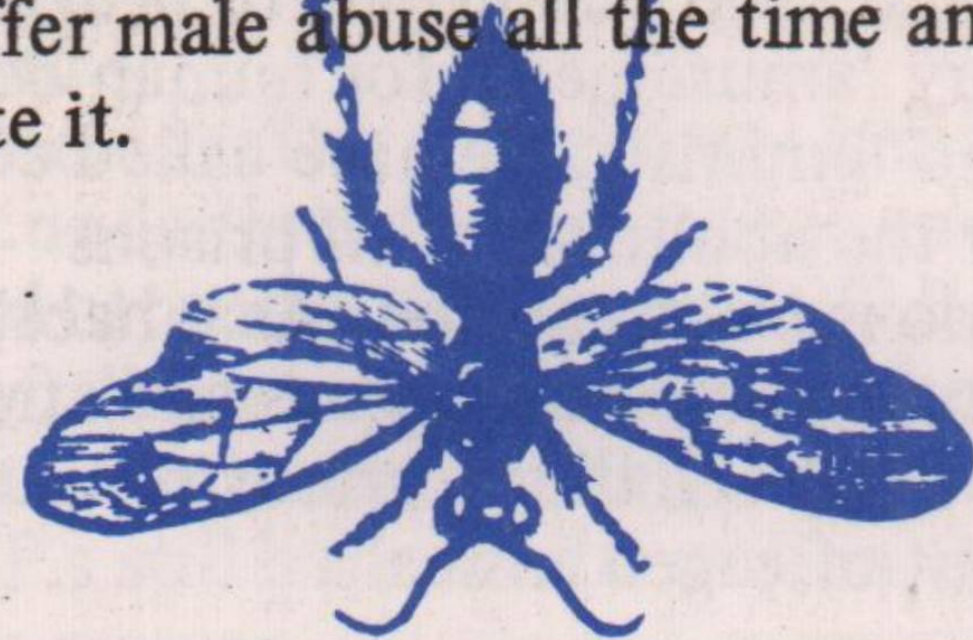
Her autobiography (available from 'Just Books' called "Living My Life" covers the years 1869-1940, which was her life-span. It is passionately and brilliantly written, and we recommend it highly.

Her own words: "My life - I had lived in its heights and its depths, in bitter sorrow and ecstatic joy, in black despair and fervent hope. I had drunk the cup to the last drop. I had lived my life. Would I had the gift to paint the life I had lived!"

Small groups, acting on their own and deciding upon their own actions, are the logical expression of revolutionary struggle.

After sitting through an horrific court case and reading articles and watching television programmes about rape and violence against women, it was a welcome change to pick up 'Squashed Flies'....witty, crushing, devastating replies to male abuse, to read all those retorts you wished you had said-and to learn of more! I loved the daydream of pretending to be an opera singer on the tube and the old cartoons.

Squashed Flies was put together by two women in Sheffield to 'give encouragement, confidence and practical assistance to women in potential and actual confrontation with men: to help us remain both physically unhurt and emotionally strong. To encourage us to feel good about ourselves and our right to be and do as we please' and where it succeeds most is in making us emotionally strong, knowing that all women suffer male abuse all the time and hate it.



Only when we are the wind together streaming and singing,  
Only in the dream we become with our bones for spears,

we are real at last and wake.

(Marge Piercy)

The layout is imaginative, a comic formula that works and makes you want to read to the end and although it doesn't pretend to be an in depth study it does give hints and advice about graffitiing advertising and useful addresses in the back. This is the pilot version and Squashed Flies would welcome more suggestions I am looking forward to the next one!

Squashed Flies 99p available from Just Books or Squashed Flies, PO Box 34, Sheffield 1.

Processed World, No 3. 75p from the West coast of America. Includes: Talking Heads, Female Troubles; Wagework & Housewife and Housework; Under Control; Overtime; It Reached Out and Touched Me; Downtime; order through Just Books if you're interested ..... address on this page.

Women's writings, lyrics and poetry wanted for an anthology on nuclear holocaust, collected by a group of women attempting to use words to inspire change and resistance.

Contact: R. Azen, Flat 3, 29 Honeywell Road, London, SW11.

## Contacts

Gaining Ground Collective: 7 Winetavern St., Belfast 1. Tel: 25426.

Lesbian Line: A separate line for gay women who want to talk to gay women. Belfast 22023. 3rd Thursday of every month. 4.30pm to 10pm.

Any women interested in regular (Sunday afternoon?) meetings could get in touch with Stella c/o Carafriend. PO Box 44, Belfast 1.

If you want help with reading writing or spelling, phone Belfast 22488.

Community Shop Association: c/o 184 Alliance Avenue, Belfast BT14.

Community Information Service: 2 Annadale Avenue, Ormeau Road, Belfast.

Produce 'Scope' magazine, which contains aspects of welfare rights.

Belfast Community Law Centre: Telephone Belfast 46984.

Just Books - for all that you want to read and could never find - 7 Winetavern St., Belfast 1, Tel: Belfast 25426.