

REVOLUTION

Fighting paper for working class youth ★ Issue 10 ★ Price 10p



Demonstration against
the police killing of
Brian Douglas in South
London

Fight police racism! **MARCH FOR JUSTICE!**

Saturday 7 October, 12.30pm
Hackney Downs, London.
Details 0181 533 4533



INSIDE:

**Police chief's racist lies • No to slave labour schemes! •
War - what is it good for? • Women's Liberation**

PAUL CONDON is the head of the police in London. He claims to be against racism.

But he has launched a racist campaign that singles out young black men as criminals.

Early this summer he announced that "statistics" prove black men are responsible for most muggings. He did not bother to release his "proof". But within a few weeks the Metropolitan Police had launched a special campaign against muggings - Operation Eagle Eye. It is aimed against black people.

A police monitoring group in East London reports that the number of complaints against the police have increased by three times since the start of Eagle Eye. "We have had 50 or 60 young black men saying officers have been much more aggressive, racist and violent."

Of course right-wing papers like the *Sun* supported Condon. The millionaires that own these papers take every opportunity to spread racist propaganda because they want to keep ordinary people divided.

Don't be fooled

- Condon did not single out any other group for any other types of crimes. If he had, he would have said that most burglaries are carried out by white men and most fraud by rich businessmen. But that wouldn't have created the racist picture he wanted. So he only singled out black youth.

- He did not explain how his figures were worked out. In areas where there are very few black people, like Glasgow and the North East, street thefts and bag snatchings are just as common as in London. Did he get his figures just from black areas? The police themselves were forced to admit that they did. Their figures only covered some parts of London, and they didn't even try to get a racial balance.

- Condon says that his figures will "help us to target and arrest the right people". But already in London, where 9% of the population are black, 42% of all those stopped and searched by the police are black.■

OPERATION EAGLE-EYE PAUL CONDON'S RACIST LIE

Its bloody criminal . . .

Rich kids don't snatch handbags. They don't have to. 'Mugging' is a crime carried out by the very poorest people - black and white. It is the quickest and most desperate sort of crime - for that reason people do it when they need small amounts of money urgently.

The real reason for crime has nothing to do with the colour of our skin or "the declining moral standards of young people today." It is about poverty.

If everyone was guaranteed a decent income and a decent life, there would be a massive fall in the crime and violence that makes the poorest areas the most dangerous.

Meanwhile, city fraudsters, company directors that pump gallons of poison into the rivers and the sea, employers who fail to observe safety standards in the factories, mines and building sites . . . you don't see them getting spreadeagled against the wall and frisked down by coppers on the offchance.■

The crimes they want to cover up

While Condon goes on about "black muggers", there are two evil thugs walking the streets. The police know their names, recognise them on sight and see them every day. They know what they have done. They even know where they live.

The two men are PC's Harrison and Tuffey of Kennington Police in South London. On 3 May they beat a young black man across the *back of the head* with one of their new "US-style" clubs. Brian Douglas went into a coma and died of brain injuries 5 days later.

Harrison and Tuffey are still free. They have not been charged with any crime. They have not even been suspended from work.

Well over 50 black people have died at the hands of the police over the last 25 years. The police have only been charged twice, and only found guilty once.

No wonder police chiefs want the public to think all black people are criminals. They hope that will distract attention from their own crimes against black people.

REVOLUTION exists to make sure they won't get away with it.■



Brian Douglas, murdered by police

**Sign our petition against
Operation Racist Lie
Collect signatures for us!
Petitions available from
REVOLUTION,
BCM 7750, London, WC 1N 3XX.**

Women count for a least half of the world's population. We do more work than men and yet we have less to show for it. Women earn less than 10% of the world's wealth and own only 1% of the world's property.

The higher you go up the social scale the fewer women you see. Ask yourself these simple questions. How many women head multinational corporations? How many women have achieved worldwide recognition as scientists or inventors? How many women Prime Ministers can you name? Not many.

You can draw two conclusions from these simple observations. Either women just can't do those type of things or something is working against us that prevents us from having an equal footing with men.

I stand by the latter explanation. Something is working against us: it's called capitalism.

We live in a society that thinks women should stick with what they do best: look after the kids, keep their husbands satisfied, be understanding, and spend a lot of time on our hair. It's alright to work, as long as it doesn't interfere with family commitments, which is why so many women are in low paid part-time jobs.

And of course there are certain things women aren't supposed to do like become miners or builders, but we can become nurses, cleaners, teachers or secretaries. The biggest sin is to go and get pregnant and have the kid all on our own. According to the Tories, single mums are responsible for everything from mass unemployment to this summer's drought.

Men, however, are encouraged to do little more than change nappies and do the ironing. What with men being such strong, rational thinking creatures, they are encouraged to pursue their ambitions. Its perfectly possible to hold down a job, have a few good nights out with the lads and be a loving daddy of three. Fixing a babysitter isn't a problem when the wife will look after the kids.

This may sound like a stereotype but things haven't changed a fat lot for most women. Some values have changed from the days when our mothers were our age.

Its more acceptable to live with a man without getting married. Because of contraception, especially the Pill, more women can make choices about whether they want to have children. Some women have benefited from education and have become solicitors, directors, and doctors.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY...

Women's Liberation

BY KIRSTIE, TOWER HAMLETS

Some women have even ventured into the almost exclusive male territory of the fire service, but not without a fair share of sexual and verbal harassment.

But despite all of these advances, for the vast majority of women the burden of running the home and looking after the kids still dominates their lives. There are 12 million women working in Britain, that's 50% of women. But a recent survey, *Social Focus on Women*, shows that women earn consistently less than men. This report blows the "new man" myth apart. Women, working or not, still tend to prepare the evening meal, do the washing, ironing and cleaning. Men have ventured to do a few more dishes and of

course, most of the household repairs.

Being responsible for the bulk of childcare and household chores prevents women from participating in other aspects of life.

Looking after kids is a fulltime job. When women try and do other things like full-time work or education there are a multitude of barriers that make it very hard for us. How many universities or workplaces provide free, top quality childcare? In reality very few.

Private childcare can cost anything from £90 a week or more. This means that a woman on her own with a child would have to earn at least £300 a week if she wanted to work. Most working class women work in low paid jobs and have to rely on family and friends (most often other women) to look after the children. Other mothers can't afford to go to work and end up living on poverty benefits.

All this benefits the rich capitalists. Just think about it. Women do all that work for nothing.

For the bosses this means that future generations of workers are fed, washed, clothed and nursed all free of charge. The social function that women provide for society can't be underestimated. If society as a whole was responsible for providing all of these services, for example, running free creches, restaurants and laundrettes, it would be a massive drain on the profits of the bosses. This is why the capitalists keep things the way they are.

And in order to do that the capitalists do everything in their power to convince people that this is the way things should stay. To keep women in their place we are fed all sorts of lies that portray women as inferior.

The media, the church, schools and

The Myth of the 'New Man'

- 84% of women do the washing and the ironing in the house compared with only 3% of men.
- 70% of women make the evening meal compared with only 9% of men.
- 33% of women earn £190 a week or less - only 13% of men earn so little.
- Women get less free time than men. In the North East women have 10.5 hours less free time a week than men, in Scotland 8.5 hours less and in London 0.5 hours less.
- Women lose more leisure time than men when children are born. Fathers suffer a 37% fall from 50.1 hours to 31.6 a week - but mothers slide 52% from 46.6 hours to 22.5.

demned her to a life sentence. Even now she has not been cleared.

The hypocrisy of the bosses knows no bounds. Prostitutes are portrayed as dirty, immoral women. And yet, not only do company directors and politicians go to brothels and call girls, they create the poverty conditions that drive thousands of women into prostitution in the first place.

For women in the third world, life is particularly brutal. They have to work in the most appalling conditions for pitifully low wages. These countries, sucked dry by debt repayments to the west, provide little or no support to families.

Women end up trying to raise families in the face of famine and terrible exploitation. The growth of religion, in particular Islamic Fundamentalism, backs up the treatment of women as second class citizens. In countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan women are considered the property of men to the extent that beating your wife is considered acceptable. Millions of women suffer clitoridectomy (the removal of the clitoris) or infibulation (the sewing up of the vagina until the marriage night).

As long as capitalism exists women will remain oppressed. Some women can buy themselves out of their oppression. Women with money can afford nannies, giving them the freedom to pursue a career or an education and become financially independent. But for the vast ma-

majority of working class women this is no way out.

But women have never been passive victims. There is a courageous history of women fighting for equal rights.

From the Suffragettes and their campaign for a womens' vote to the struggles of women workers at Timex against redundancies, women have organised against injustice and oppression.

We cannot separate the struggle against womens' oppression from the struggle against the capitalist profit system. The role of women in the family lies at the heart of the capitalist system. That means smashing the whole system of profit and greed and replacing it with socialism.

Socialism can provide a real solution to the problems women face today. By organising a society based a democratic plan to meet peoples' needs we could provide all the things that women are expected to do on their own. Free, high quality child care would give women and men more freedom to do other things. Communal restaurants and professional cleaning services could be provided collectively.

The bosses moan and tell us there isn't enough money for such things. They are liars. The truth is they don't want to share their billions of profits with the likes of us. There's only one solution to that - take all the wealth from them and run things together for need not greed.

A socialist society would not only allow all women to partipate as equal human beings in every aspect of life but it would create a culture of respect and equality so that all the reactionary ideas of the past would be challenged. Sexist behaviour in men would not be tolerated and a massive campaign to promote positive images of women would be used to undermine negative views.

A socialist society would provide free contraception and abortion so that we could make informed decisions about whether we want to have children or not.

Women are different from men. We can have babies and men can't. We have breasts and a vagina and men have a penis.

This is a biological fact. But capitalism tries to make us slaves to our biology.

Socialism lays the basis for a society that gives us the freedom to control our fertility and our lives. It is a society that will be based upon the best examples of human solidarity and compassion. This is a goal worth fighting for. ■

our own family all spread reactionary ideas about women. The Catholic church tells women that divorce is a sin, even if your husband is a wife batterer. Contraception is forbidden and abortion is murder. This means that women are denied any rights over their own fertility. In Ireland, where abortion is illegal, the state recently denied a 14 year old rape victim the right to an abortion.

Our bodies are treated as objects by men. We are told that our role is to serve the sexual needs of men. Millions of men see images of women as sexual objects and little else. Men are taught to believe that we are their property and if we play up they can beat us, rape us, and treat us like animals.

And when women fight back, like Sara Thornton, who killed her husband after years of brutal violence, the courts con-



UN PEACEKEEPERS? Don't believe the hype!

THEORIES tell us that the United Nations is a force for peace. Whenever troops are sent in to 'trouble spots' around the world, the UN claims its soldiers are 'peacekeepers'. But the opposite is true. These troops only exist to serve the interests of the most powerful capitalist states in the world.

Bosnia is a tragic example of this. Now that NATO and UN troops are shelling the Bosnian Serbs, many people have breathed a sigh of relief. After all, the Bosnian Serbs have been the main force carrying out "ethnic cleansing", the brutal and terrifying policy of forcing Muslim and Croatian people in Bosnia out of their homes, raping women and massacring men in cold blood, all with the aim of seizing territory and driving out people who are not Serbs.

A recent mortar attack by Bosnian Serbs on the multi-ethnic city of Sarajevo killed 37 people, including youth and even small children.

But the West and the UN peacekeepers are not there to stop ethnic cleansing. They have let it happen for over three years. Their real aim is to force the various sides to accept an unfair deal that will reward the ethnic cleansers for their policy of mass murder.

Throughout this terrible war multi-ethnic Bosnia has been the main victim. Before the collapse of Yugoslavia, Bosnia was made up of Serbs, Croats, Muslims and people who simply described themselves as Bosnian.

They lived together in peace. Then the nationalists and the generals took advantage of the collapse of Yugoslavia to try and build their own states - they used the most disgusting racist and nationalist arguments to set people against each other and win support.

The Bosnian Serbs launched a war, seizing not only the parts of Bosnia in which they had previously been a majority, but other areas, driving out the original inhabitants unless they were "ethnically pure" Serbs. The Croats have done the same thing, recently driving out Serbs that live in Krajina, a part of Croatia.

What was left of Bosnia has remained a multi-ethnic state, however. In cities like Tuzla, Muslims, Croats and Serbs still live side by side. All socialists and supporters of democracy should have supported their right to defend their communities against ethnic cleansing.

But while the West shed crocodile tears of sympathy for their plight, they made sure that the Bosnians could not defend themselves. They brought in an arms embargo which banned sales and transport of arms to the region. But the Serbs and the Croats had their

own arms industries - they were tooled up to the teeth. Bosnia didn't - and the West knew it.

The arms embargo left Bosnia defenceless, and it was the UN that was responsible.

The real aim of the UN and NATO bombings of the Serbs is not to defend Bosnia. It is a sweetener for the Bosnian government - to

encourage it to accept a US-backed peace deal that will reward the Bosnian Serbs with 49% of Bosnia.

If the West really cared about defending multi-ethnic Bosnia they would get out and leave their guns behind - they would lift the arms embargo so the Bosnians can defend themselves. ■



WAR: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

When Saddam Hussein of Iraq conquered the tiny undemocratic Kingdom of Kuwait in 1990, the United Nations - backed by Britain and the USA - launched the most cowardly war in history, bombing Iraq back to the stone age with highly sophisticated computerised weaponry.

The reason? Not democracy - there has never been any of that in Kuwait, where the people have no right to vote. The real reason was oil.

There is no oil in Bosnia. The British ruling class just want the war in Yugoslavia to end as quickly as possible, and the Serbs are the strongest side. So they are quite prepared to see Bosnia carved up without any respect for the rights of the people who live there.

The UN, NATO, Britain and America can never be trusted to fight for freedom. They are run by the biggest band of murdering robbers in history - the capitalist class. For socialists, our enemies are not the people of

other countries. We have more in common with an Iraqi or Bosnian worker than we have with the rich rulers of our "own" county.

That is why REVOLUTION does not support "our own" country in times of war, whether they are fighting the Serbs, the Iraqis, or anyone else. We argue against a single penny being spent on guns and bombs for the bosses to use against our brothers and sisters in other countries. We are against a single person being drafted into the bosses' armies to fight wars for profit.

But we are not woolly-minded pacifists. Oppressed peoples, like the Bosnians and the Palestinians, have a right to fight their oppressors.

We support struggles against the imperialist powers who control and divide up the world in their own interests.

There is only one war worth fighting. It is the class war against poverty, injustice and exploitation. ★

It could be you?

I CONFESS. I have succumbed to the lottery fever and contribute £1 a week to a syndicate organised by my friends. So far our collective efforts have won us £10. It all seemed like harmless fun and after all its going to charity. But I like millions of others was sickened to hear what the government intends to spend the money on: £3 million on a new sports hall for Eton, the poshest private school in the country! Millions donated to the Churchill family. More millions to the Royal Opera House.

The lottery rakes in a £100 million a week, that's £5 billion a year. We were told that the money would be spent on worthy causes. I presumed they meant things like funds for hospitals, the homeless and people in need. Instead the rich expect us to pay for their private schools

BY DAVE, EAST LONDON

and favourite pastimes.

The Tories made out that the lottery would benefit everybody. Minister Virginia Bottomley says the lottery is harmless. But recent research by the *British Medical Journal* states that the lottery is making poor people poorer. The introduction of the instant scratch cards have added 50% to spending on the lottery. The British public are spending more on the lottery than they are on bread or books.

The lottery is one big con. All that rubbish about "It Could Be You". Let's face it, the chances of winning are miniscule to say the least. And yet millions play in the hope that the worry and frustration of daily life under capitalism can be swept

away with the right combination of numbers. The bosses are loving it. There we are hanging our hopes on the illusion of winning rather than fighting back against a sick system that makes someone on the dole spend all their money on instant scratch cards.

Playing the lottery is frankly a big waste of money. If we want money to be spent on hospitals, on the homeless, on things that working class people really need, then its up to us to change things for the better.

We could start with taking back all the wealth the bosses have robbed from us and putting it to good use. And unlike the lottery the odds of winning are in our favour.

Maybe I'll be spending my £1 a week on something else in future! ■

To scared to dance?

BY RICHARD, WEST LONDON

TO JUDGE by the press and TV, the Notting Hill Carnival was a seething den of violence - nothing but trouble from start to finish.

"Shootings and stabbings hit the Carnival", said the *London Evening Standard*. The TV news spent almost all of their reports on the "crime wave" that supposedly ruined the carnival for everybody. Even the *Guardian* - which has a reputation as a liberal paper with a bit of street cred - joined in. The day after the carnival finished, its report focused solely on "a spate of street crimes" under the heading "Shootings Mar Carnival".

But there were over 1.4 million people at the Notting Hill Carnival - more than the entire population of a major city like Birmingham. It is the second biggest street festival in the world. Yet there were only 11 reported violent incidents - less than you would get on a Saturday night in any sizeable town. Why did the press, TV and police focus all their attention on this sad but completely unexceptional detail?

The answer is that the carnival stands for everything the authorities hate. Hundreds of thousands of united black and white youth had the best and the biggest street party London has ever seen. Sound systems belted out soul, ragga, jungle, rave and house music to wild enthusiasm for hours on end. There was hardly any trouble. But the police want to portray black people and the new dance culture as criminal. That is why they accuse black youth of being muggers. It is why they brought in the Criminal Justice Act with its restrictions on raves. And it is why they had to paint such a distorted image of the carnival.

Instead of accurate reports about youth culture, we have been subjected to a typical bit of media hype - the Blur versus Oasis "debate". Countless articles claimed that Blur represent middle class youth in the south while Oasis are an earthy northern working class band. This was all total bollocks. The whole "rivalry" was invented by record companies trying to sell more

of their product. Sadly both bands played along with this.

The real divide is not between two indie bands or North versus South. It is between youth who want the right to party and the right to a future, and an establishment that wants us to have neither. ■

for more subversive
revolutionary propaganda
read...

**WORKERS
POWER**

monthly newspaper of the
workers power group
available from the address
on page 8

ONE SOLUTION: REVOLUTION

Revolution is
written and pro-
duced by youth
supporters of
Workers Power
(Britain)

and the League for
a Revolutionary
Communist
International.

WE LIVE in a world full of injustice, oppression and poverty. While millions starve, food is destroyed in order to keep its price up. The latest technology in health care cannot be used in many countries because of the payment of foreign debt.

Even the most basic provisions of a good water supply and decent sanitation are denied to people all around the world. Meanwhile ever greater ecological disasters loom on the horizon.

REVOLUTION does not believe there is anything 'natural' about the state of the world. We believe that what is happening is because of the world wide system of capitalism.

It is a system that runs with the sole intention of making money for a tiny handful of capitalists who own and control industry and the land.

We believe that it is possible to create a new and better world system, a socialist system. It would be an international system which means the fight to achieve it must be international and is why Workers Power (Britain) is part of the League for a Revolutionary Communist International that organises groups from Bolivia to New Zealand.

Because we are internationalists we support all struggles by people oppressed by imperialism - including the struggle to get British troops out of Ireland.

Because we are internationalists we oppose imperialist militarism: we say not a penny or a person for the defence of this system.

A socialist system would be based on common ownership and would produce and organise society to provide the necessities and luxuries of life for all according to a democratically worked out plan.

This means instead of having people homeless because the privately owned land and building companies only build houses when they can make money, we will all own the land, collectively and we will plan that to use the bricks that lie unused and the building workers who are unemployed to build the homes needed.

To get this, industry and land will have to be taken out of the hands of the few. But this group of people, the ruling class, will never allow us to do this without a fight. The government was prepared to mobilise thousands of police to attack the CJA Demo in October 1994, just imagine what they would be prepared to do to protect their whole system of wealth and power. That is why we believe we need a workers revolution.

But we cannot wait until then, we have to fight against exploitation and oppression now. We support all workers' struggles. We support the struggles against women's oppression, racism and homophobia.

Whether it is workers on strike, women fighting for abortion rights or black people fighting against racism it is often young people who are leading these struggles.

We fight for action that will win and in such a way that the struggles of today can prepare us for the revolution of tomorrow. We try to turn today's struggles into a struggle for power by fighting for workers control, workers self-defence etc.

REVOLUTION stands in the tradition of over 150 years of revolutionary socialism. Our movement is based on the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, applied to today's conditions.

REVOLUTION aims to build a revolutionary youth movement, to win thousands and thousands of youth to supporting and building a revolutionary party that can lead the working class to power.

So don't just sit there sell **REVOLUTION** and become a supporter! ✪

Educate, agitate, organise!

REVOLUTION gives the other side of the story from what you read in the press and see on TV. It is written by young people for young people, and it puts things from our point of view.

But **REVOLUTION** is not just another fanzine. We want you to use it to get organised and fight to change the world.

- If you agree with the ideas in this paper, pass this copy on to your friends. Write to us and let us know what you think or what is happening in your area. Get extra copies and sell them - they are easy to shift at only 10p each.
- We have brought out a petition against the racist campaign being run by police chiefs who are singling out black youth and blaming them for crime. (See the article on page 3). **REVOLUTION** supporters will be out collecting signatures over the next month. Get in touch with us for copies of the petition and to find out how you can help.
- Above all, **REVOLUTION** supporters will be busy trying to get the biggest possible number of school students and youth on the JUSTICE demonstration, which is taking place in London on 7 October (details on the front page). This will be a very important march to show the police and the Tories that they can't get away with killing, beating and framing up black youth any longer. Youth - black and white - need to unite and fight back against racism. What better way than thousands of young people turning up on the Justice Demonstration?

You know there's something wrong with the world. But nothing will change if we just sit there.

We've got to get active!

JOIN THE REVOLUTION.

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