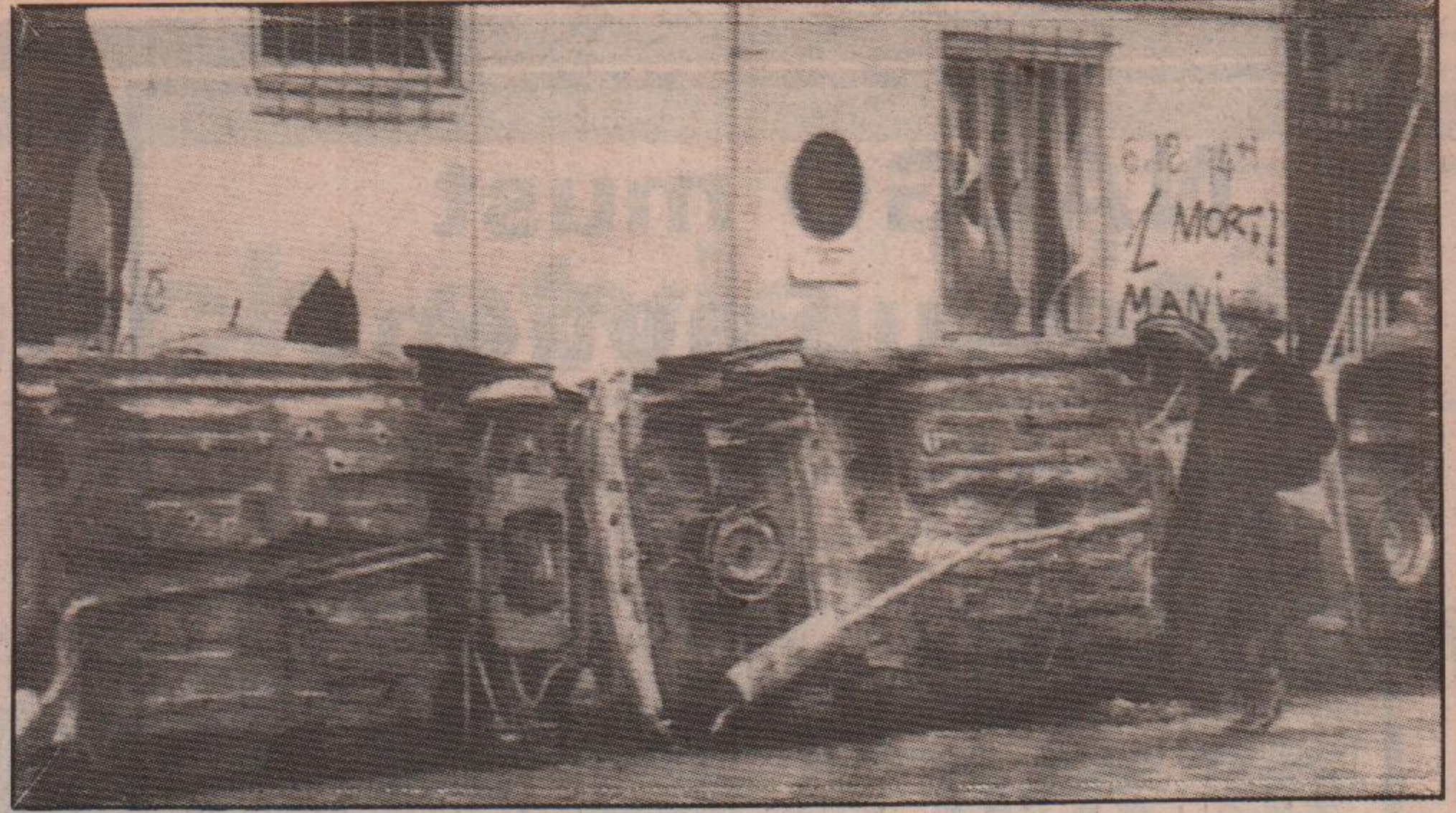
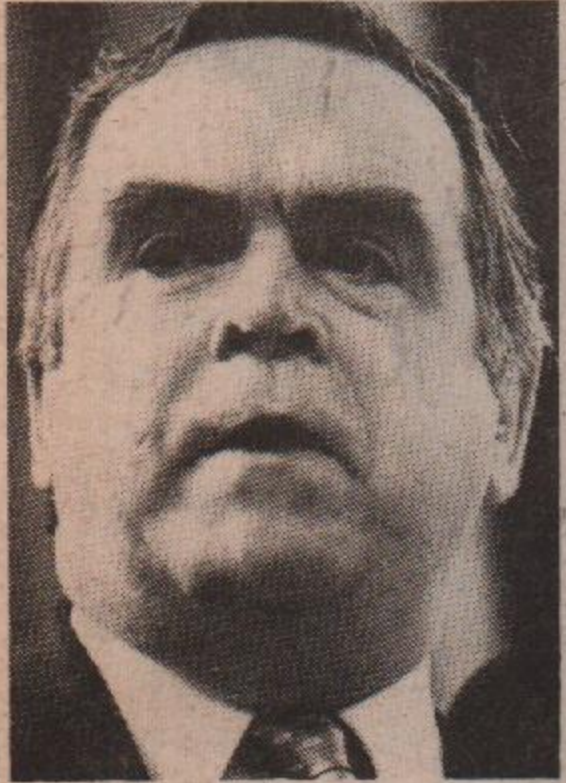


# SOCIALIST ORGANISER



The barricades go up in Paris

FOR WORKERS' LIBERTY EAST AND WEST



**Mick Hicks**  
**Free Hicks**

By Carol Hall,  
Deputy MoC  
(personal capacity),  
SOGAT Times  
Clerical.

The jailing of Michael Hicks on a trumped up charge once again illustrates the importance of this dispute to the Tory government. Judge Alwyn Davies' remarks about Hicks being a "disgrace to your union" for having "seriously abused your senior position in it" were political comments calculated to intimidate the demonstrators.

The response from the national union should be swift. A country-wide campaign should be launched forthwith demanding not only the release of Michael Hicks but also the stepping up the pressure outside the gates of Wapping.

turn to page 2

"The jailing of Mick Hicks is the clearest example of the determination to crush by whatever means, any opposition, not just to the government but also to Rupert Murdoch. This is a warning to people and must surely lead to an intensification of the campaign and of solidarity for the people at Wapping."

Tony Benn

## FRANCE: DIRECT ACTION BEATS CHIRAC

# Fight Thatcher

# - French style!



On the streets against the government

THE FRENCH government said it wouldn't budge in its determination to 'reform' higher education.

They wanted to raise the fees and change University entrance standards so as to exclude many young people from higher education.

It was a tough right-wing 'Law and Order' government, which looked to Mrs Thatcher as one of its models and heroes.

They said they wouldn't budge - but they budged.

They budged first last week when half a million students marched through Paris in protest at their 'reform'. They then decided to go ahead anyway. Another powerful demonstration last week ended in all night fighting between students and police, in which one student died.

Now the government 'budded' again - it said that it would withdraw the offending

turn to page 3

**INSIDE: 3 pages of Christmas coverage, pages 9-11**

## NALGO must step up action

THE STRIKE by members of Lewisham NALGO may be under threat after three weeks. A ballot is to be held concerning the strike's future which will involve all NALGO members and not only those who attended the mass meeting and heard the arguments for the strike.

The strike is in support of six workers

at the Housing Advice Centre (HAC) who have now been on strike for three months for safer working conditions.

The right-wing majority of Lewisham's Labour council do not look as if they are about to give in to the strikers. If the strike is to be won, pickets will need to be stepped up against the council. And the strikers will need to mount a full public campaign, rather than just rely on their own strength.

## Glasgow Art Students occupy

By Steve McLeod

Scottish students have recently had a great example of the Democratic Left's short-sighted and compartmentalised attitude to campaigns. Glasgow School of Art Students' Association voted unanimously to go into occupation to demand the college reverse the cut of £5,000 from the SU budget.

The Art School's Students' Association was supported by all colleges in Glasgow, who gave donations of food, letters of support, and sent delegations to help in the occupation.

The West of Scotland Area NUS, and the Scottish Executive took on the heavy responsibility of publicising the occupation.

All these efforts were eventually fruitful where after 2 weeks the £5,000 was restored to the Art School's budget. So far so good, it seemed.

But when you actually look at the situation the Glasgow School of Art faced, what their demands were at the first general meeting and what actually happened you get a slightly different picture of events.

Firstly, the Art School budget was cut by £150,000 because of the government's refusal to fully fund a wage settlement agreed last year in Central Institutions in Scotland.

This being the case, surely it would have been more logical for the Scottish Executive to gather information from CIs as the situation unfolded and develop an agreed strategy for fighting all the cuts right across Scotland.

When asked this question a member of the Scottish exec. replied

'A letter had been sent out in May asking for information about the cuts but no reply had been received from any CI'. When faced with cuts of this magnitude spread across every CI in Scotland you would think that the Scottish leadership of NUS could have applied themselves to the task of building a united opposition with more commitment than the drafting of one letter! The School of Art is still losing £130,000. Obviously student services are going to suffer.

The School of Art Union have obviously done enormously well in defending their association, but it would be fair to criticise the Scottish Executive for failing to organise campaigns in all the CIs when the situation was first realised. And for failing to mount the kind of campaign which the School of Art mounted, only in all Central Institutions across Scotland, to achieve complete funding of the pay award and restoration of all cuts.

The Glasgow School of Art must again be praised for its direct attitude when faced with attacks on its students. And it must also be said that only with this kind of action being taken in colleges with full support of campus trade unions co-ordinated by the Area and National NUS, will students have any chance of rolling back the wave of Tory cuts which have swamped our education system.

The complacent back-slapping attitude of the Democratic Left's leadership in Scotland in response to this action is no way for students to react to the grave situation we find ourselves in.

We must have NUS pulling in one direction, tying its demands together and taking on the overall attack by the Tories. Individual colleges cannot really do it alone and neither can NUS with its built-in separating out of the issues.

## Free Hicks

from page 1

The vicious sentence on Hicks is an attack on us all. Dean should recall the SOGAT conference, which should also discuss and take action on the TUC General Council's decision to capitulate to corrupt union practice, orchestrated by scab-herd Hammond of the EETPU.

The conference would also need to reverse the position of not doing anything that would threaten SOGAT funds falling into the hands of the sequestrator.

With the six pickets on the gates being harassed and arrested for using the word scab, Murdoch is using the threat and the union's mortal fear of sequestration to bludgeon his way into making the unions totally defenceless.

That is why the News International strikers will be picketing the TUC day in and day out in a campaign not only to embarrass the gutless wonders that reside there but as a focus to the rest of the movement.

the rank and file, to come to our aid.

Let no-one pretend that, with Xmas approaching, and with the commercial pressures that brings, difficulties will not exist. Therefore I would plead with all socialists and trade unionists to help us over this period by attending the big demonstrations on Wednesday and Saturday nights.

Murdoch has pitched his sale very cleverly writing, bullying and coercing with "individual" offers, which siphon off the weak, the disillusioned and the battle-weary into acceptance. However, the vast majority stand firm, unwilling to give Murdoch the thing he wants more than anything — to take down the high pointed railings, the rolls and rolls of razor wire, the surveillance cameras, and for his lorries and his strike-breakers to be able to enter and leave the Wapping plant without the platoons of police to protect them.

So with the anniversary of the beginning of the dispute approaching, I would urge everybody to organise for and build for the biggest demonstration yet seen outside the Wapping plant.



The CIA strikes and the port of Corinto burns, October 1983

## DEFEND NICARAGUA

By Clive Bradley

American troops and US-backed Nicaraguan 'contras' have been massing on the Honduran border of Nicaragua, possibly in preparation for a heavy assault on the country. 1500 American mercenaries are reported to be attempting to infiltrate into Nicaragua in armed raids.

### Denied

The US Embassy in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa claimed that no more was taking place than normal military manoeuvres, but this was denied by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, speaking in Managua. Nicaragua was preparing itself for a possible invasion by US and 'contra' forces, he said.

### Disputed

The US claims that troops of the Nicaraguan Sandinista regime have been occupying a part of Honduras for most of the past year, a claim hotly disputed by the Sandinistas themselves. On Monday December 8 the Sandinistas appealed to the Honduran government for the formation of

an international commission to investigate the situation on the border. The Honduran regime has refused, instead merely repeating its call for Nicaraguan withdrawal from its territory.

### Fears

But the same day, US helicopters were used to ferry Honduran troops to the border, increasing fears that Reagan may be planning a large scale escalation of American involvement.

The labour movement needs to be on its guard. Serious action against Nicaragua may be judged by the US to be more possible over Christmas period.

Hands off Nicaragua!

## Chaos in Blackpool

The National Union of Students conference was chaotic and shambolic. Nothing like all the business was got through and the Executive Report and Plan was completely rejected.

The major reason for this was the carving up of the Agenda by the Steering Committee. It became clear that the Democratic Left — the ruling faction in the Labour Student leadership of NUS — knew they could not win the arguments politically and so were reverting to right-wing bureaucratic methods to prevent SSiN's positions from winning.

However hard the Democratic Left tried they could not stop conference from voting for an integrated campaign against the Tories' attacks on grants, benefits and housing. NUS is now committed to a rolling programme of direct action based on combined local and national activities against the Tories.

### Errors

NUS adopted the position of Women's Officer to be elected by NUS Women's Campaign Conference. SSiN felt that the women's officer should be elected by National Conference but were unable to put our amendment because of drafting and compositing errors. Our other amendment, calling for funding for an autonomous

## SSiN

women's conference campaign and the introduction of positive discrimination for women in the part-time posts for NUS executive were lost. SSiN feel that the election of the women's officer by the women's campaign conference would cause major problems over accountability.

### Mandates

If the women's conference policy was not ratified by full conference would she be able to carry out that policy, and if not she'd be breaking women's conference mandates — this is a particular problem without the resources that SSiN's amendment proposed.

On and off conference floor much time was taken up with attacks on the SSiN discussion on femocracy (see last week's paper). SSiN were accused on all fronts of being anti-feminist and of being in a male dominated organisation which led the Communist Party to accuse SSiN women of being a part of Simon Pottinger's "harem". What SSiN want is a sensible debate about Marxism and Feminism, not slogans and welcome the chance to debate at Labour Clubs and Women's Groups.

SSiN have organised a delegation to

go to the French students' demonstration. At one day's notice a coach has been booked from Warwick, minibuses from London, Stoke and Sheffield, cars from Wales, Kent and Bradford are confirmed, and hopefully from Manchester, Oxford and Newcastle, too.

UNOFFICIAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT

December 1986  
£1 with grant/50p without

## MINORITY REPORT

Compiled by SSiN supporters  
Simon Pottinger NUS VP (Welfare)  
Michele Carlisle NUS Executive  
Melanie Gingell NUS Executive  
Liz Millward PSHE National Committee

with a contribution by Kevin Holdridge  
President NUS Wales/UCMC

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54a Peckham Rye,  
London SE15

# Fight Thatcher French style

from page 1

parts of the new regulations. The concessions were too late. The students said they wanted the whole thing scrapped.

Then the strong, French Thatcherite, right wing government didn't just budge — it collapsed. It announced the withdrawal of the entire set of new regulations for higher education.

Wednesday's demonstration is going ahead anyway, part victory celebration, part funeral march for the martyr Malik Ousseki, part campaign to force the government to abandon planned changes in high school regulations.

The plain lesson from France is that militancy can win.

The Thatcher government too could have been stopped in its tracks if the labour movement had had leaders willing to lead a fight-back in the early '80's. It can still be stopped and thrown out even now.

One reason the French government has collapsed so completely is that it knows that student militancy can spread to



"The students are on the street"

the working class. That's what happened during the great days of May 1968 which began with students fighting the riot police and building barricades in the streets, and ended with 10 million workers on strike, many

of them in occupation of their factories.

The bravery and militancy of the students infected and enthused the workers: they took it as a model to model themselves on and immediately went on to create one of the greatest demonstrations of the power of working class action in the whole of history.

## Memory

The French CP and today's President Mitterand helped the French bosses to control the General strike and capitalism survived in France. The events of 1968 are still a living part of the memory and tradition of the French working class.

Over recent years, under the 'socialist' — 'communist' government as well as under the present right wing government, they have suffered cuts and attacks on their living stan-

dards; they all have many stored up grievances.

The French government retreated because they didn't want a repeat of 1968, nor anything like it. They don't want the workers to learn the lesson the militancy. But they may be too late.

The students have won a great victory and the French workers can see that they won it by direct action and militancy.

Although history never repeats itself exactly the lesson will not be lost on the workers.

Nor should the lesson be lost in Britain. Spy scandals, divisions in the Tory party, the continuing social outrage at mass unemployment and mass poverty — all of these make the Thatcher government vulnerable.

Chirac has been trounced and the lesson for us is that Thatcher too can be beaten.



May '68: riot cops confront students

# Thought Police in Warwick

By Mick O'Sullivan

On Thursday December 4, members of the Namibia Support Committee and people claiming to represent the local anti-apartheid group picketed an open meeting of the Sociology Department at Warwick University. Eddie Webster, a well-known South African academic and trade union supporter had been invited as a guest speaker.

An attempt was made amicably to resolve the dispute in discussions between pickets and those who had come to listen. Formally, the issue at stake was the boycott of South African academics speaking in Britain. There is currently a lot of debate over this tactic, and in practice it has always been 'selective' rather than 'total'. It has generally been understood to be aimed at direct publicists, or agents of the apartheid regime, and people who support it.

## Unwittingly

Indeed had Warwick University, unwittingly or otherwise, invited anyone like that the pickets would have been in the right. But Eddie is not such a person.

Two speakers from the South African Congress of Trade Unions who had come up specially, put their objections to the meeting. They said it had been organised by 'the Bob Fine, a

member of the National Executive of Socialist Organiser' who they considered "an enemy" since he characterised them as a Stalinist organisation. The gentleman was amply vindicating this prognosis.

Fine, they said, had not informed either Anti-Apartheid or Sactu nationally of Webster's visit. This he should have done, as they were the liberation movement, with the sole right to vet speakers.

But the meeting had not been organised by Fine on behalf of SO, but by him and other academics as part of the Labour Studies MA in the Sociology Department. The only connection with SO was that Fine and one of the students present support the paper.

Also, Webster has been in this country for about six months as a visiting fellow at Strathclyde University. He has spoken at the Liverpool and York conferences on South Africa, which the ANC and Sactu attended, and at a number of other universities. No prior objection to him speaking has been made.

This is not surprising as he is a well-known South African academic, who has a consistent record of opposing the

regime and working within the labour movement. He quite categorically stated that he was representing no organisation and could speak only for himself.

Fine had told the local Anti-Apartheid activists some time beforehand of the impending visit. And the students' union had been informed and had discussed the issue at a General Meeting two weeks before.

## Muted

Given all this, the original line of the picket became somewhat muted, and they were forced back to the single issue that the Department had not gone through the ANC or Sactu. But clearly, this could not be in order to 'vet' Webster — he had already been vetted. It was to 'vet' the platform he was speaking on.

Certain Stalinist elements in Sactu want control over this whole process to exclude people who are against the regime but hostile to Sactu/ANC ideology.

Some Stalinists in Sactu and the ANC demand the sole right to decide on these matters on the grounds that they are the national liberation movement, a view vigorously denied by other South Africans in the room, who refuse to accept such authority.

It is also an attempt to discredit Warwick University Sociology Department which is well known for its work on South Africa — Webster praised it, for example. In particular it is an attempt to discredit Bob Fine, 'the enemy' for "breaking the boycott".

What is happening is that Stalinist elements in the organisation, through bureaucratic procedures, are trying to proscribe other political and ideological tendencies, driving to create for themselves a monopoly of power.

It is a blast from the past of Stalinism. Instead of the moral pressure of the USSR, they use the moral pressure of ANC and Sactu, portrayed as 'the liberation movement'.

## Suicide

But the liberation movement includes other groups who do not recognise the authority of the ANC. It would be political suicide for these socialists to accept a 'self-denying ordinance' and let the Stalinist elements in the ANC and Sactu be the sole judge of who can and cannot speak.

Trade unions and political groups which support the fight to destroy apartheid should approach the ANC and suggest the formation of a joint committee to administer the academic boycott.

## RACE AND CLASS

# Racism and how not to fight it

By Payman Rezai

OVER the past year or so the issue of racism within schools has hit the national headlines on more than one occasion.

Last year we had the long saga of pupils, parents and community in Bradford fighting to get rid of Ray Honeyford, the then headmaster of Drummond Middle School.

Honeyford's case reached public attention after he had written an article in the right-wing Salisbury Review airing his racist views on 'multi-cultural' education. According to this well-known racist chestnut this system is detrimental to the educational abilities of white kids. Honeyford was suspended, then reinstated by the courts and eventually paid off.

During the period of the campaign to kick Honeyford out there were daily pickets by school kids, parents and the local labour movement. The division between racists and anti-racists was crystal clear.

This year the major story connected with — alleged — racism in schools has been that of Brent council vs Maureen McGoldrick, headmistress of Sudbury Infants school.

Ms McGoldrick was accused of making a racist remark — allegedly that her school did not need any more black teachers. To date there has been no evidence to back this up. Despite her being cleared by her board of governors the Council is proceeding with a disciplinary hearing against her.

Now another one of Brent council's inept and counter-productive efforts at 'anti-racism' has made the news.

Gwyn Powell, head of the science dept. at Willesden College of Technology, is to face investigation and possible dismissal for failing to promote an Asian Maths teacher Dr. Ellis David.

Brent Council first heard of the complaint over a year ago — but only notified Mr Powell, in outline, on November 14th. He was told the matter would be dealt with by the College's governors; however at the governors meeting Brent Council took control of the matter.

Yet it seems to be quite clear that the lack of promotion is due to the bad record of Dr. David as a Maths teacher. He had a bad record of absence and many students have complained of his inability to explain things, lack of interest in the classes and so on. Once more Brent council is plausibly presented as victimising an innocent employee.

Brent Council's heart is in the right place, and much of the baying Tory press which pillories Brent is itself positively racist. But it is increasingly clear that Brent council's method of dealing with racist complaints is arbitrary, unjust and counterproductive. They discredit the cause of anti-racism which they seek to serve; they give ammunition to the racists.

## RACE & CLASS

Volume XIX Summer 1977 Number 1

Available from the Institute of Race Relations, 247 Pentonville Road, London N1



## Les Hearn's SCIENCE COLUMN

# Nuclear winter

A few years ago, a group of scientists published a frightening view of the world after a major nuclear war. According to TTAPS (Carl Sagan of "Cosmos" fame and four others), the bomb blasts and resulting fire storms would hurl vast amounts of dust and smoke high into the atmosphere.

This would blot out the Sun for weeks, causing temperatures to drop below freezing, abolishing photosynthesis (the trapping of the Sun's energy in food, upon which virtually all life depends). The nuclear winter would have arrived.

Faced with this evidence that nuclear war amounts to committing simultaneous murder and suicide on a global scale, the response of the US and British governments was a deafening silence.

Some scientists spoke for the nuclear strategists, though, when they criticised the TTAPS study for its crudity and oversimplification.

One, George Rathgens of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, criticised the quality of its modelling of atmospheric behaviour after a nuclear war, saying: "The uncertainties are so enormous that we haven't the foggiest idea whether the effects will be trivial, considerable or catastrophic".

This did not prevent Rathgens from claiming that, instead of winter, we would merely experience a nuclear autumn. "Summer temperatures in mid-US would drop to those of a summer in Britain."

Rathgens even believes that, while dust clouds would prevent sunlight and heat getting in by day, it would insulate the Earth and prevent heat loss by night. Thus, average temperatures might stay about the same. Rathgens forgets, however, the more important fact that all plant life would be starved of energy, depriving us of our food.

Now, the TTAPS study was acknowledged to have been based on very simple and inaccurate computer models. This led to an international effort to analyse the nuclear winter theory. Started by the International Congress of Scientific Unions, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) involved 300 scientists, working for three years.

SCOPE's findings, published a year ago, straightaway abandoned the term nuclear winter as inadequate to describe the consequences of nuclear war. However, their more sophisticated computer models for the behaviour of dust and smoke clouds confirmed TTAPS' fear of a drop in temperatures by up to 30°C.

These models are still not perfect and different results can be obtained by making different assumptions. Thus, the US Center for Atmospheric Research (USCAR) has recently estimated drops of 10-15°C at the centre of continents, lasting between one day and one month. But even that would be catastrophic.

SCOPE found that a drop of just 3°C at the beginning of the growing season would destroy the US and Russian grain harvests. Temperatures of less than 15°C at any time would cause rice harvests to fail.

In a major conference on "nuclear winter" theories in London last week, scientists admitted the uncertainties in their models but felt that nevertheless nuclear war would be the greatest en-



vironmental blow ever.

One uncertainty concerns how fast the dust and smoke would be washed out of the air by rain. USCAR scientists Schneider and Thompson believe this could happen quite fast. Even so, there would be a drastic effect on the environment with "unprecedented world misery". This work, published in 'Foreign Affairs', a non-scientific journal, was seized upon by both sides of the argument. Some felt they underestimated the height to which dust would be carried, overestimating the ease with which it would be washed out. Others felt they overestimated the amount of dust and smoke and hence the size of the temperature drop.

Nuclear winter theorists think that some recent attacks on their ideas amount to a "dirty tricks" campaign orchestrated by the US Department of Defense.

The consensus still seems to be that non-combatants in a nuclear war would be seriously harmed by the environmental effects of dust and smoke, let alone the increased levels of radiation throughout the world. This radiation would come not just from the bombs but also from the nuclear power stations that would also be targets. "Taking out" a third of the world's nuclear plants could result in tripling the long-term fall-out. Some scientists believe that if all the radioactivity in nuclear plants were released, lethal levels of radiation would affect all but a few areas of land.

Incidentally, some Russian scientists believe that large increases in natural radioactivity have occurred from time to time over the last 600 million years. This was due to uranium being released from the Earth's core by volcanic and earthquake activity.

These radiation increases are believed to have resulted in the mass extinctions of animal life that seem to have occurred on several occasions (including the disappearance of the dinosaurs).

Unfortunately, a nuclear war would result in not only the disappearance of the White House dinosaur but also the rest of us.

## Sid needs to know more

Whilst the editorial in SO 295 has two excellent quotes from James Connolly and Leon Trotsky, the article in between fails to answer the issues that are faced with privatisation in sufficient detail to make it a reality for workers in those industries.

For instance, do we just call on the next Labour government to renationalise even if other demands such as workers' control and no indemnity are not incorporated? What would we mean by workers' control? How do we get "consumer control", or the idea of social need involved? As you say na-

tionalised industries are a long way from socialist institutions — look at MacGregor and Edwardes who have swept through state-owned industries as brutally if not more so as private industries.

In the case of pits being privatised it would be a bit of a sick joke to simply call for their renationalisation having seen the devastation since the miners' strike.

Obviously we would argue the case for social need as against profit, but how do we link that up to "the

masses" relying "upon their own revolutionary strength"?

You say we are for "real socialist forms of public ownership under workers' control, locally and nationally". But we need more than that to cut across the myths that surround the idea of nationalisation. Telling Sid the answer is socialism is about as useful as saying that inter-galactic flight is a possibility.

Yours comradely,  
IVAN WELS  
Nottingham

## Be clear about safe sex

**Why condemn the government for failing to be explicit enough in its campaign of education on AIDS when you fail to be so yourself?**

OK, so it is the government's job, not SO's, to mount a mass campaign on AIDS but it smacks of hypocrisy (Clive Bradley, issue no. 293).

### Ambiguous

You're right to say that safe or safer sex is not the long term answer. A cure or vaccine against HIV (HTLV-3 is now known as HIV — Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the answer. However you seem ambiguous as to whether safer sex is a short-term answer. It is.

In San Francisco the number of AIDS cases is still rising. This is not surprising since most people get the virus some time before getting AIDS — several years, at least. But AIDS has stopped rising at an accelerating rate, i.e. the spread of the virus appears to be being controlled, at least. Why? Because they mounted a serious 'safe sex' campaign. Compare this with New York where nearly one-tenth of the population is estimated to be infected by HIV and no attempt has been made to warn intravenous drug users of the dangers of unsafe sex.

You are also vague as to what sex is unsafe and what is safe. Any sex which involves exchange of body fluids, blood or semen, is dangerous — fucking and fist fucking. If you do fuck use a condom which provides some protection. Tonguing and rimming (licking the anus or vagina) is fairly risky as well. Sucking is relatively safe but both cum and pre-cum in your mouth is risky so stop before you climax. You also didn't



vigil for AIDS victims. Photo: Simon Gosset (Report)

say that the Terrence Higgins Trust say that sucking and kissing aren't too good if you have cuts or sores in your mouth.

And why no mention that masturbation, body rubbing, and massage are all safe and that use of one's imagination helps? Also no mention of whether saliva and urine can carry the virus. The Terrence Higgins Trust seem to believe that while they can carry the virus, they do so in such small amounts that the risk from infection is virtually non-existent.

### What

You don't really make it clear that it's what you do, not how many you do it with which is important. Despite what the government says if all your sex is safe you can still "sleep

around

### Condoms

Finally why no mention of the fact that you can get condoms on the NHS (though not many people realise this and it is difficult to do)? Why no mention of the demands that some of us are beginning to make, i.e. free condoms on the NHS (as with free needles for drug users), and that condoms suitable for gay sex ("ordinary" ones often rip during anal sex) should be widely available and that the policy that Manchester City Council has adopted of refusing to discriminate against carriers of HIV or AIDS sufferers should be adopted by others.

Yours,  
MIKE CODA

## Condoning racist oppression

**I'd like to make a few points in reply to John O' Mahony's letter in the last issue of SO.**

1. The smashing of the Israeli state on the premise of supporting Palestinian rights is not "rolling back the film of history". No socialist advocates the return of the British Mandate or the re-emergence of the repressive Ottoman Empire. Instead, supporting the rights of oppressed Palestinian people who have had their land expropriated and are systematically oppressed by the Israeli state is a prerequisite to any socialist solution.

2. John states that the "programme of conquering and annihilation of the Jewish nation" is "Arab chauvinist". As John should be aware, the PLO and the vast majority of the Palestinian people are for the smashing of the Israeli state. This is fundamentally different from

the annihilation of the Jewish nation". If John sees these terms as interchangeable and thus sees Palestinian demands as "Arab chauvinist" then he is positively racist.

3. John cannot see anything wrong with the idea that "Israel is a state for all Jews as opposed to a state for its citizens". He therefore condemns himself as someone who legitimates the racist oppression of Palestinians.

4. "The Law of Return and the treatment of the Palestinians are separable and should be separated". By saying this John shows his total lack of analysis concerning state racism, not just in Israel but in any bourgeois state. State racism manifests itself in different forms. Could John say that British racist immigration laws are separable from racist housing and policing methods?

Specifically concerning Israel, John fails to understand that the existence of the Israeli state depends on

state racism directed against the Palestinians. The Law of Return is an integral part of this.

5. John claims that "Jews have been the chief single victim of imperialism in the 20th century". Either John is totally ignorant of the effects of imperialism in Latin America, Africa and Asia or he has a serious definitional problem concerning the term "imperialism" by liberally interchanging that term with both racism and anti-semitism.

Yours fraternally,  
ADAM WOOLF,  
Manchester University

Letters are welcome: send to  
PO Box 823, London SE15  
4NA. 300 words or less,  
please, or we may have to cut  
them.

# Pandering to prejudice

**Bas Hardy reviews "The Racial Politics of the Militant in Liverpool" which examines Liverpool City Council's record on race.**

"I've got two minutes," said Derek Hatton, glancing at his fancy watch to calculate the time for his next luncheon engagement. Darkus Howe of 'Bandung File' kept that remark in his TV report on race in Liverpool as an indication of Hatton's sensitivity and concern about black issues. One certainly got the impression that 'Degsey' would have been in less of a hurry to get away had the interviewer been Terry Wogan!

"The Racial Politics of Militant in Liverpool" makes sorry reading because it shows how a much needed alliance between the labour movement and the black community was thrown away by the vicious and blinkered sectarian behaviour of Militant. The left outside of Liverpool might like to debate whether or not Militant are racist, but reading this report they can appreciate why many in the local black community hold such a view.

Black people make up around 8% of Liverpool's population, but get on any bus — derogated or otherwise — and you will find no black bus drivers. Go into a big department store — say Lewis's — in the city centre, and try to count up the number of black staff on one hand, and you won't get past your first digit. Should you look along the back entry on the day your bins get emptied, then you'll see plenty of black bin-liners, but no black bin men (or women). The Liverpool City Council has less than 1% of its workforce who are black.

## Ghettos

In London there are plenty of black bus drivers, shop workers and refuse collectors, because whites aren't prepared to do these jobs. The economic situation in Liverpool means that blacks are excluded even from these 'job Ghettos'.

The report states that the long-established Liverpool community "is a community that has been without work for generations and that as a result of overt and institutionalised racism has hardly been able to penetrate any layers within the local occupational structure."

"This has been reflected in the significant absence of black people from positions of responsibility in the labour movement. In broad terms, the trade union movement has historically colluded in third class economic status assigned to the black community, from their earlier efforts to undermine the position of black sea-men and to prevent black people working on public transport."

It must also be noted that none of Labour's 52 labour councillors are black, and none of the candidates Labour stood in the 1986 council elections were either.

Discrimination extends further into social welfare and housing provision. According to a Social Services Department report "There were only 7 black elders in a total of 1143 units of accommodation for elderly people; and in Liverpool 8, there were only 9 black people receiving meals on wheels out of a total of 4,553, 6 black people out of 1,038 in day care facilities, and 8 black people in residential homes out of a total of 1,391."

City housing allocations also show a pattern of institutionalised racism, as this table on the quality of lettings shows:

Quality	white	black
Excellent	38.0%	19.6%
Good	20.0%	24.7%
Average	24.7%	38.2%
Poor	17.3%	17.6%

The pattern of housing allocation also tends to confine blacks within specific areas of the City — especially

the Granby, Falkner Street area where 52.8% of all blacks were allocated housing. Another reason for the 'ghettoisation' lies in the danger of attack from groups of 'poor white' racist gangs should blacks move into 'their' areas.

Liverpool blacks were thus a politically and socially marginalised group at the time Labour assumed majority control of the City Council in 1983. Positive action was needed to reverse discrimination and offer blacks a central role in the labour movement. The 'workerist' politics of Militant and its allies, however, led to the exact opposite.

Signs of this could be seen early on in the attitude of Tony Byrne, Housing and Finance supremo. (Now leader of the Council after last month's putsch ousted John Hamilton) Byrne opposed a motion to provide accommodation for elderly Chinese on the grounds that 'hostels for the elderly should be provided to meet the needs of the local community as a whole and not for any particular ethnic group.' The Chinese community — arguably the most isolated and ignored of all the ethnic groups — therefore went without!

The general line of the Militant is that there is 'no difference' between black and white workers because both are exploited by capitalism. Attempts at positive action are bad because they "divide the working class". Showing "favouritism" to blacks merely gives ammunition to fascist groups. Blacks wishing housing transfers because of racial harassment are really trying to "jump the queue" for council accommodation.

The whole problem with this approach is that it totally ignores racism and more to the point, ends up pandering to latent racist prejudices in the white labour movement. Saying, as Byrne does, that blacks are no more oppressed than poor whites, is a simple refusal to admit the level of racial harassment and violence black people are subjected to in our society.

Despite Militant's claim to be 'orthodox Trotskyists', their attitude on the race question is the exact opposite of the one held by Trotsky himself, and his American co-thinker James P Cannon.

## Inaction

In the 1920's Cannon found that many white socialists in the USA thought that the oppression of blacks was purely and simply "an economic problem, part of the struggle between the workers and capitalists; nothing could be done about the special problems of discrimination and inequality this side of socialism." In Cannon's opinion this was nothing more than "a formula for inaction on the Negro front, and — incidentally — a convenient shield for the dormant racial prejudices of white radicals themselves."

Trotsky talked of the need to bring blacks into the centre of the labour movement in the original (US) 'Militant' newspaper in 1929. "We must find the road to the most deprived, beginning with the Negro, whom capitalist society has converted into a pariah, and who must learn to see in us his revolutionary brothers."

(The way our present, pale imitation copy 'Militants' do this is to exclude blacks from DLP aggregate meetings on technical grounds which they don't apply to white party members, and putting barriers in the way of blacks

**Militant is a semi-religious crypto-Stalinist sect which pushes a half-baked brand of mutated Marxism, its racial politics are reactionary.**



wishing to join the Labour Party if they happen to disagree with the Militant line on race).

Trotsky saw the major task for anti-racists to be an uncompromising struggle against racism in the white working class. "The negro can be developed to a class standpoint only when the white worker is educated. 99.9% of the American workers are chauvinists, in relation to the Negroes they are hangmen and they are so also to the Chinese."

Trotsky even argued that white workers should support the right of blacks to set up their own state in America — a policy guaranteed to make Hatton, Byrne and co. choke on their after-hours pints in the Vernon Arms!

The Liverpool Militant leadership hold a position on independent black struggle which is closer to that of Judge Roy Bean than to JP Cannon.

They refuse to conduct a political and ideological struggle against racism in the trade unions and then go on to expect the black community to unite with people who have traditionally colluded with the employers to deny blacks equal job opportunities. But what if blacks refuse to accept the subordinate place assigned to them in Militant's scenario for socialism? If existing black spokespersons don't prove to be compliant then it is necessary to import them!

The black caucus had been pushing for many months for the appointment of various equal opportunities officers who would implement positive programmes of action to combat racism, but they had not bargained for 'insider dealing'. The City Council went on to advertise for seven posts in a Central Race Relations Unit.

## Needs

Unfortunately, these posts were not designed to be filled by applicants who would reflect the aspirations and needs of ethnic communities in Liverpool.

They had to be filled by individuals who would unquestioningly toe the line of the Militant-dominated council leadership.

The Bond appointment was so blatantly rigged that even someone with the brains of a rocking horse could see through the charade. Bond had obviously been chosen at short notice by the Militant, who were desperate to find 'their own' black candidate, given the fact that their political line did not lend itself to the mass recruitment of black people.

Bond's appointment, carried out by the 'fixers' who were manipulating the local capitalist state for their own sectarian organisational advantage, outraged the local black community, local Labour Parties, and trade unions. But Militant had not yet ejected their full sack of poison. The order went out 'Defend Bond at all costs!' — even if this meant employing racist stereotypes to do so.

The black caucus was accused of being 'unrepresentative' of the local black community. A glance at the list of supporting organisations is enough to disprove this. It was also felt by Militant that 'black careerists' coveted Bond's job. Are careers open only to white people? Is not Sampson Bond a very able careerist given his obvious lack of qualifications for the job he was appointed for?

## Conflict

With the appointment of Bond, the stake was set, not for the integration of the black community into the labour movement, but conflict with it.

Militant's attempt to substitute itself for the black community proved an abject failure, despite the fact that they put five full-time workers into the Granby ward. MAG (Merseyside Action Group, set up as Bond's 'minders') soon published a document which was itself critical of the council's employment record. Shortly afterwards the three main local black recruits to MAG left in disgust at the way they had been manipulated.

Whilst the phoney front was being floated, the real representatives of the black community were turfed out of the Town Hall when the Race Relations Liaison Committee was abolished. From 12 delegates on the old committee, the black caucus was now expected

to compete with women's groups and the disabled for five places on the new 'Equal Opportunities Committee.' All three of these groups refused to lend themselves to such a charade.

Everyone on the non-Militant left knows that 95% plus of what is said in the Black Caucus report is factually true, as are most of the criticisms made. The whole thing is a damning indictment to Militant, and honest supporters of the Tendency must surely hang their heads in shame if they bother to read it.

The report was written by Gideon Ben-Tovim — ex Eurocommunist and now supporter of the pro-Kinnockite Liverpool Labour Left clique. As such, Ben-Tovim glosses up the role of his mates Ian Williams and Dave Leach. Yet for most of the time the race controversy raged these individuals kept their heads down.

## Courage

Ben-Tovim also fails to mention that SO supporter Kevin Feintuck and Granby ward activist Sam Semoff were the only two party members with courage enough to speak out against Militant at the municipal policy conference. Leach and Williams were silent on this occasion. Their boldness only increased with the pace of the NEC's attack on the local party.

Militant is a semi-religious crypto-Stalinist sect which pushes a half-baked brand of mutated Marxism. Despite the subjective anti-racism of many of its supporters, its racial politics — and many other aspects of its politics and practice — are *reactionary*. Its general performance in Liverpool has alienated broad support for the struggle against the Tories and played into the hands of pro-capitalist elements in the Labour Party.

If the left is to recover from this damaging period of Town Hall Pot-ism it must face up to the many negative things Militant has done. To blindly defend self-proclaimed left-wingers whose actions reinforce divisions in our class is a recipe for disaster. Let us hope that we can pick up the pieces before it is too late.

The Racial Politics of Militant in Liverpool is available from Source Books, 3 Myrtle Parade, Liverpool, L7 7EL. Price 2.95

# The value of

**On this page we print a photographic record of a small but important chapter in the history of the international workers' movement. The story of the struggle of Plessey workers in Cape Town, South Africa, against repression, management union-busting and starvation wages and how that struggle was helped by solidarity from British workers.**

"Management would never have conceded if it wasn't for the pressure from British workers and their fear of the action British workers might take".

That's how one militant from the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of South Africa explained the backing down by Plessey management in the four month long dispute at the giant electronics and armaments multinational's three Cape Town plants.

Workers have been in dispute since July in support of their demand for a living wage of 3.90 rand an hour (about 40 a week).

Plessey have used every dirty trick imaginable to smash the resistance of the workers.

1. Threats of the sack if workers don't resign from their unions.
2. Threats of 180 days detention for taking part in 'terrorist' i.e. union activity.
3. Threats of attack by the security police for organising meetings outside the plant while Plessey deny the right to meet on site.

Plessey have used the State of Emergency and workers' fear of mass victimisation to try to break the union.

But in September the Southern Areas leadership of the EAWTU decided to reach out for support and solidarity from Plessey workers in Britain.

They sent Brian Williams, the Southern Areas secretary of the EAWTU, to visit Britain. He managed to make contact with Plessey workers in Portsmouth, Nottingham and Liver-

**To ensure that women workers can play a full role in the struggle, the Union lays on activities for young children at its weekend leadership schools. Here, some children of union members present a play called 'Union Farm'. It was a great success.**



**Stewards and convenors from Plessey Edge Lane Liverpool with Brian Williams.**

pool as well as many other trade union and labour movement activists.

In Liverpool a meeting of convenors and shop stewards decided to push for a national Plessey shop stewards' conference on the issue of South Africa, and to try to develop links between Plessey workers in South Africa and in Britain.

This made management panic. Though Plessey are still a long way from conceding the union's wage demand, they have restarted serious negotiations, and, in the words of one EAWTU militant, "they have allowed union officials back into the plant, and workers are no longer harassed.

### Forced

"Plessey have only done this because they needed to."

Forcing management to back down will undoubtedly boost the union's wages fight and help EAWTU in its campaign to organise the strategic Cape Town metal and engineering industry. It also shows that despite the State of Emergency workers can still win.

The course of the dispute has pro-

vided a clear and practical proof of the value of direct links between workers on an international scale.

This is how one EAWTU militant summed it up:

"On behalf of workers in Cape Town I would like to thank the workers in Britain for their support, which has forced Plessey to change their attitude to the union. This shows that the struggle of workers is and must be an international one."

The union still needs help and solidarity. Send donations and messages of support to EAWTU, Southern Areas, PO Box 5382, 232 2 Boston House, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.

**Some Plessey RENAK workers. They are among the most militant and courageous workers in Cape Town. They have been on three short strikes during the last six months under conditions of the State of Emergency.**



## "The freedom can be won through struggle"

"The whole question of the overthrow of apartheid cannot be separated from the question of capitalism. To understand apartheid it is necessary to see how it is linked to capitalism.

"The central aspect of apartheid is racism, and racism that has been institutionalised, expressing a deliberate and calculated state policy.

"Capitalism in South Africa essentially developed along racial lines. That is as racial capitalism.

"Even if apartheid were to be removed, workers would still be exploited, earning starvation wages and living in poverty, because the struggle against apartheid as such,

onal worker-to-worker links

# of solidarity



Lol Duffy, ex-Cammell Lairds striker and prospective Labour candidate for Wallasey helped Brian Williams make contact with workers on Merseyside.

## A request answered

"The request for support from the oppressed black workers in the Plessey Plants in Cape Town to the workers in Plessey's major British plants was a success. "For the first time in the history of Plessey

workers worldwide contact has been made in such a direct way between British and South African workers.

"A very good, sound relationship has been established which will be to the enrichment of the struggle of Plessey workers against capitalist exploitation and the effects that it has on them and their families."

**Brian Williams, Southern Areas Secretary of the Electrical and Allied Workers Union of South Africa.**

## dom of workers cannot through negotiations"

as a concept, as racism, does not address itself to the need for an overall radical change in society, and for the ownership of the means of production to be placed in the hands of the workers.

### Recognise

"The organised working class has to recognise that the only way it can satisfy its ultimate objectives is by fighting against the principle enemy which is capitalism, recognising that apartheid is but the form in which capitalism developed.

"The fight against apartheid and capitalism is therefore one fight.

"What is important is that the trade union movement at the present moment is the stepping stone to the formation of a working class political movement, and to establishing a new order in society.

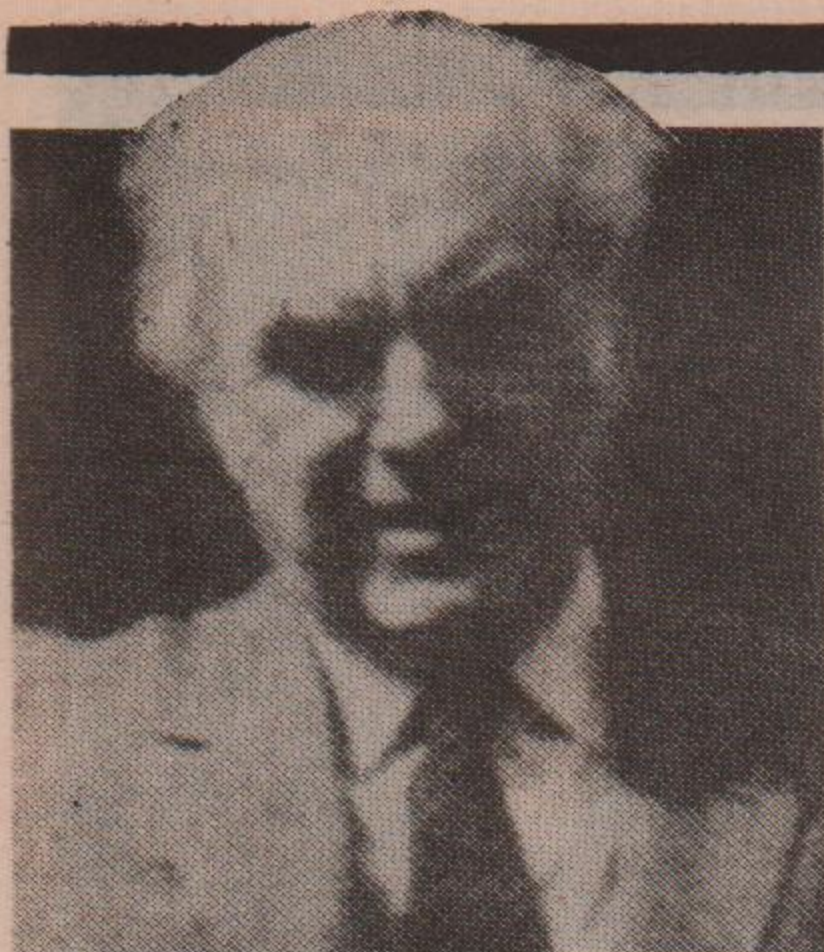
"It must be recognised that the bosses will not hand over power, the freedom of workers cannot be won through negotiation.

"Workers are going to have to pay a very heavy price to liberate themselves and our country from the clutches of apartheid and capitalism."

Brian Williams, Southern Areas Secretary of the Electrical and Allied Workers Union of South Africa.



Jessy, Valerie and Estelle, these three women played a leading role in mobilising workers inside the RENAK factory. They were the main negotiators for the living wage demands of the workers.



Greek PM Papandreu

# Greece and the boom

Ian Swindale reviews "The Greek Economy in the 20th Century" by A.F. Freris, published by Croom Helm, £21.95. (Other books in the series include Yugoslavia, USSR, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Spain).

For socialists interested in the problems of underdeveloped countries, the most interesting chapters of this book will be those dealing with the post-war economic history of Greece.

Here the author examines the reasons why Greece failed to participate in the post-war reconstruction of capitalism and the economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s, which so transformed the economies of other West European countries.

## US

The reconstruction and industrialisation of the Greek economy was dependent on United States aid and investment. However, at the end of the civil war the Right and their US backers abandoned state-sponsored plans to industrialise the country, opting instead for huge financial incentives to foreign investors.

The resulting (undirected) investment by multi-national companies in advanced, high-productivity, capital-intensive industries like chemicals, rubber, plastics, petrol and metals, did not interact with or stimulate growth in the other sectors of manufacturing industry.

As the drift from the land to the cities gained momentum in the 1960s, industry was unable to absorb this surplus agricultural labour and the result was on the one hand a fresh wave of emigration and on the other, a further growth of the service sector fuelled by a sudden and dramatic increase in tourism. Fixed capital investment went not into the manufacture of capital goods, but into construction — particularly into housing and tourist accommodation.

## EEC

Since 1981, when Greece became a full member of the EEC, new pressures have threatened the economic viability of sections of Greek agriculture and industry. While it is still too early to draw any definite conclusions about the impact of EEC membership on the Greek economy, Freris does present very clearly the problems that are likely to arise as Greek industry and agriculture face the full force of competition from other EEC member states.

The whole book, replete with statistical tables and references, make interesting reading, and despite the occasional reference to such things as the "standard Leontief inverse" it is surprisingly free of jargon, so the reader will not require a degree in economics in order to gain access to the wealth of information that the book contains.

# This year, next year

## Eric Heffer reviews the year

THIS LAST YEAR we reaped the results of the defeat of the miners the previous year. There is no doubt that the effect of the miners defeat on the movement as a whole has been traumatic.

It has been a year of continued retreat — but at the same time the year when a rallying of the left-wing forces in the movement began. But we have still got a long way to go.

I'm not certain that we have got it absolutely clear as to what is required at the present moment. *Of course everybody is waiting for the next General Election. But that must not be used as an opportunity or as an excuse for not raising the vital issues when the party leadership continue to retreat.*

On defence policy, we are still talking in terms of removing American and all nuclear bases from Britain. If a future Labour government allows them to have the facilities or to tie up ships with nuclear weapons in British ports, that is not really what the Party wanted. The Party wants to fight for a

completely nuclear-weapons-free country. And there has undoubtedly been a retreat by the Labour Party leadership on that.

There has been no frontal attack on anything; there has been a moving away from policies, without it being openly stated. The new element is that the right wing is feeling that much stronger, and increasingly they are coming out into the open to try to speed up the retreat. I know everybody is still saying that the compromise is holding on defence. But when you have got the likes of John Gilbert saying he does not agree with the policy, and John Lloyd of the New Statesman coming out against it, those are signs that the right wing in the movement are becoming bolder. In my opinion, as we get nearer to the election, and as American pressure increases, it will be very difficult to hold the line on Labour Party policy.

The main thing for us in the MI5

case is that this chap has revealed that within MI5 there were groups trying to undermine and destabilise the Labour government. Clearly they will do the same in the future.

That is the real reason why they are trying to get the book banned; it shows the role of these people during a Labour government, even a mild Labour government.

If we get a Labour government which really sets out to get rid of US bases and nuclear weapons, then everything will be thrown against us. You will find the Americans backing people in this country trying to destabilise the economy and the government. We have seen it before in Chile and in other countries, so why should it be different here?

I was very pleased that we saw Amir Khan's and Kevin Scally's reinstatement last week. But we must not lose sight of the fact that they are not the only ones who have been expelled.

Some people have concentrated on Scally and Khan and that was right. We had to fight it the way we did. But many people have tended to forget what is happening on Merseyside.

The position is still extremely serious. Liverpool District Labour Party has not met for over a year; Broadgreen CLP is suspended; St. Helens Labour Parties are suspended; Knowsley North had a candidate forced on them. Nobody seems to be conducting a great campaign throughout the country on all that because of the connections with Militant. But if there are Militant supporters involved, so what?

It could be Socialist Organiser, Socialist Action, Labour Briefing, anybody else. We must really step up the campaign on this. If we could get Merseyside back on an even keel that would be the great victory.

We have to conduct a campaign around the jailing of print worker Mike Hicks in the same way we have done around the miners. We cannot let people be jailed without kicking up a campaign within the movement.

# Whetton's week, Whetton's year

## Paul Whetton remembers '86 and looks towards '87

The two Welbeck lads have lost their tribunal case and have been judged 'fairly dismissed'. That was for distributing leaflets objecting to the amount of money spent on a MacGregor visit to Welbeck pit!

Today there is the appeal in the pensions case. We had been told, when that first went to court, that we had a cast-iron case which we could not possibly lose!

Every time we are backed into a situation, the cry now goes up "Let's take them to court". But it could not be clearer that the courts are a 'no-win situation' for trade unions and workers in struggle. Courts are there to do a job — for the state to beat workers. Is the next Labour government going to weed that patch out?

## Wapping

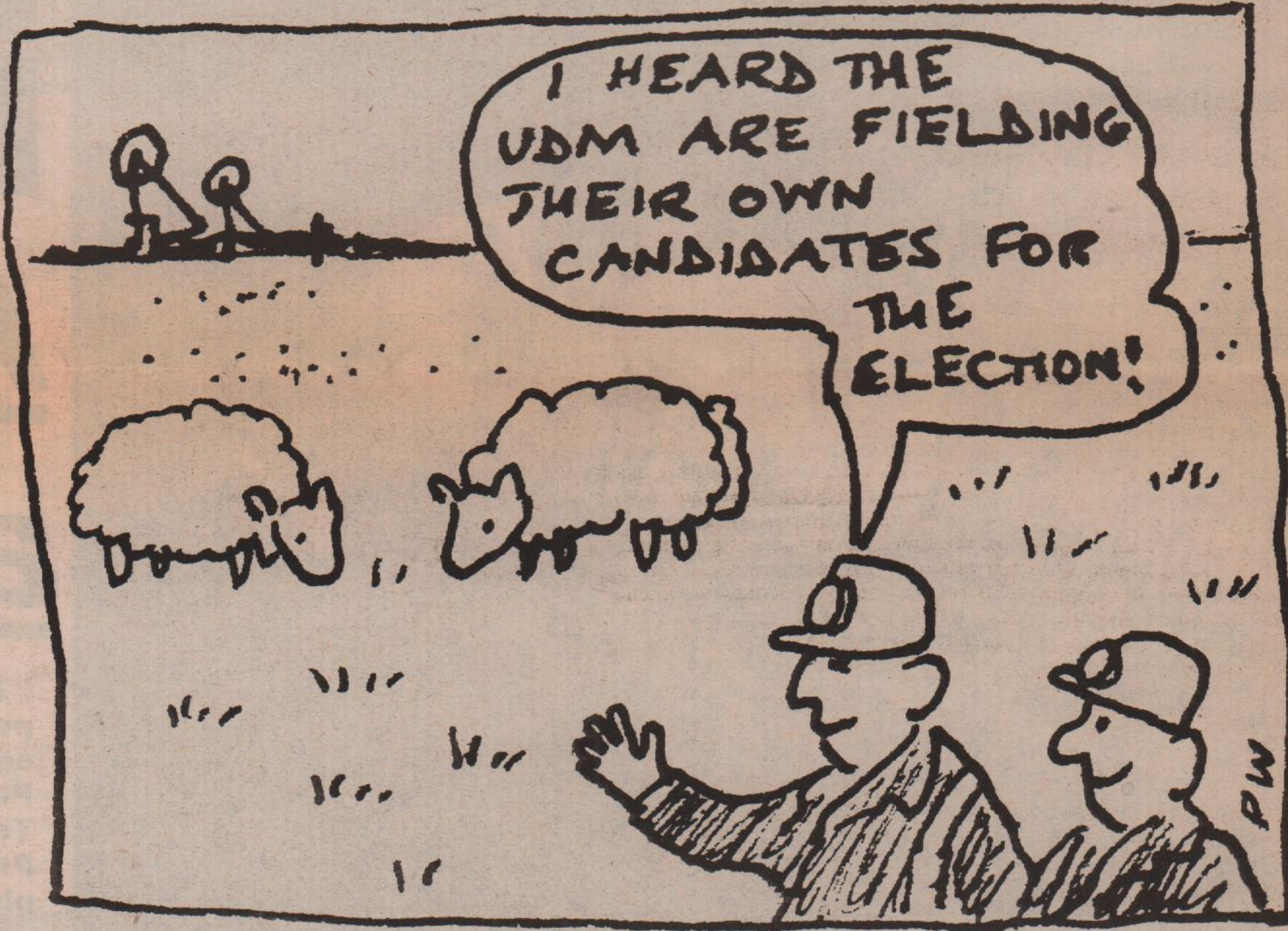
On Friday, Wapping striker Mike Hicks was thrown in prison. Again we see workers being sent down for doing nothing more than standing up and fighting for their trade unions. It happened all the way through the miners' strike. It will continue to happen to other groups of workers when they start fighting. The bosses and courts are working hand-in-glove, and the last thing we get out of British courts is justice.

The print unions' reaction to the jailing of Mike Hicks should be simple. This has now gone on long enough; Fleet Street should be called out and the print throughout the country stopped. If they get away with the jailing of Hicks then all they are doing is giving a licence to the cops to pick off other individuals at Wapping and anywhere else.

Meanwhile the TUC does nothing. When it does take a stand it is usually against us rather than for us. But we cannot let them off the hook and have to keep demanding they take action.

Every week it becomes clearer that the government is clerking the decks for privatisation of the pits. The lowering of safety standards; the attempt to smash organised trade unions by propping up the bosses' organisation, the UDM; the closure of pits and cutting capacity. Polyurethane foam — that recently caused the death of 182 South African miners — was found at Kelling; and there was the strike at Bolsover when a worker was disciplined after refusing to work with unsafe machinery.

If the Tories get in next time I think



there will be an immediate sale of pits, if not before. That makes it imperative to get a Labour government committed to the mining industry.

The selling off of pit houses in Yorkshire and elsewhere is all part and parcel of the same thing. In Notts they are being sold under the feet of the tenants. They are in the business of selling coal mines and they do not want pit houses round their necks, so they chuck rows of houses, whole villages, on the market for any shark.

We have heard about the UDM putting up a candidate against Labour in Mansfield; now they have promised to do the same in Edwina Currie's marginal South Derbyshire seat. I think they are mainly doing it to make people run to the UDM. The UDM announces it will stand a candidate in South Derbyshire; straight away the Labour candidate says 'I can't have this' and flies up to the UDM headquarters — which is what they want to give them respectability and some degree of recognition.

Our message to Labour candidates in that situation must be: if the UDM want to put candidates up against Labour we cannot stop them; all we must do is get out and beat them.

There is talk about 'reconciliation meetings'. For us there will be no 'reconciliation' between the NUM and

a bosses' organisation called the UDM, and we would expect that decision to be respected by the TUC and the Labour Party at all levels. If anybody comes up to Notts trying to 'mediate' and in the process gives any kind of recognition to the UDM they will get short-shrift from the NUM Notts Area. If they want to talk to people they can

ly unacceptable to me. The money should be redirected into something that saves lives, like the NHS and education.

The present spy trials have seen the Establishment caught with its knickers in a twist. If Kinnock did not think the authorities tapped phones he must be living in cloud cuckoo land. He could have found out by asking any Notts miner who was on strike for a year about phone taps. Why should he be immune? MI5 dirty tricks are not going to stop in the run up to this next election or after. They want the Tories to stay in. But if Labour gets in, what will Kinnock do to whip them into line?

We lived through history repeating itself in the miners' strike, 1926 all over again. Then with the UDM it was Spencism repeating itself. Now there is a chance of France repeating its history from May 1968. I very much hope that workers and students can again come together in order to defend their rights.

Lastly, a Christmas message. It is to reiterate to the lads in prison and to every sacked miner. You have not been forgotten and the fight will go on over Christmas and into the New Year. It might be an uphill task but we will not stop until every single victimised miner has been released from prison and given his job back.



Paul Whetton is secretary of Bevercotes NUM, Notts.

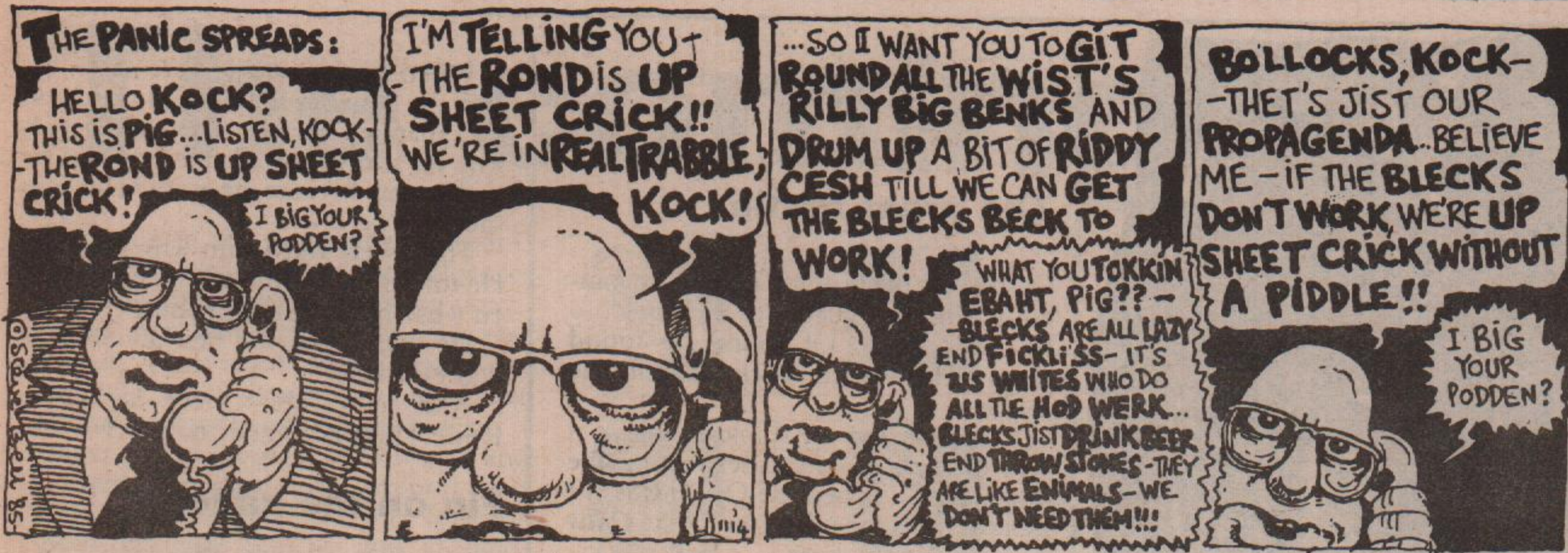
talk to us; or get out into the Labour Party wards and talk to individual miners, some of whom are in the UDM.

Nationally, Neil Kinnock is falling into the trap of trying to appeal to everybody, and he will again finish up pleasing nobody.

For him Labour will still be waving the flag and spending millions and millions on arms, just directing the money from one means of killing to another means of killing. That is total-



# CHRISTMAS COLOUR SUPPLEMENT



Steve Bell is at his best in his latest collection of cartoons "The Unrepeatable If", 3.95 from Methuen.

## FILMS

# Oz meets the Muppets

Edward Ellis went to see *Labyrinth*

The Wizard of Oz meets the Muppets. It is often said that there are no new stories, and *Labyrinth* surely proves it.

It would be possible to reel off the names of a large number of films, old and recent, of which *Labyrinth* is more or less derivative.

Sarah, a young girl, has her baby brother whisked away by the king of the Goblins, and has a mere 13 hours in which to find her way through the maze that leads to the Goblin City where the boy is being kept. On the way she meets many strange foes and picks up a coterie of peculiar friends — including a hideous gnome, a gallant and extremely stupid cavalier fox, and a huge furry Thing called (for some reason) Ludo.

## Toys

There are some unexplained aspects to the story. Sarah spends a good deal of her time fussing over stuffed toys and pretending to be the heroine of a fairy story whose plot more or less unfolds as the story of the film. Yet at other times she seems rather older than this child-like commitment to fantasy would imply: there is an implication, at the very least, that Goblin King David Bowie is in love with her.

Certainly the actress involved seems a little too post-pubescent to be running around dressed up as a fairy queen. And the precise character of the Goblin King is a bit difficult to work out, in part as a result of the fact that David Bowie is one of the most over-rated — indeed one of the worst — actors ever to insult our intelligence on



Sarah and friends

screen. Is he an evil spirit intent upon doing unspeakable things to helpless children? Is he secretly a nice person trying to help Sarah find her way through the maze of adolescence?

Or is he merely a guest star of Kermit the Frog unexpectedly breaking into song and leaping about the stage with his various grotesque companions

as part of a promotion gimmick for his latest single?

*Labyrinth*, you should be warned, is a sort of musical. I say sort of musical because the bursts of song seem to have absolutely no reason behind them beyond the logic, I suppose, that if you're going to have David Bowie in a film at all you may as well make use of the talent that he does have.

Unfortunately, this is not Bowie at his best, and you can't help feeling that it would have been an improvement to have had words that were audible even if it was too much to ask that they were relevant.

That said, this is not a bad film. The muppet things — they are indeed made by the muppet team — are sure to win the hearts of many young kids, and sure to win handsome profits for the companies that will be mass producing them for Christmas.

It is meant to be fantasy about growing up, I think, though I don't think that it matters very much. And the people who will enjoy it most have some years to go yet before such concerns bother them.

Worth taking the children to for Christmas; but they won't be putting it on TV at this time of year as a regular event in decades to come.

## TV

# Christmas films

There are one or two films on over the Christmas period. In particular look out for Stanley Kubrick's 'Dr Strangelove (Or how I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb.)' (Saturday, December 27 BBC1), a satirical attack on Cold War mentality make in 1964. Peter Sellers stars as, among other things, the US President and one of his advisors.

'Sophie's Choice', a harrowing tale of concentration camp suffering in WWII, stars Meryl Streep in an Oscar winning performance. (Sunday 28

BBC2). Sophie is a survivor of a Polish concentration camp, who has to make agonising moral choices about her life.

Getting its first screening on British TV is 'Tootsie' starring Dustin Hoffman donning women's clothing for a part in a soap opera. (Sunday 28, BBC1). It's a comedy about sexual stereotyping

Old favourites like '2001', 'Fiddler on the Roof' and the appalling 'Blazing Saddles' will be back, along with first showings for 'Poltergeist' and '1941' both films by Steven Spielberg.

## BOOKS

### Leon Trotsky

Stuck for a present to give your revolutionary friend, lover, companion, dog?

Two books by Trotsky could make the ideal Christmas gift. 'My Life' is, oddly enough, Trotsky's autobiography. It covers everything from his early childhood in the Ukraine, through to his conversion to Marxism, his experience in the socialist movement, his role in the Russian Revolution and his victimisation and eventual defeat at the hands of the Stalinist tyrants who usurped the revolution.

Trotsky's life was tightly bound up with the great events of his time — events that he himself played a major role in shaping. As such this is not just the story of his life; it is also the story of the international workers' movement in this period.

'My Life' is therefore indispensable reading for anyone interested in Marxism and the history of the socialist movement.

The History of the Russian Revolution is Trotsky's masterpiece. Now available in a single volume, it is extremely long — well over 1000 pages — but surprisingly easy to read.

Trotsky covers the social and historical background to the revolution, giving some of the most thorough expositions of his chief theoretical ideas. In fact, in a way the book is an in-depth justification of Trotsky's theory of 'permanent revolution'.

In a racy style, beautifully translated by Max Eastman, Trotsky looks at the events and developments in the revolution during the course of 1917. He shows how this was a genuine working class-led revolution, and shows how the Bolshevik Party, which Trotsky himself joined during the revolution, was able to win the leadership of the masses.

It is a fantastic historical document, and a remarkable insight into how a revolution works, what it is like, and how Marxists relate to the great events taking place around them.

*My Life* is published by Penguin. *History of the Russian Revolution* by Pluto Press.

### Anti-semitism

Who do you think said this? Anti-semitism in its essence is anti-capitalist. It takes over as its own the hatred of people for their dependence on money as a medium of exchange and their yearning for Communism. Auschwitz means that six million Jews were murdered and trundled onto the garbage heaps of Europe as that which they appeared to be — as money Jews. Some demented (and politically half-witted

Nazi?) No, it was Ulrike Meinhof, the well-known German communist terrorist, who committed suicide in prison in 1977. (Reported in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of December 15 1972).

Bernard Lewis's book 'Semitism and Anti-semitism' traces the history of the Jewish people and of those who have for varying reasons been anti-semitic. He traces the varying forms anti-semitism has taken. Of special interest to socialists is the account he gives of anti-semitism on the left.

The chapter on the Nazi intervention in the Jewish-Arab conflict tells the story of the active collaboration with the Nazis of the chief Palestinian leader of the 1930s and early '40s, the Mufti of Jerusalem, who operated from Germany during the war. Of course none of this can affect our attitude of support for the oppressed Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank, but it puts the idea of the Zionists as the local allies of imperialism into perspective. The Palestinian Arabs too were allied to imperialism — the one that lost.

*Semitism and Anti-semitism* by Bernard Lewis is published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

### Jack Jones

In the mid-'70s public opinion polls showed that many people believed that Jack Jones was more powerful than the then Labour Prime Minister. Jones was secretary of Britain's biggest trade union, the Transport and General Workers Union.

A leader of the left in the struggle against the Tory government in the early '70s, Jones became a pillar of the Wilson and Callaghan governments. He helped demobilise the working class. Together with Wilson and Callaghan, Jones helped prepare the Tory backlash.

Jones' autobiography tells the story of his youth in the slums of Liverpool, an early manhood spent making on the Liverpool Docks, active service in Spain during the Civil War and then the long years making his way up the ladder of the T&G bureaucracy.

A union bureaucrat, nevertheless Jones helped liberalise his union — for example lifting the so-called 'Black Circular' which banned communists from holding office in the TGWU until 1970.

Jones is a tragic figure because he was in his own way loyal to the working class and to the labour movement and tried to serve the movement in his own reformist way.

His account of himself is well worth reading. *Jack Jones, Union Man, an autobiography*, is published by Collins.

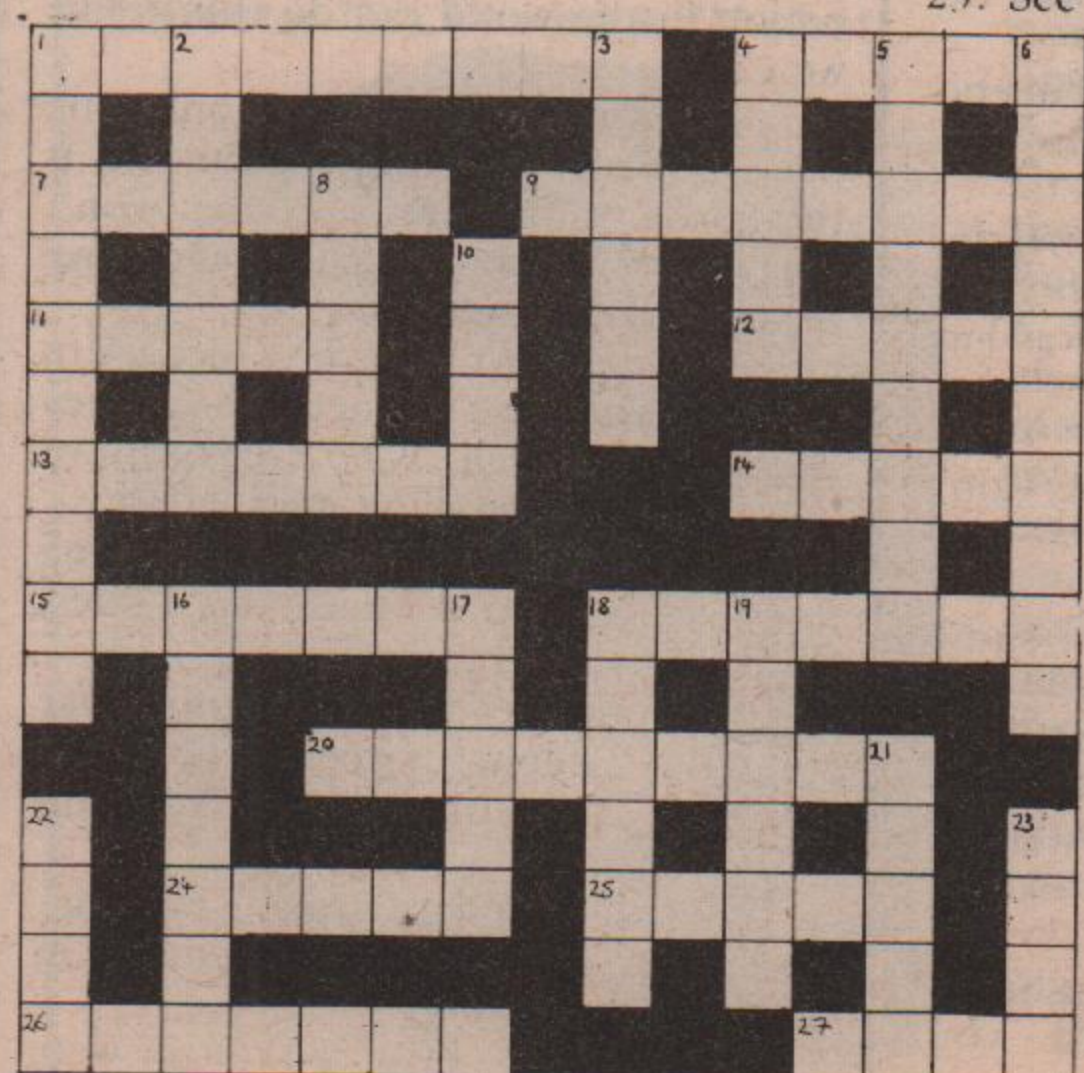
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

1. Drugs dare turns into detachment (3,6)
4. Square rain? Sealed for Lenin (5)
7. Working class district for GB Roy V (6)
9. Lettuce pillages horsemen (8)
11. Two points to love confused Russian leader (5)
12. Square eats in a mess — and revolution (5)
13. Vietnamese marshal jogs before Russian exile (7)
14. All, for example, mixed up — the Bolshevik Party wasn't! (5)
15. Boer cot make for the 10th (7)
18. Lot IV up for alteration — massive worksite (7)
- 20 ac, 1 dn Theory that keeps the wheel turning (9,10)
- 24 ac, 19 dn Spiral sheet altered for change of course (5,6)
25. — Naroda — strangled yodel (5)
26. Things to be learned from 15 ac

### DOWN

1. See 20 ac.
2. Sailor! OK, bend y-shape (7)
3. Institute for my son about fifty (6)
4. Model questions for what we're to do (5)
5. Gabriel in Russia (9)
6. Son has love mixed up — weekly (5,5)
8. Tears for landlord's income (5)
10. Red version of Mary (4)
16. Period of 1917 earthquake (3,4)
- 17,23 dn Urk! Fifty arrow jumbled tasks of bucolic Bolsheviks (5,4)
18. Inside copra VD abounds — it's the truth! (6)
19. See 24 ac.
21. Legal wrongs confused latter day Leninists (5)
22. Inverted praise for this kind of power (4)
23. See 17 dn.



Send your answers to PO Box 823, London SE15 and you'll get a surprise prize if you win.



# CHRISTMAS COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

## Fin discovers a plot

Long ago when knights ruled the world, there was an island called Hydro Island.

One year before our story begins the French tried to conquer Hydro Island. The English helped the Hydro islanders to resist the French. When the French were beaten, the King of Hydro Island who was a silly man, gave the kingdom to one of the English King's best generals, General Augustin.

General Augustin came to Hydro Island on a ship named after the English King Edward III. When he got there Augustin went straight to the main castle, where he would spend most of his life.

That night, a Hydro islander crept over the wall of the castle. His name was Fin. He had five pals with him called Platipus, Pike, Moonshine, Silver-Fish and Conger.

They all had fishing rods with which to fish in the castle moat.

Suddenly Fin called over to his friends. He could hear people talking inside the castle.

The six jumped on to a flagpole sticking out of the castle wall. It was right next to a window.

Two men had just started a conversation. Then five other people came into the room. A very big man suddenly silenced everybody.

He said "I have a plan to get rid of all the sea creatures and replace them with English people. So every one of you must get your soldiers to tax every penny out of those sea creatures down there."

Someone asked: "How will that get rid of the sea creatures?" The big man replied, "They won't be able to stand the taxes and they'll leave, unless our soldiers catch them first."

Out on the flagpole, Fin and his pals heard every word. They climbed down and they all went home.

Next morning Fin went to the gates and asked the sentry who the big man was. The sentry said, "Why, it's the new king, King Augustin, you are talking about."

Fin rushed to his pals' houses and told them who he was.

## Sir Greeno the Rebel

The next day, King Augustin ordered all his sea creature soldiers to go back to their homes.

One of the great sea creature knights, Sir Greeno, was told to leave the castle. When he heard this, he was outraged and went to the throne room to complain.

he said to the king: "Why do all of the sea creatures have to leave your army?"

"Sir Greeno, I have no need of these people. The Crown belongs to me, not to the soldiers and knights."

Then he said: "Put him in chains", and two of his guards lunged forward.

Sir Greeno pulled his sword and so did the guards. A terrible battle took place.

Sir Greeno jumped through an enormous window and landed on a cart with hay in it, just under the window. His horse was not far away. He jumped on it and galloped off before the king's men could even get down the steps.

On his way he passed a tree and bumped his head on a branch "bump!" He fell to the ground. At the bottom of the tree, Finn and his pals were thinking what they could do to foil King Augustin's plan.

They took the helmet off Sir Greeno and saw who it was. Fin and his pals had seen Sir Greeno before.

They carried him to their nearby shack and bathed his head. When he woke up the first thing he saw was Fin and his pals.

He said: "Where am I?"

"You are in our shack," said Conger.

"Who are you?"

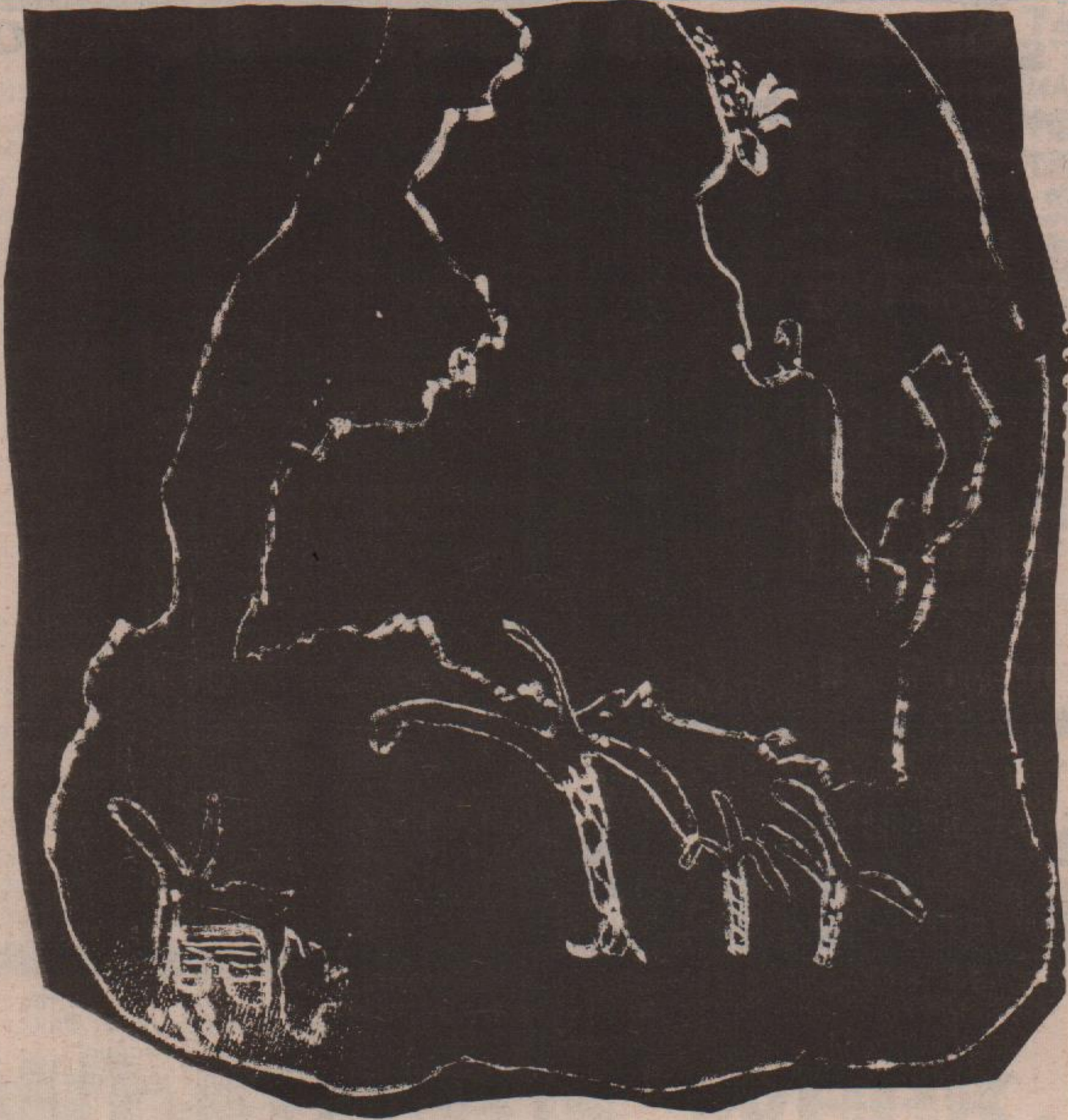
"I am Fin and these are my friends: Conger, Pike, Moonshine, Silver Fish and Platipus. What are you doing here?"

"I am Sir Greeno. The King wanted to put me in chains. I don't know why."

"We know why," said Moonshine.

"Why? And how would you know?" asked Sir Greeno.

"We went to the moat last night to fish, and we heard King Augustin con-



The only existing map of Hydro Island

# The revolution on Hydro Island

**Hydro Island is a mysterious place, inhabited by the Sea Creatures, who came out of the sea and make the island their own. Here THOMAS CARLYLE tells how the Sea Creatures rebelled against a foreign king and set up the Republic of Hydro Island. Thomas will be 9 next June**

spiring to get rid of all the sea creatures from the island and replace them with English people.

"That's why he plans to raise the taxes and needs to get rid of the sea creature knights and soldiers."

"In that case we should make a rebellion" said Sir Greeno. "That's a very good idea," said Platipus. Everyone else agreed.

## A secret meeting in the forest

The next day Greeno and his pals went to all the sacked soldiers' houses to tell them the news. They all gathered in the forest.

Sir Greeno stepped up on a broken tree trunk and started to speak. He wasn't feeling well however, because of the bump on his head, so his speech wasn't as good as it might have been.

"Friends, soldiers, sea creatures," he began. "We have called this meeting to hear everybody's thoughts and ideas about how to get rid of this tyrant king."

"As you know, the king plans to get rid of us all and replace us with English people."

"But no nation can replace us. No nation in the world can do things like we can."

"This king will kneel to only one person, King Edward III. But he is thousands of miles away. So that won't help us very much. At the moment we have to rely on ourselves."

"If we don't we'll have to go back to living in the sea. We need the tuckey bushes to live well. Who ever heard of an orange tree growing near Atlantis?"

"We have got to make this king kneel to us. And if he doesn't I guess we'll give him the chop!"

Everybody cheered Sir Greeno. They shouted: "Greeno! Greeno! Gree-no! Gree-no! Augustin — boo! Augustin boo!"

They discussed it until evening. Then they elected their committee to head the revolution.

The members of the committee were

Fin, Sir Greeno, Mussel Bacak, Moonshine, Wave, Bulldog, Piscus Man, Sui! Awain, Conger, Squid and Kelp. There were eleven in all.

## Oyster the Great Knife Thrower

The next day they planned their first battle. Some of them thought they should attack the castle first. The best idea would be to take the king by surprise.

Suddenly, a sea creature at the back called out, "Why don't we get someone on a horse to ride around the towns and villages and say 'the king wants to get rid of us. He's a tyrant! He'll wind up killing us all. Join the rebellion!' That will win the people to us."

They decided to do this. They sent a sacked soldier whose name was Seashell.

When he started shouting this there was a sea creature who heard what Seashell was saying, pulled his knife out and flung it through the air.

It stuck firmly in the scalp of Seashell. Blood started trickling down on the ground. Seashell was certainly dead.

Then a load of soldiers came and carried Seashell's body away.

On the way they asked people who had killed him and why. The sea creature who had, said he had, and told them why he did it.

"It was because he was shouting untrue things about the king."

This sea creature was called "Oyster the great knife-thrower"

The soldier thanked him, and carried Seashell's body to the castle.

The soldiers told King Augustin, and the King was pleased. But he was not at all pleased that people knew his plan.

He was baffled as to how they knew, but he guessed that this was Sir Greeno's work.

He got all his generals and dukes together and told them that they must find Sir Greeno — or he would take

them out of their commands.

At this they all set to work to find the rebels.

## The great battle

Oyster saw them doing this, so he joined in. His best guess was the forest, so he went there. Of course he found them. He rushed back to tell the soldiers.

I suppose you are thinking that it is odd to see a sea creature helping the king. Well it is because Oyster doesn't believe what the rebels say. That's why he supports the king.

When he got to the soldiers he told them about the rebels and where they were. But the watchmen of the rebels had seen Oyster and guessed where he was going. He warned the others.

When the soldiers came, the rebels jumped out at them. The rebel bowmen fired, and one arrow hit the shoulder of Oyster.

He quickly dashed to the castle for reinforcements.

But when they came the camp of the rebels was deserted. Bodies of soldiers were lying everywhere.

Soon they came across the dukes and generals. They had failed to do what the king had asked them, so the king selected more dukes and generals.

One of them was Oyster the Great Knife-Thrower!

The first thing Duke Oyster wanted to do was to see if there were any tracks leading away from the battleground. And Oyster did find tracks.

He found a trail of blood.

The trail led them to a high path.

Suddenly boulders came crashing down in front of them, blocking their path.

Then at the top of a high peak, archers shot arrows into the air. Coming down, the arrows showered on to Duke Oyster's men. Many of them got their shields up first but lots of them were too slow, so the arrows killed and wounded them.

Then the boulders started coming down again, crashing down and killing people by the dozen.

Eventually, Duke Oyster, who was wounded in the head, called his men to retreat. And the bugle sounded the retreat.

All of the rebels felt very pleased with themselves.

## The rebellion spreads

The next day, Fin and five other rebels went around the island shouting:

"The King is a dictator. He plans to get rid of us sea creatures. Join the rebellion. At least you'll have a fighting chance."

Twenty sea creatures jumped on horseback and galloped off with Fin and the five rebels.

Lots more joined them later when and when they went back up to the mountains their numbers had doubled.

## Oyster changes sides

Meanwhile, in the castle, Duke Oyster was slowly recovering from his wounds.

His scalp was very thick, and it was in two separate parts. In the battle in the mountains the top part of his scalp had been smashed off.

Because he had a thick scalp his brain hadn't grown much. Now that his scalp was weaker his brain could grow bigger.

As his brain began to grow bigger he began to understand what was really happening.

He noticed, for instance, that he was the only sea creature in the castle.

He thought that Seashell might have been right when he had said "The king is a tyrant" and that he wanted to "get rid of the sea creatures"

That night he figured out his plans.

The next day he got his men and they rode out to the mountains. And of course the rebels attacked them.

Oyster pulled his jacket off to reveal hundreds of sharp knives in belts. Immediately he got to work. The rebels were amazed to see Oyster killing his own men!

When all his knives had gone he drew his sword. Eventually the rebels helped him.

When all the soldiers were dead, Fin and the rebels got down to the rocks and thanked Oyster. They asked him why he had killed all his men and he said it was because he wanted to join them.

The rebels asked him why, though. He told them about how he had realised what had been happening.

He said it was the best accident he had ever had!

And so at last Oyster the Great Knife Thrower joined the rebels.

## Fin on the gallows

One day, one of the rebel spies in the town was caught. The king got one of his soldiers to dress up as the spy.

The next day, Oyster and Fin went to see the spy. When they got to the spy's house some soldiers jumped out at them.

They were surrounded and captured.

As they were being led up to the gallows, Fin was allowed to speak to the crowd. It was a very big crowd because people had heard about the rebels. Fin spoke:

"People of Hydro, I will be killed for what I believe in. Let me tell you that these gallows will be the place where lots of you shall also die."

"This so-called king is more of a tyrant than anything else!"

The king plans to get rid of us all and bring in English people. To prove it, why do you think he got rid of the sea creature knights?"

Remember Sir Greeno. He was our champion before this fat thing came from England. Look what's happened to Greeno now — he's an outlaw!

The thing I'd like to have is a free Hydro Island — no kings, no queens, no princes, just equal people."

Listening to Fin was Edward, an English knight. He was one who knew of the plans of King Augustin. Now he remembered that he came to Hydro Island first to free the Hydro Islands from the French, and now he was helping a tyrant to conquer Hydro Island all over again. He was unhappy. Suddenly he jumped up on the gallows.

He said: "I confess, the king does want to get rid of you all!"

At this all the sea creatures started attacking the soldiers.

But some of the soldiers had heard Sir Edward. They too believed in freedom, so they joined the rebels.

## The end of King Augustin

King Augustin was now defenceless. Everybody was against him. He headed for his horse. Too late! He was captured.

"Why don't we hang you instead of us?" said Fin.

"Or shall we give you the chop?" said Oyster.

"I think the chop is a bit quick," said Fin. "Hanging is more slow and hurts more."

"I know," said someone at the back, "Let's chuck him to the villagers."

"Let's chuck him in Leech River, first!" said Edward.

Eventually it was decided that they would put him in a ducking board. Before that they caned him, after dragging him through the streets by horses.

## The rebels' new government

When it was all over the committee of the rebels was made the government. But lots didn't want to be in the government. They wanted to stick to their old life. They were fine when they were poor.

These were Fin and his pals: Sui! Awain, Mussel Bacak.

Some of them were knighted, including Fin.

Oyster and Sir Greeno were the leaders of the government. But they still listened to the old committee of the rebels.

But however long they lived they would never forget the speech that saved Hydro Island, and Oyster's and Fin's lives.

Nor would they forget Sir Edward, the English knight who had confessed.

## A children's story for Christmas



## The coming year

Welcome to my world of predictions. Together we will explore the influences that will affect the great historical processes that will unfold in the year ahead. From your letters and comments I know how useful you have found my predictions down the years. I know that my readers are sensitive and vulnerable. You want support and help and I try to make my forecasts both factually reliable and as emotionally fulfilling as possible.

Take some of the important forces now coming into play on the centre-stage of the political agenda: the Kinnockites tend to be passive folk but willing to change, while the class struggle left are the deep thinkers, always trying to unify and create new alliances. Then there are the ultra-left, doggedly sticking to the same wrong line all their lives, while the Campaign Group and the demands of the Women's Action Committee, Labour Committee on Ireland and Labour Left Liaison etc., tend to be imaginative and rebellious, always seeking change.

You may not realise how much research work is done to prepare this yearly forecast for you.

The political firmament is an ever-changing pattern of new vanguards, processes and alliances circling around us. I try to calculate exactly where these forces are at every day.

Then the monthly predictions are based on inter-actions between these struggles. In September, for instance, there is a fierce conjunction which will bring ill health to one party, hard work to another, and a missed opportunity to a third.

In the meantime, I do hope that you find this forecast helpful and interesting. I want you to think of me as your friend — and as a friend I must tell you awful truths at times, as well as pass on the good news! Now, your monthly guide.

**January.** You like to start each year with some kind of good resolution. This year you should read the pamphlet 'A Million Jobs a Year', and involved yourself in one of the many new campaigns with a clear anti-imperialist logic.

The Kinnockite forces are in disarray: in attempting to undermine and reverse Labour's commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament, they in fact open up a debate in which class struggle forces calling for withdrawal from NATO can be spectacularly successful.

**February.** In imperialism's heartland, the impeachment of Ronald Reagan precipitates a presidential election in which the campaign to re-elect Richard Nixon is pitted against Jesse Jackson's progressive Democrats for a Rainbow Coalition. Jackson's triumphant nationwide Campaign tour, in company with Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, presages a landslide victory.

**March.** Gorbachev's reintroduction of workers' councils, elected under a multi-party system completes the



### J.R. Denham discloses the rise and rise of world revolution over the next 12 months.



J.R. Denham

political revolution. Gorbachev sends an open letter to Chesterfield Labour Party offering full solidarity to the class struggle left against Thatcher's plans to outlaw all oppositional forces who do not "fundamentally agree" with her.

**April.** Norman Tebbit's denunciation of the Archers for "blatant Trotskyite bias" draw a forthright rebuttal from Duke Hussey. Humiliated, Tebbit says it was only an April Fool's joke.

Ken Livingstone warns that the struggle could soon enter an armed phase.

**May.** Local elections: candidates of the class struggle left are swept into office the length and breadth of the land. Even in the South East of England supporters of the demands of WAC, LCI and Black Sections now dominate the council chambers.

**June.** Lord Young's seasonally adjusted figures — supposedly proving unemployment is now below one million — are exposed as fraudulent, due to removal from the register of all persons called to a 'Restart' interview.

Thatcher's claim that Norway, with Libyan support, plans an invasion of the Outer Hebrides, fails to galvanise the British public. Tories fall to all-time low in opinion polls. Ken Livingstone warns that the struggle could soon enter an armed phase.

**July.** Thatcher cancels plans for general election. In Southern Ireland, Garret Fitzgerald is defeated at the polls, and Sinn Fein hold the balance of power. Charles Haughey tears up the Hillsborough Agreement and announces his intention to "liberate the north".

**August.** The TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee's document 'A national understanding on prices and incomes' provokes a storm of protest from trade unionists and Labour Party members. Tribune editor Nigel Williamson calls upon "the forces of the left to set aside sectarian differences for a united fight against this betrayal of basic working class interests." Ken Livingstone warns that the struggle could soon enter an armed phase.

**September.** Delegates to TUC Congress defeat the platform and vote for "no incomes policy under capitalism". Norman Willis agrees to abide by the wishes of Congress.

At Labour Party conference the block votes of the AEU and the EETPU swing behind the demands of WAC, LCI and the Black Sections, ensuring overwhelming victory for the left. Neil Kinnock agrees to abide by the wishes of Conference.

The Liberals vote to pull out of the Alliance and to join with the Labour in a "Get the Tories out — General Election now!" campaign. David Steel agrees to abide by the wishes of Assembly.

Thatcher cancels Tory conference. David Owen declares the SDP dissolved and accepts Thatcher's invitation to join the cabinet.

**October.** US President Jesse Jackson, together with FSIN and Fidel Castro, pledge their support to the British class struggle left, in the fight to bring down the discredited Thatcher regime. The Labour Co-ordinating Committee disbands, and members apply to join LLL as individuals. Ken Livingstone warns that the struggle could soon enter an armed phase.

**November.** The conjunction of forces worldwide now sharply poses the question of constructing an Alliance for Socialism centred upon the Campaign Group of MPs, the demands of LLL, the LCI and those members of WAC and Black Sections who happen to meet with my approval.

**December.** The indefinite postponement of the general election and Thatcher's proclamation that her present term of office will last for 1000 years meets with a storm of protest from Labour PPCs looking forward to being swept into office. Ken Livingstone warns that the struggle could soon enter an armed phase.

Beware the ultra-left with their wrong line of challenging Kinnock for leadership of the Labour Party.

Build the Alliance for Socialism!

# QUIZ

WHO SAID...? (NB. All from 1986).

- A. "There are people, sects and nuts, who actually believe that in being involved in strikes, workers find out how to struggle."
- B. "What is great about America is that you can always make a profit."
- C. "I've got a better background than anyone else who's married into the Royal Family since the war, excepting Prince Philip."
- D. "I'm sorry, if I may say so, I am truthfully sorry that I unintentionally misled the court."
- E. "If it is possible to award life membership of a union to Norman Tebbit then the movement should agree to do so."
- F. "Work hard, keep your nose clean and hope like hell you have a job tomorrow".

### THE GRIM REAPER (Deaths of the year).

- A. No more cocktails for this bastard.
- B. Fake left TGWU leader (Yes, there are plenty to choose from, but this one died in 1986).
- C. Chairman of the BBC (pity it wasn't his brother).
- D. He liked to pose as a Red Clydesider...in the House of Lords!
- E. She wrote: "A world where men and women would be equal would be easy to visualise, for that is precisely what the Soviet Revolution promised."
- F. Tony Benn's favourite soap star.

### NORMAN TEBBIT'S TV CHOICE

- A. What was the name of the Monocled Mutineer?
- B. Who wrote "Paradise Postponed"?
- C. Who was the BBC television reporter in Libya during the American bombing?
- D. Name the television hospital drama series that upset Edwina Currie.
- E. Name both the Tory MPs who sued the BBC for suggesting fascist connections.

### YOUR GENIAL HOSTS

- A. Which "Red" hosted JY's show?
- B. What constituency did Brian Walden represent as an MP?
- C. Who replaced him as presenter of Weekend World?
- D. What is the name of Robert Kilroy-Silk's TV show?
- E. Which former British Prime Minister has hosted a TV chat



show?  
F. For which party did Robin Day once stand as a parliamentary candidate?

### WORLD OF BOOKS

- A. What was the title of Ian McGregor's book?
- B. What was the title of Eric Heffer's book?
- C. What was the title of Peter Wright's book?
- D. Who wrote "Hard Labour"?
- E. Who wrote "One Girl's War"?
- F. Name the author and book that won this year's Booker Prize.

### STREET OF SHAME

- A. Which papers have pulled out of the Lobby system?
- B. Who left the Telegraph after a row with Max Hastings?
- C. Who has edited the Star, Daily Express, News of the World and now works as a DJ?
- D. Which of his papers did Robert Maxwell compare to the "Flying Scotsman"?
- E. Who said "It's the best deal offered to any Fleet Street employer, ever"?
- F. Which paper sacked 39 printers, saying they were "uneconomic"?

### SPORTING LIFE

- A. Which Tory prospective Parliamentary Candidate banned away fans from "his" ground?
- B. Which Herts player is a Labour Party activist?
- C. Which West Indian cricketer was once a leading Trotskyist?
- D. Why was Billy Meredith banned for a season?
- E. Which Labour MP was a cross country runner in his youth?
- F. To which trade union is the Scottish Professional Footballers Association affiliated?

### SECTARIANA

- A. Who wrote "A loose form of collaboration already exists between a section of the class struggle left and the ultra-left through the Labour Co-ordinating Committee — which started off with an ultra-left line of the necessity to run a candidate against Kinnock...?"
- B. Which former US "Trotskyist" now calls for AIDS "risk groups" to be quarantined in "desert areas"?
- C. Which former editor of Newsline now works for Rupert Murdoch?
- D. Which organisation put out a press release saying: "Genuine Trotskyists — as opposed to Ted Grant's wimpy Militant group in England — say no support to Labour traitor Kinnock".
- E. Which former IS Industrial Organiser is now a member of the SDP and writes for the Economic League?
- F. Which left paper said this about the Hillsborough agreement: "The threat of direct action against the agreement — raised by the Loyalist paramilitaries and cynically exploited by Paisley — seems far less likely to materialise. All the evidence suggests that Protestant workers see little chance of success along this road."

Answers in box opposite.

1. A. Eric Hammond (interviewed in International Labour Reports); B. Ivan Boesky (Wall St financier fined \$100m); C. Princess Michael of Kent; D. Sir Robert Armstrong; E. Alistair Graham (former Gen. Sec of CPSA); F. Graham Day (Rover Group boss).

2. A. Vichestlav Molotov; B. Frank Cousins; C. Stuart Young; D. Emmanuel Shinwell; E. Simone de Beauvoir; F. Pat Phoenix.

3. A. Percy Toplis; B. John Mortimer; C. Kate Adie; D. "Casualty"; E. Neil Hamilton and Gerald Howarth.

4. A. Ken Livingstone; B. Birmingham All Saints (later Ladywood); C. Matthew Parris; D. "Day to Day"; E. Harold Wilson; F. Liberal.

5. A. "The Enemies Within"; B. "Labour's Future — Socialism or SDP Mk. 2?"; C. "Spycatcher"; D. Robert Kilroy-Silk; E. Joan Miller; F. Kingsley Amis, "The Old Devils".

6. A. The Independent and the Guardian; B. Carol Thatcher; C. Derek Jamieson; D. Daily Record.

7. A. David Evans (Luton Town); B. John Colquhoun; C. CLR James; D. For helping to organise a players' union; E. Dennis Skinner; F. E. Tony Dubbins; F. Morning Star.

8. A. John Ross (Socialist Action); B. London La Roche (formerly Lyn Marcus); C. Alex Mitchell; D. Spartacist League (Britain); E. Roger Rosewell; F. Workers' Power (February).

How did you score?  
40 or over: You should write a book about your time in MIS.  
30 to 40: You are either a genius or you work for MIS.  
20 to 30: Promising middle cadre, 10 to 20: What a dull person you are!  
10 or less: Are you a Socialist Action supporter?

NB. Readers under 15 age may ignore section 8 and add six points to their score.

# SOCIALIST ORGANISER

FOR WORKERS' LIBERTY EAST AND WEST

## Murder on the West Bank

Violent Israeli repression of Palestinian Arab resistance in the occupied West Bank has provoked the biggest wave of Arab opposition for some years, and dissent amongst Israeli Jews themselves.

Following the murder of three young Palestinian student son Thursday, December 4, widespread fighting between Arab youth and the Israeli army

has taken place. In the town of Nablus troops shot dead a 12 year old demonstrator.

General strikes were reported in Nablus, Ramallah and El Bireh and thousands faced the tear gas and rifles of the army on the streets. After five days of rioting and further confrontations several people have been injured by rifle-fire.

The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz has commented that the root cause of the fighting is the occupation of the West Bank. With the Gaza Strip, the West Bank was occupied during the Arab Israeli War of 1967.

Since then, the Palestinian Arabs have lived under military rule. All protests have met with short shrift, Arab newspapers, as in pre-1967 Israel, are heavily censored, and Arab homes are demolished either to make way for Jewish settlers or as punishment for suspected PLO sympathisers.

Israel should withdraw immediately and unconditionally from the West Bank and Gaza, and allow the Arab people living there to establish their own government free from external interference.

The current fighting shows that despite years of repression, and despite attempts by Israel to destroy the Palestinians' political movement, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Arabs living under occupation have not been cowed.

They deserve the full support of the international labour movement.

# Teachers can beat the Tories!

By Liam Conway

The government has now decided to go on the offensive against teachers. A Bill currently going through Parliament could well become the fastest Act passed in history. If passed the basic trade union rights of all teachers would effectively be removed.

The government is capitalising on the failure of the union leadership, particularly the NUT, to defend teachers' pay and conditions of service.

The NUT has demobilised and attempted to demoralise the membership by threatening them with the fear of a government-imposed settlement. The government can see that the union leaders are more afraid of renewed action and the radicalising effect this might have on teachers than they are of the government itself. Baker intends to squeeze the teacher unions while he has got them on the run.

The NUT's response to the government's proposals has been somewhat less than decisive. Instead of mobilising members to defeat the Bill the NUT has placed adverts in national newspapers and advised members to write protest letters to their MPs.

At a time when mass student protest action in France has reversed within a week their government's education proposals NUT leaders peddle the false impression that the Tories are unbeatable. The truth is that the NUT leadership are afraid that renewed action could threaten their own bureaucratic positions.

These fears are justified. At the Local Associations Pay Action Campaign meeting on Saturday delegates were optimistic about a significant, if not majority, no vote against the ACAS deal, despite the barrage of propaganda from the National Executive.

A large no vote should be the signal to continue all forms of unofficial action, especially on cover, currently holding solid in many urban areas. Such action could force the government's hand and force the union leadership to respond to grass roots revulsion of Tory policy.

In such a situation LAPAC itself could well become a major force of opposition within the union.

The conference in Coventry agreed to relaunch the group on 31 January 1987 under a new name. Further it was



agreed to broaden its scope beyond pay to include conditions of service and the question of union democracy.

In a situation of renewed action, even around a large minority no vote opposition, such an organisation could well make major progress in breaking down union bureaucracy, undermining the union leadership and galvanising the membership towards serious forms of industrial action.

This perspective is by no means false optimism. With many yes voters too demoralised to even post off their ballot papers the basic material will be there not only to preserve our pay and conditions but, in unity with other unions, parents and students, reverse the government's whole education policy.

The alternative is the success of the Tory offensive which will not stop at the Baker Bill but, following the Tory theory of kicking opponents while they are down, could well culminate in the privatisation of the whole education system.

## Kahn and Scally

**Amir Khan and Kevin Scally have won their year-long fight to get back into the Labour Party. They were expelled, together with a maverick right-winger, Mohammed Rafique, from Roy Hattersley's Birmingham Sparkbrook Constituency for allegedly "bringing the party into disrepute". Kevin Scally had appeared on a television programme in which he made allegations of serious membership irregularities in the constituency. Amir Khan was involved in moves to set up a black section.**

**Paul Sharma, joint secretary of the Campaign to Reinstate Amir Kahn and Kevin Scally, comments:**

We do not consider the reinstatement of Khan and Scally as the end of the matter. Of course we welcome their reinstatement. However, we demand a full-scale inquiry into the allegation that the hard right have been running a bogus membership racket in the constituency. Further, we go on to demand of the leadership that they reinstate to party membership the Militant supporters who have been expelled in Liverpool and across the country.

Though we disagree with Militant's policies, we believe that like us they should have the right to remain within the party and advocate their ideas.

We regard the victory as a benchmark for expulsions. We would like to push the benchmark further but nonetheless it is clearly significant that the right-wing leadership realise that they cannot go any further. The victory is also symbolic in the sense that those who have been expelled can be reinstated if there is an effective and wide-ranging campaign conducted throughout the labour movement. I hope the victory gives heart to all those that have either been expelled or stand to be expelled because of the right wing's refusal to listen to dissent and reasoned argument.

## Solidarity at Xmas

**By Rick Sumner  
Secretary, NWMDC**

TWENTY months after the end of the miners' strike, there are still 448 victimised men. As Christmas approaches, it is essential that enough money is raised to see that these class heroes are looked after properly. You can make a donation and send a

greeting to a victimised miner at the same time. The North West Mineworkers' Defence Committee on behalf of the National Justice for the Mineworkers for the Mineworkers Campaign, has produced a Special Christmas card.

£1 buys you a card in an envelope ready addressed to a victimised miner for you to sign and post. Last year a similar example raised £1500. This year we hope to do even better. Cheques and postal orders payable to NWMDC, 19 Whalley Grove, Manchester 16.

## Banned

**Socialist Organiser has been banned in South Africa. Last month, all publications produced from the paper's address had a state order clamped on them making it illegal to import them into the country. The order, made by the 'publications committee' also includes 'objects' (?) produced by Socialist Organiser.**

## MI5 BUG LABOUR

THE 'revelations about MI5's infringements on democracy go on and on.

And now even timid Labour leader Neil Kinnock has been dealt out some rough justice. Following his (bugged) telephone conversation with the Australian defence lawyers, Thatcher has said that she is considering excluding him from future security briefings that he has been allowed to attend in the past.

The real question for Neil Kinnock is what he intends to do about the whole business if he gets to be Prime Minister. One of Spynunter general Peter Wright's revelations is that MI5 spied on Harold Wilson when he was a Labour Prime Minister. It turns out that Wilson had to employ the CIA to investigate MI5.

It also turns out that MI5 bugging of Labour MP's is commonplace.

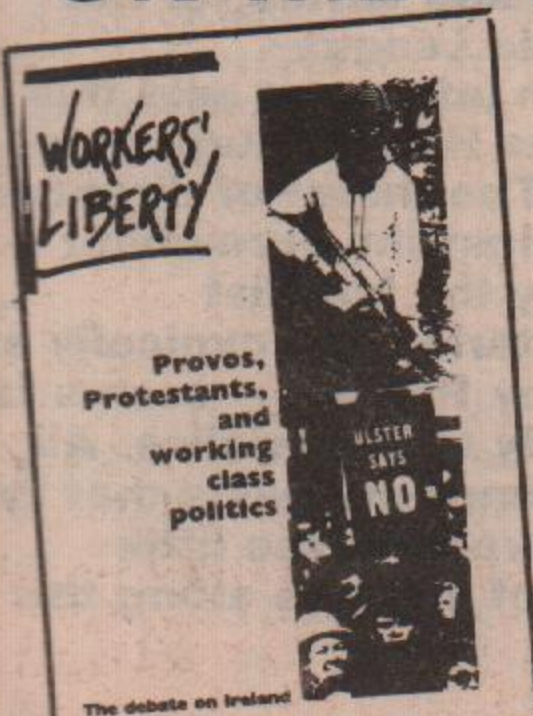
MI5 is clearly a threat to the democratic system, and certainly would be a threat to any future Labour government that was half way trying to do anything in the interests of the working class that challenged aspects of the capitalist system.

Labour should scrap it immediately. MI5 and all similar 'security' services are not there to 'defend' working class people: they are there to watch over the interests of big business and protect the system.

**The next issue of SO will appear after a Christmas holiday, on Jan 8th 1987**

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