

Liberation!

20p • For a Red, Green & Feminist Youth Movement • 50¢ • 500 lire • Summer 1994

Close down Campsfield

Britain's racist
concentration camp

Criminal Injustice

How to stop the
Criminal Justice Bill

Sex is our right

Sexaholic MP's
scrap sex education

Student aid gets to Bosnia

Tour planned

Illegal Drugs

Legalise them
- or what!?!?

Kurt Cobain

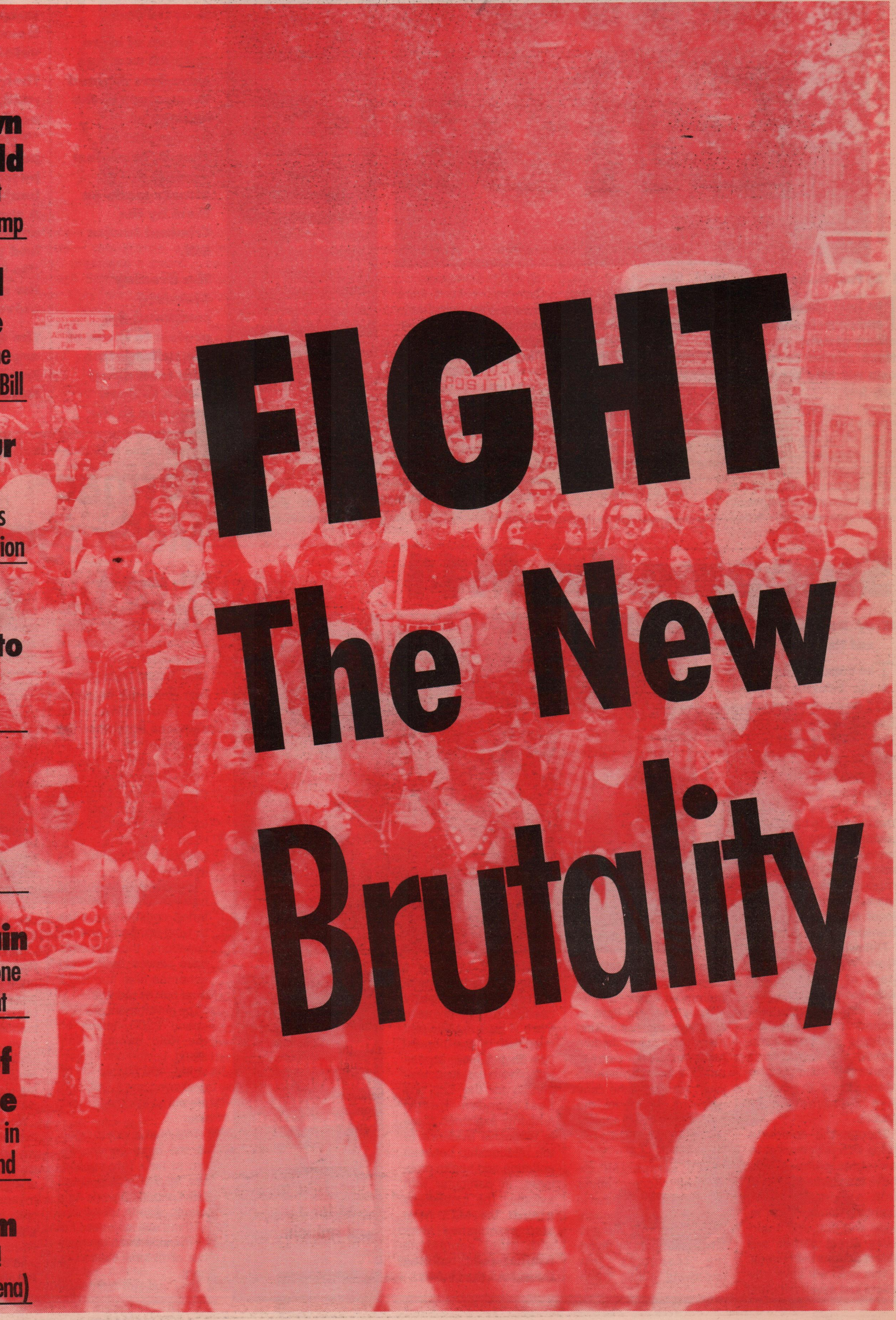
A light that shone
twice as bright

Voices of Innocence

Tortured Youth in
Northern Ireland

Feminism

It's Dead Ace!
(Don't worry Geena)

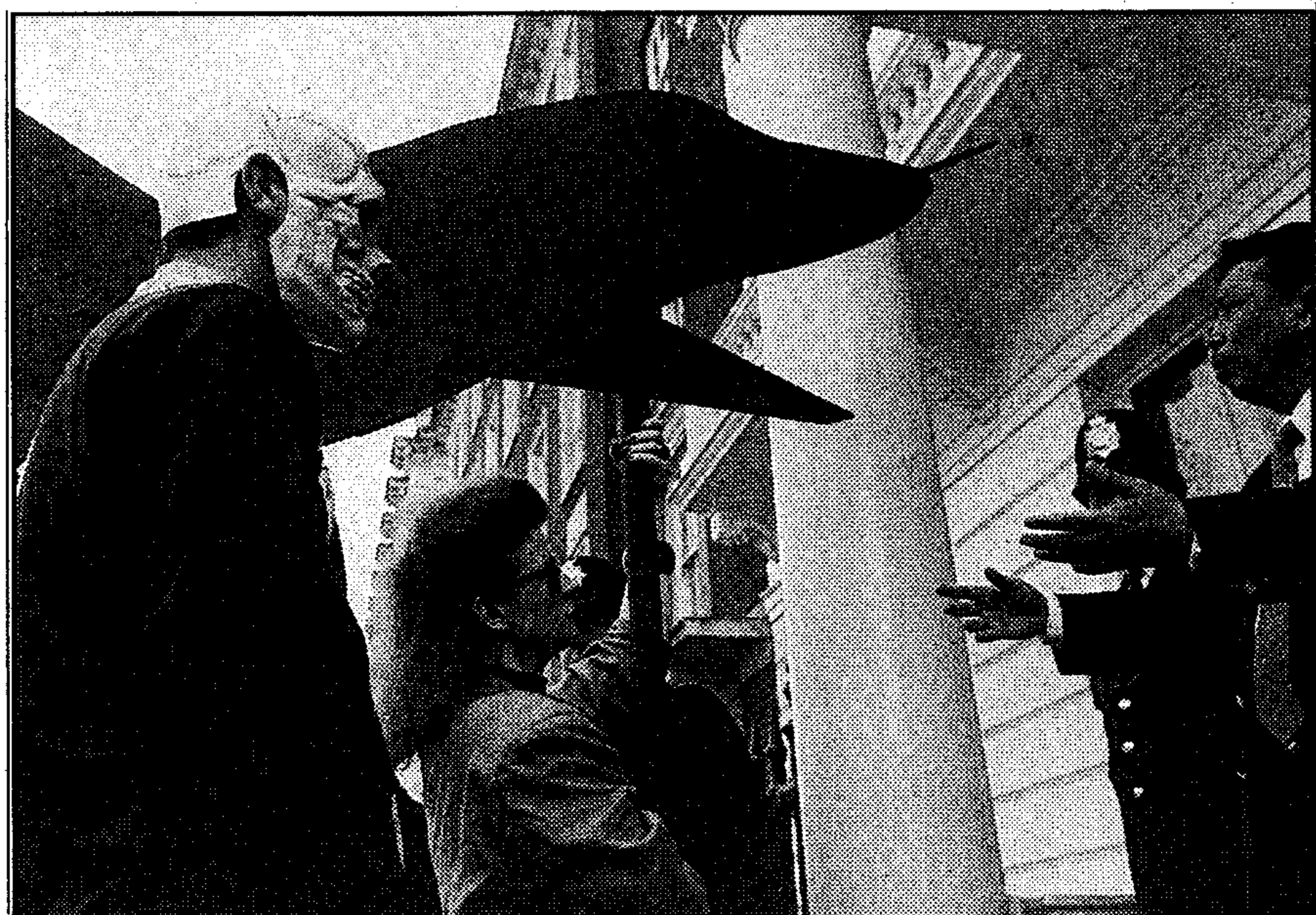


FIGHT The New Brutality

Home... • arms • roads • 'justice' •

No Hawks to Indonesia Protest

Justice, not just us



Liberation! supporters join in the protest at the BAe AGM

■ By Paul Walker

The next stage of the campaign to stop the delivery of Hawk ground attack aircraft to Indonesia will take place in early July.

To put it mildly the Indonesians are becoming well pissed off at the international campaign that is now gathering momentum against their murderous 20 year occupation of East

Timor. News of the BAe AGM protest reached the newspapers in Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and..... East Timor itself.

No Hawks to Indonesia will be the slogan of a protest walk and action to take place from July 8 to 11, supported by The British Coalition for East Timor, Campaign Against Arms Trade, the British Aerospace Campaign and TAPOL (the Indonesian Hu-

man Rights Campaign)

Over the weekend there will be a walk from BAe's headquarters in Farnborough to Central London.

The main event will be on Monday July 11. At the 11am protest, outside BAe's main London offices in Buckingham Gate (off Victoria Street by Victoria station) activists and MPs will speak about the genocide that BAe supports in East Timor through its mili-

Get Active!
There will be a training day for the action on July 2nd from 11am to 5pm at the CND offices at 162 Holloway Road London N7 (Nearest tube Holloway Road).
If you want to take part in any part of this protest then please contact Andrea on 071-275 9150.

tary sales to Indonesia.

They will also call for a halt to the plans to deliver more military equipment.

The protest will then march to the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, for mid-day. A civil disobedience die-in will then follow.

■ By Ludi Davin

A group of more than 40 new age travellers chained themselves to the railings of Parliament on June 8, in protest against the attacks made on them by the Criminal Justice Bill.

The Evening Standard compared the protest to those of the suffragettes who took direct action to draw attention to the

campaign for women's right to vote.

Their placards read, "Justice, not just us" and "Prison for protest?" Many passing motorists honked support. A speaker explained they had got together "to fight against the erosion of universal rights".

The demo was organised by the Freedom Network.

Stopping the M11

■ By Mark Jasen and Linn Hjort

The campaign against the building of the M11 motorway through East London recieved a great deal of media attention with the establishment of "Wanstonia" in January.

Two squats declared themselves to be an independent state and thus provided a focus for the campaign which incorporates a wide range of issues, from the defence of local homes to national transport policy.

Following the eviction from Wanstonia, after days of confrontations with riot police and bailiffs, activists are determined to continue the struggle and have established a new base in Claremont Road, Leytonstone, using an imaginative combination of tactics.

Though the confrontations with police seem inevitable, campaigners have also turned the road into a living art form, painting houses both inside and out, and organising street parties and direct actions every week.

This road will save travellers just seven minutes!



Youth in 'Wanstonia' are at the front of the fight

"It's silly", says Matthew Cunnigan, who lives on Claremont Road.

"They have no right to cut down all trees around here, or tear down houses when people don't have a place to live!" Alongside the campaign in Leytonstone, the Hackney Alliance against the M11 Link has recently been formed.

Both campaigns expressed concern about the effects an increase in traffic will have on health, and argued that the government should be diverting resources into improving public trans-

port. Improved public transport is desperately needed in Hackney were there is no Tube line and over half of the population do not have access to a private car. A spokesperson for the City and East London Health Authority explained there is extensive evidence to the relationship between pollution and health problems, in particular with asthma. The campaigns against the M11 have also established links with other campaigns against road building throughout the country.

Get Active!
The Leytonstone campaign can be contacted on 081-558 2638.
Contact the Hackney Alliance on 081-986 3653, 081-802 9110 and 071-249 3779.

Tarmac McGreggor

■ By Bala Kumar

John McGreggor is the Secretary of State for Cars. Like most of his fellow Tory ministers, public transport to him is having to share his limousine with someone other than his chauffeur.

Many ordinary people think differently because they are some of the hundreds who have been taking direct action to stop road building programmes throughout the country.

Whether it is preventing heavy machinery from entering construction sites to lying on roads and occupations, these actions have slowed down crazy schemes like the M11 road link by months.

The government plans to spend £200 million on the road through Wanstead, Leyton and Leytonstone, 400 homes will be destroyed and 1,000 people will be evicted to make way.

This road is not to benefit the local community, but to help Tory supporters in the shires travel into London for work. As a result, health risks like asthma will increase, not to mention the huge number of deaths caused by cars.

Why doesn't McGreggor

spend that money on extending the Central Line on the London Underground giving us cheap and reliable services and use the money for decent schools, sports facilities and youth clubs?

The oil companies donate loads of money to the Tory party because the government wants to spend £23 billion on new roads and extensions.

That means more cars on the road and more petrol consumed by cars and used in road construction. Specially protected areas of the countryside in the Cotswolds and Wiltshire will be concreted over - even Stonehenge is threatened by car fumes.

The Labour Party is in favour of public transport but it hasn't been leading protests. Small groups of individuals can delay building work, but until we have a sensible policy which puts ordinary people's health and protecting our environment first, we won't stop roads.

We must rethink how we live and how and where we work. From a car society we must move to an energy-efficient one. That means changing how society is run - for need not greed, for people not profits.

Tarmac over McGreggor, not our environment!

... and Away • bosnia • sweden ...

Swedish abortion rights fight

■ By Linn Hjort

In 1975, Sweden got an abortion law which is still in use. A woman can have free abortion until 12 weeks, and she doesn't have to talk to any 'professional' about her choice. It doesn't matter how young she is, her parents don't have to be involved.

After 12 weeks, abortion is agreed only after consulting a psychologist, but only 50 per cent of all women actually do that.

A while ago, the Swedish government laid a proposition to change that law.

New law

It said that if a person, who wants to become a doctor or nurse, has moral or religious doubts about abortion, this subject could be totally left out of the education. And he or she would still be considered as fully educated.

The proposed law didn't pass through, but it gave a big blow to the forces

fighting the right to abortion.

Once a year, a religious group, "the Words of Life", organises a march through Stockholm. This year they managed to gather about 7,000 people from the whole country.

With joyful songs and music, lots of children and coloured balloons with "Yes to life" on, they try to convince everyone who gets in their way that their goal is to save lives - the lives of the unborn children.

Dangers

What they don't talk about is the pregnant

woman.

It's quite clear that a woman who risks her own life for an abortion, she really can not have a baby. Even facts such as the 500 women dying every day after being badly wounded by illegal abortions remain unheard of by this fanatical group.

Protest

Some young socialists just outside Stockholm made an action out of that.

Late one evening ten young women and men worked really hard making 500 crosses and finding 500 candles, to have

a session in the memory of all these women.

In the middle of the night the small delegation drove to one of the churches owned by "the Words of life". After a couple of hours, at 3am, 500 crosses stood in front of that church and 500 candles were shining in the dark.

The purpose with this thing was to come out in the news and the result was photographs and articles in several papers.

Hopefully at least some people will find out the connection between life and death - and free abortion.

Swedish Young Socialists join pro-choice activity in Stockholm



Portuguese students win

■ By Jodley Green

When the Portuguese government increased university fees by more than 400 per cent they had a fight on their hands.

Portuguese students had previously paid £30 towards their fees, and 40% of students were exempt.

Fees

Now, everyone has to pay £140. Portugal is one of the poorest countries in Europe, and £140 is more than the minimum wage!

But the students aren't taking it lying down - they took to the streets in the biggest demonstrations Portugal has seen in twenty years.

Revolution

These demonstrations have been attacked by the police - the first time that police attacked a demonstration since the Revolution in 1974 which overthrew a

fascist dictatorship.

Portuguese students not only face police repression, but also laws limiting the size of student organisations.

Despite this the student protests have been enormously successful. A huge student movement has developed.

Resignations

The mobilisations have brought down three education ministers in a row. And most students are boycotting the payment of fees.

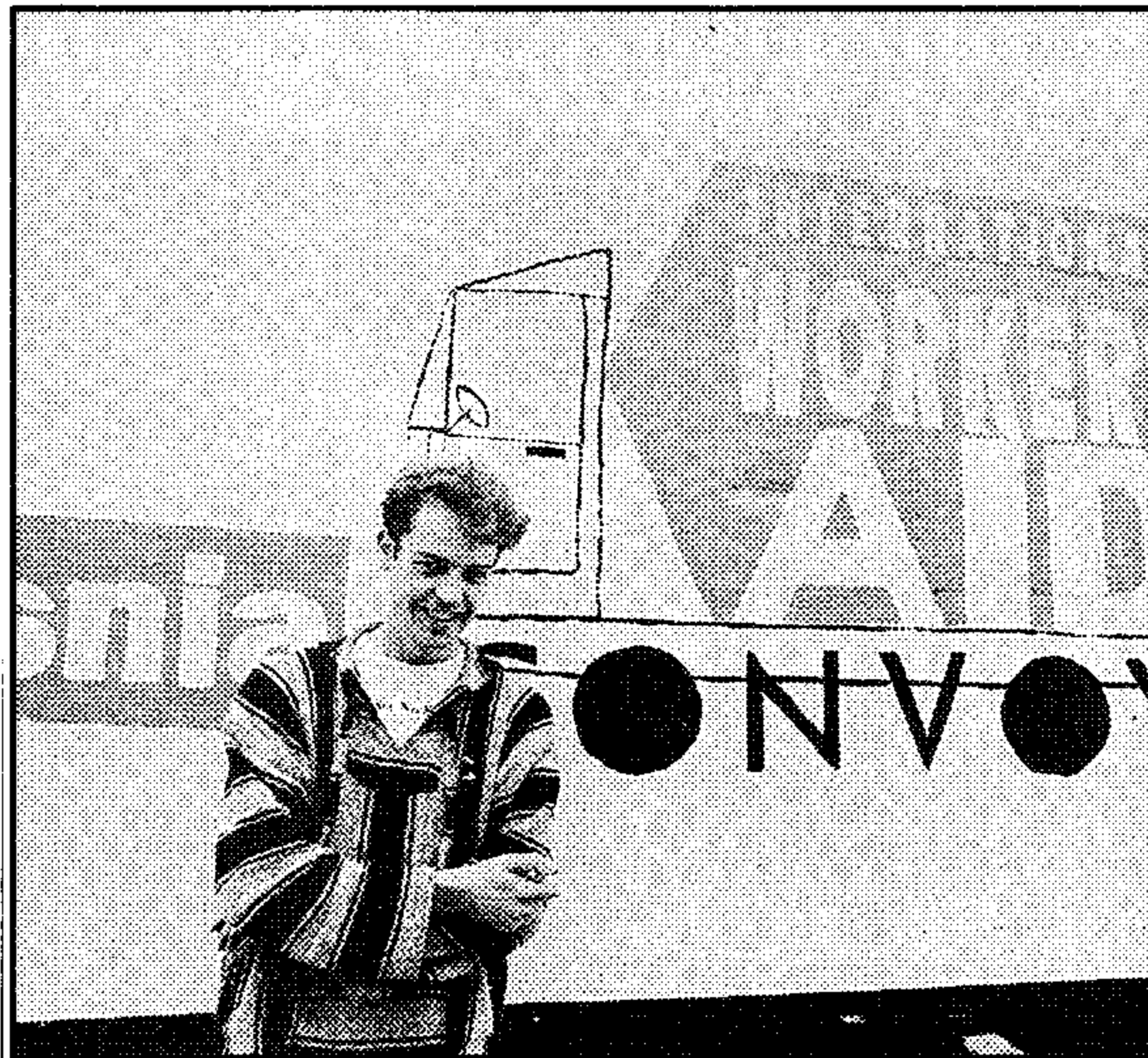
They have found that the more they struggle, the more they win.

The fight in Portugal is an inspiration to all students who are against the grant cuts and worsening conditions in higher education. They show us the way to fight.

Massive mobilisations on the streets can force the government to back down. What we need is a student movement prepared to fight.

Student aid to Tuzla

Nigel, from Liberation, was on the first convoy to Bosnia last year



■ By Kathryn Marshall

In September, a delegation from Tuzla University, comprising five students and a member of staff, will set off for the Netherlands in order to visit universities there.

The students and young people in Tuzla continue to defend the right to live together as a multi-ethnic community and to study.

This continues to be a very tough assignment when you consider that the university has become isolated from the outside world. All the literature and magazines are at least three years old and the same goes for materials

such as parts for machinery, chemicals and stationery.

Students themselves have been hit by the really high food prices that existed there most particularly last winter. So, even now that there is food getting into Tuzla, they cannot afford to buy any of it.

When the delegation visits the Netherlands, they will have the opportunity to talk to people who are in a position to help.

They need to maintain the high technical knowledge for which Tuzla University was famous, and obviously other colleges have this knowledge. It is so important that this is

done because not only does it affect Tuzla University, it could also help to save the future of their industrial life.

Moves are also afoot to set up a student support fund for food and medicines which can also be adapted to the needs of the students as they arise.

Co-operation like this between Tuzla and universities elsewhere is a great development but more needs to be done. Amsterdam student Yannick Dupont urges us to contact our own student unions here to make as many people as possible aware of the situation for these young people.

Maybe you could urge your college and the NUS to think about inviting this delegation over here? We should all continue to support Tuzla University by telling everyone about the help they need.

Get Active!

Contact IWA,
12-14 Thornton
Street, London,
SW9 0BL.
Telephone 071
978 8622.

Come to the International Youth Camp in Italy - 22-29 July!

This year Tuscany in Italy is the venue for the twelfth International Youth Camp. The week-long gathering is a unique chance to meet people from Europe and beyond, all fighting together against militarism, racism, poverty and the attack on the environment.

Planned and run by the young people there, the camp mixes discussions with concerts, discos, films, cabaret, trips, plays, comedy and lots more.

Liberation! has a package tour all worked out. **Including food, travel and entry to the camp, the cost is £150. A bargain!** And of course Italy's a pretty nifty place to go for a holiday...

To find out more about the camp send two first class stamps for our new leaflet.

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the new brutality • sex • libel • tories

Sex: our right to chose

■ By Luci Davin

The Tory Government are now attacking sex education.

- ⊗ A Health Education pamphlet has been withdrawn for failing to promote the Tories' values.
- ⊗ A nurse in Leeds has hit the headlines for answering school pupils' questions about oral sex honestly.
- ⊗ John Patten has insisted that teachers must inform parents of anyone under 16 who asks for help and advice on sex or contraception.

This attitude is sadly not confined to the Tories.

⊗ In Leeds a Labour councillor in charge of education policy has denied that fifteen year olds need teaching about HIV/AIDS. The Tories now plan to legislate on sex education.

They claim concern about "morality". Basically, they want children to be taught that sex is linked with having children, within stable two-parent families, preferably married ones.

'Corruption'

They want to prevent young people being "corrupted" by the possibility of sexual choices they might not have thought of. Young people deserve

better than this patronising and reactionary attitude.

They need sex education which enables them to make their own decisions about their sexuality, contraception, health hazards of all kinds.

Miserable

Look at the problem pages of any magazine aimed at young women. It's quite frightening to see how little the letter writers know, how miserable they are about their sexuality.

Regular problems which crop up include worries about being lesbian or gay (young men write to these problem pages too), painful sex, fears about bodies

and sexual organs. Generally, the problem is a lack of knowledge and a dreadful fear of not being "normal".

We need better sex education, not Tory government policies. It's difficult to imagine ideal sex education taking place in schools.

After recent scandals, even the best teachers are likely to be afraid of complete honesty with pupils. Many young people are too ashamed to admit what they don't know.

Confident & positive

Still, sex education in schools is necessary. The aim should be for young people to feel confident and positive in their sexu-

Young people needs facts and answers to allow us to make the choices



Outreach services, for example in youth clubs, should be set up.

As well as sex education, we should demand provision of free and confident

tial information, advice, contraceptive and medical services to all young people, without a minimum age limit.

Sexaholic Tory MPs Shock

■ By Derick Colbert

Sexaholic Tory MPs like Alan Clark fully reveal Tory hypocrisy about sexuality.

Tory MPs (along with a rump of bigots in the Labour Party) imposed further discrimination on gay men by voting for an unequal age of consent for gay sex of 18 compared to heterosexual sex at 16. Yet their "real man" Clark is heralded as expressing his virility and criticised only for doing it with the lower classes!

If you discard all this Lord of the Manor rubbish it's clear that there is one rule for gay sex and another for heterosexual sex.

This is shown by the way that gay men were marched handcuffed by police through the streets of Manchester for "simulating" gay sex at a night club. When I was attacked five years ago by a queer basher I had no rights seeing as I had broken the law for, openly and in public, expressing my sexuality with another man.

Whether for pretend or real, gay love is only allowed behind closed doors. Only when the police or government think it is right. Clause 28 reinforced this oppression.

At 16 years, the Tory dribble goes, young men will be led "astray" by older men. Astray? Like handcuffed and led astray round the streets by older

(police) men? Or astray as they are attacked (usually by men) at school or college for being gay? All the time gay sexuality is forced to hide itself away. Beth and Chris, lesbian partners in Brookside, have a constant worry that they will be "found out".

Lesbian sexuality is not even recognised by the government as existing! So well done to 'Brookside' for starting to tackle the issue - but will Beth and Chris survive or will the familiar liberal plot of Beth re-realising her heterosexuality in the arms of a caring man be the eventual story line?

As Chris said in an earlier episode, "it doesn't matter why you are gay, you just are!"

What matters are the authoritarian commandoes who will screw anything that moves but who decide that we can't. It is time to force them into a closet and throw away the key!

Get Active!

Lesbian, gay bisexual or straight? - find out about the Labour Campaign For Lesbian And Gay Rights.

Write to LCLGR at PO Box 306 London N5 2SY

David, Helen and McGoliath

■ By Kathryn Marshall

Helen Steel and Dave Morris of London Greenpeace, whose factsheet criticising McDonalds was deemed libellous, have taken the decision to stand up to this huge corporation by taking the matter to a trial.

Writ

Why is it that McDonald's have slapped a libel writ on Steel and Morris?

Is it because they genuinely believe that the factsheet is full of erroneous allegations?

This is unlikely, to say the least. What is being attempted here is the use of the legal system in order to prevent free speech.

Prior to this case, McDonalds employed similar tactics by threatening the BBC and Channel 4, as well as various green groups, with money and time consuming writs in order to shut them up.

With Steel and Morris, they are at it again; the procedures of libel laws are very complex and that there is no legal aid. Individuals with few resources and little legal experience may well be intimidated.

Unfortunately for McDonalds, Steel and Morris have managed to acquire legal aid with the assistance of the National Council for Civil Liberties. However, this corporation will go even further to keep things hushed up; they have persistently withheld documents relevant to the case and have prevented there being a trial by jury, on the grounds that people would not understand the case. Unfortu-

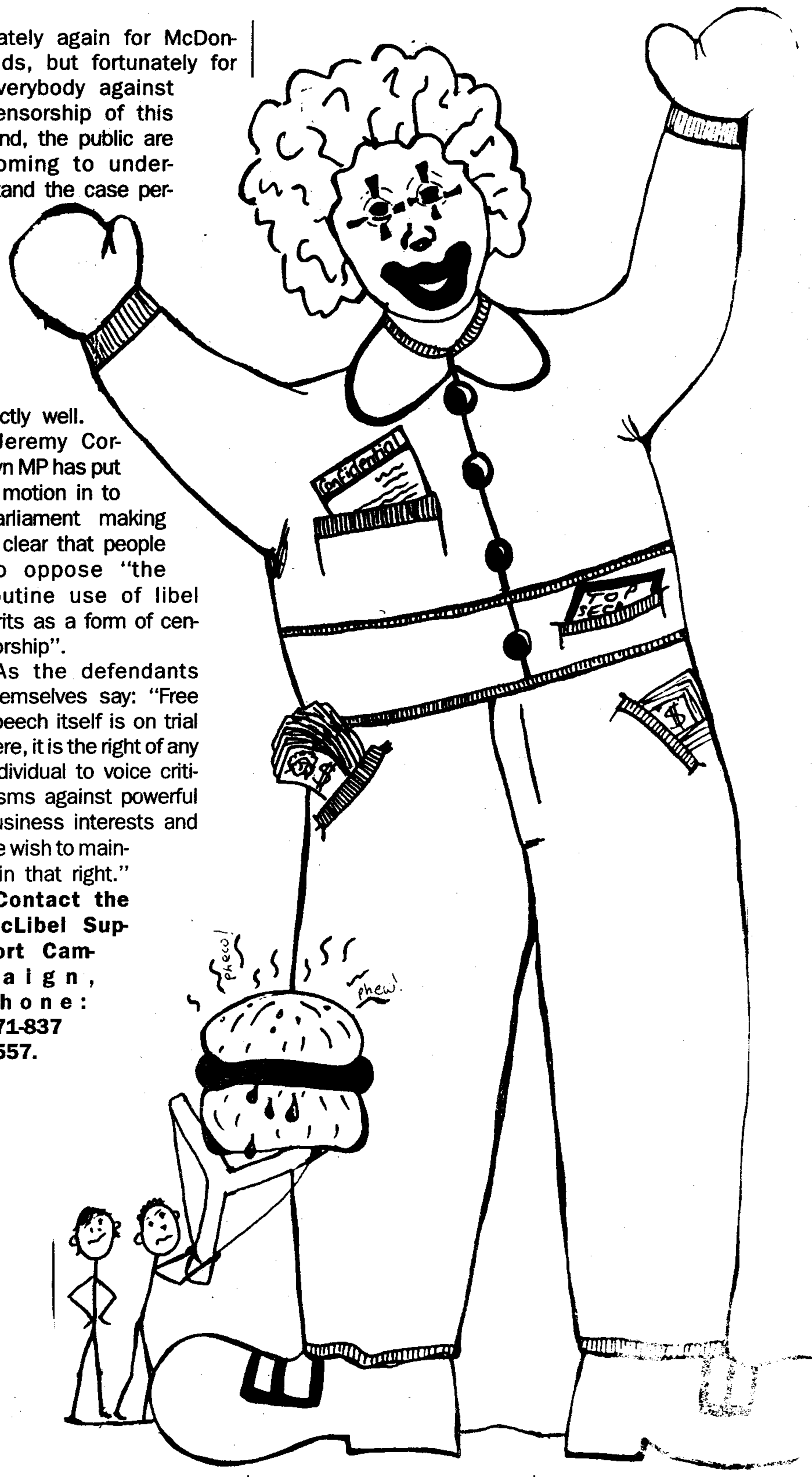
nately again for McDonalds, but fortunately for everybody against censorship of this kind, the public are coming to understand the case per-

fectly well.

Jeremy Corbyn MP has put a motion in to Parliament making it clear that people do oppose "the routine use of libel writs as a form of censorship".

As the defendants themselves say: "Free speech itself is on trial here, it is the right of any individual to voice criticisms against powerful business interests and we wish to maintain that right."

Contact the McLibel Support Campaign, phone: 071-837 7557.



the new brutality • criminal injustice

Don't Enact That Criminal Act

■ by Aidan Salter

The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill is a sweeping attack on the rights of everyone, especially young people.

It aims to:

- ☒ Lock more young people up, instead of tackling the causes of **YOUTH CRIME**: unemployment, poor education and inadequate leisure facilities;
- ☒ Abolish the right to **SILENCE**, making miscarriages of justice more likely;
- ☒ Drastically reduce the right to **PROTEST** peacefully;
- ☒ Criminalise **SQUATTING** and unauthorised occupation of land, the main self-help strategies of homeless people;
- ☒ Stamp out **NON-CONFORMITY** and diversity, by outlawing raves and festivals and making it virtually impossible to pursue a nomadic lifestyle.

Throwing away the Key

The Bill lowers the age of criminal responsibility from 14 to 10.

People between 10 and 13 years old who are convicted of serious offences may receive prison sentences of up to 14 years instead of local authority care. New secure training orders will come in for persistent offenders aged 12-14. The capacity of young offender institutions will be increased, and sentences extended up to 2 years. Prison reformers say the measures will dou-



The Tories are tooling up their state to crack down on dissent

ble the number of young people in custody.

Presumed Guilty

The right to remain silent during police questioning is essential.

Cases like that of the Guildford Four show that people are often bullied or confused into incriminating themselves through their statements, and being wrongfully imprisoned. Young people, black people, the Irish, are particularly vulnerable. Under the bill, silence can be taken as evidence of guilt.

Criminalising Protest

If people trespass on land and try to disrupt or obstruct any lawful activity outdoors, they will be guilty of a new criminal offence, "aggravated trespass". This can be used against hunt-sabbing, free festivals, environmental direct action and militant

industrial action, such as picketing.

Kill-Joy Cops

Clauses relating to "trespassory assembly" - where 20 or more people gather without permission on land where public access is restricted or denied - are designed to prevent unlicensed raves and festivals.

Police will have wide powers to ban (with council approval) all "trespassory assemblies" within a 5-mile radius for up to 4 days, if they "reasonably believe" that serious disruption to the life of the community or damage to sites of historical significance like Stonehenge may occur. This has implications for demonstrations and raves.. Police can disperse raves and confiscate vehicles and sound systems - just consider the attack on our

right to party.

The terms "aggravated trespass" and "serious disruption" are very broad

in scope, and give police wide powers of interpretation. Police can turn back anyone suspected of intending to commit "aggravated trespass" or attend a "trespassory assembly", thus curtailing civil liberties before any offence is committed.

Travellers

The bill will drive travellers, old and new, off the land. Many will lose their homes and possessions.

Police may order trespasses with 6 or more vehicles to leave, and seize and destroy their vehicles if they refuse, or return within 3 months. Local councils may order anyone living in a vehicle on land or on a highway without permission (or even permission on unoccupied land) to leave. Disobedience will be a criminal offence. Councils will no longer have to provide adequate sites for Travellers.

Squatters

Squatters will become criminals if they remain in a property 24 hours after a landlord has obtained an eviction order.

The landlord can seek this without telling the squatter, denying her/him

the right to present a case before the court. A landlord wishing to recover a property will be able to enter violently, causing distress to anyone inside.

The Tories describe squatters as nasty people who take over homes and wreck them. The reality is rather different. Many squats are in uninhabitable council properties and repossessed houses which have been empty for months. Squatting is a lifeline to those too poor to rent.

An Act of Class

The bill protects the privileges of the 5% who own 75% of private land in Britain.

It protects their leisure activities whilst outlawing those of the poor - free parties and festivals. It protects the profits of big business at the expense of the government, whilst taking away the right of the poor to shelter in empty buildings or on unused land.

Travellers will pay for "damaging the land" (lighting bonfires or spilling petrol) whilst landowners can poison the soil with impunity.

The Travellers are seen as subversive, with their communal values, economic independence

and rejection of consumerism. The Tories want to turn them - and all of us - into passive workers and consumers. They're also exploiting prejudice about "dirty gypsies".

It is working-class youth who will bear the brunt of the clampdown on crime.

No Trespasaran!

It is working class and black youth and the poor who will bear the brunt of this obnoxious piece of legislation.

It should be called the Criminal Injustice Bill - a crime against us!

We must not let the landowners, landlords, police or government trespass against our rights - to protest, to house ourselves, to travel, to assemble, to party, to silence and to protection against harassment and discrimination.

Our Right To Party Under Attack

■ By Duncan Chapple

You want to go out and dance? You want to go out and dance at three in the morning?

Me too. The trouble is that Michael Howard and the forces of law and disorder seem to have got the idea that raves are a major threat to society as we all know and hate it.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill is now making its way through the Lords (old men and women who last raved about the threat posed by ragtime to the British Empire).

Though the Lords may well do a better job of opposing the Bill than the Labour Party MPs who quite frankly would sell their grannies in order to get a vote.

Blair? Oh yeah!

Remember that Tony Blair's idea of a rave is a happy clappy god-fearing get-together at church on a Sunday evening. The last thing that any of the politicians want to see is youth coming together without asking the permission of the authorities first.

Going to a rave means that you're not going to make it to college or to work, (supposing that you're lucky enough to have a job), in the morning, or that you might get an attitude.

Police powers

In order to stop raves our rulers are prepared to give the police draconian powers that mean you can be arrested and roughed up as soon as you step out of your home. You can be arrested on suspicion or travelling somewhere... to a rave.

Make no mistake - this is the re-introduction by the front door of the "Sus" laws, which were used to harass young black people in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The rights to party, to protest and to silence are all under threat



Don't worry, Geena

BIG IDEAS Made Simple



No worries about feminism for us, Geena

■ **By Kathryn Marshall**

Geena Davis, film actress, recently confessed to a worry. She expressed the concern that all her mates will be frightened if she tells them that she is a feminist.

Such a view shows she has bought the view of feminism put about in many television programmes that says that it is to do with being uptight, the inability to relax and have fun and the ability to bash men. Wake up Geena! What is she doing swallowing this tripe?

Feminism

Feminism, socialist feminism in particular, has nothing to do with any of this. It takes as its central premise the fact that women in our society have always been oppressed.

Despite the misguided

view that we now live in enlightened times, you will have heard many a person saying that a woman ought to be responsible for sorting out partner, house and kids rather than doing anything else. You will also, no doubt, have felt the tremors of outrage when a woman asks to take control of her body by having an abortion.

In the workplace, women suffer in terms of discrepancy in pay and in the kind of jobs they are likely to get. They are also often the butt of "jokes" which can escalate in to sexual harassment from their colleagues.

Mothers

Nursery places are a "needle in a haystack" job whilst government lackeys probe and poke about in to the personal relationships of single mothers in the guise of the Child Support Agency.

It is against all this and more that socialist feminists stand.

So, what do we do about it? We call for women to unite around campaigns against these and other issues as they arise.

Self-organisation

By organising ourselves in this way, we are fighting back against oppression which will win whilst women are battling on alone. Autonomous organisation gives women the opportunity to take control of their lives that they are not enjoying elsewhere.

This does not mean that men are not involved in these struggles for women's liberation. Socialist feminism, as the name gives away, is an integral part of the overall struggle for a new way of organising society.

Solidarity

It would only be in the interests of the bosses for working people to sit in antagonistic gender camps, ignoring the fact that all the different forms of oppression in society are linked, be they on the basis of class, race, or gender, because they can only be overcome by united action.

So, women call for the support of men in campaigns all the time, just as women stand alongside men in a huge variety of occasions not directly linked to women's liberation.

Young women are working for women's liberation in their colleges and in their unions. So, ignore the weak response of Geena Davis and use your voice to drown out all this media burble.

Voice of the Innocent



There won't be freedom in Britain until Ireland is free

■ **By Simon Deville**

In August 1991, seven youths from the Greater Ballymurphy area of West Belfast, all aged between 16 and 21 were arrested in connection to a "coffee jar" bomb attack on an army patrol in the Upper Springfield area of West Belfast.

Immediately after the arrest, the Voice Of The Innocent campaign was established by friends and relatives of the youth to campaign for their release.

The accused were taken to the notorious Castle-reagh Interrogation Centre where confessions were forced out of them following between two days and a week's "interrogation". They were forced to endure physical and psychological torture in "interviews" lasting up to 12 hours. One of the youths had urine thrown in his eyes by an RUC officer and is still suffering from restricted vision. A number of others were told that their families' details would be passed on to loyalist paramilitaries if they did not sign confessions.

At the time of writing, two of the seven have recently been released, James Morgan was sentenced to 14 years in March '93, for allegedly acting as a lookout for the IRA, with a further 6 years to run concurrently for alleged IRA membership, with the other four accused still in Crumlin Road jail on remand without having been convicted of anything.

At the time of the ar-

rests the RUC didn't bother searching for either witnesses or forensic evidence, as VOTI explains, "their sole intention was to provide a scapegoat for the attack".

The Special Powers Act has allowed the RUC and the British government to get away with hundreds of miscarriages of justice, with only a few gaining media attention. The Ballymurphy seven has marked a new strategy for

British repression of Catholics and nationalists in that it specifically targets youth.

It is important that as many people as possible raise their concerns about the case by writing to their local councillors or MPs, John Major, Patrick Mayhew (the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) or Mr Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC at RUC HQ, Brooklyn Knock Road, Belfast.

Troops out of Ireland



There is a long history of solidarity with the Irish struggle

Throughout the history of English rule in Ireland, the English have consistently tried to use religion to divide the Irish population, with English aristocrats establishing the Orange Order at the end of the seventeenth century.

The uprisings at the beginning of this century meant that the British state could no longer maintain colonial rule throughout the whole of Ireland, so in 1921 partition was proposed through which sectarian privilege would be institutionalised.

The border was drawn dividing the nine county province of Ulster so that Protestants would maintain a majority, as

they constituted a majority in four of the six counties that now constitute the northern statelet.

Recently the British have tried to portray the conflict in Ireland as one of backward "warring factions" in which the British have played a neutral or even positive "peace-keeping" role. Unfortunately, this view has also been echoed by sections of the "left" in Britain.

Though Protestants undoubtedly benefit in the short term through employment, housing and so on, these privileges are extremely minor, and any radical change can only come to British rule and a united, socialist Ireland.

Spread the word!



Liberation! is unique! Young people don't have much power in the world - so we need to organise to get our ideas around. For just £2 we'll send you the next four issues of Liberation! - better still, take a few copies to sell to your friends.

Send this coupon back to Liberation, PO Box 1109, London N4 2UU.

- YOU'RE ON! - here's £2 (stamps, a postal order or a cheque payable to LiberationPublishing will do).
- Send me _____ copies of Liberation! on sale or return.

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VOTI can be contacted at 27 Ballymurphy Road, Belfast, BT12

Decriminalising Drugs: we debate

LEGALISE DRUGS

■ By Koen de Clercq

A common misconception about drug use is that it is abnormal, automatically wrong and so a criminal offence.

Drugs are not "abnormal" - they are present in every society. Across the world they are used for a means of survival or relief.

In South America, the leaves of the coca bush are chewed and workers everywhere smoke tobacco. Drug use as a part of ordinary life goes on all the time, so criminalising it on the basis of abnormality is a bit of a nonsense.

Escape Route

Where it is a problem, though, is if it is the central activity in a person's life, substituting as an escape route from the mess of their life.

A drug user sums this up when he says: "I'd always gone along with the straight line and suddenly they started to let me down...Social problems kept me on drugs... like not getting on too well with people, not feeling comfortable with people." This remark gives us first-hand evidence of the way capitalism prevents people expressing themselves freely.

All the time we are hampered by poverty, by prejudices all around against maybe our sexuality, our gender or class so that we do indeed feel let down.

There are masses of lonely people hemmed in to a social system in which their job gives them no feeling of purpose and where they have little decision making power. It is no surprise that people turn to drugs as a way out.

It is the kind of "solution" to problems over which the state still has control though.

Have you noticed how suddenly there will be great flurries of activity against drug use whereas at other times it goes quiet and oddly tolerant?

This shifting of position allows rule-makers to choose between keeping a healthy workforce and raking in money from the drug sectors of industry.

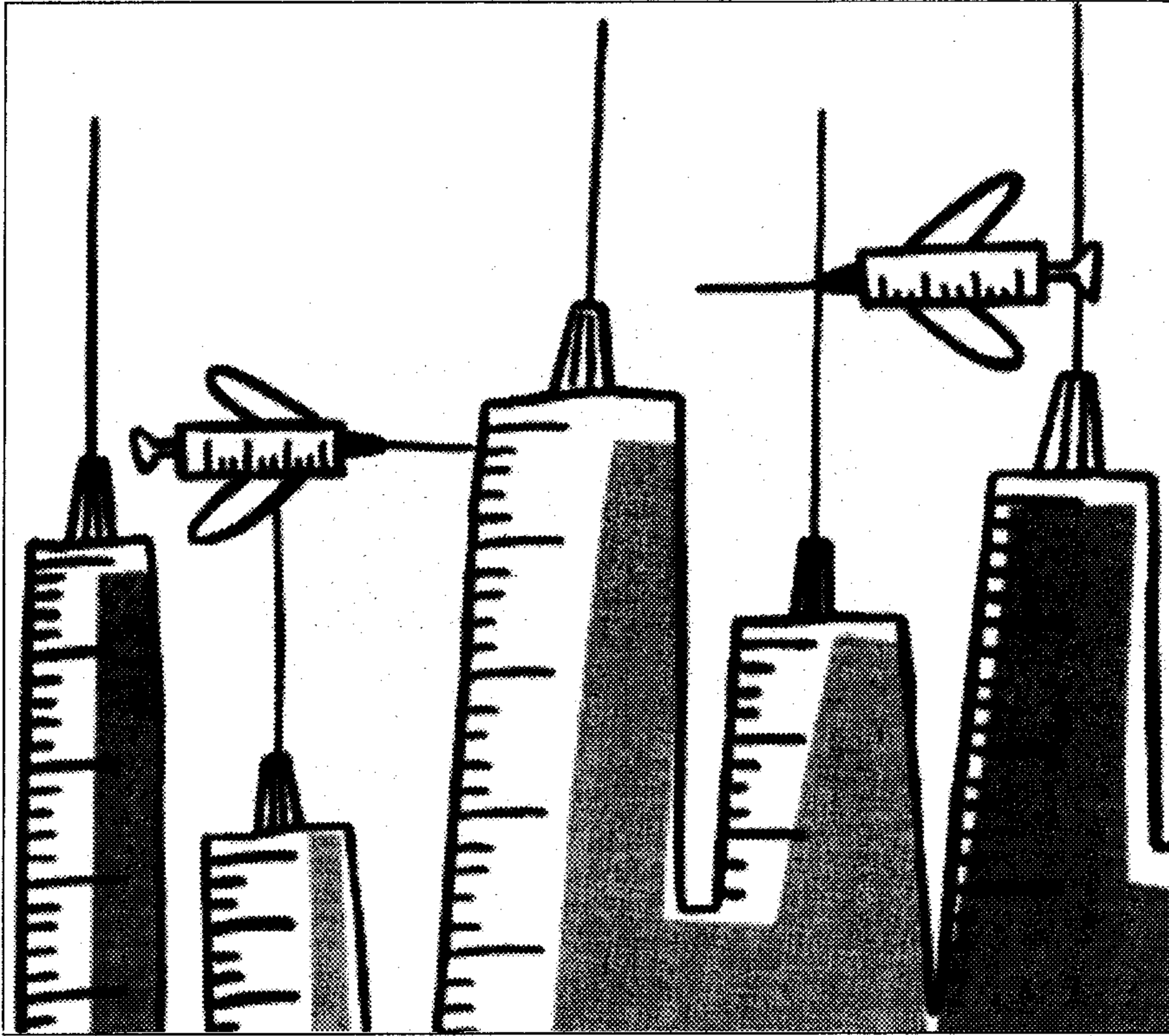
This manipulation would be able to go on whether or not drugs remain criminalised, and shows the limitations of drug use as an escape route from a system which can profit from such an activity.

Decriminalisation

Decriminalisation of drugs is a goal worth achieving because without doing so, the drug user continues to get in to deep financial and legal problems whilst pushers can make huge profits charging what they like.

At the same time though, we have to encourage people to look at what underlies drug use as the central activity in their lives and to say 'no' to the system that causes and then profits from such a dependence.

Everywhere in West Europe governments now consider decriminalisation



NO! DON'T

■ By Linn Hjort

It is really mistaken to say that drugs are not 'abnormal' because they are present and used in every society. Don't we all live in 'abnormal societies, which make us behave 'abnormally' and take 'abnormal painkillers'?

Society tells young people how we should look, think and act. There are massive social problems such as homelessness, unemployment, hunger and so on.

Drugs give a false and brief feeling of happiness. They help us relax or be awake when we want to or when we manage by ourselves.

De-criminalisation won't change that. But it would make drugs cheaper and easier to get hold of, and

in turn probably increase the use. A drugs user won't stop because it is half-price.

For many reasons, drugs are very controversial. Many rightwingers are struggling for a *legalisation* - they could make a nice little fortune on people's misery. To legalise drugs gives a helping hand to those who want to make a profit in this business.

There are also practical, political reasons why we should be against legalisation. A person who is only thinking about getting drugs certainly doesn't care about whatever decisions the state makes: and cares even less about protesting against it.

This is nothing new to the ruling class. For example, to give the employees half their salary

in alcohol was once a well used method by many northern European employers, preventing thinking and fights for working class people's rights.

De-criminalisation will lower crime rates such as burglary and robbery. But crimes like rape, murder, violence, very often committed by or to people under alcohol or other drugs, will not be fewer: when people can afford being on drugs more often, perhaps fewer.

More importantly: legalising or de-criminalising drugs is not the same thing as helping a drug user to get free from their needs.

You give up when you say: 'we cannot do anything about it, all we can do is making it easier'.

That is definitely *not* the way to solve the real problems.

ALCOHOL

Bringing about relaxation and lowers inhibitions. Taken in excess users can suffer from hangovers, increased aggression and nausea. Regular users can become addicted and long-term use causes liver damage.

CANNABIS

Promotes relaxation and a feeling of well-being. Non-addictive and almost impossible to overdose on. May cause 'psychological' addiction. Smoking cannabis in joints exposes users to the risks of smoking tobacco.

CAFFEINE

Found in tea, coffee, cola and tablets such as Pro-Plus. A stimulant that can keep you alert. It can also keep you awake at night and if taken in excess can cause dependency.

ECSTASY

Can be a stimulant, especially in a club situation, or relaxing in a calm environment. The biggest danger in dehydration, and exhaustion.

SPEED

Will keep you awake, cheer you up and give you tons of stamina. They can also make you paranoid, gives you the shakes and leave you depressed when you come down.

TOBACCO

Nicotine in cigarettes is a mild stimulant. Smoking can also be used to calm nerves and as an appetite suppressant. Nicotine is addictive and the long-term effects of smoking include heart disease and lung cancer.

Kurt Cobain: Twentieth Century Tragedy

■ By Siddharta

It is every teenager's calling to make their mark by rebelling, especially against the parental generation.

Imagine the shock horror of the nineties teenager who realises that their parents were the original rebels - the rock 'n' rollers.

Ally this to a general weariness of the eighties attitude extolling the importance of money and languishing in typically American superficiality, and the conditions are ripe for a totally new movement.

Meanwhile in Seattle, a three-piece group of some

little pedigree was honing its rough punky take on rock fused with a melodious sensibility not so apparent in the music of their contemporaries.

The lead singer, guitarist and principal songwriter of this outfit was Kurt Cobain. Having grown up without a stable family life he was disillusioned with the norm.

He was an intensely creative individual who was moved to describe his "alternative" viewpoint in song. This coincidental convergence of outlook brought together the two groups opening the way for mass appreciation of what had so far been an

underground music scene.

Consequently, by one of the strangest twists of fate, an individual who was both rejoicing in and expressing regret at his lack of comprehension of an existing system became the figurehead for others like him looking towards an alternative.

In a similar manner to British punk in the seventies, this kneejerk reaction to excess could be



seen coming but the size of its eventual arrival exceeded all expectation.

At last the key player in the whole game, namely the media, had something to

seize hold of. Kurt Cobain's tragi-comic existence, which would ordinarily merit little more than a few paragraphs in a specialist rock periodical now became front page news. His marriage to the outspoken Courtney Love served only to worsen the

media problem.

Meanwhile 'grunge', as this new culture had been christened, had progressed from an underground scene to a catwalk sensation and subsequently to a soundtrack for the whole 'slacker' generation.

The music of Nirvana had been the catalyst for this whole process. An apathetic individual now found himself the common focus for a wide range of individuals. However, a man who hadn't as yet been able to solve his own problems could hardly be expected to deal with those of others; but he was.

As it has done many

times before and will no doubt do many times again, fame as we know it deprived him of the opportunity to tackle his own problems in private.

Apparently his marriage and baby daughter failed to bring the stability he anticipated; especially with the press hovering and poised to strike at any opportunity.

So what was perhaps his last statement, a gesture of cowardice and futility carried out with uncharacteristic bravado was merely a restatement of his initial message, ie "I am an outsider" - and fame and wealth hadn't changed that.

Britain's own racist concentration camp



■ By Mark Jansen

Campsfield Detention Centre enforces "Fortress Europe" Over recent years much of the left has quite rightly recognised the need to confront racism and fascism, however it is quite clear that racism goes much further than just a group of BNP thugs.

The state plays a key role in maintaining racism, and the emergence of Europe as a new "superpower" will mean a co-ordinated effort by European powers to enforce racist legislation.

Part of Britain's contribution to new draconian legislation has been the establishment of Campsfield Detention Centre in Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

Penalised

Despite the 1951 Convention on Refugees specifically stating that asylum seekers should not be penalised for trav-

We demand:

- NO DETENTION for asylum seekers
- AN AMNESTY for existing asylum seekers
- For AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY into the events on June 5, carried out by representatives of human rights organisations, refugee organisations, elected members of Oxford County and City Councils, trade unionists and testimony by anonymous affidavits from detainees.

elling on false documents, the detention centre, run by Group 4 security, has been built with the specific purpose of locking up asylum seekers who have committed no offence, without trial or time limit, and without even the basic rights granted to convicted prisoners.

As part of the struggle against state racism, *Liberation!* fully supports the demands of the Campaign to Close Campsfield

Get Active!

Campaign to Close Campsfield can be contacted c/o 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ. Telephone (0865) 724452, 726804 or 727718.

Campsfield's Riot

■ By Jake Farrier

In the first week of June, 500 people demonstrated outside Campsfield Detention Centre to show their opposition to the government's racist immigration laws and the brutal treatment dealt out to asylum seekers.

Riot

The following day inmates at the centre rioted against the removal without justification or warning of Ali Tamarat for summary deportation the following day. He had been released after taking part in the hunger strike earlier this year, and was re-arrested after speaking to the press.

The week before his deportation detainees had received assurances from officials that no one would be removed or deported without reasonable notification, following a detainee being removed handcuffed and gagged.

Last year an Algerian was killed by the

Algerian army following his deportation from Britain, having been refused the right to asylum.

Hunger strike

On the night of the riot, another Algerian who had been on hunger strike for 25 days requested a doctor, who never came. The detainee banged his head against the door of his cell until he became unconscious.

The Home Office has done all it can to both cover up the brutal treatment that detainees face, and to prevent the detainees making contact with supporters outside.

The centre has installed mirror glass, a high wall and other security measures to prevent asylum seekers making contact with

the outside world.

Charles Wardle, the Immigration Minister, has quite clearly lied about the events of June 5, claiming that only four people were injured during the riot, all with leg or foot injuries, with another women being taken out in an ambulance due to an asthma attack, though they have refused to inform her solicitor of her whereabouts. Eye witness accounts confirm that at least eight people were removed from the detention centre in four ambulances, with an unknown number being carried away in another three more.

They also report 200 police being sent in, including tactical support units, and that one detainee jumped head-first off the roof of the building.



If wars, starvation, environmental devastation, exploitation and injustice make you angry...

If you reject the idea that they are somehow "inevitable" or permanent features of human society...

Then, like us, you've probably thought alot about how to change the world. Simply wishing things would get better is not enough.

Working alone you can change some things a little, for a while; working together with others, you can change the world.



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