

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

MAD CAPITALIST DISEASE!



The Tories knew that BSE was a threat to humans. But they covered it up until they couldn't keep the lid on the truth...



They have sacrificed the health of thousands, possibly tens of thousands of people for one reason and one reason only: money.

In December John Major was lying when he told parliament that there is "no scientific evidence" that mad cow disease could be spread to humans. He completely ignored the findings of one scientist, Richard Lacey, who warned that it could spread and that between 5,000 and a massive 500,000 people could get it over the next ten years.

BSE causes the human illness CJD. It is horrific. The infection gets to your brain, and leaves you unable to control your movements, severely brain damaged and - in

most cases - dead.

But beef is big business. Sales of beef make £billions in profits for rich farming businessmen every year. And the Tories are the party of big business.

What a terrible way to prove what socialists have been saying all along.

Under the profit system - capitalism - the greed of the few comes before anything else, including the health and lives of millions of ordinary people.

The Tories are still refusing to ban beef, even though British beef has been banned as unsafe all over the world. Lots of people have stopped eating it (who can blame them?) . But with prices falling (50p for a big rump steak in some

supermarkets) it will be the poorest who are tempted to take the risk.

We can't trust the scientists that the Tories have appointed - there should be an independent inquiry under the control of the trade unions and consumers.

Only the working class can be relied on to act on the real findings of an inquiry rather than just hush it up.

The working class has no profits to put before health - that's why a system under our control - socialism - would run society for need, not profit. And we'd all feel safer and healthier for it.

What is Capitalism? Page 4&5

Tories gamble with our health!



MURDERED...

IBRAHIMA SEY, a 29 year old asylum seeker from Gambia, was killed by the police on the 16th of March. 20 police officers arrived at his house in Manor Park and arrested him.

The police took him and a friend to Ilford police station where they handcuffed Ibrahim with his hands behind his back and forced him to the ground; one of the police officers then sprayed Ibrahim in the face with their new CS gas spray. Ibrahim is the first person to die from the CS gas but he is the fourth

black person to die in police custody in the last year, and the 15th in the last five years.

The police, as usual, tried to cover up Ibrahim's murder by having an autopsy which said that he died from a hypertensive heart disease.

This is a pack of lies as he was a fit man who as a keen footballer had been picked for the Gambian national squad.

There is also no history of heart disease in his family. There needs to be a second autopsy with medical experts chosen by the Sey family.

On the 23 of March there was a 200 strong picket of Manor Park police station followed by a march from Forest Gate to Ilford police station, with 1000 people on the demo. This shows that lots of people hate the police for all the murders that they commit which they get away with.

The Sey family have launched a memorial campaign with the Newham Monitoring Project, calling for the immediate suspension of the officers responsible for Ibrahim's death, the ban on the use of CS gas and an independent inquiry into this killing.

We have to fight the police and organise self defence so that we defend our selves, not just from the police but from other racist attacks. ■

BLINDED...

AMER RAFIQ, a twenty one year old student from Manchester, was picked up by the racist and violent Tactical Aid Group (TAG) at the restaurant where he worked part time as a waiter.

Amer was thrown into a police van and taken to the local police station, Platt Lane.

When he arrived he was missing an eye and only had a 50% chance of being able to see with the other.

The local community responded by holding a 2500 strong demonstration against this dreadful attack by one of the most violent police forces.

The TAG units are renowned for their violence against Asian youth during the Muslim Eid festival.

ATTACK

The officers who committed this horrific attack on Amer have not yet been publicly identified and have

been transferred to desk duty.

A campaign has been established in response to Amer's beating which calls for the officers concerned to be brought to justice.

The campaign is fighting for the end of police racial harassment.

We all know that the police are racist and that they use their power to harass, attack and kill black, Asian and other youth from ethnic minorities without ever being found guilty of their crimes. The campaign needs as much support as they can get so they can unite black, white and Asian youth to stop savage attacks such as this one from taking place in the future. ■

BY RACIST POLICE!



NEWBURY PROTESTS

THE LATEST protests against the extensive road building in Newbury have come to a temporary stop, with protesters out of most trees and cleared from the area. This has only come about after months of daily battles between environmentalists in trees and coach-loads of bailiffs in their bulldozers and cherry-pickers. Even though the protest has lasted for a very long time, after the long M11 campaign which ended last year, the protesters could not passively resist the armed force of the law for ever.

There have been hundreds of people going down to Newbury over the last year, protesting against the government's road-building plans. There are nationwide networks of environmental groups, many in the Freedom Network, who have been involved in organising big protests, building tree houses, and securing trees from the hands of the bailiffs and security guards.

All the protesters have been attempting to stop or delay the clearing of trees in Reddings Copse and around Newbury; they are also trying to halt the government's general plans for road building, against "the bloody State steamrolling everything".

There have been many battles

between protesters and the Sheriff's office, backed up by hundreds of well-armed security guards, trained rock climbers, and coach loads of police.

They are the real face of the law! The protesters have been able to stop work for days, costing the local council thousands in police bills. Just as the police are trained to do, they have been going into the protesters in force, with all the weapons that they are allowed (as well as others which they have just "picked up"). With hundreds of security guards and police 24 hours a day, the protesters have had a heavy time trying to survive in their tree-top perches; with at least 40 arrests whenever an eviction takes place, not to mention the numbers of environmentalists injured, beaten up and left with broken bones!

REVOLUTION is against the government's plans to spend huge sums on road building at the same time as cutting funds for rail and bus transport. We demand that the government re-nationalise every area of public transport and provide funding for the extension of any necessary service. An integrated national transport policy is the only way to keep congestion, pollution and long

delays for commuters to a minimum.

But we are not against roads in themselves. We are reds, not greens.

We think it is pointless to oppose "the modern world" - we want to go forward to a planned socialist future, not back to some impossible version of the 'small scale' communities of the past.

It is the possibilities that modern industry and technology have brought that will make it possible for a socialist world to house and feed everyone.

The only way of defending the environment in the long term is by workers taking control of the polluting factories, investigating them and ensuring that they are cleaned up; all this will be done with money taken from the bosses, not from the working people.

Anything that cannot be made safe should be closed and other jobs on full pay found for the workers.

To restore our planet into the next millennium the only system capable of supporting and monitoring the environment is one which takes the defence of the working class - automatically tied to the fate of the whole world in which we live - as its supreme goal. ■

COPS VS PUPILS

RECENTLY A law has been passed to allow police to enter schools without permission, to stop and search students. This law came about after the killing of Philip Lawrence, a London headteacher.

The police are using this as an excuse to get into our schools and get information about people they don't like, such as immigrants, black and Asian students. Before this law police had to get permission from the headteacher to be allowed into the school. As we can see the police

are racist and they attack and kill people.

Do we really want murderers in our schools harassing students, or do we want schools to be a place for learning?

If we let police into our schools then they would arrest students and beat them where they can't be seen by the public.

There is a minority of students who carry knives and disrupt lessons but it is not up to the police to do anything about it, it is up to the

teachers and other students to deal with these students and teach them that if they learn and get good results then they will have a future and be able to get on in life.

Police in the school would just make the matter worse by intimidating students who don't know their rights and arresting innocent people. We need teachers and students to work together to make sure that police don't come into our schools and if they do then we should go on strike. ■

4 IDEAS

What do we mean by

CAPITALISM

“CAPITALISM” - you hear the word everywhere, but what is it? The simple answer is: **it's the system we live in.**

Today, nearly everything we need to live our daily lives - from Big Macs to bus rides - has to be paid for. Water, gas, electricity, housing, transport, food and clothing - the principle is the same: if you're broke, you can't have any.

And in this society there are vast divisions in wealth.

7% of the population of Britain own 84% of the wealth. Worldwide the difference is even bigger. Millions starve while a few thousands live in luxury lifestyles.

Teachers, politicians and the media try to portray this as a “natural” state of affairs: “it's always been like this, and it always will be”, they say.

But they're wrong. Early human societies were communal: they weren't divided into rich and poor and they shared property instead of having to buy and sell the things they needed.

After this, human history is a succession of different class societies: different systems of the rich exploiting the poor. We get the slavery of Ancient Greece and Rome, then the feudal system of knights, lords and peasants, and then we get capitalism.

CLASS DIVISIONS

Under capitalism the vast majority of the world's population is systematically deprived of any way of supporting itself other than working for an employer. Peasants are thrown off the land. The traditional “professional classes” like office workers and teachers are turned into wage slaves like the rest of us.

At the end of a week's work on a Sainsbury's supermarket check out,

you come away with only your wages. You do not own the equipment you use, the uniform you wear and you have no right to consume any of the mountains of food and drink you've passed through the barcode till. And, on £3.15 an hour - £126 for a 40 hour week - you won't be buying much of it either.

That makes you part of the working class - whether you like it or not.

PROFITS

Now let's look at the owner of Sainsburys, David Sainsbury. His annual salary is £362,000. That's £6,900 a week. “But he earns it”, your economics teacher might say. Of course that's rubbish: why are the skills of one person worth seventy six times more than another's (work it out!).

But consider this. In addition to his £362,000 salary David Sainsbury gets **£37.6 million a year** from share dividends. His real income is nearer £723,000 a week.

What are “share dividends”?

David Sainsbury does not just own a flash car and a few big houses. He owns a large part of the Sainsbury's supermarket chain as well. Share dividends are the shared out profits of Sainsbury's. It is this ability to make millions of pounds worth of profits from owning a business that makes David Sainsbury a *capitalist*.

Where do these profits come from? Part of them come from buying cheap and selling dear. Sainsburys buys fruit for a few pennies a kilo, in the third world, and “marks up” the price in Britain. But that is not the main source of profit. If all capitalists systematically charged too much for the things they sell there would be spiralling inflation and the system would collapse.

No, the real source of profit is the labour of all the people who work

for Sainsbury's: from the fruit pickers in Africa, to the lorry drivers who transport the fruit, to the checkout workers and shelf stackers in the store.

The harder David Sainsbury can make the workers work, and the lower the wages he can pay them, the bigger his “share dividend” will be at the end of the year.

“But it's still fair”, says your economics teacher: “Sainsbury's great grandfather gambled his savings setting up a corner shop, and anyway David Sainsbury is doing society a service, running the business that brought you Kiwi fruit and Sunday shopping - and he runs a massive charity.”

It clearly is not “fair” that one man makes millions while others work for peanuts. But that's not the whole point.

The real point is that the system does not work.

David Sainsbury and his marketing executives do not look at a Kiwi fruit as a piece of exotic food. They look at it as a potential profit maker. They do not look at Sunday opening as a great service for hard pressed working families, but as a way of maximising profit.

The same goes for all production under capitalism. If it makes a profit, it will be produced. If it does not, it won't.

If capitalism was a nice, easy-going system where every capitalist produced a profit every year this would not matter so much. But it is not.

CRISIS

Capitalism is an anarchic, crisis ridden system. Behind the backs of the marketing executives stalk market forces that are as unpredictable as the weather. Three times in the last 30 years big world economic

...LISMSM?

crises have destroyed profit rates across entire industries.

Car factories have closed down, mines and shipyards have closed down, and even supermarkets - all because their owners could not make a profit.

Because of capitalism's tendency to produce dramatic crises, millions are condemned to either low pay or long-term unemployment. There are 2.7 million people unemployed in Britain. There are four million people working for less than £4 an hour, including the majority of 16-21 year olds.

And capitalism does not just affect your income.

It affects your **education** - as class sizes rise, as student grants are cut - all so that the bosses do not have to pay tax; so that they can take home more profits.

It affects your **health** - as the NHS is cut back, as we are made to eat diseased beef to maximise the profits of farming businesses.

It affects your **environment** - as rainforests are felled so that the paper industry bosses can make easy profits, as dangerous nuclear power stations are kept running to provide cheap energy, and higher profits, for the capitalists.

It threatens your **life** - as the different capitalists of different countries squabble over who can make the biggest profits, they go to war.

Or rather, they send the low paid, poorly educated and unemployed youth off to die while they just watch on CNN.

It destroys your **mind** - you are bombarded from hoardings, TV ads and by fashion magazines with the message: buy these £100 trainers, buy these designer label clothes - or you're nobody.

Depression, suicide and low self-esteem are caused by capitalism - not by the individual sufferers.

But there is an answer.

Society could be organised as if people mattered.

We would have to start by taking the major industries, services and trade networks out of the hands of the big capitalists and putting them into the hands of the millions of working people.

We would have to plan production, using the latest and safest modern technology to make sure that people worked fewer and fewer hours a week, with more leisure time, more money and more high quality education and services to improve the quality of life.

By planning production, and by common ownership of the means of production we could begin to construct a society not based on profit but based on human need.

There would still be conflicts: should we build roads, bicycle networks or railway lines? Should rail transport be free or just cheap, with the fares used to subsidise aid to third world countries?

Dilemmas like these would be solved by workers' democracy.

A utopia? No. It's a necessity. And by creating a massive working class who have nothing to lose from ending the profit system - and everything to gain - capitalism itself has created its own gravedigger.

Again and again over the last two hundred years working class people have entered the road of revolution. Some successes, and many failures, have littered our history.

But capitalism holds no future for the human race other than the destruction of the environment, mass poverty and unemployment, disease and war.

Capitalism's not natural, its not fair and its not permanent. It will produce either socialism or barbarism. Which will it be?

That's up to you! ■



WHEELER DEALERS WHO CONTROL OUR LIVES

CULTURE CRIMINALS

Trainspotting

THE SECOND biggest selling British film since 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' has now been out for a couple of weeks. Trainspotting uses the close camera style of 'Reservoir Dogs' and 'Pulp Fiction', a story line about heroin abuse in Scotland, and the authentic voice and language of Edinburgh youth. The film follows the lives of a group of friends through their experiences of heroin and life in general, from Edinburgh to London and back to Edinburgh.

It is a stunning film, which captures the depression and sordid conditions facing Scottish youth from the 1980s to the present day.

The film is based on Irvine Welsh's excellent novel (which has also made it to the stage) and uses a whole series of supreme performances, notably from the star, Ewan MacGregor. Some of the early images in the film show him injecting smack and diving into the "filthiest toilet in Scotland" just to get his

drugs back. There are scenes of violence and shoplifting chases, not to mention the air-gun shooting of a fascist's dog, with hilarious consequences. The film combines all the elements of "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll", with a soundtrack which goes from early 80s Iggy Pop to the latest techno in Scottish clubs.

Trainspotting uses a circular plot - one which starts with an idea, comes back to it, and continues into the future. The film has been attacked by moralists for not criticising drug taking.

But the message is not one which advises people to take heroin, it just shows the boring no-hope conditions that make people want to take it.

No-one should be wasting their lives away, as the character Tommy does, rotting away on heroin and dying of AIDS from shared needles. Heroin is a dead-end choice - for people with nothing else to do or for those who don't care any more.

Heroin bought on the street is full of impurities and sold by dodgy dealers to young people who end up having to steal money from the rest of us.

REVOLUTION demands that heroin and all drug distribution be put under workers' control, where addicts can be helped to come off without being locked up, fined, or left to buy dangerous and dirty gear on the streets. We want to see a full programme of recovery, not just a Methadone substitute.

Above all we don't want to see anybody waste their life away because they're fed up with the system.

We want youth conscious and awake to the ideas of socialism and the need for a workers' revolution.

This is the only way of finally getting rid of the system we're living under, and bringing about a world where the need so many people feel to annihilate themselves with hard drugs has been completely eradicated. ■

Students: Worldwide Fightback! - From Page 8

THE ATTACK on free education and students does not stop at the white cliffs of Dover. All around the world students face the same attempts by the rich to cut free education and make working class youth pay for their own futures.

But students are fighting back.

AUSTRALIA

The new Tory government is cutting billions of dollars on spending to save money for the rich. There will be fewer college places, higher fees and lower grants. At the same time local governments are cutting money to student unions and trying to stop unions spending money on political campaigns, union newspapers and so on. Activists are being harassed. Five were arrested by police in Brisbane, and 3 students from La Trobe University have been arrested after an occupation last year. Five more have been charged with writing subversive material in the student paper.

The fightback has been good so

far. In South Australia 7000 students went on rallies and demos. 300 students occupied college management buildings at Sydney University. In Victoria, 1500 students marched against the ruling party's offices demanding that money stolen from student unions should be given back.

REVOLUTION is linked to the Australian group **Workers Power**. They are fighting for a mass movement of students and workers to take strike action and occupy colleges against the laws restricting student unions. And they are campaigning for student action committees to organise the fight from below.

AUSTRIA

The government want to cut spending on education. Teachers' pay will be reduced, and whole courses will be given the chop. Imagine if you'd studied for years only to see your whole course disappear!

At the Haupt University in Vienna, the union leaders argued that a do-nothing peaceful protest would be enough to win. But supporters of **ASt** (the socialist group linked to **REVOLUTION** in Austria) made speeches calling for a strike, and the angry students backed their call! The strike was on!

To keep an eye on the sell-out union leaders, students took up an **ASt** call for all negotiations with management to take place in the presence of the students. The meetings are being filmed to try to stop the leaders selling out! what an excellent idea . . . we should do that here. But above all, ordinary students need their own rank and file action committee to control the campaign.

ASt are calling for the movement to spread to workers and their unions - on their own, students may not be strong enough to win. Like in France last year, if the workers take action, then the government will be shaken to its foundations. ■

Jailed for art!

SIMON SUNDERLAND has been sent to prison for 5 years! His crime? Being a graffiti artist.

Simon lived in Sheffield. He is now 23, and has not been doing any graffiti for the last 4 years, and was hoping to go to college to study art and drawing, which he hadn't had the chance to do beforehand. But Sheffield City Council decided to prosecute him for criminal damage instead.

They claimed that they have had to spend £7000 to clean up Simon's graffiti.

But most of Simon's work was painted on derelict buildings. The council attacked him for graffiti on the Kelvin flats - which have been demolished since! Other works were done in out of the way places like a sewage works in Dodworth.

Simon tried to explain to the judge why he had been doing graffiti. For many young artists there is no other way of expressing yourself. He brought the court a portfolio of his work but the judge refused even to look at it. His work was that of a young artist seeing the real world from experience, not just over the television screen.

Probation officers said they didn't want Simon sent down. Even the prosecutor said he should be jailed for no more than a year or 18 months. So why has this savage sentence been made?

The reason is that the judges hate and loathe the fact that working class youth will express themselves no matter how few opportunities they get. Middle class kids can go to art school and play around for years

in their comfy studios. Simon will get to share a disgusting, overcrowded cell with other prisoners for his efforts.

Sheffield council are also to blame. They wasted a fortune on the failed World Student games project, and they are looking for scapegoats. They say Simon and his extensive art work are the reasons why investors won't come to Sheffield. Of course! It is graffiti, not capitalism, that is the reason for Sheffield's massive unemployment, low pay and poverty. Why didn't we think of this before?

Send letters, drawings, artwork, messages of respect and support to Simon - he should be free to brighten up our lives with his art not locked away as a scapegoat for society's problems.

Write to:
Simon Sunderland, RR 1591
HMP Doncaster
Marshgate
Doncaster
DN5 8UX

Rage and Beauty

WHILE SIMON Sunderland languishes in prison, the work of another famous graffiti artist is on display at an exhibition in London. The same smug intellectuals who tut and shake their heads at the work of artists like Simon will be ooh-ing and aah-ing over the paintings of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

But if Jean-Michel had begun his work in Sheffield rather than New York, he would have been banged away in prison like Simon.

Basquiat's work is exceptional - it is proof, if any were needed, that working class graffiti artists in the inner cities can blossom into great painters and artists if they are given the recognition and backing that their desire for self-expression deserves.

Basquiat's spray paintings draw heavily on cartoons, graffiti bombing and other popular forms. The message is complex - but again and again images of young black men torn apart by racism and the chaos of modern urban life scream out at us from his canvasses. Just look at



the image above. A young man, unmistakably black, looks straight at the viewer, eyes and mouth twisted. The image is one of strength and defiance - but something is wrong. Part of him has been almost literally cut away. His left arm is withered as if by some deadly poison.

Basquiat died of a heroin overdose aged only 27. His work gives a vivid picture of the alienation and rage of

young, black men in America.

His work is being exhibited at the Serpentine gallery in London. Admission is free; the exhibition is sponsored by Kiss FM, London's most popular dance music station.

Check it out. And tell anyone who thinks Simon Sunderland is a common criminal about the power and the strength of graffiti art.

REVOLUTION demands:

- A massive extension of art and culture for the masses, paid for by taxing the profits of the rich.
- Free access to education for all on a living grant.
- Open the clubs, exhibitions, theatres, cinemas, concert halls, studios, public facilities and buildings to free access for young people wanting their own art and music training, publications and artistic life.
- Nationalise all the entertainment monopolies without compensation, under the control of working people.
- Free Simon Sunderland! ■

**AGITATE
EDUCATE
ORGANISE!**

Students: Fight for Free Education!

THE NATIONAL Union of Students is supposed to fight for students. But after its conference last month it will be doing the opposite - fighting for the Tories and Blair against students.

NUS has dropped its call for education to be free.

Instead it will support Tony Blair's idea of bringing in a graduate tax. This means that after you finish a degree you will have to pay back your grant for years and years to come. Only students expecting to get really well-paid jobs will be able to afford it.

Once again, it means rich kids get the best chances. Working class youth will have to think twice before deciding to go to college.

Already students are expected to survive on a pittance. The maximum grant is around £1,500 a year - under £30 a week! Try living on that and see how quickly you starve to death, let alone die of boredom.

But the Tories say this is enough to live on. You can spend your weekly grant money on 10 one-day travel-cards in London, or a couple of CDs, or the admission fee to three decent clubs. You could eat just one meal a day to get by. Or you could spend it on 750 tins of Tesco value beans (4p each).

No wonder students have to take out special loans (making a fortune

for the banks and the private loans companies). No wonder so many students have to knacker themselves out doing extra jobs while trying to get essays done. No wonder so many working class students drop out every year.

The graduate tax will just make this worse. Blair supports it because New Labour wants to stand up for the richest, not the poorest in society. Anything that saves money for the rich (like cutting grants and funds for colleges) is OK by him.

But it hasn't stopped there. The Tories, Blair and the college managers are all worried about just one thing. What if students refuse to accept this and fight back? That's why they put pressure on the cowardly NUS leaders to drop their policy for free education and back the graduate tax. The NUS leaders went along with it because they want to follow the path that most NUS officials take after college - straight from the union to work in the offices of Labour or become trade union leaders. Being a student leader for these careerists means feathering their own nests, not fighting for working class and poor students.

College managers have been persecuting student unions that do not back the new Blairism. At Kingsway college, South Bank University and the University of North London, stu-

dent activists on the union executives have been dismissed. The head of the union at Kingsway has been expelled for campaigning against the racist Asylum Bill. At UNL - where a few years ago there was a brilliant occupation against cuts which was run by democratic mass meetings of students - the new right-wing union head has tried to scrap student general meetings altogether.

These bureaucrats are afraid of democracy and struggle. Let's give them something to be afraid of.

REVOLUTION demands:

- No graduate tax! For free education. Scrap loans - for a living grant for all.

- Organise action committees of students in the colleges to plan activity. Link up with college workers and lecturers.

- Occupy and strike against all cuts, job losses and closures.

- Smash the bureaucracy in NUS - all union leaders to be elected at mass meetings and paid only the average income of the students they represent!

- Demand that Labour commit itself to free education for all, funded by taxing the super-rich and abolishing private education. ■

More on student struggles worldwide:
Page 6

Stop press

AS WE went to press, news came through of a new Tory law allowing police to stop and search anyone at will. This will just mean more harassment and killings like the cases we have described above. The most disgusting thing is that Labour have voted for the new Tory law! They should be forced to change their policy by the unions and voters, and should scrap all repressive police powers, cs gas, long arm batons and so on if they get in at the next election.

THE POLICE killers of Brian Douglas (see past issues of REVOLUTION) are not going to be charged with any crime, it has been announced. The Justice for Brian Douglas Campaign will be launching the biggest possible fund drive for a private prosecution and will step up the fight against the police and the prosecution service who have let them off the hook.

See page 2 for more on
anti-racist struggles.

Join:
REVOLUTION!
Phone:
0171 738 5498
Write:
BCM Box 7750
London WCIN 3XX