

# **Liberation!**

30p • issue nine • youth paper of 'Socialist Outlook' • spring 1996

## **Racism**

**Fight for  
Asylum  
Rights!**

## **Students**

**Major  
chooses  
Blair's  
Tax Plan**

## **France**

**2 Million In  
The Streets**

## **Newbury**

**Tree Top  
Interview**

## **Workfare**

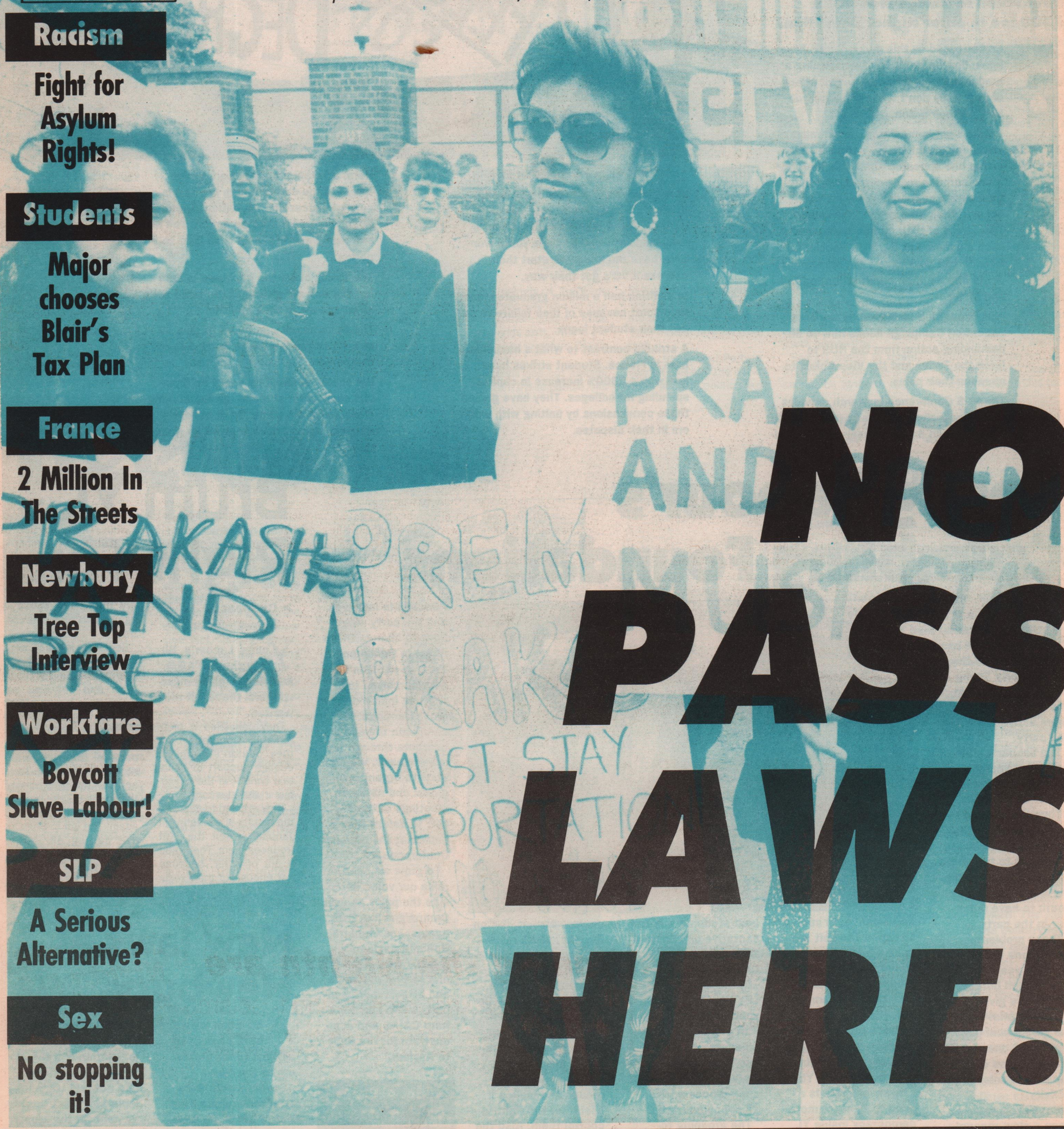
**Boycott  
Slave Labour!**

## **SLP**

**A Serious  
Alternative?**

## **Sex**

**No stopping  
it!**



**NO  
PASS  
LAWS  
HERE!**

**Stop the Asylum and Immigration Bill!**



# Tories steal NUS leaders clothes

► Paul McGowan

**Faced with a seven per cent cut in real terms by the government, Principals and Vice Chancellors have threatened to charge students a £300 fee to enter Higher Education.**

Embarrassed by this move, Tories have again floated the idea of introducing a graduate tax to fund this sector of education. They don't want any other robbers on their patch.

Rather than immediately threatening resistance to such attacks the NUS leadership has appeared almost indifferent. It's no surprise really considering they themselves support a graduate tax echoing their mentors in New Labour. The defeat of their motion to support such a scheme at the NUS Special Conference last year shows the mass of students oppose their capitulation to Blair and Major.

This opposition mobilised by the Free Education Campaign needs now to be demanding action from the NUS to force the Tories and the Vice Chiefs to abandon their plans.

The NUS Conference in March provides a good opportunity for us to plan a fighting campaign and rid ourselves of a lead-

Students must shake up NUS



ership that supports the other side. Their 'moderate' approach has led to students financial ruin. Last year a record 54,000 dropped out. Next year's thousands of working class youth won't even have the money to start their courses if VC's get their way. In addition half a million graduates now face court because of their failure to repay their student loans. A striking contrast to what's happening here is France. Student strikes have just won a 2000% increase in capital spending for colleges. They have gained these concessions by uniting with workers in their disputes.

Here, all staff in colleges are under threat of the sack through the Tories current squeeze on education. There are conditions for united action. The lesson we all need to learn is to fight together!

The Tories claim the cupboard is bare - but the rich are sitting at the table with silver spoons in their mouths.

The Government can afford to give £3 billion tax concession to North Sea oil companies.

We should demand its spent on financial support for students giving working class youth the same life at colleges that rich sprogs have enjoyed for generations.

## Young Labour's Crumbling Foundations

► Bob Gooch

After the experience of Militant's control of the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS) in the 1980's, Labour fears active youth in the party.

The Labour leaders only want young supporters as canvassing fodder at elections.

Thus the structures of Young Labour (YL) are designed to make it difficult to turn local groups into campaigning bodies and for youth to have much say in the party.

These problems were made worse in its early years because aged bureaucrats were given a watching brief on local groups and one had to cut ones way through miles of red tape to organise any activity.

Since then there's been a slow recognition by the party if they are to get any young members they must give these bodies some degree of in-



We need to raise our voice outside the party

dependence. In such a situation the Left are once again taking control of Labour's youth groups e.g. in Manchester, Southampton etc..

Blair's babies have to resort to whining to officials to maintain their positions in YL.

However there is a need to fight for more democracy inside YL and the party. Currently YL's only real input into policy-making is electing with young trade-unionists and La-

bour students a representative on Labour's National Executive Committee.

In the days of the LPYS in the 1980's, youth in the Labour Party had additionally delegates on GC's and their own paper. They also had regional conferences and regional committees.

The grouping together of youth in one large city into one YL group severs the link between youth group's and constitu-

ences. Also at YL Conference, youth representing such groups are not given any more say than a rep. from a small town. Obviously this discriminates against urban youth. The lack of regional structures is there to isolate YL groups and makes it easier for the right to control them. Also the rule that only under 23 year olds can hold office prevents experienced youth playing a part.

Socialists inside YL and the party must fight to change these rules. In the meantime we shouldn't limit ourselves to working inside the current structures. We can begin to build up contacts through other means. We can start to organise regional and national meetings of the YL Left to defeat Blair's babies at the national Conference.

To grow we need to raise our voice outside the party as well. Campaigns like that against the Immigration and Asylum Bill provide us an opportunity to turn outwards and attract more support. Invite speakers from CAIAB and demonstrate for the right to Asylum.

**Get Active!**

**Liberation wants views and reports from YL - write to us now!.**

## Brum YL - Right Fix

► Our special correspondent

Young Labour's Birmingham "AGM" has finally given right-wingers, the result they wanted.

They cancelled it originally in December, as they couldn't drum up enough support to maintain control of the Executive in the elections.

They refused to abide by the results of a meeting in January, when the Left trounced them. They ruled it out of order, because not enough of the Executive (i.e. themselves) turned up. Now in Febru-

ary they have called it again and regained control.

Socialists in the YL were enthusiastic about the opportunities for it to grow and begin to address more issues affecting working class and oppressed youth, when they believed they had broken the right-wing stranglehold on it in January. Now the dead hand of the young Blairite bureaucrats has descended again. The left in Brum YL are calling on labour movement bodies to condemn these factional machinations and defend basic democracy.

## New laws at Newbury

Anti-union laws have been used against roads-protesters at Newbury.

Seven people were arrested under a Tory Act of 1992, for allegedly preventing people getting to work, by locking themselves to lorries carrying plant vehicles for the by-pass.

This development shows such catch-all legislation is a threat to all campaigners, and not just trade unionists. It's another argument for the repeal of all Britain's anti-union laws which under the Tories have become the most repressive in Europe.

# Scargill digs himself a hole

► Jonathan Joseph

**M**iners' leader Arthur Scargill has left the Labour Party to set up his own Socialist Labour Party (SLP).

To some this will seem a positive move.

No one in their right mind could possibly argue that Blair's New Labour is socialist. And Scargill has made a point of supporting some of the single issue campaigns, like roads protests, that young people are involved in.

However, we believe Scargill's project is wrong and will fail.

Scargill's break from Labour is premature. He argues that the Labour Party was defined by Clause Four of the constitution. Blair's ditching of this commitment to common ownership made up Scargill's mind. This shows how Scargill had real illusions in Labour.

That's why he repeats many of the old mistakes, embracing narrow electoral politics with illusions in parliament.

Clause Four never defined the Labour Party. It has never been the social-



Speaking to the masses?

ist party that Scargill claims. The Labour Party is important because of its links with the working class and the trade unions. Despite the defeats over Clause Four and internal democracy, Blair

has not removed this link. He will try to - which means that it is all the more important to stay in the party and fight.

A Labour government will come under pressure because of these links.

The majority of the working class will vote for this government and will raise demands on it. This is the best way to defeat Blair's project.

Scargill has cut himself off from these people. His

SLP will not have anything like the same links with the working class, so his 'left' rhetoric will be fruitless.

Yes, the Labour Party is very off putting. The left is weak and the politics are

turgid. But it is also wrong to claim there are lots of radical things going on amongst single issue and youth campaigns.

Scargill wants to relate to these. Although they cannot be ignored, there

are more decisive struggles to be waged by the labour movement. These campaigns are often rather limited in scope, both in terms of ambition and effect.

At least the Labour Party provides a perspective that links several issues. And in Young Labour it is possible to engage in a more rounded political discussion. We must link up single issue campaigns to the fight against Blair inside the Labour Party.

The real difference will be made by trade union struggles. These will make themselves felt inside the Labour Party. That is why socialists are there. Socialists inside Labour need to actively support such struggles and raise their own left demands.

We should fight both Blair and the Tories simultaneously. This fight should cover common ownership, defence of public services, full employment, a minimum wage, the repeal of the anti-union laws and the Criminal Justice Act.

Unfortunately, Scargill's SLP is not up to this task.

## Treetop Talk

**Liberation!** spoke to Tess Griffin, a young protester opposing the Newbury bypass.

**L**iberation! How's the situation changing here?

**T.G.** When I first started coming down here I expected a straight fight between us and the road builders, but this whole thing has become a big deal to all sides, and the sides have got bigger.

Loads of police have been brought in, as well as private security guards and media people.

**Liberation!** What have your experiences here shown you about campaigning?

**T.G.** It's shown that we need to be well-informed.

We have to work so much harder than the people who are in favour of the road to get our message across because of the idea that we're hooligans and that they are respectable. All you see is brawling, but we're trying to develop ideas about protecting the environment and improving public

transport.

It's also shown that we need to reach out as far as we can. Once people felt we were really threatening this road, all the force of the law was on to us. Our people get carted off under the Criminal Justice Act, and gradually some trees are getting felled. So we can't do it alone. We need more people if we're to do the job better. We can show the way to other groups.

**Liberation!** Do you feel the campaign will be successful?

**T.G.** The word "successful" isn't just about stopping the road.

We're fighting to win of course. This campaign draws in the locals, and has become a broad layer of protest. We're all over tele. We managed to get a coach company to stop bringing the contractors to work. And we also work hard to bring in people from other campaigns. We're planning a demo with Friends of the Earth.

So we're reaching out to people with different experiences. I reckon that we're at really important stage in road campaigns. Like I say, we're making this impact and making more people wake up to what we're saying rather than just thinking we've got a thing about climbing



Chainsaw massacre

trees. But I also know that we're one of lots of camps, caught up in the big web of environmental wrecking and of govern-

ment policies that stop us demonstrating.

So another "success" we will have, even if the road gets built, is to show

people that we need them all to help us by taking up the issues, and we need policies for change.

## A direction to action

► Mark Jasen

**A**nti-Road protesters have generated wide media attention and have caused havoc to the governments road building programme.

The innovative tactics adopted, whilst they have not as yet actually stopped a road being built once construction has started, have forced the government to back down on large sections of its road building plans.

Last year the No M11 campaign, the first of such campaigns in an urban area, brought to the fore a number of questions around pollution and how it impacted on the health of local residents, public transport policy, on the shortage of housing as well as environmental issues.

Despite the success of such direct action tactics, there are limits to what they can achieve on their own. Whether we like it or not, it is ultimately the government who decide policy on roads, housing and the environment. The various campaigns across the country have shown that when the Tories are determined to force through policy, campaigners are up against the full force of the police the courts and the state.

To make a real change we not only have to get rid of this government, but we need to develop a broad alliance which includes the trade union movement and political parties, and which can develop its own policies for transport, the environment and so on. In short we need to be able to make decisions based upon the needs of society rather than the needs of profit.



# The Immigration and Asylum Bill - What it is and how to fight it!

> **Simon Deville**

**The Tories are aiming to force through another round of racist legislation,**

The Immigration and Asylum Bill. The bill, alongside changes in social security legislation could mean tens of thousands of asylum seekers thrown onto the streets with no source of income. Not only will asylum seekers have their benefits withdrawn, they will not be able to work as it will be an offence for bosses to employ them.

Already numerous refugees have been declared "bogus" asylum seekers by the home office, and then sent back to face persecution and death in their countries of origin.

Similar attacks are occurring at the same time in France, Italy, Belgium and many other European states. European integration has been fraught with divisions in terms of the economy, with each national bourgeoisie attempting to defend its own interests against other nations. The creation of a "Fortress Europe" however, has



Asylum is a human right

found a much easier passage. This has been marked by the creation of much tighter and uniform immigration laws combined with a strengthened, paramilitary style of policing. The Tories have opposed a common immigration policy in terms of the free movement of people

within the EC, but have been working much more closely in keeping refugees out of Europe.

In conjunction with the bill, Peter Lilly is aiming to stop benefits for the majority of asylum seekers. The benefits will be stopped for all those who don't make an application

immediately on entering Britain. At present this amounts to around 70-80% of all applications. In order to enforce this legislation public sector workers will be expected to check the immigration status of people when they apply for benefits or when they attempt to gain access to public services.

**ment and the Caribbean.**

Although many black people arrived in Britain to find themselves excluded from higher paid jobs, housing or many public places such as bars or restaurants, workers from British colonies had the right to abode in Britain and in general had the same formal rights as other British citizens.

Economic recession from the mid '60s went hand in hand with successive legislation from 1965 to 1971 under both Labour and Tory governments to restrict immigration, though people who are granted the right to live in Britain still have the same right to welfare benefits and social provision as all other citizens.

**The legacy of this imperialist past is that there is now a large settled black community in Britain, the vast majority of whom are British citizens.**

To date there is no category in British law of "immigrant" as exists in many other European states. The proposed law will create such a category.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill will also create a "white List" of countries that are deemed safe and from which all asylum applications will be automatically refused. The original proposed list included Nigeria until outrage following the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists forced the government to withdraw this. Other countries on the "white list" are likely to include Sri Lanka and Algeria. The Home Secretary will be able to add more countries to this list at his discretion without recourse to parliament.

Despite the Tories chauvinist rhetoric against European integration the bill will mean that anyone refused asylum in any other European country will automatically be refused asylum in Britain. This will be achieved

through a list of "safe third countries". If an asylum seeker passes through one of these countries en route to Britain, they can be deported back there.

**The bill will create a criminal offence for anyone to employ a person with no legal right to live in Britain, which will not only make it impossible for many refugees to find any source of income, but will encourage employers not to employ any black people.**

Measures to speed up appeals procedures will make it extremely difficult for asylum seekers to prepare documentation for their cases, particularly since legal aid will also be withdrawn for many refugees.

To implement these laws there will be numerous forms of internal immigration checks in which black people will be asked to prove their right to live in Britain. The Tory Party has shied away from the introduction of compulsory identity cards in Britain, but the bill will effectively introduce them for black people. Already sectors not covered by the bill have used this to start to implement apartheid style "pass laws". A number of hospitals, for example, have written to Doctors in their area asking them to check the immigration status of patients before they are referred to hospital for treatment.

**Although public opinion has turned against the IAB - it's not enough. A determined Government will force through its policies regardless of it.**

We need to organise. The Campaign Against the Immigration and Asylum Bill (CAIAB) has already brought together Trade unions, Labour Party activists, church groups, anti-racist bodies and refugee organisations. Local branches are emerging in most major towns and cities. If there isn't one where you live, why not try to set one up. Local groups should campaign for Labour Parties or local Councils to resist the social security cuts and for public sector workers to refuse to carry out immigration checks on claimants. A mass campaign backed up by trade union action can force the Tories to scrap their plans.

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 a lot 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.



## Don't just get Angry

**Liberation!** is a newspaper produced by and for young people working together against poverty and injustice. If you want to join your local **Liberation!** group, want extra copies of our newspaper or want more information, send in this coupon.

- Send me my **Liberation!** supporters' card. Here is a cheque/postal order payable to 'Liberation Publishing Association' for £5 (£1 school students & unwaged).
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**This plays a role for the Tories of trying to boost their crumbling support from the electorate.**

It is also aimed at cutting welfare spending. Having lead the economy into crisis, the Tories are desperate funds to manufacture the "feel good factor" that they usually attempt before a general election.

The social security changes have already found numerous stumbling blocks. The Tories originally aimed at introducing their benefit cuts on 8 January, but were forced to postpone them until 5 February.

Lillys were aimed to include existing claimants. Anger at the estimated 13,000 people who would be thrown on the streets overnight forced a partial retreat to include only future claims. On February 5 the high court ruled that these changes should be postponed a second time, following a legal challenge from the Joint Committee for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI).

**The need by British capital for a labour force that could carry out a programme of reconstruction immediately after the second world war meant that immigration was positively encouraged from the Indian sub-cont-**

### Get Active!

**\* Build the National demonstration on February 24. Try raising funds to book coaches through trades councils, student unions, Labour Party branches etc..**

**\* Organise stalls with leaflets publicising the demo.**

**\* Affiliate to CAIAB and raise a resolution in your Trade Union, Student Union, Labour Party etc.**

**\* Students should try organising an event for the Student Week of Action 19-23 February - contact the Student Assembly against Racism, PO Box 3782, London N1 ODD, Tel 0171 247 9907.**

# Tear Down The Walls of Fortress Europe

► Adam Hartman

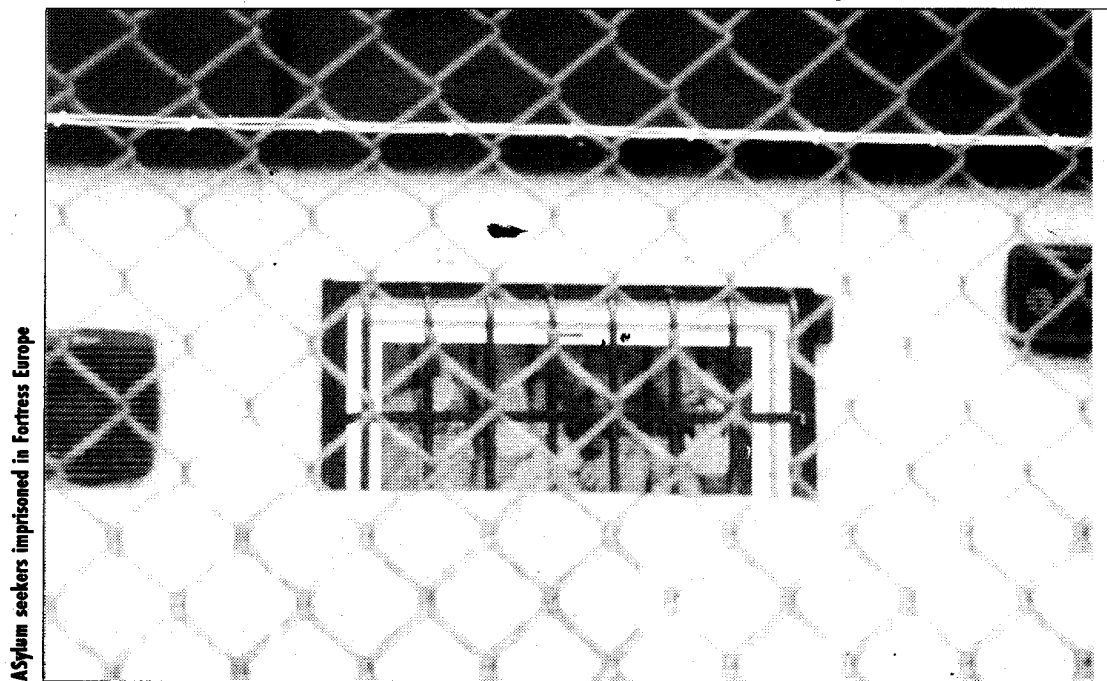
The Tories' Immigration and Asylum Bill is another brick in the wall of Fortress Europe. This wall is designed to exclude non-citizens both inside and outside the European Union from its prosperity. It is central to the project of European integration.

The Single European Act (SEA) opens internal borders to the free movement of EU nationals, allowing them to live, work and get welfare anywhere in the EU.

At the same time it restricts entry into the EU from outside and denies the right of free movement and settlement to non-citizens resident within.

The SEA harmonises the immigration policies of member states, so that the most restrictive becomes the norm. Unaccountable institutions are being set up to direct EU immigration policy.

Fortress Europe is deeply racist. In 1994, a list of 127 countries was drawn up where nationals would need visas to



Asylum seekers imprisoned in Fortress Europe

enter the EU. The populations of these countries are predominantly black. In contrast, the three Commonwealth countries exempted from the list are "white". External border controls are aimed mainly at people in the Third World, whilst internal controls are targeted at black people.

However, Fortress Europe also faces East. Refugees fleeing war and ethnic cleansing in Eastern Europe, notably ex-Yugoslavia,

have already had problems entering and staying in the EU.

Economic crisis is an underlying cause of Fortress Europe. During the 1950s and early 1960s an economic boom in Western Europe created a demand for immigrant workers from the ex-colonies in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. But in the late 1960s/early 1970s, the economies slowed down and went into recession. Governments introduced laws to re-

strict immigration. Fascist parties like the British National Front called for repatriation of immigrants, and mainstream parties played the race card in elections.

As public spending was cut and unemployment rose, immigrants were blamed for taking jobs and services "belonging" to white people. They were scapegoated for the problems caused by recession.

Today, it is almost impossible to enter

the EU legally to work. Most new immigrants are asylum-seekers and unauthorised migrants. The latter number about 4 million in the EU. As illegal immigrants they have no welfare or employment rights, laying them open to intense exploitation by their employers.

EU governments are trying to stop refugees entering Europe. They have imposed visa requirements on refugee-producing

countries and "carrier liability" laws which fine airlines for carrying passengers without the required travel documents. They have tightened the definition of refugee to exclude those fleeing unofficial armed groups.

The Schengen Act allows EU states to turn away asylum-seekers already rejected by another EU state. At the EU Edinburgh Summit in 1992 the Ad-Hoc Group on Immigration proposed that asylum-seekers "should seek protection from their own authorities or the first safe country".

Governments claim that Europe is being "flooded" by bogus refugees scrounging off "our" welfare state. But the main burden of supporting refugees falls upon poor countries. Only 700,000 of the world's recognised refugees live in Europe.

The real welfare-scroungers are the governments and banks who are robbing the Third World of welfare. Britain forces poor countries to cut health care and educa-

tion in order to repay debts to Western banks.

This robbery has a long history. The industrial revolution in Europe was financed by profits from the slave trade. Under the banner of Empire, European capitalists plundered the natural wealth of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and destroyed their economic self-sufficiency, making them dependent on Europe for trade, investment and credit.

This is the root of the economic problems causing migration. Europe is also fuelling the conflict which creates refugees by selling arms to repressive regimes.

Anti-racists must link up across Europe to tear down Fortress Europe and battle against the exploitation and impoverishment of the Third World. The Inter-Governmental Conference in June (which will bring together European heads of state) gives us an ideal opportunity to demonstrate and project an alternative.

## Anti-racist Youth Summer Camp Portugal 20 - 27 July 1996

Meet 1000 young socialists from sixteen European countries at this year's Fourth International Youth Summer Camp in Amarante, northern Portugal.

In a more than friendly atmosphere discuss ideas, exchange experiences, and develop an alternative future on a world scale. Also bake in the sun, swim in the rivers and party until dawn!!.

The central theme addressed at this camp is Anti-Racism. There will also be discussions on state and police repression, women's liberation, school and student struggles, Internationalism, socialism and much more.

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If you're skint, we have several schemes to help you afford the trip.

*Liberation!* is in solidarity with the Fourth International, a revolutionary organisation with supporters in over forty countries.

Socialist Outlook Books

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# Students deal double whammy to Juppé and Maastricht

► George Thompson

**Students were on strike in more than 40 colleges at the height of the recent protests against the French government. Many were out more than four weeks. Although the government's Juppé plan attacked workers, the unemployed and students - it was the latter who first took action.**

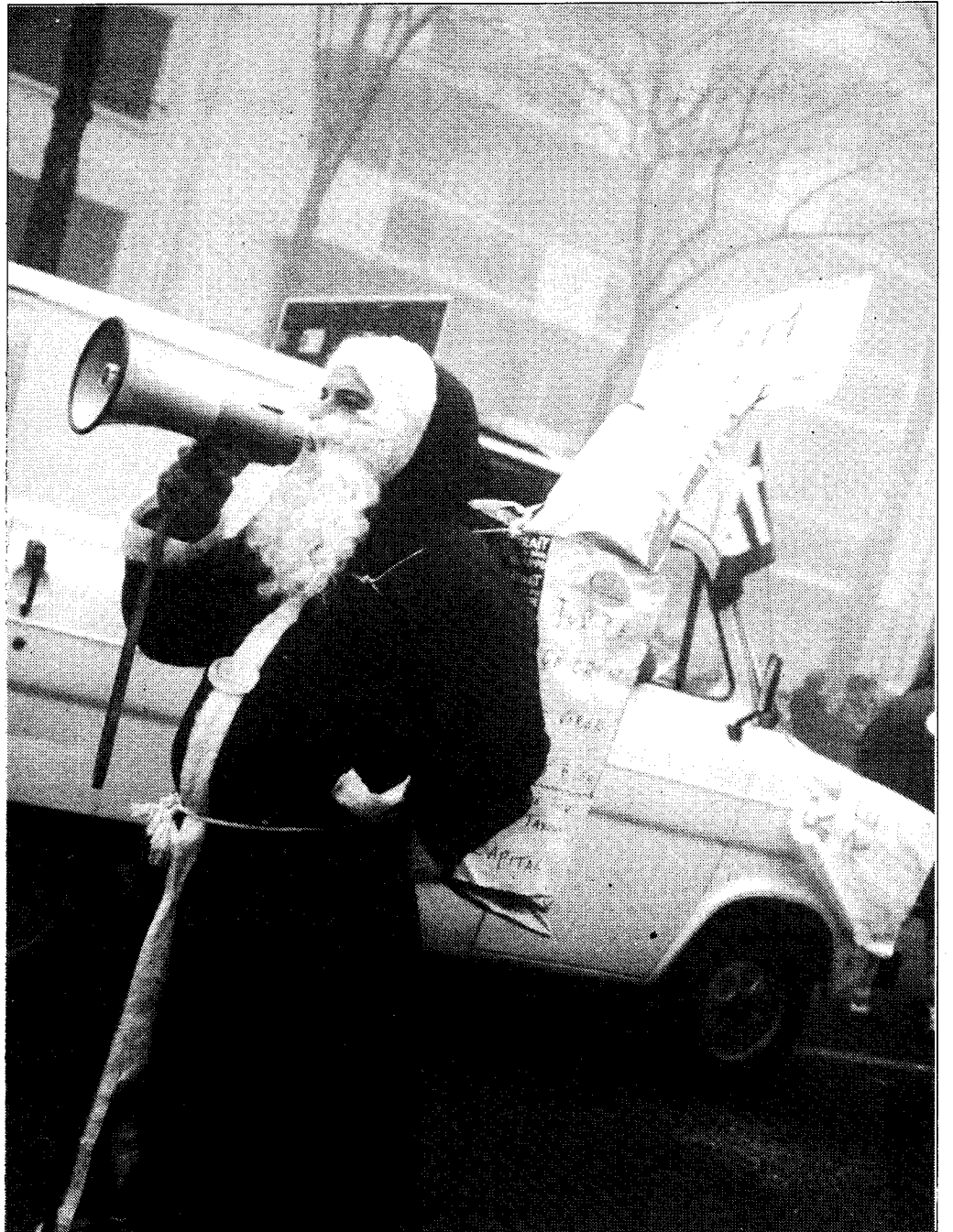
Students were incensed by the lavish spending by the government on a private university outside Paris when conditions of study for students in the public sector were so poor. They demanded more money for buildings and more teachers. Also they wanted the reintegration into the public sector of private universities. Furthermore they fought for equality between French and overseas students. Their militancy has won them huge concessions from the government e.g. a 2000 per cent increase in capital spending on colleges. Their action together with other college staff encouraged other unions to come out on strike against the Juppé plan. Its provisions — to attack people's pension rights, break up the national railway network etc. — brought two million into the streets to protest. There were more people demonstrating

In December than during May 1968. The public transport strikes were so successful in Paris, students could no longer get to their colleges to organise action.

More people would have joined the strikes if trade unionism had been stronger in the private sector and some unions leaders had not opposed them. The French section of the Fourth International, the *Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire* was the only party of the left calling for a general strike. Supporters of Liberation! attending a Paris demo' in December couldn't give out LCR's leaflets quick enough to strikers eager to spread the action.

The dispute sidelined the far right *Front National*, which backed the government and called on people to return to work.

Many of the demands of the protesters have now been met, but Juppé still remains in office. Workers and students



Santa supports the students

must now build a political alternative to the mainstream parties of the left which refused to call for Juppé's dismissal, even though he is now universally despised.

Juppé introduced his plan to help France meet the Maastricht criteria for European Monetary Union [EMU]. Through forcing Juppé to shelve most of its provisions, French students and workers have blown off course EMU and the bosses plans to make Europe's poor pay for the restructuring of European capitalism. We owe them all a debt of gratitude!

## Workers, Students, Solidarity!

► Raoul, Rouen

One of the most important things about the recent struggles in France against the government and the Juppé plan was the solidarity between students and workers.

Workers recognise that it is hardly possible to study in current conditions, and that more and more students are coming from a working-class background.

At the same time, students are feeling more sympathy towards workers' struggles as they realise that their jobs,

wages and social security are at stake in these struggles. And that a degree is no guarantee of a job and a good income.

These attacks are part of the same political project. In refusing to take money from business and the rich, or from military expenditure or private education, the government refuses to finance public service and social protection. In refusing to upset the capitalists, they refuse to adopt the only measures which can reduce unemployment and misery.

All the victims of such policies must unite: from solidarity to a common

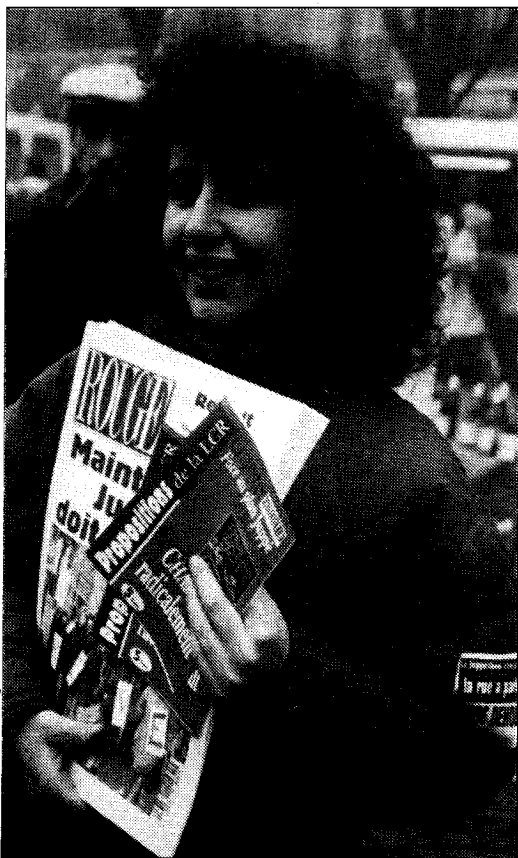
struggle! For only a powerful movement of youth and workers can deliver a blow to stop the movement to the right and win our de-

mands.

"A government against us all, all of us against the government!"

☉ Translation from *Revo-*

*lution, Democratie, Egalité* (the paper of Liberation's sister organisation in France).



The LCR called for a general strike

At last! Ernest Mandel's booklet now back in print!

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# Argentina's 'Evita' - Saint or Sinner?

► Adele McGowan

Madonna is arousing strong passions in Argentina by daring to star as the legendary Eva Peron in the film version of the musical, *Evita*.

The Peronist President Carlos Menem, has described the film planned by Andrew Lloyd-Webber as "a libellous interpretation of Evita's life" and Madonna as "pornographic and unsuitable" to play the role.

Certainly Webber's musical is tongue in cheek, centring on a fictitious relationship between Evita and the revolutionary Che Guevara.

Nevertheless, Madonna as Evita is better casting than David Essex as Che in the original version. She has a striking resemblance to Evita and like her role-model has a rags to riches story, a background in music and film, and is an assertive woman.

However Madonna's sexual assertiveness will not be welcomed by many Argentinians in her portrayal of her heroine.

Webber plays on the tiring old theme Evita slept her way to the top. As Evita is regarded by many as a Saint this is unthinkable. Her promiscuity may be true, but a film that dwells solely on it doesn't capture the essence of



In bed with Guevara?

what made her a heroine of the masses - the political role she played.

She married General Juan Peron in 1944, whilst he was still Minister of Labour. Although Evita described their relationship as 'he the figure, I the shadow', she soon developed her own political profile.

The General's reform programme won him support in the trades unions and frightened the landed oligarchy. As a result the

latter tried to prevent him taking Presidential office in 1945. Luckily Evita was on hand to call a huge demonstration to frustrate a coup.

After the war, Argentina had a boom created by supplying the imperialist powers materials to put them back on their feet again. Industry grew, the Welfare State was developed, there was a redistribution of wealth to the poor and the trade unions became stronger. This al-

lows people to remember Evita's time of influence as a golden era.

Peron introduced as Minister of Labour protective legislation for women and an Equal Pay Act. In 1947 there was women's suffrage.

Evita formed a Women's Party to push forward such reforms. Her view was "just as only the workers can wage their own struggle for liberation, so too can only women be the salvation of women".

Yet she was a contradictory feminist, always stressing her total devotion and subordination to her patriarchal, populist husband.

Evita set up a Foundation to build schools and hospitals and personally dished out funds to deserving causes. Her affinity with the 'shirtless ones' and the early reforms of Juan Peron made her despised by the bourgeoisie.

Webber's depiction of

Evita is largely based on the way they saw her at the time. Their view she was too close to the communists has been translated by him into her bedding Che Guevara.

Many on the far left did have illusions in Peronism. The first Peronist Government did introduce social reforms and rhetorically attacked US imperialism. Although the General was willing to do the bourgeoisie's bidding to repair a faltering economy in the 1950's, he never had much time to show it, before he was overthrown in 1955. It was still common to see portraits of Juan and Eva Peron held alongside portraits of Guevara and Castro on demos in Latin America in the early 1970's.

Juan Peron was always careful to keep rigid control of the workers movement, through his appointment of bureaucrats to police trade unions. He won support from the workers at a time of prosperity, but he still argued "defence of the interests of businessmen, industrialists and tradesmen is the very defence of the state".

Evita's death at 33 years old from cancer allowed her image to remain untarnished by Juan's later deeds.

He alienated his radical left supporters by preaching conciliation between

the military and the workers during his time out of office. The Montoneros which took up arms against successive juntas and the Peronist youth idolised Evita instead. The military stole her corpse and kept it in hiding until 1971, because they feared it providing a rallying point for the opposition.

The legend of Evita was used to inspire workers to take on the military and bosses. Yet her husband was returned to power in the 70's with their support to stabilise capitalist rule, at a time of massive social unrest.

The "Dirty War" really began under Juan's supervision. The gangsters and gorillas surrounding Isabel, his second wife helped form the death squads of the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance.

These goons and the military would murder thousands of Socialists under the General, Isabel and the juntas that followed. Peron accused the Fourth International as the main threat to his Government. He said "You can't stop it in any way, because it is organised on a worldwide basis".

Before her death Evita never broke with the politics of her husband. Many ordinary Argentinians did later and paid for it with their lives. If Evita had been a Saint, she would have been on their side.

## Sex! Read all about it!

Are you old enough to read this article? Recently, several Conservative and Labour MPs supported a Periodicals (Protection of Children Bill) proposed by Peter Luff, Tory MP for Worcester to protect girls and young women from all those dreadful articles about sex. Age limits on magazines, as there are for films, were suggested.

So what's so frightening about young women's magazines that we need to be protected from their effect? Elkie Dee looked at a few.

Sugar Horrible name for a girls' mag. An article on "Sex Myths You Should Never Believe" emphasises that girls shouldn't have sex until they're ready, and stresses the value of trust, respect and love (yawn). Steamy packaging, disappointing content.

Just 17 The problem pages carry a warning: "Remember: to be sussed is a must but sex under 16 is illegal" and this shows the confusion of these magazines. The law that says a 15 year old woman is incapable of making her own decisions about sex is accepted here without question. Sex is the central issue but they can't really be too explicit.

There is a discussion of whether Gemma (16) should sleep with her boyfriend, under pressure from him to say yes. The magazine speaks to Gemma, boyfriend Darren, best friend Katie and mum. Gemma doesn't want to. Fine. But sometimes girls are the ones who want to try having

sex. Why does this mag stick to the stereotype of passive woman, demanding man.

Girl Talk I found this one really scary! Aimed at 8 year-olds, this is clearly meant to brainwash its readers into being nice little girls. Absolutely no sex, lots of cute little animals - Luff would love it!

19 Cover headlines contrast "Willies, weirdos and me: girls in the sex industry" with "Why I gave up boys for God: a young nun's story". 19 is still obsessed with boys but at least they acknowledge that young women have sex for fun, not just to please boys or because they're in "lurve".

More! is unashamedly tacky. Sex is the central issue, a key selling point, no doubt. Regular features are "Sex Talk", "Position of the Fortnight" and "Horny Horoscopes". Doesn't bother with too many of the niceties of the other magazines. Sex for fun is OK although heterosexual monogamy is still presented as an ideal. But at least the More! woman is more assertive.

More! and 19 are the best of these magazines, clearly aimed at older readers than the others. But isn't it better a young woman, even a very young woman, having sex or thinking about it, reads these and gets useful information about using contraception and having a good time, than that she worries about the right age or time to have sex?

A feminist criticism of women's magazines for younger and older readers is that they encourage women to think of themselves solely in relation to boys/men, and that they are filled with advertising and pictures to sell make-up, clothes and other consumer goods.

All this is true. At least the coverage of sex, though, does something to prepare women for real life and maybe to question it. Perhaps this is what politicians are afraid of.

## 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.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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





# Boycotting workfare

► Nigel Danby, CPSA North Humberside (personal capacity)

**On April 9 the Tories plan to introduce US-style workfare into Britain. The Project Work scheme will be tested out first in Hull and Maidstone.**

Project Work replaces the compulsory Restart programme for those unemployed two years or more. Restart lasts two weeks. The new scheme takes six months: three months Job Club, three months work experience. Benefit is lost if you refuse to go on the scheme, drop out or are 'disruptive'.

Young people will be hardest hit, not just because they are more likely to be

unemployed. After October 1996, young single people will have no right to DSS hardship payments if their benefit is stopped.

Thousands of young people are already living on £35 a week Income Support. The new system will leave many literally penniless.

Job Centre workers here are angry at being chosen to carry out the Tories' latest attack on the jobless. There is little pretence from management that Project Work will help the unemployed. They live in the same fantasy world as the Tories - the jobless are to blame for their situation and deserve to be punished.

CPSA opposes Project Work as an at-

tack on the unemployed and as part of the preparation for the Job Seeker's Allowance. CPSA policy is to boycott anything to do with JSA. On Project Work, the way forward is clear. With the Employment Service permanently understaffed, strike action would wreck Project Work.

The fight against workfare, though, cannot be won by Job Centre workers alone. Hull Trades Council is to launch a campaign against Project Work, involving other trades unionists, Labour Party members and the unemployed. Only by unity in action against Project Work can we tell the Tories - and Labour's Gordon Brown - where to stick their workfare schemes.

**Get Active!**

**Contact Nigel Danby, TU side office, Crosskill House, Job Centre, Mill Lane, Beverly, East Yorks, HU17 7NH. Please mark your envelope 'in confidence'.**

# North West marches against JSA

► George Thompson

**All unemployed youth between 18 and 24 will automatically face a cut in Unemployment Benefit of between 20 and 60 per cent if the Tories new Job Seekers Allowance is introduced.**

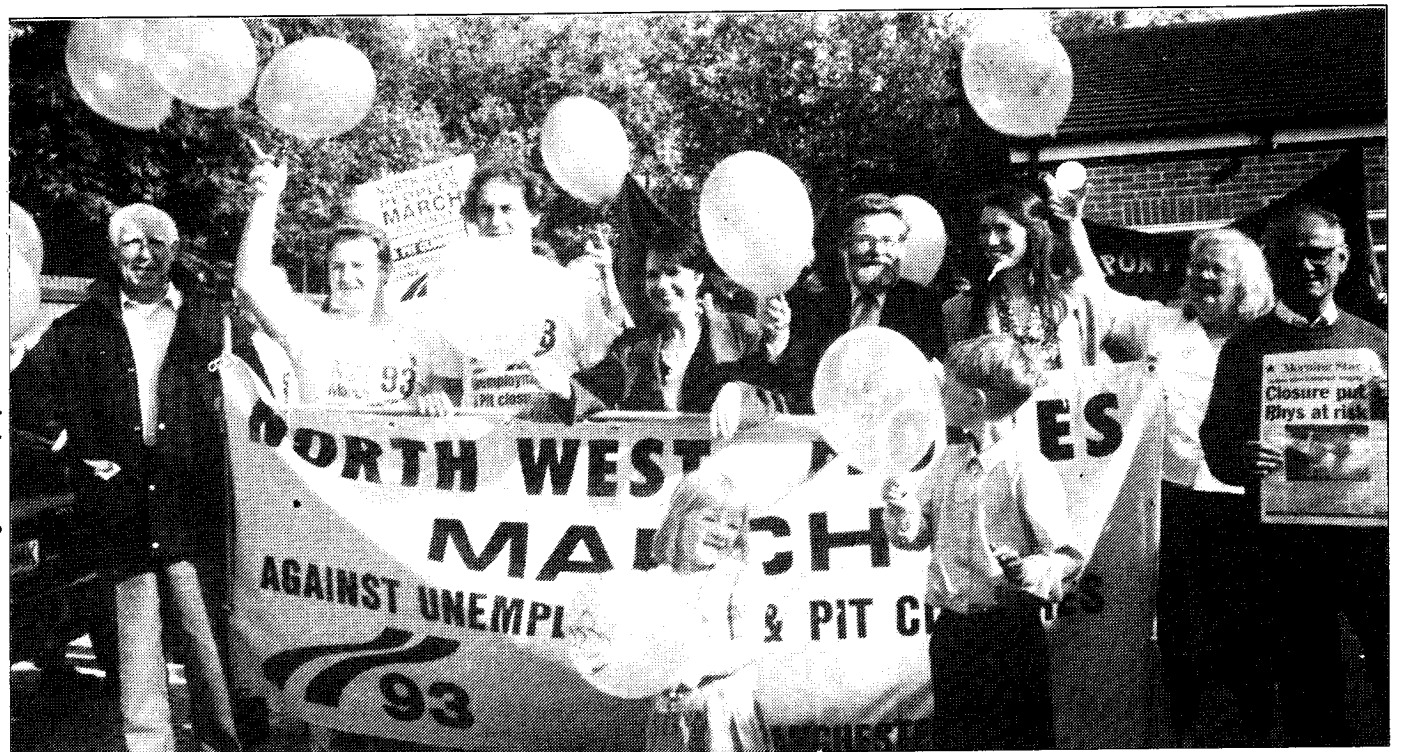
If you walk out of a job you won't receive any benefit for the first two weeks. Also Employment Service staff will have more powers to force claimants to take up poorly paid jobs and go on slave labour schemes etc. It's Workfare in Britain.

The reaction of workers in benefit offices to the JSA has so far been excellent (see above). But also the unemployed, trades councils and welfare state campaigners are organising a series of protests in opposition to it in coming months.

A North West march against the JSA is being organised by the Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester County Associations of Trades Union Councils to coincide with a National Conference to Defend the

**Get Active!**

**For more info on the JSA and local events - write to Liberation!**



North West march in 1993 against unemployment

Welfare State on the March 23. The march will start at 10am in Cavendish Street, Manchester and there will be a rally at the Mechanics Institute at 11.30am where the Conference is being held. Speakers will include Audrey Wise MP and the General Secretary of the

NUCPS.

Also Unemployed Workers Centres are building a lobby of Parliament on the 18th April, when the JSA is being introduced. There are many local meetings in the coming months.

## War on Welfare

**Claimants may soon have to prove their entitlement to benefits or lose them under a plan being considered by the Tories. In cuts of a quarter to the running costs of the DSS, they will undergo the same procedures faced by asylum seekers at present. Even the Tories are split on the cuts. Peter Lilley in a leaked memo complained about their devastating impact. Kenneth Clarke has spoken publicly of his fears that deep cuts now would cause demonstrations like those seen in Paris.**