

# Socialist Worker

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POISONING OUR  
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# Stop Ahern using strike breakers against teachers



**An injury to one  
is an injury to all!**

## Cork protests

**LOCAL CAMPAIGNERS** in Cork are fighting plans for a landfill dump on the northern fringe of the city.

Lotamore Lake Nature Reserve Group are highlighting plans by McSweeney Demolition to use a local piece of blanket bog for dumping builders waste.

Bill Hutchinson told *Socialist Worker*: "This wetland provides precious breeding sites for wild birds and natural habitat for rare wild life. As well as that it is a local source of drinking water."

"A dump will destroy the amenity for ever and threaten to pollute water supplies."

"Cork County Council have given their approval as have An Bord Pleanála and the Environmental Protection Agency is to give its final decision on May 7th."

"We are organising a campaign of sending objections to the EPA and Cork County Council."

## Legal eagle takes on tobacco victims

**FORMER Attorney General Dermott Gleeson** has been appointed by five major cigarette companies to defend them against High Court action by 500 former smokers.

Gleeson is on the board of directors of both Independent Newspapers and AIB. He represented AIB during the DIRT inquiry.

**★ ABORTION REFORM**, an umbrella organisation for pro-choice groups and individuals, has launched legislation that would allow for the implementation of the 1992 Supreme Court ruling in the X-case.

The legislation would allow abortions to be performed in Ireland where there was a risk to life of the mother in the case of suicide.

### Risk

Currently women who are a risk of suicide resulting from pregnancy have to travel to Britain in order to receive medical intervention to save their lives.

Over 100 women are forced to travel to Britain everyday to have abortions.

★ More reports from campaigns and industry and the unions turn to page 10 and 11

## Esat scandal reveals:

# Fine Gael's dirty hands

**IN 1995, Denis O'Brien's company, Esat Digifone, was awarded a lucrative mobile-phone licence by Michael Lowry, then minister for transport, energy and communications, and the Fine Gael government.**

O'Brien paid only £15 million and made a £221 million fortune when he sold Esat Digifone to British Telecom years later.

A month after Esat won the licence, David Austin, a wealthy Fine Gael supporter, asked O'Brien to take two tables at a New York function to raise funds for the party.

Some \$50,000 came from Telenor, the Norwegian phone company which owned 40 percent of Esat.

### Appointed

David Austin was a friend of Michael Lowry and was appointed to the board of Aer Lingus by Lowry.

Coincidentally Austin was a director of Jefferson Smurfit Ltd. When Michael Smurfit wanted to give £60,000 to Fianna Fail he sent Austin to do the deal with Haughey's bagman Des Traynor via the Ansbacher accounts.

In government in the mid-nineties, Fine Gael cleared huge debts, as the wealthy rushed to "support the democratic process".

They have refused to explain where the money came from.

## Casey's back

**True Lives: The Seminary**, will be shown on RTE 1. The programme follows three young student priests in Maynooth for a year.

One of them is called Eamon Casey, and he reveals in the programme that the biggest issue he struggled with while training for the priesthood was celibacy.

Not so much not being able to have sex but having to give up the idea of having children, said Casey.



Lowry and O'Brien launching Esat

## Friends in low places

**DENIS O'BRIEN** likes to portray himself as a thrusting entrepreneur who doesn't need any state help.

Yet, the Esat deal was all about government handing wealth to business.

In the run up to the deal O'Brien hired a rake of political advisors to help him out, including:

- Fine Gael Deputy leader, Jim Mitchell, who was then a government minister.

- Charlie Haughey's spin doctor PJ Mara

- Paurig O'hUiginn, who made £3.5 million out of the Esat deal was an advisor to both Charlie Haughey and Bertie Ahern

- Fianna Fail TD Conor Lenihan

A special deal was done so Esat could put its masts up on the top of Garda stations. The then minister for the environment, Labour's

## BTBSB cover-up

**THE BLOOD** Transfusion Service (BTBSB), five health boards and at least one major Dublin hospital are refusing to release documents concerning their treatment and care of haemophiliacs to the Lindsey tribunal.

The Irish Haemophilia Society (IHS) has condemned the moves as it is suspected that many of the documents contains vital information for those who are seeking compensation after having their lives destroyed after becoming infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood products in the early 1990s.

Brendan Howlin, even changed the Planning Act directly benefit to Esat.

Denis O'Brien is worth at least £398 million. While he owns a £7million pad in Ballsbridge, his love of golf (and taxes) keeps him in Portugal where he lives. He controls the non-union

98FM radio station.

O'Brien's power company Epower, is currently trying to get contracts in the run up to ESB privatisation, which may explain why he gave £50,000 each to Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats last year.



## All worlds for sale

**CORPORATIONS** are not content with slapping patents on everything on earth.

**US** company SpaceDev has set its sights higher. Founder of the company Jim Benson has plans to place legal claims on parts of outer space, beginning with an asteroid.

He says, "Property

rights in space are a necessary ingredient to encourage humanity to climb up off the surface of the earth.

"SpaceDev's Near Earth Asteroid Prospector will be going out to a small lifeless body, of which there are millions, and we will claim ownership in order to set a precedent. I think that is a very positive thing to do."

# Racist flotels launched again

**Fianna Fail is planning to reintroduce the idea of using flotels to house asylum seekers in the coming months. A retired harbour master from Galway has been engaged by the Office of Public Workers to assess their sustainability.**

The government were forced last year to shelve plans to building flotels after widespread opposition from anti-racist groups who argued that flotels were akin

to floating prison ships and were criminalising refugees.

Meanwhile the government's plan to introduce the compulsory screening of asylum seekers for infectious diseases, has been condemned by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr Mike Ryan who coordinates the WHO's global alert team on infectious diseases said that mandatory screening was an aggressive system which compromises human rights. "The best system is one that allows a person access to a doctor without fear that they will be deported if they are carrying a disease", he said.

## This man is a liar



Ray Burke: lied through his teeth

"I **CHOSE** to deal in cash," is how Ray Burke explained himself to the Tribunal. £20,000 in cash lay in his house for six months in 1994 because the political scene was phrenetic and he "just didn't get around to doing it".

And according to Burke there was nothing unusual about raising £50,000 or £60,000 between elections. Everybody did it. The best, most successful of

them all was none other than the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

The disgraced government minister, Ray Burke, broke the law when he ignored exchange control regulations in the 1980s and transferred money to his offshore accounts in Jersey.

He lied in the Dail when he said he didn't have any offshore accounts and he claimed he was not "flush" with money, when there was £127,000 in one of his bank accounts.

## Arrested for not watching TV

**TWO TEENAGERS** from Ohio, USA were locked up in a local juvenile detention centre for truancy after walking out of their classrooms in protest against the compulsory viewing of Channel One. Channel One is a private in-school broadcaster, showing a daily compulsory 12 minute current affairs programme with two minutes of adverts targeted at children. In return the schools get no cash, but

can use the equipment in other lessons.

Commercial Alert and Obligation, Inc., two anti-media groups, have taken up the kids' cause, saying "When the government sends children to a juvenile detention centre because they don't want to watch advertising, that is both Orwellian and more than a little sick. The public schools ought to be a sanctuary from the noxious aspects of commercial culture."

## what we think

# AS GOVERNMENT ORGANISES STRIKE BREAKING: SUPPORT THE TEACHERS

**THE government are trying to break the teachers. Education Minister, Michael Woods, has given the go ahead for organised strike breaking.**

Advertisements are appearing in the national press to recruit strike-breakers who will take on the job of teachers in supervising exams. The government is even trying to gain recruits from non-union British exam boards to do their dirty work.

Woods has stooped so low that he is also using the Foot and Mouth panic. He says people who take on the work of teachers will be showing "the same civic spirit evident in the Foot and Mouth crisis".

### Smuggling

This is sickening hypocrisy. If Woods and his government wanted to see 'civic spirit' they should have arrested Larry Goodman, the owner of the Kepac plant, which was involved in smuggling sheep that had contact with the virus. They should not be invoking the crisis to attack trade unionists.

The real reason for this offensive is that the government wants to force every worker to stick by the miserly terms of the partnership pay deal.

The majority of teachers voted against this deal. But the gov-

ernment, the employers, the Labour Court and the ICTU want to ram it down their throats.

There are no controls over any other item such as rents, profits or the price of building land in the Celtic Tiger.

### Smash

The only thing that is controlled is wages. The government wants to smash the ASTI in order to maintain this state of affairs because they know it brings huge profits for their rich friends.

This is also why the Labour Court has dropped all pretence at neutrality. It has offered absolutely nothing to the teachers but instead told them they must go back into a 'benchmarking process' even though they voted overwhelmingly against this.

If the government gets away with breaking the ASTI, then trade union organisation in the public sector could be decisively weakened.

It could have a similar effect to the postal strike in 1979 when Fianna Fail sent the Gardai in to attack the postal workers — and then used their defeat as a warning to other workers.

That is why every trade unionist should get behind the teachers.

## NO BENCHMARKING

**ASTI HAVE** rightly rejected the option of having their pay benchmarked.

- Benchmarking means waiting until 2002 for a pay rise. Teachers can barely keep up with the cost of living today. Why should they have to wait another year and a half before they get a pay rise?

- The Benchmarking Body has a majority of people who want to limit public service pay. They are not likely to give teachers a decent reward.

- Teachers will not be able to claim for past productivity. The Labour Court has already ruled out this as grounds for a pay rise.

- Benchmarking means aligning conditions with those in the private sector. A pay rise for teachers will be at the expense of longer hours and shorter holidays.

- Benchmarking involves performance related pay. This pits teachers against each other and disadvantages those who work in poorer areas.

## Protest against neo-liberalism



**THOUSANDS OF** protesters took to the streets of Italy to demonstrate against free market policies outside a meeting of environment ministers from the G8 industrialised nations. Some 3,000 riot police with teargas guns moved into the city of Trieste in order to stop them. The protesters chanted at the police, "You should be ashamed! What are you scared of? Are you scared of defending your planet?" The Trieste meeting was the first time environment ministers have met since the Hague summit last November. The Hague meeting failed to make progress on implementing the Kyoto agreement to cut pollution in order to tackle global warming.

## HOW TO SUPPORT THE ASTI

**THE GOVERNMENT** is using divisions between the teachers unions to isolate the ASTI. The main reason for these divisions is the behaviour of the leaders of the other two unions, TUI and INTO.

The TUI leaders cancelled a special conference on pay because they knew it would come out in support of the ASTI. They are following an ICTU directive to isolate the ASTI.

Rank and File teachers now have to unite at ground level to change this state of affairs.

- Their unions should now withdraw from all exam work because of the strikebreaking tactic.

- ASTI should picket all schools where they have members and call on other unions to join the strike.

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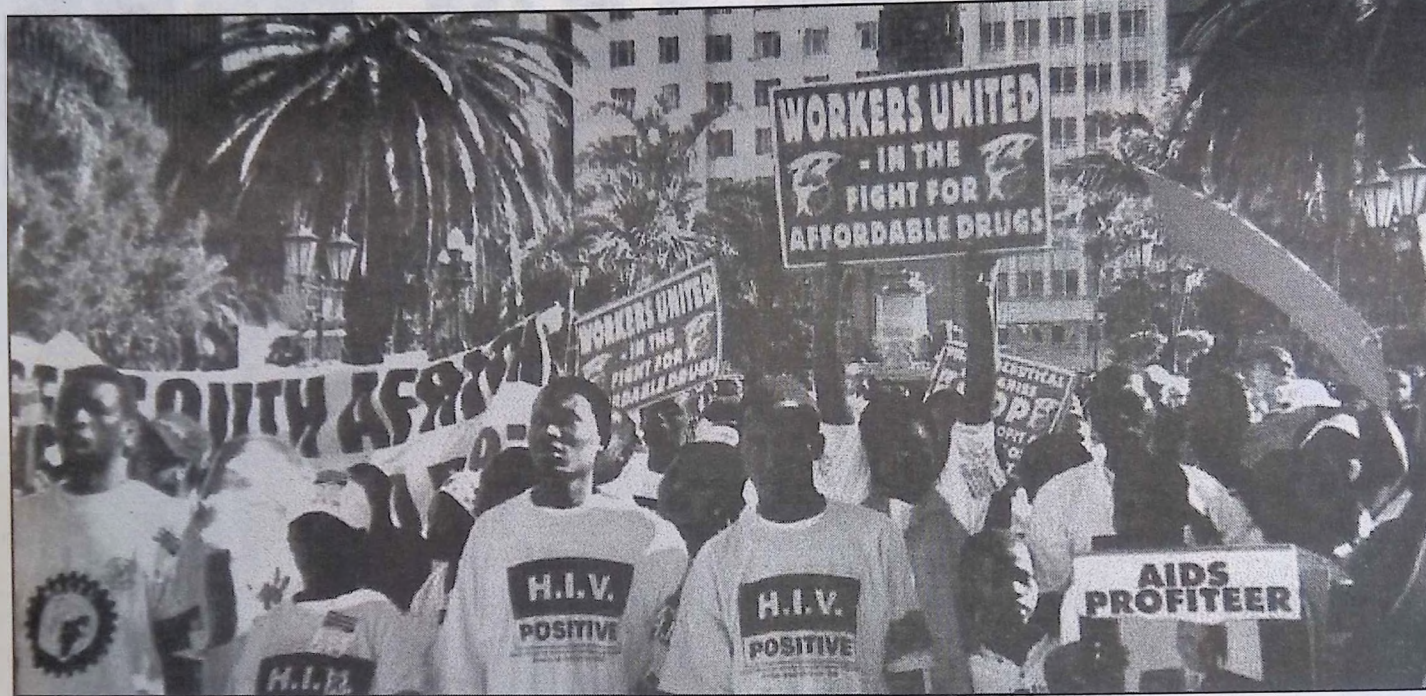
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# news of the world

## Blow for Drug Companies



South African trade unionists protest against drug companies

THE GIANT pharmaceutical companies who are trying to stop the South African government producing cheap anti-retroviral drugs for AIDS and HIV sufferers have suffered a major blow.

A South African court has ordered them to reveal their closely guarded business secrets, including their pricing policies.

The AIDS drugs produced by companies such as GlaxoSmithKline cost about \$15,000 dollars but South Africa has produced a generic equivalent, which costs only \$600.

Even the boss of GlaxoSmithKline, Jean-Pierre Garnier, described his own company as "a financial monster".

Anti-capitalist protestors demonstrated across the world as the case opened. The case has now been adjourned for six weeks.

# Zapatistas march into Mexico

**THE ZAPATISTA guerrillas have marched into the Mexico city, and the most well known of its leader, Sub-commandante Marcos, hopes to address the Mexican congress after a mass rally in the city.**

SOME 10,000 people gathered in San Cristobal de las Casas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas to launch the march.

In the days afterwards thousands-strong crowds gathered in towns along the route as the convoy of Zapatista leaders slowly travelled almost 2,000 miles towards the capital, Mexico City. The guerrillas' entry to the city deliberately echoes that in 1914 of the man whose name they have adopted, Emiliano Zapata.

### Revolution

Zapata was a key leader of a peasant army in the revolution which swept Mexico from 1910, and which briefly took control of the capital.

Today's Zapatistas began their fight six years ago, when in January 1994 they

rose in rebellion in Chiapas.

The Zapatista uprising signalled the beginnings of a revolt against neo-liberalism. As the Mexican daily *La Jornada* newspaper put it, "The Zapatista movement was an important precursor of the movement which has developed through the protests in Seattle, Washington, Australia and Prague."

The Zapatista National Liberation Army is based

among the Mayan Indian population of Chiapas, though some of its leaders were former urban activists who moved to the remote area.

The Mayans in Chiapas are mainly peasants and rural labourers, and are among the poorest people in Mexico. Sometimes they have suffered brutal repression at the hands of local landowners and officials.

In the years since the

1994 rebellion the Zapatistas have sought to negotiate with the Mexican government. But until now those attempts have come to little.

The government has sought to crush the Zapatistas, and there have been several massacres by Mexican troops and right wing paramilitaries.

Despite the threats and repression the Zapatistas have kept up the struggle.

## POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

**THE ZAPATISTA march comes against the background of a profound political upheaval in Mexico. Last year the ruling PRI party was defeated in the election for a new president, losing its near total grip on power for the first time in over 70 years. Through the 1990s the PRI had pioneered a drive to open Mexico up to US-based multi-nationals.**

The new president, Vicente Fox, wants to continue that drive. He is a

former Coca-Cola executive. Many US and other multinational firms already have factories in Mexico, taking advantage of cheap labour. These "maquiladoras" are mainly concentrated near the Mexican-US border.

Fox and US big business would like to extend that to other areas of Mexico, including the south. To make this possible Fox hopes to end the conflict in Chiapas to help stabilise the region for big business.

That has led to him to make proposals for "peace" with the Zapatistas, suggesting increased political rights for the Mayan Indians in Chiapas and other

oppressed Indian minority groups.

President Fox, along with the country's main TV channels, has welcomed the march as "a step towards peace".

They hope to entice the Zapatistas into accepting a deal which gives very limited change. But Fox's neo-liberal drive will continue to fuel the conditions that sparked the original Zapatista revolt.

The important question is whether the Zapatista movement links up with wider struggles by workers, students and others in Mexico's giant cities to challenge the whole neo-liberal agenda.

## NATO's hypocrisy on 'ethnic cleansing'

**"WE DIDN'T wage war over Kosovo in order to replace ethnic cleansing by Serbs with ethnic cleansing by Albanians" said George Robertson, secretary general of NATO.**

But that's precisely what NATO has done. Since its occupation army, K-For, took control of Kosovo in June 1999, leaders of the Albanian nationalist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) have been waging a reign of terror against the Serbian minority. Landmines caused carnage to a Serbian convoy three weeks ago.

Now the bloodshed is threatening to spread

throughout the region. Macedonia has closed its border with Kosovo last Sunday after three soldiers were killed.

Some 30 percent of the population of Macedonia are Albanian. The KLA leadership want to carve out a Greater Albania from Albania, Kosovo, and parts of southern Serbia, Macedonia, and Greece.

Another group, called the National Liberation Army (NLA), has started operations in Macedonia.

These Albanian guerrilla campaigns have been allowed to flourish in part because they operate in zones for which the US is responsible.

the new Yugoslav regime under Vojislav Kostunica.

According to US security consultants Stratfor, "The United States wants to settle the Kosovo problem peacefully and, more importantly, to integrate Yugoslavia into a programme for long term regional stability."

This doesn't suit the Albanian nationalist leaders as they can only hope to achieve a Greater Albania with Western support.

Improved relations among existing states is an obstacle to Albanian nationalist hopes of tearing up most of the borders in the region.

That is why they are now stepping up their efforts to provoke a new war.

All this is entirely predictable. Indeed, it was predicted by the opponents of Western intervention.

We warned that by first helping to bring about the collapse of Yugoslavia, and then backing Croat and Albanian nationalism as a counterweight to Milosevic, the Western powers were condemning the Balkans to a future of ethnic wars.

Now the US and its allies are trying to put the genie back in the bottle.

They won't find it easy.

### CIA

A senior European K-For battalion commander told the *Observer* "The CIA has been allowed to run riot in Kosovo with a private army designed to overthrow Slobodan Milosevic."

"Now he's gone the US State Department seems incapable of rein-ing in its bastard army".

The problem that the Albanian nationalist leaders now face is that, since the overthrow of Milosevic, the Western powers are seeking improved relations with

# Eamonn

# McCann

## Back into a dead end

GERRY KELLY of Sinn Fein was right when he denounced the Real IRA as having "no mandate whatsoever" for the bombing campaign which hit the headlines again with the March 4th blast outside the BBC News building in London.

But Kelly was wrong when he went on to imply that the IRA in the past has always been careful to ensure that it did have a mandate for "armed struggle".

This wasn't true of the bombing campaign in Britain in the 1930s and early '40s, or of the 1956-62 "border campaign", or of the more recent campaign of the Provisionals, in which Gerry Kelly himself played a prominent and well-publicised part.

### Proclaimed

Nor was it true of the Easter Rising of 1916 which proclaimed a Republic in the name of the people but hardly at the direct behest of the people.

So the Real IRA have a point when they say they are merely continuing a "war" which can be traced back to 1916 and which the Provos abandoned when they called their ceasefire.

It is this aspect of the activities of the so-called "dissidents" which lends them a degree of plausibility among discontented people in Catholic working-class areas of the North and among "traditional" Republicans elsewhere.

But just because a group can make a case for its Republican authenticity doesn't mean that it has right on its side.

The Real IRA campaign can't be seen simply as a continuation of the Provo campaign. One major difference lies in the fact that the Provos' "armed struggle" developed organically out of a genuine mass movement — the civil rights movement of the late 1960s and early '70s.

It was when marches and rallies for basic equality were met with repression and murder that some decided to take up the gun and the bomb and looked to Republicanism for the means to do it.

This wasn't the only conclusion it was possible to draw from the thwarting of the civil rights movement, and not the conclusion socialists advocated and argued for at the time.

But it was a conclusion rooted in actual, material circumstance, not introduced from outside in the name of abstract historical necessity.

Many people who rejected Republican ideology in general, and who opposed the strategy of armed struggle in particular, nevertheless recognised that the Provos were an expression of genuinely-felt mass anger against the repressive presence of the machinery of the British State.

The Real IRA, on the other hand, wasn't generated from below but rather resulted from a split in the Provisional IRA over the leadership's acceptance of a settlement which left Northern Ireland constitutionally within the UK.

### Agitation

That is, the group didn't emerge from grassroots agitation against the Agreement, from a felt need on the streets for a continuation of the armed struggle which the Provos were in the process of calling off.

It came into existence as an encapsulation of ideological purity and as a means of discharging a perceived historical duty.

Thus, in its propaganda the RIRA doesn't seek the support of the people for the armed struggle but claims the allegiance of the people because of the armed struggle.

And the "people" the RIRA primarily has in mind are the Catholic Nationalists of the North, not the working class of the area or of Ireland as a whole.

The attitude of socialists to the war of words between the Provos and the "dissidents" is not to plump for one side or the other but to recognise the row as the latest example of a persistent phenomenon whereby Republicanism, because of its all-class composition, finds itself torn between compromise with imperialism on the one hand and the isolation of the uncorruptible on the other.

Fight PFI ... Fight PFI ... Fight PFI ... Fight

# McGuinness gives schools to crooks

MARTIN MCGUINNESS and Sean Farren are handing over schools and further education colleges in Northern Ireland to some of the most corrupt building firms in Ireland.

The Northwin Consortium was awarded four out of six Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects set up in 1999. One of the main players in Northwin is Farran's, a subsidiary of the massive Cement Roadstone Holdings building group based in the South.

### Notorious

Cement Roadstone were one of the most notorious companies in the Ansbacher tax-avoidance corruption scandal in recent years. Seven of the 15 directors were holders of the off-shore Ansbacher accounts which enabled them to avoid tax. Des Taynor, Charlie Haughey's bagman, was a director. CRH benefitted from massive government contracts by stuffing the back pockets of politicians.

### Handed

Northwin were handed new building projects at the North West Institute in Derry, the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education, Balmoral High School and Wellington College.

Each of these deals promises millions for Northwin. They will effectively own the new buildings for 25 years and lease them back to the government.

At Wellington College in South Belfast, Northwin are building a new school in one corner of the grounds. The extensive



SF leaders now look to big business

playing fields will be used to build a private housing development.

McGuinness' announcement of £132 million investment in schools last week was widely received as long overdue spending on an education sector which has been crippled with underfunding.

The Inspector of schools estimates that there are at least 100 schools in the North in urgent need of repairs at an estimated cost of £500 million. St Patricks Primary School in Derry, one of those awarded new funding, has relied on temporary portable classrooms for 31 years. Seventeen of the new school building projects will be built using direct government money.

But the rest comes with an expensive price tag. £70 million of the planned

investment, for a further eight secondary school projects, is in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

These are deals with private sector firms who retain control of the schools and are leased them back at a profit.

### Promoting

In effect it is mortgaging the future. McGuinness' Education Department has been actively promoting the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in the education sector since 1996.

McGuinness and Farren support PFI and PPP by claiming that necessary funding can't be met by the public sector.

Yet the single contract awarded to arms multina-

tional Raytheon to build a missile guidance system for the Ministry of Defence is worth £800 million, far more than is needed to fund all the necessary school repairs.

PFI was invented by the Tory party in Britain as a means of pushing privatisation into every area of life, from health to education.

The litany of disasters in Britain, of hospitals built on the cheap, fewer beds, staff employed by private agencies, is what PFI promises.

The PFI schemes often mean that the government pays twice the original cost of the project.

Now a former high ranking member of the IRA is implementing economic policies designed by his Thatcherite foes.

## Stand up to NIHE threats

THE NORTHERN Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) has caused great fear in working class communities across the North by threatening to evict tenants who are in arrears of rent.

But the NIHE admits that of its nearly 120,000 tenants, in 1999/2000 99.24% of all rent due was collected. This equates to £286 millions.

### Endemic

Given the levels of poverty and unemployment still endemic in many parts of the North, it is no wonder that some people fall behind on their rents.

The poorer the family, the more difficult it is for them to reduce these arrears out of miserable benefits.

The NIHE figures show that much of the problem with rent arrears has come about since March 2000 — around the time that the Working Family Tax Credit (WFTC) was introduced.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux say that WFTC is to blame for this as it brought some families above the threshold for Housing Benefit.

Tenants who were used to their rent being paid direct to the NIHE from Housing Benefit did not realise that their rent was no longer being paid — until they received eviction notices. The tenants cannot be blamed for this.

The eviction notices should be withdrawn.

# Brown's budget is a con

IN SPITE of headlines of a 'Budget for the poor', Gordon Brown did nothing to improve the lives of those living in greatest poverty.

A 10 percent increase in the minimum wage sounds great until you realise it only brings it up to £4.10 an hour for over 21 year olds. 18-21 year olds are still on a lower rate.

Increases in Working

Family Tax Credit, the new Child Tax Credit and Pensioner Tax Credit offer nothing at all to anyone who doesn't have a job.

New Labour insists that anyone who wants to can find work.

### Chasing

But there are 10 or more people chasing every job advertised in many job centres across the North.

And many of the jobs being advertised are part-time, often less than the 16 hours a week necessary to

get these tax credits.

In areas like the Bogside / Brandywell or the Shankill, half of all households have no one in work. For most of these families, the Budget has delivered just £1.50 a week more.

Most of the new benefits brought in by New Labour over the last four years are means-tested. When they were in opposition, they quite rightly objected to means testing because the poorest people often don't know they are entitled to these benefits and miss out.

Brown and Blair have

talked a lot about extra money to be spent on both health and education.

But while these get a billion pounds extra each, 'defence' is to get an extra THREE billion pounds. The priorities of New Labour are clear.

Brown's warning to the TUC leader made them even clearer.

The *Observer* reported that he told John Monks "after the election, only the NHS and the police will be protected from the private sector".

## Anti-capitalism

# On to Genoa

GENOA IN Italy is set to see a huge demonstration by debt campaigners, environmentalists, anti-capitalists and trade unionists between July 20 and 22nd.

They will be protesting as the leaders of the eight richest countries — the G8 — hold a summit conference. Bankers and politicians will discuss pushing further the neo-liberal agenda of trade "liberalisation" and deregulation.

Drop the Debt — one of the bodies calling the protests — expects the biggest demonstration in Europe yet, against the policies of the bankers and multinationals, which are strangling the Third World.

Trade union federations across Europe are planning their contingents. Already there are signs of big support from trade unionists in France, Italy, Spain and Germany.

The protestors will be demanding that the G8 leaders immediately cancel all the debts of the poorest countries.

Despite promises by world leaders to alleviate the burden of debt, the reality is that nothing has changed.

Debt still causes the death of 19,000 children a day.

The world's poorest countries owe £32 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

And top World Bank official, Isaac Diwan, has revealed that debt reduction has been a fraud. Western governments and banks fiddle the figures so that the poor countries get the benefit of less than half the debt that is written off.

Last June at a special United Nations Millennium Summit of world leaders, pledged to halve world poverty by the year 2015.

But the UN's own International Fund for Agricultural Development committee reports that this is bound to fail. Poverty reduction has actually slowed down over the last decade.

The report found:   
★ Over 1.2 billion people in the world are in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1 a day.

★ In sub-Saharan Africa over half the population struggle to survive below the poverty line.

★ The rate of poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa is six times less than the rate needed to halve poverty.

At the same time, the very world leaders who talk of "poverty reduction" are refusing to offer aid and financial assistance to developing countries.

Between 1987 and 1998, aid for agriculture in developing countries was reduced by two thirds.

A World Bank report released last month, shows aid from rich Western countries to the poorest region of the world, sub-Saharan Africa, fell dramatically during the

by KEVIN WINGFIELD

1990s.

Aid fell from £22 per person in 1990 to £13 per person in 1998.

And the reason things are getting worse is the thirst for profits.

Multinationals and governments invested mainly in African countries with "lucrative mining and oil industries", the report notes.

The poorest, the most desperate, with nothing for the multinationals to exploit, are simply left to rot.

Last month finance officials and bankers from the G8 countries met in Palermo, Sicily, to prepare the agenda for the Genoa summit.

They spoke vaguely that they would discuss "reform" of the World Bank.

But their real aim is to use Genoa to push forward "further trade liberalisation and the next steps in the process that was stalled at Seattle in 1999". From Seattle to Nice and Prague last year, huge demonstrations have opposed the neo-liberal agenda of the multinationals and their governments.

Last summer protestors travelled to Prague from across Europe to join an anti-capitalist protest.

Thirty people joined an Irish delegation of trade unionists and community activists.

A 1500 strong solidarity demonstration took place in Dublin with other actions throughout the country.

Now plans are afoot to send a larger Irish delegation to the Genoa protests.

At a Globalise Resistance conference in Dublin on March 5th, it was agreed to establish a network to start working to build sponsorship.

### What you can do

★ If you want to go to Genoa contact Globalise Resistance through Grace on 086 4098186.

★ Circulate information on the protests to your students union, trade union or community organisation.

## Foot and Mouth crisis shows

# WHY PROFIT POISONING

MOVEMENT IN the countryside has been restricted. Police check the borders — all in a desperate bid to prevent the spread of foot and mouth. Some 60 countries are showing major outbreaks of foot and mouth.

The cause of the crisis is the way the free market dominates and distorts food production.

According to veterinarian researcher, Bill Cashman, "It wasn't rocket science to work out that something like the foot and mouth crisis would break out. Animals carry diseases so the issue [is] when they are transported what are the safeguards."

### Safety

"If you cut costs you end up cutting corners. But across the EU that is what the free trade lobbyists have pushed for. And the Department of Agriculture sees itself as a lobby group for the Irish meat trade rather than regulating for safety.

"Foot and mouth is a caused by putting free trade above safe trade. The problem is the people who make all the money from the free trade don't ending up paying. It is the small farmer and the con-



Burning cattle in England

sumer."

While the Minister for Agriculture is pushing through draconian measures on meat dealers,

he has left the factory owners untouched. The big business end of meat industry is in processing. The abattoirs encourage smuggling and make huge profits out of the extra business.

Some estimates say that up to 15,000 sheep have been smuggled across the border since the outbreak of Foot and Mouth in Britain.

The meat companies pass of the sheep as Irish sheep so they can claim VAT at a reduced rate of 4.3



percent.

The Larry Goodman owned Kepac plant was where smuggled sheep which had contact with Foot and Mouth ended up.

These sheep were passed by Department of Agriculture as safe. In total 13 government officials looked at the sheep but none of them noticed the holes on the sheep's

## Multinationals control supply

JUST TEN giant companies control some 60 percent of the international food chain.

The biggest of the global food giants is Cargill, a secretive US-based private corporation with global revenues of over \$50 billion a year.

It controls around 80 percent of the world's grain trade.

In addition, says one study, Cargill "is the largest beef pack-

er in Canada, the third largest beef packer and flour miller in the US, the fourth largest cattle feeder and sixth largest turkey producer in the US, the second largest phosphate producer in the world.

"Cargill is also a major power in salt, peanuts, cotton, coffee, truck transport, river/canal shipping, molasses, livestock feed, steel, hybrid seeds, rice milling, rubber, citrus, chicken, and fresh fruits and vegetables."

### Company power

FIVE COMPANIES, AstraZeneca, DuPont, Monsanto, Novartis and Aventis, control:

- ★ Almost 100 percent of the \$3 billion a year genetically modified (GM) seed market.
- ★ A quarter of the \$23 billion a year non-GM seed market.
- ★ Along with Bayer, Dow and AHP over 90 percent of the \$31 billion a year agro-chemical market.

## How profit is

AGRIBUSINESS — agriculture and its associated chemicals, machinery and distribution — is the single biggest component of the global capitalist economy.

But, like all production under capitalism, it is run not on the basis of what is needed by people.

Instead, it is dominated by competition, and the chase for markets and profit.

Capitalism has transformed agriculture across the world. The application of scientific understanding has created a

world in which everyone could have a healthy and varied diet.

The Institute for Food Development Policy argues: "The world today produces more food per inhabitant than ever before.

Enough is available to provide 4.3 pounds to every person every day: 2.5 pounds of grain, beans and nuts, about a pound of meat, milk and cheese, and another of fruit and vegetables."

In some parts of the world the transformation of agriculture has raised productivity and ended regular devastating famines.

The "green revolution" of the 1950s to the 1980s, in which new breeds of staple

# PROFITS ARE DESTROYING OUR FOOD



## 'This is about expensive food'

**GEORGE MONBIOT** is a leading British writer and campaigner on environmental issues. He has tackled one of the key arguments thrown up by the foot and mouth crisis:

"Why is this happening? Almost everyone, radical commentators included, agrees it's because the public wants 'cheap food'. They're wrong. None of this has anything to do with the needs of consumers. This myth can be dispelled by means of a complex research procedure called going shopping. Independent butchers selling local meat charge 30 percent less than the supermarkets.

"The current epidemic of foot and mouth is the result of structural market changes introduced to safeguard the profits of the superstores. They lobby government to ensure that the burden of regulation falls on suppliers rather than on themselves.

"This is not about cheap food. It's about expensive food. The supermarkets' profits are extracted only at enormous cost to ourselves. The billions they make are

matched by the billions the taxpayer spends on road building and maintenance, environmental remediations, hospital bills for the victims of food poisoning and, of course, mass slaughter programmes.

"The animals pay too, by means of the appalling conditions in which they are reared and trucked. Yet the savings the supermarkets make are not passed on to farmers, and they are not passed on to consumers.

"Just as the big biotech firms have tried to capture food production through genetic engineering and patenting, so the big superstores and haulage companies have sought to capture food distribution, and the government, as always, has been only too willing to assist. The thousands of animals being burnt today are being sacrificed on the altar of supermarket profits."

Beef was smuggled back and forth across the border. EU grants where claimed more than once for the same beef.

Meat was stamped and sold as high quality when in fact it had gone off.

While Larry Goodman was

fining £400, the Irish tax-payer footed a £100 million fine from the EU. Goodman paid more in donations to Fianna Fail than his companies paid in taxes.

The foot and mouth scandal has revealed the same practices are still going on.

for tagging.

None of them asked where the sheep had come from.

Last year Department official Colm Fax was jailed for selling certificates to abattoirs.

The beef scandal of the early 1990s shed a small piece of light on the murky practices of the Irish meat trade.

Larry Goodman owned a plant was where smuggled which had contact with Foot and Mouth ended up.

The sheep were passed by the Department of Agriculture as safe.

13 government officials at the sheep but none of them noticed the holes on the sheep

## Profit is destroying farming

for everyone could and varied diet. The future for Food Policy argues: today produces an inhabitant than

available to profits to every person pounds of grain, and about a pound and cheese, and fruit and vegeta-

parts of the world and productivity and are devastating

a "revolution" of the 1980s, in which the staples

crops were introduced, trebled wheat production in India and doubled rice yields.

But these benefits have come at a price.

The green revolution raised yields and helped end famine. But the new varieties of crops were deliberately designed to depend on massive chemical inputs controlled by giant multinational firms.

### Poverty

This has led to huge environmental degradation, and favoured those who can afford those inputs, wiping out small farmers who, with no alternative livelihood, are pushed into

poverty.

The same drive to cut costs and boost profits was at the root of the BSE scandal, where commercial logic saw cattle fed with animal protein, helping ensure the disease spread.

With foot and mouth disease, though not a danger to humans, the same profit logic is there. The conditions which have seen foot and mouth rapidly spread are a direct result of the concentration of food supply under the domination of a few giant firms which care only for profit.

Keeping large numbers of animals in overcrowded and often unsanitary conditions, and then transporting them vast distances to giant slaughterhouses,

is a recipe for spreading disease.

It also means the routine use of antibiotics, partly to control disease but also because the drugs boost animal weight gain — and profit.

This is dangerous, making the development of antibiotic resistance — with terrible human consequences — more likely.

There is nothing wrong with using modern scientific knowledge to improve agriculture and produce more, safer and better food.

Nor is there anything wrong with moving food to where it is needed or desired. But in any rational society this would be done in a way that put human and environmental needs first.

It is not a question of going back to some supposed world of small producers and farmers, in which everything was more wholesome.

For every such wholesome small food producer or retailer in the past, there were plenty of others who deliberately adulterated food, and produced and sold unhealthy food.

Nor is there anything wrong with using the kind of planning and organisation used by supermarkets to supply their stores.

What is needed for abundant, healthy and varied food is to break the logic of production for profit, and the domination of food supply by giant firms which sacrifice everything to their balance sheets.

## what do socialists say?

### The Greens are not all one colour

**THE GREEN MEP, Patricia McKenna** recently made a strong speech at the Globalisation and Resistance Conference that was held in Trinity College. She denounced the way that corporate interests were always trying to lobby the European Parliament to their get way.

Socialists and Greens like Patricia McKenna share a common opposition to the way big business is threatening the world's climate through global warming and seeking to foist genetically modified foods on us.

Our starting point as socialists is always to maximise unity in struggles against the system. That means seeking to work with Greens and others in building the broadest and most effective mobilisations possible.

But the Greens, in Ireland and internationally, it could be said, have two souls.

### Spirit

One is a spirit best summed up by Ralph Nader, the candidate backed by the Green Party in last autumn's US presidential election. Nader's campaign was one based on mobilising people from below, and its targets were big business and the profit system.

Listening to Nader's speeches was like listening to a socialist. He talked of class as the key divide in society and denounced the pro-business stance of the main parties.

There is, though, a quite different kind of Green, best summed up in the figure of Joschka Fischer. Fischer has gone from fighting militarism to enthusiastically urging on the NATO bombing in the Balkans.

From opposing nuclear power, he is now backing the continuation of nuclear power in Germany. The Greens are in governments in Germany and France which have attacked pensions and welfare, pushed privatisation and cuddled up to big business.

Socialists, and many Greens, have nothing but contempt for

people like Fischer. We can only fight them and their policies.

There is a reason for the two souls of the Greens-of Ralph Nader and Joschka Fischer.

It is that everyone who begins by opposing the horrors produced by capitalism at some stage faces a choice. One route is to see the solution to those horrors as lying in the power ordinary people have to mobilise to confront the system, and ultimately wrest control of society from below to build a different world.

The other is to seek to work within that system, accommodate to it, even administer it, and look to making deals with those in power. The hope is to tame capitalism.

The British Green Party MEP Caroline Lucas sums up well why this approach is doomed to failure: "Trying to tame globalisation is like trying to lasso a tiger with a thread of cotton." And when that reality dawns, those who have gone down that route end up forgetting any attempt to curb the tiger of capitalism, and instead become its apologists and defenders.

The Green Party in Ireland faces a similar dilemma as it approaches into the next general election. Its TDs, John Gormley and Trevor Sargeant, argue that the party should keep its option open and possibly enter coalition with Fine Gael after the next election. Others oppose this approach bitterly.

The decision on entering coalition has been postponed until after the election. But this is unsatisfactory. Voters have a right to inquire of candidates what they will do if elected.

The Labour Party has always used a similar tactic. It postpones the decision on entering a coalition until after an election because the party leaders know that they have a better chance then of bouncing their members into accepting coalition.

Greens who want to follow the spirit of Ralph Nader rather than Joschka Fischer will need to stop the drift to coalition now.

They should turn their back on a party that was bribed by Denis O'Brien so that he could get a mobile phone licence.

Instead they might look at a Green-Socialist Alliance to challenge the corrupt establishment that has increased class divisions and wrecked our environment.

by KIERAN ALLEN

## The Celtic Tiger and the myth of Social Partnership

£13.60 plus £1.50 p+p  
Available from SW Books,  
PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.



## 20 YEARS SINCE THE H-BLOCKS

# The fight for political status

**TWENTY YEARS** ago on March 1st, 1981 Bobby Sands began a hunger strike for political status. He had been arrested five years earlier after being found in a car with a gun.

For Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, he was simply a 'common criminal'. The hunger strike was evidence that 'the men of violence have chosen to play what may well be their last card.'

Thatcher could not have got it more wrong. Her government was pretending that Northern Ireland was a normal society that was only being disturbed by a few gangsters. She refused to admit that the IRA had grown out of a political conflict to overthrow its sectarian structures.

Yet a look at Bobby Sands own history would have shown otherwise. Sands had joined the IRA in the early eighties because as he said 'I had seen too many homes wrecked, a father and sons arrested, friends murdered'.

The British Army, which claimed to be a peacekeeper, had inflicted a regime of terror on his area of West Belfast.

In 1970, for example, 3,000 British soldiers descended on the Falls Road in Land Rovers and helicopters and began house-to-house searches.

By the time they had finished five civilians were killed and a dozen were wounded by British army gunfire.

After these atrocities hundreds joined the IRA — and Bobby Sands was one of them. He was soon jailed in 1973 — as a political prisoner who had special category status.

### State

Every capitalist state denies it has political prisoners. They pretend that all political conflicts can be resolved through the 'rule of law'.

Anyone who steps outside these laws must be automatically a criminal.

This, for example, is happening in Turkey today where left wing prisoners are being tortured, beaten, and isolated to force them to accept the label of a non-political criminal prisoner.

But in the early seventies a mass rebellion in the Catholic ghettos seriously weakened the Northern state. Many of the normal rules of government were suspended.

A short hunger strike of five weeks duration, which was backed up by huge protests and demonstrations, forced the British government to concede 'Special Category Status' to republican prisoners.

Later Michael Alison, the British Minister for the prisons conceded that 'Special category status was won not just by a hunger strike, it was won by an enormous outburst of lawlessness'.

By the mid seventies, the British government believed that the mass insurrection in Catholic ghettos was weakening. They embarked on a strategy of 'Ulsterisation' and 'Normalisation'. Ulsterisation meant pushing the RUC to the fore so that the conflict was seen as a civil matter rather than political affair.

Normalisation meant setting up a conveyor system of justice whereby prisoners were taken to holding centres like Castlereagh, where confession were beaten out of them. Once jailed, they were to be denied political status. So Bobby Sands went on hunger strike to win back the special category status he enjoyed in 1973.

**'We will wear no convict's uniform'**

**PROTESTS AGAINST the denial of political status had been by the prisoners' families who organised themselves into a Relatives Action Campaign. In September 1976, Ciaran Nugent refused to wear prison clothes and went on a 'blanket protest'.**



**Protests across Ireland**

Two years later 350 republican prisoners began a 'dirty protest' where they refused to empty their chamber pots and neither shaved nor bathed. The protest finally escalated to a hunger strike that originally began with seven prisoners refusing food on 27 October 1980. This first hunger strike ended with a promise of concessions to the prisoners. But when they tried to wear their own clothes, the old brutality of the prison regime returned.

Bobby Sand's hunger strike was a response to the British government's duplicity. Despite media claims, it was not ordered by the IRA leadership outside the jail. Gerry Adams even wrote to Sands that 'we are tactically, strategically, physically and morally opposed to a hunger strike'.

Soon however the hunger strike won mass support throughout Ireland and abroad. Bobby

Sands was elected an MP when he stood against the Unionist landlord, Harry West. The *Guardian* noted its significance.

'Years of myth making go out of the window with the election of Bobby Sands. And the biggest myth is that the IRA in its violent phase represents only a tiny minority.' Two other prisoners Paddy Agnew and Kieran Doherty were elected to the Dail. The protests even threw the

loyalist movement into confusion. Andy Tyrrie, the 'supreme commander' of the UDA urged Thatcher to accept the prisoners' demands. 'There are special courts and special legislation — so why can't there be special prisoners' he said.

However soon a major debate opened up in the ranks of the National H Block Campaign, the umbrella organisation that campaigned on the prisoners' behalf.

## Nationalist allies who backed Thatcher

**ON ONE** hand, was the emerging new leadership of Sinn Fein grouped around Gerry Adams. Adams argued that the key to victory was winning support from the Catholic Church, Fianna Fail and the SDLP.

He recognised that these groupings were reluctant to take this stance but argued that the campaign had to be tailored to winning over the grassroots of FF so that their leaders would eventually pressurise Thatcher. This meant looking for a more respectable image and playing down militancy.

On the other hand were small left wing forces that argued the campaign had to look to workers to take

action. During the first hunger strike, workers in Derry walked out in solidarity and 10,000 converged on the city centre. The socialists argued to spread this movement to the South. This solidarity action met with wide scale hostility from the ICTU leaders but there were some signs that many Southern workers were willing to act.

After the death of Bobby Sands and the second hunger striker Francis Hughes, there was extensive strike action. In Dundalk and Drogheda, shops stewards came together from various factories to co-ordinate the action. In Finglas in the Dublin, most factories stopped work. Throughout the country there was extensive unofficial action.

However, the true face of

the Southern establishment was soon revealed. Charles Haughey had taken over as Fianna Fail leader in 1979 after indulging in nationalist rhetoric. He even described Northern Ireland as a 'failed political entity'.

### Rhetoric

But Haughey's rhetoric shifted as soon as there was a real sign of instability. He held a special summit with Thatcher and instead of backing the prisoners' demands he presented her with a silver teapot. He met with the Sands family in his mansion in Kinsealy and pressurised them to accept intervention from the European Commission, even though this body had already

ruled out political status.

Special branch officers were deployed to harass H Block activists. When 15,000 people marched to the British Embassy they were brutally attacked by Gardai. Behind the Gardai stood armed soldiers, apparently with live ammunition.

The failure of the Southern government to act played a direct role in deaths of ten hunger strikers.

Afterwards H Block prisoners wrote that 'We believe that the Dublin bloc of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour are accessories to the legalised murder of ten true and committed Irishmen. They sat idly by and thus encouraged the British to continue with the death policy'.

The hunger strike

destroyed forever the idea that Northern Ireland was a normal society having a problem with a terrorist conspiracy. It paved the way for the political success of Sinn Fein.

But at the core of that success is a contradiction that was first evident in the hunger strike. On one hand, it expressed anger against a corrupt and sectarian system.

But on the other it continues to seek allies in Fianna Fail, refusing even to rule out a coalition with them at next election.

Today, the hunger strike is partially recognised by the political establishment of the South. But they do so only because they want to suck in yet another generation of republicans into their ranks.



## in my view

# IBM and the Holocaust

**MORE THAN** fifty years after the Holocaust evidence is still emerging about the links between multinational capital and Hitler's Nazi regime.

IBM, the American computer giant, is facing detailed charges that it collaborated in Hitler's persecution of the Jews, with the publication of a new book by US investigative writer Edwin Black. Black's research shows in compelling detail, that IBM, 'the solutions company', was also the company of the final solution. One of the enigma's of the Holocaust has always been the question of how was Hitler able to identify, find, herd and exterminate millions of Jews and what the Nazi's termed 'social misfits' with such sickening precision?

"To search generations of records all across Germany — and later Europe — was a cross-indexing task so monumental it called for a computer", Black writes. But in 1933 no computer existed. Enter IBM, who provided the solution through its German subsidiary, Dehomag.

### Persecution

IBM punch card-sorters, a precursor of computers, were used to facilitate all aspects of Nazi persecution — from the identification of Jews in censuses in Germany and occupied Europe to the running of concentration camp slave labour. "For the first time in history, an anti-semitic had automation on his side. Hitler didn't do it alone. He had help", Black writes.

Nazi demand for IBM technology became so great that the firm built a factory near Berlin, vastly increasing its investment in the German subsidiary.

What is more, IBM knew exactly what it was doing. Thomas Watson, IBM's boss received the Merit Cross of the German Eagle (one of the highest honours of the German Reich) for services knowingly rendered.

Watson was the classic American boy made good, the sewing-machine salesman who became corporate emperor but also a covert admirer of the Third Reich who peddled his technology with fawning eagerness.

Black's book leaves no room for doubt as he offers endless research in the form of memos, letters and speeches. In 1937 Watson wrote that the world 'must extend a sympathetic understanding to the German people and their aims under the leadership of Adolf Hitler'.

'We are very much like physicians,' Watson told his Nazi audience at IBM Dehomag subsidiary, 'in that we dissect, cell by cell, the German cultural body... these are not dead little cards; quite to the contrary, they prove later on that they come to life when they are sorted at 25,000 an hour according to certain characteristics.'

IBM has long acknowledged that its German subsidiary used punch card technology in a 1933 census, soon after Hitler took power; but its role in subsequent events has not been suspected, let alone investigated.

According to IBM, its links with its Nazi-era German subsidiary were severed in 1940. Black, however, has produced letters that indicate the IBM chairman sent an emissary to Berlin to resolve problems in late 1941, when America was about to enter the conflict.

### Disassociate

Eventually, Watson himself began to disassociate IBM in New York from the Hitler regime, sending back his medal. But he still kept the machines rolling and still kept raking in the profits. As soon as the war was over he turned Dehomag into IBM Germany.

While Watson may not have exactly been a fascist he was happy, like most big capitalists in Germany were at the time, to go along with the Nazi regime that ensured cheap labour and large profits.

More than fifty years later the same is true. While the hundreds and thousands of women who slave away in sweatshops around the world is not comparable to the Holocaust, the same logic exists: What's a little human death and misery when profits are soaring.

And while it is also true Hitler could have had his Holocaust without IBM's willing assistance, IBM did help the trains to the concentration camps run on time and provide the cards for slave labour. It was the backbone of Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, which would continue to serve as long as dollars rolled in.

by SINEAD KENNEDY

## music

# Know your Enemy

by JOE O'BRIEN

**LET'S FACE** it, popular music from this decade, so far at least, must be the most uninspiring ever. The music industry, parasitic as it is, seems only capable of churning out endless charts of soulless and contrived 'corporate' pop acts.

Refreshingly, however, the Manic Street Preachers seem to be bucking the trend — and they are accustomed to doing so.

Ten years ago, we were in the midst of the faceless lyric-less dance music explosion and ensuing 'Summer of Love'.

### Crashed

The 'Manics' crashed the party with a collection of songs spewing bile about banks, the monarchy, multinationals and giving expression to the alienation and cultural bankruptcy of the age.

The band came from a place and a generation whose soul and hopes were chewed up and spat out by Thatcherism.

Their local mines, in Blackpool, South Wales were shut down by the Tories and replaced with a pot-noodle factory.

### Politics

The music mightn't have been everybody's cup-of-tea but the socialist politics of their lyrics were a ray of light. Their music may have been rock but their message was global.

'Natwest-Barclays-



A RED STAR burning — James Dean Bradfield of the Manic Street Preachers

Midlands-Lloyds' from the first album — 'Generation Terrorists' expressed their views on the ruthless banking industry. "They give then take away, repossess and crucify." (Irish borrowers take note).

The issues they covered were as varied and diverse as every day life, from anorexia to the betrayal of war veterans at Remembrance Day (*451 7lbs* and *La Tristesse Durer*). Songs both kicking out at the system and reflecting life under capitalism.

From the outset the band realised that they

would only be relevant if they reached a large audience. They weren't interested in playing to "three students and a dog".

As it happened it took 4 albums or 5 years to do so, this despite losing co-lyricist (with Nicky Wire) and political dynamo Richey Edwards, who, seemingly fed up with walking in the harsh limelight, mysteriously disappeared in 1995.

### Comeback

The comeback single, approximately one year after Edwards vanished —

'A Design For Life' was, according to Nicky Wire about, "Taking working class culture back from the media."

Two years later 'If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next' topped the British singles charts, warning about the rise of fascism and taking inspiration from the Spanish Civil War.

The imminent release of their sixth album, 'Know Your Enemy' recently showcased in Cuba "in solidarity with the Cuban people". It is a blatant restatement of their socialist ideals.

Like good socialists, the

Manics learn from their mistakes and are conscious of picking up the odd 'Mondeo Man' inside their now mass audience.

There's no question what's on the agenda with song titles such as 'Freedom of Speech Won't Feed My Children' about the failure of post-Stalinist states to deliver for their peoples.

'Let Robeson Sing', a tribute to the late black singer and civil rights activist.

Anti-capitalism is here and revolution is back on the agenda. The Manic Street Preachers already know it.

## book

# The revolution will be televised

**SOCIALISTS** justly view the media with suspicion. Capitalists, after all, own the newspapers and TV stations and are deeply hostile to any movements that challenge their order.

They frequently either ignore protests or portray protestors as deranged fanat-

ics.

But it is important for every campaign, strike or movement to let people know about what you are doing.

We have our own means of spreading information in papers like *Socialist Worker* but the mainstream media still provide the best way of reaching a mass audience.

So how do we make use of the media without letting them show us

in the worst possible light?

Campaigner and *Guardian* columnist George Monbiot provides the answers in his very useful pamphlet, *An Activist's Guide to Exploiting the Media*.

It gives some great advice on how to exploit the media without the media exploiting us.

It shows how we can attract positive media attention, and explains how to talk to journalists in

terms even they can understand and cannot easily distort.

Monbiot has a wonderfully low opinion of most journalists, and in this punchy, funny and informative pamphlet he shows us how we can make the sheer idleness of the average hack work for us.

The pamphlet is full of practical examples — how to write a press release and follow it up, how deadlines

and papers work, what makes a newsworthy story, and much more.

A must for anyone fighting for change.

Copies ordered from *Socialist Worker* come with an Appendix of useful Irish media fax and phone numbers.

• *An Activist's Guide to Exploiting the Media*, by George Monbiot, Price £1.

Available SW Books PO Box 1648



**where  
we  
stand**

Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

### FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

### FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

### FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

### FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army.

Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

### FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

### FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party here.

news & reports/politics/industry/the unions (01) 8722682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail swp@clubi.ie

PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

## Refuse Charges

# Campaign grows across city

**As Dublin Corporation prepares to introduce refuse charges, more areas have got organised in the past fortnight.**

### POPPINTREE:

SOME 18 locals braved storms to meet in St Josephs Hall and set up an Action Group.

Local people were angry at how politicians came round looking for votes but would not stand up against these charges.

As one local said: "This charge has to be fought and if we stick together we can win"

Others, who couldn't make the meeting on the night, later contacted the campaign locally to get involved.

—STUART DOWIE, Local Youth Worker

### RIALTO:

An Action Group was got off the ground after a meeting in St Andrews Hall in Rialto.

## Housing

THE Socialist Workers Party in Tallaght is organising a protest meeting to campaign for an emergency local authority building programme.

Waiting lists have hit epidemic proportions in the Tallaght area with more than 7,500 people on the waiting list.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st March at 8pm in the Jobstown Community Centre. Speakers will include Pat O'Sullivan (Socialist Workers Party), Sean Crowe (Sinn Fein), as well as speakers from Focus Ireland and the Travelling Community.

If you would like more details please phone Jesse on 087-9846412.

## Up coming events:

★ March 12th-17th Anti-Racism Week in the National College of Art and Design in Thomas St., Dublin 8. Contact Annette Ryan annettesa@hot-mail.com.

★ March 24th - 31st Cultures Against Oppression, Go! Move! Shift! Latin America Week 2001. Contact Latin America Solidarity Campaign for details. Phone 6760435.

★ April 22nd to April 28th 2001. Convergence Festival, Dublin City Centre. Convergence is a cultural festival celebrating green, healthy and ethical living. Sustainable Ireland: 159 Lower Rathmines Road, Rathmines, D6.

### HAROLDS CROSS:

TWENTY people came out the night of the blizzards to come to an anti-bin charge meeting in the Stoneboat.

A broad-based group had leafleted extensively for the meeting and petitions, posters and leaflets were distributed.

A recall meeting will be held as soon as the bin charge bills arrive.

—NICOLA COLEMAN, Community Worker.

### CABRA:

FORTY FIVE people turned up to a meeting in Cabra.

It was held in the open air after the parish priest cancelled the booking of the school hall. Nonetheless, this could not dampen the enthusiasm to fight the bin charges. Everybody present signed up to get involved in the campaign

and establish a local action group.

—HELENA McNEILL, local activist

### EAST WALL:

SNOW STORMS hit attendance at a local meeting in East Wall. Local residents were keen to set up an

action group and arrange a recall meeting.

### ARTANE:

AN ACTION Group was

set up at a meeting in the area at which Independent Councillor Finian McGrath spoke. For more info ring Brid on 8788170

## 'They won't intimidate us!' say activists

### CORK:

**CAMPAIGNERS in Cork face jail as they organise against bin-charges.**

Since last summer, Cork Corporation have refused to collect rubbish sacks which don't have the charge tag attached.

Anti bin charge activists have been depositing their rubbish bags at the City Hall every Monday when the Corporation meets.

They have been met with fines from litter wardens which they have refused to pay.

Ten have been summoned to court over non-payment of the fines.

Last month the judge ordered two to pay £95 fine or face three days in jail.

One of them, Joe Moore, President of Cork Trades Council told *Socialist Worker*,

"We will not pay this fine. We will go to jail if necessary.

"We oppose service charges and reject the accusation that we are responsible for littering.

"The Corporation refuses to collect untagged bags of rubbish.

"Rather than leave them littering housing estates we have been taking them and depositing them neatly outside the Corporation meetings.

"We were ordered to pay the fines within 28 days which expires on March 15th or face jail.

"But we are defiant — We will not pay the fines!"

HA pickets of the court has been called for March 15th when they are back before the judge along with other anti-bin campaigners.

### DROGHEDA:

The local council has been attempting to intimidate cam-

paigners who have been loading the bin lorries with bags not carrying £3 tags.

In a very serious development, key activist Harry Phelan was charged with littering offences when he collected bags to be put on the bin lorries. He was fined £150.

And in an obvious bid to silence him the judge bound Harry over to keep the peace for two years.

But Harry is defiant. He told *Socialist Worker*: "This is a stitch-up. As far as I am concerned I have done nothing wrong.

"I will continue to engage in public protest and civil disobedience. I will not be gagged or prevented from organising!"

Members of the Drogheda Residents Against Bin Charges are now planning to highlight this case and build support for a demonstration when Harry's appeal comes up.

## Anti-capitalism

# Globalisation and resistance conference ends in action

**OVER 100 people attended the Globalisation and Resistance Conference in Trinity College recently. The conference was organised by the One World Society, Socialist Worker Student Society, Society against Racism and the Environmental Society in Trinity.**

Speakers at the conference included Sandeep Vaidya (Campaign to End Iraq Sanctions — Ireland), Pat Finnegan (Earthwatch delegate to the Hague Summit), Joe Murray (AFRI), Moyra Bremner (*Sunday Times* journalist & author of *GE and You*) and Grace Lally (Socialist Workers Party)

### Campaign

A major opening rally took place on the Friday night: *Seattle, Prague, Nice... Globalisation and Resistance*. The speakers included Patricia McKenna (Green Party MEP), Kieran Allen, Claudine Gaidoni (ATTAC Ireland).

Globalise Resistance was launched out of the

conference which will campaign on issues such the use of sweat shop labour by multinationals such as Nike.

There are also plans to send a large delegation to Genoa in July to

support the demonstrations calling for the cancellation of Third World Debt at the G8 summit in July.

■ There will be an organisation meeting in Room 3071, Art Block,

## International Women's Day

**IN BELFAST International Women's Day was celebrated with a protest outside the Gap store on Royal Avenue over their use of sweatshop labour to make t-shirts and jumpers.**

Over 70 people joined the protest, from people walking past in the street to trade union

and community activists.

There were placards from UNISON and Women's News, and representatives from women's groups and trade unions like the Communication Workers Union, NIPSA and the NASUWT.

Many customers in the shop walked out after hearing about the practices

used to make clothing. People were surprised when told that a Gap worker could not afford a t-shirt, made by them, on their weekly wage.

In the run up to the anti-capitalist rally in Genoa we hope to hold a lot more protests against the capitalist establishment.

— DAN BUCKLEY

## Incinerators

### DERRY

**THE DERRY campaign to oppose incineration and promote recycling got a great welcome on its first street outing on Sat. 10th March. Over 1,000 people signed a petition calling on Derry City Council to initiate a long-term strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle, instead of incinerate.**

A protest outside the City Council on 13th March was well supported.

Private refuse collec-

tors in Donegal upped their monthly charge from £27 to £35 at the start of March.

They blame Donegal County Council for this as they have raised their landfill charges.

Many environmental campaigners see this as a ploy by the Council to make waste charges higher therefore making incineration look a cheaper option to the public.

### DROGHEDA:

Concern over Foot and Mouth Disease led to No Incinerator Alliance postponing a demonstration that was due to be held in Drogheda on March 10.

Kevin Smyth told *Socialist Worker*, "We expect support from right across the region and the Foot and Mouth scare decided us to call it off for now.

"But we definitely need protests, campaigning petitioning stalls and street meetings in Drogheda and

elsewhere over the next period."

★ The No Incinerator Alliance has been calling for mass objections to planning permission for the proposed local incinerator.

Faced with thousands of objections, Meath County Council announced that it would no longer reply to or acknowledge any of the objections it receives.

This prompted the Alliance to hold a protest march to the Council offices in Duleek earlier in March.

★ After its launch at the Globalisation and Resistance Conference in Dublin, Globalise Resistance got into immediate action for International Women's Day on March 8, organising a series of protests against the use of sweatshop labour by multinationals like Nike. There were protests outside sport stores in Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Galway. Thousands of signatures were collected and well over £100 pounds was collected.

British Midland

# Solidarity won

**"MAGNIFICENT!" That was how British Midland shop steward Darren Allen described the nearly 600 strong show of support for the British Midland strikers in early March.**

Workers from Ser viceair, Airport Police, Airport Fire Brigade, Aer Rianta Cleaners and Duty-Free, Aer Lingus Cargo Handlers, Gate Gourmet, Aer Lingus catering and An Post workers were among those who joined the British Midland strikers on Dublin Airport gate for a lunchtime stoppage.

They marched around the airport periphery chanting "Scabs Out".

The Labour Court issued a finding later that day that the strikers voted overwhelmingly for.

## Selling-off

The British Midland ground staff were entering their fifth week of strike after BM management announced they were selling off their ground operations to another company which will be renamed Aviance.

The strikers stood to lose travel concessions and pension rights.

"This is a good victory!"

Darren Allen said "The Labour Court made a favourable finding and that is unusual.

"When the dispute went into the Labour Court we were told it would be a couple of weeks before we would hear.

"To be honest not many of us had much hope in the Labour Court delivering a judgement favourable to us.

"But when news leaked out on the Friday that there would be a support demonstration that could close down the airport, things began to move quicker.

"I think that the media reports on the Friday of the solidarity action set for the following Monday exerted the pressure on the Labour Court to deliver a verdict and soon."

Fellow ATGWU shop steward Pat Gorry agrees. "The sight of all those other workers joining our picket for the lunchtime really boosted morale and helped things along.

"The Labour Court finding gave us most of what we were looking for.

"The severance payment will be £1339 for every year of service. This is a big improvement on what the company had been offering before.

"On travel concessions, we gained something but there is more to negotiate. And there are still outstanding issues on pensions."

Darren Allen added: "We still need to sort out the



600 airport workers joined the pickets

issue of Aer Rianta issuing security passes to the scabs. "But this was a good vic-

tory. Solidarity won the day and we went back with our heads held high!"

## National Car Testers

# Strikers force concessions

**WORKERS AT NCT have been offered a new improved deal by their management after sticking it out for several weeks on strike.**

Originally the NCT strikers were told to let the Labour Court settle the dispute. But the Labour Court's recommendation was so bad that the workers rejected it by three to one at the beginning of March.

The Labour Court is supposed to be a neutral institution which stands above conflict. But it is now seen by many active trade unionists as a pro-employer body.

The 140 strikers, members of the AGEMOU division of SIPTU were on strike to demand proper rostering arrangements and decent health and safety conditions.

One striker told *Socialist Worker*, "The Labour Court was very biased towards the employers. The central issues of rostering and health and safety were not properly addressed.



On the picket at NCT

"The Court tried to divide Dublin workers from the country by recommending a small pay increase to workers out of Dublin. But then this was only £17 extra and the other £20 in the differential was to be paid when conditions permitted."

It was because the NCT workers turned down this lousy deal that they forced management to come back with new concessions.

The union was recommending the new deal at the time of going to press

★ A picketer was injured on the Ballymun picket line when management told a taxi-driver to barge through the picket line.

"The testing centre was opened with a director and a couple of scabs last week" one worker told *Socialist Worker*. "They are desperate to get some business. When the taxi arrived the director came out and told him to force his way through the picket line. One of our lads was injured in the knee as the taxi drove through.

"But NCT ought to understand that bullying tactics like these are not going to break us", he said.

## Dublin Docklands

**OVER 150 people from the Ringsend / Pearse Street area held a protest on 21st February to demand proper monitoring of the Dublin Dockland Development Site.**

Residents in the area are extremely concerned about the levels of toxic emissions emanating from the site.

The residents were supported by workers form IDA, An Post and An Bord Gais who are also concerned

by the level of toxic emissions.

One local activist Ann Ryan told *Socialist Worker* "They are trying to tell us that the fumes are not toxic, there is just a bad smell. But there have been numerous complaints of asthma among children, itchy eyes and people who have never had respiratory problems suddenly having to have inhalers. They only figures we ever have are theirs. There has been no independent research done."

The residents have set up a local activists group Dock-

## Archaeologists

# Historic victory against company relics

**Archaeological staff have staged the first ever strike in the history of the state — and won.**

Staff at a Dublin company lodged a pay claim at the end of February. Two days later the SIPTU shop steward was told that she was to be transferred to another site. If she did not move there was no job for here.

The company told her on a Friday that she had to be gone by the following Monday.

However the shop steward turned up to her normal work site on Monday but was told she would not be

paid. Immediately about 35 fellow staff members walked off the site and refused to work until the rep was re-instated.

Very quickly the company agreed to a one week stay. They also agreed to set a workers committee within the company and that the issue be referred to the Rights Commissioner.

A few days later, the company backed down and re-instated the representative. As a result more people have joined the union and morale has increased amongst archaeologists in general.

## SWP branch meetings — all welcome

□ **ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details  
□ **BRAY:** Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm

□ **BELFAST CENTRAL:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Kitchen Bar, 16 Victoria Square, near Cornmarket

□ **BELFAST SOUTH:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union

□ **BELFAST WEST** ring for details 07771 781 958  
□ **BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY** Wednesdays 1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre

□ **CORK:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's, Drawbridge St

□ **DERRY:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.15pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.

□ **DROGHEDA:** Meets Wednesdays 8:30pm in McHugh's Pub St, Lawrences Gate

□ **DUNDALK:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details  
□ **DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute

□ **DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreation Centre (opp. Artane Castle)

□ **DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St

□ **DUBLIN KILLBARRACK:** Phone 087 6235071  
□ **DUBLIN CABRA:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, Prussia St

□ **DUBLIN BALLYMUN:** Meets every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Balcurris Road Phone Kevin on 086-3074060 for details

□ **DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

□ **DUBLIN RIALTO:** Meets every Wednesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR

□ **DUBLIN RATHMINES:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Tom Kelly flats community centre, Charlemont Street.

□ **DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:** Phone Simon 087 6561455

□ **DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre

□ **ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details  
□ **GALWAY:** Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm

□ **LIMERICK:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details  
□ **MAYNOOTH** meets Thursday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details

□ **SLIGO** Meets fortnightly on Saturdays, phone 087 6329511 for details

□ **SWORDS:** Meets Tuesdays 8pm Semior Citizens Hall

□ **TRALEE:** Phone 087 6329511 for details  
□ **TRINITY COLLEGE:** Meets Thursdays 7pm see posters for details

□ **UCD** meets Wednesdays 1pm see posters for details

□ **WATERFORD:** Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Kelzer St.

## Bullying the workers

DUBLIN AIRPORT managers were desperately afraid of the effects of solidarity action shutting the airport.

They tried to put enormous pressure on British Midland's fellow workers to prevent the sympathy action.

Aer Lingus massively intimidated its check in staff not to come out on the stoppage.

And Aer Rianta issued threats. "Workers in the fire brigade were threatened with legal action and the sack if they came out in support.

"But still a number came out to join us. Others whose rest day it was, came in to join us," one of the strikers told *Socialist Worker*.

This contrasts with Aer Rianta issuing security clearances to scabs brought in to try to break the British Midland strike.

"It takes two to three weeks normally to get your security pass. But these scabs who arrived from the UK got their IDs as they stepped off the plane.

"Then Aer Rianta had the nerve to take us to court for secondary action!"

## ILDA

THE TRAIN drivers' union ILDA has decided to join the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union.

Last summer, the union fought a ten-week battle against new rosters imposed by Iarnroid Eireann. At the time they were told that the company could not negotiate with them because they were outside the ICTU.

But as soon as they announced their decision to join the ATGWU, which is an ICTU affiliated union, the company again told them they would not be recognised.

Scandalously, the leaders of SIPTU have lined up behind the company bosses claiming that the train dri-

vers are really their members 'who are in arrears.'

The company and the SIPTU leaders are frightened of growing discontent in their own ranks.

Last summer they told drivers they had no choice but to accept CIE's offer claiming they could not win a better deal.

But DART drivers have just won a 15 percent higher award.

If the new members of the ATGWU once again take up the battle for higher pay, they will find that many grassroots members of SIPTU and the NRBU are on their side.

# Socialist Worker

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DIRTY HANDS**  
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**Zapatistas march on Mexico City**

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## THE EXPLOITATION BEHIND THE LOGO

# STOP NIKE SWEATSHOPS



**JULIA, WHO lives in El Salvador, works in a Nike factory making sports clothes. Her husband is ill and unable to afford a doctor so he can't work. It is up to Julia to look after the whole family.**

She often works up to 16 hours a day under pressure from management who frequently beat and abuse workers who refuse to do overtime.

### Fined

She earns 15p an hour or £28 a month. This is 25 percent less than what Nike itself admits is enough to meet a person's minimum needs, never mind a whole family.

In December 1998, she took a day off because her young child was severely ill. She was fined half a month's wages the follow-

ing day. Julia objected and two days later, she was fired.

Julia's story is daily reality for hundreds of thousands of Nike

workers who work in unsafe factories up to 100 hours a week.

Nike are raking in the profits, making \$120 billion last year.

Nike boss Phil Knight gave himself a \$1.33 million bonus on top of his \$1.2 million salary.

Nike Vice President Guy

Destefano who organises Nike sweatshops in Asia and the South Pacific got a \$1.5 million bonus.

Nike could still make huge profits even if they paid their workers a liveable wage. For example, Nike spends \$600 million a year on advertisements.

If Nike reduced this budget by a fraction, it could pay its workers more.

But the greed of the owners means they mean they want to pay their workers less than 20p an hour.

## Workers fight back

**MASS campaigns have emerged across the world to force companies, like Nike, to end sweatshop labour.**

United Students Against Sweatshops is sweeping across campuses in the US and Canada, where Nike holds mass sponsorship deals with college authorities.

Across Europe, there have been weekly pickets outside Nike stores demanding an end to sweatshop labour.

Here in Ireland, Champion Sports, who are the main sellers of Nike sportswear in Ireland, saw their stores across the country picketed on Interna-

tional Women's Day.

However, most importantly workers themselves are being to fight back.

In several South American factories, workers have won the right to union recognition. In January of this year, 800 Nike workers in Mexico staged a work stoppage.

Workers took over the factory, controlling the gates all entry into the factory. They organised a mass march that saw over 1,000 people come to support them.

Despite harassment from management and death threats towards them and their family workers remained resolve to fight back.

Management filed bogus charges against at least 6 people and threatened to fire anyone who didn't come back to work. Many workers also reported receiving anonymous death threats to them and their families.

But the management at the factory had to recognise the workers' own representative union and agree to reinstate the illegally fired workers.

It shows that united we can win.

The global anti-capitalist movement is putting companies like Nike under-pressure. But ultimately, it's fight is not just with Nike but for a world that is not for sale.

**\$ Nike is not the only company based on huge inequality. In 1965, the average Chief Executive Officer of major companies made 44 times the average factory worker. Today, the average CEO makes 212 times the average factory worker.**