

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

DISTORTED



THE CASE FOR LEGALISING DRUGS

Legalisation would end the hypocrisy and double standards of the present system. The most dangerous drugs are legal whilst possession of other drugs, including relatively harmless ones, can get you fined or imprisoned. Now turn to page 4.

PLUS:
**The JSA
Youth & Sex
Asylum Bill**

Fight for your right to party!

2 NEWS

SMASH THE ASYLUM BILL!!

THE TORIES are trying to put a racist bill through parliament by July which will force people out of their homes and will encourage racist bosses to discriminate against Black and Asian workers.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill cuts off all benefits, including free school meals and housing benefit, to refugees and asylum seekers. It will bring racism into schools and workplaces as race checks will have to be made by employers to make sure that their employees are not 'illegal immigrants'.

People seeking asylum in this country will find it almost impossible to get past the new procedures. Worse still, the government have drawn up a white list of so called 'safe' countries, but this list includes countries such as Ghana where people can be arrested from having different views from the government, India where separatists are attacked by the state and Pakistan where people with religions which are

different from the official one can be punished by death for blasphemy.

HOW TO SMASH THE ASYLUM BILL

We need all workers to stop the bill from being carried out through non-compliance. DSS workers should give refugees their benefits, canteen staff should give children of refugees their right to free food. No information about so-called "illegal immigrants" should be given to the government. Race checks should not go ahead and workers should go on strike if they do.

Youth and workers should unite and fight to beat this bill and demonstrate against this blatant attack on people from ethnic minorities.

If you think that this is the only attack that Black and Asian youth encounter then you would be wrong. Black people come face-to-face with racist police officers who harass, attack and murder people because of their colour. Brian



Douglas, Ibrahima Sey, Shiji Lapite and Joy Gardner, these are just a few black people from the long list of racist murders that the police have committed. The police also attack people without a pretext, such as Amer Rafiq, an asian waiter in Manchester who was blinded by police.

We have to stop racist thugs and police from attacking and killing Black and Asian youth.

REVOLUTION says:

- Non-compliance can make the Asylum Bill unworkable
- Labour must be forced to scrap the Asylum Bill
- Down with all immigration controls
- Organise self-defence patrols against racist and police attack
- No Justice - No Peace!

STICK YOUR CURFEW, JACK!

LABOUR'S JACK STRAW will probably be the next Home secretary. He has announced that under Labour there will be a curfew on all kids under 10 - they will have to stay home after 9pm. And that's not all. He'll let local councils decide the age limit and the time. So this could be used in some areas against teenagers.

Imagine what it means. On estates where there is already nothing to do, the coppers will be prowling around arresting anyone just for being young and out of doors.

It is the most dictatorial suggestion of the year.

This mad idea comes direct from the USA, where the police and politicians have a long history of blaming ordinary people and youth for everything that's going wrong with their rotten society. Jack Straw - who has already caused anger for blaming beggars for their own

poverty - now wants to bring curfews over here.

If young people are on the streets with nothing to do at night then the answer is to build more leisure centres, lower cinema prices, improve sports and youth clubs, build more decent parks and open spaces. But Labour councils are voting to cut back and close these facilities all over the country. Even the Tories have attacked Straw for being too right wing! So what 's this lunacy really all about?

All the main parties are getting ready to try and save as much money as possible for the rich. They want the well-off middle classes and the super-rich millionaires to pay less tax and to cut spending on things that ordinary people need. The economy is going wrong and they want to solve the problem by stealing from the poor and giving to the rich.

But they know that cuts will mean there'll be less services for young people and less for them to do. Instead of spending money to put this right, they want to lock us all indoors.

It won't be rich kids with their massive back gardens, huge houses, stereos and computers who suffer. It will be working class youth who have none of those things.

If Labour brings this in, REVOLUTION will be organising mass breakings of the curfew. We will hound Jack Straw late into the night and make him wish he'd never heard of the word curfew. And if the coppers try and drive local youth off their own streets and back behind closed doors . . . it wouldn't take a genius to work out what will happen!

Above all youth need an organisation of our own to stand up for our rights. That is what REVOLUTION is trying to build. JOIN US.

SCRAP THE JSA!

THIS OCTOBER the Tory 'Job Seekers' Allowance' (JSA), which replaces the dual benefit system of Unemployment Benefit and Income Support, comes into being. The new system will be harsher on those of us signing on, and also much stricter. It's all about forcing the unemployed workers, and particularly youth, into part time, low paid jobs.

Although National Insurance contributions have risen by 10% over the last two years, this rise in payments from us has been answered by the government with a £10 cut in dole money under the JSA. Not only will the money be less, but on top of that, the time allowed for claiming the 'Allowance' will be reduced from one year to six months.

By the Autumn, under the JSA, we will be forced to sign an agreement in order to get our money. This agreement will basically be a contract between you and the employment service; it sets the terms for receiving money. This contract will include, among other things: the number of times you visit the Job Centre; which newspapers you'll buy and look in for work; how many agencies you will register with; and how many employers you will contact to try for jobs. They also want to know how many friends or family members you will ask for work! And this is all just to get your claim started!

The Dole office will also have extra powers called the 'Job Seekers Direction'. Once you've signed their contract and got your dole money coming in, you will still be under the threat of being forced, under the 'Direction' to do a government training scheme; whether it's the right kind of thing for you or not. They can even demand that you change your clothes or hair style!

If you do not comply with their demands then your benefits will be stopped for a month (coincidentally adding one less to the government's unemployment figures).

Can we still go to college

under the JSA? Yes, but while they can force you onto one

of their training schemes, they can also make you leave any other course if you are offered a job, even if it's merely part time work at Burger King!

All this is yet another Tory attack on young people aimed at forcing us into low paid work with shit hours and terrible conditions. It comes after the withdrawal of benefits for 16 to 18 year olds and forcing them onto useless training schemes with little or no prospects of a job.

Those under 25 will already have seen a massive cut in housing benefit, whatever the rent paid, since April last year. Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, has introduced these cuts over a span of years. Now we are expected to cope with yet another £10 cut. How are we going to afford the hair cut and those new clothes under the 'Job seekers Direction,' Mr Lilley?

This new attack on our Welfare provisions is just one more reason to get rid of this rotten government once and for all. But don't expect Labour to change things if and when they get in. Tony Blair, Labour's new leader, has already stated that he won't reverse these Tory laws. We can't have false illusions that it will turn out ok. We've got to make our own demands on the Labour Party in Parliament and back them up with action.

Over the last few months workers in the Dole offices around Britain have been striking against the introduction of the JSA. These workers are in the same boat; they too face cuts from the government who pay their wages. They have been striking not only against their miserable 2.5% pay offer but also in reaction to the arbitrary measures of the JSA; it's these workers, after all, who have to enforce the new regulations.

When staff went on strike for a week in Ealing Dole office in London, they were supported by



THE ETERNAL DOLE QUEUE

unemployed people on their picket. As one unemployed person put it, 'You're fighting for all of us!' The workers on the 'front line' of the welfare state are usually angry at being forced to tell people that they can't receive this or that payment under new rules and regulations. These workers need to be linked further with the unemployed in the struggle against the new laws, as well as any other attacks on the unemployed that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will want to push through Parliament in the future.

REVOLUTION says:

- Scap the JSA
- Restore benefits to 16 and 17 year-olds
- Benefits at the rate of a national minimum wage
- Tax the rich to fund new jobs and benefits
- Work for all - a 35 hour week with no loss of pay and a ban on non-essential overtime would put millions back to work.
- For an unemployed workers union

DRUGS

IN THE last 5 years deaths directly caused by the most widely used drugs were:

Tobacco	550,000
Alcohol	125,000
Heroin	800
Ecstasy	54
Cannabis	Nil.

Only a minority of the deaths caused by ecstasy were allergic (or anaphylactic) reactions. Most were caused by dehydration and overheating while dancing. A tiny number were caused by the opposite - drinking too much water, or related to pre-existing heart conditions being aggravated by the drug. Considering the scale on which Ecstasy tablets are being taken every weekend, the figure for allergic casualties is lower than the numbers killed by adverse reactions to paracetamol or peanuts.

There has only ever been one recorded death by cannabis - a bale of weed apparently fell on somebody's head.

The fatalities caused by the legal drugs alcohol and tobacco are, by contrast, enormous. What is more, the British Medical Association reported in 1988 that unlike ecstasy and cannabis, there is a well documented link between alcohol and violence, with drink a factor in half of all domestic attacks, 75% of stabbings and 6 out of ten killings. And all this is before the figures for road traffic accidents are taken into account.

SAFER DRUG USE

Legalisation would make drug use safer for millions of people. At the moment you don't know exactly what is in, for example, an Ecstasy tablet. If you buy a gramme of speed you don't know what it has been cut with. This is not just a rip off - it can damage your health. Heroin dependents can be injured or even killed by the impurities that are present in the powder they inject, or by variations in the strength and purity. The provision of proper, pure, manufactured heroin without impurities and with a fixed dosage can enable heroin dependents to avoid these risks and the threat of overdose. One British doctor was recently in the news for prescribing clean pure heroin for dependents. The casualty figures among the heroin users on his books dwindled to almost nothing. Then the authorities stopped him and insisted he provide the substitute Methadone. The heroin users went back to buying smack on the streets... and the casualties quickly mounted again.

In Holland kits for testing the purity of Ecstasy tablets have been available for some time - you can get your E tested in clubs. Deaths from ecstasy in Holland are only a tiny fraction of the figures for Britain. In Britain the kits are banned.

If drugs were legally available then the same regulation, quality control and choice would apply as exists for other goods.

PROVIDE INFORMATION

Legalisation would allow proper, accurate, information to be available about drugs instead of the tissue of distortions and

truths we get today. We are told that all drugs are addictive, make you mad etc etc without any attempt being made to differentiate between the various drugs and their effects.

The net result of this is that the first time you actually try an illicit drug you suddenly realise what a load of rubbish you've been told about it. From then you don't believe a word of the official propaganda. But some drugs are genuinely dangerous, others have certain risks that could be minimised - if trustworthy information were available.

The London dance music station Kiss FM, until recently, carried regular adverts for the National Drugs helpline, which gave serious information about the effects of popular drugs like speed and ecstasy, and also exposed many of the myths about these drugs' effects. This information was useful to users, and helped to minimise risks without spreading panic and falsehood. Suddenly it changed. Instead of the voices of young people explaining how to reduce dehydration on ecstasy, a crude advert is being run describing drug dealers as "animals" who "maim and kill" and asking young people to help "put down a rat." This approach has already failed in the past. But while drugs are illegal, the main priority is catching the "criminals", not providing a service to millions of users.

BLOW TO ORGANISED CRIME

Legalisation would be a death blow to the gangster and criminal syndicates that make millions out of drug sales. Why on earth would anyone want to hang around nervously on a street corner waiting to buy an underweight wrap of weed if they could get a weighed quantity legally in the shops? All the anti-drugs campaigns run by the police have failed to reduce the scale and power of gangsters - legalisation would ruin them at a stroke.

Importantly every effort would have



THE CASE FOR LEGALISATION

to be made to ensure that the corporate gangsters of the multinational drug companies don't replace the street gangsters. A legalised drugs industry should be a nationalised industry under the control of drug users and the workers in the industry. Otherwise it won't be long before the profit hungry multinationals find their own way to cut drugs and sell you an inferior product.

STOP RACIST HARASSMENT

Legalisation would remove one of the main excuses the police have for systematically harassing young people. Black youth get a particularly hard time. It is well known just how widespread racist attitudes are within the police. Young black people get constant hassle, are moved on, flagged down in their cars, beaten up and even killed at police stations. The illegality of the popular and almost harmless drug cannabis provides the police with all the excuse they need to stop and search at will.

Nor can the police be expected to respond to drug taking among different social groups even handedly. Take cocaine for instance. This is a drug with a glamorous image. Because cocaine is subtle, sexy and very expensive. It is widely used in the music business and by smart young rich kids. Members of bands and DJs live in a constant blizzard of the stuff. But there is no big "anti-coke" campaign - it is a drug with status, and the police hardly bother about it.

Crack is another thing altogether as far as the police are concerned. Except that it's not another thing at all. It's the same thing in a different, smokeable, form. But it is not a glamorous drug - it has a "low-life" image. It is used mainly by young blacks, and by the poor and desperate. So there has been a scare campaign against crack cocaine and a big police clamp down. Of course there is more crime associated with crack cocaine than with the powder - it is a direct result of the poverty

and desperation among crack users. Slick yuppies don't have to steal to pay for their next line of coke. For them £60 a gramme is just another manageable expense - like champagne.

These double standards show what's really at stake. Legalisation would stop the police using the illegality of drugs as a pretext for their war against black youth.

PERSONAL CHOICE

Legalisation would enable people to choose what they want to do with their own bodies. By what democratic right does the state tell us what is and isn't acceptable for individuals to do for their own pleasure? It is not health considerations, as we have seen.

Nor is there any other acceptable reason. The real cause of the panic is that the more drug use expands, the sharper the profits of the big breweries fall.

Ecstasy and the dance culture are the main culprits as far as the breweries are concerned. During the peak years for rave - 1987 to 1992 - pub attendance fell by over 10%. The breweries' market researchers estimate that ravers spend £1.8 billion a year - but not on ale. The breweries don't like it. So they have launched new trendy drinks, bring out adverts suggesting that beer is smarter than E... and use their links to the Tory party to press for a clampdown on "dangerous" illegal drugs.

That's why there have been no posters of dead alcoholics with the words "Sorted" printed on them in massive letters. It is why you have heard of Leah Betts (killed by drinking too much water; by ignorance not by E), but have never heard of a single household name of an alcohol casualty. Famous drug addicts are regarded as a disgrace; famous drunks are just to be laughed at. It's why E is banned and alcohol is advertised on TV.

The Tories should have no right to tell us what we can and can't take while they are funded to the tune of

millions by the breweries - the biggest drug pushers of all.

BRING THE LAW INTO TUNE

Legalisation would bring society's laws into tune with society itself. The desire to consume plants or chemicals to get out of your head is as old as human civilisation itself. From early forms of wine and fermented spirits through to the use of cannabis, mescaline, psychoactive mushrooms and khat, every society has had some preferred stimulant which has been used to relax, to party or celebrate. This is not a moral or legal question - it is a fact of human history and of the nature of our species. No attempt to suppress drug use by law has ever succeeded.

REVOLUTION is neither pro- nor anti- drugs. Drug taking should be regarded as neither immoral nor glamorous. It is simply a fact of life.

Day to day living under capitalism is the pits for most - poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, grinding alienating work. You've got a 48 hour weekend to escape from reality. Get smashed, drop a pill, smoke a joint, shoot up or snort a line; who's to blame?

But here a word of warning is needed. If you take an E at weekends or smoke a bit of draw that's not going to hurt you or anyone else. But if you are out of it all the time you're going to be no use to anyone. We need to fight the poverty, unemployment, bad housing, cuts and police repression that make life unbearable for so many youth today, and which push more and more to desperate responses like alcoholism, crack dependence and mainlining smack. Fighting back against this system is hard work - it needs energy, dedication, discipline and organisation. We don't have to tell each other to "Just Say No" - but we do need clear brains to break the chains.

6 IDEAS

SOCIALISM: A THI

SOCIALISM: a thing of the past? If you read the mainstream papers, then you probably have some idea of what you think socialism is: Socialism happened years ago under Labour governments, but only a few old men in cloth caps still believe in it. Or, socialism is this nice idea about equality that never worked. Or, socialism was a terrible one-party dictatorship, like the ones that used to exist in Eastern Europe, where you couldn't speak your mind, and had to queue for ages just to get a few poor-quality products. Whatever socialism was, it's had its day now, and is a thing of the past, they say.

The Labour party has dumped its "commitment" to striving for socialism, the Eastern bloc has fallen and there have been few working class struggles to see in Britain since the mass opposition to the poll tax. Not only do the mainstream papers and politicians want us to believe that socialism is irrelevant. They want us to think that only boring old farts talk about the struggles of the working class.

Well we at Revolution know that to fight injustice today - the Criminal Justice Bill, racist deportations, the new Jobseekers Allowance (see page 3) - the rich history of the victories and defeats of socialists and workers in their struggle for a better life, provides us with the lessons we can use to turn our struggles into victorious ones.

CLASS STRUGGLE

All over the world there exist working-class movements and parties at the forefront of the fight against oppression, who see the fight for socialism as part of their fight. But why?

Society is divided into classes. One class, the working-class, lives by selling its labour for wages. Another class, the ruling class, makes its living by owning companies, banks and factories, and receiving huge profits from the work of others. We call this system Capitalism.

The conflicting interests of the two classes cause a struggle between them. The working class struggles for a better life, decent wages and against oppression. For as long as classes exist, there will continue to be class struggle. And with it, a working class-led struggle for a classless society, for socialism.

"HOW IS SOCIALISM DIFFERENT?"

Under capitalism, all the decisions in the economy are made by a minority, the ruling class, for their own profit: what to make, who to sack, and so on. The rest of us have no control over the situation. Millions are unemployed, on low wages or working and living in terrible conditions, while a minority live off the fruits of our labour.

Under socialism, the economy will be owned by the people as a whole. They will plan it for their benefit, and not for the benefit of a rich few.

"Socialism sounds like a nice idea, but it never works in practice. Just look at Eastern Europe."

The old Eastern European states and the ex-Soviet Union were not socialist. In those states, capitalism had been overthrown and the economy planned by the state, but there was no democracy. Therefore an elite arose in those countries which enriched itself and acquired a lot of power and privilege. They maintained control over society through extreme repression of any forms of dissent. Under socialism, all leaders would be truly accountable, through elections at every level. If someone's not doing their job properly, they'd be replaced by someone else.

Many look at the way people used to queue for poor-quality goods in Eastern Europe and at how life is more comfortable in Britain. Politicians and the bosses' papers use this to claim that socialism doesn't work, and that no matter how bad capitalism is, this is the best we can expect: "You've never had it so good".

This is not so. The problem in Eastern Europe was not a planned economy, run by the people, for the

people. The problem was with how the planned economy was run. Without the decision makers being accountable to everyone, there was no way mistakes could be spotted and dealt with immediately. Socialism only exists when there is democracy, when everyone can play a part in running society.

"SOCIALISTS SET THEIR SIGHTS TOO HIGH. 'THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY', THAT'S THE SOLUTION."

A lot of young people involved in various campaigns are disillusioned with politics, and don't see why they need to have political ideas to change things for the better. For them, it's enough to be struggling against injustices, without having grand ideas about the "big picture"

But the "think globally - act locally" idea can't work. The state is organised on a national basis. Police sent to attack striking miners in 1984 or protesters against the British National Party or the Criminal Justice Act more recently, were trained and organised from across the whole country. Multi-national companies exploiting the Third World don't just think globally, they act on a global basis. They have the United Nations and the armies of many countries to defend their interests. Any successful struggle for real change means having to think beyond the specific campaign you are involved in now. And that means having political ideas.

ISN'T SOCIALISM SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LABOUR PARTY? WHY NOT JUST VOTE LABOUR?

The Labour Party was set up by the trade unions to be the voice of the workers in Parliament, and receives the votes of millions of working-class people. In power, it has sometimes made reforms of capitalism, such as the creation of a free health service, education, benefits and so on.

But the Labour Party has repeatedly betrayed the aims and struggles of the working class, both in and out of office. In power, it has sent the police against strikers and

ING OF THE PAST?

passed racist immigration laws. In opposition, it has failed to support struggles such as those of the miners in 1984. During the big movement against the poll tax, the Labour Party not only failed to support the people fighting against it: Labour councils sent bailiffs against non-payers and put some in prison.

The Labour Party, only seeks to change society in the interests of working-class people through Parliament and elections. But the real power doesn't lie in Parliament. Most decisions are made by the huge unelected state machine: the unelected judiciary, senior civil servants, army and police chiefs.

These people are tied by family connections, common interest or ideological outlook to the ruling class. Any serious attempt to change society through Parliament would meet with their outright opposition, and they wouldn't stop short of violence or overthrowing the government to achieve their aims. In Chile in the early 1970s, an elected left-wing government started on an ambitious policy of trying to achieve socialist-style changes through parliament. The result? The elected government was overthrown by the army and tens of thousands of workers and young people killed.

Because of this powerful state machine, the only way socialism can be achieved is by revolution. This does not mean that you shouldn't take elections seriously. After all, thousands come out every five years to vote, believing that they're making a difference. We have to vote Labour but organise to fight Labour once in office, and mobilise the unions to make Labour meet our needs. What it does mean is that socialists cannot base their long-term strategy on winning elections.

"WHY MAKE SUCH A BIG THING ABOUT CLASS?"

Of course, other forms of oppression exist that aren't simply based on class. Oppression exists under capitalism on the basis of race, sex, sexuality and age. But socialists base

the struggle for change on the struggle of the working class because it's the only class with the real interest and ability to abolish all forms of oppression. The working class, because it lives by selling its labour, can, like no other group in society, stop the capitalists dead in their tracks. By going on strike for example, goods are not produced and the bosses make no money. Workers, united under the banner of

Socialism, have the power to not only hit the capitalists where it really hurts, but the power to bring this wholeretched capitalist system down.

The choice we face is a stark one. The choice between a world of poverty, exploitation and war, and a world of democracy, equality and plenty.

Join us. You know it makes sense.

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SEX AT 14?

In response to the current moral panic about teenage sex, Peter Tatchell urges an age of consent of 14 for everyone, gay and straight.

FIRST IT WAS a judge, Sir Stephen Brown, breaking up the relationship between 13-year-old Sarah Cook and her Turkish boyfriend Musa Komegae. Now Tory MP, Peter Luff, wants a clamp down on teen magazines that give no-nonsense advice about sex.

One of the biggest obstacles to the sexual welfare of young people is the absurdly high ages of consent: 16 for heterosexual and lesbian sex, and 18 for sex between men.

This ban on sex under 16/18 inhibits the provision of effective sex education, contraceptive advice and safer sex materials to the one-in-two teenagers who become sexually active before the age of 16. By denying young people the right to make decisions about their own bodies, the present law plays into the hands of adults who want to exploit and abuse them.

For some teenagers, the age of consent results in a legal penalty. Every year, several hundred men under 21 are arrested and cautioned for the consensual offence of "unlawful sexual intercourse" with a girl aged 13-16. More than 200 others are convicted. A few end up in youth custody.

Coinciding with Valentines Day,

the queer rights movement, OutRage!, launched a campaign for the age of consent to be reduced to 14 for everyone, gay and straight. The aim is to create a culture of sexual rights where young people feel more confident about asserting their own sexual choices, including the right to say "yes" and the right to say "no".

Already 20 European countries have ages of consent lower than 16 (ranging from 12 to 15), and their laws apply equally to heterosexual and homosexual relations.

OutRage! is also proposing that sex involving young people under the age of 14 should not be prosecuted, providing both partners consent and there is no more than three years' difference in their ages. This element of flexibility takes into account the fact that some young people experiment sexually with each other from a very early age. They shouldn't be treated as criminals.

Restricting sex involving the under 14s to partners with a maximum three-year age difference would protect very young people from being manipulated by those much older.

OutRage! wants these legal changes backed by mandatory, explicit sex education in all schools,

from primary classes onwards. Schools should be educating young people about sex before they become sexually active. Reducing the age of consent is essential to remove the legal obstacles to this provision of early, effective information and, where necessary, contraception and condoms.

The OutRage! approach seeks to empower young people to make their own informed, responsible choices. It's modelled on the Netherlands, where the age of consent is effectively 12 for both hetero and homo relationships, where young people are taught they have a right to control their own bodies, and where there are freer attitudes towards teenage sex. The result? Dutch youths have their first sexual experience at a later age than their British counterparts. The rate of pregnancies and abortions in girls under 16 in the Netherlands is less than one-seventh of the rate in Britain.

Put simply: the sexual health and happiness of young people is best ensured by education and empowerment, not by repression.

Peter Tatchell is the author of the gay sex manual, *Safer Sexy: The Guide to Gay Sex Safely* (Freedom Editions, £14.99)

WHAT REVO SAYS

REMEMBER your first sex? Maybe it wasn't the best experience you've had. For some it leads an unwanted pregnancy, for others a sexually transmitted disease. Behind the sugary romance of the teenage magazines this can be the reality of teenage sex. But why?

Young people are prisoners of laws and taboos that deter having sex at an early age. Ignorance and embarrassment lead to unsafe sex and hang-ups. Fear and shame make us suppress our natural desires.

As Peter Tatchell points out, the age of consent laws (no legal sex until we're 16, or 18 if you're gay!), and bans on magazines, films and school sex education do not "protect" young people from abuse.

Most abuse comes from within the family. All it does is stop us getting

the information we need so we can make educated decisions about our own sex lives.

We say, remove all the laws that deny young people the right to make informed decisions: lift all age of consent laws and bans on books, films, TV and education.

Even this is not enough. Youth are treated as second class citizens. We're denied the right to vote. The council won't give us housing or benefits if we can't handle living at home, forcing many to live on the streets; and laws like the Criminal Justice Bill that even ban us from holding parties.

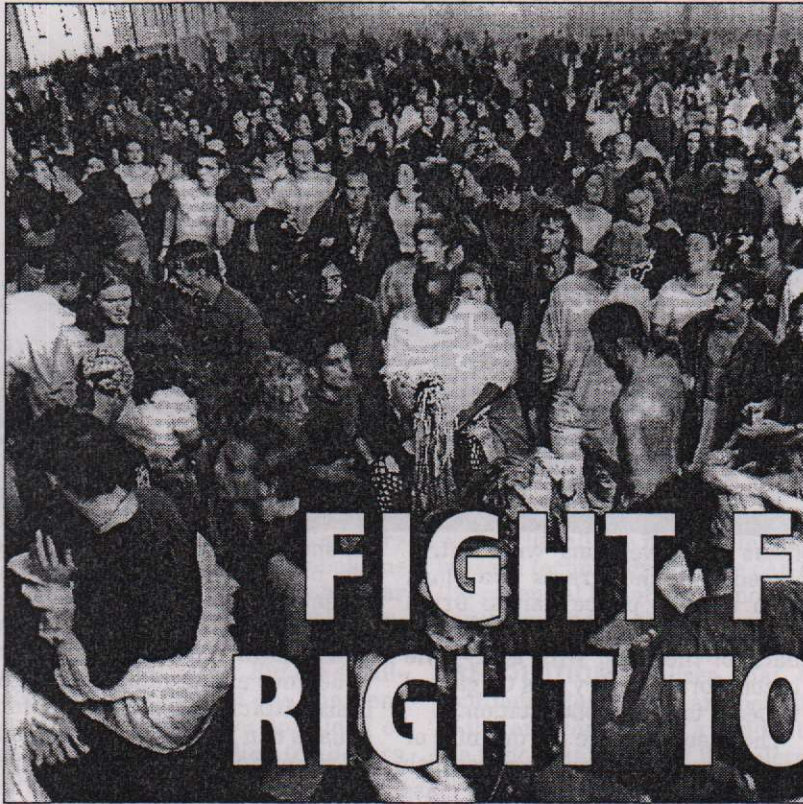
These are laws that allow parents, teachers, police and courts to brutally interfere in our lives. If we're old enough to work in a shit job for low wages, old enough to be kicked

onto the streets, then we're old enough to have sex when we're ready and old enough to party when we want.

We need safe space to hang out, housing provided for youth, and an education system controlled and run by workers and youth. Only then could youth be able get some control over their own lives.

Fight for the following!

- drop all age of consent laws
- no bans on media or education
- informative sex education in all schools
- free access to contraceptives and STD protection
- housing and resources for youth who want to leave home
- schools to be run by teachers and youth



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO PARTY

YOU'VE BEEN there: lasers sweep above the heads of a sea of dancers, slicing into sweet-smelling clouds of dry ice. You meet the eyes of someone dancing near you; huge grins, you shake their hand or hug them, or just leave it at the grin that says 'fucking awesome'. If you'd seen that person the day before and they'd looked at you like that, you probably would've thought they were a bit of a crank.

From the moment we are born, we are brought up in a world that says others are competition. Competition for money, for jobs, for school grades even for friendship. But at a good party, where we can relax and forget about the world around us, we find that's bullshit. There is nothing natural about being suspicious of one another, nothing natural about competition. We are a social animal and we are at our best when we are socialising. You can get that atmosphere in a good club, but to get that full-on, carefree party feeling, you can't beat a "free party" (dance parties organised independently - for fun, not for profit).

You take away the money motive and the "posers" and are left with people seriously committed to everyone having a great time.

ILLEGAL PARTIES

Big problem! Free parties, the proper ones, are illegal. The Criminal Justice Act means that organisers can be fined and even imprisoned for "conspiracy to cause a public nuisance". Why? It's not just that

those in power are a load of gits who want to stop us having a good time. They're also scared of us. Free party culture is outside their control.

Young people getting together and having such a good time raises all sorts of questions about how the world works. If the government tells us that drugs are bad, but millions take them every weekend and rarely is anyone hurt, why believe anything else they tell us? If we can get along brilliantly with people we've never met before in, why can't we do it seven days a week?

ALIENATION

The capitalist system we live in depends on alienation. In our work (assuming there's a job for us) we are alienated from what we produce. We have no control over the products we make, how the production process is run or what happens to the product in the end. If we had that sort of control, we would be saying: "let's produce for need, not profit"; "this production process damages our environment so we won't use it". Most importantly, we'd realise we don't need bosses. If we, the producers, run society there is no need for a class system where one class exploits the other.

We are alienated from the production process and alienated from each other. "Freedom" under capitalism means freedom to compete with each other. Not freedom to work together.

When the Tories drew up the Criminal Justice Bill, they not only

restricted the freedom to party, but restrictions on our ability to fight back in the workplace. This is no coincidence. They know the only way we can fight back is collectively. A tragedy of the fight against the CJA was that the party-people, huntsabs and roads protesters didn't unite with our frontline organisations, the trade unions. If we withdraw our labour, the bosses can't make a profit and the heart of their system is squashed.

But can't be all because the bosses, police and courts hit back and hit back hard. In October '94 the cops launched a brutal attack on people partying at an anti-CJA demo in London. Last summer, they launched one of the biggest police operations since the miners' strike to stop a free party and sent riot squads in against a "Reclaim the Streets" free party in North London.

Being "fluffy" is useless against horses and riot squads, still less the military who they'll use if need be. We must organise as effectively as the bosses and the state. That means we need a revolutionary party that organises to smash the state and replace it with our own democratic organisations. Replace it with a system where every working class person can have a say in how society is run.

You want to live in a world where people can smile at each other without one thinking the other's a nutter. So don't just escape to a party each weekend, become a revolutionary. And join a good party - both sorts!

POLICE:

In response to the current...
urges... of consent



ONLY DOING THEIR JOB?

THE TV and the papers portray them as the thin blue line, defending 'normal' people from the hordes of criminals waiting to rob us blind, rape us, or murder us in our beds. The truth is something entirely different.

The fact is that when anti-social crimes like burglary, street robbery and so on are committed against working class women and men, if you phone the police from a working class estate, often they won't show for hours. Black people and women who have been raped or suffer domestic violence find the police incredibly unsympathetic. Many people believe this proves that the police should have more money or power. This conclusion is absolutely wrong because it ignores the fact that the fundamental, main role of the police is not to prevent crime.

The real task of the police is first and foremost to defend the existing social order, and this means repressing resistance to capitalism and its effects. This is what their 'law and order' really means, and it is not in our interests. Therefore they have to disguise this role:

The police need to get the trust of ordinary people, to ensure our day-to-day obedience and co-operation, and also to get us to accept law-and-order policies: more power, more weapons and more numbers. To do this, they need to con us into believing that without them crime would explode. The press and politicians, Tory and Labour alike, back them in this lie. It is all based on the idea that our communities would be incapable of policing themselves if they were allowed to.

POLICE POWERS

The police are arming themselves up with American batons and CS gas, and there is a strong lobby for the routine carrying of guns.

The gas and baton body count has already begun. Only weeks after

these new weapons were introduced onto the streets two black men died at police hands. Brian Douglas was clubbed across the back of the head with a US-style baton. Ibrahima Sey was CS gassed to death inside a police station.

These deaths were not one off's or accidents. Day in day out police dish out harassment to working class and especially black youth, increasingly using the stop and search rights the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) gave them. As in Bradford last spring, when youth rise up against racist harassment their streets are flooded with police and they are attacked. The results of police carrying guns are not hard to predict.

WHO THEY REALLY POLICE

The true role of the police goes much further than systematic harassment and reinforcing racism. It exposes itself most nakedly when the working class and oppressed organise together and fight back.

In 1984 the most militant section of the working class, the miners, fought back in a strike against the hated Tory government who were trying to close the pits. The Tories knew they had to win this fight at any cost. They pumped billions of pounds into the police force and intelligence services.

Thousands of police from London were poured into the pit villages. Pitched battles were fought as police tried to smash picket lines, so they could get scabs in to work and break the strike. The state was determined to smash the miners and they used their police force to help them do it.

And that's not all. The march against the Nazi HQ in Wellington and the demonstration against the Criminal Justice Act at Hyde Park were both attacked by a tooled up police force on the instructions of the government.

Against police harassment and their attacks on demos and pickets,

we should not turn the other cheek. We need to organise disciplined defence capable of winning when the police attack. On demonstrations, stewarding should be geared to defence and organised enough to resist attack. On pickets, defence squads run by the workers need to be set up to stop the police getting scabs in. Against racist attacks need our own street patrols under the control of committees of local workers and the community. As well as preventing police harassment these patrols could deal more effectively with anti-social crime than the police ever could.

Imagine if a movement, supported by the mass of working people, tried to seriously change the distribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. Who would the police side with? The answer is clear. The police are an arm of the state, and when it comes to the crunch the state will always defend the interests of the bosses against the struggles of workers. The state is not neutral and neither are the police. What they do to our demonstrations is nothing compared to what they will do if workers get anywhere near succeeding in a revolution and seizing the property of the bosses. Before we can start building a socialist society the police will have to be broken up and replaced by the armed self-defence of the population.

The police are a real, every day threat to our interests and an obstacle to our socialist goal. This is why we must strip them of their powers, and fight for our right to self defence -now!

REVOLUTION says:

- Abolish the police.
- Abolish the Tactical Support Groups (the bastards in the blue helmets)
- Strip the police of their weapons: no batons, CS gas, riot shields, etc.
- For organised self-defence.
- Workers and youth to safeguard their own areas.



ENVIRONMENT II

GREEN CAPITALISM?

EVERY YEAR, across the globe, people are dying, becoming ill and suffering from the effects of pollution and environmental destruction. From the Newbury road protests to the youth rebellions in Tahiti, against the French nuclear tests, people are fighting back, forcing governments to take action on environmental issues. But the small-scale local actions of environmentalists and legislative solutions of governments are failing to address the real causes of the environmental destruction.

The biggest polluter and destroyer of our world is large-scale business, in its continuing attempts to gain quick and easy profit. Most industries produce harmful substances and release polluting gases as waste products. Not only are these commonly buried, or just dumped into rivers, but the same industries ignore any health risk to "their" workers.

Doing away with these risks and disposing of waste safely costs money, potentially reducing the profits of the industry bosses. This is clearly seen with Shell's Brent Spar affair, where the cost of getting rid of the oil rig was placed before the potential environmental dangers. Shell also finds it cheaper to pay the corrupt Nigerian military dictatorship, to repress environment activists in Nigeria, rather than clean up after itself.

The Tories say they are tackling environmental problems. But putting money into tree planting schemes, promoting unleaded petrol and energy efficiency in individual homes will do little to end pollution and environmental destruction. If the government really wanted to tackle environmental problems it would make the bosses of the polluting industries pay to clean up the mess, as well implementing strict environmental standards for industry.

REVOLUTION does not simply equate environmental destruction with industry, and draw the conclusion that the getting rid of industry will solve the problem. It is not

industry and technology that's the problem; the profit driven owners of industry that misuse technology are the real problem. We want to go forward with all the improvements of modern technology and we can see the potential benefits technological development can give to the millions of people on this planet.

REVOLUTION realises that the continuing destruction and pollution of the environment is a product of the logic that is driving the rulers of the world. The logic that puts profit before human need. The logic of capitalism.

The logic of a mad system that produces three times the amount of food needed to feed the world yet allows millions to die from starvation and malnutrition each year; that spends millions on new roads to add to our all ready jammed and smoke bellowing highways while cutting back on public transport spending; that throw thousands of workers on to the unemployment scrap heap in the name of the free market and deregulation; that is continuing the destruction of the environment, destroying people's health, and placing life on the planet in danger.

We do not just campaign for cleaner technology, or on single issues such as saving the forests. We will fight alongside green groups in the struggle to save the environment, but the environment must be looked at in relation to the rest of society. **REVOLUTION** puts the needs of millions above the greed and privileges of a few: the rich and its (government) agents. We will join struggles to bring in greater and improved public transport services throughout the country, but will not just stop at saving a few trees.

Some environmental reforms can be won under capitalism. In cities like Los Angeles, or Mexico City where the health of ruling class has been threatened by air pollution clean air laws are being enforced to curb pollution. But as every environmental activist knows, when the struggle to save the environment threatens the profitability and com-

fortable lives of the rich and powerful, the full weight of the capitalist state, the police and the army, is used.

The Tories, and the Labour Party are defenders of the logic of capitalism. That is why they play lip service to environmental issues but will never really attempt to stop pollution or environmental destruction.

We cannot continue to leave the problems of the environment to capitalist governments, who do not really represent the millions of people on this world; nor can we leave it to money-making organisations like Greenpeace who have made peace with capitalism, and its profit logic, long ago and are run from the top by a Lord. The question of the environment must be tied to the needs of the poor, the homeless, the workers and youth.

To save the environment we need to be able to plan and control the fair distribution of food, housing, jobs, and the use of the world's natural resources and not leave it to the 'market' to decide. We need to end the privileges of the rich few and take back the land, the resources, the factories, and place them in control of the majority of the world's population.

To achieve this we have to win the support of the class that actually keeps society running, the working class of the world. The working class has no reason to save money by continuing to pollute and destroy our environment. It is only this class that can fight internationally to provide a fair system based on need, not on profit and destruction of the environment. That system is Socialism.

REVOLUTION SAYS:

- For a workplace veto over unsafe practices
- Force bosses to pay compensation and clean up their damage
- For an integrated public transport policy
- Nationalise the big corporations under workers' control.

! REVOLUTION!

We live in a world full of injustice, oppression and poverty. While millions starve, food is destroyed in order to keep its price up. The latest technology in health care cannot be used in many countries because of the payment of foreign debt.

Even the most basic provisions of a good water supply and decent sanitation are denied to people all around the world. Meanwhile ever greater ecological disasters loom on the horizon.

REVOLUTION does not believe there is anything 'natural' about the terrible state of the world. We believe that what is happening is because of the world wide system of capitalism.

It is a system that runs with the sole intention of making money for a tiny handful of capitalists who own and control industry and the land.

We believe that it is possible to create a new and better world system, a socialist system. It would be an international system which means the fight to achieve it must be international. Workers' Power (Britain) is part of the League for a Revolutionary Communist International that includes revolutionaries from all over the world.

Because we are internationalists we support all struggles by people oppressed by imperialism - including the struggle to get British troops out of Ireland.

Because we are internationalists we oppose imperialist militarism: we say not a penny nor a person for the defence of this system.

A socialist system would be based on common ownership of land, the factories, offices, transport and communication systems. It would organise society to provide the necessities and luxuries of life for all, according to a democratically worked out plan.

This means, instead of having people homeless because the privately owned land and building companies only build houses when they can make money, we will all own the land, collectively and we will plan to use the bricks that lie unused and the building workers who are unemployed to build the homes needed.

To get this, industry and land will have to be taken out of the hands of the few. But this group of people, the ruling class, will never allow us to do

this without a fight. The government is prepared to mobilise thousands of police to attack raves, demonstrations and picket lines. Just imagine what they would be prepared to do to protect their whole system of wealth and power. That is why we believe we need a workers' revolution.

But we cannot wait until then, we have to fight against exploitation and oppression now. We support the struggles against women's oppression, racism and homophobia.

Whether it is workers on strike, women fighting for abortion rights or black people fighting against racism, it is often young people who are leading these struggles.

We fight for action that will win and in such a way that the struggles of today can prepare us for the revolution of tomorrow. We try to turn today's struggles into a struggle for power by fighting for workers' control, workers' self-defence, etc.

REVOLUTION stands in the tradition of over 150 years of revolutionary socialism. Our movement is based on the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, applied to today's conditions.

REVOLUTION aims to build a revolutionary youth movement, to win thousands and thousands of youth to supporting and building a revolutionary party that can lead the working class to power.

So don't just sit there, sell REVOLUTION and become a REVOLUTION supporter!

Join:

REVOLUTION!

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