

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

TUITION FEES?

NO WAY!

Tax the rich and make them pay

“**EDUCATION, EDUCATION**, Education”, “hard choices”, “Compassion with a hard edge” “Fairness not favours” cheer the Labour leadership in chorus, but if you take a look behind the propaganda you can see what all this new labour, new opportunities shit really means. Privileges for the few, poverty for the many ie, business as usual.

The latest new labour scam is of course the proposal to introduce a £1000/year tuition fee for all HE courses, complimented with the total abolition of the student grant, to be replaced with loans.

Outraged? Oh don't worry the Labour leaders tell us. If your parents earn under £23 000 a year you will be exempt from the fees, and we won't have to start paying back our loans until we earn £10 000 a year. Working class students, they say, won't be

shut out of uni - remember compassion and fairness are Labour's middle names.

But once again take a peep behind the propaganda and the lies are there for all to see.

To anyone with half a brain cell, or who isn't a lying, cheating, right wing nutter, it is painfully obvious that working class people will be the ones most effected. Ask yourself these questions:

- which class of students will be forced to borrow the highest loan, because they haven't got a rich mummy and daddy they can turn to?
- which class of students are most likely to be put off by the prospect of having to borrow over £10 000 when they are still unlikely to earn little money once they graduate?

You dont have to be a graduate in economics to work this one out. It is the working class of course. Moreover graduates from rich backgrounds are far likelier to earn well over £10 000 a year needed to start paying off their loans.

If labour are allowed to get away with this then where will it stop? This is a test case to see how much they can get away with.

We have to get organised and fight this all the way.

Already thousands of students from around the country have signed petitions and are organising for the local demos. But we have to do more. We need to force the NUS to actually do what its meant to - represent the interest of its members. Get active. get to student meetings and demand NUS support the fight for free education and be active.

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NUS Bureaucrats on the run

On Wednesday 22nd October Revo members were at a General Meeting of the Manchester University Student Union when the debate erupted into anger over a blatant anti-democratic manoeuvre by NUS bureaucrats. The majority of the meeting, nearly 400 concerned students, had voted in favor of free education only to see the student union executive attempt to throw it out when they realised they'd lost the debate and there was nothing else they could do to stop the motion for free education.

The meeting really started to kick off when amendments to a motion on tuition fees came up. The third amendment argued against the NUS position and for fighting to keep the student grant.

In the debate the executive officers Jo Hogarth and Michael Balls both tried to convince students that grants had been lost in 1979, that a national demonstration for free education in London on the 26th November would be a diversion from the fight against fees, that it is a "utopian dream" to fight against the abolition of the grant, and that it was a failed policy to do so! The amendment for fighting the abolition of grant was lost.

But events took a dramatic turn with the proposal of the fourth amendment by a Revo supporter. The amendment, again calling for a fight not just against fees but also against the abolition of the grant, with a stronger and clearer emphasis than the previous one, was received with a resounding applause. The executive arrogantly thought they had already won the argument and decided to move straight to a vote without opposing it from the platform. This time they lost with a clear majority in favour of amendment four.

Already discredited by their dirty tactics adopted throughout the meeting (hissing and booing

over opposing speeches, etc.) and their failure to come up with a single convincing argument against fighting for grants not loans, the executive then attempted to vote on the motion in parts. In other words, because they lost, they wanted to vote on the same amendment again!

We won

The general meeting turned decisively against the executive officers who responded with the pathetic and patronising "you don't realise what you've voted for" and "if some of you are unclear about voting in parts, then let me just clarify it for you..." To this the already pissed off students angrily shouted and booed them off the stage! They were thoroughly routed.

In their final attempt to destroy the amendment the brought the meeting to an abrupt end by immediately calling for a quoracy count, and consequently declared the meeting over, as the number of students present were "insufficient for the constitutional requirements." Then they stated that the policy which had been agreed upon was invalid!

The meeting adjourned with a feeling of victory by the students who had argued for fighting against the abolition of the grant, too. The amendment was adopted but chucked out by the student union bureaucrats, but their blatant trashing of democracy actually worked against them and gave a huge boost to the campaign against fees and abolition of the grant. Many students questioned why they were ever elected in the first place and calls for a vote of no confidence and to sack the whole bunch of them were widespread.

Many came up to discuss how to carry on the campaign. We're going to hold a meeting to

organise how to build for the coming demonstrations on the 1st and 26th November, and build for the general meeting 4 weeks from this one, and how to organise a functioning united front of all the groups fighting against the sell outs in the executive. A debate over tuition fees/grants with the executive is one option.

And we're still looking at ways of displacing the executive officers, collecting 500 signatures for a proposal of a vote of no confidence. It's not surprising that with a £10,000 per year pay check, they're not too motivated to fight for our grants, so we're clearly against relying on them to have a role in our campaign.

Unity

We need all the groups fighting for free education to fight together- we called a demo/political street party in the first week of term as Workers Power/Revo members, and got the support of the Socialist Party, the Campaign for Free Education, and even the SWP, along with lots of students who turned up with banners. In addition, all four groups shared the costs for a decent sound system and PA, and each had a chance to speak. This is the way forward, maximum unity on questions we all agree on, whether we're from groups or individual students.

We need as many students and uni staff as active as possible to ensure to win this fight, so come along to plan the struggle for free education and against the executive, and show up on the demonstrations in November. Get involved- "you can't afford not too!"

Call Max (0161 257 2495) or
Steve (0161 248 5190) for more info.

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Australian students have shown how to respond to these attacks: occupy the university admin buildings and make it impossible for them to charge fees.

We agree that there is a crisis in education funding, but there is a simple solution: Tax the rich. If Blair was to restore the top rate of income tax to the levels that existed for the first 9 years of the Thatcher government, then an extra £6 billion would be generated.

And while they're about it, why not tax the shares, property and unearned private wealth of the rich. Abolishing the monarchy would also save billions.

We say down with labours "new solutions" and the implementation of our "simple solutions".

Pimlico against tuition fees

THE REVOLUTION group at Pimlico School, London, organised a group of students to go to a demonstration against the £1000 tuition fees which students will have to pay each year to go to University. If we want to get a degree we will end up with a £20,000 debt at the end of the course.

With a donation from the NUT branch at the school, we made a big red banner which said: "Pimlico School for Free Education. No Fees!"

We took this banner to the demonstration and Tom from the Pimlico Sixth Form spoke about why students shouldn't pay for their education, and that it should be paid for by taxing the rich.

This demonstration was only the first step in organising against the tuition fees, there is going to be a massive demo on the 1st of November in London, organised by the NUS. We will be there with our banner and our chants and we also have other actions planned for the future.

REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH!

Around us our cities are decaying, our environment is being destroyed by the millionaires and the multinationals. Poverty, war and injustice are common place.

For 18 years the Tories attacked young people as viciously as every one else. They criminalised our culture, slashed our benefits and denied them to those under 18. They shut our schools, eroded the standard of our education, denied us rights at work and provided us with useless training schemes.

Tony Blair and his New Labour's 'new deal' means £1000 tuition fees and an end to student grants. Work for the dole is Blairs' way of dealing with youth unemployment and "fast-track" jail sentences will enable them to lock young people up in jail even quicker. New Labour is even trying to deny those under 25 the right to a minimum wage.

But we are fighting back. We have always fought back.

Young people have always come to the fore in every fight against injustice. In the struggle against racism, in defence of the environment, against militarism and war, we are always among the most determined activists, because we are reclaiming our future and the future of the planet.

There are scores of movements campaigning on single issues. There are movements against the destruction of the environment, campaigns against the arms trade, movements against racism and for the rights of disabled people... but something is missing, a movement that can bring young workers and students together in a fight for a world without profiteering parasites, privilege and poverty - a socialist youth movement.

But we need a youth organisation that really belongs to the young people who build it and take part in it.

'Young Labour' is no more than a training

ground for careerists and Blair clones. It's a place to earn your brownie points so can you move up the Labour party career ladder. It's where young careerists and Blair clones learn how to sell out, back stab, do deals and learn all the

Other left-wing youth movements have been no more than pawns in the hands of their 'parent' parties - they make no decisions of their own, adopt no policies of their own, they don't have their own paper which every one can contribute to and do not even elect their own officials - just like the Socialist Worker Student Societies.

In society we are denied the most basic control over our lives. Young people have no control over where they live or who they live with. Each year thousands of young people become homeless because they can no longer live with their families and have no other housing options. Sex among young people is criminalised. Information in schools about lesbian and gay sexuality is denied. We can work full time from the age of 15 but we can't vote until we are 18.

For these reason we need our own independent youth organisation. We need a youth organisation of the best and most militant young activists. A democratic organisation that is controlled by its members, makes its own policies and programme. How can we learn if we are not allowed to make our decisions and our own mistakes. We don't want our actions and decisions subordinated to those of older people or to traditions.

We'll have to fight to organise young people everywhere. We need to link up every issue, from environmental destruction, racism, injustice, oppression and exploitation into a movement for the overthrow of the multimillionaires and their capitalist system.

REVOLUTION THE CONFERENCE

It's time for something new. Come and help set up a socialist youth movement that is really controlled by its members... come to the first national conference called by REVOLUTION, the fighting paper for working class youth.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November 1997
Conway Hall,
Red Lion Square
London

Starts 1pm, Saturday 22 November
Admission £2

- Challenging racism
- Campaigning for free education
- Opposing low pay, pitiful benefits and bogus welfare-to-work "training schemes"
- Defending the environment
- Building action in the schools, colleges, workplaces and streets
- Fighting the capitalist system with its multimillionaires, market madness and militarism

tricks and bureaucratic manoeuvres which are essential if you want to stop people from fighting back. The best example of this are the NUS leaders who work overtime to stop students taking direct action - and get rewarded with seats in parliament like at least 4 present Labour MPs including the Home Secretary Jack Straw.

Che Guevara

Pictures of Che Guevara have graced the walls of many student rooms, but on the 30th anniversary of his death, how much do you know about what this Argentinian revolutionary stood for and what relevance does his life have today?

Ernesto 'Che' Guevara was gunned down in Bolivia on 9 October 1967. 10 years earlier, in late 1956 he had arrived in Cuba, along with Fidel Castro and 80 others to begin a revolution.

Within two years, the group had overthrown the US-backed dictator, General Batista, and Che through his reputation for bravery, discipline and hard work became an icon for thousands of revolutionaries across the world. Following the successful revolution he remained on an average salary and shunned the perks of office.

A working class hero he may be but the brand of 'socialism' that he brought to Cuba was not based on Bolshevism. Che was anti-imperialist advocating the armed overthrow of the local ruling capitalist elite but his strategy was not based on the working class and its organisation, but on the peasantry.

He was undemocratic in his belief that the nucleus of self-selected warriors earned, through their bravery, self-sacrifice and commitment, the right to lead and be followed. Wider politics was sub-ordinated to development of armed struggle in the countryside and working class self organisation was sub-ordinate to the development of the guerilla band. This lack of political education and self organisation inevitably leads to a Stalinist degenerate workers state, ruled by beaurocrats.

Where he differs from many Stalinists is in his rejection of the idea of socialism in one country. In accordance with Bolshevism he believed that other countries should be liberated. In 1965 Che Guevara left Cuba to lead similar struggles, first in Congo and finally Bolivia.

Today, in Cuba Che remains an icon of the revolution. His recently discovered remains, were buried this month in a special mausoleum in Santa Clara after a cortege through towns and villages on a 160 mile journey from Havana. In Bolivia, the unveiling of a bronze monument to 55 soldiers who died fighting the guerillas was overshadowed by a series of events celebrating the revolutionary.



Fidel Castro's government in Cuba has seen the US economic embargo tightened under Bill Clinton and the collapse of privileged trade with the Soviet Union, the party has so far avoided big cuts in the welfare state, health and education which remains free. Although this has meant making concessions to capitalism.

However as the failure of Stalinism in the U.S.S.R. has shown and as Trotsky predicted Socialism in one country is doomed to failure.

JOIN REVOLUTION!
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Dead men with Beards

TROTSKY

In REVOLUTION no. 22, we told the story of the life of a fallen hero of the working class movement: the life of Leon Trotsky, from schoolroom rebel to leader of the workers' and soldiers' council in the capital of

Russian revolution of 1917. We left off at the point when the workers' councils, under the leadership of Trotsky, V. I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, took over power from the capitalist government in an armed uprising and set up the first ever working class republic.

This month we look at what went wrong in Russia, how a working class democracy was converted into an anti-working class dictatorship, and how Trotsky fought to stop it.

THE COLLAPSE of the Soviet Union in 1991 was supposed to be proof that socialism can not work. The tiny minority of multi-millionaires that run the world have been trying to drive home a "lesson" to young people and workers ever since - that there is no alternative to the inequality, poverty and chaos of the market, and that global capitalism is the only system that can work. They want us to believe that any attempt to get rid of capitalism would end up with dictatorship, bread queues and eventual collapse . . . just like Russia.

But the system that collapsed in Soviet Russia in 1991 was not socialist. Despite all the red flags, red stars and statues of Lenin, it was a million miles from socialism. By 1991 the rulers of the Soviet Union had trampled on every one of the principles of the socialist revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky in 1917. The Soviet Union was not socialist - it was Stalinist.

What's the difference? It's hard to know where to start.

In 1917 the privileges of the rich were abolished, and their money was taken away to try to abolish the division between rich and poor. But under Stalinism the rulers of Russia salted away huge sums for themselves and lived in luxury compared to the rest of the people.

In 1917 housing was shared out and the second homes of the rich were confiscated and handed over to the homeless and the poor. By 1991 the rulers of Russia had the poshest flats in Moscow, and villas by the Black Sea.

In 1917 women were given full legal equality. Abortion, contraception and divorce were legalised. By 1991 the rulers of Russia held to the line that a woman's duty was motherhood, and abortion was illegal once more.

In 1917 homosexuality was legalised. By

1991 it was illegal once again.

In 1917 other nations ruled by Russia were given the right to determine their own future and to separate from Russia if the people wished. By 1991 whole nations were being held inside the Soviet Union against their will, and Russians had privileges over other nationalities.

Workers control

Above all in 1917 the working class had control of society through delegate-based councils of workers', peasants' and soldiers' representatives (the 'Soviets'). In the Bolshevik Party members had full rights to debate out their different views and have a free vote over political decisions. By 1991 there was no democracy at all for the working class. Members of the Party (now called Communist party of the Soviet Union) had no rights at all to speak out against the line argued by the leaders at the top.

These were steps backwards, steps away from socialism. To build a socialist society, the working class will need to take power through workers' councils or soviets, and then set about abolishing class distinctions. For this the maximum working class democracy is essential. The workers themselves will need to plan the economy. All divisions in the working class over race, sex or nationality will have to be overcome.

This process of transforming society in a socialist direction was underway after the 1917 revolution. But in the 1920s and 1930s, Stalinism threw the whole process into reverse.

What the capitalists never tell us about the history of the Soviet Union is that many of the leading Bolsheviks fought against this reversal and betrayal of the revolution. They never tell us that there was an alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism.

That is why today REVOLUTION still thinks the history of Russia is important. It was a workers' revolution - which means it is part of our history. And the struggle between Trotskyism and Stalinism is of burning relevance today, because it is filled with lessons for our future and the revolution that the workers and youth of the world are going to make in the 21st Century.

Rise of Stalinism

Russia had been a backward country before the revolution. The working class and the Bolshevik Party knew they had a huge job on their hands to modernise the country, build power lines and heavy



Part 2: the fight against Stalin

industry, and to educate millions of illiterate peasants. But they were never left in peace to get on with the job.

14 capitalist countries invaded Russia and lined up with 'White Armies' loyal to the landlords and the former royal family in an attempt to destroy the workers' republic. By 1921, under Trotsky's military leadership, the Red Army of workers and peasants had won the Civil war.

But the Russian Revolution was to be defeated, not by enemies from the outside, but by a deadly enemy from within.

Josef Stalin was not single-handedly responsible for destroying the Russian Revolution. No revolution backed by millions of workers could be overthrown by the actions of one man. Stalin came to power because he represented a growing force inside the Soviet State: the bureaucracy.

Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolsheviks had always realised that socialism could not be built in one country, let alone one as backward as Russia. Capitalism is a world system. Socialism will only succeed when it can deliver a higher standard of living and a stronger economy than world capitalism.

The Russian Revolution blew into the fire of working class struggles all over the world. In Europe, great revolutions broke out. Soviet-type councils were formed in Hungary and Germany. Italian workers seized their factories in two years of mighty struggles. But one by one these opportunities went down to defeat because no strong workers' party like the Bolsheviks was primed and ready to take over power.

The Soviet Union was isolated. Compromises had to be made with rich peasants so that food could be supplied to the cities. A layer of middle-men and office officials began to emerge who drew a relatively comfortable life from the situation. They owed their position to the Soviet State, so they did not want capitalism back. But at the same time, the whole need for these people only existed because Russia was isolated. They came to fear the possibility of revolution abroad, which would break Russia's isolation. In particular they came to fear the working class itself. They began to suppress discussion, debate and democracy, both inside the soviets and inside the Communist Party.

Stalin was General Secretary of the Party. He expressed the interests of this bureaucratic caste ever more clearly. In his Testament, published after his death, Lenin said Stalin had too much power and should

be removed from his post.

After Lenin died, Stalin then came forward with a "theory" that was an attack on everything the Bolsheviks had stood for. He claimed that Russia could build socialism on its own. "Socialism in One Country" meant that the world revolution was no longer necessary as far as the bureaucracy was concerned. Instead of world revolution, the Stalinists argued for peaceful co-existence with capitalism abroad.

Every time the Stalinists did a deal with one of the capitalist powers, Stalin put pressure on Communists abroad not to do anything to upset their new-found allies. By the 1930s this meant that the Stalinists were arguing against the working class taking power in countries like France and Spain. Instead, revolutions were to be limited to the goal of democracy, not socialism.

Trotsky fights back

In 1923, Trotsky opened a political war against Stalin and everything he represented. He demanded a return to real working class democracy in the party and in every walk of life. He called for a democratic plan to run the economy in the interests of the workers, not the bureaucrats. And above all, he rejected the theory of socialism in one country and upheld the fight for world revolution.

The Trotskyists were defeated by a campaign of bullying and terror. They were banned, imprisoned in labour camps, exiled and murdered. In a series of purges and stitched up "Show Trials" the Trotskyists were accused of being everything from agents of Hitler to saboteurs of industry. Every problem in Russia, every failure of the regime, was blamed on the Trotskyists. Stalin even whipped up disgraceful anti-Jewish propaganda, because Trotsky and several other leading oppositionists were from Jewish backgrounds. Thousands died in Siberia or with a bullet in the back of the head.

Trotsky's son Sergei - a Soviet engineer with no interest in politics - was blamed for deliberately causing an accident at work and disappeared without trace. His son Leon Sedov - a revolutionary active in France - was murdered by a Stalinist agent.

Trotsky himself was thrown out of Russia and was then forced to move from country to country by capitalist governments who were just as scared of him as Stalin was. One by one Trotsky's secretaries were assassinated by Stalin's secret police.

Eventually they cut down Trotsky himself in Mexico in 1940.

At first Trotsky thought that the Stalinist sickness could be cured by reforming the Soviet Union. By the mid-1930s he came to realise that armed revolution was the only way to overthrow a vicious anti-working class dictatorship like Stalin's. At the same time Trotsky insisted that capitalism had not yet been restored in Russia. After overthrowing the Stalinists the workers would need to preserve the state plan and state-owned industries, but should put them under working class control in order to get back on the road to socialism.

For Trotsky, the Soviet Union was neither capitalist nor socialist: it was a degenerated workers' state run by bureaucrats. He explained that the Soviet Union could be called a workers' state "in approximately the same sense . . . in which a trade union, led and betrayed by opportunists, that is by agents of capital, can be called a workers' organisation." The Soviet Union should still be defended if attacked by capitalist states, as it was when Nazi Germany invaded Russia in 1941. But there should be no support for Stalin or his gang. Unless the working class overthrew the Stalinist bureaucrats and put democratic workers' councils back in power. Trotsky believed that eventually the bureaucrats themselves would lead Russia back to capitalism.

How right he was! After 1991 it was former Stalinist officials who were at the front of the rush to become capitalist multi-millionaires as the market and the profit system were steadily re-introduced across Russia and Eastern Europe, bringing mass unemployment, crime, inflation and corruption with them.

In the battle with Stalin, most would say that Trotsky lost. Some bright sparks even believe that Trotsky must have been wrong, because if he had been right he would have won. These people should think carefully. If anyone who loses a struggle is automatically in the wrong, then justice is on the side of some of the worst dictators and tyrants in history.

But Trotsky's critics are wrong in another, even more important sense. It was not socialism that collapsed in 1991. It was Stalinism. So when millions of young people see through the capitalist system over the years to come, they will turn not to the ideas that have failed, but the genuine ideas of Bolshevism, to the ideas that Leon Trotsky fought and died for: working class democracy, equality, and world revolution.

Campaign against BP in Colombia

Manchester: BP forced to Debate

Throughout the summer Manchester Revo led a campaign of actions against BP and their commercial collaborators, Argos. We successfully picketed Argos, as its already been targeted by the Liverpool dockers as a scab company, and now they've got us on their backs too! They've recently taken down all their massive BP logos that were scattered round the shop in the town centre!

We've also been publicising the campaign by writing to sympathetic magazines such as Squall, an excellent magazine for activists against the system of exploitation and environmental destruction, who responded positively to our call for publicising the activities of the Coalition against BP.

We also had a presence at their recruitment meeting held at Manchester University. They were clearly expecting us, and were heavily protected with their own security guards. We didn't get the banner in, but did confront them outside the meeting and agreed to leave on the condition of a public debate between BP and Colombian trade unionist Freddy Pulecio, who's over here to publicise the assassinations BP's financed in his country. This is already promised in writing, we are currently confirming the meeting.

If you live near Manchester and you're interested in letting BP know what you think of their role in murdering Colombian peasants and workers, get in touch with

Revo. All details will be available as soon as we can confirm the meeting.

All in all it's been a lively and busy period, and we're making a bigger impact on BP all the time. So get in touch and get involved, phone Max on 0161 257 2495 or Steve on 0161 248 5190, we're looking forward to hearing from you.

London Revo:

We've had Freddy Pulecio doing lots of talks, from trade union branches, school and uni meetings to addressing demonstrations from the platform. On October 24 he addressed a packed public meeting where he described the situation trade unionists face in Colombia from deathsquads sponsored by the government and big business, such as BP - Half of the trade unionists in the world who are assassinated for trying to organise workers are killed in Colombia, 30 members of Freddy's union the USO have been killed thanks to BP passing photos of them on strike to the death squad army regiment it employs. He himself has had 5 attempts on his life, and got a phone call the week before from the military saying that when he returns to Colombia he's a dead man. The campaign's going forward in the trade unions and through direct action against BP.

Our most recent action was against the BP sponsored exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. We climbed pillars outside, unfurled the banner and started telling the crowds passing by how BP sponsors gal-

leries to make a good name for itself as a patron of the arts, but the money for exhibitions like this one comes from the oil they take out of Colombia, where they pay to get peasant activists and trade unionists killed so they can keep their profits. Lots of people signed the petitions and took leaflets, and some are getting involved. BP hasn't heard the last of this!

Hear Freddy speak: invite Freddy to your school or uni

Cardiff

During the summer Revo picketed Cardiff Singer of the World which was sponsored by BP. We have now followed this up with work at the uni, lots of students signed our petition and the socialist, environmental and 3rd World campaigners were enthusiastic about getting Freddy down to do a meeting. Revo are now following up the names on the petition and hope to organise a meeting with Freddy in November, we will continue with more campaigning work and actions.

Coventry and Birmingham

Revo in Coventry and Birmingham have been organising for a meeting on the 29th of October at Warwick University, with an action planned for the BP recruitment drive at the Uni, the day after. The meeting will be sponsored by Earth First and Zapatista Student Societies, Workers Power and Revo.

No platform for Fascists!

When Cardiff Revo heard that Nazi band, Celtic Warrior, were planning a gig in South Wales, we swung into action. Celtic Warrior are the band formed by veteran Nazi, Billy Bartlett, after his previous band were killed in a car crash on their way to another fascist gig, unfortunately, Bartlett survived.

The Anti-Nazi League (ANL) called for mass mobilisation at all the major railway stations in South Wales. Revolution rang around all our friends and supporters in the region and got organised. We discussed how fascists use 'Oi' music in particular, to whip up racial hatred into a frenzy. Such events in the past have involved the burning of effigies of black people and pathetic posturing in Nazi uniforms. A couple of years ago, a local shopkeeper, Mohan Singh, was

killed by scum like these. When we turned up at Cardiff station on 9th August there were approximately 150 anti-fascists there. We knew that if we caught sight of the Nazis we would have to stand our ground and try to prevent them holding their concert. We were a little obvious, all standing there and the police seemed quite nervous too.

As it happened, the Cops intercepted the Nazis at the Severn Bridge and escorted them away up the M5. If we hadn't been there the gig would almost certainly have gone ahead in Cardiff, so we were quite pleased with the result. But later we found out the Nazis were spotted with a heavy police protection near Bridgend!

Clearly, we cannot rely on the police to stop the Nazis spreading their filth. They

only intervened to stop the anti fascists from having a go. The day was good in that it showed we could mobilise on a large scale to stop the Nazis but we must finish them off ourselves. The Capitalist state is not going to do that for us.



The end of the family?

THE LABOUR government has 4 "out" gay MP's and one lesbian MP, and has recently stated that it won't fight a European law that said Britain discriminated against gays with higher age-of-consent laws for gays and immigration policy allowing married hetero couples into Britain, but not long-term gay couples.

At the same time the Tory Conference in October witnessed Michael Portillo, all around hard man of the Tory right-wing, reversing his previous stance of single-mother bashing, saying he now "admired" them for heading stable families with children. Peter Lilley apologised for smearing single mothers as "young ladies who get pregnant just to jump the housing queue." William Hague has talked about allowing gay marriage, and wants to lower the age of consent for gay sex.

But of course the Tories was hammered in the general elections, and their bigotry toward women and gays played a big part, so they've launched a new cuddly image for the Tory party, i.e. same old policies for the bosses plus a few reforms and sensitive rhetoric.

The real family...but still a family

The Tories are out of touch. The ideal married couple plus 2.4 kids has never fit reality completely, but there's no doubt that more and more people are rejecting it. A third of all households with children are either single parents or unmar-

ried couples living together, and most young people just won't put up with that right-wing shit about traditional family values and how we shouldn't have sex, especially if we're gay. All the time more gays and lesbians are coming out and asserting their rights to raise kids and to adopt them.

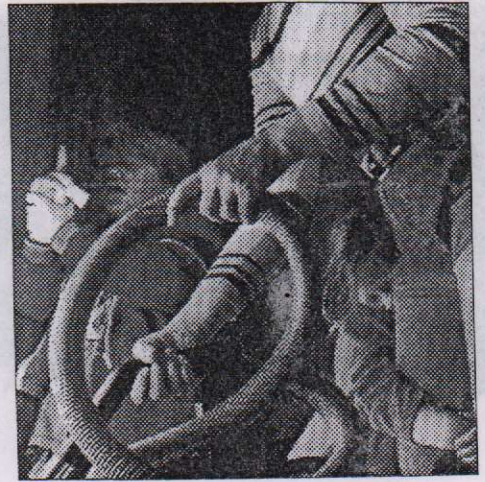
So the family is changing. Will it break out of its basic structure of oppressing women, gays and youth?

Capitalism and the family

Under capitalism the nuclear family has been crucial to the bosses. They get lots of work done for them by us in their businesses, for which they pay a crap wage, but then they get lots of other work done for free. Shopping, cooking, cleaning, clothes-washing, childcare, all are done everyday by us for free in the home. This work keeps this generation of workers going- fed, clean, fit for work- while raising kids - the next generation of workers - and channeling our sexuality toward reproduction so that it gets born.

And it's still women's work. Under socialism all these necessary functions would be socialised. Canteens and restaurants would end the need to cook, while creches and youth clubs would free women from childcare. Laundries would do laundry.

Both Labour and the Tories constantly push family values for the bosses- they need to restrict



our sexuality and a woman's right to abortion because these point to a free sexuality based on enjoyment, not one yoked to reproducing the next generation of workers. They can't allow the family (and their free future labour force) to erode beyond a certain point.

How do we fightback?

Women, gays and youth live under a double burden of exploitation plus sexual oppression, and the limited reforms that Labour has put forward are good but not nearly enough. The basic functions of the family should be taken out of the millions of small households and socialised and planned. We've got to fight every attack on abortion and campaign for the state to provide creches, benefits, and equal pay. Down with every law that curtails our sexual rights, like the age of consent laws. But we'll also have to build these campaigns into a fight to overthrow this destructive system that's at the root of these brutal oppressions.

Want to read more about the oppression of youth, women, and gays and lesbians? Get your copy of *The Best of Revo* (50 p + a stamp pleeze) See contact address page 5

Amritsar massacre revisited

The Queen's failure to apologise for the Amritsar massacre on her recent visit to India, has once again drawn attention to Britain's shameful Imperialist past.

The slaughter of over 2,000 unarmed protesters by British troops is one of the most shocking examples of the harsh reality of British rule in India.

By 1919, many in India were already calling for Home Rule. The British predictably responded by introducing repressive legislation. In Amritsar, in the Punjab, General Dyer banned all assemblies. When an unarmed demonstration assembled, Dyer ordered his troops to fire on the crowd, including children. After ten minutes hundreds lay dead.

On last month's visit to the scene of the massacre, the Queen failed to make an official apology for the shooting, ignoring pleas from survivors, and the families of the dead. Prince Philip displayed his ignorance and added insult to injury by questioning the numbers involved. He said, "That's wrong. I was in the navy with Dyer's son."

The attempt by the Royals to re-package themselves as a caring, in-tune family in the wake of Diana's death is a joke. The Queen and Prince Philip, who comes from a family with well documented Nazi connections have once again demonstrated how out of touch they really are. They have nothing to offer our society.

However, the Royal Family will not just go away. They are a hard, ruthless and arrogant family who are desperate to cling on to their power and status. To get rid of the parasites and all whom they represent we must abolish the system which keeps them in place.

If Labour are so concerned about the hereditary principle in the House of Lords, then why not apply the same to the monarchy? The truth is that the Labour Party is a party of the ruling class despite it's working class base. This is why Robin Cook accompanied the Royals on their trip to India and it is also the reason why Tony Blair rallied to their defence after Diana's death.

The government knows that in a time of crisis, if faced by the threat of workers' revolution, the royals will use their constitutional powers to fight back, the so called "people's will" against the real will of the working class.

Their role is not merely symbolic as many peo-



ple think. The Queen has the power to dissolve parliament, block any law she doesn't like, appoint and dismiss prime ministers and to declare war. She is also head of the armed forces, who swear allegiance to her and not to parliament and certainly not to the people.

The Royal Family have no interest in the lives of the millions of ordinary people like those slaughtered in Amritsar. They are merely leeches protecting their own interests and those of their class. If they care so little about the people in their own country, they almost certainly care less for those of Britain's former colonies.

This is why the next massacre must not be of unarmed civilians, but of those who have lived off the people for far too long.

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

Filth of the Earth: the world's guzzlers, polluters and the culprits of global warming

Global warming has once again hit the headlines. With an international meeting of government leaders planned in two months time, where guidelines need to be set to reduce increases in greenhouse emissions. The rush is on to convince the US that they too need to jump on board.

Unfortunately the US has yet again not obliged: it's continuing to steamroll ahead into the year 2015 with carbon dioxide emissions (produced mainly through burning fossil fuels, such as petroleum) above 1990 levels. Other countries are currently campaigning to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2000 (still not a huge change).

For anyone in doubt about global warming the latest UN reports are predicting a 3°C temperature increase within the next century, even if greenhouse emissions are reduced. This would be the biggest change in temperature the world has seen since the last ice age - 10,000 years ago - also caused by a 3-4°C change.

The world's climate is extremely vulnerable to small changes in temperature. It's predicted that we'll see more floods, more droughts and severe food shortages in areas, due to changing local weather patterns. Countries that will be most affected by climate change are those that depend on agriculture and that don't have the money, technology and infrastructure to adjust to climate change quickly ie developing countries. Many will remember the severe droughts and famines of the 1980s throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia. We're likely to see even more of this throughout the world in the next century.

It's the same old story. The 3rd world will wear the brunt of much of the world's problems - despite the fact that they pollute and consume the least. The US leaders are trying to squirm their

way out of responsibility for this global, environmental mess by blaming the growing economies of Asia. They claim that population is the main problem: particularly when these economies are growing and people are demanding more access to new goods that we in the West have had access to for the last few decades.

But this is a racist lie. The US has 5% of the world's population and is responsible for a fifth of all greenhouse emissions. Between 1975 and 1988, toxic releases went up 500% in Indonesia, 800% in the Phillipines and 1200% in Thailand and most of this was caused by foreign owned multi-national companies, often based in the US.

While it's true that we'll need to become less dependant on things like cars run by petroleum - all that's needed is greater investment in public transport in the world's congested cities. You don't reduce people's increasing dependance on the car by moralising about it - but by providing free and accessible transport alternatives to people.

The real problem is not growing economies, technology or industry - it's who owns it. We live in a Capitalist system where only a minority actually control the world's resources and what happens to them. This minority even has access to armies and police forces (both official and unofficial) to protect their ability to exploit people and the environment, for their own private profit. British Petroleum for example is responsible for the death of trade unionists and activists in Colombia that have simply been trying to expose the human rights abuses and environmental destruction that BP has been responsible for - in the Cassanare region, one of the biggest oil fields in the world.

This proves the hypocrisy of countries like the US and Britain, that like to preach environ-

mental care to the rest of the world, while denying any responsibility for their own actions.

We on the other hand believe that to save the world from the affects of environmental destruction, we need to fight for:

- free transfer of and access to technology between countries - stop the monopoly of ownership over technology
- putting huge taxes on the multi-national companies responsible for polluting the environment with oil spills, toxic chemicals and greenhouse emissions
- a worldwide commitment to a massive increase in expenditure on public transport in all the major cities of the world
- abolishing 3rd world debt - this only strangles their ability to invest in modern technologies and solutions to environmental problems
- real internationalism - unite with our brothers and sisters in the 3rd world in their struggles against destruction of the environment and abuses of human rights

For a truly international solution to an international crisis, we need to fight for world socialism. We need to put the huge multi-national companies under our democratic control. Only this will finally overcome the national barriers to technological development and the inability of the world's capitalist "leaders" to reduce greenhouse emissions to levels that don't seriously affect the lives of millions on this planet.

For more on the environment and internationalism... Read about our campaign to expose British Petroleum's horrendous record in Colombia in this issue.