

Liberation!

Join the Fight Against Cuts in Education!

> Jodley Green

Education is a right, not a privilege! Or at least, it ought to be. But over fifteen years of Tory rule students have less and less rights to a good education and a decent income.

We have seen the right to Income Support for many of the poorest students taken away.

We have seen the cost of college-owned accommodation rise, a shortage of college-owned accommodation and more reliance by students on private landlords. At the same time Housing Benefit, the safety net against homelessness for the poor, is no longer available for students.

Grants have been fro-

zen, and we are now being 'progressively' cut by 10% each year over three years. When the government have finished with it (in 1996) the full student grant will be less than £1800 per year!

You can't live on it! You certainly can't buy books on it. And perhaps most importantly you can't buy time on it. A genuine full time student is now a real rarity. Most have one or more part time jobs during term time on top of studying. But working still doesn't provide an income you can live on. Most students leave college thousands of pounds in debt.

All of this makes going to college less and less attractive. But it isn't a conspiracy to keep higher education for those with



Leicester students spell it out - our education is a right!

wealthy and generous parents. There are more students in higher education than ever. Given the slim chances of getting a job

on leaving school it is not surprising that school leavers are going to college rather than going on the dole, even if the dole

gives a better income!

Not only do students have to live on a pitifully low income, they are also getting a worse quality

education.

Student numbers have increased, without the extra funding needed to support university expansion. There are shortages of library books, larger lecture and seminar groups, lecturers are working harder, are more harassed and have less time for students as a result.

The government agenda isn't keeping the working class out of higher education. As long as we pay for our own dismal education we can go to university. The Labour Party has much the same idea with their proposals for a graduate tax.

Ultimately, it is all about saving money on public expenditure wherever they can. The cuts affecting university students are motivated by the

same financial logic which is cutting spending on school books, increasing class sizes and forcing down teacher wages. It is the same logic which is closing hospitals and offering nurses a 1% pay rise.

We want:

- A grant we can live on,
- Enough lecturers and books,
- Affordable, suitable accommodation, because education is a right, not a privilege.

Get active!

To contact Fight Against Cuts in Education (FACE) 'phone 01589 789104

We're All Going On A Summer Holiday!

> Kathryn Marshall

It's about time holiday package organisers woke up to the fact that no-one organises a better Summer holiday for young people than those of us planning the International Youth Camp 1995. Forget the tacky 18 - 30 jaunts and read on!

This year's camp will take place between July 22nd and 29th in the beautiful South of France, and will cost you an attractively small £150.

You will be provided with the opportunity to meet with over a thousand young militants from all over Europe and beyond. It's a unique chance to share your experiences with others who are exactly on your wavelength.

Then there's the fantastic programme of discussions, workshops and films that are laid on. Subjects up for grabs this year include women's liberation, environmental issues, drugs, racism and youth struggles right across Europe. The camp will also raise and discuss the issue of linking up European activities with the rest of the world.

As well as this, there is loads of time for relaxing and having some fun, with discos and parties organised, including a women only event.

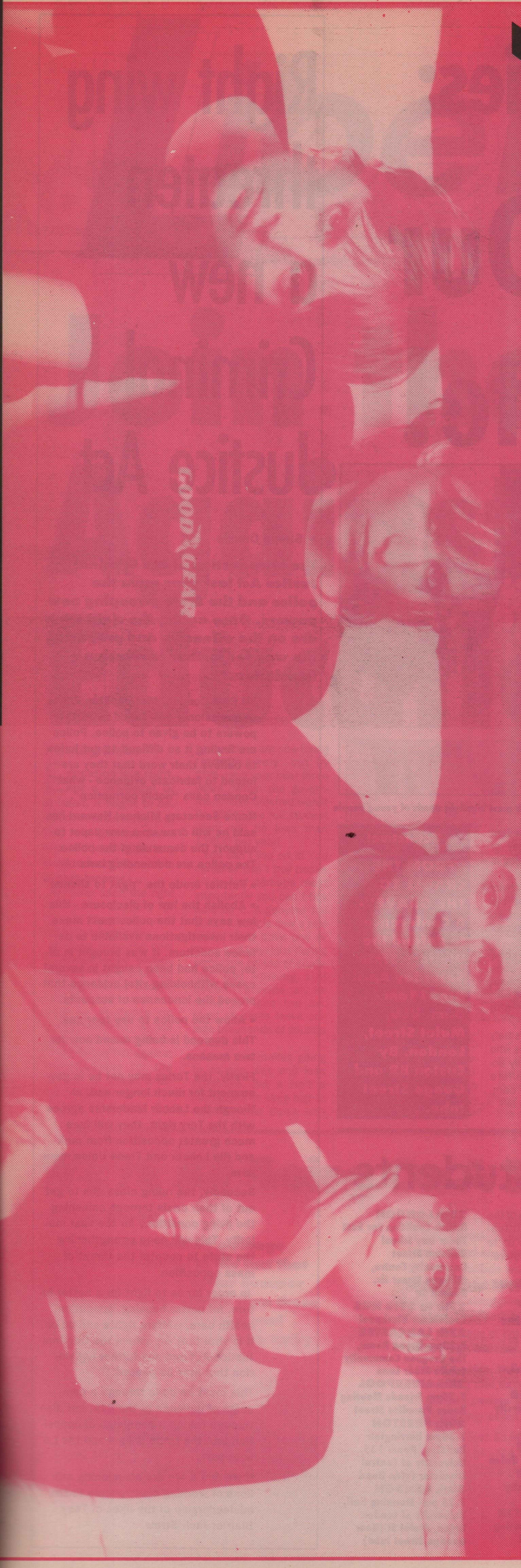
All this for just £150 - It's an amazing deal. Last year, the camp in Tuscany was a massive success. Join the *Liberation!* delegation, put up the *Liberation!* poster and encourage your friends to join us too! Let's make the whole thing even more massive this time round.



1,100 attended the feminist and revolutionary camp last year

Join 1,000 internationalist & socialist youth!

elasticate your mind!



**Break out!
Leap forward!
Revolutionize!
Socialize!**

At the twelfth

**International Youth Summer Camp
July 22-29 1995, South of France**

**For details phone *Liberation!* on 01895 - 851981
Or write to *Liberation!*, PO Box 1109, London, N4 2UU**

Youth tell The Tories: Hands Off Our Welfare State!

► Kathryn Marshall

If you ask people what having a Welfare State in this country has meant, albeit a pared down, underfunded one, there will be a huge variety of answers.

Some will say it has enabled them to get free healthcare, but that this is a possibility they now see vanishing as more NHS wards are closed.

Others will tell you that it is their pension that has enabled them to survive, but that they're scared about how they can continue to do so on less and less money. People readily acknowledge how crucial the Welfare State is to them throughout their lives, and that they do not want to see it die.

Despite this, the Tories are trying almost on a daily basis to wrench more and more of it away, as they try to claw back money to offer their voters in tax cuts at the next election.

What are the effects of these brutal attacks for young people? As class sizes soar in schools and colleges, yet more cuts are made forcing staffing and resources down to an even more ludicrously low level.

At the same time, the Tories bring in league tables to set schools



Welfare State Network must highlight needs of young people

against one another, although it is worthwhile trying to measure education standards in institutions under such constant financial pressure.

Once you leave school or college, your chances of getting a job and holding on to it remain very slim. Young workers have been forced to rely upon unemployment benefit.

Now the Tories have spliced the twelve month entitlement to this money down to six months. If you are careless enough to be made redundant between the ages of 18 and 24, they think you should only be entitled to a means-

tested benefit - lower than the previous meagre full unemployment allowance.

All this occurs alongside the insistence that you must be actively seeking work to receive anything at all, so young people are forced into taking low paid jobs; they are used as pawns in the Tories' game to clear up their disgraceful unemployment record.

Just as we all have relied on features of the Welfare State, so the campaign to defend it from these attacks, and the many others that will be dreamt up as we near an election, depends on

us all too. The liveliest and broadest display of anger and campaigning is required.

There's loads of activity springing up around the country at the moment, so now's the time to get involved.

Tell everyone you know that this campaign does not belong to politicians who will tinker around with the arguments and change very little.

It doesn't even solely belong to those of us who are already politically active. Like the Welfare State itself, this campaign belongs to us all!

Get active!

"FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE" - A Conference to defend the Welfare State. Saturday April 8th, 11am - 5pm. ULU, Malet Street, London. By Euston BR and Gooze Street tube.

Right wing threaten a new Criminal Justice Act

► Simon Deville

The introduction of the Criminal Justice Act last year gave the police and the State sweeping new powers. Once again, the right wing are on the offensive and preparing the way for further repressive legislation.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner has called for further powers to be given to police. Police are finding it so difficult to get juries to believe their word that they are forced to fabricate evidence - what Condon calls "noble corruption".

Home Secretary Michael Howard has said he will draw up a new paper to support the demands of the police. The police are demanding laws to:

- Further erode the "right to silence"
- Abolish the law of disclosure - this law says that the police must make their investigations available to defence solicitors. It was brought in after police had been caught in several cases withholding vital evidence that proved the innocence of suspects.
- Allow the police to use tear gas.

This demand is being raised now for two reasons.

Firstly, the Tories may not be in government for much longer and, although the Labour leadership agrees with the Tory right, they will face much greater opposition from rank and file Labour and Trade Union members.

Secondly, the ruling class aim to get out of their crisis through smashing the living conditions for the vast majority. This will need strengthening the state to counter the threat of mass opposition.

In order for us to fight for a better future, for better housing, education, health care, welfare rights and so on, it is vital that we smash the Criminal Justice Act and any further legislation that may be passed.

This must be done through a campaign of defiance of the CJA, but also through taking a campaign of opposition into the trade unions and the Labour party.

If we don't, we are abandoning millions of working class people to the misleadership of the likes of Tony Blair or Jack Straw.

Democracy fight of Timor students

► Adele Gowan

Students are in the vanguard of the East Timorese resistance against Indonesian rule.

The campaign for an embargo on arms sales to Indonesia and the right to self-determination is being stepped up in Britain by a two week tour of Domingos Alves, the leader in exile of RENETIL, the East Timorese student resistance. Domingos is in exile because he led the occupation of the grounds of the US Embassy on November 12th last year.

The tour will include a campaign to get Fernando de Araujo elected as hon-

orary vice-president of the National Union of Students at its Easter Conference in Blackpool at the end of March.

Fernando was the leader of RENETIL before Domingos. He has been arrested and imprisoned for his activities in support of the East Timorese struggle for self determination.

The Indonesians are currently trying to physically liquidate the resistance to their occupation of East Timor.

Death squads appeared on the streets of Dili, the capital of East Timor, at the end of February and many activists have disappeared since then.

The Indonesian occupation forces have been

forced to carry out a re-organisation following the media glare of the Asia Pacific Economic Conference of world leaders in Jakarta in November 1994. The main aim of the re-organisation was to attempt to confuse the international media about who was carrying out the murders in East Timor.

It was also forced on the occupying forces because the east Timorese are showing unbelievably tenacious resistance to the Indonesian occupation and because the international solidarity movement is beginning to have a real impact. East Timor is no longer a country far away about which most people know nothing.

It is now at the top of the international political agenda. It is up to us to make sure it stays there.

Come to the four meeting near you this month:

- 21st OXFORD**
7.30pm Wesley Memorial Church Hall, New Inn Street.
- 22nd BRADFORD**
1pm Bradford University D4 Lecture Theatre Richmond Building
- 22nd HULL** 8pm Hull University Students Union
- 23rd COVENTRY**
7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity St.
- 24th MANCHESTER**
7.30pm Friends Meeting House Mount Street

- 25th LONDON**
British Coalition For East Timor Day School Millman Street Community Centre, Millman Street Nr. Russell Sq
- 27th to 29th NUS**
Conference Blackpool
- 27th LANCASTER**
7.30pm Green Room, The Gregson Community Centre Moor Lane
- 28th LIVERPOOL**
7.30pm Friends Meeting House Paradise Street
- 29th PRESTON**
7.30pm Harrington Building, Room 135, University of Central Lancaster Fyde Road
- 30th LONDON**
7.30 pm Manning Hall, University of London Union, Malet St (Near Gooze Street tube)