

Liberation!

20p • For a Red, Green and Feminist Youth Movement • Spring 1994

DJ Sista interview: 'Be strong & stick to your principles'

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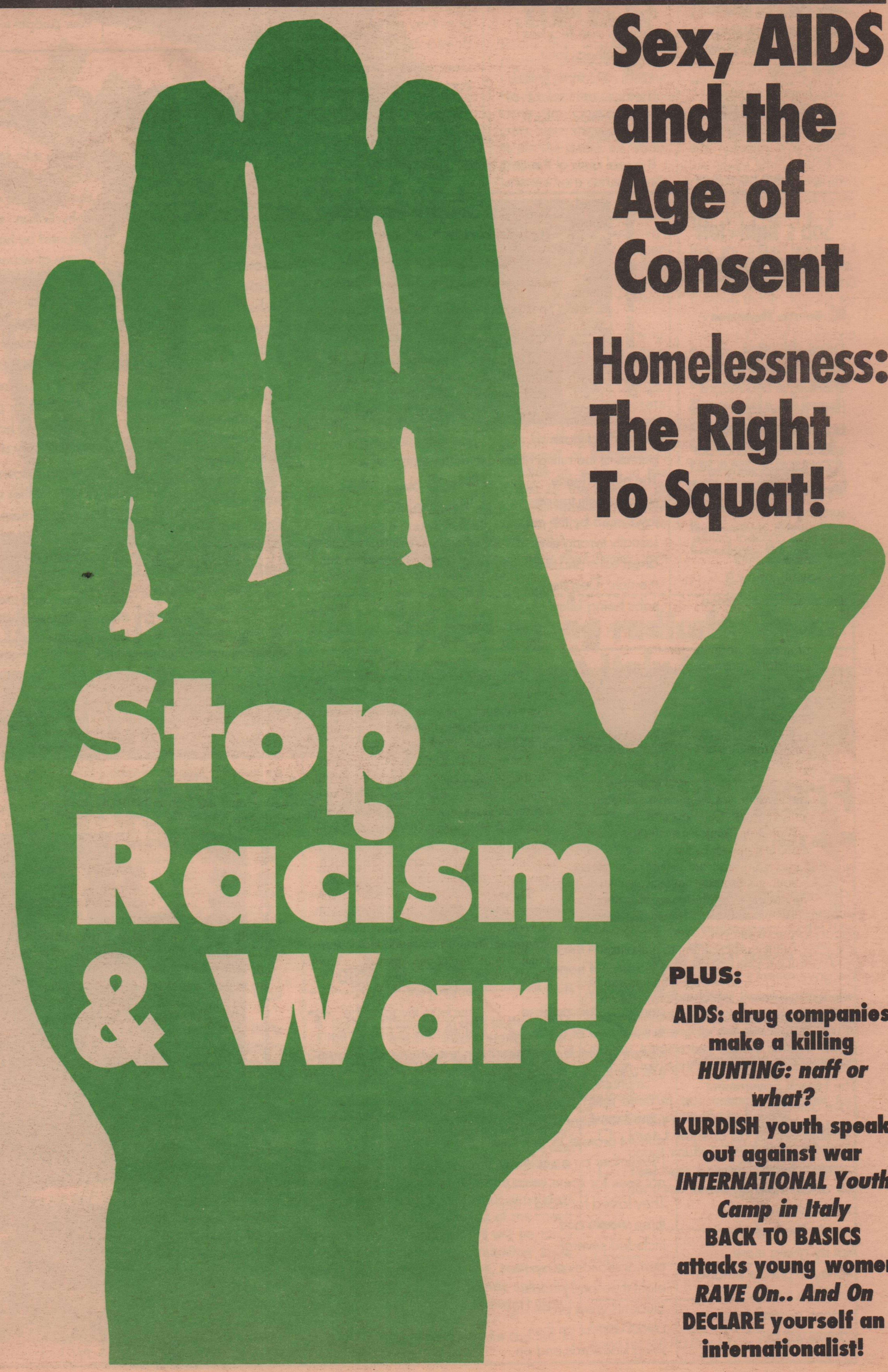
Appeal from Tuzla
University

BACK TO THE FUTURE

A new era of wars?

Sex, AIDS and the Age of Consent

Homelessness: The Right To Squat!



**Stop
Racism
& War!**

PLUS:

AIDS: drug companies
make a killing

HUNTING: naff or
what?

KURDISH youth speak
out against war
**INTERNATIONAL Youth
Camp in Italy**

BACK TO BASICS
attacks young women

RAVE On.. And On
DECLARE yourself an
internationalist!



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Back to Basics?

■ **Luci Davin**

Remember the Child Support Act? The idea for it originally came from America. The Tories are again looking to the United States for new ideas on how to attack single mothers (and save money). In New Jersey, women who have a second child when they **still** haven't got a man around the house to support them have their

state benefits taken away.

learnfare

Another idea is 'learnfare'. If children or young people whose mothers are on welfare don't go to school, it must be their feckless lone mothers' fault, right? Isn't everything? The answer? Take their money away. That'll teach them.

The real aims of the

back to basics campaign are to save money, and to persuade people that women who have children outside a 'proper' family are bad and deserve to be punished. That if they're poor they must have done something to deserve it. Let's campaign for back to basics for single mothers - the basics of housing, money, childcare.

Squat to stop homelessness

■ **Jake Farrier**

The Government has announced its intention of making squatting illegal. The national press paint a picture of "yuppie" squatters who take over peoples

homes while they are on holiday and destroy them with wild parties. "Send the Squatters to Prison" screamed an August headline in The Daily Mail.

In reality is already illegal to squat houses that are occupied or are about to be occupied. Few people would

choose to live in a home that lacks basic amenities such as hot water, heating or even electricity, or where they can be evicted with as little as a few days notice.

Most people squat out of necessity, due to lack of an adequate, affordable alternative.

Get On One?

■ **Mark Jensen**

For thousands of young people raves are where you can have a good time free from the macho atmosphere that dominates clubs and pubs, so why has the government declared war on illegal raves?

Their new Criminal Justice Act, passed on 11 January, strengthens the power of the police to forcibly evict crush raves and free festivals from unused land.

Drugs are used as a reason for state repression, but the numbers harmed by Ecstasy are compared to the number of

people who have taken the drug. The main danger of the drug - dehydration - can be reduced by having plenty of water for people to drink. Legal raves charge extortionate prices for bottled water and stop the water supply to the toilets. Squatted raves, for fun not for profit, are less likely to have these unnecessary dangers.

The crackdown on raves is just another example of government using heavy handed tactics to protect private property and crack down on the vibrant and creative energy of the young people involved.

Get Active!

■ **Rod Marshall**

If you want to run a sound system or join the techno sound systems like Bedlam, Vox Populi, Full On, Asylum and Tribe against the Tory Act, contact the Advance Party Network on 081 959 3314

Start by writing to the Home Secretary, at THE HOME OFFICE, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT

Sab's fight 'toff' bloodsports

■ **George Thompson**

Public disgust at foxhunting and game shooting is at a record high. Many councils are banning these cruel sports on their land. But the Tories continue to support the bloodlusts of rural toffs.

The new criminal justice bill threatens hunt saboteurs with a 3 month prison sentence for "disrupting a legal

Tally Ho! Archaic toffs on the rampage?



activity" - a violent pursuit of the ruling class. The new offence supplements trespass laws used by the cops (usually wrongfully) to arrest sabs and side with the rich. Despite only sabs being killed in protests, Howard and

the cops call them the violent hooligans. Phil Burroughs, of the Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs' Association, believes, "Youth must organise mass trespasses to bury Howard's bill and bring a ban on bloodsports".

French lessons for British students

■ **Luci Davin**

The last three months have seen a wave of demonstrations by French secondary school and university students against the government's education reforms, which aim to cut public spending by encouraging privatisation. The French government have amended a nineteenth-century law restricting state funding of private schools. They talk about making private and public education equal. The real idea is that by giving more money to private schools out of the total education budget, middle-class parents will be

encouraged to transfer their children to "better" private schools, and pay for what had previously been provided free by the state. In the end, the government hopes to save money. The demonstrators oppose this creation of a two-tier system in which only the rich will have access to a good education. In Nantes there were student protests in November on a scale not seen for some years. They lasted for more than three weeks and included several demonstrations of up to eight thousand people. Students were protesting about attacks on their living standards and on

the value of their qualifications. They also affirmed their solidarity with overseas students in the face of state racism, and with railway workers in dispute with their employers. 8,000 students invaded the station on 5 November. The French sister group of *Liberation!*, the *Jeunesses Communistes Révolutionnaire*, described these events as a response to French-style Thatcherism, a challenge to a racist and anti-social government. Education is a right, not a privilege. The chance to study and learn for free, and in good conditions, must be a guaranteed right for all.

January: 750,000 demonstrated in Paris to defend free education



Get ready for March 19th!

■ Kathryn Marshall

Britain's biggest anti-racist march since the 1970's is happening on **SATURDAY 19 MARCH** in the East End of London.

You'd better be there if you don't want to miss making history!

Organised by the TRADES UNION CONGRESS, it will be a united nation-wide assembly of every part of society that stands against racism. All the anti-racist and anti-fascist organisations will be there along with trades unions, women's organisations, student unions and youth groups like Liberation!

Meeting up after 11am at SPITALFIELDS MARKET, in the heart of the area's black community, the march will march off at 12 noon to a massive rally at LONDON FIELDS.

Liberation! will be on the march with our banner. If you'd like to meet up with us or help sell Liberation! on the day, write to us at PO Box 1109, London N4.

Stop the Isle of Dogs racists

■ Mark Jason

After the October election of Derek Beacon, the fascist British Nationalist Party's first councillor in Millwall, the BNP are

on the offensive on the Isle of Dogs and in around the country, hoping for more seats in the local elections in May.

The Isle of Dogs is an im-

poverished area, its industrial base destroyed with the demise of the docks in the '60s. In the '80s badly needed homes were demolished to make way for office blocks and 'yuppie' flats - now lying empty.

Tory restrictions on local government spending, and the lack of will from the Liberal Democrat council have meant that very little new affordable housing has been built, and a severe housing shortage has been created.

Liberal bastards

Rather than attempting to provide adequate local housing, or of even fighting the governments restrictions the Liberal Democrats have instead chosen to pin the blame on 'immigration'.

Liberals have perused policies which, rather than attempting to provide for the needs of the community, attempt to create a perceived competition between different sections of the working class for their social needs.

The Bangladeshi community have been scapegoated and paying the price the Liberal's failings. The Liberal Democrats have used numerous methods to do this, from the "housing" of Bangladeshi families on a boat in the docks to the eviction of over 40 families (who had lived in Britain from 16 to 38 years).

Recently, the Liberals have

relied on a 'sons and daughters' policy whereby the sons and daughters of the (almost all white) families who live on the 'Island' get priority on the housing waiting list.

Labour has followed suit with its own 'sons and daughters' policy, thus creating a cross-party consensus that immigration is at the root of the housing problems.

Having created this institutional racism where many white working class people see themselves as being in competition with the black working class, it's hardly surprising that the BNP were elected last October.

Political fight

The fight against racism and fascism is a political campaign which takes on racist institutions and ideas, and mobilises to defend the community from racist attacks.

But we must also fight against the social conditions in which racism and fascism thrive - fighting for decent housing, employment and social provisions for the whole community.

For details of their timetable of local campaigning activities contact ISLAND AGAINST THE NAZIS care of Island House, Roserton Street, London, E14.



Unite the anti-racists Manchester style

■ Rachel Newton

The rise in racist attacks and the growth of the far-right in Britain has seen an increase in activities fighting racism and fascism. Several anti-racist organisations, each claiming to have the legitimacy and correct formula for being 'the national anti-racist movement' have been launched or revived.

However all these groups have been found wanting - anti racist activity has suffered from their weaknesses and public bickering, and the potential strength of thousands of anti-racists has been dissipated at a time when we need it most. Against this background the Manchester Unity Committee Against Racism and Fascism was formed.

Unity demo

The October 16 demonstration to 'close down the BNP' in Welling succeeded in one thing nationally - uniting the majority of active anti-racist forces on one single demonstration. Despite the many negative

points about its organisation and outcome this positive aspect should not be forgotten.

In Manchester many independent anti-racist activists and different organisations came together to organise for the demo. This formed the basis for the Unity Committee.

Black activists

It is centred on groups of black activists organised in the Black Peoples Alliance and their supporters. They were the driving force behind Manchester's largest ever anti-racist demonstration in August 1992 (a memorial march to protest the racist murders of Siddik Dada and Mohammed Sarwar).

Also involved are a group of largely Asian activists who were the core of Manchester's support group for the Burnsalls strikers in Birmingham.

There has also been some input from Manchester Anti-Fascist Youth - a new independent group of sixth-form students - with suggestions for joint activities. Other individuals and left

wing groups are involved but no group dominates. The Unity Committee meets fortnightly and is open to anyone.

It aims to work with community and black organisations and local trade unions - as well as existing anti-racist groups - to take anti-racist initiatives in the city. At the Unity Committee's initiative, Manchester Trades Council has agreed to sponsor an anti-racist demonstration on May Day this year just before the local elections.

The British National Party will be standing candidates in the area and all the mainstream parties are ready to play the 'race card'.

Still very new, the Unity Committee is a positive step forward. There is a need in Manchester, as in the rest of the country, for this type of open and broad based organisation which is not totally dominated by one particular group or strangled by bureaucracy. We are optimistic that the Manchester Unity Committee will continue to go from strength to strength in 1994.

Join 1,000 young radicals - from 16 countries - in Italy this July!



Come to the International Youth Camp in late July!

This year Tuscany in Italy is the venue for the twelfth International Youth Camp. The week-long gathering is a unique chance to meet people from Europe and beyond, all fighting together against militarism, racism, poverty and the attack on the environment.

Planned and run by the young people there, the camp mixes discussions about the way forward with concerts, discos, films, cabaret, trips, plays comedy and lots more.

Liberation! has a package tour all worked out and - while the exact cost of the coach journey hasn't been set - it will be ton's cheaper than last year. **Including food, travel and entry to the camp, the cost be under £150. A bargain!** And some further help is available for those who haven't been to the camp before.

Things are really kicking off for the left in

Italy. The anti-racist struggle is on the rise, and the whole two party system blew up last year! And of course Italy's a pretty nifty place to go for a holiday...

To find out more about the camp and our Summer Camp Savings Club, send us two first class stamps for our new leaflet. You'll get an introductory leaflet straight away, and in mid-April we'll send you the full brochure.

Just send in this coupon, and wait for something wonderful to happen.

- Yes!** I want to go to the International Youth Camp in late July.
- Yes!** Here's two first class stamps, send me all the details I need.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Tel _____

Send to: IYC PO Box 1109, London N4 2UU

Stop Racism and War Worldwide!

Help the IWA Bosnia convoy

■ Louise Whittle

Below this article is the appeal of students in Tuzla. Read it over.

Students from all over the region went to study in Tuzla. Now they are trapped by the blockade. Their families don't know if they are dead or alive and cannot help them.

The students and young people of besieged Tuzla are involved in the defence of the multicultural city against the racist and chauvinist Serbian military. They are defending the right to live together, the right to live in peace. Their fight is our fight. They are fighting for our common future.

Young people and students have been heavily involved in the International Workers Aid convoys to Bosnia. IWA is a campaign based in the international working class movement but also unemployed youth and students, including *Liberation!* supporters, were members of the first convoy. In November part of the convoy got through to Tuzla. The next convoy plans to

move off in late April. We want get as much support from students and young people on the convoy as possible.

The students of Tuzla are appealing for books and money to buy journals and other reading matter. And students and young people in this country should answer their request.

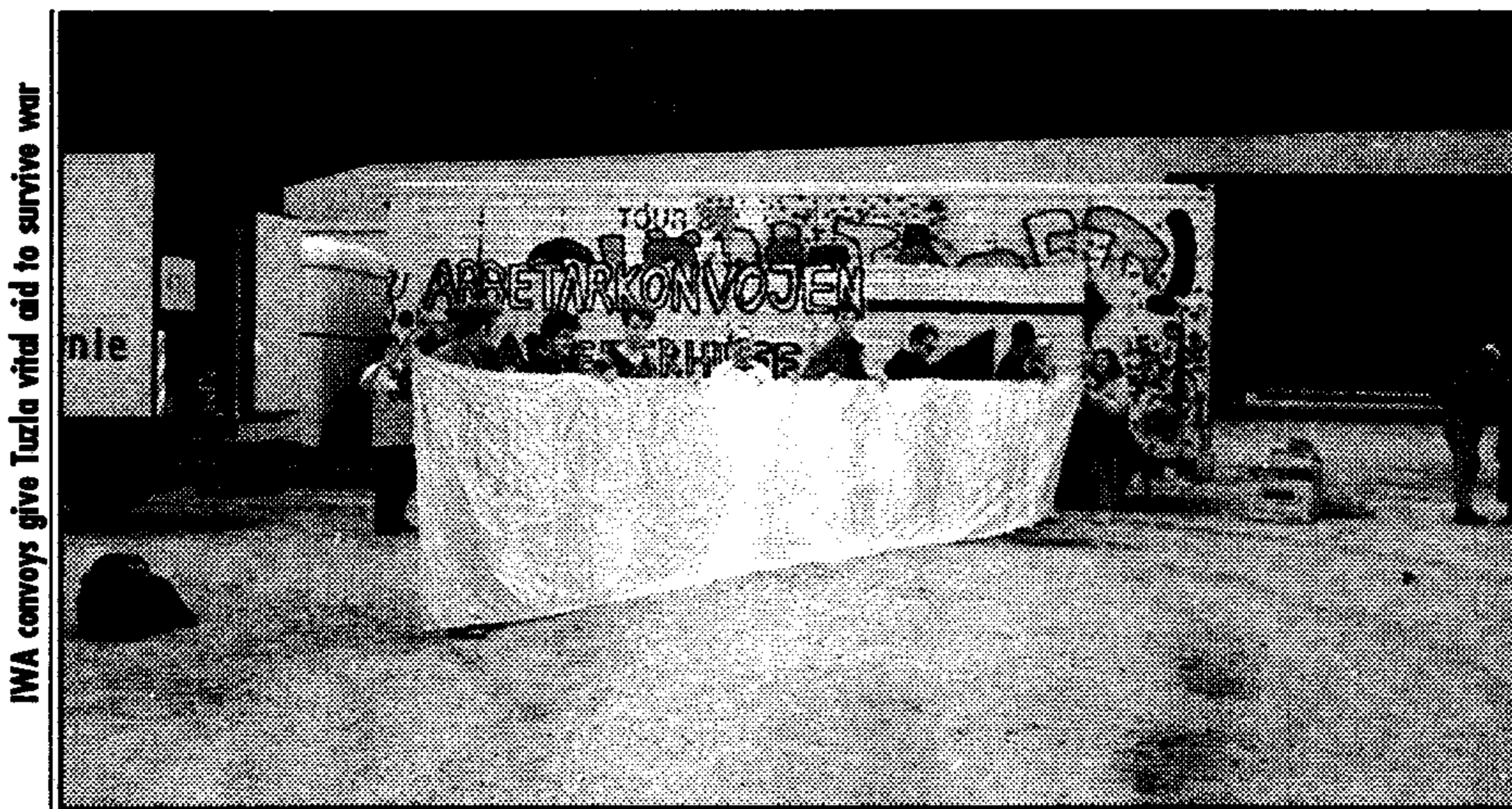
Why not contact International Workers' Aid and find out how you can help. Maybe you can help with leafletting in your town or your college? Maybe you can help with a collection? Maybe when IWA holds campaigning activities - like its recent picket demanding the UN open Tuzla airport - you can come along? Maybe we can arrange for young people from Britain to go to Tuzla?

Either way, we have to aid our brothers and sisters in Tuzla.

Contact International Workers' Aid, 12-14 Thornton Street, London, SW9 0BL.

'I'm so proud to be from Tuzla, where all the people still believe in something'

Two young Bosnian women speak out



IWA convoys give Tuzla vital aid to survive war

Esma Kadie and Samia Karamehmedovic, two young women refugees from Tuzla in central Bosnia, talked to Liberation!

LI: What was Bosnia like before the war?

Samia: We had a really great time. If I could choose whether to stay here or to be back in my country before the war, I'd probably choose to go back. It was really difficult for me to leave, and I was crying and it was hard to leave all my friends. But I really like it here in England I think people here are more friendly.

LI: The government hasn't really been sympathetic to refugees in general. What problems have you had?

Esma: I've had a letter from the Home Office, they gave me a visa that ends in November. I can apply again for political asylum but I don't know if that will happen, if the war is over then I'll have to go back to Bosnia.

LI: What differences do you think there are between life in Britain and life in

Tuzla?

Samia: They are not big differences. But I think Tuzla was more quiet. I mean, the lifestyle here in London is so fast. In our country we started work at seven in the morning and finished at three, and then we had the rest of the afternoon to spend with our family. Here people work until five and then, after dinner, you have just a few hours to spend with your family and then it's time for bed.

LI: What do you like most about this country?

Esma & Samia: Night-life!

LI: And what do you like least?

Samia: I don't like to see lots of homeless people. I mean I was really surprised to see that. In our country you don't really see homeless people on the street.

In our country, the difference between poor people and rich people is really not that great. You don't have really, really rich people and really really poor people, everybody works together.

LI: A lot of people in Britain are very concerned about racism and the growth of racism. Do you think Britain

is racist?

Samia: Yes, but I didn't really get any harassment. Some people were really shocked when they knew we were Bosnian refugees. It was like a really big deal. And some people said "what are you doing here" and when I said I was proud to be Bosnian they said why don't we go and fight for Bosnia and kill Serbs and Croats. Bosnia before the war was really multi-ethnic. In Bosnia we used to live together. My next door neighbour one side was Serb, the other Croat.

LI: There are now many Bosnian refugees in London. How important is the community of Bosnians living here to you?

Samia: When you see people from Bosnia you think my God, I don't want to talk to them about Bosnia because you just want to forget what's happening. It's not easy for me, especially for me because I'm really emotional so every thing about Bosnia is very upsetting.

I wish I was with my parents. I heard yesterday from my sister that they're really hungry. And I hear things like that and for me it's really difficult.

LI: There's a move to try and get people to twin with Tuzla University, and to get people to write letters of support to Tuzla. Do you think that's useful?

Samia: Yeah I think that's really useful, because if you're in Tuzla, you think that the rest of the world doesn't hear about what's happening.

LI: International Workers' Aid picketed the Foreign Office in January calling for Tuzla airport to be opened. Why did you encourage people to go?

Samia: The worst of the war in Bosnia is that people are living there and they haven't got any food. When I talked to my sister she said that for instance in Tuzla people are really dying from hunger. I think that is really important to open the airport to get supplies there.

A friend of mine rang me the other day and said that the situation in Tuzla is really bad. There are people making appeals to other towns in northern Bosnia, asking for food because people are dying. She said that the Bosnian army - actually when I say Bosnian army I don't mean just Muslims - they're trying to defend the territory around Tuzla and around central Bosnia as well.

I'm so proud to be from Tuzla, where I know that all the people still believe in something, that they can live together. If I go back to Bosnia, if take a gun and go and fight I'll probably be killed. What I can do is try to raise money and send it to people in Bosnia.

If some people really want to live together, like they want in Tuzla, they should have the right to.

When the IWA convoy was in Bosnia they received the following appeal:

STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINING - GEOLOGICAL FACULTY

TUZLA UNIVERSITY

Respected Colleagues!

We address you from Tuzla, the centre of north-eastern Bosnia, which is at the same time the most powerful mining centre of our country.

Soon, the whole two years will pass since the war has begun in this area. The war affected all of us, including students and our faculty. Besides, faculty is still in function. Professors and students still work hard and learn in order to use their acquired knowledge in after war industrial development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this difficult time, our work is getting to be worse, because we are faced with a lot of problems.

Our town and country are kept in blockade from all sides, so we are not in the position to make a contact with the outside world.

In this way we would like to accomplish all kind of co-operation with you.

As we are not able to provide the new books and literature journals we kindly ask you to help us as much as you can.

Our financial situation is tragic so we ask you for support.

Our address is: Student's Association, Mining - Geological Faculty, Bratstva i jedinstva, 75 000 Tuzla, phone: (075) 238 552/ 239 492

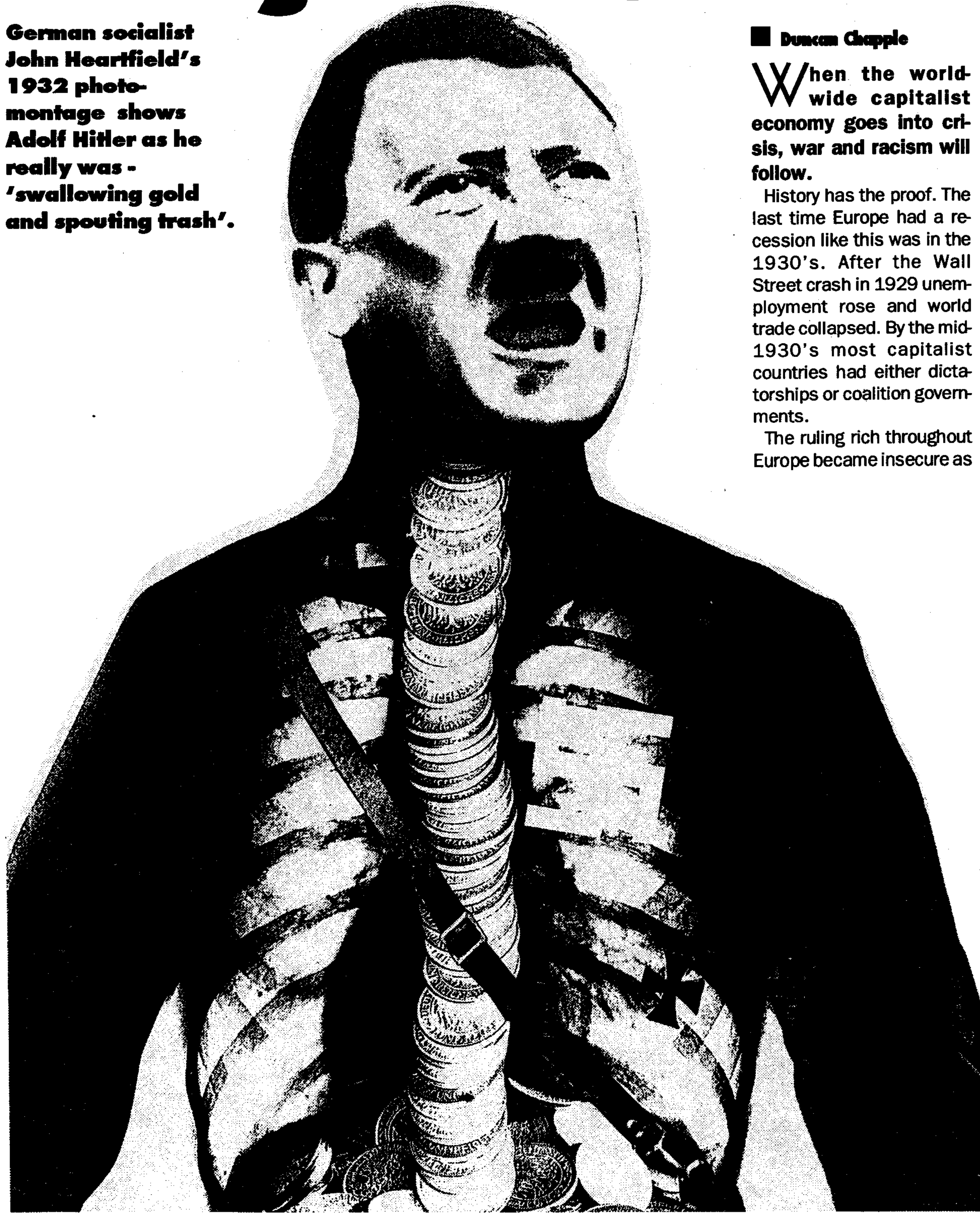
Greetings.



Srebrenica: United Nations has tanks & threats of airstrikes

Don't go back to find the future!

German socialist John Heartfield's 1932 photo-montage shows Adolf Hitler as he really was - 'swallowing gold and spouting trash'.



■ Duncan Chapple

When the world-wide capitalist economy goes into crisis, war and racism will follow.

History has the proof. The last time Europe had a recession like this was in the 1930's. After the Wall Street crash in 1929 unemployment rose and world trade collapsed. By the mid-1930's most capitalist countries had either dictatorships or coalition governments.

The ruling rich throughout Europe became insecure as

mass unemployment and poverty grew. In many countries they turned to the far right - the thugs they use when they are desperate.

Fascism in 1930's

Fascist governments in Germany and Italy, like the authoritarian monarchy in Japan, ruthlessly broke up attempts to defend ordinary people from the recession caused by the ruling rich. Those governments were also militaristic, nationalist and sought to extend the territory they controlled.

The fascist regimes carried ideas used by the old colonial powers through to brutal extremes. Their mass murder of Jews and Gypsies in Europe was motivated by the same ideas of national superiority as Britain has used to deny basic democratic rights to those countries occupied by the Empire.

After the war, some of those racist themes fell into disuse as a wave of third world revolutions forced the colonial empires to collapse.

Back to the future?

In 1994, we are going back to find our future.

The Western rulers no longer have the threat of the 'communist' counties to keep people in line. Now, using NATO and the UN, they lie to us that the peoples of the third world are war-crazy and bound by irrational tribal loyalties and need the west to keep them in check.

They obscure the real causes of the wars in Somalia and Yugoslavia to win

back the right of the west to police the world.

They hide the real facts - that far from bringing peace in Somalia, the UN has killed over 4,000 people; that far from importing food and hope, the bulk of the money spent by the west in Somalia has gone on TV coverage to show us their side of the story.

Europe today

The right wing are rising again in Europe. What happens in Bosnia is part of our business. What might happen tomorrow in Russia - maybe with the fascist Zhirmovsky getting his finger on the nuclear button - concerns us too.

The economic disorder requires desperate solutions. Either young people unite with the working masses to scrap capitalism, or capitalism will use the far right to break our potential power.

Militarist danger

If the militaristic right-wing and nationalists are brought to power now - when economic conflicts between the big western powers are so sharp - trade battles will lead to world wars and racist regimes.

That is what happened in World War Two. In the Pacific, Japan and the US were fighting for economic control of the region.

In the 1990's, they are fighting for the control of trade worldwide and that makes the fight against racism and war in Europe the central task for young people today.

Tear down the racist walls of Fortress Europe

■ Aidan Selter

Fortress Europe symbolizes the exclusion of non-citizens both inside and outside the European Union (EU), from its prosperity.

The Single European Act (SEA) opens internal borders to the free movement of its nationals, allowing them to live work and obtain welfare in the country of their choice.

Simultaneously it aims to reduce entry into the EU from outside and to deny the right of free movement and settlement to non-citizens resident within.

The SEA harmonizes the immigration policies of individual states, so that the most restrictive policies become the norm throughout.

'Black list'

Fortress Europe is deeply racist. There is a literal 'black list' of 127 countries whose nationals will require visas to enter the EU. The populations of these countries are predominantly

black.

In contrast, the three commonwealth countries exempted from the list are 'white'. The aim is primarily to exclude people from the Third World. Black residents in the EU are the principle victims of internal border controls aimed at non-citizens.

Fortress Europe policies also target people fleeing war and poverty resulting from the economic disintegration and rise of nationalism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

As those interviewed in this issue of *Liberation!* can testify, Bosnian refugees have already fallen foul of the legislation.

No legal migration

Today there is virtually no legal immigration into Europe for the purpose of employment. The largest categories of people entering Europe from the number Third World are asylum seekers and unauthorized migrant workers (who number about four million).

Many are refugees, refused asylum, who have gone 'underground' to avoid deportation. Others come from poverty stricken countries where employment is scarce and welfare non-existent. Their families and national economies depend on their earnings.

As illegal immigrants they have no welfare or employment rights laying them open to super-exploitation by their employers. Most work for poverty wages in sweatshop conditions. If they protest they may be reported to the state and deported.

'Flood'?

Governments claim Europe is being 'flooded' by bogus 'economic refugees'. This is false.

The main burden of supporting refugees falls on poor countries. In 1989 Somalia had four times as many refugees as Britain. Only 700,000 of the world's 14 million recognised refugees live in Europe.

Since the mid '80s the rights of asylum seekers have been systematically eroded.

Individual EU states have imposed visa requirements on refugee producing countries, in tandem with 'carrier liability' laws which fine airlines for carrying passengers without the required travel documents. The definition of refugee used ('those with a well-founded fear of persecution') excludes those fleeing foreign aggression and occupation.

Asylum seekers face detention, welfare discrimination, measures to hasten their departure and even criminalization.

Britain's 1993 Asylum Act introduced finger printing for asylum seekers, abolished their right to public housing and introduced a fast-track appeal process.

Schengen Act

But the most draconian measures against asylum seekers are being implemented at EU level.

The Schengen Act re-



All immigration controls are inherent and unnecessary

moved the obligation on EU countries to consider applications of those previously refused asylum by another EU country.

At the EU Edinburgh summit in December 1992 the Ad-Hoc Group on Immigration proposed that 'people fearing civil rights violations should seek protection from their own authorities or in the first safe country'.

The group declared 'the international movement of refugees is seldom necessary for protective purposes'.

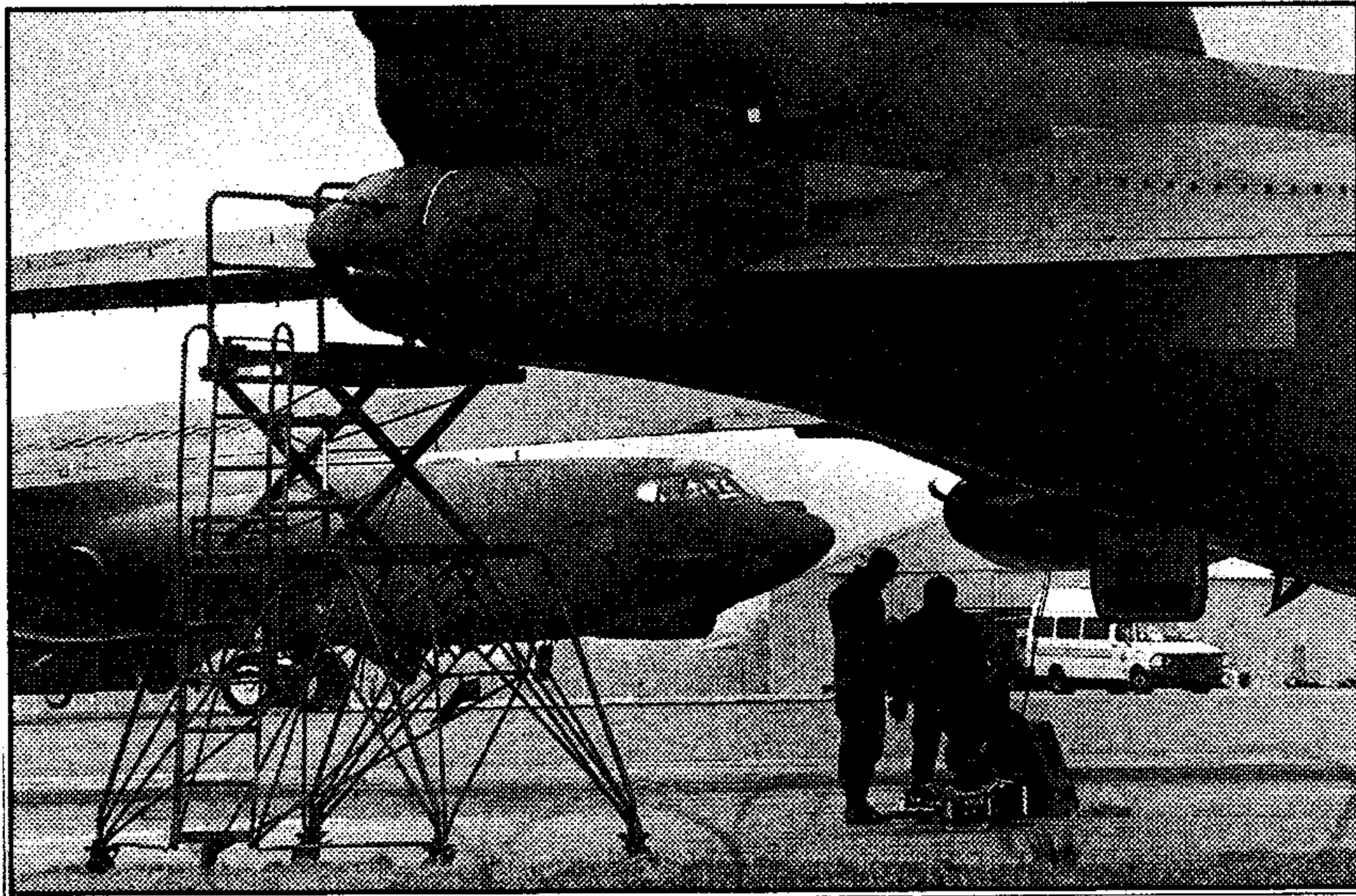
Tear them down!

Anti-racist campaigners must fight to tear down the walls of Fortress Europe.

We must demand that all people have a right to enjoy asylum and to work in the EU. We must campaign for unauthorized migrants and all black people in Europe to be granted citizenship rights.

Above all we must fight to end the world capitalist economic system which creates mass poverty, war and mass migration.

Shares In Mass Murder On Offer



As long as dictators pay for arms, they are available

Paul Walker

British Aerospace (BAe) is Europe's largest manufacturer of weaponry, with military sales remaining steady at about £4 billion annually. About 75% of these sales come from the Middle and Far East.

As one of the world's most foremost arms suppliers BAe doesn't wait for armed forces around the world to come and beat a path to its door. It goes out and touts for business.

Such is the nature of the market economy that billions are made from weapons of mass destruction and the skills that could be used to the benefit of society as a whole - but consistently BAe has said no to any conversion of its military production to useful civil projects.

Instead BAe provided bombers that helped bomb Iraq flat and it is BAe Hawks that terrorise the population of East Timor.

British Aerospace arms the dictators who occupy some one else's country. It is time that they found out that this is not acceptable and that life was made a little more difficult for the big businesses that make money out of mass murder.

From February to April this year a spotlight will be put on BAe, beginning with a documentary that explains the role of Hawks in

East Timor and ending with a campaigning presence at the BAe AGM which will call for arms conversion and point to BAe's support for Indonesia.

Death of a Nation?

A documentary by John Pilger "Death of a Nation" will be transmitted on ITV at 10.40pm on February 22nd. Filmed secretly in East Timor, it will tell all there is to know about the bloody repression occurring in East Timor and the British Governments complicity in it.

It will also focus on the sale of arms to the Indonesian government by major weapons manufactures such as British Aerospace who supply Hawk fighter aircraft that are ideal for attacking liberation armies, such as FALINTIL, which is based in the mountainous areas of East Timor.

Despite denials that the planes are used to repress East Timorese resistance all written statements by the Foreign Office on this issue refer to the Hawks not being used against the civilian population. This gives no guarantees as to its use against FALINTIL.

As a promotional sticker handed out by BAe at the Farnborough Airshow states the Hawk is "a light-weight fighter with a heavy-weight punch".

Respectable

The 1994 BAe Annual General Meeting will take

place on the afternoon of 26 April at the Marriot Hotel in Grosvenor Square, London.

Inside the AGM Campaign Against Arms Trade will be presenting an "Alternative Report" to the AGM and at a press conference which will call for BAe to start converting from military to civil production.

CAAT will have lots of respectable looking people asking lots of difficult questions.

Not So Respectable

Also inside there will be actions by much less respectable looking people which will highlight for the press and media what the trade in military equipment means - it is death for sale.

Outside the AGM there will be a demonstration pointing to the role of BAe in supporting the Indonesian occupation.

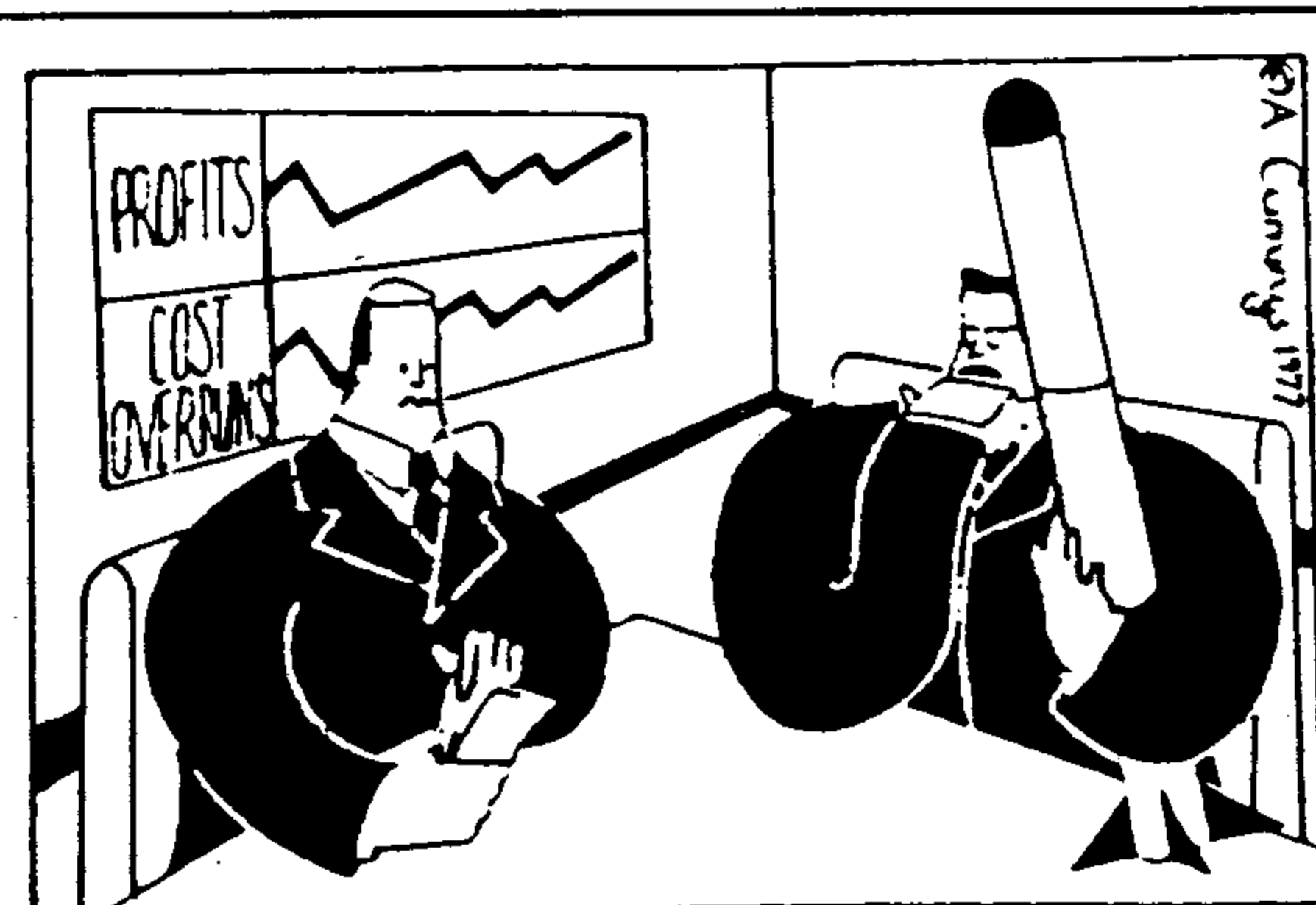
Both inside and outside the AGM those who are prepared to take action will be needed.

Contact CAAT at 11 Goodwin St, London, N4 3HQ. Tel: 071 281 0297

Get Active

Unfurl that banner!

Fancy a spot of banner unfurling? Really want to piss off BAe Chair John Cahill who at last year's AGM described Saudi Arabia as 'a nice place to live and work'? (as long as you're a man, very rich and not a Palestinian. John!) Then contact CAAT and tell them you want to be involved - *Liberation!* understands that the more youth and students that turn up on the day the better - but if you want to get inside the AGM then contact CAAT as soon as possible so that you can become a BAe shareholder for a day and let John know how you feel.



"I CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE THESE RECURRING NIGHTMARES OF THE GOVERNMENT ASKING US TO MANUFACTURE SOMETHING USEFUL."

Converting arms factories to produce other things creates more jobs too

Declare yourself an internationalist!

BIG IDEAS Made Simple

Bala Kumar

Look around. Fruit Land vegetables in our stores are harvested in Africa and the Caribbean.

Our furniture is made from trees felled in South-East Asia and Scandinavia. Stereos, televisions and personal computers were designed in the United States but are built in East Asia.

The music we listen to and clothes we wear are influenced by West African, South Asian and African-American cultures.

We live in an inter-dependent world, our lives regulated by the world market.

This global economy has no concern for national boundaries.

It moves from country to country searching for cheap labour and maximum profits.

NATO, UN & G7

The bosses and their friends in government organise internationally. Their economic forum is the annual Group of 7 eco-

nomie summit, their military pact is the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and their political alliance is the United Nations. So it makes sense that those of us who oppose their policies should think and act internationally too.

Events in one country can have a tremendous impact around the world. When the fascist dictatorship in Portugal was overthrown in 1974 it was in large part due to the resistance of the liberation forces in Portugal's African colonies. More recently, the destruction of the Berlin Wall gave the green light all over Eastern Europe to the fight for democratic freedoms.

South Africa

In the 1980's many young people spoke out and campaigned against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Tens of thousands attended concerts demanding the release of Nelson Mandela.

Many took part in boycotts of South African products forcing supermarkets to buy from elsewhere. University campuses in the

United States ran disinvestment campaigns calling on their colleges not to invest in companies which did business in South Africa.

There are coming struggles which will need the support of internationalists too.

In Brazil a Popular Democratic Government led by the Workers Party (PT) may be elected later this year.

This Government which aims to run the economy for the workers, poor peasants, shanty-dwellers and the dispossessed will be under attack from foreign governments and global institutions.

Real power

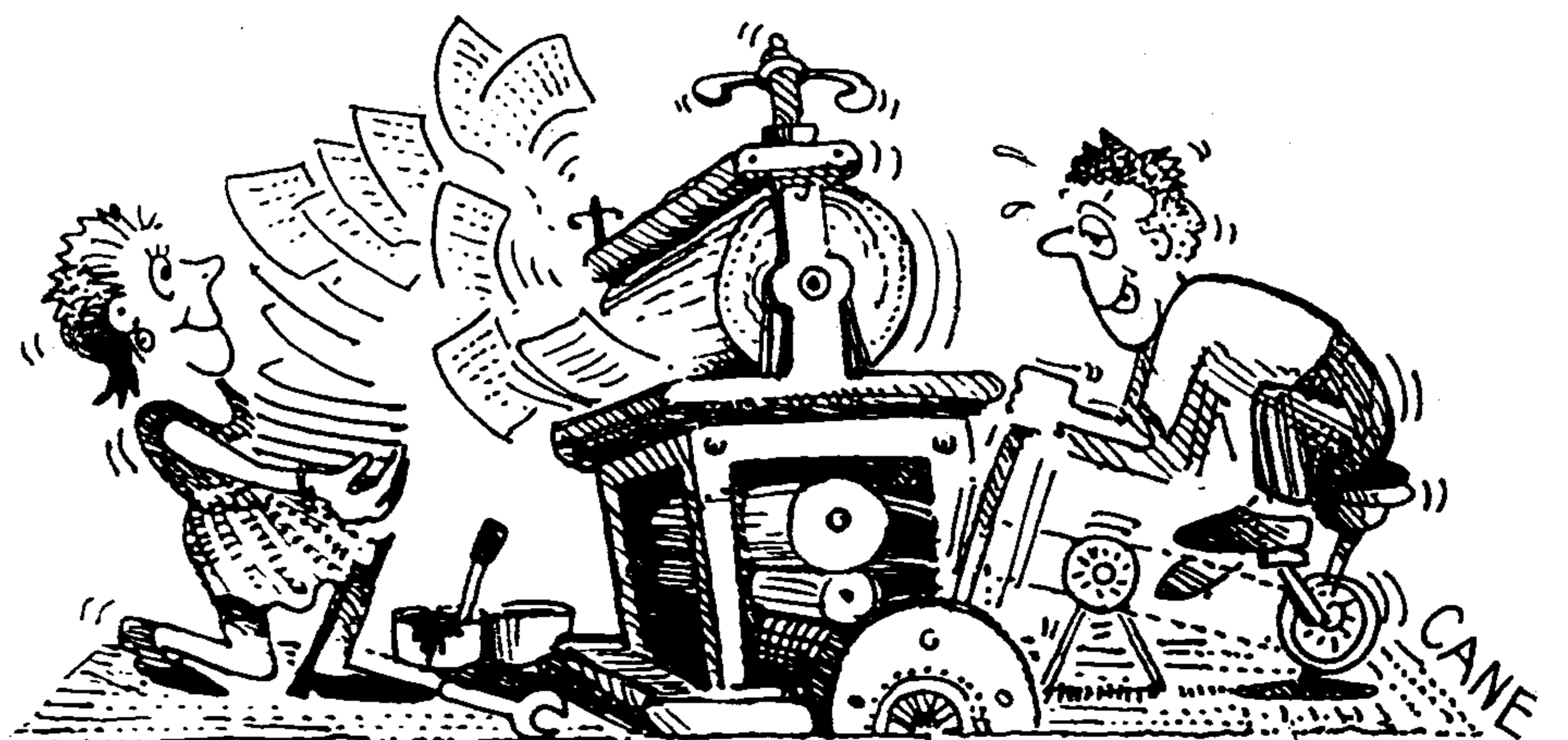
Real power is in the hands of the imperialists - the western governments, multi-national corporations and financial institutions - which control the world economy. They use their power to strangle any revolution.

So international solidarity isn't just about supporting people in struggle around the world.

We have to fight against the imperialist designs of our own government in Britain.

That's the most effective way to help movements for revolutionary change around the world.

Feed your mind! spread the word



Liberation! is unique

Spread the word

Young people write it, design it and distribute it - working together to put forward a feminist, ecologist and socialist alternative to the lies that fill the bosses' newspapers.

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Sex, AIDS & the Age of Consent

Kissing Doesn't Kill: Greed And Indifference Do

■ Jodley Green

Find a cure is the demand that everyone who wants to see an end to AIDS must raise.

Even with the best education schemes, without immunisation or cure, there will always be new cases of HIV infection, each case a personal tragedy. The statistics mask the wound which AIDS has inflicted on the gay community and on entire nations unable to cope with the economic effects of a high proportion of the population with weakened immune systems.

Developing drugs and vaccines to combat HIV is the route to ending that individual and collective devastation.

Yet drug companies are concerned only with the profits they can reap from the AIDS crisis.

When a drug trial found that AZT was less useful than thought, Wellcome - the company that developed the drug - was more worried about the blow to their share prices than the effect on the morale of people with HIV taking AZT.

Competing with each other, the drug companies, keep their research top secret, wasting money and more importantly time as scientists all around the world try to find a cure in isolation.

Meanwhile people who are diagnosed HIV positive are advised to avoid stress to delay the onset of AIDS. Not so easy when a positive diagnosis means discrimi-

nation in almost every sphere of life.

Being thrown out by a bigoted landlord, losing a job, friends and family support are not uncommon experiences.

If someone becomes too ill to work they turn to benefits, a system which is completely inadequate for anyone's needs, let alone someone who needs to avoid stress and eat well on medical advice.

Where poverty exists alongside HIV there has

been a massive growth in the cases of TB, not only in the poorest nations of Africa, but in urban centres of the richest nation, the USA.

Government efforts to prevent the spread of HIV have been heavy on the scare tactics, while failing to get information to people most at risk.

Young gay men are still becoming infected because schools and colleges do not provide relevant sex education.

Men under 21 have not been reached by safer sex campaigns run by voluntary organisations frightened of being seen to encourage 'illegal acts'.

Carrying condoms is enough to bring about a conviction for prostitution in a system which is more concerned with moving women working the streets onto new beats then preventing the spread of a life threatening virus.

Don't just get angry about AIDS, get organised.



Liberation! wants:

1. To Prevent the Transmission of HIV

Access to information about safer sex and drug use, regardless of age and sexual orientation, and especially for young gay men particularly at risk.

Distribution of free condoms

De-criminalise prostitution, no more convictions for carrying condoms

Free needle exchange schemes

2. To Find A Cure

Drug research should be run by the state for the public good, not by private companies for the cause of profit.

Open up the files on the state of drug trials

3. To improve life expectancy and quality of life for people living with AIDS and HIV

End discrimination against people living with AIDS or HIV, in the workplace, in housing, in education, in immigration law and insurance provision.

Benefit levels should take account of people's real needs

Give the NHS the funding needed for comprehensive health care of people with HIV and AIDS

Fight poverty in the 'Third World', prioritising health care over debt repayments

Do young people need 'Age of Consent' laws?

■ Kate Abrams

The House of Commons has recently voted on the age of consent for gay men.

Before the vote the age of

consent for gay men was 21, while for straights it is 16. Lesbians don't even get a mention - apparently Queen Victoria didn't believe they existed!

But what's the big deal?

Why should anyone object to gay men choosing to have sex at the same age as straights?

In fact, what is the point of the age of consent at all? It was only in 1967 that gay sex was made legal. Even now, lesbians or gay men kissing in the street can be arrested for indecent behaviour.

Young men are being sent to prison or put in care just for choosing to have sex with another man before the age of 21.

Young lesbians are being put into care, not for doing anything wrong, or because their parents can't provide for them, but simply because they are lesbians.

Age of consent laws are used against straight young people too. Young women who want to have sex when they're under 16 risk being put into care and their boy-

friends risk prosecution.

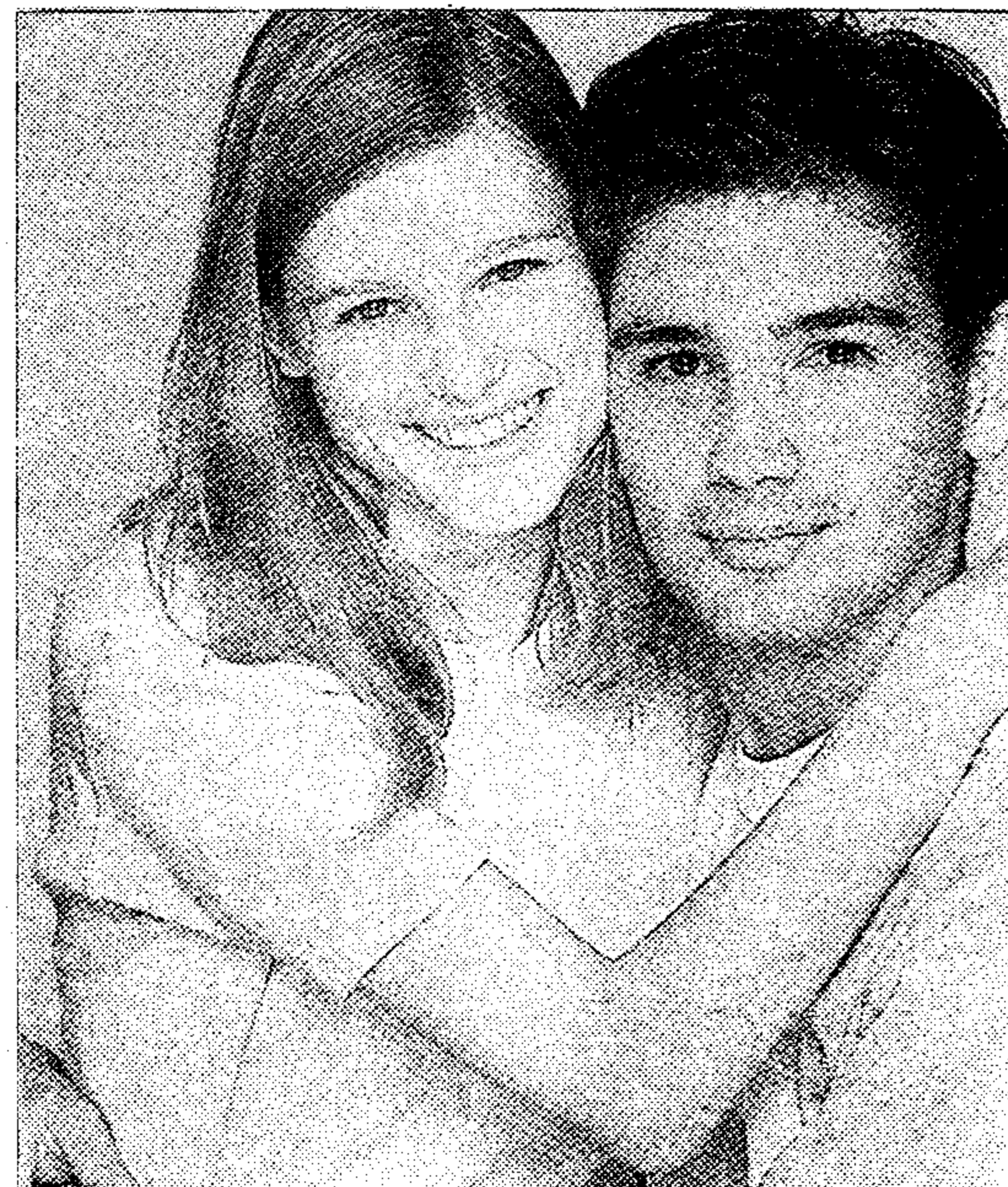
If you are forced into any sexual act with anyone, whatever age you are, that's illegal, and the person who forced you has committed the crime.

But the Age of Consent laws do not prevent people being hurt. They are there simply to stop young people choosing to have sex when they want, and with whom they want.

They are not about protecting young people from being preyed upon by older people, they are about taking away our rights to choose what we do with our bodies.

The laws protecting us from rape and sexual assault certainly leave a lot to be desired. But the age of consent laws are no substitute for the real changes to increase young people's rights or safety.

Young people need info about safer sex and contraception



The Age of Consent laws stop young people getting the information they need about contraception and safer sex - they don't stop young people from having sex.

The result is unplanned teenage pregnancies, and higher incidences of sexually transmitted diseases. All in the name of protecting us.

The laws are there to stop young people have the power of choice



DJ Sista: 'Stick to your principles'

Hard Kaur...She Knows the Score

One time manager of Fun-da-mental, the Face's 'DJ of the Month' in August '93, first ever Asian DJ on Radio 1 FM (specialising in Bhangra, ragga and house), Bhangra musician, active anti-racist and fighter for women's rights, Ranjit Kaur aka DJ Sista is a very busy woman. Liberation! managed to catch up with her in her home town of Huddersfield to discuss music and politics...

LI: Bhangra is getting onto the media now. Can you give us a brief history of the scene?

The UK scene started off small about ten years ago. Originally traditional songs were played in temples, then later at weddings. Young musicians started to add modern western instruments to the traditional Punjabi ones, and a movement was pioneered by bands like Alaap. Bands then started to mushroom in the midlands and in London. Bhangra is originally Punjabi music but now you find some Asians from all backgrounds are into it. Fun-da-mental, for in-

stance, contain muslims within their ranks.

LI: Recently there's been a lot of Bhangra-Ragga crossover. Does that represent a cultural mix at the grass roots between black and Asian youth?

No, that was a money-making gimmick by some record companies who thought they could cash in on the popularity of ragga. Many blacks were offended by it. Some of the music was really good, and people danced to it, but generally it was a commercial move and was potentially damaging to black-Asian relations.

LI: Do you see bhangra as radical or positive?

In the past most Bhangra dealt with traditional subjects and having a good time, but more recently Asian youth have started to sing about the problems they face in nineties Britain. However, most record companies are worried that political stuff will be too controversial and won't sell. Female Bhangra musicians in particular have had to push themselves and as a result they are having a radicalizing effect on the scene.

LI: As an anti-racist activist do you have any advice or comments for the movement?

There needs to be more unity both within the anti-racist movement and between all the different struggles against specific oppressions. The major anti-racist organisations are all doing separate things, but if they could unite they could kick some

Anti-racist bands united thousands of youth at August's ARAfest



serious ass. The movement needs to be open to all, therefore it needs to be anti-sexist and anti-homophobic etc. Capitalism has to be fought by fighting concretely against all oppressions, rather than by abstracting the struggle. The most important thing is to have groups of people who come together because they want to fight racism and are prepared to act locally to tackle it. Don't bother sending me any applications forms, I'll just send them back!

LI: Do you encounter sexism in the scene?

Yes, lots of it. People didn't expect me to be a DJ and I often get patronised. I've just had to stand up for myself. I have gained respect amongst people who know and work with me.

LI: You are in a band called the 'K K Kings', can you

explain the origins of your name?

It's a double edged thing. When people hear of the KKK they think of the Ku Klux Klan. We're taking the piss out of them because K also represents the five symbols of the Sikh religion, and originally there were five of us in the band. We have now expanded to fifteen, and we're a collective all involved in different aspects of creativity. We rotate the roles of the members so that each individual can develop their skills. There

is a strong input from the females in the band and a lot of our songs deal with women's oppression. The very act of our coming together has tackled sexism and broken down stereotypes. Some of the women in the band had to tackle the opposition of their families to being involved in a band. We are stating loud that Asian women make a big contribution to the world. Many of them are working or studying and a strong and independent. We don't all have arranged marriages at 16! We don't let sexism or ra-

cism pass without opposition.

LI: Any tips for what to look out for in 1994?

The New Conscious Kalliphz, Hustlers HC, Fun-da-mental, and of course the K K Kings. (John Peel, who played 'Dum Maro Dum' from their 'Justified and Asian' EP on New Year's Day, certainly thinks it will be a hit for '94.)

LI: Any advice for Liberation! readers for 1994?

Be strong and stick to your principles!

YOUNG VOICES: our readers speak out

Kurdish youth are demanding peace!

LI: What is life like in Kurdistan for young people?

Karker: Military service is a main issue - because the Kurdish youth are forced to fight against their own people. People don't want to join - the Kurdish youth knows the future of the Kurdish population depends on him - so he has a reaction against the army, and what it does to the villages.

Bahar: I think its important to say that a lot of Kurdish youth don't go.

Adar: The number who don't go or desert is 300,000 i.e. about half of the army, so a majority don't go to the army anymore. So we could say a majority of Kurdish youth are engaged in the national struggle one way or another.

Bahar: Some Kurdish youngsters are forced

to become village guards - so they face a dilemma - between taking up arms and going to the mountains, or becoming a village guard, or fleeing from Turkey - so they can't lead a normal life.

LI: How do people defend themselves?

Firat: People have shelters in all houses. They defend themselves, or go to other villages/towns when they expect a raid. When they resist, the state forces want to burn their village, they have to flee.

Bahar: People who refuse to leave are shot. Thousands of young people are in prison - when we say young people we mean young - there are children of 11/12 years old in prison.

LI: What kind of demands can Liberation! readers help you campaigning for in Brit-

ain?

Karker: The British Government sells a lot of weapons to Turkey. One of our demands is to end military and economic aid by European governments to Turkey, and we demand that European people don't go on holiday to Turkey. Because the money they spend on holidays in Turkey comes back to us as a bullet.

LI: Are there other things you'd like to see young people doing to support your struggle?

Firat: The majority of people are young, the future depends on them. We would like them to participate more in politics and stop their government supporting the Turkish state.

Contact the Kurdistan Solidarity Committee, 44 Ainger Road, London, NW3 3AT. Tel: 071-586 5892.

If wars, starvation, environmental devastation, exploitation and injustice make you angry...

If you reject the idea that they are somehow "inevitable" or permanent features of human society...

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Working alone you can change some things a little, for a while; working together with others, you can change the world.



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