

# Red Action

ISSUE NO. 12

## SCABS ARE SCUM



POLICE ARREST PICKETS (JUST FOR A CHANGE!)

Everybody knows that the miners are on strike. We are telling them nothing new when we talk about that. What a lot of people may not be quite so aware of however, is just how far reaching the consequences of the outcome of this strike could be. If the miners were to lose this battle it could well prove to be the signal for major and radical changes in the of our society. What do we mean when we say this?

In the five years that the Tories have been in power, there have been many measures and changes that they have brought in. None of them however have had an immediate and devastating effect on large numbers of people at the same time. We know that the rich have got richer and the poor poorer because of changes in the tax structure, but this has been a gradual rather than an overnight process.

### EXTREME

Similarly the policy of selling off council houses without building new ones will not be fully felt until those at present just starting school are looking for somewhere to live. The National Health Service in spite of regular and stinging cuts in its budget is still with us so far. It is fair to say that so far, the Tories have shied away from implementing any measures that would have a massive and immediate effect on large numbers of working class people.

Is this because they have no intention of ever implementing those sort of changes? The answer to this is no. We know that because there is more than enough evidence to show that the Tories have laid plans for, and

in some cases started to partially implement measures that would indeed change our society a great deal. A great deal for the worse for most people.

### WORK HOUSES

We know that contingency plans have been discussed for the proposed total abolition of the NHS. What that means pure and simple is that people who could not afford private treatment would die from easily curable ailments as they do in America, and used to do in this country. The Victorian work house has already been reintroduced into the country under the guise of government retraining centres. If you are told to attend one and refuse your benefit is stopped. As yet they are hardly being used.

There are other examples of extreme measures being seriously discussed and planned by the Tories, but as with these two they have not attempted to implement them.

Now why should this be. Why if they want to get rid of the health service, do they not do so. Why are they not making use of the work houses that now exist. Why they allow the Tebbit Bill laws on picketing to be so often defied. Why do they

hesitate to implement so many measures that they have laid careful plans for.

The overriding factor is confidence. Even though they have managed to get so many of their more subtle manoeuvres through, they are still very wary about anything that they consider might provoke a massive and angry reaction from the people. They remember well what happened to Ted Heath when he misjudged the mood of the working class in 1972/74 and tried to force his Industrial relations act upon them. The massive strike wave that it provoked eventually swept him from office.

Three years ago, the government attempted to implement a policy of pit closures almost exactly the same as the one they are now. When miners all over the country, immediately and spontaneously started to strike without even being called by the union, they immediately backed down and abandoned them. They did not then have the confidence to take on their most formidable enemy.

### PREPARED

This time the government has prepared much more carefully. They have built up massive reserves of coal. They have tried to implement the closures not just before the winter like last time, when the effects of a shortage would have been much sooner felt, but at the start of summer. They knew that

if the miners did strike, coal reserves would last much longer, and hope that the terrible poverty experienced by the miners in the long wait before their strike begins to bite would undermine it. So far this has not happened. The vast majority of miners are still firmly behind the strike, but many are already suffering great hardship. To win they must have the support of all other workers.

The miners are not on strike because of greed or selfishness. They are on strike to protect their industry for future working class generations. Many of those on strike are not even under any direct threat themselves, but are willing to suffer the effects of the strike for those that are. That alone should win them the support of all decent thinking people. But as well as that think of this. Think of a rampantly victorious Tory Party having defeated their oldest and most feared foes. Remember the last time they did it in 1926 and think what followed after that (if you don't know about it look it up.)

Then think about all of those things that the Tories have hinted at but not yet felt confident enough to try and implement and ask yourself would that still be the case. We can't say for certain to you that a defeat for the miners would definitely be the turning point, but you weigh up all the facts and think about yourself. Scarey isn't it.

## DIG DEEP FOR THE MINERS

For those of us who are not miners, the crucial question raised by the strike is 'what can we do to help?'. The answer to this is quite simple; MONEY. Of course arguing their case and attending their pickets are important, but financial help is by far the most important factor.

Already, many miners are beginning to suffer acute poverty. Single miners have not received a penny since the strike started. Those with families are experiencing deliberate delays before receiving money they are entitled to - and then they are stopped £15 for strike pay that they are not getting. One family - with two children - received a giro for 26p after five weeks.

These sorts of tactics are a deliberate attempt to demoralise the miners into returning to work. So far they have not been successful. It is up to the rest of us to make sure that they never are.

The recent announcement by the Labour Party that they intend to implement a weekly 50p levy on all their members was a great step forward. Unfortunately, nothing more seems to have happened beyond announcing it.

This is not meant, in any way, to deride the great efforts of many individuals inside the Labour Party, who have made - and will no

doubt continue to make - great efforts on the miners behalf. But the plain facts are that with over 120,000 miners on strike, a million and a quarter pounds has to be raised each week just to give them a tenner each. It is an absolute disgrace that the

Labour Party and Trade Union movement with ten million members between them, cannot raise two or three times that amount. Just what do we pay the hundreds of full time organisers for? Why have they not begun levys of all Union members?

So what we are left with is the admirable but insufficient efforts of individuals, active union branches and tiny groups like Red Action.

### LEVY

For our part we operate a weekly levy of £1 on all of our members, more if you wish. We invite - and urge - anybody reading this to join us. It may seem a bit like pissing in the wind when you think of the massive amount needed, but so be it. We intend to piss as hard as we can for as long as we have to. A regular list of contributors will be published, open to inspection by anyone who joins the levy. (You don't have to give your real name if you don't want to.)

### CONTRIBUTE

So get on to us right away; write to the p.o. box address,

If you can't do that, then what the hell are you doing, reading this paper anyway?



V FOR VICTORY

# RED ALERT

Democracy and freedom are two words which the Tories are very fond of using and it would be true to say that many people believe that the Tories are the party of democracy and freedom. However if we examine their record more closely, we can see that the truth is far different.

What has happened is an onslaught on the democratic freedoms of the people of this country. This has occurred because in fact there is only one freedom that the Tories really believe in, the freedom to make profits. To do this, they have embarked on a programme to reduce the power that working people have, and given the state increased power to deal with any opposition. What measures have they taken in pursuit of this aim?

One of the first things that they did on coming to power, was to introduce legislation to limit the ability of trade unions to defend themselves, their wages and their working conditions. The only way that unions can effectively defend their interests, is by standing together in solidarity with each other. The aim of the trade union legislation was, and is, to prevent this happening. It was made illegal to support other people on strike, to picket anywhere but your own workplace. The effect of these measures was to reduce the power of working people to defend their interests.

This is what the Tories had set out to do, and they achieved it. It meant the dole for millions, while the rich increased their profits.

## ATTACK

However, it isn't only in the industrial sphere that the Tories are on the attack. They are also against any democratic institution which

may happen to be in opposition to them. They plan to destroy local democracy in London, by abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan county councils because they are Labour controlled. An elected council has been in existence in London for almost a hundred years, but now they are trying to put the clock back. There is absolutely no justification for getting rid of these councils. It is an act of political spite on the government's part. Other councils in other parts of the country will survive, especially the ones that historically favour the Tories.

## POWER

On top of this a bill is now going through parliament which will take away a right which is four years old. The right for local councils to decide their own local tax rates. The effect of all this will be to concentrate more and more power in the hands of central government.

## RIGHTS

We should not really be too surprised by all of this. It has never in reality been the Tories who have been responsible for extending free-



Two other measures will reduce freedom even further. The data protection bill, and the police bill. Both of these measures will increase the power of the state by allowing them access to personal files such as medical records. It also gives them the right to stop and search, increases the time that you can be held in custody without being charged, and allows them to set up roadblocks wherever and whenever they want. All of these measures are an affront to the democracy and liberty that the Tories are always going on about. They are a menacing attempt to gain dominance over society.

dom. The rights that we enjoy today came about because of people fighting for changes. People like socialists and trade unionists, and those who wanted democracy and freedom.

Institutions like the trade unions are the very foundation of democracy and freedom. When their voice is controlled or silenced totalitarianism prevails. Look at the example of Nazi Germany, where trade unionists were put in concentration camps, or more recently Poland where the workers union, Solidarity, was suppressed.

We must point to the sources of democracy, and combat the lies and myths of the Tories. We must fight against every threat to workers freedom and show the Tories for what they really are. Robbers, exploiters, and enemies of true freedom.

The articles in Red Action are written by individual members, friends and contacts. They are the sole responsibility of the author or authors and while we would obviously not print anything that was obviously anti-socialist we would not refuse an article just because we didn't agree with every part of it. The views expressed are those of the writer, and it should not be assumed that they are the views of every Red Action member.

# WOMEN ON THE LINE

We often hear about women's lack of involvement in the Political world and that when they do get involved it's in A Reactionary Fashion. To prove this point it is often said that women were the cause of Thatcher coming to power in 1979 (Because a few more women than men voted Tory); or that women undermine men in struggle by calling for them to go back to work.

As with all chauvenistic nonsense it has a grain of truth hidden in it, but this view of a women's role in politics has been overturned in the last few weeks - overturned by the solidarity and splendid behaviour of the striking miners wives. They have set up women's support groups and are playing an increasing role in the dispute, and are now very much in the front line.

This is a great example of how to support those on strike. For weeks now they have been raising funds and providing meals, which is very valuable work, which has to be done. But it doesn't stop there, they are now on the picket lines and as one woman said "It's a case of having to do it. They are locking all the blokes up. I was scared at first but not after. I'll go again".

Not much more needs to be said, this support and solidarity is fantastic and if the scabs in Nottingham had half the courage and political understanding of these women they would stop scabbing and get out on strike. So next time you hear any twaddle about women undermining men, just point to the glorious women pickets.



# PORRIDGE

I was very interested to hear recently, the comment of a representative of the foreign office, who attempted to visit the several Spurs fans - who are still locked up in Brussels, after trouble following the recent Spurs Anderlecht match. After being refused permission to visit them, he went on to describe how they were being held in appalling conditions.

Have you noticed how, whenever a Briton is imprisoned abroad, before long we begin to get sympathetic reports, about the terrible conditions that they are having to endure? Reports that seem to imply that these foreigners must be some sort of uncivilised barbarians, to inflict these conditions on people. Not quite up to the standards of us civilised British, what?

## BRITAIN

It is a shame that I don't very often meet representatives of the Foreign Office, because if I was to meet this particular person, I would be able to tell him quite a bit

about appalling prison conditions, only it would perhaps come as some surprise to him, that the ones that I would be describing, are not those of some other country, but right here in Britain.

## WINSON GREEN

I would be able to tell him about Winson Green prison in Birmingham, where in a cell about 8ft by 15ft were three beds and two tables. The resulting spare floor space could best be described as being just enough to lie down in.

In this we had to spend 22 hours of each day, eat all our meals and wash as best we could in a bowl of water. The reason that we were locked up for 22 hours a day was that we were young prisoners, under 21, and we were not supposed to be cooped up for too long, so we were allowed to go out for an extra hour's exercise every day. The cockroaches were not subject to the same rules. They came and went as they pleased. When I first arrived there in the middle of a blazing hot June, I was given neither a change of clothes nor a shower for 10 days.

## PENTONVILLE

In Pentonville, London, until some very recent modernisation, about 50 men would get some fifteen minutes after each meal to wash their plates and mugs, get rid of left overs, fill their water bowl, empty their piss pot and use the toilet. All of these things had to be done simultaneously in a tiny recess containing one sink, one hot water tap, one toilet and one slop out chamber.

## UNCIVILISED

Ten or fifteen men would be crammed in cleaning their plates in the sink, while three feet away some one would be washing out his dirty piss pot, and two feet from that someone who as likely

as not was constipated (a common complaint with starchy prison food) would be doing his best to have a crap, while someone leaned over the three foot tall door, telling him to hurry up. After the first couple of people had been in the whole floor would be covered in about two inches of water and dirt.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

These are the sort of conditions that exist in just about every large city's local prison. Yet still many talk about the terrible conditions of foreign prisons whilst smugly presuming that nothing like that could happen here. In fact if you talk to those who have been in prison abroad and here, the general impression that you get is that foreign prisons are certainly no worse and in many cases much better than those here.

## ARROGANCE

And yet so many in this country without any knowledge whatsoever about the facts continue to believe that this isn't so. And we see this sort of crass complacent arrogance about so many other things as well. British police are wonderful, not like those violent foreign chaps. Ask Blair Peach, Liddle Towers, Jimmy Kelly and Steven Waldorf about that one. If British soldiers are shooting people on foreign streets then it must be for a good reason. They need us there to run things for them.

This sort of arrogance is basically an upper class one. It has its roots in the days of the British empire when Britain was the leading industrial power in the world and there was perhaps some basis for believing in the superiority of British learning, culture and society.

## ABSURD

This has no longer been the case for some time now, but still the establishment try to promote this now absurd view. Sadly large parts of the working class subscribe to this view as well. It's little wonder that we are probably second only to the yanks in the world unpopularity league table. It's bad enough being thick, but being arrogant about it as well...

The sooner we show this absurd image up for what it is, the sooner we can begin to win working class people away from the ideology of idiots like that twat from the foreign office.

# SNOBS AND YOBS

And while loosely on the subject of crime and punishment.

Like the rest of the country, we have been following with great interest the continuing adventures of Lord Althorpe-Spencer. It would

appear that Di's little brother and his cronies fancy themselves as something of a bunch of jack the lads. First a brawl in public and now disgraceful behaviour in a restaurant culminating in (god forbid) an attempt to remove Tony Blackburn's trousers.

The most notable thing about all of this is the total absence of plod from all of the proceedings. Would he have been so anonymous if it had been a bunch of working class lads breaking up some boozier in Balham. Me thinkest not.

However Mr Althorpe-Spencer whoever you are, in the unlikely event that this August publication should ever find its way into your greasy little palms be mindful of the fact that there is a certain watering hole in North London, oft frequented by Red Action individuals (full address on demand) and if it is excitement that you're looking for it would make our day, no it would make our year, to give you and your cronies as much excitement as you will ever want.

After the revolution, you're mine you little bastard.



CHARLIE: "Arrogant"



BRITISH BULLDOG OR BULLSHIT?



The money market, London

## VICE OR VIRTUE?

There are not many people who are completely single-minded in their quest for some elusive goal, and whose addiction or obsession they allow to dominate their lives to the detriment of everything else. Nevertheless you will find them in every field of human endeavour — sport, politics, religion etc. Nobody would deny that body-builders lifting weights for hours every day work extremely hard to carve the "perfect" physique, or to remain silent and celibate in some monastery (and keep your marbles), requires a fair degree of discipline.

They don't gain our respect for their dedication, people think they are slightly odd and accuse them of excessive vanity or masochism, or both! It is often not the amount of effort they put in to achieve their targets, but the targets themselves that are regarded by the rest of us with bemusement. They in turn cannot fathom why we don't want to look, eat, or live like them, but suspect that it is some lack of drive or ambition which they have in abundance. You can imagine that if they or any combination of celibate, vegetarian, evangelist, body-builders tried to impose their values on us, people would get slightly upset.

### FRIENDS, IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED!

This group, though similar in many respects, are unique because their addiction has a direct effect on every one of us. They only marry people who share their obsession and their unfortunate off-spring are from an early age sent to exclusive institutions where the "values" of their parents are instilled, and unnecessary human emotions erased. They are discouraged from mixing with ordinary children who they are taught to despise.

### SUCCESS

They thrive under a system that was created to exploit their potential to the full. When an individual has achieved what they regard as success, as a reward he/she is automatically awarded all sorts of merit badges, feudal titles, honorary degrees etc.

### METHODS

The methods they employ to achieve their aim would be regarded with abhorrence and outrage if displayed by any other minority group. (Bribery, Corruption, Sabotage, and Murder is not

uncommon). They are totally amoral and the only crime is to be caught. When this happens, the individual is ostracised and portrayed as a "bad-apple" which only serves to illuminate the "integrity" of the others.

### INFLUENCE

They have enormous and undue influence in politics, business and the media, and through this have launched prolonged and expensive public-relations campaigns (buying Newspapers, Television Stations etc) to present a flattering image of themselves. They are nearly always portrayed as noble, intelligent and attractive. But the real success of the campaign can be judged by the fact that their obsession is accepted as normal, as natural as eating and drinking. Yet what they suffer from is probably the least attractive human affliction of all, GREED! In case you haven't guessed it, the system is Capitalism and the above species are described variously as "The Rich" or if you prefer "Rich Bastards".

### GREED

To begin, let's assume that everybody likes money, it is a convenient form of exchange and can be used to buy all sorts of physical and emotional comforts. But it is what people are prepared to do to get it, and how they use it, that is the major division between the social classes. Millions of words have been written about the evils of Capitalism and the benefits of Socialism and vice-versa. The arguments on either side appear intricate and complicated. But basically what is under discussion is, can modern society exist without being dominated by greed? There are a number of ways wealth can be acquired, it can be inherited, it can be stolen, or you can

control its source (Land, Mine, Factory) and allow others to earn it for you. That is Capitalism. Socialism is the division of the wealth between those that actually earn it. Capitalists and their cronies scoff at this and say it is utopian, and that it wouldn't work, and furthermore as a system it is positively evil because it denies people like them the freedom to be greedy. The rich claim that everybody is in a scramble to be rich and that they are just the most capable and that criticism of them is motivated by envy. They point to the middle-classes who appear to be prepared to suffer any humiliation to "succeed".

### SOCIALISM

Socialists in turn argue that greed is in fact a weakness not a strength and that the system is designed to exploit this and that socialism would provide more than enough for everybody. AHA! Cry the Capitalists triumphantly. You may change the system but you can't change human nature.

Socialism recognises that greed, like jealousy, hate, lust etc are all human factors and agree that it would not be possible or desirable to stamp it out. All that is necessary is that it ceases to be regarded as a virtue and be treated for the vice that it is (attached to a stigma reserved for child-molesters in prison) and within a generation it would become extinct as a motivating force in society. **I firmly believe this but then I am biased in the matter.**



# BANKERS ARE W...ERS

The so-called serious papers (Guardian, Telegraph etc) have recently been very full of the story about the deep problems faced by the Continental Illinois, the seventh largest bank in the USA. It is supposedly facing both a crisis of liquidity ie can it pay its debts, and a crisis of confidence ie can it attract new investors to help it pay those debts. This news will not come as any great surprise to those that follow the events of the financial world. In 1983, 48 banks of various sizes went bust. This is the largest number in any one year since the great depression of the thirties.

Now you may well be of the impression that nothing could really matter less to you than the fate of American bankers, and indeed their individual fates is of little concern to us, but we cannot be quite so complacent about the economic effects of events such as these.

### CRISIS

The American banking crisis is just one part of what has become known as "the recession". In the event of a collapse of the American banking system an event that seems to be becoming more and more possible all the time, it will drag most of the leading banks of the world with it, and plunge the world into the sort of economic slump unseen since the thirties. Before we start cheering so much for capitalism, we should remember that it took World War Two to wipe out that slump.

### PROBLEM

The basic problem for the banks, is that they have lent an awful lot of their customers and investors money, to businesses and countries that are unable to repay them. The reason for this is that the fall off in world trade makes it difficult for them to pay off the interest, never mind the loan.

### BILLIONS

The biggest part of this crisis for all of the biggest banks, including all of the British banks, is the billions of pounds lent to Latin American African and Asian states in the late sixties and early seventies. This was done because at that time, these countries, with booming economies, and low wages assured by repressive state regimes, offered great profits for capitalist investors, and high interest rates for the banks that lent them money.

But as the booming economies began to run down in line with the rest of world recession, these smaller less established, and less wealthy states were thrown into far greater disarray than the relatively more stable "wealthy states". It soon became apparent that the banks would have to go on lending more money to prop up these states, until the economy hopefully picked up and they would be able to start repaying the debts.

### WRITE OFF

If the banks did not do this, it would mean that those states would have to officially admit that they could never hope to pay the debts. This

Inter bank loans, government assistance, inflationary printing of money by central banks — all of these things will be tried to stave off the default of the debtor state. If this "debt bomb" were to go off, the explosion would bring down the economies of both borrower and lender states.

### AVALANCHE

The problems of Continental Illinois are like the first few pebbles, falling down an unstable cliff face ahead of the main avalanche.

The British revolutionary left is like a very dim group of picnickers, at the foot of the cliff — oblivious of the small rumbles and occasional falling pebbles.

### BUILD NOW

For those not too blinded by routine and the surface calm of society, to be able to see the true and unstable nature of our apparently durable economic system, the message is clear. **EVERY DAY IS PRECIOUS** in a race against the time to build a genuine revolutionary combat organisation, that will link up all the class war fighters willing to face up to and resist the wave of repression the working class will surely face when the crisis finally breaks. When the bosses and establishment again try to smash our living standards and liberties to solve their crisis, as they did in the thirties.

How long the "debt bomb" will take to go off is difficult to predict. But if it doesn't happen in the next ten years many respected financial analysts will be very surprised.



## SUBSCRIBE TO RED ACTION

Red Action is an organisation founded and run by working class people. As such, we have no wealthy sympathisers. Everything we produce is paid for by our members. Each issue of this paper costs us nearly £200 to produce and we get back under £100 in sales. If you agree with our aims or are sympathetic to us, we would welcome your support. You could give us this in two ways.

1. By buying extra papers to resell to friends. This would help us to increase our circulation and reduce our deficit.
2. By taking out a subscription to Red Action. This costs £3 for the next ten issues posted to you and if you wished to send us an extra pound or two, rest assured that we will not be offended.

BOX 5, % HOUSMANS BOOKSHOP

5 CALEDONIAN RD LONDON N1

# RED ACTION IN ACTION POLICE AND THIEVES

A shocking miscarriage of justice has recently slipped through the impartial British courts. A complete and utter rogue, with a record as long as his fringe, who somehow managed to infiltrate Red Action despite our thorough vetting procedure, was rightly brought before the courts on a charge of assaulting a policeman and criminally damaging his police issue, for the use of, spectacles. The constable, of sound British stock and standing to attention as he took the oath, told the court how the defendant punched him in the face twice (although how a headbutt can be confused with a punch is a small detail we shall hurriedly pass over) and explained how his glasses were smashed. On producing his glasses as evidence the obvious lack of damage pointed out by the magistrate can easily be explained by the villainous accomplices of the accused who had obviously 'switched' the glasses for an undamaged pair. The constable continued with his evidence. It can only be described as unfortunate that most of his evidence he had forgotten to write in his notebook at the time of the arrest. We believe the magistrate had no choice but to find this dangerous subversive guilty although the £50 fine was far too lenient. Have the Marxists taken over the judiciary as well? Whatever happened to hanging?

## HOLIDAY 84

In the true pioneering spirit of the Wild West a convoy of 65 Red Action desperados headed out for our Easter excursion. Several skirmishes with the Injuns (dressed in funny blue uniforms) couldn't stop us reaching our destination - a deserted tropical island in the South Pacific where the palm trees sway gently in the cool breeze as you sip exotic cocktails watching the sun sinking over the horizon... (contd. P.63). In fact it was a caravan sit in Norfolk where a howling gale whistled up yer Khyber Pass while you drank dodgy Polish vodka out of the tea-pot. The crack was just getting good with some Arthur Scargill-style singalongs and the sighting of "giant poodles in the pink pub" when we were forced to take an early bath due to a display of great intolerance by some of our neighbours. Next year I think we'll have to find that desert island.

## MINERS

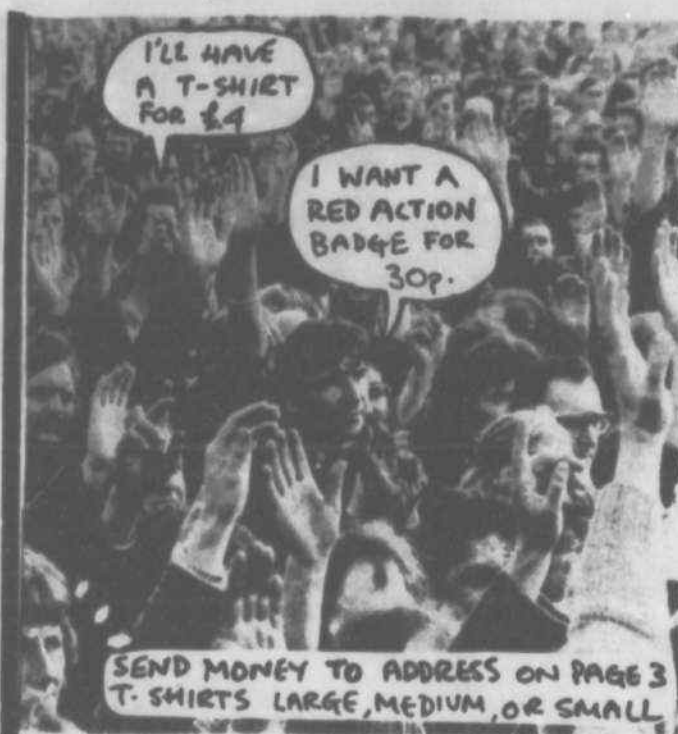
Red Action members in Manchester, Colchester, and London have been actively supporting the miners strike. We have supported pickets in Lancashire, West Drayton, and Wivenhoe and Brightline ports, and regularly collect money for the strike fund. The best collections so far were £45 from a pub collection in Hatfield and £55 at a Newtown Neurotics gig in London, although Red Action in Colchester helped get a £1000 donation from COHSE. 3 members of Red Action got arrested on a picket at Wivenhoe and have been bound over not to picket. Mind you, if half the stories we've heard are true they should be locked up and the key thrown away!

## NAZIS (1)

Pat Harrington, NF student organiser, is a familiar figure in the media nowadays. Apparently the innocent victim of a left-wing plot to get him expelled from college where he is trying to broaden his mind by quietly studying philosophy. Obviously this is a load of rubbish (see article on Harrington in this paper). However, what is true is that he has been the victim of left-wing activity on a previous occasion not so long ago. A Red Action laddie was returning from work one day when he saw this pathetic little git selling NF papers with some mates in Hammersmith. He informed young Patrick (are you sure you're only 20?) and company that he'd be back in a minute. Now Harrington, obviously not that bright a student, ignored the warning and sure enough a few minutes later him and his mates were kicked all over the place by a nice little anti-nazi team. An eye witness reports that Harrington isn't exactly the hardest geezer in the world.

## NAZIS (2)

Still on the subject of Harrington, a Red Action peace-keeping force attended the demonstration at North London Poly on Tues. 22nd May. A massive police presence prevented anyone stopping Harrington getting into the college. Our main problem was a serious identity crisis. Half the demonstrators thought we were nazis, the police were convinced we were nazis, we were certain that half the plain clothes coppers were nazis, and even one nazi was so sure we were fellow nazis he kept coming over to talk to us. We were going to take him round the corner to 'expand' his political education but the fact that about 200 pairs of eyes and a TV camera were watching our every move meant it wasn't exactly a bright idea.



Humans are too difficult, they drive you round the bend - Let's sidestep all the issues, and help our furry friends. The tanks roll through the tower blocks, a truncheon swings through bone, You're running round in circles trying to find a cat a home. Heads are banging bloody in the mental homes and jails - You haven't time to worry as you rush to save the whales. Boots batter black children, to shouts of National Front; You're cycling to the countryside to stop the nasty hunt. Violence leaps from transit vans; the kids start to resist; You hear them call a cop a pig and call them speciesist. Refugees burn in jungles as the helicopters whir... But they don't really suffer 'cos they're not covered in fur! All those starving millions - ugh - they look so bloody ugly; They might get some of your petfood if they felt a bit more cuddly...

There's PEOPLE dying every day in writhes of agony while the seals and dogs and chickens get your misplaced sympathy. So you don't like what I'm saying - an unjustified attack? **FUCK OFF AND HELP THE ANIMALS - WHO NEVER ANSWER BACK!**

## WE ARE RED ACTION

Red Action was formed in 1981 when a number of working class socialists were expelled from the organisation that they had belonged to. Various reasons were given for this, but it all seemed to boil down to the intellectual leadership showing their distaste for the raucous manners, and undisciplined behaviour of their working class members. We believe that we can organise ourselves as red workers on our own, without any interference from middle class intellectuals. We intend to avoid at all costs, becoming like so many other left groups, with their patronizing attitude towards the working class. We reject the idea that a socialist organisation, has the right to demand unquestioning obedience from its members at all times. Discipline when necessary must be based on respect for, and trust in, those making the decisions, and not blind servile obedience. We believe that socialism belongs to the working class, and that a socialist organisation, while it must be able to give a lead to the class, must also be able to reflect the spirit and consciousness of the class. We in Red Action will strive to this end. To justify our existence before the most cynical audience of all - the working class - and present socialist politics in a way that they can identify with, in their life, their work, and their leisure. We draw great inspiration from the Republican movement in Ireland, from the courageous and principled manner in which they conduct their struggle, and from the way that they have integrated class and cultural expression into their political movement. We unconditionally support the right of their revolutionary armies, the Irish Republican Army, and the Irish National Liberation Army, to engage in armed struggle to free their country from British Rule. We will work in co-operation with all and any groups that support the same aims as us. We do not reject any ideas tactics or strategies just because we did not think of them ourselves.

## WE ARE FOR

1. A working class organisation inspired and directed by working class people
2. United action between socialist groups FOR THE CLASS NOT THE PARTY
3. The Irish National liberation struggle against our own British ruling class
4. Total opposition to fascist organisations
5. Union strength - we support any picket line - in defence of workers living standards.
6. Opposition to all prejudice which divides workers, white against black, men against women.
7. Killing the lie that the "Communist states" are socialist.
8. Young peoples fight to determine their own future.

RED ACTION IS AGAINST

1. Anything read in

THE Sun

# Mr. HARRINGTON

## exclusive interview



Harrington, a couple of years ago, at Chapel Market, N.London, where he helped organize an attack by 50 fascists on a handful of left-wing paper sellers. He still managed to get battered.

Are there two Patrick Harringtons? This is the question Red Action has been asking itself over the last few weeks, as media attention has focussed on, and defended, a certain nazi's right to join with the rest of humanity in the educational process. The nazi in question is one Patrick Harrington but it cannot be the same nazi as the one we all know and hate. No, this one - the noble nazi on the telly - holds quite different views to the Patrick Harrington whom Red Action bumps into occasionally.

The nazi on the telly says he does not want to stir up trouble. He does not want to recruit for the nazi NF. He defends the right of students to think what they like without fear of being petrol-bombed by those brave fearless racial comrades of his. And that's why he believes he should be allowed to study with normal students.

This is why we are confused, you see, because we know what is obviously a different Patrick Harrington who holds very dissimilar views. In fact we actually interviewed this other person in August 1981 at Chapel Market Islington. We still have his comments from this conversation on tape. So it's over to our roving reporter and the "other" Patrick Harrington:

RA: "What do you mean? When you firebomb - that's when they - the Police - need to protect us. Is that what you mean?"

PH: "Yes, that's what I'm saying. You're protected by the Police. The Police are your allies..."

RA: "You'd do more fire-bombings and things like that if it wasn't for the Police?"

PH: "Yes"

RA: "You would?"

PH: "Yes"

Clearly, this cannot be the same humble student who simply wants to expand his philosophical mind. Let's hear a bit more from the interview to make sure:

RA: "What about that lady in the bookshop? The one over there, right..."

PH: "That's what happens in revolutions; people get hurt."

RA: "Shouldn't it be directed against the ruling class?"

PH: "Well no because you start off by directing, focusing attention on you" - Blacks and Commies are being referred to here - "as the enemy, and then you turn to the Class when you've got enough expertise..."

Reasons of space mean that we cannot bring more from the interview but surely we can conclude from this that there are two "different" Patrick Harringtons? Twins perhaps?

Red Action prints the transcript of some of the above interview to put the minds of students at the NLP at rest. They probably confused the two Harringtons just as we did. The dogs, undercover cops, Special Branch and massive Police back up units along with the little nazi squad lurking in the background, can all go home. And the students can return to their studies safe in the knowledge that the nazi sitting opposite them is not the same one who supports the use of physical terror against his opponents. Honest!