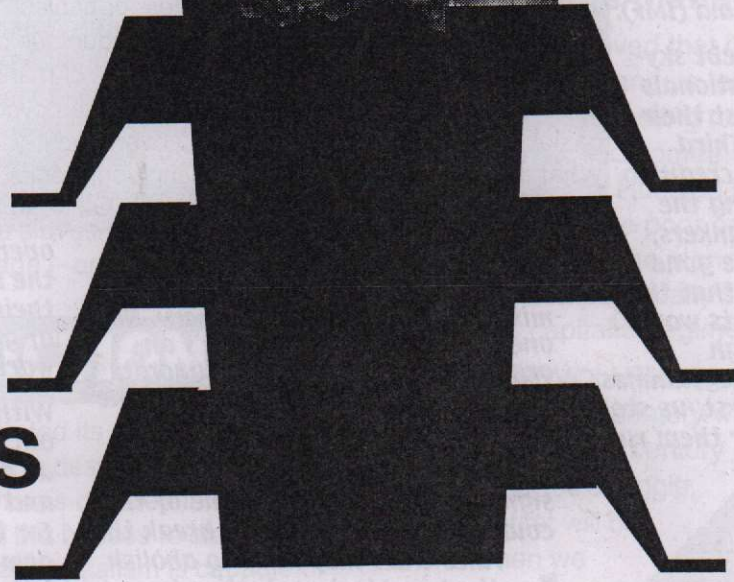


REVOLUTION

issue 35 • Dec 99 - Feb 00 • 20 p

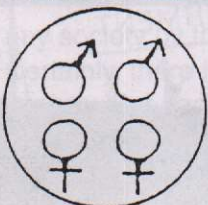
RED ALERT:



not
all
systems
will

survive the millennium

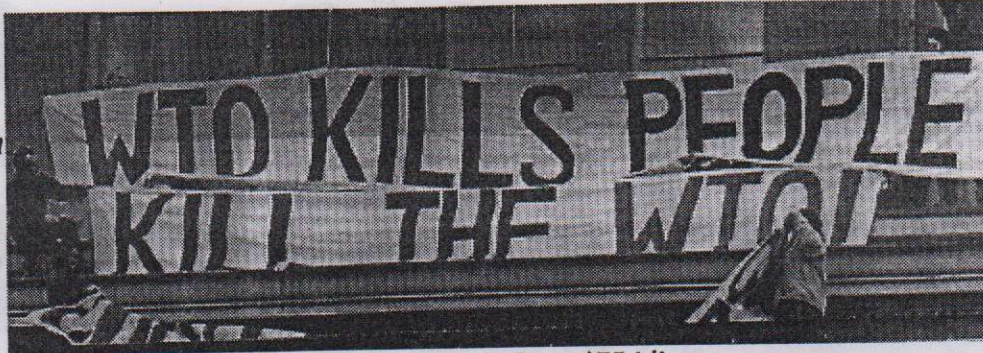
do not underestimate the power of



REVOLUTION



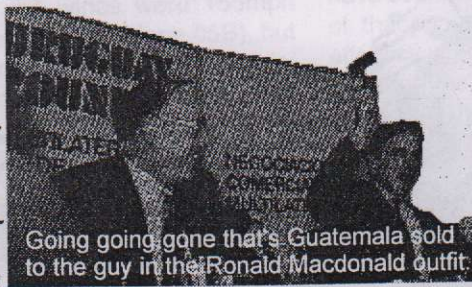
On 30 November activists from around the world begin a day of action against the latest round of WTO talks in Seattle. So what is the WTO? Only 4% of people in Britain have heard of it because it is so secretive.



self-determination means nothing to big business. The multinationals are even entitled to huge sums of money in compensation for "lost profits". Talk about

It is a world bureaucracy that can force a country to change its laws in the name of "free trade". In reality it is a tool for the multinational corporations to break down "barriers" to their trade and investment - environmental laws, labour rights, laws protecting our food and health, laws against investments in dictatorships like

Burma ... in fact any law that puts people before profit.



Going going gone that's Guatemala sold to the guy in the Ronald Macdonald outfit.

The WTO was formed in 1995. It is just one of the global institutions created by Western bankers and industrialists to secure the rule of finance capital across national borders - like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the 70s, Third World debt skyrocketed and the multinationals and banks used it to boost their profits and open up the Third World. The IMF extended credit to bankrupt countries (saving the profits of the Western bankers, who otherwise would have gone bust). But the catch was that the workers and poor peasants would have to pay for it, through Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) (what will come first, us stopping these institutions or them running out of letters?!)

SAPs are simple:

- cut wages
- hike up the prices
- stop importing essential goods (like medicines)
- slash welfare spending
- privatise your state industries to raise money
- open your economy up to the multinationals.

The Third World economies have been bought up and its people starved - the sick joke is that

the debt has shot up from \$75 billion in 1970 to \$2,200 billion in 1997!

But big business needed more. They needed cheap labour and resources, but every country has laws and regulations protecting the environment, health standards and working conditions. That's where the WTO comes in.

Though 134 countries are members - mostly impoverished Third World countries - it is dominated by the US, Canada, the EU and Japan. Decisions are taken in small commissions behind closed doors. This allows the big powers to

Food: The WTO declared the EU's ban on US hormone-contaminated beef illegal

Health: The WTO forced Guatemala to stop warning mothers of the danger of breast milk substitutes for babies

Environment: The WTO ruled against countries banning fish caught in drift nets which kill huge numbers of marine animals

Dictatorships: Massachusetts, USA had a boycott of companies investing in Burma - the WTO overruled it

What's up next: Companies patenting your genes, big business taking over the NHS, no labelling of GM food allowed

lean on the Third World members in the negotiations one by one, using a mixture of bullying and bribery. No one is elected to the WTO: it's an organisation of career bureaucrats and former executive suits from the multinationals.

By becoming a member a country signs up to WTO rules. If one of that country's laws is found to break the rules then they have to abolish the law. Most protective laws are the result of workers' and poor peasants' struggles - strikes, marches, election campaigns - But

cheek!

But this November in Seattle a special "Millennium Round" of negotiations will extend WTO rules.

- Governments will no longer be able to regulate global speculators and their "hot money" flowing in and out of a country and devastating economies.

- Multinationals will be able to plant a factory, buy up stocks, or speculate in property without any conditions and leave any time they want.

- They will be able to take all the profits out without leaving anything behind.

- Governments will be forbidden to spend a penny helping domestic firms, which the larger multinationals will buy up or crush.

But the WTO won't be doing anything to break up the huge global monopolies - that's not part of its "free trade" charter!

Business also wants the WTO to force governments to

open up our NHS, schools, and all the rest of state spending and get their hands on this huge honeypot of government contracts, ultimately worth trillions of pounds.

With the WTO the multinationals are out to buy up the world and run it at a profit. Many environmental and labour organisations are calling for the WTO to be reformed and democratised. That's about as realistic as asking the corporations to stop making money.

We say abolish it. Nationalise the multinationals! Just say NO to the WTO!

... SORRY THAT'S ILLEGAL UNDER WTO URL590/RT/09078-DC REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR NEAREST BUREAUCRAT FOR PUNISHMENT

Another 1000 years of the same old shit? or will it be

The Beatles, landing on the moon, the car, television ... forget the fluff, the twentieth century will be remembered as **THE HUNDRED YEARS (CLASS) WAR**

special millennium offer only 20p!

Despite all the hype about creating a new world order and burying socialism, the governments, multinationals and bankers of the world have no real vision to offer. **Kirstie from Pimlico looks at their record:**

WAR The century opened with Britain and the Dutch fighting a dirty war in South Africa over who should have the right to exploit and rule over the blacks. Britain invented the concentration camp in this war ... the Nazis went on to perfect it in the extermination of six million Jews in World War II. As the century closes, wars and concentration camps remain a permanent feature. 1999 saw 37 wars around the world. Over 100,000 people – mainly civilians – were killed, millions driven from their homes.

POVERTY Politicians have always cried crocodile tears for the poor, from London's East End to sub-Saharan Africa. But in 1999 abject poverty is more widespread and more deeply embedded than at any other time this century. The wealth gap in Britain is wider today than it was in 1900; 1.3 billion people in the Third World "live" on less than a dollar a day. Capitalism systematically reduces the mass of people to propertyless wage slaves and then is incapable of paying a living wage – or even employing – us all.

ECO-DESTRUCTION Here, at least, the capitalist system has demonstrated its ability to develop human potential – the potential to destroy the planet. At the turn of the century, London was covered in smog. Only workers' struggles forced the bosses to clean up the mess. But now, uncontrolled capitalism is capable of unleashing untold disasters. Global warming, a direct result of capitalism's refusal to invest in safer – but expensive – production methods, threatens the whole planet. Nuclear power, essential for weapons production, is so secretive it is impossible to know how many times we have been close to a meltdown catastrophe.

OPPRESSION Marx once said that you can judge the level of any society by the position of women within it. Certainly, there have been gains for women this century. But each of them – the vote, abortion, access to jobs and education, etc. – were

fought for and only reluctantly conceded, and are under attack by rightwingers today. And women still earn less than men, are victims of violence, and do not have control over their own bodies. In the third world they still lack many rights that we won. Despite the fall of Jim Crow and apartheid racism is on the increase too. The Neo-nazis are gaining ground in Europe and the US, while here immigrants are scapegoated by the press and New Labour. The Third World is being crushed under the weight of the debt and multinationals.

It's not getting better for the majority of people on this planet, its getting worse.

Capitalism has proved that it is incapable of leading humanity forward (and its terrible twin – Stalinism – has an equally disgusting record). But the twentieth century also proved something else: it proved that we fight back. The Russian Revolution proved that workers and the poor can run society to meet people's and the planet's needs – and do so more democratically than even the most liberal capitalist regime.

That's why REVOLUTION looks forward to the new century with glee. If the twentieth century was one of class struggle, the twenty-first will be the one when we abolish the class system once and for all!

The Millenium Dome!

Don't say: a vision of 21st century Britain at its cutting edge
Do Say: a waste of space...a waste of money...and therefore a fitting tribute to New Labour...the "enlightening experience" inside is just a bunch of exhibits whose main purpose is to promote the goods and services of the various companies sponsoring them (Boots the chemists, British Airways, the world's most expensive airline, etc). In other words it's actually a £750 million advertising theme park that will be completely outmoded once the shopping channel is up and running (uh the shopping channel is up and running) and we paid for it out of money that could have gone to hospitals and schools.

Or if you're pressed for time just say : They must be joking!



GMOs. Three letters on everyone's lips. What are they? Frankenstein food? Giant killer tomatoes? Cucumbers that hunt in packs? Er ... no.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are organisms (animals and plants) with genes from other organisms inserted into their genetic material. The gene is the fundamental blueprint contained in the cells of all living things; genetic material (DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid) carries all the information about the way things grow, look and function as an organism. The advance of biotechnology has enabled scientists to isolate certain genes and transfer them from organism to organism.

The human race has genetically manipulated organisms through selecting the best seeds for next years sowing and cross-breeding livestock since the beginning of agriculture. Yet GMOs are seen as an "unnatural" extension of this.

There is a qualitative difference: for the first time it is possible to genetically alter a species by a transfer of genetic material between totally unrelated organisms, e.g. fish genes inserted into tomatoes to prevent bruising. But this does not mean that GMO technology is against nature or "wrong".

Admittedly, there are many problems associated with the development of this new technology. The method used to insert genetic material is not completely reli-

GMOs - How to feed the world or how to destroy it?

able; there is a margin of uncertainty where the gene is going to land which may damage the DNA of the host. In the development of the technology, each gene is taken in isolation to the others, without regard to the "synergetic" effect of genes (i.e. changing one gene could have a dramatic effect on another gene).

The modification may involve transfer of hidden allergens that can trigger life threatening reactions. For instance, a soybean can be modified with a brazil nut gene and someone allergic to nuts could unknowingly eat the soya and get an allergic attack. The modified organism may also produce new toxins: genetically engineered bacteria produced toxic tryptophan.

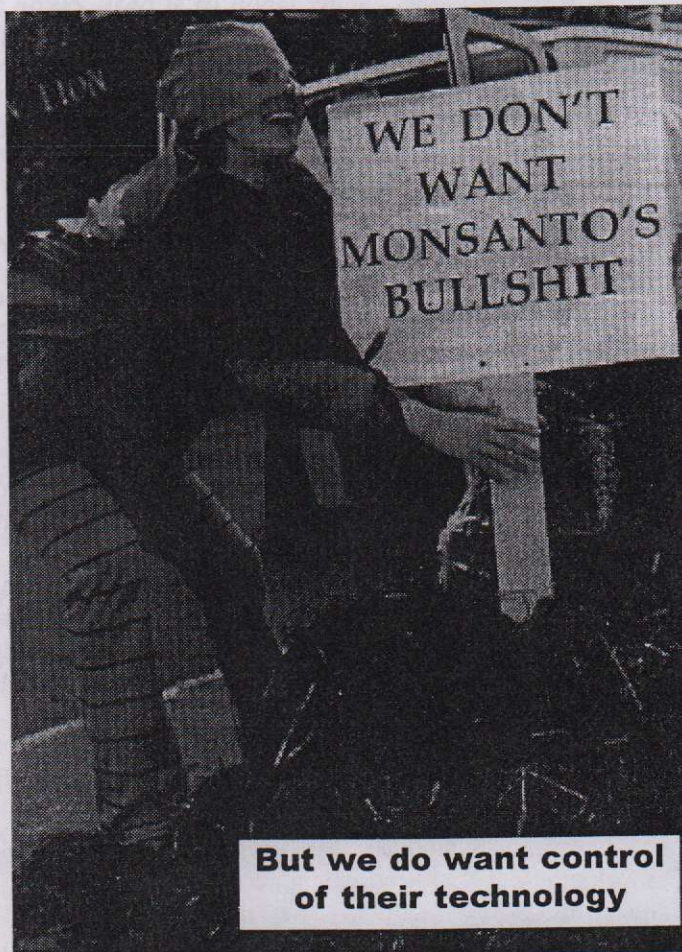
The effect of GMOs on the surrounding environment also poses many questions.

- **Cross-pollination:** this occurs naturally and is common, but what effect will it have when a fish gene in a tomato pollen fertilises a nearby plant, like a wild oat? The resultant plant (or fish-plant) could then go on to pollinate another and so on: once the genie is out of the lamp, it is out of control. And pollen can be carried by insects or wind for miles (a pine tree's pollen has been shown to spread 400 miles away!)

- **Terminator gene:** this gene has been inserted cynically by Monsanto to program the GMO to die out without reproducing. But what happens if the terminator gene is passed on through cross-fertilisation? Could we be creating barren wastelands?

- **Superweeds:** Monsanto also insert genes that are resistant to their own marketed weedkillers, encouraging landworkers to buy Monsanto chemicals and spray them all over the crop in the knowledge that the crop will remain alive while all competitors for the soil's minerals will be killed off. But the opposite danger to the terminator gene exists: cross-pollination could produce superweeds that are resistant to herbicides.

- **Superpests:** in the field, bacteria, insects and other small animals will obviously eat some of the GM crops. Because of the foreign gene in this food, which is not a normal part of its diet, some of these animals will die (like the famous rats who were fed GM potatoes). But others could adapt and go on to destroy everything in their paths.



But we do want control of their technology

PROBLEMS UNDER CAPITALISM

Billions of £££s have been pumped into an industry that is still in its technological infancy stage by both

government and big business. Over £1 million was spent by Monsanto alone on a massive PR campaign to convince the public how great GM foods are!

"Getting in at ground level" is considered good business sense, but there is a limit on how long companies can last unless they reap the benefits. There is massive competition between the leaders in biotechnology (Monsanto, AgraEvo, Zeneca, Dow) to be the first to patent the technology and maintain a monopoly. Patents have a shelf life of 20 years, so there is extra pressure to market the product before competitors can manufacture similar products and erode the hefty profit margin that a monopoly brings – hence the skipping of tests and dodging safety precautions.

For example, Monsanto has been accused of aggressive marketing tactics in relation to recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) where they:

- 1) compensated farmers whose veterinarian bills escalated due to the adverse side effects associated with use;
- 2) covered up negative trial results;
- 3) refused to disclose their research grants to US universities;
- 4) threatened to transfer scientists in Canada to jobs where "they'd never be heard from again" if they didn't speed up approval of rBGH.

Monsanto has also been involved in secret trials in India where they didn't tell the farmers that they were growing genetically modified cotton. There were no biosafety measures, no buffer zones around the fields, no fencing of any type. As Monsanto knew, it is much less hassle to do field trials in India: much cheaper to bribe the government to turn a blind eye and much easier to play on subsistence farmers' need for cheap seed.

Nasty piece of work, but it gets worse. Monsanto is in the process of developing the "terminator" (technology protection system) seed. The terminator genetic engineering technique renders farm-saved seed sterile, forcing farmers to return to commercial seed market every year creating a cycle of dependency.

It's not just the individual companies that cloak the issues, but governments too. The US Department of Agriculture has ruled the terminator technology unacceptable for release in the US, yet OK for export. How could it be bad for the USA yet good for the rest of the world?

Tony Blair has put the multimillionaire Labour Party donor, Lord Sainsbury, on the government's GMO regulatory committee, despite the fact that he stands to make a mint out of the commercial development of GMO technology. Labour's legislation covering GMO tri-

als is so lax and its fines for breaking the rules so minuscule that there is no incentive for industry to conduct proper trials. Governments and big business, whether in Britain or in India, work hand in hand.

People are getting angry. There has been a wave of protests against GMOs: burning fields of GM cotton in India, preventing the unloading of GM soybeans in Liverpool, trampling of GM crops at testing sites this summer, etc. There is a radicalised movement fighting back against the attempt to manipulate the global food market.

Revolution actively supports the attacks on unsafe testing sites and demands a moratorium on the commercial cultivation and licensing of new GM crops. We demand that all future tests be carried out under the control of working class organisations and scientific workers themselves.

POSSIBILITIES UNDER SOCIALISM

It is important to remember that technology is not inherently good or evil. As Marxists, we support the development of the world's productive forces. Most importantly, we want to end starvation and malnutrition, which affects billions of people. If GMO technology can be harnessed to achieve this safely, good.

Obviously we cannot trust the capitalists – blinded by profit – to develop GMOs. But it is also reactionary to reject technological advances when the only context in which these advances have been seen is under the capitalist system and the push for profit.

Biotechnology has tremendous potential. For decades human insulin has been grown in GM yeast, transforming the lives of diabetics. More recently we have seen the development of transgenically grown biodegradable plastics (polyhydroxyalkanoates PHAs), possibilities regarding xenotransplantation (part human organs grown in pigs) and the development of crops that are hardier, more nutritious and require fewer applications of pesticides.

Under socialism, all the giant food companies would be run and owned by the people and production planned to meet human need. there would be full

disclosure from all field testing – everyone would have access to information. The trials would be completely safe, in controlled conditions to prevent any impact on the surrounding environment. With all the information available, people can make an informed decision on whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of pursuing this technology – and the peoples' decision, not Monsanto's or Lord Sainsbury's – will be final.

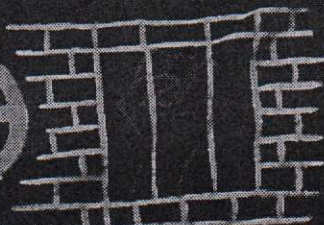
REVOLUTION fights for:

- Government-funded independent crop trials, under workers' control, with full access to all necessary scientific expertise. No to secret trials.
- A workers' and consumers' enquiry into the safety of GM foods. Open all the labs and files of Monsanto and co. to the public.
- Clear labelling of all products containing GM organisms.
- The nationalisation, under workers' control and without compensation, of all the agrochemical companies such as Monsanto.
- A world plan for food production to meet human need not private greed.

By Joy from Nunhead

FOR HOW LONG MUST THEY KILL OUR PROPHETS?

FREE MUMIA



Protest in support of Mumia, London November 1999

By Amir, Birmingham

For 17 years Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row in the US awaiting execution, despite overwhelming evidence that he is an innocent man. Mumia was a member of the Black Panther Party and then became a radical political journalist who constantly exposed police violence against minority communities in Philadelphia. In 1981 Mumia was shot when intervening to stop his brother being beaten by police. The police officer was also shot and killed. Witnesses saw other men running from the scene yet it was the wounded Mumia who was arrested.

The FBI and local police already had hundreds of pages of surveillance files on Mumia beginning when he was 15 years old, for his outspoken opposition to racism and his membership of the Panthers. They saw this as their opportunity to silence him forever.

His defence team has listed 29 violations of his civil rights in the original trial. Even the mainstream

American Lawyer magazine stated that the conviction was secured through fabricated evidence.

•Mumia's brother and another key eye-witness were harassed by police and forced to leave town. Another witness who implicated Mumia later recanted, saying she was coerced by the police.

•The police suppressed vital evidence: for instance the fatal bullet was fired from a different type of gun than Mumia carried but it has 'disappeared' from police files since his trial.

•Mumia was denied the right to defend

The US state's persecution of Mumia is part of its class war against black working class militants. All workers and youth must defend him!

himself and barred from the courtroom - the court appointed a defence lawyer at the last minute who had not even read most of the documents relating to the case!

•The jury which passed the guilty verdict included only two black people despite Philadelphia being 40% black - black jurors were dropped because they might "sympathise" with Mumia while whites with openly racist views were chosen instead!

Now the Pennsylvania state governor wants to set an execution date. In response defence lawyers have filed a writ of 'Habeas Corpus', which makes the state court defend its decision to execute Mumia in front of a federal court judge. **This will be the last opportunity Mumia gets to present all of the evidence.**

And he has some very powerful enemies: last year the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police took out a full page advert in the papers calling for his swift execution! If the writ fails he could be executed very quickly.

Worldwide demonstrations in 1995 stopped a previous attempt to kill him, and his lawyer is clear: "this battle won't be won in the courtroom, it will be won on the streets." Already there have been protests around the world including in November in London. Mumia's fight has attracted the support of artists and musicians such as Sting and Rage Against The Machine. We've got to be ready to hit the streets and shout it out, if they try and murder this courageous fighter: **FREE MUMIA ABU JAMAL!**

After a bitter two year struggle, the Reel family have finally had a glimpse of justice. The inquest jury returned an "open verdict" on the case of Ricky Reel's death as opposed to the Metropolitan police's original claim of "accidental death".

Ricky, a Brunel University student, had been out drinking with friends when a group of racists attacked them. On trying to escape the attackers Ricky became separated from his friends and was later found dead in the river Thames.

When Sukhdev Reel, Ricky's

mother, attempted to report her son missing, she was told by an officer to "stop wasting police



time" and that he was probably with his "girlfriend or

STATE RACE HATE

boyfriend". When Ricky's body was finally discovered the Detective Superintendent, prior to any post-mortem, told reporters at the scene that there would be no criminal investigation as it was clearly an accident.

When an investigation was forced, Ricky's friends were interrogated, forensic evidence brushed over and initial suggestions of a racist motive were ignored. Vital CCTV footage of the earlier attack was "lost" by the police.

This is yet another example of the racism which permeates the police force at all levels. It leads to the victims of racist crimes being continually denied justice. Like in the case of black musician Michael Menson who was set alight by racists for "a joke". The police claimed he committed suicide. The piecemeal reforms of the Macpherson report which followed the Stephen Lawrence murder are likely to make little difference.

The police are an integral part of the state, the same state that imposes racist immigration controls and that scapegoats refugees and asylum seekers for the problems which it cannot solve. The police cannot be anything but racist. They cannot be reformed.

The only way to defeat racist attacks is to organise community based self defence. Racists must be confronted at all levels. The workers movement along with local communities must set up its own inquiries into the police (mis)handling of cases such as that of Ricky Reel.

The only way to defeat racism once and for all is to smash the system that breeds and depends on it. That fight against capitalism and its nationalism and racial hatred is a fight that must unite black and white.

by Kat in Cardiff

Student Apathy...? by KAT

Paris 1968.

Students take to the streets in protest at the poor teaching quality at universities. Lecturers are kicked out and classes taken by students who feel they can do a better job. Riots blow up, sympathy strikes ensue and general chaos rules Paris as students fight for their right to a proper education.

Britain 1999.

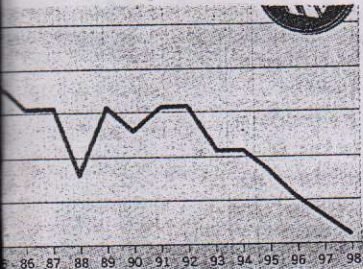
The turn of the century. Students take to their beds in protest at lectures (i.e. they have to turn up). Higher education is no longer free because students "can't be arsed" to fight against it. Riots ... sorry, what? ... and general apathy rules the UK as students no longer fight for their rights.

REVOLUTION aims to combat this apathy and provides students with a medium to voice their opinions and (hopefully) spark some action. Already, apathy is being dealt body blows. In Sussex students burnt an effigy of Tony Blair in protest against fees; in Cambridge students are escalating a rent strike against extortionate rent rises; in Kent students took solidarity action alongside Halls of Residence porters threatened with redundancies; in Oxford students have occupied a college.

So why be shown up by the apathetic generation? Do something! Take action, take ... oh I can't be bothered to write anymore.

your very own New Labour millenium scrapbook

Housing spending



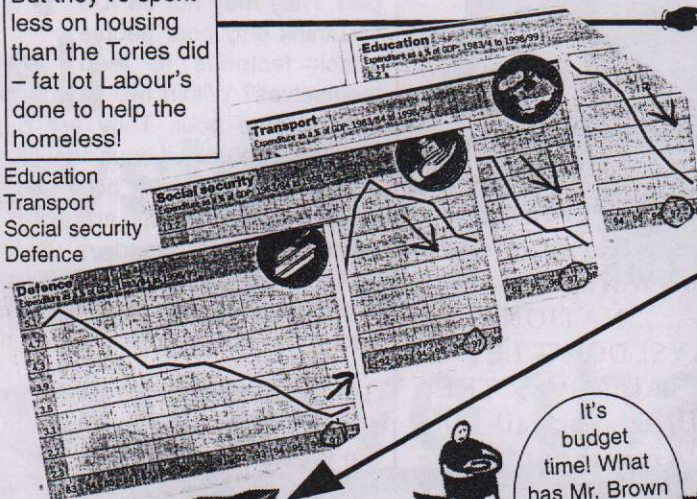
While Labour's homeless-ness "Tsar" Louise Casey says life on the streets is too easy: all those soup kitchens are encouraging people to sleep rough, and their sleeping bags are too posh. She plans to set up huge detention centres (sorry, "shelters") for the Millennium festivities to make sure all those unsightly homeless people aren't in the way of the party-goers...



Cherie agonises over having to spend £1000s on so many swanky dresses and parties....

But they've spent less on housing than the Tories did - fat lot Labour's done to help the homeless!

- 1 = Education
- 2 = Transport
- 3 = Social security
- 4 = Defence



Or anyone else ... They're proud of the fact that under Labour welfare spending is the lowest its ever been since the welfare state began - lower than under the Tories, with cuts to disability benefits, unemployment benefits, pensions, education...

It's budget time! What has Mr. Brown got in his bag for us this Xmas?



Look there's one that's gone up: defence spending. Arms sales are up on last year too, 10,000 licenses granted and sales worth £2 billion - mostly to repressive regimes like Indonesia, Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia...

In a world of lies and greed, when giant corporations roamed the earth and nothing, not even the truth, was safe from the jaws of profit, only one paper dared to stand up and say what's what ...

REVOLUTION

Forget the Sun and SKY - the mag that does the bizness on big business.

- I want to subscribe for a year (£2)
- I want to join
- No thanks I'm going to be a stockbroker

Name:

Address:

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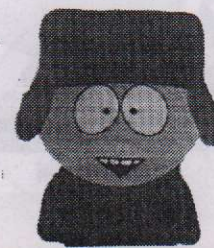
Send it in: REVO, BCM 7750, London WC1N 3XX
or Email: REVO@workerspower.com
or visit our website: www.workerspower.com/revo

0181 981 0602

REVOLUTION means:

a revolutionary youth organisation that unites all those opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates
fighting the oppression the racism, sexism and homophobia that the system produces
ending the rule of the bosses their corporations banks and states, organising ourselves to fight back and overthrow their domination of society
internationalism not nationalism Solidarity with workers & youth around the world, & liberating the Third World!
direct action is the way to win our struggles and reclaim our organisations- trade unions, student unions- from the bureaucrats
doin' it for ourselves

tax cuts for business...£3 an hour for youth...more youth prisons...recruiting young offenders into the army...gutting the right to a jury trial...a freedom of information bill that takes away all your rights to free info... detention centres for refugees...French bashing...attacks on teenage mums...privatising education...war..dodgy GMOs... & that was just 1999!



The bastards - they killed Kenny!

o.k. they didn't do that...yet...

CAPITALISM is a

DISASTER

In November the State of Orissa, one of the poorest in India, was swept away by Cyclone 05B. Up to 10,000 are feared missing or dead and 1.5m people are now homeless and scared about their future. It has left millions of people hungry and there is no hope of a normal life for them. Together with their huts, roads and cattle, the 170mph winds swept away their basic means of survival: fishing boats, fields of rice and grazing ground are reduced to a mass of debris or lost at sea.

Now compare this disaster with similar occurrences in the West: In Sept.1999 Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina in the US. This time the winds were 155mph (only 15 mph less than Cyclone 05B), but the death toll was nowhere near Orissa's: only 7 people died.

Nature does not discriminate: the two cyclones were similar in force and destruction potential, but one killed 7 people whilst the other killed 10,000, a number that will rise due to the possible outburst of diseases connected to contaminated water.

Whilst the US government spent several days before the arrival of Hurricane Floyd evacuating the affected areas, nobody in Orissa knew what was about to happen. The government had put warnings in newspapers, but this couldn't possibly have been effective in a region where 51% of the population is illiterate. Even less effective was the emergency help provided after the cyclone had struck. Three days after the cyclone, government relief

was yet to reach most of the villages destroyed. The peasants of Paradip, the port in the eye of the cyclone, went without food, water and electricity for days after the disaster.

Why this striking difference? The fact that India has to cut housing, education and health spending to pay the US banks billions in debt repayments - that's why!

Where the army and police did manage to set foot, they were more interested in defending multinationals' and exploiters' property than providing relief for their own dying people. In a village called Guijjarpur, angry peasants tried to break into the warehouses full of the bare necessities that the State wasn't providing: the police, employed everywhere in the world to defend private property, dispersed the malnourished and exhausted crowd.

When another group of hungry peasants managed to seize a government cold storage containing potatoes (which probably saved their lives) the local development scumbag officer for the State Government proclaimed: "Do you really think these are poor people? They may not be. Do you think only poor people attack factories to feed themselves? Within two days nobody can become poor. They are opportunists". Actually if your only income comes from a fishing boat that was swept away, chances are you CAN become poor in two days. Besides, with an average income of 30p a day and average family size of nine, these people have been poor for a long time.

So, whilst the Indian government spends millions each year paying the Western bankers their debt and building nukes, they obviously can't afford to lose a few bags of potatoes to feed starving villages. **FRAN IN CLAPHAM**

don't get mad get even -
JOIN

REVOLUTION

MURDER ON THE RAILS

by
Chantal in Stratford

Since the Paddington rail crash disaster, the question of safety on the railways has been an issue for the majority of the British public. A public poll shows that the majority of them (73%) think that the rail service should be nationalised. The sheer large scale damage and almost 40 dead shocked the nation. So what is the reason for this rail tragedy?

PROFIT! Railtrack, the privatised company just wasn't prepared to put in the money that was needed to provide safety measures despite £1.3 billion government subsidies. The reason for the train crashing was passing through a red light, so first comes the disaster and then comes the assignment of blame. "Experts" such as health and safety executives say that the single biggest reason for jumping red lights is drivers suffering from fatigue, but

why would the drivers be so tired that they jump red lights?

Overworking. Since the privatisation of the rail service, 40,000 workers have been sacked, causing the remaining workers to cover their hours, doing a 45.3 hour week on average. The capitalist fat cat companies are just too greedy to employ more people, as it is cheaper to employ one worker all week long than for 2 workers to share the hours. Once again the capitalists have shown that profit rides over anything and everything.

It's not just overworked drivers, its the shoddy equipment the bosses used: no automatic safety systems installed and signals the drivers couldn't see. Workers had complained many times about both problems. The fault lies with the bosses not the workers.

So what next.....**NATIONALISE THE RAILWAYS! DON'T LET RAIL TRACK TAKE OVER THE UNDERGROUND!** The rail service should be based on customer safety and need.

Had enough of capitalism and its millionaires, market madness, moral hypocrisy and militarism?



I a m s o a n g r y !