

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside:

BSE crisis: How the beef bosses put profits before our health—centre pages

It's one law for the rich...



Millionaire beef baron Larry Goodman pays nothing for beef scams

HERE ARE the two faces of Irish "justice".

Retired Guinness worker **LARRY DORAN** refuses to pay the water charges.

He has paid taxes all his life and like thousands of other working class people objects to the double taxation of water charges.

But the courts and the government have no time for Larry.

South Dublin County Council recently hauled him up to court and got the judge to order his disconnection from the water supply.

No such worries for **LARRY GOODMAN**.

He has paid very little taxes on the millions he makes.

But retired Guinness worker Larry Doran faces disconnection for refusing to pay water charges

His company made a killing selling rotten beef to Russia.

Friends

His company scored massive profits from "ir-

regularities" in beef sold to the EU.

But he has friends in high places.

Politicians and top offi-

cials backed Goodman and all his irregularities to the hilt.

Donations

In the eighties he paid more in political donations



to Fianna Fail than he paid in taxes.

The bill for his defence lawyer during the beef tribunal amounting to millions of pounds is to be paid by the Irish tax payer.

And now we are expected to pay the £75 million EU fine for the fiddles and scams of the Irish beef barons.

Free

But Larry Goodman gets away scot free.

Agriculture minister Ivan Yates may attack Goodman in the Dail but he has no intention of taking the money off him.

Nor have the Labour Party ministers who got elected on the promise of breaking the golden circle and cleaning up corruption in high places.

Instead they have betrayed their supporters and joined the gravy train.

It's time we organised a real socialist alternative.

Commemorating the famine with new evictions

ON THURSDAY 21st March, the Dublin City Sheriff and six men arrived at the home of Joan Cunningham in Ladyswell, Dublin to evict her and her four children.

They barged into her home without speaking to her and began to put her belongings out on the street.

This event would have gone unnoticed had it not been broadcast live on the Gay Byrne show.

Mrs Cunningham is a Dublin Corporation tenant and was being evicted because she owed almost £6,000 in arrears of rent.

A Corporation spokesman admitted that no attempt was made to find the reason for Mrs Cunningham's arrears or to offer her any advice or assistance.

One of Mrs Cunningham's sons was killed in a joy-riding accident last year.

His funeral cost her £1,800. She receives just £130 a week for herself and her four children so it is little surprise that she couldn't afford to pay her rent.

Eviction

Her eviction was eventually called off when £7,000 was donated to her by the public.

But after leaving Mrs Cunningham's home, the Sheriff and his men evicted two other families in Clondalkin without any publicity.

One family was subsequently split up when the father was sent to one hostel for homeless people and the mother and child sent to another.

At the same Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council evicted a Ballinteer mother and her four children for rent arrears of just £800.

Dublin Corporation evicts over

100 families each year for rent arrears and for "anti-social behaviour".

But according to a spokesperson from Threshold, the main rea-

son people do not pay rent "is simply, out of complete poverty."

'Get-tough'

It is introducing a "get-tough" evictions policy even though it is aware that 85 percent of its 30,000 tenants depend solely on social welfare.

The Corporation wants to be able

to act like any greedy private landlord.

A private Corporation document states that:

"failure to pay rent will lead to eventual eviction in every case."

On the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine, Dublin Corporation is commemorating the mass evictions in its own way.

Goodman Scandal

Middle men caught out

At the end of March, three unhappy middle men, who'd got caught up in a scam walked free from Dublin circuit criminal court.

Employees of the Goodman Group, all three had been working at the Shannon meat plant at Rathkeale in 1991 when the plant won a number of contracts known collectively as the Russian contract.

The former Soviet Union was the destination of the meat involved - close to 2,000 tonnes of top quality intervention beef. The Goodman group was commissioned to process and can this beef before it was to be sent on as European Aid to Russia.

Beef

The court heard how the superior beef was daily substituted with animal hearts and other inferior beef from Goodman's own plants, while the top quality beef was sold off at commercial rates.

All in all this particular fraud benefited "somebody unknown"



300 people took to the streets on a demonstration called at short notice to protest at the government's attempt to make PAYE workers pay the EU fine for corruption in the Beef industry.

to the tune of £710,000, while the three middle managers were ordered to pay a total of £32,000 in compensation to the Minister for Finance over the next five years.

We wonder who? Now is the time to press the ICTU to call a national stoppage to demand that the beef barons pay their own fine to Europe—rather than PAYE workers.

PASS THIS RESOLUTION

This Branch/Section demands that the ICTU calls a national one-day strike on May 1st against the imposition of the EU fine on the PAYE sector. Copies of a national petition are available from PO Box 1648, Dublin

Why only seven per cent choose hotels

A first year cook training with CERT—the state tourism agency—does a full weeks work for £68.76

Likewise for CERT's bar or waiting staff. Young men and women put in cruelly long hours for basic rates as low as £80 per week.

After years of training at poverty level wages they can hope to take home £120 per week.

Career

Now employers in the hotel and catering industry have the cheek to ask why the majority of school leavers show no interest in their industry's career opportunities.

A recent CERT sponsored survey which showed that only 7 per cent of school leavers wanted to enter the hotel industry caused considerable consternation.

Pat McCann, president of the

Irish Hotel Federation was pains to point out that behind the perception of the industry as a low pay sweat shop, "by far the vast majority of employers are good".

McCann sees the problem as lying with lazy teachers and career guidance counsellors who don't trouble themselves to find out what the industry is really like!!

Socialist Worker can point to an alternative however.

Huge numbers of school goers, whether through transition year or part-time work, have already felt what a ten hour day, constantly on your feet for £2 or £3 an hour is like.

Most of them decide for themselves that this is not how they want to spend the rest of their lives.

Who runs grant funded centres?

St Fergal's Resource Centre in Bray has been embroiled in a conflict between its full time management and local Bray women.

The conflict is over management's handling and running of the centre.

The complaints came from local women who pointed out that there was no accountability on the board. The board consists of representatives from the Vincent de Paul, the local parish and the Vocational Education Committee.

There were also nine other local women democratically elected on to the board to represent grassroots feeling in the running of the centre.

But the Board of Management closed down the centre for a week saying that the women were undemocratically elected.

At the end of March a conference was held on the whole dispute. After a three hour debate management were forced to back down.

Noticeably absent from the whole affair was Liz McManus and Democratic Left who likes to indulge in some 'power to the people' rhetoric now and then.

inside the system

Military's blind eye to Nazis

THE US military has kicked out gay and lesbian soldiers, but it allows wannabe Nazis with swastika tattoos to drive around with miniature nooses hanging from car mirrors.

This was the conclusion of a recent study of racism in the US military commissioned by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

The study was commissioned after the murder last December of two Blacks by

two racist skinheads who were soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division.

The study found that some soldiers at all of North Carolina's military bases were part of skinhead groups and had been involved in assaults.

SU victory is Taylor made

FIANNA FAIL hacks were delighted with their man, Colman Byrne, winning the presidency of the national students union (USI) at its annual congress in Galway.

But this pathetic excuse for a student leader, who has attacked socialists from a height, is defending the £20,000 cost of the conference at the 4 star Ardilaun Hotel in Galway.

And no talk of a real fight on student poverty, which has never been higher.

Byrne also has friends in unlikely places.

He secured the unanimous backing of the Queens delegation, including one Jonathan Taylor, son of Unionist MP John Taylor.

★ FORMER Thatcher supporter Economist Samuel Brittan seems to have a bit more insight into the system than is usual for economists.

He was quoted recently in the *Financial Times* as saying "Marx should have been living now. He may have been right."

It is a shame the labour party don't have the same understanding

Super-salaries for super-rich

THE BOOM in the Irish economy has certainly brought the good life for the rich.

Executive directors at Cement Roadstone Holdings are earning at average of £401,240 a year. This represents a fantastic rise of over 79%.

And remember Gerry Casey. This shark got paid a whopping £1.7 two years ago for his role as an executive of Allied Irish Banks. Then he slipped back a little.

Now the bold Gerry has again earned the more modest salary of £786,000. And this does not even include his generous pension package.

The Labour Party has little to say about this scandal. They even cut the taxes on their company cars in this year's budget.

It is going to take a proper socialist party to put manners on these parasites who lecture workers about the need for restraint—and then dig deep into the trough themselves.

Pulling Stokes

THE LABOUR Party must be desperate to raise funds. First Ruairi Quinn says he is available for a £100 a head dinner.

And now Niall Stokes is organising race nights for his political boss, Michael D Higgins.

Labour's problem is that its members are demoralised and leaving the party because of its betrayals.

This is why the former left winger Higgins turns to hippy capitalists like Niall Stokes to raise money in Dublin.

Higgins used to be a prominent academic who once wrote a famous article on clientalism. He saw it as the basis of Fianna Fail's power.

He obviously learnt a few lessons from his research.

Fancy a job with Fianna Fail

SHORT of a few bob? Why not give Pat Farrell, general secretary of Fianna Fail a ring and see if he's any spare twenty pound notes lying about.

"The Republican Party" are so short of activists nowadays that they recently paid people £20 a night to canvass in the Dublin West by-election.

And you'll be safe in the knowledge that most of the cash would have come from Ireland's rich - maybe even

from the esteemed Larry Goodman.

Fianna Fail headquarters are at 13 Upr Mount St., Dublin 2...or phone 6761551.

(Of course, SW would not dream of advocating taking the money and running!!!)

The queen of her prejudice

AMID ALL the turmoil over the royal divorce, the queen is presented as a caring figurehead who is still worthy of deep respect.

If you need evidence to refute this, look at an account of her opinions by US travel writer Paul Theroux.

He has written an account of a dinner party attended by the queen at which she commented on a recent meeting

with the Prime minister of Papua New Guinea and his wife.

Visited

Theroux writes that the queen said, "Papua New Guinea. Marvellous country. The prime minister visited the Palace just last week. He had splendid hair. Fuzzy-wuzzy hair."

And his Wife just sat next to him smiling away. And she had fuzzy-wuzzy hair too."

Irish Builder for Sellafield

AN IRISH company has admitted it supplies materials used in the construction of both the Sizewell B and Sellafield nuclear plants.

Joseph Murphy Structural Engineers, based in Dublin, has over the years supplied fabricated steel to its sister company in Britain, AGSE, to fill orders worth over £25 million for the nuclear industry.

JMSE also supplied steel for the ESB plant at Moneypoint.

So while the government pontificates about Sellafield, a state-owned company shares a common supplier with the nuclear industry.

what we think

B.S.E. 'SCARE':

It's not just 'hysteria'

The political establishment are claiming that the scare over BSE is just hysteria.

But if they are so sure that they can prove there is no link between BSE and brain disease in humans, why have they not pumped millions into research?

Up to the end of March,

the British government had spent only £6 million a year into research on BSE—a fraction of what it spends on one weapons system alone. Figures for the Irish government are not

known because they are so minuscule.

Pattern

The events surrounding BSE are not new. They repeat a pattern seen in two recent public health scandals.

One is asbestos.

This killer dust was known to be dangerous last century.

Factory inspectors warned it could kill. But governments and big business argued that it was safe.

In Athy, for example, an

asbestos factory was allowed to operate throughout the 1980s—with virtually no restrictions.

Proof

Governments only moved when proof was staring them in the face as the number of victims soared to thousands. The same story is true of AIDs.

Throughout the 1980's, governments did not heed warnings that the HIV virus which causes AID's is transmitted by heterosexual sex as well as gay sex.

Knowing this they still allowed contaminated blood products to be moved from country to country.

They held back on an education programme about safe sex and the use of condoms.

Instead they tried to scapegoat gays and drug addicts for causing the disease.

Lies

Millions of people around the world are dying today because of those lies.

The same people who

complain about hysteria today, are those who ignored the dangers of asbestos and HIV a decade ago.

The reality is that public health and the free market have never mixed.

In every health scandal governments and big business put profit before lives.

BSE, AIDS and Asbestos show that if we care for our own health and that of the next generation we would do well to fight for a society where production is based on need and not profit.

Spring prepares to ditch neutrality

THE White Paper on Foreign Policy published at the end of March represents a new step towards ditching Ireland's traditional military neutrality.

The Labour leader Dick Spring is advocating membership of the Partnership for Peace group and is presenting it as an association to promote peace and humanitarianism.

But nobody should be fooled by these games.

Weapons

The PFF is linked to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, a military alliance founded to defend Western imperialism.

If Spring's plan goes through the Irish army will align itself alongside forces such as France who have shown a willingness to hold and test nuclear weapons.

All the indications are that plans are already being drawn up to integrate Ireland into the Eu-

ropean war machine.

■The General Secretary of PDFORA, the trade union for the general ranks in the army, told his conference this year that the army is being reorganised to be capable of "actively co-operating and integrating with military forces of our European partners".

■The Canadian General Lewis McKenzie, who was charged with drawing up plans for that reorganisation of the army told *Prime Time* that he was ordered to produce a "solution which could cope with the demands of European defence".

He was made aware that he was dealing with "political dynamite".

Spring claims that nothing will really be

changed until there is a referendum on neutrality.

But this is only a camouflage to allow him to push through serious changes now.

War

Irish neutrality was of course always inconsistent.

It did not stop Irish governments allowing US war planes to refuel at Shannon during the Gulf War.

But now even the weak policy of neutrality is too much for the Irish ruling class.

As always Spring and Labour will tear up any of their promises on neutrality to please them.

Stop these sectarian marches

"We should burn the Catholics out of the Lower Ormeau. That would solve the problem"

This is how one loyalist marcher summed up the real feelings behind the attempt by Orange Lodges to march down the Lower Ormeau.

The leaders of the Ballynally Walkers Club of the Apprentice Boys claimed that they were only asserting their traditional civil and religious liberty.

This is pure nonsense. These marches have nothing to do with freedom or democracy. Last summer when an Orange march went down the Ormeau Road, a curfew was imposed on the people of the area from 5 am in the morning. The freedom of the local inhabitants was curtailed to allow the bigots to demonstrate.

These marches are all about asserting a superiority over Catholics. They have as much to do with civil liberty as a Ku Klux Klan marching through a black area of America.

The signal for this new upsurge of sectarianism has come from the leaders of the Unionist party. When the violence starts, they always wash their hands and claim they want to use constitutional methods.

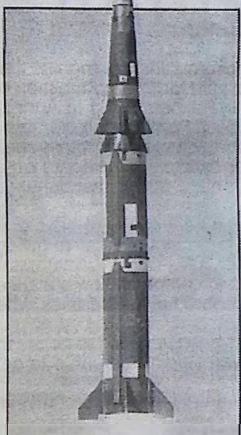
But many of the Orange marchers on the Ormeau Road were calling for a return to the 'Spirit of Drumree'.

At Drumree last year the two unionist leaders Trimble and Paisley whipped up a sectarian frenzy to demand their right to march through Catholic areas.

Socialists completely oppose these ritual humiliations of Catholics. We reject any notion that Orangeism and hatred of Catholics is part of Protestant culture and so needs to be respected.

It is in the direct interests of Protestant workers to oppose the bigots who are trying to stir up sectarian hatred under the guise of religious liberty.

When workers are divided it is easier for the bosses in Shorts or the health service to ram through their attacks.



The shape of things to come?

Labour backs police harassment

SWEEPING new stop and search powers have been given to the British police by the Tory government.

Thousands of Irish people living in Britain will now be subject to harassment.

None of this will have the slightest effect on the conduct of an IRA campaign in Britain. For two decades the British authorities having been detaining people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But very few have later gone to trial.

Tories

The new measure went through with the support of Tony Blair's New Labour. Blair is determined to win office by mimicking the policies of the Tories in virtually every area.

After they gave up their opposition to the PTA it was inevitable that the Labour Party would follow the Tories on other attacks on civil liberties.

In both Ireland and Britain, Labour now stands for attacks on working people. The new measure shows why we need an alternative to them.

Are some people born evil?

'Evil and Bad' was the verdict of the tabloids on Brendan O'Donnell.

They tried to give the impression that some people are born naturally evil.

According to this view all of us are born with a fixed amount of 'original sin' but mysteriously enough some people get dealt more than their fair share of evilness.

Right wing editors love this approach because it allows them to look for an outside force rather than society itself.

But the evidence at the O'Donnell trial shows what nonsense this really is.

According to his sister he was regularly beaten by his father with a poker, a hurley or anything that

'came to hand.'

From the age of five, he was seeing psychiatrists and taking valium.

His life began to fall apart after the death of his mother, his one protector who offered him some love.

Tragedy

The real tragedy of the case was the terrible level of psychiatric care that was available to him.

Throughout the whole of the 1980's there was no child or adolescent psychiatric service in Clare.

When O'Donnell was finally sent to an assessment centre in Finglas, Dublin it was recommended that he be sent to a small residential style unit where he

would receive therapy.

Instead he was sent to Trinity House, a detention centre for young offenders.

Irish capitalism has always been more interested in giving hand-outs to industrialists who then fail to create jobs—rather than providing the services for people in need. Brendan O'Donnell was just one example of this neglect.

He was also an extreme creation of a certain type of society. Capitalism is driven by competition and greed and everyone is encouraged to join a rat race.

The one area that is supposed to be outside this is the family where the individual is meant to find their real identity.

But the family cannot escape the pressures of the outside

world.

The brutality and hierarchy of the wider society impinge on it.

The promises of love and kindness can often fall to dust under the pressures of poverty and alienation.

Is it any wonder in this situation that a small minority completely snap and lash out?

Of course these are often the most alienated and damaged by their experiences.

Much more common are acts of violent blind rage and despair—or depression.

Calling Brendan O'Donnell evil or even accepting his own story that he was 'possessed by the devil' is just a way of ignoring the social causes that produced this terrible case.



O'Donnell: Damaged by his experiences



DUBLIN WEST:

Rocking the establishment

THE Dublin West By-election has rocked the main political parties. Fianna Fail, Labour and Fine Gael got only about 40% of the vote between them.

The only reason why Brian Lenihan has taken his father's seat is that he got the transfers of Fine Gael.

Pretended

For decades Fianna Fail and Fine Gael were supposed to be arch-rivals.

They pretended that there was so much bad blood between them be-



Joe Higgins

cause of a civil war that happened seventy years ago that they could never

go into Coalition with each other.

But when they were faced with a serious challenge from the left, they united in their class interests.

Fine Gael denounced the Militant Labour candidate, Joe Higgins for trying to be 'the Arthur Scargill of Ireland'.

Fianna Fail claimed that 'democratic politicians' could not advocate a campaign of non-payment of water charges.

Higgins came within 400 votes of taking the seat.

The main reason he lost was that many of the trans-

fery of the other left wing candidate, Thomas McGiolla of the Workers Party went to Lenihan of Fianna Fail.

Record

Unfortunately this was by no means accidental.

Throughout the campaign, McGiolla tried to curry votes by talking favourably about the political record of the ex-Fianna Fail Minister, Brian Lenihan Senior whose death caused the by-election.

The Workers Party have always rested on pretending that individu-

als' problems could be solved by their councillors and TDs in the past.

This often meant a very apolitical base.

After the elections, the establishment politicians made excuses for their humiliation. Labour's General Secretary, Ray Kavanagh even claimed that the vote for Higgins 'was a joke'.

But the *Irish Times* accurately pointed to the real reasons for the huge vote for Joe Higgins.

It claimed that his vote came from those 'who have gained little from the economic boom and who feel betrayed by Labour in government'.

What sort of alternative to Labour?

THE VOTE for Higgins confirms a general pattern that has emerged recently. Tens of thousands are looking for a real alternative to Labour.

But what sort of alternative is needed?

Militant Labour see the way forward in preparing for further elections.

They believe that they can repeat a strategy of concentrating on the single issue of water charges to run candidates in the next elections. But there are major problems here.

Firstly, you cannot build a base simply on single issues. In Dublin West, many workers in Ballyfermot and North Clondalkin do not pay water charges.

And many who do oppose water charges need to be won to wider socialist arguments.

Unless you take these arguments up now, even a voting base will disappear when the media go on the offensive with arguments on law and order, or the Northern conflict.

Pledging

Second, Fianna Fail have pledged with the Coalition in pledging to keep the water charges. They both agree that the beef barons can be allowed walk scott free and water charges protestors will be jailed. Sending in one left

wing TD into the Dail will not change that.

The only thing that will force change is the militancy outside the parliament.

To win on water charges or other issues you need to mobilise people on the streets.

More importantly you need to link up struggles with the power of organised workers.

While revolutionary socialists are for contesting elections, they never pretend that key issues will be solved by parliamentary elections.

This is why a real alternative to Labour must also shift from focusing on elections to building for struggle.

A SLAP IN THE FACE FOR LABOUR

THE Labour Party got even less votes than Sinn Fein and came out with a miserly 3.8% of the vote.

It was a massive slap in the face for the former left winger Joan Burton who as a junior Minister represents the constituency.

Burton's only response was a to try to go on a red scare after the election. "Higgins is even for public ownership of the banks", she charged.

How absolutely terrible! The two main banks are making £1 million profit a day -- and Labour thinks it a political crime to talk of nationalising them.

The Labour Party thinks that elections are won by PR people with slick images. The reality is that there is now a massive appetite for left wing ideas

PEOPLE IN NEED APPEAL:

Rubbing salt in the wound

THE People in Need jamboree hits our airwaves on April 26 next.

On our national airwaves will be revealed a sudden capacity to build day care centres in one day.

Seemingly for a day, a sense/feeling of the Irish 'meitheal', feel-good factor. Thatcherism, joy and philanthropy will imbue all our little nation.

Take the image of, let's say, Tommy or Mary down in the local Business Incubation Centre.

By now a RTE unit is

videoing a shot of one of them sitting in the office of their enterprise with a computer screen visible, telling us of their dream.

Buzz words like "jobs created" and "Markets" will be banded about.

'Go-for-it!'

It is another facet of the right wing propaganda which is being fed to us via RTE in programmes such as the Late show and Up and Running, which show efforts in right wing "go for it" mentality.

Similarly we will have an

outside broadcast of, for example, a playground or a unit attached to a centre for disabled people.

A voice-over of a social worker/administrator will extol the great benefits of this facility that the revenue from the Appeal has brought.

Not a word will we get from the direct "beneficiaries", only people talking for them or someone with a broadcasting voice will be heard.

Guilty in all of this are our national broadcasting

in letting the airwaves be hijacked like this.

FAS, Leader Programmes, Horizon and indeed the Lottery have been disbursing funds to the devil knows who.

Furthermore the very causes of the problems, stemming as they are from the unequal distribution of resources in society are never broached upon.

Rather it is a case of putting a sticking plaster in an open wound, a grain of salt on a patch of raw skin.

EDMUND COYLE, ATHLONE

behind the headlines

HEPATITIS C:

The cover-up continues

"THE WHOLE thing is being stage-managed by the government. They hope that they can wave money at the women and make them go away. They've still refused to accept that they're responsible."

That's the verdict of one woman with hepatitis C on the tribunal which is currently underway in Dublin to the compensation to people infected with the virus through contaminated blood or blood products.

The largest group involved are the women who were infected with the hepatitis C virus as a result of having received contaminated supplies of anti-D, a blood product given to mothers whose blood group isn't compatible with the blood types of new-born babies.

It's three years now since the government first announced that women had been infected in this way and they were called to be screened for the virus.

Right from the start the women received appalling treatment. When they went for screening they were asked questions about their sexual activity and their lifestyles. They were also asked if they had tattoos or if they could have contracted the virus from having their ears pierced.

"The Blood Board were desperate to find something else to blame. They just didn't want to accept responsibility", said one woman. *Socialist Worker* spoke to who was diagnosed as having hepatitis C two years ago.

The treatment the women have received hasn't been any better since then. Positive Action was formed by the women themselves in June 1994 to fight for what they see as basic rights being denied them.

Blame

The women want the government to recognise that the Blood Board was to blame for their contraction of the virus. The report of the expert group in April of last year found that the Blood Bank was to blame.

They are very angry that, despite the negligence of the authorities, when the directors of the board were forced to resign they got huge golden handshakes from the state.

"Look at how we've been treated. We're having to fight all the way and now in the tribunal they're giving us handouts like it's charity.

"Women have the right to compensation because we didn't do anything wrong. They're the ones who are to blame."

But the government has been unwilling to do much about it. The women haven't even been able to get decent treatment.

"I'm on interferon. It means I have to inject myself three times a day.

"The side effects of the drugs are terrible. You could have serious thyroid problems. Your immune system breaks down. Sometimes you're so tired you can't even get up to answer the door.

"The government hasn't even invested in research on the disease. All we get are trial drugs. We're being used as guinea pigs for big drugs companies who are making millions.

"That's the worst thing - there's no cure, no light at the end of the tunnel."

The government has set up this tribunal to pay compensation to women with the virus. But most of the women are boycotting it.

"None of it is worth the paper it's written on. All we have are Noonan's promises that the next government will honour these decisions, but they won't have to if they don't want to.

"The whole thing is geared in favour of the government. You have to remember that most of these women aren't well off. They're just ordinary housewives. So a lot of them will accept what they're offered.

"But accepting an award from the tribunal will mean that you're signing away your rights. Their attitude is 'go away and don't come back'. I want the government to have to accept responsibility for what's happened.

"I want statutory provision to be made for us for the rest of our lives.

"My life has been totally changed by this. I used to be a healthy person - I used to run in the mini-marathon. Now I'm going into hospital and taking these drugs all the time.

"And it's not just about me. My whole family's been ripped apart by this. They've all had to be tested."

Some women are taking their cases to the High Court. But the authorities have been making it as difficult as possible for them to get their hands on the evidence they need.

But, while the government tries to hide the blame, for the women involved the nightmare of living with hepatitis C continues.

by ROISIN CRONIN

Four fifths homeless as Liberia falls apart

WIDESPREAD KILLING and burning houses in the Liberian capital of Monrovia signalled the end of yet another of the country's peace accords this week.

Liberia, in west Africa, stands as a terrible monument to the world system which brings poverty and war.

In large parts of the country, blank-faced children as young as 12 fight one another with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

A church mission reported recently, "This is the site of utter barbarism. No horror is too terrible to be real, no story too outlandish to be trumped the next day by something more awful."

For six years the West and the media have almost totally ignored the horror in Liberia, yet it dwarfs the

killing in Yugoslavia

In a country of three million people, 150,000 people have died and 80 percent of the population have been forced to flee their homes.

Disease

The newspaper Info Soir reports, "the remaining 500,000, prey to famine and disease have been reduced to slavery by the armed forces of all factions or subjected to their exactions: systematic rape, forcible enlistment of children, looting, destruction and torture."

Such atrocities are not because of "African cul-

ture" or any such racist myth.

They are the result of 150 years of intervention by the world's powers, the capitalist market and the rich—both locally and internationally.

Liberia was created in

1847 by US imperialism and populated with 20,000 freed black slaves.

Export

Slave owners themselves supported the export of "troublesome" blacks

"back to Africa".

The freed slaves were totally dependent on US capitalism and Liberia essentially became a private colony of US rubber firms.

In 1926 Firestone and Goodyear were granted a 99-year lease to one fifth of

the country, and all the best land.

Prospered

The giant corporations used the descendants of the freed slaves to police local workers.

Liberia's rich prospered and also registered the largest tanker fleet in the world, due to slack tax and safety regulations.

Successive regimes were increasingly corrupt and the country was close to bankruptcy by 1980.

Then the US's rulers backed an army coup led by Samuel Doe.

To entrench his regime Doe used ever more bitter repression and stirred up ethnic hatreds.

Doe was murdered in 1990, setting off a civil war between at least six armed groups, none of which was any better than the others.

The bordering countries—Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone—backed a group each and the US also invited the murderous Nigerian regime to send in a "peacekeeping force".

Controls

The West, and the Ivory Coast's rulers, have thrown their weight behind warlord Charles Taylor.

He controls the regions with the richest mineral wealth.

A succession of "peace treaties" have collapsed with the West and Nigeria allowing Taylor to attack his opponents.

Another warlord, Roosevelt Johnson, has won support by denouncing outside intervention. But he has also encouraged massacres and ethnic rivalry.

Capitalism has almost destroyed Liberia.

The only hope is that ordinary people will come together against the warlords and the rich.

Palestinians jeer Arafat



Palestinian riot police and (inset) Yasser Arafat

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat was jeered last week as hundreds of students from Bir Zeit University on the West Bank protested against repression.

Around 450 students from the university have been jailed in the last month after the Israeli and Palestinian authorities began a massive clampdown on the funda-

mental Hamas movement.

The protest follows a vicious attack by club wielding Palestinian police who sprayed tear gas and fired into the air to break up a press conference at Najah University, Nablus, following the arrest of dozens of students.

Arafat has since sacked the Nablus police chief, but this

is unlikely to defuse anger for long.

The Israeli and Palestinian authorities have arrested almost 1,000 people in the month since the last Palestinian suicide bomb attack.

"Many detainees are being tortured and abused during interrogations," according to Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

SOUTH KOREA: Mass protest at killing of student

AS MANY as 10,000 students protested against the South Korean government last Saturday.

The demonstration followed the death of a student, Roh Soo Sok, on a previous anti-government march.

The students were demanding that South Korean president Kim Young Sam apologise for Roh Soo Sok's death and launch a full inquiry.

The protests came as South Korea and the US put more than half a million troops on alert in re-

sponse to two border incursions by 200 North Korean troops.

■International Socialist member Il-bung Choi, imprisoned for 18 months for socialist activities, is due to be released on 18 April.

But another member of the IS has another six months of his two year sentence to serve.

■For more information contact: Committee to Defend South Korean socialists, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 or phone Judy on 0171 538 5821.

Nazis trample on Auschwitz

SOCIALISTS IN Poland were horrified when they found out that 80 Nazi skinheads marched through Auschwitz, the site of the Nazi death camp, last Saturday.

Over one million European Jews were murdered at the camp during the Second World War.

Thugs

Nazi thugs wielding clubs and chanting anti-Semitic slogans pushed around Jewish students from Vienna who were visiting the camp.

But the Nazis still only represent a small minority in Poland.

Their leader could not get

enough signatures to stand in last year's elections.

"The Nazi demonstration came as a shock," a Polish socialist told Socialist Worker.

"Only two days before 300 anti-Nazis marched through Warsaw. No one knew about the Nazis' plans. If we had, we would have organised a counter demonstration."

"In November last year, on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, over 1,000 people joined an anti-fascist demonstration through Warsaw."

"And over 200 people joined a picket of a fascist meeting at Warsaw University last year. We stopped the meeting and forced the Nazis to scuttle away."

France polarised on Le Pen's Nazi threat

"MORE THAN one in four people agree with the ideas of the National Front". That was the front page headline last week in the French paper *Le Monde*.

A worrying new opinion survey found that the ideas Jean Marie Le Pen's Nazi National Front are more accepted than ever.

But the same poll showed the scale of opposition to Le Pen is also harder than ever.

Four months after the strikes which rocked France's Tory government in December, the poll reflects the deepening polarisation in French society.

Myths

Some 28 percent of people say they are, "completely or mostly in agreement with Le Pen".

But 70 percent of people saw they, "completely or mostly disagree" and 71 percent of people now think that Le Pen's nazis "represent a danger to democracy".

The number with no strong opinion has shrunk to just 2 percent.

The poll challenges fashionable media myths about Le Pen's basis of support.

The British media peddles the notion that the National Front's main supporters are workers.

Last week's poll shows Le Pen has a classic fascist

basis of support.

Le Pen's biggest supporters are small shopkeepers and traders—with 36 percent backing his ideas.

Next come the police with 34 percent, the unemployed with 29 percent and military personnel with 28 percent.

Backbone

Some 18 percent of manual workers back Le Pen's ideas, worryingly high but way below most groups.

And among public sector workers, the backbone of December's revolt, Le Pen's ideas command just 6 percent support.

The racism of France's Tory government makes it easier for Le Pen. In the last few weeks the government has brutally deported scores of Africans.

But there are also more encouraging developments.

Marseilles public transport workers, who won a victory in January, have been out on strike again and look to have another victory within their grasp.

Some 1,700 workers at the factory where French banknotes are printed have been on strike over job losses, with some occupying the factory last week and kidnapping four bosses.

BSE crisis... BSE crisis...

?

The cost of profit before

Facts on Deadly Disease

BSE IS a brain disease affecting cows. It was first found in animals in Britain in 1985.

It attacks the nervous system and leads to the brain being riddled with holes, like a sponge. Animals become disoriented, then demented and finally die.

Cows normally eat grass and other vegetation. In the 1970s the British cattle industry worked out it could increase profits if it fed cows processed animal protein instead.

Sheep carcasses were then processed into food to fatten up cows. Sheep have long suffered from a similar disease to BSE known as scrapie. There is no hard evidence that humans have been endangered from scrapie. But scrapie seems to have made the jump to cows, changing in the process to become BSE.

Because of lack of research no one is sure exactly what causes the symptoms of BSE. It could be a protein called a "prion" which has gone haywire in the membranes surrounding the cells which make up all living bodies, and which gradually stops nerve and brain cells working properly.

Others think the disease could be caused by a slow acting virus in the way that HIV causes AIDS or by chemicals used in agriculture.

The chances of sheep scrapie jumping to cattle were made worse in the early 1980s, when the government relaxed rules to allow lower temperatures to be used in the processing of the sheep carcasses.

Human version

BSE had been shown to jump to other species—such as mice, cats, pigs and geese.

Governments are now finally admitting that BSE could jump to humans through cattle products after denying it was possible for ten years.

CJD, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, is the human equivalent of BSE.

It attacks the brain, first causing forgetfulness, confusion and depression and then muscle wasting, blindness and death.

Scientists began to suspect a new strain of the disease after an 18 year old British youth was diagnosed with the disease. This was only the fifth diagnosed case ever affecting someone under 30.

Then ten more cases of people with an average age of 27 dying from CJD were discovered in recent months. It is this discovery which has led to the new scare.

No one is sure what causes BSE or CJD, or which cattle products are dangerous to eat.

What is sure is that both the profit chasing beef barons and the government have been prepared to risk the health and the lives of millions of people rather than find out and take action.

"The Government has been deliberately risking the health of the population for a decade."

So said Professor Richard Lacey who was one of the top three British scientists who warned about B.S.E. almost a decade ago.

Instead of heeding the warning the Tory government dubbed him "Loony Lacey" and "politically suspect".

Like all governments, they were much more interested in the profits of the huge agri-business than in human health.

Even today the media in Ireland and Britain show sad tales of distressed and ruined farmers while the politicians clamour for more subsidies to help them out.

They never show the victims of CJD—a terrible brain disease which affects human that may now be linked with BSE -- who have lost loved ones as a result of the drive for profits.

B.S.E is a direct result of the Thatcherite policy of deregulation and cutting costs.

In early 1980s, the British government received clear warnings from a royal commission of the dangers of feeding cows on processed dead sheep.

Treated

The Commission warned that feeding inadequately treated proteins to cattle involved "the risk of transmitting disease bearing pathogens to humans".

But Thatcher ditched the planned regulations controlling the practice.

They said then that "in the current economic climate" any controls should be left to industry.

They even removed the regulations which governed the minimum level of temperature that animal feed had to be heated to.

To cut costs the British agri-industry kept the temperatures unusually low — sometimes even less than 100 degrees Celsius which is needed to kill bacteria.

Six years ago the farmer and Conservative MP, Sir Richard Body told the truth when he wrote,

"The current problem of mad cow disease came about only because the Ministry of Agriculture agreed that the great companies that control the feed compound industry should be allowed to use the brains of sheep to feed cattle."

Truth

But once the truth began to leak out the British government set out to lie deliberately in order to protect their friends in big business.

□ They said that BSE could not move from mother to calf. When the tests proved otherwise, they said the tests were flawed.

□ They said that BSE could not jump species. Yet by March 1996, 18 different species were infected.

□ When scientists like Richard Lacey and Harash Narang spoke out, they withdrew funding for their research.

The only reason why Britain has more BSE in its cattle today than Ireland is that has a more intensive form of capitalist farming than Ireland.

B.S.E. is the direct result of the greed of the big farmers and the food companies.

It is the culmination of a series of scandals over food that has grown from the insane drive for profit.

In recent years there has been a series

Think of profit

"Think about the economy - think about the EEC"

That's what grandmother of BSE victim Vicky Rimmer says she was told by a specialist from the British government funded surveillance unit.

"I knew that they had something to hide" says Beryl Rimmer. "It made me determined to find out how Vicky got the Disease and to try and get the government to admit people could get Mad Cow Disease."

of food scandals— from salmonella in eggs and chickens, listeria in cook-chill foods, the coloured coating on sweets like Smarties which is linked to hyper activity, to food additives which could be linked to cancer.

All of this happens because the huge food companies decide what we eat and how it is processed.

And they were never interested in health — only their own greed.

'Cheap food' drive a myth

SOME people are saying that BSE is the price we have paid for cheap food.

For example Georgina O'Sullivan, Home Marketing manager of An Bord Bia declared:

"Quality has to be paid for. You can't have cheap, cheap, cheap..."

"What do you think you are getting if you buy six burgers for 90p."

It is a lie that lets the perpetrators of the BSE scandal off the hook, and it is a lie based on a myth.

We eat adulterated food, but we have expensive, NOT cheap food.

The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has put £28 a week on the food bill of the average family.

While we pay too much, money flows into the coffers of the cattle



PROFIT, NOT cheap food is to blame for BSE

Don't on Iris

The Irish government's response is disgusting. They have ignored the people may die and worried only industry.

Their logic has been that 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity'.

One Labour TD, Pat Upton, says that the government should "exploit the view that Ireland produces healthy, clean products suitable for European consumers preoccupied with environment and health."

But the claim that Irish beef is 100% safe is a lie. How could any one trust beef barons like the Goodman Company who have engaged in fraud on a massive scale?

The Irish beef industry has already been shown to have sold rotten beef into intervention. These companies have always been willing to lie through their teeth to preserve their profits.

While Irish beef is not as dangerous as British beef, the facts show

... BSE crisis... BSE

of putting ore health



Brain Disease in Ireland

The Central Statistics Office put the number of deaths from Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD) in Ireland at 12 since 1986.

But some doctors believe that the figures are a serious under-representation. It is a complex disease that manifests symptoms that are similar to Alzheimers or other brain degenerative disorders.

The Alzheimer society President, Michael Coote said recently that, "a lot of people who have died from pneumonia or other causes while believed to be suffering from Alzheimers, may have died from CJD".

The scandal is that the Department of Health has not made CJD a notifiable disease.

Who looks after food safety?

The number of vets and inspectors employed by the Department of Agriculture to regulate the food industry has been cut by one third since the mid 1980s.

The farming lobby demanded the cuts so they could grab more subsidies from the savings.

The monitoring of health and safety standards in Irish food is the responsibility of An Bord Bia.

It should be common sense for public health officials to have a central role.

But the reality is that is stacked with vested interests who are more interested in profit than health.

Among the Board's 13 directors are:

■ The Presidents of the two main farming organisations, the Irish Farmers Association and the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association.

■ The Chairman of the Kerry Group, which has links with the

■ Directors of Lakeshore Foods, Irish Dairy Boards and Waterford Foods.

First through the door at a meeting held by Bord Bia to discuss their reaction to news about the links between BSE and CJD was one Larry Goodman.

With monitors like this, who can feel really safe?

What do socialists say?

The strategy for socialism

THE THIRD part of Socialist Worker's look at the Communist Manifesto.

MARX AND Engels did not invent the idea of socialism or communism, but they were the first to map out a viable strategy for fighting for it.

Prior to the publication of the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848 there were two rival schools of socialist thought.

The first was conspiratorial in its approach. The idea was that a select group of dedicated revolutionaries should stage a coup and seize power.

Having set up a revolutionary government the new rulers would then establish socialism by decree from above.

The second, known as the Utopian Socialists, favoured propaganda and reasoned argument.

Convincing

They believed that, if they could produce convincing proof that socialism could be a better form of society than capitalism, they would eventually win over the majority including the middle and upper classes.

In the *Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels rejected both these strategies.

They argued instead for socialism from below—fought for and established by the mass of workers themselves.

But if the working class as a whole creates socialism, what is the role of politically conscious socialists, who most of the time are only a minority of the class?

This question is dealt with in the section of the manifesto entitled "*Proletarians and Communists*".

Here Marx sets out the fundamental principle that socialists "have no interest separate and apart

from those of the proletariat as a whole".

Socialists must start by taking the working class movement as it is—not as they think it ought to be and participating in all its actual struggles.

In those struggles socialists must be "the most advanced and resolute section—that section that pushes forward all others".

Submerge

But this doesn't mean that socialists simply submerge themselves in economic and trade union struggles.

Socialists retain the distinction that, firstly, they are internationalist: "*Bring to the front the common interest of the entire proletariat independent of nationality*".

Secondly, in all the stages of the struggle they always "represent the interests of the movement as a whole".

Thus socialists combine economic and political struggle.

They pursue all the immediate demands of workers over pay and conditions.

At the same time they work to raise the political consciousness of the working class and focus its struggle on the ultimate aim—the abolition of capitalism.

Or, as Marx puts it in the final section of the manifesto:

"*The Communists fight for the attainment of the immediate aims, for the enforcement of the momentary interests of the working class; but in the movement of the present they also represent and take care of the future of that movement.*"

Today

All of this still applies today. The approaches rejected by Marx and Engels are still around.

On the one hand groups appear from time to time, like the Angry Brigade in the

1970s, who believe they can act on behalf of the working class.

They think they can start the revolution with a few bombs.

They achieve nothing except the alienation of the working class and the strengthening of state repression.

On the other hand there are intellectuals, mostly concentrated in the universities, who devote themselves to writing books criticising the system but will have nothing to do with the actual workers' movement.

What didn't exist in 1848 but dominates the scene today is the parliamentary reformism of the Labour Party. However, this combines the defects attacked by Marx.

Like the early conspirators the Labour leaders say to the working class, "Leave it all to us. We will change society on your behalf."

Class

Like the Utopian Socialists they try to win the ruling class over. They are powerless in the face of that class's inevitable resistance to any real change.

To this now familiar mixture Blair has added outright opposition to any struggle from below, and appeals to big business by not even hinting at anything that might possibly offend it.

In contrast genuine socialists work to build a socialist current and a revolutionary socialist party inside the rank and file of the workers' movement.

We work to overcome the splits between economic and political struggles. We energetically support all workers' struggles against the attacks of the bosses and the Tories and show how these struggles are also in opposition to the sell outs of Blair.

In all this we take our cue from the manifesto and the ideas of Marx.

— JOHN MOLYNEUX

Don't trust them Irish Beef

Government's response to the BSE crisis has been to ignore the fact that thousands of people are worried only about the profits of the beef industry.

It has been that English policy is Ireland's opportunity.

Mr TD, Pat Upton, says government should "exploit" that Ireland produces for consumers preoccupied with beef is a lie. How could any beef barons like the company who have allowed on a massive rot to intervention. These have always been willough their teeth to profits. Beef is not as dangerous as the facts show

that there is a real cause for concern. Irish herds have shown the third highest incidence of BSE in Europe. There are 123 cases of BSE in Irish cattle—but there are only 4 in Germany where there are much bigger cattle herds.

The Irish government claims to have reacted better than the British Tories by ordering the slaughter of herds in 1989 where BSE was found to have infected one animal.

Yet only the infected animal was destroyed—the rest of the herd entered the food chain.

Despite the fact that taxpayers subsidised the farmers to the tune of £12 million, the beef industry was still allowed to sell off the slaughtered meat.

The Irish beef industry takes meat from Northern Ireland where BSE rates are far higher.

The Irish authorities have always turned a blind eye to smuggling between the North and South.

The Northern Ireland Livestock and Meat Commission Report for this year highlighted

"the still low number of slaughtering which suggests a continuing illegal exodus of cattle to the Republic"

As late as 1993, Ireland imported £8 million of animals feed, including "offals unfit for human consumption." It is believed that these animal foodstuffs which sometimes contain infected meat can be the source of B.S.E.

The Irish government is trying to hide these facts because it is desperate to boost the profits of the £1.5 billion beef industry.

Just like the Tories it is claiming that people are victims of 'hysteria'. But if you are concerned about health and lives and not profit there is a real cause for concern.

1796—Babeuf's Conspiracy of Equals

True democracy and the fight for a future

THIS YEAR sees the two hundredth anniversary of the Conspiracy of the Equals headed by Frenchman Gracchus Babeuf.

This was the first attempt in history to form an organisation dedicated to the struggle for a socialist society.

THE GREAT 18th century French Revolution swept away the old feudal society which had dominated Europe for centuries.

In its place it established the rule of the class known as the bourgeoisie, the precursor of today's capitalists.

As these new rulers established their hold, many ordinary people who had fought to drive the revolution forward became increasingly bitter.

Some began to look to another revolution, one which would bring a far more radical democratic society.

In the winter of 1796 Gracchus Babeuf launched an organisation committed to fighting for such a new world.

Babeuf was born in 1760, as he put it himself, "in the mud" of Picardy, north-east of Paris.

He came from a humble background. He found employment as a clerk working in the complex feudal legal system.

"This was the time of his political awakening.

"It was in the dust of the aristocratic archives that I discovered the terrible secrets of the usurpations by the noble caste.

"I could not fail to know how the majority of large estates were formed and came into the hands of those who possess them.

The most ancient titles are almost all nothing but the ratification of enormous inequalities and vicious robberies." When the revolution erupted in 1789 Babeuf welcomed it.

In 1793, at the revolution's high point, he was forced to flee to Paris.

He was swept up in the heady events of the time.

He thought this revolution was going to transform the world and establish a genuinely equal society.

The mass of ordinary people, dominated by small traders, artisans and shopkeepers and including a small but significant layer of workers, were known as the sans culottes—after the way they dressed.

Babeuf wrote, "The sans culottes want to be happy, and I don't think it is impossible that within a year if we carry out our measures aright we shall succeed in ensuring general happiness on earth."

BUT BY the summer of 1794 things looked very different. The bulk of the new ruling class had turned against the Jacobins, the radical force that had led the revolution to victory.

The Jacobin leaders, such as Maximilien Robespierre, were executed.

The majority of the new ruling class wanted the upheaval to go no further so they could stabilise their rule.

The bourgeoisie, who now flaunted their wealth, had succeeded against the



14 July 1789 the Citizens Militia stormed the hated Bastille. Babeuf welcomed the revolution and the fall of the feudal order

old feudal rulers.

Babeuf, in common with more and more ordinary people, grew angry.

"If you want civil war, you can have it!" he warned the new rulers.

When he was attacked for wanting conflict he retorted, "As if we didn't have it already! "As if the war of the rich against the poor was not the cruelest of wars, especially when the former are armed to the teeth and the latter are without defence!"

SOON BABEUF went beyond angry rhetoric, above all by publishing his revolutionary newspaper *The Tribune of the People*.

For his pains Babeuf was thrown in jail for seven months, but after his release in October 1795 he was soon publishing and organising again.

The Tribune of the People was not simply a commentator on events, but an organiser.

"The Tribune's duty", wrote Babeuf "is to tell the whole people ceaselessly where it is now, what has to be done, what remains to be done, where it is necessary to go, and why." Babeuf's supporters began to form themselves into an organi-

sation aimed at putting ideas into practice, and early in 1796 Babeuf launched the Conspiracy of the Equals.

"Conspiracy" was often used at the time simply to describe any organisation at all, and Babeuf himself wrote, "We conspired aloud, we give the greatest publicity to our conspiracy."

At the heart of the organisation was a grouping of Babeuf and his closest supporters.

Around them were other people who would know some but not all of those involved.

Some secrecy was needed, but Babeuf constantly warned against carrying it too far.

He urged organisers in each district, "As far as possible you should pass on publications in a direct manner.

Babeuf's organisation was, however, to be short lived.

In May 1796 he and the key leaders were arrested, and after a long drawn out trial they were executed the following year.

But Babeuf's ideas did not die, and one of his colleagues, Buonarotti, survived and was later to make contact with the revolutionary Chartist movement in 19th century Britain.

And in an important sense Babeuf and his ideas are at the very root of the socialist tradition we stand in today.



MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE

quite different notions which would be developed afterwards into the socialist arguments and ideas we still fight for today.

He argued it was necessary to "establish the communal management of property, to place each man in the craft for which his natural abilities fit him, to compel him to deposit the fruits of his labours in a common warehouse."

Babeuf argued there should be set up a simple method of distributing commodities in which a record would be kept of all goods and the latter would be shared out with scrupulous exactitude."

And, he noted, "a people who had no property would have no need of the large number of laws which the societies of Europe groan under."

Babeuf also saw the fight for women's liberation as part of the fight for the liberation of all.

"Woman is worth as least as much as man", he wrote, and, "True civilisation will destroy the servitude of woman: it will proclaim her emancipation."

Above all he had utter contempt for those who argued that the mass of people were incapable of running society and "would make us believe that we cannot do anything by ourselves, and that we always need rulers with us.

"Rulers only make revolutions in order to go on ruling.

At last we want to make one to ensure for ever the happiness of the people by true democracy."

And he insisted, in words which ring, as relevantly today as when he wrote them, "The French Revolution is only the forerunner of another revolution, much greater and impressive revolution, which will be the last."

BABEUF'S IDEAS went far beyond those raised in the rest of the French Revolution.

He began to see that class division in society was rooted in private property and that true democracy and equality were only possible in a society run collectively from below.

"Misfortunes and slavery derive from inequality, and inequality derives from property."

It would be wrong to see Babeuf as a fully rounded socialist in the sense we understand today.

The working class was small and not fully formed.

The very success of the French Revolution created the conditions for the full development of modern capitalism and with it the power of the working class.

The mass of people were still peasants, and in the towns a mixture of workers and a larger number of small independent traders and artisans.

Babeuf's ideas reflected this social reality, looking to many ideas from the Jacobins.

The "communal management" he looked to still in part rested on an economy dominated by small producers. Nevertheless he did begin to look to

comment

Standing up to the developers

In almost every town in Ireland, local residents will at some stage mount a campaign or a protest movement about how their area is being developed.

Usually some aspiring politician will 'take up the cause' and hope to make a name for themselves at the next election. It is supposed to be a 'safe issue' where you can make a noise, but not rock the boat.

But here EITHNE HOGAN argues that there is more going on than sometimes meets the eye.

Recent events in Bluebell have shown how fed up the residents are with the infiltration of opportunistic capitalists in their area.

Bluebell is a small working class housing estate that lies between Ballyfermot and the Naas dual carriage-way. Bluebell has always had a shared identity - and this somewhat tenuous I add - as a residential estate and an industrial one.

But for too many years now, Bluebell's residents have witnessed the steady growth of industrial sites crowd their living space.

This growth has been occurring with so much regularity that the building of factories is more akin to an invasion than to an acceptable 'accommodation' between these two identities.

If this phenomenon continues, the houses of Bluebell will not be seen for the factories. All of this occurs because there is no reasonable balance to be found in the actions of an eager capitalist.

Opportunism

The latest attack of capitalist opportunism has been targeted at a 19th century house which stands at the corner of Bluebell Avenue/Naas Road.

This house, "Naisetra", is apparently the ideal site for a new fast food outlet: "Burger King". Total opposition and objections to the above application have been made. These objections are as follows:

□ That the loss of this building would be a total disregard for the local heritage of Bluebell.

□ That the property has on its grounds an artesian well, which Brian Boru has been documented as visiting on his way to the Battle of Clontarf.

□ That the area represents one of the few green spaces in Bluebell: Any alteration would scar the already scarred landscape of Bluebell.

□ Naisetra ('artesian' spelt backwards) provides a haven for unusual vegetation and wildlife - in particular, breeding owls and bats.

All of these inhabit the ancient vegetation and trees

found on the property.

If this proposal for a burger outlet were to go ahead, this obvious beauty would be lost forever. Environmental, nature, and historical groups believe that this property is of huge significance.

Moreover this action would reinforce Bluebell as an industrial estate rather than a place where people live. The residents of Bluebell would have to endure the resulting disturbance which this action would inevitably cause. Many of the residents, in close proximity to Naisetra, are elderly and incapacitated.

Beyond

However, residents also need to look beyond the cultural and historical loss, should such an event take place.

Not only are fast food outlets like Burger King unsightly and garish. They are built and run for profit not need.

McDonalds on the Kylemore Road, is at least five minutes walking distance away from this proposed site. Do the people of Bluebell, and of the surrounding areas really need another burger joint?

What about job creation, I hear? This is the battle cry of every aspiring capitalist in Ireland.

It is almost as if they use the high levels of unemployment to hold workers hostage -- to blackmail them to achieve anything they wish.

As it is already known, the capitalists who own these outlets are the biggest exploiters of labour - youth labour in particular.

In return for awkward hours and long shifts, these capitalists expect our youth to accept a measly wage - a wage which is never garnished and always tasteless.

Not only do the residents of Bluebell not need another burger joint, they do not need to be exploited by one.

No more profit above people. Fight back.

Its about time that someone considered our needs - not their 'over dressed' wallets.

book

Inside account of a Nazi today

BY KEVIN OVENDEN

FUHRER-EX is a book of memoirs by Ingo Hasselbach, a former member of today's Nazis in Germany.

It charts his journey from disaffected youth in the former East Germany through involvement in the Nazi underground to his eventual break from the far right.

Along the way he reveals some of the reasons for the growth of the Nazis in the early 1990s. Hasselbach was born in East Germany. His father was an ardent supporter of the self proclaimed "anti-fascist socialist" state.

The first part of the book exposes the reality behind the East German official rhetoric.

It paints a picture of a society as corrupt and alienating as any in the West, where the privileges of state bureaucrats set them apart from the bulk of the population.

As young people rebelled against the state whose official ideology was "Marxism-Leninism", they looked to a wide variety of confused ideas. There was a hippy scene, a punk scene and a skinhead scene in East Berlin.



OVER 20,000 people in Germany marched against racism and the Nazis in 1992

Hasselbach describes how he first began to look to Nazi images

"We sprayed a capital A with a circle around it: the symbol of anarchism. After a few weeks we began spraying swastikas. We knew it was the most forbidden of all symbols."

In 1988 Hasselbach and six friends formed the "Movement of the 30th of January" named after the date when Hitler seized power in 1933. But this bizarre right wing "brotherhood" did not grow into a

serious ideologically committed Nazi organisation until after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

Disappointment followed the ecstatic hopes of German unification in 1990.

Depressed

People had believed the politicians who claimed the market would bring instantaneous prosperity. Instead living standards remained depressed and unemployment soared. This provided fertile ground for Nazis. The

book shows clearly that behind the amateurish street gangs stood a sophisticated organisation funded by a handful of wealthy businessmen who dreamed of building a fourth German Reich.

It documents the extreme violence meted out against the left and immigrants Hasselbach says it was this violence particularly the murder of a Turkish family in the Solligen region which repelled him.

He describes how he denounced leading Nazi figures and received death threats from former associates.

In the book his conversion becomes complete when he

is publicly embraced by Ignatz Bubis, the leader of the German Jewish community.

This book is to be welcomed for its expose of the European Nazi network, but it is limited. The story is told from a Street fighters point of view, full of lurid and unnecessary detail.

It fails to show how the anti-immigrant policies of "respectable" Helmut Kohl provided a climate in which more serious Nazis groups could win a wider base.

□ *Fuhrer-Ex*, by Ingo Hasselbach with Tony Reiss, is published by Chatto and Windus, £10.99.

film

Passion, jealousy and Rage

Reviewed by KEVIN WINGFIELD

OTHELLO is a Moroccan mercenary general fighting for 17 century city state of Venice against the Turkish empire.

He passionately loves Desdemona, but her wealthy father is enraged by her elopement with this outsider.

Roderigo - who had hoped to marry Desdemona - is beside himself with anger and despair.

Iago - Othello's right-hand man for more than a decade is embittered that Othello makes Cassio his second in command and not him.

Poison

Iago sets out to poison Othello's heart with jealousy by making him think that Desdemona is two-timing him, and manipulates Cassio and Roderigo into serving this purpose.

Oliver Parker's film adaptation of Shakespeare's play rescues it from the boredom and irrelevance of dusty thea-



Laurence Fishburne in Othello

tre productions and dry Leaving Cert courses.

In a beautifully photographed and well acted film the intrigue and passion are movingly made alive.

Shakespeare's play and now the film have provoked negative criticism to the effect that it is racist for portraying Othello as a man consumed by passion and sexual jealousy.

This seems to fit too well with the racist stereotype of black men supposedly having exaggerated sexual urges and uncontrollable passions.

Nothing like this was in Shakespeare's mind. Racism is a creation of capitalism. Although the Greek and Roman empires took slaves this was not on a racial basis. Indeed it is almost certain they had black emperors.

When the play was written (1603) capitalism and with it modern slavery was really just getting under way and with it

the ideas to justify it.

While the thinkers of emerging capitalist class were proclaiming the rights of man, and the equality of all before the law, they had to justify their taking of African slaves for profit. They invented the "theory" that blacks are inferior.

Resentments

Iago tries to use racist ideas to build the resentments against Othello, but what is striking is how commonplace it would have been in Venice of the time for noble families to include blacks and not notice anything unusual.

This is one of the few versions of Othello to star a black actor (Laurence Fishburne), many in the past employed burnt cork to make a white actor's face black. Othello is not primarily political but instead a tragedy of sexual jealousy. Highly recommended.

Television

Father Ted

FATHER TED is a Sitcom with a difference. It follows the adventures of three priests, Fathers Ted, Dougal and Jack, who have all been exiled to craggy Island, a barren and desolate island of the coast of Ireland.

They have been assigned to administer to the flock of Craggy Island because of various past misdemeanours.

We know for example that Ted's exile has something to do with arrival in Las Vegas following the disappearance of money collected to send a boy to Lourdes.

Ted, played by Dermot Morgan, is the stable figure of this threesome. Fr Dougal is the young priest who doesn't quite understand this religion thing. Fr. Jack is an alcoholic whose favourite words are "drink" and "girls".

They are joined by their housekeeper Mrs Doyle, a maniacal tea and Sandwich maker who when it comes to refreshments, won't take no for an answer.

There is a very sharp political edge to their humour. It is totally uncompromising in the attitude it takes to the Catholic church.

Fr Ted in one of his priestly speeches to the young Fr Dougal tells him:

"The church has no place for bad apples like the bishop of Galway, that fella who was living with his housekeeper for fourteen years or the friend of Fr Biggley who was selling arms to Iraq"

Patient

Ted is patient with Dougal's questions. When Dougal says:

"I've heard about these mad religious cults, where everyone dresses in black and telling us all that the lord is going to come back and judge us"

Ted replies "No. Dougal that's us, that's catholicism you are talking about"

Fr Ted is sharp, cutting and funny. It is unbelievable that RTE turned it down. On second thoughts, though maybe not.

send in your reports telephone: (01) 872 2682, fax: (01) 872 3838

Union leaders urge pay cuts for young nurses

ANGER IS growing among nurses at the deal which the three unions are proposing.

After an incredible 99% ballot to reject the original offer by management, the leaders of the Nursing Alliance are trying to rush through a deal which grossly discriminates against younger workers.

The deal would represent an endorsement by the unions of 'yellow pack' grades.

Grades

Under the new deal, salaries of first year qualified nurses are to be cut by £1,000.

Two new grades are to be introduced and even second year nurses will find their pay £500 below their original start-

ing point now.

"It is a disgrace that unions should be advocating a pay cut for some of their lowest paid members."

"Student nurses were more

than willing to come out on strike.

"They would not have broken picket lines to help management."

"Is this the thanks they get

from the union leaders?" one psychiatric nurse told *Socialist Worker*.

Most of the pay increases go to staff nurses at the top end of the pay scale.

Increase

But even here, the union leaders are trying to exaggerate the size of the pay increase by producing pay scales which already include the rises granted under the Programme for Competitiveness and Work.

WILL STUDENT NURSES HAVE A VOTE?

"STUDENTS are not allowed to vote for strike because the union wishes to protect them and their courses from suspension."

A strike would interfere with their studies and on-going assessment."

This is what one chairperson of a PNA branch said about students nurses who are asking have they a right to ballot on the offer.

Union executives have no right to deny student nurses who are fully paid up members of the PNA a right to ballot on a offer that would see their starting pay cut.

Solidarity is key to Early Learning strike



SEVEN Cork shop workers have been on strike since December 6th in an effort to win union recognition and a pay increase.

The Early Learning Centre is a shop for children's playthings and attempts to pride itself on being a caring company. But the strike of its Cork staff has revealed that the company is as ruthless and exploitative as any other.

The company pays experienced staff £2 an hour less than the rate established by MANDATE, the shop workers union.

The company went to the LRC, but has come away without making any new offer.

They have resorted to a number of crude tactics to try and break the spirit of the strikers.

A bouncer hovers near the doorway, taking photographs of the picket, calling the guards regularly and trying to take notes of the comments that the pickets make to people approaching the shop.

The company has made

unofficial approaches to the strikers suggesting they return to work, but without union representation.

Tactics

They have spent thousands of pounds on advertisements, and their latest move is a 20% sale in the Cork shop.

None of these tactics have deterred the strikers nor won back lost trade.

However, with financial hardship mounting the union needs to find tactics that can put more pressure on the company.

For example, the Early Learning Centre depends a lot on mail orders, and with ICTU granting an "all-out" picket MANDATE should be approaching postal workers for blacking.

Easter Saturday is the last day of the sale, and it can be anticipated that the company will be making a big effort to draw people in.

Trade Union collections are continuing to arrive, and are very important to the financial and moral strength of the strike.

They should be sent to the Early Learning Strikers c/o MANDATE, 1 Emmett Place, Cork.

TRINITY WORKERS VOTE FOR STRIKE

FOR THE third time in as many years, Trinity College workers have voted by two to one for strike action.

The issue is a pensions reduction for full-time workers, and denial of pension rights to part-timers.

The reduction of pensions to full-timers is seen as an attempt to frustrate a claim for pensions for part-timers. The employers have put this claim on the long

finger for years.

For twenty years or more college workers were promised a given pension as a condition of their contracts of employment.

Endless to-ing and fro-ing between the industrial relations forums have yielded little satisfaction. Trinity workers are now striking as a measure of last resort.

The estimated cost of honouring pen-

EIGHTY-THREE workers at Airmotive, an Aer Lingus subsidiary in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin are striking for a 10 per cent wages rise.

This is the first official strike at the plant for fifteen years.

The 83 craftworkers and inspectors are demanding the pay rise in recognition of extra qualifications awarded to them to enable them to carry out "approvals" on the engine overhauls carried out at the plant.

The Labour Court has twice turned down the claim but actually granted a similar claim to supervisors in 1991.

One striker told *Socialist Worker*, "The Labour Court—you might as well go up to the manager, you'll get the same answer."

The company claims that to concede the claim would add £236,000 to the annual pay bill.

But the workers point out that the standard of living for all Airmotive

employees has fallen over the last number of years. Shift premiums for example have fallen.

Profits

Aer Lingus has just announced profits of £53.2 million for 1995 and the strikers are keen to pursue their claim to the end.

The 83 on strike have the support of all workers in all unions in the plant and have an agreement that none of their work will be touched.

No work can leave the

plant without the strikers' say so.

The 350 workers still at work are likely to be put on protective notice over the next few days. The company has used the threat of protective notice to intimidate the workforce in the run-up to the strike.

Support for the strikers from the other workers at the plant remains high—if the 83 win other workers will be in a stronger position to win theirs.

"We are being sold a pig in a poke. Many nurses who have started to become aware of the importance of the union will be bitterly disappointed."

"We should follow the secondary teachers and give this a big thumbs down", one staff nurse said.

Cork canteen workers fight on staffing

CANTEEN workers at Cork University Hospital were again involved in unofficial industrial action in March when already minimum staffing levels finally reached an impossible low.

Exhausted staff, some of whom have been forced to work twelve days in a row for flat rate pay, walked out when management refused to replace those off sick.

This came on top of a long running dispute with management over a number of issues, including shift rotas and holidays.

Staff numbers have fallen consistently since vending machines were installed in the dining hall, but even though these have now gone management have failed to replace those jobs lost.

Fortunately the workers' demand for increased staffing levels was met in the short term. But the issue is still to be discussed with management.

The success of this dispute demonstrates the importance of rank and file action in workplaces throughout the country.

This action however has not only shown the way forward but has also given staff throughout Cork University Hospital a well needed boost and a more determined resolve, one which was deepened by the sympathy of the vast majority of patients.

Belfast PO strike vote

LAST MONTH in Belfast a meeting of 300 UCW postal workers voted unanimously to ballot for industrial action if Royal Mail attempt to implement its "Employee Agenda".

The Employee Agenda is a direct attack on postal workers. It seeks to introduce "Teamworking"—this means managers setting up groups of between six and fifteen people to review each others work.

Team members will be expected to work out holidays and monitor performance and sickness levels.

Team leaders would be managements' blue-eyed boys who drive up productivity.

The Post Office wants workers to police each other and to urge one another to work harder.

Job demarcation would go so the workers could be asked to do anything the boss wants.

The Employee Agenda also seeks to sideline the union with problems being dealt with inside the team by the team leader.

UCW members are also angry because Royal Mail wants to do away with second deliveries. If this happens 10,000 jobs could go in the next couple of years.

Part-time working would increase by as much as 50 percent. Split shifts would become a real possibility. Temporary staff would be paid off and overtime would become obliterated.

Joint general secretary of

Unofficial

But over this last year there have been a series of unofficial and illegal strikes and walkouts by postal workers in response to management's attacks, such as the 6,000 postal workers who struck in Edinburgh over attempts to axe the second delivery.

Another example was the 4,000 postal workers who walked out in London in defence of a sacked worker.

Northern Ireland postal workers should follow these examples if any attempt is made by Royal Mail management to introduce the Employee Agenda. They shouldn't even wait for a ballot on industrial action.

Such a fight by postal workers would not only beat Royal Mail attacks, it would also unite Catholic and Protestant workers in a struggle to undermine sectarianism.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside:

BSE crisis: How the beef bosses put profits before our health—centre pages

N.I. 'PEACE FORUM' ELECTION:

It's just a sectarian headcount

THE ELECTIONS which the Tories have set for the end of May will have little to do with democracy and more to do with a sectarian headcount.

■Fifteen parties are allowed to contest the poll.

Only those who received permission from the British government can go forward.

The eccentric Natural Law

party can stand but a socialist party which advocates unity between Catholic and Protestant workers is banned from the contest.

■An extremely complicated electoral system has been established.

Guarantee

Its sole aim is to guarantee two seats each for fringe loyalist parties which were linked to the UVF and UDA death squads.

The call for these elections has come from David Trimble.

It is part of his strategy to whip up sectarian feeling.

Trimble knows that the Unionist middle class have most to lose from a settlement where rights for Catholics were recognised.

He was terrified that a continuation of the ceasefire might have created conditions where fractures inside the Unionist monolith might have opened up on class lines.

The elections in May will be another sectarian head count that solves nothing.

Debate

There will be no discussion on economic issues.

There will be no debate on how the Tories have destroyed working class areas—and what can be done to fight them.

The only issue is 'which side' stands to gain most from all-

party talks.

Yet these talks are only about re-adjusting the sectarian arrangements in the North so that a new balance of poverty is struck between Catholic and Protestant workers.

Instead of being sucked into this fraud, we need a political alternative that fights for workers unity and the destruction of both sectarian states in Ireland. In brief, a fighting socialist party.