

# *Socialist Worker*

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

## inside

**30,000 MARCH  
AGAINST FTAA**

PAGES 4

**NO TO THE NICE  
TREATY — PAGE 3**

**GEORGE W. BUSH:  
The corporation's President**

— page 6-7

Solidarity price £1

## PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

# LET'S STOP CAPITALISM DESTROYING OUR WORLD

- ★ 1.6 billion people live in absolute poverty
- ★ 1.3 billion people live on less than 60p a day
- ★ 1 in 5 children do not have enough to eat
- ★ 160 million children suffer from malnutrition
- ★ 40,000 children die every day from diseases associated with malnutrition

**Our town is not for sale**

ACCORDING TO Richard Boyd Barrett, of and the local Socialist Alliance and Chair of the Dun Laoghaire bin charges campaign, "Dun Laoghaire is being sold off, bit by bit, to big business. A golden circle of politicians, council officials and developers want to turn Dun Laoghaire into Ireland's Riviera.

Working class people are being squeezed out to create a playground for the super-rich.

Everywhere profit is being put before people."

He said, "Already we have an exclusive Marina to which the public have no access. Now they also want to commercialise the whole west pier."

"Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown has one of the longest housing lists in the country. Yet instead of building more social housing land is handed over to developers to build expensive 'yuppie' apartments. Buying a home is now out of the reach of ordinary workers."

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Stop the corporate take-over of Dun Laoghaire

Speakers: John deCourcy-Ireland, Richard Boyd Barrett (SWP & Chair of Campaign against Service Charges), Conor O'Brien (ATTAC Ireland)  
Wed 25th April  
8pm Dun Laoghaire Christian Institute

★ Fewer than one in five people wants the Government to hold an abortion referendum, according to the results of an opinion poll commissioned by Abortion Reform, an umbrella group including the Irish Family Planning Association, the Dublin Abortion Rights Group, Women's Aid and Lawyers for Choice.

The poll found that 62 per cent of people questioned said some Irish women should be allowed to have abortions here. Only 17 per cent of those polled wanted a referendum to amend the Constitution to prohibit abortion.

Only 16 per cent of people said they were against abortion in any circumstances.

**ANTI NICE TREATY**

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Thurs 26th April  
8.00pm  
Harbour Hotel, Galway  
Organised by AFRI & One World Centre

★ More reports from campaigns, industry and the unions turn to page 10 and 11

**Letterfrack scandal reveals:**

**Child slavery in Ireland**

**AS ALL eyes were turned on the appalling story of the dilapidated Nigerian child slave ship, the body of Willie Delaney, who died in 1970 aged 13, was exhumed.**

Willie was a child slave but he did not live in some far away country where these things happen. He lived and died in Ireland.

Willie died during a summer visit home from the school. He complained of headaches before collapsing and never regained consciousness.

Residents of the school at the time have since told gardai that he had been severely beaten shortly before leaving Letterfrack.

Letterfrack was an Industrial School, established by the Christian Brothers in 1887 in a remote area of Connemara to discipline and mould unruly working class boys. It became an effective money-making machine for 87 years until its closure in 1974.

**Services**

Mary Raftery and Eoin O'Sullivan in their book *Suffer Little Children* tell how the institution's letterhead advertised a long list of services: "Orders Received in Tailoring, Bootmaking, Carpentry, Bakery, Cartmaking, Smithwork, Also Wire Mattress, Hosiery, Hearth Rugs, Motors Repaired, Petrol & Oils Supplied."

For decades Irish children were uprooted from their families, worked like dogs, deprived of a decent education and sexually abused. Boys as young as six worked long hours at various "industries" to make profits for the Christian Brothers

If a boy mitched from school or simply came from a working class home during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, he often ended up in Letterfrack or a similar institution dotted around Ireland at the time.

It did nothing to educate the children placed in its care. While Willie was at the school, an internal Department of Education memo acknowledged the utter inadequacy of schooling, due in part to "pupils, particularly senior pupils, having to undertake tiring physical work in the afternoons due to [the] shortage of paid labour in the institution."

To the Christian Brothers, children like

Willie were nothing more than economic assets.

Their profits depended on securing as many as possible of what the Brothers' internal visitors' report for 1953 calls "these children who mean so much financially to the institution".

**Supplies**

The report for 1952 notes that the brother in charge of the farm "is ever on the outlook for boys in all the centres he travels to in securing stock and supplies. To his credit goes the goodly numbers that are generally maintained in the school."

The more inmates sent by the courts, the more profitable was the Letterfrack

operation. While Willie was there, Letterfrack was making approximately £12,000 per year.

The children who produced these profits were fair game for sexual abuse and physical violence.

In the early 1970s, even the Christian Brothers' own internal reports were highlighting problems of abuse.

The 1972 report notes that the brother in charge of administering punishment was "over-rigid with the boys" and "scarcely a suitable person to hold his present position".

Nineteen former staff members most of them Christian Brothers are facing charges.

**St Vincent de Paul slams government**

**MINISTER FOR Health Micheal Martin must have been a little uneasy at the launch of St Vincent de Paul's health policy document last week.**

The document produced by people who work at the coal-face of poverty in Ireland is a stinging attack on the government's handling of health.

According to the society the government's plan of "delivering healthcare based on equality and accountability" was a "comprehensive failure".

- The report says that Ireland has**
- ★ the worst life expectancy in the EU
  - ★ the highest rate of premature heart disease caused by coronary heart disease.
  - ★ the lowest number of acute hospital beds per capita in the EU
  - ★ and a five year waiting list for children waiting for orthodontic treatment.

It seemed to be more of a grimace rather than a smile on Mr Martin's face at the launch of the report.

**Irish rich cash in — off-shore of course**

OVER THE past five years the Irish rich have increased their wealth by 160 percent three times the rate or economic growth. Only America's richest 100 matches that performance in the same period.

The richest man in Ireland is still John Dorrance with IR£1.634 billion. By spending about £1m on a forestry project in Wicklow, he obtained an Irish passport and became a tax exile.

While Dorrance left the US for Ireland to avoid tax, many of his friends have made the opposite journey.

At number two on the list, Sir Tony O'Reilly of the offshore accounts has apparently not been resident in Ireland since 1971.

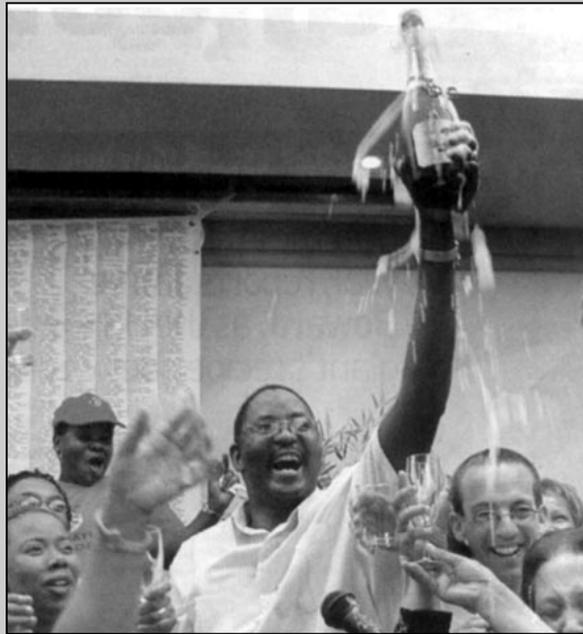
He now resides in the Bahamas and is worth £1.61

billion. Tony Ryan who, with his sons, makes up the third richest family in Ireland with £665m, is resident in Monte Carlo, where there is no income tax. Michael Smurfit (£247m) is there, too. Denis O'Brien (£323m) is in Portugal, Dermot Desmond (£576m) is in Gibraltar and JP McManus (£297m) lives in Switzerland.

Others in the top 30 are also paying less tax than might be expected. In 1969 as finance minister, every rich person's best friend, Charles Haughey, introduced a scheme whereby income generated by stallions would be tax-free.

The biggest beneficiary is John Magnier (IR£186m), who was appointed to the Seanad by Haughey in 1987.

**Victory over the Drug barons**



*Aids activists in South Africa celebrate after the collapse of the Giant drug multinationals' attempts to sue the South African Government for using cheaper non-brand drugs in the treatment of Aids*

**Intel Boss makes good**

**WHILE THE construction of the FAB 24 plant at Intel Leixlip was put "on hold" you can be sure of one thing, the recession in the American economy will not affect the Intel Fat Cats too much.**

A ban on overtime and worldwide sackings has caused many Intel workers in Ireland to start fearing for their futures. But Intel CEO

Mr Craig R Barret continues to live the high-life. The 61-year-old American lives on a 333-acre resort in Triple Creek Ranch in Montana, he also owns residences in Paradise Valley in Arizona and Silicon Valley.

Craig also enjoys a number of interesting past-times such as flying F-16 fighter planes!

So while the lives of the ordinary workers in Intel worldwide are hit hard by the American recession we can be sure that Craig will hardly feel the pinch on his 333-acre ranch.

**What Ahern's GAA bribe could have bought**

**BERTIE AHERN** has announced that the government is giving the GAA £60 million over the next three years for the development of Croke Park followed by a further £130 million over the next 10 years.

If you compare this with government spending in other areas it seems Ahern thinks that the GAA is a far higher priority than basic services for ordinary people.

The GAA will get: ★ FIVE times as much as the budget allocated to an initiative to tackle the scandalous waiting lists for

public hospital treatment.

★ SIXTY times the money being spent this year on trying to improve the health of Travellers, a group whose life expectancy remains at Third World levels.

★ SEVENTY times the extra grants to tackle educational disadvantage in primary schools.

★ TWICE what Charlie McCreevy allocated to increasing child benefit in the last Budget.

★ TWICE the allocation for people with intellectual disabilities, a group whose basic educational needs the Government is currently seeking to deny in its Supreme Court appeal in the Sinnott case.

**Food fight back**

**ACCORDING to the Jakarta Post** sacked Indonesian hotel workers are not taking their dismissal lying down.

The workers are offering cheap five-star food at a street café, the Solidarity Food Stall, in Jakarta, with dishes like Stop Dismissal Fried Rice and Dim Sum of Struggle.

The dishes reflect the plight of around 500

workers at the Shangri-La Hotel.

The workers want the hotel to take them back after three months of striking for better pay.

Products are also named after organisations, which have supported the strike.

The café's head, Jojo Suharto says any profits will be used to support the workers and the publicity will promote their cause.

## what we think

# Vote NO to Nice

### Nice Treaty speeds up militarisation

It calls for:

- 'the progressive framing of a common defence policy, which might lead to common defence'.
- 'co-operation between (EU states) in the field of armaments.'
- 'Political and Security Committee (which) shall monitor the international situation in areas covered by the common foreign and security policy'.
- This body is supposed to give 'strategic direction in crisis management situations'—or, in other words, war.

**IRELAND IS the only country in the EU that is being given a vote on the Nice Treaty. We should use it to vote No to the creation of a military superpower and to more privatisation.**

The Brussels bureaucracy have already formed a 60,000 Rapid Reaction Force which is capable of operating up to 4,000 kilometres away from the continent.

#### Launched

They are also promoting a EU arms industry. In July 2000, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain launched a Framework Agreement in which they committed themselves to 'harmonise military requirements' and develop 'common user requirements'.

The Nice Treaty does not allow the EU parliament to exercise control over military policy. Instead a small group of top politicians, generals and bureaucrats will have considerable freedom to undertake military action to support the EU's multi-nationals.

All of this means that any claim to Irish neutrality is finished for good.



## No to a bosses Europe

**THE NICE Treaty will also speed up the privatisation of basic public services.**

The key driving force behind the treaty is the European Round Table of Industrialists.

This is a lobby group which represents 47 European based multi-nationals which include Nestlé, Unilever, BP Amoco, Renault, Marconi, ICI, Olivetti, BT and Fiat.

#### Liberalisation

They have ensured that the Nice Treaty creates even more opportunities to put profit before people.

Article 133 of the Nice Treaty calls for 'the achievement of uniformity in measures of liberalisation'.

It specifically gives the Commission power to open negotiations 'in the fields of services and commercial aspects of intellectual property rights'.

The Treaty also allows the unelected EU Commission to open negotiations with organisations such as the World Trade Organisation

This organisation is currently pushing through a General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) which aims at the further de-regulation of all public

services.

The aim is to open areas like education and health to multi-nationals who want to make a profit.

## A LARGER EU — WITH LESS WORKERS' RIGHTS

**SUPPORTERS OF the Nice Treaty claim that it is designed to prepare for a larger and more peaceful Europe.**

But no special fund has been established to help the countries in Eastern Europe make the transition. Instead they will have to take on board 25,000 EU laws amounting to 80,000 pages of legal text, without changing one iota.

While the EU rulers talk about a common European homeland, they are implementing a 'fortress Europe' policy to keep out migrants from Eastern Europe.

The German government is already seeking delays to the free movement of labour rules within the EU to keep out Polish workers in future.

The real agenda of the EU lies in creating uniform economic rules, which form an open playing field for the multi-nationals. They want to scour the area for cheap labour.

In Eastern Europe, many towns are dependent on a major factory, which receives subsidies from the state. EU rules which ban these subsidies can only destroy local industry, create new market opportunities for multi-nationals.

Enlargement is also being used to centralise power in the EU around a small number of large states.

Under the Nice Treaty, the big four states—Germany, France, Italy and the UK—treble their votes to 30 each.

The big six will be able to outvote the other 21 EU states.

Even the Portuguese Prime Minister described the shift to greater centralisation as 'an institutional coup d'etat'.

## What you can do:

**THE FAILURE of the Labour Party to offer any real challenge to the growing inequality in the Celtic Tiger has prompted a number of socialist organisations and individuals to form a socialist alliance to give a real voice for the left.**

So far the alliance groups together the SWP, Socialist Democracy, the Republican Writers Group and a number of key activists in the union movement.

The first major outing for the alliance will be a campaign against the Nice Treaty.

A major public rally has been

planned for Thursday 24th May in Dublin.

The Alliance has also drawn up a fact sheet and will be producing thousands of leaflets urging a No vote.

- Order the Socialist Alliance fact sheet on the Nice Treaty. Email: [socialism@ireland.com](mailto:socialism@ireland.com)
- Help organise a Socialist Alliance meeting in your constituency to mobilise the No vote.

## Global day of action against corporate greed

### CORK:

Globalise Resistance  
MAY DAY RALLY  
Imperial Hotel Tuesday  
May 1st, 8pm

### BELFAST:

Belfast Trades Council  
MAY DAY MARCH  
Saturday 5th May  
Assemble 11am  
Art College Gardens

### DUBLIN:

PROTEST AT STOCK  
EXCHANGE 4:30pm,  
May 1, Angelsea St

### OUR WORLD IS NOT FOR SALE

Rally in Burke theatre,  
Trinity College  
7pm, May 1

### DUBLIN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

MAY DAY MARCH  
AND RALLY  
Monday 7th May  
Assemble 1pm Parnell Square  
March to Rally at James Connolly Memorial,  
Bersford Place

### DERRY:

Socialist and Environmental Alliance  
FESTIVAL FOR MAY DAY

Tuesday 1st May  
Guildhall

### DROGHEDA:

MAY DAY RALLY  
Tuesday 1st May  
8.00pm  
West Court Hotel,  
Drogheda  
3.00pm-6.30pm  
The Peoples Park,  
Waterford.

### GALWAY:

Globalise Resistance  
MAY DAY  
PEOPLE AND PLANET RALLY  
Tuesday May 7th 2pm

### WATERFORD:

TRADES COUNCIL  
MAY-DAY  
CELEBRATION  
CARNIVAL  
The Peoples Park,  
Waterford  
Monday 7th May  
3pm - 6pm



## May Day Diary

## FTAA protest in Quebec...

# 30,000 march for 'People not profit'

**THE LEADERS of 34 American countries were besieged in the Canadian city of Quebec, as at least 30,000 anti capitalist protestors blockaded the Free Trade Area of the Americas summit.**

Environmentalists, trade unionists and anti capitalists united and fought on the streets for two days, to demonstrate their opposition to the FTAA's drastic attack on environmental and labour rights.

According to George Bush "Trade not only helps spread prosperity but trade helps spread freedom." but the "defenders of freedom", violently attacked protestors. Over 150 people were arrested.

There was so much tear gas in the air, the delegates needed huge fans to attempt to keep it away from the meetings. Cops broke up the protestors medical centre, and one man had a rubber bullet fired into his neck.

Solidarity protests were held in cities all over North and South America. In the financial district of São Paulo, the largest industrial city of South America, paramilitary riot police were unleashed against an anti capitalist protest in front of the Central Bank of Brazil.

### Clubbed

Injuries were serious, many demonstrators were clubbed into the ground, and there were over 60 arrests.

What the media ignored was the scale and diversity of the protest. The Canadian police said there were 30,000 protestors—some

Independent Media reports say 50,000.

There were banners from tens of unions, environmental groups, ATTAC and many others. Protestors chanted "Trabajos Con Justicia (Jobs With Justice)," "The World Is Not For Sale." Canadian Auto Workers in their 20s chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho / Free trade has got to go."

### Power

"Free trade means open markets, which means power goes to the powerful and not to the people," protestor Michael Sacco 25-year-old student from Toronto.

"The multinationals want to own everything. We are here to protest against exploitation," said one protestor, 19-year-old Alex Lalanne from Montreal.

His friend Marie Eve Beaudin, 18, added: "We are here to protest against the lack of democracy."



Demonstrators defy violence and intimidation by police to voice their opposition

## Workers fight globalisation

**TRADE UNIONISTS came out in force to oppose the summit. "I'm here for my kids future. Unions have to be loud. It's all about the power of the people," said one demonstrator, Randy.**

"Safety and wages have

declined. We pay taxes, but the corporations are on a greed drive. CEOs regularly make \$6 or \$7 million."

### Sale

According to one Teamster, "Bush should never have crossed the border. Everything now is coming from the corporations. Quality of life is not for sale.

We also need to stop deforestation. And look at the energy crisis in California. Bush said no to the Kyoto Accords.

"They'll do anything for a buck, but there needs to be a limit somewhere. You know, it's heading toward revolution."

Another protestor said, "The FTAA is outrageous because it affects all workers. It levels [workers' stan-

dards of living] from the bottom-up, so eventually corporations would control the whole world.

"This has enormous implications for children. If we don't wake up now it will be too late.

### Harder

"We need to hit harder. After all, we elect them

[government officials], and they're not listening to anyone.

"It takes a lot of nerve to say that it's a democracy. What a democracy!"

According to a Steel Workers Union member "I'm here because human rights are being overtaken by investor rights. The bottom line should be the people, not profits."

## Onward to Genoa

**GINO KENNY is a young SIPTU shop steward who will be joining the huge protests in Genoa on July 20-22 against the leaders of the G8 big powers summit meeting.**

He works as a care attendant in a Dublin hospital looking after older geriatric patients. It has brought home to him the reality of neo-liberal policies.

### Reality

"The Irish Times had an article recently where they showed that we are spending less on the public services than they are in the

*The G8 summit brings together the leaders of the main countries who decide economic policy on the planet. It produces the directives for the World Trade Organisation, the IMF and the World Bank.*

*These organisations are responsible for the policy of extracting debt re-payments from the developing world. They are also involved in promoting the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which will open up the public services for privatisation and competition from multi-nationals.*

*The protests in Genoa are supported by: Drop the Debt, Rete Contro G8 (Italy) Rifondazione Comunista (Italy) Ya Basta (Italy) ATTAC (in eight countries) the Trade Union Congress (Greece) World Rainforest Movement, Focus on the Global South (Thailand) and hundreds of other organisations*

Philippines. This is the reality behind McCreery's policies of cutting taxes for the rich. Neo-liberalism means a race to the bottom where we are supposed to give multi-nationals everything they want."

Gino comes from Neilstown in North Clondalkin.

"It is an area of 20,000

people with the usual problems you get in any working class housing estate. People feel really disenfranchised from politics. They think it has little to do with their lives.

"I think that the global anti-capitalist movement is a chance to start changing all that. It gives you a chance to talk about all the big

issues that are not mentioned in conventional politics—Third World debt and sweatshop labour.

"Sweatshop labour can affect people in Neilstown as much as in any other part of the world"

Last September Gino travelled to Prague to join the big anti-capitalist protests there. After the

local paper, the *Tallaght Echo* did a story on him.

"They print a headline 'Anti-Trade man goes to Prague Protest'. But the rest of the article explained what the protest was about. I had friends come up to me afterwards asking questions and it was a good opportunity to explain what the anti-capitalist movement is all about.

### Spreading

"I think the movement has matured since Prague. It is getting bigger and spreading across the globe. But we have to keep the heat on these world leaders.

I will be raising this issue in my union and getting sponsorship from work-mates and friends. Anyone can do the same. We should make the effort and get to Genoa in July.

### Globalise Resistance

## Get on board for Genoa

20 - 22 July



### How to Get There

**GLOBALISE Resistance in Ireland is organising a number of options for getting to Genoa.**

**FROM DUBLIN:**  
Coach: There are two coaches. One is leaving Dublin on Wednesday evening 18th July and returning Tuesday 24th July. The fare is £90.

A second coach will give an opportunity to spend more time in Genoa.

It leaves on Saturday July 14th and returns on Wednesday 25th. The fare

here is £110.

Plane: Globalise Resistance have booked a limited number of plane seats - leaving Dublin 19th July and arriving back on 21st. The fare is £320.

Accommodation will be organised on campsites or hostel.

For details of travel arrangement from the North Ring **Book your seat now.**

Enquiries to Globalise resistance or globalise\_resistance@yahoo.com or write to Globalise Resistance 31 Whitworth Rd, Dublin 9.

# Eamonn McCann

## Lid yet to be lifted on Army

**AS THE SAVILLE Inquiry into Bloody Sunday resumes on April 30th, the role of the State both in murder and in the cover-up of murder comes more clearly into focus.**

Nobody at the hearings argues any more that the killings were in any way justified. The dead and wounded will be "acquitted", the British Army gunmen "convicted". Lawyers for the soldiers have already conceded that none of the victims had been carrying guns or explosives.

The points at issue now concern who in the political and military hierarchy conspired to bring the killings about, and who is now involved in continuing to hide the truth.

There has been widespread publicity about the willingness, or otherwise, of members of the Provisional and Official IRAs to give sworn evidence about what they were up to on the day. But far more significant is what senior officials of the London and Belfast governments were up to.

Among those who have failed to answer appeals from the Inquiry for evidence are Unionist MP John Taylor and the former head of the Northern Ireland civil service Kenneth Bloomfield. Taylor chaired and Bloomfield attended a key meeting of the Stormont Joint Security Committee just three days before Bloody Sunday.

Also present were the top British Army officer in the North, General Harry Tuzo, and the RUC chief constable, Graham Shillington. The cryptic minutes which have become available refer to a discussion about the anti-internment march in Derry the following Sunday. The question is, what was said during this discussion? What was Tuzo urged to do, and what did he undertake to do?

**The fact that neither Taylor nor Bloomfield has come forward suggests either that they have a couldn't-care-less attitude to the truth about the massacre—or, and more likely, that they have reason to fear the truth coming out. (Bloomfield, bizarrely, is now the North's "Victims' Commissioner", the man responsible for vindicating the interests of innocent casualties of the Troubles.)**

It's clear, too, that the British establishment at the highest levels is still involved in a cover-up. Home Secretary Jack Straw and Defence Minister Geoffrey Hoon have issued "gagging orders" to prevent the disclosure of critical evidence.

This includes the source of allegations that Martin McGuinness had once admitted firing the first shot on Bloody Sunday; that the IRA had been planning an ambush on British soldiers as they came into the Bogside; and that this ambush had indeed taken place.

### Interest

These allegations have already been entered in the body of evidence. But Straw and Hoon don't want the evidence tested—on the ground that revealing the sources would damage "the national interest" (a telling insight into whose interest is included in this much-used phrase).

There is more than a suspicion that Straw and Hoon are simply acting as mouthpieces for senior military and intelligence elements who want the Inquiry aborted.

It has been spelled out by the Inquiry's own QC, Christopher Clarke, that if Saville overrules the gagging orders, but is then himself overruled in an appeal to the High Court and the gagging orders reinstated, the Inquiry would have to report to Parliament that it is not in a position to complete its task.

**This would imply a devious conspiracy to thwart the Inquiry. Which may seem too Machiavellian to some. Time will tell. What's already beyond argument is that two New Labour ministers have been involved in a manoeuvre to keep relevant information from an Inquiry established by the Parliament which both they and the Inquiry are supposedly answerable to.**

Whether or not, in the end, the Saville Inquiry reveals the truth about Bloody Sunday, it has already revealed the real attitude of the ruling class and its military and political agents to the "parliamentary democracy" they constantly acclaim.

It was that attitude, of course, and the contempt for ordinary people which it implies, which lay behind the Bloody Sunday killings in the first place.

## Socialist & Environmental Alliance launched...

# Time for a new alternative

**A NEWLY-FORMED Socialist Environment Alliance is planning to stand candidates in the local elections in Derry on June 7. The group has already selected two candidates and is hoping to stand in other areas of the city.**

Colm Bryce, a local socialist, who is the candidate for the Northland Ward, explained how the Alliance was formed. "A lot of us have been campaigning over issues like the new Raytheon arms factory, against the plans for an incinerator and things like low pay.

In every case, you find that the main political parties, nationalist and unionist, are either completely pro-business or else reluctant to take an open stand against the big business agenda.

"The only debate so far in this election has been whether Sinn Fein will outpoll the SDLP.

"This is politics that takes people for granted and says that communal politics is all that matters.

### Positive

"We want to provide a positive alternative to sectarian politics, that aims to promote the common interests of ordinary Protestants and Catholics."

"You only have to look at the £800 million arms contract given to Raytheon and the lack of funding for social workers, teaching assistants and community projects to see that their priorities are rotten.

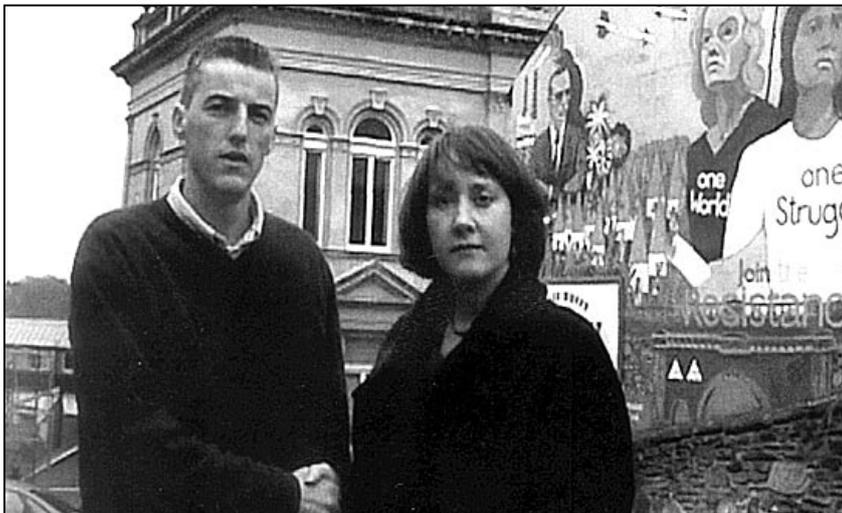
"All along the river in Derry there are new multinational supermarkets and luxury flats, yet there is a massive shortage of affordable housing.

"What's going on in Derry is the same as what is happening around the world. That same movement of opposition to capitalism that we have seen in Seattle and now in Quebec is needed here as well and we hope that the elections can be a part of promoting that."

The new group is a coalition of socialists, environmentalists, trade unionists and other campaigners.

### Rights

The SEA is standing on a broad platform of support for recycling of waste and opposition to an incinerator, for trade union rights and a minimum wage of £7 an hour in all multinational and local firms, and for increased funding for public services and opposition to



Patricia McKenna and Colm Bryce at the Anti-Globalisation mural in Derry

privatisation. "It makes perfect sense for us to get together to promote left-wing and green issues in the elections here. It's been a very exciting development, everyone has been very positive.

"We've had people along who were in the Labour Party in the 1960s and who say the local council looks the same as it did before the civil rights movement, with unionists and nationalist arguing about nothing while people on both sides live in poverty.

"There are also younger people involved, and we can all see that things are changing in the North. People want to move on, there's a space now for genuine left-wing politics and it's up to the left to start taking that seriously and try to give it expression.

### Build

"Standing in the local elections is quite a modest start. But we're hoping that we come out of this stronger, with more people active in local campaigns and with something to build on for the future."

The SEA has been

endorsed by Patricia McKenna, the Green Party MEP, who visited Derry recently as part of the Easter weekend protests against Raytheon and the arms trade.

"I believe that the SEA will be contributing something new to the politics of Northern Ireland.

"It is good to have a political voice that is going to raise issues of socialism and also on environmental issues. It is very important to have that in the modern political agenda.

"The SEA could actually see the political agenda in relation to issues that have been overlooked up until now."

### SEA MEETINGS

**The SEA meets every Wednesday night at 8pm in the Nucleus, Pump Street, Derry.**

For more information phone or

## Low wage marketing

**NORTHERN Ireland is being marketed as call centre heaven to multinational firms.**

The Industrial Development Board tells foreign investors that industrial disputes are rare and that workers are affordable: "Wages and salaries in Northern Ireland are highly competitive with other regions of the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and up to 35 per cent lower than in the U.S."

A special report in the *Irish Times* spelt it out further: "Wages and salaries in Northern Ireland are 18 per cent lower than in the Republic of Ireland and 11 per cent below the rest of Britain."

In the past few weeks, the Bank of Ireland, Acer Inc of Taiwan and TeleTech Holdings from Denver have announced that they'll be opening call centres in Belfast and Newry.

### Grants

And while the employers are penny-pinching on workers' pay rates, the IDB is not quite as tight with its cash. It paid out £7.17 million in grants towards TeleTech's call centre which cost £11 million in total.

It financed half of Acer's £2 million investment in Belfast. And it helped out Bank of Ireland with £2.25 million.

In other words, workers' taxes are being used to subsidise a new sector with low pay, lousy conditions and no unions.

## Patten's plastic bullets

**NEW PLASTIC bullets are to be introduced in Northern Ireland in June as part of Chris Patten's RUC reforms. They are deadlier than the old ones.**

A report by the government's own Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC) expresses concern about situations where a plastic bullet hits a victim's head.

It says: "The severity of injuries to the brain is likely to be greater with the L21A1 [the new bullet] due to

higher pressures on the brain and greater penetration of the projectile."

Where the new plastic bullet strikes someone's skull head-on "there is a risk that the projectile will be retained in the head."

### Injuries

The DSAC also says there will be more intra-abdominal injuries and that the bullet is more likely to ricochet.

The new version is supposed to be

more accurate when used according to guidelines.

Bullets are only supposed to be fired at selected individuals, aimed below the rib cage at no less than 20 metres. But those rules are broken all the time.

The Pat Finucane Centre for Human Rights says: "There is abundant evidence over the years that plastic bullets are deliberately fired at the upper body." Fourteen people have died of plastic bullet injuries—seven of them school children.

**No Sweatshops**

**Fighting the wage GAP**

AMERICAN CLOTHES giants Gap have just opened an outlet at Arnotts in Dublin. Like Nike, Gap is a company with a public image that is very different to their rather dubious work practices.

They have used images of James Dean and Jack Kerouac in beige khaki trousers to highlight the "rebelliousness" of wearing their clothes.

Unlike Nike, they appeared, at a superficial level at least, to be committed to cleaning up their act. But the realities of corporate madness in the capitalist system means that they can't end sweat labour and still compete with their rivals.

This would involve a drop in profit for shareholders, which is illegal. Their compromise to the wave of protests that highlighted their practices was allowing one factory in El Salvador to be monitored by local human rights observers.

This was only after a factory manager fired 150 workers and swore "blood will flow" if union organising continued.

**Barbed wire**

They also have the pleasure of inward pointing barbed wire around their living quarters. They also have a curfew and are monitored by guards.

A US Occupational Safety and Health Association report cited over a thousand violations in relation to safety in the factory.

There was insufficient clean drinking water, exposed electrical wiring and blocked fire exits.

Gap claim that they are "eradicating sweatshops in America" and have implemented a code of conduct to guarantee a safe working environment.

Gap deny the listed abuses even happen, so can't do anything about them.

Already activists have placed one picket on the Gap store in Dublin. Anyone wanting to get involved in the fight against sweatshops should contact Globalise Resistance at [globalise\\_resistance@yahoo.com](mailto:globalise_resistance@yahoo.com) or ring 086-4099186.

In Russia they pay factory workers 11 cents an hour and keep them in slave like conditions it is believed.

Reports from a Honduran factory talk about forced pregnancy tests, locked bathrooms all night and overtime. All for \$4 a day.

This doesn't even cover a third of the workers basic needs. On the island of Saipan, a small US territory near Guam in the South

**George W Bush:**

**PRESIDENT FOR CORPORATIONS**

George Bush celebrated 100 days as US president recently. During those 100 days he tore up the Kyoto agreement on climate control. He provoked a crisis with China by refusing to apologise when one of his spy planes crashed into a Chinese jet. And he is threatening a new Cold War with a plan to massively expand arms expenditure.

BUSH PUT two fingers up to the rest of the world last month and said he would not abide by the Kyoto protocol on global warming signed by the US in 1997.

It involved only the tiniest reforms - reducing greenhouse gases by 7 percent below 1992 levels by 2012.

The US has just 4 percent of the world's population, but it is responsible for 25 percent of the greenhouse gases, which are dangerously warming the planet.

These gases come from unregulated power stations, industrial plants and cars.

Bush made the speech. But big money was talking.

During two months in office Bush has shown that he is the polluter's friend. He has also thrown out new standards limiting the amount of arsenic in drinking water, and has allowed mining companies to ignore fines for environmental damage.

Bush and vice President Dick

Chaney took \$47 million from energy companies for their campaign and then installed representatives of the biggest polluters at the centre of Bush's administration.

Bush's national security adviser is Condoleezza Rice, former director of Chevron Oil, who has an oil tanker named after her.

**Backer**

Bush's biggest corporate backer is energy supplier Enron Corp which gave \$1 million to his campaign.

As Texas state governor, he made sure Enron was one of 26 companies exempted from compliance with clean air laws.

Gale Norton, Interior Secretary, was a lobbyist for the National Lead Company and co-founded Republicans for Environmental Advocacy, which is sponsored by the National Coal Council, the Chemical Manufacturers' Association, the National Mining Association and the Chlorine Chemical Council.

**Son of Star Wars madness**

GEORGE W BUSH last month gave the go-ahead for the National Missile Defense system. Initially costing at least \$26 billion it has been dubbed "Son of Star Wars".

Its aim is to create a shield that would allow the US to launch a nuclear strike on any other nuclear power without fear of retaliation.

The original Star Wars - Ronald Reagan's "Strategic Defense Initiative" ended in failure. Experts still doubt it will work.

Nevertheless Bush has decided to turn up the heat to assert US military superiority throughout the globe to back up US economic

interests. Bush represents those in the US big-business and government who want to push forward with this agenda as the US economy enters stormy waters.

And US arms manufacturers contributed millions to his election campaign.

They have been lobbying hard for NMD because they stand to gain huge contracts and mega profits. They include:

- Lockheed Martin - the biggest arms company in the world. It made over \$1 billion profit in 1998.
- Raytheon - the third biggest arms company. It made \$864 million in 1998.
- TRW - ninth biggest. Profits \$477 million.
- Litton - eleven biggest. Profits \$181 million.



Protesting against Bush

**Should we unite with the right-wing against the IMF?**

THE IMF AND World Bank have been in the forefront of pushing the neo-liberal agenda around the world. But now some right wing voices in the Bush administration are calling for the scaling back or dismantling of its institutions like the WTO, IMF and World Bank.

From the left, Walden Bello, a key leader of the movement against capitalist globalisation ever since Seattle has suggested these voices represent an opportunity.

Bello co-wrote a paper recently in which he pointed out that a huge crisis of legitimacy surrounded these institutions: "When it comes to the IMF and World Bank, the time is ripe to press and build up a global campaign for decommissioning or neutering these institutions."

In this all socialists will agree, but the paper goes on to say: "With the Republicans and Democrats in Congress evincing similar sentiments [to Bush appointees demanding the scaling back of IMF-World Bank etc], international civil society and labour

unions might add their weight to form a critical mass that would determine the future of these institutions."

**Alliance**

Bello is suggesting a tactical alliance with Republican opponents of these institutions.

But it is clear that the Bush administration speaks for those in US big business that want to be free of the restraints imposed by international co-operation with other leading capitalist states. That is why they want to weaken or abolish



*"Our hemisphere's support for democracy and freedom is principled, but it is also pragmatic. Freedom is not only a right, it is also our best weapon against tyranny and poverty. We seek freedom, not only for people living within our borders, but also for commerce moving across our borders."*  
- GEORGE BUSH

**Right to vote Nader**

SOME PEOPLE sickened by Bush's policies argue it was wrong for left-wingers to support Ralph Nader last year's presidential election.

Instead the Democrat Al Gore should have been supported as the "lesser evil".

But on Kyoto Clinton and Gore allowed greenhouse gas emissions to rise by 12 percent between 1992 and 1997. Clinton did nothing to confront a Senate which passed a resolution banning any treaty which harmed US "economic growth".

On warring Iraq, it was Clinton that bombed Serbia and Kosovo. Clinton continued the murderous sanctions policy against Iraq and regularly ordered bombing raids on the country.

It would be a serious mistake to believe we can conclude tactical alliances with some of our most dangerous enemies.

Both Republicans and Democrats vie to represent the interests of big business and the multi-nationals. Nader stood out against corporate America.

He received 2.8 million votes and in Alaska - where the rights of oil companies to drill through a wildlife refuge was a major issue - he won 10 percent of the vote.

A quarter of a million supporters gave money to his campaign and are now on the Greens' mailing list.

Speaking after the election Nader was unrepentant. He declared, "Going round the country you get the feeling there are millions of people who are really ready for a new progressive political movement."

That is the real alternative to the two faces of corporate America.

**Why the conflict with china?**

THE RECENT mid-air crash which over the South China Sea exposes differences within the Republican administration over what policy to adopt towards China.

China is a massive potential market for US producers and investors. With 1.3 billion inhabitants it represents over 20 percent of the world's population. Already Kentucky Fried Chicken and

McDonalds have between them more than 750 restaurants operating in Chinese cities.

The Chinese government has been negotiating to enter the World Trade Organisation, a process which is supposed to be concluded this year.

Huge swathes of its industry face privatisation as the economy is deregulated.

Some in the American ruling class see this as a big opportunity. China has committed to scale back the taxes and tariffs and so open up demand for cars for

example. At the same time the local car industry will be privatised.

Foreign multinational are keen to gobble it up and cash in on a burgeoning car market.

With an estimated 74 percent of Chinese industrial capacity uncompetitive by world standards, US firms want to get their slice of the action. These voices back China's entry into the WTO.

On the other hand, others in the Republican Party and the military argue that China represents a military and economic rival in the region.

One such ideologue, Mark Helprin, writing in the right wing *National Review* last year declared, "The United States must counter China's domination of Asia to keep the balance of geopolitical power and for the sake of our economic relations and free access to the famously independent world economy."

China has always expanded the US military power and for the sake of its economic relations and free access to the famously independent world economy."

He proposes an expansion of the US military and increased arms sales to Taiwan.

China has always claimed sovereignty over the island of Taiwan.

It was here that the discredited and defeated

pro-American Kuomintang government retreated after the revolution in 1949.

The US has upped its support for the break-away province.

US strategists have long seen it as an important base for American influence in the region.

But to improve relations with Beijing in the Pacific and regard China as the principal threat to American global dominance.

Reagan's Star Wars forced Russia into an arms race which further weakened its crippled economy.

Likewise warmongers in the US government believe a fresh arms race would hold back Russia and China today.

**what socialist say**

**Is anti-capitalism violent?**



TO BE against free-trade is to be accused of being a rioter. All the coverage of the Quebec protests focused on violence. Yet thousands had defied repressive measures and smeared to protest. In what was the biggest anti-capitalist protest in North America since Seattle.

The Quebec authorities said they were desperate to "learn the lessons of Seattle", and so built a wall around the entire conference centre to keep protesters out.

The ten-foot high wall of concrete and chain-link fencing was six miles long.

Thousands of police officers were to line up against it, including more than 3,000 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2,000 members of the Quebec provincial police, and hundreds more officers from local police departments with trained dogs.

Police officials even cleared the jails weeks ago, ready for those they intended to arrest, and tried to get a ban on the wearing of scarves!

Within the first hours of the demonstration 400 canisters of CS gas were fired.

These measures are a sign of just how terrified those at the top have become.

At the same time, the British papers have been full for weeks now with tall tales of impending doom on May Day. Led by the *Sunday Times* but backed by the liberal *Guardian* and *Observer*.

No article on anti-capitalism passes without informed sources revealing a grand conspiracy to bring destruction and violence to the streets.

They used to call this stuff black propaganda.

Yet if the press want to highlight violence there is plenty of material to use here. There are some ruthless men to put under the spotlight.

They include the patent firm bosses who, to keep up profits, deny drugs to the 25 million people in Africa with HIV.

Add to them the bankers and politicians whose policies mean 19,000 children die every day because money goes to debt repayments rather than health services.

Since the start of the new millennium nearly nine million chil-

Seattle 1999 dren have been murdered by the debt system—surely a rather more violent act even than breaking the shopfront of a burger bar.

It is a strange contradiction that the only people involved in organizing violence are the ones who spend all their time accusing any one who opposes them of violence.

Apart from the State, no other institution in society possesses such enormous military resources—guns, tanks, bombers, aircraft, ships—and no one else has the power to arrest, detain and imprison. The State has enormous powers to take life and liberty away from ordinary people, with very little comeback.

**Priority**

Across the world there is a rising anti-capitalist minority that hates the priority of profit before people.

The police, the bosses and their press can feel the ground beginning to shift under their feet. So they are on the counter attack.

But from Gothenburg in Sweden to Salzburg in Austria, Barcelona in Spain and Genoa in Italy, the rich and powerful will be greeted with protests whenever they try to meet in Europe this summer. We must not be intimidated. We must assert our right to protest against the brutalities meted out by capitalism and keep the pressure on those at the top.

One response is to belittle and slur the movement, another is to demonise and repress it.

History is full of politicians and journalists who have accused protesters of being anti-democratic. But the truth is the opposite.

The protesters throughout history are generally the ones who are fighting for more democracy. Mass protest, usually in defiance of the law, has again and again been necessary to win the smallest reforms.

So far in Ireland anti-capitalist protests have tended to be ignored by the media rather than vilified. But seeing the way the press treat the taxi drivers and the teachers it is only a matter of time.

In trying to brand protesters as violent thugs, the state and its allies are asserting the right of a small minority to run society unchallenged.

And that should be just one more reason to challenge them.

by SIMON BASKETTER

**The Celtic Tiger and the myth of Social Partnership**  
£13.60 plus £1.50 p+p  
Available from SW Books, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.



## THE RALAHINE COMMUNE

by SIMON  
BASKETTER

# Ireland's 'magnificent socialist experiment'



A contemporary drawing of the Ralahine commune

**T**HE VILLAGE Project recently launched an attempt to build a sustainable eco-village in Ireland. But it is far from the first such attempt in.

The Ralahine Commune was a co-operative society founded in 1831 on the estate of John Vandeleur at Ralahine, Co. Clare. It originated from a paternalistic attempt by Vandeleur to keep his tenants away from secret societies like the "Ribbonmen".

But he brought a socialist called Thomas Craig from England to advise him on the establishment of the commune, which came into existence on the 7th of November 1831.

Despite the fact Craig knew no Irish, and the people of Ralahine, knew no English the

commune thrived on radical ideas.

Vandeleur did not make it easy for the co-op workers. The rent Vandeleur required the society to pay him was higher than the national average at the time, and while the workers did begin to amass savings from their earnings, it would have taken many years to accumulate "sufficient" funds to pay for "the stock, implements of husbandry and other property" belonging to Vandeleur.

*The purpose of the commune was to acquire common capital or a common wealth, in order to protect its members against the damage of old age and sickness, to achieve the mental and moral improvement of its adult members and to educate their children.*

The commune consisted of twenty-two single adult men, seven married men and their wives, five single women, four orphan boys, three orphan girls and five infants under the

age of nine.

Craig believed that the peasants were kept ignorant by a social system that was driven by a combination of absentee landlords, their Irish agents, the Catholic middle classes, Catholic priests.

Their other problem was access to land and seed. "Others objected to the system," Craig observed, "because it was not in accordance with the established rules of political economy and the relation of landlord, farmer and labourer, and the three profits or rents."

Though Craig was the manager, the decisions were collective. The rules of the commune said, "The society to be governed, and its business transacted, by a committee of nine members, to be chosen half-yearly, by ballot, by all the adult male and female members.

"That there be a general weekly meeting of the society; that the treasurer's accounts be

audited by the committee, and read over to the society; that the 'Suggestion Book' be also read at this meeting."

**A**ll disputes between the members were settled by appeals to a general meeting in which all adults had a say. A list of rules were written up and each member of the commune had to live by them. Alcohol, tobacco and snuff were banned, as was gambling of any kind.

Instead of money, the workers were paid "labour notes" which they could spend

in the co-operative store. In this way the commune would be more self-sufficient as the members would be buying goods they themselves had worked to produce.

If they wished to spend money outside the commune the treasurer would change the labour notes into coins for them.

New machinery was bought and the first moving machine in Ireland was introduced by the Ralahine Commune. According to Craig, "The advantages of the labour notes were soon evident in the saving of members. They had no anxiety as to

*"In the most crime-ridden county in Ireland this partial experiment in Socialism abolished crime. Where the fiercest fight for religious domination had been fought it brought the mildest tolerance.*

*Where drunkenness had fed fuel to the darkest passions it established sobriety and gentleness.*

*Where poverty and destitution had engendered brutality, midnight marauding, and a contempt for all social bonds, it enthroned security, peace and reverence for justice, and it did this solely by virtue of the influence of the new social*

*conception attendant upon the institution of common property bringing a common interest to all.*

*"Where such changes came in the bud, what might we not expect from the flower? If a partial experiment in Socialism, with all the drawbacks of an experiment, will achieve such magnificent results what could we not rightfully look for were all Ireland, all the world, so organised on the basis of common property, and exploitation and mastership forever abolished?"*

— James Connolly on Ralahine

employment, wages, or the price of provisions. Each could partake of as much vegetable food as he or she could desire. The expenses of the children from infancy, for food or education, were provided for out of the common fund."

**I**n a moment of madness not unusual among the Anglo-Irish landlord class, Vandeleur's utopian scheme crashed when he lost at the gaming tables, fled the country and allowed a Limerick relative to file for bankruptcy against him.

The commune failed because the proprietor of the land, John Scott Vandeleur, retained legal ownership of the estate.

James Connolly wrote, in *Labour and Irish History*, that this was the lesson of Ralahine: "Had all the land and buildings belonged to the people, had all other estates in Ireland been conducted on the same principles, and the industries of the country also organised, had each of them appointed delegates to confer on the business of the country at some common centre as Dublin, the framework and basis of a free Ireland would have been realised."

The members of the commune met for the last time on the 23rd of November 1833 and placed on record a declaration of "the contentment, peace and happiness they had experienced for two years under the arrangements introduced by Mr. Vandeleur and Mr. Craig and which through no fault of the Association was now at an end".

## Robert Owen: from utopian to activist



Robert Owen

**THE RALAHINE commune was inspired by the ideas of Robert Owen. In 1832 Robert Owen, visited Ireland and held a number of meetings in the Rotunda, Dublin, explaining socialism.**

Owen was a utopian socialist who had turned the cotton mills and village of New Lanark in Scotland into a model community, in which the drive towards progress and prosperity through new technology of the Industrial Revolution was tempered by a caring and humane regime.

New Lanark had the first Infant School, a crèche for working mothers, free medical care, an comprehensive education, including evening classes.

The fame of New Lanark spread throughout the world,

and in the early decades of the 1800s, it had 2,000 visitors a year on average.

Some initial backing from the sections of establishment disappeared once the radicalism of Owen's ideas became clear.

Robert Owen had opposed orthodox religion and his critical pamphlets incurred violent opposition from the Established Church. As a result a number of socialists were prosecuted for blasphemy for promoting Owen's ideas.

The new unions were growing rapidly and fighting for shorter hours, the end of child labour, co-operative action and labour exchanges.

In 1832 he proposed that the unions should unite and in 1834 the Grand National Consolidated Trade Union was formed. Within a week it had over half a million members and the government were alarmed by this new mass labour movement.

The government reacted by arresting six agricultural work-

ers from Tolpuddle in Dorset, who were members of the new union, under the Illegal Oaths Act, and sentenced them to seven years transportation. Robert Owen led a protest of 30,000 union members against their deportation.

Owen had a magnificent vision of how human people could live co-operate together and break from the madness of capitalism. But his isolated socialist experiments were doomed to failure because there could be no islands in the stream of capitalism.

Owen himself soon realised this.

In his "Report to the County of Lanark," in 1820, Owen declared that reform was not enough and that a transformation of the social order was required.

This is why he spent the rest of his life fighting for socialism through his involvement with organised workers.

# in my view

## Another Celtic Tiger?

GLASGOW CELTIC wrapped up the Scottish Premier League title ridiculously early this year. Tens of thousands of hoops fans pulled on a replica shirt (made in an Asian sweat shop) and crammed into pubs and clubs across the globe to watch the match against St. Mirren (on Sky pay-per-view).

The Celts stuttered to a 1-0 victory, with Tommy Johnston scoring an embarrassingly poor goal. They last won the league only two years ago, but the spectacular change in fortunes on and off the pitch between the two Old Firm clubs has been astonishing.

Chairman Fergus McCann was notoriously tight with the purse strings, but he sold up and headed to the Bahamas in 1998, leaving the club in the control of a few well-known businessmen who appear at one level to be pumping money into the club.

Of course season ticket prices have to go up, inflation and all that. At the time of writing manager Martin O'Neill was supposed to be meeting Dermot Desmond to see how much was in the war chest for a sustained Champions League run next year.

*I think he will be in luck, as the Champions league means HUGE money. A season with the Barcelona's and Man Utd's will swell the coffers in TV rights alone. Celtic has a huge potential Irish market out there, as reflected in their merchandising sales.*

Ironically supporters clubs are currently boycotting the new shirt, with the cry being 'hands off our hoops' (the green and white hoops are broken under the arms).

Celtic has become an apt metaphor for Ireland today. Founded in 1888 by a Donegal Catholic priest, Brother Walfried, the aims of the club were to raise funds for impoverished Irish and Catholic families in the area, a tradition, to be fair the club claims to be still committed to today. The 'Celtic charter' lists its priorities, as children's needs charities, community action on drugs and projects that develop and promote religious and ethnic harmony.

### Ruthless

But that's where the charity ends. Celtic is now a ruthless corporation. You have a Plc board overseeing one of soccer's more successful stock market floatations. Today's Irish contribution is mostly based in the boardroom. Our old mate Dermot Desmond is Celtic's largest shareholder and chairman of the remuneration committee on the PLC board. Desmond was the force behind the IFSC, investor in and director of numerous companies and a good friend of Fianna Fail. He helped underwrite the share issue that saved the club from bankruptcy in 1994. He plays golf in the Bahamas with the owner of ENIC, the shady group who own Rangers, Tottenham and numerous European clubs.

Another significant Irish figure is that of Frank O'Callaghan, who made his cash through hotels. Recently departed chief executive of the club Allan MacDonald worked for British Aerospace for 28 years heading up their African and Asian 'interests'. I wonder did those interests include the sale of Hawk fighter planes to Indonesia?

*How did a club, which is such a focal point for Irish Republicanism, end up being run by a British weapons manufacturer? That has to be the ultimate irony. Today's chief executive is Ian McLeod head hunted from ASDA/Wal-Mart in Germany, where he was Executive Director and Chief Merchandising Officer. They are another company with a few questions to answer.*

A culture of rebel tunes and hard drinking has grown up around the club. McCann introduced the detested "Bohos against bigotry" campaign, which was supposed to give Parkhead a nice, sanitised atmosphere. You could sing certain songs in the pub and on the way to and from the ground, but not inside the stadium itself. All it did was see people ejected and barred for blessing themselves.

But the lads running the club were never stupid enough to rid the club completely of its militant image. Old Firm bigotry sells. It is sent out globally on cable and pay-per-view. Like most Irish capitalists, the poor Irish image has been used when necessary and replaced by dynamic profit making enterprises. "Hands across the water" has never seemed more apt.

film

# Bridget Jones' dire Diary

by SINEAD  
KENNEDY

**YOU WILL have to have been living on another planet to escape all the hype surrounding the new Bridget Jones' Diary film.**

Every bus stop, billboard and TV station in the country is covered with advertisements about the new movie.

You can't pick up a magazine or newspaper without some boring columnist praising the film or describing their own "Bridget Jones moments".

### Trauma

Rene Zeliwegger the actress who plays the Bridget Jones covers every woman's magazine describing the trauma of having to put on a whole two stone to play the size 12 Bridget.

US magazine *Harpers Bazaar* refused to have her on the cover because she was so fat. But you'll be glad to hear that she has returned to her normal seven stone weight.

Bridget Jones Diary started in 1995 as a column in the British *Independent* newspaper by journalist Helen Fielding and was later turned into a best selling novel.

Bridget is presented as an "everywoman" figure that women can



**What sort of a society makes perfectly normal women feel so unhappy about themselves?**

identify with.

She has the same insecurities many women feel about their bodies and is obsessed with diets and losing weight.

She also has all the awkward, self conscious and lonely feelings that plague women in an image obsessed world.

The image of Bridget sitting in her pyjamas watching videos, munching comfort food, is something with which most of us can identify.

But the problem with

the film is that rather than criticising a society that forces women to live up to impossible supermodel stereotypes it celebrates these insecurities.

### Reinforcing

So we laugh at Bridget collapsing off the exercise bike rather than question what sort of a society makes perfectly normal women feel so unhappy about themselves.

Bridget Jones there-

fore ends up reinforcing a lot of the sexism that pervades modern society.

Bridget Jones may be the successful middle class career woman with her own home but all her loneliness and unhappiness is because she hasn't a man.

Bridget's only real aspiration is to get married and the film's only real concern ends up being whether she will marry a barrister or her leering publisher boss.

But most of us don't

have middle class lifestyles like Bridget. Her only status as a heroine is that she seems like a normal woman who smokes, drinks, can't cook and doesn't look like a supermodel.

But being normal isn't good enough for the movie business.

Renne Zeliwegger has refused to make a sequel to the movie because she is scared she won't get other film roles if she puts on weight to play the Bridget

book

## Vietnam: The war the US lost

**The 1960's saw the last great worldwide revolt against the system.**

At the heart of this revolt was the campaign against the Vietnam War.

Jonathan Neale shows in his excellent book, *The American War* the depth of opposition to the war.

The US involved itself in Vietnam to prop up an undemocratic dictatorship.

US involvement increased gradually so that by the time Kennedy was shot in 1963, there were 15,000 "advisors". Two years later, over 50,000 troops were involved.

The US clearly had the advantage in terms of firepower against Vietnam, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Over two million Vietnamese died during the War. These were mainly the victims of US carpet bombing, chemicals such as agent orange and napalm, and massacres like My Lai.

The Vietnamese fought back under the leadership of the Vietcong.

The Vietcong was a mainly



peasant army that was able to rely on support from the population. In January 1968, the Vietcong organised the Tet offensive and attacked every city in South Vietnam.

Television viewers watched as the Vietcong attacked the US embassy compound. While Tet was ultimately a military defeat for the Vietcong, it was a political defeat and humiliation for the US ruling class and an inspiration to the growing anti-war movement.

The anti-war campaign was initiated by isolated radicals, churchmen and pacifists.

Protests initially were tiny and the movement either encountered hostility or indifference from the wider public.

As it was becoming obvious that the US was losing the war in spite of its growing military involvement, the anti-war campaign mushroomed.

By 1969 over 500,000 were marching in Washington against the war.

The more US President Lyndon Johnson spent on the war, the less money was available to spend on domestic welfare programmes.

At the same time, anger was boiling over in the black community. The Ghetto Riots shook every major US city in the late 60's.

While the middle-class could avoid the draft by going to college or using parental influence (as George W Bush did), this wasn't an option for working class draftees.

Neale quotes opinion polls that showed that opposition to the war was strongest in the working class.

Within the army this opposition manifested itself in open

rebellion against a middle-class officer corp. Particularly hated officers were the victims of "fraggings".

These involved lobbing a fragmentation bomb into the tent of a gung-ho officer who insisted on leading platoons out on dangerous patrols.

The radicalisation inside the army was such that dozens of anti-war papers proliferated among the soldiers with titles such as *Blows Against the Empire* and *GIs United* against the War.

By 1973, the US had ceased active engagement in Vietnam and in 1975, the puppet regime in the South collapsed.

The legacy of US defeat in Vietnam has meant that every American president since has been afraid to commit ground troops in active combat.

The anti-war campaign of the 1960's has inspired those who want to take on the system and expose its barbarism and brutality.

— CONOR  
KINEALLY



**where we stand**  
Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

### FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

### FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

### FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

### FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army.

Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

### FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

### FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party here.

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PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS



## Teachers

### ASTI

# Unbowed and unbroke

**"THE conference was great. We recharged our batteries and we are getting ready for the long war. This is how one delegate summed up the experience of the ASTI conference."**

The 600 delegates have shown how to recover from a setback and regain the initiative with a new spirit that is being driven from the grassroots upwards.

The first signal for the shift was walkout of nearly a third of the delegates when Education Minister Woods spoke.

Woods was so struck by that hardness of the ASTI that he claimed on RTE that 'there were socialists about'.

'Were they from the Labour Party?' the interviewer asked. 'No, the Socialist Workers Party!' he answered.

### Restraint

The walk-out was not organised by socialists — but rank and file delegates who are angry at a government that is trying to ram pay restraint down their throats.

The second signal of

the recovery of confidence was the election results for the union presidency.

Patricia Wroe, an outspoken opponent of the benchmarking process came within 50 votes of unseating the former Vice President Catherine Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald's had moved closer to the positions outlined by the ASTI General Secretary, Charlie Lennon, who has argued that the ASTI has no choice but to go into benchmarking.

### Reject

The conference came out overwhelmingly with a recommendation to reject the latest proposals for the Labour Court.

It is now expected that up to 70 percent of ASTI members will give the thumbs down to the latest offer which would have forced them into benchmarking.

The conference also debated a new strategy of imposing a work to rule and a policy of total non-co-operation with the Department of Education.

This makes perfect sense in terms of regaining the initiative.

Already many of the contradictions in the benchmarking process are opening up.

In response to ASTI militancy, Woods claimed

that teachers could soon get £40,000 at the top of their pay scale.

Of course he never said when that might occur.

But his remarks showed what a sham the claimed independence of the benchmarking body is.

The real agenda of the Department of Education is to smash the ASTI — and then reveal the huge changes they will be demanding in return for a pay rise.

These will include more evaluations, a longer school year and an opening to performance related pay in the future.

By adopting a strategy of a long war, the ASTI are putting themselves in a good position to expose all the contradictions in the future.



Walking out on Woods

### TUI

# Executive manoeuvres to hold back anger

**THE MOOD at the TUI conference was more downbeat as the executive successfully used the temporary setback of**

**the ASTI's struggle to manoeuvre and prevent practical expressions of solidarity.**

The conference began on

a good note when the delegates voted to create a new post for a popular ex-President Billy Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick had not been appointed to the post of Education and Research Officer even though he had worked at this for some time.

### Bullying

It is believed that a report he did on bullying — which included a section on bullying inside the TUI — had put him out of favour.

When Education Minister Woods appeared at the conference, the TUI President John MacGabhainn made a militant speech threatening action if the benchmarking proves did not deliver.

A number of delegates staged a walk-out in solidarity with their ASTI colleagues but scuffles ensued after the General Secretary, Jim Dor-

neym, manhandled a protester as she placed a placard in front of Woods.

A proposal by eight branches to vote no confidence in the Executive because they scrapped a special conference to discuss solidarity with the ASTI was defeated.

The executive also managed to win an ambiguous resolution supporting their position of seeking increases through benchmarking.

However the real problem in the TUI is that the left is not organised. One individual identified with the left, Paddy Healy, polled a huge vote for the vice presidential position — but there is no organised network of rank and file activists.

As one delegate put it, 'I have mixed feelings. There is a mood for reform — but the mood has to be tapped.'

### INTO

## Unease at O'Toole's cashpoint

**UNEASE AT the benchmarking process surfaced at the INTO conference when delegates voted to demand that the review of wages be brought forward to October of this year rather than July 2002.**

The executive had opposed this but were defeated.

The General Secretary, Joe O Toole, repeatedly assured the delegates that benchmarking was 'like an ATM machine' and they had only to collect their money.

But any increase given by the benchmarking body is more like an overdraft that has to be re-paid by teachers giving huge increases in productivity.

### Supervision

The Department of Education's submission to the benchmarking body includes demands for a 'system of evaluation'; 'effective delivery on supervision' and a demand

for increasing the time period spent on teaching in school.

One example of what this might mean surfaced unexpectedly at the INTO conference when teachers in special schools were told they would have to work through July — so extending their working year.

The members had told the INTO executive to have nothing to do with this proposal—but behind their backs the executive had opened negotiations on the terms and conditions for how this work might be carried out.

INTO delegate Crea Ryder said, "This is a fore-

taste of what is to come for the rest of teachers.

"Benchmarking is going to be linked to increasing the length of the school year."

A very successful fringe meeting was held to launch Teacher's United and £360 was collected to get the network moving properly.

### Guinness

**WORKERS in Guinness brewery in James Gate, Dublin have postponed their strike after an all-out stoppage to stop the closure of the bottling plant in Dundalk.**

The strike only lasted one day and was the first time in 25 years that production at James Gate was halted.

Pickets were placed on all Guinness plants throughout Ireland and after only one day the company agreed to postpone the closure of the Dundalk unit and enter into negotiations on the future plans of the company.

As one of the shop stewards told *Socialist Worker*, "Guinness moved away from their bullyboy tactics of shutting it down our necks because we put manners on them. Now they go back to the traditional way of dealing with workers. They have to negotiate with the unions, not just tell us what they are doing."

The Guinness corporation plans to close the bottling plant in Dundalk and move the operation to Belfast where the labour is cheaper.

As one of the workers representatives put it "The Guinness group have a dream to be like McDonalds. It doesn't matter where the beef is produced or under what conditions — it sells the same way no matter where in the world they market. They want to open and close plants around the world as they choose. That way they will make the most money."

Negotiations have already started in the Labour Relations Commission on the future of the Guinness operation in Ireland and in particular on the details of the closing down Dundalk.

But as one of the shop stewards told *Socialist Worker*, "At least we are now negotiating as distinct from being told what to do. We will have to take each move by this company very cautiously. It's not over by a long shot."

### Iarnrod Eireann

## RECOGNITION BALLOT

The ILDA branch of the ATGWU held an emergency meeting on 22nd April and is balloting all its members around the country to take industrial action.

The branch committee has issued a strong recommendation in favour of a series of one-day strikes to force Irish Rail to negotiate with their union.

The ATGWU is well established inside Irish Rail but so far the company is refusing to recognise their right to negotiate on behalf of train drivers.

ATGWU representatives have been thrown out of disciplinary meetings despite the fact that the union has a negotiated disciplinary procedure with Irish Rail since 1994.

If train drivers vote in favour of industrial action Irish Rail will be facing strike action within two weeks. The company are doggedly refusing normal democratic rights to these drivers. As one of the union representatives put it, "Irish Rail have refused traditional rights of negotiating to ATGWU members in the ILDA branch and now they are also removing rights of that the ATGWU has had for years to represent its members are disciplinary hearings."

**Aer Lingus**

# Workers win a better deal

**AER LINGUS operative and clerical workers in SIPTU are balloting on settlement terms which SIPTU officials have described as "85 to 90 per-**

**cent of what we wanted".**

Three thousand SIPTU members had organised two one day strikes and were set to ground Aer Lingus for the Thursday before Easter when the offer was made. Workers had demand-

ed parity with a settlement won by cabin crew.

As one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*, "We won a lot but I think we could have got a lot more."

"We have been offered early retirement from age 55 and improvements in the pay scale. But we did-

n't get the 15 point pay scale we had been looking for and which the cabin crew have.

"But the low paid did get something out of it. "We got this far because there was a lot of pressure on the union officials from below.

"For too long they have thought more about the profitability of the company than the pay and conditions of the workers.

"But there has been an upsurge of dissent from below. The workers had had enough. That was clearly indicated by the move of cabin crew into IMPACT.

"That really frightened the SIPTU officials. They began to understand that they had to make a move or we would take things into our own hands!"

Looking to the future,

the need for strong rank and file solidarity is crucial as the government sells off Aer Lingus.

As one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*, "Privatisation could lead to all sorts of fragmentation with non-union con-

tractors coming into the airport and making a mess of conditions.

"We need to build rank and file linkages across unions and companies throughout the airport to be prepared for that.

## Action needed on pensions

**ONE OF the issues which is unresolved is that of pensions.**

As one worker in Aer Lingus told *Socialist Worker*, "We must have the worst pension scheme in the semi-states."

Both the company and the employee each pay 5.1 percent of salary into the pension fund.

### Salary

But there is no inflation proofing or linkage with current salary levels.

Each year the managers of the pension plan make a discretionary increase but there is no obligation on them to compensate the pensioners for cost of living rising or align the pension with move-

ments in wages and salaries.

As a result the value of the pension drains away over the years and those who have given years of service to the company find the going harder and harder as time goes by.

One pensioner told *Socialist Worker*, "I retired in the mid 1990s and I have seen my pension go down by more than 10 percent in comparison to an ESB pensioner.

"The government ministers wash their hands of the problem and say it is between the company and current employees to find a solution.

"I say to serving workers of Aer Lingus—make sure you get a decent pension scheme that's linked to inflation or earnings now before you retire!"

## March against Raytheon

**SOME 100 people took to the streets of Derry on Good Friday to protest at the presence in the city of Raytheon, the world's third largest arms manufacturer. The "Passion for Raytheon?" was organised by the Foyle Ethical Investment Campaign (FEIC).**

A cruise missile with the slogan "Software for a leaner kill" led the march.

### Excuse

This refers to the excuse used to justify Raytheon. "Sure, they're only making software", is the attitude.

But Kevin Mullan, a researcher with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade in London, explained that the "digital battlespace" is an essential part of the new arms race.

"The J-SOW cluster bombs used in the recent attack on Baghdad can only operate as a "Stand-Off Weapon" because of the software", he said.

"This is part of the attempt to overcome the US's Vietnam syndrome — if there are no body bags coming home, then they can pretend that war is not so brutal.

"All the brutality is felt by those on the receiving end of the 'smart bombs'.

"And what makes them smart? The software, of course."

**Full-Time Fire Service for Bray DEMONSTRATION Saturday 28th May 12 noon County Council Building Bray**

## NO incinerators

# Burning anger across the country

### Ringaskiddy

**CORK PEOPLE reacted angrily to plans to build an incinerator in Ringaskiddy.**

Indaver, the Belgium company that is also planning to build an incinerator in County Louth, has applied for planning permission to build the plant.

Built on 30 acres bought from Irish Ispat—formerly Irish Steel—the plant would need to burn up to 400,000 tonnes a year of household and hazardous waste to make a profit.

Local environmental activist Derry Chambers told *Socialist Worker*, "The industry says it will be clean and safe.

"But incinerators produce some of the most poisonous chemicals known,

including heavy metals, dioxins and PCBs."

The Environmental Protection Authority which is supposed to police industrial safety handles the big industries with kid gloves.

"Proctor and Gamble caused £11 million in damage and caused the water supply in Neenagh to be abandoned because of its pollution recently but it was only fined £1,000.

"This isn't a case of 'Not in My Back Yard'. This affects all of us.

"What we need is a plan to reduce waste by reuse and recycling and not producing so much packaging etc in the first place.

"But Noel Dempsey plans five incinerators around the country burning 2 million tonnes of waste.

"To remain economic they must burn that much waste - there will be no incentive to reduce the amount of waste generated.

"The chemical and phar-

maceutical industries in Cork have a terrible record on pollution and safety. It's about time we called a stop."

Local activists have organised a campaign to stop the Ringaskiddy incinerator.

It is holding a protest meeting in Carragaline on Wednesday 25th April and plans further meetings and protest in Cork (see ad on this page).

★ For details of the campaign in Cork contact Rob on

### Drogheda

**IN DROGHEDA the No Incineration Alliance has been campaigning against Indaver's plan for an incinerator in Duleek.**

Kevin Smyth from the No Incineration Alliance told *Socialist Worker*, "The campaign's plans for a mass demonstration drawing people from around the region were hit by the foot and mouth scare. "But the campaign is still very much alive and has been organising opposition to Indaver's plans. "The Alliance is calling

a protest march and rally on Saturday June 9th in Drogheda town."

★ For details of the campaign in Drogheda contact Kevin Smyth on

### Galway

**MORE THAN 50 anti-Incinerator activists attended the Galway for a Safe Environment AGM in April.**

As Sean Dunleavy from the campaign's committee told *Socialist Worker*, "Everybody was sickened by Minister Dempsey's changes to ride roughshod over opposition to incinerators and take the decision out of the hands of elected local councils.

"We will respond by linking up nationally with other campaigns to fight him all the way.

"Also we are going to see if we can set up groups in the localities."

The AGM also decided to look into the possibility of running a candidate to

**NO INCINERATION ALLIANCE Protest March and Rally Drogheda Saturday June 9th Phone for details**

## Join the anti capitalists

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## SWP branch meetings — all welcome

- **ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details
- **BRAY:** Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm
- **BELFAST CENTRAL:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Kitchen Bar, 16 Victoria Square, near Cornmarket
- **BELFAST SOUTH:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union
- **BELFAST WEST** ring for details
- **BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY** Wednesdays 1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre
- **CORK:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's, Drawbridge St
- **DERRY:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.15pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.
- **DROGHEDA:** Meets Wednesdays 8:30pm in McHugh's Pub St, Lawrence's Gate
- **DUNDALK:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details
- **DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute
- **DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)
- **DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St
- **DUBLIN KILLBARRACK:**
- **DUBLIN CABRA:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, Prussia St
- **DUBLIN BALLYMUN:** Meets every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Balcurris Road
- **DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre
- **DUBLIN RIALTO:** Meets every Wednesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR
- **DUBLIN RATHMINES:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Tom Kelly flats community centre, Charlemont Street.
- **DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:**
- **DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre
- **ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details
- **GALWAY:** Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm
- **LIMERICK:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details
- **MAYNOOTH** meets Thursday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details
- **SLIGO** Meets fortnightly
- **SWORDS:** Meets Tuesdays 8pm Senior Citizens Hall
- **TRALEE:**
- **TRINITY COLLEGE:** Meets Thursdays 7pm see posters for details
- **UCD** meets Wednesdays 1pm see posters for details
- **WATERFORD:** Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

**STOP THE RINASKIDDY INCINERATOR Wednesday 25th April 8pm Carragaline Court Hotel Speakers include: Derry Chambers (Cork Environmental Alliance); Sean Dunleavy (Galway Anti Incinerator Campaign); Green Party; Socialist Workers Party; and others Phone for details**

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AGAINST FTAA**

PAGES 4

**NO TO THE NICE  
TREATY — PAGE 3**

**GEORGE W. BUSH:  
The corporation's President**

— page 6-7

Solidarity price £1

# DON'T FALL FOR CORPO LIES: DON'T PAY THE BIN TAX

**"It's a disgrace — they're hood-winking the people!"**

That's how Anti Bin Charge activist Laura Kinsella reacted to Dublin Corporation's propaganda campaign for bin charges.

Tens of thousands of pounds of public money is being spent on a publicity campaign of newspaper and hoarding advertising claiming that for £1.83 a week Dublin will be cleaned up.

The Corporation is set to issue bills in the next couple of weeks for £95 a year refuse charge.

"What they are not telling us is that down the line privatising the bin service is on their agenda.

"And then the contractors can charge what they like!"

This is double taxation plain and simple.

"We've already paid for the refuse services out of our taxes,"

says Laura.

When service charges have been introduced in other parts of the country they produced fierce resistance.

In Cork 14 protesters face jail in their fight against the bin charges.

Joe Moore, Chair of Cork Trades Council, is one of the fourteen.

He told *Socialist Worker*, "In Cork the Corporation refuses to collect rubbish unless it carries a sticker showing the charge has been paid.

"We have been taking this rubbish and dumping it outside the Corporation meetings."

Fourteen of the protesters were charged with littering and now face jail for refusing to pay the fines. "But we are defiant. We will fight this unjust double tax!" said Joe.

Dublin Corporation know that they too will face huge opposition

to this charge so they are trying to exploit people's fears about the destruction of the environment.

They are even calling the bin tax an "Environmental Charge".

**The truth is the opposite:**

Minister Noel Dempsey and the Government have no credible waste management policy.

Most waste is produced not by households but by construction, industry and agriculture.

## Wasteful

Environmental activist Derry Chambers told *Socialist Worker*, "By measures like preventing wasteful packaging and re-using and re-cycling materials it is possible to cut waste by 95 percent and more.

"This isn't science fiction stuff. "The Australian city of Melbourne is targeting the year 2010 to have reduced waste to zero!"

But there is no plan to force big

business to pay for re-cycling of the materials they use.

There is no plan to make these companies reduce the amount of packaging and advertising material they force on consumers.

"The onus should be on manufacturers to cut down on waste and to clean up their act."

Instead the government is forcing through a plan to build five regional incinerators.

These produce deadly poisonous chemicals like Dioxins and

PCBs which cause cancer and birth defects.

Derry Chambers said, "These incinerators will be operated by private contractors and will each need to burn 400,000 tonnes of municipal waste each year to remain profitable.

"That means Ireland will be committed to producing 2 million tonnes every year for the next 25 years to keep the incinerators profitable!"

## THE WAY TO WIN

**Mass non-payment is the way to win.**

When water charges were introduced in the Dublin County council areas a few years ago, mass non-payment made the charge uncollectable and it was abolished.

**We can do the same for the Bin Charge.**

**Organise an action group in your neighbourhood, take petitions, factsheets and posters.**

**When the bills come out organise a large public meeting to organise the fightback.**

**Contact the Anti Bin Tax Campaign Phone**

# NO TO DOUBLE TAXATION