# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

inside

Why you should vote NO

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Colidarity price C1

Solidarity price £1

# Smurfit earns £5.2 million in a year



MEET THE top fat cat of the Celtic Tiger, Michael Smurfit, the boss of the paper and packaging empire, who was paid a salary of £5.2 million last year.

million last year.

Even top investment fund managers were outraged and voted against his re-election to the board.

raged and voted against his re-election to the board.

But £5.2 million is only the headline figure. Smurfit also got another £4.34 million as part of a 'long term incentive scheme'. And then there were a few little extras from dividends and super-pension provisions.

The Sunday Tribune reckoned that the total package came to a staggering £14 million. This is money grabbing on a big scale. But government ministers did not condemn this greed. When teachers looked for

When teachers looked for a 30 percent pay rise. Bertie Ahern denounced them. When any worker looks for more than the partnership pay deals, they are told they will destroy the Celtic Tiger. Because Smurfit is one of

Because Smurfit is one of their own and part of the Golden Circle, the political establishment do not criticise him.

And the rules of the partnership game mean that wages are regulated while greedy fat cats like Smurfit can take as much as they want.

It's a mug's game—and we should break it up.

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# SHEED GREEN

Do you want fries with that? The truth behind fast food — PAGE 8

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GENERAL
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### Get on board for Genoa

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Cops cover up Abbeylara

Film review:

No trust in Capitalism:

Anti Trust reviewed

### Ireland's unequal society

A COMBAT Poverty Agency report, which was commissioned by the government, states that Ireland is one the most unequal societies in the European Union, with one of the lowest levels of public spending in the industrialised

The report, Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland, points out that the Celtic Tiger also has one of the highest exchequer sur-

The CAP report shows that over the past 15 years public spending has fallen by nearly 10 per cent, while reduced taxes have disproportionately benefited the better off.

The report also says that Ireland is a low-tax economy and there is huge scope for increased expenditure

on public services.
It is believed that McCreevy and Ahern have not read it, let alone acted on it.

### Soft focus

### on lan Jnr

VIP. Ireland's answer to Hello magazine has an interesting profile in its April issue.

Normally the pages are filled with "intimate profiles" of TV and radio personalities desperately trying to boost their flagging image.

But in the April edition we are treated to a "remarkably intimate portrait" of guess who?

Ian Paisley Jnr! All soft focus family shots and pics of him on his bike.

Great to see that VIP has room on its pages for unadulterated sectarian bigots.

ISRAEL'S militaristic knows no bounds. It is entering a soldier in next month's Miss Universe contest, due to take place in Puerto Rico.

Miss Israel, soldier Haunt Levy, has even incorporated a bulletproof army-style flak jack-et into her outfit. But designers have at least adorned the jacket with floral designs and encrusted diamonds for a "softer look".

### **Dangerous** agribusiness

A MAJOR new study has shown that the antibiotics routinely used in agriculture are endangering human health, reports the New Scientist magazine. Agribusiness routinely feeds antibiotics to animals to promote quicker growth and fatter profits. Over 70 percent of all antibiotics

produced in the US are used for this. Campaigners have long warned that this practice could risk spreading antibiotic resistance to the animals, the wider environment and to humans.

Such resistance could make it more difficult to treat lethal bacterial

infections.

Now scientists at the University of Illinois have confirmed that such fears are justified.

They found that resistance to the important antibiotic tetracycline was developing in bacteria in the guts of pigs fed the drug to boost their growth. Worse still, the resistance genes had also been passed on to bacteria living in construction. teria living in groundwater in the area that was used to supply drinking water for people.

The study also found that these bacteria could pass the resistance on to bacteria in humans who drank the water. The researchers say the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock should be banned. US racist comes to Dublin

THE LEADER of a white supremicist group is attending conference in Ireland along with Gerard Casey of the Christian Solidarity Party.

The Rockford Institute a bizarre far right historical group are holding a conference on May 21st

The main speaker is Michael Hill the founder of the League of the South. The League of the South are at the forefront of fighting to defend the Confederate Flag. But it is just an excuse to organise racism.

Hill who thinks slav-ery was "God-ordained"

opposes racial intermarriage under any circum-stances. He says people other than white than other Christians would be allowed to live in his South, but only if they bow to "the cultural dominance of the Anglo-Celtic people and their institutions.

### Klan

One founding member of the League who now sits on the board of directors is Jack Kershaw, who erected in recently erected in Nashville a huge statue of Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest — a man who was also the Ku Klux Klan's first imperial wizard.

Michael Hill is honest about his disgusting ideas

Tell the courts to go to hell, take back their Second Amendment right to arm themselves, and organize well regulated Militia[s] state by state."

White Southerners

should [not] give control over their civilisation and its institutions to another race, whether it be native blacks or Hispanic immigrants."

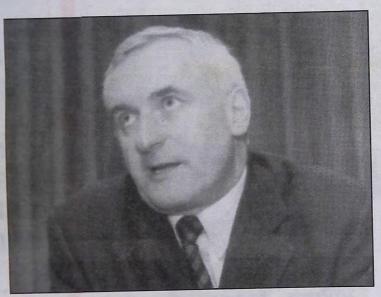
★"No apologies for slavery should be made. Christians who owned slaves in the South were on firm scriptur-

al ground."

There should be no welcome for this racist scum in Ireland. Protests are being organised ring 8722682 for details.

### **DIRT** amnesty

# Government backs tax dodging



# Ahern and the crooked banker

LINKS BETWEEN Bertie Ahern's close friend, Tim Collins, and a notorious criminal who tried to organise a multimillion property deal with the Government are being probed by Flood Tribunal.

Collins and his partner, Swords solicitor Liam Moran, shared a £500,000 finders' fee after the Office of Public Works Latt uses burght. Works last year bought a

run-down Coddington country estate at Oldbridge near Drogheda for £7.85m - giving a £5m profit to the compa-

### Jailed

Lorrain Esme Osman is the former chairman of the Malaysian-based Bank of Bumiputra. He came to Ireland after being released from Hong Kong jail. He had served almost ten years in Britain and the Far East after facing 36 charges of corruption, theft, and fraud in connection with a £600m

investment swindle. Collins and Osman were involved jointly in a number of business pro-jects including Liam Lawlor's deals in Prague.

Collins is a trustee of Ahern's. Drumcondra house, St Luke's and a powerful figure in Fianna Fail.

The Oldbridge estate was acquired by the Government at the suggestion of the Ahern. The 500-acre property is opposite the 29-acre site traditionally regarded by traditionally regarded by locals and the Orange Order as the site of the Battle of the Boyne.

### THE IRISH rich avoided paying DIRT tax for over a decade by pretending to be foreigners.

These cheats lived in Ireland but filled out forms declaring that they did not live here.

They then opened non-resident accounts where they could hide their wealth away from the tax collectors.

At least £120 million in tax was avoided every year by the rich from this one scam alone.

### Owe

And Government has just decided to let them off with a amnesty on the tax they owe.

rich Irish already pay the lowest rate of tax in Europe on their profits.

They have enjoyed two tax amnesties in 1987 and 1993 when they were asked to pay a mere 15 percent to clear their bills.

On top of this the Revenue is owed £1.167 billion in other taxes from the rich.

This doesn't include the £216 million written off as un-collectable in 1998, and the £281 million written off in 1997.

The Revenue Commissioners say they will come down hard on anyone avoiding tax. Yet nobody has ever gone to jail for tax evasion.

And during the DIRT scandal they did very little to stop the practice.

Tax inspectors could examine the declara-

tion forms to see if the person was lying about not living in Ireland.

However, their bosses ordered them not to look at the forms.

1986. In July Revenue bosses issued Order SIM 263.

### Instructions

This order told tax inspectors not to examine declaration forms and to "await further instructions".

They waited 12 years for those instructions

So for over a decade the tax inspectors had the power to investigate massive fraud but their bosses told them not to do so.

The fat cats know there is one law for the rich and another for the poor.

And they are been let away with robbery

### Worker arrested for picketing

A MEMBER of the building workers' union BATU in Bray was hauled before the High Court this month.

He was forced to "purge his contempt" for the mere act of picketing.

The dispute had risen originally in Mennolly Construction when two local bricklayers turned up looking for employment on a local site.

Instead of being given direct PAYE employment they were

offered a C45 form to work as sub-contractors.

The workers put up pickets but the company rushed off to the courts to get an injunction.

One worker was arrested at the site and brought straight to the court in dublous circumstances.

This activity is in marked contrast to the treatment of those engaged in bribery of politicians. Another example of one law for the rich....

### what we think

# The human cost of Smurfit's millions

MICHAEL SMURFIT is one good reason to be an anti-capitalist. While he lives a life of luxury that would make an aristocrat blush, workers for his company in Colombia live in grinding pover-

The man who says he is "devoid of ego" jets around the world in a Gulf Stream V jet, bought for £25 million from profits, extracted from sweated labour on Colombian plantations.

#### Extracted

In June, Smurfit will get another luxury yacht. It is so big it will not be able to enter Dun Laoghaire harbour.

But that is not a problem because Smurfit spends a lot of his time in the Barbados in the company of Dermot Desmond, JP McManus and John Magnier.

These are the core of the brown envelope gang that

brown envelope gang that bribed Haughey and got favours

in return.

Smurfit is not even officially a

### THEY ARE DESTROYING **OUR ENVIRONMENT**

LIKE ALL capitalist firms, Smurfit's sheds crocodile tears for the environmenteven as it destroys it.

"They plant this mono-culture crop of pine and eucalyptus trees which draw culture out massive amounts of water from the region. "It means there is less water for the local peasants

for their coffee plants," said Nestor Ocampo.

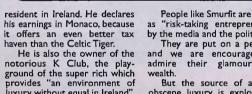
"There is often no vegetation under the trees in the plantation.

So the water runs off quickly into the river, swelling them into floods.

"There is access to water only for short periods of the year-rather than through-

"There is also evidence of water contamination from the chemicals like Round-Up

which the company uses.
"Many of the local town councils have tried to stop these plantations spreading but Smurfit's can use their political influence to get these decisions overturned."



People like Smurfit are hailed as "risk-taking entrepreneurs" by the media and the politicians. They are put on a pedestal and we are encouraged to admire their glamour and wealth.

But the source of all this obscene luxury is exploitation on a grand scale.



### Globalise resistance protest at Irish Stock exchange

SOME 350 people protested outside the Irish stockex-change on May 1st. Protests also took place in Belfast, Derry and Cork.

For more on Globalise resistance and Genoa to pages

pic: Paula Geraghty

### THEY TRIED TO SHUT ME UP

provides "an environment or luxury without equal in Ireland", according to the Sunday Tribune.

NESTOR OCAMPO was the um for subversives". director of an ecological organi-Cosmos. When he criticised Smurfits, they hauled him before the courts for libel.

They even claimed that his accu-sations "constitute a culture medi-

This was directly setting up Ocampo for attack by far right paramilitaries that operate in Colombia.

But Smurfit lost on two occasions.
The second judge stated that the "events denounced by Ocampo are true as are their consequences".

### **Buying politicians for tax breaks**

CAPITALISTS claim they do not want government interfer-

ence.
But the bigger they get, the but the Digger they get, the more they buy politicians who bend the rules in their favour. Smurfit's play this game in both Ireland and Colombia.

Two prominent Fianna Fail politicians sit on the board of Smurfits as non-executive directors.

tors.
Former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds gets £31,000 a year for attending a few meetings while Ray McSharry got £41,600 for sitting on the Renumeration

fit his colossal salary.

Smurfit has made considerable donations to Haughey and in 1991 was implicated in a scheme to sell Bord Telecom property from which he benefited. He also gave £150,000 to

property from which he benefited. He also gave £150,000 to Michael Lowry.

But the real benefit that Smurfit gained from Haughey was a policy of cutting taxes on profits to a mere 12.5 percent, the lowest in the EU.

In Colombia, Smurfit has its

own representative on the Council of the Ministry of the

Environment.
Former Smurfit employees have pushed proposals for huge tax breaks for the paper indus-

Smurfits can write off invest-

Smurfits can write off investments and services to plantations against their tax. Their subcontractors can write off 50 percent of their running costs against tax.

When the company faced legal action, they hired a top barrister whose daughter sat on the Supreme Court. Not surprising they won the cases.

Yet there is also a cost for these tax write offs, whether in Ireland or Colombia. Working people end up subsidising corporate welfare by putting up with miserable public services because there is so little money in the kitty.

# HE SWEATED LABOUR

NESTOR OCAMPO, is a Colombian environmental activist who traveled to Ireland recently to expose the reality behind the Smurfit

empire.
"Smurfit has monopolised the paper-making market in Colombia.
"They control the entire chain from growing trees to logging to pulping to exporting.

### Secrecy

"But many of its activities are surrounded in secrecy. Their official head-quarters is like a parking lot.
"You need a special permit to visit the real headquarters in Cali and no photographs are allowed." Nestor told Socialist Worker.

The company owns 58,000 hectares of land and is the biggest

landowner in the county of Calarca.

In the region of Santa Rosa, Smurfit bought up land that was marked for re-distribution to the local peasantry.

It runs huge plantations where workers are employed on sub-con-tract teams without any union representation.

"Someone working as a logger might earn about £130 a month.

"They are often brought in from outside regions, from the poorest reas and made to feel dependent on outside

the company.
"Sometimes they do not get proper social security from the contractors and might not be treated in hos-

pitals if they are injured.

"They are paid on a piece work system, according to the weight of wood that is felled. You are not supposed to use a chain saw when it is wet, but the system means workers do"

In the pulping plants, Smurfit has

cracked down hard on union representation.

A report from the Smurfit Environmental and Human Rights Shareholders Group shows that over 100 trade unionists have been sacked in recent

### **Dismissed**

They include Francisco Rueda, a union leader who was dismissed for producing a bulletin which compared the director's pay to those of workers and Hector Alderete, a shop steward sacked for organising a meeting at the factory gate

Just as Nike and Gap use contract labour to draw profit from sweatshop conditions, Smurfits still operates as a colonial master that squeezes workers on plantations and pulping mills.

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# news of the world

# General strike shakes Gree

S THE return of the working class! It was the biggest strike for many years in Greece, at least the biggest since the fall of the military junta in 1974.

That's how Panos Garganas. editor of Socialist Worker's sister paper in Greece, describes a magnificent one-day general. It forced the Greek government to

the Greek government to stall over major attacks on workers' pensions. We've had many days of action in recent years, but this was a real general strike, with workers shutting down factories and work-places," says Panos.

### **Paralysed**

Strikes paralysed much of the country, with bus, rail, port and airline workers all joining the protest.

Teachers, shipyard workers, eivil servants, bank workers, TV and newspaper workers, and even Greek Orthodox priests-who are technically civil servants-also struck.

The revolt was sparked by a pensions "reform" plan put forward by the Greek government, run by the PASOK Labour-type party.

The plan aimed to



Firefighters join the general strike.

increase the retirement age for workers, cut some pen-sions, and do away with a number of special pensions for certain groups.

The attack was in part inspired by pressure from the European Union, which wants the Greek government to impose such cuts as part of its membership of the

euro single currency.

The assault sparked fury among Greek workers. It saw even trade union leaders who hold prominent office in the governing party forced to call action.

Leaders of the main GSEE trade union federation and the ADEDY public sector workers' union rejected the pension plan and called last week's strikes.

"The most important

"The most important thing was that workplaces

where people hadn't been on strike for 15 or 20 years were shut down. "In workplaces where the union hardly existed workers struck and joined the demonstrations," says Panos.

### **Numbers**

"It's hard to put numbers on it but there were perhaps two million workers on strike." That is an astonishing figure in a country with a total population just over ten million people.

"In Athens there were some 200,000 workers on the demonstration perhaps

"In Athens there were some 200,000 workers on the demonstration, perhaps more, and there were very big numbers on demonstrations in other cities too," says Panos. "The numbers on the marches are impressive-there was no transport sive-there was no transport running at all. "Everyone who came

# had to travel on union coaches or make their own way there on bicycles or something." The pensions attack has sparked a crisis inside PASOK. Some 66 members of the coache agreeting wrote to

party's executive wrote to prime minister Simitis demanding special meetings of PASOK's ruling bodies.

### Gulf

They said they were wor-ried that there was a grow-ing "gulf between PASOK and its social base". The government announced it was freezing its pension was freezing its pension plans, and said it wanted "dialogue" on the eve of last week's strike.

"But despite that the union leaders are calling more action," says Panos. "No one trusts that the government work units that the government work units." ernment won't just come back later with a similar plans, so the union leaders want the government to adopt a union plan for pen-

The unions felt they had to call some action because of the feeling below. But the response was bigger than they expected. Now they

can't just walk away from it.
That's why they have called
more action."

A massive protest took
place on May Day and
another general strike has
been called for 17 May.

#### "Such a huge explosion of workers' anger can benefit the left...

"Such a huge explosion of workers' anger can bene-fit the left," argues Panos. 'We in the Socialist Workers Party were very visible in the marches. We had slogans like 'Pensions before Profit and 'People before profit'.

We had lively contingents and many people joined in with our slogans. We also carried a huge ban-ner saying 'Globalise Resistance: Genoa 2001' which went down very well.

There is strong support for protesting against the G8 summit in Genoa in July. The next few weeks are going to be very exciting here in Greece."

### Protest across the world



Demonstrators in Germany

AROUND THE globe people took to the streets against capitalism on May1st.

### England

IN LONDON ten thou-IN LONDON ten thousand anti-capitalists converged to exercise their right to protest and free assembly, using the monopoly game board to symbolise capitalism's stranglehold over people and planet.

Six thousand police were draughted in to combat such violent acts as cycling, pigeon feeding, guerrilla gardening and giving away free veggie burgers.

The protests cost the city £20 million in 'profit loss', mostly from shops like Nike, Gap and McDonalds which had to close all despendents. close all day.

Australia

Thousands of protesters defied police and blockad-ed stock exchanges and company headquarters.

Police put up barricades outside stock exchanges in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and

Thousands of trade unionists on the traditional May Day parade in Melbourne linked arms with anti-capitalist protesters to force the closure of several streets

Protesters marched in 50 cities against the IMFs austerity programme, poverty and corruption.

There were 50,000 on the streets in Istanbul and 10,000 in Ankara.

Police prevented meetings and demonstrations in the Kurdish area of Turkey.

### South Korea

Thousands of workers

marched through Seoul to protest against economic "reforms" that have caused massive redundancies.

### Japan

Nearly half a million people took part in a work-ers' march in Tokyo on May

Day.
They included delegations from Burma as well as all the main Japanese trade unions.

Palestinian trade unionists marched to protest against Israeli occupation.

### France

Tens of thousands joined demonstrations in dozens of cities across the country.

In Paris workers fighting mass sackings by multinational corporations like Moulinex, Danone and Marks & Spencer headed the march.

### India is also part of global wave of protest

ONE OF India's most important cities was shut down by a general strike.

Millions of people stayed at home in Bombay as unions and political parties called protests against global-isation and privatisa-

tion.
The Indian govern-The Indian government is pushing ahead with a World Trade Organisation plan which could see cheap imports flood the country, devastating many local industries and farmers.

### **Privatisation**

It is also pushing through laws to make it casier for companies to sack workers, and is dri-ving ahead with a pri-

vatisation programme.

The strike across the Indian state of Maharashtra once again gives the lie to those who claim that protests against globalisation are the preserve of people in richer industrialised

countries.

While the strike was directed against the right targets, it was organised by an unholy political

by an unholy palliance.

As well as trade unions and left wing parsuch as the such as the it was ties such as the Communist Party, it was backed by the Shiv Sena

party.
This is a right wing
Hindu chauvinist organi-

sation.

It is hoping to build a base by fighting privati-sation and attacks on workers. But it also seeks to scapegoat Muslim minority. India's

# Eamonn

### Violent double standards

THE ROW over Martin McGuinness admitting he was number two in the Derry Provos on Bloody Sunday high-

Derry Provos on Bloody Sunday highlights the hyprocrisy surrounding the
issue of political violence.

The hypocrisy was underlined by the fact that the
controversy came in the same week as the European Court of Human Rights castigated the British
government for failing to seek out the truth about
the killing by RUC and SAS men of 11 IRA members and a civilian in the 1980s.

Right-wing commentators in both Britain and Ireiand heaped scorn on McGuinness's outline of his
statement to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry. He was
saying nothing new in confirming his IRA status,
they sniffed

And he wasn't going to tell the whole truth about
his IRA career anyway, but intended to confine his

his IRA career anyway, but intended to confine his evidence to what had happened on Bloody Sunday. This wasn't good enough, they declared. McGuinness shouldn't be allowed to take a selective approach.

### **Testimony**

It was almost forgotten in the heat of the argument that the IRA didn't carry out any of the killings being investigated by the Tribunal McGuinness will be giving testimony to. It's freely admitted by lawyers for British soldiers that all the dead and wounded were unarmed, and were struck by British Army bullets. And yet none of the soldiers who find

Army bullets. And yet none of the soldiers who fired the shots will be named.

They will give their evidence anonymously, and possibly from behind screens. We won't know who they are and may not even see their faces. But none of the commentators who have been ranting about Martin McGuinness has had a word to say about Martin McGuinness has had a word to say about this far more glaring example of selective evidence. We should be used to these double standards.

Every class-divided society operates on the basis of its "official" forces having a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence. Indeed, their violence isn't usually regarded as violence at all. A cop battering in the head of a protester is "keeping the peace", but May Day demonstrators milling around in central Legico are "spreading terror"

tral London are "spreading terror".

Last month, George Bush called on Palestinians whose restraint in the face of years of oppression has been little short of saintly to "end your vio-

As he spoke, he was standing literally shoulder-shoulder with the serial mass murderer, Ariel

### **Attitudes**

The contrasting attitudes to Martin McGuinness on the one hand and to SAS men, RUC special units and paratroopers on the other fits into this general pattern. As does the reluctance of the Dublin government to search out the truth when it's Irish State forces who have used lethal violence.

The garda inquiry into the killing of John Carthy in Longford was such a blatant whitewash that not even conservative Dublin commentators would accept it. Pressure for more of the truth led to hearings before a Dail committee. But that, too, has been derailed by the determination of the gardai directly involved to account in the open for their actions.

directly involved to account in the open for their actions.

And Taoiseach Ahern and Justice Minister O'Donoghue, in effect, back the gardai up. The context of the Carthy case is very different to Bloody Sunday. But there's no difference with regard to the accountability of the perpetrators or to the attitude of the authorities to pleas for an honest investigation and the full truth to be told.

Against that background, the calls by Sinn Fein and other nationalist groups in the North for the Dublin Government to take up with its British counterpart the issues of State-sponsored killing and collusion are, at best, inadequate.

It is in the interest of all workers on the island, Catholic and Protestant, that the truth about State killings, North and South, should be told and the killers held accountable.

This means rejecting the double standards of those who have been denouncing Martin McGuinness, and rejecting also any perspective of lining up with the Dublin establishment in relation to killings in the North.

Private Finance Initiative bent on..

# McCann Selling off the public sector

PRIVATE **Finance Initiative is** set to sweep through the education sector in Northern Ireland, public buildings handing sector and jobs to private corporations.
At the end of April,

SDLP higher education minister, Sean Farren opened a new extension for the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education in Derry, built using PFI.

The Derry building is the first higher education building to be completed using PFI.

Farren noted that other PFI projects including the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education were underway.
"PFI gives us the chance
to make better and speedier progress and allows ges to devote more time to the core business of providing education," said Farren, "That is essential if Northern Ireland is to compete and succeed in the global marketplace."

### **Scandals**

The new building in Derry was built by the Northwin Consortium,



REAL ESTATE agents for the public sector: L-R Mark Durkin, SDLP; Cathal Crumley, Sinn Fein Mayor of Derry; John Hume, SDLP; Sean Farren, SDLP at the opening of the PFI building in Derry.

sidiary of the massive Cement Roadstone Holdings, which was heavily involved in the Ansbacher corruption scandals in the South.

The deal means that Northwin will be paid for the building over 25

In Britain, campaigners against PFI estimate that this usually amounts to twice or three times the original cost. PFI was a policy developed by the former Tory government and extended by Blair's New Labour.

PFI is now being introduced throughout the education, transport and health sectors in Northern Ireland.

### **Privatise**

Sinn Fein ministers, Martin McGuiness and Bairbre De Brun have both endorsed it for the schools and hospitals. DUP Minister Gregory Campbell is planning to use PFI to privatise pub-

lic transport. PFI represents a massive extension of the pre-vious policy of subcontracting work in the pub-lic sector to private companies.

Northwin will also Northwin will also control catering, cleaning, portering, security and maintenance for the next 25 years.

All of these jobs are notoriously low paid and are set to get worse as Northwin tries to squeeze

the maximum profit out of the arrangement.

### **Student Fees to stay**

SEAN FARREN, the SDLP Minister for Further Education confirmed that student

fees are set to stay.

When addressing the NUS-USI conference in Belfast he said, "Abolishing the loan based system or the abolishment of fees are not real options".

The cost of getting rid of the fees would amount to £35 million.

Yet Raytheon arms company in Derry received £75 million in handouts.

Farren's statement comes after the announcement of a bursary scheme which pays a pittance to students from lowfamilies.

With the average student leaving university with debts between £7,000 and £10,000, it is not surprising that rate of dropouts are increasing, enrolment is also

A recent survey found that 20 percent of students drop out of their courses mainly due to financial problems.

Intended for Bill
Clinton when he
comes to Belfast on
May 24. The Socialist
Environmental
Alliance will also hold

a counter protest to Clintons visit to Derry

on May 25.

### **Bigots hold** back choice

THE SOCIETY for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) in England has taken a court case to try to stop over-the-counter availability of the morning after pill.

Women in Britain and the North have been able to buy the cmergency contraceptive Levonelle-2 without a prescription

since January.

SPUC argues that the morning-after pill is the same as an abortion and should be as strictly regu-

Doctors, however, insist that abortion is "the interruption of an established pregnancy, i.e. after the embryo has attached in the uterus."

### **Fundamentalist**

The fundamentalist move comes after the offi-cial Unionist Party and SDLP got together to try to ban the morning after

pill in the North.

Esmond Birnie (UUP)
and Alban Magennis
(SDLP) have tabled a
motion in the Assembly
that the decision taken to allow emergency contra-ception over the counter

was wrong.

No date has yet been set for debating this motion.

### Rights

A spokesperson for Alliance for Choice in the North told Socialist Worker, "It's interesting how nationalists and unionists have no problem stopping their sectarian bickering to unite in opposition to women's rights.

rights.
"It's simple really. Most women see the morning after pill as an important part of keeping control of their lives.

"Those who think emergency contraception is wrong need not weath

use it.

They should allow other women to make up their own minds."

### Clinton is to sit Ireland A similar welcome intended for Bill

THIS TIME Clinton will be accepting an honorary doctorate

an honorary doctorate from Queen's University for his "contribution to peace". He tried to save his presidency by bombing Iraq and a medical factory in Sudan when he faced impeachment. ment. Clinton's last visit

to Belfast, which was greeted by protests and demonstrations of over 100 people and led to the first occupation the American consulate.

When he spoke, protestors heckled and booed him.

For information e-mail: grbelfast@hotmail.com or seaderry@hotmail.com

### **Abbeylara**

# Cops cover-up killing

JOHN CARTHY, a building labourer, with a history of depression, was shot in the back four times by officers armed with Uzi machine guns and assault rifles at a siege in Abbeylara in Longford last year.

by JACK REED

Siochana were highly pro-fessional if not heroic."

sublmission to the Dail committee calling for the

application of international law to the Abbeylara

that the Garda report into the incident is not satisfac-

tory.
The Garda Report

shows no need for "enhanced police training

in human rights, psychology, and negotiation tactics is not even addressed in a manner which indicates

any purpose of institutional amendment on the part

Approach

with the pessimistic con-clusion that Abbeylara

could happen again," con-cludes the ICCL.

The forces' 'foot drag-ging' at the Dail Committee has also shown

that they are more inter-

ested in protecting the "good name and reputa-tion of certain members"

of the Gardai rather than

getting closer to the truth.

There is a wider point for socialists. The Gardai

like any police force in a capitalist country is not a neutral body. The Gardai are there to defend the

state and the status quo. It

is not a democratic organi-

sation and remains very reluctant to allow even the

smallest amount of accountability into the

Because of this lack of democracy the Gardai

have been extremely reluc-

tant to allow any indepen-dent third party look into

the incidents surrounding

Simple questions need to be asked:Why was Carthy's sister denied per-

mission to talk to him dur-ing the 24 hours he locked

Why was the psychia-trist who treated him for

depression not consulted? Why was his request for a

solicitor not met? Why were the heavily armed

Emergency Response Unit called in in the first place?

the Dail Committee are

going to answer them.

It doesn't look likely

himself in his house?

the FBI of course.

shooting, apart from

organisation.

"In the absence of such an approach one is left

of An Garda Siochana.

The ICCL have said

incident.

The ICCL have made a

Now a Dail sub-committee set up to investigate the events surrounding the shooting has fatal been closed down for 30 days because of police pressure. This comes after council for the Gardai argued that a number of their members who were due evidence should not have to.

The exact same type of arguments were used by British soldiers to try to avoid the Bloody Sunday inquiry but the Irish government supported civilian groups who demanded they appear. Yet this time Justice Minister O Donoghue has weighed in behind Garda plans for a cover-up.

This sub-committee is not the first 'investigation' into the incident. An internal inquiry by the Gardai themselves in the months following the shooting has been severely criticised by many who say that it was

The call for an independent inquiry into the events of April 19th and 20th last year has gathered much support from various sources. The family of the late John Carthy have called for a public inquiry and they have been joined by the Irish Council for by the Irish Council. Civil Liberties (ICCL).

#### Report

The Garda report into the events was only made public after huge public pressure had been exerted and when it did become when it did become available, even the Tanaiste was criticising the "selective leaks" made to

During their own investigations the Gardai brought the FBI into to at the events concerned, however the American force does not have a great record on such incidents. In the Waco siege in which the FBI were involved, over 80 lost their lives.

The Garda Report on the fatal shooting of John Carthy contains no expression of regret or apology to the family, apart from one sentence towards the end of the document.

According to sources in the ICCL the Garda Report set out to portray John Carthy as "mad, bad, and sad and that the actions of An Garda

# Why you should

# NGETRI



PATRICIA MCKENNA

SW: The government says that the Nice Treaty is only about enlarging the EU. So why are you objecting?

PATRICIA McKENNA: THERE ARE 70 pages in the Nice Treaty but only eight pages deal with enlargement.

It is not the real issue. The

changes in the EU will occur regardless of whether the new countries in Eastern Europe decide to join. They will come in early before any of them join.

The treaty allows for enhanced co-operation between any eight states. It will create a two-tier Europe - one where is an inner circle which dictate to the rest.

The Nice Treaty is almost entirely devoted to transferring more power to the big EU Member States at the expense of smaller

he government is trying to rush through the Nice Treaty without much discussion. The reason is that it contains new measures, which will speed up the creation of an EU military super-power.

The government is getting backing for all the main parties in Dail Eireann, including the Labour Party.

The party's Dublin MEP, Proinsias de Rossa, is one of its most enthusiastic backers.

Disgracefully, the ICTU has joined the political establishment in calling for a Yes vote.

But questions are being about who exactly who ICTU General

Secretary speaks for.

These questions are prompted by the fat that the largest union, SPTU, refused to take a position on the treaty.

This followed after divisions developing in the union at the highest level.

Ranged against these forces are a variety of mainly left wing movements ranging from the Greens to the Socialist Alliance.

Here two key opponents of the Treaty, ANDY STOREY of the human rights group Afri and Green MEP PATRICIA MCKENNA tell Socialist Worker why they are against the treaty.

states such as Ireland.

You have argued that business interests are pushing the Nice Treaty. What is your evidence for

THE EUROPEAN Round Table of Industrialists have been campaigning actively behind the scenes for this treaty. They are calling the shots.

If you look at the statement they made beforehand and compare it to what is in the Treaty you can see how much they got.

One article in the Treaty - arti-- allows the EU cle 133 -Commission powers to enter into negotiations with the World Trade Organisation.

This will allow them to push through the globalisation agenda which means more power for the multi-nationals.

The Nice Treaty moves decision making from open meetings in national and regional parliament to the EU institution in Brussels where elected representatives of the people have no access.

This closed door policy denies

people insight into voting details and makes it very difficult for the people to hold Ministers and civil servants responsible is unaccept-

Do you think that the treaty will lead to the mili-tarisation of Europe?

DEFINITELY. The European Rapid Reaction Force is already A.s to

N

th

leading to global insecurity.

The Treaty is designed to turn the EU into another military super-

you objecting?

ing against enlargement if that is democratically decided upon by people

democratically decided upon by people in the current and applicant states.

But if we are inviting other people to join our "club", then we should make sure it's in a fit state to receive visitors—building a military capacity behind closed doors, which is what's happendoors and a second poor to be the company of the com ing now, is not a good sign of what's in store for new members. We should sort out issues like that

before we invite others to join in such

What is the link between a Euro army and NATO?

NATO equipment and intelligence resources

A report from the December 2000 EU Nice Presidency Report specified that the NATO Secretary General should attend EU ministerial meetings.

All EU countries (except France) that are also members of NATO send the same representatives to the new EU military committee as they do to the NATO military committee. During discussions in March of this year on the crisis in Macedonia, the EU and NATO representatives were holding joint news conferences A 888 4

Are there moves aloot to build up a European defence industry?

YES, BUT there are divisions here.

The UK, for example, is closest to the US, so they're not too keen on replacing imports of US armaments.

Whereas the Franch ruling groups are much more anti-US and enthusiastic about an independent European defence capacity.

Though defence is a bit of a misomer here — because the European Rapid Reaction Force (the new European army) is designed for often sive operations outside the borders of

Some argue that you need a Euro. superpower to rival the US. What do you think?

IT MIGHT give poorer countries a little more scope to play off one superpower against another, but it's a hellave risk.

The likelihood is that the emerging

EU military capacity will work along-aide, not in opposition to, US interests. And commercial pressures from armaments companies, for example— mean that once a military capacity is built up it is going to be used to generate repeat-replacement orders.

So if you have this alternative Euro-superpower it's probably going to attack somebody — most likely "shall fry" targets in Africa or elsewhere in the poorer parts at the world" the poorer parts of the world",

SW: The government says that the Nice Treaty is just about the enlargement of Europe. Why are

ANDY STOREY: WE HAVE noth-

IT'S VERY close. There are tour joint EU-NATO working groups thrashing out issues like how the EU will access

# 

peaks for. estions are prompted by the largest union, SIPTU, take a position on the

lowed after divisions in the union at the high-

gainst these forces are a mainly left wing moveing from the Greens to Alliance.

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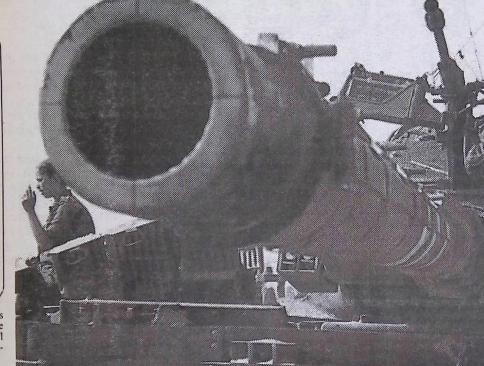
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ve poorer countries a little to play off one superpower ther, but it's a heliuvarisk hood is that the emerging capacity will work along-capacity will work along-capacity will work along-capacity to, US interests, capacition to, US interests, mercial pressures mpla -capacity is companies, for exactly is companies, for exactly is companies and to generate a military capacity is unce a military capacity is going to be used to going to be used to eplacement orders. have this alternative func-tive probably going to nave this alternative Euro-rit's probably going to body — most likely in Africa or elsewhere in harts of the world".



The future face of the EU

But if this happens then why would not other blocs such as the ASEAN group of countries not try to follow the same path?

What do you think about the way the referendum is being conducted?

IT SEEMS that the government, with the apparent support of the two main opposition parties, will go to any lengths to divert attention from the content of the Treaty of Nice.

Their plans to tie the forthcoming referendum on the Nice Treaty in with a number of other issues is a deliberate attempt to dilute the impact of the Supreme Court judgement in relation to fair referendum procedures.

If the government decides to put three or four constitutional amend-

ments to the people on the same day, it will mean a Referendum Commission will, according to the terms of the Referendum Act, have to publicise six or seven different arguments.

This will be a clear indication of the Government's desire to undermine the Commission's work and discredit it in the eyes of the public and the media.

### JOIN THE SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN

THE NEWLY formed Socialist Alliance will be campaigning hard to win a NO vote against the Nice

The alliance has produced thousands of stickers, leaflets, and fact sheets.

If you want to get involved or want to get leaflets or factsheets write to:

Socialist Alliance 26 Royal Terrace West, Dun Laoghrie.

Socialist Alliance Public Rally

### No to the NICE **Treaty**

Thursday May 24th ATGWU, 56 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 7.30pm



Saturday May 12 Connolly Day Socialist Alliance Events. 3.00pm - 5.00pm, Teachers' Club, 36 Parnell Square : Activists' Meeting 8.00pm till late Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square Table Quiz £3 per person.

### **Report of Genoa Social Forum**

# Shut down the G8

Forum (GSF) met in Genoa at the beginning of May. The GSF is an umbrella group of over 170 organisations which is co-ordinating the antig8 protests next July.

About 250 people gathered, mostly from Italy, but the meeting also included some 60 delegates also included some 60 delegates from other countries. Represented at the meeting were Italian rank and file union groups, environmental campaigners, anti-debt campaigners as well as Genoa mobilizing groups from France, Belgium, Britain, Spain, Germany, Greece and Ireland.

From the beginning of the

From the beginning of the meeting it was clear that the protests in July will be massive, and that while people are going to Genoa to protest for many different reasons, there must be unity in these protests. Simone from the Ya Basta! autonomist group in Italy said that "the num-ber and unity will be what is deci-

sive in the protests".

Activists from across Europe told of the excitement in their countries for going to Genoa. Representatives from ATTAC, which is organised in 8 countries, spoke of sending 10,000 people from France alone.

#### **Protests**

The possibility of a right-wing coalition led by Berlusconi winning in the Italian elections next week meant that many Italians were concerned that the protests would be met with bans and repressions, but others argued that the anti-G8 protests could be a real chance for the left in Italy to regroup and send a powerful message to the govern-

Norma Bertrulacelli from Rite Norma Bertrulacelli from Rite Contre G8 in Genoa was quite clear: "we're not going to present petitions or beg (to be allowed to protest) because they've got no legitimacy. For us it's like the matia coming to town." The GSF are now calling for a drug footier. are now calling for a day of action nationally, and internationally at Italian Embassies, on June 2nd to pressure the government into accommodating the demonstra-

There are four main events to counter the G8's meeting in Genoa. The first is a week long 'Social Forum' where activists from across the world will gather

to discuss the ideas and politics behind our movement. On the 19
July a mass protest for immigrant
rights will march along the 'exclusion zone' imposed by the Italian

authorities around the G8's conference hall.

Much of Genoa's immigrant community lives within this area, and the authorities are using the G8 conference as an excuse to move them from their homes and

harass them.
Following this, there will be direct action protests on 20 July.
Because these will occur on a weekday, a number of speakers raised the possibility of a general strike. The GSF recognized the importance of trade unionists being involved in direct action and ended the meeting by issuing a call for work stoppages on

that day.

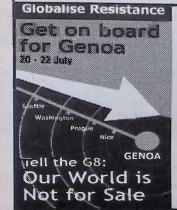
Bruno Rossi, a shop steward from the powerful Genoa Dockers Union, said "many of us have dreamed of this day. We've often found ourselves in a strug-gle when an international company could easily close us down. Now with Italian, Greek, French and British Trade Unions coming together they'll no longer be able to do that."

The main march will be on the 21st of July and the organizers expect 100,000 people to join it. The initial route of the march was to be away from the exclusion zone, but it quickly became clear that everyone wanted to get as close as possible to the G8, and allow the protesters to show their

anger.
Some people were conscious of the media hype about violence on the demonstrations but speaker after speaker echoed the argument of one GSF organizer who said "If the system is oppressing you it's right to resist. The violence? Bush, Blair and the rest of them - they're the violent ones." lent ones.

Vanya, an activist from Slovenia said "We must remem-ber that the whole underdevel-oped world is hoping that we put forward our demands to the self-elected bosses in the G8. We should disrupt their peace in this town and inform the local orditown and inform the local ordi-nary people that they themselves are paying for a meeting that has huge maternal, human and moral costs for civilisation. When the G8 meet in July there will be a powerful united protest that every activist and trade unionist should get too.

- GRACE LALLY



For details of travel arrangements Northern Ireland ring 0798 0071077

of Rep Ireland: enquiries to

Globalise Resistance 086 4098186 or globalise\_resistance@yah oo.com or write to Globalise Resistance 31 Whitworth Rd. Dublin 9.

# New book exposes fast food

# A bad taste left n your mouth?

PEOPLE ARRIVING at Dachau to visit the museum at the concetration camp are frequently given a leaflet in the car park: "Welcome to Dachau! Welcome to McDonalds!"

Opening a burger bar next to a holocaust museum is not the worst thing about the fast food business revealed in Eric Schlosser's fascinating book, Fast Food, What the All American Meal is Doing to the

It is a devastating expose of the multinational corporations who control what we eat.

### Preach

Americans now spend \$120 billion a year on fast food, more than on higher education, PCs, computer software or new cars, or on magazines, going to see films, recorded music, newspapers, videos and books combined.

videos and books combined.
Fast food firms, Schlosser argues, preach the values of consumer choice and democracy—as long as it is a choice between burgers. pizzas and microwaved slices of apple pie.
As Ray Kroc, a McDonald's founder. said. "We have found we...cannot trust some people who are non-conformists.
"We will make conformists out of them in a hurry...

out of them in a hurry.

"We have found we cannot trust some people who are non-conformists. We will make conformists out of them in a hurry... The organisation cannot trust the individual; the individual must trust the organisation." -Ray Kroc, McDonald's founder.

"The organisation cannot trust the individual—the individual must trust the organisation."

Schlosser argues that "since the administration of President Richard Nixon, the fast food industry has worked closely with its allies in Congress and the White House to oppose new worker safety, food safety and minimum wage laws."

worker safety, food safety and minimum wage laws."

The McDonald's company operates about 28,000 restaurants around the world. It's America's biggest buyer of beef, pork and potatocs, and the world's biggest owner of retail property. McDonalds make more money



Part of the machine

from rent than from selling burg-

The company is one of the country's top toy distributors and its largest private operator of playgrounds.

### Identify

Ninety-six percent of American schoolchildren can identify Ronald McDonald. Schlosser writes that "on any given day in the United States

about one-quarter of the adult population visits a fast food restaurant" and that "the typical American now consumes approx-imately three hamburgers and four orders of French fries every

"An estimated one of every eight workers in the United States has at some point been employed by McDonald's," he adds, and "the company annually hires about one million people, more than any other American organi-

The McDonald's brand is the most famous, and the most heavily promoted, on the planet. "The Golden Arches," Schlosser says, "are now more widely recognised than the Christian cross.".

As fast food franchices from

As fast food franchises from McDonald's to Pizza Hut to Kentucky Fried Chicken go global, this dynamic has assumed an international flavour.

In Brazil, McDonald's has already become the nation's largest private employer. Classes largest at McDonald's Hamburger University in Oak Park, Illinois are now taught in 20 different lan-Hamburger guages.

### Insinuating

The industry "both feeds and feeds off the young," insinuating itself into all aspects of children's lives, even the pages of their school books, while leaving them prone to obesity and disease as it hones its institutionalised exploitation of tennaces and hones its institutionalised exploitation of teenagers and minorities

The fast food companies own satellites to look for locations for restaurants and seeking out potential developments.

Currently a multinational fast food restaurant open a new outlet once every two hours. Schlosser

says: "The profits of the fast food chains have been made possible by losses imposed on the rest of

Fast food is the symbol of

global capitalism. McDonald's spend \$2 billion dollars a year promoting themselves as such.

And as the symbol stinks so does the system it represents.

### What's in the food?

AT A "fry factory" in Idaho, potatoes are washed and have their skins blown off by machines and are then fired through a Water Gun Knife a hose that shoots potatoes, at 117 feet per second, through steel grillwork that cuts them

into perfectly uniform fries.

These, of course, eventually arrive frozen at your local fast-

food outlet.
The factory-like process that turns livestock into hamburgers means that "a single fast-food hamburger now contains meat from dozens or even hundreds of different cattle."

McDonalds has is own breed of poultry called the McChicken, which is of uniform size and has large breasts.

large breasts.
The chicken farmers never

own the chickens—they are sup-plied by a processor as chicks and leased to them to be returned

when fully grown.
Further, the fast food industry takes the better meat from these

processes.

The worst goes into the public

school system.

Because most fast food is so heavily processed, it has lost real flavor and needs the help of the same companies that produce

same companies that produce "the scent in shaving cream."

Scientists called "flavorists," cobble together chemicals to recreate the flavor of fresh cherries or grilled hamburgers, always keeping "mouthfeel" in mind.

A typical artificial strawberry

flavouring found in milkshakes is a cocktail of more than 50 chemi-

A 1996 US Agriculture
Department study that found
78.6 percent of ground beef samples from processing plants around the country contained microbes that are spread primari-

microbes that are spread primarily by manure.

The poor hygiene practices in abattoirs have led to a sharp rise in the spread of the pathogen E. coli 0157.

Cases of food poisoning in Britain have increased by 60 percent since the mid eighties. Every day in America 200,000 people get food poisoning, 900 are hospitalised and 14 die.

Fast food, What the all American meal is doing to the world

by Eric Schlosser £12.50 published by Penguin



### No unions, no rights

FAST FOOD is produced and served by some of the worst treated workers under capitalism.

Fast food firms manipulate a minimum-wage workforce (primarily young, unskilled, recent immigrants) by withholding medical benefits, perpetuating turnover to deter unionisation, while taking full advantage of government subsidies for nonexistent "training."

McDonalds, for instance, has a policy that if it can't break a union in a restaurant it will close it down and open another on down the street.

open another on down the street.

The fast food business invests large sums designing equipment so streamlined that it requires as little skill as possible to operate while accepting vast US government subsidies for teaching job skills to the poor.

The giant agribusinesses and abattoir chains that supply restaurants are driving America's small farmers off the land.

The companies have encouraged consolidation and centralisd production. Global corporations control the vast majority of beef, poultry and potatoes.

Out of every \$1.50 spent on a large order of fries at a fast food restaurant, a meagre two cents goes to the farmer who grew the potatoes.

Those who suffer the most are the

Slaughter house workers.
Slaughterhouse workers injured on lines are encouraged to deny their injuries to keep production moving.

### Injured

The slaughter houses were unionised and conditions improved at the beginning of the century.

So the slaughter houses moved into rural areas to break the unions.

The dangerous, injury-filled work—where job assignments have names like "first legger, knuckle dropper, navel boner"—is carried out by low paid immigrant labour. immigrant labour.

Now conditions are more medieval

than they ever were, with workers stuck on a production line of slaughter, cov-ered in blood and manure hacking at meat for hours on end with dangerous equipment.

# Their man

WHOSE STROKE of genius was it to put the film version of John Le Carre's The Tailor of Panama on general release on the day the Summit of the Americas opened in Quebec?

As the teargas wafted across Quebec City we cannot be reminded too forcefully that the invisible hand of the market only works with the mailed fist of armed force. There is no McDonald's without arms manufacturer McDonnell Douglas. And what better example than Panama?

than Panama?

It was here that George Bush Sr, Ronald Reagan's vice-president and previously Nixon's head of the CIA, created Panama's gangster dictator General Noriega. The same George Bush Sr, as US president five years later, sent in the troops and gunships that killed thousands in the removal of Noriega. The dictator had stopped obeying US orders after becoming super-rich and powerful from the drugs trade.

Today George Bush Jr is concentrating billions of US military "aid" on Panama's next door neighbour, Colombia, allegedly to stop the drugs trade. In reality this campaign is designed to put down popular opposition. Panama masquerades as a democracy despite its banks

querades as a democracy despite its banks nicknamed "laundromats" and its skyscrapers called "cocaine towers".

As one character says in The Tailor of Panama, "When Bush came in and removed Ali Baba, he left the 40 thieves." So is it all business as usual, then? Not quite. The world's busiest waterway, the Panama Canal, is now formally under Panama's control. The US's 85year occupation of the Canal ended in 1999.

### **Imperial**

But is the Pentagon going to leave this vital route to the Panamanians? And what about the smaller imperial powers like Britain? Are they going to stop meddling? We all know the answer is no, and it is wonderful to see it so beautifully spelt out in *The Tailor of Panama*, directed by John Boorman.

The story is simple, Harry Pendel, a former

beautifully spelt out in The Tailor of Panama, directed by John Boorman.

The story is simple. Harry Pendel, a former small-time villain, has recreated himself as a Savile Row tailor making suits for the ruling elite of Panama. Getting deeper into debt, he is easy prey to the greedy, bullying MI6 agent Andy Osnard, who needs someone to supply him with intelligence. The MI6 agent's secret mission in Panama is to watch the political manoeuverings in the lead-up to the US handover of the canal, and he hopes to amass a private fortune for himself.

The agent leans on Harry, who is so well liked by the 40 thieves, for information. Harry, though, is useless at getting the truth out of them. What he is good at is making it all up. So he fanaticises out loud about a "silent opposition" willing to overthrow the thieves and stop a dastardly plan to sell off the canal to a Japanese, French and Chinese consortium.

Osnard, the perfect antidote to the James Bond myth, sees his chance. He whips the "evidence" off to his bosses in MI6 who, dreaming of being once again in the big league, rush off to the CIA and Pentagon. After some undignified haggling, \$15 million in cash is supplied to fund the "opposition" and the air attack in support is launched. John Le Carré took the plot of The Tailor of Panama from Graham Greene's 1969 novel Our Man in Havana.

Le Carré has co-written the film script, and

1969 novel Our Man in Havana.

Le Carré has co-written the film script, and his contempt for our ruling class comes through beautifully in The Tailor of Panama film version. The film is great entertainment and should also help motivate people to prepare a hot reception help motivate people to prepare a hot reception for George Bush Jr in Genoa in July.

by GEOFF BROWN

# in my Losing trust view n the system

### by DAVE LORDAN

MULTINATIONALS are evil. Bribery of government, sur-veillance and thuggery against employees, outright murder when the going gets tough, are all part of the pursuit of profit.

That is the message of AntiTrust, a brilliant new Holly wood movie with Tim Robbins.

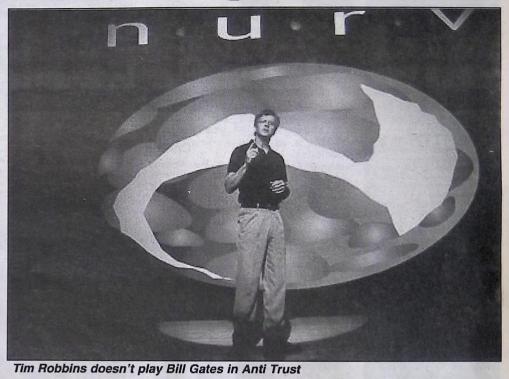
It is a wonderful irony that the movie is distributed by Rupert Murdoch's Fox Corporation.

#### Lavishness

Robbins plays Gary Winston, the mega-rich CEO of the world's biggest computer company, ironi-cally titled NURV, which stands for Never

Which stands for Never
Underestimate
Radical Vision.
He lives a life of
unimaginable lavishness and has, it
seems, limitless seems,

power. Winston hires Milo, a young, hip, computer genius, to work on NURV's new multimedia



product Synapse.
Winston has gambled billions on Synapse being ready in time for its launch date.

launch date.
For the first third of the movie the audience is drawn into Winston's and his company's carefully wrought PR image.
Robbins is a selfmade tycoon who gives millions to the arts, education and charities.
To his employees, computer whiz kids, he is

a guru, driving them on to unleash their creative potential in the name of the company.

But how have NURV and the cool CEO really got to the to?

Recause as Winston

Because, as Winston keeps repeating they are "prepared to do whatever it takes" to get there. Robbins' movie is

bound within the conven-tions of adventure sto-

ries. The gender roles are

well worn with the female characters entirely sec-ondary and stereotypi-

### Removes

However it pulls no punches in making a direct link between the free market and evil. It shows how capitalism removes all borders, economic and moral, in the drive to accumulate

profit, how it robs the wealth of the world and drains the brains of the

young.

AntiTrust's message is overwhelmingly pro-

gressive.

No matter how big the multinationals are, no matter how small workers might some-times feel we are, if we organise to fight them we can win.

As such, it is recommended viewing.

### pamphlet

# Class struggle in the classroom

AS A Leaving Cert student, I was very pleased find a pamphlet which deals so closely with an issue that has risen to the fore in recent public debate.

As the argument over education in this country reaches a new intensity, particularly on the issue of the ASTI strike and benchmarking, the gov-ernment has remained adamant in their support of

the neo-liberal agenda.

This situation requires a clear socialist analysis which Deirdre Cronin's Class and Education in the Celtic Tiger

provides.

Not only does this pamphlet expose the deeply class ridden nature of Irish education, it also serves as an excellent tool in the current fight against the right wing policies of our Government.

I found the class analysis of the education system in this country, reflected my own expe-rience as a student. Even as a child one can dis-

cern the obvious difference between pupils of a working class background and those of the middle class.

the middle class.

This is amplified in secondary school where I have seen my year size drop from about 54 students to about 30.

The poor funding crisis applies to my own school, where fund raising events are frequent and where subjects like music and PE are impossible because of lack of equipment yet across the road a wealthy school can boast of a swimming

### Market

This pamphlet also provides a thorough and in-depth critique of the introduction of the market into Irish education.

It clearly shows the consequences of the Benchmarking system that the Government

system that the Government seems to love so much.

The example of Britain shows that pay related productivity leads to more inequality, a falling teacher level and an undermining of teachers collective ability to fight for better con-

Far from improving the stan-dard of education for students, performance based pay sys-tems have increased the levels of stress among students by forcing them be assessed on a constant basis.

A fascinating part of the pam-phlet covers education under socialism.

The example of occupied schools in France in 1968 showed how a thoroughly democratic institution could be so liberating. Students voted on the subjects that they would learn that day (explore might be a better word)

Teachers worked with students in organising the school and any administration was democratically elected.

Education after the Russian

revolution could not be more dif-ferent from the stifling education my fellow students and me are now enduring.
Education was about person-

al development and expression, in stark contrast with the rigid formulaic and de-personalising nature of education under capitalism.

This pamphlet provides an

Class and Education in the Celtic Tiger Deirdre Cronin

antidote to the neo-liberal lies of the Government, a thorough analysis of education under capitalism and most importantly a socialist alternative to the false promises of the market.

I recommend this pamphlet to anyone who is sick of the rotten state of education.

• KEVIN MORAN. Leaving Cert Student

### FOR REVOLUTION. **NOT REFORM**

The present system can-not 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 fash-

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

### FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

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.

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

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.

### 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

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.

news & reports/politics/industry/the unions (01) 8722682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail swp@clubi.ie

TO PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

**Refuse Charges** 

# Bin Tax bills coming

AS SOCIALIST Worker went to press Dublin Corporation were posting out bin charge bills to addresses in the North of the city.

Ballymun anti bins charge activist Kevin Wingfield told Social-ist Worker, "The key thing is to organise mass non-payment.

This is an unjust double-tax. It has nothing to do with cleaning up the envi-ronment. We have ronment. We have already paid for these services from our

"Make sure there is an extensive network of campaigners linking each neighbour-

"If we all stand together we can defeat this charge just as mass non-payment defeated water charges in the Dublin county council areas a few years ago."

### Charge

The charge is £95 for the year to be paid in two instalments, half by June and the other half at the end of the summer.

Campaign

been organising action groups across the city and petitioning in preparation for the bills arriving.

A number of protest meetings are being organised across the north side of the city for

dates around May 14-21.
Meetings are already planned in East Wall, Poppintree, Ballymun, Artane, Glasnevin, Cabra and Stoneybatter.

For details of these and other meetings and to get in touch with the campaign in your area telephone Campaign Against the Bin Tax on 01-878 8170.

### Cork Bin Campaigner faces jail

CORK ANTI bin-charge activist Joe Moore is facing jail over an attempt by the Corporation to criminalise protest activity.

Campaigners have been taking the uncollected bags of rubbIsh and placing them outside the weekly Cork Corporation meetings to protest at the non-collection of bags not carrying a charge sticker.

urteen protestors have been fined under the litter acts for these protests and all have refused to pay their fines. Now Joe Moore has been singled out

for intimidation.

A warrant is being issued for his arrest on foot of his refusal to pay the fines.

This is a deliberate provocation - Joe

Moore is chair of Cork Trades Council and the Corporation want to demonstrate its contempt for the organised trade union movement in the city.

Officers of the Trades Council met the

managers last week in an unsuccessful bid to have the charges dropped.

"The city managers were not interested. They are intent on forcing through these charges and smashing opposition," one of the campaigners told Socialist

"And the threat of jail still hangs over the other thirteen. This has to be fought." Joe is defiant. "I will go to jail rather than pay this fine. I have done nothing

wrong

Joe is arrested the Trades Council will need to spearhead a huge protest movement established to demand his

Drogheda

## Drogheda refuse privatisation looms

Residents against Bin Charges and Privatisation have stepped up their campaign.

They are distributing "Paying under Protest: No Double Taxation' No Double Taxation" stickers for those paying the charge, so they can show their protest.

Campaigners and residents throw refuse bags into the Corpo's bin.

But many residents cannot be active and the stick-

not be active and the stick-er show they do not agree with charges as the Corpo

Drogheda anti-bins brogneda anti-bins charge activists are now fighting the imminent prospect of privatisation of the bins service.

Local activist Harry Phelan told Socialist Work-

"The bin trucks are



Protest in in Drogheda

leased from a private firm and the contract expires in

"When the Corporation when the Corporation switched over from a yearly charge to payment tags the writing was on the wall.

"They can say at any time: 'We're handing this concern'.

over to a private concern' and it looks as if they are planning to privatise at the end of June."

Conviction

Harry is currently

appealing a conviction under the litter acts for collecting bags to put on the bin lorries. He was fined £150 and bound over to keep the peace.

Harry says, "I'm no criminal. I'm appealing this all the way. But win or lose I won't be paying the fine or agreeing to be bound over."

And the issue of privatisation has been taken up by the Trades Council Chairman Donnachadha MacRagnaill slammed the possibility of privatisation.

'The Trades Council is firmly against privatisation. We are in favour of permanent and pensionable jobs, which the Corporation currently offers

which the Corporation cur-rently offers.

"We do not want a situ-ation where young lads with low wages, no pen-sions and no sick pay, come in and take over the jobs of seasoned workers."

### Dun Laoghaire is not for sale

A lively and well attended meeting hosted by the Socialist Alliance was called in Dun Laoghaoire April.

April.

At the meeting a campaign was established to fight the privatisation of Dun Laoghaoire Harbour and its environs and to campaign for investment in public services in the area.

Vincent McDowell, an independent community

independent community councillor, spoke out about the "fatcats who are suckthe wealth and resources out of local communities"

The meeting agreed to launch a petition for the reopening of Dun Laoghaire baths as a public utility.

Hundreds of signatures were collected by the local SWP branch for the peti-

tion on Saturday last and campaign members will be petitioning in the coming weeks.

To join the campaign or for more details contact Richard at 087 6329511.

A HUNDRED people from the Oldcourt estate in Bray marched through the town on Saturday the 28th of April

to demand a full-time fire service.

In the last few years there have been eight fire deaths in Bray, which might have been prevented if a full-time fire service existed.

Bray, which might have been prevented it a full-time life service existed.

The council has let houses on working class estates fall into disrepair and many residents complain of faulty electrics and other safety hazards. A campaign organiser told Socialist Worker, "Bray has a population of 35,000 but is being completely starved of funds for local services by central and local government. "Our campaign will continue until we win a fire service for Bray."

### **GLOBALISE RESISTANCE**

DUBLIN
Over 300 people attended a lively picket of the Irish Stock Exchange and over 350 people attanded a rally to launch Globalise Resistance with speakers from ATTAC, Debt and Development, and others.

BELFAST

Over 150 people attended a protest outside the Gap including people from women's groups, NASUWT, NIPSA, anar-chists, socialists, environmentalists and

It led to an occupation of the Gap store and McDonalds and a picket of the Disney Store.

DERRY

Protest outside the Northern Bank, in Guildhall Square at lunchtime, with 100 protestors campaigning on the issue of Drop the Debt.

Contact: grbelfast@hotmail.com or Globalise-reistance@yahoo.com. ring 0864098186 turn to page 7

Socialist Worker

# Selling Socialist Worker at work

"I'VE BEEN selling a regular fifteen papers every issue in my work-place," Dan told Socialist Worker.

"I work in a printing company with about 50 others spread over "Just under a year ago I took in

a bundle of papers and went around the floor.

"I got a good response and I was able to tell people what I was

about.

"Since then there have been a number of people who buy the paper regularly."

Dan is fed up with the slant of the "mainstream" press.

"The rest of the media is controlled by capital and it's obvious to me that it has its bias. Unfortunately the trade unions often seem to be going the same way.

"Socialist Worker has the arguments - against racism for

example.

"As well as that the paper carries news of the struggles that are going on."

Dan says that this helps build a

good morale in the job.

### Questions

"I think Socialist Worker has "I think Socialist Worker has an influence even if people don't say a lot about it immediately. I'm a deputy FOC [shop steward] in the union and over the months I've noticed that the paper has raised questions and issues that I'm sure has tightened the union membership in the iob.

has tightened the union member-ship in the job.

"Capitalism is a system you don't want to lie down under. We need to organise and Socialist Worker helps you do that."

Socialist Worker has in-depth coverage of the issues that face

trade unionists as well as the anticapitalist movement.

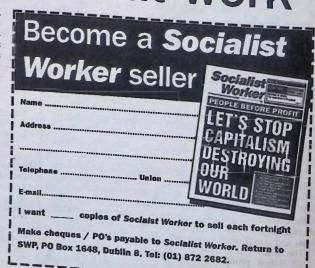
"From the fight against incinerators, and bin charges to news of strikes and union activities written by the workers themselves, Socialist Worker is a voice From the fight against incinfrom the grass-roots.

Dan also sells the paper outside the job. "I sell a regular 3 to 4 to some friends I see regularly.
They are not all exactly fiery leftwingers but they find something interesting in the paper that they get it again."

If you like reading Socialist Worker, take extra copies to sell to your workmates or friends.

your workmates or friends.

If you would like to take a few extra copies - you only pay for the copies you sell - fill in the form and send it to Socialist Worker and we will arrange to deliver your copies every fortnight.





# ILDA set to strike

TRAIN DRIVERS in the Irish Locomotive Drivers Association branch of the ATGWU are taking industrial action leading to national strike from Tuesday May

This follows the refusal of the company to agree recognition

and representation rights for ATGWU.
With 120 drivers LDA is the largest union representing train drivers.

But the company has persistently obstructed its right to represent train drivers.

The recent merger of the ILDA as a branch of the ATGWU removed any possible remaining excuse for not recognis-ing these drivers' right to be represented by a union of their choice.

#### Stonewalled

But still Iarnrod Eireann management have stonewalled.

Disgracefully the leadership of SIPTU has opposed the recognition of ILDA drivers claiming they are "SIPTU members in arrears".

And the ICTU rather

than supporting the rights of the drivers to representation have tried to get ILDA to call off their

The ILDA branch

THREE

dred furniture workers who are members of BATU have

taken strike action in

Monaghan and Ardee

than

agreed in the PPF deal.

those

for pay rises that

committee issued an appeal to fellow drivers in SIPTU and NBRU to

respect their pickets.
"We as Drivers have much more which unites us than divides us.

"We should not allow those who benefit from dividing us to continue to

do so. "As Drivers we can work together for the mutual benefit of us all."

As Socialist Worker went to press ILDA driwere due to take strike action in Connolly main line and Fairview DART depots on Tuesday May 8th and follow up

with other stoppages around the country.

It is in the interest of every larnrod E of driver, regardles of union, to respect the ILDA pickets. Unity and solidarity can win a united and strong workforce in the railway

### **Privatisation**

### Rank and file meeting says 'CIE is not for sale!'

THE privatisation of the bus and rail service in the UK been an unmitigated disaster. It would be logical not to follow the British example but there are moves to privatise CIE.

This was the mes-sage of a packed and lively meeting attended by 60 transport workers in Dublin's Teachers' Club on Tuesday 24 April.

The meeting, organised by the Rank and File Solidarity Network, heard Brendan Ogle of ILDA argue that although the CIE couldn't run a local chipper at present, the answer was not privatisation

improvement.
"Privatisation meant profit was put before safety. The large number of acci-

the construction industry are

officially on a rate of over £9 an hour.

The strike has affected

companies like Farrell's and Coyle's in Monaghan and morale is high.

at the new Sham-rock Rovers

rock Rovers ground in Tallaght have

gone on strike over being forced onto sub-

contract labour condi-

tions.

The workers who are members of BATU are

BRICKLAYERS

dents were preventable but they were not prevented because a few people were getting year. were getting verich," said Mick Rick president of ASLEF, the British train-drivers union, who came

over from England

for

**Public** 

especially

meeting.

Mick said, "Those who administer the hugely complex changeover, people like lawyers and mer-chant bankers and the big shareholders can make vast sums, individuals who hardly ever use public trans-

from the Bus Workers Action Group pointed out that the competition every one talks about in the same breath as privatisation

demanding proper PAYE employment.
The employers,

The employers, O'Loughlin's, were not paying proper social security and pension contributions.

After a few days on strike the directors of Rovers met with BATU and the building company. They seemed to express unhappiness with the conditions workers were employed on.

But supporters of Rovers should make it known they do not want sub-contract labour — but proper union conditions.

will be competing with non-unionised workers for their own jobs.

According to Owen, "Firms offer more profit to their shareholders by cutting costs, costs such as wages and safety mea-

"London bus workers before privatisa-tion earned 7 percent more than the average wage. After it their wages were 15percent below it."

He ended by saying that privatisation was not inevitable -- it could be stopped if workers united and adapted the slogan "Our world is not for sale" to "CIE is not for sale — Dublin Bus is not for sale!"

Someone called out from the floor "Well. my job is not for sale".

May Day

BELFAST:

brilliant start

### Teachers ballot

### by a teacher

The ASTI has voted by a clear margin to remain outside the PPF.

Some 57percent of members rejected the Labour Court proposal as inadequate and voted to continue to pursue their claim outside of the benchmarking process.

A bruising campaign, vilification in the media and wide-ranging promises by the Minister about possible benchmarking outcomes failed to succeed in presurising the ASTI to abandon their attempts to win an immediate pay

As one militant said "Joe O'Toole, with a 50.5 percent vote for the PPF in the INTO, can claim a mandate to bring his members into the benchmarking process. 57percent gives us the legitimacy to stay out irrespec-tive of the spin the media might like to put on it".

### Concessions

The ASTI has already won many concessions for the two unions in the bench-

marking process.

Without its action it is doubtful that the report date of the benchmarking body would have been brought forward and any potential increase backdated.

It is a serious indictment of the TUI and INTO leadership that they were prepared to accept the initial terms and procedures without seeking improvements. It does not bode well for their future attempts to negotiate the best interests of teachers of teachers

The ASTI membership will now decide the best course of action.

The lifting of the exam ban was overwhelmingly supported and will not be reimposed.

tance, the Cuban Solidar-

ity Network and the new

Alliance.

talism'

ocialist Environmental

One marcher told

Socialist Worker that

Belfast marches and it's

growing beside anti-capi-

Over £150 was contributed to people who

There is a real buzz on

The focus will now come the Department and is likely that members will vote to cease all co-operation until such time as their claim is dealt with.

Another potential path of action is to end all voluntary after school activities. Consideration will also be given to withdrawing supervision and substitute cover

Teachers in Britain have engaged in no cover action and it is a very effective way of highlighting the appalling shortage of teach-ers and the neglect of the education system by government.

### Supervision

The issue of supervision is likely to become the focus of a lot of attention in the coming weeks. It is due to be discussed in the Conciliation and Arbitration forum by the TUI and INTO. The ASTI will not participate in these negotia tions until their pay claim is dealt with

Within the TUI and INTO there is significant concern at how the supervision issue will be tackled.
Teachers have consistently voted at Congress for super-vision not to be part of teaching duties. However it now looks

likely that teachers will be urged to do supervision but this time for extra payment. This raises important

issues

There are rumours that the hourly teaching rate will not apply while it is highly unlikely that these payments will become part of a teachers permanent salary and thereby they will not be pensionable.

Benchmarking may have ietened things down in TUI and INTO temporarily, but there are many issues in the background that could quickly become a focus for action if they are not satisfactorily dealt with.

are going to the protests outside the G8 confer-

ence in Genoa and over 170 copies of Socialist

Some 300 people marched on the Dublin

Trades Council march

and over 200 attended the

Worker were sold.

**DUBLIN:** 

Hope Carnival.

### SWP branch meetings all welcome

ATHLONE: Contact 01-Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm D BELFAST CENTRAL Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Kitchen Bar, 16

BELFAST SOUTH: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students

Union

BELFAST WEST ring for details 07771 781 958

BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY Wednesdays
1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre CORK: Meets every
Wednesday at 8.00pm in
O'Donoghue's, Drawbridge

DERRY: Meets every Wednesday at 8.15pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.

DROGHEDA: Meets Wednesdays 8:30pm in McHugh's Pub St, Lawer-

ences Gate

DUNDALK Meets Wednesdays 8pm phone
01-8722682 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 Recre-ational Centre (opp. Artane

Castle)

DUBLIN NORTH CEN-TRAL: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St Phone 01-8722682

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 Phone Kevin on 086-3074060 for details

DUBLIN DUNDRUM: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

DUBLIN RIALTO: Meets

every Wednesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Com-munity Centre, SCR D DUBLIN RATHMINES: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm downstairs J O'Connells (Pub) Sth. Richmond Street Dublin 2.

TRAL: Meets at 8.30pm every Tuesday upstairs Bowes (pub) Fleet Street Dublin 2

DUBLIN TALLAGHT: Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre D 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 Thusday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details 
SLIGO Phone 087 6329511 for details

SWORDS Meets Tuesdays 8pm Semior Citizens

TRALEE: Phone 087 6329511 for details

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, Kelzer St.

### tion, Globalise Resis-CWU conference

The largest trade union march in the British Isles got of to a

The Belfast Trades

Council march included

banners from all the

major trade unions and

groups, including the Campaign Against Selec-

**DELEGATES** met in Tralee for the Communications Workers Union annual

Conference in May.

The conference was dominated by the huge changes taking place in Eircom and An Post as a result of deregulation and the privatisation agendas.

For many in Eircom the shine has worn of ESOP. The union members' share-holding was partly financed by productivity and changes in work practices. For example Eircom workers never ple Eircom workers now fund their own pension, which was previously fund-ed by the employers and see reduced premium payments and shift allowances. And Eircom workers are

now encouraged to believe they have no further need of traditional trade unionism.

### Conditions

One delegate at the conference told Socialist Work-er, "The union leaders now see themselves as partners in management rather than defenders of the workers pay and conditions.

"All the talk is now of partnership. Anything which conflicts with this is immediately beyond the pale."

This has been empha-

sised by the ambition of the CWU leaders to organise the purchase of 49% of the com-

A motion from Limerick calling on the union to with-draw from partnership was defeated and motions from branches seeking specific pay goals that conflicted with partnership were remit-ted to the National Execu-

At the moment the dissatisfaction is finding no organised expression which leaves the pro-partnership leaders firmly in charge.

Militants need to organise to focus the anger and rebuild the tradition of fighting trade unionism within the CWU.

### The furniture industry has been making huge profits from the building boom but it is trying to keep its workers on low wages. The average rate in the industry is only £6 an hour. Carpenters who work in

Tesco

BATU

WORKERS Tesco's 75 stores in Ireland are balloting on industrial action.

The union MAN-DATE is organising the ballot for rolling strikes. This follows the failure of the company to negotiate seriously on pay, pen-sions and conditions.

The Tesco group made £1.17 billion profits last year and Tesco Ireland

employs 9,500 workers.

One Galway workers.

One Galway worker told

Socialist Worker, "The company is sitting on a lot of money but it pays us below the norm.

"Even in Dunnes Stores you start on £5.50 an hour. In Tesco the rate is £4.86 just pennies above the mini-

just pennies above the minimum wage."

Another issue is different pay scales for doing the same work, "The Galway store is scale A for example, but the Castlebar store is Scale B where workers are

labour -- | conditions.

paid less.
"Tesco's want to increase

"Tesco's want to increase these divisions".

Another worker in a Dublin store told Socialist Worker, "Tescos increased sales 10 percent last year, but they won't concede any profit sharing scheme without taking our Christmas bonus off us. "We're fed up with losses."

"We're fed up with lousy pay and being pushed around.

"The feeling in my store is anger and we're enthusias-tic to take action."

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

inside

**GENERAL STRIKE** IN GREECE

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SHUT DOWN THE G8 - PAGE 7

WHAT'S IN THE BURGERS **FAST FOOD EXPOSED** 

- page 8

Solidarity price £1 50p

# OTE Socialist Environmental A

THE NEW Socialist Environmental Alliance will be standing candidates in the local elections in Derry and Belfast on 7 June.

The SEA is a coalition of socialists, trade unionists, environmentalists and other campaigners who are aiming to challenge the pro-business agenda of the nationalist and unionist par-

ties.
The SEA in Derry is fielding three candidates, Bill Webster, chair of the Derry Trades Council, Derry Trades Council, Shana Deery 24 year old, a former factory worker who is now a youth worker in Creggan and Colm Bryce, a socialist involved in the Ban the Burn campaign against an incinerator.

### Campaigner

Belfast SEA was formed at the end of April and is selected Barbara Muldoon, a socialist and campaigner against the 11 plus, as their

candidate.

To stand in a ward chosen to offer an alternative across the sectarian divide.

The SEA manifesto demands an end to incinera-tion, expanded public transport, defence of public services and



SEA candidates in Derry, Bill Webster, Colm Bryce and Shana Deery.

opposition to privatisation, a £7 an hour minimum wage (starting with council workers), trade union rights, opposition to the arms trade and an end to

to the arms trade and an end to secret negotiations with multinationals.

Colm Bryce outlined the need for these policies.

"Once you get beyond the endless bickering about decommissioning, you find that the whole political agenda in the North is being dominated by multinational corporations.

The Assembly and the local councils advertise the North on their websites as a low wage paradise for multinational investors.

"They boast that factory workers wages are 18 per cent lower here than in Britain, 35 per cent less than the US and half of what they are in Europe. "When the multinationals who are moving into Derry to take advantage of low wages include Raytheon, who make cluster bombs and Tomahawk missiles, they say 'Don't raise a fuss'. Raytheon was welcomed by every party on the local council."

"The corporations have been getting it their way far too long. We can't wait another four years to start now." years to start to climit It has to start now." The SEA is also determined

to offer an alternative to communal politics. "It is so clear to see that the main divide is between rich and poor," said Barbara Muldoon. "If you look at an area like North Belfast,

at an area like North Belfast, the poverty is terrible but there are very few resources.

Community groups are constantly chasing funding, but companies like the Halifax get handed £10 million in grants to build a new low-wave call cen-

handed £10 million in grants to build a new low-wage call centre. We want to use the election to highlight those issues."

"We're not saying that there are no problems with the whole set up in the North. But we are approaching it in a different way,"

The SEA has attracted the support of numbers of activists. Socialist Worker spoke to Worker spoke to some of the people involved.

'We've only been going for a few weeks, but already there is a tremendous momentum in the paign," said Goretti Horgan from Derry. "You can really sense that there are loads of people who want to see something new in politics.

Danny Brown, a socialist

in Derry, agreed that the SEA is connecting with a new spirit. "The fact that 150 people turned up to our May Day protest outside the hanks says that there is

May Day protest outside the banks says that there is something new happening.

"You could see the impact it had on people passing by, who were taking SEA leaflets. Its been so invigorating and enjoyable working with people from different strands of what you might call anti-establishment politics. That's very refreshing and very challenging as well."

Barbara Muldoon says that the Belfast SEA is having the same effect. "It's only a small beginning, to stand in local elections. But already we are meeting so many people who are looking for a radical voice.

A few days ago we heard about a group of people outside Belfast who were looking to Beliast who were looking to run in the elections in their area and who like what we are standing for. We're arranging to meet them this week to try to link up. You get a feeling that this could be the beginning of something very big."

### Socialist

Bill Webster said, "I've been a socialist in Derry for 25 years and this is by far the most excit-ing thing I've seen here. There are so many young people involved."

involved."

Sandra Capper, a student at Magee University in Derry, said, "The SEA meetings are so fresh and exciting. There's so much energy, because the agenda of the alliance is so original and straightforward compared to any of the other political parties."

"I had been looking to get involved in politics and couldn't find anything that represented what I believed in. The SEA has been everything I was hoping it would be, it's really about making a difference, standing up for people and changing society."

To get involved in the

To get involved in the SEA campaign phone 07771 781958 or email seaderry@hotmail.com.