

& get his warplanes out of Shannon now! Al on to the street March 20th-GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION

Dublin protest 3pm Parnell Square organised by Irish Anti War Movement

Tax dodgers get pension boost

TAX DODGERS have been given a boost from the Revenue Commissioners

The Revenue Commissioners is presently informing people who stashed millions of euro offshore that they can avail of tax incentives to slash their liabilities for unpaid taxes.

A pensions loophole is signalled in the guidance that the Revenue has prepared for the holders of offshore accounts, giving them until the end of March to declare the hot money.

Discrimination against refugees

FOREIGN nationals in this country encounter "huge problems" finding a decent place to live according to a new study entitled Hous-ing and Refugees: The Real Picture. One respon-dent in the study spoke about the dire conditions in reception hostels.

"There were 12 in a room. When I arrived I was having a problem so I couldn't sleep if there was a noise. We were sharing a shower with more than

30 people. "There are ladies who are having their babies and they are also using the same shower.

Sister Breege Keenan of the Vincentian Refugee Centre said that 60 per cent of those who came to the centre needed help with accommodation.

O'Reilly creams the profit from Eircom

AFTER the privatisation and then the huge losses made by the thousands of people who bought Eircom shares, it is predictably the very rich who come out

laughing in the end. Part time Press Baron and full time tax exile Tony O'Reilly is expected to earn more than €36 in the eircom floatation.

When the company is floated next week the Independet Press owner is expecting to make a profit of €36 on the investment he made two years ago.

No tax cheats jailed: But Tribunals cost us millions

WHILE none of the owners of Ansbacher Accounts or those politicians found guilty of taking bribes from property dealers have gone to jail, the rest of us are getting screwed by the

Coughlan, Jerry and Jacqueline John Healy O'Brien-have been paid an amazing an amazing combined total of over €10 million since 1997. In addition, fig-ures compiled by *The Sun-day Business Post* show that lawyers acting for the state—for the individual tri-bunals and the Laffoy/ Ryan Commission-were paid €18 million last year. Senior barristers work-ing full time for the tri-

bunals earn over €500,000 a year. Some earn more than €750,000.

Goodman still rolling in it

REMEMBER Larry Good-man, the man who brought us the Beef Tribunal and

got off scot free. Readers of *Socialist Worker* will be a little disappointed to know that this corrupt supporter of FF was just paid €38 million in dividends by his firm, Irish Food Processors in the two years to March 2002.

In the food sector there is a network of FF supporting business people such as the Goodman group and Hibernia meats.

Irish workers already footed the bill for Goodman's EU fines (caused by the revelations in the Beef Tribunal) two years ago because he is important to the 'National (bosses) interest'

Keeping it in the tamily

Contrary to myth, the rich were most often born into rich families.

ketplace. They account for up to 90 per cent of all companies.

15 Irish family businesses are sitting on sharehold-ers' funds of almost €1.5 billion.

top business received two years to the end of 2002.

2002

The Musgraves from

Residents face killer asbestos CRH,

DUBLIN'S Ballymun flats complex are to be demolished in a multibillion euro redevelopment organ-ised by Ballymun Regeneration Limited (BRL), a company set up by Dublin City Council.

For years residents have been concerned that the flats contain the deadly asbestos, which if it becomes a dust and is breathed in even in miocroscopic amounts, causes asbestosis, cancer and other breathing illnesses.

These diseases can appear up to 40 years after exposure to the dust.

The Council and BRL assured residents that there was no danger and planned to begin demolition in the next few weeks.

But last week the Health and Safety Authority ordered BRL to remove the asbestos from the flats before demolition.

The material, Artex, contains 4 percent asbestos, 20 times the level necessary to adopt special procedures for demolition to avoid the dust becoming airborne.

Immediately BRL boss Ciaran Murray protested, saying the removal would cost €128 million and delay work for four years.

He claimed the HSA was over-reacting and said the regulations ought to allow some "wriggle room".

He was backed up by junior housing minister and local Fianna Fail TD Noel Ahern, brother of the Taoiseach.

Ahern said "people are being a little bit too dogmatic' BRL and Dublin City Council are

desperate to cut costs on the regeneration. They want to cut corners with safety

and hope to panic the HSA into backing down by claiming removing the asbestos would result in long delays. This is nonsense. If sufficient num-

bers of specialists were brought in, the asbestos could be safely removed in a



Demolition of towers could contaminate are with asbestos fibres

short time scale.

Priority

But this would cost money that BRL and Dublin City Council do not want to spend on the people of Ballymun.

Local Socialist Workers Party rep Kevin Wingfield said, "The health of the community and of the workers on the sites should be first priority. "How BRL managed to undertake a

huge project like this without preparing a proper plan to dispose of the asbestos safely beggars belief.

In the face of this monumental negligence, I am surprised that Ciaran Murray doesn't resign rather than try to dodge this important issue.

Residents and building workers need to demand that BRL take no chances with our long-term health. Professionally remove the asbestos before levelling the blocks!

srael, **Ireland's** rich

AS reported in Socialist Worker last month Irish company Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) has a 25% (and presently negotiating for another 25%) stake in the Israeli company Mashav.

This is the company which is presently building the wall around the West Bank.

This illegal construction is part of an obvious land grab and attempt to further pen-in the Palestinian people by Ariel Sharon's right wing government.

As a company CRH sits at the very centre of power within the Irish ruling class. It has also had strong links with Fianna Fail.

The company was at the centre of the controversy about the Ansbacher tax scam. The offices of CRH were used as a headquarters for the scam.

Directors

A look at its present

They include Tony

Barry, from the Barry tea

family; Howard Kiroy, a

Bank of Ireland director;

Kieran McGowan, who is

Others include Tony

also on the board of

Grilled Beef Fillet, Sause Perigourdine and Honey Balsamic Reduction with and former directors gives Fondant potatoes. a good insight into the After several cheeses, Irish ruling class.

came "Diplomat Pudding' dripping with Baileys Crème Anglaise. To wash it all down came

two fine wines:: Sancerre Domaine du Nozay, 2001 and Chateau Potache D'Aux, Medoc, 1998.

connoisseur tell us they are though slightly cheeky, fruity but with an excellent nose and superlative finish.

ments were provided to stop the spirits flagging while the rich and powerful and Fianna Fail's finest banqueted.



Mary Coughlan and Frank Fahey

merce in the Radisson SAS Hotel Mary Coughlan and Labour Minister Frank Fahey were wined and dined

Here are extracts from



the menu in case you could-

Fresh Atlantic Lobster with Buluga Caviar Blini, followed by Champagne Sorbet. Next came Char

BUS WORKERS' WARNINGS IGNORED THREE YEARS BEFORE ACCIDENT

LAST MONTH's tragic accident in Dublin resulted in the deaths of five people as they queues to board a bus to Lucan and

a result of having to move bus stops to accommodate LUAS works

But Socialist Worker has learned that three union representatives had surveyed the area and reported on overcrowding. A report drawn up by bus drivers point out that the whole area of West-moreland St and the quays was overcrowded.

The report complained that buses had no room to park while waiting for their departure time and were often sent out early

But no action was taken Some years ago it was proposed to build a spa-cious terminus for Dublin City buses in the Temple This would have reduced overcrowding and made it easier for passengers to change buses to get across the city. Under pressure from city developers, Fianna Fail killed the scheme

n't get along: by the business community.

Enterprise Ireland, Elan, Socialist Worker's wine An Post, and the National Lottery. O'Brien, is a director of

Cantrell and Cochrane Live musical entertainand Anglo Irish Bancorp; David Kennedy, is a former chair of Aer Lingus; and the late Des Traynor,

who was the bagman for CJ Haughey. Israel with the help of CRH is constructing a massive wall through the **Occupied Territories of** the West Bank.

A 144 kilometre section, from Jenin to Oalgiliva is complete and construction is continuing south toward Ramallah.

The complete Israeli

In Ireland family business-es dominate the Irish mar-

A recent investigation by the Sunday Business Post reveals that the top

Four of the country's families dividends totalling €81 million in the

One family, the O'Fla-hertys, who own the Irish rights for Mercedes and Volkswagen, account for Holdings, the Dublin firm owned by brothers Nigel and Michael O'Flaherty, had shareholders' funds of €262.4 million at the end of

Cork, who own the Super-Valu and Centra brands, received €21.2 million in the two years to the end of

MARY Coughlan is Fianna Fail Minister for Social and Family Affairs. Over the past few months she has announced a series of attacks on immigrants and the poor. Cuts in Rent Allowances,

Childcare grants, Back to Education Schemes have been among her recent measure. Despite labour shortages,

she has tightened the screw on immigrants by announcing further restrictions on entitlements to social welfare

But in the midst of these cutbacks it's nice to know she doesn't have to go without. At a swanky dinner recently sponsored by the Galway Chamber of Com-

Tribunals. Tribunals and inquiries have cost the taxpayer €101 million since 1997, new figures from the Department of Finance reveal.

The vast bulk of the figure is accounted for by payments to lawyers acting for the state, and for witnesses called to the tribunals.

At the Moriarty Tribunal, three barristers-

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2002, while the Sisk family earned €13.1 million in dividends from their Dublin construction business.

Of the 19 top businesses profiled in the paper's investigation seven are in the first or second generation of the family, five are in the third generation, and seven are in the fourth, fifth or sixth. One business dates back to the 1830s.

Immediately residents of these areas pointed out that they had complained of the overcrowded and cramped condition of the bus stop on the quays. Dublin Bus pointed out that the busy terminus was make room for incoming buses.

The report also compa-lined of the overcrowding when passengers tried to board the many different routes bus stops in the area served.

plan is for a 650 kilometre wall that would completely enclose the Palestinians in two separate zones.

The Irish ruling class through the actions of CRH are openly collaborating with the oppression of the Palestinian people.

Ine







WITH the FF/PD government ploughing ahead with the introduction of computerised voting, concerns about the computerised system have been raised in the

United States. On July 23, 2003 the Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute reviewed the electronic voting system in Maryland and found that it had security "far below even the most minimal security standards....'

Johns Hopkins computer security experts concluded:

"If we do not change the process of designing our voting systems, we will have no confidence that our election results will reflect the will of the electorate.'

While Ahern and Harney have been criticising 'luddites' who are supposedly against progress left wing American Presidential candidate Ralph Nader has

raised concerns about similar computer voting in America.

"Paperless electronic voting on touch screen machines does not provide confidence to ensure votes are counted the way voters intend.

"The software on which votes are counted is protected as a corporate trade secret and the software is so complex that if malicious code was embedded no analysis could discover it," he said.

"Further, because there is no voter verified paper record, it is not possible to audit the electronic vote for accuracy, nor is it possible to conduct an independent recount.

"This is a grotesquely designed, over-complicated expensive system fraught with the potential for mistakes and undetected fraud."

editoral

DEFY AHERN'S CALL FOR NO PROTEST SAY IT LOUD AND SAY IT PROUD BUSH IS ELCOME HERE!

THE attitude of this FF/PD government towards the Irish people becomes more arrogant by the day. Not only did Ahern allow the

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to land in Shannon last month on his way to oversee the US bloody occupation of Iraq. He has now invited Rumsfeld's boss.

Ahern has called on people NOT to protest during the visit of the world's number one terrorist George Bush to Ireland in late June.

After supporting the US military during the bombing of Iraq and allowing them to land at Shannon, Bertie now calls on the thousands who took to the streets last year to stay in doors this June.

The Taoiseach last week urged Irish people not to protest against the June visit of President Bush, which, he said, "will be an honour for the Irish people and a chance to put the European view to him on a range of issues."

Ahern said the Irish Presidency of the EU was trying to get the EU-US relationship "back on an even keel and in this light I hope there would not be protests."

He said the US economy was now doing very well and there was a prospect of promoting invest-ment and trade. "This is an opportunity for Ireland," he said.

Áhern is right on one thing, this is a great opportunity for the Irish people.

A great opportunity to show our continued opposition to the war in Iraq and the continued use by the American military of Shannon Airport.

This is also an opportunity for those who took to the streets in their tens of thousands last year against the war, to come out again and show that our opposition to the occupation of Iraq remains firm.

It is also an opportunity to scupper any great publicity that Bush wants to get in the weeks leading up to the US election in November.

Soft focus pictures of Bush drinking a pint of Guinness in a local with Ahern will not be the pictures that will be beamed back to the US.

The pictures will, just like with his last visit to London, be of thousands of protestors showing their anger at the foreign policy of this vicious American regime.

Last year on St. Patrick's Day, Ahern presented a bowl of shamrock to Bush and along with it he handed over Ireland's sham-neutrality.

Ahern supported the warlord Bush at every step of the way by providing flyover and refuelling facilities before, during and ever since

Richard Boyd Barrett, chairman of the Irish Anti War Movement, said in a statement on the Bush visit "George Bush is war criminal and should not be welcomed by any government that calls itself democratic. Bush was directly responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent Iraqis in an invasion that was based on lies about weapons of mass destruction."

But before the protests in June there is the very important opportunity on Saturday 20, March to take to the streets of Dublin once more to call for the end of the occupation of Iraq.

The call for massive mobilisations and protests of different forms on March 20 has been supported by coalitions, forums and movements the world over.

Preparations are underway in many countries. 55 different countries across the world are set to demonstrate on March 20.

This is a fantastic show of anti imperialist strength and will help build the opposition to Bush's visit here in June.

It is important now for people in their communities, schools and workplaces to try and work as hard as possible for the protest on March 20, Parnell Square Dublin (3pm) and the protests in late June.



State bales out Church over clerical abuse

THE rotten nature of the indemnity deal signed between the state and the signed church two years ago becomes clearer by the month.

The deal provided an indemnity to 18 religious orders in respect of compensation claims from former residents of industrial schools, children's homes and other child residential institutions. In return the Church provided a miserly €128 million for compensation, of which €80 million

revealed in the Dail that €16m of that amount came from insurance companies rather than Church coffers!

The real reason why the government rolled over in front of the Church was revealed by Mary Hannafin in an off hand remark on the News at One on Friday. She said that FF/PD did not want to "bankrupt" the religious orders that had done so much "good" in the country!

The final bill being faced by

Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr John Purcell, said the potential exposure was likely to cost at least €650 million, with an outer limit of €1 billion, including legal costs, although all of the figures were estimates and should be treated with caution.

The open cheque book from taxpayers to the abusing orders should be cancelled. It was the religious orders that perpetuated the abuse on children in their care and it is they



Capitalism is wreck-ing the lives of mil-lions and endanger-ing the planet. A new society can only be constructed when the workers take control of the wealth and plan its production and distribution for human need and not profit. profit.

REVOLUTION

REVOLUTION The present system cannot be patched up or reformed. The courts, the army and police exist to defend the interests of the wealthy. To destroy capitalism, we need to remove the pre-sent state structures and create a workers' state based on much greater political and economic democracy. AGAINST IMPERIAL-ISM AND WAR War is a constant fea-

ISM AND WAR War is a constant fea-ture of capitalism today as the imperial-ist powers try to dominate the earth. Bush's "War on Ter-rorism" is a crude device to attack any country which threat-ens US military, strategic or economic dominance. END RACISM AND OPPRESSION We oppose all forms

We oppose all forms of oppression and racism. This divides racism. This divides and weakens the working class. We are for full social, economic and politi-cal equality for women. We oppose immigration controls which are always racist.

racist.

racist. FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH We stand for workers unity against the Assembly politicians and Blair govern-ment. Like great socialist James Con-nolly, we believe that partition has brought about a 'carnival of reaction' We want to see an Irish workers republic where all workers gain. Our flag is neither green nor orange but red!

FOR A REVOLUTION-ARY PARTY

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolu-tionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for over-Ideas and for over-throwing the system. We call for co-opera-tion between left-wing parties and the formation of a strong socialist bloc. We stand for fighting trade unions and for independent rank and



is in property transfers to State agencies and charities.

The total bill in terms of compensation to abuse victims could go well above €500 million the vast majority of which will have to be paid by ordinary tax-payers rather than the institutions that carried out the abuse.

It was members of the church who abused the children in their care over the years. While pontificating to the rest of society on moral and ethical issues the sexual and mental abuse of children happened behind closed doors.

However because of the deal signed by the FF/PD government the Church will not have to pay more than €128m in compensation, a mere fraction of the probable total. Indeed last week it was

Government is still that must compensate their unknown. On Thursday the victims.

file action.

Join the Socialist Workers Party or for more information: Fill in the form and Send to: ROI: SWP PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 872 2682 NI: SWP PO Box 143, Mallusk Road, Mallusk, Phone 0774 2531617 Email membership@swp.ie Web: www.swp.ie

	Name
	Address
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	Phone
	Email
	Union/College (If applicable)





Irony over senior Sinn Féin man's resignation

IT WAS ironic that Sinn Féin's first response to the resignation of John Kelly came at a press confer-ence in Mid Ulster called to promote SF's candidate in the European election in the North, Bairbre de Brun.

Chairing the press conference, South Down Assemblyman Conor Murphy suggested that Kelly had been embittered by his failure to be nominated for Mid Ulster in November's Assembly election.

In fact, Kelly had resigned from the party earlier and hadn't sought nomination. But that's a minor point. What's of interest is that journalists covering the press conference were handed a statement by Gerry Adams commending de Brun to Mid Ulster voters and assuring them that SF believed that "stripping acute services from Tyrone and south Derry is...unacceptable.

But who was Minister for Health at Stormont in 2002 when the plans were published to "strip acute services from Tyrone and south Derry?" The self-same Ms. de Brun, of course. Was she embarrassed at hearing her party leader describe the policy she'd presided over as "unacceptable?" Apparently not.

There's another thing. The Executive Ms. de Brun was a member of rode rough-shod over trade union and community objections to impose Private Finance Initiatives on hospitals and schools.

Hostility

There was some uneasiness about this in the SF rank and file. Who was the one SF member to voice unequivocal hostility to PFI on the floor at Stormont? John Kelly. Here's part of his November 2001 speech.

"The British Medical Journal described PFI as 'perfidious, financial idiocy that could destroy the NHS.' PFI projects...reduce pay, employment and working conditions. PFI represents an unacceptable increase in the privatisation of economic and social life. Critically, PFI involves the determination of such public services as health and education, using unaccountable, commercial criteria rather than those based on social need. In a nutshell, PFI represents profit before people.

"No party which calls itself a social democratic party or, like Sinn Féin, a Socialist Republican party, indeed, no party with a social conscience...can give way to the concept of PFI.

But SF went ahead and privatised hand over fist.

It was that contradiction as much as any other which pushed Kelly and the party he had helped to found apart. Media coverage of his departure concentrated on his "flabbergasted" reaction to Gerry Adams denying any involvement in the IRA. But his stance on PFI is more directly relevant to current argument. Anyone in the South tempted to take the anti-privatisation declarations at the recent ardfheis seriously should ponder Kelly's experience.

On-message SFers have a stock response to these observations. The North's different, they say. The fact that we compromised on privatisation (and much else) at Stormont doesn't mean we'll back down on the same issues at Leinster House. The Executive wasn't a normal coalition. Our long-oppressed electorate would have been left unrepresented if we hadn't joined. So we had no choice.

Eamonn McCann the Derry-Belfast line'

AT LEAST 60 jobs are at risk in Translink as the workers concerned fear the Belfast to Derry rail link is being run down with a view to closing it in a few years.

Meanwhile, the "core network"—covering Belfast, Lisburn, Ballymena, Bangor and the Dublin line to Newry--is set to take delivery of 23 new trains at a cost of £80 million. These will run on mod-

ern, continuously-welded track at speeds of 90mph.

It will seem odd to most people that Translink's "core network" doesn't include the line between the North's two largest centres of population.

their neglect which is caus-

to Belfast from Derry takes

two and a half hours and

trains leave only every

three to four hours, the bus

journey takes about two

Commute

ter of an hour early in the

morning to take the many

workers who commute to

between Derry and Belfast

Belfast on a daily basis.

Buses leave every quar-

By 8 o'clock, the road

While the train journey

ing the fall-off.

hours.

As well as the threat to jobs, the environmental impact of this position is massive.

The Derry-Ballymena line runs on old jointed track, which rail workers

say is not well-maintained. But NIO Minister John Spellar has said there are no plans to improve the line

Derry's rail station is little better than a shed, with a single line running into it -more like a spur line to a tiny village than between the two main cities in the

region. All the signs are that management has written the station off in their minds.

is bumper to bumper with They justify neglect by saying that passenger num-bers are falling. But it's the many workers who do not take the bus.

A high-speed rail link would take many, if not most, of these drivers off in an hour and a half. This

the road and onto the trains. It should be possible to travel the 75 miles to Belfast in an hour and 10 minutes with a modern

track. If the present track was repaired, it could be done

road deaths and reduce pollution.

This is an important

Support a Left Candidate in June's European Elections End the Sectarian Carve-up! A Radical Vision for Europe **Public Meeting** Tues. 16th March, 7.00pm Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, Donegall St. (next to the John Hewitt) Main speaker: Eamonn McCann (Socialist Environmental Alliance's proposed candidate)

transport issue for the longterm. Iarnród Eireann plan a high-speed rail link between Sligo and Cork, via Galway and Limerick. would cut the number of

If there was a decent line between Belfast and Derry, then a link between Derry and Sligo would mean the entire island could be linked by rail.

At the urging of Translink workers, the Socialist Environmental Alliance has started a campaign to keep and upgrade the line between Belfast and Derry.

Anyone interested in helping, should contact the SEA at seaderry@hotmail.com .

The scandal of illegal waste dumping

THE North's Department of the Environment are finding two illegal landfill dumps every week.

Criminals, using the border network of roads used in the past by smugglers and paramilitaries, are ferrying waste from the South to be dumped on farms along the border.



portation of waste from one country to another.

Last November two reporters from the Sunday Times posing as chemical company representatives approached waste-broker firm Redell Development who offered to get rid of any hazardous waste for \$800 a tonne.

He revealed that he would dump this toxic waste, falsely labelled as liq-



This is nonsense. Working-class voters---whether they gave Sinn Féin first preference or not-would, clearly, have been better represented had the party opted for opposition and boosted the fight against PFI. The excuse given for joining the Executive is just a cover-story for a policy of "Labour must wait."

Every party in history which ever ditched progressive policies in order to get into government has explained that this was in the wider interests of their electorate. To have stayed out would have left their disadvantaged voters at the mercy of unrestrained reactionaries. Labour in southern Ireland, the Greens in Germany, etc. have all spun the same line.

Nobody ever says, We did it because we wanted our backsides on ministerial seats. They all say what Sinn Féin is saying. There is no reason to believe that what they did in the North they won't do in the South, if the post-election arithmetic allows it.

It was because John Kelly couldn't bring himself to continue down that road that he and Sinn Féin parted company.

of thousands of tonnes of waste are being dumped illegally all over Ireland since waste collection in the South has been privatised and bin charges introduced.

Overall each week tens

It's easy to see why waste is being brought North for dumping, since two of these illegal dumps will make a corrupt waste contractor a millionaire in weeks.

There is a one million tonne shortfall in landfill capacity in the South.

In the Republic a waste contractor is paid about £2,500 per twenty tonne load.

The contractor pays the land owner £100 per load, the driver £100 to £200. This leaves a £2,200

profit on just one load.

The situation is set to get

Sacks of waste: bags of money much worse, as large coun-

'their'

admit to sending

waste to other areas.

Dumping in the North's

council owned sites is car-

ried out by drivers using

false Northern number plates

and forged documents, the

fines are no deterrent com-

pared to the massive profits.

been intimidated and beaten

when trying to stop illegal

dumping.

Council workers have

Very little is being done

to combat this issue.

license revoked only after seven years of official neglect.

The health hazards are all too clear.

Children born within 1.8 miles of a landfill site have 33% more chance of birth defects.

Also 33% of sites contaminate surface or ground water.

Those who have raised the issue publicly are more likely to be harassed than congratulated.

Just recently Anton McCabe, a socialist journalist in Omagh, was harassed by P.S.N.I. after discovering confidential government documents from Dublin at an illegal site in the North. This is also a global issue

with respect to the trans-

fertiliser, in illegal sites in Liberia.

This privatisation and deregulation is encouraged by the World Trade Organisation which wants to see the privatisation of all public services.

It is a disgrace that the Southern government has accepted this view of waste management.

What is happening in these illegal dumps is a lesson to politicians in the North who have not ruled out bin charges in the future. Privatisation and bin

charges are not the way to solve the problems with waste.

Facilities to encourage businesses, as well as households, to reduce, reuse and recycle waste is the only way forward.

Hazards

cils both North and South One dodgy dump in Garvagh, County Derry had its

HAITI: ARISTIDE DEPOSED AS by KEVIN WINGFIELD

FOLLOWING weeks of turmoil in which US-backed rebels rampaged across the country, Haitian presi-dent Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown as the rebels closed on the capital Port au Prince. US marines were flown into the country to take up strategic positions.

Aristide-the first democratically elected president in the country's history-boarded a US chartered plane and arrived in the Central African Republic.

Immediately US President George W Bush stepped onto the White House lawn and announced to the world that Aristide had resigned. But Aristide aides claim he was kidnapped at gunpoint, bundled on a plane and was being held without access to the outside world.

In April 2002, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was kidnapped in a US-backed coup in that country. The White House claimed Chavez had "resigned". Embarrassingly, massive protests in Venezuela forced Chavez's reinstatement after two days and the US administration's lie was exposed.

Rebel leader Guy Philippe announced, "The country is in my hands." He claimed he

would oversee the reformation of the Haitian military—disband-ed by Aristide after the 1991-94 coup which the army had led.

As the New York Times noted Haiti 'seemed to be falling into the clutches of a self-appointed armed Haiti's former junta. dictator, Jean-Claude Duvalier, better known as Baby Doc, in exile on the French Riviera, then

announced that he Aristide and Clinton would return to Haiti.

Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark commented, 'This is as clear a demonstration of U.S. regime change, and by armed aggression, as you'll find.

Speaking to the alternative US television channel, DemocracyNow! Ramsey Clark said, "How do you think the same elements, the old military FRAPH, gangs, got into Haiti with M-16's and M-60's from the Dominican Republic, with which President Bush personal-



The United States sent 20,000 troops to end the bloody military dictatorship, restore Aristide and halt an exodus of refugees to Florida.

The price of his reinstatement included acceptance of IMF-World Bank austerity measures and, despite his reluc-



tance, a programme of privati-sation. The effects were dramatic. From being more or less selfsufficient in rice, the country was swamped with cheap, subsidised US imports, destroying

domestic production. The US also demanded he make concessions to the powerful rich in Haiti.

The compromises disappointed the mass of poor, who had looked to him for real change. Aristide -a former liberation theology priest-

froze transfers designed to "pay for safe drinking water, literacy programmes and health services.

Paul Farmer, an American doctor who has worked in Haiti for many years wrote last year that the "embargo has targeted the northern hemisphere's most vulnerable population, the poorest people with the most fragile economy,

ecology and society"

"There are only 1.2 doctors, 1.3 nurses and 0.4 dentists for every 10.000 Haitians ... 40 percent of people have no access to any primary healthcare while HIV and tuberculosis rates are by far the highest in Latin America.

From deep poverty and endemic economic crisis, the country was plunged into economic chaos as a result.

As the economic noose tightened and disillusionment spread among many of his for-

mer supporters, the US government encouraged the political opposition. Aristide lost much of the support he once enjoyed. Some

of his former allies in government broke with him. The Communist and Social Democratic Parties which had been part of the government moved into opposition.

But the political opposition was dominated by the country's rich. Andre Apaid, a textile industrialist holding US nationality, became leader of the opposition Group of 184 alliance.

Aristide increasingly came to hang on to power with the aid of Haiti's 5,000 police officers and armed supporters, the Chimera, recruited from the poorest neighbourhoods where he still

The thugs and murderers who worked for the previous dictatorial regimes began entering from the Dominican Republic and exploiting splits in the Chimera, attacked and seized

key towns

The US did not at first want to commit troops to Haiti when its priority was trying to crush resistance in Iraq. Rather it supported the opposition and pres-sured Aristide into accepting a compromise with which would further weaken him and prepare the way fro a more reliable pro US figure to sweep to power in the next elections.

However, when the insurgents were posed to seize Port au Prince and French government threatening to intervene from the French colonies of Martinique and Guadaloupe last week, the US decided it had no choice. If it did not get rid of Aristide, forces it could not control might do so.

But things could still go wrong for the US. Despite everything some of the poor remain loyal to Aristide. And huge numbers will be unhappy at the return of the death squads. Most of all the mass of Haitians want an end to the policies of mass impoverishment

What's at stake as France heads for elections?

SOCIALIST WORKER spoke to Nick Barrett, a member of the LCR far left organisation in France, about the regional council elections due on 21 and 28 March.

'THESE elections are assuming a national character. They are the first since the right wing UMP government won a

and slide victory one and a half years ago. This came after the shock of the National Front's Le Pen getting into the run-off in the presidential election, and the huge protests that followed that followed.

Then last year we had the mass strikes over pensions, the biggest since 1968.

There is deep anger against the government on issues like pensions and the wave of redundan-cies and factory closures. Many of the firms shutting up got grants from regional councils.

The main opposition Socialist Party does not pose any real alternative. Its allies when it was in government, the Communist Party and the Greens, are not doing well in opinion polls.

In the Communist Party there is a split between the majority of the leadership, who want to tie them-selves to the Socialist Party, and much of the rank and file who look more to the radical left.

The National Front is doing well in opinion polls. Le Pen has been banned from running in the elec-tions on a legal technicality, but is doing meetings around the coun-try and his daughter heads the party's campaign in the Paris region.

They combine racist demagogy with an economic programme that, if it is not challenged, can seem like a radical alternative.

The radical left is making an impact in the election.

Impact in the election. The two main far left organisa-tions, the Revolutionary Commu-nist League (LCR) and Workers' Struggle (LO) are running a joint campaign, and in the latest opin-ion polls are on around 7 percent.

Demand

ho are the rebels



enjoyed substantial support.

ly has a close relationship and presence there, except the United States?'

The Miami Herald reported that the Bush administration blocked a last minute attempt to bolster Aristides bodyguards, provided by a private American company.

Asylum

The US State Department stated that South Africa had refused Aristide asylum, a claim South Africa's foreign minister denies.

This is the second time Aristide was ousted. In 1991 to 1994 an army coup deposed him and he was exiled in the US. The officers who led that coup were on the payroll of the CIA.

After agreeing to a number of US-imposed conditions he was returned to power in 1994. changed from a life of austerity to a more luxurious lifestyle.

In 2000 he was returned in an election winning 90 percent of the votes-as the opposition boycotted the poll. Opposition figures then complained of vote rigging

Following the election the US led an international blockade of humanitarian aid to Haiti-the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The IMF, World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank cut off \$650 million in credit to the country at Washington's behest. The EU supported the embargo.

The effects of these sanctions are enormous when it is remembered that the total Haitian budget is a mere £300 million per year.

The human rights group MADRE points out that the US

ing armed actions across Haiti for the previous

They had arrived from the Dominican Republic where they had trained, car-rying M-16 supplied by the US.

THE rebels that lead the assault on the Haitian gov-ernment had been mount-

US. Guy Philippe, the man who claimed leadership of the military action, is a for-mer police chief who fled to the Dominican Republic after being accused by the Haitian government of fomenting a coup in 2002. He arrived in Gonaives a few weeks ago to take charge of the rebels as they prepared for the assault on the government. Guy

the government. Guy Philippe, was trained by US Special Forces in Ecuador in the early 1990s Human Rights Watch reported that during Philippe's term as police

Guy Philippe

chief of the Port-au-Prince suburb of Delmas from 1997 to 1999, international monitors "learned that dozens of suspected gang members were summarily executed, mainly by police under the command of Inspector Berthony Bazile, Philippe's deputy." Guy Philippe told the *Miami Herald* a few weeks ago that the man he most admires is former Chilean

a former Haitian soldier once headed army death squads a militia known as the Front for the Advance-ment and Progress of Haiti, or FRAPH. The FRAPH murdered at least 3,000 of Aristide's supporters during the three year military dictatorship of 1991-94. Another Jodel Cham

1991-94. Another, Jodel Cham-blain, was convicted of the killing of the former Justice Minister, Guy Mallory, dur-ing the coup of 1991 to 1994, among other crimes. Jean Tatoune played a role in the first coup in 1994. FRAPH veteran Tatoune was convicted of gross violations of human gross violations of human rights and murder in the massacre in the pro-democracy region of democracy Raboteau.

Our election meetings get a good response.

In Tours in the west we had 1,100 people, 600 in Montpellier in the south, and 800 in Amiens in the north.

Issues in our campaign include the demand to outlaw all redundancies in firms making a profit, the right for immigrants to vote, repeal of the pension counterreform, and free public transport for the unemployed.

The government's new law trying to ban the Islamic headscarf in schools is an issue.

The Socialist Party has been terrible on the question.

And the far left has been mixed. LO has been awful. And the LCR is having a real debate over the question.

The far left will have to react better to a law which is clearly racist.'

CHRIS HARMAN writes on the US Presidential race and a left wind alternative to the machine politics of the Democrats and Republicans

RALPH NADER's decision to run magazines, Against the Current, as an independent candidate in puts it, "The Democratic Party is the US election is causing con- what it is: a party ultimately responsternation to many opponents of sible to and funded by big corporate George Bush. Surely, they say, capital, continually forced to betray the most important thing is to get Bush out

Such reasoning led Michael Moore, who backed Nader in 2000, to back the former NATO commander in the war on Kosovo. Wesley Clarke, in the Democratic primaries. It has led Noam Chomsky to say that there is very little difference between the Democrats and Bush, but that difference is vital and so it Patriot Act and he voted for the

is necessary to "Vote Democrat holding our noses"

A third, left wing, candidate Nader might just tip the balance and let Bush stay in, some say. They claim this happened in the 2000 election. In fact the Democrat candidate Gore beat Bush by half a million votes. He was given the pres-

idency by the Ralph Nader Supreme Court on

the basis of a disputed vote in Florida. And it was the Democrats who stopped fighting for a rerun election so as to restore voting rights to thousands of people, mainy Afro-Americans, who had been dropped from the register

But these are not the key issues. Everyone who says vote Democrat at any price accepts that somehow Democratic presidents have a better record than Republican presidents. It's true that the rhetoric of bandwagon and win votes by shiftpresent-day Republicans is well to ing his own position. the right of many, though not all, Democrats.

But the record of Democrats in office is not better. The Democrat president Truman dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and led the US into the Cold War and the Korean War

The Democrat Kennedy tried to invade Cuba. invaded the Dominican Republic and started the Vietnam War

the level of bombing of Vietnam to higher than that of the Second Democratic Party. World War

supplied arms to the warlords in be practical and opt for someone hanistan and began the massive US arms programme that continued they get someone who continues under the Republican Reagan.

Finally, lest we forget, Bill different language. Clinton invaded Somalia and bombed an aspirin factory in real rival Edwards, that would Sudan. He also launched the horrif- amount to continuing the arms drive ic Operation Rolling Thunder bomb- and the push for US world dominaing raids against Irag and spear- tion. When Nader stood for presiheaded the war against Serbia.

Clinton's government also three million votes. pushed through innumerable IMF programmes against Third World whether the left in the US was forcountries. His domestic policies ever going to be tied to a political were no better.

The already massive levels of parties alternate in power. inequality continued through his two terms in office. The continuity campaign this time will have the between Democrats and same effect. Some people on the Republicans is no accident. Both US left criticise him for running as parties are paid for and run by sec- an individual, not as part of a wider tions of US big business.

There is not even the pretence still in Blair's Labour Party, of trade make a stand against Tweedledum unions exercising voting rights with- and Tweedledee politics. If not him, in it. As one of America's socialist who? And if not now, when?

and demoralise the very working class, African American and other core voters on whom it depends to win power.

Nothing shows this more than the politics of the current front-runner for the presidency, John Kerry As Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St Clair point out in Counterpunch magazine, "Kerry voted for the

attack on Irag. He was up there with Rumsfeld Bush. and Blair as a huck ster for all the lies He has a matchless record for shifting his opinions accord ing to the way the wind is blowing. In the 1980s when first running office. h for

opposed weapons systems such as the B2 stealth bomber. Apache helicopter and

the Patriot missile Now he calls that position "illadvised" and "stupid". He harshly criticised Reagan's order to invade the tiny island of Grenada in 1983. Today he says, "I basically was supportive

The campaign by his rival for the Democrat nomination, Howard showed the great Dean. groundswell of opposition to the war. Kerry decided to jump on the

Big Business

On past form, once elected, Kerry can be expected to change his stance again if it suits US big business interests. If someone like Kerry wins the presidency, it will merely be president a rerun of what has happened in the Democratic Party in the past.

The barbarity of a Republicar administration leads activists from The Democrat Johnson raised mass campaigning to throw themselves into trying to change the

But then they discover their can-The Democrat president Carter didate cannot win. They are told to further to the "centre". In the end the same barbarity but with slightly

In the case of Kerry, or his last dent in 2000 he only got around

But he raised the guestion as to system in which rival ruling class

It is too early to say whether his movement.

But at some point the left has to

Is Nader right to stand in US election?

and the US/UK occupation forces remain in place. Since the start of the invasion in March last year over 10,000 Iraqis have lost their lives.

According to the figures complied by iraqbodycount.net as of last week 10,282 Iraqi civilians had lost their lives in US/UK actions. That figure does not include the thousands of Iraqi soldiers who have been killed or maimed and it also leaves out the tens of thousands of injured and displaced Iraqi civilians who have had their lives crushed by the USUK inva-

The US forces made a rush to secure the oil reserves in Iraq. While looting of other Ministries was allowed to go ahead the Ministry of Oil was defended in force by US troops.

The oil contracts, as well as other lucrative service contracts have been sold off to huge American corporations.

former

The greatest beneficiary Iraa thus far from the Bush administration's 'war without end' approach to fighting terrorism has been Vice President Dick Cheney's company, Halliburton. The vast bulk of the

\$3.9 billion Halliburton 2003 doesn't include bil-

received from the Pentagon in 2003 went for the company's work in and around and Afghanistan. including everything from building military bases, to providing meals, to doing the laundry, to maintaining military vehicles, to rebuilding Iraq's oil infrastructure. The \$3.9 billion the company earned in

US tanks and barbed wire on the streets of Iraq

lions in new contracts that have been issued since that time for rebuilding oil infrastructure in southern Iraq or for work in other parts of the world.

Other companies are sniffing around Iraq ready to make whatever profit they can out of the Iraqi peoples misery. The most recent example is UK firm Serco, the support services

group, which has become one of the first British firms to win business in Iraq with a contract to restore air traffic control services to Baghdad and Basra airports

While the multi-nationals made big profits the Iraqi people live in increasing misery. Not only have thousands of them died and others lost friends and fam-

ing remarks in Munich last ily members the economy of the country is collapsing. week. Asked whether America is bound by any Unemployment is on the international system, legal increase and absolute chaos is the order of the day in many parts of the country. The Bush administra-

totype for future conflicts.

framework or code of conduct, the US defence secretary replied: "I honestly tion makes no secret that it believe that every country sees the Iraq war as the proought to do what it wants to

do ... It either is proud of Pre-emption remains the itself afterwards, or it is less proud of itself." Bush doctrine. Witness Donald Rumsfeld's reveal-

However

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE US WAR MACHINE

low Many American oldiers have died so far?

OUR ARMED forces have taken 14,000 casualties in Iraq," says retired colonel David Hackworth

That is the truth George Bush is desperate to hide. The US has pitted the most powerful army in the world against a country devastated by sanc-

The Iraqi people have, of course, suffered the most from the war. But Bush and his gang care little more for the overwhelmingly poor white, black and Hispanic soldiers they pitch into the hell of Iraq. **US government admits** that 547 US troops have died in Iraq-79 black, 62 Hispanic and ten Asian.

According to Hackworth "It's safe to say that so far somewhere between 14.000 and 22,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have been medically evacuated from Irag.

"Even I was staggered when a Pentagon source gave me a copy of a 30 November dispatch showing that since George W Bush unleashed the dogs of war our armed forces have taken 14,000 casualties in

We have the equivalent of five combat divisions plus support of about 130,000 troops deployed, which means we've lost the equivalent of a fighting division since March. At least 10 percent of the total number has been evacuated back to the

Is the Bush Regime Lying

Hackworth was speaking two months ago. The toll of US dead and wounded has contin ued to rise, despite the capture of Saddam Hussein.

There is a big gap between estimates of the numbers wounded and the figure that the military officially admits. US central command claims around 3,100 US troops have been wounded in action.

It says around 9,000 more have been medically evacuated from Iraq for reasons that include psychological problems, illness and accidental injuries.

Some 21 soldiers have committed suicide. But when a senior correspondent on the US's national public radio. Daniel Zwerdling, tried to pin down an exact figure last every government and military department.

culated that the attrition rate for US combat troops in Iraq has reached 9.5%. This rate is above that of the Vietnam

Is Bush hiding the dead and injured?

war!

Bush's defence department ruled that "there will be no arrival ceremonies for, or media coverage of, deceased military personnel returning to or departing from" all US military bases.

"They are not showing us," says staff sergeant Maurice Craft, who is in the Walter **Reed Army Medical Centre in** Washington.



light onto the workings of

Paul O'Neill who was

invade and occupy Iraq from

day one of his administration,

The horror of 9/11 was

used by Bush as an excuse and

a smokescreen to invade Iraq

and plunder that country's

long before September 11.

sacked by Bush just over a

Bush and his cronies.

vear ago said that the

President had decided to

He had his leg blown off in

Baghdad in November. low Intelligent was the Pre War Intelligence?

Ahmed Chalabi, the pro-US and pro-war head of the Iraqi National Congress said that his own pre-war reports about Weapons of Mass Destruction may have been "exaggerated but the ends justified the means."

Last month the US State Department for the first time admitted much of the first hand testimony it had received regarding WMDs was "shaky at best".

bent on going to war? Yes. The recent publication of the memoirs the former Treasury Secretary to the Bush administration has thrown some much needed

great oil wealth. In his book **O'Neill quotes from a** Pentagon document produced saw a shocking e-mail. It was from US National Security Agency official Frank Koza. would happen to her. The in the early days of the Bush government. In this document entitled 'Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts "it talks about carving up the country's fuel reserve between the world's oil companies". When commenting on Iraq's supposed possession of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) O'Neill writes "In the with journalists. 23 months I was there. I never saw anything that I would characterise as evidence of

WMD."

Journalist Tom Clonan cal-

anti war movement internationally, the resistance in Iraq has been growing since the occupation last year.

Saddam the militant resistance has continued on an almost daily basis with hundreds of US soldiers now dead.

The Iraqi people have taken to the streets in their hundreds of thousands over the past twelve months to show their opposition to the US while also calling for immediate elections.

The US have stalled on elections and want the electoral system to be rigged so that their supporters will get in.

an uncharacteristic honesty when he stated recently "Our position is clear" he said "It can't be law until I sign it Suspicion surrounds the

American spying operation at

Senior UN diplomats from

Mexico and Chile provided

their missions were spied on,

new evidence last week that

n direct contravention of

The former Mexican

Aguilar Zinser, told The

Observer that US officials

mbassador to the UN, Adolfo

nternational law

revealed last weekend.

He also said that he saw a document in early 2001 that was "marked secret and said Plan for Post-Saddam Iraq"

their friends in big corporate business have made economic hay in Iraq this victory has come at a heavy

As well as a massive

Despite the capture of

Paul Bremer displayed

recent attacks on Shia civilians, particualrly as all factions, Sunnis and Shias, are united in their loathing of the US occupation and their contempt for US stooges that Bremer intends to

Were the protests a failure? ome people who took to

the streets last year say that we failed: we didn't nanage to stop the war despite the fact that milions demonstrated. While it is true that Bush and

Blair launched their bloody war and occupation in the face of huge opposition, they are left with enormous political problems as a result.

The protests in the West such s the huge march on February 1th last year *did* have a major impact on the war. It is unthinkable that two ministers would have resigned from the Blair government without the protests. The huge antiwar movement also gave the 'whistleblowers' in both the UK/US intelligence communities to come out and tell the public about the faulty inteligence used by Blair and Bush before the war. The occupying powers were not able to go straight into Syria or Iran after getting bogged down in Iraq and because of the huge wave of public opinion in the west against the war.

As the New York Times noted after the anti capitalist protests in recent years: "There are now two super-powers -- the USA and world public opinion." And huge numbers of people are seeing the connection between war abroad and privatisation, cuts in health and other public services at home.

Millions of people are prepared to mobilise not only against the war but also against the other features of capitalist globalisation.

This fact severely impacts on our rulers' room for manoeuvre. And it holds out the prospect of a mass struggle for a world where the needs of people come before profits and war.

In the meantime, it is important to keep this pressure on the US/UK occupiers as well as our own FF/PD government who allow the US military to continue using Shannon airport.

In Britain at a recent antiwar conference George Galloway MP said the "An offensive against Clare Short has been launched by those paragons of truth and virtue Peter Mandelson, Alastair Campbell and John Reid. We have our crit-



Last year's protest

icisms of Clare Short. But i Clare Short is a dangerously unstable woman, how come she was in Tony Blair's war cabinet until 12 months ago?

"Robin Cook has called her a liar. But she insists it is true that statements by Kofi Annan were circulated in contravention of international treaties." And Jeremy Corbyn MP said, "I wish Clare Short had resigned a month earlier than she did. But she is telling the truth about what the government has been doing.

"I was at the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India. I felt the real enthusiasm there for the idea of a world day of action against war. On 20 March we are all out there together, saying the same thing: end the war, end the occupation, end the attacks on civil liberties.

In Ireland we have to bring out all the stops to make sure that the demonstration on 20 March is as big as possible to put the Irish government under pressure to stop Shannon being used by the US killing machine.

We need to step up the mobilisation campaign for the demonstration. You can download and print out the 2 flyers from the Irish Anti War Movement website, and pass them around to your friends and family.

Posters are available to help build the protest and volunteers are needed to put them up in their area. Contact the Irish Anti War Movement if you can help out in any way-www.irishantiwar.org.

The protest is at 3pm a Parnell Square in Dublin on 20 March

After the major international protests against the occupation on March 20 the movement must seriously gear up to build massive protests against Bush's visit to Ireland in late June this year

What the SWP stands for Against imperialism

by COLIN BARKER

THE ANTI war movement has changed the way millions of people understand the world. A few years ago to call the occupation of Iraq "imperialist" would have provoked puzzlement, even

Today, however, the same idea s close to being common sense. But what does "imperialism" mean? There's an old meaning, going

back to ancient times. Imperialism meant a state with an emperor, a ruler using military power to conquer other people. In that sense it applied to ancient China, Persia, Rome and the like. Typically, the old empires ruled through appointed governors-think of Pontius Pilatewhose job was to squeeze tribute out of colonies for imperial headquarters. Imperialism meant robbery by force.

The old Spanish and Portuguese empires in Latin America, and the British, had aspects of this. So, of course, does today's occupation of Iraq, as not just socialists agree.

In Britain and America soldiers mothers and partners have joined protests. They report what the soldiers themselves say: "We're not there to help the Iraqis but to grab the oil.

At present Iraq is like a colony of the US, directly ruled on Washington's orders. The US is building bases there, and trying to shape the new government. However, when direct US rule ends. imperialist control will continue.

To understand this, we have to get behind the immediate military and colonial question. There is more to understanding imperialism.

Struggle

At the turn of the last century the big powers had largely finished dividing the world up between them. The great Marxist thinkers of that time-people like Lenin, Bukharin and Luxemburg-used the term "imperialism" to make sense of the new forms that capitalism was taking in the 20th century.

Out of the competitive struggle that always characterises capitalism, new forms of capitalist organi sation were becoming dominant. Small companies were gobbled up by giant corporations. In some countries huge banks were taking control of industry. What was variously called "monopoly capital" and "finance capital" was now central to modern capitalism.

Yet despite this massive centralisation of capital, competition certainly did not end. Instead it took new forms, increasingly involving the major nation-states.

That competition took the most brutal form in the First and Second World Wars. Millions upon millions corpses were piled up as the most powerful industrial states that modern science and industry could provide, to divide and redivide the world.

not just powerful states dominating backward countries, but the shape of modern capitalist competition After the Second World War, the US and Russia emerged as the two strongest powers. They divided the world between them, building two "blocs" that threatened each other with nuclear extinction for almost the next half century. The Cold War was the form of modern imperialism in which most of us grew up. With the "fall of Communism", US capitalism set out to remake the world to fit the needs of its own big corpora-

Military spending, and the use of massive deadly force, is one part of its armoury, but not the only one. Bodies like the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, all of which i controls, are another. The writer and campaigner Susan George was once asked, "What would you put in place of the WTO?" Her answer was, "What would you put in place of cancer?"

The WTO has a simple policy. Nothing must hinder corporations making profits, wherever and however they like. Everything must be "privatised", so that the rich can make profits from it-water, health services, railways, schools, it makes no difference.

The true content of "globalisation" is the removal of all limits to exploitation and inequality Production of cheap drugs for AIDS, malaria and other diseases is banned, for corporate "patents" would be threatened.

The WTO, IMF, World Bank and other agencies of corporate domination force their rules on the rest of the world. In the 19th century Britain and America used gunboats to force open China and Japan to trade on their terms. Today they bribe and coerce governments for the same purposes.

For most of the world's population the result is disastrous. As the tiny number of billionaires grows, so too do poverty, sickness and death.

Even in the most advanced capitalist countries workers work longer hours and are less secure. Nationally and internationally, the inequality gap widens and the world becomes more dangerous.

Must 200 children die every hour? Must billions be wasted on the real weapons of mass destruction-the aircraft, submarines, rockets and nukes of America and its closest allies?

Must food, water, housing, education and every other kind of production be placed under the sway of the multinationals? Must the very air we breathe and our weather patterns be wrecked by the demands of profit?

The short term answer, alas, is yes. Capitalist imperialism-the close interdependence of big corporations and big governments-will enforce

Never has the link between war fought, using every dreadful means and capitalist domination been so obvious. Our job is to develop the real movements that perceive these linkages, and that want to break Imperialism, in other words, was them for ever.

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THE WHISTLEBLOWER TELLS ALL

weapons inspectors more time

went on the 15 February two million strong anti-war demonstration. *The Observer* Secrets Act. march last year. Katharine was arrested at work three er sentence: "I didn't feel

It asked for British help to strain took its toll: "I am norbug UN diplomats from the mally a happy go lucky per-six "swing states" whose son, but there were points support was key to getting a new UN resolution backing war on Iraq. Katharine was so Katharine felt shocked when outraged she passed it to a the charges were eventually friend she knew was in touch brought. She says it was vith journalists. scary having "the whole gov-Two weeks later Katharine ernment machine after you".

ATHARINE GUN was days later. She was held in a guilty, so I couldn't plead working as a trans- police cell overnight. The guilty," she says. Katharine's lator at British doctor prescribed a sleeping defence was that she broke GCHQ in January pill to help her through the secrets act out of "neces-last year when she ordeal. sity", to prevent an imminent loss of life in an illegal war. After months of anxiety, the case collapsed when attorney general Lord Goldsmith failed to offer any evidence.

Katharine Gun would have been in the dock. But on trial would have been the government's legal case for war. The British government's attempts to persecute Katharine Gun have blown up in its face. Katharine Gun says she is proud of what she did. So are the millions in the anti-war movement who gave her the confidence to make a stand



THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION 1979

by CONOR KOSTICK

ran today is a deeply repressive society, one in which a conservative form of Islamic doctrine is used to justify human rights abuses on a wide scale, including a most oppressive shackling of women's lives. It is also a country shattered by war and beleaguered by pressure from the US

Yet twenty-five years ago Iran was in the throes of an immensely popular and liberating revolution. On January 16 1979 the Shah fled the country, and for the next six months the people of Iran experienced the greatest degree of freedom in the world.

Newspapers and other publications flourished uncensored; great estates were seized and redistributed to give land to the poor farmers; national minorities, such as the people of Kurdistan, were unrestricted in the use of their language and culture; committees of workers, shoras, ran the factories and local *komitehs* the streets.

The Shah of Iran had been one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the world. In 1971 for example, in an extra-ordinary display of contempt for the opinion of the poor of his country, he spent \$300m on a party.

The dark underside of the glittering lifestyle of the Pahlavi dynasty was a police state that the Shah had built up as he converted the country's new found oil wealth into arms.

The special police, SAVAK, were the subject of constant criticism from human rights organisations for their practice of torture and murder on hundreds of the regime's opponents.

The Shah wanted the most up to date military technology as well as the latest fashion, and after a visit by Nixon and Kissinger in 1972 he got it. Iran's military spending rapidly increased from \$500m a year in 1970, to \$11bn in 1976.

Two hundred F14 and F15 fighter planes were purchased, along with 500 military helicopters. SAVAK was expanded so that no workplace or street was free from the presence of an informer. By 1979 Iran had more police per head of population than any regime

the army leaders anxiously urged a clampdown. The Shah was torn and sought advice from the US and the UK. It was the classic dilemma that ruling classes always face when on the brink of extinction. Do you attempt to offer reform to try to head off the movement? Or do you crush it?

All successful revolutions approach this moment with such irresistible momentum that neither strategy can work



■ The Shah: spend \$300 million on a party

onceding reforms simply raises the confidence of the masses, while attempts at repression trig-

gers a crises in the armed forces that can

no clear signal to the Shah, who wanted to know how many deaths could the US tolerate if the military tried to take over the country, 5,000? 10,000? 20,000? So the Shah stalled, hoping the protests would subside or the US would make up its mind. With growing confi-dence the workers, unemployed, farmers and oppressed of Iran took to the streets.

day Every brought new sections of workers

into strike action for the removal of the quickly bring about the end. The US itself was divided and gave Shah. Media workers blocked the regime's TV and radio propaganda. Rail workers refused to transport the army or police. Just about every industry was shut down and those that continued, such as gas and electricity workers, only did so to make sure the public still had their basic needs being met. Similarly dockers only offloaded food, medicine and paper needed by the blossoming of sales of revolutionary newspapers and pamphlets.

The Shah's supporters bundled him out of the country in the hope that this might appease the strikers and allow him back at a later date. But the news triggered a massive celebration that was accompanied by the collapse of the old regime as police chiefs; generals and politicians loyal to the Shah were arrested.

One British diplomat recorded a phone conversation that night to the home of one of the richest businessmen in the country:

"Is he in?

"No, he's in prison." "In Prison? Why?"

"Because he sent 150 million dollars out of the country." "Who are you?"

"One of his servants."

But what would replace the Shah?

The Shah was gone. His hated secret police were smashed. But what was to replace them? The state of the opposition was extremely weak; the secular liberals had no real organisation.

The left was represented by two organisations with a similar outlook, the Fedayeen and the slightly more conservative Mojahedin. Both were inspired by the example of the Cuban revolution and they had thought that change in Iran would be the result of an armed struggle based on support in the countryside.

As a result neither of them had any real influence over the



level by a further, socialist, direction to the revolution.

But the left in Iran were shackled by their years of guerrilla struggle and a theory that said the struggle against the Shah was one of two stages. In this view a national government of all classes had to be formed as the first step, and therefore Khomeini and the clerics were to be supported as a progressive force

The new regime undermined the mass movement section by section. Women were intimidated and demoralised by attacks, especially that on the huge International Women's Day march. The national minorities came next; one by one having their new found freedoms taken off them Finally the regime felt strong enough to take on the workers' movement and despite the fact that the May Day demonstration of 1979 in Tehran was 1.5 million strong, unleashed their thugs against it. anti-imperialist Utilising anti-imperialist sentiment and taking advantage of an economic recession the cleric's outmanoeuvred the left and broke the spirit of the revolution. They could then therefore more openly impose their own agenda of a strict Islamic regime. The power of the clerics in Iran today is no mystery. It is the result of the failure of the left to give a lead to a risen working class.

in the world.

This force certainly made the Shah feel secure. "No one can overthrow me." He said in an interview. "I have over 700.000 troops.

et these troops failed to protect the Shah from his people. Throughout 1978 protests began to grow on a massive scale, and what gave the demonstrations real power was that they were accompanied by strikes.

In particular the oil workers of Iran proved that they held the regime by the throat. Tanks and planes were held immobile for lack of oil and the Shah found himself having to search for oil imports in order to move his armydespite Iran being one of the greatest oil producers in the world.

By November 1978 the confidence of the demonstrators and the unprecedented numbers involved in strikes was leading to panic in the regime. The rich began to move their money out of the country, and

revolution which was driven by the cities and in particular by the *shorahs* and *komitehs*.

But there was one national organisation with a great deal of credibility and that was based on Ayatollah Khomeini's links with mosques, seminaries and leaders of the *bazaar*—the network of stallholders, artisans, merchants and financiers that existed in every town.

Khomeini was a popular figure in Iran, for having implacably opposed the Pahlavis for decades.

Not only that, but while the liberal opposition to the Shah had prevaricated, Khomeini, from exile in France, had issued a call to his supporters not to compromise but to keep up the struggle: "no gradualism, no waiting. We must not lose a minute. The people demand an

Students battle troops in Tehran University 1978

immediate revolution."

That the clerics had a conservative social base and the beliefs to go with it was not immediately apparent.

uring the revolutionary months Khomeini downplayed the full extent of his Islamic agenda. As a result the clerics stepped into the power vacuum and were allowed a decisive role in the formation of a provisional government.

Little by little the new government moved to try and take the heat out of the revolution. They called for an end to strikes and they mobilised their sup-

porters to try to capture the shorahs and komitehs. More ominously their thugs began turning up to stone the women's marches that were taking place on a weekly basis.

The national organisation of factory committees did not wish to surrender any power to the new government and on March 1 issued a series of demands, with the preface:

We, the workers of Iran, through our strikes, sit-ins and demonstrations, overthrew the Shah. During these months of strike, we tolerated unemployment, poverty and even hunger. Many of us were killed in the struggle. We did all this in order

to create an Iran free from repression, free of exploitation. We made the revolution in order to end unemployment and homelessness, to replace the SAVAK-oriented Syndicates with independent worker's Shoras, formed by the workers of each factory for their own economic and political needs.

his network of factory committees was potential-Iv the basis for a workers government, equivalent to the soviet government of October 1917.

Instead of freedoms being rolled back, they could have been taken to a new, higher,

reviews





American author and socialist MIKE DAVIS reviews Mel Gibson's controversial new film The Passion of Christ

THE most evil film ever made was probably *Jud Suess*, commissioned by Goebbels in 1940 to fan hatred of the Jews on the eve of the Final Solution.

A thousand years of European anti semitism were condensed in the image of the cowering rapist Suess, with his dirty beard, hook nose, and whining voice. The audience was instigated to rejoice in the lynching of this subhuman monster at the film's end. To anyone who has ever seen *Jud Suess* (as I did in

college), the most startling thing about Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*—even more than its relentless, shockingly eroticised cruelty—is its fidelity to the anti-semitic conventions of Hitlerian cinema.

Indeed, the high priest Caiaphas and his colleagues are such exact, blatant replicas of the Suess that I suspect they must be direct borrowings. Moreover, Passion is one of the most manipulative films ever made, and, after two hours of watching mobs howling in delight at Christ's suffering, it is no wonder that many devout American viewers, like their German predecessors, have left theatres muttering, "I hate the Jews."

Romans, on the other hand, are shown as noble imperialists. In contrast to the vile Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate is depicted by Gibson as a sympathetic, even saintly figure, tragically trapped between orders from Rome (no more uprisings) and the implacable machinations of the high priests.

As in Suess, moreover, there is a constant contrast-ing of somatic stereotypes. Mediterannean types—the two Marys, Pilate and his wife, and so on—are rendered with softened features and sensitive spirits, while the Semites-Caiaphas, sybaritic king Herod, and so onare depicted as coarse and repulsively sensual. (In a contemporary American context, such heavy-handed visual anti-semitism, of course, instantly recruits anti-Arab connotations as well.)

Gibson's insistence on original languages-Aramaic and Latin-have impressed naive viewers that Passion represents some new benchmark in historical accuracy. In fact, history (the little actually recorded of these events, apart from posthumous theology of the gospels) is bizarrely inverted.

Jesus, of course, is an utterly enigmatic figure. The only 'facts' in his life—as attested by both Roman and Jewish historians—is that he existed and was executed by the Romans. Pilate, on the other hand, has left a slightly larger record.

Unlike Gibson's kindly fiction, the historical Pilate was an ordinary imperial procurator in a third-class province who kept his legions busy with brutal execu-tions of Jewish and Samaritan rebels. Palestine, then as today, lived under an iron heel, and the Passion's confusion of oppressor and oppressed is morally obnoxious.

An Academy Award for bigotry?

ALWAYS one for a good sound bite Napoleon Bonaparte once said that "history is but a fable agreed upon'. A new DVD brought out by RTE is definitely a fable agreed upon by the Irish ruling elite.

Seven Ages, is the TV series that was commissioned by RTÉ chronicling the history of the Irish state. It has just come out on DVD after been released on video in 2000.

Seven Ages is very much the 'official history' of the Irish state and the video has been purchased by hundreds of national and secondary schools across the country as the definitive story of the nation.

However despite a pleasant soundtrack and some rare footage this is a deeply conservative pro-duction that reflects many of the prejudices and beliefs of the Irish ruling class.

This should come as no sur-prise. Seven Ages was produced in association with the O'Reilly Foundation established by the right wing press baron 'Sir' Anthony O'Reilly as a charitable foundation in 1998.

From the very beginning the 'line' taken by the programme is in defence of the ruling elite. The cov-erage of the Civil War is a disgrace. Almost all the voices are from the pro-treaty side, hardly any context is given for the actions of those who opposed the agreement with imperialist Britain

It goes without saying that the actions of the trade-union move-ment and the militant stand taken by the organised working class dur-ing the War of Independence is

completely overlooked. Indeed the almost complete lack of left wing or working class per-spective within the series is criminal

The history of the Irish trade union movement is hardly men-



Free State troops in the Civil War

tioned at all, until the final episode when the trade union bureaucracy is praised for supporting partnership!

Any sense of class struggle in Ireland plays no role in the narrative. According to the promotional blurb this is the history of Ireland "told from the inside"

Painful

This is painfully true as the only people who get the voice their opinions are mainly former Taoiseach and leading politicians. The story of the ordinary worker or citizen on the street does not get a mention.

But it is not until the final

episode and the 'story' of the Celtic Tiger that the video exposes its own complete bias. Reflecting the per-spective of O'Reilly and others in the Irish Ruling Class, Seven Ages puts the origins of the economic boom in Ireland down to a combination of partnership, the brilliance of Dessie O'Malley and the PDs(!), and a number of 'sensible' Ministers such as Ray McSharry. The social liberalisation of Ire-

land in the 1990s is given absolutely no context

The X case and the huge social mobilisation that happened when people took to the streets when it seemed teenage girls were going to be made prisoners in Ireland, is not mentioned once.

A combination of 'Saint' Dessie O'Malley and Mary Robinson are seen as the main pillars on which the liberal agenda in Ireland was built

The predictable reactionary narrative of a poor peasant country finding wealth only after it accepts the neo-liberal agenda of the free market is what is central to Seven Ages

It is a partial, conservative, and politically biased account of the history of the Irish state and although some of the old footage is illuminating Seven Ages should be avoided by all those who care about Irish history.

Love and rebellion in Paris

pamphlet

by DAVE LORDAN

BERNARDO Bertolucci is one of cinema's most accomplished directors. Films like The Spider Stratagem, Last Tango in Paris, and the much loved socialist epic 1900 have offended censors, titillated critics and



demnation of the audience contained .

If you are knowing enough to spot every piece of cultural history flaunted in The Dreamers then you must put a lot of effort into ignoring the catastrophes unfolding outside your window.

The use of long range and aerial shots and b/w footage imply that we are watching events through the distancing lens of history cleverly drawing the audience into sniggering at the absurdity of the characters dated revolutionary chic. In the final sequence Bertolucci, with a sudden and supremely effective change of pace, hurls this condescending laughter right back at us. Indeed The Dreamers is saved by its ending when, to paraphrase Isabelle 'the street comes flying into the room' and the libidinal unleashing so strikingly absent from the trios sexual antics is finally granted with the electrifying depiction of the unmatchable exhilaration of a mass demonstration. ■The Dreamers—directed by Bernardo Bertolucci

Some American critics, however, have tried to defend the Passion by pointing out that Gibson's real bete noir is the Vatican, not the Jews.

Indeed Gibson explicitly made the film to promote the religious vision of the rabid Catholic traditionalist splinter group in which he grew up. (Passion's tormented Jesus, Seattle actor James Caviezel, is also a fundamentalist Catholic, claiming personal visitations from the Virgin.)

But the 'tradition' he so zealously defends is pre-cisely the anti-semitic Catholic fascism of General Franco and Pope Pius XII. And, like Franco ideologues and their Croatian fascist counterparts, Gibson has the same morbid vengeful obsession with pain, mutilation. bodily corruption, and the ever-present temptation of Satan (who constantly prowls the perimeter of his film).

In short, Passion is the medieval vision of a pogromist, amplified by Hollywood special effects and the cachet of celebrity. It is protected by a formidable wall of enthusiastic endorsements from the American religious right as well as by the tolerance of ordinary Gibson fans who just can't believe that their goofy, handsome hero is really such a grotesque reactionary.

gained millions of devotees.

The Dreamers is a challenging tale of a love triangle set in Paris during the May 68 uprising.

Interestingly, Bertolucci claims to have been inspired to return to political themes by the great Genoa demonstration of July 2001.

Matthew, a somewhat naïve American student, hooks up at a demo with urbane French twins Isabelle and Theo. Gradually Matthew is sucked into the twins claustrophobic and incestuous world. The trio debate Maoism

and movies, get stoned in the bath, and engage in sophisticated versions of spin the bottle Meanwhile, outside in

reality, students and work-

Bertolucci: Exhileration of a mass demonstation

ers are uniting to launch a

revolutionary challenge to

wines and read quotations

from Mao's little red book

the cobblestones are being

ripped up from the Parisian

street and rained down on

While the trio sip vintage

the French State.

the familiar looking rows of beetle-like riot police.

Interrupt

The over obvious use of Freudian imagery and the incessant references to haute couture films and

books interrupt the movies narrative flow and threaten to make it into a mere game of semiotic trivial pursuit for

begin to understand that this overloading of meaning contains an implicit con-

minor academics.

Gradually, however, we

local action/campaigns/union news & reports Phone reports: (01) 872 2682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail socialistworker@swp.ie Rory Hearne for President, USI Dates for your diary March 10 Public Meeting, end the

RORY Hearne, a member of the Socialist Workers Party is standing in the upcoming election for President of the Union of Students of Ireland, USI.

The election takes place at USI congress on 22nd March. I am running because I believe the students in this country need a voice and a union that stands up to the government.

The rising costs of attending college (increase in registration fees, books rents, photocopying) and the lack of government financial support mean that most students are now forced to work part-time in order to get by. This means it is much more difficult to fulfil your potential at third level.

Noel Dempsey's recent decision to impose an effective 10% cut in day-to-day college spending has meant deteriorating conditions at third level with courses cancelled, overcrowded lectures, cutbacks in student services and rising costs.

The introduction of top up fees in the North has been yet another attack on education.

Access to third level remains the preserve of the middle and upper classes.

If we think this is bad, what the HEA, the government in the South and the OECD are proposing will make things even worse.

They are proposing the return of fees, further cutbacks (nicely put as 'streamlining') across the sector, privatisation of third level institutions and inter-institutional competition for funding.

Hibernia teacher training college represents the government's vision of education-courses run by private companies at a profit and charging huge fees.

We now see the effects of the cut backs in the 80s in the health sector, what education system will be left in ten years after these cutbacks?

There is huge problems with USI as it currently operates, colleges are planning to dis-affiliate, there is widespread disillusionment with the lack of democracy in the union and students are very angry with the lack of action. USI is also suffering financial difficulty.

However there are ways to solve the financial problems other than taking part of the registration fee which would tie us to the government and accept fees on principle. USI and its officers have become detached from their membership. Stu-

dents are raging over the affect of cutbacks and proposals to increase registration charge and introduce fees yet USI does nothing with this energy. I believe USI needs to

launch a campaign that has at its centre the following aims; Defend Public education-no privatisation, Stop the cut-backs, abolish top-up fees, increase the grant to social welfare levels and extend the threshold, no dis-

TRINITY Students voted

1,800 in favour and 1,600

against in a referendum

calling for:

products from

Union shops and

crimination of students. The time for talking with the government is over! Neither sweet words nor lobbying alone will stop the avalanche of cut-backs and issues that face students today.

The only way forward, which is the way I propose to lead, is undertaking a mass campaign that includes lobbying and taking our message to the streets and campuses through marches, walk outs and sit-ins.

USI has potentially huge force when it unites all students and unions across the third level sector. This strength was shown when mass mobilisations defeated the governments plans to reintroduce fees.

We need to have a strong USI which makes sure students have a say in how their education is run. We need to make use of our international links to the fight the corporate take-over of education at an international level.

For a National Union based on activity not apathy-another education system is possible! Vote Rory Hearne for President USI.

To find out more about the campaign, contact your student union and pressure them to support a candidate that will take on the government

■Contact 086 1523542 for more info

End the Occuptations of Iraq and Palestine, Build for 20 March demonstration, Ballyfermot Civic Centre, 8 pm, organised by Ballyfermot Anti-War Group

March 10, Blanchardstown & Castleknock anti war meeting Wednesday, March 10th @ 8pm in Myos Castleknock; speaker Richard Boyd Barrett.

March 11, Protest at 8.00 am Outside Civic Offices in Ballymun To protest at the Council's taking a giant crane to remove an anti war banner from a tenant's balcony in Connolly

Tower. All welcome , March 12, Protest against Anti-War activists arrests, 4pm Laganside Courthouse, Oxford Street (opp Waterfront Hall), Email:

bawm@ntlworld.com

March 12, Public Meeting, Why the war on Irag was wrong, 7.30pm Grosvenor House (Glengall st next to Europa Hotel), Special Guest speaker Ex-Labour MP (now RESPECT coalition) George Galloway, Panel includes, Eamonn McCann - Journalist -Carmel Gates - President NIPSA - Jamal Iweida Belfast Islamic Centre, Anti-Racism Network

world.com March 13, George Galloway speaks out, against Bush, Blair & Ahern's lies on Iraq, with , Mary Kelly (Peace activist charged with disabling US warPub Quiz For RICHARD BOYD BARRETT & CHRISTY MOORE -Local Election Campaign. Friday March 26 at 8pm in Smyth's Pub, Georges St, Dun Laophaire Eaoghaire. €20 per table. €5 per person. Lots of Prizes.

plane), Mick O'Reilly (ATGWU), Richard Boyd Barrett (Chairperson IAWM), Iraqi Speaker, , 2 pm, Saturday, 13 March 2004, ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, Jointly organised by, Fairview Anti-War Group and Irish Anti War Movemet, Web: http://www.irishantiwar.org , Email: info@irishantiwar.org ,

March 14, Public Meeting, George Galloway will be speaking in Galway organised by the Galway Alliance Against War, Menlo Park Hotel, Sunday March the 14th.

9 March - 16 March, Ballyfermot Anti-War Group is hosting an exhibition of anti-war photographs by , Augustine O'Don-aghue and others, in the , Reception Area, Ballyfermot Civic Centre

March 16, No to Bertie's sham-neutrality!, No shamrock for the warlord Bush! , Protest at Bertie Ahern's Clinic, St. Luke's, 161 Lwr. Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9 , 6 - 7 pm, Organised by Phibsborough and Drumcondra Anti-War Groups,

March 16, Public Meeting, Support a Left Candidate in June's European Elections, End the Sectarian Carve-up! A Radical Vision for Europe, Tues. 16th March, 7.00pm, Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, Donegall St. (next to the John Hewitt) Main speaker: Eamonn McCann (Socialist Environmental Alliance's proposed candidate)

March 19 Artane SWP is holding election meeting and social 19th March 8.00pmMarch 20, Buses From Galway to Dublin Demonstration, The Irish Anti-War Movement :Phone Orla at 091-584990 or John at 086-8343667.

Irish Anti War Movement

There are only a few days remaining until March 20. We need to step up the mobilisation campaign. You can download and print out the 2 flyers, and pass them around to your friends and family. , Volunteers are required to put up posters in their area. If you need posters please send an email to info@irishantiwar.org and arrangements can be made for you to get posters.

Rathmines Against War

DUBLIN City Council took extraordinary action last week in an attempt to silence

This follows recent changes in the litter acts designed to clamp down on the public display of notices advertising meetings and protests.

Outside of election times, the attaching of notices to public property, including lampposts, is now forbidden with-out the permission of the authorities.

This reflects the desire of the government to prevent mass opposition in the run-up to

A year ago anti war activist Chris Chenneaux placed a banner in the balcony of his

Rory Hearne from the Trinity Boycott Coke campaign said "This is a big victory for members of the

a) the removal of Coca-Cola Colombian Student b) to prevent the SU from called for entering into any sponsor-ship agreement with the an internation-Coca Cola company in the al boyfuture because of the current cott of situation in Colombia.

The campaign to have products of the Coca Cola corporation removed from Student Union shops in Trinity was organised by students (comprising individuals, members of Socialist Worker Society, Sinn Fein and Labour) in the college.

They spent the last few months organising information meetings, collecting signatures for the referendum and distributing leaflets calling for Coca Cola to be boycotted.

This was despite threats to be sued from Coca Cola and College Authorities making it difficult to run the campaign.

SIŇALTRAINAL

Trade Union who have Coca $C \ o \ l \ a$ products.

Τh SINAL TRAINAL union has called for the boycott of Coca Cola because they claim that Coca Cola hired paramilitaries to terrorise workers in

its Colombian bottling plants The result of the referendum sends a strong message to Coca Cola that it must improve the situation of

their workers in the bottling plants of Colombia. Since 1986, eight trade union affiliated employees in Coca-

Trinity students vote to boycott Coke Cola bottling plants have been murdered, some inside the gates of their factories. The result shows that

people are fed up of

before

large corporations

putting profit

lives of peo-

ple and we

are going to

continue

our cam-

paign to

boycott

coke until

workers can

organise free

from fear of

intimidation and

death threats. WE call

on all other colleges and

indeed everybody to boycott

campaign said "This boycott

is sending a message to big

multinationals that mistreat-

ment of their employees in

poorer parts of the world

from the campaign said

"This is a strong show of

Danielle McCormack

solidarity

will not go unnoticed"

Mary Fitzgerald from the

killer coke!'

international

the

between students and workers which we believe will lead to a genuine improvement in workers conditions in Colombia, we hope that other colleges in Ireland will follow our example"

The success of the referendum shows the radicalisation that is taking place in the campuses.

Students are sickened by the corporate take-over of our universities and are disgusted by the activities of multi-nationals who value nothing only their profit margins.

While the SIPTU branch of TCD did not take a stand on the issue members of the Food and Drinks section of SIPTU actively campaigned against the referendum.

But in the era of globalisation the race to the bottom means that worsening workers conditions in one part of the globe will mean greater pressure on workers in other countries.

■ Get a boycott coke campaign going in your campus or workplace

Council use crane to remove anti war banner from Ballymun tenant

the anti war message.

Bush's visit to Ireland next June.

Ballymun tower block with the slogan "No War". Two weeks ago council

officials called and demanded he remove the banner. Then the council brought in a giant crane to remove the

banner from his balcony on the twelfth floor of Connolly Tower. Ballymun Against War

have called a protest on the Civic Offices in Ballymun on Thursday 11th March at 8.00am. They are organising defiance of this clampdown. Supporters of the anti war movement in the area are placing peace flags in the baconies in defiance of this ban.

Chris Chenneaux told Socialist Worker, "This is my flat. I pay my rent but the

s deletan

5.1

Kevin Wingfield council after a year decided

they wanted the anti war message removed. I will replace the banner and continue to

defv the council." Kevin Wingfield, a co-

ordinator of Ballymun Against War said, "Tenants face enor-mous delays in having necessary repairs seen to, but the council can spend money getting in a monster crane to remove a banner from someone's private balcony

"The council would be better off organising the safe removal of deadly asbestos from the Ballymun flats rather that harassing anti war activists.

"We are calling on other tenants in flats to join us in defying this action by putting posters and banners in their windows and balconies.

■ Protest at 8.00am Thursday 11th March Civic Offices, Main St Ballymun

Dun Laoghaire: Fundraiserspeaker, Email: bawm@ntl-



<u>BELFAST</u>: March 12, 7.30 Grosvesnor Hse, Glengall St

ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey St

GALWAY: March 14, Menlo Park

Hotel See listing for details of meetings

is hitsey and discount

DUBLIN: March 13, 2pm

eccupation

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post free. Fill in the coupon today. Meets every Thursday at 9pm in Madisons Pub Rathmines

Dun Laoghaire Against War,

Meets every Wednesday, 8pm Farrells pub Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre. All welcome. 012304621 for details

MARXIST FORUMS (Political discussions hosted by the SWP)

Blanchardstown: Racism and Immigration Laws, Wednesday 24th Laurel Lodge Community centre 8.30 p.m.

Bray: Advertising the Body—Why Sexism sells, Speaker: Melisa Halpin, Thursday March 11 8pm, Lenehan's Pub, Main St, Bray; Killer Coke, Wednes-day March 24, 8pm, Lenehan's Pub, Main St, Bray Dublin South East/Ringsend: Globalisation and Women's Liberation Today, Thursday 11th March, 8pm, Donovan's Pub (upstairs) Townsend St Dundrum: Che Guevara, Monday, March 15, 8pm Dundrum Family Recreation Centre Waterford: International Women's Day, Women's Liberation: Has it Been Won? Thursday March 11 8pm Olde Rogue, Michael Street All welcome.

outside the talks venue at

the Department of Trans-

Socialist Worker, "It per-

fectly plain that the gov-

ernment in general and

Seamus Brennan in par-

ticular is still determined

to press ahead with their

plans for breaking up CIE

and moving to contract

out Dublin Bus and Bus

stop this is by united

action. The unions need

to get behind this fight in

defence of jobs, condi-

tions and services and

Protest

18th March

10.30am

Department of

Transort

Called by

Group

Socialist Workers Party, is a

supporter of the Irish Anti

War Movement and a cam-

paigner for the rights of

Jimmy has always seen the Trade Union Movement,

which brings all workers in

the North together in the

workplace to fight the boss-

es, as being the best organi-

zation to unite against sec-

immigrant workers.

tarianism.

step up the action."

"The only way we can

Eireann services.

As one bus worker told

port.

local action/campaigns/union news & reports Phone reports: (01) 872 2682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail socialistworker@swp.ie

<u>BIN_TAX CAMPAIGN</u> Fight preparations for 'pay-by-weight' to prepare for the intro-

duction of this scheme.

They are issuing householders with stick-

ers with a bar code so that

each bin can be identified.

The council is telling

THE campaign of non-payment of the Bin Tax continues to have strong backing.

Dublin City Council is now planning to introduce a pay-by-weight scheme in January 2005.

Brid

Smith

■THREE hundred locals

attended a meeting in

Ballyfermot recently and

voted to endorse Brid

Smith as the Anti Bin

Tax candidate in the

local election for the area. In Inchicore 80

locals similarly backed

This will only alter the form of the double tax, and the Dublin City Bin Tax campaign is preparing opposition.

Survey

The Council is undertaking a massive survey

householders to place the sticker on their bin. We should not make life easy for them. Ballyfermot for The Anti Bin Tax

Campaign is urging people not to co-operate with this scheme. Instead keep the sticker but don't put it on the bin.

Court cases

The Anti Bin Tax campaign is facing a number court cases over the following few weeks.

Legal fees and other costs have to be met, therefore the campaign is asking all supporters to renew their membership by paying their €6 for 2004

Clondalkin locals in mass rubbish dump

Clondalkin anti bin tax campaign organised a lively march to the South County Council offices in the area for a mass dumping of rubbish.

Gino Kenny, co-ordi-nator of the anti bin tax campaign in the area, and Socialist Workers Party candidate in the local elections, said, "We're not going to sit back and watch the council walk all over us. This sort of action will be repeated to show the Council we mean business and do not intend to pay the bin tax.



LAST month industrial action by workers in CIE over the break-up of the company and the contracting out of bus routes was suspended.

Action was called off while their unions enter talks with management.

But although there have been up to six meetings, the workers have been kept in the dark over progress .. At mass meetings pre-

viously, Dublin Bus drivers demanded their unions walk out of talks unless the privatisation agenda is taken of the table.

But bus workers are clear they want no concessions to Brennan's agenda. The

Busworkers Action Group has called a Busworkers Áction protest for 10.30 am on 18th March assembling

Airfield House

Brid.

OVER 200 people attended a meeting Dundrum to oppose the sale of part of Airfield lands for private

Airfield Trust consists of a house and farm that was owned by the Overend sisters, who on their death left it to the people of Dublin to enjoy.

It has been run by a Trust but this trust now wants to sell part of the land to private developers for housing development.

The Trust claims that they need to raise finance in order to improve educational facilities on the farm. Local people packed the meeting to express their dismay.

Rose Mary Logue one of the leading campaigners questioned the claims that Airfield was in financial danger as implied by the trustees. "Since we brought to public attention the fact that they have €12 million in investments and cash, they have... confirmed these figures. It is agreed that the estate is generating around €400,000 annually in investment income. Now that the stock market is improving it is expected that the Trust will make large capital gains, which (given the charitable status) will be tax-free. In addition the Trust will also benefit from CPO money to come from the land for the Wyckham Bypass Extension.'

All local residents are opposed to the sale of any Airfield land and are unhappy with the conduct of the Board of trustees. There were calls for local people to be invited onto the board as well as

demands for the state to area Munster Wholefoods

in Farranfore THE majority of open to the workers

may be to go on the staff of Munstrike as SIPTU have ster Wholefoods, no legal powers to Farranfore in make Kerry, County Wholefoods recogrecently joined SIPTU.

financing all educational activities in Airfield.

the farm lands at Airfield will continue. Already petitions and objections to the development plan have garnered support on a scale that is unprecedented in the

T&GWU

Union's Irish rep elected new chair

WATERFORD Crystal's Chief Shop Steward Jimmy Kelly having won the Ballot vote in Ireland for a seat on the Transport and General Workers Union General Executive Council has gone on to win the highest lay position in the Union.

At the first meeting of the new Executive's electoral term of 2004/2005 he was elected by the Executive as Chairman of the Union and Chairman of the General Executive Council.

This is the first time that the Chair of the Union has been held by a representative from Ireland.

Ballyfermot Anti War Exhibition

Ireland is entitled to one seat on the Executive, which represents over 800,000 members across Ireland Scotland and England Wales.

He has stood out in support of his Union's members traditional Anti Partnership position and is committed to challenging every injustice in the workplace.

"Standing up for our members today is the surest way to win the members of tomorrow – to attract the thousands of unorganised workers in Ireland - into the ATGWU."

Jimmy Kelly speaking

after being elected Chairman of the Union said "Our Union will be back in the workplaces where the Employer does not want us. We will build specialist

organising teams in the Regions to put our Union on the doorstep and in the face of every anti-union employer in the country.'

Jimmy Kelly has been a long standing member of the

Educate logether, Nonkstown

Educate Together The National School in Monkstown has been stuck in temporary accomodation since it opened in 1997. The school has grown to 243 pupils and 23 teachers in this time. The are now in dire straits for accomodation and are getting increasingly desperate as the lease on their land is up in the next two years. Educate Together are in this situation because of the atrocious underfunding of education under the FF/PD government. Their class sizes are now at its maximum and yet the classrooms are 10 - 20% smaller than average. The children have only got a small piece of concrete to play on. Despite their cramped conditions they are still expected to implement the new curriculum, which demands more space as it includes subjects such as drama.

a restriction on it which means it must be used for educational purposes it would cost less than any other land in the area. The department of education should immediately buy this land for the Educate Together school.



■Gino Kenny

in development.

take an active role in **Recognition fight**

The campaign to protect

This was as a direct consequence of the bullying tactics of the management.

Munster Wholefoods have so far refused to recognise SIPTU, a supervisor told a member of the staff that "the place would shut down rather than

At a SIPTU meeting in Killarney, and the SIPTU official addressed the workforce.

unionise".

He said the only course of action

Workers are angry as the majority of the workforce joined SIPTU, and SIPTU have written to Munster Wholefoods.

Munster

The staff were then told, that the maximum weight that a female could be told to lift, used to be 16kg.

But under the present employment laws this has been abolished altogether.

As one employee put it "what's the use of being in the union if we let them walk down on us".

THE Ballyfermot Anti-War group have organised an exhibition on the Iraq war and the anti-war movement.

The exhibition includes contributions from over twenty artists in video, photography, visual art and literature.

The Exhibition will take place in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre, starting on Tuesday March 9th and running until Saturday march 13th.

The official opening of the Exhibition will take place on Wednesday March 10th at 6pm and will followed by a public meeting at 8pm, 9 March , Ballyfermot ,



(Office hours), Reception Area, Ballyfermot Civic Centre, 10 March , Official opening of Ballyfermot Exhibition, 18:00, Ballyfermot **Civic Centre**

The local CBS is selling some land. As this land has

The Christian Brothers, not satisfied with netting this huge profit, are now looking to Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co Council to lift the restrictive covenant so they can sell the land to the highest bidder.

"This is typical of what is happening to public aminities and public spaces in the Dun Laoghaire area" said Richard Boyd Barrett, the Dun Laoghaire representative of Socialist Workers Party, "Land that should be used to provide services for the public is being handed over to developers to make vast profits. This has to stop. If the council allow this to happen it would be absolutely outrageous.'



CIVIL servants in various parts of the civil service continue to take selective strike action across the North, despite management attempts to intimidate them into ending the action.

Dozens of civil servants have now been suspended for taking part in legal industrial action which has cleared all the hurdles of the Tory antiunion laws.

These workers were all suspended simply for



The Executive did call a whole range of further selective action, including week-long strikes in the Pensions Branch and in Newry, Lurgan and Derry dole offices.

The employers, the Dept. for Social Development, condemned the pensions' centre (which deals with the pension credit) action as 'shameful' and accused the union of targeting the most vulnerable sections of society for their own gain.

In response, NIPSA member Brian

lightly and we are aware that it will cause difficulties for the public but we have been left with no option.

Pressure

"Our intention is not to put pressure on vulnerable people, we are putting pressure on the employers. We cannot continue living on poverty wages and have no option but to fight for a decent wage.

Pearson states repeatedly that there is no money for a decent pay rise.

They can find billions to pay for the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Why not to pay end poverty pay?

The PCS civil service union in Britain is also involved in industrial action for better pay.

There are so far no plans for civil servants to strike right across the UK "Based on the support but it is clear that this is we have from the public, needed to put more prespeople understand that and support us." sure on the government to come up with the money NIO Minister Ian to fund this pay claim.

working to rule.

Management has suggested the work-to-rule is illegal, which is clear nonsense.

In the old days, the response to anyone being suspended in this situation would have been to down tools and demand reinstatement

Activists in the various workplaces have been willing to walk out when a colleague is suspended, but the majority of union members want the unequivocal backing of the Union before doing so.

Unfortunately, the leadership's union response to management **新新**教 6054833 10 NO WAY TODAY

intimidation is to give in to this bullying. This surrender by the union has been interpreted by members and management alike as a sign of weakness.

the entire civil service. It is now clear that the

NIPSA executive is determined not to call any all-out action.

When the executive met at the end of Febru-

ary to discuss the next phase of the campaign, it was lobbied by about 40 members calling for a week-long strike across

Gesture

At the meeting the executive decided not to call any civil service wide strike action as a 'good-

will' gesture to management which had contacted the union, hinting at a 'willingness to negotiate'.

An indication of the seriousness of this offer is the fact management offered only a middleranking manager, with no direct line to the Minister, to lead their 'negotiating' team.

Forbes told Socialist Worker "it is not us who are putting pressure on pensioners.

"Successive governments have paid them a pittance and that is why their situation is so desperate, it has nothing to do with our action.

"Pension credit has been an unmitigated disaster as we warned it would be."

The week-long strike in Derry's Asylum Road and Lisnagelvin doles start on Monday 15th March

Brian Forbes says "we did not take the decision to shut down the benefits system for a whole city

Support a Left Candidate in **J**une's European Elections End the Sectarian Carve-up! A Radical Vision for Europe **Public Meeting** Tues. 16th March, 7.00pm Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre. Donegall St. (next to the John Hewitt) Main speaker: Eamonn McCann (Socialist Environmental Alliance's proposed candidate)

