THE FIGHT BACK IN THE PITS
A MINER SPEAKS OUT

Extracts from a letter written by a miner who works at S Kirkby pit in Yorkshire to a friend of WILDCAT about the strike which started over the sacking of 2 miners for alleged intimidation on 29 April.

The strike started at S Kirkby colliery where the night shift walked out in support of 2 lads that were sacked that morning. What was most inspiring was that it was totally spontaneous. We stood up for the first time since we crawled back. We organised the picket of the day shift against the wishes of the branch officials, with great success and what's even more amazing about this success; the scabs didn't cross our picket line. We have 26 at S Kirkby and only 1 of them scabbed this time. Even the scab who was allegedly intimidated by the 2 lads who were sacked didn't cross. This amazing achievement can only be put down to the spontaneity in which it began. Ignoring bad advice from the officials and going for the throat while anger is rife and sieging support.

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SOUTH AFRICA
A SIMILAR STRUGGLE

The present wave of class struggle in Cape Province started with school boycotts, bus boycotts and demonstrations against Botha's elections, by which he hoped to create a system of blacks "representatives". These have been rejected in an uncertain manner; in fact, black councillors have been on the receiving end of justified class violence; hacks have been backed.

It spread to the car industry, then to the gold mines. The National Union of Mineworkers gave the government warning of a proclaimed strike, but events overtook the bureaucrats, unofficial wildcat strikes provoked 13,000 sackings at Vaal Reefs, the world's largest gold mine, and the NUM was forced to endorse the increasingly militant campaign for their reinstatement. It requested a 'conciliation board' with the management of the Vaal Reefs complex, but events again overtook it as police stormed occupied

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Continued from Front Page

Immediate, rioting spread from the black working class to the coloured townships. According to Botha’s plan, ‘Coloureds’ are the next race up from pure blacks in the hierarchy of division. In the Cape, this plan has come unstuck. Coloured youth have put class before race.

In South Africa, as in Britain, the sacking and jailing of miners has provoked class struggle. In South Africa, the working class has shown the way forward by rejecting capitalist divisions, rejecting (in fact, killing) black councillors and pigs, spreading the class struggle to all areas of society: schools, townships, mines, factories. Class struggle in the Cape isn’t limited by the unions to one industry or one issue. The brutality of apartheid is destroying any hope of negotiation and conciliation, and stoking the furnaces of working-class revolution.

Many of the unions are illegal. In spite of this, many international companies negotiate with the unions, recognizing that they are increasingly important to keep production running. Without these negotiating bodies, trying to make a profit in South Africa would become increasingly difficult. When workers have a grievance, they go to the union reps, who waste time talking to management while tempers cool and order is restored.

Class violence has destroyed democracy. Only 6 out of 36 black councils are still functioning. 6 black police in the townships have been killed – the others have moved out. 95 township people have been killed by police since April. The army are now increasingly used to control crowds. Street committees have been formed in the townships to air grievances and organise justice.

The political radicalisation of the black working class, a result of the economic crisis colliding with rising expectations from an increasingly skilled and important workforce, has generally expressed itself in support for the African National Congress and the United Democratic Front. Both of these claim that the struggle for socialism will come after the struggle against apartheid has been won. In other words, they are fighting for capitalism without apartheid. To achieve this, they argue for uniting the working class with other classes, to create an independent country called Azania. These other classes include churchmen and shopkeepers and black councillors. The ANC supports armed struggle, but wants to subordinate this to its political aim – the conquest of democratic rights via international pressure on apartheid.

‘File on 4’ (Radio 4) broadcast a tape of one of the UDP’s representatives trying to prevent workers attacking the police. He sounded just like the ‘community leaders’ in Brixton in 1981. They also broadcast Bishop Tutu, speaking over the coffins of 29 of the victims of the Witsenegrage massacre:

“I am opposed to the violence that seeks to oppose apartheid”.

He puts the resistance of the working class on a par with the murders of apartheid. He also condemns the execution of collaborators. This shows which side he’s on: the side of the oppressors. Youth interviewed on the same programme rejected his advice.

The examples of Zimbabwe and Mozambique are well known to South African blacks. They know that workers in independent black states are even worse off than they are. From the examples of the independence movements in Africa and the violent anti-working class regime which they have created, South African workers can see that national liberation has nothing to offer.

Workers in South Africa are looking for more than democratic rights. The fate of workers in the independent black states shows that movements which unite the working class with other classes always benefit the latter at the expense of the former. Every country in Africa is capitalist, all of them ruled by racist gangs who brutally crush the growing resistance of their populations.

Workers in South Africa, the only economy in Africa developed enough to produce a working class revolution in the near future, know that the armed struggle will get rid of apartheid. When that happens, all sorts of alternative forms of capitalism will attempt to fill the vacuum. The workers must reject all of these, and prepare to extend the South African revolution to the rest of the world’s workers. As part of this process, an independent communist organisation is vitally necessary.
MINER'S LETTER CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE.

and deploy pickets but were beaten by the bureaucrats. Stayed grounded for the rest of the week. You may be asking why we didn't continue in the manner that we had been so successful at before. And the answer is simply this - a) Our official strike was not officially "OFFICIAL".

b) That without our officially stamped letter stating that we were official. We were not official pickets.

c) We had to be officially invited (HAL). Without the letter from the secretary we were rendered harmless, and wide open for the "troops in blue" to seize our liberty. We were not able to go out picketing until after our next branch meeting. Whereafter very luke warm speech by our president were made to vote again on whether to strike... This was Sunday (5 May) following Monday's magnificent walkout. We reaffirmed strike action 290 to strike, 150 against. We were then told our officials had been to 6 branches and got official invitations for pickets. They stressed only these 6 branches would be picketed and only 6 letters would be endorsed. There was a serious rush to sign up for picketing and get off the subways. Letters would be given out on Bank Holiday Monday at our HQ after teams of 5 had be targeted for each shift.

When we arrived for our letters we told him we didn't need them and that we should go only where we were sent. We did, and we had success in picketing out our targets. Whilst we were out picketing we tuned to the car radio for news of disruption at the other pits.

To our utter amazement three branches that had pledged support had not been mentioned. After picketing out our target we returned to HQ to see what had gone wrong. I asked our secretary why the pits had not been affected. He told me that they had not been picketed. I asked why and he said - "I do not apologise for the lack of organisation".

"We have achieved what was necessary the MGB knows we are here".

I told him it was a fucking utter crime to slap support in the face in this manner. This was deliberate sabotage right from the word "official"!

That night Tusa, as we made ready to go picket out our targets night shift. A news flash (5.45) informed us that the strike had been called off. The executive had put paid to our hopes of fighting for our sacked miners all over this country. All our mates in jail. And all our futures...

The experience of struggle has brought many militant miners (such as the author of this letter) into conflict with the structures and ideology of trade unionism, and has forced them to start organising their actions in opposition to this straightjacket. However, this miner, like most others, has still to confront the myths surrounding the topmost pinnacle of the NUM, Arthur Scargill. The NUM is quite capable of producing any number of leaders just as militant as itself, but only in order to bolster its credibility and its control over the workers. Only when all workers reject even the most radical sounding leaders, and start leading themselves in struggle, will they have reached the level of consciousness that will be needed for the battles that lie ahead.

The NUM has abandoned the sacked and imprisoned miners. It has demanded that unofficial support groups hand over control to the NUM. It has up to us to defy these bureaucratic saboteurs, and support our jailed and arrested comrades outside and against the union structure.

Pigs Murder Italian Activist

On 9th March in Trieste, Italy, the police shot and murdered Pietro Greco, an activist in the Workers Autonomy Movement.

The vicious state repression in Italy had forced Pietro to go on the run. He was accused of "subversive association" and participation in "an armed band" (vague charges that made no reference to specific crimes) and of possessing arms (no arms were ever found). When Pietro returned to his flat in Trieste shortly after 11 a.m. on the 9th, police were waiting on the landing. They fired at him on sight. Pietro fled into the street where he was brought by a hail of bullets. Hit seven times, he died in hospital. The police and newspapers confirm that he was unarmed.

There was an immediate reaction to Pietro's death, with strikes by school students in Padova and counter-information by the autonomists denouncing this "premeditated assassination" by the state.

The judges, political parties, and the police are condemned for being responsible for the murder of Pietro and for upholding the whole oppressive political and social system in Italy. But, to proclaim the comrades, this repression will not succeed; they will continue to struggle against the system of exploitation and for a better quality of life, as Pietro himself always did.

The placard: "DEATH TO THE TERRORISTS! JUDGE NOT STUPID!"

More information from: CENTRO DI DOCUMENTAZIONE ANTINUCLARE ANTII IMPERIALISTA, VIA BELZONI 14, 35121 PADova, ITALY.

or BOX 81, c/o 63 CANDLEMAKER ROW, EDINBURGH.

We hope to carry a more substantial article on political and social repression in Italy in a future issue of Wildcat.
Pannekoek argues that these new forms are mass assemblies of all those involved in the struggle, and recallable strike committees to unify and co-ordinate the fight. The immediate aim of these new organisations is to extend each struggle to as many workers as possible: "Against the enormous power of capital not only the individual workers, but also the separate trade unions are powerless. The sole power that is a match for capital is the unity of the entire working class". The miners’ strike has illustrated the relevance of Pannekoek’s arguments. Initially the miners that with their strong union, and their important position within the economy, they could win the struggle on their own. Their strike has now been expanded as illusions. Two vital lessons of the miners’ strike are that workers cannot hope to win their struggles if they stay within the trade unions and international trade-unionism, and that a single group of workers is powerless to win any struggle by itself. In future workers will have to organise in ways that will enable everyone involved to participate in how the struggle is run, and they must broaden the struggle in order to join up with other groups of workers.

Pannekoek points out that the basic cause of the extending each struggle lies in the capitalist crisis, whose effects are felt in one way or another by all workers: “Discontent is universal; all the workers feel depressed under capitalist superstructure; fuel for explosions has accumulated everywhere. It is not for others, it is for themselves if they join the struggle”. In other words, extending struggles does not mean going to other workers for collections of money or token "sympathy" strikes; it means asking other workers to show solidarity by joining the strike with their own demands.

Pannekoek explains the capitalist crisis in the following way. Historically, the system has passed through a cycle of booms and slumps. In its early days capitalism emerged from each crisis with the expanding market into the non-capitalist periphery and integrating those areas into its economic system. Obviously, though, this cannot go on happening for ever. When a crisis arises, the system can no longer be left to conquer, it becomes increasingly difficult to sell products and invest capital, and the threat of war looms.

In fact, once capitalism has reached the limits of its expansion, it has nothing else but this to offer. There are no better solutions. Increasingly, therefore, workers have no choice but to struggle. At the most basic level it is a fight for self-preservation and survival, but this can also pave the way for the creation of a better world out of the decay and chaos of capitalism. The process and experience of struggle changes people. Individuals are inspired by the power they discover within themselves and see in their comrades. Selfishness is replaced by community-feeling and class solidarity. Organising their struggles themselves, workers increase their self-reliance and their capacity to take control over their own lives. Periods of struggle also see an intellectual ferment: old ways of thinking are cast aside and new ideas develop rapidly. Again, the miners’ strike provided many examples of these sorts of changes taking place in those who were involved.

It is this class solidarity, self-reliance and radical knowledge, acquired in the struggle against capitalism, which will form, at the same time, the basis for the re-organisation of society along socialist lines.

The forms of organisation that grew up during the fight also play the dual role of fighting capitalism and building the new society. Here Pannekoek draws on the experience of the Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917.

During the mass strikes in 1905 the Russian workers formed factory and inter-district strike committees to unify and co-ordinate the struggle. Soon, however, the strike committees found that they had to do much more than just conduct a strike for better wages and conditions. Since the masses were paralysed, the state, the strike committees had to take on political and social functions, doing so they were transformed into “sovietas” or “worker’s councils”’ potential instruments for working class rule over the whole of society.

The same thing happened in 1917, only this time the state was unable to crush the soviets as it had done in 1905. The workers councils emerged victorious from the struggle as masters over the whole of society. But the new rulers of Russia faced new difficulties: the country’s backwardness, a large peasant class, etc. The instrument of the workers were drafted into the strong central government needed to confront these problems; consequently, “the soviets gradually were eliminated as organs of self-rule, and reduced to subordinate organs of the government apparatus.”

What developed in Russia was not communism but state capitalism, with the state councils fulfilling the same role as employer and exploiter of the working class that individuals capitalists fulfilled in traditional capitalist societies. The most important thing about the Russian revolution from the workers’ point of view, Pannekoek therefore argues, was
Recently Denmark has experienced a wave of class struggle, the like of which has not been seen in that country for over 50 years. Not only have workers turned upon the government, but also upon 'their' trade unions.

The trade unions in Denmark regularly call token strikes over pay, but these usually end when the government announces a statutory maximum pay increase and the unions order workers to return to work. This year was very different.

In March the unions called a strike within the public sector, however, it quickly got out of hand. Workers were highly successful in seeking and getting solidarity from workers in other industries. By the end of the month hundreds of thousands of workers were either on strike or locked out.

The government reacted by making the strike illegal and by putting a 2% limit on wage increases. The trade union leaders reacted predictably, "Our philosophy is that law is law, and law is obeyed. We will not support continuation of the strike."

The workers were totally opposed to this. Many thousands refused to return to work, over 100,000 protested in Copenhagen against the new legislation and a number attempted to storm the Folketing, the Danish parliament.

There have been many clashes between workers and the police, and many workers have seen the need for violence in their struggles.

Illegal pickets stopped oil getting out of one of the largest refineries causing a petrol shortage and many petrol stations were forced to close. The vast majority of public sector workers have been on strike and public transport was brought to a standstill.

Strikes in factories, ferry services, schools, nursing homes, the post office, public transport, rubbish collection and many others, all unofficial and illegal, paralysed Denmark.

Workers demanded a 35 hour week with full pay and an end to government intervention in industrial disputes. One worker when asked what they were striking for answered "we're protesting against everything".

At the time of writing we are unsure as to the present situation in Denmark. We don't know if the strike is over or not. Whether workers have been able to organise around collective demands or not. Not surprisingly, the press in Britain has said very little about this demonstration of working class strength. If you have any further information on the struggle in Denmark we would be very grateful to recieve it and publish it in the next issue of *Wildcat*.

One thing is certain, the class struggle is hotting up. Workers all over the world are fighting the bosses. These battles may be defeated individually, but they are the prelude to the united struggle which can cross all boundaries and defeat the bosses of all nations.
First Salvo in the Class War

Given the weaknesses of the miners' strike in a word, trade unionism. It was inevitable that it would be defeated without its aims - the prevention of job losses - being achieved. But despite this weakness, the real and growing gains in consciousness, among miners, miners' wives, and the rest of the working class in Britain and internationally, cannot be over-estimated. The lessons of the greatest and most violent strike in British history are1 mattering in the working class. We hope to contribute to the process by which the seeds of revolution, sowed by the bosses and their police and trade union gogoles, come to fruition in the fertile soil of decaying capitalist society.

The miners' strike's strength derived largely from the organisation of women in mining communities. This was a result of the weakness of trade unionism among women. Without the union leaders and trade unionists to tell them how to behave, which have weakened the class struggle in Britain for 100 years, women simply got on with what needed to be done. Far from being the weaker section of the working class, unable to fight back against the bosses' onslaught because they are unorganised, women have shown time and again that it is their own lack of involvement in the organisations that hold men back, that enables them to organise themselves and carry out their own decisions and actions.

The violence of the state, the occupations, imprisonment, beating of innocent people, prevention of movement across county boundaries to go picketing, showed to thousands of workers the nature of class society. All the lying crap about civil liberties, false lines in the peace-song of class struggle in Britain - all this has been revealed for what it is. The law is a weapon in the hands of the ruling class - when it is insufficient, it is simply ignored or changed.

The media are tools of the police and the state - they are just as true in Britain as in Russia. Workers who were once fooled into believing in the need to respect the police, now see their true nature. These lessons will not be forgotten, not by anyone in mining areas, nor their children, nor their grandchildren. This shows how people learn in struggle.

The miners saw the need to take the struggle to workers abroad. Against the international attack of the ruling class - the import of coal from Poland, and all from elsewhere, to feed the power stations - the workers to some extent organised international solidarity. As well as the enormous financial support from around the world - which was very important to miners' families, and shouldn't be minimalised. There was the total boycott of Australian coal (normally Britain's main exporter), solidarity from dockers around the world, the sabotage of French coal trains. Some workers saw their international interests, and put class before country. Although none of this went anywhere like far enough to actually prevent the coal fuel from pouring in - particularly from Poland, where the workers have been too crushed by McGhee's friends in the "socialist" government to organise adequately, and much of it was held in check by the unions - all of it shows the way to the international class struggle of the future.

A SCAB A GRASS

The role of the NUM shown its true nature when it stopped mass picketing on the grounds that it couldn't afford it, in Yorkshire and Wales. These areas NUM called any miners' money, desperately needed for family needs, for pensions, for rent, for essential goods. The unofficial Lancashire strike committee showed it was possible to continue the struggle by giving their money out to sympathisers, and was thus able to keep the bus running.

The NUM showed its role when Jack Taylor and other NUM leaders went on TV to condemn the strike, and when Arthur Scargill condemned attacks on scabs at a miners' rally and then again at a rally in Stoke. At the rally in which he was sent to prison for taking part in.

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In the end of the strike some workers began to see what we are on about when we condemn the trade unions. On the day after the strike was supposed to end, Tuesday, March 9th 1985, I was talking to Kent miners in a Yorkshire miners' club. In defiance of the National Executive, these miners had come up to try to continue the strike. They were planning to lobby Yorkshire NUM. The Yorkshire miners explained how Yorkshire NUM had, quote, "sabotaged the strike". Ironically, the end of the strike was not a case of NUM sabotage, at the militants said, it was a result of the struggle to work. NUM sabotage had done its damming work long before "Black Day". All the work that Scargill is still whipped by the miners, and even more by their wives, unionism as such has been weekend.

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TRADE UNIONS V. THE WORKERS

Tragedy was mixed with farce when Scargill told miners that he could deliver workers solidarity by appealing to the biggest. In the end of the strike, the trade union leaders. Many union leaders, such as Chapple and Sirs, never disputed their wish to see the strike defeated, but others such as NUM leader Jimmy Knapp endorsed the solidarity action their members were taking anyway, whilst working overtime to prevent it escalating. Many rail workers were about to take strike action. When, in response to rank and file pressure, NUM leaders called a "regional out on a one day protest strike against the victimisation of militant workers who refused to hand back coal". This regional came out unofficially. But this was an exception. In general, militants were not prepared to take action without their leaders' backing.
MINERS’ STRIKE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The TUC also played a part in sabotaging the two-day national strikes of the summer of 84. The two TUC leaders, and the general TUC leadership were carried away by the sturm und drang atmosphere which was built up, and the TUC leaders were carried away by the emotionalism of the workers. But what broke the back of the TUC was the massive and largely unprepared programme for a country-wide political strike. Mass picketing of the mines had changed their minds. But the miners were too busy cheering Arthur Scargill to do this.

Welsh miners showed that workers have become a few things since 1976 when the miners were still an offspring of TUC leader Norman Willis. The TUC will have to be one of the first targets of future workers’ struggles.

But the crisis has not yet reached the stage where mass workers have been forced to fight for a new trade unionism. In the immediate future, we can expect to see dockwork stoppages. If the workers in Britain are now as near as confident of the trade union hierarchy as the miners are to the most unions are nowhere near as flexible as the NUM. Already, these strikers are showing resistance to striking by introducing compulsory ballots.

"A union is not entitled to order mass picketing," MR Justice Scott’s ruling (Guardian 11 April 85). In addition, effective mass picketing is new, illegal, and, in Britain at least, are notoriously illegal. In other words, they will find it impossible to organise and thus sustain the class struggle. The government’s trade union law is forcing them to act in a way that is counter-productive industrial police than militant workers like the NUM. This may prove to be their undoing.

WORLD-WIDE CRISIS—WORLD-WIDE STRUGGLE

The international context in which this struggle is taking place is one of rising class struggle. More important than the number of struggles, riots and demonstrations which are roaring across the world, illuminating the darkening sheets with the flames of class struggle, is the political background. In the third world, there were 8000 strikes in 1982. But at that time, the working class had not suffered a political defeat. To give just one example, workers in South America who were resistance against beingmlted down by the landlords and the landlords who are shrinking islands in the swamp of their disintegrating economy. The cause of the struggle against the world war order. These tendencies—splits in the capitalist world, rising class struggle—are happening at once and are in no way exclusive. Any combination of them can happen at once, as history shows.

INTERVENING IN THE STRIKE

Enthused by the politicalisation of the miners and their supporters in the strike, political organisations jumped on the bandwagon. They all fell off it again, except the most left-wing tendencies in the TUC, which have done very well out of the strike, judging by the optimism of its post-strike analysis, and some revolutionary anarchists. The Trotskyist tendency of calling for a new class society (Revolutionary Communist Party) and domestic class violence in the unrest of the miners, was only put forward as a strike of the TUC to call a general strike. But the Labour Party was unprepared to come out for a country-wide political strike. Mass picketing of the mines had changed their minds. But miners were too busy cheering Arthur Scargill to do this.

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The capitalist crisis also threatens the imperialist bloc. There will be tendencies towards containment wars like the Falklands and imperial civil wars between increasingly disparate and desperate capitalist factions. The shifting sandbanks of their fragile alliances are shrinking islands in the swamp of their disintegrating economy. The course of the world war order. These tendencies—splits in the capitalist world, rising class struggle—are happening at once and are in no way exclusive. Any combination of them can happen at once, as history shows.

OVER? NEVER!

The most negative feature of the strike is the movement to a new class struggle, that’s not enough. The revolution won’t happen if half the working class goes back to scabbing. They should distinguish between hard-core scabs and people who were driven back by the strike. We want to see this struggle continue. The working class is the only hope for the working class. We want to see the connection between the struggles and those of their neighbors, and act accordingly.

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The class struggle in the classroom - the teachers' strike and the school students' actions - has provoked a lively debate about what extent school teachers, given their role in maintaining capitalist order, can contribute positively to the class struggle. We are publishing a contribution to this issue by one of our contacts, and extracts from a leaflet produced by the revolutionary anarchist group, Careless Talk, in Stoke. This leaflet was distributed at the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPSY) school students' rally in Stoke, and was enthusiastically received by the students. Several helped to hand it out, and two of them, along with an anarchist who tried to defend them, were arrested and charged with distributing obscene literature.

The Teachers' Strike

The teachers' strike began on February 10, 1977, with the sending of 'hitting notices' to all teachers in the Stoke-on-Trent area. The strike was called in protest against the逼atment of teachers by the National Union of Teachers (NUT). The strike was supported by a large number of teachers, who marched at various times during the strike period.

The NUT's response to the strike was to suspend the strike and order the teachers back to work. However, the teachers refused to return to work without a settlement of their grievances. The NUT then decided to introduce a new system of school funding, which was resisted by the teachers. The strike continued and was supported by a large number of teachers.

The strikers' demands were for a pay rise, an end to the逼atment of teachers, and an end to the introduction of the new school funding system.

The strike was successful in winning many of its demands, and the teachers' strike had a significant impact on the class struggle in the UK.

The Teachers' Union

The Teachers' Union is a trade union that represents teachers in the UK. It is a member of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and has a membership of over 600,000 teachers.

The union has a long history of fighting for the rights of teachers, and has been involved in many strikes and protests. The union has a strong commitment to the principles of class struggle and is not afraid to fight for the rights of teachers.

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BOSSES SPREAD AIDS PANIC

Over the last few months the popular press has massively increased its hate campaign against gays, violent attacks on homosexuals are on the increase and the government has stepped in with repressive measures of its own.

The reason, or rather, the excuse for all of this is a disease originating in central Africa amongst both men and women, which, by chance, emerged in the West amongst homosexual men. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, known as AIDS, is a sexually transmitted disease which can break down the body's defence system leaving the sufferer susceptible to other diseases which can be fatal.

THE CUTTER PRESS

Papers such as the 'Sun' have deliberately set out to cause a panic over AIDS by reporting cases in an inflammatory and emotive way, and by dubbing it the gay plague and describing it as the wrath of god. Gays are painted not as the first unfortunate victims, but as filthy perverts who threaten us all because AIDS can be passed on through unscreened blood transfusions.

By reporting the disease in this way, and by not giving all the known facts (such as how unlikely it is to contract AIDS, or that in most cases it isn't fatal), they have caused widespread fear and panic. The symptoms associated with AIDS in many cases are very similar to the physical symptoms of anxiety and stress. One doctor reported that almost all the patients he saw who thought they had AIDS were, in fact, suffering from acute anxiety.

In other words, the fear of AIDS propagated by the press is making people ill. Also, because the contagiousness of the disease has been so vastly exaggerated, workers such as firemen and hospital workers have refused to help gay men or AIDS sufferers for fear of contracting the disease themselves.

QUEER BASHING

The attacks on gays in the media have led to increasing numbers of physical assaults on gays. 'Queer bashing' is on the increase as the more susceptible members of the working-class (mostly alienated youths) have been prompted to take out their frustrations on gays rather than on their real enemies. As a result, many gays now fear to go out of a night for fear of attack.

In March the government introduced regulations, supposedly to combat AIDS, against the advice of the medical profession. These measures in effect equate AIDS with cholera or typhoid. Sufferers must be registered, they can be hospitalized against their will without recourse to discharging themselves and can even be banned from using public toilets or libraries.

Doctors have objected to these because they feel such measures infringe upon the confidentiality expected by sufferers of a sexually transmitted disease, and could drive the disease underground. Apparently the government was going to introduce harsher, more repressive measures, but was forced to withdraw them as they had no medical basis whatsoever! Similar measures have been brought to bear in other countries. In Australia gays can be imprisoned for giving blood. Also, some gays have been attacked and hospitalized by other blood donors when ever and answering questions on their sexuality at clinics.

All the attacks mentioned above have been instigated by the ruling class simply using AIDS as an excuse. These acts as a smoke-screen to prevent workers taking out their frustration and anger on their real enemies, the bosses.

GAYS MUST ORGANISE

In order to defend themselves against the bosses' attacks gays must organise. Firstly to defend themselves against the attacks from 'queer bashers' and pigs as violently as is necessary. Secondly, to break out from the ghettos and begin to seek the support and understanding of fellow workers everywhere possible.

During the miners' strike some gays were involved in support groups and active on the picket lines. They were able to forge links with the miners to their mutual benefit on the basis of their common experience. Both have experienced at first hand violence and intimidation from the pigs, attacks in the media and the bias of the courts, so each could understand the others situation. Last summer when the council in Rugby refused jobs to gays, there were miners and their wives involved in the protests in solidarity with the gays. This shows the way forward.

So long as the bosses can keep us divided whether by sex, race, industry, nationality or by sexuality, then none of us stand much chance of countering the attacks they make on us. Only through class solidarity can our struggles be successful, only through that unity can we overwhelm the bastards once and for all.

DEATH TO THE 'QUEER'-BASHERS!

ALL POWER TO THE BOSS-BASHERS!

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NAME.............................
The Labour Party Young Socialists are trying to get pupils to strike in support of the teachers' pay claims and against the Youth Training Scheme. They want an orderly, passive and purely symbolic one day demonstration where everyone follows the orders of the authorities. This will get you nowhere.

SCHOOLS AS PRISONS

"You're not being taught, you're being controlled. School is compulsory INCARCERATION. It has very little to do with education. It is designed to teach you obedience and respect for authority, to actively discourage you from attempting to question this system. Teachers are not interested in creativity or independent thought. They want obedient pupils who will grow up to be obedient, unquestioning wage slaves, or who will submissively join the ranks of the unemployed. The only question that the system does not question this system... they want the victims (ie YOU) to be as passive as possible. The only response teachers, on behalf of the management get from this state is that they are to be made of these compulsory concentration camps. Teachers are soft cops, they are one of the undesirable tools of the state for maintaining and enforcing a society which is based on oppression and exploitation.

USE THE TEACHERS' STRIKE... for yourselves, not for them!

The only time kids and teachers can attack together is when teachers come over to our side and reject their role as thought police. By running their boring and often irrelevant lessons down our throats, they are giving us some learning for ourselves. Striking for teachers now would be fine, particularly if they got better paid Screw: Only when teachers give up their roles as SOFT COPS and actively encourage school strikes and the self-organisation/education of kids, only then can they be seen as strikers.

YOUTH 'TRAINING'... an inadequate opposition

YES! Oppose the concepts of the Youth Training Scheme... but are the alternatives to it that much better? Life on the dole with just enough money to survive... or MARKET SLAVERY... go out and get your gut out for 40 hours a week for a pittance and work till your feet are too knackered to spend.

The LTPS demand the 'right to work': they want you to work as a wage slave for 35 hours a week. Big deal! Who would want to look at kids today living in its future in this society.

We say FUCK SCHOOL, FUCK MARKET SLAVERY, and FUCK THE LTPS! If we want a society worth living in we're going to have to fight for it - not march for it (in an orderly fashion) or vote for it. Already the actions of the miners and other workers throughout the world (mass strikes plus riots in France, Denmark, Spain, South Africa, and elsewhere) are showing us the way forward. These are the actions of the workers in the state - that is the state and they will not take up this cross-feeding system which will not patch up this cross-feeding system but will destroy it.

KIDS ON THE RIOTING...

Riots and strikes have occurred in France, Canada, Bradford, Bristol, Portsmouth, Liverpool, Iona, and several Yorkshire mining villages. Doubtless there are countless other examples that we haven't heard of yet. They have involved 'kids' 'ripping' through the streets tearing up school books, storming town halls, battles with the police and occupation of various buildings. These have been many examples of sabotage and vandalism which have usually been directed against schools as institutions not to mention lots of small scale strikes over issues such as school uniforms (uniforms are the systems way of dehumanising you, destroying your individuality).

We are entering a new period of struggle. The unions and parties are part of the system we are fighting against. It's not just a matter of a few more crocs, we want the whole fucking hierarchy. Replacing Thatcher with some other bureaucrat (eg 'Kennedy the scab (sh!)) will get us nowhere. It is time for a complete transformation of society, for an escalation of the class war towards Social Revolution...

END WAGE SLAVERY! SHAME THE STATE! SHAME SCHOOLING! NO TRUTH! NO LIE! NO GASSERS! NO PARTIES! FOR SELF-ORGANISATION!

For more information, copies of the leaflet, write to Careless Talk, c/o PO Box 294, Manchester, Staffs.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1) Opposition to capitalist society which exists in every country in the world both in the form of 'private capitalism' and the 'mixed economy' as in the American bloc and in the form of 'state capitalism' as in the Russian bloc, China, and much of the 'third world'.

2) Commitment to the communist objectives - abolition of national states and the capitalist wage system and its replacement by a classless society, common ownership and democratic control of the world's resources.

3) Rejection of nationalism and all other state capitalist economic measures as an solution to working class problems on the world crisis caused by capitalism.

4) Rejection of all expressions of nationalism, including 'national liberation' organisations such as the IRA, FLN etc. For the internationalisation of class struggle.

5) Opposition to all capitalist and nationalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left.

6) Support and encouragement for independent working class struggle, against the control of the trade unions (including the shop stewards and 'crack and file' movements), and all political parties.

7) Rejection of the use of parliament. For the active participation of the whole working class in it's own emancipation through social revolution which overthrows all governments, bosses and leaders.

8) Active opposition to all forms of sexism, racism, and cultural and institutionalised barriers to working class solidarity.

9) Opposition to religion, pacifism, and all other ideological mystifications.

10) Support for principled cooperation among revolutionaries, and opposition to sectarianism.

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- take out a subscription.
- take bundles of the paper to sell to workmates and friends.
- place it in your local radical bookshop (if it is not already there).
- send us articles for the paper (short, no jargon) about class struggle in your area.

"Wildcat" is produced at present by a small group based mainly in Manchester. But we don't aim to stay that way. We would like you to help us to get our group from any part of the country. If you agree with what we say, contact us to find out more.

PUBLIC MEETING

CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE CLASSROOMS

7.45pm Wednesday 24th May 1985

The Millstone Fih, Thomas Street, outside the Philharmonic Hall, behind the multi-storey car park on Church Street.

All Welcome. Plenty of time for discussion.

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