

CLASS FIGHTER

PAPER OF THE NATIONAL LEFT-WING YOUTH MOVEMENT

10p

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BRING DOWN THE TORIES!

ON September 22, three million workers lost a day's pay striking in support of the health workers and against this Tory government.

This was despite a weak call from the trade unions for workers to 'take some time off'.

Thatcher's answer was shown clearly at the Tory conference: stuff the lot of you, we're not going to back down.

There is no way that the Tories will meet the demands that we make. Instead of wheeling and dealing at the Labour Party conference to kick the left out, the trade union leaders should be calling a general strike of all workers to get rid of this Tory government.

A general strike would involve all of us and would be the lead that is needed for the thousands of youth, Yop workers, low paid workers, the unemployed to organise to defeat the Tories.

There's no doubt that the majority of us are opposed to Tory rule, that was shown with the uprisings of last year. That feeling can be turned into a movement of youth against not only Tory rule but also the capitalist system. After the YS demonstration we must turn out the YS to this task.

That is what Class Fighter is fighting to build. We are part of the Labour Party Young Socialists. We will not be witch-hunted out of that movement, our movement. We will not submit to the 'register' proposed by the right wing that would restrict our

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**Class Fighter
Conference:
Nov 20-21**

ERTS GOLD. SPEWS
JUNK!



JOHN HARRIS

activity. We will carry on fighting in the YS for unemployed youth, young women, YOP workers, young lesbians and gay men, young workers, school, FE and college students, and drawing them into the labour movement.

Join us!

- Kick out the Tories!
- Fight for a workers government based on the working class!

YCND March

Five days on the road

Diary of a marcher



Manchester

Wed 22nd
GOOD day to start on: NHS strike. Marchers arrive from all over Britain, telling stories about their area's activities. Sounds like a successful day — there should be a lot of people at the YCND benefit for the hospital workers tonight.

Thurs 23rd
EARLY morning rain; misty, cold. We left Manchester know YCND was on the march; we had to chant loudly to keep warm.
Pity we didn't stop at Prestwich Hospital — they've been very militant and we should have told them we supported them. (They might have had some plaster for my blisters too).

Fri 24th
BOLTON to Preston. Everyone got dead miserable. 26 miles in the pouring rain. And to make things worse, the March meeting decided it was worth speeding up so we could arrive at a BL factory before everyone went home. Missed them by ten minutes. We needed to see them — march isn't much use unless it interests and persuades people.
Anyway, walking into Preston in the worst rain I've ever seen was an amazing sight. Shouted our heads off to the shoppers and workers sheltering in shop doorways. 'Jobs not bombs!', 'Britain out of NATO!', 'No to the Reagan war in El Salvador!', 'No to Begin's war in the Lebanon!'

Sat 25th
WOMEN'S day! Women leading the march, and decided by a big majority too. SWP were against it, sounded like the Militant; positive action in our movement to alleviate the special oppression of women? Never — you'd feel really belittled, and it'd split the class, sister.

Sun 26th
BIG row when we got to Blackpool about Sunday's demo. Mention the witch-hunt or not? Heckle the pro-CND witch-hunters or not? Marchers made their own minds up — didn't stick blindly to their obviously wrong line.
I wasn't going to clap Stan Orme for supporting CND when he wants to throw me out of the Labour Party. After 63 miles I'd earned my right to heckle. 'Stop the witch-hunt! Stop the war drive! Jobs not bombs!'

Blackpool

Piston

Rights not purges

WHEN the march arrived in Blackpool the sharpest political discussion erupted over the statement to be released from the Jobs not Bombs march. The statement which was proposed by the Revolution Youth/Socialist Challenge leadership on the march kept itself to the question of

unilateral nuclear disarmament and totally avoided the question of the witch-hunt which was going to be the biggest issue at Conference.

Class Fighter supporters led the opposition to the absence of any reference to the witch-hunt. We argued that if the witch-hunt is pushed

through it will be directed against the sections of the Labour Party who are the strongest CND supporters. If the witch-hunt succeeds then the Labour Party's pro-CND words will only be empty words never to be acted on.

Class Fighter supporters



on the Youth March saw opposition to the witch-hunt as an important part of the fight to force the Labour Party to get rid of Britain's nuclear weapons.

The Class Fighter position was answered by the Revolution Youth/Socialist Challenge leadership by pathetically arguing that the NEC won't support the statement if it included opposition to the witch-hunt. They also argued that opposition to the witch-hunt might alienate the more liberal, less militant sections of YCND. Their argument seems to be a very strange one, coming from revolutionaries and is more characteristic of right wing reformists. It is the same argument being put forward by the witch-hunters in the Labour Party! In the end most of the Revolution Youth marchers rebelled and supported the Class Fighter amendment.

Tony Dale

Health workers wait

Fred, a CoHSE member from Edinburgh, spoke to Class Fighter about the NHS pay dispute

SOMETIMES I wonder if there is still a pay dispute in the NHS — it's not talked about with anything like the enthusiasm it was at the start of the campaign. Loads of health workers are genuinely tired of one day strikes. It's obvious now to everyone, even if miners, dockers, local government workers and everyone else comes out in sympathy, all one day strikes do is demonstrate the support we've got. They don't really force the government to back down.

The regional one day strikes? I hope they're successful, well supported. Reports that the STUC are urging their members to throw bread-crumbs to health workers on October 20 are not true.

The time for just talking, handing out a few leaflets and six pickets huddled together out of the cold for half a day is over. We need a full

scale mobilisation of the whole of the labour movement and those spineless bureaucrats who won't fight must be brought to account.

The union leadership have been deaf to their own members' demands, they won't call us all out and if they don't health workers' fears that we can't win or we won't get the rise back-dated to April will overtake the feeling we can win. The TUC's strategy for victory is just a strategy

for demoralisation.

We need to make a big push now: workforce meetings in every factory and industry, massive secondary picketing at hospital gates, fund raising to convince those health workers who are fed up with selective action that we can still win by waging an indefinite strike with full emergency cover under workers' control.

In Edinburgh we had 55,000 people out on strike on the 22nd —

it'll be difficult to get that number out on October 20th, our day of action. That's the day Telecom are out too against privatisation, we're trying to organise a joint public meeting and a joint delegation to go around factories and pits.

You should be making sure your YS and trade union is doing all it can to help the health workers stop the government dismembering the NHS; support us, the time for action is now!



Where next?

NOW that everyone's realised that the NHS is a target for attack, the time has come to plan the next steps.

YCND Conference, 13th & 14th November, Sheffield. This is important for YCND — we are the fastest growing section of CND but still having difficulties winning our autonomy and making CND take up our initiatives. So YCND have put this motion to Conference. Comrades should try to mandate their group's delegate to vote for

nises the importance of YCND, the fastest growing section of the campaign, and demands that

YCND should be the driving force of YCND, with the coordination of the overall campaign. 2. The YCND representative shall sit on all CND NC's.

We will also be demanding CND backs our May festival in Brockwell Park: if they don't they'll be behind the GLC who've promised to make it part of their peace year, and give us some money.

'Protest and Survive', YCND's answer to the MOD's propaganda film is available from Kincoed films, 201 Felstowe Rd., Ipswich.

We are in the process of making Nuclear Free Zones in the home and schools. Whether the film is shown or not, your YS should pressure the Council to make sure it will be shown.

Judith Bonner
YCND National Committee

This Conference recog-

EDITORIAL

No expulsions!

AT its September meeting the Class Fighter steering committee took a decision not to register. We think it is a weapon of purge and witch-hunt. We will fight every inch of the way, all the way and in every way necessary to resist the expulsion of socialists from the Labour Party.

The register is the right wing's weapon to launch their witch-hunt. It will be used to expel Party members, to divide and intimidate the left.

Class Fighter is never going to accept the right wing trying to expel any socialists from the Party. But we also know that we cannot fight this attack alone. There are steps being taken by sections of the left to organise themselves and we are fully behind them. A conference has been called by Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party to organise CLPs against the witch-hunt. They are saying that CLPs should declare that they will not, under any circumstances, expel their members. And they are going to resist any attempts to disband them.

We fully back this, but it means getting very wide support among the CLPs. The conference will be on 30 October and all YS branches should get their CLPs to send delegates and send a delegate themselves.

There is also the question of a witch-hunt of the YS. Some sections of the right wing are saying that the YS should be disbanded. We need to be prepared for this kind of attack. The right wing now have a majority on the National Executive and could, technically, get it through. The best way to be prepared is by building up strong working class based YS branches and show them who is really building the Labour Party.

Whilst totally defending Militant against the witch-hunt, we must make it clear to them that they are cutting their own throats by going it alone and applying to register now. Of course Militant are in the forefront of the attack, but the only way they will defeat it is by a genuine united front of the left groups.



Labour Party conference supported a ban on the use of plastic bullets

A WEEK IN BLACKPOOL

Labour Party conferences can be pretty tiring affairs. How can you enjoy your gin and tonic in the Imperial Hotel when the rank and file are screaming for 'socialist policies'? Read on.

DAY 1

DENIS, Roy, Michael, Moss and I were in the Cocktail Lounge when the fuss started. We were all feeling pretty good — it

looked like we'd got it all sewn up for the week, and the Mail reporters were buying!

Personally, I can't remember who decided to send Michael out to deal with the rowdies in the

foyer. But "tell how you support CND passionately, and but 'em all an orange juice" seemed like a good line at the time.

We realised we'd made a gaff a few minutes later. The old buffer came back foaming at the mouth and waving his walking stick like a madman. Apparently he'd given them the line about CND only to find out they were in it and didn't want to be booted out of the Party either. To calm him down the chaps from the Mail promised to do a job on them.

Even better, though, a story about Tatchell being captain of a Militant team in the "Gay Olympics" in San Francisco — that'll hit the lefties where it hurts!

God! When I get to the conference there are hundreds of 'em wearing "Gay 16 OK" badges — even miners. I suppose Scargill will have a team there next year?

That Tatchell chap cornered a friend from the Mail and told him that he's never been to the "Gay Olympics", San Francisco, or ever been in Militant. Good answer about "freedom of the press", I thought, but they should at least have got one bit right!

Once safely in the hall it got back on the tracks.

DAY 2

READ the Mail over breakfast, and a stiff drink. Great stuff! "New-wave, leather clad, Classfighter, pro-IRA, trotskyites". That's the way to deal with the whippersnappers!

Started with a bit of ritual stuff about backing the nurses (though they would keep calling the little darlings 'health workers'). Thank god the Tories are in at the moment, if we were, we'd have to wade through them outside too.

Just before we were getting round to the business of booting out the lefties, some cheeky Militant chap got up. He complained about how much ex-ministers got for their memoirs and why didn't they give a bit to the Party? Poor Harold looked very embarrassed, disgraceful stuff, where have the gentlemen gone today?

But still, we got the register through, and all went back to the Imperial for drinks.

DAY 3

EVEN better. We've cleaned up the National Executive. It seems a little too good to be true, though — someone's given us a bit more than we paid for.

The 'debates' today are boring, though, all that stuff about fighting 'anti-union' laws and the like.

To make up for a dull day we all toddle off to the 'Labour Gay Rights' meeting in the evening. Dreadful scenes — the chaps from the Mail, Sun, and Express are witch-hunted out of the meeting to cries of 'now you know what it's like to be discriminated against'.

I stay, and hear the most frightful accounts of homosexual behaviour — being beaten up in pubs, 'harassed' at work, not the sort of thing any decent audience want to hear. The Classfighters get in on the act again, asking some 'gay youth movement' to join up with them infiltrating the Party — disgraceful!

DAY 4

THOUGH we've won things seem to be going badly, someone spilt the beans. Scargill got up to moan on that Sidney switched the points on his railwaymen and voted the wrong way. Thank god they didn't get another crack at voting — but it looks like the fuss will keep on. Sidney may have to do something very clever to get out of it.

The rest of the day goes OK. The women who've been noisy all week get kicked into touch by the unions — they wanted

OCTOBER

Getting the right idea



Simon Pottinger examines the top 40

their own women's conference to elect women onto the executive... But we threw a sop to them by promising to do something next time we're in government — didn't seem to shut them up though.

More of that in the afternoon with old Michael ready to do his set-piece on the CND stuff.

He was brilliant! Never mentioned the word 'unilateral' once, he's shaping up as one of our people very well.

After a few cocktails back at the Imperial, Denis and Ray did even better. They went on TV and said straight out that they didn't give a damn if 99% of Conference actually wanted us to scrap the bomb, they'd be the next government.

Got a good night's sleep after that.

DAY 5

AN awful row over Denis's TV appearance. Every other speaker got up to complain. Don't these people believe in constitutional government?

I doze through the day while they moan on about 'the economy' — fortunately, no one makes much of the bits about wage controls we slipped into a statement with the TUC.

But a sinking feeling starts to hit me. Union delegates seem to be ganging up against our men, the women are getting stroppier, the gays have got going at everyone, and the local Labour Parties are planning to get together.

I force myself to go to two meetings and miss out on a party the Sun's chaps have laid on.

A 'Socialist Organiser' meeting is really vicious, packed with youngsters, three women on the platform and lots of talk about 'class struggle'; they've got to go!

Even worse is 'Constituency Parties against the Witch-hunt' — hundreds of 'em planning to get rid of everything we're fighting for... They won't expel people, they're talking about 'democracy' in the unions, getting rid of Sid and the others, 'organising' women in the unions, and getting 'Young Socialists' to stop themselves being shut down...

Worse, they're planning their own conference at the end of the month too! But it is in London apparently — at least there will be a decent hotel to stay in if I decide to go and keep an eye on them.

AFTER an afternoon of Au Pairs and Cabaret Voltaire I face the charts page. Does one laugh or cry. Well I, for my sins, just sit and write this and try not to get too cynical.

The intelligent question though is posed very simply by Carly Simon who asks, 'Why?' She goes some way to answer it too with a lovely Chic penned song which is unmatched by the other 'disco' entries.

The other half of her answer goes directly into her bank account and a life-style we're not accustomed to. This second answer is not uncommon too with the USA heavy weights lining up to take our pennies. Chicago and Fat Larrys Band puke-up the old emotive late-night ballad, help yourself I don't even want the diced carrot. Survivor are still there, marching down the street in formation with half a pound of sprouts and 8 inches of hose pipe stuffed down their jeans.

Evelyn King and Shalamar do it much better and at least hand over something for their wages, though I'm certain they could improve both the quality and quantity of their merchandize.

O! (a version of old but more trendy — ed.) Shakey's out for a killing too, before his 15 mins is

up and he's back touring the circuit again. I say Old and old he is, years before you and I were born he was doing benefits for the CP, perhaps his contributions are what keeps them afloat — who knows?

I wonder if he asks us to 'give him our hearts tonight' for them too?

Sorry both of you, mine's promised to medical science.

The Simple Minds aren't and neither is Marie Wilson, they're both something near redeeming features, both off beat from the trend in the charts and all the better for that. Adam Ant isn't quite as pompous as Dire Straits but just as boring and I still think the Jam have been turgid ever since Going Underground.

And then there's youth, Musical Youth on top and deservedly so, why Carly? Well they are young, new, lively and innovative and that's what it's all about even, the Au Pairs and the Cabs are missing that point — (though I won't be without them for the world). Music by youngsters for youngsters which doesn't even need to battle with the rest it just transcends them (and notice that they're black). Pass the Dutchie, let's pass the old and staid in the Labour Movement and left at the same time too.

Oxford DHSS raid

SETTING up a false Unemployment Benefit Office Oxford to trap claimants who had been using false addresses to claim Supplementary Benefit was not just an isolated incident of a police force concerned about DHSS fraud. The press used it to show how all the unemployed are 'scroungers', not deserving even the pittance they get on the dole. The Tory government clearly approves of such action. They want to cut benefits from the unemployed even further.

This won't be the last 'swoop'. We have to prepare and organise the unemployed ready for the next one.

Class Fighter supporters should get out to the dole offices and sell the paper and get their YS branches affiliate to and build local unemployed workers' organisations.

Women, Gay people

WOMEN'S RIGHTS - OUR

Kate Williams argues that socialists can't ignore women's struggles

NOBODY can, or would (I hope) disagree with the fact that women are oppressed in capitalist society. Therefore the solution to women's oppression must surely be a change of society. Women realised this and out of their consciousness grew the Women's Liberation Movement and feminism.

This was (and still is) a great step forward for women, a previously unorganised section of society organising themselves. They had to organise separately as the labour movement and trade unions didn't (and still don't) take up the issues that affected women.

There would never have been any women's vote if the Suffragettes hadn't fought long and hard for it, and waited for the Labour Movement to win it for us.

Of course this isn't enough to liberate women but I bet if it had been left to the organised labour movement there would be nothing.

The WLM also tries to give women the chance to gain strength and support from women. Consciousness Raising Groups are not groups where women sit and moan at each other, but groups where they can discuss their problems and be given the support and understanding they need. The value of these groups can't be underestimated to the individual women who take part in them.

Patronising

Feminism and the WLM are dismissed by some of the left now as 'petit bourgeois' and 'middle class'. But what they fail to mention is that the WLM exists because of attitudes like theirs in the Labour movement. Why should women join organisations which don't take them and their demands seriously? Why should women join when they are patronised, stopped from speaking and kept in the back-ground because they are not seen to be as important as men?

I hope no socialist would disagree with the seven demands of the WLM.

These demands are what feminists fight for: now say those demands are

middle class dominated and orientated. Would not all these demands benefit working class women too?

Feminists have fought the hardest around issues like childcare, violence against women, education and all the other issues. As a result there are Rape Crisis Lines, Battered Women's Refuges, 1967 Abortion Act, Sex Discrimination Act, National Abortion Campaign, nurseries where none existed before and so on.

It is true there are some feminists who see their oppression stemming directly from men. But that is hardly surprising when all the structures of capitalism are controlled and run by men.

Revolutionary

However there are also feminists (like me) who argue against those views and say that our oppression stems from the kind of society we live in and we must try to change this society to a socialist society. I don't think I'll ever be free under capitalism and that is why I'm a revolutionary.

Incidentally I don't think feminism and socialism are counterposed. I think they are part of the same struggle.

The fight for women's liberation attacks the very roots and foundations of capitalism, the nuclear family. It challenges all the attitudes which keep women, gays, lesbians and blacks, in fact all the working class, oppressed. Therefore it follows that the struggle for women's liberation is very revolutionary. The sooner the left realises that and puts its 'house in order' (no reference to witch-hunts) and to attract women, the sooner the kind of society that feminists and socialists want will be achieved.

None so fit to break the chains as those who wear them, none so well equipped to decide what is a fetter.

In its march towards freedom, the working class of Ireland must cheer on the efforts of those women, who feeling on their souls and bodies the fetters of the ages, have arisen to strike them off, and cheer all the louder if, in its hatred of slavery and passion for freedom the women's army forges ahead of the militant army of labour.

But whosoever carries the outworks of the citadel of oppression, the working class alone can raze it to the ground.

James Connolly
Reconquest of Ireland. 1915



June 1982: 5,000 women march through London

Demands of the Women's Liberation Movement

1. Equal pay for equal work.
 2. Equal education and job opportunities.
 3. Free contraception and abortion on demand.
 4. Free 24 hour nurseries.
 5. Legal and financial independence.
 6. An end to all discrimination against lesbians.
 7. Freedom for all women from intimidation by the threat of or use of violence or sexual coercion, regardless of marital status.
- An end to all laws, assumptions and institutions which perpetuate male dominance and male aggression towards women.

"Problems of Women's Liberation" by Evelyn Reed

EVELYN Reed wrote 'Problems of Women's Liberation' as the revival of the Women's Liberation Movement burst on to the scene in America in the late 60's. It is a series of articles which were originally lectures given to women's groups.

Through a study of history it becomes clear that women were once influential and if not equal then dominant: only with class society does this situation change. The

problems suffered by women in the twentieth century 'did not exist before class society came into existence and robbed them of their high position and equality they once enjoyed in primitive society.'

Reed very ably demonstrates the once vital role played by women, and the conscientious work of anthropologists and historians in covering this up. This aspect of the book is very inspiring as it does

away with the myths that history has been made by men and men only.

Ironically the power women enjoyed seems to have come from their child-bearing functions, one of the reasons given in a capitalist society to account for women's inferior status.

Reed's enlightening study of women's central place in shaping history makes fascinating reading: the conclusions she draws are stunning in their condemnation of class

society, especially capitalist society.

Reed's analysis of the root cause of women's oppression leads her to understand the nuclear family as the institution which ensnares women. As private property became important, so women became trapped in monogamous marriages. The nuclear family structure was necessary for men to ensure property was passed on to the rightful male heir.

Reed believes that the overthrow of capitalist society will immediately remove all the problems presently faced by women.

Sexist

It would be nice if that was all there was to it. After centuries of capitalism, the view of women as mere chattels that the capitalists began has been taken aboard by many workers. So surely sexist attitudes and behaviour are certain to persist even after the revolution?

Benefit

Reed writes that women must make the first move to liberate themselves and this will re-educate the men who have been brainwashed into believing women are inferior.

I wish it were that simple. Yes, Reed's right, as women we can only liberate ourselves. But she forgets that in the structures and ideas of capitalist society all men benefit. The left must grasp this fact too; and respond. Overthrowing the bourgeoisie will create the possibilities for liberating women, women overthrowing men's rule too will liberate us.

CHRIS ALLAN,



Fighting for liberation

STRUGGLE



Press and
police
united

Women's Campaign for Jobs

LAST month the Women's Campaign for Jobs discussed what we should be doing next. We had to decide what campaigns to take up and what major national events to stage.

The Conference wanted to find a way of reaching unemployed women, particularly those women isolated in the home. And we felt that a campaign against the new UB 671 'availability for work' forms which discriminate against mothers (but not, of course, fathers) would be a good way of doing this.

'Women's March for Jobs'.

This march will go through towns where women in the Labour movement will be organising meetings, rallies and receptions for us to go to.

Democratic

We'll be more democratic and political than the People's March: we won't waste time walking down country lanes either. And we won't take detours to avoid meeting sisters in dispute!

For the March to win the support of the labour movement, we've got to win the political arguments. Building the March means explaining to the Labour Party, Trade Unions and the LPYS that women's unemployment is an issue we have to take up and fight.

To carry out the march we need lots of support: the LPYS should be throwing its weight behind us, and Class Fighter should make the YS do so.

Rose Chapman
Brent East YS

Action

We talked about holding a national 'Tribunal' - where women could come and give evidence about women's unemployment and discrimination, to gain publicity. But we wanted to give a voice to all women, and so felt that the Tribunal would not be right, because the evidence would probably be given by 'famous' women, who already have a voice. So we decided to hold a

Tear up UB671!

ON October 18 the new 'Availability for Work' questionnaires UB671 are being introduced all over the country. These questionnaires which ask how your children will be looked after if you are offered work is a blatant attack on women claimants. You can't register for work if you can't prove you already have child care arranged.

The Women's Campaign for Jobs is calling a Week of Action to oppose UB671 for the week beginning October 18 and Civil Service unions will be holding lunch-time meetings and possibly closing Job Centres in protest.

What your YS can do:

1. Contact your local CPSSA branch in Job Centres and Benefit Offices and ask what action is planned for the 18th. Propose a joint meeting with your YS.
2. Leaflet/picket benefit offices explaining the week of action and what the Rayner proposals involve.
3. Contact local unemployed centres/groups and propose joint work, especially if they have a women's group. If they haven't, set one up with them.
4. Try to involve local trades union branches, Labour Parties and Women's sections in the campaign.
5. Leaflet shopping centres and local estates, or take a petition door-to-door.
6. Use the Week of Action to launch a recruitment drive. get your YS full of women activists.
7. Affiliates to the Women's Campaign for Jobs.

41, Ellington Street, London N7



Defend Judith's job

'THE NALGO blacking of Care Concern is holding very well,' a spokesperson for the 'Defend Judith Williams' Campaign told us, 'and we think it is having a major effect.'

Care Concern is a private firm which runs homes for people put in care by local authorities. Judith worked at Berwyn College, a home for adolescent girls in North Wales. She was sacked on May 27, not for any fault in her work - which had been praised - but for being 'temperamentally unsuitable', in other words for being a lesbian.

NALGO members are blacking all placements of children in homes run by Care Concern.

The defence campaign is also seeking blacking of Care Concern by other unions. At least 8 branches of the TGWU's white collar section, ACTSS, have called for blacking by the TGWU.

Twelve Trades Councils and nearly 100 trade union branches (NUPE, NALGO, TGWU, NATFHE, CPSSA, SCPS, NUT ...) have passed resolutions supporting Judith, and so have many Constituency Labor Parties. The campaign is planning a picket of the headquarters of Care Concern in Ruthin, North Wales, around the end of October.

You can help by:

- Getting your YS to send a resolution to Care Concern, calling for Judith's reinstatement, and sending a letter of support to Judith personally.
- Sending a donation to the Campaign
- Sending letters of protest to Care Concern, Well St., Ruthin, Clwyd.

The Campaign also has specially designed post-cards for sending to Care Concern in protest, and supplies of petitions.

Contact the Campaign at:

Defend Judith Williams Campaign, 123, Green-croft Gardens, London NW6 3PE.

HARASSMENT of homosexual men and women takes many forms and crosses class lines.

From earliest days we are conditioned to think and act straight. Gay youth more than most feel the weight of this burden, at school and on the streets. It takes a great deal of courage to break out.

Blatant

Two of the more blatant forms of harassment that we always face are police harassment and the journalistic harassment from the daily scandal sheets.

'Thomas Smith left a group of men and approached another standing nearby. "Offering him a relationship of a sexual nature," a West London court heard. But unfortunately for him, the man was a plain clothes police officer and Smith, 22, was arrested.'

This is part of a report from a local newspaper and provides a typical

example of police harassment, an obvious 'set-up'.

Similar cases also occur quite frequently in public toilets. In fact a large number of police up and down the country seem to spend a great deal of their 'valuable' time hanging around such places laying traps for gay men looking for casual sex. In many instances it is the police who do the encouraging. The consequences can be serious for those 'caught in the act', the loss of a job being the most obvious.

The Press also delight in publishing the names and addresses of those convicted, especially if the man happens to be a well known personality.

During the TUC and Labour Party Conferences Gay Rights was a live issue, with large Fringe meetings and prominent speakers. This must have caused a great deal of embarrassment to many in the TUC and Labour Party hierarchy who would have been happy to see such

things swept under the carpet.

The gutter press predictably latched on to the issue in a disgusting attempt to discredit and ridicule the left, in particular Peter Tatchell and Ken Livingstone. These newspapers, notably the 'Daily Mail', 'Sun' and 'News of the World', with their anti-gay smear campaigns give encouragement to reactionaries everywhere, including the fascists who put such anti-gay sentiment into action.

Age of Consent

Act now - send a motion to the NEC criticising the proposed discrimination in Labour's Programme '82. We want the age of consent for gay sex the same as for straight sex, not 18 as the programme promises.

Be like Peckham YS - affiliate to the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, c/o 61a Bloom St., Manchester 1.

Robert Mansell

Two years ago, **Women's Fightback's** first conference for Labour women stimulated the new growth of women's sections and launched the demands for major reforms. Now we need to get these implemented, and weld the women's sections into a force that can lead women against the Tories, and represent women's interests in the Labour Party. That's what the second **Women's Fightback** conference, on November 27th, will be looking at. **Register Now!**

2nd National Conference for Labour women

November 27th 1982
at
Kingsway Princeton College
Grays Inn Road, London WC2

Please fill in:

Name _____
Address _____
Organisation _____
Phone _____

Send, with £2.50 Registration fee (£1.50 unwaged) and s.a.e. for credentials, to:
41 Ellington St., London N7
01-607-5268

Harassment



Community policing - Handsworth style

They don't just tell you the time...

BECAUSE the police force was imposed on the working class it's always had to sell itself to be accepted. Right from the start the police have done 'good works' for the public. So in between rounds of smashing up Chartist and trade union meetings the Bow St. plods were giving early morning calls to any gent wanting one and running sponsored marathons for disabled people.

You can still see them at it: taking thousands of kids to the zoo, playing football with the 'youth of the area'. And the best con yet is the Lancashire police benevolently taking on 100 Yopsters to give them 'a basic training in the preservation of law and order'.

Its become a problem for the establishment, now that everyone knows the police are there to spy on them, spend millions tapping phones, watching people, keeping computer

files and robbing banks.

Restoring and keeping the homely image of smiling, avuncular 'bobbies' becomes difficult when they are being toughened up as part of the recession's new order, killing demonstrators, murdering people in cells and beating up blacks. Tagging on 'community' pseudo-cops as cosmetic appendages while the actual policing continues unchanged is an inexpensive solution and it gives the press something to shout about.

Tough for them that it's called 'community policing' — because policing the community is what it is. Getting to know, finding out what's going on and making sure the state knows where the likely 'trouble makers' are.

But there's more to community policing than coppers hanging around street corners causing trouble: it relies on what that apparently liberal

country bumpkin Alderson calls 'inter-agency co-operation'. The constabulary, as the magic social purgative, is consulted on all government matters: it is represented in town planning, education, housing, social services and so on. Community policing is sophisticated and integrated police intervention in government: giving the police a say and possibly a determining say, in what is politically acceptable.

Alderson's community policing is much more dangerous and sinister than the 'hang 'em and flog 'em' merchants like Manchester's Anderton or London's McNee.

The police on the beat, the community cosmetics are officially fostered for public consumption. The real policing goes on as before: in the CID specialist squads, the SPGs and the Regional Crime Squads.

Sure, community cosmetics doesn't take in the

left [except possibly the police's unrewarded ambassadors, Militant] but it may help to marginally contain the left message that the police are class oppressors [when directed at sections of the soft left in the Labour Party].

What we've got to be careful of is not letting community policing:

1. Divert attention away from questions about control and priorities.
2. Keep attentions parochial at the neighbourhood level rather than the county and regional policy levels.
4. Keep attention focussed within the boundaries of the non-debate between 'community policing' and 'conventional policing'.
5. Present a less unacceptable face of policing, and thus legitimating the whole force by proxy.

JOHN BATCHELOR,
secretary, Park Ward,
Nottingham East CLP.

Afia must stay!

by Andy Chapman, Tower Hamlets LPYS

AFIA Begum, a 19 year old Bangladeshi woman, and her one year old daughter were granted an entry certificate in January to join her husband in Britain. But then in March her husband was killed in a fire that devastated a slum tenement in Brick Lane, East London. When Afia arrived at Heathrow in June, she was told, 'You'll have to go, your circumstances have changed.'

The responsibility for her husband's death can clearly be laid at the door of the GLC and Tower

Hamlets council whose racist housing policy forces Bangladeshis into overcrowded slums where the risk of fire due to unsafe heating is great.

After allowing Afia a short stay in Britain to sort out her husband's belongings the Home Office now intend to deport her. The 50-strong picket of the Home Office on October 7 gave the message loud and clear: 'Afia must stay!'

The picket, supported by local councillors for the Brick Lane area, handed in a petition with over 4,000 names collect-

ed in just a few weeks.

Afia's is just one of many deportation cases which the Home Office order under racist immigration laws. This campaign must be followed with a fight against all deportations.

Get your YS to send a message of support to Afia: c/o 36, Bradmore House, Jamaica Street, London E1. [For information ring 01-790-4937]

Put a motion to YS regional conference calling on the YS to organise activity around this and all other deportation cases.

You can't avoid the Border

by Ian McLeish

TWO Class Fighter supporters were part of the recent delegation to Belfast from the Labour Committee on Ireland, Glasgow branch. We met representatives from various political parties, Women's Groups, Gay Groups, and Trades Unionists. It is impossible in the space available to give a complete report on our discussions. Instead, I'll take up some of the major issues raised.

On the question of partition, there are basically only two positions (as is the case in Britain). There are those who see partition as a good thing, or as irrelevant to the immediate class struggle (The

Workers Party, the Northern Ireland Labour Party, the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions) and those who see it as the crucial factor in the struggle for socialism (Sinn Féin, People's Democracy). For example the Northern Irish Labour Party told us:

'The border is not the Berlin Wall. It's just a line of yellow paint on the road.'

What they ignore is that this 'line of paint' was imposed on the Irish people against their will and it has created a statelet based on discrimination, denial of democratic rights for one third of the population (and precious few for the other

two thirds) and a divided working class.

Irish politics have been so decisively moulded by the existence of partition that the continuing struggle for socialism in Ireland can't confine itself to bread and butter issues, but must overcome partition.

Discrimination

But the Northern Ireland Labour Party believes it can:

'There's no discrimination. The problems of Catholics and Protestants are identical: jobs, housing, etc. We hope to move forward on these issues, not on the issue of the border.'

Facts show the opposite.

In this year's report from the Fair Employment Agency, we find that:

'In Harland and Wolfe there is not a single Catholic in a three figure workforce; in shops, between 4½% and 8% of the skilled workforce are Catholics; 90% of the workforce at marquees are Protestants; Sirrocco employs just 4 Catholics out of a total workforce of 250, and so it goes on.'

Dream?

It is hardly surprising then, that living in such a dream world, the NILP's share of votes has fallen to less than 1%. Hardly moving forward.

The struggle against partition, the struggle against discrimination, and the struggle for genuine workers' unity are, in reality, all one and the same struggle. To separate out the struggle against discrimination from the struggle against partition leads in practice to a challenge to neither. The continuing existence of rampant discrimination in the Northern Statelet today should be proof enough of this — for those willing enough to open their eyes to reality.

For a copy of the delegation report, send 70p to: Glasgow LCI, c/o Box 5, 488 Great Western Rd., Glasgow.

HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE STARVING DOG?

Please send us some money, you owe it us, and we need it more than you do. Please, please send us some money, please, please, please send us some, you don't know what it would mean to us if you could just get it together to send us some money. We're in a dreadful state, the windows are all iced up, the mice have left home because of the cold, the cat's gone because we threatened to eat it and it heard, for Christ's sake send us some money. There's talk around here that one of us is going to have to sell our body for vivisection, and as I'm the only non-human I think its going to be me. If you have any humanity at all and want to spare a suffering, dumb animal, then send your illgotten 50ps to me fast.....

Yours aggrieved, the Sickert Court Starving Dog.

Send money to: 214, Sickert Court, Essex Rd., London N1 2SY



A soldier waiting round the corner - policing the "line of yellow paint"

Winning the LPYS

Class Fighter wants to take over the YS: Summer camp and conferences are important events for us.

We can meet comrades there that haven't heard our politics before. The same goes for YS day schools, even though, as the article below tells, it can be irritating work at first.

CLASS Fighter supporters from Wolverhampton and Birmingham were the only serious political opposition to the Militant at the YS regional day-school.

We started with a debate on the Alternative Economic Strategy. An easy one to argue against, this. Foot, Healey, Duffy and Murray all support it — no wonder, it's all about import controls and planning agreements with the bosses to manage capitalism.

Nationalise!

Even Kevin Ramage from the YS National Committee recognised this wasn't up to much: shame though that he criticised Audrey Wise for only putting 25 companies on her list to be nationalised and not the top two hundred. He thought that only nationalising 25 companies would leave the bosses strong enough to stage a Chile-style coup and send in the butchers: what we have to do is take over 80% of the economy, which (somehow) makes it impossible for them to

retaliate.

We told them about what happened when 80% of Portugal's economy was nationalised. The Generals moved in.

On the streets!

We told them that defeating the capitalist class means smashing the state and that can only be done on the streets and not in Parliament.

But to our tremendous surprise Militant supporters howled in anguish and I think I heard one say 'What's that got to do with the economy'...

Anyway, after that things got bad. The Women's debate.

We started of arguing for positive discrimination in order to end job segregation and inequality at work and ended up listening to abuse. So much for taking women seriously — quite a lot of the discussion centred around whether women should wear bras or not!

It's about time YS comrades stopped wingeing about the Women's Labour Movement being

petit bourgeois and recognised that when women walk down the street they constantly face sexist abuse about their bodies and the risk of rape and attack. That's not because they're working class, working class men don't have that situation to cope with, but because they're women.

The final session on building the YS correctly talked about how important the campaign to unionise YOPs is and how the YS demo on October 16 should be a huge one. But no mention was made of YCND: is it true that for Militant the 150,000 youth who marched on CND's demos last year are petit bourgeois pacifists? We don't think so and told them that too.

Phil Francis, Class Fighter Wolverhampton SW YS



Kate Williams, West Midlands LPYS Regional Committee

Decision time!

Yet again YS regional Conferences are coming up in the near future, so now is the time to start getting organised:

1. Check that you have had your conference mailing through and that you have got your registration forms.
2. Get together with all other Class Fighter supporters in your area and discuss resolutions and nominations for the Regional and National Committees. (Remember they have to be sent in soon).
3. Stand as many Class Fighter supporters for delegates as possible.
4. Try to take as many supporters with you to conference as you can.
5. Be prepared to talk on a wide range of subjects at conference. Not just your resolution.
6. Lastly, if at all possible, enjoy yourself!

Grants for all?

IF you're an FE student then this year's NUS grants week of action is for you.

Although NUS is only going for a 6% increase in the student grant, part of the claim will be for a grant for all students. The demand is that FE students should receive £25 a week. That's not as good as a full grant, but who's going to refuse £25 when they don't get a penny now?

The Week of Action starts on November 25. But it's not just something to leave to students: your YS should get involved too. The issue of a grant for FE students is also about every-

one having the right to go into further education. And it's an attack on the Tories, who want to squeeze working class youth out of education.

Activity

So YSs should get in touch with the Student Unions at local FE colleges, and organise local activity. School students can be involved too. This sort of joint activity is a good way of building the YS — and the YS may be able to help set up a Labour Club at the college too.

Dear Comrades,

Hounslow Class Fighter supporters were well pleased to see the strong defence of the LPYS against the witch-hunters in the last issue of the paper.

The LPYS is the largest socialist Youth movement in the country and is well to the left of the 'adult' Party. Now that may not be saying much given the anger of youth and that the Labour Party is the mass party of the working class but it would be a catastrophe if the Right were able to gut it.



Massacred bodies lie waiting for burial

ZIONIST MASSACRES

ON the Thursday and Friday preceding the Jewish New Year, Israeli troops encircling the Palestinian refugee camps, allowed in the Phalangist and Haddad militias. Every human being they could find was butchered in the most savage and sadistic manner. In South Lebanon the Israelis attitude to the refugee camps has been much the same. The women and children have been put to flight, and the men placed in concentration camps. The Zionists term the PLO and Lebanese leftists as 'terrorists' and yet encourage the deployment of armed Phalangist militias. The Zionists accuse the PLO of operating amongst the civilian population, yet after the Nazi like massacres in the refugee camps who can doubt that the PLO was the only defence that the civilian population of those camps had.

Begin described the massacres as being a case of 'goy (gentile) killing goy' (Guardian, September 23). The reality is that the Zionists were determined to smash the Lebanese Left (including the Palestinians).

Israel's objectives though are not identical to those of the US. The US wants to see a strong capitalist Lebanon and Israel is quite happy with a weak and religiously divided Lebanon. A satellite which is a market for Israel's goods and a supply of cheap labour. Which is why Israel is the main suspect regarding Gemayel's death — only they had the motive and opportunity.

But we should be clear: This is not the first massacre.

In 1948 Begin's Irgun killed 250 villagers in Deir Yassin, with grenades and knives.

In 1951, Sharon's Unit 101 killed 66 people in Quibyah, Gaza, by dynamiting buildings with the people still inside them. In 1956 a curfew was imposed on Kfar Quassem in the Negev, and men returning after 4 pm from the fields were shot down in cold blood.

Of the latest Zionist massacre, it is clear from Haaretz, Israel's prestigious daily, that Begin's Cabinet was aware of the massacre as early as Friday morning but they chose not to interfere. Sharon admits that he actually approved of the operation beforehand. Not unnaturally Begin has resisted an inquiry, because after all those who protest about the massacres are only anti-Semites! Already Zionism's apologists point to other such massacres, preferably in Arab countries, as an excuse for their own.

To send the fascist Phalange into the camps is like sending a fox into a chicken run and expecting it to keep to a vegetarian diet.

Tony Greenstein
Brighton Labour Briefing

Affiliate to the Labour Committee on Palestine:
28, Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Rd., London N16



Zionist troops and tanks — how the invasion began

LETTERS

Agree? Disagree? Just want to write a letter? Write to Class Fighter, at 214 Sickert Court, Essex Road, London N1.

Keep it up!

We are currently planning to fight the next round of cuts with older comrades in the unions and the local CLPs.

By building the YS in a non-sectarian manner, encouraging comrades to play a full role in the Party, we are building ourselves and demonstrating to older comrades that we are the real future of the Party — a future that must not be smashed.

A Class Fighter LPYS will be a revolutionary organisation, rooted in the movement of the class and reaching out to the class.

Keep up the defence of the LPYS, keep building the LPYS, keep building ourselves!

Phil Coventry

Sectarian?

Dear comrades,

We want to say that we didn't like the centre page of Class Fighter last month.

It's good that YCND is getting more coverage these days, but why have a headline which reads like Socialist Youth?

Yes, YCND should 'turn to the Labour Movement' but do we want to give the impression that it's not worth being in until it does? We found the headline particularly odd as at the time YCND was marching

to the Labour Party Conference.

Class Fighter supporters should be working in CN and convincing local groups to work for the Labour Movement to take up anti-war activity. Headlines like the one last month don't help us to build CND. In fact they give support to the Militant position — don't bother with CND it's full of middle class trendies.

Build YCND, Gaz, Caroline, Dave, Mar, York Y

CLASS FIGHTER CONFERENCE

Nov 20-21



**Become
a Class
Fighter!**

by the National Left Wing Youth Movement, 214 Sickert Court, London N1 2SY, and printed by East End Offset (TU)