

# REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

I hope 100,000's of angry European youth and workers don't ruin our important government meeting in

# AMSTERDAM 14 JUNE



## BIGGEST STREET PARTY YET!

**I**F YOU don't make it to Amsterdam for the Euromarch you won't just be missing some sunshine and fun, you'll have missed the biggest show of working class unity across Europe seen so far. There's a rising wave of fightback by workers, students and youth saying NO to

a racist fortress-Europe and NO to attacks on our jobs, wages and welfare.

In June the Eurobosses are getting together in Amsterdam for a conference to sort out the "convergence criteria" for the single currency, and they're going to try and do it at our expense.

The Euromarch will involve hundreds of thousands of workers and youth from fourteen different countries - together we'll march on the conference to say: "We're not against Europe or the single currency, but you're not going to make us pay for it."...→pg 3

# Revo beats Tories in general election

**YOU PROBABLY** know about the general election that took place on the 1st of May, but that wasn't the only election that was going on. At Pimlico School in Central London, there was a mock election, and Revolution was standing in it. We had two candidates, Jack in Year 11 and Tom in Year 12/13. Tom was up against Labour, Lib Dem, the Tories, the Greens and a nutter for Bring Back the Rope (BBR), Jack was up against Labour, the "Socialist" party and the Workers Beer party.

Both Jack and Tom gave excellent revolutionary speeches at assemblies and at special election talks. They didn't just speak about why you had to vote for Revolution, but that you also had to get involved, as Revolution was and still is the only party seriously seeking members at the

school, and the only party which gets involved and protests against the fat cats. Our campaign against BP who fund Colombian Death Squads was one example. We were also against the capitalist system. It was also a good chance to easily slag-off the other parties for having terrible policies and supporting the lying, thieving bosses.

## The Results

In Years 12/13 the Greens got 34 votes, Labour got 28, Lib Dem got 20, Revolution got 14, the Tories only (but not surprisingly) got 10 and BBR got 5 votes.

In Year 11 the "Socialist" party got 58 votes, Labour got 20, Revolution got 18, the Workers Beer party got 18 and there were three abstentions/spoil papers.

The winners in Year 11 called themselves

socialists, but they didn't think that you should tax the rich to pay for free education and better services and they believed in capital punishment. They also cheated, getting people in other years to vote for them. No true socialist party would even consider cheating to win an election!

You may think that a party which is organised by youth, for the rights of youth should win a school mock election, but unfortunately Revolution didn't win. It shows that people are led to believe that Revolution is a bad thing, and no matter how good our policies are, people will still be against it. This is a view that Revolution is trying to change. Looking on the bright side, we beat the Tories, which shows that students realise the Tories are just full of rubbish.

# "the police were only interested in a riot"

BY: G.W. London

**O**ver the past eighteen years of Tory rule, the working class has seen its rights being continually eroded. Repressive legislation such as the anti-Trade Union laws of the mid-eighties through to more recent laws such as the Criminal Justice Act and the Job Seekers Allowance, have heightened resentment towards the capitalist state.

The March for Social Justice enabled 20,000 people, from all corners of the country, to come together and voice their anger against this regime. Headed by the Liverpool Dockers and other striking workers, the march congregated in Kennington Park where the carnival atmosphere was aided by live music, fancy dress and many small children playing in the sun. This was sustained throughout the march to Trafalgar Square, courtesy of a mobile sound system which triggered a spontaneous dance session outside the Houses of Parliament. In the Square itself, Reclaim The Streets (RTS) - an environmental group - provided the main sounds whilst the demonstrators partied into the evening.

"Luckily RTS didn't break the demo in half, like they had planned, and the massive march remained together." Adam, Warwick student.

The mainstream press had a different story to tell.

"It did represent something positive and none of the media wanted to talk about that, they just lazily wanted to talk about a few incidents involving the police" - John Bird, Big Issue Editor.

You may ask where the reports of the running street battles, and the attempt to storm the gates at Downing Street are? In truth, it was a largely peaceful day, threatened only by a huge, intimidating presence of a tooled up police force. When compared to a singing, dancing crowd, armed only with whistles and banners, you have to ask yourself: "Who came to riot?"

"The march was being billed as another Poll Tax riot even before me and my family arrived in London." - Jim Davies, Liverpool Docker.

"When I got to Trafalgar Square the police were already blocking off all the roads into the Square." - Lisa, REVO supporter. "This was a peaceful protest. Many people were on their first demonstration. There were some smoke flares and plenty of paint being thrown about but nothing that the police couldn't wash off. But I couldn't wash off the cuts and bruises I got when they charged people in Trafalgar Square." - Mark, London.



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# To EU or not to EU?

**S**O WHAT'S the big deal over Europe? When we hear about the European Union (EU) from the Tories, it's about faceless bureaucrats in Brussels making laws against selling a banana with too much of a curve, and the threat to "our island's sovereignty". On the other hand, some liberals see the EU as being a good thing, pointing to the 40 different cases where an unfair ruling in a British court has been overruled by the EU's courts in Strasbourg. They claim that the EU is progressive, making people look outwards and breaking down the old fashioned fear of foreigners and national hatreds.

We need to drop this simplistic thumbs-up/thumbs-down way of looking at it. Fundamentally, the EU is a bosses' project. At every stage of the EU, it's development has been driven by the profit needs of the capitalist ruling

classes of its member countries, especially the big, imperialist powers - Germany, France and Britain.

In the 1970's the long economic boom that began after World War II came to an end. In all the imperialist countries, big business saw its profits falling, and global competition became intense as they fought it out for limited markets. Japanese and American capitalism has been most successful in this competition to regain fat profits.

European states are the weakest of the lot, and our bosses realise it's either catch up or lag behind more and more until they are second-rate players. But we shouldn't back them up against "foreign" capitalists. Our own bosses are our worst enemy, and when they get together in Amsterdam they're hoping to sort out a bosses' Europe.

Regaining profitability means cutting costs, by cutting their taxes and increasing ours. The poorest 10% of the British population are now getting £13 a week less than 20 years ago whilst the top 1% get an extra £900 every week from Tory tax cuts.

The same bosses are also cutting wages, benefits, services and fighting against a decent minimum wage. They've cut thousands of jobs and have the remaining workers work twice as hard. Unemployment is still in the millions and growing throughout Europe - 18 million are right now without jobs - and if the Eurobosses go

forward with their plans for the single currency we can look forward to 10 million more being thrown out of work.

## So are we in favour of Maastricht?

The real argument for us shouldn't be whether to be in or out of the European Union, but rather "Whose Europe?" (See Box) Stay in or stay out, either way is on the bosses terms and means we're screwed. After all, we've been "out" under the Eurosceptic Tories for 18 years, and look where it's got us! Germany and France want to do exactly what Thatcher did to us, to their own working class but the strong unions and militant workers there still stand in the way. Demonstrations and strikes have rocked France for 2 Decembers in a row and in Germany the bosses are afraid to take on the massive unions.

This points the way to a different Europe, without nasty, petty nationalism or a capitalist superstate. We need a Europe run by us for ourselves, a Socialist United States of Europe. And it wouldn't be a racist fortress against immigration but would back every anti-imperialist struggle around the world. First, by cancelling Third World debt and then giving the workers all the property that European transnational banks and corporations own in those countries.

So instead of a smooth conference, let's give the bosses a rough ride. Come on the Euromarch on June 14th. It'll be the best thing you've seen yet...till the next one!



## BRITAIN AND EUROPE

Britain is different from Germany and France. As it was the first imperialist country and had the largest empire, most of its investments are abroad, either in the US or the Commonwealth, the old British empire. (Of the other 2 major European imperialists, Germany lost its empire after World War I, and most of France's investments are in Europe.) There is a split in the British ruling class. One wing invests and sells products in Europe and wants a strong EU. The other wing has its investments outside of Europe and doesn't want the EU to form into a bloc that will compete with the US and Japan. This is what the big eurosceptic debate in Britain is really about. It is why the Tory party is on the verge of falling apart.

## Life in an american school . . . revo overseas correspondent

**O**ur socialist/communist paper at the high school in Madison, USA was shut down by the school administrators and all the back files were confiscated without any warning. The paper had been running for two years with several different groups writing the articles. The school had never said anything to us about toning down the articles or shutting down the paper. We distributed the paper around the school by leaving stacks in the common area or by giving them out after school in the lobby. The school paper had given us part of their office to use for our files, so everything was in the school.

One day the four organisers of the paper were called to the head's office for a conference. We found all our files were out on the head's desk and some of them had been chucked out. He told

us that the paper was being shut down, because it held to "unacceptable morals" and promoted problems at the school. The four of us were given two days suspension. The staff and most of the students signed a petition to the administration asking for our paper back. The administration ignored the petition and told us that if we kept agitating at the school we would be expelled.

We organised a protest outside the school that was just going to be a bunch of us with signs and more petitions. The school called the police on us, saying that we were threatening to damage the school. The police arrived in riot gear and attacked us right away. They aimed for the kids who they knew didn't have rich parents and started beating them up. Some people escaped, but the police cut off most of the exits. The police must

have known who the organisers and staff members were, because they mainly targeted us. Several people ended up in hospital, some with severe head injuries from the police batons. Two of the four organisers were expelled and the other two were put on academic probation on flimsy excuses. The one teacher who was helping us was fired, but his case against the school never went to court. The staff members have their pictures and a list of names up in the school office and all the teachers have been warned to watch us to make sure the paper doesn't start again. This incident never made the papers and the school covered it up, so barely anyone found out unless they were there.

We are continuing to try to get our paper back, but at this point it doesn't look promising.

# what do you

BY: Richard in Borough

**IT WAS GREAT.** The Tories got smashed in the elections on May 1. With the biggest ever Labour victory, the Tories have been wiped out completely in Scotland and Wales, they lost 6 cabinet ministers including the vile nationalist Michael Portillo, and they now have the smallest number of seats since 1832 (when working class people still weren't allowed to vote!)

The day after the election, as we stumbled out of the REVO election night party into the sunlight, still clutching our cans, it seemed as if all the passers-by were smiling and full of hope. But are their hopes justified?

We don't think so. Of course Labour will bring in some measures that will help ordinary people. They have already banned landmines (which cripple thousands of children in the Third World) and they have at least delayed the closure of Bart's and Guy's Hospitals in London.

But the new government has already made it clear that it's not going to change the fundamental problem in our society - the control of all the most important property and wealth by a tiny handful of billionaires.

Blair says he wants to show working class people and the trade unions "fairness not favours". But he is already doing favours to the rich and treating the poor unfairly.

Over recent years the poor have been targeted by taxes on fuel and higher National Insurance contributions making them worse off than 20 years ago. The rich however, have been allowed to keep their profits through tax cuts . . . and Blair says he won't make the rich pay more tax!

Meanwhile things that are paid for out of taxes, like hospitals, are falling apart. 1 in 3 of them has closed. Waiting lists are enormous. Nurses get paid a pittance. Labour is only going to spend money that it can raise by cutting 'red tape'. That is only a fraction of what the health service needs just to survive, let alone improve. That's why Blair's planned extra spending on health has already been described by top doctors as "pathetic".

If Labour taxed the rich and took over the private drug companies that make millions from our suffering then the money could be found to abolish waiting lists overnight.

Why won't Labour tax the rich? Because the entire leadership of the party and its whole policy are committed to ruling on behalf of the rich.

## Two faces of Labour

The Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin (see

REVOLUTION issues 18 and 19) once famously described the Labour party as a "bourgeois workers' party".

He meant that the Labour Party had two aspects to its character. The party was set up by trade unions and has always been funded by them . . . this is still true today. Also, millions of working class people supported it and put their faith in it. You only had to look at peoples' faces on Friday 2 May to know that is still true.

But it is not just a working class party. Its leaders and policies support the rich class that rip the workers off: the capitalists or bourgeoisie. The paradox is that millions of workers support a party that in turn supports their worst enemies. In power a bourgeois workers' party like Labour always cruelly betrays the trust that ordinary people have put in it.

How do they get away with it? The party leaders make sure that the party stays pro-capitalist in 2 ways.

The first is by encouraging place-seeking and careerism. The new MPs are not people who are ready to sacrifice their own jobs and incomes in order to stand up for the poor. Instead they are mainly creeps who have got where they are today into positions of power and privilege by sucking up to the rich and opposing action against injustice at every turn.

There are 4 very good examples in the present parliament. Stephen Twigg, Jim Murphy, Lorna Fitzsimmons and Jack Straw (now Home Secretary, i.e. minister for police, punishment and prisons). What qualified these people to represent workers and youth in parliament? Have they worked in a factory, known poverty, made sacrifices. No. Each of them was a leader of the National Union of Students - earning far more than the average student - and each one of them tried to stop students taking action to defend their interests. They have already proven themselves very useful to the rich. They want to "get on in life" not by fighting for everyone, but by holding us back and then selling their services to the capitalists.

The present head of NUS, Douglas Trainer, now believes that students should pay for their own education! Funnily enough, this is also Tony Blair's view. Watch out for Trainer trying to get into parliament as a Labour MP in the next few years.

The second way the Labour leaders keep their party pro-capitalist is by restricting democratic rights for working class members and trade unionists to influence party policy. In the 1980s hundreds of people were thrown

out of the party just for being supporters of left-wing ideas.

Now Tony Blair is trying to scrap the right of the party conference to make policies at all. Even the elected leading committee of the party, the NEC, is being deprived of its powers. Trade unions - and their millions of members who set up the party, pay for the party, and build the party every day - are being given less and less direct influence.

A new rule brought in by Blair entitles him to discipline anyone who "brings the party into disrepute", which means do anything Blair doesn't like!

These are the ways Labour is kept safe for capitalism: by drawing privileged careerists into the top ranks of the party and by using bureaucratic methods to stop the majority of working class Labour supporters from having a say.

## Labour's Criminal Record

When it was set up, the Labour Party used the language of socialism and radical change. Labour's famous song, The Red Flag, carries a warning about people who want to "kneel before the rich man's frown and haul our sacred banner down." But one Labour government after another has done just that.

**1945-51:**  
built British nuclear weapons  
supported America's war against Korea

**1964-70:**  
supported Vietnam war  
broke the 1966 Seamens' strike  
sent troops into Ireland

**1974-79**  
froze workers' wages  
cut public services  
used the army against striking firefighters  
set up "YOPS", the first youth slave labour scheme

## What will Blair do for youth?

### Education

Blair said his priority is "education, education, education". But all he is promising is to lower class sizes for 5-7 year olds to 30.

This is something, but not much. It will be paid for by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme, which pays for scholarships to push private schools.

If Labour taxed the rich and scrapped all private schooling then class sizes could be

# ou expect?

reduced for everyone . . . to 25, which is what teachers want.

As for university students, Blair wants to scrap the grant altogether! Instead he wants students to pay for their own education through a graduate tax which will mean years of higher taxes if you go to college. This idea will save billions for the rich in taxes, and will mean only the kids of the richest parents will be able to go to college.

Meanwhile mad Professor Michael Barber has started appearing on TV . . . he is a special advisor to Labour on education. He is the nutter responsible for closing Hackney Downs school last year, and he is already talking about a hit-list of failing schools. Will Labour spend more to help them succeed? No: it will prepare to shut them down altogether.

## Jobs

Wouldn't that be nice! But the 250,000 jobs planned by Chancellor Gordon Brown are not real jobs. The "welfare-to-work" programme will have young people doing rubbish things like cleaning up graffiti etc., etc. Worst of all, the wages look set to be nothing more than the dole plus £10. This means poverty pay, essentially a new slave labour force. On such low wages, workers whose unions have won higher wages will be undercut.

REVOLUTION will be campaigning to unionise young workers and win equal pay with a minimum wage of £6 an hour.

## Rights

Tony Blair reckons he used to be in a band. Wow.

If he really wanted to impress us he could start by abolishing the Criminal Justice Act, which has turned a whole generation of ravers into criminals by illegalising "repeti-

tive beats" and by bringing in repressive police powers. He could legalise cannabis, which is less harmful than tobacco and alcohol, but which young people are constantly harassed for possessing.

But no. Instead Jack Straw, as Home Secretary, will keep all these Tory laws. Worse, he is bringing in changes to get young people locked up quicker than other convicted criminals, and he's bringing in a very repressive curfew to keep under 10s indoors after 10pm.

## Build the alternative

Millions of people trust Blair. There is a feeling of optimism in Britain right now because after years of boring old grey right wing Tory bastards, people think things are really going to change.

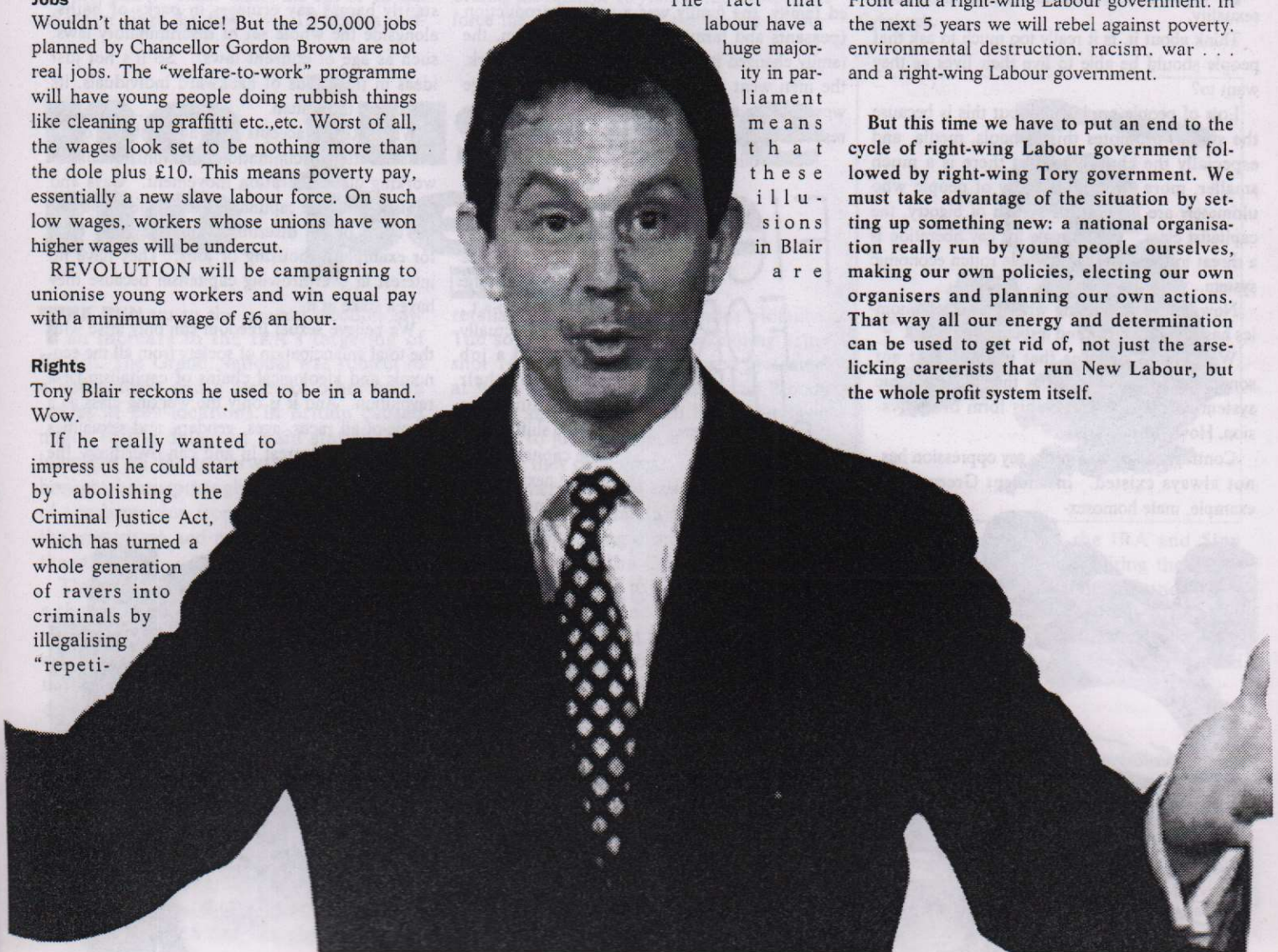
The fact that labour have a huge majority in parliament means that these illusions in Blair are

going to be put to a clear test. We are certain that peoples' expectations will turn to white-hot anger when they discover that they have been deceived and that Blair will expect the poor to make even more sacrifices to line the pockets of the rich.

That is why we urgently need to set up a clear alternative to Blair. Young people are especially important here. It is our futures that are being discussed, planned, carefully reorganised and then completely fucked up by the likes of Blair, Straw and Brown. It is our jobs, our education, our rights and our futures they are busy sacrificing to the God of profit.

In the past under Labour governments young people have moved sharply to the left. In the 60s they rebelled against the Vietnam war and a right wing labour government. In the 1970s they rebelled against the National Front and a right-wing Labour government. In the next 5 years we will rebel against poverty, environmental destruction, racism, war . . . and a right-wing Labour government.

But this time we have to put an end to the cycle of right-wing Labour government followed by right-wing Tory government. We must take advantage of the situation by setting up something new: a national organisation really run by young people ourselves, making our own policies, electing our own organisers and planning our own actions. That way all our energy and determination can be used to get rid of, not just the arse-licking careerists that run New Labour, but the whole profit system itself.



# gay & lesbian OPPRESSION

BY: Lee in Enfield

**L**ESBIANS AND gay men face systematic oppression in our society, with discrimination, harassment, even violence, coming at them from every direction- the police and the courts, school and work, in pubs and on the streets.

Lesbians and gay men are denied fair treatment in housing allocation- "families come first". We are denied custody of our children with lesbian mothers often having to fight in divorce courts to prove their "adequacy" to raise children. We're often forced to hide our sexuality in the workplace for fear of being fired, demoted, or the target of abuse, and we have no rights against this discrimination. The few businesses with equal opportunity policies usually don't extend them completely to us, much less count our partners as they would heterosexual spouses. As for violence, a recent study showed that a third of gay men and a quarter of lesbians have experienced violence in the last five years as a result of their sexuality.

Think about it. Is it really too much to ask that people should be able to live their lives as they want to?

Lots of people are bigoted, but this is because the system promotes this- schools, media, and especially the churches. But there is a much smaller, more specific category of people who ultimately are behind this system of bigotry, the capitalist class. The struggle for gay liberation is a threat to them and their whole rotten economic system.

Now you're wondering what the hell economics has to do with gay and lesbian oppression.

Well REVO believes that it hasn't just got something to do with it, but that the economic system actually generates this form of oppression. How? Read on...

Contrary to popular myth, gay oppression has not always existed. In ancient Greece, for example, male homosex-

uality was not seen as "Unnatural" but actually glorified by poets and philosophers and widely accepted throughout society. There were no categories, hetero versus homosexual. Because of male dominance gay love was looked upon as a higher form of love than hetero-love.

The middle ages saw the rise of Christianity and a highly homophobic society, but one where being gay or lesbian was no different from any other "evil" and so didn't receive special sanctions. Lesbianism in fact was not believed to exist, since the Christian fathers argued that "decent" women don't have sexuality so how can any woman be a lesbian?

It was only with the rise of Capitalism and its family unit that the systematic oppression of gays and lesbians began.

In the patriarchal family of the middle ages, with a father at the head of a household made up of his brothers, their wives, i.e. the whole extended family, the family was a unit of production (peasants and farming). Under capitalism, the family changed its form. Without land to work, the man went out of the house to earn a wage working for a boss, while the woman became responsible for raising children, cooking, etc. in

other words reproducing the next generation of workers or looking

after her husband, and all free of charge for the capitalist. (Women actually often had a job on top of their family duties, the double shift).

The capitalists rely on the next generation being raised.

but they don't want to pay for it- creches, child income benefit, the whole lot. So capitalism relies on the hetero-family with its sexual division of labour between man and woman, and this was then institutionalised as Hetero-love and marriage was labelled "natural". Anything that differed from this was deemed unnatural.

The categorisation of homosexual and heterosexual appeared, and legal penalties were imposed on gay men. A gay subculture came into existence alongside capitalism in Britain (the "mollies"). Famous group trials of gays took place in 1699, 1701 and 1720 where the punishment for being "abnormal" was hard labour in prison or the death penalty.

Gays and lesbians fall outside the capitalist "family" and its reproductive needs. To maintain the family, it needs to be propagandised for, and alternatives, such as homosexuality, fought against and policed (literally, as the police constantly harass gay cruisers in parks or baths, alongside the whole set of discriminatory laws, such as age of consent laws). So it's not just ideas in the heads of backward individuals, it's wired into the system.

While REVO accepts gays and lesbians of all classes suffer discrimination, we want to build a working class liberation movement. Gays and lesbians from the capitalist class are able to cushion many of the discriminations they may face, for example in housing or jobs. They have no interest in overthrowing capitalism because they have a stake in it.

We believe sexual freedom can only arise with the total emancipation of society from all the economic and ideological chains of capitalism- i.e. a revolution. And it is only the working class as a whole- of all races, ages, genders, and sexualities that have an interest in and can overthrow the system.

FIGHT  
FOR  
THE  
RIGHT  
TO BE  
GAY



# power in a union

BY: Lisa in Hackney

**UNIONS THROUGHOUT** the country are planning mass recruitment drives over the summer. The Transport & General Workers Union (T&G) which covers workers in some of the worst paid industries, such as catering, has called on members to "turn up the heat" and come to an organising conference next week.

Union leaders know that membership has dropped dramatically; in many organisations it's as low as 5%! With New Labour promising to make the bosses recognise unions, in workplaces where they have over 50% support, union activists will be aiming to recruit as many members as possible and increase union profile.

One T&G organiser has said, "What's been remarkable and really encouraging is the extent to which workers are contacting us, having already taken important steps towards establishing a viable organisation in their own workplaces".

And it's not at all surprising. Conditions in workplaces in this country are unbearable for millions, particularly the youth. Three quarters of those under the age of 24 year olds earn under the European Union decency threshold of £5.88ph. And that's if they can get a job in the first place! Those under the age of 18 can no longer claim the dole. Over 1.5 million part-

time women workers earn less than £3.50ph and one in six earns less than £4.00ph!

Let's look at Warner Brothers - one of the key targets for the latest T&G union drive. The average wage is a ridiculous £2.80ph, people are forced to work 12 hour shifts, with no overtime pay for Sundays or bank holidays. And to top it all, some have been threatened with physical violence for daring to complain. It's great that the T&G plans to expose these employers.

But the union drive mustn't stop there. We need unions that are fighting organisations, prepared to stick their necks out for their members. They must fight for a minimum wage, the repeal of all anti-union laws and demand an overturning of all the Tories racist, anti-worker and anti-youth laws such as the Job Seekers Allowance, the Criminal Justice Bill and the Immigration and Asylum Act.

We can't rely on the union bureaucrats, who are simply interested in 'media profile' and a better deal for themselves. We must join and organise for ourselves.

Let's flood the unions with keen and active members - with the very people that are really bearing the brunt of 18 years of the Tories. Let's force the government and the leaders of 'our'



Union delegates voting for a minimum wage

unions to either listen or get out.

We need our unions to support the disputes of other unions, both here and abroad, such as those involving the courageous Liverpool Dockers and Hillingdon Hospital strikers - for the car workers and miners in Europe - for the unemployed.

Join your union today. And let's begin the fightback.

# no justice no peace

BY: Dan in Tonbridge

**THE RUN** up to the general election saw an increase in the IRA's targeting of Britain. The Grand National was subject to a bomb scare and a series of other bomb scares at key locations in Britain caused major traffic delays at train stations and junctions on the motorways. These actions brought (unsurprisingly) hypocritical voices of condemnation from the government and the opposition and patriotic reporting from the tabloids.

The change of government has not led to a change of policy. The new Labour government have kept the old Tory policy of not allowing a place for Sinn Fein in the peace talks until the IRA call a cease fire and lay down their weapons. After all we should not forget that it was a Labour government which sent troops into Ireland in the late 1960s to quell the growing protest movement within the Catholic community, fighting back against discrimination and the imperialist control of their country.

Revo supports the IRA's war because it is a war against the British occupation of their country. The IRA only use physical force in

retaliation to the British armies violence. The so called British peace-keeping army shot 14 unarmed Catholic peace protesters at what has come to be known as Bloody Sunday and none of them have ever been brought to justice. Even if soldiers are like Lee Cleg they get let out.

The general election saw success for Sinn Fein with both Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams being elected. They will not take a place in the Commons however because they refuse to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen. We at Revo understand why they do not want to take the oath but it would be an opportunity to get their views and arguments across and it would put them in a position where they could challenge the government one on one. Although we support the IRA's fight their tactics of using guerrilla warfare have proved unsuccessful which is not surprising when you consider the odds of a few hundred committed fighters compared to the weight and power of the British army, armed police and a Loyalist community allowed to keep their weapons.



REVO believes that the IRA and Sinn Fein should look toward uniting the working class in the whole of Ireland and organise mass demonstrations such as strikes and marches and that they should give their weapons to the masses so they could defend themselves.

## WE DEMAND:

**Unconditional release of all prisoners of war  
Free Roisin McAliskey.**

She is only being imprisoned because she is daughter of Bernadette Devlin McAliskey - a leading fighter in the civil rights movement of the 60s  
**Troops out of Ireland NOW  
Scrap the prevention of terrorism act**  
which is used to harass Irish people.

# REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

## Touchy-feely? Green & Fluffy? MINISTER IN DEATH SQUAD SLEAZE ... wot, already?

**TONY BLAIR'S** recent appointment of Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum (BP) to the post of minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe has again put the spotlight on BP's rotten human rights record in Columbia.

The Casanare region, where the world's largest oil field was discovered five years ago, has been the scene of a 'dirty war' waged by the Columbian military against trade unionists, community leaders and local peasants.

Documents prove BP passed on photos of protestors and trade unionists to the army, who responded by issuing death threats and abducting six local campaigners who were later found murdered. In addition they've murdered 30 trade union members and driven 200 into exile for fear of their lives. BP pledged £39 million to establish a new military squad to help it keep the lid on the situation, on top of the £375,000 used to finance the notorious 16th Brigade, which a Colombian government commission accuses of execution without trial, kidnap, torture and rape.

The Labour Party's pre-election promise to promote new world wide rules for human rights and the environment, therefore, seems

a wee bit incompatible with the appointment of an individual who is chairman of a company with so much 'blood on their hands'.

David Simon, knighted by the queen in 1995, also holds directorships with several other multinational companies. One is the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation, who are involved in copper mining in Papua New Guinea which has led to the destruction of the environment, and a bitter civil war involving local villagers which has lasted for nine years.

The media has begun to pick up on these links and after articles in the Gaurdian condemning Sir David's appointment, and a feature on Radio 4, calls are growing for an independant enquiry into BP's role in Columbia.

Revolution as part of the 'Coalition Against BP in Columbia' have continually campaigned for action on this issue. Ever since previously suppressed reports were first leaked to the Labour MEP John Howitt, we have been staging demonstrations and stunts to raise awareness. Now that Sir David Simon's appointment has focussed attention we must keep up the pressure, starting with getting Tony Blair to immediately throw Sir David out of office.

## STUDENTS FIGHT SACKINGS

**O**n the 8th of May over 100 pupils from Montgomery School in Kent protested against the sacking of 5 teachers, a classroom assistant and a laboratory technician. The head teacher Rodney Freakes said he was "impressed by the loyalty" of the pupils.

The protests ranged from students not going to lessons to trashing classrooms and breaking windows.

One pupil said "all the kids want the teachers to stay. It seems to be the most experienced and expensive teachers they are sacking."

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is proposing a ballot for strike action.

This protest shows real unity between students and teachers. this is the only way that struggles can be won, by uniting with people who have the same interests.