

Socialist Worker

inside

THE WORLD IS
NOT FOR SALE
BUILD FOR
PRAGUE
\$26

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For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

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★ Tony O'Reilly
is the richest man
in Ireland

★ He lives in the
Bahamas to avoid
paying tax

★ His company
bribed Ray Burke

★ So why are his
papers attacking
workers?



Tony O'Reilly

Support the fight for union rights

No rent control means tenants are ... Thrown out on the street

"WE HAVE been pushed out of our rented accommodation by sheer greed". Nicola was a tenant on 35 Berkley Road and was recently intimidated out of her home.

Her landlord, Nicholas Walsh owns several properties throughout Dublin. Last February he served a notice to quit on his tenants in Berkeley Road as he wanted to sell the house and cash in on the property boom.

We told him that we were not in a position to move.

Rents are rising throughout Dublin and we could not simply up and find a new place. If he wanted to evict us, he would have to get court order" Nicola said.

Walsh eventually put in place proceedings to have his tenants evicted. They in turn made statements, which contested his claims.

But by August no news of a court date had been received.

Instead a new 'tenant' named Stephen was moved into the house.

He soon began a campaign of intimidation.

He told me that I better get rid of my cat because he was bringing a pit bull terrier.

Barricaded

"He then held a 60 strong party in the house where there were chants directed against me of 'squatters out'.

The morning after this intense intimidation, I was barricaded into my front room with a wardrobe. Furniture was thrown down the stairs at me.

"Eventually I could not take any more and I had to move into friends"

Evictions are rising as landlords try to push up rent and sell property.

The incidents in Berkeley Road show why a well-organised Housing Action Campaign is needed to stand up for tenant's rights.



Possessions on the streets — the reality of evictions

Killer cops coverup

THE DPP has decided that no Garda officers will be prosecuted for the murder of John Carthy in April.

Carthy was shot four times, possibly once in the back, after armed Gardai surrounded his house in Abbeylara. The decision follows a report conducted by the Gardai themselves.

The Minister for Justice John O'Donoghue has refused to release this report or another one prepared by the FBI until October at the earliest. He has also refused requests from the family and the ICCL for an independent public inquiry.

According to John Carthy's sister, "I'm very disappointed at the decision and my mother feels much the same. It's appalling."

The McCarthy family want answers to simple questions.

● Why was Carthy's sister denied permission to talk to him during the 24 hours he locked himself in his house?

● Why was the psychiatrist who treated him for depression not consulted? Why was his request for a solicitor not met?

● Why were the heavily armed Emergency Response Unit called in in the first place?

While Fianna Fail Ministers often called for independent inquiries into shootings by the RUC in Northern Ireland, the Gardai are being given a free hand when they operate a 'shoot to kill' policy in the South.

inside the system

THINGS THEY SAY

"He was successful in his appeal and technically has no convictions against him. Therefore he will receive outstanding salary and pension contributions from when he was in prison."

ARMY SPOKESPERSON explaining why Corporal Lee Clegg, who was convicted for shooting two Catholic teenagers dead in Northern Ireland, is to get £25,000 for wages he lost when he was in jail

"The Republican are calling [this] a Wizard of Oz ticket... Chenny needs a heart, Bush needs a brain."

JAY LENO, American talk show host, on the Republican's Presidential ticket.

"The system has let us down. We have still not had an official confirmation that my sister was killed. Devranee may only have been a cleaner but she was still a human being."

RELATIVE of a black hotel chambermaid who was killed in the Concorde crash but whose family was not even told

"We use the term 'unfit for human consumption' for the pig feed, but it must be remembered that chocolate is edible for a long time. It doesn't go mouldy."

RICHARD FROST of Cadbury's defending the firm after allegations that it makes its Creme Eggs and other brands out of chocolate marked "Pig Feed"

Hypocrite Keenan

JOHN KEENAN, Ianrod Eireanns Human Resource manager, who is a centre of the campaign against the ILDA drivers, was himself involved in the creation of a breakaway union in the 1980s.

The former union activist and card-carrying member of the Labour Party applied in 1985 to

form a breakaway union, the Association of Transport Staff, from the transport union TSSA. His application was refused and he returned to the TSSA.

He was actively involved in Emmet Stagg's election campaigns throughout the 1980s. Coincidentally Stagg has been one of the most vocal political opponents of ILDA.



★ ALL BANKS rip off their customers, but the Irish banks are the European leaders in the race. A recent report shows that they are the most profitable in Europe. The reason is that they have the highest interest margins. They'll charge you a fortune if

you borrow money from them, but give you nothing if you try to save a few pounds in your account.

And remember most workers now receive their pay cheque through the banks — thanks to the social partnership.

FF Feng Shui

FF'S SOLUTION to the planning crisis in Dublin hit new heights recently when TD Marian McGennis called on Dublin Corporation to hire a Feng Shui expert. According to McGennis all that Dublin needs is to Feng Shui up its streets and harmonious positive energy will abound.

UN.com

In an extraordinary move, the United Nations is to join forces with 50 multinational corporations. The UN's "Global Compact" is to include firms like Nike and Royal Dutch Shell, more known for their Third World sweatshops and environmental degradation than upholding human rights.

The firms will be allowed to post statements on the UN website and glow in the publicity generated. The deal was worked out after UN secretary general Kofi Annan approached the companies with the invitation.

G8 Summit

WORLD LEADERS' G8 binge in Okinawa, Japan, cost a cool half a billion pounds. The biggest spender was Japan's police agency, which was terrified that anti-capitalists would ambush Clinton, Blair and Co. "If it hadn't been for Seattle, our bill would have been much, much lower," moaned one officer.

A DAY AT THE RACES

IT WASN'T only the bookies that cleaned up at the Galway races. Fianna Fail cleared over a quarter of a million pounds.

As one senior party figure admitted in these days of tribunals, election spending limits,

funds have been thin on the ground.

But FF can breathe a sigh of relief as all their rich friends were at the races and were only to happy to pay £250 a ticket to join the FF big-wigs in their own private tent - which was the largest of all the corporate hospitality enclosures.

Sky high profits cause crashes

THE TRAGEDY that saw 114 people killed when an Air France Concorde crashed shows the reality of the pursuit of profit in the airline trade.

Investigators believe that debris from one or more blown tyres at take-off ruptured fuel lines, causing a fire and downing the plane.

Concorde's tyres have to take immense pressure as the supersonic plane takes off. As far back as 1979 the manufacturers and the authorities knew of blow-out problems.

Concorde tyres burst on average once a year. Yet Concorde is a plane for the super rich and business executives so

there is an interest in making it safe. The rest of us are crammed into even less safe tin boxes for our annual holidays.

The World Health Organization has pointed out that cost cutting on recycling air on planes has led to an increase in the spread of infectious diseases on flights - in particular TB. On some routes hundreds of people can end up breathing the same air for days at a time.

Mile for mile air travel is much safer than other forms of transport. But on a journey for journey basis the picture is reversed. Fatalities per 100 million passenger journeys are, on average, 55 for aircraft, 4.5 for cars and 2.7 for trains.

And across Europe governments are pushing ahead with the privatisation of air traffic control, which can only make flying even more dangerous.

Prague protest will tell IMF and the World Bank

The world is not for sale



Protesting at the Republican convention

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund wants the Irish government to push through a privatization programme at a 'faster pace'. It is also calling for water and refuse charges to be introduced, in its latest report on the Irish economy.

The IMF is one of the corner stones of global capitalism.

Everywhere it pushes the same message that it is recommending for Ireland - more freedom for the multi-nationals, more charges, and more privatization.

In April, an IMF proposal to privatise water in Brazil provoked a general strike.

The state responded by declaring state of emergency and shot dead five demonstrators.

Resistance

But the strike stayed solid and the water companies were taken back from US and British multi-nationals.

Resistance to the IMF and economic globalisation is

growing across the world.

September 26 has been designated a global day of action against the IMF and the World Bank.

The day was chosen because thousands of the world's bankers will gather in Prague for meetings of these two institutions.

Demonstrators from across Europe will travel to Prague to show their anger with those at the head of a world system that ensures that millions go hungry while they rake in obscene profits.

The S26 Day of Action follows an outbreak of mass strikes across the world against economic plans to put profit before people.

The mass strikes over the last few months include
 ★ June: A general strike in Nigeria against a 50 percent hike in oil prices following IMF insistence that fuel subsidies be ended.

★ June: Nine million Argentinian workers strike against public sector cuts demanded by IMF in return for a loan.

★ May: One day general strike of 4 million South African workers against job losses caused by IMF 'restructuring programme.'

★ May: 20 million workers in general strike in India.

In all these protests the message is the same: there is a new resistance to global capitalism. The world is not for sale.

Why I am going to Prague

CAROLINE VAN OS is a school student from Lurgan who is going to Prague with the Irish delegation

She explained why: "Prague is the next step in the huge movement that emerged in Seattle and Washington. It is becoming obvious that to do anything about the global situation and capitalism we need a mass movement. It's fine for there to be different groups campaigning on individual issues, but Seattle shows that we need to band together."

"Collecting money for Prague on the streets in Belfast has been great. People are very aware of issues like the Third World Debt and the role of multinationals and how they're connected. We've had a very good response and it shows that the anti-capitalist mood is here as well."

"It's great that people from Ireland are going to Prague because they can bring that experience back here, speak to people about it when they get back. We talked a lot about Seattle when it happened last year, but no one from here was there. First hand experience can be really inspiring."

Carnival for Global Economic Justice



Protest at the International Financial Services Centre in Dublin from 1 - 2 pm. September 26th

Economic Justice



Meetings & stalls in the Temple Bar Music Centre + March at 2.30 pm from Central Bank September 30th

★ A thirty strong delegation will fly from Dublin to join the Prague protests on September 26th. The delegation includes a busworker shop steward; campaigners against privatisation of refuse services and environmental activists, and cancel the debt campaigners.

Local protests will also march on the International Financial Services Centre on the same day.

On September 30 a Major Carnival for Economic Justice will be held in Dublin.

You can back this new movement by

★ Getting your trade union, community organisation or students union to sponsor the Irish delegation to the Prague protests.

★ Form S26 collectives in your town to co-ordinate local protest activity such as leafleting outside McDonalds, petition against sweatshop labour, picketing banks to call for cancellation of Third World Debt.

★ Organising transport to the Carnival for Economic Justice now.

email: gracelally@yahoo.com or ring 086 4098186

Bring the spirit of Seattle to Dublin

Defend the ILDA

Support the locked out train drivers

THE INDEPENDENT Group of newspapers has launched a full-scale propaganda war against the locked out ILDA train drivers.

But the witch-hunting on the pages of the Evening Herald and the Indo has not worked.

The train drivers have received the solidarity and sympathy of thousands of workers throughout the country.

In one issue the Evening Herald carried a full-page photo of ILDA leader Brendan Ogle and doctored the image to make him look more like an ogre alongside a caption, which read "Today this man created chaos for 250,000 Dubliners".

Pickets placed by the train drivers on CIE installations were widely supported.

Despite the encouragement to scab by union officials, workers solidarity gave strength to the ILDA.

The Minister for Transport, Mary O'Rourke, was shocked to discover the level of sympathy. She even described CIE workers as "brothers at work — they have to be treated with delicacy."

THE LIES ABOUT ILDA

The media and the Government are trying to create myths around the real issues facing the train drivers but these lies are easily nailed:

Myth No 1

"A majority of locomotive drivers support the new deal"

Fact: 112 drivers who are members of SIPTU and NBRU voted for the deal. 82 members of these unions voted against. Only members of these two unions were allowed to vote. The ILDA had 114 members but they were given no vote. The real figures therefore should be more like 197 against the deal and 112 in favour.

Myth No. 2

"The new deal is a substantial improvement and drivers should have no problems with it"

Fact: Under this deal train drivers have no guaranteed day off until September 2001. The maximum working day is increased from 9 to 11 hours. The maximum working week is increased from 39 to 48 hours. The basic rates of pay are increased but from now on bank holiday and Sunday working is rostered without any premium pay.

Myth No. 3

"The dispute is about greedy drivers demanding more pay"

Fact: The dispute has nothing to do with pay but everything to do with health and safety on the railways. The new deal will reduce the training period for train drivers from 72 weeks to 48 weeks. The company can call on 'Contingency drivers' when it wants despite the fact that they will not be regular train drivers. These conditions seriously erode the safety of the railways for drivers and the public.

Myth No. 4

"ILDA are only a tiny minority of drivers who are holding the country to ransom"

Fact: ILDA membership has over 30 percent of the total number of train drivers. It is those who deny train drivers the right to join the trade union of their choice who are guilty of holding us to ransom.

Myth No. 5

"If the ILDA win the Busworkers Action Group is waiting in the wings to set up another union in Dublin Bus"

Fact: The Busworkers Action Group is a rank and file group within Dublin Bus whose aim is to lobby within the existing unions for the interests of CIE workers. Owen McCormack, chairman of the group has stated, "We are being used as an excuse for the company not to negotiate with the ILDA. We have no intention of setting up a new union and the people involved in trying to isolate ILDA know this."



ILDA drivers locked out by CIE

Union leaders who back scabbing

The biggest scandal involved in this dispute has to be the role played by the union leaders in SIPTU and the NBRU.

Disgracefully they have called on their members to scab on fellow workers.

The President of the NBRU made his presence felt on several picket lines outside Dublin Bus depots, calling on workers to cross the ILDA pickets, declaring them illegal and anti-union. Peter Bunting, the leader of the NBRU has been enthusiastic in his condemnation of the ILDA and in particular of Brendan Ogle than CIE.

According to the Sunday Business Post 'the SIPTU leadership has put intense pressure on the government not to concede to ILDA'.

But the rank and file of the unions have responded brilliantly. They can smell the rot that has set into the official union leadership and

have no faith in what they are being told to do - especially when they are told to scab.

On the pickets at Dublin Bus workers described the solidarity shown for ILDA as "a revolt against our own unions. If we were so fond of our union leaders and had any pride in our existing unions, we wouldn't be standing out here on the picket line. But the unions are completely out of touch with us."

Another worker told

Socialist Worker, "We have never seen such unity between the officials from the two unions SIPTU and NBRU."

"They are glued together in opposition to the train drivers. If they showed even a fraction of that unity when it comes to our pay and conditions we'd all be much better off."

Solidarity

At Conyngham Road depot the solidarity was

almost 100 percent. One of the bus drivers told Socialist Worker, "We are not stupid. We heard Bunting on the radio condemning the train drivers. But we support them. It's in our interests, just like they supported us when we put pickets on the train stations."

Train drivers picketing Conyngham Road bus depot told the busworkers they intended lifting pickets at 12 noon.

But busworkers insisted they stay on and then organ-

ised a delegation to visit other picket lines to encourage busworkers to stay out longer

At Ringsend depot one of the workers remarked "We just got a pay deal that involved a no-strike clause for the first time in our history. And just look. The deal was only signed five weeks ago."

"Since then we had a strike here in Ringsend and now the ILDA strike. CIE would want to cop on to how to treat their workers".

DON'T LET THEM SACK ILDA DRIVERS

THE PRESS is now screaming that ILDA drivers should be sacked if they do not return to work.

They pointed to the example of Ronald Reagan who sacked air traffic controllers in the US in 1980 - and then launched a huge attack to reduce the living standards of American workers.

Press barons like O'Reilly are worried about the growing rank and file

revolt against partnership.

Some of them think that ILDA should be made an example of to terrify other workers.

But these threats must be resisted.

ILDA's rejection of the latest offer for intervention is not a reason for sacking.

Intervene

The offer of the LRC and the Labour Court to intervene in the dispute was not genuine.

It was a clever ploy that was introduced after the strikers were suffering huge financial hardship after two months on strike.

The company gave no guarantee that the train drivers would not work over 9 hours a day.

Nor was there promise that the drivers would get a 20-minute break after every three hours of driving.

Instead the offer was designed to humiliate and break their union, ILDA.

Eamonn

McCann

Hysteria won't protect children

The hysteria about paedophiles following the Sarah Payne case hasn't happened naturally or by accident but has been generated by media sensationalism and political opportunism.

The level of fear among parents has rocketed as a result. But no child anywhere is safer.

Reaction in Derry to an incident in the Steelstown area on August 4th makes the point. Four days later, the Derry Journal told on its front page that a man had approached a child of six in "suspicious" circumstances. There was no indication of what the "suspicious" circumstance amounted to.

The paper quoted SDLP councillor Sean Gallagher saying that "the incident was by no means an isolated one". He claimed that he had "received reports of sinister similar incidents which have occurred since the start of the school holidays. This is a cause of concern for the entire community."

Sinn Fein mayor Cathal Crumley also weighed in: "In light of the recent tragic death of Sarah Payne in England, I would ask parents to advise their children of the dangers in talking to or approaching strangers".

Three days later, the Journal was still on the case. By now the "suspicious" circumstance had become a flat fact.

Unnamed local residents were quoted criticising the RUC for its tardy response to the "attempted abduction". The memory of Sarah Payne was again invoked. The terrible death of the Essex eight-year-old had touched people across Britain and Ireland. The fortnight's delay between her disappearance and the discovery of her body had allowed millions to imagine that they knew her.

It was this sense of emotional involvement that the News of the World exploited in its circulation-building "name and shame" campaign and which, on a localised scale, put the Steelstown "incident" on the Journal front-page and prompted politicians to jostle for attention with their reactions.

All that this achieved was to cloud the facts about the abuse of children in our society.

The main danger to children comes not from the stereotypical paedophile targeted by politicians and the media—the sinister stranger emerging from the shadows to pounce on his prey—but from people they know well, whom they might even love. The most likely child sex abuser is an older male relative.

The most likely location is the home.

Rooted

The most common characteristic of those who do conform to the standard image of "the paedophile" is that they themselves had been sexually abused as children. This is not an excuse.

But it points to the fact that we are dealing here with a phenomenon which is rooted deep in the human psyche and in the way our society actually sees and treats children, as opposed to the way we are invited to pretend children are treated.

If the most powerful elements in our society are genuinely horrified at the abuse of children, why are our child-care services in crisis?

What facilities and professional help would have been available to a child from the Steelstown area of Derry who had actually been traumatised by abuse or identified as being at risk of abuse?

The answer is to be found in a recent submission from the Nipsa trade union on behalf of child care workers in the Foyle Trust area, which covers Steelstown. It sums up, in capital letters: "STAFF IN NO POSITION TO COPE FOR MUCH LONGER".

Desperation comes through in every line. One senior professional told Socialist Worker:

"As things stand, some terrible tragedy is inevitable. Maybe then, everybody will wake up".

The workers are voting this month on industrial action to try to halt the cuts and the down-grading of child-care services.

This is a constructive reaction from genuinely concerned people. What we've had from the British media and politicians—not to mention their Derry equivalents—has been a useless spasm of phoney emotion.

As DeBrun pushes privatisation ...

This is how we can resist

by COLM BRYCE

HOSPITALS IN Northern Ireland, like in Britain, are facing a massive shortfall in funding.

The Royal Group of Hospitals announced last week that it is £310 million over its budget and will be making cutback on doctors and specialists this year.

Closure

Assembly Minister Bairbre de Brun claims that the closure of the Jubilee Maternity Hospital and the South Tyrone Hospital were unavoidable due to cut backs.

The new maternity hospital at the Royal is to be built under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which continues the Tory policy of handing the NHS over to private business to make a profit.

Catering, cleaning and portering services have all been handed over to private companies like Compass, who make a profit from cutting staff and keeping wages low.

Even though it pre-



tends to be a radical party, the Sinn Fein Minister for Health is following the same policies promoted by New Labour across Britain.

But in the West Midlands, hospital workers are on strike against PFI and the privatisation of the health service.

"WE WANT to stay with the National Health Service. It's as simple as that," said a striking catering worker last week. She was one of nearly 560 health workers at Dudley Group of Hospitals in the West Midlands on strike for two days against privati-

sation.

The workers are angry, and determined that their jobs will not be transferred to Summit Healthcare under a New Labour PFI scheme.

Escalate

Now the workers, members of the UNISON union, are set to escalate the action with a four day strike.

A catering worker told Socialist Worker, "PFI is all about the bosses making profits from people who are sick and vulnerable.

The cost is our jobs

● HUNDREDS OF hospital workers marched in Dudley

and the quality of service. "Look what it means in Dudley. Hospitals axed, 70 fewer beds, 170 job losses.

Our whole futures are

up for grabs here."

It is an example that workers in Northern Ireland should follow when de Brun pushes more privatisation.

CLEGG BACKPAY: THE FINAL INSULT

LEE CLEGG, the British paratrooper who was jailed for killing two teenage joyriders in West Belfast, has been awarded £25,000 back pay by the British Army for the time he spent in prison.

The decision comes after a lengthy campaign by the Daily Telegraph, which succeeded in getting Clegg released after just two years in prison. Last year he was acquitted on a technicality but convicted of attempting to wound Martin Peake.

Promoted

This conviction was also overturned in January this year. After prison, Clegg not only rejoined the British Army but has since

been promoted twice. In September 1990, Clegg was part of an army patrol which fired dozens of bullets into a stolen car killing Karen Reilly and Martin Peake. The Army claimed that the car had driven through a checkpoint.

But evidence at the trial revealed that soldiers had deliberately injured one of their own men to make it look as though he had been hit by the car. A gruesome display in the paratroopers' canteen celebrated the killings, with a cardboard cut out of the car and the slogan "Vauxhall Astra, built by robots, stopped by 'A' Company".

Clegg is one of only three British soldiers ever convicted in Northern Ireland.

The other two, Scots Guards who killed teenager Peter McBride in North Belfast in 1992, were also released after a few years in jail after a campaign in the British press.

They too rejoined the British Army.

Maysfield leisure centre closure

MEMBERS OF the ATGWU may go on strike if plans go ahead to close Maysfield Leisure centre in Belfast.

Belfast councillors Alasdair McDonnell (SDLP) and Jim Rodgers (UUP) have warned against such action.

The threat comes after it was learned that Belfast City Council had a report commissioned for re-development plans for Maysfield.

In the report obtained by Socialist Worker it lays out the "disposal" of Maysfield.

It states that the leisure centre could be

demolished and replaced with business and residential units.

Also it suggests building a hotel, car parks pubs and restaurants.

The Leisure centre is situated next to Central Station which is the gateway from Dublin to Belfast.

Leisure

The site that the leisure sits on is seen as being more valuable than the people that use the centre.

Users of the center are totally opposed to the closure. Jim from east Belfast told Socialist Worker,

"I am appalled by this. My kids use the centre for swimming and they are members

of a swimming club which works with 150 kids from different communities.

This will be a big blow to them all. The pool at Maysfield offers a full 25metre race training and is the only one suitable in Belfast as it is easier for kids to come from all over the city and the same goes for the other clubs that use the centre.

We are always being told to have more cross community activities and then the plan this".

A campaign is being set up by users of the centre with a public meeting planned to help build action and protests. Tell Socialist Worker if you want to get involved.

New book reveals

Blood on their hands

BLOOD, IS one of the world's most precious resources. A barrel of oil costs \$20 but a barrel of blood is worth \$52,000. Douglas Stern's fascinating book *Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce* tells a fascinating story of

this most prized and valued resource.

by **SINEAD KENNEDY**

He explains how the medical breakthroughs of World War Two laid the foundations of today's global marketplace and a business worth \$5 billion a year.

WW2 brought one of the largest spillings of blood that the world has ever known, and blood became a strategic resource. Dr. Edwin Cohn of Harvard, working under a military contract, found a way to break plasma down into its many constituents. This technology set the stage for a global blood industry.

But this liquid that could save so many lives would

also destroy thousands. A small group of drug companies came to dominate the plasma business. They were similar to the "Seven Sisters" who control oil.

In their quest to harvest the resource, those drug firms set up "plasma mills" in America's poorest cities. Later, seeking further resources, blood

plasma was imported from the Third World, notably Central America.

Meanwhile the business of blood boomed with surgical advances like open-heart surgery and organ transplants. In the late 1960s new clotting factors to help sufferers of haemophilia were developed which had the effect of doubling life expectancy. However problems were also growing.

By the 1970s blood related hepatitis rates soared, killing tens of thousand of haemophiliacs. Just when doctors thought they had controlled the level of Hepatitis infection from blood, a new danger emerged in the form of HIV/AIDS.

Even more horrific, however, are the details of how the major pharmaceutical companies deliberately sold infected blood profits.

In America, patients have filed hundreds of civil suits against doctors, drug companies, and even their own patient organisations for abandoning their health to the demands of profit.

In Britain, AIDS-infected haemophilia patients castigated their national transfusion service for not reacting properly to the threat of emerging disease.

In Japan, patients charged that the governments and drug companies criminally concealed the contamination of blood products. As a result some

of the nation's most revered doctors have gone to jail. In Canada the scandal of contamination spread so wide that the government held a series of hearings across the country that convulsed the nation with anger.

In France several officials were jailed after it emerged during a major public enquiry, that the national blood transfusion service allowed the nation's haemophiliacs to inject blood derived clotting factors they knew to be contaminated.

In Ireland the story is equally horrific. Here too it

appears the haemophiliacs were knowingly given potential harmful blood projects to inject.

By the 1970s the truth about the potentially lethal blood collection methods utilised by many of the US collection centres was out in the open. The head of the Blood

Transfusion Service Board Dr. Jack O'Riordan warned the government not to grant a license to US pharmaceutical company Travenol to allow them to license their products here. There had been warnings from the Bureau of Biology in the US as well as the Council of Europe.

O'Riordan changed his mind after receiving a letter from Travenol. His reasons are unclear but details have emerged that Travenol offered the BTSB a potentially lucrative deal guaranteeing them increased profits.

At the current Lindsay tribunal, counsel for the Irish Haemophilia Association has raised lots of other questions about Travenol's close relationship with O'Riordan.

The license was granted in 1974. By January 1987 105 haemophiliacs had become injected with HIV. Fifty-seven of them are now dead.

The Lindsay tribunal was established this year to investigate the actions of BTSB. But unlike the French inquiry those effected will not get to tell their stories. They will never be a matter of public record.

The Irish Haemophilic Society wants a number of questions about the relationship between the blood bank officials and major pharmaceutical companies answered by the Lindsay Tribunal.

A small group of drug companies came to dominate the plasma business. They were similar to the 'Seven Sisters' who control oil.

300 jobs under threat in Dundalk

GUINNESS: THE COLD MULTINATIONAL

AROUND THE world Guinness represents Ireland. The marketing plays on stereotypes of the Ireland of the welcomes, but in reality Guinness is a global product that uses an image for the relentless pursuit of profit.

The company that owns Guinness, Diageo, say, "We are proud of our brands. They should know because they own some of the best known names in the world."

Spent

Last year this huge global corporation made over 1.9 billion pounds (sterling) profit.

They own everything from Green Giant tinned food to Gordon's Gin and Haagen Dass Ice cream. The Burger King chain of fast food restaurants is just one of their companies.

The conglomerate has spent years buying up as many of the best known brand names. They take over a name that they can market around the world.

So for instance, last year alone Guinness Ireland made them a handsome £240 million in profit.

And whatever the advertising tactics the job of the Guinness brand is to make profits.

And that pursuit of profit means attacks on workers.

Increase

In July the multinational parent company, Diageo, announced the closure of the Dundalk plant, despite workers in Dundalk giving productivity deals amounting to the loss of 60 jobs.

The company wants to cut unit costs in order to massively increase profit.

Management estimates it costs £40,000 to employ one worker in Dundalk.



Is the St James Gate brewery safe?

But if they close the packaging company and shift the brewing to Belfast it will cost £20,000 per employee.

Guinness showed no regard for their workers whose labour has created their profits and reputation. They didn't even bother to

inform the unions or to consult with them - despite all the fancy talk of partnership.

As one shop steward told Socialist Worker, "In the past a job in Guinness meant you were made for life."

This was the best place in the country to work.

Guinness had good pay rates, good pension and sick pay.

Once upon a time it provided social housing and still has good

The Hatchet man

ALLEN PETERS is the hatchet man for Guinness. He is in Ireland to take on the unions for the multinational Diageo.

He earned his spurs in Spain where he pushed through a series of rationalization plans and job cuts in Grupo

Cruzcampo, Spain's biggest brewery. This led to the sale of the company to Heineken and further job losses.

Pretending

His style is to have open-ended informal questions and answer sessions with workers and union reps rather than to hold

negotiations. This allows him to simply announce his plans to the media while pretending to be consulting the workforce.

For instance, when he first visited Dundalk he spent his time asking workers if they thought they would still have jobs in 12 months.

Many of the Guinness workers see Peters as

"another Hitler". One of the workers described him on a recent visit to the James Gate brewery in Dublin.

"He stood among us on the keg plant with his shirt open and his hands in his pockets."

"We were giving him our side of the story and his parting words to us were - it's easier for me to close this place than to keep it open."

Stand up for the union

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THE EXTRA INTERNATIONAL

FROM FAMINE RENTS TO FASCISM

THE IMAGE of Guinness is often based around the "Uncle Arthur" reputation of the Guinness family.

In reality the Guinness clan have always been a grasping dysfunctional bunch of aristocrats who considered themselves loyal to the British Empire.

The founder of the company made as much money from rent as a landlord in Dublin as he did from beer.

But on the back of selling alcohol to the Dublin poor he was able to buy him into the elite of the British society.

The family's wealth grew during the famine when they bought up thousands of acres of land of those displaced by starvation.

By the 1860s the family entered politics when Benjamin

Guinness was elected as Tory MP for Dublin - he campaigned on the basis of increased repression of the Fenians.

Lord Iveagh, is well known for giving St Stephen's Green to the people of Dublin, which was a bit of a cheek since it was common land before the Guinness clan "acquired" it.

When Iveagh built the houses named after him near the St James gate brewery he wrote to his sister,

"We are providing places to diminish the danger of civil unrest."

Execution

Later family members spoke in the House of Commons in favour of the execution of the leaders of the 1916 rising.

And Walter Guinness was a Tory MP who supported the Unionist revolt of Carson.

By this time part of the family moved from drink to banking.

Guinness and Mahon bank did badly in the period after Irish independence but recovered when they were the first bank to arrange loans for Nazi Germany.

In recent years they organized the Ansbacher scam for Charlie Haughey and the rest of the golden circle.

The rest of the family also backed fascism with Walter supporting Mussolini in the 1920s.

One daughter, Diane Guinness, took the admiration so far as to become the mistress of British Nazi Oswald Mosely.

The best family traditions are still going strong.

They sold off the family business in the 1970s and recently they off-loaded Farmleigh, a plush mansion in the Phoenix Park, for £15 million to the Irish government. The family is still worth £280 million.

And the current elder statesman of the family is the honorary chairman of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

Arrogant

The changed attitude is shown by the response of the Guinness Staff Association, a white collar union representing the bulk of Guinness employees. Until last year this group had a reputation for being passive and outside the mainstream ICTU. They are now known as the Guinness Staff

pinching arrogance of management was shown when the company recently changed contractors in the export warehouse.

The new contractor offered between £60 and £100 per week less in pay to workers who in some cases had worked there for six and seven years.

And to add insult to injury they stopped the daily free meal given to these workers in the canteen.

But Guinness won't have it all their own way. The unity between the various trade unions is solid and is very significant.

The mood was summed up by a recent Joint Union Forum state-

sports and social facilities.

And all of these benefits were down to the strength of company/union relations in the job."

Now all that has changed and today workers in Guinness are outraged by the behaviour of management.

As one worker put it "We are dealing with a greedy vicious multinational"

IN 1996 craft workers in the company went on strike against a productivity deal under Plan 2000. According to one of them who spoke to Socialist Worker,

"We have been negotiating and changing for the last 30 years. We've had massive job losses and agreed to all their changes. But they're still not happy. Diego want more work done for less money, by less people"

An example of the penny-

what do socialists say?

Are breakaway unions a bad thing?

BREAKAWAY UNIONS are the new nightmare of the political establishment. Stephen Collins, the Sunday Tribune political correspondent could hardly contain himself when he denounced the Irish Locomotive Drivers Association for being "a small group of anarchic picketers".

Managers who break away from bigger firms to set up small business are hailed as risk taking entrepreneurs.

And no one had the slightest problem when the small firms association ISME was set up as a 'breakaway' from the employer's organization IBEC. But when it comes to workers choosing what union they belong to all hell breaks out.

Unity

The reason has to do with why workers form breakaway unions.

The vast majority of workers understand the importance of unity. Their strength comes from being collective, from sticking together. If they decide to leave an existing union it is only because something is radically wrong.

And there is. A bureaucracy who values social partnership much more highly than their member's welfare controls the Irish trade union movement.

It gives them a soft and comfortable life while their members have to cope with the stress that comes from the constant pressure for more flexibility.

The top leaders of SIPTU are on a scale that runs from £69,000 a year to £88,000 a year - before expenses.

It is the failure of this bureaucracy to represent their members that causes the splits and the breakaways.

This bureaucracy ideally wants a situation where there is only one union so that they can more easily 'control' their members. The General Secretary of IMPACT recently explained,

"The job of a trade union official is to see around the corner and to prepare the members to take appropriate evasive action. If a second union is in there shouting; 'sell-out' arguing there is no need for the changes in question, it makes life impossible for anyone involved in negotiation. Where an organization is unified it is much easier to tell people the facts of life."

The state also sees many

advantages in a controlled trade union movement. It wants the union bureaucracy to operate as a business union where workers demands are subordinate to the pursuit of profit.

This is why the Irish government has changed the law to make it harder to register new unions. Instead it has given out grants to help unions to amalgamate.

SIPTU, for example, was given a £700,000 grant from the same Department of Labor which introduced an Industrial Relations Act that restricted the right to picket.

Looked at from this point of view, breakaway unions are often part of a rank and file revolt. They arise because workers want to take control of their own organization away from the state and the union bureaucracy.

This explains why there has always been a long history of breakaway unions in Ireland.

Socialists therefore defend the right of workers to choose a union of their choice. If train workers want the management to negotiate with the ILDA rather than SIPTU, that is their perfect right.

However this does not imply that breakaway unions offer the best strategy for the rank and file. Two problems arise in particular.

First, breakaway union often organizes the most militant sections and other workers are left under the exclusive influence of the union bureaucracy. This can make it harder to mount the type of united struggles that is necessary against management.

Scabbing

Second, all unions eventually produce a bureaucracy under capitalism. The NRBU for example started out as a breakaway union but today its leader Peter Bunting is calling for scabbing.

It is not the large size of the union, which produces a bureaucracy - but rather its acceptance of the limits of capitalism itself.

Socialists therefore advocate the building of strong rank and file movement in existing unions. These need to draw their strength from the shop floor and set out to subject officials to their control.

They need to cut through 'established procedures' to promote militancy and solidarity. And they need socialist politics at their core to offer an alternative to the madness of the market.

by KIERAN ALLEN

**Socialist
Review**
Ideas to
change the
world



£1.50 from your Socialist Worker seller or from P.O. Box 1648, Dublin 8

by SIMON BASKETTER

Ralph Nader runs for US President...

The spirit of Seattle blows through the US elections

THE TWO main political parties in the US are gearing up for this November's presidential election. One presidential candidate, however, is trying to raise the voice of the opposition. He is Ralph Nader, a longstanding consumer rights activist who is standing with the backing of the Green Party. SAM ASHMAN looks at how the Nader campaign is inspiring audiences and organising activists across the US.

THE LOS Angeles Weekly radical listings magazine recently summed up Ralph Nader.

It described him as "Seattle man". "Nader has come to personify the spirit of Seattle", one of revolt against "the corruption of the entire civilisation by market forces, the commodification of fucking everything." LA Weekly got it right.

Nader's five minute long campaign video intercuts his image with shots of the demonstrators who shut down the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in the US city of Seattle last year.

Nader's speeches attack the power of global corporations, poverty, the gap between rich and poor, the ever lengthening working hours for the majority.

"America wants a change," says Nader, "a change from the dominance of the two major political parties which offer little more than band-aids for the nation's problems of health, child poverty, job security." He says, "Social issues must be addressed from a class perspective.

Whatever your issue is, whether it is racism or homophobia or urban decay or healthcare, you're not going to go

anywhere with it if we don't focus on the concentration of power."

Nader's running mate for vice-president is a Native American, and he is backed by the Green Party. If Seattle has reshaped the left in the US, the process has also reshaped the Green Party.

It wants to build on the unity between "Teamsters and turtle kids" seen at Seattle. They see 2000 as "the year of the Blue-Green alliance"-the blue being for blue collar workers in the US. They too want union rights and a living wage, universal healthcare and efforts to tackle the growing gap between rich and poor.

Nader stood for president in 1996 but did little campaigning. This time Nader is touring the US, speaking in every state. Over 400 listened to him speak in Montpelier, Vermont.

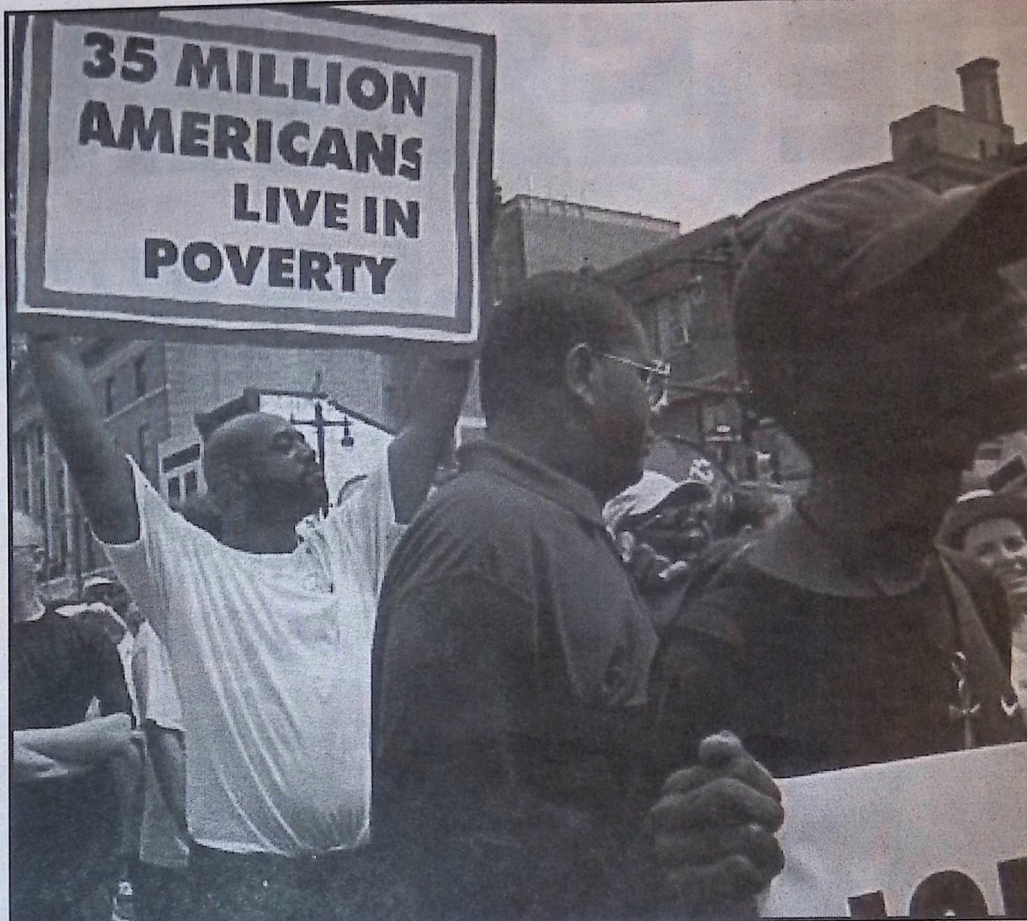
He told them he wants to try to start a movement: "Think of the farmers in east Texas who in the late 19th century started the populist, progressive farmer revolt against the big banks and the railroads. They had nothing but their hearts, their minds and their feet. Do you think they gave up?

Think what it was like for the early abolitionists [of slavery] or the suffragists or the workers who formed the trade union movement."

At another public meeting he urged his listeners to reclaim a "government of the General Motors, by the Exxons and for the Du Ponts".

In Detroit Nader joined striking newspaper workers on the picket line. Some 300 heard him speak in Oakland in California, where he condemned an "apartheid economy" that benefits only the rich, while hundreds turned out to hear him speak at Princeton university.

Nader is not a socialist. He calls himself an independent. But he is leading the most left wing and exciting presidential campaign for 50 years. At the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Nader spoke to a crowd of



US workers on the march

1,500 students.

A reporter for the Nation magazine described the scene: "Nader invokes the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s.

He praises the students for the anti-sweatshop movement that is sweeping the country and for recent protests against the International Monetary Fund and WTO.

He attacks corporate power: 'Commercial interests have congealed into giant economic interests' with such political clout that 'the two parties have merged into one corporate party, with two heads in different makeup'.

'They fought Social Security, Medicare, auto safety. They fought every social justice movement in this country,' he tells the crowd which is by now roaring its approval. Nader's speech is so inspiring, and the reaction he produces is so strong, you get the feeling something big might be happening."

Spoiled system

THE DEMOCRATS are getting worried. US-wide opinion polls put Nader's support at around 7 percent. But in some states, like California, Nader is polling between 10 and 12 percent.

The Democrats' candidate for president is Al Gore, currently Clinton's vice-president. He was left in no doubt of the mood for Nader when he spoke recently at a public meeting of 200 people in Saginaw, Michigan, a working class city north of Detroit.

One woman stood up and said, "It has felt to me like the Clinton-Gore administration gave an awful lot of ground back to the right and I would like to know why I should vote for you and not Ralph Nader. And don't tell me,

'Because I'll split the vote.' That is not an answer."

The Democrats are playing up Gore's environmental rhetoric in response-ignoring the fact that Gore's family owns a half million dollar stake in Occidental oil. They say Nader is a "spoiler" candidate who will split the vote and let Republican George Bush Jr get elected. But Nader says, "You can't spoil a system that is spoiled to the core."

Echo in the unions

DEMOCRAT PARTY presidential candidate Al Gore is trying to shore up trade union backing. He spoke to the convention of the AFL-CIO union federation last month and attacked Republican George Bush Jr, claiming his Social Security plans would hit workers.

But many trade unionists are not happy with Gore's record. Most of the big unions have declared their support for the Democrats. But the car workers' UAW and the transport workers' International Brotherhood of Teamsters have not yet said who they will back.

Between them they represent about two million of the AFL-CIO's 13 million members. Both unions have flirted with the idea of backing Nader. UAW president Steve Yokich issued a statement earlier this year saying, "It's time to forget about party labels and instead focus on supporting candidates, such as Ralph Nader, who will take a stand based on what is right, not on what big money dictates."

Teamsters' leader Jimmy Hoffa Jr also suggested that Nader is allowed to appear in TV presidential debates. It is far from certain that either union will back Nader. But one union is-the 31,000-strong California Nurses'

Association.

"He is the real thing and he deserves the support of caregivers," says the union's president, Kay McVay. "At a time when nearly 45 million Americans are uninsured, Ralph Nader is the only candidate for president to stand for universal health care, including a national health insurance plan that guarantees access to full healthcare services for every man, woman and child."

'Enthusiasm and excitement'

NADER'S CAMPAIGN is inspiring groups of activists. Many are out on the streets collecting the thousands of signatures necessary to get Nader on the ballot paper in November.

In Texas volunteers collected 74,000 signatures in 75 days. They linked up with local union activists and others.

In Michigan Nader's supporters collected 50,000 signatures. "The ones that sign are just so happy to have a viable alternative," says one of those involved. Around 100 to 150 are already involved in Nader's campaign in the Bay Area around San Francisco. Students from the campaign travelled to Nevada to help collect signatures to register Nader.

At a meeting in Vermont a group of volunteers set up a local Nader network. Those present included an organiser for the Northern Forest Alliance, who offered to set up an e-mail list, while a youth organiser for the organisation People Over Profit explained how to get people to register to vote.

"There is no doubt there is enthusiasm and excitement about this campaign. Even the media is beginning to treat him as a real candidate," says a member of Socialist Worker's sister organisation in the US, the International Socialist Organisation, which is backing Nader's campaign.

in my view

Dancing all the way to the bank

AFTER FIVE years of international success Riverdance has returned 'home' to the Point. Tickets for a two-month run sold out within days.

It has been hailed as a cultural achievement that Irish people can be proud of - a symbolic leap forward from the repressed and tyrannical culture of the 1950s to a modern Ireland where everything is exciting sexy and exuberant.

According to Fintan O'Toole, Riverdance is a confident expression of an Ireland that has reached a point where it has overcome a sense of post-colonial inferiority and can take its place confidently on the world stage. Riverdance is everything the Celtic Tiger should be.

There is an element of truth in this argument. You only have to listen to the cultural purists who bemoaned the loss of "our Irishness" with the advent of Riverdance to see that.

One of Fianna Fail's first pieces of social legislation was The Public Dance Hall Act of 1935, requiring all dances to be licensed and to operate under strict supervision. The local priest and Garda who would go around breaking up dances in houses provided that supervision, or as it later turned out, any non-commercial dance.

Brendan Breathnach, a historian of Irish music and dance, said of the 1935 Public Dance Halls Act that "there were places in the country where there was a kind of collusion between the Guard and the parish priest, [to close] ordinary dances, where there was no question of people paying. I have found people in Connemara who were too frightened to have a dance."

Supervised

The Church was quick to promote supervised 'Irish' dancing. In a pastoral letter of 1924, for instance, Cardinal Logue distinguished Irish dancing from modern dancing "Irish dances are not to be put out of the place that is their due in any educational establishment under our care. They may not be the fashion in London and Paris. They should be the fashion in Ireland. Irish dances do not make degenerates."

So with Riverdance it became customary to speak of it as an act of reclamation, a taking back for popular entertainment of a form that had been stultified by the Church.

But Riverdance, the show, is also an international cultural melting pot. It is a serious attempt to merge traditional aspects of Irish traditional music and dance with black American gospel and tap, Russian and flamenco song and dance.

Riverdance is also about projecting a particular brand of Irishness onto the world scene. It is shaped by the requirements of production for an international audience and a global market.

Riverdance borrows more from the popular American stage and film musicals of the 1920s to the 1950s, which have become internationally disseminated. Think of the sheer size of the cast, the costumes designed to emphasize the body's contours, and top all this off with the use of radio microphones in the insteps of the dancers shoes.

Commercial

Riverdance worked because it managed to create itself as a commercial production. It took the integral aspects of traditional Irish music and dance and brazenly mixed it with showbiz razzmatazz.

On the one hand you have the unadorned traditional voice of Aine Uí Cheallaigh or the music of Davy Spillane, while on the other, you have an unapologetic show-off, one Michael Flatly, who unashamedly lays on the glitz. (Mind you this was before Flatly decided to sue the producers of Riverdance and created his own unbelievable kitsch Lord of the Dance)

Mix all of that together with a little Broadway glitz and you have an enormously profitable business on your hands. That Riverdance is really just another Broadway show is sometimes forgotten.

If you don't believe me just think of Lord of the Dance, and if that doesn't make you feel nauseous, try Feet of Flames. The gamble paid off in Riverdance.

But get it wrong and you have nothing less than, as one critic put it, "cultural vandalism".

by SINEAD KENNEDY

art

Picture of pain and anger

by CONOR KOSTICK

At the end of the Second World War, the talk in Britain and America was of a bright new future, a new era of prosperity and consumption. It was expected that art would reflect this optimism.

But viewers to a small London exhibition in London were shocked and disturbed by the work of a new artist, Francis Bacon.

His "Three studies for figures at the base of a crucifixion" showed disturbing fleshy humanoid figures, screaming with violence and pain.

Dark

Throughout his career Bacon never deviated from a concentration on the physical brutality of human existence.

The people in his dark paintings are only just a step away from the contents of the butchers shop.



The painting 'Pope Innocent X' by Francis Bacon

Bacon returned to two types of person again and again: the pope and an anonymous

executive bureaucrat. These figures are always repugnant - violent and dis-

torted - and oppressive. It is hard not to think of the inquisition and the repressive role

of the church when seeing Bacon's popes.

The paintings are not at all overtly political, in fact they seem deeply personal, but like Beckett in the world of theatre, they serve as a disturbing reminder of the alienation that exists even in the boom times of capitalism.

These paintings are a reaction to shallow, shiny, pop culture.

Sent from his home in Baggot Street, Dublin to Europe for conducting a gay affair at the age of 16, Bacon seems to nevertheless have held an interest in Ireland, for his paintings and contents of his studio have been given to the Hugh Lane Gallery.

Influential

This is an extraordinary present of one of the West's most influential post-war painters. The Gallery has advertised the exhibition well, but then they stand to do very well from the bequest - as they have ended their policy of free admittance and charge for the Bacon exhibition.

■ The Francis Bacon exhibition is running at the HUGH LANE GALLERY, Parnell Square, Dublin 1

tv

Talking loud — saying nothing!

The daytime US talk show, as anyone with too much time on their hands will testify, is a deeply disturbing phenomenon, packed with celebrities and criminals, and psychologists, all in equal measure.

Against a backdrop of self-improvement and dirty laundry, the single-name hosts - Oprah, Jerry, Ricki, Jenny - make a good living out of the misery and misfortune of others, while their audiences scream and whoop.

The worst of them all is Jerry Springer with contestants who claim: 'Dwarves are People Too' or 'I Cut Off My Manhood' or even 'I Married A Horse'. The audience

is required to limit its response to 'five emotions': 'oohs' and 'aahs'; 'boos'; 'put your hands together'; 'stamp your feet'; and 'Jeh-reeee Jeh-reeee'.

Constant

There is a constant diet, of alleged lesbian strippers, transsexuals and barely disguised homophobia and sexism.

Springer used to be a proper liberal, serving on the city council in Cincinnati, Ohio, until his political career hit a rock when a cheque signed by him was found in a Kentucky brothel he had frequented.

He returned to politics, became mayor, stood for the governorship, lost, then left politics for good and went into broadcast news,



Jerry Springer

then the chat show.

The liberal veneer falls off on a show where victims of racist violence confronted members of the Ku Klux Klan. According to Springer's trite final thought, "Racism is still the single major problem in our culture. Still too many people are left behind in the rising tide of economic strength in the country. There should be a guarantee of food, of

housing, of health care." Which, while true, after an hour of a platform of real racist filth and fake outrage rings a little hollow.

The other talk shows pretend to have higher standards.

The 'liberal' Ricki Lake versus the 'right wing' Sally, for instance. But they all run paternity tests on camera, run features on anorexia one day, then follow without any guilt with makeovers and breast implants the next.

Underneath the fake fights, the pop psychology and voyeurism, lies a right wing agenda of errant single parents, and rampaging teenagers being to blame for society's wrongs.

—SIMON BASKETTER



where we stand

Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

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

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry. We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army.

Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it.

We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party in Ireland.

Campaign Against the Refuse Charges

Fight back grows

DROGHEDA RESIDENTS are leading the fight against the refuse charges.

Groups of volunteers from the Drogheda Residents Against Bin Charges are following Corporation bin lorries around the town depositing all the rubbish from those who have refused to pay the £110 double tax.

This follows a stand-off which lasted several days at the end of July when locals from the Moneymore estate refused to allow a lorry leave the estate until all the bins were collected.

Vigils

Overnight vigils took place to guard the lorry. One local politician described the residents as "cannon-fodder" but there was a great sense of community and solidarity.

This atmosphere was

only broken with the arrival of town mayor, Frank Godfrey, who condemned the actions of the locals and demanded they call off the protest. He was booed off the estate.

The bin collectors themselves were very sympathetic to the campaign.

One bin collector told *Socialist Worker*, "We shouldn't be sent out to do this kind of thing. We don't like doing it, but we have to."

Legally refuse can be deposited in any designated dump and residents have pointed out that the bin lorries are mobile dumps. The Corporation only rescued their truck after a dawn raid by police armed with batons.

At the same time the Corporation kept the town's two other lorries at base.

However, the routes have resumed and campaign members have donned gloves to ensure everyone's bins have been collected.

The Corporation have introduced stickers on the wheelie-bins to identify who has paid. A red sticker indicates payment in full while a yellow one means part payment – normally £10. "The yellow sticker is a tactic to get people to pay any amount, so they can claim a majority have paid as they knew there would be opposition," said Harry Phelan, a campaign organiser. "It is exceptional what Moneymore did locally, it gives us the incentive to fight on."

"It will become a national issue when it hits Dublin - just like the water charges," he said.



Drogheda residents and the captured bin lorry

Campaign grows

DUN LAOGHAIRE Rathdown County Council is rattled by the strength of the campaign against service charges.

The 75 percent non-payment level of the first installment of the annual £150 refuse tax has continued with the second installment. The council had to resort to gimmicks like a free draw to encourage people to pay. The vast majority of people are refusing to pay.

Some media reports suggest that Local councillors will exclude refuse charges from the next local estimates.

The council is now trying to intimidate people into paying. The last bill included a letter threatening not to collect non-payer's rubbish and to fine those who did not dispose of their rubbish. But campaigners against the refuse charges have promised mass protests and full resistance to any non-collection. Contact the campaign at: Richard Boyd Barrett (Chair) 087 6329511; Lisa Maher 4934696 (Secretary); or write to CASC, 8 Clifton Terrace, town, Co Dublin.

Anti Nazi League

Social in solidarity with artists under attack by the Austrian Government
Gavin Costick, Pat Boran and others
 Friday Sept 1st, 8pm,
 City Arts Centre.
 Tickets £5

Public Meetings

The world is not for sale

PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Bring the spirit of Seattle to Dublin



DUBLIN: 7:30pm, Thursday, August 31st, ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey St. Speakers: Jean Sommers (Debt and Development coalition/Jubilee 2000) Grace Lally (SWP), John De Courcy Ireland (CND), FEASTA
WATERFORD: Thursday August 31st, Granville Hotel, 8pm. Speakers: Rory Hearne (SU President TCD), African Asylum seeker, Marnie Holborrow (SWP)
CORK: Wednesday September 6th, Metropole Hotel, 8pm Speakers Joe Moore (Cork Council of Trade Unions) Dan BOYLE (Green Party), Kieran Allen (SWP)
DUN LAOGHAIRE: Wednesday 30th Boyle Community Centre, 8pm Speakers John DE Courcy Ireland (CND), Michael O'Sullivan (Jubilee 2000), African Socialist, Brid Smith (SWP)

They murdered a friend

I want to express my personal and political anger at the executions of Brian Roberson known as Bomani and Oliver Cruz within 30 minutes of each other.

I have been writing to Bomani for five years now and we have lost a great fighter and human being because of the barbarity of Amerikkka (Klu Klux Klan), as he referred to it.

He spent much time in solitary for answering back. Himself and other fellow prisoners learnt Swahili in order to communicate without the prison officers knowing and this got up their noses. He talked and wrote about politics all the time - especially about class and race.

Bomani was tried and convicted on a confession written coming off hard drugs. He was convicted by an all-white jury.

If the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six lived in Amerikkka they would have been dead by the time their convictions were exposed as false.

Bomani has left a legacy of fighting back - he did this in the most restrictive circumstances. We need to carry on this fight against the barbarism and insanity of capitalism which allows a so-called democratic state to murder people weekly.

□ Roisin Ryder

Fax (01) 872 3838 or send to
 E-mail swp@clubi.ie
letters
 PO BOX 1648, Dublin 8

A FLIGHT OF TERROR

I HAD the misfortune of being one of the passengers on the Futura 1728 'Flight of terror' returning from Gran Canaria to Dublin. The plane was an older model (Boeing 737-400), and our departure had been delayed by last minute checks. The delay was followed by a shaky take off, the plane dipping to the right.

Several minutes in to the flight two large bangs came from one of the engines, whilst the plane itself began to dive downwards. Although the Pilot was able to regain control, the left engine had been damaged and flames had been seen by passengers sitting on the right hand side of the plane.

Fortunately the pilot was able to make an emergency landing 90 minutes later.

The airline in question has since denied that we were ever in real danger.

So was it just some sort of free fall ride? Does it take frequent fatalities before the issue of plane safety is dealt with candidly and seriously?

As the saying goes - you get what you pay for - and certainly in a capitalist system which is obsessed with profit and monetary status, the ordinary worker ranks low in business priorities.

□ Cathy, Belfast.

Join the Socialists

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name

Address

Telephone Union

Return to SWP PO Box 1648 Dublin 8. Tel (01) 872 2682

SWP branch meetings

- **ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details
- **BRAY:** Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm
- **BELFAST CENTRAL:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Whytes Bar.
- **BELFAST QUEEN'S UNI:** Meets every Tuesday 1pm (see poster for details)
- **BELFAST SOUTH:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union
- **BELFAST WEST:** West Belfast Branch meets Divis Flats Community Centre Falls Road, Monday 7.30pm.
- **CORK:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's Pub, Drawbridge St.
- **DERRY:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in ...

- Orchard St.
- **DUNDALK:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details
- **LUCAN:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Courtney's Bar, Lucan village
- **DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute
- **DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)
- **DUBLIN FAIRVIEW:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Fairview Inn
- **DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St
- **DUBLIN KILLBARRACK:** Phone 087

- **DUBLIN STONEYBATTER/CABRA:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, Prussia St
- **DUBLIN BALLYMUN:** Phone Kevin at 8622209
- **DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre
- **DUBLIN RIALTO:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR
- **DUBLIN RATHMINES / RANELAGH:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm Upstairs in La Touche, 24 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
- **DUBLIN HAROLDS X:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in O'Connells Pub, 5th Richmond St
- **DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:** Meets

- **DUBLIN RINGSEND:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Ringsend Community Centre
- **DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Monday at 8.30pm in Jobstown Community Centre
- **ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details
- **GALWAY:** Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm
- **LIMERICK:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details
- **SLIGO:** Meets fortnightly on Saturdays, phone 087 6329511 for details
- **TRALEE:** Phone 087 6329511 for details

CIE

Threat of action wins 50%

AN ELEVENTH hour offer from Irish Rail secured a huge pay rise totalling 50 percent over twelve months.

Almost 800 railway maintenance workers had been preparing to go on official strike from Monday 14th August.

The workers voted to strike having rejected a previous offer from the company, which gave, significant pay rises but spread over three years. They were also determined to do something about the productivity deal attached.

An official strike at Irish Rail would have been a nightmare for the Government and the rail bosses who have been pre-occupied with trying to undermine the train drivers union ILDA.

Their determination to broker a deal with the permanent way has meant that the precious partnership agreement was smashed to pieces.

Largest

These low paid workers have now secured the largest pay rise yet under partnership.

As *Socialist Worker* went to press the latest offer has still to be voted on but if accepted it will mean

- ★12.5% from January 2000
- ★7.5% from March 2000
- ★10% from October 2000
- ★19% in 2001 paid over three phases
- ★total working week cut to 48 hours now, eventually cut to 44 hours
- ★night time working to be maintained as voluntary
- ★night time overtime rates at 1.5 times
- ★early retirement an option at the age of 52

★contractors must work alongside employees of Irish Rail

★existing temporary workers to be phased into permanent jobs

These gains are to apply to the existing workforce. Unfortunately the deal includes the creation of a "yellow pack" workforce for the future.

One permanent way worker told *Socialist Worker*, "I wouldn't advise anybody I know to take a job in this place from now on. The conditions are crap for anyone new coming in. And there are inspectors in here who try to bully young workers out of the union, telling them to have nothing to do with us."

Many of the workers are well aware of the impact that the ILDA dispute has had on this deal.

As one of them told *Socialist Worker*, "If the ILDA strike had not been on, we would have been left out in the cold. The company don't want to bother with ILDA but I think they should have their say. After all they represent a third of train drivers."

In the absence of the company settling with the ILDA workers the maintenance staff will be in a position to show solidarity with the train drivers pickets.

That is the only language the company and the government are listening to.

Aer Lingus

Union leaders 'Out of touch'

Workers in Dublin Airport are shaping up for a major exodus form SIPTU. Already 1300 cabin crew have left and are now being represented by that union at official negotiations.

SIPTU has said they are "quite surprised" by IMPACT's acceptance of the workers and will be making a complaint to the ICTU.

Now over 600 general operatives, including baggage handlers, cleaners and catering staff have signed up

for membership of the ATGWU. Hundreds more in the clerical section and Aer Rianta have requested ATGWU application forms. The same reason for leaving SIPTU is given by the workers concerned — "We are not getting proper representation on the issues that affect us."

Shop stewards for the cabin crew describe the relationship between SIPTU and Aer Lingus as "too cosy".

Privatisation

Aer Lingus is being prepared for privatisation and is trying to push through changes in work practices

prior to the flotation of the company on the stock market.

One of the general operative staff who wants to leave SIPTU told *Socialist Worker*, "Union officials are trying to con us into accepting lesser deals than we believe is available to us, especially on the key issues of pay, pensions and productivity."

"The company will probably set the flotation date for a slack period in the airport and try to force through their agenda."

"It's now we need to be standing up to them by putting in for a major pay claim, demanding an injection into the pension fund and rejecting their ridiculous productivity proposals."

The productivity sought by the company since 31st May this year includes

■Company having the right to choose pay or time off in lieu for bank holidays worked

■Reducing overtime rates from 1.5 and 2 times to 1.6 times

■Introducing swipe cards which will erode flexible working time

■Agreement to contract out all aspects of a general operative's work

■Flexibility to move all workers across all departments as the company would choose.

The response of workers in Dublin Airport is another example of how "out of touch" the union leaders are with their members. Just like the train drivers, airport workers are frustrated and looking for better representation.

It's certainly not militant they lack, but leadership.

Aldi

Three months fighting for union rights

SIX WORKERS at Aldi have been on strike for nearly three months. Five of them were sacked for joining the shop workers union, MANDATE. The strike has now turned into a major battle for union recognition.

Aldi is a giant low cost German

supermarket. It owns 4,800 shops world wide and has a turn over of \$24 billion.

Alongside Lidl they are now trying to break into the Irish market.

Consequences

If they get away with breaking the union at their Dublin store it will have serious consequences for other shop work-

ers. One shop steward from Dunnes Stores said,

"This is a very important strike.

"If the Aldi management break the union, Dunnes will come after us demanding they get the same conditions s Aldi have.

"It could be used to lower our wages and conditions."

Support for the strikers has been very high.

A mass picket is organised every Saturday between 2 and 4pm at the shop in Parnell St.

A European Day of Action has been organised for Saturday 19th August.

A number of socials and raffles have also brought

in thousands of pounds in donations for the strike.

However the key to victory lies in mobilising the full resources of MANDATE.

The union should be organising a weekly levy of its members to help sustain the strikers.

And they should nominate a day to bring their Dublin membership onto a mass picket outside the store.

Airport Firefighters

Firefighters at Derry City airport have asked their union, the ATGWU, to ballot them for industrial action.

They say they regularly have to meet planes with fewer staff than the safety regulations require. Training has fallen by the wayside, and they even have to help out with baggage handling and the refuelling of planes!

Instead of having

seven firefighters available for each plane, they've had to make do with six on a number of occasions.

Risk

One firefighter said he had no doubt that this put passengers' lives at risk in case of an emergency.

The shop steward and T&G officials met with management and the city council earlier this month.

Hawkesbay

Eight months without full pay

Workers at the Hawkesbay cloth-

ing factory in Derry have spent three weeks on holidays without ANY pay.

In February 70 of the 250 workers in the Derry plant were sacked. Since then, the rest of the workers have been on short-time work or temporary lay-off.

Those who're called in for a day at a time earn around £19 per shift.

In late July, the workers heard about the problem with their holiday pay and started a sit-in.

Bandwagon

But disgracefully their union, the GMB, has repeatedly talked them out of taking industrial action.

Sinn Fein and SDLP politicians have jumped on the bandwagon and backed the argument against the sit-ins.

An occupation would have forced the company to come clean about his problems instead of stringing the workers along.

Loctite

Bosses steal pensions

Workers at Loctite (Ireland) are voting on a Labour Court Recommendation on their pension scheme.

The three unions in the company, MSF, SIPTU and TEEU had sought an improvement in the pension scheme following the discovery of a massive £4.6 million withdrawal from the fund by management.

The fact that £4.6 million was missing was discovered quite accidentally by one of the workers. It was used to set up an exclusive pension scheme for executive managers - 15 of them in total.

It seems they did nothing "illegal" and are legitimately entitled to use the pension fund like this. It says a lot about workers' so-called demo-

cratic rights.

For example a worker who recently retired after 23 years service is receiving a pension of £40 per week. A manager retiring after 15 years service receives a pension of £1,500 per week.

Massive

The company pays a mere £190 per worker per year into the scheme but a massive £64,000 per manager per year.

As one of the workers said, "We expect a distinction to be made between us and management but this is ridiculous".

The Labour Court has rejected the unions' claim for an improvement in the pension scheme despite the blatant injustice of what has been done to these workers.

Meantime the issue has only helped to fuel anger and disillusion among the workforce. As one shop steward put it "We are brownd off with management grabbing everything. This would not be such a big issue if all other issues were resolved."

Last year the workers' Christmas bonus was cut. It is also suspected that the spoils were shared out among management.

Loctite is owned by a huge multinational called Henkle. The groups' profits last year amounted to a massive £674 million and in the adhesive sector including Loctite a neat £187 million.

The greed of the multinationals knows no bounds. Shop stewards are calling for a rejection of the Labour Court Recommendation and support for action to secure justice for the workforce.

Shorts

Workers at Shorts aircraft factory in Belfast are considering escalating their strike action in support of a wage rise.

Since early July, all unions at the factory, including ATGWU, AEEU, MSF and others, have implemented a ban on overtime and weekly half-day strikes each Friday morning.

Shorts' management want to tie workers into a three-year deal which

would keep pay rises to three per cent a year.

An MSF union member from the plant explained, "We haven't had a wage rise above the cost of living since maybe 1990/91.

This deal is effectively a pay cut. We know the company is making money.

Profit

The last profit figures that we have are £48 million.

The order book is full. If we don't get a

rise this time, it will be another four years before we get another chance."

Last week technical staff, members of MSF, fought to hold mass meetings at the gates of the factory, despite threats from management and security.

According to some union activists, the mood for escalating the strike is hardening.

As *Socialist Worker* went to press, there were reports of a meeting between management and union leaders.

Socialist Worker

inside

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NORTH AND SOUTH...

Stop attacks on refugees

FIANNA FAIL are stepping up their war against asylum seekers. The state recently tried to deport a Romanian asylum seeker, **Dimitru Popa**, despite a High Court Injunction preventing his deportation until a proper hearing could be held.

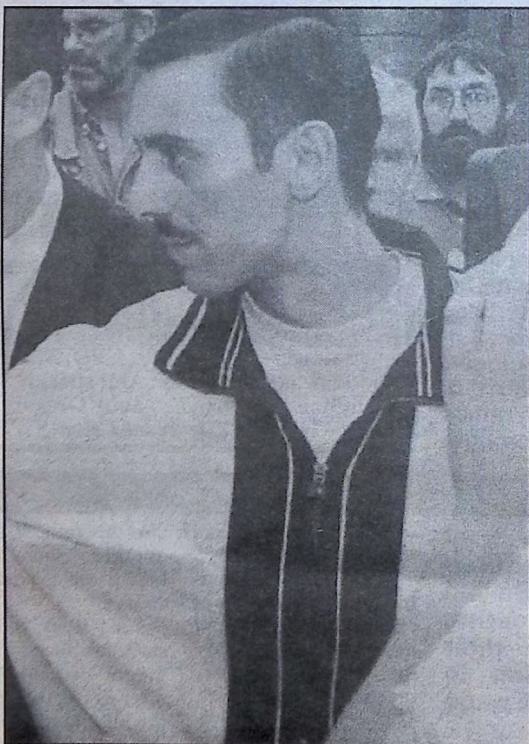
The following day, Dimitru appeared in court looking for a review of his case. Upon leaving the Court he was again arrested by the Garda National Immigration Bureau and incarcerated in Mountjoy until the Gardai were forced to release him.

Arrest

Dimitru now plans to sue the state for his wrongful arrest.

Dimitru's case is just one example of the lengths Fianna Fail will go to deport asylum seekers.

Minister for Justice John



Asylum seeker, **Dimitru Popa** being arrested

O'Donoghue plans to fast track through the deportation of over 500 asylum seekers in the coming months.

In another sinister move

FF plan to brand refugees as criminals by introducing the finger printing of all asylum seekers, including children over 14.

The Department of Jus-

Jailed for wanting asylum

NINE ASYLUM seekers are being detained at Magilligan Prison in Co Derry. Their only crime was to flee from torture and repression.

In the eighteen months up to June, 75 asylum seekers have been detained in the North's prisons.

One asylum seeker was detained at Magilligan for 14 months last year — and released last year with no compensation even though he did nothing wrong.

Instead of prison

they should be offered proper housing.

Prison

But throughout Britain New Labour has continued the Tory policy of locking up asylum seekers in remand centres.

In Northern Ireland there is no remand centre — so they use a prison instead.

Asylum seekers can get sent to prison on the word of an immigration officer who feels they might abscond

According to Vicky Tennant who works

with the Law Centre 'In my view they detain people here who would not be detained in Britain'.

This disgraceful treatment of asylum seekers should stop.

The British arms industry has helped to create wars and conflict throughout the world.

At the very least the government should be forced to properly house asylum seekers who flee these conflicts and give them the right to work.

Justice have set a deadline of the beginning of October.

They then plan to introduce an electronic system by the end of the year.

This system will feed into Eurodac, a European wide computer data-base which will hold the details and fingerprints of all asylum seekers as they enter

Europe.

The hope that this will allow them to deport refugees faster.

Yet even as Fianna Fail are deporting refugees, there are growing calls for a proper immigration policy to allow in the 40,000 extra workers that are needed in the Irish economy over the

next two years.

Fianna Fail want to play the race card in the next election to cover for all their corruption.

And instead of letting refugees take up legal employment they want to force them on to the black economy to be used and abused by employers.