

# Socialist Worker

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**THE ANTI WAR PAPER**

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**inside:**

**WHEN WORKERS TAKE ACTION AGAINST WAR—PAGES 6&7**

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## Bush rains death on Iraq

**This is what it was like last time...**



**Organise mass action to...**

# STOP THIS WAR NOW!

# Truth: The first casualty of Bush's war

## DEPLETED URANIUM: LONG-TERM EFFECTS

**WATCH OUT** for war propaganda on the news media. The lie machine is in full gear.

Already one scare mongering excuse for war has proven to be a lie.

On September 24th last year, Blair issued a special 'dossier', which claimed that Iraq was on the brink of developing nuclear weapons.

It stated that between 1999 and 2001 Iraq had been buying uranium for use in nuclear weapons from 'an African state'.

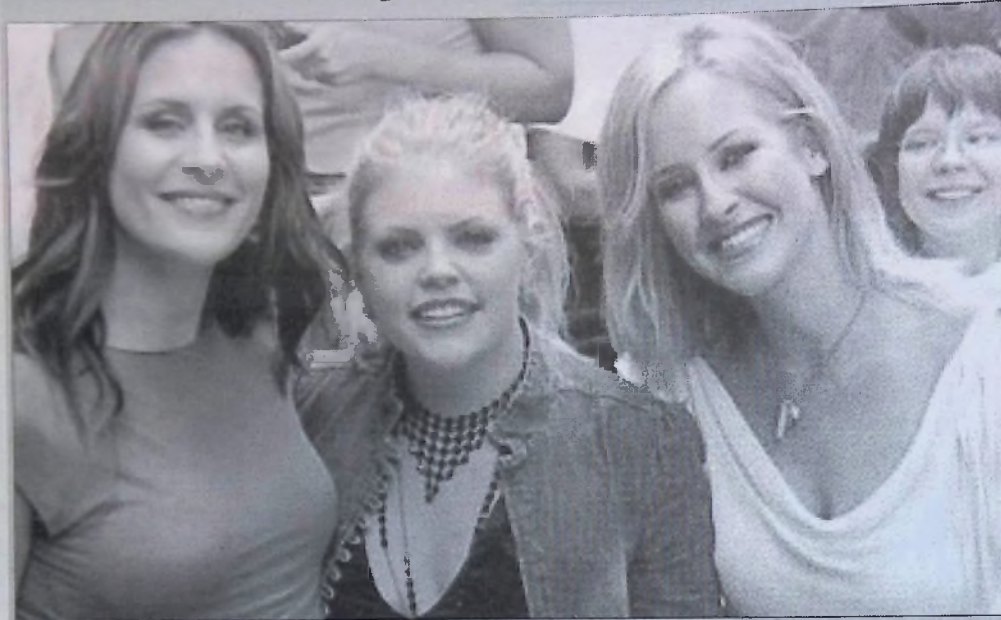
Two months later, the US state department named Niger as the state responsible.

But Mohamed El Baradei, who is in charge of the UN nuclear inspections, says the entire story was based on fraudulent documents. Baradei's team of inspectors discovered this by comparing the documents with genuine letters from the Niger government. Signatures and letterheads did not match.

Before the last Gulf War in 1991, the global news media ran a story claiming Iraqi soldiers were throwing premature babies in Kuwait out of hospital machines and taking the machines back to Iraq.

After the war, the story was shown to be a lie concocted by member of the Kuwaiti royal family who hired a PR company

## Texan country music against Bush



■ 'I am ashamed the US President is from Texas'. So said Natalie Maines one of the lead singers with the Dixie Chicks, one of America's top country bands. The Dixie Chicks song 'Travellin' Soldier' is a No 1 hit on the country charts. It is about a US soldier in Vietnam. But the anti-war message does not go down well in corporate America. The Houston country radio station, KILT, has banned the Dixie Chicks. The station is owned by a giant multi-national, Viacom.

to spin the lie around the world.

Award winning journalist Robert Fisk has already warned how the propaganda machine will work in this war.

Hundred of journalists will be 'embedded' in the American and British army in special war pools where

they are strictly controlled. They include 17 BBC reports who are vetted and 'locked into the military machine'.

### Costume

They will dress up in military costume to subtly acclimatise television viewers to seeing the war from the

British and US side.

He predicts that the US state department will issue a warning for all reporters to leave Baghdad, claiming that they could otherwise be held hostage.

Fisk says the reason is 'the last thing Bush and Blair want are witnesses on 'the other side'.

The media will then run

pictures of Shiite Muslims in the South of Iraq welcoming the colonial troops into Basra.

The US will also pretend to have found weapons of mass destruction.

Fisk warns 'in the journalistic hunt for these weapons, any old rocket will do for the moment, Al Soumouds or Scuds'.

## OIL COMPANIES WANT IRAQ

**THE CENTRE** for Global Energy Studies recently organised a conference in London for oil executives.

Its director, Fadhil Chalabi, revealed plans which the oil industry has for Iraq.

He claimed that Iraq's oil reserves were largely unexplored and could rise to a staggering 200 billion tons.

After the US takes control, Iraq will be forced to export 8 million barrels of oil a day.

### Abundance

This will be used to 'weaken OPEC's ability to steer world markets' and give the US an abundance of cheap

oil.

This will help Bush to completely disregard the Kyoto treaty, which called

for a reduction in carbon emissions to stop global warming.

Chalabi also claimed

that an US occupation would see an end to 'the state run oil industry paradigm of the Middle East'.

'I believe the era and idea of oil nationalism is over' he added 'We have to be realistic'.

## WAR BONUS

**HALLIBURTON**, the giant US multi-national, has already been rewarded the contract to

're-construct' Iraq after it has been bombed by US warplanes.

The contract is estimated to be worth \$900 million for preliminary work alone.

### Payroll

US Vice President, Dick Cheney, is still on the payroll of Halliburton.

He received \$1 million in 'deferred compen-



■ Prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay

sation' from the company in 2001, according to his recent tax returns. Another Halliburton subsidiary got the contract to build the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

**WAR AGAINST** Iraq will start with hundreds of tanks firing Depleted Uranium shells. The UN Council on Human Rights has denounced these as 'weapons of indiscriminate effect'.

DU shells have a half of 4.5 billion years. They are a radiological hazard because they burn on impact and release deadly gases, which are inhaled.

The Royal Society in Britain says they cause fatal kidney failure, respiratory illness and damage to DNA and reproductive functions.

The Uranium Research Centre in Washington found that half of all veterans of the last Gulf War still test positive for DU.

A study by Professor Schott found that veterans of wars in the Gulf and Balkans had 14 times the level of chromosomal disorders as the normal population.

Iraq has seen a

**Iraq has seen a huge rise in leukemia and cancer where DU shells were dropped.**

huge rise in leukemia and cancer where DU shells were dropped.

When DU shells were accidentally dropped in Wales last July, the soil was removed to Sel-lafield for disposal.

Despite calls to ban DU weapons, the two governments who talk about 'weapons of mass destruction' show no such consideration to the people of Iraq - or even their own soldiers.

## ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS FREE

## CIA watches library books

**JAILED** Egyptian anti-war activists have been freed. Most had been held in jail since an anti-war demonstration in the capital, Cairo, in January.

Some, like Kemal Khalil, a leader of Egypt's anti-war movement, had been kidnapped by undercover police. All had been held without charge.

The releases are a huge boost for the anti-war movement in Egypt, and show how anxious the Egyptian government is becoming in the face of growing anti-war protests.

A week ago Egypt's government was forced to permit an anti-war protest at the national football stadium which saw 100,000 people attend.

A spokesperson for the prisoners said, "I and many others here believe that international pressure was central to the release of the activists. We thank everyone who was involved."

"We have received hundreds of e-mails from all over the world and we know of demonstrations at Egyptian embassies in several cities. You have made a great difference."

**'WARNING:** although Santa Cruz public library makes every effort to protect your privacy, under the federal USA Patriot Act records of books you obtain from this library may be obtained by federal agents'.

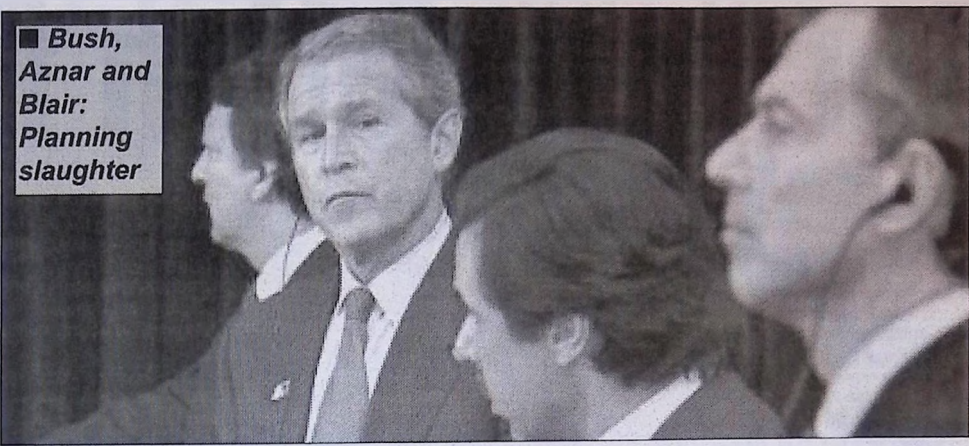
This is a sign on the check out desk of a California library designed to warn library users that the CIA and FBI have powers to monitor what they are reading. The powers were granted under a law known as Section 215 of the Patriot Act which was rushed in after September 11th.

Library staff are not allowed to tell targeted individuals that their reading habits are being monitored.

A recent study showed that government agents had visited 85 academic libraries looking for information on users.

# Rise up against these warmongers!

■ Bush, Aznar and Blair: Planning slaughter



**BUSH, BLAIR and Aznar** are bringing murder to the Iraqi people. To save the skin of Tony Blair, they promise a 'quick war' that will be over in weeks or even days.

But that means unleashing terror on a scale not seen in decades. In the first two days of the war, 3000 missiles are being dropped on Iraq. That compares to 325 Cruise missiles fired in whole of the last Gulf War which lasted 40 days.

The code name for this barbarity is Operation Shock and Awe. The name comes from a book written by a former naval pilot, Harlan Ullman who states that 'The idea is to replicate the shock and awe created by a nuclear bomb, but using conventional weapons'.

Up against overwhelming odds, the regime of Saddam Hussein is embedding its army in Baghdad, a city of 5 million people.

A horrible medieval style can only follow – but this time with the instruments of 21st century brutality.

*The sole reason for this war is imperialist greed. The 'old' colonial armies of Britain and Spain which brought slavery, robbery and pillage to the 'Third World' are marching again.*

*What a disgusting sight it is to see the British army again occupy a country they were thrown out of before.*

But this time the 'old' imperial-

## Close Shannon to the US army now!

FOR WEEKS, Ahern told us that US troops were allowed into neutral Ireland because they were acting for the UN.

He also said that a second UN resolution was 'imperative' before Ireland could support any war.

But Ahern was lying again. He is more answerable to George Bush than the Irish people.

After he presented his Patrick's Day shamrock to Bush, he assured him of an

even more important gift—Shannon can still be used by US soldiers who have been sent to maim and kill innocent Iraqis.

### Banned

Ahern's spin doctors claim that no other European country has banned US overflights and denied them facilities.

But two countries who claim to be neutral have—Austria and Switzerland.

The Irish people demonstrated in overwhelming num-

bers on February 15th that they were against this war. But Ahern shows his contempt for this majority.

The real issue now is not democracy in Iraq—it is democracy and 'regime change' in Ireland.

A huge mass movement must now be called onto the streets to enforce the will of the people.

That movement must be linked to mass civil disobedience that is directed at a government which listens to Bush more than their own voters.

ists are led by the 'new' empire of corporate America.

### Grab

It wants to grab the oil for its multi-nationals. It wants to split its economic rivals in the EU apart. It wants to 're-shape' the countries of the Middle East to give back up to its watch dog Israel.

All talk of respecting 'international law' of eliminating 'weapons of mass destruction' is just widow dressing.

This war is about empire – and the real terrorists met in the Azores to plan murder on a scale that Bin Laden and Al Qaida could never dream of.



## What we need to do

**BUSH'S PLANS for a 21st century of permanent 'preventative wars' must be stopped. But it will not be done by conventional politics.**

Only mass action—the overwhelming eruption of 'people power'—can stop Bush and his lackeys.

Every reader of Socialist Worker should now exert all their energy in the coming days and weeks to push for this action.

### HERE IS WHAT WE NEED TO DO:

★ **Build the Stoppages:** At 12pm on Day X, stop what you are doing. Leave your workplace, school and college. Walk out and organise!

Do not settle for 'silent vigils' – discuss this war and organise your local anti-war committee.

We need to deepen and extend the strike weapon against the warmongers.

There will be other days of industrial action and we want to be ready.

In Italy, for example, the anti-war movement has reached such a level that Guglielmo Epifani, the leader of the biggest union confederation, the CGIL, has proclaimed

that 'When the first bombs fall, this country will grind to a halt and the workers united will say no to war'.

The key is to getting there is self-organisation.

So form your workplace anti-war committee and prepare!

★ **Bring thousands onto the streets.** On the day war is declared, get to the protest point designated by your local anti-war organisation. In Dublin, it is the US Embassy at 6pm.

In the weekend afterwards, prepare for mass demonstration on a huge scale.

Ahern is in defiance of the Irish people.

The Irish people need to defy Ahern by coming out in huge numbers to make our views known.

★ **Organise civil disobedience.** There is no greater crime than an imperialist war: We have every right to disobey!

Organise sit-downs, blockades, occupations – but on a big scale.

At the start of this campaign a few brave individuals took action at Shannon.

Now we must move to mass civil disobedience rather than only disobedience from individuals with conscience.

# Do you think this war is about oil and US power?

Do you think people should come before profit?

Had enough of Bush, Blair and Ahern's contempt for democracy?

Do you want to fight racism, and the scapegoating of refugees?

**YES?** Then you belong in the Socialist Workers Party

To join or for more information: Fill in the form and Send to SWP PO Box PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 Phone (01) 872 2682 Email swp@clubl.ie Web www.swp.ie

### I want to join the Socialist Workers Party

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Union/College..... (if applicable)

# SCHOOL STUDENTS AT HEART OF ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

## Our generation finds its voice

**SCHOOL** students are at the vanguard of the anti-war movement.

On March 5th in Northern Ireland and March 14th in the Republic, thousands left their schools in protest against the war.

Right across the country young people are organising anti-war groups in their schools and classes.

They have become an inspiration for the whole anti-war movement.

Rachel Burns, as student from Grosvenor in East Belfast, described what happened in her school. "There were about 250 people walked out of our school."

"Everyone there wanted to do something to stop the war and walkouts seemed to be the best plan."

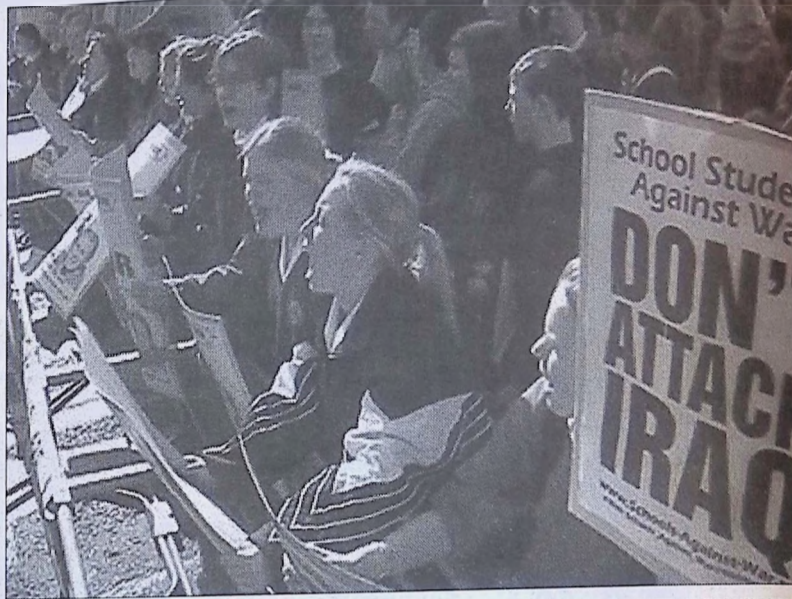
### United

"We planned the walkouts alongside other schools and with students over in Britain so that we could show internationally that school students are united and don't want this war and don't want to pick up the pieces of another bloody war."

Rachel also said, "I have heard of loads of different schools taking similar actions across the country."

"There have been walkouts from state schools, Catholic maintained schools and integrated schools."

"A lot of people are wanting to make history and not just learn about it, and that's what I feel we are doing in the anti-war movement."



■ School students protesting against the war after walking out of class

PHOTOS: ROCKET VIDEO/INDYMEDIA

Annoyed at not hearing about the walkouts on the March 5th some fifty school students walked out from Strathern College in east Belfast.

Nikki told Socialist Worker, "I just walked out of my classroom and was joined by others. I was really surprised to see these people join us outside."

"From there we decided to set up an anti-war committee in the school to organise other walkouts and we also decided to take our protest up to Stormont castle, so about 20 of us went up and blocked the entrance for 15 minutes."

### ★ HUNTERHOUSE, Belfast

**ON WEDNESDAY** the fifth of March students from Hunterhouse joined the international walkout in protest against the impending war on Iraq.

The protest was organised by members of schools against

war and happened despite support from the staff of the school.

We are planning to stage further protests in our school as the international situation escalates.

Many of the students parents supported the action and had joined us on the rally in Belfast on February 15th and they are also planning to take action on Day X.

■ CLARA KANE and STEPHANIE GARNER

### ★ MUCKROSS PARK, Dublin

**YESTERDAY**, Friday 14th me and two other 6th years in my school (Muckross Park) organised an anti-war protest at lunch time in our school grounds.

We wanted it to be organised and peaceful so we asked the principal for permission

on Thursday.

She was quite reluctant at first and was only happy to allow 5th and 6th years to protest.

I called Richard Boyd Barrett of the Irish Anti-War Movement to come and speak at the protest the next day

Up till 12:20 we were running around between classes urging everyone to join us. We made a simple poster with all the details and got loads of copies which are

now all over the school!

I asked the art class to make banners and by the end of their double they made around 70!

At 12:20 we all assembled on the field and we started up some chants aided by the megaphone Richard brought.

I spoke for a little while and then Richard spoke, which was quite exciting for the 1st years who all lined up afterwards to ask him if he really was the guy from the Late Late Show!

The protest was a great success, we

realised that most of the girls are anti-war and just needed something like this to push them to become involved.

I know that recently there have been similar protests in schools throughout the country but hopefully we'll start seeing a lot more.

We didn't think it could happen in our school and it did.

So if you want to do it but don't think it will work, just go for it anyway.

■ FATIMA – Schools Students against War and Revolutionary Youth

### Contact School Students Against War:

78 Lough Conn Road, Dublin 10, 086-3931970 or Chris on 0790-752782 in Northern Ireland Email: schoolsagainstwar@hotmail.com

the Eamonn McCann column

# Blood on the shamrock

**GEORGE W. Bush** wasn't able to express his support for peace in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day this year. He expected to be fully engaged waging war on Iraq. So the shamrock party was moved forward four days.

There they sat, Ahern, Trimble, Adams, Durkan, Monica McWilliams and a few even lesser lights, listening respectfully as a man driving the world to war patronised them with praise for having taken the peaceful road.

Did any of them cringe as Bush spoke about the urgent need to renounce the use of force and embrace the rule of law?

Was there a shuffle of embarrassment as some remembered standing at the City Hall on February 15th amidst a vast throng

abuzz with fervour against Bush's war on Iraq?

Did any feel a tremble of unease at the thought that just along the corridor or in an office on the floor above, those they have come to for endorsement of their credentials as peace-makers were making final arrangements for the mass obliteration of conscript soldiers and collateral citizenry?

For all the contradiction and hypocrisy involved, the scene sent a clear enough message—that what happens in Northern Ireland has no resonance with the wider world.

That there is no value or ideal contained in the Good Friday Agreement, or for that matter in disagreement with the Agreement, which is in any way applicable to consideration of the war on Iraq.

That the issues which arise in Ireland are ours alone, entirely local.

That it's possible to make a clean separation between our struggles—however we configure the struggle—and the hopes and aspirations of the rest of humanity.

That we are a petty provincial people, from time to time ferocious with each other in our internal squabble but each putting our best face forward when looking to be patronised by the powerful outside, twisting our caps in clammy hands as we deferentially sing dumb about the propensity of our patron to rampage murderously in other people's places.

### Constructs

This determined exceptionalism is a prime factor in rendering the "Northern problem" intractable.

It's because the North conventionally constructs its politics solely around the idea of communal identity, because people

express themselves in public life exclusively by reference to the local religious community to which they "belong", it's mainly on this account that a solution has proven so difficult to discover.

The point is it's not possible to solve the problems arising from sectarianism by setting out to solve the problems of sectarianism only.

When people say that first we must agree on how "the two communities" might live amicably alongside one another before we can move on to deeper, wider or just different matters, they imprison themselves inside the sectarian categories which they purport to wish to abolish.

It's when we find a sense of ourselves which isn't dependent on local circumstance, when we relate to people and issues across the wider world, it's then we begin to sense what we share with one another, too.

The euphoria which engulfed the anti-war rally in Belfast on February 15th had to do with a feeling of liberation from the constrictions of local politics, with the heady sense of people in Belfast being at one with millions the world over, as well as having to do with the appalling specifics of the imminent attack on Iraq.

The day after February 15th, a New York Times editorial writer observed that perhaps there are still two superpowers on the planet after all—the US administration and world public opinion.

When we are active in the anti-war movement we are part of a superpower.

At the White House, Ahern, Adams and the rest of them were supplicants at the court of the other superpower.

It's the superpower we can all be part of which offers the best hope for the world, and for our own little patch of the world.

# HYPOCRISY ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN

by AOIFE NI FHEARGAILL

# A road map to nowhere

THE announcement that Bush and Blair will soon unveil a "road-map" for peace in the Middle East and the creation of a Palestinian state was greeted with cynicism throughout the Arab world.

Precise details have yet to unfold, but Blair has promised that as soon as a Palestinian Prime Minister is appointed, discussions may begin on the freezing of settlement activity in the Occupied Territories and the creation by 2005 of a Palestinian state.

However, there is nothing new in these empty promises. The plan is only a sop to win backing for war on Iraq.

## Promise

Provided that the Palestinian Authority undertake basic reforms, Bush and Blair promise a Palestinian state and an end to settlements.

But none of this is new. In the 1993 Oslo accords promised a Palestinian state. But key issues such as control of Jerusalem, external borders, settlements, water and refugees were left out.

But 73 percent of the lands of the Occupied Territories, 97 percent of security and 80 percent of water were kept in



■ Israeli troops rough up a Palestinian demonstrator

Israeli hands.

Furthermore, while the Palestinian Authority was given the right to print postage stamps, collect waste and fly

its own flag, the US redefined territories occupied in 1967 as 'disputed', radically shifting the terms of negotiation.

Again, at the Camp David

Summit, in return for US and Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state on only 22 percent of historic Palestine, Arafat was asked to sign away long-

standing Palestinian claims on Jerusalem, the right of return of refugees and sovereignty. Needless to say he refused to sign.

## US funds for terror

Israeli terror could not exist without US funding.

Each year the US gives \$3 billion dollars in direct aid and another \$3 billion in indirect aid.

Israel receives more US aid than all of Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean combined – if Columbia and Egypt are left out.

The aid programme is unusual in a number of ways.

Since 1982, it has been given as a lump sum at the start of the year. This way it earns interest in US banks. No other country is treated like this.

It does not have to be given for a specific programme. This way it can be used directly to buy the Apache helicopters and F 16 jet fighters which regularly terrorise Palestinians.

## NO DEMOCRACY FOR PALESTINIANS

DESPITE the years of compromise and surrender, conditions for ordinary Palestinians have worsened dramatically.

Seventy percent of Palestinians now live on less than \$2 a day while 25% of children are anaemic.

The terror of collective punishment is a daily occurrence as tanks shoot at children playing and helicopter gunships drop bombs in residential areas.

Israel regularly displaces entire neighbourhoods through its policies of home demolitions, missile strikes, individual deportations and revocation of residency and citizenship laws.

Promises of a freeze on settlements have amounted to

nothing, as hundreds of illegal settlements have been built in the 'peace years' doubling the settler population to more than 400,000.

Prime Minister Sharon has ordered the construction of an Apartheid wall around the entire West Bank.

This will mean the theft of a further 10 percent of Palestinian land.

Now the failed peace processes and an economic crisis in Israel have brought to power an extreme right wing coalition which is completely hostile to any Palestinian state and openly flouts the idea of the 'transfer' (ethnic cleansing) of Palestinians under cover of war on Iraq.

### Hard-line

These hard-line Likudniks who advocate the mass eviction of Palestinians are sometimes dismissed as maverick ultra-nationalists.

But their policies are a logical continuation of what hap-



■ Palestinians driven from their homes in 1948

pened in 1948 when Israel was set up.

It was established by a murderous terror campaign which drove hundreds of thousands of

Palestinians from their homes, including the massacre of 240 civilians in the village of Deir Yassin.

Those proposing transfer

## United Nations resolutions it's OK to ignore

Israel points to UN Resolution 181 as the legal basis for its existence. But it has rejected every other UN resolution as non-binding and got US backing for this.

The UN Resolutions that are o.k. to ignore include:

Resolution 194 – which calls for the right of return for Palestinians expelled during in 1948.

### Withdrawal

Resolution 242 – calls for the "withdrawal of Israel's armed forces from territories occupied" during the 1967 six-day war

### Violation

Resolution 465 – states that the building of settlements in the Occupied Territories is in violation of the Geneva Convention and calls for their dismantling.

Resolution 904 – condemns the 1994 massacre of over 50 Palestinian civilians in a Hebron Mosque

Resolution 1322 – deplores the provocation caused by Ariel Sharon's September 2000 visit to the Haram Al-Sharif Mosque which sparked off the current Intifada.

today are merely holding true to the racist ideology of Zionism – the idea that there should be an exclusively Jewish State for a Jewish people.

## The reality of Israeli occupation

- 2,181 Palestinians killed by the Israeli army since September 29 2000
- 354 Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces during the current Intifada
- 75% of Palestinians live on less than \$2 a day
- 25% of Palestinian children are anaemic
- Unemployment reaches 70% in parts of the Gaza Strip
- 27 Palestinians have died at checkpoints in recent months, prevented by the Israeli army from travelling to Accident & Emergency rooms

## How can Palestine be free?

LIKE Gerry Adams in Ireland, the Palestinian Authority has tried to court the US Administration. But it has not worked.

National liberation cannot be won through deals with an imperialist power.

The right wingers in Ameri-

ca argue that "the road to real peace and security in the Middle East runs through Baghdad".

### Lesson

There is a lesson in all of this for the Palestinians.

As hundreds of thousands of anti-

war activists take to the streets across the Middle East, the real route to peace for the people of Palestine lies, not with Western peace plans but with the anti-imperialist fight back in the streets of

# Profile of an anti war activist

LAST MONTH, a small group of protesters breached security around the perimeter fence of Shannon airport.

They set up a shrine with a bible, the Koran, beads and photos of Iraqi children, entered the aircraft hangar and disabled an American military plane.

They then formed a circle and prayed.

These were members of the Catholic Workers Movement. After the incident, they were taken to Limerick jail and held there for weeks.

The media zoned in and presented claimed they were 'violent'.

Many politicians demanded that the anti-war movement distance themselves from their actions.

One of their number, Ciaran O'Reilly, has just been released and has spoken to Socialist Worker about what motivated him to take the actions he did.

Ciaran is a veteran of anti-war protesting, having been involved in various campaigns in Australia, England and the US.

## Republican

The son of an Irish republican who emigrated to Australia in 1949, Ciaran grew up in Queensland, which he describes as 'probably the most authoritarian, racist state in Australia, which, for thirty years was run by a very corrupt governor and a very corrupt Irish-Catholic police force.'

Growing up near the second largest army barracks in Australia during the Vietnam war, the realities of war were ever present.

In 1977 he became

involved in the protest movement against uranium mining, to which the government responded by suspending civil liberties for some four years.

Marching was banned, along with picketing and leafletting.

There were about four thousand arrests in two and a half years.

The government turned a blind eye to police corruption.

Aborigines still didn't have the vote.

Although they constituted less than two percent of the population, they made up 34 percent of the prison population.

Ciaran became politically active while working with charities.

That kind of cross over is very much a part of the Catholic Worker Movement, either you get people who are into working directly with the poor, and they don't really have any political or economic analysis of why people are poor, or you get people who are politically active and they have no real contact with the poor.'

In his last year as a college student Ciaran came across the CWM.

He began reading Daniel and Philip Berrigan, the brothers, both priests used assertive non-violent resistance against the draft in 1960s America.

These tactics were used against nuclear weapons build-up in the 70s and out of that came the Ploughshares actions in the 80's, referring to Isaiah 'beating swords into ploughshares.'

In the late eighties Ciaran went to the US, where at the outbreak of war in the Gulf, he and three others disarmed a B52 bomber.

Part of the action involved throwing human blood on the bombers.

Strong symbolism for machines designed to drop destruction from 30,000 feet.

At the trial the protesters attempted to

put the war itself on trial using the necessity defence, which states that if there is a threat to human life there is no legal alternative, and therefore the action was justified under international law.

According to Harvard University medical reports 50,000 children had been killed at this time.

## Bombing

But this was also a time when George Bush had a 90 percent popularity rating and they were found guilty by a jury.

After Ciaran had served his sentence he was deported to Australia where he became involved in the campaign against the Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

Because of the natural mineral wealth of East Timor it was in the interest of the Australian government to maintain a low intensity conflict through the supply of weapons and training to Indonesian, Filipino and Colombian soldiers so you don't get white boys coming back in body bags.'

One third of the population was wiped out during the occupation.

Then in 1991 four women in England disarmed a Hawk fighter, which was being transported to Indonesia.

Ciaran went to Liverpool to offer support during the trial.

The jury found them not guilty.

'We operate from a faith base so our main orientation is to remain faithful, which in a secular sense means not to sell out.'

When you see how we all get co-opted, whether it's the Green Party supporting the bombing of Serbia or on occasions Catholic priests blessing British troops and Argentinean troops, every tradition faces co-option.'

by NORA GERAGHTY

# When workers action against war

Tony Blair says that he is bringing democracy to Iraq. But in both Britain and Ireland, the governments are ignoring the mass opposition to war.

If democracy is so blatantly ignored, then it is time for direct action.

The Irish Anti-War Movement has called for solidarity stoppages as the most effective protest against war.

There is a long tradition of workers action against war. Here are two recent examples.



# How we opposed the Vietnam War

DURING THE Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s thousands of trade unionists in Australia showed how workers can halt the war machine.

The right wing Australian government backed the US intervention in Vietnam. It sent military advisors to Vietnam in 1962 and conscripted 20 percent of Australia's 20 year old men.

The most radical sections of the Australian working class led the opposition to war. When the government agreed to send troops to Vietnam in 1965, 2,500 dock workers walked out in Melbourne.

In May tugboat workers boycotted a US warship in Melbourne. Around 500 seafarers, waterside workers and ships' painters picketed the US embassy in Brisbane.

Workers in the SLA seafarers' union refused to crew the Boonaroo ship bound with food for Australian troops in Vietnam in May 1966.

Despite their opposition to war other trade unions were unwilling to support the seafarers' 'political' stand. The isolation meant that they agreed to crew the ship but only 'with great reluctance and under



South Korean Women's Labor Union at International Women's Day in protest.

Members of the crew and other workers delayed the ship's departure for three hours by staging an anti-war demonstration.

They draped banners over the ship's railings reading 'Boonaroo seamen oppose war in Vietnam'.

In February 1967 the Boonaroo was instructed to take aircraft bombs and detonators to Vietnam. Seafarers refused to crew it and the government had to commission it as a Navy ship.

Meetings of the seafarers' union on 8 March 1967 voted overwhelmingly against carry-

ing any war materials to Vietnam.

## Assaulted

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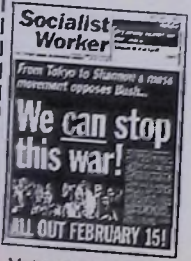
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# When workers take action against war

**Tony Blair says that he is bringing democracy to Iraq.**

**But in both Britain and Ireland, the governments are ignoring the mass opposition to war.**

**If democracy is so blatantly ignored, then it is time for direct action.**

**The Irish Anti-War Movement has called for solidarity stoppages as the most effective protest against war.**

**There is a long tradition of workers action against war. Here are two recent examples.**



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## How we opposed the Vietnam War

**DURING THE Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s thousands of trade unionists in Australia showed how workers can halt the war machine.**

The right wing Australian government backed the US intervention in Vietnam. It sent military advisors to Vietnam in 1962 and conscripted 20 per cent of Australia's 20 year old men.

The most radical sections of the Australian working class led the opposition to war. When the government agreed to send troops to Vietnam in 1965, 2,500 dock workers walked out in Melbourne.

In May tugboat workers boycotted a US warship in Melbourne. Around 500 seafarers, waterside workers and ships' painters picketed the US embassy in Brisbane.

Workers in the SUA seafarers' union refused to crew the Boonaroo ship bound with food for Australian troops in Vietnam in May 1966.

Despite their opposition to war other trade unions were unwilling to support the seafarers' "political" stand. The isolation meant that they agreed to crew the ship but only "with great reluctance and under



**South Korean Women's Labor Union at International Women's Day in protest.**

Members of the crew and other workers delayed the ship's departure for three hours by staging an anti-war demonstration.

They draped banners over the ship's railings reading "Boonaroo seamen oppose war in Vietnam".

In February 1967 the Boonaroo was instructed to take aircraft bombs and detonators to Vietnam. Seafarers refused to crew it and the government had to commission it as a Navy ship.

Meetings of the seafarers' union on 8 March 1967 voted overwhelmingly against carry-

ing any war materials to Vietnam.

### Assaulted

After police assaulted students protesting in Northland, members of the dockers', and plumbers' and gaslighters' unions attended a solidarity

### Union banners on the Irish Anti War demo in Dublin on February 15

Trade unions supported the anti-conscription Save Our Sons women's organisation. When five women were sentenced to 14 days in prison for handing out anti-war leaflets, dock workers closed down the port of Melbourne for 24 hours.

### Vigils

There were huge vigils outside the prison. The women were released after 11 days. Trade unions also led the movement in support of people who resisted the draft.

When Lou Christofides was jailed for refusing to register, the seafarers at Port Kembla deliberately slowed down ships.

Then they and other trade unionists walked out for a day. Christofides was released early. Union official Laurie Carmichael and his wife Val were arrested for defending their son's right to refuse the draft.

Some 500 workers from the docks and 700 meat workers in Williamstown struck to attend the demonstration outside their court hearing. The Rebel Unions in Victoria, which included around two-thirds of trade unionists in the state, said:

"We encourage those young men already conscripted to refuse to accept orders against their conscience and those in Vietnam to lay down their arms in mutiny against the heinous barbarism perpetuated in our name."

The high point in the struggle against Australia's involvement in Vietnam was the national Moratorium marches of 18 May 1970. Around 200,000 people came out to

march against the war around the country-100,000 of those in Melbourne. The slogan of the Moratorium was "Stop work to stop the war". Tens of thousands of trade unionists walked out to join the marches. Every branch of the seafarers' union struck for the whole day.

"The Moratoriums were the most important industrial actions," says Phil Griffiths, an Australian socialist. "They were huge demonstrations against the war, but they were also strikes. Between a half and two-thirds of people at the weekday rallies were workers. They drew everyone in. I was working at a conservative high school at the time of the second Moratorium in 1970. Around half the teachers struck.

### Feeling

"That feeling fed into everything. In 1969 the government jailed a Communist Party union official for refusing to pay a fine for organising a strike. One million workers struck in the middle of a war-and forced the government to release him and scrap the law against trade unions."

The resistance to the war at home, and the failure of the US to defeat the Vietnamese, broke the back of the Conservative government. The Labour Party was elected in 1972 for the first time in 23 years.

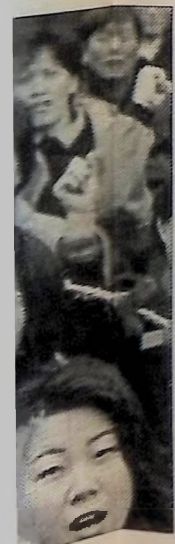
"There is an enormous amount of feeling against war on Iraq," says Phil Griffiths. "John Howard, our right wing prime minister, supports the war. "We have had huge protests. Some of the unions are calling for strikes the day after war starts."

# Workers take against war



■ Union banners on the Irish Anti War demo in Dublin on February 15

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# Italian dockers will not load US weapons

ITALIAN TRADE unionists and anti-war activists are continuing their campaign against the movement of US military hardware from Italy to the Gulf.

Activists began blocking trains carrying US weaponry three weeks ago. Members of Italy's

largest trade union, the CGIL, were central to the protests.

People let off smoke bombs and air raid sirens or chained themselves to the tracks or to levers in signal boxes to stop the "death trains".

The campaign began from anti-war train drivers telling activists what they were due to transport and protesters monitoring US bases.

The main focus has been Camp Darby, near to Pisa in the north west of country. Some 50,000 protested outside the base last Saturday.

The "trainstopping" caused the US massive problems in moving their equipment around Italy.

Now the attention has switched to the ports of Livorno and Genoa.

Any hardware the US wants to move to the Gulf from Camp Darby will have to be shipped through these ports. In Livorno 1,000 union members and anti-war activists met two weeks ago.

Guido Abbadessa, the national secretary of the CGIL transport section, said to massive applause, "Dockers in Livorno and the rest of Italy will not load weapons of mass destruction. It's not part of our tradition."

Three Livorno dockers boarded a US ship in 1969 during the Vietnam War.

They took down the US flag and replaced it with a Viet Cong one. When the US arrested the dockers the

## Even the moderate Catholic union is opposed to war.

whole port threatened to go on indefinite strike. They were immediately released.

The leader of Livorno's dockers today is the son of the man who led dockers during those protests.

"There will be strikes in Livorno if the dockers are asked to move war material," Luciano Mulhalber, a member of the national executive of the Sin.Cobas trade union told Socialist Worker.

"The US has made a deal with a private company with no trade union to transport the material. The unions are in close talks with each other about organising industrial action against the war."

"Even the moderate Catholic union is opposed to war. The largest union federation, the CGIL, is saying that if people strike against war it will support them."

The metalworkers' union, which is part of this federation, has a more radical position, saying the federation must call for strikes. The CGIL had organised a national demonstration for trade union rights for this Saturday.

They have now added a call for peace to the slogans. If the bombs have started to drop by then it will become a huge march for peace."

## AFGHANISTAN:

# This is what a US victory looks like

"WE ARE totally against war in Iraq. War has completely destroyed our country."

"We don't want to see the same thing happen to Iraq". So says Abdul Samal, a shoe-shiner in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

The rhetoric of Bush and Blair about bringing democracy to Iraq echoes that which they expressed a year and a half ago when the war on terror was launched in Afghanistan.

They were going to end the brutal rule of the Taliban, liberating the mass of the people, in particular women.

But an examination of what happened in Afghanistan, once the war ended, should serve as a warning.

Hamid Karzai, a US stooge has been inserted as the head of the transitional government in Afghanistan.

General elections are due at the end of 2003 but in the meantime Hamid Karzai and his government of warlords call the shots.

Karzai worked as a salaried consultant to UNOCAL oil company in 1996 and 1997, during which time he drew up a feasibility study of the Afghan pipeline.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> 2002, he signed an agreement with the Presidents of Turkmenistan and Pakistan to build an oil pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Afghanistan to Pakistan.

His Oil Minister said there was a good chance UNOCAL would get the contract to exploit the pipeline.

The US claimed they would engage in a process of assisting "nation building", "liberation" and the affirmation of human and women's rights in post Taliban Afghanistan.

**They have done nothing of the sort.**

The US leads a UN Security Council-sanctioned international force.

There are approximately 8000 US troops in Afghanistan at present.

Their main role is to protect Karzai and to pursue the Taliban and Al Qaeda forces who are reported to be regrouping in the south.

Bombing raids occur regularly.

The civilian casualties are growing. In one attack in February, a reporter for the Guardian quoted estimates of 17 deaths near the village of Baghran.

Villages in rural areas are searched and the local population terrorised by US

forces. There is growing resentment at the lack of respect that Afghan people receive from the troops.

The international community has failed abysmally to provide the funding to rebuild Afghanistan.

Early in 2002 a conference to raise funds was held in Tokyo. Commitments for \$4.5 million were made. In practice, less than one third of this was provided. The US in particular failed to deliver.

Karzai lobbied the US Congress for \$1.5 billion for development purposes. He got \$300 million worth of aid.

The draft foreign aid budget had originally made no provision for Afghanistan.

Human rights groups, like Human Rights Watch, have been carefully monitoring the situation in Afghanistan.

They are particularly concerned to counter the impression that women have been liberated. In a damning report published in December, they note that while some improvements have occurred in the capital

Taliban area restrictions remain widespread particularly in rural areas.

In the Western province of Herat, women are arrested if they are found in the company of men to whom they are not related.

They are subsequently subjected to forced medical examination to determine if they have had sexual intercourse. The burqa is still worn.

Even on the streets of Kabul, women who choose to wear make-up are subjected to harassment by government employees of the renamed Vice and Virtue Office. Karzai appointed Fazal Hadi Shinwari as Chief Justice.

He supports the Sharia punishments of stoning and amputation.

He has already banned cable TV and has made many judgements against women participating fully in social and political life.

US cluster bombs have left an estimated 12,400 explosive duds—anti-personnel landmines—lying around the country, causing civilian deaths to this day.

Human rights abuses are commonplace as warlords assert their control.

Meanwhile opium production has increased and Afghanistan is once again one of the world's biggest suppliers.

The Afghan experience is a chilling lesson in US Foreign policy. No matter how brutal the Afghan regime is, it doesn't matter. Afghanistan is theirs and Karzai is their man.

by DEIRDRE CRONIN

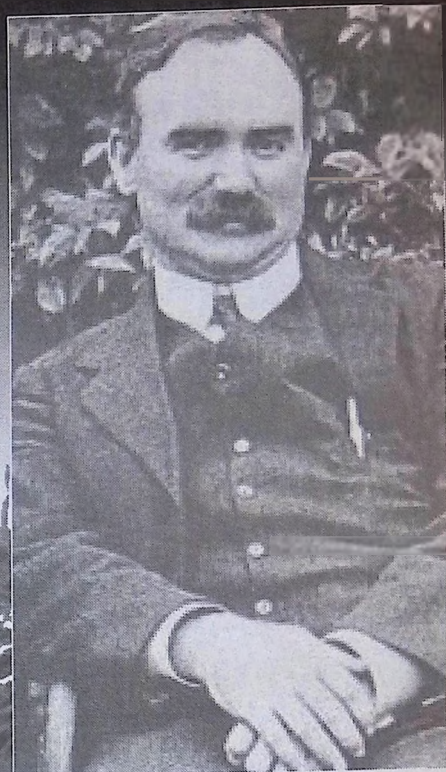


# JAMES CONNOLLY:

by DAVID LYNCH



Left: European troops to the slaughter in the First World War and Right: James Connolly.



# 'Fight WAR with REVOLUTION!'

**'The signal of war ought to have been the signal of rebellion... when the bugle sounded the first note of actual war, their notes should have been taken as the tocsin for social revolution'**

**S**o wrote James Connolly in 1915 about the World War I.

Connolly is a legend in Irish history. Schools, a train station and hospitals are called after him. Every party from Fianna Fail to Sinn Fein claim to stand in his tradition.

But few mention that he was a committed Marxist who believed that capitalism and war were inextricably linked. His solution was revolution.

Today there are millions who oppose war. But in 1914, many joined in the tide of patriotism. Only a handful of individual socialists Connolly in Ireland, Lenin in Russia, Rosa Luxemburg in Germany, and McClean in Scotland stood up against the war.

In a simple statement of socialist internationalism Connolly in 1914 stated "To me the socialist of another country is a fellow patriot as the capitalist of my own is a natural enemy".

Connolly had spent a lifetime tirelessly campaigning in Scotland, Ireland, America and finally back in Ireland again.

In the late 1890's on his arrival in Ireland, Connolly established the tiny Irish Socialist Republican Party (ISRP). This small group made up for its lack of size with energetic activism against the Boer War. While the Boer War was "a mere picnic compared to the Great War" as Connolly would later write, it proved to be an early test for the ISRP's internationalism.

Just like the present Iraqi conflict, the Boer War was about resources, not oil but diamonds.

The onset of hostilities between the British and the Independent Afrikaner republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State in 1899 led to a bloody conflict essentially over the diamond and gold mines of South Africa.

Connolly had been predicting the outbreak of further international conflicts in the months before the war began in Southern Africa. In August 1898 Connolly wrote, "The influence which impels us towards war is the influence of capitalism. Every war is now a capitalist move for new markets, and it is a move capitalism must make or perish."

Connolly held a strong anti-imperialist line during the Boer conflict organising numerous demonstrations and public meetings in opposition to the British led war.

He welcomed 'the humiliation of the British army in any one of the conflicts it was engaged' because it would weaken the greatest imperial power of the day.

**A**lmost two decades later Connolly was again at the forefront of socialist opposition to the Great War.

Connolly poured scorn on those socialists who argued that they had to "reluctantly" go along with their own governments during the war. He derided supposed left wing supporters of the conflict.

"When the German artillery man, a socialist serving in the German army of invasion, sends a shell into the ranks of the French army, blowing off their heads, tearing out their bowels and mangling the limbs of dozens of socialist comrades in that force, will the fact that he, before leaving for the front, "demonstrated" against the war be of any value to the widows and orphans made by the shell he sent upon its mission of murder?"

**U**nlike the British Labour Leader Keir Hardie, Connolly was not a pacifist. He did not believe that a moral refusal to serve with the forces was enough.

Connolly believed that war was a direct by-product of the capitalist system, and only a campaign that fought against war and capitalism could truly bring an end to the carnage created by military conflict.

He thought that the outbreak of war in Europe should have been the starting point for socialist revolution. Much like the Bolsheviks in Russia, Connolly called for rebellion at home to defeat the war on the battlefields of the Somme.

"We have held," said Connolly, "and do hold that war is a relic of barbarism only possible because we are governed by a ruling class with barbaric ideas.

We have held and do hold that the working class of all countries cannot hope to escape the horrors of war until in all countries the barbarous ruling class is thrown from power."

Connolly looked towards the use of a general strike across the European Continent to end the war. However with full mobilisation and martial law in existence among the warring nations it was extremely difficult to organise a European wide strike.

When this did not transpire Connolly moved closer to the idea of some form of

insurrection in Ireland to strike a blow against British imperialism and for Ireland's freedom.

But he was however shaken by the failure of the major parties of the Second International to stand up against this imperialist conflict.

"Civilisation is being destroyed before our eyes; thousands of comrades with whose souls we have lived in fraternal communion are about to be done to death; they whose one hope it was to be spared to cooperate in building the perfect society of the future are being driven to fratricidal slaughter in shambles where that hope will be buried under a sea of blood."

**W**ith little organisation around him, apart from his small Irish Citizen Army, Connolly became increasingly convinced of the need for a military blow to be struck against British imperialism in Ireland while Britain troops were engaged in war on the continent.

Unlike the period of the Boer War, there was at least a section of the 'advanced nationalist' movement who were now sufficiently armed and in favour of taking action.

Working closely with Padraig Pearse, Connolly and the Irish Citizens Army joined forces with the militant minority of the nationalist movement in the 1916 Rising.

The 1916 rising has been seen by some historians such as Ruth Dudley Edwards - who today denounces the anti-war movement - as a foolhardy military uprising, inspired by thoughts of 'blood sacrifice'.

But for Connolly it was a logical reaction to the presence in Ireland of a capitalist Empire which had confirmed its

inherent inhumanity.

Connolly entered the rising in a weak position having no political organisation built up around himself, apart from the small number of volunteers in his Workers' Militia. The rising was carried out in republican terms. Connolly warned his followers to hold onto their guns afterwards because they might have to fight their allies later.

The Rising failed and alongside Connolly many of the other nationalist leaders of the rising were executed.

**C**onnolly's position can be contrasted with the role played by socialists in Russia 1917 where a revolution ended Russia's involvement in the war.

Here the revolution was headed by a strong, experienced socialist party the Bolsheviks, the very thing that Connolly lacked. It was also based on a mass uprising of workers rather than the few thousand who fought in 1916.

But despite the differences, the Russian revolutionary Lenin defended the 1916 rebellion against those who denounced it as a 'putsch'.

He wrote that 'to imagine that social revolution is conceivable without revolts of small nations in the colonies and in Europe, without revolutionary outburst by a section of the petty bourgeoisie with all its prejudices ... to imagine all this is to repudiate social revolution.

"So one army lines up one place and says 'We are for socialism' and another, somewhere else says, 'we are for imperialism' and that will be a social revolution. Only those who hold a ridiculously pedantic view could vilify the Irish rebellion by calling it a putsch."

With the prospect of new revolts looming in the Middle East as a result of this war, it is a lesson that all activists should learn today.

media

## Tinseltown against the war

YOU WOULD not think of Hollywood as any sort of beacon for radical politics. Indeed the industrial epicentre of popular western film is more noted for spewing out conservative, pro-American, big box-office rubbish.

In the months after September 11th it seemed that the situation could only get worse.

Directors and producers came under pressure from the Republican led Congress and Senate to produce more films favourable to the American state.



■ **Anti-war: Sean Penn**

become leading figures in the antiwar movement in the States.

Sheen and Sarandon have appeared in antiwar TV ad campaigns and have contributed financially to the movement.

### Hospitals

Last year Penn visited the hospitals of Iraq to highlight the plight of the people under the sanction regime imposed by the West.

Such high profile dissent amongst the Hollywood glitterati has provoked a predictable reaction from the right in America.

Fed up with what they see as a liberal bias in Hollywood, a right-wing group called Citizens United has now produced their own commercial, using their own real-life politician turned actor, Law and Order's Fred Thompson, who served two terms as senator for Tennessee.

Thompson's spot, like Sheen's, is a simple locked-off headshot to camera number. In it, he asks "What should we do with the inevitable prospect of nuclear weapons in the hands of a murderous and aggressive enemy? Kick the can down the road?"

### Sinister

In a more sinister development a number of actors have come out to say that they feared been blacklisted by directors because of their involvement in the antiwar movement.

The Hollywood actors' union has compared treatment of anti-war celebrities with the witch-hunts of the McCarthy era.

The Screen Actors Guild is stepping in because of growing fears that actors could be dropped from films for their political beliefs, as happened in the 1950s when many directors and actors found themselves unable to work in Hollywood if there was any suggestion they had communist leanings.

The 'red scare' of the 1950's saw many liberal actors victimised and running for cover as the right went on the rampage throughout America.

A number of American TV networks, in particular the Murdoch owned Fox, have gone on the offensive against actors saying that they should keep their mouths shut when it comes to the war.

These are the same networks that fill their bulletins with tittle-tattle stories regarding the personal lives of the same famous actors!

Yet while the media and the right wing establishment have turned against the anti-war actors, it seems that the general public are more supportive.

In early March a poll taken in America suggested that if Martin Sheen, the actor who plays the president in the very successful drama series *The West Wing*, was to run for president against the real George W. Bush, Sheen would win the contest.

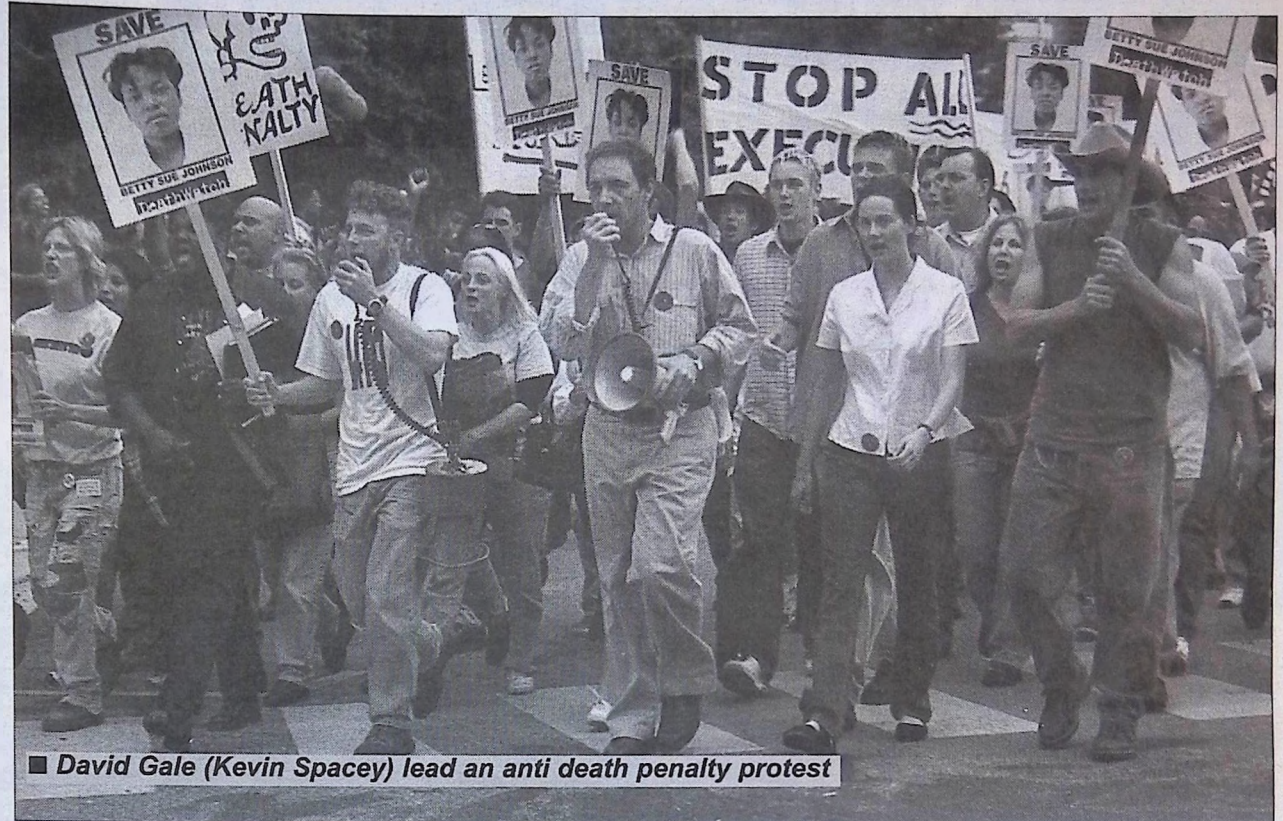
The split in Hollywood regarding the war, just reflects a more general split in the country. The antiwar movement in America has been strong and vocal but it has had very little access to the airwaves through the corporate media.

The fact that these progressive Hollywood stars have lent their names, time and money to the campaign has made it easier for those against this conflict in the US to spread their message.

by DAVID LYNCH

film

# The life of David Gale



■ **David Gale (Kevin Spacey) lead an anti death penalty protest**

IT'S NOT often that activists of any sort get a good press in the media.

In Alan Parker's new film *The Life of David Gale*, previewed at the recent Jameson's Irish

Film Festival, a group of death penalty opponents are portrayed as principled, heroic and far more intelligent than anyone else around them.

The pace is fast, the plot gripping with clever (but not too clever) twists until the

very last minute.

Kevin Spacey as David Gale is spectacular as always but he's not let down by any of his colleagues.

### Activist

Laura Linney plays the

fellow activist whom Gale is accused of having murdered.

Kate Winslet is the investigating journalist who, along with the audience, finds out what actually happened that led, bizarrely, to this anti death penalty activist being on death row

himself.

Gale is only hours away from execution when the film starts and the film proceeds at a breathtaking speed to take us to the final denouement. Watch out for this film when it comes to your area.

film

## A lamb in Woolf's clothing?

by KATE PACKWOOD

'I take refuge in the fact that I've received so little from society that I owe it very little.'

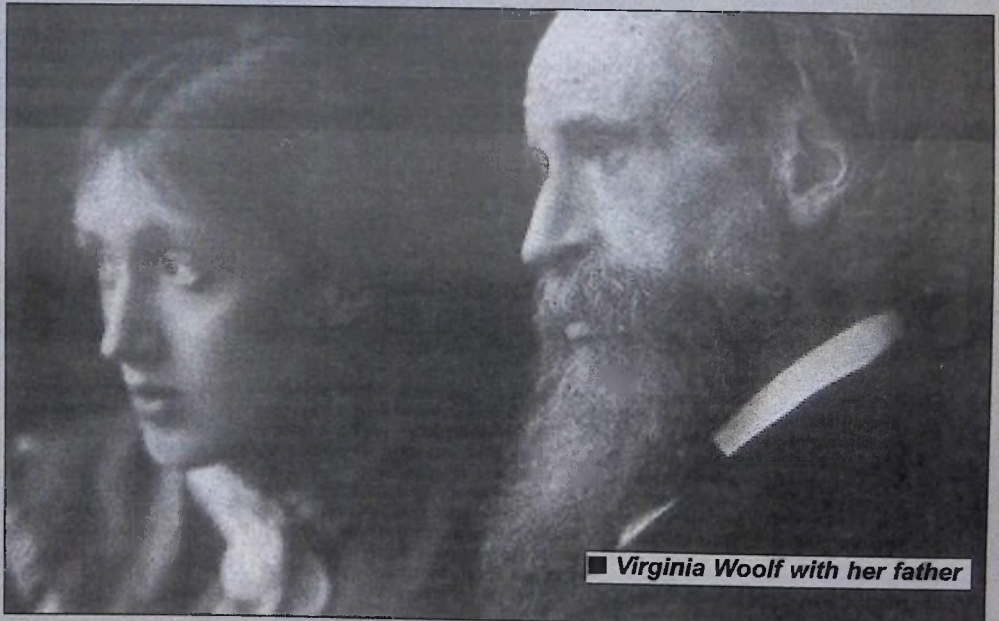
So wrote Virginia Woolf in a personal letter on the eve of the Second World War, a statement that shows the intense alienation felt by the writer, which is beautifully and painfully illustrated in *The Hours*.

The film is loosely based around Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway* and is focused on three female characters, each trapped within traditional gender roles but during different periods – the turn of the last century, the 1950s and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The film subtly explores the changes, showing that whilst restrictions on sexual orientation have broken down to some extent, gender roles remain constricting.

Virginia Woolf was an ardent feminist whose literary works focus primarily on the oppression suffered by women.

She was a powerful critic of fascism, recognising its dangers even whilst key figures Churchill and



■ **Virginia Woolf with her father**

Chamberlain admired Mussolini.

Her deep interest in the role European fascism played in the oppression of women led her to develop a theory that linked fascism with gender.

Woolf was particularly fascinated with the ideology Hitler used to make German women willingly collaborate in their own oppression.

However, her politics

did not extend to fighting the oppression of the working class.

### Fabians

She was attracted to the Fabians, a non-Marxist movement which believed that socialism should be achieved gradually.

She did not become involved with the Labour Party, however, as she felt herself very distant from

the Trade Union Congress which funded it.

She was highly critical of the trade unions for being male dominated, and instead aligned herself with the Women's Co-op Guild, which she believed to be more consistently pacifist.

But despite her idealism, her upper-middle class background influenced her thinking.

She referred to her liter-

ary readership as 'a little circle of exquisite and cultivated people' and dismissed the uneducated classes as 'inarticulate, gross and in many ways obscene and grossly uncivilised.'

This elitism results in her literature being a constant tension between the ideas of a literary snob and those of a feminist.

■ **Virginia Woolf – *The Hours***

# The anti war movement spreads

The Irish Anti-War Movement is mushrooming across the country. Our selection of reports are brief due to lack of space.

## Waterford:

Over 500 people took part in an anti-war protest in Waterford organised by the Waterford branch of the IAWM with the support

of the SWP, Sinn Fein, Waterford Council of Trade Unions, SIPTU, ATGWU, Greens, Workers Party, and the WIT students union.

Following Day X a major regional protest will also happen in Waterford. That protest will take place in the Glen at 2.00pm the Saturday after war starts.

The first day of war will see an immediate protest at 6.00pm in Red

Square.

Several local factories have already agreed to take part in the 10 minute solidarity stoppage the day after the outbreak of war. —Roy Hassey

## Tralee:

400 people joined an anti-war march in Tralee on March 15th organised by the local anti-war movement.

The Tralee Anti-War Movement was launched

at a 50 strong public meeting and organised a bus to the massive February 15th demonstration.

Cara Wallace, the PRO of the Tralee Anti-War, movement spoke at the rally and stressed the importance of people power. —Kieran McNulty

## Derry:

On International Women's Day, a crowd of 250 marched from the

Waterside to the Guildhall as part of the global protests.

Speakers at the rally included Bernadette McAliskey who called on people to refuse to vote in the Assembly elections for political parties that go cap-in-hand to Washington warmongers who preach peace for the North while preparing to massacre Iraqi women and children. —Goretti Horgan.

## Dundalk:

300 people marched from the local hospital to the city centre in Dundalk on March 8th. They wanted to draw the connection between hospital cuts and their opposition to huge resources wasted on war.

Local Sinn Fein TD Austin Morgan addressed the crowd and their were also speeches from representatives of the Green Party, SWP and Workers Party. —Joe Carolan.

## Anti war groups in your area

### NATIONAL:

Athlone: 087-6329511; Carlow Anti War Movement 085-7210108; Castlebar/Westport: 098-42868; Charleville: 087-6329511; Clonakilly: 086-3080459; Clonmel: 087-6329511; Cork Anti War Campaign: 087-1258325, corkantiwar@hotmail.com; Dingle for Peace: 066-9155863; Dundalk: 087-9213200; Drogheda: 087-9213200; Galway: 091-521373; Donegal Alliance Against War: 086 3773913; Letterkenny: 086-3773913, dlgreen@eircom.net; Maynooth College: 087-6329511; Maynooth Anti War Movement: 086-3849882 davidmartinlynch@hotmail.com; Midwest Alliance against Militarism & War: 086-8228032 also contact 086 8403782 in Limerick or 087-6261679 in Shannon; Mullingar: 087-7970139, pickarsgill@eircom.net; Sligo: 087-6329511; Thurles: 087-6329511; Tralee Anti War Movement: 086-3176921 traleeantiwar@yahoo.com; Tullamore Anti War Movement: 087-7624327, oawm@eircom.net; Waterford: 086-3274015; Westmeath: 087-7970139 or 086-1963134; Wexford: 087-2419852; Writers Against War: 01 4911529, kostick@tcd.ie

# Socialist Worker—The anti-war paper

AS THE world is plunged into war and thousands of innocent civilians have their lives destroyed we must organise.

Socialist Worker has established itself as THE anti-war paper. With news of anti-war activities and

the arguments necessary to build the opposition it provides an indispensable resource to help build the movement.

Each fortnight Socialist Worker exposes the lies of our rulers and produces the arguments to refute the media distortions.

Socialist Worker has argued for a broad based and massive anti war movement that linked up with the rest of the movement around the world. It provides clear analysis of issues in the movement.

As well as this Socialist

Worker provides invaluable background and news on struggles in the unions, on the environment and more generally against capitalism and big business.

If you are a regular reader of Socialist Worker you know how important

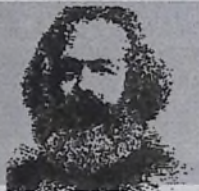
this paper is. We ask you to help us network this important resource for the movement. Take four or five extra copies of the paper to sell on. You only pay for what you sell. Send the coupon below to the Circulation Department of Socialist Worker

and we will make sure you receive your copies of Socialist Worker every fortnight.

Help us make sure the socialist voice is heard in every school, college, workplace and community - Network the Anti War Paper!

## Marxist Forums

Big ideas discussed in informal settings



### Ballyfermot:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Ruby Finnegins, Lwrt Ballyfermot.

### Ballybrack:

Details to be confirmed

### Ballymun:

War and Imperialism, Thurs 27 March 7:30pm Axis Centre, Ballymun

### Belfast Central:

Can we stop the

creation of a new American empire? Phone 0776 236 3147 for details

### Belfast South:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Phone 0790 035 3816 for details

### Belfast West:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Phone 0797 463 2485 for details

### Blanchards-town:

Can we stop the

creation of a new American empire?

### Bray:

Details to be announced

### Cabra-Stonybatter:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 8pm, Tuesday 25th March, Aughrim St Parish Centre

### Carlow:

Carlow IT Thursday 27th March at 2pm Vietnam - When the US was humbled Phone: 087 9090166

### Clondalkin:

Details to be confirmed

### Cork:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Sat 22 March, 4.00pm, Spailpin Fanach

### Derry:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Saturday 22

March, 4.00pm Sandinos Bar

### Drogheda:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire?, 8pm Thurs 27 March, McHugh's Bar, Chord St.

### Dublin Central:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire?, 8pm Tues 27 March The Snug, Dorset St.

### Dublin South City:

Can Kurdistan be free? Wed 26 March, 8pm. The Beanery Cafe, Burgh Quay.

### Dundalk:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire?, 4pm Saturday 22nd March, Spirit Store, Dundalk.

### Dundrum:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 8pm Monday 24 March. Dundrum Family recreation centre 8pm.

### Dun Laoghaire:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire?

Details to be confirmed

### Fairview:

War and Imperialism, Tues 25 March 8pm Smyths Pub Fairview

### Galway:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Wed 26 March 8pm Java's Coffee House, Abbeygate st.

### Limerick:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 12.30pm Thur 27 March. Room 4,

Student Centre Limerick University

### Rathmines:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 8pm Thur 27 March. Kylemore Cafe, Rathmines Shopping Centre.

### Rialto:

Details to be confirmed

### Tallaght:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 8pm Wed 26

March. Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght Village.

### Tralee:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? Cumann Iosaif Community Centre Wednesday 26th March 8pm

### Waterford:

Can we stop the creation of a new American empire? 8pm Thursday 27 March. The Old Rogue Pub

### DUBLIN:

Ballyfermot: 087-9090166; Ballymun/Finglas: 086-3616159 or 086-3074060; Blanchardstown: 087-6273581; Bray/Wicklow: 2867980; City Centre: 087-9032281; City Centre South: 085-7158567; Dundrum: 087 6650442; Dun Laoghaire: 2304621; Dun Laoghaire IT: 087-6406431; Fairview Against War: 087 6811687; Lucan: 086 3849882; NUI Maynooth: 086 1640538; Rathmines Against War: 087-7955013; Rialto: 086-1523542; Tallaght: 086-8107508; North County Dublin: 087-2400331; Trinity: 087-7455475; UCD: 087-2839964; DCU: 087-6329511.

### OTHER AREAS INCLUDE:

Community Workers against the war; Health workers against the war; School students against the war; Performers against the war; Surgeons against the war, Transport workers against the war and more ... contact 087-6329511 for information

### NOT ON THE LIST?

Contact 087-6329511 or 087-7955013 for advice on setting up a local group.



Capitalism is wrecking the lives of millions and endangering the planet. A new society can only be constructed when the workers take control of the wealth and plan its production and distribution for human need and not profit.

### REVOLUTION

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed. The courts, the army and police exist to defend the interests of the wealthy. To destroy capitalism, we need to remove the present state structures and create a workers' state based much greater political and economic democracy.

### AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WAR

War is a constant feature of capitalism today as the imperialist powers try to dominate the earth. Bush's "War on Terrorism" is a crude device to attack any country which threatens US military, strategic or economic dominance.

### END RACISM AND OPPRESSION

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

### FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

We stand for workers unity against the Assembly politicians and Blair government. Like great socialist James Connolly, we believe that partition has brought about a 'carnival of reaction' We want to see an Irish workers republic where all workers gain. Our flag is neither green nor orange but red!

### FOR A 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. We call for co-operation between left-wing parties and the formation of a strong socialist bloc. We stand for fighting trade unions and for independent rank and file action.

## Network Socialist Worker

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PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS



# FBU: New strike call after latest insults

**By KEVIN OVENDEN**

**THE FIRE dispute is back on after four weeks of talks produced the worst offer yet from the employers and the government.**

A wave of anger spread through fire stations and control rooms as 52,000 Fire Brigades Union (FBU) members heard details of the offer. The FBU executive unanimously rejected the offer.

The Labour government want to see the package of cuts and attacks on working conditions rammed through.

## Offered

Firefighters are being told they have to accept an offer of 16 percent over three years.

That is worse than the 16 percent over two years offered last November when Prescott intervened at the last minute to scupper a deal. The 16 percent is not guaranteed.

The only pay rise offered to all firefighters and control room operators without strings is 4 percent for last year. This has been on offer for nine months.

The rest is tied to "moderation". Even then pay

rises will not go to all workers, but to those who demonstrate "new skills".

The union would have to go along with a raft of attacks.

The government wants firefighters to work "up to 24 hours a month" overtime on top of a 42-hour working week.

The "maximum" of 24 hours would quickly become the norm. For 32,000 full time firefighters such levels of overtime are equivalent to over 4,000 posts.

That is the number of job losses John Prescott suggested he was after earlier this year.

The offer also gives management the power to set shift patterns locally.

## Scrapping

That is part of scrapping national standards of fire cover so that fewer firefighters are on duty at night and some stations are either shut or downgraded.

The document could also

mean a firefighter finding out on Christmas Eve that they are expected to work the following day.

"Every time we have taken the pressure off by suspending strikes to go into talks, they have come back with a worse offer," says one FBU activist.

"The only time we have been taken seriously is when we have struck.

"Our members understand that, despite the confusion that has set in after the dispute has gone on so long.

"We have to have a simple position. Take the effective strike action we voted for by nine to one and stick with that action. There's no reason why we can't walk and talk to the employers, if they have an offer, at the same time."

Prescott has hinted that he may use the cover of war to ban new strikes.

But this threat needs to be faced down. There is huge support for the fire-fighters and huge opposition to this war.



Flashback: FBU rally in north of England last summer

## Left wing officials re-instated

UNION officials Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGloin have been re-instated in the ATGWU. But they will not get their old jobs back.

Rank and File pressure and a long drawn out campaign brought about the result.

Jimmy Kelly, a member of the union's executive said, "The offer made last week to Mick and Eugene is a significant victory in the campaign to have both of them re-instated. This is an historic decision in terms of having both of their dismissals effectively overturned."

"The fact that the Union have offered Mick and Eugene, senior positions in the Union at their previous terms and conditions, plus all their back pay and pension benefits clearly show that it was a travesty of justice for both men to be suspended and subsequently dismissed."

Mick O'Reilly added, "Our suspension was engineered by the London based leadership of the Union, who could never accept the political position of the Union and membership in Ireland, on a host of issues especially Social Partnership."

"I just can't wait to make a contribution within the Trade Union movement and to help my colleagues in ICTU expose the numerous weaknesses in the agreement! It's good to be back."

## ASTI vote to accept substitution deal

ASTI teachers have voted by a 58-42 margin to accept the €38 per hour supervision and substitution deal.

This was the second time that teachers voted on this issue.

It was previously accepted by 63-47 vote but problems emerged with the deal after the vote, when it became clear management and the government had not been upfront about some of the detail of the package.

## Rejection

The CEC had recommended rejection but in an unprecedented move the Minister for Education, Noel Dempsey, organised a series of "information" meetings around the country to push the deal.

It is an indication of the lengths the government is still prepared to go to to smash any

opposition to the cosy consensus of partnership, which has been challenged very effectively over the last three years by the ASTI.

Pat Cahill, vice President of

the ASTI, believes that the ASTI campaign has won a lot "All teachers benefitted from the stance we took. It was because of our campaign that money has been back dated."

The government and the media are hoping they can crush ASTI militancy fully by also getting a Yes vote on partnership and benchmarking.

## Delayed

But according to Pat Cahill "We are still against benchmarking as a pay determination system for the future."

"It is a device for hammering the public service that the government, with the help of the ICTU, have brought in."

"Joe O'Toole said it would be an ATM machine but it has only delayed increases that should have been made long ago."

Teachers are strapped for cash and we are prepared to accept the increases as a down-payment on our claim.

"I don't believe we can accept benchmarking though because of all the ifs and buts attached."

"Performance related pay, whole school evaluation, form filling...all this has brought teaching down in England."

## What does democracy look like?

A debate has broken out in ASTI about whether votes should be conducted at branch meetings or through a postal ballot.

But moves towards a school based/postal ballot will do nothing to enhance democracy or to inform members of the issues. Voting is atomised and individualised and people lose out on the real debate that is necessary to make an informed decision.

Branch meetings where ballots attract a much bigger attendance than normal. They play a very important role in keeping the union relevant and accessible for members.

The dangers of a move towards a new voting system are shown in the INTO. For the first time ever, balloting on the new pay deal will not take place at meetings.

But if members have not attended meetings, their main source of information will be union publications which only contain pro deal arguments.

Anyone concerned with democracy in the unions should argue to retain branch ballots.

## ★ Peerless rugs end occupation

The twenty month occupation by workers at Peerless Rugs has ended.#

The occupation began as a magnificent act of defiance and got huge support in Athy.

But the union leaders in SIPTU were frightened of the tactic and failed to build support.

Collections were

not organised nor was there any serious attempt to organise a boycott of other Peerless products.

Despite all of this, the workers at Peerless displayed tremendous bravery in sticking it out.

Their action led directly to a change in the Redundancy Payments Acts, bringing in better increases for redundant workers.

Socialist Worker salutes the fighters of Peerless who deserved far better from the leaders of organised labour.

## ★ Partnership No thanks!

WORKERS at Bausch and Lomb in Waterford have rejected a no strike deal by a huge majority.

The company was hailed as a model of partnership by union leaders and employers.

But the workers thought differently. By an astounding vote of 956 to 266 they threw out a new three year no strike deal

which was recommended by their SIPTU official who gave them usual line "This is the best we can do".

The company had proposed that new employees be taken on at 90 percent of the rate paid to comparable workers.

They also wanted workers to pay 1 percent of their salary to a sick pay scheme.

In the past workers were pushed into a no strike deal. But not any more. Something is stirring in the grassroots.

## ★ Drop In centre for migrant workers

SIPTU will run a drop in centre in the Liberty Hall Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> March,

International Day Against Racism, aimed at migrant workers who may wish to find out about union services.

Starting at 5.30pm this will be followed by a film, *Race to the bottom*, from 7-8pm, and the Che Club from 8pm.

## Resistance to Bin Tax holding up strongly

THE campaign against the bin tax in Dublin remains strong.

At a recent meeting in Dundrum, in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown council area, 130 people showed up to hear an update on what has been happening lately.

Huge anger was expressed at the decision by councillors to

increase the charge by a massive 37 percent for the year 2003. The charge is now €275 per household.

A number of people who spoke from the floor said they had paid the charge in previous years but had now decided to stop because they felt it was an unfair tax.

Those who attended the meeting were appalled at government proposals to introduce legislation to overturn a Supreme Court decision that councils were obliged to collect domestic waste whether or not charges had been paid.

## Privatisation

Fears were expressed that privatisation of the service would soon be on the cards.

Indications from Fingal County Council are that moves will shortly be made there to pursue this.

The meeting voted to maintain non-payment to circulate a newsletter in the area and to provide the text of a letter opposing the charges to all local households for forwarding to local politicians.

A protest rally will be organised in Dundrum in the coming months and the group is proposing a Dublin wide march to oppose the new legislation before the summer.

## Everyone to the G8 Summit: June 1

Blockade the G8! This was the clear message that came from the International Coordinating meeting called by the Evian Social Forum on the Swiss-French border which will be the venue for the G8 summit in June.

Last year's G8 summit was held in the Rocky mountains as world leaders ran for cover from the protests in Genoa. Contrary to claims that the anti-globalisation movement disappeared after September 11<sup>th</sup>, it has actually strengthened and deepened.

Over 150 people attended a conference organised by NGOs in Kimmage Manor where issues such as the effectiveness of street protest, alternatives and lobbying or co-operating with international institutions were discussed.

There Globalise Resistance put out the invitation to everyone to come to the G8 protests in Evian. Come to oppose Bush and his war against democracy, not by lobbying on the inside but from the outside -but with the majority on the streets-from where we can be successful.

For info about Evian contact Globalise Resistance on (086 1523542)

# Socialist Worker

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**WHEN WORKERS TAKE ACTION AGAINST WAR—PAGES 6&7**

**Middle East Peace Plan:**

**A road map to nowhere**

—page 8

**James Connolly: Fight war with revolution**

—page 10

## LIFE THREATENING DISEASE AFFECTS ONE IN THREE...

# The scandal of cancer treatment

**ONE IN three people in Ireland will get cancer.**

**One in four will die of it. Every half and hour, someone is diagnosed with cancer.**

These are the frightening figures which the Independent Mayo TD Dr. Jerry Cowley has highlighted in his campaign to get better treatment facilities.

Now a huge protest

march is scheduled for Dublin on March 29th to protest about the scandal of cancer treatment in Ireland.

### Protest

The protest is backed by unions such as SIPTU and the Irish Nurses Organisation

And in Waterford a representative meeting of shop stewards is calling a stoppage over the failure to provide a local radio thera-

py unit. 'There is a health apartheid in this country. If you have money you get access to services.

Charlie McCreavy would be better off funding our health services rather than farming out public money for private hospitals here and abroad' Dr. Jerry Cowley, told Socialist Worker.

'We want to see the extension of the Breast Check programme to the

whole country.

Only half has it at the moment even though international studies show that it cuts cancer by between 20 percent and 30 percent'.

### Funding

'The failure to extend this programme to the South and Western regions has led to 65 death every year.

'Breast cancer is the biggest killer of women but

the government is not funding the programme.

The whole country could be covered for a mere €27 million euro'.

The FF and PD government has slashed taxes on profit to support their big business backers.

But the people who pay for these tax cuts are those who have to rely on the public health services. Only a huge demonstration of people power on March 29th will bring change.

## We need a radiotherapy unit now!

THE government is also failing to provide enough radiotherapy units for those who contract cancer.

In Waterford, there is outrage over the failure to provide a radiotherapy unit. Last year, 3000 people marched when Bertie Ahern visited the city.

Not it looks like a new report on cancer treatment in Ireland will not recommend a unit for Waterford.

It is thought the justification for this is that the region does not reach the critical mass of population of 750,000, yet other areas in Europe have been provided with the unit with a population similar to the south-east region.

### Waiting List

It is estimated that 50% of the 1,000 new cancer cases in the South-East every year require radiotherapy treatment, but only 20% receive it due to the 10 week waiting list at St. Luke's Hospital in Dublin.

Patients need to be seen within 6 weeks. The 200 mile round journey puts a huge strain on those who are already gravely ill.

The Trades Council has called for a half day work stoppage and march on Wednesday April 2nd at 2.00pm. The Council is also calling for major protests in Wexford, Kilkenny, and Carlow

President of the WCTU, Dick Roche told the Socialist Worker after the meeting: 'The only way we can force the government to do what is right and humane is by mobilising thousands onto the streets.

Polite lobbying and petitioning have failed, secret meetings and negotiations behind closed doors have failed.

'The time has passed that people should accept this decision passively, we are calling on people to fight back and shame McCreavy and Martin into action through mass protests.'

## MARCH FOR BETTER CANCER TREATMENT FACILITIES

March 29th 1pm Parnell Square Dublin