

Socialist Worker

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Months after war is declared 'over'

1,000 KILLED EVERY WEEK IN IRAQ



'THEY opened fire randomly at us, very heavy fire', Adel, a mechanic said.

He was describing a scene in Khaldiya in the aftermath of an ambush on US troops when they fired at virtually anything in sight.

'They don't care about us. They don't care about the Iraqi people and we will have to suffer again. But I

tell you, they will suffer for what they do to us. They will pay the price in blood.'

Killings

Robert Fisk arrived on the scene and later wrote 'It might have been a scene from a Vietnam movie—for this is now tough, lethal guerrilla country for America, a death trap for them almost every day.'

There are now 1,000

killings a week, according to Fisk.

'Occupation powers insist that journalists obtain clearance to visit hospitals. It can take a week or two to get the right papers, if at all, so goodbye to statistics.'

But by talking to senior doctors and visiting mortuaries in the cities of Baghdad and Najaf he was able to calculate that across the country as a whole almost 1,000 Iraqi civilians are

being killed every week. 'And that may well be a conservative figure.'

Some have been killed in the disorder that accompanies the US and British occupation.

'Others', Fisk adds, 'have been gunned down by US troops at checkpoints or in the increasingly vicious 'raids' carried out by American forces.'

Fisk adds, 'Talk to the soldiers here in Baghdad and they use obscene lan-

guage-in between heartfelt demands to 'go home'-about the people they were supposedly rescuing from Saddam Hussein.'

Troops

The troops don't want to be there. The Iraqis don't want them there. The people who do are Bush, the neo-conservative warmongers and their loyal puppet, Tony Blair.

Bush's solution is to

sub-contract out the occupation to other forces under cover of the UN. He wants India and Turkey to supply troops to back up the US forces.

The Irish government has even said it welcomes these moves.

But the only real solution is to get the US and British armies out. After that the Iraqi people can decide best how to run their own affairs.

DEMONSTRATE Saturday Sept 27th Dublin: Parnell Square, 2pm; Belfast: Art College, 2pm

Fear grips US forces in Iraq

Hunting for witches

THE TOP echelons of the US army are getting frightened over events in Iraq.

The commander of the US occupation forces Lieut-Gen Sanchez, has noted that 46 of his soldiers had been wounded in one week and four killed.

He says that they are now considering pulling out of a number of cities and handing over control of Iraqi forces loyal to the occupiers.

'We are looking right now to see if there are some cities where ... the capacity is already in place and we'd be more than glad to begin to move out of there'.

Iraq war syndrome

THERE have been more than more than 100 cases of mysterious respiratory illness among US soldiers in the Middle East.

According to the Pentagon, 19 soldiers have required mechanical ventilation and two have died.

Many US soldiers believe the use of depleted uranium may have played a part in this mystery illness.

Tactic

The same tactic was employed in Vietnam – where local forces were pushed up to the front to take the brunt of anger and resistance.

Meanwhile Bush's plans to involve the UN in the occupation has run into trouble.

The French government is still angry at being cut out of the plunder and says it will not support UN involvement until a new Iraq government takes control.

The US says it will

not make such a hand-over.

So now, the fall-back tactic of the US army is now becoming visible.

Local forces are being pushed to the frontline – so that US casualties can be prevented.



■ US soldiers: Getting the jitters?

HANS BLIX, the former UN chief inspector has publicly attacked the 'spin and hype' behind US and British claims about weapons of mass destruction.

He has compared the two governments to medieval witch hunters.

'In the Middle Ages when people were convinced there were witches, they certainly found them.'

'This is a bit risky'.

Now the corporate warriors move in

PRIVATISATION does not stop at the economy – it also affects the US military machine. Iraq has become a laboratory for new corporate armies.

A company called Erinys has just won a contract to train 6,500 Iraqis to

guard oil pipelines, well-heads and refineries. The contract is worth \$39.5 million dollars.

Erinys is only one of a host of private security firms who are cashing in on the occupation.

Dyncorp has a contract

to train Iraq's new police force and Northrop has a \$48 contract to train a new Iraqi army.

Erinys is a subsidiary company of two other major players in the security business – Defence Systems Limited and

Armor Holdings.

It recently ran a security operation at the Ashanti Goldmine in Ghana. Last month, the Ghanaian NGO, Wassa Association of Communities affected by Mining (WACAM) detailed a series of human

rights abuses Erinys has been involved in.

Its security personnel are accused of torturing and beating local small-scale miners.

DSL and Armor are also accused of similar violations when they guarded multi-national controlled oil wells in Niger Delta and Angola.

DSL was also involved in training the Colombian police force in counter guerrilla tactics.

Such tactics included complicity in the murders of six members of the El Morro association who had campaigned against companies who caused damage to their local roads.

Privatising despite WB warning

THE puppet Iraqi Finance Minister announced recently a bargain basement sell-off of Iraq's public sector industries.

With the approval of US overlord Paul Bremer, everything except oil, gas and minerals will be quick-

ly sold off to foreign investors and there will be no limit to the profits that can be taken out of the country.

This was despite a World Bank warning to the US occupiers to slow down the privatisation of Iraq because of the unstable situation in the country.

'We made the case that

the Iraqi population is vulnerable and to liberalise now would expose them' a World Bank official said after a special meeting with Paul Bremer.

Privatisation will mean laying off many of the 96,000 employees of Iraq's industry ministry.

Unemployment is already estimated to be running at 50 percent in occupied Iraq.

Even the World Bank thought the fast track privatisation plan was too risky and would only add to the jobless queue – and to the anger against occupation.

Business scroungers on waste

BUSINESS in Dublin is dumping more waste than householders – but they are only supposed to pay 60 percent of the waste charge.

According to recent figures from the Dublin City area, householders produce 200,000 tons of waste while business produces 240,000 tons.

But the city council hopes to collect 16.5 million in charges from householders – but only

10 million euros from business.

Even after these cut price charges offered to

business, they can still write off much more for tax purposes than domestic consumers.

THE SALARIES OF GREED

The chairman of the New York Stock Exchange Robert Grasso got a wage package of \$148 million a year.

Grasso has been forced to resign after it was revealed that the pay package was determined by directors of firms he was supposed to be regulating.

Although quitting in disgrace he will get a severance package of \$ 8 million.

Pay-out for Garda corruption

ROISIN McConnell has received a 500,000 euro pay-out in compensation for Garda ill-treatment.

She was caught up in the Garda investigation of the McBrearty case in Donegal because her husband was a nephew of Frank McBrearty, who claims

that his family was harassed by Gardai for years.

Ms McConnell claims that the Gardai beat her, told her she would lose her infant

child, forced her to pray for forgiveness and subjected her to such psychological torture that she had to be hospitalised in a psychiatric institution.

IRISH SHARK MOVES ON IRAQ

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE businessman Denis O'Brien is trying to capitalise on the US occupation of Iraq.

He is involved in a \$150 million bid to win control of the mobile phone network. His partner is a Virginia based telecom company, Watco.

A Bahraini company who rushed in to set up a mobile phone network was told to uproot its equipment by US authorities.

companies and their allies can make bids in Iraq.

O'Brien knows all

about working the political system. He made a 200 million euro fortune when he sold shares in

his company Esat to BT. Esat held the contract for Ireland's second mobile phone network.

WHY ARE MY UNDERPANTS DIRTY?

IRELAND's new aristocracy are having trouble with their downstairs staff.

Ryanair boss, Michael O'Leary, sacked his housekeeper of many years in a brutal move soon after his marriage.

Now the Newry-based business man and former Senator Edward Haughey has had to pay out £7,339 to a housekeeper whom he abused.

Linda Heaton told an employ-

ment tribunal in Britain that she resorted to locking herself in cupboard after she received a tirade from her fat cat boss.

She was preparing a six-course dinner for Haughey and others members of his weekend shooting party when he burst in and starting quizzing her about how often she washed his underpants.

She told the tribunal that she worked a 76 hour week for this modern day Lord Muck.

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It seems only US

THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN...

Tell the union leaders to get off the fence!



THE FIGHT over bin charges in Dublin is one of the most serious battles the working class has entered in recent years.

If campaigners are defeated, Ireland will enter a new intensive wave of Thatcherism.

If the government is defeated, they will fall before the next general election.

The issue at stake goes to the heart of the arguments raised about globalisation and anti-capitalism.

This government wants to turn an essential public service, which was free, into a commodity that you pay for. Once they succeed, the waste collections service will be privatised and charges will increase to guarantee profits for multi-national companies.

Council workers have a vital interest in seeing a victory for the anti-bin charges campaign.

However, the union leaders have played a scurrilous role so far. On one hand, they say rhetorically they are against the charges – but on the other hand, they have been working to undermine resistance to non-collection from council staff.

Before the non-collection policy was first implemented in

the Rathmines depot in Dublin, top union leaders were called in to meet council officials.

Instructions

Immediately afterwards, special instructions were issued by IMPACT, one of the unions involved, telling workers to obey the 'legitimate' instruction of management not

to collect the waste of non-payers.

The SIPTU leaders have behaved in a similar fashion – also telling their members they had to implement non-collection.

The position of both unions mirrors exactly the position adopted by the Labour Party.

They say they are against unjust charges – but also say the law must be obeyed.

This way they use vague left rhetoric – but, at best, they do nothing and, at worse, they sabotage the campaign.

This game playing has to end. The union leaders must be told to get off the fence and to call protest action to demand the release of Joe Higgins and Clare Daly.

They should openly support the campaign of non-payment and link it to the fight against privatisation.

Partnership

However, this will take a battle. The price of social partnership has been deep collusion with management. Union leaders are deeply wedded to their cosy relations with managers and this government and will resist spreading the fight.

The rank and file need to take them on – and reclaim their unions for the struggle.

A good example of how this can happen occurred in the TEEU, the craft union. Here rank and file members pushed through a policy to call for industrial action in the event of the jailing of Joe Higgins.

This example can be spread to other unions. The time for fence sitting is over – solidarity and action is what is needed to break this right wing government.

MONSTER DEMONSTRATION
Free Joe Higgins TD and Cllr Clare Daly
AXE THE BIN TAX
Tuesday 30th September
Assemble Leinster
House 6.30pm
 Called by the Dublin Bin Tax Campaigns

IRAQ: THE NEW VIETNAM

THE ANTI-war movement has become the biggest global protest movement since the Vietnam war.

It has already inflicted one major casualty on US imperialism – millions of people now see them as an occupying force in Iraq – not liberators.

That occupation is being conducted in brutal way by frightened soldiers who treat all Iraqis as hostile. Two US reporters wrote about the Falluja area recently,

'In dozens of interviews during the past five days, most residents across the areas said there was no Ba'athist or Sunni conspiracy against US soldiers, there were only people ready to fight because their relatives had been hurt or killed, or they themselves had been humiliated by home searches and road stops.'

That was written on 17

June. Since then, it has escalated to full-scale guerrilla action that is inflicting daily casualties on US forces.

One other comparison with Vietnam holds – morale in the US army is falling dramatically.

The evidence for this comes from hundreds of e-mails, which US troops are sending to their relatives and to websites like the Bring Them Home.

On page 6 we take the unusual step of printing an article by a serving US soldier in Iraq which was published in a US newspaper.

Last month, Donald Rumsfeld called off a victory rally in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

The reason was not the local guerrilla – but his fear of the reaction of his own troops.

Modern capitalism literally gets away with murder because it often manages to

convince people that nothing can be done.

Unlike previous social systems, it operates with much higher levels of cynicism and even disgust from the underlying population.

But it tries to disempower masses of people by pointing to the futility of

protest.

'What's the point marching – it won't change anything' is a familiar cry.

However, the global protests of the anti-war movement are tearing a hole in that argument. The protest movement combined with the resistance in

Iraq is eating away at the legitimacy of George Bush.

Suddenly the mightiest emperor of the world looks like he may have feet of clay.

In May, a Gallup polls showed that only 13 percent of Americans thought the war was going badly. By July 4, it was 42 percent. By late

August, it was 49 percent.

The combined forces of the anti-war movement, resistance in Iraq and rebellion inside the US army can break US imperialism over Iraq.

Our job is to intensify our efforts so we deliver on our end of the coalition.

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comment

Eamonn McCann

The Provos' unfinished business?

A NUMBER of people seen as supporters of the Real IRA were visited by the PSNI last month and warned to tighten up on their personal security because they might be attacked by the Provisional IRA. The Provos, it was suggested, were angry at the RIRA for threatening people associated with the PSNI.

A confusing set of circumstances. But readers of Conor Cruise O'Brien will have been more confused. He maintains the Provos aren't doing nearly enough to put the frighteners on the "dissidents".

In his *Irish Independent* column (September 20th), O'Brien quoted Mark Durkan calling on the Provisional IRA to confirm that it had not been involved in making threats against members of local policing boards. Martin McGuinness, O'Brien pointed out, had responded by accusing the SDLP of "politicking".

This, asserted O'Brien, showed that, "The Provisional IRA must be in tacit and deniable collusion with the Real IRA"—a leap of logic which would leave an ordinary mortal dizzy but which the Cruiser carries off with casual ease. Mind you, he has the experience.

He went on: "The Provisional IRA could snuff them (the Real IRA) out of existence with no difficulty. They show no signs of doing so. The Real IRA's campaign goes on right under the noses of the Provisional IRA and the IRA does nothing at all about it..."

This comes close to denouncing the Provos for not killing members of the RIRA. A cynic might say that O'Brien is again ignoring the facts to make his political point: the Provos did "snuff out" RIRA Belfast leader JoJo O'Connor and are commonly believed in Republican circles to have killed Gareth O'Connor in south Armagh earlier this year. Whatever about that, they haven't killed enough for O'Brien's liking.

Interned

One of those warned he was under Provo threat was west Belfast Republican Brendan Shannon. He was interned at 17 and later served time for Provo activity. He's now a non-aligned "traditional" Republican.

He has fled his home after being told the Provos planned to kill him on his way to work because he'd attended gatherings in support of "dissident" prisoners.

Shannon told the writer Anthony McIntyre that he'd backed the peace process at the outset, but over time had become disillusioned: "Now it has come to the point where they are prepared to kill and disappear those who refuse to accept the lies and are upfront about their opposition..."

"Tony Blair and Hugh Orde have both said that the IRA ceasefire is intact despite Orde conceding that they killed Gareth O'Connor. It means the IRA have a licence to murder their own people but nobody else."

A man who believes his life is in imminent danger from former associates might express his anger in extravagant terms.

Suggesting that the British Government has issued the Provos with "a licence to murder" is putting it a bit strong. But Shannon's underlying point helps unravel the tangled circumstances mentioned above.

The RIRA and other "dissidents" have little public support. But they do have the capacity to disrupt the pacification plans of those who do have public support. The result is a rage against them intense enough to verge on the murderous.

Quite unexpected people can be heard wondering *sotto voce* why the Provos don't just take them out. In O'Brien's twisted mind, the reason is that the Provos are just as bad as the "dissidents". But O'Brien's message—that the Provos *should* take them out—reflects an attitude which is more widespread in the political mainstream than is commonly acknowledged.

There are some who believe that the way for the Provos to prove their constitutional credentials is to kill off their aspirant militarist successors before leaving the battlefield themselves.

As to what extent this view finds resonance within Provo ranks, we may find out soon enough. There is nothing in Provisional politics to prevent it, and no shortage of precedent.

Socialists and the Assembly elections

WILL THEY or won't they? And if they do, what will the date be?

No, it's not speculation about J-Lo and Ben, but about the North's long-overdue elections.

Speculation about these questions is getting as boring as a bad soap opera storyline.

The latest whisper is that the IRA are ready now to say what we've all known for years - that "the war is over".

This is what David Trimble's Ulster Unionists said they needed to hear if they were to re-enter government. But will they?

Gerry Adams thinks they will, following talks held recently between Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists. But no-one is holding their breath - we've been here before and it went nowhere.

The Ulster Unionists are still deeply divided and the odds on Trimble holding his nerve aren't great.

Meanwhile, intensive lobbying of American congressmen by Sinn Féin, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish American Unity Conference has resulted in several calls from the US for a restoration of the Northern electoral process.

It seems that all sides in the North take more notice of what US businessmen have to say than anything said at home.

On the home front also though, the businessmen have been lobbying the political parties to hurry the return to devolution. The two big issues they're worried about are US investment and industrial de-rating.

The issue of industrial



■ Can socialists pose an alternative to these at the Assembly elections?

de-rating is being raised, at every opportunity, by every establishment politician - SF, SDLP, UUP, DUP - these days.

They are concerned that reintroducing rates on industrial premises will drive some businesses to shut up shop.

Proposal

The proposal to make businesses pay rates is part of a wider scheme which will see everyone's domestic rates double or even treble over the next ten years.

Yet, has anyone heard any of the politicians complaining about this? The proposals for industry might drive some out of business, but the extra cost of rates to families living in poverty could

drive some to starvation.

Nor will you hear politicians saying that the Assembly needs to get going again in order to stop the Direct Rule Ministers from introducing water charges.

Elections need to be called soon. They are long overdue and Blair's continued refusal to call them

tells us a lot about his idea of democracy.

Priorities

But it is clear that the priorities of the establishment parties continue to be as they were in the last Assembly - to promote the interests of the business community, not the

working class communities that vote for some of them.

That is why the issue of a socialist electoral alliance is absolutely crucial.

Working people, both Protestant and Catholic, need an anti-sectarian alternative that is openly socialist, defends public services, opposes war and privatisation and supports the right to sexual freedom for all.

Anyone who wants to be part of building such an electoral alliance should get along to Belfast Unemployed Centre, Donegall St. on Wed. 1st Oct at 8pm where the Communist Party, the Workers Party and the SWP will join together in calling for socialist unity in the coming elections - whenever they are called.

Towards a socialist electoral alliance

Belfast Unemployed Centre,
Donegall St. on Wed. 1st Oct
8pm

Participating: Communist Party, the Workers Party and the SWP will join together in calling for socialist unity in the coming elections

It's flexible poverty

YET MORE evidence is emerging about the dreadful poverty levels in the North.

While the New Labour government has said the eradication of child poverty is at the centre of its policy agenda, new research suggests that its policies just aren't working here.

Official figures say that there is only 5 percent unemployment across the North, with the highest levels in Derry and Strabane where the figures are closer to 11

percent.

This is nonsense of course, as a visit to any job centre will tell you. A recent recruitment campaign in Derry City by Debenhams' department store drew 6,000 applicants for some 200 jobs.

In fact, when the numbers on government training and work schemes, those underemployed and those not registered as unemployed but looking for work are taken into account, unemployment rates are high.

For example, the Centre for Economic and

Social Inclusion suggests that real unemployment in the Foyle constituency is closer to 24 percent.

There is a huge pressure on anyone claiming benefits to 'sign off' and either take a McJob or go on the New Deal or another government scheme.

But McJobs are usually temporary, as well as low paid and government schemes only last six months.

And new research from Save the Children has found that all this going from benefits to low pay and back again

means that children fall into severe poverty.

It's clear why: everyone has to work at least a week 'in hand', often workers have to go a fortnight or a month without pay or benefits.

Then, when someone signs on again, they can be waiting for weeks for their benefits to come through.

Figures from the Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Industry (NI) show what anyone on the ground knows: there is considerable 'recycling' of claimants in and out of

work in the North.

So, in 1999, 33% of unemployed claimants who had left the live register had experienced a further spell of unemployment within six months.

A further 11% returned to benefits after 6-12 months

Parents, including lone parents, are being encouraged to enter the 'flexible labour market', yet the benefits system is far from flexible and instead of cushioning families it forces them into ever deeper poverty and debt.

'This is victory' says Cancun protestors

WTO's bitter divisions

PROTESTERS celebrated the collapse of World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Cancun, Mexico, as a defeat for the global corporations and the world's most powerful governments. Some however have argued that the Cancun collapse was a "blow to the world economy" and a "set-back for the world's poor".

Those actually representing social movements from the world's poorer countries, and who had played the key role in organising the protests in Cancun, held a very different view.

by **PAUL
MCGARR**

Walden Bello of Focus on the Global South is a leading figure in the worldwide movement against corporate globalisation. He declared that the collapse was "a victory for the people of the developing world".

Anuradha Mittal of the Food First campaign organisation said, "This victory is for the working poor, family farmers, farm workers, the indigenous, the poor and for immigrants all over the world."

Representatives of the world's governments met behind police lines and wire fences in the luxury holiday complex of Cancun.

Outside thousands of protesters held debates and forums, and twice over 10,000 people marched to the security perimeter and tore down the steel fencing.

Barred

The size of the protests was impressive.

The Mexican government (run by a former Coca-Cola executive) had barred entry to the country to many activists.

The Social Movements Network, the umbrella group for those who organised the protests, issued a common statement from Cancun titled "Down with the WTO and Permanent Wars". The protests, it said, were against "a WTO that

together with the transnational corporations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is a weapon of mass destruction of the lives of the people".

It stated the protests were against "a WTO that puts profit over people and their needs and that puts social justice under the laws of the market, that privatises (steals) natural resources and privatises public services".

But the statement concluded, "Our struggle does not end today and does not end in Cancun. It is permanent."

"We need to keep on



■ Protestors in Cancun burn the US flag

fighting against the neo-liberal policies, the governments which implement them, the international

financial institutions and the transnational corporations."

Making the link between the fight against corporate

globalisation and imperialist war, the statement ended by declaring: "We are not commodities."

"We are not for sale. Another world is possible. Down with the WTO. End the wars."

'The death of Lee Kyung Hae is a cry of the excluded'

DURING the protests Lee Kyung Hae, a 56 year old Korean farmer, stabbed himself to death in protest at the impact of the "free" trade policies pushed by the WTO.

Anuradha Mittal of Food First reported, "About 14,000 farmers and indigenous peoples, with the delegation of South Korean farmers carrying a coffin, marched.

They were stopped at the police barricades.

While the sign boards welcomed visitors to the resort city of Cancun, barriers and a massive security deployment kept them more than six miles away from the convention centre, where ministers from the 146-member WTO started the ministerial to further their free trade agenda.

The Korean farmers rammed the coffin into the steel barricade. Chanting 'Death to the WTO!' the farmers broke down and

topped part of the barricades.

Then the Korean farmers burnt the American flag, the sign of imperialism, and a symbol of the coloniser of the poor, the indigenous, the starving and homeless the world over.

Banner

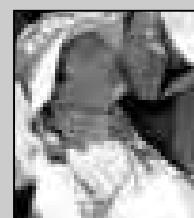
Lee Kyung Hae climbed up with his banner and stabbed himself, protesting the free trade agreements which have

enslaved our food producers."

Lee, 56, had said, "Human beings are in an endangered situation" because of the activities of "uncontrolled multinational corporations and a small number of big WTO members".

The Social Movements Network, which organised the Cancun protests, issued a declaration: "The death of Lee is a cry of the excluded."

Afterwards thousands



■ Lee Kyung Hae lies dying

more-farmers, students, trade unionists and others then marched on the Can-

THE demonstrations outside fuelled bitter divisions inside the World Trade Organisation, in a repeat of the Seattle WTO meeting.

There were rows over agriculture between the US, European Union and the G22-a group of food-exporting countries led by Brazil, China and South Africa.

Demand

Another major row centred on a demand by the US and European Union, acting on behalf of the global corporations, for a new agreement in investment.

The proposed agreement was essentially a reshuffle of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) defeated by a worldwide campaign several years ago.

Like the MAI, the deal being pushed at Cancun was aimed at giving multinationals a free hand and banning government restrictions on their activities.

cun summit chanting "We are all Lee Kyung Hae!" Peter Rosset of Food First reported, "Saturday was the most incredible day of protest."

He described how "thousands of people of all nations and cultures" joined the protest.

When they reached the steel barriers around the summit, "quite literally the power of the people united pulled down the walls of the WTO".

Build for the European Social Forum

THE NEXT big anti-capitalist event is the European Social Forum.

The second European Social Forum takes place in Paris, Saint Denis, Bobigny, Ivry from 12 to 15 November.

The themes of the forum are: Stop War, Against Corporate Power, People Not Profit, No to Privatisation, No Racism - No Fortress Europe

The European Social Forum is a space for people from all over Europe to come together to dis-

cuss how to build another world, and to organise opposition to corporate globalisation and war.

After the spectacular success of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, 60 000 activists, trade unionists, peace campaigners and ordinary people gathered in Florence last year for the first European Social Forum (ESF).

The date for co-ordinated action against war on February 15 came directly out of this event.

This year the ESF takes place in Paris. In

the aftermath of the fantastic global anti-war campaign, the continued success of the global justice movement and the mounting problems faced by politicians such as Blair, Bush and Berlusconi, the ESF promises to be a crucial event.

Organising

Groups are being organised across the country to get people to Paris. Globalise Resistance is organising accommodation for hundreds of Irish delegates who are expected to go.

There will be forums, debates and meetings, cultural events and plenty more besides.

Rory Hearne from the Irish Mobilising Committee said, "We want to bring the experience of struggle like the anti-bin charges campaign to Europe - and we want to learn about how we co-ordinate opposition to neo-liberalism."

'Over the next few weeks information meetings on the ESF are being organised. Watch out for posters in your local area.'

Yale: US unions hit organising trail

THE PRESIDENT of America's leading union, AFL-CIO, John Sweeney and five other union leaders were arrested during a major dispute in Yale.

More than one hundred rank and file members were also arrested. Sweeney was led away in plastic handcuffs.

Ten thousand people had gathered to demonstrate in support of strikers at America's elite university. They marched through the town and had begun to stage a mass lock-down at the entrance to the college.

At this point the police waded in and made arrests. Seven buses took the arrestees away to a police gymnasium.

Yale clerical, technical

and maintenance workers walked off their jobs on 27 August and 4,000 union members are now on the picket line. They want proper pensions and union recognition.

American unions have embarked on a major organising drive - and one of their target has been the elite institution of Yale.

Trustees

Yale is run by trustees and the union is now targeting them. One union activist said, 'Yale trustees: You cannot run. You cannot hide. Wherever you are in the next month we will be with you. Every hour, every day until we win.'

Thirteen Hispanic

workers hired by the university after the strike began, joined the picket line and appeared on the platform of the march. The college has said it will sack them because they are 'undocumented'.

'While denying Latino workers good union jobs and benefits, Yale has been quick to use them as strike-breakers.'

'Employers like Yale are happy to exploit them (illegals) and quick to hide behind the law when they are caught red-handed,' one union leader said.

But solidarity is returning to the US labour scene - often inspired by the growing anti-capitalist movement.

US soldiers say: Get me home!

Tim Predmore is a US soldier on active duty with the 101st Airborne Division, based near Mosul in northern Iraq. A version of this article appeared in the Peoria Journal Star, Illinois

FOR THE past six months, I have been participating in what I believe to be the great modern lie: Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After the horrific events of September 11 2001, and throughout the battle in Afghanistan, the groundwork was being laid for the invasion of Iraq.

"Shock and awe" were the words used to describe the display of power that the world was going to view upon the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was to be an up-close, dramatic display of military strength and advanced technology from within the arsenals of the American and British military.

Demande

But as a soldier preparing to take part in the invasion of Iraq, the words "shock and awe" rang deep within my psyche.

Even as we prepared to depart, it seemed that these two great superpowers were about to break the very rules that they demanded others obey.

Without the consent of the United Nations, and ignoring the pleas of their own citizens, the US and Britain invaded Iraq.

"Shock and awe"? Yes, the words correctly described the emotional impact I felt as we embarked on an act of injustice, but of hypocrisy.

From the moment the first shot was fired in this so-called war of liberation and freedom, hypocrisy reigned.

After the broadcasting of recorded images of captured and dead US soldiers on Arab television, American and British leaders vowed revenge while verbally assailing the networks for displaying such vivid images.

Yet within hours of the deaths of Saddam Hussein's sons, the US government released horrific photographs of the two dead brothers for the entire world to view.

Again, a "do as we say and not as we do" scenario. Thankfully, I have not personally been a witness to

atrocities - unless, of course, you consider, as I do, that this war in Iraq is the ultimate atrocity.

So what is our purpose here? Was this invasion because of weapons of mass destruction, as we have so often heard? If so, where are they?

Did we invade to dispose of a leader and his regime because they were closely associated with Osama bin Laden? If so, where is the proof?

Or is it that our incursion is about our own economic advantage?

Iraq's oil can be refined at the lowest cost of any in the world.

This looks like a modern-day crusade not to free an oppressed people or to rid the world of a demonic dictator relentless in his pursuit of conquest and domination, but a crusade to control another nation's natural resource.

Oil - at least to me - seems to be the reason for our presence.

There is only one truth, and it is that Americans are dying. There are an estimated 10 to 14 attacks every day on our servicemen and women in Iraq.

As the body count continues to grow, it would appear that there is no immediate end in sight.

Believed

I once believed that I was serving for a cause - "to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States".

Now I no longer believe. That; I have lost my conviction, as well as my determination.

I can no longer justify my service on the basis of what Iraq is to be half-truths and bold lies.

My time here is almost done, as well as that of many others with whom I have served.

We have all faced death in Iraq, for the same reason and without justification.

How many more must die? How many more tears must be shed before Americans awake and demand the return of the men and women whose job it is to protect them, rather than their leader's interest?

THOUSANDS ORGANISE AGAINST THE BIN TAX

In working class communities across greater Dublin thousands of local residents have organised to defy the bin tax and the jailing of activists.

But a media blackout has been imposed on these protests.

RTE is now like Radio Pravda—a state run broadcasting service that spews out propaganda against protesters and does not cover the big marches or meetings.

Socialist Worker spoke to anti-bin tax campaigners and here is a run down of some of the action that has taken place.



Part of the huge demonstration in Swords, following the jailing of Joe Higgins and Clare Daly

"PEOPLE HERE ARE ANGRY... WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!"

Fingal in North Dublin has seen more than a week of blockades of bin trucks following the imposition of non collection of those who hadn't paid the charge.

In the communities of Blanchardstown, Santry, Mulhuddart, Swords and surrounding areas bin trucks were blockaded and impounded by demonstrators for days on end.

On the day following the court committal of Joe Higgins and Clare Daly, 500 people demonstrated in Blanchardstown, more than 220 in Swords.

On the same day in a hastily organised protest over 100 demonstrators confronted Bertie Aherm as he attended a Robert Emmet concert in the Liberties area of Dublin.

Within a couple of hours of the jailing of Joe Higgins and Clare Daly, activists from the North city organised a protest of 100 angry campaigners outside the Moonjuy Jail.

The previous week following a huge protest meeting in Ballyfermot, up to 700 people demonstrated.

Pancho Mooney told Socialist Worker, 'We marched from the civic centre to Ballyfermot church. Then we held a 15 minute protest on the roundabout.'

Peadar O'Grady added, 'The mood on the demonstration was that we are not going to be bound by this unjust legislation.'

Local people have been scratching serial numbers and other identification marks off their bins to frustrate any attempt at non-collection.'

Pancho summed up the mood, 'We have a strong campaign in Ballyfermot that has been going for

some time with 2,000 members.

'People here are angry. Working class people have been paying for everything before the Celtic Tiger grew; they continued paying during the Celtic Tiger and they are still paying after the Celtic Tiger left our shores. We've had enough!'

Shay Ryan, the co-ordinator of the Pearse St/Ringsend campaign group commented, 'At a public meeting it was agreed that we would approach the bin workers in their trucks when they came into the area. They had instructions not to collect from non-payers.'

'On the first day of collection, Tuesday, 50 locals gathered when the bin truck came into our streets. We approached the bin workers and they agreed to collect everyone's bins regardless.'

'The bin men were very supportive and addressed the crowd to announce that they would be lifting every bin. They were really sound. We repeated the operation on Friday with about 80 locals and got the same result.'

'We are now organising a mass meeting for locals to report back and decide how we go forward.'

Tom from Stoneybatter reported that nearly 100 people turned up for a local meeting and agreed to mount a successful protest and soli-

darity blockade of a bin truck in their area the next day.

The blockade tactic is a method of insisting that 'One Bin—All Bins' be collected.

In areas where all bins are being collected, or where the workers agree to collect all bins when approached by protesters, the blockades have been lifted after a short while to maintain good relations with the bin workers.'

Some activists have found that court orders and the police action can make more than token blockades inappropriate. But they have

found a way around this.

In Kimmage local activists have hit on a tactic to gain the support of bin workers. Liam explained, 'The bin workers were under instructions to leave unpaid bins behind in the area.'

'A number of us went round with the bin workers along Larkfield Park and Kimmage Road. The workers agreed that while we were there they would collect every bin. They are able to say that if we are there, they feel bound to empty every bin for health and safety reasons.'

ACRA rows in

THE Association of Combined Residents Association (ACRA) has expressed its support for the anti-bin tax campaign.

Tom Murphy of ACRA told Socialist Worker, 'We say: Don't pay and Go to Court.'

'We regard the bin charges as a tax on the family home. FAYE workers pay more than their fair share.'

Joe Higgins and Clare Daly, Tom said, 'We believe it is despicable that compliant tax payers should be jailed while those who believe they have a god-given right not to pay any taxes are allowed to walk free.'

Tom and others were out collecting signatures for a petition in North Dublin. He remarked, 'I've never seen so much anger in all my life. We didn't have to ask people to sign the petition - they were demanding to sign!'

Unions must take a lead

DISGRACEFULLY, both SIPTU and IMPACT have instructed their members to co-operate with non-collection. But the mood among Council workers is in stark contrast.

A week ago campaigners from Ballymun, Finglas and other areas of North Dublin lobbied bin workers at Collins Avenue Depot as they began work.

'We got a great response,' reported one of the campaigners. 'So far workers in that depot have had no instructions to leave bins behind. Most of the workers told us they too were refusing to pay the bin charges. They felt they should be getting clearer instructions from their own unions.'

'One bin man summed it up: 'The unions have a crap position - they should be saying that we collect all bins, but without their backing many of the lads feel very exposed.'

After a token blockade, the workers in the bin trucks waved and hooted in support at the protesters.

'We have been down a few times with campaign leaflets and the bin men are always friendly and express support.'

The unions have left a loop-hole open which should be exploited. If confronted by local residents demanding their bins be collected, the men are entitled to lift the bins if they feel it is a health and safety issue.'

But developments in the TEUL—which represents different groups of craft workers—show how things can change. Rank and file members recently voted to take strike action if anyone was jailed over the issue of bin taxes.

They had to overturn fierce opposition from union officials. They are set to meet this week to discuss their next move following the jailing of Higgins and Daly.

Campaign activists have now called for the convening of a meeting of all anti-bin tax supporters who are members of IMPACT and SIPTU to fight for a supportive policy from those unions.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

THE CAMPAIGN has touched a nerve among thousands of working class people. The possibility of victory over the government and its agents in the Dublin councils is very great.

The vicious response of the councils and the courts has upped the stakes. Anti-bin tax campaigners need to respond.

★ Press other elected representatives to join the campaign of defiance

The attempt to intimidate the campaign by jailing two prominent leaders must not be allowed to succeed. Elected local and national representatives and other prominent campaigners need be pressed to join in the defiance of the court orders.

Sinn Fein TDs and councillors as well as a number of Labour Party public representatives and Independents have expressed opposition to bin taxes. They now must now show which side they are on. Their opposition will only be credible if they too join the blockades in Fingal and defy the injunctions.

★ Regular Mass Meetings to decide on tactics

The press and TV have tried to red bait the campaign by alleging that it consists only of left wing political activists and 'rent-a-crowd'. This is a lie.

As our reports show, thousands of people have become involved in the campaign's activities. The court action is a deliberate attempt to scare away people and try to whittle the campaign down to a hard-core of activists. We must deepen the involvement of large numbers of local people in the continuing work of the campaign.

In all areas where the campaign is organised there should be regular mass meetings of residents to openly and democratically decide tactics and organise activity. Votes should be taken and officers elected. In areas where the campaign is weak mass public meetings should now be organised.

★ Maintain the support and sympathy of bin workers — an absolute necessity

Nothing should be done which could be seen as antagonistic or would alienate that support.

Where the bins of non-payers are not being collected, campaigners should organise to meet the bin workers and argue that they respect pickets in estates and collect all bins there. It is counter productive to hold bin trucks in anything more than token blockades where workers agree to collect all bins.

★ We need a huge all Dublin protest march on the Dail after it resumes on September 29

This shows the huge support for the campaign and to give encouragement to people throughout the city.

DEBATES IN THE MOVEMENT

What's Lenin got to do with our struggle now?

 *There is much we can learn from the Russian revolutionary Lenin, argues Panos Garganas, editor of Socialist Worker's sister paper in Greece.*

STRATEGIES AND tactics sometimes seem like dirty words to young activists getting involved in the movement today.

They see tactics as something used to fool people.

People say, why can't we just confront our enemies head on?

But the new movement, born at Seattle in 1999, has already had to face tactical questions.

For example, what did the movement do after police shot anti-capitalist protesters in Sweden or after 11 September?

We cannot avoid the question of strategy and tactics.

One of the best sources to throw light on these discussions is someone who was a leading player in one of the greatest movements ever seen, Lenin.

Lenin was a leading figure in the movement at the beginning of the 20th century, which aimed at overthrowing capitalism, not just in Russia but across the whole world.

What does Lenin have to say about strategy and tactics?

During the height of the Russian Revolution in the summer of 1917 Lenin took time off to write a pamphlet, *State and Revolution*.

It is a statement on the strategy of the movement and how we can confront and change capitalism.

He addresses those who argued that capitalism can be changed in a piecemeal way. Lenin says we have to confront capitalism at a political, not just an economic, level.

THE CENTRAL idea of *State and Revolution* is that a movement aimed at overthrowing capitalism must remove the state from the hands of the ruling class, dismantle it completely and replace it with a workers' state.

This strategy has been contested many times. People ask why we have



■ Lenin and Trotsky among revolutionary workers and soldiers in 1917

to have a political movement orientated to workers' power.

Lenin argues that whenever the movement begins to force change in the system it also begins to come into confrontation with the forces of the state.

The state will use the police, and if the police fail it will use the army, and it will use the media to create hysteria against the movement.

Even if any group successfully took control of one factory or town, they would then have to deal with the ruling class using the state to intervene against them.

Lenin argues for the movement to be turned into a political movement that confronts and disarms the state and establishes a workers' state.

This will then create the possibility for all other changes to go forward.

If the strategy of the movement is to concentrate forces on confronting and overthrowing the state and establishing a workers' state, that gives an orientation to the kind of tactics used.

LENIN WAS a theorist of the strategy of the movement in *State and Revolution*. He was also a tactician of the movement.

He tried to sum up his tactical ideas that flowed from his strategy in another little book, *Left Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder*.

He wrote this book a few years after *State and Revolution*, when the Russian Revolution was followed by a whole wave of revolutions across Europe.

Lenin tried to sum up the Russian experience to help revolutionaries, who were dealing with the problems of leading movements in their countries.

He said there were two traditions on tactics in the movement at the beginning of the 20th century. One was the French tradition, the tradition of the barricades.

This flowed from the class struggle in France that had peaked on many occasions, such as in the 1871 Paris Commune.

The other major tradition was the German tradition. In Germany there had

not been the kind of upheavals that had characterised French society during the 19th and early 20th century.

In Germany the tradition of building the movement was through the ballot box and using elections.

There was also a tradition of creating a network of working class newspapers, which opened up the possibility of a huge working class movement in Germany.

Lenin goes beyond the idea of counter-posing the two tactics, the barricades and the ballot box.

He argued the Russian experience was one of using, at different times, both the French tactic and the German tactic.

In 1905, during the first Russian Revolution, the Russian revolutionaries had to confront the question of how you organise not just strikes, but mass demonstrations, barricades and uprisings.

After the defeat of the 1905 revolution they had to go back to using votes for the restricted parliament, the Tsarist Duma, and building networks through

the distribution of the revolutionary newspaper.

LENIN ARGUES that revolutionaries who want to advance the movement have to be flexible in their tactics.

This is very important because even at the peak of the Russian Revolution, revolutionaries had to make rapid changes and turns in just a few months.

For example, in April 1917 Lenin argued for a break with the reformist idea of establishing a provisional government.

This was during the first wave of the revolution when Tsarism collapsed.

Workers established dual power, whereby there were workers' councils on the one hand and a provisional government using the existing state institutions on the other.

In the middle of the revolution Lenin argued for meetings and conferences for revolutionaries to clarify their ideas.

He wanted to concentrate on new forms of democracy being thrown up by the rank and file.

That meant winning workers to the idea of all power to the soviets. But the second phase of the revolution threw up another contradiction. In August 1917 there was an attempt by the generals to carry out a Tsarist coup. They threatened the revolution with a bloodbath.

Lenin argued for a united front with reformists against the generals, and revolutionaries and reformists worked together to block the military coup.

This was a tactic to build unity against the threat of dictatorship.

And it was central to winning a majority of Russian workers to the idea of revolution and workers' power.

This unity against the coup opened the way for the victory of the revolution in October 1917.

Lenin's legacy outlines the broad ideas of workers' revolution and workers' democracy and, within this broad strategy, the flexible twists and turns needed at different moments.

We are not in the middle of a revolution today. But we are in a revolution movement.

In February we organised millions on demonstrations.

Compared to that, simpler tasks like building networks around a paper like *Socialist Worker* may seem humble. But we have to know how to combine tactics.

New mass demonstrations will come in September, but at the same time we have to organise the people who have come together in the movement to discuss and debate with us.

From the anti-war movement, we know we are good activists. But we should also spend time reading Lenin.

**Lenin:
In his
own
words**

'Everyone can learn to govern'

"WE DEMAND an immediate break with the prejudiced view that only the rich, or officials chosen from rich families, are capable of administering the state, of performing the ordinary, everyday work of administration.

"We demand that training in the work of state administration be conducted by class-conscious workers and soldiers and that this training be begun

at once, ie, that a beginning be made at once in training all the working people, all the poor, for this work."

• From *Can the Bolsheviks Retain State Power?*

"UNDER SOCIALISM, all will take part in the work of government in turn and will soon become accustomed to no one governing..."

"Socialism will raise the masses to a new life, will create conditions for the majority of the population that will enable everybody,

without exception to perform 'state functions' and this will lead to the complete withering away of the state in general."

• From *State and Revolution*

Imperialist war to the class war

"THE WAR has undoubtedly created a most acute crisis and has increased the distress of the masses to an incredible degree.

"The reactionary character of this war, and the

shameless lies told by the bourgeoisie of all countries in covering up their predatory aims with 'national' ideology, are inevitably creating, on the basis of an objectively revolutionary situation, revolutionary moods among the masses.

"It is our duty to help the masses to become conscious of these moods, to deepen and formulate them. "This task is correctly expressed only by the slogan: convert the imperialist war into civil war."

• From *Socialism and War*

Work in all areas for socialism

"WE DO not and cannot know which spark-of the innumerable sparks that are flying around in all countries as a result of the economic and political world crisis-will kindle the conflagration, and we must set to work to 'stir' up all and sundry, even the oldest, mustiest and seemingly hopeless spheres."

• From *Left Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder*

book

A refreshing new history dispels myths about revolution and celebrates the role of the masses

Celebration of revolution

by JOSEPHINE DYER

VIVE LA Revolution by Mark Steel is a lively and witty history of the French Revolution. It is an accessible history which reclaims the 1789 revolution from the widely held idea that it was a period of terror, murder and mayhem.

Steel celebrates the revolution as a time when masses of disenfranchised people played a part in radically changing the society in which they lived.

Ordinary people challenged the old regime, where the aristocracy enjoyed absurd powers and wealth while the masses toiled in miserable servitude. He shows that in the process of changing society people transformed their lives. It is refreshing to learn about action taken by diverse groups of people, such as the contingent of hungry women marching on the king's palace in Versailles. They raided the town hall for weapons and set off on a 15-mile march from Paris in a crowd which grew to 10,000 strong.

Steel is at his best when he relates events in the revolution to his own experiences as an activist. He compares, for example, the crowds waiting around the Bastille prison to a modern-day mass picket.

"A few people will have had to go home to pick up their kids, someone will have had to leave for a dentist's appointment, and someone will have grumbled, 'This is the last time I come on one of these things. I told you nothing would happen,' and stomped off home."

Activists

Such comparisons will draw a smile of recognition from other activists, and bring them closer to their French Revolution counterparts. Steel's humour also works powerfully against accounts, both academic and popular, which try to discredit the French Revolution.

In an episode of Blue Peter, for example, "We were told how 'outside agitators' spread untrue stories about the queen's greedy habits. And we were shown a silhouette of a cloaked man on a horse throwing leaflets into a cobbled street. This, apparently, led to a revolution, depicted as a shadowy crowd with pikes." The right wing "historian" Simon Schama has tried to dismiss the revolution's importance and the breadth of its support.

Schama claims that French peasants formed village militia in 1789 not because they feared the king's retribution, but because of a "concentrated form of general anxieties about vagrants".

Steel is suitably scornful: "It's just a coincidence that at that time hardened rural French folk, who had just spent months burning tax offices and fighting local militias, went all weedy and became frightened of the local beggars. In every village. By coincidence."

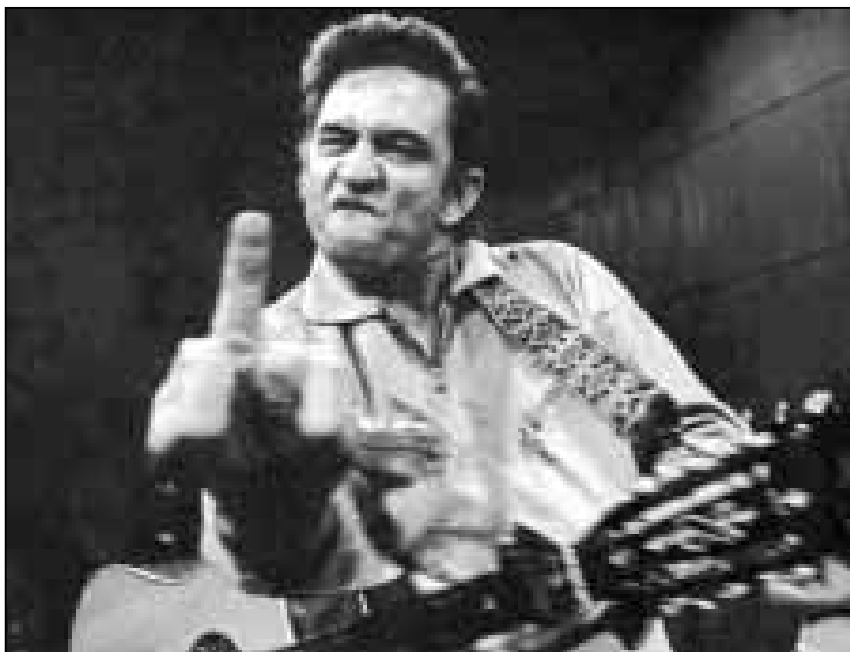
As you would expect from a stand-up comedian, the book is peppered with jokes throughout. This is an inspiring and important book. It takes on the myths and distortions about the revolution. And it encourages us to question the accounts of history we are offered by an establishment which does not want us to celebrate working class struggles or dream of a better world.

■ **Vive La Revolution** by Mark Steel is available for £10.99 from Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop, 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE. For more information go to <http://www.bookmarks.uk.com/>

obituary

JOHNNY CASH:

The Country rebel



■ Cash spoke out against the Vietnam War, racism and injustice and his songs reflected his values.

THE king of country, Johnny Cash, is dead. If you think you don't like country music, listen to Johnny Cash.

The album 'Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison' is a classic full stop and easily one of the greatest country records ever made.

It is also unlike any other record you have heard because of the audience, prisoners at Folsom Prison.

The track 'Folsom Prison Blues' has the line 'I shot a man in Reno just

to watch him die' and the inmates cheer.

And we cheer too because Cash is just brilliant. Brilliant music, brilliant words, brilliant voice.

His songs are about coal miners, share-croppers, railroad men, blue-collar workers, Native Americans, and prisoners and their pain and anger but also hope.

He was born in 1932 the son of a poor Arkansas share-cropper at the height of the Great Depression.

He worked in a car-body factory in Pontiac, Michigan but then signed up for the US Air Force.

While posted to Germany he taught himself the guitar, played in a band and wrote Folsom Prison Blues.

Legends

Back in the US in 1955 he persuaded Sam Phillips, who ran the Sun Studios, the label of legends like Elvis, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis, to give him and his band an audition.

Phillips took them on and after the success of 'Doggone Lonesome' the following year, Cash gave up his day job.

He had more than 150 hit records, more than any other artist in the history of popular music.

He sold 50 million records. He wrote classics like 'I walk the line', 'Big River', 'Home of the Blues', 'Guess things happen that way.'

He was the only person to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Country Music Hall of Fame and Songwriters Hall of Fame, but he never compromised.

He spoke out against the Vietnam War, racism and injustice and his songs reflected his values.

He recorded several protest songs, including 'The Ballad of Ira Hayes' about an American Indian who was one of the marines who raised the American flag at Iwo Jima but who experienced discrimination after the war and descended into alcoholism.

He was a man of extremes. He was a born again Christian but he had also been arrested seven times, imprisoned for having speed in his guitar case, and his drug addiction got him into other trouble like driving a tractor into a lake and starting a forest fire that cost him a \$85,000 fine.

Trademark

In the late 60s he had his own TV show where he introduced his audience to performers like The Who, Mahalia Jackson (and if you've never heard her voice, go and buy a CD now), Neil Young, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles and Bob Dylan.

His trademark was his black clothes and in 1971 he recorded the Man in Black album where he explained his attire

'I wear the black for the poor and beaten down,

living in the hopeless, hungry side of town

I wear it for the prisoner who has long paid for his crime.....'

His wife, the country singer June Carter Cash, died in May this year. If you want to hear Cash at his exuberant, exhilarating best listen to their duet 'Jackson'.

music

Killing joke from 1980s

by CONOR KOSTICK

A LOT of terrible bands from the 1980's have reformed to cash in on an inexplicable interest in the music of the worst decade for music.

But from out of the blue a genuinely interesting 80's band has reappeared: Killing Joke.

The original Killing Joke started on the unemployment line.

While queuing at a London dole office in late '78 early '79, that singer/key-

boardist Jaz Coleman ran into a friend and started discussing his musical aspirations.

Upon hearing Coleman speak, the friend said, "I have someone you should meet," and later brought him to a London flat, where drummer Paul Ferguson was waiting.

Destined

According to Coleman, without speaking, the two realized they were destined to play music together, music that Ferguson would later describe as the "sound of the earth vomiting."

The band represented a link between punk and Nirvana, but they kept a polit-

ical edge from their punk inheritance that many of the more recent grunge bands have lost.

Supporters of the Anti-Nazi League, their artwork often featured controversial images, and after one of their concert posters pictured the Pope blessing legions of Nazis, the group was banned from performing a concert in Glasgow.

They disappeared after lead singer Jaz had a nervous breakdown and began to believe his apocalyptic and mystical warnings of the imminence of a nuclear holocaust.

He emigrated to Iceland to wait out the end of the world.

However he has recov-

ered some hope in the continuation of the planet and the band is back.

Radical

Their new album, "Killing Joke" is supported by the addition of Dave Grohl (ex Nirvana) on drums, and retains their radical political edge, as Jaz puts it: "the vast majority of the album is pretty strong against our Government, and the way our value system works."

Several of the songs are fierce indictments of a corrupt America and Bush's new imperialism, such as 'Total Invasion with its line "We want your oil, we want your land."

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People power wins success against Galway Corporation

THERE WAS a lively protest, numbering about 400, outside City Hall in Galway on Monday 8 September

Protestors were fighting against Galway Corporation's proposed draconian bye-laws.

These would have put restrictions on activities such as public assembly, busking, sports, filming, and which would ban leafleting except in times of election or referendum.

Possible

This demonstration, which was organised by the Defend Free Speech, Assembly and Activity campaign, was the biggest demonstration outside City Hall in years.

This was possible thanks to the united front against the laws by Galway's left wing groups.

Because of this public pressure the Parks

There was also some very disturbing talk about limiting people's freedom.

and Open Spaces Bye-Laws (which would have restricted public assembly and activities) were not voted in that night.

Agenda

Instead the proposals were sent back to committee to be reconsidered.



■ **Protestors in Galway**

The bye-law which would restrict leafleting was not on the agenda and will be discussed in the coming weeks.

The campaign will have to keep an eye on what is going on in the corporation and keep the pressure up.

During the council meeting it became clear

just how ignorant and incompetent some of the councillors were.

Accused

They mistakenly accused the campaign of making things up!

There was also some very disturbing talk about

limiting people's freedom.

Councillor Lupton (FG) stated 'we control the city' and the City Manager claimed that it was their job to work out how much freedom to give people.

It is also interesting to see that there have been some divisions amongst

the right on this issue, in stark contrast to the united left.

This is partly a reaction to public pressure and fear of the left coming together.

For example one local editor accused the council of stirring up a hornet's nest.

Inside the council, in spite of the fact that some of the right-wing councillors had previously accepted the draft proposals of the laws, they complained about parts of it and wanted them changed.

The chair of the committee, Fine Gael TD John Mulholland, even accused city officials of making changes to the laws after the committee meeting!

In spite of this though, none of the right wing parties voted for the Labour motion to scrap the laws.

As there are only two (Labour) councillors inside the council explic-

itly against the laws, this is a fight which is very much taking place outside City Hall.

Defeat

People power is the only thing which will defeat them.

The campaign against the bye-laws is continuing on the streets with petition-signing stalls.

In addition on Thursday 25 Sept at 6:30pm there will be a Busk against the Bye-laws on the streets of Galway, attended by local group The Stunning.

The campaign will also have a speaker at a European Social Forum meeting which will be discussing the crisis in capitalism, on Thursday 2 October, in the Atlanta Hotel, Galway at 8pm.

WHERE WE STAND

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.

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.

Marxist Forums

Big ideas discussed in informal settings

Ballyfermot:

The World Trade Organisation, GATTS and Privatisation, Thursday 2 October 8.00pm, Ruby Finnegans Pub, Lower Ballyfermot

Ballymun:

Bin, Charges, Privatisation and Anti-Capitalism, 7.30pm Thurs Oct 2, Axis Centre Ballymun

Blanchardstown:

The World Trade Organisation, GATTS and Privatisation, Weds 1 October 8.30pm, Castleknock Community Centre, Laurel Lodge

Clondalkin:

Chile 1973 - the other September 11, Thursday 2 October 8.00pm, Oakfield Lodge Hotel, Clondalkin Village

Crumlin:

What can we learn from Lenin and the Russian Revolution? 7.30pm Wed Sept 17, Cashel Road Community Hall

Drogheda:

Chomsky, ideology and the corporate media, 8pm Wed 8 Oct, McHughes Pub, Drogheda

Rathmines:

Chile 1973: The Other September

11, 8pm Wed October 11 Grace's Pub, Upstairs

Rialto:

Chile 1973 - the other September 11, Weds 1 October 8.30pm, St Andrews Community Hall, SCR, Rialto

Ringside:

Bin, Charges, Privatisation and Anti-Capitalism, 8pm Wed October 1, Committee Room, Under Ocean Bar, Charlotte Quay

Tallaght:

Chile 1973 - the other September 11, Wednesday 1st October 8.00pm, Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght

Other Events/Meetings, etc

END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ
GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION
DEMONSTRATION
Saturday Sept 27th
Dublin: Parnell Square, 2pm
Belfast: Art College, 2pm

DEMONSTRATE:
FREE JOE HIGGINS TD & CLLR
CLARE DALY
AXE THE BIN TAX
Tuesday 30th September
Assemble: 6.30pm @ The Dail
Called by the Dublin Bin Tax Campaigns

NO NO NO
TO CHILD-CARE CUTS
DCPP Branch
(Teachers Union of Ireland)
DEMONSTRATION
Wednesday 24 September
2003
3.00 - 4.00 pm
outside
DEPT OF EDUCATION
Marlborough St.
ALL WELCOME
(TUI MEMBERS, STUDENTS,
POTENTIAL STUDENTS KIDS,
BUGGIES ETC. ETC.)

TOWARDS A SOCIALIST ELECTORAL ALLIANCE
Belfast Unemployed Centre, Donegall St, on Wed. 1st Oct 8pm
Participating: Communist Party, the Workers Party and the SWP will join together in calling for socialist unity in the coming elections

Village

Malcom X and the Fight for Black Liberation, Speaker: Marie Clifford, 8.00pm Thurs Sept 25 Olde Rogue. Michael St

■ For details of other Marxist Forums contact (01) 872 2682

SWP ACTIVISTS ARE ORGANISED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

I want to join the Socialist Workers Party

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Union/College.....

Join the Socialists!

To join the Socialist Workers Party or for more information:
Fill in the form and Send to:
ROI: SWP PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 872 2682
NI: SWP PO Box 143, Mallusk Road, Mallusk, Phone 0774 2531617
Email swp@clubi.ie Web: www.swp.ie

Protests at VEC childcare cuts

No more second chances

MAJOR CUTS in the childcare grants to Vocational Education Committees which fund VTOS, Outreach and other important 'second chance' educational schemes provoked several protests in September.

As hundreds of disadvantaged and second chance adult students prepared to start a new term they learnt they had lost their crèche places.

These students on VTOS courses are mostly women with children, who had left school early, or were on unemployment or disability payments.

Possible

They were entitled to a childcare allowance to pay for crèche places to allow them to attend college.

'Second chance' pro-

'These cuts are hitting the most vulnerable'

grammes include Junior and Senior Cert as well as Skills for Industry and childcare nurses.

But following a 37 per cent cut in childcare funding they had their weekly

€63 childcare grant cut.

Students registering for their course in September were told they had lost the childcare allowance.

This left them unable to take part in the course.

Among the protests were marches in Cabra, Finglas and Galway.

In Finglas up to 70 took part in a march from Collaiste Ida to the office of local Fianna Fail TD Carey

Unfair

As Bernie told *Socialist Worker*, 'This was my chance to get back into the schooling I missed.

'But I need a place for my young daughter.

'Without the childcare money I will have to drop out. I think it is very unfair.'

Cathy told *Socialist*

Worker 'These students have already booked crèche places but cannot take them up.

'These cuts are hitting

the most vulnerable.

'It is having a devastating effect in some communities.

'But these protests are not the end - the campaign will go on to get justice!'

Galway

In Galway over 50 protested outside Calbro House on the Tuam Road, Galway.

■ The Teachers Union of Ireland issued a statement condemning the cuts and organised a protest that was set to take place at the Department of Education in Dublin on Wednesday 24th September.

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Civil Servants offered insulting pay deal

A MISERLY 2 per cent—that is the pay rise offered by civil service management to the thousands of already low paid civil servants in Northern Ireland.

Many of these workers are forced to claim Working Families Tax Credits to supplement their income.

The latest offer came after the first NIPSA branches held workplace meetings to discuss the original offer of 1.5 per cent 'with strings' which the union's leadership has rejected.

The new offer still has all the strings attached and will be paid for by reducing the amount of pay increases after promotion.

Socialist Worker spoke to Peter McGarrigle, Secretary of the largest Branch in the civil service after more than 500 workers at the branch meeting unanimously stated that they would back strike action in any future ballot by the union.

Joke

Peter said 'The low paid workers in Branch 8 are simply saying that this offer is a joke.

'It is an insult for the

Bain Report for the civil service.

Flexible

Just as the firefighters were told that they had to accept 'modernisation', civil servants are being told that they will have to be more 'flexible in meeting customer needs'.

Of course this flexibility will mean working

until 8pm without shift allowance.

The proposals to modernise recruitment practices is the first step in the process to opening up the civil service to recruitment agencies.

This will mean more low paid, non-unionised workers who can be hired and fired according to

'business needs'.

NIPSA have taken the right decision in rejecting this deal and recommending industrial action in order to win real pay rises.

Example

More union branches now need to follow the example of the workers in the CSA who cheered

when the meeting ended with a unanimous vote for action.

But as one of the workers in the CSA said at the meeting 'NIPSA must get out there and ensure that every member hears the truth about this deal.

'We want to strike, but we don't want a repeat of the postal workers ballot!'

INTO to take action on sub-standard schools

THOUSANDS of primary school children in hundreds of schools around the country are currently being educated in substandard, and often unsafe, buildings.

The government has chosen to include the school building programme in its package of cutbacks.

Now as a result only a handful of schools this year have seen their applications progress to actual building phase.

The Irish National

Teachers Organisation (INTO) has announced a campaign on the issue.

This will involve action up to and including strikes in some of the worst affected schools.

United

Teachers and parents alike are deeply concerned and united on this.

Last April a parent-teacher group called TLC organised mass walkouts of substandard schools nationwide.

The main dissenting voice is from IBEC, the business federation.

IBEC launched an attack on the campaign for adequate school buildings for all children.

It demands that teachers be denied their increases under the benchmarking award if they take action over this issue.

According to a teacher in a substandard school in Dublin, 'This is an appalling attack not just on teachers but the children we are responsible for educating.

'IBEC is demanding greater influence in the framing of education policy.

'Their response here, however, shows why this should be resisted.

'They have no concern for the rights of children and no interest in education.

They are only interested where it can be used to promote their interests and boost their profits.

Materials

'Their members are constantly sending promotional materials into our schools.

'They are always seeking to get product endorsements from teachers by sponsoring

what can only be loosely termed educational programmes.

'It's time to put an end to all this.'

The problem of inadequate buildings stems from years of underfunding which still continues today.

Ireland has one of the lowest rates of investment in primary education in the OECD.

Until additional funding is released this national scandal will continue.

Parents and teachers need to launch a very hard hitting campaign to get action.

Boatmen take strike action

SIX SIPTU boatmen in Dunmore East, Waterford have gone on strike over pay and conditions.

The boatmen, who are employed by Waterford Port Authority are among the worst paid in any port in the country.

The workers currently work a 84 hour week, 24 hours on, 24 hours off, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They are currently earning between €20,000 - €21,000.

All other boatmen in the area refused to scab on the workers, forcing the Harbour Master and the Chief Executive of Waterford Port Authority, Stan McAvaddy to pass the picket lines and do the workers jobs to keep the port open.

Ray told the *Socialist Worker* on the picket line:

'We dealt with over 5,700 ship movement in Dunmore last year, this is more than twice as much as Cork, Dublin and Limerick, yet we are on less than half the salary of the boatmen in the other ports.

'There is six of us here doing the same work, working 84 hours a week, but we are all on a different rate'.

'Waterford Port Authority promised us that our wages would rise to €25,000 and to €36,000 in six years, but only if we take over the radio officers job, on top of the three jobs we do already.

'A radio officer in Cork gets about €40,000, yet they expect us to take it on for an extra couple of thousand.

'The Harbour Master and the General Manager have been on call for the last 48 hours doing our job, because they couldn't find anyone else to take out the pilot boat'.

The six workers are maintaining a permanent picket at Dunmore East and at Belview Port in Waterford.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY €1.00 / £0.70p

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FREE THE SOCIALISTS

LATEST NEWS OF CAMPAIGN: TURN TO PAGES 6-7

'IT'S A disgrace', that's how anti-bin tax campaigner Mary from Glasnevin described the jailings of Clare Daly and Joe Higgins.

"The top nobs can get away with anything in Ireland but honest bin tax people are getting locked up!"

The jailings of Higgins and Daly for a month each for refusing to give up the peaceful protests is part of an orchestrated attempt to crush opposition to the bin tax.

In addition to the jailings, Higgins and Daly face costs of up to €30,000 which the courts can have taken from their pay and household effects.

Instead of dealing with the huge opposition to this unjust double tax, the government, the courts and the media have responded with repression and lies.

Threatened

On top of jailing Joe Higgins and Clare Daly, activists in Fingal and Dublin are now threatened with similar action following the granting further injunctions.

In Fingal the injunction bars everyone from engaging in the peaceful blockades of bin trucks and in Dublin City, 13 named individuals have so far been barred.

The press and RTE have tried to red bait socialist campaigners. Government minister Michael Cullen accused Higgins and Daly of 'grandstanding' to get votes in the next local elections.

This is the same Cullen who gets the highest level of donations from the corporate sector and still has not provided the regional cancer unit he promised his constituents.

Bertie Ahern accused the thousands of residents who refuse to pay the charge of 'scrounging'. This is from a government that gives hand-outs every day to the corporate sector.

JAIL THE ANSBACHER GANG

It's one law for the rich

THE JAILING of Joe Higgins and Clare Daly shows that we live under a system of class justice – one law for the rich and another for working class people.

Not one of the Ansbacher gang has seen the inside of a cell.

There have been four tax amnesties for wealthy cheats. None have been locked up for their tax scams.

The Church has been indemnified against all liability for the 3,000 recorded cases of child abuse that took place in institutions. And Fianna Fail has moved to cripple the Laffoy Inquiry in order to protect the powerful vested interest of the hierarchy from exposure.

The Labour Party says even though they are against the bin charges we must not break the law.

Defiance

This is nonsense. It took a mass campaign of civil disobedience to win civil rights for black people in the United States.

And it took defiance of the law to gain every democratic right that working class people have ever achieved.

That same spirit is evident when thousands of people have defied threats and have refused to pay the bin tax.

The Labour Party can either stand with their working class constituents – or with a legal system designed to protect the rich. They must choose which side they are on.

If they do not take to the streets like Joe Higgins, it is time they were pushed aside for the real socialists.

Two types of TDs



■ Liam Lawlor



■ Joe Higgins

LOOK AT how Joe Higgins and Liam Lawlor were treated.

Joe Higgins was jailed for supporting working class resistance. Lawlor was jailed for not cooperating with the Flood Tribunal into planning.

Lawlor used to arrive in

the Dail in a Mercedes.

He admits that he got an extra £3,500 a month from Tom Gilmartin in a 'consultancy fee' to help planning permission. He was the centre of a Fianna Fail web that organised re-zoning decisions for their rich pals.

Joe Higgins takes only a

worker's wage from Dail Eireann.

Struggle

He gives the rest back to his party and community organisations. He has stood by every workers struggle since he was elected.

Lawlor was allowed to

go on holiday before he served his few days in jail. Joe Higgins was sent down without ceremony.

Lawlor was even allowed to use mobile phones and a laptop computer in jail and was given time off to attend the Dail. Higgins is treated like any other prisoner.