

# FREE PRESS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER  
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10p

## Bulletin of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom

DAILY  
**EXPRESS**  
THE VOICE OF BRITAIN



'The freedom of the press is directly threatened and the rule of law is directly challenged when Fleet Street unions unlawfully stop the presses. Such stoppages cannot possibly be in the true interests of those who work in Fleet Street, or those who value a free press and of those who wish to live under the rule of laws enacted by a democratically elected parliament.'

**Daily Mail**

MONEY  
MAIL  
TODAY

'The facts as we see them are these. Such sympathy strikes, or secondary action, may be deemed illegal under the Employment Act of 1980. So to serve their readers and to protect their business the Daily Mail and others in the Newspaper Publishers Association sought and obtained an injunction restraining unions from staging a sympathy stoppage.'

THE  
**Sun**

'We are disturbed and appalled by the manner in which we were prevented from publishing . . . The stoppage was wasteful and futile . . . It did great damage and achieved nothing. If the law is not capable of defending our most precious liberties then we need new tougher laws now.'

## Sparks fly over health dispute

The 24-hour strike by Fleet Street electricians in support of health workers raised sharply and suddenly issues at the heart of the press freedom campaign.

After many months of talking, here was a group of workers willing to act. Their gesture of solidarity took them into direct conflict with the High Court and Jim Prior's 1980 Employment Act.

But the confused response of some union leaders and the grumbling among some journalists point to the need for a critical reassessment of the way the whole business was handled.

The electricians were the first to think of the sympathy stoppage, and they then approached other print unions. Officials of the Society of Graphical & Allied Trades 82 responded immediately. The National Graphical Association was unenthusiastic at first, but came round to the idea.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, favoured the idea of a protest walkout — which was in line with the TUC's official policy of sympathetic industrial action to back the health workers.

The Newspaper Publishers' Association, never a slouch in these matters, set in motion the majesty of the law and at a private High Court hearing won an injunction against eight named union officials, including Sean Geraghty, branch secretary of the Engineering, Electrical, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union.

Then, Albert Spanswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, decided (without consulting other major unions in the hospital dispute) that maybe it would not be a good idea to lose a day's coverage of

by Paul Routledge

the National Health Service conflict.

He appealed to the print union leaders to abide by the court ruling and call off the stoppage. SOGAT 82 and the NGA agreed but the electricians came out on their own, and without them the presses do not roll.

Interestingly enough, when they returned to the court for a committal order against Sean Geraghty, the publishers scarcely mentioned the loss of a day's news to the reading public. They concentrated instead on the estimated £2m loss of advertising and sales revenue.

In newspaper offices and Fleet Street pubs, however, management posed the issue in rather a different manner. It was much more on the lines of: "How dare these people prevent the news from getting to the public? Who gave these people the right of veto? Why is news being censored by people taking action when they have no dispute with their employer?"

Journalists are receptive to that kind of approach. The whole ethos of our profession is that there is a divine right to publish and this must not be infringed by other groups of workers.

It is intellectual arrogance to ignore the fact that there are about ten printworkers for every journalist, and without them the writer is nothing. Printworkers do not get the ego trip of having their names in the paper. The official view is that they have only the purely mechanical function of rushing our pearls of wisdom out to the eager masses.

But they do care about what goes on outside the seamy newspaper industry. Print workers have a long tradition of

sympathetic action and so-called "political" strikes against repressive labour laws. It was in that tradition that the electricians struck.

Sean Geraghty stuck to his guns throughout the hullabaloo, arguing that the stoppage was designed to show solidarity and to get a better hearing for the health workers. The day after their walkout, NGA members at the *Evening Standard* got it to print a TUC statement on the health workers' case.

So the issue of media coverage and the sympathy strike are inextricably inter-related. We lost a day's papers (in the south at least) but we gained a new impetus in the campaign — one that should make journalists think more about their role.

As this edition goes to press, the electricians have deferred a decision on whether to pay the £350 fine imposed by Mr Justice Leonard, for a "not very serious" contempt of his court order to work normally.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees has offered to pay the £10,000 costs, although there will be no shortage of cash in Fleet Street to pay the bill on Sean Geraghty's behalf.

During the health workers' week of action, collections in newspaper offices raised £8,000 for the NHS unions. Our offices are full of NUPE posters and publicity for the health unions' case. And yet the employers still bleat the tired old theme "We are not involved". Try telling that to the sparks.

*Paul Routledge is father of the Times chapel of the National Union of Journalists and labour editor of the paper.*



# NUJ votes for a new editor

Members of the 30,000-strong National Union of Journalists this month choose a new editor for their newspaper, *The Journalist*.

Ballot papers have been sent out and the result should be known by the end of September.

The election is a four-cornered contest between:

- Aidan White, deputy women's editor of the *Guardian* and former member of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom's national committee.
- Tony Craig, freelance.
- Mike Storr, freelance.
- Eric Potter, Stratford Express.

The new editor will be elected by the single-transferable vote system. The vacancy follows the resignation of Ron Knowles, who is now the NUJ's national organiser for provincial newspapers.

Two editions of *The Journalist* have been produced by a temporary editor, former Labour MP Robin Corbett, while arrangements for the election of a permanent editor were set in hand. Perhaps as a warning of what happens when editors are not elected, Mr Corbett has fallen foul of many of the NUJ's women members by giving free reign to his own ideas about equality at the expense of rank-and-file opinions.

The new editor of the journal will face re-election after five years in office by another ballot of the entire union membership.

# CCG Conference follow-up

by Simon Partridge

FOLLOWING the highly successful weekend community radio conference in Cardiff in April (see *Free Press* 13), it was decided to hold a follow up meeting in September, arranged by the Community Communications Group.

The conference will take place on Saturday September 25, 9.30am-6.30pm, in association with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies University of London, at 26 Russell Street, WC1 - entry free.

It will be an informal one day affair to fill the interim between another weekend conference early next year. It will provide an opportunity for the community radio movement to talk to itself, compare notes and look ahead.

# FRENCH WAY AHEAD IN COMMUNITY RADIO

PARIS is to have 16 "community of interest" and four neighbourhood radio stations, with six or more different groups sharing each VHF frequency. This "solution" to the 18 month free-for-all on the air, was announced at the end of July, after a year of inquiry by a special commission.

Among others, there will be frequencies for Gaullists, newspaper interests, Jews, English speakers, people from French overseas territories, a Christian station shared between Catholics and Protestants, and two immigrant stations.

A last-minute place was given to *Frequence Gaie* (Gay Radio) after a protest march attracting thousands of Parisians, because the station had become one of the top

four in the listening charts and a symbol of minority broadcasting.

However, the decision leaves open the problem of how the services are to be financed since the Government has banned advertising — though many stations will apply for grants and organise cultural events to raise revenue.

Perhaps the GLC — particularly now the Ethnic Minorities Committee is examining the possibility of setting up radio stations for ethnic minorities — could dispatch someone to Paris to see how they have managed to fit 100 or so groups into their airwaves, when we have to put up with only three in London!

Further information from the Ethnic Minorities Union on 01633 4537, or write to the unit at the Greater London Council, The County Hall, London SE1.

workshops around the following topics: BBC/IBA local radio; community radio abroad; women and radio; ethnic/black radio; *Relay*; Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom; cable TV; pirates; frequencies; reforming commercial local radio; up-date on the campaign for Third Force community radio; future ways of organising the movement — plus any others people care to organise.

If you would like to attend the conference please phone Simon Partridge on 01-263 6692 for an application form.

# TUC National daily study continues

THE TUC's feasibility study into plans to launch a new national daily newspaper for the labour movement will continue to at least the end of the year.

The £27,000 study, which is being carried out by a private market-research company, is being conducted in two stages.

The first stage is what the TUC describes as "qualitative" — asking people what they think of existing newspapers. The second is described as "quantitative" — investigating the size of the potential market the TUC believes may be open for a new daily newspaper.

The TUC says the study will also look at the sales revenue, print costs and advertising content of a "model" newspaper.

The study was launched in February by an advisory group chaired by Lord McCarty. The group has since met eight times.

# NGA pledge on 'Right of Reply'

A FIRM PLEDGE to support the campaign for a right of reply where trade unions are attacked in newspapers was made by delegates to this year's National Graphical Association delegates' conference.

And substantial backing was given for official support for the refusal to handle further "scurrilous" attacks where a newspaper has denied the right of reply.

Ray Williams, proposing a motion on the issue, said dissemination of news and views was "the prerogative of a very small group of extremely rich and influential people."

"We should not be surprised that they are anti-trade union and anti-Labour Party. We have got to encourage our people to take up the argument when they feel they have been mis-represented. We ought to ensure that working-class people do have the right of reply."

Geoff Bell said there should be legislation to give people the equal and fair right of reply. Newspaper FoCs, he said, did not take their responsibilities lightly and a refusal to process offending material did not happen very often.

National Officer George Jerrom, offering NGA National Council support for the motion, said there would be no need for the campaign "if our journalistic friends were to carry out their code of practice."

# NUJ tries to make its code more than hot air

The National Union of Journalists is going ahead with a complaint against *Sun* leader writer Ron Spark who "accused" other journalists of "treason" during the Falklands crisis.

The union's national executive committee has set up a three person complaints committee to investigate allegations that Spark contravened the NUJ's code of conduct.

The complaints committee will make a recommendation to the NUJ's next NEC meeting in October. If it finds Spark guilty of contravening the code of conduct it can, under NUJ rules, fine him up to £1,000, suspend him for up to a year or expel him from the union.

The complaint against Spark follows a letter he wrote on May 7, accusing the *Guardian*, *Daily Mirror* and BBC of treason for suggesting that the Falklands war might not be worth the cost in human life.

"There are," wrote Spark, "traitors in our midst. What is it but treason to talk, as Peter Snow (of BBC's *Newsnight* programme) talked, questioning whether the Government's version of sea battles was to be believed?"

"What is it but treason for the *Guardian* to print a cartoon showing a British seaman clinging to a raft above the caption: 'The price of sovereignty has been increased — official!'"

"What is it but treason for (the *Daily Mirror*) this timorous, whining publication to plead day after day for appeasing the Argentine dictators... we are truly sorry for *Daily Mirror* readers... they are buying a newspaper which again and again demonstrates that it has no faith in this country and no respect for her people."

The complaint against Spark was originated through its London Farringdon branch by the NUJ's deputy general secretary, Jake Ecclestone, a former member of the Campaign's national committee. It is the first time a code of conduct rule 18 complaint has been brought by a full-time official of the NUJ, who is a member of the union.

Spark's only response so far has been that he intends to boycott the

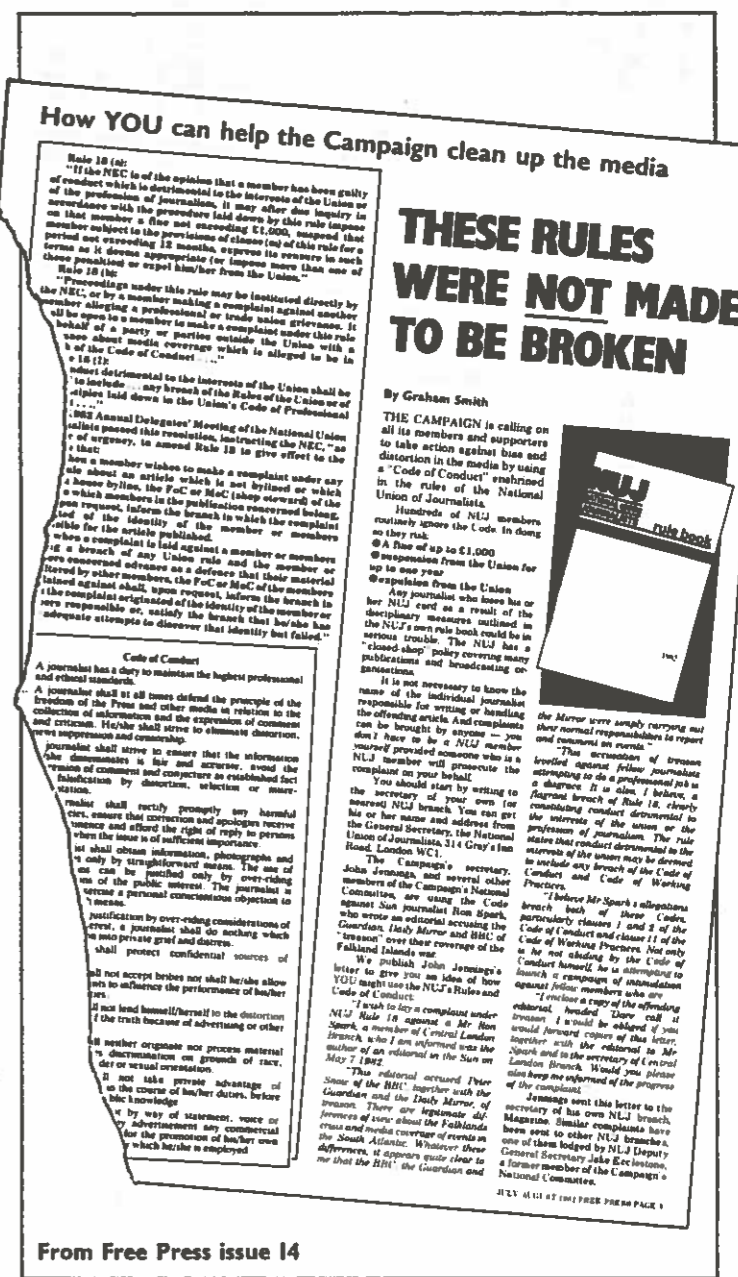
# Don't blame us, say journalists

NUJ MEMBERS on the Scottish *Sunday Mail* and *Scottish Daily Record* have dissociated themselves from a series of racist jokes published in the *Sunday Mail* during June. The paper printed a series of jokes about Irish people.

A story later published in the *Sunday Mail* told readers what the journalists thought of the jokes: "Journalists working on the *Sunday Mail* and *Daily Record* dissociated themselves from the series of Irish 'jokes' published in the *Sunday Mail*.

"They said that the stereotyping of Irish people was insulting to many readers and said it breached the NUJ code of conduct."

Unfortunately, the story about the journalists' protests was published on page 31 of the *Sunday Mail*; the Irish "jokes" had been displayed somewhat more prominently in the paper.



From *Free Press* issue 14

# Labour gets set to debate the media

THE LABOUR PARTY is set to debate the Press and media as this edition of *Free Press* goes to the printers.

Six media resolutions from Constituency Labour Parties are published in the agenda for this year's annual conference.

A resolution from Ruislip Northwood CLP urges conference to 'support the campaign being waged by the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and urges all Constituency Labour Parties, trade unions and affiliated

By Graham Smith

organisations to take part in its work."

Ruislip Northwood, Isle of Ely and Huntingdon CLPs also call for a legal right of reply, of equal weight to an original published or broadcast item, to victims of distortion and bias.

Isle of Ely CLP also call for the next Labour Government to introduce a national printing corporation to finance alternative newspapers, and an open broadcasting authority.

Bridlington CLP want an Independent Press Authority similar to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to require the owners of the British Press to adhere to a strict code of impartiality.

North West Surrey CLP calls for a new national daily newspaper to support the labour movement.

Gosport CLP, with an eye to the near-future, has tabled a detailed resolution on forthcoming technological changes currently underway in television. Gosport wants licence

fees payable for television tuners (not the monitor), "absolute freedom to receive satellite television transmissions from as many different sources as technically possible" and "spare channels for digital radio transmissions to enable the home market to sustain the development of digital reproduction equipment."

The Campaign will be holding a meeting of its own at the Labour Party conference to elaborate on its policies and encourage new members and supporters.



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# What will they say this time?

... as if we didn't know.

The TUC's day of action to support the health workers on September 22 is, hopefully, going to have to wait until September 23 before what Moss Evans called "the vile Press" gets its fangs into the labour movement.

The postcard shows how Fleet Street reacted to the Day of Action on May 14 1980.

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# Unions wade in with right of reply

In the wake of the court action against Fleet Street electricians' leader Sean Geraghty many people did not realise that the newspaper bosses' injunction was a counter attack to the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom's fight for the right of reply.

By John Jennings

president of the NGA, put it to Fleet Street meetings.

This time the request for publication was timed to cover two days - Sunday and Monday, July 18 and 19. On Saturday night representatives from the print unions approached editors. In some cases they were supported by the engineers' and electricians' unions.

At one paper, the *Observer*, production was held up for talks, and a reported 180,000 copies of the paper were lost. The printers initially demanded publication of the statement on the front page. They eventually settled for a four inch double column "advertisement" on page two.

## DEBT

Headed "Give them the money" - why we must support the health service workers" it argued the nation owed a debt of gratitude to those who cared for the sick and weak. But society had "repaid dedication with exploitation", it said. The hospital workers' justifiable wage claim should be paid in full.

Similar statements appeared in advert form in the *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday People*, *Sunday Express*, *News of the World* and *Sunday Telegraph*.

The following day, Monday July 19, most daily papers carried the statement, including the *Telegraph*, *Mail*, *Express*, *Mirror*, and *Sun*. Others like the *Financial Times* and *Morning Star* reported it in their editorial columns.

The pro-management trade paper *UK Press Gazette* bemoaned the fact that "the unions throughout the Street acted in collusion, but leaned on the editors singly", and complained of "censorship" - though what had been censored they did not explain.

A *Times* editorial "Thin end of the wedge" on Tuesday July 20 thundered about "interference" with the "freedom of the press". The only people entitled to decide "what, and what not, to publish" were editors and journalists, it implied. The publication of dissenting views was apparently not to be tolerated.

It was this threat to their privileged position which clearly led the Newspaper Publishers' Association to ask Mr Justice Leonard for a catch-all injunction on August 9.

The health service unions were again asking for support. This time some of the print union branches, including the SOGAT London machine branch and the electricians EETPU, took the view they had achieved all they could by supportive statements and decided on supportive industrial action.

The London region NGA, however, was again planning to demand publication of a statement setting out the health service workers' case, which it considered was still not fairly presented.

In the weeks up to the High Court confrontation print unions affiliated to the Campaign twice used the threat of industrial action to secure publication of statements supporting the health service workers' pay dispute.

The policy of our campaign is to support industrial action as a last resort to secure the right of reply. And the injunction granted to the newspaper employers on August 9 was aimed not just at stopping supportive industrial action. It also banned the unions from "interfering with the business" of newspaper proprietors.

The significance of this is that one union, the National Graphical Association, was again planning to demand publication of a statement spelling out the justice of the hospital workers' case.

The NGA successfully used this tactic earlier on June 23. A meeting of its Fleet Street Fathers of the Chapel called by London Region secretart Bill Booroff decided to draft a statement of support for the health service workers. It agreed that FOCs would present it to their editors and demand its publication.

## SUCCESS

The effort succeeded - most national newspapers carried the statement. It said the NGA fully supported the health service workers and that the Government seemed determined to provoke confrontation. The print workers were determined the National Health Service workers should have a fair hearing, and would invoke the principle of the right of reply if necessary.

The *Daily Mail* published this as their lead letter, with the headline "We're backing our nurses". The *Mirror* incorporated it into their page two news report on the health service dispute. The *Times*, *Financial Times*, *Telegraph* and *Morning Star* also reported it.

In the *Sun*, *Express*, *Daily Star* and *Guardian* the NGA statement appeared as a free advert.

In July, when the health service unions again called for support, the other major print union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades took the initiative. John Mitchell, secretary of the London Machine Branch of SOGAT '82 called a meeting of his FOC's.

He took the view that arguments in favour of the health service workers needed to be developed and expanded. A new, longer statement was drawn up. After consultation with the joint general secretaries of SOGAT, Bill Keys and Owen O'Brien, together with Les Dixon,



# Who lies behind the union bashers?

THE RECENT UPROAR among the Press magnates of Fleet Street over the print unions support for the health workers, has created a lively letters page in the *Times*. Once again the issues of Press and broadcasting freedom have gained "public" prominence.

*Observer* editor, Donald Treford, said in annoyance: "No owner has ever dictated to me what and what not to publish in the way that the print unions attempted to do on July 17th."

Reading this I couldn't help smiling as I recalled a "newsworthy" comment once made by Victor Matthews, owner of *The Express* wherein he said; "By and large editors will have complete freedom as long as they agree with the policy I have laid down."

Mr R. Farmer of the Institute of Journalists protested that the damage done by the print workers would be exacerbated by the frightening union monopoly created by the proposed NUJ-NGA merger. Again I smiled remembering that just three companies own and control 73.6 per cent of daily national circulation or perhaps I'm just taking this monopoly game too seriously.

Leaving aside the question of

By Loretta Loach

whether one should support the print workers action or not, the backdrop against which it took place is one of overwhelming political bias in our newspapers, against the activities of trades unionists. Even Farmer, in his letter to the *Times*, was forced to concede an element of truth in the Campaign's view, that our national Press tend on the whole to take a pro-management, pro-government point of view. We only have to look to our opponents for further proof of this.

In the first July issue of the *Spectator*, Paul Johnson, who once daubed us as the Campaign for Press Censorship, openly declared that the power of the Press was best demonstrated by the part it played in this summer's rail strike.

In an article on Press coverage of this dispute Johnson observed that: "Fleet Street is occasionally a mighty power in the land." A view the Campaign would wholeheartedly agree with, but those with a keener sense of democracy than Johnson's would also ask the question - representative of whom? Accountable to whom?

Johnson mused contentedly on

Fleet Street's unanimous opposition to the railmen. "Fleet Street anger concentrated on underworked railmen" he told us and - "The decision to call off the strike evoked Fleet Street's general satisfaction."

Indeed, he goes on to say that Fleet Street could reasonably claim some of the credit for forcing this decision. "Union Leaders," he said, "complain that they do not get a fair deal from the Press. On this occasion with Fleet Street so overwhelmingly critical, they are sure to claim foul."

He concluded: "Fleet Street bias merely reflects the anti-union bias of the nation as a whole, composed of perfectly ordinary people who hate and fear union militants who disrupt their lives and imperil their jobs." What a pity that the diversity of the nation's press, which the letters in the *Times* referred so much to, excludes the voice of those who seek to challenge the real disrupters of people's lives - the government.

Johnson's article did much to answer that hackneyed but appropriate question: who lies behind the union bashers? The Press have abused their power for far too long. They may indeed protest when it is threatened but they should not be surprised.

# What will the Press say about Labour '82?

NO MATTER what the Labour Party says about the media (see page 2) at this month's conference, one thing is certain: the media will have far more to say, and is far more predictable, about the Labour Party.

The "consensus qualities" - the *Times*, *Guardian*, *Financial Times* etc - will "objectively" report that Michael Foot is fighting for the Labour Party's soul and that anyone who disagrees with him is a mindless wreck.

The same papers unanimously viewed the TUC's rejection of a pay deal with any future government as a blow to Labour's electoral chances, without once recognising existence of another point of view: that a "social contract" arrangement can be seen by some as the very reason why Labour lost the 1979 election.

The arguments of a Register or organisations inside the Party will be reported from the point of view of "responsible" members of Labour's parliamentary party, and not that of the 'wild-eyed Trots' from the constituency parties.

The powerful block votes - which two years ago were so "undemocratic" that all sections of the media screamed for their removal - will, if they support Labour's Right-wing, be regarded as the cornerstones of democratic society.

The much-talked about Militant Tendency, whose real influence inside the Labour Party is practically negligible, will be seen as the focal point of Left-wing activity and "credited" with every vote which is not to the papers' liking.

*Sunday Times* political correspondent Michael Jones, when reporting on a debate organised by Militant and the Socialist Workers Party



which for once he actually attended, wrote about how dangerous he thought these political activists to be: "Many of the people attending the meeting were wearing jeans." Jones subsequently "reported" on Bradford candidate Pat Wall's "revolutionary" speech. People who wear jeans at political meetings obviously can't be trusted to safeguard democracy!

The so-called popular papers (popular for jingo, bingo, bums and tits) can be safely relied upon to write off the Labour Party as no longer relevant. Having spent the year encouraging the government to waste human life in the South Atlantic, describing striking train drivers as "bully-boys" and the health service workers as "wellpaid", we can rest assured that their coverage of this year's Labour Party conference will not be significantly better than in previous years. As Arthur Scargill says: "When I read about myself in the papers, not even I like me."

Watch this space!



## Rebecca returns?

The radical magazine REBECCA has ceased publication—but could be back in another form sooner rather than later. Rebecca closed in July. The move surprised many, particularly as the magazine had been advertising for staff and had recently launched a big subscriptions drive.

Now Wales is alive to rumours that the hard-hitting investigative magazine will shortly re-appear after a major behind-the-scenes fundraising effort. Rebecca says it's too early to give any details. Hmmm...



# THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM SPECIAL APPEAL LAUNCH

An evening of food and entertainment at The Ludgate Cellars, Apothecary Street, London EC4

Friday October 15  
7pm to  
12.00 midnight

Tickets £5.00

From CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1.

## International

A journal of discussion and debate to develop a revolutionary socialist programme for Britain

Our recent contributors have included: Andrew Gamble & John Rose, Alan Freeman: socialist foreign policy; Pat Masters & Jane Shaffice: politics of pornography; Bernadette McAlesey & Geoff Bell: Ireland; Joan Ruddock: CND; Julian Atkinson: Labour's youth movements; Ernest Mandel & John Harrison: economic crisis; Daniel Singer & Oliver MacDonald: Poland. On the cultural front we have carried Peter Fuller's The Crisis of Professionalism in Art, as well as articles on Mayakovsky, Reds, Missing, Darwin and the Politics of Sport.

As Hilary Wainwright said: 'You don't have to be a paid up Trot to find International an interesting and worthwhile read'.

Subscribe: £5.50 inland; £12(£40) airmail; £8.50(£18) overseas surface. Send all cheques to International, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.



### 'Debating Socialism' Weekend

23/24 October  
Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth St, off Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

A weekend discussing a socialist programme for the British crisis.

• Ken Livingstone, Frances Merrall & Alan Freeman discuss the new Labour Left

• Bea Campbell and Valerie Coultas debate Sweet Freedom and women's liberation

• Socialist Challenge/Socialist Worker debate on revolutionaries and the Labour Party

• Ernest Mandel on socialist democracy

• John Harrison on the British economic disaster

• John Rose on the break-up of British politics

• Mike Davis on Extremism and the Cold War

• Pat Hickey (Socialist Challenge) debates John Dawson (Socialist Worker) on the trade unions

• Perry Anderson and Bernadette McAlesey also invited

Just £4 for the weekend, £2.50 per day. Creche provided, food available. Send cheques etc to 'International', Debating Socialism, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

## North East campaign to run courses on media

By Malcolm Wright

THE NORTH-EAST CPBF is preparing a series of courses on the media which will be funded by Durham University's adult education department.

More than £1,000 has been pledged to Darlington Media Workshop where a recently-constituted media group has premises and equipment to teach on all aspects of the media — from Press bias to producing newsletters and magazines.

Through 1982 the workshop based at Darlington Arts Centre has run courses for trades unionists, peace groups and individuals of how the media works and how best to use it.

Advice is also available on the right of reply which has already been

used once to balance a distorted article in the Northern Echo attacking CPBF as "militant" and "anti free-Press".

The autumn launch of media education will co-incide with a major push for regional membership. The main targets are regional trade union branches, trades councils and Labour Party organisations.

Tailor-made courses are on offer to individual trades unions interested in specific media coverage like the health services dispute. One successful course on news management of the Falklands crisis was held in July for North-East peace campaigners.

Labour-controlled Darlington Borough Council, which partly funds the town's arts centre, is currently

considering an application for a full-time media organiser at the workshop and the MSC has agreed to a technical assistant appointment for one-year through the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

CPBF is also working with the NUJ, Durham University Reader in Law Tony Smith and Teesside industrial chaplain the Rev Bill Hall on a research project for radio stations which will identify legal and administrative barriers to proper free broadcasting. The research paper with recommendations will be circulated to all BBC radio advisory committees and independent stations early next year.

## Campaign briefing

### Brum shows how

What's so different about the alternative Press? What is wrong with your local rag? What's going on at City Limits? What's the history of the alternative Press in the West Midlands and what are they up to now? These are a few of the questions you might find answers to at a day event being organised by the West Midlands campaign for October 16 at the Tyndal Rooms, Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

The plan is to invite representatives from City Limits, the Birmingham women's paper *Insist*, and other alternative papers in the area as well as journalists working in the 'conventional' media. A variety of exhibitions and examples of the alternative Press will be available. The day will be followed by a series of evening workshops to investigate certain themes in more depth. The event is the opening one in the West Midlands Alternatives week.

Final full details are available from Bob Burkitt, 021-359-4192 (w), Birmingham Film Workshop, c/o Arts Lab, Holt St., Gosta Green, Birmingham B7 4BA.

THE CAMPAIGN has published a new fundraising leaflet to help spread the word and encourage action against bias and distortion in the media.

The Campaign needs to raise £50,000 by this time next year—and you can help.

YOU can take copies of the leaflet—called WHY THEIR NEWS IS BAD NEWS—and distribute them at meetings. Moss Evans, Michael Foot, Pamela Stephenson, Tom Conti, Bruce Kent, CLR James and Jayabea Desai give their views on the media in the leaflet, which is designed to encourage people to take out a long-term commitment to the Campaign by taking out a covenant. See page eight for more details.



JOURNALISTS from two tabloid papers meet their critics at a special Campaign meeting on the coverage of rape to be held in Birmingham on Wednesday September 15.

Women from the Birmingham Rape Crisis Centre will report on a media survey on how newspapers, TV and radio manipulate the crime into cheap titillation for their audiences.

Journalists from popular papers will be at the meeting to reply to the criticisms. Steve Valentine of the News of the World, and Ian Mean, the chief news editor at the Birmingham Evening Mail, have agreed to speak.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Crown Hotel in Corporation Street (just opposite the Law Courts). Everybody welcome.

## What WILL we call 'Free Press'??!

THE SEARCH for a new name for *Free Press* goes on — and so do the arguments over whether the Campaign should change the name at all. The following suggestions are being circulated:

- \*FREE THE MEDIA!
- \*MEDIA CAMPAIGNER
- \*MEDIA CHALLENGER
- \*TRUCOM
- \*SEVEN VEILS
- \*TRUMEDIA

- \*BIAS... AND PLAIN LIES
- \*MEDIA ENQUIRER
- \*SLANT
- \*ACCESS NOW!
- \*OPEN
- \*CONNECTIONS
- \*TRUREPORT
- \*BLATANT TRUTH
- \*FREEDOMEDIA
- \*STRAIGHT UP
- \*STREWTH

More suggestions are wanted, although supporters of the name *Free Press* argue that "Free Press" is well established, and that as the bulletin is an ink-and-paper publication there is nothing wrong with calling it a "Press".

Critics of the name *Free Press* say it implies the actual bulletin is free (without cost) and that it does not take into account the Campaign's concern with broadcasting.

If you have any thoughts on the subject, send them to Campaign at 9 Poland Street, London W1.

## The campaign for press and broadcasting freedom aims to:

• Challenge the myths of 'impartiality' and 'balance' in broadcasting and 'objectivity' in newspapers by campaigning for the genuine presentation of the diversity and plurality of society.

• Challenge the myth that only private ownership of the newspaper industry provides genuine freedom, diversity or access.

• Challenges the myth that the present forms of ownership and regulation of broadcasting guarantee editorial independence, democratic accountability or high programme standards.

• Carry out research and generate debate on alternative forms of ownership and control of newspapers and broadcasting in order to guarantee freedom from either state control or domination by business conglomerates and encourage the creation of alternative media including those sympathetic to the labour movement.

• Encourage the development of industrial democracy in the newspaper and broadcasting industries.

• Encourage debate on the implications of technological advances in the media to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded and that commercial interests do not override public accountability.

• Campaign on the general principles in the Minority Report of the 1977 Royal Commission on the Press, including proposals for National Printing Corporation to provide a competitive public sector in the industry and a launch fund to assist new publications.

• Campaign for a reformed and reconstituted Press Council to promote basic standards of fairness and access to the press on behalf of the public. The right of reply is fundamental to redressing the imbalance in press bias.

• Campaign for a reduction in legal restrictions on freedom of publication and increased access to information through a Freedom of Information Bill and reform of the Official Secrets Act and similar restrictive legislation.

• Campaign for the legal right of access for publications to the distribution system, and a guarantee right of display.

This edition of *Free Press* was edited and produced by Graham Smith, Clover Cottage, St Mabyn, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 3BA. Telephone St Mabyn (020884) 466. The views expressed in *Free Press* are not necessarily those of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom. Typeset by Redesign (01-533 2631) and printed by Spider Web (01272 9141).

The Campaign has set up a working group to advise on and support the production of *Free Press*. Meetings are open to all members of the Campaign; details from 9 Poland Street, London W1. Telephone 01-437 2795.



## The new view from the Left

Marxism Today tackles every major political issue with hard information and in-depth analysis.

Recent examples? Jon Bloomfield and Mike Pentz on the peace movement. Pam Smith on the Palestinians. Roy Medvedev reviewing the end of an era in the Soviet Union. Monty Johnstone on the breakdown of democracy in Poland.

We get to grips with the troubles of the trade union movement, with articles from Bea Campbell, Tony Lane, Christian Tyler and Vic Allen. Tony Benn and Raymond Williams have made fascinating new contributions to the debate on Marxism, Parliament and democracy.

But we also go beyond the realms of traditional politics with contributions from John Alderson, Herbert McCabe, Sheila Hancock, Ngugi wa Thiongo, David Putnam and Melvyn Bragg.

Marxism Today is the focal point for dialogue for the Left, and well beyond.

## The Moving Left Show

OCTOBER 29/30/31

A not-to-be-missed weekend of controversy, cabaret and culture, including a special debate between Tony Benn and Giorgio Napolitano (parliamentary leader of the Italian Communist Party).

Speakers include Anna Ford, Paul Boateng, Bea Campbell, Eric Hobsbawm, David Putnam, Ken Loach, Elizabeth Wilson, Miriam Karlin, Ian McEwan, Stuart Hall and many others.

Venue: Queen Mary College, Mile End Rd, London E1.

Please send me Marxism today for 1 year, starting with the

Please send me further details of the Moving Left Show.

I wish to register for the MLShow only, and enclose £8 (waged), / £4.50 (unwaged).\*

I wish to register for the MLShow and the Benn/Napolitano debate, and enclose £8.75 (waged) / £5.25 (unwaged).\*

Name Address

Send to Marxism Today, 16 St John Street, London EC1M 4AY. \*cheques to Moving Left Show.



# The campaign's future depends on YOU!

1982 is a crucial period in the Campaign's development.

Since our launch in 1979 we have organised many meetings, launched the "Right of Reply" Campaign, produced a regular bi-monthly bulletin - Free Press - and published leaflets and pamphlets on aspects of the Campaign's work.

But we cannot develop by hardwork and goodwill alone. We must employ at least one full-time and one part-time organiser.

In order to get our work onto a sound basis we need to raise £50,000 by September 1983.

## Here's how you can help us

### ● Make out a covenant ● Send a donation

The Communications Research Centre is a registered charity associated with The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom. By making your donation through them we can receive repayment of tax on your gift - thus increasing its value by 30% but at no extra cost to you. You have to give regularly for four years for your donation to be effective tax purposes - but your money will build a strong and lasting base for the Campaign's future.

Here are some examples of how a covenant can help our fund-raising:

- A covenant of £200 a year totals £800 over 4 years plus a tax re-payment of £342 makes a total gift of £1,142.
- A covenant of £100 a year totals £400 over 4 years plus a tax re-payment of £170 makes a total gift of £570.
- A covenant of £50 a year totals £200 over 4 years plus a tax re-payment of £85 makes a total gift of £285.
- A covenant of £20 a year totals £80 over 4 years plus a tax re-payment of £34 makes a total gift of £114.

If you are making out a covenant please complete both Banker's Order and Tax Recovery forms. The Charities Aid Foundation will be administering all the covenants we receive, but any enquiries you wish to make

The Charities Aid Foundation will be administering all the donations we receive, but any inquiries you wish to make please telephone the Campaign office (01-457 2798).

RETURN ALL FORMS TO: THE TREASURER, COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CENTRE (CPBF FUND), 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG.



#### BANKER'S ORDER

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of your bank in capitals)

of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address of your bank in capitals)

Please pay to the credit of the Charities Aid Foundation (D) Account No 36880043 at NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK LTD, 60-30-06, Bloomsbury (Parr's Branch), 126 High Holborn, London WC1, for the later credit of The Communications Research Centre on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

pence, and the same sum on the same date annually for the following \_\_\_\_\_ years and debit my account No. \_\_\_\_\_ accordingly.

Office use only: Note to remitting bank When making each payment please quote No. 8394 (04)

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

N.B. Please make out the order for four years or more

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#### MORE MONEY FOR US AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU...

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (full name in capitals)  
of \_\_\_\_\_  
(full address in capitals)

Hereby covenant with the Trustees of the Charities Aid Foundation of 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent that for \_\_\_\_\_ years\* from the date (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ or during my life (whichever is the shorter period) I shall pay annually to the Trustees out of my taxed income such a sum as will after deduction of income at the basic rate for the time being in force amount to (1) £ \_\_\_\_\_ (figures) \_\_\_\_\_ (words) to the intent that each such yearly sum including Income Tax deducted therefrom and recoverable in respect thereof shall be paid to the Communications Research Centre. To complete this form get a friend to witness your signature

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Witness's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness's address \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: (1) This date must be the same or later the date on which the deed is signed. (1) Enter here the amount you actually wish to subscribe. Deed Number 8394 (04)

#### DONATION

I/We enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom's fund-raising Appeal.

I/We require/do not require a receipt. (Please delete as appropriate)

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Please make cheques payable to The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

Return all order forms to: Communications Research Centre (CPBF Fund), 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG.