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CAMPAIGN DIARY

Gala night in the North-West

Plans are underway for a celebrity fundraising revue in Manchester next year.

Taking the theme of Media freedom, it is hoped that the event will match the success of such hilarious extravaganzas as The Secret Policeman's Ball, with a record and video to fol-

Help is needed with all aspects of its organization, especially in marketing and promotion. Members with suggestions, contacts, time or relevant skills should contact NW CPBF, 135 Corn Exchange Building, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN (Tel 061 832 6991).

New research starts

The Campaign is to undertake a new research programme over the next nine months, with assistance from a GLC grant. Priorities include media sexism and racism, the media treatment of lesbians and gay men, and the way the media treat people with disabilities.

And the Campaign has a new researcher, selected from over 150 applicants. Julienne Dickey has worked for many years with groups struggling against media sexism. She helped found the Women's Media Action Group, and has experience of working with video.

A detailed research programme is being drawn up, and members are encouraged to contact Julienne if they have experiences or examples of misrepresentation which might assist her in this work.

One further exciting prospect is the production of a new CPBF video on media sexism.

Offers of help with any aspect of this work to Julienne at the Campaign Office.

M.E.N. ONLY

The Campaign's North-West Women's group has been monitoring sexism in the Manchester Evening News.

Their report "Men Only - What the M.E.N. really stands for" examines the way that paper sensationalises violent assaults on women, belittle's women's achievements, and panders to the prurient with "girlie pictures".

It also makes recommendations about how to improve coverage of women's issues.

For more information about the report and Youthfulimages future activities, contact Nancy Jaeger on 061

Local radio in Wales

The Bristol Hotel, Penarth Road, Cardiff was the venue for a public meeting on local radio in Wales, organised by the Campaign on Wednesday July 31.

Welsh CPBF members are encouraged to keep in touch with Trevor Jones (0222-396402), 14 Conwy Road, Canton, Cardiff for news of other

Keep the cash coming

The GLC has at last released our grant for the current year. But the Campaign still needs to build for the future.

With an expanding membership and broadening responsibilties, we still need donations on a regular basis.

Can you afford to share some of your income? Send for our Banker's Order Form.

Have you recruited any new members yet? Choose a FREE book from our catalogue with every five you sign up. Won the pools? Share it with the CPBF.



Media pilloried over GLC coverage

The final touches have now been put to the Campaign's analysis of media treatment of the leftwing administration at London's County Hall over the last four years.

Put together by Patrick Hughes and Mark Hollingsworth it makes a fascinating read - by turns ludicrous and sickening as the media pulled out all the stops to rubbish the GLC and its leadership.

The convenient omissions, the strident antipathy to progressive politics, and the constant character-assassination and personalising of issues provide models of how not to report local

The final irony is that despite all their efforts the media failed to halt the growing popularity of the administration as it changed the face of politics in London, nor to reverse opposition to Tory plans for the abolition of the GLC.

The CPBF cannot afford to publish it yet, but photocopies of the draft are available at £1 each to members. Order through the office.

Campaign sell out!

"Media Hits the Pits" was certainly on target! The Campaign's analysis of the media coverage of the coal dispute is a big hit.

The initial print run of 3,000 is sold out, with many bulk orders from trades union branches and community groups. Now another 2,000 have been printed.

It still cost only £1.50, and is illustrated throughout with photos and a superb set of Ray Lowry cartoons.

So if you haven't got yours yet, send off cheques or postal orders now to the Campaign

A slice of the action?

Ever wanted to do something positive about media bias? Why not come into the Campaign Office, give us a hand with the admin work, and spend a few hours developing your own in-

Volunteers are always welcome. Ring Lesley or Davy on 01 437 2795.

The Campaign is keen to hear from anyone interested or concerned about the portrayal of youth by the media.

If you have views, ideas or examples contact Davy Jones at the Campaign Office on 01 437

FREE PRESS is edited by Mike Jempson.

Copy and adverts for FP31 should be in, and preferably typed with double-spacing by September 1st.

"Soft porn" will no longer appear in the Daily Mirror, but "pretty girls" and animals will continue to be among its sales gimmicks. Mirror Group deputy chair Robert Edwards made the announcement in response to the Campaign for Real People launched this summer by the NUJ's Equality Council. The Campaign, backed by the CPBF,

the Mirror had been congratulated for its

positive response to the Campaign - and

criticised for still adorning its pages with

He acknowledged that "crude topless

pictures" (sic) were offensive, but denied

that pictures of "pretty girls" amounted to

Dismissing "the rather anatomical pic-

tures that the Sun and the Star regard as

of such commercial importance". Mr Ed-

wards said that refusing to "publish pic-

tures of pretty girls would be a ludicrous

act of self-destruction".

PRESS

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR

PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No. 30

journalism.

"pin-ups".

soft porn.

AUGUST 1985

"Girls are pretty," he went on, "And women recognise that fact. Men are not so pretty but we have a good ration of pictures of men whom women like - such as Roger Moore and TV heart-throbs."

Mirror

goes

"We go in for a lot of animal pictures, of the Equal Opportunities Commission and which sex I do not know," he said, assuring the Commission for Racial Equality, aims the Campaign that the Mirror will never to do away with stereotyping in British again print pictures it regards as pornographic. Mr Edward's announcement came after

The Mirror's response is an indication of how difficult it will be to get over the notion of pigeon-holing people for the sake of journalistic convenience.

A spokesperson for the Campaign said later: "Journalists usually portray women either as sex objects or in terms of their domestic responsibilities.

"Either way women are undermined, and men and women are encouraged to regard them as second class citizens. We hope journalists will ditch stereotypes and cliches of all sorts. They are out-dated and unrealistic and cause offence and discri-



Slashing cuts at the BBC, with basic services farmed out to private contractors and the loss of 4,000 jobs, have caused consternation among the broadcasting unions.

Tony Hearn of the Broadcasting Entertainment Trades Alliance has forecast "the bloodiest industrial battle the BBC has ever seen" if the cuts and restructuring package is implemented.

The first union representatives heard about the plans, devised by BBC governors and senior management without consulting staff, was at a brief meeting on July 17 cut short by a Press Conference to announce them to the

Later NUJ Broadcasting Officer and CPBF Nat Cttee member John Foster said: "The BBC is yielding to political pressure either put on it already or likely to be put in it by the outcome of the Peacock Committee."

"These plans reveal significant changes in BBC programme policy in TV and radio, nationally, regionally and locally. They imply a restructuring which will lead to the break up of the Corporation."

He warned that media unions remain totally opposed to privatisation of "the premier broadcasting organisation in Britain."

While independent programme makers may welcome news that the BBC intends to increase its output of "bought in" material from 20 to 150 hours a week, there is grave concern that this will simply lead to rampant competition, with profits overiding considerations of the public interest and an inevitable reduction in wages and conditions.

Set alongside the Home Secretary's plans for private radio stations and the creation of the Cable Authority, the BBC's announcement is the clearest indication yet that the government wants the private sector to determine what should or shouldn't be seen and heard by the British public.

Community Radiosigns of a breakthrough?

On the eve of the Home Secretary's announcement about deregulating Britain's airwaves, exploratory meetings got under way between the Broadcasting Entertainment Trades Alliance and the Community Radio Association.

One firm item on future agendas will be some form of agreement for union sanction of community radio schemes with professionals working alongside volunteers, in non-profit making, democratically controlled local projects.

This could signal the end of traditional hostilities between broadcasting unions and volunteer enthusiasts.

The differing views in this long-running debate are rehearsed in this month's FREE PRESS SUPPLEMENT. See Centre section

INSIDE: Gays & Channel 4 p3 Racism & local press p5

The Thatcher government has twice been elected on a promise to lessen state control over the institutions of our society.

Strange then, to have witnessed the alarming growth of police powers, legal changes restricting trade union and other democratic rights and the use of the security services to investigate anti-nuclear campaigners among the many others now included in that widening category, 'the enemy within'.

At a meeting organised by the CPBF, together with Journalists Against Nuclear Extinction (JANE) and Media Women for Peace, nearly 100 people came along to a discussion about how the media have reported this paradox, and even, at times of crisis, become very closely identified with the interests of the 'state'.

Tam Dalyell MP impressed the meeting with his encyclopedic recall of dirty deeds behind closed doors during the Falklands War.

Jane Hickman, a solicitor with long experience of court battles involving the Greenham women, gave a fascinating account of the media's love-hate relationship with Greenham over the years.

And Cathy Lloyd from the Public Order Research Group looked at the failure of the media to inform us about the outrageous abuses of police and legal powers during the coal dispute.

The discussion was lively and interesting and the role of the CPBF and the other organising groups was warmly acknowledged.

The Campaign should be organising regular meetings of this type. If any members have ideas for topics that need airing, or could help with organising them, please ring the office and let us know

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NUJ launches guidelines on gays & AIDS

Media treatment of lesbians and gay men displays a sneering hostility which should not be tolerated.

Such public humiliation and trivialisation has been matched only by the dangerously distorted coverage given to AIDS, calculated to induce public panic and near hysteria if not physical assault and ostracism of gay men.

Now the National Union of Journalists is attempting to put its own house in order. On the instructions of its national delegate conference two booklets have been published to help journalists to mend their ways. "Guidelines for reporting on homosexuality" and "AIDS and the Media" have been published by the NUJ's recently created Equality Council and Lesbian and Gay Group, backed by the CPBF and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Copies available from NUJ, Acorn House, Grays Inn Road, London WC1

Meanwhile the London Media Project has begun a major research project into images of lesbians and gays on TV and radio, with the Hall Carpenter Memorial Archive.

A TV and radio producer will co-ordinate the research. Philip Adams is also a member of the NUJ Lesbian and Gay group.

His first task will be to recruit 200 volunteers nationwide to monitor an as yet undisclosed week of television and radio out put.

"Lesbians and gays have claimed for years that radio and TV perpetuate prejudice against them," Adams explains. "We have gone to considerable lengths to ensure that our methodology doesn't prejudice the results of this massive monitoring exercise."

The results should be evaluated by Christmas, and will be discussed at a conference early in 1986.

Volunteers wishing to help the LMP should contact Philip Adams at the LMP, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NJ, Tel 278 6601.

London Programme in the dock

Critics of a contentious London Weekend Television documentary on the redevelopment of London's dockland have discovered that the TV company had a planning application in to the government's Dockland Development Corporation (LDDC) at the time.

LWT has since been given the go-ahead for its warehouse scheme in the Surrey Docks.

Described as "a slick piece of public relations for the LDDC" by FREE PRESS editor Mike Jempson on Channel 4's Video box, the London Programme film has been roundly condemned by local community groups, including those who participated in it.

They claim it was biased, inaccurate and untruthful. Members of the Cherry Garden Action Committee in Southwark, who took part, found "the whole business distasteful" and want another chance to put forward local views.

Some critics of the LDDC were edited out of the programme, and because all the positive statements about the government appointed corporation were made by professional communicators, local views came over as amateurish and unimportant.

This is just the latest in a series of criticisms of recent London Programmes on LWT. Earlier this year sensational treatment of AIDS and racial harrassment caused anger and anxiety especially among gay and black organizations.

 CPBF members in East London have begun their own investigation into the way the Dockland area is becoming a "media city".

The LDDC runs its own freesheet and has an interest in the local cable franchise. News International, the Telegraph and The Guardian are all moving to Docklands, where there is already a Mercury satellite receiving station, TV studios and British Telecom satellite dishes.

Anyone willing to help should contact Mike Jempson on 01 480 7332.

BLADESTOCK

A new book distribution agency, run by and specialising in black authors, has just launched its first catalogue.

Bladestock, based in Lambeth, is run by Charlene Mertens and Ivor Osborne. Their initiative is designed to assist black writers and publishers to reach the expanding market among black and white readers for poetry, novels and other works by black authors.

Already over 20 major mainstream and independent publishers have agreed to use their services.

Bladestock have been backed by the Greater London Enterprise Board with a £45,000 loan. Their first catalogue "Third World Poets: Metropolitan Minorities" is available from Bladestock on 01 677 6163.

No comment

In the last issue of FREE PRESS we mentioned Ian Juniper's efforts to persuade the Mirror that its coverage of the coal dispute was biased, and that it inaccurately portrayed public reaction when the Maxwell train made a "pit stop" in Nottingham.

He has continued with his efforts, lobbying columnist Paul Foot in particular. Since receiving the letter printed below he has taken his complaints to the Mirror Ombudsman Sir William Wood.

Mr Maxwell describes the Ombudsman's job as "justice with a quick service – an instant and impartial investigation". Sir William has been in post since March. The Campaign was one of the first to contact him, and is still waiting for a reply.



Take FREE PRESS on holiday – and drop us a line about your views on the Fourth Estate. Letters, typed, double-spaced and to the point, please, by September 1.

Financing new papers*

May I suggest that we consider - with modifications to suit our country - some of the press freedoms now practised in other countries.

In Sweden, for example, since 1971 there has been financial support from the government for newspapers reaching less than half the households in their circulation area.

In Britain only one town has more than a single newspaper, but in Sweden, where there were 50 communities with competing dailies, the number had dropped to 20 in the early seventies. Yet today 19 of them still have more than one.

In that country the government makes annual grants to all the political parties to help their newspapers. I have been driven to the conclusion that in our country there should be such a grant to all parties in proportion to their vote at the previous general election.

This would be for new papers, addi-

This would be for new papers, additional to those in publication now. All political groups would benefit.

In the first year, because of high establishment costs, there should be a grant or loan of, say, £15 millions, and subsequently an annual grant overall of £5m (the cost of one quarter of a Tornado aircraft!)

There would be no interference in the staffing, running or contents of the new papers. In Sweden the biggest Conservative paper, Svenska Dagbladet, received last year the maximum subsidy of £3½ millions.

A CPBF friend argues that political parties could not run newspapers. The Sunday Citizen, formerly Reynolds News, was owned by the Co-op, and the Daily Herald, with a circulation at one time of two million or six million readers, was run by the unions and the Labour Party.

There are many other examples from abroad.

Surely this would not be too high a price to pay for a little more fairness in our press and thus in our democracy.

Frank Allaun South Drive Manchester 21

Name

Address

Phone

Double Standards?*

On the day the London Standard proudly announced its part in the squashing of the "Pimlico Dole Ring", I phoned the paper and was put on to a deliberately anonymous gent with a Scottish accent in the newsroom.

I enquired as to why there had been no news of the two Midlands surgeons dismissed for "diddling" the NHS of payments. The paper does not "follow up" stories outside London, I was informed.

But why no mention at all, I asked. Dole diddlers can (rightly) expect no mercy from the Standard, whereas DHSS diddlers could expect to be offered an ad for a private hospital, I suggested. I was cut off.

The same edition referred to the rerun TGWU Gen Sec election under a headline "Low poll blow for Wright". It reported that "Mr Wright's supporters were hoping for a high turnout of voters attracted by publicity around the original ballot."

As the Standard had supplied Mr Wright with a great deal of such publicity, I asked whether the paper had charged and been paid for its assistance. I was told it was "highly unlikely".

Dave Shepherd CPSA Marsham St, London SW1

Double take

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in the form below and post it to Frameworks, 195 Walworth

Road, London SE17 1RP or telephone (01) 701 8262.

I am interested in your media training courses.

Please send me further information.

On Saturday June 6 Neil Kinnock made what I consider to be a major speech in Edinburgh in which he promised to sack McGregor and re-instate 202 sacked miners when the next Labour government comes to power.

It was only briefly mentioned on the early news on BBC and ITV, but not a mention on any channel in later bulletins.

Even as the cricket results were being reported I phoned both networks and asked for the duty officer. I complained about this bias, and in the case of ITN drew attention to an item about an interview between Mrs Thatcher and David Frost (which had not by then been officially broadcast!)

The BBC said my complaint would be mentioned in the right quarters. ITN told me it was entirely "up to the news editor" as to what went in and what was

be passed on.
On the Sunday again no mention was
made of the Kinnock speech in the early
morning news on our local radio station

left out. But again my complaint would

Radio Merseyside. Again I complained.

The young woman who answered the phone said the "news editor is not yet in". Very courteously she thanked me for my interest and said she would mention it, etc. Yet again – no action. In each case I mentioned the CPBF!

Fred Price Warkworth Court Ellesmere Port.

* An asterisk indicates that a letter has been edited

Peace by peace

Peace by Peace is a tour designed to show the connections between all groups concerned with the quality of life and the well being of the environment, people and animals of this planet. To show that all these concerned are united in their opposition to exploitation in all its forms.

It hopes to promote an awareness of this common aim and to establish contact with people, places and ideas that many encourage growth and change through peace. We feel that what often appears to be apathy stems largely from a lack of or suppression of information and that if more people were aware of what is being done 'in their name' many more people would speak out.

Of course there are vested interests who are content for things to remain as they are and these must be exposed. We hope to do this by means of an exhibition. literature stall, videos and meetings with the help of local people round the country.

country.

If you feel you would like to be involved or can help in any way i.e. with food or finances or support, please get in touch with the local contact listed below, or just come along.

We are struggling to get on the road with less financial help than we had hoped for - if all your members could send a small donation - no matter how small - it would help enormously.

The Gardens, Overy Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

FP adds:

Tour dates and contacts for August: 2- 4- Petersfield (Ann Morgan James, 0730-89105)

7- 8-Portsmouth (Sean Walsh, 103b Victoria Road, Southsea, Hants)

9-11 – Brambles Farm Festival, Portsmouth (Alan Randle, 0705-252887)

12-15 – Exeter (Kevin Murphy, 0392-77032) 16-19 – Bristol (Andy & Pat, 0272-

771573) 21-23 - Merthyr Tydfil (Anthony

Evans, 0685-73231) 24-26 – Aberystwyth (Jo Engelkamp, Talybont 638)

WOMEN'S REVIEW: a new magazine that will look at the arts from a woman's point of view ISSUE ONE will include

Interview with Pulitzer prize winner Alice Walker

Growing up in the 50's: Liz Heron on women and autobiography

The glossy magazines: why do we buy them?

Choosing books for children

Poetry from Gillian Allnut · Anna Swir · Grace Nichols

Frankle Finn's latest short story

Reviews on books · film · theatre · television · visual arts · music the contents of issue one may be subject to alteration

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Power without responsibility

As Marx might have said: "The media are the opium of the people."

The tabloids take people's minds off things that matter onto things that don't. They tell lies, but most of all they select the news, playing up what pleases the millionaire proprietors and playing down or omitting entirely news that is "unhelp-

An excellent and well-documented analysis and history of how this situation came about has been provided by James Curran and Jean Seaton. I recommend it to all CPBF supporters.

To the original (published in 1981) there have been added three new and valuable chapters, bringing the story up-to-date.

One criticism I would make is that they spend to much time on what is wrong with the media, which most trade union, CND and Labour Party members already know very well, and not enough on what to do about it.

Starters' Orders

The CPBF doesn't feature in "Modern Newspaper Practice".

Small wonder. It is, after all, only "an introduction to all aspects of newspaper journalism and the journalist's world" which "devotes sections to controversial and often neglected issues such as cheque book journalism, bias and distortion, news management, legal restrictions and advertising.

Hardly the concerns of the Campaign.

FORMAT

A women's collective

PICTURE LIBRARY

COMMISSION WORK

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F.W. Hodgson knows his stuff. What's worrying is that he's passing on so blinkered a view to the starry-eyed hopefuls who will learn much of the basic technical skills of their trade

Some CPBF members have urged that each proprietor should not be allowed to own more than one national newspaper.

Unfortunately there are ways of circumventing this, for instance by an owner giving papers to his wife, child or another relative or close business associate.

This book proposes breaking up the mighty press combines by divesting them of some of their papers and encouraging their take-over by former employees.

The authors deal in the final chapter with the statutory right of reply. There is little about the industrial right of reply, exercised with great effect in the last 12 months by the print unions. I can only hope that my own union, the National Union of Journalists, will be ready to take an equally courageous stand against press and broadcasting distortion. by Frank Allaun

The weaknesses really show up in the bib-

There is plenty of good, sound advice and

Modern Newspaper Practice by F.W.

liography with no mention of the wealth of

critical and progressive literature on the media

information but don't think you know it all

Power without Responsibility: The Press and Broadcasting in Britain by James Curran and Jean Heaton University Paperbacks, Methuen, £6.95.

on NCTJ and in-house courses.

published in recent years.

when you've learned it off by heart.

Hodgson. Heinnemann p.b. £8.95

the presses.

Women don't get much of a look in. Blacks hardly exist. The Press Council emerges with a clean bill of health. And the print unions are censured for censoring the news by stopping

the agenda.

By Lesley Wood



EQUALITY RULES

The Greater London Enterprise Board has produced a snappy and reasonably comprehensive guide to getting rid of discriminatory practices in the workplace.

'Organising for Equality' makes the case for equal opportunities and gives clear information on the law, equal pay, hiring and interviewing staff, training and promotion and sexual and racial harassment.

More subtle, institutional forms of discrimination (often felt most acutely) which stem from the unacknowledged dominance of white, ablebodied, male attitudes in the workplace, are also

Cath Jackson's telling cartoons help to underline how far we have to go just to get equality on

Perhaps the CPBF should send this booklet around the major media workplaces asking how they match up as employers. Or CPBF members working in the media might like to make their own investigations.

Organising for Equality

Miner's classics

Some remarkable books are beginning to **PHOTOGRAPHERS** appear about the miners' marathon struggle.

Two which capture striking images of the dispute, but in very different media, are "Deep Digs" Pluto's chronicle of cartoons from 28 artists who supported the miners, and a superb collection of photographs by News Line photographers, Kathy and P.J. Arkell, Ray Rising and Sean Smith.

> Both books serve as a timely reminder of what the dispute was really about, and how little the media did to inform people.

Deeper Digs: Cartoons of the Miners' Pluto Press £3.50

The Miners' Strike in Pictures New Park £5

Magazine & brochure production

404 St John St., **London EC1** 01-278 6965

Editorial. desian. paste up

POISONOUS IMAGES

In the Seventies fast food giants MacDonalds massacred and minced five million steers. And cut down 300 square miles of forest each year for napkins and paper plates.

By 1980 they had 20% of the US fast food market, and were spending 300 million dollars a year on advertising.

30 years ago Vance Packard began to unpick the wool being pulled over our eyes by American advertising techniques in "The Hidden Persuaders".

Now William Meyers tells us how they have perfected their winning ways and continue to con us in pursuit of obscene profits - at whatever cost. For them honesty and integrity are simply catchphrases.

Although "The Image-Makers" concentrates on America, the graffiti has long been on our walls.

Watch out. These evil manipulators are after our newspapers, cable networks, satellite TV and deregulated local radio. MJ

The Image-Makers Secrets of successful advertising by William Meyers Orbis £12.95

Never mind the quality - how much TV do you watch? and what state of mind are you in when you switch on - and off.

More to the point, how much has TV come to influence children, their education and their exnectations?

Marie Winn, an American writer for children and parents, has revised her classic study of 1977 to bring us more warnings about the insidious impact of the "goggle-box".

We all watch more TV than ever before, and TV is often the easy way out, for parents and children - like junk food. And it does us as much good.

Inter-personal communication suffers, along with children's reading, writing and imaginative development.

She prescribes abstinence, partial or absolute, especially with Cable in the offing, offering stale diets of yet more mindless rubbish. "The Plug-in Drug" raises issues we would be foolish to ianore. D.L.

The Plug-in Drug: television, children and the family **By Marie Winn** Penguin £3.95

Channel 4 betrays gays

ment was to minority programming. Meetings in 1982 with senior C4 personnel, which I attended, made it absolutely clear that gay people would finally have coverage to counterbalance the vicious homophobia pumped out by the BBC and ITV. That promise has been betrayed.

Even in the early days, it was clear that producers were getting cold feet about gay programmes.

Although some women and blacks had been appointed to influential positions, gay media workers were, and remain, left out in the cold.

C4 staff were found to just as homophobic as their BBC colleagues - indeed, many had moved across from the BBC.

C4 initially got a very hostile press and Tory backbenchers were incensed about proposals for gay programmes. Public hostility came to a head over the 1983 New Year's Day broadcast of a multi-feature gay programme.

Jeremy Isaacs, C4's chief executive, decided simply to abandon the commitment to cover gay issues properly. After a few months. C4 executives were saying that no promises had ever been given in the first

When I appeared on a C4

panel (Dec 1982) discussing minority programming, both the producer, Jane Carter, and the presenter, Gus McDonald, told me that what was required was a general discussion; specific, hard-hitting attacks on media heterosexism should be avoided. Although I ignored this pressure it represented the shape of things to come.

Later, whilst serving on the NCCL's gay rights committee, I asked Paul Madden, commissioning editor for minorities. why C4 had chickened out of its gay coverage.

He made two points. First, the mood of the country was deeply reactionary, broadcasters had to bide their time, etc.

Secondly, there was a new policy; instead of putting gays into a broadcasting ghetto, like Asians and West Indians, the idea was integration.

The idea was terrific, but it was not implemented. The cowardly and preposterous decision of the makers of Brookside to follow the other channels' policy on serious soap operas of having exclusively heterosexual fictional characters, is especially damaging.

Apart from being a blatant distortion of reality it misses the opportunity of presenting gays as integral members of society.

Or take the 'Comment' slot,

produced by Fiona Maddocks. whom I spoke to early in March. She ensures that women and black speakers are regularly invited. But in over two years not a single speaker had ever spoken about gay rights!

I expressed my astonishment that a channel supposedly dedicated to minorities should have so signally failed the largest minority of all. She saw no reason for change. Why didn't I write to her? I wrote, suggesting myself;

she declined my offer. By what peverse logic can Maddocks ensure party political balance. and full ethnic and women's representation, yet ignore gays completely?

Religious coverage is further evidence of C4's swift march to the right.

A 1983 poll recorded a current church-going Christian community of about 11% of the population (about the same as the homosexual population). This minority already has, on BBC and ITV, spectacularly disproportionate air and screen time; and here is C4, supposedly designed to cater for those ignored by broadcasters hitherto, adding still more.

Last year, C4's 'Opinions' ran three programmes on alternatives to Victorian morality. Not only were all three contributors heterosexual, but one of them.

By Mark Lilly

Jeffrey Bernard of 'The Spectator' subscribes to an extreme form of homophobia. Another moral forum programme 'Are You Taking the Tablets' (20 June 85) featured Derek Jameson, the ex-editor of "News of the World" and an extreme homophobe.

It is difficult to convey to heterosexual readers the sense of outrage that gay people feel at the fact that these two are given credibility by their appearances. It is as if 'Eastern Eye' suddenly found themselves with Harvey Proctor and Patrick Harrington as presen-

A major part of the problem stems from the ignorance and hostility of the presenters. A few weeks after my first appearance on 'Right to Reply', Gus Macdonald was making the ludicrous suggestion that the anti-gay lobby should be heard alongside gay activists.

I appeared on 'Right to Reply' again, in 1984. Macdonald introduced my contribution by saying that I wanted C4 to 'have the courage' to put gay people on the screen. This gave the impression that such a thing was risky, daring and courageous a complete distortion of my point, that C4 itself is distorting reality by excluding gays. There is nothing creditable certainly not 'courageous' - in putting it right.

The prestigious Grierson Award for documentary films this year went to six short, sharp videos made in support of the miners' cause.

Produced by ACTT film technicians, film workshops and NUJ members, the campaigning video tapes have been shown up and down the country, but have yet to be shown on mainstream tv networks.

Over 4,000 copies of the tapes, made in collaboration with Kent. S. Wales. Derbyshire. Northumberland, and Yorkshire areas of the NUM, have been distributed so far in Britain alone.

Copies continue to do the rounds in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark,



Miners' tapes win award but no airtime

Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the USA and West Germany, raising a great deal of muchneeded cash for mining communities.

Perhaps this is why tv companies have kept them off our screens. The tapes are unambiguously supportive of the miners' point of view.

The tapes were made to redress the bias in media coverage of the coal dispute, to win backing for the miners, and to raise funds for the men, women and children who fought to save their communities.

The Grierson Award goes to films which are innovative, fulfil their intended purpose, and extend the boundaries of documentary form. The Miners' Tapes topped a short-list of 10 selected from over 120 nominated films.

Copies are available from Trade Films of Stewart MacKinnon of Trade Films (L) and Chris

who co-ordinated the making of the tapes alongside technicians and others who gave their assistance free of change.

The tapes are among films, books and photographic displays that feature in the Coal Not Dole catalogue just published by the Northern Film and TV Archive.



Gateshead and Platform Films of London Recresof Platform Films receive their award at the BFI

Their introduction includes a damning litany of the hardships faced by the majority population in a very rich country: "impoverished, illiterate, malnourished and politically power-

And the South African Press reflects the extent of the conflicts and divisions between black and white people - political, economic and

The S. African government views all opposition to apartheid as part of a so-called "total onslaught" of communism against its power and

To combat opposition it has developed a "total strategy" including press censorship, and the imposition of heavy penalties upon those who fail to conform to laws and codes on press report-

No sex please – it's Brazilian

In Brazil some film-makers have evaded the military regime's ban on overtly political cinema by subverting the peculiarly Brazilian soft-core 'pornochanchada'

When independent film company Visions took a sideways look at this response to censorship for Channel 4 they ran into a peculiarly

Any hope that the IBA might take a less censorious line after the non-prosecution of "M15's Official Secrets" and the successful SCUM appeal were smashed after the June banning of "Brazil: Cinema, Sex and the Gener-

Carefully chosen extracts from the films illustrated points made by the directors and critics interviewed. Producer Simon Hartog avoided material he knew could not be shown on British television and slightly amended a couple of extracts after discussion with Paul Bonner of

The IBA didn't follow its normal procedure of asking to see possibly "contentious" material well in advance of transmission,

Sometime on the Wednesday the programme was due to be transmitted, Dermot O'Hagen, Peter Ashforth and another IBA officer viewed the programme and referred it upwards to Director of Television David Glen- out by the Press Association on the Thursday cross, who was meeting with the Independent Television Companies Association and couldn't be reached until early evening.

before scheduled transmission.

The following day the director of another item on Visions rang the IBA to complain about serious issues raised by the ban were taken up, the banning of his item along with the alleged first by the Guardian's Media Page, then by the "porn". After being given the runaround he Financial Times, City Limits, the New Statesended up with Peter Ashforth, one of the offic- man, the Listener and Broadcast. ers responsible.

Brazilian cinema buff Ashforth launched into a fate of the unfortunate Visions. vehement attack on the programme: "you haven't missed anything at all - it's absolute tripe, gratuitously tasteless and offensive from start The Prisoner of Conscience Column will return in to finish, just clips from pornographic movies FP31

Zolile Mbali opens a new dossier on the S. African press

The Press and Apartheid Repression and Propaganda in South Africa C.A. Gifford & W.A. Hachten

Even the papers meant to cater for black people are white-owned. This means that there are limits on what may or may not be written about the status quo, even by black staff members and

The closure of the Rand Daily Mail is one example of what can happen to outspoken papers which are too pro-black people in their style and

Black people will only be able to publish their views fully when they own the papers they read. But if such publications automatically attract closure, it's a true Catch 22.

The book makes clear how the S. African government has used the media as part of its propaganda apparatus. In the "Muldergate" affair, large sums of public money were used to "win friends and punish enemies in S. Africa and abroad." Cabinet ministers were amoung those involved, highlighting the extent to which the government values press manipulation as a means of presenting their policies in a more favourable light.

With the press in chains the government appears invincible to those who suffer most. Rumour replaces truth, defeatism is drummed into people generating frustration which can so easily ignite in communal violence.

And when opposition is officially identified as communism or terrorism, the vicious circle is completed by further repression.

The authors chronicle the role of the press and broadcasting in the maintenance of apartheid. Make sure it's in your local library.

John Jennings Appeal

Don't forget that the threat of a libel action still hangs over the head of former CPBF Secretary John Jennings for an article which appeared in Free

Press.
The Freedom Association is suing him.

Keep sending in the cheques for John's defence campaign. A John Jennings Defence Fund has been et up. Send your donations c/o CPBF, 9 Poland St,

with no insight into politics at all". So much for balanced, impartial judgment.

As reprehensible as the IBA's slapdash philistinism was the silence of most of the British press on the ban. Although the story was put morning not one paper carried the story next

It was left to Libération in Paris to break it The ban came at around 6.00, just five hours with a three column feature followed by a full page in Rio's Journal de Brasil.

It wasn't until the following Monday that the

By effectively stifling debate on the subject, Mistaking the director for a disappointed the press is, as responsible as the IBA for the

By JULIAN PETLEY



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£450 (Retail prices average £8.50)

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CPBF receives a generous commission on all subscriptions from this advert.

Challenging racism in the local press

Raising awareness of racism in the way events and issues are covered in all parts of the media remains a crucial task.

The local paper is one place where positive action can take place. It is closer to the community and often feeds the rest of the media with news.

Community groups must take up cudgels with editors who show no respect for their lives and interests, and continue to insist upon accurate and equable coverage.

When confronted by a community group over a biased front page report on a festival for black youth, Hackney Gazette editor Roger Jones said "I accept we were at fault. We slipped

The report detailed two minor thefts during the 12-hour "Big, Broad and Massive" festival organised by Hackney Youth in Progress (HYIP) and attended by more than 7,000 black youths from all over London. The paper did not cover the festival

Yet the editor did not see it as an "issue" that the same (March 26) edition had given good coverage, including a large front page picture, to two white-dominated youth festivals attended by only a few hundred.

Jones ignored a letter from HYIP, sent the following day, which asked "Is this all your readership were to hear of the day? This is the image you like to push of Black people, particularly the youth, that of Black criminals.'

By IAN RATHBONE

It also drew attention to the fact that "several hundred police from all over London assembled in the back streets awaiting the opportunity to relive some of the tactics recently practised on the miners and their communities"

He only agreed to meet HYIP representatives month later, after another letter from Hackney Community Action. It was a meeting I also

HYIP Secretary Ace Kelly was told he was "splitting hairs" when he asked why the editor took note of a large white-led community group but had ignored a black organisation's protests.

Pressed to publish the original HYIP letter, Jones said it was now "all in the past" and claimed that anyway "I thought it was for my eyes only".

His internal investigation revealed that noone had seen HYIP's notice of the event. It was not recorded in the paper's diary because a reporter had not obtained the festival date.

The reporter had called HYIP's number and heard a recorded message, but apparently failed to leave a request for more information on the answering machine.

So where had the Gazette got its story about the thefts if it had not covered the festival? From police calls on the following Monday, admitted

Challenged that by obtaining too many stories in this way, Blacks tended to be represented as criminals, the editor claimed that his paper tried to present a "balanced" view. He said the police. among others, presented another view which could be "just as persuasive. Who's to say who is

For the future he suggested, HYIP should write direct to him. "Let's see if we can't go about it in the right way," he said.

It was a far from satisfactory conclusion, given the damage done by the selection and omission of news about the original event.

Meanwhile, Mr Jones has backed away from an earlier commitment given to Hackney Community Action that a "Community Page" should appear in the paper.

He claimed that too few groups had written in, and blamed superficial coverage on lack of staff.

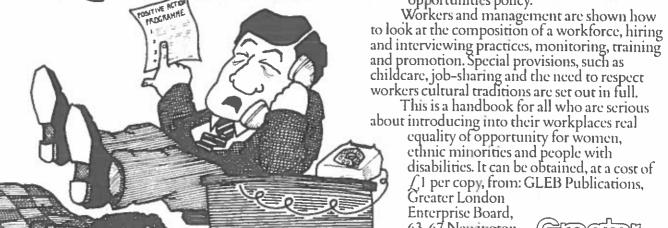
BLACK JOURNALISTS WANTED

The December edition of FREE PRESS will have a Supplement devoted to examining racism in the

The intention is that editing and production of the Supplement will be under the control of Black lournalists.

Contributions are welcomed, and volunteers for the editorial team should contact Mike Jempson, CPBF, 7 Poland St, London WC1 3DG

ORGANISING FOR Here, enlivened by Cath Jackson's cartoons, is a straightforward guide to the implementation of an equal opportunities policy. Workers and management are shown how



This is a handbook for all who are serious about introducing into their workplaces real equality of opportunity for women,

ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. It can be obtained, at a cost of 1 per copy, from: GLEB Publications, Greater London

Enterprise Board, 63-67 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BD. Tel: 01-403 0300.

The GLEB introduces its equal opportunities policy into all of the



Australian alternative wavelengths

The debate about community radio in Britain has taken place in something of a

Hardly anyone actually heard it (I'll bet Leon Brittan hasn't, anymore than Lord Whitelaw). Mainstream broadcasters are threatened by it. and those arguing for it range from the Adam Smith Institute to the New Left.



Producing a show for the disabled on 2 GLF

Yet community radio has been successfully introduced in many countries, and Australia provides a particularly relevant model.

There a Third Force of 54 "public" radio stations co-exists quite happily with a British-style duopoly. These stations cater for most of the minority interests and tastes you can imagine. They offer a wealth of community information and access for local groups.

Above all they are owned and controlled by

There are three categories of station - educational, neighbourhood and special interest (from Christian to classical music)

BEVAN JONES of the National Federation of Community Organisations listens in.

While their actual output blurs these distinctions, they are all non-profitmaking and are funded from a variety of sources - grants, job creation schemes, subscriptions, and fundraising concerts, "radiothons", sale of airtime and sponsorship.

This last is a limited form of advertising which accounts, overall, for only about 16% of station

Community radio stations are structured in much the same way as British voluntary organisations and co-operatives. Many employ unionised staff, and nearly all have anti-racist and anti-sexist policies.

COMING NEXT

CPBF Women's Groups will produce the next FREE PRESS Supplement on Sexism in the media.

Racism, homophobia and CND are subjects lined up for later Supplements.

Members' comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Their audiences vary widely, but it is obvious that a 15-minute weekly spot by "The Neasden Friends of the Earth" will get a decent slice of its target audience.

Australia's public broadcasters have proved that the Community Radio Association - which emphatically does not represent the pirates - is not fantasising about a new tier of voluntarydemocratically controlled managed,



Ryde Regional Radio broadcasts from a garage

accountable radio stations.

It is perfectly achievable here without knocking Independent Local radio's finances on the head, and could easily create more jobs.

It will certainly require some form of regulation, although this could be achieved by giving licences only to groups with non-profit corporate

It is worth remembering that the British voluntary sector accounts for a £2,000 million slice of the country's Gross National Product.

Most important of all, community radio can give a voice to the huge range of communities at present denied one.

Provincial Newspapers

National Graphical Association (1982



and New Technology

63-67 Bromham Road, Bedford. Tel: 51521.

SOLIDARITY

A strong union in the print is in your interest.

In the miners' dispute the NGA closed shop

stopped some of the worst smears on the strike being published.

No wonder the employers want to break the NGA closed shop.

Support the NGA dispute at the Wolverhampton Express & Star.





Views expressed in this Supplement are not necessarily those of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom

Brittan rules the air waves

By JANET WHYATT

Community Radio has arrived. The government is not telling us yet which communities will get their own radio stations, but over 20 pilot schemes are about to be introduced.

The announcement came in a Commons written answer in mid-July with no opportunity for MPs to debate it.

But in an interview for Independent Radio News, Home Secretary Leon Brittan said the experimental stations will not just cover small locations

"There will also be people broadcasting to a community of interest, such as a particular kind of music."

The Home Secretary said he would be responsible for regulating the output "with a small team of advisors at the Home Office."

The new stations will not be subject to the regulations of the Independent Broadcasting own way through advertising at cheap rates.



Brittan who has now set out his plans for the future of local broadcasting.

Asked whether this would affect the existing commercial stations, Mr Brittan was emphatic. "These stations are aiming for an entirely different audience, and they will not take listeners or advertisers away from existing stations because they will be doing different things."

At the end of the interview, the IRN reporter expressed his personal concern and pointed out Authority, and they will be expected to pay their that LBC, Capital and BRMB radio newsrooms are all making journalists redundant

The present attacks on the BBC and Independent Local Radio, and moves to deregulate are against the interest of the community and of those who wish for greater public access to the airwaves. The CPBF believes that there is a need for regulation

and any move away from it will lead to commercial exploitation and monopoly ownership.

The Campaign views with concern the government's suggestion for a third tier of small stations and the continuing deregulation of ILR.

The CPBF should campaign instead for greater access and public accountability within the present system, and for the enforcement of a legal framework for broadcast-

> The Campaign believes that present regulations must be improved to make it mandatory to provide news, current affairs and programming which meets the needs of all local communities.

> It was this catch-all motion that prompted heated debate at the CPBF AGM and this supplement.

> The National Committee is to reexamine the issue shortly, and Free Press welcomes further contributions to this important debate.

He asked the Home Secretary whether he would care to make a £10 donation to the union's fighting fund. Mr Brittan just laughed.

Laughing with him will be the Conservative MPs who have financial interests in advertising and broadcasting equipment. And those who want to break up British broadcasting into small low-cost units run by volunteers and freelances. on low pay without a strong trade union orga-

Community broadcasters who have waited so long for this initiative now have a chance to prove that people's radio can succeed - if they are among the 20 favoured applicants.

The CPBF must monitor this experiment closely. It is an exercise in unregulated commercial broadcasting.

Community radio, at least for the experimental period, exists to make money. We must watch its effect on local and community newspapers and magazines and established radio stations. While we welcome the opening of a new medium, it is no use if it wipes out all the older ones.

There is no censorship like no choice, and there is no greater threat to broadcasting freedom than the concentration of ownership in the hands of a few multi-media moguls.

Every CPBF member should campaign for community radio to be established and funded, so that stations do not need big financial backers, and are accountable to their workers and



• is a catalogue of films and videotapes produced by film and video makers in support of the miners during the 1984-85 strike.

Of the 35 productions listed so far, 15 are available for hire and sale on VHS and Umatic.

Also listed in the catalogue are contacts for photographic collections and exhibitions/books/ plays and shows.

For further details and orders

The Northern Film and TV Archive

36 Bottle Bank Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE8 2AR Tel: 091 477 3601.

Hypocrisy or Confusion?

At its 1984/5 AGM the CPBF voted against support for community radio.

At the same meeting the Campaign gave its support to the setting up of a left-wing Sunday newspaper. Is this hypocrisy or confusion?

Laura Vincent of the ABS argues that community radio would threaten jobs and conditions in existing radio stations. Yet the proposed Sunday paper would directly undermine jobs in its Fleet Street rivals. Why the double standards?

There is a mythology about "public broadcasting" among the British Left. Local Radio Workshop have refined the arguments into a sophisticated Stalinism.

For them, state ownership and regulation are synonymous with the "public interest". Under the present government with its privatisation policies this argument has a superficial attraction.

The Adam Smith Institute has called for the BBC to be sold off and private broadcasting deregulated. Many ILR contractors already ignore their statutory obligations, and some would be happy to be rid of their "public service" duties. For many dregulation offers the chance to undermine existing pay and conditions

To LRW and the majority at the CPBF AGM the best policy of the Labour movement is to oppose all change until the state sector can be brought under the Left's control.

Yet the IBA and the BBC are controlled by the Tory government and the white, middle-aged, male

and the BRU.

Who will be listening?

Richard Barbrook of the Community Radio Project takes issue with **CPBF** policy

and conservative Establishment. The views of ethnic minorities, lesbians and gays, socialists and the working class are systematically ignored, possibly as a result of state ownership and regulation.

Miners during the recent dispute had little enthusiasm for "public service broadcasting". Notts NUM activists even set up their own pirate radio "Voice of Arthur".

Fed up with tokenism in recruitment and the odd late night slot, those who feel abused have taken to direct action. It only costs around £60 to build a transmitter to cover a large city.

The Home Office must now legalise or face confusion on the airwaves. Leon Brittan's sudden enthusiasm for community radio is not a conversion to free speech and human rights - it has been forced on him, by public pressure and the

The question facing the labour movement now is not whether there should be new types of stations, but what type they will be.

LRW has become the dialectical twin of the Adam Smith Institute. Both are convinced that the media can be run only by either the state or corporate capitalism. And if no credible alternatives are put forward, free enterprise will indeed

Lewis and based on independent research conducted by MORI singly, was suggested by 48% of people interviewed. Other suggestions were for local council funding, listener subscription, or a mixed

But winning listener loyalty to

community radio stations, which

may well not have either the re-

sources or programming expertise

of the established stations, is not

going to be easy. It was heartening

to discover at the seminar how real

an awareness there was of the

Consultation with the appropri-

By Ken Wornole

ate broadcasting unions was cer-

problems ahead.

tainly on that agenda.

economy of all three. tion by gender, age, ethnic origin It is clear that non sources of radio with new kinds of The most enthusiastic sections programming. This is clear from for 'community radio', defined it seems either by locality or specific the number of pirate stations which operate all over the country, interest, were unemployed people, often catering for specific ethnic ethnic groups and working class groups, or particular musical people in general.

In July the GLC held a seminar to discuss a report it had commis

sioned on 'The Audience for Community Radio', written by Justin

It was these groups, too, who wanted to be more involved in making programmes and getting their views across.

Several thousand Londoners

were interviewed about their opin-

ions on the idea of 'community

radio, a cross section of the popula-

Interestingly, when asked who they thought should run such new radio stations, the BBC and IBA only managed to secure 21% of people's votes. Not exactly a massive vote of confidence in 'things as they are'. The favourite option was a committee of local people.

Finance was another issue. Advertising revenue, not surpri-

A Turkish listener will prefer a commercial Turkish service to nothing at all. Failure by the Left to support community radio will result in a mass of small businessmen's radio stations, with a vested interest in running the cheapest possible service.

take control of the vacant frequen-

This will spur existing ILR station owners to follow suit. So failure to back community radio not only alienates from the CPBF those dissatisfied with existing stations, it also threatens jobs and conditions in existing stations which the Left is fighting to avoid.

The job of the CPBF and the media unions is to ensure that workers in existing services are united with those fighting to change the industry, through supporting campaigns to get community radio stations "on-air".

There are many problems - the changing role of the media professionals, the need for democratic regulation and long-term financial viability - but they can only be sensibly resolved through discussion between media unions and the community radio movement to work out a joint position.

By uniting with community radio campaigners the CPBF can make a significant step towards the democratic broadcasting structure it claims to fight for.

Community radio could be as important as a Labour newspaper. In France both Communist and Socialist unions set up their own "radio libres"

The GLC have realised the potential of community radio. Their Local Radio Forum recommended grant-funding for several stations in London which could develop into community stations.

Far from opposing such initiatives, in the fight for broadcasting freedom the CPBF should be actively supporting them rather than waiting for a Labour government to change the management of the BBC and the IBA.

GLOSSARY

BRU Broadcasting Research Unit Community Radio Project Independent Broadcasting

Independent Local Radio

Richard Hoggart and Stuart Hall outlined alternatives in Peace News (August 1964).

Radio has always been a crucial part of larly in inner city areas. In London, where there are three local radio sta-It accounts for a large share of the tions and an Asian population of close receiving audience of the airwaves. It to a million, we are only given three is an accessible medium - it demands and a half programme hours a week less attention and costs less to receive. from the three stations combined.

of the Asian Radio Project

There are three programmes in all. highly regulated. In Britain we have Two of them clash on a Saturday only two bodies that control our entire night!

The answer that we propose, to en-The development of black communi- sure that our community obtains ties since the second world war has adequate representation, control, brought more pressure on this society accountability and access, is our own community radio station. The role of cheap labour in a capital-

We have been marginalised by the ist society explains why ex-colonial mainstream media for too long. We peoples have come to the metropolis. feel it is time that Asians, Afro-Yet this increase in the number of Caribbeans, and other minority comblack people in Britain did not, and munities had a proper way to present many will argue has still not, brought themselves, to broadcast for their peoabout a change in the racist percep- ple, in their languages, and to push tions and stereotypes portrayed by the their culture and their religions.

For this reason it is the job of unions It is certainly true that existing sta- and organisations like the CPBF to tions have done little to enhance com- stop taking a reactionary view of community radio, to stop moping around The ability of the law, trade unions on the sidelines and come out in the and bodies such as the CPBF to chal- open and actively support our delenge the racism and sexism of the mands for our own stations.

If they don't they will be brushed media establishment has been negligiaside as we surge forward and, for a In many areas of England there are change, get what has been rightly ours large pockets of Asian people, particu- all along - access to our own airwaves.

SIMON PARTRIDGE

takes a quick look at

community radio in

By the mid-1970s, with the development of

cheaper and simpler production technologies, in-

terest in alternative media and community poli-

tics had coalesced into community newspaper.

The imminent publication of the Annan Com-

mittee report on the future of broadcasting

brought together many of those interested in

alternative media to form COMCOM, the Com-

video and cable TV experiments.

munity Communications Group.

the history of

Britain

In December 1921 3,000 members of 63 "wireless societies" petitioned Sir Henry Norman MP who chaired the influential Wireless Sub-Committee of the Imperial Communications Committee.

We demand our own

radio station

For this reason it has always been

radio network, the BBC and the IBA.

to change than ever before.

munity relations in Britain.

64 years later the Home Secretary has been approached by around 600 groups and individuals interested in starting "community

Radio appears to be returning to its roots.

The term community radio was coined more or less simultaneously in 1965 by a progressive educationalist, an advertising executive and an early proponent of the New Right, though the idea of localised radio services was given official recognition as far back as 1951.

The Beveridge Committee in its report on the future of broadcasting recognised that the new VHF medium could be used to "establish local stations with independent programmes of their own the setting up of some local stations should be tried without delay"(!). Beveridge thought they might be developed by the BBC, a local authority, university or a specially formed voluntary agency. His proposals were not taken

In 1962 the Pilkington Committee on the future of broadcasting recommended some 250 small local stations - run under the BBC's

The prospect of commercial local radio encouraged counter-proposals.

It argued strongly in favour of Annan's Local

"Community" radio will only owned stations. be part of a package which ends the safeguards - albeit in-

result in the extension of private ownership.

sist on stations paying some regard to the views of trade unionists and community groups in the name of 'balance' and public service.

Instead we should campaign for new forms of public control over all the broadcast media.

We must eliminate or minimise the role of private ownadequate - which currently in- ership and advertising in radio. Where we now suffer from the boards of directors and station managers, let's have elected management committees representing workers and local

"Community" Radio —

soul or folk stations, let's en- radio, see no harm in handing

Supporting "community" radio at a time when the ated by big regional stations. government is privatising the rest of the medium, will

The Association of Independent Radio Contractors, the Adam Smith Institute and right wing Tory MPs openly advocate versions of this plan.

They see the removal of the "restrictions" in the Broadcasting Act and the BBC Charter as a way of "freeing" broadcasting from the shackles of public control. They want a Fleet Street of the airwaves.

Sadly many normally critical If people just want jazz, funk, of the role of free enterprise in

Democratising radio is no simple matter warns Local Radio Workshop

control.

In the short term this means supporting the call of broadcasting unions for a proper inquiry into the future of broadcasting.

But there are demands we should be making now.

Resources from public funds must be provided for workshops where trades unionists and community groups can

brought into democratic public from advertising and under marketeers, as long as they public control.

All stations and workshops should pay proper salaries, recognise trade unions and be governed by rules which guarantee the rights of workers and the local community over what is broadcast.

The government want none shops could be fed into publicly come part of networks domin- on the agenda.

All radio stations should be sure that they are largely free mass audiences over to the free can get one or two "community" stations on the side.

> But the priority has to be resisting the spread of private control in broadcasting, and arguing simultaneously for democratic public control over all radio stations.

A public inquiry would only of this. They plan a new tier of be the beginning of a positive small scale commercial sta- debate, but it could put the idea tions operating with the mini- of radio as a public resource, learn how to use the medium. mum of public control. As in governed in the interests of the The products of these work- other countries, they will be- whole community, back firmly

or democratic control?

means of "encouraging the growth of co-Rachel Powell from the Centre for Contemporoperative and joint forms of financing to stimuary Cultural Studies, published her pamphlet late a direct involvement by the community in Possibilities for Local Radio in December 1965. its own broadcasting services" Anarchy magazine, prompted by the revolution-The Labour Government of the day chose not ary events in France, devoted its Nov 1968 issue to "Radio Freedom". The hippy and alternative to seize this opportunity for radical reform. technology movements also contributed to the

For the last two years there has been a well-

organised lobby group, the Community Radio Association. The concept has widened to embrace specific ethnic and other groups like lesbians and gays. And the growth of radio piracy has helped to force the hand of the govern-

This combination of pressures has opened the door to official sanctioning of an experiment in

It is difficult to understand why the Labour movement, espousing as it does a vision of emancipation and freedom, has, with notable excentions, been singularly unhelpful. Can we now Broadcasting Authority, which he saw as a expect a more positive response?

BBC Inquiry

An initiative by Nat Cttee member Geoff Sheridan has led to the father a public inquiry into the future of public service broadcasting, including a rewrite of the BBC Charter.

The GLC has been approached to help fund the project, since London is the headquarters of the BBC which employs 20,000 of the 50,000 people working in audio and audio-visual industries in the capital.

The formal inquiry hearings will be preceded by detailed research work into the economics of broadcasting, looking at experiences in Britain and other Western" countries, and analysis of public attitudes towards broadcasting.
The CPBF will work closely with the Broadcasting

Research Unit, and the Polytechnic of Central Lon-don, and the inquiry will be linked to the GLC's London Industrial Strategy and its Commu ference planned for March 1986.

Members who have a contribution to make should contact the Campaign Office.

can be contacted via Ray Beaty National Organiser 13 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol, BS2 0JT Tel. 0272 555438 (answerphone)

THE COMMUNITY RADIO ASSOCIATION

OUR PITS, OUR LIVES

A 38-minute radio programme in which people from the Kent and West
Yorkshire coefficies argue the case against pit closures.
They describe their communities, their work in the pits, the lack of investme
mismenspernent of resources and the way the accounts are manipulated
labels pit uneconomic. Kent minera give the background to the return to w
organisation and tell how management colluded with the police to break to

inisation and tell how management conuded with the police to bree strike. Available on cassette from Local Radio Workshop. Tel 01-402 765 1. Price EZ. Endorsed by Kent NUM, 50% of proceeds go to the NUM

LOCAL RADIO WORKSHOP

12 PRAED MEWS, LONDON W2 1QY

WHITY MAP

The National Federation of Community Organisations

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