

FREE PRESS

PUBLICATIONS

New from the Campaign:

WOMEN IN FOCUS — guidelines for eliminating media sexism. By Julieanne Dickey & CPBF London Women's Group £1.50.

RIGHT OF REPLY POSTER — the D-I-Y "must" for 1986 £1.

RIGHT OF REPLY PACK — the complete practical guide to a central issue for all campaigners £2.95.

Send for these and our new mail order catalogue of books and videos. Cheques payable to CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG.

Manchester meetings

NW-CPBF have two important meetings in February.

Fri 7 Feb: Images of Ireland. A public discussion on television treatment of Ireland, at the Cornerhouse, Manchester.

Wed 26 Feb: NW Right of Reply Unit launch, in Manchester's Town Hall an important date in the Campaign's calendar.

For more details of these and other NW-CPBF activities contact Nancy Jaeger 061-832-6991.

'People's Peacock'

Members wishing to express their views on the future of public service broadcasting may like to contribute to the CPBF Broadcasting Inquiry.

It will provide both an antidote to Prof. Peacock's Thatcher-style "investigation" into the future funding of the BBC, and offer those Peacock doesn't want to hear with a chance to speak out.

Contact Janet Whyatt, CPBF Broadcasting Inquiry, Omnibus Workspace, 39-41 North Road, London N7 9DP. Tel: 01-609-8139.

Sex scandal rocks NUJ

Four Manchester branch NUJ officers have resigned following a controversy over the views of its Equality Officer Andrew Grimes.

Grimes rubbished gays and the NUJ Equality Council under the headline "White Heterosexual Male Speaks Out", in a branch news-



PHOTO: Ramesh Sharma

150 people turned up to the joint CPBF/GLEB reception on "New Directions for the Media" held in the splendid Book Space of London's Royal Festival Hall.

Sandra Home (ACTT) welcomed the guests from publishing, politics, television, radio, the press, video and record production and a variety of trades unions.

CPBF Chair Loretta Loach explained the work of the Campaign and announced plans to develop a media manifesto before the next General Election.

Launching GLEB's Cultural Industries investment policy with author Ken Worpole, GLC Industry and Employment Chair Michael Ward stoutly defended his council's backing for the CPBF.

letter.

When CPBF organiser Nancy Jaeger challenged his suitability to continue in office, a record attendance, including many first-timers from Grime's paper the Manchester Evening News, ensured his survival.

Nancy's eligibility for NUJ membership was then challenged, and had to be ratified by the union's Recruitment and Organization Cttee.

Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor then resigned their branch posts in disgust at Grimes' behaviour.

Meanwhile the NUJ's Equality Council has taken out a complaint against Grimes under the union's Code of Conduct. The issue will now have to be resolved by the National Executive of the NUJ.

AGM — Last orders

The Campaign's AGM takes place at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square in London on Sat 15 March from 10.30am to 5pm.

Amendments to resolutions must reach the Campaign Office by March 1, along with nominations to the National Committee.

Delegates are asked to give advance notice of their childcare needs. Creche facilities will be

"We have been able to complement your work by financing new projects in all sectors of the Cultural Industries," he said.

From Sheba feminist publishers Sue O'Sullivan spoke of the new horizons opened up by their work — identifying new markets and prodding the literary establishment to take black and working class women writers more seriously.

Rounding off the evening Tony Benn recalled the struggles of the oppressed throughout history and in all parts of the world for a voice. They represent a rich seam of new ideas from which we all benefit, he said.

CPBF need many useful contacts and is to feature in a forthcoming Channel 4 series, as well as undertaking work with SERTUC.

available. The building is wheelchair accessible.

Right of Reply

The CPBF has just produced a new poster, available from the London office, giving detailed information on how to make the media work for you. It is part of an information pack on the Right of Reply.

It provides an at-a-glance guide on who to contact, how to present your case, and what you can hope to achieve.

Whether or not you win a full-blown reply, the Campaign stresses that it is "better to fight back than stay silent". People who have contacted the Right of Reply unit with complaints "were often amazed at what was possible, and surprised that everyone doesn't do the same!"

FREE PRESS is edited for the National Committee by Mike Jempson.

Copy for the next issue should reach the Campaign Office, by March 1.

Publication of FP34 will be delayed to include a full report of the AGM.

FREE PRESS 30p

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No 33

MARCH 1986



PHOTO: Melanie Friend

PEACE MATTERS

The Media and the Peace Movement

4-page Supplement INSIDE

SPREAD THE WORD

Feel free to reproduce material, from FREE PRESS in your own newsletters, information kits, or publications.

All we ask is an acknowledgement and a copy of anything which FREE PRESS materials appears.

NEW FROM CPBF

WOMEN IN FOCUS

Guidelines for the elimination of media sexism
£1.50

BULK RATES
4-50 copies £1.20 each
Over 50 copies 90p each



Order yours from CPBF, 9 Poland St, W1V 3DG

GLC funded

INSIDE: Women's Conf p.2 Disability & the Media p.5



PHOTO: Denise Searle

WAPPING MONSTER

By MIKE POWER

The picket-proof walls, barbed wire fences and trenches of Rupert Murdoch's Wapping stronghold are the reality of his view of press freedom.

He is trailblazing for the new breed of press baron desperate to de-skill and de-unionise the industry.

Murdoch has thrown down the gauntlet by demanding a no strike, no closed shop, legally binding agreement that concedes all rights to management.

His News Group has provided the pretext by establishing a parallel company and plant in London's docklands and claiming that it will launch a 24 hour national and London evening paper *The Post*.

Many believe that *The Post* will never appear. Instead *The Sun*, *News of the World*, *Times* and *Sunday Times* will be transferred to the new plant.

One certainty, however, is that any effective resistance to such plans will be met with Thatcher's anti-union laws, with injunctions against 'secondary action' and damages claimed against union funds.

This calculated onslaught against the unions is not only being conducted by News Group. Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group has demanded and achieved the reduction of one third of his staff. The *Express* and *Telegraph* groups, both under new owners, want changes to their recent new technology agreements.

The situation is exacerbated by the willingness of the electricians' union leadership to sign single union deals that destroy traditional union organisation and conditions built by print unions.

The current industrial struggles to protect jobs and trade union rights have profound political implications, not least for the Right of Reply. The unfettered use of the new information technologies by powerful tycoons is a challenge to anyone who believes in democracy.

Yet some who claim to support the labour movement argue that new technology is cheap and accessible and thus good news for the left and others who call for a more diverse press. Such claims play into the hands of union busting employers who have not the slightest concern for press freedom.

Eddie Shah has raised between £20-£30 million to launch his paper using the most modern equipment with minimum staffing. This situation holds out no hope for those groups who are currently misrepresented in the press. In fact Shah is adding even more difficulties for new entrants into newspaper publication. His advertising rates are so low that new publishers may have to discount advertising revenue and rely on mass circulation or high cover prices if they are to compete.

Apart from Murdoch and Shah, Maxwell and former *Telegraph* journalist Andreas Witham-Smith have announced plans for new dailies in 1986. These papers will not create a more politically plural press. They will simply increase the number of right-wing newspapers on sale.

The CPBF has always stressed that the key issue is ownership and control.

The Wapping Monster is one of several new press centres in docklands which threaten to tighten the grip of the multi-millionaires who dominate Fleet Street.

● These issues will be discussed at a CPBF public meeting on Wed 5th March at 6.30, St. Brides Institute, Bride Lane, London, EC4. (Wheelchair accessible)

PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

JOIN CPBF HERE

FILL IN & SEND OFF TO CPBF, 9, Poland Street, London W1 3DG

Individual membership	£6 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>	Affiliation by organisation	
Unwaged	£2 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>	Less than 1,000 members	£10 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting membership	£15 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>	1,000 to 10,000 members	£20 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>
(includes FREE CPBF publications)		10,000 to 50,000 members	£50 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>
Institutional membership	£15 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>	50,000 to 100,000 members	£100 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>
(includes 10 copies of FREE PRESS)		Over 100,000 members	£250 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/>
(I/We would like to join the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom and enclose a cheque/PO for £			
Name/s:			
Organisation (if applicable):			
Secretary (if different from above):			
Address:			
Postcode: Tel:			
Where did you obtain your copy of FREE PRESS?			

Sexism study

The Campaign's Code of Conduct on Sexism in the Media has now been published, together with guidelines on presenting a fairer image of women.

The new booklet 'Women in Focus', put together by Julianne Dickey and members of the CPBF London Women's Group, was launched at the conference and snapped up eagerly.

Lively and readable, it looks at the worst forms of misrepresentation, and suggests what individuals and trade unionists, within the media and outside, can do. It has a valuable list of contact addresses, and information on TUC and media union policies.

'Women in Focus' is available from the Campaign's London office, price £1.50, (reduced rates for bulk orders).

ACTT Equality Organiser Diane Abbott, previously a TV journalist described the pressures facing women in the media.

"All newsrooms are hard, because they are incredibly competitive," she explained. "People know that if you don't do the story, there are another 12 people who will be glad to step over your body and do that sexist story."

Typical sources journalists use for information: police, fire services, courts and even local councils — are all dominated by men. "Anything to do with conflict, violence — that's news".

Sadly, she said, most of the women who had reached senior positions in the media had done so by cutting themselves off from other women. "The test of their confidence is that they can play that male game better than men. It's crucial for women inside the industry to shake off the values which tell them they should be competing against each other, and build some form of solidarity."

Journalist Mary Stott, who transformed the Guardian Women's Page into a challenging forum for ideas, condemned the

In Whose Image? KATE HOLMAN reports

Women set new agenda for media

The Campaign's first Women's conference, In Whose Image, proved more successful than even the organisers dared hope.

350 women came to London's County Hall — 10 days before Christmas — to express strong views about Britain's media. Some worked within the media industry, but many were students, mothers, teachers, and trade unionists who, as viewers, listeners or readers, were angry and frustrated about the way women's lives are presented.

It was an ambitious conference with speakers covering every area of the media, among them June Ayling, Chair of the Media Working Party for the UN End of Decade Women's Conference and NUJ members Cynthia Cockburn and Janet Whyatt, who spoke about their research on women in print and broadcasting.

Chairing the morning session, TV presenter Beverley Anderson stressed the positive steps that women can take to influence the media.

"We should think seriously about organising a boycott of certain newspapers. Perhaps we should stop talking reasonably, and start using our economic muscle."

way the British media has ignored the UN Women's Conference in Nairobi.

"What a lost opportunity to inform women in this country. I do partly blame the Foreign Office, who involved women's organisations too late."

She stressed that matters concerning women have changed little over the years. "But we have achieved a lot."

"People in (today's) newspapers regard talk as boring. The only things that are interesting are confrontation, violence and sex,"

Women should no longer regard themselves as powerless. "Power matters," she said. "We need to make contact with women in powerful positions in the media. We must make it clear to them that they have a common cause."

Only one newspaper, the Daily Mail, bothered to send a reporter to the conference. Fiona, a freelance, described the problems she had in covering the event.

"I don't want to go on working there because of the attitudes I have come up against," she admitted. "It's a particularly hard newsroom for women to work in because of the attitude of the all-male news desk."

The unpredictable hours are almost impossible for women with small children or family responsibilities and women are still restricted by the sort of stories they are picked to cover.

However it was positive steps and active campaigning that formed the focus of the conference.

CPBF worker Julianne Dickey made a special plea for the rights of lesbians. "The label of lesbianism is

she said, blaming this trend on pressure from TV and new technology, which would close more newspapers before the end of the century.

She wants to see more women on national newspapers, particularly in 'news-handling' areas such as sub-editing. On the Guardian there are only three female news subs out of 20, though the paper has appointed three women news editors.

Media lecturer and author Ros Coward said many broadcasters felt that "women's issues have already been dealt with, and they no longer have to take them seriously".

Feminists felt defensive as a result, and unsure of their arguments. "It creates a sense that ordinary women have moved with



used to keep all women in their place." She drew attention to the new lesbian and gay group being launched by the Campaign.

There was support for regional women's groups to be set up, as in Manchester. And many women demanded a recall conference, to look in detail at strategies for changing the media.

the times much more than feminists. I think that creates incredible problems", she said.

In her incisive analysis of current broadcasting policies, Ros Coward spoke of the many changes made over the last 10 years. Women are no longer simply stereotyped as sex objects.

Now the portrayal of men as violent and insensitive by nature, by programmes like The Professionals and The A Team, is 'most pernicious'.

In opposing some forms of violence on the screen, women had to distinguish themselves from right-wing campaigns for censorship, she said.

"We have to challenge the idea that violence is a reasonable way for men to be in the world, for men to be with each other, and to be with women."

Make your views known on the radical changes that 1986 should bring to the media — letters for the next FREE PRESS should arrive by 1 March

Women's issues

I find quite stunning in a publication calling itself 'Free Press', the expression of the view that 'most feminists would argue for some form of censorship' because 'women have a right to live in a world free of the kind of images which offend them' (Julianne Dickey in Media Sexism Supplement, FP31).

Presumably Mrs Thatcher, Mary Whitehouse and some of the '40 million bigots' (cartoon in same Supplement) are also women. Are they then also to be protected by censorship from images which offend them?

Ms Dickey dodges giving her own views on censorship, but is presumably 'uneasy' about it, calling as she does, for 'more debate'.

No debate is needed: we must learn to live without censorship — only then can the press be 'free'.

R. Sydenham
Bodlondob



National issue *

There is one important issue which I feel the Campaign hasn't got to grips with yet — the question of national identity.

Who actually is British? Do only those people living in England qualify, or do the rest of us living in the British Isles count as well?

I am English, but living in Scotland sometimes find myself extremely con-

fused by media use of the terms "British", "English", "national" and so forth.

Here are some examples:

"The main teachers' unions have tonight rejected a new pay offer..." (Sandy Gall, ITN News, 10pm Oct 14).

Does this include the Educational Institute of Scotland, Scotland's largest teaching union, which has been waging an aggressive campaign of industrial action since long before the English unions got started?

Probably not, since wage negotiations for Scottish teachers are handled separately. But who's to tell?

In "Critics' Forum", Radio 3, Oct 26, Marghanita Laski comments on "...the change in English art as a result of these (Elgin) marbles coming here".

Where is "here"? Does she mean English art or British art? This programme is going out over a "national" network. Am I supposed to assume that I am listening to it as an outsider? And if so, is it right that that should be the case? If not, then why is the terminology wrong?

"What he (the Prince of Wales) is thinking of now is nothing less than a change in class attitude in England". (Report on the Prince of Wales' speech to a Scottish business meeting, "Six O'Clock News", BBC 1, Nov 26).

A fine example of how to deliver an insult through omission.

The language of ethnocentricity works in a similar way to the language of sexism. Both are languages of ambiguity — sometimes you're included and sometimes you're not, and somehow you're expected to know which is when.

The parallel doesn't end here. Uncertainty about whether you're included or excluded has the same undermining effect on anyone who's on the receiving end of it. It saps your confidence. You're never sure of your ground.

Sometimes you begin to wonder whether you're actually invisible. It's an ideal technique for keeping people in a position of inferiority and powerlessness.

Some people would say that the points I'm making are trivial.

"You know", they'd go on patronisingly, "that when I say men/England, I include women/Scotland".

The fact is that no-one could reverse this proposition and expect to be taken seriously —

"You know when I say women/Scotland, I include men/England".

It just doesn't sound plausible, does it?

This reveals quite clearly that the first statement only has credence because it's spoken by the dominant power groups, those who regard others as a bothersome deviation from the norm.

If we believe in national media that represent the interests of all sections of society fairly, then we have to change this.

This is surely something, the Campaign can get its teeth into by collecting evidence, producing pamphlets and working to raise public consciousness.

Janet Swinney
Spottiswoode St,
Edinburgh.

International issues *

As someone who is not professionally involved with the media, I feel that the Campaign, especially Free Press, sometimes gives the impression of being an insiders pressure group to which people not working in the media directly have little to contribute. This is something which I hope the FP Supplements, the conference on Media Sexism and other new initiatives will go a long way towards breaking down.

This tendency to take a "trade" view of media issues is reflected in the international columns of Free Press. Comparatively little coverage seems to be given either to struggles around press freedom in countries outside Western Europe and North America or perhaps more importantly, to the way TV, radio and the press in Britain present, or fail to present, news from and about "Third World" countries.

Clearly the media does have enormous power in this area: eg the huge response to the TV film which first brought the attention of the British public to the scale of the famine in Ethiopia, and the effect of the publicity surrounding Band/Live Aid.

Unfortunately, the images of Asia, Africa and Latin America put over by the media for a view of "Third World" countries could be excused for dismissing them all as hopeless cases wracked by famine, devastated by earthquakes,

reeling from coup to counter-coup, governed by a bewildering succession of dictators, venial bureaucrats and time-serving politicians.

This sadly partial view of reality is produced, no doubt, by short-sighted and unimaginative perceptions of what is "news", but such overwhelmingly negative impressions of Africa and Asia conveniently reinforce the racism that pervades much of the media's coverage of domestic affairs. Black people, it seems, are doomed to a bad press whether they live in Ghana, Bangladesh or Tottenham.

Since September I have been monitoring Guardian coverage of India. Even a supposedly "serious" and "liberal" newspaper with a correspondent based in New Delhi gives, at best, a very superficial analysis of what is going on in India despite its size and importance and the close family ties that many people in Britain have with the country.

The tendency is to take up a story — the recent election in Punjab for instance — and flog it with almost daily factual reports. Any deeper analysis beyond bland accounts of the set positions of the main protagonists, is studiously avoided.

Meanwhile, the far-reaching and fundamental reforms in economic and development policy that are also occurring under Rajiv Gandhi are ignored altogether.

Overall the press and broadcasting get away with disgraceful superficiality and selectivity in their coverage of countries they see as marginal to the concerns of the British public. This should not go unchallenged, and I hope you will consider "The Media and the Third World" as a topic for a future FP Supplement.

Bill Dixon
Darren Close,
Ossian Road,
London N4.

● FP replies: Our recent Readership Survey produced several demands for such a Supplement which, hopefully, will appear this year.

free

Outwrite the newspaper
by, for and about women

I would like to subscribe to Outwrite and receive the first two issues FREE. After that if I do not want my yearly subscription to begin, I will write to you within TEN DAYS of receiving my second issue and you will return my cheque. If I do want to keep my subscription I need do nothing.

NAME & ADDRESS.....

For 10 issues, Ordinary rate - £6.00. Unwaged/Low rate £4.00. Supporting subscription - £12.00. Group/Organisation rate - £22.00. Please send this form and your cheque to:
Outwrite, Oxford House, Derbyshire St., London E2.

FP

NORTHERN
NEWSREEL

VIDEO FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

Video bulletin available on subscription,
items to date include:

LOW PAY : VICTIMISATION OF
MINERS : COMBINED HEAT AND
POWER : SEXUAL HARASSMENT

For further details, contact

BOX FP, NORTHERN NEWSREEL, 36, Bottle Bank,
Gateshead, NE8 2AR. Tel. (091) 477 3604.



Prisoners of
Conscience
in Malawi

JONATHAN KUNTAMBILA
SANDY KUWALE
PAUL AKOMENI

These three journalists were arrested on 1st March 1985, apparently for publishing a news article which displeased the government.

They are still being held, without charge or trial.

Jonathan Kuntambila is chief editor of the Daily Times, the country's only daily newspaper. Sandy Kuwale is a senior editor with the Malawi News Agency (MANA) and it is thought that Paul Akomenji also works for MANA.

The three were apparently detained in connection with a MANA report published in the Daily Times on 1 March 1985 of a speech made by Malawi's Official Hostess, Cecilia Kadzama, to a conference on women and development held in late February 1985.

The report quoted her as saying "Man cannot do without woman" — a remark which she subsequently denied making. The three men were arrested the same day.

The official UN transcript of the speech confirms the version reported by the journalists.

Amnesty International has adopted the three journalists and is currently working for their release.

Please send courteously worded appeals, asking for the immediate and unconditional release of Jonathan Kuntambila, Sandy Kuwale and Paul Akomenji, to:

His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr H Kamuzu Banda
Life Presidency of the Republic of Malawi
Office of the President of Malawi
P/Bag 388 Capital City, Lilongwe 3 Malawi

7 DAYS

Available now. Only 30p

A new look at the week from the Communist Party, with a unique analysis of developments in the labour movement.

For a complimentary copy send you name and address to: 7 DAYS, FREEPOST (no stamp needed), London EC1 1BL.

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO GET 7 DAYS REGULARLY

I wish to receive 7 DAYS for 6 months. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £7.50 (payable to 7 Days).

Send to 7 Days, FREEPOST, London EC1 1BL.

Forename
Surname
Address

Postcode PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Medium with a message

The past decade has seen a proliferation of 'independent' video production groups and the growth of a number of specialised distributors The Other Cinema, Cinema of Women, Team Video, etc

This exemplary report into the problems of distribution examines 146 cassette tapes — who made them, how they were distributed, what audiences they have achieved — and all the funding or sponsoring bodies too.

The CPBF's use of video — and the impact videos such as *Why Their News is Bad News* and *It Ain't Half Racist Mum* have had through large sales and enormous numbers of screenings — is high on the rather short list of success stories of radical video.

Sadly it is more typical that videos made with great enthusiasm about a particular issue sell only a handful of copies and rarely achieve public screenings because of poor promotion and marketing.

The authors argue that video-makers should take promotion and distribution questions seriously, rather than regarding them as an afterthought to the more glamorous work of production.

When it works — as the CPBF tapes have shown — video is one of the most powerful means campaigning groups have of getting their messages across to a wide range of people who may well dislike meetings, dull speeches or hectoring polemics, but can be convinced by a well made TV programme.

The independent film and video sector is alive and well, with more and more trade unions, educational institutions and campaigning organisations using video to put across their case. This report puts these new developments in perspective, and points the way to a more imaginative use of the medium by groups and organisations concerned with cultural and political diversity.

The *Videoactive Report*, a report into independent video distribution, available from the I.F.V.A., 79 Wardour Street, London, W.1 £5 (including p & p).

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Ken Loach's acclaimed documentary on the miners, the police and the media.

Now available on VHS video cassette.
Hire: £10 Sale: £40 (both plus p&p and VAT)
For details of this and other titles on both the miners strike and the media contact:

CONCORD FILMS COUNCIL
201 Felixstow Road
Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9BJ
Tel: 0473 715754

A failure of radical analysis?

Comedia are publishers of radical books on the media, and consultants on left-of-centre media issues. Their analysis of the entrepreneurial inadequacies of the late-Sixties to mid-Seventies "alternative society" (What a Way to Run a Railroad?) has certainly succeeded in generating debate (a self-confessed aim), but how much has it added to the sum of radical ideas?

It borrows heavily from capitalistic models (with the odd nod to Gramsci for those who know who he was) when suggesting ways forward for left projects.

But the authors seem to have forgotten the vital ingredient. Where is the politics in their analysis?

They appear to dismiss the political purpose of many projects they rate as failures, for which commercial success was never an option. And ignore the longevity of others where it has been the politics that kept them going.

Like frustrated auditors the four white men from Comedia demand a healthy set of accounts and turn a blind eye to the value that should be placed on social and political objectives, including the learning process which has served them among others proud.

I am not extolling sloppy book-keeping, total ignorance of the market-place, administrative ineptitude (all of which equally apply to the even higher failure rate of conventional small business). It is true that many projects could

and should have been more "professional" — without surrendering ideals to elitist practice.

What is required is the development from experience of working systems (structures) which more effectively marry socialist aims with commercial necessity.

There is nothing wrong with being "business-like" and if the "product" involves selling ideas it is incumbent upon us all to ensure that we can "produce the goods" both in terms of working conditions and the quality of what we have to offer.

But it almost certainly means that socialist ventures must cost more to run than those of the get-rich-quick merchants.

There is much more to be said about Comedia's provocative essay — their comments on trades union attitudes to worker co-ops are out of date, and factual inaccuracies abound.

What a way to run a railroad
An analysis of radical failure

Mike Jempson

Comedia £2.50

Coal not dole

Geoffrey Goodman's lucid account of the year long coal dispute may not pander to your particular prejudices about the miners' desperate struggle — but its a handy volume to have around.

Former Campaign researcher Mark Hollingsworth did much of the groundwork, and Goodman, former industrial editor of the *Mirror*, had plenty of background information to draw upon — so we are given a rounded picture of the leading protagonists, the issues and the conduct of the strike.

Our own "Media Hits The Pits" tells the media's tale better, but one is forced to ask — if so much information was available to journalists during the dispute — why didn't it reach us through our newspapers?

Goodman "fell victim" to Mad Max over precisely this issue, to his testament to the dispute has added charm.

The Miners' Strike
Geoffrey Goodman
Pluto £4.50

Miners' Tape

A year on its worth remembering that hundreds of miners and their families are still bearing the brunt of Coal Board and police action during the 84-85 dispute.

"Whose Law?" a 27-min tape by the S. Wales Miners' Video Project catalogues the casualties.
An uncomfortable footnote which should not be forgotten.

Peace Studies

The full horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki reaches us today through dramatised TV specials about nuclear war.

It is easy to forget that the only facts that inform such fictions are the memories of those who survived, however briefly, the cauldron caused by our Atom bomb or the firestorm we lit in Dresden.

There are survivors — with stories to tell, poignant and terrifying, that should curdle our blood. A library of earnest anti-war literature is as nothing against the selection of short stories from Japan recently published by Readers International.

"Fire from the Ashes" probably isn't in your library. You can order it by joining RI (see recent issues of FP) at discount rates. Ten stories you should never forget.

Fire from the Ashes
Kenzaburo Oe (Ed.) £8.95
R.I. 8 Strathray Gardens, London NW3 4NY

CND's campaigner's handbook on using the media is one of the best. Perhaps a little long-winded for some, it displays the attention to detail and consideration for others that are the hallmark of the peace movement.

The chapter on Monitoring the Media has a section entitled Praising/Complaining that recommends complimenting journalists who effect accurate and positive coverage.

CND now has a policy of boycotting the Press Council, and the Campaign gets a good mention.

Beyond the Grapevine
CND Publications 95p

The controversy over the Real Lives documentary, MI5 vetting of staff, revelations of regular, secret Foreign Office briefings, the disciplining of the Rough Justice Two, and other blatant interventions by the State merely divert attention from deeper issues at the BBC.

The chief role of the BBC is to create and sustain a social ideology in the interests of the establishment and the status quo. Anything conflicting with that aim is censored.

BBC journalists, producers and management staff have rarely shown the slightest interest in opposing this daily and habitual censorship.

When something sensational arises like the 'Real Lives' dispute or the Rough Justice case, BBC journalists throw up their hands in horror and present the whole thing as an isolated episode in the history of an otherwise impeccable organisation.

In fact these men and women systematically and deliberately distort their presentation of the real world to support the prevailing ideology.

This unacknowledged and systematic censorship is exemplified by the corporation's treatment of gay people. It is the policy of the BBC to exclude gay speakers from the two chief discussion programmes, *Any Questions* and *Question Time*. None has ever appeared on these programmes.

Occasionally, gay people do appear on panels providing they are 'playing straight'; it is an implied condition of their appearing that they remain silent about their sexual orientation (the same applies to comedians used by the BBC to ridicule gay people). Writing to me in 1981 former Vice-Chair of the BBC Mark

Hidden agenda at the BBC

by MARK LILLY

Bonham-Carter said that this policy might change: 'It is by no means impossible that a future panellist may represent the views of homosexuals on homosexual issues...' (my emphases).

This exclusion policy was confirmed by BBC chairperson George Howard, in a 1983 letter to the NCCL.

Alistair Osborne of the BBC has confirmed to me that Robin Day blocked all questions on gay rights whilst chairing Radio 4's Election Call' phone-in programme in 1983.

It is customary for interviewers and comperes to refuse to identify guests as gay, and give details of their partners, in circumstances where they would positively flaunt the private backgrounds of heterosexuals.

The BBC gives disproportionate air time to anti-gay groups, especially the churches, but gays are never allowed a right of reply. Rosemary Hartill BBC Radio's religious affairs correspondent told me that atheists would not be allowed to broadcast on 'Thought for the Day' because they would probably be too 'negative'. But clergy denouncing the 'evils of homosexuality' (Rev Peter Brooks) or making sneering remarks about 'pansies' (Rev Peter Wilde) are obviously considered 'positive'.

The notorious address by the Archbishop of

Canterbury to the 1981 General Synod ridiculing 'pansies' received widespread BBC coverage — not so the protest letters sent in to the PM programme but ignored.

One of the most serious, deliberate distortions occurs in drama output. Ordinary lesbians and gay men cannot be represented, because to include us would contradict the view that we are freakish, child-molesting, and miserable. Homosexuals are never represented in drama unless they are suicidal, involved in scandal, or otherwise shown as socially problematic.

Preposterously, the Ambridge of 'The Archers' is entirely heterosexual. The idea that the problem is heterosexual prejudice and that being gay is not in itself any sort of problem, is never allowed to raise its head.

The same distortion occurs in the newsroom. Positive stories about the gay community are excluded: the gay olympics, a legal victory, gay community support groups and centres, publications etc. However, negative stories get prominence: sex scandals, AIDS, legal prosecutions. Again, the ideology requires gay people to be identified exclusively with the illicit and the disreputable. The purpose is to reassure otherwise inadequate heterosexuals that at least they can look down on someone.

These examples of routine censorship and distortion are manifestly more serious than the withdrawal of the odd documentary, or the vetting of staff.

They are all the more serious because BBC staff collaborate, indeed often initiate, these practices. That is why the staff, and their unions, are silent about this pernicious form of censorship.

Printers ban apartheid ads

Action by advertising clerks and NGA compositors at the Daily Mail has stopped the appearance of S. African adverts in the paper.

Printers plan to keep up the action and are encouraging members to boycott all goods and services emanating from the apartheid regime, in solidarity with their colleagues in the black South African unions.

London Womens Group Meetings

The CPBF London Women's Group meetings are held at NALGO HQ, Mabledon Place, London WC1, starting at 6.30 pm. Wheelchair access via Flakman Terrace.

Wed 26 Feb — Media Unions.
What are they doing to counteract media sexism? How are the women in them organising? How is implementation of the Campaign's Code of Conduct going?

Wed 26 Mar — Radio.
What is the latest on the Peacock inquiry into public service broadcasting, and what are its implications for women? How will the community radio experiment affect women?
All women welcome.

PITWATCH



Pitwatch is an independent publication produced by supporters of the miners' efforts to defend their livelihoods, their communities and the country's coal.

While most of the media present the coal board and Government's view of what is happening in the coalfields, Pitwatch talks to the miners and their families and reports their views and their struggles.

Pitwatch is sponsored by the Campaign For Press and Broadcasting Freedom, the Haldane Society and the Socialist Society. It has no millionaire backers — or bankrupts — behind it. It needs your support, your bulk orders, your donations and your information. Please send them to us at 9, Poland Street, London W.1.

WHOSE LAW?

a 27-Minute VHS video produced by South Wales Miners Video Project.

150 men in jail, 700 men sacked — the political victims of the State's response to the coal dispute.

A campaigning video which raises important issue for everyone. Hire: £12.65 (inc p&p) FREE to Support Groups. Order yours from: SWVMP, c/o The Video Workshop, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff CF16 1QE. Tel: 0222 42755.

FED UP WITH BAD NEWS?

MONOCHROME, London's Free Alternative Newspaper, seeks NEW MEMBERS for its workers collective.

MONOCHROME has successfully published 10 exciting and informative issues in a year.

The collective is now planning to expand in 1986 to increase coverage, print run, and its service as London's open access, anti-racist, anti-sexist paper, combatting straight media bias.

WE NEED more, committed workers with some experience or enthusiasm in:

Journalism, photography, layout, management, office work, and advertising tele-sales, to join the collective.

PHONE 274 2288 or WRITE with details of yourself, to MONOCHROME, 52 Acre Lane, Brixton, London SW2



HELP BUILD A GOOD NEWSPAPER!

Action speaks louder than words, urges NGA National Officer
GEORGE JERROM

Take action against the media racists

The disclosure in the Guardian on Oct 17 last year that the National Front had received over £4,000 from the Manpower Services Commission to set up printing companies to produce National Front News, Nationalism Today and New Dawn should give us more than a cause for a concern.

These publications are overtly racist and call for the "repatriation" of black citizens. We should be asking just how far we have gone to combat the evil of racism which divides worker against worker and contributes to the survival of the present government and its divisive economic and social values.

In 1870 Engels wrote: "Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the Press, the Pulpit, the comic papers, in short all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class despite their organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power and that class is fully aware of it."

For Irish read Jews or any other minority within society. Today the divide and rule strategy is being employed against people on the grounds of different skin pigmentation.

The Press has always played a particularly virulent role, seeking to project, capitalise upon and caricature the issue of racism.

"ALIENS POURING INTO BRITAIN" "SMUGGLING OF EXILES ALARMS BRITAIN"

1938 headlines about Jews escaping from Hitler's Germany.

"there is a big influx of foreign Jews into Britain, they are over-running the country, they are trying to enter the medical profession in great numbers."

Sunday Express 1938

Substitute Blacks or Asians for Jews and you have present day journalism in multi-racial Britain.

What do we say about it? What are we doing about it? Posing questions won't solve problems. More positive action is needed to root out the seeds of racism, and the base from which it is generated.

There is still a tendency in news presentation to show those who are racist and those who are anti-racist as two sets of extremists, without any attempt to explain the evil nature or racism.

Press reportage has if anything become more virulent over the years.

Far too many people in the media industry pay lip service to anti-racism; far too many actually believe racist ideas. The cartoons of Cummings in the Express cannot be described as funny — they are direct political attacks against people of different skin colour or different political ideas.

"Guidance papers upon employment policies which companies should be adopting to avoid racial discrimination in the workplace are to be issued by the Commission for Racial Equality during the next few weeks."

"The papers will be followed in about a year's time by a more formal code of practice and will present a range of suggestions to help ensure that all employees and potential employees have equal opportunities regardless of ethnic origin. They will identify a number of areas and key people to which and to whom they should give special attention to ensure that discrimination is avoided."

Report in Financial Times 12 April 1978

What happened to them? Similar proposals made recently caused uproar — rather than stand still, time has slipped backwards under the Tories.

Far too many leader writers on the national press, the prime offenders in the perpetration of racism, are glory seekers for a by-line who are far too anxious to maintain their fat cat wages to take a stand against their Editors. By definition these Editors support the owners of the newspapers who themselves, by definition, support the system which thrives on the divisions created through race, sex or creed.

We cannot expect much assistance from such people. Nonetheless, it is worth recalling the joint code of conduct for the treatment of racism in the media put forward by the NGA and the NUJ. It provides union support for those members who take action by refusing to be associated with or to produce racist material.

We should be prepared to act under the rules of our unions against members who preach the doctrine of racism and division. Journalists should be more aggressive in the application of their codes of conduct, and print workers more aggressive in defending joint agreements on

ARE GAYS BEING SERVED?

The results of the first-ever national monitoring programme of the media treatment of gay men and lesbians will be announced on Friday Feb 14.

They will be revealed to representatives of the BBC, IBA, broadcasting unions and members of the gay and lesbian community at a day-long conference in London's County Hall.

BBC Breakfast Time presenter Nick Ross will chair the conference "Are we being served?", and speakers include Andrew Lumsden of New Statesman and sociologist Stuart Hall.

For further information contact Philip Adams of the monitoring research project on 01-278 6601.

the treatment of racism.

It will not be an easy task, but any failure to face up to the challenge will mean that Britain moves further to the right with no prospect for equality, or socialism.

The drug of racism is easily assimilated and when taken in daily doses becomes a crutch on which too many willingly lean to excuse all the political, social and industrial ills that we face.

The cure involves constantly posing answers to the economic, political, social, educational, health and industrial problems created by the system under which we live, and constantly challenging racism in the media, because the media is won to the defence of the system.

These problems are the daily breeding ground of the poppies of racism — one of the many drug problems we must face up to, tackle and beat.

The latest round of violence in our city streets is not new. On 26 July 1976 the Times supplied facts which explain why young black people resort to rioting.

"The latest youth employment figures for the Inner London Education Authority show that in Lewisham there are 862 people unemployed and only 26 vacancies. In Lambeth there are 1055 unemployed and 58 jobs. In both places a lot of black people live"

The figures are much worse now, and the level of disadvantage much better understood — why are the media content to be wise after the event?

Biting back at racists

Revelations by NF-member-turned-mole, Ray Hill, are the central feature in the latest issue of Mongrel, an agit-prop anti-racist news-sheet aimed at young people.

Produced in East London, where racist attacks have been on the increase for over 10 years, Mongrel is designed as an antidote to the NF's youth paper "Bulldog".

Mixing news, cartoons and sports features, Mongrel is an easy but challenging read worth ordering in bulk for youth club, school and dole office distribution. Available from PO Box 418, London E1 0DB.

Progressive Tours Ltd.

12 Porchester Place, Marble Arch,
London WC2 2BS
Telephone 01 262 1676. Telex 25135.



- * Join our specialist tours to the socialist countries — USSR, Eastern Europe, Cuba, Nicaragua — and many other destinations.
- * Plan your own group tour — special programmes and terms for Labour movement and student groups (min 10 people).
- * Book any operator's summer holidays, cruises, air or ferry tickets with our friendly computer-aided staff.

Throughout the media people with disabilities are denied respect, access, and their own identity.

Left Out

If you only relied on the media for information, ideas and images of people with disabilities, you could be excused for thinking that "the disabled" are happy little creatures that everybody hates to love but does, or revolting semi-human specimens, at worst ignored and, at best, eliminated.

When was the last time you came across a positive image of someone with a disability being allowed to be ordinary?

We are brave, happy, cheerful, sweet, nice, quiet, unobtrusive, patient, miraculously independent; or bitter, angry, noisy, inconvenient, impatient, demanding, nasty nuisances, revolting, ugly and repulsive.

We are brilliantly successful at impossible jobs, or pathetic failures at even the most simple, every day tasks. Above all, our disabilities are a terrible tragedy and an awful shame.

The media are dominated by white, able bodied, heterosexual men who reflect the values of a society which systemically discriminates against and excludes people with disabilities from full participation in housing, leisure, wealth, education, employment, sexuality, privacy, transport, environment and information systems, decision making, child-birth etc.

In a capitalist society people are valued by their economic worth. Such discrimination and exclusion means that people with disabilities are not allowed to be economically viable. Consequently we are excluded from participation in journalistic and editorial processes (censorship), and we are relegated to

'SILENT NIGHT'

The government's latest Anglo-Irish initiative has been blamed for the cancellation of an edition of Songs of Praise.

It was to have been recorded in Dungannon Co. Tyrone, two days before the Jan 23 by-elections caused by the mass resignation of Unionist MPs.

But BBC researchers reported hostility from likely Protestant participants.

Fr James Kelly, the BBC's N1 religions affairs chief says: "The BBC in London, who make the decisions felt that the reaction in Dungannon did not comply with the general philosophy of Songs of Praise — a community based ecumenical series."

So the programme has been aborted. Local Catholic parish priest Fr Frederick Swann commented "The political timing was rather unfortunate."

By KIRSTEN HEARN

mere images, chosen for us by the media.

The Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective, was set up to fight censorship of the right and particularly the taping and brailing agencies who refuse to acknowledge their own bias, through their reluctance to transcribe anything which challenges the status quo. Requests for transcription of such books have been refused by the Royal National Institute for the Blind on the grounds that they were poorly written and propagandist.

We soon realised that the agencies who were not going to tape and braille left literature, will never circulate anything that challenges their role and existence as charities.

Radical material, by its very nature, does just that. Socialist economic doctrines reject charity as a means of re-distribution of wealth.

In some parts of America, reading the newspaper has been facilitated by local radio broadcasts on a particular wave band, available only to blind and partially sighted people on a special receiver. Other broadcasts include the soundtrack with voice over descriptions of the visual aspects of a film simultaneously shown on tv.

Signing and subtitling, of many programmes for the benefit of deaf people, is also practised. This has enabled blind and deaf people to participate more fully in monitoring the media.

Access to ink print information, on tape and in braille is vital, if blind and partially sighted people are to be allowed to participate. We cannot monitor and campaign about something we do not know is happening.

Our participation as workers in the media is also vital, since only our abilities to convey our experiences by direct intervention — i.e. making programmes, writing articles — will bring about change.

We need to set up a monitoring group, and able bodied allies can support us by drawing to our attention and collecting anything which makes any reference to disability, direct or indirect.

Contact: Kirsten Hearn
42 Brocklehurst St.
London
SE14

Tel: 01-732 6515 (Evenings)
• The author wishes to acknowledge the help of Neil Harvey in writing this article.

Rough justice

It may be encouraging to see the BBC disciplining two staff members for unethical conduct in the making of a documentary that led to the release of a wrongly imprisoned man. And to see the offenders accept their punishment with the consent of their union.

But as usual the media dropped the main item from the agenda. The real culprits were the police who pressed ahead with the original case and failed to produce key witnesses and evidence — all for the sake of an easy conviction.

The same thing happened with Tarzan's helicopter exit from Downing Street. The media demanded that the country divide on whether Europe or America should bail out Westlands.

Power politics in the Tory party or the fortunes of an ailing British company?

Neither. The real debate is about weapons technology and military contracts. About who controls Britain's war industry as much about who runs its manufacturing base.

But the media and their masters feel we are better served by avoiding the harsh unpleasantness that the real jobs are in war machines whether we like it or not. Rough justice.

M.J.

Clapping in the wrong place

An A-level student from West Kent College of Further Education has set ITN a poser.

How come muted applause for a question addressed to Tory Minister Timothy Raison at the Mass Lobby to Prevent World Poverty in Central Hall Westminster, appeared on our screens as applause for Labour leader Neil Kinnock?

He spotted this 'error' on News At Ten on 22 Oct. 1985, because he had been sitting in a different place for each of the two men's speeches.

The broadcast showed him sitting where he had been for Raison's speech, yet purported to be a record of applause for Kinnock.

His lecturer in Communication and Media Studies has asked ITN for an explanation. His course — "TV as a construct."

FREE PRESS ON TAPE

* FREE PRESS is now being recorded for blind and partially-sighted people. Tapes are distributed by Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective, Flat 7, 19 Lee Terrace, London SE3 9TF.



Price £1 for 10 copies
+ 25p p&p.
Bulk orders (100+) post free,
from
PO Box 418, London E1 0DB.



RELAY has radical analysis and news of developments in 'alternative' radio, around Britain and internationally.

Issue 10, now out, carries articles on: single vs multi-ethnic radio stations, innovative programming ideas, choosing an audio-mixer, and a wide range discussion, from deregulation to piracy, between Janet Whyatt and Peter Lewis.

For a FREE sample copy, write to RELAY RADIO MAGAZINE (FP)
FREEPOST
London N7 9BR

THE COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

"The Communications Campaign" aims to draw together communications workers, users, and local authorities to develop a plan for an integrated communications system. The campaign has been promoted by a group of workers in British Telecom, concerned about the future of their industry, and by the GLC.

Over the next two months the Campaign will be holding a series of workshops and a conference that will introduce the major issues facing workers and users of all parts of the industry.

For information and copies of publications contact: The Communications Unit, The Showroom, South Block, County Hall, London SE1 7PB. Tel. 01-633 5958

Headlines, paranoia and gobbledegook obscure the truth, argues ARTHUR MURRAY

Getting the facts into focus

All of these three statements are true:

- "The Russians have a massive superiority over the Americans when it comes to strategic submarines."
- "The Americans have a massive superiority in numbers of warheads."
- "The Russian and American deterrents are roughly equal."

Who's winning the Cold War? Why are things as they are in the world of nuclear weapons?

In its very early days the deterrent came in one form only — atomic bombs dropped by parachute from heavy, piston-engined aircraft. Today we have hydrogen bombs as well and the basic delivery vehicle has become the missile: short- and medium-range for land, sea, air or space battles; long-range for strategic use.

When the super-powers decided, forty years ago, to make the change from bomber to missile they both had the same problem: rockets then available weren't powerful enough to carry heavy atom bombs as warheads. The Russian solution was to go for bigger rockets, the American to go for lighter bombs.

The Russians were able, for instance, to win some early victories in the space race — because they had military rockets large enough to put spacecraft into orbit before the Americans.

The Americans had to build a special non-military rocket, the Saturn V, to put a man on the moon.

On the other hand American missiles are far more accurate than the Russians' because America was forced to develop accurate guidance systems for their missiles. Small, light warheads have to be accurate, otherwise they miss and don't destroy the target; large warheads don't need to be, as they obliterate everything in the area.



• Finding out for yourself — take a trip around the USS Huntley and Poseidon subs in Holy Loch.

PHOTO: Melanie Friend

The increasing accuracy of warheads lead to the development of the strategic submarine. If an incoming missile is so accurate that it can fall almost spot-on your missile silo there is only one practical form of defence: make silos mobile and hard to detect by putting them on board a strategic submarine.

East and West have gone for this solution. The Americans, to counteract any increase in Russian accuracy and the Russians to counteract existing American accuracy.

Small warheads have brought the Americans another advantage. The best way of destroying ten targets with ten megatons of nuclear explosive is to send it as ten one-megaton warheads, since a ten-megaton obliteration tends to be less efficient at destroying all the targets than ten smaller warheads, each of which falls accurately on its pre-programmed target.

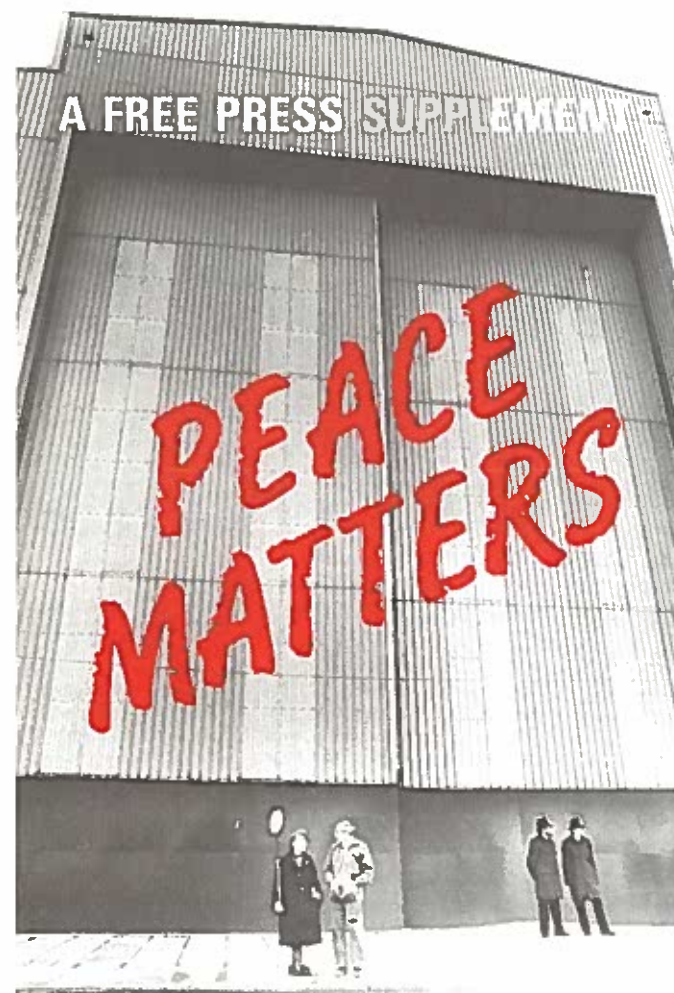
The small warheads of the Americans have lent themselves easily to this strategy, especially when mounted in clusters of up to fifteen on a single missile.

It's now easier to see why the

number of American warheads vastly exceeds that of the Russians and why the great majority of those warheads reside in strategic submarines. But because the Russians can only mount their heavier warheads in clusters of five or so per missile they have had to build more submarines than the Americans to get a sub-sea deterrent of the same efficiency.

Despite the difference of approach, the 'lethalities' of both deterrents are fairly well matched.

So there are the facts for those interested in balance. Or maybe you're not. Maybe you want to appeal to the Navy voters of Portsmouth via a local free newspaper as Gosport's Tory MP Peter Viggers did in November and just point out that the Russians have embarked on a massive submarine building programme. Maybe you're convinced that despite them having a warhead with your home town programmed into it, the Russians are peace-loving people duped into an arms race by cunning Americans — I mean, look at all those American warheads.



No peace from the media machine

SEAN TRACEY explains why there's no space for peace camps in Fleet Street.

You do not have to restrict your daily exposure to the press to reading The Sun to know that the peace movement gets a very bad deal from the media.

Its activists tend to be caricatured and ridiculed when they are not presented as some irrational, fringe element existing in the political twilight zone, while the policies of the peace movement tend to be distorted, sometimes out of recognition.

There can hardly be a local CND, END or any other peace group in the country without its stock of press "horror stories".

The treatment which the Greenham Common women have received at the hands of the greater part of the media in recent years is only one, particularly grotesque, example of the kind of "coverage" that peace campaigners are subject to.

It is not unusual to meet peace movement activists who ask, more in puzzlement than in real anger, 'how is it that, when we are so many, our ideas are treated as though they were the notions of some unrepresentative fringe?'

This puzzlement tends to be all the greater when they are told how many peace movement sympathisers, and activists, exist on the local press and even in Fleet Street and in broadcasting.

Few pipes are as obnoxious as the right wing mass circulation dailies but even some of the so-called "qualities" prefer to trivialise rather than deal seriously with the arguments of unilateral disarmers.

The Guardian and the Financial Times apart, few national papers even acknowledge the very considerable technical expertise in disarmament affairs developed by the peace movement in recent years. And some persist in the ludicrous, but fruitless, attempt to label CND and similar bodies as creatures of Soviet interests, in spite of the evidence to the contrary.

Any understanding of why this imbalance and distortion exists must start from an understanding of the

The massive menacing doors of the hangar that will house the Trident missile at Barrow, symbolise the closed minds of the pro-nuclear lobby and the defensive silence of officialdom which the media have a duty to break through.

ALL PHOTOS IN THIS SUPPLEMENT BY MELANIE FRIEND

relationship between the views of the "military/political" establishment and those who effectively control what goes into newspapers and how issues are dealt with in the media.

However many sympathetic journalists there are, precious few occupy positions of influence in the media hierarchy, and even fewer ever reach the editor's chair.

Proprietors take very great care to ensure that all senior media people are politically 'sound', above all on key issues of state policy such as defence. And editors take a great deal of time and trouble to see that they and their senior colleagues are regularly tuned into the finer nuances of establishment thinking.

This ideological "self-policing" is quite distinct from the "last resorts" of state intervention to ensure that good political order is maintained, through D Notices or direct Whitehall arm twisting.

But the system is not so water-tight that it is impossible for the peace movement ever to get sympathetic coverage or even comment from individual journalists on the liberal fringe of the media. So there are no grounds for the movement to adopt an 'anti-media' stance. This would not only mean that such openings which do exist would react to being ignored but it would also play into the hands of the openly reactionary elements in Fleet Street and elsewhere.

But the "peace constituency", with its broad base and enormous following, should seize every opportunity to challenge blatant misrepresentation, and demand the right of reply opened up by the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, with its strong industrial links within the media.

The CPBF has pioneered efforts in this work to win recognition, respect and redress for other (smaller) consti-

cies that the media prefer to disregard or disparage.

The demand and desire for peace and justice make an ideal combination with which to puncture the arrogance and intransigence of the media.

But in the end it will be whoever owns the media that controls the line it will take on peace and any other issue.

That is why peace campaigners should give sympathetic backing to ventures like News On Sunday, whose dummy displayed its strong commitment to the peace movement.

Meanwhile what better banner than "Sanity" under which to continue setting the agenda for the hostile media.

Defence of the Realm

Contemporary thrillers often give clues to current shared fears and paranoia. 'Defence of the Realm' is the latest in a series of films (China Syndrome, Silkwood, the BBC's Edge of Darkness) that explore the hidden, sinister nature of the nuclear state.

A security operation to suppress information about a near-accident at a nuclear base in East Anglia reveals close interconnections between the various arms of the British state and the US military — and their influence on other 'independent' institutions, especially the media.

Set in Fleet Street with a journalist as the main protagonist, and the film records the seedy, cynical and unscrupulous values of the Street of Shame. It's rather difficult to recreate Fleet Street accurately without seeming far-fetched — however critical the portrayal, the reality is likely to be worse. 'Defence of the Realm' comes pretty close.

It will definitely stir controversy and introduce new people to harsh realities both about nuclear 'security', and about the media's role in keeping us ignorant about the threat the nuclear "culture" poses to our civil liberties.

The script was written several years before the Sarah Tisdall, Clive Ponting or Hilda Murrell incidents, yet contains echoes of their stories, adding spice to an already pacy, topical and provocative film.

Lesley Wood

Media attitudes towards gay men and Lesbians will be challenged in the next FP Supplement.

After that we shall be looking at who now owns the press, and examining the growth and purpose of Media Studies.

Journalists Against Nuclear Extermination

details from:
Secretary, JANE,
14 Mornington Grove,
London E3.

Billboards Against the Bomb

The Peace Advertising Campaign, a non-profit making company founded by Quaker media workers, has launched itself as a billboard-booking agency, available to any group, organisation, Nuclear-Free authority or trade union which is genuinely working for change.

Its main work is to keep peace and disarmament issues in the public mind and public gaze.

PAC believes that radical organisations and charities could be making a lot more use of billboards but are frightened off by the costs.

"We feel there ought to be room in outdoor advertising for a more serious and stimulating diet," says Mark Levene of PAC.

Peace Advertising Campaign, c/o P.O. Box 24, Oxford OX1 3JZ. Tel: 0862-723011.

Its International Peace Year... What will YOUR contribution be?

PEACE CONCERN
(W. Midlands CND)
113 Spetchley Rd.,
Worcester WR5 2LS.
Tel: 0905 360266

BEYOND THE GRAPEVINE

A CAMPAIGNERS GUIDE TO USING THE MEDIA



© CND PUBLICATIONS

AVAILABLE FROM
CND SALES
22-24 UNDERWOOD ST
LONDON N1 7JG

£1.20 (inc. postage)

Please make cheques/
postal orders payable to:
CND PUBLICATIONS Ltd

Please write to the
above address for a
full catalogue of
CND Publications

Publications

CND

Journalists for peace

This year Journalists Against Nuclear Extermination (JANE) celebrates her fourth birthday.

The first group specifically committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament to be set up in a national journalists' union, JANE has inspired the formation of similar organisations in 12 other countries — including the Soviet Union, Finland, West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Portugal.

JANE by her very existence, serves to remind journalists of some of their basic responsibilities — to work for peace, to expose the myths, lies and misinformation on which the lunatic arms race is built and to challenge the censorship, distortion and trivialisation of this crucial issue.

At meetings in Warwick, Norwich, Bristol and London (some in conjunction with the CPBF), media workers, politicians and peace activists have dared to challenge the myths of objectivity, all the cant of Fleet Street's tedious rearmament apolog-

By RICHARD KEEBLE

ists, all the tired talk of professional neutrality.

And sought to forge links between disarmament and other progressive struggles, such as anti-racist and anti-sexist campaigns.

The NUJ is now committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament, has amended its aims to incorporate the defence of peace, and is shortly to hold a ballot on CND affiliation.

Dubbed in one magazine "a group of left wing extremists, anarchists and assorted Marxist-Leninists", and in another "an integral part of a KGB plot to take over Britain", JANE's sponsors include Michael Foot, Jonathan Steele, Anna Coote, Bel Mooney, Fenner Brockway and the two Duncan Campbell.



A new generation of peace activists gathers for a CND rally in Hyde Park in October last year.

Seventy years of women's struggle against war and the media

KEEP THE PRIVATEERS OUT OF PUBLIC SECTOR BROADCASTING



Bruce Anderson, President

Alan Sapper, General Secretary,

ASSOCIATION OF CINEMATOGRAPH TELEVISION & ALLIED TECHNICIANS (ACTT)
2 SOHO SQUARE, LONDON W1V 6DD
Tel. 01 437 8506



NOT FOR OUR EYES

Bunkers pock the slopes of Glen Douglas (left), marking yet another secret NATO arms dump in the West of Scotland.

Meanwhile protestors at the nearby nuclear base at Faslane risk arrest (right) for demanding protection from the hidden dangers of weapons of war.

The mainstream press don't carry such pictures — pandering to the protocols of state secrecy and outmoded conventions.

PHOTOS: Melanie Friend



SU MADDOCK asks why a Peace Prize should provoke media hostility.

Last November International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) were awarded the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

Its co-presenters, Lown and Chazov, come from the USA and the USSR respectively, and it has 41 affiliates from both sides of the Iron Curtain including Britain's Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (MCANW).

If you relied on the media you would be forgiven for thinking they were just a small group of lunatic doctors run by the KGB.

The original announcement went largely ignored because the press expected Bob Geldhof to win. Few journalists had ever heard of IPPNW and many rang around for information which they never used.

When the prize was presented on Dec 10 most of the press accused the Nobel committee of naivety, of being duped and of devaluing their own prize.

TV news coverage was no better. On Dec. 9,

Channel 4 interviewed Peter Redaway of the Sakharov Defence Cttee. His accusation that IPPNW was a Soviet front organisation went unanswered. The next day News At Ten headlined the ceremony "KGB Chazov receives Nobel Peace Prize".

BBC TV news editors chose to show film of Sakharov in hospital and his wife's illness. It was clearly an editorial decision to attack the Soviet Union's human rights record rather than attempt discussion of East/West dialogue.

The president of MCANW Prof John Humphrey, for instance, is also on the Sakharov Defence Cttee. MCANW is committed to fighting for human rights in all countries, and has campaigned on behalf of imprisoned doctors in the Turkish peace movement. Nobel Peace Prize winner and former chair of Amnesty International, Sean MacBride recognised this in his congratulations to IPPNW. The media and press reported none of this.

Perhaps it was naive journalists who were being manipulated. Western governments

When women link hands to 'Embrace the Base' at Greenham they are linking up with all the women through the ages who have protested against war. Another link is forged in the long chain of women's work for peace.

It is interesting, therefore, to see in Clio Co-op's video 'A Peace of Her Mind', the remarkable continuity of thinking, of imaginative methods of action, that links the 1,000 women who met at the Hague for the first meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1915 with the 10,000 women who set up a 'Cry for Peace' in Hyde Park in 1926, the Co-op Women's Guild's 'White Poppy Campaign' of the 30's, the 'Black Sash Women' who marched against the Bomb in the late 50's with black-dye bespattered faces from the pelting rain, and the Greenham Women of today.

Too often women's voices are unheard, their lives and work made invisible by the media's lack of interest.

So we owe thanks to Ros Pearson and Suzanne Neild for recording 20 women's personal accounts of their work for peace: from the Suffragette making anti-war speeches in the First World War and the women conscientious objectors imprisoned in the Second World War, to the scientist, whose horror at discovering the terrible destructive power of the atomic bomb project she was working on, led her to the National Council for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapon Testing, and Pat Arrowsmith who recalls the first Aldermaston March.

This film shows clearly that women's contribution to peace is

By ZELDA CURTIS

not a new phenomenon.

But nor is it unusual that these peace women's activities received so little attention from the media.

In the November issue of 'Sanity', Alison Whyte wrote a stinging indictment of the press's attitude to the Greenham Common Women. In 1981, when the first group arrived at the base after walking 125 miles from Cardiff, the press showed a complete lack of interest — until 4 women chained themselves to the fence, but then the women soon realised the press was 'more interested in the bondage than the issue'.

In the years that followed the press responded in sexist fashion, describing the women in 'harridans' and 'harpies' — even as the press responded to earlier women peace activists. 'Twas ever thus.

The press has always either trivialised the activities and the issue, or, as the women became a more real threat they would go on the attack with all sexist guns blazing, or just 'kill' the whole issue with their blatant lack of coverage.

As Alison Whyte concludes 'They have failed... to do justice to the issues raised by the peace movement and Greenham women



Lest we forget. Women in Brighton are reminded of a shadow cast over Hiroshima on an August day forty years ago.

and the strength and logic of our arguments.

For the sake of the survival of the planet (and, incidentally, for the sake of the good name of the British press) it's high time they did.

"A PEACE OF HER MIND"
CLIO CO-OP
91c Mildmay Road, London N1 4PU

"A PEACE WOMAN SCORNED"
Alison Whyte
'SANITY', (November Issue)

had evidently directed their intelligence services to find dirt on the IPPNW and Chazov. Just before the award ceremony they released the news that Chazov had written a letter condemning Peace Prize winner Sakharov as far back as 1973.

Chazov, a Soviet Central Cttee member, is clearly no angel, and did sign such a letter. But no mention was made that he had not lent his signature to subsequent condemnations of Sakharov. Nor that IPPNW was formed in 1980 on the initiative of the American Lown, who made the first approach to Chazov.

If IPPNW was to build bridges between East and West it was thought important to establish official backing from the Soviet Union.

However, IPPNW's call for an immediate nuclear test ban and a nuclear freeze are not, as the Times and Telegraph would have us believe, Soviet policies. They are the minimal demands that anyone interested in peace would make. Editors might serve us all better if they were to ask our leaders why they do not subscribe to such views.

Celebrations of the Peace award, organised by health workers in major cities throughout Britain and Europe were largely ignored by the media, as were streams of letters sent to national papers and Radio and TV stations about the event.

Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons
7 Tennison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DD.

War & Peace News

Whilst there is careful "selection" of items in TV news bulletins, I must admit they are nowhere near as bad as the daily manipulation of public opinion in the Mail, Express, Sun and other national newspapers.

On the other hand, since television is now in my view, far more powerful than the press TV news needs to give fairer representation.

Part of the credit for less biased news on TV is due to previous studies by Glasgow Media Group.

This study ends on a hopeful note, denying that change by broadcasters is impossible.

This is an important book for all CPBF supporters.

Originally they had decided to research the period of June/July, 1982, when the Second Session of the UN Disarmament Conference was held.

However, they were also monitoring television coverage of the Falklands war; on which the first section of the book concentrates.

The authors were fortunate in obtaining confidential minutes of weekly meetings between 30 top BBC producers and the Director General, to consider how their programmes were dealing with the war.

The book examines at length, for instance, why relatives of servicemen killed in the war were barred from the TV screens. Why were there no pictures of casualties from the land fighting in the Falklands until after the ceasefire?

"If the principles which are to sustain democracy," said Jonathan Dimbleby, "are to be nurtured rather than violated, the media — television, radio and newspapers — must no longer be content to echo the response of the defence establishment to the anxieties — and arguments — of what is now known as the Peace Movement."

The role of the media is a free society, he continued, is to question and analyse prevailing assumptions.

The Glasgow Media Group are doing precisely that. "War and Peace News," is even more valuable than its predecessors since it deals with the most dangerous of all media distortion: misleading the public on the issue of war.

By FRANK ALLAUN

• War and Peace News Glasgow Media Group

Open University Press £15 hardback
£5.95 paperback

ADIU REPORT

ADIU Report is the bi-monthly journal of the Armament & Disarmament Information Unit at the University of Sussex. Each issue contains:

- articles on topical issues in defence, disarmament and arms control
- comprehensive reporting of progress in arms control negotiations
- In Parliament: a unique summary of parliamentary debates, questions and committee proceedings on defence and disarmament
- European Report: a summary of deliberations and decisions in NATO, WEU and the European Community
- an extensive bibliography listing over 150 recently-published articles, books and other documents monitored by ADIU

Annual subscription: £9 (UK), £12 (overseas).

New Publications from ADIU

ADIU Occasional Paper No. 3: The Alternative Defence Debate: Non-Nuclear Defence Policies for Europe, by Michael Clarke

Michael Clarke, Lecturer in Politics at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, argues in this paper that economic, political and doctrinal shifts within NATO, combined with a greater acceptance by proponents of alternative defence of the requirements of deterrence, open up the possibilities of agreement on changes in NATO policy in a non-nuclear direction. Price £5 (individuals), £7 (institutions).

ADIU Factsheet No. 3: British Nuclear Weapons

A newly updated version of this title is now available.

Single copies of these and other titles in the ADIU Factsheets series are available free: rates for bulk orders are available on request.

To order ADIU publications, or for further information send remittance to The Secretary, ADIU, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RF, UK. Please make cheques payable to University of Sussex.