

FREE PRESS

CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS & BROADCASTING FREEDOM, incorporating the Campaign Against Racism in the Media.

National Council 1986-87

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Janet & Tom

After a brief spell as CPBF Information Officer, Janet Whyatt has joined Invicta Radio, the ILR station covering Kent, as Deputy News Editor.

Janet has worked for the Campaign since last year when she set up our Broadcasting project, co-ordinating responses to Peacock and monitoring developments in Community Radio. Our thanks for all her hard work, and a welcome to Tom O'Malley who replaces her in Poland Street.

Tom is well-placed to help complete the Campaign's Broadcasting Report, due out this autumn. For the last ten years he has been involved in research and campaigning around the media, and was until recently a worker with the Local Radio Workshop. His specialisations have been in local radio and the history of the press, and he currently chairs the NUJ's London Radio Branch.

Liverpool Images

On 21 June, Merseyside CPBF recalled Alan Bleasdale's 'Boys from the Blackstuff' for their first 'Images of Liverpool' meeting.

Bob Millington and Robin Nelson, co-authors of the recently published book, 'Boys from the Blackstuff', the making of a TV Drama spoke of the increasing difficulties of getting single or short runs plays of this sort accepted for TV.

They gave a most interesting introduction to the thoughts and ideas behind this production, and showed extracts from the last episode. In a lively discussion which followed, opinion varied on the reality of this picture of Liverpool. And many questions were raised.

More 'Images of Liverpool' to follow in the Autumn!

Merseyside CPBF members should contact Marjory, (051) 526 8746, for details.

Calling all im-press-arios

The Campaign's big fund-raising benefit in December will need a helping hand from the members.

If you could act as a press officer, a sales person — for tickets, advertising, and general promotion, or can provide secretarial services — get in touch with Davy Jones AT ONCE. 01 437 2795.

Initially volunteers will have to be London-based (unfortunately), but we shall also need a network of members to promote the event nationwide.

Could you sell tickets — organise a coach party — handle local publicity etc? Let Davy know soon.

Fancy yourself as a (comedy) scriptwriter — on press and broadcasting themes — drop the office a line ...

And what are we going to call it ("Scraping the gutter"/"Unlimited expenses"/"Cheque books at the ready")? Your ideas are welcome.

Keep up the Boycott

The Sun, Times, Sunday Times and News of the World should continue to be boycotted by Campaign members. The slump in journalistic standards, and the imposition of constraints on journalists working for Murdoch, have given the boycott campaign added validity.

Members are encouraged to spread the word by arranging local meetings and raising the boycott at any events they attend over the summer. An action kit is enclosed with FP, and the Campaign Office will happily arrange for print union speakers to attend any meetings that can be organised in your locality.

In the meantime, find out more about the dispute by ordering copies of Wapping Post, from Caxton House, 13-16 Borough Road, London SE1.

Azania under wraps

As we went to press, the Campaign's meeting on press censorship in S. Africa and media coverage in Britain was getting underway at

Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre, with speakers from Azania, Namibia and British media unions.

Campaign members are called on to raise the issue of press freedom, and the lack of civil and political rights in S. Africa, by joining with other groups in organising local meetings and writing to their local papers and radio stations. Contact the Office if you need help with speakers.

Media education

Following the supplement in FP35, those interested in developing a media education section within the campaign are encouraged to contact Julienne Dickey at the Campaign Office. She has arranged a meeting to discuss possibilities on Wed 3 September at 2pm. Further details from Julienne on 01 247 2795.

Communications Fair

The CPBF is actively involved in plans for an autumn Communications Fair at which a public debate on the Media Manifesto will take place.

Brainchild of the GLC-funded Communications Campaign, the Fair will feature workshops and stands examining all aspects of communications technology and the cultural industries and has trades union backing.

The CPBF draft Media Manifesto will appear in the next issue of FREE PRESS, and members are encouraged to evaluate it widely.

Militant bans

Soon after being slung out of the AUEW conference, NUJ members on the Militant newspaper have been banned from attending Labour Party press briefings.

According to Labour's Director of Campaigns & Communications Peter Mandelson Militant is not a "bona fide" news organisation. The bans are being taken up by the NUJ.

PUBLICATIONS

News from the Campaign:
BENDING REALITY — analysis of the current state of British media, and an update on CPBF aims.
Pluto Press £5.95 CPBF price £4.95
RIGHT OF REPLY PACK — the complete practical guide to a central issue for all campaigners £2.95.
WOMEN IN FOCUS — guidelines for eliminating media sexism. By Julienne Dickey & CPBF London Women's Group £1.50.
Send for these and our new mail order catalogue of books and videos. Cheques payable to CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG.

FREE PRESS is edited for the National Council by MIKE JEMPSON

Contributions for FP37 should arrive at the Campaign Office, 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG by Sept 1, preferably typed with double spacing.

FREE PRESS 30p

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No. 36

AUGUST, 1986

Tory U-turn signals election panic

Public opposition to advertising on the BBC, and fear of giving a platform to critics of its policies have forced the Tories into an embarrassing U-turn on its radical plans for broadcasting.

After a year of delays the government has ditched plans for Community Radio. And it won't be implementing the Peacock Committee's recommendations before the General Election.

Instead a Green Paper on radio will be published in the Autumn — and the government wants a public debate around the Peacock proposals.

Over 270 applicants, including many Asians, Afro-Caribbean and Greek groups had their hopes dashed — and lost money.

The Campaign has condemned the outrageous way applicants had been misled, and how government policy has led to confusion, uncertainty and bitterness.

Bev Bevan of the Community Radio Association described the decision as "quite possibly racist". The CRA wants compensation for applicants, but will be submitting evidence on a structure for Community Radio in advance of the Green Paper.

Fears that some CR stations would be critical of the government in the run up to the next General Election are said to have played a part in the decision.

Former Home Secretary Leon Brittan set up the CR experiment and the Peacock Committee last year. His successor, Douglas Hurd — with one eye on the Election and an ear for the critics of Brittan's policy — was lukewarm about moving so quickly towards a free market in broadcasting.

In the event Peacock backed a "full broadcasting market" with the licence fee replaced by subscription TV — a Fleet Street model for all the media!

Public controls over commercial radio were to be lifted and Radios 1 and 2 sold off.

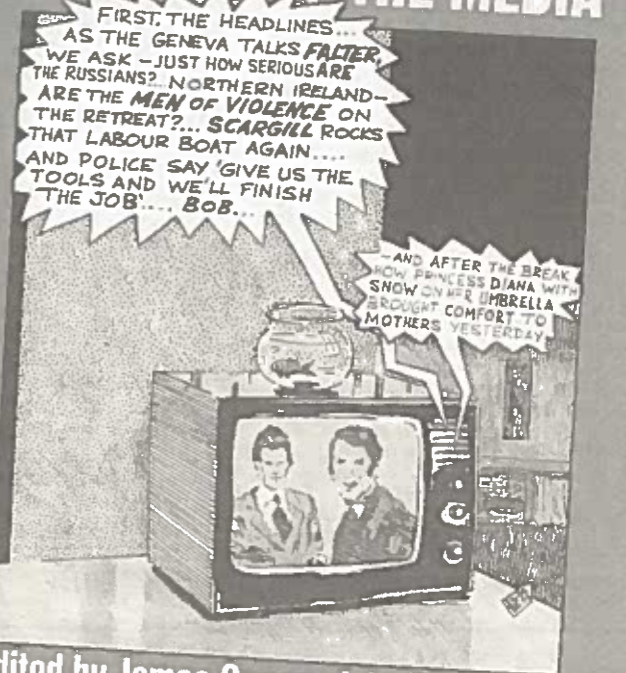
Hurd will consider proposals to auction TV franchises and to increase the amount of independently produced programmes on the BBC. But there will be no legislation based on Peacock before the election.

Instead the Green Paper on radio in the autumn will be designed to prepare the grounds for the deregulation of commercial radio.

The Campaign will put forward its alternatives to these proposals in its response to Peacock, which will be published in the autumn.

BENDING REALITY

THE STATE OF THE MEDIA



Edited by James Curran, Jake Ecclestone, Giles Oakley and Alan Richardson

PLUTO PRESS

Winning the arguments ...

"Bending Reality" is an extended and updated version of the Campaign's founding document "Towards Press Freedom" which first appeared seven years ago. It will provide members with invaluable material to win arguments for radical changes in the way the media is run. Access, accountability and equal opportunities for all are the key themes.

Send for your copy NOW, at the CPBF special price of £4.95, post free. It will be a vital aid in explaining and gaining support for our Media Manifesto, which will be available later this summer.

Wapping — the fight goes on

Whatever the outcome of any backstage efforts to resolve the Wapping conflict, Murdoch's dockland flit has had massive repercussions. During the six month dispute 10,000 job losses have been effected or announced by the rest of Fleet Street as part of their new technology proposals, which include relocation to docklands.

Continued p.5

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Where did you obtain your copy of FREE PRESS?

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

INSIDE: Conference Reports pp 2 & 3

Fun, funds & a star-studded, Campaign concert

It's on! The Campaign's benefit concert is to take place at a theatre in London's West End later this year. The most likely date is Sunday 7 December.

The programme will include music, comedy and drama and should give the Campaign a boost in funds and members.

The concert promises to be a unique event with an exciting mix of broadcasters, journalists, comics, and actors taking apart the shortcomings of the British media. Alternative comedian Ben Elton thinks it's "a great idea" and has agreed to take part.

Janet Goddard, producer of the smash hit movie "Letter to Brezhnev", has expressed an interest in filming the event and discussions were underway as FREE PRESS went to the printers.

It is hoped that the Campaign for Freedom of Information will jointly sponsor the show, and government secrecy is certain to be a target for some of the sketches. Ideas for sketches and appropriate guest appearances are welcome.

The idea for the concert was first mooted by the North West Group of the Campaign in 1984, and the show is now ready to roll. If you can assist in anyway, please contact Davy Jones in the Campaign Office (01 437 2795).



(Chris Booth/Photo Co-op)

Screened out — but determined to be seen

The CPBF Lesbian and Gay Group conference "Screened Out" went well — though bad weather kept numbers down, and we foreshortened the conference into one hard-working day.

Opening speakers, Caroline Spry, assistant commissioning editor Channel 4, and film historian Richard Dyer, made very positive contributions.

Caroline explained how C4 operates and urged us to keep pressing our demands for better treatment and access, while Richard reassured us with a history of gay film-making.

And there was news of forthcoming productions on C4 that should wake people up to our potential. Richard Kirker

and Mark Finch spoke of the gay film season starting in September in the Eleventh Hour slot; Paul Oremland told of the Six of Hearts series from Kinesis scheduled for November, which will profile lesbians and gay men; and Nicola Field announced that "Framed Youth" from the Youth Video Project will be seen in December.

The afternoon was given over to campaigning strategies, and a six point plan emerged.

* A delegation is to visit Jeremy Isaacs, senior staff and department heads at C4.

* Meanwhile an immediate challenge to Isaacs will demand that C4 give coverage to Gay Pride and the Gays the Word trial, and call for a detailed statement of the company's policy and intentions on lesbian and gay coverage.

* A register of lesbian and gay film-makers is to be compiled, and pressure will be mounted for training schemes. C4 will be asked to accept at least one gay production company as a C4 workshop, and to run heterosexism awareness courses for its staff.

* The IBA is to be challenged to amend their Code of Practice to include heterosexism, and lesbians and gay men are to be encouraged to fire in complaints that homophobia is offensive to our good taste and decency, in line with the advice given to Mark Lilly by the IBA's Claire Mulholland that such complaints must be acted upon.

* A broader, nationwide campaign to mobilise the lesbian and gay lobby on the issue of media coverage is to be launched.

* And there are plans to devise proposals for a lesbian and gay magazine programme.

Mandy Merck of Screen magazine said that since C4 may not at present be fulfilling its legal requirements, lesbian and gay men should be submitting more programme proposals.

Those interested in joining CPBF Lesbian & Gay Group and contributing to the plans outlined above should contact Julianne Dickey at the Campaign Office (01 437 2795).

* Picture shows (L to R) Mark Finch & Richard Kirker, Mandy Merck, Richard Dyer and Nicola Field continuing discussions during a break at the Screened Out Conference held at South Bank Poly in June.

Letters for the next issue should be sent off not later than September 1, preferably typed with double spacing.

ILLUSTRATION — CHARLES FRONT

Politics and the media — bias or blindness?

Achilles heels were on display at the "Politics and the Media" day in April, organised by Goldsmiths College, University of London.

BBC Director-General Alasdair Milne got rattled when he was accused of elitism. And "Red Ken" Livingstone relived the horrors of GLC media coverage with good humour, but showed little sympathy for Derek Hatton's similar treatment.

Out of Order

I find it extremely difficult to find words to express my anger at CPBF. How dare you print this offensive crap!

What is the bloody point of having a sub-group on disability if you are going to insult us by ignoring what we are saying and trying to do?

At this moment in time I question the awareness of CPBF vis-a-vis disability. If you can overlook the most basic language question doesn't this suggest that you are being opportunistic in your approach towards people with disabilities?

Unless CPBF is prepared to look at itself critically, and give us an apology, I think we should review our relationship with you.

People with disabilities will not be used anymore!
Yours in struggle,
Bob Findlay
Birmingham Disability Rights Group
31 Lionel St,
Birmingham B3 1AP.

FP Editor apologises:
May I offer unreserved apologies to all those offended by this thoughtless headline, and thank Bob Findlay for pulling me up.

It is a classic example of a common journalistic problem — the search for a catching (all-iterative) headline, usually at the last minute.

Since the responsibility is entirely mine, I trust that the Disability Group will not feel that this reflects lack of thought on the part of the Campaign.

Certainly it has helped me to take even more care over the use of language. In some ways this sort of incident acts as a graphic example to others of the pitfalls to avoid. I trust that members will continue to point out any other such unconscious errors.

Meanwhile, perhaps this mistake is a consequence of slipping into a production routine after editing FP for two years, longer than any of my predecessors. I did indicate at the AGM that I would like to hand over this summer. We have had no takers so far — but now is the time for others to volunteer their services.

Mike Jempson

Peace campaign*

I am writing on behalf of the Committee for European Security and Co-operation, part of the international organisation formed to press for the conclusion of the Helsinki Final Act, signed in 1975 by 33 European nations together with the USA and Canada.

The Helsinki Final Act sets out a pattern for peace and co-existence between countries with different and competing social and economic systems. It also contains a pledge to match the political agreements with genuine measures of disarmament. It is the formula which the world must accept and adopt, if we are to end the arms race and create a world where our earth's resources are used everywhere for humanity's benefit instead of being wasted in armaments.

We are in the process of co-ordinating a European-wide campaign of activities, and we would like to invite your members to participate. Should anyone require a speaker or more details, please let me know.

I am sure you will treat this matter with urgency. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Greta Sykes
CESC 34, Weston Park, London, N.8.
97J 01-340-9590

NCCL Stonehenge Convoy

By Sarah Spencer NCCL General Secretary

The Public Order Bill began its committee stage in the House of Lords this month. The new powers it creates to restrict demonstrations reflect the Government's inclination to treat deep seated conflicts in society as public order problems rather than addressing itself to the causes of those conflicts.

This tendency was surely never more apparent than in its treatment of the convoy. In the weeks before the summer solstice we witnessed a clash of two cultures, a conflict which could and should have been avoided if the local authorities had fulfilled their statutory duty to provide sites for travelling people under the Caravan Sites Act 1968.

The Government clearly prefers to treat people whom it sees as 'medieval brigands' as a law and order problem, refusing to accept their freedom to live nomadically. It gave no encouragement to those seeking a special site for a solstice festival, although this solution would have served both to give substance to the travellers' 'freedom of assembly', by providing them with the means, and helped to avoid conflict and disorder.

The media happily swung into line behind the "moral panic" generated by the government response and gave prominence to near-hysterical knocking copy against the travellers.

Consequently, the police stretched their public order powers to their limits and beyond to evict the travellers, dictate their routes and finally impound 90% of their homes, forcing the convoy to disband. Ironically, when Farmer Atwell's land was apparently damaged by travellers' vehicles camped illegally, police inaction gave the false impression that they were powerless to intervene. In fact, there were a series of powers which they could have used, from criminal damage (for reckless damage to property) to their common law powers to prevent a breach of the peace.

The issues raised by the treatment of the convoy are examined in a Stonehenge published in July by the NCCL. Outlining the treatment of the convoy in 1985 and 1986, its analysis of the law and of the behaviour of the police and the courts is backed by recommendations for action which would avoid the conflicts recurring in future years. Available from NCCL, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA at £1.95 (plus 20p p&p.)

No comment
Rumour has it that Mirror messenger boy Joe Haines (former press aide to Harold Wilson) was recently sent hot foot to advise Neil Kinnock against taking the Labour Party down a non-nuclear path.
Cap'n Bob doesn't like the idea, apparently, and if Labour persists on obeying the instructions of its members on this one, the full guns of the Mirror will be turned against the People's Party.

Neil needn't worry about total destruction — Mirror circulation has slumped as Labour supporters abandon the cap'n's careering ship. Any reversal in its fortunes is likely to be because confused Tory voters have clambered aboard — will it ever get back on an even keel?

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Images of mental handicap

"They should make more programmes about people like us so that people would get the right ideas about us and not call us names."



The words of a young mentally-handicapped woman on a new video "The World Has a Way of Looking at People" by Open Eye Film, Video and Animation Workshop.

The nineteenth century saw a huge increase in the number of people locked away for so-called mental handicap (sometimes meaning non-conformism or dissidence) — a situation which is only slowly being remedied. This, and the stigma still attached to mental handicap, means that many people know little about it or any of those affected. Hence media images become very important.

Stereotypes, ignorance and neglect prevail. Mentally handicapped people have no control over how they are represented, nor access to self-expression. They are vulnerable to exploitation by image-makers; insensitive voyeurism is an ever-present danger.

The image of mental handicap is constructed for us by those who are "able" — and underlying everything is the paramount value which society places on a certain kind of "intelligence", which relegates those deemed to be without it to second-class, outcast status.

As with all forms of disability, it is able-bodied people's attitudes and expectations and the non-allocation of resources which are handicapping.

The video looks at charity advertising, and the dilemma faced by such advertisers who want to represent people with

mental handicaps positively at the same time as trying to appeal to whatever it is that motivates people to give money — (pity, duty, guilt?).

The role of soap operas is also discussed, particularly the experiment undertaken by Crossroads in consultation with Mencap, the introduction of the Downs Syndrome child Nina. The second half of the video is devoted to initiatives that assist people with mental handicaps to make the most of their abilities.

Unusually (and refreshingly) the people concerned speak for themselves — incidentally in a way which dispels the myths about their lack of clarity, discernment and ambition. Unusually, too, the collective, organised voice of people with mental disabilities is heard.

Inevitably many questions remained unanswered, such as the extent to which the video itself is constructed and controlled by non-mentally handicapped people. It would have been interesting to see how, if at all, the subjects of the video were involved in the process, and how decisions were taken about avoiding exploitation and voyeurism.

It would also have been interesting to explore in greater depth just how non-mentally-handicapped people *do* perceive mental handicap, and how the media contribute to this.

A ground-breaking and stimulating video, which should appear on Channel 4 this autumn. **Julienne Dickey**

"THE WORLD HAS A WAY OF LOOKING AT PEOPLE"
Available for sale or hire from Concord Distributors

Despite the Sun —

New 50 minute video produced by a community video project in Tower Hamlets. The film is a distillation of a vast amount of footage taken at Wapping.

It includes interviews with residents and strikers as well as action on the picket line.

The editing leaves a lot to be desired and it would benefit from being shorter, but given the resources available the team have produced a committed and interesting film.

Available from THAP, 178, Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ Price: £20 group/TU's: £12 individuals.

Further information from Mark Saunders 01-247 0216.

BACK COPIES OF FREE PRESS

A limited number of back copies are available, at 15p each, including all the special Supplements. Order yours though the office, quoting issue numbers and adding 20p for postage & packing.

Love Me Tender

Privatisation & in-house tendering for cleaning, catering & laundry services in the NHS; the experience of workers at three Merseyside hospitals (38 mins)

Welcome to the Pleasure Zone

Merseyside Development Corporation decided how to spend £84m of public money behind closed-door — local residents make public their responses. (28 mins)

The Road to the New Workhouse

The Fowler Review of DHSS benefits gets a going over, with ideas for how to organise against them. (38 mins)

The Capenhurst Connection

Merseyside Women for Peace explain the sinister and illegal chain that links Namibian uranium to Trident submarines via nuclear processing in the North West. (21 mins)

All available on VHS & U-matic, for hire (Community rate £1, institutional rate £2, Commercial rate £3, PLUS £5 deposit), from Merseyside Community Production Group, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1 6EN. Tel 051 709 9460. FP36

"Women's Work — Women's Lives" (Re-issue)

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FROM ACTION STATIONS TO ACTIONS TAKEN



Ann Pointon displays evidence of the press ghetto reserved for people with disabilities

The Peacock Committee subtly rigged its polling methods to bias respondents towards advertising on the BBC, said **Stephen Barnett** (Broadcasting Research Unit), opening the first session on "Whose Public Service?"

These results were "creatively edited" to disguise their original selectivity in the final Report.

We need a methodology, he said, for discovering what people want on TV and radio that does not rely on the numbing crudities of statistical polls that are at best clumsy and at worst dishonest.

Jean Seaton argued that "public service broadcasting" is not just the BBC, indeed perhaps not even the BBC since the advent of regulated commercial broadcasting. She stressed the need to review and re-appropriate social control over the potential of all aspects of broadcasting.

In the second session "Do They Mean Us", Glen Noble (Bandung File) challenged white liberal notions of positive images of race.

The opportunity for the full range of Black people's presentation of their own interests and images is restricted by the small number of Black people in, or able to get into broadcasting, he said.

Black access must not be at any price, but linked to proper training, valid jobs and genuine Equality Targets that did not simply ensure a few Black workers in small projects or workshops.

In a fierce and funny but not cynical



Hot off the press, "Bending Reality" sold well on the bookstall.

JOHN WHALLET reports on an ambitious CPBF Conference

The first hot weather of summer and an unexpected clash with the massive Anti-Apartheid rally kept numbers low, but there were still over 60 people around to savour the air-conditioning at Kensington Town Hall and get their teeth into the vexed question of how to maintain and improve public service broadcasting.

The variety of speakers and issues covered in an ambitious programme of workshops and presentations deserves more space, and will be reflected in the CPBF Broadcasting Report due out in September.

With multi-national media companies poised to make their biggest killing ever should the Tories release all broadcasting franchises onto the "free market", and Labour in search of new ideas for an integrated Cultural Industries policy covering both "the media" and "the arts", the CPBF Media Manifesto Campaign could not be better timed.

The Conference was an ideal opportunity for people to insist on greater access, more diversity, higher standards, and greater accountability in broadcasting. And insist they did.

Photos by CHI CHAN



Glen Noble: "genuine Equality Targets"

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presentation, BBC Open University producer Ann Pointon (ACTT Disability Working Party) spoke of the way that people with disabilities are closed off by the media into disabling ghettos.

She illustrated her point vividly with typical examples of this "Triumph over Tragedy" syndrome where personal courage is shown overcoming adversity. We do not want to be on, or off, TV because of disabilities, she said, but because of what we can, and do, do.

Julienne Dickey (CPBF Lesbian & Gay Group) described the way in which sexism is enforced through the dominance of particular gender and sexual identity imagery, and the lack of "normal" (eg non-exotic) images of homosexual love and affection. "There are not kinds of people," she said "Only kinds of needs and wants... and kinds of opportunity."

In a workshop led by Laura Vincent (BETA) on the role of the trades unions in transforming the style and content of broadcasting, the shortcomings of media unions were discussed, along with proposals for more assertive approaches to training, media education, new technology and direct engagement with consumers/audiences about programme range and quality.

Another considered the impact of broadcasting on children, particularly sex and violence. The CPBF should have a youth section, it was suggested, as one way of helping to reassess "children's" broadcasting, challenge adult characterisations of childhood as powerless, innocent and without critical understanding, and to lobby for productions by young people themselves.

The workshop on broadcasting finance heard from Jon Davies (Central London Poly) and BBC advisor Dr Janet Morgan about what influences corporate thinking, from rising production costs and the conventional wisdom that revenue from license fees has reached saturation point, to ratings as a mean of quantifying success.

In the final session, Shadow Arts Minister Norman Buchan said the Arts, the media, the production and distribution of all forms of cultural expression, should be recognised as a major, integrated and integral part of Britain's industrial economy.

Responsibility should not be shared between different government departments as at present he said, explaining that Labour wants ideas for unified methods of managing the development of these Cultural Industries and encouraging diversity, access and accountability.

With unconscious irony, he commented "We're in the market to be told..."

A Campaign priority must be to draw others into the debate and give Labour the benefit of consumer opinion that has not been coerced by the commercial wiles of the free market.

Mike Jempson interviews BEULAH AINLEY, new chair of the NUJ Race Relations Working Party about a difficult task.



"We have a long, long way to go..."

The NUJ's Race Relations Working Party is attempting to develop new initiatives to counter media racism and improve the level of representation for black journalists throughout the British media.

Now chaired by former CPBF National Committee member Beulah Ainley, it has a tough job on its hands — not just because of the scope and size of the problem but because the NUJ's parlous financial situation has restricted funds for the union's specialist sub-committees.

"Each member of the Working Party is currently writing up sections of an information pack, designed to improve understanding of the issues involved and the union's efforts to increase the number of qualified black journalists in Britain," explains Beulah, who began her career on the East End News. Among the topics included are Black people in broadcasting (on which the Working Party ran a conference last year), the development of the Black press in Britain, and Black women in the media.

"I understand the problems facing Black people in the media. Even with nursing and midwifery qualifications and a BA in English, as a Black woman I found it difficult to get journalistic training and work," says Beulah.

She persevered and took the Black Media Workers Association MSC course at Central London Poly, an NCTJ course, and made the most of NUJ-sponsored courses. She is now the sole surviving Press Officer with the Greater London Enterprise Board, restructured after government cuts with the loss of five journalistic posts.

"One of my major concerns is to open up training opportunities for Black journalists. At this year's ADM my branch successfully moved that the union should sponsor at least one Black journalist a year. We have been pressing for positive action for some years now. I am determined that this time we shall get some results," insists Beulah. The Working Party is helping to devise training programmes for Black media workers.

It has also been meeting with editors of local and regional newspapers and represen-

tatives of local communities to challenge the comfortable view that the press are giving ethnic minorities a fair deal.

Earlier this year a session in Dublin brought representatives of the "travellers", who have had notoriously bad coverage in Irish papers, face to face with journalists, few of whom had any direct experience of their problems.

"Black people in Britain get a better deal than the travellers in Ireland," says Beulah. "The meeting dispelled quite a few myths, and we have arranged to provide the travellers with support and assistance in future dealings with the media and the NUJ."

"In July we went to Wolverhampton. There were no black journalists on the Wolverhampton Express & Star, yet 14% of the local population is Black or Asian with perhaps as many as a million in its distribution area," Beulah points out.

"If there is no representation of Black people on such papers, they cannot help but be biased. One of the complaints people made was that coverage of cultural and religious events was often inaccurate, simply because reporters were unable to understand what was going on, or bother to get names right. Inadequate and inaccurate coverage is as bad as overt racism. It makes people feel that they are not being taken seriously."

The coverage of the Handsworth riots also came in for criticism as did the way the Caribbean Focus 86 events in the areas are being covered, with negative queries about costs and its value, instead of considering the unique nature of this nationwide assertion of Caribbean identity.

"The Editor's response was patronising. He would make no commitment to change because he said his Black critics were telling him what to publish, and undermining his right as a manager to manage. With people like him about we still have a long, long way to go."

The next session, scheduled for September will take place in Liverpool.

Beulah is pleased with developments in the CPBF since she left the National Committee. The creation of a Black section and the appointment of a Black worker as evidence, she says, that the Campaign is taking the issue seriously.

"It is good to see FREE PRESS regularly drawing attention to different aspects of racism in the media. I would encourage all Black media workers to join the Campaign and help to bring pressure on media proprietors and unions to fulfill their responsibilities to our multi-racial society," she says.

Beulah hopes that the NUJ Race Relations Working Party will be able to work more closely with the CPBF in the future.

An NUJ conference on Black journalists in the Press is planned for later this autumn. Anyone wishing to find out more about or the activities of the Race Relations Working Party should contact Beulah at the NUJ, Acorn House, Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8DP.

Prisoner of conscience in Turkey



ERHAN TUSKAN

Turkish journalist Erhan Tuskan was arrested by the military authorities on 24 October 1980.

He has been in jail ever since he was sentenced to a total of 48 years 10 months in 1981 and 1982 by military courts in Izmir and Istanbul.

His arrest followed four articles which appeared in *Ilerici Yurtsever Genclik*, the journal of the Progressive Youth Organisation (IGD are its Turkish initials) which he edited.

Tuskan was charged under Article 142 of the military regime's Penal Code, with spreading 'communist propaganda'. He is detained in Canakkale Prison.

The youth organisation IGD was not involved in violence and Tuskan has in fact written a number of articles denouncing terrorism.

Amnesty International considers Erhan Tuskan to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned in violation of the right of freedom of expression as set out in Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory.

Members of CPBF are urged to write courteously to the Turkish Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, urging his release.

Prime Minister Rugat Ozal
Office of the Prime Minister
Basbakanlik
Ankara Turkey

Minister of Justice Necet Eldem
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanligi
Ankara Turkey

MIKE POWER reports on

WAPPING REPERCUSSIONS

Print unions are now urgently discussing amalgamation and establishing interunion accords, as new papers prepare to launch which could further undermine their traditional control.

The constant shadow of the EETPU at Wapping and beyond, and demands for legally binding, no strike deals have created a new fraternity out of the previous internecine "follow the job" wars.

Murdoch has not had it all his own way. News International is clearly in some financial difficulty due to over-spending on US media projects. Picketing at Wapping has been enormously expensive. High Court affidavits submitted by News International revealed that they are losing nearly £400,000 monthly on additional security, distribution and late delivery costs.

Murdoch has also lost most of his best journalists and the editorial credibility of his newspapers has sunk to a new low. NI editors have been clearly revealed in their role as corporate managers with their former pretence as fearless defenders of editorial integrity exposed as a sham.

The use of new technology by powerful multinational media companies has been to destroy jobs and weaken trade unions. We have not witnessed a growth in political plurality in the press and this has validated the position adopted by the CPBF from the outset — that trade union rights and press freedom are inextricably interlinked.

The struggle for the right of reply is a perfect example. We no longer have the leverage on any of the four titles now produced in Wapping since the traditional production unions have been excluded. And the journalists have shown in their ballot results that principles come a very poor second to the size of their pay packet.

The rest of Fleet Street, less ready to act for fear of creating a war on two fronts, has been weakened by demoralisation in the wake of the proprietors' onslaught. However, the effort to link the print unions' campaign for a consumer boycott of Murdoch's papers to their content gives hope for a revival of the campaign.

That campaign needs more substantial backing from the wider labour movement. Neil Kinnock's Labour Party will receive little supportive coverage if it maintains a non-nuclear defence policy. Now is the time to be making public

demands for newspapers to give fair coverage and the right to reply, and for journalists to abide by the NUJ Code of Conduct.

Right to Report

Improving relations between the newspaper unions gives real hope for a boost in the effort towards great workers' control in the production and content of the press. The NGA/NUJ accord on direct entry and subsidiary functions in operating new technology, that allows for the establishment of joint workplace organisations for the first time, opens new possibilities. Production workers could be linked to the NUJ professional code and guidelines, which could create fresh and positive conditions for journalists to act for the "right to report".

At this year's NGA conference it was announced that 13 joint agreements had been reached and a further 30 were in prospect in the provincial press.

The value of this approach was pointed out by Harry Conroy giving his fraternal address from the NUJ saying that at the *Independent*, due to launch in October, the NUJ refused to negotiate a new technology deal without the presence of the NGA. Equally the NGA/NUJ closed shop deal at the *News on Sunday* was a model on which the unions hope to base many more.

Both the NGA and SOGAT have set a one year timetable to finalise amalgamation proposals to place before their respective members. This is against a background of five 'Bridlington' (TUC job poaching) adjudications still to be settled between the two unions. But these differences have highlighted the need for greater unity and Eddie Shah's recent admission that he has to return to London wholesale distribution, controlled by SOGAT, indicates the potential power of such an amalgamation...

However, the need to neutralise

cont from p.1

arrangements, to end chapel authority and establish joint union panels made up of officials. Such demands are finding an echo in some union quarters but they could lead to greater bureaucracy and less flexibility for the workforce.

The approach of the CPBF in supporting and extending the boycott campaign against Murdoch's papers and defending trade union organisation as a prerequisite to press freedom has been correct. We need to step up our efforts to bring together the producers and consumers of the media in a positive alliance for change, and to assist in the development of real alternatives such as the *News on Sunday*.

★ Read all about it, get the FACTS in the ★



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