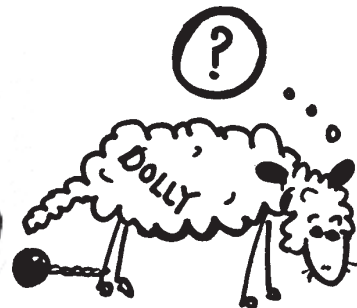




WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BANGED UP...

SchNEWS

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SCREWED!

"While we are here let's not forget the ones we left behind. I stayed up all night talking through the wall last night to a man who is innocent. But he is buried is alive. The list of names is endless. These people are still where we were this morning, they are still fighting for their innocence. They have got nothing."

James Robinson, one of the Bridgwater Three.

As the release of the Bridgwater three after eighteen years wrongful imprisonment sent shock waves through the judicial system people are asking could it happen again? The authorities say it couldn't but as Paul Foot, author of the book *Who Killed Carl Bridgewater* said: "Why has it taken so long for this grotesque injustice to be righted? the answer is that the judicial and police authorities are extremely reluctant to admit it is possible that their procedures can go terribly wrong."

With 60,000 prisoners in the UK - and rising (that's one in every thousand) more miscarriages are likely to occur. Justice the legal human rights organisation estimate that some 200 innocent people are annually sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment.

In fact things could be getting worse. The recent Criminal Procedure and Investigation Act approved rules to limit defence access to material, unless the police or prosecution say that it is relevant. And yesterday (Thursday) Home Secretary Michael Howard published 33 recommendations in *Review of the Criminal Justice System*, further limiting the right for a trial by jury for certain offences. Already public order offences such as obstruction of the highway and the use of threatening or abusive behaviour do not carry the right to jury trial.

ROUGH JUSTICE

"Those of you who have never been in prison cannot know the unbearable pain of separation from the world and from those you love, the terrible, dehumanising monotony of prison route, and the feeling that every day spent inside is a day stolen from my life."

Raphael Rowe, one of the M25 Three.

In 1988 Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis and Randolph Johnson found guilty of

the "M25 Murder". During the trial even the judge said "So much of the evidence is itself tainted for one reason or another, and there is considerable uncertainty and inconsistency in important areas". Such as the fact that police were looking for three men, two of whom were white, one with fair hair and blue eyes - while those convicted are all black! *M25 campaign, 28 Grimsell Park, Camberwell, London, SE5 OTB 0171 735 2985.*

KENNY CARTER was nearing the end of a short sentence for robbery when he was accused of murdering a cellmate - who tragically had hung himself in the night. Despite no forensic or fingerprint evidence or evidence of a forced hanging he was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. *HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 OEB*

JOSEPHINE SMITH was convicted of murdering her husband in 1993. The court had heard evidence of how she had suffered many years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Her plea of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility was rejected by the judge who recommend a 12 year sentence. She said "I killed him to get away safely, to get the chil-

Women are more likely to be convicted of 'crimes of poverty' unconnected with violent crime, and more likely than men to be imprisoned. Most women in prison are in for fine default for a non-prisonable offence. Women are 68% of people convicted of not having a TV licence, and 1/3 of women imprisoned for non-payment of fines in 1994 were convicted of prostitution offences. 70% of convictions for theft committed by women are for amounts less than £50.

Source: Women Against Rape.

dren away safely with no fear of him coming after me." Justice for Women, 55 Rathcool Gardens, London N8 9NE

Prison life is extremely boring, so letters are generally the highlight of the day. Don't know what to say? Talk about your life, things you are up to - just be careful not to say anything that will get anyone into trouble. Most prisons do not allow letters in without a return address. Some get stopped, read, "diverted"; and "lost" so it's often worth sending the first letter via recorded delivery as these have to be opened in the prisoners presence. Most prisoners are not the "mad beasts" portrayed by the tabloids, they are ordinary people and the only way they are going to know you support them is to tell them so GET WRITING.

KIT WILSON (involved in anti-road protests) is being held on remand at KG 3464, HMP Bullingdon, Patrickhaugh Rd., Arcot, Bicester, OX6 OPZ He's to appear in Reading court on 20th March charged with affray, a charge even disputed by two security guards from Fairmile. On the 17th he will appear at Weymouth Magistrates Court for obstruction charges. He'd appreciate messages of support and people to turn up at his court cases.

CONTACTS

Conviction fight for framed prisoners, produce mag 75p + SAE to PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF *** **The Law** newspaper for lawyers, advice workers, campaigners etc. Send £1 for a sample copy to PO Box 3878, London, SW2 9ZE *** **Anarchist Black Cross** network of autonomous prisoner support groups, produce quarterly mag "Taking Liberties" 60p = SAE to 121 Railton Rd., London, SE24 OLR *** **Peace Prisoner Support**, c/o 16 Sholebroke Ave., Leeds, LS7 3HB 0113 2629365 *** **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** publish a quarterly newspaper with good prisoner pages SAE to BCM Box 5909, London, WC1N 3XX

The Bench Bunch

A 1984 survey of 150 Stockport Magistrates revealed an average age of 53 dealing with offenders over half of whom were under 21. The reason for the imbalance lies partly in the voluntary nature of the service, which can attract Ladies Bountiful with time on their hands and deter workers whose employers are reluctant to give them time off for magisterial duties. Selection procedures have also been to blame. The names of members of local advisory committees are kept secret in order to protect them from lobbying, which simply means they are lobbied by those "in the know". (There are several examples of undue influence by organisation like the Freemasons or Rotary). Too much attention has in the past been paid to recruitment from local political parties, business organisations and charities, and too little to the claims of welfare and minority groups. e.g. in 1988 there were just 455 (1.9%) Black Magistrates.

REMEMBER: WRITE TO A PRISONER NOT YOUR M.P.

WORK UNFAIR

The Tomorrow's People Trust is not part of the tacky '70s sci-fi TV series about teenage telepaths, but Grand Metropolitan's vehicle for Workfare. Its London HQ was invaded by claimants this week; pissed off at its involvement in Project Work slave labour pilot schemes - the work for dole scheme coming your way soon.

30 people occupied the building with one cop trying for *crap arrest of the week*, when he threatened to nick the owner of the banners for criminal damage to the windows. (caused by the tape sticking them up!) After being ejected from the building, we leafleted GM staff and passers by. "Any firm, charity or council involved in Project Work can expect to be targeted by angry claimants. *WITH THIS OCCUPATION WE WARN ANY COMPANY THINKING OF GETTING INVOLVED IN PROJECT WORK: THINK AGAIN.*" More PW pilot schemes are starting at the end of March, including one here in Brighton.

Groundswell has called a National Day of Action against PW for the 2nd April.

* Remember those JobSeekers Allowances directives telling people they could be ordered to smarten up/get their hair cut or face losing their benefit? One claimant decided to complain using the 'Telling us about it' forms available from all DSS buildings, after being told he was scruffy. The Customer Services Manager for Brighton benefits agency responded "I am sorry if you offended when a member of staff commented on your appearance. Obviously, appearance is each individual person's choice and I am sure the comments were only meant to be constructive." It's good to moan.

THE + FILES

Trees For Life is a project founded in 1989 to help regenerate and expand the Caledonian Forest in the Highland of Scotland in full swing. They aim to restore the forest to an area of 1500 sq. kilometres in the north-central Highlands, the project intends to restore the eco-system in Scotland which was once home to wolves, brown bears and beavers. To make a donation to the project or to get involved in the volunteer work weeks contact, Trees For Life, The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres IV36 0TZ, Scotland. Or tel: 01309 691292.

EURO BUREAU

*** A 12 year campaign against the Euro-tourist highway that will carve through the Pyrenees destroying the last habitat of the European Brown Bear is soon to erupt into what promises to be a spectacular eviction of an impressive mountainside anti-road camp. Six empty cottages along the route are available and needing to be barricaded and help is needed to defend to original camp. The region is too beautiful to be destroyed without resistance, the eviction is expected on March 15th, for information tel: 0033593 47883, or the Justice? office and leave a message for Gwen. *** For some time in the small provincial

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Anarchist Tea Phone! The Teapot - at the bottom of North Road - now have a phone: (01273) 628192. Now you ring up and order your burger, chips and beans in advance.

town of Radomsko in Poland, numerous groups of fascists, had been terrorising local young people. Violent attacks by these boneheads on those who were 'different' became an everyday occurrence. Things got so bad that some people decided to fight back - resulting in one death of a fascist. Seventeen anti-fascists were then arrested, 13 of which are still in prison. Their families are having difficulty financing an adequate legal defence, so if your feeling flushed send donations to the defence fund at: Michal Swiderski, PO Box 8, 21-400 Lukow, Poland.

SchNEWS in brief

Best wishes to Steven Anderton, a resident of the Bingley Bypass camp in Yorkshire, who suffered serious burns after a fire in his tree house. He is expected to be in hospital for at least two weeks. Send messages of support to him at the Regional Burns Unit, Tim Duffield Hospital Trust, Abberford Rd, Monkfield, WF1 4DG. More info 0113 262 9365. *** An excellent new magazine, 'Direct Action', launched at the end of last year is available for £1:50 from Solidarity Federation, Direct Action, PO Box 1095 Sheffield S2 4YR. They are appealing for suggestions, comments and contributions for how the magazine can grow and develop *** GRANARCHY! A council who erected a fence around a block of flats without listening to tenants objections were finally brought to heed by two elderly women. They used an arm chair in a sit down protest preventing the erection of the final part of the fencing. Oxford council have now arranged a meeting to hear the views of the residents *** Women living in nationalist areas of the six counties of Northern Ireland will be holding a public meeting to express views from their community at The Springfield Pub on Wednesday 5th March at 8:00pm *** EARTH(worm) LIBERATION FRONT STRIKE! Worms were rescued in a raid on a Lancashire University lab and equipment was trashed earlier this month. ***

DOLLY MIXTURE

A recent technological breakthrough has meant that scientists have managed to genetically clone a sheep. The genetic reconstruction of embryos, which are then surgically placed in surrogate mothers, means that sheep can be genetically cloned and duplicated. 'Dolly', derived simply from the adult ewe udder cell, has provoked questioning of the ethics of genetic engineering and cloning. And as Mark Little at the recent 'Have I Got SchNEWS for you?' show asked, 'Why do they want to clone sheep, they all look the bloody same anyway!'

*The Genetic Engineering Network are currently organising a series of meetings to discuss how to take the campaign forward. c/o Test Tube Harvest Campaign 55 Queen Margarets Grove, London, N1 4PZ or tel / fax 0171 923 9511

NUKE-CASTLE

Last Wednesday in Newcastle 60 people stopped a nuclear warhead convoy travelling to Faslane submarine base in Scotland. The protesters performed a surprise two pronged attack on the convoy mean-

ing, as one officer said, "You caught us with our trousers down". Quick setting concrete was tipped over the windscreen of the first truck, locked on on top and underneath of the convoy and one person claimed to have damaged the chassis of one of the trucks - holding up the convoy for well over 2 hours. More info Nukewatch on 01274 730795 who also offer NVDA training and info packs. To get involved in the resistance against the new nuclear nightmare contact YCND on 0171 607 3616.

Diary Dates

** First week in March (probably) **Goeben**, nuclear waste blockade, last year this spectacular piece of direct action cost £25 million to police, if it costs them too much this year the transportation will be too costly to be economically viable. This is our big chance to stop the senseless transportation of radioactive waste around Europe!! Get there!! 01273 685913 ** March 6th a night of news, views and reviews from the DIY movement, in aid of **Squall**, featuring British and European videos at the Ritzy cinema, Brixton Oval, Coldharbour Lane at 6:30 on March 6th (bookings 0171 737 2121). To be followed by a Squall benefit by Freetown RTS Ska band at The Canterbury Arms, next to Brixton Cop Shop from 11pm ** 9th National Demonstration against **Live Exports**. Meet 12 noon at AJ's diner, junction 9 off northbound M5 - signposted A46 / A435. ** 9th **Anti-Open-cast** mine action! Meet at Blythe Roundabout services (Junction of the A1 & the A614, Junction 34) 4am, Sunday 9 March. Info: 0171 603 1831. Bring spades, miner's helmets etc... ** 14th-17th **Faslane Peace Camp** Women's Action, for info. tel: 01706 812663 ** 15th **SchNEWSnight** at the Sanctuary cafe, Hove at 8pm. ** 15th **Animate**, festival for the rights of animals 10am till 8pm, Westminster Central Halls, London. Info: 0114 253 0020 ** 22nd **Campaign Against the Arms Trade** Campaign Day at the Friends Meeting House, 9 The Hop Gardens, off St Martins lane, London. Tel:0171 281 0297 ** 26th A review of new proposals for reform on traveller laws is taking place at Cardiff Law School, hosted by the **Traveller Law Research Unit**, tel:01222 874000.

and finally...

"When you're in love with a beautiful penguin, it's hard..."

Icelandic zoo keeper Kennet Alborg took animal welfare to new extremes when he became smitten with a penguin called Brunella. Claiming he was trying to keep the bird warm, Alborg dressed it up in a black lace Wonderbra and suspenders, and was duly sacked. He now has a new job as a taxidermist's assistant. He says: 'For a while my life was perfect, but now she's gone - and I'm stuffing squirrels.'

disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to be a victim of a miscarriage of justice. Reduce the chances of being jailed for a crime you didn't commit by committing lots of crime. Always trust the outcome of court cases, and never campaign for the release of those believed to be innocent, such as the Jackson Five. Then you will feel free. Honest.