

angry PEOPLE

No. 15

\$1

FOR A STRONG
UNITED WORKING CLASS

**AND YOU
THOUGHT
WE WERE
FINISHED.....**



angry PEOPLE

who we are

Angry People are a group committed to spreading the ideas of revolutionary class struggle.

what we do

As well as producing the paper we produce other propaganda such as stickers, posters, leaflets and t-shirts. We are active in our local areas and are involved in a range of struggles and campaigns. We are part of a wider struggle and to this end we network nationally and internationally.

what we believe

We believe that everyone has a birthright to the basics in life these being, decent food, clothing, health care, a livelihood and well-being. This society is not geared towards providing these things to all because it is divided up into classes. To redress this situation the working class must wage a totally uncompromising class war against the rich and win. The working class are a varied bunch of people who make up the bulk of the population. what makes us working class is not what pub we drink in, what clothes we wear or the car we drive. These are cultural aspects of the working class but not the defining factors. What makes us working class is that we all have a common enemy who exploits and oppresses us. We are everything the middle and upper classes are not.

what do we want?

We want an end to the denial of our birthright and a chance to start building our lives, our communities and our society in a fashion that ensures society's resources are shared equally amongst all. We want to see the basis of society's structure as non-hierarchical. This means decision-making power must be equally accessible to everyone.

how do we get there?

By combating reactionary ideas that take root amongst the working class ie. racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and all forms of prejudice and bigotry. Encouraging working class people to organise themselves as a class to meet their own needs and desires. Through involving ourselves in the day to day struggles waged by the working class as equals and not leaders.



**ALONE WE CAN CHANGE OURSELVES
TOGETHER
WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

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**ANGRY PEOPLE IS
FREE TO PRISONERS**

**"IT'S BETTER TO DIE
ON YOUR FEET,
THAN TO LIVE
ON YOUR KNEES".**

EMILIANO ZAPATA

SET THE WIK ALIGHT!

ignite true reconciliation

If we believe that Aboriginal people had prior possession of this land (Australia) then surely we also believe that Aboriginal people must be intimately involved in the management of land in this country.

SHORTCHANGED

White people and the white government may not have attacked and killed Aboriginal people in the last twenty years. At least not at the same genocidal rate as was the case in the past. But the fact remains that white people are the direct descendants of a society that has forcibly excluded Aboriginal people from their own land. Therefore white and other non-indigenous people have gained a set of privileges not extended to Aborigines. Within the class system of Australia there exists different sections within each of the three classes. Some are better off and some are worse off than others in the same class. The majority of Aboriginal people are at the bottom of the working class and have been pushed down there by a series of racially biased attacks instrumented by the successive Australian governments which have all been guided by a white supremacist ideology. The Australian government is a white power government.

DOUBLETALK

When John Howard speaks of farmers he means pastoralists and graziers. Farmers are the working class of rural Australia. Pastoralists and graziers are the middle and upper class out in the bush. John Howard is making a contrived plea to rural Australians to stick together and ignore class differences in order to beat back the tidal wave of anger at his 1950's style approach to native title. Howard's emotionally charged speeches are designed to be divisive as possible, with a city v. country approach to the complex issues surrounding native title that can only be rivaled by the annual City v. Country rugby league series.

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

Liberal and National Party propagandists have worked hard to antagonize ordinary people out in the bush by telling them that at any time they might lose their land. When things got a little shaky and Coalition polities thought Wik might be gutted in the Senate (as it was) they embarked upon a scare-mongering campaign amongst those that live in the cities. After telling cocky* farmers their land could be taken from them, they then told city workers that their backyards could go too. On top of the complexities of the city v. country issue there is a rich v. poor issue at the heart of all this. Nearly all land is owned and controlled by rich people. Even most of us that can lay claim to our own little piece of land, whether it be a suburban block or a thousand acres of perishables or livestock, we generally have possession of these things on credit. Many of us spend our lives working

to pay off the house or land and still never own anything outright. We are up to our eyeballs in debt to the banks, with mortgages and loans and it's rich bastards that are rubbing their hands with glee as we get ourselves further into debt because it's them who will profit from our misfortune. Working class people have nothing to fear from true and genuine reconciliation with Aboriginal people. Only the rich have something to fear because the redistribution of the nation's resources will take a chunk out of the personal empires that they've built at our expense. My god, you don't mean that rich loafers might have to take up working for a living do ya? We sure do!

A fair and honest deal must be reached between equal parties as to the use, control and conservation of this land.

A revolutionary society would be directly negotiating a treaty with Aboriginal people to cover land and its use.

THE FUTURE

So how does *Angry People* see this issue? Despite all the posturing of the redneck politicians in the major parties over the imminent destruction of society that will occur if Aboriginal people have rights to traditional lands, and the slimy, feel-good, lets all hold hands and be friends politics of the chardonnay-sipping middle class politicians that dominate the Labour Party and the Democrats, it will be up to ordinary working class communities to directly negotiate with Aboriginal communities over use of land. We are the innocent beneficiaries of a colonial campaign carried out by the British Empire to dump its undesirables half way around the world. The convicts didn't have a say in whether they wanted to live here! So too do working class people find themselves in social circumstances beyond their control. We've never had a say in the type of society we have had to live in. Nor did Aboriginal communities have any say in the formation of a white Australian society when the British Government started a campaign of genocide against them. But when we do have that say, we will do what should have been done in the beginning - to ensure that a fair and honest deal be reached between equal parties as to

the use, control and conservation of this land. A revolutionary society would be directly negotiating a treaty with Aboriginal people to cover land and its use. The ledger must be balanced with Aboriginal people, the majority of whom are in the same class as us. And it is only when the interests of all working class people are met that true reconciliation will have been done.

LAND AND LIBERTY

Angry People don't give a fuck about John Howard's faint hearted attempts at reconciliation. His hands are empty when he claims he's offering peace. Peace MUST include land and access to it. Behind the smokescreen of media and government distortions lies another reality. That Mabo and Wik cannot and will not deliver self determination to Aboriginal people. The beneficiaries of the Mabo and Wik legislation are primarily far northern Aborigines. With 70% of Aborigines living in urban areas, and with most of these being south of the Brisbane Line, it's not hard to see that there are a great many Aborigines who won't ever see the slightest thing from the High Court rulings.

CAN'T STOP THE FEELING

Put simply, Mabo and Wik have delivered very little for the nation's indigenous people. Why all the fuss then? Because for the first time since 1967, when Aborigines were granted full Australian citizenship and the right to vote, Aboriginal Land Rights, social justice, health and employment have been thrust into the public sphere with such an impetus that all of us across the nation have had to sit up and take notice. The national focus on Aboriginal life over the past two years has been an extremely helpful communication tool for the advocates of Aboriginal self determination. Mabo and Wik, again for the first time, recognised the prior occupation of all Australia and its surrounding islands by indigenous people. This gave Aborigines the first ever *legal* acknowledgment of their existence. Of course, we've known all along that the Aborigines were here before the rest of us. It's just that rich bastards haven't wanted to admit the fact, because to do so would jeopardise their extreme wealth and glamorous lifestyles and plunge this nation into a collective reassessment of its past and future path, which, if you haven't noticed, is right now where we're at.

*a 'cocky farmer' is a small farmer; the term comes from the days when poor farmers used to sow their seeds by hand and the cockatoo's flew behind them eating much of the seeds.

and the black revolution

the East Coast Speaking Tour



**LORENZO
KOM'BOA
ERVIN**

Looking back on the events of July 1997, when *Angry People* brought Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin to Australia for a month long speaking tour, it all seems pretty distant and clear, even to have been somewhat expected given Lorenzo's background and the climate of racial tension in this country. *But at the time that's not how it looked at all!* Sure, we expected some probing by The Department of Immigration or the Federal Government, the media and the lunatic Right. Naturally these groups have been and always will be allies in the fight against anyone presenting real alternatives to their idea of what a society should be. If you dare to criticise the status quo and your voice happens to reach the public arena, expect to be up against the censoring and distortion of your views by the media, to be threatened or worse by the government and to watch the spectacle of the government egg on right-wing nutcases who have a very important job to do in whipping up 'popular opinion' against you. Always remember they wouldn't be able to do this without the media giving them a public voice. I don't say this just because it happened to us - it happens every day, and it happens all over the world! Alternatively, we were always encouraged by the amount and quality of grass roots support we received. This support was what ultimately guided us through the whole mess and is perhaps the only effective way of telling the government of the country you live in to back off!

Importantly this support didn't come from left wing groups. As an anarchist group we disagree with their authoritarian theories and practices and their paternalistic ways of bringing about change in society. As it turned out we didn't end up needing them anyway and to tell you the truth we didn't really want them around - it would have only caused friction at a time when party politics had to be put aside. Unsurprisingly, the few times they did turn up was to leech on the talks by using them as the paper selling opportunity for the week. All our support came from people we knew, people we met along the way and people we will never meet, both in Australia and around the world. The Internet provided us with an invaluable catalyst when it came to organizing, eg. the international protests against Lorenzo's incarceration had been coordinated over it before the

day he went to prison was over. It's easy to see why governments want the Net to be regulated by them when it provides such an effective way of organizing against their power.

The tour proved instructive for a lot of reasons. Perhaps the main one was the way we were left without a doubt about the role the media has in supporting the prevailing government's agenda. We all knew this was the case and the anarchist Noam Chomsky has been writing media analysis for years showing just how deep the relationship is. But when you're the victim of this sort of attack you learn from the inside out and you learn quickly. We knew how it felt to be on *A Current Affair* - or was it *Frontline*? By using volatile language to describe *Angry People*, Lorenzo and social change, the media effectively marginalised us from greater Australia and consequently more support. They controlled the 'dialogue' completely and we were not given any right of reply to their outrageous claims. Lorenzo was

guilty by his association with the "violent", "militant", "terrorist" Black Panthers, with the "anarchist" group who brought him here, and with his past whereby the media always categorized him as a "terrorist", "gun-runner", "hijacker", "kidnapper", even "murderer" (thanks for that first one goes to the infamous Melbourne radio station, 3AW). Lorenzo seemed to be as guilty as a puppy sitting next to a pile of poo!

The ramifications of this mud slinging could be seen in the results of a Morgan/Bulletin poll conducted on July 14. This poll was taken after Lorenzo had been released from prison, after the Federal Government had lost their case to deport him in the High Court and after he had been granted another visa which allowed him to stay in the country longer than the original one! Still, most people who took part in the poll seemed to believe what they saw and heard on the evening news so we had 64% supporting Lorenzo's immediate

deportation, and a generous 23% saying he should be allowed to stay. People indicated they saw very little difference between Lorenzo, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and revisionist neo-Nazi "historian" David Irving. The latter two gents have been denied visas to visit Australia. One Nation supporters who took part gave an 84% thumbs down to Lorenzo, 77% to Adams and 74% to Irving - kind of tells you where their priorities lie, doesn't it!

Lorenzo had come to Australia to talk about his experiences on the fringe of the Black Panther Party, about organizing against racism and racists, police brutality, and racist and oppressive government policy. We had decided to start the tour in Brisbane and work our way down the coast to Melbourne, meeting with Aboriginal groups and individuals and giving talks along the way. When Lorenzo got to Brisbane on Friday, July 4 he was happy to do the American tourist bit for a few days before business began. But by Sunday the shit had hit the fan.

We've got several theories as to how it happened. First of all we know that the Brisbane tabloid, The Sunday Mail, hungry for a story in an otherwise dull weekend, rang up the old witch in Ipswich to ask her what she and One Nation thought of having a scary black revolutionary in their midst. Later we found out that One Nation had picked up a flyer advertising the tour a few days earlier at a protest against them on the Gold Coast. Another interesting fact we found out later in the week was that the right-wing group Australians Against Further Immigration had notified the Department of Immigration back in May '97 about Lorenzo's visit. Surely they must have contacted One Nation as well. What I can't understand is how Lorenzo got into the country at all considering the feelings of hate against him and his message were at such a pitch before his plane ever landed here. Maybe the Liberal's let him in to be crucified, so they could have an excuse for tightening the already draconian immigration laws. In June a new Migration Legislation Amendment Bill was brought in but had yet to be enacted. Its purpose is to restrict judicial review not just by the Federal Court but also by the High Court on immigration matters. Maybe they wanted to test this new law out.

An equally plausible reason for his entry could be that he simply slipped through the net - a small ray of hope in an otherwise Orwellian world!

Anyway, the fact was he was in the country to talk to Aboriginal groups, and during NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Conciliation) week too! *This coincidence must have been the alarm that set off the attack: a person of colour speaking with a dissident voice during the governments annual whitewash of race relations featuring indigenous set pieces and official (ATSIC) approval.* Hanson was quoted in the Sunday Mail as calling for the immediate deportation of this "terrorist" and "known criminal". The game was on.

By Monday morning the polities had sat up and taken notice with a spokesman for Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock stating that the Ervin case was being reviewed and calling for an urgent briefing. The highly incompetent Acting Minister for Immigration, Amanda Vanstone, also called for his deportation and a rather pissed off Ruddock found himself flying back here from his interrupted holiday to try and mop up. Monday morning also heralded a new experience for the organising group - 7am wake-up calls by camera crews and journo's banging on the doors haggling for the latest scoop. Luckily Lorenzo was staying elsewhere so the media missed the big fish. Mind you, someone knew where he was staying as his flat was broken into and searched but no valuables were stolen - hello ASIO!

We realized we had to mobilize so we called a press conference for Monday night just before the first talk was to be given. The phone

calls from the media ran hot all day. We were extremely lucky to have the resources of community radio station 4ZZZ at our disposal as well as people who put their lives on hold for a while and came to our aid by volunteering for all the shit work that had to be done! *As the pressure came from all sides we saw how a local scandal could become a national and then an international one.*

Things got worse that Monday - the venue where we were to hold the talk - the West End Migrant Resource Centre - pulled out a few hours before start time! They went so far as to say we hadn't booked the hall, and for the next few weeks they refused to let us speak to management as we searched for an explanation as to their behaviour. Later we heard they were scared of losing their funding because of their

The case has nothing to do with freedom of speech. Ervin is entitled to say whatever he wants - from a poutoon just inside international waters.

Panther puzzle

RECENT moves to expel former Black Panther Lorenzo Ervin have amazed I recall a former convicted criminal from South Africa who ended up standing on the Sydney Opera House steps during our Prime Minister's swan-dive. His name was Nelson Mandela. How the times have changed!

For it isn't his colour, and his awareness of it, what is the good senator afraid he will do here? Hijack a Qantas 727 to New Zealand and drink all the first-class champagne? Teach Aborigines how to kidnap, throw bombs, make speeches in 22 countries, will he suddenly go mad and turn criminal here?

I'm sure she can't say. All she really wants to do is give a black man a hard time for talking to blacks about black wrongs with eloquence.

The Free Speech Committee said it was "a frightening affront to free speech". Former Labor maverick MP, Mr Graeme Campbell, accused the Prime Minister of stifling the race debate.

"I don't think any Australian wants a convicted plane hijacker addressing public rallies in Australia," he declared.

Disbelief

I read with utter disbelief (Herald, July 12) that Pauline Hanson had said that Lorenzo Ervin's presence in Australia was "not in the best interests of Australians, and can only lead to further trouble and breakdown in the reconciliation process". It may be politically incorrect to say so, but is this the greatest case of the pot calling the kettle black in living memory?

Frank Alvares.
Hase.
Mr Howard said he found it "bizarre, extraordinary, incredible".
"I don't think any Australian needs more explanation than that," he said.

Immigration Department connection. The Centres' management also rang up our other Brisbane venue, The Opal Centre, and told them they should cancel our Wednesday night talk. The Opal Centre refused to cancel and full credit to them. This little piece of spite was written off by the Sunday Mail in a snippet that went as follows: "Anarchy Reigns: Brisbane anarchists were true to their name when they organized a meeting for fading U.S. radical Black Panther Lorenzo Ervin. When the group turned up to the West End hall for Monday night's meeting there was a slight hitch: no one had booked the venue!" This tabloid stocking filler hid a far more insidious truth and it was all the more disgusting that these gutless scum should have peddled their lies to the press. Anyhow, we scrambled for another venue, which we found quickly, and lost just as quickly! The manager of this pub saw Lorenzo "interviewed" on the ABC half an hour before the talk was to begin and pulled out, not wanting to be seen as supporting whatever the ABC accused him of supporting. My ABC? You can stick your white, liberal-minded approach to politics and race relations. The problem about where to house the talk was solved when we opted for the traditional venue of free speech - on the street! About 150 of us nestled in front of a Greek deli in the West End and heard from Murri speakers before Lorenzo came on. The night was hailed as a victory for free speech in Queensland - a state not noted for its tolerance and racial record.

The next day Lorenzo was called before the Department of Immigration to answer questions about his visa and the entry card he filled out just before entering the country. The fact that he'd managed to speak to Aboriginal and other interested parties must have really caused concern for the Liberal's. Vanstone was out of control, it seemed she had a personal vendetta against Lorenzo. In her haste to oust him she forgot all about a person's rights and legal process. While at the Immigration Department, Lorenzo was taken into custody and taken to a maximum security prison. All this happened so quickly and without any apparent legal process that we felt confident in taking it to the High Court. Our lawyers were sympathetic and had

volunteered their services which was a great relief in what was becoming an increasingly expensive tour! There was debate going on outside the courtrooms as well. We managed to co-ordinate international protests over Lorenzo's treatment - pretty soon reports were coming in from South Africa, Greece, Italy, Canada, Sweden, the US, the UK, New Zealand and elsewhere that pickets of Australian embassies and consulates would be happening on the Thursday. The protest we organised for Brisbane was a doozy, with hundreds of irate citizens noisily picketing the Immigration Department and then strolling through the streets to the High Court. Pickets also took place in Sydney and Melbourne, showing activists that a multi-state approach can certainly ruffle the feathers of a white power government.

In court the government had to prove there was no denial of natural justice in the process it used to accuse and subsequently incarcerate Lorenzo. Of course there was - so of course we won! *Angry People* had taken the Howard Federal Government on in the High Court and we beat them at their own game! On Friday morning the government's

legal representatives admitted they had no case, and despite the Liberal's previous command that the High Court Chief Justice, Sir Gerald Brennan, had no power to hear the case and that he should stay out of it, it was proposed Lorenzo's visa be reinstated and that his legal costs be paid! The Liberal's certainly weren't happy with the High Court when it overturned their decision to kick Lorenzo out of the country and they let it be known he was attacking the judge and the court system verbally. The legal stuff was a pain, but it was worth it in the end just to see the Liberal's get their faces rubbed in their own mess! So Lorenzo was out, despite being pushed face first into a wall at the prison, being deprived while inside, and despite Vanstone still barking that: "The decision today has no bearing on the real issue of this matter, namely whether or not Mr Ervin is a person of good character." The government also started to investigate deporting him on the grounds of "national interest" - whatever that means. Ruddock also wanted to make the character test tougher by "placing the onus on the visa applicant to show they are of good character, rather than the government having to prove they are not of good character". Either way the government has the final say, you just can't win!

The rest of Friday was spent relaxing and having literally hundreds of people of all colours congratulate Lorenzo on being out of prison. The day ended with a powerful speech at the closing event of NAIDOC week, where Lorenzo let his words come flowing out in a direct line of communication between him and the people he'd come across the world to meet. One Nation's David Ettridge said the Aboriginal community has shown "negative leadership" by associating with Lorenzo! I'm sure the same could be said about elements of the white community for associating with you! Ettridge also came out with a gem of fascist hypocrisy: "Sure we want freedom of speech and equality, but we have to look at the purpose of his visit".

The tour rolled on. Even the media were less virulent in their opposition to us for a day or two. I guess they thought they should stop the slander for fear that this man could take them on in the courts and win. Anyway by now we totally distrusted the big media and only let community media outlets in on our business and movements. We had fun bullshitting the journo's about where Lorenzo would be at various times of the day, hoping we could waste as much of their time as they had of ours! We went to Lismore for a highly successful one night stand and were treated to the spectacle of our first agent provocateur. After refusing to pay his entry fee and listening to Lorenzo for all of 15 minutes he came storming out proclaiming "that guy's (Lorenzo) a racist" and immediately got interviewed by the local TV crew. *It was a pathetic attempt at sabotage and we suggest the perpetrator take acting lessons or get a job with the police department in another capacity!* From Lismore it was back to Brisbane for the final talk and meetings with the local Murri community. The publicity (let's face it, all publicity is good publicity)

helped our profile as we traveled down the coast. It also meant that people who wanted to hear Lorenzo speak knew when we were in town, a feat our publicity department couldn't equal! Many more people heard Lorenzo than would have been the case if the media and polities had let us be - something Labor leader Kim Beazley recognized after slamming the Lib's for their "heavy-handedness" in dealing with the affair.

After all the excitement up north, Lorenzo and *Angry People* finally arrived in Sydney for the two talks arranged here. Our internal communication had been stretched to the limit, so there was some catching up to do. Our travelling crew were well and truly knackered and were only too happy to finally be able to lie in whilst the Sydney crew took over. This was Friday, July 18 and this night would be the first Sydney talk. So after a couple of radio interviews, we headed off to the Settlement, an Aboriginal run venue in Chippendale.

Some three hundred people turned up and it was great to see so many Koori faces in the crowd. Marlene Cummins kicked off the night's events with a traditional Aboriginal opening, complete with traditional dress and dance. Nervous as she was before she got onto the stage, she was fantastic once there. Lyle Munro then got up there and spoke with razor-sharp words, telling of Aboriginal life in Sydney - of poverty, police harassment and drug abuse. He pointed out that the 'crime zone' of Redfern that the media were harping on about was, in fact, the four streets that make up The Block. He then illustrated the point to all of us that it's these same four streets that are earmarked for demolition prior to the Olympics. Coincidence or something more sinister? I can tell you it's no coincidence.

Brett Collins of Justice Action was next up. Ever-increasing police powers was his topic and with the wide arsenal that had recently become available to them there was plenty to talk about. Of particular concern was the new Glock handgun that all NSW coppers are soon to be issued with. The Glock is a semi-automatic handgun that holds

Anti-migrant group revealed activist's visit

By JODIE BROUGH
in Canberra

The former Black Panther Mr Lorenzo Ervin is expected to appear in the Immigration Review Tribunal today to challenge his detention in a Brisbane maximum security jail after the cancellation of his visa by the Federal Government.

His fight begins after it was revealed yesterday that Australians Against Further Immigration (AAFI) had tipped off the Department of Immigration to his planned visit here.

Mr Ervin's challenge came as the Opposition branded the Government's decision a "heavy-handed overreaction" which had revealed serious inadequacies in Immigration's policing of barriers intended to keep out criminals and terrorists.

The Acting Minister for Immigration, Senator Vanstone, said she expected Mr Ervin to be deported tomorrow.

His lawyer, Mr Terry Fisher, alleged Mr Ervin had been assaulted at the Sir Arthur Gorrie Centre.

Senator Vanstone said she had not been advised about the complaint. She repeated the Government's view that Mr Ervin was not welcome in Australia because of his con-



Unwelcome... Mr Ervin.

He was granted a visa to conduct a speaking tour of Australia.

Senator Vanstone said Immigration had put Mr Ervin on its alert list in May because it had learnt he planned to enter Australia, but had failed to pick him up.

She said the Government had yet to confirm Mr Ervin's claim to have received executive clemency from President George Bush in 1988 but said it would not expunge his record as a "hijacker and a kidnapper".

The Government faces international flak over the affair,

whom has a conviction for shooting at police.

Mr Fisher asked whether Mr Howard would deny entry to a key adviser to President Clinton, Congressman Bobby Rush of Illinois, or Congressman John Lewis, who had been appointed to the US Olympics Organising Committee and is due to visit Australia in the next few months.

Mr Howard said he had objected to Mr Ervin because he had a criminal record: "I don't think you'll find any reference to his membership of particular organisations."

Mr Ervin's imminent deportation was attacked by both ends of the political spectrum.

The Free Speech Committee said it was "a frightening affront to free speech". Former Labor maverick MP Mr Graeme Campbell accused the Prime Minister of stifling the race debate.

A spokesman for the anarchist group *Angry People*, which invited Mr Ervin on a four-week lecture tour, Mr Phil Dickinson, called for a day of action. Demonstrations against the jailing would go ahead outside immigration offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne at 1 pm today, he said.

Australians Against Further Immigration: what a bunch of sweethearts!

angry PEOPLE

FOR A STRONG
UNITED WORKING CLASS



Black power: Lorenzo Ervin prepares for his Brisbane press conference under an anarchist banner

fifteen rounds - you only have to pull the trigger once to fire all fifteen rounds. And all this taking place after the extensive gun control laws that were introduced in mid '96.

Lorenzo made his speech with his usual flair. Smiling and joking, he told his life story, like he did at all his talks, each time with a different twist or local anecdotes. Each of his talks went for over an hour and some of us would sometimes wonder whether his mouth ever got tired!

The next day Lorenzo and a couple of us went down to visit Eveleigh St, the most famous of the four streets on The Block. There we were shown where the destruction of housing had already started. It was a friendly atmosphere, in stark contrast to media portrayals of the area. That night was Sydney's second talk, held at the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. It was much the same as the first night, with roughly three hundred attending and packing the venue. One of the speakers, Jenny Munro, spoke with passion about the situation of contemporary Aborigines, stressing the need for non indigenous people to do some real learning about what it means to be Black in this country. She said: "We teach our kids never to trust a copper as a basic survival technique, we learn to share and survive, we will survive Johnny Howard's revision of history until you know what it means to walk on land where your people were massacred."

Now it was Sunday and we were off to the football to see the Redfern All-Blacks play Moorebank. Afterwards we enjoyed a few beers with the football team at the George Hotel in Waterloo. The next morning we began our southern trip to Canberra and Melbourne.

The Canberra leg of the tour was short but sweet, with a small attendance at a public talk outside Old Parliament House and right next door to the world famous Aboriginal Tent Embassy - which is still going strong and has been since 1972!

The two blokes in expensive suits and government-issue sunglasses poorly attempting to blend into the foliage gave the morning a slightly surreal touch. But after all that we'd been through we weren't about to let some ASIO or Special Branch knobheads bother us.

After the talk, a small but important gathering at the Aboriginal Tent

Embassy will be a long lasting memory for me - people around an open fire, brewing tea, exchanging wisdom and history. This moment of peace and understanding encapsulated what we hoped to achieve with the tour, *real reconciliation*, not some pretense about the bad old days no longer existing, or some government rubber stamp that is supposed to heal the hurt of the past and the present for the original inhabitants of the land.

Melbourne was our next port of call. Because of Lorenzo's arrest, threat of deportation and subsequent release, the Melbourne leg was always looking as if it wasn't going to happen. But it did and with only three days notice, about three hundred people turned up to the Collingwood Town Hall to hear Lorenzo speak. Robbie Thorpe, local Koori activist from the Gunnedah/Kumai region,

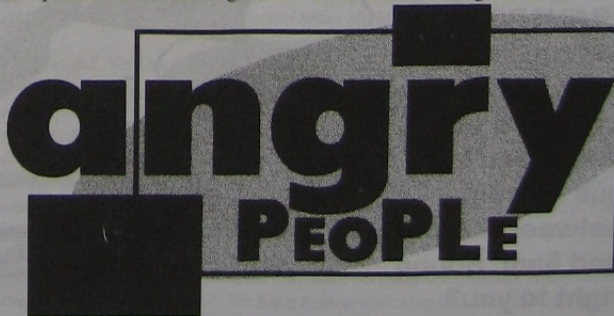
Angry People would like to thank the Aboriginal people of Australia for the warm reception they gave to Lorenzo and to us. We'd also like to thank all those who came out of the woodwork (you know who you are!) and helped make this speaking tour a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

the area around East Gippsland in the eastern part of Victoria, spoke about Aboriginal sovereignty and the need for white Australians to recognise Aboriginal sovereignty as the first step towards any reconciliation. Robbie is involved in the Pay the Rent movement and also challenged the Federal Government's Native Title laws in the High Court. Lorenzo spoke about the history of the civil rights movement in the South, beginning with the challenging of segregation by the famous SNCC bus strike which sparked a brutal attack by the cops, but created a wave of protest culminating in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's.

Earlier that day, Lorenzo spent the afternoon at the Fitzroy All-Stars Gym, the local Koori Gym, speaking with local Koori's and inviting them to the talk that night. Two days later, Lorenzo spoke again, this time at Latrobe University. *Angry People* and Lorenzo called a press conference the next day. That night, Lorenzo left Melbourne on route to San Francisco and back to his work fighting racism and

police brutality in his local state of Tennessee. It was an adventure that left us all emotionally and physically wrought, but we all agreed it was worth it. Each of us had experienced something unique, yet were now bonded by something more than just a few like-minded ideas. We'd put our political beliefs into practice as a team. Next time round, *Angry People* will pull off a caper that's twice as sharp and even better organised. Tomorrow belongs to us!

In 1969, Roosevelt Brown, leader of the Black Panther movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, visited Australia on his way from South Africa to a Black Panther conference in America. He spoke at the Aboriginal Advancement League in Melbourne. The slum press, true to form back then as they are now, contacted the Immigration Department for "comment". But luckily back then, a person who came to Australia on their way to another country did not need a visa if they were staying for less than 72 hours, so there was nothing Immigration could do. But it certainly shows that when it comes to being dogged into the authorities, the mainstream media are the biggest dogs.



the Olympic Spirit

SYDNEY 2000

This is an article against the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. We aren't writing it because we think that there's anything wrong with sport, or with having people come together from all over the world to play it. But we don't see much of the original Olympic spirit of peace and of love of sport in the Games that are coming to Sydney. The Olympics have become simply a way for the rich to make even more money, and for ordinary people to become even worse off. Here are some of the reasons why we hope you will not support Sydney 2000.

THE GENTRIFICATION OF SYDNEY

Everyone is going to want to come to Sydney during the Olympics. Our city is going to become prime real estate. And this means, quite simply, that our rents are going to shoot up. You have probably noticed that it has already started happening. We will get squeezed out, financially, of our homes and the areas we live in. Sydney will be converted into hotels and apartments for the rich, which ordinary people certainly won't be able to afford. They say that the Olympics will boost Australia's economy. But who will see the benefits? Landlords and big business, whilst we pay more for the privilege of living in an Olympic city.

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

In line with the gentrification of Sydney there is talk about 'improving' Sydney's image for 2000. What does that mean? Well, in Atlanta police forced the homeless out of the city, in Barcelona they put up barriers so Olympic guests couldn't see ordinary people's areas. You can be sure that the government here is also going to do its best to get rid of everyone and everything that might offend the rich tourists (and stop the dollars coming in). As well, fear of terrorism is a good excuse for tightening police control over ordinary people. Like in every Olympic city there will be more police in Sydney, and this time they will be armed with Glocks (new pistols without safety catches). They will also be frightened and on the alert - a dangerous combination.

THE GREAT MONEY TRICK

The Olympics are a slap in the face to all the Aboriginal people in Australia. Major social issues such as health care, housing, employment and land rights are being crudely dealt with by the Australian government. The Olympics are being used to push social justice out of the political spectrum. Our 'top' politicians are throwing money at the Olympic Games like there's no tomorrow. There's no money for social welfare but plenty for an exclusive sports circus. Sound right to you?

WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE THEM ANYWAY

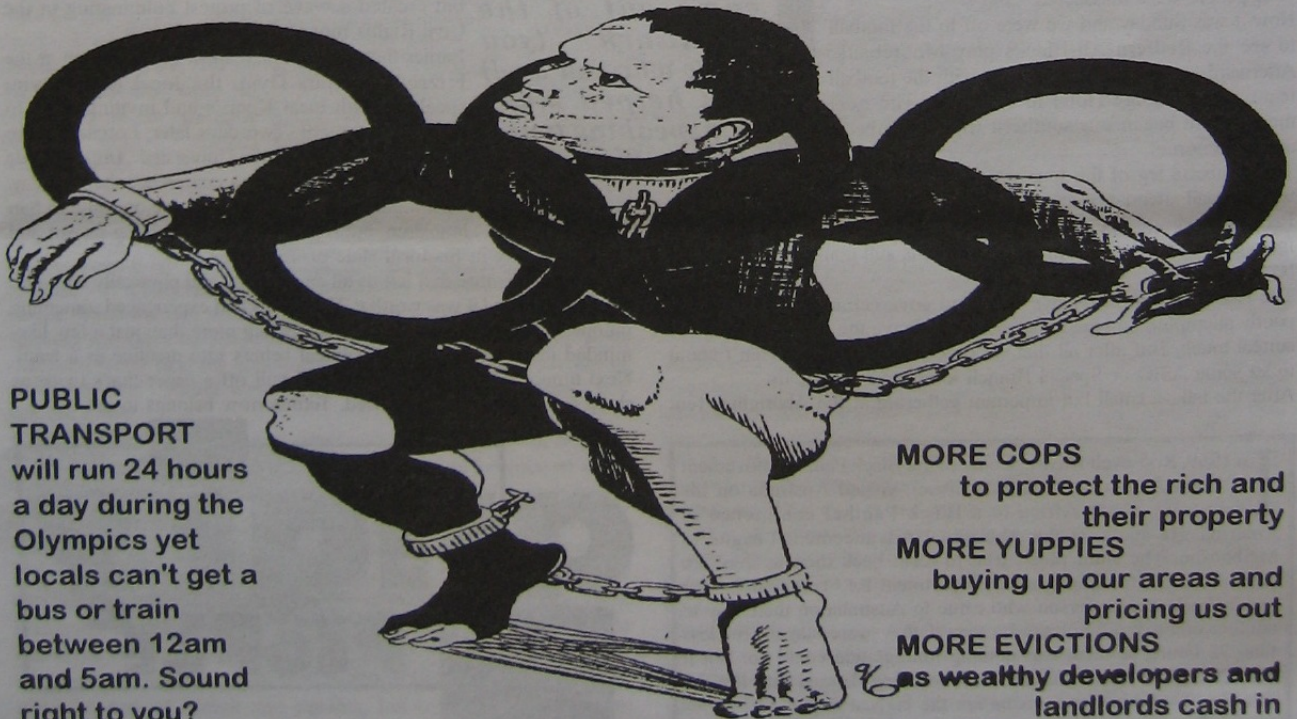
With a mortgage and family to keep, how are ordinary people going to be able to afford to see these Olympics? Especially those of us who are struggling with rent increases. The closest most of us are going to get to 'our Games' is our TV screen. It's not really Sydney which has won the Olympics, but the rich people all over the world.

WASTE OF RESOURCES

For the Olympics the government has built an enormous amount of facilities which for the most part are only going to be used once. Aren't there better things - such as schools and hospitals (both receiving funding cuts) - to give the money to? Of course schools and hospitals are only there to help people, not to make money. On the other hand, if you want to give money to sport, why not give it to community sport - where everyone has a chance to participate, not just elite athletes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We have to get organised early. At the moment there's a lot of feeling against the Olympics but there's not all that much action. If we're really going to do something about the effects of the Olympics we're going to have to do more than just attend a protest on the day. We need to have information to counter rent hikes and censorship, mutual support networks to deal with evictions and police violence. We need to spread our point of view and none of the mainstream media is going to do it for us.



**PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**
will run 24 hours
a day during the
Olympics yet
locals can't get a
bus or train
between 12am
and 5am. Sound
right to you?

MORE COPS
to protect the rich and
their property
MORE YUPPIES
buying up our areas and
pricing us out
MORE EVICTIONS
as wealthy developers and
landlords cash in

IT'S TIME FOR THE LEFT *to get it right*

I think it's safe to say that the rise of support for Pauline Hanson lies in the fact that most people in Australia are sick to death of the two major parties and are looking for an alternative. The amazing success of One Nation has scared the shit out of the two major parties. Most treated her and One Nation with contempt - as little fish in a big pond. The conservatives, concerned that One Nation would grab vital votes, laughed at her and her misfortunes and mistakes in an attempt to ridicule those who may have been considering supporting her. They treated One Nation as amateurs that wouldn't be able to hack the tough cut-throat world of parliamentary politics.

Politicians are a smug lot. The politicians from the major parties usually have to go through years of political training, of faction in-fighting, number crunching, caucusing, backroom and pre-selection deals. And after all that when they finally get in, they treat the voting public with utter contempt, as people who are ignorant and stupid. Well at least until election time when we're then treated as royalty during the election campaigning. So the politicians thought that One Nation was a second rate group of rednecks that would just simply go away. Well they might be second rate rednecks but they didn't go away. You see, people saw the contempt that the politicians had for One Nation - the very same contempt that politicians have for the ordinary public - and identified with this. Come election time, they taught the politicians a lesson, with One Nation grabbing ten seats in the Queensland Parliament.

These are exciting times and the old Left vs Right battle has intensified. People are sick of the major parties and these disaffected voters are now the subject of the battle of ideas. The Left will have all sorts of theories as to why people are now moving over to the Right. The problem with the Left is usually that these theories start off with the idea that Hanson supporters are necessarily racist, right wing and ignorant. This is very similar to the arrogant assumptions that the major parties have adopted regarding One Nation. If the Left adopts this type of thinking, more of the working class will only be alienated from radical left-wing perspective.

Of course, in the beginning there will be quite a lot of people whose support for One Nation will be because they share the right-wing, extremist, racist politics of Pauline Hanson. In order to build an organisation like One Nation you have to start with a small group of dedicated right-wing activists, generally sharing enough of each other's

views so as to allow for group cohesion. But as an organisation grows, it develops beyond its creators control to some degree. People joining One Nation are working class individuals looking for a radical alternative to the two major parties. With no such radical alternative being put forward by the Left and the fact that the Left concentrates itself solely in the big cities what can we expect but to see the working class turn to the Right if there's nothing else around?

The problem will be when the One Nation machine concentrates less on the extremism of Aboriginal cannibalism and Asian hordes swamping Australia, and start concentrating on more populist ideas - of protectionism, anti-free market capitalism, greater democracy, devolution of government, combating unemployment, rekindling the apprenticeship system and tax cuts. The Left must have answers of their own to these issues. It's the difference between a protest movement and a revolutionary one. If we're against the Right and One Nation, then what are we for?

Australia is in danger of becoming an Asian nation. When you read this, you may think of the idea of Asians outnumbering white Australians and therefore Australia will be a nation of Asians. But Australia IS in danger of becoming an Asian nation - but in a very different sense. It is in danger of becoming a nation where its working conditions will reflect third world standards - non-unionised, slave-wages, poor conditions and longer working hours. It is in this sense that it is danger of becoming an Asian nation and it is this non-racist idea that may appeal to the working class. Pauline is a straight talker. This contrasts with the double-talking politicians with all their fancy language. It is the sense of supporting the underdog that may appeal to the working class. People may strongly disagree with her rampant racism but will vote for One Nation because Labor and Liberal are useless and they may as well give One Nation a go.

The danger with One Nation is treating everything that they stand for as necessarily evil or wrong. Just because the Right are complaining about something does not mean that it's automatically a crank issue. The Left cannot afford to fall asleep and feel warm at night with the idea that the Right will just fade away. It didn't work for the Howard Government and it won't work for us. Only by challenging the Right every step of the way will the Left be in a position to better itself. *Anything short of this is political suicide.*

TWO DAVID'S AND ONE HANSON SHOW HOW ONE NATION IS TWO-FACED

One Nation's policies are a con, an effort to try to divert our attention away from the real causes of our problems. They blame the most vulnerable people in society: single mothers, Aborigines, new migrants and so on for everything that is wrong with Australia. One Nation claims that these groups are sponging off the rest of us and getting a free ride. Yet how well off are these groups really?

Aborigines die an average of twenty years younger than other Australians, many new migrants are forced into low paid and dangerous jobs (sweatshops for instance) and the single mothers' pension is hardly luxurious. Is it right to take what little these groups have from them? And in any case, how is such a small amount of money going to make a difference? Hanson might talk about millions of dollars but what she doesn't mention is that this is divided up amongst millions of people.

The real spongers in our society are the ones that One Nation never criticise: the Kerry Packer's, Chris Corrigan's and the rest of the privileged class. They control this society and it's ever increasing need for bigger profits. Rich bastards get these profits by screwing the rest of us: freezing wages, reducing welfare, destroying job security. Yet One Nation pretend that local bosses are more caring than foreign bosses. *The recent mass sackings, however, carried out by Patricks and BHP show that a boss is a boss, no matter where they come from.*

Whenever they are criticised One Nation cries that it's right to free speech is being infringed. Yet One Nation is even more undemocratic than ordinary parties. Separate branches are not allowed to communicate with one another and no-one is allowed to see the membership list. In fact many people probably think that they're members of One Nation but in fact aren't. The only real members of the actual party are Hanson, the two David's and the candidates that are standing for office. No-one has voting rights of any kind. People can be expelled on the say-so of Hanson and the David's, and many have been.

One Nation shows evidence of being influenced by neo-nazi's and other extreme right wingers. Hanson uses the language of the League of Rights, a group based in rural areas who believe in a world Jewish conspiracy, that the Holocaust never happened and to spice it up that Hitler was an agent of the Jews!!! Perhaps Hitler had two sets of ID, was a cross-dresser and had a second job on weekends that the entire people of Europe were unaware of. A portion of One Nation's membership list was obtained by the Jewish/Israeli Review and subsequently published. On the list was Gideon McLean, a known neo-nazi skinhead.

The real problems facing Australia stem from the divisions caused by wealth and power. There certainly is an elite and there certainly are ordinary Australians. But this division is not based on race but on class. Don't get sucked in by One Nation's hypocritical bullshit. We have to stop attacking our neighbours, realise who the real enemy is and turn up the heat on them.

It's Open CLASS

The war on the waterfront has been a long time coming. The Maritime Union of Australia had been expecting this attack and had even been planning for it for over a year. *Angry People* predicted these events in issue #14. The Liberal Party has been itching to smash the waterfront unions. This offensive wasn't just something that Howard had thought of once he was elected. The Liberal Party has for many years had as its national policy the smashing of the MUA and any worker based organisation on the waterfront. Every year at its national conference, there was always the debate on whether or not the troops should be sent in on the waterfront. Even former Liberal Opposition Leader, John Hewson, promised to send the troops in to 'reform' the waterfront and smash the union, long known as one of the most militant sections of the working class.

As the true story of conspiracy and anti-working class sentiment amongst sections of the wealthy came to the surface in the media, the main anti-union groups - Patrick Stevedores, the Howard Government, the National Farmers' Federation and Fynwest - the company responsible for the Dubai stevedore training farce, rapidly pointed the finger at each other. We would have had to wait until the conspiracy court case that the Maritime Union had launched against Patrick and the Federal Government to learn of the facts, but it now seems that the community will not get to hear much at all as all the court actions will be dropped in the process of settlement of this dispute.

The Howard Government actively and knowingly participated in a conspiracy with the boss of Patrick Stevedores, Chris Corrigan. The aim of this conspiracy was to explicitly destroy a proud and militant section of the Australian working class: workers who had organised under the collective banner of the Maritime Union of Australia.

Clearly, the Government did send in the troops. But they were former army personnel, specifically trained in stevedoring machinery. The training was carried out in Dubai in the Middle East, organised by Mike Wells and his mercenary company, Fynwest, with all expenses paid. The National Farmers' Federation created a shipping company overnight, Producers and Consumers Ltd (P&C Ltd), leased a section of East Swanson Dock known as Webb Dock (Melbourne) and hired these scabs to run it for them. The idea of soldiers in their greens marching onto the wharves is something that the Liberals got weak at the knees about. Why? Too afraid to spark civil war? Most likely. So they sent them in the sly way - in their civvies and renamed as non-union contract labour.

First things first. *Why was there this dispute?* The government claims there is a problem with efficiency on the waterfront. They say that there is a closed shop union that controls the waterfront and that this closed shop has produced all sorts of rorts and bludging which creates the inefficiency. Inefficient waterfronts lead to increased costs for business, especially exporters and our main exports are agricultural (perishable) products. The government needs to increase exports so more money comes into Australia from overseas. This extra money will mean that the government doesn't have to spend extra money, will reduce any budget deficit and therefore reduce government debt.

To prove the claim for inefficiency, the government compares the productivity of Australian wharves to the wharves of Singapore and Rotterdam. They say that Australian wharves are slack and should be working to the same productivity rates as overseas workers. This is a classic tactic of the ruling class. Globalisation has now meant that our standards of living are to be more rigorously compared with those overseas. What the bosses don't say is that they think South-East Asian standards are the standards that Australian workers should have to live and work under. They

don't have unions, they work for a dollar a day and they work their arses off in shocking conditions because they have to in order to survive. Asian workers are model workers and Australian workers are lazy. *That's what the ruling class believes.*

The Maritime Union and indeed, the waterside workers themselves, say that the government is wrong about the reasons for the inefficiency. They say that the problems with inefficiency lie with the poor state of machinery, the breakdowns, the poor planning of the docks and the poor positioning of the cargo on the ship. The overseas docks sited by Reith often have many cranes unloading a ship at once, whereas Aussie docks can only have one crane operating at a time. Commonly, waterside workers will have to completely unload a cargo vessel in order to reach the imports bound for that State, only to have to reload the vessel with the containers going on to the next port of call. It's simple, often containers are packed in the incorrect order at the overseas point of loading. With cargo scattered all over the ship delays in finding what needs to be unloaded are inevitable. There are too many variables to be able to compare overseas and Aussie rates of loading and unloading container ships. And then when it comes to statistics, remember the old saying - there's lies, damned lies and there's statistics!

The solution? The ruling class know that the MUA is a strong union. Drastic times call for drastic measures. So the ruling class hatched a plan. They would transfer the labour rights of the company, Patrick Stevedores, to four separate companies. These companies would be \$2 companies with no assets. These companies would then sack their entire workforce and replace it with non-union labour. They would then supply this non-union labour as contract labour to Patrick Stevedores. Now where could they find a labour force that could just walk in and start operating heavy machinery and get the wharves up and running immediately, as well as withstand pressure from having to come to work by boat and helicopter, ignore the taunts and jeers of striking workers and come to work with balaclavas on? Chris Corrigan knew. He suggested that this labour would have to be soldiers - who were trained to operate under pressure, would dutifully follow orders and quickly learn to operate machinery. Whilst Corrigan got his wish for ex-army personnel to be running Webb

Dock, he wasn't so lucky elsewhere. As news of the Dubai debacle resounded throughout all news bulletins, the Howard Government backed away from sending in more troops, fearing popular unrest and a flogging at the polls. Instead, the Government changed tact and opted for a provocative role in cheerleading Corrigan's charge against the workers. Scabs were then recruited for the other docks around the country - ordinary people facing



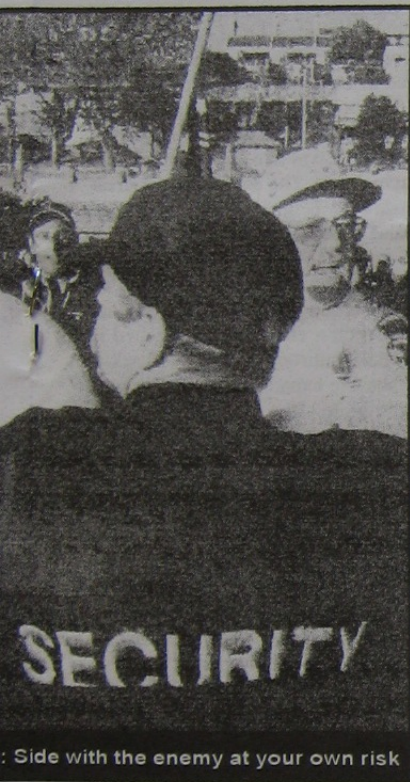
Confronting The Goon Squad: Side



Tomorrow's working class warriors on the streets today

WHARFARE

hard times, who will never be looked at the same again because now and forever, they're anti-social bastards standing in the queue for comeuppance. So in the dead of night on April 7, 1998, under orders from Chris Corrigan, the 'shock troops' of scab-loving security guards moved in to evict the now sacked workers at each container



Side with the enemy at your own risk

terminal around the country - macing them in order to make them leave. Some of the workers barricaded themselves in to resist the 'shock troops'. Again, angry workers are maced and forced to leave. The government were overjoyed that their plans were beginning to take effect. Non-union labour on the wharves - not even Pig Iron Bob Menzies - the darling of the Australian conservatives - could achieve that!

Patrick Stevedore is owned by Lang Corporation. The directors of Lang Corporation are Peter Scanlon and Chris Corrigan. You may remember Peter Scanlon as one of the co-accused in John Elliot's \$66 million Elders IXL fraud trial. The ruling class in this county are now intensifying their assault on the working class, having seized the conditions of this county where a conservative Federal Government is in power, and are openly supporting the tactic of win at all costs.

Now it's our turn to win at all costs! Patrick knew they could expect a fierce battle from the MUA. But backed up with government support - both financially and legally, they would try and draw the battle out and wear the MUA down into financial ruin in order

to defeat them. Any attempt at unfair dismissal actions would be useless as the company would be stripped of its assets. Christopher Skase eat your heart out!

When it comes to warfare, a classic tactic is that of bankrolling your side until the other side runs out of money and cannot afford to pay its soldiers, buy ammunition or medical supplies. This was the tactic adopted by the Government. The MUA had planned for an 8 week strike - that is it had enough money to fight for eight weeks and pay its workers \$250 a week strike pay to tide them over.

The decisive move was the in the dead of the night eviction of maritime workers from the wharves and the 30 day lockout that followed. The ruling class realised that the MUA was a strong union and could pull the union movement together so it had to split the working class. It tried to do this by stirring up jealousy over wharfies pay. Peter Reith was in Parliament talking about \$90,000 per year, 14 hour weeks. What the hell is he mixing in his drinks? He must have been reading from his own pay slip! *The facts of wharfies pay are this: for a 35 hour week, Monday to Friday with no overtime a wharfie can expect to be paid up to \$35,000 a year.*

The fact that it was the militancy of the union that brought about the good pay on the wharves was never mentioned. And for the record, wharfies didn't inherit a set of privileges like our native upper class did. They earned

everything they have, on the fair and square. The lesson for other workers is not that the MUA are a bunch of high-paid bludgers, but that they are high-paid because they have fought to be. The lesson is that if you want to be high-paid, then join the union and kick the union up the arse to fight as hard as the MUA have to secure decent wages and comfortable working conditions.

In a leaked memo from Dr Stephen Webster, a consultant hired by the Howard government to advise on waterfront 'reform', which stated the Government's position, even if Reith and Howard deny any knowledge, were the details for the following plan:

Sack the entire workforce. Replace with non-union labour. Drag any industrial action through the courts and rely on the penal powers of the Industrial Relations Act to financially cripple the MUA.

It was this leaked memo that was the final nail in the coffin for Howard and Reith. Realising that their denial of any conspiracy was now publicly questionable, the Federal Government took a step backwards.

The bosses will always use their preferred battleground - the legal system and the courts - against the unions. The laws exist to preserve the ruling class and their power and privilege. Both Labour and Liberal ultimately support the ruling class. The Liberal Party and the conservatives will pass union busting laws like the recent Workplace Relations Act. The Labour Party will avoid blatant anti-union laws but will try and pacify the militancy of the union movement through its control of the ACTU to avoid any radical challenge to the powers of the ruling class. In this case, with the conservatives in power and anti-union laws in place, the conditions were ripe for the ruling class to attack the most militant union of them all. If they succeeded in defeating the MUA, there would be no chance for smaller radical unions like the CFMEU, ETU or the AMWU to survive.

The Workplace Relations Act was designed to attack the MUA. The Federal Government only has certain industrial law-making powers. The majority of industrial relations laws are State laws. However because the Federal Government wanted to make sure its union-busting laws applied to the MUA, and that the MUA couldn't escape under the cover of any beneficial State laws, for example, those in Labor-run New South Wales, it made the Workplace Relations Act expressly binding on the MUA.

What the Federal Government didn't count on was a conspiracy court case launched by the MUA against the Federal Government, and for this court case to be heard by a former industrial advocate turned Federal Court Judge, Tony North. He held that the MUA had an arguable case of conspiracy against Patrick and the Government in sacking the MUA workforce and

granted an injunction re-instating Patrick workers. Patrick was able to stall the court case up until the High Court. The High Court found that Tony North had not committed any obvious error in reinstating the workers. No prizes for guessing who was the only High Court judge who disagreed with the rest of the Court - the workers friend and Liberal Party appointee, Ian Callinan.

But while the MUA leadership were off in court, the real battle was being fought on the streets, where all battles will be ultimately lost and won. Fremantle dock seemed to suffer the worst attacks from the Government forces with many scuffles with the kops, including the riot police. In Melbourne, East Swanston Dock became the MUA picket village as tents, caravans and



Highway to Hell: Scabs deserve everything they get!

music stage were erected outside Patricks dock. The village picket remained there for next 34 days. Even when the Supreme Court ordered everyone out of 200 metres from the Patrick dock gate, no-one took any notice. Because those of us who didn't know then, definitely know now, laws are there to keep our class in line. And to gain independence for our class we will have to break their laws time and time again.

CONSPIRACIES

DON'T COME ANY BETTER THAN THIS

FEDERAL
COALITION
GOVERNMENT
John Howard
Peter Costello
Peter Reith
Tim Fischer

CONSULTANT
Stephen Webster

PATRICK
STEVEDORES
Chris Corrigan

FYNWEST
Mike Wells

NATIONAL
FARMERS'
FEDERATION
Don McGauchie

PRODUCER'S &
CONSUMER'S
LTD

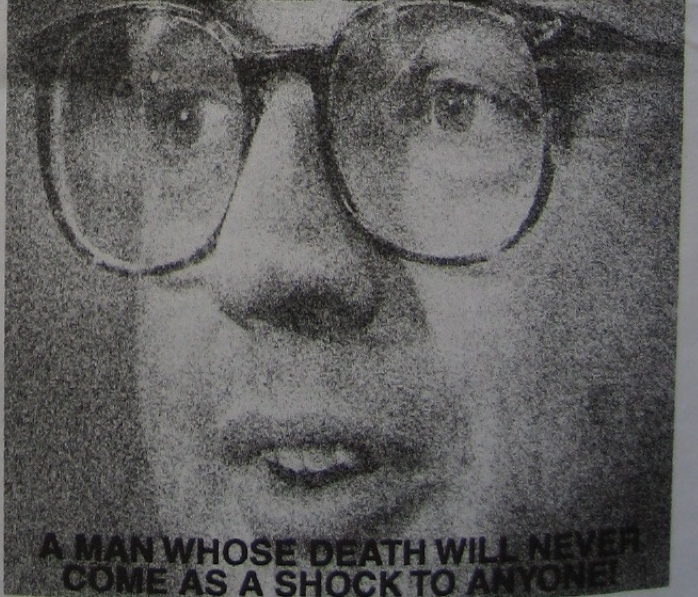
FOOD DEFINATELY NOT SCABS!

In Melbourne, a group of homeless and unemployed activists got together to give their support to the lock out down at East Swanston Dock, in Melbourne. Food Not Bombs is a international movement of activists which provide free food to the homeless and the poor all around the world. Down at East Swanston Dock, Food Not Scabs was born, cooking up good nosh for the wharfies 24 hours a day. As the professional politicians come down to sell their paper, *real solidarity* like the practical tasks of cooking food, chopping wood, erecting tents, connecting power, lighting fires, organising entertainment to keep spirits high, needed to be done. Food Not Scabs was there to provide its share of the work by cooking good food and always keeping a pot of soup on the stove at night for picketers to help themselves. The picket down at East Swanston was great. It was like being down at the trenches, tents pitched, port-a-loo's, camping over. The solidarity was great, spending 24 hours a day with people, you start getting on people's nerves being so close, but in the end, you realise what the common goal is that you're fighting for.

The community realised the nature of the struggle that the government had unleashed upon the union movement. It swung into defence mode and banded together. The picket was great - such a close knit. It reached its highest point in victory, as the MUA walked through the gates back to their jobs. The elation of victory, built upon the exhaustion of the struggle, also signified the lowest point of the struggle - the realisation that the personal relationships, the closeness, the mateship, the solidarity, would soon fade away as the struggle faded away. As the wharfies went back to work, the picketers in solidarity would also return to their normal lives and the brief 'normality' of the struggle would be lost.

As the striking wharfies said to us - the beauty of this struggle was that it brought together people that wouldn't normally have come into contact with each other in our normal lives - it brought people together and it was great. The low point in victory was the realisation that that bringing together would be lost. There were some social picnics that tried to capitalise on the picket but nowadays they don't happen. It's a shame, but understandable, as nowadays, life is so complicated, uncertain and ever-changing. But the picket showed that *class solidarity* is always there, always ready to come together as the situation demands. It may be sad to say goodbye to those who you've lived and breathed with 24 hours a day for the last month, but the strength lies in the realisation that it will be there next time round.

REITH



QUEEN OF HEARTS TRUMPED!

A lot of people were amazed and confused at the media-induced public hysteria when Lady Di bit the dust after her last tango in Paris. Many, even self-confessed republicans and political activists, got caught up in it. Someone even claimed that "she wasn't one of them, she wasn't one of the Royals, they didn't even like her". What??? She was a Princess and mother of two heirs to the English throne, yet she wasn't in the Royal Family??? Yeah, right!

DI IS DEAD!

It makes you realise what a strange world we live in. So many people here in Australia and around the world were more concerned with the fate of a selfish, rich bludger in a faraway country than with their own lives! Many womyn seemed to identify with her and compared their lives to Diana's. It was bizarre hearing people tell how they cried when they heard the news or how they were moved watching the televised funeral.

It was claimed that:

- She campaigned against land mines.
- She raised a lot of money for charity.
- She bravely shook hands with AIDS sufferers and
- She was good looking.

INSINCERE

This was bullshit! Landmines are sick weapons of war whose use must be stopped. Thousands of people around the world are campaigning against them. Lady Di must have got bored with her endless round of dinner parties, snobby hob-nob functions and luxury holidays at our expense! Wanting to appear socially useful, she flew to Angola for a brief 'photo opportunity'. It wasn't as if there was any danger of her getting killed or that she might have her limbs blown off. Her minders took care of all that.

Landmine victims in Angola, or anywhere else for that matter, don't have the option of flying back home after a couple of hours of 'saying cheese'. Nor do they live in palaces or have glamorous lifestyles to fall back on when they tire of living in a warzone. It wouldn't be the least bit surprising to find many people pissed off by her empty actions and insulted by her use of them as backdrops for her exotic photo shoots.

CAN'T BUY LOVE

Charity eases the guilty consciences of the rich. People like Lady Di throwing the poor a few crumbs from her overloaded banquet table allows every other rich bastard to go on exploiting and oppressing the poor with clean consciences. With such 'charitable' people masquerading as saviours, many of us turn away from the real answer: eating the rich! As long as we are distracted from the stark class divisions that carve up our society, the

rich and the capitalist system that robs us will continue. It's business as usual for the enemies of the working class.

A PRODUCT TO SELL

Oh, how noble and brave of her to shake hands with people suffering from AIDS! She even kisses Black babies. What a load of crap! It was the rich people's hysterical media that convinced some people to treat those suffering from HIV/AIDS and those of a skin colour other than white as lesser beings in the first place. The so-called 'common touch' of Diana's was just a bid to make the monarchy relevant to the 1990's and particularly to younger people who've felt alienated by the extreme formality and snobbery of royalty.

MANUFACTURED IMAGE

Physical attractiveness and beauty is a very subjective and personal thing. Some people thought she was good looking, others didn't. People can only help their physical appearance so much, you can't hold it against someone if they're not picture perfect. Besides, most of us would look fantastic if we spent all day shopping ourselves silly at Harrod's with someone else's money - not to mention the enormous slush fund at her disposal that she never once laboured for.

Let's face it, Lady Di was famous only because she married Prince Charles. No other reason.

PULP FICTION

As usual it was the mass media that whipped up all the hysteria to begin with. And who owns the mass media? In Australia, the Murdoch and Packer corporations own most of it. So it makes sense for them to present an idol so young and innocent-looking and then go on to portray her conflict with the rest of the Royal Family as a real life soap opera. This drama was utilised to increase circulation of the tabloids and women's magazines which in turn upped profits and nurtured a wider influence, for Murdoch and Packer's views, within our society.

Just as with TV's fictional soap opera's, a lot of people became absorbed in it. People began to support and identify with one character or another in each royal 'intrigue'. For some people, the saga can become just as real and important as their own lives, if not more so. The system reduces us to the role of workers/unemployed on the one hand and as consumers of goods and services on the other. We become passive spectators, watching what's going on around us but never actually participating.

We have little power over our own lives because the power has been taken out of our hands and vested in the hands of politicians, bureaucrats and business heads who administer the capitalist merry-go-round.

They make the decisions that affect us. No wonder we feel powerless, angry and frustrated. So to keep us occupied and to head off rebellion they give us little circuses to watch. Which Spice Girl do you like best? What footy team do you go for? Which politician or party are you voting for? Wasn't it cruel how Prince Charles treated Diana? She bore him two heirs to the throne, then he got rid of her. Poor thing!

THE LIVING DEAD

Another idol is the infamous Pauline Hanson, risen from the dead like a vampire and now a star of her very own movie "From Beyond the Grave". A lot of people have been sucked in by Hanson too, seeing her, like Lady Di, as an alternative, as a 'rebel' against the system on the side of the battlers. But it soon became clear to most that she was anything but an alternative. All Hanson has had to offer has been more of the same old crap, only worse.

Hanson is being used by the rich to further their sinister agenda of racism and division in the community. She's worked hard at trying to get different sections of society fighting each other instead of uniting against the real enemy: those at the top.

JECKYL AND HYDE

Each of these women have been presented to us as somehow different. They've been made to look more human and accessible than most leaders and public figures. Where as in reality they are merely two different faces of the same old system: sweet and sour, yin and yang, good cop/bad cop. A lot of people have been fooled. And those that have been should remember that a cop, no matter how good and nice s/he seems, is still a cop and as such is not to be trusted.

MOVING ON

We have to forget about these dickheads and instead put our trust in each other. It's no good waiting for a charismatic leader or messiah to come along and lead us out of the shit we're in. Yeah, it's tough, but we must do it ourselves. Anything else is a waste of time and energy. We're fast running out of time - the way we're going, we're likely to wipe ourselves out in the next fifty years. We need to restore faith in ourselves, after years of being told by the bosses that we're not capable of organising our own lives. Let's put more effort into getting to know each other, working together and helping each other out. What have we got to lose? In the old days before the welfare State existed, working class people practiced mutual aid and solidarity out of necessity. It's probably the same in the third world today. How else do people survive there without much money? Let's get our shit together!

JABILUKA

the not so mello yello cake

The Jabiluka Uranium Mine, a few hundred kilometres from Darwin in the Northern Territory, has shaped up as a big issue. It's located on land belonging to the Mirrar Aboriginal people, who have stated consistently that they DON'T want the mine. It's surrounded by Kakadu National Park. There is already one uranium mine nearby, the Ranger Mine which is a big open cut eyesore. That has been operating since 1978, also against the wishes of the Aboriginal landowners. The Ranger Mine has degraded the environment and contributed to the worsening health and social problems of the Aboriginal people, many of whom have turned to alcoholism as they've lost control over their land and their lives.

The previous Federal Labor government's 'three mine policy' permitted no more than three mines to operate at the same time in Australia. The Howard regime has declared open slather on uranium mining. So now there are 26 proposed new mines on the drawing board. The Jabiluka Mine, unlike Ranger, is underground. The uranium ore will be trucked twenty kilometres to the Ranger processing facilities. The blockade of the mine began on March 23, 1998. Hundreds of activists have converged on the site in a bid to stop it from working. Organisers say the blockade will continue for as long as it takes to stop the mine.

FORGET THE REAL ENEMY LET'S JUST FIGHT EACH OTHER

How many times have you been in organisations, community based projects and 'political' affinity groups where everything has fallen apart because of infighting or personality clashes? Divided, we're like lambs for the slaughter while the rich are laughing all the way to the bank. And the worst thing is that those in power and authority are getting off scot free while we tear each other apart like rats in a cage. Anti-social crimes such as burglary, assault and sex crimes are on the rise. And the penalties are increasing. But the crime rate is definitely not lowering. It becomes obvious in these desperate times of government cutbacks, increased prison sentencing, increased unemployment and dismal wages and working conditions what the outcome will be. More suicides, drug abuse, anti-social crimes and general deterioration in the very fabric of our society. And who foots the bill? Who suffers? We, the working class.

Meanwhile, the few with money, power, and privilege are wine and dining on our backs. It breaks my heart to hear of pensioners and working people having their homes broken into or being mugged for a few dollars. And the perpetrators, also of a lower social economic background in most cases, are only adding to the problem by setting the scene for a greater police presence on our streets, more distrust

within our communities and more divisions amongst ourselves. The rich need not get their hands dirty robbing houses. They rob us everyday through their taxes that they've imposed on us, through our labor by creaming off the surplus value for themselves, and through the banking and market laundering and speculation rackets.

Not only is the working class of this continent eating its own flesh, but even many of us that are 'politicised' in the inequalities of capitalism are devoting all our energy and time in-fighting amongst ourselves. The most distressing point is that the fighting occurs without any real ideological backbone to it. Just petty rivalries and an opportunity to let off steam. How many grass roots working class organisations have disintegrated due to internal feuds? How many of us have dropped the luggage and drifted off into apathy and disillusionment?

If the rich can get it together to screw us over on both the national and international level, then what chance have we got if we can't even sit together amongst ourselves and work towards a common understanding of solidarity, personal feuds aside?

It's time to take a long, hard look at ourselves. It's time to make the next step forward a collective one.

FALSE PROPHETS

AUSSIE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TRUE PROFITS FROM FALSE PROPHET!

When Lorenzo Ervin came to Oz, the media and Government tried to have us believe that all hell had broken loose. Honest Johnny Howard, with his comfortable and relaxed Australia, a personal fantasy of 1950's Australia, that is a White Australia, when the bludging blacks were nowhere to be seen and relegated to the wasteland reserves, wanted to protect us from the evil uppity niggers from America, who would incite the ignorant Aboriginals into violent revolution here in peaceful idyllic Australia.

Well that didn't stop him from allowing Louis Farrakhan into Australia. Farrakhan, who incites racial division, racial (Black) supremacy, rather than racial empowerment and racial tolerance, had no problem getting into Australia, he even had a personal meeting with Immigration officials. They wanted to let him know about Australia's racial vilification laws and that they wouldn't tolerate any speech that he made which would breach those laws. Did someone mention Pauline Hanson?

The government tried to say that Farrakhan was different to Lorenzo because he didn't have a criminal conviction. Well in the land of the free, if you have the money and the connections, you can easily escape criminal conviction. You just get others to do the dirty work for you. It's only those without the money and connections that get "done". And besides criminal convictions can't get in the way of business. Just as some former members of the Black Panthers who are now respectable politicians and bureaucrats found out. They were given the green light into Australia because they are on the US Olympic Committee. Nevermind that one of them has a conviction for shooting a copper! But then again, hypocrisy has always been a strong trait of Honest Johnny and Co.

The most telling thing about Farrakhan's visit was he seemed to lack any support from the Aboriginal movement in this country. Farrakhan represents Blacks with money. And his militant Islamic background alienates him even further from the indigenous Australia. But then again that's also why he was let into Australia. The Government knew he was harmless and had no influence.

angry PEOPLE

free speech

I don't come cheap

EQUAL?

A common misconception regarding censorship is that all people exist on a level playing field. That is to say that, we all have equal access to communication resources like TV, video, cinema, newspapers, internet and radio. Which of course we don't. Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch can say what they like, when they like, wherever they like. Because most of us are not media magnates, because the majority of people aren't stinking rich and because vast sections of society are disempowered our ability to transmit a message to a wide ranging audience is hamstrung. To add to this, rich people, through their control of the police and courts, have often strove to gag political or cultural dissent.

For those of us on the working class Left, it means we have to work harder than our opponents at winning over the hearts and minds of the rest of our class.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Angry People believe that the question of whether something is to be censored or not must be a question for the working class to answer. The government, the State and the rich have no moral high ground to gallop around on, since the best people suited to solve problems are the ones whom the problem directly affects. And in nearly all cases, working class people are affected.

The reason 'free speech' is such a controversial topic is because the term itself implies everyone has an inherent right to say whatever they feel like saying, whenever and to whomever they like. But in everyday life censorship is practiced on a consistent basis without any wails of objection.

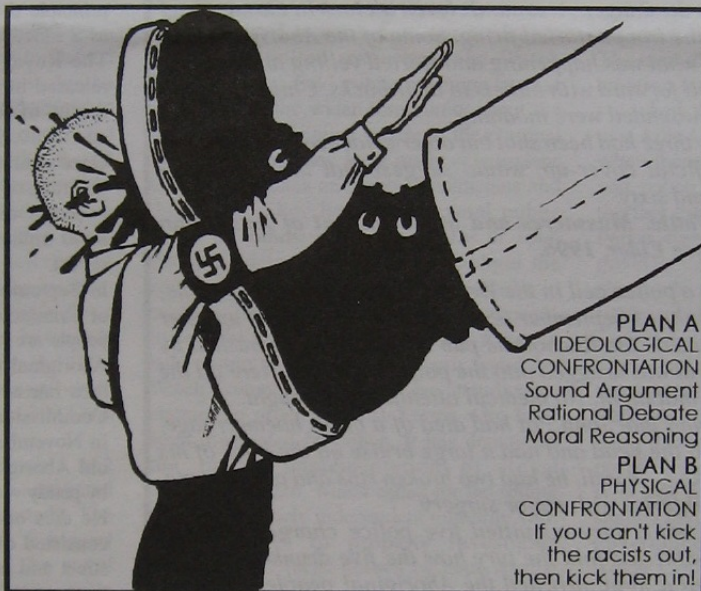
Many working class people are disgusted and horrified by the existence of child pornography and fascist literature and actively seek to censor this material.

The real crux of the matter is not that censorship occurs in our society but whether or not that censorship is warranted, the censors themselves are accountable to the intended audience as well as to the author of the material and in doing so, the censors can clearly demonstrate good reason, merit and value in denying this particular material dissemination.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Let us all understand that censors can be and are anyone and everyone. I mentioned previously that censorship takes place in

working class communities on a consistent basis. Let's now examine how. Say for example you're walking down the street and come across a poster which you find offensive and so you deface it or tear it down; maybe it's one of those portrayals of a big busted woman selling a new model car as if upon purchase of the car men will be accompanied by good looking women wearing D-cups: an ad for a political candidate whose views (not



the picture itself) you're opposed to: a billboard covered in tobacco industry propaganda where smiling, fit and healthy models lure people toward a slow and painful death; a presentation of information you know to be false and misleading or just downright defamatory such as "asians take jobs" or "gooks out"; a dubious advertisement that promises "sex with young-looking women and men". Each example called for an act of censorship depending on your viewpoint. Have I got you thinking now? The list could go on and on and you could come up with far more examples by spending five minutes to think this through yourself.

WE DECIDE

The fact is, censorship happens all the time as working class people assert control over their own neighbourhoods. Stopping the promotion of certain practices and ideas and their distribution is sometimes necessary to safeguard freedom. Child pornography, for example, needs to be stamped out. The bottom line is really quite clear, the working class must decide what is good for them and what is not - not the government or any other rich bastard!

DOING IT OURSELVES

In any new society accountability has to be the central feature of any decision making on the promotion and distribution of certain practices and ideas. For example, whilst all but a few working class people are vehemently opposed to child pornography there will no doubt be those few sordid characters who wish to continue with their vile practices unopposed. These people must be made accountable before a community court. It's the same deal with fascists and scabs.

Angry People believe it will be necessary to build a new society as this one crumbles away, and we wish to see a "court" system of accountability developed that would enable working class people to have direct control over their communities. It would have to include an effective debate and decision-making process and have the respect of a significant majority of the working class to work at all. These "community courts" could be established on a basic national model that was modified from region to region, to best suit the interests of the local working class. This system of community judicial process should be viewed as a means for the working class to exert

control in the local area and not as a tool of manipulation for the furthering of a political parties' interests. Involvement and participation would be open to all the workers in the area.

Other avenues for further discussion include the good ol' public meeting, where people can speak to their neighbours frankly and respectfully on an issue. As long as the public meeting process isn't hijacked by the local council then these gatherings could prove to be the embryo of a future society organised for the benefit of all.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS

What makes these processes I've just described to you different from what we have now is their inherent accountability. Right now, we don't even know who these censors are, we can't recognise them on the street and they don't have any idea of what we do or don't want. They're totally unaccountable. If working class people are involved in every decision that affects their lives then they are, in effect, in full control. And a working class in control of its own destiny is the only kind of society worth fighting for!

MURDER IN THE FIRST

IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS.....

In February 1804, a large group of Aborigines, probably 300 in number descended the foothills towards Risdon Cove. (Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land).

The Aborigines were almost certainly on a kangaroo hunt. Edward White, a servant, was to report years later that he 'saw a flock of kangaroos hemmed between them'. They had no spears; spears in such a closed space were dangerous. They carried large pieces of wood with which to beat the cornered animals.

William Moore, a lieutenant in the notoriously drunken military force, the New South Wales Rum Corp, had been drinking heavily the night before. Hung over, depressed and antagonistic, he saw the approaching Aborigines and decided that it would be good sport to 'see the niggers run'. He called his troops to arms. The Aborigines were oblivious to the danger. At around eleven o'clock in the morning, as they came within range, the troops started firing. Some of the Aborigines fell. The group became aware of what was happening and started yelling and running for their lives. Four or six fell forward with bullets in their backs. Children lost in the melee, were crying, the wounded were moaning.

Moore would claim that only three had been shot but other evidence, more reliable than his attempts at an official cover-up, would suggest that the figure was somewhere between thirty and sixty.

pp 28-29, Blood on the Wattle. Massacres and Maltreatment of Australian Aborigines since 1788, Bruce Elder, 1996.

John Pat was found dead in a police cell in the West Pilbara town of Roebourne, Western Australia on the night of September 28, 1983. He was locked up after trying to help his friends outside the Roebourne pub who were being bashed by some off duty police. John Pat was dragged into the police station as were all the Aboriginal people arrested that night. No medical attention was sought.

The forensic pathologist found that John Pat had died of a brain haemorrhage. He had received 10 blows to the head and had a large bruise on the back of his head where he had been kicked. As well, he had two broken ribs and a torn aorta. He could of survived these injuries with major surgery.

Seven months later, an all-white jury acquitted five police charged with his manslaughter. Fifty-seven witnesses told the jury how the five drunken off-duty police officers had provoked a fight, arrested the Aboriginal people, and then systematically bashed them at a police lockup.

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee. (leaflet)

Australia in the 90's thinks of itself as a modern, tolerant and sophisticated society, yet fuck-all has changed in 210 years, when it comes to dealing with Aborigines and the issues of criminal justice, police, prison systems and just plain harassment of the community by various groups claiming to uphold the law.

After the death of John Pat and the high number of Aboriginal Deaths in police and prison custody, the Committee to Defend Black Rights (CDBR) was established and a campaign to stop deaths in custody began.

The CDBR ran a national campaign which included a tour by families of Aboriginal people who had died in custody. They called on the Federal Government to hold a Royal Commission.

In 1987, there were seven deaths of Aboriginal men in custody in a period of six weeks. The deaths only now began to receive mainstream media reporting. The pressure on the Government resulted in the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Clyde Holding, announcing a Parliamentary Inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody.

The response from the government was obviously inadequate. It has been the typical attitude from governments throughout Australia's history on the majority of issues concerning Indigenous people, to only deliver the minimalist policies or organisational structures to what Aboriginal people ask for, or demand. These are then given no autonomy.

A large public meeting organised by the CDBR at the Sydney Town Hall in April 1987, supported the establishment of a network of local 'watch committees' to monitor the treatment of Aboriginal people by police and prison officers; initiating reforms to prevent abuses of human rights of Aboriginal people in custody; reducing the appalling rate at which Aboriginal people are arrested and imprisoned; assisting Aboriginal families who suffer abuses from persons in positions of public authority and to continue the call for a Royal Commission to inquire into causes and solutions. In June of that year the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee was formed. Aboriginal groups and supporters used the Bicentennial

celebrations in 1988 to draw attention to Australia's human rights record. With CDBR's Helen Corbett in Geneva speaking on Aboriginal deaths in custody to a UN meeting on human rights, the Federal Government announced it would open a Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody (October 1987).

An interim report was released in December 1988, its principle recommendation is that "Governments ... (should) enforce the principle that imprisonment be utilised only as a sanction of last resort".

The Royal Commission's final report was released in April 1991. After examining 99 deaths of Aboriginal people between 1980 and 1989, it makes 339 recommendations. Once again the central objective was to reduce the rate of Aboriginal imprisonment. The Federal Government then says it will spend \$400 million over 5 years to implement the report.

In September 1992, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) reports that Aboriginal people are jailed at 18 times the rate of non-Aboriginal people. NSW and NT increased their rate over the 12 months since the Royal Commission.

In November 1993, Daniel Yock, an 18 year old Aboriginal man is arrested and carried by paddy wagon to the Brisbane Watchhouse. He dies on the way. The arrest procedure consisted of severely beating Daniel on the street and kicking him in the head as he lay overpowered on the ground. Daniel was unconscious due to the beating but police failed to call for medical help. This death once again brought the issue of deaths in custody into the headlines for the first time since the Royal Commission, due to the anger at demonstrations by Indigenous people and their supporters.

Ray Jackson from the NSW Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee said "The sum of \$430 million has been spent and yet deaths in custody are still continuing. In fact, there have been 52 deaths since May 31, 1989 and nothing's changed". (December, 1993)

Similarly, Lyall Munro, also of the NSW Watch Committee, says "The money has been wasted, no black groups have been entitled to the money with the acceptance of the two Aboriginal Deaths in Custody groups, all the money for the Royal Commission recommendations went to police stations and government departments".

The Aboriginal Legal Service in Perth reports that the WA government is ignoring key recommendations of the Royal Commission. The study found that 43% of people sent to prison in Western Australia that year were Aboriginal even though they

made up only about 2.5% of the state's population.

In February 1994, The Australian Institute of Criminology reported a 40% increase in deaths in custody in 1992/93. It reported that since the Royal Commission cut off date in May 1989, 43 Aborigines and 255 non-Aborigines have died in custody. The cops and screws are murdering us!

A report conducted by the Federal Minister on Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner, on the progress of reform finds that in 1992/93 "The number of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in prison and their imprisonment rates are increasing - Aborigines are still 14 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-indigenous people".

In April 1994, The Criminal Justice Commission in Queensland found the six police officers who arrested Daniel Yock are not responsible for his death.

In June, Lawyer Chris Cunnen completes a report for the National Committee to Defend Black Rights on 55 Indigenous deaths between 1989 and 1994. It concludes that many of the deaths would have been avoided if governments had acted on the Royal Commission recommendations. It reports 169 breaches of the recommendations, the most common breach being that the police move immediately to examine the delivery of medical services to people in police custody. The Australian Institute of Criminology reports that the number of deaths in custody has risen to it's highest level since the 1991 Royal Commission report. The number of deaths rose from 64 in 1991, 65 in 1992 and 74 in 1993.

Indigenous people, who make up only 1 to 2 percent of the general population accounted for 11 percent of the deaths in custody. The report says that "this would appear to suggest that the recommendations of the royal commission are either not being fully implemented or, when they are, are not operating effectively".

In September 1994, four people died in custody in Western Australia in 11 days.

The parliamentary Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs released a report in December called 'Justice

Under Scrutiny' which is critical of the government's failure to involve more Aboriginal people in implementing Royal Commission recommendations and of government reports which have glossed over deficiencies and not accurately portrayed the implementation process. It notes that there has been no substantial change for Indigenous people as a result of extra funding by the Federal Government.

In February 1995, the Australian Institute of Criminology issues its report for 1993/94 which shows deaths in custody are rising along with rates of imprisonment.

There have been over 100 more deaths nationally of Aboriginal people in custody since May 1989, when the Royal Commission stopped investigating new cases.

By September 1997, there had been 6 Aboriginal deaths in custody in NSW alone.

For nearly 10 years the Watch Committee has tried to carry out their objectives with limited resources. The Watch Committee has held public meetings to raise awareness in the wider community about the suffering of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system. They have made submissions to public enquires and lobbied politicians and the media. They have held several public rallies to commemorate the deaths of John Pat and Eddie Murray and to highlight the continuing tragedy of Aboriginal deaths in custody. The Watch Committee visits prisons to support inmates and does what it can to help ensure they are being properly cared for. Watch Committee members also attend police stations in order to assist Kooris who have been mistreated by police. It has demanded the urgent implementation of Royal Commission 226, which called for the setting up of a genuinely independent authority with the resources to properly investigate complaints of racist abuses by cops against Aboriginal people.

The Watch Committee believes this problem cannot be solved without first reducing the number of Aboriginal people taken into custody. This could be achieved in part if the cops did not arbitrarily arrest Aboriginal people for minor offence and sought wherever possible to deflect Aboriginal juveniles away

STOP ALL DEATHS IN CUSTODY

from a life made much worse by the criminal justice system.

In February 1998, ATSIAC announced it will withdraw funding to Watch Committees.

The mainstream media stir up a great deal of emotion and outrage when a cop is killed, yet when the roles are reversed and one of us is killed, the silence is deafening. Only when there is a police shooting do the media and police seem to notice, probably due to the fact that bullet holes are hard to explain. Police, correctional officers, the judiciary and governments around Australia should be absolutely ashamed.

Because of the positions of power in this society that these groups hold, they are more often than not smug and patronising about this issue, if you don't believe me, the next time you see a cop on the street ask them what they are doing to stop the deaths that occur in their custody.

It is not exaggerating in the slightest to suggest that the result of the State and Federal governments inadequate response to the Royal Commission is responsible for the genocide of the Indigenous people of this country.

(Genocide - extermination of a national or racial group as a planned move).

Some may think that this is not a planned move, yet the systems are in place by fault or design to kill Indigenous people and the repeated warnings and recommendations that have not been acted upon for the last decade suggest they condone what is happening.

If you or I were to hide the fact that we knew information about a serious crime and did not act upon it, we could be charged with a criminal offence, similarly if we provided the means to commit a crime we could also be also charged. This is what governments and the judicial system in this country are involved in and should be condemned and brought to justice for their repeated anti-social acts against Aborigines and the working class in general.

This article would not of been possible without the help of Lyall Munro and the people of the NSW branch of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee and the report by Wendy Bacon, Bonita Mason and Peter Cronau in the 1995 Autumn edition of REPORTAGE.

ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY WATCH COMMITTEE



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Book Review

BEFORE THE DAWN

Gerry Adams

I probably wouldn't have read Gerry Adams's "Before the Dawn", but having received an expropriated copy from a mate, and having a few hours to spare, I decided to give it a read. It was just after the Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin tour and we had just won our fight to keep Lorenzo in the country. A lot of people who are involved in the campaign to allow Gerry Adams in the country supported our struggle. Gerry Adams was refused a visa to come to Australia to launch Before the Dawn, on the same dubious grounds that the Government tried to deport Lorenzo - that he was "not of good character".

I'm glad I did read it. I was quite suprised with the libertarian nature of the Irish republican struggle in the late 60's and 70's, and with Gerry Adams's involvement. The book ends shortly after the events of the H Block Hunger Strike in 1981, in which ten Irish republican prisoners died in protest against their prison conditions, and the fact that they were framed or just simply jailed for being republican. The book describes the Republican struggle in the late 1960's and throughout the 1970's. There is an extremely short epilogue which accounts the major diplomatic negotiations between the Irish Republicans and the British Government during the 1980's. This epilogue is fairly out of place with the book as it demonstrates Gerry Adams's role nowadays as a "politician" rather than the "community activist" as the book portrays him.

It remains to be seen if, in the 15 year gap between the end of the book and today, Gerry's politics have changed from his ideas of "popular councils and opposition to Irish capitalism" in the 60's and 70's to embrace a more pragmatic political outlook of reforming capitalism in Ireland. There is no doubt that there cannot be any move towards smashing the capitalists that run the whole of Ireland without uniting Ireland, or more specifically uniting the working class, both Protestant and Catholic. *But has the youthful ideal of working class revolution and freedom in Ireland been taken over by the pragmatic goal of simply uniting the 32 counties and leaving Irish capitalism to take over where British capitalism left off?*

The Irish Republican's are an example of a modern popular guerilla struggle, one which many international popular struggles looked towards for inspiration. This is acknowledged by Gerry Adams himself. I certainly felt that the history of the Irish republican struggle, especially the 1916 Easter Rebellion and the 1970 establishment of the Provisional IRA, should be studied for an in-depth analysis of

how modern revolutionary struggle will look. For those who want to know what revolution means, look to the Irish struggle. *It means civil war - a very long, sustained, armed, bloody conflict. It means internment, frame-ups, assassinations, mass murder on people who aren't necessarily involved in any armed conflict but who support it. It also means significant support for the ideas of the struggle and an acceptance of the necessity for the struggle from the people.*

It was also refreshing to see Gerry Adams talk of working class politics from the perspective of a blue collar worker. It was glaringly obvious that there was no pretence of intellectual revolutionary babble and not one reference to the holy trinity of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky. This is the story of the Irish struggle from someone who learnt their politics, not from lofty heights of university, but from daily experience, from being born into a working class republican family, from the need to survive as a working class person in a society which serves the rich and which uses religion, as well as race and sexuality, to persecute as a method of divide and rule.

There was also a few interesting tidbits that I picked up. One was the slogan "Throw Well, Throw Shell". This has been recently used in the campaign against Shell Oil and their complicity in the murder of indigenous Nigerian activist, Ken Ora-Wira who was executed by the Nigerian government for fighting against the destruction of land of the indigenous Omori tribe by Shell Oil. This slogan was used by republicans to describe their use of molotov cocktails to fight back against the British Army.

The other was an old anarchist quote that was slightly modified to reflect the modern conditions of the republican struggle.

"So jail is a place where you're watched over, inspected, spied on, directed, legislated, locked up, caged in, regimented, preached at, controlled, assessed, registered, handcuffed, prevented, stripped naked, extorted, pressured, robbed, beaten up, shot, censored, commanded, photographed, all by creatures that have neither the right nor wisdom nor virtue to do so."

Adams then adds: *"and the killer about it all is that outside is no better. It's all the same difference. Just a wee bit more subtle and a wee bit less blatant."*

Revolutionary activists should read Before the Dawn as well as other literature on the beginnings of the Irish struggle. There are strong links between the Australian working class struggle and the Irish working class struggle, proven again very recently by Gerry Adams's letter of solidarity sent to the Maritime Union of Australia during their lockout of Patrick Stevedore's wharves. For more information about the campaign to fight the ban on Gerry Adams visiting Australia, contact Australian Aid for Ireland.

ANGRY PEOPLE reading material

For those bookworms who want to learn more about where the ideas of Angry People come from and where they are going, check out these books:

Anarchism and the Black Revolution

The book and the tour that spawned national outrage! Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, Black revolutionary organiser, sets out his ideas and his political development from the Black Panthers to Black Autonomy.

\$12 ppd paperback



Malatesta: Life and Ideas

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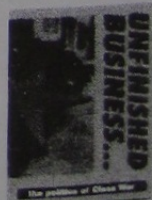
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