

CAMPAIGN AGAINST
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RACISM & FASCISM

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cultural relativism

self-determination

liberation

victimisation

ational discrimination

cultural dysfunction

libertarianism

the end of racism?

**Newspeak
Rightspeak**

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EDITORIAL

A tale of two murders

Three years after Stephen Lawrence's death at the hands of a racist gang, the private prosecution at the Old Bailey of three white racists for his killing was dropped after the judge ruled out the evidence identifying them as his attackers. From video evidence given at committal, it is known that the three men on trial, Neil Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson, all of whom lived close to the scene of the killing, relish the idea of launching homicidal attacks on black people and have, between them, an arsenal of weapons with which to do so. The collapse of the trial leaves these men and their associates free to indulge their pathological fantasies. Why? What went wrong?

All observers agree that the problems started with the response of the original police team. Despite being given information within hours of the killing, including names, it took them two weeks to make arrests – time enough for weapons to be cleaned and clothes disposed of so as to leave only the slightest forensic evidence. Time enough, too, for the names to circulate around the local community, allowing the defence to argue at the trial that the subsequent identification of the men on parades by Stephen's friend Duwayne Brooks, the only eye-witness, was contaminated by his having heard the names. And Brooks, a young man who had never been in trouble with police, suddenly found himself facing charges of violent disorder after a protest demonstration days after Stephen's death. It was almost as if someone was trying hard to discredit him.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) compounded the problems caused by the police treatment of the case. Instead of pressing the police to pursue further evidence, the CPS appears to have acted further to undermine the key witness, Brooks, by sending a memo round the police team asking for examples of any difficult behaviour on his part. The police were only too happy to oblige, describing Brooks as aggressive, anti-police and excitable, thus ensuring that his evidence would be seen as unreliable.

But there is no need to invoke a conspiracy theory to understand the reluctance of the police and the CPS to investigate and prosecute the killing properly. Simple everyday racism is sufficient to explain their behaviour – racism which dictated the belief that Stephen and Duwayne were probably drug dealers who were victims of a rival drugs gang; racism which accounts for the sheer disbelief of officers who went to Stephen's home to find that the Lawrences were a decent, church-going family and that Stephen himself was sitting his 'A' levels with a view to studying architecture.

Stephen was treated as 'low-life', unimportant, someone whose death did not merit any but the most desultory investigation. The anger of London's and Britain's black community similarly meant nothing. For those responsible for this investigation, black people were not real members of the public, whom the police are supposed to serve, but the people they protect the public from. While the police and the CPS might not share the sadistic fantasies of the alleged murderers, their racism is no less fatal.

Compare the way the criminal justice system dealt with the death of white schoolboy Richard Everitt, which led to the conviction of Badrul Miah for murder and of Showkat Akbar for violent disorder. There, police arrested the first group of Asian youths they came across in the area, within two hours of the killing. The poor quality of the identification evidence (a description used against Badrul which in no way resembled him; identification parade evidence against Showkat contaminated by witnesses' previous discussions) did not prevent the prosecution from going ahead; nor did the judge rule it inadmissible. All the rules of evidence were stretched to convict the two.

The judge in the Lawrence case, Mr Justice Curtis, was clearly more concerned not to do anything to undermine the CPS's original decision not to proceed with their prosecution, than he was to see justice for the Lawrence family. His ruling, which blew the heart out of the prosecution, surprised many criminal lawyers, who believe that he should have allowed the jury to decide on the quality of the identification evidence; it is the jury, after all, who are responsible for deciding on guilt or innocence. ■



RIGHTS
SPEAK

Branded a bigot

Edinburgh University students
have been boycotting one of
their lecturers

Following in the tradition of Eysenck and Jensen (see next page) in dressing up racism and bigotry with a respectable scientific veneer comes Christopher Brand, a little known psychology lecturer at Edinburgh University. His new book, *The g Factor: general intelligence and its implications*, was described by its publishers John Wiley & Sons as a 'well argued critical review' by an academic 'well known for his contributions to research and debate on intelligence and personality'. But they were not prepared for Brand's press conference. A call for single mothers to mate with males of higher IQ in order to widen the gene pool of their offspring was just one of his proposals. More outrageous still, from someone responsible for the education of a large number of students from many different backgrounds, was his unapologetic 'I am perfectly proud to be a racist in the scientific sense. It is a scientific fact that black Americans are less intelligent than white Americans.'

Just days later, the publishers withdrew the book as 'making assertions we find

repellent'. But they could not offer a credible explanation as to how they had, supposedly unwittingly, published something so offensive and academically substandard in the first place.

Meanwhile, at the university, outraged students immediately began a boycott of Brand's lectures, refusing to be taught by someone who, as one student put it, 'has taught me nothing about science, but lots about racism'. Over 70 third year psychology students walked out of his lectures and have maintained a boycott of his classes. Two-thirds of the university's student population agreed that Brand should be removed from his teaching responsibilities.

So far, although the college authorities have stood by Brand on the grounds of academic freedom, the principal has described Brand's views as personally distasteful and has ordered Brand to improve his teaching, promising not to penalise students who boycott his lectures. Over 200 students attended a rally at the university demanding that Brand be sacked, and heard Professor Steven Rose refute Brand's racist science both

politically and scientifically. The student newspaper described Brand's ideas as giving 'succour to racists and thugs everywhere. That the stamp of Edinburgh University is attached to such a message should shame us all... While he is with us, he demeans us.'

Although the banning of a book is recognised by campaigners as no solution to the problem of racism, the mass action of students in boycotting lectures, and the debate it has provoked, have alerted many to the dangers of how racist ideas can masquerade as respectable academic theories. Brand himself has stated that he is considering asking the right-wing think tank, the Pioneer Foundation, to finance the publishing of the book.

Another item of information that became publicly known was that Brand had been hired by Lothian and Borders police as a consultant psychologist. His brief was to develop tests to assess the intelligence of chief inspectors who applied to become superintendents. Now, thanks to the publicity surrounding the students' campaign, Lothian and Borders police have been forced to drop him. ■



The fight against racist science

CARF spoke to Steven Rose, professor of biology at the Open University and a leading campaigner against the racialisation of science

Why are we seeing a resurgence of racist scientific ideas now with books like *The Bell Curve* and *The g Factor*?

Scientific racism has been around for a very long time. The last big wave began in 1969 and was tied up with people like Eysenck in this country and Jensen in the States. There was a powerful campaign among biologists, psychologists, geneticists, alongside activists, which killed the issue. But with the development of the human genome programme in the last 10 to 15 years has come the claim that you can use genetics to map the entire genetic composition of humans – genes are seen as causing everything, from aggression to male domination, alcoholism and depression. This has given confidence to the scientific racists and came to the fore with the publication of *The Bell Curve* in 1994 in the States.

It is all tied up very much with the collapse of the social order, and the concern among right-wing politicians about single mothers on welfare, inner city violence, the development of a black 'underclass' and so on. Part of the campaign to control the cities claims that violence and discontent arises because inner-city people are genetically stupid and genetically incapable of coping with modern society. It's a combination therefore of bad genes and bad rearing by bad mothers. That is a very attractive set of arguments for right-wing politicians in the US and those in Britain on the right of the Tory party and the theorists of the Adam Smith Institute. So there is tremendous political motivation and drive in puffing up again these long exploded ideas and dressing them up with the new science. It's the same old gang: Richard Lynn in Ireland, Charles Murray in the US, Rushton in Canada and Chris Brand in Britain. Many of them are funded by the same right-wing source – the Pioneer Foundation in the US.

Is there anything qualitatively different in a scientific sense in what Murray, Herrnstein and Brand are saying now, from what Eysenck and Jensen said in the '70s?

The Bell Curve arguments are very similar to what Jensen said but made much more political. It is the stuff that Richard Herrnstein has been arguing ever since the 1970s, and Charles Murray, who is the theorist of the 'underclass', has been arguing for a very long time. But they put their arguments together and although it pretended to be a scientific book, it was very much a political book, with summaries and punchlines.

Brand's comments on single mothers are tapping into an area of considerable right-wing concern, and his mixture of genetic and moral arguments make it a

more heady political mix – a combination of bad scientific ideology and bad moral ideology.

How can we counter this type of racism which is dressed up as science?

We have to understand the politics and the ideology generating these arguments and demonstrate why the arguments are false. Brand needs to be judged scientifically and technically by his peers and found wanting. We need an alliance between activists and those who can look at and expose the genetic and psychometric claims being made. The arguments have to be driven home at all levels. If students find his lectures unacceptable they have every right to boycott his lectures and should be supported.

WHO'S WHO

Carl C Brigham Assistant professor of psychology at Princeton University. *A Study of American Intelligence*, published in 1923, had a significant impact on the development of American psychology and immigration policy, with its argument that the intelligence of immigrants was related to the number of years they had lived in the US and was therefore 'native' or 'inborn'. Continued immigration and 'racial mongrelisation', he argued, would lead to a long-term decline in American intelligence.

Sir Cyril Burt London County Council psychologist who made some of the most influential heredity-environment studies of the twentieth century, arguing that the intelligence ratio was 4:1 in favour of heredity on the basis of his studies of twins. He developed IQ tests in the 1940s which were used to stream school-children. After his death it was discovered that he faked much of his data.

Professor Arthur Jensen Author of *Environment, Heredity and Intelligence* in 1969. Argued that 'intelligence' is 80% genetic and 20% environmental and that genetic factors which make for intelligence are concentrated at the top of the socio-economic scale, explaining

why US blacks rated consistently lower than the US national average in IQ tests.

H J Eysenck Based at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in London. Popularised Jensen's arguments in *Race, Intelligence and Education*, published in 1971, arguing that there was a 'genetic determination of negro inferiority'.



Eysenck (left) and Murray

Charles Murray Based at the American Enterprise Institute. In 1995 co-authored, with Professor Richard Herrnstein, *The Bell Curve: intelligence and class structure in American life*, which argued that the development of the 'black underclass' in the US was genetically determined. They conclude that affirmative action programmes are doomed to fail and welfare payments encourage 'low IQ women' to have babies. ■

But is any scientific study of 'race' useful? It has been argued, for example, that it can be beneficial to study a possible genetic cause for the incidence of high blood pressure among African-Americans.

The biological concept of race amongst humans is meaningless. It implies that there are sharp genetic differences between populations. The concept of 'race' is essentially a political concept, and as it is applied, a racist concept.

It is the case that some population groups are much more likely to suffer certain sorts of diseases which are partially genetic and partially environmental eg, high blood pressure among African-Americans, Tay-Sachs disease among Jewish populations, cystic fibrosis in the



David Bromley

white 'Caucasian' population. But the causes or treatments cannot be understood better by making a distinction on the basis of skin colour or ethnicity or religion. Reasons for high blood pressure among African-Americans will certainly include environmental factors; poor working conditions, living in a racist society, bad housing all contribute to high blood pressure. You can't just pick out genetics as a reason. But at least you can measure high blood pressure.

The difference, and the problem with the claims that are being made about intelligence, is the question of whether IQ tests measure anything other than what IQ tests measure. It is essentially a social measure, like measuring something with a bit of elastic – it stretches the way you want it. It is known that during the

The Sunday Express must have been thrilled. Hundreds of people were milling on the staircase of the Institute of Education on 2 May on their way to the first national *Sunday Express* debate with guest speaker Indian-American Dinesh D'Souza talking about 'the end of racism'. Imagine the organisers' horror as the crowds turned left instead of right at the bottom of the staircase and into Eric Hobsbawm's lecture on history and identity. Less than one-eighth of the seats were taken at the D'Souza lecture. Double horror, almost everyone in the tiny audience was black, middle-class, from the media and clearly there to disagree with the speaker. Where were all those *Sunday Express* readers who had been asked by the paper to attend? The one white New Right representative, Gerald Hartup from the Freedom Association, kept completely mum in the body of the hall.

Unabashed by being ignored by both the British Right and Left, D'Souza explained to the black audience that African Americans' failure to achieve had little to do with racism and much more to do with the dysfunctionality of black culture. This black culture has the following traits: high crime, illegitimacy, paranoia about the state (and police), dependency on government. The answers, he said, were to develop entrepreneurship and strengthen the roles of the church and the family. British-African Donu Kogbara, in support, gave a shrill right-wing rendition of 'success is the best form of revenge'. And the Wonderland atmosphere was compounded by the inability of the black opposition on the platform and in the audience to take D'Souza on ideologically or philosophically. (See *CARF* 29) Peter Herbert took us on a tour of British racism (though this was not the terrain D'Souza was fighting on), while Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, having said she would not attack him

earlier generations of IQ tests in the 1920s and '30s there were certain test items on which girls scored higher than boys. The conclusion that girls have a higher intelligence than boys was unacceptable to the people developing the test so they moved the test items around until they got a test in which on average boys and girls scored the same, which was more acceptable. They made a prior decision that boys and girls would score the same.

Brand and Eysenck claim that there is one unifying thing called 'g' – crystallised intelligence, a lump of something inside

**RIGHTSPEAK
RIGHTSPEAK**

The end of racism?

personally, did so again and again.

But no one took D'Souza on in terms of his relationship to America's New Right. He begins, not as a political innocent concerned about 'race relations', but as a seasoned ideologist



with free marketism and anti-welfarism at the core of his arguments. His 'research' (which consists largely of gossip and anecdotes) is funded by right wing foundations. And, because of his colour, he has gained prominence in a USA ripe

for the trashing of equality. But there are massive fallacies in his arguments. Though he is at pains to distinguish himself from biological racists, his construction of the concept of some immutable 'black culture' verges on the genetic. He takes *socio-economic* factors in the black community, like crime or dependency on welfare, and calls them cultural traits. And it is only because he defines racism as something personal and cultural (rather than something structural or institutionalised) that he is able to state that its impact is declining.

Why on earth did a respectable London University department, the Institute of United States Studies, co-sponsor such a mad charade? ■

IRVING BOOK CANCELLED

Revisionist historian David Irving has had his biography of Hitler's propagandist, Joseph Goebbels, dropped by a New York publishing house. St Martin's Press cancelled the book following protests by Jewish groups which called the book 'repellent'. The publishers said that they had made a mistake and had been unaware of Irving's reputation. ■

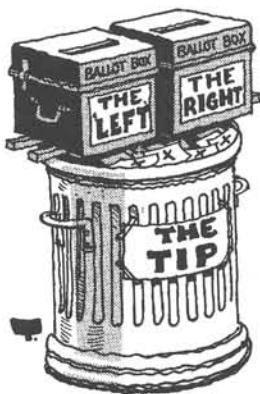
the brain. But you cannot take all these complex aspects of the way in which we relate to the outside world – in terms of our linguistic skills, how we respond emotionally or how good we are at music or chess or whatever, and lock all of these into one single measure of general intelligence. It is an absurd idea for anyone who looks at how the brain solves puzzles; there are many routes in the brain to puzzle-solving, not just one. The psychometricians are locked into a 19th century concept of the way the brain's intelligence is organised. ■

Across Europe, as centre-Left parties are moving to the right, the centre-right parties are adopting issues associated with the Left. And in this game of musical chairs, immigration and asylum are key.

Leftspeak / Rightspeak / New

There is nothing new in the mainstream political consensus on immigration and asylum issues. European Social Democratic parties have been quick to bring in harsh new laws, or have showed no inclination to repeal such laws once they come into office. But whereas in the past

there would have been unease about playing the race card overtly, the centre-Left is losing all inhibitions and is prepared to be just as opportunistic and populist as the Right.



Left moves right

The United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva recently criticised all the French mainstream political parties. 'Anti-immigrant sentiments are crossing political lines,' says the UN report, 'fuelled by positions taken and declarations made for electoral purposes by politicians from left and right.'

In Germany, though, the Social Democrats are not merely responding to a Right agenda, but are creating their own populist campaign against foreigners, and in particular the poor eastern Aussiedler.

belongingness to the Fatherland were used to point the contrast with the 'foreignness' of other groups seeking immigration or (particularly) refuge in Germany, such as Roma, Turks, Asians and Africans. In 1988 the Social Democrats condemned the government for stirring up xenophobia by playing Aussiedler, foreigners and asylum-seekers (collectively 'Ausländer') against each other.

No longer. Instead of fighting for inclusive and democratic citizenship laws, the Social Democrats have launched a vicious populist campaign which employs the stereotypes normally used against non-Germans.

As Christian Democrat Chancellor Kohl hurtles into full-scale confrontation with the unions over his new austerity package, Social Democrat leader Oscar Lafontaine (left), posing as the champion of the welfare state and the rights of German workers, has attacked the Aussiedler for 'walking straight into unemployment', for gaining easy access to benefits, welfare support and pensions.

He has gone further, calling for all work permits to foreigners to be stopped in the face of high unemployment amongst



German workers – although the reality is that 'foreigners' are merely doing the dirty jobs that even unemployed Germans do not want to do.

Increased nationalism

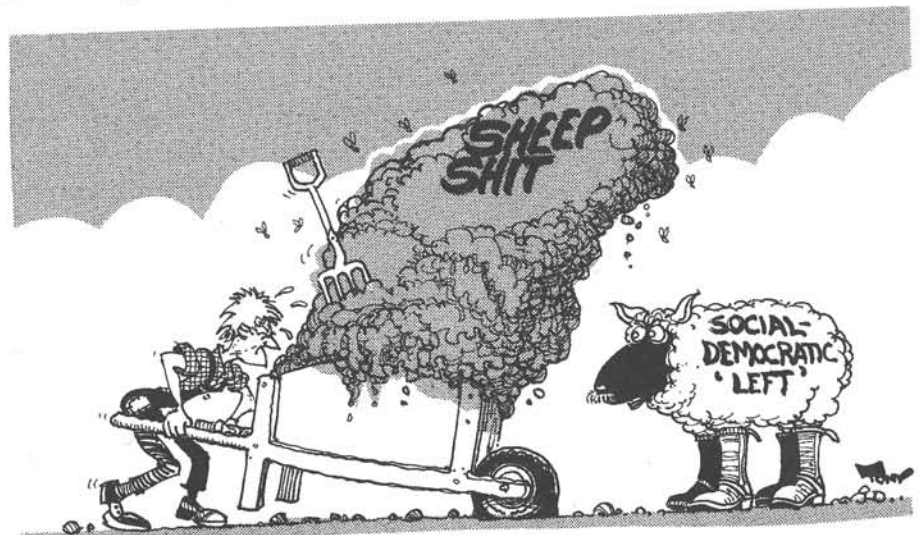
The Social Democrats have opened up a Pandora's box of racism and nationalism. Opinion polls suggest that the Aussiedler are not much more popular than Bosnian refugees. And callers to chat shows claim that the Aussiedler are not real Germans, speak in strange tongues, bring increased crime and have a deplorable work ethic.

Linking 'Germanness' to a strong work ethic is particularly worrying given the associations this evokes with Germany's Nazi past. Similar sentiments surfaced during a referendum on the question of a merger of the Brandenburg and Berlin states on the lines of the old Prussia. Social Democrats and Christian Democrats united behind the idea of a 'Christian Prussia'. In the event the voters rejected the merger, but not before politicians had waxed lyrical about the 'old Prussian values of hard work and discipline'. Anti-racists point out that these were the very sentiments manipulated by Hitler. After the second world war, historians found evidence to show that Prussia was a military forerunner of Hitler's Germany, describing its legacy as generally malign.

Aussiedler versus Ausländer

Under German citizenship laws, Germanness depends on blood, not being born in Germany. While the German-born children and grandchildren of Turkish parents are destined to remain Turkish and never German, anyone whose ancestors were members of the German Volk prior to the second world war can claim citizenship, no matter where they were born. Since the late 1980s, when emigration restrictions were lifted in eastern bloc countries, these descendants of Germans, called 'Aussiedler', have migrated to Germany in large numbers: 200,000 so-called 'Volga Germans' migrate from Russia annually.

At first, the Aussiedler were welcomed to Germany. Their 'Germanness' and



'You know your trouble, comrade; you lack our Prussian work ethic.'

speak

Tactical alliances

Lafontaine's attack on the Aussiedler was part of his election campaign in the southern state of Baden Württemberg, the third most popular destination of the Aussiedler this year. In the event, the Social Democrats did badly. But their populist campaign aided the far Right in Baden Württemberg, where the fascist Republikaner party gained 9.6 per cent of the vote, making it the only state in Germany where they are represented in parliament.



Umberto Bossi

In Italy, the Left has not campaigned on a racist ticket. Instead, it has worked in alliance with racists. And those who sleep with the dogs get bitten by the fleas. Prior to Italy's May general election, immigration was the hot issue with the racist Northern League, which held the parliamentary balance of power, threatening to oppose all amendments to the 1996 budget unless a tough anti-immigrant decree was passed.

The Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), parliamentary allies of the Northern League, made outraged noises but ended up supporting the decree as a 'realistic attempt to get a handle on immigration'.

Right uses left rhetoric

The Left's support for a racist bill bodes ill for the future of the Olive Tree Alliance,



AP Photo/Christof Stache

Open letter from the Lübeck survivors

On 18 January 1996, ten asylum-seekers were killed in an arson attack on a Lübeck hostel. The police investigation has centred on a hostel resident, but the other residents condemn this as a deliberate distraction from the truth, which is that the attack was Germany's worst racist attack ever. We publish their open letter of 29 February.

WE the survivors of the arson attack of 18 January 1996, have decided to come forward after weeks of grief. For it is not enough that ten of us have died; we are subjected to further torture. The press have attacked us. We are accused of starting the fire ourselves. Our friend, brother and son Safoan is said to be the arsonist. Meanwhile the truth is not pursued.

We have lived together in this house for years, like a big family. Our children play together, black, brown and white. We know each other very well. Now the media claim an angry quarrel between Arab and African. There was no such quarrel. We live together in friendship, refugees from Angola, Lebanon, Syria, Togo, Zaire.

The 18 January attack was not the first. Last June, a strong-smelling, inflammable liquid was poured through the letterbox. Luckily it was not lit. In the night of 18 January, some of us heard the sound of breaking glass. Shortly afterwards, the whole house was in flames. We jumped out of windows. We told the police where to find our families. They gave no help, but hindered our rescue of our families, then stood around until the fire brigade came.

We were taken to hospital with broken bones, burns and smoke poisoning. Many of us were seriously injured. But the police were not interested. They put us through long, painful interrogation, treating us as

suspects, as if we were the criminals. They took no account of our grief for those who died. At first they accused us of dumb stupidity. We must have lit a bonfire in a flat, or messed around with paraffin or with electrical wiring. Then they tried to find an arsonist among us. First it was two who had died. Then they fastened on Safoan, claiming he had argued with another resident Gustave, and had fired the house, with himself and his family in it, for revenge.

Gustave has told the police, and repeated in the press and on TV, that there was no row, no beating, no argument over a woman, no jealousy. We all know Safoan could not have done it and nor could anyone else in the house. Safoan was asleep with his brothers on the fourth floor when the shouts of the neighbours woke him. As he opened the door the flames and smoke hit him. He started to help others out of the house and was injured in the process.

Three young Germans were held for less than two days. Their names were not released. Safoan's name and photo, on the other hand, were given to the press immediately, who were quick to judge him before the investigation even began. He has to be guilty, because no German can be. The thirty-eight witnesses who say he is not guilty are not believed; a single German fireman is. ■

For the full text write to CARF or the Antirassistisches Telefon c/o Haus für Alle, Amandastraße 58, 20357 Hamburg.

the first centre-Left government in the history of the Italian Republic. However, events have moved on since the election, with the Northern League's demagogic leader, Umberto Bossi, ruling out any alliance and demanding the right to 'negotiate the country's partition'.

The Northern League has set up its own shadow parliament in Mantua and called for the 'right to self-determination for the people of Padania' (Bossi's name for the north).

Bossi is seeking to use the language of the Left. He talks in terms of the underdog,

the victim, the oppressed, where in reality the Northern League represents the powerful north against the impoverished south. And in creating the Committee for the Liberation of Padania, Bossi even dares to situate his party in the anti-fascist tradition (the initials, CLN, are the same as those of the National Liberation Committee which led the opposition to fascism at the end of the second world war). Reality is being turned on its head.

Furthermore, Bossi has promised to link up with 'oppressed people' across Europe in order to further the creation of a 'Europe of the regions'. He voices his admiration for Scottish nationalists and vows to attend the SNP conference dressed in a kilt.

Against centralisation, for devolution

It is the Right in Europe that is posing as the voice of the oppressed, champions against centralised state power and for devolution and the power of the regions.

In France, Le Pen has sought to distinguish the FN from the Gaullist Right, which stands for a centralised tradition, by speaking out for the regions, particularly Alsace, Brittany, Corsica and south-western France where there is strong resentment to a historical pattern of forced annexation and unsuccessful rebellion.

In Belgium, the extreme-Right Vlaams Blok has declared that in the next talks on constitutional reform, it wants outright Flemish independence.

In Spain, the April general election saw the return of the first full-blooded right-wing government since the death of the dictator Franco. Now the Popular Party has been forced into alliance with the Catalan nationalist coalition 'Convergence and Union', four Canary Island nationalist MPs and conservative Basques in order to stay in power. The irony is that the Spanish Right has always stood for the unity of the nation state, yet it is a right-wing government that is being forced by its allies to go further down the road of devolution than any Socialist government of the past.

It is too early for CARF to predict what this move by conservative and far-Right parties into the terrain of devolution will mean. But clearly anti-racists, left-wing and minority parties need to beware the wolf in sheep's clothing. ■

THERE ARE LOTS OF PLACES IN BRITAIN WHERE RACISM DOESN'T EXIST.



Pictures: Commission for Racial Equality

The world of advertising is, for the first time, being exposed as a racist world. Auditioners for the Milky Bar Kid had to be white, Heineken did not want too many blacks in a filmed audience and Ford doctored pictures of its multiracial British workforce to turn blacks white (to boost sales in Poland). Obviously, such abuses have been going on for years, but there is now a heightened consciousness about discrimination which is bringing such stories out. Clearly the adverts that the public sees should, at the very least, reflect a society that is by now multicultural. Some companies have begun to do so without much fuss. For example, Habitat ran adverts in weekend colour supplements which, without particular comment, showed only black people. A cook-in sauce went one further. In a TV commercial showing an Asian woman preparing her man's dinner (whether he would eat a tinned curry sauce is another matter!) the woman spoke, not in the broken English-Asian accent we expected, but a broad northern English one. Not only did the ad say 'I am black and British', but it also did a double-take on all those other ads for Asian products where whites were 'browned up' or Asians had to use Peter Sellers-speak.

Anti-racism and niche marketing

But confusing the issue now are a few companies which are adopting 'anti-racism' as a kind of motif. And at the same time, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is, with private capital and Saatchi skills, launching advertising campaigns with anti-racist messages. Because the content or imagery appears similar, the two different thrusts become confused.

For example, the CRE used footballers in its 'Kick racism out of football' campaign. Nike also used footballers to promote its anti-racist image. Is Nike selling shoes or selling anti-racism? The point is that it does not want us to

distinguish; it is selling anti-racism in order to sell shoes. (In the USA, Nike was criticised for heavily promoting products in the black community, leading to very poor kids literally killing one another to get hold of Nike products.)

The CRE used a poster of brains (see inset), Benetton then put out a similar poster with hearts, to say we are all the same under the skin. Again the message is confusing. Is Benetton selling its products or anti-racism? Benetton, an international company, ends up disguising multinational capitalism as multicultural caring. (In America it has launched its own anti-racist paper, *Colors*.) Both Nike and Benetton are creating a market image to fit a market niche – a kind of anti-racist equivalent of the Body Shop's eco-correctness.

CRE campaigns

For three years the CRE has been running a series of public campaigns against racism. The first, launched in 1993, was around football. The second, 'Uniting Britain for a just society', was launched in June 1994, followed by the 'All different, All equal' youth campaign in 1995.

The second two campaigns have used traditional advertising techniques which, through posters and tabloid adverts, set out to attract attention. Many of the images, especially those of babies and brains are intended to startle us. The CRE, like Benetton, has found that shocking images bring lots of free publicity as newspapers debate the controversial nature of the advertising. Having startled us (with babies), amused us (with brains), upset us (with dead rats) and shamed us (with racist scars), the ads ask us to think. Very basic, simple ideas are being promulgated: racists are not born but made; racism is stupid; racism is unfair; racism is violent and so on. In some cases adverts go further than merely asking us to rethink and seek to inform as well.

Winning hearts and minds: advertising and anti-racism

Over the last few years, there has been a plethora of adverts with racial themes, startling images and black icons. CARF investigates whether anything is changing in the world of advertising.

Does such advertising work?

Looked at solely on their own terms, some ads 'work' better than others. For example the brains poster is witty because it uses the enemy's imagery against the enemy (it is eugenicists who normally use brain sizes to construct their racist arguments). And what a pity that the Royal Family refused to let their image be used in a proposed advert showing Buckingham Palace with the caption 'Immigrants get all the best housing, don't they?' That too would have been both witty and political.

But ironic double-meaning headlines or images have to be used very skilfully. They work, for example, on the education advert which reads, 'Children from ethnic minorities get the worst marks in school', with a photo of a scarred child. On one level you immediately see the effects of racial violence. But the additional text takes on the other meaning of marks to show racism in the schooling system.

But in other cases irony can backfire and reinforce stereotypes. The ad about employment with images of lavatories and buckets stating 'Job openings' for ethnic minorities are 'everywhere' will certainly reinforce prejudices that blacks are fit only for 'shit work'. It hits the same problem as the police's ethnic recruitment ad did some years ago, which showed a white uniformed policeman chasing a black man. If we read lots of text, we find that both are policemen, which our prejudice prevented us from realising. But anyone moderately racist would just look at the image and be reinforced in the belief that blacks commit street crime.

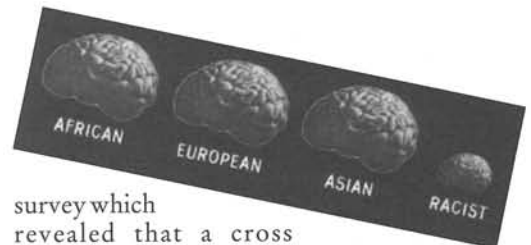
Preaching to the converted

Invariably, all such advertising preaches, if not to the anti-racist converted, at least to a middle class which is disposed to such arguments. In the words of the CRE's

campaigns officer, 'The aim is to spread the message to Middle England.' But such a national 'racism awareness' campaign reaches neither the racism that has hardened into bigotry nor the structured racism of the police force, the Asylum Bill or the education system.

For the whole philosophy underpinning the advertising campaign is to change individual attitudes. Launching the campaign with the racially innocent babies underlined the view that racism was, on the one hand, all in the mind and, on the other, about changing individual attitudes and behaviour. At best this strategy can lead to improved 'race relations' and make a dent in the racism that prevents middle-class members of ethnic minorities from gaining upward mobility. At worst it can allow racist institutions like the police force to feel justified in cleaving to the 'one rotten apple' theory. And it leaves completely out of the reckoning the racism which, today combined with poverty, is the racism that kills.

The CRE is proud of its consumer



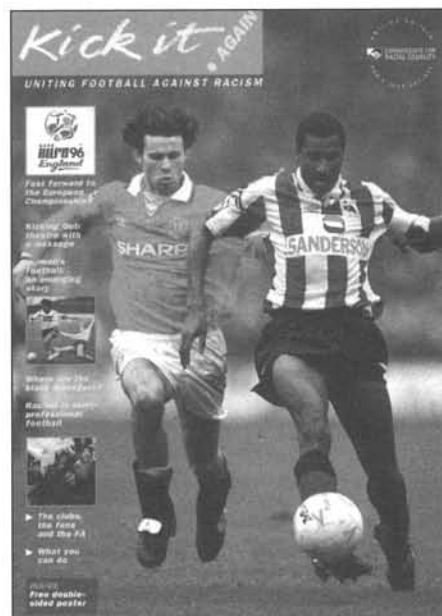
survey which revealed that a cross section of the public showed a fair recall of their ads and that over 80% of people approved of publicity being given to the issue of racism. But racism is not something that can be cross-sectioned. It does not have the same impact and power in working-class and middle-class communities, amongst the employed and unemployed, the housed and unhoused. Let us see what white residents of the Isle of Dogs made of the campaign if we are to test its efficacy!

In defence of their campaigns, CRE staff are quick to point out how popular their materials are with young people. But getting young people to display funny brains posters on their bedroom walls does not necessarily mean that anti-racism is anything more than a fashionable fad. After all, in France in the 1980s, when the SOS Racisme hand with the 'Touche pas à mon pote' [Don't touch my mate] slogan was adopted on badges, sweat-shirts, ads and posters by so many young middle-class whites, the Front National simultaneously gained its greatest strength.

Advertising plus activism

Quite simply, racism awareness writ large in a national form cannot fight racism. But, when an awareness campaign also involves people in some kind of activity it can be a powerful weapon, as the CRE has demonstrated with the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign.

This has been effective precisely because it linked the idea that racism was wrong to the fact that it would not be tolerated. There was new legislation against racist chanting, and clubs, players and fans were all involved in outlawing racism in football. Advertising alone is not enough. Advertising has to be linked to a programme of activism to be effective. ■



A black and white photograph of a tall, ornate street lamp in a town square. The lamp has a decorative top and a circular ring around the middle. In the background, there are brick buildings, including one with a sign that says "USED FURNITURE". A person is walking in the foreground, and another person is standing near the base of the lamp.

Racism on Tyneside



opposition. Some cameras are protected by reinforced ramparts, bollards and 'S' shaped approach roads designed to slow down traffic to reduce the risk of ramming, and mounted inside a bullet proof case on top of a 25 foot metal mast. Near the top of the mast is a vibrating metal ring which is designed to prevent the use of ladders to scale the mast. The structure is awesome and immediately invites comparisons with Northern Ireland. The end result is the management of those deemed 'surplus to requirements'. Since cameras are only concerned with property crimes, racial attacks continue just as before. Many homes have windows boarded and strong front doors. White people have them to make it difficult for their TV or video to leave home. Black people have them to make sure bricks or worse do not invade their home.

If you asked thirteen-year-old Gauri Vedhara, she would probably describe school as a living hell. Attacks and threats were made on her so often that her parents actually withdrew her from school for two weeks. Just when she was enduring the worst attacks, four black students who were doing some extra hockey practice were attacked by three white youths who snatched the hockey sticks and used them like baseball bats to beat the black student to the ground. These attacks took place not in the parts of Newcastle which are notorious for overt racism but in Gosforth, a middle-class area of pleasant streets and a relatively affluent population.

Newcastle is proud of the 90 CCTV camera scheme it has introduced with city challenge monies. This is the first closed circuit television system dedicated to residential (as opposed to shopping centre or industrial) monitoring in the UK.

Newcastle's black community

Black people have lived in Newcastle since



Mark Pinder/Metaphor

the city was established two millennia ago by the Romans as a garrison city charged with keeping the Scots in check. Blacks were brought first as conscript Roman soldiers. Later the black communities expanded as Arab seamen who crewed the cargo ships that left from the Tyne-side docks, began to settle in the port areas. Over the last twenty years, Chinese and Vietnamese communities have developed at Tynemouth and Whitley Bay, both North Sea coastal towns.

Today, with the city's population of around 260,000 falling, around half of the city's black population (which is 4% of the total) live in inner city areas with appalling social indices of poverty. The majority of black people are from Bangladesh and Pakistan and live in west Newcastle. Kurdish refugees and Iranians live predominantly in the surrounding towns. Recently east Newcastle, incorporating Byker, Heaton and Walker, has been home to Bosnian refugees.



Unlike other northern cities such as Liverpool or Manchester with large black populations, Newcastle did not hit the headlines in the 1970s and 1980s for uprisings against police racism or big 'show trials' of black activists. But since 1919, when Somali and Arab seamen stood up against local white racists, there has been organised resistance to racism. The murder in 1992 of Aziz Miah on his way to the mosque galvanised black youth, Asian and African-Caribbean alike, into activity. The Justice Campaign which led an angry demonstration from the estate where Mr Miah lived to the local police station was a watershed in black self-organisation in Newcastle. The Campaign and newsletter, 'Voice of Tomorrow', attracted wide publicity. Today anti-racism is focused in two new areas: the rights of refugees and the fight against racism in football.

Fighting for asylum rights

Today refugees are the hardest hit community and have adopted self-help strategies to provide aid and assistance, as there are few established organisations which are trusted. Now the North East Coalition for Asylum Rights has been formed to campaign against the Asylum and Immigration Bill. The coalition has

undertaken leafleting sessions and is pressing unions to make resources available and to assist in fund-raising for asylum-seekers made destitute by the new social security regulations.

Football crazy

Ironically, it is in football, where the police are now using CCTV evidence to locate and prosecute fans who rioted at the end of the season, that anti-racist initiatives are really taking off in Newcastle. Newcastle United exerts an influence on the city out of all proportion to its size, and is probably the last remaining institution that can generate mass excitement. Youth Against Racism in Europe and the Tyne and Wear Anti-Fascist Association have been involved with the local 'Kick Racism out of Football' campaign, and have had the support of the club and its players. In preparation for Euro 96, a 'Show racism the red card' video (including interviews with Viv Anderson, Les Ferdinand and French-born David Ginola) has been produced to be shown to fans on their way to the St James' park ground. Coordinator Ged Grebby said, 'Newcastle fans have shown some real internationalism on their travels in Europe. We want a good spirit during the championships - not Nazis.' ■

■ North East Coalition for Asylum Rights, c/o North of England Refugee Service, 19 Big Market, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1.

■ Youth Against Racism in Europe, c/o 1 Dury Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1.
■ TWAF, 4 The Cloth Market, Newcastle, NE1 1EA.

Chapeltown accused



The death of pensioner Stevan Popovic, an Oldham motorist who was fatally attacked when he asked directions in Chapeltown in April, set the seal on the area's reputation for violent crime - despite the fact that the young man arrested for the crime does not actually live in Chapeltown. In the eyes of the local police, supported by the local paper, the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, however, Chapeltown can do no right: in the words of the *Post* 18 months ago, a 'corrupt minority of scallies and raggas and arrogant armed yardies enforce a tinpot tyranny' in the area, while the 'ethnic card is used to excuse riot and mayhem', 'a rampaging mob will for blood and damage'.

The *Post* was describing the events of 14/15 October 1994, when violence broke out between around 200 mainly African-Caribbean young people and the police. The trial of ten of those arrested during those events started on 19 April 1996 but had to be stopped in early May, when pro-

secution witnesses gave evidence the judge had ruled they should not give. However, the evidence heard during the aborted trial about the policing of Chapeltown provided ample justification for the anger of residents and demonstrated how racism works in action to create the very conditions it fears.

It is hard to imagine police officers in a white middle-class area deciding to arrest a couple of young lads for cheeking them. It is even harder to imagine officers in such a situation putting out a radio call for reinforcements; or three police vehicles responding to the call and arriving on the scene within a minute. But this is what happened. Not only that: the police vehicles kept coming and kept coming till the street was full of them. (So much so that when police decided to retreat, they couldn't do so because of the jam their vehicles had created.)

Why was it necessary to have such reinforcements, to arrest two cheeky boys? Why arrest the boys in the first place, simply

for being rude? When officers were asked, they gave a one-word answer: 'Chapeltown'. Policing of Chapeltown is different from anywhere else in the city: when an officer calls for backup, everyone drops what they're doing and responds. The idea that this might be seen as a massive overreaction, and a serious provocation to residents of the area and young people at the local youth club outside which the events took place (which had never in its two-year history caused any trouble for the police) seemed never to occur to the officers. Nor did it occur to them that to meet verbal protests at their own heavy-handedness by violent arrest is to pour fuel on the flames.

Such inflammatory policing is only one side of the coin. The other is institutionalised neglect. If a shopkeeper or householder in the area calls the police, the response time can be up to an hour.

Those involved in the events of the night of 14/15 October 1994 will have to wait for several more months to give their testimony as to what happened, and their verdict on policing in Chapeltown. But there is no doubt about the black community's verdict: guilty of institutionalised racism, violence and neglect. ■



CAMPAIGNS AND REPORTS

Disarm the police

CS spray, having killed one person and injured others, now looks likely to become standard issue for officers

More than twenty people are taking legal action against the police, following the use of CS spray against them by police on a crowded coach in the Wirral, who refused to let people leave the coach or even to let in fresh air. Civil rights group Liberty has accused police of being in clear breach of ACPO guidelines which state that CS spray should only be used 'for dealing with violent subjects who cannot otherwise be restrained'. According to police records, the killer spray has been used 261 times during the twelve week trial. But it has also been used as a means of intimidation by officers. There have been several reports of officers taking out their spray canisters while questioning people in the street. Newham Monitoring Project has lodged a formal complaint against Forest Gate police officers about the treatment of Mr Remy, who alleges he was abused as a 'black cunt'. When he asked the police to leave him alone, he says an officer pulled out his CS spray and kned him in the side of the head before throwing him into a police van and stamping on his neck.

Sey family targeted

Friends and family of Ibrahima Sey, the first person to die in the CS spray trials, have been outspoken in their demands for justice and to establish the truth about Ibrahima's

death. As a result, they say, they have suffered further harassment at the hands of police. On his return from Ibrahima's funeral in Gambia, his brother Aliu was questioned at the airport on suspicion of involvement in a robbery in which a police officer was killed. Although he was released, he was later rearrested and his passport confiscated, and he is now being held on remand awaiting extradition to Germany on suspicion of drugs offences. The Sey family, however, are determined to continue to fight for the truth.

More deaths

In London there have been two more deaths at the hands of police. The family of Turkish Cypriot Ziya Mustafa Bitirim are demanding answers about his death during arrest in April. Police were called to a street in Whetstone, north London after reports of someone throwing things at passing cars. Three police officers chased Ziya, who vomited and collapsed during his arrest. After seeing bruises on his body, his mother is demanding that the investigation, which has been referred to the Police Complaints Authority, establishes how much force was used during his arrest.

A week later, in south London, 36-year-old Donovan Williams died after collapsing choking in his cell at Peckham police station.

Although the first post mortem was inconclusive, it seems he may have been carrying crack cocaine in his mouth. Correct detention and search procedures could have saved him, campaigners say.

More brutality

Meanwhile, oppressive policing continues on a daily basis. In Birm-



Bev Williams lays a wreath outside Peckham police station where her husband Donovan died.

ingham on 9 April over 200 Asian youth took to the street to protest at police mistreatment. A row over a parking ticket led to three arrests described as 'unjustifiable' by eye-witnesses. A few hours later riot police were called as Digbeth police station was surrounded in a protest at police heavy-handedness.

No redress

The events in Birmingham mirror those in Bradford last June which led to charges against four Asian youths (see *CARF* 27). Although charges against the four were eventually thrown out of court and the police version of events totally discredited, a Police Complaints Authority report has cleared all officers involved of any blame. And an officer who hit a handcuffed man over the head with a truncheon, causing a wound which required five stitches, is still policing the streets despite a jury awarding his victim, 29-year-old Daniel Goswell, £302,000 in damages. Nor, it seems, will any officers be brought to book for the death of Brian Douglas, a 33-year-old music and boxing promoter from south London who died from a fractured skull after his arrest by police using new long-handled batons. The Crown Prosecution Service has announced that there is insufficient evidence to secure a conviction and no officers are to be charged. Although Brian's family have pledged to bring a private prosecution against the officers, the black community is forced to ask how long it will be before a police officer is held responsible for any of these deaths and injuries, and is brought to justice. ■

DISARM THE POLICE



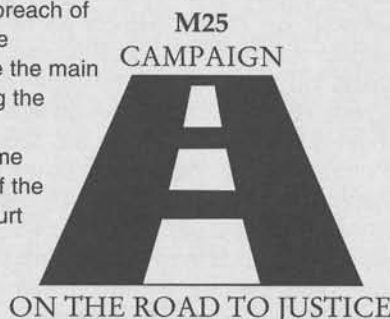
Aziz Rahman

Free the M25 Three

After languishing in jail for six years, the 'M25 Three' have new hope that the Home Office review of their convictions will be successful, after a juror from the original trial expressed the belief that the three – Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis and Randolph Johnson – were only convicted of robbery and murder because they are black. The incidents took place around the Surrey stockbroker belt in 1988. The victims described the criminals, known as the 'M25 gang', as one black and two white. The huge amount of tabloid press coverage at the time ('I came face to face with the machete killer gang' – *News of the World*) put police under huge pressure to gain convictions, and a £25,000 reward was offered for information. But there are grounds for suspecting a racist fit-up. During the investigation police conducted an unrecorded interview, in clear breach of PACE guidelines, with a white suspect who fitted the description of one of the gang but who later became the main prosecution witness against the three after admitting the lesser charge of handling stolen goods.

Now the families of the M25 Three are demanding some urgent answers to questions about the racial bias of the trial jury, and want the case referred back to the Court of Appeal. ■

M25 Three Campaign, 28 Grimsell Path, Camberwell, London SE5 0TB. Tel 0171-735 2985.



• FASCIST ROUND-UP • FASCIST ROUND-UP • FASCIST ROUND-UP •

Combat 18 'stewarding' debacle

Combat 18 members made another feeble attempt to flex their muscles by stewarding two Apprentice Boys' marches in April. The first, scheduled to take place in Bolton on 13 April, was set up by Mark Dooley, organiser of the Manchester and Salford branch of the English Amalgamated Committee for the Apprentice Boys of Derry. Dooley is an active fascist with convictions for violent racist activity with the Bolton Wanderers football firm.

Dooley's efforts came to naught after Bolton's Irish community joined with anti-fascists to counter the provocative loyalist/fascist march. Police, who had given the march the green light, changed their mind when they realised the strength of the opposition and banned the march. Throughout the day there were sporadic skirmishes between loyalist/C18 members and anti-fascists, with members of the Apprentice Boys overheard complaining about the incompetence of C18 'stewarding' abilities.

On the London march, on 27 April, London C18 stewards were noticeable by their absence. Despite their boast in their magazine *Putsch* that they 'run the reds off the streets of London', their loyalist comrades, obviously judging them by their Bolton performance, reportedly told them not to bother turning up. A sad mob of about 30-40 C18 stewards from outside London accompanied the march in a belated attempt to steward what appeared to be one and a half flute bands. A pre-march confrontation in Holborn resulted in five loyalists being taken to hospital.

The history of joint loyalist/fascist violence contradicts the claim by Jim McDowell, Sec-



Loyalists march through London with the help of C18

retary of the Apprentice Boys in England, that 'We would prefer them [C18] not to come along.' If you don't want the fascists on your march, why don't you simply tell them to piss off, Jim?

The Twilight Zone

The May local elections provided further evidence that the BNP's electoral strategy is disintegrating. In their wake, 'elections organiser' Eddie Butler was ousted and deputy leader David Bruce and east London organiser Dave King were appointed 'assistant national coordinators'.

The BNP managed a miserly four candidates in the May elections (compared with ten in 1995), in the west Midlands, Staffordshire and Lancashire. The National Democrats (formerly the National Front) fielded eight candidates in the west Midlands, Staffordshire, Devon and Derbyshire.

The rapidly fading BNP and the already depleted National Democrats are fighting it out in the west Midlands. For the BNP, local organiser Keith Axon stood in the King-standing ward and Lee Windridge in North-

Kings X Two appeal

Freedom came a step closer for Badrul Miah and Showkat Akbar when they were granted leave to appeal in April. Their convictions, for murder and violent disorder respectively, arose after the killing of white schoolboy Richard Everitt in Somers Town, north London in 1994. Although the Everitt family have been outspoken in their belief that Badrul and Showkat are guilty, those who witnessed the repressive and racist police operation in Somers Town and the flimsy evidence at the trial are determined to secure justice for the Kings X Two.



Darren Jakobsen

The convictions, according to observers, are paper thin. Miah, who received a life sentence for murder, was not picked out on any identity parades and the main evidence against him was from a spurned ex-girlfriend. The only other evidence was specks of Everitt's blood on his jeans, which he said was spattered on him as Everitt ran towards him after being stabbed. Even the judge accepted that Badrul had not inflicted the fatal knife wound; having told the jury to convict him on the basis of a 'joint enterprise' of murder, she told Badrul that he was 'carrying the can' for those who had not been caught.

The campaign to free the Kings X Two now urgently needs donations and sponsors to continue publicity work leading up to the appeal hearing. ■

Please send donations, made payable to the 'Kings X Two campaign' to Free the Kings X Two Campaign, Box 132, 63 Camden High Street London NW1 7JL. Tel 0171 388 3259.

field. Neither got above 5% of the vote, which is par for the course, but more disturbingly for führer Tyndall's electoral strategy, both were trounced by the NDs, who stood three candidates in Dudley, where Simon Derby got 222 (12%) votes in the Castle and Priory ward, and in Sandwell, where Steve Edwards got 263 (8%) votes in the Tipton Green ward and Mark Salmon got 102 (4%) in Friar Park.

The NDs also outperformed the BNP in Staffordshire, fielding three candidates in Cannock with Mark Middleton, in Heath Hayes ward, getting 133 (7%) votes and the Carmichaels managing almost 150 votes between them. Steven Batkin stood for the BNP in Stoke, Fenton Green ward where he got 133 votes. Graham Hardy (ND) in Derby, Boulton ward and Christian Jackson (BNP) in Lancashire, Todmorden received less than 90 votes (3%). Finally, Karen Needs, standing for the NDs in Exeter (Polsoe), saw her vote increase by 19% over the previous year. She polled 31 votes. ■

Asian women take on corporate might

56 Asian women cleaners at Hillingdon hospital in west London have been on strike since last October. They are resisting the appalling conditions and wage cuts imposed by Pall Mall Hotel Services, a private contractor which has taken over ancillary services at the hospital. Many of the strikers have worked at the hospital for over fifteen years, and this is the third time they have been faced with a pay cut from private contractors. They are up against a company whose directors pay themselves £140,000 a year and whose parent company, the Davies Services Group, made a profit of £25 million last year. Pall Mall has been in constant conflict with workers since 1992, with disputes at hospitals in Barnsley, Basildon and Glasgow.



Sobha Janah

The company is refusing to abide by 1982 TUPE European legislation which protects the pay and conditions of public sector workers. Last October it tried to force workers to sign new contracts which restricted London weighting allowances, overtime and holiday entitlements, amounting to a 20 per cent pay cut (£35 per week). The strikers, all Asian women, were sacked after refusing to sign the contracts, and are now striking to get their jobs back and for decent pay and conditions.

Unison has, after much pressure, declared the strike official and the women have been picketing the hospital every day. Support has come from other strikers, from the Liverpool dockers to JJ Fast Foods in Hackney, and the strike has had an impact on other Pall Mall operations – at a Haringey hospital, Pall Mall was given the cleaning contract only on condition that it did not reduce wages and conditions. But the picketing women have faced racist abuse and attacks from hospital patients and passers-by, as well as other hospital staff. They now need as much support as possible on the picket line in order to win their struggle. ■

Hillingdon Hospital Support Campaign, Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Tel 01895-255071. Ring 0171-713 7907 for picket info.

BBC SACKS ARABS

Journalists' and broadcasters' unions launched a campaign in April to fight the closure of the BBC Worldwide's Arabic Television service and the sacking of over 100 journalists. The BBC's editorial independence was compromised, say the unions, by the contract it signed in 1994 with Orbit Communications, a satellite company controlled by members of the Saudi royal family, which carried its programmes to the Middle East and north Africa. In January 1996 Orbit began blacking out programmes it perceived as hostile to the Saudi regime, and it broke off the contract after a Panorama programme, *Death of a Principle*, which highlighted human rights abuses. Journalists who were recruited by promises of long-term jobs now face the sack, and some face deportation as they can no longer comply with work-permit conditions. 'One day they

were congratulating us for excellent coverage of Lebanon,' said one journalist, 'the next day management locked us out of our newsroom and treated us like criminals.' Two journalists have had to apply for political asylum, as their reports make them vulnerable to imprisonment or worse.

The unions blame the commercialisation of the BBC for its betrayal of the journalists and of its promise that any hostile action by Orbit would not affect jobs or programmes. They want the BBC to recognise its folly in entering into the deal, and to keep Arabic TV going as the only independent voice in the Middle East. ■

More information and messages of support to: NUJ, Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP. Tel: 0171 278 7916, e-mail NUJ@mcr1.poptel.org.uk

BECTU (Television Office), 280 Design Building, TV Centre, BBC Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush, London W12 7RJ, Tel: 0181 576 1965.

Euroscene victory

Turkish workers at Euroscene, a small clothing factory in Haringey, north London, went on strike to protest at the bullying from their boss. The final straw came when a worker was hit by the boss and then sacked. In response fifteen of the twenty-five workers walked out demanding his reinstatement and union recognition. They have received a lot of support from the Turkish community and local trade unionists and teachers at the neighbouring school held collections for them and joined them on the picket line. Within five days the boss capitulated to their demands, although he only gave them limited union recognition. This is the third successful strike fought by Turkish workers in the last six months. There is still a long way to go, but this victory shows that it is possible to win against the odds, and it demonstrates the Turkish workers desire to do so. ■

Internationalism in education

We thank the many *CARF* readers who supported our campaign for sacked head teacher Chris Searle and Earl Marshal School governors in Sheffield (see *CARF* 30). Latest to voice their outrage are the children of Kinderladen Maimouna in Hamburg. A letter to the Sheffield Director of Education states: 'We like to express our protest about the decision made on Earl Marshal School, especially the transference of Mr Chris Searle, an educationalist who is highly respected in Hamburg! We are very upset because his excellent work set an example to our own, facing a similar situation. In the name of all children, here and there, we ask you to take back your decision and let Mr Searle continue his work at Earl Marshal.' ■

ADE ONIBIYO DEPORTED



Ade Onibiyo was deported after losing his appeal in the Court of Appeal in April – but not to Nigeria. Supporters managed to get the consent of the Guyana government for him to go there, where at least he will be safe. The family have still heard nothing from their father, deported to Nigeria several months ago. ■

Yilmaz march

A crowd of two thousand people, mainly from the Turkish and Kurdish communities, marched with a sprinkling of anti-racist supporters in May to protest the extradition of Kani Yilmaz to Germany. Yilmaz, the European representative of the PKK in exile, was invited to London to speak at a House of Commons meeting in October 1994, and has been in Belmarsh prison since his arrest on the steps of Westminster tube station on his way to the meeting. Magistrates ordered his extradition last summer on what most observers recognise as trumped-up charges. His appeal against the extradition order was due to be heard in the High Court on 20 May, but two days beforehand the venue was changed, allegedly on the orders of the judge, to Woolwich Crown court, next to Belmarsh prison. The reason was given as 'security', but criminal lawyers who have been involved in high-profile 'terrorist' cases had never heard of such a move. The hearing was then postponed, and is now expected in June.

Yilmaz's attempted extradition to Germany is seen by campaigners as a blatantly political act which both symbolises and cements western European collaboration in the Turkish state's elimination of the Kurdish people. If returned to Germany, there is little doubt but that he will end up back in a Turkish jail. ■

Defend the Kurds Campaign, 44 Ainger Road, London NW3 3AT. Tel 0171 586 5892/0171 2501315

Migrants Against HIV/AIDS

Ethiopian Jews made headlines in January when Israel's riot police used water cannon and tear gas to break up a 10,000 strong demonstration. The protest was against the Israeli blood bank's policy of automatically dumping blood donated by Ethiopian Jews on the assumption that it would be contaminated with the HIV virus. This is just one example of how AIDS has become synonymous with African migrants. Across Europe the threat of AIDS is frequently used as a justification for ever harsher immigration control, just as those from the Indian sub-continent were blamed for the spread of tuberculosis. At the same time, increasing restrictions on health care for unregistered migrants has meant that those who are HIV-positive find access to treatment ever more difficult.

Now a new network has been formed to link up local efforts and campaigns against HIV/AIDS by black and Third World communities from a pan-European and international perspective. Migrants Against HIV/AIDS is organising for better access to health care and against forced HIV testing and deportations of unregistered migrants in Fortress Europe and for an effective response to media which stigmatises migrants/minorities with HIV. Their monthly newsletter is an excellent resource documenting grassroots initiatives against HIV/AIDS and analysing international and governmental responses. The current issue includes reports on the racism of the British press, who claimed that Irish AIDS patients



'flock to Britain for free housing' and the campaign by the US government to stigmatise all Haitians as HIV carriers. ■

Migrants Against HIV/AIDS is produced monthly and is available from 14 bd Pont d'Arve, CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel/fax (+41 22) 320 0527

E-mail migrants@iprolink.ch

Price: 25 Swiss francs (ind) 60 Swiss francs (org).

ASYLUM BILL UPDATE

Whose side is Jack on?

Government ministers are still pushing the vicious Asylum and Immigration Bill through parliament, despite strong opposition from everyone except the Labour party. Jack Straw told a sceptical Hyde Park rally in April that Labour would 'continue to oppose the Bill every step of the way', but his failure to support a Lib Dem House of Lords amendment provoked Alex Carlile to ask, 'Whose side are you on, Jack?' Meanwhile, a coalition led by Baroness Williams defeated the government in the Lords and inserted a clause exempting torture victims, and those coming from countries with a record of torture, from the 'safe country' procedures in the Bill. The Home Office, convinced that bogus claimants will cynically take advantage of this loophole by mutilating themselves and beating themselves up, accused the Lords of sabotage and vowed to overturn the clause in the Commons, so that torture victims from friendly, 'safe' countries to whom the government sells arms can be shipped off home as quickly as possible.

Capitulation

The government's defeat in the Lords was compounded by defeats in the courts. Mohammed al-Masari's victory in his appeal against deportation was followed in April by abandonment of government efforts to get him out of the country, and he was finally granted leave to stay in Britain for four years. The capitulation followed condemnation from every possible source of the violation of Masari's asylum rights for the sake of safeguarding arms contracts with Saudi Arabia. Days later, a High Court judge ruled that a group of Kurdish, Iraqi and Togolese asylum-seekers could not safely be sent back to Belgium, the country they travelled through to come to Britain, because of the risk of 'chain deportations' from there. ■

Stop deportations

NMP



Over 200 pupils from Forest Gate school in east London held a spontaneous protest and marched to a local park in May to save their friend, 12-year-old Natasha Mambelle from deportation. Natasha was given a one-month stay after local MP Tony Banks made last-minute representations to prevent her deportation to Angola where her mother and brother were killed.

Several families in Hackney are working together with local trade unions to fight deportation.

- Mircea Ilin fled from Romania as a refugee and is being held in Rochester prison awaiting a judicial review against deportation. Police attempted to forcibly deport him last year but retreated after he threatened to kill himself.
- Rabi ul-Islam, a Hackney science

teacher, faces deportation to Bangladesh. His crime was to gain employment in Britain after finishing his studies.

- Wale Croft works for Hackney council, as does her British-born husband Vincent. Their marriage counts for nothing to the Home Office as Wale is from Nigeria.
- Fatma Tahir is a Turkish Cypriot. Her daughter is severely disabled and has epilepsy but cannot receive adequate care if the family are deported. ■

Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8
Rally 2.30pm Hackney Downs
Called by Hackney Unison

Stop deportations demo

Saturday 15 June, assemble 12 noon

MAR 28 Ministry of Defence and Commission for Racial Equality agree action plan to eliminate racial harassment in Household Cavalry... Manchester's Hasidic Jewish community suspect racist arson when fire guts classroom block at religious school... 69-year-old second world war veteran hits out at nazi groups after receiving holocaust denial literature at his Newcastle home... 19-year-old Nepalese boy Jay Khadka, heir to Beiriah adoptive father's millions, ordered to leave Britain... Court of Appeal backs Home secretary's refusal to grant Nigerian student Ade Onibiyo political asylum but rules that he has a right to a second claim **MAR 30** Met police launch inquiry into stop and search figures which show that blacks are five times more likely than whites to be stopped, though only one in nine is arrested... Two soldiers burst into army race relations conference dressed as Ku Klux Klan members as a practical joke **APR 1** Spaniard Javier Izquierdo awarded £5,000 compensation for racial discrimination after Scunthorpe firm refused him a job on basis of dark photo thinking he was black... Scunthorpe court hears how 26-year-old Royce Goulby launched unprovoked racist attack on two brothers in fast food queue because he 'didn't like Asians, Pakistanis and Indians' **APR 2** Met police commissioner attends meeting of Lambeth Police community consultative group and admits there is racism in police force... Two teenagers sent to young offenders' institute after violent racist attack on 14-year-old Asian schoolboy in a Peterborough classroom **APR 3** Gangs of white teenage girls are terrorising black single mothers on south London council estates says Southwark council report... Party leaders endorse CRE code of conduct on political campaigning and vow not to play race card in election campaigns... Crown Prosecution Service says there is insufficient evidence to prosecute officers for death of Brian Douglas, beaten with police batons in south London last year **APR 4** Former policeman Lawrence Ramadas accuses Strathclyde police, Scotland's largest force, of racial discrimination... Church of Scotland is condemned by Home Office minister after report urges congregations to oppose asylum laws and offer sanctuary to deportees **APR 5** Nottingham City Council agrees tough new measures to help stamp out racial harassment after 146 cases in 1995 **APR 9** Two arrested after disturbances in Birmingham follow heavy-handed policing of Asian community **APR 11** Home Office statistics reveal nearly 12,000 racist incidents were reported to the police in the year to March 1995, showing increase of eight per cent a year... Bolton police stop march by Ulster loyalist group Apprentice Boys of Londonderry, who have close links with Combat 18 **APR 12** British Airports Authority reverses ban on information posters for asylum-seekers at airports but denies original decision was political **APR 15** Shaaidsa Yousaf sues estate agents for £20,000 damages for discrimination, after they refused to show her a house because she is Pakistani **APR 17** Publishers John Wiley & Sons withdraw Chris Brand's book which claims that black people are genetically less intelligent than whites **APR 19** Two separate High Court judges rule that Home Secretary acted wrongly in rejecting asylum applications by applying wrong criteria **APR 20** Labour's Jack Straw addresses demonstration against Asylum Bill and unveils Labour's own proposals to curb illegal immigration **APR 22** Launch meeting of Birmingham Partnership Against Racial Harassment hears 28-year-old mother describe how racist harassment forced her to move home four times **APR 23** Court of Appeal rules that it is illegal for housing authorities to evict tenants

1996

CALENDAR OF RACE AND RESISTANCE

because they are 'illegal immigrants' **APR 25** TUC Black Workers conference launches report showing that black workers' earnings are 5 per cent lower than whites' and they are twice as likely to be unemployed... Three men walk free after the collapse of the private prosecution case brought on by the parents of murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence... CRE states that doctors from ethnic minority backgrounds are far less likely to be given senior positions in the health service than white doctors. **APR 26** Daniel Goswell is awarded record damages of £302,000 against the Met police after being hit on head with truncheon, causing wound which required five stitches... Study reveals that suicide rate among Asian-origin women in Britain is twice the national average... Senior Labour councillor Peter Kenyon of Hackney is under investigation by Labour NEC over allegations of anti-Semitism **APR 30** Pakistani Mal Hussein is hounded from his shop after being petrol-bombed and stoned by racists... Former Strathclyde council

illor Neelam Bakshi makes legal first by winning race discrimination case at Employment Appeals Tribunal in Scotland **MAY 2** Iranian Daniel Raphael wins appeal against conviction for heroin dealing after serving 44 months of five-year sentence **MAY 3** Nigerian student Ade Onibiyo offered sanctuary in Guyana, South America... Childless Pakistani couple win appeal to adopt boy relative from Pakistan... Government report says drug use is 'substantially higher' among young whites than among blacks of the same age **MAY 4** CRE considers investigation into CPS for its alleged discrimination against black employees... Black and Asian police officers in Leicestershire unite to form a Black Police Association... Francis Pitt, a cleaner from Hove, is convicted of having racist material for making posters calling for immigrants to keep out of Britain **MAY 13** Police are using CS gas sprays in breach of their own guidelines, Liberty claims **MAY 14** Special branch detectives raid three homes in west London and arrest three men for production of 'racially inflammatory' material, later released on police bail... Three London students and a teacher fined £1,000 for throwing paint at Tory party chairman Brian Mahwhinney in protest at Asylum Bill **MAY 15** CRE accuses government of 'lamentable neglect' for failing to take seriously 'crisis of educational underachievement' by some ethnic groups **MAY 16** Home Office figures show nearly 2,800 rejected asylum seekers were deported in 1995 - an increase of more than 35% over 1994... Home Office figures show 29 per cent reduction in asylum applications in past three months... Head of German football intelligence unit says they cannot stop over 1,000 football hooligans travelling to Euro '96 tournament **MAY 20** LibDem leader Paddy Ashdown attacks 'petty xenophobic nationalism' of Conservatives

MAY 22 Commission for Racial Equality rules that British Rail discriminated against Asian applicants through use of psychometric tests **MAY 23**

22-year-old Marcia Onwuna unconscious after beating by gang of six Liverpool school-boys... Anyone found sheltering Swindon pensioner Mumtaz Begum could face prosecution, warns Home Office after she refuses to be deported to Pakistan **MAY 24** Ten black men banned from shopping centre take their case to European Court of Human Rights and sue company for racial discrimination **MAY 27** Research for Radio 5 shows a third of the population believe that racism has worsened **MAY 28** Seven black workers at Ford motor plant say they have been barred from well-paid jobs due to racism and announce plans to go to industrial tribunal **MAY 29** Prime minister says he wants more black parliamentary candidates.

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