

## THREE YEARS ON - AND THE VICTIMISED MINERS ARE STILL DIGGING IN FOR VICTORY

Three years ago we started this newsletter. It was at the height of the miners strike. That strike was about jobs and the future of an industry, it was against a ruthless employer backed up by a heartless government.

Well, just to remind you ... nothing much has changed. Most of all its not changed for those men sacked in the strike who still remain sacked. Don't forget them - they're facing another Xmas still in struggle.

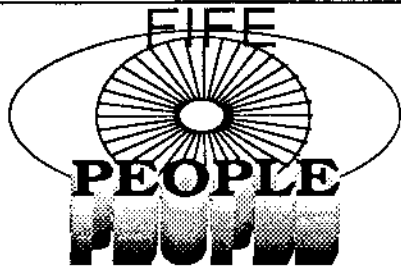
We're still fighting for the industry: the success of the campaign to reopen Frances is crucial to the well being of Fife. 16000 + Kirkcaldy workers have been made redundant under Thatcher. We need good news, we'll only get it if we work for it.

And "British Coal"? Have they changed - or have they only changed their name? Well, their decision to refuse neutral arbitration in the "disciplinary code" dispute shows they still a worthy successors to the coal owners of old. Nothing much has changed: nor will it till we make it change.

(The Sacked Miners Hardship Fund is at c/o NUM,  
5 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh)



## LET'S NOT FORGET THEM



Starting off with everyone's favourites, the Fife Police. No doubt you were brokenhearted to read in the Sunday Mail, of how their cars were damaged through using "New Formula" Shell petrol. They obviously hadn't heard of Anti-Apartheid's boycott of Shell. If only they had read Trades Council News! ....Alex Falconer's opinions of the EEC are well known. He spends much of his time campaigning against the damage it does. But at last he's found a constituent who has benefited from membership. A bus driver taking us to Glasgow for the "Festival For Democracy" suffers from a rare disease that means he can't eat flour. He couldn't eat Mars bars until the EEC stopped the company packing their bars with flour as a cheap binding agent. Mind you, our MP's could have taken effective action against this years ago....Bobby O'Donnell was presented with a Crystal Bowl and cheque by Henry McLeish, MP at a social in his honour last week. Henry, speaking for Bobby's many friends in Levenmouth Trades Council, spoke of his lifetime of service to the working class and the cause of peace....Not long ago we reported that Linda MacCartney had been chosen as the first Equal Opportunities Officer for the Fife FBU (the Firefighters Union). Well, the Scottish Region of the same union have followed their lead and Jim Mathews of Perth has taken up a similar post at that level.

## HEY MAC, HERE'S MAC

**The Mobile Advice Centre (Scottish Council On Disability) will be touring Fife in October.**

Dates Are As Follows:

Sunday 11th	Pitencrieff Fair	10.00 - 16.00
Monday 12th	Blyth Square, Newport	10.00 - 12.00
	Fluther's Car Park, Cupar	2.00 - 4.00
Tuesday 13th	The Fountain, St Andrews	10.00 - 12.00
	The Harbour, Anstruther	2.00 - 4.00
Wednesday 14th	Forward Centre, Glenrothes	10.00 - 12.00
	Shopping Centre Car Park, Glenrothes	2.00 - 4.00
Thursday 15th	Possibly Bus Station, Kirkcaldy	10.00 - 4.00
Friday 16th	Viewforth Day Centre, Kirkcaldy	10.00 - 12.00
	Templehall, Kirkcaldy	2.00 - 4.00
Saturday 17th	Kingsgate or Glengates, Dunfermline	10.00 - 4.00
Monday 19th	Possibly Shops / Bingo Hall, Rosyth	10.00 - 12.00
	Kincardine	2.00 - 4.00
Tuesday 20th	Swimmingpool, Cowdenbeath	10.00 - 12.00
	Lochgelly Centre	2.00 - 4.00
Wednesday 21st	The Centre, Leven	10.00 - 12.00
	Methil	2.00 - 4.00

## Q -When is a job not a job?

### When it is a temporary job!

More jobs are going in Fife's electronic industry. On top of the redundancies at GEC and Rodime, 25 technicians are being paid off in Marconi and nearly 50 people are to go at Philips-MEL. Meanwhile Rodime, Fife's market leader in exploitation and grant grabbing, have reached a new low in the misuse of temporary contracts. We've heard of a worker who was paid off, then rung and offered a job back. She started on the Wednesday and was paid off on Thursday. They then rang her up and asked if she wanted another start!

## AROUND THE TRADES COUNCILS

**Cowdenbeath** are to campaign for the long overdue Day Hospital promised for their town. They're suspicious that Fife Health Board would like to quietly forget it.

**Levenmouth** are concerned at rumours that the Government are to tighten up "availability for work" rules. The Tories, apparently, would like to disqualify more people from dole payments. It helps the figures to look good.

**Kirkcaldy** are to take up the most important campaign of all. They want to attack the "defeatism" all too common among workers these days. As their delegate Dave Rutherford said "Of course people feel they can't fight back if they won't get up off their knees."

**Apologies - to all the people caught up in the confusion of when the buses came back from the "Festival For Democracy" - and where they went to. We know the guilty persons. they will be punished!**

## Women's Network Begins

On May 23rd 1987, the Workers Educational Association held a Women's Day in Kirkcaldy. There was a general feeling amongst those who came along that it would be a good idea to form a Network, to enable women from all over Fife to share views and experiences. This new network is now being launched with the first issue of a Newsletter - Women's Education In Action - and the first meeting for members of the Network, and any other women who may be interested in coming along. The meeting is to be addressed by Sam Galbraith, MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden. Sam will be talking about women's health issues - how can these be improved, what action we can take now, etc. Also, very importantly, he wants to hear from women in Fife what they want out of the health service - so do come along, it's a good chance for your views on women's health to be taken up in the House of Commons. The meeting will be at the Volunteer Centre in Kirkcaldy on October 7th at 7pm.

## Help CPAG Get Rich

Xmas cards from the Child Poverty Action Group (£1.95 for 10), from CPAG, 1 - 5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY.

(You can also help by selling their raffle tickets, available from the same address)

## Advertise in Trades Council News!

Full page  
Ad £80

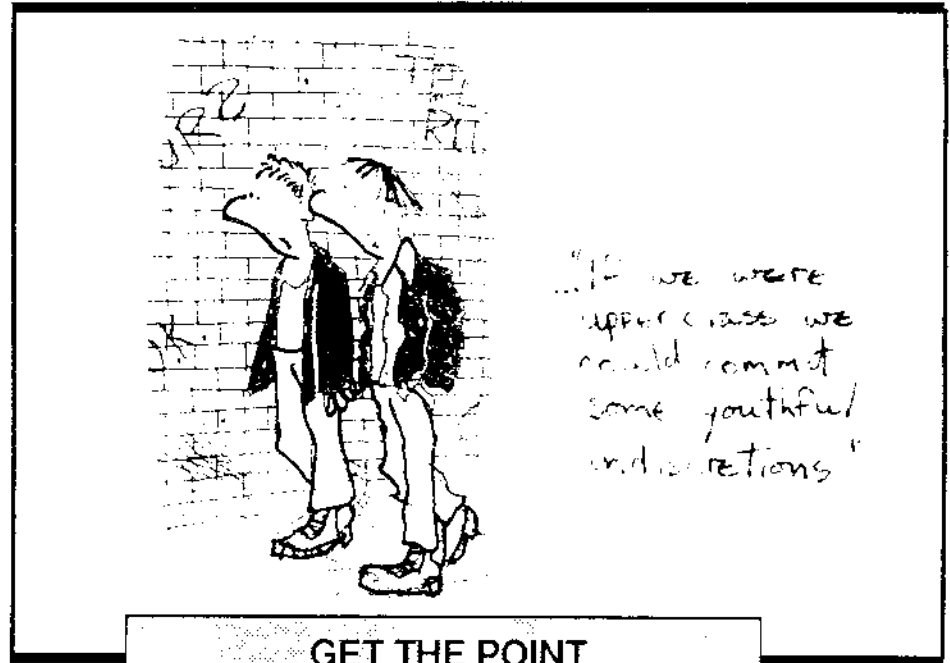
Half Page  
Ad £45

Quarter Page  
Ad £25

1/8 Page  
Ad £15

1/16 Page  
Ad £10

Small ads are 10p per word!



**GET THE POINT**

## MAKE ROOM FOR WOMEN

"It is up to men activists as well as women to make sure that women's needs become more central trade union concerns.

Otherwise it will remain hard to convince women that it's worth getting involved in the union."

This is from a TUC Report brought out in 1983. But what has actually been done, what could be done and what needs to be done.

These issues are looked at in a new report "The TUC and Working Women's Lives".

It costs £2 from CWW, 7 Ashley Avenue, Bath BA1 3DR.

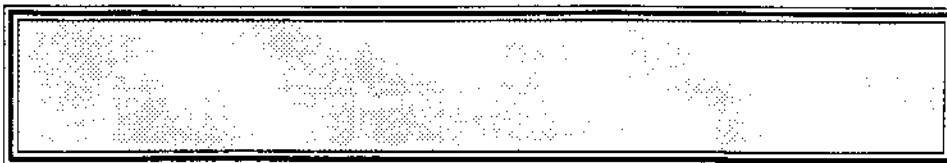
## A LONG MARCH

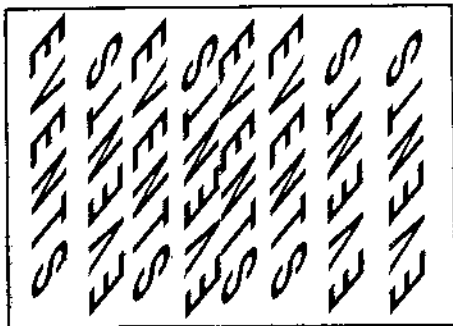
A very special play is coming to Scotland. The actors are totally involved in its production. It is about their own lives and their own struggle.

The play "Long March" is a shocking story. A story of workers in South Africa for the BTR Group who've been on strike for 2 and a half years.

It's also a story of solidarity and survival and one very relevant to Fife. BTR own at least two companies here, Dunlops in Dunfermline and Welco in Inverkeithing.

They are here in Scotland from 12th to 17th October - try and get along.





**30th Sept.** 7pm Room 1 Carnegie Centre - "An Unemployed Workers Centre For Dunfermline?" Public meeting organised by Dunfermline Trades Council.

**7th Oct** 7pm, Volunteer Centre, Kirkcaldy. "Women's Health" Public meeting organised by WEA. Speaker Sam Galbraith, MP.

**15th Oct** 3pm Crossgates Community Centre. Meeting open to Labour Party members on Local Government Finance. Speaker Maria Fyfe MP.

**16th Oct** 9pm, Bowhill War Memorial Club, Annual Dinner/Dance. Tickets £5 (Concessions unemployed, OAPs) from R. Reilly, 35 Craigside Avenue, Cardenden. Organised by Carrdenden / Kinglassie Labour Party.

**17th Oct** 10am - 4pm. "The Next Move Forward: Trade Unions, Labour and Society". Seminar organised by WEA. Applications to WEA, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh (£5, £2 unwaged / low paid)

**21st Oct** 8pm, Community Centre, Methil. Public Meeting "The Government proposals for schools" (Organised by Levenmouth Trades Council).

**7th Nov.** 8pm, Ballingry Village Hall. Dance/Bufferet. Tickets £4.50 from A. Gray, 35 Malcolm Street, Ballingry. Organised by Ballingry / Lachore Labour Party.

**15th Nov** 3pm Crossgates Community Centre. Meeting open to Labour Party members on "Policies For Local Government". Speaker Donald Dewar MP (Organised by Dunfermline East CLP)

#### Weekend Courses at Lauder Tech.

**3/4th Oct** Strategy For Scotland.  
**31st Oct / 1st Nov** Multi-nationals  
**21st/22nd Nov** Using The Media  
**12/13th Dec** Employment Law

Details from John Malone (0353 726201)

#### Right:

The Government now plan to "privatise" the Driving Test.

## Did You Know

\* That the richest 1% own 21% of the personal wealth of this country. The richest 10% own 52%.

The poorest half have just 70% of personal wealth.

✦ That in England 3.4% of houses are overcrowded. In Scotland the figure is a staggering 14.1%.

✓ That the fallout from Chernobyl is still having an effect on British cattle. More than 500,000 sheep on 564 farms are banned from movement and slaughter.

\* that after the Poll tax is introduced over 80% of Scottish local government income will be controlled by central government - compared with 55% now

Latest Donations include:

£ £ £ £ £

Faith Mann  
 Cllr Danny Cepok  
 D. & Cllr J. Lockhart  
 EIS(Fife)  
 Nupe, Dunfermline District Committee

**OI! Don't forget our raffle. We need the money. Order books now from Derrick Stubbs, 29 Morlich Court, Dalgety Bay.**

Remember, we need over £300 each month to continue to produce Trades Council News. Please help us by sending money or placing adverts. Send details to 105/3 Queensferry Road, Rosyth.

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#### THE LAST WORD

Pssst! - driving licence?

