

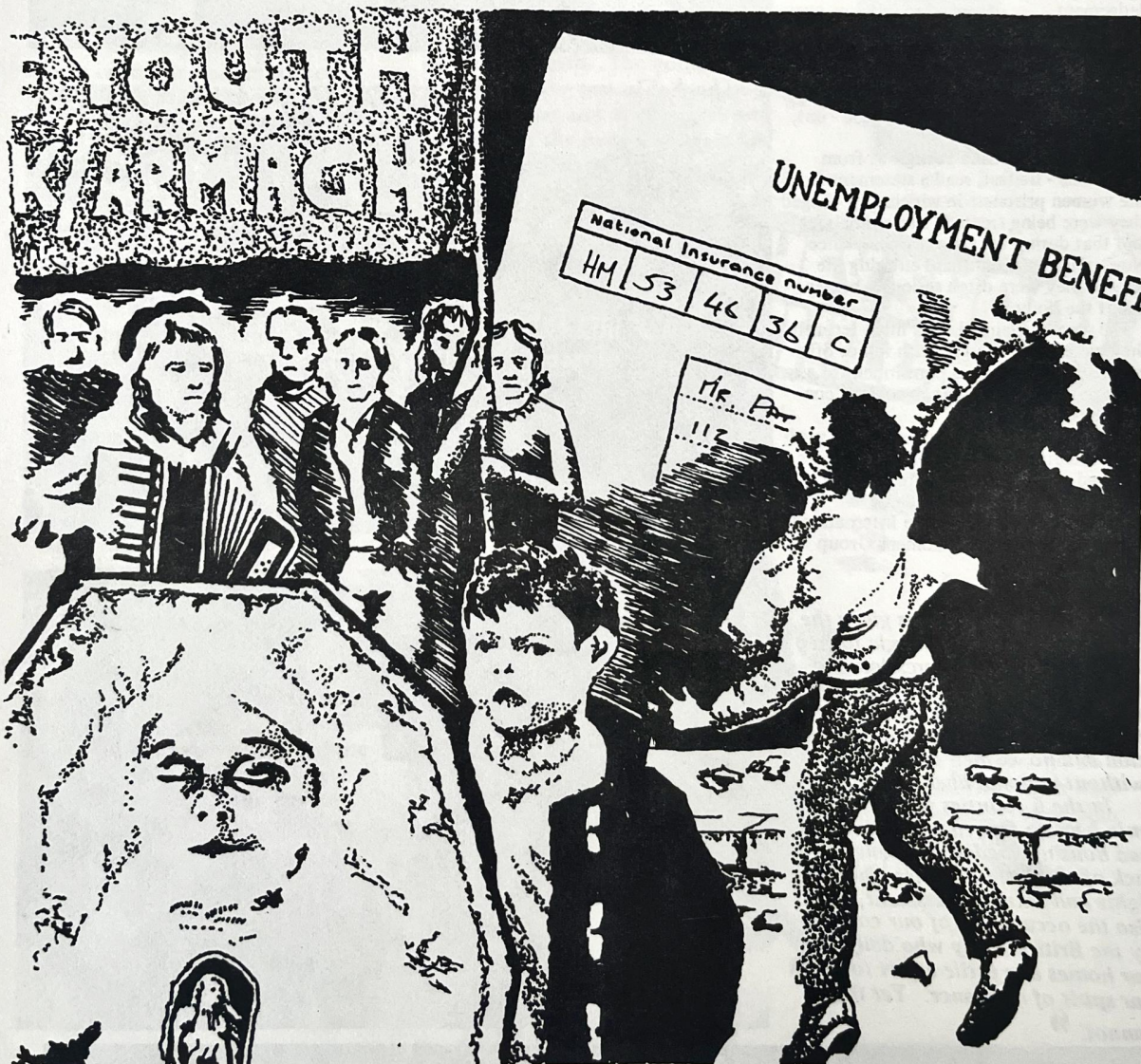
# saoirse

NEWSPAPER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY



## *"their fight, their future"*

15 pence





# IMAGES OF ARMAGH

250 demonstrators held a 25-minute sit-down outside Armagh Jail.

during what has become since 1979 a traditional event to mark International Womens Day.

The picket, organized by the London based Feminist Co-ordinating Committee, was staged to pledge solidarity with the 40 Republican women prisoners inside.

RUC threw a cordon round the area as the demonstrators called out the names of each prisoner, backed up by shouts of "we support you."

There were cheers from the crowd when a white hankerchief and a blue and white spotted scarf were waved in acknowledgement from a cell window overlooking Barrack Hill.

As well as pledging their support for the prisoners, singing and listening to speeches the demonstrators chanted "Maggie, Maggie go the hell" and "Maggie, Maggie - out, out."

Ex-prisoner Katrina Pettigrew, from Whiterock - Belfast, read a statement from the women prisoners in which they alleged they were being treated "like animals", and that during the strip searches, since November, on leaving and entering the prison, they were often seriously beaten about the body.

The women claimed that, more recently, they were being charged with minor offences and given serious punishment of any thing up to 20 or 30 days in solitary confinement.

Sinn Fein MP, Owen Carron spoke, pledging solidarity with the Women prisoners and read out a long list of greetings from abroad to the prisoners inside.

In a statement to celebrate International Womens Day the IRSP Womens Group

said;

***"Irish women have always given the lead in the political struggle to free our country from oppression and it is we who understand only too well that there can be no national liberation without women's liberation and no women's liberation without national liberation.***

***In the 6 counties women not only have to face the oppression of bad housing, inadequate benefits, lack of childcare facilities, abortion rights and sexual harassment, but also the occupation of our country by the British Army who daily raid our homes in a futile effort to break our spirit of resistance. Yet they cannot."***





# YOUTH MUST ORGANISE

Over the years young people have played a leading role in the Irish struggle. From the young kids who defended the Bogside against the RUC in 1969 to the thousands who came on to the streets in support of the hunger strikers two years ago. It is the youth who have suffered greatly at the hands of the British war machine who have tried to force them off the streets with their constant P checks and their use of plastic and lead bullets.

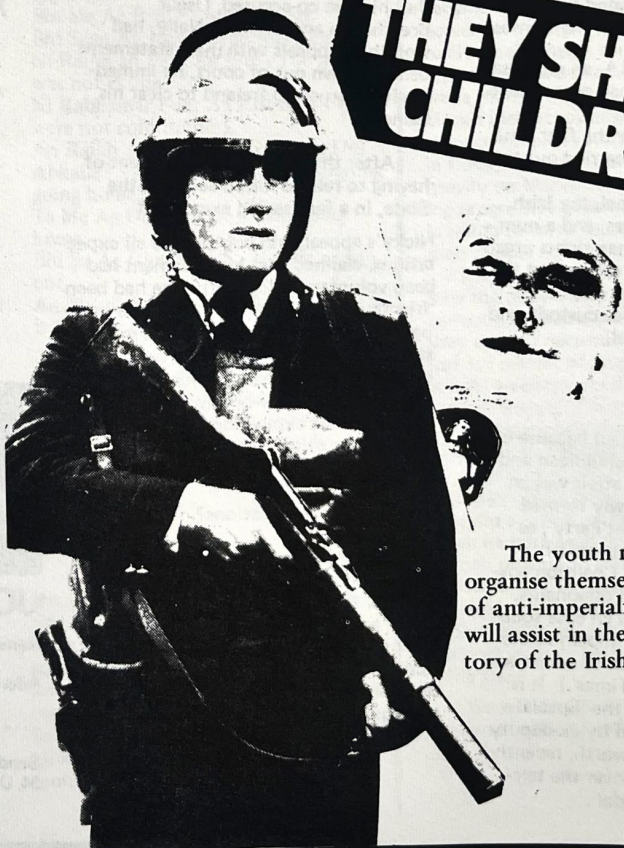
When the hunger strike ended in September 1981 there was still a great deal of unity between nationalist youths who had formed themselves into youth movements and action groups at the time. Later, however, the young people lost interest and gradually the unity and comradeship fell away. This was because they were campaigning on a single issue, the hunger strike, and when it ceased they thought that their work was finished. What all anti-imperialist organisations failed to do then was to convince them the hunger strike was just one part of the overall struggle and that there was other things which were then concerning all the nationalist people. What should have happened is that the youth movements should have started campaigns against plastic bullets, against the sectarian RUC, against unemployment, against housing conditions and in support of the revolutionary guerrilla war being waged against the British occupation forces. Instead, many youths went back to joy-riding, sniffing glue and wine drinking.

It has now become extremely hard to get people to take an active interest in what is going on and it can only be done by the anti-imperialist movement through constant propagandising, argument and persuasion. Young people must be persuaded to realise that a war is going on and that poverty and injustice are rife. Above all they must be made to realise that only in a 32 county socialist republic

"THE YOUTH OF BELFAST AND THE REST OF IRELAND REPRESENT A VAST AND AS YET UNTAPPED SUPPORT FOR THE OVERALL STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION"

will there be an end to violence sectarianism, unemployment and other social evils. The youth of Belfast and the rest of Ireland represent a vast and as yet untapped support for the overall struggle for liberation. This must be the job of the anti-imperialist groupings.

## THEY SHOOT CHILDREN



The youth must begin to organise themselves, with help of anti-imperialist groups, that will assist in the inevitable victory of the Irish people.



# NICKY KELLY-12YRS FOR NOTHING

Nicky Kelly is a prisoner in a Portlaoise jail serving a 12 year sentence for his alleged involvement in the Sallins Mail Train Robbery of 1976.

Nicky has always professed his innocence. His treatment by the police and the courts is regarded by many as the most scandalous in the history of the state. The legal drama which was played out over 6 years came to a close in October 1982, with the refusal by the Supreme Court to grant his final appeal. The only course of action left open to him at this stage is to demand his release by the Minister for Justice.

But is he innocent?

At Nicky's trial, there was no evidence, no witnesses and no jury, only a concocted statement which he was forced to sign after prolonged 'in-depth' interrogation. Two doctors, one of them a prison doctor, described extensive bruising which they found on Nicky's body. Despite the medical evidence and Nicky's persistent declarations that he had nothing to do with the robbery, and that his statement was fabricated by the police, the court ruled that his 'confession' was voluntary.

In May 1979, the IRA, an organisation with which Nicky had no connection

publically stated, for the first time in the south that it had carried out the robbery.

Amnesty International, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and a number of international human rights organisations expressed grave concern at the treatment of Nicky Kelly and his co-defendants while in police custody and sent observers to the trial.

Why was he convicted?

Nicky Kelly was framed because of his political beliefs as a republican and a socialist. The whole affair was an attempt to smash the newly formed 'Irish Republican Socialist Party', as part of an escalating campaign of harassment by the then Coalition government against political opponents. This conspiracy involved an elite squad of gardai which became known as the 'heavy gang' (information of which was published by the 'Irish Times'.) It is also worth noting that the 'Special Branch' was then headed by ex-deputy Commissioner Joe Ainsworth, recently 'retired' from the force over the telephone and bugging scandal.



Why did he go to the USA?

Nicky was severely affected by his torture at the hands of the 'heavy gang' and in the closing stages of the trial, when it had become clear to all that he and his co-accused should expect no justice, from the 'Special Criminal Court', he went to the USA and was sentenced in his absence. He was admitted to the 'New York Bell View Mental Hospital' and diagnosed as suffering from severe anxiety neurosis.

But in 1980, on hearing the news that his two co-accused, Osgur Breathnach and Brian McNally, had won their appeals with their statements being thrown out of court, he immediately returned to Ireland to clear his name.

After the public embarrassment of having to release his co-accused, the State, in a face-saving exercise at

Nicky's appeal, and contrary to all expectations, claimed that his statement had been voluntary, alleging that he had been 'friendly and co-operative' with the interrogating police! This assertion is in stark contrast to the physical and mental condition as witnessed by his girlfriend, doctor and others who saw him in custody. It also cannot explain how no money, no weapons or other forensic evidence was ever found!

What are the implications?

The vindication of Nicky Kelly has become a central and vital cause, in these times of deepening economic, social and political crisis, to combat the use of torture by the gardai to gain convictions and also the efforts of the state to crush the growing political opposition amongst the people.

What is the 'Release Nicky Kelly Committee'?

The Committee is a broad based group whose aim is to highlight Nicky's innocence and arouse people to exert maximum pressure on the government to order his release. The Committee furthermore lend it voice to the calls for a full enquiry into the whole affair and the abolition of the juryless courts as urgent steps to be taken in defence of the democratic rights of the people in this state.

## Release Nicky Kelly Committee

11 Grange Terrace  
Blackrock  
Co Dublin

Tel: 801438 — 331463



**JOIN THE IRSP.**

Name .....

Address .....

Send to: 392, Falls Road, Belfast - or  
34, Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin.



# IRISH LESSON

## Verb to Be Present Tense

An Bhfuil Tu? (On Will Too) - Are you  
An Bhfuilmid? (On Will'Mid) - Are we  
An Bhfuil Siad? (On Will Shade) - Are They

Níl Tu (Kneel Too) - You are not  
Nílmid (Kneel Mid) - We are not  
Níl Sia (Kneel Shade) - They are not

## Verbal Nouns

Ag Rith (Egg Ree) - Running  
Ag Siul (Egg Shule) - Walking  
Ag Caint (Egg Kinech) - Talking  
Ag Dul (Egg Dull) - Going  
Ag Teach (Egg Chockt) - Coming  
Ag Oí (Egg Oal) - Drinking  
Ag Gaire (Egg Guy're) - Laughing  
Ag Gol (Egg Goal) - Crying  
Ag Ithe (Egg E'Ha) - Eating

Leigh (Lay) - Read

Ta Tu Ag Rith - You are running  
Ta Se Ag Caint - He is talking  
Taimid Ag Oí - We are drinking  
Ta Siad Ag Ithe - They are eating

An Bhfuil Se Ag Gaire? - Is he laughing?  
Níl Sibh Ag Teach - You aren't coming

Cad e Mar Tat Tu? (Ka-Jay-Mar-Ta-Too)  
How are you?  
Conas ata Tu? (Ko'Nus Ataw Too) - How are you?

Ce Chaoi Bhfuil Tu? - (Kay Hee Will Too)  
How are you?  
Ta Me Go Maith (Taw Mey Gu Moy) - I am well  
Ta Sii Go Dona (Taw She Gu Donna) - She is bad

Using the words now learnt make up other sentences as shown in the examples

## Verb To be Past Tense

An raib Tu (on row too) - Were You?  
An Rabhamar (on Row'A'Mar) - Were We?

An Raibh Siad (On Row Shade) - Were They?

Bhi Me (Vee Mey) -- I was  
Bhiomar (Vee'O'Mar) -- We were  
Bhi Sia d (Vee Shade) - They were

Ni Raibh Me (Nee Row Mey) -- I was not  
Ni Rabhamar (Nee Row'A'Mar) -- We were not  
Ni Raibh Siad (Nee Row Shade)-- They were not

Foghliam (Foh'Lim) - Learn

An Rear (On Far) - The Man  
An Bhean (On Van) - The Woman  
An Paiste (On Paste) -- The Child  
An Cailin (On Kol'L'Yeen) - The Girl  
An Buachaill (ON Boo'Khil) - The Boy  
An Teach (On Chock) - The House  
Amach (A'Mock) - Out  
Isteach (Is'Chock) - In  
Abahaile (A'Wal'Ye) - Home

An Raibh Tu Ag Teach Isteach? - Were you coming in?

Bhiomar Ag Dul Abhaile - We were going home.  
Bhi Me Ag Rith - I was running  
Bhi Sean Ag Righ - Sean was running  
Ni Raibh an Fear Ag Ithe - The man was not eating  
Ni Rabhamar Fuar Ag Riit Rith - We were not cold running  
An Raibh An Cailin Ag Gaire Ag Dul Abhaile? - Was g Was the girl laughing going home?  
Ta Me Ag Dul Abhaile - I am going home  
Bhi Se Ag Ithe Amach - He was eating out  
An Bhfuil An Buachaill Ag Dul Amach  
Is the boy going out?

As you can see there is a lot more sentences you could make up yourself so go ahead and see how many different sentences you can make.

## MARXISM



1983 is the centenary of the death of Karl Marx, the founding father of modern socialism. James Connolly, founder of the Irish Citizen Army and executed for his part in the 1916 Rising was Ireland's greatest marxist to date and his writings are the basis for our own revolutionary movement. Yet Marx and Marxism has often been blackened unjustly. Russia is immediately thrown up. Then the Church will say 'aethists' and of course the conservative nationalist will chime in with 'foreign ideology'!

It is true that the Bolsheviks who led the October Revolution in 1917 in Russia were marxists and their leader, Lenin, was one of the outstanding political leaders of our time. But the Russian Revolution became distorted whenever Stalin seized power after Lenins' death and he eventually established a sort of bureaucratic, repressive, inward looking system that was a million miles away from Marx's idea of socialism. But that hasn't stopped other revolutionary movements in Cuba, Vietnam and Nicaragua drawing heavily on Marx's writings and establishing progressive governments that are building towards socialism and liberating their people from oppression.

Do you remember at school about how the priests used to tell you about communist Russia and China and how they used to persecute the priests? Well it just is a matter of fact that in Russia there is total freedom of religious worship and that in 'marxist' Nicaragua a priest (a revolutionary priest mind you) is actually a minister in the government!

As for marxism being a 'foreign ideology'. Well good old Wolfe Tone, no less, did a bit of importing himself when he borrowed the ideas of the French revolution and called it Irish republicanism. I for one don't think we in Ireland have a monopoly on what's right and we are as much a part of the international struggle for socialism as any-thing else.

We will be developing on Marx's theories in later articles so stay with us!

## "Shoot To Kill"

I'm sure the gun happy RUC were a bit dissappointed on Wednesday, to find out that instead of three Republicans, they shot a Loyalist assassination squad on their way to West Belfast to shoot some unsuspecting Nationalist. Despite this, the RUC managed to put out a ridiculous statement about how at 6.00a.m. in the morning a routine patrol in the University area suddenly "discovered" a car-load of gunmen

after they had stopped to let a University security man cross the road! What seems far more likely is that the special RUC undercover 'shoot to kill' squad had followed what they thought was a car load of Republicans. And following a pattern of other such killings there was no road blocks or routine patrols.



# everychild a

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*The issue of Abortion raises many emotional responses, yet the arguments have never clearly been stated. Here, we try to present the cases for and against.*

WITH the anti-amendment in the 26 counties the issue of abortion has again become a topic for discussion. In the 26 counties abortion under any circumstances is illegal. Both the woman and the people who assist her to have the abortion are liable to prosecution. What the proposed amendment will do is not only make abortion illegal but also unconstitutional. This, in effect will make it virtually impossible to change at a future date.

The 1967 Abortion Act allows women to have an abortion for medical and certain social reasons. The possibility of this act being extended to cover the 6 counties has created fear in the 26 counties amongst the catholic church and its allies. Hence the desire to change the constitution which would prohibit once and for all the likelihood of abortion. A law can be changed by parliament but the constitution is much more difficult to change.

Basically there are 3 main attitudes to abortion;

- 1) Abortion is murder and cannot be condoned under any circumstances.
- 2) Abortion is a necessary evil under certain circumstances eg, rape, mothers life at risk and deformed foetus.
- 3) A woman should have the right to decide whether she wants to have a baby or not.

#### ARGUMENT 1

Where does life begin? Abortion is murder because the foetus is a human being and nobody has the right to take that life. Life begins at the moment of conception which means that taking that argument to its logical conclusion a woman menstrual cycle contains dead ova. Do we then lose a life every month. ?

Certain contraceptives can also be classified as inducing an abortion eg, the coil which spontaneously expels fertilised ovum every month. The morning after pill causes the same reaction.

The Catholic church's attitude to abortion reflects its attitude to women, ie a woman's place is in the home looking after her husband and children. Even if a woman is physically unable to endure pregnancy the church says that once pregnant she must continue the pregnancy rather than undergo an abortion.

In many marriages the woman does not become pregnant by choice but rather as a result of her husband insisting on his 'conjugal rights'. Medical evidence shows that these continual pregnancies have a damaging effect on a woman's health. As a result many women in later life have to undergo hysterectomies.

#### ARGUMENT 2

Abortion is permissible for medical and social reasons but this does not take in to account the social, economic and personal reasons why women are forced to want an abortion.

#### ARGUMENT 3 A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Laws and the constitution will not stop women needing and wanting abortions. If these women are prevented by law from having a legal abortion they will simply be driven into the hands of back-street abortionists. These in many cases result in death and/or injury to the women involved. In July 1979, Charlotte Hutton from the Sandy Row area of Belfast had a back street abortion. Two days later she died. In May 1980 a doctor was charged in connection with her death. If the law here had been different, this working-class woman with little money might still be alive today.

Any woman using methods of abortion which she knows are a danger to her health and life must be in total desperation. Why





# wanted child

else would a woman push or allow a knitting needle to be pushed in and puncture her womb? Why else would she undergo scalding hot baths, drink vast quantities of gin, castor oil or espom salts. In other words these methods so not hold as much terror for the women as the prospect of having an unwanted child.

Many people see a woman's choosing to have an abortion as a casual decision, an easy way out.

Knowing personally women who have had an abortion the reality of the situation is very different. Apart from the financial aspect which causes many working class women to go into debt, the emotional agonising of whether to have an abortion can be traumatic. After having the abortion the woman is often forced to keep the fact a secret. This may result in her feeling further isolated and vulnerable at a time when she most needs support. Society's attitude to abortion often leaves her feeling guilty to begin with, but a hostile attitude from her friends and neighbours reinforces that guilt even more.

'NO WOMAN PLANS TO NEED AN ABORTION' but lack of sex education, safe contraception and childcare facilities and her economic situation results in a woman finding herself in this position. Rising unemployment and the rising cost of living often means that the working class woman is forced to become 'breadwinner' taking on low-paid part-time jobs and she is unable to cope with another child. Many young people talk about the lack of adequate sex education at school which has any relevance to them. Yet SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) is allowed into schools in the 26 counties to talk about the horror of abortion - producing foetus in bottles and slidid showing a gory picture of what they say is an abortion. They claim that foetuses which survive the abortion are then butchered, burned and used in soap manufacture. This has a horrific effect on adolescents who are at a very impressionable age where they are trying to cope with the changes going on inside their bodies. These lies are allowed to go unchallenged.

Abortion preformed, as it usually is, is no more serious or risky than a minor operation. We are not advocating abortion as the ideal method of contraception. We are simply saying that any woman who finds herself having an unwanted pregnancy should be allowed the choice of abortion as an option. No person should have the right to choose on her behalf, to stop her having an abortion if she wants.

We in the IRSP, a revolutionary socialist organisation believe that a woman should have the right to make this choice for herself. We also believe that abortion should be legal, safe, free and readily available to all women throughout the 32 counties when they need it.

SPUC- It is interesting to note that many members of this organisation and

blacks are increasingly common. The Roman Catholic Cardinal Cooke stated that the war of aggression against the Vietnamese was 'just'. Thus it seems that to the anti-abortionists that it is acceptable to destroy some lives, only certain lives are sacred. Although SPUC supporters are not facists, facists have grasped the abortion issue to make



in fact many anti-abortionists are right wing. For example the husband of the Marchioness of Salisbury (an executive member of SPUC) has extensive financial and property interests in South Africa where indiscriminate murders of

further gains in the support they have. In recent election in the Preston area the day after SPUC produced posters with their slogan 'Vote for your anti-abortion candidate' posters of The National Front - Your anti-abortion candidate went up next



# BOYS FROM THE BLACKSTAFF

## UNEMPLOYED HAVE THEIR SAY

### PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNEMPLOYMENT



A well attended public enquiry into unemployment was held in the Old Conway Mill on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8th and 9th of March.

The enquiry, organised by the Springhill Community House, offered a unique opportunity for unemployed people to relate their personal experiences of life on the dole. The theme of the enquiry was "Don't let others speak for you, speak for yourself. Come and speak your mind about unemployment."

And that was exactly what those attending the enquiry did. All the contributions and ensuing questions, answers and discussions, were recorded on cassettes. The organizers intend to transcribe these recordings and eventually publish a booklet which will be an invaluable documentation of what life on the dole is really like in one of the highest unemployment areas in Europe.

Ray Collins, an unemployed member of the A.U.E.W. and IRSP spokesperson on Economic affairs, gave a brief outline of his experiences both in and out of work. He talked about the problem of political sectarianism within the Trade Union movement and religious discrimination against the Nationalist people with regards to jobs.

He also gave a brief analysis of the British and Irish capitalism and the dangers for working-class people arising out of British plans for a Federalized Ireland.

Supporting previous speakers calls for the setting up of unemployment centres throughout Belfast, he added that there

was also the need for an unemployed Union.

It is hoped that a committee will be formed to pursue these proposals and to have a re-call conference.

The IRSP applauds the efforts of the organizers who made the enquiry possible and those who contributed to make it worthwhile.

#### *Give Me A Job*

*Can I have a job sir,  
Can I have some work?  
I'm signing on the dole  
and I feel a silly jerk  
I haven't got a penny  
I can call my own  
My clothes are all  
hand me downs  
All except my underpants  
That's where I draw the line  
All tattered and torn they may be  
The lend to me some dignity  
Not alone I stand like this  
for comrades have I found  
All have lost their jobs  
because the backing of the English  
pound.*

Paddy Murphy



# THE NUMBERS MYTH

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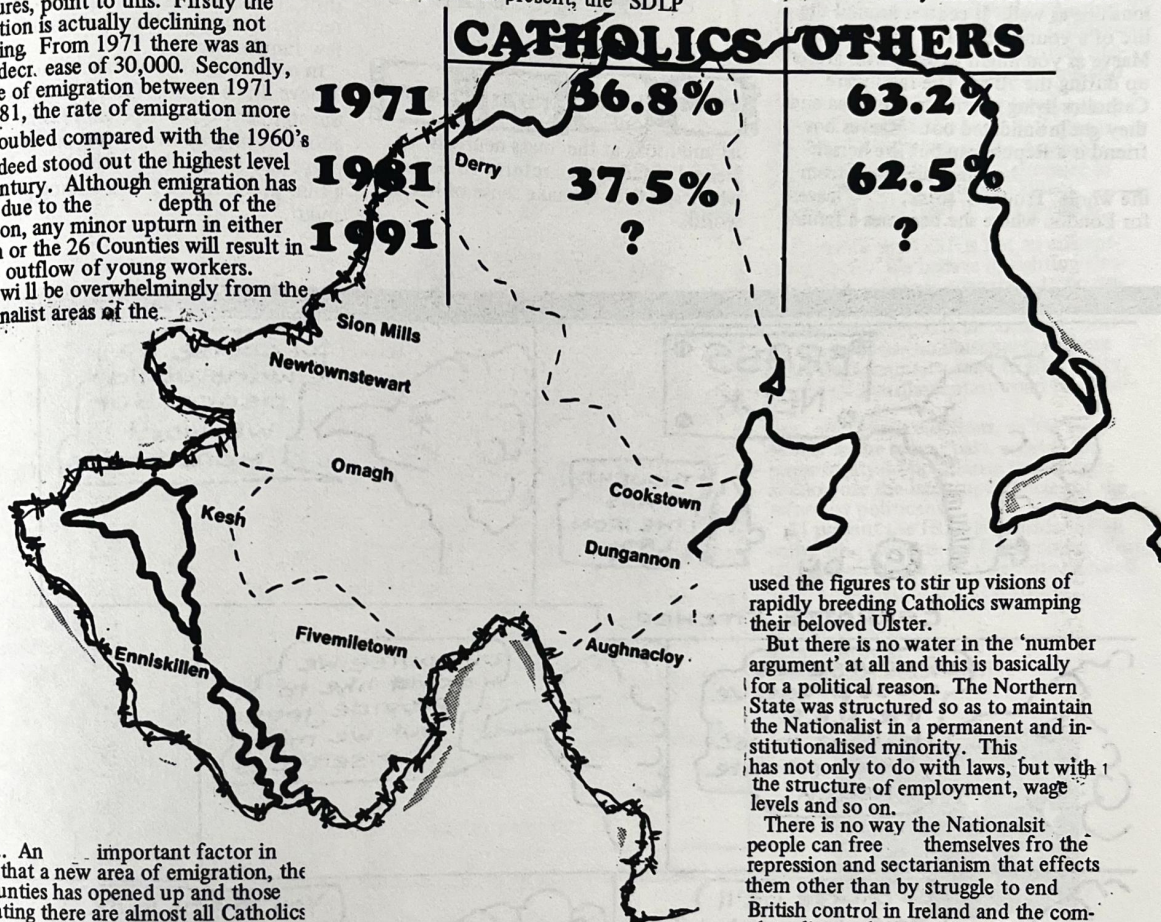
Despite various media speculation and some loyalist panic, there is little evidence in the most recent 1981 Census figures that Nationalist will be either in the numerical or voting majority in the foreseeable future.

A number of points, discernable from the figures, point to this. Firstly the population is actually declining not increasing. From 1971 there was an actual decrease of 30,000. Secondly, the rate of emigration between 1971 and 1981, the rate of emigration more than doubled compared with the 1960's and indeed stood out the highest level this century. Although emigration has ebbed due to the depth of the recession, any minor upturn in either Britain or the 26 Counties will result in a large outflow of young workers. These will be overwhelmingly from the Nationalist areas of the

falling and given historical trends, this will continue during the 1980's.

What all this points to is a refutation of an argument commonly used on the Nationalist side as an excuse for the 'half-a-loaf' politics of the old Nationalist Party and at present, the SDLP

Basically this goes like - "why stir it up, we'll be in the majority soon enough anyway". This was said in the 50's and 60's and in fact just about every time Census figures were issued. On the Loyalist side Paisley and McCusker have



North.. An important factor in this is that a new area of emigration, the 26 Counties has opened up and those emigrating there are almost all Catholics

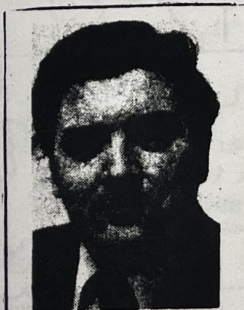
As regards the future, both the birth rate and size of Catholic families are

used the figures to stir up visions of rapidly breeding Catholics swamping their beloved Ulster.

But there is no water in the 'number argument' at all and this is basically for a political reason. The Northern State was structured so as to maintain the Nationalist in a permanent and institutionalised minority. This has not only to do with laws, but with the structure of employment, wage levels and so on.

There is no way the Nationalist people can free themselves from the repression and sectarianism that effects them other than by struggle to end British control in Ireland and the complete dismantlement of the Northern State.

## SDLP STUNT



The Council for a New Ireland, brainchild of SDLP leader John Hume and agreed to by Garrett Fitzgerald is chiefly a stunt designed to boost the flagging electoral fortunes of the SDLP. But it is also part of a much wider initiative - to attempt to deflect the struggle for real national independence.

The EEC-inspired "enquiry" and proposals for an all-Ireland police force

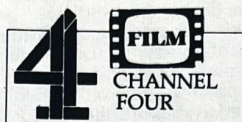
plus the forthcoming Anglo-Irish talks have all got the same basic aim of trying to set up some long-term governmental structure in Ireland that will at the one time appear to be moving towards a United Ireland but in reality be a recipe for institutionalised sectarianism and serve to draw Ireland more firmly into the political and military plans of the major capitalist powers.



# TV REVIEW - MAEVE

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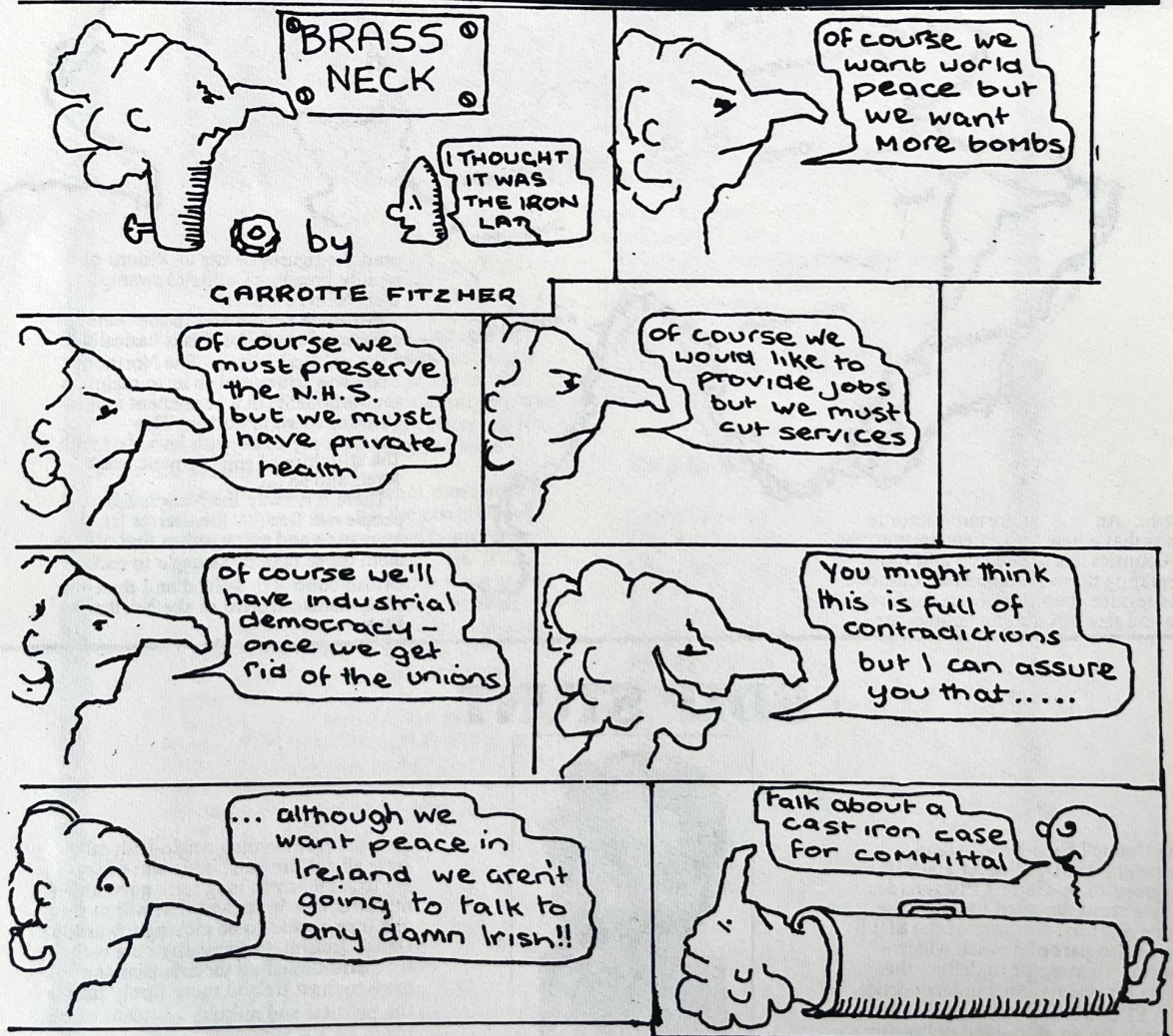
'MAEVE' is a film about Ireland with a difference. It might be a bit unfair to call it the thinking mans "Harry's Game" but to be quite honest an awful lot of it just went over my head. It was on at the late night film spot on a Monday night where a few weeks earlier I had watched Jon Voight (a Californian radical) present a film about his friends and his relationships. 'Maevé' is about relationships as well. It centres around the life of a young Belfast girl (called Maevé as you might expect) who grows up during the 70's. The family are Catholics living in a Protestant area and they get intimidated out. Maevé's boyfriend is a Republican but she herself becomes alienated from the whole 'Troubles' scene, leaves for London where she becomes a femin-



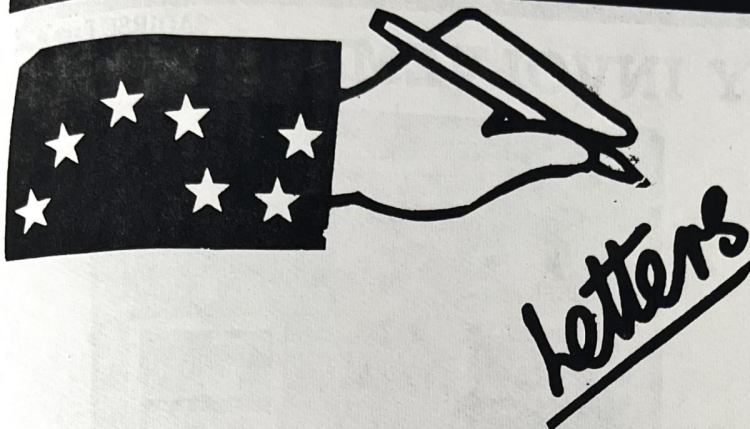
ist and looks at the 'mass neurosis' of Ireland. Maevé then returns to Belfast where she tries to make sense of her old world.

Maevé, on justifying her life to her ex-boyfriend claims that "I have a right to be confused". Whether she has a right to confuse the rest of us I doubt, but she certainly gives it a good try. The 'plot' as such doesn't exist and the character seem to be drifting past and either morosely intense or totally flippant. Mind you as far as the portrayal of the Brits is concerned, there is a refreshing realism and as the film was shot in West Belfast I'm sure you'll recognise many of the places, and not a few familiar faces!

In many ways it is unfair to judge 'Maevé' like a regular film, much less the standard type tripe we've been fed about Ireland by the British media, it purposely set out not to do this and it's a film you'll find a lot of talking points about.







## EXTRADITION

Dear Editor,

Despite the cooling of Anglo-Irish relationships between the occupying Brits and the collaborationist "free state" Government, The Brits are continuing to seek a watertight extradition agreement with the Free State to deal with escaped Republicans. For the first time direct ruler Prior has spelt out the reasons why the Brits still believe extradition, rather than extra-territorial legislation is the best method of bringing escaped Republicans to 'justice'.

Direct ruler Prior claims that the difference between the two procedures lay in the distinction between the evidence needed to justify an arrest, whether or not this involved extradition, and that required to mount a prosecution in the court. He pointed out that it was often the case that the police, (RUC), might reasonably suspect someone, but would only feel able to decide to bring charges after they had had the opportunity of 'interviewing' that person.

What he meant was, that if that person could be held incommunicado for several days in one of the occupied Norths' torture centres, then charges could be brought on the word of the RUC detective 'interviewing' that person.

If things continue in their present trait, then I feel it will only be a question of time before the collaborationist 'Free State' agree to the watertight extradition agreement that Britain and her Loyalist puppets so desperately want and need.

Yours sincerely  
Jimmy Loughran

Please send letters c/o 'The Editor, 'Saoirse', 392, Falls Road, Belfast.

## ARMAGH

A chara,

As a feminist may I through your paper voice my surprise at Owen Carron speaking at the Armagh picket on International Womens Day. I have nothing against Owen Carron personally but feel strongly that we should not allow male speakers on this particular day. A point could be stretched in the ex-blanket man sending solidarity greetings from the H Blocks. But wasn't it stretched a bit too far when two men spoke?

As the headline in next days Irish New showed, Owen Carron's speaking detracted from the main point - that it was International Womens Day.

I do not feel that we as feminists demand too much in having one day out of 365 solely for ourselves as women. I hope that next years organisers take this point seriously.

Is mise  
West Belfast feminist

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## ELECTIONS

A chara,

In reply to the letter from 'Irp supporter' concerning the IRSP attitude towards the forthcoming Westminster elections.

As the writer correctly pointed out, the IRSP took a decision to boycott the Assembly elections on the grounds that the whole British initiative was merely an attempt to resurrect Stormont and strengthen Loyalist rule and

that the facade should not be given any credibility whatsoever. We feel that in the light of workings of the Assembly and the successful Loyalist pressure in implementing the 'shoot-to-kill' policy, we were right in that decision.

However the IRSP is not an abstentionist party. We believe in fighting elections where there is advantage to be gained in pushing forward the anti-imperialist cause and republican socialist politics. While under no illusions that there is any parliamentary road to Irish unity, much less a parliamentary road to social-

ism, we believe elections, as has been shown in the recent past, provide an opportunity to popularise the struggle and expose the bankrupt policies of the reformist politicians.

At present the IRSP is considering an active role towards the forthcoming Westminster elections and a definite decision will be reached in the near future,

Is mise le meas,  
Jimmy Brown,  
Chairperson Belfast IRSP



## RACISM!

RACIAL HARASSMENT

WE wish to draw attention to a obnoxious incident which occurred in the Lake Glen Hotel recently. Two black Zimbabweans having a drink, were harassed by a number of youths and racially insulted. The IRSP deplores this act and condemns the action of these people, who seem to have adopted the attitudes of British Imperialism who for centuries plundered and terrorised not only Ireland, but large parts of Africa and Asia as well



# INLA DENY INVOLVEMENT

The INLA have denied any involvement in the shooting of Eamon "Hatchet" Kerr, who was shot dead in the Lower Falls area. Kerr, who was claimed by the Workers Party to be one of their members, was shot by four hooded gunmen who burst into his house in the early hours of the morning.

As could be predicted, various elements in the media have used the incident to provoke rumours of feuds and supposed involvement by "INLA renegades". It would suit the British government very well to detract attention away from their own murderous policy of repression in Ireland by beginning unsubstantiated rumours, which could lead to confusion and demoralisation amongst the Nationalist people.

The INLA statement said,

*"We totally disclaim any involvement in the shooting of Eamon Kerr. The rumourmongering taking place within certain parts of the media serves only to endanger the lives of our volunteers and supporters, and to increase unwanted tension within the Nationalist community."*

*The only benefactors of this will be the British ruling class who are constantly trying to deflect from their own rule by terror in Ireland'*



The house in Cape Street.

## .... CLOSE SHAVE IN TURKEY

*The idea of stereotypes seems to have gone off at the loony end in Turkey. The right-wing military dictatorship there has started classifying people by their facial hair, so if*

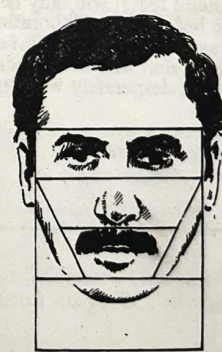
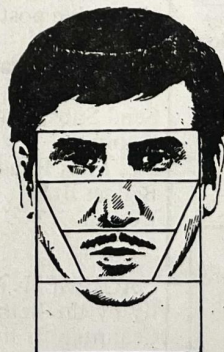
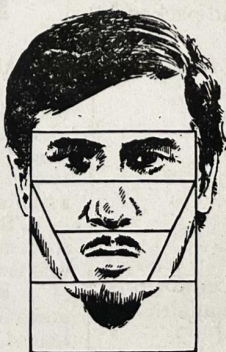
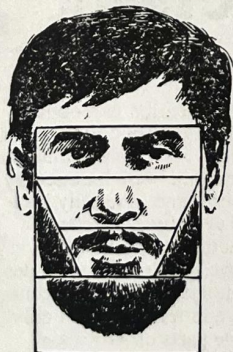
*you're planning to go to Istanbul or anywhere like that, just be sure you know how you're going to be classified.*

Fundamentalist

Marxist

Social Democrat

Fascist



*The face of politics: How the Turkish regime categorises citizens by their facial hair*