

voice of the connolly youth movement

FORWARD



"The cause of Ireland is the cause of labour. The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland" James Connolly

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VOTERS REBEL

FIANNA FAIL/PD COALITION DOWNTURN DESPITE RACIST REFERENDUM STRATEGY

We consider here the implications of the results of the referendum on citizenship and the local and European elections.

Referendum:

The result of the referendum was a disappointment. The margin by which the vote was carried has exposed the barely hidden secret that Irish people are, by and large, racist and xenophobic. That is not to say that Irish people, or even a majority of Irish people, are inherently racist, but at the time of the citizenship referendum, as a result of media hype, an inadequate national immigration policy and the racist comments of certain politicians, their attitudes had been conditioned to be such.

The legislation which will establish our new citizenship regime, is likely to contain legislation that will target only those non-white persons coming to Ireland while second and third generation Irish-Americans will continue to be able to undermine the "integrity of Irish citizenship", thus exposing the referendum for the racist coup that it was.

On the upside, the one positive is that determining the entitlement to and extent of the right to Irish citizenship has now been passed to the legislature, which means that, in theory at least, a future government may seek to undo the harm caused by the referendum.

Elections:

The elections have been called a "slap on the wrist" for the government parties, and the many votes that went to, among others, Sinn Fein and the Socialist Party have been called an understandable "protest vote". However, this completely misses the point. The big story of the elections is that a significant majority of the Irish people rejected the neo-liberal agenda of corporate greed, privatisation and the destruction of public services. This explains why neither Fine Gael nor the Labour Party gained significantly from the collapse of the Fianna Fail vote. The almost complete lack of clear blue water between their respective policy agendas meant that the electorate opted for, what they perceived to be, the most radical alternative. Thus Sinn Fein saw a significant increase in their vote in local and European polls and, the Socialist Party also significantly increased their vote.

We applaud the performance of the Socialist Party our reflections on Sinn Fein's performance has to be a little more guarded. Sinn Fein has traditionally found support among the neglected working class estates of Ireland, not because it was

politically advantageous to do so, but because the majority of Sinn Fein activists came from such areas. Therefore, the work that Sinn Fein activists did in such areas was not in pursuit of any cynical aims, but rather it was the instinctive reaction of people based in such communities. However, the most recent elections have seen a dramatic change. The class character of Sinn Fein has, for a variety of reasons, altered radically. The make up of Sinn Fein is becoming more and more middle class and careerist; with such a change in personnel, a subsequent shift in policy is inevitable. The more the ranks of Sinn Fein are flooded with middle class and careerist Fianna Fail drop outs, the more Sinn Fein's agenda, at least in the South of Ireland, will shift towards that of the establishment parties. The net result of this would be that Sinn Fein will alienate its traditional working class base while retaining a rump of middle class careerist members and will, most likely, degenerate into little more than an adjunct of Fianna Fail.

Whether or not Sinn Fein's trajectory is as predictable as this article suggests will remain to be seen, however the present author believes it to be highly likely that it will. This will be a defeat for radical working class politics if it does happen.

In the elections, a significant number of voters opted for what they believed to be a radical alternative to establishment policies. If Sinn Fein betrays their confidence it will, no doubt, lead to great disillusionment. Again, as with the referendum result, there is an upside to this otherwise gloomy scenario.

The results of the elections show a genuine appetite among sections of the Irish working class for radical change. This is evident, to an extent, in the votes cast for Sinn Fein, but even more so in the success of the Socialist Party. The increase in their vote reveals a genuine consciousness on behalf of a section of the working class for radical political change. The pig-headed response by the government parties to the election results shows that they have no intention of turning from the neo-liberal yellow brick road. This means that by the time of the next general elections they will have further impoverished and antagonised the people of Ireland.

Let us hope that when the next elections come around working class parties are better-organised and better able to harness the anger of the working people of Ireland and transform it into radical political change.

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TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMME

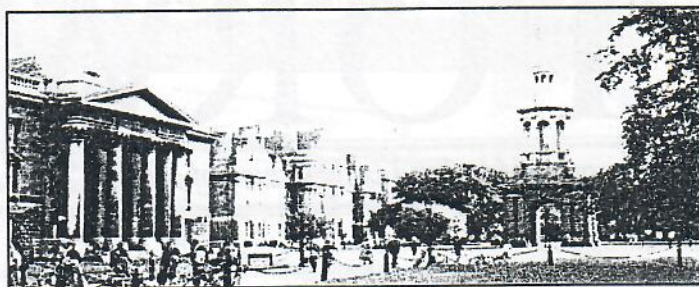
A step in the Left direction

A decent standard of education is essential for both individual development and to allow individuals and classes improve their lot within society. In the past a decent primary and secondary education was deemed sufficient to fulfil these dual requirements. However, this is no longer the case. These days it is generally accepted that a decent third level education is essential for both personal development and decent job opportunities.

Unfortunately, the harsh reality is that third level education is an unrealisable prospect for most working class people. Instead, the middle and upper classes exercise a virtual monopoly over third level education. So much so that the most recent statistics on third level participation revealed that 97% of students from upper middle class backgrounds went on to third level education, whereas only 2.3% of those from working class backgrounds did so.

The reasons for such inequality and consequent disadvantage are many and varied, save to say that educational inequality is a structural phenomenon common to most European countries. However, all is not doom and gloom. There are a number of initiatives aimed at correcting this disparity.

Chief among these is the work of the Trinity Access Programme (TAP); TAP was established in 1993 with the objective of



tackling educational disadvantage by increasing the participation of people from working class/disadvantaged backgrounds in third level education.

TAP carries through its work in a number of ways. It operates foundation/bridging years for both young adults just out of secondary school and mature students (over 23 years); this entails students undertaking a one-year course of study to better prepare them for progression to an undergraduate degree course.

TAP also runs a "direct entry" project, whereby students from designated areas who fall below the requisite points for their course of choice will be given special consideration by the admissions board. TAP also runs projects that target primary school students in disadvantaged areas.

All in all TAP makes a valuable contribution to the working class and people from disadvantaged communities by making available opportunities which otherwise would have been denied to them.

For further information on the work of the TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMME, go to:

www.access.centre.tcd.ie

THE FIGHT AGAINST PRIVATISATION

SUPPORT BUS WORKERS

OVER 90 PERCENT OF NBRU WORKERS SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT CUTS

As transport workers continue to resist the government's latest privatisation schemes, the corporate owned media is demonising their anti-privatisation campaign in an attempt to sabotage public support for Dublin's transport workers and commuters. If the privatisers get their way, many of the cities regular bus routes will be cut to reduce the private company's expenses and boost their profits. Unfortunately, young students and workers, low-income commuters, people without cars or access to alternative means of transportation and elderly people unable to drive themselves will be left virtually stranded. Privatisation will also cost transport workers the jobs generated by maintaining current routes. Over the last two weeks, union representatives have made little headway in their on-going negotiations with Transport Minister Seamus Brennan leaving workers with little recourse but to threaten industrial action.

In their typical way, the media stands nothing to lose by supporting their big business friends in the transportation industry and are once again criticising the people of Dublin who support workers in Ireland and stand up to Brennan and the privatisers. They focus on the inconvenience of strike action while neglecting to mention the inconvenience of losing entire bus routes. Big

business media fails to tell us is that the Transport Minister and the companies that pull his strings have repeatedly misled workers and the public with slogans like "social partnership" which has been exposed as little more than a clever way to beat the unions and carry out their privatisation agenda unabated.

The government claims that public transport is inefficient and will be safer and more reliable when put under the control of private companies. However, as can be seen throughout Britain and North America, public transportation becomes more dangerous once privatised because workers are working harder longer hours while big business cuts the maintenance and safety costs of private vehicles to make more profits for themselves. It is time that Brennan and the government spent as much energy and tax money on public transportation and other basic services like health care and education instead of handmade chocolates for Mary Harney, unnecessary private government jets, and protection for George W. Bush in his unwelcome visit last month. It's time more young people got involved in working to stop the government from robbing us of our right to safe, reliable, well regulated transportation, and force the state to take care of the needs of the people of Ireland before lining their own pockets with kick-backs from big business.

GET BIG BUSINESS OUT OF POLITICS

BUSH "HANDS OVER" IRAQ BUT THE WAR IS NOT OVER



Bush motorcade speeds away from angry U.S demonstrations in 2000

"War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives."

– Major General Butler of the US army, died in 1944.

On September 11th, 2001, the United States paid a terrible cost for its collective political apathy. Though it can be fairly asserted that most Americans were unaware of the degree of suffering inflicted upon the people's of the Middle East by U.S. armed forces, oil corporations and corporate elites, far too many Americans have been unsympathetic, too comfortable to question the U.S. role in the crisis of the so-called third-world. The result cost thousands of lives lost needlessly in the largest terrorist attack in U.S. history.

Since long before the tragedy at the World Trade Centre in New York, patriotic Americans truly committed to a lasting peace in the Middle East have demanded a re-evaluation of U.S. intervention abroad and anti-socialist/communist strategies that led former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to refer to Osama bin Laden and the mujahadeen as "freedom fighters". On September 11th, Americans learned that the enemy of our enemy is not necessarily a friend while voices critical of U.S. policies continued to fall on the unsympathetic ears of governments beholden to interests of oil corporations, arms manufacturers and U.S. capital. Instead, Bush has attempted to drown out the democratic mandate of the people on both sides of the Atlantic

with his guns and bombs as it becomes blatant that our governments and their corporate masters have far too much to lose to recognise the peoples opposition to these wars. The result has undoubtedly escalated the violence abroad and will certainly further domestic civil unrest as neo-liberals continue to violate international law, our constitution and civil rights, and continue to inflict death and devastation upon innocents from New York to Iraq.

Growing outrage over wars for profit has created a moment of opportunity to make a concerted decisive challenge to U.S. imperialism. However, it is imperative that we remember that the fight is against war and its proponents, not the American people. The fight is not nation against nation, or religion against religion or even Republicans against Democrats. The fight is democracy against imperialism. It takes many forms from the ballot box to the barricade, but it will always draw its strength from the peoples' will to defend their rights against the unjustified power of a privileged minority over democracy. We must learn to put aside our sectarian squabbles to face the very real threat of neo-liberalism in every nation. We can never forget that a united people holds more power than any government and that through our determination and collective defiance, we will stop Bush, Blair, Bertie and the culture of death they create. Last June, people on both sides of the Atlantic took this struggle into their hearts again to speak out against the on-going U.S. occupation of Iraq and the Bush occupation of the U.S. Today, we must continue to embrace bold compassionate action whenever imperialism threatens our dignity and democracy.

Interview with Foreign Secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party

"We pointed out the limit of the Councils power due to the nature of its relationship with the occupation authority ... The nature of the Governing Council has neither been our option nor the ceiling of our endeavour. Our option was and remains the patriotic democratic alternative."

- Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee Statement

How did you view the UN sanction on Iraq and the crippling effect they had on the civilian population?

Remember two years ago they started to talk about 'smart sanctions', that means objectively the old sanction regime was not smart, it was stupid and it actually reduced the people to entire poverty while enriched and helped the regime to use the sanctions themselves as a means of control of society and as a means of repressing the people through the rationing of food which is a necessity to everybody in Iraq.

People were busy trying to make ends meet and forgot about everything else, including organising opposition and the future of the country.

What was your parties position on the US led war and why did you take that position?

Well we have always been against the regime, we have been fighting against the regime since 1978 and I always worked for and dreamt of the demise of the regime but not in the way its happened and you now see the

effects it has on the people and the economy and infrastructure. The outcome is the loss of law and order, and the looting that has ensued because of the power vacuum, because the Americans did things without the input of the people.

How do you see the transfer of power taking place?

You can't expect freedom, liberty and democracy to be handed to you on a golden tray - you have to fight for it and we hope that all the people who aspire to democracy will fight for a free and federal Iraq.

What role do you see the Iraqi Communist playing?

The Party has suffered a great deal but we believe that it has deep roots in Iraqi society. Three times it was liquidated, and then with much effort it rose again to a mass party. Now we have already opened 12 offices in the Northern part of the country and I guess soon we will open our own office in Baghdad. We build on the assets we have, a radio station and paper and a journal. You must remember we are the only national party because we have Shi'ia, Suni, Arab, Kurd, Muslim and Christian members.

On a broader issue, what future do you see for the UN in Iraq?

This is a very good question. We are against unilateralism in our national affairs and also on deciding the future. One of our main demands is to have UN supervision of the transition in Iraq. This is also an issue which the world-wide peace movement should exercise its pressure in solidarity with the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi CP is growing stronger by the day with branches across Iraq. The Iraqi CP is a member of the interim government as part of a larger strategy to organize a legitimate democracy held only accountable to the people of Iraq.

MICHAEL MOORE'S FAHRENHEIT 9/11

An American Indictment

This summer, few films have shaken audiences like *Fahrenheit 9/11*, but it's difficult to write a review for this kind of film. It's got all the drama of an epic, all the tears of a tragedy, plenty of action and laughs (well, as many cheap chuckles as one can get out of murderous tyrants like Bush and his administration). Unfortunately, after the credits role and the music ends, tens of thousands are still dead and the perpetrators are still on the loose (and in the White House).

If you're looking for light-hearted entertainment, see *Shreck 2*, but if you're looking for insight beyond the headlines and a real explanation of how a man like Bush becomes the President of the United States of America against the will of his own people, see *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Moore brilliantly illustrates how U.S. oil corporations supported Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network, rigged the 2000 Presidential elections and used Bush and his administration to exploit the attacks on the World Trade Center to justify the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq.

As an American, it was refreshing to see a critique of Bush and his foreign policy without the undertones of Anti-Americanism that have become prevalent in Europe since September 11th. Moore offers a refreshingly human depiction of how both Iraqis and low-income Americans serving in the U.S. armed forces are being victimised by the greed of U.S. oil corporations and arms manufacturers.

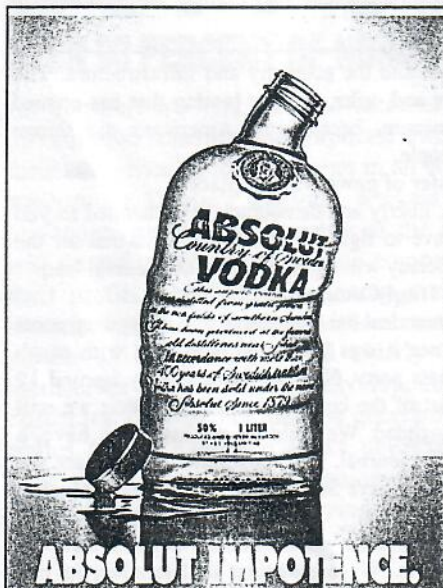


Michael Moore receiving the Oscar for *Bowling for Columbine*

However, his scathingly funny depiction of Bush doesn't fail to address the fact that the U.S. Democratic Leadership Council abandoned those who voted Democrat in 2000 by cowing to Bush's theft of the Presidency. The film is also a brilliant indictment of the Democrats' unwillingness to stand up to Bush's stifling of civil rights through the U.S. Patriot Act and his administration's drive to war.

Emotions run high throughout, complimented by an appropriately selected soundtrack and footage of real uncensored combat operations in Iraq that refute any claim that the horrors of this war are any different from the horrors of any other war. Indeed, the film is a must see. In keeping with Moore's earlier films such as *Roger & Me* and *Bowling for Columbine*, *Fahrenheit 9/11* is full of victims and villains, but short on heroes - I think he leaves that role to us.

For more on Michael Moore check out www.michaelmoore.com



"Drink provokes the desire but takes away the performance."
-William Shakespeare

THOUGHTS ON DRINK-CULTURE

Media hysteria in recent times concerning the issue of underage drinking and youth alcoholism calls for a serious analysis of Irish culture. Alcoholism in Ireland is a legacy of years of colonial misrule, oppression, emigration, and poverty. In the past, alcoholism was seen as an issue of the older generation, but the last few years has seen a massive increase in underage drinking.

Politicians and media commentators may act surprised, but the reality is that adult society trivialises excessive drinking and public drunkenness. The Irish tourism industry even promotes the concept that it is socially acceptable to be drunk on Dublin's streets. How can we expect youth to live by different standards?

Throughout Ireland teenagers congregate outside off-licences waiting for a willing passer-by to buy alcohol for them. In a society which revolves around the pub, this is normal behaviour. Objectively speaking, there is no major difference between the social expectations of teenagers and adults. Teenagers, like adults, want somewhere to go to have fun and meet new people. Unlike adults, teenagers can't legally drink alcohol and most teenagers, especially those from a working class background, have very small disposable incomes. The pressure on teenagers to drink is so great that many secondary school students take up poorly paid part time jobs which compromise their education in order to pay for their drinking habits.

Young people under 18 have nowhere to go at weekends. There are those who would argue that there are plenty of organisations which cater to this age group, such as sports clubs, the scouts, the FCA and so on. Those are all great things to be involved in, but that is not everybody's cup of tea. Publicans and nightclub owners aren't interested in youth issues, only their bank balance. Why should young people have to spend their weekends trying to sneak past the bouncers only to be ripped off by publicans? The CYM is not against people going out, having drink, and enjoying themselves. We do, however, object to the complete saturation of drink culture on our society.

The Final Conquest of Ireland

"Before the time of the conquest, the Irish people knew nothing of absolute property in land. The land belonged to the entire sept; the chief was little more than the managing member of the association. The feudal idea which came in with the conquest was associated with foreign dominion, and has never to this day been recognised by the moral sentiment of the people." – John Stuart Mill

The Cromwellian conquest came to an end in 1652 with the acceptance by the Irish leaders of the Articles of Kilkenny. We had been defeated once and for all and the foundations of British rule had been firmly laid for future generations to suffer under. The final and complete conquest of Ireland saw an end to the Irish Clan or Septal System, that had developed in the country over centuries, and the imposition of a foreign political, social and economic system.

What was the clan system?

The clan system was the manner in which Irish people organised themselves politically, socially and economically. It was based on family ties and geography. The clan held the land in common ownership and the land was used to provide for all. As land was the basis of everyone's survival it belonged to no one individual but was for the service of the entire clan. Rights were extended to all members and nobody, no matter how high up in the hierarchy, could abuse those rights or their position. This was essentially a traditional pre-industrialised form of socialist co-operation. Common ownership did not extend past land however this was more due to the traditional manner of production, than anything else.

It was apparently inspired by the democratic principle that property was intended to serve the people, and not by the principle so universally acted upon at present, viz., that the people have no other function in existing than to be the bondslaves of those who by force or fraud have managed to possess themselves of property. – James Connolly

The demise of the clan system!

In 1641 Ulster clans rose up against the plantation and settlement of their lands. The uprising was forced by pressure from below, the members of the clans were fed up with being chased off their land and being forced to move and travel to find a living. They wanted their land back. Many historians emphasise religion and nationality as the cause of the uprising, and they certainly played a role but by far the biggest cause was the loss of land. Whether this loss was to new English or Scottish Presbyterians, English Anglicans and Catholics, or Irish traitors accepting English titles and grants of land, mattered not to the clansmen. What mattered was that their land was being robbed.

Whichever be the true interpretation of Irish history, one fact at least stands out clear and undeniable, viz., that the conflict between the rival systems of land ownership was the pivot around which centred all the struggles and rebellions of which that history has been so prolific. – James Connolly

The Ulster rising ultimately failed as it was forced to ally with the Royalist cause in Ireland, which was weak from the beginning and rested on the hope of Charles' victory in England, which by 1644 and the Battle of Marston Moore looked dead. The Royalist camp in Ireland was full of traitors and self-interested land owners who fought not for principle but profit, like Lord Inchiquin who fought on every side at several points in the war. With the victory of the bourgeoisie in England, in the form of the Parliament and Cromwell's New Model Army, the Irish cause was lost.



Cromwell Leading the Storming Party at Drogheda by W.R.S. Stott

"The business was barbarous, bloody and inexcusable ... the only excuse for Cromwell's 'frightfulness' was that he was genuinely pinched for time and, further, that the policy worked."

– T.A. Jackson

Cromwell carried out the invasion and occupation of Ireland that once and for all put it under complete English control. It crushed the Irish way of doing things and replaced it with the English bourgeois rule and exploitation. Furthermore, Ireland would for ever more pay for its own occupation by England with devastating consequences like that of the 'famine' of the 1840's, where ships laden with food would set sail from Ireland while Irish men, women and children starved and were worked to death.

The success of Cromwell was based on the scale of invasion he launched. He used over 20,000 troops and spent 7 million pounds. This was a completely unprecedented attack, one the Irish could never have expected and clearly marked Cromwell's intent to subdue Ireland and make it an income for England, something he no doubt achieved. The success was made easy by the weakness of opposition. The good leaders like Owen Roe O'Neill, nephew of Hugh O'Neill, were by-passed command because of petty political squabbles in the Irish clergy and aristocrats. Once again Ireland was let down by traitors and selfish leaders who cared nothing for the Irish people, but only for their riches.

Capitalism, a foreign import!

Let it be remembered, then, that the conquest was two-fold – social and political. It was the imposition upon Ireland of an alien rule in political matters and of a social system equally alien and even more abhorrent. – James Connolly

It has been often argued socialism is a foreign ideology to Ireland and not relevant to Irish history or its future. I refute this. The clan system was a primitive form of communism, a system serving the people. The loss of this system in the 1650's and the forced imposition of capitalism on this country by Cromwell and continued by English rule shows that in fact it is capitalism that is foreign. If we reject English rule in this country and wish to see all the disgusting legacies of English rule gone from Ireland, if we wish to see an end to colonialism in this country we must also reject their social, political and economic system, capitalism.

The clansmen of Ireland fought to keep the land in the possession of the people and lost. We must continue this fight to regain the land of Ireland for all its inhabitants not just the few. Those who own and control the land, own and control the people.

"The lands, being the material bases of life, alike of conquerors and conquered, whosoever held those lands was master of the lives and liberties of the nation." – James Connolly

OLYMPICS SPONSORED BY SWEATSHOP LABOUR

Consumers encouraged to boycott key companies

As Athens prepares to play host to the cream of the world's athletes in this year's Olympic games, it seems an appropriate time to discuss the issue of the sportswear industry and the inextricably linked controversy over sweatshop labour. In "developing countries", excessive working hours and wretched conditions keep not only the athletes in the finest of sportswear but also the Western consumer. It is time to look beyond the ubiquitous swoosh and investigate the plight of poor workers who suffer at the expense of the world's leading sports manufacturing giants.

The Olympics supposedly epitomise solidarity, fair play and the value of humans and their sporting achievements. However, the International Olympic Committee has been criticised over its apparent failure to challenge sports manufacturing leviathans to clean up their acts of unfair play vis-à-vis their workers. Would this be due to the fact that the Olympics rely on their sponsorship?

Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the 150 million-member International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has stated that, "this years Olympics are supposed to be a showcase for fairness and human achievement. But the exploitation and abuse of workers' rights endemic in the industry is violating that Olympic spirit". At the very least, the IOC should push for products with the Olympic logo to be produced under international labour standards. Thai Labour Campaign spokesperson Junya Yimprasert goes further asserting that, "If hypocrisy and exploitation were an Olympic sport, the sportswear industry would win a gold medal". Sportswear is a huge cutthroat business worth an estimated \$60 billion a year. Companies constantly try to produce cheaper products quicker than

labour cuts production costs, which is ever for larger profits. Although cheap prices sometimes reflected in lower consumer prices, but the real losers are further down the chain where ordinary impoverished workers in Bangladesh, Cambodia and in other nations without strong unions or laws protecting workers' rights.



While Nike, Adidas and Reebok have received significant attention for their use of sweatshop labour, other companies have evaded the spotlight until recently. Whilst the big three have cleaned up their act a little, Italian giant *Lotto* has been accused of cutting wages and dishing out penalties when sick leave is taken. Workers alleged they have suffered verbal and physical abuse and have been prevented from undertaking trade-union activities: a common thread running through the abuses of most of these companies.

Kappa has apparently threatened to dismiss employees who join unions, and *Mizuno* are said not to tolerate a workers' organisation in the

factory. *Fila* fined a Chinese worker for making flawed products and *Puma* have been implicated in working women to the point of exhaustion which in some cases led to them suffering miscarriages. *Asics* workers have complained about sexual harassment from the management and *Umbro* workers are said to be frequently made to work an average of 15 hours a day, 7 days a week during the peak season. The appalling list goes on.

The sports companies attempt to hide their links to these despicable crimes against workers by outsourcing their work to manufacturing companies in the 'developing' countries. Therefore, a factory worker, who makes jerseys and shoes and even sews 'swooshes' onto fabric is not directly classed as a *Nike* worker. However, we all see through this charade. A popular response by capitalists has been to point out that "workers are at least lucky they have employment rather than no job at all." Such a defence for this exploitation is outrageous. Workers everywhere should fight this injustice and demand that international labour standards are respected. Workers should be paid a living wage and should not have to suffer inhumane working conditions. Unions are a workers' only line of defence against ill treatment and should be upheld to ensure the workplace is both safe and healthy. Just because these workers are vulnerable and desperate is not an excuse to exploit them. We all welcome the creation of employment but not when it fails to lift people from poverty, denies women maternity leave, hires and fires workers at will and forces them to work excessive shifts on slave wages.

The industry can only be improved and ultimately cleaned up if we encourage support for sweatshop workers in fighting for the rights that we in "first-world" countries have come to enjoy. Consumers can do their part by holding companies accountable for exploiting their employees and refusing to purchase goods produced in sweatshops. Though some companies have "codes of conduct", they are useless unless workers have the ability to make real change in their workplace and consumers refuse to do business with the worst abusers. During the 1990s, an international labour solidarity campaign forced three of the worst abusers, Nike, Reebok and Adidas, to declared their commitment to the principle of respecting their workers' right to organise and began to cooperate more, though obviously more needs to be done. The entire industry has to change in order to make a lasting difference, and you as the consumer possess the power. The companies will listen to what consumers say because without consumer cash the sportswear industry would fall to pieces. We must work to make more people aware of these issues and encourage other consumers to get involved. Fair Trade products are booming as a result of conscientious consumers who would rather pay for products knowing that the workers are given a fair deal.



For more information on what you can do to stop sweatshop labour contact

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT
ÓGRA UÍ CHONGHAILE

Members of the CYM are encouraged to submit article to the Forward Editorial Board to be published on the CYM Opinion page. The views expressed by individual members of the CYM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or the official positions of CYM.

An Introduction...

ÓGRA UÍ CHONGHAILE

"A SCLÁBHAI THE AN tSAOIL MHÓIR CUIRIGÍ LE CHÉILE!" Karl Marx

- Táimid ag lorg ath-aontú na hÉireann agus deireadh le rialtais na Breatainne sa Tuaisceart.
- Táimid mar bhall de ghluaiseacht daonfhathach níos leithne. Tá Ógra Uí Chonghaile ag lorg comh oibriú idir na eagrachtaí sóisialachta, forásach, gníomhoírí an phobail, cearchummaí agus eagrachtaí micléinn. Ní chuireann Ógra Uí Chonghaile a mhaithe féin thar cionn mhaithe an ghluaiseacht.
- Tá muid i gcoinne impirúlachas agus aon comh oibriú le NATO nó an 'páirteacht do síocháin' aontacht míleata.
- Tá muid i gcoinne an Aontacht Eorapach mar grúpa impirúlach mí dhaonfhathach cosúil leis na Stáit Aontaithe ag cur a thoil ar na tíortha 3ú domhanda.
- Éilimid fostaíocht iomlán agus feamhas a chur ar oideachas agus scilleanna gach oibrí agus mac léinn.
- Tugaimid tacaíocht don ghluaiseacht na ceard cumannaí. Iaraimis ar oibrí na hÉireann chun deireadh a chur le tacaíocht don mar dhea 'Programme for Prosperity and Fairness' (PPF) agus chun troid ar son polasaithe forásach sna áiteanna ina oibríonn said. Feicimid an gá do na ceardchumannaí earcaíocht a dhéanamh ar na nua oibrí sa tír.
- Is idirnáisiúnaithe muid agus tugaimid tacaíocht do coimheascar géibheannach na daoine faoi chos ar fad agus cearta na náisiúnaithe uilig chun a cinneadh fhéin a dhéanamh.

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT

"Workers of all countries, unite!" Karl Marx

- We seek the reunification of Ireland and an end to British rule in the North.
- We are part of a broader democratic movement. The CYM seeks the fullest co-operation of other socialists and progressives, community activists, trade unions, and student organisations. The CYM never puts the interests of our organisation above those of the movement as a whole.
- We oppose imperialism and any co-operation with NATO or "Partnership for Peace" military alliance.
- We oppose the European Union as an undemocratic imperialist bloc rivalling the USA in a bid to impose its will upon the people of the developing world
- We demand full employment and seek to develop the education and skills of all Ireland's workers and students.
- We support the trade union movement. We call on workers to end support for the so-called Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF) and to fight for progressive policies in the work place. We see the urgent need for trade union recruitment of new workers in Ireland's growing labour force.
- We are internationalists and support the struggle of all oppressed peoples and the right of all nations to their own self-determination.

WORLD MILITARY SPENDING IN 2000:
\$839 BILLION

ANNUAL COST OF UNIVERSAL PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:
\$80 BILLION

ANNUAL U.S. MILITARY RESEARCH BUDGET:
\$75 BILLION

ANNUAL COST OF PROVIDING HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION FOR EVERYONE IN THE WORLD:
\$15 BILLION

STEALTH BOMBER PROJECT:
\$48 BILLION

COST PER BOMBER:
\$1.5 BILLION

TO PREVENT 500,000 MALARIA DEATHS EACH YEAR:
\$1 BILLION

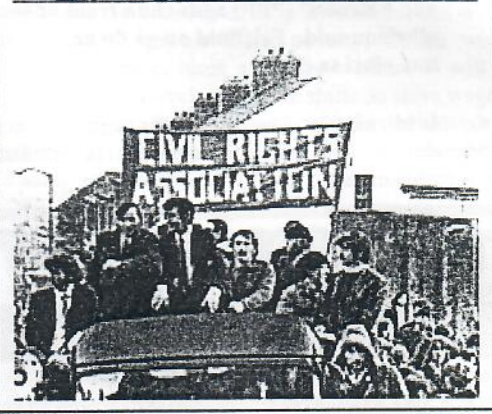
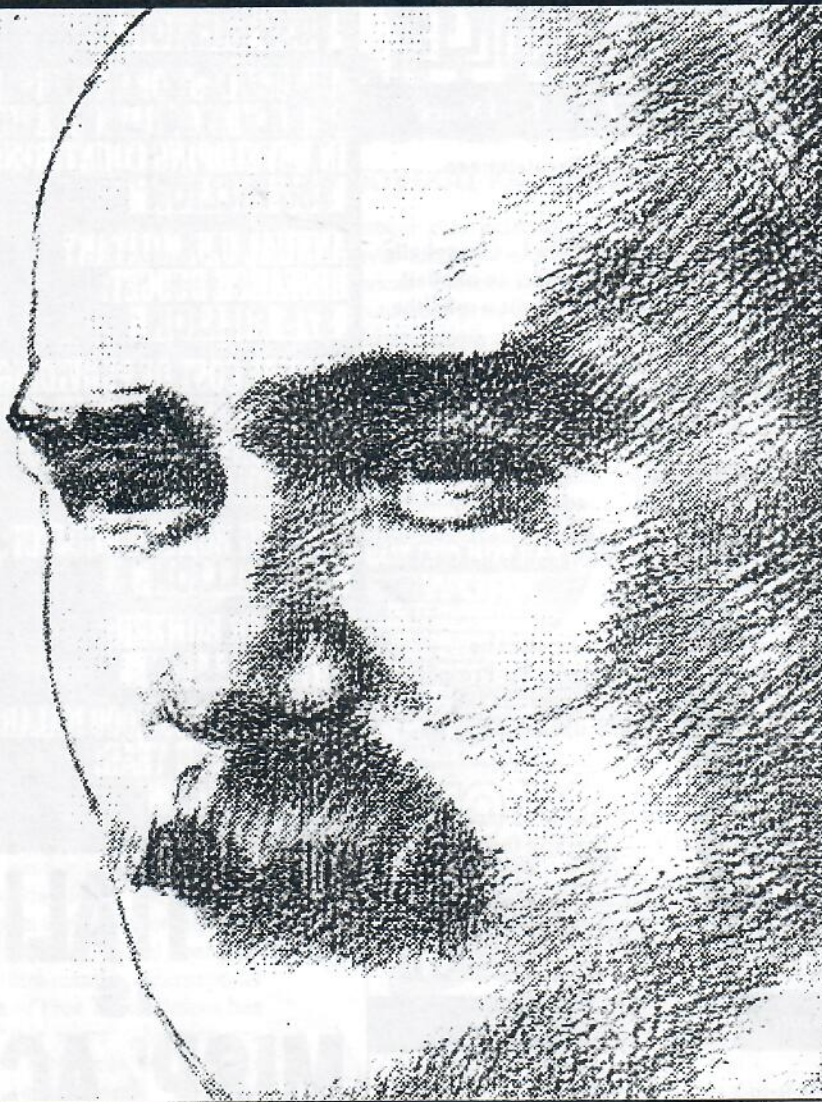
CAPITALISM IS MISPLACED PRIORITIES.



Connolly Youth Movement banner at anti-war march February 15th, 2003

The Connolly Youth Movement is an all-Ireland independent youth organisation influenced by the democratic and socialist ideals of James Connolly. For more information and details on joining the CYM, see next page.

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT



"OUR DEMANDS MOST MODEST ARE WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH." - JAMES CONNOLLY

The CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT is a youth organisation inspired by the revolutionary legacy of James Connolly for peace, democracy and socialism. If you are interested in finding out more about the CYM, please fill out the following:

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE CYM I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CYM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Age _____ E-Mail _____

SEND TO: CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT 43 East Essex Street, DUBLIN 2

or P.O. Box 85, Belfast BT1 1SR

e-mail: connollyyouth@hotmail.com Telephone: (01) 671 19 43

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT



"OUR DEMANDS MOST MODEST ARE WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH." - JAMES CONNOLLY



NATIONAL OFFICE

Dear Comrades,

Here is the latest edition of *Forward* magazine as per your request. If you need further copies, please contact us. All sales and donations should be forwarded to the Dublin office. Thanks.

Yours comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ronán Harte'.

Rónán Harte

CYM General Secretary