



DETONATOR

NO. 3

TUPPENCE

The Detonator says:

The most popular ideology among University administrators and student official is the conception of the university as a community. This attitude prevails in spite of the patently undemocratic power structure and total lack of social equality between teachers, students and employees. This theory produces the inaccurate idea that students and teachers are harmoniously co-operating in the acquisition and transmission of knowledge under the guidance of a just and kind administration and suggests that no conflicts exist despite the obvious division of functions in the University.

SOCIETY

The other prevalent ideology, generally voiced by senile academics, is a yearning for a return to the medieval concept of a university where learning is for learning sake and the institution where this takes place is removed completely from the conflicts and problems which exist in advanced industrial society. Both these ideologies fail to appreciate fail to appreciate the true function of a University in a modern society. The latter theory suggests a grotesque utopianism where learning should be the province of a privileged minority who succeed in being allowed by a benign social structure to enter this clique. This is a theory for middle aged drop-outs who want to disregard society and instead discuss irrelevant theories in sherry soaked senior common rooms at a very safe distance from the ordinary louts who inhabit the streets and don't know about the Roman Empire. The idea of the "University as a community" is a much more insidious camouflage and serves only to mystify in the minds of most students the essential repressive power structure which exists in most colleges of further education.

UNIVERSITY

Our university is representative of the community theory and as such the relations of domination in it are opaque. Generally they are made apparent only when the bureaucracy is provoked into showing its true dictatorial nature and even then there is a danger that call for direct protest action will serve only to prevent consideration of the true problem i.e. a need for structural reform. Our comrades in France have suggested that there cannot be a free university without a free society and this we naturally accept. We maintain, however, that this does not preclude us from putting forward a transitional reform programme because, since the social revolution will not occur simultaneously with the university revolution, we in the university have a unique role to play. Only by becoming really aware of the contradictions and struggles in capitalist society can students become effective generators of demands for radical changes in society. We must also continually relate the struggle of the working class who suffer similar forms of alienation and lack of control in the places where they work.

Our first demand must be for entrance to University regardless of age or qualification. If we accept the present admission criteria we accept in inherent elitism, that learning is the province only of a chosen few who succeed in lasting through the schools programme which requires more stamina than creative ability. We must also demand the abolition of examinations which serve only to prevent true education and encourage only blind mesmerising of usually irrelevant facts which are churned out when the orders are given.

This is possibly the most important and immediate demand. Too many good students who cannot adjust to a three hour ordeal are thrown out of University each year and find themselves irrelevant in our society because they cannot produce a piece of paper showing proof of a successful apprenticeship in the degree factory.

We urge all students to consider these brief proposals and we call on all radical students to avoid being compromised in their demands by offers of "consultation" and active by the University administrators. Our basic demand is simple - control of the university we work in by teachers and students in a truly democratic matters. No minority has a right to manipulate and use the members of this university. We invite all students to join the struggle.

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RSSF

HIGH NOON IN ARMAGH

Saturday 30th November. The day when the R.U.C. abdicated their responsibilities, when Paisley and Bunting proved finally who really controls Ulster, when the fascist police brutally assaulted a B.B.C. T.V. crew, when 12 policemen stood between 1500 paisleyites and 5000 Rights Marchers.

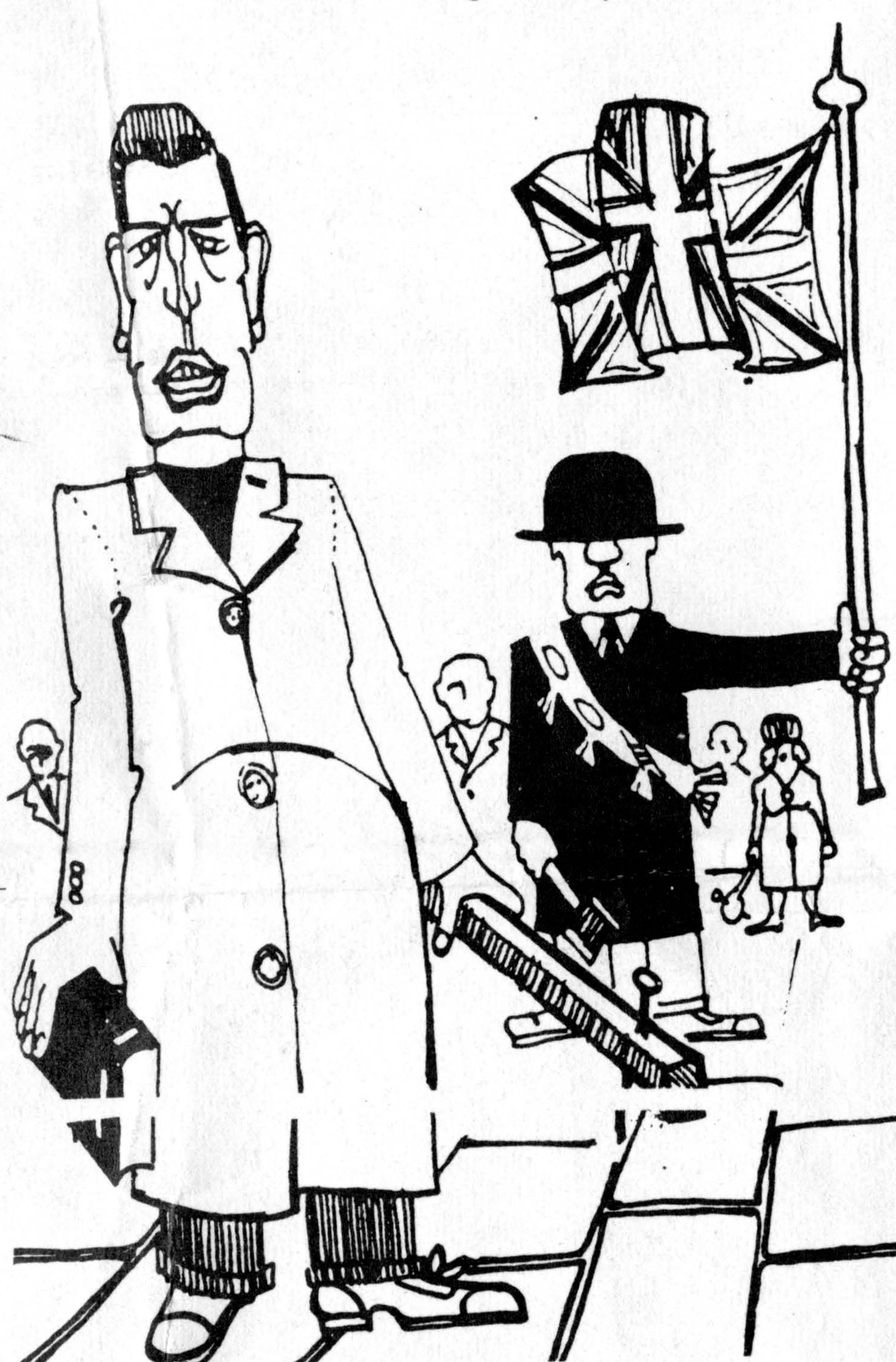
While the C.R.A. was holding its meeting I ventured amongst the Paisley crowd at the other end of the street. To get there I had to take a two mile detour to get past the crush barriers which the police had set up all round the centre of Armagh. I saw Policeman chatting amiably with old women of 70 who carried broken-off planks with vicious six inch nails protruding from their ends, with young girls and boys of 15 who had metal bars and lead piping and with men who sported bill-hooks ax handles and table-legs with the deftness and finesse of test-cricketers getting the feel of their bats.

Later in the evening Co. Inspector Sherrard admitted to Labour Lawyers, who were in Armagh as observers, that he had not been granted sufficient forces to deal adequately with the situation. Craig, it would seem, wanted a confrontation.

The fact that only 12 policemen stood between the two opposing factions would appear to indicate that they were depending on the C.R. stewards to prevent incidents and in effect to do their work for them.

This the stewards certainly did - several demonstrators were needlessly assaulted by the "brown-shirt brigade".

After Armagh one must ask: would not the police have been FORCED to clear the paisleyites from the streets, (there were two water cannon which weren't used), if there had been no stewards. If there were no stewards the R.U.C. would be forced into a confrontation not with the C.R.A. but with the paisleyites. This confrontation is inevitable, C.R. stewards merely delay the day when it will happen. The stewards must go.



ONE MAN NO VOTE

Over to the 'its all hallpeneing folks' maiden city of Derry where our political correspondent has news of the sensational trendy 'winds of change' decision by your old favourites the unionists. Rumours have, it appears, at length percolated through to our super masters that there has been some mutterings from the rabble about having to live in slums on the dole and having their lives run for them by a horde of corrupt and incompetent buffoons who retained power only by the most notorious gerrymander. As soon as the news of this reached uncle terence he consulted with his loyal stalwarts - Brian would you buy a second hand car, let alone cyril lords from his Faulkner and Billy 'I've got more reds under my bed than there are in Russia' Craig. Brian was able, it appears, to inform our noble captain that he had heard that there was some unemployment in the maiden city but had hitherto discounted it as a rumour and Billy was able to state categorically that there was no trouble as he had ordered the entire city to be arrested under this great law that he'd discovered. Brushing this aside the intrepid terry in a frenzy of dynamic pragmatism, or blind panic as it is better known, decreed that to scotch all these cries of 'One man, one cote' he'd appoint a completely impartial commission' to rule the city for an unspecified period of time (believed by most to be eternity). Thus one man no vote has come to Derry, and the populace can rest easy, for terence well knowing that if they were given a vote they would only elect nationalist hacks instead of tory hacks, and as a politician recognizing that one turd looks much like another has taken the turd choosing problem out of their hands, thereby leaving them more time to spend trying to get a job, house, living wage and all the other trivia that appear to beset the small minded and insecure.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that at the N.U.S. conference at Morgate former Union President Dr. Ian R.K. Prick was to be seen in the delegates' bar canvassing for the rejection of the emergency civil rights motion which was to be proposed by the Queen's delegation.

Did you know that a recent Executive meeting had to be adjourned while the President phoned his mummy.

Did you know that James Butterfield is Alan McKelvey's "puppet on a string", and that McKelvey is rumoured to be running for President next year.

Did you know that because of the Whitla incidents some firms have cancelled advertising in P.T.Q. Rag should tell them to bugger off - it's not the students they're hurting, it's the deserving charities.

fascist fruit

Following a recent statement by the President of S.R.C.(U.S.) concerning the sale of Outspan oranges in the Union D.U.M.P.* was instructed to conduct a survey in to the origins of oranges sold in the Snack Bar and Dining Rooms.

The Dump-pool revealed that no less than 98.7% of oranges sold bore the invidious trade-mark Outspan! These oranges are supporting the fascist, racist regime in South Africa. They must be SQUASHED.

*Detonator Usually Mucked-up Polls.

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EVER VIGILANT

Lie easy in your beds tonight fellow students, all is well. Those fearless custodians of student welfare, our beloved s.R.C. have spoken out. Beware Mr. Craig, the intrepid McShane is after you. Red Rory, notorious rebel, republican, international worker ('I'm just back from Moscow, where on your behalf and at your expense I've been improving international relations') has told the pusillanimous Craig that SRC are concerned about 'alleged' over zealous activity by the special people and 'possible' intimidation of students.

SRC has always been composed of bourgeois time serving careerists, (congratulations Geoffrey on your new bank job, seven years of working with the front, moneyed interests and the good ole CIA have paid off you sell-out bastard), inadequate nonentities who feel the need for a little power, and the usual toadies who form the power cliques. There is little reason to feel that this year's SRC is any better than usual. The mass abstentions in the elections, the ludicrous faculty franchise, the cheap electioneering campaigns combine to ensure that the SRC represent virtually nobody but themselves and many of them haven't a mind to make up. The once red rory having discovered which side his breads buttered on now frowns on the RSSF and allies himself with the tory hacks. The latest phoney 'threat' to the thug Craig, - 'hands off' - is quite meaningless, unless SRC are going to insist that the police and the branch keep off the campus, that the fascist special powers act be not used to intimidate members of the Peoples Democracy and the left and are prepared to back to the hilt any victim of such persecution. What's the betting that SRC will come back mollified by whatever pap Billy-boy, not the world's most veracious official, sees fit to hand out and will then sit back on their collective arses and do bugger all? The entire student body awaits, ill-concealing their yawns.

DUBLIN ROCK

THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY
On Saturday November 23rd strikers supported by Young Socialists and Students marched in Dublin from the offices of "Telefusion", in Moore Street to those in Gt. George's ST. where they smashed the firm's plateglass display windows. The firm, which is English based has refused to pay its workers union rates and has replaced strikers by "scab" labour. As the march passed T.C.D. a small group of students and strikers nipped into the quad before rejoining the march a few minutes later "T.C.D. quad is the only place in Dublin you can get decent cobble-stones these days," a striker was heard to remark.

Branch Men of the Week

