

LESBIANS & GAYS

SUPPORT THE PRINTWORKERS

SOGAT • AUEW • NUJ • NGA



BULLETIN No. 2

April 1986

Saturday is WAPPING day!



SUPPORT for the sacked printworkers is growing. Miners, electricians, firefighters, Wapping residents, teachers and Labour Party branches are just some of those whose banners have appeared on the Saturday night mass pickets.

The LGSP banner has attracted much attention on the picket line. Cheers greeted the Lesbian Printers banner on its first outing on March 8, International Women's Day.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of those who have already been on the picket line at Wapping are lesbians and gay men. Many more will have been to Wapping with their unions before the strike is won.

We have a long way to go before prejudice and discrimination is a thing of the past. In order to achieve equality we need allies, and the way to win allies is to fight alongside others struggling for their rights. The trade unions and the labour movement can be powerful forces for change. If we want support for our rights, we must support the fight for jobs and basic rights.

But words aren't enough. Words won't stop Murdoch and the Tories trampling the printworkers into the ground. Shutting down Wapping will.

If a few thousand - sometimes a few hundred - can hold up Murdoch's muck till three in the morning, a few thousand more will keep the papers made all day. Unlike coal, you can't stockpile newspapers - yesterday's news is no good to anyone.

All the signs are that the boycott campaign is having a dramatic effect on sales of Murdoch's titles. *Sun* and *News of the World* sales are falling faster than England's chances of winning a Test match.

If the printworkers are defeated, the Tories will be cock-a-hoop. The clock will be turned back another decade or two towards the 19th century, and let no one fool themselves that lesbians and gays won't be among the first to feel the effects.

Join us every week at 8pm by Tower Hill tube.

Stop Murdoch! Picket Wapping!



LGSP, c/o 274 Upper Street, London N1. 737 2495
Donations welcome - all money to Fleet Street Hardship Fund. Cheques/PO's payable to LGSP.



SOLIDARITY!

UNION OF PRINTWORKERS SUPPORT GROUPS



THE UNION of Printworkers Support Groups has been set up to act as a co-ordinating body for the mushrooming number of support groups springing up - now one in almost every London borough. 'Support groups have a crucial role to play in this fight' sacked SOGAT member Larry Hyett told the first UPSG meeting. 'Mass picketing of Wapping is extremely important.' Now there are plans to launch a Rank and File Printworkers Movement, sponsored by the UPSG, to organise and defend Wapping pickets. UPSG produces badges (see left), posters and leaflets, available for a donation to cover costs. 102 Cromer St., WC1. Tel 435 5652.

RESIGNED

MORALE at Wapping is plunging. Workers on the presses are said to be working double shifts as routine. Reporters deprived of their enormous daily alcohol intake are sunk in gloom despondancy and despair.

Senior journalists are bailing out as fast as they can. *Sunday Times* literary editor Claire Tomalin told her boss Andrew Neil in her resignation letter: 'You have become a mouthpiece for a ruthless and bullying management which regards all its employees as cattle.'

Sunday Times Spectrum editor and gay activist Harry Coen also resigned his job recently. He's now taken up employment on Eddie Shah's profoundly boring anti-union rag *Today*, dubbed *Toady* by cynics less than impressed with the paper's school-magazine journalism and revolting layout.

VICTORIAN VALUES

AMERICAN-style union-busting is becoming a big hit with print bosses. Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group, Express Newspapers and freesheet magnate Eddie Shah all hope to see an industry where their rapacity can be given free rein.

No right to strike, no redundancy pay, no say in working conditions, no union representation, instant dismissal at the bosses' whim - even industrial injury in the course of making obscene profits for these parasites is to be rewarded with the sack.

The majority of printworkers are in jobs like engineering, are cleaners, secretaries, warehouse staff clerks and security guards. Many of them are now in desperate straits due to being flung out on the street with no compensation.

So next time you're asked for a donation for the strikers, give as generously as you can. Your job could be next.

CRIME WAVE

Paper raids

• THIEVES escaped with more than 300 copies of "The Sun", 97 copies of "The Times" and four "Today" newspapers valued at more than £120 in five early morning raids on newsagents in Islington's Chapel Market area and Goswell Road in Finsbury. And early-morning vandals daubed 15 copies of "The Times" newspaper lying outside a newsagent's shop in Goswell Road, Finsbury, with bright purple dye.

HOT LINE

NEWS INTERNATIONAL aren't too keen on publicising their phone numbers. If you have any hot news for Murdoch's scabs, give them a ring on one of the numbers below. They'll be especially pleased to hear from you between 4 and 6.30pm on Saturday when those boring sports results are coming through...

Wapping Switchboard: 481 4100
Bouverie St 353 3030
Sunday Times 822 9900
The Times (Wapping) 481 4000

JOIN LGSP on the Wapping picket line every Saturday night. Meet Tower Hill tube 8pm. Bring coffee, sandwiches and stay as long as possible - every hour the papers are delayed costs Murdoch a packet.

LGSP MEETS every Thursday 7pm at the London Lesbian & Gay Centre, Cowcross St. All supporters welcome.

*SOGAT*NGA*AUEW*NUJ* NATIONAL MARCH & RALLY

SUNDAY 6th APRIL 1986

IN SUPPORT OF PRINTWORKERS
IN DISPUTE WITH MURDOCH

Rally at Trafalgar Square 3pm
Speakers will include Brenda Dean-Tony Dubbins-T.U. and Labour leaders
Followed by a MARCH to WAPPING
led by 6,000 SACKED PRINTWORKERS

TRADE UNIONISTS & SUPPORTERS are OFFICIALLY
★ ★ requested to give MAXIMUM support ★ ★

