

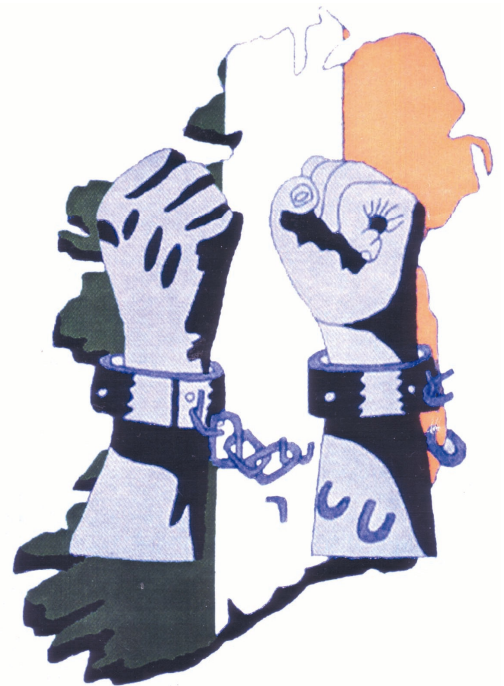


Issue 1 Vol 1 October/November 2003

Full Political Status NOW!

Support the four demands

- (1) **The separation of Republicans from ordinary prisoners and loyalists**
- (2) **Recognition as a group**
- (3) **The right to their own spokesperson**
- (4) **A prison wing or space of their own**



With the recent move by the British prison authorities to agree to segregate Republican POW's in Maghaberry, it would seem another failed attempt by them, to criminalise the 800 year old fight for Irish freedom has passed.

Republicans again have had to struggle to gain segregation. They have taken part in a no-wash protest (dirty protest), wrecked cells and have taken part in roof-top protests to campaign for political status. The Republican Movement have rallied behind them and Na Fianna Éireann has organised pickets and distributed over 10,000 leaflets highlighting their plight.

But until FULL political status is restored, the Republican Movement will campaign for them and Cabhair will continue their excellent work in raising funds for our prisoners and their unfortunate dependants.

Never forget our men/women who have fought for our freedom and paid a high price for doing so. Spare a thought for their families, who suffer daily and have to withstand terrible intimidation and abuse at the hands of the pro-British prison workers in the 6 counties, every time they simply visit their relatives. We will never forget them and we hope our supporters will do the same.

Victory to the POW's!!

Political Status Pickets

A successful picket was held on July 19th, by the Pasty O'Connor, Dublin slua of Na Fianna Éireann outside the GPO in Dublin. Members held a banner calling for political status and distributed leaflets to the general public detailing the situation the political prisoners are facing in Maghaberry prison.

Also in attendance were members of Republican Sinn Féin, Irish Republican Socialism movement the Irish Republican Writers Group, including Tommy McKearney, an ex-POW himself.

We hope to continue with the campaign and hopefully will have further events to announce soon, as we continue to highlight the continued denial of political status to all of our POW's.



Na Fianna Éireann held a two hour picket on August the 16th at the British Tourist Office, in Dublin city centre, in support of the dirty protestors in Maghaberry gaol.

Many members of Na Fianna Éireann and Republican Sinn Féin held placards and a banner calling for political status, protested outside the office, joined by supporters of the prisoners from Working Class Action and the IRSP.

There was a heavy Free State police presence at the event. Five uniformed Free State policemen, joined by three car loads of special political police and a blacked out van did surveillance work on the peaceful picketers, at the time when they claim to be understaffed. We will continue to fight for our prisoners rights regardless of what intimidation is thrown at us. Na Fianna Éireann stands beside the POW's and will fight with them until victory.

Croke Park Leafleted

A picket and leafleting of Croke Park was held on August 4th organised by Na Fianna and Working Class Action in support of the POW's. Over 5,000 leaflets explaining the current situation in Maghaberry prison were distributed to supporters of the various GAA teams. A good response was given from supporters of the POW's and many people stopped to voice their support for the prisoners demands.

Na Fianna although small in stature, has taken a strong stand in support of the political prisoners and will continue to do so. We will stand shoulder to shoulder with other concerned supporters of the POW's in the future critical months.

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We will only request a minimum donation from supporters to receive a copy, to cover costs and P&P. If you want to put a little more that would be great.

The prices per issue including P&P are as follows:

Ireland: €1.50

Britain €2.00

USA & Canada €3.00

Rest of World €3.50

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Letters to the Editor

If you would like to comment on any issues raised in this magazine or if you would like to submit an article you can do so by sending it to info@fiannaireann.com or 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Next Issue Mid December

Fianna News

Fianna Ard Fheis

Na Fianna Éireann held their annual Ard Fheis in Dublin on Sunday, 22nd June.

Delegates including members of the wider Republican movement heard speeches from the outgoing Ard Coiste about the past years activities and the continued growth of the organisation was out-lined to all.

Members of the Republican movement spoke to Na Fianna delegates, and congratulated them on their success in the past year. They also spoke of the need for the movement as a whole to work together to reach their aims and aspirations.

Various motions were put to the delegates and passed, some included solidarity with the people of the Basque country and Palestine, in their quest of freedom. A motion was also passed recognising the 1970 Na Fianna Éireann constitution, which states that we reject all treaties and boundaries that separate Ireland from the centre to the sea.

Solidarity was expressed with other Republicans, whom like us, have had our thoughts and opinions suppressed by newspapers loyal to the Provisionals.

Na Fianna Éireann, once again called for all Nationalists to reject any foreign imperialist police force in Ireland. No matter what badge they wear or no matter what religion the person is, they are still there to uphold British rule in Ireland and must be opposed.

The general theme was very upbeat due to the continued growth of Na Fianna and with the launch of the upcoming web-site, that growth is expected to continue.

Na Fianna Éireann pledged to continue the fight for political status and the fight to obtain freedom from British rule. Until

such time, Na Fianna Éireann will continue the struggle among the youth of Ireland.

The Ard Fheis ended with the playing of the National Anthem.

Bodenstown



On June 15th over 300 people marched in glorious sunshine to the grave of the father of Irish Republicanism, Wolfe Tone, at Bodenstown, Co Kildare. The march was led by a large colour party including 8 members of Na Fianna Éireann and set out from Sallins at approximately 3pm. After walking the three miles to Bodenstown graveyard the crowd heard short speeches from Fergal Moore and a representative from the National Graves Association while the main oration was given by Sean O Bradaigh of Republican Sinn Fein.

In the course of his speech O Bradaigh spoke about the continuity of the Irish struggle from 1798 to today and stressed the need for Irish Republicans to reach out to men of all faith just as Wolfe Tone did 200 years ago.

He attacked the recent use of Shannon airport by the American war machine and also spoke about the need of educating children to reach their full potential not training them simply as future workers of multinational companies.

The movement also re-affirmed it's commitment to breaking the connection with England, as Wolfe Tone pledged to do.

After the speeches the crowd marched back to Sallins village where Amhran Na Bhfiann was played before dispersal.

Richard Goss

On August 10th Na Fianna Éireann marched to the grave of Vol Richard Goss in Dundalk, Co Louth at the annual commemoration in his memory. A colour party carrying the national flag, comprising of members from Dublin, Derry and Co Louth lead the march through the town of Dundalk to the graveside to hear the main oration given by Ard Comhairle member Des Dalton.

Des gave a fine speech as he gave an account of Richards life and how he rose among the ranks of the IRA during very difficult times of the 1940s. He spoke of his death at the hands of the Free State forces in Portlaoise gaol in 1941 because of his Republican activities and gave relevance to the period at which he fought, to this era of struggle in Ireland.



Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican movement. In attendance were Richard Goss's sister Barbara Doran and her husband Tom.

To finalise the chairperson of the parade thanked Na Fianna for attending by saying "I would like to thank Na Fianna for their yearly support of this commemoration, they are the finest youth you could ask for and are the future of true Irish Republicanism".

Interview with 1981 Hunger Striker Brendan McLaughlin

Brendan McLaughlin is a native of South Derry and is a former blanketman and hunger striker. He went on the hunger strike in 1981 along with Bobby Sands but was forced to come off it after a week when a stomach ulcer burst putting his life in immediate danger. He was replaced by Martin Hurson who died an agonising death after 44 days on the protest. He is an outspoken critic of the current process.

NFÉ: How could the public best support those prisoners on protest in Maghaberry and would you support a hunger strike at the present time and in the present situation?

B McL: The public can support the prisoners by holding rallies, marches and protests, and writing letters to those on protest and to well-known people. I would support a hunger strike 100% to achieve political status and for the four demands especially for segregation.

How educated were you in relation to the effects of a hunger strike on the body and mind before you joined the protest and do you have any regrets in going on the hunger strike?

B McL: I knew the hunger strike would have to go the full way - the full sacrifice of my life. I knew what was going to happen but I received a stomach ulcer and had no choice but to come off the

strike. I don't have any regrets about the hunger strike but it has now left my stomach and my body in a bad condition.

Did you have any contact with ODCs? If so what were their attitudes to the protest?

The very odd time we had contact with [ODCs] and sometimes (very seldom) they would have got us a drink or a cigarette.

How did you feel the outside (Republican) leadership represented/supported you and your situation?

The Republican leadership on the outside didn't want us to go on hunger strike but at the end of the day it was up to us on the inside to go ahead with it and we did.

How have the public treated you since your release (e.g. finding employment, etc.)?

It was difficult to gain employment because of the situation in this country. Those in the Republican Movement at the time were helpful following my release but this has changed a lot.

Do you still support the use of armed struggle, and do you think that at any stage you could see a campaign the likes of what happened from 1969-late 90s.

Yes, I would support the continued use of armed struggle now to free Ireland from the Brits. I hope there will be a campaign like that from 1969-90's to blow the Brits out of our country. The Brits have no right to be in this country - they never have and never will. Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.

Looking back at your past was it all worth it and would you do it again?

In my mind nothing has changed over the past 30 years and if I was able then I would do it all over again, and yes I think it was worth it and we have not surrendered yet. The Provos may have surrendered but us the true Republican Movement have not. I fought for a united Ireland and not to sit up in Stormont administering British rule. The Provisional IRA sealed some dumps filled with guns and ammunition, which I don't agree with because I fought for a united Ireland or nothing.

Do you have any words of wisdom or suggestions for the younger members of the Republican Movement?

I think they should take up arms and fight for a united Ireland and get all the Brits out and let us rule the 32-Counties ourselves.

Tiocfaidh ár la!

Robert Emmet Commemorated in Dublin



Na Fianna marched through Dublin on the 20th of September, leading the parade organised by Republican Sinn Féin. The parade assembled at the Garden of Remembrance and marched through central Dublin to the spot where Emmet was hung by the British, 200 years ago, at St Catherine's church, Thomas Street.

The proceedings were chaired by Des Dalton, and the main oration was delivered by Seán O Brádaigh. In it, he tackled the perception people have about the so called "myth" that people put around Robert Emmet. He exclaimed that Emmet was a young man and had hardly lived his young life when it was taken away from him on the scaffold. He gave a detailed account of his life and his passion for the cause of Irish freedom, and how we must, as true Republicans, carry on his fight with the same principles and ideals as Emmet.

In concluding, Des Dalton gave a special thank you to Na Fianna for providing the colour party, and told how we are the future of true Republicanism in Ireland. The commemoration finished with Amhran Na Bhfiann.

Culture and Revolution



"No revolutionary movement is complete without its poetical expression. If such a movement has caught hold of the imagination of the masses, they will seek a vent in song for the aspirations, the fears and hopes, the loves and hatreds engendered by the struggle. Until the movement is marked by the joyous, defiant singing of revolutionary songs, it lacks one of the distinctive marks of a popular revolutionary movement; it is a dogma of a few, and not the faith of the multitude."

So stated James Connolly in his introduction to *Songs of Freedom* in 1907. Indeed in Ireland with its fervent revolutionary traditions, there is an ever-growing wealth of music and song that has been born of the generations of struggle for national self-determination, and the bitter class battles between the workers and their bosses.

This treasury of song not only records the events of our historical turbulent relationship between oppressed and oppressor, but also touches the pith of our human feelings and gives vibrant expression to our demands for justice. It embodies all the strong and passionate emotions that make up our love of freedom. We are heirs to all those great songs from Davis, Kickham, Connell and Mac Coll. From *Boulevard*, *The Rocks of Bawn*, *The West's Asleep*, *The Boys of Kilmichael*, through to Tom Williams, Sean South of Garryowen, and the *H-Block Song*. The traditional ballads encompass a love of Ireland and its music. Many of the more recent songs speak of English colonial oppression, the exploitation of people, the suppression of minorities, and the persecution of individuals because of their Republican beliefs. The element which glimmers through, is a strong sense of justice. Justice in terms of how those with power behave towards those who are in their mercy, whether it is British imperialism's oppressive role in Ireland, a giant multinational company and someone who gets in the way of 'progress', or the harassment of the travelling community.

It is this sense of fair play that comes through and reaches the hearts of all people of goodwill, whether the principle is expressed as a cry of outrage or suffused in a welter of good humour. For many people the singing of these songs is a reassurance, an affirmation that others are aware and wish to better the lot of humankind.

Having started with a quotation, I will finish with one. It is from a talk given by James Connolly's daughter Nora Connolly O'Brien, to the Old IRA Debating and Literary Society on 'songs, poems and ballads of 1916.'

"Life is of no value, can be nothing more than a dreary, empty existence unless based on an ideal and the struggle to achieve that ideal. Without such, this life must be empty and meaningless. I truly do believe that a knowledge of our patriotic songs and ballads would enrich the lives of our younger generation, give them a purpose in their lives, and relieve them of the feelings of frustration and 'not-worthwhile-ness' which spoil their enjoyment of the fullness of their youth...They can learn of the richness of their country's past, of the courage of its people in the past, who strove to ensure that their country should enjoy the stature of full nationhood. That knowledge can spur them to determine that they and their children, and all the children of the nation to come, shall enjoy all the fullness of living in a country completely free and unfettered."

Hunger Strikers Commemorated in Bundoran



Na Fianna Éireann marched through the seaside town of Bundoran followed by 600 supporters of the movement to honour Ireland's fallen hunger-strikers on August 30th.

Members of the hunger-strikers families were present on the platform along with the brother of the OC of the CIRA prisoners in Maghaberry, Stephen Daly who read out a statement on behalf of the prisoners. Many members of the movement spoke during the parade, including Mary Kelly, recently cleared of damaging an illegally parked American war plane, in Shannon airport.

Fergal Moore a member of the Ard Comhairle spoke on behalf of the movement. Seán O Brádaigh gave the main oration. In it, he outlined Ireland's 800 years of resistance to British occupation in Ireland and his hope for further resistance to British rule, until the illegal occupation has been ended, "by force if necessary".

Interview with Josephine Hayden

Could you give us a short analysis of your viewpoint of the present situation?

Being a Republican in the present climate is very difficult. I know this has been said before but never in the history of the state has the state had so many resources at their disposal to ensure a hard time for Republicans. They have unprecedented legal powers with new power being given to the police every day. The numbers of the personnel available to monitor the movements of Republicans has also increased with the move of the Provo's into constitutional politics.

The arrests and detention of Republicans, which is indeed often questionable, continues unabated. The liberty of Republicans is being sworn away in the special non-jury court in Green Street, Dublin by members of the Free State police force willing to commit perjury to ensure a heavy prison sentence for those charged. The use of paid informers continues (not enough police commit perjury yet to eliminate the use of the Rupert's of this world).

The Stormont agreement would be a joke if the consequences of it were not so serious. It is hard to believe that our former comrades have not only accepted the partition of our country but are assisting the British in implementing British rule in the Six Occupied Counties. They are policing areas on both side of the border and in spite of their protestations to the contrary many are privately cooperating with the peelers. It is only a matter of time before they are sitting on the police board in the Six Occupied Counties. It is a natural progression because when you enter constitutional politics you have to abide by constitutional rules. There is nothing wrong with that in the proper context but in the current climate this is not acceptable. When all sections of the British establishment withdraw from Ireland and

the people of Ireland, voting as one unit, vote in a new Constitution then and only then is the possibility of constitutional politics possible.

What were your feelings at the time of the 1986 split?

By the time the Ard Fheis took place everyone knew that a break was inevitable. While in one way there was a feeling of relief, it was out in the open, there was also feelings of anger - anger that a Revolutionary Movement had sold out their principles and split an organisation that could finally have settled the issue of Ireland's independence. It was hard to accept that people we had worked with for years were going to accept all we had ever fought against.

ANOTHER IRISH WOMAN...

SAVE



JOSEPHINE HAYDEN

IRISH REPUBLICAN WOMAN POLITICAL PRISONER
MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN INCARCERATED UNDER
INHUMAN BARBARIC CONDITIONS IN LIMERICK JAIL.

We also knew that once the decision was made to accept the *status quo* in the Free State it would only be a matter of time before the *status quo* in the Six Counties would be accepted. Acceptance of partition and all that went with it was anathema to all Republicans. There was no place in the Republican Movement for those who accepted the *status quo*. Those who dissented from the principles of the Movement lost the right to remain in the Republican Movement. They seemed to have forgotten that it was the *status quo* that had, down the years, murdered

Republicans, extradited them to foreign countries (when no other country in the world extradited their own citizens to a foreign jurisdiction), and politically appointed judges were - and still are - sitting in the non-jury court in Green Street sentencing Republicans to long terms of imprisonment on dubious 'evidence'.

With the worsening situation in Maghaberry at present what do you feel is the way forward for the political prisoners?

The campaign for political status for POWs had to be won on the outside and not in the prisons. Never again should the POWs have to embark on hunger strike like Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan or Bobby Sands and his comrades did. Never again must we see men dying young as a result of hunger strikes like Pat Ward and Mick Brody, to name but two. Activists on the outside must get out on the streets (to picket and paint), get to the print and visual media and put their case for them. There are ways to make their case that are not for prior publication. We must make the world sit up and take notice and ask 'do we want a repeat of 1981? The answer has to be 'we do not'. The men in Maghaberry must be given political status. They must be recognised as group and be housed separately from the loyalists. They can and will assist those on the outside but the thought of another hunger strike fills me with despair. It is not an option now and we must ensure it never becomes one.

You yourself were a political prisoner in Limerick Goal, were you aware of the campaign on the outside for your release?

I was kept well up to date on the on things so I was aware of the campaign and of all the hard work that was done on my behalf. I really appreciated it and am very aware of the debt of gratitude I owe to many people. To know

that you have support on the outside is a huge morale booster – it also shows the authorities that you are not on your own. This is why it is so important for the Movement as a whole and its members in general to support the POWs at all times. You can feel isolated at times so words of encouragement are very welcome as are mags and books.

Do you feel you took anything from your time in prison?

I had plenty time for reading and thinking and listening and that made me more aware of the injustices existing around. I think I came away with a better understanding of the problems that faced the marginalized in society.

It showed very clearly the gap between the rich and the poor. I suppose it made me even more determined than ever to ensure that the ideals and aspirations of the Republican Movement were implemented, that no one should be excluded from society. Bobby Sands said that everyone had a part to play and so they have.

How important do you see the role of Na Fianna Éireann within the Movement?

The youth of this country are the future of this country. As Na Fianna Éireann is the youth wing of the Republican Movement it occupies a special place within it. It is for this reason that members of Na Fianna have been paid special attention by the police over the years - the police know that if there is no youth involvement in the Movement then there is no Movement.

A heavy responsibility rests on their shoulders. They have to lead by example and educate the youth (albeit with the assistance of the oldies!) in the ideals and function of Republicanism.

Without the youth, a Revolutionary Organisation will cease to exist so I see their role as vital to the continued existence of the Republican Movement. All youth must be educated to have a pride

in their culture, language, customs, music etc., this is one of the functions of Na Fianna Éireann along with their many other functions – which they can tell you about themselves! They must also ensure that diversity is respected in this Ireland that is now multicultural, but in the midst of many we do not lose our own culture.

Other organisations have styled themselves Na Fianna Éireann and the Republican Movement; what do you think are the essential differences which make us the true Republican Movement?

Any organisation which stands by its principles and ideals; which does not compromise on the vital issues on which that organisation is founded; which does not capitulate when deemed 'pragmatic'; which does not sell out for power (either political or monetary), then that organisation has to be the true one. When an organisation does not bend with the wind and holds on to its foundation in the face of suppression, murder, torture and imprisonment, holds face in the face of de-
rision, then that organisation is the true one.

History has recorded the names of the men and women who have paid for the freedom of our country with their lives, it has also recorded the terrible price paid by families of those involved in the, still continuing, struggle – let history also record that those of us who stood by the principles of Tone and Emmet were/are the inheritors of the Republican Movement. We that have stood by the Republic declared in Easter week 1916 and ratified in 1919 by the First Dáil Éireann – are the true Republican Movement.

What do you see as the way forward for the Movement and are you optimistic for the future?

I am very optimistic for the future. There are a lot of committed people out there who are willing to throw their weight behind the Republican Movement. I believe that the vast majority of the Irish

people want to see our country united again free from foreign interference.

For centuries the Brits tried to exterminate the Irish nation, they have murdered, plundered, starved and murdered us again, all to no avail – they have never managed to subdue us not to mind subjugate us. The Irish people have a strong instinct for survival; it has stood them in good stead in the past and will do so again in the future.

The way forward involves a lot of hard work. We have to educate the youth – in many schools they are given a garbled revisionist version of Irish history, this has to be addressed.

A few weeks ago Des Dalton spoke in Dundalk and I quote some of what he said: '...we are here for the long haul, we will continue to keep alight the flame of Irish Nationality, we are the inheritors of a proud and noble tradition, a tradition which is part of the very fabric of our Nation. We make no apology for continuing to preach aloud the undiluted gospel of Irish Republicanism, but in addition to this we must act as the guardians of its honour and integrity'.

Do not let the enemies of Republicanism 'decommission' Republicanism. Remember it is our aim to achieve a united Ireland. 'We have declared for a Republic we will live under no other law' – so bring the word of the Republic to the people.

Tíochfaidh ár lá!

Josephine Hayden is a former POW who served over four years in Limerick prison for possession of arms. While there she suffered a number of heart attacks and a nationwide campaign was launched for her release on humanitarian grounds. She currently resides in Dublin and is a member of the RSF Ard Comhairle.

Special Branch Raids



As members of Na Fianna Éireann were sleeping and hoping to wake up to another fine May morning, loud bangs came on their doors at 6am. Them and their family members awoke sharply to the noise. As they opened their doors, the Dublin special branch came barging into their homes. The Branch then began vicious searches of the four members homes, and took items of clothing and their personal belongings without explanation, and in some cases without the showing of a search warrant.

One member and his young family were not even in the country, and subsequently their doors including unlocked ones were smashed in. When the member protested this on his return, they denied ever smashing the door or holes in his wall. Members had their mobile phones taken from them, and the special branch went through their phones in front of them and their families, as they protested against this invasion of privacy.

Needless to say this intimidation served no purpose but to intimidate members of the Republican Movement. It also hoped to intimidate their family in the hope they would encourage them to leave the movement. We are glad to say, they FAILED!

Patsy O'Connor slua remains defiant:

In a statement released after the raids the Patsy O'Connor slua (Dublin) stated its intentions to keep defying the state harassment and vowed to continue on their work within the Republican Movement. In it they stated, "The members involved are unbroken and unbowed to this intimidation against our members and have vowed, not to bend to oppression by any state, that partitions our Island". With the intimidation on the members, these raids are also designed to frighten the family members of the Fians. It had the opposite effect infact. One Fian talking about raids said," they thought this would turn my family against me, its hasn't, they know what their like now. They know their only bullies in suits out to harass people while people deal drugs in the streets and nothing is done to them".

This is something that Republicans are only to aware of, but take it as we always have in the past, as the Republican cause carries us through the hard times, as well as the good times. In concluding in their statement the Patsy O'Connor slua typified the spirit of Na Fianna by saying, "We will not bend nor beg to this and will continue, as we have since 1909, to strive to bring about a 32 county socialist republic on this Island".

Join Na Fianna Éireann

Provide colour parties for commemorations for Irelands fallen patriots.

Help raise funds for Irish Republican prisoners and their dependants.

Outdoor activity.

Support the wider Republican Movement and campaign for a united 32 county Socialist Irish Republic.

Learn your history, culture and the Irish language.

For further information or to join contact us at:

info@fiannaireann.com
NFÉ C/O 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1



Comradeship in Na Fianna

Through time as things have evolved and organisations have evolved some things tend to change. Peoples attitudes tend to change about certain things, through talking to people and communicating about things. Certain people may through time start to think different about the organisation they have dedicated themselves too. But one thing I was thinking about, does the aspect of comradeship and concept of comradeship change within a youth organisation like Na Fianna Eireann?

Many would argue, maybe so. People in an organisation like ours tend to mature in front of each others eyes at times. People are changing all the time. People involved in an organisation like ours, whereby the State looks towards us with so much hostility, can maybe take the glamour off things, when you find yourself at the end of State aggression. As a member of Na Fianna Eireann, I would argue against the latter.

Comrade, is a word that is not used too much extent in these times. It is seen as a term used mostly by Communists. But it is a term, I would have no problem using to look upon other members of this movement as such. When you travel around to some of the most obscure of this beautiful country of ours, with "the lads" and share tents at times, you tend to get an understanding of them and get to know about what makes them tick, not just as Republicans but also as people. You know what's going on in their everyday life and as is usually the case, you become more than comrades, you become close friends.

Its hard to explain the special spirit that exists within our ranks, why its there? How did complete strangers from different areas and backgrounds became so close? One thing is the cause no doubt has brought us together and we have taken to the challenge together.

Its an understanding of each others strong beliefs, that respect grows and then personal friendship stems from that. People may argue over their slight differences, of perhaps doing things but its always in good spirit and in the realisation that because when people are so passionate about something, people may come across a little over zealous but when you have that understanding, you understand why that it so because we are all the same. We wants what's best of the organisation and what's best for the cause.

One thing that I have taken from Na Fianna Eireann, is a sense of being part of something special. Something that will make a difference to our movement and help us progress and happily I am shoulder to shoulder with some great young people and in my opinion some of the finest young Republicans in this day and age and I have shared many experiences with them and travelled the four corners of Ireland with these people.

Comrades? There's no doubt about it!

Tiocfaidh Armani

Reject the RUC/PSNI

Recently we have seen advertisements in the 26 counties on TV for people to join the RUC/PSNI. It is trying to deceive people into joining a new reformed British police force in Ireland.

To counteract this, Na Fianna Éireann will be distributing thousands of leaflets informing them not to join this new British police force under any pretence. It is there as a sectarian force, there to sustain and vindicate British rule in Ireland. It must be opposed at all costs.

Again we would ask people if they wish to distribute these in their areas or help out in the campaign, we would be happy to have as much help as possible.

If you wish to help us with our campaign you can contact us directly at info@fiannaireann.com



RUC/PSNI

50% Catholic

50% Protestant

100% British



Cabhair is a charitable organisation solely dependent on public subscriptions. Its aim is to alleviate some of the suffering of families of Irish Republican prisoners. Cabhair currently supports Republican prisoners in Portlaoise prison in the 26 Counties and Maghaberry prison in the Six Occupied Counties.

Contributions should be sent to: Cabhair

223 Parnell Street

Dublin 1

The History of Na Fianna Éireann

Na FIANNA ÉIREANN was founded in 1909 with the object of educating the youth of Ireland in national ideas and re-establishing the independence of the nation.

After more than 700 years of enforced English rule, Ireland was slowly becoming a contented British province. Unemployment was widespread, poverty rampant and apathy the general condition of the people. Hopelessness seemed the birthright of every boy and girl born in those lean years. The older generations were embittered and dispirited. Pride of nationhood was at its lowest ebb.

The Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association, founded in the last quarter of the 19th century, had made great strides. They catered for the young adult population. But the boys of Ireland, whose keen young minds should have been educated in their country's heritage, needs and future, were neglected.

The neglected youth of Ireland then was falling prey to the bait of the tyrant. Some escaped their poverty by joining the British Army and helped their oppressor establish his rule in Africa and Asia. Others scraped a bare existence at home but did not allow their minds to dwell on the plight of their country or on their future. Meanwhile, a new anti-national menace in the shape of the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts, threatened to spread throughout the country. The scouts made a declaration of allegiance to the King of England, thus starting their indoctrination in British ways and British loyalties.

One day in 1909 Countess Constance Markievicz read a newspaper report of one such loyalist parade. She thought it tragic that 800 Irish lads should parade in front of the King's representative in Ireland and salute the Union Jack, the flag that flew in triumph over their oppressed motherland. She would do something about it. She decided to found an organisa-

tion for Irish boys. The boys would be held together by the bond of their great love for Ireland. The organisation would include all workers for Ireland's cause, whether constitutionalist or revolutionary. What mattered was honesty and willingness to undertake a life of self-sacrifice and self-denial for their country's sake. Na Fianna Éireann was to be primarily an educational organisation.



At the time the Countess was a member of the Sinn Féin Executive and a speaker at their weekly public meetings. At these meetings she aired her views and called for support for the organisation she hoped to found, but met with little encouragement. However, with the help of Helena Molony, Pádraig Mac Artain, and Seán Mac Garda, an informal committee was formed, which discussed the foundation of the Organisation.

It was decided to contact a schoolmaster who would recommend boys who might be interested in such an organisation. The Countess told a Unionist friend she hoped to form a boy scout organisation for nationalists and desired to contact a schoolmaster

who would be sympathetic. He sent her to Westland Row C.B.S. The schoolmaster introduced the Countess to eight boys and she launched the Organisation by inviting them to her own house, where she held the first parade.

None of the members knew drill, semaphore, or any other scouting skill. Little progress was made and the Countess became rather depressed at times. Then they decided to go on a camp, and the joys and tribulations of a Fianna camp really convinced her of the possibilities of the Organisation. It also convinced her that the organisation would have to be run more on the basis of a "Boys' Republic" and an army, as opposed to the English Scouts' system or organisation by sections and patrols. She secured a hall at 34 Lower Camden Street and invited Bulmer Hobson to assist, as he had previous experience of handling boys, having run a boys' organisation in Belfast. At his request she called the organisation Na Fianna Éireann.



The first meeting was held in the new hall. It was largely attended and An Chead S l u a g h w a s f o r m e d . Con Colbert joined Na Fianna that historic evening and soon rose to the rank of Captain. This meeting, which was presided over by Bulmer Hobson, marked the actual founding of the organisation and its launching on a national scale. The date was August 16, 1909. Hobson was elected President, Madame Vice-President and Pádraic O'Riain Secretary.

Continued next Issue

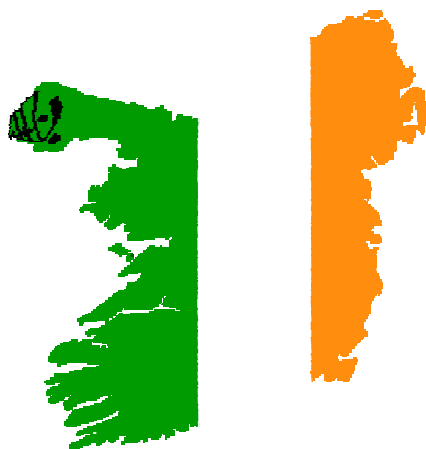
Anti Fascist Action - Ireland

Anti Fascist Action is an anti-racist and anti-fascist group that has been active in opposing the far right in Ireland since 1992.

In recent years we have been involved in the campaign against the increasing racism displayed against immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees. We also participate in demonstrations and direct action activities. In 1997 AFA physically prevented the launch meeting of the Immigration Control Platform from going ahead and in 2000 we were central to stopping the planned meeting by Holocaust denier David Irving in UCC.

AFA works with other groups and individuals in countering racism. We have been active in the past few years in leafleting door to door in working class areas of Dublin and working with local community activists to put across our view that simplistic statements blaming asylum seekers for the problems in the health, housing and employment provide no solutions to the problems experienced by Irish people. Racists are trying to convince us that fighting with newcomers for the crumbs from the tables of the rich will benefit our communities. This is nonsense.

Throughout Europe far right anti-immigrant parties have gained po-



litical power by scapegoating immigrants for problems which are due to lack of investment in state and community services. Fascist parties have retained their ideology but now present a more media friendly and populist face to the public. They are getting their high-

est votes among the working class and youth, as they appear to offer radical and anti government 'solutions'. The British National Party, for example, now has 17 sets on councils in England. There is no reason why a well organised and financed anti-immigrant movement should not gain support in Ireland, given the widespread hostility to immigrants and refugees.

The most serious issue facing anti-racists in the coming months will be the playing of the race card by politicians seeking votes in the upcoming local elections. In the last General Election a number of anti-refugee candidates ran. Though they got small votes they did better than some 'left wing' parties and got a lot of media attention. A number of back bench Fianna Fail TDs have also issued statements attacking foreigners as 'spongers' and 'conmen', in the hope of grabbing a few votes, for example one topped the poll in Cork.

Ireland has a long and proud history of fighting fascism. Over 100 working class Republicans and Socialists from Ireland died in the Spanish Civil War, fighting fascism with guns. In the 1930s tens of thousands of Irish people physically beat the fascist Blueshirts off the streets throughout Ireland. Thankfully there are only a small number of active fascists in the 26 counties, they hide away on the internet or stick up the odd poster at night. We must be alert to their activities and take direct action against them when this is needed.

In the 6 counties there is a much longer and more dangerous history of fascist support for loyalism. In the past year fascists from England have been active in anti-Muslim and anti-Black campaigns against immigrant communities in Portadown, Ballymena and Belfast. These are same groups promoting vicious anti-Catholic and anti-Republican sectarianism. The 'White Nationalist Party', which is flooding the North with anti-refugee literature, is led by Eddie Whicker, who was convicted in the

1990s of running guns to Loyalist death squads. In recent decades fascists have promoted pro-Loyalist and pro-Drumcree events in England and campaigned for the release of Johnny Adair. Adair is a former member of the National Front, a fact first exposed by AFA investigations in 1990s.



AFA welcomes contact groups and individuals interested in opposing racism and fascism from a pro-working class view-

point. We are not a 'politically correct' government funded lobby group. Most of our members and supporters are progressive political activists in their areas. AFA is a non party political group, consisting of people from many different backgrounds who are united in a policy of refusing to tolerate the establishment racist or fascist groups in Ireland. We have a policy of political and physical confrontation to oppose fascism. This does not mean that member has to be a 'street fighter', there is a role for everyone. In fact the vast majority of our work is political.

AFA produces an annual magazine called 'No Quarter', a new issue will appear in the near future.

Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to contact AFA and we will send out more information. We also need information on the activity of racist, their publicity material, stickers, graffiti, etc. Please send any information to the address below.

Anti-Fascist Action
C/o PO Box 3355, Dublin 7

Email
Afa@ireland.com

Web
<http://www.geocities.com/irishafa/firstnews.html>

People's War in the Philippines

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, there followed a sizeable series of war films in which the pro-imperialist elements in US society attempted to re-fight and win one of their most humiliating defeats. Many of these films were to be shot in the Philippines, the country itself physically resembling Vietnam, its people providing an ethnically similar and cheap source of film extras. However, at a time when every US act of aggression is referred to as possibly "another Vietnam", to many within the Philippines, the US aggression in Vietnam looks set to be played out in their country for real.

In the Philippines, the similarities with Vietnam are striking. Just as Vietnam began with US military advisors providing advice to a pro-US regime in South Vietnam the US now maintains both 'advisors' and combat troops. And, just as the Vietnamese, led by a mass revolutionary movement prevailed over far superior armaments the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has declared that: "The Party stands ready to lead a patriotic war the moment American troops wage direct intervention, which includes entering the territory of the People's Revolutionary Government."

As part of Bush's "War on Terrorism" the US plans to send a total of 3,000 troops in spite of massive Filipino opposition. Militarily the US wants the Philippines as a forward base in its so-called "War on Terrorism". Pushing for a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, would allow the construction in the Philippines of supply depots and other more permanent structures that

are necessary for the domination of South-east Asia.

Having allegedly broken the back of Abu Sayyaf the US has recently announced plans to conduct "exercises" outside Abu Sayyaf areas and into those of the CPP. In light of this, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Spokesperson for the CPP has asserted that the party's inclusion in the United States' list of foreign terror organizations was a preparation for "justifying (America's) violation of Philippine sovereignty," and for launching a war of aggression against local communist guerrillas.



Largely based in the countryside areas, the CPP implemented far-reaching agrarian revolution and began building revolutionary mass bases and organs of red political power. By sinking deep roots among the masses, the NPA fought on guerrilla fronts throughout the country. In the words of the CPP: "To paraphrase Chairman Mao, without an army like the New People's Army, the people have nothing... Between armed struggle and parliamentary struggle, the former is principal and the latter secondary. Every genuine revolutionary knows that the chief component of the reactionary state is the reactionary army. The Filipino people are helpless without their own army."

Having declared the Maoist insurgency dead during the 90s, the US, in recent years has acknowledged that the group is gaining strength. A recent Asia Times article described the growth of the People's War: "From a low of 2000 armed guerrillas in mid-1990s, it has grown to 12000, says the National Security Council. It was present in 445 barangay or villages in 1995, but this grew to 1,671 barangay in 2000".

Now operating in three divisions, nine brigades or twenty-seven battalions of red fighters, the NPA is complimented by tens of thousands of people's militia and hundreds of thousands of self-defence units of the mass organisations. Following Mao Tsetung's advice to, "let your enemy be your quartermaster", the NPA formations are equipped with high-powered, mainly US rifles and equipment.

The latest in this long line of white terror campaigns, is that of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of all-out war against the revolutionary movement. In a statement by Gregorio Rosal, it was stated that Arroyo, "... conforms to US orders dictated to her by US Secretary of State Colin Powell during their talks the other day. This declaration is tied to the objective of ensuring the permanent presence of American troops and paving the way for their direct intervention in the counterrevolutionary war."

Within the Philippines, with its population of 41 million, over 90% of the population is severely exploited, the landlords and bourgeoisie making up no more than 2%.

Having long been a source of cheap labour and natural resources for the US, the Philippines largest foreign investor group, US corporations now explore the Sulu Sea for major oil, gold and deuterium (used in nuclear production). Evidence of the corruption inherent within the system, are the recent upsurges in resentment within the AFP.

The right of asylum therefore, like so many other democratic rights, is now under assault from the US 'New World Order'. As always, the real targets of Washington's "War on Terrorism" are of course those who refuse to bow down before the wishes of US imperialism.



Comrade Sison however, in the face of US threats, remains defiant, declaring that the CPP "...cannot be intimidated. They dared to fight the Marcos fascist dictatorship and in the process grew in strength even while the US bases were still in the Philippines... And it is the word liberation and democracy. And it is the word liberation that the US hates most, because it means freedom from its imperialist system of exploitation."

Book Review: Bold Robert Emmett By Seán Ó Brádaigh

On a warm Spring afternoon in Dublin, in a city centre pub, I attended the launch of the book "Bold Robert Emmet" by Sean ó Brádaigh, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the 1803 rising in Dublin. It was well attended by members of the Republican movement and well wishers of the author.

I decided to purchase the book to try get a better knowledge of the man himself and to find out what inspired him to take up arms against British rule in Ireland. As the author happily signed copies of his publication, many chatted about the book and the people of that period. Various people spoke about the book and what it meant at this time to remember how significant a man, Emmet was and how his struggle still has relevance to-day, as our struggle has the same ideals, principles and goals, as his.

After many rousing speeches and a small sing-song dedicated to Emmet, it was with great anticipation that I sat down to read the book and to find out essentially, what inspired a middle class Protestant to take up arms in a selfless struggle to free Ireland? The book did not disappoint!

In fact it gave me more than I expected, it spoke of not just Emmet but of the many great patriots and characters, that made the rising possible. People such as Michael Dwyer and Anne Devlin, who's spirit inspired Emmet to take up arms and plan an insurrection against British rule. It went deeply in what Emmet was thinking at that time and his thinking for having the rising was. And also examined the special spirit and love he had for his country and people and his sense of duty to serve the Irish people. It would inspire even the harshest sceptic to Irish Republicanism. I think it was this spirit and dedication that even though the rising was a failing and a bad one at that, his name is still revered the world over and the author sends that message out well in his publication.

It went into how and who planned the rising itself and the many mishaps that happened before and during the rising and also reported how Emmet although the undoubted leader of the rising, was blameless. Although this may not be the biggest book you may ever read in terms of size, it is a very comprehensive read and relays the special spirit that Emmet and his comrades had very well.

It includes a copy of his inspiring and famous speech at the dock. This book is well worth a read and in this, the 200th anniversary of his rising and death, it is a welcome reminder (if one was needed) at what a special man he was and one thing you can take away from this book, is the same spirit that drives us on, was very much apart of what Emmet the man was all about.

Tíocfaidh Armani

GHADAFFI SAYS...

First of all this is another giant step for Na Fianna Eireann, with the re-launch of this news letter and with the launch of the website www.fiannaeireann.com. Na Fianna Eireann is NOW worldwide.

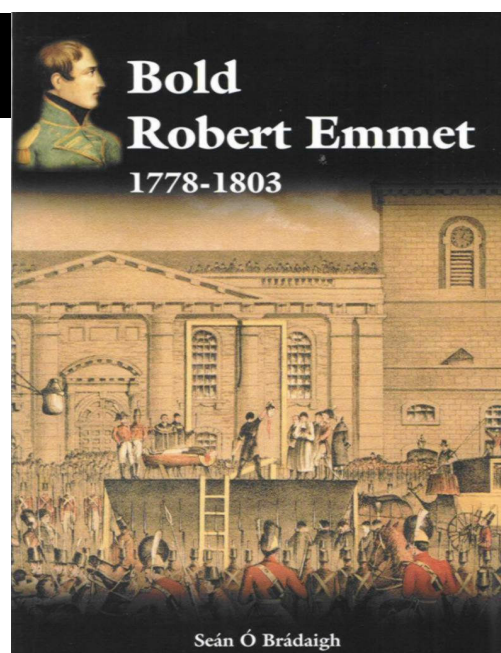
People in the past have neglected this movement but in the late 90's it found its feet again and has gone from strength to strength . We hope in the coming years it can be strong as it once was. There are committed members all over this Island, north and south and much to the anger to the 26 county police we are STILL here.

And with the continued campaign for political status by republican prisoners, there is much more to do

My little piece every two months will be on all affairs, so if anyone has a topic they would like to mention then please send a private message to Ghadaffi on the IRBB which can be found on the Fianna website.

No Surrender! No Sell Out!

Ghadaffi



Bold Robert Emmett is available for the price of €7:50 + p&p, from the following address:
Irish Freedom Press
223 Parnell Street
Dublin 1

Glasgow Celtic: Irish at heart?



Recently news has come out of Glasgow that Glasgow Celtic supporters are to pay in the region of €40,000 to fund the building of a statue to commemorate the founder of Celtic, a Marist Brother by the name of Brother Walfrid. Walfrid a native of Co Sligo in the north-west of Ireland, was only one of a few who helped to create the legend that is Glasgow Celtic. But he is credited as the man who made Celtic what it is today, even away back in 1887, when they first came about with the idea to start a football club that the downtrodden Irish community in Glasgow could identify with.

At first Celtic was set up to help the impoverished unfortunates in the east end of Glasgow, but unfortunately its charitable intentions did not last. This saw the departure of Walfrid from the Irish community in Glasgow. But his legacy lives on today over 113 years since his departure. The whole idea of calling the club 'Glasgow Celtic' is down to man himself. He saw it as a way to show their both Irish/Scottish identity through the name Celtic. They then decided on the badge of the club as a Celtic cross, with a white jersey. This was changed to the famous green and white hoops in 1903. The rest as they say is history.

On the field it didn't take long for Celtic to find their feet, as they won their first league title in 1893, and have continued with this success to this present day. They also have the distinction of being the first 'British' club to win the European cup. But what makes Celtic so special is not only what they do on the field, they are not just seen as a football team, they are an institution to many of their followers. It is seen as a way for the Irish community in Scotland to express their 'Irishness'. To look around Celtic park on a match day is almost at times like having a bit of home brought to you in foreign shores, and the many Scottish accents, all share a bond with the thousands of Irishmen/women who make the trek to see their team play, they are proud of their Irish heritage and culture and see Glasgow Celtic as a means to keep that going.

The Irish community in Scotland has being from the offset discriminated against, much the same as refugees are today in Ireland. The same 'urban myths' were spread around about their new unwanted neighbours. Their Catholic faith was a source of discomfort for what was at the time, a nearly exclusively Protestant country. Celtic has being famous for its rivalry with another team from the same city, Glasgow Rangers, which for over 100 years did not employ people of the Catholic faith, and did so openly and without apology. Thankfully Celtic has never taken the policy to discriminate against people of different religious persuasions, and has employed Protestants since its foundation.

Only really with the influx from Ulster of many Protestant/Loyalist workers from the Belfast shipyards in the 1950's, did the real sectarian problems start between these two great rivals. The many who had left Belfast seemed to bring their sectarian habits with them, and seen Celtic and its supporters as a way to vent their sectarian bile. This was a club in their eyes, as a club in Britain, openly flying the national flag of Ireland in its stadium, despite the threats from the Scottish FA to shut down Celtic park if they continued flying it. Celtic even counteracted the threat, by threatening to play Gaelic football instead if they were thrown out of the league!

Sectarian violence was a regular occurrence before and after the derby games between the two, and most of this emanated from the anti-Catholic feelings that existed in Scotland, and still do to this day. The Catholic community is still very much the minority in the west of Scotland, and are still look upon by some in Scottish society as inferior to their Protestant countrymen/women. During the pogams of the late 60's and 70's in the 6 occupied counties, the Irish community in Scotland felt they had an affinity

with the oppressed nationalists in Ireland. They shared a common bond of suffering from their Unionist neighbours. These feelings of frustration for their nationalist friends in Ireland came onto the terraces. Irish flags were a more regular sight, and songs about the struggle back in their homeland came into being at Celtic games, and are still to be heard to this day.

Although despite a campaign by the club itself called 'Bhoys against bigotry', aimed at eradicating Irish Republicanism from the stands of Celtic park, the same songs are sung, but admittedly they are becoming less audible, as the club invoked punishments of a life ban to anybody caught singing an Irish rebel song at Celtic games. So usually at away games the songs of their forefathers homeland can be heard sang loudly and proudly, as the Irish/Scottish community use the medium of soccer to express their Irish culture.

It is hard to put into words what it means as a Celtic supporter to keep the traditions alive, and to keep that special relationship from across the water going. The story of Celtic bears similarity in a sporting context with the oppression that the nationalist people in the north of Ireland have suffered. Their cultural identity have being forcefully stifled by the majority, but through it all, the faithful believers have kept the flame of Irish culture alight. Some people say, you are supporting a British team playing a foreign support. This is ignorance to the history of Celtic and what they are about in terms of not just Irish culture, but also as a part of Irish history. They are a symbol of the Irish spirit. They have faced the bigots and begrudgers of the Irish community in Scotland, and are as strong today as ever. Today as the Irish flag still flies proudly over Celtic park, let us as Irishmen/women be proud of that great club across the water and be proud of the fans that still hold our little country and its people in their hearts

Intifada continues in Palestine

With the continued use of armed struggle by the besieged people of Palestine, casualties have risen sharply as of late, which has become a regular sight for the people in that region. What has not changed however is the media slant to make Israeli casualties of more relevance to world opinion. Recently, another Israeli incursion into the West Bank has seen another eight Palestinians killed, including an eight year old boy. Unlike attacks against the Israeli State, this slaughter barely warranted a paragraph in the major newspapers across Europe. This sort of media slant is not uncommon to other liberation struggles across the world, as we have seen the media take the side of the imperialist British in Ireland, and have used black propaganda to discredit the volunteers of Óglaigh Na hÉireann.



Although, we would wish to make ourselves clear that we do not in any way support the use of 'suicide bombers', we are very much supportive of the Palestinian people in their struggle for independence. We feel these acts of indiscriminate slaughter of innocents is counter-productive to their cause. Although, we understand the frustration that is born from the daily oppression of a whole nation, the killing of innocents people regardless of age, gender can never be justified. It plays into the hands of Sharon and gives him a mandate to the Israeli people to continue his 'reforms' in Palestine, and gives him justification for the continuing building of the 'apartheid wall'.

If anything has shown the capitalist powers of this world, they can never beat the spirit of freedom within the oppressed peoples of this world, with their tactics of terror. Their oppressive measures only serve to spur the people to rise and to fight head-on as the people of Palestine have shown the last three years. After many deaths, injuries, and the countless demolitions of homes, leaving the refugee camps swelling to the rafters, the people are not broken. We would urge people to support the people in their fight for justice against the US backed Israeli war machine. Victory to the Intifada!!!!



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No war on Drugs say the lefties!!!

Can't see it catching on myself.....

The local branch of the Socialist Workers Party in south Dublin, were out busy trying to persuade the working class people of that area of their merits. by spraying some slogans on walls. A tactic we Republicans have taken to in the past (of course we would not condone such a thing...).

They started with their "Don't pay the Bin Tax" line, which is fair enough, but it kind of went downhill after that...

"Workers of the world unite", "War on Bush", they told us silly ignorant people. What really did take the biscuit was spraying the slogan "NO WAR ON DRUGS!" in an area long neglected, and left to rot as the children of that area pumped drugs into their arms (and other areas which we won't mention) and killed themselves, and doing untold damage to their area and the people close to them.

Yet here come these middle class students, who were brought up with a spoon in their mouth, coming into areas they have no idea about, and spray stupid slogans about an issue that would touch a sharp nerve with the people who live there. The people in this area have watched their brothers, sisters, sons and daughters slowly kill themselves with toxic drugs, and watched as families are destroyed by drugs, and yet these fools think they can just walk into these areas and spray rubbish like that. A war on drugs and the people who supply them is exactly what's needed, and if members of the SWP knew anything about the working class people, they proclaim to be the saviours of, they would know that simple fact.



Maybe after our war on drugs, we could start a war on stupid middle class lefties and their silly slogans!

*Lefties is a slang word for middle class socialists, who wouldn't know a working class area if it hit them in the face! Our socialism is one of the oppressed people coming first, and meeting their needs. Something we know well because most of our members come from these areas and know first hand what these areas need.

Don't pay the bin tax!



Na Fianna Éireann would encourage all readers from Dublin to reject the double taxation of the bin collection service. This is not a 'fair' tax as the states authorities would have you believe. The working people in Dublin already pay for their bin collection in their PAYE tax, and yet only 1.5% of the total waste disposed of in Dublin is from the general public, and of course it is the people of Dublin who must pay for it.

Why not tax some of the biggest extractors of waste in this country; the multinationals! Ah we can't do that, it might upset Bertie's buddies, and we can't have that, can we?

Na Fianna Eireann on the Web



To coincide with launch of the Magazine Na Fianna Eireann has redesigned its website. The site now boasts an extensive archive on the history of the organisation as well as up to date news and hundreds of photos and videos. An extensive section on Republican history is planned. Na Fianna Éireann also runs a very active discussion forum known as the Irish Republican Bulletin Board (IRBB) which gets over 100 posts a day and has nearly 300 members. It can be accessed by going to -

www.fiannaeireann.com

Title: Young Republican, Vol. 1, No. 1

Organisation: Fianna Éireann (Republican Youth Movement)

Date: 2003

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