Join the Fight Against Cuts in Education!

Jodely Green

Education is a right, not a privilege! Or at least, it ought to be. But over fifteen years of Tory rule students have less and less rights to a good education and a decent income.

We have seen the right to Income Support for many of the poorest students taken away. We have seen the cost of college-owned accommodation rise, a shortage of college-owned accommodation and more reliance on students on private landlords. At the same time Housing Benefit, the safety net against homelessness for the poor, is no longer available for students.

Grants have been frozen, and we are now being 'progressively' cut by 10% each year over three years. When the government have finished with it ([In 1996] the full student grant will be less than £1800 per year.

You can't live on it! You certainly can't buy books on it. And perhaps most importantly you can't buy time on it. A genuine full time student is now a real rarity. Most have one or more part time jobs during term time on top of studying. But working still doesn't provide an income you can live on. Most students leave college thousands of pounds in debt.

All of this makes going to college less and less attractive. But it isn't a conspiracy to keep higher education for those with wealthy and generous parents. There are more students in higher education than ever. Given the slim chances of getting a job on leaving school it is not surprising that school leavers are going to college rather than going on the dole, even if the dole gives a better income!

Student numbers have increased, without the extra funding needed to support university expansion. There are shortages of library books, larger lecture and seminar groups, lecturers are working harder, are more harassed and have less time for students as a result.

The government agenda isn't keeping the working class out of higher education. As long as we pay for our own dismal education we can go to university. The Labour Party has much the same idea with their proposals for a graduate tax.

Ultimately, it is all about saving money on public expenditure wherever they can. The cuts affect university students are motivated by the same financial logic which is cutting spending on school books, increasing class sizes and forcing down teacher wages. It is the same logic which is closing hospitals and offering nurses a 1% pay rise.

We want:
• A grant we can live on,
• Enough lecturers and books,
• Affordable, suitable accommodation,
• Because education is a right, not a privilege.

Get active!
To contact Fight Against Cuts in Education (FACE) phone 01589 769104

We're All Going On A Summer Holiday!

Kathryn Marshall

It’s about time holiday package organisers woke up to the fact that one-on-one organises a better Summer holiday for young people than those of us planning the International Youth Camp 1995. Forget the tacky 18 - 30 jaunts and read on!

This year's camp will take place between July 22nd and 29th in the beautiful South of France, and will cost you an attractively small £150.

You will be provided with the opportunity to meet with over a thousand young militants from all over Europe and beyond. It’s a unique chance to share your experiences with others who are exactly on your wavelength.

Then there's the fantastic programme of discussions, workshops and films that are laid on. Subjects up for grabs this year include women's liberation, environmental issues, drugs, racism and youth struggles right across Europe. The camp will also raise and discuss the issue of linking up European activities with the rest of the world.

As well as this, there is loads of time for relaxing and having some fun, with discos and parties organised, including a women only event.

All this for just £150 - it's an amazing deal. Last year, the camp in Tuscany was a massive success. Join the Liberation delegation, put up the Liberation poster and encourage your friends to join you too! Let's make the whole thing even more massive this time round.

1,100 attended the feminist and revolutionary camp last year.
Your mind!

Elasticate

Join 1'000 Internationalist & Socialist Youth!
Leap forward! Revolutionize!

Socialize!

At the twelfth

International Youth Summer Camp

July 22-29, 1995, South of France

For details phone Liberation! on 01895-851981

Or write to Liberation!, PO Box 1109, London, N4 2UU
Youth tell The Tories: Hands Off Our Welfare State!

Kathryn Marshall

If you ask people what having a Welfare State in this country has meant, albeit a pared down, underfunded one, there is a huge variety of answers. You will say it has enabled them to get free healthcare, to get help in old age, to ensure some safety in their lives. Others will tell you it is their pension that has enabled them to survive, but that they are scared about how they can continue to do so on less and less money. People really acknowledge how crucial the Welfare State is to them throughout their lives, and that they don’t want to see it dilapidated.

Despite this, the Tories are trying almost on a daily basis to wring more and more of it away, as they try to claw back money to offer their voters in Tory council elections. What are the effects of these brutal cuts on young people? As class sizes soar in schools and colleges, yet more cuts are made forcing staffing and resources down to an even more ludicrous low level.

At the same time, the Tories bring in league tables to set schools against one another, though it is worthwhile trying to measure education standards in institutions under such constant financial pressure. Once you leave school or college, your chances of getting a job and holding on to it are very slim. Young workers have been forced to rely upon unemployment benefit. Now the Tories have spelt the twelve month entitlement to this money down to six months. If you are careless enough to be made redundant between the ages of 18 and 24, you think you should only be entitled to a means-tested benefit—lower than the previous means full unemployment allowance.

All of this occurs alongside the insistence that you must be actively seeking work to receive anything at all, so young people are forced into taking low paid jobs; they are used as pawns in the Tories’ game to clear up their disgraceful unemployment record. Just as we all have relied on features of the Welfare State, so the campaign to defend it from these attacks, and the many others that will be dreamt up as we near an election, depends on us all. It is the secretory broadcast display of anger and campaigning that is required.

There is a load of activity sprouting up around the country at the moment, so now’s the time to get involved.

Tell everyone you know that this campaign does not belong to politicians who will turn around with the arguments and change very little.

It doesn’t even solely belong to those of us who are already politically active. Like the Welfare State itself, this campaign belongs to us all.

Kathryn Marshall

Right wing threaten a new Criminal Justice Act

Simon Deville

The introduction of the Criminal Justice Act last year gave the police and the State sweeping new powers. Criminal Justice Acts are on the offensive and preparing the way for further repressive legislation.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner has called for further powers to be given to police. Police are finding it difficult to get juries to believe their word that they are forced to fabricate evidence. It has been called “police corruption”. Home Secretary Michael Howard has said he will draw up a new paper to support the demands of the police.

The police are demanding laws to:

- Further erode the “right to silence”
- Abolish the law of disclosure - this law says that the police must make their investigations available to defence solicitors. It was brought in after police had been found in several cases to withholding vital evidence that proved the innocence of suspects.
- Allow the police to use tear gas.

This demand is being raised now for two reasons.

Firstly, the Tories may not be in government for much longer and, although the Labour leadership agrees with the Tory right, they will face much greater opposition from rank and file Labour and Trade Union members.

Secondly, the ruling class aim to get out of their crises through smashing the living conditions for the vast majority. This will need strengthening the state to counter the threat of mass opposition.

In order for us to fight a better future, for better housing, education, health care, welfare rights and so on. It is vital that we smash the Criminal Justice Act and any further legislation that may be passed.

This must be done through a campaign of defiance of the CJA, but also through taking a campaign of opposition into the trade unions and the Labour party.

If we don’t, we are abandoning millions of working class people to the misleadership of the likes of Tony Blair or Jack Straw.

Democracy fight of Timor students

Adela Gowan

Students are in the vanguard of the East Timor resistance against Indonesian occupation. The campaign for an embargo on arms sales to Indonesia is gaining support around the world. The campaign is demanding an embargo on arms sales to Indonesia and for the right to self-determination for the East Timorese people. The campaign is demanding an embargo on arms sales to Indonesia and for the right to self-determination for the East Timorese people.

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