

# LIVERPOOL Free Press

News you're not  
supposed to know

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4p



The drugs squad search customers in Virgin Records

A Liverpool shop may be prosecuted for selling copies of Oz. In a raid on Probe, a record and magazine shop in Clarence Street on October 27, police seized 81 copies of the magazine.

It was the third in a series of raids.

On October 21 about 25 uniformed and plain clothes police with dogs entered Virgin Records in Bold Street with a warrant to search for drugs.

Fifty to sixty customers in the shop were told to put their hands on their heads and then were searched individually. A cigarette end was taken away for analysis.

Virgin's staff believe this is a continuation of the harassment reported in Free Press No 2. Some of the other shopkeepers object to Virgin being in such a posh street, and the old-established record shops (whose prices are higher) would be only too pleased to see Virgin driven out of business.

What Virgin want to know is why their shop should be suspected and not the traditional record shops.

## Who's the real problem?

"The person in Liverpool who's been defined as a problem might well look upon the planners as a problem. To him the planner is a problem, the police are a problem, the local politicians are a problem."

*-Tony Lane, Liverpool University sociologist speaking on the BBC-2 Horizon programme about the planning of Liverpool.*

## OZ raid on city shop

Four plain clothes officers entered Probe a week before the latest incident there, to search for records allegedly stolen from Virgin. When the staff produced evidence that all their stock had been acquired honestly, the officers began sniffing their tea bags and poking about in cavities in the wall, apparently looking for drugs. Again, nothing illegal was found.

The men then left, taking with them a number of books on growing pot plants.

# ECHO'S BIG LAND SCOOP



Liverpool's 'responsible' newspaper monopoly, the Daily Post and Echo are on the verge of completing one of the most disturbing land deals in the city's history.

The deal has allowed them to move out of their present grimy, cramped headquarters in Victoria Street to one of the most valuable sites in the city centre, making a handsome profit on the way.

The disturbing nature of the deal is the untold advantages that have come the way of the Post and Echo and their major shareholder, Royal Insurance, as a result of a close relationship with Liverpool Corporation.

The advantages are many:

A plum site next to the £80m inner motorway, which will provide a vital link for the Post and Echo newspapers, allowing them fast distribution to Liverpool suburbs and the Wirral.

Massive compensation approaching £2m for their old building in Victoria Street, even though it is not now to be compulsorily purchased to make way for the civic centre.

A choice site adjacent to the Post and Echo for the Royal Insurance, the Post and Echo's largest shareholder.

A special traffic management scheme costing the city £100,000 linking the new Post and Echo building to the inner motorway.

The sale of the unwanted Echo owned Tintings/Evening Express building to the Liverpool Education Department for £265,000.

Permission to build a 13-floor tower block of speculative office space, which the Post and Echo have now leased to British Land, a newly formed property investment company which specialises in office developments.

And the assistance of Liverpool Corporation in forcing a firm on the Old Hall Street site to sell.

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## WHY THE M-62 TOOK A TURN

When Liverpool's Director of Transport Mr Ronald Williams announced the possibility of an M 62 diversion tunnelling under Kensington Fields he pointed to a probable saving of £5 million.

But he wouldn't admit the real reason - that the section of the inner motorway linking up with the M 62 at Upper Parliament Street is unlikely to be built.

In Free Press no.1 the question was asked why the M 62 was linking up with sections of the inner motorway that the city couldn't afford to build.

It isn't to save money that the M 62 may be diverted, it's to stop it funnelling traffic into thin air over the Mersey.

And the reason the eastern leg of the inner motorway isn't being built is because the city can't afford it.

But Williams and MacDonald Steward won't give that reason for fear it casts further doubts upon the city's ability to pay for the rest of the inner motorway.

## Back-door eviction

The Labour-controlled Bootle council are threatening to use a 133 year old Act to throw eight families out of their homes

The council passed a recommendation to evict the families on October 6. All evictions from council houses in Bootle are under the 1838 Small Tenements Act.

Not only is the Act ancient and out of date, but also the council may be using it in an illegal way.

For the Act was passed 58 years before any council houses were built

And the 1838 Act was only meant to be used on property where the annual rent did not exceed £20.

Most council house tenants pay over £20 a month, not £20 per year.

This is the Act which many members of the Labour party have called inhumane, and which Bootle

Labour candidates openly attacked before the recent election gave them a majority of one.

The fact that even the Tory Government propose to abolish it with their so-called "Fair Deal for Housing" shows just how unfair and antiquated it is.

Under the Act, all councils have to do to evict families is to obtain a warrant from the magistrates court - the magistrates are obliged to issue it.

The notice to quit gives the tenant just 21-30 days to get out.

The eviction notice, under the Act, can be given FOR ANY REASON. One does not have to be in arrears with the rent. There is no right of appeal. Nor is there an obligation on the council to rehouse the family of an evicted tenant.

A spokesman for Bootle corp-

oration said: "The families haven't been evicted yet. Most pay up when they hear they are to be evicted."

"Bootle always uses the 1838 Act as it is quicker and easier.

"Most councils evict under this Act, don't they?"

Mike McGurgan of the Sefton and Netherton Tenants Association commented: "The 1838 Act was never designed to be used by councils. It is a back-door method of obtaining a quick eviction without attracting publicity.

"To evict for any reason solves little or nothing. The tenant becomes a social problem. The children find their way to the Children's Department and homes."

## BOMBS BOOM AT WIGAN

Demand at the CWS glass works, Wigan, is reported to be booming because of the Ulster crisis.

Wigan glass works is a major supplier of milk bottles to the Belfast area, and production has been stepped up to replace bottles used for making petrol bombs.