

# Nudge Nudge

NUJ Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star and Daily Star Sunday chapel newsletter

March 2004

## 3% package deal

The chapel voted on Friday 27 February to accept a last-minute package offer from the management.

At a poorly attended London meeting – with many members choosing to stay at their desks rather than vote – a majority wanted to proceed with the ballot for industrial action.

But when the voting at Broughton and Glasgow was taken into consideration, there was an overwhelming majority for accepting the deal outlined below by the management:

- 3% rise for all editorial staff in all centres backdated to 1 January
- Additional money for the lowest paid so that the increase for those 33 full-time journalists (excluding trainees/part-timers) on £27k and below will be rounded up by £1,000
- Undertaking to increase anyone's salary who is overtaken by someone below them as a result of point 2 (above)
- Additional £1,000 for graduate trainees when they enter their second year in September
- 3% rise to apply to all casuals – including minimum rates and up to £150 a shift – from 1 March (subject to agreement of the package before then)
- Correction of anomalies on holidays for staff required to work bank holidays (ie should be 23 days not 20 days per annum)
- Letter of intent for NUJ reps on sick pay.

**The votes:** London voted AGAINST - 38-9

Glasgow voted 1-22

Broughton voted 0-57

So the overall figure was 39 against acceptance and 81 for acceptance.

**Now:** Please make sure you know exactly how the deal affects you. Several members are in dispute with the management about back pay of several hundred pounds because they have not been claiming the increased casual rates which the chapel won over a year ago. Don't lose out on pay or holiday entitlement. Chapel officials will be happy to explain details of the package.

■ During negotiations about holidays, management stressed that Richard Desmond was not interested in taking holidays. Two days after the union vote, Mr Desmond flew to Barbados.

### Respect, please!

*Dear Express Journalists,*

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO), an international advocacy organisation lobbying for the rights and respect of Roman people in Europe, is deeply concerned about the recent campaign in the British press that presents the Roma as welfare scroungers and pretended that east Europeans would invade the UK and plunder its social system following the entry of their countries into the EU.

Since you have been at the source of the information, we do not have to tell you that these allegations are bare of any evidence and essentially built on prejudices and stereotypes against Roma. Neither do we have to remind you that any professional code of conduct requires a journalist to base his or her writings on provable facts and to refrain from slandering and discriminatory statements.

Roma continue to suffer widespread marginalisation and discrimination in eastern and western Europe. The history of our people has been marked by a succession of persecution and annihilation attempts. Both have been based on stereotypes and even today our people are assaulted and killed for the mere fact of being Roma.

We are writing to you, because we have learned that you complained about being pressurised to write this kind of racist article. We sincerely hope that you will succeed in breaking the tension which is lying upon you and wish to express our support to your action. There is no legitimacy or excuse for writing materials that call for hatred against other people on the mere fact of their origin.

We are calling to your responsibility as journalists and as citizens: The essential thing you owe to your profession and to your readers is accurate information and the essential thing you owe to the approximately 12 million Roma people – some of whom, citizens of your country – is respect.

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