



TELEVISION

For once, communists are shown as heroes

HOW MANY TV dramas portray communists as heroes? Not many, I imagine.

However, *Resistance*, screened on More4 every Friday, shows communists as just that.

The series tells the story of a group of French teenagers who are trained into effective anti-fascist fighters by the communist and Spanish civil war veteran Fredo.

He teaches our protagonists

how to throw grenades and petrol bombs and namechecks Georgi Dimitrov and his call for a united front against fascism.

Fredo is not portrayed as a robotic stooge, as doubtless a US and British television drama would paint him, but as a committed and broad-minded anti-fascist fighter who wants to eradicate the Nazi and Vichy occupation forces.

This shows how, even today,

communists are treated with much greater respect in France than in the US and Britain, where communism is seen as a dirty word or a loaded term at best.

It's small wonder that the French Communist Party continues to win elections at local level and attracts support to a greater degree in national elections as well.

The French people know full well that communists led the

resistance to fascism from 1940 to '44 and eventually liberated their country in the Paris uprising of the latter year.

Resistance is worth a watch just for that reason alone — it shows communists as they were, without the tarnishing of their roles in World War II by contemporary historians, as is the norm today.

PHIL BRAND
London SW17

LABOUR PARTY

Jez we did!!!

REJOICE! Rejoice!
BRENDA O'BRIEN
London N21

MINERS' STRIKE

Orgreave campaign's TUC stall worth visiting

THE Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign has a stall at the TUC Congress this year.

The campaign for a public inquiry into the events at

Orgreave still goes on and is even harder under the present government.

I urge all delegates to visit the stall to find out about

progress being made and to push their union leaders for help and support.

BRYAN MUNSEY
Sheffield

SYRIA DRONE STRIKE

Cameron's a war criminal

I WAS amazed and ashamed by David Cameron's recent sinister actions in Syria.

I had to remind myself that we don't have the death penalty in Britain, so how could a person who acts on our behalf order the killing of two of our citizens in another country?

Even the nazis were given trials at Nuremburg before sentencing.

People will remember that

we are not at war in Syria.

A parliamentary vote decided that.

Despite this fact, Cameron has also embedded our planes and pilots in forces bombing Syria.

In my eyes, Cameron has joined Blair as a war criminal and deserves to be brought to justice.

EDDIE ADAMS
London W10



GOOD RIDDANCE: Rachel Reeves and Jamie Reed have resigned

LABOUR LEADERSHIP

Labour's losers can go – we need new blood

IT AMUSED me that certain shadow ministers resigned within minutes of Jeremy Corbyn taking the helm.

This shows that they have assumed a number of things. One, that they are clearly so important to the party that their absence will have an effect and, second, that they would have been part of the new shadow cabinet anyway.

They were shadow ministers in the Labour Party which failed to win the last election, so perhaps their sell-by date has expired and new blood is needed.

What I would say to all those MPs apparently planning a coup is that Corbyn was voted

in by all the Labour Party, most of whom aren't MPs. If those few MPs bring him down, there will be electoral repercussions and it will prove that a divide exists between the Whitehall bubble and the rest of us.

Labour may lose the next election, that is up to the people, but if there is a split in the party it will lose the next election. Give Corbyn a chance — people have suddenly been given an alternative to the austerity mantra and that should worry the government, which has been saying that there isn't one.

ANTONY CLAY
Bradford

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contact Mark Rowe markrowe2011@hotmail.co.uk.

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WOLVERHAMPTON: Wolverhampton, Bilston & District Trades Union Council 150th anniversary celebration. September 17, doors open 7pm. Attila the Stockbroker performing, speakers Rob Marris MP and Lee Barron, Midlands TUC secretary. Free buffet. Clarendon, Chapel Ash WV3 0TN. Tickets £5/50p unemployed. www.wolvstuc.org.uk



The Quizmaster

Test your general knowledge with our daily quiz – and see if you can beat The Quizmaster...

- 1 What is an Arab man's "agal"?
- 2 True or false: until the 19th century, British doors did not have letter boxes.
- 3 If you had an Egyptian Mau, what would you have?



ON YER BIKE: London's hire bicycles

with William Sitwell

■ Yesterday's answers

1. Which means of transport in London used to be painted bright blue before being painted red? **The hire bikes, owing to a change of sponsor**
2. In which US state is the Lick Observatory? **California, at San Jose**
3. True or false: silk can come from clams. **True. The silk that comes from clams is known as "sea silk"**

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