

Levers for the lovers of power

By Joan Trevor

THE current Labour Students leadership of the National Union of Students are tomorrow's New Labour leaders. Many of the recent Labour student leaders will have positions of power behind the scenes as advisers and "assistants" to the great and powerful of New Labour. They are horrible careerists! All of them!

They do everything the easy way. Like the toads who fawn on great tyrants they go to the functions, eat the food, drink the fine wines. Politics run this way is fine by them. They learned and used every carving, lying trick in the book to get where they are. If, like me, you have seen them at work in the student movement you already know that they have absolutely no scruples.

Some of these people will soon have their hands on the state machine! I find that idea nightmarish.

Any incoming government has a hard job mastering the civil servants and the state institutions and subordinating them to its will. But the establishment is pliant enough when it agrees with your politics and I predict that the British establishment will happily go along with New Labour.

So the Blairites will soon have their hands on the files, computers and surveillance equipment and potential of MI5 and MI6, the police and the armed forces. Am I paranoid to find this prospect alarming?

With the New Labour careerists on hand to tell what they know and point educated fingers, the state bully boys will go straight to the right people.

We have no room for complacency. The FBI in America did a good job on the black liberation movement in the 1970s, planting spies and agents-provocateurs. They isolated it and smashed it up. They're still framing and locking up its rump now, men like Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The people who ran the student movement and now prop up New Labour would do that. If they get the chance. Nobody who ever saw them in action in student politics will doubt it. Watch out!