

Bastard of the month

And now to Caroline Flint MP who recently proposed that the long term unemployed should be kicked out of social housing: congratulations, you are this month's Bastard!

In her first speech as housing minister, Ms Flint told the Fabian Society that the unemployed should either look for work or lose their homes. Ms Flint's 'kick 'em while they're down' approach would see families and communities torn apart; children forced onto the streets because their parents can't find work. And all because we live in a society that pushes us to sell the best years of our life to the boss just to get by. "Social housing should be based around the principle of something for something," said Flint. No. We completely disagree. Housing should be based on the principle of



something for nothing ... quite literally. Housing should be free, given to everyone based on need regardless of whether we're in work or not. How about this for an amended proposal: all politicians should find proper work themselves or be forcibly removed from power by an organised working class! Caroline Flint: you are a Bastard. ★

Subvert!

When going on demonstrations stay sober, don't talk to the police if you are arrested give only your name and address then say "no comment" to any other questions.

Visit ldmg.org.uk

March

2nd - EDINBURGH COALITION AGAINST POVERTY LAUNCH NIGHT - 7:30 at ACE, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh. Speakers from London Coalition Against Poverty, IWW, ACE and Edinburgh Claimants. Followed by a chat about strategy and tactics.

21st - JUST DEFY! vs. Poverty - A night of techno/acid/DnB/post-punk/mashup for London Coalition Against Poverty. Louise+1, Nick Disjunct, Gergl, Magneze, Blagsta. 8 til late. Only £4 @ Korsan, 161-165 Kingsland Road, E2 LCAP.org.uk

SMASH EDO "On the Verge Tour" - touring the UK (and beyond) and screening *On The Verge* at every venue. It will give those involved the chance to discuss tactics, get feedback, and organise for the future. See <http://www.schnews.co.uk/schmovies/index-on-the-verge.html> for dates as they stand (regularly updated). If you want the tour to come to your town/city email on-the-verge@hotmail.co.uk

April

1st - FOSSIL FOOLS DAY - day of action against the fossil fuels industry, events nationwide. See <http://www.fossilfoolsday.org>

11th and 12th - call for decentralized days of action for squats and autonomous spaces, UK and beyond. See <http://april2008.squat.net>



The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world it's destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it such as working through parliament and national liberation movements as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them, they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across the British Isles fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at—

Anarchist Federation
BM ANARFED, London, WC1N 3XX
info@afed.org.uk
www.afed.org.uk / www.iaf-ifa.org

Subscriptions to Resistance cost £4 to the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, Organise!, is also £4. You can subscribe to Resistance by email via the website above.

for a free humanity, for anarchist-communism.

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anarchist bulletin

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Bulletin of the Anarchist Federation – March 2008

#101

Only rights can stop the wrongs.

In today's society sex is valued no more or less than a commodity. It is an asset which we all possess and some choose to use to their own benefit. There are many reasons why an individual may become a sex worker; they may be forced by economic circumstances, they may be dependant on such work to support families or drug addictions (according to sources, 95% of Britain's sex workers have a history of substance abuse) or they may see sex work as a form of liberation. Whatever the reasons for becoming a sex worker, victimisation and prosecution are not the solution.

Sex workers face a constant struggle to get their voices heard. We often read stuff in the media or hear statements from government officials about the problems they face, but neither of these have any idea of the real situation. Efforts have been made to overcome this. For example, the X-talk project, organised by a network of workers, offers free language classes which help communication between sex workers as well as between themselves and clients. Schemes such as these are a step towards how sex workers are able and should be allow-



ed to organise, secure their own conditions and protect themselves. The same way any group of workers should.

Government policy regarding the sex trade is punitive and counterproductive. Instead of allowing sex workers to improve their conditions, the government has pursued its obsession with demonising the trade. Under the 1993 Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) act, anyone found to be selling sex is liable for a £1000 fine and six month prison term, anyone thought to be soliciting sex from prostitutes is liable for a £500 fine. A prostitute forced to pay a £1000 fine will not and cannot 'give up and find another job'. Sex workers will instead be forced to work longer and ever more dangerous

hours in order to recoup losses. There is also the risk of forcing workers deeper into a criminal underworld that doesn't care about their rights or welfare.

This legislation has been proven deadly most recently in the tragic murders of the five prostitutes in Ipswich. The government continues to reject proposals for legalised prostitution zones, brothels and massage parlours, all of which allow prostitutes greater security and solidarity. These measures could have been instrumental in preventing the murders of these five workers. Instead they are forced into the dark and systematically ignored by society.

These laws simply serve to marginalise yet another group of workers who, at the end of the day, possess the right to a free choice of work like anyone else. When it comes down to it, behind all the moralising, shaming and blaming that surrounds sex work one simple fact still remains – that only rights can stop the wrongs. ★

100% Need Not Apply

It seems these days you can't board a bus, use a public call box or even watch some telly without being told of the "adventurous", "life-fulfilling" career that awaits you in the British Army. Members of Sheffield Activist Network and Sheffield Anarchist Federation had had just about enough of all this nonsense and decided it was time to make a stand.

On the fifth anniversary of the 2,000,000-strong anti-war demo in London, activists blockaded the city's major military recruitment centre. They d-locked the doors closed and gave out over four hundred leaflets exposing the realities that working-class kids expect to face in the military.

Business inside the centre was seriously disrupted and the events even caught the attention of the

local media.

The police presence was sustained throughout the day. Coppers choosing to wait for the streets to empty and then simply overwhelm and remove protesters by sheer force of numbers.

The general reaction of the public, however, proved the demo to be a success and the sympathy of some ex-squaddies was particularly encouraging. An emotive member of the public, who had lost both her grandsons to the military, personally thanked us for our efforts and said she was proud to see young people take a stand.

Other recent protests against war and militarism include invasion of a lecture on aerial warfare and the disruption of arms dealers at a careers fair. ★



Police Federation negotiations take a turn for the worse as South Yorkshire Police seek a new career path.

Sod that for a game o' soldiers

If you've been wondering why the British state is still in Iraq for no apparent reason when just about all opinion (even the yanks) is now favouring a hasty retreat, you'll be pleased to hear that a sizeable chunk of UK soldiers are wondering the same thing! A record number of 20,340 troops have not re-



turned to active duty – one ninth of the armed forces has quit or gone AWOL. This has left the army 6000 short of operating capability.

We have also learned that they lose more troops to hard drugs than to enemy action – around a platoon a year. Looks like it's not all fun in the sun with a gun. ★

Good news from Belarus

We reported in *Resistance* #98 that the parole hearings of two Belarusian anti-fascists, imprisoned a year ago after confronting neo-nazis in the street, had been postponed. We are now pleased to report that both Vladislav Plyashkevich and Gubski Maxim now have been released, although they will now spend around 1 1/2 years on parole. Thanks to everyone who wrote letters of support during this time of uncertainty.

For anti-fascist activity in UK, see <http://www.antifa.org.uk>
<http://nobnpfestival.wordpress.com> ★

Wikileaks censored

Transparency website Wikileaks has been muzzled with a legal injunction by a US court following the publication of leaked documents about a Swiss bank implicated in alleged money laundering.

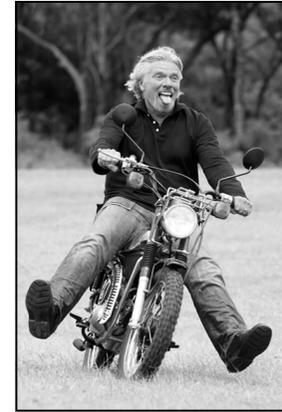
The anonymous whistleblower site, devoted to battle against corruption and censorship, published several hundred documents purportedly showing that Bank Julius Baer and its Cayman Islands subsidiary had been involved in offshore tax evasion and money laundering by extremely wealthy and, in some cases, politically sensitive clients from the US, Europe, China and Peru.

In response, the San Francisco District Court has ordered the removal of all hosting records for the wikileaks.org domain name and prevention from resolving to the wikileaks.org website or any other website or server other than a blank park page. Wikileaks has published important leaked documents in the past, such as the Rules of Engagement for Iraq, the Guantanamo Camp Delta Standard Operating Procedures and evidence of major bank fraud in Kenya. Copies of the site are still up and running - <http://wikileaks.be> ★

Bog off Branson!

Not content with owning a record company, a radio station, a music festival, a health club chain, an airline, a hot air balloon operator, a travel agency, a publisher, retailer and distributor of books, a bridal wear shop, a private jet marketplace, a comic book producer, a retailer of cosmetics, jewellery and home ware, a drinks manufacturer, an internet florist, an online gaming and gambling service, a stem cell bank, a cruise holiday agent, a ski lodge, private spas, an exclusive Island, a game reserve, nightclubs, a limousine service, your telephone, television, cable, mobile and internet service, a credit card company, a video game promoter, distributor and marketer, a railway operator, a clothes brand and retailer and a company offering orbital and sub-orbital private space flight, Richard Branson now has his greedy mitts set on our health service.

With 250 GP practices already up for takeover, the floodgates



Richard Branson - right royal knobhead

are now being opened for the complete privatisation of primary health services.

Richard Branson's Virgin Healthcare is on a whirlwind "privatisation tour" hosting meetings up and down the country inviting NHS GPs to join new health centres which will market private healthcare services alongside free and public ones. This will only

anonymous is legion!

Last issue we asked whether the anti-scientology protests organised by Anonymous - and picked up by all media everywhere - were Serious Business or just For The Lulz; the truth is out - they were both. On February 11th the forces of The Internet in all its greasy glory gathered gormlessly at the gates of this century's most amusing cult. Scientology could run but it couldn't hide in over 30 cities worldwide. "The fact that this wasn't really that serious made it lot better; there's worse than Scientology in this world", one protestor in London told us, "this has been the funniest day out in years." Having witnessed 600 spotty youths in V masks

singing Rick Astley on the Tottenham Court Road, with riot cops on horseback galloping by, *Resistance* is inclined to agree. You've won this round Anon... ★



hasten a two-tier system of treatment within the health service and bring the end of local public welfare.

We invite *Resistance* readers across the country to lay on a "welcome party" in your hometown for these parasites -

Virgin Healthcare's whirlwind privatisation tour.

- 3rd March - Canterbury (Kent Uni)
- 4th March - Tunbridge Wells (Salomans Centre)
- 5th March - Guildford (Clandon Park)
- 6th March - Horsham (Roffrey Park)
- 10th March - Twickenham (Holiday Inn Shepperton)
- 11th March - Winchester (The Mercure Wessex Hotel)
- 12th March - Plymouth (Future Inn)
- 17th March - Oxford (St Hugh's College)
- 18th March - Cheltenham (The Centaur)
- 19th March - Bristol (Hilton Hotel)

Billion Dollar Bomber Banger

Not to be outdone by our cop-crashed riot van (*Resistance* #100) the US air force has written off the most expensive fighter plane of all time. Used exclusively by America the B-2 Stealth Bomber is designed to evade all radar detection and flies in at a cool \$1.2 BILLION. Or it did until the 23rd of February when instead it flew into the pacific Island of Guam at 470mph. Not exactly stealthy. Tossers. ★



Gone but not forgotten.

Pensions rip-off

The government has refused to accept responsibility for 125,000 pensioners ruined when their company pension schemes collapsed. When an appeal confirmed the High Court's judgement against the government, James Purnell, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, appealed in his turn to the House of Lords.

During the 1990s, ministers made false statements about protection for pension funds introduced by new legislation. The Parliamentary Ombudsman took two years to investigate and in a report in March 2006 said the government had misled workers about the safety of occupational pension schemes and called for full compensation.

The government refused to pay. Under pressure it created a 'Financial Assistance Scheme',



which so far has paid out tiny amounts and which provides a far lower level of compensation than today's workers have.

After a High Court ruling last year, the government reluctantly raised the level of FAS compensation, but not by much. The pensioners have suffered, not just in terms of pensions, but with the stress of the situation affecting their lives and health, with some losing their homes.

There is no compensation for this in the FAS.

That is why the pensioners have fought on.

The Government knows that it will probably lose its appeal. They are deliberately obstructing any payouts in a deeply cynical move, banking on more pensioners dying before they have to make compensations. ★

Dear Taliban,

I know we haven't always seen eye to eye. What with my communism, atheism, appreciation of recorded music, acceptance of homosexuality and even appreciation of music recorded by homosexuals - we haven't really been singing from the same hymn sheet. If you can find it in your heart to look past all that, and please, if you see this prick -



wandering around Kabul, just shoot him. I think we can really start to get along.

Yours in hope,
I. Mananakis ★

National rock

The Northern Rock small shareholders group have a lot to be miserable about. Not only have their share holdings plummeted to 90 pence from last years high of £12, but Alistair Darling the Chancellor of the Exchequer has nationalized the company effectively leaving them penniless.

Naturally most ordinary people aren't shedding any tears for that lot - if you gamble there's a chance you might actually lose! But the same is not true for the off shore based company Granite and major investors. It just so happens that the best of Northern Rock's mortgage business, comprising of mortgages worth £47 billion - some 40% of the company's assets - had been transferred to

Granite. Since September last year, your money - £25 billion worth, has been loaned to Northern Rock to guarantee no losses for savers (read major investors).

Through all of this there have been howls of outrage from free marketers. Never mind that when times are good they demand light regulation and taxation, justifying it all. As soon as things turn ugly many abandon their 'principals' in favour of a taxpayer's bailout. Think of the last time you were in debt and the Bank of England decided to save you from bankruptcy?... funny cause I can't! ★

Quit Buggin' Me!

There has been uproar this past month because Sadiq Khan, a Labour MP, had his conversation recorded by the police when talking to one of his constituents, an inmate at Woodhill prison. The whole thing comes from something called "the Wilson doctrine", a 40 years old policy that bans the secret services or the police from tapping MPs conversations. Obviously, this doctrine has been breached in this case. But should we worry? MPs are exempt from the level of surveillance that the rest of us are subjected to because their conversations with constituents are considered confidential.

Does that mean that communications between us "commoners" is not private? Apparently so.

Make no mistake about it. Up to 600 agencies can bug you, follow you undercover, intercept your letters, and more. These can include your local council, the royal mail and even the fire brigade (let alone the secret services or the police).

Every year a quarter of a million applications are made to bug or follow people. Think of the "no ifs, no buts" adverts that local councils

have put up. They are saying it very loud and clear: if you receive benefits of any kind, chances are your local council are going to investigate you and most likely put you under surveillance. There are even new plans to fit chips in wheelie bins to keep track of how much rubbish you put in. Where's the limit? Cameras in your kitchen to fight obesity? After all, it kills more people every year than terrorism. Will MPs be exempt from this snooping as well? Probably. ★

On the frontline

Postal workers in Oakham, Leicestershire, walked out in defence of a sacked colleague in February. The 57 workers were angry that a postal worker had been summarily dismissed.

After two days on wildcat strike in February, refuse workers at Brighton's Hollingdean Depot won their fight against management bullying.

The striking bin staff had been complaining about management bullying after staff refused to double their workload due to lack of vehicles and under-staffing. As part of what workers called management's "bully tactics", four refuse workers had been moved onto different crews sparking anger amongst the depot and leading to the wildcat action.

The four workers have been allowed back onto their old crews and management have started negotiations over staffing levels and vehicle numbers.

Around 20,000 council workers walked out in Birmingham. A new pay structure (single status pay) would lead to pay cuts for around 4,000 members of staff, with some seeing their pay slashed by as much as £18,000 a year.

Birmingham council claims the

changes are designed to bring women's pay into line with men's. However, New Labour has refused funds to pay for such a deal and to make up the money the council plans to cut wages and slash services. This, (not so) funnily enough, includes not paying female workers up to 6 years of back pay, meaning 110 women will loose up to £10,000 each.

Overall, there are twice as many women as men facing pay cuts. Really the pay scheme does nothing to change any inequality between sexes but tries to cover up the councils own financial mistakes. With millions owed in unpaid money the council has attempted to make up this money by forcing pay cuts upon staff. Continued action is expected.

National science museum staff have voted overwhelmingly to strike over pay and plans to close the civil service pension scheme to new members. Members of the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) are furious that a below inflation pay offer has been imposed on them at a successful time for the museum. ★

Cops spooked by fuzzy friend

Hackers sparked a security alert by breaking into the Metropolitan Police recruitment website, posting a picture of a cuddly toy on its front page and adding taunting comments beneath. Brobee, from the TV series "Yo Gabbal Gabbal!", appeared above a message that made reference to the SO15 counter-terrorism unit. "OH HAI GUYS do joo wanna be a policeman lulz?" it said, "I see that teh so15 anti-terrorism anti-lulz police are hiring more incompetent nervy edgy soci-paths to make London's streets just that little bit safer!".

Scotland Yard said a review was taking place into the security breach... BEST HACK EVA!



Officer Brobee - "OH HAI GUYS."

Anarchism is for life; not just for gigs

On Saturday 16th of February, Sheffield AF held a fundraiser gig at the Casbah nightclub to help raise money for the Anarchist Federation Solidarity fund.

Although it had a stressful start for a few members, the gig turned out to be a massive success. All the bands were very supportive of the cause and played exceptionally well. Big thanks have to be said to all of them, especially the Inner Terrestrials who came all the way from London just to play at our gig. They were a lot of fun to listen to (even though some numpity in the crowd managed to break his leg within the first 10 minutes of them taking the stage).

Fun and games aside, thanks to the bands we managed to raise roughly £700 that night, which will support anarchist



The IT make a desperate appeal on the behalf of Shef AF

projects locally, nationally and worldwide. Special thanks to everyone who helped out.

This was not Sheffield AF's first fundraiser gig; we previously held a squat gig (Red and Black Fest) in an abandoned factory where, despite being shut down by the cops early, we were able to raise 6,000 Mexican pesos for our comrades in Oaxaca. We have recently been in contact with them and they were able to inform us of how and where the money has helped;

2,000 pesos were donated to the comrades at CODEDI-AMZ, which they will use mainly to support their three members who are political prisoners at the San Pedro Pochutla jail. 2,000 pesos were given to a comrade, who is recovering from injuries he sustained at the hands of riot cops when taking part in an action. Finally, 2,000 pesos were given to the comrades of OIHDO-AMZ to help them strengthen projects in the indigenous communities, which have and continue to be subject to state repression.

We intend to build stronger links with our brothers and sisters in Oaxaca (and all across Mexico) and sustain our international, fraternal solidarity with anarchists across the globe. ★

Harmondsworth four acquitted

The four migrants accused of "conspiracy to commit violent disorder" during the Harmondsworth uprising in 2006 were found "not guilty" this past month. The prosecutions strategy of attempting to single out and punish few individuals with violent criminal convictions and long sentences as a lesson to others has been thwarted. Of course, all four have already served one year and three months in prison, on top of varying times in immigration detention. Now they will have to resume their struggle against the immigration system, which imprisoned them for seeking refuge in the first place, and will most probably be dispersed around Britain's detention estate until their cases are 'resolved'.

against conditions inside the centre and their treatment by the guards. The centre was severely damaged and the detainees were moved to other detention centres and prisons.

Prison riot squads were drafted in to halt the protest. About 50 detainees were left in a cold courtyard all night and others were locked in their rooms even though parts of the detention centre were still on fire. Five men were charged after the incident, although one was declared unfit for trial and is currently still in a psychiatric institution.



Scenes from Harmondsworth riot.

The uprising clearly involved hundreds of detainees protesting spontaneously against their imprisonment, triggered by TV coverage of the damning report on Harmondsworth by the Chief Inspector of Prisons. Yet only five people were charged, saving authorities from a more in-depth investigation into the centre. The prosecution has tried hard to 'prove' that these men had been planning the uprising for weeks. But, inevitably, the jury could not avoid hearing a great deal of the detainees' complaints about the conditions in the centre, and their loud and frequent demands for freedom, justice, and an end to immigration detention. So, while these four individuals have been rightly acquitted for this crime, the injustice of Britain's immigration detention system continues unchallenged, with the government making plans for further expansion of centres. ★

The uprising began on 28 November 2006 as detainees at Harmondsworth immigration prison spontaneously protested

Victory for striking miners in Cananea

Striking miners in Cananea enjoy a victory as a judicial panel ruled their six month strike legal. This reversed an earlier ruling in January which had led to brutal attacks by the police.

On February 14 the Mexican Consejo de la Judicatura Federal reversed an earlier ruling, declaring that the six-plus month strike of unionized workers in Cananea, Sonora may continue.

The panel had previously ruled on January 11, 2008 that the

minality. This ruling led to a brutal attack by Mexican federal police later that same day.

Cananea, a city about 30 miles south of the Arizona border, has been the site of numerous historic labour battles. Workers at the Cananea Copper mine, owned by Grupo Mexico, S.A. (who also own Asarco in the U.S.) have been on strike since July 31. The mine has refused to negotiate with the workers' union.

While the newest ruling does not bring an end to the strike, it does give the workers a stronger hand as

they move forward against Grupo Mexico, who refuse to address occupational safety concerns or respect the workers' collective agreement.

Ever since January 11 Cananea has been a city under siege, with thousands of federal officers guarding the entrance to the mine and preventing workers from resuming their pickets. The mine has been operating with scab labour ever since. ★

<http://seccion65cananea.wordpress.com/>

Thanks to Libcom for much of the above information - libcom.org

Instant muscle gets wasted

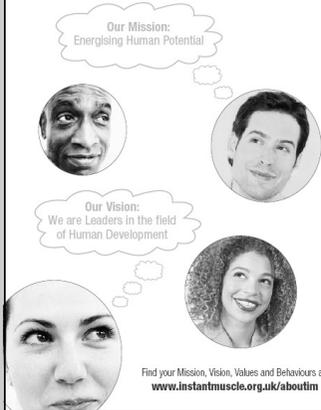
Training provider "Instant Muscle" have gone into administration, leaving their staff unpaid for February, and unemployed trainees turned away from the doorsteps of their training centres! Staff were given termination letters as they arrived at work on February 27th. *Nottingham Evening Post* wrote:

"Instant Muscle was established in 1981 as a charity providing recruitment and training. It works with Jobcentre Plus and its clients include Government departments, local authorities, the NHS and other public bodies.

Employee and father of two, Paul Kelly, 34, said: "We have turned away people today, who have turned up for training, as well as us losing our jobs and not being paid." Staff said Instant Muscle director Tony Garrett took over about a year ago. He was unavailable for comment at home."

Instant Muscle were one of the organisations that jumped on the workfare gravy train when the Conservative Party introduced 'Project Work' in the 1990s, which became New Deal for the unemployed after the Labour Party got into power. The idea was that you would get work experience for 10 quid plus your dole. This is an

Think positive, know your Mission, Vision, Values and Behaviours.



Think Positive - advert for Instant Muscle

example of the so called Intermediate Labour Market still endorsed by the European Social Fund.

As the Tories started up Project Work pilot schemes in various parts of the UK, along with Grand Metropolitan, IM were identified early on by activists in Groundswell*(1) as one of the main companies involved in this racket.

Now the staff themselves are on the dole, having found out firsthand about modern workplace

practice after serving up motivational bullshit to claimants on behalf of Instant Muscle for more than 20 years. Whilst we can feel sorry for the hundreds of claimants who will have turned up for nothing, unemployed activists certainly won't shed any tears over the demise of this notorious workfare 'service provider'.

This should also be a warning of those who might get taken in by the paternalistic tripe coming out of the likes of Ed Balls, the Labour Party's 'Fabian Society' guru who now plans to force more employed people into training and voluntary-work-for-dole scheme run by companies like Instant Muscle. ★

*1) Groundswell was an anti-Job Seekers Allowance action network that many anarchists/libertarian communists were involved in.

For more info see Nottingham Claimants Action -

<http://www.geocities.com/ncajsa/#thought>