

# resistance

anarchist bulletin

Free/Donation  
Issue 43 Nov 2002



# Turning up the heat!

APPARENTLY THE CLASS war is over – replaced by industrial harmony and peaceful co-operation between boss and worker – that is if you believe the media or the self-serving words of our political leaders.

In the real world however, we can recognize this for the blatant bullshit it is. Class war is raging as fierce as ever in the workplace – in fact, this year has seen a remarkable spread of open struggle, which shows no sign of slowing down.

The state's own figures show that this year has seen the largest number of strikes since 1989, and since the Labour Party (the workers friend!) came to power the number of days lost to strike action has risen by a massive 500%, and these figures don't include the ongoing disputes on the railways or the temporarily suspended fire-fighters' national strike. London teachers and ambulance workers in Scotland and Lincolnshire are also preparing to take action, whilst the postal service is regularly hit by wildcats (*see inside for the latest info*).

This year there have been stoppages on the railways; at airports; in schools; on the buses; on the tube; in hospitals; on

steel works; at various factories all over the country – and this is only the tip of the iceberg, there are hundreds of small scale or regional disputes that are taking place without being reported.

A September survey of 240 companies and unions found that they believe "Strikes and other forms of industrial action are set to increase during the coming year".

This is very encouraging as it shows that the working class is starting to once again put its needs above those of the bosses, the current wave of struggles are helping to re-build the confidence in our own collective power and develop the sense of social solidarity that we once took for granted. Despite all the setbacks of the last few decades, the bosses are still dependent on our labour – *we are the ones with the power!*

How this growth in militancy develops will depend upon the workers' ability to form direct links with other workers in struggle and their autonomous organisation that operates according to *their* agenda not those of a union bureaucrat. We saw recently in the Edinburgh bus drivers dispute (*see Ar-A-*



Firefighters overwhelmingly support strike action

the docks; in call centers; in the post office; in the courts; in museums; at

**Mach** issue 3, details inside) how unions are prepared to act in their interests first – mass assemblies and rank and file committees independent of the union can ensure control of the dispute remains in workers hands.

This upsurge of class struggle has shown that working class rebellion and resistance hasn't disappeared – and it won't until we've destroyed this system that forces us into a life of slavery! ★

## PRISON RIOT



A PRISON RIOT broke out in Lincolnshire prison on the evening of the 24th October. A group of inmates attacked a prison guard, beating him over the head with his own truncheon and locking him in a cell.

The prisoners stole the officers' keys and unlocked more than 150 cells, before setting fire to three parts of the jail and smashing windows.

After the riot a spokesman for the Prison Officers' Association said the damage to the Victorian jail was likely to reach £2m. Three prison officers were injured, and several prisoners suffered side effects after breaking into the pharmacy. One prisoner died of an overdose. ★

**The International McStrike!  
Global Day of action against McDonalds**

FROM McDONALDS WORKERS Resistance: "This is an attempt to give a taste of struggle on October 16th from a workers perspective. Its difficult to know where to start because so much happened – sections of the McDonalds workforce launched an unprecedented counter attack against exploitation and boredom.

Its 3:00am GMT, Wednesday October 16th 2002, some tired and slightly drunk Glaswegians are trying to vandalise a McDonalds restaurant. Unremarkable, except that these are McDonalds own employees and at the very same time on the other side of the world, in New Zealand they're attempting a strike, and the leaflets are reaching workers in Australia Six McDonalds in France represented by the CNT union on strike. Temporary work stoppage in Moscow. Strike in Norfolk. Attempts at strikes in three London stores. Walkout in Nottingham. Demonstration in Mexico which has unfortunately resulted in 94 arrests. A mass of direct action and sabotage. Actions to encourage workers resistance from Sweden to Sydney. Class struggle from Aberdeen to Adelaide, from Milan to Malmoe. The whole thing captured on an all day radio special in Slovenia.

The streets of Milan are filled with hundreds of supporters of fast food workers, while ten bus loads of cops wait in the driving Frankfurt rain to try and limit communication between the Freie ArbeiterInnen Union and the golden arches employees.

Now its lunchtime in Europe and, for a time, eight McDonalds can't function because the staff are no longer prepared to sacrifice themselves obediently to the McProfit machine. McDonalds workers taking direct action and solidarity actions all over the world.

Regrettably, we have heard that those arrested in Mexico may be facing very serious charges and are in urgent need of solidarity.

We hope to have more information on what can be done to help soon. [www.geocities.com/globaldayofaction.](http://www.geocities.com/globaldayofaction) More info on prisoners on the back page.

**Posties do it again**

Postal workers have once again shown their not afraid of taking action despite what Consignia are doing or threatening to do. Wildcat actions have happened at postal offices in Manchester, Bath, Walthamstow and Somerset and an official strike broke out at Ayr delivery office over bank holiday allocations. ★

CUSHY FIVE DAY week skive at the "Theatre Royal"... dining out in swanky restaurants serving up caviar, smoked salmon and triple pounder sirloins ... swilling champagne at parties thrown by failed tory ministers ... swanning to and fro in your own black luxury BMW ... quite some life prisoners lead these days, eh? But only if you are no. FF8282 AKA Lord Jeffrey Archer, lying knob of a novelist jailed for four years for perjury.



**Archer: Prat**

Martin Narey, prisons director, claims (the swelling in his cheek could well be his tongue!): "Archer has been treated no differently than any other inmate". Really? Pull the other one, guv! Let's take just one example for comparison, that of mixed-race Liverpool prisoner Ray Gilbert. Barely able to leave his cell unaccompanied to visit the toilet, never mind cruising round town on a set of posh wheels, Ray's family must travel hundreds of miles each way to see him. Serious ill-health dogs all of Ray's

close kin yet prison officials continue to deny him a move nearer his loved ones. Unlike Lord of the Lies who can seemingly open his cell door, call up a bevy of well connected pals and waltz off to a binge whenever the urge takes him.

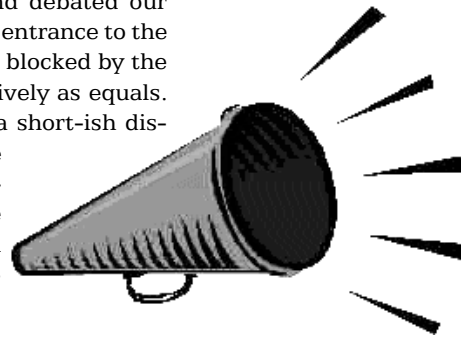
Contrast this malarkey with a recent visit to Ray paid by his brother and step dad: throughout the allotted time a small army of eight burly guards stood ringed round Ray, 5' 4" in his socks, whilst one of the screws made note of every word that passed between Ray and his folks. You can bet your old Aunt Fanny that nobody earwigs on Archer's circle of cronies when he's regaling his chums with the waffle he's going to inject into a forthcoming yarn. A well-worn used cliché we know, but never has it been more apt: there's one set of rules for them and another for us. And nobody can tell us any different! For Ray's contact details see **resistance 41**. ★

**A TALE OF TWO PROTESTS**

SHANNON AIRPORT HAS been used as a stopover for US troops going to and from Afghanistan (see **resistance 41**).

The first demonstration I was at in Shannon warport had an open meeting for all participants prior to it.

We formed a circle and debated our course of action, while our entrance to the airport grounds was being blocked by the police. We decided collectively as equals. In the end (and this was a short-ish discussion, based upon the idea that we could go separate ways) most people marched up the road with no negotiations, no compromise and no surrender. Others choose a different route – as was their right.



At the second demonstration the megaphone wielding apparatchiks of the "Socialist" Worker's Party successfully sabotaged events (despite prior assurances there would be a meeting) and led the march up the road to the airport. This, incidentally, after negotiations with the police (i.e. accepting the authority of the state), and, according to a police spokesman, giving assurances to them there would be no action.

So what did this mean? Firstly; that proceedings belonged to the "Irish Anti-War Movement" (the current pseudonym for the Politburo of the "Socialist" Worker's Party) rather than to all participants as equals.

Secondly; that there was no collective open discussion about direct action prior to it kicking off.

So, anyways, we marched to the air-

port building, and upon arriving spontaneously blockaded the entrance to the terminal. Out with megaphones for an "open mic" and this soon died away. An "open mic" which by curious design had as it's first speaker none other than Patricia McKenna MEP for the Green Party.

Thankfully the situation was saved when a number of individuals took the initiative to tear down the fence on the way out of the airport, and

about one hundred people piled across, much to the consternation of Mr Plod, both of the soft cop and regular variety. A number of arrests were made.

Eventually a stand off ensued when a body of protesters refused to the leave the runway grounds, despite arrests and threatened use of water cannon and police dogs.

Meanwhile outside the now demolished perimeter wire, another group of protesters briefly blocked the road, for the same reason. This group included a number of prominent members of the SWP, who were then ordered to desist by their leadership!

After assurances that the arrestees would be released, we went en masse to the cop shop to make sure. With an unruly mob (OK, slight exaggeration) outside the police station, the ten arrested people were processed and released. ★



## INSIDE INFORMATION

### Anarchist supporters raise £500!

Supporters of anarchist prisoner Harold H Thompson (*see resistance 38*) have raised £500 pounds to support his campaign to allow political literature into US prisons. Thanks to all who've contributed, much appreciated.

For more info: Friends of Harold H Thompson, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL.

### Spanish anarchists and anti-fascists face repression.

A mass demonstration against legal fascist party Platform Spain 2000 scheduled for the 11th Oct met with extreme harassment.

The march itself was met with intense police repression and two arrests for resisting police and failure to show identification. Over the next three days the repression continued. On the afternoon of the 12th, two workers setting up a benefit concert for the anti-fascist organising an oc-

cupied social centre were detained at gun point and taken to police headquarters, where one was released. The other was held for 24 hours before being released with an order to return to court.

The morning of the 14th, a joint force of riot police and private security raided another occupied social centre and attempted to forcibly evict the residents, which was delayed by fast legal work on the part of one of the occupants, but not before the police confiscated and photographed various material.

On the 15th, four comrades were arrested for allegedly taking violent direct action against commercial real estate interests. One was badly beaten by the arresting officers. They have been charged with Illegal Association With Intent to Disturb the Public Order, punishable by up to fifteen years in prison. The police have raided the homes of the four comrades and taken as evidence pamphlets and correspondence.

Two of the arrested are members of the anarcho-syndicalist CNT-AIT.

Fax's and e-mails of solidarity should be sent to CNT Valencia. Fax: 96 341 59 90 or

Email: cntvalenciapyp@mixmail.com

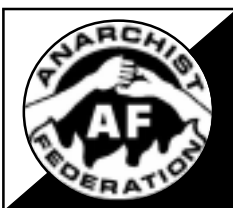
### Freedom for the anti-McDonalds political prisoners

Ninety four demonstrators were arrested in an Anti-McDonalds protest on 16th October. Each protester is being held under a bond of \$14,000.

The Mexico City Anti-McDonalds protest was held from the Monumento a la Revolucion to Zocalo to denounce the transnational companies which plunder poor countries and trample over their flora and fauna without respecting anybody. They are held under the accusation of damaging Federal Property and carrying explosives, which were simply fireworks. Once arrested, the State, skilled in the art of extortion, has posted a bond of \$14,000 for each protester, just for damaging a shade umbrella and a windowpane, as well as refusing their rights to make a phone call or use the toilets.

The bank account to support the prisoners is:

Name of bank: BBV Bancomer Account number: 1299949054 Recipient: Martha Cecilia Garcia Juarez



## Subvert and resist

Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don't take cameras, booze or drugs. If you're nicked give your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions.

**NOVEMBER: 9** – Anarchist Day School, Kinning Park Centre (the old school next to Kinning Park underground), Glasgow, Scotland. 10.30am-5pm. Workshops, discussions, and much more! £3.00 waged £1.00 low/unwaged - Tea, coffee and lunch provided email: Anarcho-scots@lists.mutualaid.org or af-alba@hushmail.com

**14-19** – Trident Ploughshares International Disarmament Camp. For more information and a briefing pack Tel: 08454 588 363 Email: Devonport@tridentploughshares.org Visit: www.tridentploughshares.org Main Tel: 0845 45 88 366

**15** – Demonstration at the next court appearance of the 12 Yarl's Wood detainees facing charges over the fire at Yarl's Wood in February. 9am Harrow Crown Court, Hailsham Drive, Harrow. Email: ginn\_emma@hotmail.com Tel: 07786 517 379

**22-24** – Women Speak Out – a weekend gathering of women activists. For more info contact: WSO Manchester, Dept 29, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 7HS Tel: 0161 227 8086 Mobile: 07753 606 723 Visit: www.bellow.org.uk

**23** – Brighton March Against the War. Organised by Sussex Action for Peace. Starts at 12 noon, hopefully from Preston Park (Details to be confirmed nearer the time)

**DECEMBER: 7** – Manchester Radical Bookfair 1pm until 5pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Ancoats Manchester. Visit the AF stall. Email: info@radicalbookfair.org.uk Visit: www.radicalbookfair.org.uk

## Subscribe to resistance

- I enclose £4 (£6 EU, £12 Rest of the world) for the next 12 issues of **resistance** bulletin (cheques payable to "AF") and send to AF, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL
- I enclose £4 for a year's subscription to **Organise!** the magazine of the AF.
- I am interested in the **Anarchist Federation** and would like more information.

Name .....

Address .....

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## Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming 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, its 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 Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at:

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Email: anarchistfederation@bigfoot.com