HOW DARE THE the government go on
and on about ‘identity theft’ as if it was
something new? From the compulsory
electoral register, rates & council tax lists
and police DNA database they’ve been
doing it for decades. Companies have
been up to it too – creating massive
debit/credit card and loyalty card com-
puter records that are bought and sold by
marketing groups to track our purchases
and learn what we buy so they can target
us with even more unwanted goods.

Now they want even more personal
detail – like every address we’ve ever
lived at or every name we may have had
in the past - never mind ‘biometrics’ - our
face, iris pattern or fingerprints. They
claim it is to keep us safe from other peo-
ple but really it’s to keep an eye on any-
thing we do, and anywhere we go.

Once this information is out and sitting
on a computer disk, it’s hard to get it
back. Computer scientists admit that a
central database is the worse place to
store precious data. Yet the Labour gov-
ernment’s plan to make ID information
available across the whole state machine
and to offer it to private companies which
will mean sharing data between dozens
of insecure databases.

The Labour government is using fear to
sell it’s ID card and database idea. They
go on about organised crime and terror-
ism, then talk of ID Cards as being about
entitlement. This is trying to make people
believe that immigrants and ‘benefit
cheats’ are making them personally poorer. In fact
it’s Labour that is actually making it harder to get
disability allowances, hik-
ing council taxes and fees
for students, and it’s capi-
talist companies and their
shareholders that are prof-
iting from increasing fuel
prices, year on year.

The result, if they win the
fear argument, will be a
surveillance society that is
much more than a police
state, but an invasion of
computerised bureaucracy
into every transaction we
make with shops and wel-
fare services – imagine having to have an
eye-scan just to buy beer or get your pre-
scription - and, for activists, a much re-
duced ability to protest in safety.

It’s time to get ready to refuse. Refuse
to register. Renew passports before they
add biometrics, which is due to start early
next year (Feb 2006) with the addition of
a chip containing your digitised photo.
Try not to renew driving licenses. New
ones already require a photo and we
don’t yet know where or when they will
start to collect the data. It could happen
as soon as the bill is passed even if we
don’t fill in an ID form (driving licenses
are being used to introduce ID cards in
the USA). Confound or get off govern-
ment lists if at all possible. Join or set up
a Defy-ID group and use these groups to
support each other on the street and in
the courts.

If we stand together we can win. Any-
one who thinks they have nothing to hide
should be very afraid! It’s really much
safer to be anonymous, even more so if
you want to fight an increasingly oppres-
sive state.

Read the AF’s new pamphlet, Defend-
ing Anonymity, on the web from
www.afed.org.uk, or in print for free (but
send SAE) from BM ANARFED, London,
WC1N 3XX.
The women workers, sacked by GATE Gourmet, recently published a statement demanding respect and justice. We are printing extracts below:

“GATE GOURMET IS the world’s largest supplier of in-flight meals and operates in over 29 countries. Internationally, the company has been making profits of £1.05bn and has assets of £15 billion. In Britain, Asian women form the majority of the workforce, many of us - mothers and grandmothers are the sole wage earners for our families. Our wages are on average between £6.00 and £7.00 an hour. We had been struggling for one year to get the positions of those of us who were employed on a temporary basis regularised.

The management told us in January 2005 that they were planning to make 670 people redundant because they were surplus workers and negotiations had been going on over this between our union, the TGWU, and the management.

Despite the management’s claims that they had surplus workers, on 9 August this year we were told that 130 agency workers were to be employed from the next day onwards. When we came to work at 6am the next morning, we found that the management people were all already there (normally they come in at 9am). At 9 am agency workers were brought to the wash-up department. We stopped working. Our shop stewards were on that day involved in a negotiation meeting with management, but those that were at work, and in some departments the managers themselves, told us to go to the canteen for a meeting. When we got there we were told by the management that we had five minutes to go back to work otherwise we would be dismissed. We said we wanted to speak to our union representatives. After five minutes the management came and threw letters on to the tables at which we were sitting. They were letters of dismissal already translated into five languages Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Gujarati and English obviously they had been prepared in advance.

At this point we realised that an estimated two hundred and fifty security guards and armed police, including a van load with police dogs had entered the premises. As soon as we were told that we were dismissed, the doors of the canteen were locked and no one was allowed to leave. We were told to surrender our ID cards and locker keys but we refused and said we wanted to see our union officials.

However we were not allowed to meet these officials although we were aware that they were in the car park outside. We were not allowed any food or water or access to toilets for six hours. Some of us including those who were pregnant and older women had no choice but to use a bin from the canteen as a toilet.

At 2.30pm we were surrounded by police and security guards who stood linking arms. Several of us were physically dragged out by security guards leading to injuries. One of us, Ms Bent Bansal, was sitting at a round table when she was pulled up by her shoulders by two security guards. Her chair slipped from under her and she fell to the ground, injuring her back and neck. She begged them to let her go but they dragged her across the room. Later she went to hospital and was prescribed medication. Two other women suffered panic attacks when security guards tried to grab their ID cards and locker keys and an ambulance had to be called, and one woman, Ms Rajpreet Dhillon, has suffered long term damage and has had to have medical treatment as a result of being prevented from using the toilet for so many hours.

Such physical assaults, bullying, intimidation, and attacks on our dignity should not be acceptable in any workplace in the 21st century. It is also not acceptable that we still do not know what our position is - while it has been reported in the press that a deal has been agreed, none of the workers has been given any information about who is to be offered their jobs back, who will face compulsory redundancy and who will be simply sacked. Currently we are being forced to try to survive on £50 a week.

We urge you to support our struggle for justice.”

Further information tel: 0207 267 0923
ROSSPORT SOLIDARITY CAMP was born in June of this year. It is the first protest camp around an ecological theme to take place in Ireland for several years. It is located on the wild rugged coastline of north-west Mayo, in the far west of Ireland.

The camp began after local opponents of Shell’s plan to build an unprecedented high pressure gas pipeline through the hamlet of Rossport invited us there to back up their struggle. Five of these local activists, aka "The Rossport Five", were subsequently imprisoned for refusing to obey a court order forbidding them from preventing contractors hired by Shell access to their farms and those of their neighbours. After 3 months in prison, they were released when Shell asked that the court order be lifted.

The struggle has won significant victories in securing their release, and in preventing Shell building the development this year, as they had planned to do, but the battle is far from over, as the Rossport Five said on their release: “The campaign has now begun in earnest.”

Thus far Shell has faced continual picketing of all their construction sites, a threatened blockade by fishing boats of their off-shore pipeline construction, and a variety of solidarity actions across the island and beyond.

Rossport Solidarity Camp plans to re-launch in March 2006 as a much bigger operation.

Two participants in Rossport Solidarity Camp will be on a speaking tour of Britain in November, one of them will also be speaking about Cork Harbour Action Group, a non-violent direct action group engaged with a community struggle against the construction of incineration facilities in Ringaskiddy, County Cork.

Support Chris McIntosh!

AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST Chris McIntosh will be sentenced, later this year, to between eight to ten years imprisonment for causing $5,000 damage to a McDonalds restaurant.

He entered into a plea agreement stemming from charges relating to arson at a Seattle area McDonald’s in 2003. Chris needs a tremendous amount of support right now, support that we hope will continue throughout his imprisonment!

He has always said how grateful he is for letters of support and how much they mean to him. Please take a moment to write him a short note to let him know that he is not alone! Remember that all mail is read by authorities and must have a return address.

Send letters to:
Christopher McIntosh 30512-013, FDC Seatlac, Federal Detention Center, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA, 98198, USA
Chris also depends almost exclusively on donations to provide him with much needed supplies in prison. Please send donations in however small, to:
Chris McIntosh Support Fund, PO Box 8943, Collingswood, NJ 08108, USA
Reading material is also very welcome. For suggestions, please visit his website at www.supportchris.org.

Aachen 4 Anarchists imprisoned
Jose Fernandez Delgado: 14 years
Gabriel Pombo da Silva: 13 years
Bart de Geeter: 3 years and 6 months
Begonia Pombo da Silva: 13 months on probation (3 years)

Jose and Gabriel are Spanish anarchists who had escaped from the isolation units of Spain, (Gabriel had spent 20 years of his life in jail - 16 -36 years old) They were caught after a border check led to a shoot-out and hostage taking. Arrested also were the Belgian anarchist Bart de Geeter and Gabriel’s sister, Begonia, who has no involvement with the anarchist movement.

The German State is refusing to look at the evidence of torture within the Spanish prison system, a clear motivating factor behind Jose and Gabriel’s actions. See www.escapeintorebellion.info for more info.

Tuesday November 8th 7.30 pm Autonomy Club, Freedom Bookshop, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High street, London E1 (nearest tube Aldgate East), hosted by the Anarchist Federation.

November 9th 7pm, Oxford Action Resource Centre.

November 10th 7pm, International Community Center, 61b Mansfield Rd.

Saturday 12th November, 7pm to 3am, RampArts social centre (www.ramparts.co.nr) which is a non-hierarchical, autonomous space that was squatted in May 2004, situated in the Whitechapel area, East End of London. There will also be benefit gig for the campaign with food & drink + music.

Monday 14th November, 7.30pm, Tyneside Irish Centre, hosted by Why Don’t You?

Thursday Nov 17th 7.30pm, London Action Resource Centre (www.londonarc.org), hosted by London Rising Tide.

Support Chris McIntosh!
5. The club will encourage young, local participation - playing and supporting - whenever possible.
6. The Board will strive wherever possible to avoid outright commercialism.
7. The club will remain a non-profit organisation.

With admission prices of £7 for adults and £2 for U-18’s the Northwest counties league division 2 team have recently been drawing crowds of over 3,000. The atmosphere at games has been compared to that of the 70’s, all ages with grins from ear to ear, standing and singing for 90 minutes, scarves twirling, congas spontaneously forming and even retro wooden rattles (for those that remember)! Inside the ground at home games there is no longer a police presence (and very little outside) as the fans have become pretty much self-policed.

Any fans who feel the need to run on the pitch are met with cries of “Stay off the f**king pitch” from those fans that now see the connection between club fines and the money paid at the turnstiles. Then after the game the singing continues in the local pubs with the players, not something you’re likely to catch Rio et al doing! The lack of attachment fans feel with players like Rio Ferdinand can be heard in the chant “I don’t care about Rio, he don’t care about me, all I care about is watching F.C.”

Whether this will be the start of the end for commercial football is yet to be seen but it’s safe to say even if the Glazer family offered free tickets to F.C. United fans they would probably turn around and say “F’CUM.”

For more info go to the official site at www.fc-utd.co.uk or the unofficial www.fcunitedofmanchester.co.uk

AND REMEMBER, when going on demonstrations stay sober, don’t talk to the police and if you’re arrested give only your name and address, then say ‘no comment’ to any other questions. For more info visit: www.ldmg.org.uk