Manchester Heath Workers’ Strikes
Defend Karen Reissman!

Almost 90% of mental health workers in Manchester have voted to strike in defence of Karen Reissman. Karen has been working as a community psychiatric nurse for the past twenty five years and is the UNISON branch secretary.

Earlier this year in response to proposed cuts, Karen was a leading figure in the strikes which reversed any proposals on cuts and made gains in staffing levels and mental health care provision in Manchester. After the workers voted to strike, Karen was sus- pended for speaking out against the cuts. Management claimed they “had lost confi- dence in her.”

Three days of strikes have been called starting on the 23rd August as well as demon- strations (see back page) in defence of Karen and the attacks on health workers in Manchester and across the country. It is important that we all support Karen in her fight to get reinstated, and join together to fight the cuts in the NHS.

Victory for Enthrilled North Providence IWW

News from the USA. On Saturday 11th August, the police beat up and hospitalised Alex Svoboda, a peaceful marcher of Rhode Island Wold (Industrial Workers of the World).

The local IWW had organised a demonstra- tion to stop the chain restaurant “Jacky’s Galaxy” contracts with HWH/Dragonland. That company is guilty of a wide variety of unfair labour practices.

The local cops ordered the marchers onto the pavement. When they did as told, they were attacked with mace and batons by the police. One suffered burns. Alex got a dis- located knee and ruptured blood vessel. She now faces criminal charges along with another marcher!

The sentence was three months imprisonment. On the Friday following the sentencing all traf- fic into the site was stopped, and for that rea- son all work, when two blockaded a road off by locking themselves underneath a car parked across it. When construction traffic tried to use another road - one for which they had official permission to use - that too was blocked by residents. That night over one hun- dred people took part in a mass trespass on the construction site. After a few days in prison the men were released on remand pending an appeal.

Later that month there was another mass tresp- ass onto the site.

Residents managed to stop the original pipe- line route, so Shell have brought in a consul- tancy firm, RPS, to map out eight possible new routes, including new ones which adjoin a main road. RPS are the only sub-contractor with extensive premises in Brit- ain.

Full details of those offices can be seen here: http://www.rpsgroup.com/location_html/great-britain.html

The council has begun eviction proceedings against Rossport Solidarity Camp, a protest camp established on the pipeline route in 2005. Local people have rallied round with cash, land and houses. So even if the eviction is successful the camp will continue.

Campaigners plan a mass sit down blockade of the refinery site on Friday, 14th September, which will involve gathering of campaign supporters from around Ireland.

For more information see: www.rossportsolidaritycamp.com
www.indymedia.lemayo.com/website/shellcoza

On Tuesday 10th August, members and supporters of No Borders along with Sheffield and Nottingham Anarchist Federation demonstr- ated at Lindholme detention centre in solidarity with asylum seekers incarcerated there and elsewhere, and for the closure of all such cen- ters.

The demo was met with a nervous (and hugely disproportionate) re- sponse by South Yorkshire police. Protesters were hassled, filmed, banned from peaceful marching along certain areas around the centre and finally blocked from exit of the site. Doncaster’s chief inspector imposed a Section 14 on the demonstration disallowing us from doing a full tour of the centre. One beakedogged comrade was even put under surveillance after deciding to sit down in an adjoining field to have a quiet lunch – never underestimate the power of the pcorce!

Despite this, we displayed banners, chanted messages of solidarity, and did a little tour of the site. Our true intentions for the day had through and despite an extended game of “cat and mouse” with South Yorkshire Bobbies a visual show of support was much appreciated by detainees, who were in contact with throughout the day.

Anarchist Federation News

On Thursday 18th August, the Anarchist Federation supported the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) and No Sweat in a national day of action against the coffee chain Starbucks. Starbucks exploits its workers and the farmers who grow the coffee beans it uses. World- wide it has over 12,000 stores and employs over 100,000 people. In Britain , it has over 500 stores employing 5,000 workers. Starbucks have transferred their official permission to use - that too was blocked by residents. That night over one hun- dred people took part in a mass trespass on the construction site. After a few days in prison the men were released on remand pending an appeal.

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No Borders - No Nations - No Prisons

The Gatwick No Border Camp 2007
From 19th to 24th September No Borders are holding the first No Border Camp in the UK at Gatwick Airport. This camp will be a chance to work together to try and stop the building of a new detention centre, and to campaign for how to build up the fight against the system of migration controls.

Gatwick Airport - The Border Point
Gatwick is a border in the middle of Britain. People arrive here every day. People are forcibly deported from here everyday. It is a place where people are imprisoned for unlimited lengths of time without trial, where people are forced to hide underground and be invisible, where people are treated as criminals for the ‘crime’ of crossing the border.

The government has recently announced it’s going to build another new detention centre at Gatwick Airport. This will be another in a long line of barbarous prisons across the world, imprisoning people who migrate. Unless we stop it from being built.

But not far from Gatwick there are other border fortifications: the immigra- tion reporting centre at Croydon, the airline companies who charter deportation flights and the ID interview centre in Crawley. A few miles away the border posts at Dover and Folkstone, where fear of de- tection by the border police forces people to risk their lives hiding un- der driers, or in suffixoating containers.

While the physical borders get fortified, governments also tighten up the controls on those of us who already live here; from international databases to video surveillance, biometric ID cards to electronic tag- ging.

Camp(a)igning Against Borders
This camp is continuing the tradition of the No Border camps across the world since the late 1990s, and like the camps taking place this year in the Ukraine in August and on the US/Mexican border in No- vember, it will be a space to share information, skills, knowledge and experiences. A place to plan actions together against the system of borders which divides us.

We are aware that the struggles for “no borders” reach far beyond “open borders”. Without borders the idea of states will become obso- lete, without states the national economies will be history. In a world without borders, nobody will ask for papers anymore.

No Borders
No Borders is a network of groups struggling for the freedom of move- ment for all and an end to all migration controls. We call for a radical movement against the system of control, dividing us citizens and non-citizens alike.

We demand the end of the border regime for everyone, including our- selves, to enable us to live another way, without fear, racism and na- tionalism.

This article has been adapted from information on the No Borders website: www.noborders.org
info@nobordersnottingham.org.uk

ON THE FRONTLINE
Rhode Island Police attack Alex Svoboda

With HWH/Dragonland.
A new buffet restaurant in Providence has also now confirmed that they have stopped using HWH/Dragonland.

For Alex and her fellow workers the struggle still continues. They need money for legal support and to help with medical bills. Alex has finished her third operation and is awak- ing a fourth. There isn’t any guarantee at this time she will not suffer permanent dam- age. The IWW plans a further march to protest police brutality and violation of civil rights and to celebrate the recent victories of the IWW and workers everywhere.

This is the paypal-e-mail address Alex is using for her support funds: alboris8@yahoo.com

If sending mail, please send it to Providence GMB: PO Box 5795 Providence RI 02903

Support the Posties

The post workers have suspended their strikes pending further negotiations. But we hear reports of part time workers working unpaid overtime, posties driving their own cars to get to their shifts because the bosses have cut the number of vans.

Other reports are coming in of management plans to recruit large numbers of temporary staff as strikers breakers.

It’s easy to support the posties. A few words of support when they deliver your mail go a long way. They need to realize we back them. When the strikes resume, join the pickets lines.

They also have to make sure their union, the CWU, doesn’t do a deal behind their backs.

Crichton saved?

But the fight goes on
We reported in our last issue of the fight to save Crichton Campus in Dumfries. The University of Glasgow had planned to shut it down as a cost cutting measure.

The news has just reached us that the Scot- tish Executive have provided additional resources and Glasgow University has re- versed its decision so as to allow under- graduate student entry for 2006-09. The current curriculum provided by Glasgow University has also been largely saved despite the attempts by the Scottish Funding Council who wanted only a limited range of vocational HE courses available in South- west Scotland.

But the situation for many of the staff re- mains touch and go. Support staff, espe- cially those in IT and Library service are under threat of redundancy.

The large support from the local community with their petitions and letter writing cam- paigns; the protests organised by students, including a 100 mile march on Glasgow were crucial. The UCU union, Community Councils and local press were also support- ive. Special mention also be made of the IWW who gave active support and whose members help energise the campa- ign and spread it up, especially into the main campus of Glasgow University.

So some good news, but the struggle will no doubt continue.

Resistance in Rossport
Arrests, Courts, Blockades

Resistance is continuing in Erris, in the west of Ireland, to the state’s plan to turn the area into a re-finery for the exploitation of off- shore gas resources. Shell are building the first part at the moment. Construction was brought to a halt on the morning of Monday August 27th, after local campers gained access to the site. In July three local fishermen were imprisoned for allegedly assaulting a police officer during a protest at the refinery site in October 2006. The cop had no recollection of being assaulted by anyone, but the judge is married to a politician that supports the project.

The sentence was three months imprisonment.

On the Friday following the sentencing all traf- fic into the site was stopped, and for that rea- son all work, when two blockaded a road off by locking themselves underneath a car parked across it. When construction traffic