The editors of Resistance have carried out extensive surveys of our readers to find out who you think are the biggest bastards of the year. Each is presented with our exclusive BoTY award.

The awards are in the following categories:

**Journalist BoTY.**

The prize goes to George Monbiot of the Guardian. It’s awarded for trying to divide the environmental movement, for wanting to stand between the police and the protesters. He’s a green tongued parasite who uses the environmental movement as a means of lining his own pockets, whilst suggesting that the rest of us get by sharing washing machines.

**Police BoTY.**

This goes without any competition to Sir Ian Blair of the London Met. Not only because his force murdered Jean Charles de Menezes in 2005, but also because he so blatantly doesn’t give a shit.

**Trade Union BoTY.**

This year we have a dead heat! First to Dave Prentis of UNISON. This goes for stitching up Karen Reissmann and deserting her in her hour of need. Second to Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communications Workers Union. The prize goes for taking the greatest strike of 2007, the biggest show of mass solidarity and selling the posties right down the river.

**Political BoTY.**

There are so many to choose from and to be honest we weren’t sure right up to the last moment. Then along came Tony Blair once again. This time on a Christmas video, talking to George Bush’s dog! We kid you not. A dog. And pretending to be Scottish.


**PRISONER SUPPORT**

Cassidy Wheeler

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Write to him:

Cassidy Wheeler #14282456, TRCI, 82911 Beach Access Rd, Umatilla, OR 97882, USA

**ORGANISE!**

DON’T MOURN ... ORGANISE! No. 69 is OUT NOW!

Common Ground community garden ... Defy-ID and No Borders - better together ... Building schools for the future ... Green Capitalism? ... NYC bookfair ... Margaret Michaelis - photographer of the Spanish revolution ...


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**ANARCHIST FEDERATION**

**RESISTANCE**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

**A**s we enter 2008, the editors of Resistance decided to look back on 2007. We wanted to draw up a balance sheet, to see what were the highs and the lows with share with you our hopes for the New Year.

**Strikes and Solidarity**

The year started as it ended, with strikes in the health service in Manchester. In January, health workers successfully prevented the loss of 40 nursing and therapy jobs and fought off pay cuts disguised as regrading. Definitely a high. It ended with the sacking of the UNISON shop steward, Karen Reissmann, an act of revenge by the management. Despite a strike by 150 of her fellow workers, the union looks like having bottled out. Strikers were told to go back to work. A low point, but she has loads of support and we wait to see what will happen. Our wish for the New Year? Health workers spread the strike to other sections of the health service.

A huge high of the was the magnificent Postal Workers strike. Standing up to the bosses and forcing the union to take action. It all began with wildcat strikes, workers taking action without the permission of their union. The wildcats continued every time it looked like the bureaucrats were about to cave in. The deal they settled for looks not to be as good as we’d hoped. Our New Year’s wish? We all continue to show support for the posties. They take action again when necessary. **Finally** we saw the end of Tony Blair as PM.

Surely a high. No more to have to look on his fake smile and listen to his foul, weasel words as he justifies more murder and mayhem in our name.

**Leaving Iraq**

Britain began to withdraw from Iraq. This pleased us all. Not so pleasing was the increase in the number of troops sent to Afghanistan. Neither is the increasingly hysterical press campaign against Iran. Our New Year’s wish? People see that hating a regime run by religious bigots doesn’t mean we have to support the bombing of yet another part of the world. The only war worth fighting is the class war against the bosses and politicians who are ruining the world.

This was a protest not only against the occupation of Iraq but also against the way events like these seek to naturalise war, and the horrors of aerial bombing in particular. There are also issues with the complete lack of any democratic control by students and workers at the University over the people they pay to speak. The University of Sheffield has received over £40m through military projects in the past five years and continues to have a very close relationship with both BAE systems and the British Army. This is relationship which none, apart from the bosses at the University, have any control or say over. War is not something that is natural, normal or inevitable, it is an artificial process that is deliberately created by men like Air Marshal Peach, and it can and will be resisted.


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The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists struggling against 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, all-union movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the world of our kind outwitted. Contact us at:

Anarchist Federation, BM Anarfed, London, WC1N 3XX.
Email: info@afed.org.uk
Also visit: www.afed.org.uk

Subscriptions to resistance costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, Organise! for revolutionary anarchists, is also £4. You can subscribe to resistance by email for free via the website above.

Health workers in solidarity with Karen Reissmann.

**AIR MARSHAL ALARMED**

On Thursday 13th December, Air Marshal Stuart Peach (CBE), head of Military Defence Intelligence Services came to the University of Sheffield to give a very prestigious lecture on military strategy and the use of aerial power in warfare.

He was greeted by a group of students and local activists (including members of the Anarchist Federation) who rudely interrupted his talk by setting off an air siren and thirty-five personal alarms across the lecture hall. Some rather enthusiastic comrades even managed to utilise a bit of their own power, lobbing active alarms at the military toffs in the front row and even delivering one to the good Air Marshal himself.

**Goodbye Tony—Hello Gordon**

This goes for stitching up Karen Reissmann and deserting her in her hour of need. Second to Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communications Workers Union. The prize goes for taking the greatest strike of 2007, the biggest show of mass solidarity and selling the posties right down the river.

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TIME TO ACT AGAINST ID CARDS AND DATABASES

Since the ID Cards Act was passed in March 2006 (was it really that long ago?) things have moved on rapidly behind the scenes. During 2007, in many cities, Identity and Passport Service (IPS) interview centres were opened to question first-time applicants, such as teenagers, before giving them a passport.

Then, in November, we heard that post offices and travel agents are likely candidates for mass ID card applications and fingerprinting. According to the Financial Times, "The Post Office said it was looking very seriously at developing the ability to record data electronically at a UK 14,150 outlets", whilst the IPS said that, "outlets were likely to be used to help speed up the enrolment process to obtain new biometric passports and identity cards, providing services such as application checking and fingerprinting."

It was also announced in October that the General Register Office (GRO) in England and Wales, which oversees the recording of births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths, will become part of the IPS from 1 April 2008. This moves it from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to become an Executive Agency of the Home Office. According to the IPS, "Working as one organisation will allow us to explore the possibility of integrating passport, identity card and live event registration processes. This would reduce red tape and make life easier for people, as well as strengthen the integrity of our systems."

Under the Identity and Passport Service, the 265 registry offices in England and Wales that are owned and run by local authorities will be implicated in this change, plus the Home Office will carry out some registrations centrally and maintain the backbone of the registration data. So getting rid of ‘red tape’ means the centralising of data originally collected for statistical purposes and policy-making for the population as a whole, which will now be used for tracking individuals as well.

These are yet more steps towards the making of a National Identity Register, which is the backbone of the government’s ID Cards scheme. 2008 is the time to rally round against ID and help to build a grassroots opposition in our communities, to stop us ending up in a total surveillance society within a very few years.

For more info and ideas how to resist, read our anti-ID pamphlet ‘Defending Anonymity’, available online at:  http://www.afed.org.uk/ace/

ON THE FRONTLINE

Karen Reissmann appeal rejected

NHS Trust bosses rejected mental health nurse Karen Reissmann’s appeal against her dismissal. She was sacked for gross misconduct over criticizing cuts to NHS services in the media. The sacking, which had nothing to do with her performance as a clinician, is an attack on one of the prominent members of a union branch at the forefront of attempts by health workers to defend the provision of free healthcare in this country from cuts and privatisation. Following the sacking, NHS staff in at 10 Manchester community mental health teams and the 3 crisis resolution teams went on indefinite strike action to ‘demand her reinstatement and the right to speak without fear’. The rejection of the appeal was greeted with anger by pickets outside the trust building.

Following the failed appeal, UNISON have called off the strike. UNISON members promise to return to the picket lines in January if she is not reinstated. They will need our solidarity and support more than ever now. For more info visit: http://reinstate-karen.org/ or write to: Karen@reinstate-karen.org

Mystery force fields around the windows of chain coffee shops that pay minimum wage, exploit 3rd world growers and fight unionisation have been reported in Sheffield. This, together, unlike normal other forces like gravity, only attracts large bricks. Physicists are reported to be puzzled.

UNION SELLS OUT THE POSTIES

6% of postal workers voted to accept a settlement offer from Royal Mail bosses, which failed to meet many of the demands of strikers. The vote was on a 64% turnout. Many workers have reacted angrily to the news, with one employee on the Royal Mail Chat stating: “This is a sh*t deal..! We better all head to Tesco’s and HOPE that we get jobs there! Cause this F’n deal if I get my hands on those crooked union reps or royal mail management bastards, they’ll all die! I’ll kill you!” Some Royal Mail workers have heard that the dispute is not over, and that staff should continue to “work the 318” - do their job and hours according to the rule book and so put pressure on management. One commented, “We’ve lost this vote, but we can bring things around to our way just by doing the job properly. Don’t work a single second without pay and don’t carry a bag which is one gramme overweight. I won’t be covering anyone else’s delivery, and neither will anyone else with more than two brain cells.”

Short Fuse ...

Strange weather in the north

Mysterious force fields around the windows of chain coffee shops that pay minimum wage, exploit 3rd world growers and fight unionisation have been reported in Sheffield. This, unlike normal, other forces like gravity, only attracts large bricks. Physicists are reported to be puzzled.

WHAT WELFARE STATE?

T he New Year will bring huge attacks on the benefit system for single parents, the long-term sick and disabled. But this is all clouded in a mist of what appear to be improvements.

On hearing the latest squawks from Brown, Hain, and the like, you might be fooled into thinking nothing has changed in the last 20 years.. But no, things have changed. For every country minimum-wage victory we get, the greedy Government midgets in return suck even more from us. It’s not just money they take. It is also the attacks on our attention - not merely as exist as consumers and employees.

As a distraction to the problems they face toodying to big business as well as the ‘threat’ of economic crisis, the Punch and Judy Show that is parliament has reverted to the 318” - do their job and hours according to the rule book and so put pressure on management. One commented, “We’ve lost this vote, but we can bring things around to our way just by doing the job properly. Don’t work a single second without pay and don’t carry a bag which is one gramme overweight. I won’t be covering anyone else’s delivery, and neither will anyone else with more than two brain cells.”

Defy ID - 2008

Don’t let the Government steal your identity

“What looks like it is: an attack on women, the poor and excluded.”

Funding Political Parties

So with party funding, failing banks, the lack of job security and everyone living in debt is it any surprise they want to divert attention away from their real problems by vilifying easy, time tested scapegoats? But such ineptitude and inhumanity is a poor reflection on us all. What kind of society lets the wealthiest get away with such bullying? It’s time they were reminded they only have power as long as we let them. They need to be stopped. We need to do this together because there is only one ‘us’, and only through breaking down the false barriers they put up can we succeed in defending ‘us’.

Defending ‘us’