

BASTARDS OF THE YEAR

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 Menenez 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.

Politician 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.
You too can watch his shame: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/holiday/2007/barneycam.html>.



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:

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

Subscriptions to **resistance** costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, **Organise! for revolutionary anarchism**, is also £4.

You can subscribe to **resistance** by email for free via the website above. ★

PRISONER SUPPORT

Cassidy Wheeler



Cassidy Wheeler is serving 8.5 years in the USA for stealing a pair of socks! He's starting some projects to "educate and inspire ... fellow prisoners, such as a penpal exchange, a radical library, a virtual world tour (a collection of annotated prisoners)."

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!

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for a free humanity, for anarchist communism

RESISTANCE



ANARCHIST BULLETIN - ISSUE 99

January 2008

FREE/DONATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

As 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 and 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 regarding. 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 year 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.



Health workers in solidarity with Karen Reissman



climate campers in action.

Goodbye Tony—Hello Gordon

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. The low? Gordon Brown replaced him. And waiting in the wings good ole Dave, the Tory toff who likes to pretend he's one of the people. Our New Year's wish? People keep seeing through the liars and don't get fooled by the press. Bin the lot of them.

On the environmental front, the Climate Camp was a huge success. Thanks to the stupidity of BAA in trying to stop even bird spotters and ramblers objecting to Heathrow's expansion, the camp got huge press coverage. The campers linked up with local residents and airport strikers. The struggle to save the environment is part of the class struggle against profit and destruction. Our New Year's wish? The people of Sipson, next to the airport, win. Their village doesn't become another runway.

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.

AIR MARSHALL ALARMED

On Thursday 13th December, Air Marshal Stuart Peach (CBE), head of Military Defense 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 utilize a bit of their own **aerial power**, lobbing active alarms at the military toffs in the front row and even delivering one to the good Air Marshal himself.



This was a protest not only against the occupation of Iraq but also against the way events like these seek to naturalise and normalise 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 invite 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.





Karen Reissmann appeal rejected

NHS Trust bosses rejected mental health nurse Karen Reissmann's appeal against her dismissal. She was sacked for 'gross misconduct' after criticising 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 all 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.



Union sells out the Posties

64% 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 Royal Mail Chat stating; "This is a s**t deal!.. We better all head to Tescos and HOPE that we get jobs there! Cause this job is f***d! If I get my hands on those crooked union reps or royal mail management bastards, they're all dead I tell you!" Some Royal Mail workers have stressed 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 force, unlike normal other forces like gravity, only attracts large bricks. Physicists are reported to be puzzled.

DEFY ID - 2008

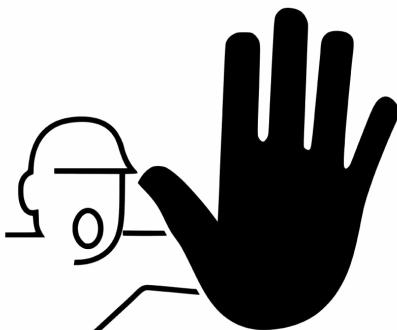
TIME TO ACT AGAINST ID CARDS AND DATABASES

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 finger-printing. According to the Financial Times, "The Post Office said it was looking very seriously at developing the ability to record data electronically at its 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 finger-printing."

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

DON'T LET THE GOVERNMENT STEAL YOUR IDENTITY



SAY NO TO ID CARDS

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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 life 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 285 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 central record of 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/>

WHAT WELFARE STATE?

BENEFIT BULLIES

already struggling comply with the bullies. How proud they must be!

Picking on the weak

As usual, it's not an attack on one front. Remember Government need to make us forget a lot, so single parents are next in line for attack. Politicians, the sewer press and other 'interested' parties blame single parents for kids running loose, social breakdown, drugs, and guns not to mention fucking in the streets. They now want parents to work during the most important period of their child's development. This looks like what it is: an attack on women (the majority of single parents), the poor and excluded. This is to fill the supposed 600,000 job vacancies that Brown claimed exist every day in Britain. If there was not a threat to the income that barely feeds and keep a roof over their families' heads, parents might not take any old shit job. Government is happy as the number of claimants goes down, big business is happy as they are subsidised through the poorly-run Tax Credits system, and those forced into this crap lose out, as do their kids and communities.

"This looks like what it is: an attack on women, the poor and excluded."

The 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 crummy minimum-wage victory we get, the greedy Government midges in return suck even more from us. It's not just money they take. It is also the attacks on our attempts to live rather than merely exist as consumers and employees.

As a distraction to the problems they face toadying to big business as well as the 'threat' of economic crisis, the Punch and Judy Show that is parliament have reverted to type. From the Coliseum, the concepts of beat the weak and tax the poor continues: New Labour™ learned so much from Thatcher.

Come on down: the price is shite,

Under the benefit system you can get £50 odd a week or possibly as much as £80 odd if you've managed to work yourself into long-term ill-health. But all this is about to change. Now, the state is offering to help these poor damned souls back to work. They'll even get training. But this is training government style. This should win the annual comedy awards, with them being the ultimate jokers. If you don't or can't do the training, then its benefit death by a thousand cuts. What is already a pittance is cut and cut again until those

Funding Political Parties

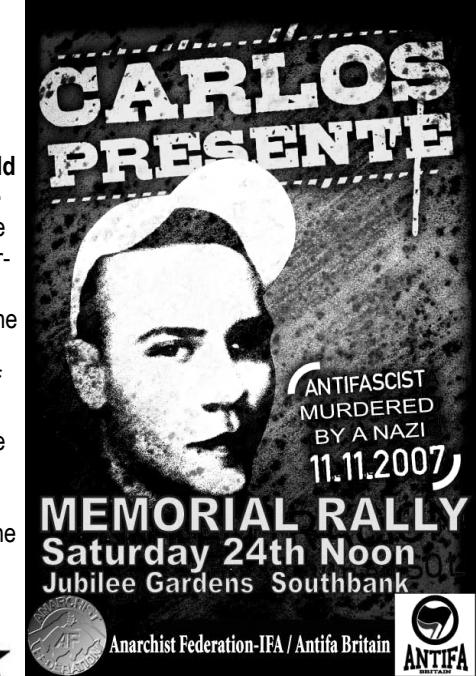
So with party funding, failing banks, the lack of job security and everyone living in debt is it any surprise they want to divert attention away from our real problems by victimising easy, time tested scapegoats? But such ineptitude and inhumanity is a poor reflection on us all. What kind of society 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'.

Memorial for Carlos

Rally at Southbank

On Saturday 24th of November 70 people braved the icy cold to attend the rally called by the Anarchist Federation and Antifa in memory of the sixteen year old antifascist who had been killed on the 11th of November by a member of a Nazi party in Madrid, Spain. The memorial rally gathered around the monument to the International Brigades in the Jubilee Gardens, Southbank, at noon and, despite this area being inside the exclusion zone around parliament created by Socpa, no police presence was evident. The protesters held placards with the face of the murdered teenager, and denounced the way in which ideas traditionally held by the far right have become part of the accepted main political discourse throughout Europe and the UK, particularly around issues like immigration, and in many cases thanks to a certain sector of the mass media.

The rally finished at 1 p.m. after keeping a minute of silence in memory of the murdered antifascist



Anti-Fascist news

BNP Splits - What an xmas present!

It seems that the BNP has split. The Party leaders have kicked out Sadie Graham, one of their "best" mainstream candidates for "creating and setting up a treasonous blogspot designed to attack and smear fellow party officials". They followed this by raiding her house. She seems to be starting a campaign to set up a "real BNP". We look forward to many future bust ups amongst these nazi scum.



Barnsley BNP Bemused by Bashed Banner

Yorkshire fash find belongings in trash

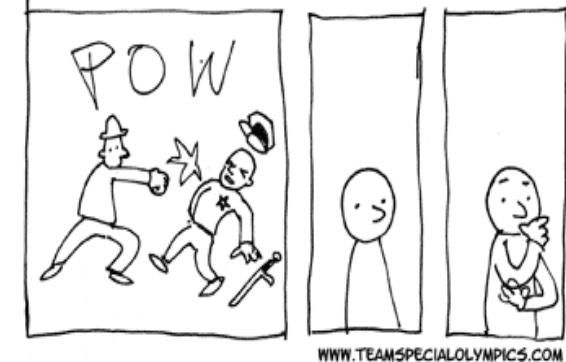
Barnsley BNP paper sellers seem unable to hold onto their naff propaganda. On an almost weekly basis the Barnsley Bigots set up their stall only to find that after a brief political discussion they have flipped the political switch and find themselves in the position of being Sans Papier (without papers)... perhaps they should be deported!

And finally, the Resistance editors turn to their thoughts on a possible police strike ..

AMAZING ALBERT



BY S.O.



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