

Hard work never killed anyone?

The so-called protestant work ethic (a term first coined by German economist and sociologist Max Weber, in his 1904 work, *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.) is a Calvinist value that dates back to the days of Martin Luther, which emphasises the necessity of hard work, moral conviction and virtuous diligence to ensure personal and spiritual salvation.

Weber contends that the first, and probably most vital feature of the spirit of capitalism, was that it invested in economizing with high moral significance. That, the individual engages in capitalistic economizing not only for the expediency of making a living, but in the expectation that such activity would test his inner resources and thus affirm his moral worth. Weber further expounds that the protestant work ethic was the motivating force behind the development of capitalism. In *Politics as a Vocation* (1919), he also defined the State as an entity which claims a monopoly on the legitimate use of physical

force.

Today, the protestant work ethic is encapsulated in the popular saying, "Hard work never killed anyone....." However, across the globe, workers are systematically killed, abused, degraded and exploited on a daily basis. Capitalism claims the lives of thousands of workers every year. Here in the UK, recent figures released by the Health & Safety Commission for 2006-2007, revealed that there were 241 worked-related deaths, plus 90 members of the general public killed in work places, as well as 30,000 accidents resulting in injury. The report went on to note that 2.7m people now claim Incapacity Benefit, with a further 600,000 adding to this list each year. In actual fact, this figure is only the tip of the iceberg, as the HSC is generally only able to access figures in the 'legitimate' sectors of the labour market.

Hard work never killed anyone.....? ★



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.

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Also visit: www.afed.org.uk
and www.iaf-ifa.org

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anarchist bulletin

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Where there's brass... there's muck.

The environmental crisis that currently faces our planet is a matter of life or death. The potential for human suffering through environmental devastation over the coming decades is truly staggering. It is unquestionable that the time to act is now.

The state and corporations would have us believe that environmentalism is a matter of personal choice. That buying energy-saving light bulbs, carbon-neutral flights or so called "biofuels" have the potential to stall (or even stop) the coming crisis. Even those within the environmental movement will preach the virtues of "ethical" lifestyle. They argue that it is only a matter of persuading enough consumers to "buy into" environmentalism (with a price-tag far beyond the budget of most working people). While some of these efforts have some impact as short-term solutions, they fail to address the very system that drives and sustains the destruction of our environment – capitalism. Calling for increased state intervention to meet environmental targets is equally counterproductive. The state exists for the maintenance and protection of capitalism. Since targets and promises were set there has been no government that has ever reached a target it set to tackle on climate change.

Creating a sustainable future for our planet is not in the interests of profit.

Ecology IS a class issue. How many working class people do you know with a private jet? The ruling classes have used the corporate mass media to fight environmentalism at every turn. We live in a truly crazy world where despite scientific proof that humanity is responsible for



climate change you are still able with enough money, influence and power to deny this is the case. And why? Because the bottom line is that environmental destruction equals profit.

And who suffers?

We already know that those countries in the developing world are likely to suffer the worst affects of Climate Change. Droughts, floods and food shortages affect millions when there is no infrastructure to protect impoverished populations. We have seen in the catastrophic events that followed hurricane Katrina the people who suffer the worst in the face of environmental destruction – the urban working poor. Last year throughout the UK there was a great deal of hardship following the floods as those in the poorest and worst affected areas lost everything when insurance companies refused to pay out. Across the world working people are poisoned by pesticides, power plants and industrial by-products.

Our message is simple.

If we want to great a truly free society, a truly sustainable society then it has to be one which is free from capitalism. Working people across the world have to rise up and fight the system that oppresses and alienates them every day. It's about time we gave bosses and politicians the boot and built a better future for everyone.

Camp For Climate Action

Despite coal representing the most polluting of fossil fuels, the government plans to build six more atmosphere-crunching power stations. Collectively these will emit around *50 million tons* of CO2 a year!

The camp for climate action represents a radical attempt to build a mass movement against climate change through self-organisation and collective effort.

The Camp for Climate Action will be taking place at Kingsnorth coal-fired power station, Kent, 3rd to 11th August. www.climatecamp.org.uk

Subvert!

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

JULY

2nd - **Resistance in Oaxaca - the struggle continues**. Film night and talk presented by a delegate from the indigenous communities 7pm @ LARC (62 Fieldgate Street) as part of a European tour with the Afed and International of Anarchist Federations - www.iaf-ifa.org

London Fete Against the G8, two days of autonomous actions called by London No Borders and the Anarchist Federation to bring resistance to the summit home to the capital.

4th - 12noon, protest outside Japanese embassy in solidarity with activists facing state oppression. 101-104 Picadilly, London (accessible from either Green Park or Hyde Park Corner tube stations)

4th - workshop for autonomous actions @ Ramparts Social Centre 7pm, 15-17 Ramparts street (near Whitechapel, off commercial street)

5th - Day of autonomous action in the hometown of the headquarters of the UK Border Agency, Croydon, South London. <http://londonfete.ucrony.net>

AUGUST

4th - 11th **The Camp for Climate Action**, Kingsnorth, Kent - www.climatecamp.org.uk
16th **Stop the BNP Red, White and Blue festival**, national mobilisations. Denby, Derbyshire.

nbnpfestival.wordpress.com & www.antifa.org.uk

Summer of discontent

It's turning out to be a 'Summer of Discontent' in Nottingham. One focus for dissent is the University of Nottingham. Two people, Hicham Yezza, an administrative employee, and a student, Rizwan Sabir, were arrested in May and held for six days under terror legislation before charges were dropped and they were released, completely innocent. This was all because they had an electronic version of an al-Qaeda training manual. The university management freaked out very embarrassingly when they spotted it, declaring that *no one* at the university should be in possession of such material, and promptly called the cops who arrived in force.

The university and the police were soon both looking pretty stupid though. Rizwan was reading it for his dissertation on Islamic extremism, with the full knowledge and approval of his supervisor, and the document is in any case available for us all to read on a US government security website, which was where he had found it!

The university then agreed that OK, *maybe* academics and students could be trusted to read this material, but not administrative staff. Academic staff and students then united with other staff in support of *everyone's* right to inform themselves about what al-Qaeda or any other group say. They continue to mount a serious challenge to the university's apparent attitude that ordinary people are impressionable morons who will go out and join al-Qaeda cells if they happen to read any of its obnoxious bile!

What happened next to Hicham shows the police and university management in their true light again. He is an Algerian



national, who has lived here for 13 years, and the police did what they now routinely do to non-white non-Britons they encounter, and investigated his immigration status. How convenient for them and for the university that they claim to have found an irregularity. Campaigners demand that the university takes responsibility for the fact that its stupid over-reaction to something it found on Hicham's computer led to his incarceration in detention centres for a month, while the Home Office tried to find something wrong with his papers.

Whilst Hicham was being detained, campaigners for another person struggling to get justice from the immigration system became involved. Amdani Juma is originally from Burundi and was brought to the UK by the United Nations five years ago as a refugee from inter-tribal violence and because of his opposition to the regime supporting it.

He too made Nottingham his home, winning huge respect for his paid and unpaid work in HIV awareness and refugee resettlement, even acting as a valued consultant to the Home Office in this capacity. But another branch of the HO has inexplicably decided that he should go back to Burundi. He only has political enemies there. His few surviving family and friends are exiles like him. And so the biggest anti-deportation campaign in Nottingham's history sprang up to defend him. Amdani also was detained, for two weeks, and came to within a few hours of being forced onto a plane to remove him. His supporters were only able to secure his release by tirelessly challenging underhand HO attempts to deny his bail hearing.

These cases highlight the injustice, racism, callousness and arbitrary nature of the immigration system. But community and workplace campaigns to defend people like Hicham and Amdani are the building blocks of a better world. Links are being made between dissenting people in the town and the university, traditionally quite separate and mutually suspicious in Nottingham, as in many towns. Solidarity is the order of the day. The number of people involved in both campaigns simultaneous is growing and growing. The prospect for an on-going Culture of Resistance in the city has never been better.

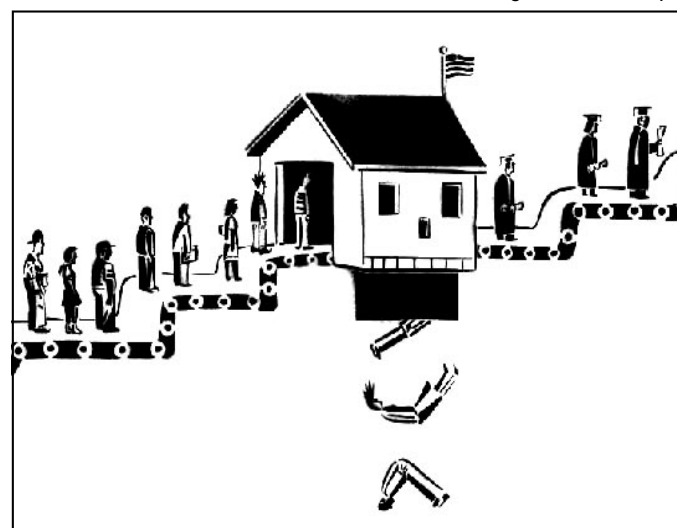
Both campaigns need your support. Check out: <http://freehichamyezza.wordpress.com> <http://friendsofamdani.wordpress.com> Or www.nobordersnottingham.org.uk for other migration struggles in the city. ★

The three r's

A high-profile study and research document was presented recently to a private conference in New York, which was attended by educationalists and politicians from the UK and America, including our very own, Ed Miliband, from the Cabinet Office. The earth-shattering study concluded that a child's vocabulary, cognitive abilities and behaviour are linked to family income and social circumstances; that children from the poorest homes are socially disadvantaged and are much less equipped to do well at school and generally under-achieve. Err, yes, and tell us something we don't already know. Capitalism creates poverty, and working-class families get treated accordingly, by virtue of the nature of capital. While the top-knobs shake their heads and sigh in false disbelief, justifying their own existence and expenses paid trip across the Atlantic, they will shed a few crocodile tears and continue to maintain the status-quo. Anarchist-communists and other progressive revo-

lutionists have been exposing the ills of capitalism for a hundred and fifty years now! Meanwhile, Chris Parry, head of the Independent Schools Council, which represents 2,600 private schools in the UK, said that State schools are losing the battle against "Anarchy [we wish] and chaos" in the classroom because of their "social contexts". He added that State schools are struggling with unteachable children, ignorant parents, staff who don't want to be there and head teachers who don't understand leadership. Parry believes that teachers could learn discipline from the military.

Now Parry would know, he's a former rear-admiral and head of a MOD strategy group, who once warned us of the dangers of global migration and "reverse colonisation" where indigenous populations become the minority. A government spokeswoman for educa-



tion responded to Parry's thoughts on the education system by saying: "We believe that the State and Private Sectors have much to offer each other". A highly predictable response, given that the government's long-term plan is to break up all public sector services. ★

Suicide is painless?

The Pentagon has released US army suicide figures for last year. In 2007, 115 serving troops committed suicide – a quarter of which took place in Iraq. (The figure could actually be higher, as a number of deaths are still being investigated). This is an increase of 13% on the 2006 figures of 102. In 2005 and 2004 the figures were 85 and 67 respectively. Since the so-called "global war on terror", 580 US soldiers have committed suicide – the equivalent of an entire infantry battalion! They further add that some 38,000 troops have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. While such figures bear no relationship or comparison to the 10's of



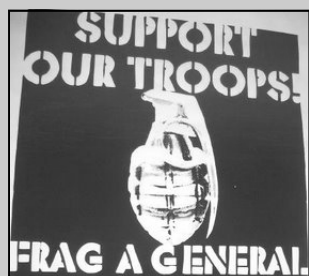
thousands of civilians and combatants who have died in the US theatres of war in recent years (and indeed, all wars); it further reinforces the futility and perverseness of war and the military machinery of the capitalist state. ★

Manchester anarchist book fair

The Manchester Anarchist Book Fair took place on June 7th at Jabez Clegg in Manchester. With twenty five different stalls, hundreds of people coming throughout the day and red and black blood flowing through everybody's veins, it's safe to say it was a huge success. There were discussions on activist media, anarchism in New Zealand, and a hugely successful "everything you wanted to know about anarchism, but were afraid to ask" session, alongside a 45 radical reggae folk set from Daniel Orlick and delicious vegan food. After weeks of preparation from anarchists from around Manchester, including the AF, we just have to say congratulations to all involved, and bring on next year! ★

New public holiday

Armed Forces Minister, Bob Ainsworth announced that discrimination against a member of the Armed Forces in uniform, is to be made a criminal offence. Under the directive of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, a study was carried out by Quentin Davies MP, into ways to improve relations between the public and the military.



He managed to come up with some 40 recommendations! Which include a plan to create a new public holiday - Armed Forces Day. (Oh please... nice to have a day off, but sod the military!). It will be interesting however, to see how these new laws will be used against anti-war and anti-militarist activists. ★

Support our Fighting Fund!

We are hoping to make *Resistance* bigger and better than ever, but to do this we are going to need your generous contributions. **Anarchist Federation FIGHTING FUND**, Box AF c/o The Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham, NG7 6HX or alternatively you can make a donation via paypal at the AF web site - www.afed.org.uk Your solidarity is appreciated.

Rich bastards beware

Forbes magazine's rich-list recently announced the world's youngest US\$ billionaire. He is 23 year old Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of the so-called social networking site Facebook, which has made him \$1.5billion (£755million). He hit's the Forbes list as the world's 785th wealthiest person. Top of the list is US investor Warren Buffett with £31billion. In second place is Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim Helu with £30billion. After 13 years at

the top of the league, Microsoft's Bill Gates has slipped into 3rd place with a paltry £29billion. Britain's richest resident is steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal with £22billion, who incidentally, is 4th in the world. Just for the record, the world's richest woman is France's Liliane Bettencourt, of the L'Oreal cosmetics empire. On a cautionary note..... You may be very wealthy and powerful, but just remember, you only sleep at night because we let you! ★