

RESISTANCE

anarchist paper
No. 117

November 2009
Free/Donation

The Royal Mail strikes:

Royal Mail bosses
and workers lock
horns over the future
of the service

*the
truth*

October saw the first national strikes at the Royal Mail in two years. A two-day rolling strike started on the 22nd, and saw sorting and delivery staff walk out in staggered action. The strikes, which received an overwhelming vote of support from CWU members (74%), follow months of local actions around the country, including a wildcat strike in Stoke, and weekly strikes in London sorting offices. The walkouts were solidly attended, with reports of near 100% out at many offices. Support for hardship funds from other unions and collections by supporters were well received, as was the support from fellow workers. As we go to press, further action is looming should negotiations falter.

Continued inside ►



Inside: English Defence League, free spaces, parties' cuts plans, Greece...

► Continued from cover

Royal Mail management have shown their willingness to break their own workers' action. 30,000 casuals have been hired to break the strike, an action which is illegal but is being presented as the legal use of seasonal workers to clear the backlog during a peak period. The act was swiftly described as a "stupid move" by the union, who are initiating legal action. A strategy document has also been leaked which appears to show Royal Mail's plans to take away facilities from union reps as punishment for the strike.

This action is of vital importance to everyone who needs to work for a living in the UK. Postal workers are some of the best organised workers in the country, and most willing to defend themselves. They are being used as guinea pigs, to see how far the government (and its successor, whether Labour or Tory) can go in imposing cuts and attacking public sector workers. Gordon Brown has already identified posties (who on average earn £18,000 a year) as a "vested interest" to be beaten. Therefore the outcome of the strike will affect us all. The postal workers deserve our full support.

The strike has seen blanket media coverage, some of it completely hysterical. For example, the Sun is claiming the strike is "madness",

the Times that it is "completely bonkers", and the Financial Times that it is Turkeys voting for Christmas and Thanksgiving at once. But what are the facts of the dispute?

Fiddling the figures

We keep hearing one message from the Royal Mail, the government, and the media: post volumes are down, and the Royal Mail must modernise in response. The argument is that as digital media like emails and text messages progressively replace letters, the Royal Mail's custom is withering away. As a result, the company must restructure, with job losses guaranteed.

The problem with this idea is that the figures Royal Mail is providing to justify cuts are dubious in the extreme. Both Royal Mail management and Peter Mandelson have frequently quoted a decline in volume of 5.5% in the last 12 months, with a drop of 10% projected for the next year "due to the recession and the continuing growth of electronic communications such as email". Where do these numbers come from?

They actually come from calculations based on the number of sorting boxes which come into each sorting office. The number of letters in each box is estimated, and the total of the boxes coming into

sorting offices is used to give a figure for overall mail volume. So far, so simple. The problem is that Royal Mail management unilaterally changed the estimate for the number of items per box in the last year. A prior agreement between the union and management had settled on an estimate of 208 letters per box. The new management estimate was 150. Unsurprisingly, this change led to a drop in the overall volume count. This drop more than accounts for the figures Mandelson and Royal Mail management are throwing around. On top of this the union recently did random counts of the box contents in response to management's turnaround. They found that the average box contained 267 items! Management are fiddling the figures to justify cuts, pure and simple. Post is far from being in terminal decline.

Besides this, if we accept that the dispute is about "modernisation", then we have to ask questions about the behaviour of Royal Mail management. After the last national strike in 2007, an agreement was reached between the union and management about modernisation. It involved three stages of staggered changes. This year, instead of implementing the agreed changes, Royal Mail management started making willy-nilly cuts and changes. These changes have led to increasing pressure on the

dwindling numbers of full-time staff left – 63,000 jobs have been cut in the last five years alone. So even if we accept Royal Mail's false figures, staff levels have dropped further than mail volume supposedly has, so even using their own numbers, staff are overworked and the service suffers as a result.

All these cuts and changes have piled pressure on workers in face of a pay freeze and a pension crisis the government repeatedly fails to bail out – despite the recent massive banking bailouts.

The real reasons for the strike

Royal Mail management have made it clear that they are looking to impose a TNT-style business model on the Royal Mail. TNT, which operates the Dutch national post service, employs mostly part-time workers, and follows a union-busting strategy towards its staff. Recent years have seen few full-time workers taken on in the Royal Mail, as they are increasingly replaced by part-time and casual workers.

Meanwhile, the part-privatisation of Royal Mail which already exists is taking its toll. The government has eagerly imposed "deregulation" on the Royal Mail, meaning that any company, and frequently state-subsidised European companies, can bid for Royal Mail contracts. This means that bulk deliveries are often carried out by companies like TNT, UK Post, Citypost and others. They are then delivered door-to-door by Royal Mail. This means Royal Mail workers sort and deliver the post of other companies on the 'deregulated' market – Royal Mail workers do the work, other companies profit. This has been demonstrated by the governments' own research to have delivered no benefits to customers, but to have been a boon to big business. This "piggybacking" rigs the system against Royal Mail, as competitors compete on favourable terms and can rely on Royal Mail doing the difficult "final mile" delivery.

Further privatisation would just mean a further excuse to attack postal workers, and the government is still smarting from the failure of its privatisation plans.

Support for our fellow workers is vital. The posties' ability to show strength will determine all our futures.

TNT Workers' protest: a chance to spread the struggle?

While union-busting firm TNT is hungrily eying the Royal Mail, and "selflessly" offering to provide its staff as replacement posties, TNT workers are showing their anger with their employer.

Following "crippling" pay cuts, 400 TNT workers marched through Atherstone town centre at the end of September, before demonstrating outside the company's headquarters on Long Street. According to Unite, "the firm is taking advantage of the current economic climate to justify making pay cuts."



English Defence League opposed in Manchester and Swansea

On 10th October around 1500 anti-fascists from in and around Manchester turned out to confront the English Defence League, a hate group linked to football hooliganism. Those with some knowledge about the EDL and its stated aims might wonder why the Anarchist Federation would want to oppose a group which claims to protest only against ‘extremist Islam’. The answer is simple: having seen them in action before, we know that the EDL are not merely concerned with extremist Islam, but are a firmly anti-Muslim, anti-worker and wholly reactionary organisation.

The Manchester protest, like the demonstrations that preceded it, showed the EDL members for the racist band of thugs they are. The EDL that day might have managed to wrangle together some 600 or so members, but the fascist core of their grouping was very visible, from ‘sieg hails’ and racist abuse to swastikas and known members of fascist organisations, the political agenda of the EDL was made very clear. Luckily they were heavily outnumbered by antifascists, and were seen off when they attempted to back up their ‘tough guy’ image with action.

Similarly when the EDL mobilised in Swansea under their

Welsh name the ‘Welsh Defence League’ on the 17th October they were greeted by over 600 anti-fascists. Sadly though, the WDL managed to attract over a hundred and fifty. This time their fascist politics were made even more clear with local National Front members joining some WDL members in burning a flag with an anti-Nazi symbol on it, as if to incontestably prove their links to the politics of hatred and racism.

What is worrying however is that, while it is becoming more and more clear that the EDL exist only as a thinly veiled front for

members of fascist groups such as the British National Party to get involved in ‘street action’, they are winning over members of the working class. We need to be prepared to win people over ourselves by spreading the message that any economic downturn, unemployment problem or housing shortages are not caused by Muslims or immigrants. The cause of these genuine concerns is the very system that relies on working class division and racism to survive – capitalism. In the meantime we can’t afford to just sit back while the far-right makes

gains in our communities, pitting workers against one another and scapegoating Muslims for populist gain. The EDL might try to make themselves look more reasonable than their nazi friends by waving Israeli flags and burning swastikas in publicity stunts, but the fact that the nazi salutes and racist chants go unchallenged at their demonstrations shows that they use what works – deep down its the same old racism they’re peddling, and that racism is always poison.

The EDL will be marching in Nottingham City Centre on the 5th December.



Despite claims not to be racist, EDL supporters have thrown nazi salutes and chanted racial abuse at their demonstrations.

Third time lucky in the fight for free spaces?

The first two weeks of October were dramatic ones in Sheffield, as not one but two squatted social centres were opened up and evicted in quick succession. Pisgah House in Broomhill, a historic listed building owned by Sheffield University, was chosen as the first location for the anti-capitalist social centre, which managed to get over 50 people through its doors on the opening night. Over the next week, it hosted events such as an introduction to Climate Camp and a Sheffield Activist Network open meeting, before abruptly being served with papers summon-

ing the occupiers to court in two hours’ time! The University made an openly political case for the building’s eviction, presenting a witness statement that complained about the building being used as a social centre based on “co-operation and mutual aid, openness and inclusion, voluntary participation and shared responsibility” and “a space for people to openly discuss and learn from each other about issues of social and environmental justice”, and taking the exceptional step of applying for a possession order and an injunction simultaneously.

Not wanting to give in that easily, the social centre collective immediately opened up another squat in a nearby disused building, only to be served with more court papers on their second day. They also discovered that the place was not as empty as it appeared, and had been used to store some NHS equipment, which they immediately handed over to the hospital - a fact that was not acknowledged in a sensationalist and highly inaccurate local media article demonising the centre. The space remained open for another few days, hosting more events such as discussions of

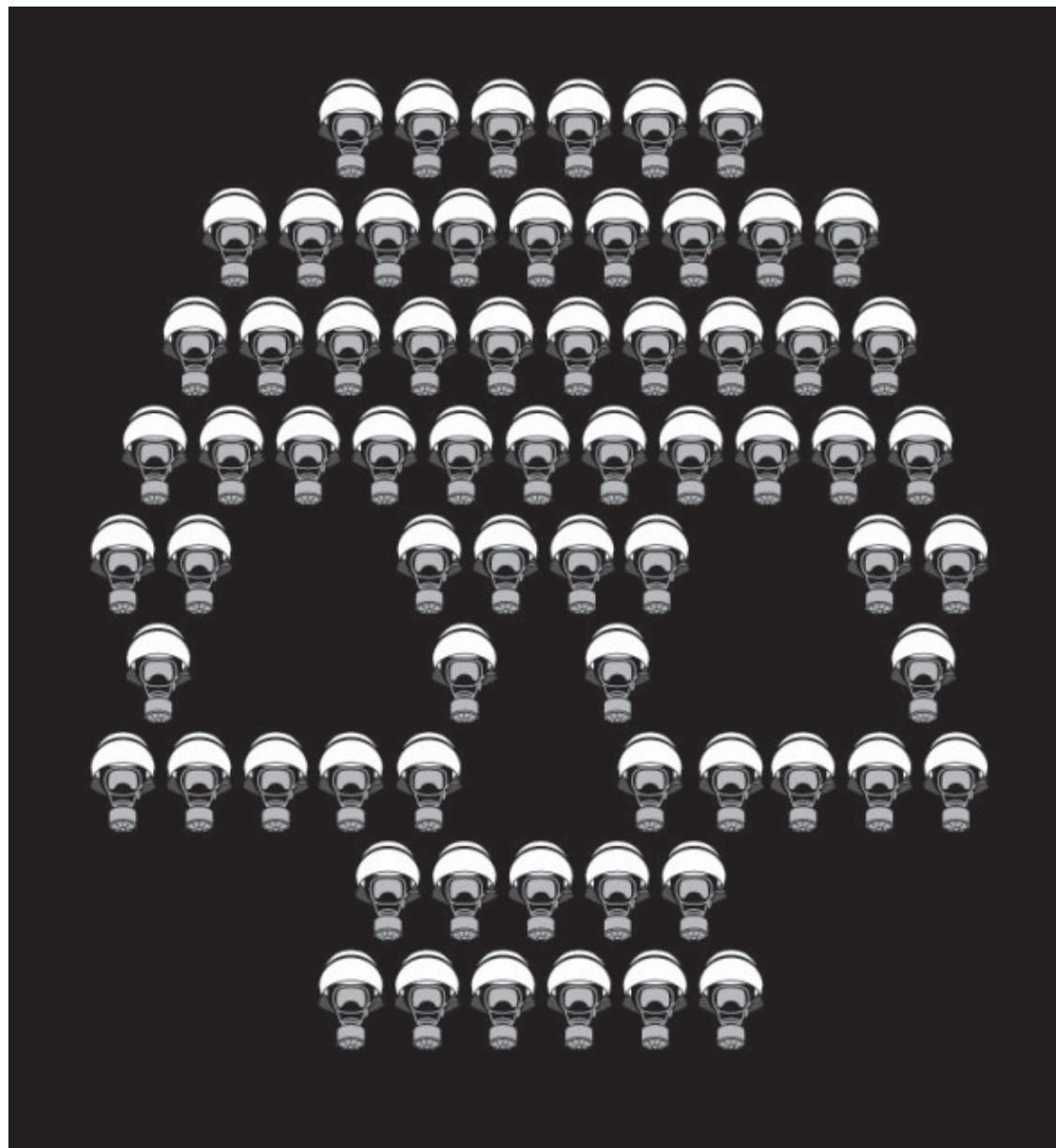
anti-capitalism, anti-militarism and Sheffield’s radical history of working-class resistance, but people in powerful positions were clearly determined to prevent the city from having a functioning social centre, so a second eviction was rushed through.

The social centre collective is currently taking a break after two weeks of intensive activity and the stress of two moves in quick succession, but those involved remain determined to carry on with similar projects in the near future. In Sheffield and elsewhere, the fight for free space goes on ...

Greece: Repression and Resistance

Despite continued state repression the flames of resistance still burn strong in Greece. Papandreu the third, leader of the new Socialist administration, has labelled his government “anti-authoritarians in power” while Michalis Chrisochoidis, the Minister of Public Order, has also publicly stated that he is “good friends” with many anarchists and agrees with them on many things. However, their actions tell a different story, as was demonstrated when the new Socialist government - determined to crush any possibility of a resurgence of the popular uprising of last December - set its sights on the Exarcheia district of Athens, a stronghold for anarchism and anti-capitalist sentiment in the city. It was also in this area that 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot by police, sparking rioting throughout Greece. In the early hours of Friday 9th of October, four days after the landslide victory of the Socialists in the Greek national elections and only a day after they assumed power, almost one thousand cops - riot police, motorised police, secret police and standard uniformed officers - swept the district. Hundreds of people were stopped and harassed by police who broke into 26 bars and camped in the liberated park of Navarinou street. Reports claim that several young people were seriously beaten during the operations.

Unfortunately, attacks against immigrants, another section of Greek society strongly involved in the December events, have also become commonplace. On the same day as the Exarcheia raids, Mohamed Kamran Atif, a 25 year old Pakistani undocumented immigrant, died of wounds previously inflicted by police. On September 26th at 1:30 am, 15 cops broke into his apartment, beating him and his family, alleging that Mohamed had attacked a Greek adolescent. According to neighbours the cops dragged Mohamed by his feet down the stairs banging his head on his steps



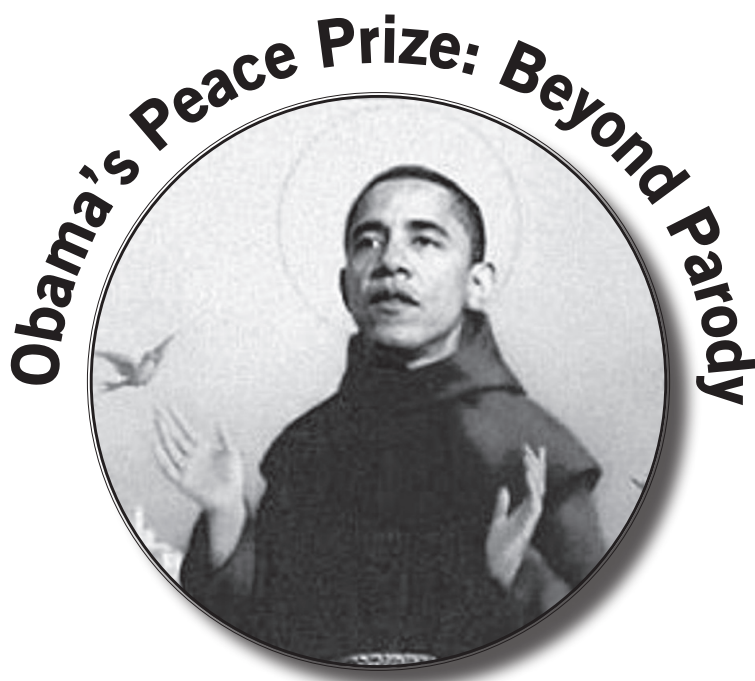
until he fainted. He was then taken to a police station in Nikea where he was held for two days. They tied him up and beat him with sticks, followed by electric shocks to the hands and knees. Upon his release, Mohamed avoided going to the hospital due to the new law that would have refused him healthcare as he lacks papers.

In late September, police also arrested three twenty-year old males and one female for their alleged involvement in the urban guerrilla group Nuclei of Fire Conspiracy (NFC), responsible for over 150 attacks against state and capitalist targets as well as a recent bombing campaign (with no injuries due to warning calls in all cases). After a two day legal marathon, during which hundreds of solidarity protesters gathered

in the high court yards, and the collapse of the prosecution’s case, the investigator opted to instead apply the notorious anti-terrorist law against three of the individuals, which permits imprisonment “in expectation of evidence against them”. In a subsequent NFC communique the urban guerillas have denounced the arrests while also making clear that the arrested are “totally unrelated to [their] group”. The 3 have denied any involvement in the group, one even condemning the armed struggle as irrelevant to the revolution.

In spite of this state-led onslaught, there has been continued resistance. An anti-torture demo, organised by several anarchist collectives in response to the death of Maohamed Kamran Atif led to clashes of around 400 protesters with riot

police and the occupation of the city hall in Nikea. Local workers’ associations have declared their solidarity with the occupation. Shipyard workers clashed with police forces after they stopped the Minister of Labour from leaving his ministry following inconclusive negotiations. A strike of 1,500 dockworkers held for fifteen days in Peiraeus despite political pressure from the government and the intervention of the Chinese Embassy (who demanded the strike be deemed illegal). The Greek public sector is estimated to have lost around 5 million Euros a day due to the strike. Vodafone and Wind telecom workers also called a 24 hour strike denouncing transfers and forced resignation of employees. The fires of resistance continue to burn.



Barack Obama was recently awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize “for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples”.

But what does a 10 million Kroner (£895,580) give-away from the estate of Alfred Nobel, a man who brought us dynamite and numerous other explosives, really reflect?

The Nobel Peace prize recognises people who have worked towards peace, the dissolving of standing armies, and better relations between nations. But, as with most such prizes, it is a congratulatory reward for individual leaders of struggles, and not those who struggle. Frequently, it is used to pat the backs of outright warmongers – Henry Kissinger and Menachem Begin are clear examples.

Obama has in some small ways worked towards the definition of peace that many governments use: Calming down enemies, subduing the complaints of their own people, sweeping the previous leader’s record under the carpet, and putting on a friendly face.

He has promised to:

- Strengthen ties with Middle-Eastern governments, averting war by diplomacy.
- Shut down Guantanamo bay, and end torture by US agents.
- Work towards nuclear disarmament.
- And of course, deliver that ever-elusive “CHANGE”

But he has also refused to

withdraw from Afghanistan, a token war to catch a single group with no particular ties to that country. The fact that controlling Afghanistan means controlling significant natural resources and a strategic part of the world is no small factor here. The cost of losing that resource to “unfriendly” rulers is clearly greater than the price of peace to Obama. Similarly, continuing to support the corrupt Afghan government put in place by Bush in Afghanistan that rigs elections, legalises rape and runs the country through drug cartels is hardly a good indicator of Obama’s commitments.

As with all wars, it is the workers who fight and die for peace. Not the president on \$400,000 a year, not the 5-star generals behind their desks, not the political hacks in Westminster banging on about sovereign rights of other nations, not the placard waving end-the-war petition-pushers on their marches.

As Anarchists we believe that peace can only come from overthrowing the profit system which divides us and ensures power for the few. We believe that a world controlled by people where they live, in control of their daily lives, working for themselves and their community and not for a boss or government, a world without inequality can eliminate the causes of war. War is absurd, and only makes sense when looked at through dollar-tinted glasses.

Anarchists in Serbia targeted

Members of the Serbian group Anarcho-Syndicalist initiative have been rounded up by the police in an attempt to frame them for an attack on the Greek embassy in Belgrade.

The attack took place at the end of August, and was claimed by a previously unknown group calling itself ‘Black Elijah’. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown, which failed to ignite but which damaged a window. The Serbian press immediately attempted to pin the incident on ASI, and specifically prominent member Ratibor Trivunac, who is currently general secretary of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers’ Association (IWA). As a result, ASI distanced themselves from the incident, and re-iterated their opposition to terrorist methods.

Unfortunately, this has been to little avail. Six anarchists from ASI were arrested and charged with “causing general public danger”. These members are Ratibor Trivunac, Tadej Kurepa, Ivan Vulovic, Sanja Dokic, Ivan Savic and Nikola Mitrovic. The prosecutor is claiming that the Belgrade Six are involved in “international terrorism”, and should they be found guilty they could be facing anywhere between 3 and 15 years in jail.

Members of ASI have pointed out that this crackdown is clearly politically motivated. While the Molotov attack on the Greek embassy caused very little damage and injured no-one, an attack by Serbian nationalists on the American embassy following Kosovo’s

declaration of independence last year killed one person and caused extensive damage, but led to no prosecutions. The Serbian media has been flooded with talking heads discussing the anarchist threat and the connections between anarchism and terrorism, and more interestingly, pointing to the continuing industrial strife in Serbia and anarchist involvement in workers’ struggles.

The arrests have led to expressions of solidarity in Serbia and around the world. A group of professors at the Belgrade university attacked the “political background of the double standards” applied in the case, and the idea that a failed petrol bomb attack adds up to the “international terrorism” the state is claiming. Solidarity demonstrations have taken place at official Serbian embassies and diplomatic missions in Eastern Europe and around the world. Two-dozen people attended a solidarity demonstration called at short notice at the Serbian embassy in London, with a second, smaller demonstration continuing the pressure in recent weeks.

The anarchists continue to wait in remand for trial, meaning that they could be in jail for up to six months without an actual charge being levied. It is vital that they are not allowed to be framed in such a blatant manner without international support and solidarity. Details for donations to the legal fund can be found at the address below.

Free the Belgrade 6 website:
<http://asi.zsp.net.pl/>



FREE THE BELGRADE 6!

We're not all in it together!

The recent Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat Conferences have seen one main issue debated by the major political parties: cuts.

In the speeches of politicians, the pages of newspapers, and the coverage of the broadcast media, the message we are supposed to swallow is clear; We've had the 'good times', now come the bad times. We've had economic growth, and now that the system is in crisis, it's down to ordinary men and women to cough up for the mess out of our pay, pensions and services. Never mind that during the 'good times' most of us never really benefited, as below-inflation pay 'increases' meant stagnating wages for many. Never mind that during the 'growth years' economic inequality reached record levels. Never mind that mass unemployment was a fact of life before the crisis threw many thousands more workers on the scrapheap. As far as mainstream politicians are concerned, it's up to us to pay for their crisis.

All in this together? The Tories' plans for austerity Britain

The Tories had all to play for at their recent conference, as, in their view, it was their chance to sell 'the modern Conservative' party as the reasonable caretakers of the British state. Following on from the Lib Dem and Labour conferences, it was down to shadow chancellor George Osborne to lay out the

vision for a Britain under Tory rule.

Unsurprisingly, it's a bleak one. Osborne's speech, and the agenda of the conference in general, was all about cuts, cuts and more cuts. Like their counterparts in the rival parties, the Tories needed to show just how brutal they could be with the quality of life of working class people in order to 'fix' the budget crisis in the wake of the banking bailout.

The core cuts will be to the pay of public sector workers, pensions and benefits. Public sector workers, who had to endure below-inflation pay rises (in other words, pay cuts) throughout economic growth will have their pay frozen if they earn over £18,000 a year.

The average UK wage, according to the Office of National Statistics, is £24,908. Not only will workers be expected to work for less, they will also be expected to work for longer. The Tories plan to fast-track the rollback of the retirement age to 66, meaning that men will be retiring a year later from 2016, and women from 2020. Meanwhile many working class people will be hit by the withdrawal of benefits and tax credits from those on average incomes. At the same

time, the party's millionaire friends are to be guaranteed cuts in inheritance tax. Though Osborne's message was that 'we're all in this together', nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact that these policies are more about looking tough than anything else was proven by the emergence of a £3 billion hole in Osborne's sums, flagged up by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in the days following the conference. On top of that, the proposals don't come anywhere near to denting the budget deficit, so if the plan is to balance the books (which, it has been suggested by leading analysts, is unnecessary anyway, and could turn a recession into a depression), then much more pain is to be expected.

The Labour Party – friends of ordinary workers?

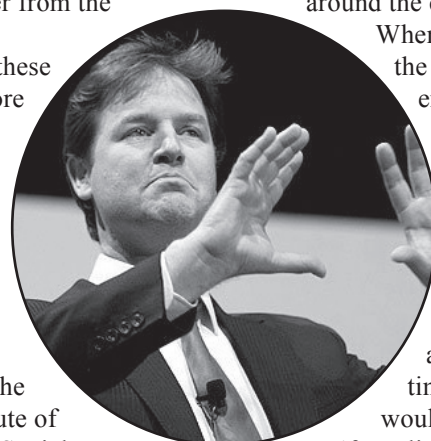
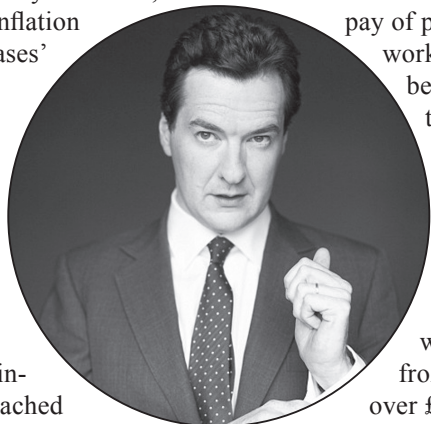
Though the Tories' plans to hammer workers are frightening, we shouldn't pretend that the other parties aren't gearing up to do the same. Indeed, for Labour and the Lib Dems, it's really a question of emphasis. Many economists argue that severely cut-

ting spending in the middle of a recession is a recipe for disaster, and Labour's plan to save the kicking until 'recovery', which they have already decided is

around the corner.

When speaking at the TUC conference in Liverpool, Gordon Brown outlined the need for cuts across the board, claiming at the same time that these would not affect 'front line services'.

This was re-iterated at the Labour conference. What this means is not quite clear, but it's safe to say that if you are an admin worker, porter or receptionist in a frontline service like the NHS you're at risk. Students and workers in further education can expect hard times. Like the Tories, Labour are claiming that it is possible to cut spending without affecting services. Given neither party has demonstrated how this might be possible, we can only expect the worst. Details of policies are generally thin on the ground on the Labour side of the fence, except for Education minister Ed Balls' £2bn cutbacks which look set to come from teachers' pay and school supplies. Still, Labour's willingness to hit the poorest hardest has been demonstrated by their recent Welfare Reform Bill, which came alongside cuts in job centres and welfare provision despite unemployment surging to near record levels. When faced with the need to make up the money



spent on the banking bailout, it's clear that they can be just as savage as the Tories.

The Lib Dems – 'Progressive austerity'

Meanwhile, the Lib Dems, who are positioning themselves as the party to replace Labour in the affections of 'progressive voters', have promised 'savage cuts' in the unlikely event that they form a government. Part of the 'progressive austerity' measures they have floated has been retaining tuition fees alongside huge but unspecified cuts across the board in serv-

ices and welfare provision. What is clear is that no matter who ends up holding the reigns of the state, we'll be getting a kicking in the years to come. History has demonstrated that capitalism as a system is prone to repeated crisis, and the idea that the 21st century would mark the 'end of boom and bust' is in tatters. When crisis threatens the profitability of the entire system, the state is there to swing in to the rescue. The financial sector was practically nationalised to prevent a meltdown which stood to devastate the banking industry. But the meltdown in jobs and

pay as the recession bites has been met with little more than apologetic soundbites and plans to 'fix' the recession by making the pain of it much worse for many of us.

This is a systemic problem, not a problem with the management of the state. Capitalism has to stay profitable, its need to make more money always has to come before the needs of the majority of the population. This fact is demonstrated in current talk about 'economic recovery' – most economists are agreed that unemployment will continue to rise even as the economy 'grows'. What is

good for the economy is not always good for us. We have to struggle in our own interests. It is likely that cuts to the public sector will be met with strikes by public sector workers. These should be supported. Likewise the growing numbers of unemployed workers have much to gain by organising and agitating in their interests. But should the Tories win at the next election, we should remember how bad the 'good years' under Labour were for many of us, and the spending cuts of their own which they are more than willing to impose in the coming years.

Barricades, blockades and bossnappings across the channel

As the effects of the recession continue to bite, we could do a lot worse than to take a few tips from our French fellow workers, who're continuing to fight back with an impressive militancy and diversity of tactics.

- At France Telecom, workers spontaneously walked off the job at the end of September after the 24 FT worker to commit suicide in 18 months left a note blaming work pressures for their decision. Over 100 of his immediate colleagues walked out, and they were supported by over 200 workers downing tools in Bordeaux and a demonstration of 600 workers at the company's regional headquarters in Lyon. Since then, the company's Deputy CEO has resigned, yet another worker has committed suicide, leading to calls for further action. With conditions on the job so intolerable that they drive staff to

kill themselves, it doesn't look like France Telecom's workforce will be backing down any time soon.

- Striking transport workers in Lyon occupied the head office of Keolis, the company that runs the city's public transport, after management refused to offer concessions despite six days of strike action. The strikes were provoked by Keolis attempting to change their contracts without compensa-

tion or consultation.

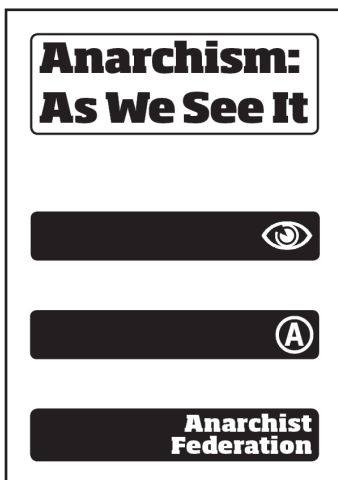
- Cross-Channel ferry services were shut down after SeaFrance workers blockaded the port of Calais over threatened job losses. 300 workers assembled at the port and used a dinghy to prevent ships from docking. The 24-hour strike offered an impressive example of the power of industrial action, as the Calais workers were able to cause serious disruption on both sides of the Channel.

- Thousands of farmers took militant action across France demanding protection for their livelihoods. They set up burning barricades on the Champs Elysees in Paris, dumped wine, eggs and manure in town squares, and dumped a massive amount of soil outside the town hall in Poitiers, making the town's main road unusable.

- Employees at the Rohm and Hass chemical plant locked their boss up overnight over threats to close the factory.



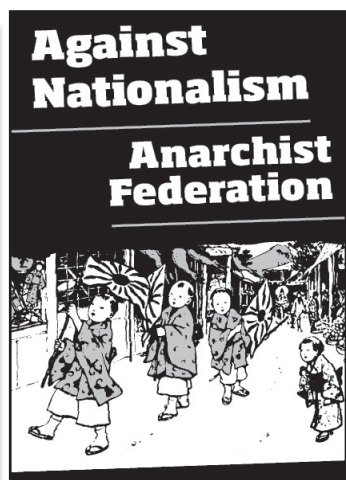
New Publications Available



Anarchism: As We See It
(£2 + 50p p&p)

A redesigned and reprinted edition of the AF's popular introduction to anarchist ideas. It lays out the fundamentals of anarchism in a readable, accessible way.

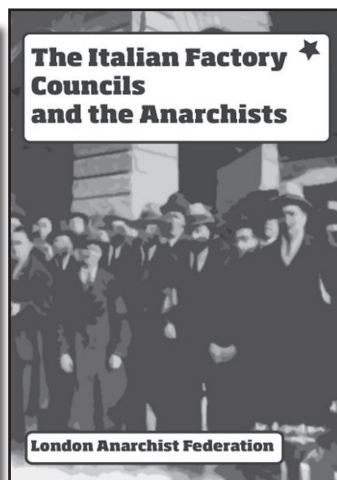
Available for order from the AF North website - www.af-north.org. Alternatively you can write to BM ANARFED, London, WC1N 3XX



Against Nationalism
(£2 + 50p p&p)

An analysis of nationalism - what it is, where it comes from and why anarchist communists fundamentally oppose it. Drawing on the activity of AF members around anti-war campaigning, it opposes the common support on the Left for "national liberation struggles."

A national AF publication. Available online or from the address to the left.



The Italian Factory Councils and the Anarchists (£1 + p&p)

A historical overview of the wave of factory occupations in Italy in the interwar years, the committees organised by the occupiers, and the role of anarchists in events. Increasingly relevant given the resurgence of workplace occupations in the current recession.

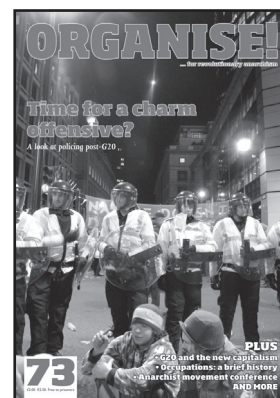
Published by London Anarchist Federation group. Available online or from the address to the left.

Liked *Resistance*? Try *Organise!*

Organise! is the Anarchist Federation's theoretical and historical magazine. It is published in order to develop anarchist communist ideas. It aims to give a clear anarchist viewpoint on contemporary issues, and initiate debates on areas not normally covered by agitational journals.

The latest issue, #73 covers the aftermath of the G20 protests, the history of workers occupations, class struggle in China and much more besides.

You can order or subscribe online at www.afed.org.uk, or get in touch with your local AF group for a copy.



ANARCHIST FEDERATION

The **Anarchist Federation** is a growing organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims 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.

NATIONAL CONTACT

National website:
www.afed.org.uk

Want to know more? Get in touch:

By email:
info@afed.org.uk

By post:
BM ANARFED
London,
WC1N 3XX

International of Anarchist Federations:
www.iaf-ifa.org

LOCAL GROUPS & CONTACTS

Glasgow:
glasgow@afed.org.uk
Edinburgh & Lothians:
edinburgh@afed.org.uk
Scotland/Alba:
scotland@afed.org.uk
Liverpool & Merseyside:
liverpool@af-north.org
www.af-north.org
Manchester & Oldham:
manchester@af-north.org
www.af-north.org
Preston, Blackpool & North Lancashire:
preston@af-north.org
Newcastle & Tyneside:
newcastle@af-north.org
Leeds:
leeds@af-north.org
www.yorks-afed.org
Sheffield:
sheffield@af-north.org
www.yorks-afed.org

Nottingham:
nottingham@afed.org.uk
Cardiff/South Wales:
cardiff@afed.org.uk
Wales/Cymru:
wales@afed.org.uk
Birmingham/West Midlands:
birmingham@afed.org.uk
Kent (East):
eastkent@afed.org.uk
Kent (West):
westkent@afed.org.uk
East Anglia:
eastanglia@afed.org.uk
Hereford:
hereford@afed.org.uk
Leicester:
leicester@afed.org.uk
London:
london@afed.org.uk
Brighton:
brighton@afed.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to *Resistance* are available at £6 for ten issues (UK only). Joint subscriptions to *Resistance* and our magazine *Organise!* are £10. Supporters subscriptions are available for £15 and include free copies of new pamphlets and *Organise!* You can write to the address on the left or use the website to subscribe. To subscribe for free electronic copies of *Resistance* go to www.afed.org.uk/res/reslist.html