

## Aug 27th Oil rig scandal

Further revelations about conditions on oil platforms in the North Sea emerge. The deaths of 167 workers on the Piper Alpha platform has resulted in hundreds of skilled oil workers taking safer jobs ashore.

How have the companies reacted to this news? By making the rigs safer? Not quite! Instead they appear to be employing men with forged safety certificates. Also the NUS official in the area believes that YTS trainees are being employed by contractors to work on the rigs. If this is the case the Union should be linking up workers on the rigs with P+O strikers to organise mass campaigns of resistance to health and safety cutbacks. This must include strike action.

## Aug 30th

After the disasters at Zeebrugge, Kings Cross, Bradford Football ground and Piper Alpha the TUC has, at last, decided to do something about it. They have launched a campaign to highlight the fact that 700 workers were killed at work last year. 178,000 were also seriously injured and there are approximately 7,000 workers per annum who die of work-related cancers.

Although this campaign must be welcomed 'Seapicket' wonders if its announcement just before the TUC conference is intended to demonstrate to seafarers, and their supporters at the conference, that the TUC does care. Quite simply the best and most effective way of highlighting the declining standards of health and safety at work would be for Norman Willis (and the rest) to be on the Dover picket-line every day and to be arguing for fellow workers to take solidarity action with P+O workers. Perhaps they could start with the oil rig workers? In fact the campaign is aimed at getting the government to employ more safety inspectors and impose heavier fines on companies. The Zeebrugge, Piper Alpha disasters etc show that the government is bound to!

## 'Keeping the peace?'

Of course they were only terrorists! Can we really believe that the Troops in Ireland are there 'to keep the peace' when they are allowed to execute people? Britain has been in Ireland for 820 years. It was forced out of most of it. When are we going to do the only sensible thing and leave? Then the Irish people can decide their own future.





## Aug 31st P+O:leaking all over

It would appear that P+O's confidential memo's are as 'safe' as their scab boats. Both keep leaking out! The report by the scab Captain of the Pride of Bruges, dated August 20th, suggests that P+O still do not have enough seamen with lifeboat certificates. Of course for P+O that doesn't matter, scab families will be a lot cheaper to compensate when scabs are killed.

## Oil workers demand protection

Offshore Oil workers appear set to strike next year if their employers fail to agree a common wages and conditions package. A mass meeting in Aberdeen gave workers the chance to voice their concerns following the Piper Alpha disaster. Unbelievably Union officials allowed management 'observers' into the meeting. Several workers complained that they were putting their jobs 'on the line' by criticising safety in front of these observers.

## Dockers to strike?

Despite the T&G's refusal to organise, and bring out the dockers at Dover, it appears that dockers may, at last, be flexing their muscles. One day strikes, starting later this month, in support of additional holidays and the retention of holiday pay will give a chance to link up struggles. If Dockers at Dover come out they must be kept out in order for both seafarers and dockers to win.

## HAVE A LAUGH!

Sterling is down by the docks and accidentally falls in.

A worker jumps in and rescues him.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you...I must reward you. You can have anything you want.

"There's only one thing, Mr Sterling, don't tell anyone I rescued you. They would kill me!"

A P+O scab asks for a day off.

"Day off! What on earth for?"

"It's my 25th Wedding Anniversary, sir, and I promised my wife..."

"Good God, Brown, do you mean I've got to put up with this every 25 years?"

Sterling is giving a speech about the virtues of hard work to a group of striking P+O workers.

"Look at me," he cries beating his chest. "I'm a self-made man."

A voice from somewhere in the crowd calls out:

"And when are you going to finish the job?"

A little girl asked Scargill to explain the difference between an accident and a disaster.

"Well, if for example Mrs Thatcher fell into the sea that would be an accident. But if someone pulled her out again that would be a disaster."