

# WAR CRY

**DISARM CAPITALISM★ARM YOUR DESIRES!**

## KEEPING US IN FEAR

Be afraid; be very afraid – that's the Government's message. In the usual manner of Government, there have been a series of leaks, off the record briefings and public announcements that we are all at risk of a major terrorist attack. They are even planning a major advertising campaign, laughably called "Protect and Survive". No doubt, as with nuclear weapons, we will be advised to paint our windows white and hide under tables.

Of course, before or after September 11, there has not been an Islamic inspired terrorist attack in Britain. But, in the logic of Government, since it hasn't happened it is all the more likely too. A secondary theme of Michael Moore's current film, *Bowling for Columbine*, is the way in which the US Government and media uses constant scare stories to keep the population afraid and compliant, whilst refusing to tackle real risks to public safety like pollution and gun ownership as these are part and parcel of profit making.

### THE WAR ON TERROR

The war on terror provides the Government with a perfect way of instilling fear, since the 'war' cannot be won and the 'enemy' is constantly shifting. At the same time the Government places us at real risk by refusing to pay the firefighters a decent wage or investing in rail safety (once again in West London there was a derailment recently).

And of course the Government cannot protect us against terrorist attacks, for that would require removing the social causes of terrorism, which is beyond the wit of any government.

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### NO BORDERS?

First it was Ealing Southall MP Khabra with his stupid anti-Somali remarks back in September; then W London came under the spotlight with BBC Newsnight's item on the unorthodox means used by people, in this case from Pakistan, to get to England. To avoid allegations of racism, a 'middle class Asian' nosed around Hounslow with the journalist, posing as an asylum seeker, to discover the ways of getting illegal work and bent solicitors. The two then flew to Pakistan to 'investigate' how it's organised from there. All this as the government passes yet another law against asylum seekers asserting greater control over their movements and activities, and forcing them into more low paid jobs by imposing lower wages-just like what's happening to the rest of us! (See [www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk) for more info)

But there is nothing wrong with seeking a better life. Just look at the migration of millions of poor Britons to the USA in the 1800s. Anti-immigration laws make the move more expensive, while criminalizing the migrants-free movement for all, not just the rich!

★WAR★

**WEST LONDON ANARCHISTS & RADICALS**

## **THIS IS WAR CRY!**

Welcome to no.11 of WAR CRY, the Dec/Jan issue, our regular newsletter that aims to irritate, inform and antagonise.

In 2003 we will continue to report & write about issues both local & global, and to give our support whenever possible to those struggling for a better future. All things are connected, be they local schools & firefighters jobs, or wars & terrorism.

In January we are supporting the day school on 'revolutionary opposition to the war' in London, and look forwards to more workers taking on their bosses in the workplace. Currently we note again that power always corrupts—the Blair's and their Bristol flats are just the latest example, there'll be plenty more to follow.

But right now we wish you all an enjoyable festive few days, and peace and freedom in 2003.

Thanks a lot!



## **DEMON HEADMASTER STRIKES AGAIN!**

Following up from our story in July, (Issue 7), things are going from bad to worse at Holland Park School. At an appalling meeting in November where the Governors made their Annual Report to parents, over 5 times the usual numbers of parents turned up to be patronised, lied to, and threatened by the Governors. Questions from concerned parents were frequently half answered or avoided altogether.

Parents reported that the Head, Colin Hall, had recently made all the children stand for half an hour for a lecture on fireworks whilst at least two students fainted. The toilets are now kept locked for most of the day and students are forced to get a note off their teacher and search the school for a key holder, even if they have a medical

note. Won't be long before the children are locked in their classrooms for most of the day and only allowed out for an hour's free association!

Just as disturbing was the unanswered allegation that Mr Hall had secretly written an election manifesto for a prospective Parent Governor, and that there are plans to sell off half the school lands because the Council have failed to pay anything towards the maintenance of the school over recent years. In answer to a question why the overwhelming vote of parents and students against uniforms being introduced was ignored, it was stated that Heads of local primary schools had felt it was a good idea.

One Governor frequently interrupted the speakers, threatened them with libel and accused them of being told what to say by a particular vocal parent. When it was pointed out that he was the one guilty of libel as speaker after speaker had denied this, he giggled and said "what do you expect, I'm a lawyer". Another Governor refused to answer when asked why he was claiming that Union facility time had been withdrawn for financial reasons, when the school had added £260k to it's reserves last year. Half of the teachers left last year, many claiming harassment and intimidation from Mr Hall and the senior leadership team. The teachers are threatening strike action over the withdrawal of facility time and get the wholehearted support of parents.

Finally, the Annual report made no mention of the vote of no confidence in Mr Hall at the end of the last academic year and it wasn't on the meeting's Agenda. Mr Hall has been quoted in an interview in a local paper that he likes taking on teachers and parents and it's obvious he has no great liking for students either. Parents are seething and are now getting together to ensure the Governors call a meeting in the near future to discuss the motion of no confidence as well as discussing ways they can support the teachers. Watch this space!



**"No Gods, No Masters!"** - revolutionary slogan

## THREE STRIKES

At the end of the first 8 day strike, in Hammersmith many fire-fighters were questioning whether they should return to work on 30<sup>th</sup> November and the demand was growing for an all out strike. Since then the fire-fighters have returned to & stayed at work. With news that the Government had twice stepped in to prevent a settlement of between 12% to 16% and the confirmation by Prescott of what many fire-fighters suspected – that behind the demands for modernisation is an intention to cut up to 1,100 jobs, the dispute seemed set to become more and more bitter. Since then, although the fire-fighters retain widespread support, the opportunity to turn the public support into active solidarity was squandered and the union has abandoned any pretence of militancy. Inconclusive talks took place at ACAS and the dispute is suspended pending face-to-face negotiations. Even worse, the strikes threatened for the New Year (28 Jan & 1 Feb) will only be for 48 hours. It is easy to decry this as a sell out, but the FBU is simply performing the role of a union – to mediate between the opposing interests of labour and capital.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November London council workers held the 5<sup>th</sup> 1 day strike over London Weighting. This dispute, although ostensibly about the rate of London Weighting (the pay paid to London workers to compensate for the higher cost of living), is really about the principle of London Weighting, as the bosses want to abolish it. The futility of 1-day strikes is also clear. However even this was too much for two unions (GMB and TGWU), who pulled the plug and UNISON tried to stop the strike – no doubt because the same day UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentice became the first union leader to address CBI conference. Reassuring the bosses is hard when your underpaid members insist on striking!

On the same day London teachers struck for

higher pay. Most schools were affected and over 2,000 closed. About 3,000 teachers and council workers attended a march across London. The teachers union (NUT) tried to prevent UNISON from participating, but workers on the march recognised their common interests.

The stupid tactics of 1-day strikes, the tiny wage increases sought, the inter-union squabbles and the failure of unions to co-ordinate strikes on the same day point to the limits of trade unionism. If these strikes are to be won, including the fire-fighters strike, workers will have to go beyond their unions and walk out in a mass strike. Until that happens it is essential we share information. If you have not done so already, be sure to visit your local fire station picket line and talk to striking fire-fighters on 28 Jan.



## RUNAWAY RUNWAYS

In late November, thousands of people from the areas to be affected by potential airport expansion demonstrated in Central London to express their discontent with the Labour government's refusal to take seriously their concerns regarding the increased pollution (higher levels of both noise and carbon emissions) that more and larger airports will bring. The government has already appealed against a European Court of Human Rights decision against night flights, in favour of the people living under the Heathrow flight paths, and the decision is expected to be released before Xmas. Apparently, the government is afraid that they will be made to pay compensation if the appeal is not in their favour and are holding off their White Paper on air transport until Spring 2003. A Judicial Review of the expansion of Stansted airport is also expected soon. It looks like the legal battles against the argument of economic 'benefits' of increased air traffic, versus the environmental and human cost, might be working. Watch this space or check out [www.hacan.org](http://www.hacan.org) for more info.

"Bush is a moron!"-Canadian prime ministerial aide overheard at NATO con.

## RANTING & RAVING FIRE DON'T WORKS

Over 4 weeks before & after 5<sup>th</sup> November, fireworks are exploding all over my neighbourhood - give me a break! I was never keen on fireworks, nasty noisy smelly dangerous things, millions of pounds up in smoke, mucking up the environment, scaring the animals.

But what about me? I don't want to have to go ducking & diving down the street for a month to avoid some creep chucking bangers at me. I don't want idiots chucking them at my kids at school, and I don't want to be woken up in the middle of night by some almighty bang, as a neighbour tries to burn down their house.

If I ruled the world fireworks could only be let off in central London between 6- 6.30pm on *Blow Up The Houses of Parliament Day*. Money saved from this limitation could be used to reward the fire-fighters better.

On 2nd thoughts, I have one use for fireworks. We should point them at Tony Blair and threaten to let them off, unless he gets rid of all his weapons of mass destruction. It is a little odd that one boy can play with his guns and bombs and another can't. Time to take the toys from the boys I think.



## FAT CATS

During the fire fighters' strike every piece of rich scum has popped up to say how over-paid they are (at £21k per year!). Here are just a few examples:

Paul Dacre, Editor in Chief, Daily Mail: £690,000, plus £65,000 in benefits.

All MP's: £55,000, 40% pay rise, many have 2<sup>nd</sup> jobs.

John Prescott, Deputy PM: £124,000, 3 homes (1 subsidised by a trade union), 2 jags.

### WHAT WHEN WHERE WHO

**20/12/02 8PM: FILM - ARGENTINA IN REVOLT** William Morris Community Centre, Green Leaf Road, Walthamstow, London. Free

**20-21/12/02: 2 DAYS OF SOCIAL DISOBEDIENCE** in solidarity with the Argentinean popular rebellion [www.wombles.org.uk](http://www.wombles.org.uk)

**27/12/02 6:30PM : CRITICAL MASS** South Bank, under Waterloo Bridge (please email us if you'd like to meet up and ride from West London)

**28/12/02: PUNK BENEFIT GIG** for Rape Crisis and Arkangel (animal rights prisoners) with The Inciters, Active Slaughter, Anarchy Spanky and Cop Car pile up. Lord Cecil Pub, Lower Clapton London E9 [www.activeslaughter.co.uk](http://www.activeslaughter.co.uk)

**18/1/03 10AM-6PM: REVOLUTIONARY OPPOSITION TO WAR** day school, LARC, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1. [www.disobedience.org.uk](http://www.disobedience.org.uk)

**18-19/1/03: MASS NONVIOLENT BLOCKADE OF NORTHWOOD MILITARY BASE**, London. To mark the anniversary of the Gulf War [www.j-n-.org](http://www.j-n-.org)

**25/1/03 8PM: DISOBEDIENCE ANTI-WAR BENEFIT** with Robb Johnson & Leon Rosselson, LARC, 62 Fieldgate Street, E1, £6/£4

**24/1/03 6:30PM: CRITICAL MASS** (see details above)

**15/2/03 1PM: DON'T ATTACK IRAQ DEMONSTRATION** central London Organised by Stop the War Coalition [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk)

**17/2/03: LONDON CONGESTION CHARGE RIDE** info tba, [www.cm-london.cjb.net](http://www.cm-london.cjb.net)

Info: [www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk); [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk); [www.guilfin.net](http://www.guilfin.net)

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