

London

# RESISTANCE

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Local bulletin of the Anarchist Communist Federation (London Group)

## PAYING MORE FOR LESS...

THE LAST 16 years of Tory rule have seen a number of major defeats for the bulk of the population in Britain, the working class: the miners strike and pit closures, mass redundancies and high unemployment, restructuring - privatisation - wage cuts, higher taxes - V.A.T, poll and council tax (except for the rich) and cuts in benefits - hospitals - education etc.

### Major! Major! Major!

(Out! Out! Out!) The left blames the conservatives, but the truth is that if Labour had been in power, they would have done much the same; they all run the same system, which has been in decline since at least the oil crisis of 1974. The last Labour Government began the cuts by implementing the IMF austerity programme, closing 276 hospitals, introducing YTS for unemployed youth etc.

The Tories have cut the powers and budgets of local authorities to save money and centralise power at the national level. By cutting central government's grant to Councils, they have forced them to make cuts and to raise more money locally through charging for previously free services, higher rents, higher poll and council tax etc. This strategy has the added bonus that councils field most of the blame and anger, rather than central government.

Local authorities in the poorest areas (Hackney, Haringey etc.) naturally have the highest rates of council tax because they have to provide more services; the exceptions have been Tory controlled boroughs such as Wandsworth, subsidised by central government on the quiet and presented as model, "low spending"



councils.

The left urge us to resist such attacks through lobbying Councils. For them its a question of electing a Labour Council / choosing left wingers / forcing councillors to be "on our side" rather than "doing the Tories' dirty work". Councils cannot act differently. They are bosses and landlords, running a system based on power and profit for the few - including themselves - at the expense of the many. In this sense the recent council corruption scandals such as homes - for - votes in Lady Porter's Tory Westminster and the Housing Benefit scams in Labour Hackney and Hammersmith are irrelevant; the system is rigged against the majority of people whoever runs it, and whether they do it corruptly or honestly.

### Lessons

The left try to take over / run struggles and fool people into the deadends of working through the Unions - rank and file unionism, pressurising politicians - electing left wingers, using the Law. They deliberately confuse council workers with defending councils (politicians and bureaucrats with whom we have NO common interest). These ideas and tactics weaken and defeat struggles and lead to demoralisation and cynicism as people become sick of being used, and feel that it isn't worth fighting and that they cannot win.

### Winning

Struggles are won through direct action; mass

participation and control by everyone involved - with accountable delegates where necessary, rather than leaders and representatives who stitch us up; and by solidarity. We CAN win as Hackney's Environmental Service department workers recently showed; they defeated Council plans to increase their hours and bring in agency staff through mass meetings, pickets and an overtime ban.

## SHOP HORROR IN SHEPHERDS BUSH

SO SHEPHERDS BUSH is all set to become one giant shopping mall. In fact, its planned to be the biggest inner-city shopping centre in Britain and the government backed consortium behind it intends to spend £450 million on this palace of consumerism and alienation (though it'll probably cost loads more).

### Nice

Nearby residents are assured they will benefit from the new centre because they'll have lots of nice shops in sterile air-conditioned surroundings where they can be lulled into a state of semi-hypnosis by the mindless, soothing musak and pleasant, calming odours

pumped through the air conditioning system.

Once lulled, its the ideal place to blow your hard earned pittance or derisory Giro on the sort of crap you can get anywhere, the useless junk that nobody needs, yet the boss class tells us we can't live without.

### Killjoys

Now some killjoys might say "Why don't they spend all that money on say, building homes for the homeless?" For a start, the homeless have very little buying power, so its hard to make loads of money out of them. However, 70 "affordable" homes are being built as part of the complex (they don't say who they're affordable to) as well as first class facilities for the Vanderbilt Racquet Club (now there's a clue).

### Green

And just in case you're worried about possibly even more urban blight once the giant monstrosity is knocked up, you can rest assured it will be completely "Green" as the main capitalist parasite behind it all is one Godfrey Bradman. Bradman's main hobby is being a patronising filthy-rich do-gooder (one of the founders of Friends of the Earth). So that makes everything all right!

We in the ACF don't think so. Shopping centres are like temples to capitalism and we need to get organised to get rid of all the trappings of the rotten system. Should the working class ever seriously attempt to resist and revolt against the system, shopping malls will probably be among the first places to get torched.

# ORGANISE!

Quarterly magazine of the ACF. For a free sample copy, write to the address over the page.

## DEMOCRATIC CIRCUS

MORE AND MORE working class people are becoming disillusioned with political parties and mainstream politics. Increasingly, voting and elections are being recognised for what they are: choosing between rival gangs of wealthy crooks.

A minority of those registered to vote can't be bothered to actually vote. Loads of adults aren't even on the electoral register. Governments and councils are put in office by a minority of a minority of the population. Most people know that democracy is just another con job.

We anarchist communists believe democracy is a way of getting the working class to consent to our own exploitation. That's why we oppose the electoral circus - because whoever you vote for, the bosses always win.

But its not good enough, just not voting. We need to be building resistance to the boss class and their governments and councils with a view to ridding ourselves of these parasites once and for all. So don't vote - revolt!

**BEFORE**



## WHAT ABOUT SOCIALISM?

THE LEFT IS in tatters. Before, the Labour Party pretended to support the working class, while in reality it backed the bosses and kicked us in the teeth. Nowadays, Labour is completely open about supporting the rich.

Then on the "left" of Labour you have groups like the Socialist Workers Party (who offer critical support for the anti-working class Labour Party - a lot of well-intentioned but deluded people are giving them their support), Militant (who would like to be let back into the

Labour Party) are rapidly declining and the Communist Party (irrelevant, tired old bureaucrats who would like to see the Soviet Union restored to its former glory).

### New Bosses

All these groups and many others like them have a marxist-leninist philosophy. In other words they want to be the new bosses in a brave new dictatorial and "state socialist" world that will be little different from the old Soviet Union. Let's face it, marxism-leninism is about as anti-working class as you can get and anyone with any sense knows this.

Anarchist communism opposes tyranny whether by capitalists and their parliaments or by so called "communists" and their all powerful party machinery. We want direct control to the working class through street, community and workplace organisation, with free federations controlled from below. We say no to democratic politicians and no to the would be leftist dictators.

**AFTER**



## JOBS FOR THE BOYS

THINK BACK TO the Westminster "Homes for Votes" scandal where the council shipped homeless and many working class people out of the area while moving in more middle class types in the hope that they would vote Conservative. Well, one of the main culprits, Graham England (housing director) has now been

rewarded with the post of Westminster Council Public Relations Director. For this he will get £67,000 a year. Now we don't give a damn who wins their elections, but it goes to show how far these lowlifes will go to get elected. It also shows how this crooked system rewards its loyal servants even when they break their own rules.

## WHO WE ARE

LONDON RESISTANCE IS produced by a group of Londoners who are sick and tired of the rip-off dog-eat-dog society we live in.

*We refuse to be passive while the Boss class robs and exploits us, impoverishes our class and makes loads of money out of our misery.*

*We will not stand by with starvation and poverty across the globe while food mountains rot in Europe.*

*We will fight against all enforced inequalities between races and sexes.*

*We won't watch idly while the environment is wrecked*

in order to make big profits for a minority of wealthy crooks.

*We resist being lorded over by government, politicians, bosses, police, priests the rich and their hangers on.*

*We refuse to remain silent as the present system drags us all towards barbarism and war.*

### Things Needn't Be Like This

We believe it's high time the working class got organised for resistance to this crooked system. It's time to give up following leaders and politicians (whatever party) who all stand for one thing -

grinding us down

Our class has the potential power to do away with capitalism and government and can build a society based on freedom, equality and social and economic justice.

We are the London group of the Anarchist Communist Federation - an organisation with members in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We are part of a rapidly growing international movement.

If you want to get involved or simply want more information, then write to the address below.

## NEW GROUP

ACF MEMBERS IN the Barking / Dagenham / Romford area are in the process of setting up a new group. If you want to get involved, then write to the address at the end of the bulletin.

## A.C.F. OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS

First Thursday of Every Month

8.00 pm at Marchmont Community Centre

62 Marchmont Street WC1

Nearest Tube - Russell Square

- June 1st Pomography Exposed
- July 6th Labour Party "Socialism"
- Aug 3rd Criminal Justice Act - What Next?
- Sept 7th What's Wrong with Unions?

If you want to receive future copies of London Resistance then send us some stamps and we will send one copy of each issue for every stamp.



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