

## Terrorist alert!

Given that the the council itself insists that it has to make a saving of £6.5 million to the social service budget, how odd that they have decided to help fund the latest borough wide police initiative. This involves smashing their way in to the homes of 'criminals' (they must mean suspected criminals, that is innocent people, as they are not in prison or even on remand) and storming in. And storm in they do. Not only pigs in riot gear, but also ones wearing balaclavas and toting Oozi's (we shit you not). Maybe the new anti terrorist laws which ban people from wearing masks in public will apply. We doubt it. F-I-L-T-H.

## Scrooge Council set for more embarrassment

The council's macho attitude to both the Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford Green and the Pump House in Walthamstow is starting to look a little bit pathetic. The campaigners at Haven House aren't going quietly and barricades have gone up at the Pump House. As one 'Friend of the Pump House' put it "Seven years of my life have gone in to this project. I'm not going to give up now. If the council wants us to leave they'll have to drag us off." Good luck Buckley and Co. You're gonna need it. This lot have got their heels well and truly dug in. Our advice is to give em the funding they're after. You know it makes sense.

If you want to receive each issue of *The Walthamstow Underdog* on your doormat send 6 stamps to the following address and we'll send it to you - free!  
Walthamstow Anarchist Group  
c/o Hornbeam Environmental Centre, 458 Hoe St,  
Walthamstow, E17 9AH



## Wot anarchists fink

Not a lot, according to some people like the media and politicians, who constantly portray us as mindless drunken hooligans constantly looking for the next riot. No such luck I'm afraid. We actually have some ideas that get in the way of what sounds like an enviable lifestyle. Anyway, this regular column has the aim of letting you know what some of these ideas are. To kick us off:

### Only sheep need leaders!

A very distinct idea that marks anarchism out from other political currents is our complete rejection of leaders. We are against the current society we find ourselves in because there are people in it who have the power to boss others around. On a day to day level these includes the police, teachers, priests, parents and so on. In the bigger scheme of things politicians and bosses form a very distinct class of leaders who defend the current system which guarantees them wealth and power at the expense of the majority. We oppose these leaders because we oppose inequalities of wealth and power. The usual reply to this is that if there was no-one in charge you would have people running round like headless chickens doing exactly what they like. In fact, this is what a lot of people take anarchy to be about. But think about how much of our lives is self organised. When you arrange a night out with your mates is anyone in charge? Sure one or two might take the initiative but they don't take control. And this is true of a whole load of things we do. Most clubs and societies are groups of equals rather than dictatorships. If they were the latter who would bother going?! This bulletin has been produced by a group of people with no leader! In fact, the parts of our lives where leaders appear most necessary are those which the system has more control over - with work being the prime example. Given this, it is highly baffling (not to mention amusing) that some organisations that claim to be fighting for

freedom also believe in leadership and organise themselves in to a hierarchy of order givers and order takers.

Leader of left wing parties like the S\*\*\*alist Workers Party (we don't allow offensive words in print) try to be more sophisticated by saying that in order to bring about a successful revolution working class people need to be given political direction from the vanguard Party

(bored yet?)

What utter shite, and how offensive can you get.

What they are basically saying is that us dimwitted ordinary

folk are just too thick to work out how to get free ourselves and so what we need is the 'enlightened ones' to show us the way. Sod that, I'd rather not bother at all than risk life, limb and what freedom I have got just so some would be glorious leader can get closer to their ultimate prize - personal power and prestige.

For us anarchists a revolutionary movement will consist of autonomous (that is leaderless and self organised) working class action against the rich and powerful such as strikes, riots, boycotts, and occupations. People will free themselves from the shackles of all political parties, the trade unions, religions and so on. We will create our own direction and impetus and all decisions will be made at the base - on the factory floor, in the community centre or where ever else people group together. It won't be perfect, but it will be a world away from the hell of a society built on rules and submission to rulers.

## What's it all about?

The *Walthamstow Underdog* has been produced by the **Walthamstow Anarchist Group**, a collective of local anarchists, revolutionaries, and all round troublemakers. Its aim is to help build up an opposition to the system in our area and one day, with a bit of luck, overthrow it in its entirety. If you like what you read in the *The Underdog* and would like to help out by writing the odd article, telling us how we can improve it, or by distributing it then give us a shout. The Walthamstow Anarchist Group meets regularly in the area. If you want more information on what else we do, get in touch. Telephone 07810 288 889 or e-mail wag@fuckmicrosoft.com Visit our website [www.tao.ca/~lemming/wag](http://www.tao.ca/~lemming/wag)

# THE UNDERDOG

Walthamstow's monthly shit-stirring rag



Free/  
Donation

Issue 1 - December 2001

## Thousands protest against millionaires war

On Sunday 18 November some 100,000 people marched in London against the phoney "War Against Terrorism". Among them, a contingent from the Walthamstow Anarchist Group marched under the slogan "Stop the Politicians War - Start The Class War". Meaning what, exactly?

### Politicians War

Immediately after September 11<sup>th</sup> President Bush declared "you're either with us or against us". In reality it's a false choice. A choice between Bin Laden and Bush is a choice between:

A millionaire from an oil family and a millionaire from an oil family;  
A "holy war" (jihad) and a "holy war" (crusade);

A clandestine organisation (al Qaeda) using assassination and terrorism as tactics, and a clandestine organisation (CIA) using assassination and terrorism as tactics.

A bunch of insane religious dictators (the Taliban) ruling Afghanistan or a bunch of insane religious dictators (the Northern Alliance) ... you get the picture...

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, thousands were killed in New York by religious terrorists. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, untold deaths resulted from US/UK bombing Iraq, as they have continued to do since the "end of the Gulf War". On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 36,515 of the world's children died of starvation (according to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation). That's 36,515 cold-blooded killings at the hands of a capitalist system that fanatically worships profit over human life.

As with all wars, the ruling class and

their puppet politicians declare it, ordinary people have to bear it. The al Qaeda network have long since dispersed and gone to ground in Afghanistan, whilst



ordinary people, having suffered decades of politicians' wars, now suffer more death and maiming from US/UK.

### The War Comes to Walthamstow

In Walthamstow, social services are being cut to the tune of £3 million,

Whipps Cross hospital is under the axe and our education service is being privatised because "there isn't the money". Yet the government manages to dig out a few billion quid from under its mattress when it comes to military adventures.

Now the State is also using The War Against Terrorism (TWAT) as an excuse to tighten "anti-terrorist" laws so they can victimize any critics of their murderous order.

### Class War

We need to resist nationalism and militarism, as part of the movement against the war, and also locally: we can support refugees fleeing violence and oppression, fight cuts in health and social services. When we talk to people in our neighbourhoods and workplaces we can unmask the true enemy - the war mongering politicians and bosses, not the Afghani asylum seeker - and encourage each other to begin to fight back. What better example than that of our local posties who went on strike recently. This is class war.

## "Buckley has heart" shocker

The editorial team at *The Underdog* were stunned by the news that leader of Waltham Forest Council, Tony Buckley has had heart surgery. **WE DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD ONE!!!** The man who is privatising local education, cutting services to the most needy people in the borough, and booting late rent payers out of their homes with glee has been making Ebenezer Scrooge look generous and warm hearted. That the *Walthamstow Guardian* and

some councillors expect us to feel sympathy for a man who has heaped misery on thousands of people in the borough is beyond belief. We suggest Buckley and his thieving mates in the town hall make the following change to healthcare policy. **Local officials and bureaucrats to the back of the queue.** That should make the self centred scumbags speed things up a bit.



## We remember

On October 27th a small group of anarchists marched to Downing Street in support of the United Friends and Family campaign, where a petition was handed in to Tony Blair demanding thorough investigation into deaths in police custody. The friends and families read out a list of the dead that went on and on and on - there have been over 1000 custody deaths in the last 30 years alone. There were musicians and poets, much singing, chanting and positive energy - it was a fantastic demonstration, I only wish more of you could have been there. As well focussing on deaths in police custody, the demonstration also pledged support for deaths by neglect or negligence within state institutions - prisons, mental facilities.



Zahid Mubarek

Only recently of course, Zahid Mubarek of Walthamstow was beaten to death by his cellmate Robert Stewart in Feltham Young Offender's institute. Zahid was there for being found guilty of stealing a packet of batteries. Stewart had a history of violent behaviour, had a swastika tattooed to his forehead, and was in fact facing charges for sending over 200 peices of racist mail from inside. Stuart got sent down for life, but Zahid's family wanted the prison service to admit responsibility for placing him in a cell with his murderer. The Commission for Racial Equality launched an investigation into the prison service, after the internal investigation concluded that Feltham was "institutionally racist" - where have we heard that before?

### Fugee's tales

From 28th November 'til 24th December the Vestry House Museum has an exhibition called Making Routes: Stories of Refugees and Migrants. Put on by Walfair.

## Posties show the way

Local posties recently showed the best way to keep your boss off your back by walking out when management got too much for them. The wildcat action started up the road at South Woodford in response to a dickhead of a manager bullying an employee to the point of reducing them to tears. Thirty five workmates responded by walking off the job and setting up a picket line at the depot.

They were also acting in support of fellow workers at the Leyton sub district office who had

struck over a similar issue the week before. The strike ended after a week when management had backed down and the strikers had got their result.

A spokesman for the workers, who picketed outside the South Woodford depot, said "It's been agreed that the manager will be removed from the office for at least three weeks. During this time an investigation will be held into the

alleged incident. We're all pleased with this decision, it's what we wanted"

He added "We had enough. We feel we were working under bully-boy conditions. We have a great relationship with our customers and didn't want them to feel the brunt of our actions, but felt the conditions

under which we were working undermined us.

We don't take the decision to strike lightly, but we felt we had to make a stand."

Fine words, and not untypical of the feeling amongst East



COME ON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

London's posties. The Leyton strike was also in response to Royal Mail's money grabbing attempting to cut out 9.30am collections to many boxes, on the sly of course. Its all being done in a very hush hush manner. And part of keeping it quiet is not telling even Royal Mail staff 'til the last minute. The lack of consultation has caused a series of rebellions all over East London. Long may they continue!

## Anarchy Aunt

The answer to all of your personal and political problems (probably)

Dear AA,

Every morning I wake up and wonder why I bother getting out of bed. My job either bores me to tears or stresses me out. The people I work with are OK, but they're not friends or anything, and I'm only on contract, so I don't want to talk about problems too much. My partner says I should try to get out more, but to be honest all I want to do after work is curl up in front of the telly and sleep.

Jimmy

Dear Jimmy,

Most jobs are shit jobs. The amount of time and energy most people put into work never seems proportionate to what they get out of it. With the decimation of union power in Britain, workplace unity has been diluted. The competitiveness and uncertainty of a fast-paced global market has entered into our working lives. You have taken the isolation you feel at work home with you - the forces of capital pervade everywhere. It is up to you whether you feel you can quit your job. Anarchy is all about thinking for yourself. If you can't quit right now, try doing some of the things I do to make myself feel better: Welch off 10 more minutes a day at lunch; liberate some office materials; make some extra personal calls. Whatever resistance you put up to the forces of misery which are ruining your day WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER. Revolution is about EVERYBODY doing something to take back control in their lives - no leaders, no led.

Anarchy Aunt



## Perfect ideas For the festive season

- 1) Have a bit of a party
- 2) Have a bit of a rest
- 3) Maybe get together with the clan
- 4) That's it.

Sadly not. The church and the capitalists have hijacked our traditional winter festival. So we're manipulated into boosting their profits whilst being made to feel doubly bad about being skint. It's little wonder that Xmas is the most miserable time of year, when relationship breakdown and suicides reach a peak. And the stuff



Santa - an old man with a big beard and a bulging sack. Need we say more?

about baby kings is just a bit weird. **We don't have to buy it.** Consumerism is a con - we all know giving our time, or creating something for someone, is more valuable than any amount of plastic novelty items churned out of sweatshops. Stop and think about what's really important this Xmas

## Imperial Bullshit Museum

The Imperial War Museum in Lambeth has decided to put on an exhibition about the Spanish revolution called 'The Spanish Civil War: Dreams and Nightmares'. Anyone with an interest in the history of Spain during the 1930's is advised to give this particular collection a very wide berth.

The struggle of the revolutionary workers movement in Spain was fundamentally anarchist in nature. Two million people

were in the anarchist organisations the CNT and FAI. This exhibition gives the impression that the anarchists were just another faction alongside the socialists and communists all fighting fascism together. There is barely a mention of the differences between them, that the anarchists saw the revolution as a priority rather than the war against fascism. There is no mention that the anarchists were the driving force of that movement. Also airbrushed from the walls of



Poster of members of the two million strong anarchist organisation CNT-FAI

state funded, propaganda we suggest you get down to Freedom Press Bookshop - 84b (in Ancey Alley) Whitechapel High St, London - and buy a decent book on the subject like **Spain 1936-39: social revolution and counter-revolution** (edited by Vernon Richards. £5.00) Alternatively visit this website: [www.flag.blackened.net/revolt/spaindx.html](http://www.flag.blackened.net/revolt/spaindx.html) Get Ken Loach's excellent and very popular film 'Land and Freedom' out on video too.

**The truth is out there!**

## Women Speak Out

After the last well-attended Brighton meet in the glorious June sunshine, the London Women Speak Out network put their best boots forward for a one day get together in Hackney. Excellent workshops included "Cultural Misogyny" and "Non-

monogamee", as well as planning meetings for the Anti-Capitalist Bloc of the demo on the 18th, and Queerupton. My personal favourite was the inspired "How to be a sexy laydee", which set the mood for the evening entertainments by the stupendous "Sisters of No Mercy".

## Laugh? I nearly spilt me pint!



Once upon a time, allegedly, in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By surprising coincidence both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest, and the snake was slithering through the forest, when the bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. This, of course, knocked the snake about quite a bit. "Oh, my," said the bunny, "I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, since I'm also an orphan, I don't even know what I am. "It's quite OK," replied the snake. Actually, my story is much the same as yours. I, too, have been blind since birth, and also never knew my mother. Tell you what, maybe I could slither all over you, and work out what you are, so at least you'll have that going for you."

"Oh, that would be wonderful," replied the bunny.

So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, "Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny rabbit."

"Oh, thank you! Thank you," cried the bunny in obvious excitement. The bunny suggested to the snake, "Maybe I could feel you all over with my paw, and help you the same way you've helped me."

So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, "Well, you're scaly and smooth, and you have a forked tongue, no backbone and no balls. I'd say you must be either an accountant, or possibly someone in senior management."

So who's been taking over the old co-op on Leytonstone High Street and putting on huge free raves? We didn't think that kind of thing went on anymore! All power to yer!