



## ON THE FRONTLINE

WE'LL START THIS month with some news on the longest running dispute in the country - the Friction Dynamex plant in Caernarfon - where workers have maintained a 24-hour picket since losing their jobs more than two years ago.

Despite the workers winning an employment tribunal, the owners have refused to recognise their claims and have drawn out the dispute by a series of petty appeals, the latest of which means the case will only be heard in November at the very earliest. If you're in the area drop down and show some solidarity with these amazing people who refused to let the bosses walk all over them and have acted as great example to other workers in their struggles.

There's trouble for the government in their own backyard at Holyrood where a new building project has been substantially delayed (and it was already two and half years late and cost an extra £300 million) by a construction workers strike over lower than agreed wages, including making a gang of Romanian workers work for below the minimum wage and inadequate safety gear - as well being forced to put up with buildings plans that change on average three times each hour of the working day!

150 porters and domestic staff walked out at Bolton Royal Hospital, effectively shutting it down for the day. The dispute concerns workers who are employed by the private contractors ISS Mediclean who are paid less than their fellow workers who are employed directly by the hospital Trust - the age-old tactic bosses use to split the workforce and force them to compete with each other. Glad to see people are seeing right through this and aren't having any of it - and there have been strikes on the same issue elsewhere.

Staff at Macmillan publishers are to strike over attempts to impose an unacceptable below inflation pay-rise (read pay-cut).

There has been chaos for the bosses in the Italian Airports as workers from Alitalia staged a number of strikes. In the days preceding official 24 hour strike action, hundreds of air crew at Alitalia pulled a mass sickie, grounding most of the airline's flights for an additional 2 days. The added mayhem caught company bosses by surprise and cost them dearly.

Yet again Italian workers show that there is no need what-so-ever to be constrained by official union actions and that their own activity and solidarity is what counts.

## TUBE WORKERS ORGANISE!

TUBE WORKERS AT a West London depot have started creating their own organisations. Last February a meeting of the Workmates Collective was attended by 150 workers. It unanimously carried a proposal to set up a council composed of mandated and recallable delegates. The Collective has transformed itself into Workmates Council. Workers from various London Underground Ltd (LUL), engineering departments, including Track Installers, Track Welders, Crossing Makers, Carpenters, Ultrasonic Rail Testers, Track Vent Cleaning Gangs, along with lorry drivers. Some of these departments work alongside large numbers of subcontracted labourers, many of them not in unions, comprising 120 agency workers in all.

More than 250 workers formed the Collective originally to fight against the privatisation of London Underground through

the Public-Private Partnership. Over the last 5 years of this struggle agency workers have shown utmost loyalty to their LUL workmates during a number of strikes. This was established early on by agency Track Installers and Track Welders, some of whom had been Yorkshire and Kent miners, and has been maintained ever since.

This solidarity has also been maintained in dealing with health and safety issues affecting both agency and LUL workers. This has led to some work stoppages on health and safety issues.

The various gangs have now nominated and mandated their delegates, and some meetings have been called to form the Council. This way of organising puts full power into the hands of the workers. **resistance** sends the warmest best wishes and solidarity to the Workmates Council. ★

## FRANCE GOES OFF THE RAILS!

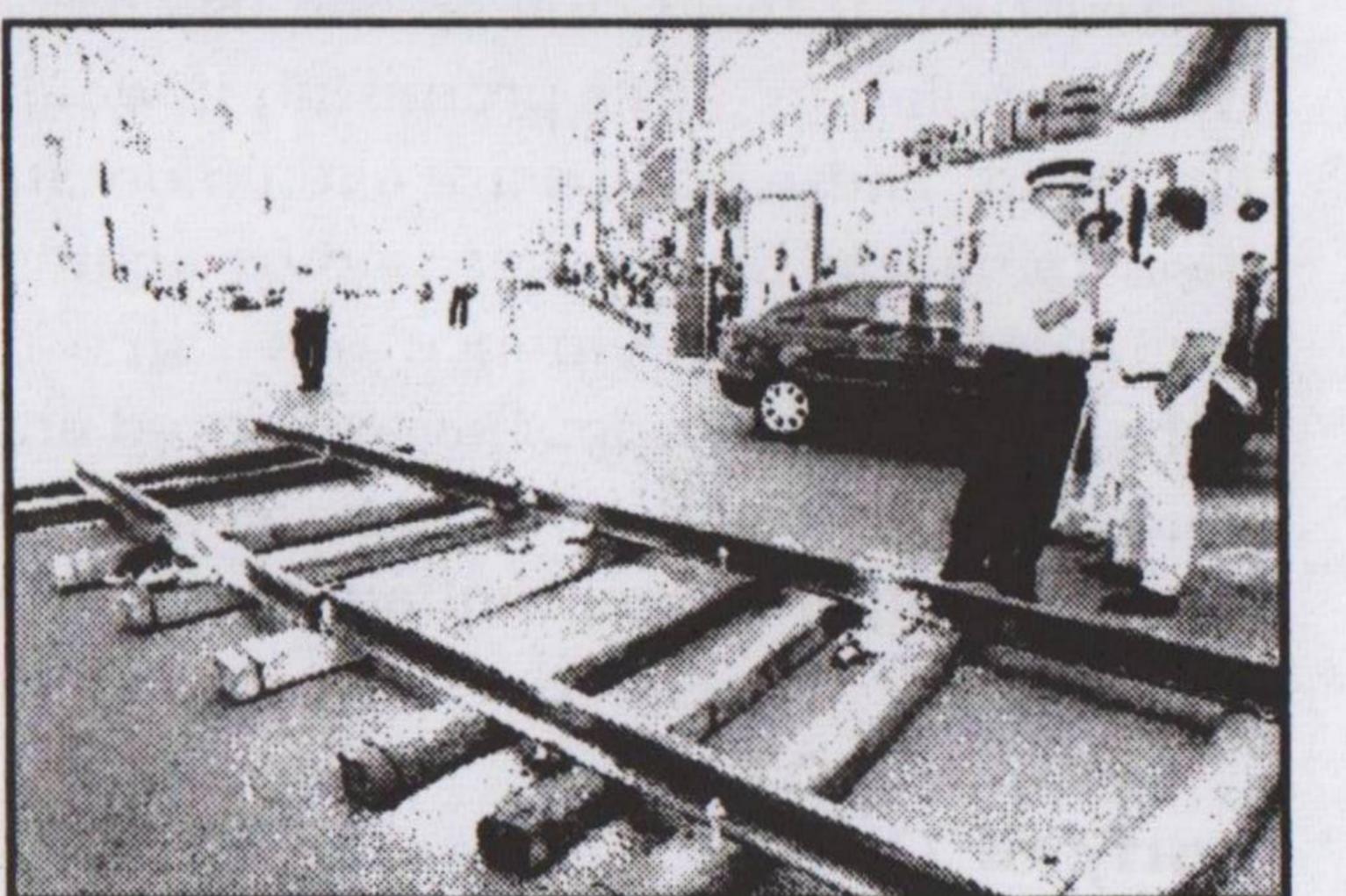
NATIONWIDE STRIKES HAVE taken place in France in opposition to proposed pension "reforms" (read: plans to force people to retire later).

June has seen eight co-ordinated national stoppages so far. 5,000 people in Calais blockaded the A26 highway, the regional office of the employers' federation MEDEF in the port of La Rochelle was torched and other MEDEF offices across the country were attacked, workers disrupted train and bus services in Marseille and Paris cutting power lines at the Gare de Lyon station in Paris. Bus workers blockaded a depot, armed themselves with baseball bats and fought with riot police. Sanitation workers in Lyon dumped garbage in front of City Hall. Striking teachers also occupied bus depots and train tracks. In Lille workers set fire to the Coventry factory - police then fired tear gas, charged the demonstrators and beat some of them with batons.

Hundreds of dock workers, railway workers and fish merchants set up blockades at the port in Boulogne sur Mer, set them on fire and defended them against riot police tear gas attacks until 4am the next day. In Nice workers occupied the National Theatre, produced leaflets explaining their action and used the space for meetings about the social struggle.

200 people occupied Toulouse Town Hall and closed the doors to the police. The National Opera of Lyon was occupied by 200 people and the space was used to hold assemblies and plan future actions. Another action targeted the Path Cinema in Lyon, forcing it to shut. In Lille three major highways were blocked by 300 students, workers and unemployed people.

A spontaneous demonstration of more



than 1,000 people marched through the streets of the city, as people surrounded businesses and government offices with trash bins and attempted to break through riot police lines. The office of the Union of the Presidential Majority (UMP) was trashed as workers dumped garbage, water and detergent inside the buildings. Major road blockades were also set up in many other cities.

The scale and ferocity of the resistance has taken the French State by surprise and there have been attempts to buy-off certain sectors by offering concessions - all of which have been flung back in their faces. The authorities hope the traditional summer break will cool off the workers but there are few signs of this happening - in fact the level of militancy is on the up.

This is a crucial battle for the European working class as a whole, if this one is lost then further "reforms" will be attempted across the continent - the French and German governments are keeping a close eye on this. We need to learn the lessons of this dispute and make autonomous links up and plans of action now as the French workers have shown solidarity and co-ordination are our most effective weapons not union bosses dealing with state bosses. ★

## BEAT THE CHEATS – GET RID OF CAPITALISM!

TORFAEN COUNCIL AND Job Centre Plus (JCP) have teamed up and launched a campaign against "fraud". By grassing-up fellow members of our class we can help them "beat the cheats". An emergency hotline is provided on glossy posters together with idiotic fluffy toys with a phone number tag attached! Presumably this is aimed at children who no doubt will be honoured to serve the state by telling on their "criminal" parents? That such a spying campaign was used by the Hitler Youth under the Nazi regime shows how low Torfaen Council and JCP have stooped.

By sneakily making a phone call we can sink to the level of a quisling against our class! If Torfaen Council and JCP actually used their rather warped brain cells they would realise that for many people in Torfaen existing on or below the poverty line is a way of life! The "choice" is to try and exist on the pittance of unemployment benefit or a crap state pension or you can "work for your dole" in a low paid job! Therefore it comes as no surprise that some people choose to "cheat" the system to make ends meet by for example doing the odd job on the side.

By supplementing their meagre benefits they can actually try to enjoy life without relying on the misery of debt through plastic or loan sharks! So why doesn't Torfaen Council and JCP actually target the real cheats and fraudsters who create unemployment and mass poverty? They conveniently ignore the fact that the capitalist system is based on the daily exploitation of working class people by the ruling boss-class elite who own the means of pro-



duction, distribution and wealth!

In their work, workers make the goods which are part of everyday life and provide services. However the rewards the workers receive in the form of wages are less than the value of the products and services they create. The difference in value between what the workers produce and what they earn is the basis for profit which goes to the capitalist boss-class!

In this way workers are robbed on a daily basis. When profits fall workers are sacked. Capitalists survive at the expense of laid off workers. Unemployment also helps to keep wages low and profits high! It is unemployed people who are the victims of a system based on greed for a few over the needs of all.

If we as a class are to "beat the cheats" that are ripping us off on a daily basis through the capitalist system of wage slavery we should take collective action to get rid of this parasitical class once and for all! That a Labour controlled Torfaen Council and JCP fall over themselves to do the bosses' bidding comes as no surprise as they are part of the same rotten state edifice.

Letters of protest to Cllr. Brian Smith, Leaders Challenge, Freepost, SWC3348, Pontypool, NP4 6ZZ. For more info: AF, PO Box 7, Pont-y-pwl, Gwent, NP4 8YB. ★

## REPORT FROM ANTI-G8 PROTEST

"JUST GOT BACK from the anti-G8 protests in Evian. Overall it was good, the anarchist village was very interesting, several thousand people stayed there and it was well organised. We were organised as a federation of groups which held assemblies in the mornings to decide tasks (cooking, cleaning, building, etc.) and actions.

For the first few days we went to some debates (on Latin American anarchism, the general strike in France) and concerts, small demonstrations in Annemasse and Geneva. We met other anarchists from around the world.

On Sunday the big demonstrations started. We chose to go on the blockade of the road between Annemasse and Evian (other blockades occurred in Geneva and Lausanne) rather than the large but fairly pointless big march to Geneva (which had a sizeable anarchist bloc). After a few kilo-

metres we were confronted by the police, built barricades and fought against eight hours of tear gas. The villagers in this area were friendly, offering us tea and bits of timber to build barricades with. The various blockades delayed the arrival of G8 staff and several meetings had to be cancelled.

The next day we took a train to Geneva for a demonstration against water privatisation, but the train was delayed by the riot police coming on board and searching everyone. In Geneva we took a tram en masse and then tried to rejoin the other demonstrators, but were blocked by lines of German police with water cannons . . ."

June also saw days of action, occupations and streetfighting in Thessalonica against the EU summit ending in heavy repression - see the back page and visit

<http://thessaloniki.indymedia.org/>?lang=en

## LOCAL RESISTANCE

BRISTOL HOUSING ACTION MOVEMENT (BHAM) collective successfully defended number 58/60 Ashley Rd, St. Paul's, Bristol against the bailiffs on 6th of June. Bristol Churches Housing Association sought an eviction after refusing to enter into dialogue. The squatters made several improvements to the property, cleaning out massive amounts of rubbish, painting and securing the property against junkies and the areas criminal gangs who made several attempts to take back the turf they previously used as a crack den/members club and base for prostitution.

The barricade was the first successful resistance in the twenty years of BHAM's history. Activists came from all over the city to block the basements and front hallway with anything to hand. Some affixing grills to windows as the last possessions left the building. The scene was set with die hard resisters holed up in top flats with the stairway blocked and access only by crawling through a precarious collection of furniture and surprises for those nice bailiffs!

**Kebele Social centre** has also been under pressure from both the council health inspectors following malicious and untrue anonymous calls to the council. The centre will be closed until the end of June whilst this is dealt with. A questionnaire has also been produced for the local community to see how they think the centre could better meet their needs.

**A successful Community Media Day**, was held on the 14th June at the Cube Cinema, and brought together a range of local and national media groups such as The Spark, i-Contact Video, Talkaoke, Undercurrents, Bristle, plugincinema.com.

**Romford/Harold Wood:** Tory "heavies" are trying to intimidate opposition in London borough of Havering because of the corruption surrounding property development in the Romford/Harold Wood area.

They have targeted environmentalists in order to quieten them over planning permission backhanders and scandals. The Tory MP for Romford is Andrew Rosindell and his heavies come from Copsey Ltd. 178 Crow Lane Romford - a big company owned by Alby and Barry Tebbutt.

Both are councillors - they use mates from building companies or bailiffs to intimidate people. They also think they run Havering because they scare people. Rosindell has links to far-right groups in the UK and abroad. ★