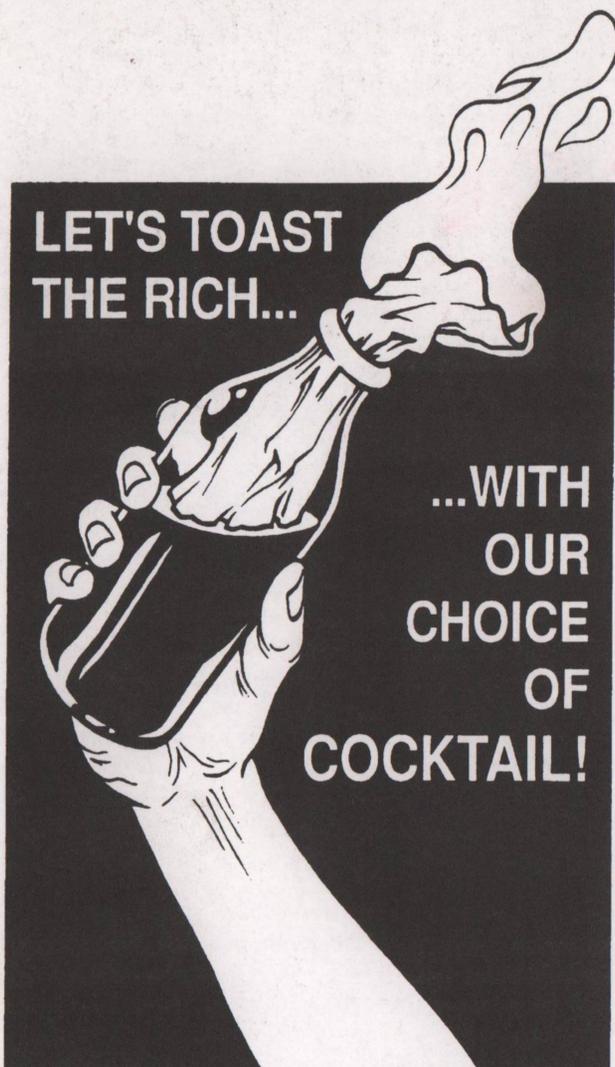


Support
Critchley
strikers

Thirty one former staff of the Critchley Label Company in Gwent were sacked over 10 months ago following a dispute over union recognition (CWU). The sacked workers were replaced by scab labour. A daily picket line has been in operation from day one of the dispute. You can support the strikers by sending much needed donations made out to: "Critchley Strikers Social Fund". Please send to Wendy Williams, 4 Cae Celyn, Croespenmaen, Crumlin, Gwent.

And Finally.....



The office of *Resistance* have been flooded with goodwill messages to greet its pilot issue, of which the following are just a selection.

"May Resistance rise ever-higher through the clouds of oppression towards the sunlight of liberty. Unlike my balloons". RICHARD BRANSON.

"Nice to see a paper that knows all bosses are a waste of space and time". STEPHEN HAWKING.

"It's quite obvious that unhealthy food, stress at work and a polluted environment aren't just blemishes on the face of capitalism. We need a complete social makeover- we need Resistance".

"New times, new paper. New approach, to old problems. We must modernise by turning the clock back but using one with a digital display. May I also say that I welcome the healthy diversity of views that the appearance of '*Resistance*'

signifies. Difference is fine, just as long as it makes no difference to me'. TONY BLAIR.

ORGANISE!
The Quarterly magazine of the ACF

It may be dull, but the punters love it! Get in touch for a free copy, or catch up with us on the net (posh or what?).

<http://burn.ucsd.edu/~acf/>



what we think

The ACF is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish capitalism and all exploitation to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism. We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it such as working through parliament and national liberation movements (like the IRA) as they fail to challenge the real oppressor: capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we are to beat the bosses and we work for a united international anarchist movement.

what we do

We take part in everyday struggles which affect working class people such as industrial disputes, strikes, supporting prisoners jailed for defending themselves against the police, racists or women who defend themselves from domestic violence or rapists. We are active in anti-fascism, environmental struggles and against government legislation which attacks sections of our community such as ethnic minorities, the unemployed, young people etc. We believe that capitalism must be attacked on all fronts and we encourage the linking up of struggles.

join the resistance

The ACF have members up and down the country fighting for the kind of world outlined above. For more information on anarchism, the ACF and fighting back contact:

Anarchist Communist Federation
84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

Resistance

Pilot issue

Oct/Nov 1997

20p

★ News sheet of the Anarchist Communist Federation ★

After Two Years of Continuous Struggle We Say:

VICTORY TO THE DOCKERS!

Two years after being thrown out of work for refusing to cross a picket line, the Merseyside dockers and their supporters marched through Liverpool last month, defiant and determined to show their former bosses that action against them can only increase! Thousands of people from around Britain and other countries such as Sweden, Norway, the US and even Iraq turned out to show their support.

The dockers were also joined by other strikers, including the Magnet workers from Darlington and the Hillingdon Hospital workers, also marking 2 years in dispute. The march rounded off a whole month of activity through September. Dockworkers from all corners of the globe: Australia, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, America, Mexico, India, Denmark, Portugal, Spain and France (the list goes on), stopped work for all or part of the day on September 8th in an encouraging display of international solidarity.

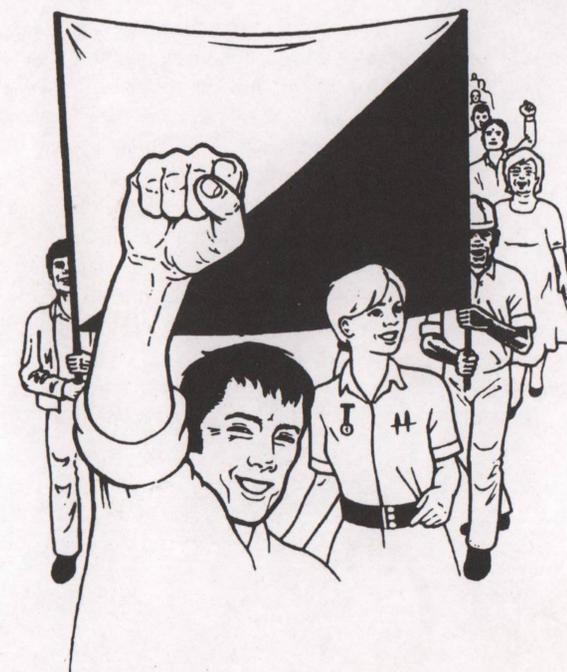
Such activities have hit the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC) hard. Despite massaging their figures to shareholders, it is clear that these actions have had a massive effect on MDHC's profits. While dockers themselves get organised internationally, their union, the T&G, continues to sabotage the struggle. Though no surprise to us as anarchist communists, the continual sell outs over 2 years of resistance have opened the eyes of many militants, who are now looking outside and beyond more "traditional" methods. The linking up with others struggling against capitalism both at home

and abroad is an encouraging first step in challenging the legitimacy of a system which sees nothing wrong in destroying both peoples livelihoods and the future of the planet in the endless pursuit of profit. Great stuff!

NEW MP's SAME OLD SLEAZE!

Not content with their huge salaries, MPs have recently been given advice, in

Parliamentary Revue, of how to make even more money out of their jobs. The anonymous writer kindly informs us that MPs are 'far from being as poor as church mice'. He/she continues - 'we have to pretend to be poor and to be making huge sacrifices to serve the people'. In reality, MPs are, for no sacrifice at all, onto a nice little earner. The writer continues: 'for most MPs the allowances are well worth taking the oath for - and better than most of us could get outside'. You bet they are. Continued on page 2....



Editorial

WELCOME first of all, to this the pilot issue of *Resistance*. The ACF have decided to launch a bi-monthly broadsheet, containing a round up and commentary on recent news and events from all over the country and beyond, mixed with a splash of humour and an unhealthy dose of cynicism on the fucked up world we live in. Over the first few issues we aim to convince you, if you're not convinced already, of the need to get out there and fight back. There's too many armchair social commentators in the world already. And we're not here to do it for you.

That's why we want to hear from you. Let us know what's going on in your area, or at work. Send us any juicy gossip about your boss, or if you're getting hassled by someone at the dole, tell us their name and we'll be happy to see they get a free copy of *Resistance*, earning them their 15 minutes of shame. Maybe your landlord's giving you a hard time: send us their details so that they can claim their "Lynch the Landlord" Award - a copy of *Resistance* wrapped around a brick. If you see anything in the papers you find outrageous, out of order or just funny, send in the clippings. Let us know as well what you think of *Resistance*.

The last few months have had so many events it's hard to know where to start. The country lost Diana, the people's parasite in a paparazzi pile-up in Paris. The Nation mourned. We cheered. "One Nil, one nil". Much was made of her campaigns against land mines, or helping those with HIV and Aids. No one remembered to mention the thousands of working class people who routinely do good service for others as nurses, dinner ladies or lollipop men and women. It's people like this we should commend, not pampered Royals looking for ways to justify their millions.

And what about Blair's New Britain? Have you felt the winds of change come blowing around your door lately? No neither have we. We expected nothing and that's what we have got. If you bothered to watch the conference you'll know it's New Labour, New Bollocks! All the more reason to start organising.

continued from front page...

On top of the £43k basic, there is the additional Office Cost allowance of £46,364. This is 'really what you want to make of it. It's not bad if you propose to build the family finances by employing the spouse on some huge salary (the same work could be done, it is admitted, by a graduate for 'peanuts.')

Travel allowances can also be fiddled to further line MPs already generously lined pockets. In London, we are told, MPs need never buy a meal, a drink, an overseas trip, a pen set or an oyster (sic.) again. Especially if you're New Labour'.

Blair, during the election campaign and since has made a big deal about 'Sleaze'. We know that despite his talk, Parliament will always be full of self-serving sleazy scum who think that they know better than us what's good for us. These parasites, Tory, Liberals, Labour - New or Old have to be removed from their positions of power and privilege: **PERMANENTLY**.

EARTH SUMMIT II: This Time it's a Disaster

Surprise, surprise, the follow up to the colossally unsuccessful Earth Summit of 1992 has managed to out-do it's predecessor by being an even greater anti-climax. The Second Earth Summit held in New York in June this year declared that political leaders 'decide to move now from words to deeds'. Deeds will be few, however, as the Summit failed to agree on any of the paltry half-measures before it.

The Earth is being exploited as never before and the representatives of international capitalism could not even agree to try and tackle global warming, despite agreeing that it was 'one of the biggest challenges facing the world in the twenty-first century'. Blair tried to be smug, claiming that only the UK had produced less CO2 than in 1990. Britain has nothing to be proud of, however. This fall was achieved by switching the sources of energy from carbon intensive coal to more nuclear and gas fired production. This trick cannot be repeated. More significantly, Britain's energy efficiency has worsened over the past six years, reversing a trend of gradual improvement since 1945.

Once again this sham reinforces all that we at *Resistance* have ever said- that global destruction can never be dealt with by the same people that are the protectors and beneficiaries of the global system that is at the very heart of the problem: capitalism. If global destruction is profitable, it will happen, regardless of the human, environmental and social consequences. This is the law of capitalism and a pathetic 'World Summit' or two won't change it.

REVEALED: THE REASON FOR THE MILLENNIUM DOME

Resistance is happy to reveal the reason for the seemingly inexplicable 'Millennium Dome'. Its sole purpose is to make friends of Tony Blair and co. huge sums of money. British Gas, for example, are set to make a killing - they sold the derelict land of the site for £20m but still own a lot around it which will shoot up in value when the dome is built. Laing and Robert McAlpine have a £150m contract to develop the site and erect the 'brilliantly conceived' dome. Plans for the dome itself are being drawn up by the Richard Rogers Partnership. The boss, Lord Rogers, is a close friend of Blair and for this he's set to receive around £10m (although he's understandably reluctant to reveal the precise figure.) So, the New Millennium will be celebrated by a bonanza of massive handouts to big business, with, as always, millions in Britain living on the streets, unemployed and poverty stricken 'enjoying' Victorian standards of living. The Millennium Dome will be the perfect monument to the stupidity, greed and injustice of capitalism.

**No Dole Slavery!
No Wage Slavery!**

Anyone signing on already knows that the last government victimised the unemployed by bringing in the Job Seekers Allowance and the increased level of harassment and intimidation which went with it. Its name says it all - you have to prove that you are actively looking for boring underpaid jobs that you don't want just so you don't lose your benefit. As if that wasn't bad enough, the Tories produced Project Work. After chasing non-existent employment for a few weeks you then have to do some mindless work just to get your dole, whilst the bosses get free labour and the placement agencies get paid by the government for wasting your time.

It might have seemed that things could only get better under cuddly New Labour. For a time the Job Centres suspended Project Work assuming it would be abolished. "Not so fast!", said Tony Blair, and he ordered the scheme back in until Labour's own form of slave labour begins next year. It's called

Welfare to Work and is based on the American Workfare system. In fact Labour and the middle class that voted for them have just as much to gain from keeping claimants impoverished and powerless as the last government did. Keeping us poor keeps the wages of exploited workers low, as they fear losing their jobs to cheap labour. Keeping us busy job-hunting and working for free keeps us feeling as though we have failed in some way. And it limits the amount of time we can put into causing them trouble when we realise how shit this system is.

But they have not succeeded. All over Britain groups of claimants and their supporters have refused to take it lying down. They have organised occupations of Job Centres, harassed the politicians responsible (such as Labour's Frank "You lot are scroungers" Fields and the regional JSA implementation managers), and initiated a 'Three Strikes and You're Out' campaign against staff and especially managers in Job Centres who have gone

out of their way to abuse their power over claimants. One target of the 'Three Strikes' campaign has been a manager who called the police to a Job Centre to arrest a claimant whose benefit had just been cut off. Reliable witnesses said that the claimants' 'crime' had simply been to point out that the only way he could feed himself now was by burglary.

After the 'First Strike' on this manager the DSS got the police to try to use a new harassment law against the anti-JSA group concerned. This law was designed to stop stalkers harassing women, but has been mainly used against political activists 'harassing' the rich and the powerful.

It should be pointed out that the 'Three Strikes' campaign is the last resort of claimants groups frustrated at trying to reason with dole workers, in person and through their unions, not to implement the new DSS legislation. The claimants send their targets two warning letters and, if verifiable reports of abuses of power continue to be received by the group, they

paste up photographs of the staff responsible all over town to publicly embarrass them. This gives back power to claimants whose only other reliable course of action has been to physically attack staff over Job Centre counters - perfectly understandable and usually well deserved - but more likely to land you in trouble than taking action anonymously with a group of other people to support you.

This action has also revealed the attitude of the DSS unions to the unemployed. They complain that the workers who have been targeted are 'only doing their jobs'. But their job is to police and threaten the unemployed with poverty. It's a bad enough situation that people who supposedly see themselves as working class take such jobs, but sometimes poverty forces you into jobs you don't want. But the active enthusiasm with which some DSS workers use the power which comes with the job against claimants almost defies belief, and the worst of these will find themselves as 'Three Strikes' targets.

union leaders have, along with Sinn Fein spokespeople, condemned the actions of the RRSF.

The strike force, which claims to be the armed wing of the Irish Marxist Republican Cadre, has also threatened to target debt collectors and "television snoops" and any person involved in "anti-social" or "anti-working (sic) actions". Is this what revolutionary anarchists mean when they talk about direct action? The answer is no.

Three Strikes And You're . . . *Dead!*

Revolutionary anarchists have strongly supported direct action being taken by claimants against those civil servants who make their lives a misery through zealous enforcement of the Job Seekers' Agreement, Project Work etc. We reject the idea that the unemployed should passively accept the shit they get from "jobsworths" on the other side of the counter or from DSS snoopers.

The "3 Strikes" initiative (see above article), whereby particularly officious dole workers are exposed and given a hard time is an example of how we can empower ourselves using direct action. We fully support such tactics.

In Belfast, however, a group calling itself the Revolutionary Republican Strike Force (RRSF), has been going a step further. In response to the implementation of new DSS regulations the RRSF has launched a campaign against what it describes as the "social fascist economic policies" of the social security agencies and has sent fire bombs addressed to DSS staff. In response to this, Social Security Agency staff have staged walkouts and their

The Right Targets

First of all, although the RRSF seem to have the right targets and maybe some of the right reasons, their tactics leaves the majority of claimants and other working class people at the sharp end, in a position of simply watching while somebody else "does the business". There's not really that much difference in applauding what the Strike Force do and writing to your (Sinn Fein) MP! It certainly isn't direct action by the working class for the working class!

Rather than putting in the graft of trying to organise *with* the unemployed, in claimants unions or action groups, the RRSF seem to have taken the easy, but unrevolutionary tactic of antagonising all dole workers using a fairly indiscriminate form of device whilst leaving other claimants to watch it on the telly. Perhaps this is due to its "Marxist" republican politics which can't see beyond the idea of an armed vanguard leading the working class? Whatever, despite their "good" intentions the Revolutionary Republican Strike Force have shown us how best *not* to fight the JSA or other anti-working class legislation.