

Blood sweat and tears



The National Blood Service performs a vital role in collecting blood from donors at hundreds of sites on a daily

basis. The blood is then processed (filtering, separating components etc.) and safely tested (for Hepatitis, HIV, Malaria, Syphilis and soon vCJD). Blood and plasma is then distributed to local hospitals. These processing and testing centres are currently located in Oxford, Bristol, Southampton, Tooting, Colindale, Brentwood, Manchester Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Cambridge, Sheffield and Leeds.

National Blood Service.

Staff have been in industrial dispute with the NBS board of directors/management for about the past year, over unworkable reconfiguration plans which will see local processing + testing sites condensed into just 3 'supercentres', in Bristol, Manchester + Colindale. This would mean that blood collections will have to be driven hundreds of miles around the country to and from the 'supercentres', putting even more reliance on an already overloaded + frequently clogged up motorway network. It will also mean 600 job losses nationally, and those affected have highly specific skills and years of experience. This strategy is all about cost-cutting, and nothing to do with what's best for patients or hospitals. All this in the national Blood Service that, unlike many NHS trusts, is not even in debt.

The situation for emergency workers in dispute is always difficult and they often feel that their position is weakened because withdrawal of labour will cost lives. The Government have been taking advantage of this difficulty in pushing through their continued privatisation of the NHS. With public support

this strategy can be shown up as what it is: bullying. As such it cannot be condoned. Any problems that result from a dispute are fundamentally caused by the Government pushing skilled workers into a position where they must defend the service with the only effective means at their disposal. Any problems caused by such action will pale into insignificance when these local centres disappear.

Consider the effects of a major road traffic accident. There will be people needing blood which cannot be delivered because of the traffic chaos caused by the same accident. How will providing helicopters to move the blood when transport difficulties become apparent yield a cost saving? They have to be crewed and maintained.

Why is the Government keen on subsidiary in Europe, but everything within the UK must be centralised to be efficient?

The IWW, the union for all workers, has members at the National Blood Service, within the NHS and in many other industries. We urge you all to:

*** Support the work the NBS staff are doing by continuing to give blood. The whole point of opposing these changes is to make sure that the blood gets through to those who need it.**

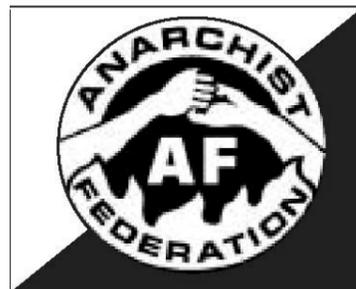
*** Support their claims in this dispute by writing to the NBS Chief Executive:**

Martin Gorham
Chief Executive
National Blood Service
Oak House

Read's Crescent
Watford
Hertfordshire, WD24 4PH

or email him at: martin.gorham@nbs.nhs.uk

Note: this article has been taken from the Industrial Workers of the World Website: www.iww.org.uk



The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression 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, as they fail to challenge 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're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above.

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Northern Resistance



Anarchist Bulletin

May 2007

Free/Donation

Reclaim May Day

May Day is your day. My day. Our day. May Day started in the 1880s as part of the 8 Hour Day Movement in the U.S. People were campaigning for a decent life, for enough to live on and some time to live in.

All across America people united in their campaign for a better life. They were skilled and unskilled; women and men; Black and White; native and immigrant all fighting our common enemy as one. Activists were centred round the 8 Hour Day Movement but they knew there was more to it. Their aim, and ours today, is a "free society based upon a co-operative system of production." This is how we will get the life we need. And so we will cut waste and environmental destruction.

In a desperate attempt to break up the movement, eight workers, all anarchists, were arrested and fitted up. Four of them were murdered by the U.S. state in the interests of big business. Subsequently May Day became an international workers holiday to commemorate those who died. They became known as the Haymarket Martyrs.

Does this ring any bells? Since 1889 all across the world the 1st of May has been a holiday and a time for celebrating freedom, equality, unity, justice and peace: the best of our species.

Governments in Britain and elsewhere, have neutered our day and tried to hide its true meaning. They want to give us the scraps of just another bank holiday. Could it get worse? Well, there has been a proposal to scrap it in

favour of another bank holiday later in the year to mark Britain's historical abuse, enslavement and exploitation of half the world. Empire day? No chance.

We think it's time we stood up and reclaimed what is rightfully ours, what our people have fought and died for. No more getting ripped off by the insatiable parasite consumerism; corrupt councils selling off our public spaces and then employing private 'security' to deny us access to them. No more getting stitched up and being made scapegoats by the media. The comparisons with the Chicago experience of the 1880s are disturbing: people are still being screwed by big business, attacked by their police, outlawed by their officials and demonised by their press.

Like the originators of the modern May Day celebration we see there is a real practical alternative to the constant cycle of war and exploitation; poverty and abuse worldwide.; Through direct action in our communities; on our streets; we can live our lives on our feet instead of tearing each other apart; existing.

Reclaim May Day

Manchester Anarchist Federation

We meet every fortnight at the Basement, 24 Lever St, Manchester M1 1HW

Next meetings: 10th and 24th May We start at 7.30, all welcome, plenty of time for discussion.



STOP G8

On the 6th to 8th of June, on the sea front town of Heligendamm in Germany, a group of the most evil and dangerous mass murderers in the world is gathering. The town of 280 inhabitants will be closed off from the rest of the world with a fence embedded in concrete 2.50 m high and 13 km long. This is not to keep the evil men in, but to keep everyone else out, in case some might be tempted to make the world a better place by disposing of them.

This is the G8 summit where the leaders of the 8 most powerful nations will meet to have a nice cup of tea whilst picking over the bones of their victims. The members are the U.S.A, France, Russia, the U.K., Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada. They

(Continued on page 2)

education, education, education

What's wrong with Academy Schools?

Councils across Greater Manchester want to close working class schools and re-open them as Academies. They already exist in Manchester and Salford, now Tameside and Oldham want to get in on the act.



Oldham demonstration against academy schools

Academies are bad news. They are bad for people who work in schools because they offer no guarantees on wages and conditions. The new schools can pay less and make staff work longer.

They are bad for students. They will be built on smaller plots of land than the existing schools. That means fewer sports facilities. At Breeze Hill in Oldham, for example, that means losing an AstroTurf pitch and swimming pool. And that makes them bad for local communities too. These new schools will be watching the students all the time. They are designed so kids have nowhere to hide from prying adult eyes.

The government loves the "Oldham model". That means that the running of the schools will be handed over to the Church of England and a bunch of Muslim businessmen. These so-called sponsors can dictate parts of the curriculum. Most of us choose not to send our children to religious schools. So now Blair and friends are using the backdoor to put our youngsters in the clutches of superstition peddlers.

Workers, parents and school students have begun to fight back. We need to get more people involved.

If you want to join the campaign against these

academies, drop us an email and we'll put you in touch with other local people. ★

City College Manchester Strike

Lecturers at City College Manchester have voted to strike over attacks on their workload and holidays. In an 85% yes vote for action, members of the University and College Union have shown their strong opposition to a contract with less holidays and more teaching hours for new lecturers starting at the college.

We asked a lecturer at the college what it is all about. He told us:

"Basically, the college authorities have imposed a new contract on us for all future employees. They will have more contact hours and less holidays (and get "more" money, apparently). Our point is twofold: firstly, all you people on Easy Street (ie in "real" schools) already get more money than us and better working conditions. Secondly, pay is not the issue here: we are talking about working conditions which are detrimental to our health and our students' learning; thirdly, by imposing the contracts, the college has effectively torn up any commitment to negotiated working conditions and effectively castrated the union!

We are after solidarity (to wake up the slumbering masses in our union membership) and polite rejection of the college's approach to their workers. We are likely to be on strike on or around Thursday 27th (although Weds is my worst day)."

The lecturers feel they are in a strong position to win this. They say, "With your help we can we can minimise the cost to ourselves in the process. To help us, please send messages of protest, and indications of your support for us, For more info call David Swanson (UCU Branch Sec.) on 07931 640392" ★

(Continued from page 1)

Stop G8

meet having helped create the problems, to decide on the so-called solutions. They speak of "global governance" and of "strengthening civil society" and of "steps to peace", but the reality is they ruthlessly use "might makes right" methods to make a world order serving the continuation of their own power and capitalist profits. Just look at Afghanistan and Iraq. Most of the time the threat of war is enough, suppression and exploitation are maintained with the threat of weapons or economic sanctions. ★

picketing M&S - an interview

John has been picketing Marks and Spencer for over 2 years. We asked him a few questions why, and his views on the



Picket in Manchester

Israel and Palestine conflict.

NR: Do you blame the Zionists?

Firstly, this is not to say that it's Zionists who are out to rule and ruin the world, but the world is stuffed full of competing parasites, who are themselves manipulated by the ignorant forces of confusion, just like the rest of us, with a few (Zionists or not), probably thinking they're in control, while they undoubtedly pull their strings and all of us undoubtedly occasionally dance.

NR: So why bother about Palestine when there's so much other shit going on in the world?

Well surely, if there's a need to stop recurring famines across the world, end racism and war, stop the planet being turned into an uninhabitable mess; then there's a need to stop stumbling from crisis to crisis, just dealing with the next mess our rulers lay on us. There's a need, if we are to deprive them of power over us, also for us to expose the bastards, as being the ones who create the mess, and will forever more, or until we do something about it. Surely, amongst the easiest and sure fire ways to prove to victims that brainwashing is happening is to pick on the most blatant examples and show where they contradict blatant fact; ending in what fans of George Orwell call, "double think".

NR: Why do you think the media don't tell us this?

How can it be, that much of the media dominated world, can be aware that there are millions of Palestinian refugees around the same world. This has to mean that the brainwashed are aware to some extent, that Palestinian being away from their homes has nothing to do with being on holiday. And here is the double think. The same media keep shovelling the same bullshit about how Israel is a democracy. And the people keep swallowing it! I did too, for years. But people just can't be so stupid as

to believe that ethnic "cleansing" (an act of genocide) could be a democratic way to create a pro Israel majority, in what was Palestine before the Zionist invasion. Can anyone believe that millions of refugees get a postal vote? And the massacres, even without the "cleansing". Populations just don't become refugees without a few of those on the way. So is killing swathes of political opposition a part of democracy? Or is this proven double think?

NR: So why picket Marks and Spencer then?

Look at the website of the World Zionist Organisation, where they have a document on, "How to support Israel on a Daily Basis". In it, they tell us where to shop, with MandS being one of about half a dozen getting a special mention. They are the only ones to have their own High Street shops. So they have to be the High Street focus for protest against the Israeli moderate extremists. The ones who support moderate Terrorists with Tanks, the Homicide Bombers, and the moderate snipers who shoot kiddies playing out on the street, (Tom Hurdall, for example). That's where our job comes in, simultaneously proving that brainwashing happens, and that we need to stop it sooner or later. So I'll hope to see you on the next picket. Corner of MandS, facing St Anne's Square. Can't say when that'll be yet, but you'll see us around.

Imagine there's no Palestine, no Israel, no Britain, and no countries. Only people.

You may say we're dreamers, but were not the only ones.

We hope some day you'll join us.

And the world will no longer be governed by hypocrite, terrorist, paranoid thugs, who would have us divided and ruled.

Maybe Lennon had something right. ★

property owning scum

United Property Management

United Property Management is a company recruited by NASS and the Home Office to provide housing and basic support to asylum seekers in the north-west. They are staffed by a bunch of heartless bureaucrats. They find themselves criticised even by NASS and the Home Office, two organisations not themselves known for the milk of human kindness. It is hard to imagine how terrible it must be to be forced, as a result of war, murder, family danger or political persecution to live in a strange country. Amongst your most basic needs would be a home in a safe area. By their lack of care and bad organisation, UPM make asylum seekers' lives much worse than they need to be.

A vulnerable Pakistani family of elderly mother and school-aged daughter were moved by UPM from a house in an Asian area, near mosque, doctor, school and with supportive neighbours to a white housing estate in Salford. Both had been undergoing treatment for psychological trauma. The pair were terrified and were forced by the fear to move to an overcrowded house in London with family friends.

UPM care only about the profit they can make out of human misery. Capitalism extends its tentacles yet further. Shame on UPM. Shame on those who designed this stinking system. ★

STOCK TRANSFER: THE (LATEST) BIG CON

We are currently passing through a period where, across the land, public money is being handed over to the parasites of public relations companies. The purpose for this gorging at the trough is to sell to council tenants the concept

of putting our homes into the hands of housing associations. But what could the problem be with that?

Ok, for a start, the real reason New Labour® want to do this is because it removes accountability and responsibilities public agencies: at the same time, we individuals, have 'responsibilities' thrust upon us. The socially collective is dismantled and privatised, while private companies and individuals are encouraged to bleed us dry.

A perfect example of this is stock transfer of council housing as is currently being attempted in south (central) Manchester. New 'housing associations' are formed so that they can borrow to improve housing (to the governments' liveable standards). Why can the money, so obviously needed to improve our homes, be put in by government, rather than wasting it destroying people's lives and homes in Iraq?

There will be government money; however, this will only be to induce people to vote for the change. If they vote no, they get nothing: years more paying of old mistakes and waiting for fabled improvements. As people wait for re-housing, properties are being used as show homes, nice 'uniforms for the patter merchants, logos commissioned, and the new associations named by unheard of 'votes': the list goes on. The façade of consultation has struck again, just as it did with 'regeneration' a decade ago. Public housing is being dismantled, while the housing crisis grows faster than house prices accompanied by more dubious gesture and promises. The only option is to vote no and make sure that we don't have to wait to be let down by the money grabbers and petit bureaucrats/bullshitters of local councils, it's time they worked for, not fed off us. ★

Contact us:

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nine ladies protest camp

The Nine Ladies protest camp is a long running environmental campaign which started eight years ago. It began when Stancliffe Stone Ltd submitted a plan to reopen two quarries in the Peak District. These were close to Nine Ladies, a bronze Stone Age circle in the Peak District.

The woodland and countryside round Nine Ladies have been eroded at a significant rate recently. Nine Ladies is a place of exceptional beauty. If it goes ahead, ten times as much quarrying will be done than in the past 3500 years.

The one person who will benefit is the landowner Lord Edward Manners. He will get £20,000 a year plus a share in the sandstone being quarried. This is all in the inter-



ests of capital and not the people living in the area.

This site has caravans, ground houses, tree houses both high and low, as well as some houses on the top of the cliff. They have already faced eviction in 2004.

The protestors demand that any destructive plans are dropped completely. This demand is getting closer to being met. But it is important to remain suspicious of the corporations involved as well as the Peak District National Authority who have done little if anything to protect this land.

This campaign has shown that solving problems by direct action is not a crazy anarchist ideal. It is practically a much better method than if we just contact our representatives to try and make the companies stop quarrying the land. Through direct opposition the campaign has made sure this company and the landowner cannot do whatever it wants to fill their own pockets with cash. This is not their land and never will be. ★