

RESISTANCE

No.1 Oct-Nov 96

AUTUMN OF DISCONTENT? - MAGNET Workers Lead The Way!

The recent sackings of over 300 skilled workers at the Magnet plant in Darlington has brought into focus once again the level of arrogance among bosses of recent years, and the contempt management has shown in their casual dismissal of an entire workforce.

Workers, many of whom with years of experience, came out on strike toward the end of August in a dispute over a pay deal. Despite not having received a wage rise in 3 years (effectively a pay cut), managers rejected the union's calls and instead gave the strikers an ultimatum: *return to work or face the sack.*

DEFIANCE

Notwithstanding such obvious pressure, all 300 ignored the threat, continuing the pickets in a fine display of defiance. Surprised and angered at the audacity of their workforce, Magnet sacked the lot on September 3rd and began making moves at recruiting scab labour. The unions - the T&G, UCATT, GMB and the AEEU - in typical fashion, clearly shocked by the move by Magnet, attempted to return to negotiations cap in hand, to beg for the reinstatement of the strikers, only to be shown the door by bosses. Yet while the unions continue to prostrate themselves at the feet of management, resistance continues among the strikers on the ground and is starting to build. Staff at the town's Job Centre declined to display adverts by Magnet for a replacement scab labour force while the regular pickets have continued. The resolve of the pickets has been matched by local people, angered by the blatant

casualness in which long serving workers were dismissed. The result for Magnet has been immense difficulty in trying to recruit replacements. Many of those who have taken on scab work have had their homes and cars attacked by outraged locals.

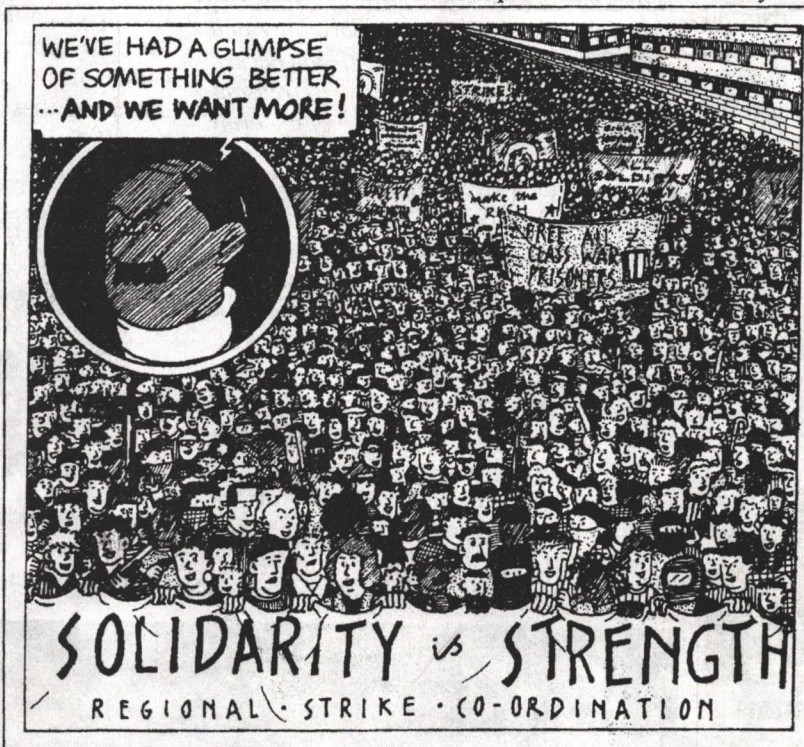
HEALTH WORKERS

Outside support has bolstered the confidence of the strikers. On September 23rd over 50 Magnet workers joined up to 500 health workers in a one day all out strike at Newcastle's General Hospital. The health workers walked out after being offered a rise of, wait for it, 0.75%. This offer, which adds around 40 pence a week

shows some promising signs for future action. It also shows that workplace struggles are far from over, as the 500 sacked Liverpool Dockers have shown as they enter their second year of struggle this month.

SOLIDARITY

Although it has been said many times before, apparently some of those who choose to cross picket lines need to be reminded - SOLIDARITY IS STRENGTH, SCABS ARE SCUM. It is Us, normal working people, who create the profits for the boss class, while they leisurely decide whether or not to deprive us of our livelihoods. And it is Us, UNITED, who can take away their profits by refusing to work for a pittance. As the unions have yet again shown, they are incapable of defending our interests. Solidarity and Support are vital if we are to succeed in our everyday battles against further impoverishment. Let's hope the example of the Magnet workers fight back will be repeated up and down the country. The Magnet workers are in desperate need of financial help if they are to continue their fight. Why not make a collection and send any donations to:



to a porter's wages, was insulting in the extreme, and is indicative again of the kind of abuses which bosses feel confident in imposing on their workforce.

The strike, which meant that senior bosses and executives were reduced to the roles of doing the laundry and being porters for the day, and which saw the linking up of disputes around the region,

Magnet Strike Committee,
c/o Ian Crammond,
109, Jedburch Drive,
Darlington,
DL3 9UP.

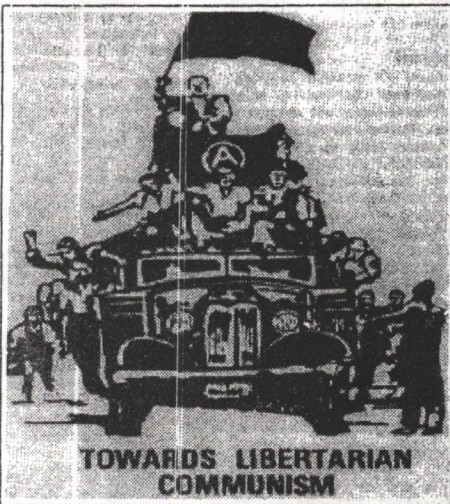
Make cheques payable to the
"Magnet Family Hardship Fund".

EVERYWHERE WE GO, PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW! . . .

Resistance is not produced by professional revolutionaries or a group of know it all lefties itching to lead something (anything!). Neither are we spaced out weirdoes confusing fight back and community/workplace struggles with our own ego trips. We're just a group of angry people who feel we've got something important to say about how to get us out of the current state we are in. We don't have great resources, or a monopoly on good ideas, and we certainly don't have all the answers.

What we do have however, is a dream of the kind of world we want to live in. That world is anarchist communism. Anarchist because we know that only ultimate freedom can release our full potential, and communist because we need a system of organisation to ensure we all get what we need. It goes without saying that we are opposed to government, capitalism and all the rest of this rotten system.

Of course we are realistic and don't expect to wake up one morning to see burning cop cars, raves in churches, free beer and a 3 hour working day. No, all this takes time, hard work and a lot of dedication. This is where our national organisation comes in. Rather than being isolated in Newcastle we are a part of a federation of other anarchist communists, (called funnily enough!) the Anarchist Communist Federation.



Working together we are more than the sum of our members. We have got a wealth of experience between us, not only of our day to day working lives, but of struggles, protests and revolutionary politics. In a word; RESISTANCE!

Our aim is to move beyond this resistance to the excesses of capitalism

and the state. and move towards the only event that can possibly sort this mess out. A revolution is our ultimate goal, and it's towards this that all our energies are channelled. We aim to take anarchism kicking and screaming into the next century. However, this can't be a real possibility without support from others in our class with the courage and pride to rebel.

prisoners and the class struggle

It is very easy to dismiss those of our class who are incarcerated in prisons as being unimportant or as being animals who don't deserve the basic dignity we should have as human beings. If we are to succeed in building a strong working class movement that will take back control of every part of our lives then this movement will need people in all areas of society, with all manner of experiences and backgrounds to achieve our aim. Prisoners and their families should play a vital role in building this movement and the resistance that would be a part of the class struggle. WHY?

"Prisoners see the unmasked face of the government, know the hypocrisy of the present system, witness the brutality and ruthlessness of this naked, unchecked force of destruction and for these reasons alone have the potential of being the army of the left".

This quote from American Anarchist prisoner Harold H Thompson explains why in simple but chilling terms. One network of worldwide groups that acknowledges this importance is the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC). The ABC recognises that prisons are an integral part of the class system and vital to the survival of capitalism and the preservation of the rich/ruling class. This is why we see working towards the abolition of the prison system as a vital part of the class struggle.

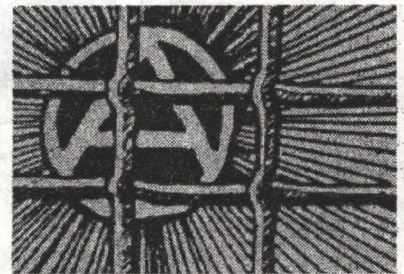
Their battle inspires ours and ours theirs

Just as the class war goes on in our daily lives it also carries on inside the prisons. Many prisoners resist the prison system both individually and sometimes collectively, striking for better conditions, by taking to the roof and even tearing their prisons apart, as at Strangeways in 1990 - The day after thousands of working class people rioted in London over the much hated Poll Tax.

Six years on and there are rumours on the inside that it won't be long before there is another riot like that at Strangeways. Prison conditions are getting worse and if Michael Howard gets his way they will continue to do so: conditions that force one prisoner every five days to take their own life, leaving their families to face a wall of silence when they question the Prison Service over the conditions and treatment that made their loved ones so desperate that they killed themselves.

One law for the rich - One law for us!

As the old saying goes - when you kick a dog it is only a matter of time before it turns around and bites. When it does happen we have to be there for the prisoners, who are quite literally putting their lives on the line, just as we are there for our comrades in workplace and community struggles. We need to break down the lies about prisons and reject their definitions of crime - The solution lies with us.



If you would like to find out more about the prisoners we support and our recent campaigns, get in touch with us.

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**Newcastle ACF,
PO Box 1TA,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE99 1TA.**





TIS THE SEASON TO BE ANGRY

THE JSA - REVISITED

THE JSA has been in force for the past 3 months (introduced October 7th). We hoped to provide an outline of how it has been put into action in Newcastle and the north east area generally. Unfortunately it has proved very difficult to get an overall picture of its implementation. However some interesting anecdotes and pieces of information have surfaced.

One comrade was forced to make an appointment for a "Restart Interview", when he turned up, he was told it was cancelled because of the workload. He was given a new appointment, but when he attended he was told the same story. His interview has been cancelled until further notice.

In South Tyneside DSS workers managed to accidentally give a JSA claimant a criminal record. After his JSA interview this poor soul received a letter telling him: "You're a prisoner - you can't claim". This classic clerical error was also put down to the workload.

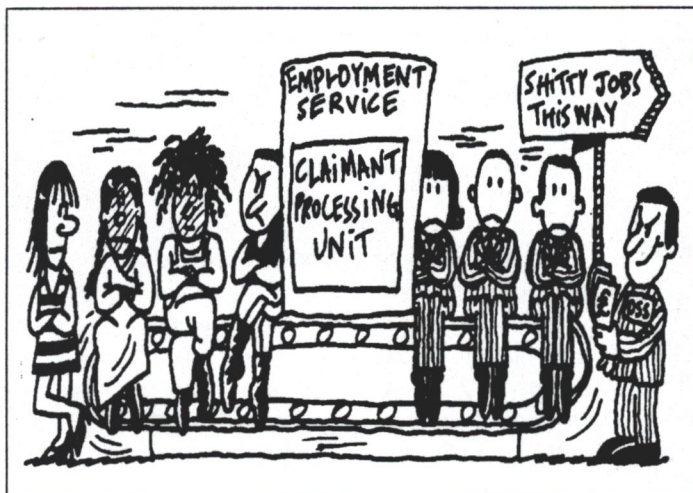
Earlier this month an ACF sympathiser attended a training day for local advice workers dealing with JSA claimants. It was organised by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG). They went through some interesting facts. The government has spent £350 million to set up the JSA, which is expected to save them £250 million a

year in benefit reductions. Nationally Job Centres have been given the target of reducing JSA claimants by 215,000 over the next year. Staff have been told to reject or redirect to other benefits 10% of all new JSA claimants. Hence at the end of next year another apparent reduction in unemployment.

The CPAG outlined, what is common knowledge now, that the staff on the front desks of the Job Centres

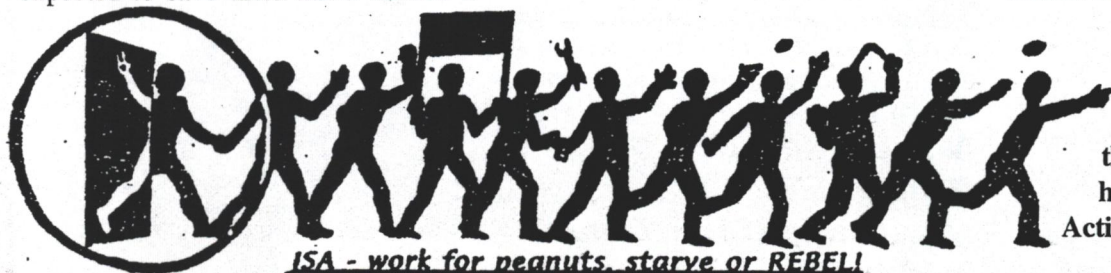
Job Centres have acquired new computer packages, which have enhanced their power over claimants in two new ways. Sanctions on the benefits of those penalised for whatever reason will be enforced nationally with the aid of a computer link up. Therefore moving to another area to make a new claim to avoid sanctions will be impossible - travellers will be well and truly shagged by that.

Job Centre computer packages will also have the details of every job in the area. JSA claimants can be directed - i.e. forced to apply - to these jobs. Job Centre staff are being encouraged to collect information of any postcards - odd jobs, services required, etc. - in shop windows. So who knows what shitty jobs people will be forced to take.



have a direct say in decisions regarding those being interviewed. The staff must counter-sign any JSA agreement made with a claimant. This has the counter staff concerned for their personal safety. Consequently it can be safely assumed that it will be the less assertive more vulnerable claimants who will be affected first. More aggressive claimants being harder to deal with and more of a threat.

It has been suggested that "relatively few people" have been affected by the JSA to date, because the government has ordered a softly softly approach in the pre-election period. This plus the obvious problems with workload and an unenthusiastic staff have delayed the full impact and implications of the JSA coming into full effect. Once these problems are overcome no doubt the worst excesses predicted by most leaflets on the subject will come to be.



If you are being hassled by the dole and would like some help contact the Unemployed Action Group on 0191 258 7411

JSA - work for peanuts, starve or REBEL!

GIT OF THE MONTH LOTTERY SCROOGE

Murton businessman Harry Thomas, who scooped £2.6 million on the lottery this September, has told drivers at his Durham transport firm that they may be on the dole by Christmas. Thomas nearly had us all in tears here at *Resistance*, as he explained how the prospect of sacking drivers at his firm was "sad". Holding back his emotions, he went on "It's got me really gutted. If I can help them out over Christmas then I will, but you can't bank on it because of lack of work".

We agree that it's sad. It's a sad excuse to explain how with over two and a half million in the bank and gaining interest by the day, he can't manage to keep 4 men in jobs. With Christmas and the new year to get through, we're sure the families of the drivers would like the same weighty burden of how to balance their millions. As it is, turkey Thomas would do well to keep an eye on his back, as the only stuffing he'll be told to get this year won't be of the sage and onion variety!

UPDATE . . .

Following up on our report in the last issue, Health Workers at Newcastle's General Hospital agreed to return to work at the end of November after accepting a pay deal off the City Health Trust. The deal gives staff at the General a measly 1% on top of a nationally agreed 2% rise. Pitifully small though it is, it's more than they would have got had they not joined together to show slimy health chief Lionel Joyce it was an issue of principle by walking out. No one will forget his team of quangoes doing the cleaning and ancillary work while the health workers stood outside watching.

DSS get physical

A Newcastle woman ended up breaking her arm recently during a Benefits Agency test to prove her eligibility for disability benefit. Sarah Chapman, 43, suffers from a spinal condition, spondylosis, which has meant she has been unable to work since 1991. When asked by the doctor during a test to kneel down she couldn't, nevertheless the doctor forced her to. Sarah was left unable to get up, having

to ask the doctor to help her.

The doctor refused saying this would be cheating, and forced Sarah to push herself up. As she did this, she fractured her wrist and forearm. Sarah complained to the Disability Benefits centre in Newcastle, where she underwent the test, and the response? They cut off her £70 a week benefit on the recommendation of the doctor!!!

Her benefit has now been reinstated after she took her story to a local newspaper, and she has been granted Legal Aid to sue the DSS and the doctor for personal injury. She is also appearing before a House of Commons select committee set up to investigate the impact of tougher disability benefit rules. (info from NUTFIN)

YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD

That's the bosses, rather than us of course. Local companies feel so confident that one has actually had the nerve to pay 3 men 60 pence an hour! They did 50 hours work and received £33.04, over a tenner less than full dole. They obviously left the company, M.P. BURKE of Houghton, hopefully with a big fuck off. Although the TUC want to know about more examples of low pay, they'll be unwilling to do much except bleat the weakest of pleas to the bosses. What's needed is our own initiative, organising outside and against both the employers and the unions. It's up to us to organise against the whole system that allows this, rather than the one or two employers who get spotlighted.

celebrity scabs and pickets

Having recently read that Ulrikakaka Jonnson got her TV break by scabbing during the TVAM strike, we are happy to report that other celebs haven't always been so spineless. Comedian Lee Hurst recently revealed why the *Sun's* right wing TV critic Gary Bushell gives him bad press. He suggested "if a hidden agenda

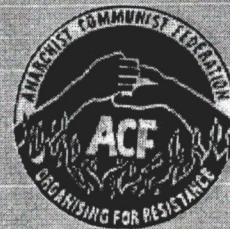
exists, it may have been because I was on the picket line at Wapping. If Gary Bushell thought it was me throwing bricks at him, I probably was. Next time I see him, he won't be able to hide inside an armoured bus". Nice One. Maybe Lee can pass on some tactics to the workers in the north east who are also having to deal with scabs. He was actually arrested at Wapping and seems to have more of an idea than most of the famous. "I was brought up with the fact you had to strike to get anywhere ... united you stand, divided you fall". Too right, and if you can take the piss out of those in authority whilst you're doing it, all the better. Lee Hurst, comedian, picket, anarchist? Well not quite. He's actually linked up with other comedians in a group called the Socialist Labour Party, their main jokes being about socialism through reforms etc. Laugh?? we nearly registered to vote!

Black & White & Green ?

Plans in the pipeline for Newcastle would mean losing Leazes Park, Castle Leazes moor and Exhibition Park to make way for a new football stadium. Bad news for the thousands who enjoy the last of the city's free public open space, especially if you can't afford holidays. So why not use derelict industrial land? There's no shortage of it, yet feasibility studies hardly bothered to look seriously elsewhere. The Council and local media have conducted their campaign with indecent haste, bordering on hysteria - while the commercial bosses at NUFC have kept silent . . .

'No Business On The Moor' campaigners include many Newcastle supporters, but have restricted themselves to middle class tactics like letter writing, petitions and begging important people not to let it happen. Let's hope they learn soon that 'respectability' isn't enough, and the legal planning process can't be trusted. If direct action becomes unavoidable, winning over ordinary fans might mean the difference between success and failure.

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RESISTANCE No.3 Feb-Mar '97

BOSSSES: ALL THE SAME!

CORRUPTION REIGNS AT GMB Union Holidays On Workers Pay

It isn't very often that corrupt and dishonest bosses get caught out, let alone cheating union officials. So it gave us great pleasure last month to hear about the resignation of leading GMB official in the northern region, Nick Anderson.

Lightfingers Anderson had been spending union funds (that's the subs we're paying folks) on lavish dinners and trips for himself and his mates at GMB HQ in Newcastle. In total, Anderson managed to skim off nearly £5,500 before suspicions started to be raised. After being discovered and then removed from his post, he had the cheek to slap in an unfair dismissal claim for, would you believe it, compensation!!! The tribunal which finished at the end of last month, failed to find any evidence in his support, leaving him the only option but to resign on the grounds of ill-health (yeah, right).

On a more serious note though, it makes you wonder how many of our so called representatives are

up to the same racket. More reason if any more was needed, to develop our own grass roots organisations, free from corruption and domination to truly make a difference.



Guilty! Of believing that a trade union would actually do something for you

CONFUSION REIGNS AT NHS

Events at the General Hospital continued to unfold last month, leaving most people confused, some say deliberately.

First came the news just before christmas that Unison rep and Chief

mandarin of the Socialist Workers Party, Yunus Bakhsh had been de-reconised by the City Health Trust after allegations from a member of staff of intimidation during the strike ballot. Next it was announced that Yunus had been re-recognised after an investigation had dropped nearly all the complaints. However in an internal document to members, Unison state that Yunus's reappointment held conditions which were "completely unacceptable", one of which prevents Yunus representing staff in his own workplace.

As anarchist communists we have long recognised the inadequacy of the unions in gaining even the barest improvements for our class, let alone going on the offensive to improve our lot. Yet it seems clear that the Trust has been looking for ways to oust Yunus for some time now, as a constant thorn in their side. In the latest ballot of members, 76.9% supported Yunus as their rep - a result which the Trust have tried to prevent Unison from making public, threatening legal action.

Whatever the outcome, these latest developments show how far the hospital's bosses will go to suppress any sign of fightback from their workforce. Most however, remain determined to resist further attacks on their living. We shall follow developments closely . . .

OUT NOW . . .
BEYOND RESISTANCE:
*A Revolutionary Manifesto
for the Millenium.* Price £2
available from address overleaf.



GIT OF THE MONTH RACIST TWAT

This month's golden turd award goes to Phil Critchlow, a boss at kitchen and bathroom company Living Design. Racist scumbag, Critchlow advised workers at his Washington based firm not to do business with ethnic minorities. He told his staff that "we don't deal with Paki's, Jews or ethnic minorities. Even if only 2 or 3 refuse to pay it means court cases". It seems Mr Critchlow got it into his thick skull that ethnic minorities complained more about the firm's shoddy goods than other people.

Critchlow's seniors acted quickly to try to limit the bad publicity, only to end up defending him, by refusing to take any action. But while *he* might think it's fine spouting racist nonsense based on ignorance rather than fact, we at *Resistance* take a rather more dim view of such behaviour. Losers like Critchlow need to be taught a good lesson, so why not tell him what you think of his backward ideas by ringing the company's freephone number on **0800 200 777** or in writing to Living Design, 8 Tilley Road, Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington.

It may be too late for crackpot Critchlow, who may find out the hard way - we hear that some locals in his village, Thornley in Durham, intend demonstrating exactly what *they* think of such bigotry - he should take this as a warning!

MARY WHITEHOUSE IN DRAG SHOCKER!

In the last issue of *Resistance* we had a go at a few celebrities, but this time it's the turn of their controllers behind the scenes. Our TV region boasts a man who has been described as a "Mary Whitehouse in Drag", head of Channel 3 North East Bruce Gynell.

In the past he has banned programmes like *The Good Sex Guide*, *Carnal Knowledge* and *God's Gift* purely because they either discuss or joke about sex. This time he went a step further and has banned *Hollywood Lovers* the latest in a series which gives Hollywood's rich a chance to embarrass themselves in front of millions. The first in the series to be banned so as not to corrupt was the issue titled 'The Dating Game', where "a host of stars provide a first hand insight into the tinsel town dating game". Fair enough this kind of TV would probably make most of us puke, but at least let's decide ourselves. There's 8 million people in our region who now get Bruce's choice of viewing, which in this case meant a

repeat of *Whicker's World* aboard the *Orient Express*.

Now we all know TV is used to distort reality by feeding us a sanitised version of events, but this censorship by Gynell shows clearly how our daily information and entertainment is shaped by those in positions of power. If they want to censor us they can, so all the more need for alternative information sources like *Resistance* and the countless others produced to inspire fightback not apathy.

Magnet Defiance Continues

As the Magnet workers battle on 6 months into a strike, pickets and fundraising continue throughout the region. February 14th will see another mass picket outside the firm's Yarm Road Industrial Estate site in Darlington. Newcastle ACF will be joining members from Tyneside Anarchist Group and others in the picket. Anyone interested in joining us on the day should meet at 5.30am outside Central Station in Newcastle where transport is laid on.

TAG EDUCATIONAL

Tyneside anarchists will be hosting an educational day on **Saturday 15th February**, which will include workshops videos and speakers. This would be an ideal introduction to anarchist ideas for those scared off by traditional boring meetings and an opportunity to meet other fellow class warriors. The event will be held at the **Unemployed Centre, 4, The Cloth Market, Newcastle starting at 12pm.**

The day will be rounded off by a social for the Magnet workers later in the evening. Venue details will be announced on the day.

NEWBURY PROTEST HITS QUAYSIDE

Protesters occupied the offices of big shot destruction merchants Mott McDonald, on Newcastle's quayside last month. The action was timed to mark the first anniversary since work began on the Newbury by-pass in Berkshire, of which the company are consultant engineers.

Around 10 people, including a comrade from Tyneside Anarchist Group burst into the building soon after work began to the disbelief the the building's occupants and locked themselves into place. Work was disrupted for several hours as other demonstrators gathered outside with banners. All in all the action was a complete success, with the added bonus that there were no arrests. The action was covered by local TV and the papers adding insult to injury for the firms PR image.

Once again, direct action hits those who would destroy our countryside for profit where it hurts most - in the pocket. To those who took part in the action and annoyed the hell out of Mott McDonald, we say well done!

Footie Fightback

Football fans in Sunderland last month launched their own alternative to bigotry and racism inside Roker Park with a group called Sunderland AFC anti-fascists. The launch came as a result of a recent increase in racial abuse directed at black players from away teams, and stickers from far right groups including C18 appearing around the ground. All this despite Sunderland's own record of having black players on their books such as Howard Gayle, Gary Bennet and Rueben Agboola. The fans aim to root out the racists and kick the fascists out of Roker in the fine tradition of militant anti-fascism in the north east.

Their first activities have been leafleting Sunderland's town centre on match days, which have been fairly well attended. More ambitious actions are planned for the future however. At the moment the group are sharing our address while they sort out other arrangements, and we're only too happy to help them out. Let's kick the misfits out of football once and for all!

Another group currently sharing our PO Box is the newly formed **Justice For Women** - a feminist group who campaign for the release of Women jailed for defending themselves against violent partners. They also give practical aid to women in jail.

ANARCHISTS EXILED

Over recent years many geordie anarchists have moved out of the area for one reason or another - so here's a chance to stay in touch with what's going on in the region. Send stamps or a donation to the address below to receive regular copies of *Resistance*.

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RESISTANCE

No.4 Apr-May '97

election issue . . . election issue . . . election issue . . . election issue . . . election iss

LABOUR? TORY? same old story!

AS THE CAMPAIGN officially got started, Newcastle's prospective candidates kicked off their round of door to door electioneering. Funny that - the last time any of us saw these would be politicians was in 1992, during the *last* election campaign. Remember what they said then? Remember all the improvements they promised?

This time round, and here they are again - promising the world and delivering nothing as we expect them to. It is amazing really - most people we talk to realise that voting is a waste of time, unlikely to make any difference to their lives, and each time we let them get away with it. Whether it's cash for questions, government cover ups or council corruption, politicians, both local and parliamentary prove time and time again that they're only in it for themselves.

They need us

Not content with huge salaries, they want to rub our noses in it by voting themselves a massive payrise, while we are expected to live on slave wages or a crap giro. Meanwhile, the politicians look for scapegoats for the mess they and their rich friends created in the first place: single mums, the unemployed, young people, foreigners, and let rich bastards like Winston Churchill MP cream millions off the National Lottery for a set of old documents that belong to the "tax payer" anyway. Politicians are liars and parasites - They need us, we don't need them.

Taking control

The truth is, whoever wins the election the result is always the same - massive

After months of speculation, the Tories finally announced the date the election will be fought on. The media saw this as a good omen for a Labour victory - MayDay. Ironically, those who struggled to establish the 1st May as a day of international solidarity between working people would be turning in their graves at the farce the date has become. In this issue of *Resistance* we take a look at the politicians, the sleaze, the corruption, the endless ad campaigns and ask: *what difference will any of it make to most people?*

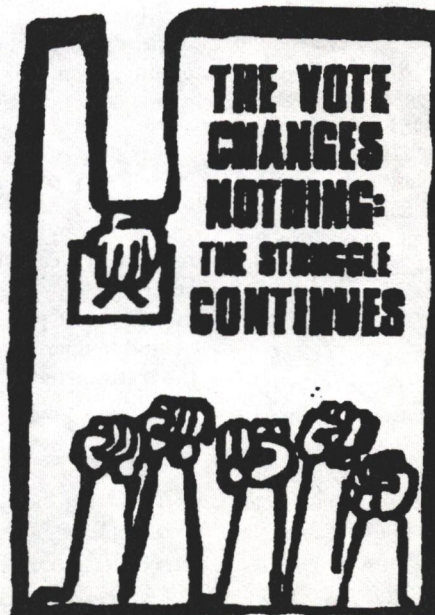
attacks on working class people. Refusing to vote is an act of resistance against those who claim to act in our interests. This on its own however is not enough. Politicians can offer us no solutions, only more of the same. This is because they are part of the problem.

We can start by taking control of our own lives, so we can sort out the mess that they have created - they won't do it for us. We've proved before that we can stop the politicians by Direct Action and we can do it again. The Poll Tax was beaten by mass resistance and a refusal to pay, not by waiting for a miracle from a Labour government. More recently, Direct Action has forced the politicians to massively cut their spending on road building, which is destroying our communities, our

environment and our health. The next government will be the most right wing in living memory, with even more attacks on our class on the agenda. The time for resistance is now.

Resistance is building

People all over the country are realising that voting changes nothing. April 12th sees a march in London which will bring together struggles from all regions including the Magnet workers dispute in Darlington. The message of these diverse struggles, which include environmentalists, strikers, asylum seekers, the unemployed is the same: "take direct action in the streets, in the fields and in the workplace, to halt the destruction and create a direct democracy in a free and ecological society" (Reclaim The Streets).





GIT OF THE MONTH Judge - Mental

Judges tend to wind up most people, more so us at *Resistance*. This issue's git of the month is a top north east judge who seems to be continually making a nuisance of himself. Not content with doing the state's law and order dirty work, he has also got a nasty habit of letting his personal bigotry get the better of him.

Judge Crawford seems to have forgotten that slavery ended (at least in name), and described to an assembled court on Newcastle's quayside how his friends "work like niggers". Not only was the old git racist, but he was also implying that he and his cronies work hard. As if!

The only work this Cambridge-educated toss pot appears to do is to make life difficult for others. In 1992 he was given an official warning for sexually harassing his female staff. Interestingly, his racist remarks were only highlighted because a passer by wandered into the court to kill some time.

Of course, most of us avoid courts like the plague, but it would be interesting to find out what these senile old farts get up to, day in day out. Here at *Resistance* we've already reached our verdicts and are putting on our black caps to pass sentence now (well, ski masks actually).

LABOUR New and Old

BY THE TIME you read this we could well have a Labour government, or be about to get one. The election result seems a formality. Unlike Labour's apologists on the left however, we'll not be celebrating a Labour victory, as we have no illusions about New Labour, and no fond memories of the old one. Although some so-called socialists are having doubts about New Labour, most on the left still cling to the hope that Labour will bring something positive for the British working class. Let's put an end to this nonsense.

"The Labour Party is not a class party, but a National party" so they declared in 1918. There you have it. The reason Labour has never done anything for our class isn't because of "bad" leaders, difficult social conditions etc., but because that's not what the party is about. An example of Labour is their treatment of the dockers, a group who currently require all our support. When Labour came to power in 1945, within 6 days they had sent troops into the London docks to break a strike. They used the troops against the dockers repeatedly, in 1946, 1948 and 1949. Such was old Labour in its socialist

heyday. Just imagine Tony Blair and the rest of the fuckers in the current leadership. This was *before* they nicked the Tories law and order policies.

It is a pipe dream to expect that salvation lies with election of another Labour government. They would do what their predecessors did, and probably a lot worse. The strength of our class lies in self organisation, in the work place and in the community, NOT in the ballot box. Real change can only come through mass direct action, now and at every time. So lets not rejoice or moan about the election. Let's organise for the future!

Alleycat Attacked

Alleycat books co-op, Newcastle's radical book shop was recently spray painted by fascist low lifes. While not exactly major, this is part of a continued campaign.

The most recent attack saw the shop daubed with C-18 logo's and swastikas. This follows two years of attacks while the shop was based in Durham. Alleycat responded "*Fascists thought they could close us in Durham, but instead we moved to larger premises in a larger city. We were not intimidated then and we refuse to be intimidated now*". Good stuff. What's also needed however is support for the shop. The fascists won't close Alleycat, but capitalism can be hard on a non-profit co-op.

The best way to help is to buy from the place. While keeping the shop going, it also helps with our own vastly important education. Incidentally, just around the corner is Thomas Miller's Auctioneers, which is currently trading in Nazi militaria, as current nazi's target Newcastle. They recently sold a black leather Luftwaffe flying suit, which could only excite fetishists, nazis, or a mixture of the two. Also for sale are battle flags, SS arm bands and medals. Obviously we're not surprised that a business has no shame in profiting from this, but who are the people willing to cough up for this junk?

Nukestop!

A convoy carrying nuclear warheads received an unexpected welcome last month as 50 protesters jumped out from behind hedgerows and headed straight for the transporters.

ORGANISE!

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The warheads, each ten times more powerful than the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima, were on the final leg of their journey from Aldermaston in Berkshire and heading for Faslane submarine base on the Clyde in Scotland. These convoys pass dangerously close to Gateshead and Newcastle as they regularly travel to Albermarle barracks in Northumberland for a stopover.



NUCLEAR WAR BALLOT

YES Let's have a nuclear war.
I'm sick of waiting.

NO I'd rather wait a little longer.

You only have one vote.

The welcoming committee locked themselves onto the underside of the lorries while others climbed on top and danced on the roof! The drivers had 2 hours to admire the Northumberland countryside as Ministry of Defence Police became increasingly agitated by the surprise visitors.

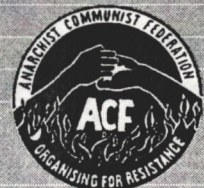
Despite the scale of the action, the longest convoy delay ever, the Police only made 9 arrests for "Breach of the Peace", a bit of a sick joke considering the breach of everyone's peace these weapons of genocide would cause if they were ever used. Nice one!

Coming up . . .

April 12 / 13th: March For Social Justice / Reclaim The Streets. London. Newcastle ACF and others will be at this one. Phone 0191 519 2257 for transport details.

May 1st: Oh dear oh dear. Reclaim MayDay by showing the next government what you think of them. (psst) Spectacular direct action planned - contact PO Box for more info (sshhhh!).

May 3rd: Newcastle Green Fair. Leazes Park. All Day. ACF stall and discussion.





green issue . . . green issue . . . green issue . . . green issue . . . green issue

RESIST or cease to exist!

GREED AND GRAFT IN THE PARK.

THE GREAT AND THE GOOD (ha ha!) continue to bulldoze through football stadium plans for Leazes Park. The new proposal is completely different from the first two ideas they dreamt up, but just as daft. So huge 'temporary' carparks sprinkled with bushes (to make up for the loss of mature woodland and free public green open space) would leave 8,000 spaces short.

The stadium would be as high as Durham Cathedral, and next to the RVI (with the city's only A&E unit) - a monstrosity saddling the area with a traffic nightmare. Building it would need a year's open cast mining with

corresponding pollution. Yet a massive derelict site at Newburn (in the city, on the A1 and railway line etc.) was never even considered.

Sir John Hall may have revitalised the football side of NUFC, but with his business, local media and seedy politician cronies he's poison. In 1991 the 'Green

Knight' decided not to build a golf course at his stately home; in 1992 he pretended the club would go bust if the Benwell training ground wasn't turned into houses. Now they say wrecking Leazes is the only option. All lies! As we said in November, respectable protest (the 'No Business on the Moor' campaign) is all very well, but the legal planning process can't be trusted. Preparing now for direct action is the best way to protect our public space.



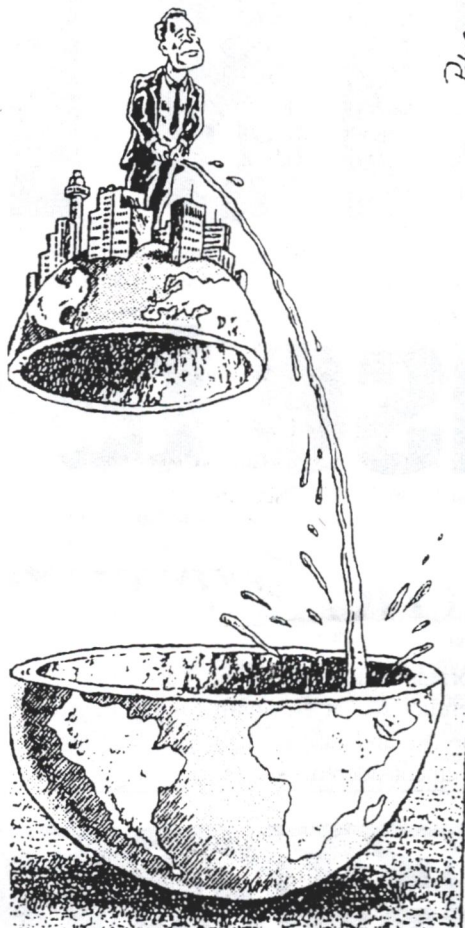
Can Capitalism be Green?

THE LEAD UP TO THE present General election has seen very little debate on 'Green Issues': for the main political parties it seems that the issue of British sovereignty in Europe is of greater importance than the fact that the ten hottest, driest years recorded in Britain have all been in the 1980s and 1990s and that already this year, in April, there are countrywide fears of drought due to, in some areas, less than one fifth of average rainfall.

It would appear that the 'Green challenge' which peaked in the 1980s and led to all the main political parties claiming that they had taken on 'green policies' no longer exists and that perhaps the myth that capitalism can be green has been accepted by the majority of the British electorate. Potentially, awareness of environmental destruction poses an ideological threat to capitalist exploitation of the environment. However, somewhat ironically, the emergence of 'green politics' has served to provide enterprising business with yet a new market: that of the educated middle-class consumer who has sufficient a conscience to wish to buy 'environmentally friendly' products. Companies such as the 'Body Shop' mushroomed in size as this lucrative new market was tapped for all it was worth, with many supermarkets, hardly the 'greenest' of organizations, setting up re-cycling centres on their premises in order to appeal to this new 'green consumer'.

Myth

The idea that capitalism can be greened is undoubtedly a myth. To this date, the most significant attempt by capitalist states to address the issues of global environmental destruction was the so-called 'Earth Summit' held in Rio a few years ago. Although there were high hopes for the conference at the outset, what was actually produced at the end of twenty years of preparation was pitiful. 'Agenda 21', for example, contains a few useful points about the imperative of recycling and regulation of waste emissions, yet it came with no legal obligation for companies to act on its suggestions and, of course, required funding in order to be seriously put into affect which was not forthcoming. Another proposal on the preservation of 'biodiversity' (to protect plant and animal diversity) was not signed by representatives of the most powerful economy in the world, the USA, as this would pose a potential threat to the practices of Trans-National corporations



(TNCs: 500 of which control around 80% of world trade and investment). Although 110 countries signed the proposal on global warming, which also carried an undertaking to give the plan legal teeth, capitalist economic rationale still came into play: whilst scientists were recommending an instant reduction of 60% of greenhouse gasses, the proposal only attempted to reduce levels by the year 2000 to the level of emissions in 1990! (Something similar happened in 1987 with the Montreal Protocol which agreed on the halving of dangerous CFC gasses by the year 2000, yet scientists had argued that an immediate reduction of 85% was necessary if the Ozone layer was to have

any chance of recovering.) Other proposals at the Earth Summit, such as that on desertification, went the same way. The TNCs were well organised, lobbying the richer nations to ensure they did nothing that would potentially limit their profits, with a consortium of top TNC representatives having special access to the Secretary General of the Summit. Many 'greens' were severely disappointed by the sham that was the Earth Summit. Those who understood the nature of capitalism a little better realised that there could have been no other outcome and that the interests of capitalism will always come before those of working people and their environment.

Debts

Perhaps one of the most graphical cases of capitalism causing and promoting in a very obvious manner massive destruction of global resources is that of Brazil (and much of what is true for Brazil is equally true for the rest of the globe.) The institutions of international capitalism, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have been insisting that Brazil repays them \$120 billion that it owes. These institutions have the power to impose 'structural adjustment' policies which force the debtor countries to open up their natural resources to TNCs, as well as forcing their economies to export cheap raw materials in order to make 'hard' foreign cash in order to service their debts. In Brazil's case this merely leads to

production for profit and not for need means that at present there exists an incredibly wasteful system that seeks to maximise consumption at the expense of all else.

the increasing rape of that beautiful and priceless world treasure, the Amazonian basin, which provides hardwoods for export and land to grow luxury cash crops for Western markets such as coffee and cocoa. However, the cancellation of debts would not solve this problem: companies involved in Brazil, as

elsewhere, have no intention what so ever of preserving what represents to them an immense resource from which massive profits can be extracted. Within Brazil itself, a tiny class of powerful landowners reap in their share of the benefits of this destruction: the richest one percent of Brazilian landowners own fifteen times as much land as the poorest 56%, with 20 million people owning no land at all on which to subsist.

Growth

At the Earth Summit, US President George Bush made the incredible statement that: 'environmental protection and a growing economy are inseparable'. What he should have said, if he had wanted to be truthful, was that the concepts of 'economic growth' and environmental protection are absolutely incompatible. John Major was closer to the mark with his line that 'money is the root of all progress', although he perhaps should have added to the end of this sentence the words 'towards environmental Armageddon'.

Green Party

All this seriously throws into question the policies, and indeed very existence of the 'Green Party'. The Green Party stands for many 'radical' policies. For example, it talks of the need for 'zero growth' and to make local economies as self-sufficient as possible in order to minimise the need for wasteful transportation of goods. All fine in theory, but the Green Party is under the serious illusion that these things can be achieved by being elected to government and within the present capitalist economic system. Firstly, the British Parliament, even with the political will, simply does not have the power to challenge both national and international capitalism in this way. Such a challenge requires that, in a period when capital is becoming truly global, this international trend be reversed. This would undoubtedly destroy British business's profitability in the global market and for this reason would be opposed by all the forces of the State, as well as many workers, fearful for their jobs and livelihoods.

Expand or Die

Moreover, the concept of 'zero growth' capitalism is a nonsense. Every company has to grow, produce greater profits and expand into new markets or it will be crushed by its competitors in the global market place: this is the first law of the capitalist system. It is evident that capitalism cannot ever be greened: the imperative of maximising profits will always come before anything else, and production for profit and not for need means that at present there exists an incredibly wasteful system that seeks to maximise consumption at the expense of all else. It is clear, then, that if we want to create a truly green system, capitalism is a non-starter. It must be eliminated on an international scale, and this can only occur by means of an international social revolution. Only then, when production is controlled by all and is for need and not profit can human beings live in a manner which is in harmony with their world. The sooner greens realise this and become revolutionaries, the better for the planet and the human race.

Roads To Nowhere

SINCE THE BEGINNINGS of the anti-roads protests at Twyford Down, the movement has grown in size and importance with the most recent campaigns at Newbury last year and in Devon this year (with the word 'Swampy' coming into extensive media use) attracting much media coverage and public support. With the recent march for Social Justice held in London, it would appear that sections of the anti-road movement are coming to realise that their struggle is interconnected with the struggles of others who find themselves victims of the profit system. And with good reason. A valid criticism of anti-roads movement in the past was that it failed to criticise or even attempt to understand the underlying causes of the phenomenon that it was opposing, thus rendering it less effective than it could have been.

New roads are not just the inevitable consequences of 'progress'. They are both a political and economic response to the imperative of maximising the transportability of goods and services in what is becoming an increasingly global capitalist market. All capitalist governments need to provide for the fast movement of both goods and services and people (either as workers or consumers.) Thus, whilst capitalism and the tendency towards globalisation exist (and you can't have one without the other,) so will threats to our already severely developed country continue to exist.

Railways

At the outset of the road building programme, many argued that it would have been cheaper, less environmentally damaging and more effective to invest in more railways. A good example of this was the M11 in East London. Here it would have cost a tenth of the money, not lead to the destruction of huge numbers of houses and been less environmentally polluting if there had been an updating of the

tube line in the area. Millions of pounds were 'invested' in knocking 5 minutes off the journey time of commuters. Clearly, other factors were at work. The roads lobby of

union power as they had the potential to freeze the economy, if most transportation of goods was done by rail. In order to destroy this supposed threat, the railway was



deliberately run down and subsequently privatised in a further attempt to weaken the unions whilst the roads programme mushroomed.

Profit System

It is clear that the kind of destruction that is brought about by roads development is an inherent part of the system in which we live, the system that puts profit before all else: in this case our safety,

construction companies, car companies, the AA and RAC (all good donors to, surprise, surprise, the Tory party) certainly plays a major part in these decisions. For capitalism, cars are simply far more profitable than trains: one train does the job of 1,000 cars or 150 lorries.

There were also other more directly political factors stemming from Mad Thatchers' paranoid fear of unions. Investment in the railways was being deliberately cut down: the rail unions were seen as the last bastion of

health and our environment. Whilst it is important to resist as much as possible the development of more roads and argue for a sensible 'public transport' alternative, all anti-roads protesters must understand that ultimately it is the profit system that is the driving force of this and other environmental destruction and that ultimately it is the profit system that needs to be removed. We are not to continue fighting rearguard actions which, against the power of the state and the interests of the bosses, we cannot win.

REVIEW: WHERE THERE'S BRASS THERE'S MUCK.

£1 published by the ACF

This new 60 page pamphlet, subtitled 'Ecology and Anarchism', presents an Anarchist-Communist analysis of the ecological crisis. The four main areas covered are the ruling classes' response to environmental concerns, ideas and technology, green politics and ecology and class.

In essence it argues that ecological analysis needs to be part of a wider class analysis, suggesting that both are inter-related and equally important. In coming to this conclusion links between class conflict, ecology and technology are examined. On the one hand working-class history is explored to show why environmental destruction is occurring on a massive scale, who wins and who loses, and how workers have fought this. On the other hand, fundamental capitalist ideas are challenged, particularly those which support the ideology behind the plunder of natural resources. The book goes into Darwin and other intellectuals, while the Luddites get a sympathetic hearing.

Some of the issues are familiar like car usage and road building, but others such as the critique of the 'New World Order', show how far apart ecological harmony and capitalism are. Simply, it's one or the other. Capitalism can be reformed in numerous ways but its ideology and hierarchical organisation can never produce a society of equal humans, never mind animals and the environment.

From this then, the pamphlet explains the alternatives, asking 'is "Lifestylism" Enough?', before introducing the US Green Anarchist and 'Monkeywrenchers'. Finally, we are given a vision of the revolutionary alternative. 'We need to take direct control of every aspect of our lives through the social revolution: collectively seizing control of the land, workplaces and streets, and sharing decisions, work and wealth - deciding what is produced and how, dissolving the divisions between home, work and play, people and the rest of nature'.

WHERE THERE'S BRASS
THERE'S MUCK
ECOLOGY AND ANARCHISM



A N A R C H I S T
C O M M U N I S T
F E D E R A T I O N

The Clousden Hill Colony - the story of Newcastle's first anarchist communists

THE IDEA OF THE 'common people' reclaiming the land is an idea which has inspired countless fighters against injustice over the centuries, perhaps the most well known being the Diggers during the English civil war in the seventeenth century. That same vision is seen today in campaigns such as "The Land Is Ours", where protesters have squatted pieces of land, as with the Guinness owned site on London's south bank last year, which, for a brief period, gave some example as to how a future society might function: sustainable communities co-existing with the environment rather than exploiting it.

Today's experiments share remarkable similarities with schemes which developed towards the end of the last century, one of which was created here in Newcastle at Forest Hall. Inspired by Russian anarchist Peter Kropotkin's book *The Conquest of Bread*, Frank Kapper an anarchist exile from Europe, assembled a group around him with the intention of acquiring a piece of land which they might use "to underpin a society based upon village and town communes". Their stated aim was to "demonstrate the superiority of free communist association as against the competitive production of today" - and this was in 1895!. Though each person was expected to contribute something, "No fixed working hours would be set [because they] believe that, considering these new conditions, each one will do his best, and work according to his abilities, physically or otherwise".

Difficult start

Though committed, the first years were to be very difficult for the colonists. Subsistence proved to be highly labour intensive. Despite using more scientific methods, the limited numbers coupled with poor land and the inexperience of land and livestock management, did little to advance their plans and spread their ideas. By 1897, however "an air of prosperity was apparent on the farm". The colony by now had established itself as a promising example of what people could do given the right conditions. The paper *Freedom* described the venture as "one of the most hopeful undertakings that has ever been seen in these islands". As its reputation grew, so did its numbers. By the summer of 1897 the colony "was flooded with more members than it could maintain". Furthermore, some of these new entrants, such as Danish gardener Harry Rasmussen sought to convert the colony into a straightforward co-operative venture, which implied a move away from its original aims.

Problems

Problems were to persist, and antagonisms were soon fired between the original members and the new recruits. Kapper dismissed unfavourable reports in the anarchist press however and continued his efforts to defend the principles upon which the colony was founded. The strains were to become too much for Kapper however, and towards the end of the year he found himself forced to leave. By early 1898, all the founding members had left, enabling Harry Rasmussen long with others such as Frank Starr, to convert the colony into a straightforward business enterprise, being renamed the Clousden Hill Co Operative Nurseries Company Ltd. The company struggled on for several more years lapsing from debt to debt, but by the early years of the new century the company was to declare itself bankrupt. As for Kapper, he was to move away from the area, but he never fully gave up his dream of establishing a self sufficient commune with principles founded upon freedom and independence.

Lessons

What then can we learn from such experiments? The first and most important lesson is that on their own, colonies, communes, or whatever one chooses to call them cannot operate on their own in isolation. They cannot exist *outside* of society however much the members might like them to. Scarce resources, limited goals and the daily realities of capitalism: bills, rents, intimidation etc. etc. all combine to ensure that at best such projects are marginalised or at worst crushed. As an example of how we all *could* live it does little to address how most of us live at the moment.

If we are to truly try to change our world, for the benefit of *all* people, we have to work within our own communities, and seek to build resistance in the here and now. Examples are useful in giving people ideas, but they are all too often viewed as being exclusive and elitist, not to mention highly impractical for many people's lives.

Furthermore, it takes people away from the point of struggle and uses up much of the energy that could be put to better use in joining with others to fight back. In a world that at present is in danger from catastrophe caused by capitalism, it could be said that such schemes can only hinder and confuse the ways we should be tackling this rotten system. Choosing the wrong path to proceed along could prove to be a very costly mistake indeed.

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RESISTANCE

No.5 Jun-July '97

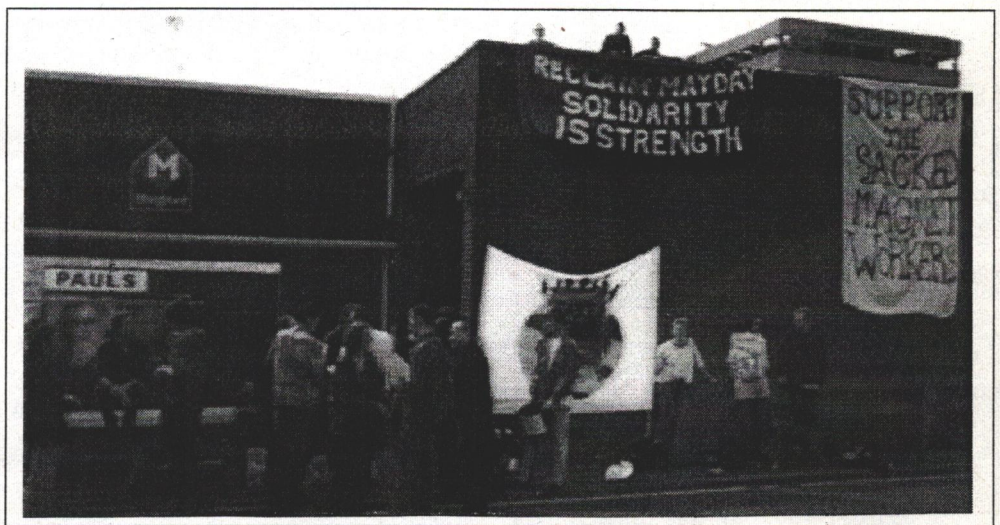
MAYDAY MAYHEM!

Magnet furious as protesters stage rooftop demo

SUPPORTERS OF THE SACKED MAGNET WORKERS from Darlington had the company in a fury last month as they occupied the forecourt of their Newcastle showroom as others took to the roof. The protesters chose May Day to send a double whammy to the bosses at Magnet and to the New Labour government with the message that Direct Action is here to stay.

Around 50 people gathered, including a delegation of the sacked workers to celebrate May Day traditional style. While the roof group draped banners over the side of the building, others on the ground explained to motorists and passers by the reason for the action. It is now 10 months since 300 workers walked out of the plant in a pay dispute. Management refused to negotiate and added that anyone returning to work must break their ties with their respective unions. Defiantly, they stood together and last September, Magnet sacked the lot.

As the red faced boss at the store in George Street looked on helpless, the demonstrators chanted and sang, with those on the roof releasing red and black balloons onto the crowd below. TV and press reporters turned up to



find out what was happening, while a couple of musicians added to the fun.

ISA

Later on that day, the group walked en masse into the main Job Centre at New Croft House in town in an action against the Job Seekers Allowance. Fearing a repeat of last years May Day office occupation of the managers office, the staff wasted no time in getting on the phone to the cops, who ran down to the dole office from nearby Market Street police station. Luckily (for them) the demonstrators left not long afterwards, not wanting to add to the hassle of claimants waiting to be seen at the office. The message had been taken though: We can and will take action whenever WE decide against attacks on our jobs or our

benefits be it from bosses or politicians.

Common Struggles

The actions demonstrated the fact that ordinary people do have the power to change things themselves, even if the result of their efforts isn't immediately apparent. Dates such as May Day are important in claiming back the proud tradition of resistance by working people. But rather than purely celebrating our history, as important as that is, it is a day to unite our common struggles which are as important, if not more so, than those of previous generations. To everyone who took part in the day and continued this tradition we say nice one!

OUT NOW...

BEYOND RESISTANCE: A Revolutionary Manifesto for the Millenium £2
Where There's Brass There's Muck. Ecology and Anarchism £1
Both available from address overleaf



GIT OF THE MONTH SCABBY SCUM

There was no contest over this month's chosen scumbags, to receive the "Git" award. While on the picket line at the Magnet plant on Sunday 25th May, 7 shady looking characters pulled up in a taxi, jumped out and started to attack the few pickets who were assembled there.

The incident occurred at around 11.20pm (after the pubs had shut and presumably where these arseholes had just been). Not happy with attacking the strikers, they proceeded to turn over a portacabin and set fire to the furniture which the folks had been using to make 24 hour pickets a little more comfortable. They then jumped back into their taxi and scurried off.

Now call us cynical if you like, but this incident bears all the hallmarks of something more planned than a few pissed up jobs thinking they'd have a bit of fun. Tactics like this have been used in the past by those who have a bit more at stake by workers striking than most people, and it wouldn't surprise us if someone had paid them to intimidate the strikers off the picket line. At the very least the blame can be leveled at some of the scabs at the plant, who most people think are responsible.

The one thing which is certain is that this incident has only made the strikers more resolute than ever. If dirty tactics are starting to be used, then we have a few of our own. We're sure Magnet and their shady henchmen would be inflamed to discover what they are. Know what we mean?

Black Panther in Newcastle

Former Black Panther and now community activist Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin came to Newcastle last month as part of his speaking tour of the UK and Europe. Lorenzo spent 15 years in prison for hijacking a plane to Cuba in 1969 in an attempt to escape the notorious US Counter Intelligence

Programme (Cointelpro) of the late 60s and an FBI "shoot to kill" order targeting Lorenzo and other militants of the Black Power movement.

Since his release he has worked in his home town of Chattanooga as a community organiser and has travelled extensively promoting the ideas of autonomous self organised communities predominantly in black working class areas of the states. As author of *Anarchism and the Black Revolution*, Lorenzo spoke about his life and his activities to a public meeting at the unemployed centre in town. During the course of the day, Lorenzo exchanged experiences with activists in Newcastle which seemed to be useful for everyone concerned. A full transcript of an interview with Lorenzo can be obtained by sending an SAE to the address below.

CAMERA SHY

It's not just the folks at *Resistance* who are wary of Closed Circuit TV Cameras (CCTV). It seems residents in Newcastle's west end have a few criticisms of their own. What's more theirs is an estate held up as an example of the effectiveness of CCTV schemes.

Scotswood was the first estate in the country to get this type of system at a cost of over £170,000, but although crime has dropped this doesn't give the full picture. What has been revealed is that crime has fallen in the areas monitored by cameras, only to be displaced to the other half of the estate. It appears plans are underway to install a CCTV system in the remaining half of the estate, pushing the total cost to over £300,000. No doubt crime will be pushed to surrounding areas which will then be lumbered with cameras. Before long every activity in the area will be recorded for use by cops and soft-cops.

Of course now that the decisions have been made and acted upon we hear that the residents in Scotswood don't even want the system. A Scotswood resident suggested "the £170,000 allocated to the other half would be better spent on re-lighting, because it would be a real benefit, in making people feel safe and reducing levels of crime".

This is just another example of people working out their own solutions to the problems facing them daily, in this case a less intrusive and cheaper option.

DSS get physical (again)

Following up on our report in *Resistance* No.2 on how Benefits Agency tests had disabled a woman suffering from a spinal condition; it seems that staff have been ordered to get people off incapacity benefits: by killing them! (well nearly).

Last month 59 year old Ralph Melville was rushed to hospital after collapsing in front of staff at Arden House in Gosforth. He had been appealing against their decision to stop his Incapacity Benefit after they declared him fit for work despite having suffered minor heart attacks and suffering from angina and arthritis of the spine.

Staff were more concerned with asking if he could lift a bag of potatoes rather than if going back to work could kill him. As he got out his medication during the test, his interviewer started laughing! An ambulance was only called after Mr Melville appealed for one. If this is the shape of things to come then it is clear that we need to be organised to take action. On our own, we can be victimised, but together we stand a better chance of defending the precious little we have left of welfare rights. **If you have been treated unfairly by the Benefits Agency contact the Unemployed Action Group on 0191 222 0299.**

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