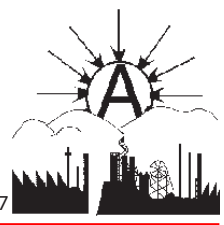


**FREE!**

# WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Twenty three years of Irish Anarchist News

Number 100 November - December 2007



## Kilkenny Woman Sentenced To Death

**“If Bertie Ahern or Mary Harney or Michael McDowell were within reach I would have killed them.”**

In Ireland we like to think that we’ve long ago abolished the death penalty; that we’ve progressed beyond such primitive practices, that we’re too civilized for that. But Irish people are still being sentenced to death, and not even for crimes they have committed but for the crimes of our murderous health system. Long waiting lists, unhygienic hospitals, downgrading of regional hospitals, are all symptoms of a rotten institution that refuses to reform.

The case of Susie Long has demonstrated this unquestionably. Ms Long died of treatable bowel cancer, because a late diagnosis due to long waiting lists prevented the cancer being treated on time. When challenged about Ms Long’s death our dear leader had the gall to declare that the system had failed Ms Long and sympathised with her family. This is the same Taoiseach who has presided over ten years of havoc in the health system. The same Taoiseach who appointed Mary Harney as Minister for Health. The same Taoiseach who has said nothing about the Health Service recruitment freeze which has resulted in staff layoffs around the country.

Susie Long was killed by a government that would rather pump money into the private sector than grant nurses a pay rise; that would buy beds for VHI while patients sleep on trolleys, that fires medical staff while we have the longest waiting lists in Europe. The root of this madness is the two tiered system that guarantees better healthcare for those who can afford to pay for it and leaves the rest with substandard service. Quality healthcare should be a universal right, it’s time that we stood up and demanded it.



## Keeping House Prices Sky High

The self-congratulatory waffle of business fat cats, the press and politicians continues even though we are hearing a lot less about the “Celtic Tiger”. After almost fifteen years of economic boom we are able to look around and think about what we are left with. Access to decent and affordable housing, one of

the most fundamental issues effecting working class people, is an impossibility for many of us. For most young people growing up in Ireland today the possibility of owning a house is outside our reach and keeps us at the mercy of rack renting landlords.

[Continued inside...](#)

# The New Era in the 'North'?

## Working class fight back

While Martin McGuinness was flying off to 'sell' the North to American investors with promises of low corporation tax, we were in the midst of wee bit of class war with classroom assistants and posties taking action to defend their interests against 'the new era' of the bosses.

In the meantime, water charges are still coming through the backdoor by being added to our council rates despite the politicians' promises made at the last election. Obviously lobbying government isn't going to get us anywhere; mass non-payment is the only possible tactic if we want to defeat their plans.

House prices continue to soar and slum landlords and private developers continue to ransack and plunder our communities under the spin of 'social regeneration'. Over the last couple of months residents in the Village area of South Belfast have taken a bit of direct action, including threatening blockades in order to force the Government to deliver on election time promises to improve housing.

Local residents in Andytown are also fighting back, forcing the Carvill Group (supported by the Department of Social Development) to pull out of their 'yuppie' development plans on the former site of Andytown Barracks. The 'Stop the Sell-Off' campaign is open to anyone who agrees with opposition to the sell-off of public lands

for private development and demands a new, inclusive and binding public consultation. Their activities have included petitioning, protests, surveys of local opinion on what the site should be used for and a 'reclaim the site' day which espoused everything the private developers are against.

As we enter into the 'New Era' we will see plenty more of these 'yuppie' development plans and privatisation schemes called 'Private Finance Initiatives' and 'Public Private Partnerships' designed to rip us off while lining the pockets of property barons.

We must take inspiration from these housing struggles as it's our job to organise where we live and work to expose these ugly sites; at the end of the day political parties are part of the problem rather than the solution and petitions won't do the trick most of the time.

As anarchists, we'd like to see all housing become social housing, collectively owned and maintained by communities, so that individuals and families can have homes to live in without spending half their working week to pay for rent to landlords, service charges to PFI companies or mortgages to the banks.

This means defending what's left of social and low-cost housing in the short term, and trying to build up networks of tenants' and residents' groups that can take control away from private companies, landlords, and the state in



the long term.

When people talk about communal ownership of property, they often think that anarchists want to steal someone's nice house away from them and fill it with dirty squatters. That's not the case, we think everyone should be able to live in a decent level of comfort, but no-one should be able to live off the labour of others.

Communal ownership of housing would allow for people to take control over their own homes, existing owner-occupiers would be able to keep their houses without paying out tens of thousands to banks, and the only people who'd lose out would be the capitalists and landlords shafting everyone else at the moment, but even they'd have somewhere to live!

Sean Matthews



# A High Price For A Lot Of Hot Air

With a review of our environmental policy coming up at November's WSM national conference, Mark Malone joins the debate on climate change, with the controversial idea that the Corrib gasfield should not be exploited.

In the last issue of Workers Solidarity ([wsm.ie/story/2829](http://wsm.ie/story/2829)) I looked at how the causes of climate changes are deeply embedded in the economic and social structures controlled by the rich few. The increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being pumped into our atmosphere are primarily caused by the capitalist model of 'economic growth' and its accompanying miseries for millions around the planet.

Capitalism and those who benefit from it retain the wealth, yet the environmental consequences are externalised. Nowhere is this more apparent than with the ongoing, and as yet unforeseen, effects of climate change. Those who suffer the most from this degradation of our planet, are those who contribute least to the problem, whilst those who are responsible, the petrochemical and mining industries and the political parties they fund, suffer the least.

This is seen both in Rosspoint today and right across the global south for generations. The reality of latest figures from the International Panel on Climate Change suggest that the only way to mitigate climate change is the move to zero carbon emitting societies as soon as possible. Only this, alongside massive moves to remove existing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere offers a possibility of avoiding the worst consequences of climate change.

However it is right now, the time when it is most urgent to act, that multinationals and governments are stalling and fighting genuine attempts to bring necessary changes. Nowhere is this clearer than the area of pollution trading. Instead of tackling this problem as an issue of social justice and sustainability, governments across the globe, at the behest of petrochemical lobbying dollars, have introduced something called carbon trading.

If you read about it, you'd be forgiven for thinking that it's extremely complicated, and perhaps best left to the 'professionals'. That's exactly what they want us to think. At its core, carbon trading is about privatising the air we breathe. It puts a price not just on a tonne of pollution, but ultimately on human lives. No prizes for guessing who's life is worth more under this plan.

## New Report Slams Irish Prisons

A report by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has found that conditions in several Irish prisons are extremely unsafe.

It reported that in Mountjoy, Limerick Prison and St Patrick's in particular a high level of violence and intimidation between prisoners is the norm. It stated that the principal causes for this violence are a high level of drug use as well as a lack of purposeful activity for prisoners. The problems are only likely to get worse over the next few years as the number of drug gang members in prison increases.

The government's response has only been to increase the screening of visitors to the jail to try and prevent drug smuggling rather than doing anything about the conditions that cause violence in prisons. The Irish prisons have appalling condi-

The most polluting companies across the globe, including in Ireland, are being given our tax money, for free, to trade 'carbon emissions'. So, for example, Shell can continue to pump out carbon dioxide from its polluting refineries by 'buying', with our money, a new forest plantation in Minas Gerais in Brazil, that supposedly soaks up the same amount of carbon.

However, whilst it is relatively easy to calculate the pollution Shell is pumping out, it is mathematically impossible to calculate to amount of carbon dioxide this new plantation will soak up, so you can't match like with like, never mind put a price on it. But the situation gets even worse.

Whilst the pollution companies throw will be in the atmosphere for good, this is not true of the carbon held in the plantation if and when the trees are felled. Not often mentioned is that for these plantations to be grown across the global south, local communities are forced off their land. When they resist they are met with the brutal power of capitalism, the police and military.

It is these struggles that we must link up with in order to build alliances to effect real change in how our world is run. We don't have to look as far as the global south to see the brutal use of state forces, funded by our taxes, against a small local community viewed as irrelevant by both government and multinationals. Is that not what has been happening in Rosspoint, west Mayo for the past 6 years?

It could be argued that the local community and environmental and social justice activists from across the country and beyond should be getting free 'carbon credits' or the cash equivalent for resisting plans by Shell and the Irish state to build an onshore refinery.

By their direct actions, they are slowing down, and will hopefully stop, the carbon dioxide that Shell intend to pump into the local skies. By disrupting the building of the refinery at the Bellinaboy site they are actively tackling a major cause of climate change.

What do they receive for their courageous actions? Trumped up charges, police aggression, and media portrayal as anti-progress, whilst the truth gets trampled under the batons and boots of 'public order'. We live in a monolithic centralised fossil fuel driven society. Converting fossil fuels to marketable energy, e.g. electricity and heating gas, is highly centralised.

tions; they're dingy, unhygienic and are severely overcrowded. Not only that, but a massive number of Irish prisoners have histories of addiction problems and severe mental health issues.

A report by the Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine found that 60% of female and 35% of male prisoners had suffered from a psychological illness in their lives, 65% and 80% had a drug or alcohol disorder in the previous six months and 40% and 25% had committed self harm. These problems cannot be dealt with by the prison services; their usual response is to hold someone in solitary 'observation cells', a treatment that often does more harm than good.

While the government likes to talk tough about 'fighting crime' what they really mean is fighting criminals and ignoring



Protesters at this year's Climate Camp in the UK

A handful of multinational corporations such as Shell, and BP extract non-renewable finite fuels (coal, gas, oil, uranium) that are turned to electricity by another handful of corporations. It simultaneously puts power, quite literally, in the hands of a few.

Mitigating climate change in a genuine and meaningful way means that this centralisation of power needs to be broken down, and replaced with control by the majority, expressed through social ownership and workers' control. Our anarchist goal offers us the possibility of re-imagining our communities being organised with accountable democracy and participation. That can't be achieved without overthrowing capitalism.

But that is not to say that nothing can be achieved without a revolution. We can force concessions from the state and bosses when we build a movement big enough to be a force that has to be reckoned with. When the balance of forces is in our favour we do it regularly (wage claims, stopping the Carnsore nuclear stations, etc.).

We will do what we can to limit the damage capitalism does, but we also know that no real and permanent solution is possible until the profit motive is replaced with decisions being

made by the vast majority in the interests of the vast majority. That is what anarchist revolution means.

[www.carbonradewatch.org](http://www.carbonradewatch.org)  
[www.thecornerhouse.org.uk](http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk)

Slaving your life away just so you can make ends meet; having no say in the major decisions that affect your life; criminal politicians and businessmen plundering the country. Try to do something about it and they'll lock you up. Yes..



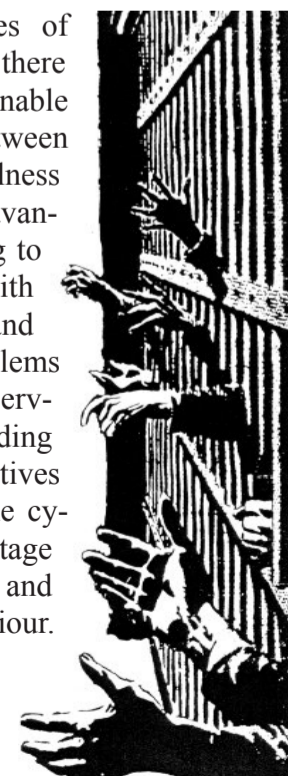
Figures published in September by the Revenue Commissioners in the 26 Counties show that the top 50 earners in the state each paid less than 5% tax.

Britain may be a richer country than 10 years ago but the gap between the rich and poor has reached levels not seen since more than 40 years ago. Government figures show that the richest 10% of the population control more than 53% of wealth, with the 1% mega-rich controlling no less than 21%.

Back in the 1970s the average American chief executive typically took home 40 times the wage of his average employee, he now pockets 170 times that of his typical minion.

Less than half the pledges made by the government during the 2002 election were ever fully acted on, just 48%. That's the finding of Trinity College political scientists Robert Thompson and Rory Costello.

Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim, who is estimated to be worth an estimated \$67.8 billion has overtaken Bill Gates as the world's richest person. In Mexico a small elite holds most of the country's wealth while about half the population lives on less than \$5 a day.



Ronan McHugh

# The Birthday Cake Is Ready, The Candles Are Lit

This is the 100th issue of Workers Solidarity. Why do we bother? After all, nobody gets paid for writing, or doing layout, or stuffing envelopes, or putting copies through neighbours' letterboxes, or giving them out at union meetings or in city centres.

Well, we are sick and tired of a system that won't provide us with decent health care, or economic security, or affordable housing. We are sick and tired of a system that pays farmers in one country not to grow food while people in another country starve to death, a system that spends billions on weapons of mass destruction but won't cough up to keep people alive.

There is nothing natural about this. A small group (let's call them the capitalist or ruling class) makes all the big decisions, and do so in their own interests. The vast majority of us (working people and our dependents) create the wealth and run the services, but the bosses are in control and constantly try to maximize their wealth and power at our expense. One class rules, the other obeys.

## PAT KENNY SAYS NO

We think we have a better idea of how society could be run, and how change can be achieved. We are anarchists, we want a stateless and classless socialist society where people can participate directly in making decisions that will effect them, where there is no division into rulers and ruled, where freedom will enjoy no limit except that the freedom of others is not interfered with.

So how do we get more people interested in this? The Late Late Show won't have us on the panel every Friday night, the Independent won't give us coverage, the media are not overly generous in their coverage of anarchists!

We decided to publish a paper to explain our ideas and link them to people's concerns. Over the years we have been an 8 page monthly, a 20 page quarterly, a tabloid size and, for the last seven years, a free bi-monthly. Our circulation, which started at 1,000, is now 8,000. It's a drop in the ocean but it's a slightly bigger drop these days. And all funded out of the pockets of WSM members, who donate between 2% and 5% of their income to support the organisation's work.

## NOT A SINGLE FREE DVD

Over the years we have covered important struggles like the Dunnes Stores strike against apartheid, the anti-war movement, the fight for abortion

rights, the battle against sectarianism and imperialism in the North, the successful non-payment campaign which defeated the water tax, and much more.

We didn't give away free DVDs but did put cash into some pockets. Back in 1984 there was an EU directive that unemployed married women should get the same dole as men. The difference was about a fiver a week (worth about €30 today). The government dragged its feet and then told nobody that they were entitled to claim the difference for the years the government waited before changing the law.

Workers Solidarity stepped in and printed a claim form you could fill out and hand in when signing on. That issue was a big seller at the women's labour exchanges (yes, they even segregated the dole in the good old days!), and eventually a lot of women received their back money.

## SNOW JOKE

One story that still raises a smile was not hugely political, it was a short report from the long and bitter British miners' strike of 1984/85: "The police at Wath in the north of England got what was coming to them for spoiling the fun of the pickets.

"Miners built a snowman, and to give it the final touch placed a toy policeman's helmet on its head. A right swine of a Superintendent did his nut. He ordered the pickets to remove the helmet.

"On being told to sod off he jumped into his landrover and drove at the snowman. Only to find it had been built around a thick concrete post."

## THE VALIUM OF THE PEOPLE

Back home, Ireland was being plagued by moving statues. Dozens of them were roaming around the place but, strangely, only visible to those who wanted to see them. It kicked off Ballinaspittle, Co. Cork, where "they take their religion seriously, and evidently, so does God. So much so that he's taken to moving statues as a sign to the masses that... well, that he exists.

"What other possible reason could he have for shifting lumps of concrete about, which is probably the most unproductive act imaginable. After all, with 56,000 children under the age of 12 dying every day from starvation, even a hour long miracle to save 2,333 of them from their pitiful death would surely be enough to convince even the most hardened cynic that yes, God really does exist.

"People will understandably flock in their coachloads to see for themselves and be reassured that in a world blighted with war, poverty, disease, starvation and brutality as well as incredible wealth and riches... God still cares..."

"And so the dope pushing Bishops, from the splendour of their palaces will continue to supply the valium to the masses until the masses begin to rise up (for it is written in the prophecies that sooner or later they will rise up) and realise they don't need the valium at all, and how on earth did anyone ever fall for that moving statues craze."

Workers Solidarity has been very involved in the struggle to challenge clerical power and has given extensive coverage to the pro-choice movement, the successful campaigns for divorce and contraception, and exposing church protection of pedophile priests. We continue to be one of the growing number of voices saying that abortion should be a choice for women.

## ON THE WAY

The anarchist movement in Ireland is growing. We were able to bring 4,000 to an explicitly libertarian and anti-capitalist march when the EU heads of state visited in 2004. Other anarchist groups have come into existence (like the Revolutionary AnarchaFeminist Group in Dublin and the Belfast-based Organise!), you are more likely these days to run into an anarchist at your union or community group meeting, as well as at a Shell 2 Sea protest, or an Old Head of Kinsale mass trespass.

This year we saw the doubling in size of the Cork WSM branch, the formation of new branches in Dublin, a distribution for Workers Solidarity which now includes Armagh, Cork, Derry, Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Limerick, Sligo, Wexford and Wicklow. We have a long way to go, and we know there are no shortcuts to a genuine social revolution, but the route has been mapped and the first steps taken.

If you would like to help increase the circulation of anarchist ideas we can send you 20 (or more) copies of Workers Solidarity to give to friends, put through neighbours' letterboxes, or hand out at events. Just write (or email [wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.ie](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.ie)) with your address and tell us how many copies to send. And when you are finished with this copy why not recycle by leaving it somewhere others can read it, at work, on the bus, in the café or the doctor's waiting room.

Joe King



## Thinking About Anarchism:

# NATIONALISATION

What should happen to the €51bn gasfield off Rosspoint? Let Shell keep it and let the fat cats get fatter? Try to make Bertie's government nationalise it and use the wealth for our benefit?

At a time when the dominant economic thought is to privatise everything in sight, it would take quite some pressure to make them nationalise anything, let alone something they handed over (in return for a 'dig out?') to a mammoth multinational. A lot more than petitions, publicity stunts, and a few marches would be required. We are looking at tens of thousands on the streets, probably some civil disobedience and maybe even selective strike action.

So, it would take a large and assertive movement, with very widespread support to force government to take over the Corrib gasfield. Not an easy task, but there is nothing that says it's impossible. If enough people are involved in campaigning and are determined to not always be limited to ineffective means of protest it can be done.

But what's the point? We would have as much chance of getting something we need from the extra cash as Bertie has of remembering his bank accounts. Left to their own devices they would

spend little, if any, of the extra revenue on useful things like reopening hospital wards or building affordable housing. They would be far more likely to use it to finance more 'incentives' and tax cuts for their wealthy pals.

For the WSM, the important point is that if nationalisation were to be won by a large and active movement of working people, that same movement would have the will and confidence to force the government to spend at least some of the extra cash on socially useful projects.

It would be a small reform, and it would not be a secure one. The government and companies like Shell would be quick to look for ways to overturn the decision and privatise the new state company.

But it would be a reform, one worth supporting. By bringing together the questions of nationalising oil & gas resources and how the extra money should be spent, we move that little bit closer to asserting working class interests in opposition to the rights of property. And that's pretty much it.

State ownership has nothing to do with socialism. There was a fair bit of state ownership in Britain up to the 1980s (coal, rail, post, car assem-

bly, electricity, health, steel, phones, and much more). Not a lot of equality, workers' control, or anything we associate with socialism, was to be found.

Well, what about 'communist' Russia, where the state owned all the industries? A dictatorship where there was just one boss, the state. No real trade unions, a conscript army, no political freedom, gross inequality of wealth between Party leaders and the working class.

Far from having anything to do with even the most warped view of socialism, Russia was ruled by a capitalist class. Instead of the private sector type of capitalism we live under, Russians lived under 'state capitalism'. And under both types of capitalism a small ruling class lived the high life by leeching off the work of the vast majority.

Nationalisation takes us no nearer to socialism than does private capitalist ownership. If you want to get rid of the division of people into bosses and workers, it matters little whether your boss is Tony O'Reilly or the State – you still have a boss.

Alan MacSimoin

## ...Continued from cover

This situation is neither natural nor inevitable. It is the result of the actions of numerous governments, land speculators and the profit driven system in which we live. The housing crisis can be traced back to the 1960s when the two main political parties in the state were bought off by land speculators and even the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, became a land speculator himself. The close links between speculators and our business elite still exists with catastrophic consequences for working class people.

The media likes to paint them as noble entrepreneurs who create the wealth of society and kindly help the rest of us. The reality is that these are parasitic scumbags who live off our work and get sickeningly rich by charging as much as they can for the necessities of life. Today in Dublin 90% of the land zoned for housing is owned by twelve firms or individual speculators.

They only release a limited amount of land in each year in order to keep property prices high and maximise their profits, and the extent of those profits are mind blowing. Each site for a new house nets them an average of €200,000 which means that when they squeeze 15 houses to an acre they make €3,000,000.

Not only does this make it a lot more difficult for the rest of us to find somewhere to live but also, because the main goal is profit, the quality housing and our standard of living also suffers. Even those of us who manage to secure a mortgage are stuck paying money to the banks for the next forty or fifty years while the banks make exorbitant profits.

Proper planning for communities has been almost non-existent. Roads, public transport, schools, clubs, playgrounds etc have not been provided for many of the new housing estates going up around the country. This results in gridlock on our roads in the morning, crowded schools and hospitals and is one of the causes of anti social behaviour.

The high price of housing forces many of us to spend years renting and lining the pockets of landlords. The increased demand for rented accommodation has allowed landlords across the country to increase rents and make conditions worse. The increase in demand for rented accommodation has, in some cases, resulted in a return to the style of slum tenement housing that is associated with the 1960s.

Landlords take advantage of vulnerable and desperate people by squeezing as much money out of them as possible. It is not unknown for landlords to fill rundown

houses with bunk beds and charge €70 per bed in dangerous, unsanitary and unpleasant conditions.

Of course none of this is really surprising. The aim of businessmen, land speculators and landlords is to make as much money as possible and their friends in government are usually glad to help them. It's clear that we can't rely on politicians to sort out our problems, we have to try and solve them ourselves. Working class solidarity has proved an effective means in the past to oppose ruthless exploitation.

Rent strikes, squatting and property occupations can force rent to be lowered and also pressure the government into increasing the supply of social housing. Democratic and vibrant tenants associations can give communities the confidence and ability to stand up to landlords and the state.

A trade union movement, freed from the shackles of social partnership, has the power to mobilise massive numbers of people behind a campaign for decent affordable housing. It's only when we come together and organise that we can effectively oppose those who exploit us and fight for better housing and the world that we want to see.

## Sean Flood

**Social Space**  
61 Barrack St., Cork  
centraladminzone@gmail.com

**Seomra Spraoi**  
4 Marys Abbey Dublin 7  
www.seomraspraoi.blogspot.com

**Activist groups**  
Shell to Sea  
Website of campaign to move Shell's pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo  
www.shelltosea.com

**Hands Off the People of Iran**  
Network campaigning for solidarity with Iranian trade unions and the women's rights movement. Opposes both the Islamic regime and any Western invasion.  
www.hopoi.org

**Alliance For Choice**  
Network of campaigners abortion rights  
theallianceforchoice@eircom.net

**Choice Ireland**  
Pro-choice action group  
choiceireland@gmail.com

**Residents Against Racism**  
Campaigns against racism & deportations  
Meets every Friday at 7pm in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square in Dublin  
www.residentsagainstracism.org

Cork Autonomous Zone

## Indefensible Health Cuts

**What an incredible time for the Irish Health Service! It seemed impossible that it could get any worse and then it did.**

Mark A. Nolan

Wage increases were handed to the top-brass while ordinary health workers and the public were faced with cut-backs, layoffs and recruitment freezes. It's clear that the politicians, the powerful HSE bureaucracy and the hospital consultants will continue to look out for each other while ordinary people suffer.

Despite being responsible for the Health Services Executive running a deficit of €245m, Brendan Drumm, the CEO of the HSE, which runs the Irish Health System, was handed a bonus of €80,000. Nice work if you can get it.

If that wasn't bad enough, the handsomely paid consultants were offered a new contract that would see their salary rise to €216,000 for a mere 39 hours work a week! Of course that wasn't enough for the consultants. They plan on rejecting this offer because they might have to work the occasional night-shift – something many workers are well used to without such perks.

At the same time, on Wednesday, 19th September the HSE

announced that the contracts of 30 agency nurses would not be renewed in Sligo General Hospital. The statement made no reference to the impact on services of these cuts. Many areas will be affected - clinics will not be held and waiting lists will grow.

Also on that Wednesday, The Minister for (Ill-)Health, Mary Harney, confirmed that Erinis General Hospital would lose its 24-hour Accident and Emergency service. Instead a consultant-led A&E service will be available at the hospital with limited hours of operation.

If that wasn't enough, it was reported that maternity patients were being sent to hotels because of a lack of beds. What a waste of resources and what a lack of proper treatment for the patients. Is this what we pay taxes for? ☐☐

No doubt we will be promised "improvements down the line". Will these be like the one that by the end of 2003 nobody would be on a waiting list for longer than six months? Four years later 12,000 of the 41,000 people currently on waiting lists for treatment in Irish hospitals have been waiting for at least six months. The HSE's answer: more bed losses and a recruitment freeze!

It's time we woke up to the fact that the crisis in the health service is caused by the bla-



tant inequality that the health system is based on. As long as there is a private healthcare sector, the public sector will be kept in crisis to maintain demand. The government is perfectly happy to let this continue, endlessly plugging cash into the private sector in the name of 'consumer choice' which translates as one service for those who can afford it, and another for those who can't.

Cliona Flanagan

in ten Ontario cities have become involved and they hope this will grow in the months and years ahead.

Their conference report finishes with "Collectively we will struggle daily in our workplaces and communities to improve our conditions and move forward towards social revolution.

"This is not a revolution that will come by summit hopping or singing and dancing

## Contacts

## Anarchist Groups

**Workers Solidarity Movement**  
Publishes this paper  
PO box 1528, Dublin 8, Ireland  
www.wsm.ie  
wsm\_ireland@yahoo.com  
corkwsm@gmail.com

**Organise!**  
Publishes "Working Class Resistance"  
PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ  
http://organisereiland.blogspot.com/

**Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group**  
Anarchist Women  
PO. Box 10785, Dublin 1  
www.ragdublin.org

**Libertarian Networks**  
Networks and collectives with a libertarian ethos in which anarchists are involved

**Indymedia Ireland**  
Irish Branch of Global Media Collective  
The place to find Irish campaign news.  
www.indymedia.ie

**Barracka Books**  
Radical Book Store  
61 Barrack Street, Cork City

Cork Autonomous Zone

**Revolt Video**  
Video Activist Collective  
revoltvideo.blogspot.com

**Anti-War Ireland**  
Democratic anti-war organisation with branches in Belfast, Cogh, Cork, Dublin and members elsewhere.  
www.antiwarireland.org

**Justice for Terence Wheelock**  
Died after being injured in Garda custody 087-6221218  
larrywheelock@hotmail.com



Winter issue with an anarchist analysis of the Irish health service, what's happening in Turkey, a look at 'left communism', community organising, and more. Send €2 for a copy.

## New Canadian Anarchist Organisation

Anarchism has been growing in support over recent years.

Old organisations have grown, new ones have been formed in countries as far apart as South Africa and Argentina, Turkey and Mexico. The end of September saw a new anarchist-communist organisation, Common Cause, set up in the Canadian province of Ontario. Preparation for this founding conference had taken place over several months culminating in a speaking tour of six cities under the title 'Building

a Popular Anarchism'.

In advance of the conference, a statement of intent had been circulated which included "Our intention is not to build yet another small group of a dozen or so people but to begin the process of building an organisation of thousands that will have a presence in every town, workplace and neighborhood across the province."

They are still a long way from this goal but dozens of people

in ten Ontario cities have become involved and they hope this will grow in the months and years ahead.

Their conference report finishes with "Collectively we will struggle daily in our workplaces and communities to improve our conditions and move forward towards social revolution.

"This is not a revolution that will come by summit hopping or singing and dancing

in the streets. It will come by organising every workplace and neighborhood for change. When regular working people come together and fight for what we are due then the world will change."

They have joined with the Workers Solidarity Movement and anarchist organisations from all five continents in the Anarkismo international anarchist-communist network  
www.anarkismo.net.