

resistance

anarchist bulletin

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Robin Hood is dead - long live Robin Banks

Banks: whether they're making a killing swindling us out of their cash, or collapsing after one too many gambles with our savings, they're to blame for millions of working people around the world suffering. But it doesn't have to be that way: Catalonian Enric Duran, 32, has turned the tables and shown that it's possible to hit back and beat them at their own game.

Duran faked wage slips using just glue, scissors and a photocopier to secure nearly £400,000 in bank loans from 39 banks in Spain. And not for personal gain, either: in a true example of solidarity he has used the money to publish an anti-capitalist newspaper, *La Crise* (Crisis), in Barcelona and has given the rest to activist groups. "I stole 492,000 euros from those who steal the most from us, to denounce them and help build an alternative society," Duran is quoted as saying, adding that he saw his exploits as "a new form of civil disobedience".

Although Duran is now on the run from police and bankers alike, and facing up to six years in jail, he is being hailed as the new Robin Hood by people around the world for his 'rob from the rich and give to the poor' attitude.

He scores double points for hitting Spanish banks, whose current pre-eminence in Europe is the result of



He took how much!?

de-regulation implemented by the fascist Franco regime in return for their financial support during the civil war. But not everyone is happy. Jordi Mestre, director general of social parasite Caixa Sabadell Bank,

whined: "It is not permissible for someone to laugh [at the system] like this." Too bad for him; we're certainly all laughing here.



Roma solidarity

In a gesture of solidarity and awareness-raising effort, around 60 activists from the No Borders Network and Anarchist Federation picketed the Italian Consulate in Manchester on September 19th.

This was a response to escalating state and popular persecution of the Roma people in Italy, where the hard-right Minister of the Interior, Roberto Maroni, has declared that

Roma camps are to be 'dismantled right away, and the inhabitants either expelled or imprisoned'. His comments were followed by a wave of attacks on camps, particularly in the north of Italy.

Despite the supposed protection afforded ethnic groups by international law, the Italian government has mandated local authorities to fingerprint and

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UK Travellers threatened

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photograph the inhabitants of camps, particularly children. The blatant racism of this legislation recalls similar race-specific policies from the 30s and 40s, which times ultimately saw many Roma joining Europe's Jewish population in the Nazi extermination camps.

More insidiously, the Roma are characterised in the public mind as criminal outcasts, supporting themselves through prostitution and theft. This prejudice apparently renders them invisible, as chillingly realised in the pictures of Italian holidaymakers picnicking on a beach in close proximity to the bodies of drowned Roma children. Certainly,

police violence against the travellers is widespread and unchecked, and even the highest courts in Italy have overturned convictions for racial discrimination against this people. The protest in Manchester saw the distribution of over 1000 leaflets highlighting these issues.

There has been some mainstream media coverage of the treatment of the Roma people in Italy and in particular Italian state policy towards the children. In contrast, despite some escalating situations, there has been a deafening silence around the treatment of gypsies and travellers in this country.

The AF has learned recently that Basildon council in Essex are

planning on storming the Dale Farm gypsy settlement and seizing children from the site. They would then offer the parents the chance to have their children returned to them upon leaving the county.

To even consider actions such as this is beyond contempt.

More information on Dale farm and the Italian treatment of Roma can be found at

<http://www.afed.org.uk/blog/>

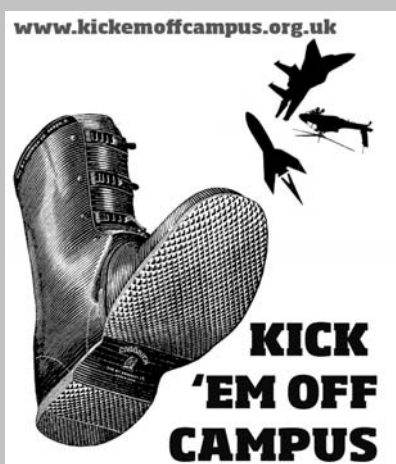
We stand in solidarity with all communities fighting such repression, be they travelling or settled. ★

Uni students - just say no!

September will see the founding meeting of a new network that seeks to confront army recruitment and militarism in higher education facilities. The Kick 'Em Off Campus (KEOC) initiative is the culmination of a series of direct actions against

military and university institutions that have sought to confront the currently unchallenged place of the British armed forces, and arms companies such as BAE and Qinteq, in British universities.

The daily horror of Britain's continued involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq is being obscured by a barrage of military propaganda on our TV sets, on public transport, and in our town centres every day. The aim of this seems to be to present the armed forces as some sort of international humanitarian organisation and an exciting career opportunity. Of course, the reality is that the MoD needs to fill the combat boots of the



British victims of its illegal invasions.

The 'join up' drive has seen a strong presence from armed forces recruiters on university campuses, but they certainly aren't alone there in representing the servants of death. Other undesirables range from the arms

factories that make soaring profits from the death and destruction of innocents, to the universities' own research labs that are developing the weapons of the future.

KEOC hopes to create a fighting, activist movement inside our higher education institutions. Although a new organisation, KEOC already has members representing students, workers, and concerned locals within its network, working in unity towards greater control of the university and a more democratic campus. Kick Em Off Campus is recruiting now!

For more info – www.kickemoffcampus.org.uk

Class, climate change and clean coal

The now-annual Climate Camp has come in for some fairly heavy criticism from some class struggle activists for its lack of class analysis. In particular, its anti-coal stance can seem to pit those involved against portions of the working class, miners in particular.

To address this, IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) union members from Tyne and Wear have called a conference between class struggle anarchists, workers from polluting industries, and anarchists of a more green persuasion. The Class, Climate Change and Clean Coal conference will be held on November 1st in Newcastle upon Tyne. Speakers will include IWW, NUM (National Union of Miners) and RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers) trades union members alongside Climate Camp activists and various hues of anarchists.

More information can be found at <http://glasgowanarchists.wordpress.com/2008/10/01/class-and-climate-change/> ★

Chaos is their system

With even the Chancellor saying that he has no idea where the economy will go, it becomes clearer that the chaos of capitalism must be replaced with a system based on production and provision for human needs, not those of accumulation and profit.

The response of politicians has demonstrated the role of the state as the guardian of the capitalist class. When there is a gain to be made for the capitalists, the ideology of the market is extended throughout society. The "efficiency" of competition has been introduced into our postal service, public transport, energy production, health care, schools, and social security system, attacking working conditions and the quality of services, and handing over social institutions to private interests. The welfare state, a gain of struggle, is being progressively dismantled in line with market ideology. But when the chaos of the financial markets, so impenetrable that astrophysicists and mathematicians construct computer models in vain attempts to work it out, threatens financial meltdown, the state rediscovers welfare – for the capitalists!

The crisis has seen the suspension of the market and probably the biggest wave of bank nationalisations and financial bailouts in history – Northern Rock,



Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and AIG amongst others, as states step in to protect shareholders and executives, and the integrity of capitalism itself. This shows that the "anti-state" arguments of neoliberal capitalists are empty. The policies of marketisation were planned and implemented by states. Property and wealth is protected by the state. The state implements laws to stop workers from taking viable action to support each other. It cuts our pay to keep the financial environment "healthy", and will step in to protect capitalists when the going gets tough.

Recent state intervention has seen governments buy up bad assets from bankers pleading poverty, whilst at the same time introducing welfare "reforms" to turn long-term dole claimants into slave labour – penalising the victims of the chaos of capitalism whilst ensuring the ruling

class is never threatened by it.

It is the nature of capitalism to lurch from crisis to crisis. The current crisis is the consequence of the last. The collapse of the dot-com bubble at the turn of the century saw trouble averted

through increased consumer credit and spending, based largely on the remortgaging of property - another bubble. This expansion of debt got us to the credit crunch of today. And the attempts to solve it through more credit point towards even more dangerous crises in the future - UK debt is already over 100% of GDP.

We will see struggle increase in the near future in response to the crisis. We have seen this already in the recent strike wave. But the issues are bigger than struggling for "fair pay", against closures, or to protect our pensions. What is being illustrated every day with increasing clarity is that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common, and that the working class' interests lie in abolishing the rotten system of state and capital entirely.

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Reinstate Chris Lockwood!

Members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), the Anarchist Federation and various local activists came out in force this month to support dismissed trade union activist (and member of the IWW) Chris Lockwood.

Chris Lockwood had been employed at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield for over seven



months. He told the *Sheffield Star*, "The working conditions there are appalling and so that's why I joined the union ... someone overheard some of the managers talking about how there was an active union growing and how maybe I was a union organiser. Two hours later I was fired over

accusations of misconduct".

A day-long demonstration was held outside the cinema in support of Chris generating a great deal of support from regular customers and passers-by alike. More remote activists also showed their solidarity by supporting an email and phone blockade on the company which proved so successful that the cinema was forced to shut down all its line of communication to the general public for the day. ★

First they came for the foreigners

At the end of September's Labour Party conference in Manchester, Jacqui 'Lock' Smith, our hated Home Office minister, officially announced the UK Borders Agency introduction of ID cards for foreigners. This is due to start next month for overseas students and people who come to Britain to join their spouse on a marriage visa, if they are not from the European Union.

This is really nothing new because ID cards for foreigners have been part of the government's identity and border control plan for a while now. But to confuse matters, the new cards will be issued as part of a visa application and are coming in through a piece of legislation called the UK Borders Act (2007) that was passed a year later than the original ID Cards Act of March 2006. Everyone else, i.e. Britons and EU citizens who are resident in Britain, are due to get ID cards some time later if the government gets its way. A few British-born people have been earmarked for early ID cards, such as airport and airline workers; this has been opposed by both the British Air Transport Association and the Trades Unions Congress, delaying its implementation.

Really, though, it makes no difference which law is being used to bring in ID cards. The government will learn a lot by introducing cards

to overseas students, who can hardly refuse to have one if they want to come here and study, before they roll it out to the entire population (similarly to how the 'Switch' debit card was initially trialled on students). At the same time, corporations like IBM and Thales have already been awarded contracts to design, build and test the National Identity Register which is the backbone of the overall scheme. This will involve photographing and fingerprinting every adult in Britain over 15, and perhaps even as young as 14. So those of us born in Britain should not be complacent, or fall into the trap of believing right-wing lies about the supposed need for tight immigration controls. Instead we should urgently make links with migrant workers, visiting students and anyone else who is affected by the new cards. We need to see how they are being affected and work out how to mount a collective attack - before the state comes after the rest of us.

For a copy of our free anti-ID cards pamphlet, *Defending Anonymity*, please send at least 50p in stamps to our usual address (to cover postage) or order one online from our website. Additional donations are welcome to help us print more. ★



The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself.

Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

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

Contact us at:

Anarchist Federation,
BM Anarfed, London,
WC1N 3XX
Email: info@afed.org.uk
Also visit: www.afed.org.uk
and www.iaf-ifa.org

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Subvert

When going on demonstrations stay sober, don't talk to the police and if you're arrested give only your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions. For more info visit: www.ldmg.org.uk

October

11th - Freedom not Fear - Anti-Surveillance Day. London, Meet 1pm New Scotland Yard.

15th - SMASH EDO, SHUT ITT - Mass Demo Against the Arms Trade, Brighton, meet opposite Falmer station at 12 noon.

18th - Anarchist Bookfair 2008 - London, Queen Mary College, 10am to 7pm



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