

FREE!

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Twenty two years of Irish Anarchist News

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SHELL'S COPS!

A consortium of Shell, Statoil, and Marathon do a deal with the government allowing them exclusive exploitation rights to the Corrib gas field, off Mayo. Not only that, but they are allowed to write off their costs against taxes, meaning that the whole project is being funded by the PAYE taxpayer, who will receive nothing, not even lower gas prices. It may sound a bit iffy but there is no garda investigation into possible bribery or corruption.

The locals in Rossport have a problem with a high-pressure gas pipeline going close to their homes, and want the gas refined offshore instead. That shouldn't be a problem, Shell can well afford it, last year they made a profit of €2.39 million every single hour.

But the companies don't care and the government, after 'listening' and 'consulting', takes the side of big business. So the locals, having petitioned, lobbied and pleaded, decide they have no option left but to obstruct construction of the pipeline and refinery.

The government springs into action, 'law and order' must be upheld. Over a hundred gardai are sent to this sparsely populated rural community. Locals are provoked, called names, pushed about. They have never experienced anything like this before.

Meanwhile, down in Limerick residents of Moyross have been subjected to intimidation, arson and shootouts between gangs of drug dealers. This has gone on for years. Has the government done anything to uphold 'law and order' there? Have they moved in hundreds of gardai to close down the gangs? Have they put in cash for education and jobs to provide a future for young people?



Above: Gardai film peaceful picketers in Rossport *pic:indymedia*

Of course not. Their one initiative was to appoint former Dublin City Manager, John Fitzgerald, to "co-ordinate initiatives at tackling social exclusion in Moyross". This is the man who was in charge when anti-bin tax activists were jailed. He was also the one who tried to ban posterling, so that only those rich enough to buy newspaper ads could advertise their events.

He will 'consult', publish expensive reports, and tell us that things are getting better. His job is not to do anything much, just to make it look as if the government 'cares'. If the government get around to doing anything useful it will be because they feel under pressure, not because they care. If they cared they would have done it already.

Should we be surprised that the greed

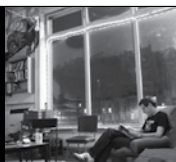
of Shell is more important the needs of working families? In a capitalist society those with capital (and oil & gas giants have shedloads of it) come first. It's not called capitalism for nothing.

The gardai sometimes do a good job, putting drunk drivers off the road is one example. Sometimes they do a bad one, like the Donegal frame-ups. And sometimes they do a deadly one, like the unexplained deaths of Brian Rossiter and Terence Wheelock in garda stations.

Whatever your experience of them is, it is clear that their main and most important function is not upholding some impartial 'law and order', but upholding the power and privilege of the millionaires.



Rossport
state defiance



Seomra Spraoi
social space



Clandestines
book review

NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISTS IN IRELAND

Rosspport: In Defiance of the State

The month of October saw the community of Rosspport occupied by the Gardai Siochana. This occupation is the State response to a community trying to protect themselves against Shell: a multinational with a track record for maltreating communities which they operate in.

In Erris the State coldly laid its relationship to big business bare for all to see. The police came in with clear orders to brutalise the community. The gardai have shown in Donegal and Dublin's inner city that they are more than able for such a task. They have lived up to this reputation in Erris.

On the first day in their attempt to break the picket they hospitalised a local teenager and broke the finger of Philip McGrath (one of the Rosspport 5). This was followed up with a campaign of harassment, intimidation and provocation.

Local people have been continually photographed, filmed randomly, stopped at checkpoints. This campaign increased in its ferocity from Monday October 9th. This saw police patrol small villages of less than ten houses with riot vans. They parked outside a local primary school,

where a teacher is involved in the campaign, for two hours.

This accompanied the daily assault of community members as they tried to peacefully protest. The media were more than willing to aid the gardai when they printed stories claiming that the local community were the ones harassing people.

The most interesting aspect of this campaign has been the community reaction to it. Many of us imagined we would back down in the face of such might against us. However the community has not been intimidated. They have turned out day after day to protest or blockade against the destruction of their community. Indeed, numbers have increased.

This is not say people don't have fears but it shows that the power of capital and corporations isn't almighty and through solidarity we can help each other overcome their harassment.

The community is now aware of the state's potential to escalate the situation. They have learned this the hard way due to the Erris community's



Above: A Garda draws his baton pic - indymedia

previous isolation from the police. They have learned the upper class myth that only troublemakers get hassle from the police is untrue. When you interfere, or even threaten to interfere, with the status quo - be that to blockade Shell or just question the orders of those in power - they will use force, legal or illegal, against you.

- Sean Mallory

More at www.wsm.ie/story/1289

Backing from Waterford Council of Trade Unions

"On behalf of the Waterford Council of Trade Unions, I would like to offer our support to the Shell to Sea campaign and the people of Rosspport who are facing down the might of Shell who are backed to the hilt by the forces of the state...The WCTU has agreed to contact the Irish Congress of Trade Unions requesting that ICTU ask all affiliated unions to 'black' the construction of the pipeline to ensure that no trade unionist is party to the despicable actions of Shell."

At our recent national conference, the Workers Solidarity Movement donated €500 to the Rosspport Solidarity Camp. You can donate directly to 'Rosspport Solidarity Camp' Bank of Ireland account 24306733, sort code 90-52-99



TERRORBOMB PLOT NOT NEWSWORTHY?

Two men have appeared before magistrates accused of having “a master plan” after what is believed to be a record haul of chemicals used in making home-made bombs was found in Colne, northern England. Robert Cottage and David Bolus were charged with “being in possession of an explosive substance for an unlawful purpose”. The 22 chemical components recovered by police are believed to be the largest haul ever found at a house in England.

Cottage is an ex-British National Party member who stood as a candidate in the Pendle Council elections in May. A search of Jackson’s home uncovered rocket launchers, chemicals, BNP literature and a nuclear biological suit.

If they had been Muslims this story would, no doubt, have featured on every TV and radio news report, and in every newspaper. But, because they are fascists, it was judged not worthy of more than the briefest mention.

On the road with an Irish pirate

Clandestines, The Diary of an Irish Pirate Exile by Ramor Ryan AK Press €13.45 / £9.00

While it can be hard to come across political documents that inspire, entertain and amuse, Ramor Ryan’s *Clandestines* succeeds in doing just that. Some may know Ryan from his articles in “*We Are Everywhere*” and “*Confronting Capitalism*” but *Clandestines* is his first published book. It is, for the main part, a travel diary and a readable mixture of personal memoir and political essay written over his many years as an anarchist activist. The book covers his journeys to a broad gamut of societies in struggle, from Berlin to Northern Ireland, Nicaragua to Turkey and many places in between.

The book is full of true, fantastic and at times audacious tales seen through the eyes of an Irish anarchist who is experiencing an irreversibly changing world first hand. The world Ramor traverses sees the collapse of “communism” in Eastern Europe, a growing sense of revolution in South America and the birth of a modern anti-globalisation movement. While at all times political yet personal, Ramor frequently forays into his relationships with activists, friends and strangers he picks up along the way, each who provide the reader with their personal affections and experiences.

What follows is something that reads like a modern hybrid of Behan’s *Borstal Boy* and *the Canterbury Tales*, with Ramor compiling the characters’ stories as he goes along, and using them to meaningful, insightful, and, at times, touching effect.



Above: Ramor at Dublin book launch pic - indymedia

While the book could have fallen into an unintelligible journal of wholly separated and abstract events, Ryan brings events and people together and finds a common theme, of the shaping of these characters from the historic and social pressures of a rapidly changing world.

From the Kurdish guerrillas, to the Sandanistas, to the female bartender he meets in Cuba, Ramor documents people and communities coming to terms with a new, neo-liberal, world order. In Berlin, he experiences the life of a radical squatter and the regular running battles with local police associated with it. In Northern Ireland, he encounters the massacre of mourners at a republican funeral, and a community drawn together to cope with a violent and sectarian society.

- Ciaran Murray

In Turkey, he finds the volunteers of the PKK in training, young men and women willing to give up their lives for their idea of a Marxist revolution, and a feeling that if the world wasn’t ready for revolution they, at least, were. In South America he watched the Sandanistas take power in Nicaragua, while the FMLN were on the brink of overthrowing the government in El Salvador and the radical movements in Guatemala and Honduras gained ground.

Whether read as a travelogue, political document or collection of nostalgic memoirs, “*Clandestines*,” is a book that anyone with an interest in late 20th Century politics will understand, and enjoy.

Dublin gets new radical centre

After more than a year of searching for a suitable venue, the Seomra Spraoi collective has finally taken possession of a space at 6 Ormond Quay, across the river from Bono’s Clarence Hotel. Despite the long wait, the hard work of the collective seems to have paid off, as the Seomra’s calendar struggles to fit all those who wish to use the space. Every week it hosts meetings for the Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group, Anarchist Prisoner Support, the Re-

volt Video film collective, as well as the regular Thursday assembly of the Seomra Spraoi collective.

But the Seomra is not just about meetings and organisation, it is an ongoing attempt to create a genuinely free space, organized collectively by the people who use it. Part of its project is an ongoing attempt to challenge and overcome oppressive behaviour such as sexism, racism, and hetero-sexism. In order to do so, the

collective has constructed a ‘positive spaces’ policy which explores these issues and creates a structure for confronting this behaviour as it occurs.

With all the positive activity happening in the Seomra, the future looks bright for Dublin’s growing libertarian community. If you wish to participate come to one of the weekly meetings, or see seomraspraoi.org for more details.

- Ronan



Above: Seomra Spraoi

Anarchism and the WSM



The Workers Solidarity Movement is an organisation of working class anarchists who have come together to maximise the impact of anarchist ideas. Pooling the resources of many people allows us to distribute over 6,000 copies of this paper every two months, and 1,000 copies of our twice yearly magazine, *Red & Black Revolution*. It allows us to discuss the best ways to advance working class interests, and prioritise particular activities rather than be so widely dispersed as to have little effect.

Among our recent activities was the ‘Change Not Chaos’ mini-festival organised by a Derry WSM member. Saturday September 30th saw the Dunlgoe Bar play host to a day of anarchist talks, films and music.

Gregor Kerr, Secretary of the Federation of Dublin Anti-Water Charge Campaigns, kicked things off with a discussion on how the water charges were defeated in the Republic and the role anarchists played in that struggle. The current campaign in the North to defeat the tap tax was discussed with updates on the campaign provided by a comrade from the Belfast-based anarchist group Organise! and Eamonn McCann of the SWP. Julia Doherty of the WSM then gave an introductory talk on Anarchism, covering history, theory and practice and a lively debate ensued over violence, white-male dominance of anarchism and republicanism.

Stalls by Just Books, WSM and Mujeres Libres Derry were on hand stocking everything from pamphlets and

books to flags and t-shirts. The Mujeres Libres (Free Women) had the most creative stall offering t-shirts commemorating Free Derry, the Paris Commune, Spain 1936 and the Limerick Soviet as “temporary autonomous zones”, with cool front and back logos.

Ramor Ryan, author of “*Clandestines*” gave a reading of his book to a packed upstairs room with a discussion afterwards and a Swiss comrade put on a “comedy” show about police violence. It was very informative and gruesome although this writer didn’t really see the comedy aspect. The dangers of baton rounds, tear gas and other “less lethal” weapons were explained and the gory reality of the damage these weapons cause was projected on a six foot screen.

A benefit gig for Belfast’s Just Books collective finished off the night with Anti-State and Tin Pot Operation playing to a packed bar. Hundreds of stickers and anarchist papers were distributed to the crowd as well as leaflets detailing the Justice for Terence Wheelock campaign.

This was the WSM’s second public event in Derry and the positive reaction we received from many people attending was encouraging. Although anarchism is still a very small political current in Ireland it is growing and we need a strong, organised and united working class to get beyond the dead end of both republican and loyalist ideas.

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..



Two years after being set up, the Private Residential Tenancies Board has still to prosecute a single owner of the estimated 35,000 rented houses which have not been registered. Chasing down tax dodging landlords does not appear to be a priority. Surprise, surprise.

Bagless vacuum cleaner inventor James Dyson awarded himself a £31.5m sterling payout last year. This is the same guy who moved his vacuum and washing machine production to Malaysia, because he thinks that British workers are paid too much.

The three richest people in the world own assets that exceed the combined Gross Domestic Products of the world’s 48 poorest countries, and Forbes Magazine reports that 358 billionaires have a combined net worth equal to the combined income of the bottom 45% of the world’s population.

At the same time approximately one-fifth of the world’s population, over one billion people, earn less than \$1.00 a day. This means that each day over a billion people in the world lack basic food needs. And each day 35,000 children under the age of five die of starvation or preventable infectious disease.

Ever wonder what the mega-rich spend their ill-gotten cash on? How about a car that costs € 436,275. This is the price tag for a Saleen S7. Or an off-the-peg “Newman” suit, which sells for €2099, though made-to-measures apparently can reach €2725.

RALLY FOR THE NURSES

Ireland's 40,000 nurses are to step up their campaign for a pay rise and a 35 hour week. The Irish Nurses Organisation and the Psychiatric Nurses Association are holding a mass rally in Dublin on November 22nd. It takes place at the Helix in Dublin City University at 11.30pm. If you can get along, they will welcome your support.

A migrant's place is in her union

Cases won by SIPTU against Cavan mushroom farmer, Eamonn Murray, for non-compliance with employment law, have so far resulted in awards totaling €342,600. In the latest development, the Employment Appeals Tribunal found in favour of thirteen mushroom pickers. They were all found to have been dismissed for "mere membership of a trade union" and were awarded compensation of €26,000 each. The other awards related to minimum notice, annual leave and pay for public holidays.

REMEMBER THIS NAME: JESÚS MARINO MOSQUERA

How many members of your union have recently been murdered simply because they were trade unionists?

If that union is the rural workers union in Colombia known as SINTRAINAGRO, the answer is four hundred. That's right: more than 400 members have lost their lives since their union was founded.

The most recent victim was Jesús Marino Mosquera, a union rep from Carepa. He was murdered in October. With so many deaths - and Colombia continues to hold the world record for trade unionists killed each year - it is easy to forget that each statistic is a name, a human being, a person like yourself who had a family and a life.

We must never get used to this, we cannot accept it, and we must intensify our efforts to create a world in which working people can freely organise and join trade unions without fear.

Thinking About Anarchism:

The Role of an Anarchist Organisation



Looking around the world today it can be difficult to imagine how the society that we want to see can be created. But rather than sitting back and waiting for capitalism to collapse, or for the revolution to come, we believe in organising in the here and now.

Throughout history anarchist-communists have embraced different forms of organisation from the affinity group, to revolutionary cells, to anarchist syndicalism. We in the WSM, consider ourselves within to fall within the 'platformist' tradition. Among other things this means that we think that a group can achieve far more when it works in unison, rather than constantly having the same fundamental theoretical and tactical disagreements.

The role of a group like ours is to popularise the aims and methods of anarchism amongst working class people, mainly because we believe that these alone will result in the free society we want to create. Our ideas link an understanding of the present with a viable vision of the future.

This link involves a practical understanding of the means necessary and acceptable to achieve results but also to help build the confidence of the class in its own abilities and decision-making power. This can be

doing simple things like producing our newsletter, pamphlets and leaflets. It also means arguing for anarchist methods as much as possible in campaigns that we are involved in.

This can take the form of fighting for democratic structures in the Anti-Bin Tax campaign, helping to organise the huge Mayday 2004 events, arguing for democracy in our unions or advocating direct action in the anti-war movement but in all cases we try and promote actions that actively transform those that take part in them. Actions that help people gain a sense of their own power and abilities and prepare them for the revolution and the libertarian communist society we want to create.

We analyse the society we live in, history and try to learn from the mistakes of the past. We also try to elaborate a common strategy that attempts to link the various expressions of the class struggle.

In a sense we seek to provide a leadership of ideas but this does not mean we come down from the mountain top like Moses, carrying the blueprint for a new society under our arm. Rather we learn from the struggle and the people we interact with.

Anarchists not only want to abolish capitalism, but we also want to abolish all

relationships that involve subordination and domination. Our aim is a truly classless society that isn't divided into bosses and workers, or order givers and order takers. So while we see ourselves as offering leadership we reject the idea that we should become some sort of institutional leaders or managers of the movement.

We refuse to take positions of power which would lift us above the broad movement and give us control over it. Instead we rely on the strength of our ideas, and the example we set, to convince people, rather than hoping our position on some hierarchical ladder will allow us to control the people below us.

In this spirit we look forward to the time when an organisation like ours becomes unnecessary. Following a successful revolution we would gradually lose our reason for existing and disband.

So to summarise we don't make the revolution for the working class, we don't direct it in their interests and we don't govern them for their own good. We simply exist as an organisation within the class that attempts to encourage its development in a libertarian fashion and speed up its emancipation.

by John Flood

Come to your planet's rescue

Anarchism and Ecology by Graham Purchase. Black Rose Books

Euro 20.00/£13.99 (available from WSM Books, P.O. Box 1528, Dublin 8)

Hearing or reading about ecology or our natural environment isn't an exciting proposition for most of us. The inevitable emphasis on destruction and likely catastrophe isn't what we want to face into when our day-to-day lives are already tough enough.

Graham Purchase, in this book, never dwells too long on the possible or likely results of centuries of disregard for ecology in the pursuit of profits, resources and land.

Instead, we get a convincing outline of the easy relationship anarchism has to the natural world, the anarchist emphasis on decentralisation, autonomy and diversity contrasting sharply with the centralised uniformity of the state. He makes convincing arguments for his vision of an ecologically appropriate planet, organised in a federation of "bio-regions", that is communities or city-regions sharing cultural and ecological traits and supplying most of their own needs, water, food, building materials and the like.



We are left in no doubt as to the need for revolutionary social anarchism and for destroying nation-state capitalist-individualism. There's little mention, however of the enormous social and political struggle involved, building mass movements, industrial trade unions as well as political and propaganda organisations. Nothing either to advise us on defending our revolution - the newly dispossessed statist and capitalist class is unlikely to share our affection for harmonious eco-regionally organised anarchism.

Given the heavy nature of the subject matter, this book (a collection of essays from over the past 20 years but fitting very well together) makes for a surprisingly cheery read.

At 20.00 it weighs in on the pricey side but it's seldom we get top-drawer writing on this exact subject and it makes clear the necessity of combining ecological sustainability with class-struggle anarchism in tackling the global environmental crisis.

It's worth the cost, however, if only for his mercilessly efficient take on the futility of parliamentary Green politics. It's not backward-looking either and is clear in not arguing for a return to some sort of tribal lifestyle but for redistribution of wealth and power.

Anarchists need to learn from environmentalists and need to become such. The reverse also applies.

- Eugene W

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Anarchist Youth
For younger anarchists
 Ph: 0879184604
 www.anarchistyouth.org
 anarchistyouth@riseup.net

Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group
Anarchist Women
 P.O. 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
Social Space
 61 Barrack St., Cork
 centraladminzone@gmail.com

Seomra Spraoi
Dublin Social Centre
 www.seomraspraoi.blogspot.com

Activist Groups

Activist groups fighting for social justice

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

Alliance For Choice
Campaign for women's freedom to choose
 www.struggle.ws/ireland/allianceforchoice/index.html

BODY
Pro Choice Youth Activist Group
 choice_ireland@hotmail.com
 Louise: 086 329 3741

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

Revolt Video
Video Activist Collective
 revoltvideo.blogspot.com

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

Justice for Terrence Wheelock
Died after being injured in Garda custody
 087-6221218
 TerrenceWheelock@gmail.com

Red and Black Revolution issue eleven



The latest issue of the WSM magazine includes articles on Insurrections, Selling off our services, Gender differences, Unionising casual workers, and more. Send €1.50 for a copy.

Big gains for contract workers in UCD



Above: UCD Campus Belfield Dublin

Like many other employers UCD has sought to save money in the last couple of decades by refusing to create permanent pensionable posts. Instead, a growing percentage of the workforce have been left on short-term contracts without any pension rights.

Union organisation in UCD has been quite weak; of some 3,000 workers fewer than a third are union members. Most of these are in SIPTU. Over the last two years management has been engaged in an aggressive "restructuring" exercise leading to increasingly well attended union meetings and new recruitment.

The abuse of short-term contracts was identified as a key issue, some 900 contract workers, it was revealed, were excluded from the final pay related pension scheme that permanent workers were signed up to. Despite recent EU legislation that required employers to provide pension schemes for contract workers UCD, like other colleges, was dragging its feet.

By June 2006 it was very clear that

this stalling could go on indefinitely. In addition, management were refusing to renew the contract of one of the union reps in what was seen by us as victimisation.

A large majority of SIPTU members voted to give the section committee the power to call a one-day strike, to be followed by a work to rule. Rather than act on this straight away at the start of the summer when action would be less effective the section committee delayed this action until the first day of the new autumn term. As it happened the restructuring also started to unravel before this date, as many students were unable to use the new computer system to register for their courses.

The surprise result was that by the Thursday before the strike was due to take place management appeared to concede on all the key issues. Apparent concessions include:

* Bringing 900 contract workers into a final pay related pension scheme.

* 80% of the contract workers whose test cases the union had

brought are to get permanent contracts. This includes the union rep who had been let go in June, with the remaining 20% going to arbitration.

* Management agreeing to submitting future short term contracts to a union / management committee. This means short-term contract posts that are really permanent posts should be made permanent.

It will take some months to tell if these concessions are genuine or were simply an exercise to buy time at a point management were under massive pressure. It is also the case that contract workers not directly employed by UCD will not get these benefits - all the cleaning work, for instance, is outsourced. However, in either case, more progress was made in a matter of days once the threat of direct action by the workers concerned was on the table than had been made in decades of Labour Court hearings and mediation

Joe Black - (UCD SIPTU member)

There is power in a union

SIPTU estimates that almost a third of workers in UCD are 'fixed term workers'. The university also made a number of them redundant over the summer, including one who had been working for the college since 1981.

All of this is part of a trend in universities (and in other workplaces) to replace permanent staff with contract workers. For example, two years ago there were 21 permanent staff in the exams office but today there are only 11. Instead, approximately 30 temporary / fixed contract

staff have been used - in some cases on three-month contracts. The insecurity of contract workers makes it much more difficult for them to defend their working conditions and pay.

It was no surprise when over 80% voted for strike action. When management seemingly backed down SIPTU agreed to suspend the strike action - though we reserved the right to strike again if they renege on the agreement.

This was a huge victory for the most insecure workers in the university, and showed how a



union can and should fight for its members' interests.
 Aoife Fisher - UCD SIPTU member