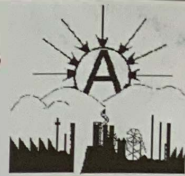


FREE!

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Twenty Four years of Irish Anarchist News

Number 104 July - August 2008



THE TRIUMPH OF GREED OVER NEED

The construction industry and the property market have well and truly collapsed. House prices have already fallen by up to 20% in some areas since 2006, and the fall is set to continue for some years still.

Although many politicians and developers will tell you that the property crash is nobody's fault - due to market conditions - they are simply liars. The reality is that the property bubble was entirely predictable. The problem was that a significant number of capitalists were making shed-loads of cash off rising prices: developers, bankers, landowners and so on.

Irish politicians were hardly going to spoil their party when so many brown envelopes were addressed to them. The corporate media gorged itself on the revenue from property ads and, in return, were happy to

provide platforms for a whole host of snake-oil salesmen - banks' economists, estate agents and other vested interests - to pimp their propaganda.

The overall affect of all this greed and corruption was that Ireland's economic boom ended up being mostly diverted into the pockets of a tiny number of capitalists. Although they were the ones who made the cash, everybody has to live with the ruinous consequences of their decisions. The country is littered with thousands of empty properties in areas without services where nobody wants to live.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people will spend decades struggling to pay back the massive loans they took to buy their homes. If interest rates continue to rise, thousands could face eviction and repossession. This appalling vista is a direct consequence of an economic system based on greed and exploitation.

Housing is a basic human need - people really can't choose to do without it. Those who own property exploit this need to enrich themselves. They don't care if they wreck the economy and thousands of lives - that's somebody else's problem.

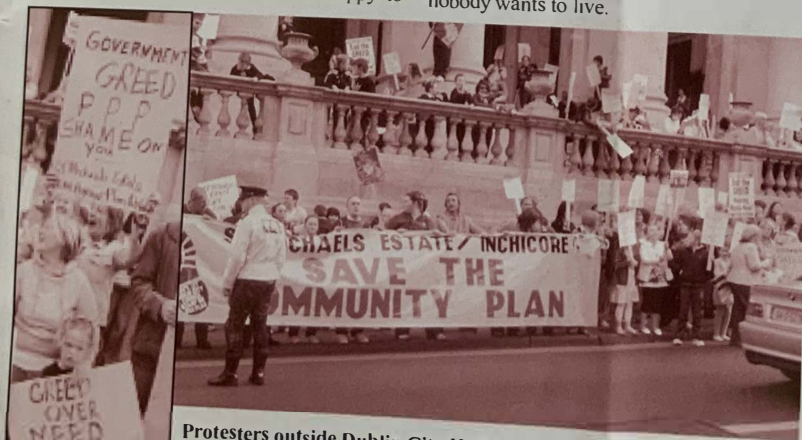
There is nothing inevitable about this system. It would be perfectly possible to organise housing in a completely different way. Society could provide everybody with decent housing as a basic right. Doing so would cut out all the horrendous waste and greed that the profit-motive introduces.

The reason that society doesn't do it like that is not because it's too difficult, it's because the current situation suits those with power perfectly well. Workers, in general, have no say in such matters, all we can do is to try to get as good housing as we can afford and keep our fingers crossed that the market doesn't turn on us.

In the long term, the only solution is to replace capitalism with a system where housing is allocated according to need, not profit. However, there's no point waiting around for the revolution. In the short term, there are a whole host of ways in which workers can limit the destructiveness of capitalists.

Demanding more public housing, opposing planning corruption, resisting evictions, protesting poor conditions and many other such actions can give workers some measure of control over the housing market. As the property crash intensifies, more and more people will have to choose between fighting back and penury. The sooner we start organising the better.

Chekov Feeney



Protesters outside Dublin City Hall in May when long-promised 'PPP' regeneration plans for their communities were scapped after billionaire developers McNamara said there was not enough profit for them.

NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISTS IN IRELAND

Pay restraint is not for the rich, but ICTU still say

Carry On Partner

Working people in the Irish Republic have been hearing a lot from the representatives of our exploiters about the need for us to exercise 'pay restraint' and to 'moderate our demands' in these difficult times. The bosses' organisations IBEC and ISME have been given considerable airtime and newspaper space in order to convince us of the necessity for sacrifice on our part, and this message has been taken up by the government too.

Brian Cowen tells us that 'pay restraint under partnership' is necessary, and will be good for the economy 'going forward', like Bertie Ahern said before him. Meanwhile our purchasing power at the supermarket tills, petrol station forecourts and high street shops is shrinking before our eyes. Who are these guys trying to fool?

Inflation is currently running at its highest level for twenty years because the rise in the price of ever-scarcer resources is being imposed on us every time we go shopping or pay a bill. But we cannot expect any relief in the form of higher wages for our work that makes and distributes all that we ourselves consume.

The bosses who profit from our daily need to live do not feel they must themselves live by their message. It's different for them. There is no call for them to restrain their profit taking for the common good. No, we are told that they have to maintain and even increase their profits to show that Ireland is 'globally competitive' and a 'healthy' economy. These messages from the business establishment and government come when the so-called partnership process enters another round of negotiations.

Ordinary working folk should not be fooled by self-serving rhetoric coming from the privileged, but many senior trade union leaders taking part in the negotiations will tell us that nothing better is possible. Their very good salaries and high-powered careers mean they don't really share the concerns and understand the vulnerable situation of hundreds of thousands of their own members.



Despite much searching Siobhan could find no evidence of partnership being good for her

They are more concerned with not rocking the boat, and will recommend a yes vote on the pay terms, almost regardless of what is proposed. What is described by the high priests of money and (sometimes) the Irish Congress of Trade Unions as 'restructuring' and 'flexibility' are better known by their real names of job losses and casualisation.

In tough times we are all expected to rescue the rich and privileged from the consequences of their own economic system, and make good their losses. We, on the other hand, can expect no such tender care - we are the ones who will make sacrifices. Why should we? And why is it always us whose demands must remain unmet, while Capital and Profit march greedily on?

Why should we accept this unequal sharing-out of risk and reward? A good first step towards rebuilding fighting unions and putting working class interests first would be the rejection of the 'partnership' confidence trick. Then we should carry on to end the power of the profiteers over our lives!

Ray Hanrahan

Contacts

ANARCHIST ORGANISATIONS

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Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group
P.O. Box 10785, Dublin 1
www.ragdublin.org

Organise!
PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ
<http://organiseireland.blogspot.com>

LIBERTARIAN NETWORKS

Indymedia Ireland
The place to find Irish campaign news
www.indymedia.ie

CAZ
Radical bookshop and social space
61 Barrack Street, Cork City
centraladminzone@gmail.com

Seomra Spraoi
Dublin social centre, reopening shortly at 113 Cork Street.
www.seomraspraoi.blogspot.com

Revolt Video
Radical video collective
<http://revoltvideo.blogspot.com>

CAMPAIGNING GROUPS

Shell to Sea
Campaign to move Shell's gas pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo
www.shelltosea.com

Hands Off the People of Iran
Anti-imperialist network for solidarity with Iranian trade unions and the women's rights movement.
www.hopoi.org

Choice Ireland
Abortion rights action group
choiceireland@gmail.com

Residents Against Racism
Opposing racism & deportations
24-hour helpline: 087-666 2060

Anti-War Ireland
Democratic anti-war organisation
www.antwarireland.org

Anarchist Black Cross (Belfast)
Assists class war prisoners worldwide
www.myspace.com/belfastabc

FACT

Even under 'partnership' you're better off in a union

The Central Statistics Office says trade union members usually get better pay than those who are not unionised.

The average difference is €6.05 an hour for women and €3.43 an hour for men.

anarkismo.net

International anarchist website with news and discussion from all five continents; in English, Turkish, Polish, Arabic, Spanish, Dutch, Norwegian, German & Greek.

LabourStart

for Irish and international trade union news

www.labourstart.org



The Federation of Anarchist Communists of Italy

have an English language site with lots of articles and pamphlets for you to read or download.

www.fdca.it/fdcaen

of the political elites who have concocted this treaty and grown rich on the back of EU expansion and the celtic tiger?", the result is no mystery at all. The middle class have mostly agreed - why wouldn't they? The working class are naturally more sceptical and unwilling to sign a blank cheque for those who have plundered the coffers while leaving our schools, hospitals and infrastructure to crumble.

So in the face of the remarkable unity of the European ruling classes behind this initiative that we remarked upon before the referendum, the Irish working class has responded with its own unity in a clear-sighted refusal to give legitimacy to a treaty that sought to trick its way past democratic accountability by shrouding its real designs in a deliberately impenetrable fog of bureaucratic gobbledegook.

It's an old cliché to say that Dev would be spinning in his grave, but the event that is the referendum result has broken the post civil-war bipartisan consensus that, no matter what else, class politics was the one thing that had to be avoided at all costs in this state. Of course one swallow does not make a summer, but this event is like the sudden spark in the night that illuminates a scene for a brief instant and reveals a hitherto hidden scene. A very different social picture from the smug triumphalism of the FF 2007 election victory.

The referendum result is not only a crisis for the constitution of a bosses' Europe, but also the beginnings of a political breakdown of the FF/FG excommunication of class politics from Irish society.

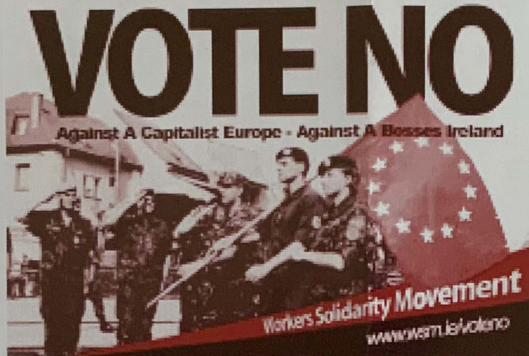
Paul Bowman

Lisbon Vote: A Class Act

As the morning of Friday 13th of June grew towards midday, the government realised with mounting horror that they had not only lost the referendum for the Lisbon treaty, but had lost badly. In the end, with a turnout higher than both Nice referendums and European elections, the Irish electorate had cast more No votes than the number that elected the FF government last year.

In the days that followed the media commentators in press, radio and television, groped around blindly for arguments or reasons why the people have rejected the appeals of the united front of political parties and bosses to "do the right thing" and rubber-stamp this treaty.

But amongst all the outpouring of words



from the chatterati, one theme, indeed Friday the 13th's most striking and historic theme, has been missing. A wise man once said "listen for the silences". In this deluge of punditry there has been an almost total silence over "the big C". As in class, not cancer. The results of this referendum show a vote split along class lines that has not been seen so clearly since the founding of the Republic.

Indeed, given that the referendum basically came down to a question of "do you believe that your interests are the same as those

US Dockers strike against the war

For those of us involved in the fight for workers' power, the 1st of May gave us much to be cheerful about. Traditionally a day to celebrate working class solidarity and militancy, workers in America and Iraq marked it with a wonderful demonstration of both of these fine qualities.

Work was shut down in 29 ports across the US as 25,000 dock workers organised in

the International Longshore and Warehouse Union went on strike against the American war in Iraq. This action was supported by some truck drivers and postal workers in the US, and by fellow dock workers in Iraq who struck in the ports of Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zubair, protesting against the war, religious sectarianism, and the economic agenda of the occupation.

As they wrote in a solidarity letter to ILWU members: "The courageous decision you made to carry out a strike on May Day to protest against the war and occupation of Iraq advances our struggle against occupation to bring a better future for us and for the rest of the world as well. We are certain that a better world will only be created by the workers and



The union's drill team leads the San Francisco May Day march

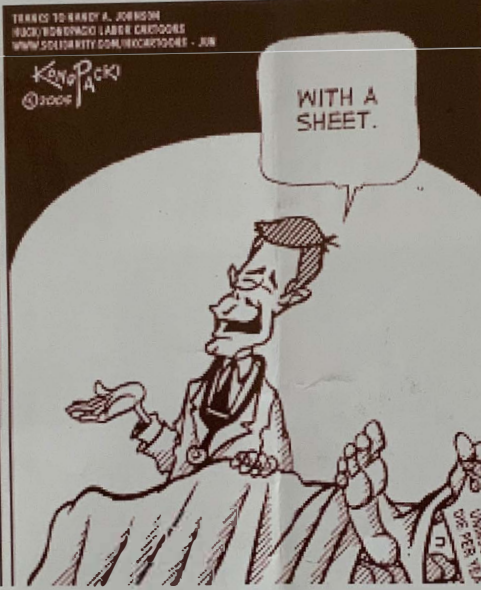
what you are doing is an example and proof of what we say... We in Iraq are looking up to you and support you until the victory over the US administration's barbarism is achieved."

Ronan McHugh



It's not incompetence, it's sabotage

HSE Board have an interest in running down health service



Let's put a gang of joyriders in charge of road safety. An unbelievably stupid idea? Of course it is, only someone who didn't give a damn about road safety would even suggest it. So would you put people with a financial interest in running down the public health service in charge of our hospitals?

That's exactly what the government has done. The Board of the Health Service Executive is full of them. Making profits is what really matters to Brian Cowan and his chums in the PDs and Green Party.

A pitiful public service forces people to buy private health insurance and use private facilities. Just over 50% of the population have done this, mostly to get just basic care without waiting years.

Chairman, Liam Downey used to be Chief Executive of the medical company, Becton Dickenson. He also sits on the executive of the bosses' organisation, IBEC.

Another IBEC executive member is Neither of the two medical members of the

Joe Macri, European boss of computer multinational Microsoft.

Donal de Buitelir is a general manager in Allied Irish Banks.

Niamh Brennan, wife of former PD leader Michael McDowell, is an accountant, Professor of Management at UCD, and belongs to the Institute of Directors.

Eugene McCague is one of the owners of law firm Arthur Cox, whose business clients control much of the country's wealth. He is also a member of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

Board actually works with people who are ill. Michael Murphy is Dean of Medicine at University College Cork and Anne Scott is Professor of Nursing at Dublin City University.

Psychologist Maureen Gaffney is also on the Board. A regular on RTE radio, she has an opinion on everything except the state of our hospitals.

Pat Farrell is the former chief executive of Galvia Private Hospital in Galway, and current Chief Executive of the Irish Banking Federation.

Joe Mooney is a newly retired senior civil servant from the Department of Finance, and P.J. Fitzpatrick is Chief Executive of the Courts Service.

Undocumented Irish in US to be hit by new anti-union law



The Kansas Senate has voted in a new law that will make criminals out of unions which organise workers who are illegal immigrants. To "collect union dues from any alien who is not lawfully present in the United States" would be subject to fines from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The same Senators repeatedly rejected attempts to impose punishments on employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. In other words, in Kansas, while employers are free to do whatever they want when hiring, trade unions will be punished for uniting with their work colleagues.

What a boon this will be to union busting employers! Keeping the undocumented out of unions makes them more exploitable. And any boss wanting to stick the boot into the union only has to drop in a few illegal aliens, let the union recruit them, then make sure the union gets reported for collecting dues. The fines hurt the union and the employer gets off free and easy!

Thinking about Anarchism

Why Class Matters

The concept of class is fundamental to the anarchist understanding of society. The goal of anarchist communism is to create a classless society where everyone is on an equal footing...

Many figures in the economic and political elite argue that we now live in a classless society. While it is true that class as an economic and social phenomenon has changed as capitalism has developed...

First of all, lets try to define what we mean by "class". The simplest way to begin is to look at the two main classes: the working class and the capitalist class.

social infrastructure like education, health and other public services; the rest is profit or "surplus value" for the capitalist class.

In other words, work generates wealth but this wealth is not controlled by those who do the work. It is controlled by those who manage and direct the workers.

In todays Ireland, this includes both blue-collar workers (the "traditional" working class) as well as (due to our changing economy) many in white-collar jobs.

The working class far outnumbers those in the capitalist class; under capitalism a very small number of people have most of the wealth and power.

The distinction between the working class and the capitalist class is best described in terms of their ownership of the things which are needed to do work: land, factories, raw materials etc.

The divides are not always so black and white; there are those workers who have a higher standing than those lower down the scale.



Anarchists argue that it is in the long-term interests of all, regardless of their relative position in the current system, to unite against the capitalists. For this to happen, it is necessary that a class automatically. Neither are we saying that class is the only oppression but rather that it must be a focus if we are to achieve any lasting change beyond token reforms.

A truly revolutionary movement can only come from the action of the working class as a class. We are the ones who keep society running, it is well within our ability to remove the political and economic apparatus that forces most of the population to work for the benefit of a privileged elite.

Bob Kavanagh



The Health Services Executive in Cork is spending nearly four times as much giving work that used to be done by a HSE employee to private profiteers. A worker in the Environmental Health Unit (which deals with everything from transport to pest control) used to get a maximum of €700 a week until he retired this year.

consciousness be developed, so that individuals recognise how they are being exploited and realise their collective power to change society. Unfortunately, this does not always come about spontaneously.

Some libertarians argue that focusing on class is unnecessary and means ignoring other forms of oppression such as sexism and racism. Other left wing tendencies have argued that these are "side issues" to the issue of class.

Anarchists are not saying that once we get rid of class, that such things as sexism and racism will disappear or be divided under gender, ethnic or other lines.

corporate PR gurus, the government and the mainstream media.

Instead they cut through the crap and supported the actions of ordinary people who decided not to wait for politicians to fulfill their empty promises, and took matters into their own hands.

Whoever said that radical ideas like taking direct action don't appeal to the majority of people? This case proves that, given the chance to hear all the facts, most of us will support direct action. We say, fair play to the Raytheon 9! And fair play to the jury for acquitting them!

Shane O'Curry



Belfast jury says fighting war criminals is not a crime

Raytheon 9 acquitted on the grounds that direct action was justified.

It was a victory for people applying common sense and cutting through capitalist bullshit. What the prosecution had feared most was the jury acquitting the 9 because they believed them when they said that they had sabotaged Raytheon's computers in order to disrupt the company's activities.

But they failed in that, so they petitioned to have it moved from Derry to Belfast where they thought a jury would not be as sympathetic to the non-stationed Raytheon 9. They thought it more likely to believe the ideological bullshit which calls sabotaging an arms firm's computers a crime while calling the bombing of civilians "legitimate business".

But it didn't work. That the jury acquitted the 9 goes to show that ordinary people, when presented with all the facts in a measured and sober manner, won't buy into the spin and euphemisms spouted by the

Solidarity action by Cork Dockers

In mid-April, Cork dock workers took action in support of the crew of The Defender, a cargo ship owned by Forestry Shipping from Riga, Latvia but registered in Cambodia. The Defender had nine crew on board and was carrying cargo for delivery in the Cork area.

You were at work when you heard about the situation of the crew. Can you tell me what happened? Well you see, the boys in Connolly Hall* heard about the Defender via Ken Fleming of the International Transport Federation.

Some not honoured by the owners. There were some lousy contracts were forced on them.

Is this an ununsituation to come across on the docks or what? When we were asked to support them we did so and it was then we found out about what was happening on the Defender.

What was the response to your solidarity action? Well nothing happened then! What I mean is that the timber load was on the Defender and that was where it was staying. We had a meeting with Ken Fleming about 2pm.

What happened then? No one was happy at this stage. Not the Harbour Board, not Doyle, not the ship's agent.

What was the exact situation of the crew? They hadn't been paid for a long while. Over four months. Which for seagoing people is a very, very hard thing to swallow.

What happened then? No one was happy at this stage. Not the Harbour Board, not Doyle, not the ship's agent. The Harbour Master got the money onto the crew. The Harbour Master could technically sell the cargo to settle the matter if he wished.

We also met with a representative of Doyle. Doyle is the stevedore company that we work for. They were dealing with the Defender.

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Where was the ship from? It was a Latvian ship but the sailors were a couple of nationalities. We weren't too worried where they were from.

What was the upshot of the meeting at the airport? We got a guarantee from the Harbour authorities that the ship would not be allowed leave the port. In fact the ship was arrested - in the sense that it was impounded.

What was the upshot of the meeting at the airport? We got a guarantee from the Harbour authorities that the ship would not be allowed leave the port. In fact the ship was arrested - in the sense that it was impounded. Along the way, a big load of cigarettes was found on board her too - so that complicated things further for the owners.



Scene of the crime

businesses were anxious to get the cargo moving.

Did the crew get their money at this point? Well the Harbour Master got the money onto the crew. The Harbour Master could technically sell the cargo to settle the matter if he wished.

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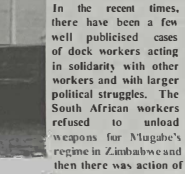
And anyway at this point word was out. The Harbour Board workers are also militant - the harbour pilots and so on, I mean. If they say some action is justified, then no much can move in the harbour.

We have a great relationship with them. And if we are backing a dispute, they will back us up. And we would also back them. We are all in No 5 branch of SIPTU, as are the Harbour Board workers and pilots.

Did all the crew of the Defender get sorted? In three or four days yes. We started the action on a Thursday and by Tuesday of the following week we were notified that they had all been paid. Everything went well once we secured the agreement. The ship sailed off again.

What was the result? Once we stopped the unloading it brought it all to a head. If that hadn't been done I think the crew would still be without their pay.

In the recent times, there have been a few well publicised cases of dock workers acting in solidarity with other workers and with larger political struggles. The South African workers refused to unload weapons for Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe and then there was action of US dock workers against George Bush's war in Iraq.



And there similarities with these widely publicised cases?

Solidarity always there. It's always been there, but when we don't know about a situation or dispute we don't do anything. But once we were notified, as I said, then it's different. Our priority once we knew about it was to get the crew paid. And we did.

Turkish workers take on killer bosses

On June 16th Turkish shipyard workers went on strike in a bid to stop workplace deaths at Tuzla docks, near Istanbul.

There have been 97 deaths since the shipyard was privatised by the government five years ago and 19 deaths since the Minister of Employment and Social Security promised, on September 8th 2007, the issue would be resolved.

At the end of February 2008 shipyard workers went on a two day strike after five deaths in that month alone. The authoritarian, religious Turkish government and the national media remained silent about the deaths until they were faced with further protests by the families of the deceased workers, which attracted huge national and international support.

crushed to death under machinery weighing half a ton. Deaths in the shipyards are due to the lack of safety equipment and the reckless disregard for safety regulations shown by the shipyard management, subcontractors and the Ministry authorities.

Workers in Turkey face tremendous pressures in making demands for basic rights such as workplace safety, job security, better pay and a minimum standard of living. They face arrests and lengthy sentences for "public disorder", lock-outs and losing their jobs.

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During the protests 70 workers were arrested and one worker was run over by a car belonging to a subcontractor. The police not only arrested

workers, they also confiscated a tent, banners and publications belonging to the union and arrested union officials. The representatives of the subcontractors, who are responsible for these deaths, placed the blame on workers.

Workers in Turkey face tremendous pressures in making demands for basic rights such as workplace safety, job security, better pay and a minimum standard of living. They face arrests and lengthy sentences for "public disorder", lock-outs and losing their jobs. The shipyard workers who are taking this action to stop deaths face death themselves. They are also just the tip of the iceberg.

According to official statistics more than a thousand workers die in Turkey each year in preventable workplace accidents and five thousand die from workplace acquired illnesses.

Messages of support and solidarity can be sent to: limineris@gmail.com

Anarchism and the Workers Solidarity Movement

Our campaign against the Lisbon CNT-ATP union in Spain and the Industrial Workers of the World. Information about Starbuck's profits and the benefits of unionisation were given to staff in cafes in Belfast, Cork and Dublin. Protests were also held in Belfast

Friday July 4th saw 17 people give up their lunchhour to leaflet workers at Loughridge in Dun Laoghaire. The multinational firm sacked a trade union representative in their Warsaw office and, as part of an international day of action, the ZSP union asked the WSM to stage a protest and inform staff here about the case. They were leafleted about the victimisation, and with contact details of unions here. It was an attempt to start a self-organised strike in response to the firm's actions.

The following day saw the WSM respond to another call for solidarity with trade unionists sacked by Starbuck's in Spain and the USA



(with the 'Organise' group) and in Dublin.

The 30 people outside the College Green branch moved up the road to the Dawson Street one after hearing the manager there had snatched leaflets from staff and torn them up. They decide how much you get paid, how hours you work, and now they want to decide what their staff can read. With bosses like that who can doubt the need for unions?

"Mourn for the Dead and Fight like hell for the living!" - Mother Jones

NEWSPAPER OF ANARCHISTS IN IRELAND

Protesters outside Dublin City Hall in May when long-promised regeneration plans for their communities were scrapped after billionaire developers Mechanisms said there was not enough profit for them.



Demanding more public housing, opposing planning corruption, resisting evictions, and the destruction of communities. A whole host of ways in which workers can fight the revolution. In the short term, there are also a number of ways in which workers can

organising themselves. The sooner we start back and forth) the sooner we can win. Property, credit interests, and the market economy are the main enemies. As the actions taken give workers some measure of control over the housing market, as such actions can give workers some measure of control over their own communities, and many other aspects of their lives, the sooner we can win.

The reason that society doesn't do it like that is not because it's too difficult, it's because the capitalist system is set up to prevent it. However, there's a point where things aren't so difficult. In the short term, there are also a number of ways in which workers can fight the revolution. In the short term, there are also a number of ways in which workers can

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THE TRIUMPH OF GREED

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people will spend decades struggling to pay back the massive loans they took out to buy their homes. If interest rates continue to rise, thousands will face eviction and repossession. This could mean the end of the dream of a decent standard of living based on greed and exploitation. Housing is a basic human need - people really can't choose to do without it. Those who own property exploit this need to enrich themselves. They don't care if they enrich the economy and thousands of lives - that's secondary to their greed.

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Twenty Four Years of Irish Anarchist News

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Working people in the Irish Republic have been hearing a lot from the representatives of our exploiters to "exercise restraint" and "moderate our demands" in these difficult times. The bosses' organisations (BEC and ISME) have been given considerable airtime and newspaper space in order to convince us of the necessity for sacrifice on our part, and this message has been taken up by the government too.



Despite much searching Siobhan could find no evidence of partnership being good for her

Inflation is currently running at its highest level for twenty years because the rise in the price of ever-scarcer resources is being imposed on us every time we go shopping or pay a bill. But we cannot expect any relief in the form of higher wages for our work that makes and distributes all that we ourselves consume.

Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group
P.O. Box 10785, Dublin 1
www.ragdublin.org

Organise!
PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ
http://organiseireland.blogspot.com

Ordinary working folk should not be fooled by self-serving rhetoric coming from the privileged, but many senior trade union leaders taking part in the negotiations will tell us that nothing better is possible. Their very good salaries and high-powered careers mean they don't really share the concerns and understand the vulnerable situation of hundreds of thousands of their own members.

They are more concerned with not rocking the boat, and will recommend a yes vote on the pay terms, almost regardless of what is proposed. What is described by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions as 'restructuring' and 'flexibility' are better known by their real names of job losses and casualisation.

Libertarian Networks
Indymedia Ireland
The place to find Irish campaign news
www.indymedia.ie

Even under 'partnership' you're better off in a union

In tough times we are all expected to rescue the rich and privileged from the consequences of their own economic system, and make good their losses. We, on the other hand, can expect no such tender care - we are the ones who will make sacrifices. Why should we? And why is it always us whose demands must remain unmet, while Capital and Profit march greedily on?

Choice Ireland
Abortion rights action group
choiceireland@gmail.com

The Central Statistics Office says trade union members usually get better pay than those who are not unionised.

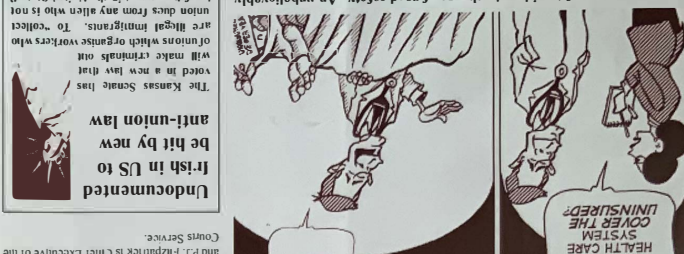
Why should we accept this unequal sharing-out of risk and reward? A good first step towards rebuilding fighting unions and putting working class interests first would be the rejection of the 'partnership' confidence trick. Then we should carry on to end the power of the profiteers over us!

Anti-War Ireland
Democratic anti-war organisation
www.antiwarireland.org

Ray Hamrahnan

Another BEC executive member is the bosses' organisation, BEC. Dickenson. He also sits on the executive of the Commercial Union of Ireland. Chairman, Liam Dowling used to be the Executive of the Medical Society of the Republic. Engage McGuire is one of the owners of the firm Arthur Cox, whose business clients include many of the country's major banks and financial institutions. Michael McDermott is a UCD professor. Niamb Brennan, wife of former TD leader Donald O'Riordan, is a general manager in Allied Irish Banks. For more information, contact the Health Service Executive. This exactly what the government has done since 1987 to get just back care practices. Just over 50% of the population has health insurance and use private health insurance. A public service forces people to buy health insurance and use private health insurance.

Let's put a gang of joyriders in charge of road safety. An unequivocal about road safety would even suggest it. So would you and people with a financial interest in running down the public health service in charge of road safety. Of course it is, only someone who didn't give a damn about road safety would even suggest it. So would you and people with a financial interest in running down the public health service in charge of road safety.



Get involved, check out - www.wsm.ie
It's not incompetence, it's sabotage
HSE Board have an interest in running down health service
Irish in US to be hit by new anti-union law

anarkismo.net
International anarchist website with news and discussion from all five continents: in English, Turkish, Polish, Arabic, Spanish, Dutch, Norwegian, German & Greek.

LabourStart
for Irish and international trade union news
www.labourstart.org

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of the political elites who have concocted this treaty and grown rich on the back of EU expansion and the Celtic tiger? The result is no mystery at all. The middle class have mostly agreed - why wouldn't they? The working class are naturally more sceptical and unwilling to sign a blank cheque for those who have plundered the coffers while leaving our schools, hospitals and infrastructure to crumble.

Lisbon Vote: A Class Act



So in the face of the remarkable unity of the European ruling classes behind this initiative that we remarked upon before the referendum, the Irish working class has responded with its own unity in a clear-sighted refusal to give legitimacy to a treaty that sought to trick its way past democratic accountability by shrouding its real designs in a deliberately impenetrable fog of bureaucratic gobbledegook.

As the morning of Friday 13th of June grew towards midday, the government realised with mounting horror that they had not only lost the referendum for the Lisbon treaty, but had lost badly. In the end, with a turnout higher than both Nice referendum and European elections, the Irish electorate had cast more No votes than the number that elected the FF government last year.

from the chatterati, one theme, indeed Friday the 13th's most striking and historic theme, has been missing. A wise man once said "listen for the silences". In this deluge of punditry there has been an almost total silence over "the big C". As in class, not cancer. The results of this referendum show a vote split along class lines that has not been seen so clearly since the founding of the Republic.

It's an old cliché to say that Dev would be spinning in his grave, but the event that is the referendum result has broken the post-civil-war bipartisan consensus that, no matter what class politics was the one thing that had to be avoided at all costs in this state. Of course one swallow does not make a summer, but this event is like the sudden spark in the night that illuminates a scene for a brief instant and reveals a hitherto hidden scene. As a cry different social picture from the smug triumphalism of the FF 2007 election victory.

But amongst all the outpouring of words

Indeed, given that the referendum basically came down to a question of "do you believe that your interests are the same as those

Paul Bowman

US Dockers strike against the war

For those of us involved in the fight for workers' power, the 1st of May gave us much to be cheerful about. Traditionally a day to celebrate working class solidarity and militancy, workers in America and Iraq marked it with a wonderful demonstration of both of these fine qualities.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union went on strike against the American war in Iraq. This action was supported by some truck drivers and postal workers in the US, and by fellow dock workers in Iraq who struck in the ports of Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zubair, protesting against the war, religious sectarianism, and the economic agenda of the occupation.



Work was shut down in 29 ports across the US as 25,000 dock workers organised in

As they wrote in a solidarity letter to ILWU members: "The courageous decision you made to carry out a strike on May Day to protest against the war and occupation of Iraq advances our struggle against occupation to bring a better future for us and for the rest of the world as well. We are certain that a better world will only be created by the workers and

The union's drill team leads the San Francisco May Day march
what you are doing is an example and proof of what we say... We in Iraq are looking up to you and support you until the victory over the US administration's barbarism is achieved.

Ronan McHugh