



MISSISSIPPI DROWNING

THERE IS NO doubt that, despite American protests, global warming has made the hurricane season worse. Now is the not the time to tackle those issues. The hurricanes have come and have gone and they have left the poor, working people in a disastrous situation. But it has not been inevitable! Back in 2001 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognised that a hurricane was the third most likely cause of disaster to hit the USA. Money needed to finish levee building, \$20-\$40m of it, was redirected to Bush's favourite cause—WAR!. To all intents and purposes New Orleans, sitting below sea level, was a disaster waiting to happen.

The State's Response

We would have thought that a huge country with such an enormous amount of money, like the USA, would have had a state plan to deal with such a crisis. They sent men to the moon didn't they? So what really happened? The media would have us believe that gun toting vigilantes took to the streets looting they could get their hands on. That, without the law and order structure supported by the police and National Guard, chaos was their order of the day. Whilst no doubt some people behaved badly, the truth is that those who did behave the worst were the New Orleans and New York Police Departments and the National Guard.

Police fire over heads of survivors seeking shelter

Two paramedics Larry Bradshaw and Lorie Beth Slonsky tell how two hundred people "walked to the police command centre at Harrah's on Canal Street and



were told...that we were on our own and that they had no water to give us. ..We held a mass meeting to decide a course of action." When the group became an

"I saw one cop beat a guy so hard he almost took his ear off. And this was someone just trying to walk home."

embarrassment to the police by their presence the commander told them buses were waiting to take them out of town. As they approached the supposed pick-up point the sheriffs shot over their heads to disperse them.

Organisers murdered

Others tell of the murder of three young black men who tried to take over a hotel to set up a clinic for the young, old and sick away from the hell of the convention centre. And more tell of how

Where is the President when you need him most?

Sun Aug 28th Bush on holiday in Crawford Texas Day before the hurricane hit

Mon Aug 29th Bush acting as salesman for drug companies in California and Arizona Katrina Arrives levees break

Tues Aug 30th Bush playing guitar for a photo shoot in San Diego The city is drowning

Wed Aug 31st Bush finally arrived to view the death and destruction - by plane, thousands of feet in the air!

people who waded neck deep in toxic water floating their grandmother in a fridge were turned away from the bridge to safety by police carrying guns.

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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.

If you're interested in joining, contact us at:

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

Subscriptions to **resistance** costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, **organise!** for revolutionary anarchism, is also £4.

You can subscribe to **resistance** by email for free via the website above.

THIS issue of **Resistance** has been edited and produced by members of Manchester Anarchist Federation.
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ON THE FRONTLINE

Building Workers Organise

A NEW CONSTRUCTION workers rank and file coalition has been formed to oppose new contracts imposed by the bosses with the connivance of full-time union officials. They want help distributing leaflets around building sites.

Laing O'Rourke

Major construction firm, Laing O'Rourke imposed a new Contract of Employment on all its site workers. This means large pay cuts for many and an employers 'discretionary bonus'. These attacks were fully supported by the full-time officials of the three major building industry unions - UCATT, TGWU and GMB. This ensured that where resistance did occur it was fragmented and unsuccessful.

No bosses stooges wanted

Hot on their heels, other employers are now following suit. It's not too late for workers to begin real, organised resistance to these attacks, as long as it occurs at a grassroots level independent of the management stooges who run the builders' unions. A meeting took place on 14th June in London to coordinate the fightback. This led to considerable interest from individual workers as well as the national Rank and File Building



Worker Group and union branches such as the GMB SOLO branch and Northampton UCATT.

Spreading Resistance

This new Rank and File coalition aims to spread resistance to the new contracts nationally whilst also fighting for improvements in wages, working hours, sick pay, pensions and the constant deaths and injuries caused by so-called 'site accidents'. To escape victimisation, they need support from other sympathisers to hand out newsletters and bulletins on their local building sites. This type of grassroots initiative needs to be both supported and repeated in other industries. Get in touch and get involved.
Building Worker Group:
07767 615 354

GATE GOURMET SOLIDARITY

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL

ANARCHISTS AND OTHER activists have organised pickets outside the Blue Arrow offices in Manchester and Liverpool. The Liverpool actions twice managed to shut the Blue Arrow offices, despite the police trying (and failing) to use local by-laws against 'touting for trade' to move the pickets on the first time. Both pickets received considerable support from passers by. Like scabs the world over, Blue Arrow staff and managers prefer to slip in and out by the back door than face up to what they are doing.



Shame on them!

For info of more pickets, contact:
manchester@af-north.org
or liverpool@af-north.org.

Stuff Your Boss

ANARCHISTS IN THE North West, from Liverpool, Preston and Manchester have met to form a campaign against the way employers are using casual labour and denying workers even basic employment rights. A web site is being set up, information can be obtained by contacting the Solidarity Federation:
PO Box 469, Preston PR1 8XF

117 Days on Strike

CNT, THE SPANISH anarchist trade union reports that after 117 days on strike, workers at Aussa in Seville have won their strike. The bosses had tried to sack the workers, but due to their amazing solidarity, not only did they get their jobs back, they also had working conditions improved.

SOLIDARITY—THE KEY TO BEATING ID

WITH THE NATIONAL identity database and card bill poised to have its new 3rd reading in October, the Home Office has been trying to pour cold water on anti-ID campaigning by the launch of an 'ID Road Show' that apparently started in Manchester Airport in mid-September and might be coming to a place near you! That should provide some fun and games for Defy-ID who have been at the forefront of libertarian activities against the scheme. But how prepared are we to fight ID if it comes in? A popular campaign of outright refusal will surely be needed.

Defy-ID groups around the country have mostly been hitting the right message, but recently some individuals have suggested supporting left of Labour campaigns like NO2ID. Anarchists have real problems with this. NO2ID are asking you to 'write to your MP', and are putting their energy into lobbying the Labour Party conference. They have even set up a 'pledge' where they ask you to pay into a fighting fund for others can act - so you don't have to!

Lobbying of political parties and this kind of centrally organised fighting fund is typical of the socialist left who don't believe people can be self-empowered to fight. And who are the official refuseniks that will benefit from the pledge money, should it be raised? You guessed it, the same leftie organisers who are always going on about workers power but deep down think we are too

stupid to fight our own struggles.

In addition we are hearing far too much of the 'won't stop fraud, won't stop crime' arguments against ID which just add to the fears we are currently living under. Instead of creating solidarity they actually reinforce the opposite, making us feel we need the state to protect us from others. It is especially sickening to hear 'won't stop benefit fraud' repeated again and again by the likes of Liberty and NO2ID – implying that surviving by working and claiming dole or living in the grey/black economy is something that we should worry about.

Let's not forget what ID was really about before the 'war on terror' and other bogus political messages took over before the general election. ID was about 'entitlement' to public services. The rich will be able to pay for their anonymity in society as they will not need to use services that the rest of us will have to access with our national ID. So underneath it all, ID is a big class issue.

Contact:

Defy-ID, www.defy-id.org.uk/

Ideas for action, www.defy-id.org.uk/ideas_for_action.htm

Discussion forum, www.libcom.org/forums



DISSENT

DISSENT HAD THEIR post-G8 get together in August. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the failures and successes of the mobilisation.

The dissection naturally led to a huge big pat on the back for us all. Fair enough. Dissent did mobilise thousands of people and organise a large space where our ideas for a future society were realised briefly, but the actual event, like the gathering reflected the inertia of summit hoppers to see forward to what could actually be achieved. What is Dissent? What does it represent? It was difficult for people to solidify an answer to those questions. Language is a scary thing for some people and there was a fear of "restricting ourselves with labels". The idea of Dissent focusing its attention where it matters, namely on the day-to-day struggle for working people was an idea accepted but forgotten in place of spectacles like DSEI.

The Anarchist Federation believes that moving out of the lifestyle ghetto and into our communities is how we can build alternatives. Dissent is meeting again in October and the point of community action will be raised again.

INSIDE INFORMATION

Support anti-G8 prisoners in Scotland!

THE G8 SUMMIT was held in Scotland from the 6th to the 8th July, and was resisted and protested against by a wide range of people, with demonstrations, blockades and actions. (For more info on what happened see www.indymedia.org.uk and www.dissent.org.uk).

Charges dropped against 30 people from outside the UK have been dropped but almost two hundred people are still due to have trials in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Stirling and Falkirk. Court cases have already started and more are due in the next few weeks.

If you are interested in helping people due in court in any way please contact:

July 2005 Solidarity Group
c/o 17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh EH7 5HA

email: July2005solidarity@yahoo.co.uk
Also see www.g8legalsupport.info
or leave a message on 0131 557 6242

For up to date prisoners support info visit: www.brightonabc.org.uk or subscribe to a new Email list by sending a blank Email to : UKPrisonetcNews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

24th Anarchist Bookfair

Saturday 22nd October, 2005, at The Resource Centre, 365 Holloway Road, London N7. 10 till 6.

THE VERY FIRST Anarchist Bookfair was in 1983. It's happened every year since, getting bigger and better each time. This coming one is the 24th Anarchist Bookfair and it is the largest and most important regular gathering of Anarchists in the world. It reflects the full range of Anarchist groups, publishers and activity. Alongside the day length Bookfair, where you can get the latest books, pamphlets, magazines and all the other stuff, there are continual meetings and discussions on all aspects of anarchist activity. These are open to all. Through the day there is a professionally run creche and hot food.

The venue is on the Holloway Road in North London. It's just a couple of hundred metres from the Holloway Road tube station and is a convenient location. The Bookfair has moved because they needed a bigger space.

The Anarchist Federation will be there, so if you want to meet us, this is an excellent opportunity.

resistance

anarchist bulletin



(Continued from front page)

Shoot to kill Curfew

The police imposed a shoot to kill curfew after 8.00 at night. One witness saw a desperate man trying to find his family at a community computer centre only to have to leave at 7.30 to get home before the curfew come in at 8.

Dump The Red Cross

The Red Cross has a history of mis-spending money. After the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York it received \$564m of which only \$154m was given to victims families. The rest was kept to fight the war on terror. In the same way the Red Cross is behaving badly now. Survivors in New Orleans ask for money not to be sent to the Red Cross.

The new city must be something very different with better services and fewer poor people. - Wall St Journal

Get shot of the poor

Evacuations had two purposes. Parts of the land are drowned, toxic and dangerous. Some areas are not safe to stay in and people need to be safe. But, other parts, though damaged, are still good enough to be rebuilt and lived in. The authorities are making little distinction between the two. They want to clear the whole area so that rebuilding will get rid of the poor and the black and make a city for the rich only. The Wall Street Journal, America's main financial paper stated, "The new city must be something very different with better services and fewer poor people." Where are the poor going to go? They sure as hell aren't going to disappear over night. But they won't be welcome back either!

Already big construction and weapons businesses like Kellogg, Brown and Root has a \$500m contract to rebuild naval



bases. In exchange for the contract it donated a measly \$1m to the disaster relief fund. Seems a good exchange!

The People's Response

Working people in New Orleans and other hard hit areas are organising them-



selves. A media centre has been opened in Algiers, one of the drier areas of the city. It has free bikes, food, showers and play facilities for kids. There is a community-run organisation offering mutual aid to all. They have doctors, lawyers, paramedics and "volunteers of all creeds and stripes" and are working more effectively than the organisations tied up with red tape.

"Of course we looted. We had to survive"

The sick, the poor and those who chose to remain in the affected areas need dry clothes, food water and medical supplies. These were available in the shops and pharmacies around the city.

Anarchists believe that what we need should be there for us to have. The survivors acted in an anarchistic way and took what they needed. The police, protecting the owners and bosses, reacted violently. They shot and beat up those who took what they needed, in other words looters.

Common Ground

While the state continues to let people down we are encouraged to see the way working people in affected areas are supporting each other through imaginative and creative ways. If you want more info check out the common Ground website. Support their work and that of other self-managed groups in New Orleans. by contacting them at

www.commongroundrelief.org with links to other groups available from there.

OCTOBER 4: Laudelino Iglesias Martinez left prison in August 2004 after spending more than 23 years in Spanish prisons. He is one of the well-known social rebels and anarchists imprisoned in Spain. He will be speaking at the Cowley Club, 12 London Rd., Brighton 6.30pm www.cowleyclub.org.uk

5: Defy ID, Manchester SolFed, Hare and Hounds, Shude Hill, Manchester. 8.30pm (AF speaker)

7-9: Films On The Edge - Three Days of radical and anarchist films and discussion 1 in 12 Club, Bradford. Visit www.1in12.go-legend.net for more info.

8: 'Keep Space for Peace' demonstration at Menwith Hill Spy Base near Harrogate North Yorkshire 12 noon to 4/5ish Organised by the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases 01482 702033 or www.caab.org.uk

8: Roads and Runways Gathering - to plan action against expansion of aviation and the roads programme, in Nottingham, from 10am. Early booking essential: email Rebecca@roadalert.org.uk or phone 0845 3550111. www.roadalert.org.uk

12: Mississippi Drowning - The New Orleans Floods. Manchester AF, the Basement, 24 Lever St, Mcr (off Piccadilly Gdns) 7.30pm

15-16: Dissent Gathering, Sheffield

16: International Day of Action Against McDonald's. 020 7713 1269. www.mcspotlight.org For ready-made leaflets 0845 458 9595 mclibel@veggies.org.uk

22: Anarchist Bookfair. See previous page for details www.anarchistbookfair.org

23: Freedom to Protest Conference, 11am—5pm. The Resource Centre, 365 Holloway Road, London N7 www.freedomtoprotest.org.uk

NOVEMBER 3: Shell Oil in Ireland. The struggle at Rosspport. Manchester AF, the Basement, 24 Lever St, Mcr (off Piccadilly Gdns) 7.30pm

5: THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD. IWW Centenary Festival with labour films during the day, and a Robb Johnson gig starting at 8 pm at the RampART social centre, 15-17 Rampart Street, London E1 2LA

11: 2nd Bolton Radical Bookfair. Socialist Club, Wood St., Bolton 11 - 5

AND REMEMBER, 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