Solidarity on the docks

Why the Dockers?

In September 1995 Merseyside Dock and Harbour Company sacked its portworkers while they were working to agreed procedures. This followed 6 years of breaking up the workers, increasing hours, derecognising shop stewards and generally casualising the workforce.

The sacked dockers picketed out the rest of the dock, and management used this as an excuse to carry out their plan to sack the rest of the workforce. Since then scab workers brought in have themselves had to fight wage cuts, and been sacked for it.

But management are also being taken on by dockers internation-ally with a boycott of ships traveling to and from the port spreading around the docks of the world. Mass meetings of the sacked dockers are still confident and solid, refusing the insulting offers of management.

Why Now?

The dockers have now approached Reclaim the Streets, Freedom Network and Advance Party for solidarity actions this September, resulting in the moving of the planned anti-CJA demo up to Liverpool as part of a national weekend of action. This will be held on the 28th-30th September and will also include an illegal mass picket/rave.

Why do it?

Bringing together these struggles is important, though not necessarily as simple as spending a weekend together. The dispute at the docks is about smashing an organised workplace, a culture of resistance, where such workers' organisation allowed, for example, the banning of handling of dangerous chemicals, as well as fights over pay and conditions.

While the expression of 'proletarian solidarity' from the traditional 'counter culture' groups is well... a bit weird (like with the call to unite 'minories') - most of the 'counter culture' is part of the working class and our class is not a fucking minority... it has to be seen in the reclaiming of Mayday 1994 by the first mass anti-Criminal Justice Bill demo... and the solidarity Critical Mass for the bike strikers this summer. Likewise, with the call to defend diversity, any move away from the monolithic vision of the working class in cloth caps is a great step forward - our class is diverse and strong at the same time.

This isn't to say that it'll all be roses - there are real differences in needs and perspectives in parts of our class - uniting is painful but staying divided is even worse...

This is be a weekend not to be missed!

For details contact 0181 450 6929 or 0171 281 4621.

On August 7th Reclaim the Streets called a critical mass cycle ride in support of the latest tube strike starting at 8 in the morning. About 200 descended from South London, 70 and 50 from east and north London and a brave 20 odd from West London. Eventually the four groups met up in Trafalgar Square and disrupted traffic as a group round Parliament Downing Street and Whitehall.

Police then boxed in the bikers in Trafalgar Square, and after 1 hour allowed them out, giving each an individual warning. (The only way out was over a large wall). Being bicycle based had serious impacts on our ability to confront police on foot - in part because the traffic was so bad!!

After dispersing, much of the demo reconvened, and once spotted by a member of the Police Forward Intelligence Unit, had no option but to storm the Tube Management Headquarters immediately. 10 demonstrators reached the main bosses office and rearranged his office. 9 arrests were made. All bicycles parked in the area were confiscated by the Royal Parks Police.

There was little connection between these actions and the tube workers but this is an aim for next time! Very wide spread media coverage focused on the complete chaos caused by anarchists on bikes - tho' really we only added a little piece to the already existing gridlock.

Brian Douglas murdered cops go free (again).

The recent inquest into the murder of Brian Douglas at the hands of South London police welding the new US style 22 inch batons not surprisingly came back with a verdict in August reading "death by misadventure". This means that the courts have written the whole thing off as an accident regardless of the fact that eyewitnesses saw the police beat Brian savagely and evidence from three different pathologists that he had received at least 8 heavy blows to the head before being left in a cell for 15 hours without medical attention.

PC Tuffy, the cop who lead the murder claims he merely slipped whilst trying to hit Brian in the arm and also claims he has been traumatised by the incident. "I'll give him traumatised", stated Brian's sister, "We will fight for justice!" Already this fight has begun with over 100 posters blocking Brixton police station after the verdict and another blockade of Balham High Street taking place a week later.
From the Zapatistas

To the people of the world.

Brothers and Sisters,

During the last years, the power of money has presented a new mask over its criminal face. Disregarding borders, with no importance given to race or colour, the power of money humbles dignities, insults honorables and assassinates hopes. Renamed as “Neoliberalism,” the historic crime in the concentration of privileges, wealth and impotencies democracies misery and hopelessness.

The world is not a stage, but rather against the entire humanity. As in all world wars, what is being suffered in this affair of the new world is the profound dispossession of the world. By the name of “globalisation” they call this modern war that-assassins and forget.

The new development of the world only has a place for money and its servants. Men, women and machines become equal in servitude and in being dispossessed of identity. Money dominates in the expressions, the identity of people. It excludes seamen.

A new lie is sold to us in history. The lie about the defeat of hope, the lie about the virtual victory of a society that excludes hope. The mirrors of power offer us an equilibrium in the balance scale: the lie about the victory of cynicism, the lie about the victory of servitude, the lie about the victory of neoliberalism.

Instead of humanity, it offers us stock market value indexes, instead of hope it offers us globalisation and, instead of hope it offers us an emptiness, instead of life it offers us the international terror.

Against the international terror representing neoliberalism, we must raise the international of hope.

hope, above borders, tongues, colours, cultures, xenias, strategies, and borders, of all those who prefer.

The international of hope. Not the bureaucracy of hope, not the popular struggle of hope, but the strategy of hope. A new lie is sold to us by history. A lie that the breath of all the peoples, the lie of the breath of hope. A song yes, the song of life.

Dignity is nothing without a world. A lie is a bridge, that murderer of the heart no matter what bloods it live, that rebel it returns to its borders, customs, dress, and ceremonies.

Hope is that rejection of conformity and defeat.

“Separate us the lie that governs us. To think and act with a freedom that is not exercised over the slower, the right to give and receive what is just. For all this, along with those who, beyond borders, races and colours, share the song of life, the struggle against death, the fight of hope and the breath of逻辑."

The question for us, then, is not how we can build solidarity committees, but how we can join in the process of world construction.

How can we articulate and our own yta’s Bastas! Enough!

Those who are willing to fight together and to give birth to a society that brings together a struggle and a society with dignity in which nobody would be a stranger.

-John Holloway on the Zapatistas in “Common Sense”

PANCAKE PATTER!

Its one of them times when we’re wondering what it’s all about, or at least we think we know but not clear whether anyone else knows what we’re talking about, or something, but anyway we decided to present our own versions on an amusingly varied selection of subjects, for the purpose of, well cleaning up our ideas together so we can get out and do stuff better.

Vital discussions will be held at 12 on the first Sunday of every month at 3 o’clock. The first 4 are:

7/10/96 - Out of the ghetto
A lot of people who get involved in grass roots activism in a desire to change the world find themselves increasingly isolated from people outside of the political and cultural worlds and burnt out by feeding work. This workshop is for anyone tired of that situation and will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the ‘scene’ as well as ways of creating anarchy without anarchism.

3/1/96 - In and out of the workplace
With the nature of the workplace changing, workers with wage jobs are finding themselves increasingly vulnerable to bosses’ bullying and a decline in wages and conditions. Since many workplaces have no formal grievances procedures or union presence and those that are do are next to nothing, how can we fight back? Where strong independent groups - eg Liverpool Dockers - and is attacked how can we support it?

1/12/96 - Squatting Struggles - Tenant Struggles - How can we connect? - how can we win? - and is this all marginal in a ‘home owning democracy’ or can we link up with the mortgage players exploited by the bars too?

5/1/97 - A new year – time for optimism or – Struggles, Struggle, Revolution, what’s the connection?
We’re going to find out if we can learn and cut off the power to the whole gang of exploitative struggles. But what struggles, how do we move from mistakes, and are we even going in the right direction?

Free pancakes for all participants!

Panther to Stalk Brixton Police!
Brixton Independent Monitoring Project

We’re setting up a new independent monitoring project for Brixton calling:

- support people affected by police racism
- support people suing the police
- support families of people who die in police custody
- monitor and report on policing of black people in Brixton

BMP hopes to:
- stop internal investigations as a way of dealing with complaints against the police
- try and keep the cases out of the local media
- stop the use of long batons and CS gas
- force retrials of all prisoners convicted solely on police evidence

phone - 171 738 6675
Repression on the Net - German - Federal Government’s attacks Dutch Internet Server.

On 2-9-96, X4ALL got a phonecall saying that the German Authorities are planning to force German Internet Providers to shut-down all servers to and from X4ALL. This was because of the Radikal pages on the x4all WWW-server.

The Website was supported by the Solidarity group with Political prisoners after the attack from the German government in summer ’95 in support of the people who were jailed after a brutal raid then, and because they found it important for Radikal to be distributed without (german) government interference.

Felipe Rodriguez, Chairman of X4ALL said “X4ALL is not planning to ask Brixton Police, or the Dutch or the German government to make any formal requests. People who need the need to donate webspace to Radikal can contact us. We’ll not send the information is hardened to block specific sites such as x4all.

Here’s the Radikal Website (http://www.x4all.de/radikal/index.html) and another; “trendonline@turf/dr alligletchew.wur” (http://www.berlinet.de/trend)

Interesting Publications

As Counterculture may be disappearing - see the financial appeal - You’re going to have to read the following or make your own [the following are in no particular order]

-CARP - Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, IMB Box 8794, London WN1 2C4 (Bi-monthly publication @ only 06 to any shop that hasn’t got it already)
-TAKING ISSUES - 18 issue 00, 60p plus post from, ASC 121 Rathbone Place, London W1
-SCHNEWS - on line on The Field, P.O. Box 2660, Brighton. Weekly end for orders per post only, 500 issues.
-COTHRUM-JUSTICE - c/o Solidarity Centre 3 Royal Exchange Ct. London W1 NW1 2HA
-COMMON SENSE - c/o Swedish newspaper called “Dagens Nyheter” or “Evening News” via the English (SAE) addresses
-DIAGNOSTIK - c/o Newsbook 1199 53A, Scotland’s underground news service
-A★N - c/o Swedens underground news service - we are up north via Italian autonomous manos - £3.96 up no, not bad says many
-BAD ATTITUDE - 121 Ralston Road, London SE4 2T1 Radical weekly, with international perspective and green news coverage.

New issue out soon.

-SQUATTERS HANDBOOK - the long awaited 10th edition is finally out on the streets and may well be the only game in town, except perhaps another new edition of the squatting bible. This one has all the stuff on the Criminal Justice Act and other changes, which is why it’s so long ago, but it’s worth the £1. £1 from (+p) S.A.E to: SUSPICION

-HARINGEY COMMUNITY ACTION - Excellent example of local gatling area, from the streets of London. This magazine has been produced with the help of our own comrades in Edinburgh

-COUNTER INFORMATION - o/c Transmission 28 High Street, Chesham, Slp G1 SQQ (SAE)
-FUCK U - STATION ASSISTANTS RESISTANCE MOVEMENT - c/o 121 Rathbone Place, London W1
-ZAPATISTAS WEB SITE http://www.benet.com/ml-zapatistas
Contraflow Calendar
...as usual if your event isn’t here - it’s because you didn’t tell us about it / I didn’t plan it / or we lost it - well at least you can do something about the first two - get your dates in by 22/11 for the next issue.

Now the football season’s started already - get your bus ticket from Foyers Fans against the CJA - info 171 737 4845

13/9 Direct Action Network fighting for accessible transport for all - 3pm Hillington Tube

14/9 Celebration of the life of Emma Cray, killed while cycling - 9 - 9.30 am paying respects at cnr of Bow Common + Burdett Rd Mile End evening celebration with Citizen Fish, Radical Dance Faction and more - Chal Palace - Brooklyny Walk E9 - donation

14/9 Concerned residents of Hillington Community Centre - Hillington Rd E8 - info FORTHRA 171 713 2147 ... for autonomous resistance contact other academics at Tower

15/9 Stop Hackney Council selling our homes - borough wide meeting for tenants from estates to be sold - 7 - 10.30 Hackney Community Centre - Hillington Rd E8 - info FORHTRA 171 713 2147 ... for autonomous resistance contact other academics at Tower

19 - 20/9 Kick them in the Marginals - anti Tony campaign by Direct Action Network - as well as actions against Treet buses - Dorky - info DAN 181 889 1361

20/9 Books to Prisoners Benefit - 6.30 pm - Acton Arms 296 Kingsland Rd E8 - info 181 855 8151

21/9 Conference on Arms Trade with jews who exposed tale of torture equipment - 10.30 Kingston on Thames Friends House (cnr of Easton) - info 181 399 2547

25/9 Southwark Claimants Union - 4 - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

26/9 Video Night at SHIP include recent demo clips - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

26/9 Haringey Solidarity Group meeting - 7.45 pub cnr Green Lanes + St Anne’s Rd - info HSG 181 802 9804

26/9 Fusciattt benefits social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

27/9 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank


27/9 Close down Campfield immigration detention centre - no campfield gates Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info see 26/10 Campaign Against the Arms Trade - campaign day - 10 JD start Cornubha Hall 4 Tavistock Sq - info CAAT 171 281 0267

27/9 Magpies gathering - all day activities, info, food and fun till 8pm - Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. - info McPott campaign 171 713 1269 and Gandalf 6 Defenive Committee meeting [see Green Anarchist] - 5 pm Club Room at above.

29/9 Mass Picket - Seaford Dock Liverpool - 10 am National anti CJA action housed by striking Liverpool Dockers - out for 1 year - info as 27/9.

29/9 Now this week by Labour Party congress for fun and disruption - help their election

...gouge our Blair’s eyes! ...cases against 3 and live exports campaign - Lewins Crown Court (near Sussex) - info 1273 733 112

2/10 anti Deportation Picket for Pakshak and Prem Chanmoodoo - 10 am High Courts the Strand - info West Midlands, Anti Deport's 121 507 1618

3/10 5 Years for Gruffit - Simon Sutherland Appeal - 10 am High Courts the Strand.

5/10 Picket MacDonalds for all the usual reasons - 12.30 Maze Street Narroway E5 and anarchists Black Cross benefit - 8.30 pm Acton Arms 296 Kingsland Rd E8 - info of Dalston

5/10 Anti BA depeession march - 12.30 City Hall - and 6/10 Weekend of action against the torture trade - info CAAT 171 281 0297

6/10 60 years since the ‘Battle of Cable Street’ - noon Aldi All park Whitechapel - info Tower Hamlets Trades Council

7/10 McLee Case remains Jill Xanas - High Courts 35 mum but for info and details - info McPott campaign 171 713 1269

8/10 6 months since the fatal gassing of Ibrahimia Sey - picket of Fore St Police - info 181 555 8151

12/10 Solidarity with Mc Donald’s Worker’s Day - pickets at Leicester Sq, McE 3, others as arranged (by you) - picket in Manchester organised by parents of McE worker electriccised at work 4 years ago - info McPott campaign

16/10 World Day of Action against Mack Donalds - Athens of stores - picket of McE’s HQ East Finchley Tube 4.30 - 6.30 - info McPott campaign 171 713 1269

19/10 Anarchist Bookfair - Conway Hall Red Lion Sq.

24/10 ‘Racism and the Politics of Poverty’ - Race and Class lecture with Barbara Ramney [from the LSU] - 6.30 Friends House Easton (free) and Haringey Solidarity Group meeting, 7.45 pub cnr Green Lanes + St Anne’s Rd - info HSG 181 802 9804

25/10 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank

25/10 Grassroots meeting - national networking for unwaged / dissidents / unemployed groups - info Claimants Action Group cnr East Ox, Comer Prince St Ox4 1HU and Close down Campfield immigration detention centre - no campfield gates - Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info 26/09

30/10 Southwark Claimants Union - 4 - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

30/10 Video Night at SHIP include recent demo clips - 7pm 612 Old Kent Road SE15 - info 171 277 7639

30/11 Fusciattt benefits social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

30/11 COPEX - the ‘security exhibition’ where they don’t show torture equipment to Hawaiians, Canberra etc... and if you say they do: THEY’LL FUCKING SHURE YOU... range of ‘non violent’ actions from blockades to non arrestable things - meet 9 am Littleworth Common A307 Portsmouth Rd Esher (eg Sundown Recreatrion) - pre demo

briefing suggested - info CAAT 171 281 0297

x11/17/11 5th anniversary of Santa Cruz massacre in DIY East Timor - actions organised by solidarity groups [BECET and CACEP based] and more info 181 985 1127

x12/11 Protest at Indonesian Embassy - info CAAT 171 281 0297

...calendar note: the last few years have seen the combination of workers, students, minority groups [eg, migrant workers or students from East Timor] and democracy activists in demonstrations and strikes that have rocked the military dictatorship in Indonesia - now is the time to engage in solidarity activities - activists in Indonesia currently faced with charges for industrial organising - this carries a death penalty - info Tapel 181 771 1301

5/11 or later November - Activists for ADAPT [US] visiting UK and giving workshops on the social model of disability as a disability and more - info DAN 181 889 1361

16/11 Celegdis for Troops Out Movement - 7.30 - 11.30 London Irish Centre 2 Camden Sq.

17/11 Info bookings, cost TOM 171 609 1743

17/11 Special Critical Mass!

23/11 National ‘idy - anti cja etc’ conference - Brighton - info justice 1273 - 683 911

28/11 Fusciattt benefits social for release of Irish republican POWs - 8pm Victoria pub Holloway Rd N7

29/11 Critical mass cycle fightback - meet 4.30 Southbank

30/11 Close down Campfield immigration detention centre - no campfield gates Langford lane Kidlington Oxford - info 26/09

1/12 Fusciattt picket of Downing St for release of Irish republican POWs - info 181 985 0350

6/12 - 13/12 - Committal hearings against the Gandall 6 [Green Anarchists] Portsmouth Magistrates Ct - donations for defendant’s transport costs and support at hearing required - BCM 1715 London WCNI 3X

8/12 Anniversary of Mumia Abu Jamala’s arrest - meeting planned by Friends of Mumia - info 171 272 5368

KNOW OF A BENEFIT RIP-OFF? GIVE US A TIP!

Contraflow has got a lot smaller cos so have our finances. CF is funded by donations and by us selling ourselves, We’re broke and if we don’t get more money and involvement, the next one will be even smaller, with even fewer graphics and maybe non-existant.

Get in touch now or we’ll jump!

PS - The 121 Roof is being repaired and needs £10000 too