

REVOLUTION

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phone 07951 493 232

WHAT WENT INTO WORLD CUP 2002?



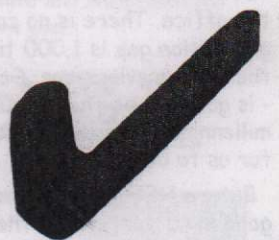
UNION BUSTING

Multinational sports companies, like Nike and Adidas, are at the forefront of denying workers rights across the globe. When workers unionised in Indonesia, Nike moved it's factories to China where there is no hope of trade unions. UNION RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!



FORCED OVERTIME

In 1996, FIFA agreed to a code of conduct (which included limited working hours and no forced overtime) that it's partners in the World Cup would be forced adhere to. Workers in Guan Ho, an Adidas factory in southern China, are being forced to work more than 14 hours a day without any days off.



CHILD LABOUR

Thousands of children as young as 10 years old in India and Pakistan are involved in the production of footballs. 'I have been stitching footballs for as long as I can remember,' says Geeta, a young girl of 12. 'My hands are constantly in pain. It feels like they are burning.' FIFA says that no child labour is to be used.



SWEATSHOP LABOUR

BREAK DOWN THE WALLS

a fanatical column by troile



It does frustrate me when someone throws something, like a banana peel, or a wrapper. Some people see the earth as exploitable, even on earth day. Montreal is dirtier than N.Y. Montreal is getting pathetically dirty with the sofas and garbage. Anyways, this column will give you access to fun tricks and shit for you to play the 'game'.

So this is what is left of the world? A few dirty city streets, half-lit neon signs exemplifying doom: take action soon, please! Ok, happy Monday to all: the may-day monopoly says that capitalism is the logic of an economy that produces war, famine, etc.. Duh: I feel like this, when I am writing, I have control, I can say whatever I want. Try and read naomi klein's no logo, seriously. Will there be violence at Mayday protests? If history is any indication, then yes.

Therefore, I recommend that all revolutionists, even pacifists, should take a martial art for a few years. this is necessary for self-defence and mental training and routine and habit. What is needed is to rebuild neuropathways in the brain. I recommend ju-jitsu and judo, because they are effective martial arts. ALL matches end up on the ground. Grappling is very important. If a cop attacks you, you will want to defend yourself, this will help. Violence is inevitable.

Don't be careless and learn to fight, or we won't get anywhere. If you don't want to be a soldier in field battle, then stay in the office. There is no comparison, the generation gap is 1,000 times more active than the previous one. Generation Y - why - is going to be the vanguard of the new millennium! Anyways, it doesn't take much for us to be satisfied.

But we NEED more? Good environments, good mindsets, etc. in the future we can end tyranny. I mean if we can send men to space, then why can't we cure HIV? The money is being spent on elite issues... why? What? Do you think that's bad? I do! Fanon says that all revolutions are violent. Read the wretched earth. It is awesome. Start up engines. Flip technical guide lever. Magnify the view. Expansion nozzle switched.

Here we go again. Head straight for the galaxy's centre in the trojan 76 system, one of our 11 dimensions... a brigade is on my tail. Twist right, inverted flight. Shoot those motherfuckers. Troile, what are thee doing? Thee art cracking up. Get a grip. OK blam, blam, blam. There. All permanently discharged. Nice ship though. My ship is better. Nah, it's just different. That's what renders us unique!



REVO ON MAY DAY



Revolution met up at Kings X station. There was about 80 of us.

We took the road with a couple of cops tailing us and marched to the main demo starting point. We got to the main demo just as it was about to start. There was Kurdish and Turkish workers who were very noisy and militant. There was over ten thousand people on the march.

RIGS DAY OUT - MAY DAY 2002



WHOSE UNION? YOUR UNION!

(...er thanks...)

By Rachel



Most 'A' level and University students are automatically part of the National Union of Students. Most of them only know this because it gets them cheaper cinema tickets and a 10% discount at HMV and Topshop. They don't know how the NUS works and who runs it, they probably don't know that they can (supposedly) get involved and decide what campaigns it fights, and they probably aren't very interested in it (unless they really like Topshop). Last month, I was elected as a delegate to the NUS annual conference where decisions are made as to what campaigns are run in the coming year and elections are held, and I'm not overwhelmingly enthusiastic either...

It wasn't all bad - this year, four left-wing candidates were elected to the block of 12 part-time officers, and Revolution members and other delegates occupied the stage to protest at the conference "not having time" to discuss an emergency motion on what was happening in Palestine. However, most of the three days was taken up with hundreds of alarmingly similar election speeches (the best bits from which are below) and a lot of strategic time-wasting to push radical politics off the agenda.

The NUS executive posts are mostly held by Labour Students members and right-wing "independent" candidates, with a smaller but very lively alliance of left wing groups trying to stop everyone hyperventilating with excitement about the bureaucratic intricacies of the constitution and start talking about student politics!

There is, of course, some confusion about what this is. This year, one of the "independent" candidates suggested that international issues didn't concern students - student politics is about getting proper street lighting on the way back from clubs and shorter bar queues. These things would be nice too, but I object to the suggestion that students don't know or care what goes on anywhere else in the world, and that we don't have the right to act as a political force trying to fight for change. After all, the government that we're fighting over tuition

fees and grants is the same government that can find the funds to wage a "War on Terror"...

Having said all that, I don't think we should give up on the NUS. Some of the biggest debates this year were about the anti-democratic suggestion that the size and length of the conference should be cut, making it harder for students to get involved with the NUS, and putting even more power in the hands of the National Executive Committee. I don't think we should give up our union like this - if you are interested in getting involved in your Students' Union, or being a delegate to the NUS conference, get in touch. The more of us there are, the more chance we have of developing a union we can get excited about!

QUOTE OF THE MOSTEST

"Conference, if elected, I will deliver results!" (x1000)

"Conference, if elected, I will organise more... organisation." (This one's from our newly elected President - it's going to be a great year!)

"This conference is not about politics, it's about principles!"

"You should vote for me because I'm independent of any political group. That means that I can vote one way one day, and another way the next!"

Overheard in the bar from a "Conservative Future" candidate: "One thing is true: socialism is evil." (-profound nodding)

Loads of trade unionists, community activists and socialists.

We had a very loud and noisy contingent with our own sound system. Lots of big red flags and our banner also made us easy to spot. The cops were keeping an eye on us because we have a reputation of doing some good actions on demos (which they hate). Lots of us took turns chanting on the megaphone. We danced and jumped around and freaked the cops out by stopping for a minute and then running yelling 'ONE SOLUTION - REVOLUTION!' to catch up with the people in front of us.

When we got to Trafalgar square, we had a well earned rest before we went up to soho for the sex workers parade. The rhythms of resistance samba band was drumming up an infectious beat. After a few hours, when it got smaller, the cops moved in to shut it down. They detained about 200 people to make it look like they were 'doing their job' but we'd got out just in time. After a couple of hours, they let people out but tried to take their details and photograph them.

All in all it was a kick arse day! Anti-capitalists and trade unionist marching together.
JUST WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR!

letter from Ramallah

Hi revolution.

Thanks for the emails. I met some of you a couple of weeks ago in Camden. It was the day of the meeting on Palestine, but i couldn't make it. We had good conversation on palestine. I had just returned from working with children in a palestinian village as an artist.

Well I'm back here at the moment in Ramallah as i write. I'm here with International Solidarity Movement, doing fact-finding and offering international protection to Medical Relief agency(a palestinian grassroots ngo).

We've been into Nablus, Bethlehem (Beit Sahor) and now Ramallah, and seen a lot of shit. Yesterday, we were in Arafat's compound for a while with other peace activists and some conscious journalists from Iceland. We had a half hour meeting with Yasser Arafat himself, which was a unexpected surprise. Earlier we met with Mustafa Baghouti.

We are currently expecting an attack on Ramallah any time. The medical relief here are poised, ready. US internationals will be travelling with ambulances as protection. But for now we just wait. It could be tonight or tomorrow, who knows?

Just thought you may be interested. I can give you more info when I have it and if I get time. Cheers. Keep up the good work.

For a free Palestine!

nik in the occupied territories

THE BIG BUSINESS WORLD CUP

By Kuldip

June promises to be a nightmare for anyone who doesn't like football and a dream month for those of us who do.

The month long footballing extravaganza will grip audiences around the globe and if you like me you'll already be putting up your wall charts and studying the form guide, wondering how the likes of Ecuador and Saudi Arabia will fare.

But the World Cup these days is about so much more than the thrills and spills on the football field. It is big business with TV rights sold for billions and advertisers clambering to get a piece of the action.

Even those companies not directly involved in sponsoring the tournament will have already planned their strategies to make a fast buck. FIFA, football's world governing body have accused both Pepsi and Nike of piggybacking off the tournament. Both companies have put nothing into the World Cup, yet have launched multi-million pound advertising campaigns to run alongside it.

Nike, in particular are going to town this summer. Already billboards around London are plastered with ads for Nike Park aimed at 11-16 yr olds, inviting them to take part in a three a side football tournament in the Dome. This is backed by TV ad campaign starring a dancing Eric Cantona and some of this World Cup's big/best stars like Zidane, Figo and Henry. Nike even paid an astonishing \$73 million for the rights to an Elvis song to use in this campaign.

But behind the big gloss of the Nike campaign lies a very different face, that the company would rather we didn't see. Through secret contracted factories around the world Nike employs thousands of people to make it's goods. Often underage workers, forced to work 12 hour days, 7 day weeks in some of the most appalling sweatshop conditions imaginable.

A report by Vietnam Labour Watch documented extensive human rights abuses, including women workers being sexually assaulted and staff having their mouths taped up if they talked too much. 12yr olds were also found employed

in these sweatshops by an undercover Panorama investigation.

These same workers are paid a pittance. In Indonesia, average wages last year were 16 cents per hour and in the Dominican Republic workers get just 8 cents for each \$22.99 Nike shirt that they produce. That means their wage amounts to just 0.3% of the retail price!

Whilst that's the reality for Nike workers, the chairman Phil Knight has amassed a \$6 billion personal fortune and Nike reports profits of over \$400 million a year. This is why No Sweat, the UK's anti-sweatshop campaign, will be tackling Nike head on with our own campaign of actions, subvertising and street theatre to highlight their hypocrisy and profiteering.

No Sweat was launched by members and supporters of Revolution in Autumn 2000 and has successfully targeted Nike and other sweatshop companies like Gap with a series of actions and events outside their High Street stores.

We have also built solidarity with striking workers fighting for better conditions in the sweatshops themselves and are campaigning for the introduction of a code of conduct guaranteeing a living wage, an end to child labour, limits on hours and improved conditions. We want human rights and labour organisations to be able to inspect factory conditions to put an end to the practice of some of the worlds largest companies producing goods in some of the world's most exploitative conditions.

Join us to build the No Sweat World Cup campaign and let's ensure that Nike's advertising blitz ends in an own goal.



FUCK THE JUBILEE!

Golden buses on the streets of London? You must be joking. The disgusting tired old throw-back to the dark ages, the monarchy, is having a celebration. They are celebrating 50 years of sponging off the tax payers, owning more houses than they have people to live in them, tax dodging, lavish weddings/funerals and racist attitudes. The Queen is not a respectable figure head for the British people; she is a decadent institution of the ruling class that legitimises the bourgeoisie's control of our society.

The press patronises the rest of us by saying things like the queen mum was 'the nation's grandmother' and the queen is an 'example to us all'.

Bollocks! The royal family is nothing like the rest of us. They live in expensive houses/palaces and have all their needs catered

for - at our expense! The annual cost of the monarchy is £37 million (a hideous waste of money by any standards) and that's for only one year let alone the other 49 years Lizzie has sat on the throne!

How many burgers would you have to flip to earn that in one life time, never mind a year?

Revo is opposed to the monarchy for all the reasons that the monarchists support it (and many more). The Queen is a figure head for racist nationalists; she is the representative of all that is old and rotten about the ruling class. Pro-monarchists say that she unites a nation by representing all religions, creeds and class. What a load of crap! What does the queen have in common with an Asian woman living on an estate in Harlesden? Pro-monarchists like to parade her undemocratic nature and try

to pretend that it is a good thing she doesn't need to 'curry' votes, nor is she answerable to the public. What they don't tell us is that the Queen has the power to abolish parliament, sack the Prime minister, veto anything from being made law, and is also commander-in-chief of the army! They try to say that she'll never use these powers. Bollocks! Her representative in Australia canned their prime minister in 1975 with her approval.

We are sick of to death of the hypocrites like the queen who are presidents of charities yet live in extravagant luxury. We are also sick of those of those who claim she is representative of our nation when she and her aristocratic parasitic scum represent the worst of it!

Revo calls for the abolition of the monarchy. Off with their heads - the French had the right idea after all.



IDEAS: fascism

WHAT IT IS AND HOW

Too many "anti-fascists" are quick to throw the label of "fascist" at any right-wing politician or figure of authority that they dislike. On the big anti-war demos that took place around the country last year, some people even called Tony Blair a "fascist". The threat posed to ordinary people by a pro-business Labour government is not the same as that posed by an organised fascist movement led by the likes of the British National Party (BNP).

Fascist parties use reactionary ideas that are prevalent within society as a whole - such as nationalism, racism, religious sectarianism, and homophobia - to provide them with a unifying ideology. But so do many other parties - meaning that you cannot, for example, identify a party as "fascist" solely on account of its hostility to immigration or its promotion of "traditional family values". It is what fascism does, and not just what it says, that makes it dangerous.

To take immigration as an example - racist politicians of the mainstream parties whip up anti-immigrant hysteria and then propose the "solution" of restrictive immigration laws to deal with the "problem". Fascists conduct and/or encourage a guerrilla war against immigrant communities by individual racists and gangs of racist thugs.

Fascists don't just try to win elections - they try to build a movement that violently attacks, terrorises, intimidates and harasses convenient scapegoats for the failures of the capitalist system. It is out of this movement that fascism hopes to construct fighting squads to attack the organisations of the working class as a whole - such as trade unions, anti-racist organisations, socialist and communist parties.

Fascism needs to be seen on the streets and project an image of "strength" to be able to grow. As BNP leader Nick Griffin said in 1995: people backed "what they perceived to be a strong, disciplined organisation with the ability to back up its slogan 'defend rights for whites' with well directed boots and fists."

Who it attracts

Fascism appeals primarily to those layers of society made desperate by social crisis and insecurity, and who are outside of the two major social classes: the working class and the capitalist class. It attracts the likes of small businessmen, shopkeepers and the self-employed who are fearful of an organised working class but are also jealous of the wealth and privilege of the bosses. It targets and attracts the unemployed and other marginal "underclasses" - like the white youth on the run down council estates in Burnley and Oldham - who are easily convinced of its poisonous hatred and prejudice (made legitimate by the mainstream politicians); who are looking for radical solutions to their prob-

lems; and who are eager to blame their miserable situation on the nearest available scapegoats.

Fascism also attracts those who the "official" workers' movement has abandoned or failed to provide hope to. When it is on the rise as a movement, it can even attract a section of the working class - the least organised section of workers who are attracted by its strength and disillusioned with the weakness of the trade union leaders and the betrayals of Labour and "socialist" governments, like Jospin's government in France.

It does so by presenting itself as an anti-establishment movement and likes to cloak itself in left language as well. So today the BNP, for example, says things like it is against selling off council houses to "private capitalist landlords".

Immediate danger

The immediate danger we face from the likes of the BNP is not that they will take power. It is that they will grow, presenting a physical threat to ethnic minorities, leftists and the more radical sections of workers in struggle - such as militant trade unionists - and dividing the workers along racial lines.

Ever since the BNP has focused on Burnley and Oldham in the north of England, racist attacks have been on the rise there. Gangs of racists have rampaged through Asian neighbourhoods smashing up local shops. Pubs which refused to ban Black and Asian people have been burnt to the ground. Black and Asian people have been driven from their homes after vicious campaigns of racial hatred.

In Bermondsey, south London, the National Front (NF) regularly hold marches under the slogan "keep Bermondsey white". Although the more recent marches have been rather small (40 or so people), in the 1970's similar marches attracted thousands of fascist supporters.

At the moment fascists like the BNP may seem to be just focusing on elections. But this is part of a strategy of using elections and electioneering to garner support and to make themselves look like a normal, "respectable", democratic party. Winning seats in parliament and local councils not only helps make them look respectable but it gives them an opportunity to use such positions to spread their racist lies and set the agenda for the "respectable" politicians. Just witness David Blunkett's calls for "integration" and complaints about "swamping" in the wake of race riots in Britain and Le Pen's election victory in France.

fascist regimes

But looking at the examples of Germany, Italy and Spain, which all had fascist governments, we can see what a fascist regime looks like in power. The mass murder of millions of Jews, Roma, socialists, communists, trade unionists, gays and lesbian is well known. But what is not so well talked about is the complete stamping out of all democratic rights. Every independent organisation that was not state sanctioned was outlawed, especially trade unions, other political parties and even the boys scouts.

But more than just that, the fascist regimes created a system of government control that was used to stop any independent organisation of

Burnley: Shut out the three fascist councillors

Andy in Sheffield

The fascist British National Party made real progress for its race-hate politics in the May 2nd local elections. This was the best result for the BNP since it was founded as a split from the National Front in 1982. Three councillors were elected.

It polled over 10% of the votes in 16 council wards - some in new places like Sunderland and Wigan where the BNP hasn't had a presence before. They are establishing new bases to spread their race-hate.

Labour's national policies of poverty and scapegoating refugees have raised the temperature of racism everywhere.

The Labour-controlled councils in Oldham and Burnley have opened the door for the fascists, despite all their talk about the BNP as racists and thugs.

The councils have made a policy of segregating the two communities all the way down to the schools, which means that the communities have no common experience of living with each other. Under-funding of services means that these communities are then pitted against each other to compete for council money for schools and services.

Labour also attacked the Asian community for defending themselves from fascist incursions last summer. Then New Labour investigations blamed the Asian communities for self-segregating themselves and refusing to assimilate!

Now in Burnley the Labour Council says it won't work with the BNP councillors. Only a movement of the local community in Burnley can hold them to that.



Racist BNP March

It is absolutely necessary that such a movement drives the fascists out of office. This is something that labour will never do. We must:

☆ Build support in the local trade union movement for council workers to refuse to work with the BNP councillors.

☆ Fight Labour's poverty policies by direct action - like rent strikes on impoverished estates, school occupations, campaigns to fight for funding - as the way to create an alternative to the BNP. Such a movement will also have to confront the fascists directly and break up their stalls and rallies that spread the lies of race-hate.

On Saturday May 11th a demonstration organised by the Anti-Nazi League had over 1000 people on it. Many local youth joined in as it marched by, and the fascists were nowhere to be seen. That's a good start: we've got to turn Burnley into a defeat for the BNP and roll them back into the sewers.

we fight it

workers and young people. All of this was done under the guise of protecting the nation but in reality it was about protecting the rule of capitalism. All the major German and Italian firms made a fortune under the fascists. Workers couldn't organise themselves to fight against their exploitation at work for fear of the secret police.

This is another distinguishing feature of fascism - it is the party of civil war against the working class both in its methods and its objectives. Whenever the ruling class has allowed fascism into power, it has been because the bosses could not fool and rule the workers any longer through the usual "democratic" machinery or repress and defeat them through one or another form of military dictatorship. Ordinary bourgeois politicians use the state against the working class.

Fascism acts independently of the state and uses a section of the masses - organised under its leadership - to penetrate, crush, divide and atomise the working class more efficiently than any "normal" dictatorship could. So it was no surprise that when the bosses in Italy, Germany and Spain were facing a massive social crisis and the threat of a workers revolution was just around the corner, they turned to the fascists like Hitler and Mussolini to save capitalism for them.

what to do about it

That is why we can never give the fascist like the BNP any room to grow. We need to organise all anti-racists and anti-fascists, trade unionists and democrats into a campaign to crush them before they can grow. This means not allowing them to organise, driving them off the streets whenever they try to march, and closing down their public meetings. We must smash their every attempt to meet and organise themselves.

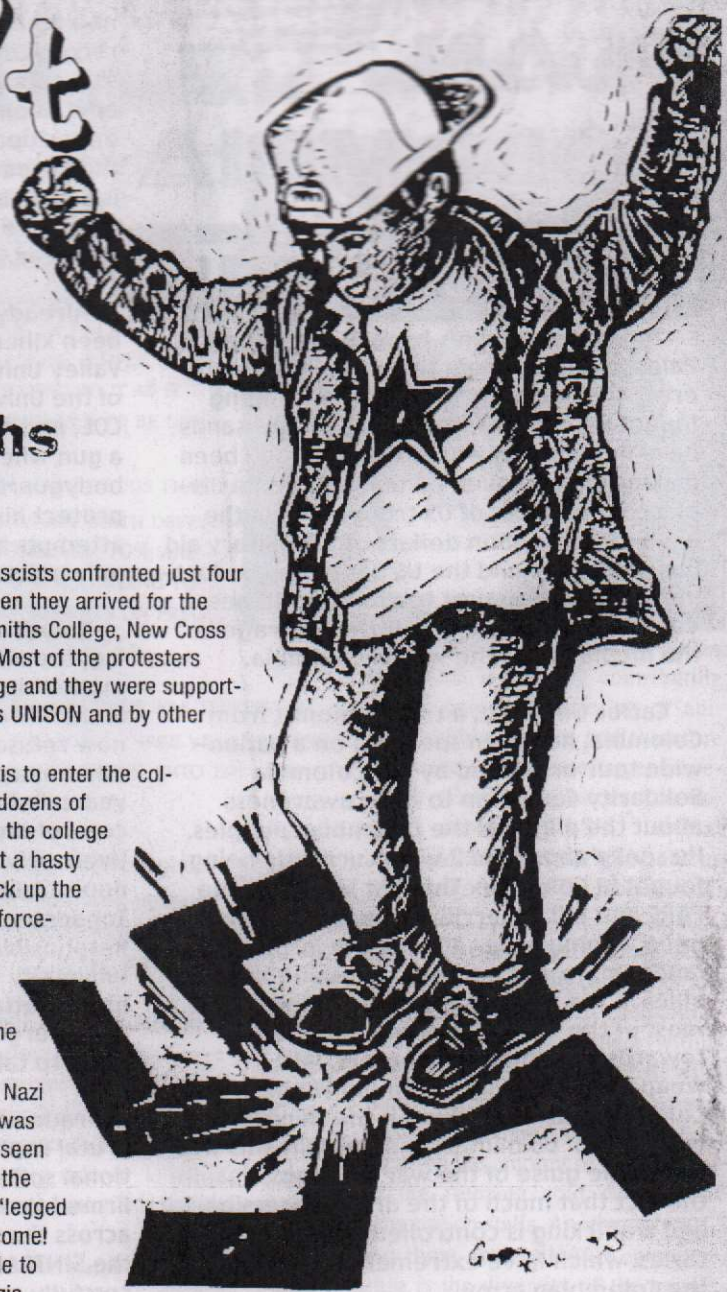
But ultimately to get rid of the fascists once and for all means getting rid of the racist system that gave birth to them - capitalism.

Anti-BNP picket at Goldsmiths College

About three hundred anti-fascists confronted just four members of the Nazi BNP when they arrived for the local election count at Goldsmiths College, New Cross on Thursday evening May 2. Most of the protesters were students from the college and they were supported by members of Goldsmiths UNISON and by other local socialist activists.

The first attempt by the Nazis to enter the college proved unsuccessful as dozens of protesters confronted outside the college gates and forced them to beat a hasty retreat a quarter of a mile back up the road. Even though police reinforcements were called in, the demonstrators still managed to close in on the Nazis as they were escorted through the college car park.

In the ensuing skirmish one Nazi blockhead was arrested, one was knocked to the floor and was seen crawling about on all fours in the flowerbed while another "legged it" back the way he had just come! Eventually the police were able to get two rather dishevelled Nazis into the count.



LE PEN - LE SCUM

Millions of people have taken to the streets in France over the past month to protest against the success of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the Front National (FN), an openly fascist political party. Le Pen made it to the second round of the French presidential elections campaigning on increasing prison places by 200,000, reintroduction of the death penalty, a ban on building mosques in France and closing the borders to immigrants. He also promotes the idea of repatriation (voluntary, he says) of non-white French immigrants. It was a violently racist platform that continually linked the problem of crime with the 'problem' of immigration.

But how did Le Pen gain such a coup against Lionel Jospin of the Socialist Party in the first round? Actually Le Pen didn't get any more votes than the previous election, but his percentage of the vote was much higher due to the low turnout

of voters. Many people in France (like Britain where we had the lowest turnout since WWI at the general elections last year) are frustrated at the lack of choice: Chirac or Jospin? Cheat or liar? Sell-out or sell-off? No choice!

The Far Left parties, such as Lutte Ouvriere (LO) and the LCR, gained 12 per cent of the vote, which was an increase from the last elections. Some people try to argue that it is because of the left vote that Le Pen made it through, that they split the vote and that left parties shouldn't stand in elections. So much for democracy!

As many parties as possible should be allowed to stand in a democratic election, but the rise of the far right does put pressure on the Left to come up with answers to the social and political crisis that is polarising the nation. It poses the question of action very sharply: how will we

defeat the fascists?

We will not defeat them by calling for a vote for Chirac, which is what the most of the left has done. This will not change the situation in France which Le Pen is feeding off of. And we cannot leave the fight against the fascists in the hands of a 'leader' that pushes forward racist and anti-worker legislation.

The only answer is to step up the fight against the FN in workplaces and communities, and on the streets. They must be challenged from the roots. We need to build a mass movement that will support the struggles for the rights of immigrants, workers, women and other oppressed groups, such as lesbians and gays. This mass movement will be able to smash Le Pen and his fascist party, and kick the liar and cheat, Chirac, out of office.

PLAN COLOMBIA PLAN of DEATH

Veterans for More
Effective Drug Strategies

Thousands of miles from Afghanistan and Palestine, away from the glare of the cameras, America's war on the poor is being fought on another front. Tens of thousands have been killed, whole villages have been massacred and over 1.5 million people displaced. Hundreds of US troops are on the ground, \$1.3 billion dollars of US military aid has poured in, and the US has been conducting air strikes against towns and villages. Yet there has been very little coverage in the media about the war in Colombia.

Carlos Gonzalez, a trade unionist from Colombia, has been speaking on a nationwide tour organised by the Colombia Solidarity Campaign to raise awareness about the plight of the Colombian peoples. He spoke about the 2 wars currently being fought in Colombia. The first is against the FARC and ENL, guerrilla groups who have been waging a war against the large landowners, the paramilitaries and their allies in the government. It is this war that most of the US cash has been directed towards providing helicopters, jets, weapons and military training to the Colombian army, making it the third largest recipient of US military aid. Initially this was under the guise of the war on drugs, despite the fact that much of the drug processing and trafficking is controlled by the paramilitaries, which have extremely close links to the Colombian army.



Since Sept 11, the US sought to incorporate the fight against the FARC into the "war on terror", with the State Department recently describing the FARC

as the "most dangerous international terrorist group based in the Western Hemisphere". In reality of course, as with the rest of the "war on terrorism", this has nothing to do with fighting terrorism and all to do with defending US strategic interests. Colombia is the seventh largest source of oil for the US and is an important part of America's strategy to reduce it's reliance on Middle East oil. However oil installations and pipelines have often been targeted by the guerrillas. America wants to secure access to the oil, whilst at the same time protecting US corporate interest and open up the Colombian economy.

The other war in Colombia is the social war. This is a war waged against trade unionists and activists who are fighting the

neoliberal policies introduced at the request of the IMF. It's the usual story: massive cuts in public spending, health care and education, and seeping privatisation. Any opposition has been ruthlessly dealt with by the paramilitaries. Over 3,800 trade unionists have been murdered in the last 15 years and there were 7,900 political assassinations last year.

Already this year 45 union leaders have been killed. Carlos Gonzalez works at Cauca Valley University; he is also branch president of the University Workers Union SINTRAUNICOL, and, like other union leaders, he carries a gun wherever he goes, is accompanied by bodyguards and drives a bomb proof car to protect himself. He has been resisting attempts by the government to privatise the university sector.

However due to the cuts in public spending, the university was forced to borrow money simply to pay staff wages. The initial loans were for £20 million. The banks have now refused more loans and have negotiated a repayment deal of £70 million over 12 years. But even more disgustingly, they now control the curriculum and research, effectively privatising the university by the back door. (And we thought the British American Tobacco sponsored Centre for Corporate Responsibility at Nottingham Trent University was bad enough). This is a fundamental attack on academic freedom and Carlos urges all students teachers and lectures to take up this issue.

Trade unionists and campaigners face brutal repression in Colombia, but international solidarity does work. Carlos confirmed that the pressure of trade unionists across the world was vital to the victory of the SINTRAEMCALI occupation, which successfully prevented the privatisation of public services in Cali. On a smaller level, too, international pressure by individuals and groups have saved the lives of countless activists threatened by the paramilitary death squads. Requests for international solidarity and action are published regularly at <<http://www.labournet.net/world.asp>>.

Colombia is another facet in America's vicious war against all who try to obstruct it's pursuit of global dominance and the maximisation. Yet despite brutal repression, the people of Colombia refused to be cowed. Their struggles are an inspiration to us all. We must not allow them to fight alone. A global movement against capitalism needs to be formed which can force the US out of Colombia, Latin America and its other 'areas of influence'.



by simon in sheffield

ASYLUM RIGHTS

by simon in gare de nord

Stop our politicians
'swamping' us with racist lies!

New Labour has shown its true colours again when home secretary, David Blunkett, spoke about refugee kids 'swamping' our schools. The racist filth that these Labour politicians come out with is pretty much the same as what Thatcher said in the 70's. So much for improved race relations!

Lets look at the facts:

Asylum seekers come to this country often fleeing war and poverty, political and religious persecution, and when they get here most are locked up in camps, "detention centres" or even prisons! Some refugees have been in prison for years simply because they refuse to leave the UK!

Many asylum seekers 'disappear', or go underground for fear of being deported. The men end up working terrible, poorly paid jobs in our cities and many of the women end up as prostitutes.

Despite the media myths, most asylum seekers are not placed in 'brand new council houses and given free furniture'; many are ghettoised in sink estates in poor areas. Councils have been making money by housing refugees in poor areas and separating them from their communities, leaving them prey to attacks from misguided racists who blame the immigrants for their problems.

Asylum seekers who claim benefits also get paid less than UK residents, around 75% of normal, leaving them with less than £37 a week to live on! Many immigrants have 'smart cards', which is a form of electronic tagging that allows people to be tracked if they try and use them to collect their 'giros'.

Revo supports the right for anyone to enter this country, irrespective of whether they are 'economic' or 'political' immigrants. No to citizenship tests!

Revo supports the right for communities to defend themselves from racist attacks, as happened in Burnley and Oldham.

We oppose the racist lies and hatred spread by the BNP and the NF and the New Labour, Tories and Liberal Democrats.

Animal rights, Human wrongs

Those of you who come to our REVOLUTION stall in Camden on Sundays or just go to Camden to shop and hang around will probably have seen the stall from SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty). In this article I want to talk about who SHAC are and what their campaign is.

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) first came into the public consciousness in 1981 when a woman called Sarah Kite went undercover to expose what was going on in their labs. Her findings rocked HLS and gained a lot of media coverage.

Since then Huntingdon has been infiltrated and exposed four other times, including once by the *Daily Express*, in which they managed to get five years worth of documents detailing the transplantation of live organs, tissues and cells between different species. Experiments that went on at HLS in Cambridge involved animals including wild baboons, monkeys and piglets. Just how many animals they used and murdered is hard to say but what isn't is the fact that these animals were nothing less than tortured. The report included the following observations:

"A female monkey who was given a quadruple overdose and was



found shaking and grinding her teeth and died the following day." "Monkeys screaming, reluctant to move, salivating, huddled, found dead, severe tremors on upper torso and head, sudden collapse, quiet and lethargic, large open wound, laboured breathing, lying on cage floor."

All of the primates died as a result of these "experiments" because of infections, toxic effects of immuno-suppressant drugs, heart failure as a result of rejection and heart failure for apparently inexplicable reasons.

I could go on and on about the various abuses that go on at HLS but this paper isn't big enough. For more in depth info about SHAC and HLS go to www.shac.net

What gives us, as humans, the right to inflict pain and suffering on other creatures living on this planet? Is it because we're superior? Or that we're evolutionarily more advanced? Perhaps that's true, but that surely doesn't allow us to commit acts like those mentioned above. It should be the reverse: we should be trying to ensure that we use the advances man has made to further the benefit of the planet as a whole. But as we all know, that isn't the case what with wars, genocide, starvation, global warming, etc. It should really come as no surprise that capitalism hasn't stopped short of animal cruelty.

Capitalism must be to blame for the existence of companies like HLS. Companies are always looking to substitute ingredients in their products or cheaper chemical alternatives (such as monosodium glutamate instead of salt), and "fortunately" due to various laws all these chemicals have to be tested to make sure that they won't do anything nasty to us. Does that make you feel safe?

Well it shouldn't:

*BENZENE CAUSES LEUKAEMIA IN HUMANS, BUT NOT IN MICE, SO IT WAS, AND STILL IS, USED.

*GLASS FIBRES WAS FOUND TO BE CARCINOGENIC BY HUMAN STUDIES IN 1991, BUT FOR YEARS HAD BEEN BELIEVED SAFE THANKS TO EXPERIMENTS ON BABOONS, RATS, MICE, GUINEA PIGS, HAMSTERS AND MONKEYS.

*ARSENIC WAS SUSPECTED TO CAUSE CANCER FOR YEARS, BUT ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS CONTRADICT-

ED THIS.

*ASBESTOS COULDN'T BE MADE TO PRODUCE CANCER IN LAB ANIMALS, SO MORE PEOPLE WERE EXPOSED TO IT AS IT CONTINUED TO BE USED.

*OF THE DRUGS THAT DO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS IN HUMANS, 70% ARE SAFE ACCORDING TO EXPERIMENTS ON PREGNANT MONKEYS.

*THALIDOMIDE WAS TESTED ON ANIMALS FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE BEING RELEASED ONTO THE MARKET.

*ASPIRIN AND INSULIN ARE SAFE FOR PREGNANT HUMANS TO TAKE. IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS, THEY HAVE CAUSED BIRTH DEFECTS.

Once again I could go on about the various drugs that have had to be removed from the shelves but again I'd have to stretch it out over the next 5 issues! For information in this side of USELESS animal experiments visit www.siv.org

The companies that produce these drugs are there to make a profit and cut down on costs as much as possible, which is where the animals come into to the equation. The only money you have to fork out is the cost of transportation and maintenance on the tiny cages they are cooped up in. That runs at a fraction at the cost of what companies like HLS and their customers would have to pay for proper tests on the only animals that could give accurate results on drugs: humans. But that's all besides the point as most of the drugs being tested would never get to that stage due to the risk to human lives.

A lot has been said about the tactics of groups like SHAC and the ALF and their targeting of ordinary people who have normal jobs at places like HLS - such as receptionists, administrators, etc. But this isn't the same type of argument as about people working in McDonald's targeted by anti-capitalists on demonstrations. I think



that anybody working at places like HLS is actively contributing to the pain and suffering of animals within its labs and therefore becomes a legitimate target, especially after you consider that no-one inside HLS's animal Auschwitz can plead ignorance as to what goes on in the laboratories.

SHAC's campaign against HLS can teach us as anti-capitalists a lot about how to run campaigns. The level of commitment within SHAC's ranks is phenomenal with many members going to court and prison on a regular basis, not to mention the amount of hours spent in the freezing cold outside the labs and on stalls. Another interesting thing about SHAC's membership is the diversity of the people that are active within it's movement - the age range is probably 10 to 80. In our terms, what "we" can get out of it is to show the links between animal cruelty and capitalism. If we can - in the UK especially - then we can introduce a whole other level of committed people to our cause.

To sum up, groups like SHAC are very good in what they do but closing down one lab or farm doesn't solve the problem, overthrowing the system that creates it will end animal suffering.

This article has opened up a number of issues. What do you think about animal testing? Do you think it has value within our society? Do you think workers that work in animal research are legitimate targets? Contribute to the debate. Send letters to: info@worldrevolution.org.uk

NO COPS IN SCHOOLS!

By Dan in Lewisham

"Well this pig's standin' eatin' donuts,

While some motherfuckers out robbin' your home"

(Cypress Hill)

On hearing the news that cops could now be stationed full-time in schools throughout the country, a re-jig of a line from the Cypress Hill song 'Pigs' came to mind. "This little pig's eatin' donuts in the school cafeteria, while some New Labour fucker is robbin' your parents of their benefit money..."

But a run on donuts at lunchtime and being careful about ordering a ham sandwich is only part of the problem of having cops in schools.

Young people are oppressed, especially working class, black and Asian youth; and cops in schools is another example of this oppression.

After all, there ain't gonna be no cop stationed at Eton college.

Kids are harassed day in day out by the cops and many of us will be familiar with the shout of, 'Oi, oi (or it could be oink oink!), what are you lot up to?' Or some blag about looking for someone with your description, followed by a demeaning and intimidating search of your clothes and belongings. If you happen to be black, you'll probably get a torrent of racist abuse as well.

All of this for no other reason than the little piggies in blue like the feeling of flexing their power and without much effort they can keep young peo-



Could this be your school gates?

ple in check.

Most people in my area (Lewisham) grow up hating the police force, which we know is institutionally racist and anti-working class (and I'm sure it's the same throughout the country). So if the cops are like that on the street, imagine what's they're gonna be like in school. The racism and intimidation that they give us on the streets will then be in your face in your school.

They don't keep you safe on the streets, so why the fuck will they keep you safe inside your school?

New Labour says they are putting cops in schools to cut down on youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Bollocks. Once again they're scapegoating the oppressed. The real problems lie in a total lack of investment

by New Labour in low-income areas. Instead of trying to put money into communities to improve housing, schools and leisure facilities, they're spending (our!) money on cops to keep a lid on dissent. It's a typical policy of New Labour, which day by day desperately tries to out-Tory the Tories.

But what it shows more than anything is that we can't rely on the capitalist state and the government to improve our lives because ultimately they are there to serve the rich bastards who run our society. We have to do it ourselves.

We should mobilise students everywhere to take on their schools and local education authorities to stop cops entering our schools and bullying everyone into submission.

Student councils, integrated into the NUS, should be formed so students can have control over what goes on in their schools and colleges. Within this network, we could organise to stop bullying and student-on-student violence.

Revo says let's organise the students, the parents, teachers and the unions together to campaign for better services for young people.

Let's start organising student councils in our schools and blockades to stop the cops coming in. What are they going to do if two hundred kids and teachers and parents stand at the school gates and don't let them into school?

We don't want cop control, we want student control!

If you want more information on how to organise in your school or college get in contact with Revo!

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