

# STUDENT

50p

# REVOLUTION



**AGITATE ★ DEMONSTRATE ★ OCCUPY**

...and some suggestions from Indonesian students on how to contact your MP



# LABOUR'S ATTACK

## HITTING YOU BELOW THE BELT

About 400,000 new students will start college this month, joining the ranks of nearly two million already in higher education. The number of students has doubled in the last 20 years – but the Government has slashed its funding per student by more than 40 per cent over the same period.

Britain's bosses are demanding a more highly educated workforce to design, implement and operate the new technologies. But they are not prepared to pay for this "modernisation" through increased taxes on their profits and wealth. Instead, they want students and working class parents to pay through the introduction of tuition fees and the abolition of the maintenance grant - even though they, the bosses, will benefit!

Students are eligible to pay tuition fees if their parents or partner earn £23,000 a year or more. This is not a high wage and encompasses most families with two working parents. By far the biggest cost for students, however, is their maintenance – rent, travel, clothes, food and, increasingly, books and computers since most colleges spend so little on student resources that it is now impossible to complete a degree without your own PC and library.

The government's own web-site estimates this annual living cost as £4,000. This figure is so unrealistic as to be ridiculous. Rents in halls of residence, for example, are £65 a week and rising, quite apart from anything else. But even taking this figure as accurate, a student is facing a debt of £12,000 to £15,000 over a three year

course depending on whether s/he is paying a tuition fee on top.

Two things are certain from all this: the number of students who are forced to drop out of their courses for financial reasons will continue to rise; and the number of students taking direct action to fight back against this injustice through rent strikes and demonstrations, lecture boycotts and occupations will also continue to rise. The task facing student militants is to lead the struggle, encouraging direct action.

With the experience of last year's struggles behind us, we should kick off the new academic year with vigorous and well-organised non-payment campaigns. Every students' union needs to organise a general meeting in the first week of term to ratify this policy and agree to back it up with strikes and occupations should anyone be victimised for non-payment.

Such action can bring immediate results. It would boost the chances of the new Scottish Parliament voting to kick out the fees. It would make the universities themselves plead with Blair and Blunkett to shelve the fees, restore the right to free education and tax the rich to cover the costs.

**It will take a hard fight to win.  
But if you want to be part of  
that fight... you've bought the  
right pamphlet. Read on!**



### **£7 AN HOUR FOR ALL STUDENTS OVER 16!!!!**

Tony Blair says the student grant was a subsidy to middle class kids paid for by working class people, so it was 'fair' to scrap it. But the numbers of working class youth going to college rose steadily during the period of the maintenance grant – especially in its heyday, when students could more or less live off it without having to take on extra jobs. Before the grant, universities were exclusively for the rich: at the turn of the century barely 100,000 people went to university. Since the 1960s and the expansion of state education more and more working class youth have been able to go, thanks to the grant.

This is what the bosses and their supporters in the Labour cabinet really hate – working class youth getting ideas above their station.

For them, young people are there to be exploited – not subsidised while they learn about how capitalism rips workers off, keeps the third world underdeveloped and

pollutes the planet. So their answer is simple: abolish the grant and institutionalise low pay by dropping the minimum wage for under-22 year olds to a measly £3 an hour. The European decency threshold is £7 an hour, so how can young workers be expected to live on a not-even-half-decent income?

REVOLUTION has an alternative answer. We believe that every student from the age of 16 onwards should have a full maintenance grant. Nobody should be denied the right to an education because they are poor. And all workers should have the same pay rates: we pay the same supermarket bills, rents and bus fares, so pay us all an adult wage!

We fight for:

Abolition of the youth rates of the minimum wage!

£7 an hour now!

A maintenance grant of £7 an hour (£280 a week) for all students over 16

Tax the rich to fund student grants!



**£1025 Tuition fees? NUS "working with the government" to implement them?! Abolition of the maintenance Grant? What the hell has happened? "Well actually its all fair enough – its a fair system", say Blair and Blunkett ... "There is no point in complaining", smirks Andrew Pukes (NUS prez), "the Grant is outdated anyway."**

"Bollocks!" was the response by thousands when they heard these lies. Students know when they're being ripped off. 'Let's kick his ass' yelled one angry student.

### 1997 – The fight began.

In the Blue corner: "The Blair Witch" was pulling no punches. The NUS warned students to stay out: "Its not worth it! You'll only get hurt!"

But in the Red corner was the angry student. She screamed: "It's not Fair! There's a crowd of students outside

without any money to get in. If you don't let them for free, then we'll storm the place!" The Blair Witch was getting impatient and decided to stamp on the student's head. Round one was over already.

But the bout was not finished. The angry student's threat was not idle. Hearing about the dirty match between the poverty stricken student and the government, we decided to change the rules. "The free education fighter was right", we thought and began to organise.

It began slowly – many had to recover from the shock of events. But debt and constant hardship began to bite, and conditions got worse. Students at Oxford (of all places!) pledged not to pay their fees. Inspired by their heroism, students began to demonstrate. The NUS did nothing, but continue to threaten the student activists.

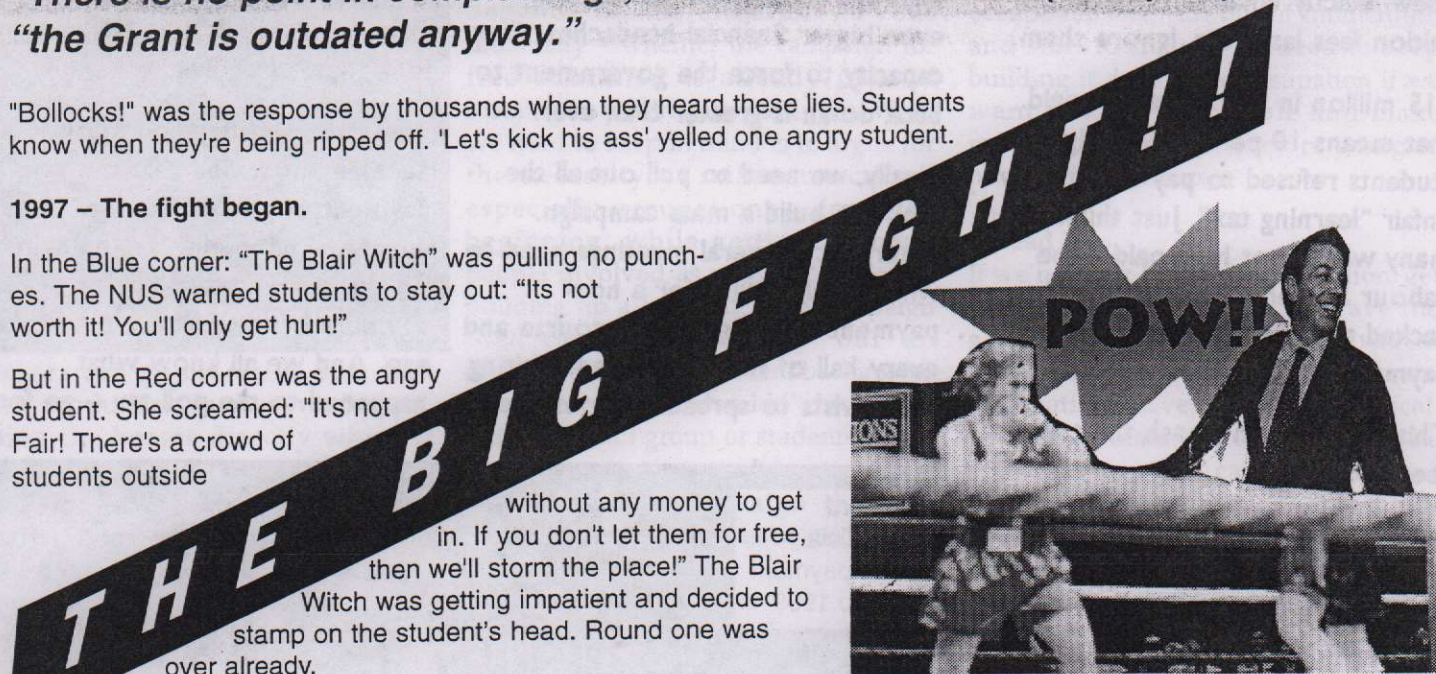
Suddenly, students were fighting back. At Goldsmith's College we occupied to defend eight students from expulsion for not being able to pay their fees. After just one week, all students were back to school! The vice-chancellor even wrote to the government condemning the new funding plans. Another victory was scored at Guildhall College. A pattern was emerging: non payment campaigns can work. But on top of campaigns, additional direct action needed to be immediate for it to be effective.

Without time to celebrate the first signs of student victory, there were colleges all over the country sending messages of solidarity, and many took action themselves. The Independent newspaper even predicted that on the wave of student protest, the NUS Presidency was likely to be taken by the United for Free Education candidate, Kate Buckell.

In response, the Blair Witch spin-doctor machine went in to scare off the NUS conference delegates from voting in someone pledged to take her kid gloves off and fight.

But the student activists were not deterred – though, of course, disappointed by the thought of having Andrew Pukes for another year. Students continued to organise, and the non-payment campaign strengthened. During the last term, a second wave of activism showed the treacherous Labour leadership of the NUS that they hadn't quite got away with it.

The rematch between Jo-Student Poverty and Big-Daddy Blair is on. Protests are showing that the student movement could win the Big Fight after all. Non-payment campaigns, national and local demonstrations, and most importantly occupations have proved to be a knockout punch at our disposal. Let's teach the University Bods and the Blairite Cronies a lesson ... Show 'em what we can do!



**FIGHTING TO WIN**

Last year we won some and lost some. Goldsmith and Guildhall occupations were successful, but University College London and Sussex were not. Crucially, the fees remain, the grant has disappeared and the NUS is still controlled by Labour loyalists. How can we build on the victories and learn from the defeats?

**1 Spread the action!**  
 Revolution believes we very nearly got it right last year. But we need to make sure that as soon as a single college goes into occupation, we spread the action, opening up new battlefronts.

**2 Co-ordinate the action!**  
 The unofficial demo at Oxford in Spring 1999 brought thousands of militant students together and encouraged more colleges to take action. Think what an unofficial conference could achieve – not just more action, but co-ordinated action, the combination punch to floor the Blair Witch.

**3 Politicise the action!**  
 Our victories only brought local concessions, not national ones. To defeat the Labour government on the question of fees and the grant, we need a mass political students' movement, which can challenge Andrew Pukes. It's no use the left just uniting for NUS elections, we need a united campaign for free education.



# Don't Pay Your Fees!

Despite the spineless caving in of the official NUS leadership, tens of thousands of first year students knew exactly what to do with the tuition fees last year. Ignore them.

£15 million in fees were not paid, that means 10 per cent of eligible students refused to pay the grossly unfair "learning tax". Just think how many would not have paid if the Labour Students leadership had backed and built for the non-payment campaign!

This year we can smash the tuition fees.

Firstly, we can build on the experience of last year. In Oxford, Goldsmiths and elsewhere, students' refusal to pay the fees did not lead to their expulsion - it led to mass demonstrations and militant occupations. Often, concessions were won. Some vice-chancellors even condemned education secretary David Blunkett for the chaos.

This year will see twice as many students faced with fees since first

and second year students are billed. This means the non-payment campaign can attract greater support, causing the universities even bigger financial headaches. Our capacity to force the government to back down is greater than ever.

Finally, we need to pull out all the stops to build a mass campaign. Emergency general meetings need to win official backing for a non-payment campaign. Every course and every hall of residence needs visiting by activists to spread the message.

We must organise mass demos and demand that management grant an amnesty to all non-payers and refuse to discipline, withhold degrees or expel any students who will not or cannot pay their fees.

The Times Higher Education Supplement wailed that the non-payment of tuition fees was in danger of becoming an "epidemic" on the same scale as the non-payment of the poll tax ten years ago. And we all know what happened to the poll tax - go for it!



Oxford  
unofficial  
non-payment  
demo 1999

## Build Action Committees

We need to involve all workers and students who want to fight the fees and cuts in education, regardless of their politics. We need our campaigns to be democratically controlled by the people involved.

The stale old NUS is just not up to this. We need action committees.

Action committees are simple. Whenever students take action - rent strikes, occupations, etc. - loads of people get stuck in. How can we make sure that the decisions over what happens next or what demands we should fight on reflect the views of the majority?

By electing delegates from each section of students to represent their views. These delegates can be replaced (unlike sabbatical officers) if they step out of line and can be changed if a new stage in the struggle demands different qualities in the leadership. If

Look around you - there's lecturers, canteen workers, cleaners, clerical staff on campus. All of them face job insecurity and worsening conditions. Why? Education cuts.

Many of these workers are in unions. They can take action with us. Strike action plus our education are an unbeatable combination.

Everything we consume is produced. Workplaces are where production takes place. Bosses own them but need workers slaving away, otherwise no products, no profits. Workers can shut down their factories and stem the flow of profits. That's power.

In our struggles we need to approach workers right from the start. They should come on our demos and lobbies; we should go to their picket lines. When we go into occupation we need to argue for them to back us up with strike action and vice versa.

Student struggles can be crucial in detonating larger working class struggles. The inspiration of student occupations led to a ten million strong general strike in France, May '68. Indonesia is another example (students skipped university and occupied Parliament!)

Here in Britain workers are just as angry as students. So in lectures or the canteen, talk to the workers and find out what unions are on campus. Get invited to the next branch meeting and start building links.

new students get involved, they can immediately be represented on the action committees.

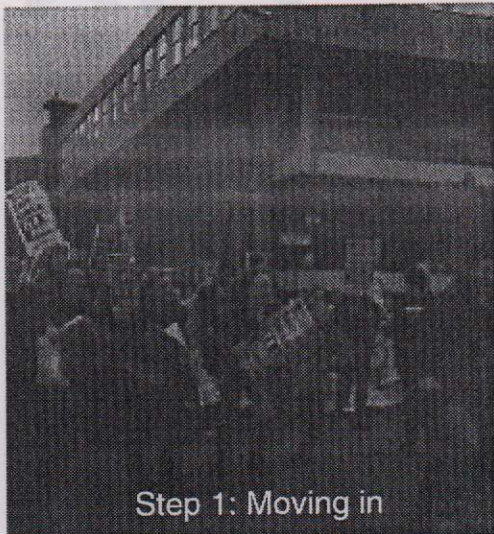
The alternative is to see someone else (usually a creep from the union exec.) walk in and take over your struggle (usually to sell you out).

Action committees can also include lecturers, college workers, and students from local FE's and schools, etc. Action committees can link up across cities and even nationally.

Finally, action committees mean a fighting student organisation exists alongside the NUS, often in opposition to it. So, besides controlling our own disputes, action councils are also the best way to transform the NUS into a democratic, fighting movement.



# Occupations our strongest weapon



Step 1: Moving in

Workers can go on strike and shut down production in their workplace, hitting the bosses directly where it hurts – their profits. Shutting down a university doesn't have the same effect, so students don't have the same power as workers. But we still have a lot of potential clout, and our strongest weapon is an occupation. Taking over an administration building forces management to listen to our demands like nothing else. When a movement is strong enough, occupations can spread to many universities and even take over and run whole universities - like in Mexico (see page 7).

When you take a crucial building out of management's hands and with it their control of the university, you have a much stronger bargaining position than a demo or lobby. An all-out occupation of the admin buildings destroys management's ability to run the university and causes massive disruption. The board of governors and the state will put huge pressure on the management, and as individual managers with career plans they will be shitting themselves: which is exactly what Ben Pimlott did at Goldsmith last year.

## All-out or just for a day

Ultimately, we should aim to shut down the university or college until our demands are met. But if that's not yet possible in your university, a one-day action is useful, causing disruption and highlighting the issue at hand. Sometimes it can get media coverage, but most importantly it can inspire others to take part in a campaign and win them to the idea of taking direct action and occupying.

What scale of action you choose

depends on the situation at your university – whether the campaign for free education is already up and running or you're just starting it. What we need to keep in mind is to argue for the necessity of militant tactics – especially occupations – from the beginning, while getting as many people involved as possible, patiently building up a free education campaign that can actually carry out an occupation and win student backing for it. An occupation shouldn't be carried out by a small group of students acting on their own as a stunt. It has to be part of an ongoing campaign that has mobilised a large number of students.

## Running the occupation

The occupation must be democratically controlled and run by the students themselves. Regular mass meetings are the norm in occupations, keeping the students informed and debating out tactics on what to do next. In order to oversee the running of an occupation



Step 2: Re-decorating

some kind of action committee should be established – with elected delegates from the students. They should be accountable to the mass meetings and instantly recallable. No deals should be struck behind the backs of the occupiers.

The major job during the occupation – essential if we're to win – is to keep building it among the rest of the student body, to get the education workers to back it with action (especially strike action) and to spread it to other universities. Management will wait to see if the

occupation will run out of momentum and start to shrink. We need to keep building it during the occupation if we want to keep up morale and make management realise they're going to have to deal with us.

## Spread it

If we're going to win free education, get tuition fees thrown out and save the grant, we can't limit ourselves to simply fighting local cuts and threats. Occupations have to become political. University management will pass the buck, saying, "We can't help tuition fees; it's the Labour government's fault." That's why occupying for free education means demanding New Labour acts for the working class, not the bosses.

And one occupation ain't going to be enough to make them sit up and take notice. To start a forest fire you need lots of kindling, and we'll need to spread every local occupation to other universities.

This means more than requesting faxes of verbal support from other student unions, it means organising teams to visit other universities and colleges, especially in the area. By using the time freed up by the initial occupation to visit other sites and address more students, we can win solidarity action. If the occupation is going for long enough it should call a conference with delegates from other cities to spark a nationally coordinated wave of occupations.

So let's start building for occupations right from the start. Occupations can win. They may piss off your student union bureaucrats, but then that's probably a good sign!



Step 3: Meeting the neighbours



## Labour leaders – A sickening story

The National Union of Students (NUS) has long lost its reputation for being a hotbed of student radicalism. As tuition fees and the scrapping of the maintenance grant became a reality, the NUS leadership spent much of its efforts preventing a lively and democratic campaign for free education.

All action for free education was condemned and anybody who called for a decent living grant was "out of touch". The NUS ignored every single student demonstration that was held between 1995 and 1998.

NUS Conferences should be democratic, working meetings, where further and higher education students can make links and hammer out fighting strategies to defeat the government's attacks. Instead, the Labour leaders have turned them into sickening slanging matches. Open "red baiting" goes hand in hand with every speech from the average hack. Many Labour cronies, such as Simon Webber, pretend to be "independents" because the Labour party is much less popular among students now that Blair is in power.

The NUS leaders have only got away with this because of the weakness of the student movement. By turning conferences into farces, making election campaigns non-political and running union general meetings in the most boring way possible – the NUS leaders hope to make themselves practically unaccountable.

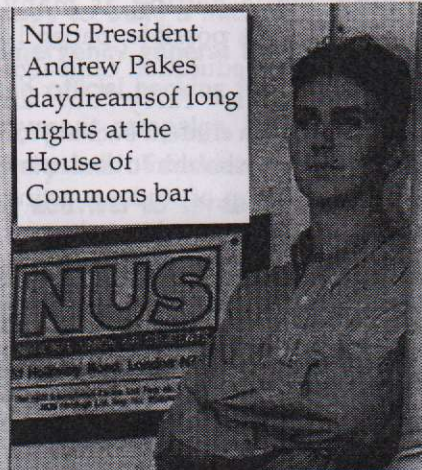
## Hungry students – Angry students...

As anger against the attacks on students builds up, however, thousands of students have begun to take action themselves. Disillusionment with the NUS has escalated. Many student unions around the country have been talking of disaffiliating from the NUS. Others have begun to rebel.

Faced with growing discontent against the government and their Tory policies, Labour students have had to make a tactical change. The NUS is now calling for the reintroduction of a 'maintenance package'. To most

# How do we take on the NUS?

this means a grant, but Labour students are still scared to use this phrase. Similarly, the NUS has for the first time in three years called for a national demonstration in London against student hardship.



Of course, Revolution welcomes this change. But we are under no illusions as to why Pakes and co. have made a left turn.

Labour students know that if they continue to do nothing in the face of rising student poverty, they will lose control of the NUS. They cynically call for a demonstration when last year they pushed through a motion stating that "demonstrations and occupations are no way to carry forward a campaign"!

## Democracy and Action - hand in hand

Beware – Labour students are only putting themselves at the head of the campaign in order to derail it if it becomes too large and militant. It's a general rule to never trust your leaders in the NUS. That's why, even when left activists win positions in student unions, the union campaigns must be built on the basis of grass roots democracy.

It is not enough to vote in more left wing leaders. The problem with the NUS is in the nature of its bureaucratic structure. Until this is changed, the NUS will always be an inadequate means of fighting the powers that be.

NUS bureaucrats are out of touch with the reality of student poverty. Andrew Pakes and his

fellow executives loll it up in top notch hotels on so-called "training courses" while we eat beans on toast in cramped halls of residence. With high salaries and career prospects in Parliament, most bureaucrats will not rock the boat. They think their job is to mediate between the students and the government or universities. This means they will constantly be seeking to strike bargains at our expense.

Not only do we need to take militant action and force our leaders to fight. We need to transform the NUS itself. The building of grass roots democracy within the union must go hand in hand with building militant campaigns. Action committees with delegates from students, teachers, trade unions and community groups need to be organised to empower all those involved and ensure democratic control of our campaigns. All student union officials need to be held to account by the students they represent and paid a sum that represents the income level of most students.

Then – and only then – will students have the kind of fighting and democratic organisation we need and deserve.





# Global Explosion!

## students take the lead around the world

### indonesia

In summer 1998, Indonesian students lead the overthrow of one of the world's most brutal dictators. Their courage in facing down riot police and the army, and their determination to root out the cancer of "crony" capitalism, inspired the workers and urban poor to join them.

**Once again, students detonated a revolution.**

General Suharto had ruled Indonesia as a military dictatorship since 1965, when a CIA-aided coup put him in power. Suharto turned Indonesia into a profit machine for the multinational companies of the West. To keep these profits safe, Suharto outlawed all opposition parties, denied millions of people national rights and imprisoned trade union leaders.

But even this level of repression could not save him forever. Students started a democracy campaign on the campuses and, in May 1998, linked up with workers and traders to protest against a 70 per cent hike in fuel prices.

The police answered demonstrations with batons and plastic bullets. At Sudirman University in Central Java, 65 students were seriously injured but, far from breaking the students, it only served to embolden them. By mid-May, students had occupied the parliament and forced Suharto out.

But many students were not satisfied with Suharto's replacement and one-time henchman, BJ Habibie. When the constitutional assembly convened in November, the students took to the streets again. 60,000 students, backed by hundreds of thousands of workers, clashed with troops in Jakarta. But this time, the army was better prepared.

One result of this setback was that the army, led by General Wiranto, unleashed a reign of terror against the East Timorese people in September 1999. But even in this climate of nationalism, Indonesian students supported the right of the Timorese to independence.

**The Indonesian revolution continues. It will be televised!**

**Stay tuned.**

On 12 September 1999, the Iranian Supreme Court pronounced death sentences against four students. The only evidence against them are "confessions" extracted from them in the notorious torture chambers of Evin prison.

Their real crime was to demand democratic rights. In June and July, thousands of students took to the streets and occupied their campuses, demanding "Death to dictatorship!" and "Long live freedom!". The response from the police, army and the fascist thugs of Hizbollah was swift and brutal. They surrounded the universities in Tehran and in other cities and began arresting everyone in the street who might be a student.

Although mass demonstrations forced the regime to release some protesters, others were broken up by baton-wielding thugs. In an attempt to crush the movement, soldiers even raided the university dormitories. On July 5, seven students were killed by police in their dormitories in Amir Abaad near Tehran. Those who were not immediately arrested were beaten up so badly they were hospitalised. But even in hospital, the gangs pursued the students, dragging their victims from their beds and taking them to the torture camps. Two students reportedly died in the hospital.

Students have been on strike for four months at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the country's largest university with 267,000 students.

The university administration slapped a £90 per year tuition fee on students who had previously needed only 1 pence in their pocket for a university education (the average wage is £2.30 per day). This sparked an explosion of protest from the students defending the principle in the Mexican Constitution that guarantees a free

At the start of the student protests, the majority of the activists saw their role as exerting pressure in support of the reformist president, Khatami. But when the president started to condemn the students and declared that "deviations will be repressed with strength and determination" illusions in the reforming president rapidly dissipated. In an angry letter to Khatami the Tabriz Independent Student Union summed up the new mood:

"We began our movement thinking you are behind us in bringing about a change and 'civil society'. But it is clear now we were deceived by your smiles and promises. You seem to have sided with the fundamentalists now in attacking the students."

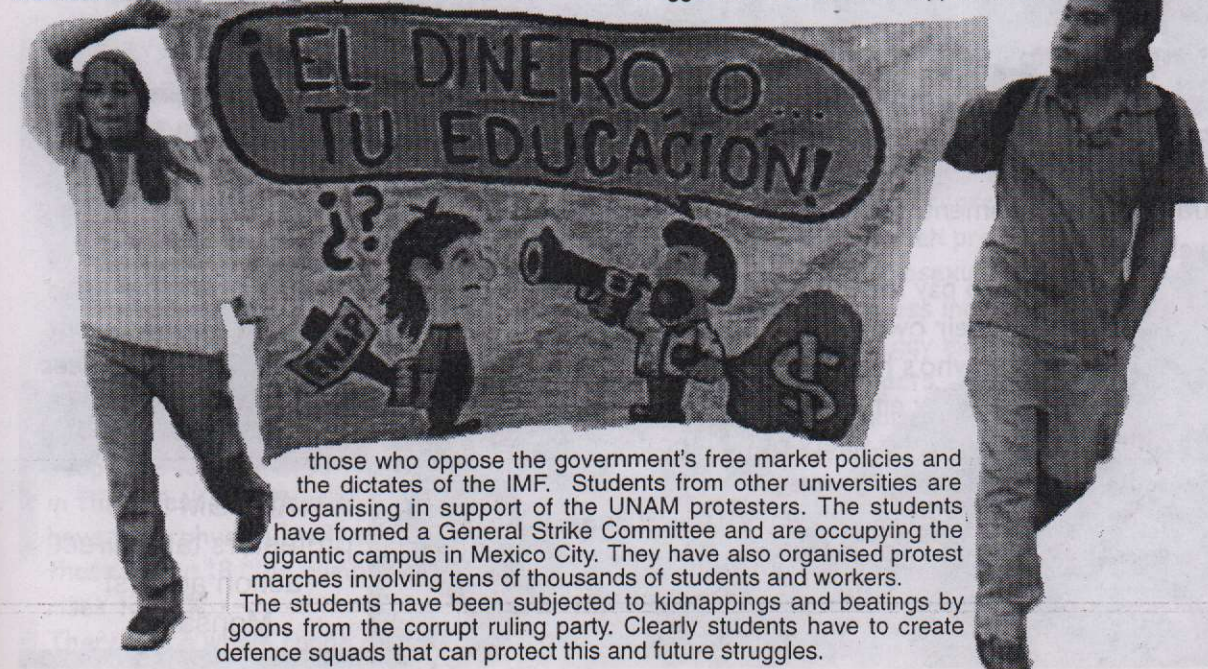
The international students' movement must do everything in its power to halt the torture and executions and demand the immediate and unconditional release of all students and workers arrested. If we succeed, then there is every indication that a new revolution will open up in Iran. Evidence of workers joining the students on the demonstrations and of a high level of women's participation in the protests point to an alternative to relying on the "reformers". Indeed the "Islamic Republic", in reality a foul clerical dictatorship, cannot be reformed: it can only be blown up by mass revolution.

university education.

Many students see this as the first step towards the privatisation of university education.

Many workers are supporting the student movement. The National Organising Committee of Education Workers (CNTE), which represents Mexico City's teachers, took solidarity strike action. The electricians, fighting the government's plan to privatise Mexico's electrical utilities have joined the student demonstrations. The struggle has attracted the support of all

### mexico



those who oppose the government's free market policies and the dictates of the IMF. Students from other universities are organising in support of the UNAM protesters. The students have formed a General Strike Committee and are occupying the gigantic campus in Mexico City. They have also organised protest marches involving tens of thousands of students and workers. The students have been subjected to kidnappings and beatings by goons from the corrupt ruling party. Clearly students have to create defence squads that can protect this and future struggles.



# BOSSSES TARGET DOLPHINS

The planet is being destroyed at an astonishing rate. The land, the rivers, the oceans, and the air we breathe are being polluted every day. Acid rain, caused by power station and vehicle emissions, is killing lakes and forests throughout the world; pollution has no boundaries. The climate is changing due to human activities. The greenhouse effect is caused by emission of gases from burning fossil fuels, which prevent heat escaping the Earth's atmosphere. A 1 to 5 C rise is predicted within the next 100 years, if nothing is done. Since the last ice age, the Earth has only warmed by 5 C.

The classic example of environmental destruction, is the tropical rainforest which, although covering only 6% of the Earth's surface, contains between 70% and 90% of its species. This rich environment helps regulate the Earth's climate and provides countless beneficial products. Yet it is being ruined at an amazing rate through deforestation and other environmentally degrading activities. Immediate action is necessary to prevent a total catastrophe! Not a stabilisation of emissions as advocated by the EU, or the do nothing approach of the US, but a 60% cut in all emissions.

The cause of much of these problems has been identified by environmentalists as overpopulation, that the earth cannot support this many people. Simply because there are millions of starving people throughout the world does not mean that this is a result of natural shortages, but due to the instability of the capitalist system to provide for them. Two-thirds of the world's population are malnourished, at the same time huge mountains of food are destroyed every year to boost

the price, so the capitalists can get even more profit.

The cause of environmental disasters is not, as many environmentalists imply, the industrial mode of production per se, but the capitalist system itself. Capitalist are after a quick profit, without any concern for the environment. The technology already exists to dramatically reduce the harmful emissions from factories, power stations and vehicles, but they cut into the profits of the capitalists, so they are implemented only when they are legally forced to, or when bad publicity will mean an even bigger drop in profits.

What is the answer? Large parts of the environmentalist movement are influenced by reactionary solutions—i.e. a return to nature, to the land, to small scale production. But this will not solve all the problems. Only a world plan for optimum development, balancing between human need and the environment, can save humanity and the planet on which it lives. A central part of this plan must be to restore ecosystems, not simply to slow down its degradation: reforestation, water and air purification and reverse desertification.

Capitalism cannot provide a real solution to global environmental problems. The major environmental polluters, the capitalists that own and control production, will not cease their drive for private profit. We must smash this system throughout the world and replace it with a rational, planned system, which produces for need - not greed. Only then will our place on this beautiful planet be assured.

## What we fight for:

- Tax the rich and the oil companies to fund investigations into renewable energy sources
- An environmental monitoring agency must be established under workers' control to investigate polluters. All those industries found guilty must face punitive fines, to pay for a full clean up and to prevent them from re-offending
- Where industry is polluting the environment, we demand workers control and community enquiries into existing problems and all new developments
- The working class should not be made to pay for the mistakes of capitalism through high taxes, high prices, etc. Businesses should be forced to clean up their own mess
- Compensation must be paid in full to all who's health has been damaged by pollution or unsafe working practices
- A massive programme to improve the energy efficiency of housing should be established
- For a workers' and consumers' enquiry into the safety of GM foods
- Clear labelling of all products containing GM organisms
- The nationalisation, under workers' control of all the agrochemical companies such as Monsanto, plus any company found to be polluting the environment
- A comprehensive and heavily subsidised integrated public transport system
- Full facilities for cyclists including a wide network of cycle paths and bike parks

Anti-GM food protesters take direct action against Monsanto



# SEXUAL REVOLUTION

Women, youth, lesbians and gays were pleased to see the back of the Tories in 1997. However, after more than two and a half years of a Labour government, many now realise that things under Blair are little different.

Labour's morality has seen them try to force single mothers back into work, they have praised the adoption of children born outside of marriage and have condemned any expression of youth sexuality. Gay men are still waiting to see the equalisation of the age of consent.

Meanwhile, Blair continues on his moral crusade preaching family values. Many women still face the threat of domestic violence, access to abortion remains restricted, full and frank sex education is still outlawed, and contraception is still not freely available.

Revo combats all forms of oppression based on gender or sexuality and support the struggles of women, youth and those fighting homophobia.

## HETEROSEXUAL? MARRIED? 2.5 CHILDREN? OR OTHER!!!

Sexual oppression in all of its forms today is linked to the myth of the nuclear family. Anything that conflicts with the idea of the married heterosexual couple being the natural norm is a threat to the stability of the traditional family unit and so must be condemned.

The family has changed greatly throughout history in response to the needs of society. As opposed to a lot of the more communal societies before it capitalism required an army of wage labourers. They needed to be fed, clothed and sheltered, the next generation of workers also has to be produced and reared. Capitalism uses the family unit to do this. The model of the working man and the housewife cooking, cleaning and raising children became the norm in the early years of capitalism, the wife was economically dependant on her husband.

Morality and religion have developed to justify this status quo targeting promiscuity and 'deviant' sexual relationships. Any fight against this must acknowledge the role of the family and its importance to the Capitalist system.

Homo- and bisexuals face serious social oppression. They are targeted by the police often falling victim to cases of entrapment; stereotyped by the media as promiscuous perverts, paedophiles and disease spreaders; and attacked by fascists such as the nail bombing in Soho which killed 3 people. It is estimated that up to one in three lesbians, gays and bisexuals have been physically attacked; for those under 18, the number attacked rises to 48%.

There are a whole range of laws that

undermine their existence: an unequal age of consent for gay men, Section 28, which prevents the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities, and gross indecency laws, which can land gay men in jail for consensual sexual acts. Lesbians, gays and bisexuals are offered no protection from discrimination at work, are banned from the armed forces and have to pay more for some goods and services, such as life insurance. As couples, they are not entitled to the same benefits as

married couples and they are not recognised as valid parents.

### SEXUAL REVOLUTION FIGHTS FOR:

- Abolition of all anti-gay laws
- An end to family values bullshit in schools
- Protection from discrimination at work
- Free community self-defence classes
- Right of lesbians and gays to caucus inside working class organisations
- An end to police entrapment



**Rape only happens to women who are out all night and who dress and behave in a provocative manner. NOT TRUE – THERE'S DATE RAPE**

Rape can occur anywhere. A recent report from the Government Women's Unit reveals that domestic and sexual violence affects more than one in four women at some point in their lives.

Statistics show that rape is not only committed by strangers. Over half of rape victims actually know their attacker. Date rape is becoming increasingly common on campuses. The number of attacks reported to the police tripled between 1993 and 1998. Despite this, the number of men who were convicted of rape remains virtually the same. How can this be explained?

Many women are discouraged from prosecuting for fear of being put on trial themselves: first by the sexist police, then by unsympathetic courts.

As long as women are treated as second class citizens and sexual objects, men will see women as legitimate targets for their frustration and violence. This violence limits women's ability to fully participate in society. For example, one in two women feel unsafe when walking home at night and many will not go out alone.

## THE FIGHT FOR LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL LIBERATION



# Fucked up World

If there really are UFOs out there, once they're done abducting kids from South Park and get around to compiling statistics about our planet, they're going to be saying to themselves, "Gee what a fucked up world". Consider these facts which you won't see in four inch headlines in the mainstream press:

- Out of a world population of 6 billion. 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day.
- 840 million go hungry every day and one third of people in the third world die before they reach 40.
- 1 billion have no clean water. Another billion are illiterate. Yet another billion are without a real job.

In the midst of this poverty, tremendous wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few. The 358 richest people on earth own more than the annual income of 45% the world's population!

## Work them to death & make a profit

It's not just rich and poor. We live in a capitalist world, but there's two kinds of capitalist country. A handful of rich, powerful ("imperialist") countries, like Britain and the US, dominate and exploit the third world (or "semi-colonies"), where most people live. The imperialists' multinationals have trillions of dollars of property in the third world. They take out the profits from these factories and plantations but put barely any investment in.

The imperialists completely control the global economy: they dictate the prices and have a monopoly on technology. The World Trade Organisation was set up by the West as a crowbar to lever open third world economies, flooding their markets with the products of the multinationals, buying up their resources and industries, declaring "illegal" the laws protecting workers or the environment.

Last but not least, third world countries owe the West \$2.2 tril-

lion! To protect their loans the IMF and World Bank force semi-

## who's to blame?

colonies to slash health and education spending, let prices for food and other basics go through the roof and sell their industries off to Western multinationals.

## Guns ensure silence

When the imperialists' control is threatened by revolution, they back dictators, like Suharto in Indonesia. Meanwhile cynical politicians claim the people are "not ready for democracy".

When a tin-pot dictator gets too big for his boots, his people are simply bombed back to the stoneage. This is what is happening in Iraq to this very day. Over half a million children have been starved because Sadaam wanted a higher price for Iraq's oil. Their message is clear: "Mess with us and see what you'll get."

## and its getting worse!

Since the 1970s the multinationals have taken more of their profits out of third world countries but have invested less and less in return. In the last 20 years the hundred poorest countries in the world have suffered a bigger depression than that of the 1930s. And the debt just gets bigger and bigger.

Meanwhile, the five biggest multinationals now have a turnover bigger than the GDP of all of Africa and the Middle East. General Motors is bigger, economically, than Indonesia with its 210 million people! British Petroleum outproduces Portugal.

## It's not just the third world

All of us, including workers in the first world, are victims of this system. Imperialism has meant a century of war, trillions wasted on

arms, and hundreds of millions dead. There were 31 wars last year – how many millions will die in the 21st century?

Some say that first world workers consume too much. But the gap between rich and poor is widening here too. 400,000 are homeless in London. One in three children in Britain is born into poverty. Since the 1970's unemployment in the West has tripled to 70 million. And we control nothing in our society. People are just pushed around by huge economic forces beyond our control, with the telly pumping out reactionary ideas – nationalism, religion, authoritarianism – while selling us shit in the commercial breaks. No wonder people are so alienated.

Others say we just need to go back to living in villages. But that romanticises village life, with its patriarchy and poverty. Global society is excellent! More of us travel than ever before, breaking down barriers and fear of other cultures. We read books, eat food, listen to music, and wear clothes made everywhere from Argentina to Zimbabwe. The Internet allows us to talk to people anywhere in the world, instantly.

No. The biggest and most dangerous contradiction on the planet is that we have a global economy incorporating six billion people but only a few hundred individuals "own" this economy. Our revolution must resolve this contradiction by ending private ownership of the economy.

That's why all the Revolution groups in Europe got together to launch World Revolution – we want an international revolutionary youth organisation from Indonesia to Iran to Ireland. We don't want a global labour camp for the multinationals, we want a global revolution to smash their power and take it all back!



# THE CHOICE IS OURS... socialism or

## BARBARISM

As we enter the 21st century, the world remains a place full of injustice, oppression and poverty. The bosses search for profit continues to make the rich super-rich and the poor desperate.

Millions of the world's youth are destined to a life of unemployment and the cycle of deprivation and misery that it brings. Yet there are plenty of necessities that people need now and that we have the resources and the technology to provide - decent homes, electricity, health and education for all would be a start. So why won't the bosses provide these resources? The reason is profit. It's profitable to make computers and create services like the internet. It isn't profitable to sell food to the poor; it isn't profitable to provide sanitation and medication to the children of the shanty towns.

The Governments of Blair, Clinton and Schroeder make out they care, but these cynical hypocrites let the poor rot in inner-city slums while they spend billions bombing innocent workers and peasants back into the ice age.

**Is this what we have to look forward to in the 21st century? - more wars, more unemployment, more of the same old shit?**

REVOLUTION believes that there is an alternative to the sickness of capitalism. We are socialists. Our socialism has nothing in common with the dictators of the Soviet Union or the labour leaders of the West. We fight for a socialist system that takes the wealth and resources from the rich and shares these resources collectively amongst the millions of people who create the wealth of the world - the workers.

If we took the food multinationals, the computer industry, the banks, the schools, the pharmaceutical companies, the mines, the oil wells....the whole lot.... into our control and produced and distributed these resources according to need rather than profit, then we could really begin to solve the problems of poverty and illness across the globe.

We're revolutionaries because we know it will take a revolution to get a socialist society. Capital has perfected a state apparatus of bureaucrats, police and military leaders whose sole purpose is to protect their profits at home and abroad. They have shown time and again that they will unleash a campaign of violence, torture and terror on their own people if they dare to challenge their power. That is why any struggle against the bosses state will require the use of organised force by the masses.

We don't want to replace the bosses state with the same repressive apparatus. Our state will be run by the vast majority for the majority through democratic workers councils. These workers councils made up of delegates from every workplace, estate, every college and school, will help draw up the plans that will determine how we run our society. Our ultimate goal is to establish revolutionary workers governments across the globe and begin the task for the new century - the building of a world communist community. Join us now in our struggle for a 21st century of the future.

In a world of lies and greed, when giant corporations roamed the earth and nothing, not even the truth, was safe from the jaws of profit, only one paper dared to stand up and say what's what...

### REVOLUTION

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### REVOLUTION means:

**a revolutionary youth organisation** that unites all those opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates

**fighting the oppression** the racism, sexism and homophobia that the system produces  
**ending the rule of the bosses** their corporations banks and states, organising ourselves to fight back and overthrow their domination of society

**internationalism not nationalism** Solidarity with workers & youth around the world, & liberating the Third World!

**direct action** is the way to win our struggles and reclaim our organisations- trade unions, student unions- from the bureaucrats

## join the revolutionaries!



# Turn

hats and black cabs a guy was on top of a double decker bus waving a revo flag, thousands conga'ed through Liverpool Street station behind a samba band and 2 crusties were climbing a skyscraper to hang a banner "enough is enough." Someone said in awed tones, "this is fucking wicked..." - and that was just the beginning. Welcome to June 18th.

City of London, second biggest financial centre in the world, 1 pm. Instead of bowler

up

J18 targetted the heart of global capitalism, aiming to shut it down for a day to protest against the G8 summit. We did it! and we did it in style. The police were all over the place but couldn't control the



energy and enthusiasm of thousands of activists and partiers flooding into the City. We ground it to a halt with street parties blocking roads, and actions against the headquarters of the multinationals and megabanks. When the world's superpowers got together to plan the next year of exploitation and war, we turned up the music and said NO!

The conga turned into a street march turned into a street party turned into a riot. At the street party, some protesters invaded the Futures Exchange, the cops beat them back, then decided to go on a baton rampage, attacking the street party. It ended in a riot. The next day's tabloid headlines scream-ed "scum" at us for daring to challenge their system.

It was excellent and it was mostly youth that decided to come out and stop the City. It was the same around the world as similar actions took place in other major financial centres: youth taking the lead against the rule of the multinationals and fighting for a better world. Thousands were so angry that they went beyond normal, legal protest and refused to be beaten out of the city by the bankers' cops - this is the truth behind the "riots". Youth's creativity, bravery and sheer energy was what almost made Big Brother lose control for a few hours. There's a new generation entering the political scene that aren't afraid of taking action because "it doesn't work", who put two fingers up to those who whinge "You can't change anything" and find a way around the obstacles to taking action. One of the biggest obstacles is the police. They harass activists, intimidate them, beat them up, arrest them on false charges. Sure they smile sometime and there might be a couple of good

apples in a bad barrel like some say, but its the barrel that rolls over us everytime. The police aren't authoritarian wankers for no reason, discipline and hierarchy are the basis of the police as an organisation. By the time a new bobby hits the street he or she is already completely caught up in their membership in this undemocratic brutal institution. Non violent direct action means not challenging the system or if we do, and the coppers wade in, and we get trashed. We need to go back to the traditions of the labour movement of picket line defense and learn

the

how to organise defense of our demos and actions. We shouldn't be pacifists in the face of a state armed to the teeth and prepared to do anything to defend the rule of the bankers and businessmen. Liberation is necessary,

and it will only be possible by learning to fight back, not turn the other cheek.

# MUSIC

And anyways we don't want just a day in the City, its crap with its Marks and Sparks and suit shops- we want the whole thing. The police are only their first line of defense - we'll face the full power of the state, its spies, security services and armies if we begin to really make a change. And we don't want to lose and live under some Hitler or Suharto or our own, we want to win. If we're going to beat them instead of the other way around, it means **REVOLUTION.**



...& turn out their lights