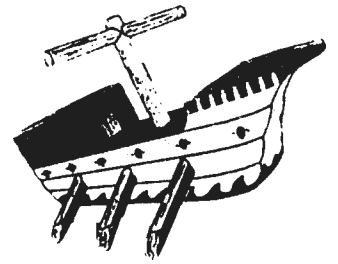




WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER JOB SHARING

SchNEWS

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Free/Donation

RESPECT

TO THE LIVERPOOL DOCK WORKERS

"You have all been an inspiration to workers throughout the world, this struggle has united workers on a level unknown before"

Email tribute

Two years, three months and twenty nine days after they were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line, Liverpool dock workers voted on Monday to end their marathon dispute with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. A short statement issued on Monday reads:

"At a mass meeting the Liverpool Dockers decided to call an end to their long running dispute on a recommendation from their shop stewards. The decision to end the dispute was taken after hearing about a number of very important and significant developments which made it more or less impossible to continue. We ask the comrades to appreciate the difficulty that confronts us at this stage and understand that all the relevant details of the final settlement will follow in due course.

Thanks for all your magnificent and wonderful support."

Yours in Solidarity,

Jim Nolan

Merseyside Port Shop Stewards Committee

As SchNEWS went to press shop stewards were still meeting and we will give more details when they follow. We at SchNEWS say respect to the dockers and Women of the Waterfront. The dispute was surely one of the most imaginative and creative responses to Globalisation in trade union history. It not only crossed international boundaries, but united different struggles. The dockers fight might be over but the fight against low-pay, crap jobs and a world where people don't get shafted for trying to get a decent standard of living continues....

For a potted history of the strike, see SchNEWS 136 or check out the Labourwebsite www.Labournet.org.uk.

* "While Elton John makes a song and dance about a dead princess, Polygram continues to profit from the misery of the workers at M & S"

Polygram is a multinational company operating in 40 countries. It is one of the three biggest music companies in the world, controlling 20% of the worldwide market. In 1996 it made £2.965 billion sales! Elton John's 'Candle in the Wind' - the best selling song of all time - is published through PolyGram but packaged by M & S (Packaging) of Blackburn. M & S pay their workers just £3.80 an hour with no holiday or sick pay and 12 hour shifts. People employed at M & S through a local agency on a 'when needed' basis are paid even worse - just £3 per hour.

However, when one of the workers, Nigel Cook, started to argue against low pay and poor conditions and set up a union he was sacked.

So a campaign has been set up not just to re-instate Nigel, but also to highlight the crap jobs and casualisation that the dockers were also fighting against. There's gonna be a picket and protest of Polygrams Britannia Music Awards (the Brit Awards) at Docklands Arena, London on Monday 9th February letting people know that it's not all glitz and glamour behind the music industry. Ring 0171 837 1688 for details of the picket. There will be transport from Brighton - ring 01273 685913 to book a place.

Nigel Cook Campaign, PO Box 14, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1GG 01254 679605.

* Meanwhile pool old Elton John has been told by his accountants of a looming cash-flow crisis. It seems his weekly spending bill of £280,050 is causing some concern. With five homes across the globe (with two florists making 240 flower arrangements a week for his homes) and a fleet of cars worth almost £2 million, SchNEWS wonders just how the poor old musically-challenged twat is manages.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK
For cleaning your bowels: Stoke Newington police nicked two party organisers and confiscated a two-kilo block of clay. The clay was meant to be consumed as a way of cleansing the colon, but the down-to-earth officers found this difficult to digest, and apparently mistook it for hash. Some people are full of shit.

* This week the government told the nation that it had spent £126,000 on refurbishing 10 and 11 Downing St since the General Election. Now what was that about us all having to tighten our belts because there's no money in the pot?

* Belgians are facing a second week-end without money as a strike of security-van guards puts their country on the verge of becoming Europe's first cashless society. The strike following the murder of three security in armed robberies, is over low pay (they earn on average £700 a month) and has left banks, shops and their customers short of cash, with virtually all cashpoint machines closed days ago. With teachers and health workers also on strike and near-daily demonstrations, the self-styled capital of Europe is in danger of sinking into chaos...

THESE PEOPLE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT

*350 Magnet Workers have been on strike now for 18 months over pay and conditions (see SchNEWS 151). If you'd like to make a donation contact the Strike Committee c/o Ian Crammond, 109 Jedburgh Drive, Darlington, DL3 9UP.

*Hillingdon Hospital Workers have been in dispute for as long as the dockers (see SchNEWS 136). Sacked after refusing to take a 20 pay cut and worse conditions, they have been abandoned by their union UNISON and are desperate for donations. Donations to HSSC c/o 27 Townsend Way, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1TG

IN NEXT WEEKS SCHNEWS
The Free Party clampdown continues - last Saturday in Stoke Newington it was the turn of five sound systems to have their rigs confiscated. So next week SchNEWS is gonna do a double-issue on what's been happening round the country in the past six months. Give us a bell if you've got any gossip.

