

Interns' ingress

DON'T forget to tell any interns you come across to take a look at the London Freelance Branch campaign to help them claim at least the minimum wage for their work: point them to www.londonfreelance.org/1011inte.html

We've already had a score of responses from interns interested in pursuing this – following up an Industrial Tribunal win for Nicola Vetta, a member of sister union BECTU, a year ago. You could also show interns the ad the Branch took out to publicise the campaign in the *Journalist* and suggest they email interns@londonfreelance.org

STORIES NOT IN THE PRINT EDITION

Journalists jailed in Turkey, gassed in Greece

Over 40 Turkish journalists are currently in jail for “nothing more than doing their job” according to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). They were arrested, mostly in the course of their work, and are in prison awaiting trial on charges of violating the Turkish penal code or anti-terror laws. Another 700 Turkish journalists are facing prosecution

on similar charges, which carry the threat of imprisonment.

The IFJ website has a full list of Turkish journalists currently in prison, and a model letter to send to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Demonstrations are being planned at Turkish embassies. See www.ifj.org

Meanwhile in Athens, the South

and East Europe Media Organisation (www.SEEMO.org) reports that Greek police first told the press pack covering a lock-down protest by contract workers at the Acropolis in Athens to “go away and let us do our jobs”, before launching tear gas to “disperse photojournalists and cameramen... trying to take pictures.”

How to survive Xmas

With commissioning editors away on the ski slopes and not commissioning anything from you, how does a freelance survive over the Christmas period?

For a start, you could spend those inactive days by signing up with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Service (ALCS) and filling in the forms listing the articles you've written. This will result in you getting money for photocopying licenses, and now a little bit for some scanning and digitisation rights too. We've heard of freelances spending a day over Christmas filling in ALCS forms for the first time and getting up to £600 as a result. Details are at www.alcs.co.uk. Payments for photocopying licences of UK newspaper articles in Belgium and other

countries are beginning to come in to authors, so claim for these too.

Photographers can do a similar thing to get money for photocopying of their work via the Design and Artists Copyright Society (www.dacs.co.uk).

While you're at it, if you've had a book published, sign up for Public Lending Right and send details of your books via www.plr.uk.com to get a little something in payments coming your way as a result of public libraries lending your works.

The British Library are moving another huge stack of books out of St Pancras to Boston Spa, Yorks, which means they will soon take at least 48 hours to arrive once you order them, instead of the 70 minutes we've all been accustomed to. So if

you've been meaning to look up any of the BL's collection for a while, do it now. The BL is closed 24-29 December and 1-3 January.

If you haven't yet sorted out your entry for the NUJ's Freelance Directory, do it in the Yuletide downtime. Go to www.freelancedirectory.org

Or why not be one of over 200 people annually who spend Christmas Day filling in their tax return, according to HMRC logs? (The deadline for your 2009/2010 return is **31 January**.)

And we commend to you Humphrey Evans' guide for freelances on to how to survive the Xmas period: read it at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/survive.html

One way of surviving Xmas: *Tending children at the orphanage in Haarlem* by Jan de Bray (1663; d 1697)

