

SchNEWS

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Issue 722

SQUARING UP TO 'EM

AS PROTESTERS PREPARE TO GIVE THE TORYS A WARM WELCOME...

Only four days into the brave new Libservative era and the population is getting into the national coalition-building mood - a rag-tag rainbow alliance of the disaffected is set to pitch up in Parliament Square this Saturday (15th). But will it be a strong, stable protest in the national interests?

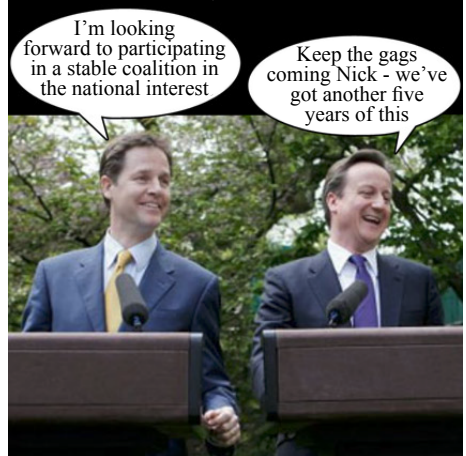
Rave Against The Machine 2 - Parliament Square street party and sound clash, 4pm-11pm. "A smashing good day out!" Enjoy the carnival and spectacle of a country pissed off with its 'leaders'! "Just like the last party, invite your friends, and bring booze!" **Fuck The Torys! Fuck The Lib Dems! And Fuck Labour!**

The **Democracy Village** was established in Parliament Square on May 1st (see SchNEWS 721) demanding on behalf of the majority of people that the war in Afghanistan is ended and the troops are brought home with immediate effect. The village is still going on strong - all are welcome to get involved. (see <http://democracyvillage.blogspot.com> for more details)

Guerilla Gardening - Brighten up Parliament Square - which is in desperate need of colourful flora. Starting at 12pm - bring plants, flowers and picnic food. From 4pm there will be live music, an open mic, and a discussion forum. <http://democracyvillage.blogspot.com>

Purple Patch - At 2pm a purple 'coalition' (mostly pissed-off Lib-Dem supporters) will assemble at Parliament Square for the Take Back Parliament protest. This campaign has marshalled its forces surprisingly quickly

MOVE OVER ANT & DEC, HERE COMES CAM & CLEGG



PARTY & PROTEST
For events listings updated weekly see www.schnews.org.uk/pap

and now there's purple protests all around the country. www.takebackparliament.com

Nakba Protest - Outside 10 Downing St will be a Nakba* commemoration Free Palestine Demonstration 12pm-5pm, called by Palestine Solidarity Campaign, British Muslim Initiative, Stop the War Coalition, CND, Palestinian Forum in Britain. www.palestinecampaign.org
* Arab name for the forced mass exodus of the Palestinian people in 1948

Party At The Pumps Part 2 - The Canadian wilderness is the threatened by Shell's massive tar-sands mining .. Three days before the corporation's AGM, come to a party on the forecourt and help shut down Shell Hell. Meet 1pm at Oxford Circus for Party At The Pumps Part 2 - with sound system and samba



band. Bring a zone 1-2 tube ticket, make some noise. There will also be a special **Party at the Pumps Critical Mass** which will begin at Marble Arch at 1pm, moving to the location of the party. <http://no-tar-sands.org>

Climate Emergency Overnight Vigil - outside Parliament. The event will 'kick off' with a candlelit procession down Whitehall, with people assembling at 11pm outside St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. www.campaigncc.org

One permanent fixture at Parliament Square is the **Peace Camp**, featuring long-term resident **Brian Haw**. June 2nd is the 9th anniversary of Brian's initial camp - he's still there, just as are troops in Afghanistan. www.parliament-square.org.uk

NOT A CLEGG TO STAND ON

So the honeymoon is underway for Nick & Dave, who surprised friends and relatives with a shotgun wedding this week, despite having been heard for a number of years forcefully listing all the reasons why the other is a complete twat. But what are the prospects for a happy marriage - as far as the rest of us are concerned?

Welcome to the real arrival of the Age of Austerity, due since the day the financial crisis broke but propped up and put back til the election was finally over.

Swinging cuts across the whole public services sector (well you can't expect them to skimp on 'defence'!) is not likely to ingratiate them with anybody but bankers and the richest slice of society.

And of course cuts don't begin to cover the black hole of debt. Large tax hikes - direct and indirect - are inevitable (a VAT rise looks likely for instance - which taxes the poorest most) as well as a certain amount of deliberate inflation (such as, but not limited to the recent 'quantitative easing'). This is basically another indirect tax which reduces the real value of everybody's assets in order to make the fixed-amount government debts smaller in real terms.

And then there's Europe - the biggest crack in the Cam-Clegg cabal - which is lurching through a period of financial crisis and threatens to make everyone's recession even worse. The just-announced trillion dollar bailout is just that - a bailout - not any kind of solution to the underlying problems.

It's papering over the cracks and basically

the 'richer' countries - those with smaller, more manageable debt mountains than the others - have agreed to borrow even huger amounts to prop up the system in the short term. Much like the global minimal action on the environment, it fails to recognise that delaying an inevitable crisis only makes its impact bigger and more overwhelming when it eventually happens.

Politicians are scared of the market's reactions to, and the political consequences of, allowing Greece (and potentially others) to default. It could kill the Euro, and lead to a crisis of confidence threatening the whole euro-superstate project. So they're throwing the kitchen sink at keeping the status quo going.

But without debt restructuring and cancellation, some economists (even MOR FT types) think that all the problems faced down now will be back, bigger and more uncontrollable, within three years.

And it could be sooner than that if the Greeks don't start meekly accepting their bitter austerity pills more readily than they have been. Pausing after an intense period of mass riots, deaths and pitch battles with riot cops (see SchNEWS 711, 720), more general strikes and actions are planned, starting on May 20th. The elites had better hope than the Spanish, Portuguese, Irish and ...er, British aren't watching and getting any ideas about how to respond when the next levels of Austerity get imposed...

"A strong, stable government in the national interest" - a soundbite which will look increasingly laughable from here on in...

DECOMMISSIONERS TRIAL DELAYED

The trial of the **EDO Decommissioners** (see SchNews 721) has been delayed for three weeks. The trial now starts on June 7th at Hove Crown Court (TBC check www.smashedo.org.uk closer to the time). But our mates at SMASH EDO aren't letting the pressure drop. Every Wednesday 4pm-6pm they're bringing the noise outside the Factory of Death www.smashedo.org.uk/noise.htm

* **Picket of Barclays Bank**, (the market maker for ITT on the NY Stock Exchange), Western Road, Brighton, Sat May 22nd, 11am

* **'Gaza: Beneath the Bombs'**: Sharyn Lock and Sarah Irving will be talking about their new book, based on ISM volunteer Sharyn's experiences of Israeli attacks on Gaza. Sat May 22nd 7pm, Cowley Club, 12 London Rd, Brighton.

* **Remember Gaza vigil** outside the Hove Crown Court (check website for confirmation), 9am, Monday 7th June (moved from 17th May).

* **If I had a Hammer - Decommissioners support** demo at EDO MBM, Home Farm Road, Brighton, 4pm-6pm. Wednesday 9th June (moved from 19th May)

* **Day of the Verdict in the EDO/ITT Decommissioners Trial** - The trial will be going on throughout June and July 2010. Whether the verdict is guilty or not guilty our resistance against EDO/ITT will continue... We will be here until EDO are not! We are planning to hold a demonstration as soon as the verdict is known - keep an eye on this site for updates. If you'd like to receive an update about the verdict and about the demonstration email your email address or mobile number to smashedo@riseup.net or text 07526557436. <http://decommissioners.co.uk>

GLADE RAGS

Glade is the latest in a string of festivals to be forced to cancel its frivolities because of police pressure to increase security and stewarding. Big Green Gathering (see SchNEWS 685), Strawberry Fair (see SchNEWS 715) and now Glade have all succumbed to the underhand tactics of police who refuse to negotiate in advance but push for licence reviews that would not come to a decision until days before the festival is supposed to start.

All three festivals have reported huge support from local councils despite the police's demands. The bottom line now seems to be if you try to keep your festie free of corporate sponsorship and refuse to pay disproportionate sums of money for extra policing, it doesn't happen.

* See www.gladefestival.com

SWEATY PALMS AT UNILEVER

German protest group Robin Wood have been targeting cosmetics and food giant Unilever over the last few days, following them around Europe to take action at shareholder meetings in Rotterdam and London and the German headquarters in Hamburg.

The activists are protesting against Unilever's involvement in the mass destruction of rainforest to produce palm oil - the cheap fat that, these days, is in pretty much everything from frozen pizza to Vanish.

Protesters unfurled banners saying 'Unilever - Unscrupulous Destruction of Rainforest and Community for Palm Oil' and leafleted the shareholders, informing them of the eco-cidal business the corporation is in.

* See www.robinwood.de

RAISING ARIZONA

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets across the US on May Day as Arizona immigration law erupted in mass rallies.

Protesters in more than 70 cities (including Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago, Phoenix, Washington, Boston and New York) across the land of opportunity marched for the rights of migrants that are being bludgeoned, reminiscent of the unsuccessful attempt for federal legislation four years previously which would have made being a non-status immigrant a felony. Demonstrations had already been held in response to Arizona's recent ruling but Saturday's marches were by far the largest held to date, including 50,000 in LA and 6,500 in New York.

Arizona's severe new immigration legislation, which is due to take effect from July 29th, will make it possible for law enforcement teams to

interrogate people about their citizen status if they suspect they don't carry proper documentation, creating fears of inciting further racism and discrimination. There are an estimated 12 million people living illegally in the U.S.

Protesters included a coalition (groan) of activists, families, students and migrant organisations as well as prominent political, religious and media figures. Congressman, Luis Gutierrez the representative for the state of Illinois, was arrested along with 35 other people during a sit-in outside the White House which defied orders from the police. Protesters are usually required to stay in motion when demonstrating in front of the White House. It was a reminder to Obama to fulfill his campaign promises to achieve immigration reform. Let's hope the waves of civil disobedience continue.

* For more see <http://arizona.indymedia.org>

BOUNTY BAR-STARDS

On Tuesday 11th, France's CRS riot squad raided 'Africa House', the squat in Calais of African migrants. Six riot vans full of police and two unmarked 'arrest' vans arrived to round people up for the crime of having no papers. They spent an hour combing the building and eventually left with 23 people. Most people were only held for a few hours before being made to make the long walk from the Coquelles detention centre back into town.

A day later the police rounded up five Hazara Afghans who are camping out in the shrubbery near the old hover port and also five Palestinians trying to make it to the UK in a truck. The CRS units receive a 1000 euro bonus at the end of a tour of duty if they exceed their arrest quota of migrants. Policing of migrants has been transformed into bounty-hunting.

Police raids on 'jungles' are an almost daily occurrence and are part of a concerted campaign of repression by the French state to make Calais a mi-

grant free zone. In April 2009 the French minister of immigration, Eric Besson, vowed to drive all migrants out of Calais. In September of that year the process began with the smashing of the large Pashtun 'jungle' and the arrest of 278 people. Since then all pre-existing squats and jungles have been evicted with the exception of Africa House, which is set for demolition in the next two months.

On Saturday 8th, as Calais celebrated the defeat of the Nazis, No Borders activists and migrants organised a march through Calais to highlight their situation. Two No Borders activists attempted to display photos of police brutality at the official commemoration at the town hall but were swiftly dragged away by the police along with two observers and detained until the rally ended.

* **No Borders Transnational Day Of Action For Freedom Of Movement**: Paris, May 15th. Meet 2pm at Jaures Train Station. <http://calais-migrantsolidarity.wordpress.com>

LAB-LIB PACT

Activists from Stop Animal Experiments at Bradford used the Bradford University Spring Charity Dinner and Ball at Cedar Court Hotel as an opportunity to shame the uni for the vivisection which goes on inside their laboratories. Bradford University conducts vivisection on, amongst other things, the effect of cocaine on mice. ("Look professor, this one seems to have turned into a complete asshole.")

Upon arrival, smartly dressed campaigners entered the hotel and left leaflets everywhere for at-

tendees and guests. Unfortunately, the hotel didn't appreciate people being informed about the horrors conducted by their client, and ripped up leaflets and chased protesters around the hotel and grounds! The police arrived and arrested the protesters for criminal damage before releasing them, but also confiscated leaflets and issued dispersal orders.

Undeterred a handful of campaigners held a noisy protest outside the main entrance to the Cedar Court Hotel.

* See www.academicabuse.wordpress.com

CRUDE AWAKENING

Also in the USA, anger overflowed this Tuesday (11th) as protesters outraged by BP's massive oil spill in the Gulf marched on the White House bearing a fifty foot banner saying "President Obama: this is your crude awakening". They were drawing attention to the fact that BP's man-made disaster is compounding the pressure put on the local environment by Hurricane Katrina. Eleven workers died after the explosion, and tarballs are slowly but surely now washing up on shore.

Demonstrators aimed their vitriol at Barack Obama, who has been a supporter of the expansion of offshore drilling as the White House defended its drilling plan last Thursday (May 6th) even in the wake of the spill. The US Govt said it would work closely with members of Congress and state governors in any process to open up new areas for offshore drilling.

* See <http://dcdirectionnews.wordpress.com>

...and finally...

Is it a sign of decadence or of panic? A cash machine that - instead of wads of the folding stuff - dispenses actual gold-bars was unveiled this week. Unsurprisingly this momentous event happened in Dubai, home of pointless extravagance. And, despite the gimmick (it's actually more of a gold-dispensing machine), it does beg the question of who needs gold that quickly?

Maybe you've got to pay off a gang of shady mercenaries, or grease the palms of high ranking bureaucrats in the ultimate untraceable currency.

SchNEWS awaits the Templar gold ATM where instead of entering your PIN you have to decipher a cryptic Latin scroll.

Disclaimer

Notice to SchNEWS readers: This week's issue has been done by a caretaker crew. Next week, due to a 6% swing in readers away from SchNEWS towards The Sun, we are forced to form a coalition magazine with Masons Monthly. The hope is to create a strong, stable publication in the national interest. Honest.

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