



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER STILL TOTALLY SMASHING...

SchNEWS

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LOSING THEIR FACULTIES

AS RAMPANT STUDENT PROTESTS LAUGH ALL THE WAY TO MILLBANK...

Finally, perhaps, the wave is cresting... The fightback against the vicious Tory cuts programme has so far been restricted to placard waving demos and petitions (SchNEWS 745). Not any more – the placards are still there but now they're being used to build bonfires in front of a windowless Tory HQ. And they say young people don't take an interest in politics.

The NUS 'Fund our Future' demo - against Tory plans to extort £9,000 per year of tuition fees out of students - kicked off big time on Wednesday (10th). The aggro caught the Met with their pants down: despite the initial guesses that 24,000 would show up the real figure was more than double that - leaving 225 coppers policing a demo of 50,000+ (Fewer cops than at the recent 'HammerTime' Smash EDO demo - see SchNEWS 743). Not only were the numbers on the demo a total surprise but so was the militancy. Police are already admitting a major intelligence failure; they just didn't see it coming.

A CLEGG TO STAND ON

The demo met at Trafalgar Square, and after taking a frustratingly slow time to get a move on, the march filed past the Houses of Parliament with a chant of 'Nick Clegg, we know you, your a fucking Tory too'. One participant told SchNEWS, "At first sight it looked like the normal crowd of students, socialists and trade unionists but the presence of an up-for-it anarchist block showed a little more potential".

As soon as the demo got to Millbank Tower - the Conservative Party's headquarters - a group split off, ignoring the warnings of NUS and Union stewards. "This worked in our favour because it meant that those who ended up in front of Millbank were clearly the more up for it crowd. And there we were in front of Tory Party HQ - it's an obvious and inevitable target. People are going to find ways to express their anger."

The frontrunners swiftly occupied the foyer letting off smoke bombs and catching the Tory faithful inside totally off-guard. Meanwhile those outside were burning effigies of Clegg and Cameron. The few police there formed a thin (blue)

line to prevent anyone else from getting into the glass atrium, and were pelted with eggs and placard sticks. The crowd of around 2,000 began shouting to those inside to start breaking the windows. Soon glass was flying and entrances spontaneously opened, allowing the crowd to surge in. Cops stood by helpless.

With the initiative won the students went on the offensive, attacking coppers standing in their way, smashing any Tory property they could get their hands on as they ascended eight floors to occupy the roof of the Millbank Tower. The coppers below came under a barrage of missiles from all sides including one projectile fire extinguisher from the roof. Around two hundred people made it into the building.

As night fell the TSG cleared the area and by the end of the day more than 50 people had been nicked and 50 cops injured. The building was totally trashed, with damage allegedly running into the hundreds of thousands. The whole place was liberally festooned with graffiti.

Our student said "finally we see people fighting back against these cuts. Today was people telling the government that they can fuck their austerity - and pay for their own crisis. Twenty-seven grand for a degree is going to turn universities back into play areas for the rich. The NUS wanted a passive march today but what will that achieve? A-to-B marches and petitions aren't going to stop the government's plans. We need a proper uprising."

SCHOOLBOY ERRORS

Most of those kicking off weren't your normal suspects and many were on their first demo. It seems many came unprepared and there are hundreds of photos of unmasked people smashing windows. The authorities have stated that they are determined to bring people to justice. A defence campaign has already started. Their advice to participants is currently:

You have the right to silence. This means you have the right not to incriminate yourself. So we recommend you do not say anything online or offline, on the phone or in person about the events. If the Police arrest you, interview you or put your name



and photo in the newspaper, then call a good solicitor - in Central London, we recommend Bindmans 020 7833 4433 or Christian Khan 020 7631 9500.

If you were one of those arrested see <http://nov10.wordpress.com> or email: Remember10112010@gmail.com

* And remember folks, the police make no secret of actively monitoring Facebook and other sites and it can all be used as evidence in court.

RAVEN MAD FOR IT

Coal Action Scotland activists blockaded Ravenstruther coal rail terminal in South Lanarkshire for the fourth time on Wednesday (10th). The action closed operations at the Scottish Coal-owned site, which is the main loading site for all open cast mines in the Douglas Valley area, for several hours. As two protesters fixed themselves to the front gate with a concrete lock on, two others scaled infrastructure and attached themselves to the coal conveyor belt.

The action is the latest in a long struggle against the expansion of open cast coal mining in the county, which has involved both anti-coal campaigns and the local community (see SchNEWS 744/739/660).

* See <http://coalactionscotland.org.uk>

SCHMOVIES DVD LAUNCH

Whether you're in London or Brighton this week you've got the chance for a sneak selected screening of 'Raiders From The Lost Archive' - volume 1 of the 4th SchMOVIES DVD compilation spanning 2009 -2010, which saw world wide mass protests against Israeli plus the decommissioning of the EDO/ITT factory in Brighton. And significantly for SchMOVIES, the raiding and confiscation of its films and equipment by Sussex Police. Many of these films could not be finished for over a year because the police had the footage.

London: Monday November 15th, 7.30pm at The Pogo Cafe, Hackney.

Brighton: Wednesday November 17th, 8pm at the Cowley Club, 12 London Road - see www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide.php for details and directions.

* SchNEWS Benefit Roast

To help us get out of debt, SchNEWS hacks will be peeling spuds for a tasty Sunday vegan roast on November 14th at the Cowley Club, 2pm-6pm, dinners £4 - bar available.

NUKES? GORLE-BLIMEY!

Over 3,000 anti-nuclear protesters took part in the blockading of a shipment of nuclear waste into north-western Germany this week. After activists and local communities spent four days blocking them at every turn, the toxic containers finally arrived at their Gorleben destination on Tuesday.

Thanks to a creative approach to getting the 'No Nuclear' message across, the journey took the longest-ever time of 92 hours. It was waylaid by hundreds of locked on protesters, tractors and a Greenpeace vehicle masquerading as a beer truck. Even 400 environmentally-minded sheep blocked the tracks in a case of inter-species solidarity, standing fast until police removed them one by one.

The so-called CASTOR containers of German waste are transported roughly once a year from Valognes in France, where they are reprocessed, back to Gorleben, Germany. Critics say that neither the waste containers or the Gorleben temporary storage facility are safe.

On Saturday, a further 50,000 people turned out to demonstrate against the shipment in the town of Dannenburg. The mass mobilisation was meant to show Angela Merkel that as far as her new pro-nuclear stance goes, she's in the (radioactive) dog house.

Nuclear energy is unpopular in Germany, which felt some of the effects of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. The country was heralded as a nuclear-free icon after the previous government promised to phase out nuclear power entirely by 2021 - but Merkel backtracked by pushing plans to extend the operating lifespan of Ger-

many's 17 nuclear power plants through parliament on 28th October.

The previous phase-out plan had the backing of the German public, but this recent retreat takes an undemocratic hammer to this consensus - for the sake of extra profits for the large energy and nuclear industries. Meanwhile the government is also set to make a mint from demanding millions in extra funds from the energy companies for the transition to renewables.

Despite German riot cops normally being the stuff of nightmares, the security operation surrounding the four days of protest seemed relatively calm. The biggest clashes came on Sunday when riot police used water cannons, pepper spray and brute force to try and stop 4,000 protesters making their way through woods to the tracks near Dannenburg.

In a 'police-with-morals' shocker, the police have even expressed that they can't be counted on to be the government's lackeys. It has been suggested that many of the officers on the day shared the anti-nuclear sentiment of the protesters. The German police union has stated that they shouldn't have to deal with the fall-out of unpopular political decisions, and besides, they didn't like having to stand out in the cold for up to 20 hours.

Union Chief Konrad Freiberg described an "absolute" lack of support for their efforts, which involved 17,000 officers and cost around 50million Euros. The nuclear companies won't foot a penny of this bill - leaving anti-nuclear taxpayers even more pissed off.

* See www.castor2010.de (translate in browser).

SQUAT CRACKDOWN, BRISTOL FASHION

Autonomous society in Bristol is under serious threat as eviction faces the Stokes Croft Free Shop and Emporium, Frowning Motorcycle events space, Smiling Chair anarchist library, and three other squat houses. In a move that will effectively mean making 60-70 people homeless, the bailiffs have been getting busy all around Stokes Croft.

The anarchist library was hit by 'heavies' on Monday 8th, who started putting metal sheeting over doors and windows whilst people were still inside. The illegal bailiffs were quickly dispatched by the coppers, having been called in by the occupants, for attempting to imprison the squatters inside. Later the same night the Frowning Motorcycle events space, which is also home to 5 people, was targeted by more illegal bailiffs trying to crowbar their way in. Luckily, the space was secure and they left without gaining access.

Cheltenham Mansions, which houses around 40 people, has been served with an eviction notice, and Telepathic Heights and Magpie squats - collectively housing another 15 or so - have also been served with papers and are waiting to get their eviction notices any day.

The Free Shop and Emporium art gallery had their first court hearing for the eviction proceedings on Monday (3rd), despite absentee landlords Jerwood Trading Limited making no move to use, upkeep, repair, or develop the buildings

in their seventeen years of ownership. This neglect saw the buildings being placed on the 'at risk' register by the council who also issued the owners with a compulsory purchase order.

The buildings have been transformed in the two-and-a-half years of squatted occupation, with shop fronts built from scratch, collapsing floors repaired, hole-ridden roofs patched up, windows refitted, asbestos removed, beds built and sewing machines installed. This effort by a group of determined individuals has turned two urban eyesores into thriving community hubs hosting exhibitions, film nights, discussion groups and skill-shares, not to mention providing clothing, books and household supplies to those who need it most, all free of charge.

The judge adjourned the hearing until December, to allow for the possibility of viable arguments against the owner's claim of possession.

The community is determined to keep these free spaces occupied and stop the buildings falling empty and useless again. All evictions will be resisted and new spaces will be taken in the next week or two.

In the meantime, for those in the neighbourhood, get down to the Freeshop, open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2-5pm. Or hit the benefit gig at the Frowning Motorcycle at 8pm on 26th November for punk, local cider, and involvement.

* See <http://emporium37.wordpress.com>

ALL PARTY'D OUT

Ten of those charged in connection with organising the UK Teknival (See SchNEWS 727) pleaded guilty last Wednesday to holding unlicensed licensable activity and were sentenced at Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court to a twelve-month community order, £200 court costs, and 100 hours' community service (except for one unlucky offender who got 160 hours).

Of the thirteen charged in connection with last May's rave, six pleaded guilty, six pleaded not guilty and one failed to show up at the hearing. On a positive note, many were pleased to finally get their personal effects back, such as mobile phones, CDs, CDJs and rare and irreplaceable record collections. As of yet larger sound equipment has not been returned but there is still hope that it may be recovered.

GOT THE HUMP BACK

Protesters gathered at the Japanese Embassy last Friday (5th) as part of a global day of action against whaling. The group leafleted passersby, distributing nearly a 1,000 postcards about the anti-whaling day as London buses, taxis, lorries and cars hooted their support.

Japan is the biggest commercial whaling perpetrator and is using a loophole in the law, claiming to be killing the whales for scientific reasons. The day of action saw protests in 60 cities worldwide for the 2,000 whales are on the chopping block this season.

Every year during the whaling season the fleet of Sea Shepherd boats sail the high seas in an at-times perilous direct action campaign to protect whales and other ocean life (see SchNEWS 713). See also www.seashepherd.org/whales

MEXICO: DAYS OF THE DEAD

Latest reports show that more than 10,000 people have been killed in the narco-civil war in the past ten months in Mexico, with more than a quarter of that total in one city... For a full feature-length eyewitness account from northern Mexico see www.schnews.org.uk/archive/news747.php

...and finally...



We've all been there during a city demo - nature calls and you wished a portaloos would magically materialise like the Tardis. For one protester at the students riot on Wednesday, he found a handy wall to piss against: the Headquarters of MI5, the secret intelligence service.

Met police watched him leave his territorial mark at the spy HQ, and when they requested identification, he shouted at them "I don't have no ID card do I, fuck off I aint telling you who I am".

It seems he got away with it and managed to merge back into the throng and disappear down Millbank. Obviously the spooks up in MI5 have got far bigger fish to fry than someone taking an errant leak.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all readers, you shouldn't try to buy what you already own. It's a price none of us can afford. Honest.

PARTY & PROTEST

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