



APOCALYPSE WOW

AS SchNEWS SPECULATES WILDY ABOUT LIFE AFTER CAPITALISM

This weeks G20 mobilisation in the City Of London - by calling up the ghosts of Reclaim The Streets and Stop The City, as well as incorporating elements of more recent movements such as Climate Change and anti-war campaigns - is shaping up to be one of the most important mobilisations in central London during the past decade. But, while previous Big Ones in the UK, such as the J18 protest in the City of London in 1999 (See SchNEWS 217) and the G8 Summit in Scotland in 2005 (See SchNEWS 503/4) took place in reaction to the unsustainable boom years or, a little later, the context of Bush and Blair's crusade against terror, this time we're smack bang in the middle of a full blown crisis.

The very fact that the ad-hoc G20 Summit is 'needed' next week in London is confirmation that we were right all along and now it's starting to kick off! Yep, the system was as unsustainable as it always looked, and the globalised capitalism which made us rich as it made others poor is finally reaching its end game. Poverty hasn't been made history but is instead coming home to us. A response - albeit harsh - to those affected by the credit crunch is 'welcome to the majority world'. 90% of the world's population don't go through consumer goods as if they fell out of a corn flakes packet, so why should we in Britain?

This crash looks like producing the kind of economic cutbacks environmentalists have been screaming out for for years. UK car production is down 60% in the past year - difficult for those who lost jobs and have families to feed - but maybe it heralds a less consumerist society. The global aviation industry is being severely hit by a large drop in demand and will lose up to \$8 billion this year. Building developments are being dropped left, right and centre.

CRISIS WHAT CRISIS

"We are not in the least afraid of ruins. We are going to inherit the earth, there is not the slightest doubt about that. The bourgeoisie might blast and ruin its own world before it leaves the stage of history. We carry a new world, here, in our hearts. That world is growing this minute." - *Bienventura Durruti, 1936.*

With the cracks gaping wide in Capitalism's shiny facade, everything's up for grabs as the section of society not used to scraping by on benefits or minimum wage will start to see just how vulnerable they really are. The test will be whether people who grew up in the Thatcher/Blair years will stand by the dog-eat-dog me-first attitudes which have become 'common-sense' - which during a crisis could play into the hands of the far right. Or if they will turn to the growing set of solutions which has been developed over the past 40 years and which SchNEWS has been banging on about for the past 15: ecological and social sustainability and a equitable system. How? Using ideas gleaned from Anarchism, Ecology and anything else that has challenged the aura of inevitability that previously surrounded capitalism.

There are many political activists in Britain and elsewhere who have both been preparing for a collapse and even cheering it on. But now the signs are here, do even the most hardened chaot-nihilists really want to be reduced to fighting over the last tin of baked beans in the radioactive ruins of Sainsburys? Even stockbrokers may find themselves turning to previously marginal ideas, long the hobby-horse of apocalypse-fetishists and 60s beardy-weirdies, such as self sufficiency and non-capitalist modes of organisation.

The recession is already biting in certain key areas, with the cost of basic living shooting up in the past 12 months: power has gone up 22%, food 11%, and transport fares 8%. Other essentials for a functioning society like housing, education, water, and health are all also on price hikes. If the capitalist state can no longer provide these affordably (or at least the illusion of them), then communities must take things into their own hands. The control of these basics clearly needs to be wrested from the corporate cartels who currently dictate the terms in energy supply, food distribution - and everything else - with market

logic. Sustainability is the logic that should dictate how we get these basics, and this points in the direction of localised food production, self-sufficient renewable power, and of course cutting right back on fuel and goods consumption.

A set of new/old ideas are about to have their day. People might think that they'd need to be dragged kicking and screaming into wearing tofu sandals in a vegan tree village, but actually may come to realise that the values of mutual aid and cooperation have always run through society. They may even come to relish the sense of community which could emerge from all this, and not want to go back to the atomised society they've left behind.

Direct action will of course build up as protests attract larger groups of pissed-off people, and its targets will get more and more specific. This is the big difference between J18 and this week's G20: J18 was a mobilisation against capitalism itself - not a specific definable target - while for today's G20 protesters, they know exactly who to hold accountable.

Read the full version of this article in the four page version of the issue on the website here - www.schnews.org.uk/archive/pdf/news670.pdf For reasons of cost we can only print this two page version - please donate we're really skint. Honest!

MET YER MATCH!

Police have promised an overwhelming response to protests in the City of London this week.

Here's yer ten point guide to keeping the Met on their toes. Their primary tactic is likely to be an attempt to 'kettle' the crowd - i.e. surround them either in a pre-prepared space with crash barriers, vans and/or lines of cops. Once the crowd is contained they will only be released once searched and photographed. The best time to beat this tactic is as the cordon is being prepared.

- 1) **Stick together** - in small groups (preferably affinity groups agreed on beforehand)
- 2) **Be prepared to react quickly** - get through police lines as they are forming - cops don't like being outflanked and may abandon the attempt to form a kettle.
- 3) **Avoid surveillance** - UK police are notorious for poring over hours of footage to pick out faces and get convictions. Stop police from filming by putting placards in front of the cameras (A stock tactic of FITwatch - see www.fitwatch.blogspot.com). Caps, hooded tops and masks are all worth using. A determined crowd can stop a mass de-masking - saving prison sentences later.
- 4) **Baton charges** - are used in an attempt to make people run or force them into pre-prepared cordons. A football shin pad under the sleeve of yer jacket can take a lot of the sting out of a truncheon blow.

If you're stopped and searched you don't have to give your name and address. If you're unlucky enough to get nicked then saying 'no comment' is always the best policy. For more see the SchNEWS guide www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/defendantsguidetoarrest.htm

YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE SUMMER OF RAGE

- 5) **Pepper Spray** - now used increasingly. If affected wipe away from eyes and through hair with dry rag, followed by water to flush eyes.
- 6) **Horses** - a charge by mounted police is one of the most severe tactics deployed by British police. One tactic that has worked is the stringing of lines between lamp-posts about 7 feet off the ground.
- 7) **Snatch Squads** - Police will attempt to invade a static crowd to grab individuals. Keep an eye on senior cops (often wearing different coloured hi-vis jackets) pointing people out. Warn those people and defeat the snatch squad by surrounding it.
- 8) **De-arresting** - many people have survived an attempted nicking when their mates have grabbed them and held on tightly.
- 9) **Fighting** with the cops is possible - if there's a supply of throwables to hand - otherwise they're of course better armed than us.
- 10) The best form of defence of all is **CHAOS!** The police have a hierarchy which takes orders from individuals making informed decisions. If the situation changes constantly they simply cannot keep up. Keep moving all the time, weave in and out of the crowd. Change your appearance. Open up new directions and possibilities, be unpredictable. If you find yourself still and passive for more than a minute then you've stopped acting defensively.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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RIGHT SHRED FRED

SchNEWS was gutted this week to hear a mansion belonging to ex-Royal Bank of Scotland's boss Fred 'the huge feckin fraud' Goodwin (or 'the Shred' as he's also known) was attacked – but unfortunately not gutted. Merely some broken windows and some damage to a merc parked outside, but at least it's a shot across the bows that lets him know average people are less than impressed that he's set to collect two grand of taxpayers cash a week for life as reward for sucking millions out in bonuses while running his bank into the ground. Fred himself, safely out of the country with his family and enjoying his loot, was reported as being 'shaken' by the news and thought people were going 'too far'! Having helped shake the foundations of the economic system, Sir Fred seems to have gone pretty far (away) himself...

RAVEN MAD

The squatted ECO-conference community centre on Raven's Ait, a disused island in the Thames (See SchNEWS 669) faces imminent eviction after the squatters lost their legal appeal this week. The superb building they have occupied is perfect for their plans to develop 'sustainability, education, community, workshops, direct action, environmental cinema and study actions to find a stable platform for a more unified environmental and social justice movement' - things which are obviously sorely needed. Get down there and help them repel any unthinking invaders... see www.ravensait.org.uk

SAABOTAGE

In the early morning of March 22th three Swedish peace activists were arrested after breaking into Saab Aerospace Systems' weapons factory in Linköping with the intention of decommissioning Jas 39 Gripen fighter jets - war planes which are exported to India, Thailand and South Africa.

The activists, who are all part of the anti-militaristic network Ofog, were remanded in custody and are to be charged with 'attempted sabotage'. This is the fifth decommissioning action in Sweden since June 2008 (See SchNEWS 652).

* For more visit www.ofog.org/avrusta

FAMOUS FIFE

On Wednesday (25th) five protesters stopped work at the Muir Dean open-cast coal mine near Crossgates in Fife, operated by ATH Resources. They climbed onto a huge excavator in the centre of the pit, displaying a banner demanding "No New Coal". Unexpectedly, Fife police detained all five protesters despite them agreeing to come down off the excavator, even though workers at the site were happy for them to just leave. They are currently being held at Dunfermline police station.

Controversy surrounds the Muir Dean site as the original planning application was refused by Fife council but this was overturned by the Scottish Government.

The ATH Resources operated site produces around 450,000 tonnes of coal per year and will produce 4 million tonnes in total – equivalent to around 7.32 million tonnes of CO2 being released into the atmosphere. Thirteen new open cast coal mines are due to open in Scotland.

One activist said "We're here to send a message to ATH Resources that mining the dirtiest fossil fuel and fueling climate change is not acceptable. As mining companies such as ATH don't appear to be listening, we've come to stop them mining, too."

The five protesters were arrested for a "Breach of the Peace" and given trial dates in August.

* <http://coalactionedinburgh.noflag.org.uk>

LUTON VANGUARD

"In relation to the last soldiers' parade in Luton – just who were the extremists? A small group of young Muslim men holding placards and shouting at the soldiers or the people chanting racist insults at them, making Nazi salutes, trashing the houses and cars of the protesters?" - Luton For Peace.

Military parades of returning servicemen in British cities are becoming the scenes of conflict with anti-war and Muslim groups against far-right demonstrators. This Saturday there will be a second parade in a month through Luton of soldiers back from the Middle East. The last parade on March 10th turned into a knee-jerk Islamophobic tabloid media frenzy when local Muslims held a noisy but non-violent anti-war protest and were condemned up and down the country for being unpatriotic. What wasn't so fervently reported was that these protesters were met with scenes of Nazi salutes, racist chanting and violence by right-wing army supporters. The fact that two were arrested made it into most news reports, but what didn't get mentioned was that they were in fact army supporters charged with racially aggravated harassment.

While it's not clear whether the right-wingers on March 10th were part of an organised mobilisation, it's now known that the Luton & Bedfordshire BNP will be there this Saturday to cheer the boys home and try to make mileage from anti-Muslim sentiments. Local Muslim groups will be very wary about demonstrating this time – both because of the hostility against them shown in the media, but also because one Muslim demonstrator had the windows of his house and car smashed after March 10th, and another was sacked from his job at Luton Airport because he was seen holding an anti-war placard that day. Anti-fascists – who have no links with the Muslims - will be there however to disrupt the BNP's goose-stepping during the next parade.

Military parades haven't come into the media spotlight until recently, but our source in Luton claims that there have been a number of parades in adjacent areas in the past few weeks including ones in Watford, Colchester, and four or five other places. While some of these have seen anti-war protests, the majority just take place without incident. Yet even though anybody would be glad to see people returning safely from a war-zone, these parades are still a valid time to ask the question – should these soldiers have gone there in the first place?

Also it may be a coincidence, but it seems some of these parades are happening in areas where the BNP are building support – recently the BNP have held Saturday afternoon stalls in Colchester, Southend and Epping.

*Anti-fascists are urging all to come down and support them against the BNP at the military parade in Luton, and will be gathering at 11am on Saturday, March 28th near to the BNP's meeting at 12 noon outside the Luton Town Hall.

* For more info email kittyplant@btinternet.com

G20 PROTESTS INFO

For info about the range of protests in London April 1st-2nd see SchNEWS 667 and www.g-20meltdown.org

* Print these out before the demo: *Squaring Up To The Square Mile* (2009 edition) – map of corporate power and the financial sector in the City of London - www.indymedia.org.uk/images/2009/03/425120.jpg * *Infomap of the ExCel Centre*, the venue for the G20 Summit - www.indymedia.org.uk/images/2009/03/425123.jpg

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

WELL ACQUITTED

Seven people were this week acquitted of aggravated trespass at Brighton Magistrates court for locking on to the fence of Brighton arms factory EDO MBM/ITT on March 19th 2008 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. One person was found guilty of criminal damage after allegedly gluing himself to a fence and given a conditional discharge.

Chloe Marsh, press spokesperson for the Smash EDO campaign, said "As always, it is EDO who should be in the dock not people who voice their dissent against them."

Andrew Beckett said, "Last week marked the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. So far this month over 100 people have been killed by violence caused by the US/UK occupation. The only people who have benefited from the war are private companies like EDO MBM/ITT."

* For more visit www.smashedo.org.uk

EDO Inside SchNEWS

Last Saturday about 60 people marched around Horfield Prison in Bristol in a "Wall of Sound" protest to show solidarity with those who tried to decommission the EDO MBM/ITT factory during the Israeli bombing of Gaza (See SchNEWS 663). The factory supplies the bomb release mechanisms used by the Israeli war machine in its commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Of the six arrested, two have been on remand since the decommissioning on January 17th. Send letters of support - **Elija Smith** VP 7551, HMP Bristol, 19 Cambridge Rd, Horfield, BS7 8PS; and **Robert Alford** VP 7552 HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1EA

* For photos visit www.bristol.indymedia.org/article/690082

* See www.decommissioners.wordpress.com

...And Finally...

A ritual has developed around media coverage of summit mobilisations. Oxbridge educated journo source juicy quotes about samurai sword wielding baby-eating anarchists by collaring squat-punks after a heavy night on the brew. The anonymous quote is duly given prominence alongside police promises to cancel all leave and the news that the army is on standby.

This time however to save the media elite the hassle of hanging out in dingy underground dives one Chris Knight has stepped forward – apparently a professor of anthropology at East London University - he's now been dubbed Mister Mayhem by the Evening Standard. Knight told Channel 4 News "If they want violence, they'll get it. We intend to be peaceful but if they press their nuclear button, I'll press mine. It's called mutually assured destruction. If Gordon Brown deploys his riot police, or sends in his agents provocateurs to start trouble as an excuse to attack us, all hell will break loose." On Radio 4 he said "There will be real bankers hanging from lampposts and let's hope that that doesn't actually have to happen." whilst boasting to Channel 4 that his organisation would shut down every light in London and suggesting that violence in London would exceed that in Greece.

Perhaps Chris is having a senior moment (he's certainly blown his chance of an O.B.E) but as he's unlikely to be swapping punches with the Babylon in the front-line we have to ask "Who the fuck are you speaking for Chris?"

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers - avoid getting stuck in a kettle. See you there. Honest.

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