



WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! IT'S YER INHOSPITABLE...

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The 'Mighty Brighton Infidels' put Brighton's lefties in their place

ANARCHY & EMERGENCY

GREEK HOSPITAL SEIZED AND RUN BY WORKERS IN RESPONSE TO CRISIS.

As the ConDem coalition plans to privatise the NHS passed through the House of Commons on Wednesday (21st) – SchNEWS thought it would be timely to look a radically different take on public provision of healthcare.

One hospital in Greece has been taken under direct worker's control. Responding to the regime's austerity measures doctors nurses and other staff, numbering around 600 seized control of the hospital, in Kilkis, Macedonia (a town of around 17,000) on February 20th, planning to make all decisions by a 'workers general assembly'.

Clause 5 of their initial statement/manifesto reads "The workers at the General Hospital of Kilkis answer to this totalitarianism with democracy. We occupy the public hospital and put it under our direct and absolute control. The hospital of Kilkis will henceforth be self-governed and the only legitimate means of administrative decision making will be the General Assembly of its workers."

SchNEWS spoke to Leta Zotaki, the president of the Union of hospital doctors in Kilkis.

"The workers decided that the ones in charge had no idea how to run the institution. It was up to the doctors and the nurses, the ones that knew the health care system inside out".

The health care system in Greece has deteriorated greatly in recent times. "What we had and what we lost, in the 80's we managed to get free healthcare, now to see a doctor and get a consultation you must pay a fee of 10-15 euro and that does not include a treatment. You need 900 euro to give birth or they send you home, if you have a motor accident you have to pay 7000-9000 euro to get seen – now if you consider that 30% of the population are unemployed, how can people pay for this?". The recent savage cuts in public sector funding include a 40% budget reduction for hospitals. Greece has begun to see an alarming rise in communicable diseases such as TB and HIV as the cuts bite.

"As things stood by late November no wages had been paid to any of the hospital employees. We didn't have anything in the way of resources. There wasn't sufficient capital in the system any more to even support a blood transfusion, let alone save a life. In one incident a fellow employee at the cardiology department went in shock when he realised that his monthly check of 800 euros had become a note saying that he would be paid nothing that month and if that wasn't heart wrenching enough he was obliged to pay 170 euros back. Other workers were paid 4 euros for the whole month! Those that still receive some kind of salary plan to support them in any way we can. We the employees of the hospital were overworked, understaffed, un-

derpaid; we were too tired to operate properly. Within the health care system one mistake does not mean, come back and try again tomorrow, it is a case of life and death".

OUT OF PATIENCE?

Following the bite of yet another troika recovery package that was finalised in early February the government decided to close half the hospitals. This was what galvanised the health-care staff into action. They decided to occupy the premises and do it like it should be done. With the patient in mind not the EU.

With the hospital occupied they started treating people for free. They offer only emergency services due to the limitations they are faced with in the way of resources and complete lack of wages. They are once again providing people with free healthcare. They also wanted to stop hospital workers from losing their jobs. Across all public sector in Greece 150,000 people are being laid

PARTY & PROTEST

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

WE'LL FIGHT THEM NEAR THE BEACHES 'NO SUPPORTERS' AS EDL JEERED OFF THE STREETS OF BRIGHTON

Last Saturday (17th) saw a slightly farcical day out for Brighton's EDL contingent (laughably calling themselves 'The Mighty Brighton Infidels').

Firstly they turned up outside the launch of *Fighting Fascism*, a rousing history of the fight against the fash in our seaside town. Why the EDL, who of course are in no way fascists, would want to disrupt a meeting about the historical struggle against fascism in Brighton is of course anyone's guess.

Having failed to disrupt that in any way (although one anti-fascist who confronted them got nicked) they made their way to the regular Saturday afternoon Palestine Solidarity Campaign stall in central Brighton's central shopping area Churchill Square.

According to one eyewitness from the stall "They were barely able to get to chant the "L" in "E, E, EDL" before the cops were on to them and pushing them away from the totally unfazed PSC who were all giving as good as they got."

The police then pushed the seven racists into the area usually reserved for buskers and a large crowd of over two hundred mostly Saturday shoppers gathered. They clearly weren't terribly

happy with these racists shouting out the unique abuse and the usual personal hygiene advice in which they seem to specialise.

Our man on the scene "It was very heartening to see the good people of Brighton booing and shouting at what had now, due to three arrests, become only four EDLers. They were all looking more and more humiliated and frustrated at being so badly received and clearly looking for a way out of this uncomfortable situation with some vestige of dignity." Unfortunately for them there wasn't any easy way out so they had to resort to shouting "we're bored of this" and then skulking off to claps and loud cheers from the crowd.

"The whole incident was over in twenty minutes but I think the Infidels will probably want to forget today and pretend it never happened!"

Brighton is set to host a demo by EDL front group the March for England on Sunday April 22nd. Anti-fascists are calling for a counter-mobilisation and judging by today's events it should be a good 'un!

For more see <http://brightonantifascists.wordpress.com>
<http://stopmfe.wordpress.com>

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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AMERICAN OCCUPY

AWAY FROM THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA'S ATTENTION, THE USA'S OCCUPY MOVEMENT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

On 21 March, thousands converged onto the Union Square Park, as the 'Occupy' movement joined forces with demonstrators protesting the 'modern-day lynch mob' killing of black teenager Trayvion Martin. On 26 February in Florida, Trayvion, was shot dead by a self-appointed 'neighbourhood watch' member. The only justification for his killing was the fact that the victim was wearing a hoodie. His killer was not even arrested, as police believed that there was no evidence of any crime being committed.

This is just another way in which the amorphous Occupy movement has galvanised political protest across USA. Another major 'Occupy' action is also being planned for the 1st May, the traditional 'Worker's Day'. This week, on 16 March, six months after of 'Occupy Wall Street' first happened, a crowd of well over a thousand protesters engulfed Zucotti Park (aka Liberty Square). Determined to shut the protests once again the NYPD responded to the peaceful demonstration with harsh violence and 73 were arrested. Police used city buses to corral mass-arrested protesters. Media were not allowed to cover the events. Resistance became stronger nevertheless.

With the eviction of the camps, the mainstream media would have you believe that the movement was finished. In fact the truth is that the movement didn't wane away, it only changed tactics and is stronger than ever. Demonstrations are still a constant and the 'Occupy' is being taken to a whole new level. Is not possible to relate all actions and demonstrations that are simultaneously happening throughout USA, but here are some revealing examples.

Several demonstrations have taken place outside major corrupt banks and irresponsible multinational corporations. On 15th March victims of home re-possession brought their furniture and set up a living room outside (or inside) Bank of America branches. As one of the protesters in NY stated: "people have lost their homes and don't have anywhere to go because of Bank of America's policies and they are able[carry out those policies] because of the support of American government." The Bank of America is currently facing several lawsuits for foreclosing thousands of US homeowners, law breaking and corruption.

Occupy organisations, such as occupy-ourhomes.org, are emerging in support of willing individuals and families that decide to re-occupy their repossessed homes. On 16 March, for instance, a Bayview family occupied their home and is refusing to leave until: "Wells Fargo rescind the sale of my home and offer me an affordable modification."

Other noteworthy 'Occupy' action took place on 23 February in Chicago. Around 70 workers ended up occupying a Goose Island factory, now owned by Serious Materials, to protest being laid off without notice after the factory closed. Workers got inside the factory and after only 11 hours got the new owners to agree to keep the plant running for another 90 days in order to find new ownership.

Initially inspired by the Arab Spring and the 'Indignados' movement in Spain, the 'Occupy

Wall Street' movement hit the streets and set up their tents on 17 September 2011 at Liberty Square in Manhattan's Financial District, New York. Thousands of people expressed their disapproval to Wall Street's drastic influence in the global economy, and in the following months it propelled a huge wave of occupied camps all over USA. The movement spread over 100 cities including L.A, San Francisco, Oakland, Washington, Boston, Chicago to name a few. It was never meant to be an organised movement as it emerged leaderless without any political colour nor a predominant social class. Its model is based on consensus rather than leadership reflecting the model of participatory democracy.

Is a hard task to describe the demonstrators-the wide range of ages and backgrounds found in the camps includes youngsters, pensioners, professionals, homeless, unemployed, students and, of course, anarchists. The unifying concern is the global power structure, typically characterised as 1% versus 99% a balance that enables structural violence against the remaining 99%. More specifically, the current neo-liberal policies allow major banks and multinational corporations to have dominance over democratic processes. The main demand to emerge from the various Occupy camps has been to make the 1% responsible for their own devastating acts.

Unsurprisingly this all-too-accurate finger-pointing hasn't made Occupy many friends amongst the authorities. On 15 November, after 60 days of continuous protest, the NYPD began to clear the Wall Street camp, the signal to clear camps across the U.S. The encampments started to be gradually closed down with the help of tear gas, police brutality and a practically uncountable number of arrests.

With all these major events occurring in the world the media black out has been suspicious, if not surprising. Official and corporate media channels have portrayed the movement as lacking in direction or concrete demands. Luckily of course the parallel web-based information networks made it impossible to stifle the movement as the spread of 'Occupy' actions around the world testifies. The movement spread over numerous cities including in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, UK and many more.

The worldwide potential of 'Occupy' is based on two premises. Firstly it denounces the devastating effects of neo-liberalism on a global economy that sacrifices sovereignty and delivers almost absolute power to exploitative multinational corporations. Secondly and most importantly, it calls for self-responsibility. This is a people centred movement taking matters into their own hands and rejecting top-down systems dictating the norms. Is fair to say that 'Occupy' is anarchic in the sense of being leaderless, however its nature is far from being destructive as it foments true solidarity and unity among the 99%. New solutions and ways of living need to come forth, and each one of us is fully responsible to find a new way. It is an idea based on true democratic active freedom and, fortunately, ideas can neither be raided nor locked in a prison.

CRAP MOTION OF THE WEEK

Step up, Geoffrey Theobald, leader of the Brighton Conservatives. They're now a minority (sadly not a victimised one) in the council so instead of the usual omnipotent meddling with bollard arrangements that makes up life in power they're reduced to grabbing headlines with pointless resolutions.

This time round Jeffers has hit on the bright idea of getting the council to condemn Smash EDO's diabolical plans to disrupt the Diamond Jubilee. In a motion presented on the 22nd, the Tories display their usual heroic disregard for the facts (Smash EDO don't plan to disrupt the Jubilee, which isn't happening in Brighton) and demand that the city's three MPs fire off a 'cease and desist' letter to what are basically a bunch of anarchists.

Straight to the dustbin of history Theobald, you twat!

JUSTICE FOR JOCK PALFREEMAN

A few years ago Jock Palfreeman stood to defend two Roma boys who were being attacked by a gang of fascist football fans in Sofia, Bulgaria's capital. In the ensuing meleé one of the fascists died, and a second was injured.

Despite it being clear case of self-defence, Bulgarian authorities seemed fit to give Jock a 20 year prison sentence for this bravery (more info about the case www.freejock.com). Currently Jock is fighting to be transferred to his native Australia and some activists in UK decided to answer to his call for solidarity. On 18th March around 30 people from different anarchist groups gathered outside the Bulgarian embassy in London. Flyers were distributed and banners were hung on the fence of embassy. Embassy staff seem annoyed that the issue is being constantly brought up.

During the demo Bulgarian flag had also been set on fire but our brave guardians of law and order failed to notice anything. If you want to find out how to get involved check www.anarchistsolidarity.wordpress.com as campaign for Jock continues.

See SchNEWS.org.uk for more including
HONG KONG BANK SHANGHAIED
Brighton squatters busted on bum felony rap
(BACK) OUT OF AFRICA
Winter truce ends with migrant evictions in Calais

...and finally...

Man's best friend, police's worst nightmare

Tragically an unarmed dog was gunned down by police on Thursday morning. He was shot while attempting to de-arrest his human during a raid by officers from the Met at 9am.

As colleagues heroically stood on a wall out of harms way and watched, the dog managed to keep one cop busy for some time. Unfortunately CO19 were called in and the dog was shot.

On a lighter note, five officers required hospital treatment including one who may need skin grafts to his arms and legs.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, don't do it. No seriously, don't even think about it. Honest.

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