

WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! IT'S YER CYCLE OF VIOLENCE...

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MASS ARREST OF THE WEEK

182 CYCLISTS NICKED DURING LONDON'S OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY

London's Olympic ceremony didn't stand a chance of competing against Beijing in scale or spectacle, but Team GB is sure as hell giving the Chinese a run for their money when it comes to state repression.

182 cyclists nicked on a peaceful and law abiding critical mass bike ride. It's been all over the liberal papers the last few days, but of course you didn't hear about it at the time because our establishment betters didn't want anything distracting us from the Olympic opening ceremony. And what a ceremony it was: Danny-Trainspotting-Slumdog-Boyle pulled out all stops to show the world a diversity celebrating and freedom loving place our Sceptered Isle is – the Suffragettes and even the Hunger Marchers were glorified as belonging to the great British tradition of dissent, whilst at the same time the nearly 200 cyclists were kettled, beaten, pepper sprayed and herded onto buses to be transported away to a windowless garage for the night. It's just a shame that Danny-boy didn't think to broadcast the two events side by side in splitscreen. That would have really given the two billion viewers a taste of Britain – myth and reality.

Adding insult to injury to those who bought a copy of the Grauniad after stumbling back home bleary-eyed from from whatever arse-end of London the Met had dropped them in and read Shami Chakrabti (director of leading human rights org Liberty) idiotically wittering on in the "World's leading liberal voice" about how the Ceremony was a "Celebration of Freedom". That probably stuck in the throats of people that had just experienced some British-style 'freedom' first hand. Really Shami? Didn't you get any calls that day? Forgot to check Twitter? Didn't you think that some people would resent you forever after they stepped in that printed turd you dropped? Rarely has the phrase "useful idiot" been more appropriate.

Amongst the, erm, Olympic highlights of the largest mass arrest since the London Riots was the arrest of a 13 yr old child and a disabled man pepper-sprayed for reasons best known to the uniformed thugs.

This is the Met in full "fuck you" mode. The fact that no lesser insitution than the House of Lords had deemed that critical mass is legal and doesn't need to follow a predetermined route back in 2008 was irrelevant. The fact that basic police procedures, let alone human rights, were so flagrantly disregarded was of little concern to the authorities. There is a very high probability that a lot of the 182 will pursue legal action and probably gain thousands of pounds each. This has no doubt been factored in to the police's repression budget. Their logic being that in a year or two when once this has worked its way through the IPCC (Independent Police

Complaints Commission) and civil courts only muesli-munching liberals will give a shit, but right now their orders are to stamp out even the slightest sign of dissent or even autonomy. The Olympics is about the State and its corporate paymasters, and the public, whether protesting or not, can go screw itself.

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE

SchNEWS caught up with one of the 182 who had been arrested. She had this to say...

"We set off fine, but when we tried to go north over Waterloo bridge the police wouldnt let us over- the people who tried were assaulted. So we went over a different bridge- the police got startled by this because by chance we'd accidentally bumped into David Beckham and his minders who were desperate to let him through to light the Olympic torch. When people said to them that Critical Mass doesn't recognise heirarchy the police starting punching people out of Beckham's way.

We got split into groups- mine went through Shoreditch and then got kettled in Stratford, near Olympic Park. There they nicked everyone and took our bikes. We were put on a bus that the Met had comandeered, each arestee sat next to a copper. We were on the bus from 9.30pm to 1am. Only one of us was allowed to use the toilet.

We were shunted from station to station and stuck in traffic. One policeman said to me that our bus wasnt allowed to use the bus lane because "we were prisoners". We were taken to Croydon. Croydon said that they couldnt hold us so we were told we were to be taken to Plumstead. We then heard that Plumstead wouldn't have us so we were taken back to Croydon. At this point the bus driver (and ordinary bus driver, not police) told the police that he was not legally allowed to drive any more. I remember one policeman took out a calculator and started working out how many hours overtime he'd be getting. We started working out how much compensation we'd be getting.

We were unloaded at Croydon. I was sat on a concrete floor in a windowless garage until 2.30pm. We repeatedly asked for our solicitors to be contacted and this was denied. Our requests for food were denied. One girl was given some food after she nearly passed out. The rest of us were eventually given an apple.

Even the cops from South Yorkshire Police got really angry with the Met. Their shift had lasted from 11am until 9am the next day, and they were expected to work the next day too. They said that this wouldn't have happened to us if we'd been in Yorkshire.

The police lied to us and told us that we couldnt collect our bikes until after our bail conditions were lifted, and they wouldnt even tell us where our bikes were being stored. They also 'lost' our evidence slips.



Together at last- DangleBoris and DangleBenito

MASS-IVE TWAT

It's not all been doom and gloom for Critical Mass cyclists this week, there's been some good news from Brighton. On Wednesday (1st) Brighton magistrates found a driver guilty of assault for his attack on a cyclist on the 30th of September last year during one of Brighton's monthly bike rides. Merc driving twat Christikas Zantis assaulted two women cyclists after he and his family were slightly inconvenienced by having to wait a bit for the cycle traffic to pass. Having pushed one cyclist over in strop, he then punched another woman in the face when she tried to take a photo of his first assault. There's a video of the bust up on youtube. Initially charged with four counts of assault, this was whittled down to two for the courts. He was found guilty on both of them. It gets better- not only was he fined £1750 and ordered to pay £1200 costs and compensation, but it looks like the twat will probably lose his job as well.

One of the assaulted Critical Mass'ers said to SchNEWS- *"It's funny- we found out that he's been boasting online about his kick-boxing moves but seriously his punch was really shit. It was one of the worst punches I'd received in my life. Even my grandmother punched harder than that."*

This was feigned incompetence from the Met. We were eventually nicked for Section 12 and for causing a public nuisance when it was clear that Section 12 [of the Public Order Act] wouldnt stick.

When we demanded our rights the police told us that PACE [the Police and Criminal Evidence Act] didnt' apply to us because we were 'in transport' and so hadn't been processed yet- hence all the shunting from station to station.

This was punishment by process."

BRAVE HEARTS

How does the idea of an English National Party sound? Probably something Nick Griffin was wondering on Monday morning after a humiliation double whammy north of the border. The BNP had promised a national rally in Glasgow on Saturday 28th after street stalls by the party were vigorously opposed by anti-fascists. Nasty Nick had predicted an overwhelming turn out but in the end only three members of the party made it to the front-line to be confronted by over 200 assorted anti-fascists.

Of course Nick himself wasn't there, as he'd made a detour to Dalkeith to try and capitalise on a community agitation against the re-housing of a sex-offender Robert Greens. No doubt Nick thought that the BNPs "hang 'em and flog 'em" approach would go down well. Funny enough it didn't turn out that way as the community turned on the twenty odd BNP types and following a punch-up they were forced to leave with their tails between their legs.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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LOCKED ON & LOADED

From Tuesday to Thursday this week two activists were in Brighton Magistrates on charges of aggravated trespass dating way back to April 2011. The two had foolishly/heroically (delete as applicable) glued and d-locked themselves to the gates of EDO MBM in the early hours in an effort to 'raise awareness' of the companies multitude of sins – including exporting arms to Israel and the supply of components for the use of banned cluster munitions.

According to the police this action also had the unintended side-effect of preventing workers from accessing the factory. While the defendants have sought to disprove this, the bulk of their defence has revolved around the fact that if any activity was disrupted, that activity was itself unlawful. As a result of this approach Paul Hills (Managing Director of EDO) was forced to spend an entire day on the stand being grilled about his company.

On the third day the defendants themselves took the stand, successfully countering the majority of Mr Hills' military-industrial obfuscations. There is now a frustrating gap of three weeks before closing speeches and the all important verdict.

Watch this space or check smashedo.org.uk for more

GAMES WITHOUT FRONTIERS

If the London anti-Olympic demo was rather tame and predictable, over in Calais things got a bit more artistic, fluid and dare-we-say-it, fun. On 28th July, a march and demo took place dubbed 'Jeux sans Frontieres' – Games Without Borders.

While the police were present all day, they exercised uncharacteristic restraint. They hung back from the 80-strong march as it snaked through town behind banners stating 'We are all migrants' and 'Nobody is illegal', leafleting bystanders. The day also included fun and games in the park complete with badminton, football and a 400m race with PAF, UKBA and CRS pretenders blocking the way to runners, obstacle course style. Later at the beach the police went out on a speedboat to get the best view of the water sports.

The marchers added their own monuments to the sickly sweet display outside the town hall which had candy-coloured sculptures reflecting the national flags of European countries. The new additions represented the colours of the non-European countries which many of Calais' migrant population hail from.

The inclusive event was designed to honour all migrants, 'champions of endurance and survival'. Given the escalation of police brutality and the frequency of evictions of migrants shelters in the last few months, all in aid of the Olympics, the demonstration's message resonated deeply with the locals, activists, migrants and association workers who took part. Roads along the route near the police station were renamed with the names of Nurdin and Ismeal, two migrants who lost their lives in Calais in recent months.

The city is, in general, on a hysterical Olympic lock-down, with the Gendarmerie camped on the outskirts, making a mockery of the authorities claims to be 'welcoming the world'. However, fears that the cops will clear the remaining sheltered areas where people are sleeping near the port have yet to materialise.

PUMP OFF THE VOLUME

Who says climate change hasn't got a positive side? Unlike us moany sandal-wearing greenies who waste our time fretting that 97% of Greenland's ice sheet is melting right now, those boys at Shell have got knack for looking on the sunny side. Melting sea ice in the northern seas is actually making even more oil available. In true corporate style oil companies like Shell are rubbing their greedy hands together in expectation of the potential 90 billion barrels of oil (about 3 years' worth at current consumption) lying under the rapidly dwindling ice floes.

In answer to all this - U.K activists got busy. On Monday 16th July a Greenpeace co-ordinated sloop saw seventy-seven petrol stations within the M25 shut down, and another thirteen in Edinburgh - hitting Shell on the forecourt and in their pockets. Activists disassembled the emergency fuel shut off switches and chained the pumps together, stopping business for the day. One activist who spoke to Schnews voiced concerns over the state of rust and decay found on many of the emergency switches, not surprising really considering that Shell's safety record is only slightly better than the BPs. Twenty three arrests were made with charges ranging from, conspiracy, going equipped, criminal damage and of course our old friend aggravated trespass.

Local people have been busy at their local petrol stations; with anonymous actions drawing attention to Shell's plans to drill for oil at any cost. Activists are using "Shell out of order" signs to close the pumps and rebranding the forecourt with polar bears and hazard tape.

On Saturday 21st July more than thirty local folk took to Shell Hove as part of an internation-

ally day of action, determined to stop Shell from leading the Arctic oil rush. With strong public support one protester told Schnews, "When a member of the public turns up to a protest and says "Do you know what you're missing? A megaphone." and then pops home to get you one, then you know it's going to be a good day!"

This summer Shell has decided to try its luck in a bid to get at the fossil fuel trapped under the sea ice. If they succeed their actions will of course only worsen climate change, but another danger lurks, the potential for a catastrophic spill.

The dangers of undersea oil drilling were demonstrated by the Deep Water Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, where near enough 5 million barrels of oil were pumped into the sea over 87 days. It took 6,000 ships to help clean up the spill, and even now the Gulf is still suffering the aftermath. If a spill of such enormity was to occur in the Arctic only around thirty ships are available for the clean-up process and considering the fact that it is only accessible for a few months of the year, any clean up attempt would be like throwing a towel into a full bath of water, wet, limp and utterly useless.

Activists worldwide have been busy sticking it to Shell, Greenpeace pissed them off royally when Xena warrior princess (real name Lucy Lawless), along with six other less famous nobodies camped out on top of a drilling tower in Alaska for 4 days until the police worked out how to cut them down. Dutch Greenpeace even took over the Shell's HQ and issued proclamations of a change in corporate direction..at least until cops turned up to drag them all out and arrest them.

FREEDOM TO FAIL

Freedom Press – the publishers of the U.K's only regular anarchist (well anarchist with a capital A) newspaper are in danger of folding after having to settle a copyright claim out of court with a freelance photographer.

As well as the newspaper, Freedom run a bookshop and a publishing wing as well as providing office space on their premises for a number of radical organisations, including SolFed, Advisory Service for Squatters and Corporate Watch. Like the rest of the movement they are woefully under-resourced.

David Hoffman, the photographer, took exception to the fact that a number of his shots from the '80s and '90s were used in the book 'Beating the Fascists' – Red Action's rather one-sided account of the success of Anti Fascist Action. One photo was used as the cover shot.

Freedom are adamant that they weren't aware that the photos, supplied by the authors, were being used without permission. However as of them told SchNEWS 'Legally we didn't have a leg to stand on'. So they settled out of court for £4,000, leaving them virtually cleared out.

What is more of a mystery is why an allegedly sympathetic photojournalist would try to bankrupt an organisation like Freedom. Hoffman has form for this – going after a drugs charity earlier this year won him £10,000. It's not clear that he'll ever be paid as the charity, D.A.R.E., went bust shortly after.

In response to the crisis and in an effort to res-

cue the paper – Freedom have called an emergency meeting Sunday, August 12th from 3pm at the London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate Street, London E1 1ES.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

...and finally...

The end of the world is fast approaching – that crazy Mayan calendar is rolling towards the finish line and even though they didn't manage to predict the end of their own civilization SchNEWS is confident that they're bang on the money when it comes to the end of ours.

And we're not alone in that belief, despite the fact that the Mayans never made it within a thousand miles of Bolivia, that country's Minister of External Affairs David Choquehuanca is planning to mark the occasion by banning Coca-Cola from the country. He announced "The twenty-first of December 2012 is the end of selfishness, of division. The twenty-first of December has to be the end of Coca-Cola and the beginning of mo-cochinche (a local peach-flavored soft drink)," He added "The planets will line up after 26,000 years. It is the end of capitalism and the beginning of communitarianism".

We'll have whatever it is you're drinking Dave!

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