



# The Loombreaker

JULY  
1999  
ISSUE  
TWO -  
FREE!

## Okasional Café take the Hacienda!

On Saturday 5 June 1999, the Okasional Café made its entrance into Mancunian history. The legendary and world (in)famous club the Hacienda was squatted to raise money for the after-effects of the recent and very successful 'Reclaim the Streets' action, (see issue 1 for details). The free party was to raise money for the soundsystem that was impounded on the day, for the potential court costs of the arrested, and to fund future 'Reclaim the Streets' events. However, our fine upstanding Greater Manchester constabulary decided that partying was a crime, and chose to either arrest, or beat the living crap out of anyone who got in their way, (or both!!).

At around midnight, one police van turned up, wanting to get in and check out the safety of the building. One of the golden rules of squatting is never let the coppers in... so we don't! All the doors are secured, and the crowd grows outside. More police turn up, some on horses, pushing the crowd away from the building. An hour passes, the daring few try to climb in through windows, some are caught by their ankles, dragged down and thrown about, most being arrested for their valiant attempts...suddenly, to everyone's surprise, one of the doors swings open, coppers panic, crown surges, many get in, and the rest cheer as the door slams in the faces of shocked police. Now the thoroughly pissed off coppers get brutal, swinging their truncheons randomly (including at this writer), knocking people over, and arresting others for not getting out of their way quick enough.



EVERYONE was shocked by what they saw, and hopefully many have spoken out about this and complained since. The media, of course, have only told one side of the story, and let's be honest, who saw any bricks or buckets of urine being thrown at the police??!! All I saw was people trying to party and yet again, the forces of authority stamping down on any chance for us to have even a little bit of fun. Although I hear the lucky few hundred inside were HAVING IT until 8 in the morning!!! Amazingly, they negotiated with the police and managed to get everyone and everything out without hassle ... I wonder what the Okasional Café can do next?!

### Don't miss, on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>... HACIENDA - THE FIGHT BACK!

A get together for witnesses, arrestees, anyone else who was there or anyone who's interested in the next one. If you saw any of the "trouble" outside please take the time to come along and lend your support to the arrestees - we've got to stand together on this one! Scrummy vegan meal to share - beer for sale - video showing from in and outside the Hac!

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm, Yard Theatre. Phone 2266814 for info or directions.

## Arthurs Wood

Arthurs Wood and Cedars Wood camps are part of the continued resistance to the second runway at Manchester Airport, protecting woods that the airport want to cut down for the radar to work better. The legal case has been thrown out of the house of Lords so there is now a continuous threat of evictions. Back in the woods, bailiffs and security guards were involved in pulling down some of the trees early in June. The camps and the woods still survive so far and there's a good atmosphere on camp. They particularly need visitors now - the more people there, the longer it will take to evict them.

Ring (07931) 931850 or (01565) 873551.

## GRADUATE CAREERS FAIR

The 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June saw the arrival of a number of delegations from low-life companies in a bid to lure gullible graduate into their workforce at the Manchester University graduate careers fair. A last-minute demo was organised for the 24<sup>th</sup> (mainly by CAAT and EF!) the day that McDonalds were looking for mugs to manage their restaurants. As it was such a last-minute thing, the numbers weren't great, so possibilities were limited. The high points were few and far between, but one protester got forcibly removed for the heinous crime of distributing leaflets to burger flippers, and somehow, a whole box full of "come join us in selling shit food" leaflets got soaked in paint. Tragic! After all that excitement, we leafleted outside for a while, and generally tried to reassure graduates that they could do better with a degree under their belts. Not bad for a last-minute effort, but it's a shame that Bae, the CIS and Glaxo Wellcome got away without so much as a placard the day before. Oh well, we'll see *them* later!

## Gene Free Jamboree

Find out what action you can take against genetics on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July in London. Book tickets and creche on 0171 960 4242. Wheelchair accessible.

## Northern Green Gathering

The second Northern Green Gathering will be between the 28<sup>th</sup> July and the 1<sup>st</sup> August. A Yorkshire farm is the setting for five days of activities: workshops, entertainment, healing, stalls and cafes. Tel 0113 224 9885.

## FREE MUMIA ABU JAMAL

Mumia Abu Jamal has been on death row for over 16 years after having been framed for the killing of a Philadelphia police officer. He has campaigned tirelessly against racism and oppression through out his prison sentence. The world wide movement to save him from execution is growing, tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Philadelphia and San Francisco on 24th April. There have also been protests around the world. The next nine months will be critical for his life. By the end of the year he will be in the federal courts. This will be his only chance to present the witnesses and obtain the evidence that were denied him by the Pennsylvania courts.

There will be a week of action for Mumia Abu Jamal September 19-24. Write to Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCI Greene., 1040 East Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA. 15370.

## ANARCHIST DISCUSSION MEETING

There will be a discussion about the MEDIA - ITS CAPITALIST NATURE on 21st July at the Vine pub (Kennedy St., of Cooper St., near the back of Manchester Town Hall) at 7.30pm. This is one of a series of meetings that has been organised by various people involved in Anarchist/Libertarian Communist activism, and if there is enough interest a permanent group might be created. The discussion is open to anyone, not just committed Anarchists!

**It takes more than hoping that something is going on somewhere - you actually have to do it yourself!**  
(Steve Cope)

## The Big Day Out

A chance to take direct action against ecological destruction and TARGET TARMAC! - JULY 17th, somewhere in the Midlands.

The bastards Tarmac have a history of destroying some of the most beautiful places in the country - Twyford Down, M65, M77, Runway 2, and provided roadstone for the Newbury bypass, and built the silos at Greenham Common nuclear base.

And now they're trying to destroy the remnants of Sherwood Forest with a quarry, destroy Anglesey with a huge road, are building the new GCHQ to spy on us, and building more private prisons to lock us up in. What's worse is that while they're doing all this, they're telling the rest of the world how 'green' they are! We can't let them get away with this type of corporate greenwash, and general corruption. Come and join us on the action - have a day out, and meet your mates from around the country, and do something useful too.  
**Transport from Manchester - phone 226 6814**

## Manchester Animal Protection

Manchester Animal Protection (M.A.P.) are currently targeting the NatWest bank because of their association with notorious animal testing laboratory Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). HLS are still in deep financial trouble as a result of an undercover investigation in their main laboratory in Cambridgeshire, where workers were secretly filmed routinely beating up beagle puppies. As a result HLS lost many of their major clients and their share price plummeted. They were on the verge of liquidation when HLS were given a loan of £24.5 million from the NatWest bank. NatWest are keeping them in business.

In the last month M.A.P. have attended around 20 NatWest branches in the North West. In Manchester's Spring Gardens branch, about 30 activists gathered outside the bank. Several were smartly dressed and they entered the bank and joined the queue. As each reached the cashier point, they demanded to speak to the manager and refused to move. Soon every cashier point was occupied and the bank effectively paralysed. Someone told customers on a mega-phone exactly how NatWest were spending their money, while others distributed leaflets and blood money. The bank was shut and the police eventually arrived but seemed as bemused as the bank were on how to deal with the situation. After about an hour and a half, the police invited us to leave, invoking the Trade Union act. The demo then continued outside, and although the bank briefly reopened it was soon closed for the day! One police officer closed his account the same day while another was heard to say that we should do these things more often!

We believe our campaign will have a two fold effect. It will deter potential investors from dealing with HLS, and may even cause NatWest to withdraw funding. If the campaign is widespread enough, and starts costing the bank a serious amount of money, we believe this is a realistic aim.

**ACTION** - We need your support. There are about three demonstrations each week and transport is available. There are also regular leafleting sessions in the city centre. Ring 07880 972502 for more information.

**RING** the NatWest customer services hotline 0800 505050. They'll ask you for a name and address to send their reply to, if you give them one out of a phone book, they'll write to them and explain why they invest in animal testing!

**WRITE** to their Customer Relations at FREEPOST, London ECB 3JL. Or you could send them a nice present, eg half a brick (maximum weight allowed).

## Interested in taking action?

Come along to the Riotous Assembly (formerly the activists networking meeting). Bring ideas, events, join in discussions.... - direct action campaigns, taking on the bosses, grassroots resistance, defending communities, earth, animals, and fun!

On July 6th there will be a discussion on June 18th; in August there will be a talk about Kosov@.

7:30, at the Yard Theatre, opposite the Junction pub, Royce Road, Hulme, first Tuesday of each month. Next one: 6th July

*To find out what direct action stuff's happening around the country, subscribe to the Earth First! Action Update, 0113-262 9365, or SchNews, 01273-685913*

## Reclaim the Streets - Update

A local Hulme mother has recently been arrested, accused of violent disorder at the Manchester RTS in April. The rest of the people arrested at the RTS are in court on 2nd August

Meet at the Magistrates Court, Crown Square at 10am to support them.

## Earth First! Summer Gathering

This is a space for all activists involved in or interested in environmental direct action to come together, learn new skills and plan campaigns. The gathering will be focussing on networking and skill sharing this year, with heavy discussions left til the Winter. It will be from August 18th to 23rd somewhere in East Anglia. For info phone 0113 2629365. There should be transport from Manchester, ring 226 6814 nearer the time.

## Diary Dates - July

Check other articles, plus...

Mon 5th - Court cases of people arrested at the Hacienda. Come to the Magistrates Court at 10am.

Tue 6th - Riotous Assembly, see above.

Wed 7th EF! meeting 7.30pm Ring 2266814.

Sun 11th Moss Side Carnival, phone 2260486

Wed 14th EF! meeting 7.30pm Ring 2266814.

Sat 17th Tarmac National Action 2266814

Sun 18th Stop the Crop anti-genetics rally at Watlington Farm, ring 224 4846 for transport details.

Wed 21st Anarchist discussion on capitalist nature of media. 7.30pm The Vine, Kennedy Street.

Sat 31st Smash Genetic Engineering action, ring 07808 191858

# June 18<sup>th</sup> - How was it for you?

Jun 18th was an international day of protest, action and carnival aimed at the heart of the global economy - its banking and financial centres. Thousands of people went to London to target "the City", and lots of people from Manchester went along. There were spontaneous actions in the morning (for example, Manchester people abseiling off Tower Bridge to stop traffic) and a huge carnival in the afternoon. So much was happening, no one person could sum up the experiences of everyone. Below are some responses from people who went down from Manchester:-

"J18 was my first ever demo. I went, I saw and I joined in. It was amazing to be part of a party with so many people with a point to make, and so much energy to make it (although I slept like a baby that night!). I saw for the first time that direct action does make a difference. J18 will always be with me and the beat goes on."

"June 18<sup>th</sup> made me realise how many of us there really are and how much we can do when we get together. An unreported highlight was when we got the upper hand with the police, not by throwing bottles but by dancing around a police line and using them as a volleyball net! You won't see this in the news because the police looked very silly and we were being neither criminal nor violent. What can I say; it wasn't the bloodbath brought to you by The Sun, it was an expression of resistance and freedom and it was a big party."

"Getting to Liverpool Street was amazing - thousands of people filling the station and the streets around, music and fun everywhere. We seemed to be hanging around for ages, then everybody suddenly started moving ... at Cannon Street the party really got going. One of the highlights was someone opening up a water main, a three storey high fountain came out of the road and gave us all a shower. I read in the papers that the day went out of control but it wasn't like that. People were having fun, caring for each other and trying to keep everyone safe. The best part was seeing McDonalds get smashed up in broad daylight. It had been shut by the police and nobody got hurt. Of course people were damaging things - these corporations rule our lives, they are the real cause of unemployment, poverty and environmental destruction. It was great to see people fighting back."

"The June 18th Carnival against Capital was one of the most ABSOLUTELY FUCKING BRILLIANT things that have happened in this country in years! Thousands of people protesting, not just against some "bad" company as a "special case" (everything else is OK!), but against the system itself! All the people I spoke to reckoned the rioting was the best since the Poll Tax over 9 years ago.

Of course, there are always people who moan about violent people supposedly "spoiling the party" or some crap, but to them I say: open your eyes! The Capitalist SYSTEM that we live in is a PERMANENT STATE OF VIOLENCE against all of us, and our resistance to the system, whether violent or not, is absolutely legitimate - I think the destruction that happened in the City of London shows that people are prepared to STAND UP and fight back! - a promising sign indeed. Next time let's make it bigger and better!"

"It was a really good day and there were loads of sorted Manchester people. The training beforehand was good. There was a flag

made with an Okasional Cafe symbol on it which worked really well - it was easy to find other Manchester people."

"Even if no one had turned up we would still have achieved lots because loads of people didn't go to work. The samba band gave really good energy. It was quite entertaining to watch the police's facial expression when their own tactics were used against them. It was fun dancing round the police and the flag was great."

"I did an action in Lloyds Bank. It was very successful. There was a lot of energy and the aim of the event was largely achieved. I didn't quite agree with the aggression expressed through actions like the McDonalds one. There are other more intelligent and effective ways of expressing it."

"The City of London got a bit of it's own medicine back, "Do as You Would be Done By", that famous Friday. You trash the world...? We're going to party and protest in your face! Loved the spontaneous targetting of some of the biggest baddies, like the Futures Exchange, loved the party spirit, the Samba band, and the strength of the crowd faced by police violence. The Manchester training day & wide range of experience did good on the day, with us being there when it counted time and again. Imaginative use of smoke and fire extinguisher 'cloud' too, bricking up an entrance to the futures exchange, McDonalds getting gutted & the till cash just chucked up in the air, and some cool smaller actions in the morning, with transport routes into the Square Mile getting targetted, amongst other things, all made for a fun day. More of the same please! I'll be going to the Tarmac national action day on the 17th July, to meet up with people again, and we'll see what'll come out of Manchester's own Riotous Assembly."

"My experience of June 18th was generally very positive, though the boundaries of non-violent direct action were severely stretched. With Campaign Against the Arms Trade we had ourselves a little shindig in the Lloyds banking hall. The manager (seemingly overcome with the festival spirit) shut the bank for the day. To use our time wisely I did a yoga and introduction to Permaculture workshop for the bank manager, including a FREE consultation on how lloyds could adopt a permaculture approach to more thical future investments... Guess!"

## What is the Loombreaker?

The Loombreaker is a newsletter for activists in Manchester. The idea came out of the Riotous Assembly, a monthly event for people active on different issues:- environmental, social, animal rights, anti-racist, anti-sexist, disability issues, tenants actions, strikes, etc. "The Loombreakers" were Lancashire activists who smashed the machines that destroyed their livelihoods in 1826.

The Loombreaker will come out at the beginning of each month. Pick it up FREE at the following places:- Frontline Books, One World Centre, Yellow Brick Café, Mistys Café, Café Pop, Unicorn Grocery, Pankhurst Centre. To find out which one is closest to you ring 2266814.

If you live outside Manchester send us a stamp for each issue you want, and your address. Prisoners and local action camps get it free!! **LOOMBREAKER, MANCHESTER EF1, DEPT. 29, 255 WILMSLOW ROAD, RUSHOLME M14 5LW. Tel. 0161 2266814.** Email: [loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk](mailto:loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk)

Please contribute! We need words about activism (a couple of lines or a few paragraphs) and especially pictures and cartoons. Deadline for next issue:- End of July.