



The Loombreaker

Issue 4 ★ September '99 ★ Free



Uh Oh! We're in Trouble!

The cases are still dragging on for those who found themselves on the sharp end of the 'summer of police brutality' in Manchester.

All the RTS arrestees are back in court on Monday September 13th for a committal to crown court. Support welcome. Meet at 9.30am outside the magistrates court.

The Hacienda crew managed to win the right to have a joint trial, much to the frustration of the Crown Prosecution bloke, who kept saying there was no way he could round up all the cops at the same time.

The date still isn't set yet, but is likely to be a 2 week

trial sometime next February. Watch this space.

Arrestees from both cases are still looking for witnesses. If you think you may have seen anything at all - even if it doesn't seem relevant to you, you may be the key witness that saves someone from being convicted.

A Court Support group is being set up, which would be a rotating, open group of people, who are interested in offering support to anyone in Manchester who is arrested for political reasons.

This group could set up

some training in how to avoid arrest, and how to cope if it happens, how to best react in big public order situations. We also want to have good legal co-ordination, planned before any major action, and to raise money to help those arrested, with costs, etc.

The next street collection is on Saturday 11th September at 2pm at the bottom of Market Street near Boots. Contact number below if you want to get involved.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

- witnesses from the Hacienda and RTS. Please call 226 6814 with any information

Meanwhile, five of those from Manchester arrested at the 'Smash Genetics' crop pull have had the charges against them dropped. The state has dropped the charges against around half of those arrested, whilst reducing the 'Conspiracy' allegations to 'Criminal Damage' and/or 'Aggravated Trespass' for those that remain.

At the time of going to press details about these developments remain sketchy. The Crown Prosecution Service has failed to explain why it is continuing to charge some people and not others.

The next battle in this attempt to criminalise dissent is the hearing at Lincoln Magistrates Court on 13th September.

Kingswater Development

When a new road is built, further destructive development normally follows. The much-opposed M66 (now the M60) is no exception.

The Kingswater development, which will include a business park, yuppie housing, a golf course, retail and a private recreation area, is planned to be built on the border of Manchester and Tameside, next to the new road. The land is currently a wildlife area with over 20 small ponds, well used by local residents who live in terraced houses with no gardens.

These open spaces are vital to people living in cities and should be protected. One woman single-handedly delayed the last public inquiry by pointing out that nobody had informed local Reddish residents. The next public inquiry will start on October 12th. Meanwhile, opposition is growing.

Walks have been organised on Saturday 18th Sept and Sunday 12th Oct, and everyone is welcome. Meet at the car park on the corner of Debdale Park. Phone 442 8635 for info

Bury Wetlands

In Bury local families and pensioners are campaigning against a local developer who wants to build houses on a small reservoir which is a local wildlife haven. Planning permission was turned down by the council, but the developer is appealing this decision. In the meantime the developer has tried to trash the site - they chopped down the mature trees and drained the reservoir.

It appears that somebody kept closing the sluice gate every time the contractors opened it. The contractors then got pissed off and demolished the gate but the hole mysteriously got filled up with concrete. It took the work men 2 days to remove this blockage. Hose pipes seem to be finding their way into the reservoir and filling it back up with water (lets hope nobody has a water meter).

Locals will oppose this development with direct action if the developer gets their way - watch this space. If you are interested in using direct action as part of a local campaign and need advice, Manchester Earth First! may be able to support you, though we won't come in and do it for you (unless you pay us £30 a day and a packed lunch!). Phone 226 6814

The Colour of Justice

This play about the Stephen Lawrence enquiry has been touring the country, and comes to the Library Theatre, Central Library on Monday 13th till Friday 17th September - phone for times, 236 7110.

Less a piece of theatre than a reconstruction of the actual enquiry, this may be our only chance to find out what really happened surrounding the Stephen Lawrence case. It is particularly appropriate for us to find out, in the light that the police and media seem to be referring to the police force in the present day as 'post-Lawrence era' - as if the policing strategy has in some way changed for the better.

Libertarian Discussions

The Libertarian Socialist discussion group has been reborn and will meet every 2nd Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Vine pub on Kennedy Street, just behind Princess Street.



Beginners Guide to Anarchy

"Are you fed up with the way things are in this country? Do you wish you had more control over your life, rather than leaving the bosses and the politicians to make all the decisions? Come and find out one alternative that may really surprise you when you find out what anarchy really means." A free course on Thursday evenings in Hulme. It starts on 16th September. Ring for information: 226 0751

End Sanctions Against Iraq!

A million Iraqi children have died since sanctions were imposed in 1990, and birth

defects have risen 3-fold. Iraq are not able to import sufficient food and medicine to meet the need, while the western world is hiding behind rhetoric. Although they are not much reported, there are still almost daily air raids. Targets have included homes, mosques and schools. There is a demonstration on September 18th - see diary.

Gay Activist Speaking

'Revolution' - a leftwing political youth group - have their first meeting of the student term on 23rd September at 1pm in Manchester University Student's Union, when Peter Tatchell, controversial gay activist will be speaking. All are welcome.

Happy 2000

After a year of change, hard work and development, the Pankhurst Centre has been awarded with a successful bid to the national lottery of nearly £30,000. The bid is to develop a resource to provide advice and opportunities for local women. The money will be spent on a new resource area which will provide IT training, employment and training pathways advice and support. Also starting the week beginning Monday 13th September evening and daytime courses will start at the centre. The courses include: DIY, creative writing relaxation etc. Some courses are free to women on benefits. For more info, call 273 5673.

West Papua, another East Timor

Invaded & massacred by Indonesia just when they were getting independence, West Papuans have been fighting back to protect their lifestyles & rainforest surroundings ever since. There are British mining interests & high street banks that profit directly in Indonesia's continued violence. Support the West Papuan Liberation Army with a solidarity action on Monday 4th October - see diary.

DIARY

Monday 13th September

support RTS arrestees outside Magistrates Court, Crown Square, 9:30 am

15th September & after

Arthur's Wood eviction possible, 07931-931850

Thursday 16th September

Beginners Guide to Anarchy course starts. Ring 226 0751

Saturday 18th September

Rally to end sanctions against Iraq. Noon at the Piccadilly end of Market Street

Sunday 19th September

EF! 80s 'Do it in Pixie Boots' disco, Yard Theatre, Old Birley Street, Hulme. 9pm on, £1. Vegan organic food at 7:30, £1.

Tuesday 21st September

Campaign Against the Arms Trade Birthday Bash. Major non-violent direct action planned, 3pm at a British Aerospace site in the North West, call 226 9321.

Wednesday 22nd September

Lancaster car free day - street theatre & slow moving RTS. Call 226 6814 for transport, or meet for the RTS only at 4pm, Market Square, Lancaster

Friday 24th September

'University supports the Arms Trade' action, meet: 1pm, outside Manchester University Student's Union

Saturday 25th September

Demonstrate at intensive rabbit breeding local farm. Contact Manchester Animal Protection: 07880-972502.

Monday 4th October

West Papua (see article) support action, 226 6814.

Friday 15th-17th October

Gathering Visions, Gathering Strengths III, a national networking and discussion event for all kinds of campaigners. Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. 01274-775161

September's Riotous Assembly:

A wide range of people, from groups such as Liberty Hall in Liverpool, Frontline books, Wages for Housework, Earth First!, Worker's Power, CND, and lots of individuals came together to find out about events, tell others about their campaigns, and plan actions at this month's Riotous Assembly. In the 'topic' half of the meeting, A local anarchist delivered a talk about nationalism and the causes of war, provoking some passionate responses. Unfortunately, starting late meant not enough time for discussion - one to carry on in the pub!

In the break, we ate cake and listened to some German political music played by some of our friends who are about to return to Germany. Music & meetings go together much better than you might expect!

In the 'networking' half of the meeting, a number of different campaigns and events were brought up. Many of these are mentioned elsewhere in *The Loombreaker*.

In particular, we talked about the situation in Iraq, with the 'silent war' where the UK and US are still bombing and killing almost every day, plus the devastating effects of sanctions. 5000-6000 are dying every month, according to UN figures. A demo is planned for noon on Saturday 18th September meeting at top end of Market Street near Piccadilly Gardens.

We discovered there was to be another 'Babylon' careers fair, as one student described it. Many of the world's most unethical companies will be exhibiting at G-Mex on 7th 8th October. We agreed that we should do an action and arrange more details at the next Riotous Assembly. Anyone wanting to come should contact 226 6814.

We also heard about Arthur's Wood, one of the last camps at the airport, (see previous *Loombreakers*) which is likely to be evicted very soon. The camp had a big tip off that it was likely to be on the 15th Sept. Help would be greatly appreciated. If you can't make it to the actual eviction, just going down and offering support from the sidelines is immensely helpful to those in the trees. Phone: 07931-931850

An activist present at the Riotous Assembly mentioned that the University in Manchester supported the arms trade, and in view of the situation in East Timor, we should do an action to raise awareness of this, especially among freshers. An action is now being planned for Friday 24th September, 1pm, outside Manchester University Student's Union - everyone needed.

Next month will see a talk about the state's current reaction to activism and what creative answers we can all come up with, plus the usual mix of fun, frolics and food.

The next Riotous Assembly is on Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm at the Yard Theatre, Old Birley Street, Hulme - Don't miss it!

The Loombreaker

"An anarchist" adds:

"What I argued was that much of what purports to be radical or about liberation is actually just an alternate form of capitalism. One example is Bolshevism, which while pretending to be about the working-class overthrowing capitalism, was actually creating a state-capitalist dictatorship. Another example is National-Liberation.

I argued that in every single case in history that a national liberation movement has come to power, the leaders of the movement immediately became a new capitalist government, and the system continued as before - one lot of rulers replaced by another lot of rulers. Nationalism is always a con because it means hiding the conflict between rulers and ruled, as though they have a common identity and a common interest (the "Nation"). There has never been a nationalist movement that was not pro-capitalist, & there never will be!

I also argued that the reason "national liberation" has acquired a phoney image of "revolution" is because the Bolshevik state-capitalist regime, in its conflict with the established western powers, found its natural allies in other up and coming capitalist governments. So it wanted to lend its own fraudulent mask of revolution to its allies. The whole thing is con-trick on con-trick!

There isn't space here to repeat the whole talk, but the above should give a flavour of my general line of argument. Anyone interested in contacting me can do so by coming to the Riotous Assembly or by writing to me at Dept. 99, 255 Wilmslow Rd, Manchester M14 5LW".

[N.B. This is just "an anarchist's" contribution to the debate - the whole *Loombreaker* collective doesn't necessarily share these opinions...some of us may, some of us may well not.]

Okasional Café, again?

People have begun working toward creating another Okasional Café in Manchester, hopefully to be open in October. Previous Okasional Cafés have reclaimed disused buildings and converted them into a space of our own which we need so much whilst living life in a city whose spaces are characterised by blandness and hunger for profit; they have thus previously featured environmental, social and political information and workshops; food and drink; an open space for socialising throughout the day & night; parties; acoustic jams; bands; poetry; and Actions.

If you have anything whatsoever to give please do come along to help define what the next café becomes. It takes many people to make something this worthwhile; all of the work is equally important, and fun. In the run-up to October, general meetings are held once a week with separate meetings concentrating on the politics, entertainment, food, publicity and practicalities in particular. Phone 226 6814 and leave brief details so we can let you know where & when meetings are.

Subversive socials!

There are occasionally 'free parties' of repetitive beats & socialising in the countryside at Chorlton Water Meadows. Just a cycle-ride from the city centre, for all colourful urban people who're sick of their grey ghettos, and sick of the homogenous monopoly that ensnares the beats & rhythms there. Somewhere you can touch down with a night of genuine free expression, where the beat doesn't break till breakfast and the people are friendly.

Coffee, brandy and sandwiches for sale. No taxes, no ulterior motives. Guaranteed good vibes. & breakfast.

Fancy a day in the countryside?

As the new hunting season begins, demonstrators and saboteurs alike are consoling themselves with the thought that this season it really could be for the last time. The Prime Minister Tony Blair has stated that the Labour party intends to ban fox hunting with horses and hounds.

The government's decision to ban fox hunting is in response to the pressure by hunt saboteurs over many years. However, nothing has yet been put into action by the government and we have all heard their hollow words before, not least last year when they promised a ban which never materialised. So, it is important to keep the pressure on until we get action from the government rather than mere words: 07880-972502

Anarchist Bookfair

Not just books but lots of interesting workshops, speakers, informal get togethers, and a party after to celebrate Veggies café 15th birthday (you need to book free tickets for this). October

16th in London - transport from Manchester - phone 226 6814

Cat farm closes - success for people's action!

In recent years, Hillgrove cat farm has seen mass demonstrations, constant picketing, violent police behaviour and huge numbers of arrests. The farm bred cats to be used in animal experiments all over the world. The farmer, Mr Brown, retired on August 12th. Mr Brown said, "My car has been firebombed, my house burnt and the windows broken on several occasions."

Manchester people have been travelling in coaches to demonstrate at the farm along with people from around the country. One animal lover said: "This is one of the happiest days of my life." The closure of the farm is another success for animal rights campaigners who target specific cruel organisations. Their last campaign caused the closure of Consort Beagle Laboratories.

Global Women's Strike

Women and girls do two thirds of the world's work for 5% of the income. When women stop, everything stops! Women in Ireland have called for an International Women's Strike on 8th March 2000, and women in Manchester are calling for others to join them in the strike. Contact 0171-482 2496 or send reasons to join the strike and actions you wish to take to: Crossroads Womens Centre, PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU, or email crossroadswomenscentre@compuserve.com



The Loombreakers were Lancashire people who smashed the machines that were destroying their livelihoods in 1826.

The Loombreaker comes from the British Free Information Network tradition, spreading non-mainstream news. This Manchester FIN was reborn in the Riotous Assembly.

The Loombreaker is produced for and by ordinary people, and is opposed to oppression.

Pick it up free from: **Frontline Books**, 255 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme; **One World Centre**, Mount Street, near Central Library; **Yellow Brick Café**, 47 Old Birley Street, Hulme; **Mistys Café**, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road; **Café Pop**, Oldham Street, Piccadilly; **Unicorn Grocery**, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton; **Pankhurst Centre**, Nelson Street, near MRI.

If you live outside Manchester, send us a stamp for each issue you want. Prisoners and local action camps get it free!!

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The Loombreaker comes out at the beginning of each month, so get any news you know about to us by then.

Interested in taking action?

Come to the *Riotous Assembly* for direct action, campaigns, taking on the bosses, grassroots resistance, defending communities, earth, animals, and fun! It's a chance to meet & chat. Bring ideas & events each first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Yard Theatre, opposite the Junction pub, Old Birley Street, Hulme. Next date: 5.10.99