

The Loombreaker

No. 11 May/June 2000 Free

Mayday Mayhem in Manchester

Mayday this year surpassed previous international days of action. Around the world people celebrated in carnival fashion, occupying streets of major cities, gardening, dancing and partying. At the latest count Mayday festivities, demonstrations and actions happened in over 69 cities and 40 countries.

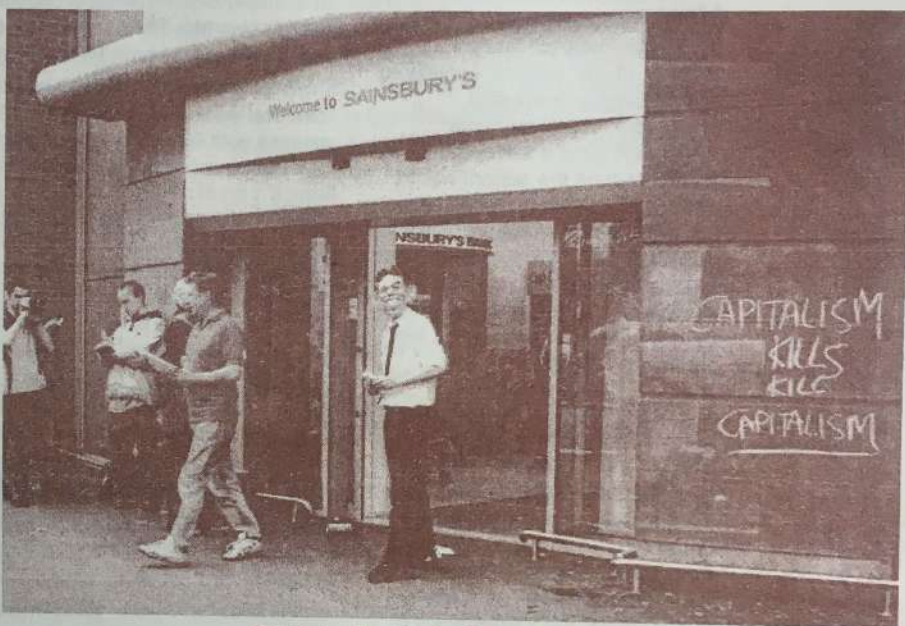
Life's a beach

In the morning, the seaside came to the city. Sticks of red, black and green rock, with *Resistance is Sweet* running through the middle were given out to passers-by, a direct action planetary tarot reader told fortunes, a coconut shy encouraged people to 'knock politicians' blocks off, a revolutionary seaside band entertained the masses, saucy seaside political postcards were delivered, and a cut-out copper to stick your head through for a seaside photo. The SWP came to visit, shouting out their latest campaign slogans about asylum seekers, having moved swiftly from their own May Day plans, and were swiftly penned in by the police.

Let the games begin

At 2pm, crowds began to gather at Piccadilly Gardens, with banners, music and colour, plus the usual police helicopter, mounted police, evidence gathers etc.

By 3pm, up to 20 small autonomous groups had slipped away from the 500-strong crowd for *Challenge Anarchy*, a



Tony joins in with the fun at Sainsbury's

'treasure hunt' each facilitated by an *Anarchy Rice*, targeting many places with their action pack of leaflets, flyposters, paste, chalk and spray cans. "Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go forth into our city, and create, change, act, make people think, and spread an atmosphere of resistance." A huge number of actions happened, see below.

This left the main crowd for a roving RTS through the city centre, followed by the cops and free food. Crowds divided up and rushed through police lines,

continued on back page

Scores on the doors so far:

All told, there were 35 arrests on the day. 20 of these were at the Hacienda and so far as we are aware, all these charges have been dropped.

If you or someone you know was arrested, or you witnessed an arrest, please get in touch with Manchester Legal Support Group on 0161 226 6814.

Police impounded a van and imposed a Section 60 (CJA extra stop & search powers) on the whole city centre (Salford police had known nothing till actions started there!).

Crap arrest of the week: for rolling around on the floor saying "What's the crack, have you got any?"

• a few Shell blockades • many McDonalds occupied, leafletted or shut down • supermarkets targeted for genetics (food and GM cotton) and general nastiness • fake £20 note flyers dished out • cash machines 'melted' • a 'slave auction' • Disney (sweat & child labour), Starbucks (sponsoring globalisation) • Reed & other employment agencies (casualisation & resultant insecurity & deaths) and NatWest (investment in animal abuse & general banking) visited • seeds and saplings guerilla gardened • spoof TV show making people spend exactly their £10 asylum-seeker voucher • anti-mass media 'The Lies' newspaper mock-up and actions • Fidelity Investments (investing in Occidental's attack on the Columbian U'Wa people) 'muralised' • Stagecoach buses stopped, leafletted and rolled under by disabled activists & others (Clause 28- support, few buses accessible, & anti-worker, rural routes, high fares etc Stagecoach monopolisation) • general anti-consumerist - advertising and CCTV propaganda & shops closed down • plus "Unite, Resist, Celebrate" Mayday leaflets, and much chalking, stickering, subvertising and painting.

If you are caught bang to rights and singing like a fucking canary on an action (not like, for robbing a bank - we hope) phone Manchester Legal Support Group on 226 6814. You can also get in touch if you want to wear a nice bib on demos and not get nicked. On the 13th June there is a social/writing-to-prisoners evening, probably in Hulme. Phone for the venue nearer the time. Admission by vegan chocolate cake only.

Chechen Solidarity Meeting

On 6th May, Vladimir Krotkov, member of the editorial committee of the Russian antifascist newspaper, *Chelovechnost* (Humanity) gave a talk at the Equalz club on the current war in Chechnya as part of a short tour of the UK. As part of the small anti-war movement, Vladimir's group is attempting to provide practical assistance to refugees and other victims of the war by sending food, medicines, blankets etc. - a concrete demonstration of solidarity, internationalism and antifascism.

Vladimir's trip to the UK was coordinated by Workers' Aid, the independent trade union activist grouping who took aid convoys to Bosnia and Kosovo at the height of the Balkan conflicts. It is hoped that Workers' Aid's experience at sending supplies to war zones will help Chelovechnost's campaign. For more information on Workers' Aid, or on the Chechen War: 226 6797

Terror Bill Terror State

The Teaparty - the Manchester-based campaign against the Terrorism Bill - has now received some useful and grim insights on how the Terrorism Bill is likely to be applied once enacted. The insights are based on the personal experiences of people from within the Irish community, which as a whole has been subjected to the powers available to the police under the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act. In brief summary, under the guise of preventing terrorism, hundreds of thousands of innocent people have been subjected to the humiliating and traumatic ordeal of stop and search, indefinite detention, interrogation and exclusion on no other grounds than 'suspicion'.

The terms of the Terrorism Bill are far more draconian than the existing PTA and a clear and heavy demonstration of the new powers available to the authorities is likely to occur early on, with an attempt to single out and make an example of some group of people. Cue the police orchestrated media hysteria over Mayday in London for example, where Reclaim the Streets have been subjected to heavy PTA-style policing over the last few months.

The latest on the Bill is that it was due to go to committee stage in the Lords in the first week of May. Meanwhile the A30 event in London is reported as a success, with 400 lining up for a photographic remake of the Beatles' cover 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', with terrorists? in flowers at the front, & a drum reading 'Jack Straw's Had Us All Clubbed & Banned', and 'We all live in a failed democracy!' It was printed in national media, and in spite of police claims that the event was to be a 'flashpoint' within the weekend of Mayday activities. A poster will be available from the A30 Group, with photo and resources. Meanwhile, you can sign up to their pledge to "despite the new terrorism laws, to defy the government's new road-building programme".

Go to <http://drink.to/dissent>, or call 226 6814.

Recommended reading: *Suspect Community* by Patrick Hillyard, Pluto Press.

Longsight Community Initiative

About 30 people showed up to the launch of the Hamilton Road Area Community Association in Longsight. The Association is a space for people who both live and work in the area to face issues such as local environment, safety, jobs, youth facilities and other areas of concern to the community. The next meeting is on 4th June at 6pm in the Pakistani Community Centre, 612a Stockport Road.

More information from: Flat 1, 143 Hamilton Road, Longsight

Lorenzo and the 'Paralysis of Analysis'

"You cannot undercut prison wages". A wry observation from former Black Panther and grassroots activist Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, speaking recently in Manchester about "the modern form of slave labour" and related matters. Lorenzo's talk covered a number of subjects and issues. He spoke of the rise of the civil rights movements in the States over 40 years ago and its origins as a grassroots struggle against institutional, state-sanctioned racism. He also talked about the social projects that were run by the Black Panther movement that provided food and clothing for the poor and gave the movement its credibility in a way that was often overlooked.

Another subject was current government policies, warning of the dangers of the Terrorism Bill and the new economic/crime policy of 'warehousing' now being implemented in the US. Currently 2 million people are in prison in the States and half of them are black. A large number are now being put to work on production lines in privately built and run prisons,

receiving prison work rates of about 35 cents an hour. The implications are difficult to miss and this new form of social control is already taking shape in the UK.

Lorenzo also expressed his view that the linkage necessary for meaningful social change is not yet in place - citing the lack of response to from the white activist community to the recent murders of two black people in Telford to illustrate his point. For Lorenzo the task set by the civil rights movement and the Black Panthers is far from over. Problems within the movement itself include the its co-option, with civil rights 'leaders' achieving little other than 'the paralysis of analysis'. Other problems that concerned him was that too many within the black community identified empowerment with material gain rather than widespread social emancipation, and the continued debilitating effect of drugs upon the wider community. However, Lorenzo for one is resolved to continue as a grassroots organiser.

This was the first joint event between Riotous Assembly and the Great Western Community Foundation. Hopefully more will follow.

22nd May
Teaparty
Terrorism
Friends M
7.30pm
Rough Gu
Hare & H
26-29th
Women S
gathering
of the first
last year
EFI, the p
campaign
travellers
experienc
More deta
email:
womensp
27th May
Reclaim L
Internatio
info from
Newcastl
520037, e
geneno95
1st June
Counter C
Now, with
Gibby Zo
Green Pr
7.30pm
3rd June
ACTION
Central L
11.30am.
More det
Fight Priv
conferen
House 1
£1 conc
Further i
Produce
Street, L
1944.
5th Jun
Teaparty
7.30pm
6th Jun
Riotous
possibili
money...
Yard Th
Junction
7th - 11
Earth Fil
Contact
details.
7th Jun
MERC
22a Bes
Tel 273
30th Ju
Big Blet
gathering
Tel: 013
bigbleth

22nd May

Teaparty meeting (Stop the Terrorism Bill), Friends Meeting House, Mount St., 7.30pm

Rough Guide to the Left Hare & Hounds, Shude Hill 8.00pm

26-29th May

Women Speak Out. Another gathering to build on the success of the first WSO held in November last year which saw women from EFL, the peace movement, anti GM campaigns, squatters and travellers exchanging ideas, experiences and skills. More details: tel: 020 8374 9885, email: womenspeakout@hotmail.com

27th May

Reclaim Life! ACTION on Human International Centre for Life. More info from GeneNo! PO Box 1TA, Newcastle NE99 1TA. Tel: 07788 520037, email: geneno99@yahoo.com

1st June

Counter Culture and Direct Action Now, with activist and thinker Gibby Zobel. Green Room, Whitworth St West, 7.30pm. Admission: £3/£1 concs.

3rd June

ACTION against capitalism, Meet at Central Library, Birmingham, 11.30am. More details: 07980 415577 Fight Privatisation: Stop the Cuts! conference at Friends Meeting House 11.30 - 4.30. Admission £5/£1 concs. Further information from Unison, Produce Exchange, 8 Victoria Street, Liverpool. tel 0151 236 1944.

5th June

Teaparty meeting (see 22nd May), 7.30pm

6th June

Riotous Assembly debates the possibility of a world without money... Yard Theatre, 41 Old Birley St, (op. Junction Pub), Hulme, 7.30pm

7th - 11th June

Earth First! Summer Gathering. Contact (0161) 226 6814 for details.

7th June

MERCi Visions Day, MERCi building, 22a Beswick St M4, 10.30 - 4pm, Tel 273 1736.

30th June - 2nd July

Big Blether 2, Scottish activists gathering Tel: 0131 557 6242, email: bigblether@12.org

Nineladies Head for London

By the time that Loombreaker goes to press activists from Nineladies, near Matlock in Derbyshire, will have staged a series of protests in London on May 16th. Starting outside the offices of the Department of the Environment early in the day, the protests would have moved to Parliament Square in the afternoon followed by a visit to the Houses of Parliament. At some point a performance is happening which will involve the formation of a "stone circle". Presuming all goes well a picnic in St. James' Square will be held early in the evening.

As reported in Loombreaker 8, Stancliffe Stone Ltd. intends to quarry 35 acres for 24 million tonnes of gritstone in a national park area of outstanding natural beauty, and to within 250 metres of a stone circle. This is on the basis of consent granted in 1952. The site lies along a geological fault line and there are fears that quarrying will cause landslides, something that has already occurred at nearby quarry sites. The proposed quarry will cut off supplies of local spring water.

The good news is that a hearing on the development may happen on the 17th May. This follows legal advice from the Queen's Counsel which revealed new guidelines relating to planning permission when dealing with operators who wish to quarry with old consent. Local activists believe that planning permission is unlikely to be granted. What is more, a stop order has been placed on the company to prevent them making site preparations prior to receiving permission. However, nothing is guaranteed, and if the hearing goes for Stancliffe, then permission may be granted and the stop order lifted. At the site itself there are now plenty of tree houses *in situ*, and people are welcome to join the site and enjoy the surroundings in the summer days and beyond.

For more details, and to find out if the actions and the court hearings went well, contact us at the Loombreaker on 226 6814.

Dirty Deals Resumé

A group of Manchester activists recently made a trip up to Preston as part of a national day of action aimed at BAE Systems (formerly British Aerospace and now the world's third largest arms manufacturing corporation). The intrepid bunch picketed the local BAE site and handed out leaflets to workers entering and leaving the building.

The day coincided with the BAE Systems AGM in London, now a long standing event on the campaign calendar, and likely to be for as long as the company continues its appalling trade in death and misery. Warton, in

Preston, is the site where Hawk Jets are manufactured and has been a particular target for campaigners concerned about the sale of the aircraft to the notorious Indonesian government and its murderous (SAS trained) military forces.

Exports that were suspended last year following atrocities by government paramilitaries in East Timor have recently been quietly resumed. A BAE executive is known to have once said that 'in this business you have to leave your conscience at the door'. So no change there then.

Contact Campaign Against the Arms Trade on 020 7281 0297 (www.caat.demon.co.uk) for more info.

FREE GLASTONBURY TICKETS!!!!!!

(but you will have to work four eight-hour shifts)

Go on, support a local campaign group. Its beats hurting yourself jumping the fence and there should be a cheap bus going from Manchester to save you hours of hitch hiking.

Contact Clare at Manchester CND on 834 8301.

Mayday Mayhem in Manchester

continued from front page



defending themselves with wheelie-bin obstacles from horse charges, finding ways out, dividing and recombining, reoccupying briefly the Mancunian (motor)Way, closing down other city centre roads, until they were penned in near the Oxford Road McDonalds. 40 people entered the adjacent AMEC construction site, to climb up scaffolding above the police and crowd, as the Inspector announces "You'll be allowed to leave in dribs and drabs after giving your details, whe... HOLD THAT LINE!" as people surged through the lines of riot cops.

Two coppers guarding the Hacienda entrance were overheard from the inside:

- 1) Yer just whinging.
- 2) I'm not.
- 1) You are. Yer always fuckin' whinging you.
- 2) I'm not.
- 1) You are. Listen. They run round town like madmen all day, we get them settled back down in Hulme, and half an hour later they've taken the fuckin' Hacienda having a party! If you were there you'd be well up for it.
- 2) I would not.
- 1) Course you would. You are, yer whinging. Yer fucking whinging. You'd have done it if you could have done.

Out-foxed pigs caught in spider's web

People dispersed to rest up before the night's entertainment. A couple of dozen police in vans staked out the free party meeting point, but didn't notice the dribs and drabs (see above) of people being led off. A little later, a mass of over 200 set off by the classiest route ever, silently snaking over land where their vans couldn't follow, in the darkness, together, to Mayday's secret free party celebration. Somehow the 200-300 party people arrived at the Hacienda, unnoticed by police, despite the CCTV just outside the world famous ex-club, to party the night away. While the cops were probably still sat at the meeting point (he he he). Graffiti inside from the first time we squatted it was updated to "People - 2, Police - 0". Some people were arrested when they left, they unfortunately hadn't had a legal briefing (oops) others left en masse walked free.

On Thursday 4th the Hacienda was still occupied. After another night's party, the police left the site well alone. Before the building was vacated, huge banners covered the front of the building proclaiming "Anarchy", "Hac the System", "Resist", "We are Everywhere - www.capitalismsucks.co.uk", and "Police



The Loombreakers were Lancashire weavers who, in 1826, smashed the machines that were destroying their livelihoods and communities.

The Loombreaker comes from the Free Information Network tradition, spreading news the mainstream media won't print. It is @nticopyright.

Pick it up FREE from:

- Frontline Books, 255 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme;
- One World Centre, Central Street, near Central Library;
- Mistys Café, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road;
- Café Pop, Oldham Street, Piccadilly;
- Unicorn Grocery, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton;
- Pankhurst Centre, Nelson Street, near MRI;
- Withington Wholefoods, Wilmslow Road;
- Wesley Cafe, Royce Road, Hulme;
- University Precinct Centre, Oxford Road;
- Salford Uni Campus.

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

The Loombreaker
c/o Manchester EF!
Department 29,
255, Wilmslow Road, Manchester M14 5LW
0161-226 6814
loombreaker@nematode.freeserve.co.uk

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 Junction pub) 41, Old Birley Street, Hulme. Next date: 6/7/00

Mutiny Now", "Don't vote, just do it", and "Bollox to the Ballot". For more information about where other Mayday actions took place both in the UK and around the world, go to this website: <http://www.mayday2000.fsnet.co.uk/>