



Dobry den, IMF, WB

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund are having a meeting in Prague on September 26th. Our friends at Schnews pithily described them as, "basically global loansharks". However, there will also be a carnival in town...

Activists from diverse groups in Manchester are organising to join the 50,000 expected protesters from all over Europe and across the world in demonstrations aiming to disrupt the IMF / WB joint-AGM. Starting on 22nd September, a festival of political arts and culture is planned for this historic city, with groups co-ordinating internationally, continuing the ethos of 'resistance as transnational as capital'. This is one of many events leading up to the S26 Global Day of Action which is promising to be a truly international affair.

Before the guns of World War II even stopped smoking the elite of the West's financiers got together in Bretton Woods USA to plot a system of globally integrated capitalism specifically designed to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a select rich few. They conceived the IMF and the World Bank, who wasted no time cornering southern hemisphere countries into borrowing vast sums for schemes they never needed or could afford. Loan agreements are made in secret with often unelected, usually corrupt, government / military officials. Abacha, Marcos, Suharto, Pinochet - name any brutal dictator from the past fifty years, odds on they had their pockets lined by the IMF in return for suppressing and killing their people, so that global big business could come and fleece their natural resources.

Once nations are locked into this cycle of debt repayment and further borrowing, the Bank and Fund slide in to 'solve' the problem by enforcing Structural Adjustment Programmes of economic and political reform. These channel more resources into debt servicing, while small scale domestic production is discarded in favour of an international trade based economy. State business is privatised (sold to western multinationals), wages are slashed,



services cut, and environmental, health and education protection hoofed out the window. Economic growth is the only goal.

In the face of the expected commotion, Czech police have announced that streets will be evacuated, schools closed and 30,000 residents moved out to give the 20,000 delegates a 'protective ring' of 11,000 police. However recent history in the Czech Republic weighs against the

continued on back page

For anyone interested in going to Prague to protest against the World Bank and IMF this September:

Manchester Earth First! are running a day school on September 9th to prepare people for going to Prague.

This will include:

- Introduction to Prague/World Bank
- Practical Information
- Direct Action training
- How to keep safe in public order situations
- Ideas for actions
- Basic Samba

Venue to be confirmed - phone 226 6814 for more details.

In this month's
Loombreaker

Prague mobilisation ● Bastille day ● Local actions ● Animal rights ● Disabled direct activists network ● Trials news ● Mad Hatter's Tea Party ● Don't Walk On By ● Queer stuff ● Faslane protests and peace news

Bastille Day Action Report

14/07/00 - 0900:

Golder's Green, London.

The Manchester crew arrive, it's bright and sunny, and a few people around are inconspicuously dressed in hoods and sunglasses. London Forward Intelligence Team film allcomers to add to their bulging image database of commuter activists. As time passes it's clear that maybe a hundred have arrived for the action. Police vans patrol the bus station every 5 - 10 minutes. Are they paranoid or what?

1000:

The crowd moves off, following pink and yellow streamers. At West Hampstead Station they board a train for Richmond, followed by forty baffled coppers.

1200:

Everyone is busy setting up camp in a field in Staines, future site of a privately built, PFI assisted women's prison. The Met scratch their heads and eventually bugger off. Surrey police set up a surveillance unit.

15/07/00 - 1400:

Hammondsworth, Heathrow.

A visit to a detention centre for refugees and asylum seekers, run by Burns Security. High fences, barbed wire, CCTV and fat security with dogs on patrol. Scruffy anarchists climb the fence and get the names of some internees.

1700-2000:

Outreach and doorknocking in Staines. Locals are invited round for Sunday dinner. Do they really want that bloody prison? Well, not in their own backyard, anyway.

16/07/00 - 1500:

Return to Hammondsworth. A Wackenhut (notorious private prisons company) van is spotted leaving. We get in to visit those we spoke to from the outside. Few inside can speak any English and

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2

everyone we speak to has been denied legal advice. Many had been living in the UK for a short while, then received invitations to discuss their cases with solicitors, only to be jumped by police officers who hauled them off to detention.

Evening, outreach with the Staines and Ashford community continues over vegan dinner. "Is there going to be a permanent protest site?". "Where's Swampy then?". Ha-ha.

17/07/00 - 0900

We pack up and leave, for now...

18/07/00 - 0930

Heathrow Airport

A Hammondsworth detainee, Salim Rambo, is saved from deportation when a passenger stands up on a BA flight and refuses to sit down until the deportation is stopped. Salim is returned to Hammondsworth. On the outside arrangements have been made for him to receive legal advice.

Upcoming event: Oakington in August. Welcome families and individuals imprisoned for seeking asylum. Bring gifts, presents and play. See 'Cambridge in August' in the diary.

Contact:

CAGE c/o PO Box 68, Oxford OX3

1HS, 07931 401962

email: prison@narchy.fsnet.co.uk,

Local Actions

Around Greater Manchester people have been fighting back against faceless bureaucracy.

In **Hyde**, former patients of killer GP Harold Shipman staged a sit-in protest after plans were announced to close down the surgery. 21 protesters, including pensioners refused to leave until they spoke to the Chief of Police. Unless the local health authority listens, in October 2,800 patients will be transferred to a nearby surgery which already has extremely long waiting lists.

Meanwhile students in **Salford** are trying to stop their school, Windsor High, in Pendleton, from being closed down. Brendan Jones, 14, said: "The school is like us. On the outside it's crumbling and falling down, but on the inside there's a great spirit and community." The council wants to transfer pupils to two nearby schools as they are under pressure from the government to cut surplus places in city secondary schools. Pupils and teachers at Windsor High are proposing that all three schools are amalgamated under a single governing body with facilities spread over each site.

Mayday trial

Rene Thomas is due to appear at Manchester Magistrates Court at 2pm on 22nd August for alleged drunk and disorderly behaviour on Mayday in Manchester. Rene claims his arrest was racially motivated and would like as many people to come and support him on the day. Phone 07946 264655 for more information.

Disabled Direct Action

Disabled activists from the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) are launching a new local network. Come to 1st meeting of DAN Northwest, to find out how to get involved or contribute. There will be a BSL interpreter and full wheelchair access.

Monday 21st August, 7 till 9 p.m.
Carisbrook, Wenlock Way, Gorton,
Manchester, M12 5LF

Animal Rights

Huntingdon Life Sciences shareholders are dropping like flies, if you pardon the expression. Supermarkets selling Smithkline Beecham products are being targetted as the evil company uses HLS. So if you care about animals you'll be giving up the Ribena and Lucozade!

Contact Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty on 0121 632 6460 in the week leading up to 17th August to find out what they've got planned as part of the Cambridge in August shenanigans.

There are zoo demos at Blackpool and Southport on August 28th and on Thursday 10th and 24th a minibus will travel to Cambridgeshire to greet the HLS workers as they leave after a hard day's animal abuse. Ring MAP for all transport details on 07931 586826.

Viva Ducks Issue

Manchester members and supporters of Viva! (Vegetarians International Voice for Animals) recently targetted Tesco's as part of a national campaign to ask the supermarket to stop selling Barbary duck meat. These birds are factory-farmed in the course of which their bills are cut off. The south Manchester group held a stunt outside Tesco's in Didsbury and received a lot of support from shoppers. Tesco has now ceased selling ducks.

More information on Viva! from: 437 4962.

Celebrate love and diversity

A national march and rally - 'Hands off Our Community - Scrap Section 28 now!' - was held in Manchester last month (see Loombreaker12). The rally kicked off with Manchester Community Choir, who were performing as part of the 18th National Street Music Festival, this year in Manchester. They were followed by celebs and out-of-touch politicians (the ex-chair of Manchester Mardi Gras was booted off at least), and to liven things up a bit of the front of a Slavecoach bus got covered in red paint.

Don't Walk On By

"...I had to stop. I didn't want it to be another Stephen Lawrence situation... I would like to think if I was faced with the same situation, someone else would stop and help me."

Last year Lee Lawrence was charged with 'racially aggravated assault' (later dropped to assault) for intervening and stopping a racist attack in Brixton. He was recently acquitted.

As part of the support campaign for Lee, *Movement for Justice* has launched the 'Don't Walk On By' campaign, calling on all people in the community to step in and put an end to racism on the streets. And that goes for racist policing too. An individual may know their rights but it can count for little when surrounded by half a dozen sweaty coppers, and black people are five times more likely than whites to be stopped, questioned and searched by the police.

Don't Walk On By is an integrated and organised campaign of collective action based on the principle that ordinary people have the right and responsibility to act and intervene.

The results have been impressive, as crowds of up to 20 people have gathered around police patrols ensuring the dibble are unable to step beyond or abuse their powers. Conceived with the aim of bringing people of all colours together to support those who experience the oppressive nature of the system at the sharp ends, Don't Walk On By is about taking direct action where it matters - out on the streets.

Contact
Movement for Justice, POBox 16581,
 London SW2 2ZW, 07957 696636

Manchester Gayfest 2000 is a new festival born out of the ashes of the Mardi-Gras, which has come to an end following disputes with the council.
 see www.gayfestmanchester.co.uk

And continuing on queer politics, **BiCon 2000** is the 6th International Bisexual Conference and 18th UK Bisexual Convention, all rolled into one and will be held on 24-28 August, Manchester, the same weekend as GayFest 2000 web-address for further info: come.to/bicon

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Welcome to the police state - it's official. The Terrorism Act has now received Queen's assent and is expected to come into force in spring of next year. The Act is possibly the most repressive piece of legislation passed by a UK government in living memory, and that takes some doing. At the eleventh hour, the proposed new definition of 'terrorism', already ridiculous, was widened to also apply to computer hackers. The House of Lord's is apparently concerned about the threat to the public posed by 'cyberterrorism'.

The new official definition of 'terrorism' is pretty meaningless if we are thinking in terms of real terror, but to paraphrase Alan Simpson MP, the real purpose of the Act is to protect the corporate estate. The explanatory notes to the original draft legislation made it clear that animal rights and environmental activists (aka as "domestic terrorists") along with 'Islamic fundamentalists' ('international terrorists') are now in the frame.

To welcome in the new era of state repression there is to be minute's silence at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, in memory of the victims of state repression and state terror worldwide, past and present. The event is to take place at the scene of one of the worst instances of state repression in Manchester, the Peterloo massacre in St. Peter's Fields in 1819, now the site of St. Peter's Square, the Free Trade Hall and the G-Mex Centre. Meet 4.30pm, St. Peter's Square, outside central library, Thurs 17th August.

For more information about the Terrorism Act look up go.to/ta2000

Contacts

OutRage! (radical non-violent direct action for queer rights)
 tel: 020-8240 0222,
www.outrage.cygnet.co.uk
Homo Electric (Manc radical gay newsletter)
 Electric Promotions, 1st floor, 100-102 High St, M1 1HP
www.electricks.co.uk

DIARY

August

10 - 15

3rd Northern Green Gathering
 Info: 0113-224 9885

12

Start of grouse shoot sabbing season, NW Hunt Sabs: 283 6104 or 0961 113 084

16

Manchester wide meeting to defend the rights of asylum seekers
 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St.
 tel: 860 6423

17

Mad Hatter's Tea Party
 Demo against the Terrorism Act
 4.30pm, St. Peter's Square
 Contact Tea Party, tel: 226 6814

19

CIA - Cambridge in August
 Series of direct actions in Cambridge against multinationals involved in genetic engineering, environmental destruction, animal abuse, prison building etc., etc.
 Transport from Manchester - call 226 6814 for details.

24

Prague, the IMF and the World Bank
 Public meeting, all welcome
 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St.

30

Writing to prisoner's social
 161 Hamilton Road, 7.30pm
 Contact MLSG, 226 6814, bring vegan cake

September

9

Praha EFi training day
 see front page for details

11

Trident Trial
 Manchester Crown Court
 see *Trident on trial* on back page.

16

National HLS demo, see article for details

Ploughshares Blockade Opens Disarmament Fortnight

69 Arrested At Clyde Nuke Base

Two peace activists from Manchester were among 69 peace activists held in police custody after a 2-hour blockade of Faslane naval base on 1st August, marking the beginning of an intensive two weeks disarmament action at the Trident bases on the Clyde.

Others arrested included activists from Finland, Germany and The Netherlands; Ulla Roder and Angie Zelter of the "Trident Three"; Ray Davis, a local councillor from Wales and Japanese monks and nuns from Milton Keynes.

A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson said: "Again we have been encouraged to see so many people willing to confront this crime against humanity in such a peaceful but determined way. We feel that there is a significant shift away from complacency about Trident. There is more unease about it in official circles and more ordinary people are realising that they can do something about it. We are looking forward to continuing the good work over the next 14 days."

Contacts:

Campsite (24 hours till 14th August) 01436 850522

Trident Ploughshares: <http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/>

Scottish CND (useful on Trident): <http://www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com>

Trident on trial

On 11th September, Rosie and Rachel from the group *Aldermaston Women Trash Trident* (AWTT), will face trial at Manchester Crown Court on charges of causing £25,000 damage to Britain's Trident nuclear submarine, HMS Vengeance. On 1st February 1999, the women swam out to the sub and hung a banner reading 'Women Want Peace' from the conning tower, painted 'illegal' and 'death machine' on the

hull, and used hammers to disarm specially designed testing equipment. There will be a parade to the Court on the morning of the first day of the trial. Bring the usual stuff, ie musical instruments, colourful costumes, your mates, that kind of thing. Other activities are also hopefully planned. The trial will last several days, so please do come and show moral support at any time.

Contacts:

Manchester CND: tel 834 8301,

AWTT: tel 07808 553778; email awtt@hotmail.com; www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

Acomodation will be available, including hopefully a space which will be used for supporters to stay and as a place where the public can find out more about the issues. Contact Manchester Legal Support Group on 226 6814 if you want to get involved in this. Skills and bodies are needed!

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continued from front page

government authorising a heavy crackdown on protestors.

In Manchester, meetings, teach ins and events are all planned. These will centre around travel logistics, action planning and information on the World Bank and IMF's policies and their role in economic globalisation. Dates and details are in the Diary column.

Further info:

Manchester Prague Collective

07974 803695 or 226 6814. resistance@x21.org

S26 Collective, PO-Box 30549, London SW16 2WD. 07989-451096.

Send a blank e-mail to september26collective
subscribe@egroups.com.

BristolS26, Box 80, 82 Colson St, Bristol BS1 5BB

For a fortnightly bulletin, contact michael_bakunin@hotmail.com or 07941 355 508.

Log on: www.x21.org/s26/, www.whirledbank.org/ or www.agp.org/.

..IT'S THE EDITORIAL
-LISTEN TO THIS!



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- **Unicorn Grocery**, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton;
- **Pankhurst Centre**, Nelson Street, near MRI;
- **Withington Wholefoods**, Wilmslow Road;
- **Wesley Cafe**, Royce Road, Hulme;

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 EF1

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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: 5/9/00

Do not go to Prague this September, do not say to a Czech copper: "Te strachki prase!" Dobry? Ano?