

THE CROWBAR



NO.8

Nov 6th

10p

EVICCTIONS EQUALS RIOTS!

The three houses in Railton Rd. comprising the central core of frontline activities have finally been evicted and demolished. Five houses across the road are also evicted and boarded up. Monday 1st November 5a.m. no-one was prepared for resistance against the evictions but later people gathered.

Early afternoon, protestors marched to the police station and the town hall but the closely co-operating partnership of police and council are immune to such symbolic gestures. They decided months ago that the unique character of Brixton, for them an embarrassing blot on the landscape of democratic Britain but which we call home, must be erased. The foot police bastards 'community related' in the area all afternoon whilst coachloads of cops were assembling around Gresham Rd. from other areas preparing for the traditional Brixton riot ritual. By 5p.m. traffic was being diverted around Railton Rd., police vans were seen in every back street and the numbers on the frontline swelled as reinforcements arrived. The dealers, ignoring the police presence, were still offering 'draws' to passers-by. Business as usual it seems though they had lost the roof over their heads. The foot police 20 ft away were likewise ignoring the clouds of smoke or perhaps they were breathing

deeply. There was a festive, friendly spirit before the riot though perhaps not quite as joyful as in the April and early July riots last year. Numbers of resisters were fewer and the police, who have been getting plenty of practice and training in the interim period, outnumbered them. There was not much looting accomplished and

→ CONT. ON BACK PAGE

SQUATTING CONTINUES

Brixton Squatters Aid is still going strong despite the riots and the Council Campaign to 'Eliminate All Squatters'.

This week we have 2 good squats to boast about. One was threatened by a vanload of police thugs, but a successful squatters alarm was called and the cops didn't return.

Squatters meetings are on Sundays at 3.00pm at 121 Railton Road.

LAMBETH PICKET

Monday's picket on Lambeth Town Hall was overshadowed by the local rioting. Still, it was the biggest protest by squatters and short lifers for years. Up to 250 people, mostly white, gathered to protest at the Housing Meeting. Gipsy Hill squatters had a whole carload of colourful placards against the Evictions, the waste of good houses, the lunacy of the Council etc. They also had produced a good leaflet, which was spread all over, to each other, to passers by, to motorists etc. Lambeth Fed. of Housing CoOps had a leaflet too, exposing Mary Leigh (who for eg has only granted ONE short life licence) and this was spread outside and inside the meeting. There was also a delegation from the Barrier Tenants (which includes the squatters) and no doubt many other faces.

Only a few got through from the Railton area, which at the time was No Go and about to face the police charges. We were the excited vocal minority, nobody wanted to shout or chant, especially when a police coach pulled up nearby, nobody wanted to march to Railton. ... Placards were stuck on the railings, one even $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the building, then many of the picketers were let in, splitting the demonstration. Inside there was some heckling, but the meeting went ahead, dominated by the truly sinister figure of Mary Leigh... Maybe it was unfortunate the riot was the same day, Still it was a big step forward. CoOps and squatters together at last. We'd like to see a Public Meeting (ours not theirs!) to plan a campaign against the Evictions, Sell-Offs, and Cut-Offs of new short life licences..

(How's that for a horribly 'Moderate' article Eh Wot.....Ed)



An urgent message to SQUATTERS

So what does it all mean? One black centre is removed. (Though the street today is as full as ever and other houses are being squatted in Talma and Mayall). It took a years's campaign, demolition of 100 houses and a cost of millions. The main business has long ago moved on, to Acre Lane, to Peckham, to Catford, Lewisham, Brockley. Still the isolation and demolition of the Front Line is a victory for Lambeth Council, who will now have time to concentrate on the 400 houses due for Eviction, plus countless flats, 1800 possession cases for rent arrears, 100's of houses to be sold off to the rich, while housing queues lengthen etc. The SANITISATION of Lambeth is under way. All black, squatters or workers resistance must be destroyed or chased from the area. Our aim is to frustrate that plan.



Every Wednesday at 9.00pm you can hear a bulletin of squatters news on 103mhz FM. This is thanks to an invite from a group who do 'The Message', an excellent programme on Our Radio an open access pirate. Also at 8.00 pm Weds is Gaywaves, On Friday is Rebel Radio and Sats is Dread Corporation.. All loud and clear in most of London, same 103 mgz.

LETTER; IS CROWBAR BIASED?

DEAR CROWBAR?

I am writing to raise some serious objections to your paper. My feeling is that your attempt to rally the Lambeth Squatters to resist the Evictions is both naive and counter-productive. The tone of your paper is agitational, supporting extreme protests and even slipping in anarchist views. (against authority, for mutual aid etc). But most of your readers are by no means Anarchists, many of us are Labour or SWP supporters, many of us don't care tuppence for politics. That is not to suggest that the evictions are not political, obviously they are a Right wing attempt to boot us all out and sell off our houses to their rich friends. But many of us (I for one) believe in constructive lobbying, reasonable dialogue and compromise, not in Alarm Lists, Support Networks and out-right confrontation. I feel that the Crowbar doesn't give all viewpoints and puts off people like me from participation in the squatters struggle.

Yours Sincerely Michael Devine (Nth Lambeth).

REPLY.

We can only repeat that we have printed all contributions to the Crowbar so far. Its true we are extreme.. But so are they! The difference is that we don't want power. Why not start your own newsletter (like already 'The Triangle' from Gipsy Hill and 'The Shoestring' from the Barrier Blocks) or even a local squatters aid group. The more the better. Whats wrong with Mutual Aid anyway?.....The Eds..



For a squat in Nth London contact
Advisory Service for Squatters
2 St Pauls Rd 3.00 to 6.00pm
daily Tel 3598814.

BRIXTON SQUATTERS AID
%121, RAILTON RD. SE24

SQUAT NOW

DID YOU KNOW?

Sr Geoffrey Howe's trouser were found hanging on a tree beside the London to Manchester railway line last week.

The Chancellor responsible for the nation's finances was himself robbed of his pants and £100 cash when asleep in his private rail compartment.

So much for Security and confidence in the Government..!



GET TOGETHER

Every Sunday afternoon there is squatters meeting, where new are arranged and everything is used.

That is 3.00pm Sundays at 121 Railton Rd. You can call there afternoon for info.

VAUXHALL CAFE

The squatters cafe in Vauxhall closed at present for renovatic

WARNING!

Plain clothes pigs have been near the Frontline (or what's 1 of it) hassling people in the area "scuse me, Sir, do you realise you've just left an area with red ted drugs on sale?"

This seems to be part of the 'strategy of tension' - e.g. :causing trouble for ordinary people in new, improved, up to date and glamorous way. Leslie Crowl says it's wonderful.

FRONT LINE DIARY

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

At 4.00am on Monday morning 400 heavily armed police converged on Railton Rd in Brixton. This was the long awaited eviction of the Front Line where last year's riots began. The police were taking no chances, sealing off the entire area, smashing their way in, to throw out only a handful of people, they also took 6 houses across the street, in case the Front Line'ers should try to move in there.

They've been moving in for a year, knocking down 100 houses, all lower Railton and Mayall roads, the shops, the clubs, isolating and continually harrassing, cleverly dividing, till the Front Line was such a heavy place few people, even black people dared go near it. Those in power couldn't bear to allow anything they couldn't control, specially not Black people, talking and dealing and making music in the street.

There was no resistance, local people were caught unawares. With the area sealed off bulldozers and demolition workers moved in... Another 'Open Space'.. they call it Redevelopment. By mid morning locals and squatters, black and white, were gathering, along side the vulture like newsmen (many of whom were threatened or attacked later in the day). Demolition and boarding up progressed, with now just a few dozen 'Community' cops, smiling desperately at the growing crowd of angry people. Some people made placards in the streets.. 'Where is our Center now?' and 'Red Ted Knight Get Out', etc and placed them before the new corrugated iron, as roofs and brickwork came crashing down.

About 1.30 pm some people proposed a march, and a few of us white squatters were invited to join. Off we went, a motley crowd, maybe 150 Rastas, Dreads, kids, a few whites at the back, up front a local artist and a rasta woman. Angry shouts down Railton through the market to the High St and the police station, where dozens of coach loads of extra police were hidden away. Then turning, and back to the Town Hall, followed by a police bus and lots of foot police. There we were barred from entry, and had a brief confrontation with a council official, who shouted.. 'Now Now, I hope we can have a reasonable dialogue here' and other inanities.

Just after 2.00pm, back at the ruined Front Line, the 1st major incident of the day, an SPG van was stoned and chased down Railton Rd. The first petrol bombs appeared.. A bus was seen burning in Herne Hill. The police surrounded but didn't move in in force, using tactics like sticking white policewomen in the street to turn back traffic. All afternoon tension mounted, more people came in, but it was becoming clear that the number were only hundreds, the isolation tactics and virtual news blackout seemed to be working. Still, as it got dark, there was riot in the air, kids escaping from school, rush hour starting, and always the chance of Flare Ups spreading across London. Police radio was full of news, reinforcements coming in from all over London and beyond.

5.00pm approx. The police withdraw, suddenly they're not there. A few masked youths begin makeshift barricades and aggressively stop traffic. Then suddenly flames, as the

➔ CONT. ON PG. 4.

Tottenham; riots spread

This week there have been two nights of rioting in Tottenham. The first one hit on Monday, the same night as the Britxtan riot (coincidence?) and continued Tuesday night. The incident started with a kid getting arrested on a housing estate, but it seems sure that the people had heard about Brixton events (kids get arrested on estates all the time).

What followed was pure inspiration, reminiscent of the most imaginative and joyful of last year's uprising. Smashing through the routine of accepting the repression we all suffer, black and white people stormed the local cop station besieging it with bricks, petrol bombs and iron bars. The pigs were in complete disarray and THE KID ARRESTED WAS ACTUALLY FREED. This is when the cops and forces of chaos really get scared when Imagination begins to seize power it could spread to every area of our lives.

Further incidents took place police vehicles were stoned from balconies in Stockwell estates a confrontation in Walthamstow etc Also it is becoming obvious that the Media is totally biased censored etc. Try listening to the police channels around 100 mhz this bonfire weekend.

ONE LAST WORD

We mustn't rely on the State controlled media for our communication - we all know they spread lies. We've got to start our own communication network using such things as pirate radio & tv, spraycans, leaflets and anything else we can think of. And why limit our resistance to the streets? Take it into the schools, the factories, the offices? (typist remark: you don't have to be in them to burn them down).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

War in Amsterdam

After the squatters riots in Amsterdam a few weeks ago the atmosphere is still very tense (and not just in A'dam). More than 100 people were arrested on mere suspicion on the days of the riots, some of them just out shopping. The semi-Martial Law emergency made this possible and this is still not completely withdrawn...for instance the police can now enter a squat without a warrant. The squatters TV is now completely off the air as the Cable is cut off every time we start broadcasting. Half of the Grote Keiser, the once famous big squat now Council owned, was destroyed by fire caused by a fascists molotov. The archives of the legal local Amsterdam Radio (which was quite sympathetic towards the squatters) were burned last week, again a firebomb.

Now its war in Amsterdam, most squatters have halted all negotiations with the council, and several Actions reached the newspapers. The Council has provoked this battle by terror measures and massive police power. Its going to be a hot winter for shure.



Frankfurt demo

Last week demonstrators tore up building foundations and clashed again with riot police in further attempts to stop the building of new runways at Frankfurt airport. Destroying local woods and preparing for Instant Airlift of Nuclear and conventional US forces into the already heavily militarised area.

American scene

There is no co-ordinated squatters movement in the US, though there are many individual squats. There are plenty of empty houses but the law on private property and the lack of collective action make things difficult. In San Francisco there are quite a few squats, though mostly short term.



Copenhagen

Our Danish reporter tells of a big victory when the local riot police failed to take a heavily barricaded squat in the centre of Copenhagen, and were forced to retreat in disarray. The riot was blamed on agitators from Amsterdam.

Berlin news?

Today we read on Teletext, but nowhere else, that 1000's of squatters had rioted in Berlin, following yet another Eviction

FRONT LINE DIARY cont. →

huts of the building workers go up, shooting up flames and exploding gas bottles into the darkening sky. Still the police and fire brigades stay out. Railton Road, for a couple of hours had become a NO GO Area. Barricades began to go up. Rubbish on the many derelict sites was set ablaze, and later a house in Mayall Road. Rioting and looting began. The Front Line stood defiant as the police: IRU'S and SPG, moved in, in full riot gear from every side. The police were in all their new gear, with Belfast style grills and 'wings' on the vans, and both rubber bullets and CS gas ready for use. Meanwhile a crowd of some 200 squatters had gathered at the Town Hall, to protest the coming evictions of up to 400 squats in Lambeth, as well as House Sales and the stopping of Short Life Licences. These picketers refused calls to march on the Front Line and kept their protest passive and apart from the black riot up the road (also caused by eviction of squats).

Back at Railton hundreds of Riot Police came charging through, the crowds fought briefly, set barricades ablaze, then retreated into side streets, bricks, bottles, bangers, petrol and glue bombs were thrown, as the police moved with massive numbers and military precision, snatching or beating anyone they could get their hands on. There was some looting in Electric Ave, then it was Stand Off, with lines of police blocking all ways in to the area.

8.00 pm The police made a final charge, and moved in waves of reinforcements, lines of buses patrolling every street, attacking or snatching from any remaining groups. Soon the streets are empty, and we are afraid to go out. All fires out and resistance ended.

WHITE AGITATORS!!

On Tuesday the police came out with a claim that three white Anarchists had started the Brixton Riot. This was to back up their claim that Community Relations are just Marvellous. The previous day Robin Pitt (Council Leader) had blamed the Militant Tendency.

These claims are obviously ridiculous (Local Anarchist groups have been quick to deny them) as well as inherently RACIST.

They want people to think the Front Liners couldn't do anything without whites to direct it. Of course there were a few white squatters in Mondays confrontations. But it was a Black affair, the march was organised and led by local black people as was the building of barricades etc. and THEY should get the credit for brave resistance to overwhelming police power.

The real White Agitators who caused the riot were the police themselves, who organised the whole thing. Other wild lies are that the Front Line Demolition was for "Redevelopment", that all businesses there would be relocated, that local residents were on rent and rates strike against the Front Line, etc etc etc.

Police failure

Last week 14 people came to court over the arrests of 48 people in Oxford Street after the CND rally last year. The police attacked when a crowd of 500 broke away from the boring speeches and began a jubilant but peaceful march down Oxford St.

The cases began on a farcical note when the prosecution revealed that the SPG (Unit 3) who were due to give evidence weren't there.

(The same Unit 3 who have 7 officers suspended for assault in last years Brixton riots). So 10 defendants had their cases dismissed, 3 others were found Not Guilty due to pathetic evidence and one was adjourned till January. (One defendant turned out to be a lecturer in Police/Community relations, who had intervened in the police violence only to be nicked himself!!)



THE SQUATTER

Inside: ★ confessions! OF A LAY-ABOUT HIPPIY SQUATTER

★ building barricades

★ Big Transport

★ Big Medical Performance Guide

...THAT BLAMES THE LEADER BACK AGAINST HIS FELLOWS.



To squat is to challenge authority!
To squat is to challenge property!
Don't apologize.
It is your right to house yourself.
We must create our own culture. It is OUR city, OUR world, OUR lives.
These are our houses.



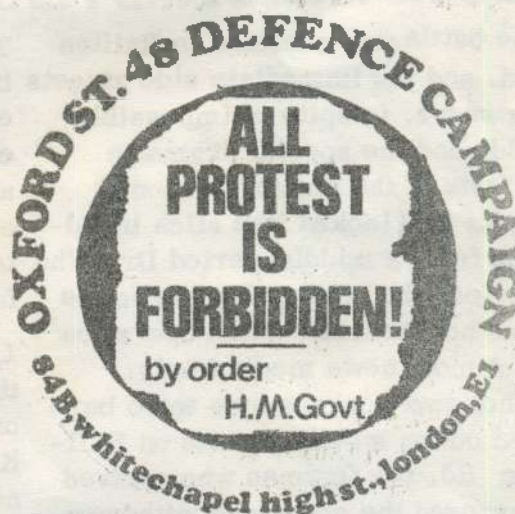
BEWARE OF AUTHORITY.
it robs you of your own power.

BEWARE OF DOUBLE SPEAK.
authority tells you it is doing what it is in fact PREVENTING.
just like the council says it is providing housing when in fact it is trying to prevent us from housing ourselves. so SCHOOLING prevents us from EDUCATING ourselves, the NHS prevents us from HEALING ourselves, and JOBS prevent us from WORKING productively and co-operatively. GOVERNMENT creates confusion, chaos and LAWS. the law prevents justice. government prevents us from creating harmony in our lives.

BEWARE OF POLITICIANS.

politicians tell lies, use you, don't be fooled by them. licensed squatting is a means for controlling you, for absorbing you into them and robbing you of your own power. that is, your conviction that you have a right to be here.

USE - KEEP IT.



As the day in Court bored on it became clear to all that the police had attacked for no reason, except that the marchers were breaking out of the self imposed lethargy of the CND campaign. The desperate prosecution tried to smear defendants and witnesses calling them Anarchists, (and therefore automatically guilty) a tactic which failed miserably. For more info on upcoming cases contact:

OXFORD ST. 48 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
box 48, 84b, whitechapel high st., london, E1

BARRIER BLOCK:

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF EVERYDAY SQUATTING....

Quite a lot's been happening at the Barrier Block estate on Cold harbour lane. A welfare Rights Info Service has started operating from 215 Southwyck House. The idea of this is to supply people with useful info about claiming dole. People will be able to get info from a source other than the DHHS- so you can really be prepared when you go to an interview. This organisation will be moving it's address (eviction coming) in about 4 weeks so keep tuned for the next address.

Then there is a B.B. newspaper dealing with things happening there called "Shoestring" operating from the same address.

The most common eviction date at the Barrier is 4 weeks from oct 26.



Squatters have been going through the courts causing a lot of cost to the authorities. Brixton Squatters Aid will provide a short list of empty houses around to the B.B. before the evictions.

The "Phase 4" part of the B.B. recently opened still has quite a lot of squats left in it. One was (illegally) evicted. The pigs were pretty heavy when they evicted the 2 people, there was a P.I.O. on the flat but no court order. The occupants have been taken in by other squatters. The Council wants to use some spare ground for commercial purposes. At a recent meeting any discussion of it was guillotined by the council pigs- the Tenants Association was not allowed to speak....

EVICITION RIOTS cont. →

the battle was confined to Rallton Rd. and the immediate side streets. However, in spite of impossible odds and the special dramatic effects of the Instant Response Units who looked like alien invaders from a middle-period Dr. Who series, the victory for the police was not the neat, quick operation that most news media imply. When two workers huts were burned out on a building site on Rallton Rd. the firemen who arrived surveyed the scene and withdrew almost immediately. A police van was also burned out and a derelict house in Mayall Rd.

Numerous fire bombs were thrown at police lines - and bricks and fire crackers - and the barricades across Rallton Rd. were a sheet of flame at one stage. I saw one cop hit on the knee-cap by half a brick and stagger in agony to his van. Another was a bit surprised when a molotov landed at his feet but alas his response was quick enough to save him from injury.

There were more arrests made by these cynical, invading oppressors than the media reveals - eight that I know of - and presumably there were more injuries to cops than the two they have admitted to. The riot was in full swing for about three hours.

'Look what we've brought in from the slums' was the comment of one officer when he arrived at Kennington with a man who had committed the crime of walking home from the shop, who had been battered with boots, fists and truncheons and who was eventually charged with possession of an offensive weapon - an imaginary brick. This is War here in Brixton. All of we 'slum dwellers' know it. And we're not beaten yet.

Now, on Wednesday, police still flood the area. Demolition goes ahead on the three houses, but slowly. A Frontline dealer has said that they are determined to stay even if they have to pitch tents on the site of the lost squats.

Anarchist book row

Cops in Gateshead are investigating a 20 page anarchist booklet the School Stoppers Textbook which falsely claims to be printed by FUK U Press at the Sth London Press in Leigham Ct Rd in Streatham.

It has been handed out outside schools in the Nth East and been condemned by police and teachers. It claims 100,000 copies have been printed. The booklet lists 88 ways of sabotaging school lessons and glorifies riots in Liverpool schools and advocates theft and vandalism. Sth London branches of the NUT have not heard of the booklet.

(Sth London Press 2/11/82).