



Manchester- New Labour's Favourite City

The latest issue of 'Black Flag', a UK anarchist magazine includes an exclusive of Jack Ray's piece on poverty in Manchester. In this article, he argues that New Labour's interpretation of the city as a roaring success ignores the real concerns of the dispossessed in favour of a continual courting of big business.

'Under normal circumstances, any city with Manchester's levels of child poverty and social inequality might be considered a problem in urgent need of attention. In fact, since the 1996 IRA bombing the city has been at the forefront of this government's urban agenda, earning high praise from the party hierarchy and business groups'. Jack Ray asks what business-led regeneration has done for Manchester's working class.

This Black Flag issue is launched with in-depth analysis of the BNP, the credit crunch, and anarcha-feminism, along with much more. The magazine will be on sale at the Manchester Bookfair, Projectile Film festival, and in a number of social centres and bookshops, including Freedom Press and Housmans in London. *To get in touch with the collective, mail: Black Flag, BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX,*

May Day



part of Euromayday poster
ripping Sarkozy & Merkel

Manchester No Borders alongside many others participated in the annual 'Mayday march', this year Monday 5 May. "Health Care for All" was one of the central demands of the march, organised by the Trades Union Council and campaigners for asylum rights. Over 200 people attended the march and speaker event in Manchester's Peace Gardens.

A recent decision by Judge Mitting ruled that all refused asylum seekers must be considered 'ordinarily resident' in the UK, therefore charging them for NHS care is unlawful. But, despite this ruling there are reports that refugees still face refusal or charges for health care. The ruling has been appealed by the government and will go to the House of Lords.

May day in Manchester also saw a benefit gig in Fallowfield in aid of Faslane Peace Camp & Anarchist Federation Solidarity Fund

Police attack free party goers - Again

On a warm summer's evening it is nice to see local residents of a quiet road mingling with each other and having a good time, which is exactly what was happening on Saturday 10th on Lancross Rd in Fallowfield. Speakers were put out on the roof of one house and it turned into a street party involving a couple of hundred people. Despite the event being entirely good-natured, on a trafficless street and in a student area, on a weekend, the police decided that it had to end in the most violent manner possible. Shortly after 3am, without warning, riot police charged the crowd accompanied by dogs. Witnesses report seeing passive party-goers being gleefully beaten to a pulp by riot police and savaged by dogs. Police had removed their identification numbers for the occasion and this is nothing new, something very similar happened at Bellvue last year. People are trying to organise against GMP's brutality and will attempt to sue.



Anti-GM protest shuts down HQ of world's leading chemical company

The UK headquarters of BASF at Cheadle Hulme, near Manchester, were blockaded on the morning of the 6th May. Some 30 protesters of 'Earth First!' carried out the action to highlight the company's role in pushing GM onto our plates.



BASF is planning to run the UK's only trial of GM crops this year, a

"It is not the trial of blight resistant potatoes.

answer to food The protesters arrived early in the morning at the flagship offices and blockaded the gate for several hours by sitting in front of it and **shortages,** **hunger or** **climate change"** locking on with bicycle d-locks and other equipment. They successfully prevented any staff from entering and demanded that the company pull out of GM immediately. A huge 30 x 10ft banner was hung reading "No To GM".

Mary Sunderland from Earth First! Said: "GM has no part to play in our future: it's a dangerous, unwanted and unproven technology geared towards maximising profits for multinational corporations such as BASF. It is not the answer to food shortages, hunger or climate change. The real solution is to change now to a sustainable farming system and to distribute resources fairly around the world."



#4 Mule Newspaper out this week (20th)

'Fortress Europe' unpacked, Manchester news and more. Find your copy in newsagents on Oxford Rd, the Eighth Day, Unicorn supermarket, now also widely distributed in Nottingham.

Indymedia Controversy

The 3rd issue (May 08 - Sept 08) of Shift Magazine is out now. The full content is currently available in the print version only, but will be published online in July. Here's a taster:

Editorial: 'For many of us a visit to Indymedia UK is a frustrating experience. Its open publishing newswire reveals an array of bizarre opinion posts, advertisements for activist meetings, petition requests and photo stories mixed in with the odd action or demonstration report. However, the number and diversity of articles on the newswire are more than an inconvenience. Most exasperating are the countless posts obsessed with the Israel-Palestine conflict, which are telling of some of the political viewpoints we are happy to associate with.'

Content: "Go Hamas Go"? Why Indymedia UK is losing support - N/A, Autonomous spaces and social centres: So what does it mean to be anti-capitalist? - Paul Chatterton, Power Generation! The Climate Camp at Kingsnorth - By Paul M, 1968 - Interview with Ian Bone, Preview: The G8 Summit in Japan - N/A

www.shiftmag.co.uk

Punks with Dubs

A new monthly night in Manchester, 8pm – 2am, dub, punk, reggae and ska, hosted by The AutonoMads and the dUB Conductor. Last Monday of every month at BAR XS in Fallowfield, powered by the GASH soundsystem and all the good people involved! The last one will be May/June and it will be back in September. In the meantime there are plenty of good gigs and events coming up from "slit records"/Drum Music/Anarchistic Undertones and a massive free fest in Scotland 31st July-4th Aug. Coaches leave from Manchester so keep your eyes peeled!

Myspace.com/theautonomads

EVENTS

Documentary Nights : Check Indymedia and poster boards for the next couple of free documentary showings before a summer break. Mon. pm, Student's Union.

Manchester Climate Action Meeting : 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7-8pm, Jabez Clegg pub, Dover St. Climate Camp 8pm-9pm.

Manchester Anarchist Bookfair : Relaunched, 11.00am - 5.00pm on Saturday 7th June 2008 at Jabez Clegg, 2 Portsmouth Street, off Dover Street, off Oxford Road (opposite the Manchester University Student Union), M13 9GB. Free Entry.
<http://www.bookfair.org.uk>

Manchester Autonomous Drinkers : Tuesday's from 8pm Sandbar, Grosvenor St.

Food and Climate Change day of action : 1st June. Volunteers needed for free vegan picnic, email manchester@climatecamp.org.uk

Food Not Bombs is Back!



After a slight winter lull, FNB is back and going strong in Manchester. Keep an eye out for their delicious three-course meals given out on the street for free, yes, they want nothing in return! Read on for the recent history of this wonderful movement:

There are hundreds of autonomous FNB chapters sharing free vegetarian food with hungry people and protesting against war and poverty around the world. Not a charity, they organize for peace and for 25+ years have worked to end hunger, support anti-globalization action, and action against restrictions to the movements of people, exploitation and the destruction of the earth.

The first group was formed in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1980 by anti-nuclear activists. It is all-voluntary, with no formal leaders. Each group recovers food that would otherwise be thrown out and makes fresh hot meals, served in public spaces to anyone. The San Francisco chapter has been arrested over 1,000 times in government efforts to silence their protest against the city's anti-

A number of Food Not Bombs volunteers have been arrested on terrorism charges but there has never been a conviction.

"Food is a right, not a privilege"

homeless policies. Amnesty International states it will adopt those FNB volunteers that are convicted as "Prisoners of Conscience" and will work for their unconditional release.

Although dedicated to nonviolence, FNB activists in the United States have been under investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Pentagon and other intelligence agencies.

The network is often the first to provide food and supplies to the survivors of natural disasters and terrorist attacks. They groups carry the message 'We hope you will join us in taking direct action towards creating a world free from domination, coercion and violence. Food is a right, not a privilege'.

Squat Update

The weekend of April 12th kicked off a flurry of squat actions in Manchester, to correspond with an international weekend of action to defend autonomous spaces. On that date a squatted social centre was established in Hulme and used as a social and meeting space. However, the site has now been evicted and the residents have moved on to a residential squat elsewhere. The squat was evicted after the users lost a court case to the council who say they have plans for the building.

Free party squats are expected to come thick and fast for the summer, especially since the recent heavy handed police responses. International squat magazine:

[squ@t!net]