



Best of the Anarchist Tubes

The goal of anarchistnews.org is to provide a non-sectarian source for news about and of concern to anarchists. It is also to provide a location for community moderated discussion about such news.

original publication and author given when available

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Everything has bias.

The bias of anarchistnews.org is to promote an anarchist culture by providing a source of news and commentary about and of interest to anarchists. The goal is not to advocate for a particular anarchist practice but to serve a general anarchist need.

Unions & Anarchists Link Arms for May Day

From Times UK

Protesters turned traditional May Day demonstrations into a rallying call against global capitalism as unrest spread through city streets across Europe yesterday.

Politicians in Germany and France had been warning that the financial crisis was about to spark social unrest. In some towns the words became reality, even if the skirmishes and petrol bombings felt choreographed.

“We want social disturbances, upheaval, and we will do everything towards that end,” said Markus Bernhardt, a spokesman for Class Struggle Bloc, which helped to steer the riots. “The system is violent and now violence is being met by violence.”

Unions estimated that 484,000 people took part in 400 protests across Germany. Riots in Berlin began on Thursday night when cars and rubbish containers were set alight. On May Day morning 700 anarchists blocked a railway station in an attempt to sabotage a neo-Nazi march.

A force of 5,000 German police officers found it difficult to contain the rioting. Officials said 48 officers were hurt and 57 people detained. “One can only advise drivers not to park their cars on the street,” Dieter Glietsch, the head of the Berlin police, said.

In France the usually fractious trade unions agreed to hold united rallies. Police said that almost half a million protesters had taken part in marches nationwide. Although numbers were lower than expected, in Paris tens of thousands turned out to vent their anger over President Sarkozy’s handling of the recession. Police said 65,000 took part in the mainly peaceful protests, though unions claimed there were 160,000, including the leadership of the opposition Socialist party, which traditionally stays out of the union-organised May Day marches.

In Istanbul officers used teargas and water cannon to prevent protesters entering Taksim Square. Riot police mounted three charges against protesters who had joined the demonstrations staged every May Day by the organised labour movement. Police said more than 100 youths ended up in cells there and in Ankara.

There was little to separate the words of the trade unionists and the anarchic fringes, with the global recession seemingly radicalising the leaders of the unions as they attempt to exploit popular anger.

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more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7418>

Announcing the Anarchist Library

From The Anarchist Library

We introduce, for your pleasure, The Anarchist Library, an archive of anarchist texts: books, essays, and articles. We hope that this archive grows from its initial selection of over 400 titles (books, essays, and articles) into a comprehensive textual library that spans the entirety of anarchist thought.

Besides providing you with a more inclusive and coherent forum to access existing anarchist texts, The Anarchist Library offers clean site design, active curation, and clean, typographically-accurate PDFs. We also intend to continue to support open formats and Free Software. We share code!

If you are interested in working with the library group please join us in our active channel on the Anarchist News SILC Server in channel #Library. We are there most days for 12+ hours a day (usually from 0800 GMT to 2000 GMT) and use conversational consensus to make most of our decisions.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7705>

Greece: Arsonists Damage State Utility Buildings

From Etaiwan news

The Greek fire service says arsonists have set off incendiary devices at two state power utility buildings in Athens, causing damage but no injury.

The attacks early Tuesday damaged the ground floor of a Public Power Corporation building in the southern suburb of Agios Dimitrios, and five PPC cars in Psychiko, northern Athens.

A fire service statement did not say what kind of devices were used, and the full extent of the damage was not immediately clear.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Small anarchist groups frequently set fire to symbols of state authority and wealth, government buildings and cars with foreign number plates, to protest government economic and social policies.

Arrests are rare.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7505>

Where There’s Smoke... Anarchism After the RNC

I.

We’ve got the numbers, they’ve got the guns..

Our chants reverberated under the St. Paul skyway. The 2008 RNC protests were underway, the culmination of two years of anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizing materializing before our eyes. For once, we were many, and they were few... or maybe not. With 3500 cops and an uncounted number of National Guardsmen and Secret Service agents on the streets, this time they had both the guns and the numbers.

Overwhelming force was only one ele-

ment of the state's repression strategy. The main hub of direct action coordination – the RNC Welcoming Committee – had been infiltrated by at least one undercover cop and two paid informants almost a year prior. On Friday night, the hammer came down with a raid on the St. Paul Convergence Center. Cops busted in the doors with guns drawn, forcing about 100 people to the ground, zip-tying them, and then photographing everyone and taking IDs. What a start to the weekend...

The next morning, I got a call from a friend alerting me that the cops were raiding anarchist houses across south Minneapolis. Eventually, four houses had been raided, and eight members of the Welcoming Committee jailed. Over the next week, over 800 people would be arrested in conjunction with the protests. Many would be injured by rubber bullets, concussion grenades, tear gas, pepper spray, and other weaponry. The state imposed a high cost on expressing dissent.

II.

The Strategy of Tension

Such a brutal reaction might lead us to believe that 'we must be doing something right.' After all, where there's smoke, there's fire, right? We must really pose a threat. Why else would the FBI and lord knows what other agencies put so many resources into crushing our protest?

No doubt, the prospect of a major political convention being delayed or cancelled due to protest activity would be extremely embarrassing for the ruling elites. However, we must also be aware of the way that the capitalist class uses threats to the existing order to legitimize the violence with which it maintains its hold on the planet. The experiences of the Italian left in the 1970s provide valuable historical lessons for today's radical movements.

In the 1970s, the Italian state, backed by the United States government, faced a massive social insurgency that threatened the stability of capitalism. In response to the rise of autonomous movements of workers, women, students, youth, and pretty much everyone else, the state launched a campaign of terror. In 1969, the Piazza Fontana was bombed in a 'false flag' attack, killing 17 people and injuring 88. The attack was attributed to anarchists, although it had in fact been planned by neofascists with the support of US covert operatives. Their goal was to delegitimize the left, stem the tide of social insurgency, and push the government to declare a state of emergency in

which the left could be crushed.

In the wake of the bombing, the state arrested 4000 people, many of them anarchists. This was the first in a series of over 140 bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, beatings, and other assaults perpetrated by the state and neofascist right in order to demonize the left. This was dubbed the "Strategy of Tension." The objective is to render the cultural environment impervious to social movement organizing by discrediting, and then eliminating the interventionist left. To borrow a phrase from counterinsurgency strategy, the Strategy of Tension 'drains the swamp,' raising the stakes for participation in social struggles, leaving only the most hard core activists alone on the field of battle where they can be easily targeted and destroyed. The ensuing defense work serves to distract activists from actual struggles, forcing them to devote time, energy, and money to bailing comrades out of jail.

III.

Comrade p.38

In spite of the machinations of reactionary forces, the social antagonism in Italy expanded into an unbridgeable chasm. The 1970s witnessed an outbreak of downright social war. Beginning with the "Hot Autumn" of worker unrest in 1969, the Italian movement crescendoed through the "Years of Lead" of the 70s, reaching an earsplitting climax in 1977 as overlapping waves of factory and university occupations and urban insurrections pushed the state to the brink of collapse.

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more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7520>

Statement from "Tarnac 9" Support Delegates, 3/09

An Order to Bring Down

It is a failure. We haven't feared "anarcho-autonomous" terrorists weaving international networks. This invasion -- so brutal and crude -- by the political police has pushed us to put our bitterness into words, to leave our isolation.

The day after the arrests, support committees sprung up like crocuses after the thaw. Without consultations or slogans, the contagion spread: concerts, debates, meetings, evening performances. ... Everywhere the support has brought together dozens, even hundreds of people.

It is a failure. Perhaps it was too crude. No

one has wanted to believe that those who one accuses of having disconnected the TGV were bloody brutes who fomented terrible attacks. The Tarnac affair has been a trigger. Because we had forgotten that this is how one treats political enemies, forgotten that some radical intentions can officially lead to your jails. We did not know that those who in your eyes represent such a great danger could be isolated in a fantastic "circle of influence." Instead, we have felt -- from many places, epidermically -- that something was not right. And if these arrests revealed a will to terrorize, it does not come from those who were indicted. There was a strange resonance everywhere that one evoked the affair that concerns us here.

And we feel that this support exists -- not only in the number of signatories to a petition -- but also in the amused eyes of the passersby who [think they] see an altercation between the police and a group of young people (thereby secretly desiring that the latter have the upper hand); in the mischievous eyes of the one who, at the office, consults an anti-social pamphlet that is hidden in a manager's manual; in the discreet gesture of the administrator who conceals the texts that would justify his or her expulsion from the country; in the determination of those who sequester their bosses, who practice the requisitioning of goods; and in the tension that systematically shows itself at every public demonstration. The "Tarnac Affair" is a prism in which one can read the era and the struggles that traverse it. One considers the more discreet arrests that have followed with less indifference. One sees more clearly what ends the anti-terrorist laws serve. And what ends databases [le fichage] serve, and what it costs to want to be removed from them and what it costs to accept being subjected to them. What was diffused in the air was crystallized there in such a way that it has become very difficult to not take sides.

...

How not to perceive in their defiance the echo of that which we all feel? Without the arrests of 11 November [2008], The Coming Insurrection perhaps would never have been read -- in any case, not collectively and no doubt not in a perspective that is so obviously practical -- as if all the discussions, actions and meetings had perhaps never taken place.

We feel the force and the joy that there is in sharing our doubts and anger, and we see forming the "gangs" that your recent laws

have not managed to dissolve. We see how the arrests -- made for more or less useless reasons -- reveal the panicked reflex of a perturbed power. They no longer dissuade anyone. Other people are still in prison for reasons similar to those of the Tarnac defendants. Some have been returned to prison for not scrupulously respecting the prohibition to not see each other. The legal surveillance, the forced dispersion of all the friends who have organized themselves, increases. Your prisons and all those that you can construct will never suffice to lock up all those who leave your norms behind. And wherever we are, solidarity is woven. In this period of crisis and trouble, we are only one voice in the chorus of those who no longer accommodate themselves to piecemeal reforms [rabibochages]. In all sections of the territory, in all segments of the people, adhesion to the system is in tatters. Disaffiliation becomes a practical route everywhere. And so much the better.

In what you wanted to inflict on the "Tarnac 9," nothing consoles us as much as ascertaining that, for you, more threats arise (and from all sides) than those threats that you have believed you have conjured away. It is no longer due to incomprehension that we feel that we must retrace the thread of this affair. But understanding the logic at work doesn't appease us. It only makes us angrier. The indictments must be lifted, just as the anti-terrorist, anti-gang, anti-mask and anti-assembly arsenal that aims at breaking all effective solidarity must be defeated. During the entire month of May, in each town in which they exist, the support committees will multiply their initiatives. On 8 May, public meetings will be held so that the question of knowing how to react to the situation that is made for us can be posed everywhere. There aren't nine people to save, but an order to bring down.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7523>

ADF Suing Bash Back, et al

From Bash Back! News

The work of devoted Bash Back!ers and allies determined that this morning's hysteria is the result of the Alliance Defense Fund, a notorious anti-womyn, anti-queer, racist organization. The ADF decided to sue Bash Back!, Bash Back! Lansing and individuals because the authorities would not file a single criminal complaint regarding an action at the Mount Hope Church in

Lansing last fall. But that's not all! Those pesky evange-fascists are trying to identify and out up to 20 other people involved with Bash Back! in the hopes that criminal charges will be placed against them. Fourteen people and 1-20 Jesse "John" Does are named on the complaint.

You can find the ADF press release on their website.

Warning this Site is an overt manifestation of THE Patriarchy. It may be offensive and enraging

Bash Back! and radical transfolk/queers cannot and will not be intimidated. Some of us face life and death on a daily basis. This lawsuit aint shit.

BB! News will be setting up an account to raise funds in the near future. Lets fill our pocket books and resist this suit.

Attached to this posting is a copy of the complaint so the entire world can see that it is riddled with inaccuracies and out-right lies.

Disclaimer: This Lawsuit does NOT respect the chosen identities of the people named. Names, gender pronouns, and identities were purposely disrespected by the complaint. Please keep this in mind when reading and discussing the lawsuit.

That's Some Bull Shit!

Bash Back! News

Here is a copy of the complaint.

<http://twincities.indymedia.org/files/MtHopeComplaint-red.pdf>

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7534>

Attacking the State, with Axes

From Telegraph UK - By Ben Leach

Gypsies trash £5million police helicopter

A group of gypsies wrecked a £5million police helicopter to stop officers keeping them under surveillance.

The gang used axes to smash five windows - causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to the only police helicopter in the county.

The vandalism followed weeks of aerial surveillance on a travellers' site where stolen cars and goods are believed to be being kept.

The incident happened at around 10pm after the gypsies climbed a 4ft wall surrounding the police force's helipad at Fair Oaks airport, near Woking.

They threatened staff in the operations room before trashing the aircraft, which is expected to be sidelined for another two

weeks while repairs are made.

As the helicopter is the only one owned by Surrey Police neighbouring forces are having to provide air cover during police operations in the county.

Detectives were apparently ready to raid the gypsies' site on the back of evidence filmed from the air, according to The Sun newspaper.

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more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7588>

Open Letter to Crimethinc Convergencers

Beloved and Respected Crimethinc Convergence Comrades,

As anarchists, we are usually pretty quick to condemn gentrification and to point out the problems that events such as trade summits, political conventions, or high-profile sporting events, will cause for the residents of the areas where they will be held, especially the increased law enforcement activity. The sad truth is from the start, this convergence has proven to be an excellent insertion point into our communities for the security apparatus, and while perhaps some of them may have even had a change of heart about their chosen profession, but mostly it has not been good for us.

The author(s) of the most recent Crimethinc Convergence Update begins by expressing a desire to "put down roots and infrastructure" and we hope that our enemies will not be successful in using this as a means to embed itself into our local communities, by leaving its own agents behind. This is not meant as a condemnation of travelers or any other subculture or any of the other bashing of Crimethinc and its projects that appear on the internet every so often.

...
We are aware that neither the organizers, nor their guests are responsible for the behavior of the State, and we know that there are no such assurances that can be given. There is however, a genuine concern that this event will make life more difficult for many of the groups and individuals who call Pittsburgh home, and many of us wonder if your good time is worth it for us. The convergence attendees who stay behind will be the subject of much scrutiny and speculation. This is unfortunate, but is to be expected under the circumstances.

We love Pittsburgh, whether we were born here or ended up one way or another.

We understand why you want to come to our fair city for your convergence, but we are unsure that the organizers are familiar with the city, given the language they use to describe it. It really isn't the post-apocalyptic wonderland from their literature. We also know that the organizers of this event have made a set of rules for you that they feel are appropriate for their "guests". We don't know exactly who made these rules, or why, but if you disagree with them, we suggest that you take that up with the people who are responsible for making and enforcing them, not us. You are their guest, not ours, and many of us would have declined to hold this event here, had we been asked, which we were not.

The convergence is a month away, and already various groups and individuals who are not involved with this event have been contacted with requests to help some of you side-step these rules. While we may be anarchists, we can not be your pet sitters, drug dealers, beer distributors, innkeepers, activities directors, concierges, housekeepers, costumed characters, or other any of the other figures that are frequently associated with other making other people's vacations, conventions, cruises or other forms of tourism, radical or otherwise, enjoyable. If any of us spend time as any of these things, it is because we have to do it to survive, and would prefer to not have to play these roles on what's left of our own time.

...
poster 1: *There is no uniformity of views about this event within the pittsburgh anarchist movement. People don't have a common view of how it came about, who outreached to who, who was consulted, or what to do now. In some respects I think 'some' of the disagreements are a good sign, as anarchism here is not about a single group or viewpoint. I also agree this letter isn't particularly productive, except maybe in letting off steam.*

The larger situation reminds me in some respects of the debates liberals and anarchists have regarding space and respect during large summit protests. In other ways I think it resembles some of the private debates that occurred in the TC before the RNC, you know when a relatively small group of a dozen or so anarchists got 1,000 militants from around the country to come get down with wide ranging implications for everyone else.

It's true that no one owns a city. The importance seeming to be placed on what a couple visible groups think or want is a bit troubling.

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the rest of the article and more posts at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7590>

Greek Police under Attack

From Ekathimerini

An anarchist group claimed responsibility yesterday for placing two crude explosive devices at building sites in Athens and Thessaloniki that are due to house new police stations.

Nobody was hurt in the explosions, which caused a limited amount of damage but signaled an increase in the intensity of the activity of a group calling itself Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire: Athens and Thessaloniki.

An anonymous caller rang Antenna TV yesterday morning to claim the blasts. The group has carried out several attacks in the past, including the torching of an electric railway train in Kifissia, northern Athens, on March 3.

One explosive device went off in the early hours at a building site in Nea Pendeli, northern Athens, where the area's police station is due to move.

Another homemade bomb went off in the Stavroupoli area of Thessaloniki at another building site where a new police station is to be housed.

Police experts said that both devices had timers and could have caused more serious damage had they been wired correctly.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7598>

Native Youth Movement Member Arrested

On Thursday May 21st, a Warrior from the Native Youth Movement Warrior Society was arrested and detained in Halkomelem Territory (near so-called hope, british columbia, kkklanada), on charges from seven years ago.

Shark is a 27 year old Father of 5 Secwepemc children, from the Ohlone & Chumash Nations. He is currently being held for ransom in the Kamloops Regional Correctional Center (KRCC), facing charges stemming from protecting Secwepemc mountains, Skwelkwek'welt. These Sacred Mountains are being destroyed by Japanese company, Sun Peaks Resort Corporation. The governments of "British Columbia and Canada" are illegally selling Native Land to foreign invaders, and companies. These companies develop mass destruction to the land water, in turn killing the original, natural habitat of these mountains, including the Secwepemc People.

Since 2000, Secwepemc people have been taking direct action to stop Sun Peaks from destroying Skwelkwek'welt, their Hunting, Berry Picking & Medicine Mountains.

the rest of the article at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7669>

Greeks Call for Solidarity

A movement that is not capable of looking after its comrades in prison is destined to die, and that at a high price under atrocious torture.

- Daniela Carmignani, Revolutionary Solidarity

The insurrection in December was a visible and mass expression of the social war that rages at all times and will continue until the destruction of all domination.

Thousands fought in the re-appropriated streets of the necropolis. Hundreds were arrested and, with exceptionally swift procedures, several were thrown in prison. Six of them still remain imprisoned up to this day. Because for those in power someone has to pay the price for the negation in practice shown by all of us against this decaying world. Within the first two weeks of June the remaining prisoners of December, amongst them the anarchist A.Kiriakopoulos, will be coming in front of a board of judges who will determine whether their imprisonment will be extended. Days of action will take place between the 12-15 of June in solidarity across Greece.

...
Solidarity should not be viewed through the lens of duty, obligation or charity nor does it require a personal relationship or absolute political identification with those imprisoned but is a means to strengthen our ties as collaborators in a conspiracy against the existent. Solidarity is our weapon by which we attack not only the prison but all the structures of power in a continuation of the social struggle as a whole. At the same time, solidarity is a tool used to obtain the immediate practical result of freeing our comrades in prison. This is a call to comrades wherever they may be to start a wave of solidarity that sends shudders down the spine of the bastards in power. Let's prove to them that the Athens syndrome is indeed a contagious disease.

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the rest of the article at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/7669>