



Best of the Anarchist Tubes

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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 of interest to and about anarchists. The goal is not to advocate for a particular anarchist practice but to serve a general anarchist need.

French anarchists linked to New York bombing

By Henry Samuel in Paris (*The Telegraph*, UK)

French anti-terrorist police are holding 10 alleged members of a violent anarchist movement suspected of sabotaging power cables on high speed TGV train lines.

But it now transpires that the alleged culprits were netted thanks to information from the FBI, which allegedly linked two of them to the home-made bomb attack on an army recruitment centre in New York's Times Square in March.

Julien Coupat, 34, the suspected head of the "anarcho-autonomist" group, and his 25-year old girlfriend, known only as Yldune L, were stopped allegedly trying to enter Canada from the US illegally in January. It was claimed they were carrying anarchist texts in English and photos of an army recruitment centre in New York. Although they had left the US before the bomb attack, they had allegedly been spotted shortly before at American anarchist meetings in New York.

Tipped off by the FBI, France's domestic intelligence services and anti-terrorist police had been watching them for months in a tiny village in the Corrèze region, central France.

Police also carried out arrests in the northern city of Rouen, the Meuse region in the northeast and in the Paris area.

Tens of thousands of French were hit by severe delays at the weekend when power was cut by metal bars hooked onto overhead electric cables on TGV lines around Paris.

"These individuals are characterised by a total rejection of any democratic expression of political opinion and an extremely violent tone," said Michele Alliot-Marie, the interior minister.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5497>

Hunger Strike Ends, Greek Government Concedes

After 18 days 7,000 prisoners in Greece stop their hunger strike after the ministry of justice concedes to a series of their demands, promising to release half the country's prison population by April 2009.

On Thursday the 20th of November more than 7,000 hunger strikers in Greek prisons demanding a comprehensive 45-point program of prison reform have decided to stop their hunger strike, already on its 18th day, after the Ministry of Justice responded to their struggle and to the widening solidarity movement which in the last weeks has held several mass protest marches in the Greek cities by declaring that by next April the number of prisoners in Greek jails will be reduced to 6,815 from the present 12,315, thus effectively releasing half of the country's prison population.

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However the Ministry also failed to answer many demands.

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Thus in a press release, the Prisoners' Committee announced that:

"The amendment submitted to the Parliament by the Ministry of Justice tackles but a few of our demands. The minister ought to materialize his promises for the immediate release of the suggested number of prisoners announced, and at the same time implement concrete measures regarding the totality of our demands. We the prisoners treat this amendment as a first step, a result of our struggle and of the solidarity shown by society. Yet it fails to cover us, it fails to solve our problems. With our struggle, we have first of all fought for our dignity. And this dignity we cannot offer as a present to no minister, to no screw. We shall tolerate no arbitrary acts, no vengeful relocation, no terrorizing disciplinary act. We are standing and we shall stay standing. We demand from the Parliament to move towards a complete abolition of the limit

of 4/5 of served sentence, the abolition of accumulated time for disciplinary penalties, and the expansion of beneficial arrangements regarding days-off, and conditional releases for all categories of prisoners. Moreover, we demand the immediate legislation on the presently vague promises of the minister of justice regarding the improvement of prison conditions (abolition of juvenile prisons, foundation of therapeutic centers for drug dependents, implementation of social labour in exchange for prison sentence, upgrading of hospital care of prisoners, incorporation of European legislation favorable to the prisoners in the Greek law etc.). Finally, we offer our thanks to the solidarity movement, to every component, party, medium, and militant who stood by us with all and any means of his or her choice, and we declare that our struggle against these human refuse dumps and for the victory of all our demands continues".

Prisoners' Committee 20/11/08.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5570>

LA Anarchist Gathering Raided

The tactics of COINTELPRO and the Patriot Act continue

Last night the at the Revolutionary Autonomous Communities fundraiser for the Anarchist Bookfair at the food not bombs warehouse on 6th and Santa Fe was raided by the LAPD. They kicked open the door and unlawfully entered in to the private space. Joaquin Cienfuegos a member of RAC and Copwatch LA Guerrilla chapter was targeted by the police and pulled out from the space. When folks inside the space heard what was going on in front they went over to observe and document what was going on. Joaquin asked why he was being detained and they told him to "Shut up" and "Do as he's told". He was handcuffed and searched without his permission. While he was being searched Joaquin stated loud and clear that he did not consent

to their search and once again asked to please be told why he was being detained.

There were about 12 police cars on 6th street and about 30 or more Deputies/Depupigs. As we tried to get cameras to document what was going on the police rushed the door again and i was pulled outside by 4 police officers. They pushed me against the wall and made me place my hands on top of my head and searched me. I asked the Officer why i was being detained and he said, "A crime had been committed a few blocks away and they were going to bring the victim to identify the person." As i was pulled out, the folks inside closed the door to prevent the rush of pigs into the property. They began to kick the door and yell at the folks inside to get out. Not once did they announce themselves as the Police Department or why they were there or wanted folks to exit the show. Clearly unable to choose a reason why they were trying to raid the space they made up whatever we want.

After i had been searched, a female officer came over and i asked once again why i was being detained. She stated that this was an illegal gathering and they wanted to figure it all out. Officers were walking all over the front in very confused manner having to be told by other officers to move out of the way. I could see the shadows on the officers behind me and Joaquin who continued to hold their hands on their weapons while we were handcuffed with our hands behind our backs.

After the police ignored the request by the owner of the space to present a search warrant or leave the private property, the comrades from the Black Liberation Party that were there in part to perform for the fundraiser exited the building and were immediately detained and sister Nadia and Kambui were placed in handcuffs and the rest of the the Black Riders where made to face the wall. The police then rushed inside and pulled everyone out.

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While we were waiting the final officer drove by and stated "Im sorry we had to shut down your party but you have to keep the youngsters in check and can't be letting them go anywhere stealing beer. If they hadn't stolen the beer we wouldnt have cancelled your show"

Everyone was pissed as this provocateur behavior which is being utilized as the excuse to enter into private property and raid a peaceful gathering. The police looked for whatever excuse to shut the show down.

Joaquin is currently being held for misdemeanor . He has not been taken to jail and is still being held by Central Division. He will probably be going to court tomorrow or Wednesday.

Please speard the word help support Joaquin and the Black Riders Liberation Party

and Food Not Bombs folks to get out.

for much more information and a brief update: <http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5503>

Irv Brecher, Oscar winner, Marx Brothers writer, dead at 94

From *Jewish Journal* - by Hank Rosenfeld

Irving Brecher, a comedy writer whose career in radio, television and the movies included writing two Marx Brothers comedies, co-writing the Judy Garland musical "Meet Me in St. Louis" and creating the radio and TV series "The Life of Riley," has died. He was 94.

Brecher died of age-related causes Monday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said his wife, Norma.

Groucho called Brecher, "the Wicked Wit of the West."

"I loved the nihilism of Groucho," Brecher recounted in 2005. "The anarchism. I'm a complainer, a dissenter and a put-downer, and Groucho was my alter ego. He was my champion. He always defended my scripts against less-than-talented producers."

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5530>

The Insurrection to Come (excerpts)

Blockade everything; this should be from now on the first reaction of anyone standing against the present order. In a de-localized economy where companies function thanks to a constant flux of materials and goods, where value derives from connectedness to the network, where the highways are links in the chain of dematerialized production which moves from sub-contractor to sub-contractor and from there to another factory for assembly, to block production means to block traffic circulation...

This translation is an excerpt from a radical new book that just appeared in France by the Invisible Committee (Comite Invisible). The book discusses the local appropriation of power by the people, the physical blocking of the economy, and the elimination of the police force as practical routes toward insurrection.

The commune is the basic unit in a life of resistance. The insurrectionary surge is probably nothing more than a multiplication of communes, their articulation and inter-connection. Depending on how events develop the communes regroup in larger entities, or fractionalize into smaller ones. The difference be-

tween an affinity group of brothers and sisters connected to life and death and the coming together of multiple groups, committees, and crews to organize the supplies and self-defense of a neighborhood, or even a region, in revolt is only a difference of scales. All these groups are basically communes.

A commune can only move towards self-sufficiency and experience money within it as something useless and ultimately out of place. The power of money is to create a connection between those who are unconnected, to connect strangers as strangers and thus by creating an equivalency between all things to put all things in circulation. The cost for the power of money to connect everything is the superficiality of the connection where deceit is the rule. Distrust is the basis for the credit relation. The empire of money must therefore always be the empire of control. The practical abolition of money can thus only be achieved by extending the communes. Extending the communes must be done while taking care that the commune does not surpass a certain size beyond which it loses contact with itself, and inevitably generates a dominant group. In that case the commune would prefer to split up and to extend in this way, while avoiding unfortunate power issues.

Fan the Flames of Every Crisis

Terrorist threats, natural disasters, viral alerts, social movements and urban violence, are for those who manage society, moments of instability when they validate their power by selecting those they like and by destroying those that embarrass them. These are thus logical occasions for other powers to gather and to build-up by taking the opposite side. The interruption of the flow of merchandise, the suspension of normality and of police control liberate a potential for self-organization unthinkable under normal circumstances. It is enough to see the wonders a black-out can do for the return of social life in a single building, to imagine what could happen in a city deprived of everything. People are not blind to this. The revolutionary workers movement understood it too and took advantage of the crises of bourgeois economy to strengthen its might. Today, Islamic parties are never as strong as when they manage to intelligently use the weakness of the State, by for instance, providing aid to earthquake victims in Algeria, or in daily assistance to the population of Lebanon attacked by the Israeli army.

The devastation of New Orleans by hurricane Katrina gave North American anarchists the opportunity to gain a new visibility by rallying all those who resisted the forced evacuations. Setting-up food distribution and soup kitchens showed that people had thought of supplies ahead of time; setting up health clinics demands already having the necessary

skills and materials, same for setting-up pirate radios. Such experiences are extremely fruitful politically as they bring joy, a feeling of community, a tangible reality outside of the established order and work.

In a country like France, we should count less on natural disasters than on social crises. It is the social movements that most often get to interrupt the normal course of disasters. Of course in recent years various strikes were mostly occasions for the government and corporate management to test their capacity to maintain larger and larger minimum service to the point of rendering work stoppages to a purely symbolic dimension, barely more cumbersome than a snow storm or a suicide on the railways. The high-school students struggle of 2005 and the fight against the CPE-law upset established militant practices. They replaced them with systematic occupation of buildings and obstinate blockades, reminding everyone that large movements can have a capacity for nuisance and diffuse attacks. They left numerous affinity groups in their wake, showing the conditions under which mass movements can become places of emergence for new communes.

*Blockade the economy, but
measure our blocking power by our
level of self-organization*

By the end of June 2006 multiple city halls and public buildings were occupied by the popular insurgence in the State of Oaxaca. In certain municipalities mayors have been deposed and official vehicles requisitioned. A month later the access to many hotels and tourist complexes are cut-off. The minister of Tourism of Mexico talks about a disaster comparable to hurricane Wilma. A few years earlier, the blockades became the main form of action for the movement of revolt in Argentina, with different local groups helping each other by blocking such and such arterial, and constantly renewing the threat of paralyzing the entire country if their demands were not met. Such threats had been for years a powerful source of leverage for groups such as the railroad workers, truck drivers, electrical and gas supply workers (in Europe). The movement against the First Employment Law (CPE) in France did not hesitate to blockade train stations, highways, factories, supermarkets and even airports. In Rennes, only three people were needed to block the main access to town for hours and caused a 40 kilometer-long (30 miles) traffic-jam.

Blockade everything; this should be from now on the first reaction of anyone standing against the present order. In a de-localized economy where companies function thanks to a constant flux of materials and goods, where value derives from connectedness to the network, where the highways are links in the chain of

dematerialized production which moves from sub-contractor to sub-contractor and from there to another factory for assembly, to block production means to block traffic circulation.

But a blockage can only go as far as the capacity of the insurgents to feed themselves and to communicate, as far as the effective self-organization of the different communes. How will we feed ourselves once everything is paralyzed? Looting stores, as it was done in Argentina, has its limits; as large as the temples of consumption are, they are not infinitely full of food stuffs. Thus acquiring, in the long term, the skills to provide for one's own subsistence implies appropriating the necessary means of production. In this light, there is no need to wait any longer. To leave to, as it is today, two percent of the population the task of producing the food for everyone else is both a historic and a strategic idiocy.

*Liberate territory from police
occupation; Avoid direct confrontation
as much as possible*

This case shows that we are not dealing with youth demanding more social services, but with individuals who have declared war on the Republic, noted a lucid cop about recent clashes in France. The attack aiming to liberate the territory from police occupation has already started, and is being fed by the endless amounts of resentment that the forces of order have provoked. Even the social movements are slowly taken by the riots, just like the ravers in Rennes who fought the riots cops every Thursday night in 2005, or more recently the partying crowds of Barcelona who destroyed a shopping street during a botellion. The movement against the CPE saw the regular return of the Molotov cocktail. But on that front, certain disadvantaged suburbs remain unsurpassed. Namely, they have perfected the technique of the trap. For example, on October 13 in Epinay (a poor suburb of Paris), a police crew responding to a call, found itself blocked by two vehicles on the roadway and by over thirty people carrying metal bars and brass knuckles who lobbed stones at the police vehicle and used tear gas against the policemen. On a smaller scale, neighborhood sub-stations have been attacked when closed at night and on weekends: broken windows and burned-out police vehicles.

Another achievement of recent movements is the understanding that a real demonstration from now on must be wild, meaning unpermitted, and unannounced to the police. Being able to choose the terrain, we can, like the Black Block of Genoa in 2001, bypass the red zones, avoid direct confrontation, and being able to decide the route ourselves, make the cops strain to chase us instead of being herded by the police, including that of the syndicates or the pacifists. In Genoa we saw a thousand de-

termined people make entire buses of carabinieri retreat, only to be set on fire in the end. The important thing is not to be better armed, but to have the initiative. Courage is nothing, the confidence in one's own courage is everything. Having the initiative helps tremendously.

If a confrontation cannot be avoided it doesn't mean that it cannot be turned into a simple diversion and opportunity to strike elsewhere. In addition to thinking about actions, we must think about their coordination. Harassing the police means that by forcing them to be everywhere they cannot be effective anywhere.

Each act of harassing the police revives the truth about them expressed in 1842: The life of the police agent is painful; his position in society is as humiliating and despised as crime itself. Shame and infamy encircle him from all sides, society has expelled him, isolated him as a pariah, society spits its disdain for the police agent with his payment, without remorse, without regrets, without pity. The police badge that he carries in his pocket documents his shame. On November 21, 2006, firemen demonstrating in Paris attacked the riot police with hammers and injured fifteen of them. This should be a reminder that having a desire to help others can never be an excuse for joining the police.

Depose the authorities locally

The goal for any insurrection is to become irreversible. This can be achieved by beating authority at the same time as beating the need for authority, beating property along with the taste for appropriating, beating hegemony along with the desire for hegemony. That is why the insurrectionary process carries in itself its victory or its failure. Destruction has never been enough to make things irreversible. Everything is in the method. There are ways of destruction that provoke inevitably the return of that which has been abolished. Where the economy is blocked and police are neutralized, little emphasis is needed on the toppling of the authorities. They will easily be deposed.

In our times, the end of centralized revolutions reflects the decentralization of power. Winter Palaces still exist but they have been relegated to the assaults of the tourist-- not the revolutionary hordes. Today it is possible to take over Paris, Rome, or Buenos Aires without it being a decisive victory. Taking over Rungis (the transit and storage facility for all merchandise in Paris) will certainly be more effective than taking over the Elyse (seat of the government). Power is no longer concentrated in one point in the world; it is the world itself, its flows and its avenues, its people and its rules, its codes and its technologies. Power is the organization itself of the metropolis. It is the perfect totality of the world of merchandise in all of its incarnations. Anyone who opposes power locally creates a wave of planetary shock

through the world's power networks. Keep on fighting! All power to the communes!

<http://deletetheborder.org/node/2216>

Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and G20 Meeting

International anarchist communist statement on the global economic crisis and G20 meeting

1. The current crisis is typical of the crises that regularly appear in the capitalist economy. "Overproduction", speculation and subsequent collapse are inherent to the system. (As Alexander Berkman and others have pointed out, what capitalist economists call overproduction is actually underconsumption: capitalism prevents large numbers of people from fulfilling their needs, and so undermines its own markets.)
2. Any solution to the crisis prepared by capitalists and governments will remain a solution within capitalism. It will not be a solution for the popular classes. Indeed, as in every crisis, the workers and the poor are paying – while financial capital is being bailed out with huge sums. This is likely to continue. No change within capitalism can resolve the problems of the popular classes; still less can such a solution be expected from individual politicians, such as Barack Obama. The most such politicians can do is play a part in offering the capitalists a way out, and perhaps in throwing the working class some crumbs.
3. The bank bailouts show not only whose interests the state serves, but the hollowness of capitalist commitment to free markets. Throughout history, capitalists have stood for markets when it suits them, and state regulation and subsidies when they need it. Capitalism could never have existed without state support.
4. In the US, the UK and elsewhere, the bailouts have taken the form of nationalisation of troubled financial institutions – with the full support of capital. This shows that capitalists have no fundamental problem with state ownership, and that nationalisation has nothing to do with socialism. It can also be a method of screwing the working class. We ourselves, not the state, need to take control of the economy.
5. Owing to the globalisation of capital under neo-liberalism, the ruling class recognises that the solution must be global. The G20 is meeting from 15 November to discuss the crisis. This is significant. The rulers of the US, Europe and Japan are coming to realise that they cannot handle the crisis on their own; that they need, not only one another, but other powers, notably China (which is emerging as a top industrial producer, and is on its way to becoming the world's third-biggest economy). India, Brazil and other "emerging" economies will have seats at the table. This may mark a recognition

– under discussion for some years – that the G8 alone are no longer the world's economic decision makers. It is likely to signal a shift in the running of the global economic system.

6. We place no hopes in the inclusion of new capitalist powers. China's rulers may claim to be socialist; others, such as Lula of Brazil and Motlanthe of South Africa, may present themselves at times as champions of the poor. But in fact, all are defenders of capitalism, exploiters and oppressors of the people of their own countries, and, increasingly, imperialist or sub-imperialist exploiters of the people of other countries.

7. If the crisis is to lead to anything other than complete defeat for the global popular classes, poverty, exploitation and war, the popular classes must mobilise. We must demand bailouts, not for the capitalists, but for us. We anarchist communists will fight for those who got homes on subprime mortgages to be bailed out and keep their homes. We will continue to engage in and support struggles for jobs with better wages and shorter hours, housing, services, health services, welfare and education, protection of the environment. We fight for an end to imperialist wars and to repression of our class and its struggles.

8. We present these demands in response to the G20 meeting, and will continue to present them in the future. Through such demands, and through direct action to bring them about, we will work towards building a global movement of the popular classes that can put an end to capitalism, the state and the crises they create.

Signed:

Alternative Libertaire (France)

Federazione dei Comunisti Anarchici (Italy)

Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group (Australia)

Zabalaza Anarchist Communist Front (South Africa)

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5510>

Indymedia and the Enclosure of the Internet

From <http://london.indymedia.org.uk/articles/203> - by Yossarian

There has been controversy recently on the global imc-communication and imc-tech lists over the issue of a \$200,000 grant application to the Knight Foundation by IMC Boston to do Drupal development work for Indymedia sites.

The grant application was blocked by IMC Rosario in Argentina. As a working technical volunteer who has been building a new Indymedia website for the past year or so, I think this whole debate has raised some interesting issues related to code, corporate monopolies, and the dilemmas faced by a humble developer who's trying to help start a revolution.

Some problems

I think that we are in bad shape when compared with the predominantly corporate-owned sites that political organizers are often turning to. People are generally not putting their videos on Indymedia anymore - those go onto Youtube. Photos are going into Flickr. There has been an explosion of good political content being published on the net, but it's not happening on our sites, because in many cases it's easier for people to register an account on Blogger.com and put it there instead. Political groups don't advertise their presence on Indymedia anymore, they set up a MySpace group. For that matter, most political people don't register email accounts with riseup.net or aktivix.org or one of the other activist-run email services, they get a Gmail or Hotmail account instead. This is a general problem and is much bigger than either Indymedia or left activism, but it's worth thinking about how we can respond to it.

One necessary response is education. Activists who would never consider eating meat or crossing a picket line think nothing of putting their entire communications infrastructure into the hands of Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, and Rupert Murdoch. There are enormous practical problems with respect to communications security, data ownership, privacy, censorship of content, and data mining by both corporations and law enforcement agencies. From what I can see everyone from the left-liberal NGOs and environmentalists, to the unions, and over into the extraparliamentary anarchist and communist groups all have the same attitude: there is no problem. Move along. Shut up about it, you're being a geek.

We need to be explaining these issues to people in a consistent and effective way...Education alone will not solve the problem, though.

David vs Goliath Redux

There are a few obvious problems here. The combined development budgets of Yahoo, Google, and Microsoft alone runs into billions of dollars a year, and they can basically deploy an army of coders to solve any problems they encounter. Although they are highly bureaucratized, they also have the luxury of billions more dollars with which they can buy hot young startup companies.

In contrast, we have a relatively few hard-working geeks and a wealth of code provided by the Free Software movement. While in the past this alone was enough to sustain us, I would like to suggest that we are in the middle of a monopolization process that has destroyed other forms of radical media in the past. This new stage will bring additional problems with it.

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for much more on this:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/5448>