Time to trim the fat
(and get some exercise)

Team GB has returned from Beijing with its clutch of medals, hyped up by the press and promoted by the government who want to boost their image by cuddling up to the successful athletes. A waning Brown and his sidekicks are sucking up to their success in order to increase their hopes of re-election. And who are the successful athletes? 60% of the medal winners come from fee-paying schools for the rich where they can use first class training facilities. But, despite paying lip service to the obesity crisis and the poor health of the nation (the UK is the fattest nation in Europe) schools continue to be built on open land and playing fields in working class areas are sold off by councils for housing.

In Wembley, an academy school is planned for Wembley Park Sports Ground. Local people want to build the site in a struggle for the land into the hands of the developers. At the moment the land can be used for as little as £1 an session. Once it is taken over by American and Swiss bankers, the cost will rocket. Although their tent city has been evicted, local people will continue the fight.

In Oldham, Lancashire five schools are to close. They are to be replaced by three academies. Two of these schools – Counthill and Breeze Hill - have huge playing fields. The current school can’t cater for school children during the day and local people of all ages in the evenings, together they boast a swimming pool, a full-sized astro-turf pitch and excellent rugby facilities. The new school is to have a couple of five a side astro-pitches! The Liberal council also plan to build a second academy on football pitches in the south of the town.

Life expectancy of Oldhamers in the working class areas served by the proposed school is 6 years lower than neighbouring middle class areas. Students at the new school will have less chance to at least remain fit never mind develop high level skills in sport. Sport for adults will become something open to those who can afford monthly gym prices. Yet again, it’s one rule for the rich and one for the poor.

Oldham is a town known for its race problems. It seems like the new schools are helping overcome some of these. Working class people from white, Bengali and Pakistani areas have all started to campaign against them. They are also realising that local politicians of all types only want to sell them out and feather their own nests. They have held large meetings and some exciting demonstrations. More are planned and the council can expect a tough time over coming months.

Subvert!

When going on demonstrations stay sober, don’t talk to the police and if you’re arrested give only your name and address then say ‘no comment’ to any other questions. For more info visit: www.ldmg.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

Roma Solidarity demonstration at 11.30am on Friday 19th September - join the AF, Manchester No Borders & Roma groups at the Italian Consulate (111 Piccadilly Manchester, M1 2HY) the day before the big ‘Stop the War’ demo at the Labour Conference. The demo follows serious attacks on Roma people in Italy including physical attacks on camps, threats of fingerprinting of the Roma population (including children) and right-wing/fascist manipulations by Italian politicians & press that are linking Roma people to ‘crime’ and ‘illegal immigration’ which is increasing populist calls for their expulsion from Italy and destruction of Roma camps.

For a world without borders, states and war! Saturday 20th September - Assembly at All Saints, Manchester. Look out for the red and black flags.

The Labour Party is holding its annual conference in Manchester. Manchester Anarchist Federation have this to say:

Welcome to Manchester, home and co sponsor of genocide!

‘Nuclear Free’ Manchester, City of Peace, this year welcomes key sponsors of the current Chronic World War - the Labour Party - for its annual conference. This is the party that brought us Bloody Sunday in 1970 when British troops massacred unarmed civilians in Northern Ireland. It brought us the war in Iraq current death toll over 1.7 million. Taking a break from efforts to start a war against Iran, Labour is hurling hypocritical accusations of genocide against the Russians.

We know that capitalism needs war and now Russia, like during the Cold War, has proved to be just another capitalist warmonger. After the Georgians annihilated the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali, the Russians moved in with their militia death squads. Russia threatened a pre-emptive nuclear strike against Poland, a NATO member. As Iraq cools down, so a new Cold War hots up.

We should not be surprised that Gordon Brown, who claimed to be a man of peace, is cheering this on. He is the same man who taxed us to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 1997, pushed for the renewal of the nuclear deterrent and the regeneration of the British fleet which is set to cost around £20 billion without a shot being fired. This is a great financial boost for business when times are hard.

This is not a war-game nor is it an accident. It is the lifeblood of a system based on profit, competition and conflict. Meanwhile the same system devastates the worlds’ largely impoverished states the worlds’ largely impoverished population and causes millions of bulletless casualties.

Anarchists have mobilised in large numbers to demonstrate against not just this war or even all wars, but against its causes. We do not need better or more left wing governments. Neither do we need a fantasy crusade for an honest politician. We don’t want to get a government back on track, or help a party regenerate. We are saying they are murderers! This is their system and a system they will kill to defend. War is the natural state of this system based on nations and borders as the organising form of international capitalism.

Labour, through its membership of NATO, along with Russia, continues to promote and exploit every conflict it can. They will do this until they leech profit from the Caucasus and across the globe. This new Cold War is of their making and it is to their benefit to keep us in danger and rallied to the interests of the state with all that entails. The state will use any method to keep us controlled, from nationalism to racism, from immigration and border controls to ID cards and increasing detention to social control.

Workers of the world have no country, should form a federation of nation or border. Mobilise to fight the bosses not their wars!
Locals say “never again” to scumfest

After a year of preparation by Notts Against the BNP (a coalition of anar- chists and left-wing activists) August 16th finally saw a national anti-fascist mobilisation against the British National Party’s ‘Red White and Blue’ festival in Derbyshire. The so-called ‘festival’, which moved to Denby in 2007 on to the land of BNP farmer Alan Warner, is an annual rallying point for the party since it was started by their uber-fascist Nick Griffin. Last year the council were unable to prevent the BNP having an events licence when the police said they could handle it. This year was very differ- ent. The licence was denied unless the fascists put up huge fences around the site, so the BNP withdrew their application after a tantrum in the council meeting at Ripley. A second ‘mini-licence’ was also denied and the mighty BNP were forced to hold their family hate event as a private party.

Door-to-door leafletting of local areas took place before the event. Then, on August 16th, a demonstration and rally took place in the nearby town of Co- nor. Elsewhere on the day, anti-fascist activists took part in a creative direct action that gave the police a headache by blocking a road ‘nearby’ to the festival site, in order to prevent access to the leadership. Unite Against Fascism (a front for Socialist Work- ers Party) really did all the dirty leading up to the demo and on the day itself. They organised a later start time with the police, behind the backs of local campaigners. Other leftists within Stop the BNP seemed more concerned with this Unite Against Fascism betrayal than actually stopping the BNP on the day. They must also be a much clearer message as to how much the Labour Party and the opposition have aided fascism with their ‘war on terror’ and anti-immigrant policies. We know this is translating into the reality of increased detention & deportation. It’s even worse in Italy, where the right wing government in is full swing, openly attacking immigrants and the Roma people. All in all, the mes- sage ‘Never Again’ against fascist or- ganising is crystal clear.


Central European workers strike back

On August 20th two Romanian work- ers in Iceland suffocated. They had been welding pipes to help expand the electric power plant in Hellishei- darvikjun. This is in order to power a new aluminium smelter.

The company tried to cover up the deaths. Because of this, foreign work- ers at the Altak firm (a contractor to public owned company Reykjavik En- ergy) held a meeting, and the non-unionised workers are now trying to get better safety conditions. Polish workers didn’t go to work for two days and if bosses don’t agree to their demands, they will all call in sick. Around 300 people are working for various companies on construc- tion-related projects.

E’on, F’off! - a pleasant stroll to Kingsnorth

The annual climate camp this year took place at Kingsnorth in Kent. Its aim was to shut down the coal fired power station as a criticism of the government policy of developing more sources of dirty energy. An AF mem- ber at the camp gives his personal account of the mass day of action:

The fluffly face of climate camp started out at 6am with a sanctioned march that was met with very scant stall- ing, spirits were high. The police twice attempted to disrupt the pro- cession but the march continued nonetheless. Upon reaching the en- trance of Kingsnorth, one sharp- witted anarchist noticed a help-desk number on the main gates. After dial- ing, we were informed: “quote unquote, apologetic security guard that he’d be straight down to let us in! (needless to say he didn’t materialize) An hour later we were told that police dogs would be unleashed should we fail to disperse. Monty Burns, eat your heart out! After about 45 minutes of drag- ging our hell, the march slipped away with most people managing to give the police escort the slip to travel through the nearby village of Hoo St Werburgh. Reaction from locals were largely positive, with many com- ing out of their homes to cheer us on, showing that the gap between pro- testers and residents is largely fabri- cated. After all, there is nothing quite as heartwarming as seeing Anarchists dancing down the road with old ladies applauding.

Direct Action in the Countryside

Setting off across the fields, about half of green bloc managed to evade the police and continued the journey to Kingsnorth. There were many obsta- cles but luckily someone had left some harris fencing to help protesters across the perimeter fence. In a simi- lar act of kindness the employees at E.on turned off the electric fence sur- rounding the station! It was only the giant numbers of riot police that stopped the green bloc from completing the trip. Those that didn’t make it as far as the inner wall hung a banner from a nearby pylon reading ‘Shut Down Kingsnorth’.

Rebel Rafters

Climate Camp was also able to boast its own naval division – the blue bloc. After ingeniously burying their boats months in advance, they managed to sneak past the police (dressed as pi- rates), and launch their boats onto the Medway with many managing to evade police speedboats! A few of the raft- ers got to the coal loading jetty, hung banni- ers and generally provided the police with a few headaches. Others managed to reach the water intake pipes before being arrested.

Despite 26 police, constant stop and search and brutal police oppression all three blocs managed to outwit 1400 cops on land and sea!

Taking back our pride

This year saw Manchester Pride celebrate it’s 18th birthday. Just like at most birthday celebrations there was a lot of drink, a lot of balloons and plenty of glit- ter. Sadly, not much else came from the event. unless of course you count the loss of the £17.50 it would have cost you to attend!

Once again the Pride organisers along with their profit-sucking sponsors such as Selfridge’s and Co and West Pro- perties decided that politics was no no. Pride was to be strictly apolitical. In fact the organisers even went as far as to deny entry to the Pride parade to any- one with banners that had slogans such as ‘Pride Not Profit’.

Sadly, Manchester Pride is not alone in forgetting that Pride should be a protest for LGBTIQ liberation and not just some market driven celebration of ‘gay life and culture’ - also known as ‘gay-only products’ and ‘gay-only nightclubs’.

At the opening ceremony of Pride sev- eral Anarchist and Queer comrades went and crashed the party. They�� travelled banners reading such slogans as ‘Too Poor To Be Gay’. Right throughout the Manchester Pride season they con- tinued to antagonise the Pride cash- cravers with mass leafleting and other activities. Not one negative comment was thrown our way by those we talked to throughout all our interventions. We sure we made our mark felt and heard.

Our message was, and remains, per- fectly clear. We won’t sit back and watch as Pride becomes an event aimed at advertising products and corporate sponsors. We stand in solidarity with all LGBTIQ individuals who feel that bosses and businesses - Lesbian, Gay or otherwise - have nothing in common with our aim of liberation and shouldn’t be running our Pride events.

At the same time we remind all LGBTQ peoples that liberation means more than begging the government for a civil partnership or equal age of consent. Our enemy is the homophobic, gender- binding capitalist system.

The camp wasn’t without its problems however. The anti-authoritarian roots of the movement seemed to be being ignored at points with standing ovations for a Liberal Democrat MP and Monbiot (read: patronising wanker) accusing anarchists of playing “political football” with the camp. It is crucial that climate camp, and environmental action in gen- eral, be kept in the hands of communi- ties involved. It is not good enough to hope for mythical ‘good leaders’.

And of course there was the usual lib- eral hippy presence on site which served to isolate the more radical camp- ers - “No I do not want to hear your story” he said. As one camp- er put it whilst resisting police in- cursions to the camp 1 can handle rotten cops, but not this drum circle rubbish.