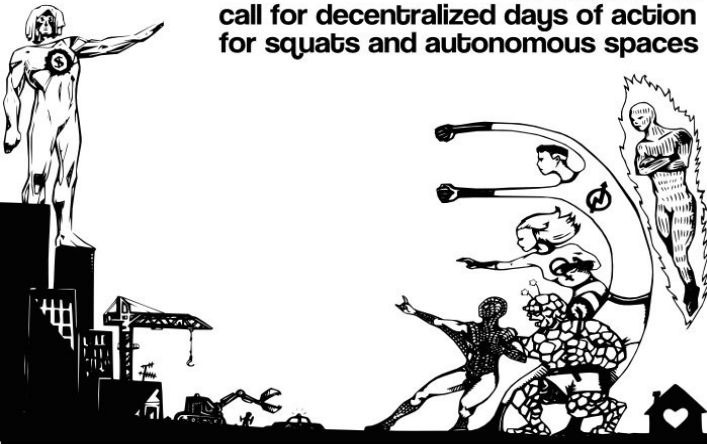


A call to action

11th and 12th of April 2008

call for decentralized days of action for squats and autonomous spaces



On April 11th and 12th of this year there will be decentralised days of action across Europe in defence of autonomous spaces. The call out is for creative resistance in a variety of forms: demonstrations, direct actions, street parties, squatting: an occasion to enable and inspire discussion, to demonstrate various possibilities and strategies and share skills. Watch this space (and check Manchester Indymedia) for any news of upcoming preparations...or why not start plotting yourself? Spread the word! <http://april2008.squat.net/en/>

There will also be a meeting (open) for the UK squatters network in Leeds on the 9th / 10th feb, where the days of action will be discussed. Email squatmeetup@googlemail.com for details of location and party.

Local Indymedia Collective to Disband

...but don't worry, this will be an act of creative destruction: a new Indymedia collective shall arise from the ruins. If you've ever fancied getting involved with the worlds biggest and best independent media project, or feel you'd like to contribute to keeping this crucial service running, then keep your eyes peeled for re-launch meetings in the spring. Again, best place to be looking is the Manchester Indymedia newswire and right here in The Freebee.

'Queer up North' and Sipson st. centre under threat

With some dodgy statistics in hand, earlier this year the Arts Council proposed plans to cut funding for the Queer up North festival. **Queerupnorth** is Europe's leading queer festival - a Manchester institution, the first of its kind in the UK and Europe, and an internationally known producer of queer arts. The organisation has also produced a touring play for secondary schools to raise awareness of homophobic bullying. Plans to create a DVD adaptation would make this vital work available to all schools in the UK. A large campaign has been established to save it, and the Arts Council are expected to announce some sort of reprieve on February 1st. For more info and to sign the petition go to... http://www.queerupnorth.com/news_detail.php?ID=591

Where to find the next Freebee

We try and scatter these here, there and everywhere, and always need more people to help with copying and distribution. For your convenience, here's a few places you can be guaranteed to find them: The 8th Day Café (oxford road), Sandbar (Grosvenor street by the Aquatic centre), Fuel (Wilmslow Road, Withington) and The Veggie Café (by John Rylands Uni library).

Bee Autonomous!

The whole, short, life of a worker bee is spent dutifully serving the queen. Decorating the floor of Manchester town hall is a mosaic depicting the bee, celebrating the relentless industrial work done by citizens during the 19th century. Today, Manchester City Council still use the symbol to represent the city, and more specifically its citizens. Clearly your city council wishes you would behave more like a drone. However, bees don't always behave as expected; Colony Collapse Disorder, also known as 'May disease', is a little understood phenomenon in which worker bees abruptly disappear. European beekeepers first observed it, but now reports come from around the world. We hired a private detective who has been able to report that as suspected, many of the bees left their colonies to go and work only when they felt appropriate, for causes they considered worthy. They often regroup in autonomous communities, where the word 'work' is made redundant.

Fight for Woodhead tunnel continues

As reported by the MEN, an alliance of politicians, green campaigners and railway enthusiasts are fighting to save the Woodhead tunnel. Mid January, dozens walked more than 6 miles from Hadfield to the mouth of the famous tunnel to support a campaign to preserve it for a future reopening of the line between Manchester and Sheffield. Owners National Grid plan to relay cables through the 1954 tunnel which would make it difficult to ever use it as a railway again. The National grid does not need planning permission but insists it has consulted with all interested parties.

www.savethewoodheadtunnel.blogspot.com

EVENTS

Free Monday Night Documentaries (7.30 at Manchester university Students union)

4th Feb—No Borders film night. Featuring Nick Broomfield's 'Ghosts' and short films of resistance against migration management.

11th Feb Anti-fascist film night.

Manchester Autonomous Drinkers Social every Thursday at the Sandbar, Grosvenor Street, from 8pm.

No Borders National Gathering Feb 15th—17th, in Manchester. Email Manchesternoborders@riseup.net for more info...

Campaigns Collective Meetings University based direct action protest group. 2nd floor students union every Monday at 5pm—see facebook group for change of venue.

Critical Mass Bike Ride Last Friday of every month, meet 6pm at central library.

Manchester No2id Street stall—9th Feb, 1pm, St Anne's square. Monthly meeting—7pm, Town hall Tavern, Tib Lane

Manchester Climate Forum Bali and Beyond: what to do in 2008. 12th Feb, 7.15pm, Friends Meeting House

CIRCA Big Shoe Camp Feb. 23rd 10am— weekend of clown army training in prep for March action. G16 in the Martin Harris Centre for music and drama.

Alternative Re-freshers Fair Tuesday 4th March 11am-4pm upstairs at Jabez Clegg Pub on Grosvenor St.

