

# MULTIMNY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS  
ISSUE #30      SEPTEMBER 2008      FREE



-Camp Hamburg

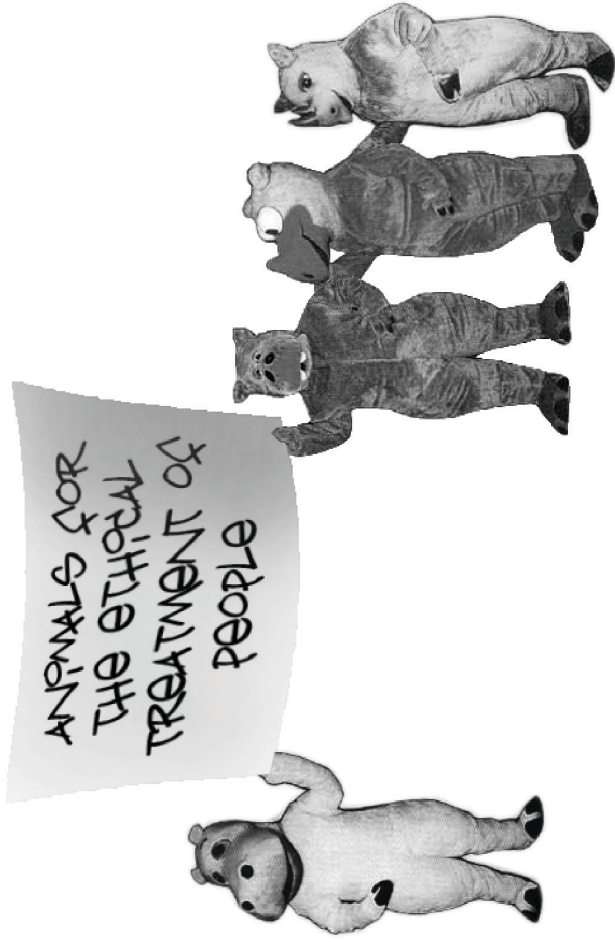
-Police Intelligence Isn't

-The Revolution Will Not Be Anglicised

-Student Housing Action Co-operative

-(The Threat of) Mass Direct Action Gets

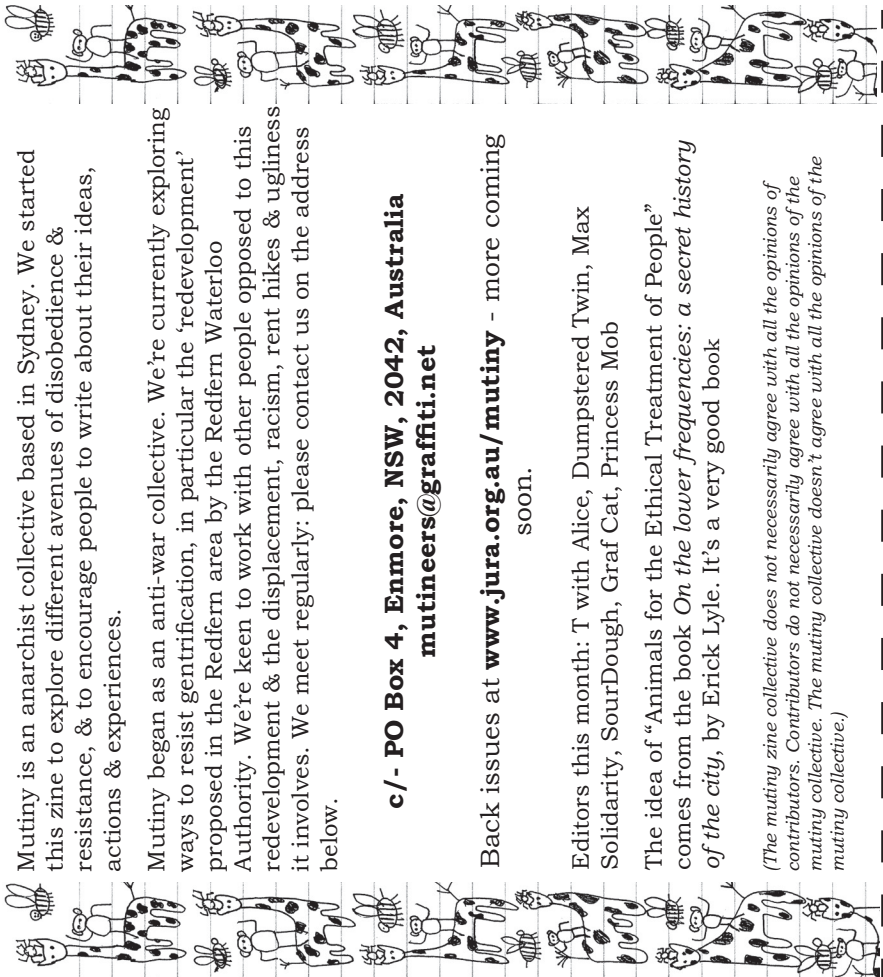
The Goods



In this month's zine:

- A day-by-day account of the actions at the Climate and Anti-Racism Camps in Hamburg.
- Feral anarchists' respond to claims that they are responsible for the cancellation of the Adelaide War Fair.
- FYI, a report on the release of the police files about the APEC excluded persons list through an F.O.I. request.
- The Student Housing Action Cooperative in Melbourne squat a building as part of a campaign towards accessible housing for all.
- News from Melbourne, Aotearoa, Peru, USA and Greece.
- Review of *Boundary Songs*, an audio walk around Redfern, by Duncan Speakman.





Mutiny is an anarchist collective based in Sydney. We started this zine to explore different avenues of disobedience & resistance, & to encourage people to write about their ideas, actions & experiences.

Mutiny began as an anti-war collective. We're currently exploring ways to resist gentrification, in particular the 'redevelopment' proposed in the Redfern area by the Redfern Waterloo Authority. We're keen to work with other people opposed to this redevelopment & the displacement, racism, rent hikes & ugliness it involves. We meet regularly: please contact us on the address below.

**c/- PO Box 4, Enmore, NSW, 2042, Australia**  
**mutineers@graffiti.net**

Back issues at **www.jura.org.au/mutiny** - more coming soon.

Editors this month: T with Alice, Dumpstered Twin, Max Solidarity, SourDough, Graf Cat, Princess Mob

The idea of "Animals for the Ethical Treatment of People" comes from the book *On the lower frequencies: a secret history of the city*, by Erick Lyle. It's a very good book

*(The mutiny zine collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of contributors. Contributors do not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective. The mutiny collective doesn't agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective.)*

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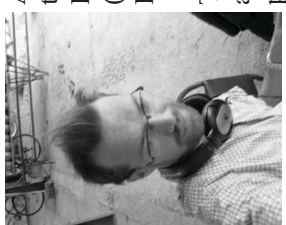
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# Reviews

## Duncan Speakman's Boundary Songs



Audio Walks around the neighbourhood at Performance Space (CarriageWorks), Redfern.

The front page of the artist's website has a photo of a tag of the Aboriginal flag, and this comment: "This tag was found in Redfern, a district of Sydney where the issues faced by the indigenous population really hit you in the face. (I'm still overwhelmed and embarrassed by my lack of knowledge about recent events here, especially the Stolen Generations and segregation). I'm here courtesy of Performance Space making work for their LiveWorks festival."

It's midday on Friday, bloody cold, grey and raining. Me and a housemate walk down the street to CarriageWorks past some construction workers doing repairs to a section of the building which is to soon become a market. Inside the main foyer there are only a few people milling about, staffing information desks and coffee machines. We wander around the huge cold space looking at the installations- an inflatable igloo which functions as the bar during intervals of stage shows; shoes made out of hair; a black-and-white camouflaged seating area. It seems we're the first people here today.

Another friend meets us and we collect MP3 players from the artist himself (who lives in Bristol, UK), as well as maps of the routes we're supposed to take which are just coloured lines with street names written on them. He asks if we're locals, we say yes. He says then we won't need the overlay of

an actual map to put over the ones he's given us. He shows us the overlay. It's a roadmap which puts everything else into perspective.

We head back outside into the rain with one small umbrella between the three of us. We each put on our headphones and push play when we hit Raglan St. We walk around the back of the TAFE as Duncan's voice introduces a story by a Redfern local: He had come out of TAFE to find his bike, which he had locked to a fence behind the building, missing. Later in the day his friend rung him to say he's sorry he had to steal his bike coz he had to get to Glebe real quick, where some friends were in trouble with the police. The narrator then says he can't believe he was hating on Redfern for no reason, the place he had loved all his life.

By this time we're walking up Abercrombie, towards the Glengarry. The guy's story is over, and I'm listening to some rather uninteresting music over some field recordings which I assume were taken in Redfern. I hear very loud sirens. Unsure of whether they're from the recording, I take out my earphones. Right in front of us, a cop van turns around at the lights, sirens blazing and speeds off towards the train station. Another cop car speeds past us and parks on a side street. Five cops corner four people against the wall of a fancy office building and start hassling them. Most people (uni students) just walk past. Some people stop and watch, looking concerned. We watch the cops questioning them for a while and talking into their walkie-talkies. The rain gets heavier. My companions and I decide to head up to Wilson Street and back to CarriageWorks, listening to one of Speakman's tracks at random, taking our own, 'unsanctioned', route through our neighbourhood.

navin



## (THE THREAT OF) MASS DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS MUTINY STATEMENT ON THE CANCELLED WAR FAIR

When people first started talking about shutting down the APDSE (Asia Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition), which was to be held in Adelaide from November 11, it seemed like an almost impossible task. Now they've announced that they've called it off! And they called it off because of fears of protests from 'feral anarchists', including 'the ultra-militant protest group Mutiny.'

It's obvious that this victory really had very little to do with us. The arms fair was called off because of the hard work of many people organising against it. The South Australian government wasn't scared of our small collective: they were scared of disruption from the large, militant demonstration and blockade that was being planned. It's obvious that an arms fair isn't going to be popular. The state and the capitalist media aren't really fooling anyone when they call their weapons festival 'defence' & our plans to stand in its way 'violence'.

It's clear that when the acting SA premier talked about 'feral, low-life people,' who are 'dangerous to society,' he was talking about everyone who was planning to protest the arms fair. He was trying to insult and isolate everyone involved in grass roots organising: those who would have chosen to blockade, as well as those whose understanding of 'non-violence' would have led them to less direct forms of protest.



We see similarities between his use of the usual clichés to denounce the entire protest and how, in the past, certain protest groups have condemned others who do not strictly follow their ideas of what a protest should be. The strength of any mass protest is our ability to work together with a variety of tactics, & no group gains the right to dictate what behaviour is appropriate simply by calling themselves 'non-violent'.

We hope that next time there's such a public media attack on 'violent protesters' others will remember that it's an attack on them too, and will stand in solidarity with those targeted rather than seeking 'respectability' by distancing themselves (or by joining in the attack).

We all shut down the arms fair before it happened because it was clear that there was going to be a public and disruptive refusal to tolerate it, and that this was part of a broad opposition to the arms fair.

The cancellation of the arms fair showed clearly the power of shared intent & respect for a diversity of tactics. It was a victory because people who wanted to physically blockade the conference site refused to be excluded by debates about 'non-violence', but insisted that standing in the way of this arms fair was the right thing to do.

Mutiny was merely a scapegoat for the decision to shut it down. However, the successful protest planning - and the victory it won us all - makes us feel that, even though it has made us a target for police attention and unwanted publicity over the past few years, our decision to talk openly about the politics of militant direct action has been worth something.

## BRIEF NEWS

"This was a motion that arose spontaneously from the floor of the meeting because people are angry at the way the company has treated them both in terms of Enterprise Agreement negotiations and also the redundancy announcements," said Michael Bachelard, a senior journalist at The Age.

On August 29th, wearing t-shirts reading "Fair Go Fairfax" and "Don't Discount Journalism", about 80 Fairfax journalists picketed the offices at Pyrmont in central Sydney. Additional security surrounded the building, a move some picketers jokingly dubbed Fairfax's "ring of steel".

Earlier that day, prominent columnist Mike Carlton was sacked after refusing to cross the picket line to write his weekly column for the Herald's Saturday edition.

**Rotterdam/NZ:** The deposition hearing for the 20 people arrested in State Terror Raids in October 2007 began on September 1. Terrorism charges were not successfully laid by police, but other charges are proceeding in the aftermath of the raids, known by police as 'Operation 8'. These are racially and politically motivated charges aimed at people who were seen by police as supporting Tino Rangatiratanga (Maori Sovereignty).

On Wednesday 10th, during the depositions hearing 2 people were arrested outside - one of the Operation 8 arrestees and his partner. His partner is breastfeeding their newborn at the moment and the cops wouldn't let their lawyer bring the baby in to get fed while she was in the cells for 4 hours. The crown tried to deny the Operation 8 arrestee bail at all, but a judge let him out.

A Global Day of Action calling for the charges to be dropped saw rallies in Auckland, Wellington, Palmerston North & Melbourne, & banner drops in Germany.

Ongoing information can be found at: <http://www.october15thsolidarity.info>

**Minnesota, USA:** In what appears to be the first use of criminal charges under the 2002 Minnesota version of the Federal Patriot Act, Ramsey County Prosecutors have formally charged 8 alleged leaders of the RNC (Republican National Convention) Welcoming Committee with

**Melbourne court:** Four demonstrators involved in the G20 actions had their sentences cut on appeal. Beth Nathan, Sofia Todorova and Rosalie Delaney had convictions recorded against them overturned and Julia Dehm had a suspended sentence reduced to community work.

'Serial protester' Ms Dehm had applied to have her conviction overturned so she can still practise as a lawyer. But Judge David Parsons said her offence - of throwing a barricade that was said to injure a cop - warranted a conviction. He said that should serve as a special punishment and deterrent so he reduced her seven month suspended jail term to 250 hours community work.

Judge Parsons said Ms Nathan, Ms Todorova and Ms Delaney had committed offences against symbols, like the police van, rather than the officers.

David Nguyen, who threw a bottle at police, unfortunately lost his appeal and a conviction and 250 hours community work stands.

At a recent case conference three more people informed the court that they would plead guilty to riot charges in return for other charges being dropped.

**Sydney and Melbourne:** After the announcement that 550 jobs would be cut by Fairfax Media in Australia and New Zealand, journalists at The Age (Melbourne) and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers went on strike until the following Monday.

Fairfax, which owns many of the highest circulation newspapers in both countries, increased its profit by 46.8% in the year to June 2008, to AU\$386.9 million, but is claiming it needs to reduce costs to increase profits even further. Of the jobs to go, 160 have been announced for New Zealand (100 further redundancies, and non-replacement of 60 staff who had recently left or been made redundant) with the rest across the Australian Fairfax stable.

Conspiracy to Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism. They face up to 7 1/2 years in prison under the terrorism enhancement charge, which allows for a 50% increase in the maximum penalty.

Affidavits released by law enforcement which were filed in support of the search warrants used in raids over the weekend, and used to support the arrest warrants, are based on paid, confidential informants who infiltrated the ANCLUC on behalf of law enforcement. They allege that members of the group sought to kidnap delegates to the RNC, assault police officers with firebombs and explosives, and sabotage airports in St. Paul. So far, evidence released to date does not corroborate the allegations of the informants.

The Prosecution do not allege that any of the defendants personally have engaged in any act of violence or damage to property, but instead seek to hold the 8 defendants responsible for acts committed by other individuals. Searches conducted in connection with the raids failed to turn up any physical evidence to support the allegations of organised attacks on law enforcement. As a result, police sought to claim that the seizure of common household items supported the allegations of the confidential informants. "Police found what they claim was a single plastic shield, a rusty machete, and two hatchets used in Minnesota to split wood. This doesn't amount to evidence of an organised insurrection, particularly when over 3,500 police are present in the Twin Cities, armed with assault rifles, concussion grenades, chemical weapons and full riot gear," said Nestor.

During protests against the Republican National Convention, over 800 people were arrested. Those arrested included dozens of media workers, both freelance and affiliated, as well as volunteer street medics, who were on hand to assist with unintended injuries. Moreover, reports have surfaced of brutality and torture and racial profiling by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agents at the Ramsey County Jail where protesters were being held.

Many of the arrestees were taken in "pre-emptive" roundups the weekend before the convention began. Many were also taken in mass roundups during protests, such as a violent police attack on people who had converged from the

Poor People's March and a multi-act outdoor concert where Rage Against the Machine was prevented from playing. This led to dozens of arrests and "crowd dispersal" tactics involving the use of allegedly "non-lethal" weapons, including concussion grenades, tear gas and pepper spray. Outside pressure and jail solidarity countered these abuses of power somewhat, resulting in improved prison conditions, including some detainees receiving overdue medical attention.

Protests at the Democratic National Convention in Denver saw about 200 arrests.

**Peru:** In August, indigenous people in Peru held a successful week of nationwide militant protests against new laws that would have opened their lands to exploitation for oil and gas. The laws, supported by President Alan García, were aimed at promoting private investment in communal territories, & were introduced as part of the country's free trade agreement with the US.

A state of emergency was declared after thousands of Amazonian tribespeople armed with spears, bows and arrows took over main roads, a hydroelectric dam, and oil and gas installations in the provinces of Cusco, Loreto and Amazonas. Protesters closed a bridge and highway & threatened to cut the supply of oil via the oil pipeline and gas through the Camiseo gas pipeline. An estimated 12,000 people from 65 tribes participated in actions, leading to the repeal of the challenged laws.

**Thessaloniki, Greece:** Greek police say a group of about 70 youths protesting high consumer prices seized food and household products from a supermarket before handing them out to people on the street.

The youths, wearing hoods and crash helmets, also scattered leaflets outside the supermarket. Police announced no arrests.

The rise of Greek food prices generally outpaces inflation. The cost of food and nonalcoholic drinks rose 5.2 percent on the year in July, when consumer prices were up 4.9 percent from July 2007.

This was one of a number of unarmed 'robin hood' raids provoked by soaring consumer prices. An elderly bystander interviewed on TV about the action said "next time we'll do it ourselves."

Police documents relating to the APEC 'Excluded Persons' list were recently released thanks to a Freedom of Information Request from a journalist.

The 'Excluded Persons list' was one feature of the extravaganza of police-state laws put in place for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in September last year. It was a list of people who were banned for the summit period from entering certain areas of Sydney, including most of the centre of the city. There were no real guidelines about what it took to be placed on the list, & there were no requirements of the police to justify or explain their decisions.

Most of the 61 people on the list were there for one of three reasons: they had charges pending from the G20 protests in Melbourne in 2006; they were environmental activists associated with Greenpeace or the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), who had taken part in one of two direct actions about climate change; or they were associated with Mutiny.

For a dozen people, membership of Mutiny was all that was required to get them banned from the city. Mutiny is described in the files as 'an anarchist group consisting of a number of layers of trust & information management. Currently it consist of a small group of individuals who form what appears to be an inner core group responsible for the clandestine planning & preparation for violence & malicious damage aimed at police & APEC corporate targets. This core group meets regularly at a covert location to discuss the details of these plans.' This overblown description is clearly an attempt to make our ordinary political activity seem sinister. I'd assume the police know, as everyone else does, that the 'covert' location we meet at is Black Rose Books (& the occasional pub).

The police would be incredibly stupid not to know that, because the files reveal a high level of surveillance. People's personal relationships are noted – one person is said to be 'a known associate of the leader of the anarchist group Mutiny', which shows that their observation hasn't yet led them to understand anarchism.

In some cases monitoring of political activity has clearly gone on for some years: part of one file reads 'For at least the past four years [name removed] has actively participated in protest activity targeted [sic] selected persons, organisations and events. Initially his activities were mainly focused on refugee rights and local issues such as Aboriginal youths and student rights. Over the past eighteen months however, his focus appears to have shifted towards anti-globalisation activity as demonstrated by his participation in the protests against the Forbes Conference and G20.'

Other information noted about people includes details of activities such as using their credit card to hire a bus to go to a student conference, opening a PO box, sending out emails, being involved in organising for the FLARE in the Void convergence, participating in previous protests, and supporting other people in court.

Other organisations mentioned include: University of Sydney student housing co-op Stucco (which is said to have housed 'a number of associates of Mutiny members', & many students who have 'strong links to issue motivated groups'), Melbourne's Alliance for Civil Disobedience Coordination (ACDC), Stop the War Coalition, Sydney University Environment Collective, University of Sydney Anarchists, Rising Tide, Resistance and Stop Bush Coalition.

Some assessments read like part of an activist resume. For example, one person 'is known to police for his ability to motivate, coordinate & organise protest events & demonstrations', & another has the evaluation that 'his ideologies, intelligence & level of education make him a particularly high risk activist.'

# Police Intelligence Isn't.

by Princess Mob



One Chinese student studying at Swinburne University, who did not want to be named, told *The Age* she had lived in the living room of a two-bedroom city apartment for six months, which housed five other people. It is these conditions that lead international students to sleep in the 24-hour computer labs at RMIT & other universities.

International students are a hyper-exploited workforce whether they are studying at MIT, CQU, Sydney University – & it is the 20 hour work restriction that makes it so: firstly because it restricts international student mobility in the labour market to the lowest-paid end of the scale, secondly because the cost of study means that for those who are forced to earn their course fees, there is no question that many will have to breach these restrictions – & risk deportation – to meet their financial obligations to the university.

The National Union of Students, in particular, all National President's of the National Union of Students within my political memory (i.e. since 2000) with the exception of Michael Nguyen, have been actively hostile to the international students department, & campaigning around the rights of international students. NUS & campus student unions have on many occasions used racialised plagiarism scandals to point-score in regards to privatisation, actively contributing to the stereotype of international students as wealthy cheats, buying their way into "our" higher education system & taking "our" uni places. In the most extreme cases, like that of the business interests of those members of the Labor Right who actively destroyed the old Melbourne University Student Union, local students have used their knowledge of international student vulnerability to turn a profit.

The left claims to support those incarcerated or abused by border protection schemes – yet we have historically said very little about the conditions under which students come into Australia. International student issues in regards to housing, racial violence, & worker exploitation are increasingly in the media. The left claims to speak for all students – yet student welfare & education campaigns are often confined to whingeing about youth allowance, just months after a group of students (the cabbies) took to the streets asking their passengers to stop killing them at work.

For all the talk in the left about the working class, or the undercommons, or however we choose to describe it—when international students as workers are organising & fighting back we are often slow to respond. I don't quite understand why, but I suspect it is a lot more to do with the extent to which the left has been convinced by the racist left nationalist defence of Aussie jobs & Aussie university places than most would care to admit. If we only like to stand in solidarity with those brown people who we can define as totally helpless & victimised (refugees), & whom we can manoeuvre ourselves to speak on behalf of, is it any wonder that our "movement" remains overwhelmingly white despite the massive transformation in the racial composition of the Australian working class, for which international students & former international students are significantly responsible?

Perhaps what I really mean to ask is: for how long can the "student movement", & the "workers movement" ignore the struggles of international students before it seems less like incompetence & more like complicity?



*Taxi drivers blockade streets in central Melbourne while on strike in April*

# Student Housing Action Cooperative

By Mariscal

On the evening of Tuesday 19th August twenty students from the University of Melbourne calling themselves Student Housing Action Collective (SHAC) occupied the four terraces marked with the numbers 272-278 in Faraday Street, Carlton. Their proposal was to transform the premises, left idle for the previous three years, into a student-run housing co-operative. A conflict was set up between an autocratic University administration and students with legitimate claims for autonomy.



A careful planning process was carried out in the six weeks leading to the action. The student collective was divided into groups each one with specific responsibilities: media, research and strategy, building works including gardening, safe spaces policy, university liaison, police liaison, etc.

Two precedents were particularly relevant from the start. One was the experience of the Student Housing Cooperative (STUCCO) at Sydney University which provided an example of an action that had managed to sustain itself in the long term. Closer to home, there was the experience of the Melbourne University Affordable Student Housing Collective. In 2005 a group of students, some of them currently linked to our project, squatted a government owned property on Keppel St. Carlton. In that occasion the State Government ordered police to evict the occupants within a week.

Central to the initial stages of the Faraday Street occupation was a well-coordinated media strategy. It was built around the vice-chancellor's statement last July that there were at least 400 Melbourne University students in a state of homelessness. That statement made headlines in mainstream press and gave us a significant





if precarious degree of protection. It would be a PR disaster for the university to be perceived as rushing to evict students from hitherto unused property; a disaster that would only compound the bad publicity surrounding the controversial implementation of the “Melbourne Model” reforms. We decided that in contrast to the Keppel St action we had to be open with the media from the word go. As students were walking into Faraday St, press releases were going out to major media outlets followed by calls to radio-stations the following morning. Regardless of whether or not journalists or editors were sympathetic to our action, we needed to be in print so people would know about us. That objective was accomplished and as a consequence the University was put in check and remains in check until now.

In terms of our internal organisation an issue has come to the fore that has the potential to derail our project. The hectic character and relentless multiplication of tasks that we confronted in the first days of the occupation had the effect of making our working groups disappear. Suddenly everybody was doing everything but many things weren't actually getting done and many others weren't properly finished. We realised that what was actually happening

was that tasks were being concentrated in a core group of people while others were dropping off the SHAC bus or having cups of tea in the back seat. We have had to move quickly to restore our task division and participation is picking up again. It is very interesting to see how the highs and lows in group morale coincide with the highs and lows of group participation.

Since moving in, SHAC has become a little hub of community activity, holding regular open dinners, breakfasts, film screenings and public meetings. Periodical working bees are organised in which everybody's skills are directed to turning derelict, isolated and bureaucracy-flavoured spaces into an embracing home. We even got tips from some of our friends amongst which we count the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), Union Solidarity, Electrical Trades Union (ETU) and the Carlton

“We do not just work in your 7-11s, we do not just work in your petrol stations, we do not just drive your cabs – we drive your economy” – from a protest speech at the cabbie strike

Mickie Skelton, a Melbourne uni student, artist & journo, who brought food to the striking cabbies, wrote this about the strike:

“The labour pool from which Night-shift Taxi drivers are drawn, as are many casual service industry workers, overwhelmingly consists of International students from nations such as China or India, whose student visa conditions prevent them from working more than 20 hours in one week during semester. A breach of these working conditions is sufficient to compel the retraction of the visa, often without any right to appeal.

As is the nature of casual labour, employers often use various informal measures to compel workers to take on more shifts, & work longer hours, without the incentive of permanency or pay rise. Effectively what this means in the context of the 20 hour working limit for International Students, is that more mainstream casual hire jobs for unskilled labour are harder to secure, seeing as the worker in this case is required not only to inform the employer that they do not wish to work more than 20 hours, but in fact cannot, & thus cannot be pressured to do so.

This has several results, with one of the most significant being that Migrants will take on jobs where they are able to discreetly work over their 20 hour limit, which naturally is accompanied by a corresponding reluctance to be assertive about working conditions on the fear of being fired, or worse reported for visa breach.

A second effect is that International students often take on jobs that many people would consider beneath them, such as late-night petrol station attendants, 7-11 clerks, call centre operators, night shift security guards or taxi drivers. The idea of these jobs as low-status occupations does not go unrecognised by those who work them. The perception of these jobs as undesirable is contributed to not only by their low pay & poor hours, along with total lack of union support, but is also reinforced by the ethnicity of those most likely to work it. In this way the denigrating aspect of these jobs becomes a repeating cycle, as deep seated racism spits upon these workers & their jobs while also forcing them into them. The language used by my informants reinforces this division of ethnicity, as they spoke of jobs which “Australians” would not do – in this case the exclusive caste of “Australian” corresponding to a perceived racial divide, reinforced by the economic division of labour. However, this low-status perception is not necessarily something which is accepted by the workers of these professions, & the protest which I attended can on one level be read & understood as a rupturing point at the level of respect, where the amount of respect afforded to the protestors had dipped too radically beneath their own levels of self-image.”

The cabbies whose homes I have visited whilst helping out with the Victorian Taxi Drivers Association (VTDA) sleep, study, work in shifts. There might be one computer in the house, with many more students than beds, with drivers splitting cab shifts, & studying & eating around their work hours, whatever they may be. & of course, in regards to housing, local students tend to know which suburbs are cheaper, & safer in regards to public transport. International students do not.

It was these kinds of conditions that lead to the death of three Indian international students in a house fire in Footscray in January this year.

**EST. 1995**

## BARRICADE BOOKS

**Melbourne anarchist info-shop**

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**62 St. Georges rd, Northcote**  
**Opening Hours: Monday, Friday**  
**Saturday 2-6pm.**

We stock a range of books on anarchism, activism, gender/queer issues, environment, animal liberation, workers struggles, indigenous resistance, plus zines, magazines, patches, music and propaganda. We also will be hosting film nights and events, as well as an extensive anarchist lending library.





# THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE ANGLICISED: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT

BY RED SONJA

*"Considering borders only as systems of control facing the outside, oriented towards the international sphere, immigration & global flows, is to run the risk of not understanding the importance of borders in the governance & biopolitical composition of the nation's interior." <http://www.migreurop.org/article913.html>*

In August 2006, Masters of Accounting student Rajneesh Joga was murdered in his workplace, in his cab. Taxi drivers staged a sit-in at Flinders Street station & marched to Parliament. They secured a mass meeting held at Flemington Racecourse with the then Victorian transport Minister, Peter Batchelor, promising safety improvements including the introduction of safety screens. The promises came to nothing, & in the early hours of 29th April 2008, Jaiwinder Singh, a 23 year old international student was stabbed in his cab. The police, though they came to the scene to investigate his abandoned cab, which had slammed into a pole, did not find Jaiwinder, who lay bleeding a hundred metres away. He was found by pedestrians hours later. Jaiwinder is alive, but still very weak, & still has to pay his medical bills & work out how to pay his international student fees now that he cannot drive his cab.

On the 29th & 30th April 2008, hundreds of taxi drivers, mostly students, staged a protest outside Flinders Street station.

Unlike the previous action, drivers were not allowed to use the radio dispatch system to organise the protest. The drivers were predominantly informed of the action via text message, passed amongst the night-time driver student networks. In the 3 months since the strike, there have been at least 21 incidents of hospitalisation of Indian international student cabbies. 8 of these have been stabbings.

The concentration of Indian international students in this dangerous & precarious employment should of itself cause people to question the common stereotype of the cashed up international student.

Sergio Fiedler, project officer with the UNSW Student Guild, put it this way in a submission to a Senate Inquiry into Higher Education in 1999:

**"The status of international students within Australian society has been a polemical issue. The common stereotype is that they are from extremely wealthy backgrounds & therefore able to afford full fees in Australia. Coming from places that some consider part of the Third World, these students are certainly part of the elite or middle classes in their own countries. However, the international students' experience in Australia is often one of discrimination & disadvantage in relation to their local counterparts. In this respect, the process of coming to Australia & becoming a student in a local University such as UNSW involves -as it mostly happens through immigration- a drastic & downward change in social position within society."** (My emphasis)

In other words, it is arguable that regardless of the class status of international students in their home country, their relationship to Australian border control mechanisms, namely, their lack of labour market mobility & effectively restricted political rights, their class position shifts significantly once they are subject to these controls: i.e. from the moment they enter the country.

## SHAC EVENTS

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER  
PUBLIC FORUM & SPEAKERS:  
MUOSS, UNITE & TENANTS UNION

TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

LAW STUDENTS SOCIETY  
ENVIRO FILM FESTIVAL  
OIL, PEOPLE, NATURE. FEATURING 'OIL ON ICE'.

EVERY MONDAY - 5.30 TIL 9 PM  
PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD

EVERY TUESDAY - 8PM  
SHAC CINEMATHEQUE

EVERY WEDNESDAY - 6PM  
SKILLS SHARE

EVERY FRIDAY - 6PM

DADDY'S COOK UP (BBQ)

EVERY SATURDAY - ALL DAY  
WORKING BEA AND TEA

branch of the Melbourne Fire Brigade. We also have established relationships with the National Union of Students (NUS), the University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association (UMPA), the University of Melbourne Student Union and La Mama theatre.

The underlying principle of our action confronts head-on the way in which the University usually reduces students' issues to managerial problems. However, we decided that in our dealings with the university our language would not be confrontational. Strategic reasons aside, we have considered our action so legitimate that there is no reason to alienate in advance any of the parts that might be in some way involved: university, local government, media, etc. The proviso here is that in no case, concessions would be made that could prove detrimental to SHAC's autonomous character.

This of course sets up one of the biggest challenges for us. How to combine direct action with conciliatory negotiation? This was exemplified by the situation that arose as a product of our official introduction to University Council. For that occasion we had the President of the Postgraduate Association speaking to a report and presentation we prepared beforehand. The immediate objective here was to prevent a sense of crisis from spreading amongst members of Council. We needed to give them a sense that we knew what we were doing, even if they did not agree with it so they would not panic and hit the eviction button. In the end the presentation was quite successful and bought us some time. It felt like a victory. The trouble is it was actually a bureaucratic victory not a real one. Our actual victories can only be political in the sense of achieving support from people who feel directly affected and get involved. On the one hand, dealing with the university might give us a sense that we are being coopted by the system. On the other hand we need to remember that only radicals achieve real reforms.



# camp hamburg

BY JUSTRED

## Reportback of the Climate and Anti-Racism Camp

For the first time ever in Germany, the Climate and Anti-Racist Camps were held simultaneously in Hamburg 15-24th August 2008. The camps were held together for both practical and political reasons. On the practical side these included shared posters and momentum building, shared workshop spaces, kitchen and toilets.

The interface between the two camps was politically interesting due to the many links between the issues of climate and racism, such as migration, exploitation of Global South people and resources, climate refugees, and of course the systematic problems with capitalism which put profits before both people and the environment. It was also clear that the environmental movement had much to learn from the anti-racist movement and vice-versa.

The camp was somewhat smaller than estimated, with approximately 1500 people camping throughout the week. It was held in a field somewhere in an outer-suburb of Hamburg. The camp had all the expected facilities: info tent, workshops board and tents, press information stall, media/internet tent, security lookouts, a safer spaces area, a bar, people's kitchen, 3 cafes, medics, composting toilets, a craft area, a kid's tipi and more! There was also a minimum 4 hours of camp radio per day, organised by Hamburg's Free Radio group. Though the organising of the 2 camps was separate, it was hard to differentiate them once they started.

There was a joint programme with workshops from both camps, and many actions each day, many with overlapping focuses. The camp was organised with a spokescouncil model. Meetings were held at 9am each morning (ouch!) and members of barrios (camp neighbourhoods), affinity groups and the camp could attend and pass information on camp happenings and action planning back to their respective people.



The week was full with workshops and both centralised and de-centralised actions. A brief outline of some of the actions:

**Saturday:** Demonstration through the town centre to announce the start of the camp.

**Sunday:** Soccer against Racism. A festival in the park with soccer competitions, food and information stalls.

**Monday:** "Reclaim your Supermarket",

theatrical blockade of "Aldi". Anti-nuclear action, where people persuaded the public that nuclear waste would need to be dumped in the middle of Hamburg. (And some of them believed it!!)

**Tuesday:** Demonstration to and blockade of Germany's largest grain refinery ADM. Demonstration outside a training centre for "Frontex", the European Union's border patrol. Attack on a deportation office with 30 odd people, a hammer and a fire extinguisher full of red paint.

**Wednesday:** An action with boats and theatre on the lake in the middle of Hamburg, to demonstrate against a dam project in Turkey with German funding. A radio "ballet"; a flashmob kind of idea where people met at a supermarket, all listening to the instructions on the radio and theatrically demonstrated a number of problems with the establishment and it's products. A festival in a suburb of Hamburg which spioned off people for a walk-on to the building site of a new coal-fired power plant called Moorburg. And a political tour of Hamburg.

**Thursday:** Anti-Deportation Action day, with a bike and a walking demonstration to 4 different buildings connected with deportations, beginning with the Auslaenderbehoerder.

**Friday:** "Flooding", a mass blockade of Hamburg's airport, where many asylum seekers are deported from.

Outside the airport, there was a rally and demonstration, which walked towards the airport and rallied in a car park for a number of hours. There was a RTS (Reclaim the Street) that was dispersed by police before it reached the airport, and a number of spontaneous blockades. Inside the airport, there were lots of decentralised actions including theatre, shouting slogans and hanging banners.

**Saturday:** A mass action intended to blockade the building site at Moorburg. Unfortunately it was raining heavily and the police presence was high. Though crew rallied outside for a number of hours and tried to get inside, they were unable.

There was also heavy police force used on a number of people who returned to the airport to reproduce Friday's actions. The number of actions and their scope was truly inspiring.

Back at the camp, there were a couple issues that arose. Language barriers were persistent, hindering people's full participation. Things did improve, but sometimes translation was still lacking. Sexism also was an issue, with an incident that raised the issues of sexism and patriarchy into both the camp, and its place in Climate Camp politics.

A 1 1/2 hour workshop was given about Australia's Climate Camp with 15-20 participants. People were really interested about the movement, and inspired in the knowledge that we are a strong global movement.

For photos and more information (mostly in German I'm afraid!) see: <http://de.indymedia.org>, <http://camp08.antira.info> or <http://klimacamp08.net>

