



ISSUE 6, 01.06.04

# NewsWire

cambridge.indymedia.org.uk

## Grafton Centre Mayday picnic: security "extremely jealous"

elGonzo, 30.04.2004 23:00

Mayday! Despite the weather, which was spreading grey throughout Cambridge, a group of wayward picnic-ers from the Cambridge Action Network had decided to set up to enjoy a calm picnic in the Grafton Centre earlier today. Well, it was out of the cold at least.

The cunning police and the Grafton Centre heavy squad had planned ahead (an intense stickering campaign may have alerted them to the group's movements) and they wedged themselves in the main entrance. Luckily, the group had a plan and went round to the back door, which only had three pot smoking fourteen year olds on guard, who were easily diverted.

Once inside, the group converged to make plans and set up the picnic. 'We are more than just consumers' leaflets being handed out, information about the shop-workers unions was distributed to shopkeepers. A few short puffs (never short on breath, this group) and a 100 'End Child Labour' balloons were inflated, within minutes a 100 small children were happy with their new shiny red 'activist' balloons, parents struggling to try and think of a reason to take a balloon from their child.

A mixed reaction from the crowd, one particular fine example of an upstanding gentleman tried to force money upon the group for the tea and biscuits, his mind warped from many years in 'hard

business'. After partaking in the freebies he 'turned' on the group, encouraging them to 'Spend, Spend, SPEND!' Turns out he was one of us, a distraction technique and an excuse to wear a fine suit.

Security decided to step in, maybe jealous of the tea and biscuits now being handed out to bemused shoppers.

*Security: You're going to have to leave, and you can't film in here.*

Luckily he only said this to one of the group, so the video camera got handed round to someone else, who was allowed to film. Security then seemed to take an excessive interest in the pros and cons of child labour and decided to try and 'collect and read' all the leaflets that were being handed out. Mr Cameraman decided to get some 'close up' shots of this leaflet confiscating action and was promptly told to...

*Security: Stop filming!*

*Mr Cameraman: No.*

*Security (a sweat breaking): You have to leave.*

*Mr Cameraman: Do I?*

The atmosphere dropped a notch, Mr Security's beady little eyes narrowed. If Mr Cameraman was a movie star he may see a shifty reflection in those beady eyes, several security guards had laid down their pies and were advancing on him from behind. Instead of James Bond double back-flip there was shock as Mr Cameraman found himself caught in the classic 'Three on one Grafton ejection' grip, luckily their own gluttony failed them and the arm lock slipped and Mr Cameraman escaped from their greasy paws, he lives to shoot film another day...

Others weren't so lucky and soon the 'Complete Grafton Ejection' manoeuvre was in full swing; cups, rugs, people and half opened packets of Jammy Dodgers thrown into the street.

Out on the street, Mr Cameraman: "I can't believe how crazy they went, all people were trying to do was educate the public about employment conditions of the people from other countries who make this shit for us. And anyway, I thought the security would be up for free Jammy Dodgers, but I guess they filled up on pies?"

Cambridge IndyMedia provides a platform for reports from the struggles for a world based on freedom, cooperation, justive and solidarity. As part of the global IndyMedia network, Cambridge IndyMedia is created through a system of Open Publishing: anyone can contribute a written, video or audio report of pirture to the Web site. All articles and pictures in this newsletter are the work of local activists.

If you'd like to get involved, e-mail [imc-cambridge-contact@lists.indymedia.org](mailto:imc-cambridge-contact@lists.indymedia.org) or come to one of our open meetings at 7.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of every month in Clown's Café, King Street.

After a quick regroup and rethink, a new location was found, this time just outside the Grafton centre, public land. The rugs out, biscuits back on the plate, the picnic in full swing again. Some jugglers arrived of course, a quick appearance by a Subcommandante Marcos impersonator, more leaflets, more juggling, tea, cakes and happiness.

The Police decided to show their face, keeping their distance and letting the group be, it seemed they were mostly keen on stopping people cycling on the pavement, a worthy use of 'the people's' money.

The clouds were still hanging low, the day still grey, people still shopping... For a few people though, a lightness had touched them, who can't help but smile when you see a picnic in full swing. And some of the smiles came forward, took leaflets, were interested in finding out more. They took the words away with them, some knowledge. Maybe they were just a little bit more **AWARE** as they picked up some useless item they have been told they need, maybe they put it back down, left the shop and thought about having a picnic instead?



## Scream against war, torture and occupation

Cambridge IMC, 31.05.2004 20:57

It has become clear that the British and American governments are guilty of serious abuses in Iraq. A leaked report from the International Committee of the Red Cross contradicts George Bush's assertion that Abu Grahیب had merely been a scene of "disgraceful conduct by a few American troops." The ICRC director of communications, Pierre Kraehenbuchel insisted that there was "a broad pattern, not individual acts, there was a pattern and a system." Furthermore the occupying forces have not improved the humanitarian situation. and the number of Iraqi civilians killed is estimated to be between 9,921 and 11,071.

In response to the atrocities, and to the overall disaster of the occupation, activists from the Cambridge Action Network (C.A.N.) organised a Scream against War, Occupation and Torture. On Thursday 20th May activists from this group along with other residents from Cambridge met outside the Town Hall in market square at 1.30 pm. Kristina Weaver, an activist who had participated in a collective scream before, explained the action to the group and to onlookers. The group then linked arms and stood in an outward facing circle. The group screamed for one minute, and then finished to applause from people who had stopped to watch. Kristina said that the purpose of the scream was to "give people a space to express feelings about war and torture, feelings that are too complex and intense sometimes to be captured by words." She also aimed to make a "creative and confrontational statement about the silence of the US and UK governments in response to the ongoing atrocities." 11 people turned up to participate, 2 of whom had joined when leaflets were handed out 15 minutes earlier. Local press (Q103 and the Cambridge Evening News) came to report on the action. The scream also provided publicity for an emergency demonstration



called by the Stop the War coalition in London on Saturday May 22nd.

The demonstration in London started at 11 am at the Embankment and proceeded to Trafalgar Square. The size of the march is believed to have been between 2,500 and 3,000. A participant in the march has written that the march was "all in all a great experience given the situation. In less than two weeks a demonstration of this size would be impossible but for the email lists and the general networking of so many people." Later that day there was a protest against the Rafah massacre outside Downing Street which ended in a sitdown at Whitehall.

The Stop the War coalition has called for a day of local action on June 30th to coincide with the so called "handover of power" to the Iraqis.

## Take action on Rafah

nickleberry, 27.05.2004 14:04

The Israeli Army have killed many Palestinians in their recent activities in Rafah. The Palestinian Solidarity Campaign has asked people to do some virtual lobbying: look for the link below.

One way to easily do that virtual lobbying is on the Web. Cambridge activists have set up a site where you can fax Tony Blair, Jack Straw and the Israeli

Embassy. There is a sample text or you can make your own text up and send that.

What is happening in Rafah is too awful for words. We have must do whatever we can to achieve peace with justice.

## East Anglia activists go online

Easf web, 26.05.2004 09:41

Trades Unionists, environmentalists, peace campaigners, anti-racists and many more recently gathered to begin a Social Forum Process in East Anglia. They have produced a website to facilitate this networking.

This is already filling with news and events from local social movements. It is designed to be easy for ordinary activists, who are not web-designers, to update and maintain.

This is hoped to be a major stepforward in the networking between different groups of activists in the area who are resisting the effects of capitalism.

## Forum on Software Patents

jupiter, 27.05.2004 21:40

The European Union is currently introducing legislation which will extend patent law to cover computer programs. The Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (FFII) is one of many organisations opposing this move, saying it will stifle innovation and force programmers to worry about whether they could be prosecuted for writing computer programs.

James Heald of the FFII will give a talk entitled "Software Patents: a Danger for Innovation." Local MEPs and other competing candidates in the European elections on 10 June will attend this forum and will give statements as to their position on this issue. There is a possibility of a second speaker who will take a pro-patents position. Afterwards, the talk and discussion will be available as video and audio streams on Cambridge IndyMedia

## Links

Cambridge Action Network: [cambridge@lists.riseup.net](mailto:cambridge@lists.riseup.net)

Rafah Virtual Lobby: <http://www.dprms.cam.ac.uk/~npg20/rafahfax.html>

East Anglia Social Forum: <http://www.easf.org.uk>

## Upcoming events

4<sup>th</sup> June, Forum on Software Patents, Judge Institute

12<sup>th</sup> June, European Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Workshop, Queens College

12<sup>th</sup> June, Norwich Anarchist Bookfair, Waterloo Park Pavilion

For more information on all these stories and events, see <http://cambridge.indymedia.org.uk/>