

RUPTURE

Resist Now #2:

Setting Up A Co-Op

Q. HOW DO I GET HEADS TIME TRAVEL?
A. IN A RETARDIS
DECEMBER 2007

SEND STUFF TO RUPTURE@HEADFUK.NET

Basically, co-ops are legal structures run by and for their members. I will concentrate here on housing and workers' co-ops, which while they require serious commitment, are an excellent way to bypass landlords etc or to take control over our working lives. Co-ops can be particularly attractive to those individuals who wish to opt out of the rat race for ethical/political reasons. Setting up a co-op gives people legal standing in order to apply for funding etc.

Most co-operatives are incorporated bodies. This gives all the members 'limited liability', making them only liable for a nominal amount (i.e. £1), should the co-op fail and go into receivership.

A housing co-op is, on one level, a group of people who have control over their own housing, without actually owning it personally. The legal structure, technically an Industrial and Provident Society, can be thought of as a separate person, who owns the property, takes out mortgages, and to whom the tenants pay rent. This separate person, however, only

does what members of the co-op tell it to.

A housing co-op is similar to a housing association, but is managed by its tenants. 3 people are needed to form a housing co-op, and once registered the co-op can lease or buy properties, and then rent them, either wholly or as flats/bedsits/rooms, to its members – who pay rent to the co-op, which is their landlord. So, by registering a co-op, we create our own landlord, created for our benefit, with us as members, collectively making all the decisions that need to be made – what property to buy, what rent to charge, whether to allow Jo Smith to join, what colour to paint our rooms, whether to install low-energy lightbulbs or water filters, etc.

A workers co-operative is a business that is owned and controlled by its workers, with membership restricted to employees. There are no outsiders taking decisions about the running of the co-op. It is a means by which people can reclaim some control over their work, share the responsibility of making decisions with

their fellow co-op members as equals and can provide a flexible, friendly working environment. It is also a means by which the unemployed can provide themselves with meaningful work.

In a conventional company the owners (members/shareholders) of the company do not work for the company, but are able to reap the profits generated via dividends paid on their shares. They appoint directors to manage the company on their behalf at the AGM. The workers are a part of the machinery of the company and their labour is 'bought' from them by the bosses, who decide the wages. In a workers co-op the situation is reversed and the workers use their collective skills, knowledge and capital to provide themselves with an income. Together, they decide their own wages, hours etc. They own the company themselves; they are workers/directors/members all in one.

Having recently set up a workers' co-op I'll briefly run through the procedure to show how easy it is:

Continued on the back page...

Call for decentralised days of action for squats and autonomous centres

On Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th of April 2008 we call for two days of demonstration, direct action, public information, street-party, squatting – in defence of free spaces and for an anti-capitalist popular culture.

Through these two days, we want to help create more visibility of autonomous spaces and squats as a European/global political movement. We want to develop interconnections and solidarity between squats and autonomous spaces. We want to keep linking our spaces with new people and new struggles, and support the

creation of autonomous spaces in places where there has not been a history of this kind of action. We want to build, step by step, our ability to overcome the wave of repression falling on us.

We call for decentralised and autonomous actions of all kinds, depending on what people feel to be the most appropriate to their local context. You'll find below the political content we wish to give to these two days.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE...

For centuries, people have used squats and autonomous spaces, either urban or rural, to take control of their own lives. They are a tool, a tactic, a practice, and a way for people to live out their struggles. For decades, squat movements across Europe and beyond have fought capitalist development, contributing to local struggles against destruction;

providing alternatives to profit-making and consumer culture; running social centres and participatory activities outside of the mainstream economy. Demonstrating the possibilities for self-organising without hierarchy; creating international networks of exchange and solidarity. These networks have changed many lives, breaking out of social control and providing free spaces where people can live outside the norm.

Continued on the inside...



Squatting action article continued from the front page...

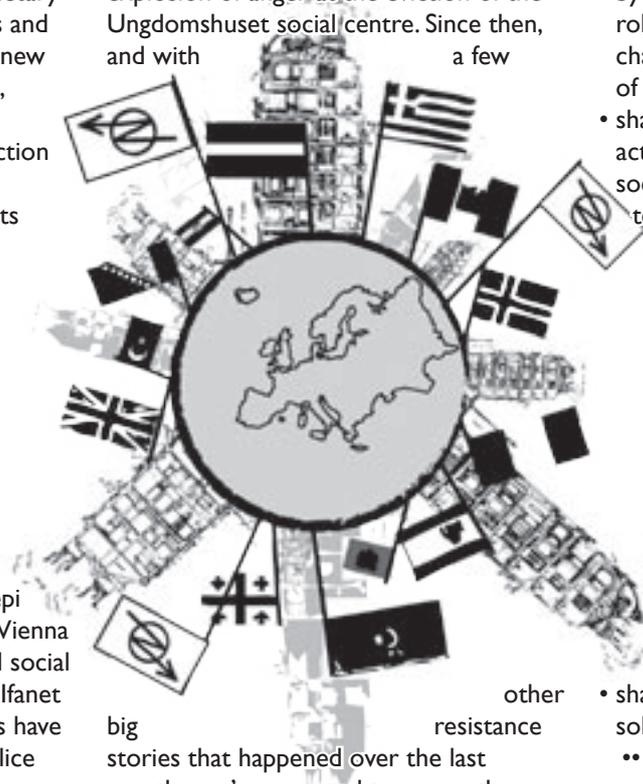
Among other things, these places provide bases for meetings and projects, for the creation and distribution of subversive culture, for the non-monetary based exchange of goods, resources and knowledge, for experimenting with new ways of living, for collective debates, for recycling and construction, for agricultural activities, for the production of independent media.

Whether we speak of urban squats or of purchased land, of negotiated or re-appropriated rural land, of restored factories or self-built buildings, these spaces are refuges for rebels and outlaws, poor and homeless people, radical activists, illegal immigrants. Social centres are crucial to us as part of a movement for social change.

They are attacking long-standing autonomous spaces such as the Ungdomshuset in Copenhagen, Koepi and Rigaer Straße in Berlin, EKH in Vienna and Les Tanneries in Dijon, squatted social centres in London and Amsterdam, Ifanet in Thessaloniki, etc. In France, squats have become a priority target for the police after the anti-CPE movement and the wave of actions and riots that happened during the presidential elections period. In Germany, many autonomous spaces have been searched and attacked before the G8 summit. In Geneva and Barcelona, two old and big squatting 'fortresses', the authorities have decided to try to put an end to the movement. Whereas it is still possible to occupy empty buildings in some countries, it has already become a crime in some others. In the countryside, access to land is becoming harder and communes face increasing problems from legislation on hygiene, security and gentrification by the bourgeoisie and

tourists. All over Europe, independent cultures are being threatened.

Several months ago we saw running battles in the streets of Copenhagen and actions everywhere in Europe in an explosion of anger at the eviction of the Ungdomshuset social centre. Since then, and with a few



other big resistance stories that happened over the last months, we've managed to renew the meaning of international solidarity.

We are motivated by the same passions, we feel the same determination, face a common enemy in repression, and are united across borders by our desire to build a world of equality and self-determination. As unaligned and ungovernable islands of uncontrolled freedom we want to continue to act in solidarity, and strengthen our international links, no matter how many kilometres there are between us.

ISSUES BEYOND THE ACTIONS

We also would like these days of actions to enable and inspire discussion,

to demonstrate various possibilities & strategies, to be an occasion to share skills. These are some of the issues we would like to push:

- what do we expect from and understand by 'autonomous spaces'? What is their role in the pursuit of radical social change? Where do they lie on the scale of 'alternative' to 'confrontational'?
- share information on the range of activities that take place in autonomous social spaces along with ideas for how to make them work; question the production of goods and services; and encourage the exchange of knowledge particularly between the town and the countryside.
- share experiences, inspire each other, find out how others live collectively, and their activities, alternative economic exchange systems...
- share various ways of getting spaces all over Europe: illegal occupations, Do It Yourself constructions, wagenburgs, buying collectively, free contracts...
- share practical resources and a feeling of solidarity between:
 - different users of autonomous spaces (either current or potential): co-operatives, people without papers, activists, travellers, immigrants, urbanites, rural dwellers, small farms;
 - different ways of using spaces; activities for the community, meeting area for groups, living spaces;
- enable the forming of common strategies when faced with state repression or eviction;

At the moment, we are a group of people involved with various autonomous spaces around Europe, who decided to start discussing this call. We'll meet various collectives in the coming months and see how people feel about this proposal for European days of action, and how they want to get involved. Its success depends a lot on our capacity to create a bigger international working group. This would mean everybody who wanted to take part into it would try to start discussing the idea in various spaces, creating and distributing some propaganda materials and networking information about what's going on near them during those days. We would also like to organize a physical meeting about all this in the upcoming months. Get in touch!

APRIL2008.SQUAT.NET

* there is a UK meeting about participating in this action being held on 9-10 February in Leeds. Let the people organising this meeting know that you want to attend by emailing: squatmeetup@googlemail.com

Dutch squatting ban threatened

Dutch squatters are under fire. After a series of incidents surrounding evictions a majority in the lower house of parliament is in favour of a ban on squatting. MPs and the police are claiming that squatters these days take a far more hard-line approach to defending their squats and frequently set up booby traps designed to injure those coming to evict them. They feel that enough is enough and that squatters do far more damage than good.

Whether there is any truth behind these allegations the State is using these scare tactics to win support for outlawing squatting in one of the few countries which up to now has been tolerant of it. Many Dutch squatters obey the general etiquette which involves registering your squat with the police and also paying all the bills. Although some may see this as an unnecessary compromise it has meant a healthy culture of squatting and large social centres existing for many years.

Bans on squatting in other EU countries has done little to abate it and usually leads to an organised, politically motivated movement springing up – surely not quite what the neo-liberal Dutch government envisage they will gain from an outright ban.

MUSIC REVIEWS

King Cannibal – Call Me Mr Cold Blooded [Rag and Bone]

More naughty breakstep on hot-to-trot South London label Rag and Bone. Top notch production keeps the darkness rolling through some nice drops, distorted bass and nasty vocal samples. The angry title track sits squarely between dubstep and drum'n'bass aesthetics and should delight any fans of either genre. It's out on 14 January – more info at: www.ragandbonerecords.co.uk

Scorn – Stealth [Ad Noiseam]

One time drummer for Napalm Death Mick Harris has been producing intense industrial half-speed noise years before dubstep caught the attention of the world. To be honest, not much has changed since his previous releases for Hymen Records



I'm not unclean, I use Lysine

Cold sores are small, painful, fluid-filled blisters that usually occur on the lips, gums, or roof of the mouth. They're caused by the herpes simplex virus and are contagious. Once you become infected with this virus and have your first outbreak, it stays dormant until reactivated. I know quite a few people that are unfortunate enough to have this virus and, as it is a virus, it's with us for life! In my many years of having them, I have discovered a very small amount of remedies. I've tried all the hippy shit that is anti bacterial, anti-viral, anti, anti, anti! But the thing I have discovered through reading many, many medical journals and that actually seems to work is L-lysine.

Lysine is an essential amino acid meaning that we must get it through food or supplements because the body can't make it on its own. It's used to make protein, which we need to produce infection-fighting antibodies.

We can get lysine through food sources such as red meat, milk, eggs, cheese, brewers yeast, shitake mushrooms and fish; but one important thing we have to remember is that there is another amino acid that combats lysine called arginine. Both compete with each other for absorption in the intestines so the less arginine there is in the diet, the more lysine that is absorbed. Foods that are rich in arginine include chocolate, dairy products, pork, poultry, seafood, wheat

though they featured percussion more on a minimal hip-hop tip and, as might be expected, it now fits more snugly into the dubstep category. The drums and growling sub-bass swim among a heady brew of abstract noises and sweeping synths. The layers of texture approach is definitely more suited to the living room than keeping an upbeat dancefloor.

Amon Tobin – Kitchen Sink remixes [Ninja Tune]

I haven't heard the original Tobin material but this EP of remixes covers a diverse range of musical styles. Clark turns in his trademark music box melodies and resonant clicking percussion. The other remixes come from Sixtoo, Boxcutter and an unusually slow and glitchy number from d&b producers Noisia.

Boxcutter – Glyphic [Planet Mu]

Boxcutter is a master at glistening,

towering dubstep tunes laden with skitty bursts of texture and an overall epic feel. That's basically what you get with this second album from the man. It's pretty lush throughout and keeps your interest beyond the more minimal examples of the genre. The only criticism could be that, like Scorn, he has defined his own sound and sticks firmly to it. With tracks like Bug Octet though who cares?

Stivs / Johnny Clash – Dustbinmen / Movement [Death\$ucker]

Just when I thought mentalist raggacore was fading away the new Death\$ucker proves me wrong. It's not big and it ain't clever but you can bet Jah bottom ganja-smoking-dictator-worshipping dollar that these two tunes will hype up the dance and get most people jumping up and down like deranged kids who've been locked away in cupboards and never heard an Amen drumbreak before.

Zeecreative

A new website enables artists and craftsfolk to be able to sell their work. It's an auction site that specialise in all unique, hand-made products created by individuals. They don't want mass produced poor quality junk – it's there to promote good quality craftsmanship.

Whether you are an artist selling your own paintings, a musician selling your songs, a seamstress selling your clothes, or a maker of jewellery, photos, prints, pottery, woodwork, glassware, bags, illustrations, furniture... anything you might want to sell direct. It is basically a bit like eBay but seemingly better. You register for free by giving your contact details and then you are able to list your items online by filling in a form and uploading the image of your product. You can also make your own web store, within the website, with your own logo etc. The first 200 listings are free and it is free to set up a web store. It is normally 20p to list an item and then a fee of between 3.5-6% of the final value.

As we all know the best artists are rarely the best business people and this is why the site has been created. It's cheaper and more ethical than eBay and solely concentrates on selling hand-made produce. Furthermore it's like a support network for creative people to actually be able to make a living out of what they do.

WWW.ZEECREATE.COM

flour, buckwheat, oatmeal, an array of nuts and seeds, chick peas and cooked soybeans.

In addition to these temporary dietary changes to aid the healing of our unsightly blisters we can take supplements. Lysine supplements (e.g. 1,000 mg taken three times a day) may help to shorten the duration of cold sores. I've never tried Lysine ointment, but apparently it exists.

I personally try to keep my system with a little bit of lysine present at all times. Not taking 3grams a day, but just a few a month. If I have an outbreak I switch to taking three a day and a shed load of vitamin C.

There will possibly be something new on the market called docosanol, but only when GlaxoSmithKline get their grubby mitts off it! They are currently the subject of a civil lawsuit in the US for holding back this new treatment. This is likely one of many medicines being deliberately held back by pharmaceutical companies. Unfortunately, here we can only be given cream with the active ingredient aciclovir/penciclovir(5%). This can only be used topically during an outbreak, to lessen the duration of a blister – it's not at all preventative.

So until a cure is found we need to hold tight with our horse sized pills and diets. Do some research and find out what is good for you, and if you do find something that tops L-lysine pray tell!

PARTIES + ART + RADIO + PROTESTS +

FREE FILM SCREENINGS

A different radical/alternative/just damn interesting feature film each Monday evening. Donations welcome. 7.30pm start. Pogo Café, 76 Clarence Road, Hackney, London. E5 8HB
www.pogocafe.co.uk

21.12.07

NFA FUCK XMAS

Free party for midwinter. London venue tbc. Mailing list only, so send email address or mobile number to:
info@nofixedabode.info

22.12.07

KETWORK 32, THOSE PESKY KIDS + ITSY BITSY CHRISTMAS MASHUP

DJs, live bands, chillout and visuals. party outside London. Email
thosepeskykids@googlegmail.com

22.12.07

XMAS BASS KNEES UP

Plex, Yardcore and Combat Recordings present a night of chestnut step, techno stuffing, mistletoe and grime. 10pm – 5am, £5 entry.
A10 Russian Bar, 267 Kingsland Road, E2

26.12.07

INTERNATIONAL PIZZA PUNK DAY

Pogo will host a DIY PPD celebration along with punk rock films. Bring your own fave vegan pizza toppings!
4pm – 10pm, donation entry.
Pogo Café, 76 Clarence Road, London. E5 8HB

29 – ?.12.07

CANARIES AND CATANIA TEKS CANCELLED!

29 – ?.12.07

BUENOS AIRES

European sound systems on the South American trail linkup for a New Years party.

31.12.07

NEW YEARS EVE LONDON

A massive multi-rig party is planned. Sound systems in attendance include Stonka, Disjunkt, Headfuk, Acme, Network 32, Irritant, Abacus, Under Konstruktion, KSS and more. Ring the phonedlines of the rigs above on the night!

31.12 – 01.01.08

NEW YEAR PARTY IN CENTRAL ITALY

Open invitation to all ravers and sound systems.

*** For parties abroad check out shockraver.free.fr ***

02 – 06.04.08

TEMPORARY

AUTONOMOUS ART BRIGHTON

The free creative zone hits the south coast for the first TAA to be announced for 2008. More information about how you can get involved can be found on the Brighton groups website:
www.subterraneanartbrighton.org
For news of TAAs happening in other UK cities go to the central website at www.taaexhibitions.org

11 – 12.04.08

SQUAT FORTRESS EUROPE

2 days of decentralised squat and autonomous centre actions.
april2008.squat.net

Setting up a co-op article continued from front page...

- 1) Download the 'how to set up workers' co-op' booklet from catalystcollective.org and read it.
- 2) Send off to Companies House for a registration pack.
- 3) Check your proposed co-op name on the Companies House website.
- 4) Download the Memorandum and Articles of Association from Catalyst Collective and adapt them to best suit your co-op.
- 5) Download Forms 10 & 12 from companieshouse.gov.uk. Carefully fill in Form 10. Take Form 12 to a solicitor and complete it in front of them and get them to witness and sign all the documents. Pay their fee (around £10).
- 6) Photocopy the completed Memorandum & Articles of Association say 6 times (as you'll need to give copies to banks etc).
- 7) Send all forms to Companies House (best done recorded delivery) together with a cheque for £20.
- 8) Make a donation to Catalyst Collective for use of their Memorandum & Articles.
- 9) Wait for Companies House to send back your Incorporation Certificate. That's it! Good luck.

Catalyst Collective: catalystcollective.org
Companies House: companieshouse.gov.uk
Part 1 of the Resist Now series appeared in the October 2007 issue of Rupture. More follows next month...

PARTIES + EVENTS

www.headfuk.net
www.nofixedabode.info
www.dissident-faction.co.uk
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ART + MEDIA + THE REST

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