

Mayor Asks Black Brigade to Teargas Themselves

Citing severe budget concerns which make continued policing of the Occupy Oakland protests infeasible, Mayor Jean Quan has asked the Black Brigade anarchist bloc to teargas, beat, and arrest themselves at all future protests.

“We all must make sacrifices,” said Mayor Quan from her command post deep beneath City Hall.

“While we will make it our highest budgetary priority to supply all protests with teargas, we ask participants to cooperate with us and release it themselves. If arrests are ordered, we ask designated arrestees to handcuff themselves with an appropriate amount of violence and report to the city jail.”

BART Cancels Service to Berkeley, Oakland, SF

In an attempt to avoid delays and disruptions to service caused by police over-reaction to nonviolent protests, BART announced last week that all service to Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco has been cancelled.

“Trains will no longer stop in protest-friendly cities,” said a BART spokesperson. “Riders may disembark at the nearest city and walk to their destination at no extra charge.”

Reader Survey

Do Anarchists Wear Black Undies?

Asked at various Occupy actions:

- 31% wear black undies (includes stripes)
- 19% prefer white or pastel briefs
- 11% are partial to plaid boxers
- 4% like polka dots or little hearts
- 35% wear no underwear at all*

* - unless they expect to be arrested or taken to the hospital

General Strike Collapses as Workers Stay Home

Action too successful — organizers debate how to be less effective

A second General Strike called by Occupy Oakland supporters fell apart when virtually all local workers heeded the call to stay away from work.

Trouble began when BART and AC Transit drivers walked off the job, making it difficult to get downtown. Bank, government, and corporate employees declared support, so nothing was left open to blockade.

The Mayor and her staff reportedly went on strike as well, but no one noticed the difference.

However, when local media outlets declared solidarity and refused to assign reporters, stories about the day’s non-events were effectively blocked from the mainstream. Add to that a nationwide

walkout at Indy Media, and the General Strike received virtually no coverage.

Even the Black Brigade’s plans for a late-night street fight were stymied as police, prohibited from striking, staged a work-slowdown and refused to cross their own barricade lines.

DONUT STRIKE THREATENS PEACE

The only moment of tension came when striking bakers refused to make a donut delivery. The day was saved by a wildcat action by the Nonviolent Bike Messengers Guild, which whizzed downtown with fresh cream puffs for the police just in time to avert disaster.

Still, the day was a bitter disappointment for the 37 people who managed to get downtown to take part in the General Strike — particularly when the disco line was called off due to striking sound system operators.

The crowning blow came when a march to shut the Port of Oakland was cancelled after organizers learned that the Port had been shut all day by union orders. Workers and police had long since gone home.

Some planners advocated marching to the Port anyway, but when they learned that the ice cream truck that parks at Third Street had also gone on strike, they threw in the towel.

“There’s only so much adversity you can take,” one planner said. “Who’s going to march to an empty Port if they can’t even buy ice cream?”



The General Assembly of Occupy Oz consents to include nonviolent flying monkeys in the next Foreclose the Emerald City action. Photo by Luke Hauser/RQ.

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