

AFTER MILLBANK:

Students, Anarchists & The Cuts

After the Student siege of Millbank Tower on November 10th the media, Police, NUS and Politicians began a campaign to divide and weaken the anti-cuts movement. They condemned what happened at Tory Party HQ and blamed the “violence” on a small minority of troublemakers that had apparently been led astray by “Anarchist infiltrators”.

What is Anarchism and why was it linked to Millbank?

Anarchism is a political philosophy which considers the state unnecessary and harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society and seeks to abolish authority.

The media tried to blame Anarchist groups for the Millbank Siege and separate them from the students campaign but being a student and being an anarchist are not mutually exclusive.

Many anarchists believe that property destruction is an acceptable means of showing their anger just as many Students did at Millbank Tower. It highlights their fight in the media and unsettles the ruling classes. As anarchists are known for these tactics it was easy for the media to blame them rather than admit that Millbank may be just the start of something very big.

Why should students care about the wider anti-cuts movement?

As a student you may feel that the only cuts that affect you are those to education. Massive increases in tuition fees coupled with budget cuts in colleges and universities will reduce quality of education and create a two tier system favouring the most privileged. The anti-cuts movement is much bigger than just education, the government plans to sell off the NHS, reduce services and cut benefits which many students rely on. At the same time private companies are taking the opportunity to make efficiency savings in the form of redundancies. Over the next few years unemployment will rise hugely making graduate jobs hard to find.

How can I get involved?

Many student bodies are forming anti-cuts groups so obviously this should be your first point of contact. There are also many other non-student groups fighting the cuts around the country.

Contact us if you would like to get involved with your local anarchist/anti-authoritarian anti-cuts group, or for advice on demonstrations, actions, campaigns, setting up a student groups and legal advice.

In Bristol contact anticutsactionbristol@riseup.net

In Bath contact bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk

UNITED WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE – FIGHT THE CUTS

Anti Cuts Action Bristol

www.anticutsaction.wordpress.com