



Serji Kellenberger

The beautiful words of the Diggers return to the City of London after 350 years, Carnival Against Capital. UK

## Global Day of Action

**June 18th 1999**

### J18 – Carnival Ambushes Capital

Desiring to strengthen the global resistance networks following the success of the first global day of action in May 1998, various UK groups including

Reclaim the Streets, Earth First! and people from London Greenpeace (not the NGO!) who had been involved in the 1980's Stop the City actions, circulate a proposal for an "International day of protest, action and carnival aimed at the heart of the global economy: the financial centres and banking districts" to take place on Friday 18 June, the opening day of the 1999 G8 summit in Köln,

Germany. The proposal identifies capitalism, not just 'free' trade and multilateral institutions, as "the root of our social and ecological problems", and is taken up by the Peoples' Global Action network, translated into seven languages, and distributed by email and post to thousands of groups worldwide. Unable to find a catchy name for the day, the simple tag J18 is used, a practice that continues with each global



# Evading Standards

LONDON, FRIDAY 18 JUNE 1999

SPECIAL EDITION  
INCORPORATING THE FINANCIAL TIMES NEWS FIRST



**FREE trip to Cologne for G8 Summit celebrations.**  
see page 19

**WAR STARS Clinton and Albright's dark secret**



NEW TODAY: INTERFERENCE FM - TUNE IN TO THE SOUND OF THE STREETS ON 107.4 FM

# GLOBAL MARKET MELTDOWN

## Panic stalks Square Mile following dramatic collapse of world financial markets.

by Will Fyfe and Emma Golden

SHARES plummeted around the world today following last night's meltdown of Asian financial markets. Triggered by the collapse of Japan's national bank.

All financial markets around the world have been thrown into a state of panic and uncertainty, with many investors selling off their shares and withdrawing from the market. The Asian crisis has now spread to Europe, with the British pound falling to a 10-year low and the US dollar rising to a 20-year high. The crisis has also led to a sharp decline in global stock prices, with many investors selling off their shares and withdrawing from the market. The crisis has also led to a sharp decline in global stock prices, with many investors selling off their shares and withdrawing from the market.

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...in such a state of panic, it is difficult to see how the world's stock markets could have survived. The crisis has also led to a sharp decline in global stock prices, with many investors selling off their shares and withdrawing from the market. The crisis has also led to a sharp decline in global stock prices, with many investors selling off their shares and withdrawing from the market.

Mass produced J18 propaganda spoofs London's Evening Standard newspaper. UK

action, N30, S26, A20, and so on. From Brazil to Malta, Nepal to Zimbabwe, actions take place in 40 different countries. In the City of London a Carnival Against Capital attended by 10,000 turns Europe's largest financial centre upside-down. Hackers try to get into the London Financial Futures Exchange's computer systems, while angry traders fight off an attempt to physically occupy the

building. After a day of partying, riot police finally gain control and clear the city. Simultaneously, a Carnival of the Oppressed in Nigeria brings nearly 10,000 Ogoni, Ijaw, and other tribes together in closing down the country's oil capital, Port Harcourt. In downtown Seoul, Korean activists dressed as Subcomandante Marcos and financial speculator George Soros engage in a street

theatre debate about 'free' trade. Stock exchanges are invaded in Madrid and blockaded in Amsterdam, Vancouver, and New York. In Melbourne, anti-logging activists deposit roadkill wombats on the steps of the Australian Exchange. A spoof trade fair in Montevideo invites Uruguayan garbage haulers to deposit their refuse in local bank branches before a festive invasion of the stock

Nick Cobbing



Party replaces profit in London's financial centre

Nick Cobbing

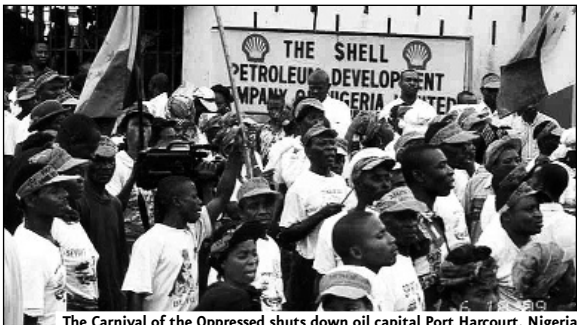


Police evict protesters from the London International Financial Futures Exchange



Nick Cobbing

The rebel caravan makes its way towards Köln, Germany for the G8 summit



Unknown

The Carnival of the Oppressed shuts down oil capital Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Nick Cobbing

Love meets rebellion under the freed River Walbrook. City of London, UK

exchange takes place. In Israel, a 'goodbye to the mall' street party is held in Tel Aviv's financial district, while in Barcelona, a piece of squatted land is turned overnight into an urban oasis complete with vegetables, medicinal herbs and a lake, and a street party hands out free food to drivers stuck in traffic. A multi-faith assembly marches through the Buenos Aires financial district demanding an end to

Argentina's debt, while Bangladeshi domestic and garment workers demonstrate against the IMF in Dhaka. A simulated bank demolition takes place in Lisbon, Portugal; real banks are attacked in Eugene, US, painted pink in Geneva, occupied in Bordeaux, France, and picketed in several Spanish cities. In Minsk, Belarus, two groups organize a picket at McDonald's, handing out pamphlets and toilet paper

to people entering the restaurant and an illegal No Corporations open-air festival is staged. Los Angeles holds its first street party complete with sound system, trashed car, and a skate park, during which 17 people are arrested and the bomb squad is called to investigate the trashed car. In Bologna, Italy, overnight autonomous zones block traffic and stage interactive street performances. Similar actions



The traces of carnival prove difficult to erase the day after J18. City of London, UK

happen in Milan, Rome, Siena, Florence, and Ancona. In Senegal, 600 people assemble for performances and speeches in protest against child exploitation. On a more virtual level, the Electronic Disturbance Theatre launches an international internet blockade of the Mexican embassy in solidarity with the Zapatista communities; 18,000 people from 49 countries participate, clogging the embassy

website all day.

Meanwhile, in Köln, the Intercontinental Caravan, made up of 400 Indian farmers and other activists from the global South, plans to conclude its tour with a Laugh Parade but police detain 250 of them before they get the chance to guffaw at the G8. For the first time reports of the global events are transmitted over the internet by alternative media

activists, with news, video, and photos uploaded by street reporters using innovative software that later becomes the backbone of the Indymedia network. "The enemies of capitalism will be back," proclaims the editorial of the *London Times* the following day, perhaps predicting the shut down of the World Trade Organization in Seattle five months later.