

# For Revolutionary politics ...not another 'broad' front!

**For years it has been possible to attend education activists' conferences, where you would invariably be told that those assembled were a 'rainbow coalition' of people angered by attacks on schools, colleges and universities. Just as invariably, the show would be run by one (or, sometimes, two) far-left grouplets, with everyone else from either their competitors or their periphery on campuses.**

So it was with Education Not for Sale, Student Respect, Socialist Students and Revolution (the string-pullers being Workers Liberty, the Socialist Workers Party, the Socialist Party and Workers Power respectively); the more recent National Campaign against Fees and Cuts began on slightly more independent initiatives, but became a base for the AWL and Workers Power to agitate for influence against the SWP, who (but of course) had their own front, Another Education is Possible.

The most positive thing about this conference, then, is that all the groups will be under one roof, and - more importantly - some forces involved are making some serious moves towards unity. NCAFC has presented a motion proposing a merger with EAN, which should be supported (CS are also supporting NCAFC candidates for the steering committee, as well as our own candidate Callum Williamson). Additionally, anyone serious about making this unity a reality - and seeing it last long enough to see in Guy Fawkes night - should insist that any merger discussions happen openly and democratically, before the whole movement, and not in backrooms or coffee shops with various leading figures negotiating away from prying eyes, as has been the general method of the student left for some years now.

Regardless of all this, the politics on offer are going to be woefully insufficient. All the aforementioned groups proclaim themselves to be Marxist. We Marxists are, all told, most likely to be a majority in the room today. And if not, then it is the Marxists who will have booked the rooms, called the speakers and produced the publicity. Yet you will not hear a sniff of Marx in the resolutions,

motions and amendments proposed today - except ours. This is not to gloat. We do not advocate Marxism lightly, because it improves our 'r-r-r-revolutionary' credentials, or because we prefer lengthy debates on the organic composition of capital to political action. It's because Marxism remains the best guide we have to political action.

Alas, it has become the habit in our movement to counterpose serious political discussion to action. Today, we will hear a few plenary speeches, probably explaining why cuts are a bad thing for education - but we all knew that already: after all, we came to the damn meeting! We will be exhorted to come on this demonstration and participate in that day of action, at which point the group will be dismembered and funnelled into various workshops. Perhaps we will have serious debates and discussion in those workshops (often one does); but if they're that serious, they deserve to happen in front of us all, rather than the ten people present who happen to be

## **CS dayschool Dec 11, London**

We will have numerous discussions and openings on the nature of the capitalist offensive, how to organise against cuts, what the role of revolutionaries in the student movement should be, and more. Unlike other schools and events on the far left, we will not shy away from openly addressing some of the debates within our own organisation too.

Get in touch to book your place, and tell your friends!

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