



Happy bake day, y'all!

Season 1, Week 3
March 4, 2010
7:01 PM

What a week it's been – HK on J, birthdays, Purim, today's day of action to defend education, Tuesday's Wake Co. school board meeting... and a new logo for the bakery (thx to Carly and Sarah)! This week we're starting off the 'zine with another in our series of answers to...



March 4: Global Day of Action to Defend Education

Today, March 4, tens of thousands of students and workers across the

world will be taking action against budget cuts, tuition hikes, and the privatization of education as part of the March 4 National Day of Action to Defend Education. From Boston to Milwaukee, Seattle to Knoxville, Gainesville to Asheville, and all points in between, students and workers will be standing up and speaking out to defend education in what is shaping up to be one of the biggest days of action this country has seen in years. Today's global day of action to defend education comes as part of a long movement by our brothers and sisters in universities across the world to defend existing spaces of liberatory education and build new ones. Find out more at www.edu-factory.org, www.countercartographies.org, or www.defendededucation.org

...what is community?

"our communities must be the sources of their own strength politically, economically, intellectually, and culturally in the struggle for human rights and human dignity. ... We must take pride in the Afro American community, for it is our home and it is our power"



– El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X), on the founding of the Organization of Afro-American Unity



"A community is not automatically borne out of a shared structural location, but out of shared lives"

–Yen Le Espiritu, 'Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries'

Here in Durham we're blessed with so many examples of community-driven, radical education (shout-outs to the June Jordan survival schools, El Kilombo's globalized Durham seminars, and the new collective pre-school). But universities locally, nationally and transnationally are working actively to privatize community knowledges and devalue what they can't privatize. We don't have room to say more here, but pay attention to things like the Bologna process across Europe, the U of C system tuition hikes, corporate restructuring led by Bain & Co. at UNC-CH...

At many universities these days faculty are hired and fired on the basis of how much knowledge they can put in the hands of corporations and the state, with less and less regard for teaching. Meanwhile standardized curricula, miniscule pay and even fewer resources for teachers make it extraordinarily difficult to build liberatory classrooms. And more and more university students are in class not to learn together but because they've been forced into a system of credentials and debt in order to survive.

What we baked this week

Half-wheat sourdough sandwich (848g/loaf)

Ingredients: Water (36% by weight), Organic whole-wheat flour (30%), Organic white flour (30%), Vegetable oil (3%), NC Honey (1%), Salt

Whole-grain 'Anadama' sandwich (849g/loaf)

Ingredients: Organic whole-wheat flour (44%), Water (33%), Whole-grain cornmeal (12%), Molasses (7%), Oil (3%), Salt, Yeast

Whole-wheat/rye sourdough loaf (845g/loaf)

Ingredients: Water (40%), Organic whole-wheat flour (36%), Organic whole rye flour (12%), Organic white bread flour (11%), Salt (1%)

Emancipatory Education Muffins (475g/6)

Ingredients: Organic whole-wheat flour (31%), Organic apples (25%), Pecan milk (pecans, water; 19%), water (12%), Maple syrup (5%), Fair-trade sugar (3%), Cinnamon (1%), Flaxseed (1%), Baking soda, Baking powder, Salt, Nutmeg.

May also contain cornmeal.

...emancipatory education?

Emancipatory education is organizing...

It works to dismantle knowledge hierarchies and build collective knowledge for and through struggle. It enables reflection and values the hard work involved in breaking free of our colonized minds. It treats statistics, the scientific method, critical reading, and cultural theory not as objective facts, but as some of many potentially useful tools. Participants are not students/teachers or researchers/objects of research, but workers together in a collective research project. Through the work of co-research and of walking together, they strengthen existing communities of solidarity and work to create new ones.

...and it is organized

Organized discussion, readings, syllabi, even homework can all be part of emancipatory education processes, as long as they arise out of a consensus process which is conscious of building capacity so that everyone in a group feels comfortable taking the place of discussion leader or syllabus organizer.

Hamentaschen for Purim:

a celebration of our survival the jewish halloween/drag festival

Hamentaschen are filled cookies, representing the three-cornered hat that Haman wore, and they are traditional for Ashkenazi Jews to send to family and friends on Purim.

Haman is actually the villain in this story; in which Queen Ester, secretly a Jew, convinces the king to save us from Haman's plot to kill all Jews living in Persia. The holiday celebrates the Jews' survival and deliverance from genocide and destruction.

So... why do we consume Haman's hat? It seems a bit odd. I've always just thought of it as a reminder of the story – a tradition to keep each year, telling the story as we roll out the cookie dough. Maybe it can also help us recognize the humanity even of those who want to kill us.

What objects/foods/reminders exist in your life because there is a story that needs to be remembered and told year after year?

Emancipatory education is free...

When we think of books, articles, etc. not as information in packaged form but as the tracings/remnants of concrete, and situated knowledges, it becomes possible to share them freely. Emancipatory education recognizes that knowledge is not a commodity that flows from producers (of books, classrooms, laboratories) to consumers, but exists in-between collaborators (when you read these words, they become something in common between us which neither of us could have expected).

...and it is freeing

In order for the tracings of knowledge to be freely available, those who dedicate their time and talents to cultivating them have to be supported by their communities. Education should build the knowledge and structures we need so that each person has the safe space and time to reflect, write and create.

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