



Happy Monday!!!

I'm writing this from a flat in cold, rainy East London.... Noah's baking in the NC heat (with help from friends), and together we're writing the 'zine. We're excited to see you at the upcoming bakery assembly., taking place...

this Sunday (September 12) from 1 - 4:30 PM at SEEDS (706 Gilbert Street) in Durham

If you can't make it, please do take the time to read over the proposed structure and vision statement (we'll be emailing out soon), and share your thoughts...



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A Global Food Crisis?

Wheat prices this month are the highest they've been since the massive price spike in 2007-08 (the price of wheat on the world market has more than doubled in the past two years). The price spike comes because of bad weather in Australia and Russia creating a poor harvest, and the fact that (until today) the Russian government was banning wheat exports from that country in order to make sure the country had enough wheat to feed itself. Meanwhile, just as Ramadan is about to end, the Middle East is facing a serious meat shortage, and lamb and beef prices are at their highest in decades.

The result is that folks across the world, and especially in so-called developing countries, are facing a season in which they might not be able to afford even the basic necessities for survival. Bread prices, for exmple, have already risen by as much as 30% in Mozambique. When the government there (in Maputo) announced the increase in prices, massive demonstrations broke out. At least 7 people were killed and 280 injured when military forces opened fire into a

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demonstrators in Maputo, Mozambique

crowd of demonstrators.

People dying for bread brings the work we're doing home in a serious way. Why are people so angry? How can it be, when the cost of flour is such a small percentage of the cost of bread, that bread prices are increasing by 30%?

I don't know anything about the Mozambican food industry, but if it's anything like here, what's going on is that food manufacturers, rather than cut into their profits, are using small increases in ingredients costs as an excuse to inflate



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food prices. The same thing is happening, apparently, in Saudi Arabia as grain importers are buying up limited barley supplies (used as animal feed) and hoarding them to sell later when prices are even higher. Even worse things happened in 2007, when US investment firms used long-term speculation in wheat futures to drive the price of real wheat through the roof.

The Financial Times reports "rising anger about food prices". But are people dying because of 'rising food prices'? Or because they are being asked to sacrifice their health and livelihoods for profit?

What we baked (part 1)...

Half-wheat sourdough sandwich (840g/loaf)

Water (36%), OG ww flour (30%), OG white flour (30%), veg oil (3%), NC Honey (1%), Salt

Whole-wheat sandwich bread (840g/loaf)

OG whole wheat flour (57%), Water (35%), Vegetable oil (4%), NC Honey (2%), Fair-Trade Molasses, Salt, Yeast

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What we baked (part 1)...

Pizza Crusts

Water (36%), OG ww bread flour (29%), OG unbleached flour (29%), Olive Oil (3%), Salt, Yeast

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Noah: The following is an excerpt from "Unmasking Microfinance," in this month's issue of Left Turn Magazine (no 37). I read this the other night, and it feels important because

1. We have a lot to learn from communities that are already living in a non-monetary economic system and 2. The communities she is talking about are on the front lines of the expansion of capitalism and we need to be in solidarity with these folks; the article talks about alternatives to the ways that microcredit is devastating communities in Mali, roping them into dependence on a system that seems impossible to get out of. The piece is by Beverly Bell, from an interview with Maria Diarra of the Institute for Popular Education in Mali.

"People in the Region of Djenne don't buy anything with money. Even movies, these people enter the movie with a cup of rice. They don't have cash and they don't care. It is the only place I know where people can survive without money. They buy everything with their crops. We worked with seventeen villages, and they all used crops. When we bought a

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grinding machine, we said that the price of a cup of rice was 25 CFA. They said no, it is the equivalent measure in another food. They have found a way to not be cash slaves; they just don't bother themselves with money. We need to find a way to help them fight.

"When people can grow their own food in any village, they can really use that economy of giving. All this has made me think: The exchange economy is a disease. What we need to do is to share and let the gifts circulate. We do gift-giving for production, but sometimes we do it for zero. If a woman needs to get a tooth pulled and she has no money, you don't leave her in pain. You put your money at risk for needs that will never make a profit. We have been criticized for what we do, saying we shouldn't do charity. I don't have a name for what we do but I know it's not charity. We hope it can get the women out of that credit system so they can see alternatives to those loans.

"We don't pay too much attention to how much of the gift is returning. We know that there are returns."

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We saw this sign at a bus stop (!) in Canary Wharf, a newly-built development in East London that houses most of the financial sector (Citibank, Lehman Brothers used to be there, etc.). In order to get the development built quickly with private money, the City of London agreed that this entire section of the city would be private property, with it's own police force and own laws...



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Potato rye (756g/loaf)

Thanks to Bailey & other Durham Central Park students for recipe-testing this week!

Ingredients: Durham Farmers Market Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes (32%), Water (20%), Organic Whole Wheat Bread Flour (16%), Organic White Bread Flour (16%), Organic Whole Rye Flour (12%), Mixed olive & canola oils (2%), Salt, Yeast, Anise, Fennel

Zucchini Muffins (427g/half-dozen)

Contains: organic whole wheat pastry flour (31%), Durham Farmer's Market Zucchini (25%), Pecan milk (pecans & water, 12%), Canola oil (10%), Pecans (6%), Honey (6%), Flax egg replacer (6%), Lemon juice (3%), Baking Powder, Baking Soda, Salt, Vanilla, Cinnamon, Cloves, Nutmeg

Bread Uprising Bakery
816 Yancey St., Durham, NC 27701
breaduprising@resist.ca
breaduprising.wordpress.com

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