

# Earth First! Action Update



30p

No.35 JANUARY 1997

*'Why participate in the ruin of creation when you can participate in the creation of ruins.'*

## NEWBURY: THE BATTLE CONTINUES!

### COSTAIN EGM'S

Costain Independent Shareholders Association (CISA), launched its 'Crisis at Costain Christmas appeal' on Monday 22nd December for the employees of Costain and its subcontractors (who have most to lose when Costain go into receivership) Santa shook a collecting tin while singers accompanied with carols such as 'O little town of Newbury'. Contributions were surprisingly low. Mince pies were offered to security but were rejected....humbug.

At Costain's December 27th Extraordinary General Meeting, CISA swung into action as the blizzard swept London Arena (capacity 10,000). 'Gather round for the Great Costain Closing Down Sale, proceeds to the Crisis at Costain Christmas Appeal. Everything must go, huge liabilities and tiny assets like you've never seen before!' Costain's US coal interests were represented by a coal bag of hot air.

Campaigners gathered again at the second of Costain's EGM's on January 6th, which was more like a farcical pantomime or a rugby match than a formal meeting. People ignored the obvious attempt at intimidation by the presence of 50-60 dark suited security guards and were chanting, shouting and trying to break through the lines of security to storm the stage before the new chairman "shifty" Shaffi had even finished his opening speech. Finally he allowed some questions, all bar one of which concerned the environmental devastation wreaked on the planet by Costain. Two assaults by security on protesters were witnessed, one person suffering concussion. A formal complaint is currently being investigated by the police.

### GEORGE YOUNG'S GARDEN

On Wednesday 8th January twenty-five people from Reading Roadbusters, Third Battle of Newbury and Reclaim the Streets converged on the tranquil site of the Transport Minister's, Sir George Young's, country home. (It is in fact one of his three homes). George, also known as the bulldozing, no sorry, bicycling baronet, was sadly not at this particular home on the day, though his two dogs were and seemed glad of the unexpected company.

Banners proclaiming 'Save Newbury's Landscape' and 'Newbury now - where next?' were hung from the roof. A couple of people found a window invitingly open at the Cookham address and filmed a 'through the keyhole', Alan Partridge style! Meanwhile, to the delight of the assembled press, people got busy demonstrating the joys of building a bypass by digging up Young's lawn and spraying a line down the middle of the 'new road'. It was hoped that the action might also help Sir George in making the right decision concerning the Salisbury Bypass, a decision to be taken soon.

The police missed the best bit and arrived just as the turf was being replaced. Later though three vehicles were prevented from leaving and their ten occupants arrested and later charged, with conspiracy to cause criminal damage and actually causing criminal damage. Several were released in the early hours of the morning in the freezing snow, minus their shoes, which were kept as



*"Thank God for the Direct Action Protesters" - Charles Secrett (FoE Director).*

evidence. Three were held overnight to face ridiculous bail restrictions that mean they cannot protest anywhere in the country! This is to be appealed.

### NIGHT ACTIONS

People gathered from Thursday 9th January for the planned days of events. A safe camp site had been set up away from the route and around one hundred and fifty people were around for the Friday mornings actions. In the early hours of Friday morning affinity groups left in transport and made their way to various compounds across

the route. At the Kennet compound people entered through holes that had been cut in the fence, lights were destroyed and a crane occupied for a while until security brought in crash mats and threatened to push people off! Other compounds had similar results. There were a few arrests but most people were released relatively quickly and all was over by early afternoon with people regrouping at the visitors camp for food and music. That night numbers at the map grew dramatically with another hundred or so people arriving from all over the country.

### REUNION RAMPAGE

On Saturday 11th around eight hundred to one thousand people turned up throughout the morning and made their way to the compound at Middle Oak where some people dressed the fence with poems, ribbons etc.

People then moved to a nearby field to hear speakers that included Charles Secrett, Director of Friends of the Earth and Jill Eislie from Third Battle. After the speeches the mass of people moved back to the compound. There was no pretence about what people wanted and fences were rapidly pulled over in a number of places, despite the best efforts of the police whose attempts to keep people out included charging horses up and down the fenceline and managing to run on person over, who then had to be taken to hospital. After a large number of people had made it through the fence the police gave up trying to restrict entrance and most of the crowd then entered without incident.

After a massive tree hug around Middle Oak people proceeded to occupy machinery. There were small scuffles with security as people tried to occupy the large crane but after a few minutes security withdrew and people took control of it. People then went on to smash the engine room of the crane up and the windows went shortly after. Tyres on the earthmover were punctured and lights were smashed. A contractors landrover was nearly tipped over and was only saved by the intervention of the police. Shortly after this the police ordered a tactical withdrawal and left everyone to it.

Later on in the evening a tip up truck, portacabin and the crane were set alight. People seemed to think this was a wise time to leave and the mass went to regroup outside the fence and then dispersed into the night in small groups. Several people were arrested over the course of the day, if you were one of them, get in touch with Third Battle to keep them updated on court appearances etc. For this and more general details contact them on: 01635 45544.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Issue 2 of Delta, the publication that covers news on the Ogoni, Shell and Nigeria, is available for £1.00 including postage from: Delta, Box Z, 13 Biddulph Street, Leicester, LE2 1BH. Yearly subscriptions are a minimum of £3.00 for four issues.

There will hopefully be a South East Regional Earth First! Gathering around late March or early April time. More information to follow soon.

There is now an Earth First! Northern Networking Newsletter. For a copy send an SAE and a photocopying donation to: EF! Newsletter, York EF! c/o York LEAF, York Peace Centre, 15a Clifford Street, York. Telephone: 01904 410185 or e mail: socs203@york.ac.uk. There is also to be a second Northern Network gathering in April, if you can help the contact is also York EF!

In London a semi-permanent set of tree walkways has been established for anyone who wants to learn the basics of abseiling, prussicking, and putting up and negotiating rope walkways, without having to venture onto a nasty muddy protest site out in the sticks. Contact London Reclaim The Streets on: 0171 281 4621.

The Autumn issue of the Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group Newsletter is out now. Available for £1.50 from: ALFSG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

There is to be a three week Direct Action Tour of Germany this May. It will include chances to exchange skills, hold workshops and join other people in actions. Some of the German activists will be coming back to the UK in June. For more details contact Lune Earth First! on: 01524 849 313.

The Earth First! Action Update has two copies of Voice, a German language Animal Liberation magazine that we cannot read. Anyone that wants them should send an A4 SAE to the Action Update.

The second issue of Corporate Watch magazine is now available for £1.50, including postage, from Corporate Watch, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

Mining company Freeport McMoRan, part owned by the Britain based Rio Tinto Zinc, has avoided an investigation by the World Bank into the running of their gold mine in West Papua by cancelling their World Bank insurance. The original decision to investigate the running of the mine came after resistance from local people. This result reinforces the fact that reliance on State and Corporation bodies to protect people and the environment is only hope misplaced, and the only answer is autonomous resistance and grass roots direct action by the people affected and their allies.

## M77 OPENS

On 6th December Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth came to Glasgow to open the tarmac monstrosity that is the M77. Dreading the possibility of ex-Pollock Free Staters causing a disruption of the opening ceremony the exact location of it was kept secret, even the press didn't know until the last minute.

Despite this setback the road had only been opened a few minutes when six people crossed to the central reservation and formed a pipe-linked human chain intertwined with the central barrier, in front of assembled press, a large police presence and Cokerhill (the worst affected community).

After trying and failing to separate the protesters, the police called in the contractors and the central barrier was dismantled. Eventually the protesters were led away, still connected, and with some difficulty they were folded into the waiting police van. All were charged with Breach of the Peace and held for seventy-two hours in Govan Police Station.

The camp at Pollock Free State may have been dismantled, but what remains is a beautiful place where tarmac would have been, a shrine to the love and energy of those who were there.

## RUSSLAND BEECHES

The Lake District National Parks Authority (LDNPA) acquired the Russland Beeches in, or before, 1984 "to preserve their amenity value and conserve wildlife", but they now want to fell the lot.

A petition of 3,500 signatures was handed into the LDNPA and an independent report commissioned and paid for by locals, and South Lakeland FoE, found that the majority of the trees are very healthy and say that two hundred years from Beeches is only 'mature' from a timber production point of view. A group of seven tree surgeons have offered to do some sensitive tree surgery work for free as they know that that is all there is a need for.

The LDNPA disagree, their reasons are that the roadside trees are so old and in such bad condition that they are a danger to passing motorists. Locals are awaiting a report from the DoE that could lift Tree Preservation Orders on the Beeches which would give the final clearance for the trees to be felled, but there is still hope that the felling will not go ahead. The special report is expected any day now. If the decision goes against locals wishes there may will be a call out for direct action. Local campaigners have also had police on the phone wanting names of people interested in going up there to help defend trees! They refused. Contact: 01539 563671.

## ANTI GE ACTIONS

Throughout December there were numerous actions across Europe against the arrival of Monsanto's genetically modified 'Roundup Ready Soya', as well as Ciba Geigy's Bt Maize that has just been given the go-ahead for importation into Europe by the European Commission.

December 11th saw Greenpeace paying visits to the nine directors of Unilever where they planted huge 'X's' in their gardens. Unilever is Britain's largest food manufacturer and they are refusing to label food containing GE soya here in Britain (although they have assured German consumers that they will have a choice). This was one of dozens of actions by Greenpeace world-wide against Genetic Engineering in the last two months.

The 14th December, the International Day of Action against Genetic Engineering, saw supermarket managers around the country running around panicking as their customers were leafleted about the possible dangers of the G E food that will

be on shelves, unlabelled, any day now. (Soya is present in 60% of all processed food.) Theatrical protests were used by Reclaim The Streets in London and Bath Eco Futures Group, to help bring the message home in both cities.

In Liverpool on 17th December six activists climbed into Cargill's soya processing plant and marked soya filled silos with large 'X's' to warn of contamination.

In their press release they said that Cargill were risking ecological catastrophe and were abusing their control over the market by refusing British consumers the right to choose not to eat genetically manipulated food, and demanded that the company stops the import of Genetically Engineered soya. Cargill hold the monopoly on the production of soy oil and protein in this country. One of Ciba Geigy's compounds in Macclesfield, Cheshire also had a visit, with huge 'X's' being sprayed on their entrance and a message sprayed all down one wall warning of the 'Genetic Hazard Inside'.

Meanwhile in Denmark the offices of Monsanto, owner of the patent on the herbicide 'Roundup' and the company behind the genetically manipulated soya bean of the same name, were occupied for many hours with activists d-locking onto the staircase.

Greenpeace now have available their campaign pack on Genetic Engineering, and it is a must for anyone who would like more information. You can call them on: 0171 865 8100. Manchester Earth First! also have information on upcoming actions and can be contacted on: 0161 224 4846.

If you have information to send out on the above subject, or want receive information on actions and the latest news via e-mail contact rts@gn.apc.org.

## MCLIBEL TRIAL ENDS!

After two years of testimony and eight weeks of closing speeches, the final legal arguments in the McLibel Trial were completed on 13th December. All that is left now is the judge's voluminous judgement, which is expected anytime from March 1997.

On the last day of final submissions Mr Justice Bell said: "I will say now that I propose to reserve my judgement. It will take me some time to write it. I don't mean to be difficult when I say I don't know when I will deliver it because I don't know." He denied newspaper reports that his ruling would come at the beginning of 1997 or early 1997, adding: "It will take me longer than that."

The McLibel Campaign is calling for an international 'Victory Day of Action' on the Saturday after the verdict. In the UK, it is hoped that the majority of McDonald's 750 stores will be leafleted on that day. If you live in the UK, please assist in the co-ordinated leafletting on the day of action by adopting your local store. Contact the McLibel Support Campaign for an 'Adopt-a-Store' form to complete on: 0171 713 1269.

## SKYE HELICOPTERS

Residents on the Isle of Skye are extremely worried that the tranquillity of one of the most beautiful and tranquil areas on the Islands will be ruined if the latest tourist plans are given approval. Skye Helicopters hope to start sightseeing helicopter flights over the Cuillins.

An application has been made for three helipads in Sligachan, one for tourist flights, one for a mountain rescue helicopter and the other for a bracken spraying helicopter. At full capacity there will be five flights an hour each lasting ten minutes through Easter-September, devastating the peaceful nature that the area is known for.

## How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

By Post: Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. By Phone: 0171 561 9146. By E-Mail: [actionupdate@gn.apc.org](mailto:actionupdate@gn.apc.org).

Please enclose a SAE for replies, and to subscribe to the free e-mail server send us your details.

Earth First! Website address: <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

## NABURN WOODS

Clearance work has started at Naburn Woods, in York in readiness for a huge out of town shopping centre. However, the activity has been sporadic and York EF! have been unfortunate that all the days that they picked to stop work have been times when none was scheduled anyway.

On December 14th a select few activists paid a visit to the developer's (BAA McArthur Glen's) existing shopping centre near Ellesmere Port. People climbed on the roof and explained the issue through a loudhailer to the generally supportive crowd. The rest of the day was spent leafleting and getting thrown out several times by increasingly irate security. Although numbers were small, they did make an impact, especially on shops which may be considering investing in the Naburn Scheme, and some interest has already been shown in returning to do the job properly in the near future. Contact York EF! 01904 410185.

## PRESSENMAN WOODS

On the East Coast of Scotland, twenty-five miles from Edinburgh, lies a tiny fragment of the once immense Caledonian forest that covered large areas of Scotland. This piece of 13,000 year old woodland is yet another area that has fallen into the hands of the people that put profit before life. John Kinnaird, the local landowner, along with the Forestry Commission, wants to cut around 350 mature oaks to "thin the wood for the enjoyment of future generations".

What they fail to realise is that such an amount of thinning would severely damage the eco-system within the wood and would open the wood to potentially devastating wind damage, never mind the fact that each tree has a Tree Protection Order (TPO) on it.

Once the trees have been cut they are likely to be sold to a German car manufacturer to make dashboard veneers, so it is not hard to see why they are so eager to 'thin the wood'. If there is a big enough number of people opposed to the scheme it is likely that they will back down. A camp has already been set up so come and defend this priceless piece of Scotland. For more details contact: 0131 228 2193 or 01368 850630.

## KIRKSTALL DEVELOPMENTS

On the 18th December fifteen Earth First!ers stormed the Headquarters of Morrisson's supermarket in Bradford and occupied the Managing Director's office for one and a half hours. The action was in support of the residents of Kirkstall who are fighting the building of a road, supermarket and petrol station, all of which are to be financed by this supermarket chain.

Originally there was a 'peoples plan' of mixed sustainable use for the site, developed by the local community, put forward - but Central Government didn't like this idea so they proceeded to take the land and give it to one of their Quangos, who then sold it illegally to a development firm.

Leeds Earth First! decided enough was enough and went to pay Mr Morrisson's a visit. Two security guards simply looked on as the EF!ers charged up the stairs to Ken's office. While there they sifted through Xmas cards from such pals as Proctor and Gamble and Nestle, and enjoyed a cuppa. There was also a very interesting article spotted on the Managing Director's desk referring to Centreparc developments in Yorkshire!

When police eventually arrived one hour later they pointed out to Ken that no charges could be made for alleged libel as it was a civil matter. At this point Ken agreed to a meeting in early January. Actions will be continuing if necessary! For more details contact Leeds Earth First! on: 0113 262 9365.

## BP PICKET

On December 10th, World Human Rights day, a picket was held outside the London headquarters of British Petroleum, Britain's number one company.

The picket was to highlight the ecological devastation caused by BP and their involvement with, and generous funding of, death-squads in Colombia. BP have handed over to the brutal military 16th Brigade, video and photographic evidence of trade unionists, environmentalists and peasant farmers who have dared to complain about the oil spillage's which have poisoned rivers, crops and livestock. Just days later these protesters have been beaten, tortured or been found murdered.

Police presence at the picket was fairly minimal but as usual they played a very active role in working with the corporate lackeys to thwart almost every attempt to hang banners from the building. Eventually, a huge blood spattered 'Bloody Petroleum' banner, aping BP's corporate logo was unfurled right across the front of the building much to the grey suited inhabitants annoyance. Another banner detailing the killings and BP's ecological damage in Colombia was hung between two trees directly opposite. In your face! The event was covered by Colombian news crews and there was a good turnout of Colombian exiles, many of whom were at risk of either being deported or being hit in this country by the death squads who have very long arms.

On the morning of the picket outside BP HQ there was an attempt to stop and lock onto a BP tanker as it crossed the Dartford Bridge in London. Although this was supposed to have been a well kept secret, the action was badly busted by the police immediately beforehand and therefore did not happen. It is not entirely clear how they knew but it shows again the need for security measures to be taken seriously on such actions.

For details of future actions against BP contact London Reclaim The Streets on: 0171 281 4621.

## STATELY PROTEST

It was Sunday 5th January and nearly one hundred anti-opencast protesters gathered in the rolling snow-covered grounds of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire to visit the Duke of Devonshire.

Derbyshire has become one of the worst hit counties for open-cast destruction and the Duke is allowing private developers to destroy part of his land on the Chatsworth estate (although obviously not land within view of the house).

He was well prepared for the day and even seemed quite excited at receiving some visitors. He had the police wave people in past the 'closed to the public' signs and had his kitchen hands serve soup to the complaining peasants when they arrived at his stately mansion. His right hand man mingled politely, handing out written statements containing the Duke's comment on the proposed open-casting, and saying that His Grace would be out in a minute to meet us.

It was an unexpected welcome but before long 'no open-cast' flags and banners were out, and a PA was blasting out the sounds of a noisy open-cast mine at work. Three people found their way inside his residence and waved flags from the roof. The doddery old Duke emerged from his cotton wool world to hear the peasants concerns - he told them that he cared about the environment but that he believed in a need for coal and jobs and that decisions were in the hands of the planners who represent the public, not in his. It became easier to pity him than curse him for being an earth rapist.

The peasants left him to his castle and thought what a wonderful summer party venue Chatsworth House would be. For more information on this and future actions contact the Miners Support Group on: 0181 672 9698.

## EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 30 Meet 12 noon for a monthly protest at the Bangladesh High Commission, 28 Queens Gate, London SW7, to protest at tribal peoples oppression in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. Contact Survival International on: 0171 242 1441.
- 31 Blockade of Menwith Hill Spy Base call: 01943 468593.

### FEBRUARY

- 1 National Day of Action Against Live Exports in Dover, Gilders etc. Contact: 01203 632873.
- 1-2 Faslane Peace Camp party and actions to welcome the birth of Spring. Contact: 01436 820901.
- 8 National Day of Action Against Hunting. Contact Hunt Saboteurs Association on: 01273 622827.
- 8 Street Party in Amsterdam. Contact London RTS for more details: 0171 281 4621.
- 14-16 First Anniversary of the Sea Empress disaster. Massive Direct Action to target the oil industry and Milford Haven Port Authority. Workshops, briefings, massive action and party. Contact Cardigan Bay EF! Details of the campsite will be released from February 12th. Call: 01749 812665.
- 17-19 'Reclaim the Valleys III - the saga continues' contact Reclaim The Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre: 0385 711364.
- 21 No M66 campaign action. Reclaim Daisy Nook! Anniversary of Daisy Nook camp eviction. Meet 11am at Daisy Nook Visitors Centre, Stannybrook Road. For more information call: 0161 344 0225.
- 21-23 Gathering at Menwith Women's Peace camp to learn more about the Menwith Hill Spy Base. Call: 01943 468593.

### MARCH

- 14-17 Faslane Peace Camp Womens Actions. Bring tents, sleeping bags, boltcutters etc.! For more details contact: 01706 812663.

### APRIL

- 5-6 The Land is Ours Gathering, location yet to be announced. For more details contact: 01865 722016.

**LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The editors of the Earth First! Action Update do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.**

## WHATLEY QUARRY

A network of activists from around Somerset did an early morning shut down of Whatley Quarry on 14th December, blocking the gates all morning and preventing lorry movements. The quarry bosses were reduced to pleading with the forty or so activists to let the lorry drivers past through the gates to go home for the weekend. Actions at Whatley Quarry will continue, as every extra pound they lose makes destruction firm ARC's dire financial situation even worse and the likelihood of even more ecological devastation less of a possibility.

A number of people in the Somerset area have been arrested and have had equipment seized in connection with the railway tracks at Whatley Quarry that were sabotaged recently. An unknown number of people have been charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage and endanger life.

For future action details against Whatley Quarry or other Somerset Network events Contact Avon Gorge Earth First! on: 01225 448556 or South Somerset Earth First! on: 01935 825074. Solidarity actions targeting ARC around the country would also be very nice.

## WELLS RELIEF ROAD

On Friday 10th January the official opening of the £5.5 million Wells 'Relief' Road was disrupted by thirty people. The new road is six kilometres long and ploughs through woodland and small playing fields. It has been stated that Wells will need another bypass in ten years. John Watts, the Roads Minister, had been invited to open it but was jeered off the stage and didn't even get to cut the official opening ribbon as it was snatched away. From the stage he asked how many of the protesters were local. When it became clear that a large number were, one protester called out, "how many of you officials are?" They declined to comment and John beat a quick retreat back to London!

## DTI ACTIONS

Since the occupation of East Timor, one third of the population has been murdered and countless others have suffered human rights abuses at the hands of the Indonesian government.

Thousands took part in the SOS week of action (2nd - 6th December) which called for a ban on arms to Indonesia. The week began with a multi-faith service followed by a procession from Westminster Cathedral to join the protesters outside the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as the week long vigil began. It is here that licenses are signed for exporting weapons.

As part of an increasingly audible and growing campaign, the week was particularly successful in

focusing public outrage at the government's insistence on sending weapons to Suharto's repressive regime in Indonesia.

The week saw a series of actions including die-ins, a visit by a disarmed tank, Indonesian flag burning ceremonies staged by East Timorese as well as three separate interruptions during proceedings at the House of Commons. Protesters were delighted when they were applauded there by sympathetic MP's led by MP Cynog Dafis.

On December 9th, in defiance of public sentiment, the British Government announced that it had signed licenses for a further fifty Alvis tanks and more Tactica water cannons to Indonesia. For more information on the continuing campaign call CAAT on: 0171 281 0297.

## IRISH DIGEST

When he heard the news, he got paint and cloth out and composed the banner. The message done he got in his car and drove into Limerick city and onto the Ennis Road in County Clare. Less than an hour after leaving his farm in East Limerick the man, whose herd of cows had been killed by toxic pollution, was stood outside the gates of Syntex's chemical factory in Clarecastle with a banner letting everyone who cared to know what he thought about the Irish Environmental Protection Agency. "How can you license these people when you don't even know what killed my cattle?"

"I was overwhelmed", said one person who has been fighting Syntex's plans to build a toxic waste incinerator for the best part of a year, "that a sixty year old man whose livelihood had been destroyed can do something like this. We got up there to join him along with a rake of children". That morning the EPA had turned down the community's appeal against the incinerator, effectively dismissing their fears about the health effects from toxic pollution. "We're being poisoned and the state doesn't care."

Contact Ballyhoura Talamh Glas: 00 353 62 48668.

## A30 LATEST

On the morning of December 27th, under cover of darkness, Under Sheriff Mr Coleman and pals crept into Allercombe and cut walkways before Zoro the dog's 'Arruga' bark could be heard. There was little anyone could do with only five people on camp, most of Allercombe's regulars having taken advantage of Christmas to visit friends and families for the first time in months.

People in the treehouses awoke and barely had time to put on their boots before climbers were unwelcome guests in their homes. Tunnels were quickly trashed and the whole thing was over before breakfast. A sad end to what was considered by many to be the most beautiful of

anti-roadcamps.

On January 12th while people were away at Newbury, Mr Coleman struck again and this time it was Trollheim's turn. Bailiffs, tunnelling experts and police entered the camp at around 3am and took nine hours to evict everyone. People had been more prepared than they had hoped and it was a struggle to remove people from underground lock-ups described by Coleman as "some of the best my specialists have seen".

If by the time you read this Fairmile has not been evicted, have your bag packed and ready with warm bedding, eviction stash and whatever else you may need and be ready for the call out. If of course you can spare the time now then head down there right away. There is still fun to be had by all - even pixies and fairies! There are three compounds now on route.

The forces of darkness would never have the bottle to venture underground themselves and so they've recently recruited a scab pot-holer at £500 a day to assist in the eviction of eco-activists from defensive tunnels at Spiritual Roots at Newbury and the A30 camps. This person urgently needs to be identified so as to make their life not worth living in the caving community, apparently he is already very nervous about his identity being discovered. If anyone has a photo of said scumbag or if you have contacts with cavers/pot-holers please get in touch with both A30 Action on: 01404 815729 as well as the Third Battle of Newbury office on: 01635 45545.

## MENWITH WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP

On the filthiest night of the year the Amazons could still not be deterred from confronting the National Security Agency (NSA) at Menwith Hill. Considering that the NSA has spent the last year tightening security on the base it must have come as a surprise to them to find two sections of chain link fence missing. In the last (Wo)menwith news they published a recipe to dismantle the 'pusher' system which is a very tasty part of Menwith's spying operations (these antennas form a high frequency directional finding system vital to the function of the base). The women are delighted to report that this recipe has proved so popular that it has driven Colonel G. Dickson Gribble Jnr. (head spy) to reintroduce dogs to the site in a vain attempt to fend off prospective gourmets.

Meanwhile last years actions are still going through court processes, including eighteen women charged with illegally entering the base and three charged with £15,000 worth of criminal damage to radomes (okay golf balls) by writing anti-war slogans on them. There are lots of upcoming events and women are always welcome to turn up at the camp. For more information call Menwith Women's Peace Camp on: 01943 468593.

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NAME: -----

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A small caprellid shrimp among the algae of a rocky shore



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Manchester M1 1HW  
0161 224 4846  
[coniberr@cs.man.ac.uk](mailto:coniberr@cs.man.ac.uk)

Mid-Somerset EF!  
PO Box 23  
5 High St  
Glastonbury  
Somerset BA6 9PU  
01458 831545

Mid-Sussex EF!  
Box A  
Public House Bookshop  
Little Preston Street  
Brighton, East Sussex  
BN1 2HQ

Newcastle EF!  
4, The Cloth Market  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne  
NE1 1EA  
0191 273 4997

No M66  
14 Eaton Ave.  
Oldham. OL8 4HR  
0161 628 4727

Oxford EF!  
Box E  
111 Magdalen Rd  
Oxford, OX4 1RQ

Reclaim the Streets  
PO BOX 9656  
London N4 4JY  
0171 281 4621  
[rts@gn.apc.org](mailto:rts@gn.apc.org)  
<http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/rts.html>

Reclaim the Valleys  
c/o Swansea  
Environment Center  
Pier Street  
Swansea, SA1 1RY  
0385 711364

Sheffield EF!  
c/o Shefin  
201 Crookes Valley Rd  
Sheffield S10 1BA  
0114 2671200  
[bjgoss@pine.shu.ac.uk](mailto:bjgoss@pine.shu.ac.uk)

South Downs EF!  
c/o Prior House  
6 Tilbury Place  
Brighton BN2 2GY  
[savage@easynet.co.uk](mailto:savage@easynet.co.uk)  
<http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

South Somerset EF!  
31 Hamdon Close  
Stoke-Sub-Hamdon  
Somerset TA14 6QN  
01935 825074

The Flat Oak Society  
c/o 3 St Alphege Lane  
Canterbury  
Kent. CT1 2EB  
01227 463368

Upper Nene EF!  
Box E,  
24 St. Michaels Avenue,  
Northampton NN1

York EF!  
c/o York LEAF,  
Peace Centre,  
Clifford Street,  
York  
01904 410185

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Corporate Watch**  
**Box E**  
**111, Magdalen Rd**  
**Oxford, OX4 1RQ**  
**01865 791391**

Dead Trees EF!/Do or Die  
c/o South Downs EF!

DELTA  
Box Z  
13, Biddulph Street  
Leicester LE2 1BH  
Tel: 0116 255 3223

Direct Action Direct!  
c/o Mid-Sussex EF!

Earth First! Action  
Update  
PO Box 9656  
London N4 4JY.  
0171 561 9146  
[actionupdate@gn.apc.org](mailto:actionupdate@gn.apc.org)

Earth Liberation  
Prisoners  
c/o Mid-Somerset EF!  
[P.M.Blackmore@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:P.M.Blackmore@ncl.ac.uk)

Mendip Hills not Holes  
PO Box 2113  
Shepton Mallet, BA4

Road Alert!  
PO Box 5544  
Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5FB  
[roadalert@gn.apc.org](mailto:roadalert@gn.apc.org)

Toxic Alert EF!  
PO Box 2600  
Brighton BN2 2DY

## INTERNATIONAL

Australia EF!  
Canopy  
POB 1738Q GPO  
Melbourne 3001  
Victoria, Australia  
(0061) 3 3547972

**Ballyhoura Talamh**  
**Glas**  
**(Greeh Earth)**  
**Cois Abhann**  
**Killeen**  
**Garyspillane**  
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**00 353 62 46868**

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00 1503 7419191  
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**33610 Tampere 61**  
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India  
(0091) 484 25435

Volunteers for Earth  
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189 San Antonio  
Ext. SFDM  
1105 Quezon City  
Philippines

Workshop for all Beings  
ul.Modrzewskiego 29/3  
43-300 Bielsko Biala  
Poland  
Fax: (0048) 30 29496

Rainbow Keepers  
POB 14  
Nizhny Novgorod  
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[rk@glas.apc.org](mailto:rk@glas.apc.org)

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Slovakia

**Manuel A. Fernandes**  
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**Santiago Plaza**  
**Mazarelos**  
**15703 Santiago**  
**(A Coruna)**  
**Spain**

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Rainbow Keepers  
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(007) 044 2669310  
[nadia@glas.apc.org](mailto:nadia@glas.apc.org)

Young Lions EF!  
South Africa  
101356.2535  
[@compuserve.com](mailto:@compuserve.com)

## OTHER CONTACTS

Advisory Service for  
Squatters  
2, St Pauls Road  
London N1 2QN  
Tel: 0171 359 8814

ALF Supporters Group  
BCM Box 1160  
London WC1N 3XX

Anarchist Black Cross  
c/o 121 Railton Rd  
London. SE24 0LR

**Anarcho-Primitivist**  
**Network**  
**PO Box 252**  
**Rickmansworth, Herts**  
**WD3 3AY**

Anti-Fascist Action  
BM Box 1734  
London WC1N 3XX  
Tel: 0161 232 0813

Consious Cinema  
PO BOX 2679  
Brighton. BN2 2EF  
01273 278018

Contraflow  
56A Info Shop  
56 Crampton St  
London.  
SE17  
Fax: 0171 326 0353

Counter Information  
c/o Transmission  
28 King St  
Glasgow.  
G1 5QP

The Ecologist  
Agriculture House  
Bath Road  
Sturminster Newton  
Dorset.  
DT10 1DU  
01258 73476  
[ecologist@gn.apc.org](mailto:ecologist@gn.apc.org)

Freedom Network  
PO BOX 9384  
London.  
SW9 7ZB  
0171 582 3474  
Actions: 0171 793 7343

Green Anarchist Network  
BCM 1715  
London.  
WC1N 3XX

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.  
PO BOX 2786  
Brighton  
BN2 2AX  
01273 622827  
[hsa@gn.apc.org](mailto:hsa@gn.apc.org)  
<http://envirolink.org/arrs/HSA/hsa.html>

Industrial Workers  
of the World  
BM Box 4529  
London  
WC1N 3XX

Justice?/Cothrom  
c/o Larkfield Centre  
39, Inglefield Street  
Glasgow G42  
Tel: 0141 226 5066/  
424 1797

Justice?/Schnews  
PO Box 2600  
Brighton  
E. Sussex  
BN2 2DX  
01273 685913  
<http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/index.html>

LAMB  
Dpet 29, 1 Newton St  
Manchester M1 1HW  
0161 274 4665

Legal Defence &  
Monitoring Group  
BM Haven  
London.  
WC1N 3XX  
0171 837 6687

McLibel Support  
Campaign  
5 Caledonian Rd  
Kings Cross  
London  
N1 9DX  
0171 713 1269

Menwith Womens  
Peace Camp  
A59 Lay-By  
Nr. Menwith Hill  
Spybase  
Nr. Harrogate  
N. Yorks  
01943 468593

Squall  
PO Box 8959  
London  
N12 5HW  
0171 561 1204  
Fax: 0171 272 9243

Third Battle of Newbury  
PO BOX 5520  
Newbury.  
RG14 7YW  
01635 45544  
Fax: 01635 45545  
<http://www.gn.apc.org/newbury/>

The Land is Ours  
Box E  
111 Magdalen Road  
Oxford  
OX4 1RQ  
01865 722016

Undercurrents  
16b Cherwell St  
Oxford.  
OX4 1BJ  
01865 203661  
Fax: 01865 243562  
[underc@gn.apc.org](mailto:underc@gn.apc.org)

The Wilderness  
c/o EF! Action Update  
PO Box 9656  
London  
N4 4JY

## WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not so much a cohesive group or a campaign as a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop, and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants. The contacts are autonomous groups that consider themselves to share the above principles. International contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other contacts are ones whose aims and principles are ones that we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. New additions or alterations are shown in bold.

# *A Strong Heart's Will to be Free*

## A Letter from Rod Coronado

For those of you who have not heard of Rod before, he's a Native American activist and has been involved in the Earth First! and Animal Liberation movements for many years now. He first shot to fame as a Sea Shepherd activist. On Saturday November 8th 1986 with a Brit, David Howitt, he sunk half the Icelandic whaling fleet and destroyed, causing over two million dollars worth of damage, a Whale processing factory. This article was originally printed in the US 'Earth First! Journal', Samhain '96.

It has been over five years since I began my participation in an offensive against the humans who imprison our mink, fox, bobcat and lynx relations, and though it is a path that has led me to prison, I have no regrets. In the spring of 1991, a handful of earth warriors and I traversed the Northwest, releasing 60 mink, four bobcats and two lynx, former fur-farm prisoners that we had rehabilitated. It was the fulfilment of a promise I had made one December morning as I watched a Montana mink farmer twist the necks of minks until they cracked.

We were "on the job," working as private investigators, and had infiltrated the US fur-farm industry as Jim Perez and Mary Beth. Our objective was to obtain photographic evidence of the conditions and killing techniques used on America's 600 mink, fox, bobcat and lynx farms. What we didn't plan for were the ulterior motives of the animal rights group that had hired us, Friends of Animals. They seemed more concerned with creating a media campaign using graphic video and photos to generate membership (i.e. money) than listening to our discoveries of vital economic weaknesses in the research and development end of the fur-farm industry. Where did this leave us? It left a handful of dedicated grassroots activists who literally begged, borrowed and stole to buy out the neck-breaking fur farmer and who then rescued, rehabilitated and released the surviving 66 fur-farm prisoners.

As I sit here on my prison bunk, with the photos of those liberated animals running free posted on my wall, I think of how the story could have ended there. We got the evidence, rescued some prisoners of the war on nature and successfully returned them to their native habitat. But there was still the promise. I was sworn to do everything in my power to destroy the industry that had led to the concentration camps called fur farms, which took native predators and imprisoned them for their fur.

Enter the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). As the last bobcat from the fur farm was beginning a new life in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in southern Oregon, ALF warriors were pouring over the information and evidence obtained in our investigation. Our goal was to search out and destroy the very links that kept the fur-farm business in the black. Knowledge is power, and in the hands of the ALF willing to put it to use, it's one hell of a wake-up call.

On June 10, 1991, ALF warriors raided the nation's largest experimental fur farm at Oregon State University (OSU), destroying and confiscating vital research records necessary for ongoing mink research benefiting fur farmers. The building housing experimental feeds aimed at lowering mink farmers' overhead was burned to the ground. Within a year, after 65 years in operation, the research lab dosed its doors forever.

On June 15, ALF warriors struck the Northwest Fur-Breeders Co-operative in Washington that supplies feed to OSU's fur farm as well as 45 others in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. A fire set in the warehouse caused over \$800,000 in damages.

On August 13, ALF warriors raided three separate labs at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, rescuing seven coyotes, six mink and ten mice used in experiments to benefit the fur and livestock industries. Department of Agriculture "Researcher of the Year" John Gorham's office was ransacked and records confiscated before sulphuric acid was poured over his files.

On December 22, ALF warriors placed incendiary devices in the pelt processing building of Malecky Mink Farm in Yamhill, Oregon. The farm is tied in with OSU's research on mink breeding and nutrition, This action destroyed the farm, putting it out of business.

On February 28, 1992, ALF warriors raided the nation's most prominent fur-farm disease researcher, Richard Aulerich, at Michigan State University (MSU), rescuing two mink from his experiments, destroying laboratory equipment at the mink research lab and igniting an incendiary device in his campus office destroying 32 years of research benefiting mink farmers,

What the OSU, WSU, Malecky and MSU raids accomplished was to effectively neutralise all major recipient research funded by the Mink Farmer's Research Foundation. Along the way, ALF warriors had also been alerted to vivisection conducted on coyotes for that most evil of animal enemies, Animal Damage Control (ADC). On October 24, ALF warriors hosted a HOWLoween campfire party at the USDA's Predator Research Facility in Millville, Utah. Twenty five coyotes were rescued from the labs and the evening's campfires were started both inside the Predator Research Facility laboratory, which later had to be destroyed, and at head researcher Frederick Knowlton's office at Utah State University in Logan.

The story could have ended here had it not been for a nation-wide law enforcement task force that discovered my handwriting on a package containing stolen MSU research records and a letter written on behalf of the ALF requesting funds for more actions. I never entered into the ALF believing that a guerrilla army could launch six covert operations against US government-funded research facilities without suffering due reprisals. Four Earth First! and animal activists were imprisoned for six months apiece for refusing to testify to federal grand juries investigating "Operation Bite Back," and many others were subpoenaed and harassed by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents before I was finally indicted on five counts of "use of unregistered explosives," "extortion" and "threats to interfere in interstate commerce," "interstate transportation, arson, theft and destruction of government property," and "receiving stolen property." I read in the newspapers that I faced 50 years in prison if found and convicted. As the only indictable ALF member, I was singled out for persecution (and prosecution) with the hopes that pressure on me would lead them to other ALF warriors.

After living underground for three years, I was tricked into a ruse: I was told a wounded hawk lay in my tribe's fire department. Upon my entry, I was jumped by US Marshals, ATF and FBI agents as well as the local hitmen for the bluecoats, the Bureau of Indian Affairs police. Once in custody, I was re-indicted on additional charges of racketeering and conspiracy for all the above-mentioned "crimes." I faced 10 to 12 years if found guilty on all charges. I also faced additional charges in

Montana for stealing the diary of a dead 7th Cavalry soldier from the Battle of Little Bighorn. The theft was to draw attention to the desecration and destruction of indigenous heritage and artifacts.

In March of 1995, I plea-bargained down to one count of destruction of government property and aiding and abetting arson at MSU. In August, I was sentenced to 57 months in prison and ordered to pay over \$2.5 million in restitution. In September, I surrendered to federal prison in Safford, Arizona near where Geronimo did his time and after three months was transferred to a higher security prison outside of Tucson, where I am now. My father's family is from southern Arizona and this whole region is in my Yaqui homeland. The reservation is only thirteen miles away, so at least I'm a prisoner of war in my own homeland.

So what is prison like? No big deal, just another cheap attempt at mental reindoctrination to subdue us indigenous hostiles who still fight Manifest Destiny. No true rehabilitation for sex offenders and the violent, only warehousing of those deemed dangerous to society in a political attempt to satisfy Americans' "get tough on crime" machismo.

As an earth warrior and animal liberator, prison is a time to relax. It is a time to read all those thick novels and other books piling up on your shelves, to correspond with your brothers and sisters on the front lines of animal and earth defence, and to realise that our beliefs, like those of the indigenous peoples the world over are quickly being legislated as terrorist acts in practice.

Am I bummed that I'll be in prison until August 1999? Of course, but when the price of my "freedom" is apathy, and worse, inactivity to the notorious forces that are destroying our life-support system and sacred mother earth, then I chose the freedom within these walls knowing I've done everything I can to stop the madness. I have educated myself too much to justify anything short of total resistance to the forces destroying our planet

Prison is nothing more than the adult equivalent of being grounded or sent to your room. It is a shallow attempt to crush the spirits of those who would not surrender their freedom to others, and a punishment for modern-day warriors who in days past would have been "dealt with" using the same methods employed at Wounded Knee and Sand Creek. No one can deny us true freedom except ourselves, and when we liberate ourselves and open up to the powers of earth, we discover that freedom is nothing that one person can deny another. It's a state of being that each one of us has felt or seen behind every forest blockade and every free-roaming bison. It is the spirit of wildness crying to each one of us who has awakened to the reality of what is being done to earth, and who have been chosen to defend her.

The day is quickly coming when we must ask ourselves what is more important, living "free" in the occupied territories of our oppressors, or living free within ourselves, not questioning what is legal, but doing what is right. I've stood on protest lines while vivisectioners and loggers marched past to their day's work of animal torture or forest destruction and felt helpless and utterly useless to defend the lands and animals I claim to share brother and sisterhood with. That is not freedom, that is an exercise in well-disciplined self-control. The type of control we're taught in school and in prison.

I've also wrenched engine-room valve covers off whale-killing ships and felt the sea gushing in, and swung hammers against computers and research equipment used to torture the animal people. In these actions I've felt true freedom. The type of freedom worth living and dying for. And if the price of that kind of freedom is a few years of forced relocation with three square meals (vegan even!), recreational and literary exercise and relaxation, then it's worth it!

We are not murderers, and as long as we don't kill anyone but target the machinery of life's destruction and attempt to rescue our animal relations, then realistically the worst our enemies can do is lock us away for a few years. A small price to pay for the survival of our planet and her future generations of all life. Take it from someone in the clink brothers and sisters, if we are to preserve all that we love including each other, we have to start showing our opposition we're not afraid of what they can do to our physical bodies. No true Christian can allow the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; no true animal liberationist can resist opening the cages of man's animal prisons; and no true earth warrior can remain within the law when the rape of mother earth is sanctioned by it

Now, I know my old adversaries in the FBI and ATF will read this and label it as the Gatherings of a fanatic promoting domestic terrorism, but these are the same people who use very real physical violence not to protect the planet that gives us all life, but to protect the interests of those most guilty of destroying her. I wish I could believe that their armed agents are only acting in the public's best interests, to prevent violence, but if that were true, then they would be on our side when the bulldozers came and would be raiding the corporate offices of Georgia-Pacific, Maxxam, Mitsubishi and their own Washington headquarters. To my old adversaries, I am nothing more than a convicted felon, no different from the "hostiles" and "bloodthirsty savages" their predecessors justified killing in the name of progress. But to earth warriors and animal defenders (no difference) everywhere, I am happy to report that I am free, and no length of government-sponsored vacation can deter me from receiving the blessings of our earth mother.

One day they will have to let me go. All I ask is that we compare our own imprisonment, be it years in federal prison or days in county jail, to the imprisonment of whales, dolphins, apes, elephants, mink, bears, fox, bobcat, lynx, wolves and other animal relations who are guilty of no crime, yet sentenced to life imprisonment. Justice will be delivered to them only by you.

What of the ALF, and their efforts against the war on fur animals? Since my imprisonment, the ALF has continued the campaign against the mink industry, raiding at least 13 mink farms and releasing thousands of animals back to the wilderness. The fur industry's response has been to place a \$100,000 reward for the head of an ALF warrior. So, consider giving to the ALF supporters group should that unfortunate day arrive when another ALF warrior is captured.

Thank you all for the hope you give that our children might learn to love and cherish all the natural creation that we have been honoured to defend. My heart goes out to all my brothers and sisters making stands for ancient forests and fighting the Salvage Rider, for fighting for the salmon, for occupying trees in the Third Battle of Newbury and for all the other battles I am unable to attend. Your letters make me feel a part of the front line, and in each one of you I see the spark of spirit-fire that allows all of us to become undefeatable warriors. It won't be long before I'm honoured to fight with you against our common opposition. Your actions shall be seen as the most important of our generation's, and the most necessary for the earth's survival.

**Never let the fear of imprisonment keep you from exercising your strong heart's true will to be free.  
Until all are free,**

**—Rod Coronado**

Write to Rod at his prison address: 03895-000, FC1 Unit SW, 8901 S. Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706, USA

For more info on Sea Shepherd and the 'Raid on Reykjavik' read the Dead Trees Earth First! pamphlet 'Neptunes Navy' Send £1 including postage to: DTEF!, c/o SDEF!, Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton, E.Sussex, BN2 2GY. See Do or Die 2 for a previous article by Rod written during hiding.

The EF! Journal comes out 8 times a year and costs \$35 international surface mail to subscribe. Make cheques out to 'Earth First!' and send to: EF! Journal, Subscriptions, FOB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440, USA

# RECLAIM THE COAST! TARGET THE OIL INDUSTRY SEA EMPRESS ANNIVERSARY ACTIONS



## 14TH - 16TH FEBRUARY

### FRIDAY 14TH:

Arrive from midday for workshops, briefings,  
affinity group training etc.

### SATURDAY 15TH:

Actions.

### SUNDAY 16TH:

De-briefing and party.

Campsite details will be available from Wednesday 12th Call: 01749 812665.

FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT DETAILS CALL:

*Photocopy and distribute this flyer.*



# TARGET THE OIL INDUSTRY!

On 15th February 1996, whilst heading for the Texaco refinery at Milford Haven in Wales, The Sea Empress oil tanker ran aground off the Pembrokeshire coast, spilling 72,000 tonnes of crude oil.

As a result of the Sea Empress disaster thousands of sea birds and fish, dozens of seals, and countless numbers of invertebrates died horribly in the thick toxic soup that spread along the coastline and out to sea. Many of these species were on the brink of extinction.

On 14th–16th February a series of actions will be held to mark the first anniversary of the spill, the injustice and cover up of the oil industry.

## TARGET MILFORD HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY

The actions will be aimed at Milford Haven Port Authority. The Port Authority cut back safety procedures to save money, so let's hit them where it hurts.

Texaco owned the oil and squeezed the tanker into the Haven at low tide to save money. Texaco didn't pay a penny towards the clean up costs and are making money by claiming insurance for the oil that they lost out at sea. Little has changed since the disaster – the same could, and given time will, happen again.

## OIL EXPLORATION IN CARDIGAN BAY

The British economy depends on bleeding the Welsh coast dry. Most of the coast is nominated a 'Special Area of Conservation' (Europe's highest conservation legislation) but despite this, Texaco, Elf and Gulf all have refineries in Milford Haven. Oil and gas exploration continues up the coast in Cardigan Bay. Cardigan Bay has 40 designated SSSI's and is home to Bottlenose Dolphins. Chevron and Marathon have started the first stage of exploration – seismic testing – which involves underwater explosions which bounce sound through the sea bed to study the rock structure. By October full sized oil rigs will be in operation.

## ORIMULSION – 'THE WORLDS WORST FUEL'

National Power plan to burn orimulsion at Pembrokeshire Power Station. Orimulsion is "the worlds filthiest oil". The 'fly ash' from burning is so dangerous that there isn't even an official 'safe' limit. It does not float on the water surface like oil and any spills would be catastrophic to the eco-system.

## ANNIVERSARY ACTIONS

Wales has no need for the oil industry and must stop extracting fossil fuels. The only way to stop another Sea Empress disaster is to shut down Milford Haven. Direct Action against the rape of Wales' environment and people is already established with the most high profile campaign being the one in response to the devastation of opencast coal quarrying tearing across the valleys

In the tradition of fighting the power a massive action is planned for the anniversary of the disaster on Saturday 15th February. A safe camping space will be set up the day before. Arrive from midday February 14th for briefing on the issues, safety at oil refineries, direct action training, affinity group formation, legal briefings etc. There will also be a crèche.

Details of the campsite will be available from 12th February. Call: 01749 812665.

Wish list: like others especially transport. Bring very warm clothes and bedding as well as waterproofs. If you cannot make it to Wales then target your local oil industry outlet!

**FOR MOVE INFORMATION CONTACT: CARDIGAN BAY EARTH FIRST!,  
TEMPERANCE HOUSE, TALIESIN, POWYS, MID WALES.**

**THIS ACTION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY 'RECLAIM THE VALLEYS III – THE SAGA CONTINUES' FROM 17TH–19TH FEBRUARY. IT WILL BE A FULL ON FIGHT FOR FOSSIL FUELS! THE OLD ENEMY WILL FIND THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN!**

# DEFEND THE GANDALF SIX

**Green Anarchists and ALF supporters on trial for free speech.**  
**THEIR CRIME:** telling the truth about animal liberation.  
**THEIR PUNISHMENT:** up to ten years in prison.

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## THE LIBERATION TOUR

**FIGHT TO STOP THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSIDENT OPINION AND ASSOCIATION!**

- 21: LANCASTER** University, 7.30 pm
- 22: LIVERPOOL** (tbc)
- 23: MANCHESTER** Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, 7.30 pm
- 24: NOTTINGHAM** The Community Centre, 7.30 pm
- 25: WOLVERHAMPTON** University, Wulfruna Street, noon
- 25: BIRMINGHAM** The Aardvark Centre, 115 Alecster Road, 7.30 pm
- 27: OXFORD** Ruskin College, Headington, 7.30 pm -- with Mackating
- 28: PORTSMOUTH** The Gravediggers Arms, 7.30 pm
- 29: BRIGHTON** The University of Sussex, Falmer, noon
- 29: BRIGHTON** The Unemployed Centre, 7.30 pm
- 30: CANTERBURY** East Kent University, 7.30 pm -- with Active Video
- 31: CAMBRIDGE** The Bath House, 25 Gwydir Street, 7.30 pm
- 31: LONDON** Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, 7.30 pm

### FEBRUARY

- 1: LONDON:** The Red Rose Club, Islington, 7.30 pm -- with Bryan Wilson & the Sounds of the Earth
  - 8: END OF TOUR** (venue to be announced), 7.30 pm
- 

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**GANDALF DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN, PO BOX  
66, STEVENAGE SG1 2TR (tel: 01438 746372)**

**LOCAL INFORMATION:**



NOT FOR REPOSTING

# DEFEND THE GANDALF SIX

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On 16th January 1996, 30+ cops acting for ARNI (the Animal Rights National Index, Special Branch's anti-animal lib / Green squad) arrested four editors of *Green Anarchist* newspaper, the *ALF Supporters Group Newsletter's* editor and Robin Webb, the Animal Liberation Front's press officer. This was the culmination of Operation Washington which, according to police, has been running since 1991 and which saw 55 raids across UK throughout the course of 1995/6.

The arrestees were all charged with conspiracy to incite criminal damage for reporting direct action news or knowing others that had. This 'crime' could land each of the defendants in prison for up to ten years. According to StateWatch "Britain has the most repressive conspiracy laws in Europe". For the Thought Police to prove their case, no criminal damage need be done nor anyone feel incited to do it; the 'conspirators' need know no-one doing damage and may know each other only tenuously or indirectly (in this case, having attended the same political rally -- along with thousands of other concerned people); it's all down to their *intent* and in practice what that means is the defendants trying to prove a negative in court, that they didn't intend anything. Many believe conspiracy / incitement to be a 'catch all' law, its heavy penalties making it a useful tool in suppressing direct action after the failure of the Criminal Justice Act.

On 9-16th December 1996, the Gandalf ('GA-aND-ALF') Six attended their committal hearing in Portsmouth, a read-through of some 6,000+ pages of documents seized from the defendants homes etc. During this, Special Branch officer DI Des 'Looney' Thomas admitted MI5's involvement in the case. He also insisted that without Robin Webb in the dock, trying the others would be futile. The contempt the Thought Police extended to democratic principles they were supposedly defending -- such as freedoms of speech and association -- extended to due process of law. They tried to get Robin tried twice on the same evidence, an abuse of process that saw him walk free on 16th December 1996.

The cops are appealing against this to the High Court, the Strand, London this Easter, the latest episode in a six year campaign of harassment against Robin. It's vital they do not succeed. This is not just about animal rights -- it's about trashing a potent instrument of State repression before it's applied to extra-Parliamentary opposition (YOU!) across the board.