

Earth First!

Action Update

No.39 MAY 1997

30p

"You're only as good as your last action" - Captain Chromosone.

GLOBAL GENE SHAG

As part of the Global Week of Action against Genetic Engineering, Super Heroes Against Genetics were at it again. On Monday 21st, around 60 activists stormed the High Wycombe HQ of Monsanto, creators of Roundup Ready soya and other genetic disasters (including Agent Orange). Banners were hung from the roofs, as activists overran the entire building.

Despite being told not to talk to protestors by their superiors, most workers were successfully approached and took part in conversations about the company's misdeeds. Some seemed genuinely worried, although a few unfortunately believed their own propaganda.

Whilst SHAG were having it out with the top bosses in the board room, a 'suspect package' was found by the police on the second floor. Activists were duly asked to leave the building 'for their own safety'. However the absence of the bomb squad or any real evacuation of staff made it an unlikely story.

Subsequently the 'bomb' was diffused by an heroic activist who sneaked down to it, picked it up and shook it to show the box, which had 'Monsanto' written on the address label underneath, was empty. A sad attempt by the company to get the activists out of its offices.

Police presence was slight, with two plainclothes Thames Valley Police IDing known protestors, and attempting to film. At 16:00, the prearranged leaving time, everyone did just that; there were no arrests.

On the following Wednesday, SHAG struck again, this time at 'Lowe Bell Good Relations', a PR firm in London. They're funded by Monsanto and other miscreants to selectively 'inform' the public of the benefits of the mutant soya bean. That morning the Soya Bean Info Line was staffed by Captain Chromosome, while fellow superheroes including G-Nome and Agent Orange, searched files, gathered useful information, and talked to bemused staff.

The police soon turned up in inappropriate riot gear - they thought it was a more hardcore animal rights action on some offices above. After 3 hours all left without any arrests being made.

The apparent lack of zeal for arrests shown by the police is suspected to be due to the genetic

manipulation industry's wish for low publicity.

Later on in the week, actions happened in supermarkets around the country. Most followed the theme of filling trolleys full of produce, bringing them to the checkouts, 'realising' they may contain GM soya, refusing to pay, and asking to see the manager whilst others leafleted customers in dashing Super Hero outfits.

in their best, managed to mount the stage, find a microphone and give the dinner guests further food for thought.

Graham Stringer, now Labour MP and airport executive, and one of the guests of honour, was observed turning pale white, then a nice bright red. Perhaps one day he'll manage green - but somehow that seems unlikely.



They thought they had it stopped, and failed. The Biggest Ever Street Party didn't go down well with the Met. If you saw anything or need witnesses: contact the Legal Defence & Monitoring Group.

station. "Come and take part in the growth industry of the decade: RESISTANCE"

**S T O P
PRESS*EVICTION
LATEST * STOP
PRESS * THE
END IS
NIGH * STOP
PRESS*EVICTION
LATEST**

The safety meeting between protestors and the forces of doom happened on 6th May. Leave to appeal the possession order is being sought as we go to press, so be on eviction alert from the 9th May. Phone the CAR2 office for the latest update. 3 km along the A538 (direction Wilmslow) from Manchester Airport train

VICTORY ON THE SOUTH DOWNS

"There was an unpleasant young farmer Who went by the surname of Harmer He ploughed up a field to boost his cash yield And ruined the downland's true karma"

At Offham in East Sussex, Farmer Harmer ploughed up a chalk grassland, which forms a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with rare butterflies and plants. His only reason for doing so is to plant flax so that he can gain an EU subsidy of £9000.

The first anti-plough camp was born, after a touch of digger-diving, and people started to restore the damage. Since then, victory! A Conservation Order has been served, there's a camp on site to prevent further damage, and people are making it all 'as right as rain', though water is much needed. No Japanese cloud-bombarding (with Silver Oxide) here, so get dancing, and contact them on 01273-324455.

TABLE DANCE AGAINST RUNWAY 2

Four CAR2 campaigners evaded police, undercover detectives and tuxedoed Reliance security guards to gate-crash the 'Runway 2 Celebration Dinner' in Manchester on the 18th April.

While other activists staged a banner drop in front of the Piccadilly Hotel, two women dressed as waitresses made their way into the crowded ballroom, climbed onto the central table, and launched into a rant about Runway 2 NOT being something to celebrate!

They were removed by security after receiving some restrained applause, and then detained for two hours until the Chief Constable - who had himself been seated at the table - decided not to charge them with criminal damage to a bread roll.

During this time, two more campaigners dressed

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The Bermudan Premier resigned following uproar after he allowed the former Premier to operate a number of McDonald's franchises. A 'Prohibited Restaurant Bill' banning McDogFood and other fast food stores has been passed, but is yet to be ratified.

Kit, on remand since the Fairmile eviction in January, was acquitted on May 1st, yee ha, so stop writing.

Bristol Solstice Street Party will be a weekend of events starting June 21st. RTS on Saturday, picnic on Sunday, accomodation available from Thursday 19th. Help is welcome! Call Bristol EF!

A GMO-Free (genetically manipulated organism) prisoner support group will be set up soon. Offers of help, ideas or enquiries: GMO Free Prisoners c/o Manchester EF!

SHAG on the NET: GEN and the Super Heroes Against Genetics will soon have a web site, <http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag>

McSpotlight now have a permanent office, and as well as campaigning against hideous multinationals, they are offering help and advice to groups who might like to get a web site.

Each Saturday there are actions at supermarkets around London and elsewhere against genetically modified food. Call 0171-561 9146 for more details, or just do it!

Groene Front is Dutch Earth First! They started with their first action last May. On 5th April, 18 people did a very successful road construction site occupation. Contact c/o South Downs EF!

Tracy Hart has been sentenced to 42 days for breaking an injunction banning her from entering Menwith Hill US NSA Spy Base, nr Harrogate. She should be out at the beginning of June. She's allowed visitors every day, so call Leeds EF! and book your slot! Write to: Tracy Hart, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London

Nuclear waste from power plants throughout Europe travels to Sellafield for reprocessing, via London and Birmingham amongst other places. Interested in London actions? Call Freedom Network. Countrywide route details: London CND 0171-607 2302, Green Events 0171-267 2552, or Birmingham CND 0121-643 4617.

The Consort Beagles action last month was the first time CS gas was used on the British mainland in a public order situation. The sprays, intended for 'self-defence', were sprayed above heads and down throats from close range. It is banned under the international Chemical Weapons Convention.

Did you know that the allowable amount of pus from mastitis in cow's milk has been recently raised from 5% to 15% - that's around 80ml in every pint. But don't worry, it's been pasteurised!

Blag £50 from your Student Union for the AU by doing a cut and paste over the subs info box saying that it costs £50 for groups. Then persuade your SU to subscribe. This has worked before. Do this wee action now.

BRITISH AEROSPACE AGM - HAMMERED AGAIN

On April 30th, BAe found themselves at the end of one of the largest shareholder actions of the season. Around 150 concerned citizens took part in the classic AGM drama. After last years eggs, the bored board were sitting miles away, across plastic plants, behind perspex screens and with loads of employees in the front rows as well as all the security. All to no avail, the meeting didn't get properly started for an hour and ended in the usual turmoil. With cunning simplicity, in small groups around the hall, everybody chanted "Stop selling Hawks to Indonesia". The chairman couldn't make himself heard and had to wait for all to be removed, which took ages. One person was injured more than average for trying to take pictures. Outside there were die-ins, blood and symbolic hammerings of a paper mach Hawk. A deliberate effort was made to be as dignified as possible and not to get into mass fights with the security, this seemed to have an impact on many of the shareholders.

Having an action that involved everyone was effective and empowering; buy your shares now.

The meeting procedures were dubious again - a friendly company lawyer to say what we shouldn't let them get away is needed, so if you are one, or know of one, contact the AU and we'll pass the info on.

GRIMSBY KIDS BULLDOZED

Local people fighting the re-routing of the A16 at Grimsby are facing new levels of road-building violence. After delaying this project for years, work has now begun clearing the route to allow the A16 to pollute nearby schools properly. Once scheduled to link to the M11, it will now dump its traffic outside one comprehensive, after passing by another, and carving up one of Grimsby's last green spaces.

Up to 100 school children turned out at the end of April to help stop work, only to find the Birse bulldozers weren't going to stop. Apparently under orders from the bosses, the drivers just bulldozed trees, hedges and children out of the way, and around 20 of them were hurt. Unfortunately they had no film, and the police and media seem uninterested - where's a Police Evidence Gatherer (EVG) when you need one! There have also been 6 arrests for the old Aggravated Trespass chestnut. Offers of help, support and advice would be much appreciated, contact 01472- 278 845

PROTESTERS CHALLENGE RUNWAY 2 BAIL CONDITIONS

In Manchester on 27th of April, two anti-runway campaigners challenged the now infamous 'exclusion zone' bail conditions by handing themselves in for breach of bail, and demanding a court review of this condition.

"We told the court when we were first charged with work obstruction that we would defy any condition of bail, if it meant that we were not allowed to return to our home, or if it prevented us from lawfully protesting. We then returned to site for a month, before we gave ourselves up, and in that time had committed no further offences, which is the only thing bail conditions are supposed to prevent" said one protestor.

It took about an hour for the two women to get arrested! The police were none too keen about detaining them.

"We had to ask them several times to arrest us and in the end we decided to go for a cup of tea instead. It was then that the police finally took action."

In the later stages of the Newbury protest, the 'sausage' exclusion zone condition was successfully overturned by two anti-bypass campaigners. The CAR2 campaigners felt that the similar runway bail conditions should be challenged at the earliest opportunity.

The challenge proved unsuccessful, the protestors briefly remanded, but airport campaigners say that they will continue to defy the exclusion zone, thus rendering it meaningless. Sorry, your Honour.

CHICHESTER RAIDS

On 1st April, 2 addresses in Chichester were raided in an attempt to seize literature linked to radical publications. The raids however went horribly wrong for our police friends. The first address turned out to be no longer in the hands of anyone involved in eco-protest, having been traced from a 2-year old subscription to a PO Box, used until recently by Chichester EF! and hunt sabs. On arrival, the police found an innocent family sitting down to tea. After hurried apologies, the police went on to hit the new contact point at the University, where they proceeded to arrest 2 people allegedly involved in the production of the EcoCalendar 96 and Direct Action Direct. Two stacks of paperwork were also taken, most of which concerned the University Sports Council! After questioning both people were released, somewhat furious, without charge.

DIRTY DRAX

Breach, a marine protection group in Goole, East Yorks, are co-ordinating action against Drax Power Station, near Selby. This is in response to National Power holding trials of American imported Petroleum Coke at the power station. PetCoke is really nasty - if you want more details of its high levels of sulphur, nickel, vanadium, selenium, mercury and chromium, and their inefficient combustion leading to acid rain, respiratory diseases, cancer, pollution of the food chain and general poisonousness, or about the loss of income to the local mining community in Selby, contact Breach for their 'Dirty Drax' information pack. A demonstration outside the plant on 26th April received support from all the main political parties in the area, a Green Party speaker, Friends of the Earth and the local community. The campaign is now set to get radical, possibly targeting National Power's AGM. For more info, contact Breach on 01405-769375 or at 3, St John's Street, Goole DN14.

EVICT TRIDENT, NOT FASLANE PEACE CAMP

On 24th April, Argyle and Bute Council announced their intention to evict Faslane. Set up in 1982 to protest against the production of Polaris missiles, Faslane is the longest running legal protest camp in Britain. The camp has become an important focus for direct action against Trident, and against the UK's entire nuclear weapons programme.

Before Scottish local authority boundary changes brought the camp under the jurisdiction of Argyle and Bute, the camp was actively supported by the sympathetic Dumbarton and Strathclyde councils, who gave the camp a lease, and planning permission.

Activists are determined to fight the eviction, yet another attempt to crush dissent. The protest is further legitimised by the historic World Court ruling of last July. The International Court of Justice, decided that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of

How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

Post: Earth First! Action Update, Dept 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW. Telephone: 0161 224 4846. E-mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org.

Enclose a SAE for replies. Send us your details if you want to subscribe to the free e-mail server.

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

international humanitarian law. Trident is therefore illegal and under international law should be evicted, not the Peace camp!!

A new campaign of civil disobedience to uphold this international ruling has been set up by several peace and environmental activist groups. On August 9th, Nagasaki Day, there will be actions at Faslane, as part of a co-ordinated worldwide NVDA campaign on this day, at the 'sites of crime'. There will be a rally at the North Gate at 1pm, followed by 'various activities', including a boat trip!

The action is a chance to not only display continued resistance to Labour's 'illegal' plans to retain nuclear weapons, but is a demonstration of support for Faslane, in the face of eviction plans.

Contact Faslane Peace camp or Scottish CND - 0141-423 1222

HEREFORD GENETHICS AND THE GENETIC ENGINEERING NETWORK

In the Wake of the very successful Big Gene Gathering earlier this month, a new group, Hereford GenEthics, has evolved to co-ordinate the campaign against Genetically Engineered food in the Herefordshire area. Members include individuals from local EF! and FoE groups, as well as a contingent from Gloucester. Already campaigners have staged successful supermarket actions at Sainsburys and may well soon be talking to Tesco's! Anyone with an interest in the issue, or who wants to get involved, contact Hereford GenEthics c/o Hereford EF!

Any group interested in becoming a regional contact for the Genetic Engineering Network, please contact 0161-224 4846 for the moment. Regular regional meetings are being pulled together, as is a national activist newsletter. If you are interested in writing a briefing sheet or leaflet on any of the many issues involved, give us a ring too. Your contact details will be passed on.

HULL RTS

Saturday 3rd of May. 300 partying protestors took to the streets and had a hugely effective day of fun and games. Following the initial march, the police (bless 'em) created a much more effective road block than was planned, negating the need for tripods, and resulting in the reclaiming of a much larger road! Well done Plod!! Sand pits, PA, children, dancing, games, beach balls and all! The party was without trouble from police or protestors, the only near arrest was a local bigot in a van who was obviously under the (mistaken) impression that roads are for driving down, not partying on. Upon being halted by police and protestors, he pulled an iron bar from the back of his van, only to be restrained and cautioned by the police (who seemed to be having a great time!)

After doing it in the street for three hours, the gathering returned to the local park where the party continued into the evening, without trouble. Respect to all those involved in the first RTS under the new government! Party on.... (and it didn't rain!)

HULL LAND OCCUPATION

On Saturday 17th April, Hull on Earth occupied an area of inner city 'wasteland', in a day of action to highlight Land Rights issues and awareness, and to provide an open access space for NVDA training and workshops on related lifestyle issues such as living in Co-ops, Permaculture, Non-Violence and more.

The area occupied was previously allotments, but has been sitting vacant for the last 12 years. The workshops were very successful, but the most surprising result was the amount of community support for a pro social use of the land. Supporters included members of a hedgehog sanctuary, local organic gardeners, local residents (plus the chair of the residents association) and staff of a nearby owl rehabilitation centre. As a result of the day, a Legal Defence and Monitoring Group was formed. Another group was established where people pledged to involve themselves in an ongoing campaign to have the area turned into a community garden/permaculture site.

UKRAINE ANTI-NUKES

On April, 23th, the eve of 11th Anniversary of Chernobyl, a group of activists from the environmental movement 'Rainbow Keepers', 'Ecodefence' (Ecozahust) and NECO groups blockaded the Ukrainian President's residence in Kiev/Ukraine to protest against Ukrainian nuclear policy. They dodged armed 'militia', defying a 3 year ban on all public protest. The activists chained themselves to the front gates and unrolled a banner. They then demanded that President and Government shut down Chernobyl; end their plans of creating a "closed nuclear fuel cycle" in Ukraine; do not start-up new reactors at Rovno and Khmelnytsky; stop uranium mining in Ukraine; stop the Nuclear Energy Development Programme, and redistribute the finances from this programme to the development of energy efficient technologies. After an impromptu 45 minute press call, they were arrested and released 6 hours later.

STRINGERS COMMON EVICTION ALERT

One of the camps is in court on May 8th. As the powers that be went to extreme lengths to rush the case through, getting a special dispensation to avoid giving 2 days notice, evictions look very imminent. They desperately need people, tat, and donations.

HOLTSFIELD VICTORY

Fortunately, Labour's was not the only victory on May 1st. The residents of Holtsfield chalet community, who were living under the threat of eviction, won their case in the House of Lords. Earlier in the year they had marched from Swansea to Westminster to highlight their plight at the hands of profiteering property developer, Tim Jones. This is the most significant land-rights decision for a decade as it questions the age old feudal law which gives the land owner absolute rights to the land beneath tenants homes. This could have a positive impact on travellers, gypsies and other low impact dwellers

LLANDONA COMMON

The Countryside Council for Wales has jointly published a 'conservation' (nature reserve) plan for Llandona/Llaniestyn common whose recommendations amount to the razing of the common land. This will transform a healthy regrowth of small trees and gorse to a poisoned and desecrated patch of bare land.

They have begun their plan - parts of Llandona common have been trashed, and firebreaks prepared at Llaniestyn. Farmers burn heather to induce fresh shoots for their sheep to feed on, and the CCW call this sound ecology - trash, enclose and graze our commons. Why on Earth don't they leave the land to restore herself from centuries of overgrazing?

Actions are planned on the site. For info, Gwynedd & Mon EF!.

EVENTS

MAY

- 12-14 Actions against the large oil companies following the Crude Operators gathering.
- 14 SHELL AGM. QEII Conference Centre, opposite Westminster Abbey, London. Contact DELTA for shares or more information, or just show up on the day
- 14 "How do we defend the right to peaceful protest?" 19:00-21:00 at the Conference Hall, Battlebridge Centre, 2-6 Battlebridge Road, London (nr tube: Kings Cross). Contact J-B at EarthRights, the Environmental Law & Resource Centre (see contact list)
- 14-19 Hope & Resistance Gathering, Kiel, Germany. Contact 01865-714036
- 16 Shut Down Shoreham Port. A national day of direct action - "No more single issues - it is time to take on the entirety of modern civilisation". Meet 10am at The Hove Lagoon, by Adur Public House, 2 miles west of Brighton on seafront. Contact Shoreham Wilderness Defence, Box A, Public House Bookshop, 21, Little Preston Street, Brighton BN1 2HQ
- 16-18 Introductory weekend in primitive living skills, Cambridge, including edible and medicinal plant identification and use, tracking and fire making. Other weekends are in the pipeline. SAE to: Trackways, 83 Lower Cheltenham Place, Montpellier, Bristol BS6 5LA, or 0117-955 5312.
- 17 Sheffield Reclaim The Streets! Meet at 12:00 on Devonshire Green with drums, banners and party mood. Contact SheffFIN: 0114-266 2302
- 18 Consort Beagles (again). Meet at 12 at Harewood End, on the A49 between Hereford & Ross-On-Wye.
- 24 - 2 June Menwith Hill U.S. Spy Base Amazon Festival. Bring workshops, NVDA training, music, art, walks, food, fires, fun and wonderful, wonderful women! - 01943-468593
- 27 London GEN (Genetic Engineering Network) meeting; 18:30 @ Camden Head pub, Essex Rd, London N1
- 31 York Street Party. Meet at 12:00 at Clifford Tower. A Street Party with a difference, York are going PA-less and will have musicians and a crafts fair. Contact York EF!

JUNE

- 2 Blockade the Base! Contact Menwith Hill womens peace camp 01943-468593
- 10- 17 Alternative European Summit, Amsterdam. Parallel forum whilst EU Heads of State push unregulated free trade. Contact A SEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands, +31 20 6682236 or email aseedeur@antenna.nl
- 13-22 Stonehenge People's Free Festival. Info: c/o 99 Torriano Avenue, London NW5
- 14 Day of 'fun' at Faslane peace camp.
- 20-22 Bristol Solstice Reclaim the Streets - 0117-9393093

JULY

- 4 Mass Trespass at Menwith Hill, "Independence from America" day - 01943-468593
- 8-13 Earth First! Summer Gathering - workshops, training, debates, music, etc. 2 SAEs, 1 first class to: EF!SG c/o Leeds EF!
- 13 Walk for the Indians of Peru. Pressure Mobil to stop oil exploration in the Peruvian Amazon. Contact 0171-242 1441.
- 14-15 National EF! action, to be arranged!
- 23-27 Big Green Gathering - workshops, music, etc 01747-870667
- 26 Urban Free Festival, Peckham, London
- 26-2 August Second Intercontinental Meeting for Humanity & Against Neoliberalism, Barcelona, Spain. Following an initiative taken by the Chiapas, this Encuentro aims to form "an international network... comprising all those who resist". For info contact London Committee c/o BM-CRL, London WC1N 3XX

AUGUST

- 1-14 Ecotopia Gathering, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact EYFA, PO Box 94115, 1090 GC Amsterdam, Netherlands, +31-20-665 7743, eyfa@antenna.nl
- 9 Nagasaki Day actions at Faslane and other nuclear sites. Contact Faslane Peace Camp.

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.

HORSEPLAY AT LLOYDS-TSB AGM

There were many twists in the tales of the black horse, when a black panto horse trotted into the Lloyds-TSB AGM on April 15th. The horse, accompanied by two 'generals' and other shareholders, questioned the new chair, Sir Brian Pitman, on Third World debt and Lloyds financing of Alvis and Vickers tanks to Indonesia and Nigeria respectively.

No surprises from Lloyds when they refused to answer questions on future arms financing, but surprising support came from a former magistrate who berated Sir Brian, accusing him of insulting the protestors who, "have still got the conscience that most people here seem to have lost."

The HSBC/Midland AGM is on the 30th May, Barbican centre, phone 0161-274 4665.

LONDON CRITICAL MASS THIRD BIRTHDAY

Critical Mass has reached the grand old age of 3. Hundreds of cyclists have been following the police motorbikes through town every month. In April they celebrated by having a birthday party in the middle of Piccadilly Circus. Right in the middle.

Just a little one, mind, just to make the point that cities should be designed around people and not the needs of motor traffic.

The mass left at its normal time from the South Bank to transport a specially made 19" chocolate cake, on its journey around town to rendezvous with the tables and chairs being prepared at Piccadilly Circus by a small group of activists who had gone out in front.

A terrific racket was made as the mass arrived bang on time. Once it was clear that the Circus was sealed to motor traffic the tables and chairs were whisked into the road and set up with table cloths and vases of flowers for that real cafe feel. A waiter laid out the cake and served champagne to cafe "customers" while massers sang happy birthday. Bystanders and police looked on amused.

PRESSENMAN WOODS

On the East Coast of Scotland, twenty five miles from Edinburgh, lies Pressenman Woods, a tiny fragment of the once immense Caledonian forest that covered large areas of the country. This piece of 13,000 year old oak 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 admit 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 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,

PURE GENIUS

By 10am on 5th May, the banners were hung from the balconies of Dungeness House, overlooking the flattened site of the Wandsworth Eco-Village. At the same time, people were gathering across the river, to celebrate the anniversary of the occupation a year ago, when 400 activists squatted Guinness's riverside plot.

The anger of local residents remains strong since the eviction last October. This anger has found expression in the formation of the Gargoyle Wharf Community Action Group, started by locals to put forward alternative development plans. "We want to celebrate the achievements of the eco-village and the positive things it brought to our borough. We want affordable housing, local shops, access to our waterfront, green spaces and facilities for our children," said one local resident.

100 people from Pure Genius joined them in a re-seeding of the land, by throwing seeds over the razor-wire fences. Van loads of police seemed to be expecting much more than this ceremony, but 'made themselves useful' playing with the traffic, while the Pure Genius posse made their way elsewhere for a mini-festival of poetry, music and theatre.

Underlying the mellow atmosphere simmered a determination to continue the fight. "Guinness are vindictive bastards. We are all furious, not only did they evict our new friends, they have flattened the site..... We have to hit them where it hurts - their profits. I want a national boycott of Guinness," a local said.

Support the campaign by boycotting all Guinness and United Distillers' products. A full list can be found on TLIO website - <http://www.oneworld.org/tlio/>

"NO TANK YOU", PLOUGHSHARES-STYLIE

A group of ten activists, including three East Timorese refugees, entered the Glover Webb factory in the early hours of 5th May at Hamble, near Southampton, to comply with international codes of conduct on arms control.

They found over 300 Tactical armoured vehicles and water cannon awaiting export to the repressive Suharto regime. After marking the vehicles with "NOT FOR EXPORT TO INDONESIA", they quietly waited to explain to the workers why the vehicles could not be exported to Indonesia.

All were arrested on suspicion of burglary, including the accompanying journalist. They've been released on condition they return to find out whether they'll be charged. The East Timorese were kept for longest, to ensure they were not those dastardly illegal immigrant people. One, granted political asylum after escaping torture back home, was denied medication by our boys (& girls) in blue.

British military weaponry has been used in human rights abuses both in East Timor and Indonesia, and attempts to prevent the export through the courts have surprisingly enough failed.

HEAD STATE SUPPORT GROUP

The Head State Support Group is being set up to provide help (legal & letter writing) for people who feel mentally unstable from too much direct action (at a rough estimate over 15 people were sectioned under the Mental Health Act during and after Newbury). If you want or can offer help, have been sectioned or know someone who has, please contact 'Witches Green', 54 Mill Road, North Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0PZ. e-mail: jim@radicalfluff.demon.co.uk

EARTH FIRST! ACTION SUPPORT

An initiative to centrally supply expensive kit local groups can't afford, partly funded by the Weaver's Guild Cafe, which itself does cost or even free food at actions. It'll take time but it's getting there. If you want your action supported (or want to make a donation) give them a call.

EARTH FIRST! SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you pick up an EF! Action Update for free from one of the many distribution points around the country but think you can afford to take out a subscription, please take one out. Remember that each paid for Update pays for another five freebies to prisoners, etc., and other much needed useful things.

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Subscriptions cost a minimum contribution of £5 (£6 International subscriptions) for the next twelve issues. Send more if you can afford it to keep the Action Update going and to enable us to reply to enquiries and give free subscriptions to prisoners, libraries, community groups etc.. Make cheques and postal orders payable to Earth First! Remember security, false names and a collect or care of address are best.

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Earth First! And Shoreham Wilderness Defence present: The Importers from Hell SHOREHAM II!



The second anniversary of the Battle of Shoreham harbour is upon us. Now an even greater battle faces us - against the ecologically destructive practices of the global corporations. By taking Direct Action against live exports in 1995 we stopped the trade at Shoreham. With our combined strength we can do the same again.

Those months of struggle around the harbour have given us an unprecedented insight into the port. Unsurprisingly many of the other trades at Shoreham show the callous greed of the companies at work. The three main industries are Timber, Oil, and Aggregates. Communities just like ours are fighting these corporations all over the earth. Wild nature and the homes and lives of tribal people are being destroyed to feed the demands of western consumer culture.

Timber

"Shoreham is consistently placed second or third in the national hierarchy; by capturing timber trade from the Scandinavian, Baltic and Russian regions, Brazil, West Africa and Canada" - The Port of Shoreham, p 4.

The main timber trade lobbying group admits that only 0.001% of timber sold internationally is 'sustainable'. Even this is an overestimate. When the timber hasn't come from dead forests it comes from plantations which leach the soil of nutrients and prevent renewal of ancient forests. People know of the deforestation of Brazil, but many are still not aware of the reality of timber extraction in the Boreal and Temperate rainforests. Shoreham is strewn with timber from these forests which is just as important.

The rate of logging in BC has increased dramatically: the volume cut in 1990 was 3 times that of 1960. 1 acre falls every 5 seconds. Most of BC is land that the indigenous tribes have never ceded to the Canadian Government and it has no jurisdiction in most of BC under international law. Therefore the invasion of Indigenous lands and oppression of their peoples by logging companies and state police is an act of WAR! So far over 2,000 people have been arrested protecting these forests. Blocking logging roads and docks, occupying offices, tree sitting, sabotaging machinery, sinking timber ships etc.

"We can only win if communities like ourselves... take action against these corporations, their offices, their products, their docks. If we all work together maybe there will be a future for the wolves, the bears and the great towering canopies of BC" - James Toughton, Save Clayoquot Sound Action Committee

Much Shoreham timber is from Scandinavia, and these companies often claim to be green. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Although much of the Scandinavian land base is tree covered, they are mainly monoculture tree deserts lacking in any diversity. Finland has the dubious honour of being the world's leading peatland destroyer. In the 50's, peatlands in Finland were the richest in Europe. Now one fifth of the country, (an area the size of Ireland,) consists of ploughed and planted peatland. Irreplaceable old growth wilderness is being destroyed for profit. It is not enough to save the remaining 5%, the system that demands domination of the other 95% must itself be questioned. Questioning the very idea of progress and industrial civilization.

In Finland, a group called 'The Nature League' has been

trekking into areas scheduled to be destroyed, blocking logging roads and setting up action camps, often hundreds of miles from the nearest town. Their direct actions slow the destruction, but they need help. They want people to take action against Finnish timber companies around the globe. The situation is similar in Norway and Sweden. Britain is Sweden's biggest timber market and one of the biggest consumers of Scandinavian timber as a whole. Shoreham plays a major role in this. For the other countries represented at Shoreham the story is much the same: massive clearcutting through West Africa, the Baltic and Russia. For the sake of the Earth and all its living creatures, (including ourselves), we must attack these industries!

Oil

The Sea Empress incident with Texaco is an example of the lengths an oil company will go to maximise profit at the environment's expense. Shell were taught a lesson with the Brent Spar fiasco. They thought they could get away with dumping at sea, but in the end had to submit to the pressure of thousands of people, blockading and boycotting all over Europe. In some places petrol stations were burnt to the ground. Shell's policy is representative of the petrochemical industry as a whole. There are hundreds of oil spills every

multinational oil corporations. Ecuador is an example. It is not the exception, it is the rule. The oil corporations are responsible for mass murder and are undermining the very life support systems of the earth. People around the world are resisting them, it is time for us to join them.

Aggregates

This is another major industry at Shoreham, two examples of companies operating there are ARC and Pioneer. As well as being wrapped up in road building, they are involved in major quarry battles with communities in the South West. For five years ARC have been trying to get planning permission to expand the quarry at Whatley. Since Spring 1992 there have been actions against the quarry, so far with great success, but now ARC is pushing the application through again. So far protesters have been blockading lorries and trains, occupying offices and depots and halting explosions by entering the detonation areas immediately before ignition. ARC's parent company, Hanson Plc, are involved in similar activities all around the globe, including radioactive mining in the Black Hills, the most sacred site for many native North American tribes.

Animal Rights

Although the transport of live animals from the port of Shoreham has now ceased, the above industries are as responsible for animal abuse as any meat trade - deforestation leading to loss of habitat; oil spills killing thousands of marine creatures; road construction carving through the last remaining wildlife havens - the list is endless. These are reasons enough to take action at Shoreham, but an even more poignant link lies with the fact that a suspected live exporter - "Greens" - has family and business connections with the owners of

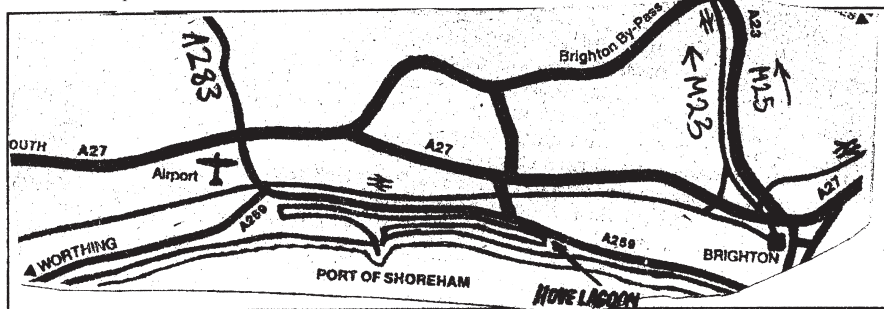
"Covers Timber merchants" - a major importer of foreign wood. By bringing these issues together and combining the forces of animal rights activists and Earth First!ers, all trade and industry at Shoreham can be halted!

Consumer Culture

It is pointless blaming these companies and protesting against corporate destruction if we do nothing to change our own habits, which ultimately are the reason these atrocities keep happening. Until we stop consuming the raw materials will have to come from somewhere. Campaigning to stop a particular logging operation, for example, may save a particular piece of forest, but will achieve nothing for forests as a whole. Demand will remain and other forests will be destroyed.

The real cause of forest destruction is the products we buy. Only by reducing our consumption can we hope to reduce our impact on this planet. Alternate consumption means alternate destruction. We do not need any of the goods imported through Shoreham, except to support the over-consumption, which already causes misery for much of the world and which will ultimately kill us all. By ignoring single issues and attacking the whole thing, we can begin to highlight the consumption end of the process. This is why the campaign against Shoreham Harbour is so urgent.

No more single issues - it is time to take on the entirety of modern civilization.

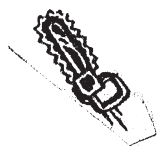


year. Even the burning oil wells of the Gulf War pale into insignificance when compared to the billions of oil fires in the combustion engines of the world's cars.

An average car releases its own weight in carbon each year. To fuel this, oil companies access wild areas, often by force, extract oil and leave behind a legacy of toxic pollution. Both BP and Texaco, (each has a base in Shoreham,) were heavily involved in exploration in Ecuador. Explosives detonated at 100 metre intervals generate soundwaves for analysis and this is done without any regard for the proximity of homes, streams or lakes. Wildlife is scattered by the noise of chainsaws, drills and explosions and large amounts of toxic waste are discharged from the exploratory wells. Once established, contamination from the wells is constant, releasing high levels of toxins and heavy metals into the earth and water.

Open production pits are characteristic of forest drilling. Animals and wildfowl are attracted by the salts and expanse of water, consequently the pits are often full of decomposing bodies. Many of the rivers can no longer support fish or the forest people who depend on them. When they resist the destruction of their land they are shot or imprisoned. The political murders and right wing land seizures carried out by the government and right wing death squads in Ecuador were essential for the oil industry. The Ecuadorian economy, like those of many third world countries, is underpinned by oil accounting for 65% of its export income.

Governments are little more than servants of the



Anniversary Day of Action

Friday 16th May 1997 - Meet 10 am at Hove lagoon

(by Adur public house, 2 miles West of Brighton, along the seafront)

Come prepared to shut the port down

Shoreham Wilderness Defence, Box A, Public House Bookshop, 21 Little Preston St, Brighton, BN1 2HQ

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WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or a campaign but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop, and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants. The above contacts are autonomous groups that consider themselves to share these 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.