

Earth First!

Action Update

No.42 Septemberish 1997

30p

"If the Nuremberg laws were applied today, then every director of a multinational would be hanged." Chomsky

Multinational action stations!

GLOBAL ACTIONS AGAINST GENETIX

It's time to get active! Be creative, be strong, be loud. The future of Genetic Manipulation is at stake and these are the most crucial days. Governments, corporations, food retailers, supermarkets, farmers and investors are all wobbling over what line and direction they should take. They need to receive a very clear message: We do not want or need Genetic Manipulation on this planet. From October 2nd (Ghandi's birthday) to October 16th (World Food Day) people and organisations all over the world will be taking action against Genetix and in support of sustainable, organic agriculture. Simultaneous protests, press conferences and public events will take place at supermarkets, offices, labs, fields, and research centres. Actions are planned in India, America and other countries in Europe so lets get it together here in the Britain.

If international resistance against Genetix continues to grow, grassroots organisations could win this major battle against the multinationals and stop this new, non-sustainable technology before it wreaks havoc on the environment, the

food chain, public health, and rural and traditional communities.

If you or your group are planning something locally or would like to join in with national or local actions that will be happening in the UK, then contact GEN: 0181 374 9516 or WEN: 0171 923 9511 or email gen@earthling.net

END CORPORATE DOMINANCE

It gobbles whole mountains and forests, drinks rivers dry, spews toxic waste and enslaves whole populations. It has all the rights of a citizen but few of the limitations. It crosses national borders as if they were cobwebs. It is immortal and can therefore amass wealth and power beyond the capabilities of mere people. It has powers that dwarf and control governments. It controls the newspapers, radio and television and so it controls the "truth". It controls human access to food, water, shelter, employment and energy.

Are we talking about some sort of god??
No, we're talking about the corporation.

Why do we allow an inanimate thing to have so much power over our lives and the fate of the entire planet? This is what the campaign to End Corporate Dominance is about - making our efforts directed at the root of the problem not just the symptoms.

October 1997 will see groups across the world targetting their least favourite corporate plunderer. Whether your group chooses Shell, Nike, Mitsubishi, whether your site is the corporate headquarters, or the Director's private residence, corporations around the world will feel the united rage. For details of what's happening in the UK contact Corporate Watch and see dates list for upcoming events.

100 DAYS TO CHILL THE GLOBE WARMERS

100 DAYS is a growing network of groups and individuals. It is an initiative to challenge the oil industry throughout the 100 day countdown to Kyoto climate conference in December 1997. It is also a call to action!

B PICKET In a week when BP backed down from suing Greenpeace over its occupation of the Stena Dee oil platform in the Atlantic Frontier, 100 DAYS kicked off on Saturday 23rd August with a national picket of around 25 BP garages. About 500 people sent bleary-eyed pump attendants scrambling for their phones when forecourts underwent a Complete Value System Overhaul and banners proclaimed "BP: the climate is against you" and passers-by tooted horns in support.

A ROOFTOP PROTEST at London's Park Lane branch on the same day attracted gun-toting Diplomatic Police as dozens of millionaire-types added their names to Greenpeace's petition against oil exploration in the North Atlantic.

LINCOLNSHIRE ACTIVISTS disrupted a grand opening of a new BP garage with their protest much to the embarrassment of the company.

EXPOSING SHELL in Nigeria. While 20 men still await trial for the same charges as Ken Saro



Subvert the dominant paradigm... or anything else you can find! - UKsubs

ROLL UP.... ROLL UP FOR THE MYSTERY TOUR

Part Three of the Dockers and Dreadlocks trilogy is coming somebody's way soon as disaffected New Britons prepare for the Dockers Mystery Tour. Reclaim the Streets will be dancing into action with the Dockers in the same explosive spirit of the Mersey Docks rooftop occupation and the Trafalgar Square street party. This time the mystery angle has got all the baddies guessing madly in the dark, as so many of them have greasy palms they can't know who's getting it next. The only thing they've got to go on is how far a £12.50 train ticket will get you. Come and celebrate diversity once again in Britain's brightest battle for the future. This will be Round 3, the score so far is two nil and we're going for the hat-trick.

Day trippers should come to London Victoria station, 10.00 am, Monday 29th Sept. Bring £12.50 train fare, imagination, colour, lock-ons, sugar, snacks, drums, music and plenty of pixies. 0171 281 4621

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Letter writing can be very effective. A cat breeder for vivisection has put an injunction on any person calling themselves Animal Rights activist to stop anyone from getting near his farm. To uphold the law we advise any person considering themselves as part of this category to write to Messrs Lawson-Ciuttendon, 17 Red Lion Square, WC1. Ref: TLC/MKL. Mentioning Christopher Brown at Hillgrove Farm. This will cost him £50 for each copy of the injunction which, by law, he has to send you.

Bristol EF! is organising on the 27-29th September, training & a mass trespass against the expansion of Durnford Quarry, which has been given the green light to expand into Ashton Court public park. Contact 0117 9420129 for further info.

Tim Jones, Action Update's 1997 Landowner of the Year, has had a bit of a legal set back. The judge dealing with his vicious eviction of Holtsfield has ruled that he cannot lump all of the families together (to save time and money) but must deal with them separately. This little victory was made all the more merry when the judge then adjourned the case until after Christmas.

Women Speak Out is a weekend of events organised by Sellafield Womens Peace Camp to mark the 40th anniversary of the Windscale nuclear disaster and against the nuclear-military chain. It happens on the 26-28th September at the Leeds University Union. Contact Sellafield Womens Peace Camp 01482 443829

"The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization" is available from Sierra Club Books or Corporate Watch's new secure commerce server web page, <<http://www.igc.apc.org/trac/cporder.html>>. "it outlines the emerging environmental conflict between corporations wanting the freedom to plunder the earth's boundaries and people who depend on the earth for their sustenance. Essential reading for all who want to be informed members of the Earth Family in the globalisation period." Dr Vandana Shiva, Research Foundation for Science, Technology & Natural Resource Policy, India. Get your local library to order a copy now.

Time is running out for Barry Horne who has been on hunger strike since the beginning of August. His physical condition is deteriorating but he remains strong in spirit. The hunger strike follows Labour's recent statement revoking all pre-election promises of a partial end to vivisection. Due to its nature, campaigning has focussed on political targets with home visits and office demos for Home Secretary Jack Straw and occupations of Labour HQ. Contact Barry Horne Support Campaign 0171 278 3068

The Fuming Mad Rally is the culmination of lots of anti-car campaigning on all fronts. This large national rally, organised by Friends of the Earth, Green party, Plaid Cymru, Townswomens Guilds, WI and others, is on 27th sep at 2pm, Trafalgar Square. Contact FoE or the Rally line 0171 5661698

Wiwa, renewed ethnic conflict in Warri region of the Niger Delta has seen attacks on Shell, Chevron and Texaco installations as local frustration has spilt into unrest. 200 have been killed, whole settlements destroyed and damage caused estimated at \$50million.

UK SUBS (underground 'subvertising' agency) is calling for oil related billboards around the UK to be 'improved'

DELTA are considering organising a short, symbolic hunger strike in support of the 19 Ogoni prisoners still on Nigeria's Death Row following protests against Shell.

There's still a while to go before the 100 days are up - get involved in an action near you. Contact 100 DAYS, 0171 8658234 or e-mail 100days@waveland.org

BOSNIA WINS BURGER WAR

Four years of war in Bosnia all but wiped out the local small business infrastructure and left the door wide open for Western businesses and governments. However one unlucky multinational won't be scavenging amongst the ruins in the name of 'reconstruction'. The Bosnian government has declared that it will not allow McDonalds to build on its territory, a post-communist, East European first. After a whole year of negotiations the world's most arrogant corporation still refused to produce locally preferring instead to transport their McDogfood from far off central depots. This led to the Government decision which will safeguard local food vendors from the otherwise inescapable earth trashing burger culture.

EARTH FIRST ARRIVAL AT KINGS CROSS?

Copenhagen Park is a green oasis near Kings Cross, providing relief from the craziness of London's urban sprawl. Many people from local housing estates use the land as their only garden. This is threatened however by a planning application from the New Islington and Hackney Housing Association who want to build flats on the land. Opponents argue that the destruction of a precious green space is not necessary and that the flats could either be built on derelict land or the Housing Association could renovate currently uninhabitable council housing in the area. A campaign has recently been launched to protect the Park - contact Save Copenhagen Park c/o Reclaim the Streets, London.

DELTA UPDATE

United grassroots opposition to oil companies destroying the Niger delta is growing as shown by recent mass rallies in Nigeria. The newly formed 'Chicoco movement', named after the organic soil that sustains both the mangroves and the people who depend on them, is pressurising Shell to either clear up oil spills and pay compensation to affected communities or get out. At a time when international pressure is beginning to wane, Shell is avoiding paying compensation at all costs and is renewing talk of sabotage.

Continuing poverty with no hope led to a spring and summer of violent unrest around Warri and Nembe. Oil companies were the clear targets at first but then a descent into ethnic conflict began soon after: corporate and government tactics of divide and rule worked well. The regime then announced its 'Operation Salvage' to further

militarise areas of the Delta and ensure a smooth flow of oil and profits.

While Shell's PR strategy is to talk about human rights the company is still being sued by the family of Ken Saro-Wiwa for conspiracy to violently suppress peaceful environmental and human rights protests.

Raids and killings continue in Ogoni, which remains under siege with 20 hostages still in prison. They began a hunger strike protesting about conditions and torture. Meanwhile, Shell announced that it intends to return to Ogoni, but women of the tribe met recently and declared that the company will never be welcome.

Shell celebrates its 100th birthday on October 18th. Contact Delta 0116 2553223

FASLANE PEACE ARTISTS

Fun and frolics continue at the fifteen year old camp. The eviction notice still hasn't arrived but the waiting game is a pro-active one. The latest missile convoy to the base was blockaded last week by over forty people who stopped the trucks and blocked the route at the front and rear with their bodies and a tunnel under the road. While incredulous coppers checked out the tunnel claim, blockaders quickly got onto the roofs and the dull (yet deadly) load was redecorated with nice bright paints. More Faslane artwork can be experienced at the two day Peace Artists Ball which kicks off on Saturday 27th Sept. There'll be live music, poetry, DJ's, food and lots, lots more. 01436 820901

SOUTH EAST EF! GATHERING

At the EF! Gathering the idea of having a South East regional Gathering was discussed and people are now trying to organise one for later on this year. It all depends on how much help people offer now. For the weekend we need a piece of land, preferably with a building that can accommodate up to 100 people and is free (or very cheap), catering for the same number of people and suggestions/offers of workshops. There is no money: so any donations would be very useful - cheques and PO's payable to Earth First! Anybody that can help with any of these things please contact South East EF! Gathering, c/o PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY.

HUNTINGDON RESEARCH CENTRE

Huntingdon Research Centre, aka Huntingdon Life Sciences, is facing a possible shutdown in the light of an inquiry which began after a Channel 4 documentary revealed the extent of HRC's brutal activities. The documentary showed employees kicking and hurling a beagle against a wall and punching, shaking and laughing at dogs. This forced the government to announce that it was giving the company until November 30th to "show improvements" or lose its vivisection licence. The event was followed by a collapse in the company's shares, wiping £80 million off their share price overnight, and over half their customers either withdrawing contracts, or not placing new work with the company. David Christopher, Research Labs Director of HLS, suddenly resigned from the Animal Procedures Committee. The Research Defence Society announced in its July newsletter that it had

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>

suspended HLS from its corporate membership.

It is estimated that the company has 100,000 animals on its premises, including 1,000 beagles and 700 monkeys.

A permanent camp, "Camp Rena", the first of its kind at a vivesection lab, has now been set up and needs people to come and stay for a while. A rota has been set up, so help is needed, whether for a few hours or a few days. They were in court on Monday 15th September and their case was adjourned for at least seven days.

Everything done at Huntingdon from now on should be in the name of Barry Horne, so add his name to banners etc. 01832 293468, 01223 311828.

If you are in the North West you can also get involved as HLS have a site in Wilmslow, Cheshire where there have also been demos and vigils. 01204 431868.

BLUEBELL WOOD URBAN RESITANCE

The madness of local council planning was highlighted perfectly in Bluebell Wood in the heart of urban Manchester. Despite the fact that there are some 420 hectares of derelict land across the city, the council, university and developers (Browns of Wilmslow) decided to trash the last remaining woodland in South Manchester to build flats for 500 students with car parking spaces for 100 cars (about 30% of the land take). After delaying work for three weeks through the legal system the notice to quit was inevitably served.

The camp had a number of visits from Special Branch who refused to show any ID. When local police were called, these dodgy looking blokes went into a huddle with the police liaison officer who declared that he was satisfied. On one occasion they were followed around site until they left but only after they pushed one activist and broke her camera.

During the eviction some of the more novel tactics included a lock-on in an old round metal wheely bin filled with concrete up a tree. The suspended sofa and arm chair in the trees were not great defensive positions but made for a comfortable eviction! Whilst trying to invade site a 14-year old was thrown over a 6 foot fence by security and despite his injuries the only response from the police was laughter. The reason he had to re-invade was because the evicters came so late that he had left site to go to school! Another person was hurt after throwing himself under a lorry transporting the cherry-picker.

A lock-on and tunnel dweller who saw the first day through were joined by several people who re-invaded the site over night, ensuring a second day of fun and costs. Cheering crowds provided support for those still on site and hurled abuse at the contractors. Apart from one woman whose house overlooks the "messy" wood and who is soon going to realise that trees are better neighbours than students.

PUBLIC ACCLAIM FOR RECLAIM THE STREETS

Earlier this summer Leicester based activists reclaimed their streets with a huge community party.

Despite a police helicopter scouring the area early on, and vans full of party saboteurs loitering with intent to be miserable, campaigners successfully set up three tripods at the location and were joined by a critical mass and the main

group. Four hours of asphalt partying were followed by a celebratory parade to an open air space where everyone danced until midnight.

The local newspaper, which has a huge circulation, had a mixed news article the following week with the headline "Car-culture protest 'irresponsible'" claiming a risk to public safety and potential problems for emergency access. But the photos clearly showed the street party atmosphere: sofas, carpets, a paddling pool, and dancing in the street with happy crowds thronging the road.

The local rag has a regular 'Driving Force' motoring section but as there is also public sympathy with anti-car protest they allowed Leicester RTS people to write a 500 word piece about Reclaiming the Streets and cities for people which was published virtually unedited. They pointed out that the protest was illegal as campaigners didn't notify the police beforehand, and initiated a phone vote on the issue: 'Were Reclaim the Streets protesters right - Yes or No?' - and encouraged letters. Spot interviews in the street showed full support except for one woman who said therfic but that blocking the street is the wrong way to make a point. And the result of the phone vote was: Yes 66% and No 34%. We won! And the debate is still going on in the letters page. Contact LEAF.

BINGLEY BYPASS BLAG

Sustained on-site protesting and local campaigning along the route of the proposed Bingley bypass have led the DOT to temporarily shelve plans for the new road until March 1998 when a new decision will be made. This has led to a relaxed atmosphere and unusually low protestor numbers, so what a shock to see that the DOT have hired a demolition company to systematically destroy all buildings and other structures along the length of the route. The idea is that they can do this now on the cheap without security and, more importantly, that when the review comes around there'll be less motivation for locals to defend a rubbled wasteland. Just a few people could make a big difference in combating this, the latest sneaky tactic, from those bankrupting the future. 01274 511039.

McUPDATE

On September 3rd, the McLibel Defendants lodged their Notice of Appeal after serving it on McDonald's solicitors. The Notice of Appeal responds to the 800 page Judgment of the McLibel Trial judge. The Defendants believe that they won a great legal and moral victory against McDonald's who have abandoned all legal action to try to recover costs or halt the publication of the leaflet, *What's Wrong With McDonald's?*. It seems that the company had recognised defeat after being found guilty of exploiting children with their advertising; of falsely promoting their high fat, high salt food as nutritious; of paying low wages and of being 'culpably responsible' for cruelty to animals. Their defeat is all the more obvious by the fact that half a million leaflets were handed out worldwide in the week after the verdict.

The Defendants are appealing against the parts in which the judge failed to find for them and are calling for fundamental changes in the UK libel laws to protect the public's right to criticise and challenge the practices of multinationals. The full appeal hearing may not be until 1999.

Many of the issues will be raised again when the McDefendants take the British Government to the European Court of Human Rights.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 26 - 28 Women Speak Out. Events against the nuclear-military chain, Leeds University Union. Contact Sellafield Womens Peace Camp 01482 443829
- 27 The Fuming Mad Rally - 2pm, Trafalgar Square. National rally against traffic pollution. Contact FoE or the Rally line 0171 5661698
- 27 - 29 Mass trespass against the expansion of Durnford Quarry. Contact Bristol EF: 0117 9420129
- 27 - 11 "Surviving in a Globalised World." Second Autumn University on North-South issues. Aachen, Germany. Contact: PlayFair Europe! C/o AstA der RWTH Aachen, Turmstr. 3, 52072 Aachen. Tel. 49 241 803792. Fax. 49 241 876103. asta@rwth-aachen.de
- 28 National Demonstration at Hillgrove Farm, breeders of kittens and cats for animal experiments. Contact Save the Hillgrove Cats, Box CB, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford
- 28 Cannabis-Turn-Yourself-in-Day, go and get nicked with a spliff. Meet Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, 2.23pm. Contact the Legalise Cannabis Campaign, BM Box 2455 London WC1N 3XX. 0171 584 1031
- 29 Liverpool Docker's Mystery Tour. (See story). Contact RTS 0171-281 4621.
- 30 A33 Rave against roads, party and actions in German 'road squatt', Heideweg X, 33829 Borgholzhausen. tel: 00 (+49) 5425 270 <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/4448>
- 30 - 2 Demos against COPEX arms fair. Tel: 0171 281 0297

OCTOBER

All October -Month of action to END CORPORATE DOMINANCE See story for details

- 1 11am, mass non-violent sit down and blockade of the Copex Arms Fair, Farnborough. Contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297 or 01206 305811
- 2-16 Global Days of Action against genetically engineered foods, life patents, and factory farming. For ideas or info contact GEN: 0181 374 9516, WEN: 0171 247 3327 or Pure Food Alliance: alliance@mr.net, <http://www.geocities.com/athens/1527>
- 4 Bath Reclaim The Streets, meet 12noon at the Circus 01249 713742.
- 4-5 Northern EF! Gathering in Manchester. Discussions training, gig (Casey "Dancing on the ruins of Multinationals..." Neil and guests). Call 0161 224 4846
- 6 4:38.26am NASA's launch of Cassini space probe containing 73lbs of Plutonium. Info on 01274 730795
- 8 International day of Action against Peabody Coal - for crimes against Navajo/Dine and Hopi peoples of black Mesa Arizona. contact Granmonta@hotmail.com or POBox 3412, Tucson, Arizona 85722, USA
- 10 - 12 Peace Camp at Sellafield to remember the Windscale fire. Contact Sellafield Womens Peace Camp 01482 443829
- 11 - 18 Week of Global Action Against McDonald's (incorporating 12th - Solidarity With McDonald's Workers; and 16th - World Anti-McDonald's Day). For info contact 0171 713 1269.
- 11 - 12 Strike Oil! - London weekend of information and actions. Please network widely. Contact Reclaim the Streets on 0171 281 4621
- 18 Shell's 100th anniversary. Contact Delta or Corporate Watch on 01865 791391
- 18 International Day of Action Against Nike. Contact Campaign for Labour rights alliance@mr.net
- 18 Anarchist Book Fair, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London 0171 242 8032
- 20 Party for Shell Institutional Investors. Contact Corporate Watch on 01865 791391
- 31 Halloween action(s) to close down open cast sites around the country. Contact: No Opencast, 0171 603 1831
- 31-7 'Halloween Smash' International Earth Nights. Earth Liberation Front call to use darkness 'constructively'.

NOVEMBER

- 3 Start of COP3 International Climate Change Conferencein Kyoto Japan - contact Greenpeace, FoE.
- 5 "Burn The Horricks" demo at the site of the proposed Wakefield Toxic Dump expansion. For info call: Paul 01924 893564
- 10 2nd anniversary of death of Ken Saro Wiwa, contact Delta on 0116 255 3223
- 17-23 Transport action seminar in Budapest -Contact ASEED on +31 20 668 2236
- 21-23 Action against industrial agriculture gathering, contact 01508 531636
- 24 Action against industrial agriculture contact Norfolk EF!
- 29 International No Shop Day organised by Enough!, contact 0161 226 6668 or 0181 981 0480

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.

NEWBURY RE-RE- UNION

There's been another action on the route of the Newbury Bypass to commemorate the granting of eCostain's main contract. The action took place on the day of Diana's funeral and the Highways Agency had stopped work as a gesture of respect.

After a route walk and cycle one of the compounds at Skinners Green was occupied and survey stakes were removed before the protestors, outnumbered by embarrassed police taking no chances after the last get together, reunited off to the pub.

All machinery had been moved into secure areas and there was a continual police presence but later in the day more survey stakes were removed and gates mysteriously chained up. Latest weather reports have it that throughout the year the nocturnal cutting winds of Newbury have continued to make themselves felt.

ps. Plans for the gravel pit at Speen Moor have been cancelled because the gravel is not good enough for the road. Pity.

WEST PAPUA CRISIS CONTINUES

Since late August four Ekari tribal people have been killed in the area around Freeport and Rio Tinto's giant mine in West Papua. Following the deaths, approximately 1000 protesters attacked Freeport property and blockaded the main road to the mine. The police, with the support of the military, have now demanded that people hand over all sharp objects, including their arrows, spears and knives. These are not only vital to the people for agriculture and hunting but they also have great cultural and religious significance. Tensions were running high in the area because Freeport had just announced the second phase of its 1% trust fund; an attempt to buy off local opposition to the mine following riots in 1996. Rio Tinto Zinc, trashers of Bougainville as well as PNG, have refused to comment. Contact Corporate Watch for RTZ addresses in the UK.

RADSTOCK RAILWAY

Cash grabbing councils and big business are at it again in Somerset, ignoring the needs of the local community and trashing the land for profit. The Radstock to Frome railway line has lain unused for 8 years and in this time has gained a whole host of rare, endangered and nominally protected inhabitants as well as a 'Site of Nature Conservation' order. All is now under threat by a proposed development by Beazer Homes who are going to regenerate the area with some housing, roads and a supermarket. As part of the

deal Beazer Homes gets the Radstock railway line and they're promising a locally tempting boost to tourism by bringing back steam trains. However, Beazer Homes is owned by Hanson Plc, and it's been discovered that 90% of the rail traffic will actually be less picturesque freight including materials to and from nearby quarries, also owned by Hanson. Locals are bombarding consultation groups with a range of alternative developments. They have also set up a camp and completed their first treehouse. They're appealing for tat and skill sharing so if you want to remind Lord Hanson of how much of a twat he is and pass on your counter culture to campaigning locals then get down to Somerset. Go to the centre of Radstock and ask anyone where to find the disused railway. Superb access for living vehicles. Contact c/o Luke 01761 432273.

MASS BLOCKADE OF GOVERNMENT RUN ARMS FAIR

Around 1,000 people joined in a Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) protest against the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition (or Reenée Beence). This is Britain's biggest arms fair with exhibitors from 300 companies and delegates from over 60 countries. This year's list of government invited guests included Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and China - all well documented human rights abusers.

Several Kurdish groups concerned about British arms sales to Turkey took part and organised five coach loads for the demonstration. Protestors blocked what was to be the main entrance to the exhibition and then groups moved off to block other possible entrances. Two gates were unusable for the whole day and others were blocked for long periods of time. In all 89 demonstrators were arrested, mostly for wilful obstruction. Just over 20 people totally breached security and got on site to disrupt the exhibition. They were charged with aggravated trespass.

This was CAAT's biggest anti arms fair protest ever and it generated a lot of interest throughout the country and in the media. The campaign against arms fairs will be continued with a demonstration at COPEX on the 30th Sept - 1st Oct in Farnborough. Contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297.

TEIGNGRACE CAMPAIGN HALTS CONTRACTORS

The anti quarry campaign at Teigngrace, near Newton Abbot have won a temporary halt to construction and forced the government to consider a public enquiry. Door knocking and

flying in the local area led to thousands of letters demanding an enquiry to John Prescott who has since stopped the work. The eviction attempt is not expected until a decision is made giving the campaign more time to grow and realise collective strength. Local involvement is unprecedented and a 180mile march on London is planned to set off on Sat 27th Sept. Celebrate the strength and increasing popularity of direct action campaigning when Teigngrace comes to town. Arrival in Westminster is expected on 7th Oct. While waiting for the party, and in between actions, why not send another letter to John Prescott. For more info call: 0467 622825.

SURVIVING IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

Play Fair Europe are hosting the International Autumn University on North South issues and the environment. "Surviving in a Globalised World" will take place in Aachen, Germany (27 Sept.-11Oct). There'll be representatives from Karnataka State Farmers (India), MOSOP (Nigeria), Movemento Sem Terra (Brazil), Peasants Movement of the Philippines, Sandinista Workers' Central Union (Nicaragua), EZLN (Chiapas), Mama 86 (Ukraine), Indigenous Womens' Network and the International South Group (Zimbabwe).

The programme describes in detail the current shape of the globalisation process, particularly the WTO and will take place in English and Spanish. Details about accommodation, etc. at <http://www.asta.rwth-aachen.de/orga/ir/AU97.html> or Play Fair Europe! Tel: +49-241-80 37 92. Hurry, hurry.

IRELAND'S GLEN OF THE DOWNS

Like a break - for a little while - in Ireland? Glen of the Downs is as good as it sounds and it's about to be destroyed unless we get people there to stop the Irish state using EU (and British) money to expand Ireland's bit of the Trans European Road Network through Wicklow. Known as the Garden of Ireland, County Wicklow, with its golden mountains, hidden valleys, gleaming lakes, gushing rivers and flowery forests, does not need a wider road. The campaign has suddenly become news among Ireland's sensationalist media even though the bulldozers are still silent, so people with ecological road rage sensibilities are desperately needed. Also there is a genuine fear that the media attention will bring the police down on the few people who are keeping a permanent presence in the Glen, so reinforcements are needed sooner rather than later. e-mail to: atglas@tinet.ie or 00 353 61 313308.

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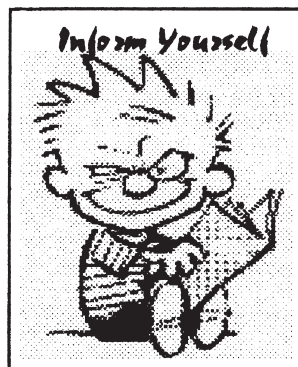
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NAME: _____

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Affinity Groups

"The vital flow of life back and forth from affinity groups to core, the intense sense of community that knits together all the groups internally as well as externally has no parallel....[the structure of affinity groups] has raised the abiding issue of organisation - not merely as a 'means' to a social end, but as an expression of that end, the goal of a free non-hierarchical society in the fullest sense of the term"

Murray Bookchin, 'From Rim to Core', *Peace News*, October 1977

What is an Affinity Group?

An affinity group is a group of people who have something in common with each other; who have decided that they want to take part in political action as a close, supportive group; and who meet regularly. An affinity group structure recognises the need for several roles in effective campaigning alongside 'activist' as well as the need for several types of support - emotional as well as legal.

Working in affinity groups also recognises the need to move away from an individualistic model of activity and the need to move towards one which uses a model of active participation.

History

Affinity groups take their names from the 'grupos de afinidad' devised by Spanish anarchists in pre-Franco days. The idea was then developed to be used in the occupation of a nuclear power plant site at Seabrook, New Hampshire, USA in 1977. 2000 people took part, two thirds of whom were arrested. The action's success was attributed to most of the occupiers undergoing non-violent training in small affinity groups and their co-ordination in a democratic structure emphasising equality and participation. In the 1980's the peace movement in Britain used affinity groups for both specific non-violent direct action events and for ongoing, small and supportive non-violent action groups.

Structure

An affinity group usually consists of between 3 and 15 people. Such a group can be used ad hoc - formed for a specific action then disbanded - or can try and meet regularly - for evaluation, planning, action and support. There are a whole host of possible roles - these could include contact person, media, support, legal as well as those prepared to get arrested. Reaching collective decisions among a number of affinity groups on a large scale action can be achieved through a 'spokescouncil' to which each affinity group sends a representative, who feeds in the views of the group and also feeds back what other groups are thinking.

Why Affinity Groups?

*Sustaining a campaigner for the long haul
and encouraging confidence in action*

Affinity groups can bring an often poorly

planned or overlooked element to our work - that of support. Campaigning can be wearing as we come up against obstacles all the time, both external and internal, including bulldozers, fences, police, physical violence, courts, fear, doubt, despair. Trying to tackle all of these alone can be too much but in a group of supportive, sympathetic people, fears and doubts can be listened to and transformed into a confidence to take risks and actions for our beliefs. The solidarity of affinity groups counteracts the televised messages that we are powerless and alone, or the constant suggestions that we must let the experts, the

a small group of leaders who may burn out quickly.

Countering state oppression

At a time of increasing state oppression of environmental activists affinity groups provide a new direction, not just by ensuring that the movement does not rely on easily picked off key individuals, but also in containing any infiltration within a small group or challenging this as a group gets to know each other's skills, strengths and weaknesses. An affinity group structure also means that information is decentralised, limiting the possibilities for full disclosure of an action.

Thinking strategically

An affinity group provides space to follow up actions, evaluate and carry the momentum forward onto the next action.

Avoiding violence

Acting in small groups with support means less threatening situations, reducing the need for violence and making people less prone to panic. Operating as a group also allows those involved to know who they are working with and define boundaries, eg non-violence, if they so wish.

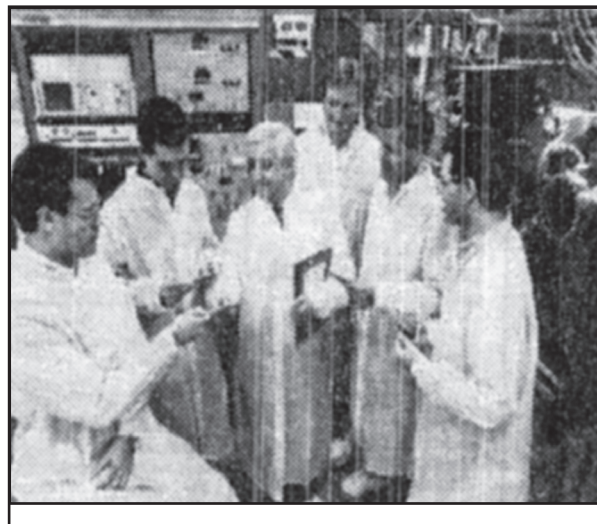
Improving organisation

Obviously it is easier to keep in touch with 10 affinity groups than with 120 individuals!

Affinity groups recognise the importance of community as a foundation for our resistance and offer us the chance to enact a vision *now* - that of supportive, non-hierarchical, participatory, flexible and friendly groups of people taking action.

Whilst affinity groups take forward some elements that Earth First! attempts already (avoidance of hierarchies; participation in decision-making), adopting affinity groups recognises that 'structure' is different to 'authoritarianism' and enables us to challenge the confusion between the two.

Large parts of the above are from *Affinity Groups* produced by the Jigsaw non-violence project (01865 770883). Other useful resources are *Path of Resistance* by Per Hemgren (New Society Publishers) and 'Sustaining ourselves for the long haul', *Peace News*, May 97 and 'From Seabrook to Gorleben: the role of affinity groups', *Peace News*, April 97.



This is a good size for an affinity group but a very bad choice of clothing

politicians, the professional campaigners make changes on our behalf. Being part of an affinity group strengthens our ability to take direct action - to act directly on a situation without recourse to a representative.

Subverting leadership, encouraging participation

Affinity groups provide a challenge to individualistic tendencies and culture which all too often allow ego or territorial claims to undermine otherwise successful campaigning. By working in consensus-based small groups, all members are able to participate in planning, decision-making and carrying out decisions, avoiding relying on strong, charismatic leaders and making people less prone to being manipulated by self-styled leaders. Because affinity groups are self-governing and fully responsible they use the energy of all participants rather than relying on the drive of

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!

We can't tell you if you don't tell us. Send your news, stories, prisoners addresses, quotes, leaflets and up coming dates on the the back of an envelope, A4 sheet, computer disk or email to EFAU. **Don't forget pictures**, (as photos or graphics files,) or drawings.

EF! CONTACTS SEPTEMBER '97

Arun Valley EF!
c/o 1 York Rd
Littlehampton
W. Sussex
01903 721615
arunef@radicalfluff.demon.co.uk

Avon Gorge EF!
c/o Bristol EF!
Bath EF!
P.O.Box 426
Bath BA1 2ZD
Tel: 01249 713742

Beal Valley Rescue 33
Valley Rise
Rushcroft, Oldham,
Lancashire OL2 7QF

Blackburn EF!
12 Balmoral Road
Darwen
Lancs, BB3 2EW
01254 777079.

Bristol EF!
c/o Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston St
Bristol BS1 5BB
0117 939 3093

Cambourne EF!
c/o Hartis Farm
Copper Hill
Troon, Cambourne
Cornwall

Cambridge EF!
Box E
12 Mill Road,
Cambridge

Cardiff EF!
c/o Green Group
Glamorgan Uni SU
Pontypridd
Mid-Glamorgan
CF37 1DL

Cardigan Bay EF!
Temperance House Taliesin
Powys, Mid Wales

Chichester EF!
c/o West Sussex Wildlife
Protection
c/o P.O. Box 3058
Littlehampton
W. Sussex BN16 3LG

East Devon EF!
PO Box 6
Ottery St. Mary
Devon EX11 1YL
<http://www.fury361.demon.co.uk/a30/index.htm>

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon
Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire
Scotland, G84 8HT
01436 820901

Fife EF!
c/o 91 South St
St. Andrews
Fife KY16 9Q

Forest Action Network
c/o Alternatives
P.O. Box 7
Llangefni
Ynys Mon LL77 7ZJ
01248 713 604
afu01b@bangor.ac.uk

Glasgow EF!
PO Box 180,
Glasgow, G4 9AB.

Gwendraeth Valley EF!
Y Gymru Annibynol
24 Yr erw
Burry Port
Carms SA16 0DA

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
c/o Alternatives
P.O. Box 7
Llangefni

Ynys Mon LL77 7ZJ
01248 713 604
afu01b@bangor.ac.uk

Hillfort EF!
9 Hordens Close
Chippenham Wilts
SN15 3AA
01249 650078

Hull On Earth
c/o PO Box 33
Hull HU1 1AA
01482 218377

LEAF
Box Z,
13, Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
Tel/Fax: 0116 255 3223

Leeds EF!
16 Sholebrook Ave
Chapelstown Leeds
LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365
cornerstone@gn.apc.org

Liverpool EF!
96 Bold Street
Liverpool L1
Manchester EF!
Dept 29,
1 Newton St
Manchester M1 1HW
Tel/Fax: 0161 224 4846
mbxk6lpz@stud.man.ac.uk

Mendip Hills not Holes
Deadwoman's Bottom
Protest Camp
Nr Green Farm
Chantry
Frome BA 11
01749 880144

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

Norfolk EF!
The Greenhouse
42-46 Bethel St.
Norwich
Norfolk NR2 1NR
01508 531635

Oldham EF!
Dept 110
1 Newton Street
Manchester M1 1HW
01457 871609

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

REACT
6 Edinburgh Cr.
Leamington Spa
CV3 13LL
01926 424 480

Reclaim the Streets
PO BOX 9656
London N4 4JY
0171 281 4621
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

Save Lyminge Forest
Greensword
The Spout House
Lyminge
Kent CT21 4LQ
01303 265737
Fax: 01233 720127

Sheffield EF!
c/o Shefin
201 Crookes Valley Rd

Sheffield S10 1BA
0114 2671200
bigoss@pine.shu.ac.uk

South Devon EF!
c/o Totnes Community
Office
Birdwood House
44 High Street
Totnes, Devon

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

South Somerset EF!
31 Hamdon Close
Stoke-Sub-Hamdon
Somerset TA 14 6QN
01935 825074

Swansea People EF!
c/o Green Action
Swansea University SU
Swansea, Wales

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

Warwick EF!
c/o Green Society
Students Union
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL
01926 435137
suad@csv.warwick.ac.uk

Wolves Eco Action
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs
Box H Wolverhampton
University Student Union
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton

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
mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk
<http://www.oneworld.org/cw/>

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

DELTA
Box Z,
13, Biddulph Street
Leicester LE2 1BH Tel:
0116 255 3223
Lynx@gn.apc.org

Earth First! Action Update
(see Manchester EF!)
actionupdate@gn.apc.org

Spirit of Freedom
(Earth Liberation
Prisoners)
c/o BM HEAL
London WC1N 3XX

Genetically-Manipulated
Free Prisoner Support
c/o Manchester EF!

Head State Support Group
'Witch's Green'
54 Mill Rd.
North Lancing
W. Sussex BN15 0PZ
jrm@radicalfluff.demon.co.uk
No Opencast
190 Shepherds Bush Rd
London W6 7NL
0171 603 1831
fax: 0171 610 44 31

Parents Action Network
Brambles Housing Co-op
82 Andover St
Sheffield S3 9EH
0114 279 71 64

Road Alert!
PO Box 5544 Newbury
Berkshire RG14 5FB
roadalert@gn.apc.or

Toxic Alert EF!
PO Box 2600
Brighton BN2 2DY

INTERNATIONAL

Autonomous Green
Action POB 4721
Station E, Ottawa
Ontario
Canada K1S 5H9

Coast Mountains EF!
1472 Commercial Drive
Box 128
Vancouver BC V5L 3X9
Canada
604 708 9660

Earth First! Journal
POB 1415
Eugene OR 97440
USA
541 741 9191
earthfirst@jgc.apc.org

Eco-Action EF! France
95, rue de la Marine 62224
Equihen-plage
France
eco-
ction.ef.mala@wanadoo.fr

Ecodefence!
Moskovsky prospekt
120-34236006
Kaliningrad/Koenigsburg
Russia
ecodefence@glas.apc.org

Finland EF!
Viivinkatu 17 AS 17
33610 Tampere 61
Finland
ransu@sci.fi
<http://www.sci.fi/~ransu>

FIN
Umweltprojektwerkstatt
Yorkstrasse 59 HH
10965 Berlin
Germany Tel:00
49 30 78913144 Fax:00
49 30 78913145
mprowe@ipberlin.berlinet.de

Greene Front!
Postbus 85069
3508 AB Utrecht
The Netherlands
ruigoord@hotmail.com

Limerick Talamh Glas
(Irish AU)
41 Glasgow Park
Limerick
Eire
00 353 61 313308
atglas@tinnet.ie

Rainbow Keepers
(Ukraine)
c/o Naida Shevchenko
Glushkova 17-22
Kiev 252187
nadia@gluk.apc.org

Rainforest Information
Center POB 368
Lismore NSW 2480
Australia
066 21 85 05

Slovakia EF!
A. Hlinku 11
96001 Zvolen
Slovakia
kolenka@uvt.tuzvo.sk

Volunteers For Earth
Defence
189 San Antonio Ext
SFDM
1105 Quezon City
Philippines

Young Lions EF! South
Africa
101356.2335@compuserve.com

OTHER CONTACTS

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

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
Anarchist Black Cross
c/o 121 Raiton Rd
London, SE24 0LR

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

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

Campaign Against
Runway2
6 Mount St.
Manchester M2 5NS
0161 834 8221
campaign@mfoe.u-net.com
<http://www.gn.apc.org/resurgence/car2.html>

Campaign Legal Group
43 Swan Meadow Rd.
Poolstock
Wigan WN3 5BJ
Tel: 01942 513792
Fax: 01942 510156
clg@onnlincam.win-uk.net

Conscious 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

GuilFIN
PO Box 217
Guildford
Surrey GU1 1HS
guilfin@quark.co.uk
<http://www.quarks.co.uk/guilfin>

Earth Circus Network
c/o P.O. Box 2679
Brighton BN2 2DN
00378 636254

EarthRights
Battlebridge Centre
Battlebridge Rd
London NW1 2TL
0171 2781005
earthrights@gn.apc.org

Freedom Network
PO BOX 9384
London, SW9 7ZB 0171
978 8294
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
<http://envirolink.org/arrs/HSA/hsa.html>

Friends of MOVE
P.O.Box 14129
London W12 8GR

Justice?/Cothrom
c/o Larfield Centre
39, Ingfield Street
Glasgow G42
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>

Legal Defence &
Monitoring Group
BM Haven
London, WC1N 3XX
0181 5337116

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

McSpotlight
PO Box 10792
London N10 3PQ
0171 6810377
<http://www.mcspotlight.org/info@mcspotlight.org>

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

Squall
P.O.Box 8959
London N12 5HW
0171 561 1204
Fax: 0171 272 9243

STROPP/Stop the Road on
Peaks Parnham
P.O.Box 162
Grimsby
01472 278845

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

UK Subs
Dept 125
1 Newton St
Manchester
M1 1HW

Undercurrents
16b Cherwell St
Oxford, OX4 1BJ
01865 203661
Fax: 01865 243562
underc@gn.apc.org

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.