

Earth First! Action Update



Issue 54, December 1998

(30p) Where Sold. Free to Prisoners

"Even the chickens are Zapatistas" Commandante Insurgente Marcos

SHELL ACTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The 10th of November was world anti-Shell day and as usual it saw actions on Shell stations and the like around the world. Shell is targeted for its well known ecological abuses across the globe and especially for its continued dealings with the Nigerian military state, a state which is responsible for the deaths of over 2000 Ogoni people since 1993 and for the continued oppression and exploitation of this people and their land. Oil is Nigeria's biggest export by far and Shell must be brought to account for its continued propping up of the Nigerian regime.

In the words of Oronto Douglas, founder of the CHICOCO movement in the Niger Delta 'The multinationals, in collaboration with the military, have waged a vicious and relentless ecological war on our land'

The 10th of November is the date of the execution of nine Ogoni activists in 1995 and has become the focus for anti-Shell activities. The EF!AU was informed of the following U.K actions:

- Jarrow, South Tyneside. The 'giant' Shell depot was blocked off for 2 hours when activists chained its gates shut. No arrests.
- Nottingham. Around 40 activists blockaded a service station. The electricity for the pumps was switched, and locked, off. The station was completely closed for most of the day. No arrests despite the presence of 3 police vehicles and a helicopter.
- Norwich. A scaffold pole tripod was erected to blockade a distribution depot. Two stations were also picketed. No arrests.
- Leeds. A station forecourt was occupied for the whole day by about 40 activists bringing trade to a virtual stop. No arrests.
- Brighton 25 people blockaded a service station, wrapped the pumps in sellotape, padlocked the off switch on the service station wall and were amused when police were still puzzling how to turn them on again an hour after everyone had left!
- Manchester. A service station was closed off for the morning and its forecourt decorated with fake blood. 8 vans of police turned up and arrested one person who was later released without charge.



Genetix Fireball?! Indian farmers do away with Monsanto's illegal genetix cotton crop. Let the test sites burn!

NEWBURY BYPASS OPEN

After a 3 year campaign of resistance the Newbury Bypass opened in the early hours of the 12th of November while activists slept soundly in their beds. A handful of people who managed to get to nearby Chively services was the only protest Newbury saw that night.

The campaign against the Newbury Bypass was the largest of its type in Britain to date. It saw the arrests of over 1000 people, the eviction of over 30 camps, the mobilisation of thousands of police and security guards and the destruction of countless pieces of machinery. All in all it is believed to have added well over £20 million to the cost of the road.

Later in the same day South Downs EF! launched a revenge attack on Mott McDonald, the civil engineering company which designed the bypass. At 1.30pm, exactly 12 hours after the bypass had been opened, a group of 25 people occupied their offices in Brighton. Mott McDonald are also responsible for other socially and ecologically dodgy schemes. For example, the designing of 'civillian' airstrips in Iraq, power

stations for the Suharto regime in Indonesia, and the M3 through Twyford Down.

During the occupation 500 leaflets were given out in the surrounding area, explaining what was happening and why. Leaflets were also distributed to office workers stating that 'we all hate the boss'.

By the time police arrived most people had barricaded themselves inside the finance office and were busy re-organising the filing system. Rumours also suggest that a number of computer hard drives had been erased. No arrests.

- The third anniversary of the Newbury evictions starting will see another reunion - see diary inside

The Action Update is a monthly roundup of ecological direct action news and forthcoming events in Britain.

Feature articles inside:

Masking up - why do it?

**Greenfield Housing - Campaign Briefing
June 18th - Keep this Date Free!**

EF! WINTER GATHERING - 29th - 31st January 1999

The first EF! winter gathering will focus on strategy and structures for the movement. Where are we going and how do we get there?

If you're in an EF! group, try to make sure that at least 2 people attend.

More details in back page article, or from Notts EF!, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666.

@nti-copyright - Photocopy and distribute

News In Brief

◆ Let the test sites burn! Farmers in Karnataka, India, on finding that there were genetic test sites in the state, have pledged to burn them. Also the first test site since 1987 was destroyed in the USA, an encouraging sign that GE resistance is taking off in the country where it all comes from. The burning of Indian test sites has now commenced - see front page.

◆ Paul Rogers and Robin Webb, the 2 remaining defendants in the GANDALF trial, have now had their charges dropped.

◆ Also, Noel Molland, another of the GANDALF defendants, has pointed out to the EF!AU that neither he nor his co-defendants had anything to do with the 'GANDALF defendants campaign' leaflet, distributed with some copies of issue 53. (whoops - sorry!) He also wants to publicly deny allegations that he grassed up Paul Rogers.

◆ A branch of Midland Bank in Leeds had a window smashed, and it's cash machine and locks sealed with liquid metal. 'Smash Capitalism' was emblazoned upon it's wall. Butchers' shops and a Safeway supermarket suffered similar attacks.

◆ On November the 25th the Trident nuclear convoy was stopped twice in one day near Newcastle and then as it approached Faslane. It was successfully halted for half an hour on each occasion with a total of 11 arrests. Six of those arrested have now been released without charge.

◆ An internal Monsanto document has been leaked which states that public support for Genetic Engineering has 'nose dived'. Monsanto are now facing 'crisis management'. Ha ha!

◆ On November 28th, to celebrate no shop day a crack team of disgruntled Santas (the Christmas Liberation Front) took action to rid Manchester of consumerist hype. The winter hardened team clad in green and white, burst into half a dozen shops in the city centre and stole their Christmas decorations for quite blatantly being up far too early! More Info: Enough 0161 226 6668

◆ No New Deal! Between 30 and 50 offices of Reed Employment were flyposted at the end of October. Reed is an employment agency making money out of the government's New Deal scheme and have become the subject of an ongoing campaign. They have taken a contract in the Hackney and City areas of London to administer the scheme, which pushes young people into shitty jobs and training they don't want, but they have offices all over the country

Haringey Solidarity Group are co-ordinating the campaign: PO Box 2474 London N8

0181 3745027 hsg@clara.net

◆ The Advisory Service for Squatters would like to announce that their website will be up and running from mid-December: www.squat.freeserve.co.uk

BNRR UPDATE

On Wednesday 25th November 375 security guards, police and bailiffs surrounded the protest squats on the route of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, Britain's first private toll motorway, announced to the world that the eviction had begun, then erected a new fenced enclosure next to the Moneymore squats.

Two days later the bailiffs disappeared, leaving only security guards. Activists are being allowed in and out of the buildings, but building materials and media are banned. For a while, over-zealous security tried to restrict supplies of food onto the site, but gave in on this when a group of sympathetic local people staged a cake-bringing protest!

Numbers on site have been swelled by the publicity, with activists from the Crystal Palace and Faslane camps turning up in support.

Also, the land which the nearby Greenwood camp is being built on is believed to have been recently compulsorily purchased by the Highways Agency. This may mean that it could be evicted without first being taken to court to secure a repossession order - see November issue of EF! AU.

Site mobiles: 07970 301978/ 932224



On the roof of a defended building at Birmingham.

BNRR SOLIDARITY SABOTAGE

The EF!AU has received a communiqué from 'Yorkshire ELF' stating that early on the 28th November activists trashed an earth-mover and two diggers on the new A1 - M1 link road, between York & Wakefield. The DBFO road is being built by Kvaerner (who own Balfour Beatty & BICC). Kvaerner & Autostrada are the firms behind the Connect consortium, who are trying to build the 'New M6' north of Birmingham.

Crowbars were used to force locked engines and cabs open, cables cut, engines sabotaged and graffiti sprayed. Damage is estimated in the £1000's and increased security and overtime have been caused. More importantly, solidarity has been shown, as the perpetrators explain: 'Although we cannot be at the BNRR protest site, we are still throwing spanners in the works. More people need to take solidarity direct action'.

SILVER BIRCHES CAMP

The site in Epsom, Surrey, is still going with tree houses, tunnels and people to defend them. More people are welcome, though. Public support seems to be rising and evidence is being gathered against the council for corruption.

Local contact 0411 306330

WORK STARTS ON AVON RING ROAD

Site clearance has now started on the proposed route of the Avon Ring Road. Contracts have been signed for the next three months. This road, if built, will become Bristol's M25 and the largest Local Authority Road scheme in the country. The latest section, Stage II, is set to destroy a disused railway line, a swathe of Siston Common, and will be built on top of the Bristol & Bath Railway cycle path. A permanent camp has now been established and actions have started in resistance to this tarmac monster. Fresh campaigners and activists are needed for the first anti-road site with its own cycle path!

Contact Kebele Café, 0117 939 9469

ARTHUR'S WOOD APPEAL

The residents of Arthur's Wood protest camp are now in court appealing against the eviction order by Manchester Airport. Legal aid for the appeal has been refused. It has been put in on the grounds that the airport has no full title to the land and so no right to order evictions. The title to the land lies with the National Trust who are by law required to resist all encroachment on the land's security and health but instead have granted the airport a license to use it. It would obviously be a great embarrassment to them if they as the legal owners would have to evict the very people who defend the land they are meant to look after.

Currently there are only a few people on site and with hundreds of trees due to be "reduced in height", to "aid visibility" for aircraft landing on the new 2nd runway, new residents or visitors, would be much appreciated.

Info and Directions from 01565 873551

OFF THE RAILS IN OXFORD

Recently Railtrack began work piling up ballast mountains at their new 'virtual quarry' (storage depot), in New Hinskey, South Oxford. John Prescott has still not decided whether to grant an Article 4 Direction, which would mean that Railtrack would be brought under council planning laws. As a decision could not be retrospective, Railtrack made sure they went ahead and started the quarry as fast as possible.

Local residents have shown that they value the natural environment of South Oxford by preparing a Community Nature Plan (August 1998) with the support of the City Council. Recent surveys recorded 54 species of birds around Hinskey Lake, and 42 species around the allotments, both next to the Quarry site.

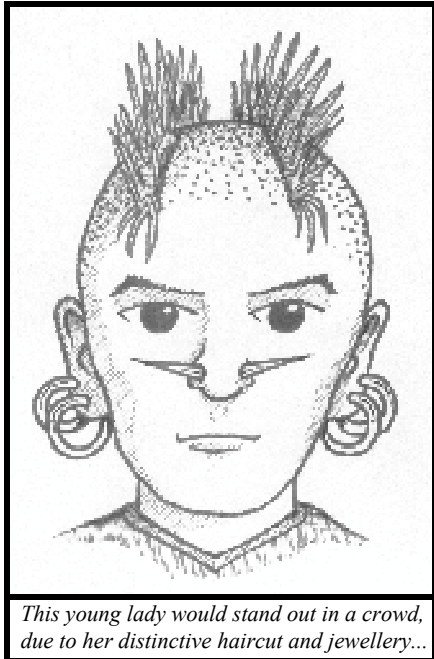
Local residents, furious about the development, bringing noise, pollution, and water run-off that may be toxic, have taken to direct action. On the 2nd day of work the gates were pad-locked shut, the one digger on site was trashed and the railway points were locked shut, preventing deliveries.

On 7th November, 130 people, most of whom have never done direct action took over the site, spelling the message 'STOP THE QUARRY' in 10ft high letters. Others have been to Railtrack's boss's house. As one said: 'he has made his presence felt in my life, so I will make my presence felt in his'!

Further info on the web: www.oxquarry.co.uk

Mask up for Mother Earth

Masking up - Why? When? How?



This young lady would stand out in a crowd, due to her distinctive haircut and jewellery...

At the Newbury Reunion Rampage in 97, two people leant against the wreck of a dumper-truck, cheerfully watching a digger burn. One (who'd clearly come prepared) was wearing an all-over stripy tiger suit. The other (who clearly hadn't) had removed her second layer of stockings and pulled them over her head. That is precisely the kind of scenario that springs to mind when you think of a good time to be masked up. It has obvious associations with criminal damage and large things being on fire. However, these associations mean that many people dismiss masking up as intimidating and counter-productive in other situations. Some feel it is never appropriate (except perhaps among consenting activists in their own homes while watching Land and Freedom!). Some feel that masking up is sometimes necessary but worry about the implications or are unsure about the issues surrounding it.

So is masking up a necessary and desirable tactic? Absolutely, and it is naïve not to be aware of this. The surveillance directed against dissidents by the State is real. Masking up or otherwise disguising yourself is not about intimidation. It is about remaining safe while breaching bail restrictions. It is about not being trapped by warrants that you may be able to pay your way out of eventually but not before a particular action that you wish to be part of. It is about jail terms that you're planning to serve only after you've made arrangements for your kids. It is about avoiding civil injunctions that may make you liable to thousands of pounds in costs or several months in a cell. It is about

the plain clothes copper by your side, the CCTV camera on your road and the footage being shot from the helicopter overhead. It is about getting away with it. Need any more convincing?

♦ Different methods of masking up will suit different occasions:

♦ On a large action wear lots of black, or at least clothes that don't stand out, in order to blend in with as many people as possible. A black hood, shades and a black T-shirt sleeve over your face is a popular and effective option. (the Hillgrove Cat Farm campaign has had people doing this in order to enable them to attend regular repeat actions with less follow-up risk) Masking up like this can be counter productive in the wrong situations. Don't do it on , for example, a fluffy student demo.

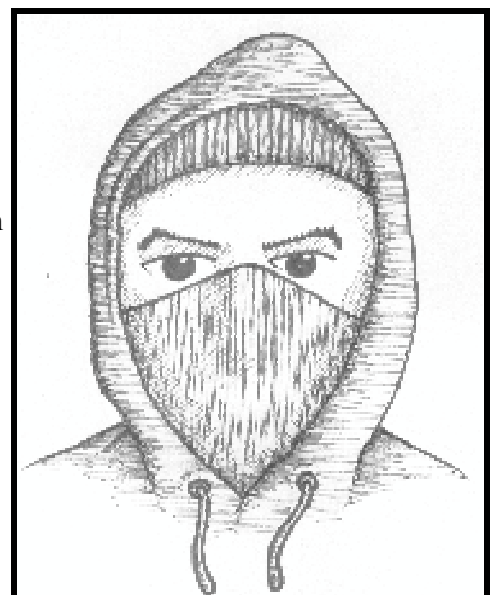
♦ In some situations you may be worried more about being instantly recognised than about avoiding video identification. Face paints (half black, half white is best), hoods, and frequently changed, distinctive clothes are useful to make yourself look different.

♦ Go for looking silly rather than scary if you expect to be interacting with real people, rather than coppers, such as in an office occupation. In that context the Superheroes against Genetix were funny but got away with wearing eye masks

♦ If someone (not a copper) seems truly intimidated by your being disguised, explain in calm and friendly tones your reasons for being so.

♦ Even if you plan to be the most well-behaved person ever, mask up to protect those who are currently running more risks than you in attending the same event. If everybody masks up then those intending to be 'full on' are not immediately identified as targets by the police. Masking up is not only about looking after yourself but about looking after each other.

♦ Be imaginative - balaclavas are old hat. Start instead with your basic hooded top, then add T-shirt sleeves or army headovers, or cardboard party masks, or green-and-black kerchiefs lovingly hand-crafted by indigenous Brighton activists on their mums' sewing-machines



...however, with the addition of a simple mask and hood, she can go about her business, unrecognised by Big Brother's meddlesome gaze.

CAMPAIGN BRIEFING - GREENFIELD HOUSING

So, we may have won the fight against the roads programme. But do we now sit back and watch as 1000 square miles of British countryside are covered in concrete because...

THE WRONG HOUSES ARE BEING BUILT IN THE WRONG PLACES!

Thanks to the House Builders' Federation (HBF) and New Labour's obsession with creating jobs in the construction industry, developers could have shoved up nearly 5 million new homes by 2016, based on spurious household

projections that seem to crystallise Thatcherite values of individualism. Lobbyists have conned the government into thinking that the only way to deal with a national housing crisis is by building new houses - despite the fact that thousands of homes stand empty. And so the government has foisted

quotas of new houses onto local councils, effectively forcing them to give permission to new schemes that invariably local people don't want.

There is a presumption that there will be a "trickle down" in the housing market to homeless people, despite the fact that rich people buy houses as financial investments not to live in and that most people will never afford a mortgage. This is one of the sickest symptoms of capitalism in this country - housing is treated not as a basic need, but as a commodity. A genuine desire by government to address the housing crisis would lead to changes in legislation, for example on social housing and rents.

HOMES FOR NEED NOT GREED

Typically the proposed houses are unaffordable to all but executive types, built without consideration of local infrastructure or ecological footprinting, not built to "Lifetime Homes Standard" and often come on the back of road schemes. It's cheaper for developers to build on greenfield sites than to renovate derelict urban areas. Brownfield sites suitable for housing are being wasted with temples to consumerism such as the Millennium Dome.

Local opposition to housing developments has been dismissed as "NIMBYism" or, in the words of one of the top housebuilders, Bryant Homes, "unreasonable obstructions". Housebuilders such as Beazer and Wimpey have even been asking for the government to abolish the planning system. Apparently we should trust them to "self-regulate". Yet planning regulations still penalise sustainable low-impact developments. The "lost village" of Brithdir Mawr in Wales has recently been discovered after having to camouflage itself from planning officials for years, and anyone who's tried to put up a straw bale house will tell you how difficult it is to get planning permission.

Groups campaigning against the government housing allocations in their area are forming super-coalitions and starting to hook up with those with direct action skills. Posh conservationists the CPRE recently published a helpful free booklet on how the planning system works (kindly sponsored by Esso, oh dear, and available by sending an A5 sae to **CPRE Publications, Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP**) while issuing a reminder that "the first local people know of plans

affecting their local countryside can be when the bulldozers move onto the site - and by then it is too late to make a difference." (!) Tell that to the residents of the village of Sandy Lane near Bradford who have managed to stuff Bryant Homes by moving their caravans onto the site, hooking up with Bingley road protestors to jump on bulldozers, and putting up posters in their windows warning off potential buyers of the Bryant greenfield houses.

Campaigners in Hertfordshire are up against Persimmon Homes, who want to build 10 000 houses on greenbelt land to the west of Stevenage. While groups from the huge CASE (Campaign Against Stevenage Expansion) coalition

are still arguing through the planning system, some of them are already organising a "beat the bulldozer" pledge: to add your name contact **CASE c/o Dyes Farm, Langley, Hertfordshire, SG4 4PQ**. The strength of the situation is that by working together we can build alliances with disgruntled

local people all over the country...

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

Check the local press - there's bound to be an unpopular housing development near you. If possible, find out who the company behind it is and do some research on them (contact **Corporate Watch** for details of how). Most housebuilders have regional offices - an action at, on or in one of these hubs of corporate power may help remind the builders of the perils of ignoring local opinion.

You can also find out about campaigns in your area by contacting: **URGENT, Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ Tel. 07000 785202 info@urgent.org.uk <http://www.urgent.org.uk>**. Protest groups are springing up all over the country which would benefit from input from hardened activists with a variety of tactics up their sleeves. URGENT (which stands for Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment NeTwork - you come up with a better inclusive acronym!) was set up earlier this year to bring together everybody concerned with this issue to share information and campaigning skills. To officially support the network and receive the newsletter and e-mail updates, preferably send a cheque for £10 (£5 for individuals) payable to "URGENT" to the address above. Or please help URGENT out with offers of office equipment / your articles / donations / newspaper clippings.

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

How are we to house ourselves sustainably? Ideas abound within the grassroots movement with solutions ranging from squats to yurts, housing co-ops to boats, self-build to strawbale homes. So the construction industry can sod off - give us the land and the powers and we'll house ourselves quite nicely thank you.

Groundswell seem to be quite sorted for ideas: get in touch with them at the **National Homeless Alliance 5-15 Cromer Street WC1H 8LS Telephone 0171 833 2071 Fax 0171 278 6685 email groundswell@home-all.org.uk**

Other useful contacts are **The Land Is Ours**, the British land rights campaign network, and the **Advisory Service for Squatters** - see contacts list.



JUNE 18 1999:

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE...

When the G8 gather in Koln, Germany, to forward the military march of global capitalism, we too - the people of the planet - will be gathering in resistance, liberating our desires in financial centres across the globe.

.....RESISTANCE WILL BE AS GLOBAL AS CAPITAL.....

Across the planet, across the various and diverse movements for social change, we have come to recognise that while our oppressions are different, we are not isolated in our struggles. Our enemy is not one transnational, one individual, one group, one government. Our struggle is more than sympathetic to other movements, it is interrelated. It is global capitalism that is the root of our social and ecological sufferings, and it is global resistance that is our strength.

While June 18th is about acting in unity for the realisation of our common aims, it does not mean uniformity of tactics. This action requires the full participation of individuals and groups to organise autonomous actions co-inciding across the globe. Groups in the UK are already conspiring to occupy and transform the City of London, using their experience and tactics of their choice to create ultimate effect. From mass actions to small affinity groups, the City will be alive with wanton delight as we take our pleasures in that which excites us most against that which we despise the most.

What might happen....

- ⊛ The timetable for the day is under discussion and will continue to develop as more individuals and groups come together to share their ideas and enthusiasms. June 18th will encompass a wide range of activities: office occupations, giving out free food, street performance, leafleting, pickets, sabotage, and more more more. This is not 'Global Street Party 2' it is a number of actions, organised by a multitude of people. And everyone can do something - a few friends with a banner, an individual with spraypaint or superglue and a group trashing corporate property are all equally desirable. As well as the autonomous smaller actions there will also be mass actions to be involved in.

To date....

Through monthly meetings with activists from different groups, networking has begun. Information has already been distributed widely. 20,000 leaflets have been produced and distributed. Talks, discussions and workshops have been undertaken by individuals from the London meetings everywhere from Anarchist groups to student conferences. A number of groups whether from within the direct action movement and from mainstream organisations, are already discussing the ways and means to participate in this action.

Outside of our island networking has been equally intense. The proposal for action has been translated into a number of languages, and correspondence is underway with; amongst others; indigenous Colombian groups, international hacktivists, Radical French unemployed groups, the anti-MAI network, and activists in Bombay, Sydney, Tel Aviv, New York and Prague. It also coincides with a tour of Indian farmers/activists in Europe in resistance against the WTO and transnationals.

To do....

- ⊛ Distribute leaflets, write your own or get those already produced from RTS or London Greenpeace.
- ⊛ Make stickers ! and stick them where you like.
- ⊛ Write articles in zines, newsletters, rags and papers plugging June 18 and explaining why your group is involved.
- ⊛ Join the email discussion list - <J18Discussion@gn.apc.org>. Subscribe by emailing <listproc@gn.apc.org> with "subscribe june 18 your name" in subject box. and PARTICIPATE in it.
- ⊛ Organise meetings and invite all potentially interested parties in your area to discuss, debate and network ideas and realities.
- ⊛ Start dreaming up outrageous and possible ideas in an affinity group or as part of a larger network. Pick an issue. Pick a target. Plot an action.

Dates before June....

Prepare for J18 discussions at the Earth First! Winter gathering in January.

Come and share your ideas and participate in workshops at the open meeting in London in February.

Plan an info week in your area for the last week of May - last minute inspiration for June 18th !

CONTACT RTS 0171 2814621 rts@gn.apc.org
LONDON GREENPEACE 0171 7131269

EF! CONTACTS DECEMBER '98

Arun Valley EF! c/o 1 York Road, Littlehampton, W. Sussex 01903 721615 arunef1@radicalluffi.demon.co.uk Bath EF! c/o PO Box 426, Bath, Somerset BA1 2ZD 01249 713742 Blackburn EF! 12 Balmoral Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2EW 01254 777079 Bristol EF! c/o Box 51, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093 Cambridge EF! Box E, 12 Mill Road, Cambridge Cardiff EF! c/o Green Group, Glamorgan Uni SU, Pontypridd, Mid- Glamorgan CF37 1DL Cheltenham EF! 16 Portland Street Cheltenham Gloucs. GL52 2PB chelt_ef@yahoo.com Exeter Env. Network PO Box 185, Exeter EX4 4EW Fife EF! c/o 91 South Street, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9Q 01334 477411 The Flat Oak Society c/o 3 St Alphege Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EB. 01227 463368 Glasgow EF! PO Box 180, Glasgow G4 9AB Guildford EF! PO Box 217, Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212 Gwynedd & Mon EF! The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX. 01248 355821 afu01b@bangor.ac.uk Hereford EF! Wern Derys, Michaelchurch Escley, Hereford HR2 0JZ 01981 510659 Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 43, Hull HU1 1AA LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St, Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 255 3223 Leeds EF! c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org Liverpool EF! 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 Lune EF! c/o Bookcellar, 9 Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TJ.		Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW. 0161 2266814 manos@javocados.globalnet.co.uk Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU Norfolk EF! The Greenhouse, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666 Oldham EF! PO Box 127 Oldham OL4 3FE 0161 6210355 Oxford EF! Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ Pendle EF! Klondike Central Prospect Farm, Leaches Road, Colne, Lancs, BB8 8ET 01282 870919 Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire 0118 954 6430 roadbusters@clara.net Sheffield EF! c/o SheFIN, 54 Upperthorpe Rd, Sheffield, S6 3EB. 0114 263 4494 Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes, Union Building, Southampton University, University Road, Southampton eco@soton.ac.uk South Devon EF! Birdwood House, 44 High Street, Totnes, Devon. 01626 363844 South Downs EF! PO Box 2971, Brighton BN2 2TT savage@easynet.co.uk Swansea People EF! c/o Green Action, Swansea Uni SU, Swansea, Wales TAPP (Tyneside Action for People & Planet) PO Box 1TA, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA tapp@newcastle54. freeserve.co.uk Warwick EF! c/o Green Society, Warwick Uni SU, Coventry CV4 7AL suuad@csv.warwick.ac.uk Wolves Eco Action c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs, Wolves Uni SU, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton	York EF! c/o York LEAF, PO Box 323, York EF! SUPPORT GROUPS Acme Tat Supplies (protest-tat at cost) c/o Leeds EF! Corporate Watch (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 791391 mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o BM HEAL, London WC1N 3XX earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com Head State Support Group 72 Park Road, Worthing BN11 2AN PROPAGANDA Act Locally! c/o TAPP Aufheben c/o POB 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT, UK. Black Flag BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX Counter Information c/o Transmission, 28 King Street, Glasgow G1 5QP Do or Die c/o South Downs EF! DELTA c/o LEAF EF! Action Update c/o Leeds EF! actionupdate@gn.apc.org Genetix Update c/o GEN Live Wild or Die POB 204, 2425B Channing Way, Berkley, CA 94704, USA FINs - for a full list of Free Information Networks (& more), send SAE to London FIN c/o 99, Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RX Peace News 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DY The Porkbolter PO Box 4144, Worthing BN14 Schnews PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913 Smash Hits BM Box 5538, London, WC1N 3XX Squall 0171 561 1204 eds@squall.co.uk Undercurrents 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG 01865 203661 underc@gn.apc.org West Country Activist c/o PO Box 478, Taunton TA2 7YR wca@conk.com	Y Ddeilen Werdd/The Green Leaf c/o G & M EF! or JimK@undeb.bangor.ac.uk 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 1003021616@compu serve.com Anarchist Black Cross c/o PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3AY Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park, King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844 Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, Wigan WN3 5BJ. 01942 513792 Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361 Earth Circus Network CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN. 0117 9250505 EarthRights (env. law & right to protest advice) Law Centre Federation, Duchess House, 18-19 Warren Street, London W1P 5DB. 07071 225011 earthrights@gn.apc.org Environmental Ploughshares (affinity group-based NVDA) Box W, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 fanuk@envirolink.org Gandalf Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP lpg@envirolink.org Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) (as for RTS) 0181 374 9516 genetics@gn.apc.org genetiX snowball (open crop removal) One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manc. M2 5NS 0161-834 0295 genetixsnowball@orangenet.co.uk	Green Anarchist Network BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX Hunt Saboteurs Association PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 hsa@gn.apc.org Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129, London W12 8GR The Land is Ours (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 722016 Legal Defence & Monitoring Group BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX 0181 5337116 Making Waves (boats/training) PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36 4BZ 01226 762359 pp3mo@aol.com London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 info@mcspotlight.org No Opencast 190 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL 0171 603 1831 Save the Hillgrove Cats Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford 0121 632 6460 Subvertise! c/o Box E 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ subs@venify.i-way.co.uk Third Battle of Newbury PO Box 5642, Newbury, RG14 5WG 07000 785 201 thirdbattle@hotmail.com Trident Ploughshares 2000 (anti-nuke direct disarmament) (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 reforest@gn.apc.org URGENT (greenbelt housing network) Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ 01865 721366 info@urgent.org.uk CAMPS AND SITES Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (alternate weekends) 33 Heron Road, Bristol BS5 0LT 0117 939 3746 / 01703 554434 Arthur's Wood Behind Moat House, Atrincham Road, Cheshire. 07775-602954 01565 873 551 Ashton Court Quarry c/o Bristol FoE, 10-12 Picton St, Montpellier, Bristol, BS6 5QA 07970 423 834	Birmingham Northern Relief Road Campaign Greenwood Protest Site, London Road, Canwell, nr Sutton Coldfield, W.Midlands 07970 301978 / 932224 Crystal Palace (development) Big Willow Ecovillage, Palace Parade, London SE19. 0181 761 7826 Faslane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G84 8HT 01436 820901 Menwith Womens' Peace Camp (spybase) A59 Kettleing Head Lay-By, Nr Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG3 2RA 01943 468593 Friends of Lyminge Forest c/o 3 Abbott Rd, Folkstone, Kent, CT20 1NG 01303 257046/265 737/0468945595 merlin@envirolink.org Toytown The Old Village, Great Western Rd, Cheltenham, Worcs, GL50 3QN 0797 1316597/01242 525280 toytown@stones.com Sellafield Women's Peace Camp (bimonthly) Peace House, 5 New Road, Littleborough, Lancashire OL15 0141 2265066 /0113 2621534 Silver Birches Camp 9 The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, 0411 306330 Swindon site, c/o 49 Holbein Road, Swindon SN5 6DN 01793 783040 AUTONOMOUS ZONES Anarchist Teapot Box B, Public House Bookshop, 21 Little Preston Street, Brighton BN1 2HQ Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA. 0131 557 6242 Kebele Community Centre 14 Robertson Road, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6JY. 0117 939 9469 kebele@mailexcite.com 121 Centre (infoshop +) 121 Railton Road, Brixton London SE24 0171 274 6655 1 in 12 Club 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY 01274 734160 OKasional Cafe c/o Manchester EF!	INTERNATIONAL An Talamh Glas Unit 66, Liffey Trust Building, 117 Upper Sherriff Street, Dublin 1, Eire +353-1-855 0965 allenr@bluwin.ch A SEED Europe PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands +31-20 6682236 aseedeur@antenna.nl Autonomous Green Action POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5H9, Canada Action For Social Ecology Box 34089, 10026 Stockholm, Sweden ekologisten@usa.net Australian EF! AU PO Box 3163, South Brisbane 4101, Australia ef_au@hotmail.com Coast Mountains EF! 1472 Commercial Drive, Box 128, Vancouver V5L 3X9, Canada +1-604-708 9660 Czech Republic EF! Zeme predevsim! PO Box 237, 16041 Prague 6, Czech Republic zemepredevsim@czn.cz Earth First! Journal POB 1415, Eugene OR 97440, USA + 1-541-344 8004 earthfirst@igc.apc.org 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 FIN Umweltprojektwerkstatt, Yorkstrasse 59 HH, 10965 Berlin, Germany +49-30 78913144 umprowe@jpbberlin.berlinet.de Groene Front! Postbus 85069, 3058 AB Utrecht, Netherlands che@dds.nl Pobal An Dulra 242 Sunset Drive, Cartron Point, Sligo, Eire +353 71 44348 diarmo@indigo.ie Poland EF! PO Box 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4, Poland +48-33 183153 wapienica@pnwni.most.org.pl Rainbow Keepers (Ukraine) PO Box 322, Kiev 252187, Ukraine rk@cci.glasnet.ru Volunteers For Earth Defence 189 San Antonio Ext SFDm, 1105 Quezon City, Philippines
---	--	---	---	--	---	---	--

WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is a network of autonomous local groups that organise non-hierarchically from the grass roots and use Direct Action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. **Other Contacts** are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit www.k2net.co.uk/ef/

NEW ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

DAY OF ACTION AGAINST ZENECA

Zeneca Pharmaceuticals are the largest British company involved in genetic engineering, and therefore provide a wealth of opportunities for action in this country. To kick off a campaign against them, two simultaneous actions took place in the South-West on the 23rd November.

At Avonmouth, near Bristol, a Zeneca plant was blockaded for 3½ hours by 40 people. Activists locked on to 2 articulated lorries with d-locks at the main gates of the plants, causing a mile long tailback. Three other people climbed a 150ft tower to hang a banner, while Tragic Roundabout entertained the rest.

Avon police turned up but then went away again when they were told that the action was just over the Gloucestershire border and therefore outside their jurisdiction. Seems the 'county line' doesn't just work in cowboy films! When Gloucestershire police turned up, they didn't seem to be in too much of a rush to remove activists. Eventually they produced hydraulic boltcroppers and gave those locked on a choice of removing themselves or being cut off and then being nicked. Everyone opted for freedom rather than an extra 5 minutes locked on and a wasted d-lock.

Meanwhile, in Brixham, South Devon, another Zeneca plant was targeted. The intended office occupation was foiled as there was a large police presence when everyone arrived. However 2 people did manage to get onto the roof of the building. One was arrested for criminal damage as the plastic drainpipe she was climbing came away from the wall.

As the plant was on a sea-cliff, that was the obvious place for a banner proclaiming Zeneca's misdeeds. Activists abseiled down the 200 foot face and attached the banner to the cliff with climbing wedges. At the end of the action, they decided to leave it there for a while, figuring that Zeneca wouldn't be able to find anyone crazy enough to go and retrieve it!

MUMIA MUST NOT DIE!

The order has been signed for the execution of African-American revolutionary prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia has been on death row for 16 years despite overwhelming evidence that he is innocent. Mumia has faced execution before, in 1995, but international pressure, in the form of marches, riots and occupations of American big business, ensured a last minute stay of execution. Such solidarity is needed again.

On Saturday 14th November around 20 activists from the Northern Anarchist Network, held a demo in support of Mumia Abu Jamal at American Express (an obvious outlet of Amerikan capitalism) in Manchester. The building was entered and leaflets were handed to customers and to the public outside. Attempts to persuade the office manager to fax the Pennsylvania governor, who has pledged to execute Mumia as soon as he can, were sadly unsuccessful.

Contact: Anarchist Black Cross. See contact list.

Fax Governor Tom Ridge on 1-717-783-4429 demanding that Mumia be allowed a new trial.

TOTNES COURT CASE UPDATE

The two women who were charged back in August with £605,000 of criminal damage for removing the controversial trial of genetically engineered (GE) maize at Hood Barton, next to Riverford Organic farm in Devon, had their charges changed today. They have now been charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage, and have been bailed to appear before Plymouth Crown Court on December 29th. Previously harsh bail conditions, consisting of nightly curfew and daily signings were lessened and they will now have to sign on twice weekly at their local police stations. They are still banned from entering Devon apart from attending court appearances.

150 people gathered outside the court on the day, and over 2,000 signatures have been collected by the local campaign, in support.

Ten other people that were arrested in connection with the action have had DNA samples taken and are still awaiting results from forensics to see whether or not they will also be charged.

Contact: GEN (see contacts list).

TARMAC WARNED OFF

On Nov 23rd. EF! activists invaded a Tarmac building site in Nottingham and displayed a banner reading 'Keep Tarmac out of Bestwood'. Tarmac are planning to open a sand quarry in Bestwood, near Nottingham, and this action was done to keep the protest against them in the limelight. Footage of the action will be the final clip in a video sent to Tarmac explaining the opposition to their scheme. Contact Notts EF!

BRYANT'S OFFICE OCCUPIED

On November 2nd, activists occupied the offices of Bryant Country Homes in Eynsham, Oxfordshire calling for "Homes for Need not Greed". Thirteen protestors stopped work for over an hour while they ranted about the building of executive housing on greenfield sites, abuses of the planning system, social housing, housing co-ops, the acts of enclosure and the free market economy.

The action was timed to coincide with the company's Annual General Meeting in Solihull and was in solidarity with local campaigns in Sandy Lane, Yorkshire and Tewkesbury. On the same day residents of the Sandy Lane village near Bradford protested at a nearby greenfield site that Bryant Homes are in the process of trashing.

House builders such as Bryant have been calling for virtual abolition of the planning system to allow them to steam ahead with plans to put 1000 square miles of British countryside under new houses by 2016. This system is already hugely weighted in their favour, penalising sustainable low-impact developments, while squatting is clamped down on to the benefit of luxury and greenfield developers.

Contact: URGENT 07000 785202
info@urgent.org.uk

Action for Social Housing 0378 454063
Sandy Lane RAGE (01274) 495264.

Action Diary

December.

5. National Front march in Dover. Counter-demonstrators will be gathering by the miner's statue in Marine Parade from 11:00am onwards.

12. Street football in Worthing for all those who've had enough of the corporate game. Meet 12 noon at The Litten Tree pub on the seafront

14. Action at the head office of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development about the K2/R4 nuclear reactors they are financing in the Ukraine.

21. Solstice party at Ashton Court

January

10. Newbury Reunion, '1000 candles for 1000 arrests' +more. Meet at Newbury Railway Station 12 noon Contact: 3rd Battle of Newbury.

11. Plough Monday in York - Street theatre and direct action, recalling York's protest heritage to stop industrialised agriculture. Contact York EF!

12. Mc Libel appeal starts.

17. Diggers 350 public meeting, 12 noon- 5pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Speakers and workshops on land rights issues.

Planning events for the rest of the year's festivities celebrating 350 years since the Diggers' Rebellion, including the possibility of setting up permanent land squats. Contact: The Land is Ours 01865 722016, tony@gaia.org

18. Second 'Doin' it in the North' action. In Manchester, airport-related, trying to strengthen the EF! network in the North of England. Contact Manchester EF!

29-31. EF! Winter Moot - see article, back page

March

1. National day of action against blood sports. Contact: Portsmouth 3 defence campaign. c/o PO box 1119, Dorchester, Dorset, DT11ED.

27. Europe wide transport actions. contact A SEED Europe (see contacts page)

June

18. Resistance will be as global as capital...see feature article, this issue Contact London Greenpeace or RTS

Prisoners

Ploughshares activist on remand on charges of 'conspiracy to commit criminal damage'.

Annika Spalde (BE8940) and Ann-Brit Sternfeld (BE8941), HMP Risley, 617 Warrington Rd, Risley, Warrington WA3 6BP

Stellan Vinthagen (BT8233), HMP Preston 2 Ribblesdale Lane, Preston, PR1 5AB
To arrange visits contact Catholic Worker - 0151 264 8741

Barry Horne, on hunger strike until new Labour honour their manifesto commitments to launch a royal commission on vivisection, is believed to still be conscious as the Action Update goes to press, but is likely to die if he enters a coma. Barry Horne, VC 2141, HMP Full Sutton, York YO4 1PS

TREES FELLED AT BINGLEY

The campaign against the Bingley 'Relief' Road near Bradford has faced several major setbacks recently. In the summer shake-up of the roads program, it was announced that the road was still to be built, but not for up to 3 years. The few people remaining on the 2-year old protest camp felt that their energies were better spent elsewhere, and decided to pack up the camp, rather than continue waiting for an eviction several years down the line.

The process of tatting down began, but various people who had been involved with the camp over its two year history stepped in, anxious not to see the campaign end. Sadly there simply weren't enough people to keep the camp open all the time. Then on the 4th of November, the local council seized the opportunity of a temporarily unoccupied camp to fell many of the trees on the site. All the trees with treehouses in were brought down, although many others remain on route. Of course, trees can grow back eventually, the road hasn't been built yet...

Contact Bingley Anti Road Campaign c/o Leeds EF! for want of a better contact.

SAVE THE CHESTNUTS

The campaign against a new six-lane road and business school, which resulted in the eviction of the disused LMS railway station in September, has not given up, and two large horse chestnuts, due to be felled to make way for the new road, have been squatted. The trees were planted 50 years ago to do something positive for this air-starved area but it seems that the council are only paying lip service to their notions of a greener Oxford. Contact: 07971 755823

EF! Action Update needs your action reports (~200 words), articles, photos and feedback.

Contact us at: EF!AU, Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown Leeds, LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365

<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>

www.k2net.co.uk/ef

Subscribe to email edition for free.

EF! stickers £1 for 10

NABURN OPENING DISRUPTED

The new 'designer outlet' out of town shopping centre in York, has been the scene of protests for 3 years now, including a tree camp in the summer of 1996. It finally opened its doors to the public on the 12th November, but US multinational McArthur Glen must have suspected that things were not going to run smoothly...

About 30 activists who had been involved with various stages of the campaign turned up for the big day, along with about 3000 mindless consumers. Some protesters were well known to security, and so were noisily carried out before the opening ceremony started. The ensuing struggles with security outside the centre intrigued the people queuing to go in, which meant they lapped up the campaign leaflets which were being distributed.

As the opening ceremony was about to start, one woman felt the time was right to create a scene. Although it was totally unplanned, she flung off all her clothes and made a rush for the stage. Several other people followed, ranting and generally causing disruption. A school party was at the front of the audience, holding up the pictures they had prepared, but upon being confronted with naked flesh, their teacher decided it was wisest to usher them all out, adding to the havoc.

Finally the microphones refused to work, meaning the opening speeches couldn't take place -protestors got the blame although they might not have deserved it! In the end though, the ceremony was 'well bollocksd', which after all is the most important thing!

ASHTON COURT

The latest move by Bristol Council was a letter to the activists, insisting on the right of the council to inspect the tunnels, together with someone from quarry contractors Pioneer Aggregates at that! They were laughed off but refusal will mean that an eviction notice or possession order will be served soon. In court, people have been let off charges for assault and aggravated trespass, others have been fined with £20 court costs. Several parties are planned: a Winter Solstice one on site, for December 21st, and a Prisoner Support Ceilidh on Jan 30th in St Werburgh Community Centre.

Mobile no.07970 423834,

CITIZENS INSPECTORS ARRESTED AT BARROW

On Wednesday 18th November, seven peace activists and two accompanying journalists were arrested at the VSEL shipyard in Barrow, as the activists attempted a "Citizens' Inspection" of the Trident submarine, HMS Vengeance.

The inspection was held in support of the "Bread not Bombs Ploughshares" group - currently in prison awaiting trial - who were arrested in the shipyard in September while attempting to non-violently disarm the Trident weapons system.

The aim of the "Citizens' Inspection", was to "identify and inspect the development of weapons of mass destruction by VSEL and the British government". The group believe that "such weapons - with their huge waste of resources, and with the threat they represent to life - are a crime against humanity, especially the world's poor".

All the arrestees have now been released without charge.

Contact: Stephen Hancock on 01865 770833. Liverpool Catholic Worker: 0151 264 8741

WINTER GATHERING

Preparations continue for the EF!Winter Moot. Discussion documents should be with Notts EF! by now, if you haven't sent one do, but the agenda won't be distributed until January so we'd still appreciate opinions on the what we should talk about at the event. (If you didn't get the mailout with November's AU contact Notts EF!)

The Agenda and a compilation of discussion documents will be sent to all EF! Groups with the January AU. Anyone else who wants one, send your address and 2x 1st class stamps to Notts EF! We are relying on local groups to distribute the agenda amongst their members and discuss it before Jan 29.

We need Facilitators. Get in touch if you can help. Facilitation workshops will start on the evening of Thursday 28 January.

There will be childcare, provided by volunteers. We need people to contact us in advance (by Jan 7) if they are bringing children. If you do not tell us children are coming we will not be able to provide care for them. If you do we can explain what provision there will be and hopefully make it work for everyone. The moot is in an urban community centre and dogs are not allowed. Efforts are being made to find dog sitters for those who are really stuck. Again we must know by Jan 7..

Legal Disclaimer

The editors of the AU sneer at the naivete of those who think that change can be brought about through illegal action. The AU is for the purpose of titillation onlySLEEP.....WORK.....CONSUME.....

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

From: EF! AU. c/o
 Cornerstone Resource Ctr,
 16 Sholebroke Avenue,
 Leeds LS7 3HB

Subscriptions cost a minimum contribution of £5 for 12 issues. Send more if you can afford it so we can give free subscriptions to prisoners, etc. Cheques payable to Earth First!.Action Update Remember security, false names and a collect or c/o address are best.

Ya Basta!



If the circle is ticked then your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!