

Earth First!

Action Update

March 2001

Issue 74

A monthly round-up of ecological and other direct action from around Britain

"Dance then, fairies, for joy and sing, the song of the coming again of spring" C. M. Barker

GM-MOO! 5 Sainsbury's distro depots blockaded



Cow scales lampost in Basingstoke

On Feb 22nd five of supermarket chain Sainsbury's Regional Distribution Centres (RDCs) were simultaneously blockaded. The actions commenced at 10:30am blocking depots in Basingstoke, Hampshire; East Kilbride, near Glasgow; Elstree, North London; Maidstone, Kent and Stone, Staffordshire.

Sainsbury's was targeted because of their failure to follow recent moves by other supermarkets in announcing a date by which all own-brand meat, dairy, egg and fish products will be from animals raised on a GM free diet. Such products are a back door-route by which GE food can enter the commercial market. Currently up to 75% of GE crops world-wide go into animal feed.

Protestors from a range of action groups, some dressed as cows, chained themselves to lorries bringing the depots to a standstill for several hours. At Stone, four protesters managed to crawl under and lock-onto a refrigerated lorry for three hours. They were cut free (one from the engine block) and promptly arrested for aggravated trespass. Meanwhile a group of cows managed to stop and lock-on to a leaving lorry in Maidstone. For two hours the cows prevented any lorries from entering or leaving the depot. Police then led the two cows and two bulls away and arrested them for aggravated trespass and breach of the peace.

This action hit around a quarter of Sainsbury's frozen/chilled food RDCs. GM fed animal products are most likely to be found in these products.

Contact GEN 020 7690 0626 genetics@gn.apc.org for more GE info.

Sabotage!

Sometime during the week of Feb 21st a Sainsbury's supermarket in West Yorkshire was targeted. Several windows were smashed and the slogan 'Smash Genetics' emblazoned in graffiti across the store.

GE feature article inside *including* implications of recent court cases, where to find this years test sites & info on foot and mouth disease

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

Lift-off to flood-down

The first flight from Manchester Airport's second runway was due to take place on Feb 5th. The land destroyed to make way for the runway was occupied by protest camps from 1997-1999.

In protest, 30 people locked on to the departure desk considerably holding up proceedings. Wildlife lovers will have been astounded to see the return of a 7-foot badger, wearing a 'homeless' sign, who helped by handing out leaflets. Police were typically unhelpful and assaulted people, one of whom was later charged with assaulting the police! Another 2 people were arrested for hanging banners but later released without charge.

The successful action received a good response from the public. The event took place to commemorate the beautiful, but now lost, Bollin Valley; £170m of taxpayers' money wasted and increased pollution for the people of South Manchester.

Contact Manc EF! 0161 2266814 mancef@nematode.freeserve.co.uk

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

News in brief...

- ★ USA ELF! A Delta & Pine Land Co. warehouse in Visalia, California storing massive quantities of Monsanto transgenic cotton seed was torched on Feb 20th. Also tree spiking and survey stake pulling was reported in the Hardesty Wilderness Area in the Umpqua National Forest.
- ★ A noise demo was held at Wakefield prison on Feb 25th in support of framed prisoner Mark Barnsley. Another is planned soon see diary.
- ★ Direct Action Network (DAN) North East captured a Nexus Care Bus in Dec to highlight how unfair that form of transport is for disabled people. Police had to use bolt cutters to drag two Danners out, but one was handcuffed under the bus, out of the bolt-cutters reach. 0191 482 4425.
- ★ Leafleting and picketing took place at a GAP store in Norwich on Mar 10th, highlighting the low pay and abysmal conditions in GAP's factories.
- ★ On Dec 4th 5 Yorkshire anti-GE activist were found guilty of criminal damage to an Aventis oil seed rape trial and each ordered to pay £300 costs. However the Liverpool magistrate expressed sympathy with the activists and refused to award Aventis compensation. Sfgordon@hotmail.com
- ★ A new website documenting the campaign against the Newbury bypass www.geocities.com/newburybypass is now online. The road is open but locals remain active, campaigning against vodaphone and other in-fill developments. 07000 206 181 also www.newburyproject.org.uk
- ★ Bosnia recently rejected US 'aid', in the form of 40,000 tons of GM corn for animal feed, due to fears of health risks. rjvint@globalnet.co.uk
- ★ The John Lewis Partnership announced it was ending the killing of pheasants by staff on its shooting estate in Hampshire after protests had taken place up & down the country.
- ★ New European laws will open the floodgates to GM food and crops. A new directive, backed by the Government, ends a 3-year moratorium on granting licences for their commercial development thus making it illegal to ban commercial planting unless serious and justified concerns over impacts can be demonstrated. The effect of new laws is not likely to be felt for 2 years. Source: Observer Feb 11th.

SWP editor pied

On the evening of Feb 7th Chris Harman, editor of Socialist Worker, was pied whilst talking at Leeds University as part of the 'Globalise Resistance' Tour. This action was taken by anarchists in response to the Socialist Worker Party's increasing parasitical interest in the so-called 'new anti-capitalist movement'.

Two black clad anarchists entered stage left whilst another two waited in the wings keeping all exits clear. Before poor Chris knew what was happening he had two plates of cream stuck to his face. The underside of which proclaiming 'All government is slavery' and 'International Black Block'.

Earlier in the evening 100's of 'vampire slayer' leaflets were given out explaining how the SWP were detrimental to the movement. Forwarded by earthlibprisoner@mail.com. Vampire alert leaflet available from the Anarchist Teapot (see contacts)- send SAE.

Posh car pied

On Feb 21st Anne Widdecombe arrived in Nottingham to sign copies of her new book. There was a picket outside the bookstore by the Refugees Forum and the Anti Nazi League. Some activists managed to get very close, close enough to hurl abuse, but not the pie they had waiting for her. Her posh, chauffeur-driven car got barricaded in by wheely bins and pied twice however.

Sod off Sodexo

On Feb 24th, about 25 gathered at Queens Square Bristol, for an action against anti-worker and anti-union Sodexo. They specialise in winning bids to make profits out of public money and are involved in prison building, running the voucher scheme for asylum seekers and servicing armies.

Over 600 leaflets were distributed during this colourful and noisy demo. Activists entered the Marriott Hotel, College Green (connected to Sodexo) and dropped a 'Sodexo Marriott, from Hotels to Prisons' banner from the Royal Suites floor. More banners were displayed outside denouncing Sodexo's oppression of inmates, refugees, and workers.

After ½ an hour the fire brigade arrived; they'd been told to stay until the action ended. A decision was reached to end the action so as not to endanger the public by immobilising rescuing forces. A few people then joined a demo at Tesco, Eastgate against the voucher scheme.

Contact kebele@marsbard.com

Terrorism bill



Statue of Emily Pankhurst, London

On Feb 19th the New Terrorism Bill was enacted. The Act brings much of the Northern Ireland 'emergency' legislation into mainland UK law and broadens the definition of potential terrorist acts to include damage to property.

In celebration 'terrorists' took to the streets in Bristol and London. On Feb 17th people in Bristol staged a roving demo, visiting other actions been carried out that day. Demonstrators against school closures, the sanctions against Iraq and people outside Marks & Spencer (the UK's largest importer of Israeli goods) were supported and given information.

In London on Feb 19th action started early with leafleting of New Scotland Yard, the Home Office and MI5. 1000+ leaflets based on a subverted version of police anti-terrorism posters were distributed. Lab bottles containing GM plants were then delivered to various government departments as examples of "state terrorism" (reference to the Royal Society of Canada's recent report on GMOs). The action culminated with the unfurling of a long black 'terrorist' banner in Parliament square and 'Terrorist 19/02/01' banners hung on statues of sufferagette Emily Pankhurst and Nelson Mandela.

Contact Kebele kebele@marsbard.com and London RTS rts@gn.apc.org

...and it's not just the UK

The first European Conference on Terrorism in Madrid in Feb decided new measures to combat "anarchist terrorism" including "radical groups" and "structures which support and nourish [them]". This means the EU (backed by Europol) now count 'anarchists' or 'radicals' who oppose the system and practice political dissidence as terrorists even if no violence is used (sound familiar?). Financial incentives are proposed to encourage grassing. This has happened immediately after the anti-globalisation struggles. Source: <http://www.ainfos.ca>

'The Big Blockade'

Around 800 people blockaded Faslane Naval Base on Feb 12th. The event, organised by Trident Ploughshares (TP2000) and Scottish CND, was the largest anti-nuclear action in Scotland for decades. A convoy of coaches arrived at 7am to find the South Gate already blocked with tripods. Another structure was then assembled comprising locked-on people, bicycles, metal tubes, chicken wire and fabric. The police were confused and the entrance blocked for 10 hours. The North Gate was shut for 6 hours by assorted lock-ons, wheelchairs and many more bodies. A third gate was blocked when it was later found to be in use.

There were 385 arrests for breach of peace. Several young Irish women had a bad time of it when they were strip-searched: this was seen as racist behaviour. Contact TP2000 42-46 Bethel St Norwich, NR2 1NR, 01324 880744 tp2000@gn.apc.org www.tridentploughshares.org

SHAC targets the city

Over 50 people hit 5 targets during a day of HLS actions on Feb 28th. Winterflood, who create a market for shares in HLS, were first on the list. The doors were closed blocking access for clients and workers whilst people were told all about Winterflood. The company was left in no doubt that things will get a lot worse.

Target 2 was Charles Schwab who holds millions of shares in HLS. Police were in hot pursuit but activists managed to enter the building, get onto a balcony above main reception and into a courtyard round the back. Lots of noise was made ensuring that occupants were aware of the company's dirty dealings.

20 people blockaded a Novartis research lab while others gained access to second floor 'high security' areas and the manager's office. Police officers stormed the building shaking, screaming and panting but nobody was arrested, just thrown out. Another Novartis site was then besieged although huge amounts of police were already waiting.

Lastly the home of a Winterflood worker was visited. He was out, but his neighbourhood was informed of his involvement in animal abuse. Overall it was brilliant demo which had a huge impact. Contact SHAC 01216 326460.

Scottish opencast planned

Two years ago locals in S. Lanarkshire, Scotland campaigned against a proposed 488 hectare opencast coal mine. Everything went quiet. Then, with just 8 days notice and 2 days of access to planning documents, a council hearing was held. Best attempts were made to formulate a response but after much political mudslinging, and sidelining of local views the Labour Council passed the application by 20(ish) to 3.

Locals responded "while the democratic process is a farce, Direct Action is our response." Watch this space, spread this news, and please be ready to help. Orrabest, fae Talamhites.

Contact talamh@lineone.net

Nine Ladies

The Nine Ladies anti-quarry campaign is still going strong-complete with outdoor heated bath! A survey of the site due to take place on Feb 2nd was cancelled. There will now be a meeting on May 25th to determine whether or not Stanton Stone will go ahead with their plans to quarry. The more people around to dissuade them the better! Useful stuff like building and climbing tat, food, vans, donations and people are always welcome.

Wanted list <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies/> Site mobile 07799 528871.

Notts anti-fascist demo

On March 3rd the National Front (NF) demonstrated at Nottingham prison. Callously exploiting an emotional issue in an attempt to gain support, the NF were campaigning against paedophiles housed at the prison. About 400 mostly local people turned out to oppose the racist scum, dealing a blow to NF confidence: they mustered a pathetic 30.

At one point protesters attempted to push through police lines. The police drew batons and some local people were attacked and injured. 15 protesters were arrested and 13 charged, including a 16 year-old who was just passing by! Nottingham Anti-Fascist Alliance (NAFA) will be following up the many cases of brutality on the day and would like witnesses to get in touch.

Contact NAFA 07949 312668 nafanotts@yahoo.co.uk

See diary: Fash expected in Leicester and Oldham soon.

Diary dates...

March

21st Int. day against racism.
21st Int. day of action on Climate Change. info@risingtide.org.uk
24th Mark Barnsley noise demo noon Westgate station, nr Wakefield barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com
24th-25th European PGA meeting, Milan. <http://www.agg.org>
24th 'Speakout against racism' 1pm Trafalgar Sq. www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/AA_R
25th Launch of '90% for 90%' climate actions. www.risingtide.uk
25th Actions against HLS's customers, Gt Dunmow, Essex, SHAC 0121 6326460.
31st SmithKlineBeecham product day SHAC
31st (tbc) fascist rally Oldham 07949 312668

April

Int. Month of Pie-rect action against Capital and State. www.dessertstorm.org
1st Anarchist Army Day, Norwich high noon.
3rd Manc. Crown Court. TP2000 retrieval 01324880744, tp2000@gn.apc.org
4th Nat. day of action against Sodexo sod-action@fsmail.net
7th Anarchist Fed discussion day at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, 10am-5pm
14th CND anti-starwars action, Downing St. noon. 0207 700 2393, cnd@gn.apc.org
17th Via Campesina Int. peasants org. global call for action against patents on life & defence of farmers GEN 020 76900626
21st CIA Cambridge In April meet 11am at train station. www.go.to/cambridgeinapril
21st World day for lab animals SHAC
21st NF in Leicester! 07949 312668
22nd Earth Day. www.earthday.net
27th Workers' Memorial Day. Liverpool event contact peoplenotprofit@hotmail.com
29th Demo against Iraq sanctions, 1pm FCO King Charles St SW1, 2pm Downing St, 01865243232, voices@viwuk.freereserve.co.uk,

May

1st May Day - see AU p.3
3rd BAE AGM. Campaign Against Arms Trade 0207 2810297, www.caat.org.uk
4th Int. conf. on space militarisation & NMD 01274 730795 cndyorks@gn.apc.org
14th-21st Euro-tour of HLS customers SHAC
15th-16th Globalisation & nasty corporations conf. Glasgow. 01436 820901
25th Nine Ladies survey - see article p7
May/June 'Climate Chaos Roadshow', 01612 738516, climatechaos@yahoo.com

June

14th-16th EU Top meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden. www.motkraft.net/gbg2001

July

5th-12th Int. anti-border camp. Poland, 0048 (0) 603 247 245, roshak@go2.pl
16th-27th COP6 ½ climate talks Bonn.
20th-25th EF! Summer Gathering

August

21st-23rd G8 summit, Genoua.

November

5th-9th. WTO ministerial, Qatar.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted articles to the AU this month. If you are sending us something please try and keep to 150 words or less. We have to edit articles longer than this or we wouldn't be able to fit in all the stories.

TP2000 not guilty!

After 5 hours of deliberation on Jan 18th, a jury gave a majority verdict of not guilty for two Trident Ploughshares 2000 pledgers. They were charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage by attempting to decommission the Trident nuclear weapon submarine HMS Vengeance in Nov '99. The two happily admitted their intention to trash the sub, as nuclear weapons are immoral and in breach of international law. The judge told the jury that such ideals formed no defence against the charge. He was ignored. TP2000, 42-46 Bethel St, NR2 1NR 01324 880744 tp2000@gn.apc.org

London fur day of action

Nearly 100 activists gathered on March 3rd for the London Fur Day of Action, with about the same number of police looking on. An excellent, if somewhat long and tiring, series of actions against the fur trade took place. There were lively and noisy demos at 3 specialist fur shops, 8 fashion shops selling fur and at the homes of 2 fur shop owners, including Hockley director Frank Zilberkweit, despite an injunction.

Many 1000s of leaflets were distributed and as the large crowd marched along, fur coat wearers were left in no doubt they weren't welcome on the streets of London, or anywhere else! Other targets of the day included Noble Furs, Versace and Jacob.

Regular demos at Philip Hockley Fur Shop, 20 Conduit St, London W1, every Wednesday 1-5pm and Saturday 1-4pm.

Contact London Animal Action BM Box 2248, London WC1N 3XX, 0845 458 4775 laa@londonaa.demon.co.uk

Contact

EF!AU, PO Box 487

Norwich, NR2 3AL

★ us! ★

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

Menworth Hill

On Jan 20th, the day of president Bush's inauguration, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) demonstrated at US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis_anni@virgin.net

HLS national action

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a 'Smash HLS' banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis (customers of HLS). For the first hour only one cop was present, then 15 vans and a helicopter turned up. Until then security was non-existent except for a few cameras and a good run around the site was had! Interfauna, which supplies rats to HLS, was also visited. A top cop baffling day with no reported arrests.

...Stop press...Stop press...Stop press... Peoples' Global Action European meeting 24th/25th Mar 2001, Milan - amazing chance for a Europe wide network of groups to come together
yabasta@tin.it rts@gn.apc.org

Birmingham HLS demos

Protestors entered the premises of Dupont at Mims worth and had a good look round the offices before being thrown out by irate factory workers.

Charles-Schwab in Birmingham, who hold 5½ million shares in HLS, was then visited. Activists entered the 'Share Shop' area to inform customers and staff of the company's dirty dealings. One protestor was arrested on 'suspicion of burglary' due to the discovery of a 'non-standard' disc. The company's computer system was then shut down for hours for fear of *viral infection*. However, it turned out to belong to an employee doing a spot of work on the side! More actions planned. Contact SHAC 0121 632 6460.

Cork bin campaign

This Feb in Cork fines were imposed on activists from Householders Against Service Charges (HASC). They've been dumping rubbish outside the City Hall every Monday in protest against the bin 'double-tax'. The campaign is set to escalate in the coming weeks if the Dublin Corporation go ahead with plans to jail fined activists. rts-ireland@yahoo.com, for this and other Irish info see www.struggle.ws/wsm/bins.html or, <http://flag.blackened.net/revolt>

...and finally

A big hooray for the Rainbow Centre in Nottingham who secured the money to buy their new premises this month. The centre, which has provided resources for radical groups since 1984 and is home to the famous veggies catering co-op is moving to a permanent, co-operatively owned building. We wish them all the best. Their new address is 245 Gladstone St, Nottingham, NG7 6HX 0845 458 9595 info@veggies.org.uk

To find out what this box is for you're going to have to subscribe!

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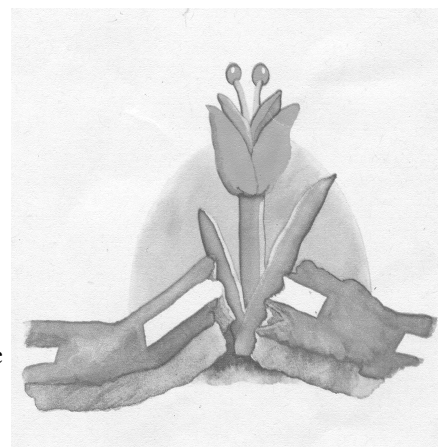
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Mayday!

London – autonomous actions based on the the monopoly board. 07989 451 096
mayday2001@hushmail.com
www.freespeech.org/mayday2k

Birmingham - anti-capitalist day of action details TBC s26brum@hotmail.com
07980 415577

Norwich - another free fair, building on last years success 07944 874 393
Loads of stickers have been produced apparently try dave@spanner.org

If you've got plans for Mayday tell us ASAP for inclusion in April's issue EF!AU contact details on back page

Big May squat

A big, well-sorted 2-week occupation is planned for the second half of May. The aim is to squat a large vacant site and explore it's creative potential NOW, rather than waiting until it's about to be bulldozed by profit hungry developers. Tat is being accumulated (more is needed) and all sorts of skilled/creative/enthusiastic people to make the event work – so keep the second half of May free! If you would like to be kept up to date about this project e-mail BigHotMaySquat@excite.com or jot down a postal address to Maysquat c/o 2 St. Pauls Rd, London, N1 2QN

Easter Picnic

April 15th 2pm rally against GM Crop trials Harbury, Warwickshire Speakers and live music Info line: 01926 832650
<http://freespace.virgin.net/harbury.picnic/>

Lifecycles

a pedal powered genetix road show, inspired by last years cycle rides to Prague and Den Haag. Lifecycles aims to raise awareness and empower people to act against the biotech threat (although, as there are no single issues, they will cover other things, like climate change, too).

They plan to cycle round Devon, holding events where locals can find out about GM and possibly develop plans to prevent the planting of Farm Scale Trials. Pre-publicity and venues have been organised by friends and campaigners on the route. Unfortunately tour dates can't be confirmed because of the foot and mouth outbreak. Contact 07050 618 445 lifecycles@uk.cf www.lifecycles.uk.cf or TOGG 01803 840 098 info@togg.org

Low-impact homes

Chapter 7 offers advice to those wanting to build low-impact homes on their land or live in affordable accommodation, such as mobile homes, whilst working on smallholdings or woodland. A newsletter is now available with updates on UK projects and planning advice, subs £5 (£3 conc) to Chapter 7, The Potato Store, Flax Drayton Farm, South Petherton, Somerset TA14 01460 249204 Thurs, 01935 881975 other days.
chapter7@tlio.demon.co.uk

The EF!AU need subscribers. Subscriptions provide a regular income, which helps us plan ahead and avoid financial crisis. (subs box on back page) Donations are very handy too. Cheers!

EF! Summer Gathering

The new provisional dates for the EF! Summer Gathering are: arrival Fri July 20th, to begin on Sat 21st continuing until approx Wed 25th. The site is currently not affected by foot & mouth restrictions: this situation is being monitored.

Contact summergathering@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to ask/offer anything, especially if you have no experience but would like to join in the gathering planning collective, or shadow someone working on a particular thing - we'd love to hear from you!

Wales newsgroups

Two e-mailing lists have been set up in Wales as info/networking points for campaigners and activists. bangor-werdd@yahoogroups.com is a local North Wales list. dan-cymru@yahoogroups.com is an all Wales network.

More rising tide

'90% for 90%' is a call to cut fares by 90% to make public transport affordable and begin changes to bring about the 90% reduction in greenhouse gases needed to combat climate chaos. Kitted out with '90% for 90%' railcards, supporters of the call will ask transport workers and passengers to join in. You might refuse to pay more than 10%. You might show the card in solidarity. You might leaflet the train. For downloadable railcard and background info, www.risingtide.org.uk from March 25th. Cards may be available in time for the International Day of Action on Climate Change March 21st. Contact Manchester EF! 01612 266814.

Prisoners

If you know of anyone who you think we ought to be supporting get in touch with the AU or ELP (listed opposite), let us know as much as possible (what they're in for, how long, when they're due for release, details of any support campaign etc.). The AU prioritises listing new eco-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Garfield Gabbard FT9062 HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London N7 on remand for setting fire to a police van at N30 Euston demo expecting a 7 year sentence.
Lee Himlan EX7748, on remand for Criminal damage at 9 Ladies quarry. Currently being moved so send letters to 9 Ladies (see contacts – Protest camps) and they'll pass them on.
Charlotte Lewis, GN4092, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd,

London, N7 ONU, sentenced Jan 31st to 6 months for sending hate mail to HLS staff.
Jonathan Elliot, FT10TT, HMP Petonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT, sentenced in Dec to 6 months for affray London 1999 N30 demo

Europe

Geert Waegemans Begijnestraat 42 2000 Antwerp, Belgium, recently on remand for with various arsons against the meat industry and McDonalds.

USA

Andrea (Drea) Rightsell, Inmate Latah County Jail, P.O. Box 8068, Moscow, ID 83843, USA, sentenced to 4 months on Feb 23rd for blocking access to the Otter Wing timber sale in Idaho.
Barney Kern, Chilliwak Community Correctional Center, 45914 Rowat Ave, Chilliwak, BC V2P 1J3, Canada, re-sentenced on Feb 20th to 6 months for defending the Elaho Valley in Canada. due out around May 10th.

Peter Schnell #S-199738 and **Matthew Whyte** #S-199970, both at SC County Jail, 259 Water St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA, federal charges filed on Feb 10th, facing a max of 20 years for alleged possession of materials (gas, gallon jugs, and birthday candles) which could be made into 'destructive devices'.
Jeremiah Rush Bowen DOC #108016, POB 392004, Denver, CO 80239-8004, USA. sentenced to 2 years on Jan 26th for arson,

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407 London, WC1N 3XX
Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk
Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out names of new prisoners as soon as ELP gets them animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com
Writing to prisoners
Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won't accept the letter without one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writing contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton BN2 2GY

"Any political movement that does not support it's political internees is a sham movement"
Ojore Lutalo, political prisoner

XXXXXXXXXXXX – Your Lifetimes share of democracy (don't steal the pencil)... Don't Vote

Okay so we don't know when it is yet, but foot and mouth notwithstanding, consider yourself fully equipped with the EF!AU...

If voting changed anything they'd abolish it... Vote! For more of the same... Voting changes nothing the struggle continues...

It only encourages power seekers... Use your cross wisely – crucify a politician... All politicians are lying scum – we must

Anti-election special

So what's it all about then?

Electoral 'democracy' is a sham. A handy illusion created to give the appearance of choice by allowing us to choose our leaders. Of course this is no choice at all. Left or right, red, blue or green all political parties are committed to some form of capitalism be it local, state or to stand a hope in hell at the present time free market global. Perhaps more crucially all are committed to ruling, to the idea of government hence the majority being governed. They wish to retain politics in the realm of professionals and experts and deny ordinary people control over their own lives. To vote (for whatever party) is to accept this, to support the idea of a society based on power and hierarchy. The alternative is direct action. Organising ourselves in our work places and communities meet our needs and create the free and ecological future.

Ideas for action

- All the usual good ole' agitation, education and organisation. Posters, leaflets, graffiti spreading the word an alternative to what's on offer. stickers, there is offer.
- Active not voting campaigns – these seem pretty popular this time, encouraging the spoiling of ballot papers rather than not turning up at all.
- Street theatre, the opportunities are endless. Our favourite so far is the bicycle election 'car'. Rig up a battery amplifier on a bicycle and merrily spend the day broadcasting spoof election slogans round your neighbourhood. Comedy costumes advised.
- Alternative placards and window notices – these are very good for warding off political canvassers
- Many schools hold mock elections. You could try writing a nice letter to heads of personal and social development (who are often responsible) offering a speaker on alternatives to voting. Okay – it's a long shot but you never know

• Of course there's always ignoring the day altogether, getting on with your usual direct action and taking control of your own life.

What we've heard about so far

• Derby Anarchists have produced some good posters, worth adapting for other areas. Try sending them an SAE and a nice letter, Box EMAB, 88 Abbey Street, Derby DE22 3SQ ain@ziplip.com

• A Campaign has been launched in Bristol to get a positive vote for NOBODY in May's local elections. Rather than advocate abstention the NOBODY campaign team are urging people to write NOBODY or NONE OF THE ABOVE on their ballot papers. These will be counted as spoilt ballot papers and if these are greater in number than votes cast for the winner the ward in question will be declared an autonomous zone free from council control. It is hoped the campaign will spread nationally so that NOBODY storms home

countrywide on May 3rd.

votobody@yahoo.co.uk

• Coming soon on

www.freenorwich.co.uk

"Abstain" is the only campaign we've heard

web based about.

• And whenever it happens, Norwich election day critical mass, wear your twinset and pearls, bring babies to kiss and dig out your best Mrs. T hand-bag. 6pm by St. Peter Mancroft.

DON'T

VOTE

IF VOTING CHANGED ANYTHING THEY'D MAKE IT ILLEGAL!

organise to take control of our lives... However you vote for the government always wins



Genetic Engineering

Information and Updates for activists



Implications of the Greenpeace trial On Sept 20th 2000 28 Greenpeace (GP) activists were found not guilty of Criminal Damage (CD) to a GM Crop trial in Lyng, Norfolk. The verdict came after a retrial, the first resulted in a hung jury. This shows a case against GE can be made in court, although, of course, there can be no guaranteed outcome in a case like this. Some points to consider; ♦ Court cases are a major undertaking and can drag out over a considerable amount of time. ♦ GP had a jury trial. Although there are not enough cases to draw clear conclusions, so far those facing magistrates have been less lucky. You are only entitled to a jury in certain cases (usually those carrying a risk of imprisonment) GP got one as they were initially charged with theft and a high value of CD. Magistrates hear lesser charges of CD and Aggravated Trespass. ♦ A key aspect of GP defence centred round destroying the crop before flowering. The defences argued not for GE but that GP had been staging publicity stunt not a genuinely felt decontamination. ♦ GP have produced a booklet 'GM on trial' available for £5 from GP UK Address below. ♦ GP are a big and (relatively) well-resourced organisation. Because of the fluid and undefined nature of the direct action movement people facing trial sometimes don't receive the support they deserve, either because people don't know about the case or what support is wanted. If you find yourself up in court over GE there almost certainly are people who would wish to offer support and advice – but be prepared to ask! Good starting points are GEN, The GenetiX Update and the EF! Action Update. This article was shortened to make room for the FMD piece.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

As no doubt everyone will be aware the UK is currently experiencing an outbreak of FMD. This has led to the effective closer of much of the countryside (and parks and footpaths in urban areas) and a massive cull of farm animals.

☞ FMD is a highly contagious viral infection affecting cattle, sheep, pigs and goats. Some wild and zoo animals are also susceptible. It is spread by airborne dispersal; movement of animals, vehicles and people and the feeding of infected meat, milk or other by-products. The virus is destroyed by heat or disinfectant.

☞ FMD is rarely fatal in adult animals, there is no cure but vaccination is possible. Most animals 'recover' naturally in 2-3 weeks. The main problems are the side effects, loss of condition and yields, miscarriage, sterility, heart conditions and increased susceptibility to secondary infection. These economic losses are the reason for the current containment and eradication program.

☞ It is not considered to affect Humans and is not related to the human viral condition Hand, Foot and Mouth.

☞ Currently special Orders give Local Authorities powers to prevent the movement of people onto farmland and footpaths to prevent the spread of FMD. Breaking these orders is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and carries a fine of up to £5000.

☞ During the 1967 outbreak all agricultural testing was suspended. There seems unlikely at present, however Greenpeace have been applying pressure.

☞ The situation regarding access and movement in the countryside is currently under review and news about FMD is breaking daily. It's strongly advised people interested in FMD keep a selective eye on the media for news.

Most of the information for this article came from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) web-site (recommended for further information) www.maff.gov.uk/ANIMALH/DISEASES/FMD

Farm Scale Trial Crops

Flowering times are intended for guidance only, exact times will vary with weather, variety and location

Fodder & sugar beet are being considered as one crop for the current round of Farm Scale Trials

Planting March-April
flowering shouldn't occur until 2nd Year, though GM varieties have shown a tendency to bolt



Beet, sugar & fodder (Beta vulgaris)



maize (zea mays)

Maize

planted late April-May
Flowering Lt June/July (about 2 months after planting)
Harvest 6 weeks after flowering

Oil seed rape (winter and Spring)

Winter sown Oct/Nov
flowering end March/April
Harvest July/Sept
Spring sown March/April
flowering June



Oil seed rape (Brassica napus)

UK GE test-site info can be found at www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites

Contacts and Resources

Campaign against Human Genetics
PO box 6313
London N16 0DY
Cahge@globalnet.co.uk
Colonizing the Seed, Genetic Engineering and Techno-Industrial Agriculture. Excellent pamphlet – not quite sure where you get these from now, but we have quite a few at the AU – send us about £1.50 and we'll post you one.

Corporate Watch
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatewatch.org
www.corporatewatch.org
produce briefings on the companies behind GE
Genetic Engineering, Food and our Environment, A brief guide (book),
Greenbooks 1999 ISBN 1-870098-78-1
Genetic Engineering

Network (GEN)
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7690 0626
genetic@gn.apc.org
www.geneticsaction.org.uk
GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org
Accountable Crop removal, but also useful 'how to' info on Crop sabotage
GenetiX Update
Totness GenetiX Group (ToGG)
PO Box 77, Totnes

Devon, TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840098
info@togg.org
Publish the regular GenetiX Update.
Genewatch
The Mill House
Manchester rd.
Tidewell, Buxton
Derbyshire, SK17
01298 871898
gene_watch@dial.pipex.com
www.genewatch.org
various detailed briefings on GE issues – starting to work on Human Genetics this year.
Greenpeace UK

Canonbury villas
London N1 2PN
020 7865 8100
info@greenpeace.org
Publish 'GM on trial'
Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
mail@primalseeds.org
www.primalseeds.org
Actively engaging in protecting biodiversity and creating local food security. Excellent anti-biotech resource.

Action Groups

are local EF! contacts
some are active groups
others need more people
to get in touch

Birmingham S26
Collective
PO Box 9417
Birmingham, B13 9WA
07980 415577
s26brum@hotmail.com

Dartmoor EF!
c/o PO Box 77
Totness, Devon
TQ9 5ZJ

Grampion EF!
PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
The Greenhouse
1 Trevelyan Terrace
Bangor, Gwynedd
LL57 1AX

01248 255 821
bangor-werdd@yahoogroups.com

Leeds EF! c/o CRC
16 Sholebroke Av
Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 262 9365
Leedsef@ukf.net

London RTS
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Regular readers of the AU may have noticed a somewhat gaping hole has appeared in the contacts list. In January we mailed all listed local groups asking them to confirm their contact details or be removed from the list. A reminder was published in the last AU and another sent out with it. If you were wondering why your local group is no longer listed it is because we did not receive a reply.

Contacts that can't be contacted are marginally worse than useless, so an overhaul was obviously needed. This is **not** an attempt to exclude groups we are more than happy to re-list any group that gets back in touch.

We'd also like to hear from any other local autonomous eco-direct action groups that would like to be listed. You don't need to be using the name Earth First! Just have an affinity with the idea, be willing and able to be contacted and want to network with other like minded groups. If you'd like to set up a group, but aren't sure how, the Blatant Incitement Collective (listed under support groups) or the AU are happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

We will be making one last attempt to contact lapsed groups this month but won't be sending anymore AUs coz we can't afford to mail randomly to possibly dead addresses.

EF! Contacts List March 2001

Manchester EF!
Box29, 22a Beswick St
Manchester, M4 7HS
0161 2266 814
mancef@nematode.freeserve.co.uk

(Newcastle)TAPP
PO Box ITA
Newcastle NE99 1TA

Norwich DAF
PO Box 487
Norwich NR2 3AL
07944 874 393

Nottingham EF!
c/o the Rainbow Centre
245 Gladstone St
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595
Nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Sheffield EF!
c/o Brambles Resource
Centre, S2 Andover St
Sheffield S3 9EH
0114 279 7164
jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk

(South Wales) SWAN
PO Box 70
Newport NP1 0YD
Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Warwick- the old group's
folded but someone wants
to set up a new one!
T.G.Greaves@warwick.ac.uk

York LEAF
C/o SU Centre
University of York
Heslington
York YO10 5DD

Support Groups & Information Networks

Activists' Legal Project
16b Cherwell Street
Oxford, OX4 1BG
01865 243 772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen, Box B
21 Little Preston Street
Brighton BN1 2HQ
katchoo22@chickmail.com

BlatantIncitementProject
(outreach & small group
support)
c/o Manc. EF!
doinit@nematode.freeserve.co.uk

CAGE (against the prison
system)
c/o 245 Gladstone St
Nottingham NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595

Corporate Watch
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatwatch.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners
support Network
BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
earthlibprisoner@email.com

Genetic Engineering
Network (GEN)
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7690 0626
genetics@gn.apc.org

Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

URGENT (green field
housing), Box HN
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

Publications

The Agitator-Directory of
Autonomous Groups
C/o Haringey Solidarity
Group, PO Box 2474
London N8

Counter Information
c/o ACE, 17 West
Montgomery Place
Edinburgh EW7 5HA
0131 557 8242

Do or Die
c/o Prior House
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

FINs - for a full list of
Free Information
Networks, send SAE to:
London FIN
c/o 99 Torrino Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Genetix Update
c/o ToGG, PO Box77
Totness, Devon
TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840 098
info@togg.org

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715
London WC1N 3XX

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

Schnews
PO Box 2600, Brighton
E. Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
schnews@brighton.co.uk

The EFAU has a list of
local publications that
may be of interest. Send
an SAE or e-mail.

Video

i-Contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol
BS29TX 01179140188
i-contact@videonetwork.org

RadiX-DA video library
C/o Projektwekstaff
Gostenhefer Hauptstr 50
D90443 Nuernberg
Germany49(0)9112875880
radiX@pathfindermail.com

Virtual News

<http://www.ainfos.ca>
a multi-lingual news
service by, for and about
anarchists

Allsorts - UK based
e-news for activists
allsorts@gn.apc.org
www.indymedia.org

Other Contacts

Advisory Service for
Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
020 7359 8814
advice@squat.freeserve.co.uk

ALFSupportersGroup
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.co.uk

Anarchist Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel ↗

High Street
London E1 7QX

ChiapasLink, Box 79
82 Colston St, Bristol
chiapaslink@yahoo.com

DisabledActionNetwork
3 Crawley Road
Wood Green
London N22 6AN
020 88891361

DELTA
Box Z, 13 Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 210 9652
lynx@gn.apc.org
www.oneworld.org/delta

Friends of People Close to
Nature (FPCN UK)
33 Gould Close
Welham Green, Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL9 7EB
01707 885 994
rains@fpcn-global.org

GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Industrial Workers
of the World
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01460 249204
office@tlio.demon.co.uk

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

London GreenPeace &
McLibel Campaign
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
020 7713 1269
info@mcspotlight.org

Making Waves
PO Box 1377
Sheffield S36 4BZ
01226 764279
pp3office@aol.com

No Platform anti-fascist
network
PO Box 127
Leeds LS3 1TS

Reclaim the Satyagraha!
C/o 5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
07973 539 390
enquiries@satyagraha.org

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO
Manchester M15 5HW ↗

0161 232 7889

Stop Huntingdon Animal
Cruelty Campaign
PO Box 38
Cheltenham
Gloucs GL50 1YN
0121 632 6460

TridentPloughshares2000
42-46 Bethel St
Norwich NR2 1NR
01324 880744
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Protest Camps

Aldermaston Women's
Peace Camp
33 Heron Rd
Bristol BS5 0LT
0117 939 3746

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire
G84 8HT Scotland
01436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry
Camp, Lees Cross
Lees Rd, Stanton Lees
Matlock, Derbyshire
07799 528 871

Sellafield Women's Peace
Camp
Box Z (as Leeds EF!)
0113 262 1534

Vallee d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond

still active campaigns
that have had protest
camps in the past

Action Against the Toll
Motorway (AtoM)
actionagainstthetollmotorway@hotmail.com
0121 643 9117

Golden Cross Road
Action Group (Essex)
01702 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockley Housing
01702 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG14 5WG
07000 785 201

International

The International contacts
list is currently being
overhauled. We suggest
anyone wishing to contact
groups outside the UK
uses the new list in Do or
Die 9.

Peoples Global Action
(against the WTO and
neo-liberalisation)
www.apg.org

Earth First! Journal
PO Box 1415
OR 97440, USA
contains good contacts

Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven't time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes. We appreciate receiving any ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, it's ideas, actions or indeed anything else.