

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

BUILDING ROADS ISN'T COOL, BRIAN

NO 13

JANUARY 1995

30P



The M11 eviction, the most expensive since WW2

Claremont falls...eventually

As most of Britain must know by now, Claremont Road, London East 11, arguably the flagship of the anti-roads movement, was evicted on 28th November last year. In a 4-day siege, and there is no other way to describe what went on, the police, bailiffs and road-workers used every tactic they could to get people out of the street which had become a centre for alternative culture over the year that the No M11 posse had lived there. It was called the biggest and most expensive eviction since the war, and is rumoured to have cost over £2 million (The total cost of security and police at the M11 has exceeded £6 million since protests started.

Conventional newspaper reports differ widely, (the Observer said 200, Times said 500 protesters) and it was nearly impossible to estimate numbers, as some were on towers, some in bunkers underground, some locked into walls, onto the road, in the trees and treehouses and in the nets, but there were a lot (a few hundred?) of people there. The campaign had had over two weeks of the strongest rumours, and so, when the 'word on the street' reached fever pitch, the phone-tree went into action. Again estimates vary, the Observer said 200 bailiffs, 700 police and 400 security guards, but anyway, there were loads of them - riot police, street police, transport police, cemetery police, bailiffs in riot gear, security guards and workers.

The security forces were late - or were they? Some of us who believe in conspiracy theories feel that the reason the eviction started so late in the day was so that most of the work would go on at night when the media's long lenses would be ineffective. - cont page 6

ROAD RANT

With the government retreating faster than a V12 super-dozer over its roads programme, we have achieved a storming, stupendous victory. Various disastrous schemes have been cancelled following protests big and small. Some have been postponed pending private investment or the disappearance of protest - but once people have seen that they can stop the concrete juggernaut, they'll come back next time with their friends.

Never let it be said that 'you can't do anything to change things'. We have - just as for 100s of years the only real positive changes in our world have been made by individuals or groups who believed in their dreams and fought for justice. When we sat in front of diggers on Twyford Down we were ridiculed by many - but it set an example which has saved countless families from losing their homes, saved thousands of acres of beautiful land and probably saved many lives too. This is a true achievement.

Unfortunately, though the arguments have been won, all Brian More-Whining, the Transport Minister can do is er, whine. And money still talks to some. 100s of schemes are still going ahead. The two major direct action campaigns are at the M77 (Glasgow) and M65 (Blackburn). These are always needing people, money and time. If there's a road being built near you get in touch and we'll be part of the future. Bring back the canals.

ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! ACTION!

**Severn SEAS
Gathering, Cardiff
27th-29th January
page 2**

**M65
20th-22nd
and on and on
page 5**

**Critical Mass
around 27th
January
page 5**

LOCAL
GROUP
FOCUS

AVON GORGE EARTH FIRST!
We are a new network of people, many were involved in the campaigns at Twyford Down, Solsbury Hill and other revolutionary(?) activities, as well as having the leftovers (the good bits, of course!) from Westbury and Bath Earth First! We are working towards having a few active groups here. Also, the idea of a regional gathering is being chewed on. The campaigns we are involved in at the moment are; demonstrations against nuclear waste dumping in Avon Mouth, the various anti-road activities in Bristol, Bath and Westbury, protests against McDonalds and Pet City, and the planned quarry extensions in this area.

Ashton Court is an area of public open space (one of the few left in the sick city of Bristol), with meadows, woodland and hundreds of years old trees. There has been a quarry there for a number of years but now there are plans for an extra 30-odd acres of the remaining estate to be destroyed. If this goes ahead it breaks an agreement made by the council and the quarrying company, Pioneer Aggregates, and places the whole estate at risk.

The struggle against the Swainswick and Batheaston bypasses continues with a small weekly action and occupations of the companies involved in the scheme. Come and reclaim the land with us on the anniversary of 1 year's resistance by the Solsbury Hill Campaign, and for a celebration of the obvious success of the anti-roads movement. See diary for what they're up to!

**We'll say this
only once!**

Abusing our privilege as AU editors, we'd just like to put the record straight over the CJA arrests. Contrary to newspaper reports, the first arrests (and charges) in Britain were in Manchester at approximately 4.30pm on Friday 7th November. However, since then it has been the animal rights and hunt sabs who have borne the brunt of the legislation with over 70 arrests so far. So remember, Manchester 7th November 1994 - we will!

See Court News for details of Manchester case or call Hunt Sabs on 0115 9590357

THE SUN SAYS

Issue Five of Do or Die is now available from EF! Groups or DS4A, Box 8, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St. Bristol, Avon. 80p per copy plus p+p, or 5 for £3.50 inc. postage.

It is to Earth First! what the Sun is to the Tory Party. (i.e. very useful). 50 pages of cheery news from around the world on how the justified are triumphing over the powerful (just like us). **WE SAY BUY ONE - YOU TIGHT SCROUNGERS, HANG 'EM**

JIGSAW COMING TOGETHER

A 5 day training course for activists run by the groovy Jigsaw Non-Violence Project. Make yourself a better planet-saver! Don't take on the system funequipped. From 25-30th April, there are 5 days of workshops on preparing for actions, organising groups, dealing with the law - courts & prisons etc., and exploring non-violence. Or anything related if you want it. It costs on a sliding scale of £50-100 all inclusive (food, accomodation, etc). Contact Emma for details on 01865 770833. Or write to Jigsaw Project, Box X, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

GATHERING AT LASS T

Severn SEAS, a new environmental coalition is being launched at a gathering on the last weekend of January (27-29th). As Manchester EF! is gagging to hand on the Action Update, we're using it as an unofficial EF! gathering, which is quite handy as we haven't had one for nearly a year. It is to be held at: Yr Enfys, 32b Cowbridge Road East, Canton, Cardiff.. This is 10 minutes walk from the bus and train stations. Just walk past the castle, away from the city centre and you'll be on the right road. Please aim to arrive between 5-8pm on the Friday and pack up about 3pm on Sunday.

Basically it is a huge networking opportunity and a chance to consider how far we have come since Todmorden '94, and where we are going. It will also be an opportunity to decide where and when the real (and very overdue) EF! gathering will be.

Please bring food or a donation (approx. £4). There's plenty of floor space but don't forget your sleeping bags. Bring instruments/party tricks/friends, and advertise the event as much as possible.

For details ring 01222 383363 or 0117 9733259. Also ring if you need/ can offer a lift.. See you there.

DIARY DATES

January 1995.

- 19th Huddersfield. CIA court appearance of 'Waterloo Two'. 12.30pm. 01484 842804.
- 19th CIA Cumbria hunt sabs in court. Call Freedom Network 0171 738 6721
- 20th Critical Mass, Nottingham. Meet 5:30 Market Square. (0115 585660)
- 21st/22nd Barracading weekend, M65. 01254 776642
- 21st Avon Gorge EF! an anti-Euroroute action at Poole Harbour. (01374 953160)
- 22nd- 23rd Action Camp against Ashton Court Quarry near Bristol. Call 01374 953160
- 23rd Maybe the day that machinery will attempt to enter Pollok. (0141 946 2700 or 0860 728244)
- 27th- 29th Severn Seas Gathering, Cardiff (01222 383363)
- 27th Critical Mass, Cardiff. Meet City Hall 6pm. (01222 383363)
- 27th Critical Mass, London. Meet Waterloo Bridge 5.30pm. (0181 558 1757) also Cambridge contact their e-mail w.mortada@pmms.cam.ac.uk
- 27th Hexham, Northumbria. CIA Hunt Sab case. (0191 519 2257)
- 28th Break the CIA Day, Cardiff. (01222 383363)
- 30th NUS Environment Day. London & around various campuses. (0171 272 8900.)

February 1995.

- 3rd; Solidarity action in Bristol for the campaign against Cardiff Bay Barrage.
- 7th Critical Mass in York meet at the Barbican Centre Car Park at 10am, then the first Saturday of every month 01904 654966
- 8th Anti-developer action in Northampton, cryptically described as '...in somebody's front garden with Wendy houses.' Confused? Ring 01604 39583 to be more so.
- 11th Birmingham National anti-CIA rally B'ham Freedom Network. (0121 449 5452)
- 16th Cheshire: Day of action by Cheshire Freedom Network. (0127 06535)
- 17th Portsmouth. British leg of the 8 month Walk across Europe for a Nuclear-Free World will be in London 24th-26th. They would like people to join the walk and actions along the route. (Twyford, Aldermaston, Greenham etc.) Belgian contact: (010 32 9 233 32 68)
- 17th: Festival Against the a55 Nantgwnant Tel: 01248 371562
- 21st; Anti Euro-route action Poole Harbour; the governments plan for a European trunk road, implemented by them disguised as local bypasses.
- 25th 'Resisting the Giant': Conference held by the British Aerospace Campaign. Regent Square United Reform Church, Tavistock Place, London. (0171 275 9150)
- 25th-26th Housing Co-op, workers co-op training weekend in Leeds. Invaluable for those wishing to live and work for themselves

LANCASHIRE M65 CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOU NOW !!

This campaign faces some challenges in the near future, as they prepare to fight Contract 2 of this nasty road.....

1/. A row of six squatted cottages on the route near Blackburn are due to have a court eviction hearing in London on the 23rd January, so supporters at the High Court hearing in the Strand would be welcome....Also, barricaders are urgently needed to make the cottages into a northern Claremont Road; several innovative defences are being built already. All barricade experts please get up there ASAP! There are currently just a handful of people doing all the work. There will be a mega-barricading weekend from Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd January; all welcome!! The squats are at 521-531 Blackburn Road, Earcroft, Near Darwen, Lancs. (on the A666 south of Blackburn)

2/. Right at the start of stage 2 of the road stands Stanworth Valley - an ancient woodland of outstanding beauty. Many animals and birds live here - foxes, hares, kingfishers, and also deer pass through.

Anti-road protesters set up camp in August, and what started off as a small camp has now grown into a large and lively group of 30-40 people. The 15 tree-houses (and counting!) are connected by a system of high level tensioned steel cable walkways which span the 500m valley and across the Stanwith River. Work still continues on this treetop village, probably unique in Europe, despite the chill and mud of the Lancashire winter.

Surveyors, accompanied by security and police, have been spotted in the valley, and so danger may be looming..... tree-sitters, ropes, tarps, harnesses, etc. are all needed. We have just received notification of a high court eviction hearing - again the 23rd Jan, after which the Dept of Roads is expected



What a drag, obviously the run in his stockings wasn't fast enough!

to try and evict peaceful protesters from their homes. Protesters are preparing for seige conditions and are adamant that they will not descend until the motorway scheme is brought back to the public enquiry stage. This camp is run on non-violent 'fluffy' principles - and this village aims to highlight many individuals' dedicated belief that our beautiful countryside is worth saving. It also explores the potential for non-environmentally-damaging woodland tree-top communities!

3/. A digger driver who crushed a protester last year appears in court charged with attempted GBH. The case will be held at Leyland Magistrates court on Mon 13th Feb. BE THERE.

If you can't get up there in person, donations of money (cheques payable to "No M65" - send to No M65, 154 Miller Road, Preston PR1 5QS), Publicity for the campaign is also needed, so please spread the word and network the forthcoming events!

Tel: 01772 704103; or 01254 776642

Carmageddon Day Is Coming!

Bikes are red, Bikes are blue,
Bikes are light, and agile too.

Cars suck.

The end.

Across the world "critical mass" bike rides have been staged to promote clean transportation and make bicycle use safer by slowing down traffic during the evening commute.

It looks as if 1995 is the year of Critical Mass, (as well as being the year of everything else NVDA related). All you need is a bike, some other people, and a road where there would otherwise be four wheeled metallic monsters. Tonnes of critical masses on the horizon, including Aberdeen, Cambridge, Cardiff, Lancaster, London, Edinburgh, Manchester & York. (See diary for details).

So whether you've got a Chopper, a Grifter or a 50 gear mountain bike, make sure you're on it. Pedal the news to everyone you can. Critical Masses are based around the idea of CHARM (Cyclists Have A Right to Move. Sounds charming!)

Also happening is Carmageddon 1995, an international day of action against the car and car culture. It is following the lead of a group of European anti-car activists who in the spring of 1993 put out a call for an international action to be called Carmageddon. The actions were very creative and instigated a debate on car-related issues. Carmageddon 1995 is being planned in the same spirit. Carmageddon will be the day after Earth Day, 1995-the 25th anniversary of Earth Day.

While in many cities these rides are very successful, they are limited by their narrow focus. It is time to take the next step. Carmageddon's discussion of car culture brings out the connections between the damage done by cars and other issues of urban ecology. Being more than a bike demo allows it to connect with activists working on related urban environmental issues.

Carmageddon is being planned for the day after Earth Day to attract the most attention possible to our message, while making sure our events don't get co-opted into being just another part of the feel-good corporate-sponsored Earth Day celebration.

For more info, write to Carmageddon, PO Box 20208, New York, NY 10009; e-mail carmageddon@aol.com.



AND NOW THE END IS NEAR... Apologies for the four month delay as far as this issue is concerned, we had one or two things on our plates, (and it wasn't a calf). Hopefully passing the AU on will mean it can be monthly, and not a periodical. The worm is turning, we should all be immensely chuffed with ourselves. But now is not the time for complacency. It is (always) time to step up the intensity. Ditch one of your hobbies if need be. Let's get them!!! See you at the Revolution. Never give up. Love Manchester EF!

AND NOW OVER TO.....
EF! Action Update will be edited from Cardiff from February, Manchester will keep the subscriptions. The first bumper edition is due out on April 1st....
Here are the e-mail contact numbers:
dhwilcox@cix.compulink.co.uk
sto2kbm@uk.ac.cardiff,
scelh@uk.ac.cardiff
Or post to Cardiff EF! your news, articles, forthcoming events, addresses of politicians and destruction companies and we'll make sure it gets in the Action Update. We'll set a deadline for submissions as soon as we get a bit more disorganised. cheers, may all your scribblings be sweet and jolly.
Love Cardiff EF!

THE END OF THE ROADS pt2

Claremont Road Eviction (from front page)

Anyway, the police, and bailiffs arrived mid-afternoon, having spent the day assembling at the nearby Territorial Army Centre, closely watched by the No M11ers, who had a communications centre set up nearby.

To the cries of "shame" and "sit down" from the protesters, the police and bailiffs entered Claremont Road from both ends, slowly gathering up stragglers who had elected to stay on the ground, and moving the media pack on. There were many bizarre incidents, which were plainly visible to those on the roofs. The first areas of defence, concrete cars, and other reinforced barriers gave various levels of difficulty to the planet-wreckers, some were effective, and some less so. By far the most effective at this stage were the 'sleeping dragons' - protesters locked onto the street surface itself, courtesy of tubes buried in reinforced concrete right in the middle of the road. There were half a dozen of these, and the police used a new cutting tool made especially for this barrier, which was more effective at getting people free.

The nets, stretched across the street in three places were totally effective at keeping the cherry-pickers at bay, as they were guarded by numerous protesters camped in sleeping-bags all day and night. In fact, the only time when the eviction could have turned into a riot was when a woman trying to lock herself onto a bulldozer below the net, was made to fall by the wanker driving the dozer. The vocal anger was quite obvious to the police, who very quickly put on the rest of their riot gear and brought in re-enforcement in case of trouble. Still, everyone kept their heads, even when she was lifted not-at-all carefully, and with no ambulance crews in site, and carried away from the site to await the ambulance. After this incident, a mysterious TV crew was allowed onto the street, the only one allowed really close. Although this may have seemed generous of the police, the crew was constantly asked where they were from, and the only answer given was that they were freelance - most of us suspected that they were working for the police. The bailiffs and police (who remained in full riot gear the entire time) worked 24 hours a day in shifts to get us all out, and were completely beaten by the last level of defence - a 100ft scaffold tower above the middle of the street, on which there were three platforms for protesters, the highest of which was specially made so that the people on it were effectively welded in. It was completely impossible to

get them out, and in the end it was a stand-off between the last protester, who was taken off the tower by cherry-picker after holding out for 18 hours without food or water.

We could rant on about the amazing complexity of the defences, the communications system, the music, the bunkers, secret tunnel, etc, the abuse of rights which went on the entire time, the incredible bravery (or stupidity) of the protesters, the desperate lengths the security forces went to to get us out, and I'm sure we will remember the days all our lives, the video will be a must, and we can only assume that someone is putting together the whole story for us to pass on to the next camps, actions and generations.

True to form, the No M11 Link Campaign has not folded, and actions were relaunched in the new year. Also "The End of the Beginning", is an exhibition in print celebrating the creativity surrounding Claremont Road. Anyone who would like to contribute art work, writing, poetry or experiences to share from Claremont, particularly from the eviction, please send to Clare Zine, 80 Elm Road, E11 4DW. Tel : 081 558 2638 or 081 989 8741.

WE'RE RIGHT - IT'S OFFICIAL! : The report of DoT advisers SACTRA was published (19/12/94), concluding that road building generates traffic -surprise surprise! This undermines the whole theoretical basis of road building.....this massively significant hypocritically pious tome was accompanied by an announcement postponing several schemes (but converting some to the horrible DBFO private finance system, which encourages traffic growth....)

NEWBURY - BULLDOZER FREE ZONE! The A34 Newbury Bypass, more damaging even than Twyford Down, HAS BEEN POSTPONED! In a major announcement Transport Secretary Dr. MoreWhining has called off the diggers for at least a year, while he looks at all options.....how about traffic reduction, Brian? The current plans will surely never now be built. This is a huge victory; respect is due to the local Third Battle of Newbury group; set up in March, won in December! A broad range of national environment groups, working together, played a part, as did two protest camps en route, and 4 EC complaints! However, postponement euphoria has begun to disperse, as the local Lib-Dem MP is out collecting signatures to get the bypass reinstated. Write to Dr. Brian Mawhinney, (DoT, 2 Marsham Street, LONDON, SW1P

Shell Garage Banned

The native Ogoni people, who have been peacefully protesting against Shell's exploitation and pollution, have been persecuted by the Nigerian secret police. Nigeria is keen to make the best use of its oil reserves, which have brought it considerable prosperity. The leader of the Ogoni resistance, Ken Saro-Wira is now in prison awaiting trial. The trial will not be a fair one and carries the death penalty. He is very ill from hunger strike. Is anyone interested in doing occupations of Shell garages around the country? The idea is similar to bank actions, going in with a list of demands and locking on. The demands would probably be something like:

1. Shell uses its influence to ensure that the trial of Ken Saro-Wira is fair.
2. Shell makes sure that its standards of safety and pollution are as good as they would be in any western country.
3. Shell uses its influence to ensure human rights for the Ogoni people

Remember that you can't get arrested under the CJA inside, but forecourt actions might be more effective. Please get in touch if you think you might be interested. Reply to: e-mail SOCS203@vax.york.ac.uk (some guy in York with e-mail)

ROAD CUTTINGS

3EB) to congratulate him on postponing the Newbury Bypass, and asking for more of the same! The 3rd Battle group is starting to develop a coherent integrated transport plan. This is our first real chance to show the positive alternative to more cars and more roads, for Newbury CONTACT RA!

A30, EXETER-HONITON : The main contract for this scheme has been POSTPONED! The contract will be re-drafted as a private shadow toll scheme. Sadly, the preliminary contract has destroyed many of the trees, but the postponement will allow the campaign to build further resistance.....activists still needed! Most of the 15 mile route has been cleared of trees, hedges and top soil, there are two copses about five miles apart being defended by not enough people. Inside info leads the campaign to believe that these will be attacked in the next two weeks. They are desperate for a video camera, workers are not stopping when people climb onto their machines, they have been shaking people off excavator arms. They have also started campaigning against the A303-A30, Honiton - Ilminster. It's all happening and they do need help. A 20 strong action was marred when a woman was kicked in the head by an

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CAR HENGE

Throughout January, 'To Pollok With Love'. A journey from Oxford to Glasgow by cars which will be 'sacrificed' at journey's end. We need help! The plan is to get old cars painted and decorated at protest sites in Britain to build a car-henge in Pollok.....The project is in need of support vehicles, a camera-person to film the extravaganza. If not January, then it must happen no later than February 21st. No illegal activities are required in the course of the journey. The aim is to draw attention to anti-roads campaigns at both ends of the journey and along the way, whilst stimulating national debate further. Financial assistance for maintenance and fuel during the journey is requested. Tel: 01865 62620 or 041 946 2700

Glasgow holds its breath

As reported in the front page of AU 12, the campaign against the M77 in Glasgow was well under way in September. Subsequent developments have seen the opposition to the scheme swell at a very pleasing rate. Billed as the 'most vulnerable roadbuilding contract in history', the Ayr Road Route, as it is officially known has attracted well over 3000 bulldozer pledges. The poor bastards who have won the contract for 'construction' (if it ever happens), are Wimpey Construction. Diggers were due to move in on the 9th January this year, but they strangely didn't arrive, and at time of going to print, still have not got there. It looks as if Wimpey are reluctant to take on the people after all. Show homes belonging to Wimpey have been occupied by Earth First!ers and there have also been office actions throughout

the country such as the one at their head office in Hammersmith, London on the 15th December. It would seem as if any Wimpey site (or crane) would be a possible focus of protest. Let's hope so. It might also make them think twice about adding to the 200,000 pounds that the company has given to the Tories in the last decade. This lovely bunch of individuals can be contacted at: George Wimpey plc, 27 Hammersmith Grove London, W6 7EN Tel 0181 748 2000.

The Pollok campaign itself has been receiving lots of media coverage and made 'a substantial amount of money' due to a benefit gig by Galliano. Thank you, you Jazz-Orientated Philanthropists! A camp has been set up on part of the 1018 acre Pollok Free State estate, and all are welcome. It could well be the place where the roads programme is given that fatal shove over the precipice. There is direct action training every Sunday and you can turn up anytime. Tel: 0141 946 2700

Climate Change

Greetings from the 'Climate is Right for a change' Campaign! If you haven't heard of us before the campaign is run by a plethora of Continental European groups. Climate change will hopefully be returning to the agenda this year, as the first major conference on the subject since Rio takes place in Berlin from the 2 - 7th April.

We are holding an alternative Youth festival to discuss the real issues. To build for this festival we are producing a tabloid Newspaper called 'Climax', will be organising an international day of action on Global warming on Feb. 11th - the same day as the agenda for the Berlin conference will be set at a meeting of the International Negotiating Committee on climate change in New York.

If you want copies of 'Climax' (free),

information about the Feb 11th Global Warming action Day, or to come to Berlin for the Climate Conference get in touch as soon as possible. Our full address is: 'The Climate is Right for a Change' International Office, Celebesstr. 80, 1094 ET Amsterdam, Tel/Fax +31 20 693 2024E-mail:climax@antenna.nl Contact Oxford EF! or Leeds EF! for transport details to Berlin in April, also ASEED speakers are touring in Feb call for details.

irate digger driver. Another driver is due to face assault charges in the near future. More actions are planned, please bring a video camera to catch the violent aggressors. People needed now! Tel: (01392) 424469.

M11, EAST LONDON: The protests will be continuing, with a huge action in January, and more fun to come. "Tel: 0181 558 2638 or 0181 989 8741.

TWYFORD DOWN: The infamous cutting finally opened fully to dual 3-lane traffic (15/12/94). There was no opening ceremony; the cosmos felt a deep unease.

BRF - At the time of going to press, there is a demo happening at the London HQ of the sinister British Roads Federation, the heart of the roads lobby. These horrid people will only be happy when all trees are a stone's throw from a dual carriageway. Express your democratic right to abuse them. Phone: 141 - 0171 703 9769 Fax: 141 - 0171 701 0029

SCAR: South Coast Against Road building lit beacon fires along the south coast on 13/1/95, to publicise their campaign against the south coast superhighway. Precursor to direct action hopefully along the A27 and adjacent road schemes. Tel: 01273 777299

RECLAIM THE STREETS! - There will be a day of radical pro-walking, anti-traffic action on Thurs. 2nd and Feb. in London. Contact 0181 521 4550. after 20/1/95

Leaves on the track

Cherry-Aid.

Leicester City Council backed down over its plans to chop down the city's most famous trees- the Town Hall Square cherries- after LEAF performed two public tree dressings and threatened direct action. This is the second major climbdown in the face of public opinion after residents defeated the planned East-West link road earlier in 1994.

CIA

As the CIA came in LEAF instigated a week of action:

- * a visit to Redland's managing director's office to discuss the superquarrying of the Isle of Harris.
- * a banner drop from the hospital chimney in protest at dioxin release.
- * saying hello to Lloyds and Midland.
- * loading a funeral procession, with coffin, for the death of British Justice and tying Union Jack gags on statues.
- * a CRISP-O action which was reported in the paper, but didn't actually happen!

The Leicester CIA Coalition organised two marches with a City Centre rave finale, and filled up the council chamber on an action: We are trying to get the City Council to refuse the police the permission to ban trespassory assemblies on their land. It would make much

of the Act impotent locally: is anyone else trying this tactic? We also occupied the local magistrates court, and did a mock trial of Michael Howard. He was, of course, found very guilty indeed, and sentenced to death. In consideration of the season of goodwill, however, this was reduced to three hours of repetitive wet sponging in the stocks, accompanied by acoustic raving and fire jugglers.

Resident's roadblocks.

The last two years have seen a growing number of roadblocks in Leicester, organised by local residents demanding safer roads and crossings, often after accidents. The latest focus is outside a school and culminated in women blocking the inner ring road at rush hour each day. The demonstrations have empowered a lot of people and started to break down racial prejudices. The police have said that they won't use the CJA against such demonstrations.

Mining, the environment and indigenous rights.

At the end of February we will be hosting the regional PaRtIZans meeting: With talks, workshops and videos on Corporate Watching, indigenous struggles and solidarity work. Ring LEAF on 0116 255 3223 for details.

INJUSTICE

The Criminal Injustice Act came into being on November 4th, amid much furore, and not without actions. The most eye-catching one was the occupation of the roof of the Houses of Parliament by five hardy London souls. On the same day, the first arrests under the act occurred, and Earth First! took the credit! A Laing crane in Manchester city centre was occupied in protest at the company's intention to bid for the second contract of the M65. The dozen people who reached for the sky that day also had a 'CJB won't stop me' banner for good measure. The first ever CIA arrestee was a 51 year old silver haired mother of two. (I bet that gave Mr. Howard a shock!) 6 others were arrested for aggravated trespass (Section 68) and not doing what a police officer tells you (Section 69). All were offered cautions, but four refused to take them and so made legal history. Over 100 people (mainly hunt saboteurs) have followed them into the custody records for offences under this slimy piece of legislation. The Manchester lot appear in court on the 11th/12th April.



Michael Howard at his house near Folkestone, wishing Earth First! a Happy New Year

November also saw 400 party goers heading off to Lympne in Kent, to say hello to the Home Secretary at home. Either he wasn't in or he hid under his bed and sucked his thumb, we couldn't work out which. Unfortunately, over 100 uninvited TSG later showed up, (they didn't even bring a bottle -gatecrashers, eh?) A mock trial of Michael Howard was held, he was found guilty, and it was decided he should be put into psychiatric care. He is, however, still on the loose. People danced, played

their instruments, climbed on his roof (which had dodgy pointing), and wandered through his garden which was in need of some attention. (Maybe he should spend more time with his family!) No arrests were made, and a good day was had by all. Except dear Michael, who hasn't quite got over the experience yet. By some freaky coincidence, all the national press had turned up by chance and documented the picnic for posterity. The address is Aldergate Wood, Lympne, Nr Folkestone, Kent, Grid Ref. OSTR098348.

JUSTICE?

A group of concerned citizens in Brighton has set up the Justice? Legal Defence Group. Although the state has so far been scared of using the CIA as much as some feared, they surely won't be so withdrawn for ever. Justice? is asking people to send them all info on arrests and will be trying to keep an eye on the national situation whilst working to defend and help prisoners, forming a campaign around anyone sent to prison for believing in true democracy. Contact them at: Justice? Legal Defence Group, c/o Justice?, Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2 2GY.

POLLOK ARRESTS

CIAARRESTS - Three people were nicked for Aggravated Trespass (Criminal Injustice Act) at an action on Wimpey in Bristol on 13th. Jan, in solidarity with Pollok.Call 0117 9522131 for info.

IT COULD BE YOU - AND THE ODDS ARE BETTER

Campaigning funds have recently taken a mighty boost, courtesy of Hampshire Constabulary. The money is rolling in from civil actions against the police arising out of arrests from Twyford Down. Suing is worth it - and all it takes is a bulldozer or crane, a night in the cells and filling in a few forms, easy. It's Earth First!'s very own Lottery. PLEASE can anyone assaulted, or witness to an assault, by Group 4 (Reliance etc.), or arrested for obstructing the police, and anyone with photographs, videos or any other evidence Contact John Davies tel. 0114 767777 or Liz Loughran tel. 01865 247294.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBER:

141 - 0171 353 5835

Mr Howard's London home

SILLY BURGERS

The trial of Helen Steel and Dave Morris resumed on the 11th Jan. Outside the court there was a picket which included a battery hen and a chained McDonalds worker. 29 expert witnesses have been questioned so far, only about 150 left to go! The next major issues are food poisoning and animal welfare. The defence seems to be going well. It is essential to keep up the pressure. Copies of the infamous 'What's Wrong With McDonald's' are available from 0115 9585666. (£12 for 1000). Put them in mailouts, next year's Christmas cards, etc. Trial updates and other very good leaflets are also available.

Three new anti-McDonalds initiatives have been set up in 1994.

McDonald's Workers Support Group (0171 249 8086) - Encouraging solidarity of grillers, shakers and friers.

Kids Against Big Mac. PO BOX 287, London NW6.

Operation Send It Back. Collect and send back company litter to their HQ or in protests at local stores. (0115 958666)

This April is McDonald's 40th Anniversary. Let's make them April fools. International Day of Action: April 15th, Easter Saturday. Picket and occupy stores everywhere.

The Campaign is almost out of funds. The Defendants need £1000s to pay the fares of their witnesses, as well as all the papery bits of the campaign which also is v. pricey.

KEEP STIRRING THE PORRIDGE

Increasingly, especially in the light of the CIA, more people are being put in prison for their environmental beliefs. More than ever, it is vital that prisoner support networks are set up, and that prisoners receive as many letters, gifts and visits as possible. Also, there are many prisoners abroad who are in need of the same, including one Norwegian facing charges of Treason for his role in Sea Shephard operations. The Earth Liberation Prisoners network is there to circulate such information and co-ordinates efforts. Write to them at:-

E.L.P.

c/o Mid-Somerset EF!

Box 23,

5 High Street,

Glastonbury, Somerset.

Remember, they are in there for you, and you are out here for them!

BARRAGE NEWS

The Cardiff Bay Barrage, a £156 million concrete carbuncle is a record breaking project. It is the first ever wholesale destruction of a SSSI. Surely a testament to the depths that developers and planners have sunk to these days. Dredging has begun on the site. A boat is required to carry out actions against the construction; and Cardiff EF! are lacking an engine. A 4 or 5 horsepower one would do, and would put their campaign right back on track. If you can help, then please ring them. I'm sure they would be willing to collect it. The group is also desperately short of money and resources, and would appreciate them before bankruptcy. (01222 383363)

BBC WANTS YOU

The BBC wants stories about 'David and Goliath' environmental struggles. Your story can be based in any country, but it needs to be new and exciting, possibly with a UK connection. Please send a one page description and your contact: Ted Oakes, 30 Stapleton Rd, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LU, Tel. (01865) 68750 Fax - attn: Ted Oakes (01865) 247691 e-mail: Train@gn.apc.org

Bae Cases reach Court

The Wharton 4 (AU passim) are in court 23-26th January at Preston Crown Court, John Pilger will be appearing as a witness on the 23rd. There is no room for all the Stop the Hawk Deal info in this edition, but you can get their own newsletter from Stop the Hawk Deal, One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NF. Or Tel: 0457 871609

EF! MILK NESTLE
BOYCOTT

Norwich EF! are calling for a stepping up of the boycott and actions against Nestle. In December, the roof of the Rowntree's factory was occupied, and workers were leafleted about the dodgy world wide activities of their parent company. One worker has been sacked in the past for talking to demonstrators about baby milk and the like. Do you have a site owned by a Nestle owned company? If so, then drop in and say hello.

ADOPT GROUP 4

Does anyone fancy taking on the anti-Group 4 Campaign. Overwork in Manchester has forced us to shelve the project, there it lies dormant at present...unless you know better. They have sites across the country (world) to target, and Manchester EF! possess enough info to furnish a cool campaign. Give us a bell!

DERELICTION DUTY

The Criminal InJustice Act seems to have made squatting more popular/fashionable than ever. Among the more ambitious projects that have recently come to into existence was the conversion of the Old Courthouse in Brighton into a place for people to live, work and meet. There was an EF! exhibition there and other consciousness raising things such as film shows etc. A vegan cafe also flourished, and the project further added to the town's reputation of being up with the best as far as alternative living is concerned. Unfortunately, yet again those irritating people, yes, you've guessed it, the TSG, broke up the fun by seizing the building and throwing those who had been living there out onto the streets. For details contact Brighton Justice Group

International Update.

The investigation into the FBI bombing of US EF!ers Judy Bari and Darryl Cherney enters a new phase in March when Federal Agents will be questioned under oath about their involvement in the attempted murder of the activists. There is also startling new evidence that has come to light of an FBI 'Bomb School', one of which took place a month before Bari's car exploded in 1990. Naughty Naughty!! Bari and Cherney were involved in trying to prevent logging in the Oakland region, near San Francisco.

Anyone in need of NVDA on foreign shores would do well to hitch to the Valley of the Aspe, South West of Toulouse, France, where an anti-road camp is established, but as usual always in need of more people. The mountain air would do you the world of good.

There have recently been anti-McDonalds actions in 26 countries, intriguingly even in Zagreb in Croatia, who can be contacted through Melibel Support campaign. In Czech Republic people had the gall to eat vegetables inside a 'restaurant'. The manager's democratic reaction? He sprayed teargas in the photographer's face. Nice. 'Just taking up the space is a form of violence', said a McD's Public Relations manager. The tear gas fetishist is still working for the bastards.

OLD SCHOOL
NETWORK

Another that is just taking off is the Old School collective in Sheffield. A disused primary school has been occupied, and it is hoped that a community centre/workshops might be fashioned out of it. The project has community backing, but needs more help.

WOOD YOU CREDIT IT?

1994 saw intermittent activity on the tropical timber trade, but the destruction in Brazil continues apace. New reports of illegal logging constantly emerging. The Brazilian trade controls are useless and the non-trade organisations have no real power. The forests are being massacred.

November saw a week of CRISPO seizures of Mahogany around the country. Across the country, pieces of stolen timber emerged on police station desks. The main targets were Jewsons and their owners Meyer International.. So they are now visiting Brazil with environmentalists in February to see for themselves', so actions against them have been called off until March 31st.

DBY are the biggest mahogany importers and in case you'd like to say hello to them,

the office is at 8 Leighton Rd, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7LF. A full list of importers and brilliant update is available from CRISPO, at Norwich EF! Look out soon for some serious office occupations and ship actions at Heysham, Lancashire. Does your local port deal in this deadly trade? If so, lock-on!

We can surely finish off the mahogany trade this year- get on the network, get in touch.

CRISPO ARRESTS

On 10th of December, CRISP (Citizens' Recovery of Indigenous peoples' Stolen Property) Officers liberated two pieces of mahogany - to return to their rightful owners, from Jewsons in Cardiff. A statement was given to manager of the store

saying that he was handling stolen property & that there would be a legal investigation into his store handling stolen goods.

At the same time as the action was taking place a statement was being delivered to Central Cardiff Police Station. When the officers returned the wood to the central police station, in the view of the local press, the Officers, their Legal Observers & the person delivering the statement to the police station where all arrested on conspiracy of theft.

The statement asked that the Police look into the case of Jewsons handling stolen goods. The CRISP people are bailed to appear at the Police Station on Feb 4th and action will be taken, depending on whether Jewsons & the Crown Prosecution Service wish to press charges.

EF! Contacts

These addresses have been compiled by Manchester EF'ers. Changes/corrections are in boxes. If you know of any corrections, want to change your address, or be included, please contact us at the number below. *New telephone codes are already in operation!!*

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82 Colston Street,
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or 01225 445119

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Northern Ireland

Birmingham EF!
c/o Aardvark Centre,
Moseley,
Birmingham, B13

Blackmore Vale EF!
Agriculture House,
Bath Road,
Sturminster Newton,
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Bradford EF!
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Bradford BD1

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Scotland
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Forth EF!,
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Pitponia EF!
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Box 56,
Rising Sun Institute,
30 Silver St,
Reading RG1 2ST

Road Alert!
PO Box 5544,
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Sarum EF!
9 Melor View,
Amesbury,
Nr Salisbury, Wilts.

Sedgemore EF!
8 Isleport Rd,
High Bridge,
Somerset TA9 4QX

Sheffield EF!
c/o Sheffield Hallam
Uni Student Union,
Remington Road,
Sheffield
Tel: 0114 253 4111

South Downs EF!
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South Somerset EF!
12 Westfield Grove,
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S. E. A. N.
17 The Furlong,
Yarnfield, Stone,
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Tamar Valley EF!
UoSPU(P),
Drake Circus,
Plymouth,
Devon

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Wolves EF!
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Box H,
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Students Union,
Wulfruna St,
Wolverhampton

Worthing EF!
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York EF!
10 Campshen Road,
South Bank, York,
YO2 1EP
Tel: 01904 654966

SUPPORT GROUPS

Justice? Legal Defence
c/o Prior House,
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Brighton, BN2 2GY

Earth Liberation
Prisoners
c/o Mid-Somerset EF!
P O Box 23, 5 High St,
Glastonbury,
Somerset BA6 9PU
Tel: 01458 831545

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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from: Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton St, Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 1HW