

OPPOSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH WEST

In Bury, local families are campaigning against a local developer who wants to build houses on a small reservoir, a local wildlife haven. Planning permission was turned down by the council, but the developer is appealing this decision. In the meantime the developer has tried to trash the site - they chopped down the mature trees and drained the reservoir.

It appears that somebody kept closing the sluiceway every time the contractors opened it. The contractors then got pissed off and demolished the gate but the hole mysteriously got filled up with concrete. It took the workmen two days to remove this blockage. Hosepipes seem to be finding their way into the reservoir and filling it back up with water (lets hope nobody has a water meter). Manchester EF! can put you in touch with the local campaign.

★The Kingswater development, which will include a business park, yuppie housing, a golf course, retail and a private area, is planned to be built on the border of Manchester and Tameside, and is part of the wave of infill development following the completion of the much-opposed M66 motorway. Opposition is growing - the next site walk is on the 12th of October, meet at the car park on the corner of Debdale Park. Phone 0161 442 8635 for more info.

HOMES NOT HOLES

People from the URGENT network visited their arch-enemies the House Builders Federation at their Annual Golf Tournament.

They erected a low-impact eco-dwelling at the 18th hole in a playful protest at the massive urbanisation of the countryside being carried out by members of the house building lobby group. The action was in solidarity with local campaigns against inappropriate housing developments across the country and is the first of a new wave of national protest against house builders to be carried out by affiliate groups of URGENT.

A spokesperson for the group said: "It is clear that the House Builders Federation and their friends are determined to profit from rapid private development of vast tracts of land whatever the social and environmental costs." Contact Urgent for more details.

SOS FROM THE GLEN

The long running campaign against the road being built through the Glen of the Downs in Ireland finally seems to be coming to a conclusion.

The case will be heard by the Supreme Court on October 19th. Since there is hardly any chance of winning the case it is expected that tree felling and eviction will begin within hours of the hearing and so people are desperately needed around this time. The Glen of the Downs Tree Vigil is located on the N11 (main road from Dublin to Wexford) between the towns Bray and Greystones in County Wicklow. It is indicated on every road map, is only 15 miles from Dublin and so can be found easily.

FELINE FREEDOM

Friday 13th August 1999 saw the closure of Hillgrove Farm, breeders of cats for vivisection. We always said we would force the closure of Hillgrove Farm and that is exactly what we did. The campaign against Hillgrove Farm proves once and for all that direct action works. The campaign was never about us, the Browns or the police it was about saving the cats imprisoned at Hillgrove. 8 out of 11 workers left Hillgrove due to protest, Hillgrove was subjected to literally hundreds of demos - from 2 to 2000 people - over 2 years, Brown was inundated with phone calls day and night and he had over 150 black faxes sent before 10 am on just one morning. All this was too much and the Browns gave in with Christopher Brown saying "its been two years of hell". The best of it all is that eight hundred cats from Hillgrove are now on their way to good homes. You can contact us to be put on our mailing list and receive details of the next campaign.

Save the Hillgrove Cats (see contacts)

SABOTAGE

The EF!AU received 2 anonymous communiqés this month. In Bristol several luxury cars in a show room were vandalised

In Scotland machinery at a development (which includes a golf course and a McDonalds) was sabotaged.

Contact us at: EF!AU, P.O. Box 1TA
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA
0797 4791841
<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.eco-action.org/efau
Subscribe to email edition for free.

MOBILE PHONE MURTRY

On September 13th, Eircom engineers tried to pass a picket in Berkely, New Ross, Ireland to erect a mobile phone mast. Activists slowed the convoy and lock-ons were used until the mobile phone people gave an undertaking to the gardai that they would leave and not attempt to erect the mast again that day. The picket involving mostly local people has been going on for about six months. The Berkley Environmental Group which is organising the picket welcomes visitors and volunteers. They expect that Ercom may make another attempt soon. They have video footage of the attempt and are seeking to get it shown. For more information, contact: Berkely Environmental Group, Tel: 051 421361

★Also: Glastonbury residents are fighting the installation of an Orange phone transmitter in a local church tower. Radiation from such masts is linked with headaches, tiredness and cancer. Recently, people in radiation suits surrounded the church tower with helium-filled, aluminium foil balloons to disrupt the signal.

THE STREETS ARE PAVED WITH BAD COMPANIES...

About thirty people took part in London Greenpeace's 'Free the World' bike ride billed as an evolution of critical mass and protest pickets.

When the ride began and claimed it's first street, traffic became snarled up, mostly by the police. The first stop was a Land Rover dealer in Park Lane targeted for its role in supplying military vehicles to oppressive regimes. Passers-by and those in the showroom were leafletted. Police ejected those inside and the ride moved on.

It continued with cyclists leafletting shoppers around Piccadilly Circus before joining a daily London Animal Action picket outside one of London's few remaining fur shops. Police left and the cyclists had to cope with London's road raging drivers by themselves.

The BBC was next. Visitors to the 'BBC experience' received a copy of The Vested Interests - headlined 'Media Mogul Ate My Hamster' or why the mainstream media sucks. Shoppers in the BBC shop will be surprised to find copies of the leaflet in their purchases for some time to come (as will customers of newsagents along the route of the ride).

Niketown - a massive shrine to the fashion victim - was the final target. Security guards became a little overzealous and assaulted some of the activist's who were leafletting inside the shop.

Contact London Greenpeace for further info.

Earth First! Action Update

Issue 62 October 1999

"I might as well have struggled with a bear or tried to reason with a lunatic" Emily Bronte

DICING WITH DSEI

September 14th-17th saw the biggest arms fair ever to take place in the UK and one of the most successful anti-arms trade demos to date. The Defence Systems Equipment International (DSEi) fair with delegates from Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and many other luminaries of the torturing world were invited to come and peruse lethal weapons, surveillance equipment etc. Even representatives of the Indonesian state were invited to attend.

We weren't invited but we came anyway...

DAY 1:Protests kicked off the day before DSEi, with activists taking to the Thames in boats in an attempt to blockade the ships travelling to the Docklands.

DAY 2: Hundreds of people take part in a CAAT procession to the site, before using sit-down blockades to prevent delegates gaining access. After protesters realised that the road could be blocked at any point (i.e. not just next to the main gate where police were hemming the crowd in), this tactic proved pretty successful. One person locked on to a coach carrying arms traders onto the site, and other small groups managed to break away from police lines to disrupt the traffic at the remaining gates. With as few as 4 people in a group, gates were blocked for about 20 mins while police struggled to cope with the main body of protesters

Another group of around 50 people broke away and blocked the bridge over the M3 which separates the two halves of the site. There were a few arrests made, but most of these people made a conscious decision to be nicked as a political statement: one woman even complained that she had been removed from the road 5 times but the police still wouldn't arrest her!

DAY 3 CAAT held a demo at London Docklands, attended by over 400 people. In Chertsey, meanwhile, a number of activists decided to stay and explore the possibilities for more action there. Around 40 activists hit the arms fair in a variety of disruptive ways. Three cars were used to block the roads at strategic points, with protesters planning to lock on underneath them to block access to site. Although 2 were quickly removed, the third managed to block traffic for about an hour, causing huge delays. Another group of activists locked on to a train

carrying delegates onto the MoD site, holding it up for half an hour and causing timetable problems. Other teams attached themselves to the bottom of coaches ferrying visitors from the car park onto site, which proved a successful tactic. Yet more helpfully redirected sign-posts, invaded the site, and allegedly damaged cars in the car park.

There were around 14 arrests, but all but one person were released with a caution. That evening a fax sent out to all those attending DSEi, stated due to "serious disruption" to roads, access to site was to be restricted to rail only.

DAY 4:The banquet at Grosvenor Hotel that DSEi delegates were attending was also targeted. As there were only 4 police, a "die-in" took place right on the steps of the hotel, before invading the hotel itself. After being kicked out and going in again through different entrances more police arrived and those inside left to join the demo outside. Two activists climbed onto the gates outside the hotel to hang a huge banner up, and tied the gates shut at the top, preventing delegates' cars entering. One of the banner droppers ran along the roof, climbed into the hotel through a window and had to be taken to hospital after being brutalised by hotel security and a policeman; 2 broken ribs, 3 facial stitches and a head injury.

DAY 5: Due to the success of the previous road blockades, we only had the trains left to disrupt. Our numbers had dwindled from the original 40 and those of us left were completely knackered from a combination of late nights, early mornings, meetings and actions. But we still managed to do a pretty good job of delaying trains full of arms buyers. 4 or 5 different groups locked on to trains at different stations and different times on the line between London and the MoD site. The trains were delayed for an average of 20 minutes, and several arrests were made, but most people

The Monthly Round up of Ecological, and Other, Direct Action from Around Britain

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



Norwich RTS goes with a bang - see article inside

got away without any trouble.

All in all, we think that we really made our presence felt at DSEi: delegates were heavily delayed, security was breached and the whole thing must have looked pretty unprofessional by the end. We had the satisfaction of watching arms dealers trudging along the side of motorways in the rain because we'd closed their car parks, saw them flustered and hassled by having to come face to face with people who sincerely disagree with what they do and have no qualms about telling them so, and even managed to get into their private beano on Park Lane to try and give them indigestion. The next date for your diary is AFCEA, a private arms fair running from 27th-29th October at the Renaissance Hotel, near Heathrow. Thrown out of Belgium after 15 years when the Belgian Senate voted that it was "politically and ethically undesirable", this high-tech weapons fair is hoped to make the UK its home: let's show them that we don't want them here either! An Action Camp will be running for the duration of this fair, and we need people, energy and ideas to make it happen. For more details, contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297, planning meeting in London on Oct 11th.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

From: EF! AU,
PO Box 1TA, Newcastle
NE99 1TA, England

Subscriptions cost a minimum 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 advised.



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

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting on a digger are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists in the UK. For contact details see back

@nti-copyright - Photocopy and distribute

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

News in Brief

◆ Campaigners in Essex are stepping up efforts to save a great crested newt habitat from commercial development after last week 10 000 of the remaining national population of 30 000 Great Crested Newts were destroyed following translocation by a housing developer in Peterborough. The developers are Countryside Residential in Brentwood. A camp has been set up in Hockley in resistance to this and welcomes help.. Site mobile: 07979 716344

◆ The Earth First! Summer Gathering was rather wet on weather but received lots of great compliments... The next EF! gathering will be the Winter Moot in late January. Ideas for content and structure, or offers of help should be directed to wintermoot@yahoo.com See dates for diary for details of the first planning meeting in Oxford.

◆ Ieco faeries! is a new network of activists who aim to directly challenge homophobes and also to target queer capitalists. The network has info and resources, and hopes to see autonomous and co-ordinated actions. Ieco faeries! is for queers of all sexualities and has activists across Britain, Belgium and Germany. Coming out of the EF! Summer Gathering, Ieco faeries! is also about reminding activists that in seeking a just and ecological future NOW, we all have responsibilities to challenge homophobia and heterosexism hand in hand with challenging other forms of oppression and discrimination. Contact for now: Ieco faeries!, c/o Leeds EF!

◆ The Institute of Directors published a report this month, entitled Seeds Of Discontent, dealing with that popular topic, genetic engineering. They state that biotechnology is vital to business success, and those "self-appointed guardians of the environment" who are uprooting crops are also endangering the growth of business itself. If that's not added incentive then what is ? Report available from their Press Office.

◆ Do or Die number 8 - voices from the ecological resistance is finally out, 350 lush pages. No more subscriptions are being taken but for a copy send well hidden cash or a cheque/postal order (in sterling only and made payable to 'Do or Die') for £5.00 UK or £6.00 elsewhere to Do or Die, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2GY e-mail doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

◆ Corporate Watch have produced detailed briefings on biotech company AgrEvo (including background on the company, addresses and links with other companies) and on the involvement of the animal feed industry in genetics - yours for an SAE for 45p.

◆ The Fulham Alliance is appealing for help from the EF! network. This is a local community group organised in opposition to the re-development of Fulham Football Club in W. London. This project would have widespread effects on traffic, pollution as well as the river Thames. Details: 0370 866 118 email: cobecb@netscape.net.

◆ On September 15th A woman was arrested after graffiting the House of Commons "to draw attention to several crimes against humanity the government is colluding with". In black gloss paint she wrote: 'No Star Wars', 'Ban Trident' and 'Ban Depleted Uranium Weapons'. She started to write 'Lift Sanctions against Iraq - They are Killing Children' but was arrested before she finished.

SEEDS OF RESISTANCE

The "Seeds of Resistance" gathering was held as a counter-gathering to the World Seed Conference in Cambridge, giving an alternative vision to corporate chemical-soaked control, GMOs and seed bank decline.

Day one of the gathering was for inspiring workshops and info sharing The second day participants had to create their own action with no pre-prepared master plan. And out of all this a great action emerged. All the conference delegates were at a posh dinner in a country house (previously reccid). Thirteen activists burst in, with a chorus of "We are here to SAVE THE SEED!". Cutlery dropped as we ran around with fluoro water pistols marked with chemical names, asking delegates if they'd "like some Round-up with their meal" before blasting their plates with salty water as others leafleted. One woman got up on the centre table for an impassioned rant. Security, waiters and a chef very quickly ejected them!

Day 3: a team went off to the delegates' lunch venue, setting up a cage with a "prisoner" inside handing out "illegal" seeds, and leafleting. The conference itself was then disrupted. Activists occupied the stage, seizing the microphone and displaying a huge banner. A statement was read out amidst much heckling and also applause from delegates. After lots of ranting, leafleting and even a spoof biotech corporate song (!) conference organisers asked delegates to leave which lost us our audience, and the police were called.

9/8/99 - FREE BURMA

In 1996 resistance began building to prepare for September 1999, to release Burma from 37 years of brutal dictatorship, with demonstrations and stamping banknotes with the date 9-9-99 (as for J18 in the UK). Hudreds have been arrested.

In response to calls for solidarity hundreds demonstrated in the US, Japan, Bangkok, and Europe. In Australia several hundred broke into and occupied the Embassy compound, trashed the fencing and burnt all the flags!

In the UK a group visited the Burmese Embassy, London. Wearing butterfly masks they handed out flyers and tied yellow flowers and butterflies (Burmese symbols of hope and freedom) to the railings. Meanwhile others sneaked up onto the balcony to lower the regime's flag, replacing it with Student Resistance flag, and hung a "Free Burma" banner. An embassy official and two military intelligence officers came out to play tug-of-war, but the assailants made a speedy getaway. The police turned up late and everyone had dispersed. Within half an hour news of the action was being broadcast across Burma by anti-government radio stations on the Thai border.

In Nottingham there was a spate of actions on the scum British companies whose investments support the regime. (20% of foreign investment is British) Four "Going Places" Travel Agents who book holidays to Burma were picketed.

More mysteriously, on the night of 9-9-99 two Daewoo car showrooms and two HSBC banks were super-glued, and left with a calling card reading "Your company has been targeted for its involvement in Burma." That same night GEC-Siemens complex had two prominent signs graffitied with "Get out of Burma" in red paint. The following morning, two Total garages were padlocked shut during morning rush hour.

e-mail: burmese_forum@hotmail.com
Free Burma Coalition, c/o Box G, 101 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RH

For info on companies contact Notts EF!

ARTHURS WOOD AND CEDARS WOOD EVICTIONS

Police and Bailiffs moved in on the 21st to begin the process of evicting protesters from Arthur's wood. At least 30 people were in the trees and 4 people in the tunnel.

Arthur's wood is due to be chopped down by Manchester Airport PLC in order to satisfy the requirements of the civil aviation authority to provide an obstacle limitation surface for Manchester airports second runway. Arthur's wood is very old and has many large trees. When you walk through the wood many established species can be seen. A lot of these species can take hundreds of years to become established. This diversity will be lost by machinery and tree felling which will rip apart the soil structure a crucial part of any fragile Eco system.

As we go to press there are still four people in the tunnel and eight in the trees. Scab climbers put up a T-junction between trees to get onto the platform of a treehouse They have started digging under the 1st door of the tunnel, but have been really slow. There have been over 15 arrests so far. People are being asked to do solidarity actions against the National Trust whose number is 01625 523012

Phone Arthurs Wood for more details.

THINK GLOBALLY ACT GLOBALLY?

The second conference of Peoples' Global Action (PGA) took place in Bangalore, India in August. Delegates gathered from organisations as disparate and diverse as the Karnataka State Farmers Association, the Canadian Postal Worker's Union and Columbia's Black Communities Process alongside people involved in European anti-fascist groups, and EF!(UK) During the conference amendments to the nature of the PGA were decided upon. Namely - it gave a clearer commitment to building resistance to capitalism, in national and international form, as opposed to simple opposition to the WTO. It also pledged a commitment to fighting against other forms of oppression and domination, such as patriarchy, racism and the caste system.

The conference also provided an opportunity to begin planning and co-ordinating further global actions. Planning is now underway for globalised resistance to the WTO conference, with a proposed global day of action on November 30th creating much excitement. (see feature on WTO)

A firm commitment to a strong and powerful day of action, and global general strike on May 1st 2000 (International Worker's Day) was also pledged (see dates for diary).

For more information on the PGA visit the soon to be re-vamped PGA website: www.agp.org

YELLOW-BELLIED GM LOBBY

On September the 7th a Nottinghamshire farmer, Home Farm in Screveton, announced that he had decided to back out of plans to grow a farm-scale experiment of oil seed rape, on behalf of agrochemical company AgrEvo after local people expressed environmental concerns.

The GM oil seed rape crop was one of four farm-scale GM experiments planned for the winter. It is also the fourth farm-scale GM trial to have been halted this year. Fifty smaller GM sites have also been stopped.

The month before Deutsche Bank, Europe's biggest bank advised the world's largest investors to sell their shares in leading companies involved in the development of GMO's. Since then, shares in companies named have fallen, by up to 18%.

NORWICH RECLAIM THE STREETS

It began at around midday, as the police helicopter circled overhead. It was on loan, as Norfolk police don't have their own.

"It was mad, I've never seen so many cops in Norwich. They were situated on virtually every street corner about a quarter of a mile around the meeting point, basically harassing people. There were vans everywhere. Several were hire vans, with the word 'police' sellotaped over the name of the hire company"

Barricades had already been set up to try and force the party into a nearby park. Luckily as the banners unfurled, the party masks went on and about 200 - 300 party goers were having none of it.

Clearly foiled, the cops sealed off the area (thus shutting down the Shell garage!), as small children smashed TV's, the Realitea cafe crew served free tea and cake and men dressed in the large array of nasty frocks that had arrived.

Around 2.30pm fully tooled up riot cops started blocking off side roads, but then they went away again.

With the crowd escorting it, the sound system managed to make a safe getaway at about 6pm, and the party continued in the park. However a punk band attempting to set up a live stage had their equipment confiscated.

An explanation for the policing appeared later in the local paper. Upon being questioned about the rather high police expenditure by a local councillor, Deputy Chief Constable John Bligh replied "The group is run by anarchists (how did he know?) They do not ask for permission..." Purely political - well that's alright then.

There were two arrests.

On going web site <http://get.to/carfreenorwich>

ROBIN HOOD ACTION

Recently, it came to the attention of some costumed Norfolk outlaws that a play about one of their historical comrades was being sponsored by filthy, murdering, corporate bad guys Shell. Concerned at kids associating such a cool role model with Shell, they entered the theatre, handed out leaflets and hung a banner. Care was taken to ensure that children attending didn't have their outing spoiled, though actors commented that it was their bosses that should have been targeted! Later attempts to steal a Shell banner were foiled by theatre staff.

LANCASTER CAR FREE DAY

In the morning the road to the university was blockaded and all car drivers leafleted about a self run carshare scheme we've facilitated. No police turned up, except for one who happened to be driving by and expressed interest in car share. - Dinnertime saw a mobile zebra crossing action in town where residents are campaigning for a more permanent one. Pigs didn't like this and confiscated the crossing and threatened people with arrest which they didn't carry out.

Later on increasing numbers of people congregated in Market Square with carnival shenanigans ending up with about 40 people cycling, rollerblading, walking and wheelchairs. A critical mass which completely scuppered the one way system for over an hour - this also saw the unveiling of a cycle drawn hedgehog and various groovy new costumes. It wasn't everything we dreamed of but considering energy levels it was an important part of the process of building something permanent here.

Contact Lune AC

EUGENICS CONFERENCE STOPPED

About 20 activists brought the Galton Institute's (previously the British Eugenics Society) two day conference on 'Man and Society in the New Millenium' to a hasty finale by disrupting the concluding lectures. Glayde Whitney, described even by the Daily Mail as "the world's most loathsome scientist" and Arthur Jensen, both extreme eugenicists and scientific racists, were about to take the floor when the lecture hall was occupied, attempts were made to seize lecture notes and sound equipment was disabled.

Activists refused to leave until the conference had been abandoned and the hosting London Zoological Society agreed to review the scheduling of such an event in the future.

Meanwhile Jensen and Whitney were ushered out and whilst making a hasty retreat in the direction of the car park Jensen unfortunately found himself caught in an awkward plight with some angry tomatoes.

Contact People Against Eugenics c/o the Genetic Engineering Network.

121 CENTRE EVICTED

On the morning of the 12th August at 6-30am 150 riot police backed by an armed squad and a helicopter sealed off Railton Rd and adjoining streets before bursting into the 121 centre through the first floor window. Within minutes the 8 occupiers had been removed and the council went about trashing and barricading the building. A van of police continued to guard the building 16 hours later. Another van load were stationed at the Town Hall building to guard against retaliatory anti-council action.

The Brixton social centre had been squatted for 18 years when an eviction order was served six months ago. Since then the building had been barricaded and successfully resisted one eviction attempt, and a proactive campaign was launched which included a street party and many other actions against the continuing gentrification of the area.

A few fax numbers: Lambeth Legal Service- The people who put the case against 121 and the eviction together. Fax- 0171 926 231. Nelson Bakewell- The speculators who want to sell off 121 along with hundreds of other properties to line the council's pockets. Fax- 0171 544 2299.

Or send nasty emails to the Brixton Challenge - the organisation responsible for the increasing gentrification of Brixton: brixchal@mplc.co.uk

JACK STRAW

Acting on a tip-off and with only an hour to get it together, a small bunch of plucky EF!ers went to meet Jack Straw at Manchester Magistrates' Court, where he was lunching in 'high security', before going to the International Police & Security Expo '99 for more ra. With fittingly blunt placard slogans such as "Straw, scumbag, out of our city" and "Straw, enemy of the people", we went to meet him. We'd brought him lunch & were going to help him eat it, but unfortunately he sneaked in the back entrance in his Merc, chased by a few of us ranting and raving about who he trashes and what he's done (refugees, civil liberties etc etc etc). He was duly presented with a spliff "Mr Straw, Mr Straw, a present for your son" [who was done for possession]. And we were there to greet his arrogant unruflled persona as he left, and then, by chance, as he arrived at the International Police & Security Expo '99. Welcome to Manchester arsehole - give us a ring next time you're visiting!

Action Diary

OCT

4. Solidarity actions for West Papua across the country. Contact Kebele for SW regional action on that day.

9. Shamrock Farm (monkey vivisectors) National Demo. 12 noon, Horsham Park, Horsham. Details: 07020 936956. Coach from London: 0171 278 3068.

9-10. The Winter Moot collective is having it's first meeting in Oxford. If you are thinking of being on the organising collective come along. Ring URGENT on 01865 721366 for details. wintermoot@yahoo.com

12 Solidarity with McDonalds Workers Day.

12 Global day of action in solidarity with Zapatistas, targeting companies with investment in Chiapas. Contact chiapaslink@yahoo.com and send your actions on the day to firstworldhahaha@hotmail.com so they can be posted on the internet at www.geocities.com/firstworldhahaha

13. The next planning / co-ordinating meeting for May 1st 2000 actions. 7pm in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London Nearest tube: Holborn.

16 Anti-McDonald's International Solidarity Day. Contact London Greenpeace for info or Veggies! for leaflets.

15 - 17: Gathering Visions Gathering Strength, Yorkshire. A conference for those interested in non-violent social change. 07971 302412 or gvgs3@hotmail.com

16 Anarchist Bookfair, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Nearest tube is Holborn. Books, pamphlets, other propaganda and discussions.

27 -29 AFCEA, a private arms fair near Heathrow. There will be an action camp to assist in our dissidence and their discomfort. Call CAAT for details on 0171 281 0297

NOVEMBER

2-4. Shut down COPEX arms fair Contact CAAT 0171 281 0297

10. International Day of Action against Shell (4th anniversary of Ogoni hangings)

13 A day of action against fur traders, in London. Meet Trafalgar Square, 11am. Details: 0171 278 3068

26. International Buy Nothing Day

27. Close down Campfield Detention Centre. Contact CAGE, c/o Notts EF!

30. International day of action - see feature on WTO

Prisoners

On September 3, Robert Thaxton was convicted of Assault 2 and Riot for his role in June 18th. His sentencing is set for October 13. Assault 2 has a mandatory minimum of 70 months in jail. He can ONLY receive hand-written letters.

Robert Thaxton #1370036, Lane County Jail, 101 W.5th Eugene, Oregon 97401, USA

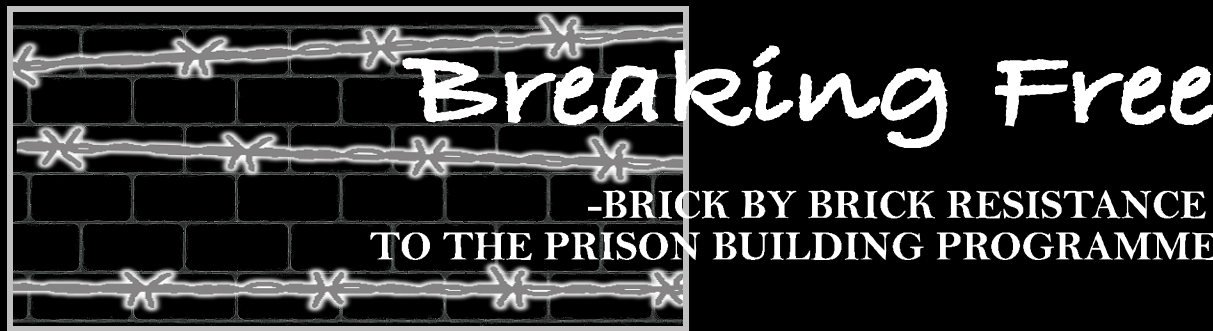
Another June 18 prisoner is going to trial on September 21, he faces charges of Assault 1 and Riot. **Christopher Smith #1370034 101 W. 5th Eugene, OR 97401, USA.** The support group is: **Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, P.O. Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440 USA.** For more prisoner info:

EF! CONTACTS OCTOBER '99

ACTION GROUPS	PROPAGANDA	OTHER CONTACTS
<p>Arun Valley EF! c/o 10 Albert Road Littlehampton W. Sussex BN14 6EN 01903 721615 arunef!@radicalfluff. demon.co.uk</p> <p>Bath EF! c/o PO Box 426, Bath Somerset BA1 2ZD</p> <p>Bristol EF! c/o Box 51 Greenleaf Bookshop 82 Colston Street Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093</p> <p>Cambridge EF! Box E, 12 Mill Road Cambridge CB1 2AD</p> <p>Cheltenham EF! 16 Portland Street Cheltenham Glocs. GL52 2PB hq@chelt-ef.freeserve. co.uk</p> <p>Exeter Environ. Network PO Box 185 Exeter EX4 4EW</p> <p>Fife EF! c/o 91 South Street St. Andrews Fife KY16 9Q 01334 477411</p> <p>Glasgow EF! PO Box 180 Glasgow G4 9AB</p> <p>Guildford EF! PO Box 217 Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212</p> <p>Gwynedd & Mon EF! The Greenhouse 1 Trevelyan Terrace Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX 01248 355821 afu01b@bangor.ac.uk</p> <p>Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 43 Hull HU1 1AA</p> <p>LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St. Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 210 7251</p> <p>Leeds EF!, c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Avenue Leeds L5 7 3HB 0113 262 9365 leedsef@ukf.net</p> <p>Liverpool EF! 96 Bold Street Liverpool L1 4HY</p> <p>LuneAC (Lancaster) 01524 593878 luneac@jyemail.com</p> <p>Manchester EF! Dept 29 255 Wilmslow Road Manchester M14 5LW 0161 226 6814 mancef@nematode. freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St. Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU</p> <p>Norfolk EF! The Greenhouse 42-46 Bethel Street Norwich NR2 1NR</p> <p>Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Ctr. 182 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3HW</p>	<p>0115 958 5666</p> <p>Oldham EF! PO Box 127 OLDHAM OL4 3FE</p> <p>Oxford Community Action Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd OXFORD OX4 1RQ</p> <p>Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org</p> <p>Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre Pier Street Swansea SA1 1RY</p> <p>Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre 35-39 London Street Reading</p> <p>Berkshire RG1 4PS 0118 954 6430 roadbusters@clara.net</p> <p>Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes Southampton University University Road Southampton SO14 eco@soton.ac.uk</p> <p>South Devon EF! Birdwood House 44 High Street, Totnes Devon TQ9 5SQ</p> <p>Swansea People EF! c/o Green Action Swansea Uni SU Swansea, Wales</p> <p>TAPP (Tyneside Action for People & Planet) PO Box ITA Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA tapp@newcastle54. freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>Warwick EF! c/o Green Society Warwick Uni SU Coventry CV4 7AL suwad@ csv.warwick.ac.uk</p> <p>Wolves Eco Action c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs Wolves Uni SU Wulfruna Street Wolverhampton WV1 1LY</p> <p>York EF! c/o York LEAF PO Box 323, York Anarchist Teapot Action Kitchen, Box B Public House Bookshop 21 Little Preston Street Brighton BN1 2HQ</p> <p>Blatant Incitement Project (outreach & small group support) c/o Manc. EF! doitit@nematode. freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>EF! Winter Moot wintermoot@yahoo.com</p> <p>Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o Leeds EF! earthlibprisoner@ hotmail.com</p> <p>ALF Supporters Group BCM Box 1160 London WC1N 3XX 1003021616@ compuserve.com</p> <p>Anarchist Black Cross (prisoner support) c/o PO Box 446</p>	<p>Sheffield S1 1NY</p> <p>Anarchist Communist Federation c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 7QX</p> <p>Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252 Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 3AY</p> <p>Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734 London WC1N 3XX</p> <p>Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844</p> <p>CAGE (against prison building) c/o Notts EF!</p> <p>Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road Poolstock Wigan WN3 5BJ 01942 513792</p> <p>Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361</p> <p>!ecofaeries! c/o Leeds EF!</p> <p>DELTA - Box Z, 13 Biddulph St, Leicester LE2 1BH</p> <p>Earth Circus Network CREATE Centre Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN 0117 9250505</p> <p>Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 fanuk@envirolink.org</p> <p>Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) (as for RTS) 0181 374 9516 genetics@gn.apc.org</p> <p>GenetiX Snowball (open crop removal) One World Centre 6 Mount Street Manchester M2 5NS 0161 834 0295 genetixsnowball@ onet.co.uk</p> <p>Green Anarchist Network BCM 1715 LONDON WC1N 3XX</p> <p>Hunt Saboteurs Assoc. PO Box 2786 Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 hsa@gn.apc.org</p> <p>Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129 London W12 8GR</p> <p>Industrial Workers of the World 75 Humberstone Gate Leicester LE1 1WB</p> <p>The Land is Ours (see Oxford EF!) 01865 722016 office@tlio.demon.co.uk</p> <p>Legal Defence & Monitoring Group</p> <p>BM Haven London WC1N 3XX 0181 5337116</p> <p>Making Waves PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36 4BZ 01226 764279 pp3mo@aol.com</p> <p>London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 info@mcspotlight.org</p> <p>No Opencast 190 Shepherds Bush Rd London W6 7NL 0171 603 1831</p> <p>The Rational Trust, (Wilts. greenfields) c/o 21 Beaulieu Close, Swindon, SN5 8AQ 0788 0592370 / 0836 743581</p> <p>Save the Hillgrove Cats Box CB 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ 0121 632 6460</p> <p>Schnews & Justice? PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913</p> <p>Solidarity Federation PO VBox 29, SW PDO, Manchester, M15 5HW 0161 232 7889</p> <p>Subvertise! c/o Box E 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ subs@vernify.i-way.co.uk</p> <p>Third Battle of Newbury PO Box 5642 Newbury RG14 5WG 07000 785 201 thirdbattle@hotmail.com</p> <p>Trident Ploughshares 2000 (anti-nuke direct disarmament) (see Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 reforest@gn.apc.org</p> <p>PROTEST CAMPS</p> <p>URGENT (greenfield housing network) Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ 01865 794 800 info@urgent.org.uk</p> <p>Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (alternative weekends) 33 Heron Road Bristol BS5 0LT 0117 939 3746 / 01703 554434</p> <p>Avon Ring Road Protest Camp c/o 84 Colston Street Bristol BS1 5BB 0797 999 0389</p> <p>Birmingham Northern Relief Road Campaign The Spinney Turf Pits Lane Near Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B75 5T? 07931 161 761</p> <p>Cedar & Arthur's Woods Meercat Protest Village Nr. Oversley Lodge Fm</p> <p>Altrincham Road Styal, Wilmslow 07775 752160, 07901 867584</p> <p>Faslane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh Dunbartonshire Scotland G84 8HT 01436 820 901</p> <p>Friends of Lyminge Forest c/o 3 Abbott Road Folkstone, Kent CT20 1NG 01303 257046 / 265 737 / 0468 945595 01436 820 901 merlin@envirolink.org</p> <p>Gorse Wood (anti-A170 bypass) 07957 915 977</p> <p>Hockley Housing (near Southend) 01702 206181/ 0831 687635</p> <p>Park Nook Camp Liverpool</p> <p>AUTONOMOUS ZONES</p> <p>0403176279</p> <p>Sellafield Women's Peace Camp (bi-monthly) Box Z (see Leeds EF!) 0113 262 1534 56a Infoshop 56 Crampton Street London SE17 3AE Open 2-8pm Thurs & Fri</p> <p>Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131 557 6242</p> <p>A-Spire: autonomous zone (see Leeds EF!) a-spire@geocities.com</p> <p>Citizen Smith Old Community Centre 161 College Road Kensal Green, London NW10 3PH 07931 980534. citizensmithuk@ hotmail.com</p> <p>Kebele Community Ctr 14 Robertson Road Eastville Bristol BS5 6JY 0117 939 9469 kebele@marsbard. com</p> <p>1 in 12 Club 21-23 Albion Street BRADFORD, BD1 2LY 01274 734160</p> <p>OKasional Cafe</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>c/o Manchester EF!</p> <p>Worthing Anarchist Teapot PO box 4144, Worthing West Sussex BN14 7NZ teapot@worthing.eco- action.org</p> <p>An Talamh Glas 4 Ashgrove, Seacrest Knocknacarra, Eire roberta@indigo.ie</p> <p>A SEED Europe PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands</p> <p>+31-20 6682236 aseedeur@antenna.nl</p> <p>Autonomous Green Action, POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa Ontario K1S 5H9 Canada soy@igs.net</p> <p>Action For Social Ecology Box 34089, 10026 Stockholm, Sweden ekologisten@usa.net</p> <p>Australian EF! AU ef_au@hotmail.com</p> <p>Coast Mountains EF! 1472 Commercial Drive Box 128, Vancouver V5L 3X9 Canada +1 604 708 9660</p> <p>Czech Republic EF! Zeme predevsim! PO Box 237, 16041 Prague 6, Czech Rep. zemepredevsim@scn.cz</p> <p>Earth First! Journal POB 1415, Eugene OR 97440 USA +1-541-344 8004 earthfirst@igc.apc.org</p> <p>Ecodefence! Moskovsky prospekt 120-34236006 Kalinigrad/ Koenigsburg, Russia ecodefence@glas.apc.org</p> <p>Finland EF! Viivinkatu 17 AS 17 33610 Tampere 61 Finland ransu@sci.fi</p> <p>FIN Umweltprojektwerkstatt Yorckstrasse 59 HH 10965 Berlin, Germany +49 (0) 30 78913144 umpruwe@ jpbberlin.berlinet.de</p> <p>Groene Front!, Postbus 85069, 3058 AB Utrecht, Netherlands groenfr@dds.nl</p> <p>Green Action Israel PO Box 4611, Tel-Aviv Zip Code 61046 Israel +972 (0) 3 516 2349</p> <p>People's Global Action (against WTO and neoliberalism) +4122 344 4731 info@agp.org</p> <p>Pobal An Dulra 242 Sunset Drive Cartron Point, Sligo Eire +353 71 44348</p> <p>Poland EF! PO Box 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4 Poland +48-33 183153 wapienica@ pnrwi.most.org.pl</p> <p>Rainbow Keepers (Russia) Nachlnaya 4-A, Kasimov, 391330, Russia +7 (091 31)4 15 14</p> <p>Rainbow Keepers (Ukraine) PO Box 322, Kiev 252187 Ukraine</p>

Action Groups are local EF! contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. Some are just people who will know what is going on direct action wise in their area. The **Propaganda** section lists non-EF! publications which we think are worth reading. **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 and alterations are shown in bold



WELCOME TO THE CLAMPDOWN The British state sends more people to prison than any other in Europe and it's getting worse. In 1997 the prison population rose by the rate of a small prison EVERY SINGLE MONTH. More and more people are getting sent down for more offences, for first offences and for longer than before.

An estimated 11,000 people are arbitrarily detained by the immigration service each year, for an average of 3-6 months without charge, trial or even understanding the reasons why. Thousands of these are Asylum Seekers, fleeing persecution and even death. They come here seeking safety and protection; they find intimidating, ignorant, racist immigration officials and baffling bureaucracy.

Prisons such as Rochester and Brixton. Numbers detained are increasing rapidly, from 200 at any one time in 1990 to over 850 by 1997. Now the government is proposing a "fairer, faster, firmer" asylum policy, so they are going to build several new and massive detention centres, near points of entry such as Ashford (Channel Tunnel), Heathrow, and the South Coast.

Capitalism produces the poverty and alienation that causes crime. The State's job is to protect property and uphold the social systems of oppression and exploitation. It can't do anything to solve the problems of anti social crime that people are facing. All it can do is lock people up which is well known to cause misery and more problems. Anti social crime will continue as long as people leave it to the state to deal with. That benefits the state, it's not in the state's interest to stop crime. If people are robbing and fighting with each other it prevents them from uniting

THE SITUATION IS DETERIORATING because the prison 'service' used to have to beg money from the government if it wanted to build or expand prisons. But now building and running prisons has been privatised. Companies like GROUP 4 and Corillion (an offshoot of the Tarmac demerger) front their own money, build and run prisons and the government pays them back later. It costs the taxpayers more in the long run (that's where the profit comes from!) but the cost doesn't show up on public expenditure figures.

So there is nothing to stop them expanding their evil empire as much as they like, they are currently building two prisons a year, plus prisons for kids, extensions of existing prisons, Asylum seeker detention centres, new police stations and magistrates courts, more holding cells etc., etc. All

WE CAN STOP THIS. To trample on us they really need concrete and consent. We can see that they don't get either by physically resisting the prison building program. CAGE is a network that is being set up to oppose the prison building program, the locking up of asylum seekers and the police state. It intends to link existing groups campaigning on these issues, outreach into communities affected by the State clampdown and provide information for action against the prison state. It intends to hold a launch at the Anarchist bookfair, with a stall and discussions on 'The prison building program' and 'Alternative ways of dealing with serious anti social crime'. The Russian political

DATES

- Close down COPEX 2-4th November- Counter Insurgency Arms Fair, where many of the companies who supply the British Security Forces will be displaying their wares.
- 6th Anniversary of Campsfield 27th Nov - Come and help shut Down Campsfield Asylum Detention Centre.

CONTACT DETAILS
CAGE c/o 180-188 Mansfield Rd, Notts, NG1 3HW. CAGE@veggies.org.uk
Local Contacts
Leeds c/o Earth Liberation Prisoners, c/o Leeds EF! or earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com
Brighton c/o South Downs EF!
Sheffield c/o Sheffield EF!, c/o 82 Andover St, Sheffield S3 9EH. jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S BEING BUILT WHERE (FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT CAGE)

Glasgow: New police station. Contractor is Jarvis construction. **Millom, Cumbria:** prison extension contractor is Jarvis construction. **Blackburn:** New police station and central holding cells. **Manchester:** new courts. **Cheshire:** Police HQ and training centre. **Marchington:** New 600 place prison (opens Oct 2000). **Staffordshire:** New prison on the sportsfield of Onley YOI and prison extension at HMP Stafford. **Hereford.** New magistrates court. Both start April '99 (HBG Construction) **Oxford:** Campsfield House detention prison. **Heathrow and Gatwick:** Several immigration detention centres, including Harmondsworth and Tinsley House with new ones planned. **Ashford, Kent:** New detention centre at HMP Aldington. **Westminster:** New police station. **HMP Wellington:** Prison extension. **Ashford, Middlesex:** New prison. Tender to be granted at the end of 1999. **Peterborough:** New Prison. Tender to be granted at the end of 1999 **Leicester:** New police station (start May 99). **Derby:** Magistrate's Court Start late 1999/early 2000. **Rotherham:** New police HQ **Humberside:** 3 new magistrate's courts: Beverly, Bridlington, Hull. Work starts Summer 99. **York:** Extension of Police HQ Started June 99 Contractor is Thomas Wetherall. **Blackburn:** New Police Station and central holding cells. **Spennymoor, Co. Durham:** New police Station. Project starts Summer 99. **Perth:** Prison upgrade

SOME TARGETS FOR STARTERS.....

SODEXHO - a French company, with 70 prisons in America, Europe and the UK and annual sales of \$6.9 billion. Special products include Olympic Games and major international events. Incidentally, they are also the principal Govt caterers for army and prisons in Mexico, and also provided Water-borne commuter services up and down the Thames, effectively strike breaking during the rail strikes.

JARVIS - General big budget construction, PFI Contracts and Railtrack. Also have Jarvis Training Management which specialise in New Deal contracts. Managing Director, Mike Braccagirdle. Offices based in Altrincham, Manchester.

GROUP 4 - deal with all aspects of Security from cash handling to Store detectives. Prisons and Prison Transport now an International business. About to sign contract with S. African Govt. HQ Training and Vetting Services at a manor house at Broadway in Worcestershire. Secure Training Centres managed by Malcom Stevens, The



Slaying the monster of mysterious acronyms

NOVEMBER 30th....

Following on from the strength of June 18th, November 30th will be a global day of action against capitalism and the domination of money, private property and power over people and the environment. This will take place during the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation taking place in Seattle, USA (Nov 29 - Dec 3). Groups who feel inspired by this idea are asked to take on organising whatever action they see fit (there won't be any big events organised in London this time). The WTO and the machinations of modern capitalism are far too complex to be dealt with satisfactorily in a brief article, so this will just provide a basic outline.

RESISTANCE TO THE WTO

There has been resistance to the WTO since its inception in 1995, when half a million small farmers rallied against it in India. Last year, during the 2nd ministerial conference in Geneva (where the WTO is based) the city was under siege as thousands opposed the capitalist celebrations taking place behind closed doors. Simultaneously, protest street parties took place in about 30 countries. Later that year, the Director General, Renato Ruggiero, was pied in London.

Now, a year later, lessons have been learnt from June 18th. Global resistance is stronger, inspiring and reaching out to more and more people, who are refusing to be crushed by the all-consuming global economy. Seattle promises to explode with protests and people are talking of shutting down the conference on the 30th. Trade unions from all over the USA and Canada will send thousands of workers to protest and there will be street theatre and several international caravans which will have travelled across North America informing and acting against the conference. A city-wide general strike has also been called for. And in Europe, plans are afoot for a variety of diverse and decentralised protests. All this just in time to spoil the plans of the Globalisers of Misery as they attempt to deepen private control of the world's people and resources and further integration into the global economy.

THE HISTORY BEHIND ALL THIS

In the last 20 years there has been an acceleration of what is known as 'globalisation'. The processes behind globalisation are deeply tied to the historical development of capitalism, colonialism and imperialism, both in the wealthy industrialised world and third world. However, the recent history of the WTO stems from the end of World War Two when certain institutions were created to expand, regulate and control the world economy; the Bretton-Woods institutions.

Initially there were 3 bodies; the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The purpose of these institutions and agreements was to develop a global economic space for capitalist development, integrating people into a global economy in which goods were produced and sold around the world. This, accompanied by a new international currency system linking the value of the US dollar to that of gold, would ensure that the US economy, and its corporations, maintained their position of being the dominant power in the global marketplace, since it would expand markets for its goods around the world. After the traumas of war, these were promoted as progressive measures which, along with the creation of the UN, would promote international co-operation and peaceful development, whilst masking the power structures actually at work.

GATT

The GATT agreements were to gradually remove obstacles to the free flow of goods between countries (free trade) through reduction of tariffs (such as import and export taxes), and were negotiated in a series of 'rounds'. The GATT was mainly a forum for richer industrialised countries to trade in, but since the collapse of the Soviet Union (which had its own trading relations) and of the Third World Non-Aligned Movement the number of countries involved has dramatically increased to around 130. The original scope of GATT was confined to trade in manufactured industrial goods. The last round of GATT negotiations lasted several years and is known as the Uruguay round. This resulted in the creation of the WTO as a formal organisation (rather than just a set of agreements) in 1995. There are over 140 member countries in the WTO, with about 30 more trying to join. In addition to this, the scope of the WTO is far broader than the manufactured goods covered by GATT. The WTO includes trade in agricultural products, intellectual property rights (patents and copyrights), company investments, textiles and services (e.g. communications, banking, tourism, health etc).

THE WTO

So, what gives the WTO its immense power, and indicates a substantial victory for private profit, is the fact that so many more people, and so many more areas of life, are brought under the control of market mechanisms and

the law of private profit. Finally, with the WTO, the entire globe becomes a reservoir for capitalism. Forests can be sold for tourist development, often displacing indigenous peoples, and plants which have been used traditionally for centuries can be patented by biotech multinationals. Whilst capitalism has always relied on the privatisation of common resources (such as the enclosure laws at the start of British industrialisation), the exploitation of labour and resources for the generation of private wealth, and the use of mechanisms of domination such as imperialism throughout Africa, Latin America and Asia, the WTO and globalisation increase these processes to unprecedented speed.

WTO takes issues of health and the environment further from people's control, so that new products can be sold without regard for such concerns. Because of this Europeans are sold US beef with carcinogenic growth hormones because it is against regulations to exclude it, and the Mexican fishing industry can continue to use destructive tuna nets which kill dolphins.

Free trade places people and workers in competition with one another, all in a race to destroy hard won social protection and the environment in an attempt to attract investment from multinationals. Workers' rights cannot be protected and their jobs are vulnerable to the effects of cheap imports: 250,000 Indian rubber tappers have lost their jobs and as many again plunged into extreme poverty because of cheaper imports from Malaysia and Indonesia, whilst US firms pay Mexican maquiladoras tiny wages to work in cramped conditions, just over the border from where more expensive US workers lose their jobs. Small farmers across the world come under the control of seed multinationals like Monsanto which then introduce GM crops into all our food. All of this combines with existing gender and race power inequalities to ensure that women and ethnic minorities bear some of the more extreme marginalisation and exploitation that globalisation depends upon and creates.

In Seattle there will be a push for a new round of negotiations, the Millennium Round. This will seek to further the corporate control of agriculture and provide for greater patenting rights (the TRIPS agreement), intensifying industrial agriculture, and expensive, inaccessible technologies. It will also undermine small farmers abilities to produce, as they are unable to compete with influxes of cheap imports from wealthier, more industrialised countries. The issue of services will also be taken much further (GATS Agreement), and there will be an attempt to resurrect the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) which collapsed last year. This was to be an international agreement to regulate investment by companies (as opposed to trade). It was more or less entirely written by large multinational industrial lobby groups, such as the International Chamber of Commerce and the European Round Table of Industrialists, and claimed to further increase the private control of resources, and the rights of investors, and to remove ways of public control of resources. The agreement related to both physical investment (factories, mines etc), and financial investment (bonds, stocks etc). Until now, the agreement on services has mainly regulated trade in electronic services, communications services, financial and banking services and tourism. Current negotiations are likely to expand the scope of this agreement to include education and health, which would lead to further privatisations in these areas which could make Thatcher's attacks look tame. Such privatisation, already highly advanced in most parts of the world (through World Bank/ IMF imposed measures known as Structural Adjustment Programmes), will have the potential to rip apart the welfare services of richer countries, simply rolling back generations of struggle which have made such services possible. Thousands of industry lobbyists will be at Seattle, ensuring the agenda is an aggressive drive to concentrate multinational control of the world's resources into fewer and fewer hands. No doubt this will be portrayed as beneficial to the world's population, and we can be equally sure that the discussions will be clouded by meaningless statements about social and environmental clauses, third world development and "Globalisation with a human face". These are just attempts to manipulate people into accepting unjust structures, and to water down resistance.

FURTHER CONTACTS:

- ASEED Europe - source of a great briefing on the subject - aseedeur@antenna.nl (Postbus 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- People's Global Action against Free Trade and the WTO www.agp.org/agp/ or info@agp.org
- The new DO or DIE also has an excellent article about globalisation in the context of capitalism and the international class struggle (p35-54)
- If you would like to arrange meetings or speakers about WTO email kolyaab@hotmail.com or phone 0181 995 2747

THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL...

Issue 62 will be the last issue to be produced by the Leeds editorial collective - it's now winding its way further northwards to Newcastle. It has become a bit of a tradition for the editorial group to have their say as they pass it on and since we've made quite a few changes over the past year we feel that it's important to explain some of the thinking behind them -

Or - 'It's goodbye from us and hello from them'

LOVE AND RAGE -(the structure of the editorial group)

We are a few over-enthusiastic anarchists in Leeds, also engaged in a variety of different projects, local and national. We rope in the rest of the Leeds lot for help with folding the AU by hosting folding parties, and also bribe others near us to do the creative bits or computer bits that we lack the talent for. (this is beginning to sound like an acceptance speech...) We believe in the process of both revolution and publishing, not just the final result, and it was essential for us to work together in a way that was egalitarian, honest and liberating.

4/5 people making decisions together can and has been hellish at times. Originally we made every little decision all together and as we have different styles and different politics this proved wearing. We also developed niches which were too restrictive -if one of us was skilled at something then the others would leave them to it, just as in macrosociety! We worked hard at ways so that the more bossy of us stopped taking a supervisor type role, and the less assertive had as much control, making sure we dealt with power imbalances, which are, obviously, the antithesis of our politics. One of the ways we did this was to divide up articles, to swap roles and tasks so we all HAD to stretch our skills. We also had loads and loads of meetings so we got a general overview and didn't panic about work someone else had taken on.

Task swapping and skill sharing may make the process longer and more painful as we got to grips with areas of expertise we're crap at. But what the year with the AU has been about is not just getting a newsletter out as quickly and easily as possible, but about creating the reality of non-hierarchical

THE ROLE OF THE EF!AU AND ITS RELATION TO THE EF! NETWORK

The EF!AU is not the only publication to come from the Earth First! network, however it is the only one which can be said to be the mouthpiece of EF! as much as of the collective producing it. The role of the AU is widely seen as being a networking tool for activists as well as being a point of contact and an introduction to the network for those wishing to get involved. When I became involved in EF! style direct action it was the AU from which I got the details of where and when action was happening, I'm sure this was the same for many of us.

The AU is ultimately under the control of its editorial collective. However, every EF! gathering sees a discussion on the role of the AU and we have acted on the recommendations and criticisms arising from these discussions almost without exception. We also held a 'AU goes to the network' weekend, when discussion was held and acted upon. The suggestion of one editor that the gathering should mandate the editorial collective and make decisions by which they would be bound, was decisively rejected. It is clear that the majority of people want the AU editorial collective to maintain its near total autonomy.

There is some contradiction between the editors' role as autonomous collective, and their role as representatives of the network. -If the AU is the project of our collective then we are free to put our own spin on things and to exclude articles about actions/groups that we're not into. If however it is the project of the network then it is our duty to not do this. On balance we have tried to act as the latter, writing reports of any British, ecological direct

'YA GOTTA HAVE ATTITUDE'

Our opinion, attitude and general spin on events can come through in many ways in the action update. From the choice of action we put on the front page through to the quote we use under the header, our choice of features, the contacts list, the titles for stories and even the general layout.

It's hard for this not to happen, the people who have made up the editorial collective for the past year are all militant, opinionated radicals. We believe in militant tactics backed up by political theory(s), working to create a radical praxis appropriate for taking on and dismantling the 'horror' which passes for a sane system to live under and a fulfilling lifestyle to lead. Obviously we want other people to know this, we are not ashamed, but proud of our revolutionary beliefs and will happily argue the toss till the cows come home.

However we are not, as some people seem to believe, some EF!, Leeds anarcho-vanguard. Our opinions within the AU collective are not homogenous. We are as varied in our beliefs, opinions and writing styles as we are in our choice of fonts.

By explaining where we're coming from, and acknowledging our biases, we hope that we can ensure that the action update is something that all strands of our wonderfully diverse movement can identify with and feel a part of. We are aware that as well as all the people who have told us they enjoyed the action update over the past year there are those that have felt distanced by the direction we have taken it. This is to some extent reflective of the state

THE ACTION UPDATE AND YOU

Before we all knew each other, and living in different towns, whenever any of us did an action we would send a report in to the AU straightaway, as well as a few other publications. So we were quite shocked when we started editing it, to find that few other people actually do this. Even stranger that some groups manage to write press releases for the mainstream media but can't write articles for their own. If you do want the update to continue to represent the diverse voices of our network then you need to contribute to it, not just sit and wait to be asked.

The same goes for features. We expanded the AU to have three pages of features, because we felt there was a real need for a greater dissemination of information for action in our movement. But if you want to read about a greater range of stuff than whatever the current editorial collective's chosen specialist subject happens to be, then you need to start writing. Most things can be included, unless they are really objectionable, or are just opinionated rants with no real information value.

Distribution is another way you can help. For every ten people who randomly pick up a copy in a bookshop or at a gig, nine of them probably think it's weird. But maybe the tenth might just end up getting involved with a project - you never know! So if you get A U as a group, why not ask for more copies and make more effort to distribute them?

And finally - what better note to leave it on than the perennial appeal for cash. The AU won't ever fund itself by subscriptions alone, and the Newcastle collective can't end up fundraising which takes time and effort which would otherwise be spent on activism. Several groups pledged to make monthly donations at the EF! Summer Gathering, which would obviously be good, but the cash hasn't exactly come rolling in yet! So if you've just sued the police and feel guilty about frittering it away on beer and curry, or if your squat cafe has accidentally made a profit, or if you have got into doing bank jobs to bankroll the movement then why not spare a thought for the poor AU and send a few quid in our direction?

Right, that's enough of this computer shit - we'll see you on the barricades!

The new address for the Earth First! Action Update is:
Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 1TA, Newcastle NE99 1TA. Telephone 0797 4791841. e-mail actionupdate@gn.apc.org