

Earth First!

Action Update

April/May 2001

Issue 75

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

"Girls and boys come out to play, the moon doth shine as bright as day, bring your suppers and leave your sleep, and join your play fellows in the street" Trad. nursery rhyme

Liverpool v Cargill

Cargill is the worlds largest privately owned company, controlling 25% of the worlds grain harvest, also one of the top three food and drink corporations it has concerns in all aspects of food production; processing, feed and fertilisers, transportation and commodity trading. Cargill's operations include the UK's only soya crushing plant, located in Liverpool. The docks and this plant are the main entry point for GMO's into the country. *"5th-10th March 2001 What a wonderful week..... We were few and yet we did much!"*

In six group meetings Liverpool against GenetiX was born and the week of actions was organised. Actions spread through Crosby, Bootle, Seaforth Docks and Liverpool City centre. The whole week had flavours of hard work, persuasion, learning, acceptance and a hint of glory by the end of it.

We woke people up at Crosby on Tuesday with huge painted foam mutant animals and vegetables outside and inside Sainsbury's. Locals thought they were dreaming when they saw a giant pea-pod full of money chasing a small winged banana to make sure she didn't run into the road!

There were public meetings in both Bootle and Liverpool City Centre, by two speakers who offered us alternatives,

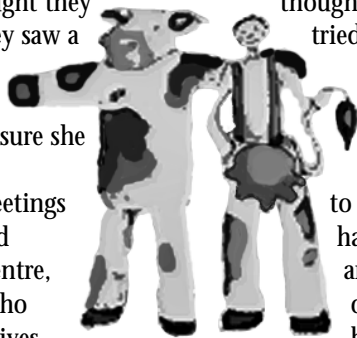
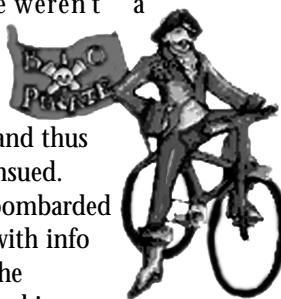
although there weren't a million locals the ones that were there made themselves plain and thus lively dialogues ensued.

Thursday we bombarded Bootle shoppers with info about Cargill's. The overgrown fish smoking a cigarette hung around with many mutant vegetables that day and they got many strange looks from shoppers and passers-by! As with the rest of the week the locals were mostly really friendly and interested, the coppers were chilled and many signed petitions.

We had police interest all week but on Friday in Seaforth the police got a little nervous and the port coppers kept us under close observation, while two of our lot and one of our camera technicians (!!)

were escorted to meet the PR lady from Cargill's who was stunned that anyone thought they could be seen as bad and tried to tell us that they had a good environmental reputation and that the locals liked them - we gently told them otherwise.

Cargill were unable to answer to their Corporate Crimes and hadn't heard of Corporate Watch and said they would be looking on the website to read the briefing about them. Ha - Ha -



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

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

Ha. Many good slogans were produced during the week my personal favourite being 'Don't work for Cargill's it's SHITE'

"Work together and be effective or these companies will keep on having the edge, and all we will be, is an irritation and fodder for the justice system."

Liverpool against GenetiX
c/o 96 Bold Street, Liverpool, L1 4HY
0151-707-1788 or 07890-704-881

Cargill briefings available from
Corporate watch (see contacts) or
www.gm-info.org.uk

Inside...

- ★ May day reports from the UK and beyond
- ★ Special report from the PGA conference in Milan
- ★ Climate Chaos
- ★ Stories
- ★ Prisoners
- ★ Resource reviews
- ★ Contacts
- ★ Diary Dates

10 page bumper issue

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

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

50p where sold

News in brief...

★ Anyone who was on the Allsorts or Reclaim The Streets info list needs to re subscribe to allsorts@gn.apc.org because their knackered old computer has died. If anyone's got a decent computer they can have get in touch.

★ 3 GE tree research sites (up to 1200 trees) were sabotaged in Oregon, USA in mid March. The felled and ring barked poplars included transgenic tree plus traditional hybrids used as 'raw material' for GE research. The action has latterly been claimed by anonymous 'concerned students and alumni' of Oregon State University.

★ The Government is planning to give the go-ahead for the UK's first commercial GM crop, T25 maize

★ Please don't phone Derby National Front on 07932 566 702 or their hotline on 07932 547080. If you sign up to uboot.com you can bombard their phones with text messages free

★ On April 2nd around 300 people demonstrated against the proposed ban on demonstrations in Dublin city centre. The council then voted against the ban. Source <http://struggle.ws>

★ 14 beagles were liberated from the animal testing laboratory Huntingdon Life Sciences in New Jersey, USA

★ On March 31st as part of a GE Free Zone ActioFestation in Amsterdam, about 100 people accompanied by a salsa band, went to a supermarket and stickered products.

★ Pepe Rei editor of Basque magazine 'Ardibeltza' (not part of ETA) has been imprisoned without charge since the Jan 18th. "Conspiracy with ETA" is being used by the Spanish State to silence this voice of Basque autonomy. Ardibeltza's offices were raided and closed on April 27th and there was a court hearing for Rei (who is in ill health) on May 3rd. Schnews May 4th & www.euskainfo.f2s.com

★ On April 5th FBI agents raided the home, business, and vehicles of spokespersons for the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office.

★ Earth First! Journal new address. P.O. Box 3023, Tucson, AZ, 85702, USA collective@earthfirstjournal.org

★ There has been some editorial changes at Green Anarchist magazine. They are looking to extend links with the wider peace & green movement. New address: Green Anarchist, 9 Ash Avenue, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0NP, England grandlaf@lineone.net



A rip-roaring riot of rabble-rousing around the globe

A womble's perspective: Disguising sofa cushions and banners as rubbish and dodging cops, a few wombles eventually emerged from a small dark alley. As they chanted, shouted and unfurled banners free money began to fly and cheers and shouts in Oxford Street greeted them.

Banners were used in the front and to the sides of the crowd to form a block some padding was handed out and other wombles joined. As the block advanced up Great Portland Street it became more raucous, it was really working, a line of riot cops retreated. Then onto John Lewis, where came the first real confrontation.

The blows rained down but the padding held and again the cops retreated. Next an attempt at the lines guarding those trapped at Oxford Circus. The cops struck back their lines being 2 deep. At one point they were pushed back and surrounded on both sides by the crowd.

On New Bond St, numbers swelled to about 1000. Then whilst leaving Soho, cops stood 3 deep and were extremely heavy. A decision to retreat was made to prevent the crowd being trapped. Out manoeuvring the cops people dispersed to avoid arrest.

Hopefully more wombles will be encouraged to form and help facilitate crowd movement to effectively oppose the cops, creating better mass street gatherings.

Bristol: Critical mass started at 8am with music, banners, and leaflets about May Day. Later people paraded towards Broadmead to the rhythm of samba drumming but one unlucky woman was arrested for criminal damage after touching a police camera with swiss roll!! An army recruitment office was postered with 'To kill or to be killed, RAF jobs'. Traffic was stopped at Bridewell police station but they had no intentions of releasing comrades. The carnival continued onto REED job

agency where demonstrators entered with drums & banners and stuck 'On strike' and '1st of May - No jobs today' posters to windows. At REEDs accountancy branch, a parody of exploitation was performed a boss whipped a worker whilst sucking her blood to fulfil his greed.

Job centre staff were entertained by drumming until many job seeking police officers appeared.

Outside MacDonalds, where police had been waiting since 8am, Nobby Nobody performed some anti-capitalist songs dedicated to the pigs and the corporations. The day ended at the cop shop where the one arrestee was released at 4.30pm.

Birmingham: The police stopped any sizeable protest occurring when first arrivals were immediately surrounded and penned in. About 40 people were in this group and 100+ more were outside police lines. After being read section 14j they were told to take the protest to an underpass. The crowd, tightly surrounded moved off whilst individuals were targeted and arrested. 14 people were arrested; one for having a 4 letter word on his trousers; 9 were charged. However this has not dampened spirits and a campaign to defend the right to protest is now being launched! s26brum@hotmail.com

Norwich: A few hundred gathered in the heart of the city to spontaneously play dance and be merry on a sunny day. The decorated pole provided as much entertainment as the free tea & cake stall though not nearly as much as the police turning up with and installing toilets for everyone!

Glasgow: Over 1200 people participated in peaceful demos.

Dublin: a successful and well-attended demonstration forced the Dublin Stock Exchange to shut early.

Greece: Thousands protested plans by the government to reform social security payments, as well as the threat of

globalization.

Poland: In Warsaw over 1200 anarchists marched, stopping at government offices and the US embassy to have a chat.

Slovakia: In the capital, Bratislava hundreds gathered from several revolutionary groups and were visited by many other people who showed interest in ideas of revolutionary anarchism.

Czech Republic: Hundreds gathered in Prague with anarchist literature magazines and stickers and a sound system with free vegan burgers. Nazis shouted nationalistic slogans, so the cops protected them and then attacked other protesters with batons and horses.

Pittsburgh, USA: 200 costumed people celebrated with chants, cheers, flags and a mobile maypole. The police seemed unsure of what was going on and eventually 150 riot cops tried to direct the march. 6-10 arrests were made and police used pepper spray and physically beat several demonstrators.

Long Beach, USA: Cops outnumbered protesters & unsurprisingly there were over 60 arrests. People were shot at, at close range with rubber bullets. Confused bystanders were alarmed at the cops shooting kids for no reason.

Australia: Thousands of May Day protesters took to the streets in Australia on Tuesday, burning political effigies and blockading stock exchange buildings. Protesters linked arms to block the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) buildings in Sydney and Melbourne chanting "No One In, No One Out". Police warned they would not tolerate violence and even welded shut metal manhole covers to prevent them being used as missiles. Stock traders were forced to go to work in the dark through underground carparks so the buildings could be closed, an ASX spokesperson stated "...we've made arrangements to *suit* staff but not at the expense of running the market properly."

In Melbourne, protesters waving flowers played volleyball to disrupt traffic. A MacDonalds restaurant was forced to close after protesters splashed it with paint and slogans such as "McFiltch" & "McCrap". Australian Workplace Relations Minister Tony Abbott said of the protests "Its pretty mindless activity and what the protesters need to understand is that capitalism is just a fancy word for freedom".

New Zealand: Hundreds of peaceful demonstrators held the Carnival against Capitalism in Wellington, with several well organized groups protesting against privatisation of NZ's water services, free trade and globalisation.

Costa Rica: Over 10,000 took to the streets of San Jose: from banana workers to housewives. All were demonstrating with their usual spirit of militancy, unity and solidarity. This unity of workers is growing and all feel confident of new victories.

MAYDAY MONOPOLY ARRESTS

To date (10/05/01) a total of 96 people have been arrested, 92 were arrested on May Day and 4 since, an indication that arrests may continue. Seven people are still being held on remand.

Did you see anyone being arrested or injured on Mayday? If so please contact LDMG, as this information may assist a persons defence or civil claim for damages. Provide the persons name or an accurate time and location of arrest so it can be matched to a particular person. It is easier and quicker if you could send e-mail in the first instance; please include your phone number. Also if you know anyone who was arrested who has not or contacted LDMG please get him her to do so.

There may be further arrests, 'wanted' photos have appeared in at least one newspaper. **Remember if someone you know appears to be wanted, it is very useful for them to know, but gossiping or otherwise drawing attention to the fact could land someone in prison.** If you are arrested DON'T admit it's you in the picture, you only have to give a name and address, say 'no comment' to all other questions and get a good solicitor.

LDMG are not co-ordinating the bringing of a mass civil action against the police though will assist in gathering information about arrests; ldmg@altavista.com Tel. 020 8245 2930 (24hr answerphone).

If you wish to pursue a claim then you may wish to contact the following:

Liberty is taking up the issue, contact Nancy Collins. nancyc@liberty-human-rights.org.uk Tel 020 7378 3653.

Mark Scott at Bhatt Murphy solicitors m.scott@bhattmurphy.demon.co.uk Tel 020 7253 7744.

More breif news...

★ In March 2001, Dutch eco-activists sabotaged water pipes in a Betuweline tunnel causing over 10,000 guilders damage. The Betuweline is a controversial project to connect different industrial areas of Holland & Germany by train. No group has claim responsibility for the sabotage.

★ Sri Lanka become one of the first countries to impose a total ban on GM foods.

★ Communiqués to the ELF North America press office; the arson of 2 cement trucks belonging to Ross Island Sand and Gravel in Portland USA, April 15th. An anonymous communiqué stated "Let this be a warning to all the greedy corporations who exploit our Earth's natural resources"; An attempted arson at a Nike Outlet store in the town of Albertville, Minnesota, targeted due to the corporation's use of sweatshop labour overseas and it's role in globalisation; March 30th a fire that destroyed \$1 million worth of new SUV's at the Joe Romania Chevrolet truck lot in Eugene was claimed by anonymous communique.

North American ELF Press Office elfpress@tao.ca
www.earthliberationfront.com

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Urgent Announcement

The EF! Summer Gathering has been forced to change it's postal address due to being severely let down by a local 'resource' centre in Norwich. Apparently someone at the Greenhouse objected to the box attracting general Earth Fist! mail and decided to shut it down without warning. Gathering mail should now be sent to the EF! Action Update address. If you have recently sent mail and want to check it was received e-mail endcottage92@hotmail.com - anything very important should be resent.

EF! summer gathering address change

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90% for 90%

A group from Manchester boarded a train to Blackpool last month carrying '90% for 90%' cards and a stack of leaflets. They explained to the guard that passengers were no longer happy just moaning and waiting for something to be done about the state of public transport. Cards and leaflets were distributed, the idea being to pay no more than 10% or show the card in solidarity with the call for a 90% reduction in fares to bring about the 90% cut in greenhouse gases needed to halt climate change. No ticket-check took place and passenger response was great, many wishing they hadn't already bought tickets. On the return journey one passenger used his card on the spot as he hadn't bought a ticket and the guard nodded and walked on; he was over the moon!

90% for 90%, c/o Manchester Earth First! Box 29, 22a Beswick Street Manchester, M4 7HS.

World car free day

Critical Mass Bristol

During a Critical Mass cycle ride in Bristol on World car free day, April 19th, a taxi driver knocked down a cyclist. The police response was to arrest the cyclist for allegedly causing criminal damage to the taxi!! Apart from the negativity of the one arrest, the cycle protest went really well with about 250 people of all ages taking part using a variety of transport including cycles, walking, skateboards, and scooters. Musical entertainment was provided with drums, brass instruments, and a load speaker hooked up to the back of a bike. One or two irate car drivers irresponsibly drove at speed through the crowd knocking into bikes. But in general the protest was peaceful, musical, good-natured and managed to block off a major roundabout and one of the main roads.

Unnatural history

London RTS mischievously de-branded the BP sponsored Ecology exhibition at the Natural History Museum. Timed to coincide with the BP AGM, activists posed as smooth talking BP tour guides while others heckled them with questions such as "how can you claim to be 'beyond petroleum' while increasing oil production by 5%", "why do anti-BP activists in Colombia get threatened and

killed by paramilitaries" and "how does drilling for oil in the Arctic fit the new 'green' image". Elsewhere in the Museum the showpiece animated Tyrannosaurus Rex was given a fetching new coat with the message 'Climate change killed me, don't let it happen to you'. Contact RTS 07811 636263.



Our food our future

In response to the exclusivity of the 'Agriculture 2020' conference (£300 a ticket) hosted by the John Innes Centre Norwich (April 18th-20th), a group of 'up for a party' anti-GM activists held their 'everyone invited' bash at the Sainsbury Centre. This happened on the very same evening as 120 'Ag 2020' delegates held their swanky meal. Around 40 people drummed, whistled, and danced beside a large window (40x100ft) just feet away from the dinners who tried hard to ignore the outside antics. A 40x15ft "Our Food Our Future" banner unfurled itself from the top of the window which seemed to strengthen their resolve to ignore the demo. Though after nearly two hours of dancing and message writing some did eventually crack and acknowledged that the outside party was considerably better than their own.

Norwich DAF 07944 847393.

GM protests Wales

200+ people gathered outside Castle Cenlas farm in Mathry, Pembrokeshire on April 28th to protest plans to plant GM crops. Two fields on the farm owned by former Tory MP Tony Marlow are due to be used soon. Organic farmers and residents were among furious protesters whose livelihoods will be threatened by contamination. Yellow biodegradable helium-filled balloons were released to support their claim that winds will carry pollen from the farm into the surrounding countryside.

Swansea

During the week of action against Cargill Swansea Against Genetic Engineering (SAGE) visited their local Safeway and Sainsbury's stores to draw attention to GM animal feed in their meat and dairy produce. 'GM inside' cards appeared mysteriously throughout the store and shoppers were asked to sign a petition.

More info info@togg.co.uk

GM decontamination

Genetic Engineering Network has received reports of 2 crop trashings in late April, both 100% destroyed. The tests were of 2 of 9 National Seed List trials and if allowed to continue, the winter oil seed rape would have been closer to commercialisation. NSL trials are normally quite small and serve the purpose of moving a given seed variety further through the regulatory system. The sites were Piccots End, TL 054 104 and Albury, Hertfordshire, TL 423 234. GEN 020 7690 0626, genetics@gn.apc.org

DETR biotech demo

On March 30th a demo as held outside the biotech unit of the DETR in London, calling them to immediately halt agricultural tests. Banners were held and leaflets handed out to passers-by and to DETR staff. Disinfectant was sprayed across the entrance and staff were asked to walk through it. A statement and letter written by farmers was handed in and questions were asked as to why the inessential GM trials were being continued when all other activities in the countryside were being stopped.

www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites

Claire gets short crust

International Development Secretary Clare Short, received her just desserts from the Biotic Baking Brigade at a meeting in Bangor, North Wales. The king size custard pie was delivered, at 7pm on March 5th, in recognition of Ms. Short's disservice to the world's poor. The trickle down effect was well demonstrated by the gooey concoction of fair trade bananas, short crust pastry, and other organic ingredients. Agent Custard commented: 'Clare Short's bananas policies fly in the face of ministerial promises to help the world's poor and protect the environment.' A woman has been charged with a public order offence in relation to the pieing.

Fans and followers of the AU will have noticed we simply didn't get it together in April. We'd love to have a great excuse, but unfortunately we don't. A big sorry to everyone, particularly folks who rushed us features or had events that got missed because of the delay. Oops. We've now received counselling, aversion therapy and a nice cuppa and will try to do better in the future

CAAT action network

Campaign Against Arms Trade has launched an action network to encourage and facilitate NVDA on arms trade related issues. The network may function in three ways: 1. Directly organising NVDA; 2. Giving support to regional groups who are/would like to organise NVDA in their area; 3. Setting up a phone tree to enable a quick activist response to arms trade issues.

The idea of the network is to be flexible and to enable as many people to take part as possible. If you would like to get involved, please contact CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ, 020 7281 0297, action@caat.demon.co.uk

Anti-weapons action

Stop them 'Polluting till the sun goes out!' A creative, non-violent action is planned at MOD procurement centre, Bristol, Monday June 18th, in protest against weapons such as Trident warheads, DU penetrators, Cluster bombs and Cruise Missiles which cause sickness, death and genetic damage to people and long-term contamination of the environment. This will be an amalgamation of many groups; anti-nuclear, war veterans, environmental, anti-capitalist/imperialist, religious, peace, community etc with simultaneous international actions coinciding with the EU Summit in Gothenburg. Arrestable and non-arrestable actions for swimmers, climbers, fence cutters/decorators etc. Contact Bristol Centre for Change 0117 954 0564 daamdu@c4.com or DAAMDU, Box 15, 82 Colston St Bristol BS1 5BB

Resources

MATE ASEED Europe have produced MATE – A Map of Activities on Transport in Europe with an accompanying 80 page booklet. The Map aims to illustrate what's happening, who's doing it and who's trying to stop it – indispensable for road/climate and transport campaigning. ASEED operate a slightly complicated variable pricing policy – we think this means it cost about £3-3.50 for and un(der)waged individual. To order MATE contact Carbusters, Kratka 26, 100 00 Praha, Czech Republic carbusters@ecn.cz

New Genewatch briefing (number 14) 'Human Bio-collections, Who benefits from gene banking?' Out now. Genewatch, The Mill House Manchester Rd, Tideswell, Buxton Derbyshire, SK17 8LN mail@genewatch.org

Squatters Handbook – long awaited new edition £1 (+57p p+p), discounts for bulk orders to groups. ASS, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1 2QN

Balfour Beatty

The Birmingham S26 collective are keen on organising a national day of action against Balfour Beatty as they are the main contractors for the new Bullring which is a very big, expensive and high profile job. Any ideas/support/advice is very welcome. Please contact S26 collective, 07980 415577, PO Box 9417, Birmingham, B13 9WA s26brum@hotmail.com

Earth First! summer gathering

Plans are well underway for this year's EF! Summer Gathering, August 1st-5th in Derbyshire. Workdays to help set up site are planned for June 9th, July 8th, 28th and 29th, with gathering meetings on the same weekends, accommodation available and everybody welcome to come along. Bring ideas, tools or a vehicle for workdays if you can.

There is a wishlist - all the usual tat to make a gathering happen - get in touch if you can supply/lend anything useful.

Help with; facilitation, gate duty, workshop running, crèche shifts, tat coordinator especially, etc. is also needed. Please get in touch summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

Women speak out June 8-10th

Women Speak Out is a gathering for women interested or involved in DIY political, social, or environmental activity. The weekends have been autonomous spaces for workshops, discussions, food, music and all else. Come along to share ideas, skill, info, support, plan projects, create a workshop, do a performance, build a network, or whatever. There will be sleeping space, vegan and gluten free food, creche/ kids space: bring sleeping stuff and cutlery. Let them know about you/kids, ideas, special needs, access requirements or offers of help etc. Contact 07900 374015 or ansaphone message from June 1st 01273 298192, or check www.spor.org.uk

Prisoners

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

UK

Lee Himlin EX7748, HMP Perry Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, N65 3AG, on remand for sabotaging quarrying equipment which is threatening a protected National Park and the Nine Ladies stone circle.
Fr. Martin Newell, EM6780, HMP Bedford, St Loyes, MK40 1HG, on remand for disarming a nuclear convoy vehicle.
Susan Van Der Hijden, EN5880 HMP Brockhill,

Redditch, Worcs B97 6RD, on remand for disarming a nuclear convoy vehicle.
Garfield Gabbard, FT9062, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London N7 on Remand expecting 7 yrs for setting fire to a police van at N30 Euston event. 1999.
Michael Collins, FR6303, HMP Elmley, Church Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4AY, serving 2 yrs, party and protest prisoner.
Mel Broughton DJ8216,

HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Avenue, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0NZ, serving 4 yrs for conspiracy to cause explosions.

Address change

Satpal Ram HMP Blakenhurst, Hewell Lane, Redditch, Worcs, B97 6QS, moved for 52nd time!!! Serving 11 yrs since 1986 for murder whilst defending himself against a vicious unprovoked racist attack by a gang of 6 racists, is still inside after 14 yrs.

Quebec

Mario Bertoncini, 04.2.78, Alex Boissonneault, 14.4.79, Roman Pokorski, 09.11.78, Victor Quentin, 23.2.80, Serge Vallee, 03.8.79, all held at Centre de détention de Québec, 500, rue de la Faune, C.P. 7130, Charlesbourg, Québec, G1G 5E4 Canada, arrested at the 'Summit of Americas' anti-globalisation demoand facing various charges (see ELP newsletter for more info) please write to each prisoner separately, enclose a stamped envelope if you want a reply.

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

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

"Any political movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement"

Ojore Lutalo, political prisoner

PGA Milan special report



PEOPLES' GLOBAL ACTION: WE ARE EVERYWHERE...

Peoples' Global Action (PGA) is a worldwide network for communication and co-ordination between grassroots social movements and all those fighting the destruction of humanity and planet by capitalism and the present social order. Emerging from the catalyst of the zapatista-inspired 'encuentros' in 1996/97, there have been two PGA global conferences since its' conception: Geneva Feb '98, preceding the G8 and WTO meetings; and in Bangalore, India Aug '99 before the Seattle WTO meeting. The PGA network has been a key force behind the Global Days of Action and 'anti-globalisation' events of recent years.

PGA is a co-ordination tool not an organisation, it has no members or constituted legal identity, no central funds or spokespeople; and relies on the grassroots movements and group themselves for its' continued existence. Conferences are organised by a rotating group of movement 'convenors'. Convenors are appointed at each global conference and drawn from all continents and social sectors. The next global conference in Bolivia, Sept 2001, will be hosted by peasant and domestic worker unions and will follow a number of regionally organised PGA meetings in Europe, Latin America, Asia and N. America. While originally focussed on opposing 'free trade' and the WTO, the PGA 'hallmarks' and political approach - a dynamic evolving process - have expanded to oppose all forms of domination including capital and state forms while continuing to propose local alternatives and autonomy, direct action and self-organisation against the present system.

The PGA euro-meet on the 24/25 March, brought together over 300 activists from around 80 social and ecological action groups from across Europe and the world, for discussion and to plan future co-ordination. The conference was called for by Ya Basta! and Reclaim the Streets, the current and past euro-convenors of the PGA network and hosted by YB in the Leoncavello social centre in Milan, Italy. Leoncavello itself is an impressive place - a gigantic ex-industrial complex squatted and run by its' users and just one of around 10 in Milan alone. Across Italy there are over 100 social centres of different shapes, sizes and affiliations - an inspiring legacy of a vibrant political grassroots. Not that there aren't problems - there seems to be distinct antagonisms between Italian radical groups and very few from Italy other than Ya Basta! activists attended the meeting. There weren't many groups present from the east of Europe either, which showed the extent to which such gatherings are often limited to those who can afford them, and so the importance of economic solidarity in the organising of such 'global' meetings.

The composition of the 'anti-capitalist/globalisation movement' was highlighted in various ways throughout the weekend. One of the most important and intense discussions during the main assemblies for instance, was on gender. This erupted after incidents of harassment took place during a huge party at the centre on Saturday night, but reflected deep concerns about gender relations within the 'anti-capitalist' movement and PGA specifically. Proposals to integrate gender equality into PGA structures and to take the 'issue' back to our localities were well received, but it's a moot point for all European radical groups that our 'networks' are predominantly it seems male, white, and young. Another 'issue' was the attendance of authoritarian groups like the UK's Workers Power and SWP. Their participation was opposed by nearly all of the other groups present, still the problems around similar groups' involvement in PGA were never really explored or resolved. The processes of PGA 'decisions' and the relations between 'north and south' were also put under further scrutiny in trying to decide European participation in the global PGA conference in Bolivia.

More positively, as well as approaching such important and difficult discussions, the meeting offered the space generally and in innumerable 'working groups' where the various radical networks in Europe could cross paths, without tear gas and water cannons, and explore commonalities on which to build future understanding and action. Organisers in Scandinavia planning action against the EU meetings were able to share ideas with anti-G8 organisers in Italy; Spanish NoBorder networkers with activists fighting repression in Columbia; climate change campaigners in Germany with EFlers from the Czech Republic. A number of 'days of action' around Europe and ways of tying them thematically together were discussed with plans for 'caravans' linking the various events. One of the themes suggested - a call for 'global citizen rights' was misheard as '...citizen riots' and arguably received total consensus: everyone waving their hands and laughing. While the next WTO meeting in impossible-to-get-to Qatar in November raised the prospect of a truly decentralised day of action (tho' interestingly a survey of the meeting showed 'summit-hopping' to be largely a media invention. Most people present had been to only one reasonably local 'global action'). Ongoing communications structure work, a European network focussed on countering movement repression, and a myriad of other plans and proposals all found expression over a few days and a drink or two in Milan.

While the meeting was on the whole too loosely structured and too short, and accentuated most of the obvious failings of global networking, still the attempt to connect and co-ordinate across cultures, languages, boundaries and borders was and is of crucial importance. Paradoxically, within this growing global network, it's often in the smaller settings and incidental moments that the most fruitful connections are made. In this very real human sense, beyond any written declarations and decisions, the PGA European meeting can only be seen as a stunning success. With similar regional PGA meetings planned for North American and Aotearoa (down-under) and a worldwide conference in Bolivia in September, as well as related mobilisations and events, Peoples' Global Action may yet realise the possibilities of its' name.

www.apg.org

Combat Climate Chaos!

90% for 90% - GET THE CARD - SHOW THE GUARD

A call for a 90% cut in public transport fares ... to make public transport affordable ... to start making changes ... that bring the 90% cut in greenhouse gases needed to halt climate change.

Are you sick of high public transport fares while pollution causes record levels of asthma in children, and the floodwaters rise? Public transport is neither affordable nor a high quality service – for passengers or for workers. Meanwhile, scientists say that to stop extreme weather events and catastrophic climate change we have to cut greenhouse gases (the gases that contribute to climate change) by as much as 90%.

Road travel is one of the fastest growing sources of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas. Getting people off roads and onto a decent and affordable public transport system is more than a nice idea – it's essential for survival. Tired of hearing government rhetoric over the railways, and seeing no commitment to tackling climate change, people are taking action.

'90% for 90%' is a call for a public transport system run in the interests of passengers and workers, not profit, and available to all, regardless of income.

You might refuse to pay more than 10%. You might show the card in support of the call. You might leaflet other passengers.

☀ People have started carrying the 90% for 90% card on trains around the UK:

☀ a great day out in Blackpool was had by all, after a group of 90%ers from Manchester carried the card, showed the guard, and spent the journey talking about the state of the railways and leafleting other passengers, receiving a really positive response

☀ an individual travelled from the north to the south west of England, negotiating with the guard an equivalent ticket for approximately 10% of the full fare

☀ on a journey to Oxford another couple dealt with a very nice but over-officious guard who gave them penalty fare tickets and refused to talk about anything 'political'

☀ one 90%er spoke at a local RMT branch meeting, distributed materials and talked about climate change. She hopes to meet again with public transport workers.

Of course getting on to public transport doesn't mean that climate change would immediately stop, but it would be a start. Even if just the first step we must find different ways of living and working, ways that end our dependence on fossil fuels, and that stop the floodwaters from taking people's homes, from Yorkshire to Mozambique. Ways that are relevant to how people live, not just economic growth.

International talks on climate change are getting nowhere. Plans include 'carbon trading' – setting up a trading system for greenhouse gases – but within a framework of big business continuing to make their profits while the poor stay poor (see <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ceo/greenhouse/index.html> for more info). Depressing though that is, it shows that it is up to us to define what we want and what we need, to make our lives better.

A call for a 90% cut in public transport fares ... to make public transport affordable ... to start making changes ... that bring the 90% cut in greenhouse gases ... needed to halt climate change

www.risingtide.org.uk

90% for 90% is a call for a public transport system run in the interests of passengers and workers, not profit, and available to all, regardless of income.

VALID FOR TRAVEL

Download this card at www.risingtide.org.uk or send £3.50/100 + top copy (payable 'rising tide') to 90% for 90% c/o Manc EF! (see contacts).

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION 16th JULY

The next UN climate change conference takes place in Bonn, Germany, starting on July 16th. Governments from across the world will again bang their heads together to work out how to disguise a fetish for continued economic growth as a concern to stop the planet burning up, by creating whole new market opportunities.

Legislators don't lead. Join the national day of action on July 16th, the first day of Bonn, and demonstrate that different ways of living and working come from us taking action based in our own lives - that includes finding accessible and affordable ways of moving around.

Join in the national day of action by getting together with a group in your area, speaking to local public transport workers, and planning a 90% for 90% day trip: to the seaside (get there before it

gets to you); to the countryside (if it's open); to view your nearest oil refinery – the possibilities are endless.

Rising Tide Tour May/June 2001

The Rising Tide Tour set off in May, inspiring action around climate change, seeking solutions based in our own lives; and building up pressure before the next UN climate talks this July. It features an evening of information and entertainment around climate change, workshops, theatre and support for direct action. Contact climatechaos@yahoo.com for local details of each stop. BRIGHTON, 2nd – 4th May; FARNBOROUGH, 8th May; WEST LONDON, 11th May; HACKNEY, 12th May; EDINBURGH, 14th – 16th May; NEWCASTLE, 16th – 18th May LANCASTER, 22nd – 24th May; LIVERPOOL, 24th – 25th May; YORK, 26th – 29th May; HULL date tbc READING, 7th – 8th June; OXFORD, 9th June

www.risingtide.org.uk

Action Groups

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

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

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

Grampion EF!
PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
The Greenhouse
1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 1AX
01248 255 821
bangor-werdd@yahoo.com

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

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

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

(Newcastle) TAPP
PO Box ITA
Newcastle NE99 1TA
ne991ta@yahoo.com

Norwich Direct Action Forum
PO Box 487
Norwich NR2 3AL
07944 874 393

Nottingham EF!
Ring for postal address
0845 458 9595
Nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street, Reading
Berkshire RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@gn.apc.org

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

South Devon EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totnes
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

SWAN Network
PO Box 70
Newport NP1 0YD
Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Contacts List April/May 2001

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

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

Support Groups & Information Networks

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

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen Project
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
katchoo22@chickmail.com

Blatant Incitement Project
(outreach & small group support)
c/o Manc. EF!
doinit@nematode.freemove.co.uk

CAGE Network
(against the prison system)
c/o **Notts Rainbow centre**
ring for postal address
0845 458 9595

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

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

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

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

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

Publications

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

Counter Information
Autonomous Centre E'burgh
17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh EW7 5HA
0131 557 8242

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

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

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

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

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

The EF!AU has a list of local radical publications.
Send an SAE or e-mail.

Virtual News

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

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

Video

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

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

Other Contacts

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

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.co.uk
Anarchist Federation ↗
c/o 84b Whitechapel High St.

London E1 7QX

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

Disabled Action Network
3 Crawley Road, Wood Green
London N22 6AN
020 88891361

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO
Manchester M15 5HW
0161 232 7889

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

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St
Norwich NR2 1NR
01324 880744
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Protest Camps

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

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

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

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

Vallee d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond

active campaigns that have had protest camps in the past

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

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

Hockley Housing
01702 206 181

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

International

For International contacts we recommend the list in Do or Die 9 or ...

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

Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson
AZ 85702 USA
Tel: (520) 620-6900
Fax: (413) 254-0057
collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

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

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

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

Victory against Tarmac

For 3 years the 'No Tarmac Quarries At Bestwood' campaign has been fighting planning permission for 2 sand quarries in Nottingham. Tarmac has now given up and agreed to hand over all the land to Bestwood Country Park. This campaign has been organised in the local communities in a decentralised and non-hierarchical way. People did everything from letter writing to sabotage and shutting roads to disrupting AGMs. Although very much a locally based campaign it wouldn't have got this far without the support, solidarity and hard work of folk in the wider EF!/RTS network. They send out a big thank you! Remember kids, Direct Action works!

Indymedia

Indymedia UK have just released the first issue of 'Offline?' - a monthly publication which brings news and features from the Indymedia website back to the streets. Contact: imc-uk@lists.indymedia.org

Aberdeen

Protesting Gap's use of sweatshop labour in advance of a store opening in Aberdeen, Grampian EF! held a very successful action in the city centre on March 10th in front of what will be the store. Wielding placards urging the public to boycott the company's products, protesters distributed 800 leaflets to shoppers with favourable response, collecting also signatures on a petition. Further protests are planned to coincide with the store opening in July. Contact Grampian EF! PO box 248, Aberdeen, AB25 1JE, grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

Nottingham

There was an occupation/demo at GAP in Nottingham on 30th March. The police turned up, no arrests, lots of leaflets given out and GAP were forced to lock one of their doors to keep people out! More may be planned. Contact Notts EF! 0845 458 9595.

Sheffield

On March 2nd a new GAP store opened in Sheffield. People performed street theatre commemorating the felling of ancient Redwood forests by the Fisher family, founders and owners of GAP. Others held banners saying 'GAP sucks' and 'sweatshops'. An info stall was set up with a big banner that read 'Greed And Poverty'. Around 1000 leaflets were handed out to customers, some of whom

Eclectic City II

Tyneside Squatters are occupying a brilliant social club in Newcastle City centre that is due to be turned into a lap-dancing bar. Women opened up the squat on the same day as a magistrate's hearing to licence the proposed sexist bar which will inevitably be delayed by the squatting.

People are requested to come along in support, and to protest the plans for another way of commodifying women's bodies. Various events are planned including food, film and music at the former Manors Social Club, Carliol Square, Newcastle NE1 6UQ. Squat hot line 07833 646228

OK cafe

The Okay cafe is now open and busy, and should be around for a while. If you have any literature you would like put out on display (fliers, newsletters etc.) to a wider public then you can send it direct to the OK Cafe, 61 Charles Street, Central Manchester.

OKasionalcafe@nematode.freemove.co.uk

GAP actions

turned away without even entering the store. The next day a local street band performed while around 100 people chanted and waved banners. The main body of protesters marched round then headed for the entrance. GAP's security shut the doors and the crowd started a sit down protest on the road. At least four people were arrested in the ensuing clash. Protesters marched to the police station in solidarity with those arrested, before returning to the store for a final burst of chanting and drumming.

Contact nosweatshuff@yahoo.co.uk or sheffieldmayday@disinfo.net

Birmingham

On March 17th the fashion police arrived at the Gap store in Birmingham to read the riot act over the company's use of sweatshop labour. Once the formalities were over the sound system was unleashed and activists blockaded the store for 20 minutes effectively shutting it down. With over 90 people in attendance, many of them on their 1st action, the afternoon was an exciting and empowering experience for everyone involved.

After the action the S26 collective held an open planning meeting for Birmingham MayDay which reinforced the group's optimism that things in Birmingham are on the up. Contact S26 collective, 07980 415577, PO Box 9417, Birmingham, B13 9WA, s26brum@hotmail.com,

Diary Dates...

May/June

The Rising Tide Tour 'Climate Chaos Roadshow', see feature page 01612 738516 climatechaos@yahoo.com

June

2nd Anti 'Big Brother' actions in B'ham City centre, meet 12.30 outside Virgin records, Corporation St 07980 415577

s26brum@hotmail.com

2nd Peace carnival Glasgow 0141 423 1222 cndscot@dial.pipex.com

2nd-10th Week of action at Faslane nuclear base mass action on the 4th and a camps 19th birthday party on the 9th 01436 820901

7th anti-government/corporate frivolity Manchester. 0161 226 6814

june7@corporatedirtbag.com

8th Mark Barnsley protest picket at the home office, assemble 1pm, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT, transport from Leeds, 0113 2629365 leedsef@ukf.net

8-10th Women Speak Out, Brighton, 07900 374015 www.spor.org.uk

9-17th Stop the Arms Trade Week CAAT 020 7281 0297 cole@caat.demon.co.uk

14th-16th European Union meeting Sweden. www.motkraft.net/gbg2001

16th Liverpool Critical Mass 3rd Sat of every month, meet 12 noon, Hub Café/Liverpool Cycle Centre, Berry Street

29th Dublin Critical Mass, last Friday of every month 6pm, Parnell Square dublincriticalmass@yahoo.com

July

1st 'The Freedom To Be Yourself' naked protest wherever you are at 2pm

www.geocities.com/thehumanmind

5th-12th 2nd International anti-border camp, Poland. Contact Rosbrat, LF-Maciej Roszak PO box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, Poland 0048 (0) 603 247 245 roshak@go2.pl

13th-16th Aldermaston youth/student peace camp 020 7607 3616

youth_cnd@hotmail.com

16th-27th COP6 ½, Bonn. Subscribe to risingtide@yahoo.com

20-23rd G8 meeting in Genoa.

August

1st-5th Earth First! Summer Gathering summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

21st-23rd The G8 summit, Genua.

Counteractions focus on migration.

8-16th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algiers. Contact: 020 8546 7795.

October

2-14th Washington DC, annual IMF/World Bank meeting www.whirls-bank.org

20th Anarchist book-fair Camden Centre, Euston Rd, London, WC1, 10am-7pm, <http://freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair>

November

5th-9th 4th WTO ministerial Doha, Qatar.

BSL marches

Over 700 people made the first Manchester march for the official recognition of British Sign Language an exciting, colourful and diverse day. Society treats the 70,000 people that have BSL as their first or only language as inferior citizens: deaf kids are forced to try to learn English; highly controversial cochlea implants are pushed to 'cure' deafness and sold at a profit; many people are not given the choice to learn BSL.

A samba band joined the march and also a hearing and a deaf town crier (with a flashing light instead of a bell). One arrest was made when 50 people sat in the road to keep warm, some chained cosily together, while others climbed scaffolding to hang banners.

Source Manchester EF! 0161 2266 814, mancef@nematode.freeseve.co.uk

And also

At another march on April 7th in Wolverhampton, 6 people were arrested and charged. They were with 30 others trying to block the traffic to bring attention to the campaign for BSL recognition. Messages of support to irishsmile@totalise.co.uk, contact curlie@hair69.freeseve.co.uk info www.fdp.org.uk. See diary for next march.

WTO tug of war

Campaigners from World Development Movement and People and Planet staged a 'tug of war' outside the North East's Government Office, Wellbar House, Newcastle on March 20th to represent the potential WTO trade agreement that threatens poor nations as well as local public services in the UK. Tuggers dressed as obese, cigar smoking business types competed against ordinary service workers and people from

Contact

EF!AU, PO Box 487

Norwich, NR2 3AL

★ us! ★

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

developing countries. Government officials were asked to take sides in a blatantly rigged situation. 'We all rely on clean water, health, education and public transport and like the tug of war this agreement is rigged in favour of multinational companies' claimed one tigger.

Faslane frolics

To celebrate International Woman's Day, a women's weekend was held at Faslane Peace Camp. On Saturday March 10th a 3 feet high slogan 'Women Unite for a World Without War' was woven into a fence. The next morning 7 women ran through a hole cut in a fence to reach the jetty where a French Destroyer was berthed. Although 3 were soon arrested, 4 climbed high up on the Destroyer, locked on, and dropped a banner. Arrests were made for Breach of Peace. See diary for more dates. Contact 01436-820901

Mink farm victory

Cornyhaugh Mink Farm near Newcastle announced it was closing last week after a 3½-year, high-profile, campaign by Newcastle AR Coalition. They persevered through an intensive campaign: investigations, protests, public meetings, harassment trials, police hassle, violence by farmer and workers, and with little support from activists outside the area. The determination of this campaign should be encouraging to other activists. Different tactics work in different situations and in this case they achieved the desired aim: farm closure.

Noise for Mark

About 30 people gathered on March 24th outside Wakefield Prison where framed anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley is being held. An enormous racket was made and occasionally sounded quite rhythmic! All types of drums, whistles and foghorns were used and cooking pots were beaten into some interesting shapes.

Although Mark was allowed visitors, it was yet another 'closed' visit behind glass. Mark was still in great spirits despite being on a 24-hour hunger strike and he could hear everything especially the fireworks. 300 leaflets were handed out stating 'the worse they treat him, the harder we will fight!' and 'we will continue to make a noise until he is moved'. Another noise demo is planned for April 22nd, but phone 07944 522001 incase he's moved.

barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com, info www.freemarkbarnsley.com, or send £2 to Justice for Mark Barnsley, PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX for an excellent booklet.

and finally...

if any skateboarders want to send messages of support to boarders in Brum the S26 will happily pass them on, as the council have brought in £50 fines and the threat of arrest to anyone boarding in the city centre. However the actions of the council have only succeeded in radicalising large numbers of teenagers, who came to join in with the action against Gap. Contact S26 collective, 07980 415577, PO Box 9417, Birmingham, B13 9WA, s26brum@hotmail.com.

This issue of the Action Update is dedicated to Liz, a dear friend and comrade who passed away last month and will be sadly missed. Much respect always.

return of the mystery subs-box

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