

Earth First!

Action Update

June 2001

Issue 76

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

*"Freedom of speech is the right to shout
"THEATRE" in a crowded fire"*

First vote carved in General Election

In the early hours of Election Day campaigners cut an 'X' through a controversial GM crop growing at Munlochy on the Black Isle in Inverness. The farm scale trial of Aventis winter oil seed rape trial has been vociferously opposed by the local community from the start.



June 7th 2001

NSL trials trashed

This year, 13 National Seed List* (NSL) test sites of GM winter oilseed rape were planted, 11 in England and 2 in Scotland. Of these, two crops are reported to have failed and seven (all in England) have been decontaminated, leaving just four in the ground. The destroyed sites are Boothby Grafoe, Lincs; Stanton, Glouc; Abbots Ripton, Histon and Girton, all in Cambs; Picots end and Albury, Herts. The crops at Morley, Norfolk and Brigsley, Lincs have failed.

For a full list of UK test sites visit www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites or www.gm-info.org.uk/ for a map based list.

Please try and inform GEN testsites@geneticsaction.org.uk of any decontaminations - but remember security!

Also following massive opposition, two farm scale trials in Mathry, West Wales, have been halted. The site close to HDRA organic centre has also been withdrawn.

*Note: NSL trials are to enable the crop grown to be placed on the

National Seed Lists - a step necessary for the commercialisation of the crop. If the trial sites continue to be destroyed, the commercialisation of the crop will be threatened. The trials test whether or not the crop grows properly, is stable, and distinctive for the market-environmental concerns play no role.

Rebecca revived

Around 30 cyclists - many dressed like 19th Century Rebecca Rioters - set off on May 7th from Efail Wen in Pembrokeshire, bound for the Mathry symbolise the fact that they see the crop trials as a new form of social injustice. Planting was expected to begin on land owned by the former Conservative MP Tony Marlow within a matter of days. However all test sites in the Mathry area have been postponed indefinitely due to continued pressure from concerned villagers and protestors alike.

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.

Anarchists' travelling circus

A festive air in Manchester prevailed on election day, though police fought valiantly to contain outbreaks of responsibility and community-empowering politics. Not so much anti-vote as it's irresponsible to just vote when faced with a corporate-driven sham democracy.

Thus followed our on-the-hoof Mayday fun, when without anything having been planned, a 'spontaneous' loose and large mass of people wandered round the town centre, instrument banging, agit-prop distributing, and generally giving the police the run- around. What prevented the police containing the dynamic crowd till late in the day was simply that, as no-one knew where they were going, the march was too spread out to surround!

There was 'No Such Thing as a Free Lunch', with free plant give-aways, each wrapped lovingly with a rant.



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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.

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News in brief...

- ★ What's happening in Bonn? COP6½, July 26th-27th, climate change demos following COP6 in Den Haag info at www.foeurope.org/lifeboat/
- ★ Indymedia Global Bulletin #6 now available! at print.indymedia.org including Aceh, Indonesia, Ethiopians in Washington DC, Activists set-back World Bank, and more. PDF format to download and distribute
- ★ Fires occurred on May 21st at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and Jefferson Poplar Farms, Oregon, both significant Genetics targets. Allegedly graffiti at one site included 'ELF' and 'You cannot control what is wild'
- ★ During the first 3 months of 2001, 93 Basques have been detained by the Spanish state under anti-terrorist laws and 55 have reported mistreatment and torture euskalinfo@marsbard.com
- ★ Do you need to contact M15? In case you feel your liberties are at risk. M15 / Security Service, PO Box 3255, London SW1P 1AE 020 7930 9000. www.access.lowtech.org/collectableanorak
- ★ Over 100 anti-monarchists clashed with riot police in Amsterdam on May 26th. Discussions on the monarchy, preventing repression, action-tactics and coalitions were also held in the squatted social centre at Overtoom 301 groenfr@dds.nl
- ★ On May 28th, in Den Haag people dressed as Columbian paramilitaries 'shot' Columbian farmers made a bloody mess and 'bombed' members of the Dutch parliament. The actions took place during a parliamentary debate on the so-called FOL treaty between the US and Netherlands, part of the infamous 'plan Colombia' 17 were arrested groenfr@dds.nl
- Also on the 9th May 60 people occupied Geneva's City Bank reception office to draw attention to the Bank's links to 'Plan Colombia'
- ★ Primate Products, an HLS monkey and equipment supplier, had its web site hacked by US ALFers. Pages were completely changed to show the horrific suffering that the HLS primates endure
- ★ Pensioner's blockaded the Tyne Bridge in May protesting lack of provision for the elderly. Their protest was greeted with hoots of support from delayed drivers
- ★ Polish secret police forced the mayor of Krynki to shut down a multi-cultural festival being held as part of a no-borders camp after initial permission was granted
- ★ The death toll of hunger strikers protesting inhumane isolation cells in Turkish prisons has reached 47. The Campaign For Human Rights In Turkey 020 7275 8440 www.daymer.org/humanr

Tresspassing peat

On May 26th a mass trespass took place on Thorne and Hatfield moors, Yorkshire, near Doncaster to coincide with the start of the peat-cutting season. Thorne and Hatfield are the largest remaining areas of raised peat mire in the UK - Hatfield will be gone in 3 years if extraction continues at the current rate.

After a friendly pub lunch a procession set off to the peat works. Messages from the people of Thorne and the surrounding area, who are well aware of the damage to their moors, had been collected on cards, placards and balloons. Some messages were handed to a poker-faced security guard. Around 50 people entered the plant, past the guard and 4/5 bumbling police officers. They had a good look round the vast site and buildings, they conga'd through the piles of compost bags and ceilidhed alongside the railway line. Work was stopped for the afternoon and there were no arrests.

Other actions happening all summer. Leeds EF! 0113 262 9365 leedsef@ukf.net

Close Campsfield

A 'No Borders Close Campsfield' site was set up in a field behind Campsfield Detention Centre, Oxfordshire. For 3½ weeks in June, people camped out to make a stand against racist immigration policies. Campsfield House, built like a prison and run by Group 4, has been open for 7½ years and imprisons up to 200 people behind reinforced welded fences and razor wire. Many of those detained are political refugees. Actions included an incursion into the neighbouring prison complex, a brief roof occupation and redecoration of inside walls with 'Freedom' and 'Close Down Campsfield'. Contact was made with those inside as well as visitors to the detention centre. Police raided the camp looking for spray cans and bolt croppers and arrests were made for obstructing Group 4 shift changes. 0781 355 2570.

Fire sparks Protest

Early on May 14th, exasperated residents and incinerator protesters chained themselves to the gates of the controversial Byker Incinerator, Newcastle. One local 75 year 'chaine' said, "We are desperate. Our complaints have been ignored for over 20 years!" After several serious fires at the plant involving waste containing heavy metals and cancer causing dioxins, the authorities have failed to close the plant, review work practices or test the area for

dioxins following. The blockade continued for 4 hours, and more surprise actions will occur in the future. 0191 265 5241.

Aldermaston



The Trident Ploughshares disarmament week, May 10-15th, attracted over 100 activists to camp on MOD land. On May 11th, 12 keen cyclists set off from Bristol and completed a 70 mile route to attend the camp at Aldermaston in Berkshire, delivering leaflets and attracting media attention on the way. At night decoy parties distracted the guards while whole lengths of perimeter fence were snipped away, pixies danced on top of sentry post and sang protest songs, and football was played in a maximum-security area. During a blockade on May 14th, Thames Valley police used some very rough treatment on the most gentle and non-violent protesters and even arrested legal observers. In all a very upbeat camp with lots of new contacts and a growing commitment to taking action against this appalling site. Total arrests for the week: 65. Contact TP2000, 01324 880744.

Okasional Café Closes

After two months of hectic occupation, the 8th OKasional Cafe in Manchester has now closed. It's been a hotbed of activity, including a visit to court in May where a judge ruled that the licensees of the building had no legal right to occupation and threw the case out of court though not before awarding the café £150. Other activities were numerous: art, drama, poetry, capoeira workshops, music & political workshops, taco & open mic nights, bands, cabaret, cult & political film evenings, meetings and a visit from the New York Surveillance Camera Players, a Flash Gordon disco and various benefits for asylum seekers, the Nine Ladies protest camp and Australian forest campaigns. It's also seen its fair share of Wo/Men behaving badly, and as a result, the squatters have decided to rest up. It will re-open in the future, having metamorphosed into something different - watch this space for further details, or call 07753-606723.

Crystal Palace Victory

Plans for a monstrous 18 screen cinema on the highest spot in South London, a beautiful green open space, lie in ruins. Negotiations between Bromley Council (BC) and London & Regional Properties (LRP) failed when the lease was not completed after 4½ yrs of furious opposition. Numerous legal actions by residents and the occupation of the site by protestors held things up and cost BC over £13m on legal costs, evictions and 24 hour security. Although planning permission exists until March 2002, a patching up of differences between BC and LRP, or interest by new developers is very unlikely to happen after the amount of hassle the development has received. Campaigners are hoping that the fences will soon come down after the land has been safety assessed. Then jubilation and much rejoicing! Source Allsorts.

Rising Tide update

The Rising Tide Tour ended with a rousing night in Oxford on June 9th.

Many groups around the country will be part of the local climate action week, called for July 14-21st, to coincide with the next big climate trade talks in Bonn, COP6.5. There will also be a mobilisation in Bonn, but with a growing feeling among Rising Tide UK people, many would rather make an impact where they live. Travelling to internationally networked activist events is a luxury that not everyone can afford. Solutions to this escalating crisis will be found by us, not by vast self-interested bureaucracies. To join a moderated climate action info list risingtidenews@yahoogroups.com, contact 01865 241097 16b Cherwell St Oxford OX1 1BG info@risingtide.org.uk, www.risingtide.org.uk

Small is Beautiful

On 13th March, in the midst of the foot and mouth crisis and the wider global crisis in agriculture, environmental activists and small farmers held a meeting in Oxford to explore common ground for action. One of the key issues facing small farmers in their fight for survival is blatant exploitation by supermarkets; its no wonder that they cut environmental and health corners when they are paid less for their crops and animals than it costs them to produce. Stickers and leaflets are available for actions on supermarkets to highlight this issue to the 80% of people that do their weekly shop in a supermarket. Contact Corporate Watch 01865 791391 for leaflets and more info and meanwhile support local farmers!

Aggro Grief Mayhem

a round-up of shareholder actions

BAE Systems

About 50 CAAT (Campaign Against The Arms Trade) activists protested inside & outside the QE2 Conference centre in Central London against BAE Systems Annual General Meeting. A group of 10 activists blockaded the entrance and when the private security guards couldn't move them or shut them up, they had to open an alternative entrance. The activists were not chucked out & so were able to get into the main hall. They managed to bring the meeting to a standstill by tying themselves together & chanting "British Aerospace Deals in Death" very loudly until they were forcibly ejected by the heavy handed security guards. Contact CAAT :0207 281 0297. caat@caat.demon.co.uk or Manchester EF! 0161 226 6814.

Premier Oil

On the 16th May a group of 15 activists from the Burma Campaign and the Free Burma Coalition attended the meeting of Premier Oil as shareholders. 70% of the meeting was taken up with targeted questions about why Premier Oil is in Burma and, by association, complicit with human rights abuses and slavery on an horrific and massive scale. Serious ongoing pressure is needed as an intervention to target Premier Oil – a sick union of greed, pollution and 'plausible' propoganda. Any ideas? Free Burma Coalition, 110a Rectory Road, Stoke Newington, N16 7SD, 07931 753138 aung.freeburmacampaign@breezemail.net.

Balfour Beatty

Kurdish shareholders protested at Balfour Beatty's AGM in May against the planned Ilisu dam which will flood the ancient city of Hasankeyf and leave 72,000 homeless. The Friends of the Earth motion that they adopt guidelines from the World Commission on Dams was rejected. BB's Chair whinged "if we had known how controversial this project would be we could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble by not taking part in it." www.ilisu.org.uk

You only need 1 share in a company to attend its AGM. Tactics can range from total disruption to dressing smart and asking tons of awkward questions. More info and ideas

www.corporatewatch.org.uk/magazine/issue7/cw7diytool.html

Diary Dates...

July

1st 'The Freedom To Be Yourself' naked protest wherever you are at 2pm www.geocities.com/thehumanmind
4th Menwith Hill, Independence from USA day 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk
4th Sheffield Refugee and asylum seekers co-op meeting 6pm 0773 006873
5th-12th 2nd Int. anti-border camp PO box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, Poland 0048 (0) 603 247 245 roshak@go2.pl
7th National march for recognition of British Sign Language), University of London Malet Street, WC1, meet 12pm jenkd@tinyworld.co.uk fax 020 8340 3229 www.fdp.org.uk
7th Anti-Big Brother demo 12pm Chamberlain Square B'ham city centre
7-15th 'Megafestatie' youth-fair Netherlands, actions against military propaganda machine, +31 6 23555247, onkruit@yahoo.com www.antenna.nl/nvda/onkruit

13-16th youth/student peace camp 020 7607 3616 youth_cnd@hotmail.com

13-20th No Pasaran! Gathering, southern France manu@iloveengland.co.uk

14-22nd Foot & Mouth Festival Edinburgh, following last years 'Reshape Urban Space' event (see www.reshape.org.uk) 8 days of radical events info@mouthoff.org.uk

www.mouthoff.org.uk

15th until August int. env. action camp in Votkinsk, Russia P.O.Box 52, Kasimov, 391330, Russia Tel. +7 (09131) 4-15-14 rk@lavrik.ryazan.ru www.chat.ru/~rk2000

16-27th COP6 ½ climate change talks Bonn risingtide@yahoogroups.com

20-23rd G8 meeting in Genoa

21st Brum Genoa action meet 1pm McD's Corporation St. 07980 415577

s26brum@hotmail.com

27-11th Aug Coulport disarmament camp 01324 562719 tp2000@gn.apc.org

August

1st-5th EF! Summer Gathering (Wayhey!) summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

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

31-3 Sept. conf. on building permanent autonomous zones, USA

www.infoshop.org/paz/index

September

11-14th DSEi Arms Fair, London Docklands 07811 636263

disarm@hushmail.com

October

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

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

22nd Faslane Blockade 0141 423 1222

November

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

Anarchist travelling circus continued from front page

Diners were entertained by music, the police hooligan van (can rise 15 feet above the crowd, with mounted CCTV) and street theatre, which gave the police a scare when a white-clad group entered the square ("back up, back up; kkkrrch; cancel that sarge, it's street theatre").

To work off some of the food, merry pranksters headed off to banks, supermarkets, bookshops, train stations, coffee shops and fast food merchants, with further uncontrolled outbreaks of street theatre and music. In one bank, blood was spilled, filling up the metal trays under each window so stopping any transactions; in others cash machines got out of order stickers slapped on before the mounted police arrived to drive away any remaining public. GM food defrosted in trolleys sprouting banners and leaflets, Burma leaflets got inserted into holiday guides, and train ticket counters got besieged by people with 90% for 90% cards claiming their discount (others had travelled to Manchester in the morning with 90% cards). While Nestle cafes were entered, Megabucks had free drinks and cakes outside, and a rival free veggie burger stall called NotDonalds did a roaring trade. Everyone got free propaganda, while some young rascals pushing their way to the front and threatening the NotDonalds staff additionally got treated to a 'scally hot burger mix'.

Now obviously these threats to the very fabric of democracy had gone too far, and with a Critical Mass bike ride threatening to end car culture as we know it, the police had had enough – it was time to protect the system with their complex strategy of the last few years – crack heads & contain.

After they forgot the route they'd imposed on cyclists, they decided it was a much better ruse to pull people off their bikes, threaten, arrest & then de-arrest after taking people's details, and contain any remaining cyclists for two hours.

The State Funeral, narrowly avoiding containment through negotiating its way to the intended final destination, moved off at a funereal pace. To the beat of a drum and a New Orleans-style jazz band, the pallbearers followed the 4 horses of the Eco-pocalypse and a 12-foot grim reaper, behind a "Call this Apathy?" banner, to destination BBC. Here, the last will and testament of the state was read out, after which a mighteous samba wake was held, before revellers went to dine in a nearby park. Two arrests (for unlicensed blood in bottles after a Section 60 search, and one woman who unmasked more than the police had intended), and not a line of press coverage (despite much press work having been done) rounded off a good day.

More info: www.x21.org/uninvited or 0161-226 6814

Norwich Election

On Election Day in Norwich an unauthorised street-stall appeared in the city centre. People handed out thousands of leaflets proclaiming their reasons for not voting and why the future looks bright without government. Free tea and coffee was also given away for the whole afternoon. Later on a group of ten cyclists did a crawl of half a dozen polling stations in a final attempt to persuade voters not to waste their time with party politics. They were met with curiosity from voters and aggression from party volunteers. The day's events were organised through Norwich Direct Action Forum. 07944 874 393

International Genetics USA...

On May 16th, 2001 anti-biotech direct actionists destroyed transgenic strawberry, tomato, and onion plants at a DNA Plant Technology research facility in California, USA. The gardeners removed an acre of the enormous, leathery Frankenplants to a short new life- in plastic bags full of bleach to prevent any possibility of survival and replanting.

DNA Plant Technology Holdings was recently acquired by ELM, a multinational bioengineering corporation that also owns Seminis Vegetable Seeds, the largest distributor of fruit and vegetable seeds in the world. DNAP is currently growing more than 15,000 acres of genetically engineered field crops in Mexico and the US, mostly without the public's knowledge.

Since November 1998 there have been over 40 anti-genetic direct actions in North America. GenetiX Alert is an independent news centre that works with other above-ground, anti-genetic engineering organisations. An archive of anti-biotech direct actions can be found at <http://tao.ca/~ban/ar.htm> Contact genetixalert@tao.ca

Belgium..

Three "experimental" trials of PGS-Aventis oilseed rape crops were destroyed on the night of May 26th. One contained "Liberty Link" and "SeedLink" varieties and was located in the district of Velzeke, Eastern Flanders. The other field in the surroundings of Ghent included two plots of approximately 5x15m as well as two mini-plots. www.antenna.nl/nvda/groenfront/lists/ or groenfr@dds.nl



EF! Summer Gathering 2001

August 1st - 5th Peak District



It's that time of year again! Preparations for the Summer Gathering are well under way but there are still some things we need some help with :-

1. General 'site-tat' co-ordinator/s for sinks, fire-points, lanterns etc. Stuff is usually offered so it's a matter of getting it, keeping lists and hunting down other stuff.
2. Healing space co-ordinator/s for something like a chill-out/meditation

- and/or healing/massage space with for example people offering healing sessions or healers who've come along specifically.
3. Workshop spaces eg dome, marquee, yurt etc to fit min. 12 people seated. Help with transport costs possible.
4. Wood burners; kids books esp. natural history to loan the library; sturdy wine crates for shelving; healing skills; British Sign and other language skills; 'partners' for new people or those needing extra

support.

5. Participants in a work weekend on July 8-9th.

Finally

If you have special needs please get in touch. If you really can't leave your dog, tell us as we've made arrangements due to F&M. If you haven't had email updates for a while, let us know or have web access try www.eco-action.org/gathering

Maps and directions to the gathering will be sent out about 10 days before the gathering. If you would like one send an SAE to Summer Gathering, PO Box 487, Norwich, NR2 2SG

Tel: 0845 458 9595 E-mail: summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

Resources

ELP request

In support of our friends who are locked up, there will be an Earth Liberation Prisoners journal available by the time of the EF! Summer Gathering. This will include a range of articles on or by prisoners, about prisoner support in general and prison solidarity etc. If anyone has something to contribute then please email earthlibprisoner@mail.com ASAP, or write to the Leeds ELP address Spirit of Freedom (ELP) c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds, LS7 3HB.

Prague Video

Crowd Bites Wolf, a commemoration of last September's protests in Prague, produced by a collective called Guerillavision, celebrates anarchist attacks on police lines. Costs £6 inc postage, available from SchNEWS PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX.

Resources for night time gardeners

GeneWatch UK has produced a new document analysing the 152 GM test sites currently planted in open fields in the UK which are mainly Government funded and being carried out by the three big life science companies, Aventis, Monsanto and Syngenta. Contact GeneWatch UK, The Mill House, Manchester Rd. Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8LN 01298 871898, mail@genewatch.org, www.genewatch.org

Eviction Alert at Nine Ladies

The Nine Ladies protest camp is on eviction alert. The site crew are looking for more people to join them to strengthen the defences. People are asked to bring timber, polypropelene, rope, tarpaulins, vegan food(cans and non-perishable) but most importantly 'you and your interest' You can reach the site by Trans Peak bus from Manchester, Derby or Nottingham to the Peacock Hotel in Rowsley. Ask for directions from there. Contact: 07974 049369/ 07799 528873. <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies/>

Help wanted

Construction giant Laing, is trying to cut down a dozen mature Lime trees on the Holly Street estate redevelopment site in Hackney, London. Help is needed, RTS 020 7281 4621

Random Questions from the AU Collective

- 1) Has anyone seen the large white on black Earth First with fist banner, often seen at national festivals and events?
 - 2) Do you have any ideas for feature articles, these can be about a campaign, activist briefings or special reports meriting extra coverage
- Please let us know, our contact details are on the back cover.

Upcoming

Shut Down DSEi 2001

September 11 -14th. UK Arms Fair, London Docklands. Mass blockades, protests and fun. Plenty of opportunity to form affinity groups plan autonomous actions. Contact Disarm Collective c/o PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY 07811 636263 disarm@hushmail.com,

TP2000 Summer Disarmament Camp

Peaton Wood, Couplport (38 Miles from Glasgow) from 27th July to 11th August. These 2 weeks are a big focus point of the Trident Ploughshares campaign with lots of direct disarmament work at the Faslane and Couplport bases. It's also a time for workshops, meeting new people, renewing the vision and good fun. Contact davidmc@enterprise.net

Foot & Mouth Festival

Edinburgh 2001 14th - 22nd July. Creating infinite possibilities. Following on from last years, highly successful, 'Reshape Urban Space' event (www.reshape.org.uk) Edinburgh is to host 8 days of radical events and invites you to come and take part. The name comes from the idea that we will 'foot it around Edinburgh' in a street party on July 14th then 'mouth off' about it at Studio 24 the following weekend. The events are organised by different groups who are working closely together. F & M collectives www.mouthoff.org.uk info@mouthoff.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 proiritises listing new eco-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Helen John and Anne Lee both at HMP Low Newton, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5SD, 3 and 2 months respectively for fence cutting at Menworth Hill Spy Base, please write separately.
Dave Blenkinsop HMP Bedford, St Loyes St, Bedford, MK40 1HG, on remanded for allegedly assaulting Managing Director of Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Address changes

Garfield Gabbard Political Prisoner (write this at his request as it annoys the screws), FT9062, HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB, on remand expecting 7 yrs for allegedly setting fire to a police van at N30 Euston event 1999.

Europe

Eduardo García Macías Modulo 4, CP: Madrid V Soto del Real, 28791 Soto del Real, Madrid, Spain, Spanish anarchist prisoner

from Prague
USA

Javier Ignacio Perez #6859581, Century Regional Detention Center, 11705, Alameda, Lynwood, CA 90262, USA, on remand from Mayday 2001, facing felony charges.

Robert Middaugh (the prison may have his name spelled wrong [Middaugh]) #6859467, Men's Central Jail, 450 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA, on remand from Mayday 2001, charged with assault by deadly weapon

Address changes

Robert Thaxton

#12112716, OSP, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310, USA, 7 yrs June 18th prisoner.

Jeremiah Rush Bowen

#108016, DCC, 1140 E 10th Street, Delta, CO 81416, USA, serving 2 yrs for arson of a townhouse.

Standing Deer, AIM

activist, known to authorities as Robert H. Wilson 640289, Estelle Prison, 264 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77320-3322, USA. In 1978 he exposed a government plot to assassinate Leonard

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

Women Speak Out

From 8th-10th June the fourth Women Speak Out (WSO) gathering took place in sunny Brighton. Despite a last minute change of venue when the original squat was lost on Friday night everything came together and a great weekend was had. WSO is about bringing together women from different strands of the direct action movement to laugh, share, inspire and do it ourselves. Instead of looking for one article for the AU about the gathering quotes and comments were collected from women over the weekend about WSO, direct action and what inspires them.

"I leave Women speak out Gathering feeling energised, relaxed, powerful and magical, and not alone in thoughts, feelings and attitudes which are quite often just my own in mixed, not specifically women based environments. Not directly because of men, but because of how we interact when we gather as a group of women simply because we want to. It's honest, we do a lot of laughing.

Spending time exclusively with women helps me connect with and love men, children, animals, trees, myself – the whole thing, much more fully. It keeps me real, and we all need to do more of keeping it real....."

"I think that "misogyny is the lifeblood of Capitalism". That keeping women separate, emotionally and physically is vital to the system. I get a feeling of instant acceptance at WSO, of not being alien.

It's a vital tool to preventing burn out, as I find people here able and willing to talk about their emotions, positive and vegetative. I find it un-hysterical, very down to earth and real in the way we speak about politics and action, compared to mixed gatherings there seems a lot less competitive and a lot less judging of who's 'full on' or 'part time'. I come away feeling connected and part of some thing that's nurturing, people who see the human being first and the activist second."

"I went to a wombles workshop yesterday it was wicked because it seems like there are quite a lot of women in the wombles and it's just not

the situation in RTS or loads of things where its like mainly geezers and the odd smattering of women.

The thing that was really good about it was it was just something you could do, like at this moment when I've been feeling a bit disempowered with waving

and go on demos and do exactly what they did, shit ourselves and think we're going to get arrested for being public enemy no.1 but actually not get arrested at all and have a really good time'. That's the wombles!"

"I like women speak out" (K. age 5)

What do you find inspiring about women only space?

"That we can have it"

"Not because there aren't geezers here, but because the women are so fantastic"

"It's not cliquy"

It's seems easier just to talk to anyone than mixed gatherings can be, a lot more relaxed"

"Yeh, but some women only gatherings can be very cliquy WSO isn't like that"

"It's been organised by a different group every time, an idea that's been passed round, It's been in Brighton, Bristol, twice in London each time with a different group of women but the same idea threading it together"

"Women do it all themselves, they find a venue.... it's so empowering to come to a place where everything's just been sorted by women without getting a bloke to sort it out for them"

"Women Speak out just isn't like any other gathering or politic space I go to. I find it hard to describe exactly what is different – the whole atmosphere is just incredibly comfortable, a real sense of belonging. I'm very glad women are still getting together, talking, sharing, spreading ideas and inspiration. Feminism is alive and kicking!"



placards or whatever. Wombles is a simple effective way of getting out of situations. You can just barge past them and they can't really do anything about it because they are the ones hitting you. It's wicked, you don't really need any training or nothing and anything that's empowering like that has to be good. It made me go 'yeah I want to have my own little wombles group of my mates

WSO Newsletter to be launched

This is to be a bi-monthly publication, and content will include a multitude of feminist/anarchist/environmental/general activist stuff, produced and collated by women. Contributions are so welcome, but keep 'em short (max 300 words) cos we're only doing four A4 pages at the moment. The deadline for articles, graphics, subverts and listings is strictly Saturday 14th July (next deadline is September 14th). Backlash? Yeah, whatever & hellip. wsonewsletter@bigfoot.com Box 35, c/o Green Leaf Bookshop, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB Tel: 0785 588 2385.

We hope to include the first issue with next months Action Update and to have copies at the EF! Summer Gathering

Action Groups

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

Birmingham Radical Action Network, 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
grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

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 June 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@gurmail.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
doorrdtp@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
actionagainstthetollmotorway@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.

Spoof Tubes

On June 5th, early morning Tube riders were informed of 'a new initiative' by London Underground management when dozens of trains left overnight depots across London redecorated with LU style 'Business Class' and 'Cattle Class' posters segregating the carriages. To explain the new service thousands of 'official' leaflets were distributed to passengers. The leaflets announced a 'new quality service for valued customers' under the proposed Public Private Partnership deal; Business Class carriages with luxurious seating plus, for full convenience, separation from the Cattle Class carriages, which, to subsidise the new service, will be stripped of their seats to cut costs and enable easier hosing down. This, the leaflet went on to say, will help further discourage 'the unwashed' from 'talking to each other' which could lead to them 'demanding an unprofitably safe service'. Leaflet available on www.new-tube.co.uk. Contact RTS 020 7281 4621.

Nigeria calling

Currently working with EF! Czech and PGA, ERI EF! Nigeria is seeking other European groups for info sharing/support/resources etc. ERI EF! Nigeria has taken actions in defence of human rights, environmental protection, community development and struggle against economic and social injustice including the Niger-Delta. Recently ERI initiated and currently runs Earth First! Nigeria, a network of non-violent direct action activists, and held a conference on April 21st which covered a common resistance against WTO, WB, IMF etc. This event will be pasted on a web site under construction by the Wired Brigade Crew. Contact ERI (Environmental Rescue International), EF! Nigeria, 234 52

Contact

EF!AU, PO Box 487
Norwich, NR2 3AL

★ us! ★

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

254529, 20 Dawson Rd, By Forestry Junction, Benin City, Nigeria, Africa
environmentalrescue@yahoo.co.uk,
envirc@usa.net

McLibel update

McLibel Defendant Dave Morris and son Charlie are threatened with eviction which may leave them in B&B and their belongings, including the McLibel office, in storage. But he and local residents have fought back. On May 22nd about 60 people turned up to defend the house, play drums and generally have a good time (especially the kids with the water balloons). About 20 bailiffs, council officials and police arrived to find the party in full swing and wandered around aimlessly trying to work out what to do. The chief of police finally withdrew everyone from the scene and assured Dave there would be no eviction that day. It was a magnificent victory but they could be back any time with no warning. See www.mcspotlight.org.

Muckdollars Bangor

On June 9th about 30 people including farmers, Welsh language campaigners, FOE and EF!ers had a great demo outside McDonalds in Bangor, much to the annoyance of the manager! Customers were leafleted, music played, Welsh cakes given away and some rousing speeches were heard. There was a large but passive police presence and activists maintained the space right outside the store. Funky bilingual banners much in evidence. The demo was not only anti-McDonalds but

proactively in favour of local production as the alternative. Supermarkets next! Contact Gwynedd and Mon EF! 01248 255 821.

GAP

June 1st saw a Gap store opening in Aberdeen's city centre. Quick to action, Grampian EF! held protests at the store on its first 2 days of business. The second of these protests, culminating in a sit-in inside the store itself, proved very successful. The sales assistants were sent into a panic whilst a group of customers immediately formed around those sitting down, eager to find out what was going on. Leaflets were distributed and a louder hailer informed customers of Gap's use of sweatshops. Having been called by staff, the police eventually appeared. Leaving the store, campaigners continued the protest out side. Contact Grampian EF! PO Box 248, Aberdeen, AB25 1JE.

Bomb spotting III

On Easter Monday a mass direct action took place at weapons base Kleine Brogel, Belgium which holds 10 US nuclear weapons. A large section of the fence was removed and 850 activists trespassed into the base. 150 were arrested before reaching the runway but many escaped to join in the fun. There were several injuries from police horses and dogs as hundreds were later arrested and some were forced to stand for hours in temporary razor-wire pens and dangerously overcrowded buildings. Contact international@motherearth.org, www.motherearth.org

This issue of the AU is dedicated to Old Mick, whose funeral took place at the beginning of June. Many will remember Mick from decades on the London squatting scene and the M11. To a lifetime of never compromising. Respect.

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

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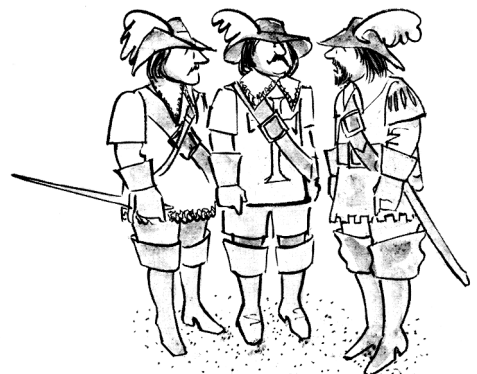
Name: _____

Address: _____

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"I just think we'd be a better fighting unit if it didn't take us two hours to get dressed."