

Earth First!

Action Update

July/August 2001

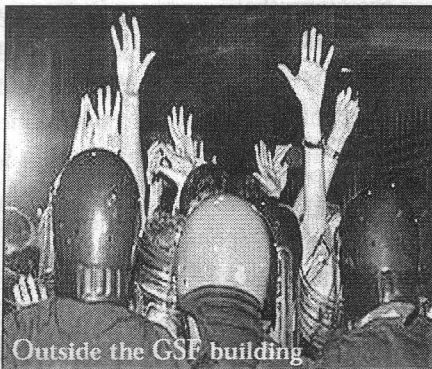
Issue 77

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

"Lightning bolts broke to the front and then closer, to the right and left, 10 000 volts dropping along an ionizing path at 800km per hour" E.O. Wilson

Seven days in Italy

From July 21st-23rd leaders of the world's 7 most economically powerful countries and Russia met in the Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy at a cost of \$200m (£140m). With the G7/8 summit fortified within the now infamous Zona Rossa (red zone), surrounded by 12ft high steel barriers rooted in concrete and guarded by 20 000 police, more than 100 000 of the 'uninvited' gathered outside. While about 3/4 of the Genovese population had left town, those opposing the summit arrived in droves utilising parks, car parks and the beach to converge and make plans. The Genoa Social Forum (GSF), a loose coalition that had sparked the mobilisation hosted a vast festival like counter conference on the beach with talks workshops and music. We've tried to sketch a brief picture of what happened in Genoa, but reports were numerous sometimes contradictory, www.indymedia.org has more.



Outside the GSF building

after demonstrators are denied permission to march to a prohibited area. Windows are smashed, banks targeted and an attack made on the perimeter fence. The police respond with tear gas, water cannons, batons and at one point live fire. A young man is shot dead then run over by a police jeep.

Saturday 21st 20 000 attend a labour march and cycle along the seafront. Riots continue; banks, commercial buildings and cars are totalled and a petrol station is ransacked. Several attacks are made on the steel fence. The police continue to crack heads. One detained man states that he was taken into a room covered with pictures of Mussolini and pornography and alternately slapped around and then stroked with affection in a weird form of psychological torture. **Sunday 22nd** More riots. Then at 0120hrs Monday hundreds of police storm 2 schools, one hosting the independent Media Centre (IMC) and one used by the GSF for non-violent direct action training, allegedly looking for weapons - none are found. People are lined up, have their IDs taken, then are systematically beaten. At least 35 people are hospitalised and eyewitnesses report pools of blood inside and outside the buildings. Several people are transferred direct to jail from hospital against the wishes of doctors.

During the summit at least 500 people

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.

were injured (probably around 1:2 Police to protesters) and scores were arrested. Afterwards Canadian premier, Jean Chrétien, announced the next G7/8 meeting will be in Kananaskis, a remote Alberta mountain resort that will be relatively easy to defend, unlike Genoa.

Papuan protestors shot

During protests against the World Bank and IMF held on June 26th in Waigana, Papua New Guinea the police shot dead 3 and wounded 17 protestors. This followed a 5-day peaceful sit-in outside the Prime Ministers office where up to 3000 people gathered opposing the privatisation of public utilities. Police waited until numbers had dwindled to around several hundred and then used batons, tear gas and automatic weapons. With the news of the shooting people took to the streets but were also met with violence from the police. Protests against the World Bank and IMF have been staged by many different groups throughout PNG including the army. Earlier this year soldiers at the Murray barracks seized weapons and demanded that the WB & IMF leave their country. Source: ELP

50p where sold

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...

★ A new bulletin, DESIST, has been produced to expose and ridicule the Leninist front group Globalise Resistance available online in PDF format from www.afed.org.uk

★ A controversial Orange phone mast at Port Glasgow, Inverclyde was sabotaged in July causing £25,000 damage Source Ceefax

★ Check out www.animalfeed.org.uk a new website about GM animal feed, where it's entering the food chain, news items action updates, addresses and action ideas

★ US ELF and ALF. Activists targeted Bank of New York buildings on Long Island in June gluing locks and ATM machines spray painted slogans and smashing over 25 windows. In the Detroit area a newly built McDonald's was vandalised in June, two plateglass windows, a drive-thru window and the drive-thru order unit were destroyed; Eight Ford Expeditions were torched at Roy O'Brien Ford in June; An executive office of Weyerhaeuser Co. was torched July 4th

★ 800 people from Bohemia, Moravia Slovakia, Germany and the United States took part in the 3rd Street Party in Brno, Czech Rep. on June 2nd www.csaf.cz/english

★ Need to 'communicate' with an MP? www.faxyourmp.com lets you and finds your MP by postcode if you don't know which useless duffer you've got. e-mail (surname)(1st initial)@parliament.uk eg. strawj@parliament.uk should work too

★ Six activists from 'we are basta!' occupied the top of Freiburg cathedral on June 11th one day before the French-German summit there. Their banner read "no EURO for war and displacement in Colombia"

★ The protest against Countryside Residential in Hockley continues in cyberspace. The campaign and evictions have cost Countryside £3 million and they've been forced to sell some land to get money back. www.plumberow.org.uk

★ A company says it is developing a cat genetically modified not to cause allergies. The GM cat is set to be produced by 2003 according to Transgenic Pets of New York.

★ Proposed changes to planning law may make it harder to object to things such as motorways, airports and nuclear power stations. The Campaign for Planning Sanity has promised: "We will fight these proposals at the ballot box, in the courts, on the streets and in the trees and tunnels." 0161-959 0999, www.onlincam.freeseerve.co.uk

★ Wearing masks and making obscene gestures at police cameras, about 100 people protested a new security system that scans faces in Tampa, Florida on July 15th

★ On June 10th activists destroyed thousands of Round-up ready peas at Seminis research centre, Idaho, USA

FSTs destroyed

The Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) has received reports that six Government Farm Scale Trials (FSTs) of genetically modified crops have been destroyed or substantially damaged. The trials are:- Wivenhoe, Essex (one of two maize trials in Wivenhoe) - 70% deliberately destroyed; Broadway, Dorset (maize) - 60% deliberately destroyed; Winterbourne Monkton, Dorset (oilseed rape) - 65% deliberately destroyed; Atherstone on Stour, Warwickshire (oilseed rape) - 100% destroyed, possibly in error by incorrect application of herbicide; Hutton Magna, Durham, (oilseed rape) - 30% deliberately destroyed; Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire, (maize) - 50% deliberately destroyed.

A communiqué from the group that destroyed the Wivenhoe GM maize crop stated "The GM Farm Scale Trials are not genuine environmental assessments. They are a means of spreading irreversible genetic contamination in the countryside, a cynical attempt to reduce public opposition to the proposed commercial growing of GM in Britain. The "scientists" who take part in these biased and dangerous "evaluations" should be ashamed of themselves."

GEN 020 76900626 genetics@gn.apc.org

GM free Wales

A public rally turned trashing on July 14th. 150-200 people gathered at the Aventis T25 fodder maize trial at Brick Hurst Farm, Sealand, Flintshire, the only remaining GM crop trial in Wales. Despite a large police presence and a force helicopter around 40 people jumped barriers to get into the field and began pulling up the crop. Six people were arrested and a man filming for undercurrents needed hospital treatment after security guards threw him over a fence. Anyone who witnessed this and is willing to help him in his case against Aventis is asked to contact beanfluff@hotmail.com

Lincolnshire nightlife

Two women spent five hours on July 2nd damaging a farm scale trial of genetically modified spring oil seed rape at Low Burnham, Lincolnshire (grid ref SE 776 018). The crop had been due to flower. The next morning members of the press visited the site and talked with one of them. There is strong local opposition to the site, locals had previously tried to stop the planting of the GM seed, but failed. On July 5th one of the women delivered the destroyed crop to the Department of

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and explained her actions in a face-to-face meeting with Environment Minister Michael Meacher.

John Innes barley

On June 21st the Eastern Daily Press reported that trespassers had caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to GM barley being grown at the John Innes Centre at Colney, near Norwich. They stated that the crop was small and had been deliberately targeted. A chain link fence had been cut to access the crop. This may have set back the trial by a year.

Wivenhoe carnival

100 people gathered for a 'carnival against the crop' at Sunnymead Farm, Wivenhoe, Essex on June 30th. Six people were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage after entering one of the two maize trial fields on the farm. They were later bailed without charge. There has been determined and inspiring local opposition to GE in Wivenhoe. Just three days earlier, on June 27th, Six women and five men were acquitted at Harwich magistrates on a technicality, after damaging a 4 hectare Aventis maize crop on the same farm in June last year.

Dorset court victory

On June 12th charges of aggravated trespass against seven people who invaded a 33-acre Aventis GM maize field were dropped after Weymouth magistrates found no case to answer. Key to this decision seems to have been the absence at the time of anyone to be 'aggravated' by their 'trespassing'. About a third of the crop was destroyed when around 100 people invaded the site at Tolbridge Farm, near Sherborne, Dorset on July 16th last year. The lively demonstration, which involved people dressed as grim reapers and in white overalls, had been watched by police surveillance cameras.

After leaving court the seven held a press conference at the nearest GM site. With no police presence and the defendants looking on, locals expressed their solidarity by entering the field and starting to pull the crop.

NSL trials totalled

Last month we reported 9 of 13 National Seed List trials of Aventis' winter oil seed rape had either failed or been destroyed. We're pleased to report that Bramham W. Yorks and Melbourn, Cambridgeshire have also been taken out. This leaves just 2 in Scotland, in Midlothian (NT 248 650) and Aberdeenshire (NJ 909 232). For an updated list of test sites and their status www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites

Billy no mates or The loneliness of the lone local activist

Many of us have had the experience. We'd love to do some serious revolutionary rabble rousing or secret subversive stuff in our hometowns – if only we could find others to do it with. This is actually a long overdue write up of a workshop that happened at the 1999 EF! Summer gathering in Suffolk entitled 'getting groups together'. The aim was to come up with some practical suggestions of activities that could set you on the path to a viable local group. It was aimed at individuals, with maybe one or two 'up for it' mates, who were feeling thwarted by a lack of comrades. Some discussion was given to different ways of organising (affinity groups, collectives, open groups etc.), but it was felt those ideas were mainly useful at the point you'd actually found some people to work with. Having said that it was also noted that having clear ideas about how you wanted to organise for what can help enthuse and inspire those you meet (there are a lot of folk who'd like to do something but aren't sure what).

- ♣ If you can't organise, agitate. Stickers, flyposters, Graffiti, the materials are cheap and a couple of people can make their area look like somewhere rife with exciting radical ideas. A simple info, with publications and leaflets from other groups, can be taken to local events, or just set it up in the high street. This offers the chance to get talking to people too. Distribute publications like the Action Update. Having set the scene, and possibly found a couple of new friends, consider organising a public video showing or speaker on something that inspires you, advertise it well and make sure there's space for drinks and chats afterwards.
- ♣ Advertise an action – something accessible that people can just turn up on like a critical mass or MacDonalds picket. Again, the point about adequate advertising was made (posters and leaflets in the 100's not the 10's) and remember that you'll need to be responsible for sorting out the equipment (leaflets, banners, bust cards etc.)
- ♣ Some actions don't need many people; subvertising; picketing supermarkets for example. Some pixieing actions can be done alone. It might not seem as exciting as 100's of people on the street but it is possible for 2/3 people to take action.
- ♣ Get involved with other local stuff – Is there really nothing happening where you live or just not quite what you want to do? If it's the latter be prepared to go alone and work with other groups such as hunt sabs, claimants groups, resource centres etc. Forming working relationships with other politically active people gives the chance to find common ground. They might be up for your stuff too. A lot of the more liberal groups have the odd dissenting member up for something more radical. It may be worth attending the odd meeting and see if you can get chatting.
- ♣ Keep in touch with the national scene. It can be easier to get friends to join you on an action organised elsewhere than start something local. Taking action together can be an important first step. Go to EF! Gatherings, for ideas and inspiration. There are usually regional forums at the EF! Summer Gathering, make sure you go, there maybe others local to you after all.
- ♣ Keep your heart in it. It can get frustrating. Getting the AU and keeping in touch with what's happening elsewhere staves off isolation. Reading about radical ideas and history can help you focus on what you're wanting to achieve and provide inspiration. Avoid becoming an embittered cynic who moans incessantly about no one being prepared to do anything productive.

Obviously there are no easy answers. Eventually finding a group may well seem quite accidental. You somehow discover there is a 16 strong revolutionary cell 3 streets down from you and one of them used to date your flatmate – or maybe that's just Norwich. Also apologies too for the urban bias of this article, it reflects the experience of those involved. And best of luck

BLINC, The Blatant Incitement Collective (address on contacts page) offer small group support. Some local groups may also be willing to provide help and advice, though many are very small and busy themselves.

In issue 76 we reported on Election Day activities in Manchester. Afterwards we received a response from someone who'd had very different experiences organising in Manchester at this time. Though not an action report we felt it was important to give some space to this report.

"a group in Manchester planned another day of action for the first week in June, we saw the two actions as separate therefore not a problem. However other 'activists' decided that this action should not take place. So, flyposters were torn down, postered over and destroyed plus constant

pressure to call off the action.

The reasons we have been given for this prevention and sabotage were 1) Our action - a political action will have a detrimental effect on the squat café/club. 2) The police won't like 2 actions occurring in one week and it will have a bad affect on the June 7th action by 'provoking' the police to clamp down. 3) June 7th was seen as 'non confrontational', it was presumed the other action would be confrontational, or provoke the police to be confrontational.

Since when did confrontation become unacceptable? Since when do we take into account if the police are happy about our actions or not!? Actions don't have to be

the same. We don't have to always work together, to reach a consensus where no one is offended. This always comes down to the lowest common denominator where a few leaflets are handed out, cake is eaten, samba played and another photo opportunity arises.

We were an autonomous group of people who came together to work on one day of action. Non-hierarchical organisation should allow people to do this, not create a panic that an action is going ahead beyond the control of some people who like to maintain control over people and activities. Makes you wonder who and what you're fighting against."

Action Groups

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

Bath EF!

c/o PO Box 426
Bath, Somerset
BA1 2ZD

Dartmoor EF!

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

Grampian EF!

PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE
gramplaneearthfirst@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!

Box 29, 22a Beswick St
Manchester, M4 7HS
0161 2266 814
mancef@nematode.freeseve.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 July/Aug 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.freeseve.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 6242

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 Box 77, 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.freeseve.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
Box 13, 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@mcsplight.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
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org

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.

Dis-arm DSEi

**Defence Systems & Equipment International
Excel Exhibition Centre, London Sept 11th - 14th 2001**

- T Join the "Peace Procession" to the gates of the exhibition.
- T Organise locally - form a group to attend and register your objection to Europe's Largest supermarket of DEATH on the opening day, 11th September.
- T Talk with your local Justice and Peace group, local UNA group, local CND group, local Quaker peace group, local Church peace groups - whoever it is GET TALKING, GET ORGANISED, GET THERE.
- T Make a commitment to world peace, put the date in your diary today and contact Martin at CAAT to get on the attendance list and receive information. What else is happening at DSEi? - A Peace Vigil is planned for the entirety of the exhibition, close to the main gates. The Non-violent Action Network are planning an "action camp" to build on the success and positives they achieved at DSEi 1999. REMEMBER - As Britain exports £5 Billion pounds of military equipment each year, 2000 children are killed, maimed or affected EVERY DAY.

Contact Martin (DSEi), 11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London
martin@caat.demon.co.uk Tel - 020 7281 0297 Fax - 020 7281 4369

N.B. I know you've heard it before but the administration and resources to organise and attend the protest do not come cheap. If you can help with a contribution please do. Cheques made payable to CAAT please.

Urgent witness appeal Mayday London

A 55 year old man faces jail, based solely on 2 police statements, for allegedly throwing a bottle and inciting others. He desperately needs witnesses to confirm his story. He is about 5ft' 4" was wearing a light blue fleece coat, a black hat, black tracksuit bottoms and black boots. He was standing on the roof of a ladies toilet by the entrance to Oxford Circus underground somewhere between 4 & 7pm. He had a 12" black plastic horn which he blew on a number of occasions. If this jogs your memory please contact soliciter Andrew Katzen at Moss & Co

020 8986 8336 andrew@mosslaw.co.uk.
LDMG have more info on this case and are seeking witnesses for other Mayday arrests ldmg@altavista.com

Global anti-surveillance day of action

Surveillance affects our daily life and basic rights like privacy, anonymity and freedom of movement. The idea is for groups to organise an action or performance, locally in front of a public webcam on Sept 7th. These actions may be watched locally and over a common web page. www.aktuelle-kamera.org
www.citycrimecontrol.net

Resources

Re-pressed Catalogue

Re-pressed is an activist run book distro aiming to fulfil (and more) the role left vacant by the slow demise of Dead Trees EF! They're supplying low cost books and pamphlets on a whole range of eco anarcho and anti-civilisation stuff and have a new catalogue out now.

www.re-pressed.org.uk re-pressed, c/o Leeds EF!, CRC, 16 Sholebroke Avenue Leeds, LS7 3HB England

Green Anarchist

We recently reported a change of address for Green Anarchist. Well it turns out that's not the whole story. There is still a GA operating from the old address, Green Anarchist, BM 1715, London, WC1N 3XX. They intend to bring out a new issue soon and will honour existing subscriptions. This mag promises to retain the by-line (and commitment to) the destruction of civilisation.

Counter Information

A new issue of the long running anarchist news-sheet Counter Information is now out. Please note the new address: Counter Information c/o 17 W. Montgomery Place, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH7 5HA, 0131 557 6242 (ask for CI), ci@autonomous.org.uk

TP2000 book

The Trident ploughshares campaign have a new book out. Trident on Trial (ISBN 1 84282 004 4 PBK £9.99) is published by Luath Press and will be available from July 8th 2001

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

Sean Cregan FR8832
HMP Wandsworth PO
Box 757 Heathfield
Road London SW18
5HS, got 6 months on
19th July for Violent
disorder Mayday 2000
Paul Robinson Goteburg
Remand Centre (Haktet)
Goteburg Polis
Headquaters (Polis
Huset), Box 429, 40126
Goteburg, Sweden, a UK
anarchist on remand
facing max 4yr sentence
for violent rioting and
battery from Gothenberg

Address change

Dave Blenkinsop, HMP
Lewes, 1 Brighton Road,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7
1EA, on remand for
allegedly assaulting
Managing Director of
HLS
Europe
Iñaki Garcia Koch
Centro Penitenciario
'Villa Hieros', Mansilla de
Mulas, 24210 León,
Spain 5yrs for cutting
cables on the Itoiz dam
US
Jeffrey 'Free' Luers
#13797671, Two Rivers

Correctional Facility,
Umatilla, OR 97882,
USA, sentenced 11/06/
01 to 22 yrs!! for arson on
a car dealership &
attempted arson of an oil
truck, an unusually harsh
sentence - possibly the
longest for ecotage.
Craig Marshall ('Crittter'),
PO Box 50263, Eugene,
OR 97440, USA serving
5½ yrs Free's co-
defendant.
Corey Mascio #20035,
Gallatin County
Detention Centre, 611
South 16th, Bozeman,

Montana 59715, USA,
awaiting sentencing for
criminal trespass at a
buffalo capture facility
in defence of America's
last free-roaming wild
herd of buffalo.
Fran Thompson 93341,
1107 Recharge Rd, York
NE 68467, USA an eco-
activist serving life for
murder, in self-defence,
of an ex-fiancé turned
stalker who broke into
her house. Has been
suffering ill health and
urgently needs your
support.

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
Online newsletter
earthlibprisoner@mail.com
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk
Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out
names of new prisoners as
soon as ELP gets them
animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Writing to prisoners

Remember to include the
prisoners number and a return
address (prisons won't accept
the letter without one, not all
accept PO Box address) for
more tips on writing contact
ELP or Anarchist Black Cross
c/o 6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY

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

NaNo time to lose

If the decimation of the Earth's ecology and the irreversible manipulation of the genetic basis of life weren't enough scientists are designing machines that may one day replace the human species and wipe out large swathes of vegetation. Nanotechnology research and application continues to grow and yet most of us have not even heard of this new 'science' let alone had an opportunity to analyse and discuss it. We've yet to hear of any resistance to this frightening technology. Given this we present a very brief summary of what nanotechnology is, its expected uses, the possible risks and sources of further information.

Are there risks to nanotechnology?

Scientists developing nanotechnology are keen to promote the possible benefits. Billions of dollars have been invested in nano research, particularly in Japan. But what about the risks and does the well being of humanity really rest on microscopic robots completely out of our control? Perhaps the most frightening and serious risk is that of building a device about the size of a bacterium but tougher and more omnivorous. Such runaways might disperse like pollen and reproduce like bacteria, eating a wide range of organic materials: an ecological disaster of unprecedented magnitude indeed, one that could destroy the biosphere as we know it. However optimists claim such events would probably(!) never happen because there is not the incentive to build such a robot, that nanotechnology will only be used for beneficial applications in a cautious manner. They feel the biggest threats are from malevolent forces seeking to abuse the technology. To avoid such threats they look to the regulatory systems that have saved us from nuclear contamination, GMO escapes, asbestos, environmental carcinogens, climate change, deforestation. Exactly! For these experts there is no turning back. For them nanotechnology is here to stay and it is better to proceed with caution than to try and stop it. But there are important questions to be asked: who is setting the limits for this technology? On what basis should we trust unaccountable, centralised bureaucracies to regulate this technology? Why are we being forced to adopt nanotech over simple, human-led technologies that we have control over and that work with nature rather than trying to replace it?

The human race might easily permit itself to drift into a position of such dependence on the machines that it would have no practical choice but to accept all of the machines' decisions.

People won't be able to just turn the machines off, because they will be so dependent on them that turning them off would amount to suicide.

Some expected applications

Military Thirty-five years from now, ... small, lethal, sensing, emitting, flying, crawling, exploding and thinking objects may make the battlefield [or sea] highly lethal to any life that finds itself there. Precision-guided munitions; enormous quantities and varieties of sensors (some the size of bottle-caps) able to collect and disseminate a vast amount of tactical intelligence. Advanced automation (including robots) may increasingly reduce the number of people actually within the war zone. For urban combat and surveillance in peacekeeping missions, many of the sensors will be incorporated into the human system in order to enhance performance. It may be possible by about 2025 to implant enhancements to deal with biological warfare, enhance visibility, increase strength of the soldier, and do a variety of other things. Certain genes and cells could be pulled out of the human brain and loaded into a computer chip in the same way that you create a neural network. This could lead to an artificial 'brain' with neural capacity.

Medicine Nanotech may allow the building of fleets of computer controlled molecular tools much smaller than a human cell and with the accuracy and precision of drug molecules. They could remove obstructions in the circulatory system, kill cancer cells or take over the function of sub-cellular organelles. Programmable and controllable micro-robots fabricated to nanometre precision may enable medical doctors to execute curative and reconstructive procedures in the human body at the cellular and molecular levels. In Cryonics (freezing dead people) it may be possible to have a fleet of small computer-controlled devices circulated through the body to identify and correct damage caused by ice crystals.

What is nanotech?

There seems to be some dispute about the scale on which nanotech actually functions but a fair definition would seem to be "the manufacture of materials and structures with dimensions that measure up to 100 nanometres (billionths of a metre)". The key is to 'be able to snap together the fundamental building blocks of nature easily, inexpensively and in almost any arrangement that we desire.' This applies to a range of disciplines, from conventional synthetic chemistry to techniques that manipulate individual atoms with tiny probe elements. In the course of a few hours, nanotechnology could produce anything from a rocket ship to minute disease-fighting submarines that roam the bloodstream. Like biological cells, the robots that populate a nanofactory could even make copies of themselves. Finished goods could be had for little more than the design costs plus raw materials-such as air, beet sugar or an inexpensive hydrocarbon.

Further reading and information

Apparently *Engines of Creation* by Eric Drexler is one of the originals on the wonders of nanotechnology. ♣ Schnews issue249 (www.schnews.org.uk/).
♣ *Ecologist*, Vol 30 No. 7 ♣ www.research.ibm.com/ for the website of IBM, a massive investor in nanotech. ♣ www.zyvex.com/ - the first molecular nanotechnology company. ♣ http://dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Science_and_Technology/Nanotechnology/ for a range of sites to look at. ♣ www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html article by Bill Joy - on how our most powerful 21st-century technologies, robotics, genetic engineering, and nanotech are threatening to make humans an endangered species.

Animal burial protests

Residents in Tow Law, Co. Durham are fighting a mass foot and mouth burial site intended for 300,000 bodies. It currently holds 36,000 corpses that produce hydrogen sulphide, a very toxic gas. The site is built upon 78 mine shafts riddled with faults, some filled with water that runs into local rivers and streams before joining the River Wear.

Blockades have stopped lorries coming onto site, eight people currently face court for these. There are daily pickets at the site with plans to continue with action. Contact Newlittlebighorn defence fund, 3 Elm Park Terrace, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, Durham, DL13 4NH. 01388 731577 Newlittlebighorn@aol.com

A load of rubbish

Thursday, June 14th, 10pm: Brighton's local dustmen have just emerged victorious from a wildcat four day strike that saw 240 dustmen dismissed, the depot occupied, the machines sabotaged, anarchist practical support provided (without too many lefty parasites to annoy), direct action, and lots of links forged.

SITA, a French multinational, took over the refuse contract in November 1999 and the management's attitude was a problem from day one. On Monday, new street cleaning measures were introduced that the workers knew were impossible – voicing this got them sacked. The rest of the 240 workers were promptly called back in by the GMB union reps to protest this, and they all got sacked, too. Quick thinking and organising (and ignoring the official channels) resulted in the depot being occupied by the dustmen who immediately began rallying support. Some of us from the Anarchist Teapot collective went down and got them food, blankets, and a computer. Local anarchists joined in actions such as successfully stopping the scab lorries leaving their depot on Wednesday the 13th by locking on to the axle, and harassing the agencies that were providing scab labour (by the end of the dispute, there wasn't one agency in Brighton up for this anymore).

SITA were given a 48 hour deadline to sort it out, which they couldn't – and talks between the Council and SITA resulted Thursday evening in an agreement that can only be seen as an amazing victory. SITA's contract will stop in 11 weeks, all the workers are reinstated – including full pay for the week they spent occupying the depot!, the new measures are withdrawn, and all further decisions are to be made at weekly meetings with equal say from

SITA, the Council and the union. The workers are seriously considering the possibility of bidding for the contract as their own non-profit-making workers' co-operative, and have begun liaising with Magpie, the local recycling workers' co-op, over this.

Some of us who have been involved over the last few days will be putting together a leaflet on how the dustmen won their strike, to encourage other SITA workers – get in touch if SITA works your hometown.

Anarchist Teapot, c/o 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2 2GY

Operation Potato

Allotment plots in Fenham, Newcastle are under threat after the freemen of the city (who lease the land) gave notice to quit by April 2002 as they want the land back - for grazing 5 cattle! Rather than give into the secretive powers of the freemen local people are making a stand. The allotment committee is mounting a legal challenge and are keen to hear from people with relevant experiences. Some gardeners have taken on plots for use as community allotments. Until plans for resistance have been agreed it is important to put any empty allotments to use. They're free to anyone who wants them call 0191 2722120 or 2724635.

Peat extraction

On Tuesday 26th June the peat works on Hatfield Moor near Doncaster, run by the US company Scotts, were occupied for the day by activists from across the country. No work was being carried out on the site and there was a heavy police presence, including a helicopter all day. This action is extremely significant, because peat mining is a seasonal activity, so if work is stopped during the summer (peat needs to be dry to be harvested) it sets their targets back quite a bit. If Scotts cut as much peat this season as they plan to, it will not be possible to regenerate the area as a peat moor. Please ask your local garden centre to stop selling compost which contains peat. Unless it is labelled 'peat-free' it almost certainly contains part of Hatfield Moor. leedsef@ukf.net.

Gap's new image

On June 18th Gap unveiled a new promotional display at stores nation-wide. Faded black jeans hanging in front of a red banner, the words FREEDOM INDEPENDENCE and WE THE PEOPLE scrawled across windows in fake black spray paint. Humm. For info on how crap gap is visit gapsucks.org globalexchange.org and sweatwatch.org

Diary Dates...

August

27th July - 11th Trident Ploughshares disarmament camp, Coulport
01324 562719 tp2000@gn.apc.org
1-5th Earth First! Summer Gathering (Yip)
6-15th Caravan of Peace in the Black Sea rim of Russia karavan_mira@pochtamt.ru
www.tam.ru/karavan_mira
8-16th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algiers. "Let's globalise the struggle for peace, solidarity, development, against imperialism." Contact: 020 8546 7795
23-27th Green Up North! Climate Change Focus camp in West Yorks. Tickets and enquiries 0113 224 9885, 07932 451512
31st-2nd Sept, Scarborough Summer School focusing on political education and the communication of radical ideas. bookings/enquires contact Steve Rooney, 96 Knighton Fields Road West, Leicester, LE2 6LG, 0116 283 2062 rooneysg@hotmail.com
31st - 3rd Sept, conference on Building Permanent Autonomous Zones, USA www.infoshop.org/paz/index

September

7th An International Day of Action Against Video Surveillance. See page 3
8th Norwich Street Carnival 07944 874393
11-14th DSEi Arms Fair, See Page 3
20th World car free day
www.carbusters.ecn.cz
22th European car free day www.eta.co.uk
29th National cannabis march, Central London, 12noon www.schmoo.co.uk/sep29

October

2-14th Washington DC, annual IMF/World Bank meeting, www.whirls-bank.org
7th Coming out day. For help and advice call 08707 350450 www.comingoutday.org.uk
13th Global day of action on Nuclear power and weapons in space 020 77002393
20th Anarchist book-fair, Camden Centre, Euston Rd, London, WC1, 10am-7pm, if you want a stall, book now <http://freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair>
22nd Faslane Blockade, 0141 423 1222 TP2000@gn.apc.org
30th - 1st Nov Copex exhibition of "counter insurgency" equipment at Sandown racecourse CAAT 020 72810297
1st Fox Hunt Season begins. Hunt Sab Association 01273 622827
10th Actions against Shell on the Anniversary of "judicial murder" 9 other Ogoni activists. 0181 6789605 mosogpb@aol.com

November

5th-9th. The 4th WTO ministerial meeting in Doha, the capital of Qatar
24th Buy nothing day anti-consumerism campaign, Enough 0161 2266668

Harmondsworth

On June 30th about 250 people picketed the new Harmondsworth Detention Centre near Heathrow. Despite a simultaneous demo outside Campsfield, a minibus came from Oxford, another from East London and the Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers organised a coach. A car cavalcade drove around beforehand bedecked with posters, balloons and a loudspeaker telling local people about the new prison for families at Harmondsworth. Despite the efforts of the guards, refugees inside the centre realised what was happening and were able to wave to anyone who climbed the fence. To the obvious concern of security guards, we marched around the entire site, about a one mile walk. The protest finished with songs from Robb Johnson and the Red and Green choir. Thanks to them and to NCADC, CDAS, Newham churches and everyone else. Close Down Harmondsworth Campaign, 10 Endsleigh Rd, Southall, Middx UB2 5QL

Lothian resistance

July 14th saw about 600 people footing it around the streets of Edinburgh. After two groups converged, freedom of the capital was enjoyed for a while as the main street was occupied and blocked off from traffic. At the front *magic carpets* were endowed with the psychic energy of the mass joyful gathering and repelled those that wished to impede the party. A well good time was had, despite some of the police, many brought in from afar, being well nippy, and some certainly should learn to ride properly before bringing horses. But while our comrades are imprisoned none of us are free. So it is good to know that all arrested were released by 9pm that night. It is just brilliant that a town like Edinburgh, that has no great radical tradition, can be

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EF!AU, PO Box 487

Norwich, NR2 3AL

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

hosting a whole week of events and all without any noticeable involvement from Trots etc.

Contact lothian@burn.ucsd.edu

www.reshape.org.uk

Labour pains

Police in Manchester told an anarchist to remove anti-election leaflets from his window. Someone (a Labour councillor lives in the same road) had complained about the language of some of the leaflets. Not to be outdone, the anarchist painted 'don't vote' on the front of the house! In Oldham, members of the North West Unemployed Network including members of the Anarchist Federation and Solidarity Federation were arrested at Labour Party offices after demanding to speak to MP Phil Wollas, who favours DNA testing for benefit claimants. He also said the law should be changed to deny benefits to anyone not registered on the electoral roll. Source: A-infos

Sheffield train bunk

Sheffield activists celebrated election day by taking a 90% for 90% action (see AU75), because we need a 90% reduction in CO2 emissions to avert global climate chaos, we demanded a 90% reduction in public transport fares.

Armed with leaflets, extra 90% cards tasty vegan chocolate and fruit cake the group boarded the Manchester train. As the train pulled out passengers were supplied with the goodies while two people went to talk to the conductor. He was pleasant but decided he would have to throw them off. He would have offered a deal, perhaps half the total money - some passengers even offered to help us

pay for this, but we stuck to our principles. For more info on Rising Tide, 90% for 90% campaign check out www.risingtide.org.uk

Victory in Hastings

On July 14th the government cancelled the Hastings and Bexhill Bypasses. This is a real victory for the coalition of local groups fighting the roads and a sign that the threat of direct action can still stop major developments. The £240 million scheme was set to destroy some of the South East coasts most wonderful wildlife areas. The announcement was a genuine surprise. A 10,000 copy 'bulldozer pledge' was set to be launched and plans were afoot for site based resistance. It's believed these Bypasses were part of a south coast motorway from Folkestone to Honiton. Hopefully this victory is a nail in the coffin for other schemes too.

Get a job

Job interviews held in Bristol to gather new workers for a Nestle café went a bit wrong after undercover activists applied for job then disrupted the interviews. People have been applying for jobs as a Nestle franchise plans expansion in Bristol. Managers were shocked to find the applicants knew far more about Nestle than they did, one activist remarked, "He asked if I had any questions and I did - quite a few in fact about Nestle and the killer marketing practices of Baby Milk." Another said, "They were offering £4.20 an hour - that all you get for being part of a genocidal marketing machine?"

More actions are planned, so if Nestlé's policy of pressurising the world's poorest mothers into using unsafe baby milk formula sticks in your throat, New Era's recruitment team would love to interview you IMMEDIATELY on 0117 908 1241. And for goodness sake, please don't pester them on NEWERA2000LTD@aol.com with the unpalatable facts about Nestlé's unethical business.

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