

Summit hopping 2003

(and other anticapitalist activities)

G8, Evian

Activist villages will be set up in the days prior to the G8 summit in Evian this summer. Members of the CLAAG network have the VAAG village, whilst other protesters are asked to go to the Intergalactic Village site. It is intended to include a wide range of movements and individuals under the banner of 'G8 Illegal' and is founded on a total rejection of the G8, self organisation and no hierarchy, respect for the environment, no sexism, racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, etc, political openness for groups to participate actively. Both villages will begin on the 28th of May and remain until the 3rd of June, the end of the G8 summit. There will be a focus on anti-capitalist alternatives, workshops, presentations and discussions. Both villages will work with a horizontal organisational structure, independent departments and affinity groups. The "villagers" are expected to take part in the demonstrations during the summit.

EU, Thessaloniki

There will be protests in Thessaloniki, Greece during the EU Summit on the 20-21st June. Accommodation will be available from the 14th June and a four-day festival will take place to include positive acts of resistance and broad planning of protests. The main four topics will be: Globalisation - New world order - War; "Fortress" Europe - Suppression - Immigrants; Labour in modern capitalism; Antiglobalisation movements and Antiauthoritarians-Anarchists.

World Bank, Oxford? Students against the World Bank!

The President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, visited Oxford on Wednesday 19th February in order to give a series of talks. His

keynote address was in the Sheldonian Theatre, where he gave a lecture on human rights as part of the Amnesty International (!) lecture series. He was welcomed by over 50 protestors, several of whom were dressed as the Grim Reaper, all of them armed with pots, pans and drums. After leafleting the audience, those protestors who remained outside started a pots and pans protest in solidarity with similar protests held in Argentina and other Latin American countries against the World Bank/IMF. The sound was clearly audible in the lecture hall, along with chants of "el pueblo unido, jamas sera vencido!" When those attending the lecture emerged they were confronted with a screening by Undercurrents and other local activists showing the truth about World Bank policies.

PGA Call for WTO in Cancun

The PGA Co-ordinators for Latin America have called for world-wide 'co-ordinated and decentralised action to be taken between the 10th and the 14th of September 2003' (the exact date to be determined later), to coincide with the massive mobilisation which will take place at Cancun, Mexico against the ministerial conference of the WTO. This action is needed to



continue resistance to globalisation and neoliberal capitalism seen at Geneva, Seattle, Cologne, Birmingham, Genoa and Evian-les-Bains.

Earth First! summer gathering

What is the Earth First! Summer Gathering?

The Earth First! Summer Gathering is the place where people involved in radical ecological direct action - or those who want to be involved - get together for four days of time and space to talk, walk, share skills, learn, play, rant, find out what's going on, find out what's next, live outside, strategise, hang out, incite, laugh and conspire.



The gathering is also a practical example of non-hierarchical low-impact living in action. We are a diverse community with a wide range of approaches to our action, so there should be plenty to interest and inspire everyone whether you have been active for years or are completely new to it all.

The gathering is being held at Lime Tree Farm, an ex-dairy farm now nature reserve/B&B, near Ripon in North Yorkshire from 13th -17th August.

There is a work weekend on 14th/15th June for those who would like to get involved and learn new skills including building a couple of permanent compost loos. We will also be having a collective meeting in the late afternoon/evening.

For location/travel info, call 0113 262 3536 summergathering@yahoo.co.uk www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk



Blood + Oil

People against the war target International Petroleum Exchange

In March thirty people disrupted the trading floor of the International Petroleum Exchange in the City of London, (see below), while others outside held a banner reading 'Oil Fuels War'.

The trading floor was shut down for two hours as traders threw insults and punches at the protesters, one of whom had to receive stitches to his forehead. Two managed to occupy an office overlooking the trading floor, barricading themselves inside for 40 minutes until dragged out by the Met Police's Tactical Support Group.

'We're visiting the IPE today to highlight the intimate relationship between the rush to war on Iraq and the West's insatiable thirst for oil,' said Sandra Reid of the Infernal Petroleum Experience. 'The IPE is where that connection is most acute, where a very small number of companies and individuals reap enormous rewards at the expense of the great majority of the world's population who struggle to keep their head above a tide of war, climate chaos, human rights abuses and forced displacement both at home and abroad.'

Contact infernalpetroleum@yahoo.co.uk for more information

International Petroleum Exchange

The IPE is Europe's largest marketplace for the buying and selling of oil and gas 'futures', second only to New York's Nymex. In January 2003, with world oil prices climbing through the ceiling at the prospect of war with Iraq and the resulting chaos and destruction that would ensue, it traded over 3 million contracts worth US\$95bn. Its new owners ICE count BP, Shell and Elf among its largest shareholders

BP AGM

The BP AGM was targeted by Burning Planet and Rising Tide. Around 200 campaigners held a noisy colourful and creative carnival outside British Petroleum's (BP) Annual General Meeting on at the Royal Festival Hall in London. Arriving shareholders were given hundreds of spoof annual reports highlighting BP's contribution to climate change catastrophes and exploitation of the land and indigenous communities. The event also revealed the complicity of oil companies in the attack on Iraq and other oil wars as they strive to fund, open and control new foreign oil markets. Inside several protestors shouted objections and let off stink bombs before being ejected. Outside while police protected the entrances, banners adorned many walls and a humorous but serious, alternative AGM was held with music and poetry.

The event was webstreamed live by Piratetv.net. www.burningplanet.net/main.html



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Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 10 issues (£8 Europe; £12 rest of the world). Send more if you can so we can distribute it free to prisoners etc. Cheques/Postal orders payable to **Earth First! Action Update**.

Worried about security? You may wish to consider a false name & 'care of' address.

EF! Action Update
Dept 29, 22a Beswick St., Manchester M4 7HS. UK

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

50p where sold - anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

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

Prisoners

22nd February: a demonstration was held outside Belmarsh prison in support of prisoner **Inigo Makazaga**, later moving on the Spanish Embassy to oppose the closing of Basque-language paper Egunkaria. Inigo has been held, often in isolation, on suspicion of being a member of ETA. It is feared that if he is deported to Spain he will be tortured by the Spanish authorities.

Ulla Roder managed to cause £25 million in damage to a Tornado jet. That’s got to be worth a few letters! Contact her at: Ulla Roder, HMP Cornton Vale, Cornton Road, Stirling FK9 5NY.

Authur Milling and **Dr Margaret Jones** were also jailed for ploughshares actions resulting in damage to over 30 US Airforce support vehicles at Fairford. Yowsa! Write to them at: Authur Paul Milling, HMP Gloucester, Barrack Square, Gloucester, GL1 2JN and Dr Margaret Jones KV5877, HMP Holloway, 1X Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London N7 ONU.

Raul Zapatos is a Filipino official whose job is to stop illegal loggers. Whilst at work Raul was attacked by armed men, including police officers, and defended himself by shooting at them. Raul has been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. Letters of support to: Raul Zapatos, Dorm 6-C, Maximum security compound, Bureau of Corrections, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

War Resisters International are promoting the support of Israelis imprisoned for resisting the draft and refusing to join the brutality in Occupied Palestine. Materials, including a report, are available from <http://www.wri-irg.org>.

ECO-DEFENCE PRISONERS

Dr. Yurl Bandazhevsky, Ul. Klvarijskaya 36, PO Box 35K, Minsk 220600, Belarus. 8 years for telling the world that nuclear radiation around Chernobyl is worse than the Belarus Government has admitted. **Marco Camenisch**, Sennhofstrasse

17, 7000 Chur, Switzerland. 10 years for anti-nuclear eco-bombings in Switzerland. Reads French, German, Spanish & Italian. Can read some English but is not confident writing large amounts of it.

Iñaki García Koch, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque. Apdo. 250, 31080 - Iruñez - Pamplona, Navarra (España), Spain. 5 years for sabotaging a dam construction site.

Jeffrey ‘Free’ Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310, USA. 22 years & 8 months for arson on a car dealership & attempted arson of an oil truck.

Craig Marshall, #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914 USA. 5 years 5 months for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices, having used the devices to destroy SUVs.

Grigory Pasko, c/o Russian Federation, 690 100 g. Vladivostok, ul. Ivanovskaya 2, kv 24. Russia. 4 years for exposing the Russian Navy dumping nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean.

Fran Thompson (93341), 1107 Recharge Rd., York NE 68467, USA. Eco-activist serving Life for shooting dead a stalker who had broken into her home.

Helen Woodson, 03231-045 FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA. 27 years for three separate actions including a ploughshares-style action on a Minuteman II missile silo.

ANIMAL LIBERATION

Dave Blenkinsop EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX6 0PZ England. 10 years for various animal rights action including against HLS.

Jennifer Greenberg, 3100201610, Rose M. Singer Center, 1919 Hazen St., East Elmherst, NY 11370, USA. SHAC activist serving one year for “Criminal Mischief”.

Sonia Hayward KV5943, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU. 15 months for anti-hunt and anti-HLS actions.

Benjamin Persky #1410212600, NYSID# 9846577R, GRVC, 0909 Hazen St., East Elmherst, NY 11370, USA.

SHAC activist serving 2-6 years for “Criminal Mischief”.

Rae Schilling GN6613, H.M.Prison Winchester, SO22 5DF, England. SHAC activist serving 3½ years for aggravated harassment against HLS shareholders. Due out in July.

Peter Schnell #99476-111, FCI Otisville, PO Box 1000, Otisville, NY 10963, USA. 24 months for possession of incendiary devices, allegedly for use on dairy trucks.

Joshua Schwartz, 3100201611, NYSID# 1900738L, EMTC, 1010 Hazen Street, East Elmherst, NY, 11370, USA. SHAC activist serving 1 year for “Criminal Mischief”.

PARTY & PROTEST

Robert Middaugh, #T41137 Bldg, 410 23up, PO Box 8, Avenal, CA 93204, USA. (3 years)

Robert Thaxton #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA (86 months)

PLOUGHSHARES & ANTI-WAR

Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Mary Kelly, Ciaron O’Reilly and Damien Moran. All at: Shannon Peace House, 19 Inis Ealga, Shannon, County Clare, Ireland. Jailed for disarming a US Navy war plane.

Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson and Ardeth Platte. All at: PO Box 518, Georgetown, C080444, USA. Jailed for anti-nuke action.

Toby Olditch and **Philip Pritchard**, HMP Gloucester, GL1 2JN, England. Jailed for cutting the fence at RAF Fairford, trespass and conspiracy.

Barbara Smedema, Gevangenis Ter Peel, Patersweg 4, 5977 NM Evertsoord, Holland. Jailed for damaging communication discs at a nuclear bunker.

INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

Leonard Peltier #89637-132, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Life after being framed for murdering 2 FBI agents.

Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/A 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16475-

Editorial (!!!)

Greetings from the AU collective. Firstly, apologies for the huuuuuuuuuuge gap between issues. There’s been a war on, you know. As well as some more personal and political crises amongst the AU personnel. But, with the help of some much appreciated (ahem) suggestions from the Winter Moot and a few extra lovely people in Manchester we’re back with your new all-singin’ all-dancin’ bumper edition. And in a spirit of experimentation and evidence-gathering (just call me Dr Blix, Hans to my friends) we’re asking for feedback (see contact details) on some of the new features, so that the new AU crew (whoever you are! We know you’re out there somewhere! Hint, hint) can make informed decisions about how they want to produce the AU. And hopefully get a little less flak in the process.

Love,
The EF! AU crew

0002, USA. 35-75 years for helping ship arms to Central American indigenous activists.

MOVE

Debbie Simms Africa (006307), Janet Holloway Africa (006308) and Janine Philips Africa (006309) all at: SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

Michael Davis Africa (AM4973) and Charles Simms Africa (AM4975) both at SCI Grateford, PO Box 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244, USA.

Edward Goodman Africa (AM4974), 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

William Philips Africa (AM4984) and Delbert Orr Africa (AM4985) both at SCI Dallas Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Mumia Abu Jamal, (AM8335), SCI Greene, 175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg PA 15370, USA. Framed in 1981 for murder of a cop. Awaiting re-sentencing.

ANTI-FASCIST

Matthew ‘Rampage’ Lamont #2057039, Intake/Release Center, 550N. Flower St, Santa Ana, CA 92710, USA. Three years for possessing an incendiary device, allegedly intended to disrupt a neo-nazi gathering.

Tomasz Wiloszewski, Zaklad Karny, Orzechowa 5, 98-200 Sieradz, Poland. 15 years for accidentally killing a neo-nazi whilst defending himself.

Resources

North American ALF.SG has changed its e-mail address. Their new address is naalfsg@resist.ca

Spirit of Freedom (Earth Liberation Prisoners), c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, Leeds, LS7 3HB, earthlibprisoner@mail.com, www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Earth Liberation Prisoners Newsletter/ Urgent ELP! Bulletin c/o BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX, AnimalEarthLiberation@Bigfoot.Com

Anti-war prisoners can be found at: <http://www.j-n-v.org/prisoners.htm>

Feedback from the the Earth First! Winter Moot

These are the collected ideas from the ‘Practical Suggestions’ session at the Earth First! Winter Moot which took place in Nottingham in February. They are simply suggestions and ideas; if any of them inspire or appal you then act on that feeling, discuss it with the people you work with or figure out how to react to it. If you have further ideas that you want to expand discussion on then maybe write us a (brief, please) article, start up an email group or bring ideas to the Summer Gathering. It’s all up to you! The suggestions are pretty much printed as noted at the Moot.

Practical Suggestions

- Have some sort of “What is Earth First!?” leaflet (or expand/re-do the existing one).
- Continue “Intensive Care” discussions on coping with depression/how fucked-up everything is.
- Put more effort into BLINC.
- Have skills-based training weekends, e.g. survival skills and action skills.
- Have next year’s Winter Moot in London to make better links with groups and individuals in London
- Get the “Earth First!” name out with stickers with web address, phone number etc.
- Support small towns by having a travelling roadshow - with audio-visuals etc.
- Make an EF! email list - not for discussion - low volume - link with AU.
- Support local groups more - help them start up.
- Make a new “Empowerment Video” - cut together footage of EF! Actions to get the message out there a bit.
- Outreach to “outdoors” groups - make links with climbers, ramblers etc.
- Make links better with existing groups doing EF!-type stuff who are not included in the network, e.g. local genetics groups.
- Do more targeted ecological actions.
- Do national actions again (maybe not in London though) or days of action co-ordinated nationally.

Some more general ideas...

- Go to ecologically important areas in this country and in Europe - make links there and take action there. Also existing protest sites in this country and abroad.
- We are stronger in the countryside than in the city - do more countryside stuff.
- Do more regional actions - strengthen existing networks and include people from towns with no groups and they can tell their friends. Publicise in small towns with leafleting etc.
- Do weeks of action - gets lots of people involved. Like a temporary camp. Blurs ‘open’ and ‘closed’ distinction. Do lots of follow-up material.
- Cities should have regular meetings together (e.g. once a month) so overt and covert information can be shared and spread more easily and we can be sure it has got to the right places.
- More ‘what next?’ discussions, especially at Summer Gathering.
- Get with the times! - e.g. internet, video technology, email lists etc.
- Put links on how to do stuff on bulletin boards on the net.
- Don’t just target students - different interest groups etc.
- Put effort into agitating big crowds, nationally.
- Find out why groups fail.

Specifically for Local Groups

- Everyone in a town without a functioning EF! group should go back and sort one out.
- Have regular public meetings of your EF! group.
- Maintain your contact point in the Action Update.
- Get the “Earth First!” name out with stickers and graffiti in all towns.
- Do film screenings to inspire people.
- Maybe use the name Earth First! occasionally.
- Distribute the Action Update better - maybe put it in Citizen’s Advice Bureaux because they’re full of pissed-off people.

Suggestions for Summer Gathering

- Have a shorter Summer Gathering.
- Expand either the Winter Moot or the Summer Gathering to be a wider direct action gathering that includes animal rights people, anti-fascists etc.
- Maybe put more practical skills stuff earlier on in the Summer Gathering and save the big discussions for the weekend.
- More ‘what next?’ discussions, especially at Summer Gathering.

Suggestions for Action Update

- These suggestions specifically about the Action Update also came from the Moot. As you can see, some of them have been used experimentally in this issue. We made the decision to do this because many such suggestions get made at EF! meetings and are rarely taken up. We thought that putting some of them into practice for the last few issues to be done by Manchester might at least provide some practical evidence about whether or not they work, and something more concrete to criticise/follow up or discuss at future Gatherings. Feedback, as always, appreciated (if you can be civil about it).
- Distribute the Action Update better - maybe put it in Citizen’s Advice Bureaux because they’re full of pissed-off people.
- Clarify what the AU is for - is it for internal communication between groups or for “outreach”?
- It doesn’t work as outreach as it has no explanations of our ideas or motivations. Maybe have another paper for that and split the two functions of the Action Update into two?
- Email has surpassed its internal communication function so maybe make it purely for outreach?
- Expand it to include more explanation and ideas behind actions and make it come out less often.
- Have a regular column of ‘Top Tips’ for actions and sabotage.
- Give BLINC a permanent box in the AU
- Put all the stuff from a previous AU about organising on your own on the web.
- Put the web link of AU on the paper AU.
- Improve weblinks to activist resources.
- Do an insert on getting a group started and put this on the web.
- Change the AU into something more useful. E.g. update the website more often and make it really good.
- Articles in the AU need to be *well written* and *edited*.
- After description of e.g. blockades have “Want to do a blockade?” “How to...” ideas and tips.
- Do stickers with web address, post address and freephone number.
- Have permanent post address and phone and email that don’t change when the group doing the EF!AU changes. E.g. 0845 number and BM box or PO box that can have mail redirected to wherever the collective is.
- Make EF! email list - not for discussion - low volume - link with AU.

Diary dates

June

1-3 G8 Summit, Evian, France
Join the demonstrations on the streets - www.g8circus.org.uk -contact info@rythmnsorefistance.co.uk.

1-8 Stop the Arms Trade week of action
Campaign Against the Arms Trade 020 7281 0297 enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk www.caat.org.uk including...

2 Hampshire Site Unseen Tour to raise awareness about the arms trade. 10am - 4.30pm protests at BAE Systems around Hampshire 7.30 Public Meeting: Southampton Friends Meeting House Contact CAAT

3 Dorset Site Unseen Tour. Noon - 1.30pm Protest at BAE Systems, Weymouth. 7.45 Public Meeting: Bournemouth Centre for Performing Arts

4-13 Star Peace Camp Fylingdales. Mass protest on the 5 June. Accommodation available. Fylingdales Space Command Base, North Yorkshire Moors, UK. Info 01287660067

6-9 Trident Ploughshares Aldermaston International Disarmament Camp. At AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) Aldermaston near Reading. Inside crash space also available. Info 07904 450307 www.gn.apc.org/tp2000

9-15 Faslane Peace Camp 21st Birthday week of action. 01436820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk

9- 15 Nobordercamp in Timisiora, Romania. www.noborder.org

13 Pro Missile Defence Rally!?!? Join Blair and Bin Laden, Bush and Saddam standing side by side, hand in hand supporting missile defence. Outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London. Info CND 020 7700 2393

14-15 Manchester ISM Training. Contact ism_manchester@riseup.net

19 North London Critical Mass. Meet 2pm outside Finsbury Park main gate,

20-22 EU Summit, Halkidiki Peninsula, Greece. Moved from Thessaloniki. www.resistance2003.gr

21 Dover live exports rally. Farmed Animal Action. 0845 456 0284

21 National demonstration against Haslar Removals Centre, Portsmouth. Meet at 11am at the centre;

July

1-15 ISM Freedom Summer focusing on freedom of movement.

4 ‘Party for Independence from America’ Annual demonstration at Menwith Hill Spy Base 12-4 pm CAAB 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk

21-27 Nobordercamp near Puglia-Salento, Italy. www.noborder.org

26-3 August No-Border-Camp, Puglia, Italy.

28 Unity demonstrations against the Nazis in Burnley and Tipton

31- 10 August Nobordercamp Cologne.

August

13-17 Earth First! Summer Gathering. A get together for people involved- or those that want to get involved- in radical ecological direct action. Somewhere in a field in North Yorkshire. £10 on the gate. summergathering@yahoo.co.uk www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk

Sep

6- 12 Shut Down DSEi. DSEi, Europe’s largest trade fair. More info disarm@dsei.org, www.dsei.org 0781 7652 029

Action Groups

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
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 LS73HB 0113 262 9365 leedsef@leedsef.org.uk

London Reclaim The Streets
PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY 02072814621 rts@gn.apc.org

Manchester EF!
Dept 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

Norfolk and Waveney EF!
c/o PO Box 487, Norwich NR2 3AL 07944 874 393 norfolk-earth-first@email.com

Nottingham EF!
c/o 245 Gladstone Street Nottingham, NG7 6HX 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 NP10YDS wangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Warwickshire Action Group
c/o Gaia, 7 Regent Place, Leamington Spa CV31 1EH wag@hushmail.com, 07771547576

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

Contacts list - June 2003

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 atchoo22@gurlmail.com

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

CAGE Network (against the prison system) c/o 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham, NG7 6HX 0845 458 9595

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

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

Genetic Engineering Network GEN, Archway Resource C'tr, 1a Waterlow Road, Archway, London, N19 5NJ 020 7272 1586 genetics@gn.apc.org

Human Genetics Alert
Unit AH112, Aberdeen House 22-24 Highbury Grove London N5 2EA 020-7704 6100 www.hgalert.org

Peat Alert,
c/o crc, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds, LS7 3HB 0778 778 2259 www.peatalert.org.uk

Primal Seeds
www.primalseeds.org mail@primalseeds.org

Rising Tide network
Groups throughout country see www.risingtide.org.uk or ring 01865 241 097

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

Publications

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 Box77, Totness TQ9 5ZJ 01803 840 098 info@togg.org

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX

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

www.ainfos.ca a multi-lingual news service by, for and about anarchists

Beyond TV - Activist and campaigns resource site
www.beyondtv.org

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-video archive for direct action radix@enviroweb.org www.enviroweb.org/radix

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, AL9 7EB 01707 885 994 rains@fpcn-global.org

Haringey Solidarity Group
PO Box 2474, London N8

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 ldmgmail@yahoo.co.uk 020 8245 2930

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

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 collective@earthfirstjournal.org www.earthfirstjournal.org

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign (SHAC)
PO Box 38, Cheltenham, Gloucs GL50 1YN 0845 458 0630

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR 0845 458 8366 tp2000@gn.apc.org

Women Speak Out
wsoall@hotmail.com

Protest Camps

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

Elvaston Park Camp
dot@theadora.screaming.net 07769 534725

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 07876 311709

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 ...

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Genetix

ELF UK style

A group calling themselves the Earth Liberation Front have a made a total of six audacious raids to disable one of the last Midlands GM farm scale trials of Genetically Modified crops. On their last visit early in the morning of Sat 3rd May, the group even stayed until daybreak so that they could photograph the results of their work.

A spokesperson for the group who agreed to be known only as GM Free Cathy said "Our action is different to those carried out by other groups. We decided that we needed plenty of time to remove as much of the crop as possible. We first entered the field on a frosty December night and have since returned five times, decontaminating a different part of the field on each visit. As the crop grew we changed our technique, using hoes when the plants were small and scythes when they became waist high. We even perfected our own tool using pallet wood."



Scotland

Scotland also became GM-free in May as activists removed GM oilseed rape plants at Wester Friarton Farm, Newport-on-Tay, near Dundee. The action follows the removal of GM crops at Daviot, Aberdeenshire during the previous weekend and the abandoning of the farm scale trial at Munloch, on the Black Isle, following a sustained campaign of direct action in 2002.

Incest in the Orchard

The Genespotting campaign in Belgium included an action targeting GM apple trees being developed by Nicolai, a leading fruit producer in Europe. Also involved are BetterFruits NV, related to the University of Leuven. The trees are engineered to self-pollinate instead of needing a 'wasteful' 10% of trees in commercial orchards to be there for fertilisation only, so now only 'brother' and 'sister' trees are needed to cross-pollinate. The action was to highlight to spread of genetic modification amongst more and more plant species and to demonstrate the extent that this is purely about profit, despite the GM industry's claims to philanthropic motives. The activists found that the windows of the 'containment unit' around the trees were open, and that the technicians seemed to have little knowledge of the laws or hazards around their work.

Mayday! Mayday!

Bristol - While the local elections farce was in full swing, 25 people stormed the offices of the Labour Party headquarters. There was much "creative re-filing" as two perplexed office workers watched. One person D-locked to a desk and settled down for a rant. Stink bombs were let off and an air horn let rip as the electricity was turned off. The occupiers then left the building as fire alarms sounded. The locked-on occupier was removed after large numbers of police, including C.I.D., arrived. Seven arrests were made for suspicion of burglary and criminal damage. Three were released nine hours later without charge, and four were detained for fourteen hours and released on police bail, without charges. One officer commented "There was no burglary. You did your job well." The occupation was in protest at Labour support for the war in Iraq and as a comment on the false democracy peddled by 'our' parliamentary system.

News in Brief

Newcastle direct action

New Direct Action group - WHY DON'T YOU? Meetings will take place on 17th June, 1st July and 15th July at 7.30pm at the Side Cinema in Newcastle. Video showings will be used to inspire debate and planning. The venue is fully accessible and childcare can be arranged.

Daily Mail picket

A picket of the Daily 'Hate' Mail's Ideal Homes (for white middle-class het couples) Exhibition took place protesting at the fascist rag's century-plus of spewing racist filth and bigotry. The paper's frothing over Iraqi, Kurdish and Afghan refugees chimes ill with its determination to 'send them all back where they belong' - under the payload of a B-52 bomber, obviously. This grotesquerie only mirrors the Mail's campaign to send German Jews back to the gas chambers during WWII.

Hatchery rendered harmless

In the early hours of Sunday the 27th of April, a hatchery of Gimranäs Inc. in the South of Sweden was rendered harmless. Brooding machines (setters) and other equipment used for nursing eggs, bred to produce battery hens, were put out of order. As a result of the action, 42,000 eggs just a few days old were cooled down, which means that over 20,000 hens were never born to a life of suffering. Since no alarm was triggered in a similar action at the smaller factory in Fåglavik, all the machines there were destroyed completely and resulted in a shutdown for several weeks, according to the owner.

Badger website

Badger season started up on May 1st after a three month closure. The Coalition of Badger Action Groups (CBAG) website - www.badger-killers.co.uk - has been newly updated. It contains information and what you can do to support the campaign and take action.

SUV trashing

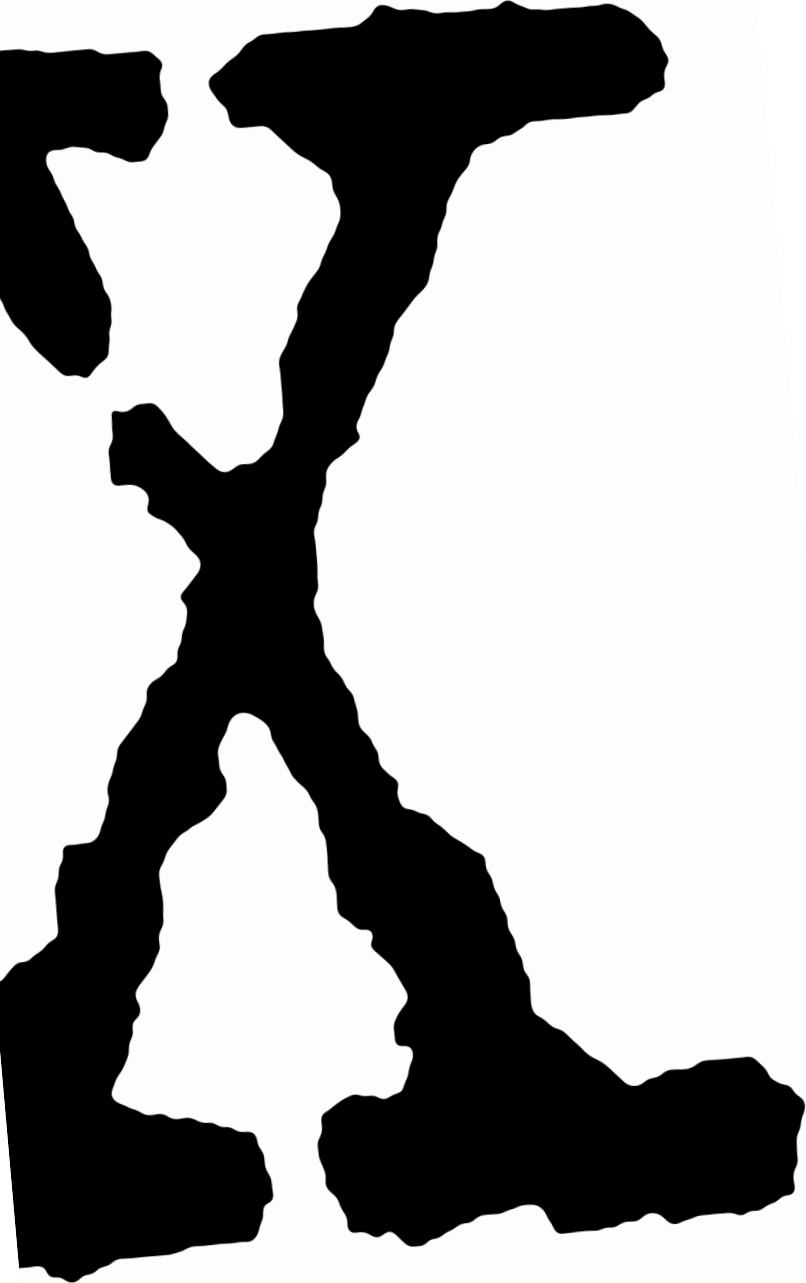
In April, ELF (Earth Liberation Front) activists spray-painted antiwar messages on about 60 sport-utility vehicles and trucks in a neighbourhood of Santa Cruz, California. Residents awoke Wednesday to find their vehicles tagged with "No War," "SUVs suck," "No blood for oil," and other antiwar slogans.

Military vehicles torched

ELF activists were also thought to be responsible for spray painting and torching a number of vehicles at a Navy base in Montgomery, Alabama. And in Italy police said at least two vehicles belonging to American military personnel have been firebombed near U.S. bases in northern Italy. The vehicles were parked on the street about one kilometer from the U.S. base at Vicenza, home to the Southern European Task Force. A third vehicle was torched near the U.S. airbase at Aviano.

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.

GM crops



We have had 4 years of relative stability, GM products have to a large extent been eliminated from British food, the threat of the commercialisation of GM crops has not been immediate and GM field trials have followed a fairly predictable pattern. The campaign against GM crops and food, within which the EF! Network played an important part, has been amazing. It has provided a concrete example of how ordinary people can stand up to huge corporations, and halt part of the ‘inevitable advance of capitalism’ in its tracks. But whilst we may have helped to stall GM crops in Britain we should be under no illusion that we have stopped them. What we have done is bought ourselves breathing space. But the biotech industry and government have also used this hiatus to wait for public opposition to GMOs to die down and to prepare the ground for the final push towards the commercialisation of GM crops.

the next year

Everything is set to change in the next year: the Farmscale trials will end and their results will be published; the government’s ‘public debate’ on GM crops will take place; and the EU moratorium will come under increasing pressure in the face of a flood of new GMO marketing applications and threats of a full-blown EU/US trade war. All of which will be played out against a backdrop of televised mass starvation in southern Africa (all due to African countries refusing generous US offers of unprocessed GM food aid), and a real war in the Middle East big enough to bury any more subtle news stories.

The biotech companies are getting desperate to break the deadlock over GMOs in the UK and Europe. In a year’s time we may well be facing the imminent sowing of the first commercial GM maize in the UK. This will open the door to many other GM varieties, and activists, farmers and consumers will have no idea where they’re being grown- and we will loose our capacity to produce GM free food, forever.

What follows is a brief attempt to outline the major events and processes in GM that will happen over the next year.

the distractions

the Farmscale Trials

Cooked up in a panic by the government in 1998, the FSTs finish this summer. In theory they were designed to conclusively evaluate the impact of GM crops on farmland ecosystems. In reality they’ve been a half-arsed and scientifically flawed attempt by the government and GM industry to fool the public that they really take concerns about GM crops seriously. The FSTs have also given them time to perfect their spin before they go ahead with commercialisation anyway. The majority of trials are now completed; only a handful of the final winter oil seed rape (OSR) sites (16 in England and 2 in Scotland) are currently in the ground and will be harvested this summer. The results of the FSTs are due to be published in July 2003. Given their narrow design it is unlikely that the results will contain anything damning enough to prevent commercialisation.

The GM Public Debate, Science Review and Economics Study To keep up the illusion that ‘no decision on the commercialisation of GM crops has been made’ Labour have instituted a three pronged process to ‘help’ them make the final decision. This consists of: a Science Review,

the history

Back in 1996 a handful of multinational companies planned to flood the UK and Europe with GM crops. They didn’t expect any opposition, at least nothing a well-placed PR campaign wouldn’t deal with. For a time it looked like they might succeed: unlabeled GM soya and maize products were all over supermarket shelves, GM crop trials were increasing exponentially and commercial growing of GM crops looked to be a forgone conclusion.

However, by 1998 it became clear that things weren’t going well for the biotech industry. Massive public opposition to GM crops, ranging from crop trashings to letter writing campaigns, created a situation to which both governments and the biotech industry had to respond. In the UK the result was the Farmscale Trials (FSTs), and a four-year voluntary agreement between the government and industry to hold off commercialisation of GM crops until the trials are finished. At a European level the result was a moratorium on the EU approval of new GM crop varieties.

an Economics Study and a Public Debate. The first two, which are likely to have more political clout than the latter, will involve panels of experts looking at ‘the evidence,’ largely behind closed doors. The scoping documents for these sections have already demonstrated how reductionist and uncritical their analysis is likely to be. The fact that the Economics Study is being carried out by the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit (the government’s PR department) gives you some idea of how ‘objective’ these studies will be.

Just as the FSTs were a crude attempt to allay public concerns (and soak up opposition), the debate is another one-size-fits-all attempt to ‘identify and address any gaps and uncertainties in public knowledge.’ The government was convinced of the need for public debate by the relatively balanced and independent AEBC committee. The AEBC advised that the government needed to involve the general public in decisions about GM commercialisation. Acting on this advice the government then gave the project a minute budget and said that the whole process had to be finished by June. In recent weeks, as it becomes embarrassingly obvious that the whole thing was about to fall apart, the government has reluctantly increased the budget to half of that initially proposed by the AEBC and extended its deadline. Interestingly, the new extended Public Debate will now have to take into account the results of the FSTs published in June. This is something that the government wanted to avoid just in case they throw up anything awkward.

The debate will run from May to September and its results will be published in late 2003/early 2004. The debate will involve several official public meetings around the country, regional public meetings, grass-roots events and a website, all using an centrally designed ‘tool kit’. For more information go to www.gmpublicdebate.org.uk

In many ways both the FSTs and the Public Debate are simply government window dressing, designed to distract public attention and campaigners’ energy away from their real intentions. The FSTs and the debate have no legal basis, the government has no statutory obligation to pay any attention to them at all. Whatever the result it seems likely that they will go ahead if they think they can get away with it.

Whilst it may not be worth putting too much effort into influencing the Public Debate both the debate and the FST results are likely to generate windows of intense media interest on GM issues that might prove ripe for hijacking by opportunists with a more radical agenda.

the realities

Whilst the government pretends it is still open-minded about the whole GM issue, the following processes will be quietly pushing us towards commercialisation:

National Seed Listing trials

In order for any new plant variety to be sold commercially it has to be placed on the National Seed List (NSL). In order to achieve this, the plant variety has to satisfactorily complete 2 years of trials to demonstrate its value for cultivation and use, and its distinctiveness, uniformity and stability. These trials are an essential part of the commercialisation process and have been ongoing during the period of the FSTs. NSL trials for 3 different varieties of Bayer’s MS8xRF3 herbicide tolerant oil seed rape are currently underway at 10 sites in the UK.

Stirrings in Europe

Since the beginning of 2003 the EU has started receiving a flood of marketing applications for GMOs – that hasn’t been the case since the moratorium started. Some of these applications cover imports of new GM crops into the EU for food use, but others are for cultivation of new GM varieties in the EU. The applications for cultivation include all those GM OSR and sugar beet varieties that have successfully completed NSL trials in the UK. Should any of these varieties gain EU marketing consent one of the final barriers to their commercialisation would be removed.

At present it looks like the EU moratorium is going to continue for the time being, at least until new legislation on labelling and traceability of GM food comes into effect. Until that happens the approval of new GM varieties is not an immediate threat. What it looks like is the GM

companies, by submitting so many applications, are increasing the pressure on the EU to lift the moratorium. The US recently said that they do not want a trade war with Europe over GM at present (they had their work cut out getting backing for a war on Iraq). By forcing the EU to actively enforce the moratorium the GM industry is setting up the conditions for a trade war to happen in the future.

The US has been threatening to take the EU to the WTO over its 4 year moratorium and, the real test case, the labelling and traceability of GM food. The US claims that the labelling of GM food stuffs have a “negative connotation” and are therefore a barrier to free trade. Traceability - being able to say exactly where each ingredient of the food comes from - would add so much to the cost of producing GM food that it would be unprofitable. The case, if it ever comes, could prove very interesting on two counts. Firstly, will the EU cave in to US pressure, against the majority of EU citizens? Secondly, if the EU loses at the WTO what will the reaction be?

Corporations and commercialisation

Commercial growing of GM crops is being pushed forward by 3 companies: Bayer CropScience, Monsanto and Syngenta. Bayer have most to gain. Two of their GM maize varieties - Chardon LL and Sheriden - are first in line for commercialisation. They also have a large number of GM oilseed rape varieties that are close to commercialisation. Monsanto and Syngenta share two varieties of GM sugar beet that are close to commercialisation. It is worth noting that none of these companies are performing well and they are all desperate to make GM crops a success in the UK and Europe.

Chardon LL, milk and seeds

In order for Bayer’s GM fodder maize to be a commercial success, farmers have to be able to sell their GM fed meat and dairy produce. Leaning on dairy companies to not accept milk from cows fed on GM fodder maize could help destroy the market for Chardon LL before it starts. Working on the other end of the supply chain - putting pressure on seed suppliers and distributors to stay GM free - might also be profitable.

Research and Development trials

Beyond trials of GM crops that are soon to be commercialised, a small number of R&D trials are also underway. These represent the next generation of GM crops. They are all small scale, at an early stage of development, and VERY important to the companies conducting them. These trials are being conducted by: John Innes Centre in Norwich, looking at GM barley, Advanced Technologies (Cambridge), a subsidiary of British American Tobacco, looking at GM potatoes and Syngenta, which is continuing with trials of fungal resistant wheat.

Useful contacts

Genetic Engineering Network (GEN)
www.geneticsaction.org.uk 0845 4569329
Information for action, updated details of test site locations and support for local groups

Totnes Genetics Group (TOGG)
www.togg.org.uk 01803 840098
Information for action, Life cycles pedal powered cinema and the Genetix Update

Corporate Watch
www.corporatewatch.org.uk 01865 791391
Information of corporations including those involved in GM crops

Genewatch
www.genewatch.org 01298 871898
A policy research group evaluating genetic technologies from the perspective of human and animal health and welfare together with environmental protection.

...its not over yet!

Anti-war protests

the pick of the most inspiring and/or piss-taking actions of the last few months



BOMB CONVOY STOPPED BY DIRECT ACTION

On 10th April, in one of a series of such actions, a military convoy carrying bombs for use in Iraq was stopped en route from RAF Welford to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. Five anti-war activists from Bristol blocked the A417 near Cirencester with a car. Two of the group chained themselves underneath their vehicle with bike locks. Police escorting the convoy soon arrived on the scene. One officer was heard to say "Shit, we've been looking for this sort of thing all week, and now it happens on our own back doorstep!" It took them 45 minutes to remove the activists with hydraulic cutters and clear the blockade. Four activists were arrested for obstruction of the highway. All were later released, three without charge, but one still facing charges.

Tornado trashing

12th March: Trident Ploughshares activist Ulla Roder confirmed that the Tornado jet which she damaged yesterday at Leuchars airbase is unlikely to fly again. She described how she went into a hangar at the Fife airbase and discovered the plane completely unguarded. She said: "I took my hammer to the nose-cone, the cockpit, the fuselage, the wings, the tailplane and other parts of the plane which it was safe to damage. I don't see it flying again. I then sat down and waited for the security people to arrive. When the police came everything was calm and relaxed." She is in good spirits and pleased that this particular aircraft will not be dropping bombs on innocent people in Iraq.

Critical Mass inside RAF base

11th March: at approximately 11a.m. two people cut a huge hole in the fence at RAF Lakenheath, through which seven people then walked or rode bicycles. Unfortunately, due to the crapness of the bikes, two of them fell apart as soon as they were sat on. However, not to be deterred, people just changed their plans to fit the circumstances. One man, partly because he didn't have any brakes, went bombing off to the main runway, where he caused an upset and got dive-bombed by a man of the American forces who was riding alongside him in a jeep of some kind. Meanwhile two other men cycled and ran along the taxi-way around the perimeter of the base. At the same time two women got onto one of the runways and swiftly locked themselves together with d-locks and sat down, while two other women d-locked themselves together and sat down on the taxi-way. All the women were arrested at 12.30p.m. An hour later the American Fire Department came along to try to free them. They were dressed in silver foil moon-walking suits, had the biggest hydraulic cutting gear known to man, took one look and said, "No problem." The blade broke on the first lock.



They still tried to use the same gear to cut the lock on the second woman, and bruised her just below the collar bone as a result. They then gave up, leaving the MOD Plod to come along a further hour or so later and do the job properly, efficiently, and with much more care and attention to safety of the women concerned. The men who just cycled or walked on the base were simply escorted off the base with a warning not to come back. The women who locked on were all eventually taken to Newmarket police station where they were all charged with aggravated trespass. The two who cut the fence were taken to Mildenhall and charged with criminal damage. They were offered a caution but refused it on the grounds that they had no remorse whatsoever for what they had done. They were then offered a range of ludicrous bail conditions which they have since challenged.

Base invaders

10th March: two anti-war activists breached security at RAF Leuchars in order to inspect the base ahead of any illegal use in an attack on Iraq. Despite RAF bosses insisting security at the airbase was "very good" and a "top priority", the two were able to enter and inspect the base for over two hours before being discovered, even though one was a wheelchair user. Both were charged with two sets of Malicious Mischief for the alleged cutting of five sections of chainlink fence, and for spray painting peace messages on three army trucks and an aircraft hanger. They were let out on bail and petitioned to appear again at Cupar Sheriff Court, and on the condition that one gave up his passport whilst the level of damages are assessed.

ARMS COMPANIES ATTACKED

In the early hours of March 6th a group of people took the anti-war message to those who profit most from war. The offices of two companies central to the weapons industry, Spearhead Exhibitions Ltd and BAE Systems were drenched in blood.

Red paint was thrown inside and outside the Apex Tower, New Malden where the companies are based. The lobby was turned into a blood bath and 'Wanted' posters were super-glued on the windows condemning BAE Systems and Spearhead Exhibitions Ltd for war crimes with the slogan 'Smash the Arms Trade! Smash the State!'

MP given what for

5th March: anti-war activists in Cambridge staged a noisy protest outside the local Labour Party offices. Anne Campbell MP had invited a junior defence minister to try to persuade the local party that killing thousands of Iraqis was a brilliant idea (he failed by the way - in an informal vote at the end no one supported military action and only 2 or 3 failed to vote either way). The Minister and MP arrived to be

greeted by the naked arses of several activists. Their cheeks were covered in slogans such as "Ethical Foreign Policy - MY ARSE" and simply "NO WAR". The protesters made sure those in the meeting couldn't forget they were there by chanting and singing for much of the meeting.

When the Minister tried to leave his car was surrounded by about 10 people who sat down in the road. At this point he was treated to another display of some anti-war arse, just in case he hadn't taken it all in first time round. The police took a while to arrive (hard to believe that they hadn't been called earlier) during which time at least one labour party member joined the protest while others encouraged the protesters to move.

The (two!) cops got annoyed after being on the scene for a couple of minutes and started threatening arrests. People started walking very slowly in front of the car and helped it up for a bit longer. In total, activists had about 15 minutes to get their message across to the minister through the window of his car, before deciding to let him past (and avoid getting nicked).

The kids are alright

5th March: hundreds of schoolchildren in Birmingham staged a walk-out from lessons, culminating in a rally outside the Council House. Many were said to have been supported by their parents. Teachers were also said to have expressed sympathy with the protest.

Give 'em shit

5th March: "at 9am this morning, Mark Thomas and friends dumped a truckload of manure at Labour Party offices in London in protest at the UK/US resolution 2 about the Iraq War."

BAe blockade

3rd March: Cardiff Anarchists broke into a BAE ammunitions factory and conducted their own search for 'weapons of mass destruction,' including the 1,000lb bombs manufactured at the Glascoed site near Usk in Monmouthshire. At least 8 activists entered the factory, some locking on and others 'losing themselves' in the maze of factories.

God bless

February 28th: around 1,000 people blockade Canterbury Cathedral, but Prime Minister Blair gets out of a different entrance. Better luck next time...

Train blockade

24th February: activists blocked a train bringing US military equipment from Germany, preventing it being loaded at Antwerp docks to be shipped to the Gulf.

Fairford fence breached

23rd February: around 700 demonstrators converged on Fairford US Air Force base in Gloucestershire. The crowd pushed at the gates and pulled fencing over using ropes with karabiner clips attached to the ends. A number of protesters got into the base and were pursued by riot police and



dogs before finally being thrown out. Other activists cut holes and entered the base at other sites and some managed to get onto the runway by dismantling the extremely flimsy fence round it.

German blockade

22nd February: around 10,000 people marched on Rhein-Main airbase in Germany, with 2,000 blockading the entrances to prevent equipment being transferred from the base to the Gulf in preparation for the war. A similar sized march to a base near Cologne the following day was met by armed guards.

And even in the USA itself someone doesn't like this war...in Jacksonville, Florida a train carrying military equipment for the 101st Airborne Division was torched and some of the hardware inside also broken up and burnt.

Italian action

February 21st-28th: a week of anti-war actions in Italy included the occupation of railway stations to prevent US munitions trains from transporting weapons, troops and other military materials. Some trains were completely stopped and sent back to their destinations, and once the actions started 'trainstopping' became the focus for anti-war actions, resulting in thousands of bannerhangs and blockades and in large numbers of activists joining the network of real-time reporting of the whereabouts and destinations of trains. A Padova radio station formed the centre for reporting. The Italian police reacted to this wave of popular dissent with its typical brutality, beating and manhandling protesters. Some protesters took to running alongside trains to pull the emergency levers and to locking on to railway tracks. Other activists blockaded military airports and military lorry transports, and several members of parliament demanded entry into one airbase, confirming rumours of nuclear US nuclear bunkers. Union members also refused to load US warheads onto docked cargo ships.

Sabotage in the Netherlands

9th February: a Dutch activist sabotaged the communications discs on a US communications bunker at Volkel military airport. The Volkel base is, amongst other things, home to 11 special nuclear bunkers.

School's out

And many of the 'adult' demos were put to shame by the nation's schoolkids. Here's one report from a Leicester City Council member... "There were at least 1,000 Leicester school kids who nicked off today and turned up in the City Centre to make a fuss against the war, shouting "No More War" & "We Want Peace". City shoppers either clapped them or joined in - the police appeared to find it very hard to contain as every time they formed a line of uniforms - one of the little tykes booted a ball over their lines and a couple of hundred more ran after it ... They've all gone home for their teas now but it's been the most effective anti-war demo in the City in recent weeks."

