

SQUALL

NUMBER 16 SUMMER 98

Necessity Breeds Ingenuity

Globalised resistance
American spies in UK
Inside Freemasonry
Outback special
Nike rip-offs



playing the joker
dancing with the devil at hell's G8



*Greenpeace climbers scaled Nelson's Column to greet the Queen as she opened Canada House in May. Protesting at the Canadian Government's treatment of its remaining rainforest, they unfurled a banner the full length of the column saying: 'God save Canada's rainforests' as other activists, dressed as mounties, disrupted the opening ceremony.
Photo by John Cunningham.*



Features

The Countryside Corralled

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Gandalf freed after spell in prison

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Picture creditz

Back cover: The SQUALL sales team by Ian Hunter. Front cover: Birmingham Reclaim The Streets by Nick Cobbing. Various 'toons by Kate Evans.



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Information



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Issue 16 has been:

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Nick Cobbing, Rachel Cunningham,
Susie Fenn, Dave Holman,
Andy Johnson, Steve Redshaw,
Jez Tucker, Sam Wild,
Georgia Wisbey.

The all time much respect and without whom....

Seamus Cunningham, Andrew Testa, Chris McTofu, Tim Nun, Seamus O'Conner, Jim Paton, Nikki Spawls, Rosie, Debbie Allen, Matty, Doug Hodge, Tony Allen, Ivan Coleman, Tim Malyon, Eka Morgan, Tash, Milton, Shane Collins, Kay, Kai, Jenny Smith, Dave, Mark Kelly, Mike Connell, Neil Goodwin, Adamskus, Rory Motion, ASS Collective, Ally Fogg, Shaun Trevesick, Ian Hunter, Gina Feitelson, Disco G, Dice George, Rachel Wood, Dinah Murray, Johnny O'Sullivan, Andrea Latham, Andy Vizicom, Zoe Leilah, Arthur Husk, Tim No Tekno, Mele Mel, Debbie Shaw, Stevie K, Mark Connell, the 52b-ers, Kate Evans, Andy Drysdale, Karen Robinson, Dave Fox Techno Tribe, Green Futures, Exodus, Glyn Walters, Chit Chong, John Hegley, Mark Brown, Jim Bomford and the SQUALL ambassador massive, Andy Smith, Mark Connell, Peter Panatone, Gerry Oates, Eric Hickson, Captain Dan, Sally Chesworth, Dave Disney, Debbie Young, the folk @ National Homeless Alliance, Julia Guest, Simon Griffbum, Tristan, Adrian Arbib, Ursula Wills-Jones, Paul Guenault, Emma Jackson, Andy, Reg, Ben Schneider, Benley, Marcus, Naomi, Ben Skelton.

This issue, much respect and without whom...

Sally Chesworth, Ben Schneider, Mark Thomas, Ned, KT Evans, Helen Bradbear, Colin Angus, Jim Paton, Andrea Latham, Atilla, the Exodus Massive, The Draylon Underground, Ian Hunter, Andy, Reg, Andre Vincent, Rob Newman, Adamskus, ASS Collective, Andrew Pipe, Kevin Miles + Jeanie for the bed, Shirley and Brian Winter, Steve Gribbin, Steve Drayton, all @ the Wedgewood Rooms (especially Tom no hair), Brownwood Library, Nathalie Chidley, Mark Brown, Flannel, Tim No Tekno, Mele Mel, Chris Toff, Steve Suckling, Jamie Hartzell, Schnews, Isobel.

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When will we meet again?

Special message to readers... page 51

The State it's in

A view from SQUALL central

We are being asked to believe that we have arrived. That the adolescent mood swings of British political history are now becalming with a more mature and considered distillation of the best of all previous politics.

The new brand image suggests that the 'Labour' Government have alchemically extracted the 'social' from socialism, the 'capital' from capitalism and so devised... the third way.

This strap-line is now touted as the encapsulation of the Labour Government's embrace of the centre-ground, but conceptually it is nothing new. Buddhist philosophy speaks of 'the middle way', the balanced charting of a course which steers the ship between the extremes. "If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same," is Rudyard Kipling's famous way of putting it.

In short it is a familiar concept, perhaps even aspiration, deeply embedded in our collective psyche. The idea is enticing; the accompanying rhetoric has resonance. But we have every reason to be extremely wary. For in our advert-saturated world, huge financial rewards await those who identify social resonance and harness the resulting market opportunities for commercial persuasion. Politics is a product and we, the electorate, are its consumers. Once we tear off the packaging and consume the goods, are we satiated?

When the party political leaders rose to deliver their conference speeches last October, they did so with five television screens arranged in a semi-circle before them. Their speeches, partly written by paid speech writers, were read out from the semi-circle of tele-prompters, inducing those in the auditorium - and those watching through the eyes of television cameras - to feeling they were being personally talked to by someone who meant what they said. In the same month, Fidel Castro - 71 years old and falsely rumoured by the western media to be of poor health - stood up at the Cuban Communist Party Conference and spoke for six and quarter hours without a tele-prompter. Which of these deliveries were the more genuine? The organic or the processed?

It is now well-known that the present Labour Government's PR strategy studiously avoids using the 'S' word. Along with communism, socialism has now been manoeuvred into the dangerous dustbin, to be fished out at the user's political peril.

Capitalism, however, remains in regular usage, unfettered by the political embarrassment which hangs round the necks of the other two words like mighty millstones. This selective acceptability of language represents a propaganda triumph.

Capitalism survives in current usage because the political lexicon itself is a competitive market and, by disposition, capitalists are well-versed with the techniques of seeing off competitive products.

Margaret Thatcher's advanced deployment of PR and advertising strategies saw to it that the competitive socialist product was ruined in the minds of the political consumer. As with all advertising strategies there was resonance in the assertion that old socialism was dogmatic, but her successful 'loony left' tag saw to it that the baby went with the bath water and would trouble the Capitalists no more. In her mind there was "no such thing as society", what use Socialism? The consequences of her propaganda successes paved the way for Tony Blair and his band of 'non-socialists', to arrive with a 'new' more socially acceptable face of capitalism.

It was the Americans who saw to it that western democracy would no longer entertain the concept of Communism. The dictatorial nature of the Soviet example was easily deployed in propaganda strategies designed to rubbish the entire concept of Communism. Yet the fact that Christianity still survives in the lexicon of social acceptability, despite the Spanish inquisition et al, provides a clue as to the intention of such ideological targeting. So too does America's dealings with China.

China's powerfully capitalist tendencies ensure that America turns a blind eye to its communism, proffering it with a 'most favoured trading nation status'. And whilst America consistently attempts to persuade the world that communist Cuba's human rights record is poor, it sees no hypocrisy in trading with China despite its far more appalling human rights record. Meanwhile, we in the West hear little about the CIA operatives in Cuba working to undermine Castro's government, and therefore consider the draconian state security in Cuba, not as a counteraction to American subversion, but simply as the repressive lack of human rights we are taught to view as an inherent characteristic of the politics of the communal.

One hundred miles off the coast of America is one of the last genuine experiments with the 'ism' of the communal. And yet, to begin with, the Cuban revolution did not view itself as communist at all. Fidel Castro expressed his version of 'the third way' just after the revolution in 1959: "Our revolution is neither capitalist nor communist. We want to liberate man from dogmas, and free his economy and society without terrorising or binding anyone. We have been placed in a position where we must choose between capitalism that starves people, and communism that resolves the economic problem but suppresses the liberties so greatly cherished by man. Our revolution is not red, but olive green, the colour of the rebel army that emerged from the heart of the Sierra Maestra." According to his co-revolutionary, Che Guevara, the Cuban revolution was "Socialism with pachanga" (a popular Cuban rhythm).

However, the Americans had little time for the niceties of genuine debate and persistently portrayed the new Cuban government as commie red, to be feared and ostracised. With little choice but to seek full commercial relations with the USSR, the Cuban Government were effectively cornered into defending themselves as communists, and so developed a form of communism which provides perhaps the best example of such political ideology to be found anywhere in the world. The story is a formidable one; organic and humanitarian beyond the wildest dreams of the current political spin doctors with their wafer-thin messages of compassion and ethicality.

Thirty nine years ago, Fidel Castro lay pinned down by gunfire on the shores of his native Cuba. The island's corrupt President, Fulgencia Batista, had conspired with the Mafia to run Havana as a rich American playtown whilst US companies owned 90 per cent of Cuba's plantations, industry and services. Keen to restore Cuba to the ownership of its people, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and 80 fellow revolutionaries crammed onto an old ten-berth yacht and sailed to the island. Notified of their arrival, Batista attacked them with fighter planes, killing all but the twenty who managed to hide in the swamps. Batista must have laughed at the ease with which he had killed off the revolution. However, over the next two years, the revolutionaries with their seven surviving rifles, lived and grew stronger amongst Cuban peasants in the Sierra Maestra mountains. From there, they succeeded in deposing Batista and kicking both the Americans and the Mafia off the island. To this day, regardless of your political perspective, Cuba offers one of the rare, modern day examples of an alternative to the system of American corporatism which has been foisted on much of the rest of the world. In 1958, one year before the revolution, life expectancy in Cuba was 57 years. By 1993 it was 76. In 1958, infant mortality was 60 per 1,000 in Cuba. Today, despite material shortages brought on by the US blockade, it is 8. In 1958, there was one doctor per 5,000 Cubans, whereas in 1993 there was one doctor per 231. Cuba had a literacy rate of 76 per cent in 1959; it is now 96 per cent.

This Caribbean island's audacious stance against the imperial might of America induced a US reaction described by one EU commissioner recently as "obsessive", with America seeking every opportunity to force other nations to abide with its draconian and highly undemocratic trade embargo on Cuba - the country that dared say no to the United States of America.

In sharp contrast, Tony Blair's 'third way' involves almost complete allegiance to the wishes of the United States. In May this year, Blair expressed his devotion thus: "Part of Britain's role and function is to be a bridge between the US and Europe, to say to Europe 'Recognise the value of American leadership in the world', and to say to the US 'Believe me, people do value the leadership'."

The British Government were, indeed, the first off the starting block to support the largely American-drafted Multi-lateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). This monster of a free-trade agreement will pave the way for multinational companies to operate anywhere in the world without the interference of the host nation's government. For instance, France operates special incentives for home-grown movie makers, ensuring their survival in the face of the well-resourced aggressive marketing power of the titanic American movie industry. Under the MAI these incentives will be illegal.

The only reason this Agreement was not ratified, as expected in April of this year, was because many of the powerful economic nations have proposed a series of special exceptions. It is no mere irony that the United States themselves have insisted their trade embargo on Cuba - which would be illegal under the MAI - should be exempt from the Agreement. Despite the MAI's teething problems, this framework for global capitalism is set to make a reappearance, to be pushed back onto the agenda at a later date. There is hardly a country in the world that will be able to afford not to sign up to it.

The British Government's willingness to slavishly abide by such American initiatives suggests that capitalism is by far the largest ingredient in Tony Blair's so called third way. The casual ease with which the Labour Government have rescinded those manifesto promises which are not supported by corporate forces provides further proof of the processed pudding.

Labour Government commitments to curb the excesses of the British arms industry - the second largest in the world after the US - have progressed little further than the rhetoric. Despite making much political noise about refusing seven small arms contracts to Indonesia, the Labour Government have granted licences for another 56.

The CIA-backed succession of Suharto to the presidency of Indonesia in 1965 involved the killing of 500,000 communists in the country. Since 1975, a further 200,000 East Timorese have been murdered. As SQUALL goes to press, over 500 demonstrators have been killed by Suharto's security forces in the brutal suppression of public dissent this year.

We would all be cheering if Robin Cook's rhetorical commitment to an "ethical foreign policy" would amount to anything. However, with Britain acting as Indonesia's biggest arms supplier, a resonant symbol of the lack of substance behind Cook's rhetoric is to be found on page 13 of the first annual report on human rights published by the Foreign Office. For there at the bottom of the page is the purported model of ethicality, Robin Cook, shaking hands with President Suharto.

In the last issue of SQUALL, published just after the general election, we questioned whether the rhetoric of 'compassion' which peppered much of Labour's electoral promises would be of sufficient concentration to survive the inevitable desires of corporate forces. But promises came and promises were laid aside.

The commitment to ban all tobacco advertising disappeared when the financial interests of formula one racing were deemed more worthy of protection than the health of the nation. Meanwhile, the promise that all British citizens should have the enshrined right to roam in their own countryside was retracted following a visit to Downing Street by a lobbying group from the Country Landowners' Association in March.

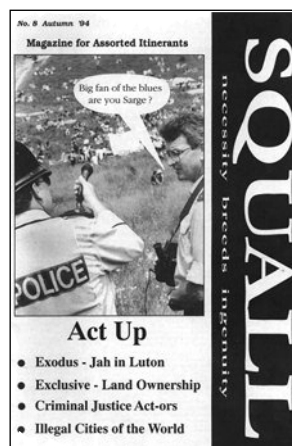
Further incredulity over the proportion of capitalist desires satiated in Blair's version of the 'third way' occurred when the Government recently touted the idea of allowing private companies to be involved in the running of schools not performing well in the school league table system; a controversial measure of educational success originally introduced by the Tories. The Education Action Zones, as they are to be called, will allow executives from the investing private company to take their place alongside school governors and parents in the decision-making processes concerned with how a school is run. The first company to show a public interest in the scheme is American.

In fact, take corporate interests out of the 'new' Labour equation and there is very little left. So much for 'the third way'.

When the turnout for the May '98 local elections proved so low, political apologists suggested this was due to the public's contentment with the new admirals of British politics. And yet evidence has proved once again that the orders crackling through from high command are the same as they ever were, albeit repackaged to keep up with trends in modern advertising. The only medicine to this malaise of continuing disillusionment is coming from those outside the strait-jacket of parliamentary politics.

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SQUALL BACK ISSUES

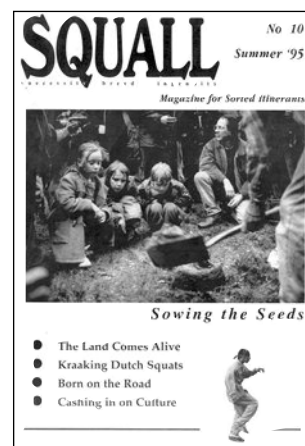


Issue 8: ACT UP (56pp A4) - A major investigative introduction to the Exodus Collective/Full report on the Westminster Council scandal /Criminal Justice Act/Tinkers' Bubble/Land ownership/Housing quangoes International squatters/ Road Wars/News of the skews/ letters, regulars and more.

Issue 9: FOLK-A-SING (48pp tabloid) Critical Mass/Agenda 21/Claremont Road special/Female protestors/Peddalling across the Atlantic/Mental health and human rights/ Criminal Justice Act/Grass roots housing/Exodus Collective public enquiry/Hyde Park CJA demonstration/ Underground houses/Land ownership/Road Wars/ International SQUALL /shuffles in shadow housing/ Actors of Parliament /letters, regulars and more.

Issue 10: SOWING THE SEEDS (52pp tabloid) Job Seekers Allowance/ Amsterdam squatters/ Travellers special/Hulme Estate/The culture cash-in on raves and festivals/Riot Police violence against road protestors/ Internet itinerants/ Squatters at the Grange/Housing Bill/ Exodus/ Sustainable Development/Agenda 21/Reclaim the Streets/ Stanworth Valley/ Childbirth on the road/ Land Occupation@ Wisley Airfield/ letters, regulars and more.

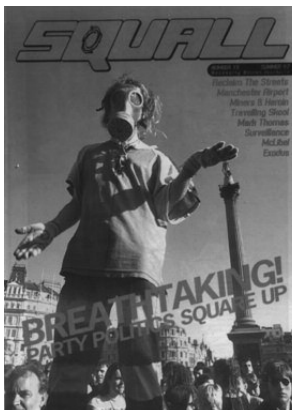
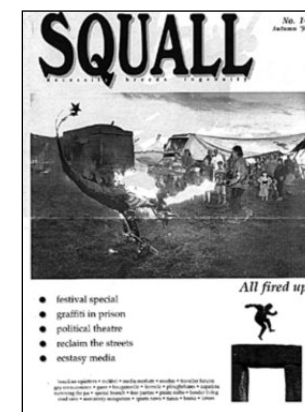
Issue 11: STROKE IT UP (88pp tabloid) A major McLibel special/ To rave or riot?/Female DJs/Job Seekers Allowance/Tinker's Bubble/UN Sound system/Wally Hope/Tan Hill Fayre/ Reclaim the streets/ European Romani/Beggars/ Mumia Abu-Jamal/Exodus/ Holtsfield/ Opencast mining/Kenyan nomads/Artillery Mansions and MacNaughton House/Cool Tan/Jack Straw as parrot/ squatting/letters, regulars and more.



Issue 12: LIVELY UP YOURSELF (64pp tabloid) Demonising Ecstasy/Hunt Saboteurs/ Keith Mann/Countryside Movement/ Romany Gypsy special/Radical home education /Newbury/M66 protest/ Whatley Quarry shutdown/ Zapatista/ Ladakhi nomads/ Street theatre/book reviews/ letters, regulars and more.

Issue 13: OUT AFTER CURFEW (68 PP tabloid) Raving in Bosnia/MIS and environmental activism Pirate Radio/Infiltrating the RSPCA /All Systems Go sound system/ McDonald's and Rainforests/ The Environment Agency/Noise Bill/ Plough shares/Licensing Parties/ Alternative Technology/ Mick Marlow - Cannabis cultivator/ Refugee Squatters/CS Gas/Newbury road protest/ Tibet/ Howard's prison regime/Music reviews /Mark Kelly/Lofty Tones/letters, regulars and more.

Issue 14: ALL FIRED UP (72 pp tabloid) Festival special/Graffiti in prison/Political theatre/Reclaim the Streets/Ecstasy media/ Brazilian squatters/McLibel/Fairmile/ Surviving the JSA/Ploughshares/Pirate radio/ Zapatista/ Bougainville/Special Branch/Free Parties/Bender living/Monastery occupation/Gay consumerism/ Exodus/Traveller Futures/Lofty Tone/Reviews: music, book & artz/Lycra Shorts - sports news/Mark Kelly/Free Party tunes/ Roundabout - gossip & intrigue/letters, regulars and more.



Issue 15: BREATH TAKING! PARTY POLITICS SQUARE UP (60pp tabloid)

The implications of police powers of 'intrusive surveillance'/Manchester Airport protest/BP's operations in Colombia/Travellers' Skool/heroin use in ex-mining communities/the March for Social Justice (picture story)/Pubmaster 2000 spy cameras/Liverpool Docks/Exodus update/Mark Kelly/music, book & web reviews/Lofty Tone/Road Rage/letters, regulars and the rest.

Each back issue costs £2 + 55p p&p. and are available from Back Issues, SQUALL, Box 8959, London N19 5HW.



An activist is led away after an eviction at Brewery Fields, North Wales. Photo by Sarah Roberts

Torture tactics

Activists at Kingston and Brewery Fields protest sites recount their experience of police and bailiff eviction techniques. Report by Susie Fenn.

VETERAN ANTI-ROADS campaigners say evictions from this year's tree protests have been increasingly heavy-handed. Protestors have been removed from their lock-ons using 'physical persuasion', similar to techniques employed at Newbury, and 'torture tactics', instead of being cut out.

The four-month Kingston protest over the felling of 56 poplar trees in a public park to allow for a better view of the river for a luxury housing development, was heavily supported by local people, some of whom were apparently disgusted at the severity of the eviction which one protestor described as "commando style". As Kingston is a Royal borough there was a fair amount of media attention to the eviction and it appears that the police were at pains to protect their public image. One protestor told SQUALL: "The police seemed to be much more aware of the cameras than they usually are... and how to avoid them."

Another protestor, usually known for her ability to hold on for at least 40 minutes, only managed 10 due to excessive pain and police applying pressure-point tactics.

Similarly, reports from the Brewery Fields protest in North Wales, where a campaign to stop building on common land is in its fifth year, indicate a

growing tendency of police and bailiffs to use increasing force.

Brewery Fields is a "local haven for both wildlife and people. The fields are bordered by ancient woodland," says Jim Bomford, who has been camped at the site with other protestors for around eight weeks: "The violence used on protestors was appalling, inexcusable and unnecessary. Local residents who have been trying to register the land as a town green were shocked as they watched North Wales police and bailiffs remove people."

At 8am on the day of the eviction Jenny was read the eviction notice and refused to leave, she later wrote in a statement: "They pressured me behind the ears, hurting me badly. My hearing slackened out as if voices were from a distance, though they were shouting in my ear to unlock. I tucked my left hand by the neck to keep it safe. Then they knelt on my calf muscles forcefully, pressing hard. Then they knelt on my back thigh muscles, shooting unbearable pain up my leg, meanwhile still pushing my pressure points. Then they got my left arm out and twisted it behind my back, bending my wrist."

Jenny says this took place whilst the police "stood around the lock-ons blocking any public view".

Her statement goes on: "The torture continued, they put a handcuff on my left wrist, locking it, this was their last resort. Bending, tightening, twisting my wrist, I had to give in, the pain was excruciating. I unlocked screaming with pain."

Later at the police station, in order to search Jenny's pockets the police tried to remove the cuffs: "The cuffs were jammed from the pressure put on my wrists. After several tries they got them off. My wrist is swollen now, with marks from the cuffs, shooting pains to my elbow, my left wrist is jittering. As I am writing my head is spinning with a headache creeping in! I have to support my wrist. There are welts, bruising where they pressure pointed me."

Kath, another Brewery Fields protestor, said in her statement, after two hours in a police cell and still in pain and shock: "The bulldozer driver was asked to place his bulldozer as a screen between the public and me. Police were ordered to stand in a tight semicircle between the public and me. They were told to shut their legs to prevent the public from seeing the following events. Two officers (I think sergeants - one named Crow) told me I had two choices - either to unlock or to face 'reasonable force'."

The rest of Kath's statement is just as harrowing as Jenny's and, that day, eight people needed hospital treatment.

Although some of these incidents were reported in the press, no

mention was made of protestors apparently being informed that their use of force conformed to Home Office guidelines.

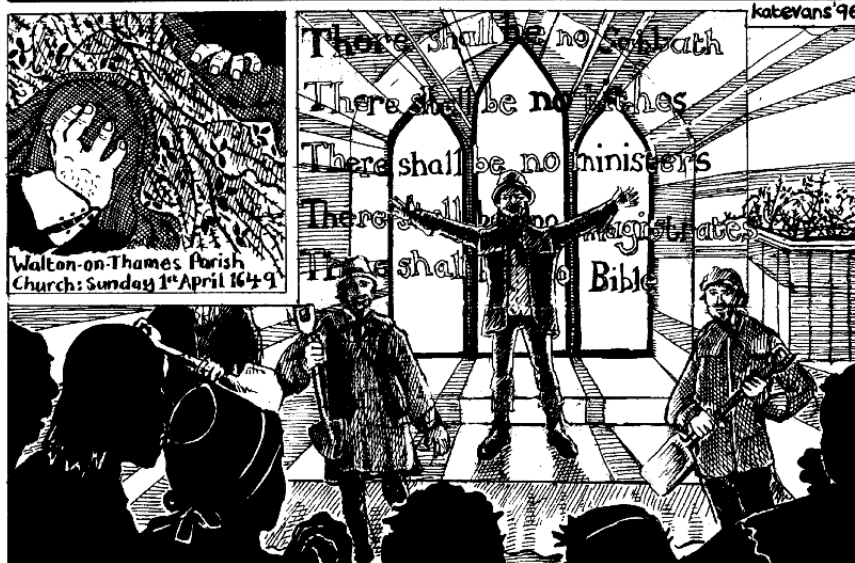
Brewery Fields protestors may have prevented another nasty eviction two weeks later by telling police that if they repeated their tactics they would be reported in the national media and that the torture of activists had caused outrage among local people. Apparently the police withdrew. The protestors eventually climbed off the digger they were on when the driver went home and no arrests were made.

Undeafed, the Brewery Fields protestors have moved to another area of the meadow, destined, if the town council have their way, for road construction.

There are obvious implications for all protests if the police get away with using this style of eviction. Evidence of police tactics from Brewery Fields is now in the hands of solicitors. One protestor told SQUALL: "The case hinges on two main issues; firstly the police are able to use these levels of force but not in this context. These are techniques for specific life-threatening situations, not for torturing women and men locked onto the ground. Secondly the other possibility is that the police are sanctioned to do what the fuck they like, in which case this will have to be taken to the European court of human rights."

Contact: Save Brewery Fields Campaign Office, 01248 351 541. Site mobile, 0836 563 980.

A SHORT HISTORY LESSON



Council of State, 15th April 1649: "On Sunday Sennight last there was one Everard, once of the army but was cashiered, who termeth himself a prophet, one Steaver and Cudton and two more, all living in Cobham, came to St George's hill in Surrey and began to dig on that side of the hill next to Camps Close, and sowed the ground with parsnips, carrots & beans..."



On Monday following they were there again, being increased in their number... On Friday last they came again, between twenty and thirty and wrought all day at digging... They did then intend to have two or three ploughs at work. They invite all to join them and promise them meat & drink & clothes.

It is feared they have some design in hand."

Squanagrams

Peter Mandelson

Lamented person
Molest and preen
Mean denser plot

Slept near demon
Rat demon spleen
Mean old serpent
Plot ensnared me

Test proves positive

Drugs activists launch ecstasy testing kits in Brixton. Sam Wild was on the front line.

DRUG AWARENESS-RAISING GROUPS

calling for a reassessment of current drug legislation pulled-off a brazen publicity stunt in Brixton, South London recently. Parking a 7.5 tonne curtain truck outside the Fridge nightclub, campaigners offered passers-by and Love Muscle club night attendees the opportunity to step inside the mobile ecstasy testing chamber (complete with settee and chill out space).

A few curious clubbers volunteered their pills and found out that most of them contained speed despite buying the pills as ecstasy.

The test is similar to that pioneered in Holland (and is increasingly being supported by the Dutch authorities) in which a scraping from a pill is mixed with Marquis Reagent solution and a simple colour change indicates the presence of MDMA, Speed and 2CB.

The Green Party Drugs Group and Ecstasy.org (the web site set up by the author Nicholas Saunders who tragically died recently) which spearheaded the

action have been reassured by the sales of DIY ecstasy testing kits and have recently launched an interactive database on the web site which allows people to add the results of their tests.

Shane Collins, a Green Party representative explained: "The long-term aim of this campaign is to change the law on E testing and prohibition in general... In an unfettered illicit drugs market, there are no quality controls and testing is a rational response to an identifiable need."

By launching the cyber arm of the ecstasy testing campaign, ecstasy.org are hoping to internationalise the issue through the Internet and are encouraged by the numbers of people already using the database facility. "Over three million people a year, seeking accurate information on all aspects of ecstasy use, access the site making it the ideal host for such a scheme," said an ecstasy.org spokesperson.

Campaigning groups are now pointing to recent surveys on drugs as evidence that the Government's tough line is not working including one carried out by Greater Manchester Police which found that six out of ten people arrested for all crimes, and who volunteered for an anonymous drugs test, proved positive to recent drug use. Yet, despite the increasing popularity of actions of this kind, the Government remains intransigent. A Health Education Authority spokesperson stated: "Anything which encourages people to take drugs is irresponsible."

Drug awareness-raising groups and the Government also clash on figures connected to ecstasy seizures. The Forensic Science Service (which tests

drugs seized by the police) maintain that 85 per cent of drugs seized as ecstasy contain ingredients from the ecstasy 'family' (MDMA, MDEA, MBDB and MDA). Fully comprehensive laboratory tests carried out by ecstasy.org, however, found that of 35 tested pills only six contained any MDMA.

Activists see the link between drugs and crime as artificial and the result of Governmental policy which, through prohibition, encourages the control of the illicit drugs market by criminal organisations.

Test kits can be purchased through the Green Party Drugs Group, 1a Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ. Web site: <http://www.ecstasy.org>



Ivan Coleman





Dan Dares

Disabled activists protest transport 'apartheid'.
Photo by Nick Cobbing.

DISABLED people's direct action network (DAN) caused transport mayhem during three days of direct action resulting in twelve arrests.

Calling for an end to 'transport apartheid' they descended on the new department of transport building in Victoria, smothering it in red paint and locking on to passing buses.

Demanding that John Prescott explain how he plans to work with

disabled people to achieve accessible, affordable mainstream transport within 10 years, their message was "when you move we will". Further protests saw two mainline railway stations blocked off after DAN members travelled from around the country to take part in the direct action extravaganza.

"We're DAN... We're back... get used to it," said one activist.



Conor O'Dwyer

McLibel 2 take second bite

THE TWO MCLIBEL defendants, Dave Morris and Helen Steel are to appeal against the unfavourable sections of the McLibel trial verdict.

After the longest civil trial in British legal history Mr Justice Bell acknowledged that McDonald's "exploit children" and are "culpably responsible" for cruelty to animals. However, his verdict was a mixed affair and served to exonerate McDonald's on some of the key issues.

The two tenacious defendants are now in the process of taking the British government to the European Court of Human Rights over the nature of this country's libel law. The defendants' claim that the denial of legal aid, and the refusal to allow a jury to hear the case, denied them

access to a fair hearing. Since the verdict, McDonald's have gone on a PR offensive. Following Mr Justice Bell's ruling that McDonald's low pay helps depress wages in the catering industry, McDonald's have raised the pay of the lowest paid workers in their burger bars.

The McLibel defendants can take much of the credit for the recent increase in wages, although the Oxford English Dictionary's intention to incorporate the word 'McJob' in its lexicon might have also had a bearing on the matter. The dictionary was legally threatened by the burger giants after it publicly announced its intention to incorporate the word 'McJob', a monicor now commonly used to describe all crap employment.

UNGASS - the bogeymen

Campaign groups fear that this year's UN Assembly on Drugs will miss opportunities and deepen misunderstandings. Sam Wild investigates.

NEW YORK will host a United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) titled 'Combating Drugs Together' this June in an effort to hammer out an international strategy aimed at controlling the spread of illicit drugs.

The first of its kind, it will bring together domestic and foreign secretaries from around the world with an emphasis on maintaining the current 'war on drugs', spearheaded by the USA, and optimistically seeks to "eliminate, or significantly reduce the illicit manufacturing, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances" by the year 2008.

Drug awareness-raising groups around the world are pointing to UNGASS as another example of prohibitionist logic dictating world-wide policy.

Ken Bluestone, Policy Officer for Latin America Drugs and Development, at the Catholic Institute of International Relations (CIIR), who monitor international drugs policy, warns that the costly scheme to internationalise anti-drugs campaigns and legislation could create more problems than it seeks to remedy.

"This event risks becoming a lost opportunity for the re-evaluation of drugs policy," he says echoing the logic of an earlier CIIR letter circulated to Non-Government Groups. The document points to issues connected with many of the current anti-drugs drives taking place in countries across the world and states "in most countries, drug control policies ... have proven unsuccessful in countering the illicit drugs trade, and, to the contrary, have contributed to its increase".

It is feared that few opportunities will be available to discuss progressive policies which do not toe the 'get tough' line while the stated goals of UNGASS on drugs are unrealistic according to Bristol-based drug legislation reform group Transform.

"UNGASS on drugs are not going to eradicate drugs in ten years - it's fantasy land but the implications are completely dangerous and it jeopardises progressive drug policies in countries all over the world."

Experimental programmes in several countries, including Holland and Switzerland, have provided viable alternatives to the aggressive anti-drug rhetoric of countries like the USA where approximately half a million people are in prison on drug-related charges.

A recent campaign involving 1,000 heroin addicts in Zurich had dramatic and immediate effects. Figures generated by the project (which provided pure heroin, needles and comprehensive counselling) saw income generated through illegal activities fall from 59 per cent to 10 per cent and witnessed an increase in permanent employment from 14 per cent to 32 per cent.

In Holland, a country noted for its acceptant attitudes towards drugs, the figures on drug abuse compare favourably to all its European Union counterparts. The number of drug-related deaths was the lowest in Europe at 2.4 per million against 9.5 in France, 20 in Germany, 23.5 in Sweden and 27.1 in Spain.

Several criticisms have also been levelled at the principles which underpin

UNGASS, including the violation of human rights, the marginalisation of drug-users and the inappropriate use of funds on the enforcement of ineffective drug controls. This is particularly relevant in third world countries where drug eradication programmes include the use of ecologically damaging herbicides on drug-linked crops like cocoa and opium poppies cultivated by poverty-driven farmers in countries like Colombia, Peru, Burma and Thailand.

Increasingly oppressive legislation is being drafted and enforced by governments across the globe including Mexico where a group of indigenous Huichols (two women, four men and a child) were recently arrested and are still being detained by police for possessing the hallucinogenic Peyote plant. According to pressure groups Mexico has signed the Vienna Agreement, 1975 (which allows indigenous communities to use drugs in ancient spiritual practices) and therefore the arrests and subsequent incarceration of the group is illegal.

Ken Bluestone sees UNGASS on drugs as potentially damaging for the people of Latin America who are increasingly the target of inappropriate actions which channel money away from important infrastructural developments, including health and education, into measures aimed at strengthening the powers of severe regimes. "If the strategies which are being discussed in the corridors of UNGASS on drugs go-ahead without serious re-evaluation they risk hitting drug-linked crop producers (who are already at the bottom of the drugs chain) and will make them the victims of further human rights abuses."

Danny Kushlick remains concerned that beneficial programmes unveiled in the UK designed at targetting drug-users for rehabilitation and education could suffer under the draconian net being cast under the name of UNGASS internationalism which will cost approximately \$4 billion and will be orchestrated by the United Nations Drugs Control Programme.

'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain' (a White Paper recently unveiled by the Home Office which houses UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator Keith Hellawell) outlines the UK's new strategy for combatting drug use. While fundamentally a rubber stamp for further punitive action on illicit drug use, sales and distribution it nevertheless points towards a greater acceptance of the need to explore viable alternatives. A press release states that (Tony Blair) understands "that drug problems do not occur in isolation ... The new Social Exclusion Unit is looking at many of the problems often associated with drug taking, such as school exclusions, truancy, rough sleeping and poor housing".

Clearly UNGASS has the potential to deepen rifts between the commitments being made by governments at a national and international level. Actions are now being planned by drug-awareness raising groups around the world with UK NGOs intending to highlight issues connected with its enforcement through the Foreign Office and the Home Office. A home Office spokesperson verified that a representative from the UK Government would be attending the conference in New York.

Chalets shall stay...

RESIDENTS of a low impact chalet community in Swansea have won their nine year battle to remain in their homes.

A property speculator who brought the land on which the chalet's stood and then tried to evict them is now facing bankruptcy with debts approaching £600,000.

Seventeen residents of Holtsfield, in the Gower Peninsular, were ruled to have protection under the 1977 rent act by Swansea County Court. Because they had moved in before 1989, the year of sale, their agreement with the previous owner was judged to be a secure tenancy, inherited by the new owner. Seven tenants who moved in after 1989 do not have the same protection but are unlikely to be evicted.

The case follows a House of Lords ruling last year that the chalets belonged to the land on which they stood. Developer Tim Jones, a solicitor heading property company Elitestone, had brought the land for £175,000 in 1989 with plans to build luxury housing. He argued the residents did not own the land on which their chalets stood and sought to evict them. But five law lords ruled otherwise last May, a judgement which meant the residents became the tenants of Mr Jones.

The new ruling, based on the

assumption the residents had entered into an agreement with the previous owner, means Mr Jones cannot evict them. "The tenants don't own the land or the chalets, but have a right to live in them," resident Isobel Griffin told SQUALL. "It's brilliant news. It'll be time to party when everybody who wants to stay here can stay."

Seven residents, including Ms Griffin who moved in two years ago, can be evicted because their tenancies come after Mr Jones bought the land. But eviction would serve no useful purpose other than spite, Ms Griffin said.

Mr Jones is now facing a £100,000 legal bill and is thought to be £600,000 in debt to Barclays Bank. Any hope he would be owed thousands in back rent by the residents were dashed by Swansea County Court who ruled monies owed to be one pound a year. Future rents will be set by a fair rent officer.

"He has 17 families in protected tenancies and seven families saying can we rent from you? He's not responded to that," Ms Griffin

said. Nor has he acted to evict, which he was legally able to do since April 6.

Holtsfield was declared a conservation area in 1990. The wooden homes do not impact on the environment, there are no street lights, roads or cars. At least one resident has

lived there since they were built, originally as holiday homes, in the 1980s. Jones had previously evicted one chalet and two residents left of their own accord. "We were all weeping," Ms Griffin said of the verdict. "We were overwhelmed. It was unbelievable."



Nick Cobbing

from To the Lord Fairfax, General of the English Forces ~ Gerard Winstanley
 "some of your soldiers... did... go up to George-hill, where there was only one man and one boy of our company of diggers...
 "diverse of your souldiers, before any word of provocation was spoken to them, fell upon those two beating the boy, and took away his coat off his back, and some linnen and victuals that they had, beating and wounding the man very dangerously, and fired our house.
 "Which we count a Strange and Heathenish practise, that the souldierie should meddle with naked men, peaceable men, Countrymen..."



from A New Year's Gift sent to the Parliament and Armie ~ G.W.
 The supposed Lord of the Manor hath arrested me twice; First in an Action of 20.1 Trespass for plowing upon the Commons, which I never did; and because they would not suffer me to Plead my own Cause, they made shift to pass a Sentence of Execution against some cows I kept, supposing them to be mine, and put them away...



"And now they have Arrested me again in an Action of 4.1. trespass for digging upon the Commons, which I did, & own the work to be righteous & no trespass to any...
 "they will not suffer me to plead my own Cause, but I must not Fee an enemy, [Attorney] or else be condemned and executed without mercy or Justice as I was before, and so to put me in Prison till I pay their unrighteous sentence."

from A New Year's Gift sent to the Parliament and Armie ~ G. Winstanley
 "When the two Lords of Manor sat among the souldiers on horseback and coach, and commanded their fearfull tenants to pull down one of the Diggers houses before their faces, and rejoiced with shouting at the fall; yet some of the Diggers stood by, and were very chearfull, and preached the Gospel... which are the words of life.

"And the poor tenants that pulled down the house durst do no other, because their Land-lords and Lords looked on, for fear they should be turned out of service... And when the poor enforced slaves had pulled down the house, then their Lords gave them ten shillings to drink, and there they smiled upon one another; being fearfull, like a dog that is kept in awe, when his Master gives him a bone, and



and look up, and twinch his tail; for they durst not laugh out, lest their Lords should hear... for in their hearts they are Diggers."



continued



Life on the edge

CJA has turned travellers into criminals

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

have been branded criminals by recent laws which have worsened their living conditions and destroyed their way of life, a new report says.

Living on the Edge of Your Town, by Bridge Housing Association, said there were inadequate stopping places and sites for travellers, and those

that did exist were of a poor standard. It adds that those who try to settle in houses often face hostility from neighbours who raise petitions against them.

Michael Wake, chief executive of the association, said the 1994 Criminal Justice Act, which removed the duty on councils to provide sites and cut off funding, carried

some of the blame. The association, which runs several sites, is to lobby for a law change.

At the report's launch Lord Avebury, who as an MP drew up the 1968 Caravans Act, said its repeal was a "regrettable step backwards". He said the Housing Corporation should provide money for new sites.

A bird in the hand....

DEAR OH DEAR OH DEAR OH

DEAR. John Bird, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Big Issue*, is to stand for possible election as the new Mayor of London.

Once a working class East-ender, Bird hasn't looked back since marrying into the aristocracy. But brace yourself for disbelief... The campaign manager chosen to spearhead his thrust for mayordom is none other than the arch right-wing ex-Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam, Lady Olga Maitland, daughter of the 17th Earl of Lauderdale and author of the seminally binable *'Margaret Thatcher: The First Ten Years'*.

Squall readers may also remember Maitland as a vociferous supporter of the harsh measures against squatters and travellers

contained within the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. So rabid was her foaming mouth in fact, that she was chosen by the Tory Government to be one of the 16 Tories selected to sit on the Standing Committee section of the infamous Act's passage.

She was also in favour of increasing the severity of measures contained in the 1996 Noise Act: "Noise at night from other sources should be included in the Bill. For example cockerels crow at night and with the early dawn they make a dreadful piercing sound."

In defence of his extraordinary choice, John Bird said: "The left does not have a monopoly on compassion and she is a very caring person."

Druids free to celebrate at Stonehenge

if yer name's not Llanwylleth yer not comin' in

DRUIDS should be allowed back into Stonehenge to celebrate the summer solstice this year, Salisbury district council was advised by Wiltshire police and English Heritage in April.

The druids were banned from the site with everybody else in 1985 when an exclusion zone was thrown up around the ancient monument.

But their good behaviour during autumn and spring equinox and winter solstice celebrations has impressed English Heritage officials, who are recommending up to 100 should be allowed back onto the site.

But pagan groups have warned the decision could cause problems if druids are the only group allowed to enter the stone circle.

Exodus enquiry blocked

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY into the malevolent activities of Bedfordshire Police and others against the Exodus Collective has been blocked by the Home Office. Bedfordshire Council voted for the public enquiry after a full council meeting in 1995.

However, the Home Office under the auspices of the previous Tory incumbent, Michael Howard refused to fund it. Renewed efforts to rekindle the enquiry were initiated by Beds councillor Andrew Dodghson following the general election. However, although acknowledging the "disquiet about

allegations of police misconduct" Home Office minister Alun Michael once again refused the requested funding. In a letter to Dodghson in May, Michael said the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) should be approached instead. Dodghson has now written back to the Home Office reminding Michael that the reason why Bedfordshire had made such a request to the Home Office was because other agencies than the police were involved in the malevolence and therefore any enquiries are outside the remit of the PCA.

Social Exclusion Unit visit Exodus

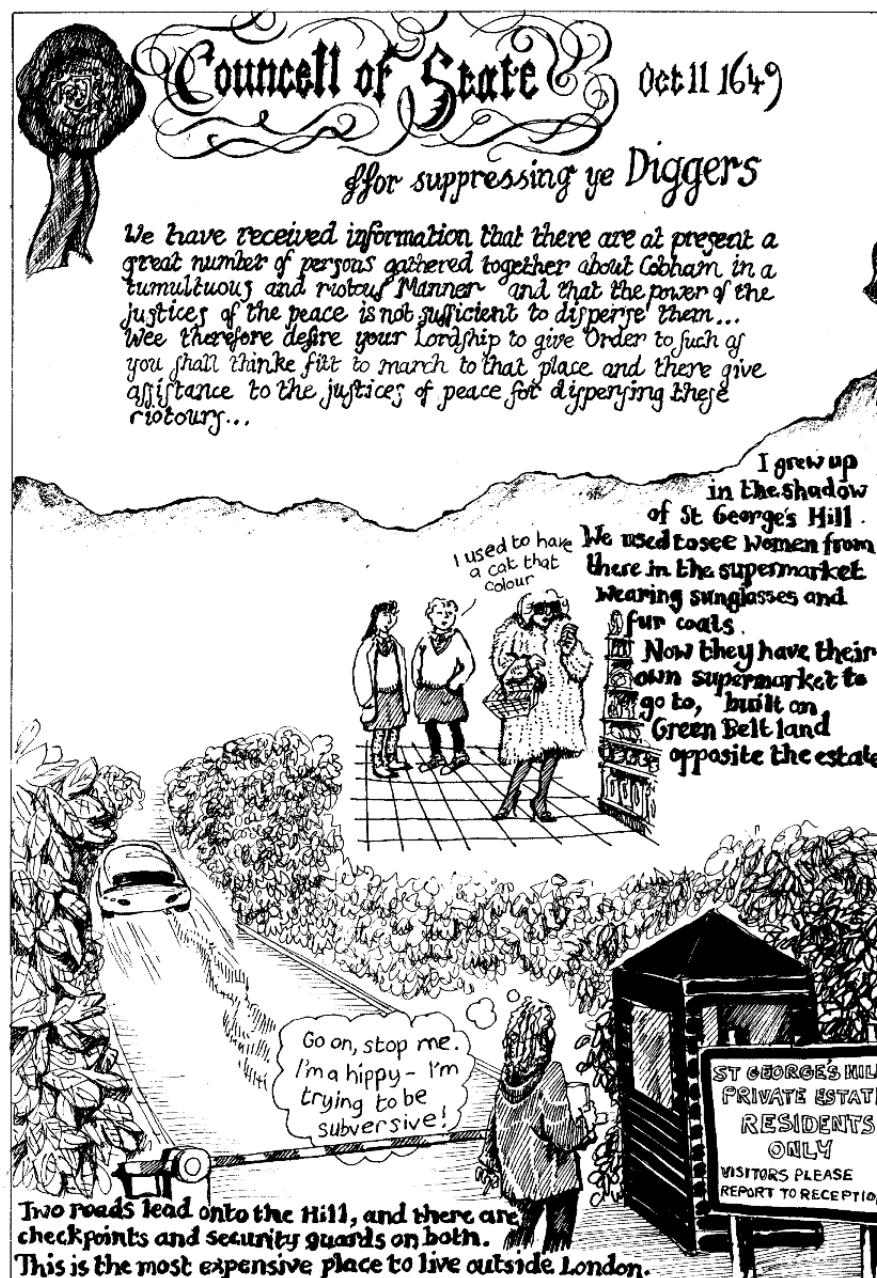
AN ENVOY from the Government's new Social Exclusion Unit visited the Exodus Collective in May to examine their initiatives on behalf of unemployed youth. Angela Sarkis, a probation officer and Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund, spent the whole day at HAZ Manor, a housing project run by Exodus on the edge of Luton. Sarkis was to have visited a warehouse which Exodus hope to turn into a community centre for Luton youth.

Situated on Luton's Marsh Farm Estate - scene of inner city disturbances in 1995 - the warehouse became empty when Coulter Electronics shut down at the beginning of May rendering 240 people redundant. Exodus contacted

the site manager and arranged for Sarkis to visit the site. However, on the evening before her visit the Coulter management rang to cancel, saying they would refuse entry to both Exodus and Sarkis. "It was actually a good way for the Social Exclusion Unit to see just what sort of obstacles are put in our way," said Exodus spokesperson Glenn Jenkins.

Sarkis was impressed by Exodus's unusual approach and suggested the liaison might well go further than merely a visit.

"She saw that the Exodus Collective may have been socially excluded but that we've actively re-included ourselves on our own terms. She told us that she'd never seen anything like Exodus before."



McLibel goes CD

YOU'VE SEEN the website, watched the trial and read the transcripts. Now you can do it all again in even more detail.

McSpotlight, ever willing to shine a light into McDonald's dark places, have put the whole of their web site on a CD ROM.

Described as an 'image-conscious corporation's worst nightmare' the disc contains over 20,000 pages of information about McDonald's and the McLibel trial. It includes all the official court transcripts, witness statements, the full verdict, in-depth interviews, press articles, etc, etc.

There's also a photo album, animation, video clips and quiz to make sure you've been paying attention.

<http://www.mcspotlight.org>

Cars get in the way of new homes

MORE HOMES could be built in London if car parking was restricted, a new report says.

The report, *Design Solutions for Increasing Urban Housing Capacity*, says 40 per cent of all space on housing estates is given over to car parking. Reducing the space, or getting rid of it altogether, would increase space for housing.

A similar message was given to MPs hearing an inquiry into the need for 4.4 million new homes over the next 20 years. Officials from Serplan, the South East Regional Planning body, told the inquiry in March: "We favour a reduction in car parking standards. It's a question of gaining access to a car when it's needed." The London Planning Advisory Council added that public transport was making car use 'less attractive' and that car-free estates and car pooling systems were being taken more and more seriously.

Andrew Ross, policy officer for the Town and Country Planning Association, who published the report, said: "There is a finite amount of land in urban areas. If we want more housing to go into them, then we must make some difficult choices about how we use this space."

Cook admits British riot gear used in Indonesia

FOREIGN SECRETARY Robin Cook admitted last month that equipment used by the Indonesian regime against rioting student protestors came from Britain.

At the height of the riots, which erupted after six students were shot dead during a protest against the Suharto regime, Mr Cook said: "Sadly it appears to be the case that some of the equipment being used against those rioters is sold from Britain."

He added the new Labour Government's 'ethical arms policy'

would not have allowed license for such sales.

But more than 56 applications for arms exports to Indonesia have been granted since May last year, with only seven refused.

Labour MP Ann Clwyd said a delivery of Hawk jets, approved under the Tory Government, were due to arrive in Indonesia in the same month as the riots.

An estimated 500 Indonesian people have since died in further rioting.

Meatheads slug it out

BURGER GIANTS

McDonald's and Burger King are set to slug it out for UK domination during 1998 following Burger King's plans to double its number of stores.

With 455 stores churning out a million whoppers a

week, Burger King have teamed up with Granada, Compass and Texaco to expand to between 700 and 900 stores.

The burger giants, who have always played second fiddle to Big Macs, have already opened a test site

with Shell UK.

In response, McDonald's have said they will spend £85 million opening another 100 store by the end of 1998 - boosting its stores to 930.

Between them Burger King and McDonalds employ 75,000 people.

UK atmos. fear

CHILDHOOD ASTHMA is worse in the United Kingdom than anywhere else in the world, according to a study published in April.

The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood, which investigated 56 countries, found asthma in Britain was 20 times worse than in Eastern Europe with up to one in three children suffering from wheezing.

Only New Zealand, Australia and Eire matched Britain's record.

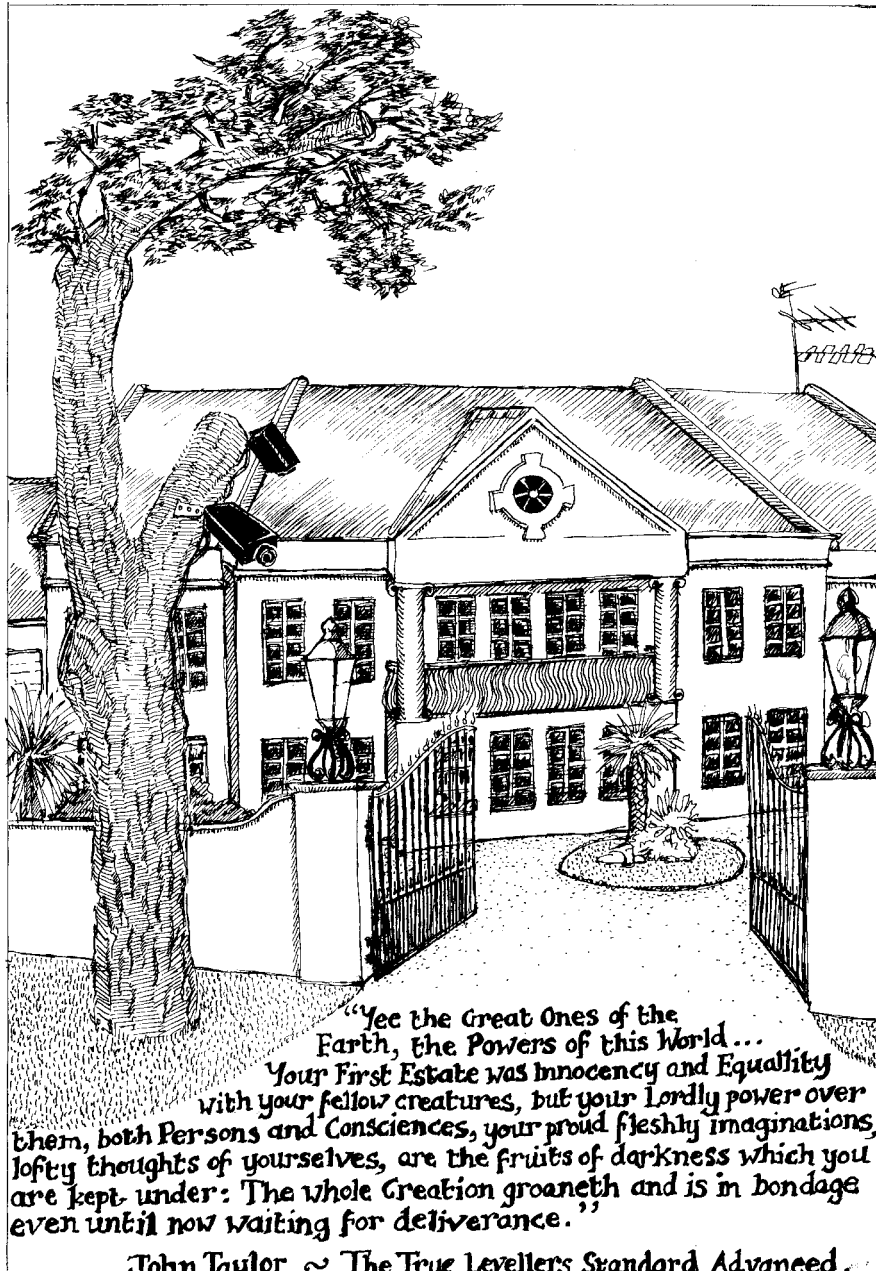
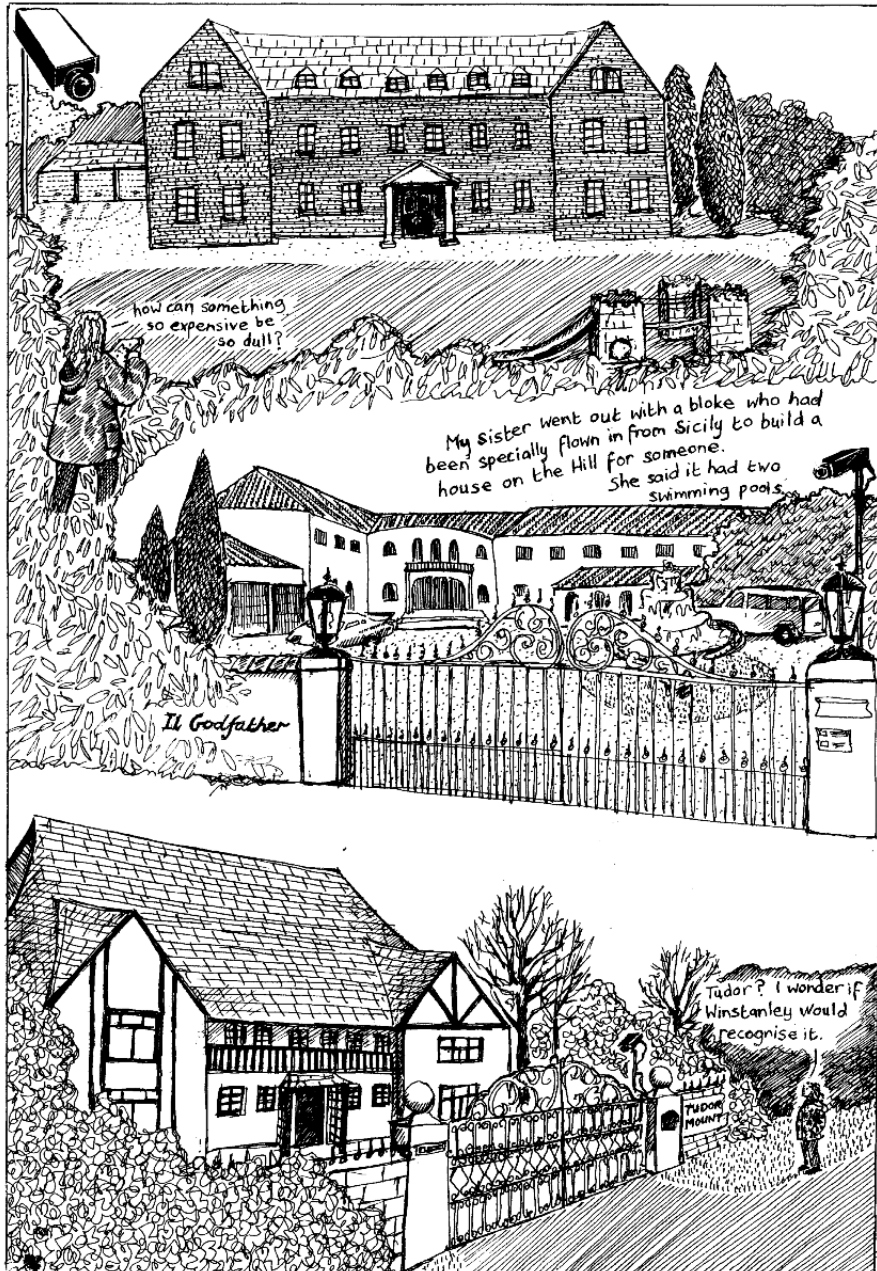
Although pollution is known to trigger attacks in existing asthma sufferers, the study suggests pollution is not a cause of asthma, with heavily polluted areas such as China and Eastern Europe recording low levels.

COPSE

by Kate Evans

A cartoon book of tree protesting

is out now
see Reviews
page 46



"Ye the Great Ones of the Earth, the Powers of this World... Your First Estate was Innocency and Equality with your fellow creatures, but your Lordly power over them, both Persons and Consciences, your proud fleshly imaginations, lofty thoughts of yourselves, are the fruits of darkness which you are kept under: The whole Creation groaneth and is in bondage even until now waiting for deliverance."

John Taylor ~ The True Levellers Standard Advanced



Nick Cobbing

Activists blockade BP refinery

Mark Brown reports amidst the action.

FINDING THEMSELVES travelling along the approach road to the Coryton BP oil refinery in Essex, a group of daytrippers were so appalled at the sight that they decided to act as concerned citizens and block the road. Minutes later their antique, deep green Volvo was straddling both lanes and two citizens were attached to the underside of said vehicle. Banners appeared reading 'OILING THE WORLD'S ILLS' and 'TAX OIL NOW', a reference to the absurdly lenient treatment of the oil industry by government. The tax message was particularly apt in that the following day would see Gordon Brown fail to crack down on this ridiculously over-subsidised energy source in his budget.

"It's a clear case of corporate welfare before social welfare," said a UKOOA (UK Oil Overthrow Association) spokesperson. "In the budget we saw the Government pandering to some of the world's richest companies, whilst attacking single mothers, the disabled and the unemployed."

The UKOOA is a group of activists set up after the Kyoto climate conference. The group aims

to "keep Kyoto on the agenda" and focus on the oil industry, its infrastructure and the Government which supports it, despite growing evidence of destructive climate change, pollution, human rights abuse and a society addicted to oil.

But back to our story: very soon the approach road was backed up for at least three miles, with over 100 tankers unable to enter the refinery. The citizens, calling themselves UKOOA (accidentally echoing the UK Offshore Operators Association) insisted on meeting with the refinery manager - a Mr Paul Maslin - to discuss their demands; the shutting down of Coryton and a bottle of organic champagne. When the manager finally arrived, there was a wide-ranging, "full and frank exchange of views" between said gent and the two citizens tucked cosily beneath the Volvo, although he was not delighted to be negotiating with two pairs of shoes sticking out from underneath it.

Gradually it became clear that the refinery would not be shut down that day (and that the champagne was not forthcoming), even though the pinioned citizens appeared to

have a firmer grasp of the arguments over climate change, oil's social ills and tax breaks than Maslin. At this point the police stepped in and arrested the five unattached citizens for obstruction of the highway (even though many of them were standing on the grass verge at the time). Essex' finest then returned with the largest pair of boltcroppers they could find, intending to liberate the two remaining citizens: one attached to the steering column with a serious motorbike lock, the other locked to the axle with some well enhanced cuffs. But the copper's croppers proved unequal to the task. At which point the fire brigade were called out, who completed the job inside an hour.

All told, Coryton's one approach road was inaccessible for over two hours, and one of Britain's most admired corporations was in the dock on the day its annual report hit the Net and the doorsteps of its shareholders. The seven citizens were all charged with wilful obstruction of a public highway; what sort of thanks is that for acting so nobly in the public interest?

No tax please, we're British

Oil companies escape promised tax levy

BP has been making much PR of its investments in solar, persuading the US Vice-President to open its latest solar plant in California. But the solar investment is less than a penny in every £100 BP spends on looking for more oil. The company has recently signed a massive contract in Russia and one in the Gulf of Mexico. Meanwhile it continues to operate under military rule in

Colombia and is the largest company operating in Algeria. Ten million tonnes of petroleum products a year are produced by the Coryton refinery, which is one of the largest in the country.

The North Sea is known throughout the oil industry as one of the cheapest tax regimes in the world. Between 1984-1995, North Sea oil production rose by 17 per cent, but taxation fell by

87 per cent. Today, the only tax paid by oil companies in the North Sea is 33 per cent Corporation tax - a tax levied on all UK companies.

Since the Government announced a review of North Sea oil taxes, the industry has thrown itself into an intensive lobbying exercise. As a result, Brown's second budget deferred any changes for another year.

Latin lessons left unlearned

PR and back-slapping as BP attend Colombian conference

WHILST ATTENDING a conference on the International Politics of Colombia organised by the Institute of Latin American Studies, SQUALL experienced another shocking encounter with the world of international commerce. The Institute organises a conference on Colombia every year; however, given the scope of subjects on which to focus, without fail the debate centres on commerce, trade, investment and diplomatic relations, and attracts an array of Colombian Government ministers, ambassadors and sundry diplomats interested only, it seems, in sycophancy.

The long and bloody conflict between the army, guerrillas and paramilitary groups in Colombia, a country which boasts one of the highest rates of political assassinations in the world and over a million people internally displaced by violence, was seen to be a small inconvenience which hampers the heady world of international investment. Colombian human rights defenders were passed off as whining fools simply interested in counting bodies and lacking an understanding of the dynamics of commerce.

Despite this, British Petroleum and its relations with paramilitary groups in Colombia was always going to come up, given the remit of the conference. Whilst the small group of British campaigning groups on Colombia, who had foolishly attended believing that human rights would be the subject of stimulating and informative debate, bit their tongues, Stephen Fiddler, Latin American correspondent for *the Financial Times*, summed up a particularly self congratulatory discourse on Colombian relations with the European Union and Britain, and casually referred to the death of prominent Nigerian human rights activist Ken Saro Wiwa as a "public relations disaster for Shell which BP would want to avoid in Colombia".

Meanwhile, any mention of the implementation of New Labour's "ethical foreign policy" by the few dissidents attending the conference, in the by now vain hope of prompting some kind of interchange of ideas, was either quashed immediately - an embarrassing side line which may have detracted from the adulatory air of the conference - or responded to in vacuous diplomat speak.

Who was it said that you needed to know your adversary in order to overcome them?

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Genetix produces Summer Snowball

The seeds of discontent have been sown. Now activists aim to tackle the problem of genetically modified products at the root

GENETICALLY MANIPULATED organisms (GMO's) are being released into the environment and the food chain at an alarming rate with little or no public consultation and much public opposition.

The Iceland supermarket chain and British Sugar recently made a commitment to source genetically-manipulated-free raw materials for their products. Switzerland is set to hold a national referendum on the issue in July. Austria, Luxembourg and Italy all invoked Article 16 banning the import/and or commercial growth of genetically engineered maize in 1996 because they believe that it constitutes "a risk to human health and/or the environment".

Meanwhile, Jeff Rooker, the UK Agricultural Minister, has admitted that although he is sceptical about genetically engineered crops he is powerless to stop them because of the European Union.

Already in Cupar, Scotland, over 50 local people visited their local genetic engineering release site and pulled up all the genetically engineered oilseed rape plants just as they were about to flower and potentially contaminate neighbouring organic farmers' crops. They did this under the watchful eye of the local police who had been informed beforehand. No charges were made.

In April 600 locals marched down to a local farm in protest at plans to sow experimental genetically engineered maize in Totness, Devon. A neighbouring farmer is also taking legal action in an attempt to halt the tests because of the risk of contamination of his organic crops and thereby his organic status.

At present there are no commercially grown genetically modified crops in Britain. Oilseed rape and fodder beet look set to be the first if nothing changes. Massive amounts of capital are invested in the Research and Development of these crops and activists say that if they are stopped before reaching the market place then the finance will not be recouped and this could very well stop further

R & D of other crops. "This is a winnable campaign, but time is short and we must act now," said one activist.

Campaigner's latest plans include the Genetix Snowball, inspired by the Snowball nonviolent civil disobedience campaign which resisted the presence of US military and nuclear arms bases in Britain. Over a three year period, thousands of people took part in the campaign at over 42 different places in Britain. Each participant wrote a statement explaining why they were engaging in civil disobedience before cutting a single strand of perimeter fence wire. The minimal property damage led to arrests and court cases where the 'criminals' explained their actions to court officials, magistrates, the press and members of the general public. Some refused to pay fines and served short prison sentences. Each person then tried to find two or three new activists to join the next action ensuring the growing 'snowball' effect.

Applying this principle to large, immovable fields of GM crops would seem to be an interesting development for a genetics campaign and, activists say, it would be essential to involve as many people as possible as some of the sites are huge and there are hundreds of them.

The Snowball principle includes non-violence and accountability as an essential prerequisite for individuals and groups taking part. Campaigners also suggest written statements handed in on arrest and/or writing letters to and meeting with representatives of the company doing the experiment, the farmer who works the land, and relevant government officials prior to the action. In this way dialogue is opened and enables interested parties to attempt to stop the experiments. The actions could be called off when one or more of the 'Snowballs' demands are met.

Contact: Genetix Snowball, Dept 153, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW. Tel: 0161 224 4846.

For information about campaigns and actions against genetic engineering contact: Genetic Engineering Network, PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY. Tel. 0181 374 9516 genetics@gn.acp.org

For genetics action info on the web: www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag/genetix.html or the GEN website: <http://www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html>

The UK Genetic Engineering Network is an information sharing network for anyone actively campaigning against genetic engineering. GEN produces an (almost) regular newsletter the 'Genetix Update' as well as an email information service. They can also put you in touch with others in your area that are active on this issue. Donations welcome!



Nick Cobbing

SHAG poo poo Monsanto

A TELL-TALE SMELL wafted from a London PR company on the closing date for the US department of Agriculture's controversial proposals for organic standards.

Masked activists, angry at the real threat that genetically engineered food could soon be classified as organic, descended on the offices being used by the

'life sciences' company.

Super Heroes against Genetics, or SHAG, climbed up to the first floor window to remind the company of how much their corporate assault on organic agriculture stinks.

A similar pile of poo was smelt outside Monsanto's High Wycombe HQ later that same day.

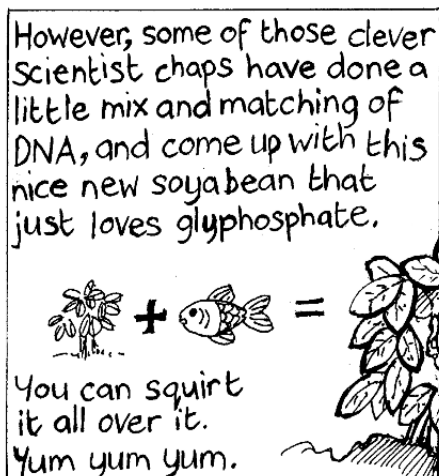
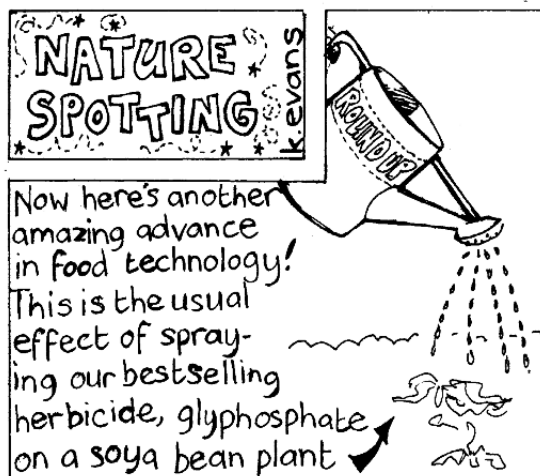
Weeding out bad genes

Monsanto breaks genetic rules

AGRICULTURAL GIANT Monsanto was forced to destroy 950 square metres of genetically engineered crops at a UK site after safety experts found it broke government rules.

Three other companies and two research organisations were also found to be in breach of strict rules designed to prevent the creation of 'super weeds' or plant mutations.

The companies, named by the Advisory Committee for Releases into the Environment, were Nickerson Biochem, AgrEvo and Plant Genetic Systems of Belgium. The National Institute of Agricultural Botany and the Scottish Crop Research Institute were also found to be in breach of rules. Health and Safety Inspectors visited a total of 70 sites last year.





National breakdown

A special protest round-up

Crystal Palace

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER than escaping the city on a nice summer's evening and relaxing in a park. But often it gets a bit boring. So Bromley Council have come up with the great idea of building a 20 screen multiplex cinema with nine bar/diner restaurants and various retail outlets in the middle of Crystal Palace Park on the site of the old eponymous, and alas no more, building.

Walking is also a bit tiring. So Bromley have thoughtfully allowed 964 car parking spaces as well. As trees can get in the way of a good drive 150 are to be axed.

But some protestor-types don't approve and are out to spoil the fun!

They've collected five thousand signatures to support their rebellious stance and started occupying the site. Bastards.

Now they need climbers, builders, tunnellers, musicians, artists and tat, timber, tarps, tents, cooking equipment, clothes, tools etc.

So, if you are one of the above, be warned. Don't take the train from London's Victoria Station to Crystal Palace; or the tube to Brixton and then the number three bus. And don't ring 0181 761 7826 for an update.

Derby Road Protest

THE BASS RECREATION GROUND was donated to the people of Derby by renowned brewer Thomas Bass in 1876 with land added in the early '70s. But it makes the perfect spot to build a new roundabout and cut a road through.

Now, the new roundabout replaces an old one which is being turned into a multi-storey car park with room for between two and three thousand vehicles.

The new car park is being built to service a new shopping centre which is being built, wait for it.... on the site of a bus station.

A few trees, well 100, will have to feel the sharp end of an axe, but what price progress?

Four tree houses have been established by protestors and a base camp. It appears there is plenty of food and room for more.

Contact: Dorothy Skrytek, 01332 727237 or email tim@bear.demon.co.uk.

Ashton Court Protest

DUNFORD QUARRY is to be expanded into a public park near Bristol. Twenty acres of parkland are under threat from Australian multinational Pioneer Aggregates. A wildflower meadow is in the way, but

it's alright because the company are going to transplant it a mile away.

This technique has a very high success rate of about, er... zero. The new water meadow site is inhabited by badgers who had been evicted but have reoccupied their sets.

It all makes perfect sense, if you possess an industrial capitalist point of view.

For those who don't, there is a camp undergoing a drive to increase population. *Camp mobile: 0467 430 211*

Dead Woman's Bottom

POLICE quoting Section 13 of the 1965 Land Rights Act evicted protestors occupying Dead Woman's Bottom in January.

They seemed to think this allowed them to do without the hassle of going to court and bothering with legal summonses. It doesn't and the eviction was probably illegal.

The Bottom, near Nunney, in Frome, stands in the way of the Bull's Green link road giving Tarmac easier access to Halecombe Quarry.

Some camps were on private land owned by local landowners opposed to the road. Protestors say one woman was dragged off, her kids left alone, screaming, and a doctor was assaulted by bailiffs on his own land.

Approximately two-thirds of the road is being financed by Tarmac with the rest to be met by the taxpayer.

Charges against arrested protestors were later dropped. Campaigners were planning to walk 140 miles to the Home Office to continue their fight against the road. *Information line: 01749 880114.*

House Builder's Federation

TWENTY ENVIRONMENTALISTS occupied the offices of the House Builder's Federation in March. They were upset that the HBF appear to support the building of commuter homes on green belt land rather than the provision of social homes.

So, armed with their wits and a few musical instruments they launched a pre-emptive strike: "The roads programme was defeated by direct action," said activist, Jo Miller. "This is to show the house builders that we will do the same to them if they join together to tear the countryside apart."

Six Lane Byway

VISITORS TO OXFORD are often charmed by the lovely boats on the river, dreaming architecture and

A tree-protestor tries to evade bailiffs at Dead Woman's Bottom. Photo by Nick Cobbing



intellectual calm. The only problem is, they can never find a parking space, hear themselves think above the traffic or breath for the smog.

In a bid to solve the city's traffic problems Persimmon Homes and Oxford University have conspired to build a £1 million six-lane highway that will destroy trees and slice through one end of the grade two-star listed London Midland Scottish building in Park End Street.

Fortunately, the building has now been squatted by 12 Oxford residents. Occupant Edward Pope said: "If this road is built it would become Oxford's spaghetti junction. It isn't needed for either the Oxford Transport Strategy or the proposed business school. It would destroy everything that would add character to the new developments near the station. We're appalled the council hasn't even called a public meeting on the issue." *Further info: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~envmnt/lg/lmsroad.html>*

There are lots of other protests going on but there are so many SQUALL hasn't been able to cover them all... if we've forgotten you, we asquallagise!

Alvis - Coventry, outside company that sells Scorpion tanks to Indonesia. Tel: 01926 338805 or 0336 774113.

Birmingham Northern Relief Road. Excellent local support for 27 miles of private toll motorway. Tel: 07970 932224.

Nottingham. Tel: 01636 679979 or 0467 317649.

Bingley Bypass. (In desperate need of bods). Tel: 01274 504626.

Bangor. Protesting against a greenbelt housing development. Tel: 01248 351541 or 0836 563980.

Lyminge Forest. People are still there campaigning against Rank who want to build a Centre Parcs in the centre of a forest. Contact: 0468 945595

Reclaimed Streets

Cowley Road, **OXFORD**, November, 1997: Police presence described as "far too large and confrontational" by local green councillors. RTS agree toughest battle for a street they've won. Rinky Dink escorted out of the county. Greenpeace solar powered rig confiscated under CJA. But seven hundred and fifty protestors party on the Cowley Road. Local shopkeepers pleased as punch.

Police later apologise for their behaviour to a group of green councillors.

Enmore Road, **SYDNEY**, Australia, November 1997: Orange fluoro bamboo tripods blockade first Sydney RTS attended by between two and three thousand people. Sound system in huge metallic art installation tower rolled in like 'medieval siege equipment'.

Roma Street, **BRISBANE**, March 1998: Human music, percussion, clapping, stomping, shouting machine, created spontaneous composition in reply to police's cutting of power supply.

LYON, November 1997: 'L'auto, ça pue, ça tue et ça pollue'; the car, it stinks, it kill and it pollutes. Hundreds of protestors dressed, in black, paraded through the streets pulling an old car behind them singing funeral dirges.

St Martin's Circus, **BIRMINGHAM**, May 16th 1998: SQUALL goes to press as RTS do it again to co-incide with G8 summit. Four thousand protestors party as between 40 and 70 thousand from Jubilee 2,000 form a human ring around the conference centre calling for the cancellation of southern countries debt.

Rat in the kitchen

Striking workers at the Magnet factory in Darlington have finally been offered a settlement. It is, however, more of an insult than compensation. Andy Johnson reports.

SHIRLEY WINTER goes down a storm at benefit gigs up and down the country. With the righteous anger of a woman denied simple justice the loudest cheer of the night is always hers.

For her, she says, it's easy to keep morale up. But it's not so easy for the men she represents. Six hour shifts on a lonely picket line, harassed by the police, ignored or firebombed, trying to survive on £35 strike pay a week, for 21 months, takes its toll.

Such a toll would be a good enough reason for voting to end the strike for a meagre £8,500 pay off.

But good enough as the reason was, the vote, in late April, was decided by only 82 of the 320 strikers. Of those some had never seen the picket line. The decision to settle was won by a majority of just seven votes - sending some men home with only £250 compensation for a life-time's work.

It is an irony of the age that during last year's general election it was the Labour candidate who avoided the picket line. Alan Milburn, MP for Darlington and now a health minister, said it would be a 'symbolic, futile gesture'. The Tory candidate, Peter Scrope, trying his luck in a Labour fortress in a country about to rout his party, took his photo opportunity.

It is men like the Magnet workers who literally keep the Labour party in power. Not only Milburn, but Tony Blair, with his impeccable middle class credentials; and New Labour architect Peter Mandelson, all rely on the solid working class support of the North East for their parliamentary seats. All have sacked workers in their constituencies, as does Tory leader William Hague.

Shirley Winter used to support Tony Blair. Defend him against anything, she says. But that changed when he failed to answer her letters in opposition and refused her plea for two minutes of his time during a visit to Darlington after the election.

"How dare you," said Milburn, "lobby the Prime Minister when I invite him to my constituency."

Magnet Kitchens went bust in 1993. A year later a company called Beresford bought

it. Its first move was to 'de-skill' the workforce.

Wages went down by between £25 and £54 a week. The men were also threatened with the loss of a paid tea break, pension scheme and guaranteed working week. (All have since gone). The men agreed to a pay freeze, lasting for eleven years or until the company went into profit.

"In the first year the company made two and a half million pounds," Shirley Winter told SQUALL. "They didn't ask for a pay rise. The second year it made £4 million. They didn't go back for a pay rise. In the third year, 1995-6, it made £10.5 million profit."

Pay negotiations followed. Sixty per cent of the workforce were given a three per cent rise; the remainder wouldn't get anything unless they improved productivity.

Shirley says this set man against man. "Two machinists, doing the same job, but had a different deal." Indignities followed.

"They replaced the foremen, who'd worked their way up, with time and motion people. One woman started taking photographs of people if they stopped by their machines. She said she was going to stick them on the walls to 'shame' people. They timed them when they went to the toilet."

Bereavement leave was reduced. Sick leave would be at company discretion. One man was phoned four times, on the hour, to make sure he was still at home. Workloads went up. In the loading bay the number of items to be loaded up, heavy things such as washing machines, went up from 350 to 600.

"My husband used to go into work even if he had the flu. It got to the point where my husband and others couldn't bear the thought of going into work any longer," says Shirley.

A strike ballot, following all of "Margaret Thatcher's trade union laws" followed. The men went out on August 22nd, 1996.

One week later, on a Saturday, a letter was delivered by taxi to each of them. It gave them a choice. Go back to work and sign away any future right to industrial action, or be sacked. Answers, please, by Tuesday.

The men were locked out and their jobs advertised the same day in the job centre.

For the first few months they were denied benefits. The Benefits Agency didn't know the rules as they had never dealt with an official dispute.

They survived with the help of the mining community sending food parcels; money raised by a factory in Gateshead and £35 a week strike pay.

Some couldn't survive and took part-time work to make ends meet. These were officially tallied as no longer on strike, and denied later voting rights, even though they remained on the picket line.

There they would be arrested for stepping off the pavement. They were photographed, videoed and intimidated by private detectives. Two supportive nurses were arrested for throwing paper cups at 'scab' vans. Men were beaten up. A petrol canister was thrown into a gas lit hut. The culprit was charged with affray.

Darlington Football Club finished bottom of the third division. When one of the men used the word 'fuck' to describe their plight he was bound over to keep the peace.

At the end of January, Magnet

offered £1,000 per sacked worker to settle the dispute. This was later doubled to £2,000.

Finally the settlement fund was raised to £850,000 - unevenly distributed between the workers.

The rigged vote further divided the community. Already split between strikers and 'scabs', it is now split between striker and striker. Of the 320 men, only 82 were judged to be still officially on strike and allowed to vote.

During the dispute the company directors awarded themselves bonuses and increases amounting to over £2 million.

"The new managing director had been there for 42 years when he sacked people with 42 years experience," Shirley Winter says. "They've totally destroyed our community - all in the name of corporate greed."

The Magnet Women's Support Group is continuing to fight for trade union rights. Contact Shirley Winter, Secretary, Magnet Women's Support Group, 14 Longfield Road, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 0EW. Tel: 01325 350694.

Squanagrams

Dame Shirley Porter

**My dear Hitler poser
Their leprosy dream
Hated merrily poser
Horridly permeates**

**Merry older ape shit
Peer mates horridly
Merry pride loathes
Hyper arid molester**

Advisory Service for Squatters

**needs your help!
Without it we could close.**

ASS has provided free advice and representation to squatters and other homeless people for over 20 years. This ranges from general practical advice about homelessness, finding a place or moving in, to preparing legal defences and representing people in court.

We have never had any grants or council funding. We mostly survive on a few standing orders from a few housing co-ops and a handful of supporters. Recently the number of co-ops has dropped and our largest standing order has been drastically reduced.

As a collective, we are unpaid and the office is run on a shoestring. The Squatters Handbook, our information Bible, only just pays for itself.

We love what we do, but to be able to run the office to its fullest extent we need some support. If ASS closes there will be no accessible source of advice about squatting for most people in England and Wales.

PLEASE HELP!

One-off donations will be very welcome, but standing orders are even more useful. Contributions of £5 or £10 a month from people who can afford it could solve our problem and we promise to keep you in touch with what's going on a couple of times a year. Guaranteed funding means we can stop worrying about money, and concentrate on what we're best at, fighting homelessness.

**CONTACT: ASS, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1 2QN
Tel: 0171 359 8814**

Stitched up in Critchley

Denial of union rights to South Wales workers leads to strike and sackings

A DISPUTE over the sacking of ten employees and denial of union rights in a South Wales factory entered its 15th month in May.

Critchley Lables reneged on a deal struck with the union to maintain recognition after it bought the factory from British Telecom in 1993.

After two years, in which the union agreed to voluntary redundancies and to keep wages down, ten workers were sacked without consultation.

The sackings were based on appraisals, testing attitude and willingness to retrain, with the ten worst performers getting the chop.

Eight later won cases for unfair dismissal, backed by the Communication Workers' Union, but none were reinstated. One of those dismissed was Chris Ilsey, a 40 year-

old man with a mental age of 12.

Two years later, in February 1997, thirty-one remaining workers asked the management to honour their pledge to consult the union over staffing levels.

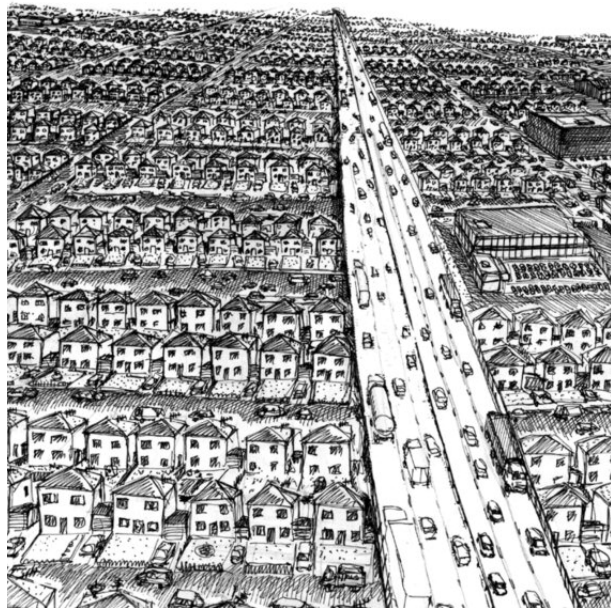
An overtime ban was imposed when their request was refused. They then voted to strike when management de-recognised the union. Following a week long strike all the workers were sacked.

The union have mounted daily pickets since and are calling for the reinstatement of basic union rights abolished by the last government.

Contact: Sue Hoskins, 54 Beech Grove, Oakdale, Blackwood, Kent, NP2 0NB. 01495 220597; 0410 151176.



Space - the final frontier



Planning homes for the future has always been difficult.

With increased awareness of green and brownfield building, the issues maybe getting confused. Investigation by Andy Johnson.

WALKING IN THE MIDDLE of the road is generally acknowledged to present danger of fatality from either side. Which is why deputy prime minister John Prescott is to be pitied as he bumbles down the central reservation of the M1 - think about it.

Prescott has genuine green ambitions. But the cabinet rejected his draft white paper on traffic reduction as 'too green'. His car-unfriendly, energy efficient, environmental village on the Millennium dome site receives zero credibility. But environmentalists cast him as the silent movie villain plotting to pour concrete over England's green and pleasant land - maybe he's the wrong target.

There are a few myths about the need to build homes for the estimated 4.4 million new households by 2016. The first is that Prescott is solely to blame.

The figures are old; they date from 1992. They are Tory figures and since 1992 over one million homes have been built. Tory attacks on Prescott over the greenbelt are therefore somewhat dishonest.

It is also important to note the figures are for household formation, not houses. A household being the number of people living under one roof - be it one or five. One building can provide a home to a number of households.

Although the figures have been gently bubbling away for five years it's only now they're causing any kind of interest. One of the reasons, according to expert insiders, is that the country is beginning to run out of space. On top of that, the level of housing needed is out of all proportion to the population, which is not growing.



The figures are reviewed every three to four years. The next revision is due in June, and they are expected to rise again - to about 5.5 million. Half a million of these are due to back-log; houses that have been demolished but not replaced. There are a further estimated half a million 'hidden households' - couples living with their parents; grown up kids living with their grandparents.

In certain circumstances that might

seem a good thing. But 'hidden households' really translates as chronic overcrowding. In London alone, an estimated 45,000 people live in hostels, squats and bed and breakfasts. On top of that there are around 1,000 sleeping rough. The Association of London Government estimates 100,000 new, affordable homes are needed in the capital.

According to Shelter, the National Campaign for Homeless People, the need for new affordable homes nationally is running at around 160,000 a year.

Britain's population is not growing. The need for so many new homes is based on changing social trends. More people are living alone, not just because they're selfish misanthropes, but also because more are getting divorced and more are living longer.

They are trends, Shelter says, which cannot be denied. In their submission to the House of Commons select committee on housing, which is examining housing need, Shelter said: "They are substantiated both by Shelter's direct experience as providers of housing advice, and numerous studies."



A small proportion of the new households are also due to increased immigration.

The 4.4 million projection is therefore flawed but, nevertheless, it is also accepted as the best estimate there is. In his evidence to the Commons inquiry, Glen Bramley, professor at the school of planning and housing at Heriot-Watt University argued: "There is no alternative system that is so well developed."

This view is accepted by expert after expert, as well as campaign groups such as Shelter.

"We are satisfied there will be a very significant increase in the number of households needing housing," it says.

Labour MP for Stroud David Drew, a leading opponent of excessive green belt development, is willing to challenge the figure.

"We know the population is fairly stable. So most of the increase is from migration and single-person households. Are single people inevitable, and if so, are they a good thing?"

Some people think so. More single people are seen as good ways of regenerating inner cities. They are the ones who might want to live there.

Others argue the figures are a self-fulfilling prophecy. Just as more roads leads to more car use, they say, more

houses will lead to more households.

Professor Bramley says that if you put houses on the edge of town that's where people will live. But, conversely, building less houses won't slow the divorce rate.

The biggest flaw in the projection is that it is based on past trends. Just because divorce rates have been rising for the last 20 years is no guarantee they will continue to do so.

Experts also acknowledge that 'predict and provide', where long-term estimates of demand are made on previous trends and then supplied, has sucked the life blood out of city centres - and scattered it across the countryside.

This is why, in February, Prescott replaced the 'predict and provide' method to 'plan, monitor, manage'. In other words, future projections should be assessed locally according to local need rather than nationally. But, until this picks up speed, the choice is between chronic homelessness or working on a 4.4 million assumption.

The government's target for building these homes on brownfield land is 60 per cent. Both the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Friends of the Earth argue this should be 75 per cent. But even with that figure, 25 per cent, or 1.1 million households, will find their way onto greenfield (as opposed to greenbelt) sites.

The big problem with brownfield land is that there isn't that much of it. There are massive swathes of it in old mining and ex-industrial towns, particularly in the north. But with the industry gutted out, there is no reason to live there.

North of a line between the Severn and the Humber there is too much housing. Social homes are being pulled down. Even if thousands of homes were built there, they would lie empty. Massive estates used to be built in the middle of nowhere, but with poor employment there are no shops, pubs, transport or entertainment and they become crime-ridden, drug addled ghettos. Conversely, in London and the south east, where everybody wants to live, there is hardly any brownfield.

The decision to build 10,000 new homes on the outskirts of Stevenage illustrates the problem.

Prescott also carries the can for this, although the decision was that of the local authority. (Stevenage has since suspended its plans and asked Prescott to examine them in the light of his statements over plan, monitor, manage.)

Faced with having to build 10,000 new homes, without any brownfield to speak of, the council could have put them on one side of town, greenfield but not greenbelt. On top of the houses they would have had to build road links to the town centre, installed sewers, power substations, street lighting, water and gas connection. Or they could have built them along an existing transport corridor with

the fundamentals of infrastructure in place.

The lesser of two evils happened to be on designated greenbelt land.

The other problem is that brownfield land costs a fortune to decontaminate and someone's got to pay for it. Whoever it is, the price of the house goes up.

There is also the small point that it is cheaper to build a new house greenfield than decontaminate brownfield land, or refurbish empty homes. Refurbishing empty homes is classed as 'home improvements' and so carries a 17 per cent VAT rate. The Empty Homes Agency, which promotes refurbishment, is pushing to have this lifted.

One million of the projections are for affordable homes. The Liberal Democrats argue they won't be built as there isn't the money to pay for them.

Unless they are taken out of the projections, they argue, land will be released and then snapped up by greedy developers to build bland executive estates.



However, it's not all doom and gloom. The whole debate has re-focused attention on housing, where it hasn't been for two decades. Prescott talks of an 'urban renaissance' with mixed thriving communities. His Millennium Village is supposed to be an example.

A recent report by the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) said an extra 600,000 new homes could be built in London if densities were pushed up at the expense of car parking spaces.

Density is a key word for many local councils obviously keen to avoid overcrowding. But, according to LPAC, the most popular, and expensive, homes in London are at densities that wouldn't be allowed today. Three bedroom Victorian semis with front and back gardens were built before anybody owned cars. (They are expensive, like most property in London, because of limited supply).

Lord Rogers of Riverside, chairing Prescott's Urban Task Force into brownfield development, recently told the Commons housing inquiry what he hoped would be done.

He also talked about high densities, but not cramming. High densities save energy, they come from mixed use of shops, offices and different types of housing, which create communities.

He said car parks in London were a waste of space and should be built upon, and that we should be looking towards European models where cars in city centres were restricted, or electric, and car hire arrangements were made for long journeys.

"We're not just looking at housing," he said, "but at communities of which housing is a part. We're thinking how can we improve the quality of life".

Fashion victims

Clothes to die for? That's exactly what some companies are making. Susie Fenn examines the work of the Campaign for Labour Rights and finds out why Nike gets no points for style.

NIKE THE SUPER STYLISH, oh so concerned about public image, sports company is being sued by the State of California. A press release issued by the progressive news agency Communications Works stated: "Nike has illegally misled and deceived Californian consumers about working conditions and wages in its overseas factories."



Nike spends an average of 90p on labour to make a pair of trainers and between 5-600 million dollars a year on athlete endorsement and advertising.

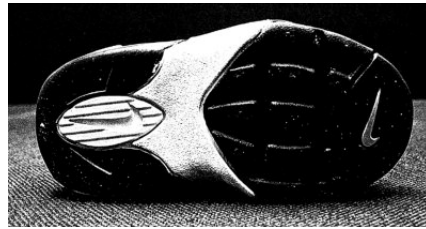
The Campaign for Labour Rights feels that this lawsuit could be tremendously important in pressurising Nike to undertake a systematic reform of their labour practises.

As a leading, globally influential company Nike has been the focus of many campaigns on exploitation in the clothing industry, they are by no means the only offender but rather the more high-profile tip of the iceberg. They have constantly been accused of using slave labour in Asian countries with severely oppressive regimes such as Vietnam, Indonesia and China, countries not known for their democracy but more for their human rights offences. Like many other companies trying to keep their costs down they scour the world looking for the cheapest (company speak: 'efficient') labour. A common tactic employed is playing countries off against each other. David Moberg, a senior editor for *In These Times* magazine, reported overhearing a Nike representative in a factory discussion on wage levels saying: "Maybe Indonesia is pricing itself out of the market."

Moberg's article, published in the *LA Times* last year, is an account of a visit to several Nike factories in Indonesia including Nike Town which, he says, "is the largest factory in the world making shoes exclusively for Nike.... The factory provides housing for 12,000 workers. Nike town seems to have gotten rid of the physical sweatshop, while leaving the particulars of sweatshop labour; low wages, increasing work intensity and discipline, without meaningful worker

representation entirely in place."

He talked with a group of women in the dormitories, where he says "twelve workers inhabit a room barely large enough to contain six double bunk beds, jammed side by side." Female workers, although happy to have a job, complained about the pressure: "Almost every day, if we make a mistake, or don't make our quota, we're called horrible words: you're dumb, you're stupid.... If we don't achieve our target today, the supervisor makes us do it tomorrow, and we don't get paid overtime," a 24 year old Javan woman told him. They work through lunch and have overly long days. "Pay is so low, many cannot keep up rent payments or afford more than one modest meal a day to supplement the food their employer is obliged to provide." Another worker told him: "It's work; go home, sleep, eat, go to factory, work. Sometimes I dream of a weekend holiday, but it's only a dream."

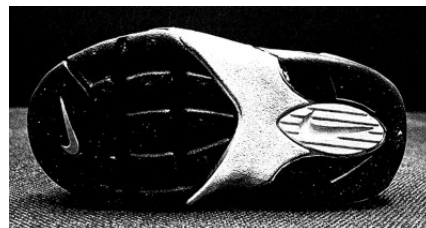


The Campaign for Labour Rights, who have been closely following Nike's business and labour practices, report that, "Michael Shellenberger, of Communications Works, emphasised that this (law)suit is not about the money, but about getting Nike to correct the discrepancy between its public rhetoric and its actual labor practises overseas". They say Shellenberger agreed with the assessment that "The object is not to have Nike bring its claims down to the level of its practises, but to force the company to bring its practises up to the level of its claims."

The campaign group further claim: "This is the first time the shoe giant has faced legal action over its labor policies. The lawsuit contends that Nike's advertising and public statements present a deceptive image of the company, and that Nike falsely claimed to protect workers through a Code of Conduct and Memorandum of Understanding." Campaigners have been demanding that codes of conduct must be independently monitored. The Campaign for Labour Rights insists that reports from local NGOs, human rights groups and religious organisations are used to verify information.

Their report continues: "The most damning evidence is contained a 1997 Ernst and Young internal audit" by a disgruntled employee to the *New York Times*: "Their inspection of a Vietnamese shoe plant found evidence of widespread health and safety violations. These included exposure to workers of reproductive toxins, like toluene, at 177 times the legal limit."

Research by Oxfam & Christian Aid have found these export processing zones (areas where foreign companies are offered tax breaks and exemptions from labour laws if they invest) have an 80 to 90 per cent female workforce aged between 16 and 24 years, by which time they are too unhealthy and exhausted to work. An International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) report states that they are subjected to a level of abuse, exploitation and humiliation which would cause a public scandal if it happened in the investor's own country. Often the women are migrant workers with little control over their lives, commonly forced from their homeland due to the expanding global economy [their land being used by transnational companies, taken by the government or wealthy land owners]. They are often working at a level that often just about keeps them from starvation



In Rosario, the Philippines, on March 8th, Carmelita Alonzo, a sewing machine operator at VT Fashion Inc, died of excessive work, her co-workers stated. March 8th was, ironically, International Womens Day. Workers denounced the system of quotas set by the company which forced them to work 12 to 14 hours a day plus seven hours overtime on a Sunday. This particular factory has produced garments for many US-based companies including The Gap and Benneton. Other reports from the Philippines, the Dominican Republic and other free trade zones say that the lack of bathroom facilities and strict discipline often leads to health problems such as urinary tract infections. The ICFTU states: "In some countries, young women have to take a pregnancy test before they can be hired. If they later become pregnant, they are sacked."

Workers usually have no union and are in fact banned from organising themselves. Usually they have no rights and will be dismissed if they complain of the conditions or are even heard talking about them. They are trapped. In repressive regimes, to fight for your health, your children or basic rights is seen as subversion, and a threat to national security. The local military are often used to control dissent and expressions of dissatisfaction. The freedom to associate and collective bargaining is a vital right for

workers to be able to strike in this environment.

"The level of frustration must have become unendurable," reports labour alerts for the Campaign for Labour Rights. "Any union activity in Indonesia [for example] takes place in a context of severe repression."

In Indonesia, at least 330 peaceful activists had been arrested by the middle of March. Amnesty reported, in November '96, the arrest of "some 249 people during a raid on the Indonesian Democratic Party... Some of them have been tortured and many were held for days or even weeks in incommunicado military detention without lawyers or families. One was beaten, kicked, and had a truncheon pushed into his mouth."

One of those charged with subversion, independant leader Muchtar Pakpahan is currently facing a lengthy jail sentence, possibly the death penalty, for insulting the president. "Pakpahans' real 'crime' was organising workers to demand wage increases and humane working conditions," The East Timor Action Network stated. "Through their subcontractors in Indonesia, Nike takes advantage of a repressive dictatorship that has always denied workers the right to organise independently. The Suharto regime uses its military to keep workers in line."

In April last year Nike signed the Presidential Task Force Agreement on Sweatshops. Just after this a series of wildcat strikes occurred in countries where the agreement was not being applied. Thirteen hundred workers at a factory in Vietnam, 10,000 in Indonesia. Thuyen Nguyen, whose accounts of labour abuses in Vietnam were widely reported in the national media at this time, observed that Nike was always quick to discredit his reports by quibbling over details while ignoring the well-substantiated larger picture of abuse.



Four months later Nike did pull out of four Indonesian factories; the Campaign for Labour Rights suspects that this is less to do with concern for human rights, as NIKE claims, and more to do with cheap labour. They have, after all, subsequently increased production in China. According to Christian Aid's book 'The globe trotting sports shoe' the abuse of workers is worse in China.

Being able to contact the outside world is vital to give empowerment it is only through sneaky clues [such as a Gap label being snuck out of a dodgy factory in Honduras] that the truth can be detected. Bethan Brooks, from Christian Aid, who co-wrote the book told *Squall*: "It is virtually impossible to get any new up-to-date and proven information from countries such as China.... We have no-one in the field out there."



GAndALF freed after spell in prison

This is the case of the GAndALF three. It's not Tolkein fantasy, although it gets that weird. It's cost over £4 million, involved 55 separate police raids, MI5, the Canadian Mounties, an Italian connection, an ex-military judge, state censorship Public Immunity Certificates, a conspiratorial silence in the press and three-year prison sentences. Gibby Zobel reports.

We are at a night of the Liberation tour, a sixteen-date national campaign for the release of the GAndALF three. Robin Webb, a silver-haired softly-spoken gent and animal rights activist, delivers the big joke of a black-humoured evening. Namely, the ludicrous criminal charge he and co-defendant Paul Rogers still face, and on which three men - contributors to the radical journal *Green Anarchist* - were thrown in jail.

First, they were found guilty of "conspiring to incite criminal damage". It's worth taking a pause here as we drift from reality, from the actual incident of, say, smashing a window. The GAndALF three are journalists reporting, say, the smashed window. The logic assumes that by writing about the smashed window, they are inciting more window-smashing. And that they are conspiring with others to do so, although the three maintain they didn't even know each other. What's more, the charge is for "unspecified criminal damage". There is no one smashed window, one crime. The people who have been incited are unnamed, they are "persons unknown". And the date of the incited crime? Well, they've narrowed that down to "unspecified dates" between 1991 and 1996. Ha, ha, ha. Comedian Mark Thomas joked that it was like blaming Martin Bell for the war in Bosnia.

But the biggest joke of all is that, despite the huge cost and resources, no-one is in jail. The GAndALF three, having served four and a half months of their sentence, were freed on bail in a shock move on March 27th. Steve Booth, 38, Noel Molland and Saxon Wood, both 24, walked out of their cells within hours of High Court Appeal Judge, Mr Justice Smedley, signing papers for their

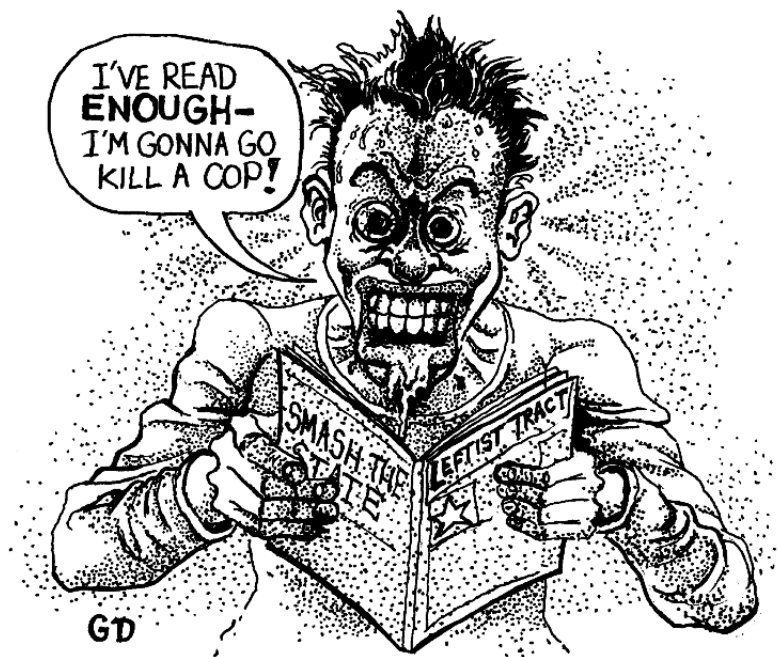
immediate release, effectively undermining the original ruling.

It was a highly unusual legal move, drawing comparisons with the Bridgewater Four or the Birmingham Six. On release Steve Booth said: "The guard said he'd never heard of this happening before. We'd heard a rumour that the reason we'd been let out was that Amnesty in the US were about to list us as political prisoners."

Other heavy-weight organisations began to back their cause. This clear case of denial of free speech was not lost on *Index on Censorship*, more used to reporting brutal censorship in far off regimes, which reprints samples of the 'offending' words on its website. The National Union of Journalists became involved, and Liberty called for the catch-all "conspiracy" laws to be abolished. Saxon Wood reckons "it had become too much of a hot potato". The release has led to the hope that their convictions may be quashed, but that will have to wait for the appeal and even a possible retrial.

The drive behind Operation Washington, launched by Hampshire Police, was to entrap the Animal Liberation Front press officer Robin Webb. The farce began when Robin Webb forwarded a press release he had been sent, to a regional paper reporting the deliberate contamination of eggs in Tesco's. During 1995/96 alone there were 55 separate police raids.

When the trial eventually began on August 26th 1997 there were six defendants, including Simon Russell, editor of the *ALF Supporters Group* newsletter, who was eventually found not guilty. Paul Rogers was severed from proceedings when his barrister resigned rather than call a secret state witness, and the case against



Robin Webb collapsed. That left the GAndALF three to face Judge Selwood, an ex-army Major General who described *Green Anarchist* as "the most contemptuous document I have ever seen in my entire career".

The desperation to get a conviction led to extreme measures, and questionable use of public resources. Sgt Gunner, one of the Operation Washington team, was sent on a week-long fact-finding trip to Italy because he believed that someone in Italy had received a letter from a defendant that was relevant to the investigation. Then one of the defendants was accused of the 'crime' of putting a report about the Justice Department (an animal rights group) on the internet. In fact, it was North American ALF SG co-ordinator Darren Thurston, and the court in Portsmouth agreed to fly him in from Vancouver, Canada. However, on arrival at Heathrow, he was immediately deported as an 'undesirable alien' on advice from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The awareness of the vastly under-reported case came originally from a hundred-strong pledge of solidarity from the first Alternative Media Gathering in Oxford during the three-month hearings.

Paul Rogers explained that the tactic of isolating *Green Anarchist* from the movement, and therefore the general public, back-fired at this point. Instead of intimidating the alternative press into silence, it galvanised them into a stronger defiant focus.

The pledge stated that: "Environmental degradation, animal cruelty, economic injustice and poverty, attacks on personal freedoms, wars, the arms trade, nuclear weapons - these, among many others, are the real inciting factors, not the reporting of direct action protests. The best way to fight for our freedoms is to exercise them." Yet, as Judith Vidal Hall, deputy editor of *Index On Censorship*, pointed out: "Their imprisonment was disgraceful... and I find it very curious that it passes without comment from the mainstream media."

SchNEWS annual, featuring full coverage of the GAndALF case, is available for £6 (cheques to 'justice?'). Send an sae to PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX, or check weekly updates on the website: www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Copies of the offending publications are available from: *Green Anarchist*, BCM 1715, London, UK, WC1N 3XX. The ALFSG Newsletter, BCM 1160, UK, WC1N 3XX. Or visit the *Index On Censorship* solidarity site: www.oneworld.org/index_oc

For more details, affiliations and offers of support contact the GAndALF Defendants' Campaign at: GDC, P.O. Box 66, Stevenage, UK, SG1 2TR. For tour details contact: 0956 694922

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 **MARK KELLY**
"dates still available"

[]

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compare
the daily tedium
"the sun"

to the works of James Joyce -

"sufficient unto the day is the
newspaper thereof."

if you don't want the editor's choice,
put a cross in the box above.

The voice of treason

Family Breeds Contempt

Greek Cyprus, Turkish Cyprus
different lies, same mistrust ;
same isle, different parts
different bile, same hearts.

The Tamil nation, Sri Lanka
different landlord, same banker ;
same sun, different buyer
different gun, same supplier.

Ireland North, Ireland South
different accent, same mouth ;
same Christ, different cross
different life, same boss.

Family ties, family knots
different blood, same clots ;
same death, different plots
the only flowers : forget-me-nots....

Language Of The Body Politic

Candidates stand
parliaments sit

they all lie....

Telephone Exchange

at the other end of the phone
her tone
was matter-of-fact
that the historic experiment
of socialism
had failed
and now the free market
must be hailed
as having inexorably prevailed.

at this end of the line
my mind
flew through the window
to a panoramic display
of urban decay:
the hungry, the homeless,
the angry, the hopeless
and, beyond these shores,
more of the same
and much worse, of course.

who can say
how much more money
money may ache to make?

and how much more success we can take?

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I'm the steadier of Satan. Cute!
Isn't it fearsome: acute death
Cretinous, meatiest fathead

Rupert Murdoch

Murder torch up
Hurt murder cop
D-cup terror hum
Cup hero Mr Turd
Oh erupt Mr Crud

Ronald McDonald

Mad and droll con
Cod 'n' damn dollar

John Pendragon, editor of Tribal
Messenger, festival veteran and campaigner,
died on Monday 13th April.

Unfortunately many of his archives have
been lost or misplaced. Please send any
writings, documents, by, about, or inspired by
John for a possible magazine/book/website to:
**John Pendragon Project,
c/o Glastonbury Assembly Rooms,
High Street, Glastonbury BA6 9DU.**



The hills have ears

Menwith Hill is a little piece of the USA in Britain, a listening post monitoring the telecommunications traffic of Europe. It is rapidly expanding, unaccountable (even to parliament) and no-one is able to get any answers. Ally Fogg reports, additional material by Gibby Zobel.

Take a short walk west from the A59 near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, across a designated site of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and you could be forgiven for thinking you had found a set from Space 1999. Twenty seven vast white golfballs up to 60 metres in diameter, satellite dishes and a host of towering aerial masts line the horizon. If a little bird were to tell you what was going on inside, you might feel you had walked into the middle of George Orwell's nightmares. The fibre-optic cables running under your feet carry 32,000 telephone lines, and the space-age hardware before your eyes monitors transmissions from land and mobile telephones, radios, faxes, satellite communications and cyberspace. It is capable of intercepting two million telephone calls every hour. Its targets are military, political, commercial, industrial and domestic. This is not science fiction. It is Menwith Hill spy station.

Officially titled 'RAF Menwith Hill', the largest regional intelligence station on

Earth is in fact run by, and for, the US National Security Agency (NSA). There are 1,200 American staff and 600 British staff on site. It operates in close tandem with GCHQ at Cheltenham, but GCHQ has no automatic access to the intelligence gathered at Menwith Hill. All domestic and international telephone calls in Britain pass through Menwith Hill, allowing US officers to spy on any British citizen without a warrant. Information collected on political activists, for example, can then be passed on to MI5, Special Branch or Scotland Yard.

Despite the end of the Cold War, the NSA continues to have a budget of \$10 billion per year. It spends \$1 million per minute spying on the communications of the UK, France and Germany. The US 'acquired' 562 acres of Yorkshire moorland in 1956 in a secret arrangement with the British government. The arrangement was never approved by the British Parliament. A 21-year tenure was agreed, and renewed in 1976 for a further 21 years, again in secret and without parliamentary approval. Despite the expiry of this tenure last year, the base continues to expand. Since the arrangements between the UK and US

governments which allow Menwith Hill to operate are secret, nobody knows on what legal grounds Menwith Hill now functions. The rapid expansion of the base has required planning applications, in 1985 there were four radomes (golfballs), now there are 27. However Harrogate Council has no power to refuse permission or impose conditions.

The reasons for Menwith Hill's very existence give an important insight into the 'special relationship' between the UK and USA. In a court case last year, former Cabinet Minister Tony Benn MP testified that Britain is under contract to the US to buy nuclear weapons on the condition that bases like Menwith are allowed to operate from here and provided that the US has access to all British intelligence operations. The role of Menwith Hill in a military context is undeniable, it won an award from the NSA as "Station of the Year" in 1991 for its role in the Gulf War. The use of this technology for commercial espionage is no less controversial. American companies, notably arms dealers Loral Space Systems Incorporated and Lockheed Aerospace, sell much of the spy equipment to the NSA and they are both involved in arms sales to third-world countries. Menwith Hill gains information that would be highly useful to them. In the same testimony, Tony Benn told the court that it was "inconceivable" that the intelligence collected at Menwith Hill would not be used for commercial advantage. Even the NSA's own website admits that its work includes "monitoring the development of new technology" around the world.

Benn is one of a small band of MPs who have attempted to impose some form of parliamentary accountability on Menwith Hill. In his last speech to the House before his untimely death in 1994, Bob Cryer gave a blistering attack on the station, and the fudging of Ministerial replies on the subject. He described how the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Nicholas Soames) had said there is parliamentary accountability for Menwith Hill, while the Minister for Public Transport (Stephen Norris) found the station so secret that while he was a minister at the

Department of Defence he thought it was a railway station! Max Madden MP asked questions between 1986 and 1997.

Norman Baker, Lib-Dem MP for Lewes, has asked dozens of parliamentary questions about Menwith Hill and related issues since entering the house last May. "I'm a believer in freedom of information," He told SQUALL. "I don't like the way Menwith Hill is shrouded in secrecy, and I'm not convinced that what happens there is for the good of this country. Most of us assume the cold war is over, so the question must be what are they using it for? One of the assumptions must be that it is being used for industrial espionage."

The standard ministerial reply to almost any question on the subject is: "The use of Menwith Hill by the United States Department of Defence is subject to confidential arrangements between the United Kingdom and the United States Government."

Recently the US and UK Governments have been embarrassed by an EC report from the Science and Technology Office of Assessment which stated that "within Europe all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the United States National Security Agency transferring all target information from the European mainland via the strategic hub of London then by satellite to Fort Meade in Maryland via the crucial hub at Menwith Hill". The report confirmed that this included diplomatic, economic, and political communications, monitored through a massive US global spy web, mainly at Menwith Hill. European business leaders are believed to be less than delighted at the confirmation that their commercial confidentiality is routinely breached by an arm of the US Government.

Not surprisingly, those who have worked the hardest to highlight the scandal of Menwith Hill have not been political representatives or disgruntled business leaders, but a dedicated collection of peace campaigners. There have been campaigns to stop Menwith Hill since it began in 1952. Groups now involved include the WoMenwith Hill Women's Peace Camp, Yorkshire CND



“A recent STOAS [Science & Technology Office of Assessment] report confirmed what we’ve always said that within Europe all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the US National Security Agency. It’s a huge infringement of civil liberties listening in to private conversations. The safeguards are falling apart. Menwith Hill is a crucial place in terms of US domination. It’s about weapons of mass destruction and the essential role it plays in all that.”

Lindis Percy

*The Golfballs, or more accurately Radomes, have risen in number from four, in 1985, to 27 today.
Photo by Ben Taylor.*

and the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB). The peace camp has been sitting in a lay-by on the A59 since 1994. There have been literally hundreds of trespasses at the station over many years. Activists have been arrested, assaulted, imprisoned and injuncted, but refuse to give up. British MoD Police are used to protect the base, paid for with American money. In a typical example of the lengths to which the authorities have gone in attempting to quell these activists, the second military land byelaws were passed in the summer of 1997, forbidding trespass onto the base. The first set of byelaws had been declared invalid in 1993. The first two activists to be arrested under the byelaw, Helen John and Anne Lee, were acquitted by a judge at York Crown Court in October. He ruled that since 70 per cent of the land covered by the law was used for grazing sheep, it could not be considered primarily of ‘military use’. Less than a week later, activists Lindis Percy and Anni Rainbow were arrested under the same byelaw which had just been ruled invalid. They had been removing byelaw notices.

In February Lindis Percy, who has had an injunction since 1991 banning her from the area around Menwith Hill with the exception of two public footpaths, was arrested for removing one of these signs from the side of one of the footpaths. “They deliberately moved the bylaw notices three feet to ‘protect’ the signs from protestors! The intent was entrapment. They say the notices are off the footpath, I say they are still on it. So by reading the notices you have to get so close you are, in their eyes, committing a criminal offence. The MoD Police appeared out of nowhere and arrested me.”

It has been alleged that she had nine injunctions banning her from the base, but claims she was entitled to use the footpath. Lindis has been a thorn in the side of the US military in the UK for many years. She has taken out civil and criminal actions against the US Government for assault and false imprisonment at a number of US bases. The Americans



cited diplomatic immunity and the cases failed. The criminal action is now being considered at the European Court. Last year she served more than two months of a nine-month sentence in Holloway, and was released after intervention from the Official Solicitor when her health was compromised after she was subjected to involuntary stripsearches. “I firmly believe that out of bad things, good things will come,” she told SQUALL, “and that people can make a difference, when we know what we are doing is right... My family know this is important work and accept that the arrests and court cases is what is going to be. Of course there have been problems and they used to get very angry, but I think it is sorted out now.

This crazy zany world of secrecy, collusion and deceit is bizarre - I still work as a health visitor in Bradford which keeps me sane. They want you to give up - but the more they try and

silence me the stronger I get.”

It has recently been confirmed that there are plans for the continued expansion of Menwith Hill until at least 2005. The physical expansion shall enable it to house the technology to transmit and receive communications and full-spectrum photographic images from military satellites, allowing the US military to see and hear what is going on, on literally any inch of the planet. It will also be able to control laser weapons which could be fired anywhere to an accuracy of six feet. The space probe Cassini, launched last autumn with 72 lb of plutonium on board, was directly connected to the need to fuel these weapons in space. There is every reason to believe that it will continue to grow well beyond 2005, and who knows what technology it will house by then. Big Brother is not just watching you, he’s getting bigger all the time.

*Bradford peace campaigner, Lindis Percy (right), has waged a long campaign through the courts against Menwith Hill And its military bylaws.
Photo by John Brierley.*



Sow far sow good

Permaculture is a term that's often heard but rarely seen. There are many hidden projects we don't hear much about because people are just getting on with it. Georgia Wisbey visited Brickhurst Farm in Kent.

Permaculture literally means 'permanent culture, permanent agriculture'. It is based on a system of land use which attempts to emulate nature and natural ecosystems working with nature instead of against it.

Monoculture does not exist in nature, nor does waste: whatever is waste to one species is food or habitat to another. Permaculture casts human beings as part of such a system, rather than as external managers. It is about people becoming aware and responsible for themselves, connecting them with their environment, regardless of where they live. The principles can be applied to urban areas as well as rural. They can be used by communities, farms, businesses, schools, in gardens, even incorporated into architecture: enabling people to work out solutions to local and global problems and put them into practice, taking control of areas of life which are frustrated by negative agricultural and governmental controls and policies.

Bill Mollison, an active Australian environmental protestor of the 1970's, was concerned with modern farming practices, particularly their damaging effects; encouraging large-scale soil depletion. He felt that although there was a massive need to protest, and to challenge, there were no effective solutions to some of the problems that the planet was suffering from; increasingly burdened by negative and intrusive agricultural techniques and philosophies. He decided he

needed to actually live in a way that didn't compromise his environmental beliefs so he designed a system based on sustainability, and coined the term 'permaculture'.

Just outside Pembury, in the Tory Borough of Kent, is Brickhurst Farm with 23 and a half acres of beautiful undulating mixed woodland and wild grasses. Danny O'Sullivan has been living at the farm for the last three and a half years in his bender, gradually turning the land into a sustainable project based on Bill Mollison's permaculture principles. Danny found the inspiration to start the project by "networking in the loft" at the Claremont Road M11 Protest in East London, 1994.

At Brickhurst Farm an ancient track leads down to the land, past a beautiful old beech tree. The banks of the track are abundant with bluebells and ferns nestled among exposed tree roots. Danny took us on a tour explaining the planning and planting that has taken place over the last couple of years. He pointed out the raised beds: low fenced, hand-built deep growing beds, built up with layers of compost and cardboard. They prevent back injuries because of the lack of digging required, and once watered remain moist. Last summer, when much of England was suffering from drought Danny didn't need to water his veg.

The project relies on volunteers who contribute their knowledge and muscle-power to the project's overall aims. Volunteers come from a diverse background, from direct-action protestors to conventional gardeners, from experts in the

field of permaculture, to interested locals.

Danny thinks of himself as a caretaker rather than a manager: "Volunteers give a good human effort... lots of people working and sharing knowledge, and collectively discussing what to do with the land to protect it." Danny has learned it all through "being here and getting on with it", learning from people coming to the farm, and visiting other sites. Danny did his Permaculture Introductory Course at The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales.

"Everyone has been open and sharing, it's really refreshing," says Danny, although he is the first to admit that it hasn't been a bed of roses by any means, and there have been plenty of internal conflicts and personality clashes. "Often it has seemed that it's been everybody else versus me," he says. He feels that people have sometimes perceived him as something other than the role he sees for himself. "Lots of lessons have been learnt here, not only in permaculture principles, but in people management as well."

At present the project is funded by permaculture introductory courses, donations of £2 for every visitor to the farm, fees for camping and whatever the visitor wants to contribute to the site.

Permaculture introductory courses last a minimum 72 hours, and explore philosophy, urban ecology, forest gardening, green economics, green buildings, recreation, community-building, growing, picking and eating food locally, waste and water management and design principles

(from designing your land or back garden, or applying the design principles to your business). The course runs for about two weeks (with a sliding-scale of fees). Site-visits are also part of the course, with practical applications. On the last Introductory Course students built a mud-oven in one of the benders, a compost toilet (which is far better than the latrines at Glastonbury!), planted trees, built 'raised-beds' and helped dig the dams. There was even a cinema set up in one of the benders. Brickhurst is also applying to Radical Routes to become a co-operative.

We walked down to the stream where volunteers helped build a dam. What was originally only a trickle of water now supplies most of the water needed for the farm. The smell of wild garlic wafted up as we walked along the banks. We munched on it while we wandered up to Danny's bender, a tarp-covered structure built from intertwined hazel. The bender blends into the landscape with an ease which a Wimpy home could never achieve:

"They need a certain amount of maintenance over the course of a year, mainly when winter is about to set in, but they are warm and dry and cosy, and practical to live in," says Danny.

The local Museum of Kent Country Life in Maidstone told Danny they would be interested in displaying a bender in the museum in 16 and a half years' time, because after 20 years of someone living in a structure it becomes a 'recognised way of life'.

“The Permaculture Movement shouldn’t be seen as some sort of retirement club for ex-hunt sabs and past-it digger-divers, rather it is an integral component of the struggle for our planet, complementary to the Direct Action movement and the myriad other strands that give us strength in our diversity. After all, what is the point of ‘fighting the power’ - merely creating a permanent culture of opposition - if we don’t at the same time offer practical working alternatives, in the here and now and not only after some ever distant ‘revolution’?”

(Extract from a letter to ‘Do or Die’ no. 7, Voices from Earth First, Spring 1998.)

Another bender is used for cooking when there are large amounts of people on site - it is warm and cosy, with a massive kitchen area full of organic spices and vegetables.

Walking further around the land Danny showed us the ‘chicken tractor’ at work: a central nesting shed and large area of land houses organic chickens, and after a year of their waste (which is very fertile) accumulating, he moves the chickens to another area, and vegetables are planted in the ready-dug manured garden.

Another permaculture principle is the use of comfrey on the land. “Comfrey is an amazing green manure - every time I pull something out of the ground I replace it with a couple of comfrey leaves,” says Danny, “this repairs the ground cover and replaces most of the goodness that is needed to grow more veg. Comfrey used to be used as the plaster on broken bones, for torn muscles and severe bruising. Comfrey ointment is available at health shops and I recommend a small jar to everybody if they have no access to fresh leaves.”

Brickhurst has two compost toilets on site: Danny’s personal ‘bucket’ design and a more aesthetic version built by volunteers, using interwoven hazel with a tarp on top. Solid waste goes into a pit, with sawdust covering every new addition keeping odours to a minimum. Liquid waste is collected in a bucket and later added to grass cuttings to encourage insects. A tree can be planted where the solid waste accumulates, and the compost toilet is moved on to another location.

Over 3,500 trees have been planted. 95 per cent of these produce either nuts or fruit as Danny is also basing the project on Robert Heart’s ‘Forest Garden’ design.

Robert Heart pioneered ‘Forest Gardening’ when farming conventionally in Shrewsbury. He questioned the negative way animals are treated and negative land-use. Over 15 years he gradually stopped intensive farming, leaving most of the land fallow, and started a Forest Garden which imitates the multi-layered and self-regulating systems of a natural forest. The third of an acre Robert now farms is totally productive and, now that it is established, takes very little ‘hard work’ to maintain; low maintenance being one of the many common-sense principles of permaculture. Robert has had to contact his local LETS in abundant summers to take away surplus food.

Back at Brickhurst, Danny picked

some ‘bio-dynamic’ potatoes which we had with organic squash (pumpkin) for dinner. The squash had been in storage for six months and was delicious.

“Most modern-day varieties of seeds aren’t the same quality as old fashioned varieties, either in flavour, or the ability to store well, even in the ability to reproduce easily. The problem... of availability of seeds is an important lesson in corporate manipulation as most seed banks are in the hands of multinationals. Plenty of new and hybrid seeds are readily available at garden centres, but people are having problems getting the older varieties, many of which are even outlawed! The same law is used with these heritage seeds as is used with hemp seeds. If the authorities wanted to apply the law as it is, they could be ripping-up plants at ‘Plants for the Future’, a positive project in Cornwall which stocks many rare seeds, and heritage varieties!”

When asked whether he had any problems with his neighbours, Danny laughed and stated that most had read about him in the local papers first, which created initial negative reactions: “There was lots of stereotyping until people actually visited the farm, lots of screaming first, then talking.” Leaves now come from the local Parish Council, Pembury, grass cuttings and wood chippings (without weed killers) come from the Borough Council.

The owner of the land, Peter, had lots of problems with the local council when applying for Planning Permission. Danny has encountered far fewer problems, living in a temporary structure, and applying permaculture to the land and his planning applications. He is using sustainable farming as a way forward and is lucky that his Local Council has a good idea of Agenda 21 principles, which all local councils now have a duty to implement.

The 1992 Rio Earth Summit produced the Agenda 21 Sustainable Development Principles, recognising ‘the global need to meet the needs of the present without burning up resources which would jeopardise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. Great principle, but something that government and many local councils seem sadly negligent in applying.

South Somerset District Council recently adopted a new draft structure plan which states that ‘favourable consideration will be given to the development of derelict or unused sites in the countryside’ to provide ‘short-term transit sites.... long-term residential sites’ and ‘sites for low-



All photos by Georgia Wisbey

impact dwellings in conjunction with agriculture/permaculture proposals’. However, because in 1981 Thatcher conveniently wound up the Royal Commission on Income and Wealth, the body that was investigating land holdings in Britain, finding suitable land has proved problematic.

The UK Government’s consultation document ‘Sustainable Economic Welfare in the UK’ (written by Tim Jackson and colleagues at the University of Surrey’s Centre for Environmental Strategy) suggests that four broad policy objectives need to be addressed simultaneously, one of which is sustainable development. The new Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) confirms this view, and illustrates the true cost to the economy and society if these objectives are not met as a matter of urgency.

Danny’s philosophy is simple: “Put up a temporary structure and let the planning department know what you are doing, and quote ‘PPG7, Appendix E, Revised Planning Application’, and you should have no problems. Just get on with it!”

Future plans for Brickhurst include planting and selling wild garlic, mushrooms and strawberries, holding sweat lodges, food swapping, rare plants, old fashioned varieties, as well as the current permaculture introductory courses, egg selling, and composting. However, permaculture raises more issues than those of environment/food production: the principles of permaculture can be applied to sociological problems, transport, land rights and housing.

“Permaculture is like a modern coat hanger to hang good ideas on - not dictating, but being willing to share ideas and information, respecting people and land, keeping open minded. There are no sacred cows in permaculture,” says Danny enthusiastically. “But don’t just read this, go and visit a working project. There are

urban examples like ‘Green Adventure’ in South London, or in Crouch Hill, London, or the many projects set up all around the country... I can see great big mature fruit trees, good cheap local food, employment, cheap housing, conservation, community, and being involved in something which doesn’t compromise your beliefs, that gets round the negative beurocracy that is inherent in current UK planning laws and politics ... IT’S GONNA BE BRILLIANT!”

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BRICKHURST FARM - Hastings Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, KENT. Tel 01892 825697

PERMACULTURE ASSOCIATION - PO Box 1, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0LH

CAT - Machynlleth, POWYS, SY20 9AZ. Tel 01654 702782 Fax 01654 702782

RADICAL ROUTES - C/O The Radical Routes Ethical Investment Scheme, Loanstock Office, 24 South Road, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 5NB.

Tel 0121 551 1132. (Radical Routes lend money and give advice to people wishing to set-up co-operatives, considering applications from groups and people involved in positive social change).

The GEN or Global Eco-Village Network (a forum for all who are interested in sustainable, community-based settlements, otherwise known as eco-villages). GEN International, Skyumvej 101, Snedsted, 7752, Denmark.

ONE WORLD ONLINE (the biggest sustainable development site in the world) - <http://www.oneworld.org/>

NATUREWISE - c/o Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, 83 Crouch Hill, London N8 9EG. Tel 0171 281 3765

GREEN ADVENTURE - (SAE) 54 Camberwell Business Centre, Lomond Grove, London, SE5 7HN. Tel 0171 277 2529.



The countryside corralled

Jim Carey mingles with the tweeds and Barbours at the Countryside March and investigates the landed property interests masquerading as a popular uprising. Photo by Nick Cobbing.

“So which issues were you here for today?” I asked the tweeded gentleman standing next to me on the tube back from the Countryside March. “Oh all the issues,” he insisted: “Hunting, shooting and fishing.”

According to the Countryside Alliance - the organisers of the Countryside March - 284,000 people marched through London on March 1st in support of a variety of countryside issues including “support for farming” and “opposition to green field development”. Despite these persistent attempts to portray the marchers as ordinary folk concerned with the future of the countryside, the veneer washed off quickly on the day.

For it was the hunting horn the corralled marchers were responding to, whilst voluminous media blurb attempted to persuade us all that Britain is now populated with two distinctly separate species; the oppressed rurals and the fascist townies. The usual ‘Socialist Worker’ logos on the placards were replaced by

‘Horse and Hound’: “Say no to the Urban jackboot.”

“Vive La Revolution!” trumpeted *The Daily Telegraph*, announcing its new found zeal for direct action with a vast acreage of pro-hunt column inches; all vestiges of impartial journalism abandoned.

Its huntsman editor, Charles Moore, wrote: “The power of landed interest in politics, which lingered long after the economic facts had changed, encouraged country people to be lazy about their causes. With the new Labour government that power has at last entirely collapsed. The country can no longer assume it has friends in high places.”

Arise you slumbering masses to fight the people’s fight! And yet of course the vested interests still rife in the countryside undoubtedly still have friends in high places. Charles Moore himself being one of them.

Other such friends went to see Tony Blair in February and came away with what they wanted. After meetings with the Country Landowners Association (CLA), Blair decided to postpone Labour’s long expressed commitment to the right to roam. The CLA described Labour’s original

proposal as “the greatest erosion of landowners’ rights this century”, whilst *The Daily Telegraph* referred to Labour’s U-turn as a postponement of “the evil day”.

The people’s mask slipped further from the face of vested interest when the Ramblers’ Association were told not to attend the March by the organisers.

Other people, however, were ‘required’ to attend. According to journalists at the Telegraph, Charles Moore let it be known that every member of staff should attend the march. Andrew Lloyd Webber (Lord Webber to friends in high places) employed a similar tactic, bussing the entire 40 strong workforce from his large Hampshire farm up to London. The Duke of Northumberland on the other hand paid the train fares of some of his peasants. “Rubbish,” said Vicki Knox, a huntswoman and tenant of the Duke. “People bought their own tickets in the main but a few were given because their wages are so low.” Quite.

Those on low wages - and judging by the quantity of manicured accents, there weren’t many - were heartened by the announcement that the Savoy Hotel would be serving free breakfasts for marchers. Unfortunately for them however, the

invitation proved exclusive to those of social standing. And whilst several members of the Tory shadow cabinet ate toasted triangles with the dukes and lords assembled in the Savoy, the wined and dined occupants of two exclusive clubs on Piccadilly cheered the marchers from their balconies, though their gates remained closed to the general public. Undaunted by the lack of dining opportunities, the crowd warmed themselves with several rounds of William Blake’s ‘Jerusalem’ before cheering heartily as the English national anthem bellowed out repetitively from a top-floor penthouse adjoining Hyde Park.

Yet as *The Daily Telegraph* repeated ad nauseam: “Today’s Countryside March brings to London not the massed forces of an aggrieved vested interest but a richly diverse range of Britons united in their desire to preserve the rural way of life.”

The Countryside Alliance themselves suggest otherwise. Until a public relations reshuffle a month after the Countryside March, the Alliance’s board included Earl Stockton, Lord Peel, Lord Mancroft, Lord Steel and of course the Duke of Westminster. Despite the urban fascists gnawing at the latter lord’s country ways, the Duke

of Westminster still eeks a living from his 300 acres of prime London property in Mayfair and Belgravia, as well as from a number of high-rise tower blocks he owns in a string of North American cities. The Duke helped the Countryside Alliance out with an interest free, unsecured loan of £1.3million. His staff say he does not expect the 'loan' to be repaid.

His fellow board member, Lord Steel (David to his friends in high places), has explored different ways of scratching a living. He got into trouble with the Parliamentary Standards committee last year when it was discovered he had failed to register his pro-hunting interests when tabling motions on the subject as an MP. When the rules governing members interests were revised by Lord Nolan, even his fellow Lib-Dems were aghast to find that Steel was being paid over £90,000 a year for a two day week as head of the pro-hunting Countryside Movement. This was on top of his £43,000 wage as an MP.

Set up in 1995, the Countryside Movement spent over £2million in its first year of operation before amalgamating with the British Field Sports Society and the Countryside Business Group to form the Countryside Alliance.

Despite these rather large sums of cash, Lord Steel and his Alliance colleagues reject the suggestion that the Countryside March was bankrolled by friends in high places. They say that only £400,000 was spent on organising the March and that this money was raised through small donations. With their accounts not open for public scrutiny, the Alliance's assertions cannot be verified. What is known, however, is that their headquarters in Kennington were bought for £650,000 by an anonymous benefactor and rented to the organisation at a peppercorn rent. The £120,000 spent on refurbishing the premises came from property development and road building companies. These companies include McAlpine, the construction and road building company owned by the ex-Conservative Party fundraiser Lord McAlpine; John Swire, a construction and shipping magnate and one of Britain's richest men and Sunley Holdings, a house building firm. Richard Tice, joint Chief Executive of Sunley Holdings was quoted in *The Times*: "There is a property chapter within the fund-raising section of the Alliance. I love the countryside and I am involved in field sports. The Countryside Alliance is for the defence of field sports, not fields."

These financial liaisons were largely facilitated by the Countryside Business Group (CBG). Now a part of the

Alliance, the CBG was originally set up by Eric Bettleheim, an American corporate lawyer working in London. Bettleheim's commitment to the British Countryside was perhaps best summed up by himself: "If you can sell death in packages called cigarettes, you can sell blood sports."

As well as the consistent attempts to portray the occasion as a popular uprising, there is evidence a plenty that the Conservative Party's spin doctors were also working at full tilt. Much to the chagrin of the march organisers, the well regarded National Trust refused to support their march, saying "we regard it as politically motivated". The Telegraph on the other hand helped out wherever possible: "Labour dislikes private property, particularly private land. It hates anyone who it thinks is a 'toff'. It also has almost no instinctive affection for freedom," asserted the editor, happy to report that his seven year old son had carried an "Up foxes, down with townie Blair" placard on the day. The Countryside Alliance even announced its intention to field candidates in future marginal by-elections to win the seats from Labour.

However, a gaping hole appeared in this party political posturing. After roping in issues like greenfield development, poor rural bus services and BSE to boost the appeal of a quintessentially pro-hunting march, it was realised that these problems all derived from a period of Conservative government. Keen not to fall into this hole, the Countryside Alliance gave specific instructions to its press core to desist from direct attacks on the Labour Party or its ministers. All pretence was thwarted, however, when it was revealed by BBC News this April that the Countryside Alliance had sold its membership database the Conservative Party for £2,000. Their careful attempt to portray the March as representative of the entire population of the British countryside had already been scuppered by a MORI poll commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Interviewing 1,128 marchers MORI found that 79 per cent were Tory voters, 63 per cent lived in the south and that 15 per cent were in fact the dreaded townies themselves.

Indeed, opinion polls were the bane of the Countryside Alliance's frantic attempts to magnify the democratic significance of the March. When MORI were commissioned to determine rural public opinion on fox-hunting, they found 63 per cent of the British population living in or near the countryside were in support of Michael Fosters anti-hunting bill.

Two other prominent pro-

countryside groups refusing to attend the March were the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Friends of the Earth. They pointed out the hypocrisy inherent in the Countryside Alliance's veneer of environmental concern. "Many of the worst threats to our countryside come from rich and powerful landowners," said FoE's Charles Secrett.

Friends of the Earth, along with English Nature, No Opencast and local CPRE groups, are currently engaged in trying to stop the Duke of Devonshire - a public supporter of the Countryside March - from turning an 83 hectare piece of Derbyshire into an open cast mine. According to the *Derbyshire Times*, the Duke of Devonshire's wife was one of hundreds of British Field Sports Society members who joined the RSPCA in 1996 in a co-ordinated attempt to alter the RSPCA's stance against hunting [see 'Animal Warfare' SQUALL 13]. This strategic infiltration failed to prevent the animal welfare charity from presenting a one million name petition against fox hunting to Downing Street just after the Countryside March.

According to *The Daily Telegraph*: "It is worth asking why country life in Britain, especially in England, thrived. One important factor was a respect for private property. The countryside was in good shape because it was in the interests of its owners to keep it so." Exactly what these 'interests' are is amply illustrated by the extraordinary 'profit bygone' system of land compensation. Under this scheme, landowners are actually given money in compensation for not developing their land. Only by this financial inducement is the countryside saved from the very people who own it.

Viscount Cranborne, another vocal supporter of the Countryside March, receives £41,000 a year for not cutting down trees on his estate in Dorset, whilst Lord Kimball, president of the British Field Sports Society, has asked for similar compensation for protecting peatland in Scotland.

In March, English Nature spent £200,000 fighting to reduce one Essex landowner's compensation for not harming his land, from £24,000 a year to £16,000. The money was worth it they say, to achieve a precedent which might check the amount of public money (£4.6million a year) given to large landowners in so called compensation.

The Countryside March was an extraordinary event born from deep set landed interests and engineered with

modern-day PR strategies. With the enthusiastic complicity of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Daily Mail*, the Countryside Alliance managed to achieve a high degree of political success despite the obvious paradoxes inherent in their rhetoric.

For this barbaric minority sport would have disappeared long ago, as more working-class barbarisms like dog and cock fighting did, were it not for the well resourced tenacity of friends in high places. These 'friends' it seems are still in position.

And yet the problems besetting rural areas are real. Farm incomes dropped by 35 per cent last year with some farmers genuinely destitute. The fact that we're all talking about fox hunting is a testament to whose calling the shots and what their real interests are. As far as the Countryside Alliance, *The Daily Telegraph* and the British squirerarchy are concerned, the only thing really troubling their lives is ramblers walking on their land and the possibility of them not being allowed to chase foxes. Luxury indeed.

In the month after their March, The Countryside Alliance made an attempt to rehabilitate the public's jading view of their intentions by reshuffling their board. Out went the sources of too much embarrassment, the Duke of Westminster, Earl Peel and the Earl of Stockton, Lord Steel and Eric Bettleheim, and in came Charles Wilson ex-editor of *The Times* and *The Independent*, Lord Nickson, a Tory peer and Caroline Tisdall, a former journalist with *The Guardian*.

However, the general public are unlikely to be convinced of any renewed commitment to the British countryside. Most of the newcomers including new Chief Executive, Edward Duke and ex-Times editor Charles Wilson are well blooded fox hunters. As Duke told the press upon the assumption of his new position: "We are fighting not just to preserve a way of life, but for the rights of our children to be able to work, play and enjoy the countryside." Yes, but given that the Countryside Alliance stands against the right to roam, whose select children is he referring to?

Although the Labour Government have promised departmental readjustments to cater more for countryside issues, they have also shelved support for a British citizen's right to roam in the countryside and for a ban on fox hunting. Such political reluctance to carry out manifesto commitments and disturb the luxuries of the landed few, suggests Britain's classless society is still a long way away.



Fur flies at cat demo

Photographs by Andrew Testa



Farmer Brown has quite a lucrative business. Cats may not seem a regular kind of livestock. But a single kitten can yield him up to £400 a time at his particular market.

For the last 30 years Christopher Brown has churned out cats and kittens for medical research laboratories from his 'farm' in Hillgrove in Oxfordshire.

Campaigners say his cats never get to see the light of day; that stress is so intense, ten per cent of kittens are eaten by their mothers; that kittens as young as two weeks are sent off to laboratories; and that females are bred continuously until they die.

Their only escape from the farm is to a laboratory, where the misery, no doubt, continues; with torture and cruelty practised under the guise of medical research.

But for the last eight months the chickens, so to speak, have been coming home to Farmer Brown to roost.

The 60 year-old entrepreneur has found himself and his farm increasingly besieged by regular national protests which have grown in size from a few hundred demonstrators to over 3,000. There have been all night vigils and daily pickets.

The aim, quite simply, is to put him out of business - a tactic successfully practiced at the beagle breeding Consort Kennel near Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire.

So far they have managed to reduce his workforce to three original workers from eleven.

Policing costs currently stand at between half and one million pounds. Before the last national demonstration, on April 18, World Day for Animals, the police informed the media they were prepared for trouble.

"Our opinion is that it will be violent," Assistant Chief

On April 18th, at Hillgrove Farm in Oxfordshire, activists opposed to the breeding of cats for vivisection gathered for World Day for Laboratory Animals. Anger erupted, not only at the breeding of cats for vivisection, but also at the use of Thames Valley Police heavy-handed tactics.

Constable Tim Davidson, of Thames Valley police, said. "We expect the vast majority will be lawful and will act peacefully. But it will be no surprise if a significant minority are unlawful and violent."

There have been 'unlawful' acts in the past. In January 1997 the farm was raided by protestors and a number of animals 'liberated'. Three people were arrested and tried. Two were acquitted. But one, Kevin Hickey, was sentenced to 12 months for 'handling stolen goods'.

So to counter the threat of 'violence and unlawfulness', the police erected a twelve feet high fence with watchtowers around the cat sheds. The significant minority pulled them down and smashed Farmer Brown's windows and roof.

Campaigners say the police presence has been over-the-top and heavy-handed. On one occasion 494 police turned up to control a vigil crowd of 34. "Thames Valley Police are living in a PR nightmare," said one campaigner: "The police are seen as Brown's own private security guards."

Brown denies any mistreatment of animals. He says they are in "first-class condition", that he is not involved in vivisection and vivisection would not stop if he closed. But his denials don't wash with the campaigners.

"This campaign is winning," they say. "Hillgrove Farm will close. The police are desperate and most people want to see an end to the cats' suffering."

• **Kevin Hickey is at HMP Springhill, Grendon Underwood, Aylesbury, Bucks, (AP7904).**

• **For information on demos etc contact: Save the Hillgrove Cats, Box CB, 111 Magdelene Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ. Tel: 0121 632 6460.**



Resistance Allstars VS Globe Rotters

This May the temperature rose on the streets of the world. Protests and parties voiced mass opposition to international 'free' trade and economic globalisation coinciding with the G8 Summit in Birmingham and the World Trade Organisation 50th anniversary in Geneva.
Photos of Birmingham RTS by Nick Cobbing.

Birmingham

Birmingham's usually congested Bullring was taken over for an afternoon on May 16th as a mischievous crowd of thousands played volleyball and boogied to a mini-sound system under the eyes of twitchy riot police.

When the rotting lettuce and tomatoes thrown at the encroaching riot shields turned to bottles, the crowd, escorting the sound system, made a swift exit and left behind a handful of staggering Birmingham City fans to entertain the police.

When the intended after party squats were evicted, a Brummy nightclub kept truncheons from heads by letting everyone in cheap.

Elsewhere in Europe the parties turned into all nighters...

Prague

Over 3,000 protestors attended the Global Street Party in Prague on May 16th dancing to four sound systems in the city centre. Later in the day protestors targeted fast-food outlets McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Over 50 arrests were made and there were a number of injuries in clashes between protestors and police. There were reports of police using tear gas and truncheons to force demonstrators away from McDonald's in Wenceslas Square. Paving stones were thrown through the burger giant's windows.

Mainstream environmental groups were quick to distance themselves from the violence. However, many in the country perceive the disturbances as part of a growing disillusionment. Journalist Kate Connolly told SQUALL: "Eight and a half years ago, Czechs gathered peacefully in a week of demonstrations that brought down the country's communist government without breaking a window."

She believes the nature of May's demonstration is seen by many in the city "to reflect the growing frustration of some young Czechs who feel that in its rush to embrace the free market economy, their society has lost sight of its tradition of humanist values."

The evidence to support the protestors' fears is clear.

For the first time homeless people are common on the city's streets; increasing racism against Czech gypsies is a source of growing anger; unemployment is increasing and new drug laws in the Republic have banned the possession of any drug (previously possession for personal use was legal).

Geneva

In Geneva on May 16th an estimated 5,000 demonstrators gathered to protest against a 50th anniversary World Trade Organisation meeting in the city. World leaders Castro and Mandela were in attendance as well as the usual suspects: Clinton, Blair et al.

People's Global Action, a worldwide alliance of groups fighting globalisation, organised a week of actions in opposition to the WTO and its policies, including a street party on the 16th. A massive exclusion zone was set up around the WTO and UN buildings (ie where protestors would want to protest) with a tiny area outside the Zone designated as 'available' for protestors to gather.

They gathered, and at the end of a day of partying the event had grown into what one eyewitness described as Geneva's "biggest riot in memory - 5,000 people causing one million swiss francs worth of damage to the banks, McDonald's and other multinationals". Around 300 people were arrested over the following days.

A Geneva newspaper interviewed a local glazier who said his services had been booked by McDonald's a week prior to the demonstration! He concluded they had been right to do so as he was called to replace windows at four "family restaurants" and three Pizza Huts that weekend. A police statement said over a hundred businesses had been damaged.

People's Global Action (PGA), the direct action group who organised a week of street-based events in opposition to the WTO and its policies, said in a statement on the 17th: "We regret the damage to public property and to small shops during yesterday night."

Actions throughout the city for the following four days led to further arrests, deportations, searches, rioting and injuries. An eyewitness, writing for Schneus, reported the occupation of multi-national arms trader Lockheed's offices and a spontaneous street demonstration stopping traffic on Monday 18th: "By lunchtime the United Bank of Switzerland was forced to close and police kept back while road after road was blockaded." On Tuesday 19th, the reporter noted, "...the director of the WTO, Renato Ruggerio, told the conference that everyone must pedal faster towards globalisation, or face the danger of falling off (his Mercedes was later overturned)." He added that "according to staff at the hospital over 60 people a day have been treated, some requiring major operations".

In their fervour to make arrests, police raided the Artamis building (a squatted centre and meeting place where PGA has an office) and arrested 64 people (including an outraged bus driver) who just

happened to be there. Similar incidents occurred throughout the city. One newspaper reported the story of Tony Jeanneret, a 39 year-old father, who was on his way home from work at a puppet theatre in the city at 3am. He noticed a group of young people smashing a window and stealing CDs from a shop and approached them to ask what they were up to. As he was asking, police appeared on the scene: "I didn't even have time to answer. I got violently hit from behind with a truncheon." Lying on the floor, Mr Jeanneret saw three or four police running away. He was treated for an "open wound" on his head and other cuts and bruises. To add to his shock he was later visited and 'interrogated' by police and faces possible prosecution.

The events dominated the Swiss media, eclipsing the WTO meeting. However, as SQUALL went to press (almost a week after these events), only the Financial Times had covered the story in the UK, whilst events in Prague passed completely unreported in the British nationals.

Elsewhere people took to their streets for parties, critical masses and demonstrations: Toronto's Action for Social Change reported that a major city street was blocked by hundreds of people but within two hours mounted Toronto Police were riding into the crowd "waving knives in the air to cut down ribbons and burst balloons." Four people were arrested and charged with Unlawful Assembly.

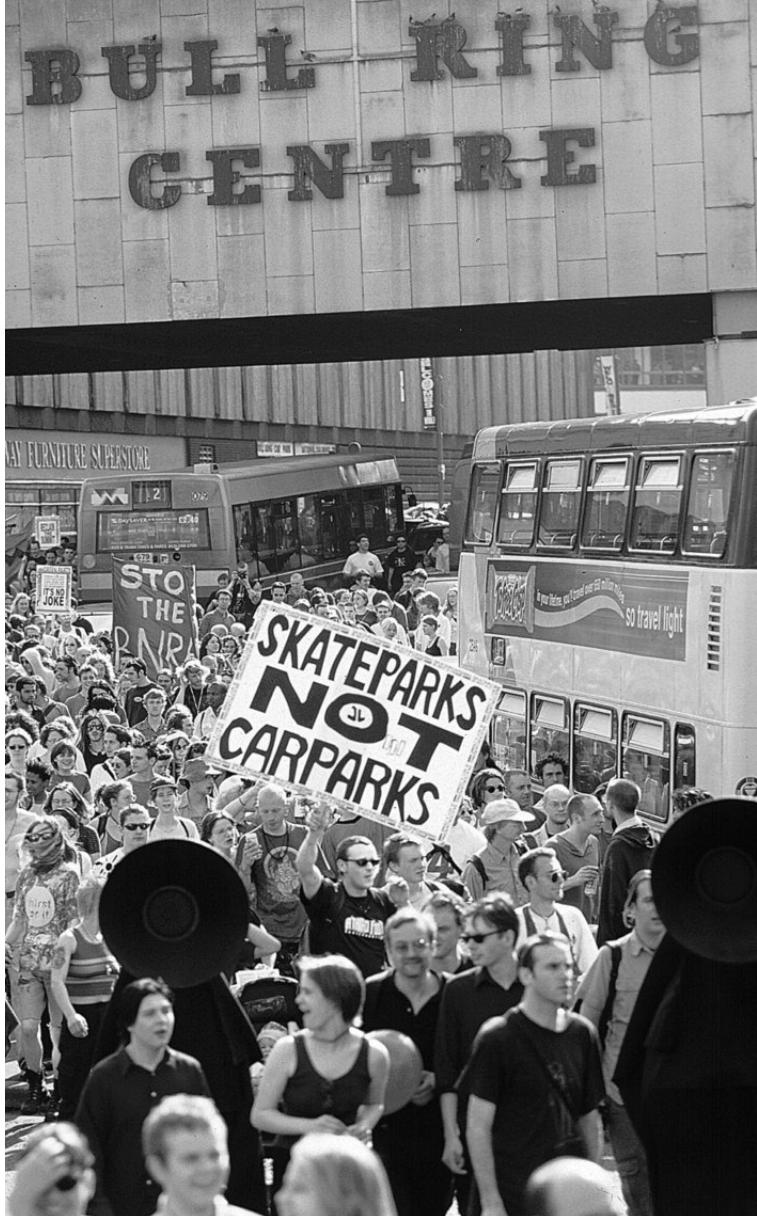
In Turku, Finland, over a thousand people occupied a street and bridge. In Valencia, Spain, hundreds occupied a street for about five hours having first attempted to take the main market square but, as one Finnish street-reclaimer reported, the party had to move on "because the police isn't a body which is made to dance". Another Finnish street party in Helsinki is planned for July 25th.

In Berkeley, California, hundreds of cyclists, roller-skaters and skateboarders ("the rolling class") and pedestrians ("pounders") pushing couches, armchairs and carrying carpets (to make a living room in the street), made their way through the streets. During the party that followed, hand-painted games of twister were laid out and a donated car was smashed up along with numerous TV sets.

Further parties and demonstrations occurred in Tel Aviv, Israel; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Lyon, France; Brisbane & Sydney, Australia; Stockholm, Sweden; Utrecht, Netherlands and more...

London street parties to come: June 6th
Meeting places: Euston Station and outside the Ritzy, Brixton at noon.

**People's Global Action: www.agp.org
Bothered (alternative news agency):
bothered@pavilion.co.uk**



classic SQUOTES

"There's no fury like a vested interest masquerading as a moral principle."

Mick Marlow, imprisoned for 12 months for writing a book about cannabis cultivation, 1996.

"Politics is not a luxury, its an essential - it's a part of life... you've still got to go to the toilet, you've still got to eat and you've got to fight the system. You just have to fit it all in the best you can."

McLibel defendant Dave Morris, 1995.

"If we can't sit at the table of democracy we'll knock the fucking legs off."

Activist James Forman, 1965.

"Politics on its own is deadly dull. Entertainment on its own is deadly irrelevant."

Performer Pieter-Dirk Uys.

"I'm not a charitable institution and, if I was, I certainly wouldn't be charitable towards tenants. They'd be bottom of the list."

Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, one of the richest landlords in Britain (Panorama, BBC, 1994).

"The trouble with words is that you never know whose mouths they've been in."

Dennis Potter, playwright.

"Taking this kind of action, and being prepared to face the consequences, is a very liberating experience. Once we're no longer bound by fear of the sanctions which can be employed against us, we can do anything."

Andrea Needham, one of the Ploughshares women, writing from prison whilst on remand for disabling a Hawk jet with a household hammer.

"How long will your money last? And when it's gone, remember - when he faced what he'd done, Judas had a rope too..."

Jim Perrin expressing the feelings of many in the climbing community towards climbers contracted to help evict Newbury protestors. (Climber, 1996.)

"The reason Japanese people are so short and have yellow skins is because they have eaten nothing but fish and rice for two thousand years - if we eat McDonald's hamburgers and potatoes for a thousand years we will become taller, our skin become white and our hair blonde."

Den Fujita, President of McDonald's Japan.

"Part of Britain's role and function is to be a bridge between the US and Europe, to say to Europe 'Recognise the value of American leadership in the world', and to say to the US 'Believe me, people do value the leadership.'"

Tony Blair, 1998.

It's not everyone who's been given a golfing lesson by the President of the United States! I certainly had the best instructor I could possibly have."

Tony Blair
(The Daily Telegraph 19/5/98)

"So I told him how to hold the club, how to stand, how to swing..."

President Clinton on Tony Blair
(The Daily Telegraph 19/5/98)

Boyz in the 'hood



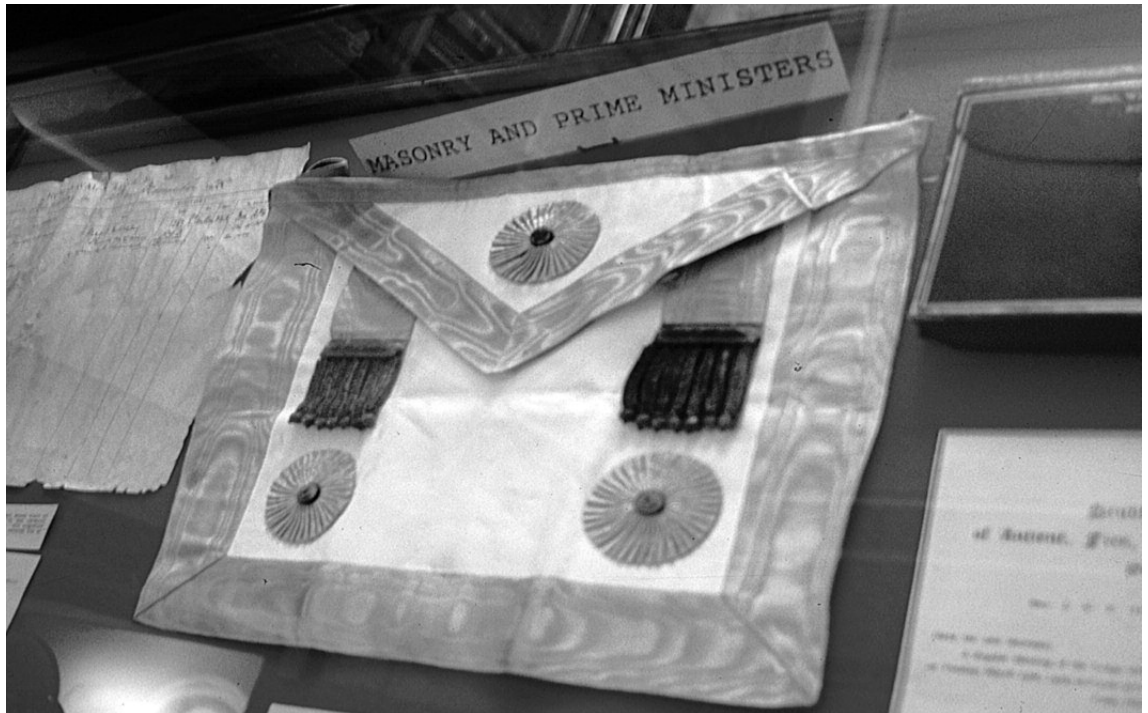
The recent Home Office recommendation that all members of the criminal justice system should declare masonic affiliations opened a can of worms in public. Peter Panatone reviews the evidence and the significant rift the issue has caused amongst the British police force.

Weird isn't it? To think that policemen, judges, MPs, council officers and a multitude of other public servants go through such bizarre rituals.

Wearing a shoe on one foot and a slipper on the other, they roll up their trouser leg, bear their chest, are blindfolded and tied with a hangman's noose and, whilst standing on a marble chess board with a dagger pressed to their heart, swear oaths of secrecy, allegiance and mutual aid. And yet this ritual is performed by every one of the 350,000 masons in England and Wales, the 30,000 in Scotland and the estimated six million world-wide.

Such occult practices would normally be easy fodder for tabloid derision but one look at the kind of names known to be Freemasons explains why public criticism has up until now remained so scant. In Britain, aristocratic members of the 'brotherhood' - for they are all men - include the Duke of Edinburgh; the Earl of Cadogan; the Marquess of Northampton and the Duke of Kent. Among the political figures known to be 'on the square' are Willie Whitelaw, Cecil Parkinson and the current head of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, Sir Frederick Crawford.

Whilst a few high profile 'brethren' break cover to perform a public relations role and a few others are 'outed' by tenacious researchers, most Masons in public positions, including those populating the two Masonic lodges thought to operate in the Houses of Parliament, remain clandestine. When author and researcher Martin Short wrote to Willie Whitelaw asking him if he was a Freemason, the ex-Home Secretary replied: "I have never been an active Mason since I entered the House of Commons in 1955." However, the 1987 yearbook for the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland - not publicly available but shown to SQUALL - reveals that he is still an active Freemason and a Scottish representative of Australia's Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The casual ease with which such an influential political figure was prepared to lie about his Masonic affiliations casts further doubt upon Masonic integrity. It is a doubt many see will only be assuaged by enforced public declaration of Masonic membership by all public officials.



Nick Cobbing

According to Sir Maurice Drake, a top ranking Royal Arch Mason and the High Courts' principal libel lawyer before retiring in 1995, the public's concern is misplaced: "It involves play-acting. An outsider might say it is a lot of grown men behaving like children. I can understand that but it is fun. The secrecy was always silly and I think the majority of people think that it is not very important."

His fellow judicial Mason, Lord Justice Millet, concurs: "It involves a certain amount of learning and performing which is quite fun. We claim to have secrets but they are harmless. There is nothing in the slightest bit sinister."

However, the oaths of secrecy sworn by Freemasons sound anything but innocuous. Upon entering the first level of Masonry, an initiate promises to guard its secrets upon pain of "having my throat cut out by the root and buried in the sand of the sea at low water mark... or the more effective punishment of being branded as a wilfully perjured individual, void of all moral worth." This so-called "harmless play-acting" seems remarkably effective in ensuring secrecy. Even those who have ceased to be Masons refuse to speak of its ceremonies and practices, whilst the very few people with experience of Masonry who have dared to speak to researchers have done so anonymously. There is little doubt that retribution for public disclosure is a real threat in the minds of all those who have ever been initiated.

Commander Michael Higham wriggled in his chair in visible discomfort. In front of a packed press gallery, his pallor grew ever more pale as he sat cornered by questions thrown at him with increasing frustration by members of the Home Affairs Select Committee. As grand secretary to the United Grand Lodge of Freemasonry, the governing body for English and Welsh Masons, he

had been requested to provide the committee with the names of Masonic police officers involved with units responsible for several miscarriages of justice. Despite indicating to the committee in November 1997 that the United Grand Lodge would reveal these names, a 50-strong meeting of the Masonic Board of General Purposes had ordered Higham not to reveal them afterall.

The miscarriages of justice in question were major ones: the scurrilous ruining of John Stalker, the ex-Chief Constable of Manchester who got too close to the truth in his investigations into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's shoot to kill policy in Northern Ireland; the disgraced West Midlands Serious Crime Squad which, after 30 charges of misconduct, was closed down in 1986, and the discredited police investigation into the Birmingham pub bombings which led to the malicious prosecution and imprisonment of the now pardoned Birmingham Six.

Ex-police officers had made allegations that Freemason officers in the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad had operated a "firm within a firm". Serious allegations of malign Masonic manipulation extended to police officers in the John Stalker affair and to both journalists and police officers implicated in the Birmingham Six scandal. The Home Affairs Select Committee, which had been considering the influence of Freemasonry on the judiciary and police since 1995, wanted to know which of the 161 names under suspicion in these cases were Masons so that it could assess the validity of these allegations.

But now, Commander Higham - who once gave a speech asserting "there is very little secret about Freemasonry" - was refusing to comply with one of the most powerful select committees in parliament. "I hope you will accept that is 'no', but not with contempt," he whimpered in his impossible situation as public fall guy for the clandestine Masonic hierarchy.

For a while a constitutional crisis looked on the cards. The Serjeant at Arms issued an order giving the United Grand Lodge 14 days to comply with the request of the Committee or else..... what? No one had ever defied parliament in this way before but now the Freemasons thought themselves powerful enough to try. Both parliament and the press held its breath. Finally, as the deadline approached, a deal was made. The United Grand Lodge agreed to provide Chris Mullin, the Chairman of the Select Committee, with the requested names on condition that only he and the clerk to the committee would see them. Not even the other members of the Committee would be allowed to see them and many argued that the necessity to strike a deal at all provided further evidence of the extant political power still wielded by Masons. The hapless Commander Michael Higham, who many view as a relatively harmless Mason occupying a public relations role, informed the Committee that the United Grand Lodge was to retire him early for reasons that he did not know.

The persistent public impression that masonry provides a conduit of perniciously manipulative influence in the police force finally found direct evidence to back up its concerns in the 1960's, when 12 officers from Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad were jailed for taking bribes from pornographers. All 12 were found to be Freemasons, with one of them, Chief Superintendent Bill Moody, discovered to have helped one of the pornographers to become a fellow Freemason. The integrity of the police force in general took a serious denting from the scandal and non-Masonic police officers weren't keen to take the rap. Public condemnation of freemasonic influence was, however, slow to appear.

In a pamphlet entitled "The Principles of Policing and Guidance for Professional Behaviour" published in April 1985, the then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth Newman concluded: "The discerning officer will probably consider it wise to forego the prospect of pleasure and social advantage in Freemasonry so as to enjoy the unreserved regard of all those around him. It follows from this that one who is already a Freemason would also be wise to ponder, from time to time, whether he should continue as a Freemason; that it would probably be prudent in the light of the way that our force is striving in these critical days, to present to the public a more open and wholehearted image of itself, to show a greater readiness to be invigilated and to be free of any unnecessary concealment or secrecy."

Despite this call, the Manor of St James Lodge No9179 was set up exclusively for Metropolitan Police officers in 1989. At least two Deputy Assistant Commissioners and 12 commanders, including the heads of the Anti-Terrorist Squad and the head of Scotland Yard's intelligence service, are known to have joined this lodge.

The present Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, reiterated Sir Kenneth Newman's call with a similar degree of unsuccess: "Because of the public's concern surrounding this issue I would advise my colleagues that it is better that they are not involved in Freemasonry."

Condon is presently being sued by a former metropolitan police officer for several malicious prosecutions brought after a Masonic dispute. Graham Peacock, a police constable for 26 years and a member of Masonic lodges in both London and Surrey, claims to have been victimised after a "bitter dispute" with a fellow Masonic police officer in 1992. Since that time he is alleged to have



been maliciously prosecuted on three separate occasions for cannabis cultivation, murder and the illegal possession of firearms. He was acquitted of all these charges but spent time in prison on remand. He also claims that his wife has been phoned up and threatened, and that his cat went missing only to be found dead later with "horrific injuries", thrown in the neighbour's garden. If such exchanges go on between fellow Masonic police officers, what happens to others who have run-ins with Freemasonic officers?

Two Leicester businessmen found out when they decided to have a late night drink at the Goat Moat House Hotel in Blackburn where they were staying in April 1988. Sidney and Shaun Callis (father and son) were unaware they had walked into the 'Ladies night' organised by the Victory Lodge of Blackburn. Two Masonic Lancashire police officers approached the pair and ordered them out of the hotel bar. After refusing to leave, the couple were beaten up and then charged with assault by other Masonic police officers also present. When the two men were released on bail the following

morning, they found that the hotel management had seized the Callis' belongings demanding compensation for damage to the bar. The Hotel manager was later found to be a Mason and a member of the Victory Lodge. The Callis' also found that the tyres of their car had been drained of air and the hub caps removed.

When their assault charge reached court the following year, the jury rejected police evidence and acquitted the pair. The Callis' subsequently sued Lancashire Police for malicious prosecution and won £85,000 in compensation. The total pay out, including court costs, came to £170,000. However, the retribution did not stop there.

Since 1989, unknown police officers put phoney criminal records for Sidney and Shaun Callis on the police national computer. Another unnamed person wrote to police suggesting that Sidney Callis was responsible for murdering two people, shot dead on the Pembrokeshire Coast in 1989. He was arrested for murder and interrogated at Hinckley Police Station before being released. Leicestershire Police also made efforts to revoke

continued

Sidney Callis's 12-bore shotgun licence. As Callis told *Private Eye* magazine in April: "I've never had so much as a parking fine."

The Home Affairs Select Committee was told that the Victory Lodge in Blackburn, whose members triggered this catalogue of retribution, is a lodge set up for police Masons.

According to Martin Short, author of *'Inside the Brotherhood'* and a major testifier before the Home Affairs Select Committee, an estimated 25 per cent of Metropolitan Police officers and 20 per cent of national police officers still belong to Masonic lodges.



The United Grand Lodge of England estimate that membership of freemasonry has declined by an estimated 200,000 over the last 30 years. Partly as a result of this diminution of power, more non-masonic public service officials have felt braver about publicly criticising the masonic network's influence on promotion prospects within their profession.

The pace of this dissent in the police force picked up considerably when the powerful Home Affairs Select Committee instigated its inquiry into the influence of Freemasonry on the police and the judiciary in 1995, an event which immediately split the police force in two. Whilst the Police Complaints Authority and the Association of Chief Police Officers called for public declaration, the Police Federation and the Police Superintendents' Association were vehemently against.

The rift reached public airing after the 1995 Police Complaints Authority (PCA) annual report called for compulsory public declaration of Masonic membership by all police officers. Its chairman, Sir Leonard Peach, told the Home Affairs Select Committee that the PCA wanted to allay public fears that Masonry was being used to influence the outcome of its investigations.

The Police Superintendents' Association's backlash was remarkable. They told the committee: "Over the past two years our confidence in the impartiality of the PCA has been shaken. Many of our members no longer see the PCA as being truly independent."

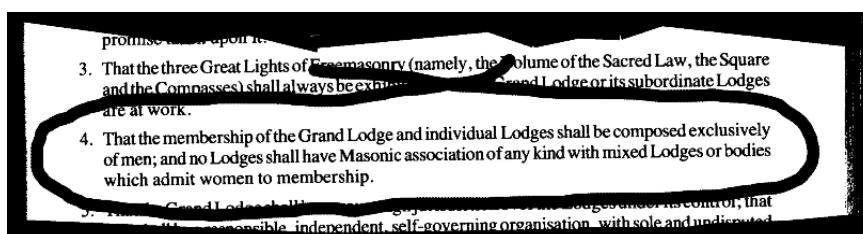
Indeed, public confidence in the PCA, whose investigations are predominantly staffed by members of the police force, has never been that strong. As the body responsible for investigating malpractice in the police force, many have pointed out the questionable validity of having the

police investigate the police. However, for the Police Superintendent's Association to criticise the PCA's impartiality was unheard of, and provided further indication of the tenacity with which Masonry would fight to avoid public exposure.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which acknowledged to the Committee that between five and ten Chief Constables (out of 43) are Masons, were nevertheless in favour of a declaration of membership in order to restore public confidence. This caused an internal rift within ACPO itself. Paul Whitehouse, ACPO's vice chairman and Chief Constable of Sussex, asserted that "It's the secrecy that is cause for concern", whilst David Wilmott, Chief Constable of Manchester and presumably one of the five to ten Masons in ACPO, called it "an infringement of personal liberty".

The Police Federation, which represents the rank and file of the police service, acknowledged to the committee that "there may well be a significant number" of their members who were Masons and were critical of ACPO's pro-declaration stance: "It is for those who allege that Freemasonry does have such harmful consequences to establish a case, and so far such persons or bodies that take this view, have totally failed to furnish such evidence. Rumour and innuendo are not enough to make the case." The paradox of the Federation's position was there for all to see. Which policeman, for instance, could hope to firmly establish any case if the identity of all potential suspects was kept secret from them?

Indeed, the Home Affairs Select Committee received a number of submissions from individual police officers who remained anonymous in the Committee's subsequent report. Whilst six of these submissions were from Masonic policemen insisting their membership had no adverse affect on their professional conduct, ten submissions were from policemen who claimed malign Masonic influence at work. The allegations they cited included suppression of serious criminal and disciplinary allegations, promotion preferment for Freemasons; cheating in promotion exams facilitated by Masonic connections and falsifying blood test results for Freemasons charged with drink driving. A constituent of Chris Mullin's (the current chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee) wrote to the MP saying: "I am a retired Chief Superintendent who commanded the Commercial Fraud Squad and Complaints and Discipline Department in a big metropolitan force and, as such, I conducted many enquiries in various parts of this country and abroad. I have frequently experienced interference from Masonic sources calculated to impede the progress of



an enquiry and do not doubt that improper decisions have been made along the way." Mullin was charged with not revealing any details of his case in order to protect the ex-police officer. From what?

More fearless was PC Kitit Gordhandas, from West Yorkshire Police, who wrote to the *Police Review* saying: "I feel that Freemasonry stands for white, male, middle-class members working for the advancement of themselves and their fellow Masons."

After a two year enquiry, the Home Affairs Select Committee published their report in 1997: "We believe that nothing so much undermines public confidence in public institutions as the knowledge that some public servants are members of a secret society one of whose aims is mutual self-advancement." The report recommended that "police officers, magistrates, judges and crown prosecutors should be required to register membership of any secret society and that the

record should be available publicly."

Home Secretary Jack Straw has acknowledged this recommendation and looks set to insist it covers the entire criminal justice system. Earlier this year, Straw told the House of Commons: "The Freemasons have said they are not a secret society but a society with secrets. I think it is widely accepted that one secret they should not be keeping is who their members are in the criminal justice system."

Exactly how this is to be implemented is not yet known or indeed whether such public declaration might be extended to public servants both national and local. Certainly the clandestine leviathan of Freemasonry still has a multitude of friends in high places and has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this point. The battle against the malignant opportunities for political and social manipulation offered by the extensive and secret network of Masonic influence is far from over.



Lodging complaints



What happens when a group of people challenge the clandestine power of the Freemasons in public? Peter Panatone investigates the Exodus Collective's run-in with the Freemasons of Bedfordshire.

As a Freemason judge, Lord Justice Millet was not pleased. Following a recommendation from the Home Affairs Select Committee last year, all Masonic members of the criminal justice system will have to come out of the closet. As one of the few prominent Masons already revealed, it's Millet's name you'll often see quoted in newspapers, defending the "civil liberties" of his fellow clandestines.

"You can't choose which judge will try your case, so what's the point," he argued in February this year.¹ However, as members of the Luton-based Exodus Collective are all too well aware, his assertion was an audacious mislead of us, the jury.

Is it possible that Millet spoke unaware that his fellow judicial Mason, Sir Maurice Drake, stood down from a murder trial in 1996, when the defendant's legal team argued that Drake's Masonic membership might lead to bias in his decision making? Not only was this thought to be the first time a judge has stood down over Masonic affiliations - a fact that could not have escaped the attention of Lord Justice Millet - but Sir Maurice Drake also happens to sit with Millet on the Mason's own Commission of Appeals Court. Drake, like Millet, is one of the few high-profile Masons whose membership has been revealed publicly.

The murder trial in question involved Paul Taylor, a prominent member of Luton's Exodus Collective. As SQUALL readers may recall, Taylor was involved in an incident outside a Luton public house on a cold winter's night in 1996. After an aggressively drunken man was asked to leave the pub, a small scrap ensued outside the premises which Paul Taylor stepped in to break up. The man continued his threatening behaviour and was chased down the road with Taylor then returning to the pub. When the man was later found dead inside a council compound in a local park, he was deemed to have died from hypothermia, exacerbated by alcohol consumption and blood loss caused by an injury incurred whilst climbing into the compound. When Taylor

heard about the discovery of the man's body, he went to the local police to tell them about the incident outside the pub. He was subsequently arrested and charged with murder.

Regular SQUALL readers will be aware that this was just one of many extraordinary charges brought against members of the Exodus Collective.² Many of these incidents were included in a Channel Four documentary broadcast in 1996, which investigated a network of interlocking political and business interests implicated in attacks on the Collective.³ One of the malevolent interlocking interests making regular appearances throughout this incredible saga is that of Freemasonry.



The Exodus Collective were once told by a friendly policeman that the well-attended free raves they organise take serious chunks of profit out of Luton's pubs and night-clubs.⁴ There are an estimated 5,000 people in the pubs and clubs of Luton on weekends⁵, unless, that is, Exodus are holding one of their free raves which regularly attract in excess of 3,000 people. Exodus became aware that business interests in Luton would not be keen on the commercial challenge presented by the Collective's aspiration to operate a low-price entertainment venue. One such interest is Whitbread Plc, which have their headquarters in Luton and own many of the pubs in the town. Samuel Whitbread is



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Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire and chairman of the committee which selects justices of the peace for the region. He is also a masonically associated Knight of St John and shares an office in Luton with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Indeed, persistent efforts to get their proposal for a community centre considered by the council were constantly frustrated, despite support from the local community, academics and some councillors. "It seemed to me that Exodus on this occasion, and not for the first time, were being treated less fairly than a good many other applicants," said Cllr David Franks, the leader of the Lib-Dem group, after a Luton Planning Committee meeting in 1995.³



The Labour leader of Luton Borough Council, Cllr Roy Davis, had proved particularly obstructive to the Exodus Collective throughout the years. He was majorly responsible for seeking injunctions against the parties organised by Exodus, the result of which was the deployment of riot police from five different constabularies, who made concerted efforts to stop Exodus' raves on four separate occasions. As chairman of the General Purposes Committee, he also rubber stamped council authorisation for the police to prosecute

three members of the Exodus Collective under the Entertainments (Increased Penalties) Act 1990.

This private members legislation increased penalties against unlicensed rave organisers and was drafted by the then MP for Luton South, Sir Graham Bright, who served as personal private secretary (PPS) to Prime Minister John Major between 1990 and 1994. Before joining John Major's team, Bright had been PPS to the Earl of Caithness - a member of the Sinclair family whose long Masonic tradition stretches back to the knights templar and the crusades.

In local Luton newspapers, Bright spoke out against the Exodus Collective on several occasions but when approached by Spectacle Productions, makers of the two Channel Four documentaries on Exodus, he refused to say whether he was a Freemason. His fellow Luton MP, John Carlisle - now spokesperson for the Tobacco Manufacturers Association - was also vociferous in his condemnation of the Collective, casting aspersions in the House of Commons about Exodus and drug dealing.⁶ He is known to have been a guest of honour at several Masonic functions in Luton although he too has refused to answer all enquiries about his Masonic affiliations.

Before being retired early, Chief Inspector Mick Brown of Bedfordshire Police spoke to journalist Tim Malyon: "I heard a number of Members of Parliament had written to the Chief Constable saying this should stop, that the police ought to get on the case... there were some Members of Parliament advocating drastic measures."⁷

continued



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Council leader Roy Davis had also seen to it that a public meeting organised by the Exodus Collective at Luton Town Hall, following a raid on their farm in 1993, was cancelled at short notice. After rubber-stamping other co-ordinated injunctions against the Collective, Davis made an unsuccessful attempt to have Exodus' spokesperson Glenn Jenkins jailed for organising free raves in 1996. The council also asked the judge to widen the injunction against Jenkins, allowing him to be jailed if *anyone* organised raves in Luton; a move described in the local papers by the leader of Luton's Liberal Democrats, as "fascist". The judge, who dismissed the entire case, said the council's request was "so wide I can't see it".

When Exodus were given a copy of the 1983 Bedfordshire Masonic Yearbook (not publicly available), they discovered that Roy Davis' name was in it. In protest at his persistent obstruction, members of the Collective interrupted a full council meeting for a 15 minute demonstration and distributed leaflets exposing Davis' Masonic membership. It caused the Council leader considerable embarrassment and, at a meeting of the Labour group, Davis assured his fellow councillors that he had in fact left the Masons in 1983. He also told a local paper: "I have nothing to hide. I was a Freemason but resigned before I joined the council in 1983, but I owe it to the people I used to be with not to talk about the details. I got into it through the family. I took the view it could have been as a conflict of interest and decided the

interests of the council must come first."⁸ The Labour group accepted his version of events and Davis was re-elected leader. However, a copy of the 1987 Bedfordshire Masonic Yearbook - once again not available to the public but recently seen by SQUALL - reveals that he was still a Mason five years after he claims to have left.

Exodus' public demonstration and exposure of Davis' Masonic membership took place at Luton Town Hall on July 15th 1996 and triggered off a remarkable series of events. The following day, BBC Three Counties Radio interviewed a very uncomfortable Roy Davis and asked him several times about his Masonic connections. Live on air, Davis insisted that he'd been brought into the studio under false pretences: "I didn't come here to talk about that," he complained several times.

Catalysed by his discomfort, BBC Three Counties Radio ran a Mason special on July 17th interviewing Christopher Knight, a prominent Mason and author of an influential book on Freemasonic mythology called the 'Hiram Key'. A can of worms was prised open in public. On the same day a "senior panel of judges" met to discuss Taylor's murder case and made an unusual decision that Exodus would only get to hear about the following month.

In August, Paul Taylor's legal team - who were preparing the defence for his murder trial due in March 1997 - were suddenly told that the trial had been brought forward to September 1996. Neither the defence nor the prosecution were ready for such a major trial at four weeks notice, and asked the pre-trial judge not to move the trial date forward. The defence also argued that the

movement of the date meant that their preferred barrister, Michael Mansfield QC, would not be able to conduct the case. The pre-trial judge (Judge Rodwell) refused their submissions, saying that "a senior panel of judges" which met on July 17th, had decided that the trial-date should be moved forward to September and that Sir Maurice Drake - a senior High Court judge who was supposed to have retired in 1995 - would preside over the case.

The United Grand Lodge of England published a publicly available yearbook for the first time in 1996, listing some of its members who occupy official positions in its hierarchy. Sir Maurice Drake was included in the book as an officer in the elite Royal Arch division of Masonry. The instant Exodus discovered Drake's Masonic membership, the unusual manoeuvring of the trial date and the drafting in of Drake as judge began to make alarming sense.

Taylor's legal team prepared a submission to Drake - which included an article from SQUALL - calling for him to stand down as judge over the potential for bias in the light of Exodus' publicly expressed disquiet over the malevolent influence of local Freemasonry. Drake accepted the submission, stood down and Taylor was subsequently acquitted of all charges by his judicial replacement. However, Masonic judges were to make another appearance in the saga.

In 1997, the Department of Transport decided to sell the previously derelict Long Meadow Farm, which had been refurbished and stocked with animals by the Collective and occupied under licence by them since 1992. The property had originally been purchased by the DoT for an M1 widening scheme which had never materialised.

Rather than offer it to Exodus, however, the DoT announced the property would be sold via a secret bid auction. Keen to secure the premises for its continued use as a community farm, the Collective had the 19-acre property valued and put in a bid higher than the valuation. When, without further notice, Exodus were told to vacate the premises because their bid had not been successful, the Collective went to court to fight the eviction notice. The basis of their argument was that the nature of their four-year tenancy gave them legal entitlements to purchase the premises at a fair market price. Although they lost the case, a further hearing in the High Court before two judges ruled that they had grounds for appeal.

However, a further pre-appeal hearing held at the High Court on October 21st last year prevented the appeal from taking place. This hearing was presided over by three judges, the two most vocal of which were Sir John Balcombe and Lord Justice Millet. Unaware at the time that both these judges are senior Freemasons listed in the United Grand Lodge yearbook, Exodus' legal team did not make any submissions for them to stand down. Nevertheless, it is inconceivable that both these high profile Masons had not heard of the Exodus Collective through the precedential stand-down of fellow judicial Mason Sir Maurice Drake at the previous trial. As well as being a member of the United Grand Lodge's external relations committee, Sir John Balcombe is also a member of the powerful General Purposes Committee, responsible for United Grand Lodge policy. The case for

potential bias in their decision making was clear and would surely have succeeded in forcing them to stand down had Exodus known.

The United Grand Lodge informed the Home Affairs Select Committee that only two out of the 39 Appeal court judges in this country are Freemasons. Presuming this to be true, what are the chances that Exodus - the only known organisation in public battle with Freemasonry - would have both of them presiding over their case? During the proceedings, Lord Justice Millet showed complete disregard for the grounds of appeal when he said there was "never any prospect of the applicants establishing they were entitled to the protection of the statutory code". The judges refused Exodus the right to appeal and so paving the way for eviction.



One of the especially malicious incidents involving Freemasonry was the attempt by Dunstable Police and one councillor in particular to revoke the pub licence held by Betty Jenkins, mother of Exodus members Glenn, Richard and Elaine Jenkins.

Mrs Jenkins had taken over management of the Globe Public House in 1994. Not long after her arrival, a local resident, Charles Anderson, began making extravagant complaints about noise emanating from the pub. Although Anderson remained the sole complainant, Mrs Jenkins sought to allay his concerns by spending £3,000 on installing double glazing in the pub and sealing up the door nearest to where Anderson lived. However, Anderson's complaints continued, with references to the music in the pub as "jungle drums" and to the clientele as "low-life trash".

Although there were disco nights in the pub, Mrs Jenkins held them only on Friday and Saturday nights, instead of the four nights a week disco policy operated by the previous management of the pub. Every resident of the street on which the Globe is situated, except Anderson, signed a petition saying the pub was no problem in the area. In a multitude of witness testimonies presented later in court, almost the entire quota of local residents, including local businesses, testified that the Globe Public House had considerably improved in terms of noise and clientele-conduct since the arrival of Mrs Jenkins as manager.

This particularly vicious part of the saga really started smelling rotten when Bedfordshire Police - in response to just one complainant - put a team of intelligence officers in a flat across the road to gather evidence on the pub. These officers, including DC Creed - one of the main investigating officers involved in the murder charge against Paul Taylor, claim to have seen people on the street throwing bottles. These intelligence operations were organised by Inspector Nicholas Banfield of Dunstable Police, who began visiting the pub on several occasions to accuse Betty of serving alcoholic drink after hours.

During one such visit it is alleged by several occupants of the pub, including two probation officers, that Banfield assaulted two people after they voiced objections over his attitude to Mrs Jenkins. The two victims, who included Betty's son Richard, then sued Banfield for assault. Banfield, in turn, sued them for the same charge. The assault charges against the two occupants of the pub were dismissed by the magistrate who said police had "acted beyond the execution of their duty". Banfield's trial for assault on the other hand never reached court, being defeated on a legal technicality before any evidence was heard.

Mrs Jenkins, who had worked in the pub business for over ten years, vigorously denied any allegations of impropriety and made a complaint about Inspector Banfield's "aggressive and obnoxious" behaviour to his Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Brian Minahane. She met Minahane the next day and was assured the matter would be discussed with Banfield. The next Mrs Jenkins heard about the matter was when Inspector Banfield came into the pub with 8-10 police officers. In the fracas which ensued, a 71 year-old man who drank in the pub was knocked unconscious by police. Inspector Banfield later told the court that the old man had walked into the outstretched arm of a police dog handler.

The role of Freemasonry in this ugly story was most evidential in the activities of Cllr Peter Roberts, the ward councillor for the area in which the Globe public house is situated. Listed in the Bedfordshire Masonic Yearbook as a Freemason, Roberts represented the interests of the sole complainant, Charles Anderson, and admits to having meetings with Inspector Banfield about the case. At no point did he ever come and talk to Mrs Jenkins, despite the fact that she ran a business and lived in his ward. When Mrs Jenkins approached him to ask why he had been so instrumental in seeking the revocation of her licence without ever coming to speak to her, he could offer no explanation. Mrs Jenkins had also received a letter from Aldwych Housing Association, who manage Charles Anderson's flat, saying that they now intended to move Anderson because he was unsuitable to be housed near a pub. Weeks later Sir David Madel (Con MP Beds South West) wrote to Chief Superintendent Minahane just three days after Minahane had assumed position as divisional commander of Dunstable Police. Referring to a complaint from Charles Anderson and his wife, Madel wrote: "Dear Mr Minahane.... They [the Andersons] do describe what must be a very distressing situation for them, and I wonder if there is anything more that can be done?"

Why did Madel become involved weeks after Aldwych Housing Association had said they were going to move the Andersons anyway? And, as a constituency MP for Betty Jenkins, why did he never write to her? Masonic researchers say the request for succour from distress is a typical linguistic Masonic request, although Madel has refused to answer any questions about the case.

Despite positive testimonies from probation officers, locals and three CID police officers who drank in the Globe Public House, Mrs Jenkins' pub licence was taken away, with total court costs of £13,000 awarded against her. She was obliged to close the pub immediately and make her staff redundant. A judicial

review of the whole case is currently being sought.

The targeting of Betty Jenkins as a means of seeking revenge against the activities of her Exodus Collective sons is perhaps the most insidious of the operations described thus far. Prior to this case, Mrs Jenkins had no animosity towards the local police, despite their run-ins with her two sons. Indeed, her other son, Tony Jenkins, is in fact a police officer with the Bedfordshire Constabulary and was one of the three police officers who appeared to defend her right to run a pub.



Unknown to themselves, members of the Exodus Collective have grown up in an area considered to have a higher than average incidence of Masonic influence. In March of this year, Bedfordshire Fire Brigade Union bosses spoke out against the pernicious influence of Freemasonry within the fire service in the county. In a *Luton On Sunday* article headlined: 'Masons run fire brigade - claim', an anonymous source is quoted: "Serving members feel so strongly that pressure is being put on the union to rip up the equal opportunities policy on the grounds that it is already a sham as a result of widespread Masonic dealings. All our people are fed up to the back teeth with these Masons." Contacted by the newspaper, Bedfordshire's Fire Chief, Peter Holland, refused to say whether he was a mason.⁹

When the environment and business journal, *ENDS Report* ran an article on Freemasonic influence in the Environment Agency - Britain's largest quango - they were told by a number of anonymous but 'informed' sources that a large number of the Agency's Masonic staff had come from Bedfordshire and its surrounding counties.¹⁰ A (once again) anonymous source is quoted: "It is widely said throughout the Agency that Anglia is known to be an area where Freemasonry counts." According to people who worked at the Bedford headquarters of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) - one of the government bodies which amalgamated to form the Environment Agency - Masonic lodge meetings were regularly advertised on HMIP's noticeboards.

The *ENDS Report* investigation discovered that two of the Environment Agency's regional managers attend the same Huntingdon Masonic lodge (in the neighbouring county of Cambridgeshire) as the senior managers from the local water boards they are responsible for regulating. The *ENDS Report* were also told by four separate sources that at least one member of the Environment Agency's board is a Freemason in the Huntingdon lodge. Lord De Ramsey - who despite having little direct experience of environmental issues - was made head of the newly formed Environment Agency in 1996 and is paid £12,000 a year for working four days a month. A previous president of the powerful Country Landowners' Association, De Ramsey's



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rich land-owning interests are centred in Huntingdon.¹¹

The nature of Freemasonic manipulation and retribution lies, like many a devil, obscured in convoluted detail; the currency of operation being the clever mastery of mundane procedures. Sometimes referred to as "the mafia of mediocrity", Freemasonry's clandestine and often malicious deployment of clever manipulation is highly corrosive to any notion of democracy and public accountability.

Starting up in 1992, as a group of friends with four speakers, no money and a desire to dance together, the Exodus Collective has evolved into a force for social justice that has rattled the hornets' nest in Bedfordshire. As the only known organisation in the country which is publicly and audaciously challenging Freemasons in both their locality and in the national media, the saga of the Exodus Collective is providing a unique insight into the sting of Freemasonry.

yer sauces

1. BBC News 17/2/98.
2. *SQUALLS* 8-15
3. 'Exodus from Babylon' Spectacle Prods for Channel Four Broadcast 11/8/98.
4. "Licensed premises were receiving a fair amount of loss of trade, loss of customers... Some licensees were starting to get into real financial trouble." Chief Inspector Mick Brown. *New Statesman* 24/6/94.
5. Police estimate. *Luton News* 9/10/98.
6. *Hansard* 1/4/93. Col 537-542.
7. *News Statesman* 24/6/94.
8. *Luton on Sunday* 5/5/96.
9. *Luton on Sunday* 29/3/98.
10. *ENDS Report* 270 July 1997.
11. 'Quangoes the Environment' *SQUALL* 13.



Exodus from Babylon

An investigation into the authority's malevolent response to the Exodus Collective and 'Exodus: Movement of Jah People' - an introduction to the Exodus Collective and their work. Both these programmes were broadcast on Channel Four and are now available on video in an extended mix.

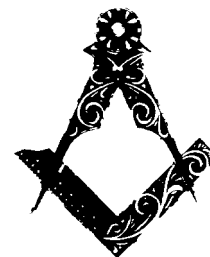
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Testimony of a top ranking Mason



Extracted from 'The Brotherhood' by Stephen Knight first pub. 1983 Granada Publishing. Repub. 1985 Grafton Books ISBN 0-586-05983-0

Author Stephen Knight wrote one of the seminal books on freemasonry called 'The Brotherhood' in 1983. During the course of his research for this book he was introduced to a man known as 'Christopher', a mason of the highest 33rd degree ranking. In the Cafe Royal, London, Christopher showed him the papers demonstrating the authenticity of his masonic rank and told Knight that he was keen to "stop the rot" in freemasonry.

Stephen Knight asked him what a person might have to fear from a group of influential freemasons if circumstances made him, for instance, a threat to them in the business world; or if he discovered they were using masonry for corrupt purposes; or had fallen a victim of their misuse of freemasonry and would not heed warnings not to oppose them.

'Christopher', 33rd degree mason:

"It is not difficult to ruin a man and I will tell you how it is done time and again. There are more than half a million brethren under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. Standards have been falling for twenty or thirty years. It is too easy to enter the Craft, so many men of dubious morals have joined. The secrecy and power attract such people, and when they come the decent leave. The numbers of people who would never have been considered for membership in the fifties are getting larger all the time. If only five per cent of freemasons use - abuse - the Craft for selfish or corrupt ends it means there are 25,000 of them. The figure is much closer to twelve or thirteen per cent now."



STEPHEN KNIGHT:

"Christopher explained that masonry's nationwide organisation of men from most walks of life provided one of the most efficient private intelligence networks imaginable. Private information on anybody in the country could normally be accessed very rapidly through endless permutations of masonic contacts - police, magistrates, solicitors, bank managers. Post Office staff, doctors, government employ-

ees. Bosses of firms. A dossier of personal data could be built up on anybody very quickly. When the major facts of an individual's life were known, areas of vulnerability would become apparent. Perhaps he is in financial difficulties; perhaps he has some social vice - if married he might 'retain a mistress' or have a proclivity for visiting prostitutes; perhaps there is something in his past he wishes keep buried, some guilty secret, a criminal offence (easily obtainable through freemason police of doubtful virtue), or other blemish on his character: all these and more could be discovered via the wide-ranging masonic network of 600,000 contacts, a great many of whom were indisposed to do favours for one another because that had been their prime motive for joining. Even decent masons could often be 'conned' into providing information on the basis that 'Brother Smith needs this to help the person involved'. The adversary would even sometimes be described as a fellow mason to the Brother from whom information was sought - perhaps someone with access to his bank manager. The 'good' mason would not go to the lengths of checking with Freemason's Hall whether or not this was so. If the 'target' was presented as a Brother in distress by a fellow mason, especially a fellow lodge member, that would be enough for any upright member of the craft. Sometimes this information gathering process - often involving a long chain of masonic contacts all over the country and possibly abroad - would be necessary. Enough would be known in advance about the adversary to initiate any desired action against him.

'Christopher', the 33rd degree mason: "Solicitors are very good at it. Get your man involved in something legal - it need not be serious - and you have him."

Stephen Knight:

"Masons can bring about the situation where credit companies and banks withdraw credit facilities from individual clients and tradesmen, said my informant. Banks can foreclose. People who rely on the telephone for their work can be cut off for long periods. Masonic employees of local authorities can arrange for a person's drains to be inspected and extensive damage to be reported, thus burdening the person with huge repair bills; workmen carrying out the job can 'find' - in reality cause - further damage. Again with regard to legal matters, a fair hearing is hard to get when a man in ordinary circumstances is in financial difficulties. If he is trying to fight a group of unprincip-

ed freemasons skilled in using the 'network' it will be impossible because masonic DHSS and Law Society officials can delay applications for Legal Aid endlessly."

'Christopher', 33rd degree mason:

"Employers, if they are freemasons or not, can be given private information about a man who has made himself an enemy of masonry. At worst he will be dismissed (if the information is true) or consistently passed over for promotion. Masonic doctors can also be used. But for some reason doctors seem to be the least corruptible men. There are only two occurrences of false medical certificates issued by company doctors to ruin the chances of an individual getting a particular job which I know about. It's not a problem that need greatly worry us like the rest.

"Only the fighters have any hope of beating the system once it's at work against

them. Most people, fighters or not, are beaten in the end, though. It's.... you see, I... you finish up not knowing who you can trust. You can get no help because your story sounds so paranoid that you are thought a crank, one of those nuts who think the whole world is a conspiracy against them. It is a strange phenomenon. By setting up a situation that most people will think of as fantasy, these people can poison every part of person's life. If they give in they go under. If they don't give in it's only putting off the day because if they fight, so much unhappiness will be brought to the people around them that there will likely come a time when even their families turn against them out of desperation. When that happens and they are without friends wherever they look, they become easy meat. The newspapers will not touch them.

"There is no defence against an evil which only the victims and perpetrators know exists."



Who's tied to the apron strings ?

The secretive nature of freemasonry renders the socio-political manoeuvres of its members very difficult to investigate. The convolution of conspiracy theories arising in this vacuum of public knowledge obscure the subject still further. And yet its well-connected membership and their multitude of business interests warrant more discussion, as the potential for clandestine manipulation is immense. Much of the reliable evidence - and there is relatively little for a subject so important - suggests that whilst some freemasons use their membership as nothing more than a form of social entertainment, others use it as a perniciously expedient way of furthering their business interests and social power with very little chance of getting caught. The climate of fear which surrounds the issue, expressed by ex-masons and non-masons alike, is further reason for making masonic membership a declarable affiliation for all public officials.

What? - No carriage clock or - 'How to legally dismiss staff with behavioural problems'

So, you're aged between 18 and 24 and you've been claiming JSA for six months or longer. You've cut your hair, taken out your facial piercings, smartened yourself up, and agreed to take a pointless job you don't want at well below the minimum wage under the New Deal. By doing so, you naturally assume you are now safe from the otherwise inescapable life of crime, drugs and destitution that everyone knows is the fate of the idle.

You may be surprised to learn that your new-found life of honest toil is not guaranteed. In short, your new haircut may not be enough to hide a bad attitude. No matter how hard you work, if your behaviour does not effectively amount to absolute respect of, and obedience to, your employers, or if they simply don't like you, they may now have the means to get shot of you double-quick and you won't be able to do a thing about it.

BUSINESS TRAINERS PADGETT-THOMPSON, in conjunction with Lincolnshire-based Lloyds Associates, have this year been running courses nationwide to help employers sack undesirable troublemakers in the workplace. The one-day seminar is entitled 'How To Legally Dismiss Staff With Behavioural Problems' and is described in Padgett-Thompson's literature as 'a comprehensive course that gives managers and supervisors the powerful skills they need to confidently weed out employees with unsatisfactory attitudes... sidestep dismissal problems... and avoid claims.'

In a form letter, from Lloyds Associates to employers contemplating attending the course, the company states: 'As you know, no employer can win at an Industrial Tribunal' it goes on 'more and more employees, whether full-time, part-time or sub-contracted are acquiring more and more statutory rights. And it costs a disgruntled employee nothing to assert those rights. There is an army of lawyers only too willing to support even the most frivolous cases...'

'Take the stress out of firing' suggests Padgett-Thompson's literature: 'If you're like most managers and supervisors, you know how to dismiss for theft, poor time-keeping and absenteeism, but you're not so sure how to dismiss for misbehaviour. So you continue advising, disciplining and carrying the extra baggage of employees who refuse to change. But why should you?'

The pamphlet claims that on the course: '...you'll discover the guilt-eliminating secret of making problem employees understand that they have essentially dismissed themselves - you haven't' and proudly states that the course will inform employers 'what to do about good performers who have know-it-all attitudes'; offer, 'a way to catch and document employees who are disrespectful to you

behind your back'; and suggest ways of 'dealing with hypochondriacs who abuse - but don't violate - your sick-leave policy'. The seminar will also provide 'a tried and tested technique for silencing employees who want to argue about being dismissed.'

Employers are encouraged to enrol by a series of bizarre and stereotyped 'personality sketches' of 'workers with chronic behavioural problems' (see below left). These people can apparently be categorised as 'The Chatterbox, The Shark, The Plot-ician, and The Snoop'. The implicit suggestion is, firstly, that employees can be pigeon-holed in this way. Secondly, these sketches suggest that employers looking for an excuse to fire someone should place them in one of these categories.

After attending this £164.50, six-hour seminar employers are, it would seem, guaranteed to be able to fire virtually anyone for virtually anything. But just to make sure, Padgett-Thompson give all who attend a copy of 'The Manager's Guide To Dismissing For Attitude', along with a rather attractive 'Certificate of Completion' which, with their new-found confidence, they can presumably get framed and hang in the staff room at the office to intimidate their workers.

If you want to find out when Padgett-Thompson is running a course in your area call their enrolment number: 01753 890700, fax them on 01753 891700 or write to them at PO Box 659, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9BF.

Alternatively, if you've just been unwillingly conscripted into a job you don't want under the New Deal, why not suggest your boss attends one of their courses; then just be yourself. This seems to be the best way of ensuring you don't have the job for long.

From Padgett-Thompson's brochure

Squall says...

Can these employees be dismissed?

Read the personality sketches below and then put a tick next to each employee you believe can be fired for attitude.



- ☐ The Chatterbox - Once he latches on to you and starts talking, you almost need a crowbar to pry yourself away. He keeps you and everyone else from getting work done.



- ☐ The Shark - He enjoys making people squirm and 'chews up' anyone who gets in his way. He's often the cause of fear, resentment and anxiety in the office.



- ☐ The Plot-ician - She spends hours every week gathering the 'dirt' on her colleagues and enjoys manipulating everyone around her. She's skilled at covering her tracks and can rarely be blamed for anything.



- ☐ The Snoop - She'll try to read the memos on your desk. She knows personal things you didn't tell her. And she spends her time questioning colleagues on their private lives instead of working

If you're managing workers with "chronic" behavioural problems like these, there are only two choices you can make. You can learn to live with poor morale, unhappy employees and inefficiency or you can attend this seminar and learn how to legally dismiss staff who can't - or won't - change their attitudes. Make the right decision. Call today and enrol.

Can these employers be worked for?

Read the personality assassinations below and then put a tick next to each employer you could bear to suck up to for the next 25 years.



- ☐ The Disappointed Lifer: She has worked for the company for 87 years and is still in charge of pencils. If you look like you need a sharpener, she hides it. She always has a lemon in her lunchbox.



- ☐ The mindless, moronic, tight-arsed git with violent tendencies. His dad instilled him with plenty of discipline for when he took over the firm. He's often the cause of nausea, repulsion and the overwhelming desire to jump out of the office window.

If you're working for bosses with "chronic" behavioural problems like these, there are only two choices you can make. You can have your brain removed and find a cheap supplier of antacids or you can say "fuck it" and take a twenty five-year lunch break. Make the right decision. Call today and tell them to shove it.





Global pledges for free Tibet?

FIVE TIBETAN HUNGER STRIKERS in New Delhi, India, broke their 18-day fast on May 15th as several countries promised to take up the cause of Tibet's independence.

The five had sworn to fast unto death following the immolation of 50-year-old Thupten Ngodup who set fire to himself at the end of April after police broke up a marathon 49-day hunger strike by six other Tibetans. This shocking incident occurred as the Chinese army chief Fu Quanyou began a five day visit. Ngodup's slippers and blood spots had been left untouched at the site where he set himself alight.

The hunger strikers, who are among the 100,000 Tibetans in exile in India, began their fast on the 30th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day, March 10th. They

demand that the United Nations reopen the debate on Tibet, appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate the situation of human rights in Chinese-occupied Tibet, and appoint a Special Envoy to promote a peaceful settlement.

Tibetan Youth Congress official Tsetsen Norbu said the protest had been ended because "countries which have supported us have said they need a certain time to carry forward their commitment."

Norbu said Bill Clinton had pledged to take up the issue with his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin during his visit to Beijing. In addition Poland, Norway, Costa Rica, Hungary and the European Union also agreed to take up the demand for Tibet's independence from China.

China's occupation of Tibet has resulted in the death of over 1.2 million Tibetan people and the destruction of more than 6,000 monasteries and temples.

During the hunger strike Samdhong Rinpoche, the speaker of the Tibetan parliament in exile, said: "The fact is that the situation in Tibet is not static. It is deteriorating day by day, hour by hour." He stressed that immediate action is required.

As the protest was shelved Norbu warned that the action would be resumed if there were no "concrete, substantial and tangible results from these commitments."

Contact: Free Tibet Campaign, 9 Islington Green, London N1 2XH. Tel: 0171 359 7573.

Something fishy at Mitsubishi

Mitsubishi win US Greenwash award

A DEFINITION OF GREENWASH:

'The phenomenon of socially and environmentally destructive corporations attempting to preserve and expand their markets by posing as friends of the environment and leaders in the struggle to eradicate poverty.'

Corporate Watch USA awarded the Mitsubishi Group of Companies their Greenwash award for "ceaseless efforts to portray its various businesses, some of the most destructive on earth, as environmentally friendly".

More specifically the award goes to Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Chemical, and the Mitsubishi subsidiary ESSA (in a joint venture with the Mexican government) for their on-going public relations initiative to convince the world that it is environmentally benign, as well as socially and economically desirable, to establish the largest industrial salt evaporation facility in the world in a lagoon that is the last pristine calving

ground of the California Gray Whale.

The most ominous aspect of the salt mined is that it will be used primarily for chlorine production, which in turn is the element responsible for some of industrial society's most toxic chemicals.

Dr Mark Spalding, professor at the University of California, San Diego, and an expert on Mitsubishi's salt operations in Mexico commented: "If you want chlorine to bleach paper, you want salt from Baja."

The global expansion of the chemical industry includes chlorine production. New chlorine facilities are currently being built in Mexico, India, Brazil, Egypt and Thailand. All will require salt to produce various chlorinated products. Mitsubishi's operations in Baja already provide at least 50 per cent of Japan's industrial salt.

Pressure from communities and environmental groups in Mexico, as well as concerned groups in the USA, have put the pressure on the Mexican

government to reject Mitsubishi's initial environmental impact assessment. A new assessment is due in Spring 1999, until then activists are continuing to pressure Mitsubishi and the Mexican government, as well as providing support for Mexican activists on the ground.

Check out the Corporate Watch USA website on, <http://www.corpwatch.org/>

US Navy sinks to new depths

Sonar weapon experiments conducted on whales and dolphins

WEAPONS EXPERIMENTS by the US Navy have been linked to the deaths of sea mammals, including dolphins, according to environmentalists in Europe and the USA.

Using high-tech sound equipment which broadcasts frequencies 10,000 times louder than a 747 taking off, the US Navy has openly admitted to using Humpback whales as part of its gruesome experiments. The results will go towards establishing a sound-based defence system which could see 80 per cent of the world's oceans rigged up with intense frequency equipment.

Invading an internationally recognised Humpback Whale sanctuary off the coast of Hawai'i, naval boats tested equipment on the passive creatures to gauge at what stages they showed 'acute signs of distress' and what kind of 'behavioural changes' they displayed having experienced extremely loud sonic blasts.

Several whale calves have been found dead or dying on the island's nearby beaches having been abandoned by distressed mothers after birth.

Hawaiian-based ecological groups were particularly concerned as the experiments took place during the Humpback whale mating season and stated in an e-mail that 'the whales were driven out of the testing area en masse.... after a two week period most of them had left'.

Angered by what they see as a blatant act of military-backed environmental terrorism, local groups attempted to block the deadly experiments through the courts, but four lawsuits failed to get the required restraining order they were seeking. In desperation local activists took to the sea and mounted a brave sea blockade which, along with an intensive call, fax and e-mail bombardment on government departments, is credited with having brought the tests to an early conclusion.

The news comes alongside growing evidence that the US Navy has been conducting tests on dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea where the blown-up bodies of 200 of the sea creatures were found washed up on beaches in Greece.

Details on the experiments, and actions being taken by environmentalists against this high sea barbarism, can be found at: <http://www.dreamweaving.com/lfas.htm>

Flying dutchmen grounded

DARE-DEVIL DUTCH ACTIVISTS from Friends of the Earth reached new heights in their campaign to reduce the levels of air traffic at Schiphol airport recently.

Angered by a growth in the number of loud and invasive flights being allowed by Dutch aviation authorities (which are already out of line with environmental standards set by their government) the have-a-go-hero protestors scaled the perimeter fence and locked themselves to the wheels of a KLM plane for three long hours. They were all subsequently arrested before being released the next day.

It is understood that it was only the threat of an inflight meal which finally persuaded them to surrender.

Squanagrams

Reverend Ian Paisley

Rape insane delivery
Evil resprayed inane
Spare inane delivery
Pray! venereal inside
Invade senile prayer
Arrays deepen in evil

Duke of Westminster

Twit nukes freedoms
Misuse deft network
I'm funky wet tosser
Soft nuts meek weird



Rotten to the Core

FEARING A SALES DROP in its lucrative East Asia market Apple computers have conveniently dumped the Dalai Lama from their advertising campaign.

While cyber execs are willing to ride the politically-correct bandwagon with creative computer-users in the West the exiled spiritual leader of occupied Tibet is obviously a no-no with those a bit closer to his homeland, and Apple's sizeable Asian orchard - China - which is just ripe for the picking.

Apple-ogists for the US-based multinational attempted to justify their rotten actions by explaining the Dalai Lama was not well-known enough in East Asia to warrant his inclusion in the regional ad directive which uses images of 'great thinkers' to highlight the virtues of their range of computers. Instead they proposed to replace him with the internationally-renowned aviation queen Amelia Earhart(!?)

Her only spurious connection with Asia lies in the fact she disappeared after her plane crashed into the Pacific (near-ish to Japan).

The news of Apple's pip-squeak cowardice comes as fellow corporate hack Rupert Murdoch ensured that his publishing concern Harper Collins pulled the rug on Chris Patten's kiss 'n' tell Hong Kong story. The former Governor (not noted for his democracy until he left Britain - but we don't have room here) had his revealing wee book shelved after power-crazed Murdoch realised his Star TV plans for China could be jeopardised if his international media operation was seen to be anything other than completely subservient to the Chinese authorities.

Seems that some people will do anything to shake bloody hands with the brutal regime that currently wields power in that country - over to you Tony.

Rootsman vs Routesman

TREE-SITTING ACTIVIST Hector the tree protector, has established what is believed to be the world's first treetop web site in part of a death-defying 25-metre high occupation to save a Tasmanian forest from the hands of profit-hungry logging companies recently.

Hector's e-mails were soon zooming around the world sending an international environmental SOS to fellow activists. Equipped only with a lap top, a mobile phone, electricity generating hardware - and plenty of bottle - he climbed a tree growing on Mother Cummings Peak, North West Tasmania and began his cyber occupation.

Solar panels, and a back-up exercise bicycle were soon supplying the power for his mobile protest where he established an Internet presence outlining the occupation and a recommended course of "what you can do" actions.

Meanwhile the land-based tree-saving group were marshalling road blockades in an effort to save the ancient old growth forest which is home to several unique species of animals and provides the basis for the existence of complex ecosystems.

Disregarded by the recently signed "Regional Forest Agreement" the forest's

future remained bleak. Sounding like a right royal corporate rip-off it is the first such Tasmanian State and Australian Federal government agreement which allows for huge areas of precious and irreplaceable forests to be handed over to companies like North Ltd (also behind the Australian Jabiluka Uranium mine) and Boral, who have now established the right to squander yet another resource in the name of a few bucks.

Speaking from his tree Hector described the setting: "the forest is trully magnificent ... the area contains tall, dry Whitetop forest, which has never seen an axe, and is interspersed with delicate sphagnum moss beds and King Billy pines - relicts from the last ice age".

Unfortunately site activists reported later on that the first tree had been felled only 80 metres away from Hector's post, with the peaceful demonstration being broken up by a large group of Forestry Tasmania workers and Tasmanian Police officers. Within a few weeks the entire area had been cleared.

Damage done but struggle continues: Respect to Hector and the tree-climbing cyber possee!

Jets, lies and video scrape

AMERICAN BROADCASTING giant CBS was caught pants-down in a live on-air fiasco which should have left producers as red-faced as their make-up clad news anchor men.

The on-screen cock-up occurred when a presenter was practising an interview with a war reporter. In February this year, when military strikes by the US-lead armed forces looked certain to take place, the reporter was pretending to be live in the Iraqi 'war zone'.

For 20 minutes the God-fearing American public saw a 'news' team acting as if they were in the middle of a bombing run with Walter pretending to be genuinely fearing for his life with his eager camera

henchman incorporated into the act. Meanwhile Brown offered his 'surprise' volleying questions to the 'brave' death-defying journalist.

With a cynical disregard for the reality of the situation taking place, but without any knowledge that their acting skills were being watched by millions, the pair discussed casualty figures with Walter making them up as he went along.

Later on the TV tricksters were talking nonchalantly deciding where the best camera angles were before Walter presumably sauntered off to the hotel bar and recommenced his true vocation.

Freedom of the press? 'News' will never be the same again!

Trainstopping - the sequel

Europe's largest police mobilisation... ever

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of the anti-nuclear demonstrations in Gorleben, Germany, over the last few years, the German authorities opted to store their nuclear waste in another part of the country (Ahaus), where they hoped that there would be less resistance from protestors and locals.

These hopes proved unfounded and protestors began to organise camps around Ahaus in preparation for the train carrying the nuclear cargo, due to arrive on 25th March.

Eight camps were set up and, due to growing numbers of protestors, the police decided to bring the transport through

early on the 20th march in an attempt to outwit the activists. However, a leak to Greenpeace on the 19th resulted in an alarm call going out all over Germany.

The German authorities then undertook the largest mobilisation of police in Europe, ever, to protect the transport; thirty thousand police officers were drafted in to protect the train and its route.

In Ahaus, 5,000 protestors did their utmost to slow it down while, elsewhere along the route, at least five other blockades were attempted. The train finally got through to its final destination - 13 hours late.

Squahagrams

Michael Howard

A lewd roach him
Which mold area
Oh am a lewd rich
Oh dear! claw him
He low acid harm

William Hague

Ugh I'm a Wallie

Water cannon being used to deter German activists attempting to halt nuclear transport train.
Photo by Andrew Testa.





Dream land

**Things could be on the up for
Aboriginals down under. Do these new
hopes mean the Outback is back, or
will it just be another nightmare
tourist trap? Sam Wild investigates.**

The Aboriginal communities of Beagle Bay, Lombadina, One Arm Point and Sunday Island sit along a rugged track which winds up the interior of Dampier Peninsular like an inland artery. With the Great Sandy desert to the south and the Timor sea to the north it is one of Western Australia's (WA) most remote places.

Broome, the nearest big town (over 210 kilometres away), is the key supply source from which the trappings of Australian supermarket society flow three times a week in the back of a broken Nissan truck. The track is broken, pitted and corrugated - in the wet season it becomes a river.

It is the area's size (about the same land mass of Devon and Cornwall combined) and inhospitable terrain which has proved its ultimate defence. Unlike the Dharawal people of Botany Bay in New South Wales, who were shot and bayoneted on the beach as the first British settlers landed in 1788, the Bardi and Jawi people were far away enough to escape the first wave of extermination.

A proud people with distinct languages and religious beliefs (conservative estimates identify the existence of hundreds of pre-colonial Aboriginal languages and dialects across Australia) the clans of Dampier Peninsular have managed to maintain some of their unique languages which remain as colourful expressions for the complex relationship they have with the land and sea.

While a staple diet of turtle, Dugong (sea cow) and fish are being increasingly supplemented by the convenience foods purchased at community stores they are skilled at sea harvesting and call themselves 'Saltwater People' in respect of

their environment.

Despite its remoteness however, this area is not without its ghosts. The legacy of murderous pearl-lugging crews, culturally repressive Christian missionaries and the institutional violence associated with draconian governmental legislation (including the forced removal and fostering of Aboriginal children by white families) has left its mark on the people and their culture.

Ironically, it was the Catholic missionaries, who suppressed the native languages and enforced the self-conscious values of the Papal order, who finally convinced the WA Government to grant the land of Dampier Peninsular as a reserve in the mid 1950s which established some form of patronising legitimacy for the local communities.

Dampier Peninsular, like much of Australia, is now awash with land rights cases and local people are increasingly becoming embroiled in lengthy legal battles to re-establish their historical and legitimate rights to ownership of their land. They are not alone.

For the first time in Australian political history the bipartisan acceptance (by the Australian Liberal and Labour parties) of restrictive Aboriginal land rights legislation has been challenged with visible political effects. Full land rights, and the ownership, control and use of their associated resources by indigenous communities, are now taking priority in Australian politics.

The Labour Party deputy opposition leader Gareth Evans in the Australian Houses of Parliament recently illustrated his feelings on a ruling by the High Court that a disputed bridge between Hindmarsh island and the South Australian mainland had been given the go-ahead despite objections from local Ngarrindjeri clan. Berating Liberal Party Prime Minister John

Howard, who had given his tacit support to the bridge-building lobby, he declared that he "seems to be never so happy as when he's bashing blackfellas".

The episode has cut to the nerve of Australian politics and threatens to divide the current conservative coalition Government run by John Howard, who may have to hold elections if he cannot get warring factions to agree on the most radical reassessment of Australian land rights in history. For the first time press photographers have been barred from entering the debating chamber on the grounds that the issues are too sensitive. Australian democracy is experiencing change on a scale which would have been inconceivable even ten years ago.

These seminal changes in values concerning land ownership ride on the backs of two crucial decisions made by the Australian High Court - Mabo in 1992 and Wik in 1996.

The Mabo decision, which underpins the 1993 Native Title Act, officially dismantled 200 years of 'Terra Nullius' (land unoccupied) which had been established by Captain Cook in 1770 and provided the rationalisation for the settlement of Australia and the destruction of its indigenous population.

Both the Mabo and Wik decisions are named after the Aboriginal tribes who challenged the ownership of land to which they had ancestor-linkage, including the Wik people whom the High Court ruled had their land forcibly removed from them in the 1950s in order to accommodate a mining lease. This now famous two-year old ruling has opened up areas of land, where mining/pastoral operators and Aboriginal people co-exist, to debate and accounts for approximately 40 per cent of Australia's arid interior.

A crucial issue, in addition to the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual relationship indigenous Australians have with the land, is that of the control of resources. Lucrative deals involving mining contracts, construction projects and tourism will now necessitate the equal involvement of Aboriginal communities where they are the land-owners.

Dampier is no exception with families, clans and communities attempting to establish their basis of ownership upon areas of territory.

Here it is tourism that is being mooted as the cure-all for many of the region's economic problems which includes an unemployment rate amongst Aboriginals three times that of Australia's average.

The unique ecosystems and outstanding natural beauty of the Kimberley region (itself the size of Poland), with Dampier Peninsular sitting to the left, make it an ideal place for tourist development.

The push for financial self-sufficiency, and a movement away from dependency on ever-decreasing governmental assistance, remains a target for the few small-scale, community-based tourist enterprises which exist along the coast.

Goolamionon community is situated two kilometres off the main track, where a fire constantly burns in the central clearance with several huts and four-wheel drive trucks in various states of repair dotted around the place.

Sat in the shade, with a young filmmaking couple videoing the interview for a documentary, Patrick Sampi (an Aboriginal elder and land-owner) explains the thinking behind his tourism venture located on the nearby ten-kilometre long

beach. "Maybe in times to come we'll get nothing (from the government) - so we've got to start acting now and take control. We're not going to charge a lot, we're starting small - \$20 a night or whatever. If I give them small fees they'll expect something small back."

It is not an ambitious plan and Patrick is learning from the experiences of the key Aboriginal-owned Kooljaman resort at Cape Leveque. A popular resort with adventure tourists the facility serves as an example of how a successful tourism venture can work, winning the prestigious Sir David Brand tourism award in 1997.

Its popularity owes something to the rising number of tourists in WA, an increase of 48 per cent between 1984/85 and 1994/95, and its unique location which enjoys spectacular peninsular-top views. Tourists who fly, drive or sail to the beautiful location do so to enjoy unrivalled fishing within pristine natural surroundings.

However, tourism comes at a cost and warning signs are visible. As Trudi Ridge, an Aboriginal tourism advisor explains. "To a degree these communities are opening up their lives to tourism - it's a huge lifestyle change for people. Aboriginal tourism needs to provide an experience of Aboriginal culture without compromising indigenous culture."

It is a tall order and, despite the initiatives aimed at establishing increasingly popular cultural tourist activities, there is a divide between the tourist haven of Kooljaman resort and the local community of One Arm Point. Most exchanges are limited to a mid-journey petrol fill-up and drinks purchase.

Ice-boxes, flash new four-wheel drive vehicles and top of the range adventure equipment, with flip-flops and fishing conversations filling the long evenings around the municipal barbecues, set the atmosphere at the resort.

Neil, who has travelled 2,000 kilometres from Darwin with three friends explains. "We've been saturated with Aboriginal culture in the Northern Territory, we're not interested."

While this level of intolerance may be limited there is still a reluctance to engage with the deeper and more profound nature of Dampier's Aboriginal history. "We've gone and had a look... but we haven't had much interaction with the locals. We're here for the fishing, nothing else really," chips in Neil's mate Tony.

Down by the reception area an ancient Co'oboree is being re-enacted for a crowd of on-lookers. Ironically, these occasional events are credited with providing the opportunity for young people to re-learn ancient customs given the financial value given to them by tourist dollars.

Jeremy Wigan, 18, is a dancer with the Bardi Ardyooloon Dance Group. He enjoys the fact that he has spent time absorbing the culture and history of his parents and older generations but he remains concerned for his peers. "I'm the youngest of six and I'm the only one who's interested - young people go through (initiation) but there are other stages and they don't know them. In twenty years we won't be looking at our culture - we'll just have stories."

While he is saddened by the attitudes of his own generation he feels that white and black culture can co-exist. "I can dance Co'oboree but when I go to a nightclub I can dance white too, I'm both ways."

Nevertheless, Jeremy is exceptional and many elder Aboriginals feel that their culture is on a downward spiral. Kharki Stumpagee, a full-blooded Jawi from Sunday

Island, is the last remaining speaker of his native tongue, Jawi. It is moving to hear him sing the dugong song his parents taught him as a boy in which they thank the dugong, nature and the hunters for their food. It is reflective of a culture which held the ecological balance in high esteem. "Not a big mob speak Jawi any more. When I was a boy we all spoke Jawi. Jawi is gone then nothing left. I'm already sad. I got no other old people to talk with in Jawi."

Getting to Sunday Island is a risk worth taking. The 10-metre tide is the second greatest in the world and the billions of tonnes of water which roll in and out every six hours create whirlpools powerful enough to suck down boats (or so the legend goes). Saltwater crocodiles, Tiger sharks, Blue-ringed octopus and King Brown snakes populate the island and the surrounding sea. Yet it is here that an ambitious plan is being hatched by Kharki and a handful of his relatives and friends including Norm Archer.

Norm, 60, (a Bethnal Green cockney who emigrated to Australia in the 1960s) has lived with the Aboriginal communities of the Kimberley for twenty years and has helped build typhoon-proof houses on the island where he lives with his extended Aboriginal family. Together with his compatriots he shares a dream of establishing a functioning tourism business which would provide the basis for sustainable existence.

"The whole idea is to create an individual self-supporting community where our kids can go to school, make ourselves people again instead of being numbers on a dole cheque. We can say we made this, like the old people who were proud of what they did."

Numbers of visitors are increasing and several groups of tourists from as far afield as Denmark, the US and Japan have stayed in the cramped but hospitable tin huts allocated for guests.

However, there are several factors holding development of the island back - namely Native Title. Kharki, Norm and the Sunday Island community are collectively fighting the first sea rights claim for use of the marine resources which is being challenged by the WA Government on behalf of the fishing industry.

Geoffrey Bagshaw, a consultant anthropologist for the Kimberley Land Council, (an organisation involved in the lengthy legal wrangles taking place between the warring factions of government, industry and indigenous populations) explains the logic behind the Land Rights issue and defends the costly legal battles currently being waged across Australia. "This country needs to come to terms, not only with its past, but with reality today. Land rights have to be resolved, and that costs money."

In addition, the environmental implications of development are being considered alongside the need to maintain privacy of the Law Grounds (vast areas of sacred land where secretive Aboriginal ceremonies take place and which are closed to women, children and non-Aboriginals). As Norm reiterates: "Tourism has got to be controlled properly - you can't have too many people clambering over the reef. You make your rules and make sure people stick to them. For instance people have to go on guided tours - Sunday Island is full of Law Grounds."

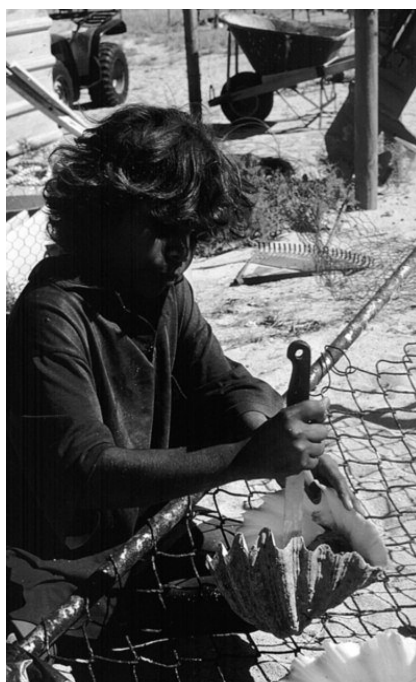
Ian, a tall ex-boxing champion and a relative of Kharki's, suddenly recounts the experience of a man who stayed on the



Photography by Sam Wild.

Opposite: Children on the beach at Goolamionon community.

Top: Kharki and Nana Stumpagee, traditional Sunday Islanders, at One Arm Point.



Below left: Patroina, aged 11, prepares giant clams for supper.

Below right: Jeremy Wigan, aged 18, with ceremonial shields.



island while working on the construction of several of the huts. "This one bloke - he come here and was going everywhere by himself, I tell him not to but he didn't listen. One day he come back and said he saw a ghost. He was 'Garangee' after that - you know, he went mad."

Like the cultural environment, the island's fragile ecosystems can easily be disturbed and several groups, including Sunday Island's residents, are observing changes in marine life. Doctor Tasman Crowe, Research Assistant at the Northern Territory University, is observing the populations of Trochus (which local people gather from around the reefs and then sell as button material; there is an unceasing demand for the hard-wearing and attractive shell from the designer fashion world). Dr Crowe is responsible for the Trochus re-seeding project which aims to replace the population depleted in part through over harvesting. "It's a direct source of money that can be obtained in a relatively traditional way."

This is combined with an increasing awareness that local people need the skills and tools to polish the shells once they have been collected. "The cost per unprocessed shell per kilo is a fraction of

that paid for polished shells - it's called 'value adding'," explains Dr Crowe.

Taking control of the resources, and the associated wealth, attached to the land represents a significant mood swing for Australia and all its people. There is at last a chance that genuine autonomy and power-sharing built around economic independence is a possibility for indigenous communities. The land from which all life emanates is an attainable possibility.

Thirty three kilometres outside Broome the road to One Arm Point runs out of tarmac and descends into a ridged bone-shaking sunbaked sand pit. There are rumours that a casino construction company has eyed an area of land along the track, promising it would carry out the \$180 million task of laying a paved road in return for a prize piece of untouched territory.

A stable road will change the nature of the peninsular forever unleashing new levels of traffic on the pristine outback environment. It is a choice between economics and ecology, underwritten by Land Rights and resource control, which local communities will have to make. The road that local people choose to follow will have lasting implications. The dilemma confronting many Aboriginal communities today is an invasion of a different kind.

Squahagrams

Cecil Parkinson

Prick once slain
Slick nice apron
Ponce 'n' sick liar

Lady Olga Maitland

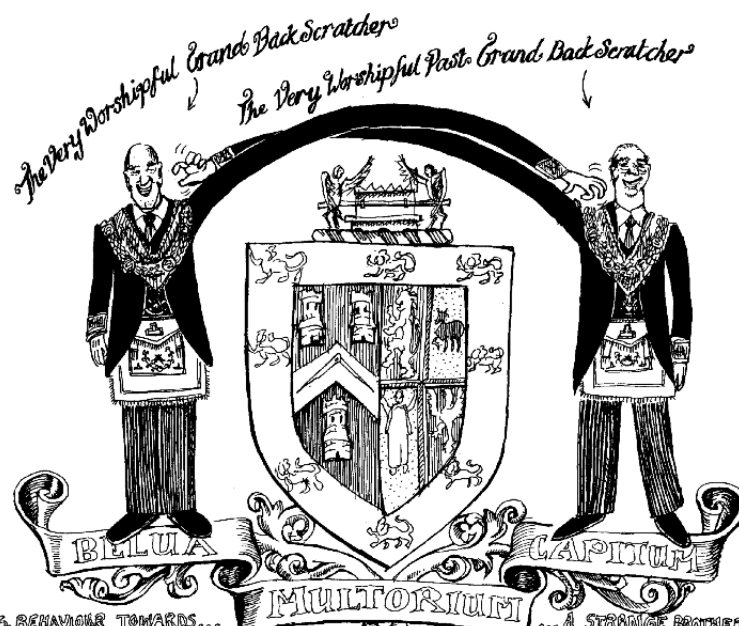
A dodgy tall animal
I am a tall noddy lag
A giant malady doll
Oddly, I am a tall nag

Richard Littlejohn

Trojan hitler child
Join drill thatcher
He jot rancid thrill
Rich thin jet dollar
Hell drat joint rich

Paddy Ashdown

Shady old pawn
Handy odd paws
Posh wad dandy



G. BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS... A STRANGER BROTHER
...if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly and if he is in want you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved. You must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed. You are not charged to do beyond your ability; only to prefer a poor brother that is a good man and true before any other poor people in the same circumstances.
STRICTLY NOT FROM THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE ANCIENT FRATERNITY OF FREE + ACCEPTED MASONS

NOT THE OFFICIAL SUMMIT RECLAIM EUROPE!

Cardiff: June 9th - 16th 1998



In June the leaders of the EU will meet in Cardiff to discuss the furthering of its policies of globalisation and corporate rule under the Single Market. The main beneficiaries of this European 'free' trade zone (designed to boost economic growth within Europe and promote competitiveness with the US and Japan) have undoubtedly been Trans-National Corporations (TNCs).

The European Commission has actively supported European TNCs through a wide range of subsidies and the EU has been one of the main proponents of the MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) which promotes global deregulation and access to Southern markets for TNCs (see page 43).

European environmental and social justice groups have united to voice opposition to the official

summit and Reclaim Europe, a group formed specifically to oppose these trends, have organised a counter summit in Cardiff between June 9th and 16th. The focus of the programme will be the discussion of strategies for action on issues beyond economic competitiveness: social welfare, employment, the environment, genetic engineering, peace/security and more.

There will also be speakers, workshops, street activities and actions, exhibitions and entertainments involving local people and European visitors.

Contact: Reclaim Europe,
Temple of Peace, Cathays Park,
Cardiff Cf1 3AP. Tel: 01222 220 347. or 1b Waterlow Road,
London N19 5NJ. Tel 0171 272 9333. e-mail: Reclaim.Europe @btinternet.com



Ingrid Crawford

**BRING ON
THE CLOWNS**
*k.e. 98

Birmingham May 16th
The G8 Summit.

The most powerful men from the richest, most industrialised nations meet to consolidate their vision of the new world order



Globalised resistance

MAI ties and blind eyes

The latest and largest free-trade agreement gives multi-national corporations even more power to ignore national borders. Gibby Zobel travelled to Geneva to meet the dissenters.

“In the short term the future’s really good. I couldn’t have foreseen this in my dreams. There is going to be a shock around the world, I mean it is gonna be like an earthquake. It’s the first stirrings of something really massive across the world. The fuse has been lit on a really big piece of dynamite, y’know. Sometimes the fuse goes out or someone cuts it, but if it goes on like this we are gonna have a real explosion of a movement. Since ‘68 we haven’t had this kind of special smell in the air.”

Olivier de Marcellus, a grey-haired Swiss lecturer, is postively throbbing with excitement. He’s one of the co-ordinating team of a new ad hoc international group called People’s Global Action, where more than 300 delegates from 71 countries came to Geneva to share their anger over corporate rule.

“It is difficult to describe the warmth and the depth of the encounters we had here. The global enemy is relatively well known, but the global resistance that it meets rarely passes through the filter of the media. And here we met the people who had shut down whole cities in Canada with general strikes, risked their lives to seize lands in Latin America, destroyed the seat of Cargill in India or Novartis’s transgenic maize in France. The discussions, the concrete planning for action, the stories of struggle, the personalities, the enthusiastic hospitality of the Genevan squatters, the impassioned accents of the women and men facing the police outside the World Trade Organisation (WTO) building, all sealed an alliance between us. Scattered around the world again, we will not forget. We remain together. This is our common struggle.”

Over half of the top 100 economies of the world are not countries, but corporations. And the WTO is the cosy home of their free trade bliss here in Geneva, the capital of world capital.

General Motors is bigger than South Africa, Shell mightier than Norway, IBM eclipses Pakistan. Mitsubishi, for example, is now the fifth largest ‘country’ in the world. “We are writing the constitution of a single global economy,” boasts the WTO’s Renato Ruggerio. Welcome to the new world government. Welcome to the united colours of global resistance.

“We have to start aiming at the

head,” explains Olivier. “We have been militants fighting against nuclear power, against housing, sexism. Different tentacles of the monster. You are never really going to do it that way, you really have to aim at the head.”

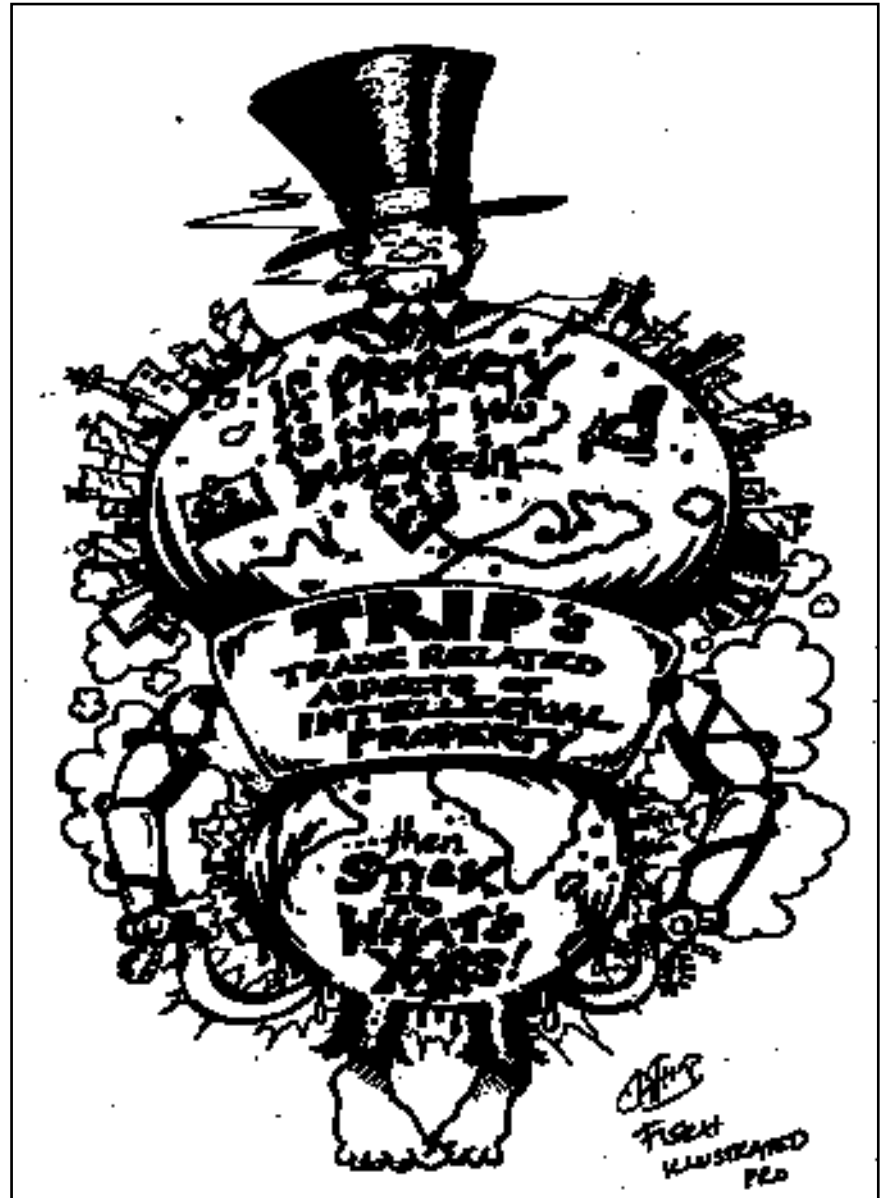
The process began with the Zapatista-inspired ‘Encuentro’ in Mexico in 1996. “The Encuentro launched the idea of people working horizontally across the world, this international of Hope. They are the brain. Like a huge commercial fair of ideas and initiatives. The network you construct is... a fuzzy thing. Another kind of network would be to organise towards one very precise objective - Fuck the World Trade Organisation. There’s room for both the general circulation of ideas, and also to make the networks work you have to do something. It was a big vision.”

The World Trade Organisation was born out of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the global fast-forward button to corporate domination. It enshrined the free trade market and exists as a stand-alone body. It is the vehicle not only for manufactured goods but also agriculture, trades in services and TRIPs (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights). TRIPs are far out - they allow multinationals to patent life for profit, whether it is the genes of a tribe in Ecuador or the seeds of an indigenous plant in India.

International trade treaties have become the most important phenomenon in globalisation. The latest scam is known as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. The respected writer and broadcaster John Pilger describes the MAI as “the most important imperial advance for half a century”.

Inside a Parisian bunker, every six weeks since 1995, representatives of the 29 richest countries on Earth - including the UK - have been plotting this new deal in secrecy and in haste. It is an agreement that would, at a stroke, legally bind together these countries for a minimum of 20 years and seek to invalidate all domestic, environmental, social and labour protections to the greater rights of money in the international free market.

The real clout in the MAI is the right it gives companies to sue governments for large damages. In what is known as the pay the polluter case, the Ethyl Corporation of



America is suing the Canadian government for \$367 million dollars for banning the use of MMT, a controversial gasoline additive, which it makes in Ottawa.

It wants “immediate compensation for imposing legislation which hinders its operations [profits]” under free trade rules identical to the MAI.

But across the globe resistance is growing. In May this year actions were taking place to mark the rage against the WTO celebrations of their 50th anniversary. The fury ranged across all continents from Canada to Columbia, Bangladesh to Aotearoa/NZ. Over 30 cities, from Ankara to San Francisco were holding the first global street party on the same day with the slogan: “our resistance will be as global as capital!”



Heard world

Activists from around the world gathered at the first People's Global Action conference in Geneva. Interviews by Gibby Zobel with additional material from his colleagues at Schnews.

MAORI INDEPENDENCE

Mereana is a historian and grandmother from Aotearoa/New Zealand. She takes part in direct action as part of the movement for political sovereignty for the Maori people.

"We were the last of the Pacific countries to be colonised, when Britain, France and Germany decide to 'liberate' the natives under the Waitangi Treaty of 1840. Britain dumped it's world poor. It took six million of its own people and sent them out to the world. In Aotearoa/ NZ, 750,000 immigrants outnumbered Maoris three to one. They began a process of illegal legislation setting up illegal government, military power and confiscation of land. A lot of what the White Acts passed last century were based on Irish Acts of Parliament they had used the century before. So they

duplicated colonisation, so that by 1900 there were only 42,000 of us left out of a quarter of a million.

They began a process of legal and military genocide. Once we had been colonised to the extent that we began to die, they started to put up monuments to the Maori people. They began a process of assimilation. The message was: to survive you have to be like us. And so it was for the next 70 years.

In the early 1970s, Maori people as young students went to university for the first time and gained a political conscience. To educate the oppressed is not a good thing - you should always keep them silent! From there came a number of contemporary Maori sovereignty movements. Our aim was to gain back our political sovereignty. It's been a process the last 28 years of learning our own language again, and what we call Puea o eao (reclamation). The Maori Unity Movement/Kotahitanga was founded in 1983 by the late Eva Rickard. There are many organisations affiliated to the same cause pressing the Maori claim to 70 per cent of the

country's land. We are now a fifth of the 3.5m population and maybe half of us reclaim our identity as Maori - the movement is growing.

Fiji is the closest model we have. The indigenous became outnumbered by immigrant Indians, but staged a coup under Rabuka in 1987. Now the whole system is once again based on Fijian customary law. We believe in lore not law. Natural laws accumulate over centuries, about how we behave, how we treat the land, how we fish, about burying your dead, about birthing your babies, about speaking your language. We call it Tika - The Truth. Our culture's lores have proceeded the country's laws, made by groups of White people for interim periods of time. Customary laws are not negotiable. One individual cannot change the law.

In the last ten years Aotearoa/NZ has been a big experiment in free market enterprise. A decade ago our Government began to dismantle trade unions, put up student fees, sell off all the state assets, bring in fishing quotas then give it all to the multinationals. They opened more prisons and limited the choices of people.

The Government offered a 'fiscal envelope' of \$1Billion to settle all Maori claims for land six years ago. Our paramount chief called together all 44 nations who unanimously rejected the plan. So then the government introduced the Resource Management Act of 1992, which acknowledged Maori ownership of land but said that everything above and below that land belonged to the state! So the trees belong to us, even though you own the land, and they negotiate with multinational for the cutting rights. Of course Maori people cannot bid for these resources - and why the fuck should we? - and so we've been protesting.

Our protests are quite like yours - innovative. We cut down pine trees, behead statues, burn down forests - we started fires in 16 locations in one night. Because we are only a small nation against a huge military force we have to innovate. We can't take up arms, but we can chain up bridges. We carried huge chains, about 80 of us, and stopped traffic and had a party and left. We occupy our lands, we steal

huge million-dollar paintings. We occupy construction sites, destabilise machinery. We hack down flagpoles. Recently the government dropped 1080 poison to kill the possums on the land of one nation, so they gathered all the possums, threw them on a truck, dumped them on the steps of the environment department and split them open.

There's a huge education program going on teaching the population about the history, and a lot more whites are also finding out that we've ALL been lied to. The Government is frightened to be morally challenged by its own people, and has reacted by becoming a lot more divorced from the people. They are doing all their deals but there's nothing on the news, a couple of white guys shaking hands over another million dollar deal. Multinationals are increasingly capturing small governments. But I'm optimistic about our own struggle and our own people. You've got to teach your children. I've got five grandsons and my delight is teaching them how to speak our language and this year we are going back to live on our own land.

I'm really concerned about the impact of the economics of globalisation has on our people and our culture. Specifically I'm looking at genetic engineering and the patenting of indigenous people's genes and the whole concept of cultural and intellectual properties. Because fundamental to our culture's survival is that we remain in charge of our customary laws and our plants and certainly our life pattern.

A lot of the people here all come from the position of love rather than the position of hate. We all love something, we all love our people, our culture, we don't want someone to hurt them somewhere down the line. We don't want to smash anything except the institutions which oppress us. We are all oppressed by the same thing here and we have to devise strategies of how to get rid of the bastard.

The namer of names is the father of all things. I'd like to see us start naming some names and tracking them. We've got Rio Tinto, which have huge subsidiaries. Find the enemy. They hate it when you're in their face."

FOOD NOT BOMBS

Keith McHenry is the co-founder of Food Not Bombs, Homes Not Jails, October 22nd No Police Brutality Day and is active in the Free Radio across the USA.

"We are going into a really brutal period where there are 800,000 more people in US prisons which has doubled inside two years. The national welfare programme was abolished last year, so many people are becoming homeless.

The Police State itself is becoming huge. With the Crime Bill the Clinton administration called for 10,000 more cops on the streets. The Defence department has a new law where they can give the military weapons to the Justice Department who can give it to the local police departments. In San Francisco it is virtually impossible to protest. You assemble for a short while, may be able to march for a little bit, but it is very unusual for them to allow protests to end. They like to round you up and arrest you. The death penalty is becoming much more extensive. It is now national instead of only five states, as it was a year ago.

Then there's the Telecommunications Bill. Before this, there would have to be competition between radio, TV & newspapers. You couldn't own the lot in one town. Now you can have every single media outlet in one city owned by the same company. In San Francisco one of the major rock stations is broadcast from Chicago! We are getting less and less information and more and more oppression and most people don't even know these laws have happened.

The economy is collapsing for most people. Some people are getting super, super rich but the majority are getting so, so poor. And so there is the resistance. The Militia movement is probably the most famous. Europeans assume the Militia are White Supremacists, Nazis, Ku Klux Klan. There are many of these. But there are a lot of independent militias, white & black who are trying to organise areas that are independent of the US. So there's been alliances

between left-activists and Militia members. Some have joined Food Not Bombs because they were angry that the government was shutting us down for serving food.

Food Not Bombs started 18 years ago, and we've been arrested 1,000 times in San Francisco for serving food, and it is starting to expand across America. One of the big problems for the state is that it is a very good organising tool. The police when they arrest us say that we are making a political statement, and that's not allowed. They are worried that people will be gathering together and feeling empowered because we are able to get our own food and our own resources and if we keep doing that... it's a big problem for the government because they are getting rid of all their social welfare programs so they are no longer feeding people. If you are an immigrant you can no longer get any food stamps, or health care.

The other thing about Food Not Bombs is that we support many movements. Food Not Bombs - which is largely white - is uniting very strongly with the native American movement. We have for 18 years. But it's always with people that are calling for total separation from the government and from corporations and are for changing the economic system. We are able to embarrass the government by being unemployed people who can feed hundreds of people for free and they are saying we need more tax dollars to feed the homeless.

We have 400 unlicensed radio stations and we've been building radio transmitters. Maybe five years ago people would be frightened to do free radio. Ten years ago people wouldn't squat - you could get five years.

Now, for some people, it's so bad that being outside prison and being inside prison is starting to no longer be much of a difference. In fact, for many, being in prison is better because you have running water, TV, food comes every day and your clothes are washed. And so for many millions of Americans it is increasing your standard of living to go to prison! It's no longer the deterrent that it once was.

It's shocking to see that they just did away with welfare, there's no guaranteed welfare in the US. They have to make you work, workfare. In San Francisco you have to work 17 hours a week to get \$136 every two weeks. The theory

is that if you do this Workfare you'll learn a skill, you end up having a job, right, but the reality is that they lay off city workers in each of the municipalities and replace them with people getting Workfare. So you might have been getting \$10 a hour as a City employee, common in San Francisco, with full health benefits and retirement. They lay you off and then within three or four months you're doing the same job on Workfare with no benefits working for \$136 every two weeks. In San Francisco the cheapest apartment would be \$400 a month, so you basically have to do some underground work just to, you have to sell pot just to make it on Workfare. There's a new statistic that 70 per cent of the homeless are employed, but they just never make enough money to live."

EAST TIMOR CONGRESS

Ceu Brites is from the East Timor Relief Association. She's been in exile for 22 years.

"In 1998 East Timor is still under military control. We have to ask permission to move around. They used to use sticks but since the Dili massacre in 1991 they use gas. We are forced to sell our land because Tutu, Suharto's daughter, is selling this oil-rich land, our land, to multinationals to exploit it. We also have the rarest marble in the world. The health situation is very bad. We can send only two doctors to East Timor who can stay for just three months. Tuberculosis is rife because of a lack of treatment and expensive medicines.

But, since the East Timorese Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos Horta won the joint 1996 Nobel Peace Prize we have been able to organise more openly within countries in the Asia Pacific region.

In Lisbon this May '[98] we will hold the Timorese National Congress - like the African National Congress - to look forward to forming our own government. It could happen in just a few year's time."

SOUTH KOREA RIOT TACTICS

'Kwon' is from the group on Policy and Information Centre for Solidarity.

"The USA made South Korea a capitalist window. Because of North Korea's extreme communism, in South Korea there is still a national security law so we cannot have communism and we cannot resist the fundamental concept of capitalism. If we say we reject the capitalist concept we will be arrested. The Socialist Workers Associations existed a few years ago in the early '90s but this organisation was underground. The leaders, Paek Pae Oony and Park No Hae are now in jail. They will be there for their whole lives.

There was a general strike for two months last winter. There were many workers and students in the streets. In Seoul maybe 300,000 people were fighting against the government's globalisation programme. The biggest rally, the Rally for the Revision of the evil Labor Law and the Victory of the General Strike was held in Chongmyo Park. We fought in the street against the police. When the distance is far we throw the stones and burning bottles. When we are close to the police we use metal pipes. About 200 people were arrested. But the struggle was across the nation: in one region someone burned themselves. This is also the way of protesting in South Korea. All the leadership of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions cut their hair. Many people had a hunger strike in Myongdong Cathedral in the centre of Seoul. But the general strike failed.

After the financial crisis in December '97 the new president, Kim Tae Jung, was elected. He and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) imposed a new globalisation programme on the Korean people. The IMF plan has affected our salaries. Many people say their salaries have dropped and have not received them for several months. Korean capitalists said we must reduce our pay or face layoffs."

AZTLAN – A NEW NATION

Bobby used to be leader of the largest Chicano gang in Los Angeles, and spent fourteen years in prison, some in the notorious Marion control units where he was tortured, once spending eleven days with his hands cuffed behind his back. In prison he met Leonard Peltier, leader of the American Indian Movement who turned him into a revolutionary.

“I represent the Salaam Liberation Organisation, an independence movement in the south western part of the United States. The majority of the population in California, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Texas are indigenous. We are not Mexican, and we are not American, we want to form a new nation of which we are the majority and we call that Aztlan, because that was the name of it in the first place. Aztlan is where the Aztec people came and we are re-claiming that land. It’s our land, we’ve always been there, we’re not foreigners but we are treated as foreigners. The land used to belong to Mexico but they signed a treaty, which guaranteed the right of Mexican people to keep their land, language and culture - but all three of these have been violated. So

we are saying now we are living under an apartheid system - it is white, colonial rule, so we are asking to separate, there is no future for us in the United States.

We are denied education, denied equal rights on labour, denied the right to speak our own languages. We are not able to work or when we do work and we are still in poverty so we’ve got to steal to adequately feed our people. Our youth have been criminalised; 85 per cent of people in prison today are in there for selling marijuana or possessing small amounts. Then they created three strikes. One of my kids stole some balloney and he was caught, then he stole a car radio and was sent to prison. When he got out he didn’t have any money and they gave him really outrageous looking clothes to wear, so he stole a pair of Levi’s. Now he’s in prison for twenty five years for stealing balloney, a radio and some Levi’s.

Some of us in San Francisco worked for many many years to legalise marijuana, this way we would de-criminalise our youth. Most of our kids smoke pot, which I would rather have them do than cocaine. But no matter what, the government twisted and manipulated our arguments, so we realised we are bullshitting ourselves. If we fight for affirmative action, fight for housing, if we fight for all these little band aids we get nowhere, the only real way is to take the land from our own government and get rid of the United States of America. We can talk about free trade today, or immigrants tomorrow, but it’s pushing little

band aids while we die of haemorrhage because of the world system.

In 1992 our movement, the Movimiento Liberation de Nacional, the Independence Movement of Puerto Rico , the Black Panthers, the New African Peoples organisation, the Black Liberation Movement and white resisters of north America came together. We got Professor Francis Boil, a professor of international law to help us develop a document so we could prosecute the United States of America and dissolve the federal system, which was found guilty of genocide and committing human rights violations. Now there are groups like Food not Bombs and Earth First! who are joining us. This is not a racial thing - we need the white people who live in Aztlan as well.

We are exercising our legal right to self-determination to reclaim our land in violation of treaties and being guilty of genocide. We have to take the lead, and overthrow the United States to make the whole world safer. America is the monster, America doesn’t recognise the United Nations it doesn’t pay its bill, it dictates to it - so we need to form a new United Nations, and overthrow these governments over here in Europe also.

We are not pacifist organisation - you must understand our need to defend ourselves. Just a few months ago the police walked into our leaders house and in front of his mother shot their baby thirteen times. They are sending the same message they did to the American Indian

Movement. What I’m gonna tell you right now is so mind boggling. Two weeks ago we had a treaty between the Chicano gangs and the black gangs. In Los Angeles there’s now one gang with 20,000 members. Myself and Russell Means and Zack Delayrose from Rage Against The Machine, had 1,200 different gang members in one spot with Rage playing - these guys didn’t fight each other, and I told them to ask whose land is it - and they all shouted back ‘our land’.

We ain’t no political party, it’s a matter of you gotta do something fuckin’ now man - the rainforests are gone, the fish are floating on top of the water - we don’t have to get lab experts to figure out what the fuck is causing their death - they dead!

Recently, Mexico came to Los Angeles to play football with the United States. When the United States ran out on the field 93,000 started throwing debris and beer bottles at the American team, who soon found out that they are not the home team in Los Angeles. Two years ago I was in San Diego during the World Cup and same thing happened. When the American national anthem was played all the fans booed, some even urinated to the star, spangled banner. The reason for this hatred is because of the treatment the United States has given the indigenous population. When the Mexican national anthem came on it was very silent but not support for the Mexican government because the Mexican government has treated us the same as the US.”

ARGENTINIAN HUNGER STRIKE

Alejandro Demichelis, is the press secretary of CTERA, the Federation of Argentinian Teachers, an organisation with 220,000 members. They have been on a ‘rolling’ hunger strike outside the Argentinian Congress in the ‘White Tent of Dignity’ since April 2nd 1997. In an imaginative tactical alternative to an all-out strike, up to 50 different teachers are refusing food each month, protesting against massive World Bank-inspired cuts in education.

“The last few years has seen the privatisation of all public services of the country: water, rail, communications, gas. They are now trying to destroy public education. The state doesn’t give enough money to the provinces, so some departments have good high-quality education but others are without resources so they start with reducing salaries by up to 64 per cent. They closed some schools and some courses, so the conflict started hard with four huge demonstrations.

Different working times meant a simultaneous struggle, a normal strike, was not possible. Also, the mass media which is controlled by the government would say we are harming children’s education. So we decided to build a White Tent of Dignity in front of the congress.

We thought: ‘how many days will we be here? One week, one month?’ But this movement started growing and growing with the support of a big slice of society: the Mothers of the Disappeared, national and international artists, musicians, human rights organisations, environmental organisations, organisations against police repression. So our movement was a union of all different movements against repression and lack of justice.

Thousands of teachers and children came to the tent. At first the media was confused, they

asked themselves ‘what is this?’ Then they started giving support. They collected a petition of 1,200,000 calling for the Education Act. 200,000 people, including children, went on hunger strike for two days in support. Also 25 teachers go on hunger strike for 30 days at a time on a liquid diet. They are still at the tent because there has been no answer. 88 per cent of the Argentinians support this movement [in a survey by the National Science University], and 26 per cent have actively participated in the movement.

There have been more than fifty cultural activities. The last one was a rock concert and there were 50,000 people there. When Clinton came to Argentina we held a big march at night with torches. The most important ballet group in Argentina came to the tent. They are so important that streets around the tent were completely occupied. There was a football match in the street and the traffic was stopped. It was very funny.

There’s been five national strikes and eight marches against the government. One week they built tents in front of the local parliaments where different teachers made a one-week hunger strike. There was also solidarity from Paraguay, Chile, Brazil, and in Uruguay they made a ten-day hunger strike.

Despite everything, the Education Minister wrote a terrible Act inspired by the World Bank who want to give \$600m to the government in return for a Structural Adjustment Programme. We asked for an increase in taxes for the richest people and businesses in the country. Education and health are the last two sectors not to be privatised. In Argentina there are 250,000 children that are working when they should be at school. There is 20 per cent unemployment due to Structural Adjustment.

For a year people have been very worried about education, so that is a real victory. We hope that our law will be passed but if it isn’t we will keep on with the struggle. Before, the young people didn’t like the unions because of how the unions were run. But now they see there are honest, uncorrupted unions that would rather die fighting than die on their knees.”

KANATAKA STATE FARMERS

Professor Nanjundaswamy, 62, is a farmer and the president of the ten-million strong Karnataka State Farmers’ Association (KRRS). Their Gandhian-style brand of direct action has seen 50,000 members taking apart every brick of a Cargill’s building, and publicly burning a Kentucky Fried Chicken branch. He lives in Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka, the city with the most multinational corporate power in India and the only source of gold and silver.

“I have a farm, my family have been farming for centuries. We formed a farmers’ union at all state levels and we have an interstate committee of all India. The KRRS organised itself within the state. Non-farmers are not admitted, nor are members of other political organisations.

We believe in direct action and direct political methods. Our democratically elected representatives have failed us in India. We have lost confidence in all the political parties. The only alternative for people in the human democracy is to protect themselves with direct action. Thirty seven multinationals are in my city Bangalore and all 37 have been given free police protection by the state government.

Trade Related Intellectual Property rights [TRIPs] would mean peasant laws being changed according to American desires. In India I am challenging the government because we are planning to violate that law from day one. We would like a movement similar to the salt movement Gandhi launched against the British, and start selling our own indigenous seeds in all the streets. Whatever they do in Geneva could

not be implemented in India.

We have been successful in blocking the Act in India even though the government is ready to introduce a bill again. For example, W R Grace & Co is a notorious company which patented the Neem tree, a tree useful for farmers and Indian people. We have been using different parts of the tree and different preparations from the tree, for agriculture and medicine for centuries. Not a single tree grows in the US, yet they now have the patent on that tree. [The Euro Patent Office reversed this in March ‘98]

“The Multilateral Agreement on Investment would also be a disaster. It yields sovereign status to multinational corporations. They’d be able to sue sovereign governments. They can transfer anything to any other country because of cheap labour. Most of the Multinationals think it is more profitable to transfer their industries to countries who have laws which are very lenient.

The North and South has to work together whether it is fighting industrialisation, patents on life forms or patents on plants and seeds. The impact is not just on the South, the impact is global, it has an impact on the whole of humanity. There will be an erosion of biodiversity through TRIPs and technology.

The name given by Gandhi for non-violent civil disobedience, Satyagraha, literally means fight of truth. It is a non-violent fight. It’s about violating unjust laws and facing the consequences, being prepared to suffer for the cause to the extent of sacrificing one’s life. In no circumstances do you retaliate.

For example, when we targeted Kentucky Fried Chicken our activists didn’t run away. They sat on the street waiting for the police to arrive, were arrested and went to jail. We don’t disown what we have done - we say that we have done it, and done the right thing. The American ambassador insisted that I be arrested even though I wasn’t present at the event and I have been falsely charged with attempted murder. The case is still pending.”

CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE

Dave Bleakney works for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, one of the country’s more radical unions. He recounts the events leading to their three-week strike in December ’97.

“We were telling everyone that we’re going on strike so no-one was mailing anything - and then we didn’t go on strike. Post Offices were empty

and we’re all just sitting around talking and they were paying us. It really fucked them up and they didn’t know what to do - you could see them on TV saying we’re losing 25 million dollars a day and finally they started laying off people and then at that point the whole place went on strike.

It was beautiful, in Toronto alone four thousand people on the picket lines. There were no scabs this time, ‘cos last time we really put the run to scabs. In the ‘91 strike they had to hire helicopters to get the bosses out of the plant, we didn’t let anybody in or anybody out for a week. This time they thought they’re going to strike we’re just going to close the Post Office, we’re

not even going to try that this time.

We found that government and big business and employers had colluded behind closed doors. We had evidence, a memo from a meeting that the board of the Direct Mail Association had with the government minister responsible for the Post Office, and a representative of our employer. Basically laying out exactly what they were going to do to us.

It occurred to us that maybe we shouldn’t be targeting our employer, but these other fuckers too, right? We shut down major streets, and then closed the international Airport for a half-day. Hundreds of trucks were lined up inside

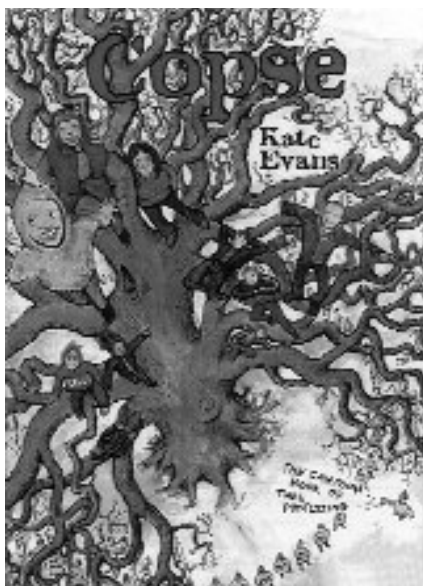
trying to get cargo out and outside trying to get cargo in. The drivers were getting out of the trucks and walking the line with us and wishing us best of luck.

Canadians are considered, I think, a very pliant, peaceful people, and just chase bears and that sort of thing you know - and play hockey of course. In the past two years, we’ve had ten city-wide general strikes in Ontario. A few years ago if you chanted ‘general strike’ people looked like you were crazy, the postal workers would do it because we just did that, but everyone would look at us like we’re nuts. Now people are picking it up.”



Copse - The cartoon book of tree protesting

by Kate Evans. Pub. Orange Dog 1998. £9.50



This is an eco-activist book with extra bite. It traces the story of protests up and down the country over the last five years in cartoons, words and photographs.

There are chapters on Solsbury Hill, the M11, Stanworth Valley, Newbury and more.

The book's strength is that author and cartoonist Kate Evans spent time living at most of these protests. The quality and accurate detail of her cartoons give her the credentials of a war artist. She has documented victories and defeats

with equal wit, charm and insight. She has drawn treehouses, walkways, lock-ons, and a variety of knots, dogs, cops and characters. Her work is sometimes humorous, sometimes heart-breaking, always politically astute.

The cartoons are accompanied by superb photographs by Andrew Testa (who clearly spent a fair amount of time up a tree himself) and a range of interviews with protestors the like you will not read anywhere else.

Evans interviewed over 50 people and her familiarity with the conditions they survived, and the nature of their protests, result in exchanges which cut through the usual media dross right to the heart of it. They are personal, frank, unself-conscious and fascinating accounts of every stage of a protest, from a tree-protestor over-coming the fear of climbing a tree, to how women piss in a harness up a tree, to terrifying accounts of struggles with security guards and bailiffs.

If you've never visited a protest site this self-published book will take you straight to the top of a tree someone's trying to cut down; if you have, this is your story, or the story of some of your mates. Buy it, don't blag it!

Copies will be distributed to bookshops price £9.50 but you can order the book direct for £10 including p&p from Orange Dog Productions, 7 The Green, Biddestone, Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7DG.

Sam Beale



"No Boundaries: new Travellers on the road (outside of England)"

by Alan Dearling

Pub. Enabler 1998. £9.50 pb. ISBN: 0952331632



Follow up to last years popular A Time to Travel about new travellers, by the same author. This book centres on slightly different aspects of the scene, that of British travellers outside of the UK.

The book is comprised of differing accounts of people with alternative lifestyles who are exploring and living in, ostensibly the world, but what is mainly included is centred throughout Europe. It is a wonderful assortment of first hand experiences, strange tales and weird doodles.

The accounts included are by people from all walks of life. There is a couple who having watched their children grow up and leave home,

decided to make their dream come true and, buying a truck, busked their way around Europe. Nearly a year later they found that their missions had been so successful, they were only half a ton down from their original budget (if only). A member of the Dubious Sound System relates his trauma at putting on parties in Eastern Europe, being ordered to do a gig in Bulgaria at the request of the Mafia and then being hauled off the decks for not playing their preferred mode of Euro-pop and that old favourite DISCO by Ottawa. Scary stuff!

One contributor recounts his joy on finding his disappeared twin brother after leaving the army only to lose him shortly afterwards in a car crash in Spain. He professes his envy on missing out of the free, relaxed lifestyle his brother had been living as a nomad traveller prior to his death. There is also an extended account of the origins of the autonomous state of Christiania in Denmark, and its significant impact on all who are connected with it.

The only real drawback to this anthology is the one

article included on life in Goa which irritates to say the least. A whinge about having to pay when eating with Indian families (I'm sure it must have broken the Bank!) and attempting to find somewhere in the area without tourists and the sea being full of waste, grates more than somewhat. The phrase "part of the problem" went through my head as I read it.

The book as a whole though, is quite a light hearted look at a new era of travelling. It shows both sides of the coin, the freedom of the road, waking up in a different country, but also what happens if you break down in southern Italy in a Leyland truck with no access to the necessary parts (apart from in the good ole UK) or making the big mistake of parking on a dried up riverbed. On the whole it made me want to throw off my shackles, get a truck and make a run for it. As the book so presciently points out by quoting Digger, Gerrard Winstanley: "None ought to be Lord over another, but the earth be free for everyone to live upon."

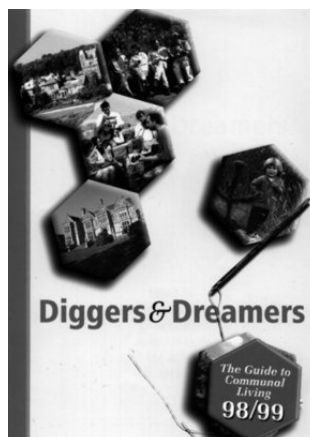
Nicky Bengé



DIGGERS & DREAMERS 98/99

The Guide To Communal Living

D&D Publications £9.50 ISBN 0951494546



If you've been considering joining an existing alternative community or starting your own, Diggers & Dreamers: A Guide to Communal Living is a good place to start. It's a combination of articles raising issues of communal living far beyond the 'who's had my milk?' variety, and an impressive directory of existing communities and support organisations.

If you thought the idea of communal living went out with tank-tops; that any such communities surviving in the 90s must be occupied by diehard hippies/religious freaks or that such a life means a cop-out carefree life of ease, D&D will put

you straight. The publication is littered with a healthy dose of realism and humour borne out of the experience of its editors and contributors.

The current edition features articles including a Rough Guide style cycle around modern Kibbutzim; a research-based exploration of the growth of 'intentional communities' in Britain; a piece on a Scottish community planning to create their own burial ground; another on the Pure Genius land squat in Wandsworth; and How To Do It giving sound advice on setting up a community. The articles are interspersed with relevant book reviews and humorous bits and bobs.

Communities listed in the directory write their own biographies and the editors' hands-off approach to this section of the publication make each group's intentions and lifestyles very clear. A surprising and fascinating read.

Back issues of Diggers & Dreamers and a variety of related titles are available from Edge of Time, a marketing and distribution co-op which has grown out of D&D: BCM Edge, London WC1N 3XX.

Sam Beale



Che Guevara - A Revolutionary Life

by Jon Lee Anderson pub. Bantam Press

Paperback £12.99 ISBN 0553406647



The story of Che Guevara's life has become a mythological puzzle of almost infinite proportions since his assassination in the Bolivian jungle on October 9 1967. After working on the project for five years, Jon Lee Anderson has successfully pieced together almost everyday of the 39 years Guevara lived.

He gained co-operation from many unprecedented sources including present day Cuban officials, Che's protegee and close friend Orlando Borrego, and Che's widow, Aleida March, who had never previously spoken of her late husband to any writer.

This book allows us to see far beyond the emblematic image of Guevara which has adorned bedroom walls and T-shirts throughout the world. It tells the true story of a man whose ideals,

beliefs and self-sacrifices were so strong that he not only wanted to change the world with a new Socialism, but both successfully and unsuccessfully guided repressed nations to change their own worlds in the process.

Indeed, the reader becomes privy to many personal and intimate details of Che's life. How, disguising himself as a Uruguayan businessman in order to enter Bolivia undetected, he pulled out every hair on his head. At his farewell dinner, he received a kiss from his five-year old daughter Aliusha, who believed that he was a friend of her 'papa'. After the embrace, Aliusha ran to her mother's side and said in a loud whisper: "Mama, I think that old man's in love with me." Guevara overheard the comment and left the room with tears in his eyes. It was to be the last time he would see his wife and children.

I confess to knowing very little about Che Guevara's life before reading this book, but I have come to the conclusion that Jon Lee Anderson's monumental work will become a definitive piece of evidence in the history of Latin American politics and a personal inspiration to freedom fighters everywhere.

"Let me say, with the risk of appearing ridiculous, that the true revolutionary is guided by strong feelings of love. It is impossible to think of an authentic revolutionary without this." Che Guevara 1967

Dave Holman

**Head Mix Collective - Birthrights**

Tape format £5.50 (incl p&p) CD format £8.50 (incl p&p)
45, Golf Drive, Hollingdean, Brighton BN1 7HZ
Cheques payable to 'Head Mix Collective'



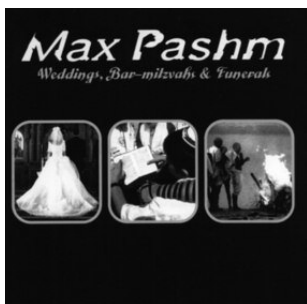
Birthrights is the first full CD release from the much hailed HMC, and in keeping with their bubbling live performances is an upbeat heady brew. Just

take a look at this line up will ya. Penny whistles, fiddles, harmonicas, didgeridoos, bagpipes, guitars, banjos, drums, melodicas, flutes and accordians. Phew! Must be some tour bus this posse get around in. Flying musicianship and on-it political lyrics render this fermenting concoction a fezzie folk-funk classic. Mixing up the dance genres in true good time stylee, Head Mix's bumping

performances should be listed as a three line whip in the festival programme. Score the album first and roar yer lungs out as you reel.

**Max Pashm - Weddings, Bar-mitzvahs & Funerals**

CD format £10 from Max Tel: 01273 278 022



Havin' it Hebrew style, with rolling percussion, middle eastern melodies and a rollicking Hasidic hard house beat. Meet Max's passion even halfway and you'll be bouncing 'cross the floor, punching the air and shouting

'Kosher mate! Kosher!'. Catch him at one of his electric gigs and you'll be gawking at Pashm's ability to dive from one instrument to another, soloing over the samples with consummate ease. Weddings, Bar-mitzvahs & Funerals is the first CD from Max, a former new Traveller living on sites around Glastonbury. His blending of Hebrew roots with upfront dance beats bears fruit in some of the most imaginative hard house yer likely to come across on any dance floor, whether it be wedding, barmitzvah, funeral, circumcision or club.

**Sounds From The Acoustic Ground - Compilation**

CD format £3 from Continental Drifts, Hilton Grove, Hatherley Mews, Walthamstow, London E17 4QP



Four top tunes from four of the finest. Baghdaddies, Head Mix Collective, Tragik and Tarantism are the creme-de-la-creme of world influenced festival

dance music. At three quid you've just got to score this salivating opportunity to check these bands. The first three are all reviewed on this page in connection with their own releases so no more need be said. The fourth band, Tarantism, are seriously funky celts, reeling and jiggling their way through uplifting funk-folk cruises. Anyone whose had the genuine soulful pleasure to have seen these bands at a fezzie will have found themselves in a full and throbbing tent, the tent pegs straining against lift-off with only partial success.

**Theo and Shannon - Seize the Day**

Tape format £5 Big Hill Music, 53, Pendragon Park, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DU

If you like yer music folksy, soothing and yet political, Theo and Shannon's tunesmithery will go down like an organic potato pie on a cold Winter's day. When they're not on one of their extensive tours, this duo live at the bender 'village' at Kingshill in Somerset; subject of many a planning struggle covered in previous SQUALL's. Their sweet harmonies and gentle melodies belie the hard political realities they articulate. Modern folk music inna soulful style.

**TRAGIC ROUNDABOUT - Peggy Cooper**

Tape Format. £5 from Sandy, 24 College Gardens, Brighton BN2 1HP Cheques payable to 'S. Cameron'



In the SQUALL office itself, five bods glued to their VDU's were prised from silent concentration to holler and hop around the office floor. Such is the the intoxicating power of Tragic's middle eastern, clarinet and banjo fired dance music. Jocularly usurped the serious

Within 10 minutes of putting this tape on, a telephone caller ringing the SQUALL office was demanding to know who the authors were. "Why, it's the legendary Tragic Roundabout," the SQUALL bod said just as the Tragic's Track 2 cover version of 'The Wombles' kicked up in the background. "Where do I get hold of a copy and who do I make the cheque for," he urgently enquired. We never found out why he'd called in the first place. Tragic Roundabout do that to folk.

side of life as the office was temporarily transported to one of the numerous late night Tragic sessions you might discover at an impromptu bar on the more cultural fringes of a festival. Yer journos were havin it all over the office. Excellant musicians, nutters with passion, revelry soaked....whatever you call em, this Brighton based group don't mind a bit, they're away with the drunken fairies, lost in melody and rhythms and thinking of nothing but successfully soliciting your pure merriment.

**THE BAGHDADDIES - Last Tango in Babylon**

CD Format, £10 from Continental Drifts, Hilton Grove, Hatherley Mews, Walthamstow, London E17 4QP



To a shot of East European gypsy music add a dose of Jewish celebratory Klesmer swing, a sprig of middle eastern melodies, a spoonful of scar beats and copious splashes of funky jazz and you've got the cocktail of revelry and consummate musicianship that is The

Baghdaddies. For those who've reeled and rolled infront this much loved festival band, 'Last Tango in Babylon' came as a welcome succour from the winter blues. Based in Newcastle, the Baghdaddies' passion for live performances at festivals both large and small, country and urban, has acquired them a reputation for omnipotence. Of all their gigs that I've ever come across, I have never yet seen them fail to unite young, old, black, white, well-off and impoverished audiences in one forget-ter-troubles communal rollick. If an observer from outer space found themselves at a Baghdaddies gig, their spaceship debrief would surely conclude that all human beings jump about wearing a grin stretching from one lobe to the other. Essential medicine for homo sapiens everywhere.

**Dubmerge - El Dente**

Tape format £5, Dubmerge, PO Box 12, Worcester, WR5 1YQ.



Hailing from Worcestershire, Dubmerge are the festival doyens of funky hip-hop. The aca-taca lyric deliveries are simply the most rhythmically tight speed-rapping I've heard

coming from these shores. El Dente is a more dubby follow up to their excellent Wake Up CD reviewed in issue 14. Brace yerself then for more keenly conscious political observation, pure funk cream bass lines, and roast-crisp drumming. Despite my best intentions, I always miss a thousand good bands at festivals. I never miss Dubmerge however. Funky as fuck...and some might argue funkier still.

Reviews by DJ Seed



In-Sites

web sites review by Annette Hed

Absolutely everything you could possibly want to know about genetic farming and how to fight it. SHAG (Superheroes Against Genetix) have been regular stars of the Squall Underground Update website page in recent months, their most recent protest being the dumping of a big pile of bullshit on the doorstep of Monsanto (the genetic farming company who first manipulated soya).

The site is easy to get around and looks good. There's a history of genetic farming, names and addresses of the major playing companies involved and details of forthcoming actions etc. (the leaked internal documents from Monsanto make interesting reading).

Humour and imagination run throughout the site meaning that it's not just dry information (see the amusingly captioned photos of actions). There's also a debating room and a list of useful newsgroups.

www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag

Bringing the underground dance sounds of London to the world, the interFACE pirate page broadcasts live between 6pm

and 2am (British time) every weekday and all day at weekends. It boasts regular sets by pirate radio 'name' DJs and when they're not going out live you can always listen to the recorded sessions from the night before. There's even a box in the Real Player viewer where you can see the DJ at work (tough luck though trainspotters, it's not a good enough quality picture to see the labels!!). You can also leave it running while visiting other sites. Elsewhere on the site there's a chat room and a chance to show yourself to other visitors by sending in a passport size photo. Judging by the current selection though you'd only want to do this if you were 14 and living in Vancouver etc! You will need the Real Player plug in, which if you haven't got it already can be downloaded from the pirate radio site.

www.pirate-radio.co.uk

On a more web-based tip three sites that have caught Annette's eye recently are:

www.head-space.com is a great looking site which really makes the most

of the tools available these days. Although it has a bias towards and looking at the state of new media, there's plenty of interesting stuff for those who think Java is a place in Indonesia.

Set up as a kind of creative bulletin board Head say: "We've sold out in our day jobs and this is our chance to give something back."

Amongst the design for design's sake there's stuff about crop circles, fractals, Club 414 in Brixton (bastion of 'avin it acid trance) plus an interactive story.

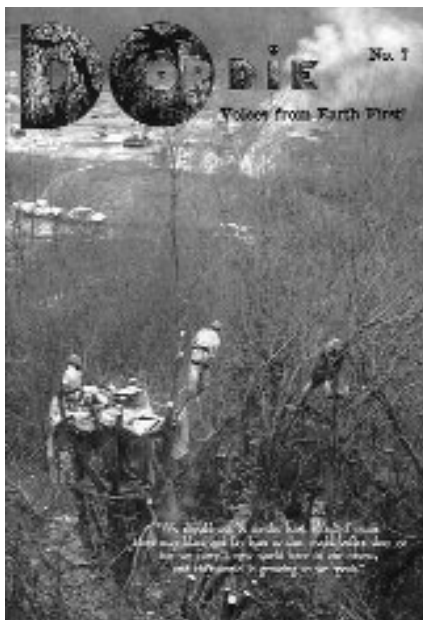
www.thenvelope.com is another site that really uses the medium to it's full capacity thenvelope is again design-led with a cyberpunk attitude. 'Two Logos in the Garage' sees logos eating each other in a battle for supremacy while 'this is an illegal message' looks at clicking on things as a lifestyle choice! 'Citizen 4.5' ("democracy isn't a right-it's the law") presents you with a mock up of how internet referendums could be a part of life in the future (and how they could be just as trivial and meaningless as they are

now): "The National Condiment advocacy group has recently expressed outrage after the president's use of French Dijon Mustard at state dinners. As of March 15th he will use a domestic brand. Which brand should he use?"

And there's plenty more where that came from. Be warned though you will need a Java enabled browser with a shockwave plug-in and a bit of patience!!

<http://cadre.sjsu.edu/meta/> Who knows what kind of subversive/ obsessive /genius/fool (delete where applicable) is behind this? One thing seems to be sure, the hosts at Cadre educational establishment in San Jose probably don't. Clicking around this masterpiece of wierdness is compelling - just in the hope that somewhere there's an explanation! With a home page that may or may not be based on Microsoft's home page covered in 'xxxxxxx's you begin a journey clicking on the random links hidden amongst the nonsensical textual graffiti littered over the home pages of the Lycos search engine or Macromedia (basically any large company on the net). There's hoax links like <http://microsoft.com/military/> and <http://www.psispy.com/para/> or the one that offers "Internet surfer's guide to hacking" which takes you to a spoof page full of syringes and the message that you have just downloaded a virus. One 'crime' link will take you to <http://members.xoom.com/fyhs/> which could be real or maybe not, either way it's all pretty dry humorous cynical stuff and not a little disturbing!

alt.press/alt.press/alt.press/alt.press



If you are the kind of reader who feels patronised or bored with the "we should be/do..." style of some of the underground's outpourings then **Do or Die No. 7** (voices from Earth First!) is for you. A 166 page, A5, b/w book, DoD is not, and doesn't try to be, representative of the ecological direct action scene; one brief glance through its pages, however, and it becomes clear that it may well be the most comprehensive collection of voices within it.

The book, as ever, is divided into three sections: These Islands, Other Islands and Odds and Sods. UK articles are many and include 'No escape from Patriarchy', presenting an honest and personal female

appraisal of male dominance at protest sites and of male/female site dynamics. An attack on Undercurrents in 'Lights, Camera... Activism' may not be fair but the points raised are questioning, intelligent and apply, more generally, to the whole issue of recording actions and the spectacle that these images create. As the prominent video recordists of DIY culture, Undercurrents naturally feature prominently. Along similar lines is 'Personality Politics' concerning the Spectacularisation of Fairmile, but here the involvement of mainstream media, and activists reactions to it, are analysed.

'Farmageddon' is a comprehensive look at industrial agriculture: its history, practices and global ramifications. The oil industry, 'the heart of the beast', comes under intense scrutiny and is followed by 'Putting a spanner in the oil industry's works' which includes a map detailing the oil industry's UK operations.

Other Islands contains reports from a squatted village in Spain (yes - a whole village), an article on Brazilian land struggles, first-hand impressions of Zapatista communities, pixies reclaiming Ireland and more.

Throughout the book, investigative articles are well-researched and well-sourced, providing useful histories, global ramifications, local tie-ins and activist information. Interspersed with photos, cartoons, reviews, news roundups, contacts, further reading and letters, DoD is a must. It contains very little rhetoric, has no answers and doesn't pretend to. Do or Die is the information upon which

to act. A four issue subscription to Do or Die, is available for £8 (UK) and £10 (overseas) from Do or Die, c/o PO Box 2971, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 2TT, UK.

For those who like their anarchism in a historical context, or who perhaps see themselves as DIY activists but view the concept of anarchism, and all the baggage that brings, with scepticism, Black Flag will be an enjoyable eye-opener. Issue 213 covers more home news than is usual with GAndALF, the Irish peace process, opencast mining, prostitution, new labour, asylum seekers and prisoners of conscience. Where Black flag always excels is in its coverage of international news although, due to an enlarged home news section, issue 213 is more sparse on this front than usual. Issue 213 covers an excellent, interesting and comprehensive history of anarchy in Chile; beginning with the formation of the Chilean Section of the First International in 1872 and bringing us through victories and persecution to anarcho-syndicalism in 1997. Economics, sexual politics and new labour's flirting with New York Mayor Giuliani all come under scrutiny.

Intelligent and concise, Black Flag is in touch with the roots of anarchy and seeks to contextualise current actions and events as part of an anarchist evolution. This is good stuff and provides information and opinion from the black flag brigade without the straight-jacket intellectualising and impenetrable language often associated with old-school anarchists. Black Flag (A4, 36pp) costs

£1.50 from: BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX (suggested 50p p&p).

Most Squall readers should be familiar with Corporate Watch, if you're not; become so. Issue 7, Spring 1998 furthers CW's growing reputation as an authoritative, substantial and solid information base. Exposing the usual multitude of vested interests, corporate irresponsibility and the downright greed of rampant capitalism, Corporate Watch 7 is an impressive 40-page, A4 tome. The cover story focuses on the greenfield building programme planned by the Housebuilders Federation. Other features include dodgy American nuclear dealings in Bulgaria; a comprehensive look at the Asian economic crisis; an enlightening and tentatively inspiring look at co-operative models of economic development and 'Selling starvation' in which various multinational's increasing monopoly of the world's food sector means that six companies control 70 per cent of the world's grain. Campaign updates are thorough and this issue's 'DIY toolkit' looks at the advantages of taking direct action to your least favourite company's AGM ie "You're unlikely to get cold, wet and muddy... you might get a good spread of food and drink and you're very unlikely to be arrested." Interspersed with news, views, contacts, reviews and further reading, Corporate Watch is highly recommended. Corporate Watch costs £3 (plus 50p p&p) from Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ.

Reviews by Jelly Bean

www.squall.co.uk



CONTACTS

Most of the groups listed below are run by volunteers on non-existent budgets. If you want information, or any of the publications mentioned, make sure you send the required money, an SAE plus as much as you can afford as donation.

Advisory Service for Squatters (ASS) - Gurus of the squatting world. Open for advice, practical and legal at 2 St. Pauls Rd, London N1 2QN from 2-6pm every week day. Tel: 0171 359 8814.

ALF Supporters Group - produce newsletter supporting Animal Liberation Front. BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

Anarchist Black Cross - produce newsletter. One of the best prisoner support groups with excellent lists for letter writing. *Anarchist Black Cross*, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24 0LR.

ANIMAL (animal rights and green issues in capitalist society) - "Nobody else publishes news like this... in this promising new magazine". PO Box 467, London E8 3QX. Animobile: 0956 506946. ANemail: animal_magazine@hotmail.com

Arkangel - aims to help the animal liberation movement, produce an informative magazine setting up various projects to help local and international animal liberation groups. To make a donation or become a local contact: *Arkangel*, BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX.

BAVA (British Anti-Vivisection Association) - all voluntary, all monies used to fight vivisection. BAVA, PO Box 82, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1YF.

Camcorder Action Network - centre for alternative media. Help produce Undercurrents news video. Tel: 01865 203 663.

Campaign Against The Arms Trade (CAAT) - publishes information and co-ordinates vigils and demonstrations against arms sales and the secrecy of who's buying: 11, Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ. Tel: 0171 281 0297. Fax: 0171 281 4369. email: caat@gn.apc.org http://www.gn.apc.org/caat

Campaign for Freedom of Information - upholding the rights of all to freely access information which affects their lives. Working for legislative changes, public accountability and against dodgy official secrecy. Suite 102, 16 Baldwin Gdns, London EC1N 7RJ. Tel: 0171 831 7477. Fax: 0171 831 7461.

Centre for Alternative Technology - "tools and devices which work with nature rather than against it". Seven acre visitor complex where you can see sustainable technologies and practices in action. *Machynlleth*, Powys, Wales SY20 9AZ. Tel: 01654 702400. Fax: 01654 702782. email: cat@gn.apc.org http://www.foe.co.uk/CAT

Conscious Cinema - Monthly video round-up of protests and related social justice campaigns. PO Box 2679, Brighton BN2 1UJ. 01273 278018 email: Cinema@Phreak.Intermedia.Co.UK.

Contraflow - free/donation anarchist mag offering info on actions, prisoners, diary and more.. *Contraflow*, 56A Info Shop, 56 Crompton St, London SE17. Fax: 0171 326 0353.

Conviction - Campaigning group, support and help for prisoners falsely accused/imprisoned. Produce newsletter, free for prisoners - 75p to all else, stuffed full with injustice, prison reform, Criminal Cases Review Commission. PO Box 522, Sheffield S1 3FF.

Counter Information - free/

donation newsletter produced by an independent collective aiming to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. Help with distribution and news-gathering welcome. *c/o transmission*, 28 King St, Glasgow G1 5QP

Do or Die - Earth First! publication packed full of excellent reading - well worth investigating. Available from, *South Downs EF!* Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton, E. Sussex.

Earth First! - "No Compromise in Defence of Mother Earth." Autonomous direct action eco collectives. Seriously committed. Growing numbers of groups appearing all over the country. Their "Action Update" contains information on actions and local groups. *Earth First!* PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. Tel: 0171 561 9146.

Eco-Trip - touring information, workshops, performance, cafe, NVDA. Tel: 0171 737 0100.

Ecstasy.org - Info, advice, testing database and exciting things about this psychoactive drug. Website: <http://www.w.ecstasy.org>

Endangered Species - Socially and environmentally active group in Mid Wales. Anti-CJA, pro justice. Meetings, networking, raising local awareness. 14 Great Oak Street, Llanidloes, Powys, Mid Wales.

Exodus Collective - 'A movement of Jah People'. Seriously active collective creating community, housing and regularly putting on top dos. Bringing life back to Luton. *Long Meadow Community Farm*, Chilton Cross, Sundown Rd, Luton Beds. Tel: 01582 508 936.

Faslane Peace Camp - Permanent peace camp outside Clyde submarine base, home of Trident submarines. Produce newsheet *Faslane Focus*, land rights, actions and anti-nuclear information. Donation to: *Faslane Peace Camp*, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. Tel: 01436 820901.

Festival Eye - An excellent mag that keeps on running. A must at £2.00 (plus A4 SAE) from: BCM Box 2002, London WC1N 3XX.

FIN - Free Information Network. Local activists, motivators and information gatherers. Newsheets published as and when containing up to date information, festival and party news, events, meetings, campaigns etc. SAE and donation to your local branch.

AberdeenFIN - 36 Buchan Rd, Torry, Aberdeen AB1 3SW.

CamFIN - c/o Arjuna, 12 Mill Road Cambridge CB1 2AD.

GUILFIN - PO Box 217, Woodbridge Meadows, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1WS. FAX: 0148 320 3212. email: guilfin@quarks.co.uk <http://www.quarks.co.uk/guilfin>

MerseyFIN - PO Box 110, Liverpool L69 6AU.

MotherClan - 29 Silvertown Crescent, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9NH.

NeverNeverFIN - 8 Campbell Rd, Southsea, Hants.

NottFIN - c/o The Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham.

ShefFIN - The Ecology Co, 199 Crookes Valley Rd, Sheffield.

WalsallFIN - c/o 17 Newhall House, Newhall Street, Cladmore, Walsall WS1

3DY.

Children'sFIN - c/o Brambles Housing Co-op, 82 Andover Street, Burngreave, Sheffield S3 9EH.

Free Tibet Campaign (Formerly Tibet Support Group) - 9 Islington Green, London N1 2XH. Tel: 0171 359 7573.

Freedom Network - Dishes out info on NVDA actions and events. PO Box 9384, London SW9. Main Tel: 0171 978 8214. Action line: 0171 793 7343. e-mail info@freedomnet.demon.co.uk <http://www.freedomnet.demon.co.uk>

Friends, Families and Traveller's Support Group - FFTSG "All citizens of a free society should have the right to travel and the right to stop without fear of persecution because of their lifestyle." Monitoring CJA, legal observation, advice and information. SAE and money to this on-the-case and vital group: Top Floor, 33 High St, Glastonbury BA6 9HT. Tel: 01458 832371.

Green Line - 'Aiming to empower people to take more control of their lives'. Eco-info/action magazine by Catalyst Collective. Produced monthly, 20A4 pages of news, environment, actions, campaigns, animal rights, roads, corporate watch, reviews, diary and more. Well worth £1. Donations gratefully accepted: PO Box 5, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0YT. Tel: 01726 850500.

Gypsy Council for Education, Culture, Welfare and Civil Rights - campaigning for gypsies. 8, Hall Road, Averley, Essex. Tel: 01708 868986.

HHH Video Mag - non-profit making anarcho video co-operative. Currently available: *Anarchy* in Hackney, film of a corking week of events in the borough. Includes: Ken Loach interview, anarchist football and McDonald's picket. HHH, PO Box 888, 10 Martello St, London E8 3PE. email: HHH@tarakan.demon.co.uk

Homeless Information Project - HIP. Southwark's information service for squatters. Practical and legal advice, CJA, information, meetings. Mon - Fri 4-7pm at 612 Old Kent Rd, London SE15. Tel: 0171 277 7639.

Hunt Saboteurs Association - national umbrella for local groups. Very active on all fronts. Action and information - get involved. For info on local group near you: HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX. Tel: 01273 622 827. email: hsa@gn.apc.org

Institute of Race Relations (IRR) - educational charity. Collects and disseminates information about racism throughout the world and publishes the excellent *European Race Audit* quarterly: 2-6 Leeke Street, Kings Cross Road, London WC1 9HS. Tel: 0171 837 0041.

Justice? - committed activist networking group and producers of 'Schnews', wiked weekly newsheet keeping us all up to date with happenings as they happen. c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex. Tel: 01273 685913. e-mail: Schnews@brighton.co.uk web: <http://www.chuzzz.co.uk/schnews/>

Labour Campaign for Traveller's Rights - Fighting for traveller's rights and particular emphasis on right to sites, wider definitions of travellers, grants and release of unused Govt land. 84 Bankside Street, Leeds LS8 5AD.

Tel: Jenny Smith 01275 838 910. Paul Winter 01132 486746.

The Law - 'progressive but interesting'. Radical legal newspaper written by law students who know what is what and who is who, taking a critical look at the legal system. Freely distributed. For details of subscription: PO Box 3878, London SW12 9ZE. Tel: 0181 673 0062. Fax: 0181 673 3666.

League Against Cruel Sports - Campaigning against hunting, shooting and other unspeakable pursuits. Publish *Wildlife Guardian* quarterly. 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG. Tel: 0171 403 6155. Fax: 0171 403 4532. email: league@computers.com <http://www.lightman.co.uk/lacs/>

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group - provide legal observers whomonitor police actions on demos and attend related court cases. Offer training and support. Essential service always in need of volunteers and funds. BM Box HAVEN, London WC1X 3NN. Tel: 0181 802 9804.

Letslink UK - a network of Local Exchange Trading Systems based on the barter of locally available skills and services for non-currency based credits. Local group contacts, workshops, literature and advice available. 61 Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9DH. Tel: 01985 217871.

Liberty - National Council for Civil Liberties. Mainly media and lobbying. *Liberty*, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA. Tel: 0171 403 3888.

London Animal Action - campaigning on local animal rights issues. Organise actions against fur trade, animal circuses etc. BCM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. Tel: 0171 278 3068.

Making Waves - newly formed, dedicated to implementing practical measures to prevent animal and environmental abuse on land and sea. Involved in NVDA to challenge animal and environmental abuse as they occur. PO Box 13, Ottery St Mary, East Devon, EX11 1ZD. Tel/Fax: 01404 811006.

McLibel Support Campaign - Supports one of the stances of the century. Information dispersal to the wider jury. c/o London Greenpeace, 5, Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. Tel: 0171 713 1269. McSpotlight - Web: <http://www.mcspotlight.org>

Movement against Monarchy (Ma'm) - 'coordinating popular opposition to the monarchy'. PO Box 14672, London, E9 5UQ.

National Homeless Alliance (formerly CHAR) - leading, supporting and co-ordinating a nationwide membership of single homelessness agencies. 5-15 Cromer Street, London WC1H 8LS. Tel: 0171 833 2071. Fax: 0171 278 6685. email: NHA@home-all.org.uk

No Opencast - operates as a network of community groups and national organisations opposed to opencast mining, organising actions. NO OPENCAST, 190 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL. Tel: 0181 767 3142 or 0181 672 9698.

Oilwatch - connects communities and organisations in tropical countries affected by oil exploitation. *Oilwatch*

tel: 0171 435 5000. email: helena@gaiafund.gn.apc.org or *Oilwatch direct* in Ecuador: tegantai@oilwatch.ecx.ec.

Parents Action Network - *Brambles Housing Co-op*, 82 Andover St, Sheffield S3 9EH. Tel: 0114 279 7164

Peace Brigades International (PBI) - an international organisation committed to the non-violent resolution of conflicts and respect for human rights. It sends teams of 'accompaniment' volunteers to areas of conflict which acts as a deterrent to violations of human rights. PBI tel: 0171 636 5564.

Ploughshares 2000 - 'the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal under international law' For more info: *Trident Ploughshares 2000*, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1NR. Tel: 01603 611953. Fax: 01603 666879. Web site: <http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/>

Ploughshares Support Network - committing acts of disarmament using household hammers. Inspired to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah (2:4): "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares", Ploughshares women have carried out over 50 disarming actions on warheads/planes worldwide. Box X, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

Public Law Project - national charity aiming to improve access to public law remedies like judicial reviews for those who can't afford them/are discriminated against. Recent cases include Kingshill and the precedential Wealden District Council decision. 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR. Tel: 0171 467 9800

Radical Routes - a network of co-ops supporting each other to create a sustainable co-operative world. RR @ Cornerstone, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LA7 3HB. *Ethical Investment Office*, 28 Hamstead Road, Hockley, Birmingham B19 1DB. Tel: 0121 551 1132. Fax: 0121 515 3524. email: radical@globalnet.co.uk

Reclaim Europe - umbrella organisation for the co-ordination of environmental, human and animal rights campaigns and events at the Eurosummit/June '98. *Reclaim Europe!* 115a Jerningham road, London SE14 5NH. Tel: 0171 639 3154. email: euro@globalnet.co.uk

Reclaim The Streets - Highway hold-ups 90s-stylee. Street parties and anti-car culture actions planned for the summer. RTS, PO Box 9656, Finsbury Park, London N4 4JY. Tel: 0171 281 4621. email: rts@gn.apc.org

Release - offer confidential advice and carry out research on drugs and the law. 10 - 6 Mon-Fri advice line: 0171 729 9904. At other times: 0171 603 8654.

SHAG (Super Heroes Against Genetix) - providing information and actions against all aspects of genetic farming. Web site: www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag

Small World - non-profit organisation committed to giving media support to campaign groups working on environmental and social justice issues. Produce campaign videos and provide cam-corder training. *Small World Productions*, 1b Waterlow Rd, London N19 5NJ. Tel: 0171 272 1394

Statewatch - hard copy mag keeping abreast of European civil liberties and security service manoeuvres. Reliable to the max. Their website is also an essential research site. <http://www.statewatch-off@geo2.Poptel.org.uk>

Stonehenge Campaign - "Stonehenge belongs to you and me." Regular newsletters, festies, information, listings and meetings. Donation and SAE to Stonehenge Campaign, 99 Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RX.

Taking Liberties - newsletter produced by the Anarchist Black Cross, a national network of autonomous groups who support prisoners and their families. c/o London ABC, 121 Railton Road, London SE24 OLR. Tel: 0171 274 6655. Fax 0171 326 0353.

Transform (The Campaign for Effective Drug Policy) - 1 Roselake House, Hudds Vale Road, Bristol BS5 7HY. Tel: 0117 939 8052. email: dannykushlick@compuserve.com

The Land is Ours - Campaign for land rights and free access: Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ. Tel: 01865 722016.

Third Battle of Newbury - the battle rages on. PO Box 5520, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7YW. Tel: 01635 45544. Information line: 01635 550552.

Travellers' School Charity - provides a mobile school and distance learning for home-educating travelling children. £5 'friend' subscriptions, newsletters and details of available resources from: TSC PO Box 36, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6EW.

UNCAGED - radical anti-vivisection pressure group, working to keep anti-vivisection in the public consciousness. Campaign resources are available to all as well as information leaflets. UNCAGED, 14 Ridgeway Road, Sheffield S12 2SS. Tel/Fax 0114 253 0020. email: uncaged.anti-viv@dial.pipex.com Website: <http://www.uncaged.co.uk>

Undercurrents - quarterly alternative video magazine. Features, direct action, anti-roads, campaigns, topical eco-issues. Back copies and Undercurrents 5 now available from Undercurrents Productions, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG. Tel: 01865 203663. Fax 01865 243562. email: underc@gn.apc.org

West Country Activist - Free newsletter presenting info on local protests, local networks and groups, diary dates and more. West Country Activist, c/o PO Box 426, Bath, BA1 2ZD

Women Working Worldwide - A network for women organising as workers in different parts of the world. WWW, Centre for Employment Research, St Augustine's Building, Lower Chatham St, Manchester M15 6BY.

56A Info Shop - News action and meeting place, books, teashop, records, comics. Squatting, counter culture and lots of small press stuff and all of it behind a wonderful community wholefood store - check it out. Open Mon, Thurs, Fri 3-7pm. 56 Crampton Street, London SE17.

121 Centre - Cafe, bookshop, meeting place, advice for all those interested in squatting, women's issues, unemployment and the state of the nation. Run by squatters at 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24. Tel: 0171 274 6655.



Nick Cobbing

The State SQUALL's in

So, here's the bit where we attempt to explain why we haven't had an issue out for a year and warble on about how tough it is at the bottom... Well, the truth is that we've tried to sort out the structure of the magazine and our finances. As it happens, 'though, any attempts to 'normalise' the running of the project well.... er... metamorphosed. We tried to become a 'proper' business, collect receipts and all that. It didn't happen. We tried to go to bed at night as well but that didn't happen either. We even tried to get up in the morning...

Ultimately, it has become clear that you've got to work with what you've got, and what we've got is a bunch of committed but skint bods who'd love to have bread in the larder and do SQUALL but now realise that old mother Hubbard wasn't the only one.

So what we've decided to do is concentrate on quality not quantity. To do what we can do and not to eat up the rest of the time worrying about what we can't.

This means that there might be another SQUALL next summer... but there might not. What there will be is:

1) A re-designed, regularly updated, on the button, dead sexy, rolling news service web site - www.squall.co.uk - and a relatively regular hard-copy version of this - 'SQUALL Download' - for those who can't take their

computer to the bog with them.

2) Irregular, pukka Squall publications on a range of specialist subjects (we've already got several in the pipeline). The desire behind these booklets is to produce top notch, in-depth, well-investigated and well-presented publications on areas which deserve more attention than we are able to give them in the current SQUALL format. This mode of working will allow us to enlist the help and expertise of writers, researchers and photographers with specific interests. Maybe we'll even find funding from people with specific interests and specific cash. Yer never know.

3) A SQUALL office from which these projects will be run and...

4) SQUALL events. Quality music, quality food, quality drink and quality vibes. A SQUALL events team grew from last year's festivals and ran through the entire winter putting on free dos where and whenever it could. Check for the SQUALL tent at this summer's fezzies and for the parties after.

All this output - including info about SQUALL events in your area - will be sent to subscribers, as well as being available through the growing network of distribution. For more information contact SQUALL or check out the new website.

