On the 21st December South Downs EFi carried out the first road blockade in the Carmageddon campaign and their first action.
The last Saturday before the consumer hype of Christmas set the scene, complemented by several thousand cars which are daily crammed into Brighton. After a gathering of the masses (about 20) in the town centre, banner waving and singing along to groovy tunes we moved in for our attack on the car empire.
Minutes later our blockade was up, horns honked, engines roared, motorists screamed, while we sung, laughed and smiled at the scene which was now before us.
When the police arrived they managed to calm down a few motorists who seemed close to falling off the edge of sanity such as "I've got nothing to loose - move or die!"
Our spirits were lifted however by several people from surrounding houses who ventured out on to the now clear street to offer us tea. Passers by tried to convince us to blockade their street and people waved and gave us the thumbs up for our efforts.
The police finally broke the blockade - after about half an hour of deliberation - when we failed to 'be reasonable'. There was on arrest - which was followed with no charges, just a chance for a good rest for a very tired activist. Workshops took place on the following day, where activists from Glastonbury, London and Brighton had the chance to talk about the action and the way forward.
Kryptonites and Sawdust

As 31 members of the Penan and Kayan tribes of Sarawak faced prosecution for protecting their rainforest homelands from the Japanese timber companies and the Malaysian government, 8 activists from Lea Valley Earth First! emerged from the basement of 9 Cazenove Road. Their aim was to wreak havoc upon the Malaysian Tourist Board in Trafalgar Square, London. For the staff of the Malaysian Tourist Board this was going to be a Monday to remember.

At about 10am on the 7th of October 1991, eight would be tourists entered the Malaysian Tourist Board with Kryptonite Bike Locks, chains and a suspiciously large bag of Sawdust. Matilda had just sat down to a cup of Coffee, when David led the happy procession of eco-nutters through the front door of Malaysia House.

"Hello" said David in a polite voice, "We are here to occupy this building in Solidarity with 31 indigenous people who are in court today for protecting the oldest rainforest on earth. You may leave by the back door."

Needless to say Matilda was a little freaked out and Peter (the beefy guy who we believe to be employed by the Malaysian Secret Police) couldn't believe his ears. Suddenly a bag of sawdust appeared and proceeded to empty its contents all over the neat and tidy office. At this point we learnt that sawdust and expensive electronic equipment do not mix and £75 of damage was caused to a word-processor, shame!

"This is an emergency!" squealed Matilda as she rang the Police. "You can't do this!" hollared Peter in disbelief as the chains and kryptonites came out. "You're Hooligans!! That's right pal! And we are going to carry having a go at you and your government until you leave the forests and indigenous people of Sarawak alone.

The Police came and the party was dragged to the cells. No charges were brought and the magistrate refused to bind them over the next morning in court. The next day a ridiculous piece of anti-Earth First! propaganda entitled "PROTESTORS WHO DO IT ONLY FOR THE MONEY" appeared on the front page of the Malaysian paper "The People". The bureaucrats of the international green movement exchanged angry faxes and the protestors who did only for the money went and spent their cash. The court case was indigenous peoples' court case was adjourned to 1992.

SARAWAK UPDATE

The logging blockade of over 500 people at Long Ageng is still strong. However there has been a recent crack-down on another blockade at Long Geng, 42 people were arrested and put in one cell. They have appeared in court and pleaded not guilty for defending their lands. 36 are still in prison because they could not raise the money for bail.

MARCH 23rd 1992. DAYAK SOLIDARITY ACTION DAY

On 23rd of March the people of Long Geng will be tried for protecting their land. We must act in solidarity with them by bringing their plight to the world's attention. More details from Lea Valley Earth First! (See directory on page 8)

SOUTH DOWNS EARTH FIRST!

We are now up and sprinting, and would like to say a big cuddly 'Hello' to all lifeForms out there. After being a one person group a little over a month ago, there was a sudden explosion of people realising we all felt the same way about Mother Earth, and the group branched out into both sexes and is regularly increasing its size as schizophrenia spreads...oops there goes another one.

Our effort at the Tilbury Tropical Timber Action (see pages 5 & 6) on the 4th of December spurred us on with energy (and Garlic!!) At the time of going to press on the Action Update we are about to do an action involving unrecycled telephone directories as well as disrupting the Arundel Public Enquiry (Farcse) over the A259 road extension through woodland. All this as well as getting together with those fine folks from Brighton Sea Action for the launch of Trident means were dead busy and we need more members. Get Involved!

We were also the group that organised the first CARMAGEDDON road blockade in this country. Speaking of cars as we are, a recent London warning went out to people advising them not to drive or leave their houses because of traffic pollution, so such actions as the one featured on the front page need little justification. The car must go if everything else is not to go.

We recommend Heathcote Williams' "Autogeddon"for a bit of poetic inspiration and to have an action today. Now is the time, so keep pollution away and torch a car today. LETS GET CARS OUT OF TOWN AND PEOPLE OUT OF CARS FOR ACTIONS AGAINST TRIDENT CONTACT SDEF! (see directory) OR DUNCAN BLINKHORN ON (0273)620125.
CROSSLISION AT THE TRAFFIC JAM IN THE SKY

The official opening of the new Dartford Bridge, just East of London, set the scene for the first Carmageddon action in London. The Dartford Bridge is just one of a family of damaging crossings the road lobby and the Department of Transport is planning for the Thames.

We were planning to add to the show which already included the Queen, a fly-over by Hawker Harriers, a tune or two from a massed choir and assorted (which where kept aloft with almost as much hot air as their corporate owners expelled in "ecofriendly" waffle each year). We were sure we would be the icing on the cake for the media that had talked of the opening with pleas for "some thing interesting to happen".

Our plan was to speed by the queen in inflatables, foghorns and banners in hand as she pressed the magic button that opened the bridge. This plan was of course second to connecting the magic button to explosives on the bridge - just imagine their faces if old Liz destroyed their masterpiece.

Out on the water as we were nearing our goal we were spotted and chased by the police. One boat got past and almost made it into the Police "EXclusion Zone". The other boat was rammed by the Water Police who later accused us of ramming them. They stopped us from reaching our goal. We were realistic when we set out and realised that luck would have to be on our side for us to be successful - obviously it wasn't.

The moral of this story is: STOP THESE STERILE STRIPS OF DEATH BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE DEVELOPERS CARVING BOARD.

Jason Torrance
Lea Valley EF!

Department of Transport Knows Best

The Department of Transport is proceeding with road building despite a plea from the EC Environment Commissioner for them to come to their senses over three particular projects.

The Three in question are the East London River Crossing (which threatens the ancient woodland of Oxtelis Wood, London -See EF! Autumn Equinox Action Update.), The M11 to A12link road in East London (threatening over 300 homes and several communities) and the extension of the M3 at Twyford Down, Hampshire. The extension of the M3 will mean the destruction of 2 ancient monuments, 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Work on these roads could start any time in the New Year. Earth First! is working with other opposition groups in preparation for confronting the bulldozers. These natural areas and the species that exist within them make up islands of beauty in the largely urban landscape of Britain, they need all the help they can get. Please get in contact with the Lea Valley Earth First! office to find out how you can get involved in the fight against industrial development.

STOP PRESS!

Construction is set to start at Twyford Down on the 1st March.

Lea Valley EF! are currently looking into the possibility of an Action camp on or near the area to greet the dozers.

Other actions are being planned both on site and at the contractors offices in London.

Briefing sheets are available from the London office NOW!
DOWN THE DOCKS, AMONGST THE MUDFLATS

On December the 4th 1991, Earth First! initiated and coordinated Britain's first action against the importation of tropical "dead rainforest" timber. It was a milestone in many ways. It was the biggest action ever against the destruction of rainforests and it featured the widest informal coalition of environmental groups in the history of the green movement in this country. It has since been followed by a similar size action in Newport, Wales. Below are two accounts of the action that prompted the Malaysian government to announce the allocation of £2 Million for a pro-timber propaganda battle.

Well, we assembled in some Kent scout hall at 11pm on Tuesday night. A briefing session and non-violence training began, somewhat incredibly at midnight and continued until 3am; whereupon a slideshow began for confirmed insomniacs entertainment. At 4:30am, after 8 minutes sleep, the boat people groggly journeyed to the Thames, Bellies full of powerful shark-repellent Garlic soup. Our intentions were to prevent the M.V. SINGA WILSTREAM from docking in Britain with its cargo of of timber plundered from the rainforests of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Jellyfish strummed out some folkly tunes on his guitar, a dockside sänger in subzero temperatures; rubber dinghies were prepared for the aromatic London Sewage conduit known as the Thames. Three Brighton Sea Action Dinghies were plopped into the river and we charged upstream with various chain and padlock carrying Earth Firstiers. The media had been ferried ahead in Sea Shepherd's rigid inflatable, to establish the best camera angles. With Lea Valley E.Fl activist Jake. While we were putting-along-upriver, Jake was promoting Kryptonite Ltd by locking his head to the dock lock. The media snapped a few obligatory pictures before they were all whisked away in Police vehicles.

The M.V. SINGA WILSTREAM (here in after referred to as the M.V.S.W) was riding somewhat high in the water having off-loaded the majority of it cargo in Holland.

As the Sea Action dinghies approached the M.V.S.W we found the Sea Shepherd in the process of attaching a magnetic banner to the hull. We kept strafing the area but two Police boats repeatedly herded us back into the harbour. We outnumbered the police boats by three to two, so while the two were kept busy I deposited two Oxford E.Flers upon a rusty ladder. They then sprinted to the lock gate itself and delayed the ships entrance.

Meanwhile one of the Police Launch Pilots was playing Buffalo Bill Cody by trying to Lasso the dinghies. We couldn't deposit more activists on the dock so off we chugged back to land, mission accomplished.

ALEC SMART.

Two hours after the departure of the Sea Action boats, the en masse land cavalry were roused from their slumbers. After Breakfast and talk of liberating the Goldfish from the scouthut, we prepared to leave in groups we had arranged the night before.

We met at the front gates to Tilbury Docks, where banners where already on show, courtesy of the returned Sea Action folk. At this point all our plans from the previous night were put firmly to the back of our minds and we proceeded to search out ways of getting into the docks.

Two "gaps" in the fence, and a cunning plan to disguise people as excess baggage in the back of vans got 30 people into the docks over the course of 3 hours. Activists worked in pairs and small groups with the aim of reaching the M.V. SINGA WILSTREAM and disrupting the unloading of the timber.

We were told that any unauthorised person found at the unloading site meant that work had to stop, but this was unfortunately not so. Several people reached the boat despite the great difficulties in finding it. One woman from South Downs Earth First! chained herself to the wood. She survived an attack by a psychopathic forklift truck driver who tried to "remove her".

Others, having found the boat, distracted the dockers until being carted away. Many of the activists who made it into the docks found the Police very hospitable; getting a lift to the pig-station, a cup of tea, a warning and an escort back to the main gate to join the 150 strong demonstration.

Here a 50ft inflatable chainsaw was driven in and a spontaneous storming of the dock entrance occurred. The imported into this country, a protestor made her way to the top of a crane. One dock worker reacted by attempting to throw her off onto the concrete 40ft below. Charming!!

In all the land action managed to delay the unloading of the timber, albeit briefly. However, the most successful aspect of the action - the first of many to happen in this country - was the gathering together of so many individuals willing to act for the rainforests. Twas a long day and the Cafe at Tilbury Rail Station sold more greasy chips, beans and toast (or was that double beans, mushrooms, chips and toast ?!) than in the previous 35 years.

VANESSA PAULOVITCH. S.D.E.F!

The proposed legislation, "Resource Security for Major New Industrial Wood Processing Projects", provides indefinite security of access to native forests to the timber industry. If the legislation is passed most of Australia's native temperate forests will be put in permanent "Wood Production Zones" with woodchipping and clearfelling looking set to continue well into 21st Century. Already some 20,000 hectares of forest a year is clearfelled for the export of woodchip and sawlogging industry alone.

The activists were able to climb onto the balcony and hang a "WILDERNESS! NOT WOODCHIPS" banner and to blindfold various statues including a sheep. Once the activists were noticed a minor panic broke out amongst the staff and attempts were made to call them down before the Police were called.

In true British tradition the staff were polite enough to ask if the climbers had permission to be there. Activists on the ground tried to talk to embassy staff as to the reason for the demonstration. This was not possible as the security wanted them down "before they break their bloody necks!".

The action was quick, empowering for those involved and achieved massive media coverage in Australia.

Shelley Brathwalt
London Rainforest Action Group.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER SHIP BLOCKADE

The dirty and murky river Mersey is soon to be the scene of the next British action against the importation of tropical "dead rainforest" timber.

It is the first action for the recently formed Merseyside Green Action/Earth First! group. There will be accommodation, workshops and opportunity to express general outrage and contempt for the murderers and criminals of the international timber trade. A briefing pack is available for groups and individuals interested in the action on the 27th of February.

We need as many people as possible to make the campaign snowball. Linda Chalker, minister for overseas development, has her constituency nearby. Please try and make it. Contact:

051 734 1919 between 24 -27th February or 081 806 1561 beforehand

FEBRUARY 22ND, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR B C'S LAST RAINFOREST

British Columbia is known as the "Brazil of the North", because of the large areas of boreal and temperate rainforest within it, but also because of the rate the forest is being destroyed. Multi-national timber companies Fletcher Challenge and Noranda are busy chewing up the forests for pulp and timber. 90% of the forest cleared is old growth. Indeed, the scale of clearcutting is so large that British Columbia has one of only two human-made features to be seen from space. Its the world's largest clearcut.

Recent announcements by the state government have promised moratoria on logging in many areas including the Orca breeding grounds at Sitka sound. But not the entire Walbran Valley where blockades have been for the past year. On February 22nd, activists in Canada and the USA will be acting in Solidarity with the forests. An action has been organised for London. Contact: Peter at Lea Valley EFi

BURMA CAMPAIGN TAKES OFF!

AT least 8000km2 of Burma's unique Teak forests are destroyed every year making it the third highest rate of deforestation in the world. The military dictatorship has struck a deal with Thailand to log the tribal homelands of people opposing the dictatorship. The funds from logging are used to expand the military and increase its nationwide reign of terror.

The jungle headquarters of the democracy forces has a university and several eager environmental groups. They are starved of resources so the Burma Campaign is helping to set up an Environmental Resource Centre to spread environmental awareness amongst the people.

You can help at minimal cost! Send books, magazines and videos to the Lea Valley EFi office. Donations welcome for shipping costs.

BURMA SHIP ACTION IN MARCH!

Regional groups needed for action coordination and fundraising. Check out the EFi roadshow for details or phone the office.
EARTH FIRST! HITS THE ROAD

The Earth First! Roadshow will be agitating, educating, aggravating and inebriating as it goes from Liverpool to Brighton in one hectic, action packed month.

The roadshow is an ecologically oriented mix of music, slideshows, talks and debate. It is designed to get people of their bums to fight in the defence of Mother Earth, whilst having fun and getting informed about the latest attacks of the industrial new world order.

The roadshow is being hosted by Earth First!, Student and green groups around the country. Its a two hour show that high energy and an unapologetic advocate for direct action.

Joining us on our month long foray into the life of poverty stricken minstrels will be 4 veteran U.S. Earth Firsters they are; Alice Di Micceli, musician and activist, Jake Jagoff, long time eco-nutter and beer drinker, Mike Mease, a film-maker who chants blackfeet curses in dingy Asian hotels and Tom Carney, an Earth Firster from New York also known as Snaggletooth.

Contact: Your nearest Earth First! group for exact venue details or see the local media.

Yes we're hypocrites!! But you've got to get your hands dirty when your dealing with shit!!

Earth First! Roadshow Itinerary

Liverpool      Tuesday 11th February
Glasgow       Friday 14th February
Edinburgh     Saturday 15th February
Lancaster     Monday 17th February
Newcastle     Wednesday 19th February
Sheffield     Thursday 20th February
Manchester    Friday 21st February
Leicester     Wednesday 26th February
Oxford        Saturday 29th February
Birmingham    Monday 2nd March
Bristol       Wednesday 4th March
Glastonbury   Thursday 5th March
Plymouth      Friday 6th March
Reading       Sunday 8th March
London        Monday 9th March
Cambridge     Wednesday 11th March
Norwich       Thursday 12th March
Brighton      Friday 13th March

MID SOMERSET EARTH FIRST!

Mid Somerset Earth First! in the last Action Update announced that we had produced a news sheet which listed the health food companies involved in dodgy dealings. Since then they have produced a second issue which is available from MSEFI! The response has been so overwhelming that we understand that between 10,000 and 12,000 have been printed and redistributed, and they are spreading to many other European countries!! This was started as a local effort --- Think Globally-Act Locally!!!

We have been boycotting our local B&Q for the past 6 months with leaflets, blockades and banners - though there have been no arrests when Davey attempted to climb up the building he was "towed off the roof". Five of us participated in South Downs Earth First!'s Carmageddon Road Blockade on the full moon solstice on the 21st of December.

We have a lot of projects going including sponsoring the roadshow in March, another Carmageddon Roadblock and we are also leaving time for the next shipment of dead rainforest at Liverpool on the 27th of February.
- MSEF!
Four of the Arizona 5 Get Maximum Prison Time

September saw Earth First! in court in Arizona, U.S.A. The "Arizona 5" trial as it became known was a result of a 3 year, $3 million operation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.). Infiltration by an F.B.I. agent eventually led to the prosecution and conviction of 4 of the 5 for property damage done to a ski resort in a wilderness area of north-east Arizona.

The four received maximum sentences of between 6 years and one year and a day.

The prosecutors, raging proponents to the end stated that their purpose was to "stop a radical deviant psycho-environment movement".

Support your fellow "radical, deviant psycho-environmentalists" by writing to them and showing your solidarity and support:

Mark Davis - 23106-008, Federal Correctional Institute, RR2, Box 9000, Safford AZ 85546, U.S.A.
Ilse Aspund & Mark Baker, c/o 1386 Iron Springs Road, Box 104, Prescott, AZ 86301, U.S.A.
Peg Millett, 23118008, 37900 N 45th Ave, Dept 1785, Phoenix AZ 85027, U.S.A.

Dave Foreman, Earth First co-founder and writer of the book "Ecodefense" was given a five year suspended sentence. The book "Ecodefense" may be republished.

U.S. MULTINATIONAL POISED TO RIP APART THE MOSQUITO COAST

In early February President Callejas of Honduras will finalize and sign a massive logging contract with US paper products giant Stone Container Corporation, which threatens to devastate the homeland of the Miskito Indians. The secretly negotiated 40 year concession contract will effectively but the Chicago based company a seventh of Honduras, a country already 80% in foreign hands. The pine and temperate rainforests are U.N. designated World Heritage sites and together form the largest continuous area of forest in Central America.

The secretly negotiated deal closely preceded the writing off of a half million dollar US AID loan. The forests were made famous by the film "The Mosquito Coast" and are home to a multitude of rare and beautiful species including the Tewaka, Pech and Sumo tribes.

Please write to the Honduran Ambassador expressing your concerns about the contract. Urge him to communicate your message to the President who is personally overseeing the deal. The forests are beautiful ecosystems that have a right to exist for their own sake un plundered by humankind.

Contact::

His Excellency (excellent at what?) Carlos Zeron, Honduran Embassy 115 Gloucester Place London W1H 3PJ Tel: 071 486 4888
Fancy an action at Stone's British Subsidiary, Bridgewater Papers ???? Let us know.

An End to Cosmetic Tests on Animals

Animal rights and welfare organisations have at last joined together to protest at the use of animals in cosmetic tests, Over three thousand marched in Brussels at the time of the cosmetics directive underway.

For two years the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) has carried out extensive lobbying in Europe and to our own MEP's. All the indications are that a majority of MEP's will support us when the European Parliament votes on the matter. However, the cosmetics industry, especially L'Oreal are lobbying hard against any restrictions on torture tests on animals.

The directive then moves on to the European Commission before going to the council of ministers. This is a time when everybody will be needed to let their views known.

The Council of Ministers is made up of representative ministers from twelve member states. For the UK this is Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. He will be casting Britain's vote and he must be made aware of the strength of the public's feelings. Please write to him to demand he votes for a ban.

For the first time, we have victory in our sights. We must keep up the pressure to ensure that no animal in Europe need ever suffer again for the sake of vanity.

Whereas the testing of cosmetics on animals is predominantly an animal rights issue; the wider question of the necessity of cosmetics in our society, which are so exploitative of the Earth's natural resources, should be answered as the cry of Earth First! should always be priority.

Contact: BARC, PO BOX 307, Ship Street, Brighton.
Subscribe To The EF!AU

The action update is produced on every Solstice and Equinox, it has expanded on every issue in order to cover the rapidly expanding Earth First! movement in this country. By the end of this year we hope to be producing something as good as the Earth First! Journal, based in Missoula, Montana, USA. The Earth First! Journal will be a forum for the Earth First! movements news, views and needs. It will represent our outrage against the destruction of Mother Earth! So subscribe by sending your life savings to the address below and you'll receive the Butterfly that this Caterpillar is going to turn into.

Please send me a full years worth of the Earth First! Action Update (soon to be the Earth First! Journal) and other Action Alerts. Here is three pounds.

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Tel: ________________________________

Okay!!, Money grabbing parasites. Here is an additional donation to the Earth First! movement £ ____________ (Cheques payable to Earth First!)

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NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENCE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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