GM-MOO! 5 Sainsbury’s distro depots blockaded

Protestors from a range of action groups, some dressed as cows, chained themselves to lorries bringing the depots to a standstill for several hours. At Stone, four protesters managed to crawl under and lock-onto a refrigerated lorry for three hours. They were cut free (one from the engine block) and promptly arrested for aggravated trespass. Meanwhile a group of cows managed to stop and lock-on to a leaving lorry in Maidstone. For two hours the cows prevented any lorries from entering or leaving the depot. Police then led the two cows and two bulls away and arrested them for aggravated trespass and breach of the peace.

This action hit around a quarter of Sainsbury’s frozen/chilled food RDCs. GM fed animal products are most likely to be found in these products.
Contact GEN 020 7690 0626 genetics@gn.apc.org for more GE info.

Lift-off to flood-down

The first flight from Manchester Airport’s second runway was due to take place on Feb 5th. The land destroyed to make way for the runway was occupied by protest camps from 1997-1999.

In protest, 30 people locked on to the departure desk considerably holding up proceedings. Wildlife lovers will have been astounded to see the return of a 7-foot badger, wearing a ‘homeless’ sign, who helped by handing out leaflets. Police were typically unhelpful and assaulted people, one of whom was later charged with assaulting the police! Another 2 people were arrested for hanging banners but later released without charge.

The successful action received a good response from the public. The event took place to commemorate the beautiful, but now lost, Bollin Valley; £170m of taxpayers’ money wasted and increased pollution for the people of South Manchester.

Contact Manc EF! 0161 2266814 mancef@nematode.freeserve.co.uk

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it’s inhabitants.
It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

Sabotage!

Sometime during the week of Feb 21st a Sainsbury’s supermarket in West Yorkshire was targeted. Several windows were smashed and the slogan ‘Smash Genetics’ emblazoned in graffiti across the store.

GE feature article inside including implications of recent court cases, where to find this years test sites & info on foot and mouth disease

March 2001 Issue 74

“Dance then, fairies, for joy and sing, the song of the coming again of spring” C. M. Barker

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

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute
USA ELF! A Delta & Pine Land Co. warehouse in Visalia, California storing massive quantities of Monsanto transgenic cotton seed was torched on Feb 20th. Also tree spiking and survey stake pulling was reported in the Hardesty Wilderness Area in the Umpqua National Forest.

A noise demo was held at Wakefield prison on Feb 25th in support of framed prisoner Mark Barnsley. Another is planned soon see diary.

Direct Action Network (DAN) North East captured a Nexus Care Bus in Dec to highlight how unfair that form of transport is for disabled people. Police had to use bolt cutters to drag two Danners out, but one was handcuffed under the bus, out of the bolt-cutters reach. 0191 482 4425.

Leafleting and picketing took place at a GAP store in Norwich on Mar 10th, highlighting the low pay and abysmal conditions in GAP’s factories.

On Dec 4th 5 Yorkshire anti-GE activist were found guilty of criminal damage to an Aventis oil seed rape trial of Framed prisoner Mark Barnsley. Her posh, chauffeur-driven car got stuck in the wings keeping all exits clear. Before poor Chris knew what was happening he had two plates of cream stuck to his face. The undersides of which proclaiming ‘All government is slavery’ and ‘International Black Block’.

Earlier in the evening 100’s of ‘vampire slayer’ leaflets were given out explaining how the SWP were detrimental to the movement. Forwarded by earthlibprisoner@mail.com, Vampire alert leaflet available from the Anarchist Teapot (see contacts) - send SAE.

A new website documenting the campaign against the Newbury bypass www.geocities.com/newburybypass is now online. The road is open but locals remain active, campaigning against vodafone and other in-fill developments. 07000 206 181 also www.newburyproject.org.uk

Bosnia recently rejected US ‘aid’, in the form of 40,000 tons of GM corn for animal feed, due to fears of health risks. rjvint@globalnet.co.uk

The John Lewis Partnership announced it was ending the killing of pheasants by staff on its shooting estate in Hampshire after protests had taken place up & down the country.

New European laws will open the floodgates to GM food and crops. A new directive, backed by the Government, ends a 3-year moratorium on granting licences for their commercial development thus making it illegal to ban commercial planting unless serious and justified concerns over impacts can be demonstrated. The effect of new laws is not likely to be felt for 2 years. Source: Observer Feb 11th.

**News in brief...**

On the evening of Feb 7th Chris Harman, editor of Socialist Worker, was pied whilst talking at Leeds University as part of the ‘Globalise Resistance’ Tour. This action was taken by anarchists in response to the Socialist Worker Party’s increasing parasitical interest in the so-called ‘new anti-capitalist movement’.

Two black clad anarchists entered stage left whilst another two waited in the wings keeping all exits clear. Before poor Chris knew what was happening he had two plates of cream stuck to his face. The undersides of which proclaiming ‘All government is slavery’ and ‘International Black Block’.

On Feb 21st Anne Widdecombe arrived in Nottingham to sign copies of her new book. There was a picker outside the bookstore by the Refugees Forum and the Anti Nazi League. Some activists managed to get very close, close enough to hurl abuse, but not the pie they had waiting for her. Her posh, chauffeur-driven car got barricaded in by wheely bins and pied twice however.

On Feb 24th, about 25 gathered at Queens Square Bristol, for an action against anti-worker and anti-union Sodexho. They specialise in winning bids to make profits out of public money and are involved in prison building, running the voucher scheme for asylum seekers and servicing armies.

Over 600 leaflets were distributed during this colourful and noisy demo. Activists entered the Marriott Hotel, College Green (connected to Sodexho) and dropped a ‘Sodexho Marriott, from Hotels to Prisons’ banner from the Royal Suites floor. More banners were displayed outside denouncing Sodexho’s oppression of inmates, refugees, and workers.

After ½ an hour the fire brigade arrived; they’d been told to stay until the action ended. A decision was reached to end the action so as not to endanger the public by immobilising rescuing forces. A few people then joined a demo at Tesco, Eastgate against the voucher scheme.

Contact kebele@marsbard.com

**SWP editor pied**

On Feb 19th the New Terrorism Bill was enacted. The Act brings much of the Northern Ireland ‘emergency’ legislation into mainland UK law and broadens the definition of potential terrorist acts to include damage to property.

In celebration ‘terrorists’ took to the streets in Bristol and London. On Feb 17th people in Bristol staged a roving demo, visiting other actions been carried out that day. Demonstrators against school closures, the sanctions against Iraq and people outside Marks & Spencer (the UK’s largest importer of Israeli goods) were supported and given information.

In London on Feb 19th action started early with leafleting of New Scotland Yard, the Home Office and MI5. 1000+ leaflets based on a subverted version of police anti-terrorism posters were distributed. Lab bottles containing GM plants were then delivered to various government departments as examples of “state terrorism” (reference to the Royal Society of Canada’s recent report on GMOs). The action culminated with the unfurling of a long black ‘terrorist’ banner in Parliament square and ‘Terrorist 19/02/01’ banners hung on statues of suffragette Emily Pankhurst and Nelson Mandela.

Contact Kebele kebele@marsbard.com and London RTS rts@gn.apc.org

**Terrorism bill**

Contact Kebele kebele@marsbard.com and London RTS rts@gn.apc.org

**...and it’s not just the UK**

The first European Conference on Terrorism in Madrid in Feb decided new measures to combat “anarchist terrorism” including “radical groups” and “structures which support and nourish [them]”. This means the EU (backed by Europol) now count ‘anarchists’ or ‘radicals’ who oppose the system and practice political dissidence as terrorists even if no violence is used (sound familiar?). Financial incentives are proposed to encourage grassing. This has happened immediately after the anti-globalisation struggles. Source: http://www.ainfos.ca
Scottish opencast planned

Two years ago locals in S. Lanarkshire, Scotland campaigned against a proposed 488 hectare opencast coal mine. Everything went quiet. Then, with just 8 days notice and 2 days of access to planning documents, a council hearing was held. Best attempts were made to formulate a response but after much political mudslinging, and sidelinning of local views the Labour Council passed the application by 20(ish) to 3.

Locals responded “while the democratic process is a farce, Direct Action is our response.” Watch this space, spread this news, and please be ready to help. Oarrabrt, fae Talamhites. Contact talambh@lineone.net

Nine Ladies

The Nine Ladies anti-quarry campaign is still going strong-complete with outdoor heated bath! A survey of the site due to take place on Feb 2nd was cancelled. There will now be a meeting on May 25th to determine whether or not Stanton Stone will go ahead with their plans to quarry. The more people around to dissuade them the better! Useful stuff like building and climbing tat, food, vans, donations and people are always welcome.

Wanted list http://pages.zoom.co.uk/ -nine ladies/ Site mobile 07799 528871.

Notts anti-fascist demo

On March 3rd the National Front (NF) demonstrated at Nottingham prison. Callously exploiting an emotional issue in an attempt to gain support, the NF were campaigning against paedophiles housed at the prison. About 400 mostly local people turned out to oppose the racist scam, dealing a blow to NF confidence: they mustered a pathetic 30.

At one point protesters attempted to push through police lines. The police drew batons and some local people were attacked and injured. 15 protesters were arrested and 13 charged, including a 16 year-old who was just passing by! Nottingham Anti-Fascist Alliance (NAFA) will be following up the many cases of brutality on the day and would like witnesses to get in touch. Contact NAFA 07949 312668

See diary: Fash expected in Leicester and Oldham soon.
Scottish opencast planned

Two years ago locals in S. Lanarkshire, Scotland campaigned against a proposed 488 hectare opencast coal mine. Everything went quiet. Then, with just 8 days notice and 2 days of access to planning documents, a council hearing was held. Best attempts were made to formulate a response but after much political mudslinging, and sidelining of local views the Labour Council passed the application by 20(ish) to 3. Locals responded “while the democratic process is a farce, Direct Action is our response.” Watch this space, spread this news, and please be ready to help. Orrabost, fæ Talamhites. Contact talamb@lineone.net

Nine Ladies

The Nine Ladies anti-quarry campaign is still going strong-complete with outdoor heated bath! A survey of the site due to take place on Feb 2nd was cancelled. There will now be a meeting on May 25th to determine whether or not Stanton Stone will go ahead with their plans to quarry. The more people around to dissuade them the better! Useful stuff like building and climbing tat, food, vans, donations and people are always welcome.

Wanted list http://pages.zoom.co.uk/-nineladies/ Site mobile 07799 528871.

Notts anti-fascist demo

On March 3rd the National Front (NF) demonstrated at Nottingham prison. Callously exploiting an emotional issue in an attempt to gain support, the NF were campaigning against paedophiles housed at the prison. About 400 mostly local people turned out to oppose the racist scum, dealing a blow to NF confidence: they mustered a pathetic 30.

At one point protesters attempted to push through police lines. The police drew batons and some local people were attacked and injured. 15 protesters were arrested and 13 charged, including a 16 year-old who was just passing by! Nottingham Anti-Fascist Alliance (NAFA) will be following up the many cases of brutality on the day and would like witnesses to get in touch.

Contact NAFA 07949 312668 nafanotts@yahoo.co.uk

See diary: Fish expected in Leicester and Oldham soon.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted articles to the AU this month. If you are sending us something please try and keep to 150 words or less. We have to edit articles longer than this or we wouldn’t be able to fit in all the stories.
TP2000 not guilty!

After 5 hours of deliberation on Jan 18th, a jury gave a majority verdict of not guilty for two Trident Ploughshares 2000 pledgers. They were charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage by attempting to decommission the Trident nuclear weapon submarine HMS Vengeance in Nov ’99. The two happily admitted their intention to trash the sub, as nuclear weapons are immoral and in breach of international law. The judge told the jury that such ideals formed no defence against the charge. He was ignored.

TP2000, 42-46 Bethel St, NR2 1NR
01324 88074 4tp2000@gn.apc.org

London fur day of action

Nearly 100 activists gathered on March 3rd for the London Fur Day of Action, with about the same number of police looking on. An excellent, if somewhat long and tiring, series of actions against the fur trade took place. There were lively and noisy demos at 3 specialist fur shops, 8 fashion shops selling fur and at the homes of 2 fur demos at 3 specialist fur shops, 8 fashion shops, 8 fashion shops selling fur and at the homes of 2 fur shop owners, including Hockley director Frank Zilberkweit, despite an injunction.

Many 1000s of leaflets were distributed and as the large crowd marched along, fur coat wearers were left in no doubt they weren’t welcome on the streets of London, or anywhere else! Other targets of the day included Noble Furs, Versace and Jacob.

Regular demos at Philip Hockley Fur Shop, 20 Conduit St, London W1, every Wednesday 1-5pm and Saturday 1-4pm.

Contact London Animal Action BM Box 2248, London WC1N 3XX, 0845 458 4775 lla@londonaa.demon.co.uk

Birmingham HLS demos

Protestors entered the premises of Dupont at Mimsworth and had a good look round the offices before being thrown out by irate factory workers.

Charles-Schwab in Birmingham, who hold 5½ million shares in HLS, was then visited. Activists entered the ‘Share Shop’ area to inform customers and staff of the company’s dirty dealings. One protestor was arrested on ‘suspicion of burglary’ due to the discovery of a ‘non-standard’ disc. The company’s computer system was then shut down for hours for fear of viral infection. However, it turned out to belong to an employee doing a spot of work on the side! More actions planned. Contact SHAC 0121 632 6460.

Cork bin campaign

This Feb in Cork fines were imposed on activists from Householders Against Service Charges (HASC). They’ve been dumping rubbish outside the City Hall every Monday in protest against the bin ‘double-tax’. The campaign is set to escalate in the coming weeks if the Dublin Corporation go ahead with plans to jail fined activists rts-ireland@yahoogroups.com, for this and other Irish info see www.struggle.ws/wsm/bins.html or http://flag.blackened.net/revolt

Menworth Hill

On Jan 20th, the day of president Bush’s inauguration, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) demonstrated at US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis anni@virgin.net

HLS national action

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a ‘Smash HLS’ banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis, the US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis anni@virgin.net

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a ‘Smash HLS’ banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis, the US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis anni@virgin.net

HLS national action

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a ‘Smash HLS’ banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis, the US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis anni@virgin.net

HLS national action

About 200 people arrived at Diss train station, Suffolk on March 4th for a demo at HLS Occold. With Suffolk and Norfolk police on alert the demo swiftly moved to Cambridge. Result: only 20 cops at HLS Huntingdon in Cambridge and much confusion. Workers were greeted and a ‘Smash HLS’ banner hung.

The crowd then moved to Aventis, the US National Security Agency (NSA) base, Menworth Hill, North Yorkshire. The base is crucial to the US National Missile Defence system. The demo included banner hanging, a subverted US flag and picketing at the main-gate. Eight people trespassed within the base for 1.5 hours, getting within metres of 2 new radar domes. There were no arrests. CAAB Tel/fax 01943 466405/01482 702033 caab.lindis anni@virgin.net

...and finally

A big hooray for the Rainbow Centre in Nottingham who secured the money to buy their new premises this month. The centre, which has provided resources for radical groups since 1984 and is home to the famous veggies catering co-op is moving to a permanent, co-operatively owned building. We wish them all the best. Their new address is 245 Gladstone St, Nottingham, NG7 6HX 0845 458 9595 info@veggies.org.uk
Mayday!

London – autonomous actions based on the the monopoly board. 07989 451 096 mayday2001@hushmail.com
www.freespeech.org/mayday2k

Birmingham - anti-capitalist day of action details TBC s26brum@hotmail.com
07980 415577

Norwich - another free fair, building on last years success 07944 874 393

If you’ve got plans for Mayday tell us ASAP for inclusion in April’s issue EF!AU contact details on back page

Big May squat

A big, well-sorted 2-week occupation is planned for the second half of May. The aim is to squat a large vacant site and explore it’s creative potential NOW, rather than waiting until it’s about to be bulldozed by profit hungry developers. Tat is being accumulated (more is needed) and all sorts of skilled/creative/enthusiastic people to make the event work – so keep the second half of May free! If you would like to be kept up to date about this project e-mail BigHotMaySquat@excite.com or jot down like to be kept up to date about this

Lifecycles

a pedal powered genetix road show, inspired by last years cycle rides to Prague and Den Haag. Lifecycles aims to raise awareness and empower people to act against the biotech threat (although, as there are no single issues, they will cover other things, like climate change, too).

They plan to cycle round Devon, holding events where locals can find out about GM and possibly develop plans to prevent the planting of Farm Scale Trials. Pre-publicity and venues have been organised by friends and campaigners on the route. Unfortunately tour dates can't be confirmed because of the foot and mouth outbreak. Contact 07050 618 445 lifecycles@uk.cf www.lifecycles.uk.cf or TOGG 01803 840 098 info@togg.org

Low-impact homes

Chapter 7 offers advice to those wanting to build low-impact homes on their land or live in affordable accommodation, such as mobile homes, whilst working on smallholdings or woodland. A newsletter is now available with updates on UK projects and planning advice, subs £5 (£3 conc) to Chapter 7, The Potato Store, Flax Drayton Farm, South Petherton, Somerset TA14 01460 249204 Thurs, 01935 881975 other days. chapter7@tlio.demon.co.uk

Easter Picnic

April 15th 2pm rally againnst GM Crop trials Harbury, Warwickshire Speakers and live music Info line: 01926 832650 http://freespace.virgin.net/harbury/picnic/

Prisoners

If you know of anyone who you think we ought to be supporting get in touch with the AU or ELP (listed opposite), let us know as much as possible (what they’re in for, how long, when they’re due for release, details of any support campaign etc.). The AU prioritises listing new eco-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Garfield Gabbard FT9062
HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London N7 on remand for setting fire to a police van at N30 Euston demo expecting a 7 year sentence.

Lee Himlan EX7748, on remand for Criminal damage at 9 Ladies quarry. Currently being moved so send letters to 9 Ladies (see contacts – Protest camps) and they’ll pass them on.

Charlotte Lewis, GN4092, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd, London, N7 ONU, sentenced Jan 31st to 6 months for sending hate mail to HLS staff.

Jonathan Elliot, FT107T, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT, sentenced in Dec to 6 months for affray London 1999 N30 demo

Europe

Geert Waegemans
Beginstraat 42 2000 Antwerp, Belgium, recently on remand for with various arson against the meat industry and McDonalds.

USA

Andrea (Drea) Rightsell, Inmate Lathab County Jail, P.O. Box 8068, Moscow, ID 83843, USA, sentenced to 4 months on Feb 23rd for blocking access to the Otter Wing timber sale in Idaho.

Barney Kern, Chilliwak Community Correctional Center, 45914 Rowat Ave, Chilliwak, BC V2P 1J3, Canada, re-sentenced on Feb 20th to 6 months for defending the Elaho Valley in Canada. due out around May 10th.

Peter Schnell #S-199738 and Matthew Whyte #S-199970, both at SC County Jail, 259 Water St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA, federal charges filed on Feb 10th, facing a max of 20 years for alleged possession of materials (gas, gallon jugs, and birthday candles) which could be made into ‘destructive devices’. Jeremiah Rush Bowen DOC #108016, POB 392004, Denver, CO 80239-8004, USA, sentenced to 2 years on Jan 25th for arson.

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out names of new prisoners as soon as ELP gets them animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Writing to prisoners

Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won’t accept the lette rwithout one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writing contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place

Brighton BN2 2GY

“Any political movement that does not support it’s political internees is a sham movement”

Ojore Lutalo, political prisoner
Anti-election special

So what’s it all about then?

Electoral ‘democracy’ is a sham. A handy illusion created to give the appearance of choice by allowing us to choose our leaders. Of course this is no choice at all. Left or right, red, blue or green all political parties are committed to some form of capitalism be it local, state or to stand a hope in hell at the present time free market global. Perhaps more crucially all are committed to ruling, to the idea of government hence the majority being governed. They wish to retain politics in the realm of professionals and experts and deny ordinary people control over their own lives. To vote (for whatever party) is to accept this, to support the idea of a society based on power and hierarchy.

The alternative is direct action. Organising ourselves in our work places and communities meet our needs and create the free and ecological future.

Ideas for action

- All the usual good ole’ agitation, education and organisation. Posters, leaflets, stickers, graffiti spreading the word — an alternative to what’s on offer.
- Active not voting — these seem pretty popular encouraging the spoiling of ballot papers rather than not turning up at all.
- Street theatre, the opportunities are endless. Our favourite so far is the bicycle election ‘car’. Rig up a battery amplifier on a bicycle and merrily spend the day broadcasting spoof election slogans round your neighbourhood. Comedy costumes advised.
- Alternative placards and window notices — these are very good for warding off political canvassers.
- Many schools hold mock elections. You could try writing a nice letter to heads of personal and social development (who are often responsible) offering a speaker on alternatives to voting. Okay – it’s a long shot but you never know.

What we’ve heard about so far

- Derby Anarchists have produced some good posters, worth adapting for other areas. Try sending them an SAE and a nice letter, Box EMAB, 88 Abbey Street, Derby DE22 3SQ ain@ziplip.com
- A Campaign has been launched in Bristol to get a positive vote for NOBODY in May’s local elections. Rather than advocate abstention the NOBODY campaign team are urging people to write NOBODY or NONE OF THE ABOVE on their ballot papers. These will be counted as spoilt ballot papers and if these are greater in number than votes cast for the winner the ward in question will be declared an autonomous zone free from council control. It is hoped the campaign will spread nationally so that NOBODY storms home countrywide on May 3rd.
- coming soon on www.freenorwich.co.uk “Abstain” is the only campaign we’ve heard about.
- And whenever it happens, Norwich election day critical mass, wear your twinset and pearls, bring babies to kiss and dig out your best Mrs. T hand-bag. 6pm by St. Peter Mancroft.

If voting changed anything they’d make it illegal!

Don’t vote — it only encourages power seekers... use your cross wisely — crucify a politician... All politicians are lying scum — we must organise to take control of our lives — however you vote for the government always wins
Implications of the Greenpeace trial
On Sept 20th 2000 28 Greenpeace (GP) activists were found not guilty of Criminal Damage (CD) to a GM Crop trial in Lyng, Norfolk. The verdict came after a retrial, the first resulted in a hung jury. This shows a case against GE can be made in court, although, of course, there can be no guaranteed outcome in a case like this. Some points to consider:

• Court cases are a major undertaking and can drag out over a considerable amount of time.
• GP had a jury trial. Although there are not enough cases to draw clear conclusions, so far those facing magistrates have been less lucky. You are only entitled to a jury in certain cases (usually those carrying a risk of imprisonment) GP got one as they were initially charged with theft and a high value of CD. Magistrates hear lesser charges of CD and Aggravated Trespass.
• A key aspect of GP defence centred round destroying the crop before flowering. The defences argued not for GE but that GP had been staging publicity stunt not a genuinely felt decontamination.
• GP have produced a booklet ‘GM on trial’ available for £5 from GP UK Address below.

GP are a big and (relatively) well-resourced organisation. Because of the fluid and undefined nature of the direct action movement people facing trial sometimes don't receive the support they deserve, either because people don't know about the case or what support is wanted. If you find yourself up in court over GE there almost certainly are people who would wish to offer support and advice – but be prepared to ask! Good starting points are GEN, The GenetiX Update and the EF! Action Update. This article was shortened to make room for the FMD piece.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
As no doubt everyone will be aware the UK is currently experiencing an outbreak of FMD. This has led to the effective closer of much of the countryside (and parks and footpaths in urban areas) and a massive cull of farm animals.

FMD is a highly contagious viral infection affecting cattle, sheep, pigs and goats. Some wild and zoo animals are also susceptible. It is spread by airborne dispersal; movement of animals, vehicles and people and the feeding of infected meat, milk or other by-products. The virus is destroyed by heat or disinfectant.

FMD is rarely fatal in adult animals, there is no cure but vaccination is possible. Most animals ‘recover’ naturally in 2-3 weeks. The main problems are the side effects, loss of condition and yields, miscarriage, sterility, heart conditions and increased susceptibility to secondary infection. These economic losses are the reason for the current containment and eradication program.

It is not considered to affect Humans and is not related to the human viral condition Hand, Foot and Mouth.

Currently special Orders give Local Authorities powers to prevent the movement of people onto farmland and footpaths to prevent the spread of FMD. Breaking these orders is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and carries a fine of up to £5000.

During the 1967 outbreak all agricultural testing was suspended. There seems unlikely at present, however Greenpeace have been applying pressure.

The situation regarding access and movement in the countryside is currently under review and news about FMD is breaking daily. It's strongly advised people interested in FMD keep a selective eye on the media for news.

Most of the information for this article came from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) web-site (recommended for further information) www.maff.gov.uk/ANIMALH/DISEASES/FMD

Farm Scale Trial Crops
Flowering times are intended for guidance only, exact times will vary with weather, variety and location

Fodder & sugar beet are being considered as one crop for the current round of Farm Scale Trials

Planting March-April

flowering shouldn’t occur until 2nd Year, though GM varieties have shown a tendency to bolt

Maize
planted late April-May
Flowering Lt June/July (about 2 months after planting)
Harvest 6 weeks after flowering

Oil seed rape (winter and Spring)
Winter sown Oct/Nov
flowering end March/April
Harvest July/Sept
Spring sown March/April
flowering June

Oil seed rape (Brassica napus)

Contacts and Resources
Campaign against Human Genetics
PO box 6313
London N16 0DY
Cahge@globalnet.co.uk

Colonizing the Seed, Genetic Engineering and Techno-Industrial Agriculture. Excellent pamphlet – not quite sure where you get these from now, but we have quite a few at the AU – send us about £1.50 and we’ll post you one.

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

Genetic Engineering, Food and our Environment, A brief guide (book), Greenbooks 1999 ISBN 1-870098-78-1

Genetic Engineering Network (GEN)
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7690 0626
genetic@gn.apc.org
www.geneticsaction.org.uk
GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org
Accountable Crop removal, but also useful ‘how to’ info on Crop sabotage
GenetiX Update
Totnes GenetiX Group (ToGG)
PO Box 77, Totnes
Devon, TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840098
info@toogg.org
Publish the regular GenetiX Update.

Genewatch
The Mill House
Manchester rd.
Tidewell, Buxton
Derbyshire, SK17
01298 871898
genewatch@dial.pipex.com
www.genewatch.org

various detailed briefings on GE issues – starting to work on Human Genetics this year.
Greenpeace UK

Canonbury villas
London N1 2PN
020 7865 8100
info@greenpeace.org
Publish ‘GM on trial’

Primal Seeds
Suite 305
255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
mail@primalseeds.org
www.primalseeds.org

Actively engaging in protecting biodiversity and creating local food security. Excellent anti-biotech resource.

UK GE test-site info can be found at www.geneticsaction.org.uk/testsites
Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven’t time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes. We appreciate receiving any ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, its ideas, actions or indeed anything else.