Bayerhazard!

January 27th saw German chemical, pharmaceutical and would be GM giant launch itself on the New York Stock Exchange. The occasion didn't pass unnoticed and drew protests both at the firms Newbury Headquaters and in other parts of the country.

What's the problem?
Bayer has a long and dubious history as a major German-based company producing mainstream consumer brands like Alka-Seltzer and Baby-Bio in addition to trademarking heroin (for use as a cough medicine), involvement in making Zyklon-B for the Nazi's gas chambers and profiteering from the recent US Anthrax scare. In October 2001 Bayer attempted to purchase Aventis Cropscience to carry its interest in Biotech out of the pharmaceutical labs and into the fields. The purchase was stalled after one of the company's latest products, the anti-cholesterol drug Baycol, was found to be linked to over 30 deaths leading to a massive fall in share prices. The launch of the company on the NY Stock Exchange is intended to provide sufficient funds for the take-over to continue (subject to approval from the European Commission). The Aventis purchase will make Bayer the third biggest manufacturer of herbicides globally. It already dominates the insecticides market. Approximately 80% of this years field-scale GM trial will be carried out by Bayer/Aventis.

Back to the action
At 7:40am around forty protestors turned up at Bayer H Q. A couple of scaffold tripods were erected across access roads leading into the staff car parks and a line of six people in arm tubes formed a human-chain between lamp posts, preventing employees from being able to enter with their cars. During the ensuing confusion, some of the protesters managed to enter the building. Others managed to lock themselves together within the revolving doors at both the main entrance and the rear doors, making further entry into the building difficult. Banners were hung saying; 'Bayer get out of GM crops', 'www.bayerhazard.com', 'Bayerbeware' etc. Throughout the action, leaflets were handed out to Bayer employees and to passers by in the nearby high street. At about 11am the blockade ended as planned and everybody left together. There were no arrests. www.bayerhazard.com

Also...
In Norwich, workers arriving at the Aventis chemical factory in Norwich, were leafleted about Bayer and the GE issue. The event was good humoured, with only two fairly polite requests to go away.

WEF Solidarity
On Jan 31st several people attempted to force their way into the Air Power 2002 conference at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, W1, London. Demonstrators sounded alarms, set off stink bombs, held banners and distributed leaflets. Walls inside the hotel were grafittied with the words 'WEF=DEATH', 'Murderers are in this hotel', 'Air Death 2002' and leaflets stuck under guests doors. The occupation coincided with enormous anti-capitalist mobilisations against the meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in New York and the 37th Annual Munich Security Conference in Germany. "At a time when many are claiming that September 11 has pacified or destroyed the anti-capitalist movement, today's occupation, alongside the Argentinean uprisings and the 1000s demonstrating in the USA and Germany, shows that the agenda of capitalism will continue to be resisted."
News in brief...

Argentine fever
On Jan 10th a group of anarchists occupied the Argentine embassy in London "to highlight the illegitimacy not just of the Argentinean government, but of all governments." The occupation lasted around an hour as several activists occupied the balcony and D-locked on whilst the Argentinean flag was pulled off it's mast and replaced by a red and black flag.

Following economic collapse, Argentina has exploded into riotous scenes of mass demonstrations, banging cooking pots, burning barricades and pitched street battles with police. The events have left thirty people dead, government buildings torched, banks trashed and supermarkets looted. While mainstream news interest has waned reports are arriving of popular assemblies taking place in various parts of the country with ordinary people attempting to organise and gain a firm grip on their own destiny. For more information: Argentina Solidarity Campaign: 07960 398 152. argentinesthesolidarity@hotmail.com. www.madres.org or www.indymedia.org or http://argentine.indymedia.org.

UK Solidarity
15 people in Norwich (ohh and 50 in London) joined together on Feb 2nd in response to an international call for a global cacerolazo – a Spanish word for making lots of noise with pots and pans. Leaflets were distributed explaining solidarity with Argentinians and all those oppressed by the effects of global capitalism. This call to action coincided with the World Economic Forum meeting in New York. There was mixed response to the Norwich action but the pan basheders were joined by some enthusiastic mothers and passing kids.

BOCM Pauls blockade
On December 13th 12 people from Bristol and Radstock visited the BOCM Pauls animal feed mill in Radstock to remind the mill owners that the GM issue has not been sorted out. Some of the workers were given leaflets and some were even interested in discussions. Traffic was prevented from entering or leaving the mill for well over an hour whilst attempts were made to open the gates.

Rumour has it a similar action took place at BOCM Pauls in Exeter during the same week. However despite inquiries nobody has sent us a story – sort it out!

Palestine direct action
In December, men and women from Manchester, Cumbria and London joined 60 other internationals to spend the Christmas period in Palestine. They were part of the International Solidarity Movement, a diverse, multicultural group taking direct action to help highlight the situation in Palestine in the eyes of the world, to show much needed solidarity with the Palestinian people and to make genuine, if small, differences to the lives of those living in the occupied West Bank. The group helped remove Israeli army roadblocks; formed human chains to protect Palestinian students; lay in front of tanks in Ramallah symbolising the dead of the conflict; and made cordons around Palestinians asserting their right to march. It was an opportunity to devote time and energy to supporting the cause of some of the most brutally oppressed people on earth. Information on future periods of direct action in Palestine which all are welcome to join can be found at www.rapprochement.org.

Toxic Trouble
At 7.30am on December 12th, the day before the opening of the Brussels EU summit, around 50 (mainly Dutch and Flemish) eco-activists occupied the Brussels office of CEFIC, a powerful European chemical industry lobby organisation. Within ten minutes the stair case had been barricaded and employees 'bonjoured' out of the building. Banners were dropped stating exclamations such as "CEFIC = bioterrorism" Soon another group of 50 people arrived outside with art and samba having distracted police attention by converging at a nearby metro station. Some police managed to get in through a first floor window and later a large mass of riot police entered through a door that was broken open by security personnel. After the 'loose' occupants had been dragged away, eight activists remained chained with metal 'lock-ons' for another 4 hours. More chaos followed later over police refusal to release or deport all the activists together. vrienden@groenfront.nl www.groenfront.nl
Bloody education!
In the early hours of November 5th, opponents of the new Said Business School in Oxford hung a large banner from the roof, proclaiming that the school was 'Built With Blood Money'. The school has been built/bought with £20 million from businessman/arms-dealer Wafic Said. Later, coinciding with a reception to open the school, over a hundred local people came to remind Said that he cannot buy himself a good reputation. The protesters were herded into a pen, under Section 14 and one protester was arrested for holding out leaflets.

Protest is nothing new for this school; it has been opposed at every stage of its development by a plethora of different groups. The site was the location of a five-month protest camp, attempting to protect a listed railway station and trees from a proposed six-lane traffic junction. Over 10,000 people signed a petition objecting to the development, but a public enquiry was never called, which it usually would be with a listed building.

Peat pixies
On the morning of November 26th about 30 people from around the country descended upon the peat extraction site at Hatfield Moor (see Feature article last month). One group blocked the bridge leading off site whilst the rest tried to shut down machinery and occupy offices. Those blockading the bridge received a lot of hassle and after a few nasty confrontations they moved on to join everyone else in occupying the works. A lot of information was gathered and a few pixies partially damaged the back up generator. Lots of keys were missing including the key for the main computer. After 3 hours we were outnumbered by the police, who asked us to leave or be arrested for aggravated trespass. Deciding enough disruption had occurred we all left the site.

The next day there was a phone round of the firm's managers annoying them to the stage that one manager shouted "Stop bloody hassling me!" The campaign will continue over the winter to try and stop the cutting season happening next spring. For more info contact Leeds EF!

Disnae give a toss
On December 15th, campaigners in Manchester set up their own DISNEYTM sweatshop outside the St Anne's city centre store to raise awareness about conditions in South China factories. Passers by saw Disney favourites Minnie MouseTM, PoohhontasTM and MulanTM slaving away at their cartoon sewing machines, all the time being bullied by an evil factory boss to the intensely ironic sounds of real Disney film songs. The action attracted an amazing amount of attention - a constant ring of watchers, most of them carefully reading the leaflets on display. Neither the police nor the store manager seemed willing to object and risk being cast as the pantomime villain and booted off-stage. Other similar actions took place around the country, including London, Norwich and Leicester.

Labour Behind the Label/ Women Working World-wide/ Manchester WDM group 07816 234545 or 0161 247 1760 jessmock@yahoo.com www.labourbehindthelabel.org

Manc Pedal Power
Manchester folk are trying to get Critical Masses going on a monthly basis. In November about 15 people made it and cycled down Oxford Road and into town. According to the policeman who tried to intervene there was a tailback all the way to Stockport. An irate cop finally stopped the pedal pushers; one of the cyclists described him as "acting like an angry father who's found his kids in his drinks cabinet." Manchester Critical Mass, last Friday of every month, 8:00am outside the Whitworth Gallery, Oxford Road. 0161 226 6814 mancelf@nematode.freeserve.co.uk www.critical-mass.org/

Occupational opps...
On January 22nd, 14 activists 'occupied' the site of a proposed women's prison, at Ashford near Staines. The CAGE network occupied the site on Bastille Day 2000; there have been numerous night visits. The intention was to disrupt construction work and slow down the prison building. A plan was formed and worked smoothly, we were within 10 yards of work before being spotted. Unfortunately the current work on site was a pre-construction archaeological dig. When we arrived, instead of the surveyors and foundation workers we expected a group of annoyed looking archaeologists with hammers greeted us. We quickly decided that there was nothing of use we could do, so decided to leave.

The moral of the story: All large developments have to have an archaeological dig before construction goes ahead; so look out for them on your recce and you could save yourself a lot of embarrassment.

Diary Dates...
February
16-19th Earth First 2002 Winter Rendezvous in the U.S of A. gecko@earthfirstjournal.org
22-24th Free weekend climate change training Rising Tide 01865 241 097
23rd Rising Tide North East Gathering. Newcastle northeastrisingtide@yahoo.co.uk
23-24th Conference: Resisting The “War On Terrorism” gllenn@wwuk.freeserve.co.uk
23/24th Conference on Plan Colombia 01750 923 448 colombia_sc@hotmail.com

March
2nd Women in Black/Women Against Fundamentalism Teach-In 020 7482 5670.
3rd Anti-gm rally in Stratford. Full details contact: jsemick@3amal.znm.com
8th International Women's Day. 3rd global women's strike. 020 7482 2496 womennstrike8m@server101.com
8th Picket of the Lap Dancing club in Newcastle. Met Eel Grey's Monument at 9pm.
8-10th "Womens Speakout" Sheffield. wsgt@hotmail.com
15th Int. Day Against Police Brutality. www.appleonline.net/justiceuk/iush.html
16-24th European wide action week against racism. info@unitedagainstracism.org www.unitedagainstracism
21st International D ay for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22-25th Financial activism meeting and skill share, Amsterdam. eya@eya.org
25-30th Loads of actions at Hatfield Peat Bog 0113 262 9365 leeds@leedsf.org.uk
30th CND national demo, London 07951 235 915 office@stopwar.org.uk

April
6-7th Start of resistance is fertile season, in response to... 8-26th UN biodiversity summit, Den Haag nrif@og.ac.org www.resistancesfertile.org
17th Global Day of Action for Farmers' Struggle www.viacampesina.org
8-19th Resistance is Fertile! Actions, workshops and festivities. Contact as above

May
4th Global Cannabis Day
5th Radical book Fair In Manchester. Date etc. manchesterbookfair@hotmail.com

June
5th World Environment Day
8-16th Stop the Arms Trade Week www.caat.org.uk
17-20th Eurosatory Arms Fair at Villepinte, France. www.caat.org.uk
17-23rd Refugee Week www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

July
19-28th International no border-action camp in Strasbourg enoborders@aol.com
**Upcoming Rising Tide Weekender**

22-24th Feb, Oxford - a chance to get your head round the issues, the science, the politics and the confusion that is climate change, followed by camp building, speaking skills and planning. Contact 01865 241 097 or soaringskywards@yahoo.co.uk for more info.

**Rising Tide tour**

Also another Rising Tide tour is planned for May, spreading the word about climate change through talks, street happenings etc. Call 01865 241 097 if you would like an event in your area.

**Peat blockade**

From Monday March 25th there will be a four-day blockade of the peat processing works, run by the US multinational Scotts, at Thorne and Hatfield Moors, just south of Doncaster. The action is to resist the destruction of one of Britain’s rarest and most significant wildlife habitats, the lowland raised peat bogs, which are being eradicated in the name of commercial growing is still the aim of the industry and ‘political pressure’ is still the only thing standing in the way. Each year of FSTs so far has seen serious disruption from public rallies to night-time trawlings. ‘Political pressure’ is still required.

2002 londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to get involved.

**Commonpoverty**

is a radical political arts festival, to be held in Manchester, to coincide with the Commonwealth Games. Half of it will be held in Manchester, to coincide with the Commonwealth Games. Half of it will be

**Help needed**

The folks at the Elvaston Park protest site, in Derbyshire (going under the name of the ABC Warriors) are digging in against an eviction order, which is expected soon. All offers of help and support welcomed, particularly with defences. Contact: Site mobile 07769 534725 dot@theadora.screaming.net.

**EXCELLENT NEWS - Prisoners Standing Deer (AIM activist who has served more than 25 years) and Jeff ‘Free’ Luers (who had been facing possibly the harshest sentence ever for ecotage) are now both free.

**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**

Jenny Galawyn HMP Cornton Vale, Cornton Road, Stirling FK9 5NY. Breach of the Peace at Failes.

Greg Minns Ward 18, Burnley General Hospital. Casterton Ave, Burnley, Lancs. BB10 2PO. A M anarchist anarchist who has been sectioned.

Gjovat Cerkini Yarl’s Wood Immigration Detention Centre, Twinwoods Road, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6H L. an ethic Albanian, Kosovan on hunger strike after being refused asylum.

Europe


Address change Paul Robinson KVA Karlskoga, Box 7, 69121 Karlskoga, Sweden.

International

Yair Khilou (aged 18) who has facing trial and imprisonment for refusing national service. Military Prison No. 4, M military postal number 02507, I.D. F., Israel.

Matt Whyte and Peter Schnell, two long time animal and earth activists sentenced to 14 & 24 months respectively.

“Prison is a weapon used by the State to crush individuals who step out of line”

Michael Collins, former M ayday 2000 prisoner.

**Earth Liberation Prisoners support network**

c/o BM Box 2407 London, WC1N 3XX

Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

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

**Writing to prisoners**

Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won’t accept the letter without one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writing contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton BN 2 2GY
Last year's summer gathering was held on a beautiful site in the Peak District. The collective (a mix of experienced and new organisers) focused on making the gathering inclusive, welcoming and accessible to people. We used surveys to ask people what they wanted. Also, for the first time we had three brilliant work weekends on site in advance. We got lots of work done, it helped us to feel at home on the site, but most importantly it involved a lot more people in making the gathering happen.

During the gathering, there were “partnering” and “shadowing” options for people who didn’t know many others, or who wanted to learn skills. There was also a new “day off” in the to allow for all the “non-workshop” ways people learn and get to know each other! People got together to create two off-site actions, and there was practical skill-sharing and game-playing, finishing with a ceilidh as night fell.

While we had mostly positive feedback on the workshops, some people felt the lack of large group discussions on specific events and issues, as these were more diffused throughout various smaller sessions this time. There was also difficulty with some people not following through with the workshops they’d offered – either not turning up at all, or not having planned very well. The collective scheduled every workshop that was offered or asked for, plus more, and in the end it is up to folks who come to the gathering to make sure what they want is there, by sharing the responsibility for making it happen.

Having the gathering site nearby Nine Ladies protest camp was a deliberate choice that felt positive for both residents and visitors. The link made with the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) was exciting, as they and EF! types seem to have a lot of ideas in common, and maybe we can work together more. Also, now that we have more children growing up, we need to continue to move beyond just a crèche, and create exciting gathering projects with them.

In our debrief, this year's collective decided to make the gathering website exist year-round, with useful gathering planning info, as well as the surveys – so check www.eco-action.org/gathering/ in a while. We also want to thank everyone who brought or offered things, you are fantastic, and love to the Anarchist Teapot who are nearly gourmet cooks now! A new collective has formed, so to join in with help or ideas, contact them on summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk.

Plans are already afoot for this years Earth First! Summer Gathering. Expected to be taking place some time in August somewhere in the South West of England e-mail summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk if you have any comments, anything to offer or would like to get involved.

EF! Culture:

A write up of the discussion held at the gathering

Our best case scenario described EF! as a community that…

...empowers people to take action, allows us to find people whose politics meet ours, makes us feel welcome, has a sense of solidarity, allows for people to learn, involves mutual respect, allows people to admit vulnerability, values everyone, has nice cosy spaces, gives confidence, provides equal access to knowledge, has people who don’t take themselves too seriously, has parties, is persistent, and allows us to experience diversity.

- It can break down a lot of barriers to talk about our backgrounds, or why we do what we do
- People need to learn to speak up about how they feel
- A sense of urgency means we can neglect looking after each other
- Taking the position that ‘we have dealt with this and now it is resolved’ forgets that WE’ changes all the time
- If we question authority, that includes questioning ourselves if we find ourselves acting authoritatively!
- We can see being vulnerable as a positive thing. If we say when we are scared or not confident about something, others know those feelings are acceptable
- We must use the basic tools (e.g. facilitation), and spend time on the information and skill-sharing that can empower people
- An EF! Culture discussion should happen at every gathering. The people who go to it can decide the content
As many people will have noticed, the meetings and conferences of the global elite have become something of a focus for direct action over the last few years. This is a list of the conferences and summits this year we at the AU know of. This does not mean there are specific plans for action at the present time, where calls to action are known details have been included. This list may not be complete and dates can change, where possible we’ve included the addresses of official websites- useful if you want to follow up any dates. Particular focus has been given to those summits with an ecological dimension.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Summit March</td>
<td>18th – 22nd</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
<td>The official EU website is strangely uninformative with regard to ministerial summits. Interestingly 6 out of 10 sites returned by a web-search using the terms EU Summit Barcelona were activist websites – the other 4 were press reports about activism. Hmmm...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Biodiversity summit COP6</td>
<td>April 8th – 26th</td>
<td>The Hague, The Netherlands</td>
<td>A series of workshops and actions is already planned to coincide with this, the sixth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Going under the banner ‘Resistance Is Fertile’ expect strong links with the Genetix issue. Programme of events: April 6-7 Common Ground. A series of workshops bringing together farmers, activists and people involved in new rural initiatives. April 8-19 Resistance is Fertile ! Actions, workshops and festivities. Tackling issues of food, agriculture and biodiversity in the age of economic globalisation. April 17. Global Day of Action for Farmer’s Struggle called by Via Campesina. - <a href="http://www.viacampesina.org">www.viacampesina.org</a> Contact: Resistance is Fertile c/o ASEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090AB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands <a href="mailto:rif@gn.apc.org">rif@gn.apc.org</a> <a href="http://www.resistanceisfertile.org">www.resistanceisfertile.org</a> – there is an e-mail list to keep you informed too.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO Foreign ministers meeting</td>
<td>May 14th – 15th</td>
<td>Reykjavik, Iceland</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO Defence ministers meeting</td>
<td>June 6th – 7th</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Summit June</td>
<td>21st-22nd</td>
<td>Seville, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>G8 Meeting June</td>
<td>26th – 28th</td>
<td>Kanannaskis, Alberta, Canada</td>
<td>Plans are afoot with several calls to action issued and a mobilisation expected. Activist website (with lots of links) <a href="http://g8.activist.ca/">http://g8.activist.ca/</a> Official website <a href="http://www.g8.gc.ca/">www.g8.gc.ca/</a> and for anyone who wants to get really annoyed <a href="http://www.kananaskig8.nt">www.kananaskig8.nt</a> – all about the expected ecological impacts of hosting the summit in this sensitive and remote area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Summit on Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Aug 26th – Sept 4th</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>Billed as Rio+10, this summit marks 10 years since the original Earth Summit, which is now regarded, particularly in radical circles, to have been a lot of hot-air and green-wash. Hotly tipped to become an action focus for anyone who thinks it would be a good idea to do something meaningful to make the world a better place. Expect to hear more soon. Official website - <a href="http://www.johannesburgsummit.org">www.johannesburgsummit.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF</td>
<td>October 1st – 3rd</td>
<td>Washington, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Summit December</td>
<td>12th – 13th</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contacts List February 2002

Support Groups & Information Networks

Warwick- the old group's folded but someone wants to set up a new one
Tom@tomreavey@hotmail.com
York LEAF
C/o SU Centre
University of York, Heslington
York YO10 5DD

Virtual News
http://www.ainfos.ca
multilingual news service
http://www.ainfos.ca

Video
i-contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol
BS29TX 01179140188
i-contact@videonetwork.org

Other Contacts
Advisory Service for Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N 1 2QN
020 7359 8814
advise@squatt freeway.co.uk

Publications
Counter Information
Autonomous Centre 'E'burgh
17 West M ontgomery Place
Edinburgh E W 7 H A
0131 557 6242

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign (SHAC)
PO Box 38, Chattenham
Gloucester GL50 1Y N
0845 438 0630

Trident Ploughshares
2000 42-46 Bethel St.
Norwich N R 1 N R
0845 458 8366
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Women Speak Out
wsouall@hotmail.com

Protest Camps
Aldermaston Women’s Peace Camp, 33 H eron Rd
Bristol BS8 1LT
0117 939 3746

Elvaston Park Camp
dotheadora.screaming.net
07769 534725

Fatlace Peace Camp
Shandon, H edenburgh
D unbarshire G 84 8 T S
O 1436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry Camp
Leeds Cross
Leeds Rd, Stanton Lees
M alton, D erbyshire
07984 793128

Sellafield Women’s Peace Camp,
Box Z (as Leeds EF!)
0113 262 1534

Vallee d’Aspe Camp
Mob ile+336 72634905

...and beyond
active campaigns that have had protest camps in the past.

Action Against the Toll
01263 497 113
actionagainstthetollmotorway@hotmail.com

Golden Cross Road Action
10072 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockey House
01072 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG 14 5W G
07000 785 201

International
For International contacts we recommend the list in D o or D ie 9 or...

Peoples Global Action (PGA)
against the WTO and neoliberalisation, www.apg.org

Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson
AZ 85702 USA
T elephone (520) 620 6900
F ax: (413) 254-0057
collective@earthfirstjournal.org

www.earthfirstjournal.org

Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven’t time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, it’s ideas, actions or indeed anything else.
Sheffield anti-war demo

Sheffield’s second demo against the war was held on Sat 8th December with an estimated 1200-1500 people attending. Several local groups organised feeder marches from their local areas walking to the rendezvous point. There was also a bicycle demo, complete with sound system that cruised around town in the morning. Some kids spontaneously joined the slow moving bike ride which finished outside the town hall with the kids dancing and people giving out the Sheffield Digger all before moving to the main march. The bike and feeder marches were very worthwhile, even though quite small. They created a bit of a pre-demo buzz in the town before the main event. Later some people went to visit a PR exercise by Onyx, the new Sheffield waste company that is building a new incinerator in Sheffield to protest against that too.

Sodexho occupation

At 8:45am on December 4th, 6 activists calling themselves “Sodexho Screw Refugees for Money” occupied the Sodexho European Management Centre. They quickly but calmly walked through reception and up the stairs before entering an office where they proceeded to attach themselves to the only lockable on feature in the office - a chair. Two of the activists were secured using D-locks, and another two used chains and blag. They then contacted the local newspaper with their simple demands - an end to Sodexho’s profiteering from the government’s cruel oppression of asylum seekers. While the cops arrived to remove the activists the situation remained light-hearted, though quite small. They created a bit of a pre-demo buzz in the town before the main event. Later some people went to visit a PR exercise by Onyx, the new Sheffield waste company that is building a new incinerator in Sheffield to protest against that too.

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Sheffield waste company that is building a new incinerator in Sheffield to protest against that too.

New AU collective

We’re pleased to announce a new collective, based in Manchester, will take over editorship of the Action Update after the next issue. We hope you’ll offer them your help and support. We are hoping, with the move, the AU will get a new permanent address and phone number. Details will be announced ASAP.

Hackney Pie Sticks

On the morning of Jan 15th Cllr. Jules Pipe, Leader of Hackney’s Labour Council was hit in the face with a large carrot cake. A woman (agent ‘Just Deserts’ of the London cell of the BBB) approached Cllr. Pipe in the street saying that she had a message for him from some Hackney residents, she then threw the pie and said “That is for your involvement in the selling off of Hackney.”

Back in November two other Hackney activists took a similar action against Guy Nichollson, head of Hackney’s regeneration committee. Pipe, Nichollson and the rest of the the Labour council are hell bent on destroying not only Hackney streets, but essential services, council worker’s jobs and Hackney itself.

For further Hackney info:

December 10th: Vigil held in Bristol against the US intervention in Columbia, banners included ‘plan Colombia=New US Imperialism’ and ‘Stop the US intervention in Colombia’. Contact: kebele@marsbard.com

December 3rd: 30 supporters of the Simon Jones Memorial campaign blockaded Euromin’s Shoreham dock where Simon was killed at work in 1998. Five have now been charged under section 241 of the 1992 Trade Union Act. Contact: action@simonjones.org.uk

December 10th: Vigil held in Bristol against the US intervention in Columbia, banners included ‘plan Colombia=New US Imperialism’ and ‘Stop the US intervention in Colombia’. Contact: kebele@marsbard.com

December 3rd: 50 people demonstrated at the Menworth Hill US spy base in Yorkshire. Contact 161 237 8283.

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