You’ve had your chips

On the night of 16/17 June, a deliberate release of GMO potatoes was destroyed in Dahnendorf near Berlin. This is one of at least 14 unauthorised releases of antibiotic-resistant rape. Up to forty police officers, four vans, six cars, police dogs and a helicopter attended the demonstration that was hastily organised in reaction to Thursday’s news that the illegal release had taken place. Those attending included ex-genetics student, a local organic farmer, a solicitor, a doctor, gardeners, teachers, grandparents and a local councillor. The blunder by Aventis (now owned by German chemical giant Bayer), resulted in at least 25 of the farm scale trials since 1999 being planted with unapproved seeds containing an antibiotic-resistant marker gene and was informed of the problem in June and decision to act could have removed the threat before pollination, but they did not inform the government until August. The government announced that it would suspend the planting of the final trials until the purity of the seed could be assured. However, they continue to resist calls to abandon the final phase of the trial.

Contaminated crop trasched

19th August: Fourteen people were arrested for ‘criminal damage’ and aggravated trespass when a group of fifty met to remove a farm scale trial of GM oilseed rape. This is one of at least 14 unauthorised releases of antibiotic-resistant rape. Up to forty police officers, four vans, six cars, police dogs and a helicopter attended the demonstration that was hastily organised in reaction to Thursday’s news that the illegal release had taken place. Those attending included ex-genetics student, a local organic farmer, a solicitor, a doctor, gardeners, teachers, grandparents and a local councillor. The blunder by Aventis (now owned by German chemical giant Bayer), resulted in at least 25 of the farm scale trials since 1999 being planted with unapproved seeds containing an antibiotic-resistant marker gene and was informed of the problem in June and decision to act could have removed the threat before pollination, but they did not inform the government until August. The government announced that it would suspend the planting of the final trials until the purity of the seed could be assured. However, they continue to resist calls to abandon the final phase of the trial.

A report on the campaign to halt peat extraction at Thorne and Hatfield Moors.

Following a successful trespass on Hatfield Moor on 25th August (where around 30 people spent the day filling drainage ditches to conserve the wetness of the remaining peat), an action camp ran from 28th August until 1st September. This is a summary of actions taken, as reported to us.

Wednesday 28th August

En route to the camp a group stopped at Hatfield Moor and filled ditches for the afternoon. However, recent rain and high water have meant the moor is flooded, preventing any action taking place.

Thursday 29th August

In the morning we visited two supermarkets and a garden centre. Covering all peat products and peat-grown produce with stickers, we were quickly spotted by security, and some of us were removed from the store.

A group of five visited their Carlisle office to find info and demand they stop mining Solway Moss, and withdraw their planning application where sold - anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute
Roads + airports
Up in the air
The British government has published plans for a massive airport expansion programme. They intend to ‘consult’ on these proposals until 30th Nov at Manchester, thus making a 4th terminal by 2015, and possibly a 3rd runway, plus new roads, more pollution, climatic changes and environmental damage.

For more info on resistance to new runway proposals contact www.roadalert.org.uk

Titnore woods campaign
Police in Worthing continue their harassment of people opposed to the destruction of ancient Titnore Woods for a 900-home estate. In their latest over-reaction to the campaign they doorstepped a woman who helps produce local newsletter The Porkboller. They were interested in a report about plans by protest group Ye Old Friends of Titnore to deliver in person a letter to the landowner and were eager to be given names of ‘organisers’ so they could ‘help’ them. 

Very recently, an e-petition has been started for displaying a “Save Titnore Woods” placard and a group of people leafleting a supermarket carpark was followed by evidence gathering. Police also tried to intimidate local people away from a protest in May with scare stories about dangers. In May 2003, 30 people turned up. The Porkboller is at www.eco-action.org/portal and campaign group Protect Our Woodland is at www.worthing27.freeserve.co.uk

Titnore woods demo

EF Action Update!

Dept 29, 22a Beawick street, Manchester M4 7HS. UK 0161 226 6814 www.actionupdate.org.uk

mail@actionupdate.org.uk

The EF! is used to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions from anyone (with the usual protocols) so if you’ve set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. We need to know that it seems, we’d like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Shane Kelly kg 475533/111, PO, PCB 7700, R D, Oxt, N 65, (0044) 1438 8290, (0114) 272 2220, for 28 years for his radical activities.


Yves Peirat, no 1, Partizanskyj Prospekt 28-b, 690106 Vladivostok, Russia. Eco-journalist serving 4 years for exposing the Russian Navy dumping nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean.

Denis Greene, 175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg PA 15370, USA. In 1981 Mumia, was framed for the murder of a cop. Currently awaiting re-sentencing after having his death penalty revoked.

Michael Davis Africa

Charles Davis Africa

Sarah Gisborne

No School Apartheid!

Violent sponsorship by the British government and the US for apartheid in South Africa.

October

24th Public Meeting - No Apartheid - against the Asylum and Immigration Bill and its implications. Leaflet distribution - Flat 20, House of Lords, London.

13th Anniversary of the Lekwena UK air force base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

12th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 12th-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

11th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 12th-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

10th Anniversary of the Lekwena UK air force base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

9th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

8th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

7th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

6th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

5th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

4th Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

3rd Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

2nd Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

1st Annual Conference - trade union defence & social justice conference, 3-13th London University UK air base, Norfolk, www.lakewaak.org

November

1st Row Hunt begins soon, Hunt Sits 0212/881 8818

2nd – 3rd International Solidarity Conference, Strasbourg. email sdarou@gmx.de (English, French or German), www.sortirdenucleaire.org

7-10th International Solidarity Conference, the Palestinian focussed solidarity network, Amsterdam. For info: info@palestineinamsterdam.org

16th anniversary of the murder of Sami Al-Navawi. Actions planned, contact info for further details.

24th-25th NRID symposium, Prague, Czech Republic

22th-24th Women’s Week. Csd, Out gathering, Manchester/Salford area. www.manchester@tnt.net

20th Buy Nothing Day. www.bndonething.org

December


12-13th EU Summit. Copenhagen, Denmark. www.anarchist.org or www.ear.org

Ongoing

Women’s Anarchist Cafe, Radical Centre. Nether Hall, The Avenue, Offam, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 8NX. info@releasedprisoners.org.uk

 Quarry Cafe Every Thursday, 7-11pm @ the Royal Oak, 39 High Street, Burslem, ST6 1LT.

Cafe RAMALLAH 8am – 10pm @ the Royal Oak, 39 High Street, Burslem, ST6 1LT. info@caferamallah.co.uk

Close Down Campfield refugees detention centre last Saturday of the month, Oxfordshire. New St, Northampton NN5 5AP. www.closedown.org

Eco-journalists serving 4 years for exposing the Russian Navy dumping nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean.
Contacts list October 2002

Just leave us, please!

Call for WEEK OF ACTION in solidarity with the people of West Papau: 6th - 13th October 2002

West Papua is one of the wildest and most precious places left on the planet. Its indigenous cultures and ecosystems have been systematically destroyed by Indonesia and multinational corporations exploiting its natural and mineral resources. An estimated 300,000 West Papuans have been murdered by Indonesia since 1963. Hundreds are detained, tortured, and imprisoned. Thousands of thousands are dead at their land. Hundreds of thousands of landless Javanese have been moved to West Papua as part of a policy to control, drive out the indigenous people of the region, and to so turn them into a minority on their own land. Along with a colonizing power come the plundering multinational corporations who rape and pillage the land without concern for the environment or for the people. Many of these corporations have British offices, and need to be told that they must stop their crimes now.

OPM resistance!

The people of West Papua want freedom from this tyrannical regime and exploitation by multinational corporations. The Free Papua Movement (Organisasi Papua Merdeka - OPM) fight against police and army repression against this terrorist state. None of these people want to fight. They just want to be left alone.

- Target companies involved in these heinous crimes. Contact Solidarity South Pacific (SSP) for addresses.
- Raise awareness of the struggle: cover your town in flypots (found on the SSP website), organise an event, send a message.
- Raise money to be sent to West Papua for medical aid for the victims of the Indonesian terrorist state. Bank account details will be published on the SSP website. Raise money for Sem Karoba, a revolutionary tribesman who needs money to continue his campaign. Bank account, sort code: 937347, acc: 56935005
- Visit West Papua as a human rights observer, and to exchange information with the people on the ground. For more information, contact SSP.

Useful contacts

South Pacific Solidarity: www.eco-action.org -spp - contact for information on targets, speaker tours, and visits to West Papua www.kotoke.net Up-to-date information on the struggles in West Papua. Official website of the OPM www.opp.org.wa

WAR!

A Disarm DSEI working group has been set up to co-ordinate actions against next year’s DSEI arms fair in London. The group will not impose guidelines on protests or be involved in police negotiations. DSEI visitors can visibly demonstrate to take control and separate. There will be meetings of the group from September 2002 onwards; for information or to send a representitive please contact: DISARM DSEI working group, c/o (078)11752029, disarmedsei@hotmail.com. This website has been used in the past for spreading ten-thousand pound bombs and other weapons destined for the Gulf War conflict and used in the war in former Yugoslavia. Further information of the West Papuan arms depot are planned in future - contact CIA Brisbane - (011)184 3650

Po-po security at the US Arms Depot at RAF Witterfold in Berkshire enabled 3 activists of CIA (Citizens Inspection Agency) Berkshire to infiltrate the site. At the main gate, MoD Police refused to allow investigators entries on grounds of national security, or to entertain arguments that investigators had a right to take part in security surveillance of illegal weapons being stored or in transit, or suspicion that weapons being stored may be illegally used upon civilian populations. “No comment” was the response to questions regarding responsibilities under international law. Woff was used in the past for spreading ten-thousand-pound bombs and other weapons destined for the Gulf War conflict and used in the war in former Yugoslavia. Further information of the West Papuan arms depot are planned in future - contact CIA Brisbane - (011)184 3650

Shots

There is a new Spoonbill book available at £8.50 for issues 303-305 of Spoonbill plus 200 pages of articles on games, graphics, satire, and a comprehensive contact database. £9.50 from Spoonbill - details at www.spoonbill.co.uk

Locals in London who are interested in helping with the spring London peace flying arereffing Reddak, Veal Gull. Clubs plan to tip up to 100,000 tonnes of waste into the Tameside area in May, with a group of up to 15 cops too. £15,000 by allowing 15,000 vinyl bags of waste to be dumped on their land over the next 2 years. Under a DPER. According to West Lancs council, in the 10G tons, local residents feel a tug by a rogue contractor, and have been working to tip that out of place. Contact: 07973 797812

SDI!

Syrian Workers Solidarity Network, 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX. Contact: 02072814621

Rise Against the Power are holding a meeting in B书店, Rosebery Avenue, Hackney, London E8 1BH, 11.30am on Saturday 17th January. Tickets are £1.

Syrian Workers Solidarity Network have a meeting on 20th Jan, 11.30am - 13.00pm in 145 Regent Street, London W1. Further details from: swsnet@compuserve.com.
This was the second European conference, the first being held in Milan in march 2000. The conference packs that EuroDusnie produced included a list of those groups that had signed up to be participants in the Leiden conference. There were...

Environmental groups – like ‘The ecologists of Chios Island’, Earth First! (UK) and Groen Front! (EFP in Holland).

Anti-military groups - like Campaign Against the Arms Trade (UK) and ‘12th Grade Army Refusers’ (Israel).

Free Space/autonomous zone groups – like German, Dutch and French info-shops, co-ops from the UK and Croatia and squating groups from all over.

Workers’ group – like Barcelona CGT (Spain/Catalonia) and Sindikalista (Swedish anarcho-syndicalist union).

International Solidarity groups – connecting us with Bangladesh, Colombia, West Papua, Turkey and many more.

Anarchist groups – like A-infos Israel, Croatian Anarchist Federation, Federation Anarchiste (Belgium), ‘Wiliist Assault Group’ (Norway, and with a cool name!).

Alternative Media and Culture jamming groups – like Indymedia Centres from across europe, the European Newsreel, Art in Action (Norway), Adbusters groups and the Tactical Media Crew (Italy).

This is just a tantalising taster, of course, and the workshops that these groups put on were of an equally broad and interesting quality.

‘What is a boy, what is a girl?’ said a sign found on the doors of both the men and women’s showers at the campsite. ‘It’s definitions are made up by society and it discriminates…for ‘in-betweens’ only…According to another source, the use of toilet paper has taken on unsustainably high levels…’

PGA conference newspaper, 3rd Sep

Workshops covered areas such as:

- Actions – like the anti-NATO actions in Prague, Nov 2002; anti-WEF actions in Davos and Davos 2003.
- Alternatives – like Radical Routes (co-ops in the UK); Recycled Estate, a land co-op in Croatia; Free Zones Europe-wide.
- Past actions – like Strasbourg No Border Camp, anti-summit actions of the last two years.
- Info-sharing and awareness raising – like the talks on ‘Repression in the EU’, against activists and refugees; ‘Support for undocumented women’; ‘The war against Iraq and the US economy’; ‘Sustainability and the disappearing computer’; ‘A radical history of food’; ‘Using cryptography’…

Look, I didn’t have time to go to everything, ok? This is just a list that I hope looks cool! And then, of course there were the strategy discussions, about sharing general ideas on things like ‘democratic decision making’, and the feared ‘PGA process’ meetings, about how to structure this monstrous network of ours…

‘Naomi Klein has returned from alien abduction! Apparently her return is connected with some witchcraft happening outside in the parking lot. Unfortunately for her lover, the Dutch Crown Prince, Klein has decided to spend the rest of her life in the transender bathroom with an inhabitant of the planet Wroxxij.

PGA conference newspaper, 4th Sep

Another interesting initiative discussed in Leiden was the ‘European Social Consulta’; a massive outreach project. Based on events like the Zapatista community consultations and the Barcelona Consulta it will spread out through different ‘promoter’ groups, that will recruit new groups and reach out into their local area. See www.consultaeuropa.org or e-mail uri@riseup.net for more details.

The upcoming European Social Forum (ESF) in Florence was also discussed at the PGA conference. This huge anti-globalisation meeting followes on from the World Social Forum (WSF) of last year, in Brazil. It inspires both hope and a large cloud of suspicion.

The main groups involved in organising it are ATTAC, a liberal economic campaigning group, plus big NGOs, trade unions and even political parties! The main mobilisers for the EFS in the UK are the Socialist Workers’ Party. All in all, a mixed bunch of people will turn up to the ESF, most of them sincere believers in a better world. Therefore in Leiden an ‘autonomous space at the ESF’ was planned.

This PGA gathering produced some suggestions for how PGA should be organised. There is already a North American PGA network, with ‘tubs’ in various regions that act as contact points. The ‘PGA process’ workshops eventually reached consensus on encouraging the setting up of similar contact points across europe. These will distribute PGA publicity and help groups to co-ordinate actions by holding regional PGA meetings.

What now?

PGA is an important network, globally, but also at a regional level. Through going to Leiden I met people from the UK and Ireland and heard about communities that I had never known existed, including many that are not part of the EP network. There may be a PGA gathering for the UK happening near the start of next year. To find out more, join the UK Peoples’ Global Action e-mail discussion list by e-mailing hedre@hotmail.com and saying that you want me to put you on the PGA-UK mailing list. Alternatively, join the European-wide discussion list by e-mailing caravan99@lists.riseup.net. You can also find loads of info at www.agp.org.

So far the only local PGA info points I know about is the Radical Dairy (radicaldairy@hotmail.com) in Stoke Newington and LARC (info@londonarc.org) in Whitechurch, both in London. Look out for PGA meetings and events in your area. Hopefully PGA info-points will start sprouting across these islands soon!

“So do you sometimes, after a meeting, feel you have no idea of what was actually said? Are you looking forward to the final plenary with dread? The solution may be the PGA bingo!...Well in time before the meeting fill in the grid of squares from the attached list...Whenever a word in the grid is mentioned during the meeting but NOT BY YOU, you are allowed to cross out that word in your grid. Whenever you have a complete line either horizontally, vertically or diagonally, YOU ARE THE WINNER!...Suggested keywords: network, autonomous, decentralised, Chiquita, Argentina, Seattle...