

SchNEWS Annual launched

The new SchNews annual 2002/3 'Peace de Resistance' is out now, price £8. It includes issues 351-401 of the mighty SchNews itself - concentrating on anti-war activities, as well as a 'yellow pages,' cartoons, articles and pictures. Details from SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX, Phone/Fax (call before faxing): 01273 685913 www.schnews.org.uk The annual includes a CD-Rom of video and artwork courtesy of BeyondTV <www.beyondtv.org>



Alcoa

Alcoa, the US-owned transnational aluminium giant has got the go-ahead from the Conservative Icelandic government to trash one of Europe's largest remaining areas of natural wilderness. The profit hungry vandals will flood large swathes of the Icelandic highlands - currently a centre of eco-tourism with loads of fantastic waterfalls, glaciers, geothermal springs, unique plants and animals - to build a massive dam to provide electricity for the giant aluminium smelter they intend to build bang in the middle of one of the country's most beautiful fjords. Icelanders are totally baffled as to why their government ignored the advice of their own planning agency - which rejected Alcoa's plans out of hand on ecological grounds - and the desperate protests of national and international environmental campaigners, just to line the pockets of corporate fat cats from another planet. See www.inca.is for campaign details. Alcoa sites in the UK include:

Alcoa Systems (UK) Limited Alcoa House, Regal Road, Stratford - Upon - Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 0ED. Tel: + 44 (0)1789 268923 Fax: + 44 (0)1789 414168 Email: richard.jekiel@alcoa.com And: **Kawneer UK Ltd** Astmoor Industrial Estate Astmoor Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1QQ Tel: + 44 (0)1928 502500 Fax: + 44 (0)1928 502501 Email: kuk.kawneer@alcoa.com

SSP newsletter

Solidarity with South Pacific have a newsletter out, available for an SAE from the address on the contacts page. The pamphlet 'just leave us alone' - a tribal West Papuan's thoughts on the West and what it is doing to his people - is also available for £2.40.

Informed Dissent

Peace News and Undercurrents have a new video-CDRom out, entitled Informed Dissent. It includes footage of Chomsky, demos, a Seize the Day video and Iraq Journal. Informed Dissent can be bought online at of £6.50 (inc. p&p anywhere in the world) by visiting www.peacenews.info. Bulk orders can also be ordered at the discounted rate of £4.

Philippines solidarity

Anti-Capitalist Action Network Philippines are asking for people to send them any anti-Capitalist books, videos, pamphlets or educational material (they're particularly interested in Anarchist stuff). They would like to expand their knowledge of political ideas and would also like to have material they can use for an Infoshop. Info from TACT@temporary.org.uk

New Earth First! website

www.earthfirst.org.uk is now up and running. It provides links to other EF! websites in the UK as well as related campaigns and overseas contacts. Well worth checking out and linking to.

Revolution in the 21st Century

This new book by Jack Grassby puts into context revolutionary (and pseudo-revolutionary) concepts, groups and movements active in the UK at the moment. The book takes a look at political action from a social and political philosophy viewpoint. Available from TUPS Books, 0191 4190446 or visit <http://www.revolution21.co.uk/>.

Simple peat action

Before the last May Bank Holiday weekend, a time when demand for peat at garden centres is high, activists visited DIY stores throughout Greater Manchester slashing bags and stickering. Save our bogs! For more background info, www.peatalert.org.uk

Do or Die

The new Do or Die is out now and sadly it's the last one; the inside cover features a 'suicide note' from the collective. Inside it's bigger than ever. The first hundred pages takes a look back at the last ten years of Earth First! and ecological direct action in the UK and then forward with some practical suggestions for the next ten years. There's also reports, features and analysis from current ecological struggles and revolutionary movements in the UK and from around the world. To get a copy contact your local EF! group or try the Do or Die Editorial Collective, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2GY, UK www.eco-action.org/dod or online from INK www.ink.uk.com.



Earth First! Action Update

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

Issue 89
September 2003

Bypass victory...



Arundel woodland is now safe

...but not the end of the road yet

Arundel saved

At the last minute, and against all expectations, the Government dropped its support for the environmentally destructive Arundel bypass scheme, as well as for the equally disastrous proposed Worthing bypass across the South Downs behind Cissbury Ring. This victory has come as a surprise to many and clearly shows that direct action works. When word hit the streets in June that the schemes were set to get the go-ahead, campaigners wasted no time in taking to the woods. Braving torrential thunder storms and a lack of fresh water supplies, they established a camp deep in the woods on Tortington Common which soon attracted national media attention. Then came the decision to drop it. What a pleasure to see the boot on the other foot for a change and the road lobby freaks left frothing at the mouth in dismay! So why the backdown? Maybe the Evening Standard of July 9th provides a clue; The Government will be desperate to avoid clashes with committed activists such as 'Swampy' - so-called 'king of the eco-warriors'. It is still nervous of provoking the kind of confrontations

that created ugly scenes at Twyford Down and the Newbury bypass in the late nineties. Something to bear in mind as in July the government announced a new £7 billion road building programme. The scheme includes widening the M25, M11, M1 and M42, to as many as 12 lanes wide and numerous bypasses around the country. The announcement has sparked a renewed interest in anti-roads campaigns more info on other road schemes and what to do about 'em below or from www.roadalert.org.uk or your nearest Earth First! group (see contacts page).

Glasgow

Joint Action against M74 motorway through the southern suburbs of Glasgow. PO Box 3751, Glasgow G42 8WR http://uk.geocities.com/jam74_uk

Edinburgh

Bilston Wood- Anti Road Protest Camp near Edinburgh. Against a bypass through the woodland about eight miles south from Edinburgh near Penicuik. Upcoming events at the Bilston Glen Anti

Bypass Site
6,7,8th Sept - Budefest! 2 or 3 days of riotous PUNK including Oi Polloi (tbc), Social Insecurity, Eat Yer Greens, plus many more, even some bands from England...
27,28th Sept - Work/Action weekend. Come down and help sort out site and have fun, meet people etc. Sounds like a good idea. Also, if you'd like to come down and stay, the camp say your presence would be greatly appreciated, especially during mid-September, they are expecting eviction this winter/autumn! Contact c/o Autonomous Centre Edinburgh, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh, EH7 5HA site phone: 07986632429 e-mail: bilston.glen@dmail.net

Sherwood Forest

A protest camp is being set up in Sherwood Forest to prevent the destruction of ancient trees and important habitats, including one tree which is 300 years old. Over 100 trees have already been lost despite theoretical legal protection. Details from Cookie on 07890 165727

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 its inhabitants. It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

50p where sold - anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

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Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 10 issues (£8 Europe; £12 rest of the world). Send more if you can so we can distribute it free to prisoners etc. Cheques/Postal orders payable to **Earth First! Action Update**. Worried about security? You may wish to consider a false name & 'care of' address.

EF! Action Update
Dept 29, 22a Beswick St., Manchester M4 7HS. UK

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Prisoners

The Thessaloniki 8

Simon Chapman was stitched up good and proper by the Greek police during protests at the EU Summit in June. He and other prisoners were beaten and denied medical treatment after arrest, and Simon is facing a 7-25 year sentence if convicted. Note the tabloids aren't demanding his freedom (unlike certain moronic planespotters we can think of). Simon's supporters have video evidence of his bag being tampered with. For more info see www.wombles.org.uk, email thessalonikiprisoners@yahoo.co.uk and send letters or paperback books to: KRATOUMENO SIMON CHAPMAN, DIKASTIKES FYLAKES DIAVATON, T.K 540 12 THESSALONIKI, GREECE

ECO-DEFENCE PRISONERS

Dr. Yurl Bandazhevsky, UL. Kalvarijskaya 36, PO Box 35K, Minsk 220600, Belarus. 8 years for telling the world that nuclear radiation around Chernobyl is worse than the Belarus Government has admitted. José Bové, N° d'écrou 22377 Y, Bloc A 07, 34753 Villeneuve-les-Maguelone, France. 10 months for anti-GM protest.

Marco Camenisch, Sennhofstrasse 17, 7000 Chur, Switzerland. 10 years for anti-nuclear eco-bombings in Switzerland. Reads French, German, Spanish & Italian. Can read some English but is not confident writing large amounts of it.

Iñaki Garcia Koch, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque. Apdo. 250, 31080 - Iruñez - Pamplona, Navarra (España), Spain. 5 years for sabotaging a dam construction site.

Jeffrey 'Free' Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310, USA. 22 years & 8 months for arson on a car dealership & attempted arson of an oil truck.

Craig Marshall, #13797662, SRCI,

777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914 USA. 5 years 5 months for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices, having used the devices to destroy SUVs.

Grigory Pasko, c/o Russian Federation, 690 100 g. Vladivostok, ul. Ivanovskaya 2, kv 24. Russia. 4 years for exposing the Russian Navy dumping nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean.

Fran Thompson (93341), 1107 Recharge Rd., York NE 68467, USA. Eco-activist serving Life for shooting dead a stalker who had broken into her home.

Helen Woodson, 03231-045 FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA. 27 years for three separate actions including a ploughshares-style action on a Minuteman II missile silo. She is facing the possibility of life imprisonment because the US authorities regard her as too high a risk to be released. They believe that if she is released Helen will commit another Eco/Peace direct action. In her defence Helen has assured them they are absolutely correct. Helen has made a statement regarding her actions and imprisonment and ELP is circulating this statement in solidarity with Helen, contact animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com to get hold of a copy.

ANIMAL LIBERATION

Dave Blenkinsop EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX6 0PZ England. 10 years for various animal rights action including against HLS.

Jennifer Greenberg, 3100201610, Rose M. Singer Center, 1919 Hazen St., East Elmherst, NY 11370, USA. SHAC activist serving one year for "Criminal Mischief".

Sonia Hayward KV5943, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU. 15 months for anti-hunt and anti-HLS actions.

Benjamin Persky #1410212600, NYSID# 9846577R, GRVC, 0909 Hazen St., East Elmherst, NY 11370, USA. SHAC activist serving 2-6 years

for "Criminal Mischief".

Peter Schnell #99476-111, FCI Otisville, PO Box 1000, Otisville, NY 10963, USA. 24 months for possession of incendiary devices, allegedly for use on dairy trucks.

Joshua Schwartz, 3100201611, NYSID# 1900738L, EMTC, 1010 Hazen Street, East Elmherst, NY, 11370, USA. SHAC activist serving 1 year for "Criminal Mischief".

PARTY & PROTEST

Robert Middaugh, #T41137 Bldg, 410 23up, PO Box 8, Avenal, CA 93204, USA. (3 years)

Robert Thaxton #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA (86 months)

PLOUGHSHARES & ANTI-WAR

Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Mary Kelly, Ciaran O'Reilly and Damien Moran. All at: Shannon Peace House, 19 Inis Ealga, Shannon, County Clare, Ireland. Jailed for disarming a US Navy war plane.

Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson and Ardeth Platte. All at: PO Box 518, Georgetown, CO80444, USA. Jailed for anti-nuke action.

Toby Olditch and **Philip Pritchard**, HMP Gloucester, GL1 2JN, England. Jailed for cutting the fence at RAF Fairford, trespass and conspiracy.

Barbara Smedema, Gevangenis Ter Peel, Patersweg 4, 5977 NM Evertsoord, Holland. Jailed for damaging communication discs at a nuclear bunker.

INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

Leonard Peltier #89637-132, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Life after being framed for murdering 2 FBI agents.

Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/A 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16475-0002, USA. 35-75 years for helping ship arms to Central American

indigenous activists.

MOVE

Debbie Simms Africa (006307), Janet Holloway Africa (006308) and Janine Philips Africa (006309) all at: SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

Michael Davis Africa (AM4973) and Charles Simms Africa (AM4975) both at SCI Grateford, PO Box 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244, USA.

Edward Goodman Africa (AM4974), 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

William Philips Africa (AM4984) and Delbert Orr Africa (AM4985) both at SCI Dallas Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Mumia Abu Jamal, (AM8335), SCI Greene, 175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg PA 15370, USA. Framed in 1981 for murder of a cop. Awaiting re-sentencing.

ANTI-FASCIST

Matthew 'Rampage' Lamont #2057039, Intake/Release Center, 550N. Flower St, Santa Ana, CA 92710, USA. Three years for possessing an incendiary device, allegedly intended to disrupt a neo-nazi gathering.

Tomasz Wiloszewski, Zaklad Karny, Orzechowa 5, 98-200 Sieradz, Poland. 15 years for accidentally killing a neo-nazi whilst defending himself.

Resources

Spirit of Freedom (Earth Liberation Prisoners), c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, Leeds, LS7 3HB, earthlibprisoner@mail.com, www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Earth Liberation Prisoners Newsletter/ Urgent ELP! Bulletin c/o BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX, AnimalEarthLiberation@Bigfoot.Com Anti-war prisoners can be found at: <http://www.j-n-v.org/prisoners.htm>

Seedy business

ASEED organised a genespotting week in the Netherlands. This attracted a considerable amount of attention from, amongst others, a PR agency set up by a former Greenpeace member and now corporate whore of the GM industry. One of the actions included attending a GM potato-planting press conference, where the activists kindly donated a 'biohazard carpet' for the delegates to walk down, and then contributed a box of organic potatoes to plant instead, after locals hijacked the photocall by turning up on tractors. At another action biohazard signs were planted along the road into a village where one of the farmers is participating in trials.

ASEED is also calling for a Harvest Action week in the autumn, concentrating on opposing GM food and planting and promoting organic crops and local food. For details contact pim@aseed.antenna.nl.

Swiss police in attempted murder shock (not)

Swiss police carried on the growing campaign of violence against anti-capitalist protesters when they nearly killed British climber Martin Shaw by cutting the rope that held him, causing him to fall 60 foot from a road-bridge. Video showing the deliberate nature of the act was taken, but Swiss police have continued to claim that it was an 'accident.' The police allowed traffic to keep using the bridge as normal while it took an hour to get help to Martin, who had suffered two fractured ankles, two fractured vertebrae and a fractured pelvis.

Further police violence was also used against the thousands of protesters opposing the G8 meeting of the world's arch-capitalists in Evian.

Army embarrassed (and not by their own stupidity...)

An army recruitment stall at Newtown festival in June formed the perfect target for humiliation by activists from Wrexham and Mid-Wales anti-war groups. The army's stall was barely visible behind the peace flags, stall and banners, and anyone approaching the area had to cross a field of 'landmines' (paper plates to me and thee) whilst being hailed by a megaphone warning of the dangers and effects of the landmines. The festival parade also included an unplanned funeral march, featuring a white coffin painted with a list of all the countries which have been at war during the 'peace' which followed World War II. Contact wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com for more information.

Digging dirt

In June British International Solidarity Movement members disrupted the Caterpillar/Finning (UK) stand at the Hillhead 'Quarrying and Recycling' fair near Buxton. A banner reading "Caterkiller - demolishing Palestine - demolishing peace" and another protester with a megaphone highlighted Caterpillar's sale of demolition equipment to the Israeli army, who use it to demolish homes and entire villages, often crushing people and their belongings beneath the rubble. Several of the protesters were removed by police, while others managed to hold their position, demanding that a non-Caterpillar cherrypicker be used to remove them. A Caterpillar bulldozer was also used to murder US activist Rachel Corrie as she tried to defend Palestinian homes in Rafah, Gaza (the Israeli military has now 'closed the file' on Rachel's death). Caterpillar equipment is also now being used to build the apartheid wall which the Israeli state is constructing to steal yet more Palestinian land and water, and well as make a Palestinian state unworkable.

Several days of actions took place in London as activists protested the meeting between Tony Blair and Ariel Sharon, the genocidal PM of Israel. 'Checkpoints' in Regent's Park and Oxford Street resulted in passers-by intervening to help the activists playing Palestinians being harassed by Israeli soldiers. 2 thirty-foot banners were dropped off bridges over the Thames within site of Parliament, reading 'Sharon, walls create ghettos' and 'peace needs bridges, not walls.' And Sharon's press conference with Jack Straw was disrupted by protesters and the release of 400 black balloons, one for every 10 people - Palestinian or Israeli - killed by the Occupation. There were several arrests.

Diary dates

September

6- 12 Shut Down DSEi. DSEi, Europe's largest trade fair. More info disarm@dsei.org, www.dsei.org 0781 7652 029

10-14 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting, Cancun, Mexico. Protests planned: www.s2bnetwork.org/www.wto.org

20-21 Aktivix - weekend Linux workshop for campaigners in Lancaster 01524 383 012 aktivix@seedsforchange.org.uk c/o Seeds for Change, 96 Church St, Lancaster, LA1 1TD www.seedsforchange.org.uk/aktivix1.html

22 European Car-Free Day. www.carbusters.org 27,28th Bilston Wood- Anti Road Protest Camp near Edinburgh Work/Action weekend Come down and help sort out site and have fun, meet people etc. You know it's a good idea.

27 National demonstration to 'End the Occupation of Iraq and Palestine - Bring the troops home', in London. www.stopwar.org.uk

October

5-6 Demonstration and trespass day at Lakenheath, the main US tactical airbase in Europe and home to around 30 nuclear weapons. Bring banners, drums, instruments. It would be helpful if people could come in preformed affinity groups and let the LAG know by 26th September if you/your group intend to take part in the trespass.

Demonstrate 12noon-4.00pm, Sun 5th Oct Trespass: 6.00am to midnight Mon 6th 2003 The demonstration will be part of "Keep Space for Peace" week. For further information email dwhiggin@dhiggin.fsnet.co.uk

11 Action at Menwith Hill as part of the International Week of Protest against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space. See www.caab.org.uk for details.

15 'Site Unseen' protests - Birtley & Bellingham arms factories (and public meeting in Newcastle). www.caat.org.uk/intro/caatdiary/siteunseen.html

11 Rally and March in Cambridge opposing the proposed primate research centre. Contact: SPEAC, P.O 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR. E-mail: shac.yorkshire@webtribe.net

16 Worldwide Day of Action against McDonalds 0845 458 9595 www.mcspotlight.org

25 Anarchist Bookfair, University of London Union, Mallet Street, London. Rooms also available for hire for meetings, workshops etc. Contact woodiewood@madasafish.com for details.

25 October Citizens Inspection of NATO's "Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe" (SHAPE) in Belgium. www.bomspottin.be

November

12-16 European Social Forum - Paris.

December

1 - 12 COP 9, Milan, Italy. Latest round of negotiations over restricting climate change.

January 2004

Fourth World Social Forum, India

EF! Action Update

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www.actionupdate.org.uk
mail@actionupdate.org.uk

The EF! AU is produced 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 and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

This is the Manchester collective's last Action Update. We've been doing it for a year now and the honor of putting out the AU has been passed to a team in Brighton - good luck guys! Please note that the contact details will change as of a month or so, though the e-mail and website will be the same.

There's been so much news since the last edition that we decided to ditch the usual feature, so this one's all action!

take care, love and rage
Manchester AU Collective

Action Groups

Local EF! contacts, some are active groups, others need more people to get in touch

Bath EF!
c/o PO Box 426, Bath,
Somerset, BA1 2ZD

Dartmoor EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totnes,
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

Grampian EF!
PO Box 248, Aberdeen AB25
1JE
grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan
Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd
LL57 1AX 01248 255 821
bangor-
werdd@yahoo.com

Leeds EF!
c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Av
Leeds LS73HB 0113 262
9365
leedsef@leedsef.org.uk

London Reclaim The Streets
PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY
02072814621
rts@gn.apc.org

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first@email.com

Nottingham EF!
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0845 458 9595
nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre 35-39 London
Street, Reading, Berkshire
RG1 4PS 0118 954 6430
roadbusters@gn.apc.org

Sheffield EF!
c/o Brambles Resource
Centre, 82 Andover St,
Sheffield S3 9EH 0114 279
7164
jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk

South Devon EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totnes,
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

SWAN Network
PO Box 70, Newport NP10YDS
wangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Warwickshire Action Group
c/o Gaia, 7 Regent Place,
Leamington Spa CV31 1EH
wag@hushmail.com,
07771547576

Contacts list - Sept. 2003

York LEAF
c/o SU Centre, University of
York, Heslington, YO10 5DD

Support Groups & Information Networks

Activists' Legal Project
16b Cherwell Street
Oxford, OX4 1BG
01865 243 772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen Project
6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2
2GY atchoo22@gurllmail.com

Blatant Incitement Project
(outreach & small group
support), c/o Manchester EF!
doinit@nematode.freeseve.co.uk

CAGE Network
(against the prison system)
c/o 245 Gladstone Street,
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595

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

Earth Liberation Prisoners
Support Network
BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
earthlibprisoner@mail.com

Genetic Engineering Network
GEN, Archway Resource C'tr,
1a Waterlow Road, Archway,
London, N19 5NJ
020 7272 1586
genetics@gn.apc.org

Human Genetics Alert
Unit AH112, Aberdeen House
22-24 Highbury Grove
London N5 2EA
020-7704 6100
www.hgalert.org

Peat Alert,
c/o crc, 16 Sholebroke
Avenue, Leeds, LS7 3HB 0778
778 2259
www.peatalert.org.uk

Primal Seeds
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

Rising Tide network
Groups throughout country
see www.risingtide.org.uk or
ring 01865 241 097

URGENT (green field housing
network), Box HN, 16b
Cherwell St,Oxford,
OX4 1BG 01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

Publications

Counter Information
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Brighton BN2 2GY
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FINs - for a full list of Free
Information Networks, send
SAE to: London FIN
c/o 99 Torrino Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Genetix Update
c/o Totnes GenetiX Group
PO Box77, Totness TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840 098
info@togg.org

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715, London
WC1N 3XX

Peace News
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*The EF!AU has a list of local
radical publications.
Send an SAE or e-mail.*

Virtual News

www.ainfos.ca a multi-lingual
news service by, for and about
anarchists

Beyond TV - Activist and
campaigns resource site
www.beyondtv.org

Allsorts - UK based e-news for
activists allsorts@gn.apc.org
www.uk.indymedia.org

Video

i-Contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol BS29TX
01179140188
i-contact@videonet.org

RadiX-video archive for direct
action radix@enviroweb.org
www.enviroweb.org/radix

Other Contacts

Advisory Service for Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road, London
N1 2QN 020 7359 8814
advice@squat.freeseve.co.uk

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160, London WC1N
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1003021616@compuserve.co.uk

Anarchist Federation
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ChiapasLink
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chiapaslink@yahoo.com

Disabled Action Network
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020 88891361

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Box Z, 13 Biddulph St,
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0116 210 9652
lynx@gn.apc.org
www.oneworld.org/delta

Friends of People Close to
Nature (FPCN UK)
33 Gould Close, Welham
Green, Hatfield, AL9 7EB
01707 885 994
rains@fpcn-global.org

Haringey Solidarity Group
PO Box 2474, London N8

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2
2AX 01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Industrial Workers of the
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Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours (TLIO)
16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4
1BG 01460 249204
office@tlio.demon.co.uk

Legal Defence & Monitoring
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BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX
ldmgmail@yahoo.co.uk
020 8245 2930

London GreenPeace &
McLibel Campaign
5 Caledonian Road, London
N1 9DX 020 7713 1269
info@mcspotlight.org

Making Waves
PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36
4BZ 01226 764279
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No Platform anti-fascist
network
PO Box 127, Leeds LS3 1TS

Reclaim the Satyagraha!
c/o 5 Caledonian Road,
London N1 9DX
07973 539 390
enquiries@satyagraha.org

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO,
Manchester M15 5HW
0161 232 7889

Stop Huntingdon Animal
Cruelty Campaign (SHAC)
PO Box 38, Cheltenham,
Gloucs GL50 1YN
0845 458 0630

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2
1NR
0845 458 8366
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Women Speak Out
wsoall@hotmail.com

Protest Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace
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0117 939 3746

Elvaston Park Camp
dot@theadora.screaming.net
07769 534725

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh,
Dunbartonshire G84 8HT
Scotland 01436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry Camp
Lees Cross, Lees Rd, Stanton
Lees, Matlock, Derbyshire
07876 311709

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

Vallee d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond

*active campaigns that have had
protest camps in the past*

Action Against the Toll
Motorway (AtoM)
0121 643 9117
actionagainstthetollmotorway
@hotmail.com

Golden Cross Road Action
Group (Essex)
01702 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockley Housing
01702 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642, Newbury RG14
5WG 07000 785 201

International

For international contacts we
recommend the list in Do or
Die 9 or ...

Peoples Global Action (PGA)
against the WTO and neo-
liberalisation, www.apg.org

Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson
AZ 85702 USA
Tel: (520) 620-6900
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Nine Ladies camp on Stanton Moor

Stanton Moor, situated within the Peak District National Park and near the village of Stanton-in-the-Peak, is a place of outstanding natural beauty, where lush woodlands lead to the top of a hill and the ancient sacred site of the Nine Ladies Stone Circle. Quarry companies want to extract 2.4 million tonnes of gritstone from the hillside over the next 40 years. This means quarrying 35 acres of woodland to within 250 metres of the stone circle and leaving behind 1.2 million tonnes of spoil. People have actively protested against the re-opening of the quarries and established a protest camp on the hillside which over the years has not only survived but grown in size and numbers despite continuous eviction threats. Help and support is both welcome and needed. Nine Ladies Anti-Quarry Campaign, Bramble Dene, Stanton Lees, Near Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2LQ. Telephone: 0787 631 1709 <http://www.nineladies.uklinux.net/>



DSEI

Between 6th and 12th September, while the WTO meets in Mexico, hundreds of arms dealers and buyers will descend on London's Docklands for Europe's largest arms fair, Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi). Also descending on London will be thousands of people who are opposed to the arms fair, who will use whatever tactics they think are most effective to protest against, disrupt and maybe even shut down the event.

At the time of going to press actions had already started. On Thursday 21st August activists occupied the head office of exhibition organisers Spearhead, while a large banner reading "Spearhead - DSEing with Death!" was hung from the building. On 1st September, a group of 40 activists halted preparations by blocking vehicle access to the site. Both of the roads leading to the conference venue, the ExCel centre in London's Docklands, were blocked. One route by two tripod structures and the other by activists linked together using metal arm tubes. The blockade lasted for 6 hours before police used violent tactics to break it up. Details of actions and events available from <http://www.dsei.org> see the next AU for reports from the week of demonstrations.

IndyMedia takes off

There has been an explosion in IndyMedia sites over the past few months. IndyMedia is a network of open publishing websites which allow anyone to publish news and information - bypassing the mainstream media. A national UK site has been running for a few years now but has been joined recently by subsites in Cambridge, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Oxford, Sheffield, Scotland and the West Country and independent sites in Bristol and Wales. The code has also been updated to speed searches and uploads. Check out <http://indymedia.org.uk> for all the latest news or to find out about getting involved or setting up a local group.

NVDA toolbox

Manchester-based UHC Collective has produced an NVDA toolbox CD-Rom. The guide is a response to the recent upturn in the numbers of people involved in or interested in taking direct action. The CD contains a digest of hundreds of pages taken from manuals and websites of information on the practicalities of taking direct action. All you need to do is pop the CD into your PC and the toolbox comes up, navigable in a website format. The toolbox is divided into four areas; organisation including meetings, consensus decision making, methods of organising; on the offensive which is tools for taking direct action including guides to tripods, tunnelling, blockading, GM trashings and office occupations; survival and freedom including dealing with public order situations, legal advice, prison, burnout, and New Deal for activists; and miscellaneous stuff such as dealing with the press, strategy and anarchism.

Copies of the credit card-sized CD are available from UHC Collective at cost price. Alternatively you can surf an online version of the Toolbox at the UHC website <www.uhc-collective.org.uk> and there is a facility where you can download it onto your PC and burn it onto CDs for distribution. All the information on the CD is copy-left and UHC welcome any comments for additions or alterations. Contact UHC Collective, PO Box 23, Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HR www.uhc-collective.org.uk mail@uhc-collective.org.uk

(Eat my) shorts

EVS applications

EYFA is encouraging applications from grassroots groups who want funding to host an EVS worker in 2004. The money allows groups to pay a worker for one year. Workers must be from another EU or participating European country and under 26. Details from evs@eyfa.org. The deadline for applications is the 1st October.

Baku pipeline stickers

London Rising Tide have loads of colourful A5 stickers to distribute, which say 'BP destroys the environment/social justice/the climate' and 'Stop BP's Baku-Ceyhan pipeline - www.burningplanet.net' Please write to london@risingtide.org.uk if you want some, and don't forget to include a postal address and the number you want.' Fire Museum have compiled a Azadi!, a benefit CD for RAWA, the amazing Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan. Information and orders at: www.museumfire.com/azadi.htm

Bush visit

Rumour has it that our dear friend Dubya will be visiting London in October, possibly around the 3rd/4th. Trip down there, anyone?

News on the world government elite

A new article on the Bildeberg group is out and about. The Shady World of the Bildeberg (www.propgandamatrix.com, <http://globalresearch.ca>) gives a digest of info on the group of capitalist-world leaders and multinational CEO's who meet to determine global trade policies. Publicity for the article also points out that the group has recently been hosted by Utell Corp, owners of Hilton and Moathouse hotels, who should perhaps be told the error of their ways.

HUB

TACT1 have been involved in setting up a website to start a discussion around a 'HUB' - a proposal for new networks of resistance and solidarity that has emerged from many recent discussions. The website is at <http://www.hub.org.uk>.

Baku research

Manchester EF! Has compiled a list of over 70 companies (and their premises) involved in the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. See contact details page for details of where to get it...

Derby Earth First!

The fine people of Derby have a chance to take action to defend the environment. A request has gone out for people in Derby wishing to set up an Earth First! group to get in touch. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact derby.earthfirst@hushmail.com

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, it's ideas, actions or indeed anything else.

Now or never

anti-GM protests step up as commercialisation decision nears



After years of widespread resistance to the introduction of genetically modified crops into the UK the moment of truth is finally approaching. This autumn the government will decide whether to commercialise a technology opposed by the majority of the public in this country. One scenario predicted by the government themselves should commercialisation occur, is for widespread civil unrest and campaigners don't look like they are going to disappoint. Below is a roundup of GM-related actions and information.

Stop The Crop!

They may not have made the headlines in the mainstream media lately but widespread covert trashing of GM crops have continued around the country. Here's one person's account of destroying a GM crop...

It's 4am on a Sunday morning and I'm standing in a country lane with 60 other people, waiting for dawn. Soon it's time to go and we head towards the test site - a crop of genetically modified wheat at the Syngenta research centre in Berkshire. Suddenly, as we're walking along the road to the site a cop van passes us; all I can think is 'Oh fuck, we're fucking fucked' - we're in the middle of nowhere and we look so dodgy that they must guess what we're up to. But they just drive past. I presume they've gone to get backup, and we all speed up cos we realise we've got limited time to get the job done before reinforcements show up.

So we're through the hole in the fence and we're putting on our decontamination gear: white paper suits, white masks, foot coverings, gloves - the works. The last thing we want to do is spread that GM pollen when we leave. We set to work on the crop, some of us with sickles, others pulling them up by the roots which is easy cos the soil is so moist. It feels great to be doing something so direct, which will have such a big impact on research into GM crops. This is how direct action should feel - powerful.

As I'm working, a red dawn stretches across the sky. Around me, some people are giving interviews to activists with video cameras as they decontaminate the crop, but most people stay masked up and incognito. That's how I like to be. Within 15 minutes the whole crop's destroyed, and still neither the police nor security have showed up. From what I can see, not a single stem of wheat is left standing. We quickly carry bundles of wheat from where it was pulled up to other parts of the field to mix up the control and the test plants so they can't replant them.

Then we head to our exit hole and decontaminate ourselves - taking off our outer clothes and bagging them up for disposal later. Once we're clean, we make our escape through the early-morning countryside. Soon we're all home safe: no arrests, no hassle and one less GM crop in the world.

Company briefings

Corporate Watch have recently published a series of reports profiling the biotechnology companies seeking to introduce GM crops in the UK. The reports include Bayer (the primary GM company in the UK), Syngenta and Monsanto. There is also an overview of the commercialisation process which contains an analysis of possible scenarios for the introduction of GM crops and some advice on tactics towards opposing the process. The briefings are extremely useful for activists seeking to target companies and contain information including site locations, corporate structures and the names of prominent directors. Also available is a biotech family tree poster, for all those confused by the mergers, buyouts, bankruptcies and name changes within the biotechnology industry. So if you ever wondered what happened to Agrivo or Astra Zeneca or thought Monsanto went bust years ago the check this out.

Available online at the Corporate Watch website
www.corporatewatch.org.uk

Networking

GEN (the Genetic Engineering Network) have been a bit quiet for a while but are gearing up again as the commercialisation decision grows near. They act as a central point of contact for groups opposing GM crops around the UK. They offer advice, resources and information and put out the Genetics Update newsletter.

Contact details: Local rate phone line: 0845 456 9329, normal rate and international calls: + 44 (0) 1273 609161, www.geneticsaction.org.uk, genetics@gn.apc.org

New postal address coming soon. Totness Genetics groups are also a really useful contact: www.togg.org.uk

Green Gloves pledge

For those expecting the worst you are invited to join with others who have signed the Green Gloves Pledge, at www.greengloves.org. This is a pledge to take, or support others who take, non-violent action to prevent genetic pollution and its damage to life and livelihoods. You will be acting in the public interest with the support of many others. The number of people signing the pledge will indicate to the government how many people are willing to actively defend nature and democracy. It will remind Tony Blair where real power finally lies: with the will of the people. Perhaps, just perhaps, he might even listen.

Go to www.greengloves.org or send a pledge to: Green Gloves, 16B Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG

NB: These details will be kept secure and not disclosed to third parties (Data Protection Act).

Rising up against the Baku-Ceyhan project

Export credit guaranteed

Rising Tide struck at the end of August when they occupied the office of UK Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) boss Vivian Brown. At least five people, barricaded themselves into Brown's office and, in the spirit of participatory democracy, attempted to open a constructive dialogue with ECGD staff over the Baku-Ceyhan project. Sadly, their overtures were rebuffed, and a unique opportunity to explain how this massively contentious project is in the public interest was lost.

Activists were protesting against the activities of the ECGD, in particular its likely support for the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline. In recent years the Export Credits Guarantee Department has come under increasing fire for using public money to subsidise the arms trade, for supporting projects enmeshed in gross corruption, and for failing to carry out sufficient research into the benefits of the projects it supports for local people. And climatic impacts of projects like Baku-Ceyhan stand in direct opposition to the ECGD's purported commitment to sustainable development.

Weekly protests will take place at 4.30pm on Thursdays outside the offices of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, opposing its support for the Baku pipeline. It is at 21 Exchange Square, behind Liverpool Street station.



AMEC attacked in BAKU blockade!

Concerned individuals from the North of England proved their ability to get up early when they blockaded building company Amec's Warrington offices on the morning of Thursday 10th July. Using a tripod, D-locks and arm tubes, they blocked the entrance to the swanky offices in protest against the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline. The blockade forced all the staff at Amec House to park their cars on the road and forced them step over activists. Other protesters handed out leaflets and spoke to employees as they walked past. The police arrived on the scene early but couldn't really do much since no criminal laws had been broken. After 3 hours the protesters left since most of the employees seemed to be inside the building. (See picture above)

BP's image tainted

The culture vultures of the London elite got the bloody origins of their funding rammed down their throats when Rising Tide hit two glitzy events in a month. First came the National Portrait Awards, where suave RT-ers handed out leaflets detailing BP's murderous activities in Colombia and Indonesia as well as its involvement in the Baku-Ceyhan project, slapdash attitudes towards the safety of its own staff and predatory instincts towards Iraqi oil.

Then there was the 'Museum of the Mind' exhibition at the British Museum, where 2 fake BP operatives in shades serenaded the company before being rapidly ejected, whilst others unfurled a banner and otherwise disrupted the proceedings.

BP has earned such attentions by being a leader of the scheme to build a huge oil pipeline across parts of the former Soviet Union and Turkey, a route guaranteed to damage environments, displace people and contribute to the political instability of an already volatile region.

Contacts for the campaign

e-mail: london@risingtide.org.uk
or oop north: bakuceyhannorth@topica.com Text 07952 833795 or call 0161 226 6814

www.burningplanet.net, www.risingtide.org.uk
www.earthfirst.org.uk/manchester/baku/
includes a list of the companies involved in the pipeline, and many of their addresses.

Pilgrims

Ten individuals will make a personal pilgrimage to London from all corners of the country this October, travelling by foot, tractor and bike to demonstrate their deep opposition to GM crops. Their journeys will take place in the weeks leading up to October 13th when the pilgrims will join hundreds of consumers, environmentalists and

farmers at a central London Tractors and Trolleys Parade against GM. The pilgrimages will take in significant locations en route including GM crop test sites, biotech companies and local farmers markets, and will be supported by local activities and send off actions. More information at: www.tractorandtrolley.com

Blink and you'll miss it - the GM public debate

What else did you expect? The government-run public consultation was a poorly advertised, ill conceived and miss-managed farce that failed to engage ordinary people. A new film from IndyMedia demonstrates that much of the public believe that the decision has already been made to push ahead with GM (regardless of the will of the people) and that the government is an undemocratic tool of U.S. interests and big business. Available from real2reel@lifecycles.info.



Destroy GM - Target Bayer

Summer 2003. As the commercialisation of GM crops looms, and as national governments are shown to be unwilling/ unable to prevent it, we must turn our attention to the corporations who will profit from GM, and who wield the real power. German based multinational Bayer are the main corporate player in GM in Britain and Europe. Hit them hard now, and we can stop the commercialisation of gm crops.

These contacts are all for Bayer or its subsidiaries. It has been compiled to provide information to activists wanting to target Bayer. It has been put together quite quickly in order to get the information out, and should not be thought of as complete. There will be more contacts that aren't listed here - try looking on their websites and in your local phone books. For more info, action reports, and to let us know about your actions and any info you have, a website will be appearing shortly, to get the address visit www.bayerhazard.com

Bayer Plc

Bayer House, Strawberry Hill,
Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1JA
Tel - 01635 563000
Fax - 01635 563393
corporate.communications@bayer.co.uk
media.enquiries@bayer.co.uk
resourcing@bayer.co.uk
www.jobs.bayer.co.uk
www.bayer.co.uk
www.bayer.com

Bayer Crop Science (new UK HQ)

Cambridge Road, Hauxton, Cambridge,
CB2 5HU
Tel - 01223 870312
Fax - 01223 872142
ukinfo@bayercropscience.com
www.bayercropscience.co.uk
www.bcsbioscience.co.uk

Bayer Crop Science UK Directors

Martyn Hargreaves (company
secretary)
Lambert Courth
Michael O'Brien
Dr Joachim Schneider
Wolfgang Welter
(all registered at Bayer Crop Science
above)

Bayer Crop Science,
Sweet Briar Road, Norwich, Norfolk,
NR6 5AP
Tel - 01603 242424

Bayer Crop Science,
Whiffen Works, Gorse Lane, Widnes,
Cheshire, WA8 0RN
Tel - 0151 4245681
Fax - 0151 4204355

Bayer Crop Science,
Cliffe Road, North Newbald, North
Yorkshire, YO43 4TY
Tel - 01430 827747

Aventis Crop Science (owned by
Bayer)
Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0HW
Tel - 01277 301301
(either closed or in the process of
closing)

Animal Health Care Group

Bayer House, Strawberry Hill,
Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1JA
Tel - 01635 563622
animalhealth@bayer.co.uk
responsecenter.ah@bayer-ad.de

Bayer Diagnostics

Bayer House, Strawberry Hill
Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1JA
Tel - 01635 566231
Tel - 01635 566249
Fax - 01635 566288
Fax - 01635 566260
www.bayerdiag.com

Consumer Care Division

Bayer House, Strawberry Hill,
Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1JA
Tel - 01635 563549
Fax - 01635 563669

PBI Home and Garden Ltd

Durkhan House
241 - 224 High Street, Waltham Cross,
Hertfordshire, EN8 7DP
Tel - 01992 784200
Fax - 01992 784950
www.pbi.co.uk

Pharmaceutical Division

Strawberry Hill, Newbury, Berkshire
medical.affairs@bayer.co.uk

Bayer Ltd (Ireland)

Chapel Lane, Swords, Co. Dublin
Tel - 00 353 1 81 32222
Fax - 00 353 1 81 32299
bayer.ltd@bayer.ie

Bayer Diagnostics Manufacturing Ltd

Chapel Lane, Swords, Co. Dublin
Tel - 00 353 1 81 32222
Fax - 00 353 1 81 32111
diagnostics@bayer.ie

Bayer Diagnostics Europe

Chapel Lane, Swords, Co. Dublin
Tel - 00 353 1 81 32222
Fax - 00 353 1 81 32299
bdel@bayer.ie

Bayer AG (Germany)

Global Headquarters, 51368,
Leverkusen, Germany
www.bayer.com

Bayer AG Board of Management
Werner Wenning (Chairman of the
Board)
Dr. Udo Oels
Dr. Richard Pott

Bayer Crop Science (world HQ)

Bayer Crop Science AG, Alfred-Nobe-
Str. 50, D-40789 Monheim am Rhein,
Germany
www.bayercropscience.com

Bayer Crop Science AG Board of
Management
Dr. Jochen Wulf (chairman)
Dr. Esmail Ziraparvar (business
operations)

Dr. Bernard Garthoff (technology)
Willy Scherf (director)

www.bayer.at
www.bayer.be
www.bayer.dk
www.bayer.fi
www.bayer.nl
www.bayer.no
www.bayer-pharma.si
www.bayer.es
www.bayer.se
www.bayer.ch

BAYER'S ASSOCIATES

BDML

Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial
Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3TY
Tel - 01656 655535
Fax - 01635—566583

Dystar (35% owned by Bayer)
Unit 2, Pennine Business Park,
Bradley Road, Huddersfield, HD2
1RA
Tel - 01484 411 400
Fax - 01484 411401
www.dystar.com
DyStar.UK@DyStar.com

Wolf Cellulosics
www.wolff-cellulosics.de

HC Starck GmbH (part of Bayer
Group)
UK Liaison Office, Aizlewoods Mill,
Nursery Street, Sheffield, S3 8GG
Tel - 0114 282 3156
Fax - 0114 282 3244
malcolm.greaves.mq@bayer.co.uk
www.hcstarck.com

HC Starck Ltd, 1 Harris Road, Calne,
Wiltshire, SN11 9PT
Tel - 01249 822122
Fax - 01249 814 326

Horndon Industrial Park, W. Horndon,
Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3XD.
Tel - 01277 811251
Fax - 01277 810 255

MDL (wholly owned by Bayer)
Spring Lane North, Malvern Link,
Worcs, WR14 1BU
Tel - 01684 891055
Fax - 01684 891060
www.microbialdevelopments.com
Microbial@bayer.co.uk

W. Hawley & Son (wholly owned by
Bayer)
Limited Colour works, Lichfield Road,
Branston, Burton-on-Trent,
Staffordshire, DE14 3WH
Tel - 01283 714200
Fax - 01283 714201
www.hawley.co.uk
info@hawley.edi.co.uk

Actions to date (5th September 03) include:

- Bayer Newbury HQ blockaded.
- Bayer AG Annual General Meeting in Germany disrupted.
- Locks jammed at Bayer Crop Science in North Yorkshire.
- Locks jammed and walls and windows spray painted at Dystar in Huddersfield.
- Bayer Newbury HQ occupied and a demo in the town centre.
- Bayer promotional stall at British Potato Festival disrupted - potatoes thrown, paperwork removed, furniture overturned, computers damaged, people leafleted.
- Presentation by Bayer at conference at York University wrecked before it starts. Activists remove electrical equipment, pour foul smelling 'noxious liquid' over chairs, carpet and upholstery, and spray paint 'Bayer - stop gm' on a large projector screen. Police report damages of £5000.
- Junk mail blockade begins

Armchair activism

Inbetween visiting their offices, join the junk mail blockade! It doesn't take very many people doing some of the following things on a regular basis to waste a lot of office time and maybe even make some of their communications unworkable.

- Order the directors loads of junk from the magazines in weekend tabloids
- Sign Bayer offices up to email lists
- Place adverts/prostitutes cards with Bayer phone numbers on them
- Sign them up to email lists
- For those that know how, crash their websites, set up websites to bombard them with emails, etc. (Huntingdon Life Sciences recently received thousands of emails on an hourly/daily basis in this manner.)
- Send black paper on a loop to their fax number, using up all the ink on their fax machines.
- Send letters, emails and phone calls letting them know you are against gm crops.
- You can probably work out more phone numbers/ email addresses to target by trying similar ones to those listed here
- Remember security - don't leave electronic, paper or forensic trails back to you for anything too dodgy

Feedback from the Earth First! Summer Gathering 2003

There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from the experiences at this year's Summer Gathering. Both old timer EF! activists, as well as newcomers, seem to have come away feeling very inspired and with a good dose of renewed enthusiasm.

This feedback is taken from one of the largest ever EF! meetings in Leeds (!), as well as from talking to individuals around the country. It is hoped that it reflects the larger EF! gathering experience.

Inspirational experiences included:

- seeing the growth, diversity and commitment of EF! over the last decade
- meeting so many people, with relatively diverse interests & experience
- well organised, good breadth of timetable
- large, well focused attendance at workshops
- specific workshops highlighted incl. bayer, shac, ssp, anti-civilisation, wild things
- practical workshops were felt to be vital and had been very useful
- hearing what people's opinions are, without necessarily agreeing on them- helping to formulate and consolidate own opinions
- openness for newcomers to become involved
- impressive level of organisation and attention to detail in all aspects of gathering
- atmosphere of mutual respect and care
- the compost toilets!

There have been mixed responses about the gathering-wide

discussions. Some people did not attend them as they did not feel particularly interested in them. Some were pleased to see their return.

It was noted that attendance was not very high at these discussions (about 150 people out of the 300 who attended) but there was a high level of "newcomers". People found them sometimes inspiring, sometimes frustrating. Some felt it was extremely valuable to hear what other people had to say, even if they disagreed - they were glad to hear views aired. The discussions highlighted different politics and different levels of thought and commitment. However, some felt that there was a lack of honesty and clarity in what people said in the discussions - people fall over themselves not to argue or debate things cos we're all just too goddam polite. It was also noted that if you try and make something/ anything too big, it becomes vague and diluted.

The gathering-wide discussions were structured to feed into each other each day and to come out on the last day with some practical tactical ideas/decisions. These included undertaking a nationwide targeted campaign (Shac stylee) against the genetics company Bayer; the continuation of Action Update (obviously!); other networks and gatherings were discussed e.g. wider direct action network and a concentrated re-focus on EF!'s eco-roots.

Thank you to everyone who made it happen.