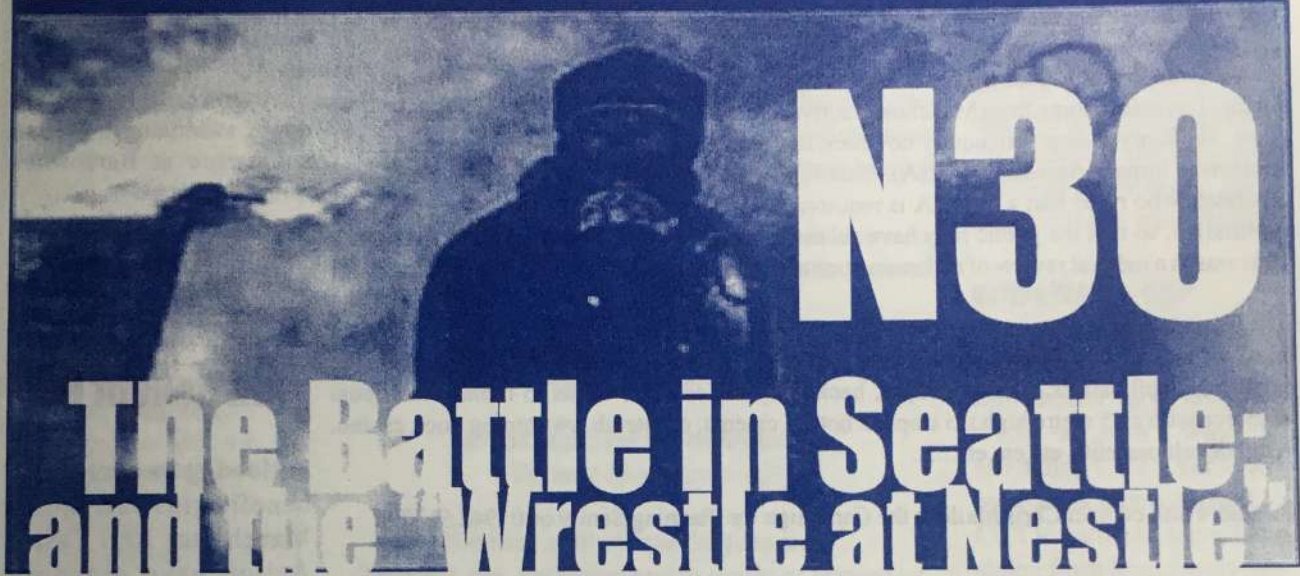


The Loombreaker

No. 7 ★ "Fuck The Millenium!" Issue (Dec 99) ★ Free



The Battle in Seattle; and the "Wrestle at Nestle"

To coincide with the global day of action against the WTO, activists from across the north of england targeted a nestle factory in Halifax.

An eyewitness account:

"Nestle are bastards. Pigs followed about 40 people thru' Bradford, watched them fuff about at the Bus Station, stand

N30 Sabotage!

We have also recieved reports of at least two incidents of sabotage in Manchester workplaces during November 30th. To protect the workers' identity we can't print the full details, but we are pleased to report that two of our favorite nasty multinationals were sabbed from the inside causing embarrassing disruption and costing several thousand pounds!

Inside:

Okasional Cafe, Disney, Shell, Anti GM action, Pigs on Strike, CCTV Trashing, Free Party news, Campsfield, AFA, Xanadu, McDonalds, and all your old favourites....

on one platform, then another. At the train station about 8 pigs got on train and walked up and down and stood about, the train stopped at Halifax protesters legged it and couldn't see the pigs for dust. About 60 seconds later (haven't got a clue how long really) people ran under an underpass to the shouts of "it's Nestle" (this was supposed to be a stop for a BREIF description of the site, handing out of leaflets and telling people what the target was and for obvious reasons wasn't!) then round a corner, over a wall and into the factory. People walked thru' production areas with no plastic bags over heads leafletted workers etc. Pigs turned up a bit later, people left some went in again 2 teams of people put banners up one

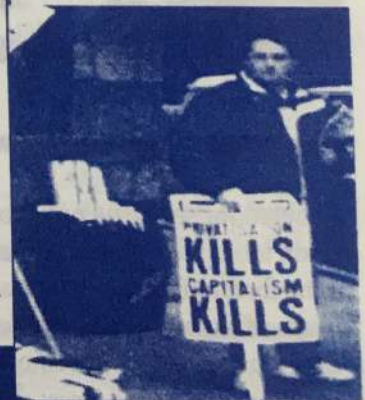
on a huge chimney reading world take over. Wind caused trouble for the bannerhangers Another banner was hung on the front gate which may also have been chained up. 18 people nicked from 9:30 am onwards to 12:30ish held until 10:30 to 1am ish people who didn't get nicked went to Leeds people who did had chocolate sent in that never made it to them 3 people held longer 'cos of warrants".

Free Mumia!

There was a protest of 30-50 people in Liverpool in support of Mumia Abu Jamal, black ecological activist on death row in America. His murder has once again been put off - a new hearing may take place in the New Year. There will possibly be an action in Manchester - see future Loombreakers.

Wank Outside The Bank

In an entirely unconnected incident in Manchester the SWP held an "Anti-WTO" protest outside Lloyds Bank on King St. 30 of them stood outside for an hour chanting slogans and demanding the few passers by sign their petition to "Scrap the WTO". Then some of them went in. Then they came out again. Some time later half a dozen of them sat in the road and blocked the buses until the Police came. Then they went home.



The Loombreaker is about the action people are taking in and around Manchester to defend & create what is important to us, so reclaiming control of our lives.

Trees not Skis!

Longstanding activist Chris Maile currently has the upperhand in the battle over the Xanadu retail and leisure development and the associated park and ride scheme masquerading as a train station - Kenyon Junction.

The Xanadu and Kenyon Junction public inquiries are running concurrently but it is accepted that they are intrinsically connected (the financial viability of Xanadu is seriously challenged if the Kenyon Junction does not go ahead). All the evidence has been heard in the Xanadu inquiry (including some from Manchester activists) and has been passed on to the Secretary of State. The Kenyon Junction inquiry however, has been postponed awaiting an adequate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This is thanks to Chris's hard work and a judge in Rochdale who ruled that a full EIA is required before a public inquiry for outline planning permission, so that the public may have access to it and make representations in an inquiry (this was in a judicial review of a planning permission in Rochdale).

The Xanadu site is a greenfield site within the Wigan wildlife corridor, next to the Wigan Flashes - a nationally significant bird reserve. The site is used as an amenity by residents of the nearby council estates. The developer, backed by the council, wants to replace this local resource with a 55 metre high ski slope, 2 hotels, cinema, nightclub, swimming pool, casino, retail developments, etc,etc,etc.....

For more info contact Chris Maile at the Campaign for Planning Sanity on 01942 513792

Our Socials are as Transnational as Capital...



The Loombreaker collective enjoying a quiet coffee...

The Loombreaker social went well, most of the feedback was positive, The main outcome was that we have bowed to public pressure and are introducing a "letters page" from January's Loombreaker. This provides a space for your criticisms and comments and will also allow debate and discussion about issues raised in The Loombreaker.

The best letter gets a prize!

Shafting Shell

On the anniversary of Ken Saro Wiwa's death, executed for speaking out about Shell's destruction of the Ogoni lands in Nigeria, an action took place at a Shell station in Levenshulme. A banner was hung from the roof of the forecourt and both entrances blocked for an hour. The police arrived in a steady stream of increasing numbers culminating with an inspector without a sense of humour. After the blockade was removed, one person who was leafleting the arriving cars was told they were under arrest. They replied no, they weren't and made a swift exit. The police continued to make things difficult, arresting another leafletter. A group decision was made to turn around and say that unless they let this person go they would have to arrest us all. It worked and we all left together, leaving them engaged in the puzzle of how they were going to get the banner down.

Only Our Rivers Run Free...

On Tue 23rd of November two Trident Ploughshares activists (one from Manchester) were charged and imprisoned on remand for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to a nuclear submarine.

They were caught in the process of swimming towards a submarine at Barrow-in-furness.

After nearly a week inside they were released and bailed to appear at later date

AFA Benefit Gig

Following two succesful benefit gigs last spring Manchester Anti Fascist Action have organised another benefit featuring some of Britain's top hardcore bands; *Imbalance*, *Red Monkey* and *The Autumn Year* (plus one tbc). The gig is at 9pm, Sunday 16th January at the Star and Garter, Fairfield St (behind Piccadilly Station) It'll cost you £3.50...

The Lying King...

Labour Behind the Label's day(s) of action against Disney on Fri. 10th and Sat. 11th Dec. in St Annes Sq. It will take place from 10.30-12.30 on both days. Disney is a clear example of a company which makes huge profits at the expense of workers basic rights. There have been several recent disputes at factories supplying Disney. 0161 225 7321. email: jessmock@yahoo.com

DIARY

Monday 13th Dec 1pm
McDonalds demo, giving out free "notdonalds" vegeburgers. Meet Okasional Café, 61 Brighton Grove, Rusholme.

13th Dec 7pm
Discussion group on capitalism, first meeting, OK café, as above.

Tues 14th Dec
Social: folk music train to Edale and back, ring 2266814.

Tues 14th - Thur 16th Dec
"Resistance" art exhibition, open from 2pm. Art needed - phone 2266814.

Wed 15th Dec
Café mtg and meal at the Okasional Café, 6pm.
"Cube" film shown 7.30pm.

Wednesday 15 December
Discussion the fake revolution - How the system subverts our resistance. Discussion and food at 7.30pm at the Okasional Cafe

16th Dec
Free evening xmas bash at Jabez Clegg, studentville.

Tues 4th Jan
Riotous Assembly, Yard, Old Birley St, Hulme

Sat 8th Jan
Lobby of Home
Secretary's surgery against deportation. Transport available to Blackburn. Contact 7408206.

Sat 15th Jan
Northern Anarchist Network conference at Hebden Bridge, see next Loombreaker.

More Crap Jobs

Nasty companies had their stalls taken over on November 9th at a Manchester Student Union careers fair. The British Nuclear Fuels stall was surrounded by students in radiation suits, holding a banner and handing out leaflets. Tarmac's stall was completely taken over by people who wanted to run an environmental stall instead. Tarmac staff were left to wander the aisles trying to recruit gullible students. Bernard Matthews (animal abusers) and Marconi (mass murder weapon producers) were also targetted, while in the meantime a woman pushed a trolley around the hall picking up boxes of dodgy brochures to recycle.

Students were disappointed when their Student Union reps asked them to leave their own building, but in general it was a good day.

Quotes of the day:

"Tarmac improves the environment."
(Tarmac Spokesperson)

"We have sold off our defence arm."
(Marconi rep, standing beside a pile of pictures of fighter jets and battleships.)

Okasional Cafe

The Okasional Café is serving up something different. Predominantly vegan, organic, GM-free, fairly traded food, for donation; political, environmental & social discussion; cinema; information on radical alternatives and resistance; parties; Direct Actions against greedy corporations; time, space and a helping hand to use the space creatively yourself.

We are open three days a week, you can expect:

MONDAYS: from 6pm a meal and an event

WEDNESDAYS: from 6pm a café collective meeting, a meal, cinema and an event

SATURDAYS: from 10pm an all-night party

If you want to organise yr own thing at the café or join in with keeping whats already there going, then do get in touch, help is always needed.

The Okasional café at 61 Brighton Grove, Birch Fields (left off Wilmslow Road, just after Rusholme, heading out of town). c/o 0161-22-66-814. *guaranteed free from greed*

Birley Tree

In the aftermath of the felling of the Birley tree in Hulme, residents are going to court. The first court action is to get Barbara McGloughlin from the Hulme Partnership done for lying in court. The paperwork was served on her on Friday 19th November. The second involves a legal challenge against the call centre development planned for the Birley Fields, which has annoyed Hulme Partnership no end - they have to get it built by June to get the Euro cash.

The Loombreaker

Pigs might fly (ing picket)...

Two thousand Greater Manchester Civilian Police staff are to go on strike starting with a 2 hour stoppage on December 6 followed by a 4 hour walk-out for December 13 and one of 8 hours on December 20 (maybe they finally realised they work for a bunch of right wing facists).

CrimeWatch OK?

It seems that that people of Manchester have come up with a new way of avdoiding CCTV cameras - by stealing them. Around 15 CCTV cameras have been stolen from Manchester city centre in recent weeks.

Riotous Assembly

This December, the "mad, crazy Riotous Assembly of worried, impassioned angry people" focussed on the Millennium Bug. A speaker had researched various potential problems such as hidden computer chips, and believed the Government propaganda ("we've got it all sorted") is unreliable. In particular, the nuclear and military situation is worrying. Some people are stocking up on food... Lots of activism was discussed as usual. The next meeting on 4th January at 7.30 p.m. at the Yard Theatre (Old Birley Street, Hulme) will look at Spies for Peace and / or May Day preparation.

Campsfield Fence-Bashing

Whether they fleeing persecution or poverty, foreigners do not have the right to enter this country freely. They are imprisoned on arrival, often for up to two years while the Government decides if they can stay. Campsfield House is a prison which houses 200 refugees. Demonstrations have been staged monthly over the last six years, where solidarity groups have attempted to communicate with people inside and prevent deportation. On the 6th anniversary of protest this November, Manchester people joined groups from all over the country.

Uniformly clad in multicoloured butterfly masks (?), with the banging of saucepans drowning out the feeble salsa sounds from a small yellow stereo, they did a circuit of the formidable fence, flying balloons and banging their disapproval into the 12 foot metal sheeting. Unfortunately, the fence didn't budge, so none of the ambitious Plan Bs were put into action. This outer fence is reinforced with metal sheeting so inmates can have no sort of contact with protesters bringing messages of sympathy and objection. On this occasion, balloons were sent up (if you had enough: think James and the Giant Peach!) and paper aeroplanes thrown.

There was also the racket of everybody kicking the fence until the police started dragging people off. Despite the heavy police presence there were no arrests, and hopefully the people inside could hear that they are not unwelcome for the people of this country.

Marks and Spencer de-briefed

On the opening of the largest M&S in the world in Manchester, the largest pair of pants appeared, inscribed with 'Pants to GM cotton', together with 15 'Superheroes against GM pants' brandishing rather large Y-fronts and GM free underwear fetishes. This was one of the first actions to kick start awareness about GM cotton, which is not segregated from conventional cotton and is in most cotton clothes. Captain Y-front said 'its not just about food scares. GM cotton will increase corporate control and chemical use, and will threaten biodiversity - all for unnecessary technology.' M&S responded by saying 'we haven't taken GM cotton out of our products because our customers haven't asked us to'...so its time to cotton on, and get asking. GM cotton briefings (scuse the pun) and ideas for action available by post (via Mer EF) or e-mail <cotton@equinox.freewire.co.uk> and some rather fetching large pants and banners are available to spice up any action. America is the largest exporter of cotton, the largest producer of GM cotton, and Monsanto has a monopoly on GM cotton. Farmers have already experienced difficulties with it, so if exports are not guaranteed, they could abandon it altogether.

Bonfire Free Party

Hulme's Birley Fields came alive to the sounds of tekno, fireworks and crackling wood as Hulme's residents enjoyed fireworks night organised by Counter Culture Collective. There was a twist to the usual celebrations, with the guest of honour, Guy Fawkes himself, magically appearing on stage to judge the effigy contest. Babs McLoughlin (responsible for the massacre of the Birley Tree) and the Houses of Parliament won the battle to be unceremoniously chucked onto the bonfire.

Most of the revellers congregated around a bonfire outside the Okasional cafe marquee and next to the Substance soundsystem with the beats that made ya giggle. The cafe provided luscious mulled wine and a wide assortment of cakes. Dancing, talking and loonies running across scorching hot wood carried on until late into Saturday morning with everyone wishing for the same next year.

Old Trafford Party

The Old Trafford limboland of industrial decay rumbled with techno and dancing feet as a HUGE disused warehouse was transformed by the Lysophanic and Substance soundsystems into a free party of epic proportions. Lack of lighting meant getting nose to nose with people before being able to recognise them (not always a bad thing!) The crowd numbered a few hundred, most happily gurning away, either near the music, or around a fire that had been built inside! A great idea for keeping warm but mildly asphixiating after a few hours. Mesmerising jugglers amazed onlookers with their skilful antics, and the party continued into the morning without police interruption.

PARTY, SOMEWHERE!
Bigger, better and with OK
cafe! Sat 11th December.



The Loombreakers were Lancashire weavers who, in 1826, smashed the machines that were destroying their livelihoods and communities.

Pick it up **FREE** from: **Frontline Books**, 255 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme; **One World Centre**, Mount Street, near Central Library; **Yellow Brick Café**, 47 Old Birley Street, Hulme; **Mistys Café**, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road; **Café Pop**, Oldham Street, Piccadilly; **Unicorn Grocery**, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton; **Pankhurst Centre**, Nelson Street, near MRI.

If you live outside Manchester, send us a stamp for each issue you want. Prisoners and local action camps get it free - just send us your address.

The Loombreaker
c/o Manchester EF!
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255, Wilmslow Road,
Manchester M14 5LW
0161-226 6814

loombreaker@nemastode.freewire.co.uk

The Loombreaker comes out at the beginning of each month, so get any news to us by the end of November. We would particularly like photos, cartoons and alcohol. Also don't forget to send us your comments, criticisms etc.

The Loombreaker comes from the Free Information Network tradition, spreading news the mainstream media won't print.

Interested in taking action?

Come to the *Riotous Assembly* for direct action, campaigns, taking on the bosses, grassroots resistance, defending communities, earth, animals, and fun! It's a chance to meet & chat. Bring ideas & events each first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Yard Theatre (opposite Junction pub) 41, Old Birley Street, Hulme. Next date: **04.01.00**

(sorry no time to proofread this month!)