



## Out on the Streets!

Get your pink placards out Lily, Manchester is to be overrun by queers of all kinds on July 15th as campaigners from Stonewall and other gay rights and equality groups march through the city in protest at the failure of the government to repeal Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988.

### Section 28:

- encourages discrimination against lesbians and gay men;
- deters teachers from providing vulnerable lesbian and gay pupils with accurate information and pastoral care;
- discourages schools from developing policies to prevent homophobic bullying (although Section 28 does not apply directly to schools, 30% of teachers believe that it does);
- stops many young people from receiving well informed sex education;
- creates a climate of confusion for all local authority staff;
- supports the prejudiced climate which legitimises physical attacks on lesbians and gay men.

The theme of the day is 'Out on the Streets' and lesbians and gay men and all sorts of people who believe homophobic discrimination has no place in the 21st century will show their public opposition to this medieval law.

The March will assemble at All Saints, Oxford Road, Manchester at 12.30pm on Saturday, 15th July and process through the city centre to a Rally in front of the Town Hall at 3pm. Celebrities will address the crowd. Confirmed names so far include Julie Hesmondhalgh and Sandi Toksvig but the organisers are working on many more star names. A



Cabinet Minister and other leading political figures are expected to be there to show their support for repeal.

After the Rally, Sackville Park in the heart of Manchester's Lesbian and Gay Village will be a chill-out zone with music where everyone can relax and socialise. The sunshine for which Manchester's Summer is famous has been ordered. Sackville park has been chosen for a memorial to Alan Turing whose wartime work on Enigma cracked the Nazi codes and who helped to programme the first electronic computer in Manchester. Tragically he was prosecuted under laws which continue to discriminate against gay men and took his own life when he was just 42.

For information ring: 234 3999 or log onto [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

In this month's  
**Loombreaker**

New feature: The steering column \* Campaign Against Gaol Expansion \* Peace Walk \* U'wa news \* RTS Six go free \* Burnage residents crush Orange \* Mayday counterfeiters go free \* Manchester Animal Rights trips to Cambridge

## The steering column

Beep-beep! They're loud and proud, and out on the streets. Yes- it's the car!

### Eco-wars II

*If you missed out on the fun and games during the last round of road building protests, the New Labour government has decided to emulate the Tories by imposing bizarre and silly road building schemes on an unwilling nation once again.*

*Following constructive discussions at the EFi Summer Gathering, a collective was formed to start campaigning against the Gov's U-tum in transport policy, which involves a new road building programme as big as the last one. There will be an action in October - so watch this space.*

*Contact Manchester EFi for further information on 226 6814.*

### Road raging motorists strike back!

*According to an anonymously-sourced email received here recently, some motorists are getting a bit shirty about being taxed through the nose for petrol and so are planning to boycott forecourts on the 1st of every month. Loombreaker wishes them every success but would encourage these motorists to extend the boycott to every day of every month.*

### Cars save tree shock!!!

*Angry cars in Sale stopped Trafford Council workers from chopping down a London Plane tree recently. Hearing that the tree was to be removed to make way for a driveway entrance, the cars surrounded the tree to prevent the contractors giving it the axe. "We are sick and tired of being exploited by irresponsible people using us an excuse to kill the planet," said a G reg Mini Metro of Planetree Road, Sale. "We don't kill people and the planet, our drivers do."*

## Orange Squashed

Burnage residents who took direct action earlier this year to stop a mobile phone mast being erected near their homes are celebrating as Orange have been refused a request for planning permission. People living near the site were concerned about possible health risks and had threatened to climb onto the mast should Orange have tried to put it up. However, Orange were given planning permission to use a site a mere 5 metres away back in 1997. Local residents have vowed to remain vigilant and to stop any attempt by Orange to use this site instead.

## Bastille Day - Storm the System

Remember Blair's promise to be 'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime'? Did this mean that his government would crack down on the routine criminal behaviour of multinational corporations, and implement policies that reversed the trend toward income inequalities that has created such widespread impoverishment, both here and abroad?

Yeah, right. New Labour is only interested in protecting its criminal cronies and their 'right' to continue making fat profits. And could there be a better cash cow in times of deepening impoverishment and 'zero-tolerance' policing than privately built and run prisons, funded by the taxpayer of course? After all, what with new legislation such as the Asylum and Immigration Act and the Terrorism Bill, they'll need them. Soon enough there will be more prisoners and shareholder dividends will be looking jolly indeed. And all those dangerous 'criminals' will be safely locked up forever, hooray!

All across the world the prison population are growing... America has just jailed its two millionth prisoner, while Britain sends more people to prison than any other country in

Europe and it's getting worse. About 65,000 people are currently held in UK prisons and the government estimates that the number is set to rise to between 70 - 80,000 by 2007. Hardly an expectation that crime rates are set to drop.

Tens of thousands are detained by the immigration service each year without charge or trial. Thousands are asylum seekers, fleeing persecution and even death. They are held in purpose-built, high security detention centres, run for profit, or in HM Prisons such as Rochester and Brixton. The new Asylum Act means a brutal clampdown on immigrants including new detention centres and internment units around the country.

As part of a global trend towards privatising the functions of the state, Multinational Companies are financing the expansion of the prison system in the U.K. Assisted by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Security companies like Group 4, Wakenhut and Correction Corporation of America, construction firms such as Kvaerner and Carrilion and even hotel corporations like Sodexo front their own money, build and run prisons and the government pays them back at a fixed rate per inmate per day.

CAGE is a network set up to support and create resistance to prisons. On July 14th, the anniversary of Bastille Day they will be paying a visit to a site related to the prison industry in order to occupy it and put it to a more constructive use. Meet at Golders Green tube station in London at 9am. Transport is available from Manchester, ring 226 6814. For more info about CAGE see [www.veggies.org.uk/cage](http://www.veggies.org.uk/cage) or write to CAGE c/o PO Box 68, Oxford, OX3 1RH. Tel: (07931) 401962.

## Counterfeit Charges Dropped

Three people accused of possessing counterfeit currency on Mayday have now had their charges dropped. Not surprising really as only one side of the 'fake £20 notes' actually looked like money. Looking at the other side it turns out they were Mayday fliers with anti-capitalist slogans written all over them in large bold type. Perhaps the arresting officers never noticed. Are they really that thick? Surely they weren't simply using the 'counterfeit money' as a pretext for making arrests and seizing materials intended for the Mayday action, thereby aiming to sabotage the day's events. That would be ludicrous wouldn't it?

# DIARY

14  
Bastille Day - see article on page 2

15  
Out on the Streets - see front page

17  
Tea Party (Anti Terrorism Bill)  
campaign meeting  
7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House,  
Mount Street

24  
Discussion on Anarchism  
7.30pm Hare & Hounds, Shude Hill

26-30  
Big Green Gathering  
Wiltshire Downs, near Warminster  
tel: 020-8941 6674,

29-30  
'from Kosovo to Seattle - the role of  
non-violence'; War Resisters  
International seminar, Oxford; 020-  
8941 6674

31  
Refugees - performance, food,  
music, & general refugee & local  
communities mixing  
6:30, Zion Arts Centre, Stretford  
Road, Hulme

## August

1  
Faslane nuke base blockade with  
Trident Ploughshares 2000.  
Transport from Manchester. Contact  
CND 834 8301

Riotous Assembly  
7:30 pm Yard Theatre, 41 Old  
Birley Street, Hulme.  
Including presentation and  
discussion on World Bank/IMF  
meeting in Prague in September

5  
Prague planning meeting -  
10:00 am, Birch Community  
Centre. Tel 226 6814 for details.

7  
Die-in for the people of Iraq  
12 noon Trafalgar Square, London  
Details/transport from Manchester,  
contact CND: 834 8301

10 - 15  
3rd Northern Green Gathering  
Info: 0113-224 9885

12  
start of grouse shoot sabbing  
season, NW Hunt Sabs: 283 6104  
or 0961 113 084

The Loombreaker

## NOTICE

from Frontline Bookshop

*This Co-op agrees to wind up the company commencing on Wednesday 12th July unless the Board of Directors receives, before that date, notification signed by 10% of the members requesting the Board to call another EGM to be on the same date as the planned General Meeting to reverse this decision.*

## Marmite not Missiles

'Welfare not warfare' is a familiar refrain from peace activists, although it is often overlooked that defence contracts are a major welfare provision for the already rich and wealthy. Billions in public finances is poured every year into 'defence' contracts, and shareholders in the arms trade do very nicely out of the business. In return for our money we get the continued spectre of nuclear holocaust, radioactive

contamination and other related hazards.

Trident Ploughshares has organised a peace walk from Aldermaston to Faslane, to further highlight the dangers of nuclear weapons and are arriving in Manchester for the 8th - 10th of July. Trident Ploughshares is a campaign to peacefully disarm the UK Trident nuclear weapons system.

If you would like to join the walk or find out more about Trident Ploughshares you can contact them on (01324) 880744, or email [tp2000@gn.apc.org](mailto:tp2000@gn.apc.org). More info is also available on the web, [www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/](http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/)

Meanwhile the National Missile Defence plan - 'Son of Star Wars' - threatens to start a new global arms race as the United States makes itself able to act without fear of retaliation. CND is organising a demonstration at Fylingdales military base on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Fylingdales

will be the main base for any UK collaboration with the US on National Missile Defence. If the government allows the US to use Fylingdales they will be helping to break international treaties. Nothing unusual about that of course.

Contact: Greater Manchester & District CND 834 8301

## U'wa's Under Attack

Moving quickly in the wake of US Senate approval of a military aid package, Colombian armed forces have recently attacked two hundred non-violent U'wa Indians. On Saturday, June 24 some 300 anti-riot police and soldiers made a surprise, early morning attack against 200 peaceful U'wa people blockading a road near the town of Cubara in northeastern Colombia. The police and soldiers removed the U'wa through the use of tear gas and physical blows. U'wa spokespeople report that twenty-eight people were injured.

On Sunday afternoon, some 60 soldiers and police made another surprise sweep against a group of U'wa peacefully assembled in the nearby town of Cubara. Several were physically attacked, accused of being "subversives" and 30 were detained. This use of force against peaceful civilians comes on the heels of last

week's US senate approval of a \$1.3 billion aid package for Colombia, much of which is directed at the police and military.

## Ten Years of Misery

That's right, ten years have now passed since economic sanctions were brought against Iraq, and the situation continues to be horrendous for the Iraqi people. Thousands are still dying each month as a consequence of the economic blockade, and NATO continues its silent war with bombs landing on Iraqi soil on a near daily basis. A national demonstration and die-in is being organised by the Iraqi coalition to protest against the policy outside the Foreign Office in Whitehall, to time with the tenth anniversary since the imposition of the sanctions. Meet 12am at Trafalgar Square. For more information ring Gr. Mcr CND, (0161) 834 8301.

As Loombreaker readers will know, a company that stands to make substantial profits from the venture is Fidelity Investments, who have an office in central Manchester. As a major shareholder they are also in a position to bring pressure upon Occidental to withdraw from the project and end the bloodshed and violence. If you want to ask Fidelity why they are prepared to profit from these brutal practices and the destruction of virgin rain forest then you can write to them at Fidelity Investments, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ship Canal House, King Street, Mcr, or telephone (0161) 832 0446. See [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org) for more information.

# Total Victory for RTS Six

Will Manchester's police ever nail those damned anarchists? The Reclaim the Streets Six have all walked without so much as a slap on the wrist and remain free to roam the streets. The cases of the 6 charged with trumped-up public order offences following last year's RTS action in Manchester finally went to crown court in the last week of June. On day one the prosecution had to drop the case against one defendant admitting they had no evidence.

The prosecution opened their case with a pile of videos from the university CCTV network and a list of around 36 police officers. On the face of it, it looked like a simple matter of watching the films, identifying the culprits and sending them down. There were a few basic problems however. Firstly the videos showed a large number of violent and disorderly police officers as they baton-charged their way into a peaceful crowd without warning. Each cop in turn who was cross-examined, including two Superintendents, had

their evidence all but swept away and stupid lies uncovered in the face of video evidence and their inability to identify one another or sometimes themselves on film. Some officers were required to give their evidence having been cautioned that they themselves might be charged with violent offences. A Superintendent's statement under oath that it had been impossible to communicate with the organisers was flatly contradicted by a defence witness who had attempted negotiations with him in person on the day. The fact that a number of officers were not displaying their numbers also came to light in evidence given by University workers.

The case for the prosecution done for, three more were allowed to go on the grounds that they had no case to answer. The two remaining argued separate cases of mistaken identity and legitimate self-defence. The jury took less than half an hour to reach their verdicts of not guilty in both cases.

## Animal Rights

The Royal Bank of Scotland have recently taken over NatWest and have said that they will be withdrawing the £24.5m loan to Huntingdon Life Sciences in August, when it comes up for review.

So, no more Natwest demos but of course the campaign continues against HLS in the north-west as it does nationwide. There are demonstrations against shareholders and every other Thursday north-west folk travel to the HLS complex in Cambridgeshire to say goodbye to workers as they leave.

The next national HLS demo is on July 29th and there will be transport from Manchester. Please phone 07931 586826 to book a place for this and any other events.

## Prague Mobilisation Underway

The next meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank is in Prague from 26th September this year. There is going to be a mass mobilisation of activists from across the world, and in particular, from Europe. People are starting to organise now in this country, with training sessions, meetings and information sharing. In Manchester, a date has been set for a North West training day - 5th August - which will include information about Prague, info about the World Bank, and training for action. If you would like to keep in touch with other events in the run up to Prague, please call the Prague group (an ad-hoc group of activists of a non-hierarchical, autonomous persuasion) on 0161 226 6814.

..IT'S THE EDITORIAL - LISTEN TO THIS!



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### 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: 1/8/00