



The Loombreaker

No. 14 ♦ Sept/oct/nov 2000 ♦ Free

MANCHESTER in GOOD WEATHER SHOCKER!

Well, obviously that's a bit of a fib but in comparison with the floods, tomados, blizzards and other severe weather conditions that have hit the rest of the country recently, we've got off lightly. The frequent downpours for which our fair city is renowned however, are only set to get heavier.

the weather is up the spout!

Scientists and ecological protesters have been warning of the possible effects of climate change for some time. The increase in the production of carbon dioxide from over use of the car, from fossil fuel energy sources, and other man-made contaminants of our atmosphere are set to change irreversibly the climate we are used to. And while many people think that global warming will mean Manchester will become more like Barcelona, in reality it may well mean more rain and freak weather conditions like those we are witnessing now.

Politicians and multinational companies (some of the main culprits in our changing ecosystems) have been paying lip service to green issues and issues about global warming, but have done very little to combat it, choosing to ignore the warnings.

When you consider that climate change is caused by over-consumption of fossil fuels by the rich, often with their extraction

GM on Trial

The trial starts on the 13th Nov of 5 anti-GM activists from Manchester. They are being tried for £200 damage to genetically modified oil seed rape in Oct 99 - an accountable action taken in daylight. The test site was completely destroyed and the plants handed to the police who asked if they could smoke them!?

For the first time in a GM trial the defence will be allowed expert witnesses. Also appearing at the trial will be a representative from Agrevo, now known as Advanta, and arresting officer P. C.

being at the expense of the poor, that the first people to feel the effect of climate change are the poor, because only the rich can pay for expensive adaptive measures, that the process designed to prevent climate change involves solutions designed the rich which involve displacing the poor but making money for the rich; then you stop seeing climate change as a problem of atmosphere and gases and one of class war.

So what can we do?

From November 11-24 the sixth round of United Nations climate negotiations will take place in the Hague; during this round the focus will be on ways industrialised countries can achieve the reduction targets they committed themselves to in the Kyoto Protocol. Activists ask, are the solutions more selfish than selfless?

Rising Tide protests in the Hague
Rising Tide is a network of grass roots resistance to the hot air of the politicians on climate change. An alternative summit, festival and direct action protests are planned for the Hague. A sizeable number of activists will be travelling from this country to join in, and there will be a day of discussion and training beforehand. For more information come along to the next **Riotous Assembly on Nov 7th where there will be a speaker from Rising Tide and info on the Hague days of action** (see back page for location etc) or contact the following: risingtideinfo@egroups.com, or have a look at this website: www.climateconference.org . phone Manchester EF1 on 226 6814 for info.

Local Actions

Although it's important to travel to places like Prague and the Hague to add our voices to those of activists from around the world, local action is crucial.

Local residents and others from Manchester did their bit at the end of last month when they disrupted the opening of the M60. Previously known as the M66, this road, dubbed "Manchester's Ring of Concrete" was the subject a couple of years ago of a big campaign by local people and road protesters. The road not only runs through people's towns destroying communities, but has also decimated some of the last remaining wildlife sites and green areas in East Manchester. Around twenty people delayed the official opening by an hour, by trying to have a picnic on the road, before being chased off by police.

There will be an action on December 8th - No More Roads. For info call 0161 226 6814

Rainbow (his real name, honest).

Meanwhile the Government is hell-bent on growing more GM crops. We already have the controversial farm scale trials and now they are set to give the first commercial licence to a GM seed - a maize intended to be fed to cattle. Before a seed can be sold to farmers it must be on the National Seed List. The Government has proposed that a GM maize produced by Aventis should go on the list. However, Friends of the Earth has discovered seldom-used laws that

allow the public to object and call for a hearing.

Over 220 people have now objected in writing and 67 have called for a public hearing. These hearings are about to start and some will be in Manchester from Nov 13th for 4 weeks. This is the first time that the public have officially been allowed to object to GM crops!

There will be demonstrations on the first day, Nov 13th - either call FoE on 0161 834 8221 or meet outside the UMIST Conference Centre where the trials are taking place at 10.30am.

In this month's bumper
Loombreaker

Local actions • Animal rights • Prague Report ♦ Trident on Trial ♦
Trials news • Mad Hatter's Tea Party • Blinc-ing heck • National Civil
Rights • No Shop Day - Save Our Baths.....and more!

Animal Rights and Sabbing

The official hunting season is now open, after 2 months of "autumn hunting" (a PR term meaning "cubbing"). Manchester, Bolton and Lancaster sabs have been concentrating on Cheshire Forest foxhounds who haven't slaughtered many furry animals yet due to the countryside being waterlogged lots.

Recently and effective day's sabbing meant the hunt failed to kill any of the six foxes/cubs they were hunting, so they have been calling on the Cheshire constabulary. Seeing pie-stuffed policeman trying to run across fields is always a sight to behold! New sabs are always very welcome. Ring 0961 113084 to get involved.

Attention continues to be focused on Huntingdon Life Sciences. The four volunteers from Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty arrested on 15th August have been released on strict bail conditions. They have been charged with conspiracy to incite mental GBH (!) of workers, conspiracy to incite criminal damage and conspiracy to incite harassment - all in one newsletter apparently.

A few days later animal loving campaigners met police blockades outside HLS, so they held a

demonstration outside the home of HLS supporter and former prime minister John Major. The hapless decent bloke was seen running across his lawn apparently in some state of panic, as 25 armed police stood guard and a helicopter buzzed overhead.

The campaigns against HLS and Newchurch Guinea Pig farm (breeders for the vivisection industry) continue to go from strength to strength, and with regular input from NW activists. Transport goes to the regional HLS demos every other Thursday and is free/donation if you're unemployed. Activists against Newchurch visit every night of the week. For NW/Mcr people it's Tuesday. The continued pressure has led to the Hall's selling off land to pay for security and it can't be long before they decide selling guinea pigs to be tortured is more trouble than it's worth.

There is a national anti-fur week starting on 11th November. To find out more about HLS and/or get on the SHAC mailing list call 0121 6326460. For info on animal rights stuff happening locally call MAP on 07931 586826. If you want to get involved in sabbing phone North West hunt saboteurs on 0961 113084.

Silent March

The Federation of Deaf People organised the second national march in London for the recognition of British Sign Language (BSL) as an official language. Manchester sent two coachloads of people to help make up the more than 9,000 people who attended. BSL is the fourth most commonly used language in this country (after English, Welsh and Gaelic) but remains unrecognised by the government. Other European governments have already given their own national sign language an official status. Deaf people continue to face discrimination in education, employment and participation in community life despite the recent passing into law of the Disability Discrimination Act, which contains many loop-holes.

Contact Federation of Deaf People, FDP, PO Box 11, Darwen, Lancs BB3 3GH
Fax: 01254 708071,
E mail: contactfdp@aol.com or contact@fdp.org.uk.
See also www.fdp.org.uk/. Information about BSL courses should be available from your local library.

Nine Ladies Anti-Quarry Campaign 1st Anniversary bash

An intrepid Manchester activist visited the anti-quarry protest site.....

"Two hours out of Manchester and a 2 mile trek up on a steep hill is the beautiful Nine Ladies stone circle and its woods and pastures. Abandoning my self reliance, I stuck my thumb out, and a police landrover stopped. After some harassment I was allowed to join the 60-odd smiley dirty faces round a huge fire in a barn covered by tarpaulin. The morning after I saw the toilets, treehouses, kitchens and ropes that the 15 or so current residents had used to host us safely. I spoke to a veteran, although concerned with public safety and his privacy he was welcoming rambblers to look around and sign a petition. Later on Sunday as we were out picking mushrooms, I heard a trumpeter. A small group had occupied the working quarry next door. Now a helicopter was flying and cops in two riot vans had managed to nick someone for sitting on a stone wall (it collapsed). We celebrated with mushroom soup and fine juggling. The next day a jail solidarity posse

gathered in a small Derbyshire town as I made my way back to the City with a soaked sleeping bag and fond memories."

In a recent email Jon Humble, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage, wrote "In July an encouraging meeting was held with the landowners, the mineral companies, Peak Park planners and ourselves... we hope that it may well be possible to identify a solution based on the companies relinquishing their commercial interests in Stanton Moor. The companies will expect, however, to obtain planning permission for stone extraction elsewhere as a trade-off... if this does prove possible it would be on condition that "elsewhere" is a less environmentally sensitive area!"

Info on Nine Ladies protest camp from their website on <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies/>

Disabled Action Network action for 'Mary & Jodie' and equal rights to life.

For the second week running, local Disabled people as well as from other regions of the UK, braved the cold outside the main entrance of St Mary's Hospital in Manchester. The conjoined twins known as 'Jodie and Mary' are believed to still be here and so are we, to show solidarity, and that we recognise the baby girls as part of a supportive local and world-wide disability community. We'll be back next & every Thursday 7.30 till 9.30 p.m. - all welcome. In just a week we have doubled in number, candles and banners, making this peaceful show of support even more powerful than the last. We were spurred on also to know that there are people at home joining in, by burning candles during the vigil, sending letters to the hospital and signing an online / postal petition. We hope the family whose privacy and rights have been invaded and real names we may never know, have heard that we are there to show our support for their daughters and that we value both their lives however long they might be. Proud to be working together with disabled people from Wales, Leeds, Birmingham, from the organisation London People 1st and Manchester Deaf Centre, as well as allies locally, DAN (Northwest): Email (dair): aqicrip@hotmail.com . Tel (Steven): 0161 797 2121 .

Sisters to Strike Again

8 March 2000, 1st Global Women's Strike! Neither few, nor crazy. Women in 64 countries went on Strike!
On 8 March 2001, women & girls will strike again to demand that society INVESTS IN THE ENRICHMENT OF EVERY LIFE rather than for the enrichment of a few. Mobilise now for the 2nd GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE 8 MARCH 2001 International Women's Day.
International Wages for Housework Campaign, Crossroads Women's Centre, 230a Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2AB. Tel: 020 7482 2496. Fax: 020 7209 4761. E-mail: womenstrike8m@server101.com. Website: <http://womenstrike8m.server101.com>

World Bankers Flee Prague



The annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund ended early and in confusion after approximately 15,000 anti-globalisation protesters threw another spanner in the works and brought the meeting to a standstill. The protest included a sizeable Manchester contingent which linked with other UK and international activists to form the pink and silver parade, complete with a samba band and dance troupe decorated in tinfoil and pink balloons.

Despite the presence of a paramilitary police force that made liberal use of percussion grenades, tear gas and water cannons, conference delegates lost confidence in the security arrangements and abandoned the proceedings. On the 27th September the South African finance minister, Trevor Manuel, told a nearly empty hall that "official business had been dealt with".

On the morning of the 26th thousands

AntiFa take the streets

On the 23rd September just short of a thousands joined a banned anti-fascist mobilisation in response to an authorised European wide fascist rally and march against the IMF and the World Bank. The anti-fascist march, largely made up of anarchists and organised into affinity groups, made for a powerful presence. Leaving Namesti Miru it made its way peacefully and uncompromisingly through the centre of Prague, finally winding down in Wencelous Square. Media reptiles scurrying around McDonalds in anticipation of flashpoint incidents were twice left disappointed. The fascist rally went ahead, numbering 60 in total and under heavy police guard.

gathered in Namesti Miru with papier mache puppets, multi-lingual banners, bands, dancers, sound systems, fancy dress, jugglers, and some placard carrying day trippers. The party went on all day and into the night. 11,000 police waited alongside army units surrounding the conference centre. Six tanks were parked up on an approaching bridge. The main body of the demonstration left to head for the north side of the conference centre and split into three groups for something of a set piece confrontation. A smaller group headed directly for the south side. Eventually protestors encountered and attempted to breach police lines. Chaotic and violent scenes soon broke out.

By late afternoon a number of activists had outwitted the police and gained entry to the hotel adjoining the conference centre and, as it turned out, blocked off the main exit for delegates. CEO's and directors had to make for the unfamiliar terrain of the underground metro.

The evening's cultural events were also disrupted. The prestigious opera was abandoned and a banquet laid on for the worlds leading bankers, economists and financiers besieged. Riots erupted in and around Wenceslaus Square later in the evening.

Tear Gas and Water Cannons

The fiercest battles raged across a valley to the north side of the conference centre. The 'blue section' of the march largely consisted of black bloc anarchist groups, led at the front by Czech affinity groups. As part of the blue group Seattle's Infernal Noise Brigade used their instruments to force their way through a police cordon amidst a cloud of tear gas. On a nearby bridge Ya Basta!, padded out in white overalls and inflated inner tubes, took on the impossible job of clearing police, water cannons and tanks from the bridge.

The World Bank - In their own words

"The measurements of the costs of health impairing pollution depends on the foregone earnings from increased morbidity and mortality. From this point of view a given amount of health impairing pollution should be done in the country with the lowest cost, which will be the country with the lowest wages. I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that... I've always thought that under-populated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted." Lawrence Summers, 1991, then chief economist of the World Bank, now secretary to the US Treasury. See www.whirledbank.org/ for more.

Czech Police Respond with Torture and Abuse

This largely unreported victory was gained at a high price. In the days that followed police rounded up nearly 1000 activists, two-thirds of them Czech. Many were severely beaten, tied, sexually abused, gassed, denied food, sleep and water and otherwise tortured and humiliated whilst in police custody - reports confirmed by 2 activists from Manchester who were imprisoned. Many came out of prison nursing broken arms and fingers. One woman, according to police reports, "fell naked from a second-story window while trying to escape interrogation", suffering serious injuries. An Israeli activist was forced to share a cell with fascists for 3 days and left custody with a broken arm and badly bruised rib cage. There are similar accounts of abuse. In the light of these events and with the World Bank and IMF gone, demonstrations continued over the following days in Prague and many other cities including London in support of those held in prison. Pressure upon the Czech authorities has paid off with many now released. The latest update from OPH, the legal observers group in Prague, states that 20 people are still confirmed to be in jail. Contact the CZECH EMBASSY, 26 Kensington Palace Gardens, Notting Hill to help get the remaining released.

For more information about the events in Prague and international solidarity actions see: <http://prague.indymedia.org/>

Spotlight on Activists

In the preceding weeks and months preparations were made in hectic circumstances. The Minister for the Interior called us terrorists and killers and the media fixated accordingly. Police patrols were set up on every street corner, day and night.

An Earth First! samba band rehearsed on the river island under close police scrutiny, a pirate radio was set up and ticket inspectors made a killing on the metro and trams.

Away from Prague an action camp was set up for a week to provide workshops on legal, medical and political issues and the practicalities of banner making and street actions. The workshops continued in Prague at a disused docksite as thousands from all parts of the world mingled, organised and attempted to co-ordinate through spokes-council structures.

We fought the law and - we won! So far anyway.....

Regular Loombreaker readers may remember the debacle that the cops made in trying to nab people after the Hacienda was squatted for the second time. Most people arrested on the night had their charges dropped. Two of these innocent clubbers decided to get their own back for being pointlessly arrested just cos the cops were pissed off. Granted, we'd run them ragged all day during the May Day actions, then cheekily thrown them off the scent (of over 200 people) and managed to resquat the Hacienda. And after the last time when there was practically a riot as people tried to break through the police siege to get in and dance. However, this was no excuse for the cops to randomly arrest people, so the two people sued them for wrongful arrest, and were offered a significant sum of money each by the Greater Manchester Police. Nice one!

Going back to that first squatting of the Hacienda, the remonstrations are still happening. Again, most people had charges dropped or were offered bindovers rather than fined. Except for one person who tried to defend himself against wrongful arrest, and was then charged and found guilty of assault of police officers. He was given community service and has now done this. However, seeing as he was innocent in the first place, he took his case to appeal last month - and won! The judge had to admit that the

police had been wrong to arrest him, and overturned the original verdict. And finally on the law front.....

One of the last cases from May Day to come up for trial is that of Ben and Graham, two students who were arrested at the Hacienda (the 2nd time). Their trial begins on Nov 13th and it would be fantastic if people could spare an hour or so to come down to the magistrates and support them.

The details of which court etc will be on the ansaphone of 0161 226 6814

Please write to the following prisoners imprisoned after actions on May Day in London
Nikki Koole, FB6530, HMYOI Feltham, Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middx, TW13 4ND, England (Sentenced 18/07/00 to nine months)
Gareth Williams, FT7291, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT, England (Sentenced 08/09/00 to six months imprisonment)

Kids Reclaim the Streets

In Wythenshawe recently a protest was held by local kids against motorists who speed along their street. Messages were chalked on the tarmac urging drivers to slow down and cars breaking the speed limit were shouted at from the pavement. Traffic on Stancliffe Road has increased due to more vehicles using it as a short cut to a nearby industrial estate.

The protesters, aged between six and eleven felt they had to take action as they fear that someone could be killed.

Save our Baths

About 80 local people involved with a campaign to save local swimming pools gathered to demonstrate at the opening of the new Aquatic centre on Oxford Rd built for the Commonwealth games. The building of this new pool will inevitably further the closures of local pools as it is part run by a private company, which will need to respond to market forces. To increase profits it will increase pressure on the council to close other pools. Local pools under threat of closure currently include Chorlton, Levenshulme, Harper Hey, Broadway and Withington.

And what are we to make of the company who built and now run the new Aquatic Centre, SERCO, who are contracted to help run AWE Aldermaston and RAF Fylingdales and who are also one of the leading companies involved in

the construction and running of private prisons. So if you want to see your local swimming baths stay open, or you don't want to support the dirty nuclear industry,

and if you don't want to see more private prisons, go swimming in your local pool. Info from Greater Manchester Socialist Alliance

Why bother with the IMF and the World Bank?

The impact of the policies of these institutions has been felt in all parts of the world. For instance, in the UK the treasury has been recently told by the IMF that a £22.5 billion windfall from the sale of mobile phone licences must be used to repay outstanding national debts to commercial banks.

The IMF and World Bank are remote and unaccountable yet powerful international finance institutions, that primarily serve the interests of the banking sector and multi-national business. Policy is determined by unelected officials, along with represents from state government, private banks and finance institutions and the private industrial sector. Non-governmental organisations are also nominally involved.

The Latest Scam

You may have heard of some of the dubious projects paid for by World Bank loans or know something about Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP's) (now relabelled as Poverty Reduction Strategies) administered by the IMF. After all, the measures are all too familiar - cuts in social spending, privatisation of state assets, deregulation of health, environment and employment law or anything that hinders 'free trade', wage restrictions, and so on. As yet, the latest scam is not so well known: Speculative assaults by the private financial sector against national currencies have seen currency devaluations against the dollar, resulting in collapsing economies, mass redundancies and debt default. Debts are in dollars meaning increased debt burden. The IMF steps in with debt bailouts, to be paid directly on to foreign commercial banks. The bailouts come with strings attached, further 'restructuring' of the economy, with the national

Export Processing Zones - a particular favourite of the IMF, are areas where deregulation is complete. Sweatshops, slums, highly polluting industries, toxic waste dumps and the complete absence of social or welfare provision are all part of the scene. From Mexico to the Phillipines...

currency and national banking institutions confiscated and in the hands of the same banking institutions that launched the speculative assault. Meanwhile millions of people are suddenly and dramatically impoverished, social spending is slashed, wages drop, the price of basic foods and commodities rise. The pattern played out numerous times in the late-nineties, particularly in the far east where 'Asian-flu' devastated countries such as Korea and Malaysia, and in Russia where the economy has simply collapsed.

See "Economic Medicine" by Prof. Michael Chussodovsky available at www.emperors-clothes.com/artides/chuss/imfworld

BLINCing in the sunshine

The Blatant Incitement Collective (BLINC) is a group of direct activists, campaigners and assorted individuals interested in radical agitprop. So far we've concentrated on reaching out to young people as directly as possible - in schools. On the 18th of October a few of us gave some workshops in Loreto College on our experiences in Prague and the background - world trade, debt and the International Monetary Fund. After talking with over 40 sixth-formers we felt very positive.

Teachers are often sympathetic or eager to have activists bring a taste of the real world into their classrooms. BLINCing is easy, and all we need is more people prepared to talk to young people. Workshops, displays, slide shows, non-violent-direct-action, politics, humanitarian issues. If any of this sounds interesting phone (0161) 226 6814 and leave a message for BLINC.

Trident on trial in Manchester

September saw the first of (at least) three Trident related trials in Manchester Crown Court; this one relating to the Aldermaston Women Trash Trident (AWTT) action at Barrow shipyard in February 1999. Rosie James and Rachel Wenham disabled equipment used to install and test electronic listening gear, and successfully delayed the handover of HMS Vengeance nuclear sub to the MoD. Their original trial had collapsed when the prosecution had been unable to put a clear financial figure on the damage caused. The defendants own testimony was moving: asked if she acted to protect property (eg her mum's house) Rosie said that it was more to the point that her mum was in it. Rachel recalled lying in bed as a child believing that every plane that went over was the one carrying the Bomb that would destroy Rugby. Rachel mentioned German judges who had taken direct action against Pershing. "I must order my wetsuit" said the judge — A welcome moment of comedy in the middle of some intense testimony. The judge would not allow the international



law defence but did allow the defences of necessity and self-defence. After over 6 hours of deliberation the jury acquitted the women of the lesser of the two charges, but were unable to come to a verdict on the more serious one. Unfortunately for Rachel and Rosie this means they face a third trial sometime in 2001. Sylvia Boyes and River attempted a 3rd disarmament action at Barrow, using the theme "What is morally wrong cannot be politically right". Regrettably we were spotted before doing anything practical, but that makes it all the more important to make our trial count. We appear in Manchester Crown Court on 8th Jan 2001. Rosie and Rachel's acquittal on one charge shows it is possible for us to get the right result. Please come down and support us. As Rachel says: "Despite the efforts of the UK government, this case has shown that the moral conscience of the British people is alive and kicking! An English jury has seen the truth about Britain's nuclear weapons system and has questioned the moral and legal legitimacy of Trident." Info from www.tridentploughshares.org.

Hulme Green Space to Disappear

Local residents in Hulme attended a magistrates court to object to Council plans to block up a footpath through a green, naturalised space, only to learn that the Council had obtained planning permission to lease the site for development. Only residents immediately adjacent to the site, on Streford Road and adjacent to Hulme Arch, were notified of the proposals and any objections from them have been ignored and disregarded. In court the magistrate ruled she could only consider the issue of the footpath in narrow terms. Concerns about quality of life, pollution, consultation with local residents and loss of green space were not admissible. Residents are aiming to obtain a judicial review of the decision to grant planning permission. However a request to adjourn proceedings to allow for the outcome of any judicial review was denied and permission for the council to stop up the footpaths granted. The application for a judicial review continues.

moreover 'creates a threat to the health and safety' of the public' (by jeopardising emergency services), they will fall foul of the Terrorism Act. So don't say you haven't been warned. Contact Teaparty: (0161) 226 6814

A riot of tea and cake

On 17th August assorted rabble from direct action groups assembled in St Peter's Square to drink tea and eat cake in order to make an effective protest against the passing of the Terrorism Act. Seeing as this topic has been in the Loombreaker endlessly, we will not bore those of you who already know about it. If you don't know what it's about, contact the TeaParty.

It was a relatively small protest, happening at tea time, appropriately enough, and was slightly marred by the presence of some police at the square. And then there were some around the corner, and a few more around the next, and several vanloads of tooled up riot cops in side streets. And there were mounted cops too. Public contact was unfortunately lower than expected because it later transpired that the helpful local bobbies had warned local businesses that there was going to be a riot in town and that it would be advisable not to catch the bus or the tram in the vicinity.

However lots of leaflets were handed out and reaction from those who did chat with the tea drinkers was positive. Incidentally, fuel price protestors should be advised that as their 'threat to use action' is designed to 'influence the government' and

Asda Profiteers

A huge demonstration took place at the Hulme branch of Asda (owned by gun-selling US company WalMart) organised by the Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers. Asda is one of the supermarkets that is willing to take part in the Government voucher scheme for asylum seekers. Not only is it not possible to receive change from the vouchers, the value of the vouchers is less than three quarters of the minimum benefit the government says is enough to live on. At least fifty people were present at the demo, and asked customers to staple their receipts to postcards which were then handed to the store manager. Many people did so. More details on asylum seekers' support campaigns: Ameen, 860 6423

DIARY

November

- 7th - Riotous Assembly speaker on climate change. 7.30pm Yard Theatre Hulme (see back page for details)
- 7th - day of action against GM animal feed. Info from www.gm-info.org.uk
- 13th - GM seed list enquiry begins (see front)
- 13th - start of trial of anti - GM activists (see front)
- 13th - start of last Hacienda trial - see inside
- 11th - National Demo against Huntingdon Life Science
Contact MAP 07931 586826
- 11-24th - Climate Change talks in Hague. Possible solidarity actions in Manchester. 0161 226 6814
- 26th - National Demo against Newchurch Guinea Pig farm. Contact MAP 07931 586826
- 30th - writing to prisoners social event. Have fun and cheer up a political prisoner. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Manchester legal support group on 0161 226 6814

December

- 8th - No more roads action. Info from 226 6814

No Shop Day 2000

As distinct from Steal Something Day, No Shop Day is an annual anti-consumerist festival, where people are invited to take a step back and look at consumerist values and lifestyle, and its effects on the planet and the developing world. No Shop Day in the UK was started in 1992 with the aim of highlighting the fact that the richest 20% of the world consume more than 80% of its resources and produce 70% of its pollution.

Past actions have included selling canned Happiness, setting up a lounge in Market Street complete with tea and scones and the Cult of the Rising Profits. No Shop Day in the UK this year has been taken on by some people who've gone back to its original name of Buy Nothing Day.

For more info: <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk> Contact: email: info@buynothingday.co.uk

Hulme Tenants mugged by Local Mafia

The council doesn't appear to like some Hulme residents. Backed up by 4 vans of "community" police officers, council workers 'cleared up' communal hallways and storage areas removing bicycles, pot plants and hundreds of pounds worth of personal property. After tipping some belongings out onto a pavement they then invited MCR Evenings News reporters to take pictures of 'the untidy estate'. People who got understandably angry were arrested, and others threatened with arrest when they tried to grab back their property. One person was arrested for continuing to use a wheelbarrow that he could not prove belonged to him. But never mind, the coppers were on overtime so at least they were happy.

McDonalds piss us off again....

Locals in Reddish are up in arms after discovering that McDonalds have sneakily got planning permission for a new McDogFood 'restaurant'. Presumably to avoid objections they used back-door methods by applying under the name of Warburtons, for a 'food outlet'. Local contact - Michelle on 442 8635

Spliffing new pool, ma'am

While opening the new Aquatic Centre (see inside for story of other related protests), the Queen was presented with a posy of marijuana by a campaigner for its legalisation for medical use. Loombreaker can't find out whether she was left giggling or not....

Civil Rights Caravan in Manchester

'We are not asking you to walk in front of us, because we may not be able to follow. We are not asking you to walk behind us, because we may not be able to lead. Brothers and sisters, friends and comrades, all we are asking is for you to walk beside us. All we are asking is for you to walk with us.'

On 29th of Oct, the Civil Rights Caravan came to Manchester, in the Longsight Pakistani Community Centre. The Caravan is made up of refugees, the families of victims of racist attacks and support campaigners, travelling around the country to raise awareness and reach out to communities around Britain. The above quote is from the speech of a Tanzinian refugee living in Salford. Subjected to imprisonment and abuse he is still ready to resist and to organise against the UK asylum system.

'I speak from experience, but others from experience, do not speak.' Too often the ones most at risk are those with no voice. The Civil Rights Caravan has been trying to give refugees and victims of racist attacks a way to communicate with various communities around Britain. The Caravan has been set up by the National Civil Rights Movement (NCRM - set up by members of the Lawrence Family campaign) and the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF).

The Southall Monitoring Group in London has been very successful in tracking police and other racists and supporting the victims of abuse. Hopefully a Manchester Monitoring Group would be similarly action-based, rather than another forum for chin-rubbing. Contact CARF or the NCRM for more details.

CARF, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX, (tel) 020 7837 1450. E-mail info@carf.demon.co.uk. Website <http://www.carf.demon.co.uk/>. The NCRM, 14 Featherstone Rd, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5AA, (tel) 020 85740818, e-mail info@ncrm.org.uk, website <http://www.ncrm.org.uk>. Race/policing helpline: 0800 374618

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



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

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

Pick it up FREE from:

- One World Centre, Central Street, near Central Library;
- Mistys Café, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road;
- Café Pop, Oldham Street, Piccadilly;
- Unicorn Grocery, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton;
- Pankhurst Centre, Nelson Street, near MRI;
- Withington Wholefoods, Wilmslow Road;
- Wesley Cafe, Royce Road, Hulme;

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!

Department 29,
22a, Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HS
0161-226 6814
loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk

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: 3/10/00

Proud to be Mad

Manchester saw a poetry reading at Cafe Pop as part of World Mad Pride Week. There was a festival and other events in London, and all over the globe. Mad Pride is about Mental Health System Survivors overcoming discrimination in the UK and all over the World.

Mad Pride London, 0958-907357,
www.madpride.net