

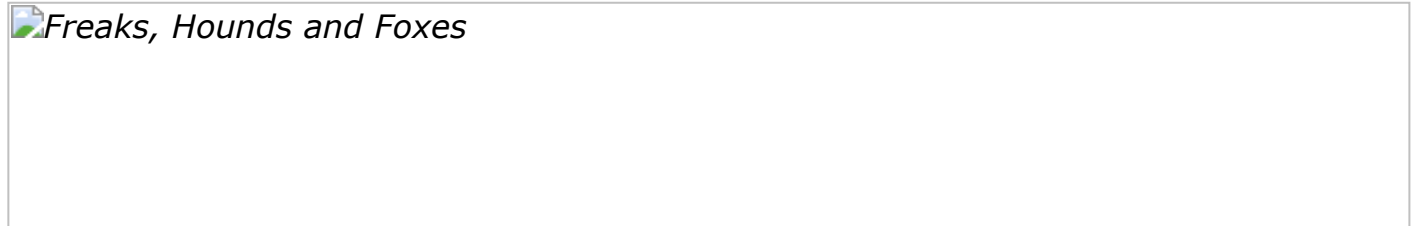
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No. 16 January / February 2001

Inbred Freaks and Mad Boffins On The Run

 *Freaks, Hounds and Foxes*



Animal rights has been big news recently, with hunt scum hopefully looking at only one more season of their bloodthirsty antics and Huntingdon Life Sciences being saved from closure (for now) by a mystery US backer after the Royal Bank of Scotland withdrew their loan. The government is also doing its bit for animal abuse by giving £1m to Cambridgeshire Police to protect HLS. The lovely Jack Straw is promising to crack down on animal rights activists - as if enough people haven't been criminalised already for peacefully protesting - by making it illegal to do home demos, which are, of course, in the vast majority, peaceful.

Although HLS might say in the media they want to help human beings etc etc they are massively involved in the testing of household products, agrochemicals and pesticides.

The next national demo against HLS is on Feb 11th (see diary).

For more information about why vivisection is scientifically fraudulent and useless see:

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty www.welcome.to/shac

Only the River Runs Free

"Once again a Manchester jury shows how far removed the law is from what the people regard as justice." Ploughshares activist River 18.01.01

There were tears in Manchester Crown Court as Sylvia and River were found not guilty of conspiring to cause criminal damage to the nuclear submarine *Vengeance*. The 2 activists were apprehended by security before they reached the submarine at Barrow docks on 23rd November 1999. Sylvia and River never denied intending to cause damage but argued that they were acting to prevent greater crimes. Sylvia argued that nuclear weapons are illegal under international law, referring to the World Court ruling of 1996.

Quoting Winston Churchill's admission that the "[U.K.] has acquired unto itself an unequal share of the world's wealth... by violent means", River argued from the point of view that they are produced and deployed by international criminal organisations. Expert witness Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, described numerous examples of nuclear accidents, radioactive spills and apocalyptic near misses.

The judge, in his summing up, told the jury that the defendants had no defence in law. They failed to reach a unanimous verdict and were directed to reach a majority decision. Ten minutes later the historic verdict of not guilty was delivered.

Is this why Jack Straw wants to get rid of juries?

Contact: Trident Ploughshares

42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR

t: **(01324) 880744** f: **(01436) 677529** w: www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/

U'Wa Victory

The U'Wa tribe of Colombia recently scored a notable gain when Fidelity Investments pulled substantial funding out of Occidental (see Loombreaker's 10 & 12). Attention now turns to accountants Sandford Bernstein. For more see www.ran.org

Anti-Sanctions Action

'We're here out of love and solidarity, not fear and self-interest.'

About 100 people, including a number from Manchester, gathered at Westminster Abbey on Jan 16th to demonstrate against the government's genocidal policies towards the Iraqi people, and calling for an end to the sanctions regime. The date was the tenth anniversary since the start of the Gulf War - one of the most shameful episodes of our times. The occasion was marked by a rousing speech from Ploughshares activist Ciaran O'Reilly and a sanctions-busting auction, before everyone took to the road with the London RTS samba band to head for parliament. Eventually about 15 people were arrested sitting in the road, with the police using considerable force to break them from lock-on tubes.

Following the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 Iraq was encouraged by western powers to wage war with Iran throughout the 1980s, making use of biological and chemical weapons. The US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti all supplied arms to Iraq knowing full well the despotic nature of Saddam Hussein. After the bombardment of Iraq in 1991 western governments called upon the people of Iraq to rise up and overthrow Saddam; when the Kurds in Northern Iraq and rebel forces in the Southern Basra region did exactly that, the US-dominated alliance promptly withdrew air cover allowing the Iraqi forces to crush the rebellion.

Since then the policy has remained one of weakening Saddam's regime, but stopping short of altogether removing him from power. The underlying agenda has always been control of oil resources in the region. Sanctions were maintained after the war and weapons inspections were imposed as a precondition for their removal. The weapons inspections team — UNSCOM — was infiltrated with CIA agents leading predictably to Iraqi non-cooperation, the breakdown of weapons inspection and further bombardment by NATO from December 1998.

Contact: Voices in the Wilderness (sanction-busters), 16B Cherwell Rd, Oxford OX4 1BG

t: **(01865) 243 232** e: voices@viwuk.freeseve.co.uk

Murder & Slaughter.

Palestinian campaigners protesting against Israeli military aggression have been targeting the Marks and Spencers in Manchester with demonstrations. They say *'Our concern is not with M&S' Jewish roots but its historic and continuing support for Israel. This is not an issue of race or religion, but human rights.'* M&S makes \$233 million each year out of trade with Israel and protests are planned for every month. You can contact the Islamic Human Rights Commission at info@ihrc.org or see www.ihrc.org .

A One Sided War

Since September over 300 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces and over 10,000 injured, 40% of them aged under 18. Twelve Israeli's have also been shot dead by their own police force. More Israeli settlements are under construction in the occupied territories and Israeli Prime Minister Barak has reaffirmed that several million Palestinians will never be allowed to return to their homelands. Under such conditions the fighting could well escalate into a full regional conflict.

Israel plays a critical role for the US as a military and political ally in the region in maintaining control of the oil resources, and has full US backing for its policies towards the Palestinians. As in many other areas the US has a consistent track record of sabotaging any attempts to reach meaningful agreement, preferring to divide and rule as it single mindedly protects 'US interests' -- thousands of miles from US shores

Support the CIA -- Smoke Crack!

A group from the grass roots organisation "proceso de comunidades negras" will be coming to England in March 2001, with plans forming for a tour of schools, colleges and community centres. They are being displaced from their lands by paramilitaries to make way for multinational mega projects through the rainforest. For the last 40 years Colombia has been embroiled in an internal war that has claimed an estimated 40,000 lives. The victims of this 'dirty war' are mostly the unarmed civilian population with up to 2 million people now internally displaced. Government crack downs (no pun intended) mean that social protest is effectively criminalised. Anyone who speaks out against injustice is routinely silenced through intimidation, forced disappearance or assassination.

Colombian economics operate on neoliberal principles with heavy influence from the World Bank and the US government. The US white paper 'Plan Columbia' traces the root cause of all Colombia's problems to the drug trade, and proposes war against the "narco guerrillas" and mass-privatisation as solutions. It's all rather ironic since it is well known that the CIA has been involved in the trafficking of cocaine for years, using the trade to generate slush funds for covert operations.

Plan Colombia requires a total of US \$7.5 billion; the US has already provided 1.3 billion in the form of military aid, the training of "anti-narcotics battalions", and 500 US soldiers to the Colombian state army -- which has one of the worst human rights records in the Western hemisphere. The US is also providing planes for fumigating coca crops, heavily pushing this ecologically disastrous method. Colombia is a testing ground for the new genetically modified micro-herbicide "Fusarium Oxysporus", despite the fact that it's use is banned throughout the rest of South America.

Since the implementation of the Plan mass killings and selective killings have increased and the peace talks have broken down. Plan Colombia is a Plan for War

which will have disastrous consequences for the Colombian people.

If you would like to know more contact: pgamanchester@yahoo.co.uk:

To read more about it yourself see: www.sunshine-project.org/
www.tni.org/drugs/research www.amnestyusa.org/

DUh!!

About 10% of children in Southern Iraq are now reported born with congenital deformities, but it is only after official moves by the Italian, Portugese and Greek governments concerned about the use of depleted uranium (DU) in modern warfare and the illnesses of their own war veterans that DU has finally emerged as a newsworthy issue. As Loombreaker goes to press the latest (22/1/01) is that NATO has issued another flat denial that there is any link between `Gulf/Balkan/any other war-Syndrome' and DU. This ludicrous position has already been blown wide open by leaked MoD guidlines warning of the dangers of DU, along with the growing weight of evidence compiled by campaigners, respected researchers and scientists.

Misinformation is a speciality of the MoD. For example, most DU weapons are not so much `DU tipped' as solid DU rounds. The crux of the current dispute comes down to the fact that upon impact DU rounds burn at up to 3000⁰c. At this temperature DU transforms into insoluble ceramic particles that can take years to pass through the body when inhaled or digested, often lodging in vital organs. MoD and Pentagon studies have only examined the effects of DU in its soluble form, which will normally pass through the body in a matter of hours or days. The difference is considerable, but, as ever the MoD prefers to misrepresent the evidence and advance the arguments that serve to conceal its own culpability.

For *reliable* information on DU look up Manchester's own

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HS

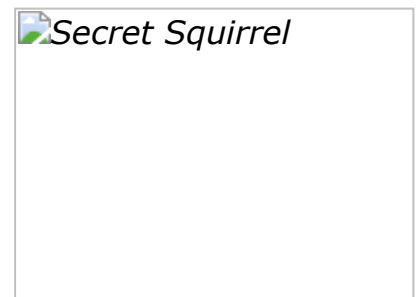
t: **(0161) 273 8283** e; gmcnd@gn.apc.org w; www.cadu.org.uk

Captain, The Planet Cannae Take It!

"Some people don't want to hear this...but - absolutely - we're going to fight in space. We're going to fight from space and we're going to fight into space..."

US Space Command, former Commander-in-Chief General Joseph W Ashy

General Ashy may not like the sound of this but moves are under way to build an international campaign of opposition to the development of nuclear powered, space based weapons. Former Vietnam veteran turned activist and co-ordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space Bruce Gagnon spoke recently in Manchester about the "Son of Star Wars". The message was startling even for those of us used to hearing about apocalyptic scenarios. Current US military planning has moved towards establishing domination in space with an arsenal of nuclear powered laser weapons. Says who? Says them. Lockheed Martin, the world's largest arms manufacturer, has even gone to



the trouble of providing artists illustrations of the potential array of space based weaponry in its publication Vision 2020.

The main problem for the militarists however is one of selling a project that is unprecedented in scale and expense, not to mention the threat to world peace (what there is of it) and life as we know it! Selling the National Missile Defence System to a sceptical US public is proving difficult enough and that is only a very minor part of the weapons systems envisaged by the Pentagon. US bases in the UK including Menwith Hill and Fylingdales will be integral to the "space based infra-red system". Watch this space.

Contact Yorkshire CND - t: **(01274) 730795** e: cndyorks@gn.apc.org w: www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks **entagon official offers a sneak preview of their latest space weapons system**

Crown Prosecution Service Raided

Sixteen people entered the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) offices in Sheffield, Tuesday, 19 Dec in protest at the continued imprisonment of Sheffield man Mark Barnsley, and the withholding of vital evidence from his defence. Entrance was gained easily by some smartly dressed people, and then everyone else ran inside and up stairs to the upper offices. Leaflets were given to all the staff stating: "The CPS have framed Mark Barnsley...they would like to think that he doesn't exist, but we won't forget... if they won't release the evidence then we will just go look for it ourselves". Unfortunately the police station is next door to the CPS building, and the police arrived very quickly and people were ejected from the building. A banner proclaiming "Free Mark Barnsley" was hung from trees right outside the building so passers-by knew what was going on. Local press were in attendance.

In total 16 people were arrested, as some managed to get away. They were held for up to 10 hours and all charged with "conspiracy to burgle, with intent". They were bailed to appear at Hull Magistrates (they cannot be prosecuted by Sheffield CPS!) on 9th January — no CPS office in the North of England wants to dirty their hands with this one, so the case was adjourned on the 9th, it has to be referred to London for them to work out what to do with it.

The 16 solidarity activists will be back at Hull Magistrates Court at 2pm on 13th March 2001. Maybe by then the CPS will have worked out what they are doing! Meanwhile, news of the protest has reached Mark, he was apparently cheered up...so much so, that by January 19th Mark Barnsley was put in Segregation at HMP Frankland, along with 2 other prisoners for (in the prison's words) 'fomenting dissent' and protesting against the deteriorating conditions inside Frankland

Mark Barnsley has been framed for a crime he did not commit, and has been wrongly sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. He was framed because he was a well known working class political activist.

e: barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com w: www.freemarkbarnsley.com

No Homes for Small Change

News has reached the Loombreaker that the Guinness Trust could be assuming direct management of the Homes for Change (HfC) project in Hulme. The move amounts to the final nail in the coffin for the aspirations of those who organised at the outset of

the Hulme Regeneration Programme under the banner of 'Hulme homes for Hulme people'. The Guinness Trust were handed massive grants to fund the HfC building and in return allowed the construction to run over budget, dumping the additional costs on HfC tenants and traders and so creating an impossible burden.

HfC was always a trade off with active community members that allowed the council to turn the rest of Hulme over to the private sector. In the light of plans for regeneration programmes across the country, it's worth taking stock of the Hulme experience where now there is a private high street, a call centre built on the site of an old school, a showroom for posh cars, loads of shoddy housing and next to no community facilities. Hulme Arch may look just great on a postcard but the lesson is that 'regeneration' is simply a byword for corporate theft and fraud.

Radical Routes Conference

Creating social change is about building up alternatives as well as attacking the forces of evil. In an ideal situation the two matters feed off each other. Radical Routes is an association of housing cooperatives formed by activist groups who also want to take control of their housing. Over the weekend of 19th to 21st of January the Winter gathering of Radical Routes was held in Bradford.

Manchester, birthplace of the mainstream cooperative movement also has several radical housing co-ops and members of Equinox, 6 Fingers And a Tail and Living Land had a great time. A wide variety of housing and workers' co-ops were represented. A presentation from the first housing co-op on the Isle of White was welcomed as well as two new Anarchist social centres in London (Emmaz) and Brighton (The Cowley Club).

Radical Routes is a co-op of co-ops, supports them through skill-sharing, networking and lending money to new co-op projects.

Contact: Radical Routes, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Chapeltown Leeds LS7 3HB

t: **(0113) 262 9365** w: www.radicalroutes.org.uk

If you're interested in living in a Radical Routes housing co-op in Manchester phone Equinox on **(0161) 248 9224**

Still Seeking Sanctuary

From a tiny group of people Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers has become a large campaigning group. On January 15th a public meeting in Friends' Meeting House attracted over 50 people to hear several asylum seekers tell of their experiences in UK and elsewhere in Fortress Europe. The Committee, one of a network of similar groups up and down the country concentrates on lobbying politicians, supporting asylum seekers' campaigns for residence and doing publicity stunts (the most recent being at Manchester airport to highlight the detention centre there).

Contact: MCDAS and Immigration Aid Unit, 400 Cheetham Hill Rd, Manchester M8 9LE

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