



The Loombreaker

No. 17 ♦ March 2001 ♦ Free

Ticket to Ride



Monday the 5th of Febuary saw the opening of Manchester airports highly controversial second runway. Not wanting to miss out on this mind shattering event we decided to go along and make sure the party went with a swing. On arriving we joined the screaming hordes of plane spotters. All settled in for an exciting day and with their assortment of surveillance devices they seemed better equipped than our good old boys in blue. Terminal 3 where the first flight on runway 2 was leaving from was looking a bit drab so out came the highly colourful "You Can't Runaway From Climate Chaos" banner. Then another group locked on with armtubes across one of the entrances to terminal 3 departures. People will do anything these days to get their picture in the papers. They stayed blocking the entrance during which time the police came along and a game of musical armtubes followed with lots of other protesters joining in the fun. This went on for quite a while causing the police to close off nearly all the entrances to T3, what a shame. Eventually the people in the armtubes were hemmed in by fencing but people continued to try and get into the departure area. One person was arrested in this process because the police assaulted him - don't you feel proud to be British. After an hour or so every one was removed from in front of the entrance. While this had been going on another banner drop had taken place in T1. There were numerous sightings of a homeless badger in the terminals. A long running game of cat and mouse went on between people giving out leaflets and the assorted forces of darkness. Another 2 people were arrested for trying to hang a banner at the entrance to the airport but were later released without charge. The fun and games continued till everyone needed their afternoon caffeine fix. After all that the inaugural R2 flight was delayed, due to a passenger having a heart attack on the plane before it reached Manchester. It just goes to show you the perils of flying. Don't forget coming soon is runway 3.

Free Mark Barnsley! Jailhouse Rocked!

"Despite my 6 long years of imprisonment I remain unbroken by the system and committed to fighting injustice. The circumstances of my wrongful conviction are so blatant that they will not hold up to the slightest honest scrutiny." Mark Barnsley.

A vacuous din was heard outside the grim gates of H. M. prison Wakefield on Sunday the 25th of Feb. It wasn't quite Elvis, but it was loud. Thirty people from Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and Wakefield met with buckets, whistles, a sound system and fireworks for a noise demo in support of caged anarchist Mark. Mark was framed and imprisoned for 12 years for assault after being set upon and beaten seven years ago by a mob of fifteen drunken students. Due to his work for prisoners and against oppression Mark was targeted by the police while free and is now being badly treated in Wakefield. Since his imprisonment Mark had sought to fight his

conviction and the prison service has systematically attempted to prevent him from doing so.

Support for Mark has spread rapidly recently, causing the prison authorities to become more vindictive in their treatment of him. He has recently been moved to Wakefield prison, held in a condemned cell and provided with a single blanket to sleep at sub-zero temperatures.

You can read more about Mark's case in his own words at www.freemarkbarnsley.com

Write to Mark Barnsley, WA 2897, HMP Wakefield, Love lane, Wakefield, Yorks, WF2 9AG, or contact: Justice For Mark Barnsley, c/o 145-149 Cardigan Rd, Leeds, LS6 1U.

The 16 arrested for raiding Sheffield CPS in support of Mark (see Loombreaker 16) are appearing in Hull Magistrates Court on March 16th. Contact 226 6814 for more info.

Call for Solidarity with Afro-Colombian People

From 5th-7th of March 2001, two grassroots organisers from Colombia will be in Manchester. They are representatives of the black community network "Proceso de Comunidades Negras" (PCN). Jorje Aramburo and Rosana Cuama are coming to the UK as part of a European-wide tour to raise awareness about the effects of Plan Colombia on their communities as regards the intensification of the armed conflict, the displacement and assassination of local populations, and the environmental and social destruction threatened by multinational projects as well as the coca fumigation programme.

The Carrumba Collective are a small group in Manchester, connected to a wider international network of autonomous groups who want to take action on this issue. We aim to advance solidarity efforts by supporting the voices and demands of those representing the struggle for peace and social transformation in Colombia.

For more details see diary. Contact: 07939 391072 or email pgmanchester@yahoo.co.uk

For more info see www.sunshine-project.org

In this month's
Loombreaker

Major actions against HLS and Trident ♦ Save Gorton Tubs ♦ John Pops ♦ Holocaust Memorial Day ♦ Burma Campaign ♦ Smash 28 ♦ Pandit G & the ADF ♦ Globalising Hot Air ♦ Cuba Solidarity ♦ The Return of Rachel and Rosie

Fuck Me, We're all Terrorists!

The Terrorism Act came into force on the 19th February, which should take care of all those window breaking, spray painting hoodlums on street parties, anyone else who manages to damage property at a demo (ploughshares, animal rights, gm crop busters and so on) and campaigns of international solidarity. Some people felt duty bound to grass up known terrorists outside Parliament on the day, bringing GM plants that 'may cause a risk to the health and safety to the public' as evidence, but apparently this doesn't count (and with the net cast so wide!?). Neither does the unprovoked use of missiles and artillery against innocent people, such as recently in Baghdad for instance, so that's okay then.

For more on the act see <http://go.to/ta2000>.
For reports on the demo see www.indymedia.org.uk

A Gallery of Animal Abusers

The response to Jack Straw and the government's rescue deal for HLS and the attempt to close down the campaign could hardly have been better. Around 100 Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaigners from the North West met up with over a thousand more from around the country for a day of action against HLS's customers in Surrey. And what a day! Protests took place at Glaxo Smithkline, Bayer, Novartis, Roche, Eli Lilly and Monsanto, as well as at the homes of Monsanto's directors. The support from all of these companies was instrumental in the recent deal brokered by the Labour government to bail out HLS, a decision which they may live to regret! Thousands of pounds of damage was caused at Bayer, where windows were smashed and machinery destroyed. At GlaxoSmithkline police arrived too late to prevent another attack by 150 demonstrators who smashed windows and sprayed slogans around the building. A similar attack occurred at the Horlicks factory in Slough, owned by GlaxoSmithKline. Several windows were smashed before a mass sit-down protest on nearby roads. Meanwhile more than 250 people surrounded Eli Lilly, and forced their way on to the premises. The Thames valley police excelled themselves by arresting 87 people, including 30 from Manchester and Liverpool. The Manchester van was pulled in Slough, miles away from any of the protests. There were no grounds for suspicion other than that we were travelling in a mini-bus! We were arrested at 3pm on suspicion of criminal damage, but were not booked in until 8.30pm that night, as they couldn't find a cop shop with any room left! We were eventually police bailed and let out at about 1am - in paper suits! They had taken our clothes down to our undergarments, in order to get possible



matches with CCTV evidence. Meanwhile the Liverpool van was impounded until the following day. It was clear from the police's attitude that our treatment was retribution for the day's events, in the hope that we would be deterred from going back. Fat chance!. In a couple of years' time we're all looking at about £4-5K for aggravated unlawful arrest - not bad for a day's work!

The new HLS backers have been revealed as the Stephens Group Inc. from Little Rock Arkansas (www.stephens.com) who have links with Indonesia and other regimes, and have reportedly been involved in CIA smuggling and assassinations. More info. contact SHAC, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Gloucs, (0121) 632 6460.

Ethical Shop-Lifting - the way forward!

Following MAP's success in helping to force NatWest bank to withdraw their money from HLS, we've now adopted the well-established tactic of ethical shoplifting. On Tuesday 27th February, we targetted stores in Liverpool, Wigan and Warrington removing all Glaxo Smithkline products from the shelves. Then we put all the trolleys together and one of us announced to shop customers how they might be helping to finance animal cruelty by purchasing products such as Lucozade and Ribena. In Liverpool a TV crew came in with us and filmed the whole incident, including an assault by security on a protestor (more compensation!). It went out on the local 6pm news!

Similar success was had in Wigan and Warrington. A great day was had by all and we can't wait for the next one (Friday 9th March). Glaxo Smithkline were possibly the single biggest factor in keeping HLS open in the recent deal. They are therefore one of the main targets of the SHAC campaign. They also represent easy-pickings. They're in the news at the moment for opposing the manufacture of affordable anti-AIDS drugs in South Africa, ie they don't care about humans either. And their products are on sale in shops all over the country, giving us endless opportunities to demonstrate.

Contact MAP on 07951 228981.

We all live in (the apocalyptic shadow of) a Trident submarine

It's 2am on the edge of the Scottish loch, we've just arrived from Manchester and a tripod is already going up outside the South Gate. Four and a half hours and eighteen arrests later and it's still holding out, as police wheel up some staircases and grapple to bring down one of the last remaining blockaders. A cherry picker stands by to bring a couple down from a walkway across the road, but somebody has locked onto it. The road is cleared of the tripod and the police relax. Half an hour later the road is blocked again, and some OAP's are wheeling in some strange and twisted bicycle structure under cover of a large banner.

Everyone is pointing out to the Dibble that nukes are illegal and a crime being committed under international law. They stay tight-lipped. As the sun rises the blockade begins in earnest and it's mid-afternoon before the last limp body is dragged off the road.

The Big Blockade at Faslane - a naval yard dedicated to the maintenance of the UK strategic nuclear weapons system Trident - is fast becoming a major event in the protest diary. Four vans of people went up from the Manchester area to join over a thousand others, more than doubling last years numbers.

The police are out in numbers too, with hired transport, and applying all the peculiarities of 'Scots' Law', which apparently means there is no need to bother with any arrest procedure, such as offering a caution or informing anyone that they are under arrest. They also have some new toys for breaking blockades such as a circular saw that "disnae cut your skin" but rips through an arm lock tube in seconds.

385 people got nicked including an MP, an MSP, an MEP and a QC (strewth!) and fully disabling Glasgow's police stations. There are still over 165 arrested people from the previous year for the courts to process. The judicial system is now pretty jammed up.

Over 70% of Scots want rid of the base and who can blame them? Although in some respects it's all very civilised and good natured with a high level of cooperation between the blockade organisers (Trident Ploughshares and Scots CND) and the police, not everything is so sweet. A group of ten women arrested are carted off to Kilmarnock police station and strip-searched. 'Scots' Law' apparently permits banging someones' head on a concrete floor while illegally (we believe) obtaining a DNA sample. But there is no doubt that the action has achieved its immediate ends and with representatives from all walks of life future actions are set to grow in size. Unless, of course, the government can get everyone banged up as terrorists.

Contact: Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, G84 8NT. Phone: (01436) 820 901 or email: faslania@faslanepeacecamp.org or faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

For more about the camp see www.faslanepeacecamp.org
For more on ploughshares see www.gm.apc.org/tp2000

Still Dying For A Holiday

On 17th February 2 successful demos were held at central Manchester Waterstone's branches to draw attention to the Lonely Planet boycott. Tourism Concern and The Burma Campaign have called for a boycott of **all** Lonely Planet guides until they withdraw their Burma guide. Millions of people in Burma are suffering terrible human rights abuses and much of that suffering, including forced labour, is directly related to tourism development. Income generated through tourism helps sustain one of the world's most brutal regimes, whereas tourism only benefits a tiny percentage of the population, 80% of whom live in rural areas with their primary means of income being agriculture. Burma's elected

leaders – the only authority with a mandate to speak for the people – have pleaded for all tourists and the tourism industry to avoid Burma while it remains a dictatorship. Protest postcards (lots of which seem to be making their way into Lonely Planet guides in Manchester bookshops) and further info are available from Tourism Concern or The Burma Campaign. There will be another demo in Manchester before long – keep an eye on the Loombreaker for details.

www.burmacampaign.org.uk or www.tourismconcern.org.uk

90% for 90%

Reduction in Public Transport Fares on Demand

Special offer - a 90% cut in rail and bus fares... to make public transport affordable... to start making changes... that bring about a 90% cut in greenhouse gases...

rail and bus travel has to be affordable

See diary for more information.

Local News

It's Our Land and it's Time to Reclaim it

Bolton Organic Growers have managed to secure more local land for growing. After years of wrangling with the local authority they have decided to take matters into their own hands by going out on their bikes and identifying pieces of land which are suitable for claiming by Adverse Possession. One piece of land was successfully fenced last weekend and two further sites have been identified.

Their objective is to create a community land holding co-op and comes amid the governments plans to put the Land Registries information on the internet. The concern is that large developers will subscribe to the internet service and perform 'sweeps' of areas that hold the most development potential, typically those picturesque sites on, or overlooking, greenbelt areas. Once they have identified sites they will attempt to claim them through Adverse Possession or other routes.

One local grower confirmed that after years of using the prescribed route (that is, identify a piece of land, write to the council who take six months to reply telling you to get lost) we are really starting to create some movement by bypassing all the bureaucratic bull and claiming Adverse Possession. It has taken over 4 years to get 3 council sites, we are going to get another 3 sites in two weeks!

Contact 01204 450276 for more info.

Bringing GM to Town

Despite overwhelming public opposition, genetically modified material continues to enter the UK through the Cargill terminal at Liverpool docks. In March, Liverpool Against Genetics are organising events to publicise the links within the food chain from biotech corporations to supermarkets and to

highlight the alternatives – organic and locally produced food. The events will include a supermarket stunt, a public meeting, street theatre and a mass walk to Cargill.

Ring (0151) 707 1788 or 07890 704881 for details.

John Pops Must Stay

John Pops has led a nomadic life. Abandoned by his parents and kidnapped by travellers when aged 10, John has never had birth certificate, passport or official papers. In August 1999 he arrived in the UK hidden in a ship container. He has made friends with a family in Tameside who want to help him stay in the country. The Home Office, however, want to deport him. The 'John Pops Must Stay' campaign are asking you write to the Home Office to support him.

John Pops Must Stay Campaign, c/o NCADC, 400 Cheetham Hill Road, M8 9LE.

Public Baths: Sink or Swim?

"If they can afford to pay £52 million to fund the Commonwealth Games then they can afford to keep Gorton Tub open" Tony Martin, Save Gorton Tub Campaign

"There isn't much in Gorton anyway. I want to see Richard Leese explain how the council can justify this decision." A local Gorton mother.

As Loombreaker goes to press we hear Mcr City Council leader Richard Leese will be met by campaigners from Save Gorton Tub – a massive local community campaign – who have a petition of 4,000 signatories against the closure of the pool at the end of March. A lobby of the council is also planned later at the town hall (see diary). Gorton Tub is only 12 years old and is unique in that it has sloping / beach access into the water. This means that it is very easy for the young, old and those with mobility problems or disabilities to get into the water.

For more information about the campaign, contact: Save Gorton Tub, c/o 17 St Phillips Road, Gorton, Manchester M18 7ET www.savegortontub.freereserve.co.uk, phone 0161 231 5827, email info@savegortontub.freereserve.co.uk

For information on the campaign to save Miles Platting Pools contact: Sheila Davies 0161 202 1357

On Saturday 24th February, the campaigners took their protest to the Manchester Aquatic Centre. The council aim to save £150,000 by closing Gorton Tub and nearby Miles Platting Pools at the end of March. The new Aquatic Centre, built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, is privately run, but is funded from the same budget as local pools. I.e., it's it looks suspiciously like more backdoor privatisation. Campaigners, however, don't believe the new facilities for the Commonwealth Games should come at the expense of local facilities, and if the council don't change their mind they are threatening to take further action.

Manchester city council are hoping to save £1,000,00 by closing 14 housing offices dealing with housing benefit, rent arrears and tenancy disputes. We understand they are to be replaced by a call-centre (like that fetching new cattle shed in Hulme) along with mobile estate management officers and teams. Similar cost-cutting switches in services for utility companies, banks, public transport information and so on should give some indication of how housing services are to er... improve?

You can put your own point of view forward through the Mcr Tenants & Residents Caretaker Association: Unit 17, 1st floor, Peterhouse, Oxford St.; tel 0161 236 1434; fax 236 2612.

A personal view of the 'Globalise Resistance' conference

There's Something In The Air

Apparently so. A few weeks ago I spoke to a SWPer about the future, revolution and all that. He was very positive, saying more than once, "there's something in the air". I thought he had decided that for himself. I went to the Globalise Resistance conference a little later and on all their posters it said "there's something in the air". This is a small thing, but somewhat symptomatic of the whole conference. For what was supposed to be something for anyone with a stance against global capitalism it felt very much like a conference for people who were in favour of the all new Socialist Alliance. My reasons for going were to hear George Monbiot speak - the best bit of which was hearing him half-heartedly and somewhat embarrassedly shout "Revolution!" - and to attend the workshops.

In the end I managed to get to one workshop - *The Corporate Takeover of Britain*. It was not a workshop like any I've attended before. First off we were lectured on the sell-off of council houses and then about 'New Labour's' private finance initiative being used to sell off the hospitals. This I didn't have a problem with - the problem was the question and answer session. It consisted of some people getting up and talking about their own personal campaigns - a local swimming baths campaign and problems with asylum seekers in Sheffield for example -- but mainly people standing up and saying "Isn't this great? There are so many of us here!", "I think we're going somewhere now" and "There's something in the air"! It felt like people standing up and publicly confirming their faith. Where were the questions? Where the answers?

Rather than finding a conference that was prepared to take a range of ideas and approaches, and discuss them to try to find ways forward to dismantle the capitalist system, I found a self-congratulatory church-like atmosphere of people affirming opinions on everything.

Springing Forward

There will be a weekend of workshops and discussions on 24 - 25th March at Bridge 5 Mill for people who wish to develop ideas about how to make Manchester a greener and more equitable place to live. The weekend is open to individuals, families, and voluntary and community groups.

For more information contact Cath or Sophie on 273 1736, email merc@gn.apc.org

Break the Blockade

Saturday 3rd February approximately 20 people gathered to hear Geoff Bottoms talk about the progress people in Cuba had made despite the USA blockade, and about the making of the film *Taxi to Cuba*, in which he featured. The main purpose of the meeting was to launch the direct link project with workers at an oil refinery near Cárdenas in Matanzas province. The link is through the Chemical, Mining, and Energy Union for Matanzas Province; communication is with comrades there, and Mark Burton, Cuba Solidarity Campaign secretary, has already made a visit to begin to build up a picture of the most pressing needs of the community. It is likely that aid will focus on medical and educational supplies, which are particularly restricted as

a result of the blockade. In the short term CSC have set up a financial framework for group members to contribute a regular amount and have begun to draw up an action plan for the collection of material aid. They hope to have regular visits to and from Cuba.

Manchester Area Cuba Solidarity Campaign
37 Chandos Rd South, Manchester, M21 0TH
0161 881 6887, csc.mcr@pop3.poptel.org.uk.

Regular Meeting: every first Monday of the Month, 8.00 pm, at the Hare and Hounds Pub: Shude Hill

Visit the Manchester CSC homepage
<http://homepages.poptel.org.uk/markburton>

Music and Politics Round-Up

Two final acts of cultural vandalism took place in Manchester this month, with the simultaneous demise to the bulldozer of the widely celebrated Hacienda and the PSV clubs. Decent nightclubs are hard to find in Manchester these days, but the free party scene continues to thrive. Every weekend, it seems, someone is managing to open up a disused building, get a sound system in and let it rip. No bouncers, no dull tunes, no rip-offs. Look out for those free party fliers.

"To be frank I'm just a bit pissed-off that we still live in a time when someone thinks that my sexuality means they can take me for a child abuser." Steven Nancy.

"The Queen Sucks Nazi Cock!" Chloe Poems.

Beautiful punk posers and effeminate bottoms the lot of them, Smash 28 at the Roadhouse gave us a night of no compromise diatribes as a succession of acts kicked out against hetero injustices and section 28. But, they declared, this was also a night dedicated to fighting oppression and injustice in whatever form, which was warming to the Loombreaker cockles. Never got to see Hooker but Jackie O were out of this world.

Contact stef_angel@hotmail.com or chris@stephennancy.com
Or see www.stephennancy.com

Meantime Pandit G gave a talk at the Green Room, Whitworth Street, on the origins of the Asian Dub Foundation and Community Music, the revelation of the underground scene in Europe and their support for Satpal Ram. Community Music began as a project to provide access to musical equipment for blacks and asians in Tower Hamlets. They now run an ADF education programme with hands on training in music and performance and also run a 24 hour internet radio station. Apparently ADF have been approached by the Met to take part in a police outreach programme to young asians to create better understanding on the issue of stop and search! The offer was not taken up. The talk, 'Music-activism and Politics' was one of a series on 'Sources of Radicalism' held the first Thursday of every month, hosted by Red Pepper, the International Centre for Labour Studies and the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Archive. Contact 0161 275 4794.

See www.asiandubfoundation.com

We don't get many, but here's a letter!

Dear friend,
With regard to your article "Students Launch Fight Against Fees" (Loombreaker no. 15; Dec 2000). Two points: firstly, the "campaign" just launched is by the NUS bureaucracy - feeling the heat from rank-and-file union members they are trying to pretend they oppose fees, etc. The demo was called to divert pressure from the right-wing; the fact that they've only just got round to launching their campaign NOW, three years after fees came in, speaks volumes. Secondly, Manchester University Students' Union is, as with most SUs, run by careerists and place-seekers. They've proved their own commitment to free education by cancelling their own campaign (this isn't the first time)! For more info on the real fight against fees and to restore the grant, from the campaign that has been there from the start and consistently fought for free education, write to:

Save Free Education Society, c/o University of Manchester Students' Union,
Oxford Rd., Manchester. Email: manc_sfe@hotmail.com

"The world is too dangerous a place to live in, not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who stand by and do nothing", Albert Einstein

Despite the national controversy over whether the Day should include other genocides, Manchester's official ceremony was pleasantly political and right-on. There had been an educational week in schools, stressing mutual-respect, tolerance and solidarity. There was a wide range of speakers on the day, from politicians saying 'all the right things', someone from 'Searchlight' magazine trashing 'New' Labour's hypocrisy over asylum-seekers, to an Auschwitz-Belsen survivor. Armenians, survivors of the Turkish-inflicted 'forgotten genocide' early this century helped plant a tree in the Peace Gardens, and lit candles before people made their way to the political stalls and free tea.

Lessons have not been learnt from the Holocaust, as we have seen in countries recently including Rwanda, Kurdistan and Chechnya. Xenophobia, religion and nationalism still get whipped up around Europe, allowing genocide to be inflicted. Even just the tolerance of injustice, prejudice and oppression is dangerous enough, and it is

fatal for people and communities to forget. Institutionalised racism has been talked about much in Britain since Stephen Lawrence's murder, but little has changed, with similar incidents, more black deaths in police custody, a rise in violent racist attacks, and the resurgence of the far-right in Dover, the Midlands, and around Europe as fascism breaks out of its post-war marginalisation. Greater Manchester has seen BNP stickers, leafletting, and the desecration of a Jewish cemetery.

We should remember the Nazi's T4 eugenics programme's gassing of the disabled, and the mass killings from the gay & lesbian communities, radicals and dissenters, Romanies and so on. We need to honour the hardly mentioned resistance to the Nazis, from Jewish and non-Jewish partisan groups, MOI-Paris who assassinated leaders and sabotaged transport, Dutch dockers and factory workers who went on general strike, and the anarchist resistance to Franco. British authorities made it difficult for Holocaust survivors to enter the country, as they had Jewish refugees fleeing the rise of the Nazis, whilst they gave refuge to a battalion of the Waffen SS. Even immediately after the Second World War, when everyone in Britain knew about the horrors of the Holocaust, there was still widespread anti-Semitism, institutional and otherwise, never mind continued racism to other people that make up the diverse Britain of today.

DIARY

MARCH

4-10 A week of actions and events exposing GM foods and the biotech industry - see article

5-9 Phone blockade of HLS customer Novartis (9am - 5pm).
01276 692255 or 01276 698216.

6 Riotous Assembly, the Zapatista Uprising, video and discussion. The Yard Theatre, 41 Old Birley Street, Hulme (opp. Junction Pub).

6 "Fancy Footwork for Freedom": a night of Afro-Cuban jazz and latin sounds at the Copacabana night club (1, Dale Street - 237 3441) to raise money for PCN tour. 9pm.

7 A public meeting concerning Plan Colombia with displays, a presentation by Jorje and Rosana followed by questions and discussion. Friends Meeting House, Mount St., 7.30pm.

7 Save Gorton Tub. Lobby council's budget meeting, 8:30am, Town Hall, Albert Sq. (see article).

8 International Women's Day and Women's Global Strike, 020 7482 2496
<http://womenstrike8m.server101.com/>
Women's Blockade of Menwith Hill
01943 468593

Close the Gap, Solidarity with women workers around the world, The Gap, St Ann St, St Ann's sq, 4:30-6pm.

10 Women's Blockade of Faslane Trident sub base. Contact 01436 820901 or faslania@faslanepeacecamp.org

10-11 'Alternative Policies to Sanctions', Campaign Against Sanctions on Iraq, conference, Trinity College, Trinity Street, Cambridge.
01223 337344
conference@casi.org.uk

14 Stop the Ilisu Dam. Day of Action against Balfour Beatty in Sheffield and London.
01142 670706, ilisu@gn.apc.org
www.ilisu.org.uk

15 Close Down Huntingdon Life Science, Parliament Demonstration. Meet: 11am outside Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London; or 2pm, Parliament Square.

Ring 07931 586826 for transport details.

18 90% for 90%: action to directly reduce rail fares -- by not paying most of them!
Fun-packed day trip to the seaside.
0161 226 6814, climatchaos@yahoo.com

23 'Take Back Our Track', as in the rails from private ownership. Mechanic's Institute, Princess Road, 7pm.

24 March for the recognition of British Sign Language. Meet 11am @ the Deaf Centre, Booth St. East, all welcome.

24-25 People's Global Action Conference, Milan. caravan99@list.de or yabasta@tin.it
www.gn.apc.org/rts

24 'Spring into Action', 11am - 2pm, stalls, food, raffle etc., (see article).
Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats.

25 'Growing Big Ideas', 10am - 4pm, workshops and discussion, Bridge 5 Mill (as above).

31 Hands Off Asylum Seekers! Keep Racism out of the Election. Demonstration, 12 noon @ All Saints, Oxford Road. Contact 881 7352.

APRIL

3 Aldermarston Women Trash Trident retrieval. Manchester Crown Court (see article)

3 Riotous Assembly (as above)

5 Sources of Radicalism. 'Participation and Power' -- discussion with Hilary Wainwright; 7:30 @ Green Room, Whitworth St West (tel 950 5777 or 275 4794), all welcome, £3/£1 unwaged.

6 Bridge 5 Mill, grand opening. Phone for details (as above).

Regulars:

Hunt sabotage, telephone 0961 113084.
Ethical Shop-Lift every week, phone MAP to find out when.

MAP meets 1st Wednesday of month at the Friends Meeting house, Mount St, city centre, 7.30pm. Contact phone no: 07951 228981.

Co-op not just shop

On February 22nd the Co-operative movement held a conference aimed at local government and small businesses people, pushing the co-operative method as a form of 'social enterprise' which is 'competitive' in the modern economy. A Manchester speaker from the Radical Routes co-operative network contrasted with the 'business as usual' atmosphere by pointing out that co-ops could also be a way of changing the world, and an alternative to the free market, not just a way of surviving within it.

Contact: Radical Routes, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Chapeltown, Leeds LS7 3HB, 0113 262 9365, radicalroutes.org.uk

Good news for the Radical Underground Press

The Earth First! Action Update has resurfaced, and is now being produced by a collective in Norfolk. The February is out now. The Action Update is a networking tool for activists working under the EFi banner and reports on actions and events around the world.

And in a cor-blimey, is that my reading pile for this week guv-style shocker, the latest *Do or Die* thumps onto our doormat. A 232-page work of in-depth analysis, this is the ninth journal from an autonomous-Brighton based collective. This issue includes several critical accounts of the Prague anti-IMF/WB actions, the global fight against biotech and 'The Ballad of the Black Hooded Top: Why we shouldn't confuse our politics with our dress sense.' Cool!

For ten issues EF1AU send £5 to PO Box 487, Norwich, NR2 3AL or telephone 01603 219811

Send £5 (inc UK p&p) to Do or Die, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2 2GY, e-mail doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

No War but the Class War

Blair and Bush, we learn, both use Colgate which may explain those horrendously smarmy grins. They probably didn't discuss elections or Florida in their recent meeting but at least they can agree on taking innocent lives. We've said it before and we'll say it again. The policy of the US and UK towards Iraq has little to do with weapons of mass destruction or the removal of one time US favourite Saddam Hussein.

The facts are that an alternative Iraqi leader who can be trusted to fulfil Western priorities and appear to be 'the right kind' of person demanded by US doctrine has yet to emerge. The latest bombing of Iraq has more to do with George W. Duncce posturing as a 'tough guy' President.

The regime in Saudi Arabia has been every bit as brutal as the Ba'ath regime in Iraq, and thanks to the likes of BAE Systems and Mark Thatcher, they have weapons of destruction and 'technologies of political control' aplenty. But Saudi is an obedient client state so, as ever, human rights abuses are not an issue. Similar comments apply to NATO ally Turkey. Turkish forces, indeed, regularly cross the Iraqi border to attack the the same Kurdish population that is supposedly being protected by the NATO 'no-fly zone' policy. Meanwhile, the previous two years bombing of Iraq and its effects remain largely unreported and thousands are still dying each month in agonising circumstances under the criminal sanctions regime.

So here's a couple of questions to ponder. For how much longer are the people of this country to allow the government and its corporate sponsors in arms and petrochemicals to perpetrate these genocidal outrages? And as climate chaos looms, what are we all to do when the heavily oil dependent military-industrial global economy collapses, as one day it surely will?

Campaign Against Sanctions on Iraq have set up in Manchester and they have a new website. Contact casl@weep.co.uk or see www.givehope.bizland.com

No Pasaran!

On Saturday 3rd March 11 people from Manchester and Bolton joined the counter demonstration against the National Front in Nottingham outside Nottingham prison. Looking for a pretext for holding a public rally the NF called a protest against paedophiles. So who are more pitiful, nazis or child abusers?

A planned march had to be cancelled. The handful of boneheads (about 20) at the rally had to be protected by a deep cordon of police who sealed off an entire stretch of road. At either end the presence of hundreds of people showed that their hate and bigotry

International Women's Week

As the Loombreaker goes to press a jam packed International Women's Week is happening all over Manchester. There's a demo at Gap on the 8th (see diary) and events all week at the Pankhurst Centre (tel: 273 5673), including the first week of women's courses in tai'chi, gardening, stress-bustin and beginners DIY. There was a brilliant International Women's Day Festival at the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon (March 4th) with dozens of stalls and workshops.

Will There Be Justice Third Time Around?

On 3rd April two ploughshares activists from Aldermarston Women Trash Trident will face prosecution in Manchester for a third time on the same charge (see Loombreakers 13 & 14). In February 1999 Rachel and Rosie broke into Barrow docks in an attempt to disarm Trident submarine "Vengeance". They concentrated their disarmament work on the conning tower, specifically the testing equipment Marconi had located there. They also spray painted the words "Death Machine" and "Illegal" on the sub and hung a banner reading "Women Want Peace".

In Manchester last year a jury found them not guilty of a minor charge of criminal damage but was unable to reach a majority verdict on a charge of disarming radar testing equipment. After a two week delay, the Crown Prosecution confirmed that they will continue with the second charge to a third trial, following a mistrial at Lancaster in January, and the hung jury in Manchester. This another opportunity for Manchester to show its support for Rachel and Rosie.

See www.gn.apc.org/tp2000 for more info. Contact AWTT: 17808 553788; awtt@hotmail.com GMD CND: 273 8283 or gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

era not going to be tolerated. Police surveillance pointed their cameras at the anti-fascists. The counter-demo was noisy and peaceful, despite arrests and occasional skirmishes as some tried to break through the cordon. At the end of the road the police attempted to clear the road to let the nazi's out, but found they couldn't as people linked arms and barricaded the road with pallets. A side exit through the prison had to be found. Traffic was grid-locked as everyone headed for the City Centre, and a squat party was held later in the evening.

The National Front are planning a demo through Oldham sometime this month. Fascist organiser Steve Reynolds is applying to Oldham police for permission and is aiming for March 31st. They'll need protection, too, as everytime the NF shows its face in public it's met by a counter-demo. Manchester anti-fascists are organising to prevent this demo — billed as 'against the violence of Asian gangs' — from going ahead. Contact them on 07949 197548

..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 dates: 6/3/01 and 3/4/01

Self-ed Collective

The Solidarity Federation are a national network of revolutionary unionists — direct action in the workplace for better conditions and towards the destruction of the wage slavery system. 'A History of Anarcho-Syndicalism' is a course of 24 pamphlet-sized units, plus the opportunity to have discussion meetings with other people on the course. You can either get each unit for a quid — or FREE on-line! www.selfed.org.uk