



# The Loombreaker

No. 24 ♦ December 2001 ♦ Free

## A TALE OF TWO CAFES

**STOCKPORT CANNABIS CAFE --  
STILL OPEN!**

### Every Saturday -- Spliff-in Protest

Since September 15th 2001 the Dutch Experience cannabis café in Stockport town centre has been providing discerning smokers with a place to chill out, meet friends -- and support the cause. Set up by medical marijuana campaigners, The Dutch Experience is the first Amsterdam-style coffee shop in the UK. The Medical Marijuana Co-operative supplies cannabis free or at reduced rates to the sick, while giving the well a chance to subsidise this project too! Since setting up this café one of the organisers, Colin Davies, has been constantly harassed, with many raids on his home. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November the café was busted and as a consequence has stopped allowing dealing on the premises. Since then Colin has remained on remand, having refused to stop his activities, and the future of the café hung in the balance. However, despite newspaper claims to the contrary the café is still open.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> there was a mass smoke-up at Stockport police station. Thirty protesters openly flouted the law - twelve were arrested. Campaigners only left after filling up Stockport's cells. Around 70 people turned up to a further protest on December 1st which had only a few arrests.

You can also call to register your displeasure with Stockport constabulary by ringing them on 0161 856 9728.

Contact The Dutch Experience, Stockport Village, Hooper St, Stockport, GTR Manchester, Tel No.0161 480 5902  
[www.dutchexperience.org/](http://www.dutchexperience.org/)

**OXFORD ROAD SQUAT CAFE --  
ILLEGALLY EVICTED**

### Showdown at the ok café

The Okasional Café is back again ... oh no, there it goes! Manchester's okasional squat café reopened on Monday 29th of October, only to be closed down by the police on Wednesday the 31st. The new café, in what was Dingley's the Florist off St. Peter's Square, held an opening party and had a range of things lined up for the next week or so. However, on the first day after the opening, builders accompanied by policemen kicked their way into the back of the squat. One of the squatters was threatened with a crowbar and cut with a saw as barricades were thrown up, and despite a struggle half the squat was lost.

The following day the police were back, and without a warrant for entry or arrest proceeded to smash in the front windows, showering the occupants with glass. Plain-clothes policemen, who refused to identify themselves, ordered everyone onto the floor, then dragged all those present through the broken glass into police vans. Meanwhile angry builders boarded up every entrance to the squat while all the squatters' belongings were still inside! All nine people present were arrested on suspicion of 'abstracting electricity', this was just an excuse for the police to get us out as they had no evidence and charges have since been dropped.

Plans are now being discussed for future cafes and squat parties. Watch this space for details.... We will be back!  
"squatters get their stuff back!" page 3

**In this month's Loombreaker**

♦ Cafe Culture ♦ Fur Flying! ♦ Against War! ♦ Against Capitalism! ♦  
The usual ♦ Sneers, smears and inuendo!

## Manchester march for peace

Nearly 3000 people marched through the streets of Manchester on November 3rd. There was an amazing diversity of groups taking part, with banners from CND, Unison and many other unions, Earth First!, Muslim community groups and various socialist organisations.

The demo was lively with chanting and samba complimenting each other until there was a pause for a minutes silence in St Annes Square.

The march ended with a rally in Castlefield.

## Our Day Out in London

If you believe the police there were 15 000 on the anti-war march in London on 18th November, the organisers claim there were 100 000. Anyone who was there knows it was definately closer to 100 000!

The day was happy and peaceful. like the Manchester march, diversity was the overwhelming impression of the day. There were groups such as 'Scientists For Peace' and a number of Quaker groups, to an array of leftist and anarchist revolutionary groups, alongside a range of Islamic groups (apologies to all the other groups I didn't notice!)

As the march set off the police took it on themselves to comment on the music by encircling the samba band. There were lots of anarchist-y type flags around the samba band and this is probably what got the police going. Along the route the police had a fairly heavy presence by the band, but spirits were high, with lots of jolly faces and happy dancing.

At the end, the speeches coincided with the sunset, and there was a call to prayer, along with the breaking of the fast which was joined by muslim and non-muslims.

While Claire Short draws comparisons between anti-capitalists and terrorists (perhaps she's still a bit sour after that pie in the face), heaven only knows what this feminist and tireless champion on behalf of the world's poor makes of the statements made by RAWA...

*"The people of Afghanistan do not accept domination of the Northern Alliance!"*  
Revolutionary Association of Afghan Woman, (RAWA), 15th Nov 2001

Established in Kabul in 1977, RAWA is an independent organization of women fighting for human rights and for social justice. Under first the Soviet Union and then a succession of tribal regimes, RAWA have organised education, health and income generation programmes for women and also engaged in political agitation. No friends of the Taliban nor the Al Qaida network, RAWA have also denounced the actions of the United States. With food relief suspended, famine threatens between 3 and 6 million lives. Perhaps the enormity of the crime is just too great to comprehend?

## ANTI-WAR ROUND-UP

As the bombs continue to drop on Afghanistan there have been countless protests across the country, on this page are some of the local actions as well as a round-up of some of the main national ones.

## Faslane October Blockade

Last month saw another blockade at Trident nuclear base in Faslane. Over 150 people were arrested for breach of the peace (er, sitting on the road...)

Meanwhile some of those arrested at the Big Blockade of Faslane in February finally had their court cases heard. Three people from Manchester travelled all the way to Glasgow only to be told that their cases had been adjourned, two because 'they had too many cases that day' and a third because one of the policemen who arrested him had had an accident -- and the other was flying a helicopter that day (?)

On a happier note, another peace protester from Manchester won his court case. The police's evidence completely contradicted each other and the magistrate had no choice but to let the person off. The man, who was defending himself in court, asked one of his arresting officers whether the protest was peaceful, the cop agreed that it was. When the defendant then asked why was he arrested for breach of the peace the prosecutor objected. Apparently a police officer cannot be expected to answer a legal question!

The next Big Blockade will take place in February, contact CND on 0161 273 8283

## anti-war action diary

### December

4th Students Against War day of action (contact SAW! for info)

6th protest at BBC Oxford Rd, from 5.30pm

11th Campaign Against Depleted Uranium Benefit Glg (see advert)

12th Women: Make History - protest at Menwith Hill U.S spy base, A59 road, 7 miles west of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Call CND for more info

## Naked protest

A 27 year-old ex-army man, James Thorne stripped off in St Annes Square a few days after the bombing began to show his opposition to the war. He stood stark naked holding a banner declaring "A British soldier is telling you this is a war of rich against poor" He was arrested and bound over to keep the peace and keep his trousers on

## Contacts

Stop the War Coalition,  
07760224580,  
ANSWERmanchester@aol.com

CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) -0161 273 8283,  
gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Students Against War (SAW!)  
stopworldwar3@hotmail.com,  
07816420391

Manchester Earth First 0161 2266814

## Peace, Earth and Freedom!

### Radical Bookfair in Manchester

- 8th December, 12-7pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats.
- With the demise of independent bookshops across the country there is a need for places to get the books not stocked at Waterstones!

- Manchester's radical bookfair will focus on books relating to Peace, Ecology and Radical Social Change. There will also be speakers on a range of topics, local campaigns and practical issues.

- If it is successful this bookfair will happen several times a year. Contact us if you want to have a stall, suggest a speaker or want to provide some veggie food.

- For more information e-mail ludred@hotmail.com or phone 0161 273 1736 and ask for Loukas

## Anti-capitalists haven't gone away!

So anti-capitalism has gone away now has it? After all there weren't tens of thousands of people on the streets of Qatar demonstrating against the WTO... They thought they could hide in the desert and no one would notice their summit as world leaders tried to push through legislation to "remove trade barriers" That's short for turning over remaining public services to private interests and claiming ownership (intellectual property rights) of everything under the sun under obscure new international agreements on patents

Just because people didn't take to the streets of Qatar doesn't mean their summit went un-noticed. In total there were over 116 different actions in 44 countries against the summit. In London 6000 marched at the traded justice carnival organised by NGOs, in Manchester activists took their protest to some of the companies involved with lobbying the WTO and pushing through privatisation.

The first target was Addleshaw Booth and Co, a firm of lawyers who specialise in privatisation, they are responsible for selling of Hackney's public services and privatising nurses homes in Manchester. Eight protestors, some dressed in smart suits walked past the receptionists and straight into the company's Manchester offices, moving things around, hiding files and generally disrupting their morning. Security were promptly called and those involved were escorted out of the building.

Not content with targeting just one horrible corporation the next place to get similar treatment was Price Waterhouse Coopers who were involved in lobbying the WTO and drawing up controversial privatisation plans for the Post Office. Again some people dressed in suits, others went for a more casual look and walked into the building ahead of them. The scruffy ones began chanting anti-WTO slogans and playing samba music, this provided a distraction as the security guards contained the samba players, allowing the other protestors in suits to leap over the security barriers un-noticed, this time they were able to wreak more havoc, locking filing cabinets and hiding the keys. Leaflets were distributed to workers many of whom were temps and sympathised with the protests, they didn't realise just how nasty their employers were!

## Squatters get their stuff back!

(see story front page) After their release from the cells nine of the OK cafe squatters realised their belongings were still locked in the building. Other squatters who were not in the building when the police illegally evicted the squat tried in vain to get everyone's things out as the builders boarded the place up.

Quite miffed that their stuff was locked up eleven squatters decided to take action to get everything back immediately, so paid a visit to property managers EP2's Manchester offices, refusing to leave until they agreed to let people in to get their stuff straight away. An annoying little man told the squatters they'd have to wait, possibly until the following week, until he realised that they really weren't going to leave unless he gave in - its nice to see direct action having an immediate effect!

## Genoa update

On 26th November a Manchester local was fined for attempting to spray paint 111 Piccadilly, home to the Italian Consulate, with the message 'Free the G8 prisoners'. The action was taken on August 20th on an international day of solidarity with 17 people still detained by the Italian authorities following on five weeks after the siege of the G8 mafia in Genoa.

'On Fire: The battle of Genoa and the anti-capitalist movement' - new book out now, To get a copy of 'On Fire' contact: AK Press (UK), PO Box 12766, Edinburgh EH8 9YE,

## Manchester Fur Trade Ring Smashed

"Okay everyone. This is a protest!" someone announces with the megaphone as we traipse into the store. The protest is at Arc on King's Street, where animal rights activists had learnt they have fur coats for sale. Not anymore though, as staff immediately remove the offending items, and a call from a manager a half hour later confirms they will stay off the racks. So time enough to pay a visit to St. Anne's Square where one of the seasonal stalls is not showing much good will to the animals, selling 'toy cats' made with rabbits fur. Our presence brings some animated responses from passers-by, though it turns out that a few are nearby stallholders worried about the protest losing them trade. A couple of hours of quite pressure is all it takes to get the 'toys' removed. Wow, two results and not it's not even lunchtime.

Contact MAP: (01204) 413136

## Cyclists reclaim our roads!!

In September around 50 cyclists took part in a critical mass bike ride to mark world car free day. They had so much fun it was decided to make critical mass a monthly feature in Manchester again.

The next one will be on the last Friday of January in the morning rush hour, meet Whitworth Park at 8am. There will even be free tea or coffee for the early birds, but be there before 8.30 or you'll be left behind!

Manchester Earth First! 0161 226 6814

## DIARY

### December

4 Students Against War day of action ending with candlelit vigil 4.30pm Manchester Uni Student Union

8 Radical Bookfair 12-7pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats, 0161 273 1736

8 Speak Out for Asylum Seekers 1pm - 4pm, Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester Speakers, politics and music to support the rights of asylum seekers: 0161 740 8206

8 Free Mumia! Global Day of Action! www.freemumia.org/

10 Global Community Trade Find out about the formation of an international co-operative of consumers and producers. 7pm, Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats 0161 273 1736

12 protest at Menwith Hill U.S spy base, A59 road, 7 miles west of Harrogate, North Yorkshire : 01943 468593

13 The Return of the Rock 'n' Roll Revolution Mcr Earth First! benefit gig, Star & Garter

14-16 Mobilisation Against the European Summit. Laeken, Belgium www.anarchie.be/eurostop/en/

15 National Disney Day of Action Labour Behind the Label.:(0161) 247 1760

26 Boxing Day Anti-Hunt Demos Manchester Animal Protection (07951 228 981 / 07931 586 826)

### January

25 Critical Mass Cycle Ride. Meet 8am, Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road

26-27 Earth First! Winter Moot, in Manchester mancef@nematode.freereserve.co.uk

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER - C.A.D.U. BENEFIT GIG

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium) @ THE NIGHT & DAY CAFE, Oldham St 8pm til late...£4.50

Poets - CAROL BATTON..... ED BARTON

Bands - THE FLAMINGO 50.....POLITBURO.... DESOLATION ANGELS.....POLYTHENE... SCAPA FLOW

## Kimberley Clarke Action

Activists from Manchester's People and Planet group and Shortcutz, a direct action society, targeted the career presentations of companies with particularly bad environmental and/or human rights records. Every year large companies tour university campuses across the country using glossy presentations and free wine to try to recruit graduates. We aimed to put a spanner in the works by raising awareness about ethical issues and hopefully deter potential employees from working for particular companies. These included Shell, Esso, Nestle and Kimberly Clarke.

Kimberley Clarke makes Kleenex, Huggies nappies and Kotex sanitary towels. Behind their innocent exterior of cute little puppies, Kimberly Clarke are logging native forests in Australia, destroying the ancient habitat of endangered species and turning unsustainable hardwood pulp into sewage. We successfully leafleted all of the unsuspecting undergraduates on their way in. Then two activists stood up before the presentation started and spoke eloquently and passionately about hormone disrupting chemicals used in nappies that have been known to cause sex changes in shellfish. They also highlighted the landfill problems created by disposable nappies, as well as Kimberly Clarke's bad pollution history. They exposed Kimberly Clarke's use of animal testing, and the problem that 'pull-ups' encourage children to use disposable nappies into toddler-hood. The smooth faced representatives were at a loss as how to deal with us. They didn't really have anything to say to counter our arguments, so they resorted to unfounded sarcasm.

shortcutz@yaho.co.uk Phone Katie (Mcs uni) 0161 2242068 or Scott (UMIST) 0161 2487661

People and Planet:  
philip.a.symes@stud.man.ac.uk

## Nine Ladies Still Leaping

Lee Himlin is now out of prison after doing time for causing £24,000 worth of damage to quarry machinery (see Loombreaker 18). More machines were trashed on halloween. A visitation from the dead? Well, no - another mere mortal who is now unfortunately facing charges.

The Nine Ladies protest site enters its third winter as news arrives that a new company is bidding to quarry the site. Stancliffe Stone, who have held a licence granted fifty years ago to quarry Stanton Moor, which includes an ancient stone circle, have now been bought up by Marshall plc. who have a very fancy website (<http://www.marshalls.com/>) and are much more in the corporate multi-national way. So they should have lots of

offices to visit should anyone want to know whether they intend to trash any sites of outstanding natural beauty or importance to our cultural heritage.

Nine Ladies Anti-Quarry Campaign,  
Bramble Dene, Stanton Lees, Near Matlock,  
Derbyshire 0798479328

nineladies@hushmail.com

The Return of the  
**Rock 'n' Roll  
Revolution**



The Wild Panzies Agents of Groove  
plus DJ's Trauma & Mick Fuzzz

Thursday 13th December - 8 til late  
Star & Garter Pub, Fairfield St. £4 on the door

## In the Hands of the Enemy

A new book written by framed anarchist Mark Barnsley is now out. Recently a solidarity protest was held for Mark by Czech anarchists in Prague! Mark's case has finally been submitted to the Criminal Cases Review Commission but is not likely to be heard for another two years. Following grass roots pressure Mark has now been moved from a high security prison in Wakefield.

Three organisers of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) have been forced to enter guilty pleas to charges of "Incite and Cause a Public Nuisance". Following their guilty pleas the three SHAC organisers were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment each.

Mark Barnsley, WA 2897, HMP Whitmoor,  
Longhill Road, March, Cambs, PE15 0PR

SHAC 3: Heather Avery & Natasha  
Dellamaine, HMP and YO1, Highpoint,  
Stradis Hall, New Market, Suffolk, CB8 9YG

Greg Avery, HMP Belmarsh, Weston Way,  
Thamesmead, London, SE28 0EB

## Riotous Assembly 4/12/01 The Prison-Industrial Complex

There are 2 million people in prison in the USA today - the biggest number outside China, and by far the biggest proportion of any country. In the UK the prison population is also rising sharply. Prisoners are being used as cheap labour, staffing call centres for multinational companies like Microsoft and the Body Shop.

talks on: The Angola Three (Black Panthers imprisoned in New Orleans)

Mark Barnsley (Sheffield anarchist framed by police)

Followed by discussion. CAPITALISM IS SLAVERY!

Plus the usual reports, announcements and radical literature.

...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:

- Bridge 5 Mill, Beswick St., Ancoats;
- Mistys Café, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road;
- Café Pop, Oldham Street, Piccadilly;
- Unicorn Grocery, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton;
- 8th Day Cafe, Oxford Road & Old Birley Street;
- Withington Wholefoods, Wilmslow Road;
- Top Cafe, Afflecks Palace, Oldham St
- Vanilla, Sackville St

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.

Please send your contributions, comments, campaign info, cartoons & photos, offers of distribution help, or donations (cheques payable to Manchester EF) to:

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: 04/12/01

## SUBSCRIBE TO LOOMBREAKER BY E-MAIL!

Send your e-mail address to [loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk](mailto:loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk) to get loombreaker by e-mail before the printed version comes out

loombreaker on-line  
[www.earthfirst.org.uk/loombreaker/](http://www.earthfirst.org.uk/loombreaker/)