



The Loombreaker

www.loombreaker.org.uk

No. 25 ♦ January 2002 ♦ Free

So It Is

Party & Protest

Road Block Ahead in Palestine

In a quiet Derbyshire hamlet on the 22 December 2001, 3 sound systems were busy transforming a disused quarry into the pre-Christmas mash-up. Come 10pm, 500 ravers and 1 live PA silently began making their way through the countryside to join the party.

By 1am the bleak quarry was in full swing and, after midnight, when the police made their token appearance, the volume went up, filling the air with trance, techno, house, drum 'n' bass and chalet supplied by Gridlock, Havoc, Nta.Sinbad, Jugglers Ball, Ambits, Headcharge, Planet Zoo, Sundaes, Cabbage and Black Moon.

After a tenuous start with a dodgy generator in the Gridlock room, the combined effort of an electrical engineer and a few pharmaceuticals got things going, just in time for the first arrivals. And the Live PA finally made it through a series of roadblocks to play a blinder sometime in the early hours.

Jugglers Ball cranked up the sound and by 4am could be seen frantically trying to syphon petrol in to the generator before the lights went off for good. They made it, with minutes to spare and everyone carried on dancing.

Three warehouses contained the revellers, if not the heat and by 6am the weather got the better of some who retreated to the warmth of various vans and cars on the site.

We survived 'til 8am but driving away, the sounds of techno from the Gridlock soundsystem were still beating a path to the morning.

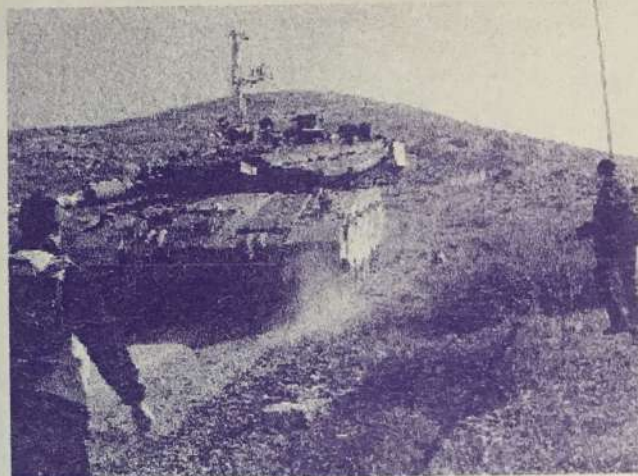
Look out for more mayhem around St Patrick's Day!

Support Lata and Devesha - and Bayo too

Lata and Devesha, two immigrants who came to England to help care for their disabled neice, are facing their final appeal to stop the Home Office from deporting them (see Loombreaker 15). Supporters are welcome to join and give support at the hearing. See diary.

For more details, contact
Lata & Devesha Defence Campaign t: 0161 740 8206
NCADC t: 0161 740 8206 e: ncadc-w@ncadc.org.uk

Bayo Omoyiola is another immigrant facing deportation (see Jack-Off Straw! Loombreaker 8), despite having been recent in Liverpool for a long time and having made real roots and contributions into a community. He appears before an Adjudicator in Salford on the 21st January.
Contact UNISON branch office on 0151 236 1944.



In December, 3 Manchester women joined 60 internationals who spent the Christmas period in Palestine. Since 2000 the Second Intifada - "throwing off" - against Israeli occupation of Palestine has been met with brutal repression.

While there we helped remove Israeli army roadblocks, placed in contravention of international law, which stop vital supplies and ambulances getting into remote villages. We formed human chains to protect Palestinian students passing through illegal Israeli military checkpoints on their way to university, or to prevent the arrest of Palestinian marchers defying the Bethlehem checkpoint on Christmas day.

It was hard work. I didn't expect to spend Christmas finding out if I could remain calm standing under the waving gun barrel of an Israeli tank, or while live ammunition is fired over my head. Or trying to look a widow of 2 days in the face while she questioned whether my presence was of any use.

But it felt like an opportunity to devote time and energy to supporting the cause of some of the most brutally oppressed people on earth. And to learn, beyond anything you can get from a book, about a complex and agonising situation which harms both Palestinians and Israelis and serves no-one but politicians and arms manufacturers.

I would encourage anyone who possibly can to consider joining future International Solidarity Movement actions. For more information on international direct action in Palestine, visit www.rapprochement.org

A Manchester activist will be giving a presentation of her experiences in Palestine at the next Riotous Assembly(see back page for directions).

LOOMBREAKER is Manchester's free monthly direct action & resistance round up. In this issue: * The Dutch Experience * NATO in Munich * Mickey & Donald sweat it out * Argentina uprising * Mark Thomas & Ilisu Dam

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Pedal Power - The Way Forward!

Critical masses are cyclists protest against car culture and global warming. Recently a group in Manchester has been trying to get critical masses together on a monthly basis. The attempt was coupled in November with an even more daunting task - getting up for the morning rush hour. About 15 of us made it, and cycled down Oxford Road from the Whitworth Gallery until Dickenson Road, where we cut across to Stockport Road and cycled into town. According to the policeman who tried to stop us on Stockport Road, we were creating a back-up all the way to Stockport.

We did finally get stopped, by an irate pig one of the cyclists described as "acting like an angry father who's found his kids in his drinks cabinet!" After much huffing and puffing, we were given a motorbike escort to the finish of the critical mass.

December was given a miss, but the idea is to have critical masses on the last Friday of every month, meeting at 8:00am outside the Whitworth Gallery on Oxford Road.

We always need more people for critical masses, both to join the mass and to help publicise it in advance. Pedestrians are needed as well, to give out leaflets alongside the cyclists, so if you don't have a bike but fancy showing your support, come along.

t: 0161 226 6814 w: www.critical-mass.org
e: mancal@nematode.freeseve.co.uk

Animal Rights

The funeral of Barry Horne took place on Friday 16th Nov. He died in prison on 5th Nov, on hunger strike. The funeral took place in Northampton. Around 600 people attended, including a coach from Manchester. There was a procession around the town centre, with his coffin carried by friends and supporters.

People then drove in convoy to the burial site, where his "eco-pod" was buried in a pagan ceremony. The whole day was marked by both intense sadness and anger.

Barry was serving a draconian 18 year sentence for arson relating to animal liberation activities. He has undertaken three previous hunger strikes in five years. The third hunger strike lasted 68 days and left him physically and mentally damaged. He never recovered and ultimately it led to his death.

Barry was a determined activist, campaigner, anti-capitalist and a great tactician. His friends are all truly devastated. However, we are more determined than ever to end vivisection, and indeed injustice everywhere. Newchurch guinea pigs and Huntingdon Life Sciences, two ongoing anti-vivisection campaigns will be our first victories.

Happy New Year! (err - you're nicked)

The Dutch Experience - Stockport's world famous pot cafe' - has been raided a third time on the 3rd January. Drug squad officers first arrived in the afternoon and arrested one man for breach of bail conditions and then left. About two hours later they returned, searched everybody and arrested four people for carrying the weed.

Two people are now likely to be remanded in custody, as they were in breach of bail conditions that had been imposed for previous protests. The cafe was reopened immediately after the raid, and continues to be a medical and recreational marijuana haven!

Although the laws against cannabis look like being relaxed, and while in parts of London the police no longer arrest for possession, it seems as though Stockport police are still stuck in the past. One of the founders of the cafe, Colin Davies, is still on remand. His next day in court is 29th Jan.



e: dutchexperience@mimoo.org.uk
t: 0161 480 5902 w: www.dutchexperience.org

Dutch Experience - Busted but not Broken. A brief history so far.
15 Sep '01 Dutch experience opens at 10.00am, is raided by police, temporarily closed, and then re-opened by supporters and friends.
20 Nov '01 Dutch experience is raided for the second time.
24 Nov '01 The first demonstration in support of Colin Davies.
08 Dec '01 The third demo planned.
14 Dec '01 Demo 4, MEP Chris Davies to hand himself in.
20 Dec '01 MEP in court, Italian MEP's arrive, Colin's last bail hearing before Christmas

Huntingdon SHELL Sciences

Twenty seven animal rights activists, including five from Manchester, have been given conditional discharges after pleading found guilty of blocking a public highway (see Loombreaker 22). Shell were targeted for hiring Huntingdon Life Sciences to test PVC ingredients on pregnant rats.

The highway in question was in fact a private road leading to a Shell refinery. However the activists, who had lain in the road for up to nine hours, pleaded guilty rather than face more serious charges under Thatcher's trade union laws for illegally picketing the site!

Mcr Animal Protection: 07951 228 981/07931 586 826
w: http://www.shac.net/

Arson at Free Party

Arsonists struck at a free warehouse techno party in Manchester before Christmas, setting several deliberate fires, one of which became serious and life threatening. The building near Piccadilly station was severely damaged, but more importantly, while no-one was injured in the end, the fire came close to cutting off a group of people who were chilling on the roof of the building. It appears that the arsonists, displaying no respect for anyone or anything, actually tried to set fires on fire escapes, and were deliberately trying to cause loss of life. The organisers of the party are trying to collect any information on the arsonists to help track down these scum.

Manchester has long had a buzzing techno free party scene, often outdoors in summer, and in large abandoned warehouses in winter. The

parties are put on for free, people giving their time freely for the pleasure of others. It is one of the few types of entertainment which bucks the system, isn't done for profit motives, squatting abandoned buildings to put them to good use, and as such is much more fun, creative and should be supported. Well done to those party people who keep it all going - don't let the bastards grind you down! PARTY LINE 0709 111 6262 (for free parties and if you have any info on the arson)

Return of the Okasional Party

The Okasional Cafe made a brief reappearance on Saturday 10th December with a party in the Oldschool, opposite MacDeath in Fallowfield. Determined not to disappear after the police closed the last cafe, we decided to reopen as quickly as possible. The squat party was great fun, with two sound systems and about 400 or so people. The pigs turned up and tried to come in, but quickly realised that we weren't having it and left without a fuss.

Stop The Apocalypse! Stop NATO

NATO are meeting in Munich early in February to decide upon the most cost-effective means of wiping out the entire human race, having made good progress in Afghanistan. There are reports of over 4,000 civilian casualties in Afghanistan resulting directly from military operations (exceeding the number from the World Trade Center), and millions more are starving to death after the forced suspension of food relief.

By and large the killings are indiscriminate, as ever when NATO forces are involved. For instance, reports have come out of Afghanistan that on December 29 last year U.S. helicopters gunned down fleeing Afghan women and children, leaving a death toll of over fifty innocent people.

Just to show some appreciation for all the effort, a well known travelling circus will be in Munich for a 'Carnival against NATO'. To rapturous applause others will simultaneously stuff custard pies in the faces of WEF (World Economic Forum) gonzos in New York. The same weekend there is a Stop the War march in London and an anarchist demonstration against war in Northern Italy. The date? 02/02/02.

w: <http://www.anti-nato.de.vu/>
<http://www.abolishthebank.org/>

Women against Menwith Hill

Back in December 3 women from Manchester joined the protest at Menwith Hill US spy base in Yorkshire. There were about 50 people stood at the roadside with banners. The radical bunch that we are, we chose to stand in the road with a huge banner which read "truth = the first casualty of war". However, a patronising policeman soon ordered us to return to the

pavement, this was our "first and final warning" - if we blocked the road again we'd be arrested.

After some time, we decided to go for a little wander around the perimeter fence of the base. As we came to a field, straight away a very angry man on a squad bike drove at us from the other side of the field, glaring at us as we closed the gate behind us.

No chance of getting inside then. The anti-war movement can mobilise 100 000 people to a march around London. If just half those who made it down to London were to go to Menwith Hill then just maybe we could shut down the base. Contact GMD CND (0161) 237 8283.

Support our prisoners!!!!

"Any political movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement!" (Ojore Lutalo, political activist)

Whenever you feel so angry with things you see on the news, with the war, with the cops or the stupid terrorist laws, don't just go away feeling powerless. There is something really crucial you can do to fight back, that only takes 20 minutes and the price of a stamp. For listings of animal rights, indigenous, earth liberation, self defence and other political prisoners, plus handy hints about writing letters to those locked up, look at www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

Block 'n' Roll

All of Britain's nuclear weapons are based at Faslane on the Clyde 30 miles from Glasgow. Everyday one of the Trident submarines is at sea ready to unleash it's missiles on cities thousands of miles away.

A coalition of NGO's and direct action groups are going to step up the pressure against Trident for three days of rolling nonviolent direct action at Faslane.

You can take part in the blockades by sitting in the gateways to close the base nonviolently, or you can come and give vital support without risking arrest. There will be overnight accommodation close to Faslane from Sat 9th to Thurs 14th Feb.

See diary for details about transport, meetings and workshops in your areas.



The Loombreaker

DIARY

February

11-13 Block 'n' Roll! The BIG Blockade
w: www.faslanepeacecamp.org/
e: big_blockade@hotmail.com t: 0845 4588361

5 Riotaus Assembly
Manchester activist to present her recent experiences from Palestine. See front page

2 Anti-War Demo - London
For transport from Manchester contact Greater Manchester & District CND
e: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org t: 0161 273 8283

1-3 Carnival Against NATO
See article
w: <http://www.anti-nato.de.vu/>

1 Support Lata & Devesha
Aldine House, New Bailey St, Mcr
See article front page.

January

29 C-Day
Support Colin Davies in court.
See Cannabis Cafe article

26 Network for Success
2pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St., Manchester
e: info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk t: 0161 226 9321
See back page.

25 Critical Mass
Cycle ride for climate justice and sane transport policy.
8.00am, Whitworth Park, Oxford Road
w: <http://www.critical-mass.org/>

23 Organic Food and Farming Rally
Mass rally in London
w: <http://www.sustainweb.org/>
e: otbrally@sustainweb.org t: 020 7837 1228

21 Support Baya Omoyiola
See article front page.

There is also a local anarchist who has been sectioned and imprisoned in a hospital mental ward. He's been there 6 months, and has already been on hunger strike to demand that they stop giving him injections which were screwing him up. The hunger strike was successful, but it looks like he'll be there for another 6 months, and he really needs support.

Letters and visits:

Greg Minns, Ward 18, Burnley General Hospital, Casterton Ave, Burnley, Lancs, BB10 2PQ

"Still, my opponents might claim, the State of Israel is a democracy and its army is the people's army. I wonder where these people live... The vast majority of Israeli citizens wish to change this state of affairs. And still, the state does everything to block peace, welfare and equality."

Yair Khilou (aged 18) who is facing trial and imprisonment for refusing national service.

Military Prison No. 4, Military postal number 02507, IDF, Israel.

Flogging a Dead Horse

So has the all-new Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act deprived us all of our civil liberties? Well, not exactly. That distinction, if you'd not noticed, was pretty much achieved by the notorious Terrorism Act of last year (see Loombreaker passim). By and large the new act simply finishes the job off. Amongst other things the Act allows for the introduction of Justice and Home Affairs' legislation - formulated in Brussels - into UK law without requiring the approval of Parliament. That's democracy for you!
<http://go.to/ta2000> <http://statewatch.org/>

The Loombreaker

Dam Busters

Comedian Mark Thomas appeared in Manchester on tour recently, bringing with him the campaign against the Ilisu Dam in the Kurdish region of Turkey. The tour coincided with the announcement on Nov 13th that Balfour Beatty were pulling out of the project which threatens to displace 78,000 people and destroy the 10,000 year old town, Hanskeyf.

This is against a background of 25 years of persecution of the Kurds by the Turkish State that has seen 3 million people displaced, 3,000 villages partially or totally destroyed, 30,000 people killed as well as widespread rape and torture. With three of eight multi-national now pulling out, the project looks finished.

The show was an awesome and savage display of political invective subtly disguised as comedy. Mark told us about the extraordinary successes of the Kurdish Human Rights project, the thousands of Kurds who stood outside the Home Office displaying their support for the PKK after they were banned by Jack Straw under the Terrorism Act, and how a mixed bag of campaigners that spanned from Kurdish refugees to a peer from the House of Lords reduced Balfour Beatty CEO Lord Weir to a state of babbling apoplexy at the company AGM.

Contact: Ilisu Dam Campaign, Box 210,
266 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DL
w: <http://www.ilisu.org.uk/>
e: ilisu@gn.apc.org (01865) 203550

Kurdish Human Rights Project <http://khrp.org/>

Disnao Give a Toss

On Dec 15th last year campaigners in Manchester set up their own DISNEYTM sweatshop outside the St Anne's city centre store to raise awareness about conditions in South China factories. Passers by saw Disney favourites Minnie MouseTM, PocahontasTM and MulanTM slaving away at their cartoon sewing machines, all the time being bullied by an evil factory boss... to the intensely ironic sounds of real Disney film songs, including 'Whistle While You Work', 'Bare Necessities' and 'Hi Ho'. You'd be amazed how many of the lyrics took on a painful new twist in this particular context.

Despite the action basically consisting of four cardboard cereal packet style masks, three cardboard cut out sewing machines, a trestle table and a ghetto blaster, it attracted an amazing amount of attention - a constant ring of watchers, most of them carefully reading the leaflets on display... Many commented on the similarities between overseas sweatshops and UK call centres.

Strangely, there was a complete absence of some pompous store manager coming out and asking us if we had permission to do this (we didn't), threatening to call the police etc etc. Our best guess is they knew they'd've been instantly cast in the role of the panto villain and been booted off the stage. The two police who turned up seemed to feel the same, and decided to go and talk to the nearest big issue seller instead. The crowd of onlookers felt like our safety net for the day...

Other similar actions took place around the country, including London, Norwich and Leicester. We definitely want to do this again SOON.

Labour Behind the Label/ Women Working Worldwide/ Manchester WDM group
t 07816 234545 or 0161 247 1760 e: jessmook@yahoo.com
w: www.labourbehindthelabel.org

Don't Cry For Me

No surprise... only expectation as the Argentine revolution looms

"The Mothers will continue side by side with the young people who risk their lives to confront the murderous police that protects those who govern. That is why we continue to raise the slogan of the Mothers 21st Resistance March: 'Resistance and struggle against state terrorism'".
- Mothers of the Disappeared.

"Argentina doesn't have a government anymore, it has been overthrown by the people who will not accept any more corrupt politicians, of whatever party." - notice posted on Indymedia.

On Thursday 10th Jan a group of anarchists occupied the Argentine embassy in London "to highlight the illegitimacy not just of the Argentinian government, but of all governments". How come? Well, if you blinked you might have missed it! Following economic collapse, reports of near insurrection in Argentina have been lost amidst anodyne tales of an annoyed middle class wanting back their lost bank deposits. The fact of five Presidents in the space of ten days suggests there is a little more to it all than that.

Argentina has exploded into riotous scenes of mass demonstrations, banging cooking pots, burning barricades and pitched street battles with police in every major city, including the centre of Buenos Aires. The events have left thirty people dead, government buildings torched, banks trashed and supermarkets looted, as the so-called middle classes have joined with the hungry and dispossessed of Argentina's many slums to discover the power of mass action.

Popular assemblies are taking place in various parts of the country with ordinary people attempting to organise and gain a firm grip on their own destiny. Tensions are high, with the army positioned in the background and memories still fresh of the terror that saw 30,000 people disappear under the previous US sponsored military government of the 1970's.

Argentina Solidarity Campaign
t 07960 398 152 e: argentiniansolidarity@hotmail.com
w: www.madres.org/ www.indymedia.org/
<http://argentina.indymedia.org>

..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 information for action, contributions, comments, cartoons & photos, offers of distribution help, or donations (cheques payable to Manchester EF!) to:

The Loombreaker
c/o Department 29,
22a, Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HS
0161-226 6814
loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk
<http://www.loombreaker.org.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: 05/02/02

Network for Social Justice

The Networking Newsletter Project is holding a major networking event on Saturday 26th January. This event, funded by the "Acom Trust", will bring together groups and individuals working on every area of social justice - neighbours working for cleaner streets, animal rights protesters, asylum seeker support groups, the Ramblers, from NGOs to the smallest, hard up groups.

The event will help groups network with others and share skills and experiences raise awareness amongst the general public of issues important to those attending. See diary.

This issue of the Loombreaker is dedicated to Colne Pete, known, loved and respected by many on the protest scene, who recently and tragically died in a road accident.