



# The Loombreaker

www.loombreaker.org.uk

No. 31 ♦ October 2002 ♦ Free



## RESIST THE WAR!

### Invade the Cities! Occupy the Streets! Sabotage the War Machine!

It's the blatant hypocrisy of the armchair warrior politicians in their freshly pressed shirts and shiny suits that makes you want to vomit the most. The bullshit that torrents from the mouths of Bush and Blair in their war-mongering is enough to make anyone want to smash things up.

#### Who is the greatest threat to global peace?

The United States has bombed 20 countries since 1945, and sent the CIA and US funded proxy forces into others. The US has trashed the Kyoto climate change agreements, is blocking the functioning of the International Criminal Court in case US soldiers and citizens are prosecuted, has provided the weapons for the atrocities committed by Israel in Palestine, has prevented an enquiry into cancer causing DU weapons because it wants to continue to use them, and is still the only country in the entire world to have used a nuclear bomb.

#### Bush & Blair must be stopped and its down to us.

As Loombreaker goes to press, there is a massive mobilisation under way for what promises to be the biggest anti-war demo since the 80's. The September 28th demo will be huge - there's 25 coaches already filled from Greater Manchester! People are organising an anti-capitalist block, which meets at Cleopatra's Needle at 1pm to be part of the march and possible other actions.

There are **vigils** every Wednesday (Women in Black - all women welcome, wear black) from 5-6pm in St Peter's Sq, and Thursday (Quaker silent vigil) 5-6 on the steps of the Friends Meeting House.

Stop the War Coalition have finally decided to

*continued over...*

#### Colin Davies On Trial

The trial of Colin Davies is finally underway. Colin has been the driving force behind Stockport's cannabis cafe the Dutch Experience, and consequently has been held on remand at Strangeways for the best part of the last ten months. He and several others are appearing at Minshull Street court on cannabis related charges and there is usually now a distinct mellow aroma outside the court. Cannabis campaigners estimate that the costs of prosecuting people involved in the Dutch Experience at around £1million. The trial is set to continue for another couple of weeks. Colin is still on remand and would love some letters. Write to him at: Colin Davies, GP8726, HMP Strangeways, 1 Southall St., M60 9AH

See [www.dutchexperience.org](http://www.dutchexperience.org)

## VICTORY IN REDDISH!!!!

In the last Loombreaker, we reported on the local campaign against Reddish Golf Club's plans to tip waste in Reddish Vale. The club has a planning permission dating from 1965, and they stood to make £15-30,000 contracting the tipping out. Some tipping was done by a dodgy contractor years ago, and the toxins are thought to be still present. They proposed to tip 100,000 tons of material, meaning 5000 lorries over 2 years or more. The site can only be reached via Reddish Vale Rd and residents, councillors and even local MP Andrew Bennett warned it would be a ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER for a Stockport Beauty Spot if we did not stop this horrendous plan, not to mention the lorries and nuisance caused to local residents, several schools, a nursery and a youth club and in addition, the visitors to the Vale - a green belt site.

At a public meeting held in July, about 80 people on a wet Friday night told the two people from the golf club what we would do to them if they went ahead with the plans. We also told them they had not cleaned the site up after unknown materials were tipped back in the 1960s. We made it clear that we would object to any Waste Disposal Licence, and would be contacting the Environment Agency. This put the wind up them, as we had done this before, making them look exceedingly dodgy for not informing the E.A themselves.

Told them to put a metal road down on their land, now play golf across it. That would cost them. Haha not so much profit now! We told them to clean up the 60s site. Then they began to show concern about one or two activists there, and they had to leave. Unfortunately we had no eggs, and who forgot the custard pie? Anyway, since then we have been told that they have changed their minds about tipping on the site. **SUCCESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The Loombreaker is Manchester's monthly direct action round-up. Inside this issue:

♦ Guerilla Gardening ♦ Car Free Fortnight ♦ Nazis Out ♦ Media Democracy Day ♦ McDamage .....and much more



from front page

branch out from marches, and are organising a day of civil disobedience across the country on October 31st. There will almost definitely be something in Manchester. Contact CND on 0161 273 8283 [www.gmdcnd.org.uk](http://www.gmdcnd.org.uk) for details, or check the Loombreaker web diary closer to the time.

### United in Solidarity...

"My concern is that Sharon does not yet realise how much of a carte-blanche he has from the Bush administration" Dr. Ilan Pappé, senior lecturer of Political Science at Haifa University

Palestine Solidarity Campaigners turned up at Old Trafford on the 18th September for the European Champions League match with Israeli team Maccabi Haifa, which was played close to the 20th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres in Southern Lebanon. The campaigners request for a minute's silence for the victims was ignored, but some people did get in the ground to wave a Palestinian flag.

Recently the situation in the occupied territories has considerably worsened. According to Loombreaker sources all the major towns have been declared closed military zones and there is 24 hour curfew in all towns apart from Bethlehem and Jericho. The situation is particularly bad in Ramallah and Gaza, where there is heavy shelling from Apache helicopters. In Nablus, which has been under near permanent curfew for six months, there are reports emerging of people dying from malnutrition.

The International Solidarity Campaign are organising for the Olive Harvest in late October and November. An international presence is essential for enabling the Palestinian community to harvest a vital resource. If you are interested in participating, or can help with a donation, you can find out more at [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org) or email [info@palsolidarity.org](mailto:info@palsolidarity.org)

## World Car-Free fortnight.

### Critical Mass - back on track!

As Loombreaker goes to press cyclists will be taking to the streets of Manchester not only to celebrate cycling in general, but also to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ever critical mass cycle ride. Critical Mass takes place in cities across the world on the last working Friday of each month. Cyclists and skaters get out onto the streets and reclaim the roads to show that there are cleaner, greener, quicker and more fun ways to get around the city than by car. The next critical mass is on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm leaving from outside the central library.

More info from [manc\\_criticalmass@yahoo.com](mailto:manc_criticalmass@yahoo.com)

### One more bike = one less car.

Across South Manchester commuters awoke to see billboards advertising gas-guzzling cars had been spray-painted with slogans suggesting that people ditch their polluting metal-boxes and ride a bike instead.

## Rising Tide National Gathering

Rising Tide, a national network of grassroots groups taking action against climate change are holding their national gathering in Manchester on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October at Bridge 5 Mill in Ancoats. Comedian Mark Thomas will open the event on Friday evening. Saturday and Sunday will involve workshops on carbon trading, why the Kyoto Protocol fails, impacts of climate change and of course what action we can take locally. There will be videos, music and a chance to meet with people from around the country campaigning on climate change issues. Booking in advance is essential, call 01865 241 097 to reserve your place.

[info@risingtide.org.uk](mailto:info@risingtide.org.uk) [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)



## Guerrilla GM gardening!

It seemed like an ordinary night in Lymm, Cheshire, but by the light of the moon some enthusiastic gardeners were quietly reaping a night-time harvest of genetically modified maize. The mutant vegetables were part of a government sponsored Farm Scale Trial where conventional maize plants are grown alongside GM ones, supposedly to test (among other things) how they affect the biodiversity of the area. However it has been shown that the trials are not a good scientific test and are primarily a political tool to try and persuade people that GM is good. The keen green fingered nocturnal GriM reapers successfully decontaminated the whole field of GM maize plants, leaving only the unmodified border crop still standing, thereby invalidating the trial and sending out a clear message to Biotech corporation Bayer and the government that GM will not be tolerated.

### Local Campaign Continues

Farmer William Blackburn whose land was used for the trials continues to ignore strong local opposition and is taking part in another set of trials this winter. This time round the crop is GM oilseed rape. Previous oilseed rape trials in the UK have been found to contain "rogue seeds" which are resistant to two types of antibiotic. There is a local campaign group working to kick GM out of Cheshire and out of the shops, for more info phone 0161 226 6814 or see [www.geneticsaction.org.uk](http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk)

## Media Democracy Day

Only a fool would trust the mainstream media to tell it like it is. Independent media is vital for getting the word out about what is really happening, and why. The 18th October is Media Democracy Day - a worldwide event where the aim is to promote alternative, independent and community media.

In Manchester the BEyONdTV crew will be contributing to those aims shortly after on the 22nd October @ the Font - an interactive media assault against the spectacle of capitalism, which will also include a presentation of Indymedia - a global open publishing internet phenomena. The possibility of a Manchester Indymedia web site or similar is also on the cards and a local group is looking for people to get involved, whether your angle is editing, composing features or technical.

BEyONdTV will be a chance to meet some of your Loombreaker crew and perhaps get involved, as we could do with a bit of a hand as well. If you can't make it to BEyONdTV but want to know more then email [imc@loombreaker.org.uk](mailto:imc@loombreaker.org.uk).

Footnote: Duh!! Apologies to those who went to the BEyONdTV event at Green Room. Apparently this was part of another event that was cancelled at the last minute

See [www.mediademocracyday.org.uk](http://www.mediademocracyday.org.uk), [uk.indymedia.org](http://uk.indymedia.org), [www.beyondtv.org](http://www.beyondtv.org)





## McDamage

A new McDeath in Reddish hasn't proved too popular with the locals. Since recently opening it has been robbed once, broken into 3 or 4 times with all the burgers thrown about and the deep fat friers opened (meaning they might be contaminated and it can't open the next morning) and the doors and windows are being kicked in on a weekly basis...! It's hardly a surprise considering the outlet was built in the face of local opposition and with planning permission that was gained on the sly (see Loombreaker 22), not to mention McDonald's reputation for worker and animal exploitation and more besides.

The annual world wide day of action against McDonald's is October 16th. You can find ideas and resources for action at [www.mcspotlight.org/campaigns](http://www.mcspotlight.org/campaigns) or ring 226 6814 to get involved in a possible local action.

## NAZIS OUT!

Anti-fascists have attacked a shop in Burnley owned by Steve Smith, the BNP organiser for Burnley. The shop, in central Burnley, sells very little (some armour, a few old flags and some old photos). It is mainly used as a base for BNP organising work in Burnley, and as a distribution point for BNP and Countryside Alliance propaganda. Anti-fascists smashed windows and graffitied the front of the shop, to show that fascists will not go unopposed in Burnley or anywhere.

## LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM - Burnley misses out

The recent Love Music Hate Racism carnival in Platt Fields, organised by the Anti-Nazi League attracted thousands of people, for what was a really class music event. The excellent live drum 'n' bass and hip hop kept many on their feet, while Billy Bragg kept the socialists happy. The weather was fantastic and even the loos were ok. The one really appalling thing was the over priced crap burger bar style food available. Really, we would have thought the ANL to be more radical than that. But seriously, while it was great to see such a multi-cultural crowd, this was hardly ground-breaking for that area of manchester - squashed as it is between Moss Side and Rusholme. It would have been a truly radical event had it been where the ANL originally planned, in Burnley, where races definitely don't socialise together on that level. It would have been a proper kick in the teeth for the Nazis in the area to have such a cool music event in the name of cultural diversity. Shame on Burnley council - no wonder your town remains stuck in a backward looking rut!

## SchNEWS of the World is out now!

The temperature goes up a few notches as the earth's climate has its hottest year on record - and the corporate carve-up lifts its tempo in the paranoia and madness of September 11th. Featuring issues 301-350 of SchNEWS plus 200 pages of articles, cartoons, photos, graphics, satire, and a comprehensive contact database. Price £8.50 inc. p&p. To order send cheques or postal orders payable to 'Justice?' to SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 0EF or see [www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk)



## Animals, Earth, Spirituality and Incendiary Tales

Native American, Rod Coronado, recently visited Manchester on a speaking tour of the country. To a packed audience in the Briton's Protection, he told of how his involvement in militant campaigns such as sinking Icelandic whaling ships, burning animal laboratories and so on, came from his roots and his spirituality. He said that he would have felt he was betraying the culture and traditions of his peoples had he ignored the plight of the earth and the animal peoples, had he not done everything, by any means necessary to halt their suffering. He said that while his people were a peaceful nation (he is a member of the Pasqua Yacqui tribe), they were forced by oppressors to become warriors or die. Any violence therefore was in self-defence. The same argument he said, applies to direct action using some measure of violence today. The governments, the big corporations are the rulers, the oppressors, and what we do to protect our communities, our land, and our animal friends, is justifiable self-defence. In response to a question about his 4 year incarceration on arson charges, he said that really, he felt that it was a small price to pay for the amount he achieved. "I always knew that I would eventually get caught, so I was on a mission to do as much as I could before that time". It was empowering and refreshing to hear someone prepared to put such a forthright case for militant direct action, and be entirely uncowed by the threat and actual sentence of prison. For more info on militant direct action on these lines in the US, look at [www.iipublishing.com/elf.htm](http://www.iipublishing.com/elf.htm)

## The Loombreaker

### DIARY

#### October '02

- 4-6 Rising Tide UK Gathering - see article
- 13 Benefit for GM & D CND- Star and Garter, Fairfield Street. Four Live Bands for £3.50 / £2.50 with flier. Starts 8pm. 0161 273 8283
- 14 Demo at NSA Menwith Hill - North Yorkshire. 12 noon - 4pm. 01943 466405 caab@btclick.com [www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk)
- 16 Worldwide anti-McDonalds Day of Action - see article
- 17 Breathing Space - A play that deals with the lives of two families facing problems of domestic violence, and asylum & immigration issues. Free. The Green Room, Whitworth St West, 7-30pm. [www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk) [ncadc-nw@ncadc.org.uk](mailto:ncadc-nw@ncadc.org.uk) 0161 277 9768
- 18 Media Democracy Day - see article
- 19 Anarchist Book Fair - see back page [www.anarchistbookfair.org](http://www.anarchistbookfair.org)
- 31st Day of Civil Disobedience against the war - 0161 273 8283 [www.gmdcnd.org.uk](http://www.gmdcnd.org.uk)

#### November '02

- 1 Hunt Sabbing - Season Starts Inbred freaks climb back into the saddle. Contact NW Hunt Sabs 07960 038 230 e: [info@nwhsa.org.uk](mailto:info@nwhsa.org.uk)
- 7-10 European Social Forum - Anti-capitalists, greens, trade unionists, socialists and many others will all protest and debate how we can create a better world." [www.mobilise.org.uk](http://www.mobilise.org.uk)
- 10 Actions against Shell - 5th Anniversary of the "judicial murder" of Ken Saro Wira and 8 other Ogoni activists. [mosopgb@aol.com](mailto:mosopgb@aol.com) [www.mosopcanada.org/](http://www.mosopcanada.org/)

More comprehensive diary listings on the web [www.loombreaker.org.uk](http://www.loombreaker.org.uk)

## Landrover Litters Hulme

People have decided enough is enough & have been clearing up the litter left by the local Landrover Garage. ( who also supply Armoured Personnel Carriers to Israel ). Landrover have put up expensive signs on grass verges & on the road advertising their presence. However, people believe that no planning permission has been submitted for these signs & therefore they are Obstructing the Public Highway & also Littering - both criminal offences.

People have been pulling up the signs & putting them next to rubbish bins. Landrover insist on replacing them, but people are strongly encouraged to fight these litter bugs & dispose of the signs regularly.

signed:- Hulme Wombles



The Loombreaker

## Anarchist Bookfair

FAST RELIEF FROM AUTHORITY



This year's Anarchist Bookfair, Saturday October 19th, 2002 (10am to 7pm) is going to be huge. It's at the back of Camden Town Hall (opposite St Pancras Station) in London. There's books, stalls, videos workshops and creche.

In the evening Chumbawamba will be playing a benefit for the Bookfair at the Camden Centre. Doors will be open at 8.30 and tickets cost £6 in advance or £8 on the door. advance tickets can be bought at the Bookfair itself. [www.anarchistbookfair.org](http://www.anarchistbookfair.org)

transport from Manchester 0161 226 6814

## Anti-MOX Protests in Sellafield

A couple of Manchester folk joined a handful of Lancaster folk and a merry band of Irish activists who had travelled over to Barrow to protest the arrival of the MOX shipment from Japan. There has been a massive campaign in Ireland against Sellafield, the polluting of the Irish Sea, and the fact that this UK nuclear power station puts Irish residents at constant risk. Even the Irish government are involved in the protests! This group however was a mixed bunch, including eco-anarchist types, who organised a carnival-esque march through Barrow town centre, distributing leaflets. Some of the group stayed around for the next week, and were there for the actual arrival of the MOX (mixed oxide fuel) shipment which was sent back to Barrow by the Japanese after they discovered that BNFL had falsified safety records. Also present to protest were other Irish citizens who had sailed their own boats, alongside Greenpeace.

More info from Gluaiseacht (try saying that!) - [www.gluaiseacht.org](http://www.gluaiseacht.org)

## Oh No! It's Sweeney Todd!!

Mike Todd, the copper in charge of dealing with the last few Maydays in London, is taking over the big cheese job for Greater Manchester Police this autumn. He will try to prove himself, in order to be able to go for top cop at the Met in the future.

Regular readers might be aware of the kind of "zero tolerance, in your face" policing he pioneered, which included heavy surveillance of every benefit gig and known squat beforehand, personal approaches to, & filming and following of activists he suspected to be involved. Protestors were surrounded for 8 hours without food, water or toilets, then released one by one with details and photos taken - all these tactics are not legally-based, but hey, like Judge Dredd, they are the law!

Todd rose up through the ranks of riot cops, and unlike the badly-trained Manchester thugs-in-uniform, he has an understanding of both our tactics and motives, and can be quite subtle and 'friendly', though when appropriate he favours a "robust approach". He has even attended a course, if this is not a contradiction, in 'intelligence led policing models'. According to "sources close to the Home Office", he tries to both defuse any public order situation, and deter involvement. Taking inspiration and advice from Dutch and US police, he gives you enough rope to then be able to pile in later!

He recently selected the taser (delivers 50,000 volts to someone up to 15 feet away!) as the best non-lethal weapon for the Met's riot goons to be armed with. He's been on TV to condemn Mayday rioters in an affable and bullish way, but he's also known for slandering "disreputable" police sergeant Gurpal Viridi, who was accused by the Met of sending himself racist hate mail when he claimed against them for racial harassment.

<http://www.eco-action.org/ef/>

## Anarchy in Manchester

Manchester Anarchist Youth is part of the national Anarchist Youth Network (AYN) The AYN is the only revolutionary youth group in the UK set up independently by young people. It is a fledgling non-hierarchical collection of anti-capitalist individuals and groups. We organise ourselves non-hierarchically, without leaders or authority. No one is forced to do anything they do not want to do and it is completely up to the individual how involved they get within the group.

We were set up because young people joining the anti-capitalist movement often find it intimidating to join in discussions with experienced activists. We decided to set up a group where young activists could be amongst peers rather than be amongst people who sometimes (though unintentionally) set up a 'dictatorship of the most experienced' with us at the bottom.

Manchester Anarchist Youth meet every second Sunday in cafe pop on Oldham street at 3pm going on to Siclairs in exchange square for a pint or several at 4pm. Come along to either or both. Next meetings Sunday October 13th and 27th.

more info [mananarchistyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:mananarchistyouth@yahoo.com)  
[www.anarchistyouth.net](http://www.anarchistyouth.net) or call the  
manchester group on 07816 420 391

..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.

Pick it up FREE from:

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

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The Loombreaker

c/o Department 29,  
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0161-226 6814

[loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk](mailto:loombreaker@nematode.freemove.co.uk)  
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Interested in taking action?

Look at the Loombreaker website or call  
0161 226 6814 for details of upcoming  
events, actions and meetings. Or come  
to Beyond TV - 22nd October - see article

## Women Speak Out Manchester, 23-24 November 2002

An inspiring and exciting weekend of radical workshops for women. If you want to help organise this, and/or you can offer a workshop, then either call 07753 606723, email [wsomanchester@bellow.org.uk](mailto:wsomanchester@bellow.org.uk), or check out [www.bellow.org.uk](http://www.bellow.org.uk) for more details and updates. Also, more details to come in next Loombreaker.