



# The Loombreaker

www.loombreaker.org.uk

No. 32 ♦ November 2002 ♦ Free

## Whose streets? Our streets!

### Cops lose battle against anti-war protesters as Manchester joins towns and cities across the country in a day of direct action and civil disobedience in protest over the planned war on Iraq

The resistance to the planned war on Iraq was stepped up a few levels on the Halloween day of action, when a surprisingly militant crowd took over Oxford Road and refused to be pushed back. The road was held despite a brutal onslaught from cops on horseback, and the crowd eventually marched to Piccadilly Gardens.

The day began with actions, rallies, road-blocks and demonstrations all over Greater Manchester. Students occupied the University Maths tower for several hours, workers and supporters at a health clinic stopped traffic by repeatedly using a zebra crossing. There were noisy protests in Longsight, Salford, Stockport, Bury, Buxton, Bolton, over 50 people in Oldham, even a rally in Rawtenstall.

#### Paint the town

Anti-war graffiti is blossoming all over the city and beyond. While most of us were getting a good night's sleep before the day of action, Todmorden was being "redecorated" by nocturnal artists, armed with stencils and spray cans. (see [www.uhc-collective.org](http://www.uhc-collective.org) for ideas, anti-war posters etc. or design your own).

#### Breaking the chain of war

A Halloween critical mass bike ride - 'stop the cycle of violence' - made a vivid spectacle with 40 or so ghouls and skeletons riding bikes, chanting against war, ringing bicycle bells, blowing whistles. After weaving its way through the throng of people leaving work, slowing traffic to crawling point in the city centre, it met up with the group 'Out and Proud Against the War' who were rallying on Canal St. Together they arrived at the rally at All Saints Park. Having already blocked all the traffic, the people at the rally were encouraged to join in, and get off the pavement and into the street. The crowd didn't need to be asked twice - they seem to have taken the idea of civil disobedience to heart. It was fantastic to see that one of the first groups of people to get into the road was a group of young muslim women, symbolic of how diverse the crowd was. The anti-war demos involve



young, old, christians, muslims, jews, black, white, workers, students, hippies, anarchists, socialists, people in suits, people in fancy dress.

#### Reclaim the street!

Having successfully blocked the whole of Oxford Rd, the police decided to move in, but not on foot; no warnings or announcements were given - they just sent in the horses. Huge dangerous animals were being forced into the crowd, with no indication of their intent. Someone began a chant 'This is a peaceful demonstration', and the crowd stood its ground. Others got past the horses and surrounded them, making it impossible for them to control the crowd. The Samba band continued playing all the while, keeping people moving, dancing, keeping the atmosphere festive. Other cops were literally throwing people off the road, trying to get the traffic moving on one side of the street (it helped us that the first car in line was driven by a gutsy muslim mother who was trying her best to ignore the policeman urging her to drive on!). Despite several people being injured and trampled by the horses, and the uncalled for chaotic violence displayed by the police, the crowd remained peaceful but very militant. Eventually, after a bunch of

students marching from their Uni occupation to join us helped us surround the horses, they withdrew them to the side, and let us have the street. A spontaneous march began down Oxford Rd, everyone now empowered and noisy, and when it looked like the cops might block us off at Portland St, people just rushed the line of horses, broke through and carried on.

Although the police violence always does a better job of radicalising people than any amount of meetings, we shouldn't let them get off lightly. Whoever the officer was who made the decision to use horses on a peaceful crowd causing one person to have part of their toe ripped off, and others to be hurt, needs to be held responsible. Write to GM Police at Bootle St and ask questions, make complaints.

Halloween actions took place all over the country, see [www.uk.indymedia.org](http://www.uk.indymedia.org)

The next anti-war demo will be at the CBI conference at G-mex where Tony Blair will be meeting arms traders and business leaders. The exact date of Blair's arrival isn't yet known, but the conference is 22-24 November. For info on anti-war meetings etc see [www.gmdond.org.uk](http://www.gmdond.org.uk) or call 273 8283

### Spliffing Heck??!!

"Who is going to take care of the patients?" Colin Davies, on being sentenced at Minshull Street court. Cannabis campaigner Colin Davies has been found guilty of illegally supplying cannabis, and sentenced to an outrageous and severe three years in prison.

On the day that sentence was passed, and in a move clearly calculated to intimidate, over 50 GM Police raided Stockport's Cannabis Cafe, the Dutch Experience, which was opened by Colin and others last year. No warrant was shown, and Cafe punters were slammed up against walls, searched and names taken. Four arrests were made. Apparently the police claimed they were taking the action to protect Colin's property - a blatant lie. The cafe is now

closed and cafe volunteers are considering their next move.



In a later related case, Stockport MEP Chris Davies and Italian MEP Marco Pannella were given seven days custody and £1000 fine each (plus costs) for pleading guilty to possession of cannabis in a protest against drug laws. With unintended irony the judge

said Chris Davies was highly irresponsible and had taken up valuable court and police time. To add insult to injury the Stockport Express has labelled Colin a 'dope dealer'. But he's not a dealer, he's a healer. Colin has always made clear the point of his actions has been to support people who benefit from the medical use of marijuana. He suffers severe back pains himself, and his belief in the pain relieving effects of marijuana are based on personal experience.

So far as we know Colin is still being held at Strangeways prison. You can write to him at: Colin Davies, GP8726, HMP Strangeways, 1 Southall St., M60 9AH

See [www.dutchexperience.org](http://www.dutchexperience.org) and click on forum for latest news

### C'est la Plage!!

Radical show Under the Pavement is an explosive new programme which broadcasts every four weeks on Manchester's ALL FM 96.9 community radio station. The show takes its name from a 1968 situationist slogan and reports on Manchester's radical and activist communities. It goes out on Tuesdays from 10pm until midnight. The show has been broadcasting every four weeks since July, and it's already had a diverse range of guests, including Gee Vaucher from Crass, a local activist from the Stop Esso campaign and a member of the Greater Manchester Coalition Against Sanctions and War on Iraq.

As well as talk, it plays a wide range of music, including folk, country, electronic and indie. It also broadcasts poetry and the spoken word. It's not all hardcore anarchist punk but, as Emma Goldman once said, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be in your revolution". The last show featured Alice and Boff from Chumbawamaba, fresh from their European tour and playing a selection of songs that have influenced them. Manchester has a rich heritage of radical and progressive activity. Under the Pavement is a way of giving voice to this culture of resistance. The next shows are on 19th November and 7th December.

See [www.underthepavement.org](http://www.underthepavement.org) or email [radio@underthepavement.org](mailto:radio@underthepavement.org)

### A Lotto Hysteria

The Daily (Hate) Mail has been venting its spleen about lottery money going to the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC) lately, accusing them, of all things, of supporting terrorism. Yet as NCADC point out, the Mail is getting into a frenzy over individuals that "have been allowed to stay legally in the UK as a result of decisions by Jack Straw or David Blunkett, following campaigns supported and advised by NCADC."

So why have the Mail got it in for NCADC? Is it 'coz they is helping vulnerable people deal with the bureaucratic nightmare dreamed up by the Home Office? Or maybe it's their principled opposition to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill which is presently rumbling through Parliament and which lays out plans to 'accommodate' asylum seekers within purpose built detention centres.

For more on the lottery money and the new asylum bill see [www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk) or contact ncadc locally on 0161 740 8206

### McResistance!

"We can also organise internationally, that we are not powerless in the face of this massive multi-national, that the slaves are rebelling! Bugger to the burgers, smack the Mac, McWorkers of all lands unite, we have nothing to lose but our free uniforms, A las Barricadas 'n all that." - MWR (McDonalds Workers Resistance)

On October 16th some of the McDonalds workforce launched an unprecedented counter attack against exploitation and boredom with actions of workers resistance from Sweden to Sydney. In one English store workers altered all the settings on the food storage Microwave and reset the grill timers. In Birmingham there was a go slow day that knocked hundreds of pounds off the days sales. The night shift phoned in sick in Nottingham and there were reports of several incidents in Northampton, including three hour breaks, walk outs, phoney sickness, and drinking on the job. In Adelaide they cut open all the milk based mix (there goes the milkshakes!) - while in Manchester it's reported some people cemented the toilets.

See <http://mwr.org.uk> and [www.mcspotlight.org/](http://www.mcspotlight.org/) or contact Loombreaker for local contacts.

### Menwithout Cutting Equipment

The US Spy Base at Menwith Hill Yorkshire was blockaded on October 24th by people concerned that it is being used by the Americans to locate and prioritise targets in Iraq.

Groups of protestors blockaded two entrances into the base from 5am. The blockade lasted 4 and a half hours during which there were scheduled to be three shift changes (so that's maybe 750-1000 workers prevented from working). Staff arriving for work in their US-bought luxury cars were turned away. Some essential people were shipped in along a dirt track after they managed to jack open the rear access gate.

The main gate at Menwith Hill is currently undergoing some construction work so access is limited to two side gates. These were blockaded by two groups of protestors at 5am with an unused alternative rear gate also being secured with a lock and superglue. Protestors locked on to the access gates with bike D-locks round their necks while others locked to each other with handcuffs protected by metal tubing, within 5 minutes the base was secure with no traffic able to leave or enter.

Menwith Hill is a US spy base which monitors communications (personal, business and encrypted e-mails, phone calls, text messages etc) in Europe and the Middle East. It is a hub of intelligence procurement for the so called War against Terror and the planned bombing of Iraq. The base is actually US territory, US intelligence officers and military work there as well as support personnel from the UK - in all 3,000 people.

Menwith Hill is US territory in the middle of our country. It is being used to identify targets in Iraq and will be used to co-ordinate bombings when they start. It's time for us to shut them down since our government is not only unwilling to do so but is entirely happy to support their efforts.

### INTELLIGENCE FAILURE





## Don't hate the media, BE the media!

Indymedia is a global independent media project spawned from the dismal mainstream media coverage of Global Days of Action.

A group of media volunteers are currently taking on the production of a Manchester section with the aim of having a Manchester Indymedia up and running in the near future. Anyone can post stories onto the newswire but more people are needed to create and maintain this project. Whether it is reporting about local actions or campaigns, doing workshops on how to become an audio or video activist, screening independent videos, helping administering the website, or translating articles into other languages - a lot of skills are needed, and you don't have to be a computer geek to get involved.

If you are interested there is a list which you can sign up to contribute to planning and editorial decisions: [imc-manchester@lists.indymedia.org](mailto:imc-manchester@lists.indymedia.org). To join the list or read the archives of past discussions log on to <https://lists.indymedia.org/imc-manchester>. For the news you won't get on the BBC check out [www.uk.indymedia.org](http://www.uk.indymedia.org)

## Baku Pipelines

Plans for the world's largest pipeline system are entering the final consultation stages. In spring 2003 international financial institutions will decide whether to provide money for the Baku pipelines, which would take oil and gas from the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan through Georgia and Turkey to European and US markets. Their backing is crucial; after five years failing to convince oil companies of the project's economic viability governments promised 70% of the cost from free public money. Geopolitics. Both consortiums involved are led by BP, whose operations in Columbia foretell state-led militarisation of the 1087 mile corridor, landowners cheated of compensation, human rights abuses, social conflict, corruption, war. There are wider environmental fears as the route passes through both zones of frequent major earthquakes and sources of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

The pipelines cannot be built if the financial institutions lose their nerve, and if the process is delayed the web of contracts will collapse. A group is forming in the north west to work towards this: email [mattg@bridge-5.org](mailto:mattg@bridge-5.org)

## Party for anarchy!

9pm wednesday November 20th, Retro Bar on Sackville Street, Manchester.

Local bands and DJs playing a variety of music including punk and electronica

A chance to meet other anarchists and people involved in direct action while getting drunk, listening to quality music and raising money for anarchist actions in Manchester.

Entrance is £3, all money raised will go to Manchester Anarchist Youth.

More info [www.anarchistyouth.net](http://www.anarchistyouth.net) Local contact 07816 420 391

## If you go down to the woods today....

You'll find the Park Nook woodland protest site, near Liverpool. The woodland has been squatted for the last five months and now has a 24-hour presence. An eviction is imminent and people are needed to defend the space! 0780 360 9721

## Action Stations

**Saturday 9th November 6pm till midnight**

**A gathering of people to share, inspire and motivate. Marking the 1st anniversary of Barry Horne who died on hunger strike against vivisection.**

From 6-9pm - talks, videos, debate, information and inspiration. Including People's Global Action, Earth First!, Palestine Liberation, Anti war campaigns, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, Anti-fascist action and MORE... with John Curtin ex ALF activist and Keith Mann (served 11 years for ALF actions).

9-midnight - some of the finest and roughest tunes to be found! Mixed by a collection of DJ's, visuals by Beyond TV. HIP HOP, BREAKBEAT, TECHNO, DnB, ELECTRO AND JUNGLE.

**Free!!! At Solomon Grundy's (downstairs) Wilmslow Rd, Withington. All Welcome. More info 07751 030435**

## Is it a vegan website?

Want to know if a product is suitable for vegans? [www.isitvegan.info](http://www.isitvegan.info) is a website that aims to be an easy-to-use and up-to-date store of information about which products are suitable for vegans. For more information ring: 0845 458 0146 or email [info@isitvegan.info](mailto:info@isitvegan.info)

## Freerant

Land Rover have a Freepost and Freephone customer information service until the end of the year. So if you want to know why the company, who are subject to a boycott call, are supplying Land Rover Defenders to the Israeli army when the same army is shooting children in cold blood, then you can ask them for free on 0800 110110. Or alternatively you could send them a gift wrapped brick for Xmas, addressed to Land Rover admin, FREEPOST, TK 494, Twickenham, TW2 5UN

## DIARY

### November '02

- 9 Northern Anarchist Network Gathering for Anarchists from around the North. 10.30am - 5.30pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats t: 01422 842558
- 10 Actions against Shell On the 5th Anniversary of the "judicial murder" of Ken Saro Wira and 8 other Ogoni activists. e: [mosopgb@aol.com](mailto:mosopgb@aol.com) w: [www.mosopcanada.org/](http://www.mosopcanada.org/)
- 15 Say "No" to Manchester Airport Expansion Cheadle. The Department for Transport's roadshow on alternative plans to expand the UK's capacity for air travel will be available for viewing. Environmental campaigners are encouraged to attend and put the sane viewpoint. See Loombreaker 30. t: 0161 834 8221 e: [transport@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:transport@manchesterfoe.org.uk)
- 16 Films for Palestine Manchester PSC presents a half-day of film screenings about Palestine. 2.00-7.00pm., Cross Street Chapel, Cross St, Manchester. w: [www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org)
- 16-24 National Anti-Fur Week Called by Coalition Against the Fur Trade. t: 07939 264 854 e: [caft@caft.demon.co.uk](mailto:caft@caft.demon.co.uk)
- 20 Benefit gig for Manchester Anarchist Youth at Bar Retro, see article, this page
- 23-24 Women Speak Out Gathering in Manchester/Salford. An inspiring and exciting weekend of radical workshops for women. [wsomanchester@bellow.org.uk](mailto:wsomanchester@bellow.org.uk) t: 07753 606723 w: [www.bellow.org.uk](http://www.bellow.org.uk)
- 29 Buy Nothing Day A day for alternatives to mass consumption. w: [www.fanclubbers.org](http://www.fanclubbers.org)

### December '02

- 1 Global Day of Action Against HLS w: [www.shac.net/](http://www.shac.net/) e: [info@shac.u-net.com](mailto:info@shac.u-net.com) t: (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) 0845 458 0630, 07899 775 493, (Manchester Animal Protection) 07931 586 826
- 7 Manchester Radical Bookfair - See article page 4
- 7-9 Twyford+10 Remember, Rejoice, Resist! St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester.
- 10 International Day for Animal Rights Worldwide events including candle lit vigils outside local sites of animal abuse, to campaign for fundamental rights to be bestowed upon non-human animals. t: 0114 253 0020 e: [info@uncaged.co.uk](mailto:info@uncaged.co.uk) w: [www.uncaged.co.uk](http://www.uncaged.co.uk)
- 20-21 Two days of social disobedience in solidarity with the Argentinean popular rebellion To join the organising email list send mail to: [list@raaf.be](mailto:list@raaf.be)
- 26 6th Annual International Pizza Punk Day "Encouraging you to form local autonomous vegan pizza-making workshops and cultivate the skills of cooperation, mutual aid and free association." w: [www.eroding.org.uk/pizzapunx.htm](http://www.eroding.org.uk/pizzapunx.htm)
- 27 Boxing Day Anti-Hunt Demos t: 07960 038 230 e: [info@nwhsa.org.uk](mailto:info@nwhsa.org.uk)

For the latest news and diary listings check out our website at [www.loombreaker.org.uk](http://www.loombreaker.org.uk)

## Forget Waterstones

The third Manchester Radical Bookfair takes place on Saturday 7th December 2002 from 1.00pm until 5.00pm at Bridge 5 Mill, "Manchester's Greenest Building", 22A Beswick Street in Ancoats Manchester.

At the last event there were stalls by AK Press and Distribution, Northern Herald Books, IMPress, Repressed Distribution, Class War, Cunningham Amendment, Eve's Back, Green Anarchist, Networking Newsletter, Anarchist Federation, Earth First, Land and Liberty, Northern Anarchist Network, Solidarity Federation, Total Liberty, Erroll McGowan Campaign, Anarchist Arguments, TIRE (Telford Institutional Racist Exposure) and Radical Routes.

If you would like a stall, hold a workshop or get involved in the next bookfair please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Write to: Manchester Radical Bookfair c/o PO Box 29, South West PDO, Manchester, M15 5HW Email: [info@radicalbookfair.org.uk](mailto:info@radicalbookfair.org.uk) Log on to the website for latest updates: <http://www.radicalbookfair.org.uk>

# MANCHESTER RADICAL BOOKFAIR



## next beyond tv

November 26th at the Font, New Wakefield Street

Bringing the Argentinian uprising to Manchester, with political multimedia and the Guerilla News Network plus the Hulme Home Movie Retrospective, Operation Alchemy DJs, visuals from Peeka

Operation Alchemy are "anti-uranium, pro-renewable energy hip-hop opera performance extravaganza" (!!!)

Meet people involved in alternative media projects and direct action in Manchester, find out whats going on in Manchester and get involved!

[www.beyondtv.org](http://www.beyondtv.org), 0161 226 6814

## Rio Tinto Stink

Anglesey Aluminiums on Holy Island, Anglesey, was blockaded for nearly six hours on October 10th by a group of 15 people making novel use of a clapped out mini van and a tripod. The action was in solidarity with the OPM - the Free West Papua Movement - and the people of West Papua as part of a week of action which has included the storming of the Indonesian Embassy earlier in the week. The van, laden with two cement filled oil barrels was towed in at 8.30am before irrevocably and finally breaking down outside the main entrance to the aluminium smelting plant. Someone stuck their hand through a hole in the side panel and locked onto one of the barrels. The other barrel fell through a hole in the floor of the van, tyres deflated on account of their being slashed and another person stuck their arm in and clipped on. So that wasn't going anywhere for a while. A long tail back rapidly ensued.

Anglesey Aluminium are 51% owned by earth raping scum Rio Tinto Zinc, who are joint owners of Freeport Mine in West Papua - the world's second largest copper mine and the largest proven gold deposit worth \$40 billion. Indonesia gains 20% royalties from the mine. The local Papuans receive no royalties yet their homeland is severely despoiled by the mining operation.

In related actions the Indonesian embassy in London was forcefully entered on Wednesday 9 Oct in a protest against the country's continued occupation of West Papua. An estimated 100,000 West Papuans have been murdered by Indonesian forces since the Indonesian invasion and annexation of the territory in 1963.

While on the 11th October, more than fifty people met up to take direct action against the New Tribes Mission at their UK Headquarters in Grimsby. New Tribes Mission have stated that it is their intent to establish a missionary church within every tribe on the planet by 2025. The people of West Papua have declared missionaries one of the 4 biggest threats to indigenous tribes people. It is reported that essential information and equipment was removed from the New Tribes Mission offices.

See [www.eco-action.org/opm/](http://www.eco-action.org/opm/)

## Anarchists descend on manchester

On Saturday November 9th the Northern Anarchist Network are holding a gathering for Anarchists from around the North.

The event will include discussions on various issues and takes place from 10.30am - 5.30pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats

For more information on the Northern Anarchist Network or the Gathering call 01422 842558

...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
- Bridge 5 Mill, Beswick St., Ancoats
- Café Pop, Oldham Street, Piccadilly
- Mistys Café, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road
- Pankhurst Centre, Nelson Road
- Top Cafe, Afflecks Palace, Oldham St
- Vanilla, Sackville St
- Withington Wholefoods, Wilmslow Road

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.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:loombreaker@nematode.freeserve.co.uk)  
<http://www.loombreaker.org.uk/>

SUBSCRIBE TO LOOMBREAKER BY E-MAIL!

Send your e-mail address to [loombreaker@nematode.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:loombreaker@nematode.freeserve.co.uk) to get the Loombreaker by e-mail.

## Write to a prisoner, not your MP!

Please send letters of support to the 5 Stop Huntingdon Life Sciences protestors who are on remand and facing charges of "Conspiracy to Harass". This raucous, harassing mob include Gavin, who is partially sighted, and Rylma, a 70 year old pensioner...

Gavin Medd-Hall [JK4564], Kevin White [JK4576] and Paul Baker [JK4584], HMP Canterbury, 46 Longport, Kent, CT1 1PJ, Robert Lewis [JK4563], HMP Elmley, Church Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4AY, and Rylma White [KV4069], HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London, N7 0NU