# contraFLOW



No. 23 Autumn 1997 donations keep us FREE

c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17, UK (0171) 326 0353

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### IF JOBS ARE THE ANSWER IT MUST HAVE BEEN A STUPID QUESTION

How Elexible can we get?

Globally they want to ensure that nobody can survive without working for them in return, that everywhere the only choice is for us to hand over our skills and abilities, our bodies and our minds in exchange for just enough for us to get by and get back to work. Of course how little we'll accept depends on our history and our strength, but while its rute that in this country many langes are quite a thin so country many langes are quite are many below, but increasing numbers are expected to work for tree, as work experience', to get a Globally they want to ensure that tree, as 'work experience', to get a job. After over a decade of Blairite policies, millions have been forced into

taking on increasing numbers ot jobs to survive, into 'self-employment', temporary and contract work, and are we happier for it?

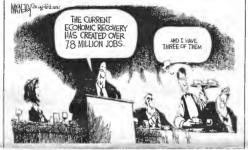
TWAS LOOKING FOR A JOB AND I FOUND A JOB - AND HEAVEN KNOWS I'M PUSERABLE WOW - THE SMITH

THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN HAVING A JOD

IS NOT HAVING ONE" - O WILD!

The level of dissatisfaction with jobs is shown by the fact that the kind of imagery of slavery, boredom, misery previously used in critiques of work, are now used by Job Agencies and newspapers plugging their jobs section. Maybe I will be happy when I get the right lob, satellite TV, the latest CD/video/drugs/style. The way to a better future is supposed to be through better competition, more flexibility, lying better at interviewers, working given harder than our colleagues.....

Of course, forcing everybody to be active on the labour market doesn't guarantee that everyone manages to get a job (or two, or however many necessary to survive). In fact the system requires constant pressure and competition from the breast lifeen years of attacks on the normal. The strength of the s



Grow your own job?

The Green critique of jobs shows up the destructive nature of The Green critique of jobs shows up the destructive nature of Jobs, not only to humans but to our environment, the constant search for cash and profit outside the control of human community, butding weapons of destruction, factories of pollution, fields of chemicals.... But many Green theorists of pollution, fields of chemicals.... But many Green theorists and peach state of the property of the property of powers and needs disorted through the alternated forms of allow more let a prosess bell meet fault abilities. Singlet allow more let a prosess bell meet fault abilities. Singlet we should be considered to the constant of the constant o economics. LET's (Local Economic Trading scriemes) try to allow people to express their needs and abilities socially, outside of the existing money market, but fail because they assume we can produce with what we individually have to hand - so the main people involved are the various types of therapists. If successful they merely keep people working on the margins until the state or market find better things to do with them

On the other hand, simply trying to defend unemployment and benefits keeps us in a similar rut of poverty and waiting. Expecting the national state to intervene on our behalf in a Expecting the national state to intervere on our behalf in a "global economy leaves us isolated and dependent. Anyway, despite anger at the JSA, most doleys arent fighting because its like lighting to defend crap jobs - too much work, not enough pay. The collective spaces and support developed when the dole wasn't such a shir place to be, now rest on a poverty, moralism, arrogance worse than the worst of the Greens. Without space and facilities unemployment becomes doing nothing, and most people don't want to do people, gets you out of the house and away from the bordom and misery of the dole.

DIVING FOR DEAR LIFE . WHEN WE COULD BE DIVING FOR PEAKLS".

To develop a real critique of Jobs and the world we are forced to produce and worship through them, we need to develop a new critique of the misery of life outside work, compared to the initial potential of human society and individuals producing and playing according to our needs desires and abilities. We need a new vision of what it would mean to have the world at the disposal of our social and individual creativity and needs, instead of our creativity, needs and world being at the disposal of those with the money and power to put us to work for their greater power and wealth.

We need to take this opportunity to come together to start to develop this vision, as human beings with dreams, no matter how many jobs we are lumbered with, to create a focus for our dissatisfaction and needs. We are not alone......

STOP THE JOBS SUMMIT

Open meeting to organise campaign against the Summit on Sat 20th Sept, 2-6 pm at Brownswood Rd Library, N4, for more info contact BM-CRL London WC1N 3XX.

DOCKERS INTERNATIONAL BRINGING IT HOME!

On September 8th, International Day of Action for the Liverpool Dockers, about 25 activists went to visit the head of Mersyside Docks Co, Gordon Waddle, at his Kensington home. Gordon wasn't in, but two lots of neighbours came out to play and made tea for the demonstrators. They were interested to find out what Gordon does for a living, as he was the only one at residents' association meetings who wouldn't say. The cops eventually turned up but failed to move the demo to the other side of the road, but they did kidnap the massive banner saying "Injustice is Not Anonymous - it has a name and address" (for full address see Corporate Watch, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4

There was then a visit to the Regents St office of Drakes, the temp agency who recruits scabs for the docks. The office was occupied for about an hour and the manager pretended to be reasonable so some people argued it out - until they saw a notice on his wall. The notice pretended to be from the World Wildlife Fund and in patronising and offensive terms described the dockers as an endangered species, and plans to set up a captive breeding programme. It claimed that they had "low intelligence" [sickl]. This is how temp agencies, like other bosses, see workers, particularly those with the sense and guts to fight back. Found out, they called the cops and stopped pretending to be reasonable.

Word is that internationally the day was a big success, with full support in Australia and troops being used..... but we've been getting complaints about having too much international stuff in Contraffow

See calendar for Liverpool march and other upcoming events

#### Mitchell Principles? Not for the British Government

On the morning of 23rd of September 1996., Diarmuid O'Neill was assassinated by the Metropolitan Police. He was teargassed in his room and then shot unarmed, and was dragged while dying down his front door steps and forced to wait for an ambulance. This didn't happen in Belfast but in Hammersmith, West London, While at the time of writing the armed struggle in north eastern Ireland has been put on hold, the British press and government bleat on about the Mitchell principles of non-violence ... what's a shoot to kill policy by the British state got to do with non violence? With the unionist population of the 6 County statelet armed to the teeth land excluded from the Dunblane anti guns legislation! peace without justice for O'Neill, Irish POWs and the working class communities of north eastern Ireland is impossible.

for info - contact BM Box D.O'Neill London WCIN 3XX

## INSIDE:



Calender and reviews; reports from Contraflow's roving correspondents in Amsterdam, Berlin and Madrid (minus holiday snaps); all the news from Stokey to Stockwell we could print; and more (see for yourself)

As our detractor says "Not worth the price on the front!"

Very flexible -now kiss your job goodbye!

ignting or their jobs back, for an end to the attacks of pay family and conditions that came out on strike against, for a bit of dignity. But after menths and years of struggle, of organising for themselves, meeting workers and supporters from around the world, going back to how things were could only leave them with a back aste in their mouts.

#### The regular Contraflow rant!

News - one reason why Contraflow is late again is that we want to fill it with news that is useful in the struggle against Capital. Patriarchy, Racism and the State. ... news that comes from the participants in these struggles showing the problems and potential solutions that we face. It's all too easy to say that the new government changes nothing - the effects of New Labours' policies may be the same but the rhetoric and co-option methods change. Some of this can come from the collective - but some has to come from our readers - that's you!... drop us a line or come to one of the 'Flow workshops [see the calendar].

Money - each issue of Contraflow costs about £250 to print 3.500 copies and distribute throughout London and mail out. Because of the A3 supplement in this one the cost is more like £325 At the moment we have about £75 after this issue. . so as usual please send us some cash, stamps. BC1 or BC10 inkjet cartridges etc [cheques made out to Contraflow! Special collected issues |with the 14 back issues since 1994] packs are still available for a few quid. International readers will find a sticker on their copy - basically while still distributing for free to archives and the "third world" or eastern Europereaders elsewhere are being hit for donations or exchanges.

Distribution - bulk copies of Contraflow are available from the 58a [Crampton 5t SE17 Thurs + Fri 3-7], and 121 [Failton Rd SE24 Mons, Tues, + Thurs 7 - 11] infoshops and the Brownswood Road Squat Centre [N4, Suns 7 - 11]. Please come and help distribute Contraflow to your local pub. community centre, dole queue or workplace. Drop us a line to say what you're doing.



#### Contraflow Reviews

#### "Do or Die" no.6 Voices from Earth First!

Do or Die is basically a collection of articles on various environmentel direct actions — "various" is the word as the diversity is huge. My personal favourite is the report on the trashing of a genetically mutated potato test site, where people played cricket with the "potatoes". About half the book is reports from overseas, there's also some good history (the Luddites) and lots on dangerous food, roed protests and open-cast mining.

The features on road protest camps at Fairmile end Newburg have some thoughful critiques of problems erising, such as lack of local involvement or informal hierarchies. As someone who went to Claremont Rd twice and cheered the rest on the telly I can't comment from experience but its a nice change to see groups try to look at their strengths and weaknesses instead of going in for self-congretulatory back slapping All in all a good read and well worth it.

(or its £1.50 +70p post -\$5- worldwide from South Downs EFI, c/o Priory House, 6 Tilbury Plece, Brighton, E Sussex)

#### "Ballad Against Work" (Collectivities, India 1997)

Work is shit, useless, dangerous, and its getting worse, intensifying in time, space and effort demanded. This is the message of Ballad Against Work, and apart from occesional sections on resistance that come across as incredibly isoleted, it's quite scery reading. What is interesting is that coming from India it shows how many things are the same there, and everywhere – that the problems and solutions are global. It seems the people who did this are also doing loads of grass roots stuff; producing a local workers' news sheet in massive quentities, and this is en attempt to start to develop e more global resistance. And its free! – If you can find a copy. If you send us (Contreflow) a 39p stemp we should be able to get you a copy.

Collectivities: Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, N.I.T., Faridabad 121001, India

#### Contraflow Workshops Feedback:

The Contraflow meeting on race and struggle was well attended despite stiff competition from the Between the Lines' football tournament (epiliters). We started out by arguing over a definition of recism. Some people said that behaviour was only racist if the perpetrators had a privileged position in society. In other words Bengalis attacking Somalis in Shadwell is not racism. Other people felt this was a liberal white guilt engument end attacking someone on the basis of their race is racism, pure end simple. The debate moved on to the historical mots of racism, looking at the importance of divide and rule throughout the ages to the ruling class, and the position the English working class geined through colonialism. Everyone roughly agreed on these points for once.

Then we talked about why the Anarchist 'scene' is so white', and how we can change this. The main idea het came up was working on local issues like housing or deportation campleigns, and setting up a Brixton Solidarily Group was suggested. It was accepted that just doing local work would not change the composition of the movement overlight, but it would be a positive start.

And finelly, the Between the Lines football tournement was won by... Between the Lines. FIFA will be investigating.



#### Road Raging:

well best-value activist handbook to appear this year is undoubtedly Road Raging: top tips for wrecking roadbuilding. For just 3 pounds, you get a deliciously thick, thorough quide to ell aspects of anti-roads direct action. It's ell been written by experienced activists from around Britain and includes tactics and ideas learnt over the years since Twyford Down. There are lots of beautifully-drawn diagrams and illustrations (eg how to make a scaffold tripod); lots of useful contects and examples of previous campaign leaflets. Completely vital for anyone starting off a new cemp-based campaign on any issue - the chepters on sustaining yourselves (evoiding burn-out) end the legalities of protesting should be e worthwhile read for anyone. Plus a long lost of contacts end resources. It's only £3! You can get it from: Roed Alert! PO Box 5544, Newbury, Berks RG14 5FB



#### 'Corporate Watcher's address book

Corporate Watch have also produced the 'Corporate Watcher's eddress book', a directory listing the principal, and directors' home, addresses of 'over 50 ethically challenged UK corporations'. You'll never be stuck for a false name to use again... Costs 6:350 waged / 82 unwaged (nice one). 'Corporate Watch', the magazine, comes out every three months or so. Subscribe for 6 issues - 80/£6. And that's not all, CW is primarily an info service - if you are perticularly knowledgeeble about a corporetion/industry and have information to share give them e call 0:1865 791 391. Box 8, 111 Megdalen Roed, Dxford 0X4 IRQ.

#### PRISONERS

The Justice for Keith Mann (animal liberation prisoner sentenced to 11 years) campaign is asking for supporters to write letters, to Jack Straw & various other prison bodies, asking that Keith is given CatC status and therefore a chance of parole in about 6 months. Send an SAE (& donation?) to the campaign for details of what to writer what else you could do to help:

JEKMC & D. A.D. POR N. 1135. Downs View Road. Hassporks.

West Sussex BN6 8AA.

Write to Keith (remember all letters are read by the screws):

Write to Keith (remember all letters are read by the screws):
Keith Mann EE3588, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton,
Evesham, Worcs WR11 5TZ.

Barry Home is another animal rights prisoner, currently on remand in Bristol. He spent 35 days on hunger strike earlier this year, in protest at the government's support for vivisection. Since the eliction it's become clear that the Labour Party has reneged on pre-eliction promises to end animal experimentation, and as from midnight on Monday 11th August. Barry has returned to his hunger-strike. There's been a complete black-out in the mainstream press, despite many successful soldarity actions (including a blockade of the Labour party's HQ). The Barry Horne Support Group can be contacted:

Box M, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ. Tel: 01954 230 542/ mobile 0976 200 724.

Please send letters of support to Barry: Barry Horne, VC2141, HMP Bristol, Cambridge Road, Bristol BS7 8PS.

Satpal Ram is serving life imprisonment for defending himself against a ractst attack. He is often moved between prisons so contact the Free Satpal campaign for details: 0121 331 1511.

#### CONSPIRACY FRAME-UP

On the 26th August the show-trial against Green Anarchist and the ALF (Gandaif) started at Portsmouth Crown Court. Four of GAS editiors and the ALF Supporter'S Group Newsletter's ex-editor could be imprisoned for 10 years just for reporting animal lib news or knowing that others did Whatever you think of Green Anarchist's politics, this trial may set a precedent for State repression of other subversive groups via the conspiracy/inclement lews. According to the Gendalf Defendants' Campaign this is the first case of this type where public interest immunity certificates have been used to suppress evidence due to MISs involvement.

More info from Gandalf Defendants Campaign, PO Box 66, Stevenage SG1 2TR

#### 'Gathering Force'

Another book just out is 'Gathering Force' - described os a guide to 'DIY culture for those tired of waiting'. Well there are a lot of good photos and It's well ledicut, with broad sections eg. 'Land & Housing', 'Raves & festivals'... The first chapter contains eome historical comparisons in case anyone hadn't realised that protesting didn't start in the last couple of years.

The rest of the book includes interviews with individuals active in all sorts of campaigns but there's e disconcerting failure to highlight some creetive projects which certainly deserve inclusion. It's obvious the writers have little personal involvement in their subject-matter: they've also gone to such wellknown exponents of 'DIY culture' as Chris Smith MP, Geoff Mulgan (besuited lefty think-tank media tart), Andrew Marr (editor of the Independent newspaper!), Chris Rose (saleried Greenpeace campaigner)... Which sort of loses the point. Much as the term 'DIY' meens many different things to different people, my personel definition is nowhere near that of one of the books interviewees: "We can seve ourselves on awful lot of headaches if we can get our concerns onto the Government's agenda....we have a system, we have an establishment, and we can utilise them".

Anywey it comes with a £9.99 price tag from the Big issue, and would look lovely on your coffee-table. Well worth shop-lifting. Another new book at the you-must-be-kidding unaffordable end of the market is the 'Video' Activist Handbook' being sold by Undercurrents/ Pluto Press. It costs £11.99 end sedily we didn't have enough funds to review it for you lovely reader.

If you come across a great book and think we should tell people about it, please write in! Who knows, you might end up on the collective...

#### Brixton news...

Brixton City Challenge's planned 'Brixton Fastival' was unfortunately cancelled ele to the tragety engulfing the cancelled ele to the tragety engulfing the livery carrier for a sanitisest shopping mall where high street chains could trade happily under the multiple eyes of CCTV. Roll on '98...

And just up the mad, the council's trying hard to prove its green credentials by "restoring" Push Common to the people of Brixton. Well, common land for the people is a great idea, but no thanks, we don't really want it right next to the polluted A23. A few years ago, they spent 80 grand demolishing the Brixton fashion building (which had provided useful resources, e.g screen-printing and studies paper) and turning the flattened site into an equipal set of provided p

Well now the plan is to create a Town Square tor Brixton. A new cycle-route; some new benches, and eventually some new trees - also, surprise surprise, some new CCTV

Jettreys Poad in Stockwell was recently the scene of public protest as Pinewood Motors (who have a showroom next door) started demoishing a Victorian church building and its accompanying trees. Local residents complained that there had been no consultation at all before the untilsted) building and its accompanying trees. Local residents complained that there had been no consultation at all before the untilsted) building to the properties of the properties of

Also, on Jettreys Road, lies one of the public libraries closed by Lambeth in one of this latest series of cuts. Abandoned for months, the building was squatted six months ago and has since provided ingeniously-constructed accommodation for (probably) hundreds of traveilling punks, queers & other undesirables... court date's been & gone... watch this space...

# Fed up with low wages and bad conditions?

Poor Health and Safety standards?

Bet in touch

We aim to provide advice and assistance in

We aim to provide advice and assistance in organizing in your worlpiace and fighting back against the boss. We are independent of trade unions and political parties and we are committed to providing practical help. Phone/fax us on UB1 374 5027

On let Wednesday of the month between 6-8pm or leave a message at any other time and we will get back to you Please state that the message is for the Solidarity Federation North London Solidarity Federation-For organisation against bosses and

bureaucrats PO Box 1681 London NS 7LE

#### Botched job!

Good old Lambeth council with its usual "awe-inspiring level of competence" made a balls-up of it again! But this allowed the 121 centre to "cock a snook" right in the face of local government.

Wishing to exist 121 (despite having been squatted for 16 Wishing to exist 121 (despite having been squatted for 16 years). Lambeth took the collective to court on July 24th. July 24th and the court of the court of the court of the mining armed to the hill with day-books from recent years, an impressive file of 'Crowbar' (once published at 121) and with statements from ex-collective members citing what their involvement was and to now long a period. All essential as proof of 121's continuous occupation. But you an imagine the surprise, even amusement, felt by averyone, when atter 5 minutes are given the continuous witness box (as I remember the gividence from the witness box (as I remember her sentence can't have totalled any more than 4 words) and asks the council's barrister to explain "precisely what is the case that you're bringing against them?"

The barrister, thrown into complete confusion and disarray, paused for quite some seconds before asking the judge what he meant by such a comment.

what he meant by such a comment.

Lambeth "bless' em" tailed to say in their statement of dam that the building had originally been entered 'illegally'. The absence of the word 'illegal' was reason enough for the judge to throw the case out abelt temporarily and send them (the council) packing was reason enough for the judge to throw the case out abelt temporarily and send them (the council) packing was abelt have now amended their statement of claim with the word 'illegally', with much additional but generally tictitious information besides. Despite this development, the fact remains it's been approx 6-7 weeks (at the time of going to print) since the last court hearing and as yet there has been no fresh date set for another hearing. Given as I understand, local governelated and Lamberth especies product for any other squarters to check any correspondence of this nature with a tine-tooth comb (since judges are not generally so forthright in pointing mistakes out). This could mean getting a 2-3 month extension of longer and turther time to prepare your delence it necessary. You also get the pleasure of seeing local government being rapped sharply over the knuckles by the judiciary - ha ha - it's so nice when these bed-leilows fall out!

So in 121's instance I think it's only appropriate to say "Well done Lambeth" and "Whatever would we do without yer!" The info-shop etc at 121 Raitton Poad. Brixton is open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday trom 7-11pm.

The old library in West Norwood was shut cown 2/ Larroetin in October '94, after 20 years of use as a community centre. A local group occupied it for 6 months in protest but despite their efforts to keep the place open as a space tor all kinds of activities (media/ resource centre with quet study space and a drop-in day centre for the elderly) and strong community support, they were evided in January syear. The summer project, but the council have since employed consultants to consider various bust for its future (theme) pub, and gallery etc.) They were forced to run the kids' summer activity programme outdoors, meeting each day on the pavement outside while the building remains empty, in a new fivill there are unmours that the Courol is now going to turn the building that all the building remains empty, in a new fivill there are unmours that the Courol is row going to turn the publing that suffer were the considered to the considered consultance of the course of the

The Jan Rebane Centre occupation continues (If was a well-used trade union and unemployed resource centre till Lambeth out the bit of the property of the prop

Thursday atternoons... It you hang around Brixton High Street long enough and look upwards, you'll eventually see a nuclear train going pess!. Every week; tarins carrying nuclear waste from eq. 100 pess. 100 per yeek; tarins carrying nuclear waste from eq. 100 per yeek; go through inner-city London on waste from exercised. This is the sort of trainsport that makes thousands of Germans leave their homes and block miles and miles of noute in protest. What do we do here? Carry on shopping (skippling/squatting/surviving) without thinking about the deady business that is nuclear power. If you live locally and wanna get active about this, get in touch with us do 0171 978 8214. We're planning a meeting sometime very soon...



#### Not quite Brixton News

Fareshares is a community-run, non-profit wholetoods co-op, open Thursday 2-8pm & Friday 3-7pm at 56 Crampton Street, near Elephant & Castle, ESTT. The building also hosts the 56a into-shop & archives; the bike library and a well-equipped bike-recycling workshop. They'te booking for more volunteers at the moment -so it you're interested in any of the above projects drop in for a chart about getting involved. There are also plans for a local Food Not Bombs group to operate at Elephant.

Tenants in Hackney have produced an 8-page newspaper about estate privatisation - you can get a copy for tree by sending an SAE to: TAP c/o 56 Clarence Road E5.

Advisory Service tor Squatters new opening times!!!!! Sunday to Thursday 2pm to 6pm (instead of Mon-Fri)

Brownswood Road Library (N4) is now open again with vegan cafes every Sunday night from 8, as long as you remember to put your name down to cook in future

#### Contraflow Clarification:

In the last 'flow there was a short piece about the split in Class War and the activities of the Anti Election Alliance. This referred to the minority taction of CW nationally as a rump and a minority of the London group

We have been approached by the minority faction of CW who wished to make the following points:

- \* This taction of CW consisted of most of the London group along with a number of groups around the country in total some 40% of the final CW conference in March.

  \* This taction of CW arouse that it was excluded from
- \* This faction of CW argues that it was excluded from a number of caucuses held before this conference. This included women members of the London CW group being excluded two members of the London CW group being excluded two a mixed discussion on Women and CW.
- excluded from a mixed discussion on Women and CW.

  This faction of CW also argues that the Ant Election alliance was a success, through the distribution of 200,000 stickers, a 100 strong contingent on the London May Day March and a number of direct actions.

This taction of CW will continue to operate and can be contacted at PO Box 487 London E8 30X - which is abothe eddress for their latest paper which has come out. Their statement is available from this PO Box or from Contraction on our website [technology willingt] or by sending an SAE to

[The above agreed statement is not an endorsement of the sexist nature of CW material which has appeared 3 times in the last few months.]

# 1,000,000 council flats to be sold.

One of the many things that didn't change with the election is the plan to private. 1,000,000 council homes, in what are called Large Scale Voluntary Transters (LSVTs) to Housing Ascordations or Local Housing Companies. £5 billion has been kept unspent from council house sales from the last 18 years and now the new government will allow some £800 million to be spent from this over the next 2 years. However, Labour does not oppose these transfers and in fact, Hackney has already said that it will be spending it's share on subsidising these privatisations.

For tenants, these LSVTs mean getting the repairs that they have been waiting for 20 or more years for But the price to pay is very heavy. Big ent rises are planned -up to and over 50% - with more to come after the 5 year ere guarantee period. Service charges will be leved - which won't be covered by housing benefit. Serure Tenancies will be lost - allowing exictions for rent arrears - poverty - far more easily.

In other words, millions of working class tenants, waged and unwaged, will be forced to pay for the repairs: that many of them have already paid for in their rens for decades. Estimpt Housing Association tenants are paying higher rents to provide the surpluses to fund these schemes and having their homes re-mortagated to provide security for the loans. At the same time, chossing Association bureaucrats are paying themselves private secrotiv wages, and cutting cleaning and maintenance staff wages to the same "rompetitive", private secretion.

These transfers are "voluntary" only in name. Small armis of housing association bureaucrats are used to sell the scheme to tenants. So called l'Independent! Tenant's Friends have refused to work with tenants who oppose the schemes. Councils say that repairs will have to wait up to 20 years unless tenans allow the privatisations to occur. Stranger still, some leading housing organisations who opposed 'Tory' LSVTs are silent about' Labour' LSVTs.

In Hackney, where 7,000 flats could be privatised by next year, tenants have been organising alongside Council workers against these plans. We can offer support to tenants elsewhere who need information or someone to compare experiences with. But we need information about how these LSVTs are being carried out elsewhere in the country. We also need information on Housing Associations rent rises, excitions, expulsion of tenants' representatives etc. Our settlempts to get such information through 'official' channels are. — Leeng hampered at every time.

Tenants Against Privatisation can be contacted at 56 Clarence Rd London E5.

In solidarity,

Some Hackney Tenants

You may have noticed we have been shamelessly lifting cartoons by Heinrich Hinze (if you want his book "The fish John West reject" try contacting Scratch! Media, PO Box 597, Dickson ACT 2602, Australia)

#### The London Forum

The second London Forum meeting was attended by about 35 people including a healthy sized contingent from Kent It was a positive and forward looking discussion which was remarkably free from bitching and backbring. The most commonly rates prior bitching and backbring. The most commonly rates point was the need for revolutionaries to get linvolved in activities which actually improve people's lives. People suggested working in local groups, and the Gravesend group who produce the excellent 'Gravedigger magazine and the exemplary Harngey Soldrartly Group talked about their activities. The problems of divisions within communities, and how to overcome isolation were mentioned, and obviously these are vitally important areas tor us to look at The need tor different groups to meet up regularly and talk to each other to co-ordinate activities was also brought up.

People talked about the alienating nature of political activities as they are and how politics needs to be linked to real life and make you teel better not worse. My excellently shoplifted new coat was also admired at length in the pub and much beer was drunk in mourning of the demise of DI and Dodi. The next meeting will be held in about a month.

[London Forum has been formed by the members in London of the majority faction of Class War nationally - see the clarification about the CW split above.]

for info: HSG - Box 2474 Ldn N8, the Gravedigger - Box 1 Gravesend, Kent DA11 7NE, London Forum - BM Box 5538 Ldn

WC1N 3XX

### contraFLOW calendar

#### SEPTEMBER

thu 25: LONDON

PAIN, Head on a stick, Dementia, Judge Tier & the Duvalis play a benefit gig for ARCH/ refugees... 8.30pm-1am at the Pembury Tavern, Amhurst Road E8 £3/2 entry

25 - 28: SHEFFIELD

Groundswell Forum - bringing together homeless people and DIY solutions. (NB: This is not the anti-JSA Groundswell!) Tel: 0171 833 2071.

26 - 28 - 1 FEDS

Women Speak Out - weekend of events to mark the 40th anniversary of the Windscale fire. Info: Box Z, 16 Sholebrook Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB.

fri 26: LONDON

Grand gala cabaret night in aid of the Liverpool dockers - they'll never sing alone! Starts 8pm at Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent N22 (Wood Green tube). £5/2.50 entry. Tel: 0181 442 0090. sat 27: LONDON

Furning Mad rally - in support of the Road Traffic. Reduction Bill. 2pm at Trafalgar Square. Tel: 0171 490 1555.

#### LIVERPOOL

National solidarity march with the sacked dockers (2nd anniversary). Assemble 12.30pm at Myrtle Parade. For details of 7am coaches from London. (£12.50/5) call 0181 442 0090.

#### NATIONAL

Possible Day of action vs BP's activities in Columbia? Confirm: 0171 357 0344.

NEAR OXFORD

Shut down Campsfield detention centre! Monthly picket starts at 12 noon outside the main gate. Tel:

27 - 28: near HELENSBURGH

Secret Peace Artists' Ball: a celebration of Faslane Peace Camp, with art, music, theatre, kids' stuff, poetry & more. Tel: 01436 820 901.

#### EVICT TRIDENT NOT THE PEACE CAMP!

After 15 years highlighting the dangers of nuclear weapons in Scotland, Faslane Peace Camp is under threat of eviction by the new Argyll & Bute council. Thanks to so many summer visitors the camp now boasts tree-houses, lock-ons and other fortifications. The council claims to be reviewing its situation ( and cannot afford a long Fairmile-style eviction) so perhaps the camp will flourish for another 15 years. Support of all kinds badly needed; phone to find out what you can do to belp: 01436 820 901.

#### 27 · 29: BRISTOL

Direct action training & mass trespass vs the extension of Dumford Quarry into Ashton Court park. Tel: 0117 942 0129.

sun 28: LEEDS

Eco-weekenders' alliance - gathering for those trying to juggle jobs and activism. At Cornerstone. Tel: Sarah 0113 262 9365 BRIGHTON

Lobby the Labour Party Conf. - end BP's links with Columbian death-squads! 0171 357 0344. OXFORDSHIRE

National demo vs Hillgrove farm - cat-breeders for vivisection - Dry Lane, Witney/ Minster Lovell.

#### LONDON

Cannabis Turn Yourself In Day. Meet 2.23pm at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. NATIONAL

Ramblers 'Access Day' - phone the Ramblers Assoc. for details of local events: 0171 582 6878. mon 29: LONDON

Liverpool dockers' mystery tour: Reclaim the Streets dancing into action with the dockers... Meet 10am at Victoria Station - bring drums, instruments and at least £12.50 for fares Info: 0171 281 4621

#### BRITAIN'S 1st ANTI-VIVISECTION CAMP!

Animal rights activists have set up a camp at Huntingdon Life Sciences. It's on Woolley Road on the east side of the A1 just north of the A1/ A14 junction in Cambridgeshire. Tel: 01582 505 984/ 0860 245 406/ 01832 293 468.

#### LYMINGE AWAITING EVICTION....

Camps set up to oppose Rank's leisure development plans in Kent are now waiting for the bailiffs Tel: 01303 265 737 or 0410 536 592

tue 30: LONDON

Roisin McAliskey's long-awaited committal hearing. Picket in support from 2pm onwards, outside Bow Street magistrates' court. Tel: Fuiscailt 0181 985 8250/ 0956 919 871 ISRAFI

11th anniversary of Mordechai Vananu's incarceration. For more details: 0171 607 2302

#### OCTOBER

(end corporate dominance month) (Also the 80th anniversary of the Russian Revolution when the factory committees really fucked up comorate dominance!)

wed 1: FARNBOROUGH

Shut down COPEX arms fair. 0171 281 0297. WEST LONDON

Hillingdon hospital strikers (2 years on) Day of Action. Starts at 7am with a mass picket outside the hospital. Assemble 11 am onwards at Colham Green, Colham Road, for a march to a rally at Uxbridge Civic centre bring your banners. Tel: 0956 135 311. LUNDON

Women's direct action group meets 8pm at the Jan Rebane Centre, Brixton SW9. All women welcome. Tel: 0171 978 8214

LONDON 2 . 5: Anti Fascist Action rally & conference. Info: send an SAE to AFA, BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX...

2 · 16: GLOBAL Fortnight of action vs genetically-engineered foods:

life patents & factory farming... Contact: GEN 0181 374 9516/ WEN 0171 247 3327. ESSEX fri 3:

Vigil at Cheales Abattoir, Brentwood. Tel: HOOF 01206 564 904.

2.5. SHEFFIELD Urban Permaculture design course - practical

sustainability in the inner-city. Tel: 0114 279 7164 TIP NORTH Northern EF! networking gathering... Tel: 0161 224

sat 4:

Reclaim the Streets party - meet 12 noon at the Circus. Tel: 01249 713 742. DERBY

Reclaim the Streets party - meet 12 noon at Market

Place LONDON Jesus-la exhibition closing party 6pm-12. At 121

Railton Road, Brixton SE24. sun 5: LONDON

Another Contraflow discussion workshop - local community organising - at 121 Railton Road, Brixton SE24. Refreshments provided - starts 3pm.

mon 6: SPACE

NASA due to launch Cassini probe with 73 lbs of plutonium on board. Tel: 01274 730 795 Where are the Association of Autonomous Astronauts when we need 'em? wed 8: GLOBAL

Action vs Peabody Coal. The largest single source of greenhouse gases in N America and also responsible for trashing indigenous rights in Arizona.

8-14: GLOBAL

Boycott of Procter Gamble & week of action. 14th: company's AGM in Ohio/ Uncaged! petition-delivering to Newcastle HQ: 0114 253 0020.

thu 9: LONDON

Benefit night for ASS/ARCH - line-up: lowaska, Head Jam, Dead Dog Mountain, Electric Groove Temple & (tbc) a surprise band from Uganda! 9pm-late at the Point, Stoke Newington Road. £3.50/2.50.

10 - 12: ALDERMASTON Regular women's peace camp. Tel: 0117 939 3746 11 - 12: LONDON

Strike Oil! Weekend of action against the oil industry. RTS: 0171 281 4621 ... part of ...

 100 days of action vs oil exploration call Corporate Watch 01865 791 391 for details. 11 - 12: LONDON

On Saturday, Arms Trade campaign day, 10.30-5.30pm. On Sunday, Factory Action Network day, 11-4.30pm. At the Battlebridge Centre, Kings Cross NW1. Tel: CAAT 0171 281 0297.

#### ANTI-QUARRY CAMP IN DEVON

The camp's on the site of a proposed ball clay quarry extension, at Teingrace near Newton Abbott. Mobile: 0467 622 825.

If you're 16 or over, and don't understand why trying to get away with buying a ticket is wrong, don't worry.

There's always one.

Fare Dodgery Liberation Front, Box FDLF, 121 Railton Road, London

11 - 18: GLOBAL

Week of action against McDonalds, including 11th: Kids vs Big Mac; 12th: solidarity with workers; & 16th: World Food Day/ traditional day of action vs McDonalds. Contact: 0171 713 1269.

sun 12: HERTS

Animal rights demo, starts 12 noon at Bury Green farm (Glaxo-Wellcome dog-breeding unit), Much Hadham, off A120. Stevenage AR: 01430 220 480. mon 13: IISA

Unplug America Day - "turn out the lights, shut off the taps, cut off your engines and celebrate your freedom from consumption.... Worth copying? tue 14: LONDON

Benefit for the Liverpool Dockers at the Forum. Kentish Town NW5.



AnarQuist - monthly anarcho-queer night at 121 Railton Road, Brixton SE24. Food, films, poetry queercore bands Mouthfull & Sapphic Sluts, dancing till dawn... starts 7pm. Contact: 0171 978 8214. LONDON

Annual anarchist bookfair at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (Holborn).

WINCHESTER Veggie giveaway at the McDonalds litter collection point. Tel: 01962 773 673. GLOBAL

Day of Action vs Nike. Contact Campaign for Labor Rights by email: alliance@mr.net Also, Shell's 100th birthday!

18 - 19: near HELENSBURGH 'Shut it' NVDA, party & protest against Trident's Scottish home. Bring tent, warm clothes, music, humour ( & "no pictures of Princess Di"!) Tel: Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820 901.

18 - 20: CORNWALL The Land Is Ours campaign convergence at Keveral

farm. Tel: 01865 722 016. 23 - 26 SOMERSET Free 4-day yurt-making course at Tinkers Bubble. £4

a day for meals. Tel: 01865 722 016. wed 29: LONDON

Torchlit march for Women's Right to Choose. Assemble 6pm at ULU, Malet Street WC1. Rally at Conway Hall 7.30pm. Info: Anita/ NUS 0171 561

LEDBURY

01384 456 682.

30 - 2: YORKSHIRE

samhain gathering. 01943 468 593.

thu 30: LONDON Reclaim The Streets/ARCH benefit - RTS house-

band, Inner Terrestrials, King Prawn etc at the Pembury Tavem, from 8.30pm-1.30am. £3/2. SOMEWHERE National hallowe'en treat for open-casters! Direct

action against strip-mining. Tel: 0171 603 1831. SHEFFIELD Raise yer banners! a festival of political song. Write for info: PO Box 44, Sheffield S4 7RN. Tel: 0114 249

Send in your events & actions for the next issue - if we don't get it v can't print it....

Contraflow's list of contacts and interesting publications [well they were interesting in January when the list was last done]

We don't have space to list everything happening in November/ December. But if you want to keep up to date, se an SAF to

Freedom Network, PO Box 9384, Brixton, London SW9 7ZB. Or try the FN ACTION LINE: 0171 793 7343.



#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Striking a Chord - a series of benefits No Issue is Single

Thursday 25th September at the Pembury Tavern, Arnhurst Rd E8 for Hackney Refugee and Migrant Support Group and Autonomous Refugee Certife Hackney (ARCH) with Judge Trev, Head on a Stick, Dementia, the Duva and P.A.I.N. 6-30pm 8f ann 53/2

Thursday 9th October at the Point, Stoke Newington Hi Street N16 Street N16 for Advisory service for Squatters (ASS) and ARCH with Jowasta, Head Jam, Dead Dog Mountain, Electr Groove Temple (tbc) and surprise band from Uganda 9pm till very late £3.50/2.50

Thursday 30th October at the Pembury Tavern for Reclaim the Streets and ARCH with RTS House Band, Inner Terrestrials and King Pra 9.30pm till ram 53/2

Friday 7th November at the Library, Brownswood Road an evening of cultural delight with artists from different refugee communities \$pm £3/2 day 26th November at the Garage, Highbury

Corner N5 Victory celebration and benefit for McLibel with Radical Dance Faction, Tofu Love Frogs and Citiz Fish Rom till 12pm £5/4

oh - look this one has been organised for us! thankyou!

Thursday 27th November at the Pembury Tavern an accountic evening for ContraFlow and ARCH with 1926 Committee, the Dole Claimers, Sergio Nava (Mexican singer/songwriter) Nisan (Turkish band) and

.. so now there's no excuses not to come north of the ri

#### NEW CAMP NEAR BRIGHTON!

It's been set up near Offham, just north Lewes to stop valuable marshland SSS being destroyed. More people needed - 1 details & directions, tel: 01273 685 915

We aim to get a pilot issue together by the end of Octo. Send us a large SAE (& a donation or stamps?) and w send you a copy. It'll be irregular and not too long - w not promising anything too ambitious and it all depend your input...

Demo at Quintiles vivisection lab: 11.15am-2pm. Tel: Primarily we want the news sheet to be for and about women involved in direct action of all kinds.

Could you... contribute news? write about your experi Menwith Hill women's peace camp invites women to a take photos? draw cartoons or other graphics? help with cheap/free printing & photocopying? help organise a bi be a distribution/contact point? help us think up a goo

name for it?? If so.



WOMEN'S DIRECT ACTION NEW

can be got by sending us an SAE c/o PO Box 9384, Brixton, London SW

# contraFLOW No. 23 special insert

#### Project Not Working

in Brighton, Project Work, the latest name for trying to screw dole claimants is collapsing. A series of demos outside 'voluntary' organisations taking on doleys forced to work there, and occupations of scheme menagers offices has meant hardly anyone is willing to take part. The only people doing it seem to be those who organised their own placements doing useful work for an extra tenner, which unfortunately means they have to be encouraged to drop out to completely close down the scheme.

The cops have taken a lot of interest, taking peoples names on any protest and showing off their knowledge of who is who. But in their enthusiasm, they've also been removing everyone, not just demonstrators, from occupied buildings - closing the schemes down for a day. Info from Groundswell - 01865 723 750 [Oxford Claimants]

#### New Labour v. German workers

Having beaten German state attempts to destroy mining communities there like Heseltine did here, German miners are now under attack from a strange alliance of New Labour and a private open-cast mining company. Celtic Energy, with the backing of energy minister John Battle have successfully completined to the European Commission about the subsidies that the miners managed to defend through their messive strike and protest extrine.

Don't forget the day of actions against Open Cast on Halloween. - info 0171-603 1831

#### JOB FOR THE BOY

Glenda Jackson's son, Daniel Hodges, who helped her get re-elected to parliament and so become a Minister for Transport, hes now yot a job at the Road Houlage Association as press manager. The RHA, led by former minister for tarmacing the country Stephen Norrie is one of the main pro-road lobby organisations. New Deal for some. [We'd like to hear of any other new labour flunkers with their sowits in the transition.



#### Edinburgh anti Workfare

As usual Edinburgh actually managad to organise an event for the Groundswell UK-wide day of action against workfare on July 21st. Edinburgh Claimants and the local Dockers Support Group organised a rally against workfare, benefit cuts and casualisation, followed by an invasion of a Job Centre. After much noise, speechse, leafleting and putting up posters, with the manager penicking and trying to persuade other claimants that nice Mr Blair wouldn't do anything nesty to them, the cops cleared people out and the demo continued on the street

The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh has had a series of events and trips out to Faslane and other sites of resistance, as well as having an infoshop, claimants group and weekly open meetings. ACE, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA, Scotland.

## WE'RE ALL STAYING

Images of urban class struggle in Berlin usually summon up the autonome squatting campaigns of the early 1980s and 1980-91 periods, struggles of turkish and kurdish migrants and further back the anti fascist resistance in proletarian suburbs like "Pedr Wedding, Now the State is targeting the few remaining unificensed squasts [5 left as of late July 1997] and carrying out a restructuring-privalisation, gentification and evictions - to make the inner suburbs a fit environment to the German government, which is preparing to move to Berlin from Born.

Drawing similarities between Berlin and London is difficult - London hasn't seen the 'return' of property to former owners for example as has occurred in East Berlin. Despite that, in both cities, 'artists' are often [unwittingly or not] at the cutting day of partification - for example in Shoreditch, the new 'irr part of Hackney some 4,500 Council flast face privates or under the parties of the programment of the property of the property of the programment of the

The following is a part translation from a leaflet put out by Prenzlauerberg "Wir Bleiben Alle" [We're all staying"]: [Contraflow readers should remember that the size of building in Brein is generally much larger than here - so that each house number mentioned is as byt as e 5 storey Council block.]



"Wir Bleihen Alle

Prenzlauenberg is "in" - just about every Berlin tour guide has to include a detour to this legendary area. It's hard to find the lifestyle magazine that doesn't rant on about the "funkiest part of town". Every month sees new restaurants, bars and other amusements for and of the Berlin cultural and culinary fulling class / Luvry scene. The tuture capital and warna be service metropolis of Berlin is trying to polish up its boring image, in competition with New York, London and Paris.

Inner city suburbs like Mitte and Prenzlauerberg are being used to reproduce the 'labour power' of high income workers with 'culture and consumption' through the offerings of the wild 'Plonn'. So posh shops and restaurants move in, older rented apartment buildings are renovated to luxury standard and then sold on at greater profit as private feals.

For the people who live here; a mixture of pensioners, workers, unemployed workers, students, and freaks; everyday lift is becoming impossible - we are strangers in our own area. Since 1991, almost halt of the 146,000 strong population of PenziThorg has moved either in or out. In the main, the new residents have more money and their 'needs and wants stamp themselves on the face of our area. Where there were post ottices, food shops and bakeries - are now the storping ground for cockfall bars and the rest. One sad example of this is the kids library in Woerther Strasse - which couldn't afford the new rent of 40 marks (per sq metre per month) and had to leave.

"Empty Homes and Gentrification"

In our suburb, there are still over 2,000 flats, and whole buildings, empty. Some are no longer relet due to the possibility of their being awarded to previous [pre DDR] owners - among them the many homes owned by the Prenzlauenberg Housing Association [MIP] which are under emergency administration. Flats which need only minor repairs, or are even i lettable condition, stand empty. If not even the most important repairs are done, then these houses fall into further decay and the last tenants move out. Then there are private owners who leave homes empty for speculation. They decan't or empty out their homes through bribes to tenants to move, threats but also the use of violence to evict them

In either case the owners can be happy - empty homes are easy money. The value of an empty block is at least 25% more than occupied homes [there's not the same rent controls on new lets - cflow]. No wonder when it's easier to renovate or sell on an empty house, without stubborn tenants, and then get guarantied higher rents or profits from 'owner occupied' flats.

The local council can't keep up with its duties to control this deliberate tactic of leaving of flats empty - partly because they are completely overloaded with building work but also through the deliberate use of false ownership details to get permission to leave homes empty. At 74 Dunckerstrases such a case was brought into the daylight - the building was squatted and through this the community forced it to be re-let.

It appears too, that the standard practice of owners is to make a building application for their empty properties as a way to put off the council officials who are checking up on empty properties. When this becomes common practice we'll soon only have still more expensive flats round here. Both the landlords and the council need to be watched.

None of us can afford rent of over 15 marks [per sq metre per month]. And anyone who could afford such rent won't do much to improve the tone of our neighbourhood. Apart from which - when our still fairly low rent is forced up by these higher rents. There's lots of good reasons to right against empty homes and gentrification. All empty properties should be immediately let to stop this gentification and housesakes profileering.



No Yuppie Centre at the Culture Brewery!

The Treuhand [the company which privatised the East german state industries] company has owned the 50,000 sq metre Brewery since 1990 when it has been used as an outlure centre. Now there are plans to turn it into a gigantic cloned leisure centre with a 1,800 seat multiplex, bars, a food hall complete with the 'worlds largest trestle table' [1?1] TV centre, gallerles and exclusive shops for the media luvvies and yuppies.

This redevelopment at the Culture Brewery will turther speed up the process of gentrification and evictions. Starting fror Kolwitz Square the adjoining areas will also be opened up' - posh restaurants, exquisite cocktail bars and yuppe bear will spring up like mushrooms in shit - but no-one who lives there needs them. Instead the neighbourhood bakeries an corner shops leave our area even more quickly. In competition with bars and the like the hot process are shorted before the control of the process and the process are the more culture of the second of the process and the control of the process and the control of the process and the control of the process and the process are processed by the value of the processed of the proces

is a chic capital more important than the people who live here? Should we just disappear from our neighbourhoods? I clear that that's not what we want - but no one is going to help us unless we help ourselves - organise the neighbourhood resistance."

[ the authors can be contacted at "Stattteligruppe Prenzlauerberg c/o Kiezladen, DunckerStr. 14 10437, Berlin, FRG" please ask before writing in languages other than German if you want to be sure of getting an enswer.]

translation errors the fault of Euro Counter Network London.

# wot i did on my holedays

### encounter of the second kind

#### ENCUENTRO (25th July - 3rd August; Spanish State)

Seeing as I was going to be South of the Pyrenees anyway I decided somewhat sceptically to go to the crap-named Second Intercontinental Gathering for Humanity and against Neo-liberalism for Encuentro for shortl, with its grandlose alm of creating a "network of struggles", "Pie in the sky", I thought to myself, (there is a Spanish expression for it: 'construir castilios en el aire' - literally 'to build castles in the air").

So off i went, bundle of Contraflows under my arm, prepared for the worst (we're miserable old sods, us Contraflowers).

The opening ceremony in Alcobendas near Madrid was basically a cheerleading exercise for the Zapatistas, a media circus in line with the virtual struggle being waged by Subcomediante Marcos (as a fellow cynic dubbed him - translatable as Subcomedian Marcos) et al in Chiapas. There's nothing virtual about the repression and terror caused by the Mexican army and the real struggle of the indigenous people in Chiapas, of course; so don't get me wrong, sure I'm all for the EZLN, I just got a bit tired of being told that Zapata lives (and they buried the poor bastard!).

But back to the Encuentro: we were told that there were over 3000 people from all five continents, but it seemed like every second person was Italian (there was a huge contingent, presumably workers' authonomy types, who kept on bursting into choruses of 'Long live the international proletarian revolution' or something similar).

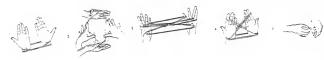
So we all divided up to go to the respective discussion tables all over the territory of the Spanish State, the themes being the neo-liberal economy, struggles for culture and education, for land and ecology, the struggle against patrlarchy, nationalisms and national identity, exclusion and all forms of marginalisation (it seemed like all the awkward left-over bits like gay and lesbian struggles, animal liberation were chucked together in this fast discussion table).

I was supposed to go to the discussion table on the economy, to the subgroup on access to the means of production, but seeing as I thought it would be dominated by dogmatic Marxists with Italian accents (don't get me wrong - I love the Italian accent, It's the other bit I'm not too keen only. I decided to go to the subgroup on 'forms of living beyond the Market.' This subgroup was being held at the huge squatted social centre El Laboratorio in central Madrid. Now, down at the subgroup level, meaningful participation became a possibility (as opposed to the passive consumption of pre-written political speeches of the opening and closing ceremonies), in fact we divided and subdivided to facilitate discussion and then came together again as a group, something which worked pretty well. After some interesting discussion. LETs schemes, co-operatives and the like were judged to be within the Market, and not an

Judged to be within the Market, and not an alternative to it, and the same went for many of the social relations reproduced in the squatting movement and "alternative social" relations between consumers and sellers are reproduced in squat bookshops, cafes, distros, concerts etc etc). The conclusion was reached that to escape the tentacles of the Market you have to be self-sufficient (grow your own food, make your own clothes etc) or live in communities where by mutual aid and (non-motary) exchange these needs were covered. The discussion went on to take in themes of industrial development, division of labour, alienation, technology .... And we heard the example of an indigenous people (the pygmy Baka in Cameroon) who had lived beyond the market until they were coerced into selling their labour by a neighbouring ethnic group.

As a mark of the diversity of the Encuentro, another sub-group on "conomic solidarity and alternative conomy" held up LETS schemes and fair trade as the way forward (and reliable sources complained of heavy doses of reformism at other discussion tables). But these glaring contradictions didn't stop the organisers of the Encuentro loudy proclaiming the unity of all present at the closing spectacle (sorry, ceremony), even after a fracas over whether Peter Singer was a fascist had threatened to disrupt the whole shebang.

However a lot of networking did seem to be happening, with coordinated campaigns against the oil industry planned, and the World Trade Organisation 50th anniversary to be targetted in Geneva in February...



### **Euro Pot**

In June the European leaders met for a summit conference in Amsterdam. They called it the EuroTop, but some people with nothing better to do than cause trouble read this as "EU rot op!" which is Dutch for "EU piss offi"

read inis as EU for opi which is Dutch for "EU piss off". While them indoors were signing the Amsterdam Treaty, tightening police cooperation and attacks on migrants, and removing European Court jurisdiction over talk will oder and security matters (treatment of refugees etc.), thousands converged on the city for demos, meetings and fun. On Saturday 14th the Euromarch arrived on the streets, having marched from all corners of the continent against unemployment, exclusion, poverty etc. - the demands of the different contingents varied considerably. Of course there was a large contingent of anarchistis/syndicalists there was a large contingent of anarchists/syndicalists with the cops, lying to make the long of this at level in the cops, lying to make the long of the large with the cops, lying to make the long of the cops, lying to make the long of the cops, lying to make the long of the cops of

A couple of thousand Italians had come on 'hijacked' trains, retusing to pay or to show ID at the borders. Most of them were held in the station until after the demo, and 150 of them never even saw Amsterdam, being arrested for supposedly trashing a carriage and carted off, then put back on the train to return. Those who were left out in the companies of the co

That evening the pissed-up-punks outside the V-ranrijk squat bar attacked passing cars (the first was a stretched linno, but there was no excuse for the others) and then marched off to demand the release of the Italians (who were now back on the train) and get beaten up and nicked. The night before the city had put up the Euromatches at a sports stadium, but those who returned on the Saturday night were surprised to be removed by force by the cops.

Sunday there was a street party, with sound systems, partyers and free grass (in protest at the threat of imposing stupid euror drug lawsy were winding through the streets. At two points it passed through police lines the streets. At two points it passed through police lines to the agreed site the cops tradened to the when it got to the agreed site the cops tradened to the street of the stre

From late afternoon people leaving the Vrankrijk were jumped and nicked round the corner, and when Speople set of to march on the police station against previous arrests they were surrounded and nicked, for the station of the stati

The next afternoon ten thousand Kurds held an unpublicised demo against invisis state human rights abuses and EU plans to allow Turkey to join. Later there was a demo linking the Excluders (the EU leaders meeting in the bank) with the Excluded (refugees being held at the detention centre just outside town). Hundreds of people got on their bites and had a critical mass, going of people got on their bites and had a critical mass, going them off to the detention centre who the same started and them off to the detention centre who the same started when the same state of the same started and the same same started and the same same started and the same start

Back in town a couple of hundred people tried to thank the leaders, bureaucrats etc. for their efforts by going round the holes and cheering. Despite it proceeding lightheartedly for some time, the not cops again suddend closed in and carted everyone off in buses. A few people got away on a passing boat and one guy managed to got away on a passing boat and one guy managed to across the canal, or just angry at yet another police blockade, got surrounded and nicked too.

The next day amazingly an autonome demo against capitalism managed to take place, and even to get to the floral display of the EU flag in the main square and "liberate" the flowers.

Other events over this time included a protest action at the summit press conference around various issues excluded from debate, and eco demo that succeeded in getting to the Bank, but not for long, meetings and conferences, um, loads of stuff l'forgot.

Demos and actions against the mass arrests were held all over Hufland, and all over Europe, including a short occupation of the Dutch embassy in London there are plans by the organisers to charge those in responsible to the plans of the pl



As everybody was getting on the buses to go home in the sweltering heat. a guy from RTS was handing out an inspired piece on networking (or was it his PhD on neurology?) which suggested a way: not one international network but many networks, coming together and diverging... Ple in the sky. or something to get our teeth into?

#### We have supped on pie in the sky and it tested good

On a positive note, as someone who helped organise for the Encuentro and has heard other reports back the network of strugglas that developed out of the lat focusetro, singerior by the struggles of the Appaistes, succeeded in organising the second, and will continue to develop. Just one of the many sections of the Encuentro came up with the following plans of action:

concentral come up with the following plans of action:
1) Action against the Europe of Maastricht and Amsterdam during the first week

 Action against the World Trade Organisation, eg a counter summit on 18-20 February 1998 in Geneva and local actions to coincide with the WTO Geneva meeting in May

3) A day of action against fileophistation and preseriousness of bloom: especially against employment agencies, and for a reduction of work both paid and unpaid. Date to be set by a network being organised.

So stay buried, and contacts through of 8 M-ERL Landom NDN 3XX for Info. Therefore reading and contacts through of the progression of the progre

English language documents from the Encuentro; http://www.geocities.com/Capitolifill/3849/gatherdx.html

#### Solidarity with Albanian Revolt

In April Greece saw a series of attacks on the army in response to their invasion of Albania as part of a European military policing force. (see Black Flag No. 211 for article on the Albanian revolt)

Train tracks leading to the border were destroyed, stopping troop movements for a couple of days, a recruitment centre was attacked, the phones cut and the soldiers held inside for 5 minutes while the place was covered in graffiti, military vehicles burned out in various actions... Other government buildings were also attacked, along with an Italian company office because of Italian military involvement, and various solldarity events and getherings organised.

Of course, Greece is next door to Albania, and Greek anarchos are attacking something at least once a week, but its good to see resistance to these military manoeuvres.