



GREEN *Line*

You know what? This mythical astrology garbage of Nancy's really worries me!

Right on bub! Why can't these dumb broads just leave the defense of Amerika to rational men like us?



No 63 / JUNE 1988 / 60p

- GREENS OVERTAKE SDP
- DENMARK'S 'NATO ELECTION'
- DECENTRALISING THE GREEN PARTY
- ANIMAL RIGHTS DEFENDANT TALKS TO GL



der,

A back of the gremlins this month: on page 3 the continuation of column 1 appears from near the top of column 3 down to the cartoon; the odd half column of text on page 10 is the conclusion to the letter on page 13; in the letter across pages 18 & 19 column 4 should begin half-way down with "... and then followed by the topmost paragraph. Finally Tim Andrewes (page 13) is only a prospect candidate for the Euro Elections.

Our apologies, and we hope this doesn't stop you enjoying the mag.



GREEN Line

34 COWLEY ROAD, OXFORD OX4 1HZ
TEL: 0865 245301

THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE OF
GREEN POLITICS AND LIFESTYLE

No 63 / JUNE 1988 / 60p

GREEN LINE is published ten times a year, and is produced by a collective based in Oxford. Green Line appears thanks to the efforts of Carole Guberman, Barry Maycock, Graham Hooper and Jerry Spring. Thanks especially to all those who help collate the mag, look stamps and stuff envelopes - but who don't get a proper mention. You wouldn't get your copy without their work. If any other readers can offer help of any kind then we are always pleased to hear from you. Phone Jerry on 0865 724375
Cover design Jerry Spring (Cancer)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Normal rate £6, low/unwaged £5, voluntary hi-waged "supporter subscription" £10. The "supporter" rate helps build our publishing fund (we are all unpaid); and our thanks go out to all who have contributed as supporters. Overseas readers please add £1.50 to all rates (surface mail) or enquire about airmail rates to your area.

BULK ORDERS

5-9 copies only 50p each; 10 or more only 45p each - post free. Send cash with order first time, please; after that, if you want a regular standing order, we'll give you a month to pay. For special occasions like demos or big meetings, we'll supply you sale or return. Normally, however, we do not supply sale-or-return on monthly orders. Normal trade arrangements apply to shops etc.

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DEADLINES

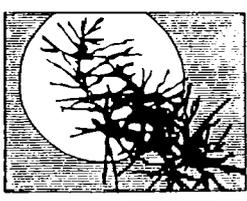
The next issue is due out on JULY 1ST. We need all news, articles, small ads etc by 15th June. In general all articles are read and discussed at a meeting of the collective in the middle of each month.

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SUSTAINING AND SUSTAINABLE - guide to living healthily, free of exploitation of humans and other animals. With menus and recipes. 75p inc postage.

WHOLE NEW WAYS. Imaginative vegan recipes using only ingredients that could be grown in the UK. 75p inc postage. The two booklets together £1.30 inc postage. FOOD FOR EVERYONE. Ten A4 display sheets on the importance of plant foods in solving world food problems £1.00 inc postage.

All from Movement for Compassionate Living the Vegan Way, 47 Highlands Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey

GROWING OUR OWN by Kathleen Jannaway. How to grow healthy food with minimum labour and no artificials or animal products 35p+15p p&p. Movement for Compassionate Living the Vegan Way, 47 Highlands Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey.

STONEHENGE - Beautiful handmade, 4 colour screen print, (approx 20"x15") saying simply "We want our stones back". Send £1.75 (bulk orders discount: 2-5=10%, 5-10=20%, over 10=30%) Send cheque /P.O. /stamps to Paul Whymark, 37 Divinity Rd, Oxford OX4 1LH

IF A HOME-BAKED, home-produced wholefood breakfast appeals to you more than ensuite bathrooms and colour TV, you'll be welcome in my thatched village cottage and smallholding between Dartmoor and Exmoor. B&B £7.50 per person. Phone Margaret Cruft, Morchard Bishop (03837) 499

FOURTH GHANDI SUMMER SCHOOL: An application of Gandhian principles to the solution of current problems. To be held at The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, nr. Abingdon, Oxfordshire. 24th-30th July 1988.

Ghandian practices each day and application of principles to Northern Ireland, Inner Cities, Central America etc.
Camping - Indoor cooking. Cost £50 inclusive.
Information from Betty Clarke, The Ghandi Foundation, Kingsley Hall, Powis Rd, London E3 3HJ. Tel: 01 981 5017/7628

COUPLE, EARLY 40'S, 3 children (1 girl 10 and 13, boy 8) seek similar situation to share reclamation and joint ownership of small homestead (1 ha) in central Hampshire. Aims to establish cooperative venture gradually with separate accomodation. Capital required but interest in sustainable organic agri/ horticulture and a practical 'Green' outlook on life most important. Tel (0705) 825498 8 to 9pm only or write to John and Clare Aurio, 130 Francis Avenue, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 0ER

NATIONAL GREEN STUDENT MAGAZINE. Green Students have established over the last year an efficient network organisation. Part of this network is the publishing of a magazine three times a year.

Its aims are to further stimulate the growth of the green student movement and provide a forum for different groups to link their previously separate concerns.

It will combine news, events and discussions. Articles are welcome on peace, environmental, feminist, green, Third World, education, employment, animal rights, labour, lesbian and gay rights, eco-socialist, lifestyle, international angles etc.

The deadline for all information is 28th September. It's out 11th November. Send to Green Soc., Leeds University Union, PO N.Box 157, Leeds LS1 1UH.

RURAL COMMUNITY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS. Interested in communal living, organic farming and/or helping to run a wholefood shop? Crabapple does all these and more, and is in need of new adult members (not particularly looking for more kids though). No capital or experience required. Write for details to Berrington Hall, Berrington, Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

RETURN OF THE MAYFLOWER. Latest Prana tape - one hour of new live music and chants. £6.50 incl p&p from Tangelynen, Cwm Cau, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed (0239) 710088

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FAIR EXCHANGE: Norwich & Norfolk's Alternative Magazine. 28 pages of News, Articles, Information Plus Comprehensive Country-wide Festivals Diary. 50p & Large S.A.E. to: Fair Exchange, Development and Environment Centre, 38 Exchange St, Norwich

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GREEN PARTY ON THE MOVE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

RECENT district elections, the greens fielded 393 candidates, of which 355 were in England, 1 in Wales and 37 in Scotland. The overall total is some 40 more than fielded by the continuing SDP. It appeared on polling day that we had just over 400 candidates, but a number of Local Parties seem to lose candidates late in the day. 77 Local Parties stood candidates, an average of 5.1 apiece, and the great majority of those that had local elections last year put up an increased number this time. There were only four full slates in the end - Southampton with 15, Exeter 12, Bath 18, and Norwich 16 - Stookport and Hastings just missing out due to last minute slip-ups.

• The Results

Setting the tone for the election evening were the first results in, from Tunbridge Wells, who had scored two 9% and doubled their average share of the vote relative to 1987. The best news of the evening came from elsewhere in the South, where the Stroud Green Party gained another two Councillors taking our

NEWS COMMENT

Out East, Norwich's full-slate averaged 5.1% with Denise Carlo who has been very active locally, producing a Ward Newsletter, getting 13.2%. Norwich put together a very impressive manifesto for these elections, as did Huntingdon GP whose 7 candidates averaged 12.1% of the vote, although largely in three cornered contests. Huntingdon also got two members elected to Parish Councils. In this vein Penny Kemp retained her Parish Council seat as well as getting 10% of the District vote in Headcorn, Kent.

Up North - On Merseyside Mike Money, standing for the first time in Ellesmere Port and Neston D.C. got 13.7% coming second out of three and beating Labour after a 50% canvass, and in the same area G.L. Nicholls achieved 10.9% in a three way contest having done a 25% canvass. Southport's 7 candidates averaged 4.7%. In Lancashire Steve Barker took 14.8% in a five candidate run-off in the depths of Oldham, compared to 4.7% against only three other candidates last year. Peter Hornby, to my knowledge the only Green party candidate we've ever had in Burnley got 11.3% in another five-way contest, beating the SLD. Over in Yorkshire and Humberside we were also doing well. Nick Harvey more than doubled his vote from 5.4% to 14% this time, in Huddersfield. Calderdale fielded their first three candidates this time, and got 9.5% in Calder Valley, and 9.3% in Skircoat, Halifax. Hull Green Party put up 5 candidates who averaged 5.4%.

Over the border, Highland Green Party (who, according to my map, and for those who love all these statistics I'm churning out, cover a geographical area some 11-12 times larger than Greater London) came within 51 votes of having Scotland's first Green District Councillor. Mike Gregson took 45.5% of the poll against the sitting Independent Councillor in Ardersier and Petty (Inverness). George Campbell got 21%, in Mountblow, Clydebank, in a three-way contest for this solid working-class Labour seat never previously contested by the Greens. In Dundee, Pamela Ross took 18% in another three-cornered contest after a 25% canvass. Glasgow did extremely well, 5 of their 9 candidates polling over 5%, and pushing the SLD into last place in North Kelvin and Woodlands Wards

with shares of 7.0% and respectively in five-cornered contests.

total representation to three on a Council in which no party has overall control. Sue Nicholson took 58% of the vote in Nailsworth Ward against an Independent, whilst in Central Ward Martin Baxendale achieved 34% in beating Labour, Tory and SLD opposition. Both seats were formerly held by the Conservatives.

In Bath, Gavin Withers quadrupled the Green vote in Bathwick Ward, taking 21.5% of the vote and catapulting the Party into second place ahead of the SLD (11.5%) and Labour (9%). Derek Wall came third in Walcot with 11.7%, beating the SLD and suffering angry attacks from Labour who lost by 70 votes compared to his 224. These were just the more noteworthy of a spectacular set of Bath results which saw the full-slate of 18 candidates average 6.23%, and 7 score over 7% - all in four cornered contests.



Overall, our average share of the vote in those seats where there were four or more candidates was 4.3%. This compares with 3.1% for the last strictly comparable set of results in 1984, 3.4% in the 1985 County elections, 3.4% in 1986, and 3.6% in 1987. Of some 339 results for which I have the percentages 30% are over 5% compared to 21% in 1984 and 25% (previous highest) in 1987. It would appear that along with some excellent individual and particular Council area results, an important advance has been made across a broad front - both in England and Scotland.

We beat 4 Conservatives, 8 Labour, 12 SLD, 22 SDP, and 13 others. This gives a total of 48 'major' Party candidates out-pollled - equal to 1987 when we were aided by preferential voting in a lot more multi-seat contests. We were clearly advantaged in this respect by the demise of the erstwhile Alliance. To what extent this may have helped our overall vote is not clear at present. Nevertheless, these figures will be very useful in our continuing bid to get a separate listing in the Opinion Polls, given that the SDP do: we gained as many seats as they

GREEN DESERT TECHNOLOGY: Spain, sun, purpose, good company; guests £80/week; working visitors (work 24hrs) £20-25/week; Full details £1 from Unit G, 22 Godesdone Rd, Cambridge CB5 8HR

FESTIVAL LISTS (free). Tree fairs, Green, folk, free festivals etc. Send S.A.E. to STONE, 45 Westwood Hill, London SE26 6NS

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TIPIS Handmade to the traditional Sioux design. Also 'Tipl Living', 40 pages illustrated. £2 inc p&p. Patrick & Co, Dove Workshops, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8TL (0458) 50682

ACCOMODATION - Sussex Green Party member does B&B at £8. Camping at £1 per night. SAE details. Some work available locally - send £1 for details. SHAMROCK, 50 Brassey Avenue, Eastbourne, BN22 9QH

NEWLY ESTABLISHED CO-OPERATIVE seeks members. We have 18 acres productive organic farmland, sheep, chickens, 10 acres wood, river bank and a magnificent vicarage. You would need £15,000+ capital, some income, and ability to work on land and/or buildings. Catwood Co-operative, Old Vicarage Farm, Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed; (0239) 710020



did, 2, but we didn't lose any! The final tally now stands at 5 in Party District Councilors; 3 in Stroud and 1 each in Malvern Hills and Woodspring (Avon). In addition there are two independent greens, in West Devon D.C. and Torridge.

• Key Lessons

Those candidates who prospered were those who'd done somewhat more than sourry round with a leaflet in the last couple of weeks before polling. Clearly, persistence and continuity at the ballot-box are starting to pay off as more and more people become aware of the eminently sensible things we are saying. As if it wasn't obvious enough already, however, the public also want to vote for people who are worthy, capable, and prepared to put work-rate where their mouth is. This is even more likely to be the case with a small, relatively new party, with no track record in office. There is no easy road to success, but some have shown this year that getting stuck into greening their local community can start to pay noticeable dividends within a relatively short space of time.

Local by-elections

A number took place on May 5th too, and there's more good news. In Brent, where the local party was contesting only its second election, the high profile of Dave Bradney, that inflatable planet Earth which did Hackney proud, and a 35% canvass by the activists, secured 5.5% of the vote. This in a close fought by-election caused by the resignation of Merle Amory, first black woman leader of a Council in the UK. Labour lost heavily to the SLD, but still control the Council and are being pressurized by Brent Greens to adopt a 'Green Agenda' say they're really as green as they say they are. Meanwhile, Peter Bysouth got 7.5%, 189 votes (more than the Conservative majority over SLD) in a by-election for East Herts D.C.

• Many thanks to CHRIS ROSE, GP Elections Coordinator, for the above information

PASSING KINGS CROSS?

For the latest books and mags on ecology, anarchism, animal lib, gay and peace, pop into **Housmans**, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, 01-837 4473 (we also do mail order)



LIVING GREEN

GRAHAM HOOPER writes:

PESTICIDE-FREE LIVING GUIDE

Croydon FoE have produced a booklet "Towards Pesticide Free Living", a guide to living without them in your garden, in the home, in your food and elsewhere. As well as advising on how to cut out these dangerous chemicals in makes a handy short guide to organic gardening and organic food.

Croydon FoE have also produced a leaflet on the dangers of conventional domestic timber treatments, advising on more ecologically sound approaches to timber preservation. Both the booklet and the leaflet are available from Croydon FOE, 39 Cliff End, Purley, Surrey CR2 1BP, 01 660 1617.

GREEN PAGES

Now you can let your fingers do the walking the green way, with the publication of the alternative directory "Green Pages". Printed on green recycled paper, this book gives a comprehensive and practical guide to all aspects of green living, almost everything from aerosols and anti-apartheid to work and wholefoods. It makes an excellent reference book for green matters and contains hundreds of book reviews and details of green suppliers and organizations, as well as plenty of practical advice.

It is published by Optima at a price of £9.99. Look out for it at your local radical bookshop and see if you can get it into the local library. Further information about it from Clare Tizard, 01 377 4981.

SAVOURY CRUMBLE

Filling:-
 Mixed vegetables, chopped/sliced and fried until slightly tender with sunflower seeds, herbs (I like basil and marjoram). Add some water/stock, tomato puree and soy sauce or yeast extract to make a gravy. Put the mixture in an oiled baking dish.
Crumble:-
 Mixture of 1 part chopped nuts, 1

part porridge oats, 1 part wholemeal flour, 1 1/2 parts vegetable margarine, salt to taste.
 Melt the margarine and mix in the dry crumble ingredients and perhaps a drop of water to make it slightly sticky. Put on top of filling in the baking dish and bake at 350°F or Gas Mark 3 for about half an hour. Enjoy with potatoes and veg. or with side salad.

GREEN DIARY

JUNE

- 5th. World Environment Day. Anything happening?
- 11th-19th. National Bike Week, including Potholes Day of Action on 13th. Details: FOE 26-28 Underwood St., London N1 7JQ, 01 490 1555.
- 12th. People's Demonstration against the Poll Tax and anniversary of the Peasants' Revolt. Blackheath, London SE3.
- 14th. Cycle convoy to Stonehenge. Phone 01 274 6655
- 15th. The Academic Inn, 24 Abercorn Place, London NW8, 6.30pm. Marion Shoard - author of The Theft of the Countryside - talking on "A People's Countryside".
- 16th. Soweto Day. International day of action. Surround the South African Embassy, Trafalgar Square.
- 17th-26th. Stonehenge Free Festival, Salisbury Plain. Come in peace.
- 18th-19th. Women's Gathering on War and Violence. See Network for details.
- 19th. Forest Alert: FOE Day of Action. Details FOE, 01 490 1555.
- 24th-26th. Animal Aid's second Living Without Cruelty Exhibition. Alternatives to animal abuse in our lifestyles. Kensington Town Hall, London. Fri. 11am-9pm, sat. 10.30am-9pm, sun. 10.30am-7pm. £2/1.50.
- 25th. Yorks & Humbs. Greens Day Conference in York on 'Greening the City'. Phone (0904) 414943
- 26th. Peace Picnic at Sylvia Pankhurst's Memorial in Woodford Green. Organized by Wanstead and Woodford Women for Peace. Meet at 12.00 at the Post Office, Johnson Road, off High Street, Woodford Green.
- 26th-July 1st. British Army Equipment Exhibition, Aldershot. Details of protest in Network and Peace News
- Also around 26th. Rainbow Warriors Marches to Reclaim the Plain. Confirmed date and details not yet out; keep your eyes open.
- 28th. The Future of the Tropical Rain Forest: public meeting in conjunction with major international conference on TRF in Oxford. Town Hall, St. Aldates, Oxford, 8pm. Speakers include reps. from Malaysian environmental movement, World Bank, Timber Trade Federation and FOE. Free.

JULY

- 1st-3rd. Education Otherwise Camping Weekend, Christchurch Campsite, Forest of Dean, Glos. £1.50/80p kids. Details: Isabel or Bob, Tewkesbury 292978.
- 2nd. AGM of Hembury Greens at Church Farm Gardens, Bessingby, Bridlington 10-4pm. Phone (0262) 603593



NETWORK

VEGAN COMMUNITY PROJECT

Are there any vegans out there interested in living in a community? If so the Vegan Community Project would like to hear from you. Who are the VCP? To quote from their leaflet that they sent to us:-

"The Vegan Community Project exists to:

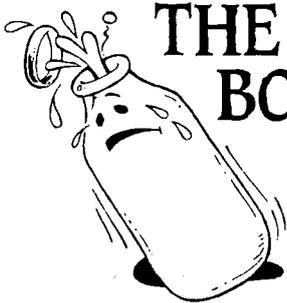
- (1) form a contact network between people who are interested in living in a vegan community;
- (2) establish one or more vegan communities.

The aim is for all members to be actively involved: by contacting each other, contributing to newsletters and gatherings, and taking an active role in establishing communities.

VCP itself has no set ideas about what 'type' of community is the ideal: it incorporates all the varied ideas of its members. Some people want to live in their own house, with other vegans as their neighbours: the "vegan village" concept. They may seek the companionship of like-minded people; vegan playmates for their children; the practical and ecological benefits of co-operation, such as bulk food purchase, sharing tools equipment and skills. Other people want to share a roof with other vegans, having their own private room(s), but also communal areas, and perhaps sharing meals, housework and child-care. A few would go further and share income, work, vehicles and other major possessions. Some people like the idea of forming their own playgroup and school, of sharing land for vegan organic food production, or of working together on a vegan business such as a shop, cafe, bakery, holiday centre, conference centre, market garden. There are those who want to work towards vegan self-sufficiency and demonstrate how many of our needs can be met by plant products. Others would like to establish some sort of centre for the promotion of a vegan lifestyle. Some, of course, just want to live with or near to other vegans!

Since its tentative beginnings in Autumn 1986, VCP has advertised, sent out newsletters, drawn up a detailed contacts list and held several meetings. A few are underway, and if you are interested, send an SAE to Liz Taylor, 14 Tai Victoria, Mantle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, Cymru, LL54 6BP."

GIVE BOTTLE THE BOOT



go Vegan!

SWEDISH CAMPS

Late notice of some Summer camps with the Swedish Green Party. Celebrate Midsummer among the birches of Varmland (June 18-25)! Escape the midgets in the lake at Bockaberg (June 17-24)! Go beyond the Arctic Circle to Ammaras to meet the Sami people (July 29- Aug 5)! Sounds like a good time will be had by all. Contact Kicki Bobacka at Miljopartiet de Grona, Box 1244, 221 05, Lund, Sweden. Prices range from 600 to 900 Skr for a week with the usual reductions offered for children etc. Alternatively, you can take the Campaintrain round Sweden for 2000 Skr, departures between Aug 4-13.

EVIDENCE ON FILM

Concord Films have recently acquired two Granada 'World in Action' documentaries concerned with environmental issues in Britain; good material to kick off those meetings.

'The Planning Game' examines the legal loopholes which allow people - especially the rich and powerful - to build what they like on supposedly protected land. It is claimed that developers are using more and more dubious methods to get sites, including threatening letters. 75,000 acres of countryside are lost under concrete each year.

'Poison on Tap' looks at Britain's tap water (see also Network, GL61). A third of the population is unhappy with it and medical researchers have found that it is polluted by a whole range of poisons, including nitrates and lead. These could be posing a serious threat to public health.

Both films last 28 minutes and cost £179.00 to buy or £11.30 to hire (inc p&p). Details of these films and other videos from Concord Films Council Ltd, 201 Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich, Suffolk P3 9BJ. Send £2.50 for catalogue of 3,000 titles.

Think Globally Act Locally 

FIFE AID

Following the Live Aid in 1985 a trust was formed in Fife to try and build on the public spirit generated by Live Aid. The latest event is Fife Aid 2: Festival for the Future to be held on July 23 in Craigtown Country CPark, St Andrews, Fife. There will be music, dance and theatre plus stalls covering local and global issues of poverty, development and environment. The money generated will go towards third world development and local charities. Contact Fife Aid, St Mary's Place, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, KY16 9UY, tel (0334) 74077

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NETWORK

GETTING LABOUR TO JOIN US

THE GREEN and Socialist Conference was a tremendous success. It had to be. The four hundred or so people who met in London on the weekend of May 14/15 knew this was a historic moment, and knew that they had to give their all. Almost without exception, they did.

Of course, there were misgivings. You had to overcome the Tony Benn phenomenon, for example. It looked as if it was very possible for some dogs to learn new tricks - Ken Livingstone, for instance, gave a faultless green speech (or was this just an alternative persona? Did we see the 'real Ken' at Chesterfield, or was this the unmasking? We shall wait for Chesterfield 2 to see!). But Benn? With the best will in the world - and it was clear he really was full of the best will - I was left with the feeling that really he could only visualise us joining him. Really, I think we all wanted to feel part of something new.

Still, 'Labourism' (the new dirty word) was given very short shrift throughout the conference by greens and reds alike. It was easy: there were virtually no Labourites there. The lefties from Haringey, Brent and Liverpool, the trade unionists from the steelworkers' and miners' unions - all stayed away. Robin Cook was there for a few hours on the Saturday, and jolly uncomfortable he looked too, chattering away barely audible in his workshop, avoiding people's eyes. Whatever the rhetoric about not being divisive, about keeping this re-alignment out of parliamentary politics, about Green and Labour

Parties campaigning together at the local level (Benn's ideal!), I think most of us felt that this was really something quite different, and we didn't want established parliamentarians or politicians giving us labels or putting us in our place.



"Look! I'll even give up using metal toast racks!"

Greens, socialist or otherwise, cannot believe that the Labour Party has anything to offer them from its present resource of "leaders" and policies. Indeed, the experience we have had with the Labour Party in recent years, its hypocrisy, duplicity and ineffectual gerrymanderings, is enough to put anyone off the idea of a parliamentary road at all. Is it realistic to expect anything green to

come out of a political party? Or is the way ahead along a path of decentralist, autonomous green-socialist initiatives and organisation? The lesson of this conference may well be that greens should steer clear of structures and organisations which offer only the kiss of death to those who join, and should start looking - in partnership with their equally disillusioned friends who are breaking away from the edges of the socialist movement - for new ways of organising for change.

I hover between this sentiment, and the other unspoken heresy which nevertheless underlies the whole concept of these meetings. That is, of course, the possibility of a NEW party - a green socialist party which would simply ignore the death throes of Labour, or the New Age obsessions of some greens, and set an agenda for ecological change on the basis of the global redistribution of wealth and resources, a sustainable economy, and a holistic relationship with the rest of the living world. Perhaps such a party would grow out of the Green Party as we know it. I came away from London with a picture of a poster in my mind: on it was the following slogan...

FOR A SOCIALIST PAST, JOIN THE LABOUR PARTY...
FOR A SOCIALIST FUTURE, JOIN THE GREEN PARTY

• Jon Carpenter

MONEY THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Looking Glass Housing Co-Operative are looking for ethical investment-minded people to invest in their housing project. To quote from their promotional leaflet:

"Our co-op exists to provide homes for tenants who, under the rules, must also be members of the co-op and as such have complete control and responsibility for their living environment. There is no landlord ripping off the tenants. Nor, as with private ownership, can tenants gain from rising house prices. Any co-op profits must be used to provide more housing for other homeless people and not to benefit the present

tenants. Thus our co-op provides a progressive alternative to the exploitative potential of both landlord/tenant and private ownership arrangements".

The housing co-op is also connected with the Manchester Mutual Aid Project, which aims to promote an alternative healthier lifestyle by setting up a resource centre. Various courses, a vegan cafe, craft workshops and a meeting place for groups are planned.

Anyone interested in investing in these schemes should write to: The Secretary, Looking Glass Co-Operative Ltd., 8 Belvoir Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3AN.



**YOU HOLD THE KEY TO WINNING!
DON'T SHIRK YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PLANET!
SIGN UP NOW!**

NEW GREEN GROUPS IN YORKSHIRE

Driffield, East Yorkshire, has now got an active, campaigning green group, co-ordinators: **Tim & Suzanne Wellbourn**, 21 George St, Driffield, North Humberside, tel (0377) 43885
In Scarborough a new local Green

Party, linking with other groups, will be focusing particularly on North Sea dumping. Contact Paul Gissing, 26 Croydon St, Scarborough, North Yorks, tel (0723) 368489



INFIGHTING

THE ASSAULT last December on Gill Langley, Animal Aid's scientific advisor, has been reported in most animal rights magazines, which have all made a point of stressing the connection between Terry McManus, the alleged attacker, and the famous author and anti-vivisectionist Hans Ruesch: the outspoken beliefs of the latter, to the effect that Langley and her husband are vivisectionist infiltrators, are said to have inspired the attack. Ruesch is thus pilloried as a fanatic who incites 'disciples' to commit acts of violence. This has now become the accepted view: and points to a desperate need for an independent animal rights magazine which could put forward alternative 'unofficial' ideas about what is going on (a task perhaps for the newly formed Federation?). After all, it is one thing to condemn the attack, quite another to use the incident to discredit Ruesch, who had nothing whatever to do with it: indeed, in a letter to Gill Langley he writes: "You ask, and I hereby give you, my unequivocal condemnation of the use of violence", while he adds in a postscript, "of course I also advise my correspondents not to commit burglary or robbery. But I do advise them to leave nothing untried to expose the phonies in our movement who keep vivisection going."

People who were not necessarily pro or anti-Ruesch were angry that Terry had been named and judged (in BUAV's 'Liberator' for instance) though he had not yet been tried; and he is bracketed with Ruesch in the course of a frothing diatribe of an editorial in Animal Aid's 'Outrage!' which concludes: "a thug is a thug is a thug." There is no sense here of Terry as a person of sincerity and commitment, who has been active in animal rights campaigning for many years, and who has incidentally written to Gill Langley apologising for the attack. He is simply presented as a creature of Ruesch, this puppeteer who pulls the strings from behind the scenes! Significantly enough, this is close to the same charge of 'incitement' that the State has brought against the ALF Supporters Group for producing literature which might have 'inspired' direct action.

A mere personal feud involving Langley and Ruesch should best be left to the protagonists, but there are wider issues here which have a bearing on the whole nature of the antivivisection campaign. Ruesch's 'Slaughter Of The Innocent' (and the later 'Naked Empress') gave a dramatic boost to the abolitionist cause; the author could see that the age-old ethical arguments against vivisection had got nowhere because they have always been countered by a 'superior' ethical position: that in the end we have to face a choice between 'our child or our dog'. Ruesch put the question of 'ethics' to one side, and attacked animal experimentation from a scientific and medical viewpoint, demonstrating in great detail how these experiments are both useless and dangerous: in fact that we could best look after both 'our children and our dogs' by abolishing vivisection altogether, and immediately.

His books shook not only the vivisection industry but also the established animal welfare societies, who were exposed as less than committed abolitionists, advocates of slow reform, restrictions on 'useless' experiments, and eventual abolition only in the misty utopian future. The 'reformist' argument - that some experiments have been necessary, and continue to be necessary - provides the opening whereby the whole of the vivisection business can go charging through. Also, Ruesch is scathing about 'alternatives' which end up legitimising research, and which enable vivisectionists to lead their opponents down the usual blind alleys. Ruesch's outspoken attacks on the antivivisection establishment, which he thought had become extensively infiltrated by the vivisection industry, created bitter divisions, shock waves whose ripples are still being felt today.

What has angered many people about the current controversy is the attempt to blacken Ruesch's name when he has converted so many to the antivivisection cause, and inspired countless others. There may be 'fanatics' who are obsessed with infiltration theories, but there are many more campaigners who are genuinely troubled by the attacks on Ruesch, even more by their inexplicable vehemence. Does Ruesch really demand uncritical adulation from 'disciples', as is alleged? It is surely possible to criticise his work constructively while remaining enthusiastic about his contribution to the antivivisection cause, which has been immense and incalculable. His books avoid the usual mess of ethical abstractions and woolly generalisations: he deals in specifics, names the vivisectionists, the money they earn, the firms they work for - since vivisection is above all big business. 'Science' and 'research'

do not float around in space; we need to know who exactly is doing this 'science', who is controlling funding the 'research', and for what purpose.

Those who prefer calm restraint and understatement may be offended by Ruesch, whose books are unashamedly polemical: to respond fully to his books it is necessary to be seized by the same passion - the white-hot and uncompromising rage that will sweep away, and sooner rather than later, the black crime of vivisection.

• Barry Maycock.

[See: Hans Ruesch's Slaughter of the Innocent and Naked Empress, available from Civis, PO Box 302, London N8 9HD. Also the fascinating Civis Bulletin - in Nr. 1 which describes the impact of the two books, and why the established antivivisection societies either ignored them, or violently attacked them.]



CRIMINAL DAMAGE?

Gari Allen and Lesley Phipps, charged with criminal damage to foxes at Cocksparrow fur farms (by spraying their fur with a harmless dye) and also conspiring to damage the car of a poultry farmer, have been sentenced to 2 and a half years in prison, and 15 months respectively. The most recent addresses we have for Gari and Lesley are: Gari Allen W82615, HM Prison, Winson Green Road, Birmingham, B18 4AS. Lesley Phipps, T82607, HM Remand Centre, Puckchurch, Bristol, BS17 3QJ.

* In October 1987, the 'Independent' revealed that, taking £5,000 as an average cost of a year's hunting for most followers, of whom there are about 200,000, who kill about 15,000 foxes annually, each fox costs a staggering £650,000. (From 'Turning Point' Jan-March).

* 'Fox Cubs' is highly recommended; it is a magazine produced quarterly and aimed at 7-14 year olds, covering a variety of issues from factory farming to the fur trade, but mainly based around opposition to hunting. It contains competitions, stories, letters, games, etc. There is obviously a lot of scope here, as children empathise so completely with helpless and vulnerable creatures. Membership is £3 per annum. Write to 'Fox Cubs', PO Box 87, Exeter, Devon.



JUNE 4: Day of Action against Boots, called by Co-ordinating Animal Welfare, 0272 4689.

JUNE 4: The first Living Without Cruelty Exhibition, Oxford. Organised by the Campaign for a Cruelty Free Oxford, it will be held at the New Road Baptist Church, 12-4pm, and consist of stalls, videos, vegan food, etc. Contact: Richard Whitehead, Oxford 714131.

JUNE 11: Leicester Against Biohazard. March and rally, 11am Victoria Park, Leicester.

JUNE 11: Day of Action against the fur trade: contact London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

JUNE 13: Picket outside the Old Bailey in support of Andrew Clarke and Geoff Sheppard.

JUNE 18: On this day the first National Anti-Angling Day will take place - two days after the start of the coarse fishing season (16th June - 14th March). Organised by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling (CAA), with the active support of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, the main aim of the day is to concentrate public attention on the neglected bloodsport of angling. Groups and individuals are urged to keep this date free for anti-angling activities. The CAA will provide supporting publicity by contacting all local and national newspapers plus radio and TV.

At 4.30pm on June 18th, the CAA will be contacting the Press Association with details of activities that took place throughout the country. Please ring the CAA between 3.30 and 4.30 on 0732 351995 with brief details of your events. For campaigning ideas, material and information contact CAA, PO Box 14, Romsey SO5 0NN.

JUNE 24-26: The second Living Without Cruelty Exhibition, Kensington Town Hall, London W8. Price £2.00, unwaged £1.50. For details contact 7 Castle Street, Tonbridge (0732) 364546.



WAYS OF PROTESTING

IT IS a truism (though it needs restating from time to time) that real change comes in and through struggle rather than simply through 'consciousness-raising' and the slow spread of enlightened ideas, which in any case soon come up against the thick blank wall of entrenched vested interests. In the peace movement it is the local groups who can best undertake that struggle, providing that they sense their own autonomy, and truly grasp, within their own hands as it were, the creative possibilities of a campaign unimpeded by any central direction. Splitting the campaign, or 'decentralising' it, into its diverse groupings will not harm but strengthen it: religious peace witnesses can carry on with their 'witnessing', parliamentary lobbyists can lobby, while others can get stuck into direct action without being dragged back by the dead weight of other, very different perspectives.

Large set-piece events (like Aldermaston) currently take place to justify CND's existence as a live campaigning force, though this aspect of its task has long been irrelevant: as an organisation it should by now be concentrating on the sort of thing it can do best, the research and investigation that can expose all aspects of the nuclear state - while in the meantime funding the campaigns of autonomous local groups. A federation of such groups could then emerge which would produce its own magazine to provide critical comment, less uncontroversially dull than 'Sanity', 'Peace News', 'Southern Resister', and all the rest. Whether this is realistic - whether the energy and commitment is actually there - is another matter: perhaps if it were it would have manifested itself by now. Part of the problem is the confusion that has arisen because opposition to the nuclear state has been muddled and intersected by very different notions of what constitutes a 'peace' movement - one which seems to be urging 'peace' on an already passive population. A true peace movement would of course be urging people to be extremely unpeaceful! The next few years will hopefully see these contradictory aspects unravelling once again back into their component parts, which will function



NEWS ON SEALS

It looks like the Canadian baby harp and hooded seal hunts are being stopped. After years of pressure from the International Fund for Animal Welfare and other anti-sealing campaigners, the Canadian Government set up a Royal Commission on Seals and the Sealing Industry in 1984 with a mandate to recommend a new marine mammal policy in Canada. In its report, delivered in 1986, the Royal Commission made two important recommendations:-

1) that the commercial hunting of the pups of harp seals and hooded

seals is widely unacceptable to the public and should not be permitted; 2) that, in view of the suffering involved, the Government should take action with a view to phasing out, as rapidly as possible, the netting of seals.

At the end of last year Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced the implementation of these and other recommendations.

Meanwhile, off the West Coast of Scotland, fish farmers have been illegally shooting thousands of seals, according to the Scottish Scenic Trust. At the moment, farmers with gun licences can shoot seals provided they can show that they threaten their fish stocks

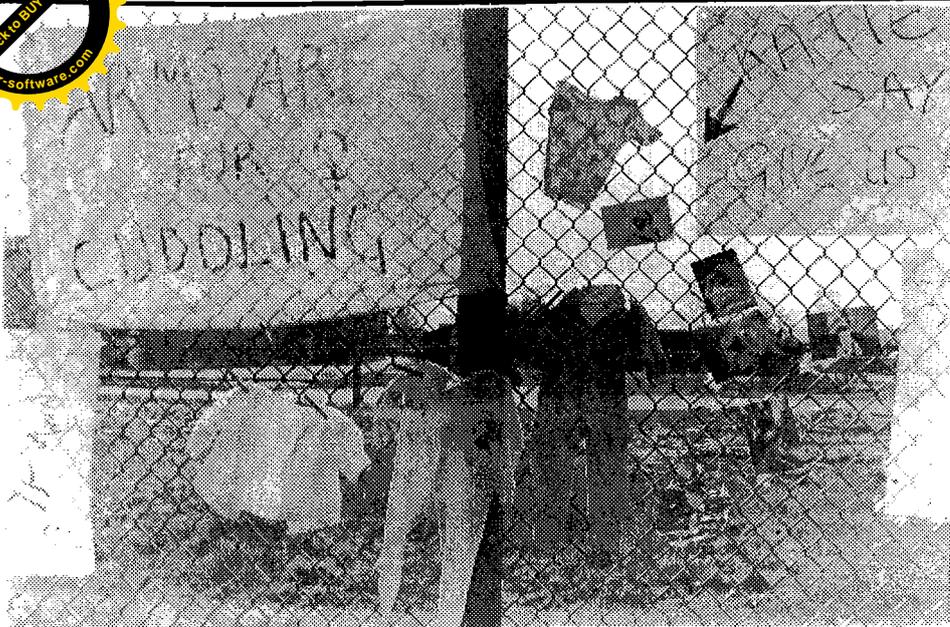
TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

THE TRIAL of the ALF Supporters Group Three - Press Officer Robin Lane, Treasurer Sally Carr, printer Tony Collins - was still not concluded as Green Line went to press. None of the three has been linked, however indirectly, with any specific offence; the general charge of 'incitement' refers to the ALF SG literature they helped to produce, the leaflets, the factsheets, the Diary of Actions. The trial is ridiculous enough, but it has a sinister and dangerous aspect: a conviction and a harsh sentence would set a precedent for the suppression of information and opinion with respect to particular campaigns that the state doesn't like.

It was strange to witness the prosecution producing in court material which Green Line itself has

printed in past issues, though none of it has yet 'incited' any member of the jury to commit horrible crimes! Before the trial, Robin Lane told Green Line how angry he was about the charge, as he had gone to great lengths to work through solicitors and make sure everything that the SG produced was within the law. He wishes now that he hadn't bothered!

The police have been extraordinarily incompetent throughout, taking away as evidence all sorts of inconsequential trivia, including one of Robin's 'O' Level English essays, grocery lists, and even blank sheets of paper - on which someone, presumably, may have thought about writing something 'inciting'! Love and good wishes go out to Sally, Tony and Robin from us at GL: may the animal abusers who are behind this trial get their comeuppance as a result.



better together in the form of loose coalitions and federations, rather than under some centralised direction.

Meanwhile this is the story of a group who did actually have some fun at Aldermaston...

• BIRTH OF THE BLACK BLOCK?

IN THE WEEKS running up to **CND's** Easter demonstration at least 2 different types of leaflets had been circulating amongst anarchist and direct action groups suggesting that our opposition to the nuclear state should be shown in stronger terms than **CND's** 'symbolic' protest.

On the day about 150 anarchists gathered at Aldermaston's south-west corner and the results were, to say the least, encouraging.

The fun started early on when the arrival of Lady Olga Maitland led to scuffles between anarchists and her supporters (members of the pro-nuclear, pro-MATO Families For Defence). A letter of support which Lady Olga intended to hand to the base commander was snatched from her together with a large number of press releases she had prepared. This intimidation was kept up throughout the day and eventually police escorted her party away to avoid further disturbances.

By early afternoon, people felt confident enough to have a go at the base itself and large sections of fence were cut and pulled down. The anarchist 'block' displayed a good degree of organisation and co-ordination - boltcutters and balaclavas appeared, people pulled down sections of fence and moved on quickly, swapping coats to alter their appearances. The group stuck together and police were unable to identify or snatch individuals. When police began arriving in large numbers, people dispersed quickly and at this stage there were no arrests.

For a while **CND's** passive protest went on undisturbed until word went round that an action was planned at 3.30pm at the far side of the base. Once again anarchists gathered quickly and the fence was repeatedly damaged by large numbers of people who the police inside the base were powerless to stop.

As people dispersed to get coaches, police moved in and at least 6 people were arrested while others were searched for cutters and balaclavas.

We were very pleased with the day's events for several reasons. Firstly it was shown that anarchists can act effectively in large numbers on demos, and secondly because our actions were, on the whole, well received by **CND** protesters, many of whom clapped and cheered as the fences came down whilst a few even joined in. It must by now be obvious to many anti-nuclear activists that 30 years of **CND** marches and passive protests have got the movement nowhere, and that direct action is the logical and obvious next step.

We would like to see anti-nuclear demos develop in the same way as they have done in West Germany where thousands of militants ('the Autonomes') organise themselves to cause maximum damage to the nuclear power/war industry. The German 'black blocks' have shown what can be done and it is now up to all of us to break the anti-nuclear movement out of its depressing downward spiral.

We fervently hope that by building on the success of the Aldermaston demo, we will witness the birth of our own Black Block.

(Signed: AUTONOMOUS PEACE ACTION).



WOMEN'S GATHERING

A women's gathering is being organized on the weekend of June 18/19th to discuss issues of war and violence. The venue is to be Decie Central High School, Daisy Bank Road, Victoria Park, Manchester 15. The gathering hopes to provide an opportunity to examine the ways in which women are involved in war and violence and how it affects them.

For more information and registration details contact Mary at 11 Alexandra Road South, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 8GE, 061 226 3947.

SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

On Sat. July 2, there will be a gathering in Southwark, London of anyone interested in a Swords Into Ploughshares action/ movement in Britain. From June 26 to July 1, there will also be a vigil, fast and action outside the Defence Export Service Organisation (DESO) in Soho Square, London to coincide with the annual arms fair at Aldershot. Contact Jean Dreza, c/o Delaune St, Kennington, London SE17 01 735 4907.

PEACE DIARY

- JUNE 4: 'Open Day' at USAF Upper Heyford, and also at the Peace Camp. Enter by the front gate instead of a hole in the fence. Opportunities for ACTION once inside!
- JUNE 9-16: Youth Peace Week. Contact the youth office at 22/24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG (01.250 4010) for details of these nationally planned spontaneous demos.
- JUNE 11: ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK CONFERENCE, Braddock Lounge, Liverpool University Students Union, 2 Bedford Street North, Liverpool 7, 11am-5pm. Contact Merseyside NVDA group, 24 Hardman St, Liverpool L1. Tel. 051.708 7764.
- JUNE 11: Teachers for Peace AGM. Details: Pat Allen at Underwood St.
- JUNE 12: Upper Heyford: Assemble 5pm at the peace camp for a 'totally legal action' at another base. Transport essential. Paul Mobbs, 0295 61864.
- JUNE 13: Two New Zealanders, Julie Jones and Peter Olerenshaw, give a talk on 'New Zealand Peace Perspectives' at the Co-op Hall, Masons Ave, Wealdstone, Harrow, 8pm.
- JUNE 17-19: Women's gathering in Manchester: Peace, Justice, Our Lives, Our Direction. Four themes: Women in war situations; the military/industrial complex; male power and male violence; power politics, hierarchy, oppression. Contact: Mary, 061.226 3947. The gathering will be held at Dulce High School, Daisy Bank Road, Manchester.
- JUNE 17: Salisbury **CND** Public Meeting: Colin Hines of Greenpeace and Jim Skinner from SCANN. Deaf Centre, Love Lane. Ann Case, 0722 710291.
- JUNE 18-19: WRI Triennial Conference, Finland. 'People's Power: to change the world without weapons'. More details and registration forms from WRI, 55 Dawes St, London SE17, 01.703 7189.
- JUNE 25-26: Low Level Radiation and Health - 4th National Conference, Albert Halls, Stirling. Info: Margaret Crankshaw, Troon, 0292 316008.
- JUNE 26-JULY 1: British Army Equipment, Aldershot. CAAT is organising opposition to this war fair. Info: CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ (01.281 0297).



...to step from therapy into politics. In this respect the pharmaceutical industry is an important prop to the system; however much we are smashed to pieces, mentally and physically, by the system, the impression is given that there is an instant miracle cure, waiting in the wings, to put us back together again. This is a dangerous illusion, as this book demonstrates.

If the drugs themselves are useless and harmful this is due in part to misleading animal tests. This book adds to the weight of convincing evidence which has helped shift the vivisection debate away from the old ethical arguments about animal experimentation, and that familiar cry: it's either an animal or your child! Now it can be conclusively shown that we can more properly look after both animals and children by abolishing these experiments altogether. One of the more obscene excuses for animal tests is as an alibi, to provide a climate of reassurance, and to insure against claims for damages brought by drug consumers. On the one hand these experiments are declared to be essential; on the other they are assumed to be so unreliable that the drug companies cannot be blamed if the consequences turn out to be a disaster!

The author covers a lot of ground in such a short book, and marshals his facts concisely and thoroughly, though in format and style the book seems to be aimed at providing solid arguments for the already converted. We now need to convince the sceptical and the wavering. This is the challenge - to use our hard-won experience, the expertise of Arc Print, the powerful arguments of books such as these, to create a genuinely popular Animal Rights literature (including fiction). The classic work on vivisection and animal testing, building on the insights and the knowledge gained during the last ten years or so, hasn't been written yet. Is anyone out there?

• BARRY MAYCOCK



Sunflowers

Green Collective Trading

Sunflower T-shirts £4.50; Green Collective post cards 20p each; booklets £1; envelope re-sealers £2.50 per 100; 'The Greens Are Gathering' badges 25p each; Sunflower stickers ('The Greens Are Gathering', 'Liberate the Earth', 'Animal Liberation', 'Women's Liberation', 'Green CND') 30p each.

Discounts available for bulk orders. Sale or return for green groups, market stalls etc. Send for price list and full details:

'Sunflowers', c/o Ann Gunn, 8 Wordsworth Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 5SX; (0373) 21184.

THE ARGUMENTS in John Papworth's excellent article should not be ignored, but it is unfortunate that many in the green movement will be reluctant to face his conclusions and analysis - they will just carry on as before. The reason for this is that to say that mass politics are part of the problem is to call into question the purpose of the Green Party. After all, if we agree that national politics in search of a mass power-base is wrong, what is left for the Green Party to do? This is the question which lurks behind John Papworth's article and which makes its conclusions uncongenial.

Yet the answer was contained (in general terms) within the article: since "it is mass structures ...which have created the global crisis". We need "a form of politics which is organically structured (i.e. empowered from its smallest units), power-dispersed and community based". In other words, we must look at the structure of the Green Party. To ask what should be the purpose of the Green Party is actually to miss the point: prior to this we must ask what should be its structure. That is the meaning of John Papworth's analysis.

Of course, there are people who have tried to ask this question and to promote a more decentralised and power-dispersed Green Party. People have broached the subject at Party Conference, arguing that there are tasks done at a higher level which could now be done at a lower level. Yet, with one notable exception, these arguments have been defeated. The lesson seems to be that Party Conference is not the appropriate place in which to seek to apply these ideas.

Perhaps the reason for this is that a "power-dispersed, organic structure" requires that people organise themselves at the bottom to exercise power themselves; to take direct action, which is to act as if you already had the power rather than wait on a higher agency to give it to you. Perhaps if Party Conference were to give its powers to the lower levels of the Party they would not know how to handle it. First therefore, they must become self-organised to exercise such power. Seeing only an absence of self-organisation, Party Conference doubts the viability of devolution.

• The decentralist exception

There has been one notable exception to the defeat of decentralist ideas. But does this one exception show that change is after all possible via Party Conference, or was it brought about by self-organisation and direct action? In 1986 the Scottish Green Party (Am Partaidh Uaine) transformed itself from a regional party into an independent Green Party seeking a confederal relationship to the rest of the UK Green Party. The difference between the independent Scottish Green Party and a regional party lies in the following points:

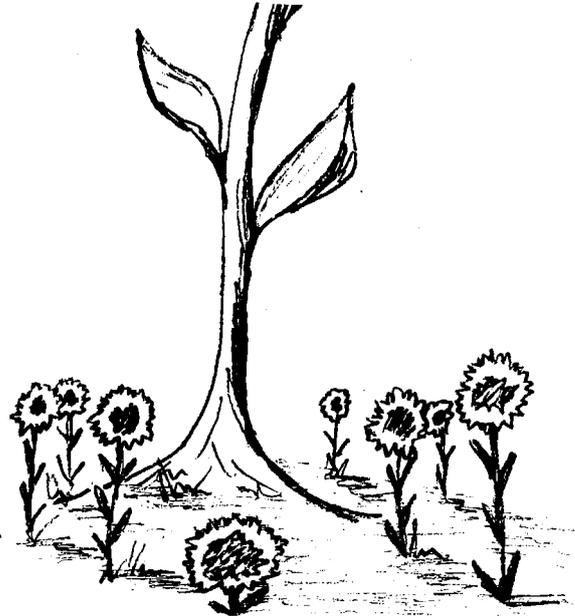
- The Scottish Green Party now has a different financial relationship to the UK Green Party than do regional parties. Where regional parties send £7 of a £10 subscription, the Scottish Green Party sends £2 per member. In addition, the Scottish Green Party buys 'EcoNews' as a 'service' from the UK Party.
- The Scottish Green Party administers its own membership records - no records of Scottish membership are kept in London.
- The Scottish Green Party has its own Executive, not answerable to the UK Green Party Council, but only to the Scottish Party Conference.
- The Scottish Green Party Conference makes policy and this is accumulating into a Scottish Green Party manifesto.
- The Scottish Green Party has its own International Liaison Officer. (I am indebted for the preceding information to an interview of Ian Smith in 'Green Options')

It is also expected that the Scottish Green Party will eventually participate in the European Green Co-ordination.



John Papworth argued that mass politics are part of our current problems rather than part of the solution. This month MARK KINZLEY applies this analysis to the Green Party to show how local parties could reclaim more control for themselves.

How you can decentralise the Green Party



How did all this come about? Firstly, the Scots set up structures such as a Party Office, a Party Executive and membership administration. Secondly, they presented the UK Green Party with a unilateral decision to change their financial relationship to the UK Party. The point to emphasise is that it was a unilateral decision. Had they instead waited for a vote for Scottish independence at UK Party Conference they would never have achieved it; there was very strong opposition to a vote for devolution from some quarters at the very conference where the Scots issued their ultimatum. It all reinforces the argument that decentralisation of structures is always achieved by self-organisation and direct action.

Future efforts toward decentralisation should not be dissipated in Party Conferences but directed into self-organisation. Both the regional parties and the local parties are capable of independence. For the regional parties, the Scottish Green Party already provides a successful model. It offers positive proof that there is a way to transform the Green Party into a confederation of independent Green Parties. It has also created a precedent since, following the Scottish Green Party's move to independence, the UK Party's Standing Orders Committee has concluded that Scottish position is constitutional.

- Using the constitution

For the local parties I would like to suggest another model for direct action, again constitutional, to place control of the Green Party at the bottom of the structure, namely with the local parties. The power to set capitation rates, which currently lies with the Party Conference, should be in the hands of the local parties. Each local party should determine the proportions of subscription money it will allocate to the regional party, to itself and to the UK Party in accordance with its needs.

The significance of this is twofold. Firstly, it makes the centre accountable to the local parties. They will tend to fund the centre only to the extent that it benefits them. Were the centre ever to attempt to exceed its role of service then the local parties would have a way to control it. Such a reform would revolutionise the structure of the Green Party; it would create a wholly new kind of party in which control is vested in the lowest tier rather than in a handful of people at the top.

Secondly, no party is really autonomous unless it has its own membership and membership belongs to whoever controls the capitation rates. Consider: according to the constitution "Membership shall be of the smallest appropriate party. Such membership shall automatically impart membership of the Green Party". This implies that to be a member of the UK Party it is enough to be a member of a local party without sending money to the UK Party. Yet in reality the UK Party must receive the lion's share of the subscription money before a membership card is sent. Thus the clause is a euphemism intended to suggest that branches are really autonomous 'local parties' when in fact they are just branches because membership subscription must be paid to the centre in a proportion decided by the centre. It is only for this reason that the centre must administer membership records.

If the local parties set their own capitation rates then they alone would administer their membership records; they would have membership and consequently they would be independent Green Parties confederated together. If anyone doubts that independence follows control of capitation rates then remember that it was the decision of the Scottish Green Party to set its own rates which caused the Green Party Council to meet in emergency session at Malvern. It was with this particular act that the Scottish Green Party became independent.

Local associate membership provides a constitutional method for making the transition from a branch to an autonomous Local Party. The constitution says "A Local Party may institute any form of local associate membership and encourage associates to participate in its business".

Why not develop this to its fullest extent? Set the local branch subscription a couple of pounds lower than the UK subscription to make it more attractive. Print Local Party leaflets, and in them give out the local subscription rate and leave the UK subscription rate unstated - rather than the other way round, as it is today. As the UK memberships lapse and are renewed locally, the entire income of the Local Party comes to be at its disposal. In this way it gains the power to set its own capitation rates. In order to ensure payment for EcoNews, the Local Party can follow the precedent established by the Scottish Green Party and buy EcoNews as a service separately from capitation money. Alternatively, the Local Party can subscribe in the conventional way for one copy and share it around.

In these ways the Green Party could come to have an organic and power-dispersed structure, "empowered from its smallest units". It could at once embody the principles of the new society it is aiming at and also operate within today's world - the political arena - since that is the *raison d'être* of a political party.



How should greens respond to the currently perceived financial crisis in the National Health Service? Below we review two studies that look at some of the root causes of the present problems and TIM ANDREWES, a Green Party candidate for the Euro Elections in Oxfordshire outlines a green response that goes beyond the cash shortages.

Not a State of good health



"Darling! That was his first cough!"

The Health Crisis Chris Thomson & Denis MacEoin, published at £1.30 by the Natural Medicines Society, 95 Hagley Rd, Birmingham B16 8LA

THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH services are frequently in the news these days but the talk nearly always centres round the NHS's financial crises. It seems as if all that is needed is for the medical services to have enough money and resources and everyone will be healthy. Discussion of the pros and cons of medical philosophy and practices seems to be a taboo subject, reserved only for doctors and the like. Chris Thomson and Denis MacEoin's book looks at a neglected health crisis, the question of whether modern medicine is really delivering its goods of (supposedly) better health.

In the Introduction the authors point out that the World Health Organisation has found that not only has modern medicine appeared to have contributed little to the overall decline in mortality but also that, above a certain basic provision of health care services, general health appeared

to deteriorate as health care investment increased. The authors debunk some widely held myths about modern medicine.

- Myth 1: modern medicine and drugs are largely responsible for the eradication of major diseases. The authors show that mortality rates for most infectious diseases had already declined substantially before any of the relevant drugs had been developed, this being mainly due to better nutrition and sanitation, improved living conditions and other factors which had very little to do with medicine.
- Myth 2: the existence of a comprehensive National Health Service has substantially improved the people's health. The authors assert that the NHS has "failed to promote good health in the first place, and thus minimise the use of its medical services, and it has failed to incorporate cheaper, safer and often more beneficial alternative therapies and medicines". A root cause of this is the dominance of allopathic medicine, which treats the human body like a machine (cf. established attitudes of mainstream society towards nature, animals etc.) and has the attitude that illness can be classified into specific, named diseases, each with a specific cause. This concentration on disease management above prevention and health promotion - aided no doubt by the drug industry with their vested interests - earns the NHS the nickname of the "National Sickness Service".
- Myth 3: Modern drugs are both necessary and effective.

Despite doctors' and drug sellers' claims, evidence suggests that most drugs and a great deal of surgery are unnecessary and ineffective, and even sometimes harmful. Part of the book deals with iatrogenic illnesses - illnesses caused by prescribed drugs - which arise from the drugs' toxicity, compounded by doctors' lack of knowledge about the workings and effects of these medicines. One in ten people who enter a hospital as an in patient catch an illness they didn't have before.

So, assert Thomson and MacEoin, millions suffer unnecessarily because they are not being directed towards health promotion or to safer, more therapeutic and often cheaper alternative therapies - which are often run down and regarded with hostility by the medical establishment. Alternative therapies are generally based on the holistic approach which aims at treating the whole person, rather than specific complaints, and takes in health promotion as part of its philosophy. Apparently, some really effective therapies for AIDS and several types of cancer lie completely outside the orthodox spectrum.

The authors call for a radical health policy in this country and propose a fourteen point manifesto, which recommends, among other things, that health should remain a top national priority, that measures should be taken to encourage integration of orthodox, complementary and alternative medicine and that positive health measures should be initiated.

On the whole the book is a timely criticism of the current philosophy of our "guardians of health" with an important message that mustn't be ignored. It calls for some quite radical changes at the very heart of our National Health Service; we are talking changes in ideology here and not just pounds sterling. For anyone interested in health issues or even remotely disillusioned by their doctor, this book is a must.

However, having said that, I feel not enough attention has been paid - by Thomson and MacEoin or other radical health campaigners - to the causes of illness that are rooted in our society. For example why are degenerative diseases more prevalent in the lower income groups (read the Black Report) and why is it mainly the more affluent who are changing to healthier lifestyles? What about the social pressures and problems that help cause mental and physical ailments and unhealthy lifestyles? What about the effects of pollution? These and other questions need to be answered and, when they are, I think that we will find confirmation that health is not just a question of medical ideology and personal lifestyles, but is a political - and even cultural - issue.

• GRAHAM HOOPER



Kill or Cure: The role of the pharmaceutical industry in society. James Crawford published at £2.25 by Arc Print

THIS BOOKLET TAKES a critical look at modern medicine, and its disastrous consequences. Turning over the pages I came across this perceptive quote: "Many of the symptoms of disease are like a red light that goes on in a car when the oil's running out; and scientific medicine has generally taken a hammer and knocked out the red light, and the person has continued driving." This takes us to the heart of the problem: a conspicuous failure to get to grips with the roots of illness. However well-intentioned the aims of the pharmacological revolution may have been 50 years ago, the pharmaceutical industry has grown into a dangerous colossus which is as likely to 'heal itself' as Mrs Thatcher is likely to be shamed into resigning by the Bishop of Durham.

The drug companies run their empires like gangsters. In addition they possess an economic and political clout comparable to the war industry. Somehow they must be stopped; and people need to be convinced that they must be stopped, and that the drugs being consumed in such unbelievable quantities are both useless and dangerous. Much of the material in 'Kill or Cure' is no less shocking for being well-known - for example, the awful story of thalidomide.

Modern drugs can be killers, can cause deformity and disease, and create a dependence on poisonous chemicals that disrupt the body's natural capacity to heal itself. In the end prevention is better than cure, and even the most benign holistic therapies, though infinitely preferable, are part of the 'cure industry', patching us up so that we can clamber back on board the capitalist juggernaut. Treatment of the 'whole person' requires treatment of the whole environment - the necessity for social change to create decent living conditions for everyone; in other

A NATION OF DRUG ADDICTS

IN THE UK, 18% of males and 28% of females are constantly taking prescribed medication. There are over a million tranquillizer addicts; 40% of those taking drugs suffer side-effects, many of which are worse than the illness itself. In the USA, the cost of dealing with such side-effects is estimated at \$3bn per year, while an estimated 60,000 drug-induced deaths occur annually.

In the current political debate on the NHS, such figures don't even get a look in. The issue it seems is finance and not health. But what are we being asked to fund? What exactly do Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock mean by 'health provision'? And is the NHS capable of providing it? Given the problems of current health care outlined in Thomson & MacEoin's 'The Health Crisis', should we blindly wave placards proclaiming 'Save Our Hospitals' or agree wholeheartedly with those who view money as the panacea for the nation's health?

The NHS currently spends 10% of its budget, about £2bn, on drugs even though various government measures have been tried in order to bring this huge financial burden under control. In 1983, for example, the DHSS negotiated with the pharmaceutical companies to bring the profit margin from drug sales down from 25 to 21%. Later however, the industry had second thoughts, claiming that such a reduction would lead to redundancies and cutbacks in the research of new drugs - experimenting on animals can be ever so expensive. By 1986, profit margins had returned to their previous levels, funded in part by the remorseless rise in prescription charges.

The DHSS could save an estimated £100m a year merely by publishing an approved list of the most effective and cheap generic drugs, rather than leaving the choice of prescription to the G.P.s, on each of whom the drug companies lavish an estimated £5,000 annually in free lunches, gifts, excursions and so on to promote their products. Far more money could be saved however, if doctors were encouraged to stop regarding prescription as a policy of first resort (at present 75% of all visits to a G.P. end in the prescription of a synthetic drug). G.P.s are having to deal with mounting social as well as medical complaints, yet are given neither the time nor the training to deal with social problems whose existence, in any case, the government refuses to acknowledge: battered wives end up with tranquillizers instead of counselling.

• Using the health crisis

This situation of collective drug addiction is mirrored by an excessive dependence on the State for health. I am not criticising the State's role in health-care, which is essential for a free and equal society, but merely its

effect of perpetuating the disempowering myth that health is out of the individual's control and in the hands of the medical 'experts'. Responsibility for one's own health must be a key concept in any green health policy in order to liberate the individual from the industrial drug-dealers and bureaucratic policy-makers of the DHSS. In other words, individual responsibility is not merely a method of saving money, as the Thatcherites view it, but a means of breaking society's addiction to the synthetic drug and enabling greater individual autonomy.

To encourage this responsibility, the NHS must become less of a system for disease management, reacting to illness after it has occurred, and more a vehicle for health promotion and preventive medicine. Undoubtedly, vast sums of money could be saved that are currently spent on the treatment of self-inflicted illnesses: one in five male admissions to general medical wards are alcohol-related, while deaths from cirrhosis of the liver have risen by 63% in the last decade. UK rates for smoking-related diseases such as lung cancer and heart disease are among the highest in the world.

• Barriers to health

But preventive medicine ultimately poses problems for the politicians who have an interest in keeping the industrial system going. For once they accept that health embraces the ways in which people live and their social and physical conditions, they have also to accept that to improve health means to alter those lifestyles and environments. If it is unhealthy to live near a nuclear power station, inhale traffic fumes, eat Big Macs, commute, swallow pesticide residues, or whatever, then health promotion entails doing away with these things and with them a large chunk of that old order which the politicians stand for. It is hard to imagine Kinnock et al. advocating CFC-free hairsprays, wind power, herbal teas and acupuncture. Such fringe lunacies are left for Prince Charles to deal with while Labour listens to the squeals of the nuclear power workers and the belches of the brewing industry.

The politicians prefer to maintain a health service that keeps people addicted to drugs, doctors and the State; a system that over the decades has failed to produce a healthy population. If greens wish to change this situation, a first step is to make people aware of the current flaws in health provision. The next more complex stage, is to develop a coherent alternative programme that can combine conventional, complementary and preventive medicine so as to challenge accepted notions and bring about a long-awaited improvement in personal health and quality of life.

• TIM ANDREWES



The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group has long been under intense pressure from the media. Its former National Press Officer, Ronnie Lee, is currently in prison and now the trustee of the SG. The former Press Officer of his successor, Robin Lane, along with Sally Carr and Terry Collins is reaching its end (see GL62). Here, ROBIN LANE shares his thoughts with GL, beginning with the Press mis-coverage of the Cardiff action last year.

The costs of belief

"I GOT a call in early Feb. '87 from the then Midlands' Press Officer [of the ALF SG] who phoned and said, 'I've just heard there's been an action in Cardiff, do you want to deal with it?' I agreed, though reluctantly. I phoned up the newspaper in Cardiff, the South Wales Echo, asked the reporter what had happened, and he drew me into a conversation about incendiary devices which I didn't really want to talk about due to a lack of information. He then produced this story 'FIREBOMB CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE SAYS ALF SPOKESMAN', a big headline splashed across the leading newspaper in South Wales. I was very angry about that, and apparently the head of CID read this article, and he was very angry about it, the fact that someone has said something like this, so he sent his men along to arrest me. They found a lot of stuff here, all the SG literature, and saw that there was a connection between myself and Tony Collins and Sally Carr the treasurer; and they've tried to create a case around the initial piece that appeared in the newspaper, and on the evidence they've got, which is not very good.

The whole fault really lies with the journalist on the South Wales Echo. It's funny, but I wrote a letter to the Press Council saying that I was extremely unhappy about the way the media have reported what I've said; the prosecution has actually produced this as part of their evidence, which I find astonishing, because it's one of the most important items for me in the defence! They've also devised a tremendous campaign of harassment against us, to try and tempt us not to carry on - and I must admit they've certainly tempted me...

"I would find it strange if there wasn't a coherent attack on the direct action wing of the animal rights movement. The ALF is probably the most effective anti-establishment group that has ever existed in this country. In 11 years it has carried out at least 10,000 individual actions; each action usually results in a few hundred pounds worth of damage, so we're talking about £20-30 million worth of damage to property.

And there is also the educational effect. I think the authorities are afraid of the enlightenment that the ALF, and the rest of the animal rights movement, has brought about; and they are trying to bring it to an end by discrediting the ALF, referring to activists as 'terrorists', etc. Because of its effectiveness the authorities have picked on the ALF and the Supporters Group, as part of a co-ordinated strategy. They arrested ex-Press Officer Ronnie Lee, and Vivien Smith who used to work for the SG; then we took over in August '86, and we were charged in May '87, just a few months later. This certainly gives the impression that they are out to finish off the Supporters Group. And I'm not sure how possible that is for them; there'll always be someone willing to take on the responsibilities. We consider the SG to be completely legal, so we shouldn't be put off by the attacks on us by the authorities...

"In the original SG everything was in the office in Hammersmith, and when the police came they more or less took everything with them; so when we took over the SG

we decentralised it, we created six different sections. The people who come after us will hopefully decentralise it even more, and be far more professional in their attitude, working through solicitors from the very beginning, getting advice on everything; whereas the transitional period between the old and the new SG was a problem because there was still some literature floating around from the old SG that the police have now considered to be 'inciting'. When we took over, we weren't aware of this charge - so at least whoever takes over in the future will be totally aware of what constitutes 'incitement'. My ideal solution would be a network of local ALF SGs, the only problem being that there are not enough people willing to take on that responsibility...

"When I became Press Officer I didn't really think about the consequences; I just thought about the good I could do by talking about the abuse of animals to the media. Maybe I was a bit naive in that respect: I just went into it head first. I learnt very quickly that the media weren't a bit interested in the abuse of animals; they just wanted to talk about the ALF and the possibility of people being killed, bombs being planted, that sort of thing. The reason for this a lot of the time is not that they're paid to discredit the ALF, just that they want to make their story seem more interesting to the readers.





I would say that out of 150 interviews I've given to the press I would estimate that about 5 of them were in any honestly reported. So without a sympathetic media there isn't really a place for a Press Officer. There have been a few reporters I have enjoyed speaking with, and who have shown real interest; the trouble is, they have shown real interest, and printed a really terrible story! There was also this business of the vivisectionist's cat being injured as it walked through the red paint that was left on the doorstep; the papers seemed to be showing more concern about a cat which was supposed to have walked through the red paint than the animals which the vivisectionist was torturing on a day to day basis. This is the sort of thing that happens; you often hear stories of hunt saboteurs driving their landrovers at beagles, and so on...

"Within the direct action movement there is a bit of gloom at the moment, and I think during the peak of the early '80s people were very optimistic - as if animal liberation could be achieved in 10 years, or something. The actions of the ALF have dropped considerably, though there are still hundreds going on, enough to fill the Diary of Actions for instance, but the amount has gone down. As far as vivisection goes there are very few laboratories being raided these days, though this is because so many have been raided by the ALF that they are spending a huge amount of money on security.

With regard to ALF actions generally, the state can't do anything about it other than catch the people in the act; the number of ALF activists who have been imprisoned over the last 11 years has been minimal, a tiny proportion. If we say that there are 1,000 activists world-wide, there have been less than 10 at any one time in prison. A lot of ALF activists have got professional jobs, they're married, they lead ordinary lives, they go out, carry out an action, and go back to work the next day; how can the State track down people like that? ALF activists have a strict policy of keeping what they do quiet even to their closest friends, so unless they get caught there's no way of tracing them, and that's why the ALF will never be stamped out by the state, they will always be there, and I don't believe that the ALF will disappear until the abuse of animals disappears...

"Considering the ALF didn't exist before 1976 it's incredible what has been achieved in such a short amount of time. The ALF is a bit of a baby at the moment - who knows what's going to happen in the future? Hopefully it will always concern itself with non-violence; that is the strength of the animal rights movement in this country, it is totally true to its own beliefs, which are based on compassion. I oppose violence because it goes against my deep-rooted beliefs, which are to do with non-violence. And I think it's fantastic that the direct action movement hasn't injured an animal abuser; the ALF should be applauded for it, not condemned, considering there have been 10,000 actions - that's 10,000 possibilities for violence, and it hasn't happened...

"It is true that the big liberation raids have come to an end; but the important thing is that the movement as a whole has become more effective; there's more awareness now than was the case when the movement, actively, was at its peak. The ALF has played a part in this, and the rest of the movement has also played a part. A lot of people have become vegetarian for health reasons; when I was a child I didn't even hear about vegetarianism, it was considered really cranky. And a few years ago, if you said you were a vegan they looked at you as if you were from another planet! But they seem to know what veganism is now...

"It is young people these days who are really aware; in the SG we get lots of letters from schoolchildren doing



projects about the ALF and about vivisection. I got a letter from a whole school in Italy, who wanted literature about animal abuse, and they were primary schoolchildren. At one point we were going to have a Young SG; it never actually got off the ground, but there was a competition to write a story, and a 12-year-old sent in one that was so violent that the SG couldn't actually print it! The next generation really is the most important. Unfortunately the school authorities are very worried about this; I saw a programme recently where a teacher wanted to bring a talk at a school, yet when the case against meat, he was regarded as a person intent on brainwashing the children.

I think these double standards have got to be overcome. People genuinely dislike cruelty, yet at the same time the majority eat meat, and condone the use of animals for vivisection. But if it came down to it, if people entered an abattoir and watched the animals being murdered, or into a vivisection laboratory and watched them being tortured, I would say that far more people would become vegan. But the establishment doesn't allow them that freedom of access and information, and likes to keep them ignorant. When the facts are disclosed, through films or through meetings, you can find that people are genuinely horrified. Certainly the abuse of animals touches people's nerve-endings in a way that other issues (the anti-nuclear issue for example) do not...

"As far as I am concerned it is the greatest abomination of all to torture and abuse an animal; to take something so helpless as a creature that cannot defend itself and inflict pain on it is the sickest thing that anyone can ever do. Animals have all the emotions that human beings have, but in a more honest way; their feelings are more pure. This can be seen in photographs where an ALF activist is holding a dog - there's a brilliant picture of an activist in the back of a transit van with lots of beagles that have just been rescued, and the dogs are just looking at this person, who is wearing a balaclava - you can see it in their faces that it's just love, a feeling of total thankfulness. When it comes down to it human beings have a responsibility to those around them that aren't as capable as themselves, and a responsibility to the whole planet because this is our home. Everything on this planet is here, not for us, but for us to respect. This planet will live for ever and ever if people treat it with respect."



THE 'NATO ELECTION' AND DENMARK'S GREENS

Danish green, PAUL KRY PAULSEN, gives his assessment of the recent elections in Denmark

ONLY EIGHT MONTHS after the last election, Danes went to the polls again on May 10th. The reason for this was said to be the approval of a motion in the Danish parliament sharpening the Danish attitude against nuclear power on Danish territory by telling our allies not to have nuclear weapons on board their vessels which visit Danish harbours.

There are divided opinions about the importance of this issue. There are people here who think that the election is due to increasing disagreements in the four-party coalition on economic policy, on the consequences of reducing expenditure, on where to cut and where to expand the economy. In particular, environmental politics have caused serious problems in the coalition, where one coalition minister has gained an advantage by using unfair methods in negotiating with another with minister. The former comes from the Venstre party (the Left) which is a liberal farmer-backed party, the latter from Kristlight Folkeparti (Christian People's Party), which has a clearer environmental profile.

Besides, as the coalition had no majority by itself, it had to seek support from Det Radikale Venstre (the Radical Left - not socialist, but radical compared with the liberal Venstre party). This party had, with respect to several foreign policy issues, achieved a majority in parliament by combining with the opposition against the government, though without an election being called, until now. Furthermore, it was able to get through motions on expenditure, thereby undermining the economic policy of the government.

This situation ended with the election, called under the pretext of

the danger to our position in the NATO alliance, and focussing on our policies in relation to nuclear weapons. In the campaign itself the issues were far wider, including economic, environmental and immigration policies.

The behaviour of De Grønne (Green Party) in Denmark was not much better than last time. Consequently we were not very successful this time either; in fact we lost votes everywhere other than Copenhagen. The Green Party here were really clumsy. Only the presentation of the programme was acceptable



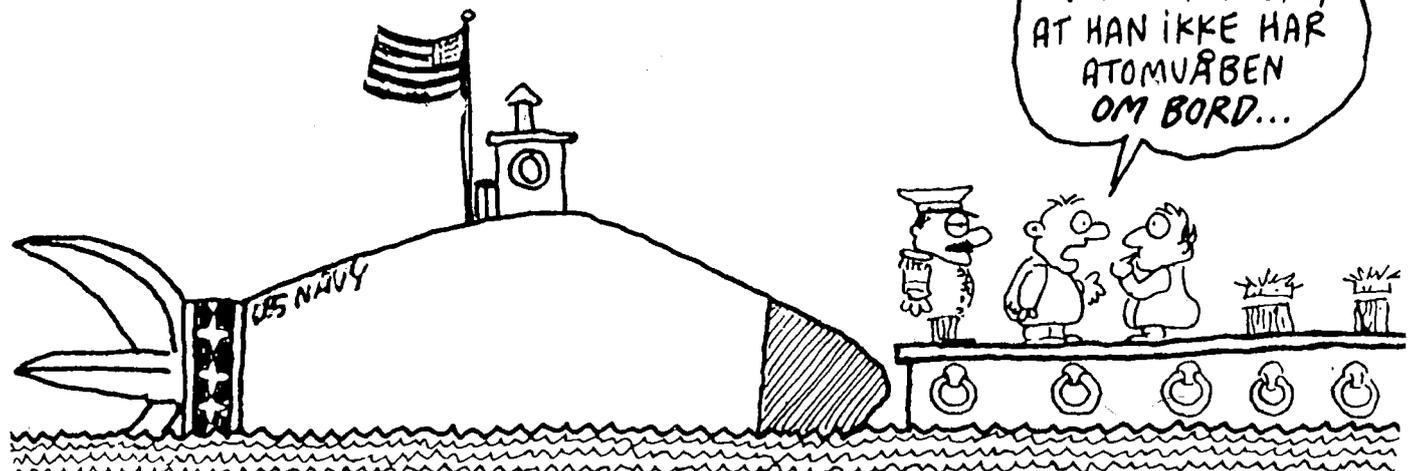
because it dealt with issues other than ecology (many Danes do not think we have policies on other issues); it presented a sharp profile of a peace-loving anti-militarist party. One of the reasons for our failure to get into parliament this time is the existence of the Socialist People's Party, which takes our policies and absorbs them into its programme. As most people think more about themselves than the environment, they pay more attention to demands for bigger wages and a shorter working week than to the policies of the different parties on the environment. Of course if a party does not actually want to make things worse, then they will support that.

During the final TV programme the Green representative mentioned a lot of irrelevant things and used much of his allotted time by promising to tell us about the policy

later, but forgot. So he did not fully use the time available. Other candidates said they wanted to prevent war by sending in advance the Royal Danish Ballet, or some other cultural group, to our enemy! As to windmills, we were told by the Green Party's representatives that they could be placed in the middle of highly protected nature reservations if the wind made this convenient. Other possibilities were not thought of.

These examples are symptomatic; I have to admit that the Green Party here in Denmark is full of clumsy people with low morals busily intriguing against each other, thereby chasing the best of the newcomers into other parties. And because they have come from almost all the other parties they find it difficult to agree on common policies. Therefore I must conclude that unless something dramatic occurs the Green Party in Denmark has no future at all.

The result of the 1988 election was that the right-wing extremist party gained 7 seats, the Socialist People's Party lost 3 seats, the Social Democrats gained 1 seat, and the leading Conservative party lost 3 seats. Although the Right gained and the Left lost I think that something will come out of the formation of the new government that will prove even more unsatisfactory to people on the Right, resulting in a still greater leap to the Right or to protest parties. The environment or Green politics in general will be the greatest losers in the time to come because we are not able to deal with the matter.



"He's willing to give a guarantee that he has no nuclear weapons on board"



Letters

THAT STALL AT SOUTHPORT

I write, not in my position as a Co-chair of Party Council but as an ordinary Green Party member in response to Bill Littlewood of Glanford Green Party in regard to the furore at Southport III conference over the "Humane Slaughter" stall. Bill's letter (GLB2) has also appeared in the Party's own Activists Mailing.

Regretfully, I was not myself present for the special debate at Conference on this topic being unavoidably detained at the time on other Party Council business elsewhere in the hall. However, it seems to me that the widespread dissatisfaction with the result of that debate stems from the fact that Conference was presented with a choice between two nonsensical propositions.

Whilst it would make no sense for us to exercise no discrimination over the stalls allowed at our conference, as Bill correctly argues, it would be equally narrow and repressive for us to limit them to only those which are in full agreement with us; to do so would be to mimic the attitude of the SDP leadership who would not allow any anti-nuclear sentiments to be expressed by any of their members. It would prevent entirely proper attempts to influence the development of policy which must, in a democratic 'bottom-up' organisation, be a constantly evolving process.

As a vegetarian for over 15 years, I must make my position clear on the issue of the particular stall in question: I believe the term "Humane Slaughter" to be an absurd contradiction in terms; I believe it was a huge mistake by a representative of the Conference Committee to invite the stall; and I found its prominent presence in the hall and some if not all of the materials displayed to be personally offensive.

Nevertheless, I feel it is important for people to realise that even the censorial proposition discussed in the subsequent debate would not have prevented that stall's presence; we are not an exclusively vegetarian or vegan party and our policy is not one of compulsory vegetarianism for all. Our policy is to advocate and to promote a reduction in the consumption of meat.



In this context, slaughter of some kind would presumably be permitted and it is fair to assume that we would prefer it to be of a less rather than a more inhumane kind if this is possible. Some of the materials on this stall were directly contrary to Party policy and

members of Conference Committee asked that these be removed soon as they became aware of the fact. However, the stall as a whole could not have been excluded under either of the propositions that Conference was presented with, but only by a sensible exercising of discretion.

The issue which most disturbed me was similarly left unaddressed by the debate. I refer to the apparent way in which the issue was handled by the few members who objected most vociferously to the stall. To any outside observer, their behaviour appeared intimidatory and decidedly un-green and was certainly perceived as such by the two women on the stall. In the democratic forum of Conference, the decision of whether or not to require the stall to leave should have been made democratically by Conference itself. I do not know whether a request had been made to Standing Orders Committee for an emergency debate on the issue, but that was clearly the proper course to follow. What appeared to be a resort to bullying tactics was totally unacceptable in the context of our Conference. I am sure that it was a reaction to this rather than the virtue of the proposition itself which swayed many votes in the eventual debate.

Brig Oubridge

REMEMBERING THE HURRICANE

I am writing a book about the October hurricane that hit southern and eastern England and felled 15 million trees in its wake. Although it will be a general all-round account, I am writing it from an ecological and conservation aspect and will touch upon how this society's attitude to nature was clearly demonstrated in the aftermath of the event: the obsessive clearance of fallen trees where there was no real need (when those trees could have provided the basis for a life cycle); the burning of so much timber (which could have been far more creatively used) because of the poor economic returns in selling it.

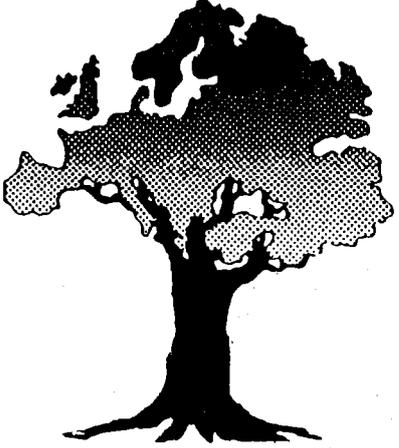
I would like to hear from GL readers on a number of counts.

- If they live in the hurricane affected areas, how they and their area was affected. I am also looking for photographs and slides (returned if required), also poems.
- What happened to the fallen trees in various localities; left, burnt, gone for timber etc.
- I need some volunteers to help in processing information and questionnaires, to do typing and word processing. Any costs still be paid and when the book is published in the late Summer a back-dated wage will be paid if

required.
•Any words/ drawings/ graphics to illustrate some of these issues, including trees in general and their importance, especially spiritual, to our lives and the need for humanity to blend in with nature.

If you can be of any help in any way or if you are just interested in discussing these issues, please contact me. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to tree replanting appeals.

Jerry Rowe
14 Euston St
Huntingdon
Cambs. PE18 6QR



!!!MORE LETTERS!!! →



AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE OAK DRAGON

name is Ros and I help run the OakDragon Project, and I have felt a lot of reaction to Jenny Goodman's article (GL59). I feel there is a need to clarify this whole affair and lay before folk a few rather relevant facts about the matter to help them in understanding it:

Although I have no wish to run Jenny Goodman down, I feel it should be known that she, as writer of the article and as the woman who was attacked, are the same person, thus rendering the article into a subjective experience rather than objective reporting. She also leaves out the reason for the initial antagonistic attitude of the Atlantis folk toward her: Jenny was a primary witness to alleged ill-treatment of a child at Atlantis and her report on this, as a qualified doctor, was strongly influential in the child being taken from its parents into care. This situation with the child has been the subject of an ongoing court case for 3-4 years, involving social workers, bishops and top Irish lawyers. Small wonder OakDragon

couldn't deal with it all in eight days! Needless to say, we at OakDragon were not given full information on all this until within two days of the attack Jenny describes; I think that we would have been most reluctant to have our camp space, which we spent much time and effort making as open and safe as possible, to be used as a setting for this wrangle had we known about it in advance! Once we were made aware of the situation by both parties, various members of the OakDragon spent many hours with Jenny and Mary (the mother of the child in care) trying to help them communicate. Mary felt that if Jenny would only retract her original statement to the Irish authorities, or make a new one, this might help the case.

However, as Jenny made clear, retracting a four year old statement was not right, especially since she had felt strongly that it had been right to make it at the time and she could not make a new one since she had not seen the child since then or been to Atlantis (on Innishfree

Island of Western Eire). It is obvious that there was a lot of anger both ways between Mary and Jenny, and Mary's friends from Atlantis certainly joined in. When it became obvious that no positive steps could come out of it all, we advised them to steer clear of each other and to drop the issue with Jenny who was essentially no longer involved in the child's case.

When the attack happened the next day, I was in town with three of our management group. We were in the middle of a financial crisis and needed to talk, free of interruption. Unfortunately, in a project of the size and complexity of OakDragon, it is not possible to be aware of all of the people all of the time, and certainly none of us anticipated the violent outbreak would happen. When we returned, our heads full of OakDragon finance, we were plunged into dealing with the aftermath of the violence and again spent many hours trying to deal with it.

At this point, I should say that within minutes of Jenny running into



MONITORING OPPRESSION

I write to welcome the Greens' stand on Section 28 (Local Government Act: 'Promotion' of Homosexuality) - and indeed the party's longstanding policy on lesbian and gay rights.

Clearly the Government has framed a law that is gross in its discrimination against an already oppressed group, and disturbing in its wider ramifications - a society that enshrines discrimination in its legal code diminishes the dignity of all citizens. The problem is, we don't know precisely how the Section is going to work, nor how the judges of the inevitable test cases will interpret its notoriously woolly wording.

Ministers insist that the Section will not promote discrimination or censorship; and fears that the plays of Oscar Wilde will be banned from local authority theatres are almost certainly groundless. Nevertheless, within days of the last Commons vote, a teacher in Bradford was dismissed because he told the truth to a pupil who asked if he was gay; and, although he was reinstated, we cannot be sure that all teachers in a similar position would get their jobs back. And, whatever Ministers' expressed intentions, the clause gives legal sanction to bigotry, and we can be sure that busybodies will demand the removal of Genet from

library shelves, and prosecute school governors if sex education teachers refer to homosexuality in any but negative terms - and how edifying it will be to see children testify in court against their teachers!

Clearly, groups in every local authority area must monitor the workings of the Section and, if there are violations of civil rights, make such abuses known to MPs, to Local Government, gay rights groups, the NCCL and all bodies concerned with human rights. To monitor effectively, we must persuade Equal Opportunities Officers of NALGO, NUPE and the NUT to report on the clause as it affects their members and as it threatens services to lesbian and gay ratepayers; and we must get librarians and directors of arts organisations to report cases of censorship (and self-censorship) under the Section.

Moreover, we must investigate its effect on bodies that are not under direct local authority jurisdiction. The University Theatre here, like all public theatres, has its licence from the local authority and that could encourage self-censorship at a time when higher education establishments are finding their autonomy threatened and are likely to steer clear of controversy. Indeed, the university has issued an equal opportunities policy document which, while referring to sex, marital status, disability, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins and disadvantage "by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable", does not specifically mention sexual orientation.

And, remembering that the section springs from a climate of increased homophobia and that it gives parliamentary sanction to gay-bashing and the insults of the sewer press, we must monitor every case of discrimination and harrassment against homosexual



Cartoon available as a card from CARMINE PINK, 4 Dashwood Drive, Rose Hill, Oxford

women and men, whether committed under the section or not. Remember too, this government claims to be "against discrimination in any form" (DoE ref LG/B/141 /13/18).

To co-ordinate the work of monitoring groups, there needs to be a central body that can process the resulting information, conveying it a) to each group on the network, so that people in every part of the country have a growing picture of what we're up against; and b) to the legal advisors, the central pressure groups and those in and around parliament who can actually frame a repealing Bill.

We in Bristol have started to make



REPLY TO JENNY GOODMAN'S ARTICLE

Position toward violence, racism and sexism is that we feel these are all negative expressions of the present state of our world, and we seek within our camps to create new values, new ways of relating, where these issues can be understood and overcome. We ourselves are a mixed bag, including Irish, Welsh, Jewish, English, German and American. We feel that each person should be seen as an individual, with full respect for their background and culture, and we do not support the cafe and being attacked, several folk stepped in and separated her pursuers from her, thus I hope, averting really serious injury. At no time did we condone the violence and in fact we made it clear to Mary and her friends that we do not endorse physical violence as a means of resolving problems. We got them to promise no more violence in return for staying on for the last two days of the camp. We also asked Jenny to steer clear of Mary so that no provocation toward future incidents could happen.

coercion or imposition of ways and views on others. We are also, at present, a strongly female team in which those men already involved find it no problem to be a minority. We do have strong opposition to violence and this experience with Jenny and Mary is leading us to set up an arbitration group of crew and campers, to be available to anyone at the camp who needs their help and advice in difficult interpersonal or other situations.

We are aware of our imperfections and are sad that we could not prevent this unhappy event last year. Our camps are not usually about strife! However, we tried our best to deal with it, bearing in mind the very strong emotions involved, and hope that we have learned enough to do better in future. We do not seek to brush it off with New Age-speak, though we also do know that we must allow for future repercussions, karma in action, and we seek to encourage this awareness in others.

I hope this open letter may help to

dispel some of the confusion around this incident and amend any view that might have developed about our being a New Right organisation with fascist intent. This is not so: we are human beings, trying our best to join in the creation of a new way of living in the world, where each and every one, human, animal, bird, plant and fish may all live in balance, evolving toward true civilisation, where light and dark, life and death, are equally included and respected.

Ros Briagha (Foskett)
OakDragon Project
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Somerset

[GL received a longer account from another OakDragon organiser, Palden Jenkins, going deeper into the psychology of the whole incident which unfortunately we can't include here for reasons of space. We suggest interested readers should contact OakDragon for the article themselves]

contact with the local authority unions, council officers and arts bodies; we have access to the Council for Voluntary Services network and the co-operation of an active and canny NCCL group; we haven't yet found local government moles to report those informal discussions on promotion and dismissal which may prove the section's most insidious tool. We have the support of an established organisation; we are working to set up a national clearing house with computerised database (all information protected); and we hope soon to be legally incorporated.

If any greens are interested in setting up local monitoring groups, or have any ideas on the project, please write to me or phone on 0272 423640.

Charles Lewsen
Clause 28 (28 Monitoring Group)
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FOOD CONTROL

Patrick Whitefield, writing in GL62, is deluding himself if he thinks that he can evade the tentacles of the food technologists. To start with, food preparation requires water, which is most certainly polluted with a cocktail of chemicals deemed necessary by the Water Authority. South Devon water has, for the time being, escaped the addition of fluoride with its zombie-inducing agents, but the water is so heavily chlorinated that wine-making is impossible and tea tastes disgusting.

Chlorine does indeed kill the harmful bacteria which enter the water from farm manure seepage, but chlorine does not discriminate and also kills the protective bacteria in the human gut; thus our own natural immune system is attacked, leaving us open to any passing virus which requires a host in which to mutate.

And what of the vegetables and grain of organic origin? They are

indeed only as wholesome as the grain or seeds from which they grew. It passed unnoticed when the Financial Times revealed that all seed merchants in Holland had been bought out by the Pharmaceutical companies which now supply the requirements of the majority of the world grain producers. Genetically engineered changes and hybridisation of the seed supply have removed a naturally occurring substance known as Laetrile. Doctors in America, who have successfully treated cancer patients with nutritional therapy based on Laetrile, have been thrown in jail, and such is the propaganda against the substance that the very word Laetrile causes shock to homeopaths who ought to know better.

When the natural protection for our bodies is removed from our food and the water supply becomes harmful, is it surprising that cancer has reached epidemic proportions, and the vast resources and wealth generated in finding a "cure", are simply a means of supporting the all-pervasive power of the system correctly recognised by Barry Maycock?

Elsie van der Steen
Awareness
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AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS...

Your coverage of the Chesterfield Socialist Conference (GL56) missed out all the positive developments for green socialists. Firstly, a workshop on the challenge of green politics, organised jointly by members of SERA and the Green Party, was attended by over 100 people and was reported in Tribune as the most exciting and innovative session of the weekend. Secondly, green socialists from SERA, the Green Party, the Labour Party and beyond have been co-operating

since Chesterfield in organising on green and socialist policies. Thirdly, the recalled Chesterfield Conference planned for June 1988 features green politics as a major theme - briefing papers are being produced now for discussion at the conference. These are small steps, but they represent the beginning of the 'greening' of the British Left - not before time. Green Line should be contributing to this process.

Andy Porter
SERA Trade Union Group



BY DINNERTIME, THE ROACHES ARE SURROUNDED IN THEIR STRONGHOLD.

ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS, GET IN THERE AND FIGHT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT CASUALTIES THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE YOU CAME FROM!

IM LEAVING YOU, EDGAR.

MADGE! COME BACK! WHO'S GONNA FIX SUPPER?

PROBABLY THE BATS IN YOUR BELFRY!

WITH EDGAR'S BACK TURNED THE COCKROACHES SET UP DEPROGRAMMING SEMINARS AND NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION AUTHORITY

HEY, WHY SO QUIET IN THERE? LET'S HAVE A LITTLE GUNFIRE!

BEYOND VIPES!

WAIT UP, MADGE! WE'RE EATING OUT TONIGHT!

ZIP!

BWING!

POK

WEEKS PASS. MADGE AND EDGAR ADJUST WELL TO THEIR NEW LIFE. AFTER DINNER LETS GO PICK BERRIES.

THEN WE CAN MILK THE GOAT.

THE ANTS TEACH THE COCKROACHES COOPERATION. THE COCKROACHES TEACH THE ANTS TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES. THE NEIGHBORS CAN ONLY HOPE THE SYSTEM DOESN'T SPREAD.

THE END

Thanks to Semiotext[e] Strip by Matt Feazell

COCKROACH FRONTLINE