

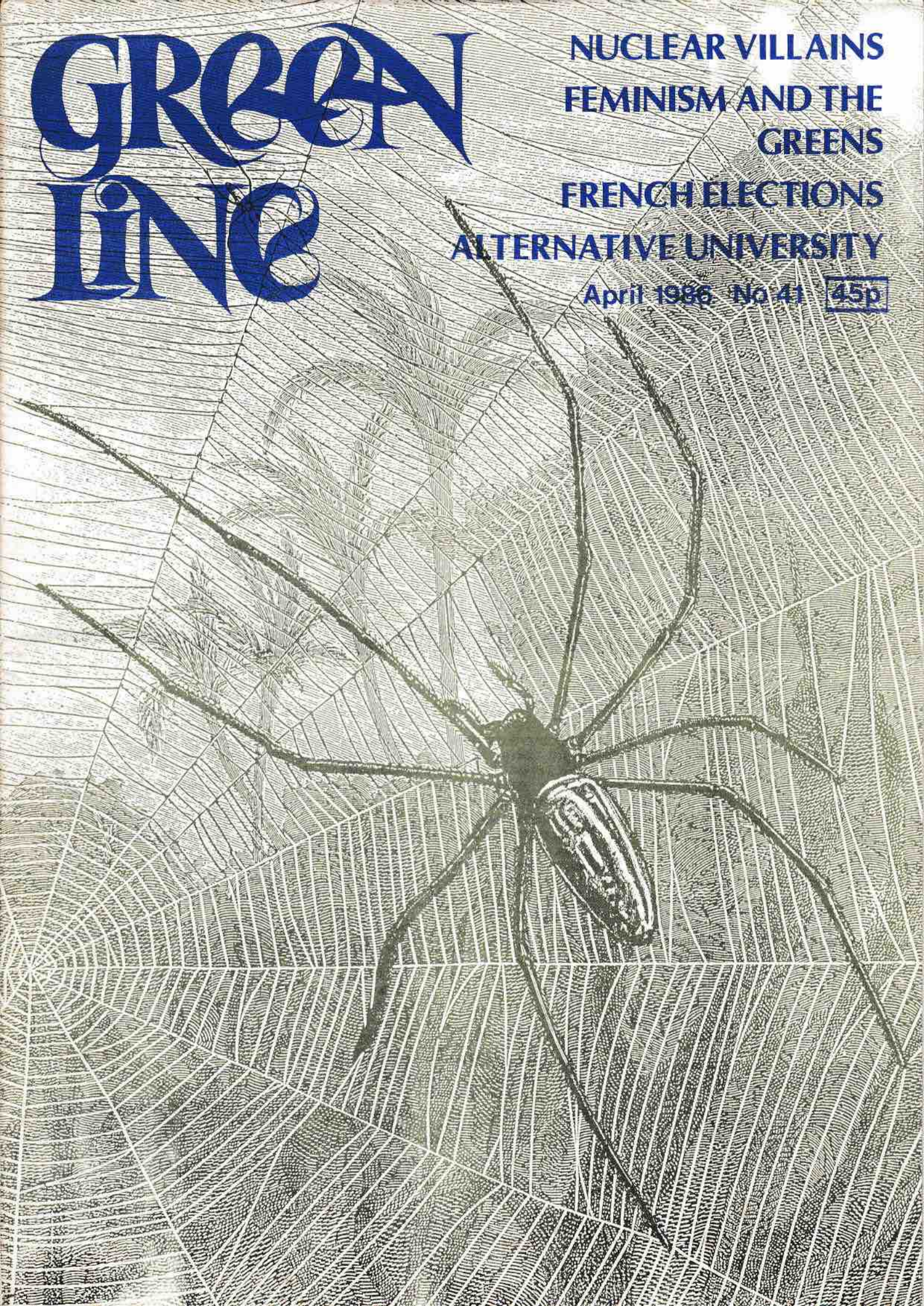
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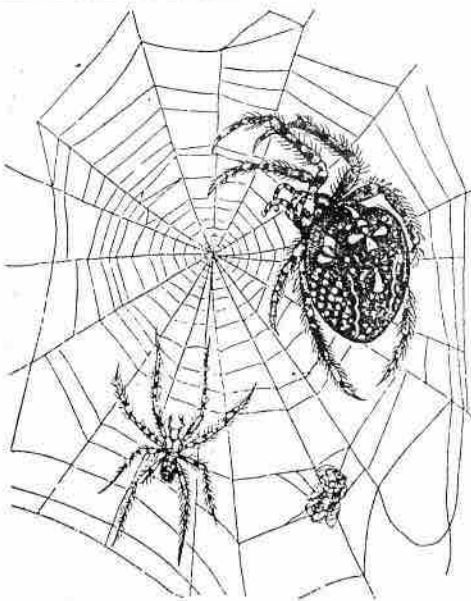
NUCLEAR VILLAINS
FEMINISM AND THE
GREENS

FRENCH ELECTIONS

ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSITY

April 1986 No 41 45p





GREEN LINE

Green Line, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford

(0865 245301)

Monthly magazine of
Green politics and lifestyle

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NUCLEAR

VILLAINS

Anthony Tucker, science correspondent of The Guardian, wrote an article on March 1st which accused the government in general (and the Department of the Environment in particular) of censoring and limiting research into nuclear-related areas of public safety.

Here PETER TAYLOR, of the Political Ecology Research Group, explains why Anthony Tucker has missed the real culprits.

THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY has faced quite unprecedented embarrassments over the past few months, ranging from leaks and spills at Sellafield, disclosures of lack of earth tremor protection to older reactors, and culminating in calls from the European parliament to halt all reprocessing including the prospective development at Dounreay. There have been charges of cover-up and manipulation of environmental research related to Sellafield/Windscale.

The experience of PERG (Political Ecology Research Group) as a public-interest research organisation in the science of nuclear safety may throw some light on this sorry and, in our view dangerous, situation. Whilst we believe, along with Anthony Tucker, that a state of public ignorance is fostered by manipulation of research, the withholding of publication, and in some cases positive mis-information, we do not believe he has correctly identified the villains in the piece. Indeed, in attacking a somewhat nameless band of civil servants, he has failed to see what has been the only significant attempt by a government department (of the Environment) to widen and open the debate to independent scientists.

We believe our credentials in this area to be impeccable. PERG fielded a four-man team of an ecologist, engineer, economist and computer expert which was present for the whole 100-day Windscale Inquiry, and thereafter produced a substantial and - in the words of a Nature review - 'objective' account

of the scientific arguments. In detailed critiques we put forward studies of engineering safety (in particular, the consequences of atmospheric and marine discharges); ecological safety (in short, on the fate of radio nuclides in the Irish Sea and beyond); and on the social and economic bargain that reprocessing represented for Britain's industry (the extremely dubious benefits of laying a foundation for the plutonium economy of Fast Reactors traded against the quite horrendous potential for large-scale pollution arising from a really severe accident on site, and the unknown potentials of persistent isotopes such as plutonium in the sediments of the Irish Sea.

Largely as a result of our work on the Irish Sea, followed up over the years from 1977 - 1982, which consisted of careful scrutiny of the NRPB/MAFF monitoring, data presentation and modelling, there were many changes in DOE policy towards research, with many contracts going to independent universities and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. Our detailed consultants' reports for environmental organisations, trades unions and local authorities have been ordered in droves by the nuclear industry and DOE headquarters at Marsham Street. Following the 1983 incident and the revelations of the Yorkshire TV programme regarding leukaemias (which picked up on our own field research and persistent requests for regional studies) the DOE asked PERG to act as consultants and review its current research programme. We had access to all reports and to research teams engaged on unfinished work, and were given complete freedom to report to the press. This rather contrasts with Anthony Tucker's perception of the DOE - but more of that later.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the reception of PERG'S work on safety at the plant in terms of potential discharges to the atmosphere. In our view, Windscale represents the greatest single threat to the human environment of any industrial installation in Western Europe - with Cap de la Hague in France coming a close second.

Telling the truth would alarm the public

At the 1977 Inquiry we asked that the full 'consequence' scenarios be laid before the public

alongside the industry's claims of low probability (which we believe could not be substantiated). The inherent risk (probability times consequence) could then be democratically assessed. Justice Parker ruled against this, stating that to do so would unnecessarily alarm the public. The sophisticated expertise in engineering and computing built up by PERG at that Inquiry became sought-after in overseas political debate where the hazards of reprocessing, waste storage and disposal, and reactor safety were subject to critical review. Our analyses were used by the Swedish, West German and United States governments and our scientists coordinated international teams of professionals in the field. In Sweden, PERG cooperated with experts from Princeton in placing the full consequences of PWR accidents before the public. The result of the debate is well-known: Sweden will build no more reactors and will phase out nuclear power. Nor will it countenance reprocessing.

In West Germany the team of ministers which considered the safety review for Gorleben held that liquid waste storage should not be licensed until it could be made fail-safe - because, quite simply, the consequences of failure of a high-active liquid waste storage tank were so catastrophic. Such failure could be brought about by aircraft impact, earthquake, terrorist action, conventional warfare, or even a severe engineering failure. It was not the estimates of probability that were necessarily doubted: rather, it was the sheer scale of the consequences that could not be tolerated.

Our consultants produced detailed evidence on behalf of trade unions and local authorities at the Sizewell Inquiry: on PWR safety, both probability of events and consequences, on waste management, emergency planning, and the health risks of nuclear compared to coal burning. It remains to be seen how much of this material is presented for further public debate by Sir Frank Layfield in his report. However, equivalent work on the AGR, and with a bearing on Magnox safety, has attracted little debate, though it did perhaps contribute to the opposition by local authorities to the Portskewett development. In our view, AGR and Magnox represent greater hazards than PWRs, the latter because of the far greater probability of failure of the aged systems (which are also vulnerable to earth tremor), and the former because of early design weaknesses in the gas baffles which could, under certain fault conditions, prevent the shut-down of the reactor. There has been no forum for any sort of public and scientific discussion of AGR or Magnox safety, and our attempts at dialogue with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the CEGB have been rebuffed many times.

The nuclear industry and some ministerial apologists have repeatedly expressed their frustration at a public that chooses to express its resistance, horror, repugnance and fear at what are the most trivial elements in the whole risk profile of the fuel cycle: Windscale leaks, reactor gas escapes, and the burial of contaminated trash or its dumping at sea. As analysts of relative risks we are forced to agree that these are the trivialities compared to reactor vessel failures, high-active waste tank failures, and the problem of storage and disposal of high-level wastes or spent fuel.

Yet these same ministers are quite artful at avoiding any open democratic debate on the higher risks, and have themselves an express policy of belittling any incident, even were it known to be serious.

In our view, it is government ministers and their close relations with the heads of the industries -

the generating boards, fuel makers and reprocessors, reactor builders and the inspectorates - that constitute the villains of the piece. The civil servants in the DOE, whilst not immune to ministerial (obviously) or industry influence, have been the most forthright in pressing for openness, plurality of research, and ultimately, better control of the industry. It was the DOE, after all, against the advice of other departments, that shut the beaches in such a highly embarrassing way for BNFL. This is rather ironic in view of Anthony Tucker's perceptions.

In the past two years we have been given carte blanche by the DOE to review precisely those areas of research relating to plutonium in the Irish Sea. In 1985 we reported our findings to the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Group - at the request of the DOE. I should add that at the same time PERG was active with my presence on the Holliday Committee and in giving evidence to the Black Inquiry. There have been some important lessons for us in this public watchdog role, and these serve to pinpoint more accurately the cause of the malaise.

Firstly, with regard to the Holliday Committee (on ocean dumping) we insisted on finance for proper scientific review by our own experts: the other members of the committee, rather busy experts, did not. At the end of the six month review period we had formulated a rather detailed scientific critique of the NRPB/MAFF monitoring and modelling, as well as making our points about the social aspects of "environmental" impact. The latter were accepted without problem, but with regard to the detailed scientific work the rest of the committee either disagreed with our assessment, or simply could not assess it through lack of time and resources. In the final report a minimalist approach was taken for the sake of unanimity and much of the scientific discussion could not be reported. (It is now available following involvement at the London Dumping Convention). The government and TUC were keen to extend the brief of the Holliday Committee to deal with the low level waste programme, and the Best Practicable Environmental Option approach. Meanwhile, the DOE had agreed to fund PERG (with its US consultants) to critique the RPEO methodology.

I think it is clear that the DOE have been acting in good faith and - contrary to Tucker's perception - trying to encourage independent critical review. I would also add that Prof. Clark, editor of Marine Pollution Bulletin and also on the Holliday Committee, invited a full presentation of PERG's points - which we failed to take up because of time constraints.

However, something did go seriously wrong with the DOE work and it is worth some detailed comment.

Windscale findings suppressed

All of this science is undertaken against a background of intense political interest. Aside from party political implications, there are residents' action groups at waste sites, fishing and tourist concerns about marine discharges, foreign policy implications on ocean dumping, and massive investments at stake by the nuclear and electrical conglomerates. There is thus intense pressure on the science to come up with politically appropriate answers: some avenues are not researched, others which are innocuous are readily funded, "awkward" results may not be published or programmes curtailed, and in some cases data is actually suppressed.



Taking the most serious first: we believe the UKAEA/BNFL and NRPB actively suppressed their own results on the Windscale fire in 1957. Only after FERG'S 1981 analysis did NRPB publish its results which were on file: 250 cancers expected. We believe the UKAEA (most of BNFL's management simply changed hats in 1971) knew that the fire also released substantial quantities of the virulently toxic polonium-210, but the monitoring data were classified. The current head of NRPB, John Dunster, was in charge of the monitoring at UKAEA at that time, but did not inform NRPB staff when the analysis was published in 1983. Dunster, by the way, was instrumental in the UK policy of marine discharge of wastes in the 1950s, whereas most other states opted for closed-system reprocessing). Only when John Urquhart, a librarian at Newcastle University, discovered the polonium inventory (in publicly available sources) did the UKAEA declassify its material: this forced the NRPB to produce an addendum raising the cancer deaths figure by 50%. The more recent revelations by Hakeman were known to NRPB and identified by them as "earlier" unidentified releases; but they could only go by quantitative data supplied to them by UKAEA... except that their director is ex-UKAEA and, had he a mind to, could have actively sought out the data. Dunster's recent defence of NRPB in the Guardian, particularly that the revised data do not alter the exposure calculation, should be more closely examined. What proof is there of the composition of the releases? In our view it is highly unlikely to be simply uranium, which is of low toxicity.

Active suppression has in one case taken a more insidious course. Following FERG's field investigations in 1979-80 in the environs of Windscale, we reported to NRPB that there were unusually high incidences of multiple myeloma (statistically evident) and reports of excess childhood leukaemias (statistically not supportable). FERG had interviewed local doctors and looked at health data in the town halls, but was denied certain sensitive data. As a result of the publicity, Cumbria County Council employed an epidemiologist to examine the local records. He reported in 1981. The County Medical Officer for Health, Mr Murray, called a press conference and stated: "There is no evidence of any increase in deaths from cancer and leukaemia in any district of Cumbria." FERG requested the internal report from the epidemiologist, and were astounded to read that he noted "a real statistical increase" of multiple myeloma in SW Cumbria and an unclarified increase in leukaemia in West Cumbria: however, these were evident only in the "incidence" data collected district by district and not in the "deaths" data aggregated for the County. The report consisted of these two sets of data. Mr Murray had not lied, but he had hardly told the whole truth. Despite letters from FERG to NRPB nothing was done. When Yorkshire TV began its scrutiny of Windscale, we recommended that they examine the distribution of childhood leukaemias on a geographical basis, as it would be the most sensitive indicator of an impact which would be masked by County statistics. As is now well-known, they found an as-yet-to-be-explained tenfold excess at Seascale and a fivefold excess in the coastal district south of the plant. The fact that it took an independent television company to unearth this simple scientific fact is a matter of greatest public concern - and it is not as if the public watchdog had not been given adequate warning.

In addition to the suppression of indisputable data, there is the murkier problem of scientific dispute. Some is unreported, such as the consultants' battles over the vulnerability of Magnox frames to earth

tremor. We can add: the AGR gas-baffle's resistance to differential pressure in the core, Hartlepool's vulnerability to outside explosions from the nearby petrochemical complex, or Heysham's concrete pressure vessel which still has several cubic metres of "cemsave" instead of concrete. All these have been subject to jousting consultants employed by the inspectorates and the operators.

In relation to Windscale, the Irish Sea and the dead children, there are several controversies. Following the Black Report, we heard that some medics believed plutonium was 40 times more toxic to bone than the NRPB model assumed. In our advice to the DOE it was in these areas of radiobiology that we found greatest cause for concern. DOE had sponsored much useful research on actinides in the environment (from Lancaster and Glasgow Universities, the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, IMER in Plymouth, and from a host of industrial consultants) and much of this was relevant to their independent appraisal of the environmental models. But the DOE had no in-house expertise at reviewing the whole of the model, in particular the human toxicity element. The Department expressed reluctance to tackle matters holistically: this was not on scientific grounds, but on the petty departmental politics of spheres of scientific endeavour - radiobiology was the concern of the Medical Research Council and the NRPB. We argued that the DOE had the only unit capable of taking an ecological approach that was at the same time independent of professional interests. MRC and NRPB are staffed by influential seniors with long-standing involvement in the radiobiology debates. Such influences arising from past thoughts and public commitments can operate against clear independent thinking without any conscious suppression.

Scientists gagged by professional self-censorship

In the summer of 1985 FERG pulled out of its prospective research for DOE and I resigned from the still-extant Holliday Committee. Our reasons were clearly stated to the Minister and reported in the Guardian: we believed that decisions on radwaste policy had been made in advance of the science being carried out by BPEO, which at that stage we were convinced was a wholly objective exercise. Because of a ministerial commitment we foresaw that BPEO would in its final form build in a series of value judgements disguised as science and with the "involvement" of independent environmentalists. This would legitimise the sea-dump for certain wastes. I believe we have been proven right by the final BPEO draft as well as the UK performance at the London Dumping Convention in September 1985. Unfortunately the DOE consultancy work relating to Windscale suffered too, and entirely due to our own failings: we had become fundamentally fed up with the whole issue, despite a clear public duty to persevere. The DOE have at all stages encouraged us to stay involved with the Irish Sea issue.

We might usefully comment on the "hot particle" data. It is certainly true that the chief modellers of the fate of nuclides, MAFF and NRPB, have not fully appreciated the finer analytical points relating to sample size and deviations from the mean: these are important to scientists seeking to understand how radionuclides migrate in the ecosystem. The reason is that MAFF and NRPB have been mainly concerned to show that bulked samples, which represent what people eat,

do not exceed certain derived levels in relation to regulatory limits. In more recent years MAFF have been concerned to calculate a total amount of radioactivity entering the diet - from which "detriment data" (health effects) could be derived. This is an essential part of the argument to persuade BNFL to reduce discharges. In this latter respect, it would be quite easy to contaminate fish stocks such that many hundreds of cancer cases could be produced Europe-wide, but no one person would exceed the regulatory limit so often quoted by BNFL.

In contrast to the regulatory approach of MAFF, the academics have sought to understand the movement and eventual fate of the nuclides - obviously important in the long term for persistent toxic nuclides such as plutonium and americium. Much of this research is detailed and rather esoteric: considerable sums were spent analysing bird droppings and sheep faeces. I personally doubt that any of this work is actively suppressed. The Journal of Environmental Radioactivity (of which I am an editorial board member) has already published particularly relevant work from Lancaster University. Indeed the latest issue carries a 20-page paper on the distribution of radioactivity in the Esk Estuary close to Sellafield, and a 10-page paper on work by Lancaster University on uranium distribution in Ravenglass (IMER), both projects funded by NERC. In the latter case the authors acknowledge considerable help from the UKAEA and MAFF. Furthermore, the ITE sponsored a public symposium on pollution in Cumbria as a forum for its own work and invited a FERG critique in May 1985.

In my view it is not the suppression of the science that is the problem: it exists in the open literature. I might add the proviso that had the university teams or ITE had more involvement in the Harwell analysis of

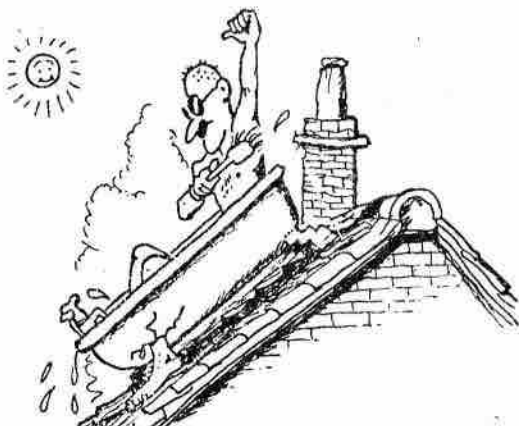
plutonium resuspension from seaspray, we might have a clearer picture by now: their work has been very slow to elucidate the mechanism. The real problem lies with the professional self-censorship that prevents scientists who have the greatest credibility from openly expressing views on the implications of their results.

Role for local authorities

Such interpretation has been the traditional role of a group such as FERG which critically reviews government and industry-funded science, monitoring and modelling. We did that effectively in 1977 and again in 1982 with regard to Windscale; but we are small, very precariously funded, reluctant to be tied to government money (we declined fees for the DOE consultancy work on radioactivity), and have been too busy dealing with other pressing issues such as ocean dumping which, had it been given a green light at the LDC, would ultimately prove a greater threat to the marine environment. What Britain lacks is more groups like FERG to spread the load, although expertise takes years to build up. Part of the answer lies in more persistent involvement by local authorities, and this is happening: witness the Orkneys and Shetlands employing technical consultants to analyse Dounreay data. At the end of the day the public gets the watchdogs it deserves. Local authorities have historically ignored the reactor safety issue. The exception has been the Sizewell project, where they have spent several hundred thousand pounds on consultants' analysis. Only now are they critical of the radwaste policy and ready to pay for critical scientific review. This must be extended: the Isle of Man, Anglesey, Lancashire, SW Scotland, and Ulster (and the Irish government) need not only to sponsor review work, but take an active role in the political process of discharge authorisation and be prepared to go to court on the issue. Without this active public involvement in critical science, the suppressive activities of cabinet and industry coalitions, and the conscious connivance of inspectorates and supposed watchdogs staffed by expatriates of BNFL and the CEGB - supposed poachers turned gamekeepers - will go unchecked. It is not that ministers and inspectorates are not committed to public safety, let us not misunderstand: it is that they are committed to trade off public safety and industrial interests. This they will do according to their own value judgements and behind closed doors, unless the "public" intervene. There is no commitment in Whitehall to participatory democracy - and that is the real villainy.

- ++ FERG reviews of nuclear safety:
 - RR-7 The Windscale Fire, 1957 (1981)
 - RR-8 The Impact of Radioactive Disposals to the Marine Environment (1982)
 - RR-4 The Safety of the AGR (1980)
 - RR-15 The Disposal of Nuclear Waste in the Deep Ocean (1985)
 - RR-11 The Effects of a Severe Reactor Accident at the proposed Sizewell B station upon agriculture and fisheries in the UK and neighbouring countries (1984)
- Evidence to the RWMAC on Environmental Research. Proc. Conf. on Pollution in Cumbria, May 1985. "Radionuclides in Cumbria". (ITE in press).

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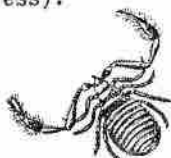
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For the General Election

PEACE POLICY

Nationalism, argues PETER CADOGAN, is a powerful political force. We should use it to our advantage in the run-up to the General Election, to prevent this country becoming a military colony of the United States.

PEOPLE RESPOND to events. "Protest" began over Suez in 1956, developed over nuclear tests in the atmosphere in 1958 and revived over the promised deployment of Cruise and Pershing II in December 1979. We lost over deployment in 1983 and we now await the next "event" over which the movement will revive. In the meantime we tick over.

The next event may be a package. The Westland affair and the BL-Austin-Rover business have started to clarify the issues for millions of people who have been so far unmoved by the existence of over 100 US military bases in Britain. What is new is that members of the establishment have started to kick up a fuss, from Heseltine to Alan Bristow.

There is a sea-change in public opinion on two counts. Firstly there is an awareness that the US take-over of this country has now reached such an advanced stage that we had better do something about it if we are not to become just the 51st State of the Union. And secondly it does seem that at last an old penny has finally dropped. The empire has gone, our industrial supremacy has departed, and that leaves us with just two choices - to go in with the USA or Europe. In the EEC we shall be able to relate to our partners under conditions of equality. With the US we become a retail agency, an assembly plant for foreign parts, a quaint US dollar-colony.

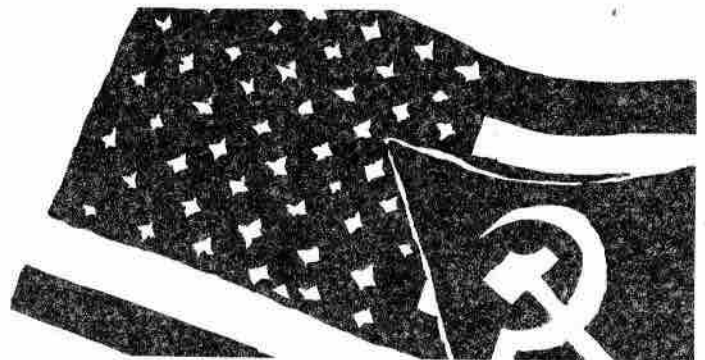
This leads us into unfamiliar territory. We know without a shadow of doubt (shades of the Falklands) that of all political ideas, nationalism is the most important, i.e. the most powerful. There is nothing in the same league; consider the nationalism of the USA and the USSR today... In Britain nationalism has had a bad press because of its close associations with jingoism and totalitarianism. But those of us who condemned it on those grounds applauded it as an instrument of colonial liberation. But what of its future in relation to ourselves and our own domestic-international situation?

In his latest article (as yet unpublished, but sent to me by its author) Noam Chomsky is gloomy about the future because we are in the hands of institutions and there appears to be little or nothing that individuals can do about them. They look unstoppable. If they are unstoppable we are indeed in deep trouble. This is how it looks in the US, but here the picture

is very different. Established political parties, the Cabinet, the Civil Service, the Armed Forces, big business - they all look distinctly rocky.

If we pare away all the secondary issues in the best Occam's Razor form, what emerges is the present state of Anglo-American relations and a revolt against our colonisation.

IT IS TIME TO HOIST THE ANGLO-EUROPEAN FLAG (and the Scots-European flag, etc.) AND DECLARE OUR INDEPENDENCE.



It needs everyone in every walk of life to assess the US take-over in his or her neck of the woods and mount the counter-offensive. Our job (wearing our CND/END peace movement hat) is to work out just what our contribution will be.

Throughout the country people are getting up steam for the next General Election. This is one event we can count on. It is imperative that we do not repeat the shambles of 1983 and that we establish a thoroughly autonomous position over issues and policies. This is what they did in New Zealand before their last general election and the result was historic. Mr Lange's decision over the US Navy did not just come off the top of his head - it was the product of years of campaigning by the NZ Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Movement. They put key questions and asked for a specific pledge from all candidates.

Can we do likewise?

The Pledge

I pledge myself to work for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military installations from this country.

With a pledge and a campaign of this order we can make a massive impact on the General Election campaign and lay the best possible foundations for the future. Will you spread the word?

For the General Election

Connections and disconnections

FEMINISM AND

ECOLOGY

JAN PALLISER writes:

I WAS PROMPTED to write this paper after returning from the Second Congress of the European Greens in Dover last year. I had only very recently joined the Ecology Party, as we were then called. It seemed to me then - and still does - the only political party with which I could equate the insights and values I had learned from my involvement in the women's movement.

However, after years of going to women-only meetings and events, the male-dominated Congress came as something of a culture-shock. Throughout the Saturday male speaker followed male speaker... until the Rally in the evening, when Petra Kelly said in her speech:

We are constantly being asked and told, by our Green brothers in Green parties, to fight for the big war, to fight against this big war, to fight in

"Feminism and ecology should logically go hand in glove in the fight to overcome patriarchy"

mobilising against that big war. And yet a small war is waged against us every day, and sometimes I look for the Green men to take up that struggle and I cannot find them . . . I think it's important that while we work for life-affirming politics, we do not come into the danger that men will end up planning the windmills, the soft technology, while the women simply weave and bake the biological bread and do the biological farming. I do not see the role of women only primarily as mothers and carers of the earth and carers of future generations. I think that men must begin to transform themselves radically and give up privilege - give up privilege also within the Green movement.

Her words echo the protests of women throughout the ages in radical and political movements. Recently, Caroline Lashley wrote in the Guardian:

We black women are fighting for our basic human rights and respect as equals, but don't have the time to discuss the other battle facing us . . . This is the continuing battle black women have with black men.

In the same week another article in the Guardian by Jane Peters looked at the rise in marital problems

reported to the Marriage Guidance Council in two mining communities, following the miners' strike. Jane Peters suggests that financial hardship was not the only cause of marital discord, but that

In a labour movement still heavily male dominated, men who wanted the dispute to be won immersed themselves totally in the strike; the tasks of running the home, looking after the children, doing the work in the house were all left to the women at home, whose support, both practical and emotional, was taken for granted. Many of these women at home have felt that they were serving a term of confinement and have rebelled. The result has been that, in the aftermath of the strike, many male activists . . . have been busily trying to get back to a normality that no longer exists.

None of this is new. For instance, in 1912 Elizabeth Gurley Flynn wrote in the context of a textile strike in Massachusetts:

The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and care of the children. The old world attitude of men as the "lord and master" was strong . . . There was considerable male opposition to women going to meetings and marching on the picket line. We resolutely set out to combat these notions. (1)


The sad fact that movements fighting for freedom and equality still perpetuate inequalities based upon sex is evidence of the rampant persistence of patriarchy. Patriarchy means the overall supremacy of the male over the female, and it is this that feminists have been fighting for centuries and across cultures. And significantly it is patriarchal culture and thinking which is at the root of indiscriminate growth and careless industrialism, and of war-mongering technologies. (2) Feminism and ecology should logically therefore go hand in glove in the fight to overcome patriarchy.

A number of male ecologists, including Fritjof Capra and Jonathon Porritt, have acknowledged feminism's contribution to the ecology movement. Many feminists however are wary of submerging their own cause into one more "universal". This is understandable for, as the Congress illustrated, there is often a gap between theoretical understanding and what actually happens. In the same way, women in the socialist movement have always had to shout loudest to make their voices heard, even though male theoreticians have paid verbal homage to the "woman question".

The socialist-feminist Sheila Rowbotham shows in her book "Women, Resistance and Revolution" how there has often been a demarcation between the respective roles of women and men in revolution. During the French Revolution, for example, women were at the forefront of the food riots, but were less active in military operations like the taking of the Bastille or the political demonstrations. It was all right for them to protest their right to feed their husbands and children, but there was opposition from the men when, in 1792, the women formed their own battalions, demanding a share in the apparent "glory" of real war.

Slogan on a banner at the Green Congress:-

"We have had enough of



Similarly, women were discouraged from becoming involved in the anti-slavery movement in the USA in the 1830s. Such involvement was considered unnatural and ill-befitting; moreover women were - rightly - seen as a political liability. For in a world where women's voices were seldom listened to with real seriousness, these same voices were bound to discredit whatever political arenas they chose to speak from.

There are contemporary parallels here. It is as if we women can have our own conferences, workshops, peace camps, etc., but that once we ventured into mixed gatherings and programmes we have to be kept firmly in our place, silenced and compromised. Issues which have been crucial to the women's movement -

"Real revolution is not about getting women into the workplace"

e.g. sexuality, contraception and abortion - had no space at the Dover conference. And yet, as an American eco-feminist journal points out, "woman's right to choose or refuse children and abortion is at the core of any progressive program. It affects population, poverty, psychology and land use, among endless other aspects of life." (3)

Personally, I often feel forced into a defensive stance when I mention the word "feminism" at a mixed meeting. The voiced or silent condemnations are often as strong from other women as they are from men; women who have been conditioned to believe that to express feminist sympathies will bring upon them the old epithets of "shrew", "man-hater", "castrating bitch". When a woman did finally speak up from the floor at Dover about the "inhuman-ness" of the conference, there was a wriggle of discomfort around the hall - as if she had somehow broken the rules of "good behaviour".

Much admiration, on the other hand, has been expressed for the women at Greenham. This strong female presence in the peace movement is important - for symbolic as well as strategic reasons. But there could be a danger of reinforcing woman's role as "peacemaker" and "caretaker" if there is not a concomitant redefinition of our roles in society at large.

The socialist answer to women's segregation from male politics has been to "liberate" women from the home so that they can participate more fully in production; for it has traditionally been in the workplace that trade union and hence labour politics have had their meaning. Regardless of intention, the implication was always that "production" - i.e. the industrial workplace - was more important than "reproduction" - the giving birth to and caring for children, the ministering to the needs of husbands and elderly relatives, and allied domestic tasks. And when women are employed in the external economy, they are often expected to perform the domestic tasks as well, thus having less personal freedom than their "unemployed" sisters.

Real revolution is not about getting women into the

workplace. Nor is it about bringing men into the home and handing them an apron, though this can be consciousness-raising for individual men who have never before had to face the implications of housework. (Housework is a skill which, like any other skill, has to be learned, and doesn't come any more "naturally" to women). Revolution is about more than a reshuffle of men's roles and women's roles. It is about, to use the Utopian Socialist phrase, "turning the world upside down". It is about a radical reassessment of all people's roles and their interrelationships, and this includes an alertness to any new manifestations of patriarchy. For instance, it is no good re-affirming the importance of the home base, and the men then assuming a dominant role in the home-base.

So what particular part do women have to play in the green movement? A number of writers have made the connection between the exploitation of the earth and the exploitation of women. It has become a cliché to use the word "rape" - with all its implications of male violence towards women - in relation to the "rape of the earth". We would be expected therefore to rise to the defence of the earth as we would to the defence of our own bodies. We are all made from this earth - women no more so than men - but men's roles have traditionally been more exploitative, more anti-nature. Recently, women in capitalist/industrialist societies have - as consumers - been more indirectly exploitative; victims of throw-away, consumer-oriented societies. But in the past it is women who have darned socks and made quilts from remnants; it is women who recycle clothes at jumble sales. All this might have more to do with thrift than with wider ecological principles. Nevertheless it is a lesson, part of our inherited consciousness - which it is important not to un-learn.

I started off by looking at the sexism unconsciously perpetrated in a movement which is philosophically opposed to sexism. We need also to remember the other "-isms" - classism, racism, speciesism - all of which

"Men must begin to transform themselves radically and give up privilege within the Green Movement"

must be confronted by a movement which is anti-exploitation, for it is in ecology that the broader principles of socialism, feminism and anti-racism converge. As Joan L Griscom shows:

In general, the oppression of nature has gained resources for the ruling class, so that they have been able to perpetuate their exploitation of women, non-white, the poor and the Third World. (4)

All movements which challenge specifically the oppression of one group have had their blind spots about the oppression of other groups. The resurgence of the feminist movement in the late 60s and early 70s was predominantly a white middle-class movement, and this bias was reflected in much of the literature of the period. Accusations of classism and racism

boring self-important male speakers"



have forced it to change - a change that is evident if one compares a recent issue of Spare Rib (a women's liberation magazine) with one of the issues from the early 70s. (Some may still argue that things haven't changed enough, others that the bias has now swung the other way!)

I believe that if the British Green Party is to counter similar charges of being classist, racist or sexist, it will have to work hard to interlink its aims with those of women, blacks, and all the socially and economically disadvantaged in this country. It is no good being part of an international movement if we can't at the same time be truly intersectional here at home.

To recognise and counter the oppression of one group by another is a prerequisite to understanding the prevalence of hierarchical dualisms - e.g. male vs. female, white vs. black, rich vs. poor, humans vs. the rest of nature - with all their implications and limitations. But there is no point in trying to reverse the imbalance of power in these relationships. We don't want to go on playing the old power-fixated dualist games. Take for instance the nature/culture division, which has traditionally assigned women to "natural" roles, and men to the implicitly superior realms of "culture" and "reason". Those women who now argue that women are "closer to nature" and therefore superior to men are falling into the old trap. They are forgetting that in a truly ecological spirit of interconnectedness there can be no superiors or inferiors.

Women's liberation is ideally not just about the liberation of ourselves as women, but is also about the liberation of the so-called "female" side of men and of the universe. (5) To ask any political party to understand and embody such liberation as its aim, and to be at the same time tuned to the voices of other social groups or racial cultures, and to the voice of the earth itself, is asking a lot. Hopefully it is not asking too much.

Notes

- (1) Quoted by Sheila Rowbotham in "Women, Resistance and Revolution" (Penguin).
- (2) For further discussion, see Fritjof Capra's "The Turning Point" (Fontana/Flamingo).
- (3) The editorial to "Feminism and Ecology", Heresies issue 13.
- (4) "On Healing the Nature/History Split in Feminist Thought". Article in Heresies 13.
- (5) See Capra, pp 17-22.



CAROLE

DUFFY


CAROLE DUFFY is an Oxford nurse victimised and sacked through maladministration in the hierarchical, competitive and undemocratic structure which is the NHS today.

YOU WILL KNOW of the case of Dr Wendy Savage. This article introduces a less well-known instance of discrimination in the health service - that of Primary Nurse Carole Duffy. Carole is one of the most highly qualified nurses in the country: a SRN with a diploma in labour studies, a H Ed Diploma and a BA. She worked in a new-style hospital, the Oxford Community Hospital. There are only two of these units in the country. Unlike other community hospitals, which are based in the countryside, it provided a service for the city. It was meant to develop new methods of nursing including that of primary nursing, in which each person admitted to hospital had a special nurse responsible for organising their care.

After 18 years in the health service, Carole was sacked from this unit on May 7 1985. Her crime: a public appearance in the Town Hall. She was invited by Oxford Trades Council to speak on behalf of victimised miners (she came from a mining community). Her dismissal was an attempt to close down discussion of the Oxford Community Hospital and Carole's treatment there. The Health Authority have a large psychological investment in their (failing) community programme. Also a number of senior nurses have built their reputation and indeed a substantial additional income from these new developments: see for example a television programme on the work of Dr Alan Pearson on the Beeson Unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary. Prior to her dismissal, Carole had a flawless work record.

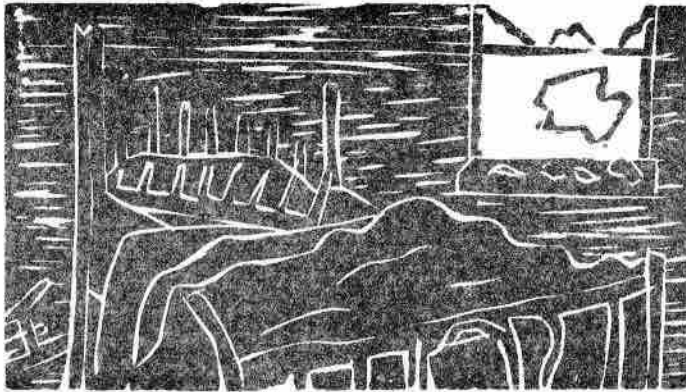
In March 1984 Carole was offered a post at the hospital. As a result of an administrative failure, the authorities' discriminatory policies were revealed: the Occupational Health Officer attempted to block the appointment because of her multiple sclerosis. This hadn't bothered them before when she was employed as an agency nurse: now she was interested in full-time work it was a different matter. Union pressure forced management to keep to their contract. Not a good start to a new job, but it reveals both administrative mismanagement and pressure on the nurses to open the new unit quickly. These themes ran throughout the case.

The unit was to be organised on methods borrowed from American nursing, using problem solving and care planning. Each primary nurse formed a contract with



their patient and organised their care around that person's individual needs - a revolutionary development as care is normally planned by the doctor. Nurses are to cope with the immense strain by dealing with matters as a team and by task allocation. The group is helped to deal with feelings of guilt and anxiety - of particular value, for example, in terminal cases. The disadvantage is that the nurses can seem effective but distant.

The new methods were developed to break the old patterns of institutionalised care. The unit at Burford took over two years to develop, but at the Oxford Community Hospital they attempted to bring them in in a matter of weeks.



Organisational mistakes generated staff disagreement and confusion. Some of it related to the appointments procedure, in which the nursing officer recruited former friends, etc.: this helped create an inward-looking unit. Some of the staff were not suited to the new methods of work. No black staff were appointed, nor were any attempts made to appoint them. And there was no race training for the staff for a unit which served the most mixed part of the city. The apparently very low take-up of the service by the ethnic minorities may have been due to errors at the GPs' centre or to a restricted admissions policy.

Many of the nursing assistants objected to the new style of nursing. This may have been due to the lack of training, but other preparation had been inadequate too: they hadn't even been given their job descriptions.

Against this background, Carole came into conflict with her nursing officers, Sylvia Graham and Elizabeth Morgan. Her academic qualifications were to be a source of jealousy and bitterness. These issues came to the fore last October, when following complaints from a patient attempts were made to discipline her. There was a full investigation and it was found that there was no case to answer. Carole received a written apology.

Deeply concerned about the running of the unit and her own position, she spent her holidays in November seeking advice from Dr Alan Pearson and from the District Clinical Nurse, Dr Sue Pembrey. She was asked not to leave, and was assured that something would be done. She was even asked to join Dr Pembrey's elite supper club, an informal organisation which brought together research-minded nurses. Reassured, she returned to work. Fourteen days later she was suspended and ultimately sacked.

Following her discussion with these senior nurses, a visit was made to the unit. It was handled very insensitively. The staff were in uproar; they were

told that Carole had direct access to the District Nursing Officer and was spying on them. A complaint was made that she had sat a patient on the floor some weeks previously. Despite the pettiness of the allegation (which was false in any case), a full-scale inquiry was set up. The patient's daughter was very supportive towards Carole, and the patient herself denied the alleged event: there was no complaint from the patient or her family.

Carole's COHSE branch now issued a statement on her behalf. Among the issues raised in the union were the preferential treatment given to RCN nurses, the arrangements over funding the unit, and the failure to suspend the nursing officer involved for maladministration. By this time, Carole was severely ill, suffering from anaemia and other physical complaints in addition to her multiple sclerosis.

Management used the union's involvement and Carole's poor health to argue that she was trying to deflect them from their investigations. However, their report contained statements like "she says she has legal aid", "she is very union-minded", and "she has had dinner with Mr Ross". A barrister who was consulted advised that the report was of little legal value and revealed clear malice on the part of the collecting officer.

Meanwhile management were using every attempt to raise support for Carole as evidence that she was a troublemaker. While she was ill at home, they even suggested carrying out a disciplinary procedure at her house. Every attempt was made to prevent the union from collecting information. Its health and safety officer was prevented from visiting the unit for five months. The Royal College of Nursing was given every opportunity to represent its members and indeed cooperated with the conspiracy. Union notices were taken down, threats were made to COHSE members, and every attempt was made to frustrate the local branch's effort to inform its members and the public what was going on.

The most painful part of this was that while the persecution was taking place, Carole was pregnant. As her health deteriorated further, she was forced to lose her baby. It was such personal experiences of attacks against working people that had led her to support fully the case of the miners. Their defeat and the political backlash helped management to obscure the real issues of this case too. Through no fault of her own, a highly competent nurse has lost her job. A Defence Committee has been formed to clear her name and work for her reinstatement.

A demonstration has been called in Oxford for May 7. We hope you will consider coming and showing solidarity. Perhaps you could think about having a speaker from the Committee, or arranging activity in your area to gain publicity for the case.

As a result of our experiences we have built up some knowledge that we would like to share. We can offer technical advice about the cuts and the new forms of nursing. We would like to see the issues of women's health dealt with much more sensitively, along with questions of the treatment of disability and of racism in health care. We would like the political parties to take these issues up, and we would like the unions to begin to defend both their members and (despite its faults) the NHS. We would also like your support to help get Carole her job back. Please contact us at 243 Marston Road, Oxford - phone 0865 241486.



Here's why vegan

WHY VEGAN Kath Clements, GMP Publishers, £2.95
EVA BATT'S VEGAN COOKERY Eva Batt, Thorsons/Vegan Society, £2.95
SUSTAINING AND SUSTAINABLE Kathleen Jannaway, Movement for Compassionate Living, 60p

The ethical philosophy

Vegetarianism: the Philosophy behind the Ethical Diet. Daniel A Dombrowski. Thorsons, £4.95

ALTHOUGH THE title does not really suggest it, the main bulk of this book is about vegetarianism in classical antiquity. Don't let this fact put you off reading it! For anyone interested in vegetarianism this volume will, I'm sure, provoke considerable thought.

In his forward to the book Peter Singer claims that this work will help to remedy a possible gap in our knowledge of the animal liberation movement and "famous vegetarians":

There is clearly something about eating animals which is deeply disturbing to many intelligent and sensitive people, whether they live in Greek and Roman times or in the last quarter of the twentieth century. This book may bring us closer to understanding just how people living in times so different from us can react to the same things which disturb so many people today.

Daniel Dombrowski is obviously anxious to assure the "contemporary thinker" that he stands to gain considerably from his historical survey. In the introductory chapter several issues are considered. Why did the tradition of philosophical vegetarianism die in the West? - the Judeo-Christian position according to Dombrowski, although this is only a tentative conclusion which is later significantly qualified. The attitudes of St Augustine, St Francis and St Thomas Aquinas are discussed. Then Dombrowski turns to the notorious speciesism of Descartes and, more briefly, the treatment of animals by Kant, Bentham and Darwin.

"Chapters 2 through 6 explore the phoenix of philosophical vegetarianism," and it is made clear that ancient vegetarians had several bases for their stance, some of which will sound very familiar if not in all their details. The final chapter is perhaps more philosophical and less accessible to the general reader: it looks at one of the approaches in the ancient debate over vegetarianism which perceives it as a matter of virtue or excellence rather than, or in addition to, duty.

Let me stress that this is no mere academic study of the ancient world. It is full of fascinating material and Dombrowski shows himself to be well conversant with all the strands in the modern debate, referring frequently to such authors as Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Stephen Clark, etc. I will conclude by quoting from one of those ancient authors whose vegetarianism Dombrowski feels it is worth bringing into the light for our modern scrutiny - Plutarch...

For the sake of a little flesh we deprive them of sun, of light, of the duration of life to which they are entitled by birth and being.

We declare then that it is absurd for them to say that the practice of flesh-eating is based on Nature. For that a person is not naturally carnivorous is, in the first place, obvious from the structure of his/her body.

Bob Tatam

KATH CLEMENTS' "Why Vegan" is a very welcome presentation of the complete case for a vegan diet, and covers the economic, ecological, health and compassionate/animal rights arguments for veganism.

In the book she looks at the food industry; the waste of land and edible grains (many from the Third World) in feeding animals for food; overfishing of the seas; health problems associated with eating animal foods; and other related issues, including of course the inevitable links between dairy products and slaughter, be it of calves and old dairy cows, or of unwanted male chicks at the hatcheries. She suggests that in a vegan Britain, we could use less land for food production, turn grazing land over to trees for food, fuel and materials, and maintain soil fertility by use of compost, green manure, companion planting, and recycling of human waste.

The book also contains advice on how to eat the vegan way, including some sample recipes and advice on how to bring up a vegan baby.

It's quite a clear case, though maybe a bit lacking in detail. But this is more than made up for by the book being a short and easy read, and relatively cheap. I would recommend it to anyone interested in compassionate and ecological eating, as an introduction to veganism.

Also recently arrived in the bookshops is Eva Batt's new book "Vegan Cookery". Eva Batt is, if you like, veganism's answer to Fanny Craddock and has previously written two successful vegan cookbooks, "What's Cooking?" and "What Else is Cooking?"; this book is an expanded and revamped version of "What's Cooking?"

It begins with useful advice on nutrition and kitchen hints. Then come the recipes, laid out in easy-to-read format, very handy for beginners at cooking and interspersed with cookbook-type illustrations. I was slightly peeved at the use of such processed foods as TVP, but then it can be useful in helping wean omnivores and vegetarians onto a vegan diet. In all, very useful for the vegan beginner - though after a few years of vegan cooking, one tends not to rely on cookbooks.

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One moan about both "Vegan Cookery" and the recipes in "Why Vegan" is the more than occasional use of Third World cash crops. This brings me to the booklet by the former secretary of the Vegan Society, Kathleen Jannaway. Entitled "Sustaining and Sustainable", it is published by the Movement for Compassionate Living of which Kathleen is a founder. (Their address is 47 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.) In it she points out that food, even vegan food, can degrade people; peasants are driven off their land by landowners and multinationals for cash crop production for sale to us, and these displaced people crowd the shanty towns leading miserable lives as beggars or cheap exploited labour. She also mentions the environmental destruction associated with much agriculture - from artificial fertilisers, fossil fuel burning machinery, poison sprays, forest destruction, etc.

She recommends that as well as being vegan we should take steps towards buying home-produced food; possibly buying Traidcraft products as a compromise between local produce and Third World cash crops; buying products of nonviolent agriculture organically grown without animal slaughter products; and buying food that involves the minimum of wastage of energy and materials in transport, processing, packaging and advertising. It may be difficult to go very far in this direction, but the reader is reminded of the saying that "He (or she) was never so wrong who did nothing because he (she) could only do little".

There is a section on vegan nutrition and home-grown sources, followed by a useful table of food buying/eating in order of desirability/ecological soundness. Category A, at the "ideal" end, involves using only plant foods grown locally by vegan organic methods without exploitation of human (and animal?) labour, using few resources in processing and packaging, and selected for health. At the other end of the spectrum category M involves indiscriminately, even buying produce from South Africa et al.

Finally there is a sample week of menus and recipes, with each ingredient marked with its appropriate category letter.

Kathleen's book is a necessary contribution to the food debate. It makes the point that the ethics of eating should not be just about whether dinner was animal or vegetable. I liked the table of food categories as it enables one to see how bad one's shopping list and to see improvements. And the recipes show that it is possible to eat nicely

without relying on the Third World's food. When you've finished reading "Why Vegan" have a look at this book!

Graham Hooper



A green view of health

HEALTH, WEALTH AND THE NEW ECONOMICS. James Robertson, TOES, £1.20

THIS 28-PAGE BOOKLET is a summary of the discussion on health and the new economics at the 1985 conference of TOES (The Other Economic Summit):

It starts with an analysis of the ways in which conventional economic policies actually cause ill-health, including the comment that "effort expended on safeguarding or improving health is regarded as an economic cost - as a drag and a constraint on economic and business growth. There is a need to redefine wealth creation so that health creation becomes an aspect of it."

Then there are sections on present health policies, and a quite detailed discussion of the probable content of a new economics of health. Throughout, the relationship of health policies to other aspects of policy are emphasised:

If health policies and health professionals are to contribute to the creation of better health, they will have to extend their sphere of interest and activity beyond the health sector as it is defined today - for example into such areas as agricultural policy, employment policy and general income policy.

One notable feature is the way in which terms, which are often (carelessly?) bandied about by people in the green movement, are carefully explained. A good example is the term self-reliance, where it is pointed out that this does not mean selfishness or isolation, but co-operative self-reliance in which the abler in the community "enable" the less able, rather as good teachers enable their pupils to learn.

In summary, this is a useful and thought-provoking booklet which gives the broad outline of green thinking on health, highlights areas for future discussion, and includes some useful ideas for action now.

Chris Simpson



letters

Labels aren't green

Dear GL,

I recently read the New Year issue of your magazine. I found myself drawn to the "Friends or Enemies?" article by Graham Bell, where he explains very basically the "Green philosophy" for those who, like myself, are not acquainted with it. Let me point out that I do understand your philosophy.

Having finished reading that article I was of course drawn to the questionnaire which I as the reader was asked to complete. Now it would seem to me that by having people fill in the questionnaire you are trying to break people down and put them into boxes or cate-

gories - put labels on them.

As you put it so well, "it's part of the way that we're taught and expected to think in our society that ideas, groups and material realities are seen as separate, distinct and different."

Surely one of your aims is to break down the indoctrination that forces people to label everything and everyone - the indoctrination that stops people from understanding. I quote: "We are all one. We are all part of the inseparable and infinitely precious living reality."

And yet here you are in your questionnaire asking people to label themselves in terms of sex, political beliefs and eating habits, to mention but three.

I'm sorry but you've lost me. I don't understand where you're coming from.

Please explain!

P Goodwin
Pen y Banc, Pontrhydygroes
Ystrad Meurig, Dyfed

Assuming that almost all our readers consider themselves 'green', the questionnaire was designed to answer certain obvious questions about who the greens in general, and our readers in particular, are. One thing we learned is that only a very tiny minority of greens - P Goodwin among them - object in principle to the content of the questionnaire. In any case, the questions were both of the 'objective' and 'subjective' kinds, and not everyone answered them all. We're still analysing the replies, and we will soon be able to turn them into what we think will be an interesting article! (Ed.)

letters

Whose nuclear policy?

Dear GL,

My proposal (GL39) that existing stock-piles of plutonium be consumed has produced a reply from FoE expert Chris Church replete with abuse and misconception. Permit me to remark that had you not halved the length of my text by pruning out the technical details, this situation would probably not have arisen. I argued that each of Britain's eight AGR reactors could consume between one and two tons per annum of bomb material, either plutonium or highly enriched uranium.

I asked GL readers to re-envisage plutonium as an unduly concentrated form of heat energy which can be used either to warm cities slowly or to ignite them abruptly. That is The Choice. Mr Church is under the impression that a third possibility exists, of closing down the reactors and storing the plutonium for all future time. His letter contains a glowing account of how safe plutonium is to store for futurity, and declines my more rational suggestion that it be uncreated using the machines which bred it. I request clarification as to whether this is FoE's official position on the matter, or just an aberration of one of its employees.

Mr Church urges me to read about the dangers of mining uranium, as if I were unaware of them. My proposal involved the immediate cessation of uranium mining, followed a decade or so later by the closure of the nuclear industry. I wish he had taken a little more trouble to understand my proposal before putting his emotions onto paper. He is right that the waste generated by consuming Britain's 50 tons of plutonium would be a finite one because the fission products have in general a vastly shorter half-life than plutonium (24,000 years). Further, it would not require continual police control. These are technical issues: would FoE's journal permit a discussion, perhaps? For example, I would say that the imminent arrival of laser isotope separation technology adds force to my argument, that the stuff must be uncreated because it cannot be rendered safe in any way.

Mr Church starts his letter with some rather spurious dirt on Fremlin, a founder member of CND who happens to favour nuclear power. My proposal is fundamentally opposed to his pro-nuclear viewpoint, and argues in favour of a plutonium-free posterity for Britain; Church's comments here are but a red herring. His claim that the proposed burn-up of plutonium would only create "a lot more" shows a regrettable ignorance of the transmutations involved.

It's surely self-evident that mankind either has to reverse the plutonium creation process or face self-extinction. We need some creative thinking on how to do this. I do hope that "experts" of Friends of the Earth are not going to

stand in the way.

(A printing error in my article: my text claimed that a 20% reduction in the cost of nuclear electricity would result, not a 20% reduction in electricity cost, as printed.)

Nick Kollerstrom
(Convenor, Green Party Defence Working Group)
5 Pitch Place, Worplesdon, Surrey GU3 3LD

Unifying philosophy is socialism

Dear GL,

Mark Kinzley in "Bioregionalism" finds difficulty in unifying the various aspects of the Alternative Movement; I can understand his problem.

May I however respectfully suggest that the unifying theme is our involvement with the struggles to build a better society than the present one. In more specific terms this has to mean replacing the present chaotic and destructive capitalist system with a socialist one, which can only be done by using, long term, a far fuller democratic process than we have yet known. This combination of democracy and socialism (in my view the two are inseparable anyway) would clear up many of our most pressing problems both environmental and otherwise. What is more, I believe that there is no other way of tackling these problems.

So, members of the Alternative Movement, you have a great deal of work to do. Most of what I call the Thinking Left in the socialist movement are ready and willing - determined even - to take this "on board", but the work you have to do first of all is to join in and see that the prevailing views of the "leadership" who are still locked into the Keynesian approach and to the acceptance of the present system while trying to "improve" it are replaced by better views.

For instance the present leadership of the Labour Party still thinks in terms of the economy in a way little changed for the last 30 years or more; but the Thinking Left which must sooner or later replace it needs your involvement.

Socialism is the unifying philosophy searched for by Mr Kinzley

Fred Brown
27 Hillcrest, Southborough
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Greens need not turn red

Dear GL,

I heartily endorse Ted Trainer's message about the economy and the need for "greens" to become aware of the fundamental faults and contradictions built into it ("Getting Red and Green Together", GL40).

However I do not agree that this means

that green needs turn red; his analysis does not dig deep enough, blaming the faults he correctly notes on to "free enterprise, the profit motive and market forces", though these certainly play their part in the drama. He comes near the hidden truth when he focusses on "the ownership of capital"; the whole usurious basis of funding for commerce by stocks and shares and bank loans must be changed. But equally important, if not more so, is to cease mortgaging society to the banks by allowing them to create our money-supply and then loan it to us at high - or any - interest.

The Marxist solution, based on authoritarian control, demands a breed of benevolent superhumans capable of making the right decisions for society, and a system of selection capable of identifying them and putting them in power. We need to recognise the nature of the exploitative system we are suffering and find ways to achieve fundamental change; but ways which will allow the basic social sense buried in most people by the conflicts of interest forced on them by this capitalist system to emerge and be given free reign as far as possible. The greens rightly advocate dissemination of power to the lowest possible level. Anarchism, nor Marxism, should be our goal.

Again, he is aware of the obscene wastefulness and falsity of our present "affluence", and that resource constraints will not allow it to continue much longer; but this should lead him to question what real affluence implies, and how far a real reduction in "living standards" is needed to achieve sustainability, once we have eliminated the enormous waste inherent in the present capitalist competition.

Brian Leslie
12 Queens Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

No 'tendencies' please!

Dear GL,

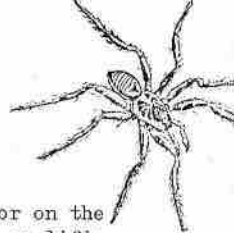
While I agree with Brig Curbidge (GL40) that the Green Party should be organised decentrally, I was rather concerned at the tone of his article.

Please, please let us ensure that as the Green Party grows and becomes credible we do not split into warring factions and "tendencies". What on earth would be the point in telling the voters that politics must be completely reorganised in order to save the planet, then starting to bicker over constitutional matters just like the "old" parties? If we really are Green we will have to be different from the old parties. We will have no need for such in-fighting since we will respect each other's opinions and settle disputes by reaching a consensus. Under PR we would have no other choice.

So come on Brig; don't write about your colleagues as though it was they who had invented the H-bomb or exterminated the whale! Let us show the world how a green party really should be.

Andrew Hardy
19 Carnarvon Road, Reading, Berkshire

An alternative university



Roger Hallam writes:

MOST GREENS don't need too much prompting when it comes to criticising our universities. Scathing complaints flow easily off the tongue - "they're elitist", "they're inward-looking", "they teach the wrong things in the wrong way". A group of green-minded people have therefore come together to do something about them. We intend to set up an alternative, a "New University", in the autumn.

Our main motivation is the belief that the universities are becoming increasingly irrelevant to the needs of our society. Their hierarchical structure and careerist orientation alienate students while excluding the majority of the population from the opportunity of higher education. Individual needs and interests are sacrificed by the demand for standardisation. The possibility of offering a holistic education is swept aside by the blind pursuit of ever greater specialisation. And yet it is increasingly apparent that the many crises facing us are part of a greater crisis prevailing over all aspects of our culture, which can only be genuinely understood and solved by adopting a holistic worldview, and not through the distorted and fragmented approaches of specialists.

In addition to the specialisation, many courses have become so abstract and over-academic that what they teach seems totally cut off from the real world outside the campus. Complex human characteristics are represented on simple graphs and the myth of the powerless individual is perpetuated by over-emphasis on the social, economic and biological determinants of our actions. At the same time courses do not cover important areas such as the discussion of ethics in science, non-scientific approaches to the study of humankind, and the vast knowledge belonging to non-western cultures.

Far from being a place of questioning the whole atmosphere of university encourages a negative view of study as a means rather than as an end in itself. The pressure of exams and the prospect of job-hunting creates a narrow careerist mentality among many students, i.e. "I'll suffer three years in this place if I can get a good job and lots of money afterwards." So contrary to the popular image, the universities have become for most students not a radicalising influence but a place where they are finally sucked into the rat-race, adopting the competitive and materialistic values which underpin the education system.

In this atmosphere there seems little

hope of developing the truly ecological worldview needed to tackle the present world crisis. In fact the situation is getting worse with the recession and education cuts. The government's plans now threaten to turn universities more than ever before into factories to serve the demands of a decaying industrial economy.

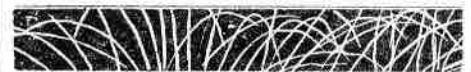
It was in recognition of this situation that the New University Project was set up to create an alternative. Believing that we need not more specialists but adaptable and responsible individuals with a holistic worldview, the New University will aim to provide the skill and knowledge needed to create and live in a peaceful and sustainable society. There will be an integrated approach to study which will break down the artificial boundaries between the disciplines. Resources allowing, it will be possible to study areas neglected or ignored by state universities; e.g. green economics/politics, humanistic psychology, Third World studies, nonviolence, holistic approaches to health and healing, etc. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own lives by living together in a residential community and by fully participating in the running and decision-making of the university. We hope that self-respect and self-confidence will develop by allowing students great freedom in their studying and by teachers, when they are needed, acting as guides rather than instructors.

All members of the university will be encouraged to both share and learn skills and knowledge so that the traditional divide between teacher and student may be broken down. There will be no exams, and if it is decided to give diplomas to students they will be purely descriptive in content. While the ethos of conventional education degrades manual skills, the New University will invite all its members to spend time learning crafts/arts. At the same time there will be special emphasis on connecting academic study to personal development and interpersonal relations; thus the learning of communication skills and group dynamics will receive special attention. Through concentrating then on both the practical and the theoretical, the manual and the non-manual, and on both the personal and the global, the university will provide an education for the whole person.

We feel it is very important to avoid the elitism of many educational institutions by not basing entry on

the ability to pay fees or on the crudeness of educational qualifications, but on individual enthusiasm. There will be special efforts to attract those groups in society usually excluded from the universities. We are also aware of the danger that the university will become an inward-looking institution and indeed it is hoped that there will be a loose organic structure and links on both a local and international level. Close contacts with all aspects of the growing green movement will be particularly sought.

Our group already has over 200 potential students/teachers and several suitable properties have been found which are up for sale. Working groups have been set up in London and Oxford to raise money. However, many people look at me in disbelief when I say I'm helping in the setting up of an alternative university. The task undoubtedly involves many problems and difficulties, but such tasks will have to be undertaken if we are to start to create a sustainable society instead of just talking about it. The green transformation we dream of starts here and now - with you deciding to act. So please do contact us offering your support or asking for further information. Send a s.a.e. to New University Project, 11a St Quintin Avenue, London W 10 (tel 01-960 5773).



'Green Teacher' - a new magazine in the making

Damian Randle writes:

MANY THOUSANDS of educators - school and college teachers, advisers and parents - broadly sympathise with green and Alternative Technology ideas, and would welcome help with getting them into the classroom. My own experience as education officer at the Centre for Alternative Technology (in Machynlleth) - which followed twelve years' teaching, my last job being head of the humanities faculty in a large Midlands Community High School - has taught me that there is an urgent need for a radical journal which will do five things:

(1) Relate the latest UK green movement debates to ideas and practical possibilities in environmental education - broadly defined.

(2) Be a networking centre for groups of teachers and curriculum

'Green Teacher'

developers in the areas of ecological concern, alternative technology, peace education, and social and political education (between which areas the links need to be made increasingly clear).

(3) Be a networking centre for resources in this field, providing regular critical surveys.

(4) Provide a digest of what's happening elsewhere in the world.

(5) Provide, with each issue, directly classroom-usable materials related to the issues dealt with.

The existing journals in environmental education do a good job, but are unable to fulfil the role I envisage either because of a low-key editorial approach or because they have chosen - rightly, for them - to concentrate on narrower aims.

I have had talks about the proposed 'Green Teacher' with many people active in environmental education: both in schools and in teacher-education, and in development education, alternative technology and peace education. Support for the idea has been unanimous. Now I am looking for wider support and for comment from educators interested in the idea.

At the moment I intend, if necessary, to launch the journal as a private initiative, but I would like to hear from people interested in a cooperative venture. I intend to continue job-sharing the post of education officer here at the Centre for Alternative Technology with Joan, my wife, and to use some facilities here to assist with the publication of 'Green Teacher'. It will however be a completely separate entity from C.A.T. and could in future be published from elsewhere. If I am on my own, starting-up finance will either be borrowed or donated/invested by individuals and groups who read this. So please send offers soon!

Timescale. I am hoping to be abroad for part of early 1986 on a study tour looking at educational projects in alternative technology, environmental education and peace education. This will partly serve to gather material and contacts for 'Green Teacher'. The expected starting date for the journal is autumn term this year, with two issues published per term.

I want to work closely with other concerned individuals, and especially with as many as possible of the activist organisations, campaigning groups and green networks. Please contact me with offers of interest, help, advice or money.

Damian Randle, Centre for Alternative Technology, Llwyngwern Quarry, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ.

Green International



GREEN INTERNATIONAL is a new Green Line feature, which will appear each month. We shall bring you news of green action, both parliamentary and other, from all over the world. To do this we are setting up links with groups, parties and individuals worldwide: it's a big task, and if you have contacts or sources of foreign news, please let us know. We also need translators in all the European languages.

If you can help in any way, please write to Green International at 24 Cardigan Street, Jericho, Oxford OX2 6BP (phone 0865 55618).

Green action in Italy



ANARCHA UNITED MYSTICS (AUM) began about 5 years ago, born out of a strange mixture of people and ideas. In those days Ian and Gabriella were a couple of destitute travellers who had come back from India with nothing apart from their clothes and a few ideals about community life gleaned from ashrams in India.

On arriving back in Italy they went to stay with Gabriella's parents in the village of Guretta in the Marche region of Italy - one of the most rural, peasant-based areas. There Ian learned about farming amongst the local people, other existing communities, and the Church, which allowed the first roots of the community to take shape.

There is plenty of scope for an agricultural community here as much of the land has become abandoned as the old peasants make their money and move into modern bungalows built alongside the main road. Their children leave for the cities and the chance of work. Now, after almost 6 years of work, "Centro per il ritorno alla Terra" or "Centre for the return to the Earth" has started to become a part of rural life.

They have successfully initiated several farms, one of which is now fully self-supporting, giving a home to 2 couples, 3 children and varying numbers of itinerant English people. Another family moved into their new home last year after lots of hard voluntary work had seen the house comprehensively renovated. Other projects are constantly being discussed and worked on.

The Centre itself is a large crumbling palazzo in the centre of the old town of Servigliano (rebuilt by papal decree 280 years ago after the old one was destroyed in an earthquake - and thus unusual because it is all built to a uniform design). It is open to anyone to go and stay there, subject to availability of space, providing they are willing to work and give help to anyone who needs it. Long-term occupancy is discouraged, the idea of the place being that it is a refuge for people whilst they try and find a direction and hopefully a place to begin farming in the local countryside.

The pattern of work there is always varied. During my stay I helped do everything from weeding cornfields (by hand) to cutting hay to digging septic tanks to rewiring houses. However not all our work there was purely practical. Apart from earning a living teaching English twice weekly - a separate activity organised amongst the English people under the name of "logos" - we also undertook to spread the ecological message amongst the startled residents of some of the local coast towns.

Our major piece of agit-prop involved carrying the prone figure of a near-dead King Neptune through the piazza of a resort and proceeding to do an emergency operation, pulling forth quantities of plastic bags, phosphates etc to demonstrate the parlous state of the Adriatic. In recent years the pollution from phosphate-rich detergents and agricultural pesticides has resulted in huge numbers of fish being washed up dead on long stretches of coastline from Rimini southwards.

Last year also saw the Italian greens (Gli Verdi) contesting for seats in the regional assemblies for the first time. We spent a good deal of time putting up posters and canvassing for our local candidates in the locality. This resulted in them gaining 3% of the vote and a seat, no mean feat considering the very parochial politics of the area and the attempts made to split the vote by putting up rival "green lists". Normally most votes go to the right-wing Christian Democrats or the Communists, with a strong undercurrent of support for the fascists.

AUM has its work cut out if it is to make an impact on local thinking and reverse the pattern of monocultural, chemical-dependent farming in which every available inch of land is ploughed (often on steep gradients) and where serious soil erosion, progressive cutting of trees and destruction of pasture land seems certain to render this otherwise beautiful country a barren wasteland in a few short years. In their favour they have only goodwill, voluntary help, and a relatively enlightened regional energy policy (which offers grants of up to 80% to install solar energy) and a network of methane stations that enables them to run their transport in a cheap, non-polluting way.

I hope their initiative may thrive and overcome the many difficulties in their way, and succeed in broadening both local thinking and international understanding.

For more information, write to:
AUM, c/o Ian McCarthy, Via Luigi Vecchiotti 7, Servigliano, Ascoli Piceno 63029, Italy.

Huw Sherlock

Acid rain in South America

Mountains near the industrial city of Cubateo in S E Brazil are littered with dead and stunted trees. The barren earth slips away in frequent landslides. Scientists say the forest was killed by acid rain. In Los Maitnes in Chile, farmers are abandoning their homes and fields. The acidity of the rain due to unchecked pollution has corroded their machinery and poisoned crops and livestock. Acid rain until now detected only in N America and Europe is affecting Latin America.

Anarchists gather

There will be an International Anarchists Gathering at Appelscha in the Netherlands from May 15 - 19. More information from Mike Alibi (IAM), Nieuwe Grachte 40, 3512 LS Utrecht, Netherlands.

Election disaster for French greens

IN NATIONAL and regional elections in France on March 16 the French green party (Les Verts) polled only 1.24% of the votes on a 79% turnout. They had hoped to get 3 MPs and around 20 regional councillors: in the event they got no MPs and only 3 regional councillors, two in Alsace and one in Normandy. In the areas they contested, Les Verts received typically a little over 2%. The two most hopeful candidates for parliament, Yves Corchet and Rene Dumont, got 3% and 1.4% respectively.

Not least among Les Verts' problems was the new electoral system. This was specially designed by President Mitterand to benefit his own party. All the small parties suffered at the hands of the new system. To make matters worse, there were two green lists in some areas, notably in Paris and the Rhone. In the

Yugoslav anti-nuclear protest

Yugoslavia already has one American-built nuclear reactor, but plans to build four more have met with unprecedented criticism. 130 mothers signed a petition to the government asking for the plans to be abandoned and warning that if built they could become "another Hiroshima". The project has also been criticised in a Belgrade weekly and on a popular TV current affairs programme.

Most surprisingly the party paper Kommunist has attacked the secretive nuclear lobby for "trying to lead the country down a nuclear path without proper discussion." Anti-nuclear power slogans have been painted on walls in several major cities. Yugoslavia only uses some 40% of its hydroelectric capacity and has an estimated 100 years of coal supplies left. The prime minister Mila Planinc has promised that there will be a full public debate on the issue.

Only weeks ago there were protests in neighbouring Hungary against a large joint hydroelectric project with Austria.

Genetic engineering protest

In January nearly 100 greens demonstrated in Berkley, California to protest against the first planned release of genetically altered bacteria into the environment. The

Rhone Les Verts polled 1.98%, and the Ecologistes (led by the not-so-green and pro-nuclear Brice Lalonde who got 3.87% as FoE's presidential candidate in 1981) received 2.33%

Perhaps the most serious factor in the party's defeat is its lack of a political programme. Les Verts entered the elections without a manifesto, and it has been suggested that the French public are no longer happy to vote just for the label "green".

Les Verts are a fairly new political party formed only in 1983, though Ecology parties have been contesting elections in France since the early seventies. In local elections in 1976 and 1977 Ecology parties got between 7% and 30% of the vote (60% near one nuclear power station). In the European elections in 1984 Les Verts polled 3.36% on a 57% turnout.

protest was intended to draw public attention to the environmental hazards that may result from the planned test release of "pseudomonas syringae" on a small strawberry patch. Local residents alerted by the greens expressed dismay. The campaign has resulted in a judicial decision to hold a public hearing to decide whether or not to block the release of the organism.

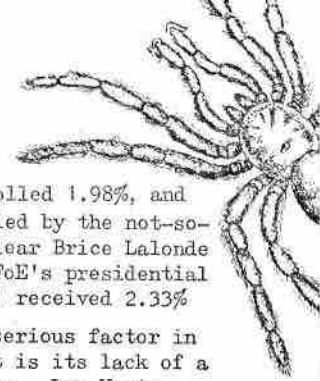
West Germany's Die Grünen, alarmed by the news, are introducing a bill into the Bundestag to make this kind of thing illegal in West Germany.

Ecology in farming

The European Parliament is backing the call of Belgian Green MEP Francois Roelents du Vivier to alter the Common Agricultural Policy to take ecological factors into account. Included would be such measures as direct payments to farmers for conservation work. Since the parliament has little real power it remains to be seen whether anything will come of this.

Roelents represents Ecolo, the Flemish-speaking Belgian green party. At the Ecology Party's conference in Southport in 1984 he promised to represent the interests of British greens in the European parliament. He has recently pressed for various measures to protect European wildlife.

** Green International is edited by Leigh Shaw-Taylor. Contributions please to 24 Cardigan Street, Oxford (phone 0865 55618).



Threat to natural medicine

Patrick Whitefield writes:

DID YOU know that natural medicines have to be licensed by the DHSS? They do, and it seems that more than 1000 herbal remedies stand to lose their licences in the next year or two because of the way the department is interpreting the 1986 Medicines Act. The immediate threat is to herbal medicines, but if they can be banned presumably the same goes for homeopathic remedies or any others.

The crux of the problem is that there is not a single expert in natural medicines on any committee advising the Minister of Health.

In the face of this threat the Natural Medicines Society has been formed "so that members of the public can assert their right to freedom of choice in medicine," and with longer-term aims of promoting natural medicine. It is trying to persuade the government to form a separate committee of experts in natural medicines to review them: that way they will be properly judged and

their future safeguarded. The society is asking for people in their thousands to write to their MP and to the new Minister of Health, Barney Hayhoe (House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA) pressing the need for such a committee.

** Natural Medicines Society, Regency House, 97/107 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8LA.

Faslane Peace Camps'

'Yellow Action' is the latest in their series of Rainbow Actions. It's set for Mon June 2, with people gathering at the camps over the weekend. They want local groups to do actions on Fri May 23 to highlight the amount of work going on nationally on Trident, and how £12bn could be better spent. They also suggest talking to unions and starting a dialogue locally on alternative work. A list of contractors is available for 25p from Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.

You could help ...

GREEN LINE is edited by Jon Carpenter. It is produced by Andy Kaye, Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Sarah Tyzack, Patrick Whitefield, Graham Hooper and others who help from time to time.

We'd welcome more help from readers in or reasonably near Oxford. This could mean typing, editing, graphic work, illustration, clerical work, promotion, collating and folding... the list is endless! Could you help for a few hours a month? If so, please give us a ring.

West London Green Fair

will be held on Turnham Green, Chiswick on Sat April 26. It is organised by the West London Green Umbrella, a grouping of West London environmental and development groups. Details: Tim Cooper and Ian Brodrick, 25 Dukes Ave., London W 4 (01-994 8379).

Racism: a challenge to the Greens

was the title of a conference in London on March 22 organised by the London Area Green Party. Unfortunately we knew of it too late to publicise it. We'd welcome a report in the next issue?

Vehicle exhausts

can be held largely responsible for the high rates of urban lung cancer, says a report issued by FoE to coincide with Acid Rain Week (April 19-26). A 1981 US report claims at least 12% of lung cancers in male city dwellers can be ascribed to air pollution: it was based on a survey of 25 states and over 1m people, and the data were adjusted for age, smoking, occupation etc. The most worrying pollutants in car exhaust are the hydrocarbons, among them the carcinogenic agent in cigarette smoke, benz-a-pyrene

The implication for the UK is that over 4000 deaths are caused each year by car exhaust. But the government has steadily refused to legislate for the fitting of catalytic converters to new cars, and has fought to weaken a new EEC directive on vehicle pollution.

FoE have produced a useful Acid Rain Campaign: Special Report with substantial articles on the European scene; vehicle emissions; acidification and wildlife; and the lies and deceptions of the CEEB. Price 25p plus large sae from FoE, 377 City Road, London EC1V 1NA (who could usefully have put their address or even their name on the report!)

Newham Fair

A multicultural outdoor festival is being organised in Newham, East London for May 24 and 25. Performers will include Benjamin Zephaniah. Natural health area. Childrens' performers needed. Stalls available. Contact Newham Fairs Co-op, c/o 53 West Ham Lane, Stratford, E 15. Tel 01-470 7090.

Green students elected

Three green candidates in the student union elections at Oxford University have all been elected. Their share of first preference votes was almost 15%.

Pedalling Puppets

is an animal rights roadshow based on a specially built tricycle and trailer. It performs for anything from ½ hour to 2 hours, is free of charge, and can be booked from Terry Mace, 85 Strouden Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 1QN. It looks very ambitious and exciting.

Brig's Write Writ Wrong!

Observant readers may have noticed an apparent nonsense in last month's column. It said that the pro-POWG faction at the Green Party conference had an advantage of 80 votes to 30, which was not enough to give them a two-thirds majority. This was a GL typesetting error: the advantage was in PROXY votes, and it was the total of attenders' votes plus proxies which failed to make the required two-thirds.

World Socialist

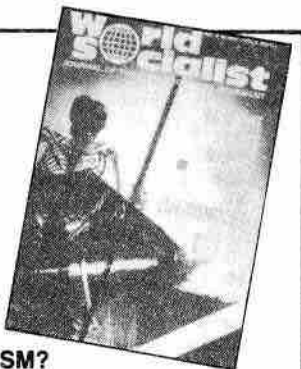
JOURNAL OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

ISSUE No. 4 (WINTER 1985/6)
has articles on:

- * CLASS-DIVIDED SOCIETY BREEDS POLLUTION
- * THE THREAT TO THE GREAT LAKES
- * CENTRAL AMERICA: WHICH WAY TO CAPITALISM?
- * CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM AND ECOLOGY
- * THE TYRANNY OF THE WAGES SYSTEM
- * SEX IN A FREE SOCIETY
- * D.H. LAWRENCE AND THE ABOLITION OF MONEY
- * CLASSIC REPRINT: MONEY MUST GO
and a poem: HIROSHIMA, AUGUST 1945

Sample copy sent free on request (for one year) and £3 (for 2 years). The subscription rate is £1.50

Dept WS, The Socialist Party of Great Britain,
52 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UN.



Third group fights Dounreay

Both the Scottish Green Party and SCRAM (Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace) have been campaigning against the proposed reprocessing plant at Dounreay - each being very careful to ignore the other in its own material and literature, despite the fact that they share the same address! Now a third group is also campaigning - and seeking credibility, support and funds. It's CADE (Campaign Against Dounreay Expansion), Orkney and Shetland based: their latest bulletin contains useful and clear scientific explanation of some of the issues involved. No mention is made of SCRAM or the Green Party. They can be contacted at Nibon, Sullom, Shetland, ZE2 9RQ.

E.O.A. Books

Books for Greens

- GREEN POLITICS - Charlene Spretnak and Fritjof Capra. Now in paperback at £3.95!
- ENERGY: CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY? Diana Schumacher. £12.95
- EXTENDED CIRCLE. Edited by Jon Wynne-Tyson. £4.95
- THE SEXUALITY OF MEN. Edited by Andy Metcalf and Martin Humphries. £4.50
- GATA ATLAS OF PLANET MANAGEMENT. Ed. Norman Myers. £9.95.
- FOREST FARMING. Douglas & Hart. £5.95
- PSYCHOLOGY OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT. Edited by Ian Fenton. £5.95.
- NO IMMEDIATE DANGER. Rosalie Bertell. £5.95.
- SEEING GREEN. Jonathon Porritt. £4.50
- THE TURNING POINT. Fritjof Capra £3.95
- THE NUCLEAR WINTER: The World after Nuclear War. Ehrlich/Sagan/Kennedy/Roberts. £5.95.
- I... RIGOBERTA MENCHU. Verso £4.95
- INTRODUCTION TO HEAT PUMPS - John Summer. Prism Press, £2.95
- BUILDING THE GREEN MOVEMENT - Rudolf Bahro. GMP, £5.95
- FUTURE WORK - James Robertson. Temple Smith, £6.95
- NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA - eds Inglis and Kramer. Findhorn Press, £4.95
- THE RAINBOW WARRIOR AFFAIR - Shears and Gidley. Allen & Unwin, £2.95
- THE COLOR PURPLE - Alice Walker, £3.95

Orders over £4.95 post free

ANY book in print available from order if not in stock.

34 Cowley Road Oxford
(0865)245301

The Campaign against Drinking and Driving

now represents more than 200 victim families who have suffered a death or injury at the hands of a drunken driver. CADD wants severer penalties for convicted offenders - magistrates and judges seldom impose maximum sentences - and they want coroners to return verdicts of 'unlawful killing' rather than 'accidental death'. Licensees and hosts should be charged with aiding and abetting a drunken driver's subsequent crimes.

CADD also wants random breath testing introduced in this country. Studies show that when it was introduced in Australia and New Zealand, road deaths were cut by 30%.

Contact: 079-984 645 or 038-674 426.

Play for Life

is a charity which promotes the life-affirming aspects of play such as imagination, fun and fantasy, gentleness and giving. It encourages adults to look afresh at how children, particularly those between 5 and 12, play and to introduce games and playthings based on sharing and creating, rather than on competition and imitation.

Their third annual conference will be held in London on Sat May 17 (Quaker International Centre, Byng Place, WC1, 10.30 - 3.30). The theme is "Co-operation not Conflict" and the main speaker will be Brenda Crowe. Contact: Amber Carroll (St Albans 54245) and Jean Lambert (01-520 0676).

The Ecological Conscience

is the title of the spring conference of the British Association of Nature Conservationists. Subtitled "Values and ethics in British conservation", it will be held on Sat May 10 in Birmingham. Details from Rick Minter, 20 Clayton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4RP (091 281 8245).

Secret new laws

may sacrifice our civil rights to UK and US military plans. Duncan Campbell and a speaker from NCCL address a meeting on this subject in Bury St Edmunds on Tue May 20 (The Athenaeum, Angel Hill at 7.45). Info: 0284 63730 or 0359 70491.

Rainbow Festival 1986

is being organised by peace and environment groups in Humberside, and will take place on Sun June 29 on Beverley Hurn (part of the racecourse) 11 - 6. To book a stall, phone Betty Whitwell on 0469 30721.

Devon stays nuclear

Moves to make Devon a nuclear-free zone were defeated at the County Council's policy committee on Feb 25 when Labour, Alliance and Tory councillors joined forces to vote against. Only two abstained. But they agreed to oppose nuclear waste dumping in the county or off its shores - because of worries about tourism and fishing.

Labour opposed the NFZ proposal because it wants to keep the votes of workers at the Devonport dockyard. Support had been coordinated by Green Party branches in Devon.

Women's gathering

A group of women are hoping to get together a Women's Gathering this summer. They've never done anything like this before and would welcome info/advice/support, and ideas on how to create a Women's space. Please write to Aunt Matilda, c/o 16 Oxford Grove, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8HQ.

The Register of Green Professionals

has now appeared in a preliminary draft. Entry is available to all who are self-employed and offer services (not products), for a charge of £5 per entry. The first issue lists 21 entries (4 from women) from a pressure vessel engineer to a transport planner and four translators. It's available free from Jonathan Tyler, 121 Selly Park Road, Birmingham B29 7HY. Entries to Tim Cooper, 25 Dukes Avenue, London W4 2AA (01-994 8379).

Sunflower TRADING LIST

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T-SHIRTS 'The Greens Are Gathering' size S, M, L £3.50 each or £3.00 each for 5 or more.

ENVELOPE RE-SEALERS 'The Greens Are Gathering' £2.00 per pack of 100 or £1.85 per pack (5 or more)

BADGES 1 1/2" 'The Greens Are Gathering' or 'Friends of the Earth' 25p each or 15p each for 10 or more

PEEL-OFF STICKERS 1 1/2" 'The Greens Are Gathering' 50p per sheet of 20 or 40p per sheet for 10 or more.

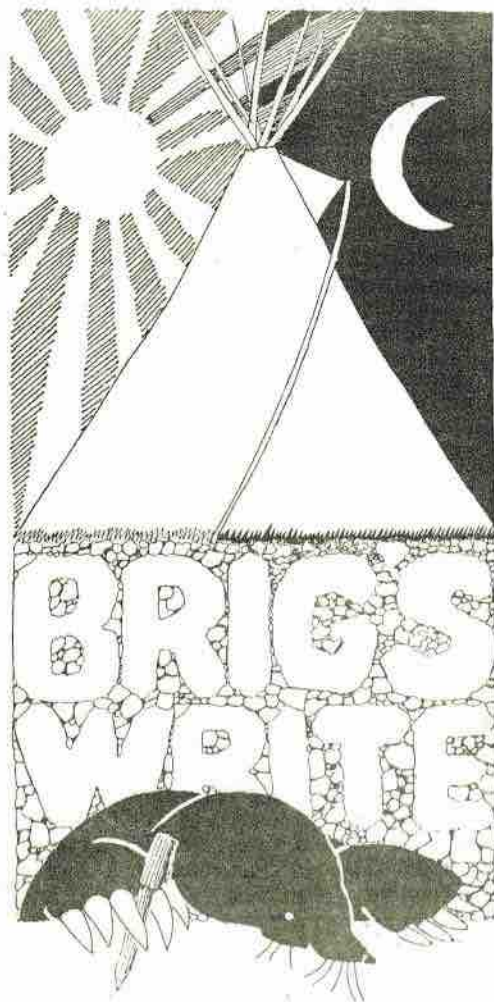
PEEL-OFF SUNFLOWER STICKERS 4 1/2" 'The Greens Are Gathering', 'Liberate the Earth', 'Animal Liberation', 'Women's Liberation', 'Green CND', 'Y Dewis Ecology' 30p each or 20p each for 10 or more.

POSTCARDS of Green Collective banner or Dove flying over Tor (detail from banner) 20p each or 12p for 10 or more.

GREEN COLLECTIVE LEAFLETS 'The Greens Are Gathering' £2.00 per 100

Please include 15% to cover P & P Cheques to 'SUNFLOWERS', 8 Wordsworth Rd, Braintree, Essex. CM7 5SX.





After the blockade

THE FEBRUARY 6th CND Molesworth Blockade was certainly a great success. Since then however, the blockade support for those still at the Molesworth base has fallen back to next to nothing.

At 6 a.m. on Valentine's Day (Feb 14) police and bailiffs arrived for the long-expected eviction of the People's Peace Camp in Warren Lane. Campers were given 20 minutes to pack up and get out; one caravan (Yellow Thunder) was burnt on site, as were a number of personal belongings out of other caravans. The remaining caravans and boat were impounded by Northants County Council, who are demanding £80 per vehicle before they will release them.

Campers who tried to make an official complaint about the police behaviour were referred to the legal department of the council: Northants police refused to accept any complaints.

Prospects for maintaining a permanent presence around the base now look bleak. The eviction case established that Warren Lane is a public highway, so that anyone now attempting to camp there can be immediately arrested for "obstructing the highway". Although the Diocese of Peterborough has now decided NOT

to sell their (George's) field at Peace Corner, the two encampments at Peace Corner (the Christian "Earth Camp" on Peace Lane and the "anarchist" bender in the Peace Corner garden) are now likely to come under increasing pressure. The aim of the authorities is clearly to do away with all possible camping places around the base to prevent Molesworth becoming "another Greenham Common".

What the campers at the base need (quite desparately) is a bit more support on a day-by-day, week-by-week basis. The big turnout on Feb 6 showed that there is still a huge latent support for Molesworth in the peace movement, although most of the time most of the people just don't know what they can do, or indeed feel there is nothing they can do. (Many people on Feb 6 were surprised to find that there was still anybody at all living at the base).

While construction continues it is important that there should be rotas of people to observe the comings and goings of the construction traffic and to compile "Contractor-watch" information. When and if deployment comes, it will be impossible to maintain a Greenham-type Cruisewatch network if there are not actually people at the base to raise the alarm whenever Cruise goes out.

Join the Contractor-watch rota. Can someone from your group cover one day (or even half a day) per month? Contact Jan on 0767 50353. And the People's Peace Camp needs help to get set up again: contact them via Peace Corner.

CND squeeze

MEANWHILE, "NATIONAL" CND is in trouble. The budget for the year which was agreed in January is now having to be revised downwards due to a continuing cash crisis. Membership numbers (which, in the language of the utter euphemism, had been "levelling off") have actually shown a slight rise in January and February but nevertheless CND is now having to think in terms of cutting its huge central office wages bill by the well-known industrial technique of "natural wastage" - i.e. not replacing any staff who quit.

Other economy measures under consideration include a proposal to cut this year's CND conference down to a one-day formal AGM only. This idea may not get past the April Council - hopefully not, since an organisation in difficulties needs more, not less, input from its grassroots. Whatever the cash problems, CND's internal democracy (however imperfect it may be in practice) is the last thing it should consider cutting as an economy measure!

GREEN LINE

Mail Order

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Colin Ward, Old Hammond Press, £1
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- RAINBOW VILLAGE ON THE ROAD: poems and writings Feb/March 1985. Unique Publications, £1.
- POLITICS FOR LIFE, Ecology Party, 50p
- PROGRAMME OF THE GERMAN GREEN PARTY. Heretic Books, £1.50
- SOCIALISM AND ECOLOGY. Raymond Williams, SERA, 75p
- COAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. Wales Ecology Party, 20p
- FOOD ADDITIVES. Wales Ecology Party, 30p
- FAIR VOTES GUIDE (guide to PP). Campaign for Fair Votes, 95p
- EMBRACE THE BARGH: a green view of peace. Jonathon Ferritt et al, Green CND, 90p
- EASY VEGAN COOKING. Sandra Williams and Joy Scott, Old Hammond P., £1.20
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- HEALTH, WEALTH AND THE NEW ECONOMICS. James Robertson, TOES, £1.20
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- BRANDY REPORT: Con Trick. Richard Hunt, Green Line, 10p
- LAW AS CIVILIAN DEFENCE. Keith Metherson, Green Line, 10p
- GREEN CND BADGES in black on fluorescent green. Bulk rate (over 20) 10p each.
- 'MAKE IT GREEN' stickers in gold, yellow and green. 30p ea, 10+ 20p.
- 'STOP ACID RAIN' stickers (yellow and black) 25p each, 10 for £1.75.
- STICKERS (5" green/white): "Peace means Sharing" and "Co-operation not Competition". 30p each, 10 for £2.50.
- BADGES (1½"): Peace Means Sharing; Co-operation not Competition; Acid Rain Kills; Humans - an Endangered Species. 25p each, 10 for £2.
- ORDERS OVER £3 ARE POST FREE. Under £3: please add 25p.
- SEND CASH WITH ORDER to
Green Line,
34 Cowley Road, Oxford

