

Friends of the Earth
Soil Association
Noise Abatement
Abh. Factory Farming
Conservation Society
Vegetarian Society
C.P.R.E.
Family Planning Assoc.
OXFAM
Pre-retirement Assoc.
Community Action

Nat. Cncl of Churches.
Child Poverty Action
Ancient Monuments Soc.
World Community Assoc.
B.S.S.R.S.
World Federalists.
Christian Aid
C.N.D.
World Wild Life
Mental Health
Nat. Fed. Self Employed.
National Trust
Transport 2000
Henry Doubleday
Alternative Society
CoEnCo.
National Society of
Leisure Gardeners.
Peace Pledge Union.
Soc. of Herbalists.
Schools Eco Action.
Common Cause.

Ratepayers Assoc.
Third World First.
Future Studies Centre
Canal Societies.
Community Land Trust.
Vegan Society.
E.C.O.
Planned Parenthood.
Heathrow Anti-noise.
Coast Anti-Pollution.
Protection of Birds.
New Villages Assoc.
The Ecology Party.

Organisations with
similar/related aims.

THE CATALYST FOR ALTERNATIVES
AND ALL WHO SEEK TO LIVE IN
HARMONY WITH NATURE.

DIGEST

Triage

Waste Salvage ?

ARTICLES

Environmental Democracy
What is OVER-POPULATION ?
Preparing the Soil

POLITICS

Centralism & Dictatorship

REPORTS

Inflation & Social Justice SCHUMAKER

Land for the PEOPLE SATISH KUMAR

SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON : Cunningham and Walsh, advertising agents, has redesigned the public service advertising account to get American to economise on petrol and fuel because it claims the Federal Energy Administration, a U.S. Federal agency, wanted to introduce anti-Arab propaganda into the campaign.

THE OIL producing nations are already giving to the 3rd world, five times as much aid, as a % age of their G.N.P., as the 'old' rich nations have ever done. RAW MATERIALS account for 75% - 80% of the under developed world's export earnings. Dependence on demand from the rich world many of them are subject to export restrictions and increasing pressure from synthetic substitutes.

OPEC are backing the group of 77 (which now loosely unites over 100 developing countries) in its claim for a new International Economic Order. IN 1963 Tanzania needed to produce 5 tons of steel to buy a tractor, by 1970 this had risen to 10 tons. In 1960 25 tons of rubber could buy 6 tractors, today it will buy only 2. Only 5 years ago Middle East Oil was almost in the same category as Bangladesh rice is today.

NEW WISDOM MEN have been selected by the Commonwealth Finance Minister Conference to come up with a solution to the world's most difficult economic problems. Looking for this "new world economic order" will include examination of the most technically difficult and politically intractable areas subjects, such as the indexation of commodities.

MAINE is planting hundreds of thousands of fruit, decorative, shade, windbreak trees. 800,000 have been planted so far and government nurseries are crammed with seedlings. Foreign governments to help with gifts of trees include Britain, Soviet Union, Australia, Spain, Cyprus, Thailand, Austria and Libya.

AMAZONIA. Discovered at Vaupes, near the Venezuelan Brazilian border, reserves of manganese twice as big as those being exploited in Amara and containing 20 to 30 million tons of manganese, with an estimated mineral content of 48.5%. Iron ore (hematite) has also been revealed in reserves estimated at 1,000 million tons, with an iron content of 56 to 64% JAPANESE FOOD About US\$ 100 million in agriculture and cattle raising is to be invested in 100,000 hectares in western Minas Gerais (Brazil) depending on incentives offered by Brazilian government, Japan

5-19 Ipswich Music Festival
8-14 Mornington Festival & 'Anti' protests, exhibitions, etc. by F.O.E., Birmingham
13- Open Day. 10.00-7.00 (No Fee) Dartmouth House, London.
19-21 FOOD FOR THE FUTURE. A weekend workshop. Dartmouth House, London.

19-21 "Treatment of Offenders". Alternative Society Dartmouth House, London.
19-21 C.P.R.E. annual conference. University of Kent, Canterbury.

19-21 Soil Association Conference. Defend the 14 Campaign Demonstration. Assemble outside the House Office, Whitehall, London.
28- Ecology Party N.E.C. Worcester.

OCTOBER

3-12 Houghton Feast, Sunderland.
4- "Transport in the Public Interest" one day conference at University of Aston organised by Transport 2000.

5- International Protest Rally at Tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, OMNIS MUNDI PALAZZO Passadacqua 22010 Matreola (Como)
10-12 "Alternatives in Urban Development" Alternative Society Lower Shaw Farm, Swindon.
13- STRATEGY PLANNING GROUP EVENING (Invitation only) Dartmouth House, London.
18- Alternative Technology Conference: 2.00 p.m. Malvern Hills College, Albert Road, Nr. Malvern (Solar, Wind, heater, methane, Incas aerospace etc.)

NOVEMBER

1- Ecology Party Regional Conference, Edinburgh.
8-9 "Home based Education" Lower Shaw Farm, Swindon.
29- "Turning Point" 10.00a.m.-10.00p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London.

5-7 "Towards Alternatives in Health" Lower Shaw Farm, Swindon.
5-7 LOBBYING. A training weekend. Dartmouth House, London.
13- International Peace Conference, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT could appear here for as little as 50p - Tell people what you do.

You are welcome to publicise your future events in these columns free of charge. Details to the Editor please.

POPULATION GROWTH According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Brazil would have a population of 107,115,200 on 1st July 1975, rising to 123 million in 1980.

Actions Speak Louder

EMPTY VESSELS

People who refuse to get involved in the problems of their community are like the two shipwrecked men in a life-boat. From their end of the boat, the pair watched as those at the other end bailed frantically to keep the boat afloat. One said to the other, "Thank heaven, the hole is not in our end of the boat".

OUT OF THE SINGLE DIMENSION

The State and Capitalism is a self-imposed middle-man between ourselves and ourselves. Everything it gives to us it must first take from us. Part of the radical task over the next few years is to by-pass the State, to show that we no longer need it as an intermediary.

Campaigns cannot only be addressed to the State, but also to the local power structure, a capitalist concern, any other institution, or the people involved in these. Far from making demands of these concerns, a campaign may say "get off our backs" or "you will have to go over our live bodies to get away with that".

A MOVEMENT OF SMALL (ALTERNATIVE) SHOPKEEPERS

Despite the efforts of CLAP, there are few economic alternatives which create jobs for those defectors and finance to build other economic alternatives. The economic alternatives which do exist are invariably retail outlets: food and bookshops mainly. And who produces the goods for them? Why Penguin, Mapletons, Granada and other distinctly non-alternative concerns. Where are our alternative furniture factories, manufacturers of kitchen utensils and farm equipment? As long as we rely on the surplus in our own

FORM OF INVESTMENT, and the State (to share in the form of taxes) we will never be able to create a viable alternative production of goods. A theory of alternatives has^{come} to grips with the fact that the wealth, in the form of equipment and facilities, is all there, created by ourselves but expropriated by the State and Capital, and a strategy of alternatives will have to include re-expropriating that wealth. We have a fundamental dilemma in the alternative movement: that the wealth needed to create alternatives is always surplus wealth. But we place a heavy emphasis on not working within the straight institutions and living on subsistence wages. Catch 22!

KEEPING OUR RIGHTS BY ACTING THEM OUT

When, eventually, our alternatives become widespread and organised enough to actually challenge the existing order, then they will be involved in an intense struggle for their very existence. Capitalism and the State will not allow them simply to usurp their functions without a concerted effort to repress them. This began to happen in Seattle, Washington, a few years ago when food co-ops in the city became so numerous and were providing food for such a large percentage of the city's population, that the supermarkets, sensing that their monopoly on the provision of food was being threatened, initiated an intense campaign against the co-ops. This mainly involved legislation moves and attempts to take out injunctions against them. The alternative movement should be working towards the situation where it is providing all people's necessary needs. But if the people involved follow Woody's advice and do not continually struggle to keep their rights from those who would wish to take them away, they will be

woefully unprepared for this phase in the struggle for nonviolent revolution and will most likely be crushed.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It is important to find ways of responsibly and reasonably rejecting the lifestyle of affluence.

GENERAL PRINCIPALS

Waste as little as possible. Avoid waste-producing materials, excessive "packaging", etc. Recycle as much as you can, incl. clothes and furniture. Take power over your own life. You are not at the mercy of the gov't. or in its power. All government is provisional.

SPECIFICS

1. Grow your own food. 1/2 acre will support a family of 5. Check with a local farmer to use or lease property. Check with the county agent to find out about free land;
 2. Make your own bread.
 3. Make your own clothes or buy cheap stuff - drop out of the clothing race.
 4. Ride a bicycle or walk - regular use of a car averages about £1,000 per year; besides, feet and bikes don't pollute.
 5. Save money in a Post Office or Trustee Savings Bank to avoid investments in ways you cannot ethically condone.
- more ideas in next issue.

projects

places

PEOPLE

BIRTHS

To Cherry and Keith Durrant a daughter Kate, who arrived 2 months too soon in May. Now very much a bouncing babe she keeps Cherry fully occupied when she's not otherwise working for the Ecology Party. Congratulations and

best wishes to them all.

MEANWHILE proud father Keith has instigated a Craft Co-op. Resulting from a craft market which brought lots of interested people together. They work together to produce leather, wood, silver and local stone goods and retail them with other SQR items from this shop in Godmanchester, Huntingdon.

THE WHITTAKERS are likewise trying to do their own thing. Having withheld themselves from election as officers of the Ecology Party to give themselves a chance to do this, they've now successfully sold their solicitors practice and are looking for a smallholding in Devon or Cornwall. We wish them every success in their search.

ADAM WHITTINGTON TALKS TO...

BISHOP

Montefiore



One churchman who takes the deepening crisis seriously is the Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Kingston. Author of several works on religion and ecology, he sees today's accelerating crisis rooted in secular society's 'acquisitive, egotistic model

of man' which has spread throughout all classes and virtually to every nation.

Bishop Montefiore fears 'it will be very difficult for mankind to avoid world famine within the next few years', with population accelerating to double itself in a single generation. With the crisis resources steadily dwindling, mankind must learn self-limitation instead of self-indulgence. 'Energy and power must be conserved. Population must be kept down. We must limit the production of luxury items and get rid of "built-in obsolescence": things must be made to last.

Montefiore does not shun controversy. He vigorously opposes any expansion of Britain's nuclear power programme, especially the development of 'breeder reactors' as fraught with dangers for future generations. As Chairman of the Independent Commission →

on Transport he strongly favours dramatic improvement in public transport 'so that people will not be forced to have cars'.

Religion has a decisive role in avoiding the destruction of nature, Bishop Montefiore stresses. 'Neither humanism, Marxism nor moralism can provide an adequate motivation for the responsible attitude towards nature that is needed.

'All these philosophers see man as an end in himself, and so cannot give any independent value for nature. Only the religious understanding of man's place in nature, seeing man as a steward of God-given resources, can answer the question why'.

Instead of our selfish domination and exploitation of nature, mankind today needs to regain a unified vision of his interdependence with other men, with nature and with God.' Continued on page 23.

Report

Details of your events invited for inclusion in these columns FREE OF CHARGE

INFLATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. E.F. Schumacher. (An address given to the AGM of the Catholic Institute for International Relations on 13th June 1975.)

I hope that every one of Dr. Schumacher's readers who so much admired "Small is Beautiful" will read the full papers which have now been published because it shows a great advance from the somewhat dreamy idealism of the book towards the difficult reality of moving from growth to an economy of restraint and conservation.

Dr. Schumacher shows that the first impingement of scarcity in the supply of energy has given much power to those who control that energy, the Arab States who can supply oil, and the British miners. Their natural reaction is to demand higher prices and wages. The miners have discovered "their essentiality and therewith their power" he says.

Now the exercise of that power is going to play an important part in shaping our future. Dr. Schumacher says that we should meet these new claims with Justice, but Justice is

always rooted in necessity, and we have to recognise the necessities of the situation.

In a world of free bargaining between groups we have to recognise the full extent of the power of each group to bargain. If we admit that continued economic expansion is impossible, and if we want to promote policies of restraint in the use of scarce resources, we must see that it is not only energy but everything which is in limited supply. There is only so much food, clothing and transport for us all. How much of that limited amount should the miners have?

Dr. Schumacher says that there should be some form of social contract. In making this contract it is not only the rest of us who have to acknowledge the miners claim, but the miners who have to acknowledge the claim of other groups, because in the end they depend on the work of those groups for food, drink, clothes and tobacco on which to spend their wages. We all need each other.

There will of necessity be a fight about shares - the leaders of each group are going to fight for their own members - but the way in which this bargaining struggle is waged and settled will determine the shape of the society that comes afterwards. Successful bargaining will move towards equal incomes for all modified by allowances for rare skills and special hardships. If we move towards national bargaining about wages on these lines we shall be moving to a society of social peace in which it will be possible to achieve restraint in the use of scarce resources without social breakdown or disaster.

MARGARET LAWS SMITH

(Dr. Schumacher's paper has been published in full by the C.I.I.R. 41 Holland Park, London W11 3PR 5p plus postage)

"Land for the People", each Arts Workshop (7/10 1987)
first speaker. After prattling on for about an hour it was suggested that a commitment be made to do something positive about the land situation.

The outcome is a proposal to take over of some defence property (or similar government land) possibly at a site near Winchester. A dress rehearsal was supposed to have taken place, but this has not yet been realised - at least nothing has been heard from the organiser - Herbert Gerardet. The main project should start in October allowing time to lick the land into good shape inc. a winter green manure crop so that credible food crop can be shown next year.

A big enough splash in the media may stimulate some positive action on land reform - Dennis Lightingle Smith.

Book Review

How to run a Pressure Group by Christopher Hall: Aldine Paperbacks 148p.p. £1.25 (available through Peace Centres)

A highly informative, factual and responsibly written book, well illustrated by actual cases and containing numerous examples of model rules, forms, posters, letters notices etc. In fact almost everything one needs to know or have to hand is contained in these pages. Without apology for stating what may be simple and obvious to those who have some experience of any society Christopher Hall enables anyone to take a workmanlike approach to starting a pressure group, selecting the right person for each job, Publicity, Demos, Money and so on. A most valuable guide for anyone involved in any group, whether running it or not.

Michael Benfield

COMFREY - A series of Henry Doubleday Association Publications (20 Convent Lane, Bocking, Braintree, Essex).

A selection from 5 previous Comfrey reports. Research into comfrey

continues in this hungry world, cries out to be taken seriously. No other plant has so many possibilities. It is the worlds fastest protein builder, yielding 124 tons an acre in twelve months cuts near the equator, and is the only land plant known to extract Vitamin B12 from the soil, the vital vitamin present in foods of animal origin.

Packed with solid information of the history of Comfrey, its various strains and comparative yields detailed analysis of constituents. Comfrey is shown to compare very favourably with other fodder crops in the protein to fibre ratio. There is detailed information about using Comfrey for pigs, cattle, horses and poultry, and a chapter for the amateur gardener on its uses as a compost material, a mulch, a high potato tomato fertiliser, and potato fertiliser. Also simple instructions for the gardener on how to grow it and use it in the kitchen.

An extremely valuable booklet, the result of much research and hard work which deserves a lot of attention. Comfrey the Herbal Healer (50p) In his preface to the Comfrey report, Mr. Hills gives his reasons for not including a section on the medicinal properties of comfrey... "It is bec-

Publishers invited to submit books, booklets, etc., for review and to advertise them in these columns - £1 per S.C.I.

more medical validity than testimonials to patent medicines...." This separate booklet is a collection of accounts written by comfrey users. In Britain, with our N.H.S. we still mock at folk-medicine, and herbal cures such as comfrey do not receive serious research they deserve. It is hoped that this convincing little booklet will prompt the medical authorities to take a less patronising view of herbalists, and encourage individuals to try natural remedies for their ailments. The booklet has sections on the use of ointment, tea, root, leaf poltices and tablets. There is a useful index at the back of all the many and various complaints that can be alleviated or cured by comfrey.

Save your own Seeds. (50p) I was asked by Mr. Hills to review this, because the ordinary gardening magazines will not review it, because of being unpopular with their advertisers! Many people, I for one, have been conditioned into believing that vegetable seeds are only "potent" for one year, so you have to buy new ones the following January. This myth is beautifully exploded.

There is a section on home seed testing, and detailed information on how to save your own seed from a wide range of garden vegetables. In these days of inflation, even "Digging for Survival" becomes an expensive business, if we persist in being "consumer society gardeners", Now with the help of this fascinating little booklet we can learn to save our own seeds, and begin to truly grow our own food.

- Cherry Durrant

Towards the Creation of Sustainable Economy by Margaret Laws Smith -
The Conservation Society 13p.p. : 25p

To many people economics holds an aura of mumbo jumbo indiscernability. To her credit Mrs. Laws Smith quietly avoids this and in concise clearly understandable language sets out the case for a steady state economy. Without fuss or tortuous argument she quickly de-bunks the present governments policies and puts forward sensible alternatives - many of them in line with those of the new Ecology Party manifesto.

To grasp a quick understanding of the fundamental argument for a stock rather than a flow national economy you should read this; Michael Benfield

CLASSIFIED

Your advertisement may be inserted in this section at a cost of 18p per word for a WHOLE YEAR or 2p per word per issue. Box Numbers 50p per annum or 10p per issue. Display classified advertisements cost £1.00 per single column inch (5 per cent discount for six consecutive insertions).

THE FARM AND FOOD SOCIETY - for nonviolent agriculture. Details: 4 Willifield Way, London O1-475-0674

ANYONE INTERESTED in a philosophy based on genesis contact B.H. Cox The Flat, Whitpost Lane, Calverstone, Kent, S.A.E. Flasse.
ORDER "GOOD EARTH" Monthly newspaper 5p from : Circulation Manager, 18 Cofton Lake Road, Birmingham B45 8PL.

Since the onset of farm mechanisation 99.9% of our farm horses have been slaughtered and their employment being considered uneconomic the slaughter still continues.

THE HEAVY HORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY begs for donations for a rescue fund to buy and care for a few of the survivors. Gifts of jewellery, old coins, used stamps, clothing or anything else for sale in the Society's shop are also most welcome. So far the Society has bought seventeen horses.

This is the final hour of need for animals that have served us all so faithfully and so well. Help is now urgently needed and deeply appreciated. R.G. Hooper. Send to: HHS Treasurer. Old Rectory Whitchurch, Salop. SY13 1LF.

TRIAGE

By Peter Adams, New Internationalist.

A new idea is gaining ground in the United States. The idea is variously known as 'triage', 'die-off', 'pulling the plug', or 'life-boat ethics'.

Leading advocate of 'triage' is Garret Hardin, Professor of Human Ecology at the University of California, who maintains that there are now so many 'wounded' in the world and so little aid available that we must make the moral decision to 'pull the plug' on the 'hopeless cases' like India and Bangladesh, which together encompass 600 million people.

"If you ask an American 'shall we do what we can to keep people in poor countries from starving?', they will always say yes".

But now, Americans are being told by Hardin and the crew of his life-boat, that such an attitude is a kind of moral cowardice, a weak giving-in to emotional idealism.

Those still weak enough to want to help are just 'guilt-addicts', and Hardin offers them a way out: they can change places with the man in the water. By this process, he says, "the net result of conscience-stricken people relinquishing their unjustly held position is the elimination of their kind of conscience on the life-boat. The life-boat, as it were, purifies itself of guilt. The ethics of the life-boat persist, unchanged by such momentary aberrations."

Can the final 'ethics of the life-boat' be laughed at when final control over US food surpluses has just passed to the National Security Council which, at a recent meeting, came up with a statement that "to give food aid to countries just because people are starving is a pretty weak reason?"

According to an FAO official, 10,000 men, women and children are dying of starvation and weakness and disease induced by malnutrition everyday with hardly a finger being lifted to help. Now we are being told that our consciences only show 'guilt-addiction', mere sentimental idealism, and that the act of sitting back and watching people die on our television screen should not disturb us.

Today, in the midst of the world's worst ever food crisis, the United States is exporting one sixth of the amount of food for famine relief that it was a decade ago. And within days of President Ford agreeing to sell a further 2.2 million tons of grain to the Soviet Union, his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, was telling the government of India that the US could only afford to sell 0.5 million tons of grain to that hungry sub-continent. Last year, American overseas aid was 27% down on 1972. And recently, for the first time, the US refused to contribute anything to a United Nations special fund set up to help the very poorest and most desperate countries who have been hardest hit by the quadrupling of oil prices and the tripling of food prices in the last five years.

It is a fact that America is the wheat-bowl of the world. It is a fact that America has again and again saved India from even worse famine by shipping out food-aid.

It is a fact that in 1972 the United States government paid American farmers \$3.6 billion to keep one acre in five uncultivated. It is a fact that 75% of the \$1 billion-a-year food aid disbursement has gone to American allies from South Korea to Syria, South Vietnam to Chile, whilst only 25% goes to nations in the grip of famine. It is a fact that 'Food

age American eats twice as much protein his body can use. And it is a fact that more grain is fed to cattle in the United States than is eaten by the two most populous nations in the world, India and China, every year, and that just one tenth of the grain fed to US cattle could have met last year's disastrous shortage in the poor world.

It is also a fact that Japan and Western Europe together import 20% more grain than all the poor nations of the world put together; that the United States is the world's biggest importer of beef; that the Netherlands is the world's biggest importer of milk protein; that the rich world imports more protein from the poor world than it exports to it and consumes two thirds of the world's food with less than one third of the world's population.

Far from being a 'life-boat' situation, it is more a case of the rich world sinking the poor world's ship and forcing its population into the water for the sake of stocking up a luxury liner for a round-the-world cruise.

How long will it be before the prophets of the conscience-less life-boat begin arguing the 'ethical' necessity of throwing overboard the old, the sick, the poor, the uneducated, the unemployed, the handicapped, the immigrants, and politely asking those who protest these actions how well they can swim?

Why Don't We Salvage More Waste?

By David Moller, Readers Digest, April 1975.

Last April, York City Council launched a glass recycling scheme. Household-ers received special sacks and instructions for separating clear and coloured glass,

Response was enthusiastic. But after eight weeks the Council discovered that to collect and process the glass had cost them - in extra wages, vehicle running costs, administrative overheads - £35 a ton. And they got no more than £7 per ton. The scheme was quietly abandoned.

This underlines the pitfalls in recycling waste. Our throw-away-society annually discards £600 million worth of materials. Recycling is a vital step in the husbanding of the world's diminishing natural resources, and an immediate way of cutting down Britain's soaring imports bill.

Despite seeming advantages, recycling is beset with difficulties. Failure to understand the problems has raised false hopes, often to the detriment of operations that are worthwhile. Experts in the management of solid waste agree that some recycling is economically and ecologically valuable and that more could be so.

Each year we throw out 20 million tons of household and trade refuse. This includes 10,000 million tin cans, 6,000 million glass bottles and jars, 375 million aerosols, 300,000 tons of plastic, 20 million worn-out tyres and 7 million tons of paper and board (65 per cent of the volume contents in the average dustbin). Collection and disposal of this waste costs us £160 million a year in real terms. This could double over the next 20 years.

Some goes up in smoke from incinerators, at a cost of up to £10 a ton.

merit of reclaiming marshland and worked-out quarries.

Unfortunately most cities are running out of convenient landfill sites. London's waste often travels up to 25 miles by lorry or barge. An extravagant way to fill holes.

Hopes were once high for a process that breaks up refuse and, through bacterial action, digests the organic and fibrous elements into soil-enriched compost. But this product is expensive to make, and its nutrient value cannot yet compete with chemical fertilizers. Of the 30-odd municipal compost plants built during the last 25 years, less than a dozen are still operating.

There have already been attempts to generate electricity or heat from burning refuse. London has a £13 million dual-purpose incinerator that is consuming 400,000 tons of rubbish a year to produce £5000,000 worth of electricity for the national grid. Nottingham has opened a £5 million system to provide heat and hot water for 16,000 offices, shops and homes.

However, the highly varied content of household refuse makes it an inefficient fuel, and incinerators designed to produce heat or electricity from it are both expensive to build and quick to break down. In addition heat-producing plant needs expensive cooling apparatus.

Today we recycle just two per cent of our refuse, and use a smaller proportion of recycled products than at any time in our history. This is because they usually cost more than virgin materials. Apart from tin cans and other ferrous metals that can be separated magnetically, most refuse has to be sorted by hand. Soaring labour costs and the difficulty of recruiting for this work have thus made reclamation of most materials quite unec-

...dshire, is working on an all-purpose system that uses air to separate lighter from heavier materials, and rotating screens to sort out components of different sizes. There is a difficulty. "Many modern products consist of an almost unrecyclable blend of materials," says Alfred Higginson, technical adviser to the Institute of Solid Wastes Management. "Paper is often coated with plastic; some articles are made of metal and plastic or a mix of different plastics; textiles are increasingly made of a variety of fibres."

These problems may be solved by another promising technique, pyrolysis. Using intense heat in an air-free atmosphere, normally unrecyclable blends of plastic, paper, rubber, wood - indeed, all combustibles - are converted into variable grades of oil, gas and a solid fuel resembling coke. This costs about the same as incineration and the valuable energy created, unlike that produced by refuse incinerators, can be stored for future use. The process, moreover, causes a minimum of atmospheric pollution. Experts predict that Britain will have its first municipal pyrolysis plant, capable of handling the rubbish of a whole district, by 1980.

Just over half our local authorities salvage paper, recovering less than five per cent of the seven million tons used each year. And yet Environment Under-Secretary Gordon Oakes, when he launched the government's "War on Waste" campaign last autumn, estimated that waste paper could save Britain an annual £200 million.

Unfortunately, the problem is not solved simply by collecting more

packaging - is limited, and depends closely on industry's demand, which falls off as the economy slows down. When mills cannot easily sell their products, they stop buying in waste from all but their limited numbers of contracted suppliers. The price plummets, and collectors can be left with massive storage problems and nothing to show for their outlay on labour and handling.

Some local authorities abandoned their efforts altogether when they suffered heavy losses during the 1971-2 glut. One recent breakthrough, however, may help to extend the market. Much waste paper was formerly of limited use because of its contamination by ink. Now chemists have developed an effective method of removing printer's ink so that a far greater proportion of waste can be turned into valuable newsprint. By the end of next year, Britain will have four mills capable of producing an annual 400,000 tons of newsprint containing an average 20 per cent of recycled paper.

Most experts believe that the government must subsidize the market for waste paper, ferrous metals and other easily salvaged materials that should be conserved in the national interest. Guaranteed price levels would enable local councils to undertake salvage operations without risk of loss and the subsequent burden on rate-payers.

We must devise tax incentives to increase the industrial demand for salvaged materials and, in the long term, persuade manufacturers to design products which can be more easily recycled when no longer usable.

Efforts to mechanize the separation of waste paper and develop mechanical recycling systems must be intensified. What can the householder do?

Experts make these suggestions:-

- * Buy drinks only in returnable bottles - and take back the empties.
- * Offer local retailers old containers or other materials. Chemists bottles,

spirit bottles, newspaper help the greengrocer.

- * Find out if your local authority runs a salvage scheme. Seek out other bodies who may have them.

ECO-INFO CENTRE

Response to our announcement has been encouraging. Information has been received from: The Alternative Society, Hunt Saboteurs Association, Trust for Humane research, Divine Light Mission, Future Studies Centre, Population Count Down, The Farm and Food Society.

PLEASE SEND: Details of your group/societies activities; unwanted magazines; journals; news items; articles; books; etc with an ecological content (marked appropriately if possible)

Your suggestions and donations to help establish this centre.

THE OBJECT is to offer as near a free service as possible to give anyone seeking info either the data or where they can get it, to put people in touch with like minds and generally to keep everyone informed of developments on a world wide basis.

ENQUIRIES AND HELP WELCOME.

ECO + INFO CENTRE,
New Buildings, Trinity St.
COVENTRY.
Tel : Coventry 22048

HORSE DRAWN HEARSE

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New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry. Tel: 22048

What Chance Environmental Democracy?

by Val Stevens

If there's one place that convinces me of the urban crisis it's the semi-underground street behind the main railway station in Birmingham. A place of many bus-stops, discarded coke-cans, crisp-packets, and disaffected youth. On one occasion the crowds were greater and more vocal than usual, following a large football match. Most of them were between 13 and 20. They gulped Coke from cans, ate chips from fistfuls of white paper, and kicked the empty cans around.

But it was the dull, vacant expressions in their eyes - even when they were grinning - that depressed me. How can we ever kindle a fire of idealism in such minds? The next Coke, the next Chippy, the next Footy match and the chance of some aggro, are the zenith of their hopes. What earthly use to preach about the balance of Nature, or stewardship. Have we environmentalists - educated, aware, respectable, secure - really thought how the mass of the people can be motivated to care about their own future?

They love their canned fizzy drinks, and the bright city lights, the crowds, the gangs, the discos, the gear. They may be stuck in boring jobs to pay for their chips and footy matches, and cheesecloth shirts, but if you told them that if they had their own land they could grow their own spuds, and weave their own shirts, drink from a stream, and play unlimited football, - and so escape the need to be any man's bored employee, - they would laugh us to scorn. The idea of grubbing in mucky soil! And living in a one-horse village!

When the crunch comes they will react violently, outraged that the system no longer delivers its tawdry goodies. They are the product of our society and to be pitied. But it's too late for gradual reform. Political reality may ~~seem~~ forcing people back to the land and a simpler life style at gun-point, like the Kmer Rouge have done in Cambodia.

Michael Benfield looks at Hong Kong and asks.....

"WHAT IS OVER-POPULATION?"

Housing. One of Hong Kong Government's proudest and most conspicuous achievements is public housing for more than 1.6 million people. Over 1 million are ex-squatters rehoused in Resettlement Estates at a density of 24 square feet per adult. The remaining 600,000 are housed either in Government Low Cost Housing or by Housing Authorities and Housing Societies. More than 2 million people live in private housing.

A survey in 1969 showed living conditions in private housing still fantas-

tically crowded and dominated by traditional tenement floors. 2.3 million in private housing, 65,000 still living in old tenement flats, 1.4 million in room/cubicles, 70,000 in boats and 127,000 in temporary structures (squatters), and 86,000 in badspaces, verandahs, cocklofts and roof-shacks.

Recognising the seriousness of the problem a ten-year housing development programme has been announced, to build on such a scale that, within ten years, there will be enough permanent homes, self-contained and with good amenities and in a reasonable environment for everyone. This will mean the virtual disappearance of squatter areas and elimination of the worst over-crowding, but requires the building of 1.8 million homes in a decade.

Water: Daily consumption of fresh water is increasing. The present 53 billion gallons reservoir-capacity is no longer sufficient to ensure an adequate supply from one rainy season to another. To keep pace with the need, several plans are in hand including the importing of water from neighbouring areas, the construction of further reservoirs, and the establishment of desalination plants. Importing water is expensive and limited (two-thirds of the water from the East River in China is already exported to Hong Kong). Constructing further reservoirs uses precious land. It is estimated that after completing 'High Island Scheme' (which will double present storage capacity) there will be insufficient water catchment areas to develop further reservoirs. The High Island Scheme is the construction of a reservoir made by building dykes between a group of conveniently situated off-shore islands. It is the second of this type. The enclosed sea-water is pumped off to be replaced by fresh water. This type of scheme eliminates the natural shoreline, including the life-supporting mangroves, and is not devoid of ecological consequences.

Desalination plants are independent of weather conditions, expensive but reliable. However, desalination involves the heating-up of vast quantities of seawater which results in two major problems: large-scale fuel consumption with its exhaust products may be a major pollutant; and dissipation of heated concentrated saline solution. The latter has major ecological consequences for marine life. Nevertheless a desalination plant is already being built.

Land. With average population density 100,000 per square mile in urban districts and a total of only 400 square miles, land utilization is a primary problem, involving questions of urban development, industrial development and recreational facilities.

The urban district of Hong Kong is a concrete jungle with an average living space per person of 60 square feet, within which recreational facilities are very scarce. Fortunately, an efficient transport system can convey large numbers of the urban dwellers to enjoy the natural beauty in the uplands and beaches. Intrusion into nature reserves again has ecological consequences. The public need to be educated and deterred from the destruction, both accidental and wanton, of flora and fauna, causing hill fires, and casual disposal of rubbish.

There is a continuing demand on industrial land. Hong Kong's industries are principle life-lines, their survival depends on competitiveness, high adaptability and ability to expand. Minimisation of production cost is paramount. Leading to practices detrimental to the environment such as air and water pollution, noise pollution, e.g. undamped exhausts, is serious

Industry relies on air transport for raw materials and export of finished products.

Other industries, such as tourism, demand urban facilities to be developed again encroaching on the nature reserves. Large-scale land reclamation is causing the loss of shore land at the expense of marshes and mangroves, and deforestation is creating more badlands and causing climatic imbalance.

About one tenth of Hong Kong's land is agricultural. Paddy fields for rice production are in decline as the same area can produce multi-vegetables and flowers to give better financial return. Rice production amounts to less than 5 per cent of the total needs while vegetable production accounts for around 40 per cent of the local consumption. Pig and poultry farming are widespread and uncontrolled. The products account for 15 per cent of the total fresh pork supply and 60 per cent of the fresh poultry supply. Thus, these products represent a small fraction of the staple food needed, yet they have a ready market and form a fairly prosperous industry.

On the other hand, the farm area presents a dismal picture, Not only does intensive farming need careful management to avoid soil quality degradation, but there is a lack of sanitary provision. The night soil and animal waste amounts to an equivalent waste produced by over one million human population. This is causing heavy organic pollution, especially to local streams.

Waste: The ability of the environment to absorb waste is also a resource, perhaps the first to be exhausted in the industrial nations. Waste production increases rapidly with population and standards of living. Hitherto, sewage waste has been discharging into the sea. Little or no pre-treatment is used. Until recently, rapid sea currents dispersed the waste products and rendered

are becoming more and more significant. Tidal and current flow within the regions where sewage discharges are taking place, sewage treatment requirements, the effects of land reclamation on tidal and current flow, and the effects upon marine life are only now being studied.

Preliminary results show that in certain areas where the cleansing process is efficient, namely where currents are rapid, the pollution level is tolerably low, whereas in other regions, such as in a tidal cove, the pollution level is reaching danger limits. More and more regions are now receiving effluents.

With continuing destruction of natural shore land, tidal cleansing is becoming less efficient and marine life is more easily affected. Marine life plays a particularly important role in Hong Kong. Fishing is a sizeable industry, and marine culture may become a major industry producing much needed protein food.

Conclusion: When a population grows in a finite environment, it will, sooner or later, encounter a resource limit. This phenomenon of reaching the "carrying capacity" applies equally to bacteria on a culture dish and to man.

It is hard to envisage how Hong Kong will cope when the population is doubled at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

- If this isn't over population what is?

Hedgehog hand carding



and
spinning
equipment

T. J. Willcocks

WHEATCROFT
ITCHINGFIELD
HORSHAM, SUSSEX
Sinfold (040374) 345

Any time from now until the end of October is good to prepare your vegetable garden or arable fields (or a new virgin patch such as part of your lawn or some rough ground) for a fertile blast-off in the Spring.

Dig your land or plough your fields not more than 4" deep. This is important so as not to mix the very active top 4" of soil where most of the biological activity is in progress with the relatively sparsely bacterially populated area below this level. For this operation it is not even necessary to dig. Just rake the soil to a reasonable tilth if that is possible on your particular soil, and scatter Hungarian Rye at the rate of 10 oz per square yd.. Then rake it in and hang screwed newspapers or 'glitter-bangs' on slanting sticks to deter our feathered friends. This will continue growing throughout the Winter and will suppress weeds. In spring, while it is still green, it should be trodden or rolled and dug or ploughed in not more than 4" deep.

Variety 'Lovazpatoni' is obtainable from the Henry Doubleday Research Assoc. in small quantities from 20, Convent Lane, Bocking, Braintree, Essex at 14p for 20z., 25p for 4oz., 35p for 8oz., 55p for 1lb., inc. postage. For larger quantities i.e. 7lb. upwards, buy direct from farm seed merchants, much cheaper without postage costs.

20lb. of the variety Western Wolths per acre sown in August gives the equivalent fertility of 30 tons F.Y.M. per acre.

EDITORIAL

Who's Enemy?

Colin Pratt of the Daily Express is no doubt proud of his sensationalised pre-report of the Watchfield Festival. ("Festival of Darkness"). Even allowing for 'Express' editorial bias it was disturbing.

Cleverly Mr. Pratt raised emotion, developed outrage and stimulated anger. Then very neatly he provided his readers with an enemy against whom to turn.

It's all going to be an outing for the Alternative Society and its various band of zealots, cranks and academic apologists" he wrote, continuing with inditments of drug taking, squatting, lawlessness and promiscuity "Aptly perhaps they have called their movement CLAP - the Community Levy for Alternative Projects" he claimed.

INACCURATE REPORTING.

Now just where Mr. Pratt obtained his information I'm not sure. What is certain is that the charitable trust called Alternative Society has absolutely no connection with CLAP. Furthermore both deny any involvement with Watchfield and are mightysore at the suggestion,

Increasingly the media seem to be developing a down on anything 'alternative', often referring to the movement as large as Anarchist. If encouraging the creation of alternative industries, transport, education, housing, communities and the like can be classed as anarchist, particularly when present society is clearly falling to pieces, then no doubt Monsigneur Bruce Kent, Bishop Trevor Huddleston, Yehudi Menuhin, Fritz Schmacher et al of the Alternative Society would be willing to accept the charge.

If helping to raise funds for such

diverse projects as improving literacy, co-ownership bakeries and the Bristol based 'Crisis' corps are anarchist activities then perhaps CLAP would also plead guilty.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Either Mr. Pratt got his wires crossed or this heralds the start of an attack upon the eco-survival alternatives movement by the establishment of both left and right who need an identifiable enemy to divert attention from the increasing failure of their growth policies.

If so then we all have cause for deep concern and should waste no time in joining forces to ensure that as society collapses alternatives are available to take over.

In which event Mr. Pratt you may be grateful that there were people prepared to run the gauntlet of your establishment challenge.

ival of darkn

Counting the real cost of the hippy demo that's going ahead with Roy Jenkins's blessing

By COLIN PRATT



Start of invasion: Hippies in their M

so-called Alternative and his curious band of cranks, and apologists.

Watchfield Festival Annual celebration of the 'Legal Windsor'.

Behind it all the Watchfield

HEATHCOTE WILLIAMS, could perform a useful job of maintaining the Watchfield from

the increasing failure of their growth policies.

POLITICS

CENTRALISM AND DICTATORSHIP IN MEANS WILL ONLY RESULT IN CENTRALISM AND DICTATORSHIP IN ENDS

One of the tightest corners a splinter group argued itself into was the call of the Communists for Europe. So far as I can judge, their argument was as follows: the centralisation of the international ruling class (that is the multi-national corporation and the supra-national bureaucracy) required the centralisation of the working-class movement in opposition. With less emphasis on the class dimension, it was, I think, the argument used by Peter Hain in advocating a Young Liberal "Yes" vote.

Just what kind of post-revolutionary society do we want to build? Centralism and dictatorship in means will only result in centralism and dictatorship in ends. This is the fundamental objection to all

to the people on whose behalf action is being taken.

Quite apart from this speculative criticism, there is the tactical reality to consider. Such a policy allows the ruling class to choose the ground upon which the struggle will take place. The failure of narrow, exclusivist working-class politics has been its purely defensive response to the institutions and the aggressions of capital and authority.

THE DANGER OF FASCISM

Our first priority in the revolutionary programme must therefore be to transcend the narrow class base. We must widen our concept of oppression. We must also consider those traditionally "middle-class" people who show a will to identify with the losers in social equation.

We must have the courage to criticise the traditional revolutionaries, and their clients, when they sacrifice mutual aid to sectional advantage. Lenin noted in 1917 that "it is possible to bribe the labour leaders and the upper stratum of the labour aristocracy. And that is just what the capitalists of the advanced countries are doing: they are bribing them in a thousand different ways, direct and indirect, overt and covert. This stratum of workers turned bourgeois, or the labour aristocracy, who are quite philistine in their mode of life, in the size of their earnings and in their entire outlook is...the principal social prop of the bourgeoisie.

The danger of the sky-high wage claim is that it heralds fascism, not because of bourgeois reaction and coup d'etat. The labour aristocracy, large-scale State-ownership of the economy, planning agreements with the private sector, and a welfare system totally embracing of the need to produce eff-

20s and the end of World War II When, emerges within the thinking of the Labour Party left, we must expose it as such and not quail in the face of over 70 years of a fighting socialist record.

PEOPLE NOT RÔLES

The second task for a revolutionary programme is organisational. We must create among ourselves a network, an association of associations, an organic, cellular-structured alliance. Without bureaucracy, without committees, without delegation, without the authoritative allocation of values.

Such a libertarian alliance would exist solely to spread information, to spread opinion, analysis and shared experience of the revolutionary struggle. The initiation of action must remain with the many single-issue groups which would compose such an alliance.

We have noted how the traditional Trade Union movement may be leading us to fascism and not mutual aid. The danger is in making a fetish out of a rôle, of never seeing beyond the confines and the potentiality of that rôle. The second danger is that, of letting authority define the ground upon which we shall fight.

CHOOSE OUR OWN GROUND

Our third task is operational. The struggle must be waged with the weapons we have, and in the fields in which we have, and in the fields in which we can be reasonably certain of victory. The struggle must be waged as a perpetual guerrilla. Every exploitation, every oversight, error and bumbledom of capitalism, of the bureaucracy and of the State must be exposed, challenged and fou-

ght; but on our terms.

We could suggest nonviolent resistance rural and industrial organisation, global solidarity of the producers and the exemplary power of revolutionaries leading, as far as possible, a life-style which approximates to their post-revolutionary idealism.

Only when we choose the ground will we win.

The mechanistic bankruptcy of the traditional labour movement is our warning. Like so many sheep herded into the model farm of State Capitalism from which shall emerge the Corporate State and its product - the battery-worker. A product devoid of the will or the capacity for spontaneity, self-management and mutual aid.

Revolution is the content of our minds; it is our material and conscious condition; it is the content of our relations with each other. As better developed individuals, we become better social beings; as better social beings, we become better individuals.

Mark Inber - Peace News, July 1975.

YOUR REPORTS on any meetings or other functions are welcome for inclusion in this section.
REMEMBER everyone not only wants but needs to know what's going on throughout the country - Editor.

"It's All Happening"

"An Alliance works wonders, works wonders ..." Alliance, together with enclosures, is sent to most interested media. Just before the Bank Holiday we received a phone call from Roger Cook of the Guardian. He'd read the last issue and wanted more info on the New Villages Association.

We answered his questions, sent him everything we had, got N.V.A. to do likewise and put him in touch with Bill Edwards of the Federation of Community Land Trusts.

Now a full article on the valuable work being done in this field is pending. Roll up, roll up, you could be the next lucky winner...!

POPULATION COUNTDOWN

Have produced an updated fact sheet on the world population problem. They also have available posters, films, general leaflet, transfers and booklets.

Make sure you use them whenever you have a conference, meeting or a coffee morning: Population Countdown, 27-35 Mortimer Street, London W1A 4QW.

SMOKING DOGS

Mike Huskissan and John Bryant rescued and cared for two of ICI's smoking beagles. Whilst thousands of pets are stolen every year and sold for research the C.I.D. have scoured the country for these two.

Mike and John currently face charges ranging from the theft of, to the handling and disposing of, the dogs. If you feel you would like to help contact the Bicester Three Befence Fund, 91 Home Close, Hockwell Ring, Luton, Beds.

AN ALLIANCE OF INTERESTS

Organisations/Societies are invited to send brief reports of their activities for inclusion in this section.



Transport producing a series of briefing documents on transport issues which provide useful statistics for local campaigns. The first two on railway closures and road construction, will be circulated in September. Still need feed-back from groups and individuals of road proposals from the Council etc.

Recycling: Standard legislation of Containers Bill had first reading last month. David Lane, M.P. for Cambridge fully acknowledged FOE help.

Wildlife: FOE continues fight for survival of the whale. The IWC continue to compromise, and whales to suffer and decrease. FOE have called for a United Nations Convention on whales, and urge individuals to form groups ready to mount demonstrations across the country.

The Endangered Species Bill might get to Committee Stage by end Session (for the Lords sometime in September). Import of live crocodillians has been banned under the Animals Act, so no excuse for continuing to allow reptile skin imports. FOE urges individuals to write to Crosland on the following lines....."that it is shameful that the IUCN is appealing to Western Countries to ratify the Convention, and the UK still hasn't done anything: where is his draft Bill, and why hasn't he allowed Wynne-Jones' Bill Parliamentary Time? Does he give a damn about endangered species anyway? or does he really only care about the Trade association that the Government has consulted (e.g. furriers, leather trade people etc.)..." FOE got publicity by joining the Knightsbridge Committee's venture of an open letter to Harrods, asking Hugh Fraser to stop selling luxury goods made from wild animal products. The 50 well known people who signed it included Spike Milligan and Twiggy.

Bike Day: Very successful. 3,000 people at the London rally, lots of activity around the country, and loads of media coverage. There was an adjournment debate on bicycles on July 11th.

HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Having spent months battling for action from various "Conversation" Societies or being bored by trendy N.W.3 types prattling on about getting a place in the country and becoming self-sufficient, what a joy it was to personally discover H.D.R.A., this essentially practical, no-nonsense active little organisation working under their hard-working, incredibly prolific figure-head, Lawrence D. Hills. The whole spirit of the organisation is summed up by a warning from Mr. Hills to potential newsletter contributors...."Remember the newspaper motto" "Procrastination is the thief of time... Generalization is the thief of space"...(no) one needs

SHARE YOUR IDEAS for promoting ecological thinking, staging events, raising funds, etc. in these columns - Editor.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ADVERTISE in this journal to reach a widespread highly motivated and influential audience.

I have struggled blindly in the darkness of ignorance and inexperience, determined not to succumb to the lure of conventional chemicals, but knowing no alternative when my brassicas were being eaten by aphids. Now the regular H.D.R.A. newsletter has taken on the proportion of a visitation from Delphic oracle, and it is heart-lifting to know that help and knowledge are there for the asking.

The publications of the H.D.R.A. are comprehensive and prolific. There are many leaflets on all aspects of their work, from making compost to getting an allotment. These are free to members, 5p, to non-members (S.A.E. too please) It is worth sending to H.D.R.A. (20 Convent Lane, Bocking, Braintree, Essex.) for a full list of these, and for details of the booklets available as well.

**ALTERNATIVE
SOCIETY**
Registered Charity No. 264844



The Alternative Society, under pressure of increasing media use of its name as a description for anarchist activities, is considering changing its name. A very unfortunate and unenviable situation to find themselves in having spent so much time building up a worthwhile reputation and lots of goodwill with those who know and care.

Suggestions should be sent to: Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.

FREE J.P. Campaign

Were successful in running their full page advertisement in the "Times" on August 15th.

Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) - one of India's most respected figures - has been imprisoned by Mrs. Gandhi without trial, together with thousands of other politicians, journalists, students and others, in response to a non-violent cam-

campaign against corruption.

If you would like to help contact Paul Connett at 12 Watermead Lane, Carshalton, Surrey (01-640-2367)



Dartmouth House

Dartmouth Row London SE10 8AW
Telephone 01-892 3620

After being almost overwhelmed by response to their letter to the 'Observer' earlier this year, are now free to share with all those interested the results of the past months. A programme of events has now been prepared (see "Forthcoming

Events") based upon replies to their questionnaire which showed considerable awareness that serious changes in style of life and levels of expectations have political implications.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES



- 1) Decisions of 1974/75 N.E.C. reaffirmed:-
- 1) N.E.C. elections to be held annually.
 - 2) N.E.C. to appoint own chairman.
 - 3) N.E.C. to comprise of 7 members.
 - 4) Proposers and seconders for N.E.C. nominations considered
 - 5) N.E.C. members must pay subs.
 - 6) N.E.C. members have individual power to co-opt sub committees so req'd.
 - 7) Expenditure incurred without prior N.E.C. approval may be ratified.
 - 8) N.E.C. are responsible for determining its own rules
 - 9) N.E.C. quorum to be 4
 - 10) Chairman to vote only if there is equal division of vote.
 - 11) N.E.C. records will only be available for the inspection of members after a 5 year time lapse.
 - 12) Paid up members are allowed as observers at N.E.C. meetings.
 - 13) N.E.C. members are free to publicise individual opinions providing it is made clear that they are not doing so on behalf of the party.
 - 14) N.E.C. members to have discretion to give manifestos away.
 - 15) Each N.E.C. member to be responsible for a region (when appropriate).
 - 16) Written reports by N.E.C. members to be submitted if a member cannot attend the meeting.

CONFERENCE RULES:

- 1) Circulation of draft manifesto to be restricted to actual Conference bookings.
- 2) Observers are allowed to the Conference at the discretion of the N.E.C.
- 3) Rules to be determined by N.E.C. annually.

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

- 1) To be held every 10 weeks in different parts of the country.
- 2) Regional meetings are open to all newsletter readership.
- 3) Press and all relevant local organisations to be invited to regional meetings.

POLICY:

- 1) There is to be no formal constitution, this developing as has the British Constitution, on the basis of president.
- 2) Recycled waste paper should be used wherever possible.
- 3) Donations can only be accepted if 'no strings' are attached.
- 4) Area Organisers should ascertain potential candidates (Local and Parliamentary) in their area.
- 5) Concept of single individual party leader not considered appropriate (unless and until one emerges spontaneously).
- 6) Open support to be given to like-minded groups.
- 7) It will never be appropriate to take a decision NOT to fight an election.
- 8) All local groups can become communications/information centres for the alternative movement if they so wish.
- 9) People must be more than just a political forum.
- 10) Revised manifesto to be sent to known eco-supporters in other parties.
- 11) Any party member can make statements if consistent with party policy.
- 12) Open support for the self employed affirmed.
- 13) Manifesto to be updated annually.

MATTERS STILL IN ABBYANCE:

- 1) **Spokesman** - no individual to have overall responsibility. Each officer to speak for his/her own area.
2. **TREASURERS REPORT:**
Funds: £329 on deposit £60 current account. All but £145 was spoken for by bills in hand.
Bank account with: Barclays, High Street, Wavertree, Liverpool 16.
3. **Signatories to be:** Peter Murray, Clive Lord, Maureen Wilkinson (any 2 from 3)
4. **Accounts to be submitted to N.E.C. for approval prior to payment.**
5. **Membership:** Target 1,000 new members over next 12 months. All past contacts are to be followed up to this end together with recruitment drive emphasis on industrially depressed areas.
6. **Participation:** Detailed programme of events to be fixed for next 12 months. This to include Club of Rome /Ecologist conference + 'Jig Saw' conference.
7. **Policy:** A series of explanatory leaflets to be produced for sale. Abridged manifesto in course of preparation. General explanatory publicity leaflet now ready for publication.
8. **Communications:** Press conference to be arranged to launch new manifesto. Public figures to be invited to support the party with their names. Party's own economy label idea abandoned. Designs to be produced and held in hand for Advertisements, Posters, Election Leaflets, Rosettes etc.
9. **Campaign:** A vacancy exists on the N.E.C. Volunteers please to fill this post to Clive Lord.
10. **Budget:** For the next 12 months £10,500 will be required if the N.E.C. are to stand any chance of meeting their objectives.
11. **Fund Raising:** The Treasurer appeals for help with this task, anyone with any experience; initiative, energy or ideas please contact Peter Murry, 6 South Way, Liverpool 16. Tel: 051-722-4328.
12. **Subscriptions:** Fixed for the coming year as follows: Full member £4 Joint Membership £6, Associate member £2. All subs $\frac{1}{2}$ rate after Conference.
13. **Matters referred to next meeting:**
 - Authority of N.E.C. members
 - Immediate steps to be taken to avoid the impending crisis.
 - First steps to be taken after the crisis has happened.
14. **Next N.E.C. meeting** 2.00p.m., 2 Old Vicarage, 26 Main Road, Kempsey, Worcester. Any member may attend as an observer. (28th Sept)
15. **Regional meeting.** 1st November, Edinburgh.

The Ecologist negotiations have been concluded to give members of the Ecology Party a 10% discount on annual subscription to the Ecologist Magazine.

Independent Committee on Environmental Pollution

Almost £600 has now been raised towards the £5,000 required. Information is pouring in. Further help and data **URGENTLY REQUIRED.**
INFO please to : Peter Buryard, Lamvellen, Withiel, Bodmin, Cornwall. **FUNDS** please to : Treasurer, New Buildings, Trinity Street. COVENTRY.

EDWARD GOLDSMITH has been successful in reaching the finals of the "Mithell" Prize with his submission. As well as being a finalist he is also giving one of the main addresses at the conference at which the winners will be announced. Shortly off to Canada, where he is advising the Government and then to America for a lecture tour prior to this event we wish him every success.

THE DAVENPORTS. (Elizabeth - director for membership, John - prospective candidate for Walsall North) have now successfully moved into a large Victorian vicarage near Worcester. We gather there's a lot of decorating in store - any offers?

STEVE FAGG, last years NEC member for fund raising, having qualified as a teacher is now working in a youth education and play centre in Liverpool.

FOREIGN CONTACTS: Requests for names in ECO-movement in ROME/ITALY; ATHENS/GREECE; VIENNA/AUSTRIA; GOTHENBURG/SWEDEN; MILAN/ITALY; ZURICH/SWITZERLAND; COPENHAGEN/DENMARK; HAMBURG/GERMANY; PARIS/FRANCE; ROTTERDAM/AMSTERDAM; and NEW YORK. Please to Betty Garcia, 28 Brookhurst Court. LEAMINGTON SPA.

Letters to the Editor

CONTROVERSY

Dear Sir,

The extract from Simon Gaulkins article (Alliance July/Aug) read like a plug for the Tory Party. I was so disturbed by it that I read it a second time, looking for something of relevance to the Ecology Party or Conservation.

I do not believe as some do, that the Left/Right split in politics is not relevant in the E.P. but I strongly feel that we will do ourselves enormous damage if we stray from the purity of the ecology line. The ecological significance of all our policies must be seen and we must choose a policy on its ecological merits.

I saw nothing ecological in "Revolution by Referendum" (Alliance July/Aug). In fact I again saw the Tory centrist line advocated and feel that both this and Simon Gaulkin's article potentially very harmful to the E.P. We must attack both Government and opposition, but on ecological issues. On practically every issue we take a radical even revolutionary stand, whether you like it or not we are a revolutionary party and can gain nothing by wearing a centrist disguise.

Peter Allen - Leeds.

The Ecology Party.

(Simon Gaulkins article showed the way Tories are thinking and highlighted the fact that they are likely to steal our clothes - and misdirect ecological policies and ideas. Similarly "Revolution by Referendum" helps to show the way that people outside the eco-survival movement are thinking. Unless we pay attention to what is happening in the wider world we shall become narrow minded isolationists.

Whilst accepting the purist and revolutionary viewpoint (although surely both are evolutionary), the editorial policy if this journal is always to attempt to provide broadly balanced reporting from within and without the eco-survivalist movement, thus assisting readers to develop their own thinking. (Editor)

...because of conference rules or whatever. This seems totally ridiculous to me because rules are meant to ensure that things do not get out of order so if a genuine mistake happens, like Dennis voting for the wrong side, the mistake should be allowed to be rectified and the mistake should not be allowed to go down in the manifesto as policy. What are other readers views on this? Perhaps I have got it wrong.

There was an article in the Times (Gardening Section) about the services run by a groups to let people without gardens or allotments garden, gardens owned by old people, who cannot keep them or by people whose gardens are too large or who are too busy. I feel this would be a very valuable thing for the E.P. groups to do. It would involve them in the community, help towards Britain's food situation and gain support for E.P..

Congratulations to the person who got EP on the list of signatures on the petition to free JP Narayan petition. It was a very good idea.

Best Wishes,

Francis Miller, Dorking, Surry.

Dear Sir, A CALL FOR UNITY

...I'm glad "Alliance" has improved in printing quality and layout of the newsletter, which must give a much better impression. I'm also sure that the emphasis on being a catalyst for all like-minded groups is the right one. Hopefully people will gradually start to get together of their own accord, and this is an excellent starting point. Like David Tolly, I still (and always have) believed in a national body of related groups, but all playing their individual parts, and with the Ecology Party as the political arm. Some brave attempts at this, in the form of Environmental Federations have failed, and it might be worth serious consideration of the reason for this. Possible reasons are either a failure to accept the seriousness of the situation; or a lack of genuine membership, the social club syndrome - eco-action groups as an alternative to the tennis club.

I believe in "small being beautiful", but feel we must strive towards some sort of loose unity, if we are to achieve either credibility for our cause in the eye of the public, or any effective action in the country.

Best Wishes

Cherry Durrant, 10 Silver Street, Huntingdon.

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