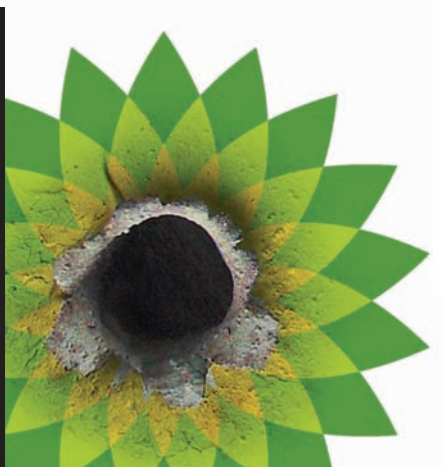
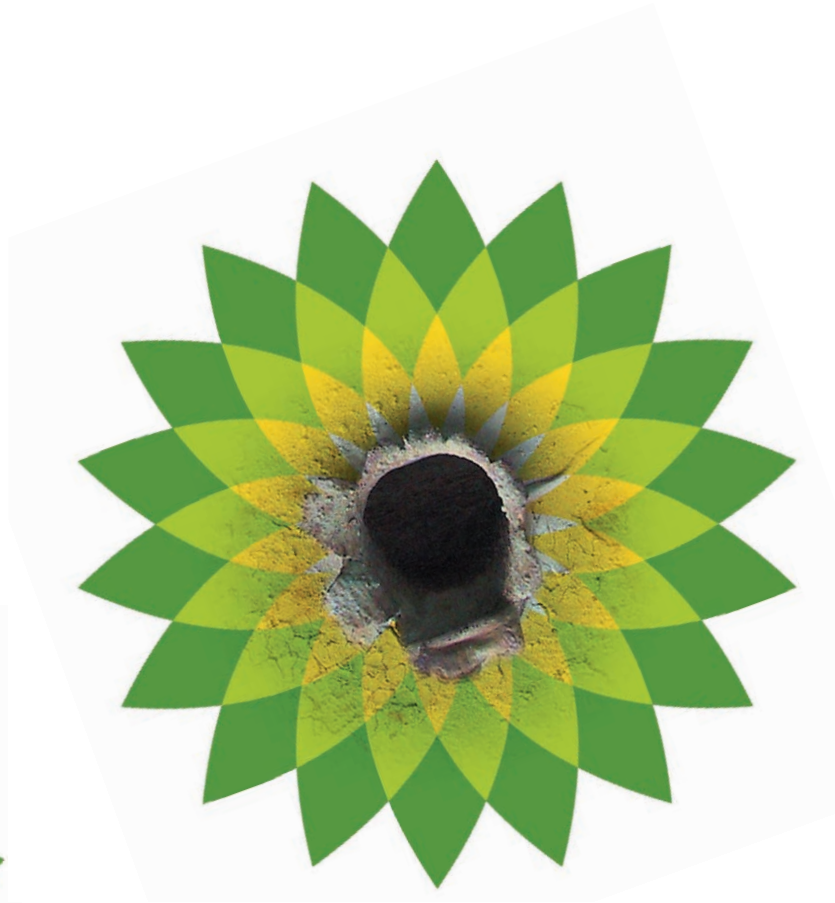
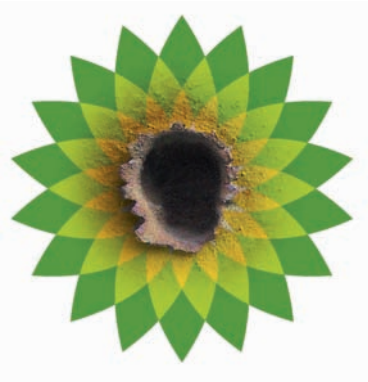
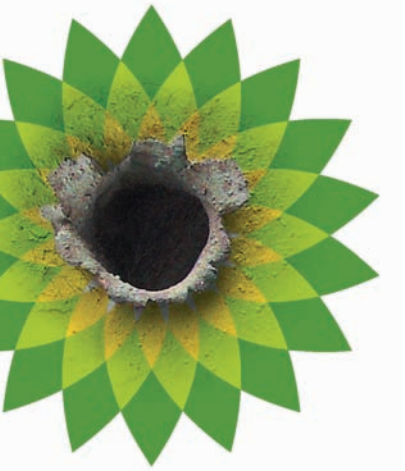


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Action

for

Renewable

Energy

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Energy 21 is working to unite local actions on renewable energy within the framework of a common vision of a sustainable future.

The members of Energy 21 believe that the development of diverse renewable energy systems using energy from sun, wind, water and crops especially at the local, community level is vitally important for the improvement of the quality of our life in the 21st century. Using renewable energy will help reduce global warming, climate change and pollution, offering a better environment for our children and for us all. It will provide energy security for the long-term future linked to many more local jobs.

There are numerous non-profit organisations, small companies and individuals throughout the UK who believe in this common vision and are taking action at the grassroots level. Energy 21 is the membership organisation that unites these actions. We shall become a key player linking the work of small groups to the Government and business agenda.

Energy 21 has thrived as an educational charity, generating a greater awareness and understanding of renewable energy, for six years. Based in Stroud, a town with a reputation as a centre of environmental concern, we have produced publications and delivered inspirational events in the local area and beyond.

As the UK branch of Eurosolar, we have run the annual UK-wide Eurosolar Prize Awards since 1998. We shall actively continue our work as the UK branch of this European Association.

**Contact: Jackie Carpenter, Energy 21, PO Box 154, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4YS
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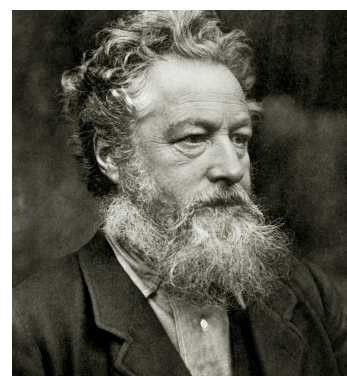
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Nice one

One hundred per cent endorsement! Well that really does say it all. What's the point of an election, they guffawed, if the electors haven't a choice? For western commentators, the complete support for Saddam Hussein was not only confirmation of his horribly anti-democratic rule; it was a comfortable reminder of their own superiority. How lucky we are, they piped, to live in free countries. How blessed indeed!

It was the same following Pakistan's presidential elections. Mr..., all right Dubya, let's just call him 'The General', was the only candidate, and not surprisingly he won. Those poor, gullible Pakistanis – they wouldn't know democracy if it bombed them. Come to think of it... well that's another story.

But elections where the only possible, the only tolerated outcome is an endorsement of the will of the elite, are not the sole preserve of Iraq, Pakistan or even Zimbabwe.

We like to condemn these places. It makes us feel good about ourselves. But there's no escaping the fact that the European Union itself engages in the same, albeit more sophisticated, practices. An outlandish comparison? Sadly not.

Last year, the Irish, alone among EU member states, were offered a chance to vote in a referendum on the Treaty of Nice. 54% rejected it. Keen as ever to proceed with the European expansion that the treaty enshrined, the all-powerful, but rattled EU officials announced immediately that the Irish would be told to vote again and this time get it right.

And so they reformulated the question, adding to the mix a few complicated little numbers, and engaged in acrobatics to ensure a result consistent with the will of

the authorities.

The first move was to re-write Ireland's laws to prevent the state from funding the two official campaigns. That meant that the campaign against the treaty, which didn't enjoy the support of big business, found itself with roughly twenty times less money than its well-oiled opponents. The imbalance was immediately obvious, not least in the campaign posters. The 'No' posters were largely homemade, some asking simply; 'What part of 'No' don't you understand?' The 'Yes' posters were slick and impressive, with one bearing a photograph of a couple making love, with a caption that read, 'It's better 2 B inside.'

So already the establishment took the lead. But that was not all. The government's Referendum Commission, charged with providing balanced information to the Irish about what it was they were actually voting on, and armed with a handsome budget, set about printing pamphlets on the issue to be distributed far and wide. A few eyebrows were raised when one 'neutral' pamphlet appeared that depicted the EU as a

mother, cuddling her flag-waving children (EU member states), while another set of children, waving their own flags (applicant countries for the EU), waited longingly to be embraced.

Given that support for EU inclusion among 'applicant' nations is dwindling, and in some countries like Poland, the anti-EU political parties are actually gaining ground faster than any other, the Referendum Commission's 'neutral' campaign was manifestly nothing of the sort.

The Irish 'No' campaign was overwhelmed and lost. But even if they had, against all the odds, achieved a second 'no' vote, how soon would it have



The onward march of the European Union is characterised not so much by debate, but by coercion and deceit



been before a third, fourth, or even fifth referendum was foisted upon them?

Like in Iraq, the only result the EU political elite is willing to accept in a vote is the 'right' answer. In Ireland, the 'no' voters were not flogged or killed, as they might have been in Iraq, but democracy itself was crushed.

And worse, the Irish referendum is by no means an isolated example. Whenever ordinary people in Europe have voted *against* the advance of the EU, in the few instances where they've been allowed to vote, they have been made to vote again, and again, and again.

That was the case when the Danes voted against Maastricht in 1992, and were told to revote two years later.

And following the Danes' further rejection of the single currency in a separate referendum last year the response? You guessed it, another referendum.

The French were also given the chance to reject Maastricht in 1992, and as the votes were counted, it became obvious that they'd seized it. But just before defeat was announced by an embarrassed establishment, the French 'overseas' votes suddenly poured in, and would you believe it? Miracle upon miracle, they tipped the balance in favour of the treaty. As it happens, not many people did believe it.

The onward march of the European Union is characterised not so much by debate, but by coercion and deceit. There is the occasional democratic gesture, a vote here or there, but the results count for nothing.

And if the EU still looks democratic to its supporters, that may have something to do with the billion-euro pro-EU propaganda budget that ensures an image inconsistent with reality. If not that then the routine sacking of any insiders brave or honest enough to blow the whistle on financial corruption has kept a lid on the inevitable backlash.

People know where they stand in Iraq. We're only beginning to know the same in Europe.

Beware xenophobia

I must take issue with CN Coernraad's letter (*The Ecologist*, October 2002). The writer perpetuates two myths that are very dangerous and inherently xenophobic. First, that we are 'destroying our culture by admitting abnormally large numbers of migrants from different cultures and religions'. The numbers of migrants in European nations are relatively very low. In the UK, for example, the percentage of asylum seekers is much less than one per cent of the population.

Secondly, that by admitting migrants this will 'only have negative results for everyone.' Cultures are not destroyed by difference. If you have an alive culture that you are secure with, difference should not be a personal threat. Socially, European cultures have always developed by assimilation. To draw a line and say 'this is our fixed heritage' is to pay lip service to a lie. If religious differences are a problem, then I doubt the compassion and spirituality of those religions.

Whilst agreeing with the goal of more stable, fixed, organic communities, the writer's comments are a reflection of a fear of the different. The results of that psychology are not only prejudice and discrimination, but also a fortress Europe that serves to support and expand trade and 'development' values along existing models; something that I am sure no thinking person wishes to see.

Steve Clegg, Swansea, UK

Cork it

Further to your cork article (*The Ecologist* October 2002) let's just have the answers to a few questions before we start to boycott plastic stoppers:

What percentage of the total output of the Portuguese cork forests, and the worldwide cork output, goes into wine corks? How much of this wine cork volume is seriously under threat – are there many local cork stopper users for which only cork makes sense as being better / cheaper / easier to source than plastic? In fact is the cork made into stoppers locally or does it all get shipped away to obvious competitive (and

environmental) disadvantage? Are cork producers systematically addressing quality issues? Or are they just sitting on their hands and moaning at faceless enemies because no-one wants their (possibly) crap product any more? What efforts are being made to diversify and increase volumes in other cork uses – tiles, insulation, flotation products for example? If in spite of all the above there simply is not sufficient market for all the Portuguese cork trees to be economically sustainable, what are the options for diversifying the forest cover? – perhaps making the overall ecology even more diverse and sustainable, who knows – maybe (man-made?) cork tree monoculture is sub-optimum like ecologists often tell us other monocultures are?

George Sudbury, UK



Romanian gold mine defeated

The International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private lending arm, announced that it would not finance the controversial Rosia Montana open pit gold mine. (see *The Ecologist* July / August 2002). The mine would have forced more than 2,000 people, most of them farmers who have farmed the land for generations, off their land. As well as subject the local inhabitants to the risks of cyanide poisoning used in the cleaning of the gold ore, and the turning of a beautiful valley into a lifeless scar.

For more go to www.bankwatch.org



Up Front

December

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Food toxins threaten Arctic

FINLAND Increased mercury and other toxins in the food chain are threatening humans and wildlife in the northern hemisphere, causing high blood pressure in newborn babies and polar bears to lose their cubs at birth, according to a new report.

The Arctic Pollution 2002 report states that man-made toxins follow air and water currents from as far away as Asia to the Arctic, which although it is still one of the cleanest regions in the world, is seeing its indigenous peoples put seriously at risk. This particularly applies to the Inuit of Greenland and Canada who survive on whale blubber and seal meat, both of which have been found to have high concentrations of toxins.

The study also found that babies in the Faroe Islands, living on a similar diet, have increased blood pressure for the first six years of their life.

To read the report, go to www.amap.no or www.panda.org

Organic food booming

UK According to new figures from the Soil Association, the UK organic industry is booming:

- The amount of organic land in the UK has almost doubled in the last year, from 240,000 hectares to 458,600 hectares – nearly three times the size of Greater London.
- Sales of organic food are the second highest in Europe after Germany;
- Almost 80 per cent of households are buying / have bought organic food;
- There are now nearly 4,000 licensed organic farms.

For the Soil Association's Organic Food and Farming Report 2002 visit www.soilassociation.org

US Navy sonar blocked

US San Francisco. A federal judge has issued a preliminary injunction stopping the U.S. Navy from deployment of a new high intensity sonar system that could hurt or kill whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles. Scheduled for immediate deployment, the sonar system, known as Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active sonar (SURTASS LFA), relies on very loud, low frequency sound to detect submarines at great distances. 'The LFA permit is nothing less than a license to kill, and we are enormously grateful to the court for protecting our children's heritage.' Jean-Michel Cousteau.

IMF caused Malawi famine

UK The International Monetary Fund and World Bank forced policies onto the government of Malawi that were responsible for turning a food shortage into a famine. A new report released by the World Development Movement (WDM) goes on to detail a catalogue of disastrous IMF enforced policies that have undermined Malawi's ability to feed its people. The WDM blames the continued corporatisation of the food production and distribution system, the removal of agricultural subsidies to small farmers and the deregulation of price controls on staple foods such as maize. The price of maize alone increased 400 per cent between October 2001 and March 2002.

The report, *Structural Damage: the Causes and Consequences of Malawi's Food Crisis*, gives evidence that the IMF and World Bank were also heavily involved in the disastrous decision to sell off Malawi's grain reserves at the height of the famine, something they have repeatedly denied. In 2002 Malawi will spend \$70 million, which represents over 20 per cent of its national budget, on debt repayment. 'This is Jurassic economics', said Barry Coates, WDM director. 'They should be kept in a museum, rather than trampling all over desperately poor African countries.'

The report can be obtained by calling 00 44 (0) 207 274 7630 or from www.wdm.org.uk

Cosmetic apples

UK A Friends of the Earth study into supermarkets' obsession with the appearance of apples over their quality has had the following effects on the apple market:

- Growers are being forced to use more pesticides;
- Cooking apples, which will be peeled, also have to meet exacting cosmetic standards;
- High wastage of apples because supermarkets don't give enough shelf space to British apples; orders are changed / cancelled at the last minute; and because they continue to delist traditional varieties of home-grown apple;
- One apple grower even had an entire crop rejected even though the apples were still perfectly good to eat.

To find out more visit www.foe.co.uk

A little off colourings

UK Food colourings used in many popular children's foods cause temper tantrums and disruptive behaviour in up to a quarter of toddlers, according to new government research. Research scientists at the UK's Asthma & Allergy Research Centre concluded that 'significant changes in children's hyperactive behaviour could be produced by the removal of colourings and additives from their diets.' According to Annie Seeley of the Food Commission, 'Nearly 40% of children's foods and drinks contain additives.'

For a summary of the study and a list of over 200 children's foods and drinks containing these additives, visit www.foodcomm.org.uk

Rolls Royce moves nuclear dump

UK Rolls Royce has announced that it will cease dumping nuclear waste at Hilt's Quarry. The waste, which comes from the production of reactor cores for nuclear submarines, will instead be taken to the country's main low level waste dump at Drigg, near Sellafield. The move received a cautious welcome from environmentalists, saying that while the cessation of dumping was good news, there was still the matter of 37 years worth of waste already in the quarry.



SOUNDBITES

“There are practically no cases of radioactive watermelons this year.”

Andrei Buyanov, one of several atomic food inspectors in Moscow responsible for monitoring radioactivity levels in produce and meat. Food found in the region can still be contaminated due to fallout from the 1986 nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl reactor.

“The IMF told our government to sell off all of our grain reserves to help make loan payments... Hasn't anyone ever heard the story in the Bible of Joseph saving up grain for the coming famine in Egypt? Now our people are facing real hunger. I have come to South Africa to find work. And that work is now, ironically, to unload GE food relief from ships from America. Malawi will have no choice but to accept GE foods now. When people are desperate, they will accept anything – a dictator, food, sterilization – you name it.”

Siswe Nbele, a Malawian dockworker

“[African] government subsidies on maize production have been discontinued under pressure from the World Trade Organization [but] it now seems that it's OK for the starving here to eat subsidised maize, just as long as it is GM and grown in America.”

Andrew Clegg, Windhoek, Namibia in letter to *New Scientist*

“I was proud the other day when both Republicans and Democrats stood with me in the Rose Garden to announce their support for a clear statement of purpose: you disarm, or we will.”

George W Bush, 5 Oct, 2002

“There's an old saying in Tennessee – I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee – that says, fool me once, shame on – shame on you. Fool me – you can't get fooled again.”

George W Bush, 17 Sept, 2002

Corporate cancer corruption

US Breast Cancer Action has broken silence over the corporate corruption of cancer charities. In an advert in the *New York Times* (16 October) the charity asked: 'Who's really cleaning up here? Breast cancer has become the poster child of corporate cause-related marketing campaigns, as companies try to boost their image and their profits by connecting themselves to a good cause. Breast Cancer Action urges you to ask some critical questions before opening your wallet for these marketing campaigns: How much money goes to the cause? What is it supporting? How is it being raised? And will it truly affect the fight against breast cancer? Make sure you know what your money is actually supporting, and consider whether shopping will truly make a difference. What the breast cancer movement needs is political involvement and action to create real change – and we don't mean the kind you keep in your pocket.'

Mild irradiation

US – Food companies can now seek federal approval to avoid using the word 'irradiation' on food labels, and instead use language such as 'cold pasteurisation' according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). And now the door to euphemisms is wide open, why not replace 'radiation' with 'warm, glowing sensation'.

Keep America Beautiful

US 3M has won the annual 'Vision for America' award, presented by Keep America Beautiful Inc. Keep America Beautiful's sponsors include such environmental luminaries as Tyco, whose 'message from our sponsors' gives a rough idea why companies get involved. 'Ruffies^(T) Trash Bags from Tyco Plastics is a proud sponsor of Keep America Beautiful for 2002. Tyco Plastics is the largest supplier of trash bags in the United States. Ruffies Trash Bags are being supplied for Keep America Beautiful's 2002 Cleanup. Ruffies and the Great American Cleanup^(tm): a beautiful partnership.'



Oil pollution victory

ECUADOR The High court of Justice in Guayaquil has awarded the Galapagos National Park the sum of US\$ 10 million as compensation for the M/T Jessica oil spill. The M/T Jessica oil tanker ran aground on San Cristobal island, Galapagos, on 16 January 2001.

Although most of the oil was swept out to sea, causing untold damage, recent reports show that 15,000 marine iguanans on the Galapagos island of Santa Fe may have died as a direct result of the spill.

Protesting Plan Puebla

CENTRAL AMERICA Indigenous peoples from Mexico and Central America marked the 510th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus last month by shutting down their borders in protest against a development plan that they have labelled a new form of colonialism. Cross border traffic was brought to a standstill as indigenous groups mounted road blocks across the region.

They were protesting the Puebla-Panama plan which was launched last year by Mexican president Vincente Fox. The scheme would involve the construction of a vast network of roads and communication networks, several power plants and extensive tourism projects.

Hundreds of truckers held up in Guatemala implored the protestors to let them through. 'You've only had to wait a couple of hours,' announced peasant leader Felix Mendez over a microphone. 'We've been waiting for centuries.'



Estimated revenue from conflict resources, selected cases

Combatant	Resource	Period	Estimated Revenue
UNITA (Angola)	Diamonds	1992-2001	\$4-4.2 billion total
RUF (Sierra Leone)	Diamonds	1990s	\$25-125 million /year
Taylor (Liberia)	Timber	Late 1990s	\$100-187m /year
Sudan government	Oil	Since 1999	\$400m /year
Rwanda government	Coltan (from Congo)	1999-2000	\$250m total
Taliban (Afghanistan)	Opium, heroin	Mid 1990s-2001	\$30-40m /year
Northern Alliance (Afghanistan)	Lapis lazuli, emeralds, opium	Mid 1990s-2001	\$60m /year
Khmer Rouge (Cambodia)	Timber	Mid-1990s	\$120-240m /year
Cambodian government	Timber	Mid-1990s	\$100-150m /year
Burma government	Timber	1990s	\$112m /year
FARC (Colombia)	Cocaine	Late 1990s	\$140m /year

'Companies and rich nations that benefit from cheap raw materials have long turned a blind eye to the destruction at the source, and most consumers don't know that a number of common purchases bear the invisible imprint of violence,' said Michael Renner, senior researcher for the *Anatomy of Resource Wars*.

For more information visit www.worldwatch.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear bailout 'illegal'

Greenpeace and renewable energy provider Ecotricity have written to the UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Patricia Hewitt, challenging the decision to bail out bankrupt nuclear energy provider British Energy to the sum of £650m. They say it is a flagrant breach of state aid and that the money should be returned to the taxpayer immediately.

Vannes Raid

French organic dairy farmers hijacked a milk truck in Vannes and distributed its contents to the public. They were angry at the increasing number of imports flooding the country's markets. France currently produces 160 million litres of organic milk a year, up from only 55 million litres four years ago.

Sorry, we're full

83 per cent of the world's land surface is dedicated to human activities, according to a report released by the Wildlife Conservation Society. The report also found that almost 100 per cent of the land that could possibly be farmed for rice, wheat and corn is already being cultivated.

Dissection not needed

Increasing numbers of students in the US are requesting to opt out of the practice of dissecting frogs, cats or foetal pigs in school sciences, insisting they can learn as much from computer simulations. Some six million animals are dissected in schools in the US each year.

Nuclear safety cracking

Some 48 of the 59 nozzles in the reactor vessel head at the North Anna-2 nuclear reactor in the US state of Virginia have been found to be cracked in a recent inspection. Yet tests last year reported that none of the nozzles were cracked. Dominion, along with several other US nuclear power plant operators, detected cracks and corrosion in the heavy metal 'lids' bolted down on the top of four of their reactors.

'We need an energy bill that encourages consumption'

George W. Bush, 23 Sept, 2002

China's car crisis

1 in 85 current number of people in China who own a car

2010 year that Chinese government expects country to own six million vehicles

2030 year that number of cars in country is expected to exceed number in US

1 in 3 number of Chinese cities that met residential air-quality standards in 1999

45-60 per cent of nitrogen oxide emissions in Chinese cities caused by vehicles

85 per cent of carbon monoxide emissions in Chinese cities caused by vehicles

2025 year China is expected to surpass CO2 emissions in the US

2020 year China plans to have connected all major cities by 34,000-mile road grid



Talking a lot of Turkey

US Some 27.4 million pounds (lbs) of cooked turkey and chicken products has been recalled by industrial food giant Pilgrim's Pride. The products are considered the most likely cause

of seven deaths from listeria in recent weeks, according to the Department of Agriculture. Pilgrim's pride is the second largest poultry 'producer' in the US.

In July ConAgra recalled 19 million lbs of ground beef that had been linked to illnesses in 19 people. A group, Safe Tables Our Priority, has written to President Bush urging him to tighten the laws governing meat and poultry producers. Each year in the US foodborne diseases cause an estimated 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalisations and 5,000 deaths.



Welsh Windpendence

UK A co-operative company launched in North Wales by three farming families is pioneering a new approach to wind farm development. The company, Cwmni Gwynt Teg, which is based in Conwy is constructing three wind turbines capable of powering 2,500 homes. However, rather than handing over control to the national electricity companies, the farmers are to retain control and ownership. 'This is a revolutionary strategy for establishing a wind farm which brings major benefits to both the operator and the local community,' said the firm's solicitor. 'There is also poetic justice in producing clean energy from wind turbines sited on land that is still suffering from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.'

Base station sickness

FRANCE People living near mobile phone base stations experience a wide range of health risks, according to a new study by the French National Institute of Applied Sciences. The institute found that people living near such stations experience symptoms including headaches, nausea, memory loss, visual disruption and depression. It advises that all stations be situated at least 300 metres from populated areas.

Furthermore, at a conference given recently at the Italian National Institution for Prevention and Work Safety in Italy, 16 scientists from across the world signed a resolution claiming adverse health effects can be caused by electromagnetic fields, such as those emanating from phone masts.

Poisoned salmon

SCOTLAND Farmed salmon has been labelled the 'most contaminated food on the supermarket shelves'. Bruce Sandison, who chairs the newly formed Salmon Farm Protest Group, said: 'I am greatly concerned by the failure of supermarkets to warn customers that some farmed salmon might contain life-threatening levels of dioxins, DDT residues and other harmful substances.'

A new report on pesticide contamination, published in October by the government's Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment, listed all the 'worst-case occurrences of pesticide residues' in food sampled by scientists between 1997 and 2001. Salmon was the only food in which every sample from a batch tested in 1997 contained three pesticides: DDT, dieldrin and hexachlorobenzene.

Millions of salmon, fed and reared in cages at the 350 fish farms around Scotland's coastline, are sold throughout the UK. Virtually all fresh salmon sold in British supermarkets is farmed.

For more information visit www.salmonfarmmonitor.org

Tuna brand leaders sued

MEXICO - The Mexican National Chamber of Fishing and Aquaculture is filing a claim for \$1 billion against US canned tuna companies that supported the US ban on tuna, which lasted most of the Nineties. The companies include the brand leaders StarKist, Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea. The ban was originally imposed after US allegations that Mexico had not taken steps to reduce the number of dolphins killed each year by its fishing practices. The Mexican legal team, however, allege that American companies selling products labelled 'Dolphin Safe' did not do so either.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Government chickens out

The UK government continues to discuss the potential use of 'enriched' battery cages after the phase out of conventional battery cages by 2012. For the record an enriched cage confines a hen to a living space smaller than a sheet of A4 paper.

Damned dry

Iran's largest freshwater lake has dried up following four years of drought and the damming of the Hirmand River by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Lake Hamoun used to cover 4,000 square kilometres and provide stopping places for 200,000 migratory birds.

Gassed

The UK's ironically named Environment Agency (EA) is to allow emissions of krypton-85, a radioactive gas, from Sellafield to rise by a factor of three.

Kiwi Kyoto

Petrol prices in New Zealand will be raised by around six per cent under a carbon tax scheme to help the country meet its emission requirements under the Kyoto Protocol.

Not so happy meal

Shares in fast food multinational McDonald's have lost 70 per cent of their value since 1998, when current CEO Jack Greenberg took over. We look forward to reporting its complete collapse soon.

Luxembourg Stop Esso

On 25 October, more than 600 volunteers from over 31 countries came to peacefully target every one of Esso's 28 petrol stations in Luxembourg. The protest is against Esso's continuing and blatant interference in international climate politics. For more information visit www.stopesso.org

China losing faith in GM

China imposes tough restrictions on domestic planting of GM crops and strict labelling rules for GM imports. 'The general sense is that the risks are too high and the market is too small for most GM crops', said Wu Kongmin, who heads a panel of experts conducting safety tests for China's agriculture ministry.

Teamsters boycott World Bank

US In October, the Teamsters, one of the largest labour unions in the world (over 1.4 million members), joined the World Bank Bond Boycott. The boycott is a growing global initiative to put pressure on the World Bank to make fundamental changes. Since its launch in April 2000, the campaign has persuaded more than 65 institutional investors not to buy World Bank bonds. Ten of the largest socially responsible investment funds in the US, controlling more than \$16 billion in assets, have also adopted the scheme.

For more information visit www.worldbankboycott.org

One Chernobyl enough

UKRAINE Environmental activists last month lobbied European Bank for Reconstruction and Development president Jean Lemierre not to finance two controversial Ukrainian nuclear power plants, K2 and R4. Yury Urbansky, of CEE Bankwatch Network, tried to present Mr Lemierre with a letter signed by 17 NGOs urging the EBRD to invest in less environmentally harmful projects.

For more on the protest visit www.bankwatch.org

Lead headed

US Members of a government advisory panel on lead poisoning have been replaced by individuals who are either affiliated with or openly sympathetic to the views of the lead industry, claims a new report titled *Turning Lead into Gold*. For example, the Bush administration has appointed Dr William Banner, an expert witness for the lead industry, who considers lead only to be harmful at seven times the current recommended lead levels.

Planned pipeline threatens indigenous people

PERU A pipeline project, set to start in December 2003 in the Peruvian Amazon, is on land belonging to indigenous groups. According to environmentalists and indigenous advocates, Pluspetrol Petroleum, the company behind the scheme, has previously violated indigenous rights when it directly contacted groups in the Nahua-Kgapkori Reserve, who were living in voluntary isolation. Furthermore, in the 1980s, fifty per cent of the Nahua, one of the tribes who will be most affected by the new pipeline, died from illnesses introduced when Shell explored for oil in the region. The pipeline when on line will pump 400 million cubic feet of gas and 20,000 barrels of liquid petroleum a day from the Lower Urubamba region.

Poor getting poorer – it's official

US 'Globalisation generally widens the income gap between the world's poorest people and the richest.' Not the most surprising observation to find inside *The Ecologist*, perhaps, but maybe more so when you know its source – The World Bank. A recent study by the bank concludes that among poor countries trade and investment simply increases inequality. 'At very low average income levels,' asserts the study, 'it is the rich who benefit from openness.'

The findings contradict the Bank's long held official view and policy of demanding that countries open their markets in order to qualify for loans. The report compared national household income surveys across 88 developing countries, from 1981 through to 1988 with those from 1992 to 1997. During that time the average income of the poorest 10 per cent of the people declined from 30.7 per cent of the national average down to 24.7 per cent. On the other hand, the average income of the richest 10 per cent rose from 273.5 per cent of the national average in 1988 to 293.4 per cent five years later.



Boats killing Florida manatees

US 71 manatees have been killed so far this year in Florida, as a result of collisions with speed boats. Nonetheless, biologists at the state funded Florida Marine Research Institute are recommending that the manatees 'endangered' status be downgraded, despite predicting that by 2050, its population will have dropped by 50 per cent. Save the Manatee Club said it proves that 'politics trumps science every time.' Meanwhile, the leader of a power boat advocacy group (proving that if there's a will, there's a lobbyist) pledged that if the state's fish and wildlife commission votes in January to downlist the manatee, his group will pressure the federal government to do the same.

Climate change defeating attempts to reduce poverty

UK Global warming is making goals to reduce poverty impossible to achieve, claims a report from the New Economics Foundation titled, *The End of Development? Global warming, disasters and the great reversal of human progress*. The report estimates that the economic costs of climate change are doubling every ten years. In West and Central Africa, for example, 28 million people rely on Lake Chad, which has shrunk by 95 per cent in the last few decades.

For more information or to obtain the report, go to www.neweconomics.org

Half of World's plants at risk of extinction

WORLD Up to 47 per cent of the world's plant species are threatened with extinction, according to a study published in the journal *Science*. Previously the estimated number was much lower at around 13 per cent but this is believed to be because earlier studies failed to include many plants growing in tropical areas. Both global warming and human development are seen as major causes of extinction. Peter Jorgensen, one of the researchers and coauthors of the study, reviewed data from 189 countries and territories and determined that between 310,000 and 422,000 plants – or 22 to 47 per cent – could be threatened.



Uncontacted tribe in danger

PARAGUAY The last uncontacted Indians south of the Amazon basin face death from diseases as their land is being invaded illegally by companies and settlers. The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode have nowhere left to run as roads and settlers squeeze them from all sides on to a diminishing plot of land in the north of Paraguay. Stephen Corry, Director of Survival International, said, 'If the government acts now, the Indians can avoid the diseases that threaten to decimate their population. If the government does nothing, not only will they be failing to respect international law which protect tribal peoples, but will be facilitating the destruction of one of the world's most vulnerable tribes.'

For more information visit www.survival-international.org



Stealing Africa's fish

ANGOLA The EU has been accused of profiting while Africa starves by the World Wildlife Fund. The Fund pointed to a recent agreement under which the EU has bought up rights to fish in Angola's waters, while also supplying the country with food aid to feed its starving millions. 'Angola is a particularly serious case study,' said the WWF. 'It is unknown whether Angolan waters can sustain the fishing agreement signed with the EU. If the people of Europe had a better understanding of the source of the fish they buy, they might be more selective when choosing their seafood.'

Bomb health warning

WORLD A recent report by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, has called on countries to consider the legal, health and environmental issues raised by attacking industrial targets and the collateral damage caused by bombing. The institute studied the NATO bombing of an industrial complex in Pancevo which resulted in releases of the toxic chemicals dichloroethane and mercury. It also studied the bombing of the Zastava car factory in Kragujevac, 60 miles south of Belgrade, where a transformer station leaked toxic PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyls which have been linked to some cancers. 'Currently collateral damage is measured in terms such as the number of civilian casualties or the cost of replacing property,' said Sriram Gopal, the report's main author. 'Long-term harm to the environment can be much more difficult to quantify and evaluate, despite its very significant costs.'

Tuna fishing 'illegal and irresponsible'

EU Illegal fishing practices by the European Union are injuring Atlantic white marlin and Bluefin. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), the EU is exceeding catch limits for both species and has refused to take steps to protect juvenile fish. The RFA also claim that the EU's subsidies to its fishing industry are illegal.

For more go to www.worldwildlife.org

Cost of drug war

COLOMBIA Plan Colombia, the US programme to eradicate cocaine from Colombia, is poisoning farmers and damaging the environment. Around 120,000 hectares have been aerially sprayed with Glyphosphate (most commonly Roundup, produced by Monsanto, and touted as the most 'popular' weed-killer in the world) during the campaign, causing thousands of farmers to complain to the Colombian government of illnesses caused by coming into contact with the chemical. The spray is also claimed to have killed legal food crops.

Common pesticide is changing frogs' sex

US The best selling pesticide in the US is causing frogs to undergo changes in sex. According to a new study published in *Nature* magazine, atrazine is causing developmental defects in a common Midwestern frog.

The study found that male frogs were feminised by water that contained atrazine at only 0.1 parts per billion. Yet the US Environmental Protection Agency allows three parts per billion in drinking water. The US used around 80 million pounds of atrazine in 1999.

GM NEWS IN BRIEF

The latest developments in GM – today's most pressing environmental issue

Critical research blocked

Two major seed companies have been accused of hindering attempts to assess whether genetically modified sunflowers can turn their wild counterparts into 'superweeds'. A team led by Alison Snow, a plant ecologist at Ohio State University in Columbus, had uncovered preliminary evidence that a transgene that confers insect resistance could increase the number of seeds produced by wild sunflowers. This could allow the wild plants to proliferate as weeds. But Pioneer Hi-Bred International of Des Moines, Iowa, and Indianapolis-based Dow AgroSciences blocked a follow-up study by refusing to allow the team access to either the transgene or the seeds from the earlier study.

ESA meets in dictatorship-style secrecy

Armoured vans and over 100 police surrounded a Brussels hotel, as the European Seed Association (dominated by Monsanto, Syngenta and Bayer) met behind closed doors to discuss the proposed seed contamination directive. Both the European Parliament and Council of EU Environment ministers were excluded from the decision making process, replaced instead by an unelected technical committee, the Standing Committee on Seeds.

Biotech industry wary

Spurred by fears that drugs or chemicals made in gene-altered plants will taint food crops, the North American biotech industry is adopting a broad moratorium on planting certain crops in major food-producing areas. This is designed to prevent a repeat debacle of two years ago, when GE StarLink corn, approved only as animal feed, wound up in taco shells and other food products. Recalling the tainted products cost companies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Naturally biased



Nature magazine recently published three articles promoting GM crops

and damning organic agriculture – none based on original research – in a special supplement sponsored by Syngenta. The person who pays the piper...

GM Bt corn conspiracy

Biotech research firm Pioneer Hi-Bred Philippines Inc has joined Monsanto in applying for commercialisation of GM Bt corn. Does this explain the pro GM propaganda running in the Philippines?

Monsanto in trouble

Great news... Agrochemical giant Monsanto posted a significantly larger quarterly loss in October due to a slump in sales of its Roundup herbicide and the economic collapse in South America.

GM spread uncontrollable

'GM canola has, in fact, spread much more rapidly than we thought it would. It's absolutely impossible to control... It's been a great wake-up call about the side effects of these GM technologies.' – Martin Entz, professor of agronomy at the University of Manitoba

Rice fight

The government of Thailand has hired a US lobbying firm to protect its rice crop from US biotechnology researchers. Advocates of biotech foods claim they will solve world hunger, but farmers in Thailand are afraid that it will do the opposite. Genetically modified Thai jasmine rice threatens to ruin them financially by enabling US rice growers to steal the market for one of the country's primary exports.

For more on all GM issues – www.ngin.org.uk

Behind the lines: the 'arse' holes in the argument

This month *The Ecologist* analyses a full page advert opposing the plastic carrier bag tax that appeared in the *Parliamentary Monitor*, and has been produced by the Carrier Bag Consortium.

1 Litter: UK consumers get through 8 billion plastic bags a year, equating to 133 per person. The Chinese use 2 billion every day. This March, Bangladesh banned them outright after it emerged that they contributed, by choking the drainage, to the 1998 floods that submerged two thirds of the country. And in April, a Minke whale was found stranded on a beach in Normandy, France. Cause of death? 800g of plastic bags and packaging in its stomach.

2 Landfill: Space is not the issue. Plastic bags forming impermeable layers around biodegradable matter, hampering its decomposition.

3 Finite Oil Resources: Oil consumption is oil consumption.

4 Energy: On average 133 plastic bags compared with 1 cotton bag are used per person per year. More energy efficient?


5 Resource Minimisation: The plastic bag tax in Ireland has caused a 90% drop in the number of plastic bags sold. This is resource minimisation.

6 Transportation, storage and fuel emissions: The lightness of plastic used in carrier bags, with a high volume to weight ratio, often means it is not worth transporting to recycle. As for the lifecycle of plastic bags – a typical bag spends 0.001% of its life in commercial use (i.e. the ten minute drive back from the supermarket), is thrown away soon after use and then ends up – in the stomach of a whale? choking a coral reef to death? covering bushes in wilderness areas?

7 Re-use and recycling: Plastic film can only be recycled if adequate facilities and infrastructure exist to carry it out – which they don't. Conservative estimates reckon that only 5 out of 1,000 bags are recycled.

8 Convenience and theft reduction: Hard to improve on this one! Please re-read every time you want to take the CBC seriously...

9 Anti competitive and a barrier to trade: 'Unfair' and 'discriminate' ...what's fair about producing a product from a finite polluting resource; that kills thousands of animals annually; covers the planet's wildernesses; and doesn't biodegrade for.....? as yet, unknown.



THE HOLES IN THE ARGUMENT

WHY PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS ARE THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE YOU CAN MAKE

NINE REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT - BY SUPPORTING THE UK PLASTIC CARRIER BAG INDUSTRY

1: LITTER
Plastic carrier bags are not a litter problem. In fact most litter on our streets is snack food packaging, bottles and cans, cigarette ends and similar. It is estimated that plastic bags of any kind make up far less than 1% of litter on our streets. So reducing the number of plastic carrier bags we use will make no difference to the volume of litter on our streets

2: LANDFILL
Even if plastic carrier bags end up in landfill they take up an insignificant amount of space. The material that takes up most space in our landfills is paper and wood-based products and putrescible waste. These are the materials most likely to become a major contributor to greenhouse emissions and groundwater pollution.

3: FINITE OIL RESOURCES
Forget the popular environmental "spin". Compared with alternatives, lightweight high-strength plastics represent by far the best overall use of valuable earth resources for thousands of everyday applications. The benefits to the environment are incalculable. Only about 2% of all the oil consumed in Europe is used for all plastic films – and plastic carriers are a very small part of this percentage. The vast majority of oil – nearly 85% - is burned as fuel in cars and lorries or for power and heating. A carrier bag tax will make no real difference to global oil consumption.

4: ENERGY
The energy intensity of plastic carrier bags has been shown to be far less than for the equivalent size of paper bag. So plastic films are the most energy-efficient material we can produce. After use, the latent energy in plastic can be recovered by re-use, recycling or via waste to energy systems as widely practised throughout the EU.


5: RESOURCE MINIMISATION
Today's plastic carrier uses 70% less plastic than 20 years ago yet still remains as strong and durable. What other industry has achieved this reduction in material used? Why penalise an industry that has one of the best track records of all in resource minimisation?

6: TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND FUEL EMISSIONS
Plastic is by far the lightest of all carrier bag materials - so it takes much less fuel to transport and creates less damaging exhaust emissions than any alternative. A paper bag weighs roughly six times more than a plastic carrier, is about four times more expensive and takes up to ten times more storage space. Plastic has genuine environmental advantages across its full life cycle.

7: RE-USE AND RECYCLING
Plastic carrier bags are re-used time and time again. Estimates suggest that four out of five people re-use single trip plastic carrier bags in the household. Replacing these bags would cost more in resources and energy – a plastic bag tax introduced elsewhere is resulting in a massive increase in the sale of plastic refuse bags and bin liners! Plastic film is recyclable so why not encourage markets for recycled plastic carriers instead of taxing them?

8: CONVENIENCE AND THEFT REDUCTION
Plastic carriers have proved to be the solution of convenience for both the shopper and the retailer. Imagine the queues building up at checkout when those in front have forgotten to bring alternative carriers. Or the delays and embarrassment when supermarkets need to search customers' own bags to combat increased pilfering. Think of the extra cost to supermarkets – many of whom replace accidental breakages on their premises – when people using old or damaged bags spill the contents everywhere. Imagine the costs and chaos when supermarket plastic and wire baskets are stolen - as is happening elsewhere - as a substitute for the carrier bag. And think how the supermarkets will feel about their goods being carried out in competitor branded bags! Above all we must never forget we are predominantly handling food and groceries, where clean, hygienic plastic bags play an essential role.

9: ANTI COMPETITIVE AND A BARRIER TO TRADE
A tax on plastic carrier bags would be extremely unfair. It would discriminate against plastic compared with other materials. It could represent a serious restraint on trade - putting our businesses and jobs at risk – and for no environmental gain. A plastic bag tax would effectively close down UK carrier bag manufacturers for no good reason - killing off jobs and wasting millions of pounds of investment which has ironically been spent on meeting UK legislation for better health, safety and a cleaner environment.



Carrier Bag Consortium

Making Life Easier to Handle

www.carrierbagtax.com

We intend to oppose the carrier bag tax proposal and would value your comments.

Visit our web site if you want facts instead of spin.

'Parents be forewarned. The vaccine industry perpetuates the greatest conflict of interest in earth's history.'

Dr Horowitz

'Indeed the modern physician now only represents an extension of these (medical) industries into the public.'

Carl Reich, M.D.

'Today we have a system in which vaccine production by the pharmaceutical companies is largely self-regulated. Of course these companies are interested in profits from their products which, in itself, is not wrong. However, when arbitrary decisions in the mandating of vaccines are made by the government bureaucracies, which are highly partisan to the pharmaceuticals, with no recourse open to parents, we have all the potential ingredients for a tragedy of historical proportions.'

Harold Buttram MD

'A Sunday Express investigation has found that nearly a third of the 181 experts who sit on the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) committees are linked to GlaxoSmithKline, Aventis Pasteur or Merck, Sharpe and Dohme.'

Sunday Express

'5 out of 6 members of the (UK) Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation had interests with Glaxo Wellcome, 4 with SmithKline Beecham.'

Secretary of State for Health, May 1999

'Asking the public health community to investigate the role of vaccines in the development of autism is like asking the tobacco industry to investigate the link between lung cancer and smoking.'

Rick Rollens

Have you ever thought about the contents of the vaccine? The Fluzone vaccine being offered in stores and surgeries nationwide is manufactured by Aventis Pasteur, one of the world's largest vaccine makers. The following list is taken from their own datasheet:

Fluzone® Influenza Virus Vaccine

2002 – 2003 Formula

Influenza Virus Vaccine, (Zonal Purified, Subvirion) for intramuscular use, is a sterile suspension prepared from:

1 influenza viruses propagated in chicken embryos:
Chick Embryos: Used to grow the viruses on.

2 The virus-containing fluids are harvested and inactivated with formaldehyde:
Formaldehyde: Also a harmful chemical, it is used as a preservative in the vaccine. It causes tissue irritation, cancer, breathing problems, brain tumours. No studies have been carried out to see whether it has an effect on the heart. Other associated side effects include muscle stiffness, liver and kidney damage, asthma.

3 The virus is then chemically disrupted using Polyethylene Glycol p-Isooctylphynyl Ether:

Polyethylene Glycol p-Isooctylphynyl Ether: Used to stimulate the immune system. The nearest commonly used product to this is anti-freeze! No food should be consumed within 4 hours of this compound being ingested. Can cause skin rash, bloating, nausea, stomach upset or abdominal cramps, vomiting, irritation of the anal region.
http://www.wholehealthmd.com/print/view/1,1560,DR_509,00.html#How_It_Works

4 And in the recommended ratio of 15 µg HA each, representative of the following three prototype strains: A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1), A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2) (an A/Moscow/10/99-like strain) and B/Hong Kong/1434/2002 (a B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like strain).

This year's flu vaccine contains 3 different strains of the flu virus; Panama, Hong Kong and Moscow. These are the strains the medical authorities think will strike this year. This is purely a guess. The flu virus mutates very rapidly and the strains of flu that actually hit are very often completely different to those in the vaccine, meaning you are injecting a syringe-full of harmful toxins into yourself needlessly.

5 Gelatin 0.05% is added as a stabilizer.
Gelatin: Made from cow bones, it is used as a stabiliser for the other ingredients of the vaccine. In some people it may cause anaphalactic shock, if they are allergic to it. There also has to be a concern over nvCJD and its ability to pass to humans via gelatin.

6 Contains a trace amount of thimerosal [(contains 49.6% mercury), (0.05 µg Hg/0.25 mL dose) (1.0 µg Hg/0.5 mL dose)] from the manufacturing process.

Mercury: The 3rd most toxic chemical in the world! Known problems include: brain damage, nervous system damage, kidney damage, loss of memory, shyness, hearing and vision problems, foetal damage and more. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp111.html>

'The vaccination lobby shamelessly takes all the children of this world as hostages to still their greed for money and power. They relentlessly abuse our compassion for the weaker and our concern about health to promote their giga-business. No matter what. No matter how many more vaccine victims will suffer death or side-effects. No matter how many financial resources this strategy devours at the expense of essential social investments like housing and employment. No matter what. Shocking! There is no excuse for this crime. Just as shocking is the observation that (health) policy is no longer under local, democratic control. Everything is set up and organised with scrutiny at the highest, international level by those who take profit from it: the pharmaceutical industry, the financial world, politicians.'

Kris Gaublomme MD



'Don't get knocked out by flu - get your jab in first'. Sir Henry Cooper. NHS sponsored advert

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I HAVE THE VACCINE?

The following list of possible side effects is taken from the manufacturer's datasheet, but is by no means exhaustive:

Fever, severe tiredness, muscle ache, headache, asthma, brain swelling, Gullian Barre Syndrome, facial paralysis, damage to eye muscles, brachial plexus neuropathy (damage to the arm and shoulder muscles), microscopic polyangitis (swelling of blood vessels, veins, arteries and capillaries, leading to coughing up blood, blood spots, bruising, abdominal pain and kidney disorders), anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction), hives. It is unknown whether foetal damage may occur or whether it may cause infertility or cancer.

HOW ELSE CAN I PREVENT FLU?

There are a number of ways to either prevent flu or reduce your susceptibility to it. In the autumn, use high dose vitamin C (1000mg daily) as a preventative, or take 3000mg daily if you have flu. Seek the advice of a registered homeopath or herbalist or from a local natural health store.

For more information contact: The Vaccine Information Service, an independently run charity providing a balanced view on all vaccines. PO Box 6261, Derby, DE1 9QN. Telephone 0870 444 0894. Visit www.vaccine-info.com

Health Pesticides

Agricultural pesticides have been linked to infertility, suicidal depression and the most horrific birth defects imaginable. It is time, insists Moyra Bremner, that we realised that organic food is not simply a 'lifestyle' choice, but a matter of life over death.



Committting

Now that organic food has ceased to be a novelty it has become fashionable for the media to carp at it as 'too expensive'. It isn't cheap. Yet, if human life is worth anything, organic food is far cheaper than the alternative. For the most dangerous weapons of mass destruction may well be the pesticides being used, indiscriminately, across the world to produce food. The evidence that they are causing brain damage, cancer, infertility and worse to tens of thousands of people involved in farming is devastating and has implications for us all.

In the Netherlands, for example, a typical farmer is four times less likely to father children than most Dutchmen. In America, where pesticide use is even heavier, a farmer is 8 times less likely to father children. A corn-belt farmer told me he was, 'say 'just waiting to get cancer like other farmers'. And there are reports of families in which person after person commits suicide to escape the unbearable depression cause by some pesticides.

Yet, if farmers are in the front line, we and our families may only be a step behind. For there is strong evidence that just living near farms using pesticides can threaten you and your children's health and fertility. Compounding that, four out of 10 of us are genetically vulnerable to widely used organophosphates (OPs). So even the OP residues in food may not only be harming us, but may be causing a 'selective cull' of humanity – altering the gene pool and irreversibly changing the path of evolution.

The sheer volume of toxins used in agriculture is staggering. Every year America alone produces enough pesticide to girdle the globe in one-pound flour bags. A deadly circle. For among them – as among pesticides from Europe – are substances that can damage the eyes, skin, immune and glandular systems, cause heart disease, asthma and cancer, and – most insidious of

all – harm human sperm and eggs, impair the minds and bodies of unborn babies, and cause miscarriages, stillbirths and infant deaths.

Yet, many of us have an atavistic feeling that what doesn't immediately seem to harm us is harmless, or believe that a nanny state is looking after us. However, on this occasion nanny is busy tiptling with Uncle Harry. For as oil and chemicals are the main pumps of economic growth (and the prime funders of politicians), governments the world over have turned a blind eye to pesticide dangers. So thousands of pesticides are routinely approved without ever undergoing any safety testing worth the name.

Everyone knows that chemicals can interact in dangerous ways. Yet testing ignores such interactions. Additives in pesticides may be more toxic to people than the main ingredient. Yet their hazards are also ignored. It's ancient knowledge that poisons can fatally build up in the body. But most tests focus on short-term effects. And the fact that a variation in a single gene can make four people in 10 especially vulnerable to OPs may explain why sheep dip has no effect on some farmers but destroys the lives of others. Yet pesticide regulations ignore the potential for genetic vulnerability.

Indeed, 'safety' rules don't even get the simple things right. It has long been known that the diet and drugs taken by a woman can affect her children and grandchildren. But multi-generational pesticide testing is rare. We all know that animal tests deemed thalidomide harmless. Yet a pesticide's 'safety' is judged on animal tests and on calculating its effects on adult men – ignoring the vulnerability of women, the old, the unborn and children.

Moreover, many chemicals are licensed for carefully calculated use by sprayers wearing moon-suits with waterproof boots, gloves and respirators. Yet such chemicals are advertised in the Third World, and ►

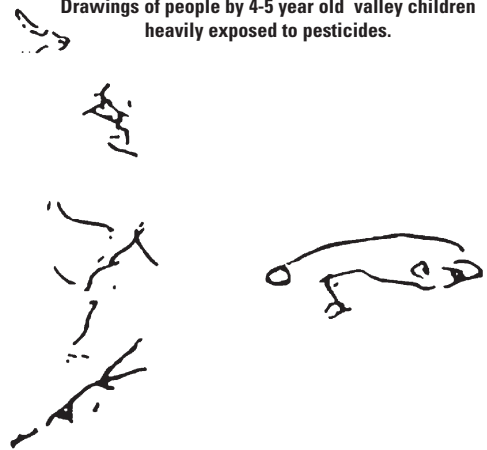
CORBIS

pesticide

Drawings of people by 4-5 year old hill farm children not exposed to pesticides.



Drawings of people by 4-5 year old valley children heavily exposed to pesticides.



millions of pounds exported there, knowing that most farmers who use them will be illiterate, barefoot and half naked and that some may be pregnant women. As recently as 1994 the US was even exporting chemicals such as DDT, lindane, and paraquat that had been banned as too dangerous to use in the States. America is not alone. And it is surely mass murder.

An assault on fertility

Many environmental toxins have been blamed for the massive decline in male fertility over the last 50 years. Non-pesticides probably play their part, but the case against pesticides is damning. Hormones are the body's chemical messengers and are not only involved in fertility but in the growth and functioning of the brain and body. One of the pesticide industry's bright ideas was to create chemicals that disrupt these endocrine messengers. Unfortunately, widely differing species use almost identical chemical messengers. So what disrupts a mosquito also damages larger creatures, including man. An own goal which made DDT notorious, and banned.

In 1992 a meeting of scientists from many fields attributed birth defects, infertility, compromised immune systems, behavioural abnormalities, male feminisation, female masculinisation and thyroid dysfunction in fish and birds to 36 endocrine-disrupting pesticides.

This was, however, too late for the many Vietnam vets who had been exposed to Agent Orange (a close relative of some modern pesticides) and had proved unable to have normal children.

More recent research has shown that even using certain pesticides during the 65 days it takes sperm to form can affect a man's fertility and the normality of a child conceived with those sperm. Yet, when banned gender bending pesticides are exported to the Third World they boomerang back to us on imported food, through fish and even rain. They can probably be found in your body and mine, for they are stored in fat. Small wonder then that thyroid dysfunction is rampant, male and female fertility has fallen and a growing number of babies are born with genital deformities.

The unsafe womb

If that just meant that women in farming failed to conceive it would bring loss enough. But it isn't as simple as that. Worldwide, millions of barefoot women and female children work as peasant farmers and migrant labourers – spraying chemicals, working in fields wet with newly sprayed toxins, and picking, sorting and packing fruit coated in pesticides. The palms of hands and the soles of the feet are so absorbent that ancient herbalists painted them with healing tinctures. Today's toxins enter with equal ease. And, like nutrients stored to feed future babies,

build up in a woman's body fat year by year – then cross the placenta as easily as any nutrient. So, around the world, many farmers' wives and women farm workers suffer the appalling grief of conceiving again and again only to lose their babies in pregnancy, at birth or soon after – often because of terrible birth defects.

So sensitive are babies to many pesticides that such losses are not limited to those working in farming. Last year a study of Californian women showed that even living within a mile of farms where certain pesticides are sprayed, during critical weeks in pregnancy, increased by 120 per cent the chance of losing the baby through birth defects.

Destroying minds

It used to be thought that babies born without obvious symptoms of pesticide poisoning, were unharmed. But research indicates that may not be so. Numerous tests with animals have shown that at critical periods in a foetus's development even a single small dose of some commonly used pesticides can cause permanent damage to the brain. Recent studies suggests that may be equally true of children. And research in Mexico has shown how profoundly pesticides can damage children's mind.

Dr Elizabeth Guillet studied pre-school children from the same genetic background to compare those living in a farming valley where pesticides were used with

those from the hills where pesticides were not used. High levels of multiple pesticides had been found in the breast milk and umbilical cord blood of people living in the valley. But none of the children had ever shown physical signs of pesticide poisoning. Psychological tests on the two groups produced very different results, however.

The children from the pesticide-using valley had less stamina, less co-ordination, poorer memories and were less creative in their play than those from the pesticide-free hills. And when asked to draw a person, their drawings were dramatically different. The drawings of the 5 year old pesticide-exposed children were fragmentary, jumbled and topsy-turvy. Whereas those from the pesticide-free families drew the stick figures usual for five-year-olds. Equally significantly, the pesticide-exposed children easily became upset and angry and showed unprovoked aggression.

Grave hazards

Some experts have linked those findings with the huge rise in children with attention deficit disorder. And such damage may certainly be common in farming families wherever pesticides are used. For when the urine of pre-school children of farm workers in Washington State was tested most samples showed unsafe levels of pesticides. Some samples even contained three times the 'safe' adult dose. And a few had been exposed to 20 times the 'safe' dose for adults. In another study of farm workers' children the urine of more than half contained azinphosmethyl (a highly toxic OP) at well above the level at which it is known to damage brain functioning.

If the minds of farmers' children are put at such grave risk without them even working in the fields, imagine the danger to the 800,000 or so child farm labourers worldwide. For in many Third World countries up to 70 per cent of farm workers are children aged five-15, and many teenagers are actively involved in

pesticide spraying. One charity told me that, even in America, farms are probably inspected for child labour just once every 75 years. In the grape and strawberry fields of California migrant children as young as four may work beside their pregnant mothers on land pumped with methyl bromide – a potent nerve toxin known to cause birth defects and brain damage in animals. There are reports of illness, infertility, miscarriages and stillbirths being endemic among such migrant workers, but few like to admit to being sick lest they are laid off. So neither their illnesses, nor the almost inevitable damage to their children's minds, appear in any statistics.

Inviting cancer

Few of the workers who provide chocolate, tea, coffee, spices, and tropical fruit for our tables reach the age of 50. For many pesticides damage the immune system, making them doubly vulnerable to tropical diseases and cancer. As few Third World farmers and labourers can afford medical care we will never know how many die of cancers triggered by pesticides, but the evidence closer to home suggests many must do so. For more and more studies are linking cancer and pesticides.

When the incidence of various cancers in four American states was mapped out the areas with the most cancer coincided with the areas where wheat was grown and specific pesticides were used. While, in Florida pesticide-spraying farmers are far more likely to die from prostate

cancer than normal. In Denmark and America they've found that the presence of the pesticide Dieldrin in a woman's blood means she is more likely to contract breast cancer and less likely to survive it. And simply living within a mile and a half of the cranberry fields of Cape Cod has been shown to increase a child's risk of developing a particular type of brain tumour. Finally, a review of 31 studies of cancer in childhood showed that having a parent who used pesticides increased the risk of children getting Wilms' tumour, Ewing's sarcoma, and germ-cell tumours; and that simply living on a farm was associated with an increased risk of several childhood cancers.

Of course, association does not prove causality. However, laboratory research shows that cancer cells multiply faster in the presence of certain pesticides – and when several pesticides even minute amounts foster cancer growth. Yet, in Britain the number of known or suspected carcinogens licensed as pesticides has more than doubled in the past 12 years.

Invisible farmers

Cancer is a conspicuous and much studied ailment. Yet the unrecorded torment of farmers whose lives pesticides ruin in other ways may be just as great. British 'Health and Safety' figures repeatedly suggest that pesticides harm more passing pedestrians than farmers. However, the bitter truth is that officialdom focuses on sudden reactions and almost totally ignores long-term chronic illness caused by pesticides building up in the body.

John Peters' story is typical. For years he fumigated grain stores with OPs. He never understood why he got headaches, breathing difficulties, stomach upsets and diarrhoea when using such chemicals, nor why his eyes became sensitive to light. He'd used protective clothing and didn't know the signs of OP poisoning. Then, after he was accidentally splashed with the pesticide, there came excruciating headaches, ►

Children playing in pesticide spray in Mississippi.



palpitations, chest pains, shaking, sweating, hallucinations and serious breathing problems. When the worst symptoms faded he was left with acute light sensitivity, tremors and acute allergic reactions to everyday substances. Even talking exhausts him. Yet he has received no compensation, and neither he nor the thousands of farmers like him appear in the statistics on pesticide damage. Officially, such reactions to pesticides do not exist.

A sea of troubles

One of the side effects of the large farm and plantations of the green revolution is that they invite aerial spraying. The villagers of south India's Kasargod district welcomed the development of large state-owned cashew plantations. Their children used to run from their houses to wave at the helicopters that sprayed endosulfan (a known hormone disruptor) on both trees and villages. Some 20 years later these people are among the world's most vivid and terrible examples of what pesticides can do. In 183 houses there are 279 cases of serious illness. Since spraying began infertility, gynaecological problems, asthma, suicidal depression and cancer have become rampant. Children with hydrocephalus, or stunted and damaged in body and mind, have become commonplace. Narayan is a man 36 inches tall. His mind is as limited as his height, his hair has largely fallen out and his skin has a geriatric crust. One little girl's head expanded until it nearly



Pesticides – readily available, no licence required

burst, then shrank until she died screaming in agony. In a blood sample taken by a local doctor endosulfan was found at 637 times the permissible limit. Yet when these horrific facts emerged government officials repeatedly insisted that endosulfan was blameless and it took four years to have it banned. So the cashews will be passed around at Christmas parties without anyone knowing children paid for them with their lives.

A culture of denial

Such a catalogue of human misery surely calls in question our right to be called civilised. It also provides ample evidence to justify governments ending pesticide proliferation and putting a moratorium on many already in use. But that is unlikely. More than 40 years ago research at London's Royal Free Hospital showed that the sperm of mice on a non-organic diet were flabby and misshapen. Such evidence, and the ensuing catalogue of harm to wildlife, should have alerted governments to the potential hazards to humanity. For

any government to clamp down now would draw attention to the fact that it had knowingly sacrificed the health, fertility, and minds of millions of men, women and children on the altars of growth, globalisation and power.

Personal power

That puts the ball in our court. Many Ecologist readers already buy organic food. But a high proportion of the gleaming fruit, out-of-season vegetables, chocolates and coffee that will soon grace festive tables will have been produced using pesticides that damage not just agricultural communities but also packers, handlers and processors. So isn't it time we all began talking about organic food as an ethical and not just a lifestyle choice? And isn't it time to shout the odds as we did on GM?

With GM we saw that, if enough consumers take a stand, supermarkets listen. The top 10 British supermarkets have an annual turnover equal to the income of the world's poorest 35 countries. If our supermarkets stopped buying food sprayed with these toxins, farmers, and land and plantation owners, would gradually stop using them. So every time we buy organic or pesticide-free food, lobby our local supermarket to reduce pesticides, or tell others about these issues, we are saving lives. And every word and every purchase counts. For once we can all make a difference, no matter what governments do ■

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Moyra Bremner, is author of the highly acclaimed book *GE: Genetic Engineering and You*, former

presenter of *Science Now* and of BBC Television's *Money Programme* and *Newsweek*

- *In Harm's Way: toxic threats to child development* is an excellent report on the sources of toxins that can damage children from conception onwards. Visit: <http://psr.igc.org/>
- www.ourstolenfuture.org is a superb site on chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system.
- www.pan-uk.org is Britain's main NGO specialising in pesticides.
- Friends of the Earth has good information on pesticide issues. Visit: www.foe.co.uk
- Visit Greenpeace at www.greenpeace.org for a useful source of the latest hot topics.
- www.ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet is a good database on pesticide toxicology.
- www.foodfirst.org/progs/global/cpr/ is another excellent site campaigning for a ban on the most toxic pesticides.
- For stories about pesticide poisoning, visit: <http://www.getipm.com>



- Latin America's largest country.
- The world's ninth largest economy.
- Population of 172.6 million.
- In the US, the wealthiest 20 per cent of the population is eight times richer than the poorest 20 per cent. In Brazil, the wealthiest fifth of the population is 33 times richer than the poorest fifth.
- 10 per cent of the population account for 48 per cent of income. Only Nicaragua and Swaziland have a greater disparity.
- 50 million Brazilians – that's one third of the population – do not have the financial capacity to buy the minimum level of calories considered necessary by the World Health Organisation for the maintenance of basic levels of health. Half of those included in this figure are children under 15 years of age.
- According to the World Bank, 15 million Brazilians live in abject poverty. According to Brazil's Institute for Applied Economic Research, the figure is 22 million. The Instituto Cidadania figure is 44 million. While the Getúlio Vargas Foundation figure is 50 million.
- Another 30 million people who are considered above the threshold of extreme poverty survive on an income of less than 80 Brazilian reals (R\$) a month. That's approximately US\$30.
- Twenty-one per cent of Brazilian GDP (currently nearly R\$1 trillion, or US \$368 billion) is spent on social programmes. That's R\$6 of every R\$10 levied. No other country in Latin America apart from Cuba spends as much.
- Twenty per cent of the money Brazil spends on social programmes disappears on 'administrative costs'.
- Almost half of all social funds paid to pensioners in Brazil goes to the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population. Only seven per cent goes to the poorest 20 per cent. Of the education budget, 60 per cent goes to fund public universities that educate the Brazilian elite. Only two per cent of the nation's social spending is earmarked for such programmes as basic sanitation.

Right-wing pundits and policy strategists in the US have already begun to criticise Brazil's new president Lula da Silva, who won a landslide victory on October 27. Constantine Menges, a senior fellow of US think-tank the Hudson Institute and who served as the Latin American adviser in Ronald Reagan's National Security Council, recently released the study *A Strategic Warning: Brazil*. Menges decries the 'Castro-Chavez-Lula axis' (referring to Fidel Castro of Cuba and Venezuela's populist president Hugo Chavez) as 'capable of pushing other South American countries to the Left and establishing a dangerous alliance with communist China, as well as with Iran and Iraq – two terrorist countries'.



It is true that when he is inaugurated president on January 1, Lula will become Brazil's first left-wing premier in almost 40 years. It is also true that Castro refers to him as a friend, and that Chavez has declared that victory for Lula will create an 'axis of good' in the hemisphere.

Speaking of his victory, Lula said: 'Latin America, and South America particularly, has found itself disenchanted with liberal economic policies. The Washington consensus has been a disappointment and, instead of the roses that we've been promised, we got thorns.'

LULA'S LIFE

Raised by a single mother, Lula earned his first wage at the age of seven. He started his first regular job, in a laundry service, five years later. Aged 17, he became a metal worker. He eventually rose to head Brazil's 100,000-member metal workers union.

Largely at Lula's urging, Brazil's Workers' Party emerged in 1979 to fight the military dictatorship that had ruled the country for nearly 20 years. Six years later the dictatorship was toppled, and in 1986 Lula was elected to the Brazilian Congress with more votes than any other candidate in the country. He ran for president in the first of four attempts three years later – narrowly losing to Fernando Collor de Mello, who resigned in 1992 because of corruption charges.

LULA ON FREE TRADE

'As it is being proposed by the US, the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) is not an integration proposal. It is annexation politics, and our country won't be enclosed.' Lula has stated that he will not support the trade initiative unless the US abandons trade policies that discriminate against Brazil.

Under the current US plan for the FTAA, Florida orange juice interests will be protected, as will Midwest soya-bean producers and US steel exporters.

As Brazil is the world's largest exporter of orange juice, a leading exporter of soya beans and also exports large quantities of steel, Lula has a fight on his hands.

LULA ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

'We are seeing the appearance of alternative projects to the savage neo-liberalism that was imposed on our people for a long time, which almost destroyed Argentina entirely and increased marginality and debt.'

Nowhere is this clearer than in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre with its participatory budget introduced by Lula's Worker's Party. All new spending in Porto Alegre and other cities governed by the the Workers' Party is decided by citizens' assemblies organised first by region and then city-wide.

The city also hosts the World Social Forum, which in its short life has become a focus for anti-globalisers and environmentalists worldwide to gather, criticise the current global agenda and present a myriad of alternatives.

KEY ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS

Transparency: Public scrutiny reduces the possibilities of corruption.

Accountability: When citizens participate, they can clearly see expected benefits and limitations.

Efficiency: Increased chance that money for public works will be spent where citizens feel it is most needed.

Equity: The poor participate – spurring investments in low-income areas.

Budget balancing: Tends to reduce amounts spent on government salaries.

Before the election, speculation that Lula would win and potentially default on Brazil's massive debt caused foreign investors to withdraw their funds and the Brazilian 'real' to plummet to a record low against the US dollar. Also this year the IMF approved a \$30 billion loan to Brazil with the idea that the government would eventually be able to stabilise its growing public debt burden at a sustainable level.

Brazil's public debt has risen from 29.2 per cent of GDP in 1994 to nearly 62 per cent of GDP today. The real interest rate on Brazil's debt has averaged 16.1 per cent over the last eight years. Assuming that figure remains constant, the country's debt-to-GDP ratio will soon reach implausible levels. By 2009 debt would exceed Brazil's total GDP. By 2016 it would be more than 188 per cent of GDP.

Even if the real interest rate falls to 10 per cent over the next two and a half years and stays at that level (interest rates this low have been achieved only once in Brazil in the last eight years), the country's debt will grow to almost 90 per cent of GDP by 2016.

Not everyone is suffering so badly from Brazil's economic crisis, however. According to ABM Consulting, a Brazilian financial advisory firm, the 10 largest banks in Brazil – including Citibank and BankBoston – saw returns of 22 per cent on their holdings in the country in 2001. Their worldwide returns averaged at 12 per cent.



Forum on Religion and Ecology



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people & planet

Until the US gets its corporations out of its politics, war with Iraq – and any other country that stands between the corporations and their profits – is a foregone conclusion. By Thom Hartmann.

Dinosaur war



I thought of it as dinosaur blood when it dripped on my hand as I refilled my rental car at DFW Airport in Fort Worth, Texas. The image made me wonder how the US war strategy would change if Saddam made a small recalibration in his business practices.

Of course, the gasoline that spilled that morning – and the refined kerosene that would fuel the plane I was to fly in later that day – was far more ancient than even the spectacular Tyrannosaurus Rex bones found north of DFW. T Rex vanished around 65 million years ago, but the fossilised plants and bacteria that make gasoline are 300-400 million years old. By the time dinosaurs ruled the Earth, pretty much all of the oil production of the planet was finished. Strange, when you consider it in those terms, that the US would base its foreign policy on a limited supply of fossils older than the dinosaurs.

Saddam Hussein has a goodly supply of those fossils under the soil of Iraq. Indeed, Iraq may have the largest oil reserves in the world, reserves which could be even larger than Saudi Arabia's. The latter have been draining much faster and for much longer. Iraq shares hundreds of miles of borders with Saudi Arabia, as it does also with Kuwait and Iran – countries where much of the rest of the oil in the region is located.



CORBIS

All this led me to speculate how things might change if tomorrow Saddam were to announce: "I've decided to put my oil reserves up for auction to the highest corporate bidder. Like many other oil-producing nations, all I want is a commission from the oil company that wins the auction."

Once the resulting stampede was over, I bet that the US would discover that there are dozens of dictators in the world more vicious than Saddam. Robert Mugabe, for example, has engineered a cynical strategy of racial exploitation that has pushed six million Zimbabweans into famine. Burma's ruling junta has turned that nation into a slave-labour camp where torture, executions and terror are daily fare. And in North Korea the policies of dictator-for-life Kim Jong-il have turned a formerly fertile and prosperous land into a concentration camp where people are forced to eat grass to survive and anybody who questions the great leader's brilliance is executed. There is no shortage of 'evil' leaders of nations – the list could go on for pages.

Of course, none of these nations have oil. But if Saddam were to let in the oil corporations – companies which through the corporate theft of human rights (more on this later) have captured control of many of ▶

the policies of the US government – many other preconceptions about oil-rich Middle Eastern countries might undergo similar reassessment.

We might notice that Iraq is not the nation that nurtures and exports the most virulent and anti-US form of religious intolerance. There were no Iraqi hijackers on September 11. Iraq, in fact, was and remains hostile to al-Qaeda. We might discover that Iraq is not the least stable of the world's nations that seek or already possess nuclear weapons. That status probably goes to Pakistan, a country which is also home to millions of followers of Osama bin Laden. We might notice that women in Iraq are not required to wear a veil as they are in other oil-rich Arab nations the West befriends. Similarly, while brutal and repressive, the Iraqi government is unlike so many other nations in the region in that it is secular and neither demands nor encourages the types of religious fundamentalism that lead to suicide bombers. We might remember that just a few months ago soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo carried out what Human Rights Watch described as 'indiscriminate killings of civilians... summary executions... numerous rapes, beatings and widespread looting'.

The US might even return to a policy like the one it had in 1983 when its then Middle East envoy and current defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld opened US-Iraq relations with a friendly meeting with Saddam in Baghdad. The US traded anthrax, smallpox, helicopters and jets for Iraqi oil – a pattern repeated across the region. We might even stop all this talk of war.

The bottom line, however, is that powerful and oil-dependent corporate interests now control US domestic and foreign policy. This is because over the past few decades the US government has been almost entirely co-opted by corporate interests. A war in Iraq would be no more of, by and for the people than the current US administration. If Saddam didn't have enough oil to generate a few hundred million dollars a month in profits for the oil industry, the US would be giving him the same treatment it is giving Mugabe: 'Zimbabwe where?'

Cutting oil dependency

If the US exemption of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) from fuel-efficiency standards was ended, and these cars' efficiency was to increase by a tiny three miles per gallon,

the US would no longer need to import any oil from the Middle East. But the larger the car, the larger the profit for both the oil and the auto companies. The car and oil lobbies then pass out millions of dollars in funding to the political establishment in Washington. And now that the US airwaves have been sold to corporate interests that will only allow politicians to speak if they pay, political campaigns guzzle cash like SUVs do gas.

If the US was to institute a Manhattan Project-type programme to develop and implement hydrogen technologies and local, small-scale generation of electricity, it could clean up its air and free states from the tyranny of out-of-state energy companies that manipulate supply and prices. As it is, about a 10th of all electricity generated in the US is currently lost through transmission over long high-tension lines. And steam-generating plants only convert about a third of their heat energy to electricity – the other two thirds are wasted.

If the US was to encourage a Victory Garden style of local agriculture and homestead farming in the fashion of WWII (making it patriotic again to replace back yards of grass with vegetables), it could eliminate its absolute dependence on factory farming systems. These systems require billions of gallons of oil for the production and transportation of foods laden with oil-derived pesticides, herbicides and preservatives, and render topsoils sterile.

Most importantly, the US would no longer feel forced to permanently occupy the world's oil-producing regions.

But a government with policies dictated by big oil, the car industry, and big agriculture (sectors dominated by a few dozen corporations that are each richer than the majority of nations on earth) refuses to consider such rational alternatives. This is because these corporations have claimed the constitutional human right of free speech, a right which includes the freedom to influence legislation, influence politicians and give money to political parties. The US people are left out of the decision-making loop.

Corporate rights abuse

It wasn't always this way. Before 1886 most US states had laws that prevented corporations from meddling in politics. They can't vote, the logic went, so what are they doing talking to politicians?



Wisconsin, for example, had a law that stated: 'No corporation doing business in this state shall pay or contribute, or offer consent or agree to pay or contribute, directly or indirectly, any money, property, free service of its officers or employees or thing of value to any political party, organisation, committee or individual for any political purpose whatsoever, or for the purpose of influencing legislation of any kind, or to promote or defeat the candidacy of any person for nomination, appointment or election to any political office.' The penalty for any corporate official violating that law and getting cosy with politicians on behalf of a corporation was five years in prison and a substantial fine.

Free speech was a human right, and individuals – representing themselves and their own opinions – were free to say and do what they wanted. Corporations didn't have rights, but privileges. The state in which the corporations were incorporated determined these privileges and how they could be used.

The law schools teach that in 1886 the US Supreme Court changed all that – a decision that was to lead directly to the looming war with Iraq. The textbooks say that in the Santa Clara County vs Southern Pacific Railroad case the court recognised corporations as persons in accordance with the Fourteenth Amendment. The corporations were thus handed the huge club of human rights that the US founding fathers had given humans so they could beat back government should it ever become repressive. Armed with this mighty weapon, corporations claimed free speech, privacy and the right not to speak. And they used anti-discrimination statutes originally passed to free slaves to throw out "bad boy" laws that favoured local businesses over large corporations or companies that had been convicted of felonies.

I recently discovered, however, that the Supreme Court ruled no such thing in 1886. The 'corporations are persons' ruling was a fiction created by the court's reporter. He simply wrote the words into the headnote of the decision. The words contradict what the court actually said. There is, in fact, in the US National Archives a note by the Supreme Court Chief Justice of the time explicitly informing the reporter that the court had not ruled on corporate personhood in the Santa Clara case.

Nonetheless, US corporations have claimed the human rights the founding fathers fought, and often



COMBIS

died, to bequeath to living, breathing humans. Using those rights, they've usurped the US government to the point where its domestic policies are based on what's best for the corporations that make the largest campaign contributions. Foreign policy is just a necessary extension of that.

As my 'what would happen if Saddam auctioned off his oilfields tomorrow and just became another Middle Eastern despot like the rest of them' hypothesis demonstrates, we're not just going to war for oil; we're going to war for the 'security' of profit. While profit is a fine value for a corporation to hold, it's not the prime value of humans. And it's definitely not one of the values that drive or preserve democracy. If we are to save our world from a profit-driven Armageddon, if the US is to restore democracy to its republic, we must first get corporations out of government so politicians can once again become statesmen ■

Thom Hartmann is the author of *Unequal Protection: the rise of corporate domination and the theft of human rights*. The book details how voters can return human rights to humans. Visit www.unequalprotection.com to find out more.



Bali, bombs and backpackers



Ros Coward wonders why, following the bomb atrocity in Bali, no one has talked about the need for Westerners to travel with more grace and modesty.

It may be tactless to say so in the wake of the Bali bombing of the Sari nightclub, but in this post-September 11 world there really is no excuse for the cultural naivety of the backpacker clubber. In a world without the Twin Towers we all ought to understand that Western values and the people who innocently happen to have inherited them can be murderously hated.

Yet Westerners act as if September 11 was an aberration. Airlines offer cheap flights to exotic destinations. Travel companies continue to promote long-haul holidays with scant attention to the political and economic complexities of the destinations. And young people persist in regarding exotic travel as a rite of passage – something which provides a backdrop of otherness while they can really concentrate on meeting people exactly like themselves.

Nowhere was this truer than in South-East Asia. In the last decade the region became firmly established on the young travellers' agenda. This in turn opened the way for mass tourism. Many teenagers thought Indonesia, especially Bali, was the ultimate stop-over. It was sufficiently undeveloped to seem outside the usual package tour itinerary, but there was plenty of opportunity for familiar fun.

Travel websites for young backpackers showed what was on offer. Partytowns.com described Kuta beach with the words 'an exotic gem that won't drain your pocket... a real party town all the year round... welcome to the other side of the world'. Pre-bombing contributors to the site praised the Sari club for its giant beers that quickly led drinkers down 'Puke Alley', and advised that ecstasy could be had there. Summing up after the bombing, one traveller wrote: 'The Sari club was, in my opinion, the finest international vortex of hedonism and decadence in the whole wide world. It was the UN of drunken, sweaty, sex-crazed glory, and it was all fantastic fun.'

There is a staggering lack of awareness among these travellers that their lifestyle could be seen in any other light than the one they shed on it: universal youthful pleasures bringing the much-needed tourist dollar to a poor country. Even after the bombing one traveller on the *Lonely Planet* website described his sadness that the terrorists had decided to strike at a place and a group that he had 'personally grown to love and trust. They went after revellers, fun-loving, open-minded world travellers who were out to have nothing but the time of their lives'.

In fact, although Bali was generally regarded as tolerant and free of the violence of the other predominantly Muslim islands of Indonesia, many of the tensions of a clubbers' colony were present. Backpackers exchanged advice on how to avoid fights with locals. Kuta beach, said one guide, had been drowned in foreign culture. Almost every major

Western fast food franchise had opened up in Kuta. And popular European and US music blared from speakers. Even Cyprus, Ibiza and Greece, with cultures so much closer to those of the clubbers, sometimes repudiate such colonisation. Just imagine how problematic it might be for a poor culture with fierce

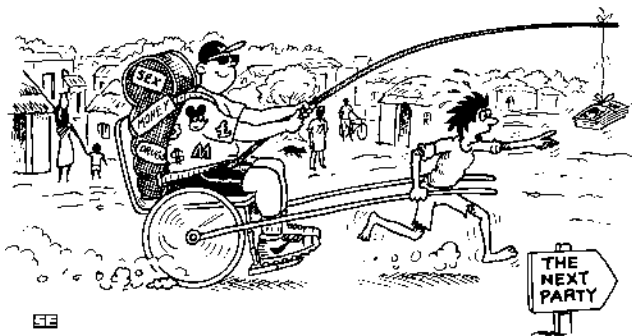
political and religious currents. To some, Kuta must have looked like Sodom and Gomorrah.

This kind of tourism, which views the world as its playground and other cultures as the backdrop for the same lifestyle as back home, is highly problematic. It's a form of casual imperialism that looks for warm places to party where the beer is cheap, the view is good and the locals are tolerant enough not to cause too much trouble.

There can never be an excuse for indiscriminate killing, and anyone who approved of such killing should automatically be unworthy of any sympathy. But I do despair of the cultural ignorance and chauvinism that these young people have grown up with and which has allowed them to dance into such danger. How could they have known any better when their politicians, social commentators and media do so little to inform them of other peoples' standards and sensitivities?

George Monbiot pointed out in an excellent piece in *The Guardian* how television must bear particular blame for this lack of information. Instead of educating people about different cultures, it continues to promote the world as a series of tourist destinations ranked for the pleasures they yield. This malaise goes wider, into politics and education. Even after the blatant and explicit attack on these young people in Bali, no one has discussed the problems Western lifestyles pose to regions marked by poverty and injustice and where fundamentalist religion makes sense. No one has talked about the need for Westerners to travel with more grace and more modesty.

If nothing else, these attacks should be used to cultivate some cultural self-awareness that our consumerist lifestyles are not what all people aspire to. Until this is realised, many young people won't see how at risk they are.



FISH NUMBERS

153% The rise in tonnage of the EU fishing fleet from 1970 to 1991.

60% The proportion of the world's commercialised species over-fished or exploited to the limit by 1998.

40% The estimated over-capacity of the European fleet.

70 The amount in billion dollars that the worldwide fishing industry is currently valued at.

54 The amount in billion dollars of subsidies to the industry.

341 The amount in thousand tons of landings of North Sea cod in 1972. The current low is 41,000 tons.

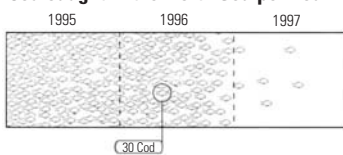
'The Earth was not designed to provide stock share-holders with a healthy return on their investments.'

Ray Rogers, ex-fisherman, Nova Scotia 1992

'If ever there was a fish made to endure, it is the Atlantic cod – the common fish. But it has among its predators man, an open-mouthed species greedier than the cod.'

Mark Kurlansky, author of *Cod: a biography of the fish that changed the world*

Cod caught in the North Sea per hour



Cod populations in European waters are in danger of collapse, says a report by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). ICES general secretary David Griffith announced: 'We have had to recommend the complete closure of these fisheries as the only way of giving these depleted stocks a period of time to recover and, hopefully, to return to their former productive state.'

A complete ban on cod fishing is expected imminently – together with a ban on catching haddock, whiting and scampi, which are often caught at the same time. The effects of the ban on an already impoverished industry and local communities will be crippling, but

there cannot be a fishing industry with no fish.

An estimated 70 per cent of global fish stocks are 'depleted' or 'almost depleted'. In 1991 the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation was enthusiastically predicting that global fish catches would continue to increase. It now acknowledges: 'The oceans' most valuable commercial species are fished to capacity.'

The situation facing the world's fishing industry has many similarities with the problems associated with industrialised agriculture. As highly mechanised production techniques displace traditional, proven methods, multinationals are taking an ever greater proportion of fishing capacity. The shift of control over fishing grounds from local communities to agencies with no allegiance to any one place removes the incentive to pursue sustainable fishing methods.

Nature & Resources Cod



Reasons to stop eating the 'Top 20' fish identified by the Marine Conservation Society:

- The species are either being overfished or are unsustainably managed;
- They are linked with high by-catch of non-target species such as dolphins, sea turtles, birds or juvenile fish;
- They are associated with methods of harvesting that cause excessive damage to marine habitats.

If you like to eat seafood, but are concerned about the impact this may have on stocks, marine wildlife and habitats, then the Marine Conservation Society's *Good Fish Guide* – published in February 2002 for £10 (inc p&p) – will help you choose the most eco-friendly fish. For a copy, contact the Marine Conservation Society at MCS, Gloucester Road, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5BU. Telephone: 01989 566017, for more information.



Species	Reason
1 Atlantic cod	Listed as endangered by World Conservation Union (IUCN)
2 Atlantic salmon	Wild stocks reduced by 50 per cent in the last 20 years
3 Ling	Deep-water species and habitat vulnerable to impacts of exploitation and trawling
4 Chilean seabass (Patagonian toothfish)	Species threatened with extinction
5 Dogfish / spurdog	Species listed as endangered by the IUCN
6 European hake	Species heavily overfished and now scarce
7 Grouper	Many species are listed as endangered by the IUCN
8 Haddock	Species listed as endangered by the IUCN
9 Marlin	Many species are listed as endangered by the IUCN
10 Monkfish	Long-lived species vulnerable to exploitation; mature females extremely rare
11 North Atlantic halibut	Species listed as endangered by the IUCN
12 Orange roughy	Very long-lived species vulnerable to exploitation
13 Seabass	Trawl fisheries target pre-spawning and spawning fish; also high levels of cetacean by-catch
14 Shark	Long-lived species vulnerable to exploitation
15 Skates and rays	Long-lived species vulnerable to exploitation
16 Snapper	Some species listed as endangered by the IUCN; others over-exploited locally
17 Sturgeon	Long-lived species vulnerable to exploitation; 5 out of 6 Caspian Sea species listed as endangered by the IUCN
18 Swordfish	Species listed as endangered by the IUCN
19 Tuna	All commercially fished species listed by the IUCN except the skipjack and yellowfin, which are over-fished
20 Warm-water or tropical prawns	High by-catch levels and habitat destruction

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Blood of the ancient mariner

The horseshoe crab is as old as the dinosaurs. Its blood is an essential ingredient in everyday medicine, and yet we know so little about it. Laurel Maury investigates.



The horseshoe crab, or *Limulus Arthropodus*, is a living cousin of the trilobite, a marine arthropod that scuttled across the Palaeozoic seabeds some 570 to 245 million years ago. Each year it spawns during the first full and new moon of spring from the Yucatan to Maine, but most heavily in Delaware Bay when thousands come ashore in a primitive orgy of procreation that makes the bay's shore look like a wet cobble street at night.

Scientists are only beginning to study horseshoe crabs in earnest. We do not know how long they live, though the general consensus is between 18 and 30 years. They appear to be fairly hardy, but bizarre. Older than coelacanths, they live only on the eastern sides of continents. Their circadian rhythm is so deeply ingrained that, if kept in total darkness for a year, they will still follow the same schedule as their brothers in the sea. They have ten eyes, two of which are so sensitive to ultra-violet that they can detect moonlight from the seabed.



But horseshoe crabs are of interest to more than just palaeontologists and nocturnal beachwalkers. 250,000 of them are collected each year for use by the pharmaceutical industry. Their blood is used to make LaL, a reagent used to test for endotoxins, which can induce septic shock, a condition that is fatal in over 50% of patients.

So why use horseshoe crab blood?

Horseshoe crabs are so ancient they lack antibodies in their blood. When endotoxins, which are created by bacteria omnipresent in seawater, enter their bloodstream, their blood clots keeping out bacteria, toxins, and anything else that might invade.

LaL, when used to test batches of IV / immunisation drugs, uses this clotting property of the horseshoe crab blood, to quickly detect the presence of endotoxins. An effective, simple, and relatively cheap way of avoiding toxic shock.

The old testing method involved injecting batch samples into rabbits to see if they died. It was expensive, time consuming, and inaccurate, to say nothing of cruel. LaL is now used worldwide and is currently estimated to be worth annually approximately \$50 million.

Implications for the horseshoe crab

Associates of Cape Cod Inc., a major producer of LaL, claim that 95% of the horseshoe crabs caught for blood extraction survive the 'procedure' that removes up to 1/3 of their blood. However, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service suggests that 90% is a more accurate figure.

The Associates of Cape Cod also maintain that they return

the horseshoe crab to its natural environment within 36 hours of being caught. However, once again this is disputed by the National Fisheries Service, who have reported that the horseshoe crabs are often kept away from their natural habitat for 72 hours.

The truth is that no one knows how many survive once they have been returned to their natural environment, as there have been no attempts to research the long term effects of this procedure.

CORBIS

And the future for the horseshoe crab?

Sadly, what is not subject to debate, is that the horseshoe crab populations along the East Coast of America, and worldwide, are declining rapidly.

For once, the main culprit is not the bio medical industry. In terms of numbers the biggest threat comes from the eel and conch fishing industry, who harvest horseshoe crabs for bait. In the last five years, in the U.S. alone, they have caught between 15 and 20 million horseshoe crabs.

But talking of culprits misses the real point. In truth both industries are equally to blame, as both are utterly reliant on the horseshoe crab. And yet both hide behind the all-pervasive philosophy afflicting governments and industry alike, 'Harvest and Hope'. Hope that somehow a natural resource will survive, regardless of how much you harvest it.

Lack of knowledge should be a call to action, not an excuse to keep taking. If we allow the horseshoe crabs to be harvested to extinction, aside from medicine being set back 50 years, local fisherman will be out of business, and far more importantly the turtles and migrating birds reliant on the spawning of the crabs will starve.

Laurel Maury is a journalist with the New Yorker. To learn more about the horseshoe crab go to www.horseshoecrab.org

'Sparrow' in the mineshaft

GDP is a hopeless measurement of a nation's 'wealth'. Conor Jameson thinks we'd be better off, measuring our success by the number of house sparrows we have left.



Perhaps more than any other bird, the familiar house sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, has been our companion in the colonisation of the world. From old world to new, it has followed closely behind us, better suited to urbanisation than almost any other species, a comrade in agricultural revolution. And as such, it is eminently suited to being our 'canary in the mineshaft', an indicator of our health.

Unfortunately it's in trouble. The Independent newspaper is offering money for answers, and questions have been asked in the House. So what has gone wrong for the house sparrow? If only, as an RSPB employee, I could explain, in simple terms, and point the finger at the culprits. The conundrum is that the species appears to have gone into freefall, not just in towns, but in the country as well.

For my part, I inhabit a niche somewhere between scientists and the general public. I can let somebody else count the bugs, weigh the nestlings and analyse the droppings, and I'm happy to analyse the results. I admire the discipline, patience and rigour of my colleagues, even if it means it takes a while to get the full story behind the findings. But I'm impatient to know why there has been a 50% decline of house sparrows in suburban gardens in just 22 years?

I live with house sparrows. Mine seem to be doing ok, although I've never formally counted them. For five years here, on the interface between town and country in north Bedfordshire, my sparrow population has seemed stable. So why is it different here?

I think about it from the point of view of my sparrows and their basic needs. In the end, Sparrows like us. They wouldn't have followed us round the world if it were otherwise. They need a roof space to be born in. A bird box that simulates this will of course do. I am content to let them nest in three places in my eaves. I also have them in two bird boxes that I made from reclaimed wood. How many houses built in the last 20 years offer this basic concession to our sparrows?

Nestling sparrows need protein, in the form of insect food. Aphids are particularly important. I don't spray my garden, but of course many people do, instead of letting the sparrows, and others, do it for them. Some people think

that unleaded petrol fumes are contributing to the loss of invertebrate food. If so *mia culpa* – I haven't been able to give up my car – yet.

Adult sparrows aren't fussy eaters, but at the very least they need weed seeds and, better still, spilt grains from the harvest. Well, near me I can see where the feeding opportunities are, and there have even been winter

stubbles, either because of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which compensates the farmer for not ploughing this up and planting again in the autumn, or because the ground was too wet to plough at that time. Either way it's good for sparrows, as these stubbles, once a common feature of the farmed countryside, offer rich pickings.

Sparrows also need company. They are the most

social of our resident garden birds, which is a huge part of their charm. They find viability in numbers. It could be that when these numbers reach a critical low, the colony becomes unsustainable. The plug is effectively pulled. Colonies can also become isolated because sparrows just don't travel far – as little as a mile or two in a lifetime. I can't legislate for this – it's possible that the sparrows in my road could get 'cut off'.

Infectious disease is an issue for gregarious birds. I know that this has been an issue locally, as one of the farmers in my road brought me a dead sparrow, one of several corpses he'd found in his pigsty. It emphasises the importance of hygiene when feeding garden birds, which, if done properly, along with the provision of clean water, helps birds survive cold weather.

I walked through Kensington Gardens this week. A census of sparrows has been conducted there since 1925, when there were 2,603. This spring there were, apparently, four. Which is four more than I saw.

Needless to say I'd be gutted if my sparrows weren't around, and I'd feel the quality of my local environment greatly diminished. I, like many people, care about birds for their own sake; but also, ultimately, for the sake of me and mine. I did see feral pigeons in Kensington Gardens. What if they started to disappear too? People might not miss them quite so much as sparrows, but they might start to wonder what was next.



Science and Technology Mobile Phones

Colombo-tantalite ore, or coltan, is used to make pinhead capacitors. The latter are essential components in mobile phones – they are used to regulate voltage and store energy.

In 1998 the armed forces of Rwanda and Uganda invaded the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Ostensibly, their motive was to depose the government of Laurent Kabila. But in practice they used the invasion of the DRC to plunder as much of the resource-rich country as possible. The war in the DRC saw widespread resource looting, death and suffering. It is estimated that two to three million people were killed and another two million displaced by the conflict.

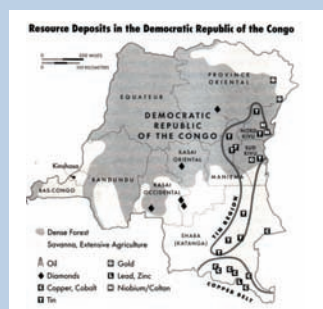
The war was fuelled by western corporations wanting access to the DRC's vast mineral reserves. Bayer alone has bought over 80 per cent of the coltan produced by one or other of the warring factions in the DRC.

The UN estimates that the war earned Rwanda as much as \$20m a month in coltan sales. This money easily covered the cost of the campaign. As Rwandan president Paul Kagame said at the time, the war was 'self-financing'.

Early in October, and prompted by the collapse in the price of coltan, Rwanda reportedly withdrew the last of its 23,000 soldiers from the mineral-rich eastern part of the DRC. However, a UN report released on October 22 reveals that these troops have been replaced by criminal cartels that continue to plunder resources on their behalf.

Most of the men now involved in the coltan trade used to be farmers. Aside from the appalling conditions in which these men work, there is real concern that the long-term exploitation of coltan may lead to local farmers forgetting their farming skills in the way that some central African villagers have forsaken logging for oil jobs.

And if the coltan or oil reserves run out, these people may be left with no other means of livelihood.



The world's first major mobile phone recycling scheme, called Fonebak, was launched in the UK in September. The scheme pre-empts the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive (WEEE), which is due to pass through the European Parliament by 2004. WEEE will legally oblige manufacturers and retailers of consumer electronics to take back for recycling all products sold.



Mike Childs, of Friends of the Earth, hopes that the recycling of mobile phones is only a first step. Childs says: 'We should step back and ask ourselves: 'what are the implications of buying these things?' He continued, 'if we must keep buying mobile phones, then manufacturers should design hardware that 'can be upgraded rather than changed', and that if they do not 'design out waste' they should be punished.'

With Fonebak, metals are extracted and re-deployed, some phones are 're-manufactured' for sale in developing countries, and casings are incinerated for power supply. For more information, telephone Shields Environmental on (01708) 684000.

PHONE FIGURES

Until early 2002, telecommunications was the fastest growing industry in the world

350,000	Number of worldwide mobile phone subscribers in 1985
38	Percentage increase in mobile phone subscribers this year compared to 2001
1 billion	Estimated number of mobile phone subscribers today
70	Percentage of people worldwide who have no access to a telephone
100	Number of years it took to connect the world's first billion people by phone
10	Number of years it took to connect the second billion people
77	Percentage of the UK's population that owns a mobile phone
90	Percentage of people aged 15–25 in the UK who own a mobile phone
18	Number of months for which the average consumer uses their phone before throwing it away and replacing it with a newer model
15 million	Number of mobile phones thrown away every year; this equates to 1,500 metric tons of potential landfill – the equivalent to burying a WWII naval destroyer or six Mir space stations
1	Number of cadmium mobile phone batteries needed to contaminate 600,000 litres of water

If you can't live without your mobile, the following might help your health:

Keep calls as short as possible.

Ensure that the aerial is as far as possible from your head. If possible, use a hands-free kit.

When indoors, always use the phone near a window and hold the handset on the side of your body that faces the window.

As a rule, only use your phone when it is showing four to five bars of signal strength.

Avoid handsets with internal antennae, as these tend to expose you to higher levels of radiation.

Purchase some form of protective device. There are two basic types: barrier devices that attempt to shield or dissipate the radiation from the phone to the head, and those that claim to boost the body's ability to neutralise the radiation.

Italian scientists have raised new health concerns about the safety of using mobile phones.

Research shows that radio waves from phone handsets make cancerous cells grow more aggressively.

When Fiorenzo Marinelli and his colleagues at the National Research Council in Bologna exposed leukaemia cells in the laboratory to 48 hours of continuous radio waves, the waves initially killed the cancer cells but then made the surviving tumor cells replicate more rapidly.

While concluding that there is no evidence that mobile phones are a danger to health, a British government inquiry has advised parents to discourage children (whose brains are still developing) from using them excessively.

An Australian study found that mice exposed to radiation from handsets over a period of 18 months had twice the chance of developing cancers.

A US study found that learning and short-term memory were impaired after exposure to mobile phone radiation.



Nottingham University recently found that when female nematode worms (pictured above) were exposed to radiation from mobile phones they produced more stress hormones, more eggs and grew 10 per cent larger than unexposed worms.

The World Health Organisation has called for more research into the potential health hazards of mobile phones and has urged people to limit their use of them.

1942-2002

60 years of nuclear

Like many powerful industries the nuclear sector has a dishonourable record of corporate greed, circumnavigation of regulations, human error and corner cutting. However, nuclear power differs from other industries because of its close association with nuclear weapons production and national security.

This relationship has fostered a lack of political commitment to making the industry accountable, has cultivated a high level of secrecy and has encouraged public ignorance

1940
1941



Boeing/MARC CIM-10B
BOMARC B
Surface-to-Air Missile

1942
1943

1942
Three years after the splitting of the atom, and in the midst of WWII, the US launches a top secret military programme called 'The Manhattan Project'. The aim is to develop the first atomic bomb. The project lasts four years and costs about \$1.8 billion (equivalent to \$20 billion today).

In the New Mexico mountains three bombs are made – 'Gadget', a plutonium test model, 'Little Boy', a uranium bomb, and 'Fat Man', also made of plutonium.

1944
1945

1944
A second uranium reactor is built at Clinton, Tennessee, for manufacturing plutonium for an atomic bomb.

1945
70 Manhattan Project scientists write to US president Harry S Truman protesting against any use of the bomb and insisting on a demonstration of its power to Japan.

August 6, 1945:
Truman orders Little Boy to be dropped on Hiroshima. It immediately kills 66,000 and injures 69,000. By the end of 1945 an estimated 155,200 more people have died due to radioactive fallout, and between 1946 and 1951 over 60,000 die from radiation-related illnesses.

Three days later Fat Man explodes over Nagasaki, instantly killing 39,000 and injuring over 25,000. By the end of 1945 an estimated 70,000 have died – either in the explosion or from radiation poisoning.

1946
1947

July 1, 1946
The US begins nuclear weapons testing at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific. On July 24, 1946, the Baker shot is set off in the Bikini lagoon at a depth of about 90 feet and with a yield of 21 kilotons. Two million tons of water are thrown up in the eruption, and two million yards of sediment are removed from the lagoon floor. Nine ships are sunk.

SUPER BOMB

The explosion of a Soviet atomic bomb prompts a US debate over the production of a 'Super' – a hydrogen bomb with a yield of 10.4 megatons, equal to 10.4 million tons of TNT. Scientists advise against the genocidal potential of the 'evil thing'.

NUCLEAR FALLOUT

1951 Nuclear fallout from Cold War weapons testing is linked to 15,000 cancer deaths in US residents born after this year. Fallout from open-air nuclear testing is predicted to cause a further 80,000 cancers, according to a report conducted by the US National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings have been acknowledged by the US government.

1948
1949

June 19, 1948
The first Soviet plutonium production reactor becomes operational at Kyshtym in the Urals.

1949
The nuclear arms race begins with Truman announcing that the USSR has exploded its first atomic bomb. This is denied by the Soviets.



1950
1951

DEPLETED URANIUM

There are three types of uranium. U234 and U235 are fissionable and used in bombs. When U234 and U235 are removed, what is left – U238 or Depleted Uranium (DU) – is still radioactive. Around 10 pounds of solid DU is enough to make a tank round capable of slicing through tank armour. It burns on impact, and leaves dust with a radioactive half-life of 4.2 billion years.

April 1950
The US begins open-air testing of DU in New Mexico.

1950
The US starts to secretly deploy nuclear bombs in 18 sovereign countries and nine former or current US territories, including 'non-nuclear' countries such as Japan, Greenland and Iceland. Most of these countries host the weapons unknowingly.

EXPERIMENTS ON BABIES

Between the 1950s and 1970s, some 6,000 stillborn babies and dead infants are sent from hospitals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and South America to the UK and US (without the permission of parents) for use in nuclear experiments.

1952
1953

November 1st 1952
Convinced the USSR would build an H-bomb, the US explodes 'Mike' – the first thermo-nuclear device. It completely vapourises the Pacific island of Elugelab, previously a mile in diameter. The blast was 1,000 times more powerful than Hiroshima.

December 12th 1952
NRX experimental reactor suffers a partial core meltdown.

1954
1955



14th September 1954
The Soviet Union explodes a 40,000-ton atom bomb (that's twice as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima) at the Totskoye test range. Some 45,000 people (mainly Soviet soldiers) are deliberately exposed to the radiation in order to examine their performance in a mock battle, involving 600 tanks, 600 armoured personnel carriers and 320 planes. Thousands are believed to have died in the immediate aftermath and the years following, with the rate of cancer double that of Chernobyl.

1955 Chicago University's Willard Libby starts 'Project Sunshine', asking for bodies – preferably of stillborn or newly born babies – to use for testing the impact of atomic bomb fallout.

regarding nuclear accidents and contamination.

This piece attests to what can go wrong in practice – from the mining of uranium to nuclear power and nuclear weapons. It is a damning refutation of pro-nuclear propaganda, a stark catalogue of nuclear accidents, plant failures, unsafe designs, faulty constructions, secrecy, public misinformation, financial disasters, radioactive contamination and radiation-related diseases and deaths.



1956
1957

August 1956
The world's first full-scale nuclear power plant (with a 50 megawatt capacity) begins operation at Calder Hall in England.

29th September 1957 Thousands of square miles of land are contaminated by an accident at Russia's Chelyabinsk nuclear complex.

10th October 1957 The Windscale Disaster, UK. Radiation is released when the reactor's graphite core catches fire, exposing workers to 150 times the maximum lifetime dose. And although local farmers and villagers are exposed to 10 times the permitted levels, the UK government chooses not to evacuate the area.

8th November 1957 Britain's first fusion bomb explodes near Christmas Island in the Pacific.

1958
1959

March 1958 The Fyshtym Disaster, USSR. An explosion in a radioactive stockpile near the Ural Mountains. Victims are seen with skin sloughing off their faces, hands and other exposed parts of their bodies. Hundreds die, thousands are injured. Hundreds of square miles of land are left barren and will remain unusable for centuries.

July 26 1959 Core meltdown of California's Edison Santa Susana sodium-cooled nuclear reactor. Ten out of 43 fuel assemblies are damaged due to lack of heat transfer, and radioactive contamination is released.



1960
1961

3rd April 1960 Melting of fuel elements causes a release of radioactivity at the US's Waltz Mills test reactor.

3rd January 1961 The Idaho Falls disaster, the US. Control rods are accidentally removed from the core of a military experimental reactor. The resulting steam explosion kills three technicians. One is impaled by a control rod.

January 23, 1961 A B-52 bomber carrying two 24-megaton bombs crashes in North Carolina. On one bomb five of six interlocking safety devices fail. A single switch prevents an explosion that would have been 1,800 times more powerful than Hiroshima.

August 1961 The USSR explodes the most powerful bomb ever. The yield is 58 megatons of TNT.

1962
1963

1962 Canada's first full-scale nuclear power plant begins to provide electricity in Rolphton, Ontario. Twenty years after the first controlled nuclear fission reaction the US has 200 atomic reactors in operation, while the UK and the USSR have 39 each.

PAPER TIGERS

Chinese leader Mao Zedong says: 'The atomic bomb is a paper tiger... China is developing nuclear weapons not because it believes in their omnipotence, nor because it plans to use them... China's aim is to break the nuclear monopoly of the nuclear powers and eliminate nuclear weapons.'

September 1962 As part of a campaign to reduce the US's vulnerability to nuclear attack, president John F Kennedy advises Americans to build fallout shelters.

April 10, 1963 A US nuclear submarine, the USS Thresher, sinks in the North Atlantic. All of the 129 crew are killed.

1964
1965

21st April 1964 A US satellite releases 1.2 kg of plutonium.

16th October 1964 China's first nuclear test.

4th January 1965 6.5 kg of plutonium is released from the US's Savannah River reprocessing plant.

1966
1967



B-52 bomb dump

17th January 1966 A B-52 bomber has a mid-air accident while refuelling and drops four nuclear weapons on Palomares in Spain. Although no nuclear explosion occurs, conventional explosions in two of the weapons scatter radioactive material over a populated area.

1968
1969

1968 The coaster Scheersberg-A sails from Antwerp for Genoa with 200 tons of uranium on board. It does not arrive in Italy as scheduled but at Iskenderun, Turkey, empty of its cargo. Years later the ship's owner is located in a Norwegian prison and is identified as an Israeli secret agent.

23rd September 1969 Radioactive contamination of the atmosphere occurs during the failed launch of a Soviet spaceship.

1970
1971

12th April 1970 The Soviet nuclear submarine K-8 sinks in the Bay of Biscay, killing 53 crew members.

December 18, 1970 A large radioactive cloud is deliberately released after a 10-kiloton underground test in Nevada. The cloud reaches Canada.



GREENPEACE IS FORMED

In 1971 a group of 12 US and Canadian activists charters a boat and sails straight into a nuclear test site in Amchitka, Alaska. The voyage sparks an international outcry against nuclear weapons that leads to the formation of Greenpeace.

SECRET NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In the early 1970s, the US has over 7,000 nuclear weapons secretly deployed in NATO countries in Europe and 2,000 deployed in the Pacific. A variety of naval vessels routinely carries around 3,000 other weapons. None of this is made public until the late 1990s.

July 1971 Malcom Patterson dies aged 36 of leukaemia after working for 13 years at Windscale. British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) admits liability and agrees £75,000 damages with his widow.

1942-2002: 60 years of nuclear

1972
1973



June 1972
Greenpeace's ship *The Vega* sails into France's Mururoa test site in the South Pacific and is rammed by French warships.

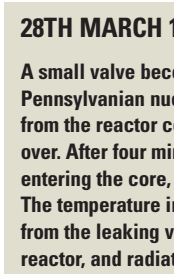
September 1972
The US begins DU testing in Socorro, New Mexico, less than two miles from the town square. The residents do not find out until 1986.

1974
1975

May 18, 1974
India conducts an underground nuclear test code-named the 'Smiling Buddha' at Pokharan in the Rajasthan desert. The government claims it is a peaceful test, but it is, in fact, part of an accelerated weapons programme.

March 22, 1975
A technician using a candle to check for air leaks sets fire to electrical insulation at the Brown's Ferry reactor in Decatur, Alabama. Cables controlling safety equipment burn out, and cooling water falls to dangerous levels. Only a makeshift system prevents disaster.

1976
1977



Windscale

WINDSCALE'S 1976 RECORD

January – A leak of radioactive waste occurs because of corrosion in a storage tank.

April – Radioactive waste leaks from corroded steel drums.

October – All British nuclear fuel workers are exposed to radiation levels that are above international guidelines.

November – A leak of radioactive waste leaves a nearby beach contaminated by tritium.

Through the year – 100 gallons per day of contaminated water leak from a waste storage silo. The incident is not reported for two months and leads to the Windscale Public Inquiry.

24th September 1973
35 workers at Sellafield's reprocessing plant are contaminated following a technical failure.

16th February 1973
A sea container filled with Cobalt 60 is lost in the North Sea.

8th January 1975
Accidental release of radioactivity from Mihama nuclear power plant in Japan.

30th November 1975
1.5 million curies are released from a nuclear power plant in Leningrad, Russia.

7th July 1977
The US announces it has tested a neutron bomb. It produces a minimal blast, limiting damage to buildings and equipment, but is intended to disable or kill troops by releasing a huge shower of neutrons capable of penetrating armour, concrete or several feet of earth.

1978
1979

28TH MARCH 1979 THREE MILE ISLAND DISASTER

A small valve becomes stuck inside reactor number two at the Pennsylvania nuclear power plant. Steam and water escapes from the reactor core. The emergency cooling system takes over. After four minutes and thinking too much water is entering the core, the operator shuts down the cooling system. The temperature inside the reactor soars. Radioactive water from the leaking valve spills into the building next to the reactor, and radiation seeps into the control rooms of both reactors. Ten hours into the crisis the control room begins shaking and the uranium fuel starts melting like wax. The plant designers finally realise the danger and order 400 gallons of high-pressure water to be released onto the core. The next day nearly 100,000 people flee. It takes experts a further month to shut the reactor down. The plant was designed to save itself without human intervention, and would have shut itself down if no one had done anything.



Three Mile Island nuclear power plant

1978
Dmitri Rotow, a Harvard economics student, writes a book on how to build a fission bomb. The total costs for such a weapon, not including fissile material, are estimated at \$1,900. Rotow's book is so close to the truth that the US Department of Energy classifies it as secret.

July 1978
Two tons of radioactive steam are released from Brunsbuettel nuclear power plant in Germany.

1980
1981

3rd June 1980
The US presidential airborne command and about 100 B-52 bombers are readied for take-off after a false detection of a Soviet missile attack.

20th September 1980
An explosion blows the 740-ton cover off an ICBM silo, sending a nine-megaton warhead 600 feet into the air. One man is killed and 21 others injured.

4th October 1981
There is a spill of Iodine-131 300 times above normal levels at the UK's Sellafield reprocessing plant.

1982
1983

1st February 1982
100 cubic metres of radioactive water is released from the Salem nuclear power plant in the US.

1982
30,000 women protest against nuclear weapons at the Greenham Common cruise missile base in Berkshire. The Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was set up after 36 women march for 10 days from their homes in south Wales. Eventually, 96 missiles are stored at the base.



16th November 1983
The Sellafield reprocessing plant accidentally discharges abnormal levels of highly radioactive waste directly into the sea.

December 1983
Technical failure causes the release of Iodine-131 from the Phillipsburg nuclear power plant in Germany.

1983
DU testing begins in the UK at Dundernann in Scotland. Since then 7,000 DU shells have been tested at the site, which has the highest rate of childhood leukaemia in the UK.

1984
1985

MEXICO'S X-RAY DISASTER

March 1984, Juarez, Mexico
A cancer therapy X-ray machine is sold to a scrap merchant. Thinking a luminous powder leaking from the machine is a healing substance, people rub it on their bodies. When it starts to cause radiation burns, they try to wash it off – thereby contaminating their homes and sewers and affecting others. News spreads and the town panics. Pregnant women, and other persons previously unaffected, become contaminated by ambulances that previously carried people with radiation sickness. No one thinks to decontaminate the vehicles. While many flee, 30,000 are rounded up in the local stadium and many are screened. Two hundred people are found to have high exposure to radiation. Five die from radiation poisoning and are buried in lead-lined coffins in six-foot concrete graves so as to keep their bodies isolated from the environment. The contaminated stadium, sewerage and other facilities will remain dangerous for many lifetimes. The cost to Mexico in lost exports for 1984 alone, is US \$70m. The amount of radioactive caesium-137 powder that causes all this financial and human damage could fit into a matchbox.

Month 1985
Greenpeace's boat Rainbow Warrior is bombed by French agents in Auckland Harbour so as to prevent its voyage to Mururoa. Greenpeace returns to Mururoa to maintain its protest.



ANTI-NUCLEAR NEW ZEALAND

In Month 1987 New Zealand declared itself nuclear-free with its Nuclear Free Zone Disarmament and Arms Control Act. The act prevents the stationing of nuclear weapons on NZ land or in its territorial waters for up to 12 miles out to sea, the entry of nuclear-powered ships into its harbours, and the building of nuclear reactors in NZ.

1988
1989



France's atomic agency: Le Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique

28th April 1988
5,000 curies of tritium gas are released from the Bruyere le Chatel military nuclear complex in France.

18th January 1989
Eight workers are contaminated at the Savannah River reprocessing plant.

1990
1991

Month 1990

A link is found between radiation received by male workers at Sellafield and the incidence of leukaemia and lymphoma among their children.

8th September 1991
Radioactive steam is released due to technical failure at Barsebeck nuclear power plant in Sweden.

May 1991
The last missile at Greenham Common is flown back to the US. Protesters remain to ensure against the weapons' return.

1992
1993

19th June 1992
There is a leak in a pipe conducting sea-water to the cooling system of a Leningrad nuclear power plant.

13th May 1992
A tube leak causes the release of 12 curies of radioactivity from Tarapur power station in India.

21st March 1993
Workers are exposed to high levels of radiation during three accidents at Kuosheng nuclear power plant in Taiwan.

1994
1995

4th February 1994
Radioactive contamination at the Mayak reprocessing plant in Russia.

23rd March 1994
Release of radiation at Mayak.

1994
Iraqi health officials report alarmingly high post-Gulf War increases of leukaemia, carcinoma, cancers of the lung and digestive system, late-term miscarriages, congenital diseases and foetal deformities such as anencephaly (absence of a brain) and fused fingers and toes, which are also found in babies of Gulf War veterans.

January 31, 1995
The Mescalero Apache tribe of south-central New Mexico votes against allowing its reservation to be used as a nuclear waste storage site for 20,000 metric tons of highly radioactive spent reactor fuel rods. Tribal members vote 490 to 362 against the plan, which would have resulted in substantial revenues to the tribe from 33 utility companies throughout the US.



1996
1997

1997 THE TOKAIMURA DISASTER, JAPAN
Workers at a Japanese uranium processing plant accidentally set off a nuclear fission reaction. It causes radioactive gases to be spewed into the air over Tokaimura, a coastal village of about 33,000 people. While making fuel rods, the technicians load 35 pounds of uranium oxide (eight times the prescribed amount) into a tank of nitric acid, starting a chain reaction whereby the material initially fissions and blows apart. This produces neutrons and gamma radiation. The material then reforms in the tank and starts another reaction. The problem of how to drain away the water remains unsolved for 20 hours, when – after several failed attempts – workers deliberately brake the drainpipes and halt the chain reaction. The building remains so radioactive that it may never reopen.

March 1997
A Russian scientist dies of intense radiation exposure received three days earlier in an accident at the Arzamas-16 research centre.

8th April 1997
Greenpeace reveals that radiation levels on the beach close to France's LaHague reprocessing plant discharge pipe are as much as 3,900 times higher than background levels.



Sampling at La Hague

14th April 1997
Radioactive tritium is released during an incident at the Fugen nuclear power plant in Japan.

October 1997
A bar filled with radioactive caesium is found at a copper recycling company in the German city of Hettstadt.

1998
1999

6th April 1998
The UK and France are the first nuclear powers to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

1998
It is discovered that for 30 years the UK's Rosyth and Devonport dockyards failed to inform Britain's only official low-level dump at Drigg, near Sellafield, that their waste contained radioisotope carbon-14. With a half life of 5,730 years, the material will take tens of thousands of years to decay to harmless levels.

18th October 1999
The US senate rejects the CTBT, drawing widespread international condemnation.

2000
2001

2000
A clean-up programme begins at the UK's Aldermaston and Burghfield weapons assembly plants. It will take an estimated 70 years and cost about £2 billion of public money.

2001
An Atomic Weapons Establishment study assesses whether or not Aldermaston's 18km waste pipeline should be left buried 1.8 metres beneath numerous roads – including the A4 and M4 to the village of Pangbourne, where it discharges into the River Thames. It has developed a crust of radioactive scale that leaches into the liquids in the pipe, resulting in waste 15-20 times more radioactive than when it left Aldermaston.

2002

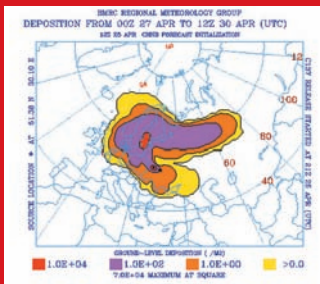
May 2002
Having discovered that BNFL had falsified safety records of a shipment of MOX fuel to Japan, the Japanese government orders two boats carrying the fuel (enough weapons-grade plutonium to make 70 bombs) back to the UK.



September 2002
British Energy (BE), the nuclear power generator that supplies more than 20 percent of Britain's electricity, collapses. Its share price falls to 5p, valuing it at just £31m compared with more than £2bn a year ago. Confronted with the prospect of insolvency and the lights going out all over Britain, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is forced to step in and prop up BE with two emergency loans totalling £650m. Is this the end for the U.K. nuclear industry? We hope and pray that it is.

26TH APRIL 1986 CHERNOBYL, UKRAINE

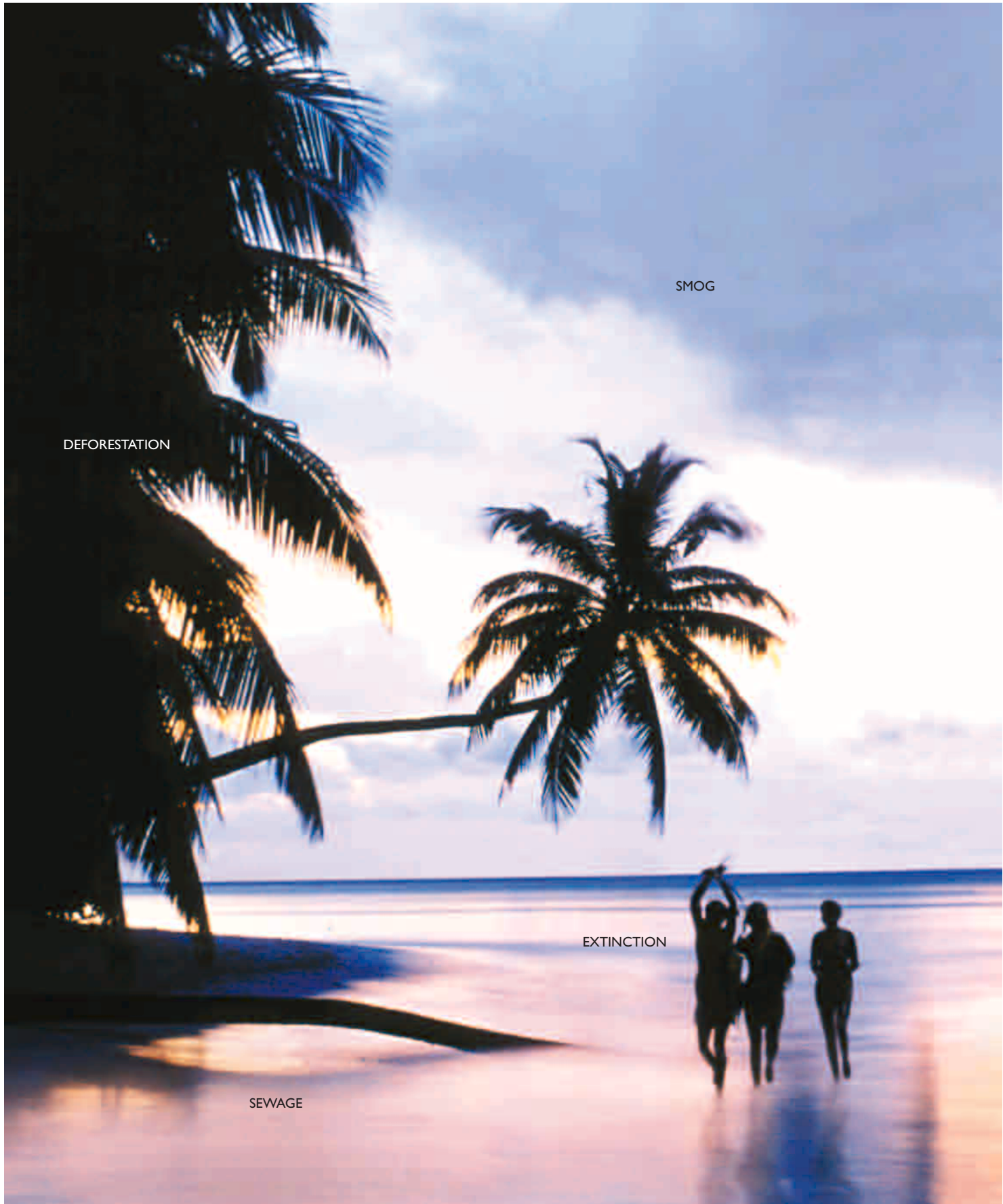
Technicians allow the power in the fourth reactor at Chernobyl to fall to low levels as part of a controlled experiment. A sudden increase in temperature causes part of the fuel to rupture, fuel particles react with the cooling water and create a steam explosion that destroys the reactor's steel and concrete lid and releases clouds of radioactive material that travel across Europe. Nine days after the accident, the liquified core melts through the radiation shield of the reactor chamber and spills onto the concrete floors below. The reactor burns for 10 days before finally extinguishing itself. About 70 per cent of the radiation is estimated to have fallen on Belarus, where 10 years later babies are still being born with no arms, no eyes or only stumps for limbs.



THE GULF WAR 1991

Without knowledge of its existence, US and Iraqi soldiers breathe in radioactive and chemically toxic DU dust from rounds fired by US aircraft and tanks during Operation Desert Storm.





SMOG

DEFORESTATION

EXTINCTION

SEWAGE

WHAT CAN THEY HOPE TO GAIN FROM CIVILISATION? Outsiders call them the Jarawa. For thousands of years they have thrived on a tiny cluster of islands in the Indian Ocean. Now all that is changing. The government of India, to which these islands belong, laid out a Master Plan for resettling the Jarawa in one place. Precisely the type of scheme which history has repeatedly proven to be disastrous. According to one expert, unless the government changes its policies, the Jarawa “will end up as beggars, servants and prostitutes.” Survival is urging India to let the Jarawa decide their own future. The essential first step: that they be secure in their ancestral lands. Call Survival on 020 7242 1441 or visit www.survival-international.org



- Started as a partnership between Phil Knight and Bill Bowerman 1962.
- In 1964 Knight started exploiting the low production costs that could be found abroad - importing trainers from a factory in Kobe, Japan.
- Nike took off in 1972 when Knight announced that "four of the top seven finishers" in the marathon at the 1972 Olympic Trials had worn NIKES (the first three runners, in fact, had worn West German Adidas).
- 1997 Phil Knight, Nike CEO becomes sixth richest person in U.S. with \$5.3 billion (all from shoes/apparel). Several Nike shoe contractors in Indonesia apply for exemptions from paying new minimum wage in Indonesia. Increase is from \$2.25 to \$2.46 a day. Asian economic crisis and crash of Indonesian currency brings Nike contractors' per-day labour cost down to \$0.70 per worker.
- 1998 Michael Jordan, Nike's premier endorser, makes the first of several promises to visit Asian production facilities. Hero of E. Timor independence struggle, Jose Ramos Horta, likens Nike contractors' operations in Indonesia to Japanese occupation of the archipelago.
- 1999 Joseph Ha, a top advisor to Phil Knight, sends letter to highest-ranking labour official in Vietnam portraying "anti-sweat" activists as enemies of the state with a "political" agenda. Nike increases advertising spending by 53% for coming year.
- In 2000, Nike executives made donations to David Dreier, the Republican whip involved in the successful push for China to be given Permanent Normal Trade relations. 40% of all Nike shoes are made in China, where under the National Security Law, workers who attempt to form unions can be detained and imprisoned or sent to forced labour camps.
- In January 2001, 300 workers at the Nike Kuk Dong factory, Mexico, struck for better wages and working conditions. Riot Police attacked and beat them with clubs.
- Nike has aggressively opposed the union and human rights group the Workers Rights Consortium. Phil Knight withdrew a \$30 million dollar donation from the University of Oregon after they joined the WRC.

In May of this year, California's Supreme Court ruled that activist Marc Kasky could sue Nike for false advertising over the company's 1997 public-relations campaign saying it was a responsible corporate citizen in Asia. October 14, 2002 in Beaverton, Oregon, Nike, Inc. asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review this California Supreme Court ruling.

The Association of National Advertisers, Inc. (ANA) makes very clear it's position on the case. 'June 28, 2002 The Supreme Court of California in a 4-3 decision has placed a tremendous cloud over all corporate speech, including commercial and political speech concerning public issues. The court's decision in the Nike case sends a warning to all marketers: everything you say, whether in a commercial setting or not, may be used against you in a court of law, at least in California. For example, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have filed a complaint with the FTC against the California Milk Advisory Board, alleging that its promotional ads for cheese are false and deceptive. Those ads state that California cows are 'happy cows.' PETA alleges that this is a false claim because cows suffer on dairy farms. The Nike decision will encourage lawsuits in California against commercial entities making these types of claims.' Let's hope so.

For further details on the ANA, whose list of members is a who's who of environmentally destructive companies, visit www.ana.net.

For more on Nike visit: www.caa.org.au; www.corporatewatch.org; www.nikewages.org; www.nosweat.org.uk; www.nologo.org; www.saigon.com/~nike/report



NIKE'S DEFENCE OF LOW WAGES:

- Nike defends the low wages that it gives workers in countries such as Haiti by saying that these wages are reflection of the low cost of living in these countries. However, this is by no means always the case. Milk: in Haiti, 75 cents; in NY, 65 cents; eggs: in Haiti, \$1.50, in NY, \$1.39; cereal: in Haiti, \$1.90, in NY, 1.69; gas: in Haiti, \$2.20, in NY, \$1.26. (Newsday)
- In Indonesia, the minimum wage is \$2.36 per day although the Suharto dictatorship admits that in Jakarta and other urban centres it takes \$4 a day to meet subsistence needs. If Nike took just 1% of its annual advertising budget (\$280 million), it could raise the income of all its Indonesian workers above the poverty line! (Counterpunch, Global Exchange)

"The work system treats us like machines so we have to keep working, keep working, keep working."

Worker from the Nikomas Gemilang factory, which is a contractor for Nike and Adidas.

"It has been said that Nike has single-handedly lowered the human-rights standards for the sole purpose of maximising profits," he complained. "The Nike product has become synonymous with slave wages, forced overtime and arbitrary abuse."

Phil Knight, Nike CEO

NIKE INCREASE IN PROFITS

BBC news reported a huge rise in profits for Nike during the first half of this year. In June 2002 Nike saw a 28% increase in profits compared to the year before. Nike also saw an 8% rise in sales compared to the year before from \$2.48 billion to \$2.68 billion.

In October 1996, after the CBS News program ran a segment detailing the abuse of Nike workers in Vietnam, a group of grass-root volunteers, deeply disturbed by the report, contacted labour groups and journalists in Vietnam. To verify the report, they met with labour union officials, Nike officials, toured factories, and conducted in-depth interviews with 35 Nike shoe factory workers. The key findings were as follows:

For the full report, visit: www.saigon.com/~nike/report.html

- Workers are not making a living wage. They make an average of 20 cents per hour, or \$1.60 a day from their factory jobs, but the cost for eating three simple meals is \$2.10 a day. Ninety percent of the workers interviewed needed extra help in terms of money, food or housing from their families to make ends meet.
- Workers cannot go to the bathroom more than once per 8-hour shift and they cannot drink water more than twice per shift.
- It is a common occurrence for workers to faint from exhaustion, heat, fumes and poor nutrition during their shifts. Almost all the workers interviewed told us that they had lost weight since working at Nike factories. They complained of poor nutrition, frequent headaches and general fatigue.
- Health care is inadequate. At the Sam Yang factory, with 6,000 employees, one doctor works only two hours a day but the factory operates 20 hours a day.
- Forced and excessive overtime to meet high quotas is the norm. While Vietnam's labour laws say the maximum yearly overtime is 200 hours, on average Nike workers are forced to work 500+ hours per year. If workers refuse, they are punished or receive a warning. After three warnings, they're fired.
- Other non-Nike shoe factories we visited in Vietnam pay higher wages and have much better working conditions.

Economics

Indonesian-occupied West Papua is blighted by corruption and internal conflict. Whether it likes it or not, BP's presence there will have critical consequences for the local population. Katie Wilson reports.



KATIE WILSON

Wealth & safety

BP's base camp in Indonesian-controlled West Papua is tucked away in the rainforest on the remote territory's southern coast. The Bintuni Bay camp is an outpost of Western corporate culture, completely

out of place amid the dug-out fishing canoes and villages built on stilts. It is also the future site of the Tangguh project – a liquid natural gas (LNG) venture that is poised to make BP the largest single foreign investor in Indonesia.

In West Papua there is no shortage of contradictions. Towering sago palms, ancient lowland rainforest, tidal rivers and dense mangrove islets obscure an even more complex political landscape. On one side a corrupt and brutal military is deeply involved in the illegal trade of timber and



rare species. It sees corporate investment as an opportunity to extort protection money. On the other side a popular and increasingly savvy independence movement is asserting its right to

economic control over West Papua's natural resources. And in the middle is a growing list of foreign companies that are courted by the Jakarta government and eager to take advantage of the territory's vast forests and rich mineral wealth. BP is no exception.

Construction on BP's processing plant begins next year. The project is expected to be running by 2006, and to eventually export seven million tonnes of LNG a year. BP is selling Tangguh as 'a model project for social empowerment and sustainable development'.

Team talk

The weekly safety talk at the BP camp is a surreal experience. When I visited, there were 40 or 50 of the camp's then residents in attendance. A man in an army-green one-piece number (I later learned he was the camp safety officer) gave what was meant to be a motivational safety speech. But it was too much like a military rant to inspire, and he received grudging applause.

After the meeting I chatted with Jim, the Texan camp manager. He told me the place had become 'fairly civilised'. It had come a long way in two years. Previously, Jim 'had enough trouble just getting them all to keep their shoes on'.

BP is crazy about on-site health and safety. Ubiquitous posters give vivid pictorial warnings of what might happen if proper procedures are not observed on planes and helicopters. 'Only undertake activities you are competent in and have the authorisation to perform. If in doubt – ASK! If you need help – ASK!' And so on.

If this obsession with safety codes and enforcement were intended only to prevent bizarre mishaps, it would be a waste of time and energy. But as a regulating concept and an integral part of company culture, it serves a different purpose. It precludes spontaneous action and ensures everything is done consciously, deliberately and according to formula. It effectively regulates the actions of each individual and distributes the task of regulation throughout the community. By getting that community to self-regulate, it strives to remove the need for overt hierarchic control.

The similar concept of 'security' is used by the Indonesian military and police as a tool of manipulation and economic control. The military encourages and creates conflicts, attributes violence to the OPM (Papuan Freedom Organisation) so as to justify its own violent operations, and then uses this manufactured instability to extort protection money from companies with interests in the affected area.

BP has made it clear it does not want a security contract with the Indonesian military. But the military very much wants a contract with BP. Major General Simbolon, Indonesia's military commander in West Papua, visited the base camp last March. Simbolon called BP's project an object of national economic interest, which under Indonesian law means it must be protected by the military.

Military-free zone

BP is 'promoting the concept of community-based security'. It wants to create a military-free zone around the project site, and plans to train local villagers as security. But its ability to do this is limited: consultants at the camp readily admit that they may have 'neighbour issues' with a nearby logging concession owned by the Indonesian consortium Djayanti. The concession is heavily guarded by the military.

Furthermore, a convoluted and tragic series of events in the neighbouring Wasior sub-district carries disturbing implications for BP's hoped-for isolation. On June 13, 2001, five mobile police were killed only 60 km from Bintuni Bay. Their deaths inspired

a massive and ongoing operation in Wasior that has been marked by many counts of torture and at least six extra-judicial executions. Houses (and one entire village) have been flattened, and hundreds of refugees have been driven to the cities of Manokwari and Nabire. Papuan human rights activists and independent investigators believe the events in Wasior were an attempt by the military to establish the instability of the region and ultimately to secure the desired contract with BP.

BP emphatically denies such a connection. Yet neither has it publicly condemned the human rights abuses. Instead it has made every effort to distance itself from the events in Wasior. It is not difficult to guess why. BP has not had an easy time selling its gas. Tangguh is perceived as a risky investment, and numerous articles have suggested that security concerns have played a crucial role in BP's failure to lure potential buyers.

Perhaps BP will be able to maintain its conscious isolation. But that is not a luxury shared by Papuans. BP cannot control the actions of bored military personnel who are stationed nearby and see the project as either an imposition or an ideal opportunity for extortion. As long as BP operates independently there are those in the military who will continue to see the company as an untapped resource.

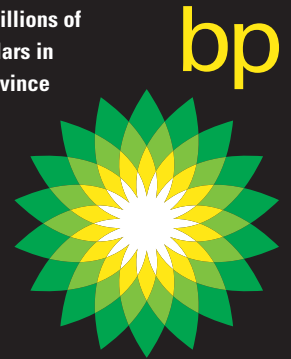
BP might be able to protect its employees from splintered feet and decapitation by helicopter blades. But it is powerless to protect or control those who live outside this safe space. It cannot, however, escape the fact that it is operating within, and inevitably affecting, a larger community – a conflict-ridden and militarised community controlled by an army that is used to having its way and to acting without reprisal. That army is not shy of ripping apart lives and entire villages to secure the cash it considers its right.

In West Papua BP cannot help but be a political force. It must accept the responsibility that entails, even if it means placing a hold on investment until West Papua ceases to be a military stronghold.

Katie Wilson visited West Papua as part of a group monitoring BP's project.

CORPORATE IRRESPONSIBILITY

BP has spent millions of greenwash dollars in attempts to convince us that it is an environmentally sound oil company. Below are a few examples of BP's track record to date:



- BP claims to be the 'largest producer of solar energy in the world'... largely based on their acquisition of the Solarex corporation for \$45 million. This is approximately 0.5% of the amount BP spent to buy Arco (\$26.5 billion), and an infinitesimally small percentage of the \$110 billion BP paid for Amoco. In fact, the company spent more on its new eco-friendly logo last year than it did on renewable energy. For more info, visit <http://archive.greenpeace.org/~climate/arctic99/html/content/solargrowth.html>
- An intelligence report linked to the Sunday Times documents how BP used bribes and a supply of military arms to systematically undermine the government of Azerbaijan. The subsequent coup which took place in 1993 caused the death of 40 people along with violence and repression of the Azeri citizens. A year later BP and Amoco – who have since merged – signed a deal worth US\$8 billion dollars, awarding them drilling rights in the country.
- In March 2000, BP Amoco invested US\$1 billion in PetroChina, a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Petroleum Company (CNPC). CNPC has been linked to numerous war-crimes in Sudan.
- Construction of the 1,100 mile Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline from the Caspian sea to the Mediterranean is expected to begin in December. A coalition of over 60 environmental organisations and human rights groups has warned that the project will re-ignite regional conflicts and will destroy roads, homes, fields and damage many people's livelihoods. Only a minority of those affected will be eligible for compensation. For an excellent article by George Monbiot on the pipeline, go to: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/oil/story/0,11319,785299,00.html>

For richer read poorer

It's not wealth that makes people happy, says Jeremy Seabrook, but sufficiency. Yet a system based on constant growth relies upon us always wanting more.



Wealth means abundance. We recognise this in our daily lives when we acknowledge 'a wealth of detail' in a temple carving, 'the wealth of experience' of a wise person, the 'wealth of life forms' in the forest. Wealth means plenty – not only the fruits of the earth, but also human resourcefulness, creative ability, the vast storehouse of imagination and inventiveness that has fed the richness and diversity of civilisations. But in economics this comprehensive understanding of wealth is suspended as we enter not a neutral accounting-system but the twilight zone of ideology.

Poverty, however, is not the opposite of wealth but of sufficiency. The poor want, above all,

enough for their sustenance. They long to be relieved from an insecurity that threatens them with perpetual eviction – from forest, village, subsistence farm or city slum. They want, above all, a time of peace and stability in which to bring up their children and live out their lives not in indolence or dependency but in a self-reliance that will permit them to answer the few and easily met needs of humanity.

But they can't have it. It is not permitted. If human beings were to declare themselves satisfied with what they have, what would become of a system that depends upon constant growth and expansion? How would the bottomless neediness of humanity be perpetuated by an infinite market if contentment were established? This is why even the rich are always talking about all the things they can't afford and how much better off everyone else is. This is how the unavowed relationship between rich and poor is cemented even more deeply: they are united by the universal desire for more wealth.

The most serious criticism of monetary measurements of poverty (and wealth) is that they define everyone who lives on less than a dollar a day as poor. Yet millions of people who do so are virtually self-reliant, and self-reliance is the opposite of poverty. The global system is busy demolishing such aberrations, however, so that the whole

world may be brought within the familiar and measurable indices of poverty. In other words, all humanity must learn how to be poor.

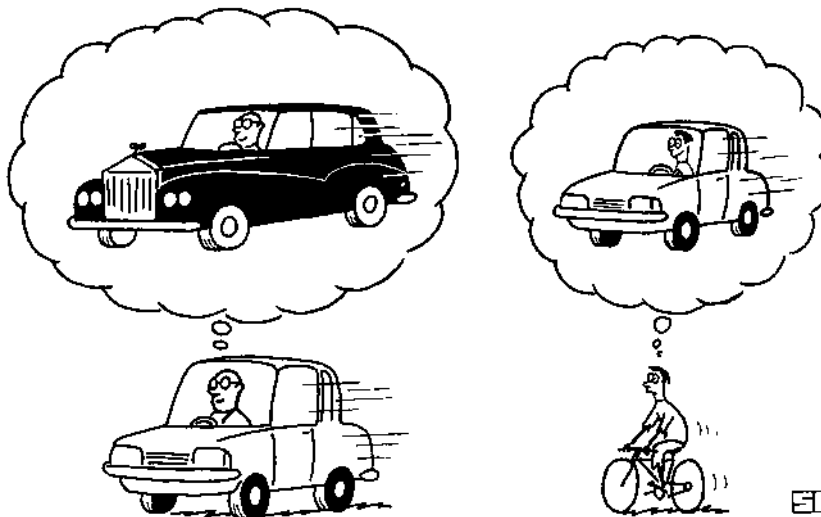
This is the poisonous 'gift' of globalisation to the people of the world. Globalisation is a system from which security, subsistence and sufficiency have been

banished. All societies, all faiths that have taught restraint, all economic systems that have taught frugality and thrift (including our own), all philosophies that have counselled a joyful simplicity must be junked in order to accommodate the specific discovery of industrial society that enough can never suffice and that there are no limits to desire.

In order that there should be no mistaking this uplifting message, all societies based on other values have been brought to ruin. Those people who sacralised the source of their survival – the austere majesty and insentient beauty of nature – have found their respect for forests, lakes, rivers, soil and pastures mocked by the superior force that has turned all these things into the most raw of materials.

The crusade against poverty is no such thing. It is, in fact, a crash course in instruction in how to be poor: lessons long assimilated by the well-off who have learned how to feel perpetual dissatisfaction with plenty, the rich who know the constant inadequacy even of excess, the wealthy who know best all the torments of their human indigence in the presence of the spectacle of industrial superfluity.

The poverty with which all international powers and institutions are now concerned is an overwrought artefact carefully crafted out of abundance. Only when the whole world has been totally immersed in the re-birth that is the global market, baptised in the waters of forgetfulness so that even the memory of self-reliance is erased, can these noble agencies devote themselves to the relief of a poverty that has no remedy since it depends on a wealth that has no end.



1954 Ray Kroc is the first person to be given a franchise by Mac and Dick McDonald in San Bernardino, California.

1971 Den Fujita, McDonald's president in Japan, states: 'The reason Japanese people are so short and have yellow skin is because they have eaten nothing but fish and rice for 2,000 years... If we eat McDonald's hamburgers and potatoes for 1,000 years we will become taller, our skin will become white and our hair blond.'

1972 A new McDonald's restaurant opens every day.

1982 Ronald McDonald actor Geoffrey Guilliano quits and publicly apologises. He says: 'I brainwashed youngsters into doing wrong. I want to say sorry to children everywhere for selling out to concerns that make millions by murdering animals.'

1984 The Ronald McDonald Children's Charities organisation is founded in Ray Kroc's memory to raise funds in support of child welfare.

1986 The first 'World Day of Action Against McDonald's' is held on October 16 – UN 'World Food Day'.

1992 Visitors to Salisbury Cathedral are offered two burgers for the price of one if they buy a commemorative parchment scroll. The idea is dropped when the bishop gets back from holiday.

1994 The McLibel trial starts, June 28.



1997 McLibel trial ends, June 19. Judge Mr Justice Bell takes two hours to read his summary to a packed courtroom. In his view, co-defendants Helen Steel and Dave Morris (above) had not proved the allegations against McDonald's on rainforest destruction, packaging, food poisoning, starvation in the Third World, heart disease and cancer and bad working conditions. But the defendants had shown that McDonald's 'exploits children' with its advertising, falsely advertises its food as nutritious, risks the health of its long-term regular customers, is 'culpably responsible' for cruelty to animals reared for its products, is 'strongly antipathetic' to unions and pays its workers low wages.

On November 20, 2002, McDonald's 29,000 restaurants around the world will host an unprecedented simultaneous fundraiser for children in their communities. McDonald's 'World Children's Day' was announced by Jack Greenberg, the company's chairman and CEO, during its worldwide franchisee convention in Las Vegas this week.

'McDonald's has a rich heritage and tradition of being a good community partner and neighbour,' said Greenberg. 'As the needs of the world's children have increased over time, so has the need for every company and every citizen to play a role in effecting positive change. We believe McDonald's, with restaurants in 121 countries around the world, is in a unique position to empower people to come together and actively participate in improving the lives of children.'

And Ken Barun, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities, said: 'By simply visiting their local McDonald's restaurants on Wednesday, November 20, people everywhere can join this worldwide effort to help children. As a beneficiary of this fundraiser, Ronald McDonald House Charities can continue to grow its mission of directly improving the health and wellbeing of children around the world.'

McDonald's is not alone

Also lending their names to UNICEF:

- 1 Amoco Foundation
- 2 Citibank, NA/Citigroup Foundation
- 3 Enron Corp (it may not exist, but UNICEF seems happy to keep it on the list)
- 4 Gap Foundation
- 5 GlaxoSmithKline
- 6 Nike
- 7 Pepsi-Cola International Company
- 8 Pfizer
- 9 Procter & Gamble Fund
- 10 Unilever US

Other McDonald's sponsorships in the UK

- 1 Tidy Britain Group
- 2 Countless sports events
- 3 Ronald McDonald Houses by hospitals
- 4 'Education' packs for schools
- 5 Free drinks (in company cups) for local fetes, etc
- 6 'Child of Achievement' awards
- 7 The National School Governors' Conference

To date, Ronald McDonald House Charities' has awarded more than \$320m to children's programmes.

McDonald's is the world's leading food service retailer, with more than 29,000 restaurants serving over 45 million people each day in 121 countries.

Approximately 80 per cent of McDonald's US restaurants are owned and operated by independent franchisees.

Worldwide, McDonald's spends over \$1.8 billion every year on advertising and promotions.

- 1 McDonald's is the world's largest user of beef
- 2 It is also the largest owner of retail property in the world
- 3 One in eight workers in the US has at some time worked for McDonalds
- 4 More of McDonald's profits come from collecting rent than selling food
- 5 It spends more money on advertising and promotion than any other brand
- 6 McDonald's operates more playgrounds than any other private entity in the US
- 7 96 per cent of US schoolchildren can identify Ronald McDonald; only one fictional character is more recognised – Santa.
- 8 The golden arches are a more recognised symbol than the Christian cross

- It is McDonald's policy to use only locally produced and processed beef in every country in which it has restaurants.
- In areas where domestic beef is not available, does not meet quality standards, or is not competitive with world prices, McDonald's imports beef from approved suppliers in other countries.

Vast areas of land in poor countries are used for cash crops, for cattle ranching or to grow grain to feed animals to be eaten in the West. This is at the expense of local food needs. McDonald's continually promotes meat products – encouraging people to eat meat more often. This wastes more and more food resources. Seven million tons of grain fed to livestock produces only one million tons of meat and by-products. On a plant-based diet, and with land shared fairly, almost every region could be self-sufficient in food.

Monoculture explained by a McDonald's promotion

'Quality? It's law at McDonald's. A cold drink is served no colder or warmer than four degrees centigrade. Burger buns are toasted at 216 degrees centigrade for 35 seconds; the patties grilled for 42 seconds; and McFries go into the 168 degrees centigrade oil for exactly 2.55 minutes – if they're not sold within the specified time of seven minutes, well, they won't be sold.'

'In today's world a business leader must be an environmental leader as well.'

Jack Greenberg, McDonald's chairman & CEO

'We have found out that we cannot trust some people who are non-conformists. We will make conformists out of them in a hurry. The organisation cannot trust the individual, the individual must trust the organisation.'

Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's

Continuing our serialisation of the book *Fatal Harvest*, *The Ecologist* explodes the myth that our supermarkets offer us a wider choice of foods than ever before.



out of stock



Myth number 4

The truth: What consumers actually get in the supermarket is an illusion of choice. Food labeling does not even tell us what pesticides are on our food or what products have been genetically engineered. Most importantly, the myth of choice masks the tragic loss of tens of thousands of crop varieties through industrial agriculture.



SIERRA



WALDEMAN GREEN



A persistent myth created and sustained by food manufacturers is that industrial production is uniquely capable of providing consumers with an extraordinary variety of food choices. Industrial farming and processing, so the myth goes, have broken down limitations on food choices imposed by growing seasons, plants' geographical ranges and crop failures. Wandering the aisles of a 40,000-square-foot supermarket we may be readily taken in by the myth. The breakfast cereal section, for example, may contain upwards of 50 different brand names, each uniquely packaged and presented. Take a minute, however, and try to find a variety made primarily of a grain other than corn, rice, wheat or oats. For an equally daunting challenge, try to find a box that does not list sugar and salt among its leading ingredients.

With one simple test the myth of industrial food variety begins to break down. Despite clever packaging and constant advertising blitzes, we begin to see that much of what is presented to us as variety is actually little more than the repackaging of extremely similar products. Meanwhile, most of the vastly diverse foods available to humanity since the beginning of agricultural history have been virtually eradicated and never make it to modern supermarket shelves.

The loss of diversity

A seldom-mentioned impact of industrial agriculture is that it

deprives consumers of real choice by favouring only a few varieties of crops that allow efficient harvesting, processing and packaging. Consider the apple. It is true that without industrial processes we might not be able to eat a 'fresh' Red Delicious apple 365 days a year. However, consumers would be able to enjoy many of the thousands of apple varieties grown in the US during the last century that have now all but disappeared. Because of the industrial agriculture system, the majority of those varieties are extinct today; just two varieties account for more than 50 per cent of the current apple market. Similarly, in 2000 73 per cent of all the lettuce grown in the US was iceberg. This relatively bland variety is often the only choice consumers have. Meanwhile, we have lost hundreds of varieties of lettuce with flavours ranging from bitter to sweet and colours from dark purple to light green. The monoculture of industrial agriculture has similarly reduced the natural diversity of nearly every major food crop in terms of varieties grown, colour, size and flavour.

Growing all of our crops in monoculture industrial agriculture not only limits what we can eat today, it also reduces the choices of future generations. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that more than three quarters of agricultural genetic diversity was lost in this past century. As agribusiness utilises only high-

yield, high-profit varieties we fail to save the seed stock of thousands of other varieties. US campaigning organisation the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) conducted a study of the seed stock readily available in 1903 compared to the inventory of the US National Seed Storage Laboratory (NSSL) in 1983. RAFI found an astounding decline in diversity: the US has lost nearly 93 per cent of its lettuce, over 96 per cent of its sweet corn, about 91 per cent of its field corn, more than 95 per cent of its tomato and almost 98 per cent of its asparagus varieties. This represents not only an environmental disaster but also a staggering reduction in food choices available to us and future generations.

Unlabelled and untested

Even as we are robbed of our right to choose many desirable, diverse foods, we are also deprived of the right to reject those we do not wish to eat. Food labels often do not provide enough information to allow a consumer to know what is in our food and how and where it is produced. The US government, bending under pressure from agribusiness, has never required labels that inform consumers about the pesticides and other chemicals used on crops or the residues still left on those foods at time of purchase. Similarly, there is no mandatory labeling of the geographic origin of foods – despite the wishes of a growing number of consumers who prefer to choose local produce.

The use of potentially hazardous nuclear and genetic technologies on foods is also hidden from consumers. While a major consumer lobbying effort forced the government to mandate labeling of irradiated whole foods, similarly “naked” processed foods are not labeled. Food processors and distributors are now fighting to repeal the label requirement for irradiated whole foods. In a similar vein, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under pressure from the biotechnology industry, has decided not to require genetically



YELLOW PEAR RED PEAR



CARO RICH ROPRECO



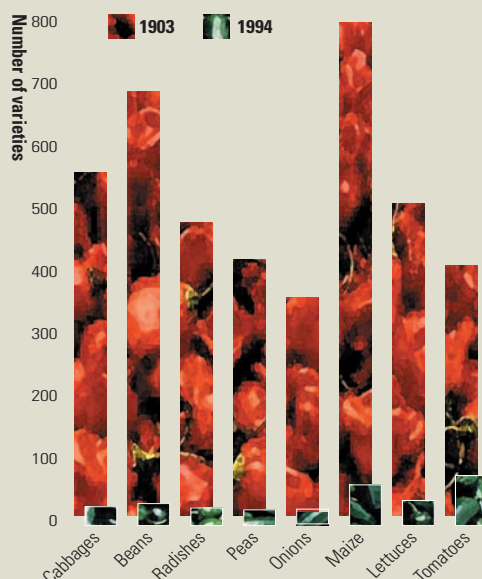
FLORIDA PINK

ROBERTO CURRA

- Four crops make up 50 per cent of US food supply – rice, wheat, maize and potato.
- In 1949 China had 10,000 strains of wheat in production.
- By the 1970s that number had fallen to just 1,000.
- 80 per cent of Mexican maize varieties have been lost since 1930.
- In 1983 a single strain of wheat was grown in 67 per cent of wheat fields in Bangladesh.
- Because European barley depends on one gene and one fungicide, its resistance to mildew could be wiped out in one single evolutionary step.

Graph of the US's lost diversity comparing the numbers of cabbage, bean, radish, onion, lettuce and tomato varieties in 1903 and 1994

(source: <http://www.dhushara.com/book/diversit/extra/foodD.htm>)



engineered foods to be independently safety-tested or labeled. This decision represents a particularly egregious affront to food choice, as up to 60 per cent of processed foods already have some genetically engineered ingredients that many consumers would like to avoid. The FDA's no labeling and testing policy was made even though the agency was aware that the genetic engineering of foods can make safe foods toxic, create new allergens, lower food nutrition and create antibiotic resistance.

Agribusiness not only uses its political muscle to prevent food labeling, it has also pushed through laws to stop critics from getting important information about foods to consumers. The industry has pressured 13 states to pass 'food disparagement' legislation – laws that can be used against those trying to expose any of the harmful effects of the industrial food system. While many believe these laws are clearly unconstitutional, until they are struck down they serve to intimidate people and groups who want to provide truthful information on food safety. These laws may also stop potential whistle-blowers from coming forward with crucial information that the public needs in order to make informed food choices.

The illusion of the package

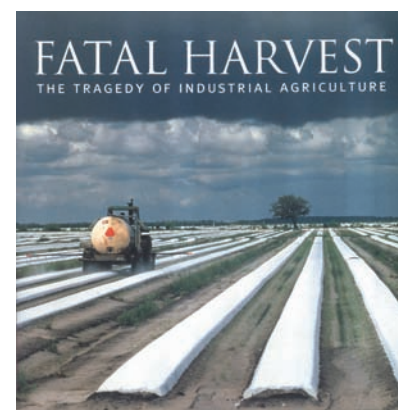
Each year more than 15,000 new food products go on sale in the US. Clever marketing ploys and millions of dollars spent on packaging create a variety of images, graphics and materials to display these products in stores. However, these introductions rarely represent an increase in food choices for consumers. The packages attempt to hide the fact that we are essentially eating the same set of ingredients over and over, even though they go by different names. Rarely do their ingredients contain anything out of the ordinary. According to the FAO, 95 per cent of the calories we eat come from only 30 varieties of plants.

Moreover, for all the different brands and food names on the market only a handful of companies dominate the industry. For instance, Philip Morris – known to the public primarily for its tobacco products – owns hundreds of food brands. Two of the largest of these brands are Kraft and Nabisco, the products of which include Post cereals, Ritz, Triscuit, Waverly, SnackWell's, Honey Maid, Planters, Nutter Butter, ChipsAhoy!, Newtons, Oreo, Cool Whip, Jell-O, Kool-Aid, Capri Sun, Miracle Whip, Philadelphia cheeses, Velveeta, Cracker Barrel, Oscar Mayer, Maxwell House coffee,

Starbucks, A-1, Grey Poupon and Tombstone Pizza. Do consumers really have a wide variety of food choices if one tobacco company controls the processing, packaging and ingredients of all these top-selling foods?

A highly consolidated distribution process encourages large supermarket chains and many restaurants to feature industrial monocultured products instead of more diverse foods produced by small-scale sustainable growers. Just a few food distributors dominate this process. These massive distributors deal almost exclusively with equally massive food producers, and pass along their lack of choice to the consumer. As a result, small-scale growers, which may produce a greater variety of crops and ingredients, must use other means of distributing their products. They rely on farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture and organic retail outlets to get their products into the hands of consumers.

Clearly the way to create real choice for food consumers is to promote local, small-scale organic farming. By choosing these growing techniques instead of the industrial model, we could not only give ourselves the choice of safe and healthy food and a cleaner environment, but we could also incorporate literally thousands of different varieties and tastes into our diets ■



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Society, Media & Culture Berlusconi

It is hard to distinguish the facts of Silvio Berlusconi's early life from the myths. He was born in 1936 and is said to have charged entrance fees for puppet shows at primary school, to have written other students' school essays (for a fee) and to have sold vacuum cleaners to pay for his law degree at the University of Milan. His thesis was, unsurprisingly, on the newspaper advertising contract.

Berlusconi serves as both Italy's prime minister and foreign minister. He is the owner of the Mediaset network that includes the three biggest Italian private TV channels, Italy's largest publishing company (Mondadori), its largest advertising agency (Publitalia), the football team AC Milan and a series of other businesses.

With his new reinforced grip on the state-owned broadcasting company RAI, Berlusconi directly or indirectly controls about 90 per cent of the country's television market.

Dominance of the airwaves is of particular interest given the low newspaper readership figures in Italy. 82 per cent of the population depends only on television for news – the highest percentage in the EU.

NO ROOM FOR THE OPPOSITION

A study by Pavia University found that in the first three months that RAI was run by appointees of Berlusconi's current administration the opposition was given 23 per cent of political airtime on news bulletins. This compares with the 34 per cent of political airtime dedicated to Berlusconi's House of Liberties alliance when it was in opposition in 2000.

In 2000 Berlusconi's party received 44 per cent of the airtime on RAI 2 bulletins. The government received 43 per cent. Between May and July this year, with Berlusconi back in power, the government had a figure of 61 per cent on RAI 2, and the opposition just 19 per cent.

The latest figures available, for last May, for Berlusconi's own networks show that the opposition received less than five per cent of the political airtime on two channels, and 23 per cent on the flagship Channel 5 news programme.

Italian state television service RAI recently banned an item on Silvio Berlusconi in a satirical TV series, thus adding to fears that the prime minister is tightening his stranglehold on Italian television and threatening freedom of speech. The episode of the programme *Blob* was due to be broadcast on October 15.

Blob has become well-known for applying comic editing to previously broadcast footage. The banned episode is the third in a series devoted to the prime minister and the media mogul's communication skills. It was pulled at the last minute on the orders of the director general of the RAI network. Opposition politicians denounced the move as censorship, and said it was the latest in a series of attempts to stifle critical voices in the media.

Last spring Berlusconi called for the removal of two leading television journalists – Enzo Biagi and Michele Santoro. Since then RAI – the directors of which are appointed by the Berlusconi-controlled Italian parliament – has not featured them in its programmes.

Left Democrat MP Gloria Buffo said: 'When television is censored on the orders of the head of the government and ministers, what word can you use to describe the situation other than "regime"?''



10+	Number of hours spent watching TV per week that is shown to negatively affect academic achievement.
25	Percentage of US teenagers that can name the city where the US Constitution was written (Philadelphia).
16,000	Number of murders witnessed by children on television by the age 18.
20	Per cent reduction in the US homicide rate between 1993 and 1996.
721	Per cent increase in network news coverage of homicide between 1993 and 1996.
20,000	Number of TV commercials viewed by US children a year.
2	Age by which children can develop brand loyalty.
\$63m	Money spent on ads, on behalf of the the major U.S. presidential candidates between June 1 and September 13, 2000.
113	U.S. Network news stories about the environment in 1990; in 1996 it was 377.

'If you decide to watch television, then there's no choice but to accept the stream of electronic images as it comes. Since there is no way to stop the images, one merely gives over to them. More than this, one has to clear all channels of reception to allow them in more cleanly. Thinking only gets in the way.'

Jerry Mander, *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television*

'The comprehensive quality of social life in modern Europe depends on media pluralism and cultural diversity.'

Arne Wessberg, president, European Broadcasting Union

'We must be aware of the superiority of our civilisation, a system that has guaranteed well-being, respect for human rights and – in contrast with Islamic countries – respect for religious and political rights.'

Silvio Berlusconi, October 8, 2001

'BERLUSCONISMO'

Used to describe a way of life in which people live in houses built by Berlusconi, watch television controlled by Berlusconi, shop at supermarkets owned by Berlusconi, eat in restaurants built by Berlusconi and spend the weekend supporting his football team.

Website Project Censored's top five under-reported stories of 2001-2002

- 1 Moves to privatise US airwaves
- 2 The GATS treaty seeks to privatise global social services
- 3 US policies in Colombia support mass murder
- 4 Bush administration hampered FBI investigation into Bin Laden family before September 11
- 5 US intentionally destroyed Iraq's water system

Five most overplayed news events of the year

(as selected by the Organisation of News Ombudsmen)

- 1 TV reality show *Survivor*
- 2 Cuban refugee Elián González
- 3 TV show *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*
- 4 Pop star Britney Spears
- 5 TV show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*

THE BIG MEDIA COMPANIES

Name	Employees	Revenue
Time Warner	79,000	\$31.8 billion
Disney	n/a	\$23.4 billion
Bertelsmann	64,800	\$16.3 billion
Viacom	126,820	\$12.9 billion
News Corp'n	50,000	\$13.5 billion

Top media contributors to political campaigns, 1993 to June 30, 2000

Time Warner	\$4,605,209
Disney Company	\$4,086,195
Viacom	\$1,851,310
News Corporation	\$1,477,905

The two most important lobbying issues 1996-2000 (by number of interventions)

- 1 Intellectual property and copyright protections 556 times
- 2 Violent programming restrictions 469 times

At the turn of the 19th century frustration with contemporary society prompted writers Richard Jefferies, William Morris and EM Forster to create millenarian visions of the future. Nicols Fox celebrates literature's Luddite tradition.

Rage against the machine

In the summer of 1999 I had a visit from an old school friend and her husband. Both, I was surprised to discover, were working for the US Department of Defense. As we talked I brought up the subject of the Millennium Bug. I'd heard that the Defense Department was far behind in adjusting its computers.

The husband admitted that the department wasn't at all certain that the work would be finished on time. In fact, there were people in his office who were hoping, none too secretly, that all their files would be wiped away.

We laughed. I knew exactly what he meant. There were too many files, too many memos, simply too much stuff. The idea that something external might intervene and get rid of it all was deliciously appealing.

It was intriguing, however, to hear that right in the heart of the Establishment there lurked individuals who didn't really want the computers to be fixed, who courted catastrophe out of a sense that it was inevitable, that we deserved it or that, in some weird way, we actually needed it. Undoubtedly, among those millennial survivalists who were said to be taking to the hills loaded down with dried soup and candles there were many who didn't simply fear that civilisation was about to collapse – they actually hoped it would.

I have been surprised recently to find out how many perfectly ordinary, mainstream individuals assume that something dreadful is in store for us in the near future. Whether it will take the form of a meteor strike, a plague



RICHARD WILLSON

of infectious disease, a nuclear war or some equally devastating cataclysmic man-made event varies with the individual. But there seems to be a resigned acceptance that something is coming and that, whatever the individual consequences, it wouldn't be altogether a bad thing. I've got the impression from these usually hesitantly proffered predictions of a sense that humans have simply gone too far, that our hubris – our incredible curiosity and inventiveness – will inevitably bring us down. A happier belief is that something useful, something better, might emerge from catastrophe, that it might present a chance to start anew.

Visions of cataclysmic events and what might follow them intrigued turn-of-the-century writers of 100 years ago. Among them were Richard Jefferies, William Morris, EM Forster and, writing a bit later, Robert Graves. Frustration with society as it was, or seemed to be developing, prompted four different – and mainly neglected – visions of the future.

Doomed to destruction

Morris – author, designer, craftsman, publisher and conservationist – so despaired of what industrialisation had done to art, architecture, landscape and society in 19th century England that the idea that it might all be wiped away hugely appealed to him. When in 1885 he read naturalist Richard Jefferies' *After London* (a futuristic novel set in post-catastrophe England, and in which London has become a slimy, noxious swamp), he nearly cheered. 'Absurd hopes curled around my heart as I read it,' he wrote to Georgina Burne-Jones, the wife of his painter friend Edward Burne-Jones. 'I want to see the game played out.' Two weeks later it was still on his mind. 'I have no more faith than a grain of mustard in the future history of "civilisation",' he wrote. 'I know now it is doomed to destruction – probably before very long. What a joy it is to think of, and how often it consoles me to think of barbarism once more flooding the world, with real feelings and passions – however rudimentary – taking the place of our wretched hypocrisies.'

Perhaps in his optimism – for that was Morris's nature – he simply overlooked the truly dismal future Jefferies had painted. For the post-catastrophe world of *After London* is brutal and ugly, a rough land of intense competition and survival of the most tyrannical.

Jefferies' apocalypse is a natural event. Two possible explanations are offered for it. Either it was due to flooding resulting from the accidental damming of streams, or it was caused by weeks of heavy snow that killed so many people as to disrupt society. Consequently, the centre of England is transformed into a vast lake and



Richard Jefferies
(1848-1887), British
naturalist and novelist.

the remaining population pushed back into primitivism. Jefferies, who disliked the urban environment intensely and seems to have blamed it for his own ill health, takes apparent delight in transforming London into a stinking, poisonous pool blanketed with a deadly mist. The riches – jewels and coins – abandoned there, some on islands of foul decay, tempt the greedy who inevitably die trying to retrieve them. It is a nasty, punitive place.

In the habitable areas, the population is reduced to a ruthless competition to survive. It is handicapped. The specialisation of the past has left few able to do anything useful. The ability to make good glass, to forge strong metals – these skills and many others are lost.

A vision of justice

Jefferies, whose nature writing in such books as *The Gamekeeper at Home*, *Wildlife in a Southern County* and *The Amateur Poacher* won him a wide audience, is predictably masterful in his description of how the countryside slips further back into wilderness each succeeding year after the calamitous event. As the protection of agriculture is withdrawn from the weaker strains of plants humans had cultivated they are abandoned to their genetic fate. The wild plants reassert themselves. The grasses and then the young trees take over until, after 100 years, the forests once again dominate. This is the naturalist's vision of justice.

Human knowledge is a predictable casualty as well. As society regresses, books are burned for fuel. Eventually, education is reserved for the nobility, and even in these circles the well-read are under suspicion. From this inauspicious environment impoverished nobleman Felix Aquila sets out on a quest to find his fortune. In Felix, Jefferies may or may not have provided a hero who, with a judicious blend of innovation, common sense and intuitive notions of justice and fair play, can find a way out of the darkness. The question as to what that future might look like is left open, perhaps for the sequel Jefferies did not live to write.

Morris, on the other hand, had a very clear vision of what an ideal society would look like. Within six years of reading Jefferies' book he would publish *News from Nowhere*, his own version of the correctable, perfectible future.

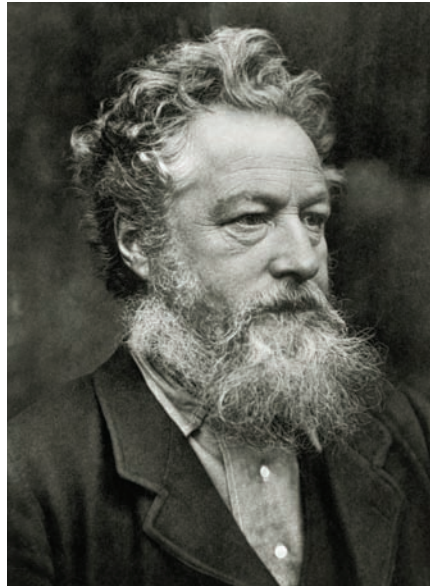
The socialist Morris anticipated that the transformation to the more genuine, more equitable, and less materialist society that he longed for was unlikely to occur without upheaval and pain. The transforming event in *News from Nowhere*, however, is not a natural disaster but political revolution. ►

And rather than descending first into barbarism, as Jefferies had found necessary, Morris predicts that the oppressed labourers and unhappy gentry will find common ground – turning together against the wasteful and enervating commercialism that was bringing them all down.

Morris's new society has something of the medieval look and feel that he, and John Ruskin before him, had so admired. The industrial revolution had unsettled ways of living and thinking that had endured without significant alteration for centuries. It was as if someone had picked up the jar marked 'planet Earth' and given it a vigorous shake. By 1870 these effects were apparent to anyone who chose to look, and to many who preferred not to. It wasn't just the devastating impact on workers and their families that concerned Morris and others, but the damage to the landscape, to the old ways and old places, the decline of craftsmanship, the increase in materialism and consumerism, the proliferation of shoddy goods and, for Morris especially, the profound, unrelieved ugliness of the society the machine had created. 'The struggles of mankind for many ages,' he noted, 'had produced nothing but this sordid, aimless, ugly confusion.' The machine had increased the production rate at the cost of quality – both of goods and of life. In a new and better world mechanisation would be approached warily. 'It is the allowing of machines to be our masters and not our servants that so injures the beauty of life nowadays,' Morris said in his lecture *How we Live and How we Might Live*. Predictably, in *News From Nowhere* the use of machines is strictly limited.

In the society Morris invents there is no money and no concept of commercial value. There is, however, a joy in living and in work. People occupy themselves with jobs they sincerely like, changing to other work when the mood strikes. Only unpleasant or mindless repetitive work is handed over to machines. If, like butchery, this is impossible, the product of the unpleasant work (one presumes Morris means meat) is simply foregone. Relieved of the vicious cycle that in the past had demanded that people worked cheaply to produce goods cheaply so they could buy cheap goods, the new society at first found itself with too much free time. The solution was to reinvent art, thereby rediscovering the pleasure and satisfaction to be gained from fine craftsmanship and the creation of beautiful things. These objects thus produced are distributed freely to those who want or need them. It is the craftsman's dream.

A dream, too, provides the narrative framework of the novel. A man very like Morris himself goes to sleep in the



William Morris (1834-1896), craftsman, writer, publisher and conservationist.

19th century Hammersmith where the writer actually lived and wakes in a future version of the same neighbourhood. It is a picture of a naturally egalitarian society that has been restored to a mutually agreeable relationship with nature, respects individual differences and delights in all aspects of life and living. It has discarded as unnecessary the courts and government (Westminster's old Parliament houses manure). Prisons have vanished, formal education has been abolished and, in the absence of industrialised manufacturing, pollution has disappeared. 'So-called science... an appendage to the commercial system' has been left behind.

When at the end of the book Morris's narrator takes a trip down the Thames to Kelmscott Manor (another place where the writer actually lived), he describes a scene of harmonious perfection, of bird song, flowers and appealing architecture – an experience of pure delight. Environmental writer Colin Ward calls this the 'NNQ' or *News from Nowhere* quotient: a phrase to be applied to similar experiences in settings where one is overwhelmed with a sense of wholeness, satisfaction and sheer joy – a sensation that, if there were any justice, would be common instead of rare.

News from Nowhere clearly owes something to Jefferies' earlier novel. But it was also written in response to the cooler, more mechanical and hierarchical vision of the socialist utopia of US writer Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward 2000-1887*. Morris was intrigued as well by Samuel Butler's *Erewhon*, published in 1872, in which a traveller stumbles onto a culture that has eliminated all technology (and found it unmissed) after discovering its damaging effects.

Perfect futility

Robert Graves' 1949 novel *Seven Days in New Crete* (published in the US as *Watch the North Wind Rise*) probably owes a small debt to all of these books. Like Morris, Graves envisions a society that is peaceful, agrarian and cultured. But New Crete, to which Graves' London dreamer is summoned, has banished virtually ALL things mechanical.

'I see that you still burn wood in your grates,' says the time-traveller and narrator Edward Venn-Thomas after being transported 2,000 years into the future. 'Prophets of my epoch have promised a future in which atomic energy will supersede wood, coal and electricity in domestic heating.'

'That was a very temporary future and... not at all a happy one,' responds Venn-Thomas's guide.

And money? 'Money went out of use long, long ago. It misbehaved' says the guide.

The 'pseudo-archaic society' in which Venn-Thomas finds himself is beautiful, peaceful and simple. It began as one of several experiments undertaken after a long series of unhappy world events. First came the revolutions and minor wars of the 'Late Christian' epoch, after which 'AIRAR' – artificially induced radioactive rain from heaven – made half the planet uninhabitable. Then 'Logicism'

ushered in 'a gloomy and anti-poetic age'. This ended in 'grand defeatism' and a sense of 'perfect futility'. Logicalists then succumbed to an illness that 'sent them dancing like dervishes down the corridors of their all-glass laboratories'. Eventually, a book on utopian alternatives inspired experimentations based on successive stages of the development of civilisation. Each experiment was to be sealed off from the rest of the world for three generations. New Crete, the most successful experiment, is modelled on the late Iron Age. The society has an elaborate social structure based on the 'Five Estates' of captains, recorders, commons, servants and magicians, which children are born into but may move between if ill-adapted. It has established an old/new mother-goddess religion and eliminated mechanical contrivances. The principle of manufacture is simple – 'nothing without the hand of love'. This means no product or process is acceptable unless love has a part in it, a rule that neatly eliminates anything turned out by machines.

Graves' book, poet and mythologist that he was, is an intriguing and complex tale that offers, once again, an unrealistic yet charming vision for the future. It both encourages a thoughtful dialogue about the impact of technology and serves as a warning – typical of many post-WWII writers – of where technology might lead.

Out of necessity, not desire

One of the strongest warnings of this kind came long before either world war had charred the techno-optimism of the early 20th century. In 1909 EM Forster, author of *Room with a View*, *Howard's End* and *Passage to India*, wrote *The Machine Stops*. It is set in a barren future. The planet has been devastated. Very little plant life has survived. The air is cold and inhospitable. The human race lives below ground in small cells where every physical need, from nourishment to pleasure, is satisfied by a button or lever. Communication, by electronic means with video images, has expanded to such a degree that a single individual may be in contact with 1,000 people. Life is a series of constant distractions by urgent messages. The only relief is temporary isolation – after which the problem is to catch up with all the messages that have come in the interim.

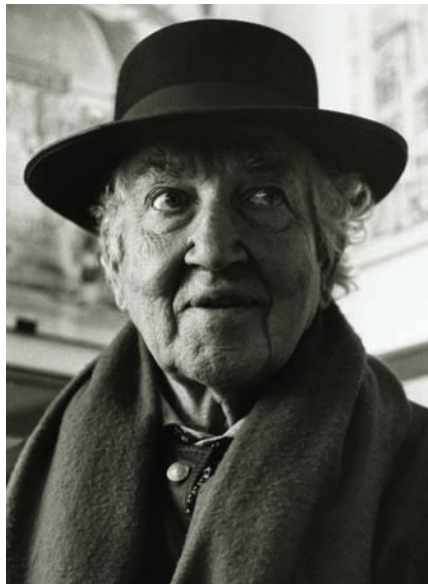
Having never moved a muscle or seen daylight, Forster's central character Vishta is pale and fat – a blob of a woman who never leaves her cell with its many comforts and gadgetry. Face-to-face communication and direct experiences are so alien that they are upsetting; people have no experience of them. The citizens of this underground world can travel in airships from one enclave to another, but only out of necessity, not desire. All places are exactly alike, so there is no point in going anywhere. It is as if Forster has imagined a world in which globalisation has triumphed and all distinctive cultures have given way to mini-malls, blue jeans and burgers. Personality is frowned upon. The most desirable people are those whose behaviour has become the most machine-like.

Vishta's son, however, is a different sort. For that reason he has been refused permission to breed. He is recognised as having a personality that is too curious, too challenging to the complete devotion that the machine requires. He wants to see the outer world and attempts to escape. He makes it outside, but is forced back. Nevertheless, he understands that there are those who have escaped and survived in a primitive but free world. His mother is horrified: she knows he will be punished. But he alone knows that the machine, which is worshiped but not understood, is on the verge of stopping.

As the machine begins to fail there is gradual adaptation and resignation. Denial keeps the population from immediate panic. But eventually, systems begin to falter and people finally realise that the end is near, that the machine has betrayed them. In the light of recent events the final sentences are chilling.

'...As he spoke, the whole city was broken like a honeycomb. An airship had sailed in... It crashed downwards, exploding as it went, rending gallery after gallery with its wings of steel. For a moment they saw the nations of the dead, and before they joined them, scraps of the untainted sky.' ■

US writer Nicols Fox is the author of *Against The Machine: the hidden Luddite tradition in literature, art and individual lives*. Island Press.



Top: Robert Graves (1895-1985), poet and writer.



Below: EM Forster (1879-1970), novelist and critic.

The agrarian poor of Portugal have been largely abandoned in the national quest for Western-style modernity and progress. The consequences, writes Eduardo Gonçalves, are devastating.

Rest in peace

My cousin Álvaro was a man of few words and a permanent wry grin. He had an effortless easy manner, a bottomless warmth. When my elderly father broke his leg last year, it was Álvaro who took countless days off work to shuttle him between hospitals, clinics, doctors and physiotherapists. It was a simple act of kindness for which I shall always be in his debt.

I never had a chance to thank him and never will. Inexplicably, three weeks ago this weekend Álvaro took his own life.

The funeral was the most heart-breaking event of my life. The whole family came from far and wide, united in grief and shock. In between tears and long embraces was the inevitable question. Why had a healthy middle-aged man surrounded by a loving family done this? Álvaro was the epitome of achievement within our family. He had made a success of his career, had a beautiful home and a holiday residence by the beach in a fashionable area north of Lisbon. He was liked by everyone at work, and had no history of depression.

We will never know with any certainty the reason for his suicide, as he left no farewell note and no obvious clues. But it appears Álvaro had begun to develop financial worries. The Lisbon stock exchange, in common with markets around the world, had taken a severe



battering since September 11. Previously Álvaro had been encouraged to invest. He had done so heavily. His shares plummeted in value. Suddenly, it seemed to him, everything was falling apart. His family's security was at risk, the foundations of the lifestyle he had encouraged them to enjoy were about to vanish. A model of success, Álvaro was about to be exposed as a failure. Or so it appears he thought.

It is a tragic story that was unthinkable a generation ago, but which is becoming more typical in modern Portugal. Thirty years ago, this country was little more

than a feudal society – western Europe's poorest nation, closed off to the outside world by a dictatorship that concentrated wealth and power in the hands of a tiny few. The vast majority of the people were agrarian peasants.

It took a bloodless coup in 1974 to bring democracy. With it, though, the floodgates opened. Coca Cola had been banned by the old regime. Now, television brought images of Portugal's rich European neighbours. Until then the Algarve coastline had been a string of fishing villages. Subsequently, it was to be the subject of one of

the biggest and fastest tourist expansions ever seen. Roads were paved and car ownership exploded.

European subsidies for growing cash crops became available after Portugal's accession to the EU in 1986, and large irrigation dams were built. A new middle class emerged, and cheap plots of land were sold for city workers to build villas in the suburbs. There seemed to be no limits to the new possibilities, and the country was encouraged to consume. Even under the Kyoto agreement, Portugal was allowed to increase its greenhouse emissions.

But as the country rushed to play catch-up its social fabric stretched and began to tear. The English word 'stress' has become part of the vocabulary of Portugal's new middle-class. For the rural poor, largely abandoned in the national quest for Western-style modernity and progress, the cost has been devastating. The lure of high earnings has drawn an entire generation of able-bodied workers out of the countryside into cities and tourist resorts – either within Portugal or further afield in France, Germany and Switzerland.

The tragedy of Álvaro has not just been repeated – it has been repeated many times over. As the old are left alone, isolated on hill farms – their extended families having long-departed, the desperation of loneliness has led many to take their own lives. The rural communities of southern Portugal now hold an appalling record: the highest official suicide rates in the world.

My own sprawling parish is one of these communities. It has a population of around 700. A generation ago 3,000 people lived in these hills. My farm is surrounded by over half a dozen abandoned houses, and I have just three neighbours. At least once a year the village's handful of shops close as the entire population files along the road to the cemetery in memory of yet another neighbour who decided he could take it no longer.

By the river that runs in the valley below there is an old cottage. It is a beautiful whitewashed house, with a lovingly-tended orchard to the front. Otters leave their marks on the stepping stones across the water, and terrapins bashfully dash for cover when you approach. One day the old man who lived alone there waved cheerfully across the river as I passed. Days later, he hung himself from an orange tree. In the now abandoned cottage, there are a few old toys. They are the only evidence that a large family once grew up and lived in the house, that children played by the river.

It was my mother's 70th birthday yesterday. My sister and I had planned a huge surprise party. In the end, we organised a much smaller affair with just the most immediate family. No one was in the mood for festivities. Throughout modern Portugal entire communities are painfully scarred. Once strong extended family structures are cracking under pressures that were unheard of 30 years ago. The desperation of loneliness and the fear of failure are new social phenomena that have emerged virtually overnight, and which we, as a family and a country, were not prepared for.

I am left with an overriding fear that I have failed both Álvaro and my neighbour. But as I try to come to terms with these events, I realise that people like myself who are lucky enough to have a platform from which to influence public opinion must use that position to honour the memory of these victims of progress, to warn others and to try to fight the decay that undermines all our communities.

Farewell, Álvaro. Um grande abraço eterno do teu primo amigo ■

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Deglobalization – ideas for a new world economy

Walden Bello
Zed Books 2002
ISBN 1842773044

Reviewed by Matt Cohen



Walden Bello's *Deglobalization* succinctly exposes the flaws in the current economic system, from the WTO's rejection of democracy to

the way that the poor of the world are excluded by the very structures that purport to be in their interests. Bello calls for a process of 'deglobalisation' – not a total retreat from the international economy, but a shift to an emphasis on production for local needs rather than export.

Fat Cats & Running Dogs – the Enron stage of capitalism

Vijay Prashad
Zed Books 2002
ISBN 1842772609

Reviewed by Sarah Pimm



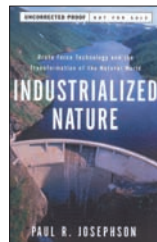
Prashad's book is an urgent reminder that Enron was not the 'bad apple' that George Bush labelled it, but rather a symbol, albeit a high-

profile and exaggerated one, of what has happened to corporate power in our era of deregulation. While few people can have missed mention of Enron in the news over the past year, rarely if ever has the whole story been told so well. How did it grow so fast? Why did it collapse so spectacularly? Is it a maverick? *Fat Cats* leaves one in no doubt that, while Enron may have gone, a system in which US politicians and corporate executives rule the world hand in hand is one rotten at its very core.

Industrialized Nature – brute force technology and the transformation of the natural world

Paul R. Josephson
Island Press 2002
ISBN 1559637773

Reviewed by Harry Ram



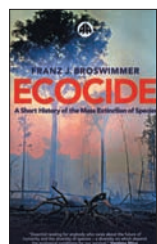
Over the last century man has increasingly sought to satisfy his immediate wants – whether for water, food or communication – at the expense

of the long-term needs of the environment. Through ever larger technological projects, such as vast dams that drown valleys in their making or motorways carved through virgin rainforest, he has laid waste to the natural world in the name of economic development. Global in scope, though with a particular focus on the Soviet Union, Josephson's book is a damning indictment of the supposed technological advances upon which we continue to rely and a plea for a less savage future.

Ecocide – a short history of the mass extinction of the species

Franz J. Broschwimmer
Pluto Press 2002
ISBN 0745319343

Reviewed by Matt Cohen



Essential reading. Broschwimmer recounts the history of the human species and our changing impact on the environment. Filled with the

most startling statistics on the devastation we are wreaking, the book also offers hope in its accounts of some of the disparate movements across the world fighting for ecological justice.

A New Green Order? The World Bank and the politics of the Global Environment Facility

Zoe Young
Pluto Press 2002
ISBN 0745315488

Reviewed by Jeremy Smith



The Global Environment Facility was formed in 1991 by the World Bank to fund international conventions on climate change and biodiversity.

Zoe Young reveals how this multi-billion-dollar organisation has resulted in the increased commodification of nature, opened up southern countries' resources to global markets and provided a veil of secrecy for the continuation of the destructive policies of the World bank and the IMF.

Sightings – the gray whales' mysterious journey

Brenda Peterson and Linda Hogan
National Geographic 2002
ISBN 0792279891

Reviewed by Jeremy Smith



As a book about man's relationship with the whale, *Sightings* is unique. Written in two narrative voices, the book

documents two differing yet empathetic responses to these marvellous creatures. In the process it exemplifies one of the thornier questions challenging

environmentalists. As a member of the Chicksaw people Linda Hogan is highly aware of the sensitive issue of balancing conservation with a native people's right to continue their traditional hunting patterns. Brenda Peterson, meanwhile, is North America's foremost nature writers. By weaving first-hand encounters, science and their differing cultural perspectives the authors have created an illuminating, heartfelt and highly profound book.

Fences and Windows – dispatches from the front lines of the globalisation debate

Naomi Klein
Flamingo 2002
ISBN 0007150474

Reviewed by Jeremy Smith



Apologists for globalisation claim it flattens borders and removes barriers. But in this selection of writings from the last three years

Naomi Klein shows that it is really about the putting up of fences both real and artificial. From Fortress Europe and inaccessible summits to the selling off of the global commons to private companies and the patenting of seeds and plants, ordinary people are being barred from control over their own lives. However, as the hopeful last section of this book documents, windows offering opportunity and glimpses of alternative world views are springing up from Porto Alegre to South Africa as people refuse to buckle under an impersonal world order.

The Ecologist



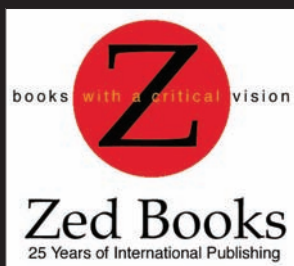
Technological Fundamentalism
WILD SCIENCE: An interview with Kalle Lasn, Director of Adbusters
STRANGER THAN STARS: What people refuse to be 'consumed'
ARGON BY DEVELOPERS
ACCELERATION OF FOREST DESTRUCTION SINCE THE EARTH SUMMIT

The Ecologist
Vol 28 no 6 Nov/Dec 1998

Consumerism challenged, the millennial moment of truth

An interview with Kalle Lasn – the founder of *Adbusters*, the magazine with subverts that distort iconic advertising images to reveal the hidden truths corporations don't shout about. 'Stranger at Home' – a meditation on Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*, which draws parallels between Miller's dramatisation of an all-American family driven to ruin and the lives of people in the US today. 'Technological Fundamentalism' – David Orr attacks the cult of technology.

Zed Books – the radical, socially committed UK publisher – is marking its 25th anniversary this autumn. Founded in 1977, the company has published over 1,000 books and continues to release almost 60 titles annually on international and Third World issues. Zed is managed co-operatively by its worker directors and has no external shareholders. 'We are different because our criteria for publication are more than intellectual quality and wide appeal,' says editor Robert Molteno. 'A major concern is the political, social and ethical content of our books. Making a positive difference, both in social action and intellectual ideas, is what motivates us to persevere as an independent publishing house.' To contact Zed Books, telephone +44 (0) 207 837 4014.



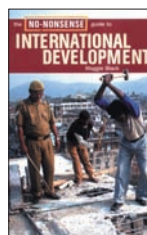
The No-Nonsense guide to International Development

Maggie Black

Verso 2002

ISBN 1859844316

Reviewed by Harry Ram



Building dams in India, planting trees in Burkina Faso, rescuing street kids in Brazil – images of aid and international development with

which we can all identify. But in this pocketble guide Maggie Black takes what passes for development and exposes it for what it so often is – a means by which the rich get richer and the poor poorer.

War Plan Iraq – ten reasons against war on Iraq

Milan Rai

Verso 2002

ISBN 1859845010

Reviewed by Jon Napier



War Plan Iraq dissects official propaganda and is brilliantly researched, engagingly written and utterly

comprehensive in its attack on Bush's planned war with Iraq. It explains clearly why the proposed war has little to do with Saddam's tyranny and everything to do with Washington's infinite greed for oil and power. A must-read for Bush this Christmas.

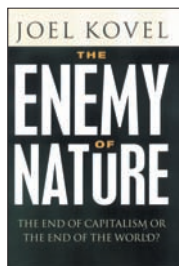
The Enemy of Nature

Joel Kovel

Zed Books 2002

ISBN 1842770810

Reviewed by Jeremy Smith



Noted scholar, author and green campaigner Kovel indicts capitalism, with its unrelenting pressure to expand, as

both inherently ecologically destructive and unreformable. Capital is not just an economic system but the present manifestation of an ancient rupture between humanity and nature. A challenging, passionate and eloquent book.

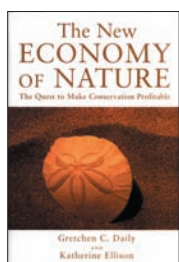
The New Economy of Nature

Gretchen Daily and Katherine Ellison

Island Press 2002

ISBN 1559639458

Reviewed by Jon Napier



Why, when Earth's ecosystems are among humanity's most precious assets, are we unable to protect them from

destruction? Renowned ecologist Gretchen Daily and Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist Katherine Ellison talk to the pioneers of 'the new economy' who want to protect ecosystems and profit from them at the same time.

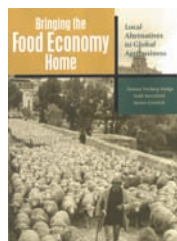
Bringing the Food Economy Home

Helena Norberg-Hodge, Todd Merrifield and Steven Gorelick

Zed Books 2002

ISBN 1842772333

Reviewed by Jon Napier



In 150 pages, *Bringing the Food Economy Home* sums up all that's wrong with the world of agribusiness. It shows how a shift towards the local would

protect and rebuild agricultural diversity, give farmers a bigger share of the money spent on food, provide consumers with healthier, fresher food at more affordable prices and mean a substantial reduction in transport, greenhouse gas emissions and the need for toxic agricultural chemicals. It would also lessen the need for storage, packaging, refrigeration and artificial additives. If we really want to reduce our impact on the planet, we must bring the food economy home.

Island of Bali

Miguel Covarrubias

Pacific Basin Books 1937

ISBN 0710301340

Reviewed by Jeremy Smith



Best known as a painter and caricaturist, Covarrubias's classic portrayal of the Balinese people and their civilisation explores the

complexities of life on the island to a degree that few from the outside world understand now any more than was the case when it was first published. As Covarrubias writes in his introduction, the aim of the book was 'to provide a record of a living culture that is doomed to disappear under the merciless onslaught of modern commercialism'. As people in the West attempt to understand how one of their favourite holiday spots could become a site for horrendous anger and terrorism, they would do well to study the Bali presented in this book.

Compiled by Jon Napier

At a time of year when consumption soars, these books and websites will introduce you to all the issues surrounding our food, and will help you make more informed choices as to what to eat and where to buy it.

Silent Spring, Rachel Carson, Penguin, 1962. The original classic on the devastating effects of pesticides.

Fatal Harvest, ed Andrew Kimbrell, Island Press, 2002. We've been serialising it for months. Every food issue explained and beautifully illustrated.

Fast Food Nation, Eric Schlosser, Penguin, 2001. Be finished with fast food for ever.

Genetic Engineering and You, Moyra Bremner, Harper Collins, 1999. A detailed and clear explanation of all the issues surrounding genetic engineering.

Big Barn

Having trouble sourcing locally produced, healthy, seasonal food? Start here. www.bigbarn.co.uk

City Farmer (urban agriculture notes)

Political horticulture for those who know what it means, and for those who don't. www.cityfarmer.org

Five Year Freeze Campaign

Supported by an alliance of over 50 national organisations that share the public's deep concern over the speed at which genetic engineering is being introduced into food and farming. www.fiveyearfreeze.org

National Association of Farmers' Markets

Find out about local farmers' markets. www.farmersmarkets.net

Organic Yard

An online organic box scheme and information exchange for London. www.organicyard.com

UK Food Group

Promotes access to safe and culturally appropriate food, the income to buy it or the means to produce at all times. With information on biodiversity. www.ukfg.org.uk

Fairtrade Foundation

The website of the organisation working to promote Fairtrade in the UK. www.fairtrade.org.uk

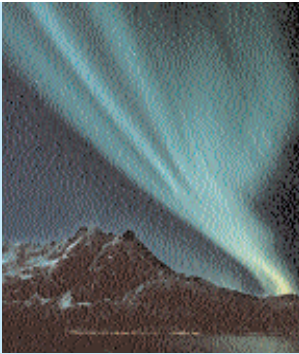
Sustain

Promoting a sustainable food system for farmers, consumers and the environment. www.sustainweb.org


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The Soil Association · New Economics Foundation · Centre for Alternative Technology · Global Ecovillage Network · BioRegional Movement of the Americas · University for the Study of Human Goodness · Dyfi Eco-Valley Partnership

For further information contact the conference office
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March 9-28: *Design for Life: Permaculture, Biomimicry & Sustainable Living* with Janine Benyus, Max Lindegger and Morag Gamble.

July 6-25: *Challenging Globalisation* with Vandana Shiva, Juliet Schor and Prasanna Parthasarathi.

For further details of the MSc and short course programme contact:
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www.nhm.ac.uk/membership

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The Exchange is a noticeboard for environmental and ethical services and needs, open to all. Reach 100,000 people with your ethical and ecologically-sound products and projects for just 70p per word plus VAT (33 per cent DISCOUNT when you book three consecutive adverts). The next two copy dates are December 15 (February issue) and January 31 (March issue). Please send entries together with a cheque made payable to *The Ecologist* for the amount due to: Belinda Bush, *The Ecologist*, Unit 18 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ. For more information, call Belinda on 020 7351 3578 or email Belinda@theecologist.org. We have a limited amount of space for free listings from NGOs, charities and individuals, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email these to Belinda Bush at the address above. We reserve the right to refuse any entry. *The Ecologist* does not necessarily endorse the products, organisations or services listed.

APPEALS

Eye on the Wild's main focus is the preservation of essential life-support systems, genetic diversity and the sustainable use of ecosystems. Set up in 1995, its worldwide projects range from small local community schemes in Essex, UK, to the more daunting task of sponsoring the protection of rainforests in Ecuador, Borneo and areas of Africa. The projects Eye on the Wild supports are local ones in areas damaged by tourism and other exploitation. Currently looking to raise funds to develop these programmes, donations can be made on-line to: www.eyeonthewild.org Or contact Brian on: trustee4eow@hotmail.com



A global suggestion box for socially innovative non-technological ideas and projects. with £1,000 worth of awards to be given away annually for the best ideas or projects submitted. Is yours a new, imaginative and feasible idea or project for improving the quality of life? If so (or if you know of such a scheme, or have a newspaper cutting about a likely project) please submit a description of the idea, in less than 1,000 words, to the institute online at www.globalideasbank.org. This site is accessed at least four million times a year at present and already contains several thousand of the best ideas submitted by members of the public worldwide. Readers can vote on the ideas. The deadline for the submission of ideas for awards is June 1.

Buchan Countryside Group – a Scottish environmental charity – seeks funds for local education, conservation and recycling projects. More details at www.bcggroup.freeserve.co.uk or email info@bcgroup.freeserve.co.uk

Sponsorship needed for publication on Andalusian natural parks in Spanish and English. Photo-book containing 100 artistic colour photos of Andalusian landscapes with an introduction on the philosophy of social ecology by Murray Bookchin. Each photo is accompanied by a quote, map and description of both ecological and social situations. Suitable as a present for organisations or companies with ecologically and socially correct philosophy and practices. Possibility of sending manuscript and similar book already published.

Please contact: peter57photo@yahoo.com

Donate your old copies of *The Ecologist*.

Help introduce new readers to the magazine by giving your old issues to a doctor or dentist's waiting room.

The International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) is dedicated to the conservation of all 13 species of otter worldwide. IOSF always needs funds to help our work in practical conservation, scientific research, otter rescue, rehabilitation and education. Projects both in the UK and abroad. Info from IOSF, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9AQ. Tel/FAX: 01471 822 487, or email: info@otter.org

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Reuse * Recycle * Rethink. Restyle wants to share with you an alternative route of buying and selling home furnishings in a way that can be fun yet common sense and stylish. Looking for fit and energetic team player with time and money to invest in creative idea in Bath area. See/contact: www.restylebath.co.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS

Greenleaf Publishing invites contributions for a special issue of *Greener Management International*. This special edition will focus on the role that business, government and other organisations can play in meeting the hydrological objectives set in Johannesburg and, more generally, the demand for effective water supply

and sanitation in developing and developed countries. To be edited by Jonathan Chenoweth and Juliet Bird.

Full papers are invited to be considered for publication in the journal. Submitted papers should make clear their relevance to business or managerial practice. Editorial guidelines can be found at www.greenleaf-publishing.com/gmi/contribu.htm.

WIDER International Conference on Inequality, Poverty and Human Well-Being.

To be held in Helsinki, May 30-31, 2003, this conference will be an opportunity to review recent advances in analytical concepts and methods. Benefits of these advances to future research on inequality, poverty and human well-being will be identified. The WIDER conference will consist of a mix of invited and contributed papers. Papers on topics other than those mentioned are most welcome, provided they relate directly to the overall conference themes.

Contributions from early career, developing country and transitional country researchers are especially encouraged. Those wishing to present contributed papers should submit a paper title and abstract of no more than 200 words. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2002. Application form is on www.wider.unu.edu.

CAMPAIGNS

Residents Against the Plant. Small group of part-time volunteers heading local campaign opposing multinational company (Scottish Power) from turning 540 acres of rural Cheshire into a massive chemical plant. Contact John Edwards on 07788 145664 or office@ctvconsultants.co.uk

Log on to www.thepetitionsite.com to support sound environmental policies online.

Information on Monsanto's shocking activities. Monsanto.org has now changed to www.love.telinco.co.uk/Monsanto

The Lie of the Label II. If people are to make informed purchases so they can eat more healthily, clear information must be available. This

report exposes the majority of the food labelling industry for what it is – blatant, misleading marketing tactics. The report can be read in full at: www.co-op.co.uk

The 'local works' campaign concerning sustainability and the 'Local Sustainability Bill' that the New Economics Foundation hopes to get through Parliament. For more info, contact: molly.conisbee@neweconomics.org or tel: +44 20 7089 2800. Visit: www.neweconomics.org



Sweetwater Alliance is a coalition of activists and citizens who are committed to the belief that the rights to water and other shared resources should never be compromised for the benefit of a few.

We seek support in our campaign to stop the diversion and co-modification of Great Lakes Water by the Nestlé Corp, which is bottling and selling 'Ice Mountain' brand spring water. For further information, contact: wobbly@waterissweet.org

Stop the Amazon Rainforest Destruction.

Forward your lists to your respective countries' action against the URUCU pipeline campaign. It is simple and may have a great effect in stopping the destruction of the world's largest rainforest. www.foei.org/cyberaction/brazil.php

The Women's Environmental Network is campaigning for safer cosmetics. Modern cosmetics and toiletries contain synthetic chemicals that threaten human health and the environment. To join us, visit: localgroups@wen.org.uk

Help support forest communities in Brazil's Pará state, in the eastern Amazon. In international solidarity with these local forest communities, Greenpeace and other supporters,

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Forests.org asks that you lobby the Brazilian government to stand up against forest destruction and demand the creation of the Verde Pará Sempre extractive reserve. Please ask that these peaceful protestors' demands for the creation of an extractive reserve are met by the government. Visit: www.forests.org/emailaction/brazil_protests.htm



The **CORE coalition** aims to develop popular consensus around the themes of **corporate accountability and transparency, and legislation to ensure corporate accountability and performance**. Founded by Amnesty International, CAFOD, Friends of the Earth, the New Economics Foundation and Traidcraft. Get your local authority to support the bill and lobby MPs. Write to your local councillors, or the chief executive of the local council. CORE is happy to provide a draft letter. Contact: brians@foe.co.uk More details about the project on: www.corporate-responsibility.org/

COURSES

Permaculture and ecological design courses in the Bahamas. The courses will run from January 25 to February 15, 2003. Following the course, participants will have the opportunity to interact with Amory Lovins, Satish Kumar, David Orr and many others. Contact: Ashley Harter at Sustainable Systems at the Cape Eleuthera Island School – tel: (242) 359 7625; email: ashleyharter@islandschool.org

Animal Magic: science beyond the microscope

February 9–28, 2003. A residential course at the Schumacher College. This course brings together some of the leading figures in the holistic study of animals to reflect on what we can learn by observing them as fellow subjects. Tel: +44 1803 865934. For info, email: admin@schumachercollege.org.uk

Design for Life: permaculture, biomimicry and sustainable living. with Morag Gamble, Max Lindegger and Janine Benyus. Course held at the Schumacher College, England, March 9–28, 2003. Tel: +44 1803 865934. Email: schumcoll@gn.apc.org Visit: www.gn.apc.org/schumachercollege/

HOLIDAYS

Organic Agriculture Tour of Cuba, February 2-9, 2003. (Registration up to December 1, 2002). Join the Institute for Bio-regional Studies on a tour that promises to be enlightening, informative, inspiring and entertaining. In association with the Cuban Association for Organic Farming. Cuba offers a large-scale test of sustainable farming alternatives. Contact: Phil Ferraro and Nancy Willis via www.macqueens.com/ibs

Andalusia, 20km north of Marbella, s/c holiday cottage, sleeps two to three, overlooking Rio Grande valley. Glorious countryside, easy reach of coast. Birdwatching, white villages, great walks and views. Short or longer lets or B&B. For details, phone +34 952 119 738/9 (mobile: +34 659 819 186), or email: d_brimmell@yahoo.com

RESOURCES

Oneworld.net is an online magazine with news, feature articles, and special reports that focus on human rights and sustainable development. Visit: www.oneworld.net

Country Walks near London reachable by train. For walk directions and sketch maps, see the *Time Out Book of Country Walks* – a 416-page book published by Penguin. All with a pub at lunchtime and a tea place afterwards. All surpluses from the book go to the Institute for Social Inventions, a charitable project of the Nicholas Albery Foundation. Available for £11.99, including P&P. Tel: 020 7359 8391. For a secure online transaction, visit: <http://www.walkingclub.org.uk/>

Biodiversity and Human Rights: the international rules for the protection of biodiversity is a new book by Elli Louka. This study prescribes a comprehensive system for the protection of biodiversity. Human rights standards, free trade in wildlife, and regulated free access to plant genetic resources are proposed as elements of this system. Contact mohanty20@aol.com or order online at www.transnationalpubs.com

Earth's General Store, Edmonton, Canada. Stockist of all the best ecological magazines and so much more. Telephone +1 780 439 8725.

Solarfuture is an NGO promoting solar energy and other renewable solutions for a sustainable economy. Contact: bruno@solarfuture.org

Intentional Community provides information on eco-villages, co-housing, residential land trusts, communes, student co-ops, urban housing cooperatives and other related projects and dreams. Check out www.ic.org



A SEED (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity) is a global organisation linking youth groups and individuals on all continents. A SEED was established by young people in 1991 in response to the UNCED Earth Summit proceedings in Rio, and aimed to forge alliances among young people committed to social and environmental justice. Since 1992, the A SEED decentralised network has been growing continuously and consists of regional 'hubs' located in Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Latin America and Japan, with various levels of activity. As A SEED targets the structural causes of the environment and development crisis, it campaigns on the international financial institutions and 'free' trade agreements. Visit www.aseed.net

Shopethical, the new ethical directory. Features environmental news, ethical and environmental campaigns, ideas for a fairer society and a host of links to groups working for a fairer society both in the UK and overseas. Also provides an online ethical shopping directory featuring links to ethical goods and services, ethical organisations, Fairtrade and socially responsible traders. It is a UK-based limited company that covenants all its profits to environmental and charitable causes. www.shopethical.co.uk

SITUATIONS VACANT

The **Apprentice Master Alliance** is a free online scheme linking up 'apprentices' – those wishing to learn a skill – with 'masters' who are willing to teach and share. The directory of masters at www.apprentice.org.uk lists hundreds of apprenticeships from bookbinding to web design.

Disabled woman requires female personal assistant to assist with all aspects of daily

living. London and surrounding areas. Full driver's licence needed. Non-smoker, environmental awareness preferred. Daily travel allowance available. £6 per hr for up to 6 hrs a day (flexible). Tel: 020 8593 6677.

SITUATIONS WANTED

Editor/book designer looking for career change with company or organisation with aims for a better world, whether social, political or environmental – and not merely for profit. Middle-aged but highly motivated. Computer literate in wide variety of applications. Extensive experience in both IT and publishing. Preferred location in south-east England. Please contact me for further details via: slubell@netvision.net.il

Documentary producer/ director/ researcher/ photographer seeks ethical/ social projects that reflect the ethos of *The Ecologist*. Contact Robyn on 07870 675 131 or at robyn24_7@hotmail.com

Need someone to translate material on social, political, labour and environmental issues from **Portuguese, Spanish or French into English?** Contact: Chris Whitehouse, 47 Hackford Road, London SW9 0RE. Tel: 020 7735 3237; email: chris.whitehouse1@virgin.net

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers required for one-year positions in South Africa's national parks. Work alongside the South African National Parks Board in the conservation and management of their 18 parks. Starts February 1, 2003. Contact Global Vision International on 01582 831300 www.gvi.co.uk

Looking for volunteer work during Summer 2003. Will consider any international organisation fighting for environmental or human rights. Available from June to August, 2003. Contact anne.kittler@escp-eap.net

Volunteers needed. Student Partnership Worldwide brings together 500 young volunteers every year to work on a range of **health, education and environmental programmes in Africa and Asia**. Based in rural communities, mixed-nationality groups of volunteers aged between 18 and 28 engage with the most serious issues affecting young people. Contact: Claudia +44 20 7222 0138 www.spw.org

Searching for a well organised, non-profit, non-religious organisation to offer my labour. Contact Miokovic on ajnosreverse@hotmail.com

Four volunteers needed to assist the Kan Tan Project, Costa Rica. The main aim of the volunteer project is to assist with the creation of a traditional Brunka house within the Kan Tan Preserve. The project will entail manual work and the creation of trails into the surrounding forest. Volunteers will be immersed in the community of Boruca, living with a local family and taking part in their traditions. From December 9 onwards. For more details on this and other projects, email: volunteer@workingabroad.com or visit: www.workingabroad.com

Volunteer wanted in animal sanctuary. A sanctuary in western Ireland is looking for animal lovers who are interested in helping its management. This internationally-known sanctuary is a registered charity and finances itself, but does not currently generate enough money to pay a wage. Housing can be made available. An opportunity for someone with an independent income to live with the animals in one of the most picturesque parts of Ireland. It is thought that eventually the person selected may take over complete responsibility when the founder retires. Please write to: De Jongh, Ballinacree, Co. Sligo, Ireland, or email: joostjod@indigo.ie



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

To work as interns at
The Ecologist, please email:
Belinda@theecologist.org

ecologist diary

NOVEMBER



21 NOVEMBER, LONDON, UK

Festival of Flight presents Speak Out. This is a voluntary non-commercial, mainstream club night, to raise funds and awareness for selected charities and non-profit making organisations working on issues of human concern. The goal is to create an atmosphere in which all present share in a uniquely dynamic space and are brought to an awareness of the possibilities of acceptance, freedom, and choice for themselves and others.

The Scala, Kings Cross, London.
8am-3pm. Tickets £15 on the door, £10 in advance from:
www.ticketweb.co.uk
More details at:
www.amiglobal.org/festivalofflight

29 NOVEMBER

Buy Nothing Day challenges consumer culture by asking us to switch off from shopping for a day, a global stand-off from such desires. Celebrated as a holiday by some, a street party by others – anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending. More details on:
www.buynothingday.co.uk

DECEMBER

1 DECEMBER

World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on 1 December with news and events to highlight progress made in the battle against the epidemic. But at the same time it reminds people how much still needs to be done. More information on:
www.worldaidsday.org

1 DECEMBER, LONDON, UK

Christmas Without Cruelty 2002: Animal Aid's Christmas Fayre is like no other. The huge range of cruelty-free items on offer means that you can do all your Christmas shopping in one place, and banish your hunger with our delicious vegan food. But the big plus – apart from the relaxed and friendly atmosphere – is that your money will be going directly to the charities, campaign groups and ethical traders who are trying to make a positive difference in the world. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, Off Kensington High Street, London W8. 10am-5pm. Admission cost just £1. Children (under 11) go free. Details on:
www.animalaid.org.uk

3 DECEMBER, LONDON, UK

Is time running out for corporate social responsibility? Three months on from the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, *The Guardian* and *The Observer* explore the consequences for industry, government and pressure groups. Church House Conference Centre, Westminster, London. To book a place and for a full conference programme, please call *The Guardian* on + 44 20 7713 4429, or email:
yvonne.siegel@guardian.co.uk

6-7 DECEMBER, LONDON

The World Fair. 15th annual event with around 60 stalls run by charities and ethical traders with everything anyone could want for a Christmas present with a difference. So look no further if you want to escape the usual Christmas shopping frenzy. The venue has disabled access and a crèche is available throughout the Saturday. The fair is run on a non-profit basis. Admission free. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Central London (Holborn Tube). Contact Alex on 020 7354 4231 or visit:
www.worldfair.org.uk

7 DECEMBER, MANCHESTER, UK

The Third Manchester Radical Bookfair. With the demise of independent bookshops across the country there is a need for places to get books not stocked at Waterstones. The bookfair will focus on books relating to anarchism, peace, ecology and radical social change. There will also be speakers on a range of topics, local campaigns and practical issues. 1.00-5.00pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick St, Ancoats, Manchester. If you would like a stall, to hold a workshop or to get involved, email: info@radicalbookfair.org.uk Visit:
www.radicalbookfair.org.uk

12-13 DECEMBER, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

EU Summit. Official site:
www.europa.eu.int



'Stop the Violence' NGO Forum, Copenhagen 2002 is hosting a people's summit in parallel with the official EU summit in Copenhagen, 13-15 December. The forum is a network consisting of 59 organisations with two main aims: co-operation between grassroots organisations and NGOs during the Danish EU presidency, and manifold and peaceful manifestations to take place without the use of violence – either from demonstrators or the authorities.

Affiliated organisations include the Initiative for a Different Europe, Friends of the Earth-Denmark, the Danish Association for International Co-operation, Greenpeace-Nordic. For information on accommodation, demonstrations and the people's summit, visit:
www.ngoforum2002.dk

fair trade fair

14-15 DECEMBER,
LONDON, UK

The Fair Trade Fair is the place for anyone with a conscience to do their Christmas shopping. There are 62 stands with a wide range of products from all over the world (including the UK, the Netherlands, Nepal, Ireland, Kenya and Tanzania). The most unusual Christmas presents and from all over the world. All made under conditions of FAIR TRADE. The producers do not exploit the environment, and do not underpay women. At Central Hall, Westminster, in Parliament Square next to Westminster Abbey. Saturday and Sunday – open from 11am to 5pm on both days. Entrance £3, concessions £1. Facilities for children provided. See: www.fairtradefair.org

22 DECEMBER

The Winter Solstice
01.14 GMT

Winter solstice was overlaid with Christmas 1,600 years ago, centuries before the English language emerged from its Germanic roots. Celebrate a fundamental seasonal, hemispheric event that affects our every day life.

27 DECEMBER, LONDON, UK (LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH)

Monthly Critical Mass bike ride around London. Meet at 6pm under Waterloo Bridge on the South Bank, next to the NFT bar, for the bike ride around London to demonstrate an alternative to car culture. For more information on this and other rides in Europe visit: www.critical-mass.org For London activities, contact:
criticalmass.london@virgin.net

JANUARY

3-5 JANUARY, CIRENCESTER, UK

Soil Association National Conference: fair trade begins at home. Debate, discussion and workshops. Speakers include the Archbishop of Canterbury, environment minister Michael Meacher and Jonathan Dimbleby. Meet like-minded people and savour delicious organic food. Tickets from £149.99 include accommodation, all meals and the conference dinner. Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Tel: 0117 987 4586. Details in the events diary on:
www.soilassociation.org

14 JANUARY, SOUTHAMPTON, UK

Food for All is a major local conference examining issues surrounding food in the city. Bringing together a range of delegates involved with food from farm to fork, the conference aims to be the catalyst for the establishment of a Southampton

food network. To be held at the Civic Centre, Southampton. For more details, phone Mike Collins on 023 8023 1942, or email:
mike@alan-whitehead.org.uk

15-16 JANUARY, WARWICK, UK

Farms for Schools Annual Conference. Including workshops that will give practical information and support for enhancing the quality of school visits to farms. To be held at Hatton Country World, Warwickshire. More details in the events diary on:
www.soilassociation.org

23-28 JANUARY, DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. Details at: www.weforum.org

23-28 JANUARY, PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

The World Social Forum is an open meeting where civil society groups and movements opposed to neo-liberalism come together to pursue their thinking, debate ideas, formulate proposals, share experiences and network for effective action. Held to mirror the Davos conference, the debate seeks to propose **alternative means to building globalisation** in solidarity that respect universal human rights and the environment. Visit: www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/home.asp

24-26 JANUARY, GUELPH, CANADA

Guelph Organic Conference and Trade Show: organic goes mainstream. Canada's largest public organic event with over 100 exhibitors and many workshops and courses for all levels of interest. Free to the public. Guelph University Centre. Info and sponsorship on +1 519-824-4120 x2558; Email: organix@georgian.net Visit: www.guelphorganicconf.org

26 JANUARY, LONDON, UK (LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

Adelaide Nature Reserve Workday, Camden, conservation and survey work. Meet on site at Adelaide Nature Reserve, NW3. Time: 11.30am onwards. Transport: Buses 31 and C11; Chalk Farm Tube (Northern Line). Contact: John Walsh on 020 7435 5934. For details and other conservation opportunities in London, go to: www.wildlondon.org.uk/event



For further information, visit: www.theecologist.org

NIGHTMARE JOURNEY ON THE M25? IT COULD BE FAR WORSE...

...CONSIDER 72 HOURS WITHOUT FOOD, REST OR WATER.

This is a typical journey for animals in the live export trade.

Compassion in World Farming believes that there is no excuse to inflict these long and difficult journeys on our animals and are calling on the Government to replace live animal exports with a trade in meat.

YOU have the power to help stop this cruelty, so please:

- call our live exports hotline on 01730 237 379 for the latest information on CIWF actions and sailings from Dover, the principle port used for live exports from the UK
- contact us today to request a 'Ban Live Exports' Action Pack
- support our campaign with your donation.

Thank you!



YES I would like to help stop this cruelty and enclose my donation of £10 Other £ _____

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Postcode: _____ Country: _____

E-mail: _____ Mobile phone no: _____

I enclose a cheque payable to CIWF for £ _____

OR

Please debit £ _____ from my MasterCard / VISA / Switch* / Delta

Card no: _____ Switch issue no*: _____ Expiry: _____ Today's date: _____

Signature: _____

OR call 01730 237 365 with your credit card details today

Please send me a free copy of CIWF's 'Ban Live Exports' Action Pack

Please send me further information about the work of CIWF and its campaigns

Please send me regular copies of CIWF's newsletter for active campaigners, *Compassion in Action*

Please return to: CIWF, A166, FREEPOST (GI/2198), PETERSFIELD, Hants GU32 3BR.

Reg No 2998256. Visit us at www.banliveexports.co.uk or www.ciwf.co.uk

A166



CIWF
campaigning
for farm animals



All banks have choices. Our Ethical Policy guides ours.

Evidence of global climate change continues to mount, making the need to establish an effective programme to tackle the issue ever more pressing.

As an individual, you can contribute in a variety of ways – cutting down the amount of energy you consume, or using your car less, for example. As a customer of The Co-operative Bank, you can also ensure that your money is working to address the issue.

In the recent review of our Ethical Policy, our customers stated that they do not want their money to be invested in any business whose core activity contributes to global climate change, through the extraction or production of fossil fuels.*

Furthermore, they have asked the bank to use their money to seek out investment opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Our position on global climate change is one of a number of investment priorities which reflect the concerns of our customers and, together, make up our Ethical Policy. A revised policy was published this year, following extensive consultation with our customers. If you'd like to know more, phone **0845 714 2128** or visit the bank's website:

www.co-operativebank.co.uk

*Based on the responses of 80,000 customers.