

Empowerment • Ecology • Evolution

CATALYST

Issue 4 • Summer 97

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The Tree Walkers •

C o n t e n t s



Greetings in love and peace, Welcome to issue 4 of Catalyst.

The eight months since the last issue appeared have been active ones for us — much visualisation, strategy and energy put in to manifesting our ideals in our living. We've been led to some important connections and insights, many of which are reflected in the articles we've assembled for you.

The co-creators of Catalyst are now on the Area Based Allowance — an initiative of the Dept. of Social Welfare to promote employment — and we are currently researching various ways to establish Catalyst as a sustainable business. It has been wonderful for us to witness and participate in the wave of personal and community healing and empowerment that is so obviously, slowly and surely revolutionising life in Ireland. The scale of our challenges here becomes apparent when one reads about the water pollution scandal or infringements on civil liberties. We remain optimistic that enough intelligent, creative, sorted individuals are awakening to harness their unique power to generate a better quality of life for all on this wonderful Earth.

Most of the 1000 copies of the last issue found good homes. For this issue we are printing 3000 copies — growing slowly as a child, we're learning to walk. Guidance is especially welcome at this point. Be free to contribute anything you want. We are also asking for subscriptions — if you like Catalyst you can get the next four issues posted to you in the week of publication by sending €6 (cheques/POs payable to "Catalyst") to us at the address below. Or if you'd like to distribute Catalyst in your area, or are in a position to have it stocked somewhere we've overlooked, please get in touch. Heartfelt thanks to all who have worked with us on this publication. We're mad happy with the new look — thanks to Ronan. Thanks too for the ongoing support and encouragement we are blessed with, from our friends. Thanks and respect to Diarmuid and Deepak. Thanks to the artists: Máirtín ó Broin on pages 5, 10, 31, 33, 34 and the back cover. To Brendan Rua on Page 2., to Avril on Page 13

Be Well, Grá agus Solas,
Kevin, Barry, Eanna

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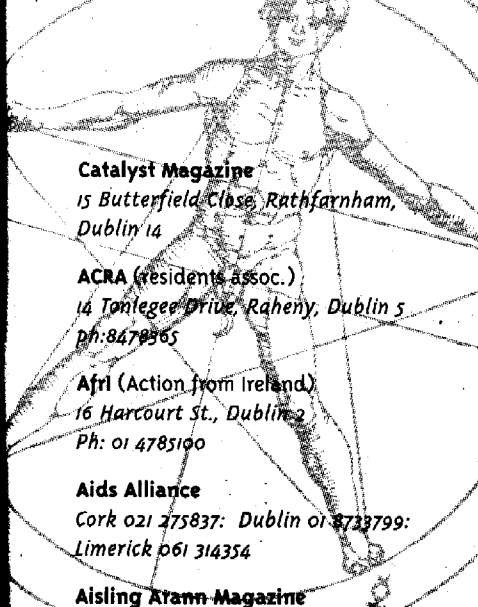
Website <http://www.intex.ie/catalyst>

Catalyst

exists as a forum to stimulate debate and action on empowerment, ecological and evolutionary issues in contemporary Ireland.

Disclaimer: The ideas and opinions expressed in Catalyst are not necessarily those of the editors.

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Catalyst Magazine

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ACRA (Residents Assoc.)

14 Tonleage Drive, Raheny, Dublin 5
Ph: 8479365

Afri (Action from Ireland)

16 Harcourt St., Dublin 2
Ph: 01 4785100

Aids Alliance

Cork 021 275837: Dublin 01 873799:
Limerick 061 314354

Aisling Arann Magazine

c/o Dara Molloy/ Tess Harper, Tishmore, Co. Galway

Alliance for Animal Rights

Ormond Multimedia Centre, 16 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 Ph: 8723500

Amnesty International

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The ARC (resource centre)

Slipper Lane, Gort, Co. Galway
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The Ark (permaculture project)

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Ph: 047 52049

Bhole Baba Centre

Milmorane Basketry, Ballingearry, Co. Cork

Centre for Alternative Technology

Machynlleth Road, Powys, Wales SY20 9AZ Ph: 01654 702422

Clean Technology Centre RTC

Rossa Avenue, Bishopstown, Co. Cork
Ph: 021 244864

Clans of Ireland

Jim Cavanagh, Town Hall, Athy, Co. Kildare

Connaught Organic Group

Kilderry, Peterswell, Co. Galway
Ph: 091 34138

Conservations Education Trust

Knocksink Wood National Nature Reserve, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow
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Coolatin Woods Action Committee

Johnstown House, Carlow
Ph: 0503 31186

Co-operation North Ltd

37 Upper Fitzwilliam St., Dublin 2
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Cork Environmental Alliance

34 Princes St., Cork
Ph: 021 272277

Crann

Dublin 107 Lr. Baggot St., Dublin 2: or: Aughavas, Co. Leitrim Ph: 078 36020

Crann Woodland Trust

Main St., Banagher, Co. Offaly
Ph: 0509 31718

DARC (Dublin Alternative Radio Collective)

PO Box 3327, Dublin 8

Dodder Valley Project

St. Mary's Priory, Main St., Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ph: 4512983

Dublin Cycling Campaign

c/o Square Wheel Cycleworks, Temple Lane South, Dublin 2 Ph: 01 6790845

Dublin Food Co-op

Carmichael House, Brunswick St., Dublin 7 Ph: 01 8721191

Dublin Healthy Cities Project

Carmichael House, Nth. Brunswick St., Dublin 7 Ph: 8722278

Dublin Naturalists Field Club

35 Nutley Park, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 Ph: 2697469

Dublin Society for the protection of cruelty to Animals - DSPCA

Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 Ph: 4935502

Earth First!

P.O. Box 9656, London N4 4JY.
Ph: 0171 5619146

Earthwatch

c/o John Barron, Harbour View, Bantry, Co. Cork Ph: 027 50968

East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign

Suite 13, 24-26 Dame St., Dublin 2

Ecolink

2 Fosters Ave., Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Ph: 01 2835495

Ecco Youth Environmental Conservation Organisation

10 Cope St., Dublin 2 Ph: 01 6799673

Festival Eye (magazine)

BCM Box 2002, London WC1N 3XX.

Future Forests

Kealkil, Bantry, Co. Cork
Ph: 027 66046

Galway One World Centre

2 Churchyard St., Galway
Ph: 091 565589

Garden of Delight

3 Castle St., Dublin 2
Ph: 01 475 1223

Genetic Concern!

95 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
Ph: 01 6262315

Greenpeace Brookfield House

Carysfort, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Ph: 01 283 3500

Institute of Alternative Medicine

87 Nth. Circular Road, Dublin 7

Irish Astrological Association

193 Lwr Rathmines Rd., Dublin 6

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

14 Exchequer St., Dublin 2

Irish Fair Trade Network

c/o Carol Bergin, Little Orchard, Newpark, Kilkenny
Ph: 056 63733

Irish Local Agenda 21 Coalition

c/o The Sunflower Project, 44 Gardiner St., Dublin 1
Ph: 01 8787726

Irish Traveller Movement

4 Eustace St., Ph: 01 6796577
Dublin 2.

Klee Papers

89 North Circular Rd., Dublin 7
Ph: 01 8383544

Latin American Solidarity Centre

5 Merrion Row, Dublin 2

Liffey Arts Research Centre

Victoria Bridge, Naas, Co. Kildare
Ph: 045 879716

Network Ireland (magazine)

c/o Ruth Marshall, Ballydonahane, Bodyke, Co. Clare

New Connections (magazine)

c/o 35 Patrick St., Newry, Co. Down
BT35 8EB Ph: 01693 69635

Rainbow Info

Postfach 4016, CH 8022, Zurich, Switzerland or
Catalyst, 15 Butterfield Close, Rathfarnham Dublin 14.

Sheila na Gig (magazine)

c/o Rath Grian, Aghakilbrack, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

Stop Thorp Alliance Dundalk

Blackhorse Centre, Clanbrassil St., Dundalk Ph: 042 28746

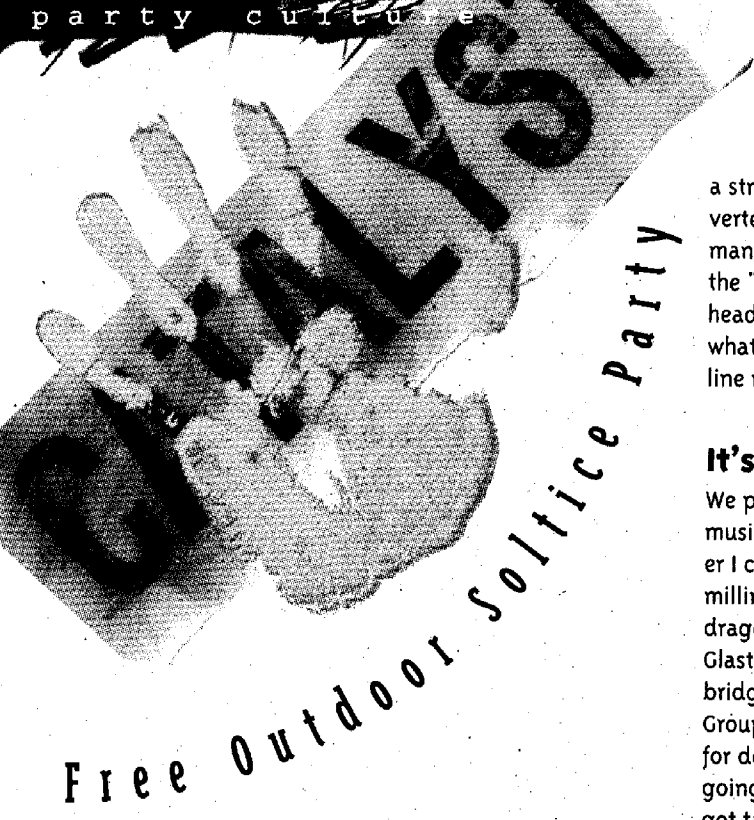
Surfers Against Sewage

Old Courthouse Warehouse, Whealkitty, St. Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0RE

WISP (Web & Internet Solution Providers)

Liffey Trust Enterprise Centre, 117-126 Upr. Sheriff St., Dublin 1
email wispmaster@wisp.ie

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Free Outdoor Solstice Party

We were children of the new city, children of the all night party, children of a new dawn celebrating the solstice as our ancestors before.....

we dance madly and stop from exhaustion; speak madly of eco-disaster, state repression, consumer lie democracy, our visions for future earth; speak madly of E, hash, speed, acid, why we do them, why we don't.... we relish the night and demand a better tomorrow, a better today....

Three of us in a battered old churning unpredictable Opel, caught by the wildness of a solstice weekend. Out of the city, down the main road... men with a mission - to find The Party in the Bog. "Turn left at a pub about three hours out of Dublin, go up that road, and well, you'll find it" Some directions! So we turned left and up the road and there was a couple walking minding their own business in the twilight night. "Pull in, we'll give them a lift and shur maybe they'll know where we're going." So we did and they did. "I was down at it last night", said the bloke, "fucking great craic, there must be 2,000 people below I'd say. We'll get out here. Take your first left, go straight for ages, turn left at a sort of a T-junction and then right, go on down there for ages and yill find it." Nice one, deadly, thanks.

A half hour of boreens, grass in the middle, round in circles, huge pot-holes..... around a bend and an opening in the road. Twenty or more cars reversing, forwarding, getting in each others way; three blocked entrances which seemed to lead nowhere. A car filled with obviously locals crept by and serious sullen faces stared out at the clatter of cars and funny haircuts invading their safe passage home.

Someone eventually knew where we were going. A line of cars, a procession, bouncing on a bog road, sharp left and no ditches. Mooncape road now, no tar. A scene from Mad Max opened up. German troop carrier, grass growing through it. Old tyres and

a stripped down van. Caravans, converted estates, a horse wagon.... many and varied weird vehicles lined the "road". A few kids whizzed by the headlights on bikes laughing. On for what felt like a mile through a looney line road in a bog, solstice weekend.

It's a mini Glastonbury

We parked up. Lights and wafts of music in the distance. As we got closer I could see three markees, people milling around, a flourescent chinese dragon. "Ya hoo," says I, "it's a mini Glastonbury." Over a small dusty bridge and under wooden arches. Group of blokes with a bucket asking for donations to "keep the genny's going, come on chip in a few quid, got ta keep the party goin'." If one had it, one did. A free party. A party not for profit.

Strolled on up to the first markee, about 250 bods bouncing to boombastic **jungle...** a small caf in the corner, "Soup 40p, Tea/coffee 20p" Strolled on. Past a group chilling on the ground, big hellos big smiles... round here there ain't no trouble, hassle or grief. There is no law, no police, no jail, no tax, no leader, no authority... simply voluntary group co-operation - Respect and self-responsibility. The most intelligent way to organise society, the most beautiful way to organise a party - **ANARCHY.**

Went to the next markee, **Hard house...** about 300 heads and the music up up up again where the tweeks and bleeps and cyber wails of the tunes swirl round the big top and bring us up up and on to the highs and wilds and voyage of freedom inducing white mind meditation dance.

Out of there and on I waltzed. Happy smiling people abound. A mischievous sense of well being permeates the air. Hee hee hee, no closing time, no cops, just us, party lovers paradise. Into the biggest markee now. Blistering blinding blizzard **techno assault of the senses.** Teeming mass of bodies lepping laughing loving life. Bounce through the crowd, must be over 600 in here. Up near the front in the middle. So many people... the greatest rave I was ever at. These people are seriously

going for it. Loads of eye contact, people buzzing off each other, doing silly dances, wild ceile dances, rave a go, anything goes. Total communication, life celebration. Two walls of blasting speakers. Dance stimulation high on lights... trippy swirly circus show lights and the strobe ha ha... roll on the dawn let's dance for life and for everything and nothing and everyone and no one and it's all good and it's all bad and in here in the dance it all makes sense.... we laugh n' shout n' roar n' whistle surfing the wave of music crashing in around us, spinning us out krack-a-boom splash and up to the crest, surf that tune.... and we're all in this thing called life together. Total communication, life celebration. Oh and it's the solstice too... what a night for a party, what a party for a night.

Out the back of the big markee was a chill out space. A hundred or so people sitting, chatting and smoking, encircled by trees with flourescent multi coloured drapes and shapes. A huge white bird fluttered in the breeze above our heads-Art. Over in the corner, a bar with a counter selling perfect night time temperature stout by the bottle at a pound a go.

Loud and Proud, Dancy and Free

I lay back on the grass, stout in hand, looked around, bliss. A solstice party on a green patch in the middle of a bog.... No commercial exploitation, no trouble, no security men, it wasn't advertised yet there's over a thousand people here.... This is truly amazing, how can it happen? Well maybe it's because, well maybe most of the people here have something in common..... You didn't have to pay in here, but you would if you could..... 'cos,.... The myths have been stripped bare, the bungalow and picket sicket white fence car and mortgage (mort-death,gage=pledge) noose has been seen... material success and stock piles of the latest gadgets and gimmickry rejected... we want friends, uncensored dance, uncensored communication, no sexual taboos, equality, a life beyond the chains of economics, a life beyond atomaton worker, fuck your target marketing the planet is dying.

To hell with your ISEQ index up two points bullshit, stick your dramatic fall in the seasonally adjusted increase in unemployment doublethink. We have not been put on this earth to be ordered around, we have not been put on this earth to be shrinkers and shirkers and

skivers, nor to bow our heads in humble servitude, we are loud and proud, we are dancy and free **A NOW GENERATION, CHILDREN OF THE PARTY....**

Keep your dancing boots on, your eyes and ears open: it's Summer, outdoor party season is on. Perhaps you'll hear where the party is, perhaps you won't, if you do hear, **GO DANCE.** "Here and now boys and girls, here and now."



Octagon Free Party Raided

And off we went about 20 of us, full of high spirits, some full of other of things, on the late bus to the Wicklow mountains for the first outdoor free party of the Summer. A miserable persistent rain beat down in the pitch black night as we walked along the road looking for the carpark that was to lead us to a path up the valley and into party paradise.

The talk on the streets of Dublin had been of 500 to 1,000 people from all over the country arriving for a free festival to celebrate — to celebrate doing it in the open for free — there was going to be fire jugglers and U.V. performance, at least two sound systems, dancing creatures from Celtic legend and lumps of Art hanging from the trees — the stuff of free parties — celebrate not having to put up £1,000 for the use of a venue, not having to pay £300 to a dj, not having to pay £10 to get in a door, not having to swim round drunken brawling bodies streaming simultaneously from night clubs on the way home, not having to work within the confines of property prices and privileges.

Uniforms

Little did we realise the mountain was to be crawling with: cops, cops and more cops. Four Garda stations were represented and from party goers reports there was at least 80 of them. They'd set up in the car park we were heading to and on the smaller approach roads to the party, while about 40 of them descended on the party. Eight people were arrested, two for organising the party, the rest for small amounts of personal ecstasy and hash.

To be fair to the Guards they didn't ruff people around while searching, but this is what they did do..... Descending en masse to the party site early on in the night when there was only 80 or 100 people there,

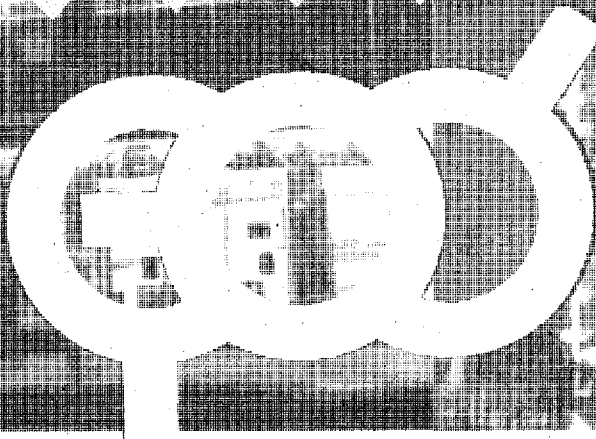
both plainclothes and uniform guards entered the old ruined building where the sound system was happily blasting away. They cut wires powering lights and decks, they ripped wires from the generator and spilt the containers of petrol intended for the genny on to the forest floor. They then searched everyone.

Damage to private property? Damage to Dept. of Forestry land? Invasion of a troublefree party? Guardians of the Peace? As people came out of the ruin one by one, a dour suppressing aura of fear and suspicion filled the forest. Flashlights in your face, people talking to you asking stupid questions, more flashlights surrounding the site, no one knowing who was plainclothes who was not.

Dancing at the cross Roads

People have been drinking and carousing and partying at this spot for years and years. As one local who lost his temper when told to stop singing so loudly by a guard complained, "Look I've been coming up here with my friends for years to have a drink and a laugh, before that my father took me up here to see the view, now you tell me I can't even fucking sing here! Who's going to hear me? We're in the middle of a bloody forest not bothering anyone. Why don't ye all just fuck off, we're not doing anyone any harm." Then his friend piped up, "Come here and answer me this. What was the point of kicking out the English and getting our country back if we can't even have a party in a forest. This is just the same as dancing at the cross roads and that was banned by the English."

The suspicious air of conspiratorial whispering was broken and a number of guards in their early 20's started talking to the party goers. Their point was that they wouldn't be here at all if it wasn't for the drugs. Although the talk on the night was of 2,000 ecstasy being found, the Irish Times said there was 100 seized — I wonder! The main point the guards and the mainstream media are missing, is that this is about more than drugs and it is not a simple naive thing called "a drugs party." It is about people putting in time and effort for free to put on a party, it's about why people would trudge through a rain soaked forest in the dead of night to experience the unique atmosphere at these special cultural events. People organise parties for old age pensioniers for free, people organise local sports days for free, people organise surprise wedding anniversaries for free — so why all the suspicion and name calling when people organise a free party with the popular music of the day? Society always has a monster to occupy the minds of the masses while those in charge of production, police and communication maintain the status quo — be it Communism, terrorism, the god of thunder, inflation, invasion and now drugs. The recreational drug use culture is so prevalent that the language, images and music from the culture are being used to sell products. (eg. The Bank of Ireland's slogan for young people "Get Sorted".) However, the main point is that the Free Party Culture is yet another manifestation of a **worldwide selfdirected cultural revolution** towards a more humanitarian and highly evolved society.



Garden of Delight

being antagonistic is not a part time job..."God is dead, Marxism's dead, liberalism never existed, and to be honest I was not feeling too good myself." "Then I found GOD and realised that FUN IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EXISTENTIAL ANGST."

Cafe, bookshop, performance, theatre, bad advice, exciting politics, urban adventure, unending drama, tragedy, laughter. We were born on a sunny day in August on the edge of the Liberties and a stone's throw from Temple Bar, our childhood has been a stormy affair. Organised by a voluntary selfmanaged collective, we seek to open up the north west passage to experience which prioritises pleasure and delights in flux...

In a time when money has replaced God as the popular religion, we try to maintain the possibility of access to all. Events are free and the books are there to be read, not only admired, although an occasional purchase does not cause any displeasure. Our books cover a wide range of themes such as radical politics, culture, critical theory, through beat culture to transexuality, Native American culture, Buddhism, Technology, drugs... We serve delicious coffee and the finest of pasteries and dishes, at reasonable prices. **We are open every day from twelve to seven Monday to Wednesday and twelve to ten thursday's, Friday's, Sunday's and Saturday's from twelve to twelve.** In addition, the space is used by a diverse number of groups such as Electronic Freedom Ireland, the Lesbian Avengers, the Irish Mexico Group, Rainbow gatherers, Pagans, inpatients, outpatients, Autonomous Astronauts, Round Table.

The GoD Collective espouse no individual ideology and affirm confidence in difference, we seek to provide a free and uninhibited forum for the exploration of marginalised or subversive

currents running through culture, politics, relationships, society. It seeks to be non hierarchical, inclusive and progressive. The space is collectively run by a large group of unpaid and suspicious people, who co-operate around the simple agenda of the maintenance of the shop as a machine, a liberated space. We show films with a bias towards local directors and particularly those working with low or no budget. There's been films in Irish, documentaries on the alternative music scene, the road protesters in England, the life of Pat Tierney and on the visit of the USS JFK warship last Summer. We hold regular exhibitions of work: photographic, or paint, sculpture and installation. Each Wednesday GOD members have a show on DARC 99fm, 6-8pm (Dublin AAA) from 8-10pm

There are also weekly events, including Caca Milis (Arm Your Desires Sound System) on Saturdays from 5.00-10.00. Come September we will be moving the Circus to a new location(not closing) so stay tuned. Outside and against the tourist park of Temple Bar, at the periphery of the city and the centre of possible futures, we invite all who have ideas, creativity or material assistance to offer on the long road towards a world without alarm clocks.

3 Castle St., Dublin 2. (opposite Burdocks)

Tel. 01-4751233

e-mail: lazosubvert@connect.ie

New exciting organic vegetarian Menu • Featuring the indestructable gourmet sandwichCalzoné

Empowerment • Ecology • Evolution

CATALYST

Writers, researchers, reporters, artists, poets, people. Feel free to get in touch
Contribution very welcome

Contact us - By Post:

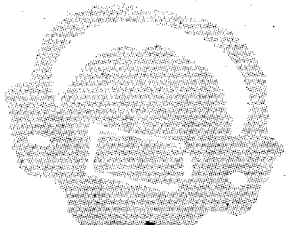
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care of the above address E-mail: catalyst@intex.ie Website http://www.intex.ie/catalyst

DARC

Dublin Alternative Radio Collective - 99/107.9 FM



D.A.R.C. is a non-profit collectively run radio station willing to give an airing to various types of music or opinions generally ignored by the mainstream media. As a beginning, we are running from 5pm till 1am, Monday to Thursday on either 99 or 107.9 fm. Our initial schedule is mainly musical, and includes punk as well as electronic, avant-garde, classical or Bulgarian Folk Music. We also wish to develop our talkshows, which go at the moment from theatrical improvisation to political or cultural reviews of any kind. We are also willing to give more and

more airtime to collectives or community organisations as a means of bringing together various DIY attempts to improve the general quality of life in Dublin. In this regard we are happy to welcome collectives such as The Garden of Delight or the HOPE collective on DARC FM. Anyone wishing to get involved, give advice, suggestions or contribute material is more than welcome to do so by contacting us at PO Box 3397. We're on the internet at: <http://darc4.home.ml.org/> Thanx for giving DARC a try,

Prunelle.

CATALYST ISSUE



LAUNCH PARTY

On the 28th November last, issue 3 of Catalyst was launched at a party in The Garden of Delight. It was a brilliant night and the place was packed until well into the wee hours. Thanks to the Garden for the venue. Thanks to Grogans (South William St.) for a lovely big box of wine. Thanks to the wild American poet who we managed to double book with who gave us a spirited rendition of his Poems of Too Many Years Spent in Underground Cultures Around the World. Thanks to the artists who performed - The posse of drummers, the band Obeadh, and the dj's Sonic, Colm PCP and Coilin and thanks to our photographer for the night - Aidan Walsh, Master of the Universe

See yiz at the next party.

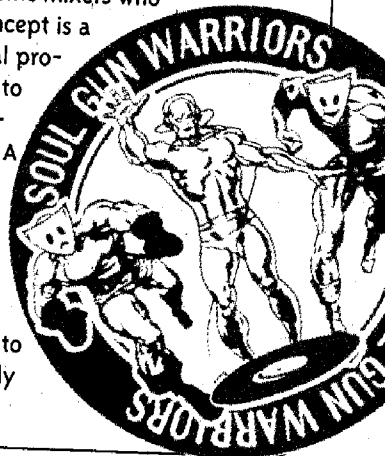
THE SOUL GUN WARRIORS PRESENT

"Escape Routes - Sound Effects"

'cos Sound Effects The Soul, on Wednesdays (starting 28th of May) at the Da Club, Clarendon St., Dublin

They pop up and do their vital blend of theatre, performance, spontaneity, wicked humour and serious sounds from the Decks every now and again at venues around town on a non regular basis too, check them out. The Soul Gun Warriors say "Welcome to Escape Routes, a series of excursions towards a fresh theatre for a fresh audience, (We have a space + in it we put people - you, us. DJ plays some records, + we start a conversation, many conversations...) free of the formality of the conventional theatre experience. We use the informality of the club space and it's invigorating musics as the set-

ting for new work. (We take this opportunity to thank the DJ who has shown us how to be active consumers, rescued us from corporate choice... Thank you to all the Medicine Mixers who have inspired us) The Escape Routes concept is a reconfiguration of theatre in an informal programme, creating a fresh style (We aim to scratch + mix our theatre, making something new + fresh + now, as the DJ does) A fresh repertoire, (inspired by comic strip, comedy, cut-up and B-Movie culture) A new set of Heros and Heroines. Escape Routes aims to demonstrate the immediacy and relevance of theatre to a modern non-theatre audience. (It's time to be the heroes of our own movie - The only revolution worth having is your own."



The Fusion Bar

(The bar formerly known as Barnstormers)
141 Townsend Street Dublin 2
Dublin's premier Rock Bar • Live Gigs •
pool tables early house
7am Monday to Saturday -
happy hour 5pm - 7pm
Sunday to Thursday

Fusion

• Alternative • Industrial •
• Techno • Indie • Ska •

Saturday
9 till late Adm £2 or £3

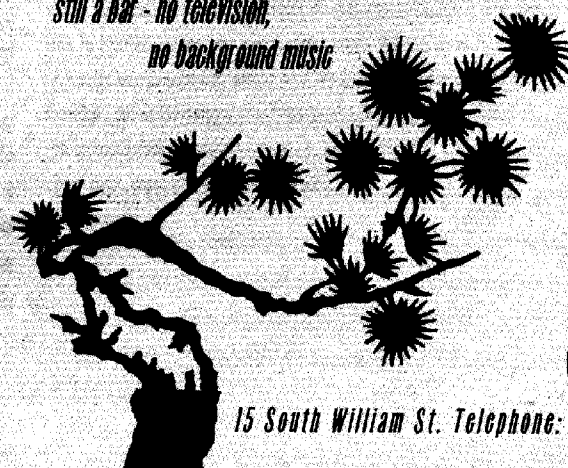
Pints £1.80 till midnight
The Thirteenth floor
34 O'Connell St.

The Castle Lounge

still a bar - no television,
no background music

GOOD CONVERSATION •

GOOD DRINKS



Grogans

15 South William St. Telephone: 6779320

Global communication controlled by nobody = *internet* *ideas = information = education = liberation*

Only 20% of the planet's population have access to telephones. A small percentage of these have access to the Internet. There is a disproportionate volume of independent information on the net compared with other media. The information you get off the net, what you do with it and how you then spend your money.... presents us with the opportunity to partake in shaping the ethics of the 21st century.

In there in the net, global communication between individuals is going on, millions of people scanning the pages searching, searching.... millions of them searching for like minded people who are fed up with war, unemployment, poisoned food, eco-disaster, ridiculous drug laws, defunct consumer democracy, media manipulation. Now is the time to check out the net and partake in "the incessant human struggle towards the light that shines in the

darkness - the Ideal of the economic, political and spiritual liberation of mankind." "TO GIVE OUT ABOUT COMPUTERS IS LIKE GIVING OUT ABOUT THE PLOUGH"

check
these
sites

INSTANT KARMA
Irish produced free Internet weekly:
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/9132>.

World news section (Serbia, Turkey, Mexico, Burma); music reviews; links to cool free sites, event reviews, marijuana legalisation debate. "Don't believe everything you see on T.V. or read in the papers. They don't cover

the many ways people are getting organised to make a better world. We do. Have you a story about an environment group, community group or just friends getting together? E-mail us at dublinkarma@geocities.com.

We also write about what politicians are really up to: the land deals which are ruining Dublin and destroying greenfields, the open corruption mostly ignored by the media, export of weapons from Ireland and lots more.."

SchNEWS - Wake up! Wake up! It's yer ravin' lunatic...

SchNEWS, published by Justice? Full of info on English free party scene, party and protest, eco direct action, hunt sabbers, updates on British Government actions to crush peaceful assembly and the right to party.

E-mail: schnews@brighton.co.uk

Website: <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/>

EARTH FIRST! ACTION UPDATE information on what companies in Europe and around the world are being targeted for direct action and spectacular displays of defiance in return for their mindless rape of the earth. It even has bits about Ireland now and again. Listings of anti roads protests in England. Info on similar magazines and sites e.g.

Shell update, Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, a Direct Action Tour of Germany, Corporate Watch and more.

E-Mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org.

Website:

<http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

GREENPEACE IRELAND information on all the environmental campaigns around Ireland. Catch up on the battle to save Greenpeace Ireland from extinction due to threatened withdrawal of Greenpeace International funding.

E-mail: greenpeace@iol.ie

Website: <http://www.greenpeace.org/-ireland>

LOW IMPACT - Linking globally, acting locally, co-operating for a sustainable world. A website created to bring together all information and debate toward implementing sustainable development in Ireland.

All contributions more than welcome.

E-Mail: flux@maths.may.ie

Website: <http://flux.maths.may.ie>

internet
exchange
net cafe

E-mail: cafe@intex.ie

www.intex.ie Ph: 475 8788

Rates: Non-mem: £1.50 per 15mins E-mail/Membership: £5 per month. 20

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Services/Scanner .Training from £60 (Professional

Software) Web Design and Hosting from £200, Private

events and Launches (full catering available) Monday -

Friday 10am - 10pm Saturday 12pm - 8pm

check these sites

Information available on alternative energy.

hemp, censorship in the western world, human rights abuses, multinational boycotts.

Website: <http://www.disinfo.com>

Website: <http://www.parascope>

The Tree Walkers featured elsewhere in the mag, also have a website (being as they are, a living paradox).

Website: <http://indigo.ie/adam/tree/index.htm>

"Autopsy for a Mathematical Hallucination"

Website:

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/rpkp/autopsy>

The RetroPsycho Kinesis Project

Website:

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/rpkp>

Breaking Borders

Festival in November. The dream to break all borders - age, race, sex, creed, class, national frontiers, borders of all kinds on the land and in the mind. A project to synchronistically celebrate the universality of life through art, dance, debate, communication and co-operation. Website: <http://www.contact.org>

The McLibel Trial

Two individuals in court against the might of the McDonalds corporation. It became the longest running, most expensive libel trial in UK history. The judgement is expected soon and it's not looking good for McDonalds and their slave wages, no unions, meat pushing, non-nutritious food, excessive packaging and rain forest destruction.

Website: <http://www.mcspotlight.org/>

The Shadow-Monthly anarchist paper from

New York. Well researched articles.

Website: <http://mediafilter.org/shadow>

Flux Conference on sustainability

On the 1st of March '97, a conference on sustainability was organised and hosted by Low Impact (a college society) at Maynooth University, Co.Kildare. Over two hundred people attended the day long event, which was addressed by invited speakers. Fr. Sean Mc Donagh spoke of the moral obligation of the church to accept humankind's intrinsic relationship with Mother Nature, particularly with regard to mono-culture and genetic engineering. John Seymour and Will Sutherland succinctly put across their call for common sense in acceptance of the laws of nature and of the need and opportunity to meet, network and get to know one another. Richard Douthwaite spoke of the need for local economies and local sustainability. Sadhbh O'Neill spoke of developments in Agenda 21 as articulated in her article in Catalyst. There were a scatter of stalls plying relevant wares and information. At the end of the addresses, all of which were complimented by the lively debates which followed them, the attendants dispersed into small groups to conduct



brain storming

sessions on

topics such as 'world-

view' and 'development'. The ideas from these open discussions were related back to the complete gathering. Chaired by Dick Warner, the day was a great success with much hope, connections and positivity being generated. We recommend checking out the Flux Website: <http://flux.maths.may.ie>

This site, maintained by Low Impact has been established as open space to which all relevant information on sustainability may be sent and compiled into an accessible library resource. The Flux Conference won first prize in the College's events awards and Low Impact were awarded the Best Society honour.



HEMP The Greatest Plant on Earth

Hemp can be used to make clothes, houses, food, medicine, paper, furniture and rope. So why don't we grow it? Let's look at some of the issues....

What is Hemp? Botanically, hemp is a member of the most advanced plant family on earth. It is a dioecious, ie. having male and female and hermaphroditic (male and female on the same plant) woody, herbaceous annual that uses the sun more efficiently than virtually any other plant, reaching a robust 12 to 14 feet or more in one short growing season. It can be grown in virtually any climate or soil conditions on Earth, even marginal ones.

But Isn't Hemp the Same As Marijuana the Cannabis plant?

Yes and no. "The Cannabis Hemp Plant" can be bred in one way to make paper, clothes etc, and bred in another way to make it good for smoking or as a medicine. The visual similarity between the different strains of the Cannabis Hemp Plant (Hemp and Marijuana) was used as an excuse by industrialists in the U.S. in the 1930's to have it made illegal so they could make things out of oil instead of hemp.

Marijuana - is grown and bred to maximise the flowers, buds and upper leaves which contain a group of chemicals called cannabinoids, of which the most psychoactive is Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). It is this concentration of THC which produces the effect of "being high" on Marijuana or on hashish which is made from the Marijuana plant. It is grown sparsely so that plants are bushier.

Hemp - is bred to maximise stalk fibre, it is sown tightly so that the plants compete for the light and shoot straight for the sun. All resources go to the stalk so only the top of the plant is leafy. There is a negligible THC content - you could smoke a field of it and not get "high."

History of Use of Hemp

- ★ The body of literature on the subject (archaeologists, anthropologists, philologists, economists, historians, etc) is in general agreement that, at the very least: From more than 1,000 B.C. until 1883 A.D., cannabis hemp - indeed, marijuana was our planet's largest agricultural crop and most important industry for thousands of products and enterprises; producing the majority of earth's fibre, fabric, lighting oil, paper, incense and medicines, as well as a primary source of essential food and protein for humans and animals.
- ★ The Declaration of Independence of the USA in 1776 was written on paper made from hemp.
- ★ Until the prohibition of Marijuana, all jeans were made from hemp.
- ★ 90% of all ships' sails from at least the 5th century B.C. to this one were made from hemp.
- ★ King Henry the eight and Queen Elizabeth I required all English farmers to grow hemp.
- ★ Benjamin Franklin started one of America's first paper mills with Cannabis Hemp. This allowed America to have a free colonial press without having to beg or justify paper and books from England.
- ★ In Virginia USA, during several periods of shortage from 1763 to 1767 farmers could be jailed for not growing it.
- ★ The US census of 1850 counted 8,327 hemp plantations, each a minimum of 2,000 acres.
- ★ In 1942, after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines cut off the supply of Manila (abaca) Hemp, the US government distributed 400,000 pounds of cannabis seeds to American farmers, who produced 42,000 tonnes of hemp fibre annually for the war effort until 1946. The Fibre was used to make shoes, uniforms, parachutes, tents, ropes etc.

Hemp - The Big Challenge To The World: Try to Prove Us Wrong.

In his book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes", Jack Herer issues this challenge to the world to try and prove him wrong: "If all fossil fuels and their derivatives, as well as the deforestation of trees for paper and agriculture, are banned from use in order to save the planet and reverse the greenhouse effect: Then there is only one known renewable natural resource able to provide the overall majority of our paper, textiles and food, meet all the world's transportation, home and industrial energy needs, reduce pollution, rebuild the soil and clean the atmosphere, all at the same time, our old stand-by that did it all before, Cannabis Hemp."

When Herer put the facts and the above challenge to Steve Rawlings, the highest ranking officer in the U.S. Department of Agriculture who was in charge of reversing the Greenhouse Effect, at the USDA world research facility, in 1989 - Rawlings response was "You know, I think you're right. Hemp could be the plant that could do it. Wow! That's a great idea." Herer added that hemp could be used to make everything from dynamite to plastics and that 1 acre of it would replace 4.1 acres of tress. However, Mr Rawlings then said, "It's a wonderful idea, and I think it might work. But of course, you can't use it." "You're kidding. Why not?" "It's illegal. You cannot use something illegal... No, not even to save the world."

Hemp V's Sitka Spruce Trees for Ireland

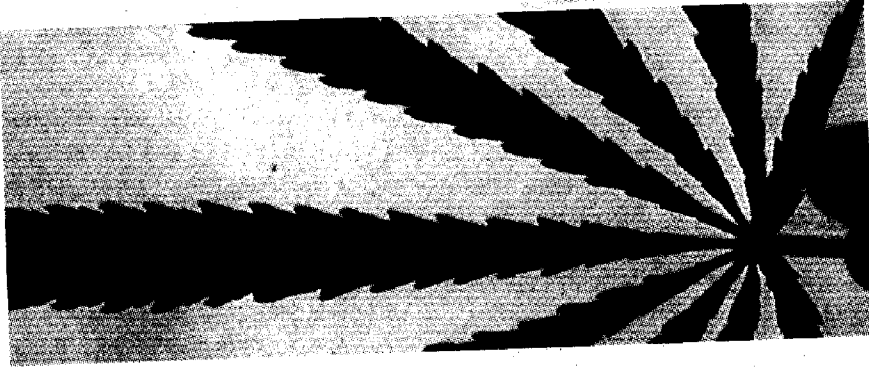
All over Ireland one sees plantations of Sitka Spruce trees, the one that looks like a christmas tree. This tree is killing our country.

Because of the high acidity levels collected in the needles, the range of plant life is not as diverse as in broadleaf forests, while the variety of wildlife is

diminished. The fish population is dead or dying in the rivers and streams close to Sitka Spruce plantations because of the high acidity levels in the run off from them.

Sitka Spruce is ready for harvesting 20 to 25 years after planting. After the third harvest, it takes up to 200 years for

the land to return to it's original state. HEMP can be harvested three times a year and the land can be immediately returned to use for grassland or arable crops.



And Now, the amazing facts of how and why the Cannabis Hemp Plant became illegal

Since 1937, about half the forests of the world have been cut down. If Hemp had not been outlawed, most would still be standing, oxygenating the planet. In 1937 the U.S. government placed a prohibitive tax on the hemp plant, effectively making it illegal. Up until 1937, dynamite and the simple plastics (celluloid, acetate and rayon) were made out of hemp. This was done by nitrating the cellulose fiber of the stalk. 80% of the hemp stalks weight is in the 77% cellulose hurd. The highly respected "Popular Mechanics" reported in 1938 — "Thousands of tons of hemp hurd are used every year by one large powder company for the manufacture of dynamite and TNT."

The company was DuPont and in the 1st World War they provided 40% of the munitions for the Allies. In the mid to late 30's the company patented the process of making plastic and synthetic fiber out of oil and coal. Despite the invention in 1937 of a state-of-the-art mechanical hemp fiber stripping machine and a machine to conserve hemp's high-cellulose pulp which would mean much cheaper faster hemp production, the company's 1937 annual report urged continued investment in it's petro-

chemical products and told shareholders it was anticipating "radical changes" from "the revenue raising power of government... converted into an instrument for forcing acceptance of sudden new ideas of industrial and social reorganization."

The DuPont company from 1928 to today only used two banks. One of these banks in 1937, the Mellon Bank of Pittsburg, was the sixth largest in the U.S. It's owner and largest shareholder was Andrew Mellon who in 1931 became the Secretary of the Treasury to President Herbert Hoover. In 1931, Mellon appointed Harry J. Anslinger, his future nephew-in-law as chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (FBND), a post he held until President Kennedy fired him. The FBND has since evolved into the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). (The DEA remember, as reported by the Sunday Business Post and referred to by the Sunday Tribune, were the ones who approached Gardai and facilitated them in the importing of a 40 foot trailer of Hashish into Ireland in 1995, which they then drove from Cork to Urlingford where it was "discovered" in a high profile "sting operation".)

Anslinger's job was to convince politicians and the public of the urgent need to illegalise the evil marijuana. Virtually no one in America other than a handful of rich industrialists knew that their chief potential competitor, hemp, was to be outlawed under the name marijuana. Companies involved in oil, chemicals and paper stood to gain the most by hemp's illegalisation. One among them was William Randolph Hearst. In 1937 he owned the majority of U.S. newspapers and had an enormous timber business. The last thing he needed was a cheaper, more environmentally friendly substitute for his trees. His newspapers carried hysterical stories about the evil marijuana — Hearst took the obscure Mexican slang word "marijuana", ignored the word "hemp" and the scientific term "cannabis" and referred to "Marijuana — The Mexican Killer Weed" — it was he who put the word into popular use. Hearst was an insidious racist, his headlines screamed of the "lazy pot-smoking Mexican" and portrayed Negroes and Mexicans as frenzied beasts under the influence of marijuana, who played anti-white "voodoo satanic" music (Jazz) and who heaped disrespect and "viciousness" onto the white readership.

In the U.S. congress, Anslinger was the chief witness during the debate to place the prohibitive tax on "marijuana". The majority of his factual evidence consisted of stories from Hearst's newspapers. The American Medical Association representative was shocked at what was happening and realised just "two days before" the congressional hearing, that the plant they intended to outlaw was in fact one and the same as the medically known cannabis — the benign substance used in scores of illness for over 100 years in America, with perfect safety.

Shan Clark, in "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" says — "The Standard fiber of world history, America's traditional crop, hemp, could provide our textiles, paper and be the premier source for cellulose. The war industries — DuPont, Allied Chemical, Monsanto, etc., are protected from competition by the marijuana laws. They make war on the natural cycle and the common farmer."

Medical Uses Of Hemp

Last November the U.S. states of California and Arizona voted to legalise the use of the high THC content strain of the Cannabis Hemp Plant ie. Marijuana, for use by people who could benefit medically from it's use. "Marijuana is one of the safest therapeutically active substances

known to man", said the DEA's administrative law judge, Francis Young, in 1988 after taking medical testimony for 15 days. Various medical bodies in the U.K. have called for it's legalisation for medical use as has the highly respected "Lancet" magazine.

★ **Cholesterol.** Hemp seed oil has the highest concentration of essential fatty acids of any plant. It is especially high in Omega 3 and 6, which unclog arteries and dramatically lower cholesterol levels.

★ **Asthma.** 80% of asthma sufferers could gain benefit from smoking marijuana. "Taking a hit of marijuana has been known to stop a full blown asthma attack" — Dr. Donald Tashkin.

★ **Glaucoma.** Cannabis smoking would benefit 90% of the victims of glaucoma. It is two to three times as effective as any current medicines for reducing ocular pressure. Cannabis has no toxic side effects to the liver and kidneys, nor is there any danger of the occasional death syndromes associated with the legal pharmaceutical glaucoma drugs/drops.

★ **Tumors.** The Medical College of Virginia discovered that cannabis is an incredibly successful herb for reducing many types of tumors, both benign and malignant (cancerous). An apparent medical breakthrough occurred in 1975 and successful tumor reductions were recorded, orders were handed down by the DEA and the National Institute of Health to defund all further cannabis/tumor research and reporting.

★ **Chemotherapy and Aids.** "Marijuana is the best agent for control of nausea in cancer chemotherapy," according to Dr.

Although Hemp does assist in the treatment of these conditions it is not necessarily the only or the best treatment

As Herer says in his book, "We don't put our doctors in charge of stopping violent crimes. The police and prosecutors should not be in charge of which herbal therapies people may use to treat their personal health problems". If you find it hard to believe that the government, the mainstream media and the large

Thomas Ungerleider, who headed California's Marijuana for Cancer research programme from 1979 to 1984. This is also true in AIDS and even in the unsettled stomach common in motion sickness.

★ **Epilepsy.** "Marijuana.. is probably the most potent anti-epileptic known to medicine today," reported the Medical World News in 1971. 60% of all epileptics could benefit as a cannabis users' epileptic seizures are of less intensity than the more dangerous seizures experienced by users of pharmaceuticals.

★ **Multiple Sclerosis.** Smoking cannabis has proven to be a major source of relief for multiple sclerosis victims who can carry on relatively normal lives while using it.

★ **Stress.** Cannabis lowers blood pressure, dilates the arteries and reduces body temperature by an average of half a degree, thereby relieving stress. Unlike Valium, cannabis does not potentiate the effects of alcohol. It is estimated that cannabis could replace more than 50% of Valium, Librium, Thorazine, Stelazine, other "-zine" drugs and most sleeping pills.

★ **Other Uses.** Cannabis has also been shown to be beneficial for back pain, muscle spasms, to reduce saliva, increase appetite and cure herpes. Also used in the treatment of HIV/Aids patients - stimulates hunger, slows immune system decrease.

companies suppress this information, another example of the in-human levels these groups can reach in order to make patented medicines check out issue two of **Catalyst** for a report on Essiac — the herbal remedy which has been known to cure cancer, arthritis and ulcers, relieve pain from a variety of illnesses and boost the immune system.

SOURCES & FURTHER INFORMATION

"The Great Book of Hemp — The Complete Guide to the Environmental, Commercial, and Medical Uses of the World's Most Extraordinary Plant", by Rowan Robinson, published by Park Street Press, Rochester, Vermont, U.S.A.

"The Emperor Wears No Clothes — The Authoritative Historical Record of the Cannabis Plant, Marijuana Prohibition, & How Hemp can still Save the World", by Jack Herer, published by Green Planet Company, Planet Friendly Products, P.O. Box 35, Wallsend, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K.

"Forbidden Medicin" by Lester Grinspoon

These and other sources of info. available from Garden of Delight, 3 Castle St., Dublin 2. Ph: 01 475 1233

Hemp — Who's Growing in Ireland?

Is There a Market? Where To Get A Licence, There's Even Grants Available.

Research scientists at Teagasc, in Oakpark, Co. Carlow have been growing a low THC version of the world's favourite plant — The Cannabis Hemp Plant, for the past few years to research a number of lucrative uses.

Because the cannabis plant grows very fast it creates a large biomass which can be burned to create electricity. The ESB are planning a demo energy unit in the midlands, where they will burn various waste matter. Yes, ecofriendly electricity from the hemp plant is a possibility here in Ireland.

Jim Crowley at Teagasc told Catalyst, "We are burning a very good product." He points to its excellent paper making potential — it generates four times as much paper as a compara-

ble area of forest: "There's a lot of work going on in Sweden, they're interested in using it to replace wood in the pulp-ing process. It can also be chopped up and used as horse bedding — it remains dry and can be easily shoveled."

It's toughness makes it a successful building material: "Medite in Clonmel are buying balls of hemp from us for a test run. They're interested in using it to strengthen their plywood products while reducing weight. It can also be used for composting to replace peat products," says Crowley.

So far there's very little hemp business in Ireland, although a hemp shop was open in Galway during the Christmas season and did very well selling clothes. Someone in Clare is importing hemp from Eastern Europe to make clothes.

RTE Radio from Cork did an interesting programme a few months ago, where it was discovered that paper money and teabags are made out of hemp.

The hemp produced at Teagasc contains only 0.3 percent THC, which is impossible to get high on - marijuana contains 5 to 12 percent THC. Despite this, Teagasc were tipped off about a possible raid on the plantation. Unscrupulous dealers would attempt to pass off the hemp as smoking quality marijuana.

Planting is in Mid to late April. "We'd like to plant earlier, but we need to avoid the frost, which you can get as late as May," says Crowley. They sow about 500/600 plants per square metre, and the low THC seed costs about £50/60 per acre. England has at least one successful, large scale producer of hemp, Hempcore. They have 2 to 3,000 acres. They got into the market through horse bedding, where much of the hemp ends up. They also sell it for paper to the ciga-

rette companies who use it to make the paper for regular tobacco cigarettes. The French hemp industry is also well established. Cannabis cultivation in Ireland is covered by the Misuse of Drugs Acts, 1977 and 1984. It's worth noting that it's legal to have seeds (available from many petshops) and that the stem of the plant is also legal. The Department of Health are the ones who issue licences to grow hemp. They look for, among other things, a signed up end user, and they are pretty strict about how the product is disposed of. Word is that they like the farm sites to be away from main roads and busy areas.

Hemp Licence application to:
Ms. Elizabeth Roche,
Department of Health, Drugs Section,
Community Health Division,
Hawkins House, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 6714711.

Don't forget there are now grants available to grow hemp, ask the Department.

Hemp Products

Recycled paper and Hemp paper available from **Klee Papers, 89 North Circular Rd., Dublin 7.**

Ph: 01 8383544

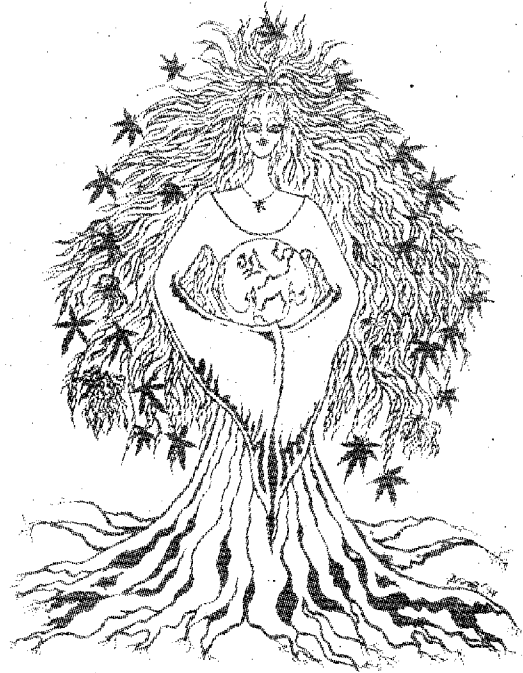
Other hemp suppliers: Phone Steve on 087 481202 for info on where to get products in Ireland. In the UK phone:

Hempcore 00 44 1373 820 066.

Future Fibers 00 44 1816 690 713.

Environmentally Sound Paper 00 44 1865 711 711.

Tree Free Paper 00 44 1297 443 082.



Teagasc Scientists look to Biofuels

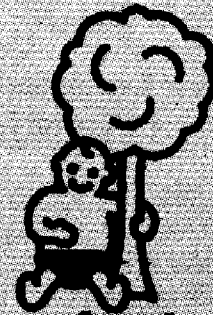
Teagasc scientists are looking into various biofuels - biodiesel and ethanol (basically alcohol) as a petrol substitute. There is a possibility that biodiesel production could start soon, selling to government agencies like the OPW. Cork County Council currently have vehicles on the road which are powered by biofuels.

Biofuels are a renewable resource, fossil fuels aren't. Biofuels emit much less pollution - car pollution is responsible for most air pollution.

Switching cars to run on alcohol and plant oil would be relatively cheap and would massively cut down on pollution. Fossil fuels can be diluted with 10 to 15% biofuels and used in existing cars. Some diesel engines can run on pure biodiesel, others can be modified. Petrol engines need to be modified at a factory to run on pure alcohol.

Henry Ford preferred to run his early cars on ethanol, but was won over by the then cheaper fossil fuels. In Western Canada, Mohawk Oil has grown rapidly by aggressively marketing its environmentally friendly fuels, calling itself "Mother Nature's Gas Station."

Call Bernard Rice at Teagasc 0503-70200, if you're interested in buying biodiesel for your vehicle.



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Glending forest and the Ring Fort

LOCALS BATTLE TO SAVE

Glending forest near Blessington in west County Wicklow is a beautiful mixed woodland habitat for deer, rabbits, invaluable resource - a place for forest strollers, nature lovers, orienteering and jogging. Beside the wood there is a

Roadstone Dublin Ltd. (a subsidiary company of Cement Roadstone Holdings) have a sand and gravel quarry beside Glending which has eaten its way into the forest and continues to threaten it. One local councillor said the quarrying was "turning a major local amenity into what resembles Brazilian rain-forest destruction." The Department of Energy sold a large portion of the forest to Roadstone. Blessington Heritage Trust and the Blessington and District Community Council have been actively campaigning for years to save the forest.

The Sale of the Land

In 1990, the Department of Energy owned the land and forest consisting of 182 acres. 35 acres, which includes the ring fort are now in the hands of the Office of Public Works (OPW). In 1990 the Dept. of Energy decided to sell the remaining 147 acres with its large reserves of sand and gravel. An

independent consultant was hired by the Dept. to advise on the disposal of the site and in April 1990 they suggested that tenders be sought. The consultants were Kieran O' Malley & Co., a consultant regularly used by CRH. No advertisements or requests for tenders were made when the Dept. was informed of a bid by Roadstone to purchase the site. The land was sold in 1992 to Roadstone Dublin Ltd. for £1.25 million (£1m. for the land, £250,000 for the trees).

Liam Kavanagh T.D. (Lab., Wicklow) in a Dail Question recently asked the minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Ivan Yates, to explain how Roadstone were sold the land given that it had not been put to public tender and also wanted to know if the Department was aware of other bids. In his response Minister Yates stated, "In April 1990 the independent consultants suggested that the Dept. of Energy might be best advised to invite offers by tender for the sale of the land. However following an offer for the property by the first com-

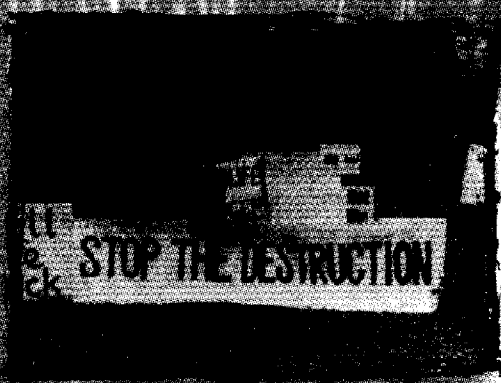
pany mentioned by the Deputy (Roadstone) the Consultants subsequently advised in October 1990 that it would be most unlikely that any other party would be able to match an offer from that company and strongly recommended that the sale to that company be pursued". He finished by saying, "the then Minister (for Energy, Bobby Molloy P.D. Galway West) was satisfied that the State received a fair price for the sale of the property." The chairman of CRH at the time was Des Traynor, the man mentioned recently in the Dunnes Tribunal as having approached certain individuals looking for money on behalf of C.I. — Make your own mind up!

Archeological Remains

Frank Corcoran, chairman of the Blessington Heritage Trust said, "even if the ring fort is not touched, it would be left isolated on an artificial peak in the middle of a worked out quarry with its original setting completely destroyed."



Part of the 67,000 tonne illegal quarry eating into the forest



The locals have spoken

The Company Record on Site

- ★ In 1993 Roadstone quarried 67,000 tonnes of sand and gravel without planning permission, in an Amenity/Forestry land zone and had not completed an Environmental Impact Study. Roadstone Dublin Ltd. was taken to court by the Wicklow County Council and the company made an undertaking to cease unauthorised development.
 - ★ In 1970 Roadstone received quarrying planning permission for an adjacent piece of land with three conditions. They are still not in compliance with two of these: To plant 10,000 trees on the north western boundary and to retain a 70 yard boundary of trees to the south east, facing the town.
 - ★ The OPW has confirmed that to date, two listed archeological sites have been destroyed by quarrying on Roadstone land in the area of Blessington. (Yet the OPW made no objection to the sale of the land to the company.)
- D**espite the company's record in the area and the 1,400 objections submitted by locals, Wicklow County Council in July 94 went ahead and voted to change the zoning for the area in question from "amenity/forestry" to "quarrying".

GLENDING FOREST

feral goats, squirrels, kestrels and goldcrests. For the people of Blessington and Naas and the surrounding area it is an ring fort built at least 2,500 years ago, where bronze age artifacts have recently been unearthed by archeologists.

In an archeological report commissioned by the Blessington Heritage Trust (BHT) on the Glending Ridge, expert Eoin Grogan said, "It is possible that further archeological remains occur on the ridge top. A more thorough investigation on the ridge would seem advisable, particularly as undated earthworks do survive."

As well as the ring fort now in the hands of the O.P.W., he pointed to a 12th century Viking Defensive Site which gives a panoramic view over the surrounding countryside and overlooks an ancient cross roads; the North-South Slighe Cualann and the West-East Road from Celtic Leinster to Wicklow harbour. Quarrying would destroy both the Defensive Site and the wonderful views enjoyed. Mr. Grogan also made note of the 2 to 3,000 year old man made ridge in the woods.

The Viking Defensive site is located in a deerpark in the forest, which was created under royal licence from King

Charles the Second in 1669 by Archbishop Boyle, the founder of Blessington. The pre-1700 boundary wall which surrounds the deerpark, part of which has been destroyed, has yet to have a preservation order on it.

The Battle Continues

The people living in the Naas-Blessington area are determined to keep their Glending wood and have had many demonstrations and petition signings over the past few years. In 1995 they held the Blessington Heritage Festival to raise the consciousness of the importance of Glending as an amenity. The festival was attended by Riverdancers Annuna, Kevin Conife of the Chieftains, Ronan Brown (uilleann piper), Cruachan and Prayerboat.

On January 8th this year Roadstone applied for planning permission to quarry their land in Glending forest. They were informed by the planning authority that a large portion of their existing quarry

adjacent to the site has no planning permission and that they must apply for permission of retention of illegal quarrying. The deadline for this application was April 25th. No application was made.

However, given that the County Council appear to be bending over backwards to satisfy the financial concerns of Roadstone, i.e. no court proceedings against illegal development and snap changes in land zoning against local wishes, there is no guarantee whatsoever that the council won't hand Roadstone planning permission and tree felling licences prior to the acceptance of retention of illegal quarrying.

If you would like to be kept informed of the campaign to save the forest, contact:
Frank Corcoran,
Chairman of Blessington Trust.
Contact phone:
(01) 4023000-ext. 3866

TOXIC WASTE

i n c i n e r a t i o n

Toxic waste incineration in Clare

By Iva Pocock of Clare Alliance Against Incineration.

A week before Christmas, last year, permission was granted to Roche Ireland (formerly Syntex) to burn toxic waste at their factory in the small town of Clarecastle, a few miles from Ennis. The licensing authority, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave the go ahead for the incinerator, after local people had campaigned for over 18 months for the plan to be dropped.

Roche Ireland manufacture anti-arthritis drugs but in so doing use highly toxic chemicals and create toxic waste. Many of these chemicals are carcinogenic, and some have been recently identified as hormone disruptors. For nearly 20 years, Roche have been allowed to operate in Clarecastle, with no limits set on what they released into the air and into the Fergus River, a tributary of the

Shannon. In 1992 when the EPA was set up, there was hope that the state was going to protect the environment. Clare Alliance Against Incineration (CAAI) campaigned to stop Roche from building their incinerator, illustrating clearly that communities must continue their fight for the environment despite the existence of a Statutory Body whose job it is to protect the environment. CAAI, supported by Greenpeace, followed every official means of objecting to Roche's incinerator. They objected to the local Planning Authority, Clare County Council, but because of the absurd nature of the system the County Council were not allowed consider any of the potential environmental impacts of the incinerator in making their decision on whether to grant planning permission or not.

EPA Act

The separation of the environment from the planning process only came about in 1992 with the passing of the EPA act. To divide and pigeonhole the responsibilities involved in protecting the environment thus, is a retrogressive step, as it negates an holistic consideration of the environment. Another major weakness of the EPA Act is that no thorough system exists for considering the effects of proposals such as the Roche incinerator on human health.

Oral hearing sham

The CAAI made submissions and paid £100 to detail their objections to the EPA and at the same time requested an oral hearing. When an oral hearing was granted they were delighted. Here at last was some hope of stopping the incinerator. In reality, the hearing was a sham. Despite the complexity of the evidence being presented, ranging from foetal toxicology to clean production, the hearing was overseen by a single man (an engineer) with a pile of A4 pads and a pen. He was to chair the hearing, listen, absorb and understand the evidence, take notes on it (no electronic recording was allowed) and then go off and write a

report, drawing on his engineering background. Disheartened by the inadequacy of the hearing, the community battled on, with the support of Greenpeace, the Clare Green Party, Cork Environmental Alliance, Askeaton Animal Health Group, and a host of expert witnesses from the UK, USA and Belgium and Canada. According to Dr Vivien Howard, who was amongst CAAI's witnesses, **incineration is not a method of destroying toxic waste, but simply a method of changing the chemical nature of the waste and then dispersing it into the environment.**

Of the five thousand chemicals estimated in the gasses emitted from incinerators, the toxicology of only a few is known. Those that are known include Dioxins, perhaps the most toxic group of chemicals ever produced by humans. They are linked to a range of cancers, developmental problems, disruption of the immune system, and most recently they have been shown to be hormone disruption. They are fat soluble, and thus bioaccumulate and biomagnify in the food chain. What is perhaps most worrying about Dioxins is that they seem to exert negative effects even at the most infinitesimally low levels.

The EPA chose to deny every piece of evidence put before them by the CAAI, Greenpeace and the Clare Greens. Chairperson Kieran O'Brien said in his report that he did "not consider that new evidence of the toxicity of dioxins has been presented....that would justify serious concerns regarding the emissions of dioxins as provided for" in the EPA licence. It seems that Mr O'Brien was paying more attention to Prof C. Rappe, the expert witness for Roche. Incidentally, Prof Rappe recently completed research for the EPA on Dioxin levels in Ireland. He flew all the way over from Sweden in order to hand out copies of his four page CV. Unfortunately, his written evidence as submitted, was hardly longer than a CV and only contained a couple of references. It seems the people of Clare are not worthy of the same academic rigour that Prof Rappe would presumably employ when consulting to international institutes, such as the World Health Organisation. So the EPA went for the easy option. They did not insist that Roche do a thorough audit of every toxic chemical that comes into its Clarecastle factory, what quantities of it goes into their products, and what amounts end up in the air, soil and water. Such an audit is an essential precursor to responsible waste management. They did not insist that Roche immediately set targets for ending the use of their most dangerous chemicals. They did not insist that Roche take up an offer by Ecologic, a pioneering waste disposal company, to test a sample of

their waste. A true indictment of both Roche and the EPA is that a local member of the public was the one who contacted this company and who received the offer of testing Roche's waste. Instead the EPA sanctioned Roche to spend £12 million on an incinerator, which although it may reduce air emissions, will emit unknown and toxic chemicals into the air, will greatly increase amount of contaminated water being discharged into the Fergus estuary and will produce toxic ash. The incentive to detoxify their manufacturing process is removed for another while, as the incinerator can now "solve" the problem of toxic waste. I consider that this oral hearing showed clearly that the EPA is little more than an Industrial Protection Agency. At present, toxic waste incineration, is legal and the EPA seems determined to ignore new evidence about the dangers of Dioxins. Given that there are thousands of other chemicals produced by incinerators, the dangers of which have never been tested, licensing of incinerators is also a blatant denial of the precautionary principle — If you don't know what these chemicals do,

don't make them. So with a planning process that will not consider the environment nor human health, and an EPA that conducts sham oral hearings, is there hope

for environmental justice in Ireland? I believe there is because in many places, people like those in the CAAI are saying NO and will continue to say
NO TO TOXIC WASTE

And from Earth First! Action Update

(Jan '97): IRISH DIGEST

When he heard the news, he got paint and cloth out and composed the banner. The message done he got in his car and drove into Limerick city and onto the Ennis Road in County Clare. Less than an hour after leaving his farm in East Limerick the man, whose herd of cows had been killed by toxic pollution, was stood outside the gates of Syntex's chemical factory in Clarecastle with a banner letting everyone who cared to know what he thought about the Irish Environmental Protection Agency. "How can you licence these people

when you don't even know what killed my cattle?" "I was overwhelmed", said one person who has been fighting Syntex's plans to build a toxic waste incinerator for the best part of a year, "that a sixty year old man whose livelihood had been destroyed can do something like this. We got up there to join him along with a rake of children". That morning the EPA had turned down the community's appeal against the incinerator, effectively dismissing their fears about the health effects from toxic pollution. "We're being poisoned and the state doesn't care".

Limerick Dump on Sacred Site

Limerick Co Council are planning a major landfill dump near Glenstal Abbey, and locals and monks are not too happy.

It is to be sited on Sliabh Phelim, an ancient religious site and it will leak leachate into the River Mulkerre, a fine salmon river and a potential drinking water source for Limerick City.

Brother Anthony is at the forefront of the campaign. He is bitterly critical of the role of the "environmental experts" in the case, MC O'Sullivan, who provided the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). "They tell lies," he says bluntly. One example is when they were making a presentation on the site, a key piece of information was deliberately distorted. It was a map of water sources (aquifers), and the status of the dump

location was changed from "an area of extreme vulnerability" to "an area of low vulnerability."

When the Brother pointed this mistake out to the company principal, BP O'Halloran; "He said nothing in reply, he just blushed and scowled and said absolutely nothing. "O'Halloran is on record as saying: "I would not employ a hydrogeologist unless I was sure that they would give me the right answer."

The dump location is currently owned by Coillte, the state forestry company which recently held "National Tree Week". Coillte plan to sell the land to the County Council. Brother Anthony points out that Coillte are in breach of their legal obligation to have "due regard for the environmental and

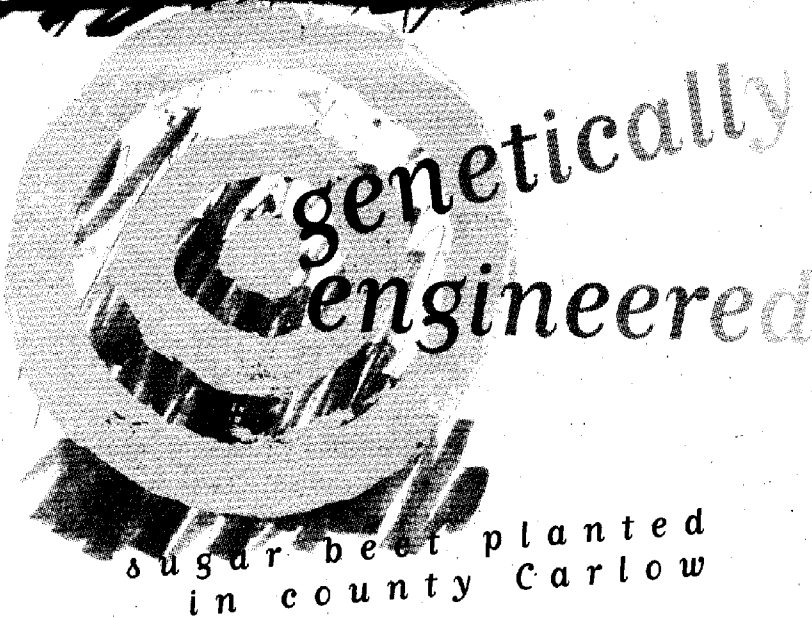
amenity consequences" of their activities. (1988 Forestry Act, Section 13, subsection 1).

Local FF politicians are verbally opposing the plan. FG politicians are more wary: their supporters are concentrated in the Limerick suburbs, who are glad the dump won't be in their area.

The protestors plan to hold a Tribunal of Inquiry, in advance of the pollution disaster that is the dump. "We're inviting the Ministers for Health and Agriculture to attend or to be legally represented, or be impersonated by an actor. We're still working on it," says Brother Anthony.

For more information contact :

Brother Antony Ph: 061 - 386103



SUGAR WITH A HEALTH WARNING? - "This sugar was made using genetically modified sugar beet. The long term effects of eating this are unknown, but it may contain allergens and toxins not found naturally in sugar."

In January, due to U.S. pressure, the European Parliament decided to allow Genetically Engineered (G.E.) food to be sold without labelling. The only way to know if your food has G.E. ingredients is to ask the European Commission if it's on their register. Now Monsanto plc. have been granted a licence to plant G.E. sugar beet in Ireland.

Genetic engineering involves the transfer of hereditary material (DNA or RNA) from one or more organisms to another organism, in a way which cannot be achieved by natural methods of mating or cross-breeding. Proponents of genetic engineering argue that this is merely a continuation of work done by humans for thousands of years to improve crops and livestock, by crossing for example, similar plants and replanting the seeds of the best offspring. But the technology of recombinant DNA allows humans to cross the lines nature draws. The new science allows people to introduce genetic material from a cat into a dog to get a hybrid, or human genes into pigs, animal cells into plants and resistant genes into non-resistant genes. Genes from a fish have been spliced to the DNA of a tomato to produce a new tomato with delayed ripening. **The proposed G.E. sugar beet crop for Ireland has been doctored with genes from a bacteria, a virus and a flower, rendering it immune to Monsanto's own herbicide, Roundup.**

No-one can accurately predict the outcome of this genetic tampering. Genetic structures have evolved over many millenia, the repercussions of suddenly altering these cannot be predicted. 37 people died and 1,500 were disabled in the U.S. in 1989 as a result of consuming a genetically modified health food, Tryptophan, which contained a previously unknown toxin.

Monsanto plc. has developed a genetically engineered soya bean also tolerant to Roundup. Soya is contained in 60% of all processed food. They don't have to tell you if their "Roundup Ready Soya" is present or not. On 29 November last, following an investigation by the Consumer Frauds and Environmental Protection Bureaus, the New York State Attorney General forced Monsanto to withdraw T.V. advertising which claimed that Roundup is "safer than table salt" and "practically non-toxic". The ads stated that Roundup biodegraded "soon after application." The N.Y. Attorney General said: "Claims that pesticides are as safe or safer than table salt are misleading - period." Similar versions of this advertisement have been shown recently on RTE.

Legal challenge to Genetic Sugar Beet Trials

On Tuesday May 13 1997, Judge Michael Moriarty in the High Court granted an interim injunction to Ms. Clare Watson, a founder member of Genetic Concern!, preventing the Monsanto multi-national chemical company from planting genetically engineered sugar beet in Carlow. The injunction has been granted pending a judicial review of the EPA's decision to grant Monsanto a licence for Ireland's first ever field test of genetically engineered plants.

The EPA's decision has received much criticism both from the public, and from political parties, including Fianna Fail, Progressive Democrats, the Green Party and the Natural Law Party. "Most Irish people have no idea what genetic engineering is, much less know that the government are allowing multinational companies perform experiments here" said Quentin Gargan, spokesperson for Genetic Concern!. "This whole issue has been sprung upon Irish citizens with no opportunity for public discussion, and a point blank refusal by the Government to allow a Dail debate. The public had only three weeks in which to inform themselves of the risks involved and to make submissions to the EPA. We have to learn from our experience with BSE that science is entitled to change the safety status of any process as new information comes to hand." The injunction has since been lifted and the judicial review is expected in late July. Genetically Engineered Sugar Beet was planted in Carlow within 10 minutes of the Courts decision to lift the injunction.

One individual in the Irish horticultural profession I spoke with had this to say about Roundup: "There were two of us working downwind from the orchard where Roundup was being sprayed to kill weeds, for the following few days we both had flu like symptoms. It was the only time that just two of the 60 people working got a flu and it didn't spread. I do believe it was Roundup poisoning and not the flu."

Monsanto also make genetically-engineered-herbicide-resistant oilseed rape/canola, corn, cotton, potato and sugar beet. One of the biggest fears of genetically engineered crops is that mutated genetic material may escape into other plants. Once released into the environment, these stray genes are impossible to recall. Research in Denmark saw that genetically engineered resistance to a herbicide in oil-seed rape was transferred to weeds which then passed it on to the next generation. While German trials of a G.E. sugar beet crop similar to the one Monsanto intend to plant here found that the new genetic material spread to weeds easily. Austria has banned all releases of G.E. organisms.

Monsanto applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 16 December '96 for permission to conduct planting trials in counties Cork, Kilkenny and Carlow. From the company's point of view it provides farmers with effective weed control, as the entire genetically engineered sugar beet crop is tolerant to having Roundup sprayed on it. Monsanto's patent on Roundup is going to run out in a few years, putting the company under considerable economic pressure to step up production.

In mid April Monsanto withdrew their application for field trials in Cork and Kilkenny. Tom McLoughlin of the EPA confirmed that the applications were withdrawn and refused to comment on whether it was the concerns of locals in the trial growing areas that forced their decision. He did say that Monsanto wanted to keep the names of the farmers and the growing sites secret. Such secrecy is unacceptable under EPA guidelines. On May 1st the EPA granted a licence to Monsanto to grow the genetically engineered sugar beet at Oakpark, the Teagasc research farm in Co. Carlow.

A pressure group called Genetic Concern! has formed to highlight the issues involved with genetically engineered food. They have had a number of public protests in Dublin in recent months. At one demonstration, a large banner was draped across the railway bridge at the Customs House saying: "You said these were safe! - Chernobyl, DDT's, Dioxins." Two of the group were arrested for trespass and had to pay £30 each to the poorbox.

The group say that "The first purposeful release of genetically modified organisms into the environment cannot be made until there has been a thorough debate on the ethics, safety and usefulness of this technology. To date there has been no such debate."

On April 22 Genetic Concern! delivered a letter to the Minister for the Environment and held a demonstration outside the Dail where "Sucker", the 3m high Roundup-swinging Sugar Beet and numerous giant green leaves with skulls heads were in attendance. The letter to the minister called for a task force initiative to be established between the Dept. of the Environment, the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Dept. of Health to examine the ethical and environmental effects of Genetically Modified Organisms. Monsanto have cited protection of the farmers anonymity and what they saw as a threat of the sites being interfered with, as reasons for their application withdrawal. Quentin Gargan of Genetic Concern! said at the demonstration on the 22nd that they knew the names of the farmers involved and the location of the test sites and that the most likely reason for Monsanto's

withdrawal was the rising concerns of the locals in the areas which would have been affected. The Cork Environmental Alliance is also opposed to the planting trials. A spokesman said that "Food producers, retailers and consumers must call on the Government for a moratorium on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms in advance of any decision of the Environmental Protection Agency."

Sugar is in almost all foods, this issue affects us all. Changing the gene structure of our food is of monumental importance to us and future generations. Do we want to eat this food? Are we satisfied that using extra herbicides is the best way forward for agriculture? What do we do with superweeds? Can we afford to leave it up to the EPA to decide whether or not it is good to grow man made genetically engineered sugar beet in this country? This will be the first time such crops have been considered for planting in Ireland. Is it too much to demand a full open public debate on the issue and demand that we be told whether our food is genetically engineered or not? I don't think so.

Voice your concerns to:

- Minister for Environment
- Minister for Agriculture
- Minister for Health
- Dail Eireann, Kildare St., Dublin 2.*
- The Environmental Protection Agency** H.Q., Ard Cavan, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Tel. 053-47120
- E.P.A.** St. Martin's Hse., Waterloo Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6674474
- For more info on genetic engineering and Monsanto plc.'s g.e. sugar beet plans contact:
- Genetic Concern!**, 95 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Ph.- 01-6262315.
- Cork Environmental Alliance**, 34 Princes St., Cork. Tel.021- 272277 Fax- 021 274525

Genetic Concern! is supported by: An Taisce, C.E.A., CRANN, Dublin Food Co-op, Earthwatch, Green Party, Greenpeace Ireland, Irish Assoc. of Health Stores, Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association, Irish Seedsavers, Irish Womens Environmental Network, Macrobiotics Ireland, Natural Law Party, Quay Co-op, United Farmers Assoc., and the Vegetarian Society

Genetic Engineering (GE) European Direct Action Update

(Dec. '96/Jan'97)

- **Unilever.** Britains largest food manufacturer is refusing to label G.E. food. Greenpeace planted huge "X"s in the gardens of Unilever's nine directors, one of dozens of actions world-wide against G.E. by Greenpeace.
- **Monsanto.** In Denmark the offices of Monsanto, owner of herbicide "Roundup" and the company behind the genetically manipulated sugar beet, were occupied for many hours with activists d-locking onto the staircase.
- **14th December- International Day of Action against Genetic Engineering** - All over Britain supermarket managers running around panicking as their customers were leafleted about the possible dangers of G.E. food. Theatrical protests in London by Reclaim The Streets and in Bath by Bath Eco Futures Group.
- **Cargill.** (hold the monopoly on the production of soy oil and protein in Britain) and Ciba Geigy (make G.E. maize) both had huge "X"s sprayed on their silos and entrances to warn of contamination.
- **YOU.** If you have more information, want to recieve info. on actions and the latest G.E. news via e-mail then contact rts@gn.apc.org. or contact: Genetic Concern! 01-6262315

The Ark Permaculture Project
 A Development Resource Courses for 1997

- Building Masonary Stoves - September
- The Great Rolling Strawbale Workshop 11 July - 17 August
- Full Permaculture Design Courses 17 - 26 October
- Plants
- Mall order Permaculture Plants
- Reedbed Systems and Compost Toilets
- Designed & Installed in Ireland.

Contact: Marcus McCabe or Kate Mullaney Burdauten, Clones, Co. Monaghan, Eire
 Tel: 353 47 52049
 Fax: 353 47 52295

I R E L A N D *a n d*

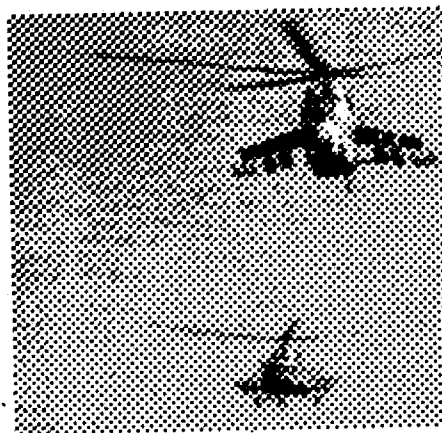
In a recent response to a Dail question, Tanaiste Dick Spring recently proclaimed that Ireland is "a small country with no armaments industry and no military obligations towards other countries". In spite of two recent reports presenting evidence to the contrary the Government still covets the sacred cow of neutrality and claims that our hands are clean when it comes to the arms trade.

A more circumspect response from Enda Kenny (Minister for Tourism and Trade) does hint at the real level of acceptance within government that the arms trade is here to stay: "It must be stated that, in layman's terms, Ireland is not a producer of arms... However, it is inevitable that in an economy such as ours with its high technology base, there will be goods manufactured and exported which have both military and civilian applications and even a small number that have purely military application." Implicit in the above statement is the assumption that, for most of us mere 'laymen' we are happy enough to believe the myth and too ignorant to see beyond it. Also implicit is the fact that we are involved to an extent in the arms trade, but that the level and type of involvement is far too complex for 'laymen' to understand and therefore it doesn't really count.

If we examine the evidence ourselves we can make up our own minds as to the extent and nature of our links to the arms trade: In July last Action From Ireland (Afri) published the results of its year-long investigation into these matters, "Links: Ireland's Links with the Arms Trade." **Its findings revealed a number of companies that are, to varying degrees, contributing to the trade in**

arms. What this means exactly is that: 1. Their products are ending up with a military end-user and, 2. they are intended for a military end-use. In fact these are two of the criteria used by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), (generally regarded as the world authority on monitoring the trade in conventional weapons) to identify the trade in weapons technology.

What Afri found was that Irish companies were exporting aerospace and microelectronics technology for military use. One company, Data Device Corporation (DDC) in Cork admitted that 65% of their microelectronic products found their way to military aircraft. Another firm, Moog of Cork, supplies electronic control equipment for the elevation and traverse of artillery guns, or in other words, part of the aiming device.



Weapons of War

A firm in Clare supplies about a quarter of their radar technology to military airforces. All the other firms named either service or supply the military sector abroad. The report was greeted with derision in some quarters, such as the Independent newspaper, and was wel-

comed by others, yet still regarded as somewhat tenuous evidence of our increasing involvement with the military industry. Joan Burton, Minister for Trade, called it "baseless and naive", indicating again the patronising attitude that politicians often display toward "laymen".

One of the principal counter arguments against the report's findings was that the exported products involved were 'dual-use', thereby being mainly innocuous and impossible to prevent going to the military. The term "dual-use" is, however, a smokescreen used by governments and advocates of the military industry to conceal a hidden part of the arms trade. **As "dual-use" goods are governed by European regulations a supplier is obliged to know who the end-user is and what end-use their products will be put to, as these details are required by the licensing authorities for exports outside of the EU.** Moreover, any products destined for a military end use have to conform to certain standards and are tested and manufactured to higher specifications than civil goods. This is why they usually cost a lot more. **Put quite simply, a company is aware if its exports are intended for military related purposes and, therefore, can choose whether or not to supply 'dual-use' goods to a military end-user.**

In the wake of the Links revelations more information was forthcoming which indicated that the authorities were playing a bigger role in all of this than we were aware of. It became apparent that not only were "dual-use" goods being licensed for export to the military, but that "military" goods were also being licensed for export.

the Arms Trade!

Report by John Cullen of Action from Ireland

Distinct from "dual-use" goods, "military" goods exports come under national controls and are subject to the discretion of national licensing authorities.



Ireland has exported military goods to Turkey, Columbia and Brazil

Based on the new information, we did a follow-up to Links which focussed more on the licensing and on two specific companies in particular. What we found was startling. The Department of Tourism, which is responsible for licensing of exports, had issued 34 licenses (one licence covers one consignment) for export of military goods up to October of last year. This was three times the estimate - a dozen - given by Joan Burton in a "Questions and Answers" special hosted by AFri in the Mansion House.

What was more disturbing was the destinations for which these military goods were receiving licenses: Turkey, Colombia and Brazil were the three most disturbing. Didn't the authorities know about the gross human rights violations in these countries? All this information is publicly available from groups such as

Amnesty International and yet the Department of Tourism and Trade, with approval from Foreign Affairs, were allowing military goods to be sold to these places.

It would appear that the Government is operating a twin-track policy when it comes to human rights and the arms trade. The recent White Paper unequivocally links our foreign policy with human rights records. Furthermore, there is an agreement between EU countries on guidelines for military exports: Human rights, internal conflict and the preservation of regional peace and stability are cited as important factors to consider in military exports. By exporting military goods to the above-named countries, the Government is at least breaching the spirit, if not the exact letter of even the minimal efforts made to control the arms trade.

Moog of Cork helped to develop an improvised version of the Bofors L-70 air defence gun for Singapore. However, it seemed to miss the attention of our vigilant authorities that Singapore was a well known conduit for arms diversions to third countries and has been at the centre of a number of international scandals regarding arms shipments to embargoed countries. It transpires that the gun which Moog helped to develop will eventually be sold to the South East Asian market. The most likely recipient for the upgraded version, according to SIPRI, is Indonesia. And we all know of the role of the Indonesian military in perpetrating genocide in places such as East Timor and West Papua.

In the supplement to the Links report we attempted to suggest ways in which our involvement in the arms trade could be halted. We highlighted how there is a clause within the European "dual-use" regulation that allows the authorities here to prohibit the export of certain goods that are clearly intended for a military end use, as "to allow such exports to proceed is contrary to the fulfillment of our international obligations." (Article 10 of the EU dual-use regulation).

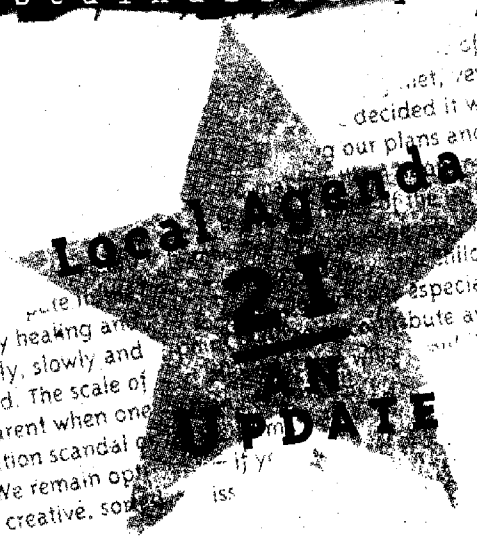
Moreover, as military goods are subject only to national controls, there exists even more scope to abolish completely this trade.

To put it in "Layman's" terms, modern weapons systems rely on the input of nuts and bolts, microchips, wiring etc...the micro-design may differ, but the macro design serves the same purpose - to maim, kill and destroy.

Write to the Minister for Tourism and Trade, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and demand an end to Ireland's involvement in the arms trade.

AFri is a small, secular peace and justice group that raises awareness of issues relating to the majority world, and draws parallels with our own experiences in Ireland. For copies of the reports and more information contact AFri at:

16 Harcourt St., Dublin 2.
Tel. 01 4785100



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My biggest surprise so far in 1997 was to read in an edition of *Connections* (a magazine devoted to tracking international progress in implementing Agenda 21), that all Irish local authorities had initiated Local Agenda 21.

This was news indeed, given that the experience of various local community groups and non-governmental organisations had been somewhat different. A survey of local authorities carried out by the Irish Womens' Environmental Network indicated that only a handful were seriously planning their implementation of this chapter of the UN agreement on sustainable development. And in the case of one Dublin authority, its interpretation of 'sustainable development' seemed to be limited to expanding public parks.

In fairness to local authorities, they have been getting conflicting signals from the Department of the Environment. Brendan Howlin's now infamous publication last December (where he abolished water charges) called *A Program For Change* was a plan for reform of local government to make local authorities more efficient and responsive to their local communities. The aim was to use the Strategic Management Initiative to revitalise local government from within, and to harness local expertise and viewpoints from without to enable non-elected representatives to have input into local policy making.

To date, there seems to have been a lukewarm response by local authorities, including local politicians, to this initiative. From the point of view of those of us trying to promote Local Agenda 21, the Programme for Change initiative was a wasted opportunity to spell out principles and policies in order to make local government more democratic and more sustainable. Local Agenda 21 barely featured in the document and as such, the Department of the Environment has explicitly fostered the impression that sustainability is something extra local authority must do something in addition to, rather than as an intrinsic part of local government reform. The government's proposals for local government reform then take no account of the potential role of local authorities in facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and building equitable and healthy local communities. And more importantly, it contains no vision, no sense in which local democracy is potentially a political space, shared equitably, and whose overall purpose is sustainability.

It is important to note that Local Agenda 21 has been a huge success in England precisely because it has been driven by politics. In Labour and Lib-Dem councils in

particular, elected members were frustrated by the way in which successive Tory Governments had repeatedly undermined local government. They argued that they had a more legitimate mandate to act on behalf of, and in the interest of local communities. As a result, local sustainability initiatives in the UK have tended to be effective exercises in community participation in local decision-making, but often with the aim of providing a political alternative to national government.

Local politics in Ireland is hopelessly conservative, clientelist, and occasionally even corrupt. It is unlikely, given the predominance of a 'parish-pump' political culture, that our local politicians will embrace enthusiastically the principle of public participation. Many of them, especially Fianna Fail and Fine Gael councillors, have been supportive of precisely those policies which have negative environmental and social consequences - rezoning being the most obvious example. Yet there is also a democratic deficit at local level that cannot be ignored, whereby the bureaucracy has more clout than elected members. This only encourages abuse rather than encouraging responsible and progressive local government.

There is however an alternative - community-led local Agenda 21. Our project in Dublin City (that is within the functional area of Dublin Corporation) is to create a platform of community based organisations to promote sustainable development at a local level. **We argue that grassroots activity must be seen as central, rather than peripheral to, the implementation of Local Agenda 21.** The participation of communities which are socially excluded is an utmost priority, especially given the fact that the poorer in our society suffer environmental negative (such as traffic pollution, community severance and lower quality of life) to a much greater extent. In this context, Local Agenda 21 offers a way around the traditional perception that environmental politics is only for the better off.

To date we have organised meetings in various parts of the country to promote Local Agenda 21 amongst the community sector. Our current task is the organisation of the community platform for sustainability as mentioned above, with a view to making any future community representation on Dublin Corporation's policy task forces accountable and representative. Furthermore we believe that a 'big push' from the community sector will create the political impetus necessary to get the Corporation to adopt more inclusive policies. But the local authorities are not the only bodies which need to be engaged in local sustainability initiatives - the area-based partnerships, the regional authorities and other agencies need to accept the principle of participation rather than consultation in their activities.

As far as sustainable development itself goes, there is a need to spell out how environmental sustainability can converge with social objectives. One example of how this might be done is by tackling fuel poverty. Investment in energy conservation measures creates jobs, saves money for those who have less of it and improves the quality of life of the poor. A project in France to improve the energy efficiency of schools whereby the schools can "recycle" the money saved is another example of how sustainability can make a real difference when people have inputs into the decision-making process.

The prospects for Local Agenda 21 in Ireland are, despite the picture presented by the local authorities themselves, quite good, if it is seen to be consistent with community based participation, education and training initiatives in disadvantaged areas. But as long as it is viewed as yet another project or task, rather than a way of doing things, it is likely to go down in Ireland like a lead balloon. **by Sadhbh O'Neill**
Tel: (01) 679 9930.
email: soneill@indigo.ie

Sadhbh is a campaigner with Earthwatch, Friends of the Earth Ireland



GREENPEACE IRELAND NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

In early January '97, Greenpeace International announced that they intended to end funding for Greenpeace Ireland and close the office because they hadn't achieved self-sufficiency within a certain time frame. Negotiations with the international body are ongoing and Greenpeace staff and volunteers are adamant that the Irish branch will remain open and continues to campaign on the issues that affect us all. To do this Greenpeace Ireland really needs to double its support.

Greenpeace is an international environmental organisation which works in Ireland and throughout the world for a clean, safe and nuclear-free planet. Greenpeace is non-party political and does not accept money from either Governments or industry, depending totally on membership and donations to survive. Greenpeace believes absolutely in non-violence and non-violent direct action.

CAN IRELAND IN 1997 AFFORD TO LOSE GREENPEACE ?

Environmental crimes are committed simply because nothing is done to stop them. You can help save Ireland's environment by helping to save Greenpeace Ireland. -The clock is ticking - The planet is being destroyed and the planet is being saved -

GREENPEACE HAS 4,500,000 MEMBERS WORLDWIDE.
IRELAND HAS TO PAY FOR GREENPEACE IRELAND.
WHEN YOU JOIN YOU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF
GREENPEACE CAMPAIGNS THROUGH THEIR QUARTERLY
MAGAZINE AND THROUGH REGULAR CAMPAIGN
MAILINGS. CONTACT FOR INFO AND SUBSCRIPTION:

GREENPEACE IRELAND,
Brockfield House, Carysfort Avenue,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Tel. (01) 2833500 E-mail: greenpeace@iol.ie
Internet: <http://www.greenpeace.org/-ireland>

SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GREENPEACE IRELAND OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS:

- Helped ban the dumping of industrial waste at sea - London Dumping Convention
- Stopped Waterford from becoming the base for a new Ocean Incineration site
- Briefed Government on Dumping of Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines at Sea
- Stopped Portlaoise mega-dump
- Helped stop the Du Pont incinerator in Derry, in association with Derry and Donegal communities
- Promoted the 200 mile whale and dolphin sanctuary around Ireland
- Produced film on mysterious animal deaths in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, forcing local authorities to investigate
- Protested at continuing pollution from Sandoz, Aughinish Alumina and Merck Sharp & Dohme
- Promoted the inclusion of the Toxins Release Inventory legislation through the EPA
- Exposed a solvent recovery plant in Meath responsible for serious air and water pollution which led to its closure
- Exposed major pollution threat to Loughs Mask and Cara in conjunction with local organisations
- Reported on the "Dirty Dozen" industrial plants and the "Toxic Assault on Cork"
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals declared that all toxic chlorinated solvents will be eliminated from their Cork plant
- Produced water report on Lough Sheelin, showing presence of organochlorines in drinking water
- Promoted Irish campaign against French nuclear testing in the Pacific
- Protested against Shell Petroleum's environmental and human rights record
- Promoted the need for Sewage Treatment in Kildare which will stop raw sewage entering the Liffey at Kilcullen
- Highlighted the pollution of Nenagh's drinking water supply by Procter & Gamble and others
- Continued to lobby and protest about radioactive emissions from BNFL Sellafield
- Opposed proposed Nirex underground nuclear waste dump
- Promoted renewable energy research.

Drinking Water Pollution



The Icarus website produced in County Mayo have recently published a report on the quality of Ireland's drinking water supplies. Taking their information from an EPA report and other sources, the results are frightening. This is what they found: All of Ireland's Group Water Schemes and 50% of state run drinking water have been or are bacteriologically contaminated by E.coli and other yet undetermined bacteriological contaminants. Bacteriological pollution is frequently an indication of intensive agriculture or improper planning, siting of domestic dwellings and septic tanks.

E. Coli is the nasty bacteria which caused all those deaths in Scotland a few months back. The 'Environmental Protection Agency 95' most recent reports (1993 to 1995) show that the whole country has a Big problem and Not just the rural Group Water Schemes.

The 1995 EPA report "The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland" has been published - in December 1996, seven months later than usual. There are omissions in many EPA reports, including the results from some of Ireland's most contaminated supplies. The 1995 report is particularly incomplete. Some County Councils are not providing results to the EPA. County Mayo is the worst offender having failed to provide the vast majority of its water test results to the EPA. Icarus Ireland is currently investigating why the EPA results appear to have been 'doctored' by some County Councils. Despite this doctoring, the overall summary (when corrected to accommodate the government's omissions) indicates a steady increase in drinking water contamination throughout the country in the three years up to January 1st 1996.

There are two measurements for contamination: Total Coliforms and Faecal Coliforms. The EU and WHO standards for acceptable levels for both of these parameters is NIL (zero). Faecal Coliforms (E.coli) prove recent contamination by animal or human faeces and indicate a high risk that other possibly deadly biological contaminants such as streptococci or parasitic organisms will be present. Even the most illegal and severe E.Coli contaminations are classified by the EPA as "generally satisfactory". **The EPA is underresourced and unable to fulfill its statutory function.**

Highlights of the Icarus report

95.6 % of County Council and other Water Authorities in Ireland experienced contamination by E.coli, 100% of Group Water Schemes in Ireland are or have been affected by bacteriological contamination (Coliform or E.coli indications)

E. coli contamination for both Group Water Schemes and Local authority Water supplies range in severity from 1 coliform / 100ml to 100,000 coliforms/100ml. **Almost every single County Council in Ireland (including 50 sanitary authorities) had incidents of contamination of their drinking water supplies by coliforms including E.coli during 1993, 1994 and 1995.** (Ref. Table A1.3, page 34 of the referenced EPA reports).

There were 4582 tests showing illegal levels of bacteriological contamination. This contamination occurred in 47 out of the 50 participating local authorities (not including Group Water Schemes).

During the 3 year period, all group Water Schemes showed contamination, indicated by Coliform/E.Coli counts over EU and WHO limits. 585 Group Water Schemes were examined in 19 counties. Some 3265 water samples were tested for E.coli, of which 1455 samples showed coliform (total and E.Coli) contamination in excess of the limits (zero). (Ref. Table A1.3, page 34 of the referenced EPA reports). Most incidents of contamination of Group Water Schemes had levels of contamination between 20 and 500 coliforms /100ml. 78% of all contamination incidents were contamination by more than 20 coliforms /100 mls. There were 1129 water tests producing these results from 1455 contaminated samples. (Ref. Table A1.3, page 34 of the referenced EPA reports).

Public supply contamination incidence is generally lower than Group Water Scheme contamination because of extreme use of disinfection techniques. However, EU and WHO legal limits for chlorine, fluorine and aluminium in public supplies are being exceeded.

Further information is available at <http://members.aol.com/icarus7789/ograzer.htm> or e-mail them at icarus7789@aol.com.

Icarus can send you details of the water supply in your own area.

Lucan community vote against development

People living in Lucan are celebrating victory over the developers: a mini referendum saw 2,500 people turn out to vote against a massive new development.

Shannon Developments wants to build 350 houses on 35 acres of green land in the Liffey Valley. Residents point out that since 1991 3,900 houses were built in Lucan, and that the land being built on is the greenbelt separating Lucan from Clonsilla. "When the planning permission went before the council, Lucan Community Council held a meeting, and it was decided to hold a referendum of people in the area. We had the backing of 21 residents' associations and each one volunteered to drop leaflets in their own areas," says Ann Graham, chair of the community council. "We held a press reception on the bridge, and stood where the road was, handed out leaflets, made people aware of what was happening. We had three venues for polling, we had voting cards and we crossed names off the electoral register. Some residents weren't on the register, but they were genuinely residents, so we let them vote." **The result was 97.4 percent against the development. Of 2,500 votes, only 63 were in favour.** The total electoral register

of Lucan is 13,000, but many are in newly formed housing estates. Since 1991, 488 acres have been built on and another 1900 houses are on stream.

Ironically, in other parts of the valley, the state is buying up land to create a Liffey Valley national park, while the state has given the go ahead here to destroy it.

The rezoning was controversial in 1993, when it was one of the last acts of Dublin County Council before it was split up. It passed by only one vote. Dessie O'Malley promised residents that the PDs would oppose it, but it was Sheila Terry of the PDs who actually proposed the motion. O'Malley apologised afterwards, but as Graham noted, it was after the fact. 3,000 signatures were gathered locally to oppose it. The original proposal was to have 4 houses to the acre, but after it was pointed out that some of this land should stay greenbelt, it was changed to 10 houses an acre. And of course, should a future council decision rezone that land in the future, there would be room for another few hundred desperately needed houses.

An above ground reservoir is planned, and there is an application for a road right through a cliff face, overlooking listed houses. It will create a cross roads at the bridge over the Liffey.

Initially, the development was turned down

on the grounds that the sewerage was inadequate. Then the county manager for Fingal, prepared a plan telling the developers what was needed to get permission.

Adding to the difficulty of the residents is that they are in the South County Dublin area, but the development is just across the border in Fingal County Council, making it impossible to put pressure on the Fingal Councillors responsible for the rezoning. But Graham notes that the three local Lucan councillors were not supportive. They are: Peter Brady (FG), John O'Halloran (Ind), Finbarr Hanrahan (FF). FF TD Liam Lawlor was seen as very vocal on getting the special area order for the Liffey Valley in place. Building on the success of the referendum, the local community are making objections to Fingal County Council. They are looking for a meeting with the Minister for the Environment and have written to all the leaders of the political parties. Dublin Corporation has not given the go ahead for a sewerage link up so the development may have to be abandoned on technical grounds.

**Contact - Ann Graham
Ph: 01 6240469**

Cement Factory Outrage

Residents in Mayo are outraged over a proposed cement factory, which will increase total Irish output of CO2 pollution by as much as 1.5 percent.

CO2 causes global climate change and international agreements and the EU require Ireland to undertake urgent reductions (not increases) in CO2 emissions.

The plant, sited near the Knock Marian Shrine, will also pump out tonnes of sulphur dioxide every day - this is the gas that produces acid rain. That's not to mention carcinogenic dust. **The plant will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will require constant arrival and departure of**

heavy lorries in a densely populated rural area. The plant will cost about £50 million and will have a turnover of roughly £50 million a year. The developer is a local businessman called Frank Harrington. Frank was the main contractor for Knock Airport, and he also supplied the concrete for the Basilica at Knock, which is mostly made out of concrete. Locals at first welcomed the plan: 200 jobs were promised in a press release by Jim Higgins. But as the people started looking into it, they found that in the official Environmental Impact Study (EIS), Harrington mentioned only 104 jobs. Many of them will be specialised - A German firm is undertaking construction. And because the plant will be very highly

automated, it will be producing cement cheaper than existing CRH plants elsewhere, leading to certain job losses. An opinion poll done by campaigners showed that half of local people thought there would be less than 50 jobs at the plant.

The site is just over a mile from Knock airport: A 270 foot chimney so near an airport must be a problem, and the Department of Transport is looking into it. The residents are meeting Mayo County Councillors and hope the councillors will use their powers to stop the planning go ahead. A public meeting is planned.

**Contact: Miriam Carney
Ph: 0907 49106**

Zapatista Update

The Irish Mexico Group Report on The Zapatistas

The Zapatista are a rebel army that grew out of the indigenous communities of Southern Chiapas, a state in which the people are among the poorest in Mexico, despite great natural resources. Firm believers in grassroots democracy, the Zapatistas conducted a secret referendum in all their communities before launching an uprising on New Year's Day 1994. They continue to consult with all the communities about the direction of the negotiations they entered with the Government. Their commitment to equality of human beings is also striking. Unlike most guerrilla armies they do not want to seize power and form a "provisional

government." Instead they are to open a space for "civil society"-- for the citizens at large, in groups big and small- to change the shape of Mexican society. In the long run to change the World. For Humanity.

Zapatistas take you all the way. A Revolutionary movement at the end of the 20th Century....It's not all road protests and vegetarianism. Saving the World takes different forms in different places. In Mexico, the Zapatistas- new age revolutionaries armed and media friendly, are ready to take on the whole world of injustices and include you in the process.

At first it all seemed familiar- a band of armed and masked rebels rise up and spectacularly take control of some towns in one of the more wretched corners of our world. Chiapas in Southern Mexico, the poorest of the poor, populated by indigenous people, 500 years of dispossession, ignorance, misery, oppression. So they came down from the mountains, the forever dead, toting AK47's and insolence, to declare 'Basta Ya!' (Enough is enough), here we are, a government nightmare, off our knees.

That was New Year's Eve 1994. Nobody imagined that they would survive a week. Everybody expected the Mexican Army to step in and destroy the impudent rebels. Nobody imagined the 'Gringos', the US Government would tolerate such stupidities in their 'backyard.' Everybody expected a US-backed counter insurgency like in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, to destroy the gallant but doomed little rebellion.

Three years later, against all odds, Asterix and Co. of Southern Mexico are proving indomitable and refreshingly imaginative. Their magic potion? People's power - civil society and grassroots support. A little bit of magic and a lot of vision and organising!

Against the might of the Mexican Army they pitted the strength of a million Mexicans who took to the streets to demand STOP THE MASSACRE!! Against the dictatorship that is the Mexican Government, they pitted Truth and Justice. Having fought to a negotiating table with the Government, they assembled a strong team of dissenting voices from all sectors of Mexican society -alongside the masked rebels- to expose the lies, deceit, and nonsense that marks Mexican political life.



"Basta Ya!" enough is enough

Against US involvement they used international solidarity and the strength of international pressure. "Be a Zapatista wherever you are" they urged supporters and Human Rights activists. When the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York sent a message to the Mexican Government to "eliminate" the Zapatistas in order to straighten out their economy, activists occupied the New York Stock Exchange. A mountain of pressure from concerned people seemed embarrassing enough for the Trans-National to back off.

The Zapatistas were a mere 10,000 strong army (E.Z.L.N.) and a support base of a few hundred thousand within the indigenous communities of Chiapas. Over the three years they have applied the idea: ACT LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY with impressive results. The Zapatista demands for Justice and Freedom for the indigenous of Chiapas has become a global call against the general economic system that affect us all. They defined it as Neo-Liberalism, the Capitalist model of development: profits before people, competition before co-operation. By breaking their own chains of oppression, the Zapatista were making links with struggles in other places.



'Tierra y Libertad' land and freedom



Creating an international of hope

Locally, the Zapatistas occupied lands owned by wealthy landlords and took control of municipalities, driving out the corrupt government incumbents. They released their desire for TIERRA Y LIBERTAD, Land and Freedom, and defended the gains of the uprising with arms. Nationally, they brought people together under a civil society based Zapatista Front. Here the energy of the millions who had marched or spoke out in their name could organise. They held a national plebiscite to ask the people did they support the Zapatista demands and a resounding 1.3 million responded YES.... Meanwhile they held an indigenous convention where representatives from Mexico's 44 Indian tribes came together to demand Autonomy. Internationally, they made extensive use of the media and the internet to make links with people all over the World. From the mountains of the Mexican southeast came the call to an Intercontinental Encounter for Humanity and against Neo-Liberalism. The encounter took place last Summer in five small villages in the mountainous jungle of Chiapas hosted by the Zapatistas. Four thousand people from 43 countries (including half a dozen from Ireland) gathered for five days to discuss how people are resisting Neo-Liberalism across the planet. "Liberalisation of the Market" for Big Business means axing the Welfare State and breaking down workers' organisations by making strikes, etc illegal. A big plank in the Neo-Liberal programme is the globalisation of the market-place; allowing multi-nationals to take what they want, sell their products or dump their waste any where they choose. All over the world the progress of Neo-Liberalism has meant an increase in unemployment, a fall in standards of living and loss of civil liberties.

The thread running through the Encounter was a shared belief. All of us who believe in Humanity, who think that people matter more than profits, must build as wide an alliance as possible to defeat the many-headed monster that is Neo-liberalism. Out of the encounter came the plan to build a global network of struggle, an International of Hope to resist the international of despair - Neo-Liberalism the economic and social policies pioneered by people like Maggie Thatcher and Ronnie Reagan. In Ireland this project was taken up by the Irish Mexico Group, two of whom were at the encounter.

Now is perhaps the time for change. This year a second Intercontinental Encounter will take place, in the Summer at various places in the Spanish state. A European Continental Encounter took place in Prague in March, to act as a kind of first stage on the way. Preparation has already started and the organisers are asking people to start making plans to come to the Encounter to represent whatever struggles they are involved in, and to listen!! The Encounter does not aim to set up, a new wonder party with all solution to the world's problems. If it takes off as the first Encounter did, it will be an Energy-and-Hope-giving meeting of the peoples of the world, and another step towards building that global network for survival. As Subcommandante Marcos said: 'It is not necessary to conquer the world. It is enough just to recreate it ourselves. Today.'

Details of the encounter (the first and second) are available from the Irish Mexico group, Latin America Solidarity centre, 5 Merrion Row, Dublin 2.
 Fax/telephone (01)6760435 E-mail mark_c@geocities.com
 Website: <http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/3012>

Fyffes Treatment Of Banana Workers

Stephen Mahony of the Irish Mexico Group visited Belize in December and reported on the continued ill treatment of banana workers in plantations owned by Irish multinational Fyffes. Workers who are suspected of being union members are sacked and busloads of raw immigrants are brought in to replace them. Some sacked workers don't get their full pay back. As reported by RTE's Divided Worlds, women have to arrive at work early and wait, sometimes for several hours, until the bananas arrive from the fields. They are not paid for this waiting time. Company reps are harassing the union leader, Maria Funes, continually calling at her house, houses of friends and even her daughter's boyfriend's house. A Fyffes executive in Belize said that if Funes insisted on criticising Fyffes abroad and in Belize, then they had a "right" to follow her.

Wages are poor: Belize is about as expensive as Ireland, but for a six day week at 12 hours a day, they receive the princely sum of \$80. They get a total of 55 minutes break each day - when they asked for another 10 minutes, they were told they could always leave if they didn't like the conditions.



Irish Fair Trade Network

Banana Watch

Banana Watch is a collection of individuals and Irish non-governmental organisations that have taken an active interest on the issue of Banana growing around the world. The issues are many and complex: imperialism and dependency, workers rights (eg. 500 members of the Banana Workers Union in Colombia have been assassinated with impunity), attacks on women's rights, cash crop production etc. The group campaigns at many levels for justice and human rights for workers.

Contact them: C/o The Irish Fair Trade Network, 17 Lower Camden St., Dublin 2.

Phone/Fax: 01-4753515.
E-Mail: iftn@connect.ie

Fairly Traded Coffee From South America and Africa

Two brands of coffee are now available in Ireland which are fairly traded. They carry the "Fairtrade Mark", which is an independent guarantee to the consumer that third world producers have been paid a fairer price, work in safe and decent conditions and with respect for the local environment. One of the brands is "Bewley's Direct", the first fairly traded coffee roasted in Ireland. It comes from small farmers' co-operatives in Central America. It is the first Irish brand to carry the "people friendly" Fairtrade Mark. The other brand is "Cafedirect" which comes from small farmers co-operatives in Latin America and Africa, and was the first widely available fairly traded coffee in Britain and Ireland.

Twenty million people in the "third world" depend on coffee for their living. In the four years between 1988-1992 the prices paid to coffee producers fell by 80%. Fairly traded coffee pays producers a guaranteed price, which has been as much as twice the market price. Because fairly traded coffee guarantees a fair price and advance payment to producers - however low the world market price falls - it costs slightly more than your usual brand... but not more than a penny a cup extra!

You can find out more about the "Fairtrade Mark" and where your local stockist is by contacting:

The Irish Fair Trade Network at 17 Lower Camden St., Dublin 2.

Tel/Fax: 01-4753515.
E-Mail: iftn@connect.ie

CIA Drug Smuggling

This February 22, there was a major march in Los Angeles to protest CIA involvement in the crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980's. 4,000 people turned out and the event was reported on a number of major U.S. channels, including CNN.

Rumours have persisted since the 1950's of the CIA turning a blind eye to opium, heroin and cocaine smuggling by their allies and employees. In Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia in the 1950s to 1970s; many Latin American countries from the 1980s, and in Afghanistan and Pakistan, major heroin/cocaine production came only after the CIA started its aid operations.

The San Jose Mercury News in California did an excellent series last Autumn exposing the involvement of the CIA-backed Contras importing cocaine into the US, where they marketed and sold it and showed locals how to make crack.

Despite many eyewitness reports from ex-CIA employees who are prepared to give evidence that they flew shipments of cocaine into the US, often into military bases to be unloaded, the mainstream media have ignored the story, except to rubbish it. Even Ollie North's diaries include references to drugs being carried on planes that had earlier carried weapons to the Contras.

At least four highly experienced ex-DEA agents are prepared to give evidence about the blatant drug corruption in the DEA, CIA and US military. They cite coups in Bolivia and Fujimori's takeover in Peru as being cocaine coups, designed to give the rulers more power over the trade. Since Fujimori's election in the early '90s, cocaine production has risen 40 percent, and Fujimori's personal lawyer (the head of the secret services!) is a guy called Vladimiro Montesinos, who is linked to both narcotic traffickers and the CIA. Several US states have severe drug corruption problems: Arkansas under Bill Clinton had a massive CIA/Contra linked smuggling operation. It also saw the deaths of two boys near a smuggling landing place- who may have seen too much. Six witnesses to these deaths have themselves been killed. Their parents are convinced, not surprisingly, that something very wrong is happening. In Montana, the Governor, Marc Racicot, is implicated in heroin smuggling across the

Canadian border. Inhabitants of one town have signed a petition demanding the immediate investigation of some local deaths widely believed to be linked to the smuggling operation. Perhaps the most chilling story is that of Gene Tatum, Vietnam War veteran and then a CIA agent. He had been transporting cooler boxes full of cocaine around Latin America for some time and was unhappy with the reason Oliver North gave for it: "It's seized from the Sandinistas and it's destined as evidence in the world courts." Tatum approached George Bush, once head of the CIA, and at that time Vice President, at an Embassy cocktail party and told him that the US government was involved in transporting hard drugs. George Bush just grinned at him and walked away. Now what-dya make of that?
Website info: <http://speech.csun.edu/ben/news/cia/index.html> Very comprehensive archive of articles in the mainstream papers about the CIA and its drug smuggling.



African Drums & Songs
 Aromatherapy
 Assertiveness
 Awareness & Relaxation



Personal Development
 Reality Therapy
 Reflexology
 Reiki
 Work

The Healing House

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 Becoming
 Psychic Safety
 Chinese
 Medicine
 Counselling
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 Feeling Fit
 Over Forty
 Gatherings
 Healing
 Groups

Healing the Heart
 Journey to the Light
 Kinesiology
 Meditation
 Menopause
 Workshops
 Numerology
 Past Life
 Regression
 Psychotherapy

Group
 Shamanic Light
 Self Healing
 Spirit and Money
 Spiritual Healing
 Spiritual Life
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 Office Hours

Mon - Fri 10a.m. - 12p.m. 4 - 4.30p.m. & 7 - 8p.m.
 A holistic centre in the heart of Dublin specialising in natural and non residential courses in personal growth and spirituality with facilities for private group bookings.

Feile Shamhna na gCrann/Laethanta na Doilleoga.

(The Samhan Festival of Trees/Days of the Leaves). 1st October - 16th November

This is a unique annual celebration of trees, started by Crann in 1996. It will involve tree plantings, tree walks, tree talks and Celtic and cultural celebrations. The event, being run by Crann's Dublin branch, will also celebrate the rainforests of the world and their indigenous people. They'll also be looking at sustainable lifestyles in woodland settings. Trees and tree culture will be celebrated in

pageantry, poetry, writing, music, song and dance. Events will take place throughout Ireland and at various venues around the world.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

You and your organisation can organise an event. There will be exhibitions of photography, wood turning, painting, wood sculpture as well as demonstrations of woodcraft techniques. Just contact the steering committee at: **CRANN, 107 Lower**

Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

TEL: 661 49 26 FAX: 661 49 59

The Millenium Tree Projects

There have been a number of letters printed in the Irish Times, there's been talk at meetings, there's been rumours in the pubs and on the streets... ..synchronistically individuals and organisations all over the country are putting in place the vision and action to replant Ireland with trees, native trees - planted by

the people, for the people, with help from everyone, presently we've the lowest percentage of forestation in the E.U. - Only 7%. Catalyst is visualising consensus being reached by all concerned. The trees will be planted, Irish people will have our forests back.

Expected Extraterrestrial Intelligence Contact

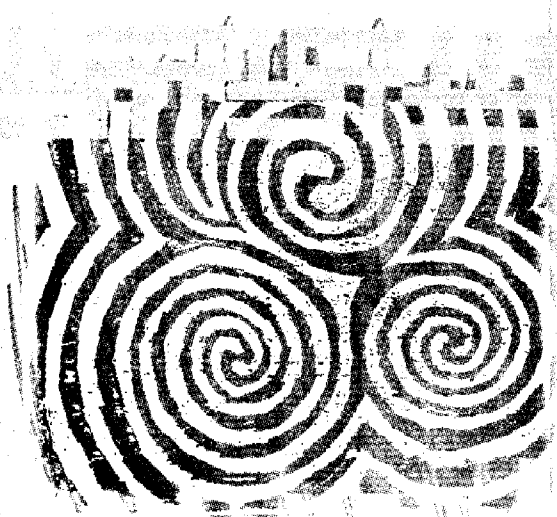
On April 21, 1997 at 23.00 hours on the border of Counties Cork and Kerry, an event with profound implications occurred: **A confirmed, close range, multi-witness, human initiated and predicted encounter took place between a research team from the Programme for Extraterrestrial Intelligent Research (P.E.I.R.) and objects of an extraterrestrial origin.** This event was observed from two locations and resulted with British television videotaping from one location.

P.E.I.R. in collaboration with the Irish Centre for UFO Studies, is a scientific research and educational organisation which among other programmes, conducts real-time on-site UFO research via special protocols of communication. **This research has been an alternative**

to the international, government sponsored, S.E.T.I. programme operating in other bands of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

The research has enabled a theory to predict when close encounters are likely to occur at given locations in the future from the data such events have provided in the past. The system is now in place, programmed and controlled, for monitoring the Earth. New credible events like the event of the April 21, 1997, with it's geographical co-ordinates and precise times does fall on or near the orbital tracks determined by the theory. A scientific study of vehicular UFO Close Encounter (CE) events has revealed that such CE activity is satisfactorily explained as being an important element of an astronomical surveillance of Earth by

technologically advanced spacecraft. There are clear indications that the surveillance is being carried out by vehicles from extraterrestrial sources. The P.E.I.R. team believes that this event is a small step in the ongoing research in order to understand and consolidate its position in engaging in the next event. A two part documentary titled **"We Are Not Alone!"** is to be shown on **24th and 26th June, 1997 on ITV** in the UK and the Learning Channel in the USA. **The next UFO encounter has been predicted to occur, synchronous to a planetary alignment sometime between the 26th- 30th June in West Cork.** On June 27th there is to be a booklaunch in the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry Co.Cork, where those interested in participating in this close encounter may find out more!!



The Fellowship of Light

A Foundation for Spiritual Unfoldment and personal Development

As we approach the beginning of a New Era, more and more people are seeking to understand the deeper meaning of life and their relationship to the world around them. Our world is changing rapidly, possibly at a pace never before experienced by the planet, its people and life forms. For some these changes create a need to re-define values while at the same time raising the level of consciousness and awareness, encouraging us all to explore new dimensions within ourselves.

The Fellowship Of Light is a foundation for Spiritual Unfoldment and Personal Development. It is run by a group of people dedicated to the pursuit of Spiritual Growth through working with and exploring the many and varied religious and spiritual paths and traditions found in society today. These include Eastern and

Western traditions, Paganism, Wicca, Druidry and other forms of Earth based Spirituality, Spiritualism, Fellowship of Isis, Rainbow and many more. We work by using aspects of different paths and traditions, like meditation, ritual, chanting and prayer etc., in order to share our experiences. We also provide information to those seeking to know more about alternative views and beliefs.

As well as exploring various paths of spirituality, we also channel Light Energy for healing. Over the many years that we have spent working in this field, we have seen the gradual rise of interest in alternative healing techniques and experienced the manifestation of these within society. Many of our members are involved in some way. Sadly though, we have also seen much exploitation in this area which has resulted in many natural healers being prevented from practising. **The Fellowship of Light therefore offers a network/ contact service to those involved in Spiritual and Natural healing, and for those seeking a healer for help and guidance.**

We gather eight times a year at the Celtic Fire festivals and at

the equinoxes and Solstices and invite others to join us in the celebration of life, in friendship and mutual respect. We also run **regular workshops** and courses on various related topics, like Meditation, spiritual Healing, Crystals etc., and this also provides an opportunity for people to meet in a more informal atmosphere. We also produce our own newsletter, called 'Spiral Pathways' twice a year, which contains articles, register of healers and other information of interest to members.

The fellowship of Light is open to **anyone regardless of race, sex or creed.** We ask only that those coming to share with us come with an open heart and an open mind, respecting the right of others to be different. Attendance at gatherings is by invitation only, so please write beforehand.

We are all in some way seekers of truth and understanding. In sharing with each other we may expand our experience and in so doing we may all become enlightened. If you would like to know more about The Fellowship of Light, please write to:

Susan Hayes, Legnagrow, Glangevlin, Co. Cavan.

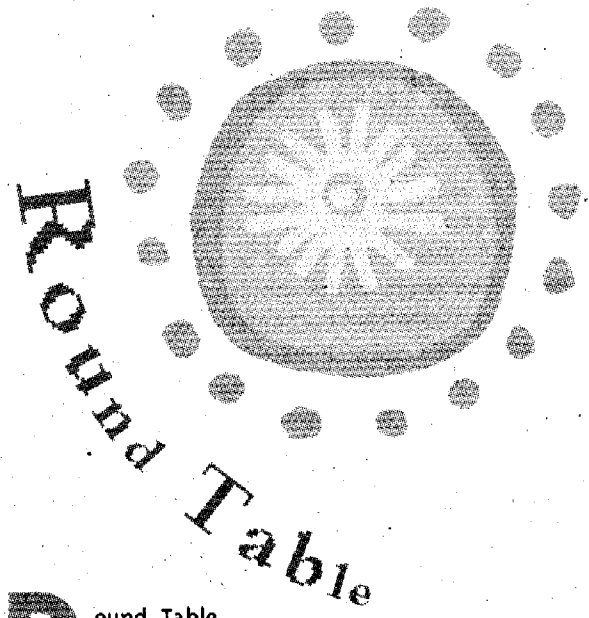
UNIFIED GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS



On the 23rd of January a group of about twenty three souls gathered in Temple Bar Square in Dublin to witness a candlelit vigil. At 25 to six that evening, there was a rare planetary alignment, a moment in time expressed in the heavens as a perfect six-pointed star. Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune conjoined together for the first time in almost two hundred years. This cluster of planets centred on the first degree of Aquarius, joined by the Sun, with the full moon opposite them all.

Similar vigils occurred all over the world due to information circulated by the GaiaMind Project in California. Part of the Temple Bar vigil was a sequence of meditations focussing our attention on our relationship with the living earth as well as on the participants' individual concerns.

People all over the world sharing a moment of meditation, prayer and unified global consciousness.

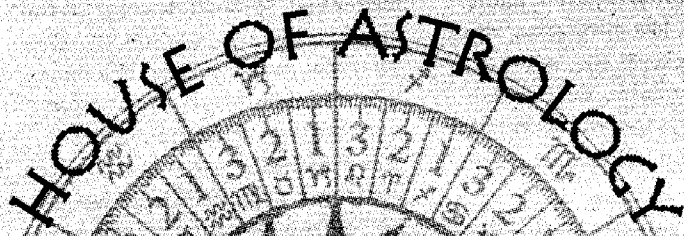


Round Table Gatherings have taken place in Dublin on a regular basis since early spring '97. The aim of the meetings is to create a safe space wherein people of different life styles and beliefs can communicate freely, sharing information and interests. Gatherings are conducted under the guidelines of the 'Talking Stick' whereby each person speaks in turn and decisions are reached by consensus. The agenda is open with the focus on ecological and spiritual awareness.

The purpose is to reawaken the philosophies of the past while acting in the present to generate a more harmonious balance and sustainable way of living in the future. Participants in the gatherings have found them to be empowering and motivating, with action being manifested within a short time of consensus being reached. The 'Garden at the Garden' where a garden was created at the Garden of Delights within a week of it being brought up at a Round Table Meeting, is a good example of how the energy of the gathering helped manifest an idea into the physical world. The agenda contains short, medium and long-term objectives from visits to ancient sites, initiating local recycling projects to plans for reforesting Ireland or facilitating a gathering of the world's tribes for the new millennium.

At the Flux conference on sustainability in Maynooth on March 1st John Seymour and Willie Sutherland, articulated the idea that the way to a more sustainable lifestyle was through the gathering of people in small groups to share their community and global visions so that they may pool their resources to realise their dreams. John and Willie participate in such a gathering in Waterford on a regular basis. Since Round Table was initiated in Dublin, other Round Table Gatherings have taken place in Donegal and Belfast. These are evidence of a wave of community empowerment sweeping Ireland and of people organising themselves and getting things done without needing to refer to existing organisational structures. Naturally the focus of each gathering will vary according to the interest and energy of those in attendance. If you are interested in participating in a round table meeting in your part of the world, or if you would like some advice or inspiration on how to start one, please contact Catalyst and we will happily share our experiences.

YOUR PERSONAL HOROSCOPE FROM EQUINOX AT THE



- A Character portrait (About 18 pages)..... £18
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- C Year forecast (About 25 pages)..... £20
- D Combination (About 40 pages)..... £30
- E Compatibility profile (About 10 pages)..... £22
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The House of Astrology, 9 Parliament Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 679 3404 Fax: 679 3411.

Rainbow Vision Survey

At the Rainbow in Hollywood, Co. Wicklow, John Morrissey announced his intention of writing to interested parties looking for their feelings on Rainbow - Responses were compiled and here's some of the findings:

Vision Of Rainbow Circle

Circle is open to everyone, anytime to participate in any way. The circle gets bigger, stronger and more colourful and happens organically, with no formulae needed. Everyone feels safe at home, close to nature with themselves and everyone else. It is a back to basics, care for the natural environment, a revitalisation of human life, a learning experience. Natural, organic and nomadic.

People coming together helping each other to prosper and grow, learning and living a vision of the future. The circle is where we affirm our oneness with ourselves and the source, share and harmonise our energy, our truth, our wisdom. A place to empower ourselves, network, connect, weave, create. Be aware of the collective unconscious.

Every individual input is creating the gathering, we all take responsibility for the kitchen/kids area/healing area/welcome bender /workshops/ love and hugs. In the centre there are the children. All decisions and plans are made with their interest first and foremost. Always they are our most important resource for the future. Ensure that young mothers are happy and help them so that they can join the circle comfortably. If one wants to make a difference outside one has to start inside. It is my duty and anyone involved to work individually. With no beginning and never ending, a planetary tribe.

Talking Circle

Conducted with a stick, clockwise, let everyone with a voice use it, let it go on until everyone is happy to stop. No rules, no agendas, let it happen as each one will. Talking circle is a listening circle. Keep morning circle practical (wood, food, workshops etc.). Evening circle deeper to heart. Talking circle is sacred and only for major decisions. Circle should be respected and treated in a ritualistic way.

A focussed talking circle is a channel where wisdom, ideas and truth can be shared. It is a place to overcome fears, of sharing knowledge and vision. It is important to be precise, especially if many people need to talk, it can be tiring to listen and give for so long. Whoever is speaking should be allowed 4 or 5 minutes, they should not be interrupted, others should listen and we should not get bogged down in one subject. If more time is needed a separate circle or workshop should be arranged. Problem solving and disagreement can be dealt with by repeating the circle until a consensus is agreed. If someone is blocking the decision, there is always a reason.



RAINBOW NEWS

The recent Rainbow Gathering at Cadamstown in the Sleive Bloom Mountains was the best attended Bealtaine event yet. People came from all over the country and beyond to Gather in a spirit of peace and harmony. One of the most pleasing aspects was the good relations with the local community. The two celebratory nights around the full moon were attended by scores of locals, who danced, sang and laughed with the tribe until the dawn. The local paper and radio station ran features on Rainbow Culture which were sympathetic and enthusiastic. Much of the vision aspects of the Gathering were related to the potential of establishing a permanent Rainbow home in the Sleive Blooms. Negotiations with the local community and with various funding bodies are underway to manifest a living model of sustainable, Eco- friendly community in the heart of Ireland. Much Irish was spoken as a model for the peaceful integration of many people from many world cultures was manifested.

An international Rainbow Gathering took place in Scotland from the 10th to the 24th of June at Knockengorach, Lochdoon, New Galloway, Ayreshire, Scotland. An Irish Lughnasa gathering is envisaged for Northern Ireland. In September Ireland will be blessed by the arrival of the Sacred Tribe Runners, who represent many of the Earth's tribal traditions, carrying the message that "All life is sacred" throughout the world. A second international gathering will manifest in Greece during august. There are whispers and dreams, plans and schemes to create a caravan to travel to the gathering in Greece.

There have been many wee gatherings over the winter and spring as people come together to help each other manifest their common dreams. Much inspiration and hope has come through an understanding of sustainable development ideas as part of an ongoing evolution towards harmonious social, interpersonal and global relationships. Spiritual insights have broadened people's understandings of their selves and their life contexts. Skills and information are being passed on, optimism is high, there is a sense that all is coming together just fine.



Independent

• Networks

Ecolink

Ecolink is a one-stop, non-profit organisation providing support and networking services to people working on environmental and sustainable development issues in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The founding principles are that Ecolink will be a service not a campaigning organisation, it will support not judge, it will fill the gaps not duplicate existing services, it will be open and honest about funding and expenditure, it will encourage feedback and evaluation of its services, it will not be an umbrella group speaking on behalf of others. Ecolink are currently hoping to secure suitable office space and equipment, any help in this regard would be appreciated.

Contact Ecolink at: 2 Fosters Ave.,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Pagan Information Network Eire (PINE)

Open Contact Network for anyone interested in meeting other pagans, wiccans, druids, shamans, healers, dowzers etc. Contacts available for media interviews, workshops, legal problems, festivals etc.

Phone 046 49201

Rainforest Action Information Network (RAIN)

RAIN acts as an information network for those interested in learning more about and helping to preserve both the inhabitants and ecosystems of the Rainforests of the world. Rainforests cover 12% of the land area of the Earth yet they also contain 90% of non-human primates, 40% of all birds of prey, 80% of the world's insects and over 60% of all known plants. At the present rate of destruction at least one species is perishing every day.

RAIN hold regular meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6pm. in the basement of Galligan's Resturant in Westmoreland Street (opposite Bewleys).

Contact: Christine Warner ,

41 York Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone 01-4977128

Undercurrents Videos

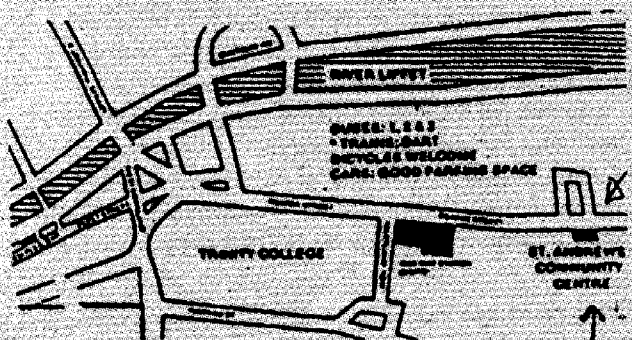
Undercurrents is a quarterly video magazine which uses camcorder video footage from direct action sites and grassroots environmental and social movements. The idea being to cover the news that the television doesn't. They have won the Green Screen Award for their work in highlighting injustices, received awards at Film Festivals in France and Germany for the inspiring "No M11 - You must be Choking", and a £1,000 BT/WWF Partnership Award will help the not-for-profit organisation to train more activists in using video. One issue costs £14.99, a years membership is £35.99.

Contact Undercurrents at 16B Cherwell St.,
Oxford, OX4 1BC, England. Tel: 01865-203662.
Fax: 01865-243562. E-Mail: under@gn.apc.org

Dublin Food Co-op

Open Every Saturday 10am - 3pm at :

St. Andrew's Resource Centre
Pearse St., Dublin 2.



Office: Carmichael House
North Brunswick St.
Dublin 7
Phone : 8721191
Fax: 873 5737

"Don't Panic - Eat Organic"



Dublin Cycling Campaign

The DCC promotes a regular "Spin around the city" on the last thursday of every month, meeting at the Central Bank at 5.30. The purpose is to network with as many of the city's cyclists as possible, making their presence and needs visible to the public. The DCC are concerned with cyclists rights and safety. They consult regularly with the Dublin Transport Initiative.

Contact the DCC at the Square Wheel Cycleworks, Temple Lane South, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-6790845



Square Wheel Cycleworks

Temple Lane South, (off Dame St.), Dublin 2.
Ph. 01-6790838.

E-mail sqicycle@indigo.ie

Repair workshop, spare parts, supervised bicycle parking, cyclist's information centre, bicycles, tricycles & trailers, heavy loads & carrying children, bikes for people with physical disabilities, recumbents, unicycles available to special order. Irish agents for encyclopedia & bike culture magazines. OPEN 8:30 - 6:30. Monday to Friday

Spindizzy Records

Collectors Corner, Georges St. Arcade, Dublin 1.

Stocks a wide selection of second hand records, tapes and CD's, also T-Shirts, weird clocks, alternative magazines and a wide selection of pipes, bongos and chillums.

Well Fed Cafe - Crow St., Dublin 2

Sound vegetarian meals and munchies. Wonderfully friendly staff. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

Down to Earth

73 Georges St., Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 6719702.

extended shop includes vegetarian & vegan deli bar, cakes and munchies, fresh hummus, tempeh, tofu, ciabatta, sandwiches, wide range of non-dairy yoghurts, cheeses, soya produce, organic veg available & on order. No genetically modified produce. Frozen foods, sugar-free spreads, herbs, ginseng, vitamins, supplements & toiletries etc. etc.

The Hopsack

Health food store
- Swan Centre, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

The General Health Food Store

- Marlborough St., Dublin 1

Source Organics

Home delivery box scheme for certified organic vegetables and fruit in the Dublin and Wicklow area.

Deerpark Organic Farm.

Phillipstown Trust Ltd., Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel: (042) 80048.

The largest community run organic farm in Ireland and the British Isles. Fresh locally grown organic vegetables delivered to your door from June to the following January. IOFGA approved organic standard.

Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association

56 Blessington St., Dublin 7.
Tel: 01-8300925.

A 32 county voluntary body open to farmers, growers, consumers and others interested in the production of healthy food and the protection of the environment in which that food is produced. IOFGA publish a bi-monthly magazine.

Organic Matters, containing practical info for growers and gardeners. Supporting this organisation is a direct and positive way of protecting the Irish countryside from the

effects of the excesses of modern agriculture. Membership welcome.

Gourmet Vegetarian Catering Company.

c/o 3 Castle St., Dublin 8. Ph: 01 4751233
Service available for parties, conferences, openings, launches etc.

"Sidra" organic cider

E-mail: fogarty@iol.ie
Natural organic cider available in Ireland, enquiries welcome.

Cadamstown P.O.

Cadamstown, Birr, Co., Offaly. The loveliest post office in all of Eire. Stockist of Catalyst magazine. Hi Cathleen.

Centre of Holistic Healing

O'Connor Square, Tullamore, Co. Offally. 0506-41308 Workshops on Natural Healing, Numerology, Past life recall, Self Discovery & Awareness, The Art of Dreams, Earth Energies, Crystal Awareness.

Pearls of Wisdom

- Quay St., Galway City. Beautiful and busy little shop. Stockists of a grand range of books, magazines, gems, stones, astrology, spirituality, healing, living, growing, crafts & clothing.

The Arc

- Slipper Lane, Gort, Co., Galway
Community network and resource centre & cafe, South Galway/north Clare region

Tir Na nóg

- Grattan St., Sligo Town. Health foods & drinks, books & magazines.

World Development Centre

25 O'Connell St., Waterford City. Tel: 051-873064.

Rebirth of Common Ground Magazine

Yes indeed, Common Ground - The Magazine of Alternative living will be printing at least one more time. That time will be around the RATS festival in Cranagh Castle, Co. Offaly next September. Having made the decision last year to stop printing, the people involved in the magazine met up on the 26th of April last to discuss how they felt after taking a break and whether or not they'd make another issue or two. Thankfully they decided to give it at least one more go

and the best of luck to them. Common Ground has been printing regularly for the last twenty years. Practical advice and examples on more sustainable ways to live and intelligent social commentry were hallmarks of the magazine, loved by its regular 2,000 readers as a source of inspiration, kinship and very valuable contacts. You can contact Common Ground at:

Derreenargan, Keadue, Co. Roscommon.

Float

IN THE HARVEST MOON

"Practically everyone who tries it feels the benefits, take it from a hardened cynic- floatation works."

(The Independent)

"Floating is like jumping on a magic carpet and setting out on a wave of raised consciousness..."

(Harpers and Queen)

Some benefits of floatation are:

- Relief from stress. Increased powers of concentration.
- Increase in selfconfidence. Helps weight loss.
- Relief from pain, especially back pain. Reduction in compulsive or addictive behaviour

Introductory offer for a limited period only:

One hour of floatation £20
Three one hour sessions £50

Normally £25 per hour. Float gift vouchers are available and make brilliant presents for those who think they have everything!

Harvest Moon Centre, 24 Lower Baggot St., Dublin 2,

Ph: 6627556

Heaven on Earth

It was at the Frog Fair last July that it started happening for me. I was after chatting to a friend who had just undergone a transformative healing session, helping her assimilate the new insights into her worldview. I bought a shot of caffeine at the tea caravan and sat on a straw bale to have a fag. This man beside me pointed to a distant cluster in the twilight sky and said: "That's where they're coming from. It won't be long now."

I am proud to proclaim my fondness for planet earth. Part of my reason for being involved with this magazine is to spread the good news about what goes on here, to play a small part in making this planetary home of ours a wonderful place to be. Indeed, I have been known on various occasions to dedicate myself to the world, to make a better life, to do what I can to generate a beautiful world. The sci-fi space fixation has always appeared to me to be an amusing projection of inner dissatisfaction - the alien being the alienated self, seen in all its horror and potential, a symbol for a race of beings frantically avoiding dealing with its real needs head on. I ain't no trekkie baby. I look inside, sort my head out, do what I can to generate a good buzz. There was more of it at the Rainbow in Hollywood. The Pleideans. The fleet of ships waiting just beyond the reach of our sensors, waiting to come to our aid. Whispers of Solaras, she who channels the information from these beings, who has inspired so many people with her love, warmth, energy and wisdom. News that she had initiated people into the various orders, each with a specific function. As an outsider, I was thinking - why initiation? Why hierarchies? What functions? Is this another moving statues thing? Pre millennium hysteria? Why are so many of my friends talking about this, glad to be a part of it? I travel as much as I can throughout this country. This brings me into contact with a lot of different people, so I get to see many perspectives. I'm glad to meet kindred spirits doing what they can to live in a way that is harmonious with the non-human world. People connecting with the land, celebrating our interdependence. People singing and painting, looking to themselves for direction and inspiration. People who have made their peace with the past, transcended their conditioning, forgiven their abusers and are dedicated to making the most of life. People who don't need alien myths or saviour myths to keep the focus on the value of their selves or their contribution.

I went to England in November.

Talk of the rising waters, the great shift in polarity that would put all the world's computers out of action, the disappearance of chunks of land, eg California or Northwest Europe. Gleeful talk of the endtimes, coinciding with the fulfillment of Biblical and other prophecies, aligned to 2012 and the end the Mayan calendar, strange phenomena in the skies, the saturation of the media with ET programs, the hungry hope that this earth the human race seems destined to destroy would be saved by the arrival and application of alien technologies way beyond our understanding. I wondered if there was a mass abdication of responsibility - continue our culture of materialistic destruction and the saviours will arrive, just like the one 2,000 years ago. Reading Terence McKenna and his theory that the aliens are here, that their wisdom is contained in magic mushrooms, and all one has to do is go tripping to access the truth and allow their inspiration act through you. Theories that the evolution of man had been programmed by visitors, that our ancient sacred sites are spaceships or monuments depicting our ancestors first interactions with our gods from other worlds. Reading "The Only Planet of Choice", a collection of messages channelled from a spokesman for the Council of Nine (non-earthly beings), and being inspired by its breadth of vision and relevant insights into life on earth. Being singled out at a New Year's gathering to receive tapes of a Pleidean spreading his wisdom to an inquisitive audience.

I'm a part of the earth. I like the theories. I like the way it cannot be possible for one being of one species on one planet to know the entire truth of the universe. It is sufficient to know one's own story, to heal the self and perform the tasks life lays before one. I dedicate myself to the world, to function as well as I can, to follow spirit without hesitation. From what I understand, our work is to co-create heaven on earth, to realise our personal and collective potential, to manifest our ideal vision of how good it could be here. I hear the aliens are into that too. Too often it appears that many fellow earthlings are into creating hell on earth. Let us love them, inspire them and bring them heaven. This is something we must take care of ourselves, no matter what help may be available from our brothers and sisters beyond the stars,

Eanna



Bealtaine Fires '97

Bealtaine, throughout the world and from ancient times is recognised as a focal time of celebration. It is the beginning of Summer. Beal (Bel or Balor), is the solar-fire deity or Sun God of ancient Irish folklore. Tine or taine translates as fire or "goodly fire". Ceremonies traditionally performed at Bealtaine celebrate strength, cleansing and fertility. It is a night of Love and the bringing of fire back to the Earth after the long cold darkness of Winter.

Over the past four years Bealtaine Fires have again been lit on mountains and hilltops around Ireland. This ancient tradition is being re-awakened by a growing number of individuals who are simply glad of the opportunity to celebrate our Gealic heritage on our native Sacred Places. Eight fires were lit in '94, twenty three were lit in '95, and over forty fires were lit in '96. Bealtaine fires were traditionally lit on the night of the first full moon in May, (which is usually quite close to the cross-quarter day - half way along the sun's journey from Spring Equinox to Summer Solstice).

This year however, we celebrated Bealtaine at the New Moon-6th May. I don't know exactly how many fires were lit this year as yet. I joined about forty people of varying ages and backgrounds gathered on private land in the Dublin Mountains, overlooking the Big City's dazzling lights. Here we sat around a huge Pine bonfire, sang, played music, made new friends and had the crack. A night to stay up late and contemplate the dawn and the magnificence of life. Bealtaine will continue to be celebrated in the first week of May again next year and anyone can who climb a mountain with some friends can join in at will.

TREE WALK '97

Camping in the open air, travelling the country spreading good news, planting trees, inspiring people - sounds like a good life to me. The second tree walk has finished its 500 mile trek through Ireland at the Rainbow Gathering in Cadamstown in the Slieve Bloom mountains. Beginning in Sneem in south Kerry on the 7th of February, the walkers and the animals in their care completed a spiral journey through the west, as far north as Longford, through Kildare and Laois before settling in Offaly.



The project is a beautiful example of practical environmentalism at its best. The money for the trees was earned by a group of people who organised the collection and recycling of beverage cans - keeping the streets clean, reducing the degree of waste accruing at land fills and generating precious income to facilitate the reforestation of Ireland with native species. Living in harmony with the land as they travel, the multinational band of travellers called into schools on the route to tell the children of the country the value of trees. Imagine being ten years old in a classroom when the teacher suddenly tells you to go down to the hall where you are greeted by a colourful bunch of musicians who are into singing, dancing and some informal but potent teaching about the environment and how individual behaviour affects it. A few songs, a bit of slagging then out into the schoolyard to plant a

few trees. When the children go home after school they tell their families the stories of what happened in school that day and so the message is spread through the communities of the country.

The first tree walk was done last year by two groups who left Derrybrien, Co. Galway in separate directions to complete a 700 mile circuit of Ireland. Their steps and planting have inspired many and the evidence of this year's work suggests that many understand the value and importance of a project where the participants walk their talk, live their message and believe in the necessity of creating eco-friendly ways of living. The reactions in the schools, towns and communities through which the walk has

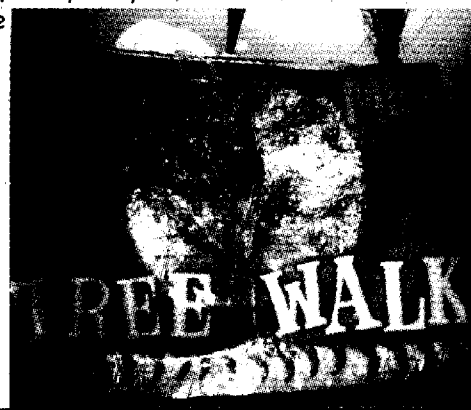
passed have been positive. Supplies have been regularly donated by local traders so the business communities are directly involved in the sponsorship of the project.

The spirit around the campfire is kept up by the constant craic and music. The mandolins, whistles and drums never stop except for meals and decision making sessions. Music is an important aspect of the experience. Many of the instruments are made of wood, music is a great way of breaking down barriers and bringing people together in a celebration of life. There are musicians among those who are doing the whole walk and many of the visitors who join them for a night or a week are musicians too. A welcome was extended to all to participate in the tree walk - this is no elitist, exclusive club - this is a community of those who are in a position to help with the work that must be done. If your spirit is willing you can help by picking up cans in your area, turning them into cash so that trees may be purchased for next year's walk. Support the tree walkers - pick up a can!



One of the interesting spin offs of the walk came out of a request made by some of the children the walkers met. Because of the nature of the music business not many children get to hear live music very often, certainly not the passionate spontaneous whirls of drums, whistles and mandolins the walkers concocted. Some children asked if it would be possible to buy a tape of the walker's music. As a result of this several of the walker's came up to Dublin for a few days to record a six track tape in Elektra studios with many of their friends in the city. "Trees are Life" is the result and you can get your own copy from Catalyst. Not only is the music and singing wonderful - including a twenty minute spontaneous celebratory creation with every head in the packed studio singing their hearts out - but the money generated from the sale of the tape will be channelled towards future non-profit tree planting projects.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of joining the tree walk a couple of times on the journey this year, as well as the satisfaction of working on the "Trees are Life" tape. Both experiences were rewarding and fulfilling - it's great to witness people walking the talk, living the message, planting seeds of hope in hearts and minds as they secure living roots in mother earth.



Independent Magazine Contact List:

Aisling Magazine

c/o Dara Molloy/Tess Harper, Inishmore,
Aran Islands, Co. Galway
- Retail price; £2.50 Wholesale 3 for £5

An Caorthann (the Rowan Tree)

This is a quarterly magazine of discussion and information for the green and alternative movement. We aim to encourage debate around relevant issues rather than simply repeating received wisdom, and to develop networking and contact within the movement. Themes covered have included waste, refugee issues, gender, national identity, green economics, red-green coalitions, our relationship to the natural world and green spirituality.
Address: 48 Bachelors Walk Apartments, Bachelors Walk, Dublin 1
Tel (01 8720674)
Annual Subscription: £5 (Imbolc, Bealtine, Lughnasa, Samhain) Sample copy £1.50

Common Ground

Word is wait and see....something coming for the Rats Festival. Contact c/o Derreenargan, Keadue, Co. Roscommon

Earthwatch Magazine

Earthwatch, Harbour View, Bantry, Co. Cork Tel. (027) 50968

Green Times

Cork Environmental Alliance,
34 Princes St., Cork
Ph: (021) 272277 Retail: £1

Grian

East Clare Telecottage, Main Street, Scariff, Co. Clare

Network Ireland

c/o Ruth Marshall, Ballydonahane, Bodyke, Co. Clare
Ph: (061) 921642 - Holistic magazine for mind, body, spirit and earth. Retail £1.50

New Connections

35 Patrick Street, Newry Co. Down BT35 8EB
Ph: (01693) 69635 Annual Subscription £12 (4 issues per solar/Atlantean year)
Sample copy £2.50

News Bulletin

Irish Council Against Blood "Sports" PO Box 147, Cork Ph: (021) 272930

Offaly Community Link

Freda Rowntree, Community Centre, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly Ph: (0509) 33027

Organic Matters

56 Blessington Street, Dublin 7
Ph: (01) 8307996
Retail £1, Wholesale 45p

Sheela-na-Gig

Rath Grain, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
Subscription £3 (Bealtine & Samhain) Issue £1.50
Sheela-na-Gig is a magazine published in Ireland encompassing the various aspects of Earth-based spirituality in the magical Celtic isles.

Tuar Ceatha

One World Centre, 2 Churchyard Street, Galway
Ph: (091) 65589

Vegetarian and Vegan Guide

c/o East Clare Community Co-op, Scariff, Co. Clare
Ph: (061) 921641 Retail £3 include p&p (annual); cheques to "Vegetarian and Vegan Guide" please. Wholesale £1.60

Echinaforce - Resistance Drops Boost your immune system

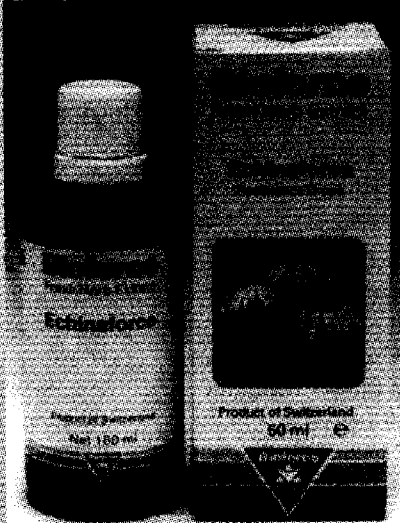
Echinacea is famous for its ability to boost the immune system. It is one of the most commonly prescribed herbs in the world, particularly in the U.S. and Germany and is increasingly gaining popularity in the rest of Europe. Echinacea is indigenous to North America where it has been used for centuries by native North Americans in the treatment of infections, skin wounds and snake bites and today more than 250 medical products in Germany contain Echinacea. In the 1950's well-known naturopath Dr. Alfred Vogel was introduced to the benefits of this remarkable herb by Black Eagle, a Sioux Indian Chief and medicine man. So

Impressed was Dr. Vogel that he started to grow and research the herb at home in Switzerland. He developed an extract from the plant which has become a world bestseller known as Echinaforce. **What is Echinacea used for?** Because Echinacea can assist in the body's defences, it helps to control viral, bacterial and fungal infections. It is also used for skin wounds and can even be used to treat eczema.

Wholefood wholesale
Unit 2d, Kylemore Industrial estate, Killeen Rd., Dublin 10.

Ph: 01 6262315.

Echinaforce is made from freshly harvested Echinacea purpurea, organically grown and processed in Switzerland. It is available as a tincture (alcohol extract) in 50ml. (£6.25) and 100ml. (£11.95) bottles and also as tablets.



Catstone Design

Ballymore,
Co. Westmeath

- Arts & Crafts
- Antiques
- Second hand goods
- Hemp clothing
- Bric - a - brac
- Architectural salvage

Provides an outlet for travelling people to sell their goods, bits and pieces for sale welcome

c/o Chris
Ph: 044 56609



Open the hearts,
Make space to express
Inspire your friends,
Clean up the mess
It's time to change,
It's time to grow
Don't think just know.

Stop making noise,
Stop talking shite
Apply yourself to doing
what you know is right
It's time to change,
It's time to grow
Don't think just know.

Stop raping the planet,
Stop wrecking heads
Stop torturing yourself over
the lives you've led
It's time to change,
It's time to grow
Don't think just know.

Stop looking for direction,
Stop asking for approval
We're making heaven now
we're way beyond survival
It's time to change,
It's time to grow
Don't think just know.

connectio
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I. Dermot
Blackwell

have been asked to explain my actions: to make my intentions plain, and set them down for all to see.

This is my testimony. I was walking down Fade Street one day when I happened to notice, right in the centre of the public highway, a Reality Gap. I had never seen one before, but I knew straight away that this was all it could be, for it was dark and gaping, and existed where nothing should exist (or, to be more exact, where there should have been something there was only this nothing, a nothing that denied explanation). It struck me as an immediate and obvious threat to all, and I was appalled that nothing was being done about it. On the contrary, people seemed to be completely oblivious to it! Only the poor souls who actually fell into it were aware of it, but they would receive no sympathy, or even comprehension of their plight, from their fellow human beings, and they were left to climb out unaided. I was shocked to my very soul: and I realised that something would have to be done.

But the authorities ignored me: I was laughed out of the Corporation office, and the Gardai gently told me to go home and not be worrying myself. Their indifference angered me, and I decided that the "proper channels" were either unable or unwilling to assist me. So I decided to take matters into my own hands: I would have to tackle this problem alone. It wasn't long before I had a plan, and the simplicity of this plan delighted me.

I took a bucket of white paint and a four-inch brush and walked down to Fade Street, where I then painted a large white circle around the gap. When I had finished I stood back to admire my work, and I was gratified to observe that my actions had an immediate effect: people began to notice the Reality Gap, to avoid it, and to point out its dangers to others. I returned home satisfied, and promised myself that I would do the same to any other Reality Gaps I came across.

Fate moves in strange ways, and my spying of the Reality Gap soon opened my eyes to others. They were everywhere: on roads, on kerbs, on pavements, even on walls. I found myself keeping an account of how much white paint I was using with the intention of billing the Corporation for the amount when the time came. But as I worked I noticed that the gaps were getting larger, for sometimes a human being would fall in and never be seen again. Animals, incidentally, had an instinctual abhorrence for the gaps, and would shun them.

My markings were of some use in warning of the danger presented by the gaps, for I remained the only one who could see them, and I found myself engaged round the clock in painting them. I was beginning to be swamped by the volume of work, however, and soon I was unable to keep up with the ever-growing number of gaps. I began to despair: how could I possibly save people from the peril in their midst?

It was about this time that the Corporation awoke to the danger at hand. Their first

action was to send me a letter asking me to refrain from marking the roads, and their second was to threaten me with a fine, or even imprisonment, if I persisted. The Gardai told me I was considered a public nuisance, and my solicitor told me I had no case (for which he charged me one hundred pounds). I was forced to desist, and reluctantly put aside my trusty four-inch brush. It seemed my days as Protector against Reality Gaps were over.

But I couldn't let the matter lie. I found myself lying awake at night, worrying about the evil menace that the Reality Gaps posed to our society. I had to follow up on what steps the Corporation was taking. So, early one morning, I set out to walk the streets of Dublin to see what I could see. It wasn't long before I came across a Reality Gap, and as I stood watching the bodies trying to escape from it a Corporation Van pulled up beside it. I stood back, so as to avoid the attention of the workmen, and watched them as they worked.

I was appalled! They stood there with shovels in their hands and poured hot tarmac into the Reality Gap, right on top of the huddled wretches who were trapped inside! It was a disgusting sight, I was sick to my stomach, and my outrage was only compounded by the knowledge that, come the next heavy frost, the tarmac would work itself loose and be lost to the elements. Their efforts were meaningless, and the Reality Gap would be worse

than ever in two months time. I ran across the road to tell them this, but I was told to "Fuck off" by the foreman, a large hairy creature with small piggy eyes and a copy of the Daily Male sticking out of his behind (or so it seemed to my angle). So I killed the man, there and then. It was all I felt I could do, given the circumstances. And, yes, now they hold me here and tell me I have done wrong. I beg to differ. I make no excuses, I offer no apology for what I have done. It was for the greater good. This ends my testimony.



THE REALITY GAP

PAUL DELAHUNTY
26/3/97

Title: Catalyst, No. 4

Date: 1997

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