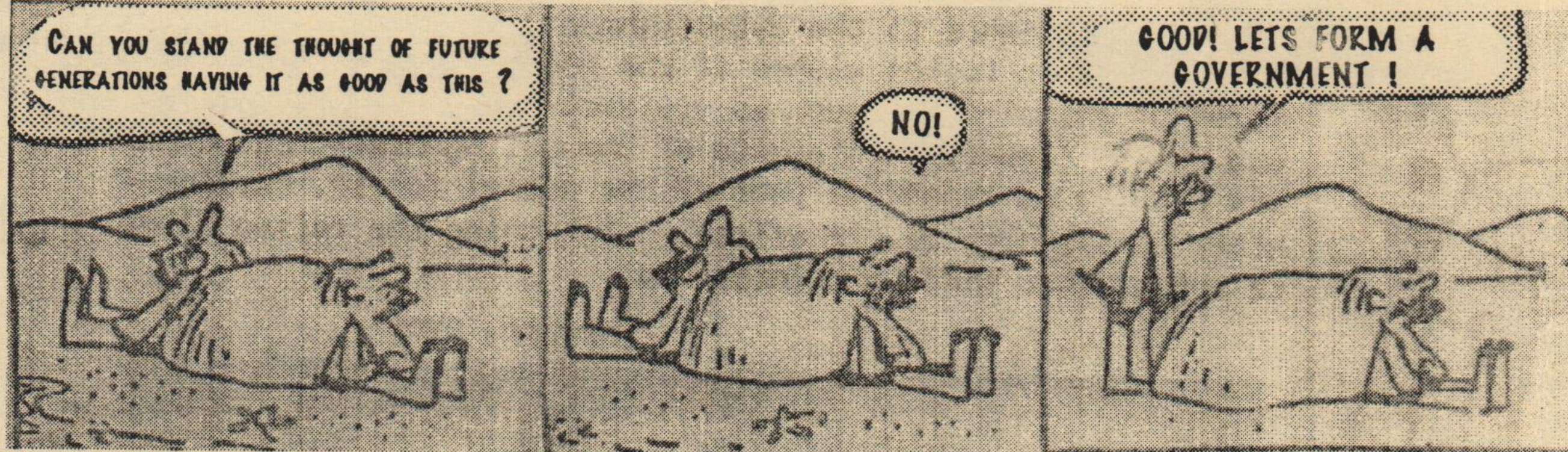


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## Women's Rights Are Human Rights

Are you sick of hearing that modern women have it all? That feminism is a dirty word? Then this could be the article for you!

While it is true that social and economic conditions have improved immeasurably for women even in the space of a generation, the sad fact remains that there is still a lot to change.

As the Fawcett Society points out, women are more likely than men to spend their last years in poverty, and during their working lives, will receive less pay: the average weekly wage for a man in this country is £374, while a woman is paid just £185. Only one in every eight MPs is a woman.

Women are also subject to abuse in the home, and November 25th marks World Day Against Domestic Violence: for more details, contact Women's Aid, who can provide advice and support as well as details of safe and secure refuge space for women, whether or not they have children. Women's Aid Advice Line tel. (0115) 947 6490 or Roshni Asian Women's Aid tel. (0115) 948 3450.

But in spite of the difficulties, sisters are doing it for themselves!! Read on!!

## International...

WOMANKIND Worldwide is a development agency with a difference. Set up in 1989, it aims to help women in the "developing world" to gain new skills and self confidence, so that they can play a more influential role in their communities. It works with existing women's organisations to improve literacy, overcome poverty, and eliminate violence, while also recognising the value of the skills that women already possess.

Worldwide, of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty, 70% are women. Half a million die every year due to pregnancy or childbirth. Isn't it time things changed?

The impetus for this change must, of course, come from the women themselves - but we can help. If you want

more details, contact WOMANKIND Worldwide, 3 Albion Place, Galena Road, London, W6 0LT.

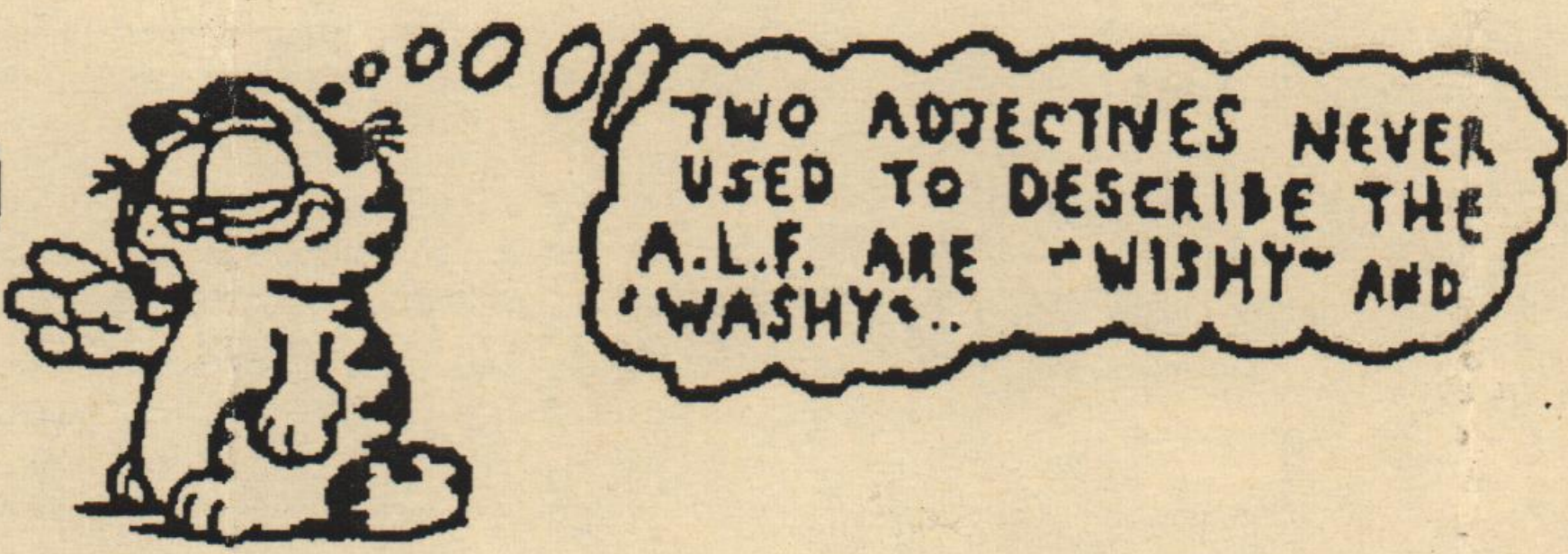
## And Homegrown: Nottingham Women's Centre

The Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, has for over 25 years provided a unique environment in which women can meet, gain confidence, develop skills, take part in training, get support and organise self-help groups, activities and services. It is also a focus for information and resources about women's issues. We have some paid workers in the centre but rely greatly on volunteers and new recruits are welcome at any time.

Local women are given access to crisis groups, such as Women's Aid, Roshni and Rape Crisis; training provided by the Training, Employment and Development Project; a creche; an extensive library; computing facilities; free counselling and pregnancy testing; alternative therapies... Women from all walks of life find the Centre a relaxing and welcoming place to be - even just to drop in for a coffee.

Looking forward to the next millennium, the Women's Centre hopes to provide more services tailored to the needs of Nottingham women. Come in and be part of the process. Tell us what you want and help us make it happen!

Our reception is open Monday to Friday from 10am till 4pm but the Centre is also available at other times. Contact us on (0115) 941 1475.



## Genetix Update

### Locally

★The suppliers of Nottinghamshire's school dinners now have a policy to exclude Genetically Modified ingredients from their food.

★The local group has successfully demonstrated at many local supermarkets raising the issues of Genetic Engineering locally and providing entertainment with the help of 'mutant vegetables'.

★Campaigners have also organised several successful public meetings. If anyone wants a speaker for a public meeting contact the Rainbow Centre on (0115) 9585 666.

★For details of local Genetix sites request a GMO public register and GMO Grid Reference List from Joseph Pereira, DETR biotech unit, 0171 890 5277, or check out S.H.A.G's website at <http://host.envirolink.org.shag>

### Nationally

★37 Genetix sites trashed so far.

★Campaigners occupied the University Genetics buildings where research is carried out.

★"Toxic Planet" happened in Islington, with banners to alert passers-by to the three day squatted Genetix info centre. Free cups of tea and a host of workshops and lots of GE free food.

★The Vegetarian Society has announced that only GM-free foods can use its symbol.

★You can now download the Nationwide Food Survey's guide 'How to Avoid Genetic Foods' from the web at <http://wkweb4.cablenet.co.uk/pbrown/index.htm>

## Pies Fly In Free-Trade Fury

Arguably one of the world's most powerful men, Renato Ruggiero, Director of the World Trade Organisation, received two cream pies in the face last Friday by anonymous activists from the Biotic Baking Brigade (B.B.B.) Ruggiero, in London to attend a conference on 'Trade and Investment' had just been hit by this double-whammy, when from somewhere behind him, whipped cream came squirting all over his bald head.

The W.T.O is one of the lesser known UN agencies, but it has a bold mission: in Ruggiero's words, they have been 'writing the constitution of a single global economy'. As the organisation's first boss, he is charged with the job of knocking aside any obstacles to the corporations clamouring to rip out the resources from beneath the feet of peoples from all nations. Any problems with that? Campaign groups were welcome to come and discuss them with him at the London conference, for the once-in-a-lifetime, bargain knock-down price of £440. 'We're practically giving the tickets away!' cried the organisers, the Royal Institute of International Affairs. 'We must be mad!' (actually they didn't say those things).

## Gasps

You might have thought Ruggiero mad if you'd heard him outline his vision of how the environment would be saved by unshackled economic growth. All pie in the sky - but minutes later, outside the conference at Chatham House, he had egg, quite literally, on his face. 'This is a present from the dispossessed!' cried one of the activists, handy with a flan or two, before disappearing into the West London crowds. Gasps went up as Ruggiero stumbled blindly back into the building, leaving his cream-spattered spectacles out on the pavement.

A B.B.B. spokesperson active in the UK told SchNEWS: 'Ruggiero was singled out by our crack team of pie throwers armed with the latest in low intensity lemon custard device technology. Today we send a sticky message to Ruggiero and his global elite. No token amendments to international investment frameworks that give all rights to corporations and none to people, are acceptable, they must be scrapped.'

## Tofu

He is the first to feel the power of the pie in the UK, but only the latest in a recent worldwide spate of pieings. Last Tuesday, genetic engineering supremo Robert Shapiro, head of Monsanto, got a pie in the face, as did the recently elected Mayor of San Francisco, in the same month as that infamous corporate cocksucker and economic adviser to the Thatcherite regime, the neoliberalist

economist Milton Friedman.

All over the place activists have been taking a leaf out of Delia's book, relieving powerful figures of their dignity and making them eat, in a very real sense, humble pie. Head of Microsoft Bill Gates famously became the first victim, and since then intrepid entarteurs\* have become increasingly bold in pursuit of their ultimate aim: to put a pie in the face of the Pope.

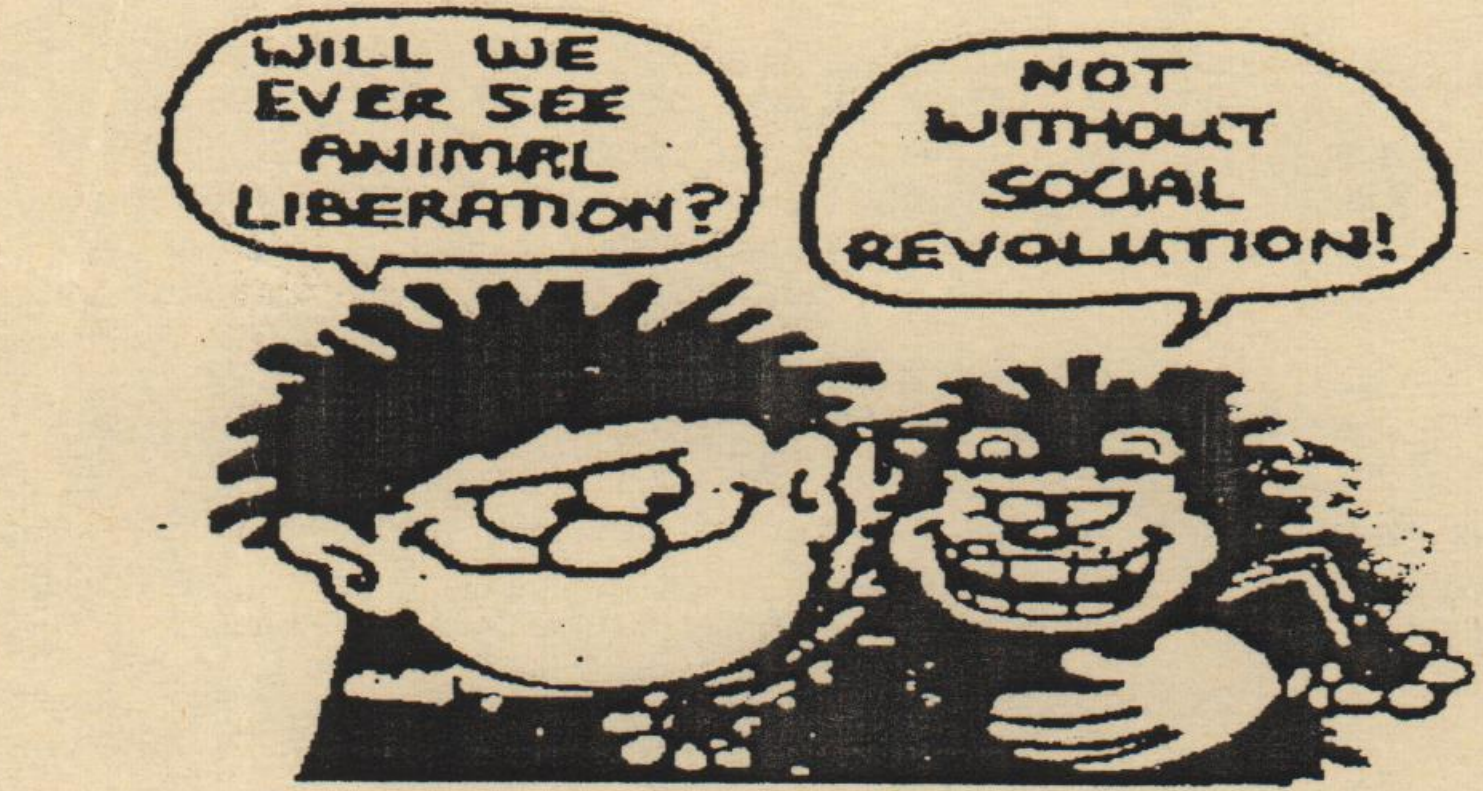
The General Command of the B.B.B. have recently issued a communique following an emergency session, announcing two new global campaigns. The 'Pie Snowball' is a 'call to arms for revolutionary bakers across the world' and incites an 'autonomous, diffuse pastry uprising'. The idea is for one entarteur in every region to make the first throw inspiring others to do the same.

## Pie2K

The second offensive, developed by a joint task force of disaffected computer nerds and GC-B.B.B. military advisors, has been code-named 'Pie2K'. This targets the computer industry execs and consultants whose short-sighted pursuit of profit has allowed the Millennium bug to arise, and will send a shower of pies across Silicon Valley.



The communique reads: 'Just Do It! We are all pie throwing anarchists. There's an oven on every street and cooking materials in every home.' Let the games commence.....



## Armed Robbery - Multinational Style



Would you sell a gun to someone rich and powerful so that they could use it to rob and kill someone smaller than themselves? Heckler & Koch, Nottingham's local arms dealers, do exactly that.

Most shoppers at Castle Marina retail park are unaware that just a few hundred feet away lies the factory of a company which sells weapons and equipment to some of the most infamously repressive states in the world. British Aerospace (H&K's parent company) are currently preparing to sell 16 Hawk Jets and other goods such as armoured cars and water cannons to Indonesia, despite the knowledge that such equipment will almost certainly be used to clamp down on protests and resistance to an improperly elected government.

As well as attacking its own people, the Indonesian state has also ventured further afield. December the 7th will see the 23rd anniversary of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor, an island which has seen around a third of its population murdered or wiped out by starvation since the 1975 attack. Despite the fact that Indonesia has no legal right to the land, the world's governments stand idly back and watch. Robin Cook's frantic post-election back pedalling was shown by his statement early this month that he never promised Britain an "ethical foreign policy", merely a "foreign policy with an ethical dimension". Oops, sorry Robin, obviously completely different things... silly old us!

So what can we do about it? Well, the answer is PLENTY, if we all get together! If you feel like showing H & K what you think of them, or wonderful "New Labour" for that matter, help mark the 7th of December in style.

For more details, contact June on (0115) 9585 666, or come up to the Rainbow Centre @ 182 Mansfield Road to try and get some future actions off the ground - PLEASE!!!

## "The World's Best Kept Secret"

Have you heard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Nope? Well, you're probably not alone: signed by many governments 50 years ago, it lists 30 basic rights which belong to every single person in the world - like the right to freedom of expression, to asylum from persecution, to education, to rest and leisure, and many, many more.

Sadly, the world's governments are apt to be a little forgetful, and this inspiring document is frequently ignored, as evidenced by the appalling number of human rights abuses carried out daily in every country.

However, the many positive achievements of the last 50 years are worth remembering, and it is in light of this that Amnesty International, Oxfam, and UNA-U.K. invite anyone interested to take part in a weekend of celebration, running from 4th-6th December.

As well as a gig at the Skyy Club and an Art Competition, a human rights conference is due to take place at Nottingham University on Saturday 5th December. With workshops and talks on a variety of diverse subjects, it promises to be an informative (and hopefully enjoyable!) day.

Tickets are £5 (or £2.50 if you're skint): for more details, call Callie at the East Midlands Amnesty Office, on (0115) 924 5100. Be there or be square!

## Free Mumia Now!



### Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal

On Thursday 29th October, the USA Supreme court ruled against the appeal of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, former Black Panther and environmental rights activist. Within days, demonstrations have been co-ordinated across America and the world against this decision.

Mumia Abu-Jamal joined the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia at the age of 14, and has been a tireless campaigner against institutionalised racism and oppression ever since. Working as a radio journalist, he became known as the "Voice of the Voiceless" for his support for the poor and exploited. He aroused the enmity of the authorities, especially over

his support for the MOVE organisation. This mainly black radical group, after high profile campaigns against police brutality, were besieged, attacked and framed up by police; finally 11 members were killed when the FBI firebombed their house in 1985. Mumia's vocal support for MOVE made him a marked man for the city government and police.

In December 1981, Mumia was working as a cab driver, when he spotted his brother being beaten by police. Stopping to intervene, he was shot in the stomach. In the chaos around this incident a policeman was shot and killed. Witnesses described the killer as a short, fat man with an afro haircut. Mumia is tall, thin and has very distinctive dreadlocks. He has always denied killing the officer.

His 1982 trial was a farce. Denied the lawyer of his choice, he was forced to accept a novice who was later disbarred. Police interviewed 125 witnesses, but in court, they produced 3 - all up on other charges and eager to support the police case, and who all contradicted each other. The jury was unrepresentative and set up to be hostile to Mumia. Police admitted beating Mumia, and forensic evidence showed he did not fire the gun used to kill the officer. Despite this, he was convicted. Judge Albert Sabo, who has sent more people (mostly BLACK) to death row than any other judge, sentenced him to death.

Mumia was not convicted of murder on the evidence - but for his political beliefs and actions which made him an enemy of the police and the state.

He has been on death row ever since, fighting through appeal after appeal to clear his name, in the face of demands for his death by the police and the implacable racism and bias against the poor of the legal system.

In 1995 Mumia came close to being executed. It was international pressure which prevented his judicial murder. 1000s of people worldwide protested and demonstrated, wrote letters and raised the case everywhere. As a result a further appeal was allowed. This has now been refused.

Governor Tom Ridge is preparing to sign the death warrant. It is only international pressure that can help save Mumia's life and bring about a fair retrial.

### What you can do:

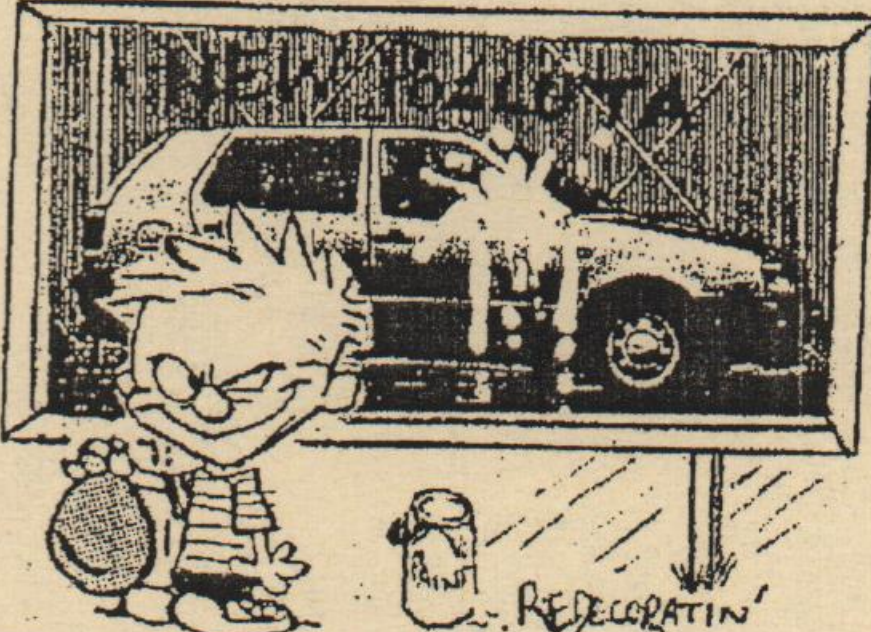
Write to State Governor Tom Ridge, State Capital Building, Rm. 225, Harrisburg, PA. 17120, United States., Tel 001 717 783 4429

Write to demand a retrial for Mumia: Chief Justice P.Flaherty, Supreme Court of PA., Six Gateway Centre, Suite 6161, 11 Stanwix St. Pittsburg, PA. 15222., USA.

Write to Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM 8335, SCJ Greene, 1040 East Roy Fuman Highway, Waynesburg, PA. 15370, USA.

For further information contact ABC, 121 Raitlon Road, Brixton, London SE24 0LR, tel 0171 326 0353 or <http://www.mumia.org>

## Stop The B.N.R.R



The B.N.R.R, or the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, is the latest in a series of turnarounds by the Labour Party on their new integrated transport policy. It vigorously opposed the road when in opposition and many of the local MPs were elected on the strength of their pledge to oppose the road. Now in power John Prescott has granted leave for the road to go ahead.

It is going to be 27 miles long, three times the size of the Newbury Bypass. It is also going to be Britain's first ever privately run toll road. The road passes by three schools, through a site of Special Scientific Interest and encloses the only edge of Birmingham currently free from motorway.

The road has never undergone a cost benefit analysis and independent consultants claim that if this was undergone it would prove the road not to be in the public interest. A lot of tax payers' money is being spent on a scheme that is going to benefit a private operator and will not reduce traffic in the area. The Department of Transport's own figures show that this road will increase congestion on the M6, notoriously congested anyway, and they have plans to widen the M6 to cope with extra traffic generated.

A protest site has been in operation for about a year now and is being billed as the last of the big anti-road camps. There is one camp and a squatted building currently set up. Evictions are imminent...Help is desperately needed with defence building and helping stop the evictions.

Get yourself down there...

Directions: Head along the A38 out of Birmingham past the roundabout junction with the A364 and it is about two miles further along. You will see the camp first and then there is an entrance to an ARC quarry and the site is off there. Contact 07970 301978 for further details.

## Nottingham Hunt Saboteurs need You!

Join up now! Active sabs, fund-raisers and mechanics especially welcome.

Contact: N.H.S., Box V, Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AA

Tel: 0115 958 5666 for more details.

And now it's time for....

## Aunty Kate and Aunty Kath's Special Vegan Cake Column!!

There's nothing we like better on a Friday night than a nice cake-eating sesh, and for sheer unadulterated piggery, we reckon you can't beat this one...

### Chocolate Tofu and Banana Flan

4oz (100g) crushed ginger snaps

2 bananas

10 oz (275g) silken tofu, drained

2oz dates

Rind and juice of 1 orange

1 tablespoon cocoa powder

Flaked almonds or desiccated coconut to decorate

Set oven to Gas 6 / 200°C / 400°F

Grease an 8" (20cm) pie plate or flan ring, then line base with crushed biscuits

Grate the rind from the orange and put into a liquidizer with the tofu

Squeeze the juice from the orange and make up to 3 tablespoons with water. Simmer the dates in this liquid for a few minutes until soft. Mash with a fork to a smooth puree.

Add the date puree to the tofu and orange rind in the liquidizer.

Mix the cocoa with 2 tablespoons of boiling water to form a paste and add to all the other ingredients in the liquidizer.

Whizz the tofu, lemon rind, date puree and cocoa paste in the liquidizer until thick and creamy.

Slice the bananas onto the biscuit base and spread the chocolate paste on top. Chill for one hour.

Sprinkle almonds or coconut on top before serving.

Mmm!! You can't really freeze it, so you might as well eat it all at once (or invite us round to help you!).

## Ill Health Caused by Poor Housing

A brilliant conference on energy efficiency, health and housing was held in Nottingham on the 27th of November.

Various speakers including Dr. Peter Barrett, (Chair of Nottingham Health Authority), Alan Simpson MP and Prof. Peter Ambrose gave stark proof that cold housing is a major contributing factor to poor health.

\*Entarteur, n. One who throws pies.

'The how to pie guide' and other pieing stories on.....

<http://www.sfvweekly.com/archives/1998/102198/bayview2.html?query=pieing>

Ta to Schnevs for this story. And if you want a copy of that wonderful publication, you can get it for free at the Rainbow Centre - what are you waiting for!

## Loughborough's Animal Abuse -On Your Doorstep!

Loughborough Animal Concern have two campaigns against vivisection laboratories: the first company targeted is Astra, and the second is Harlan.

Astra test on beagles, monkeys and other small animals, for unscientific and unreliable research on respiratory diseases.

Harlan, based in the small village of Belton, breed beagles for vivisection and also test on small animals. They also provide clients with animal body parts through the post.

Vivisection is medical fraud. We have regular demonstrations against both of these companies - join us on one of our weekly demos outside Harlan, Dodgeford Lane, Belton on Wednesday evenings (Ring Cathy on 0116 236 6450 for more details).

Please try to attend; Loughborough is on your doorstep and we must work to let them know they're not welcome!

Volunteers Needed.

For local animal sanctuary. No experience required, transport provided.

Also full-time live in position available, free accommodation and own transport provided.

Good loving homes required for dogs, cats, rabbits and rats.

For details of all above, call Brent on 0115 916 0300

★40,000 - 60,000 people die prematurely every winter in the UK. This is the worst figure in all of Europe.

★For every 1°C drop in temperature in winter there is an associated increase of 8,000 deaths.

★The poorest 30% of households spend twice as much (as a proportion of income) on heating. The people with the least to spend (the unemployed, chronically sick and the elderly) are also those who spend the longest in their homes.

★One in three respondents aged 64 had a living room temperature at or below 18°C. The risk of respiratory illness rises sharply at temperatures below 16°C. The recommended minimum for elderly people is 21°C for the entire dwelling.

There is often a stark choice between spending money on fuel or on food, clothing and amenities. Fuel poverty has a number of knock-on effects on physical and mental wellbeing.

★Lowered resistance to ill-health

★Adoption of unhealthy habits - eg. smoking, drinking, drugs, etc. - in some cases as a coping strategy.

★The progressive reduction of the tenant's self-organising capacity - eg. making use of services, complying with treatment, etc.

The conference called on anyone interested to put pressure on the Government to make progress on the Warm Homes Act.

On a high note, it's good to see that Newark and Sherwood Council has made great progress in this area. A teacher in the area was reported as saying that she knew the housing had improved as a number of the children no longer smelt of mould...

If you feel like doing something about this, then the next article's for you...!

## Save Money And Energy!

Skint? Concerned about the environment? Then read on...

If you're receiving Income Support, Housing Benefit, JSA, Family Credit etc., you can get a grant of up to £315 which covers cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, draught proofing and energy saving light bulbs, among other things.

If you are sitting in front of a single bar electric fire as you read this, cursing your landlord for letting you die of hypothermia, GET ON THE PHONE!!!

Ring 0800 072 0150 and ask for details of the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme. It's free, it's easy, you'll save cash and feel very righteous. What more could anyone ask??