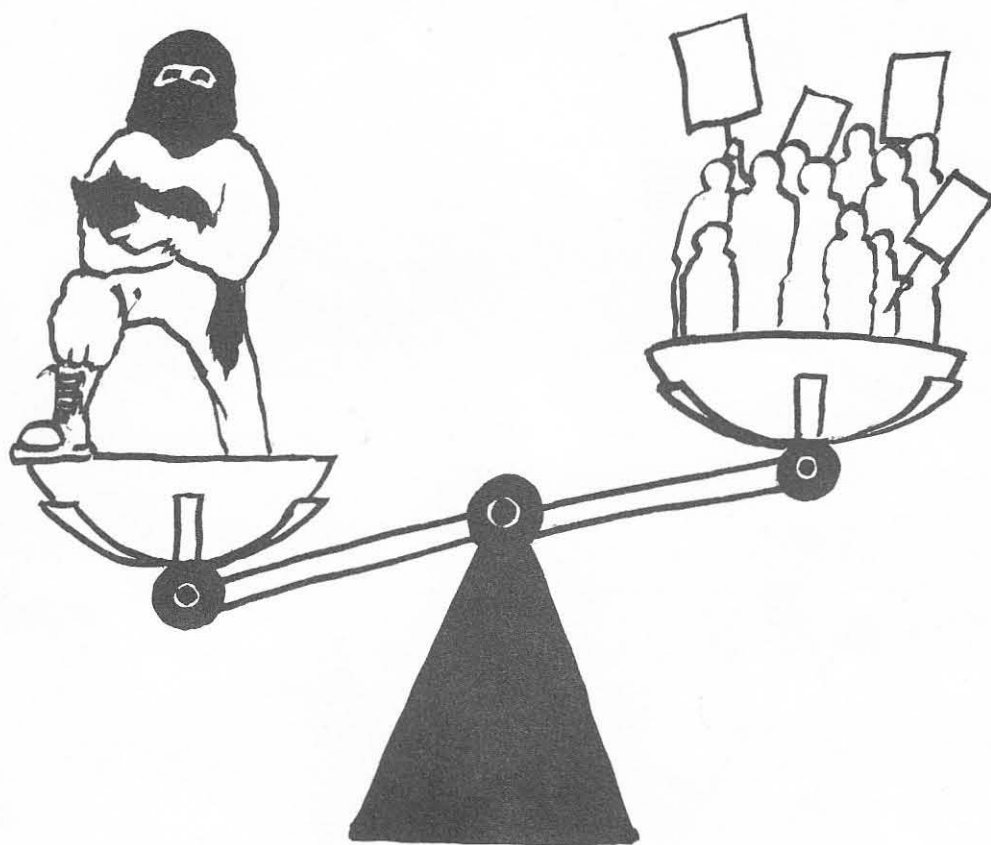


ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS GROUP NEWSLETTER



WINTER 1992/3

£1

COMMENT

The ALF Supporters group has gone thru many hands and many changes over the years, most of the changes have been brought about by the force of the authorities in one way or the other. Needless to say we are still here and intend to be so for as long as it takes, that is till no-one is imprisoned for acts of compassion.

Most people in the animal rights movement will be aware of who Ronnie Lee is and where he has been for the last six years or so. Most will be aware that he is now out, and not a day too soon. The failure of the prison system to give even one days parole to what they themselves have called a 'model' prisoner is nothing short of scandalous. Ronnie was the longest serving animal rights prisoner and so far the one only one given a 10 year sentence. The severity of such a sentence only becomes apparent when you realise that the next highest prison sentence given to animal rights activists is 6 years, and that only recently to one of his original co-defendants, Viv Smith who was sentenced to 4 years at the same time he received 10. His sentence was hailed as the smashing of the ALF, it neither smashed the ALF nor Ronnie. He remained unbowed and courageous throughout his sentence and inspired many others inside and outside prison walls. Our movement owes him a great deal. A letter from him is printed on page 6.

It has been brought to our attention by the ALF Press office that the West London ALF have issued a statement saying that they will be starting a campaign of economic sabotage against General Motors (GM) who also own Vauxhall. This is because they are the known to do car crash experiments on animals. The statement went on to say that if no statement was issued before February 1993 then all Vauxhall cars would be considered targets. Normally we would make no comment on such a statement but it is felt that such a campaign should be confined to dealers and new Vauxhall cars. No profits from second hand Vauxhalls go to GM and not only do the Supporters group merchandise department get around in a second-hand Vauxhall van but also two of the workers at the Vegan society. Now that could bring about an embarrassing headline!

On a more serious subject, the article on page 10 penned by two of the Doddleston prisoners concerning animal rights and fascism. We are printing the article because it is from two prisoners who asked for it to be printed. Whether you agree with the article or not please remember that there is no creed, ideology, race, country or religion which is not guilty when it comes to the abuse of animals.

For easy reference all addresses can be found at the back of the newsletter.

Printed by Aldgate Press on recycled paper.

NEWS FROM THE PRESS OFFICE...

First, apologies to those who are waiting for a reply from the press office. Things have been rather busy the past few months and correspondence has fallen a bit behind. Please bear with me, you will get a response eventually! Many thanks to those of you who have sent donations. A number didn't give an address so I can't say "Thank you" direct but be assured that your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. Incidentally, if you read in 'The Times Saturday Review' of 7th November that I "live on donations and media fees" - it just ain't true. All donations and fees received go to pay the running of the press office. Day-to-day living is covered by my partner Margaret, without whom I couldn't do what I do.

Writing about press reports is a reminder that biased media coverage is something that the ALF have had to live with for a long time. However, some recent press reports have been blatant fabrications so I would like to set the record straight on the main ones. The 'Today' newspaper for 17th November carried a report headlined "ALF torch chickens" which went on to claim that "a lorry load of chickens were burned alive..." near Driffield on North Humberside. The truth is that seven lorries were destroyed by incendiary devices at T. Soanes & Son in Middleton-on-the-Wolds during the early hours of Sunday 15th November. Damage was estimated at some £250,000. One of the lorries was loaded with frozen chickens. A letter was written by the press office and faxed to 'Today' on the same day the article appeared. Neither the letter nor a retraction was published.

In another recent incident there were reports that "animal rights extremists" had attacked a pig farm in Lincolnshire, shot and killed two pigs and then fired shots at police who arrived at the scene. It was later admitted that the raid had been carried out by poachers.

As I write this article news has started to come in that a 30,000-bird poultry unit has been burned down and only 7,000 birds have been rescued. The police "have not ruled out animal rights". Sorry Mr Plod, it sounds more like an insurance fiddle to me!

Obviously, ALF activists take every precaution not to endanger life. It may appear to some that the above stories are part of a deliberate conspiracy to discredit the movement, an understandable conclusion to reach. Because of these suspicions some activists have now said that any media outlet which published a deliberate lie (as distinct from editorial bias) and refuses to retract or correct it will become a legitimate target as they are supporting the animal abusers. Perhaps so, but surely the

primary enemy should continue to be the animal abusers themselves rather than dissipate energy on what are very much secondary concerns and more of a nuisance than a direct threat to the well-being of non-humans? Personally, however bad a news report is, I would rather an activist risk their freedom by attacking Boots instead of the BBC! That of course is not necessarily the opinion of the press office.

On a brighter note, speakers from the press office have been in regular demand at both demonstrations and public meetings. One particularly notable public meeting was in Newcastle-upon-Tyne which had attracted 130 people. It is always good to be able to explain to people who have hitherto only been told that "these lunatics set the movement back twenty years" exactly why the activists do what they do. If your group would like to invite a press office speaker and cannot afford the travel expenses please still ask, it may be that the visit can be subsidised.

One thing causing slight problems is the lack of publicity and display material. Most of this is with various police forces, notably the Lothian and Borders in Scotland. Having arrested me on 20th May while 12 (yes, twelve!) nice officers searched our tiny 2-up-2-down cottage for no less than four and a half hours before they released me without charge after 36 hours in custody, saying they would continue their enquiries up and down the country. Nearly seven months later they are still working on the papers and are "confident" that charges will be made. Suggestions are welcomed as to how subversive or incriminating things like "RSPCA correspondence" actually are (no prizes!).

Some local cells of ALF are producing their own press releases which is really good - there may not always be a press office! Most of the releases also give the press office telephone number so the media can ask for additional comments. Again, that's fine. However, a couple of times the media have telephoned me, said that they've got a press release with my number on it, and I haven't had a copy of it to refer to. Please, I'd rather receive two copies than none. The press office itself may be incompetent but that's no excuse for you out there!

ALF press office leaflets as sent out with the last SG newsletter are available at a cost of £2 per hundred including postage. This is less than cost. Also available soon will be merchandise list for mail order of selected items. Larger orders for local animal rights groups will qualify for a substantial discount. Please send an SAE if you would like a copy of the list when available.

Meanwhile, please make sure that you let the press office know of any actions that have taken place. For legal reasons neither the PO nor the SG can publish a 'Diary of Actions! But the information is still of vital importance.

In closing, I'd like to wish all activists, prisoners, friends and supporters a free and unfettered 1993 both for themselves and for our brothers and sisters of other species. Perhaps a sign of the times is that the last call I had while writing this article was from a journalist on 'Poultry World'... 'Bye for now.

ROBIN WEBB

Note: For those of you not aware of it the ALF Press Office and the ALF Supporters Group are two separate organisations. This is for legal reasons. The two organisations are financially independent of each other. Needless to say there are no differences when it comes to aims and goals and we urge all members to join the press office membership or send donations if they can.

Robin would like it to be known that if you were expecting a card from him during the yuletide season and were disappointed in not getting one, it is more likely that he didn't have your address due to the fact of his address books being in police custody, rather than an oversight. He extends his greetings via us.

HASSEN SADELLI

Hassen Sadelli who was sentenced to 2 years in prison for setting fires to 11 butchers' shops in Lyons, France was released at the end of September. We have no forwarding address or further information on him, but where-ever you are Hassen our best wishes.

STOP PRESS

The 200 mice who moved home from the University of Essex during the early hours of 25 December, would like to express their thanks to the activists who helped them in the change of address, and for their resultant freedom.

Manchester Conspiracy

The Manchester Conspiracy defendants, (Keith Mann, Rhian Hopkin, Marilyn Fahy, John Hughes, Terry Helsby, Alison McKeon, Clare Rush, Max Watson, John Marnell and Fran Morgan) have a pretrial hearing due for January or February. The defendants wanted to hold a meeting but the CPS solicitor Kevin Goodwin refused with the excuse that the defendants could not be together without their solicitors. Such a meeting with so many people would be almost an impossibility. At present only Keith Mann is in prison, being already convicted but not sentenced to other ALF charges, but the bail restrictions or the rest are many and varied. Appeals have been made to get the restrictions relaxed but to no avail.



MARK POWER

At exactly Midnight on 3rd November, 1991, I was stopped outside a butchers shop in Birmingham by the Police. In hindsight it was evident that they had been watching the area for some time. The Policeman who arrested me called for assistance, and despite the fact that I offered no resistance, no less than four squad cars sped up and I was handcuffed and taken to Smethwick Police station. The Police held me there for five days and interviewed me on three occasions. Throughout the interviews I said "No comment" to each of their questions. I went to court on the second day and was remanded into Police custody. I quickly got in touch with a solicitor, not the duty solicitor as they are notoriously unreliable and appear to take little interest in their clients.

Eventually, on I think the third day, I was charged with conspiracy to commit arson, possession of items with the intention of committing arson and arson. Nine counts of criminal damage to butchers shops were added later. On the same night I was arrested the Police raided my flat and took away stacks of printed material and all sorts of household items and tools. Eventually most of the documents they confiscated appeared in the depositions, including leaflets from such innocuous organisations as NAVS and the CAA! They even confiscated an ALF t-shirt. They took away a hammer and were later able to match fragments of glass found on the hammer to that of a shop window that had been smashed. The forensic scientists were apparently very thorough, the Police were obviously determined to get a conviction.

On the fifth day in Police cells I was taken back to court and remanded in custody to Winson Green prison. At the same time I learnt that I had been suspended from my job as a psychiatric nurse. The whole thing was a bit depressing to say the least! While I was waiting in the reception of the prison a loud, aggressive looking screw came up to me and demanded to know if I was responsible for fire bombing eight meat trucks in Kenilworth. When I said no he glared at me and told me to "Go fuck yourself!". I was sent straight to the hospital wing for observation and stayed there until the end of December.

Finally I was transferred to an ordinary wing, most of the people I met were very sympathetic to the ALF, many were vegetarians and a few vegans. I went straight into full time education, although the facilities were very limited but at least it got me out of my cell and I did quite enjoy some of the things we did. The conditions in Winson Green are very bad. It isn't so much the fact that it is dirty, that most prisoners are only allowed one

shower a week, it is the totally uncaring indifference that you are met with each day. A lot of inmates have some very genuine problems that need sorting out and are given no help whatsoever, unless you can get the ear of a sympathetic screw, which isn't very often. Another major problem is the macho atmosphere of prisons where there is a great deal of male posturing and the type of moronic attitudes towards race and gender that go with it.

In March, 1992 I was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing. I pleaded not guilty to the conspiracy charge but guilty to the other charges because of the overwhelming evidence against me. The CPS accepted my plea. I was given a four year sentence and to be honest it was a relief, from the way the judge had summed up I was expecting more. He described me as a "terrorist" who had tried to intimidate the Birmingham business community, I've always regarded myself as the least intimidating and aggressive person I know! but at least the whole thing was over with and I knew where I stood.

I spent another few weeks in the Green and was then transferred to Sudbury prison and then to Foston Hall. I'm now awaiting a parole answer which I expect to receive in February 1993.

I want to thank all those who have supported me throughout my imprisonment, all those people who sent me cards and letters and those who have visited. I want to thank those who are themselves in prison and have given me their support. My thoughts are with you.

Best wishes,

MARK

FREE(D) RONNIE LEE

Dear Friends,

On November 13th I was released after serving 6 years, 8 months of a 10 year prison sentence and I am writing this letter to thank all those people who gave me such wonderful support during my time in prison.

During my sentence I received many thousands of letters from friends and sympathizers, which really helped to keep my spirits up throughout the years I spent inside. Due to the volume of letters, I was unfortunately not able to reply to everyone who wrote to me, so I hope all those who have not heard from me will accept this letter by way of gratitude for their kindness.

In my view, it is totally wrong that anyone should ever be sent to prison for animal liberation activities and the long sentence imposed on me was particularly outrageous, but right from the beginning I was determined not to let it get me down and to make the best of my time in prison. I also made up my mind to do my utmost not to become depressed or negative in my attitude as that would've just given the animal abusers and their pals in authority another victory over me.

First of all I decided to get really fit and to stay that way, as I reckoned that if the powers-that-be were going to steal a few years of my life by means of the prison sentence, I was going to get those years back by maintaining a level of fitness that would increase my chances of living longer. Therefore during my time in prison I made sure I took rapid exercise almost every day, which normally consisted of badminton, tennis or going for a run.

For several years before being put into prison I had an interest in foreign languages, but never seemed to have the time to learn any of them. However, with time available to me in prison, I was able to do this and at the end of my sentence had passed 'A' levels in French, German, Italian and Spanish. I now intend to

use this knowledge to help the animal rights movement in other countries and have established many good contacts abroad.

Also, from prison I was one of the founders of the animal liberation magazine Arkangel. Now I have been released I intend to help expand Arkangel into a number of projects to provide a service to the animal rights movement and to provide in particular to local animal rights groups.

Adopting a positive attitude certainly helped me get through my prison sentence, but I also believe such an attitude is vital for the animal liberation movement as a whole. There is of course, still a long way to go, but we are gradually winning the war against animal persecution and I am convinced many more victories lie ahead.

Thanks once again to all those who have given me their kindness and support. If anyone wishes to contact me they can do so thru the Arkangel magazine address.

Yours for animal liberation,

RONNIE.

Where the MONEY goes...

Since its inception the ALF Supporters group has changed its policy on prisoner support. At first we were solely a support group for the ALF and the resultant prisoners. Now we try to support any and all persons imprisoned in the cause of animal liberation, whether it be for an ALF action, hunt sab or demo.

Unfortunately our resources are not limitless and we have had to decide on the groups priorities. This has caused some confusion and so this article will try to explain what we can and cannot do in the way of support.

First and foremost we put the prisoners at the top of the list for support regardless of their so-called crime. We make no distinctions and each person gets a monthly payment of £25 paid directly to their prison account. We also pay for newspapers and magazines as requested, plus one-off items such as educational materials, personal stereos or radios.

We will also pay the costs of persons travelling to visit prisoners as this can often be long and costly as there is no guarantee that the prisoner will be placed near their own area.

People are often fined in the fight for animal liberation and here we have to make a distinction over the actions involved. We will pay out a proportion of the fines if the action is considered to be an ALF action. Unfortunately we cannot pay out for fines incurred while hunt sabbing or for demos. The only reason for this is cost. Our funds would soon be zero if we paid any and all fines. In the case of an ALF activists being fined we pay a proportion of the fine, normally between 25% and 50% depending on the amount we have in our building society.

We always encourage defendants to set up defence funds and anyone is welcome to use the BCM box number as an address for this purpose. We will normally give a small donation to any fund of ALF defendants to get them started. This way defendants get more support and hopefully we reduce our expenses.

When it comes to legal fees we have to take the same stance as on fines. We will pay a proportion depending on our financial standing, but only for strictly ALF actions.

We cannot pay for imprisoned persons flat/mortgages etc, no how matter how much we would like to it is just not feasible.

We understand that many people will not like the decisions laid out above, neither do we, but we have to make sure that the SG continues its work and that the people who need it the most get the support they need.

None of the above is fixed and may change from time to time depending on our financial status. basically the more the SG has in its building society the more we can pay out to the people who need it.



Canadian Charges...

On November 12, 1992 Grant Horwood appeared before the Court of Queens bench for a pre-trial inquiry, in relation to charged set against him after the liberation of 29 cats from the University of Alberta Ellerslie Research Station. These included Break & Enter, Mischief and Theft over \$1000. Carrying a maximum penalty of 14 years. Ten minutes before the inquiry was to start the Crown opted to stay the charges due to a complete lack of evidence. The charged can be reactivated any time in the next year.

Sadly Darren Thurston is still being held without bail, because of the amount of ALF activity over the last year he is deemed to be a "threat to society". His pretrial is set for 11-14 January 1993. Grant Horwood has been issued a subpoena to testify against Darren. He tells us that this is something he will not do and so expects to spend some time inside for contempt of court. A brave decision and a lesson for us all. He also reports that his legal bills are covered but that Darren is facing a bill of \$2,700+. Any donations will be gratefully accepted and can be sent via the BCM box number. The prison Darren is in, Edmonton Remand Centre, is touted as Alberta's toughest place to do time, and the nature of his case has apparently made him unpopular with other inmates. He has been assaulted twice, once for his watch and once for the fun of it! Letters of support are as always welcome. The rules of remand prisons in Canada are such that he cannot receive books, tapes or toiletries. He can have letters, newsletters, magazines and other printed material. We would suggest including an international reply order as well.

Doddleston prisoners

Dear Supporters,

I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported the 6 Doddleston prisoners since our sentencing in July. Many thanks for all your letters of support, cards and gifts. I can guarantee that they are all very much appreciated. Unfortunately the volume of support has been so great we may not be able to reply to all letters but our thanks go out to you.

Things in Kirkham are OK, Brench (Alasdair) was released 2 weeks ago after getting four and a half months worth of remand time back. Myself and Martyn working as weavers, Dave is in the clothing stores and Jim (Neil) helps collect the rubbish.

Life is treating us as well as can be expected under the circumstances but naturally we are all eagerly awaiting out release in January '93. Thanks again for the support.

Yours for liberation,

Digger

(Graeme Wood DX 0976)

All the Doddleston prisoners will have been released by the time this newsletter is out. Our best wishes and thanks go to them all.

Belfast eight, three, two and counting...

Dear Friends,

My name is Dave, I am twenty two years old and am currently serving a three and a half year sentence at H.M.P. Maze, Northern Ireland. I was sentenced in May this year after spending eight months on remand at H.M.P. Crumlin Road in Belfast. At the trial (which has been mentioned in previous newsletters) I was found guilty of twelve offences which included 'criminal damage' 7 counts, 'arson' 4 counts, and one count of 'attempted arson'! these offences occurred over a nine month period and involved attacks on hunt kennels, fur shops and battery sheds. I had been under police surveillance on and off throughout this period and I also believe my phone had been tapped as well as my mail being tampered with. This was the second time I had appeared before the courts for this type of activity and to be honest I thought I was looking at more time than I got. So I am fairly pleased with the sentence I received although its still tough enough. I will pull through and come out a stronger person than when I went in!! One piece of recent news that has really cheered me up is that one of my co-accused Graeme Campell, who got two years at a young offenders centre has won his appeal and was released after serving only five months.... nice one! My other co-accused Alistair Mullan, who also went down for two years is sharing a cell with me on this wing. It makes things a lot easier and is a great opportunity to discuss where the movement is going and work out the role we shall play in helping it grow.

It is great to hear of Ronnies release and with the Dodd's lot out in January and Graeme being released a few weeks ago at least things are looking up. Saying that, a lot of good people are still behind bars and should never be forgotten by a movement they have given their all for. With up and coming trials etc, we must increase our support and press on with the task at hand, which is to fight for the animals and to show the enemy we shall never submit or compromise until we achieve our aim, which is

total liberation, nothing more, nothing less. It is vital that people continue to support organisations such as the SG and SARP, so that people know that if they are unfortunate enough to find themselves off the streets they will receive support and back up, and more importantly to know that people care! Never underestimate the work carried out by the SG, or think that your support or help is of little importance. It is of great importance and most appreciated, especially by those activists who are at this very minute caged like animals themselves in prisons throughout the country. I have been really overwhelmed by the kind letters I have received and the cards expressing solidarity and support. There has been so many it has been impossible to reply to everyone individually so I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one who has written and to let you know it has been a great morale booster. I cannot find words to express my gratitude and feelings for all your kind thoughts and love. It makes one feel they are part of this great movement and gives us all hope for the future. Many thanks.

My final words as usual go to all other activists who are imprisoned at this time. I hope you are all in good health and are keeping your spirits up. Remember we are never beaten and shall one day be free. The struggle continues and shall forge ahead to victory, take care my friends and stay strong. With you in spirit.

Yours for freedom,

Dave.

Dave Neslon is expecting to be released on the 15th of July this year.

FASCISM & ANIMAL LIBERATION

EXPOSE THEM & BEAT THEM (BUT NEVER EVER CONDONE THEM)

This article aims to confront those involved with the animal liberation struggle, who see fit to condone the existence of fascist elements within the movement. We are not interested in debate, our sole purpose is to provide an insight to those who may not have considered the issue - fascism can only contradict all we fight for.

As I was sitting listening to the radio today, it was announced that three more Turks had become the victims of the recent scourge of fascism in Germany. Three more totally innocent victims, murdered for the colour of their skin, because people stand passively and allow fascism to flourish. Widespread xenophobia has spread throughout Europe in a very short time. It's not just Germany's problem, not Europe's problem, it is our problem, YOUR PROBLEM.

What has this got to do with animal rights, you may ask. Well, think about the nature of fascism, the senseless hatred of racism. A world free of animal abuse is inconceivable, unless we are prepared to simultaneously rid ourselves of all oppression. Fascism is humanity at it's most abusive, most oppressive - and until such horrors are eliminated liberation will always merely be a light at the end of the tunnel. Nazis seek to build more walls around us, making the tunnel longer and more arduous. We can talk about vivisection as being the "animal Belsen" but what about the sheer realities of it all, the persecution of those whose cultures differ, the repression of us all, given the chance. Fascism breeds only ignorance and hate.

Look at the massive increase in racial attacks in Germany, the rise of Le Pen in France, Mussolini's daughter in Italy, the Serbian concentration camps, Sweden, Hungary and maybe soon Britain as well. Extreme Right wing groups are gaining mainstream support, sometimes peddling the "soft" face of fascism, other times overtly bloodying their hands, as if to challenge their political opponents to a public clash, over the issues in question. But instead the world follows them further right - and thus they gain more credibility.

As with all others, our own movement holds the potential for a coup d'etat. I've met people who've been in the National Front, who've been briefed on infiltrating groups and eventually usurping them - seizing as much power as possible and using these groups as a front for fascist activities - anything from your local radio hams convention to your local animal rights group. Okay, you might scoff - they're just naive idiots playing at political soldiers - now I'm no "conspiracy" theorist, but regardless of how much of a potential threat Nazis are to the animal liberation movement, are our consciences clear working alongside someone who might picket a circus one night, and firebomb an Asian family in their home the next? Is that "liberation"?

Animal liberation and fascism must be totally divorced from each other, we must not tolerate them within our movement. The NF and the British National party (the two most significant Nazi parties in the UK) have both adopted environment issues into their manifestoes, in recent years. The BNP made a big point of campaigning against ritual slaughter when standing in the Bradford local election, but on what grounds? Certainly not on the grounds of compassion, merely a tool to generate more hostility to Bradford's large Muslim community, who just happen also to be Asia in origin. Similarly, the National Front attempted to gain credibility by jumping on the green band wagon with "Green Wave"!! This organisation was founded by Patrick Harrington, one time directorate of the National Front and now involved in the quasi-fascist "Third way" group. So Hitler was a vegetarian was he? Bullshit!! They'll be saying Colin Blakemore is next. But so what if he was? How hypocritical it would be to be compassionate towards animals, yet conduct a dirty senseless holocaust of millions of people, and justify it with arguments of racial hatred. The bloodthirsty racists are still amongst us. The fascist oppressors still thrive at home and abroad, but is still equally capable of perpetuating racial/political terrorism.

Thankfully, more and more people are realising there's a clear link between animal liberation and all other struggles against oppression. Many more share the belief that we've also got to destroy those who seek to inflict oppression and suffering on other people. Those who seek to dominate us, enforce compulsory repatriation and division between cultures and races are as much a part of the cycle of abuse as the animals abusers themselves. They must not be tolerated, or they'll crush us all underfoot.

If people dare to get complacent about the threat of fascism, then let Germany, past and present, be a constant reminder. Up to the end of August 1992 2,200 violent racist attacks had been recorded - that's only 8 months - and still the Nazi onslaught continues. The only way to stop the spread of fascism is to confront it, physically if necessary. Destroy them, before they destroy us, and all we fight for.

The events of "Waterloo Station", earlier this year are a good example of how to deal with these scum, there must be a "Waterloo" every time they rear their ugly heads. Get off the fence...

MARTYN EGGLETON/DAVE BLENKINSOP

HMP KIRKHAM 24/11/92

**"And I am my brother's keeper,
And I will fight his fight,
And speak the word for beast and bird,
Till the world shall set things right."**

From "KINSHIP"

**by Ella Wheeler Wilcox
(1850-1919)**

BYE BYE BALLY

Forensic science advancements are seemingly boundless. The fingerprint technique is no longer anything clever, people are on a daily basis being convicted of crimes with the help of fingerprint evidence. Forensic scientists can glean evidence through blood samples, sperm and saliva; even hair tells a story.

Three groups of 'criminals' best known for their use of balaclavas to protect their identities when committing their chosen crimes - bank robbers, ram raiders and Animal Liberation Front Activists - are all regularly filmed in the process; the blaggers (bit of prison slang) by bank/store security cameras and the ALF by laboratory security and more so by themselves. The latest development in forensic science is set to negate this form of disguise.

It's hard to believe even with today's technology that it would be possible to see through a balaclava, but that's just what Professor Richard Neave reckons he can do.

Certainly there's no questioning his credentials: he is the person who rebuilt the face of 2,000 year old iron age man found in 1984, and, knowing only approximate age of Karen Price - murdered seven years previous to her discovery - he, using clay, rebuilt her face. So good was the likeness that as soon as the model was released by the police (in search of identification) a name and photograph of Karen Price were offered.

To help improve these innovative techniques he now works alongside Dr Peter Vanezis whose credentials are equally impressive. He runs Britain's first facial identification centre which was launched in June '92 at the Charing Cross and Westminster Hospital in West London, and was called on to help identify victims of the 1987 Kings Cross fire, the Deal bombing and the Falklands War.

The good news for the aforementioned law breakers is that this revolutionary technique - known loosely as 'facial mapping' isn't, at the time of writing, acceptable in court as conclusive evidence. The first attempt to convict on this evidence was in 1989 when James Ryan was indeed convicted with the help of expert witness Professor Neave.

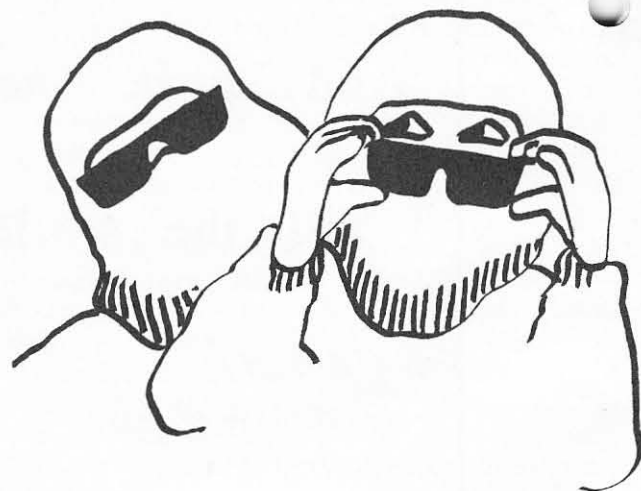
However, after Ryan had served two years of a nine year sentence for attempted armed robbery the Court of Appeal overturned the conviction saying the methods used to identify him were unsatisfactory. Very recently someone else has been convicted on the same kind of evidence, his appeal has doubtless gone in and I wager Neave's evidence will be overturned again. But for how long? It can only be a matter of time before his evidence is accepted.

They also have possible competition. Police forces are now using the 'E-Fit System'; this is capable of being fed a picture of an accident victim with serious facial injuries and will bring it back to its original state; similarly it is capable of magnifying facial features from a scene-of-crime video and will superimpose the results onto a police photograph of the suspect.

I, along with one other person and with the help of other forensic identification evidence have - according to the Thames Valley Police - been identified in two laboratory sites during raids. It is for the court to decide whether we were there, but at best I was arrested and had I not already been in custody I would have likely been remanded pending trial. My co-accused is still at large and long may she remain there.

So what when this evidence is accepted? Then what? Will the police be able to go through all those raids photographs - going back years - which the ALF have released for publicity purposes and put people behind them in court? Doubtful. To begin with they need a photograph of the suspect. It's also restrictively expensive. It's unlikely to get quite so ridiculous but given the time - probably not a great deal of it - people "masked or otherwise disguised" are likely to face a previously unimaginable problem. Even without the blessing of the courts, the police will know - according to Neave and Vanezis - who has done what. For the people concerned that isn't a healthy state of affairs.

KEITH MANN



Huddersfield Four

In August 1991, 4 people were arrested at a halal chicken slaughterhouse in Holmfirth, near Huddersfield. During the arrests one of them was bitten twice by a police dog, one was punched in the face, one was beaten with a truncheon, and one was arrested at gunpoint.

After a week on remand, they were all released on bail with strict conditions. After numerous appearances at magistrates' court they were committed to crown court on 3 conspiracy charges: 'to commit criminal damage by fire', 'to burgle', and 'to commit criminal damage'.

The trial started on the 9th November 1992 and lasted for four and a half weeks. The prosecution decided to only pursue the arson charge in front of the jury, leaving the other two charges 'on the file'.

The prosecution alleged that the four defendants, and unknown persons, had conspired together to burn down property at the slaughterhouse by the use of incendiary devices. No such devices were ever found at the scene or in any of the defendants houses. The prosecution were relying upon 'taped evidence' from 'bugs' planted at a house where two of the defendants lived.

The defence was based on section 3 of the 1967 criminal Law Act, which states that: "A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of a crime...". In this case, this basically meant that it was reasonable force to burn down the slaughterhouse to prevent the owners continually breaking the law.

During the trial the full extent of the owners' cruel and criminal record came out. The owner had 42 convictions, collected over a period of years of continued law-breaking. This included causing unnecessary pain and suffering to birds awaiting slaughter, failing to provide adequate ventilation for the birds, running an illegal slaughterhouse (for 9 years), and breaking many food and health regulations. The jury were given full gory details of halal chicken slaughter and the disgusting conditions of the 'farm', complete with colour photographs.

The jury were out deliberating their verdict for 2 days, but still could not come to a majority verdict, so the judge dismissed them. It would be normal at this stage for the prosecution to go for a re-trial, but they offered the defendants a deal instead - if they pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit criminal damage, then there would be no re-trial on the arson charge. The 4 defendants accepted the deal and were released on unconditional bail, whilst pre-sentence probation reports were written. 'Not guilty' verdicts were recorded for the other 2 charges of arson and burglary.

On the 22nd December 1992, the 4 defendants were each sentenced to do 120 hours community service.

The Huddersfield four would like to thank all those who supported them during their time on bail and through the trial.

BOOTS DEMO

On Saturday 7 November David Hammond and Terry Shamaza were arrested and charged with suspicion of criminal damage and of trespass into Boots Laboratory, Pennyfoot Street, Nottingham, with intent to do unlawful damage to the building contrary to section 9 (1) (A) of the theft Act 1968. This took place after the National demonstration earlier that day. They have been released on bail and will appear in Nottingham Magistrates court on December 7th.

London Hospital Charges

A Pre-trial hearing was held on 7th December and the trial is expected to be held in April. Adam Spare is charged with "Conspiracy to burgle", "Theft" and "Obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception". Nancy Phipps is accused of "Forgery".

The hospital was raided on Tuesday 30 July 1991 when 1400 mice and 4 beagles were liberated. The raid has ended a research project, saving many thousands of future lives. The vivisector involved had spent 25 years torturing mice in a quest to cure leukemia. For that time she had been breeding mice with certain cells. By taking the mice the ALF have ruined her "research" and it would take another 25 years to get to the same stage as she has reached. The project has now ended. the cost of the "property" taken has been put at £2.5 million.

Since the raid a group has been set up to campaign against the hospital. They are called "London Hospital Action group" and their address can be found on page 19.



SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

On April 24th, the night before "World day for Laboratory Animals" Paul Willis and Denise Friend were arrested and charged with criminal damage to Sussex University, where many experiments take place.

Denise was fined £475 in costs and compensation and Paul £165.

Have you got a....

The Supporters Group is unfortunate enough to nearly always be under some form of Police "interest" of one form or another. Because of this we nearly always have items of equipment, literature, photos etc in police custody. At present we are awaiting the release of substantial amounts of property taken over the past few years. So we are appealing for anyone who has any photos of ALF actions with no need of them to send them to us.

We are also in need of a photo-copier, an IBM compatible computer (386 processor or better) and a scanner of any sort. Also if any one has any largeish amount of envelopes (any size) or photo-copier paper they don't need we could make good use of them.

If you have of the above items you could give us please contact us at the usual address and we can arrange to have them collected or pay the postage.

WHICKHAM

In the early hours of 19th June, 4 activists of the ALF entered Torbay Farm, to establish whether beagles were being breed there for research. However, over 30 police officers, 3 tracker dogs and 1 explosive sniffer dog were waiting for them at the farm. This completely over the top and expensive police operation followed information given to them by a women claiming to be an animal rights campaigner. After being held for 18 hours, and having their homes ransacked, the four were subsequent charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage. On November 27th the four defendants, Sally Jenkins, Trevor Liddle, Mark Hogben and Kevin Hardy, were found guilty. The men received 100 hours community service and Sally received 60 hours. The so-called animal rights campaigner, **June Bailey** of Westergate, Chicester, is still about so real animal rights people are warned to avoid this **grass** like the plague. With such people even on the edges of our movement putting laws above animals lives we are in a sad state. Shortly after the trial Whickham was awarded a £100,000 contract from a local health authority for experiments on rabbits. No doubt part of this will be spent on extra security for Torbay farm. Mark Hogben has since been convicted of assault on a local huntsman while on a sab which resulted in a fine and more legal fees. All defendants had to pay a proportion of their legal fees and so are out of pocket by a fair amount. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be sent via the ALF SG BCM box number. Please make out any cheque to Torbay Defence fund.

London Zoo

Eight people have been charged in connection with the inspection raid on London Zoo. The original charges of burglary have been dropped in favour of Section 5 of the public order act. No date is known for the case to continue.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS!

11-12-92

On Sunday the 15th of November an incendiary attack was carried out on the delivery fleet of lorries at T.Sloane and Son at Middleton-on-the-wolds near Drifffield on Humberside. On the same night an attack was also carried out on the offices of JSR Pig Breeders a short distance away. Around £100,000 worth of damage was caused to the pig farm offices and all seven vehicles attacked at Sloanes were written off, some beyond recognition, causing around £250,000 damage.

The local media, Radio, TV and newspapers, covered the attacks extensively noting that one of the lorries contained three and a half tonnes of chickens, chickens which by virtue of the fact that they were stored in a refrigerator were well and truly out of it: DEAD. The owner of the fleet, Clive Sloanes, consoled himself by saying 'only one of the vehicles was loaded with (three and a half tonnes of) dead chickens, so we have not lost a lot of stock'.

The local "Dibble" did their best to discredit by suggesting the attacks could have 'a political connotation' nowt to do with the unacceptable way hens are turned into chicken, of course. He was with that comment trying to suggest the attack was carried out as a direct result of Ronnie Lee being released - two days before. The authorities have for a long time been saying that Ronnies release would inspire people to once again fight for animal liberation. What nonsense. There has been over the equivalent of one attack per month over the last three years, of this nature. More nonsense the next day in the pages of the 'Today' rag: 'ALF torches chickens' ran the headline. 'A lorry load of chickens were burned alive by the animal rights extremists'. They also suggest 'a political connection'.

It isn't that they don't know the truth, they just choose to ignore it. Like the press release sent by the ALF Press Office was ignored. It isn't just them being liberal with the truth, it's them making up their own story that tells a tale. They know that too many people are asking questions and voicing support for the ALF and about its grievances. And that isn't healthy.

There are always going to be people who believe everything the gutter press makes up. People who don't know or don't want to know the truth. Unfortunately its apparent there are even there are even some people who know well the ALF and who still tend to believe what's

written in the tabloids, or what the investigating officer on the TV 'suspects' or 'believes'.

Anyone who has any knowledge of the poultry meat industry would be aware of the difference between a live animal/bird transporter and a refrigeration unit. Both sorts regularly get set on fire but none has ever 'livestock' on board. One simply doesn't set fire to a vehicle if theres even the remotest chance animals will be at risk; in much the same way one would know if a human creature were asleep in the front and one would know if the other sort were on the back. One imagines.

KEITH MANN

Keith is now in HMP Hull (HMP Hendon Road, Hull, Humberside, HU9 5LS), he was expecting to be in HMP Tamworth till January but was moved yet again. Hull is where Ronnie Lee started his sentence and by coincidence Keith was moved there the day Ronnie was released! Keith is now having to wear glasses possibly as a result of spending so much time in dimly lit police cells. His trial has been deferred yet again and he is told not to expect to come to trial till late in the summer of '93. The trial is expected to last 2-3 months.

ANIMAL MILITIA

A press release to the NME paper (New Musical Express) by a group calling itself the Animal Militia (Manchester Cell) concerning the death metal band 'Decicide' was published by the paper. The release threatened the lead singer who's views concerning animals are sick to say the least. He also claims to have killed and taken pleasure in inflicting pain on animals. The release makes threats against the singer and the venue his band will be playing in. What form this action will take is not clear.

Assuming that this is a serious group, it could be a renewal of actions similar to the Animal Rights Militia (ARM) a few years ago when explosive devices were left under vivisectioners cars.

BOOTS HOAX?

We have been informed that a piece in the "Sun" paper reported on a Hoax contamination claim, made to the newspaper. The call claimed that Boots products had been contaminated and subsequently a Michael (or Paul?) Smith was convicted and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. Anyone knowing any further details on this case and its authenticity please contact us via the BCM box number.

GRAEME CAMPELL

Graeme Campbell who was convicted on 4 counts of arson and one of attempted arson and was sentenced to 2 years at a young offenders centre has won his appeal over sentence and has been released. He served 5 months inside. His co-defendant Dave Nelson who was convicted of similar offences was sentenced to 4 years and is still serving time in HMP Maze.

CHRIS TUCKER

On Friday 18th November at Southwark court, Chris Tucker was convicted of Affray by Judge Workman and sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. This resulted from an incident when a smoke device was activated inside a MacDonalds causing several thousand pounds of smoke damage. Chris spent a short time on remand but was released on bail. He has been sent to Brixton prison and has been told that he will spend his entire sentence there.

WILL you help?

There must be many people who would like to offer money to the ALF Supporters group but haven't the cash on hand. If you are one of those people, have you considered leaving a legacy to the Supporters Group in your will? Large or small, they can be an important benefit and in the past have saved us from unexpected difficulties.

If you would like to leave the Supporters Group something in your will the following words are suggested:

I bequeath to the Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, presently at BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX, the sum of _____, and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer of the said Society shall be good and sufficient discharge of such legacy.

Property left to us is another valuable contribution to the cause. If you wish to will land or property to the Supporter Group, please write for details of how to arrange this or consult your solicitor.

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY?

When I was first arrested in August 1991 by the North-West Police under "Operation Fox". I had had little experience of court procedures. I am still to go on trial on the Manchester based conspiracy, and so cannot write about my case. However, I will write about how I believe we have all been punished before trial.

After being arrested, I spent two weeks on remand custody despite the Bail Act of 1976 creating a statutory presumption of bail to prevent injustices of remand, and to lessen the financial pressure on an already overcrowded prison system (bearing in mind it costs between £300 and £500 per prisoner per week.) But there are now more remand prisoners than ever. By 1985 over 300,000 people were remanded, and by 1986 one fifth of the prison population was on remand. Prisons are so full police stations have to be used - a practice condemned by several reports (note Keith Mann's experiences!)

The three of us who were arrested were released a fortnight later on bail termed as "internal exile" by the Judge who granted it. This involved: living at an approved address permanently; observing a curfew between 8pm and 7 am; signing on at the local cop shop at 6pm everyday; not to leave the country; and raising a surety of £2,500.

In 1967 the Under-Secretary of State introduced the power of bail conditions. One of main aims was to reduce the number of those on remand. In 1969, bail conditions were imposed on 8% of defendants, and by 1979, 33% of defendants were affected. The courts use bail conditions basically as a punishment.

At one point I breached my bail conditions, and despite this not being an

offence, I spent two more months in custody. My co-defendant and partner spent three weeks in custody also. Only getting bail on an appeal to a high court Judge, with the prosecution opposing bail knowing she was pregnant.

To summarise; I have spent two and a half months on remand and thirteen and a half months on bail with a 8-7 curfew (other conditions have been relaxed). I recently applied for a relief of my curfew. The Judge refused on grounds of "public safety", although he "appreciated this was a stale case". To go to these lengths they must be really worried about the effects of the "crimes" I have been accused of.

Our pre-trial review is due in January, and our trial could be anytime next year. With Keith still in custody and the rest of us on strict bail, mine is one of ten stories. Between us we've spent over two years in custody and we're all supposed to be 'innocent until proven guilty!!'

For total liberation,

Northampton Charges

The trial of Richard Duriez and Annette Tibbles is planned for April 1993 in Oxford. The trial should also include Angela Hamp but she has been on the run since the Doddlestone trial and hasn't been heard of since. The charges include arson to ten slaughterhouse vehicles, attempted arson to various meat traders, criminal damage, theft, painting motorway bridges and sending skip loads of bricks to the BFSS Freepost address. If you are reading this Angie, best wishes and long may you keep your freedom!

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TORBAY DEFENCE FUND

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BELFAST ANIMAL BUST FUND

PO BOX 148
BELFAST
BT1 2LZ

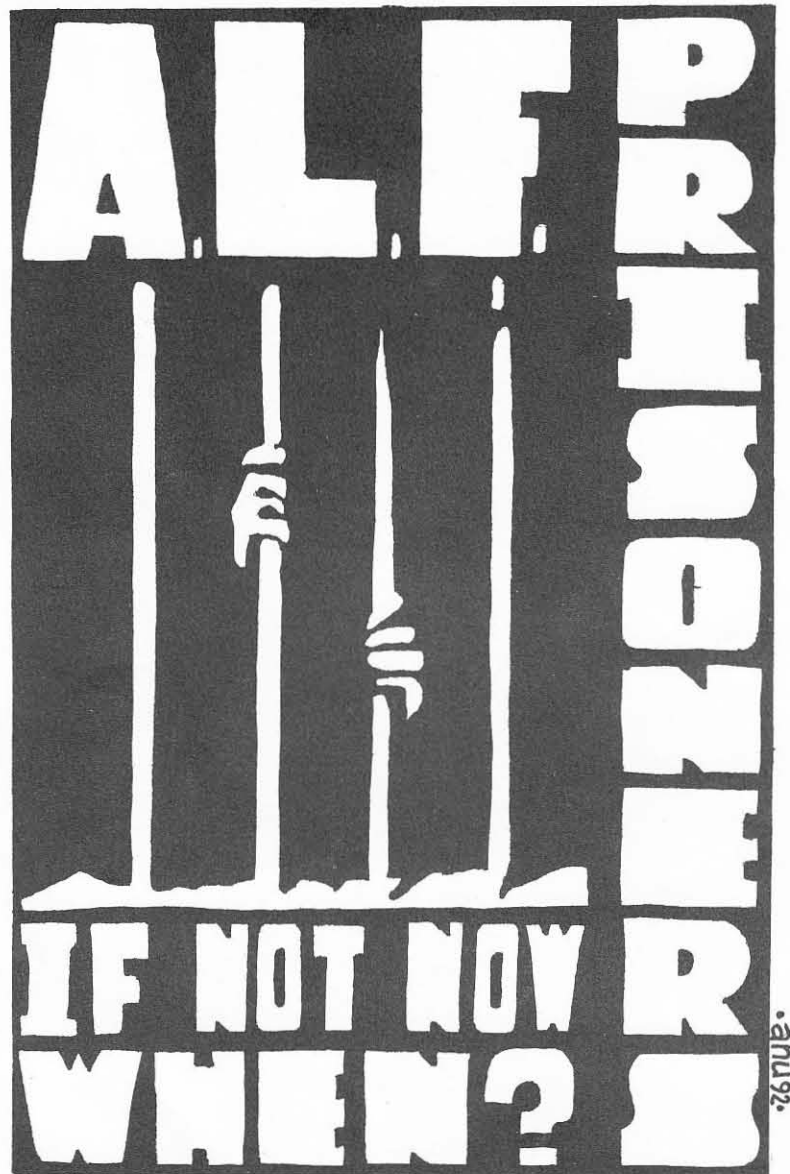
M60 1FT

Do not picture me as being in prison.

I was in prison before entering here.....

The solitude, the long moments of meditative contemplation have given me the key to my freedom.

MALCOLM X.



We are kept down cos we hate.

MANIC STREET PREACHERS.