

*THE*

*Autumn 1992*

# **SG** *newsletter*

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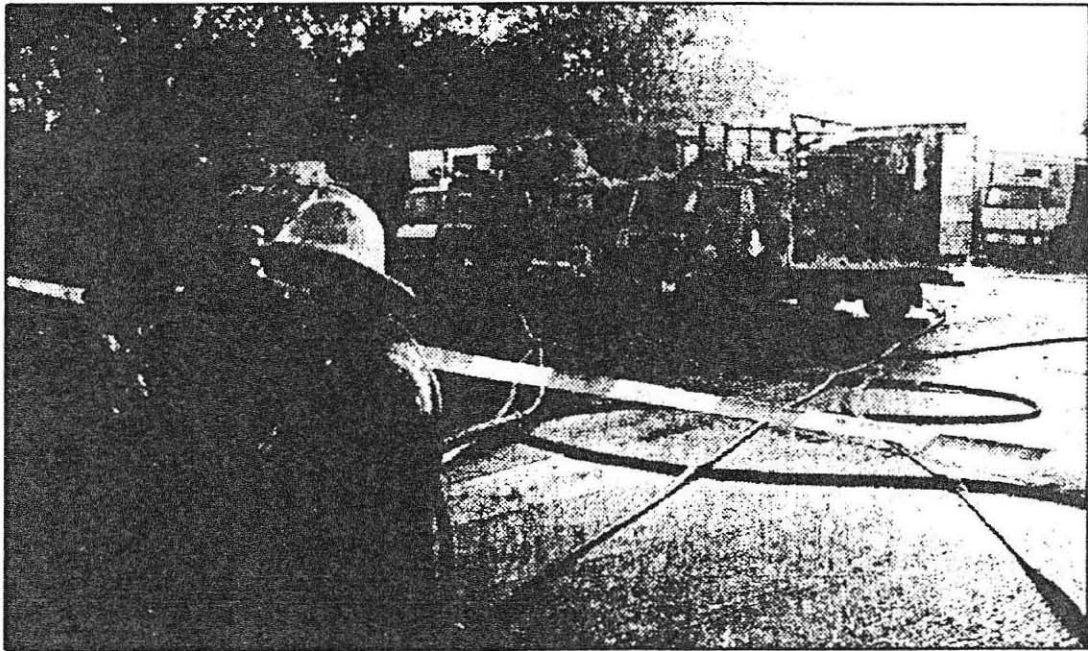


**Great spirits  
have always encountered  
violent opposition  
from mediocre minds**

**(Albert Einstein)**

*"This is no time for phoney rhetoric,  
This is no time for political speech,  
This is the time for action,  
Because the future's within reach.  
This is the time."*

*(Lou Reed)*



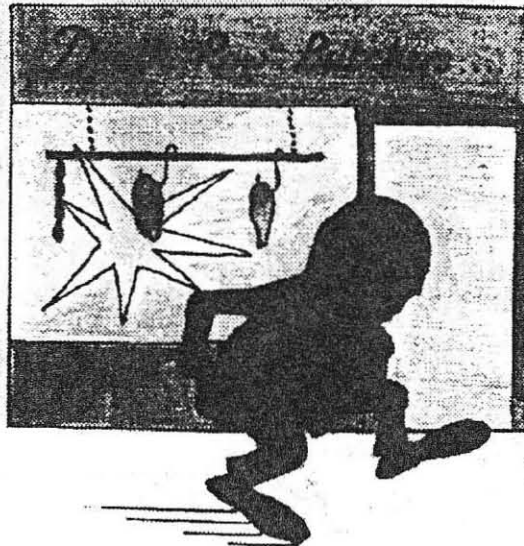


**The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group newsletter**  
**Autumn 1992**

For easy reference all addresses can be found at the back of the newsletter  
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# MANCHESTER CONSPIRACY TRIAL

As a result of several police operations, namely Operations Foil, Fox, Illustrious, General, Sabre, Thermal, Prime, Rocket, Spear, Lance, Howarth, Columbus and Blade, ten people are involved in a Manchester based conspiracy case. Keith Mann, who has been in custody since his arrest at Stonegate Eggs in Kent on October 16th 1991, is charged with inciting others between 1st December 1988 and 16th October 1991 within the UK to destroy or damage property by fire and by other means. The evidence covers several TV interviews, most notably a World in Action documentary where Keith is identified as one of four masked men being interviewed about the ALF. Keith is also accused of inciting direct action through the Animal liberation newsletter, of distributing the "Into the '90s with the ALF" publication and of compiling the ALF section of Arkangel magazine with intention to incite. Keith is charged with damaging three Ford Cargo lorries in June 1990 belonging to the F. Strivens meat company at Royton Oldham. He is also charged with conspiring with Rhian Hopkin and other persons to damage property belonging to the Devon egg company. Rhian was arrested at her home on 10th December 1991 and was remanded in custody for 10 weeks before being granted bail with strict conditions.



Marilyn Fahy has been charged for having in her custody or under her control joss sticks, theatrical maroons, a rucksack containing wire cutters and a hammer, a bag containing wire cutters and boltcutters and a rucksack containing bolt croppers. Marilyn was arrested on 16th October 1991 and is on bail.

John Hughes was arrested on 13th May 1991 following an incident where a stolen car was driven into the shutters of a butcher's shop in Chorlton. The police were staking it out and the action was videoed but even the police helicopter failed to secure the arrest of the other two present. John was charged with criminal damage and was bailed. On 17th September 1991 he was arrested with Terry Helsby for catapulting windows in Liverpool. Terry was granted bail after 4 days and John was remanded in custody until he was given bail on January 9th 1992. They are charged with conspiring to cause over £3,000 damage. Terry is also

charged with conspiring with Alison McKeon and others to damage or destroy property belonging to the Riber Castle Wildlife Park. Alison was granted bail.

Clare Rush, Max Watson and John Marnell were arrested on 11th August 1991 when they were spotted and stopped by a surveillance team.

They are charged with conspiring to damage property, 22 windows, in Manchester. All were remanded in custody for two weeks. Clare and Max were later re-arrested for breach of bail and Clare served a further 3 weeks and Max a further 8 weeks in custody.

Fran Morgan was arrested on 10th December 1991 and remanded for 10 weeks in custody before being granted bail, charged with having in his custody or under his control joss sticks, plastic bags, a catapult, marbles and ball bearings, with the intention that they would be used to destroy or damage property belonging to persons unknown.

All the defendants except Marilyn are charged with conspiring together between 1st January and 18th September 1991 to damage property in West Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. This charge has been brought about as a result of surveillance evidence showing that all the defendants attended the same address at some point during the eight month observation period and have previous offences or association with offenders. This is supposed to prove a conspiracy.

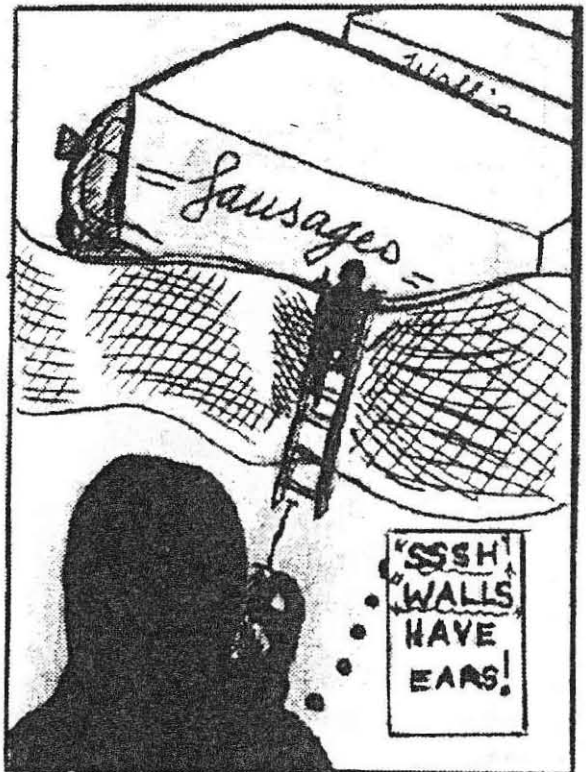
These are the charges as they stand at present, some of the original charges having been dropped, changed and revised and others added.

The ten defendants were committed at Manchester Magistrates on 15th July this year after 3 days in court, with just one of the revised set of charges being dropped, against Keith and Rhian for conspiring to destroy by fire property belonging to Sky rabbit breeders. Keith is the only defendant now in custody. The others had their bail conditions slightly relaxed at committal. The case is not expected to be heard until February or March 1993.

## MARK POWER

Mark was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment for charges of criminal damage, arson and going equipped to cause arson.

## *The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance*





# THE HUDDERSFIELD FOUR

## *The Story So Far.....*

*On the night of Wednesday 21st August 1991, and into the early hours of the Thursday morning, four people were arrested at Rafiq's Poultry Farm, near Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. The police were hidden upon the farm premises. All four individuals were arrested in a violent manner. The first to be arrested was punched in the face, which knocked him to the ground and damaged his glasses. The next arrest occurred after a police officer truncheoned one of the people 6-7 times before knocking him to the ground. One of the accused had begun to run away and was in the middle of a field, when a camouflaged police officer emerged, pointing a sniper's rifle with night sights at the man's head, saying "Get on the floor or I'll blow your fucking head off". The final arrest was made after a police dog had trailed, caught and bit the other defendant. The bite resulted in injuries which were later dealt with in a hospital.*

*Present at the scene were scores of police, their vehicles and even a police helicopter overhead illuminating the scene. Those arrested were each taken to separate police stations across West Yorkshire where they were detained for 36 hours and questioned. All four refused to answer any of the police questions.*

*They appeared before Huddersfield Magistrates Court on Friday 24th August charged with burglary with intent to steal, burglary with intent to damage, going equipped for burglary and possessing items for use in criminal damage. At the hearing the prosecution alleged that all four defendants were terrorists. They were all remanded in custody for seven days.*

*Rafiq's poultry farm has at any one time 2-3000 chickens held in one broiler shed. These chickens are bought by the farm when they are seven to eight weeks old, stored in one broiler shed in dark, cramped conditions before they are killed at*

*a small slaughterhouse which is situated on the farm compound. The slaughterhouse employs a Halal method of killing. Halal is a religious, ritualistic method of slaughter. For religious purposes the chickens are killed whilst entirely conscious by having their throats slit by a blade before being hung upside down to die of severe blood loss. The farm also has a shed containing quail - popular fighting birds as well as being used in specialist restaurants. Rafiq's Poultry Farm has a long record of convictions for breaching Food and Safety laws and cruelty laws.*

*The four were granted bail at their next court appearance on the 31st August. Three of the defendants were forced to leave their homes in Huddersfield (which resulted in evictions for two of them) whilst the remaining defendant was placed upon a curfew. All had a bail condition of non-communication with co-accused imposed. Bail conditions to isolate the defendants from each other.*

*On November 1st at another court appearance, all four were charged with conspiracy to trespass with intent to steal and conspiracy to cause criminal damage. The stakes get higher....the case is adjourned...*

*At the end of 1991 all four were still on bail, but three were now living in Huddersfield, without the condition of non-communication but with curfews. The other defendant was now living in Leeds without the curfew but still with the condition of non-communication.*

*In the first week of the new year, new evidence was issued in the form of transcribed conversations from tape recordings made via a bug in one of the defendants' homes. To coincide with this, three new charges were laid upon the defendants - conspiracy to commit criminal damage, conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to*

cause damage by fire. During the course of court hearings at the time, the defendants were verbally accused of making up a "terrorist cell". Nothing was said of the terror the farm creates for the chickens.

The case against the four was committed to Leeds Crown Court on 24th March 1992 by way of a short form committal. The defence had wanted a long form committal but since the police were going to refuse to answer any questions about the surveillance on the four, "in protection of the public's interest", the case was committed short form. The curfews of the three Huddersfield residents were relaxed and the other defendant had their condition of non-communication removed. The original four charges were also dropped as the prosecution seemed content with the conspiracies.

A pre-trial review and plea were to go before Leeds Crown Court on June 5th in regards to the conspiracy charges, however this was adjourned so as to be held before the trial judge. In the meantime the police issued yet more evidence in the form of a "manual" they allege the four were working from. Despite tenuous links, the prosecution is clearly getting desperate, calling the defendants "neo terrorists" now.

The trial of Richard Anderson, Denise Booth, Daryl Cavanagh and Gavin Robinson, the four individuals who make up 'The Huddersfield Four', looks set to be at Leeds Crown Court on November 9th and is estimated to last for four to six weeks. It's been five years since there was last a large animal rights trial in Yorkshire. Using similar charges and evidence, the impending trial looks likely to be as much of a show trial as the Sheffield trial of 1987. A defence campaign is currently being set up to illustrate the issues involved and hopefully to counter lies from the media. It is hoped that some money may also be raised to cover printing costs of leaflets and defendants' costs.

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## HASSEN SADELLI

Hassen was sentenced to 2 years in prison for setting fire to 11 butchers' shops in Lyons, France.

## NORTHAMPTON CHARGES

Richard Duriez, Angela Hamp and Annette Tibbles have been committed for trial charged with conspiring to cause criminal damage from May to August 1991. The charge includes arson to ten vehicles at Crick slaughterhouse, attempted arson to meat traders York House in Bedfordshire, arson and attempted arson to the pig improvement premises in Kinston Bagpuise, criminal damage and theft to Churchill Hospital, criminal damage to windows, painting motorway bridges and sending skip loads of bricks to the BFSS Free Post address.

## ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL

Adam Spare has been committed for trial charged with conspiring to burgle, criminal damage and theft of security cards following the rescue of 1,000 mice and 4 beagles during a raid at the Royal London Hospital in July 1991. At the time Adam was working at the hospital obtaining information for an anti-vivisection organization. Nancy Phipps is also charged with conspiring to burgle and forgery in connection with the raid. Police are intending to press further charges on other suspects

## McDONALDS

Chris Tucker is charged with affray after a smoke bomb was thrown into a McDonalds in London in May.

# STONEGATE SENTENCING

On 16th October 1991 Keith Mann and Vivien Smith were arrested near Folkestone in Kent. Following several ALF arson attacks in Kent against meat and egg companies, police set up Operation Igloo and carried out surveillance on the two defendants, the houses where they stayed and the office where they were producing Arkangel magazine. Police followed them to Stonegate Farmers, a massive battery hen farm and egg packing unit in Stelling Minnis, housing 150,000 hens, on several occasions and were there when Keith and Vivien arrived to burn lorries on the premises. The defendants managed to drive away but were chased by 6 police vehicles and were eventually stopped 5 miles away. Vivien was arrested whilst attempting to run from the vehicle. Keith managed to find his way to the home of an animal rights campaigner which, unbeknown to the defendants, had been under surveillance while they had been staying there. The house was in the process of being searched by police when Keith arrived and he and the owner of the house were arrested. The defendants' homes, the Arkangel office and other homes visited during the period of surveillance were also searched by the police and one other house owner was arrested. Documents and SG files were taken, as well as typewriters, computers, photocopier and all other equipment used in the production of Arkangel. Keith and Vivien were arrested for conspiring to cause explosions (the two others were released on police bail without charge) and were later charged with

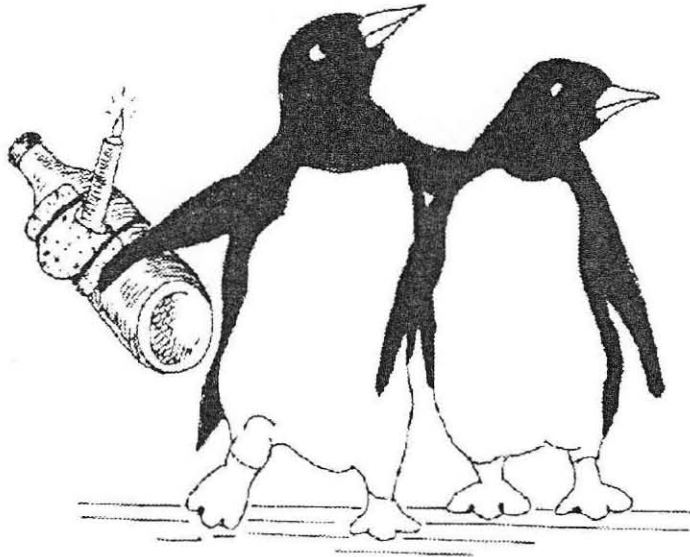
conspiring to cause arson to Stonegate Farmers with the intention of endangering life or being reckless as to whether life would be endangered. A doctor was called by police to examine the injuries caused to Keith's legs while being chased across fields.

The defendants were remanded in police custody and were taken to Brixton to sit on identity parades for witnesses in connection with Stonegate and other actions in Kent. No witnesses identified Keith. Vivien's identity parade didn't take place on that occasion, the police's reason being that "There is a shortage of white women in Brixton to sit on the parade". Several weeks

later another identification parade was set up at Folkestone Police Station and no identifications were made.

Despite this, the charges were changed to conspiring to cause arson to lorries belonging to Coopers Meat Company in Chatham (where 4 lorries were burnt), FMC slaughterhouse

in Canterbury (which closed down after 6 lorries were burnt), Thames Valley Eggs depot in Headcorn (where 5 lorries loaded with eggs were burnt) and The Danish Bacon Company near Maidstone. Later the endangering life part of the charge was dropped. Keith and Vivien were committed at Folkestone Magistrates on 29th January 1992 on the strength of the evidence that all the actions were carried out in Kent and the incendiary devices used were all of a similar type as those found at Stonegate, with the exception of the ones used at The Danish

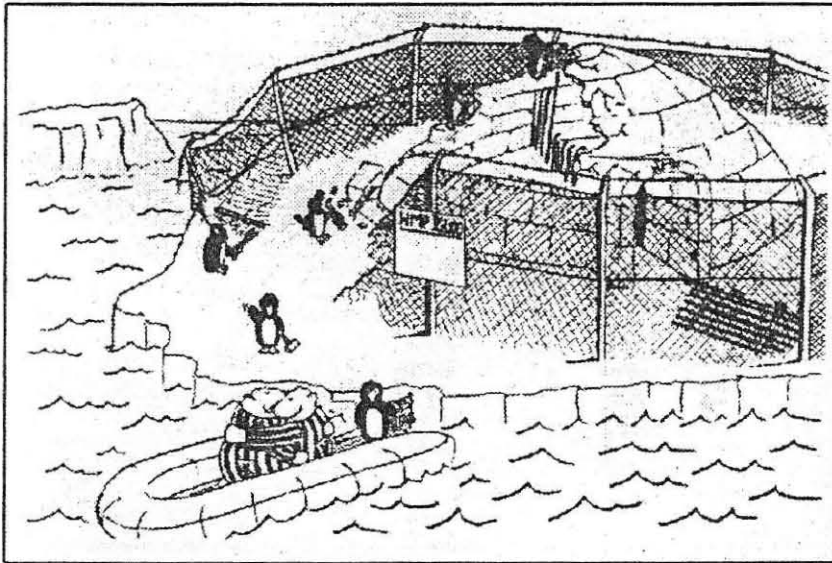




Bacon Company. Manchester police argued that the defendants should be brought to Manchester so that the case could be incorporated into the Manchester conspiracy trial to be heard next year, but Kent police were insistent that it should remain in Kent. It was eventually agreed that if the defendants pleaded guilty to the charge against them for Stonegate Eggs, the other evidence would be dropped and the case would be heard in Kent.

On 30th June 1992 Keith and Vivien pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court to the charge of attempted arson at Stonegate Farmers. Keith has had his sentencing deferred to the Manchester trial. Vivien was

sentenced to 6 years in prison. (On the same day, in the same court, a rapist was sentenced to 4 years.) Both defendants had been in custody with no bail since their arrest and Vivien spent 3 months under observation as a patient in Holloway prison hospital, simply because it was an arson charge and was therefore considered "a danger to the prison". Referring to her previous prison sentence Judge Waley said "You've already had a warning", but despite this there are excellent grounds for appeal and it is hoped that the sentence will be reduced by the Appeal Court. Waley gave the view that "You are not entitled to wage war on your fellow citizens". At least he realises it's war.



## "FREE THE IGLOO TWO"

Cards are available from the SG for £1.30 for a pack of ten (including post and packing).

## MORE ARRESTS

Two women were arrested in Cambridge on Saturday 29th August and charged with conspiracy to burgle. They were held in police custody until the following Monday when they appeared at Cambridge Magistrates Court. They are bailed with conditions to not go to Cambridge, to live at their home addresses and a 9pm to 6am curfew.

## LIVERPOOL DAMAGE

*On 3rd July 1992 Rhian Thomas, Sam Remington and Alex Sheldon were found guilty at Liverpool Magistrates court of criminal damage to windows of Liverpool Medical School. The defendants were given a two year conditional discharge and were ordered to pay £250 each in compensation.*

# The BELFAST EIGHT

by  
Alistair Mullan

On the morning of the 14th October 1991 I was subjected to an extensive police search of my house in Bangor, Co. Down, after which I was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities in Northern Ireland. In the course of the search a van load of stuff was removed, including leaflets, magazines, books, videos, clothing and my personal computer. I was taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre in Belfast where I was held for two days. Five other people, likewise, had their homes searched and were arrested and brought to Castlereagh about the same time. In the course of the first day's interviews I was accused of involvement in several ALF related incidents which had occurred since March 1991 in Northern Ireland. On arrest I was cautioned under the Criminal Evidence Act (NI), which has not as yet been introduced in Britain (see 'Right of Silence in Northern Ireland' article). Despite this, I denied all accusations put to me on the first day. During the course of the first day's interviews the police made out that they had had me, and the others arrested, under surveillance for some time and that the other five were admitting to their involvement and implicating me in several incidents. Towards the end of the day the police were able to establish, with some accuracy, most of the incidents which I had actually been involved in. As well as this, I had my fingerprints forcibly taken under the PTA legislation and, having earlier requested a solicitor, was not given access to one until late in the second day.

On the morning of the second day I was told that my fingerprints had been identified on an incendiary device planted in a gun shop and was then shown this apparent evidence in the interview room. After this I was shown the interview notes of a few of the others arrested, which were made on the first day. These implicated me in several incidents which I subsequently admitted to. At the end of the second day I was charged with a number of incidents, including criminal damage, arson and planting explosives. The other five people were charged, in varying amounts, with similar offences. We were held on remand for a further two days after which five of us, including myself, were granted high court bail. Dave Nelson was refused bail because he had been on a suspended sentence and the police believed he might re-offend, regarding him as a ring leader. We had bail conditions given to us of non-communication with co-accused, not venturing into the countryside, not being in a vehicle unless with a member of the family or a workmate, signing once a week at a police station and staying at a permanent residence.

During March 1992 a further two people were arrested and charged with minor offences relating to the case. On April 8th the preliminary hearing was held at North Down Magistrates Court, at which further charges were added and the case was committed to trial. At the trial in Downpatrick Crown Court on May 18th, after a few charges were dropped, the eight defendants pleaded guilty to a total of 23 charges. These related to several minor incidents of window breaking and paint daubing, plus nine major incidents - an arson attack on a battery egg farm near Comber in March 1991, two arson attacks on broiler sheds near Ballymena in April and Craigtantlet in July, arson of six angling boats in Portaferry, arson of a fishing club office at Portaferry in August, arson and criminal damage to the English hare coursing arena near Dungannon in September, criminal damage to North Down Harriers Point-to-Point course near Bangor in March, attempted arson to a gun and tackle shop in Belfast in August and attempted arson to a huntsman's car at Craigtantlet in October. Dave was convicted on 11 charges including 3 counts of arson and 2 of attempted arson. I was 8 counts including 3 of arson and 1 of attempted arson.

Graeme Campbell was convicted on 4 counts of arson and 1 of attempted arson. Kerry McKee, Michael Kerr, Chris Roberts, Kenny Burns and Gavin Gourley were convicted on lesser charges and given either suspended sentences, community service or probation.

With regard to my own admissions during police questioning, at the time I was greatly confused over what to be saying in response to the questioning and the apparent evidence shown to me. I was too ignorant of the law over here regarding police questioning and what counted as evidence and did not have proper access to legal advice at the time. I wrongly believed I was helping my situation and realise now what a serious mistake it was. Nobody could regret it more than I do now. I have learnt a lot from it and won't make the same mistake again. Hopefully by explaining it here, I can ensure that no-one else will either.

It is impossible to estimate exactly how much surveillance the police had on us but, as it turned out, it had no bearing on the CPS case against us. The case against us, in the end, was based solely on the admissions made by all eight defendants during police questioning. The police were obviously able to use a lot of surveillance information from phone

tapping and bugging etc. to trick some defendants into confessing and implicating others, especially with the last incident in October where a fire-bomb was planted under a huntsman's car. Clearly we were very unaware of legal procedures over here regarding the Criminal Evidence Act and should have been prepared for such a possible situation. Also, a lot of people in the incidents were quite young and not made fully aware of what they were getting involved in or the implications for them if they were caught. They were obviously not prepared for dealing with interrogation at Castlereagh, which is used for breaking down republican and loyalist terrorists. As I found out later, the other defendants' statements, implicating me, could not be used as evidence against me and the police didn't have any other evidence on me.

For us and others, the lesson to be learnt here is not to attempt to co-operate with the police or admit to anything, even if it looks as if they have an air-tight case against you. It can never help your situation, rather it only makes it worse, and in our case it was a lot worse.

Yours in peace and liberation,  
Alistair

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## RIGHT OF SILENCE

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### In Northern Ireland

*by Alistair Mullan*

Almost 3 or 4 years ago the Government introduced the Criminal Evidence Act in Northern Ireland. At some point in the near future they may decide to bring it in for the rest of the UK. Whilst on bail I recently sought legal advice on dealing with it. The legislation is basically designed to diminish the suspect's right of silence. On arrest suspects are cautioned differently. They have the

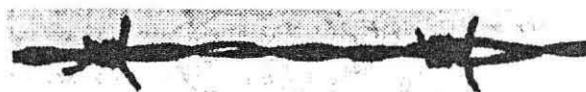
right to remain silent, but should they fail to mention any fact(s) (during police questioning) that they may later rely upon in their defence in court, then inferences may be drawn from this by the judge or jury to support any relevant evidence held against them. This can include inferences being drawn to support a case based only on circumstantial evidence and may make the difference between



conviction and acquittal. The easy way to try and deal with this is to remain silent as usual and take the risk that the police do not actually have any or enough relevant evidence against you. This is the usual policy of paramilitary terrorist suspects over here. The alternative, if the suspect believes the police may possibly have relevant evidence against them, is to give explanations in response to the evidence that the police present to them. The explanations may not satisfy the police, but if they are enough of a defence to counter the case against the suspect in court, then no inferences can be drawn to support that case. It should be noted that with this course of action there is no need to explain anything except in response to specific evidence that the police put to the suspect, eg. witness statements, incriminating materials etc.

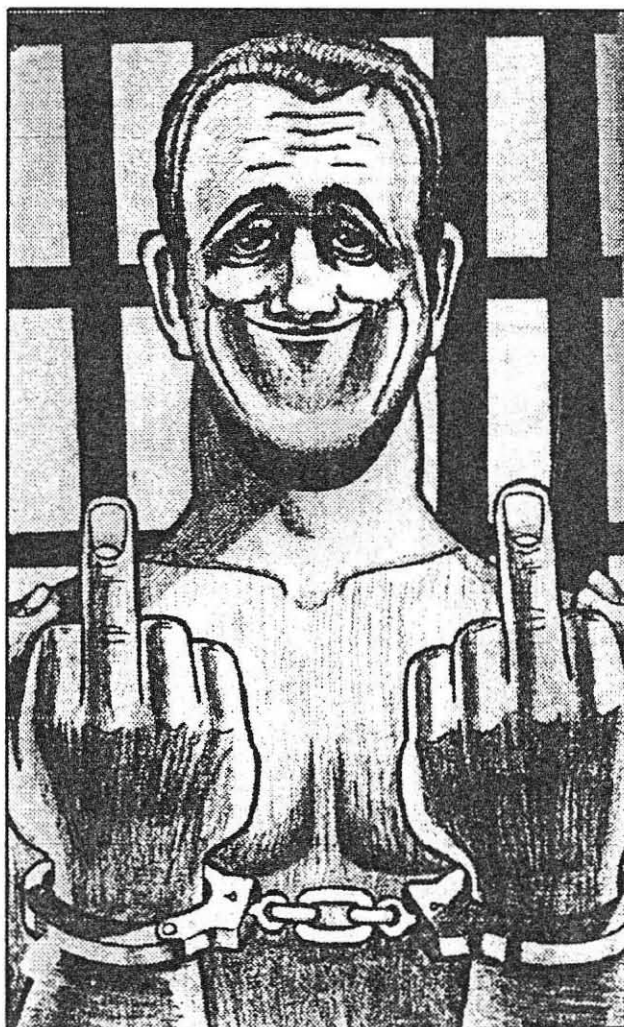
If the police should trick the suspect with false or apparent evidence, then any response by the suspect to these will be thrown out in court. There is no need for the suspect to admit to anything if they have 'appropriate' explanations to respond with. So it is in the suspect's own interest to have the explanations worked out in their head at the earliest possible time, if they believe they may be subjected to police questioning and that there might be relevant evidence against them. If they're not confident of having the 'appropriate' explanations at the time, then they should stick with the easy road and remain silent.

Obviously it is easier to deal with such a situation if the suspect is able to have a solicitor present during questioning or access to a solicitor before questioning, but if they are arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, these avenues can be denied to them.



## Freedom is what you do with what's been done to you

(Jean Paul Sartre)





# DODDLESTON

On February 9th 1991 whilst out sabotaging the Cheshire Beagles, Mike Hill was killed by Alan Summersgill, the huntsman of the Cheshire Beagles. Two days later upwards of 120 people attended the kennels at Doddleston in Cheshire, along with the nation's media, to hold a vigil. They were also going to prevent the hunt from hunting, if they had dared try. As a result of this gathering 41 people were charged with riot because of a minimal amount of damage to the windows of the house and to some hunt vehicles. This ridiculous saga finally came to a head recently at Knutsford Crown Court.

After a silent, and seemingly pointless, vigil outside Summersgill's house/hunt kennels, a few people decided to occupy the gardens around the kennels. As they pushed past the seven or eight attending police officers, a handful attacked the house in understandable anger at Summersgill not being charged with killing Mike. Some demonstrators took it upon themselves to obstruct press photographers and TV cameras (who were originally called by the demonstrators) from taking photographs of the people responsible for the damage. Just one person was arrested at the kennels and then a van load a couple of hours later as they left Cheshire. Thanks to the ever helpful Granada TV and press photographers, the rest of the 41 were later identified by police files, arrested and charged with riot. Most were held on remand. When released, all had bail conditions imposed, preventing them from entering Cheshire, Clwyd and North Wales. This prevented them from sabotaging the Cheshire Hunts.

The prosecution case was to rely on the

photographic identification of the defendants. The trial was split into two due to the number of defendants and the most obvious offenders (those most obviously identified in the garden) were put into the first trial. At court on 17th April the prosecution started to play games with people's lives by offering to reduce all the charges to Section Two (violent disorder) on condition that some people pleaded guilty to Section Two. The prospect of being found guilty of riot, a charge which carries 10 years in prison, was too much to risk - especially in the court with the highest conviction and sentencing rate in the country - so six people agreed to sacrifice themselves. Four others were offered Section Four (threatening behaviour) charges, carrying a maximum of six months, and the others, who refused to deal, were put into the second trial on the 18th May.

Fourteen people went on trial at Mold on that date. One woman, Angela Hamp, failed to appear and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Ruth Storey, Tony Hillidge and Ralph Carroll were acquitted after the defence barristers argued no case to answer. This left ten, none of whom were accused of causing any damage. Three were accused of baulking photographers, three of shouting slogans for the benefit of cameras, one of organising the demonstration and three of being in the garden! Although the evidence against defendants came from press photographers, the Granada video and a saboteur's video (confiscated by police), the only proof of identification came from police officers who had viewed the pictures and said "That's .....". Some very obvious identifications were made! There was no timing on any of the pictures and no evidence of who took

them. By the end of the defence and prosecution summing up there was no possibility of anyone being found guilty by a fair jury. However, the judge then did his summing up, which is supposed to be a breakdown of the evidence, and he went out of his way to direct the jury to convict.

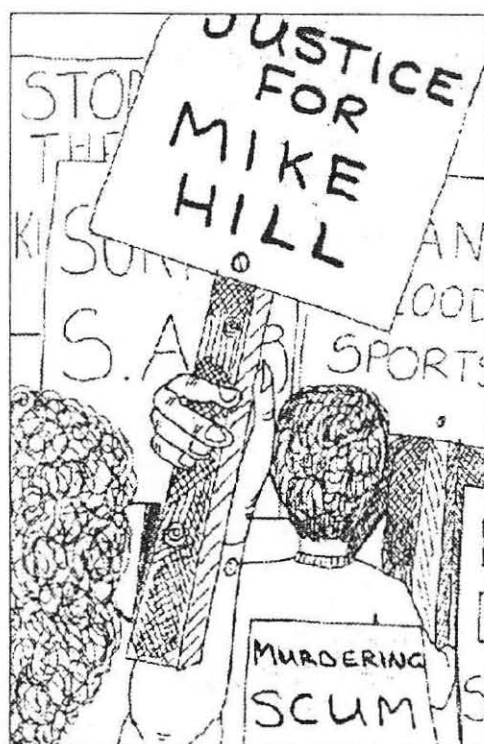
After two weeks on trial the jury retired on Thursday 4th June. They had the choice of finding the defendants not guilty, guilty of Section Two or guilty of Section Four. By Thursday night they had still failed to reach verdicts so were sent to a hotel for the night. They had not returned by Friday dinner so were called back to be given the majority verdict option, when they announced they had reached one unanimous verdict - they decided Keith Mann would not have been as stupid as the police suggested and organised a riot and then done a television interview just before it began - not guilty on both counts. It had begun to look like the jury had listened to the evidence and not the judge.

As the afternoon progressed a further four people were cleared - Ian Pugh, Alexander Warr, Sian Roberts and Kathryn Leech. Four were convicted of Section Four and one of Section Two. Considering the police began with 41 people charged with Section One - riot - they and the hunt, indeed one and the same, did not have much to celebrate - seven guilty of Section Two and eight guilty of Section Four. On 14th July Graeme Wood, John Curtin, Neil Croucher, Martin Eggleton and Alistair Howson were sentenced to 12 months. David Blenkinsop, who pleaded not guilty but was convicted, got 15 months. Leslie Tarleton, Annette Tibbles, Steven Betteridge, Chris Munton, Kevin Barr and Paul Kingdon all received 3 month suspended sentences and have to pay £250 costs.

ALAN SUMMERGILL? He never went on trial for killing Mike Hill or even for driving away from the scene of the offence. Two weeks after a few windows were smashed in his house, it was firebombed but he was out. He has never been punished. He has had a private prosecution summons served on him, the charges being failing to stop at the scene of an accident and driving without due care and attention to other road users - that is if the court or the Crown prosecution don't dismiss the case beforehand.

Many of those people who had their charges dropped before the trial and those who were acquitted during the trial are now seeking legal advice with a view to suing the Cheshire Police Force for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.

Seven good people have been sent to prison because a few windows were broken. The Cheshire Beagles are still hunting hares - that's an insult to human decency and something has to be done.



On June 19th 1992 Darren Thurston was arrested and charged in connection with the raid on June 1st at the University of Alberta Ellerslie Research Station, Canada, where 29 cats were liberated and over \$50,000 damage was caused. The following day Grant Horwood was arrested in Golden BC and charged in connection with the same raid.

## CANADA CHARGES

Grant has since been released on \$4,000 bail and strict bail conditions and is awaiting trial. Darren was denied bail in both provincial and Queen's Bench courts, waiting to appeal the decision. He has since been charged in connection with five other ALF actions occurring in Edmonton over the last eight months. Darren's charges are Break and Enter, Theft over \$1,000, Mischief over \$1,000, all in relation to the University of Alberta action, Arson in relation to the December 1991 firebombing of Billingsgate Fish Market trucks causing \$100,000 damage, Mischief over \$1,000 in connection with a 9th January 1992 action where 18 truck tyres were slashed and slogans painted at Billingsgate Fish Market, three charges of Mischief over \$1,000 regarding paint being thrown over three Canada Fur Council billboards on December 1991, Break and Enter and Arson in relation to the 30th December 1991 action where a Hook Outdoor Advertising (Fur Council of

Canada billboards) boom truck was burned and slogans painted and Attempted Arson and Mischief in connection with the 1st January 1992 action where there was an attempt to firebomb an Ouellette Packers van and slogans were found on the

business premises. Grant has been charged with Break and Enter, Theft over \$1,000 and Mischief over

\$1,000, all in relation to the University of Alberta liberation of 29 cats. A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for another suspect in connection with this action.

Canada ALF Support Group literature, files, photos and other documents have been seized by the police, along with computer equipment and numerous other items. The police/Royal Canadian Mounted Police have applied pressure to the business where the Canada SG had their private mailbox and it was closed from 30th June. A new PO Box has been rented but, because of the loss of mailing lists and lack of funds, there has been difficulty in notifying correspondents of the address change. Please note that the Box 42, Edmonton, mailbox address is now closed. Correspondence, urgently needed funds (cheques and money orders made payable to 'ALF SG Canada') and letters to Grant Horwood can all be sent to the new ALF SG Canada address.



# OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN

## RONNIE LEE

Ronnie Lee will be released in November after serving 6 years and 9 months of a 10 year sentence in prison having not been granted any parole at all. The trial at Sheffield Crown Court at the beginning of 1987 was intended to destroy the Animal Liberation Front. Ronnie, as the ALF's national Press Officer and one of it's founding members, was portrayed as the organization's leader.

The case started after the launch in 1985 of the ALF's successful campaign against department stores selling furs. Incendiary devices were placed in the stores causing extensive water damage when the sprinkler systems were activated by the smoke and flames. Bugging of animal rights campaigners' homes led to the arrest of activist Brendan McNally and 6 other people from Sheffield. Northern ALF Press Officer Roger Yates was later arrested, following his interviews with the media about those and other ALF activities.

Information given to the police led to surveillance on Ronnie Lee and Vivien Smith in London, by Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad, and they were arrested on 12th March 1986. A large proportion of the evidence used in court was documents found at the ALF Press Office which had been seized by the newly formed Animal Rights Network Index (ARNI) the previous year and returned without charges.

Ronnie was sentenced to 10 years in prison for conspiring to cause arson, conspiring to cause criminal damage and conspiring to incite others to cause criminal damage. Vivien and Brendan were sentenced to 4 years for conspiring to cause criminal damage and Roger Yates, who absconded during the trial and was later re-arrested, received 4 years for conspiring to incite others to cause criminal damage.

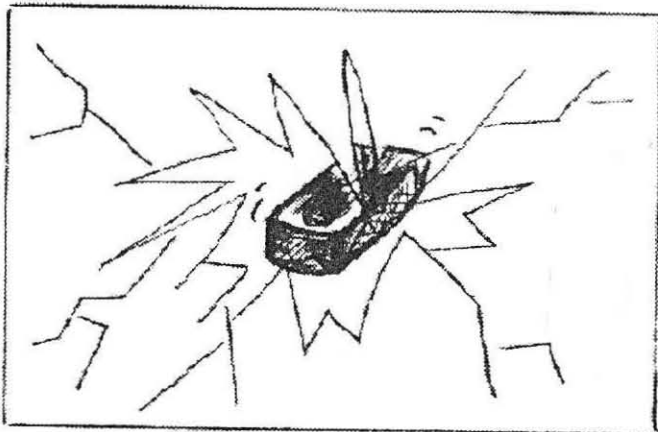
Ronnie has since spent time in Armley prison in Leeds, Winchester prison and Long Lartin in Gloucester and is now ending his sentence in Channings Wood prison in Devon where he has been excelling at studying languages and contributing to Arkangel magazine, which he founded in 1989. He intends to concentrate on working for Arkangel after he is released. A letter from Ronnie to all SG readers will appear in the next newsletter.

## BRAMPTON TWO

Barry Horne and Michael Shanahan have been granted parole and were released on 12th August.

Barry and Michael were arrested near Huntingdon on 28th October 1990. Gari Allen was arrested the following day and all three were charged with possession of explosives. They were remanded in custody for 3 months and were then granted bail with strict conditions.

On 4th November 1991 the trial started at Northampton Crown Court. Gari Allen was acquitted, Michael and Barry were found guilty and were each sentenced to 3 years in prison.



## SG MERCHANDISE

The SG merchandise department would welcome more opportunities to have stalls and sell the sales goods. Please let us know if you are organising a function where SG merchandise can be sold.

The merchandise department would like to thank Karma badges.



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# ON TOUR

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*I've been in custody now for around ten months and, for one reason and several others, I've 'done my bird' in more prisons and police stations than the average crim. frequents. It hasn't been by choice, but since last October, when I was arrested along with Vivienne in Kent, I've been in five prisons (admittedly I only stopped off at one for dinner en route elsewhere!) and no fewer than ten police stations. I was originally remanded to Canterbury prison, but before I even got there I was locked out (overcrowding means prisons are sometimes forced to refuse to accept new prisoners) and spent my first few weeks in police stations around Kent. This business soon got boring so I worked my way into Canterbury - it's come to something when you have to lie to get into prison!*

*After getting used to living in Canterbury (despite being a Victorian jail the screws were civilised and the routine fairly relaxed) I was arrested by Manchester CID and taken to Stretford, where I was charged and taken to Strangeways. Despite Strangeways having a bad reputation, I found my stay quite pleasant and soon got used to having a new, modern, single cell. From Strangeways it was into Walton prison in Liverpool, and the dark ages. If any prison is asking for trouble it's Walton; it's hard to believe people are still treated like they are in Walton. It's grim. I was there for the Doddleston trial and after being acquitted it was back to Kent, this time to Elmley on the Isle of Sheppey. After a few weeks in civilization (it's hard for me to admit, being a staunch Northerner, but them in the Southern penal establishments win hands down for their treatment of their fellow human beings) it was back to Manchester for a stay in the Central Detention Centre, above the Magistrates Courts. I think I actually prefer Walton to CDC, a.k.a. 'Beirut' to anyone unfortunate enough to have stayed there. I was in Manchester for our committal hearing, not that my presence there (doing and saying nothing by order of the*

*Magistrate) was worth the expense of sending three officers (from the squad who spent so much money watching and following us in the first place) down to Kent to pick me up.*

*From CDC it was back into Liverpool (I'm now locked out of Strangeways while they take forever rebuilding the rest of it) and the Bridewell jail. This compares closely to CDC and fortunately I was only there for 2 days before being taken to Stretford Police Station to be arrested and questioned by Northampton/ Thames Valley police who promise further charges, offering the prospect of a tour of Midland and London prisons. How nice. Making my way back into the South, I'm currently staying at Congleton Police Station in Cheshire. I now await the Manchester trial and the reopening of Strangeways. I would like to go to prison please!*

*Obviously living in police cells and not knowing where I'm going to be from one day to the next is less than ideal and, apart from the obvious vegan food problems (which isn't such a problem here 'cos food can be handed in), they can't even say it in most places - "vaygans" is what we are, apparently. Letters sent to previous haunts haven't always found their way to my next stop off. If you have written and not heard back, or have had your letter returned, it's because I haven't received it, which should in the latter case be reasonably obvious unless you're asleep or very drunk!*

*It's likely that, even when I do get into a prison. I'll be moved again a couple of times at least. However, the mail problem is no longer because, wherever I am, letters will reach me if sent c/o the ALIU PO Box. Do keep in touch. Contact with proper people keeps me sane.*

*Forever Together for Animal Liberation,  
Keef*

*(Keith Mann)*

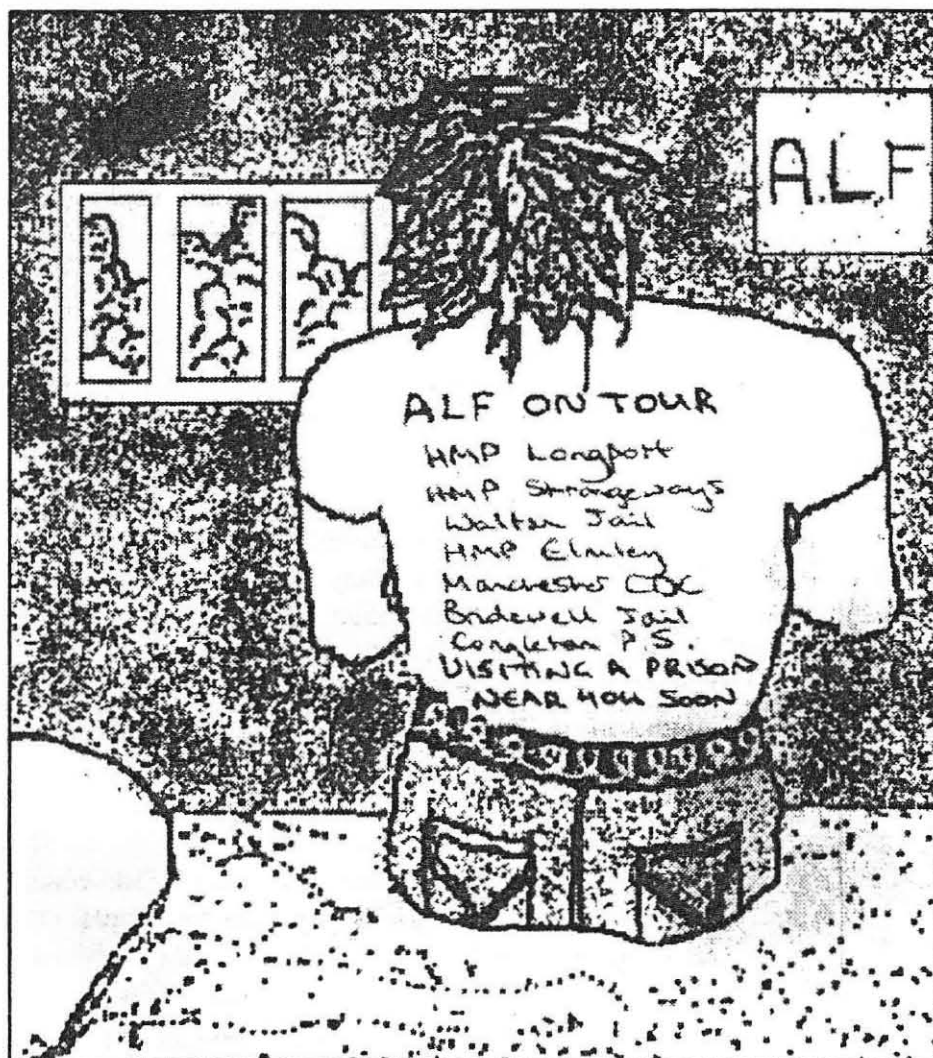
# BANK CHANGE

The Co-Operative Bank has closed the ALF Supporters Group account. Their letter to the SG stated that the decision to close the account was made following the introduction of their new ethical code concerning who they will do business with. However, it seems likely that the police have had some level of intervention in this because on the same day that the bank wrote the letter, the account signatory received a phone call from the Detective Inspector in charge of the Kent/Stonegate case asking questions about the SG account. Furthermore, the account was immediately frozen by the bank, without any prior warning or request to transfer the account elsewhere, despite the

SG having been a good customer of the Co-Operative Bank for 10 years without there ever having been any problems, throughout all the repression and police activity which the SG has been subjected to during this time. It is impossible to believe that the factory farming and bloodsport-connected accounts, which have also been closed as a result of this new ethical policy, would not have received a polite prior warning to give them the opportunity to sort out their financial affairs. The bank simply requested a letter of confirmation that the SG is not involved with illegal activities and does not support violent acts. They received this confirmation but replied that it was not adequate. Fortunately

they understood the serious practical difficulties resulting from their immediate actions and agreed to open the account for a set limited period until an alternative account could be opened, in the same name, in order for them to transfer the standing orders etc.

The SG now has it's account with the Ecology Building Society, account number 40417682, and most standing orders are being transferred automatically although at some cost to the SG. Some standing orders were stopped and we would be grateful if SG members whose standing orders were stopped would write to us so that we can send them a new banker's order form.



# As long as there are Press Officers.....

*By Keith Mann*

Many people will have seen the recent publication entitled "As long as there are slaughterhouses.....then there shall be battlefields" which describes itself as an historical look at the actions against animal abuse from 1991 onwards, which indeed it is. Personally I have no problems with that; in fact I think it's generally a very pleasant read. One section did however disturb me a little - "Who is Robin Webb we wonder?" This attacks Robin for speaking to the press about ALF actions and also makes some points I feel should have been made in a personal letter to, say, Arkangel, or maybe in person to Robin himself and not anonymously in a publication designed, I presume, to be positive. I believe without reservation in the need for an ALF spokesperson and have to reply to the offending article.

To begin with, it is suggested Robin set himself up as the ALF spokesperson/Press Officer without consulting anyone else. In fact discussions were afoot some time before he took over the previously vacant post and Robin, being conversant with the ALF and not involved in ALF actions, was considered to be the most suitable person for the job. Previous ALF spokespeople have all fallen foul of the law because of their involvement in illegal acts. Robin will simply explain the ALF to those who want to know, without breaking any laws and, as such, retain the job and his liberty.

In October last year a press conference was organised with Robin and a handful of others who saw the need for a Press Officer. Unfortunately the police were double busy around that time and, just before the planned

conference, some of those due to attend were imprisoned for their nocturnal activities. The press conference was cancelled but Robin announced his position regardless.

There are a number of reasons why the ALF needs a Press Officer, one of which was mentioned in the article. The press generally can't be trusted. They lie, it's all part of the dirty job they do. Consequently activists who have trusted them in the past have on occasion suffered for it, and activists who have trusted them recently may do likewise.

Press coverage of actions can be as important as the actions themselves, and an explanation of why the actions take place is vital in highlighting the subject of cruelty.

Some activists consider the actions themselves to be risky enough without putting their liberty in the hands of reporters, and others either don't like speaking to them or are not confident in doing so. With the Press Officer all these problems are overcome. If, for whatever reason, the person(s) responsible for questioning Robin Webb's position or anyone else with similar thinking, doesn't want any publicity to follow their actions, he can be told to make no comment when approached by the press, either over the mobile phone, which isn't a 100% safe method, or by passing on a message. I'm confident Robin will oblige.

I do believe that the benefits of having someone to speak publicly about the reasons for people being prepared to suffer for the benefit of animals, far outweigh saying nothing or risking losing activists through having trusted reporters.

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