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"You want our haddrives...?"

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300886.html>

Lawyers in several countries are working on the case while some media activists have turned to more direct expressions of outrage. Houston Indymedia paid a visit to the Swiss Consulate and Indymedia reports how internet activists planned to hand over hardware to the FBI (if they want our hardware so badly, they shall have it...) and documents the procedure. Delivering harddrives and other bits of equipment seemed to become quite fashionable. In Amsterdam, old hardware was delivered to the Italian consulate, and in Dijon, two harddrives were plainly nailed to the entrance door of the local Italian consulate [pictures]. A cheeky message was delivered with the harddrives: "You want our haddrives? We throw them in your face!"

Journalist Organisations Support Indymedia

Similarly concerned where professional journalist organisations, who published statements of support within the next week. The British National Union of Journalists stated it was a "direct question of media freedom" while the IFJ called for an investigation saying that the incident "smacks more of intimidation of legitimate journalistic inquiry than crime-busting". Reporters Without Borders demanded that Home Secretary David Blunkett provide an explanation and VVJ/AVBB called for "complete clarity" and for a maximum of freedom for information spreading online.

Around the time the harddrives were seized in London, the Amsterdam-based group "ascii" were evicted from their free public internet space. ASCII analysed both events as a "signal of the current crackdown on freedom of speech". They added, "We will keep on struggling for the right to think differently, act differently and compute differently from the way corporations and fascist state governors are trying to impose us. And if necessary we will compile our last lines of sourcecode on the barricades."



We will not be silenced again

This experience shows that more servers are needed. The ideal would be to have all data distributed on different servers all over the world (we are looking for mirror sites). If we can raise several thousand pounds, we can get a very fast machine on a fast connection. This will make the UK site work much better and enable us to help other Indymedia sites in different parts of the world.

ramRAIDio www.rampart.co.nr

Also silenced by the FBI raid was rampART radio, set up just before the attack with the aim of providing independent coverage of the ES.F. Thanks (ironically) to an Indymedia server in the USA, the station was back online within four hours of the raid and has continued to 'broadcast' 24/7 since the end of the ESF. They'll be covering the anarchist bookfair and providing a live stream of events at the Indymedia FBI party later in the evening. **The rampART social centre itself will soon be having a party of its own (17/18th Dec) to celebrate being open six months.**



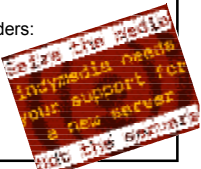
How to make a donation

If you are working, please consider setting up a regular donation of £10 a month, or whatever you can afford depending on your circumstances. Just write down these details, take them to your bank and ask to set up a monthly or quarterly standing order.

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Cheques or cash can be paid in over the counter at all branches of the Royal Bank of Scotland at no charge. This is preferable to sending them to Triodos which costs us 50p per cheque.

Address for cheques or postal orders:
The Independent Media Centre
P.O. Box 587, London
SW2 4HA



To raise funds for additional servers to secure the Indymedia network from future attacks and to celebrate the fact this month (the anniversary of the Anti-WTO protests in Seattle) marks five years since Indymedia was launched - Indymedia London are throwing a big party right after the Anarchist Bookfair.

Line-up: Fun-Da-Mental, Rhythms of Resistance, The Rub, Penny Rimbaud, The Unpeople, The Internationalz, Angel.

7pm till late, St George's church, 49 Tufnell Park Rd, London N7;
Entry by donation. Proceeds to server appeal.
<http://publish.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300412.html>

Bayer abandons all GM crops in UK and India

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301574.html>
<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301359.html>

In an admission of immense significance to the entire genetic engineering industry, Bayer Crop Science has conceded that all of its projects on genetically engineered crops in India have been "discontinued".

This follows a massive victory of the anti-GM campaign in the UK this month as Bayer removed the last GM crop varieties still in the approval process for the UK National Seed List. When Bayer backed out of commercialising GM fodder maize (Chardon LL) back in spring 2004 they were full of claims about how this wasn't the end of their plans for GM crops in the UK and that they would be commercialising GM oilseed rape by 2008. This now seems to have been empty posturing to avoid losing face. In March they announced they were ceasing GE crop research in the UK and now the two varieties of GM oilseed rape that they still had in the commercialisation pipeline have been abandoned. Last week Bayer said it would not even try to carry out trials in Britain until the Government took strong measures to stop protesters pulling up the plants.

Band Aid whitewashing poverty issues

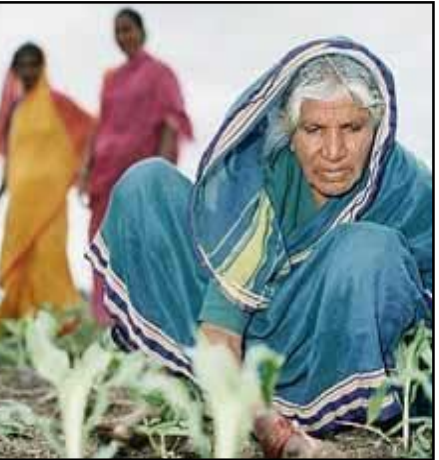
On the 14th November outside the recording studios in Hampstead where "Do They Know It's Christmas" - Band Aid, was being re-recorded, demonstrations took place by protesters arguing that Band Aid is a screen "whitewashing the real issues behind world poverty". Shouts of 'real aid, not band aid', 'don't whitewash Africa' and boo's were audible over the screams of fans and onlookers. One protester was arrested while handing out leaflets explaining the reasons for the protest. Protesters from the Dissent! Network, organising against the G8 summit next July, argue that the song is obnoxious, patronising and out of date with the real situation in Africa.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301468.html>

This is the final nail in the coffin for the commercial growing of the first generation of GM crops in the UK. Since 1994, fifty eight different GM crop varieties have begun the process to be included on the UK national seed list for commercial growing. After years of direct action and campaigning around the country all 58 applications have now been abandoned!

For more information check out www.indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/bio-technology Biotech IMC <http://www.biotechimc.org/>

For regular news about anti-GM campaigns subscribe to the Genetix Update available from <http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk/>



International development campaigners, World Development Movement (WDM) - which was one of the founders of both the fair trade movement and Jubilee 2000, also condemned the lyrics as promoting a "negative and inaccurate picture of Africa and its problems." The organisation, drew attention to several lines in the song which it described as "patronising, false and out of date". Director of WDM, Mark Curtis said on Tuesday 14th: "African poverty is not an unfortunate accident of geography and climate. It is largely the result of damaging policies such as free trade forced on Africa by rich countries."

Several initiatives are now underway to re-write the lyrics - upload your own, or send lyrics or recorded mp3s to doyouknowitscapitalism@yahoo.co.uk



offline

THE INDYMEDIA NEWS SHEET

Offline brings back to the streets, highlights from Indymedia news websites, part of a global network that encourage the public to report their own stories to the world uncensored. Offline is available online to download - you are encouraged to copy and distribute it far and wide.

Offline is just one of many Indymedia initiatives aimed at reclaiming the media. Check out Indymedia radio and cinema projects such as - the weekly Radio News Show every Wednesday 1pm - 2pm on 104.4mhz FM and online from www.resonancefm.com - or the London Indymedia cinema (next event 19th Dec at rampART center - www.rampart.co.nr)

Ecological Direct Action

Roundup of recent actions and campaigns

Ministers are planning to give the go-ahead to strip clean a vitally important area of the English Channel by mining nearly 200 million tonnes of gravel from the seabed to satisfy the house-building boom in the Southeast. On 11th Nov, the latest in a series of actions against the dredging saw people using bicycle locks to close the Newhaven Swing Bridge, blocking the departure of a Hanson dredging ship.

Also in Sussex, part of the Hastings Bypass route has been resurrected as the Bexhill Link Road. Anti-roads campaigners had thought they had seen off the bypass and are now preparing to stop this new scheme that retains some of the worst aspects of the original - cutting through ancient woodland and endangering wetland bird species.

Meanwhile, two directors of a company planning to build a bridge across one of Britain's last wildernesses, and most protected wildlife area, have resigned after local protests. On 4th November, local people with banners and drums stopped work at Renewables Northwest. General manager Julian Carter, a Director of the company behind the bridge project, resigned later that day as did Bill Davies after protests at the Lancaster Environment Centre.

In Yorkshire, on Oct 30th, hundreds demonstrated in Hebden Bridge against illegal tree felling that took place on 19th October - then many residents tried to obstruct the chainsaws - several were assaulted, and although they stopped the chainsaws, many of the trees had been cut down.

In Swindon, on Saturday 13 November, local campaigners surrounded the lake at Coate Water Country Park with a chain of over a thousand cardboard cut-out hands, each with someone's personal message of why Coate Water is special to them. The campaigners are trying to save the park (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) from the development plans of the local council.

Publish your own reports on the Indymedia UK

Go to www.indymedia.org.uk, click the 'PUBLISH' link at the top of the page and follow the instructions. It's easy.

Don't hate the media - become the media!

LEFT: Police surveillance outside autonomous spaces during ESF provides poetic photo opportunities for playful posing prankster posse.