xULTRA-MILITANCEx



Issue #2

Free

"...using darkness as our ally, we struck back at the machinery of oppression. When the dust settled we breathed in the clear air of freedom, and prepared to fight another day...."

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From The Ashes We Rise

The New Generation of Straight Edge

Peering through the fog behind his eyes, he saw a world of anguish, in which intoxication was the only escape. Hating himself even more than he hated the corporate killers who had created it, he stumbled to his feet and headed back to the liquor store...
In their penthouses, the tycoons counted the dollars pouring in from millions like him, and chuckled to themselves at the ease with which opposition was crushed. But the tycoons too, had to drink themselves to sleep at night, terrified that if ever those vanquished masses stopped going back to the liquor store there was going to be hell to pay...

Years ago, straight edge was a big controversial issue in hardcore punk circles, these days, you don't hear about it so much. Now as times have changed and as the last generation of kickboxing, record-collecting, sportswear clad straight edge kids heads off for the bar, it seems that the whole concept is up for grabs again - and we're going to make a bid for it! Straightedge is no longer just about wearing X's and listening to youth crew hardcore. Nowadays straight edge kids are all about setting army recruitment centres on fire, fighting on the front lines against riot cops, building up local community projects and smashing the machinery of capitalism. Last time I saw straight edge kids, they were kicking holes in the windows of Gap, not shopping in it.



But hold it right there... I can see the sneer in your face, are these anarchists so uptight that they would even denounce the only fun aspect of anarchism, the beer after the riots, the liquor in the pub where all that pie-in-the-sky theory is bandied about? What do they do for fun anyway apart from casting aspersions on the little fun we have? Aren't we allowed to relax and have a good time in any part of our lives?

Asking such questions however is a grave misunderstanding of our stance, for we are not arguing against indulgence, but rather for it. We are not against drunkenness, but rather against drink! Those who embrace drink as a route to drunkenness only cheat themselves of a life full of enchantment.

Drink, like caffeine only replaces an aspect of life that is already provided for. The woman who never drinks coffee does not require it in the morning when she awakens, her body produces energy and focus on its own, as thousands of years of evolution have prepared it to do. If she drinks coffee regularly however, soon her body lets the caffeine take over that role, and she becomes dependent upon it. In the same way alcohol artificially provides for temporary moments of relaxation and release whilst impoverishing life in general that would otherwise be genuinely restful and liberating. We try to buy relaxation, community, self-confidence, now even ecstasy comes in a pill! We want ecstasy as a way of life, not a liver-poisoning alcoholiday.

"*Life sucks - get drunk*" is the essence of the argument that enters our ears from our masters' tongues and then passes out of our own slurring mouths, perpetuating whatever incidental and unnecessary truths it may refer to. We are not falling for it any longer! Against inebriation, and for drunkenness! Burn every liquor store, and replace them with playgrounds!

Practically every child in mainstream Western society grows up with alcohol as the forbidden fruit their parents or peers indulge in but deny to them. This prohibition only makes drinking that much more fascinating to young people, and when they get the opportunity, most of them immediately assert their independence by doing exactly as they've been told not to: ironically, they rebel by following the example set for them. This hypocritical pattern is standard for child rearing in this society, and works to replicate a number of destructive behaviours that otherwise would be aggressively refused by new generations.
Think of the power we could have if all the energy and effort in the world (or maybe even just your energy and effort?) that goes into drinking were put into resisting, building, creating... Try adding up all the money anarchists in your community have spent on corporate libations and picture how much musical equipment, bail money, or food (not-bombs... or, fuck it, bombs!) it could have paid for, instead of funding their war against all of us. Imagine living in a world where cokehead presidents die of overdoses while radical musicians and rebels live the chaos into ripe old age!

When one or two persons cease to drink, it just seems senseless, like, they are ejecting themselves from the company (or at least customs) of their fellow human beings for nothing. But a community of such people can develop a radical culture of sober adventure and engagement, one that could eventually offer exciting opportunities for drink-free activity and merriment for all.
Like any revolutionary lifestyle option, this one offers an immediate taste of another world while helping create a context for actions that hasten its universal realization.

No war but the class war- no cocktail but the molotov cocktail!

Let us brew nothing but trouble!

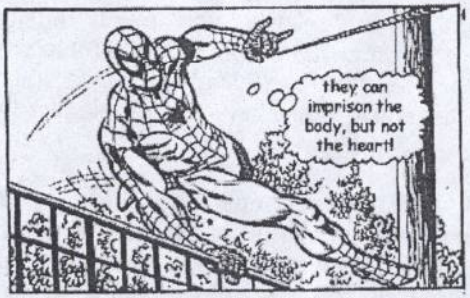


Writing To Prisoners

A brief guide adapted from an Anarchist Black Cross leaflet

"Any political movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement!"
- Ojore Lutalo, political activist

Not everyone is prepared to remain within the laws laid down by the state with regards to how they express their discontent with the capitalist system. Because of this, many people, whether it's for ecological, anti-war, animal liberation, anti-fascism, self-defence, anti-capitalist or indigenous struggle actions, are locked up for the crime of fighting for a better future. It's up to those of us remaining 'free(?)' on the outside to write to these people, to show our support and to show the state that they will never get us all. Don't write to your MP write to a prisoner...



The main reason people are put off of supporting prisoners is a feeling of intimidation about writing to a prisoner for the first time. It is very hard to write a letter to someone you don't know: people find that they don't know what to say, they feel there are things they can't talk about, or think that prisoners won't be interested in what they have to say. This is a problem most of us have had to get over, so we've drawn up some suggestions to help you. Different people will write different letters, but we hope they will be of some use.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Some prisons restrict the number of letters a prisoner can write or receive, and they may have to buy stamps and envelopes, so don't necessarily expect a reply to a letter or card. Some prisons allow stamps or SAE's to be sent in with a letter, but its best to check with the prison in question. Letters do also get stopped, read, delayed, 'diverted'. If you suspect a letter has been or will be nicked by the screws, you can send it Recorded Delivery, which means that they have to open it in the prisoner's presence. Also you should put a return address, not just so the prisoner can reply, but also because some jails don't allow letters in without a return address. Of course it doesn't have to be your address, but be careful about using PO Box numbers as some prisons won't accept that either!

WRITING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Say who you are, and if it's relevant that you're from such and such a group.
- Say where you heard about them and their case.
- Keep your first letter reasonably short and to the point, its best not to overwhelm people. Also some prisons restrict the size of letters that can be sent in (4 sides of

A4 has been quoted to me). Obviously when you get to know people better, you'll have more to talk about.

•If you are writing to a "framed" prisoner, and you believe them to be innocent, it helps to say so, as it gives people confidence to know that you believe them.

•Some people, when they write to prisoners, are afraid of talking about their lives, what they are up to, thinking this may depress people banged up for years or that they are not interested in your life. In some cases this may be true, but on the whole a letter is the brightest point of the day for most prisoners. Prison life is dead boring, and any news that livens it up, whether its about people they know or not, is generally welcome. Especially if you didn't know them before they went to prison, they want to know about you, what your life is like etc. Use your sense, don't write about anything that is likely to get the prisoner in shit with the screws, or get you or anyone else in trouble with the cops.

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US, WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

For people imprisoned from our movements and struggles, i.e. strikers, activists, rioters, members of revolutionary groups; basically politicos, it's vital to keep them involved in the ongoing resistance - telling them about actions, sending them newspapers if they want them, discussing ideas and strategies with them. Use your head though. Some people will not want to hear about the class war, but want to keep their heads down and finish their sentence. 'Politicos' tend to get singled out for attacks by screws, harassment etc.



If you are offering support or to campaign for a prisoner, it is best to be realistic about what you can achieve. To someone serving a long sentence in prison, you can seem like a powerful ray of hope - its important to keep hope alive but not create illusions about you being able to spring them or necessarily 'clear their name'. If a prisoner believes you can do more for them than is possible, it can lead to disillusion and depression if you do not 'come up with the goods'.

THROUGH THE WALLS

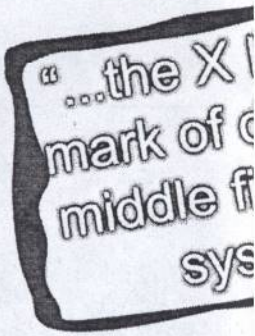
At the end of the day, writing to prisoners is about common sense and using your head. Most prisoners are not the mad beasts 'The Sun' would have us believe, they are ordinary people just like you. Prison is there to isolate people, so we must be actively keeping the link to the outside world open. Direct contact via letters is one of the most vital ways of making sure prisoners are not abandoned to the control of the state.

SUNRISE

Polish Vegan Straight Edge XXX

Can you give an introduction to the band and the message you spread?
We started as the band in 1995 with certain message and will remain this way - spreading ideas through music. Everybody in the band is vegan and sxe, as we consider this a foundation of all the things we do. The band consists of Daniel and Marcin on axes, Adam on bass, Piotr on drums and me on vocals.

What's the Polish vegan straightedge scene like at the moment?
I wouldn't say that there is a vegan sxe scene here at the moment, we are the only vegan straight edge band. This isn't all bad, as we don't want to limit ourselves to play only in front of vegan sxe kids with vegan sxe bands. That would be boring and ineffective. I am happy to say that there are many vegan sxe people here, people come and go of course, but many of them really stick to their beliefs forever. Most kids are open for new ideas, which is really cool. There are loads of good Polish H/C bands to check like Faust Again, Coalition, Afraid of That Day, Schizma, Zlodzieje Rowerow, Filth of Mankind, Poker Face, Apatia, Oreiro, April, Regres, Cries of the Tormented, Second Age, Utopia Within*. The best thing in the Polish scene is that there are many good zines around, and the shows are usually filled with good atmosphere and a decent number of kids.

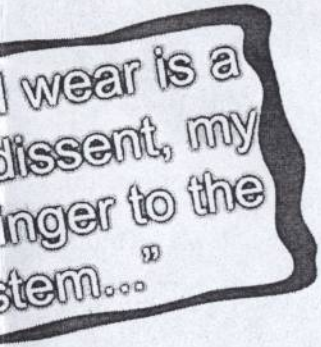


Which is more important to you, veganism or straight edge? What made you decide to become vegan?
Both are pretty important things for me, but veganism is more than a personal choice as it affects not only myself but also other living creatures. Anyway - for me this is one and the same thing - rebellion. Vegan sxe is rebellion and the X I wear is a mark of dissent, my middle finger to the system. I went vegan because my heart couldn't stand the crimes committed on innocent animals. Being vegan is healthy, economical, environmentally friendly and compassionate. I believe that we are plant eaters. If we go and eat meat and diary it starts the endless chain of problems - the animal breeding starts, industrial/chemical agriculture is developed, junk food is produced, so people get sick, the pharmaceutical industry grows, so animals are tested on, people take drugs and eat less quality food and get even worse. It leads to the vicious circle, the machine works by itself once unleashed. When you are vegan you benefit a lot - you are healthier, your heart is free from the crime, you are happy you don't participate in it anymore. We don't need meat or dairy, but we are bombarded by media/educational/cultural/moral and religious propaganda, so we never question what we eat.

How strong is the animal rights movement in Poland?
There is VIVA chapter, which spreads its wings wider everyday. Right now their main focus is horse transportations, as this is pretty infamous in Poland - horses are being

packed in trains, suffering great torture. Masses of people support this campaign, many celebrities signed the petition against this, which has been passed to parliament. I support this campaign with all my heart, although I was sceptical at the very beginning. I thought it would be a half-measure, as the problem is not the transportations, but the fact that horses are slaves of human beings. But this society wouldn't get this, and so step-by-step politics might work better. There are other groups which also embrace animal right in their agendas, like GAIA Club, which has been active for ages and launched campaigns like "The animal is not a thing". Workshop for All Beings publish an awesome magazine each month called "Wild Life" and they mostly work on ecological/wildlife issues.
There are also smaller groups countrywide that do a good job, with demos, lectures and workshops on a local scale. I think that animal rights etc... will get bigger and bigger, as we don't have as long a history of it groups as other countries. Things are about to improve.

Do you think Direct Action is the most effective way of fighting against the abusers of animals and the Earth?



Both legal actions and direct actions work in different ways. People should really think before they choose what they want to do. Direct action without support of the legal groups are not always effective (except economical damage), as they are criminalized and ordinary people this only as an act of vandalism, or 'terrorism'. I think those who sacrifice their freedom inspire many others who are pissed of with the world's current state. It really depends what you want to achieve. I don't do any direct action, as I don't want to be involved in illegal activity. I would like to be more educated, then I could work more effectively on the issue. I want to show people the example that different life is possible.

Have we run out of time to save our Earth?
I am scared to answer positively. Time is ticking away - the speed of destruction is increasing. Nobody cares about the price we'll pay. The situation is worsened with technology being upgraded to work more effectively on the process of destruction. Everything is seen only as capital - non-human or human, profit is the only goal and it is will be reached by any means necessary.

Are there any important books which have influenced you or inspired you?
The first books that shaped my attitude toward life in general were about native Americans which I read when I was a kid. I was lucky to pick up the ones which didn't portray Indians as bloodthirsty beasts, but rather as reasonable, close to nature and down-to-earth people, whose world has been destroyed by the Europeans. Screaming Wolf's "Declaration of War" and Daniel Quinn's "Ishmael" opened my eyes wider a decade later. Other book that I would recommend include; "Nature's First Law/The Raw Diet" by Wolfe/Arlin/Dini, "The autobiography of Malcolm X", "Assata" by Asssata Shakur, "Still black, still strong" and Chomsky's "Year 501: The conquest continues".
I also found pretty inspirational pieces of writing like "Strong Hearts" which is Rod Coronado's 'zine, or magazines like "Just eat an apple", "Living Nutrition" and

articles you can find on websites. Go to our website for a list of literature and good websites -> www.sunrise.straightedge.pl

It often appears that the aggression, hatred and violence in our society comes from the fact we're raised from birth to think it's alright to kill and torture animals, do you think this could be true?

Yes, I do. We are all raised from birth to think that animals are ours to slaughter. We get used to the fact that animals can be killed for our satisfaction, and often it is really hard to remove this from the human mind.



Are you recording a new album at the moment? Do you have any plans to come over to the UK?

We have a split with Liar coming out at the moment. It's titled "Decontaminate" and it's on German label Lifeforce (www.lifeforcerecords.com). Besides that we are pretty busy with the upcoming full length, which we should record this fall, but it's really too early to give any details about this. It will be brutal and deal with the world's issues!

We would love to come to UK, I think we might be playing in 2004 if we are able to. Anyway - watch out!

Thanxxx for doing this interview, do you have anyone you'd like to thank, other things you'd like to say or any words to fuel the fires of liberation*

I think that there are many people who are not happy with the shit they got from life, especially when they are supposed to like these crumbs that fall from the table. The thing is that most of people don't believe that we can lead different change this is trying to walk the talk we talk. People need to be attracted by the life they could get. Books are important, but one should look for the practical solutions. For example, more people would go vegan if they saw that it is possible. I think that the HC/punk community is an awesome place. It is so much fun and it could be a real community where people could change things for the better. If you doubt it is possible, well - look in the past and think of all these people who were struggling for human rights - like the Black people in US or women, there were people who didn't believe it's possible and treated both mentioned groups as the second category beings, like animals are treated now. Our minds are constantly brainwashed and kept away from thinking about how could we lead our lives. But it doesn't mean that the way of life we are told is the one and only.

www.sunrise.straightedge.pl

No Justice...Just Us!

The English (in)Justice System

Sat on my hard wooden bench, looking up into the eyes of three perfect examples of my elders and betters, it suddenly dawns on me. These 'respectable' members of society, who feel self-righteous enough to stand in judgement upon my actions, who feel they deserve the power to hold the course of another's life within the palm of their hands, are my moral inferiors – *I* should be dishing out punishments for *their* sins!

First things first – what are the chances that these people have never broken their *own* laws? Have they never even driven over the speed limit? And yet they feel that they can admonish, fine and even imprison people who have broken the very same sets of rules! And as far as *my* actions go ... I have been in court at least 10 times, always for animal rights actions, for sacrificing my time, effort, freedom, for those who are unable to fight for themselves. After all that I have gone through, I find myself being judged by people who wear leather, eat meat, use animal tested products, often have hunt links...my moral inferiors! How am I expected to take these people, and their "justice" seriously?



I accept that I'm not backing this article up with any facts etc...only my own experience, but the logic speaks for itself; magistrates give up their time voluntarily, and what kind of person is able to work for free? Rich people! And how do people get rich (barring the lottery etc...)? They sell their lives to the capitalist system, reinforcing and expanding the very system I fight, or they are born into it, in often pro-hunt families. Again, they expose themselves as our moral inferiors.

Anyone who takes it onto themselves to judge and criticise the lives of others, is, in my humble opinion, an egotistical, hypocritical, pompous bastard!
And yet still, for our actions of compassion, we are forced to evade their fines, and do the jail time, sentenced by the very dregs of society...not quite the 'justice' system that we learn about at school!

News From The Frontline



A (very) brief round up of ALF actions ... this is just the tip of the iceberg!

12.08.03 - *Norway*
Four animal rights activists liberated three dogs from a filthy kennel who breeds and sells dogs and pigs to deadly animal experiments across Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

05.08.03 - *UK*
A building owned by HLS, full of vehicles used for importing primates, was burned to the ground by the ALF.

31.07.03 - *Spain*
On Sunday 27 of July the ALF freed 1000 rabbits destined for the meat industry.

30.08.03 - *UK*
Hundreds of pheasants were released from a farm, breeding them for the shooting season. All pens were destroyed.

29.07.03 - *Australia*
Fences around the Puckapunyal Army Base in Victoria were cut, allowing kangaroos to escape before they were murdered in a planned cull.



28.07.03 - *Sweden*
62 rabbits liberated from a breeder outside Stockholm. The farm was emptied and the farmer's house and sheds was covered in slogans

27.07.03 - *Sweden*
An empty fur farm, which was planning to restock, was burned down.

24.07.03 - *Sweden*
3500 mink liberated from fur farm.

21.07.03 - *Australia*
22 broiler hens liberated.

08.07.03 – *Germany*
"Projekt befreite Tiere" (Project liberated animals) liberated 75 hens over the last months out of chicken farms.

01.07.03 - *Norway*
Arson at fur feed and storage facility.

30.06.03 - *Netherlands*
In the night of 29 to 30 June an arson occurred at a chicken slaughterhouse in Breukelen

22.06.03 - UK
Thousands of pounds of damage was caused to John Parkers poultry farm at Grenville Copse near to Hambledon in Hampshire

Who Are The E.L.F.?

An Insight Into The Earth Liberation Front...

The Earth Liberation Front is an international underground movement consisting of autonomous groups of people who carry out direct action according to the E.L.F. guidelines. Since 1997, E.L.F. cells have carried out dozens of actions resulting in close to $100 million in damages.

Modelled after the Animal Liberation Front, the E.L.F. is structured in such a way as to maximize effectiveness. By operating in cells (small groups that consist of one to several people), the security of group members is maintained. Each cell is anonymous not only to the public but also to one another. This decentralized structure helps keep activists out of jail and free to continue conducting actions.

As the E.L.F. structure is non-hierarchical, individuals involved control their own activities. There is no a centralized organization or leadership tying the anonymous cells together. Likewise, there is no official "membership". Individuals who choose to do actions under the banner of the E.L.F are driven only by their personal conscience or decisions taken by their cell while adhering to the stated guidelines.

Because involved individuals are anonymous, they could be anyone from any community. Parents, teachers, church volunteers, your neighbour, or even your partner could be involved. The exploitation and destruction of the environment affects all of us.

Any direct action to halt the destruction of the environment and adhering to the strict non-violence guidelines, listed below, can be considered an E.L.F. action. Economic sabotage and property destruction fall within these guidelines.

Earth Liberation Front Guidelines:

- **To inflict economic damage on those profiting from the destruction and exploitation of the natural environment.**
- **To reveal and educate the public on the atrocities committed against the earth and all species that populate it.**
- **To take all necessary precautions against harming any animal, human and non-human.**

There is no way to contact the E.L.F. in your area. It is up to each committed person to take responsibility for stopping the exploitation of the natural world. No longer can it be assumed that someone else is going to do it. If not you who, if not now when?

THEY SHAPED THE PAST...



...THE FUTURE IS OURS!

USEFUL ADDRESSES;

www.shac.net - Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
www.arkangelweb.org - Animal Rights Resource
www.directaction.info - Animal Liberation Resource
www.earthliberationfront.com - E.L.F. Website
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk - Prisoner Support
www.schnews.org.uk/prisoners - Prisoner List
www.primateprison.org - Stop Primate Experiments At Cambridge
www.guineapigs.org.uk - Save The Newchurch Guinea Pigs

For more useful internet links, addresses, info, more copies of the zine or just to chat we can be contacted at...

xultramilitancex@donteatmeat.com