
FOURTH WORLD REVIEW

*For Small Nations
Small Communities
Small Farms
Small Shops
Small Industries
Small Banks
Small Fisheries
& the Inalienable
Sovereignty of the
Human Spirit*

No. III

2001
Notional price £2/\$4

Editorial:
**TERRORISM IN THE
COUNTRY OF THE BLIND**



**The Agricultural Crisis and
Common Sense**

Sir Julian Rose

My Bioregional Vision

Kirkpatrick Sale

plus:

The Scientists' Lament

John Seymour

FOURTH WORLD REVIEW No. 111

<i>Editorial:</i>	TERRORISM IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND	3
<i>Features:</i>	The Agricultural Crisis and Common Sense – Sir JULIAN ROSE	6
	My Bioregional Vision – KIRKPATRICK SALE	9
<i>Forum:</i>	Dennis Nightingale-Smith Dr Ed Echlin Tracy, Marchioness of Worcester Angela Bates Graham Knight Verona Bass Mujahid Rafiq Brian Hains Anthony Moonu Bulu Imam Peter Quince	12
<i>Books:</i>	Stormy Wather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change – GUY DAUNCEY with PATRIC MAZZA <i>Reviewed by Colin Grabam</i>	15
	Solving Problems Without Large Government: Devolution, Fairness and Equality GEORGE W. LIEBMANN <i>Reviewed by John McClaugbry</i>	16
<i>Poem:</i>	The Scientists' Lament – JOHN SEYMOUR	20
<i>Column:</i>	FOURTH WORLD SPECTATOR	21
<i>Item:</i>	Fourth World News	28

FOURTH WORLD REVIEW is an offshoot of The Fourth World Educational Research Association Trust (Registered Charity No. 283040). It is published bi-monthly (except for a double summer issue).

Editor: JOHN PAPWORTH

Subscriptions: ANNE FEALDMAN

Secretarial: SAM HAINES

Dispatch: MARC RENNER

Typesetting: GEOFF ELLIS (01858 464771)

Printing: INSTANT PRINT WEST ONE (0120 7434 2813)

Patrons: Natalie D'Arbeloff, Maurice Ash, Lord Beaumont, Sir Richard Body, John Coleman, Peter Etherden, Edward Goldsmith, Tom Greco Jnr, Ivan Illich, Dervla Murphy, Richard Neville, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Theodore Roszak, Kirkpatrick Sale, John Seymour, Zach Stewart, Will Sutherland, Shann Turnbull and Jeff Ubois.

The Fourth World, The Close, 26 High Street, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4AE.

Tel: 01793 772214; Fax 01793 772521; E-mail: john.papworth@btinternet.com

TERRORISM IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND

ALMOST ALL governments practice terrorism as a matter of course, so that when individuals and organisations resort to it to achieve the same ends, which are of course political and economic, we need to reserve our surprise for those occasions when it fails to surface.

Nevertheless if the general disposition is to do the opposite, September 11th of this second year of the third millennium represents a new phase in the human record, for in dramatic as well as tragic terms it raises a curtain of debate on the overall issues of power in human society and the purposes to which it is being put; not least it raises questions about the methodology of science, of economic reasoning, of social organisation and of individual motivation.

If we need to ask what motivated a dozen or more young men to embark on deeds which encompassed the deaths of thousands, as well as inevitably their own, we are no less obliged, if not impelled, to ask why buildings so high as to involve the power consumption exceeding that of a third world village over a generation in their daily servicing needed to be built at all. Were those suicidal young men who destroyed them any more insane than those who built them? What is the rationale of

structures which seek to isolate nature, which defy nature and which can only be serviced by the abuse of nature? Which ignore the spiritual roots of human identity and its needs and aspirations in order to accomplish a demonstration of economic, social and architectural megalomania?

Flights of insanity

Then in the same light we need to ask about the rationale of air travel. No sane person aware of its impact on the environment, on the remaining global reserves of fossil fuels, on the global climate, on human health and social structures, would dispute for a moment that it amounts to nothing less than a collective form of insanity. The sheer speed of mass air travel is a dagger plunged into the heart of countless forms of human culture and meaning; and the means to accomplish it – giant gasoline-burning argosies of human damnation and the sprawling wastefulness of airports – represent a little recognised promotion of human impoverishment as we build more and more machines, runways and their service buildings instead of conferring on our children their birthright of the marble palaces in which they might be taught.

We need to ask, too, what is the ultimate purpose of so much research being pursued

in laboratories all over the world, research into refining methods of killing or maiming people with guns, germs, nuclear and other bombs and so on? How can this horrific process be made subject to human control and ordinary moral judgement? We may apply the same question to many other forms of research, such as that on GM crops and microbiological processes generally, from an awareness that so much of it all is contributing to increased facilities for terrorism whether at governmental, corporate or individual levels.

Reaping the consequences

Or ask when is the prolonged anarchy of economic reasoning divorced from any suggestion of moral evaluation going to end? How can its dominance be ended before its practical results accomplish ultimate forms of ecological and social degradation? It was Schumacher who insisted that on any innovation we needed to ask not whether it was more efficient, or more productive or more profitable, but whether it was right or wrong; but the dominance of economic reasoning in our societies has so easily and for so long been content to sideline the moral issues, leaving us to assume that our salvation can be assured by focusing on economic calculations with no regard to morality at all. The modern world, in all its ugliness, futility and horror, is the consequence. A world which can contemplate a heritage of centuries of civilised accomplishment in every sphere of noble human creativity is now wallowing in one which is the first ugly civilisation on record. And not simply ugly, but dangerous, globally destructive, degenerate and suicidal.

And the lesson? Global affairs are out of control and running amok. It is impossible

to apply any moral criteria to public events today because those events are in the hands of people who are incapable, owing to the economic and political framework within which they operate, to respond to them. It is not a scrap of use well-intentioned pacifists, 'Greens', peace lovers, environmentalists and others seeking to insist that governments *must* follow their particular moral prescriptions in order to resolve this or that problem, for the simple reason that governments and economic megaliths are not remotely able to be in key with moral issues; they are not moral entities but power entities, and if those in leading positions do not constantly respond to the pressures of power considerations, perhaps in seeking to adhere to some moral principle, they are all too swiftly replaced by others who do.

Yet there is one factor which is beyond their power, the power of truth and any body of ideas that springs from it. It is here as much as anywhere that a solution to the problem of all kinds of terrorism, whether governmental, corporate or individual can be found.

The upsurge of small nations in every part of the world, nations such as the Kurds, the Kashmiris, the Lozi of Zambia, the Sikhs, the Silesians, the Welsh, and so many others, needs to be seen for what it is, the world of tomorrow, the world of human striving through the ages for freedom, justice and decent egalitarian conditions of life. These small nations are the logical outcome of that spirit which has abolished slavery and seen the formal power of colonialism off the pages of history, and it will not abate until their goals are achieved.

This is not an easy path, it bristles indeed with every prospect of potential violence and discord, if only because small nations

are as capable as large ones of pursuing violence at the expense of reason. They are indeed, but there are seeds of hope in a distinction that looms large here, that whilst some small nations can be violent others can, and frequently are, peaceful, stable, democratic and socially progressive in ways which the giants find impossible to achieve.

Giant warmongers

All the giants on the world stage are currently engaged in terrorism. The US especially, with its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is not combating terrorism, it is simply enlarging and intensifying its incidence. The same is true of the Chinese in Tibet, the Indians in Kashmir, Goa and Kalistan and Russia in Chechnya; all maintain powerful standing armies able to disrupt world peace, all are heavily armed nuclear powers, all have swollen prison populations and all still use the death penalty.

No country is perfect, all countries have their defects, but can we not learn the lesson of the contrast provided by the countries of Scandinavia, of Iceland, of Switzerland, Austria, and of Luxembourg, to name a few at random, all small and peaceful, all at the forefront of campaigns for civil rights, all who have eschewed the death penalty and all are in the vanguard of social progress as well as being prosperous.

But if the small nations demonstrate that, whatever their other shortcomings, peace is perfectly possible, the giants demonstrate with fearful clarity that their giantism makes war inevitable. They demonstrate that the problem of war, like many others, is a problem of power; power too large to contain the inevitable aggressive attributes of giant power itself, power out of control, power filling the human

imagination with endless phobias about 'defence', 'security' and of course, 'terrorism', to a degree that makes such well-orchestrated anxieties a facet of the backdrop realities of all our lives.

If today we seek freedom from the manifest evils of violence now running amok in the world, we need to tackle the problem of power and establish those institutions which enable power to be tamed. A world union of giant nations can only be an oligarchic world economic autocracy which, because of its sheer scale, will embody the worst excesses of the giants whilst blanketing the unassuming decencies of the small.

A union of the small will not be a single entity but a diversity of separate functional bodies whether for peace, postal services, pollution, justice, border disputes and so on, each having its own democratic structure and answerable ultimately to the citizen body. On such a scale the moral factor will be able to regain its necessary ascendancy over considerations of money and power, so that what goes on in our research laboratories and armaments factories can at last be made subject to moral appraisal and moral judgement.

There are no simple answers to what is now being labelled 'terrorism', as though it were a new element on the world scene and not something as old as history, if only because it is a complex problem involving a complex solution. Of one thing we may be sure, the deployment of war weaponry, itself a form of terrorism, will achieve nothing but an attenuation of the problem. As Gandhi pertinently observed, 'A policy of an eye for an eye merely leaves everyone blind.' And in the country of the blind it is of course the one-eyed man who is king.

'Or must then a Christ die in every age to save those who have no imagination?' ■

THE AGRICULTURAL CRISIS AND COMMON SENSE

Sir Julian Rose

The author is an organic farmer in Oxfordshire and a leading member of the Soil Association. This article was the discussion paper for the inaugural dinner of the Swindon Academic Inn held on 15 September 2001.

THE CURRENT agricultural crisis is much more than simply a litany of disasters for the farming and rural communities. That is its most visible manifestation... and an ugly and deeply sad picture of disintegration it is.

But the roots of this crisis thread their way back through history – more than 250 years – to the first Enclosures Acts and the dawn of the industrial revolution. The momentum of industrial urban enterprise, on its throne of ‘production equals progress’, has never really looked back since then.

At first it just infiltrated the bucolic lifestyle of the countryside, but later came to dominate it. Its early years were exemplified by the writings of Adam Smith whose thesis *The Wealth of Nations* pronounced on mankind’s natural drive to self-betterment as the main force behind commercial expedience: ‘Let the invisible hand of the market do its work.’

Well, it has. Letting the market economy dictate economic trends is now the accepted political position and anything that stands in its way is treated with disdain. Along the way there have been some notable examples, some of which had a massive impact on the countryside... as when Prime Minister Peel repealed the Corn Laws in 1842 and opened the UK market to floods of cheap grain from the US, ejecting thousands of farmers from the land and into factories,

thereby setting an early precedent for the globalisation of the food market.

The exodus from the land was also propelled by new technology on the farm, such as Jethro Tull’s invention of the seed drill, which began its working life at Wallingford in Oxfordshire over 200 years ago. At one stroke, this sophisticated piece of machinery cast aside the need for lines of workers broadcasting the grain with seed fiddles, and replaced them with one man, a horse and the drill.

Farmers protested but, as with the Luddites, they were duly swept aside by the march of ‘efficiency and progress’. And so this march has continued, effectively unchallenged, into the 21st Century, and the birth of agrichemicals, advanced seed and animal breeding and the monocultural mass production of livestock, grain and horticultural products that we see today.

From a farming population equal to 60% of the UK workforce 250 years ago, we are down to just 2% today, and still falling. The countryside as a working community has died. Those who hang on now do so either by strategic marketing nous or sheer scale, a trend likely to increase as more and more insolvent small to medium-sized farms come on to the market and are snapped up by large farmers intent on getting larger still, in their attempt to match the economies of scale seen as necessary to

compete in the world market.

What 21st Century men and women nourish themselves with bears little resemblance to the fruits of the land enjoyed by even our more recent ancestors. Just four varieties of apple and three of potato claim 90% of the UK market today. In the 1950s over 50 well-known varieties of UK apple and some 30 different potato varieties graced our tables.

There were around 20 different types of dual purpose (beef/milk) regionally distinct breeds of cattle. Now just one breed of cow, the Friesian Holstein, dominates the marketplace. Lousy milk and lousy meat... but lots of it.

And that seems to sum up the state of play of European and North American agriculture today. The megalithic institutions that stand behind the mass-produced, processed foods of today are an iconoclastic symbol of the sterility of our land, and its pesticide-ridden soils and depleted flora and fauna.

We cannot understand the extent of the rape of our land and its workers, or the impoverishment of the human diet, without being aware of the contribution that five major players have had in the unprecedented carnage of the past four decades: transnational food, seed and chemical corporations; supermarkets; the World Trade Organisation; the European Union; and the UK government. They have come together in some sort of Holy Alliance for the Faustian reward of an unchallengeable control over our planetary resources.

Thousands of ancillary organisations shelter under this umbrella, each spreading tentacles of uniformity and insidious, hypnotic conformity on all they come into contact with... the MacDonaldisation of daily life.

The agricultural crisis is itself just a mirror of this more pervasive crisis, which could be summed up as a crisis of scale and of humanity. Both of which can only find expression under appropriate conditions and within the framework of communities of human proportion.

The solution to the current agricultural crisis and the wider crisis facing society is dependent on an underlying recognition of the need for a major shift towards more localised patterns of production and consumption and living, and a revival of pride of product and place, and more autonomy within local populations. This needs to be set within a policy of regional renewable resource management of food, fuel and fibre, an exercise I have referred to elsewhere as the 'Proximity Principle'.

Recognition of this principle needs to be pan-European, not just national, since Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform is an essential prerequisite for such a policy shift. Currently, CAP farming subsidies remain as wedded to the grandiose efficiency-led production ethic as the UK Ministry of Agriculture.

Thus European regions suffer the same absurd subsidised distortions as does the UK. Olive groves on 40% slopes ripped up to make way for monocultural wheat. Oil seed rape replacing mixed pastureland and the tramlines of pesticide and nitrate sprayers over everything. The artisan and peasant farmers, possessors of the true skills of the land, swept aside for the clinical technician, exploitative executive and cunning middleman.

Sir Richard Body in his book *The Breakdown of Europe* has spelt out the likely future if this sort of regime is not seriously reformed. I would agree with much of his

prognosis. The cost to the environment, the taxpayer, and to human health of maintaining the monstrous distortions of the current CAP has already proved that we are living beyond our means.

The arrival of the Eastern European second tier candidate countries on the scene in three to five years time will almost certainly underline this fact and knock a large hole in EU coffers, 60% of which are used to support the current distortion of agricultural production and trading pattern – a package designed to shore up ‘Fortress Europe’ and fend off ‘Fortress NAFTA’ and ‘Fortress Pacific Rim states’, the trading block divisions of the world.

Yet precisely because of this impending crisis, a new hope emerges.

A combination of World Trade Organisation pressures on the EU to cut out all production subsidies by the year 2003, and the post ‘mad cow disease’ and foot-and-mouth traumas sweeping through Europe, has opened a unique window of opportunity for change.

Add to this the emergence of a radical Green German Minister of Agriculture and a singularly motivated Italian agriculture minister, a very pro-organic Danish Prime Minister and equally supportive Swedish one, and the whole new alignment starts to take on some real significance.

We are now supping in the last chance saloon. The survival of our finest European food and farming traditions and the maintenance of a real foundation of Pan European and global biodiversity rests on a rash of common sense breaking out here and now. Common sense has always been thought of as a particularly British gift, but in my observation it remains the gift of a rare breed, not the common parlance of the

‘Friesian Holsteins’.

So the solution is to go back to the rare breeds and build from them. They have in them the thoroughbred authority of genuine survivors. They have adapted to the diverse pastures of old Britain, the climate and topography of their native regions. They have fine, strong immune systems that have withstood BSE and the worst of foot-and-mouth disease, whose MAFF-inspired control policies have brought UK farming to the bone in its knees, and to our best chance yet for a new beginning. They have one more great attribute: they produce real milk and real meat of distinction, subtlety and flavour.

The new beginning also needs to have these attributes, if it is to be the harbinger of a genuine renaissance. No convenience-dependent supermarket society in its bacteria-free, wrapped and sterilised cling film will ever serve the cause of sustainable, ecological organic farming.

‘The consumer’ is one reductionist commercial concept too far; the change at hand means getting back into the skin of sentient beings with real feelings and a sense of worth, swapping the supermarket for the market town and its productive hinterland, from whose humble origins the patterns of a sustainable rural trade once emerged – and will do once again.

Man’s worth, as man, has been shaped by the land, and has in turn shaped it. The future of each depends upon the other. It will be ever thus, so we had better make peace with nature, now, and give up the useless plundering. ■

Julian Rose’s article The Proximity Principle sets out the basis for local sustainability. A copy is available on request by e-mailing jrose.hardwickestate@talk.com.

MY BIOREGIONAL VISION

Kirkpatrick Sale

The author is a writer, lecturer, bioregional activist and secretary of the US Schumacher Society.

IHAVE BEEN accused of being 'apocalyptic' – and so indeed I am, for don't you realise that the horrible attacks in the US on September 11 – the sudden, swift eradication of what in prospect was some 10,000 lives – are in fact signals of a global apocalypse?

That blow was not an act of terrorism – for if no one claims responsibility, it has no political leverage, it has no effective response – it was just an act of apocalyptic insanity. It was a powerful symbol of the new phase of global society we are in, signalling the collapse of social and political arrangements as we know them now – exacerbated by increasing environmental damage and depletion, new and newly virulent diseases, political disintegration and genocide, financial disarray and worldwide depression, increased cultural and psychological chaos, and the thrashing about of national and corporate dinosaurs in their death throes. That is the apocalyptic scenario into which we now must realise we all have been thrust.

What are we to do? What must our lives be? Where should our actions point? Let me try to suggest an answer.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a friend in Eugene, Oregon, a guru of the anarchist movement, telling me that my bioregional vision – which I base on an idea

of small communities devoted to ecological restoration – was defeatist and demoralising to the 'growing number of people who feel behoved to fight the totality'. 'I do not think the task is hopeless,' he said, 'and I do not have any intention of turning my back on the challenge and hiding out in some small ecological community somewhere.' That hit pretty hard, as you can imagine, and I took some time before I responded. But I finally wrote back and it is the thinking that went into that letter that I want to share with you.

My thinking has grown in a major way out of the book I wrote a few years ago on the Luddites of yore, which I called *Rebels Against the Future*. From their experience I drew a series of lessons, and the four most important ones make up the reasoning behind my notion of bioregional communities.

FIRST: the modern nation state and the stem of corporate capitalism are entwined with a synergistic power that is not going to be undone or overthrown. As long as they effectively have all military and police force, and the will to use it to secure their ends, revolt is futile and violence, though it may buy some publicity in the short run, is counterproductive in the long run. As long as they effectively control the governing and political systems, reform is impossible

and orthodox political activity, though it may occasionally permit an interesting and dangerous thought in the short run, is useless in the long.

SECOND: that does not mean that individuals are helpless and should silently bury their heads under the covers and give up life. It is possible, indeed necessary, to express opposition to the conditions of industrial civilisation, establishing an analysis of what the problem is, who the enemies are – and I would say that chief among them are industrialism, capitalism, globalisation, scientism, and anthropocentrism (that last just a fancy term for ‘people first, nature last’), and providing the moral and intellectual grounds for alternatives to them. It is also possible to develop and broadcast this philosophy at many levels, at least putting it on certain public agendas and encouraging as many people as possible to question the values of the civilisation they live under and reflect on where it is leading them. My version of this philosophy is bioregional, but it can go by many other names.

Will this opposition, even as vocal as we can make it, be enough to overcome the systems of power? Of course not, for if it became too widespread and too threatening it would be quite quickly curtailed and muffled. But it must be done, because:

THIRD: This industrial civilisation around us will collapse (and the awful destruction in the US in September shows that it is beginning). According to Sale’s Law, all civilisations always collapse from a failure to understand both scale and limits, and a resulting growth in resource exploitation that leads to environmental collapse, and in economic inequity and political ossification that leads to social dislocation. It

might come from the gradual erosion of the nation state, or the disintegration of corporate behemoths; in our case I believe it is the accumulating environmental disasters – most especially global warming and the immense rise in sea levels that will occur when the major ice shelves of Antarctica drop off into the ocean, will cause this collapse within the next 20 years or so. (I have made a \$1,000 bet with a supertechie from *Wired* magazine that it will happen by 2020 – which I can’t collect if I win, of course, but won’t be worth very much by then if I lose.)

And **FOURTH:** if humans survive this collapse – and that is by no means certain, given the kinds and levels of our assaults on the earth – they will have an opportunity to recast human arrangements and it will be necessary for these survivors to have some body of lore, and some vision of human regeneration, that instructs them in how to live in harmony with nature and how to fashion their technologies with the restraints and obligations a love of nature demands, seeking not to conquer and dominate and control the species and systems of the natural world, for the failure of industrial civilisation will have taught them fully of that, but rather to understand and obey and love and incorporate nature into their souls as well as their tools.

That lore should provide a vision of a world with political empowerments no larger than a bioregional scale – watersheds, islands, valleys – and based surely on small, self-controlled and self-governing communities, whose primary tasks are to restore, protect and preserve the life-ways of nature in every dimension, that is to say, the bioregional vision and how to achieve it.

So it seems to me our primary task is to

prepare, preserve and provide that necessary body of lore, that inspiration, for such future generations as may be. That is a task already begun, but much more needs to be tackled, and that's a job we can all start on right now.

And in addition, we can provide examples, also right now, even as the industrial civilisation continues around us, at least some of what that bioregional community might look like. My favourite example here, based on some experiences of a group of environmentalists and philosophers on Vancouver Island, is the esotery – a small community of men and women living and working together to restore small sections of the earth to their natural complexity as climax ecosystems. They work devoted to this sacred task in ways like the monks who created the monastic communities during the long centuries after the fall of Rome, and who did more than any other to keep alive the wisdom of the past and provide models of a new way of living in small-scale, community-based, agriculturally rooted settlements, even as the corrupt, violent, militaristic, miserable regimes continued to exist around them. The esotery, like the monastery, can be the way to develop and nurture not only the land but the philosophy of land, and set an example of right-minded devotion and doing.

I have come to think of the esotery, in theory at least, as something like the extra horse. I imagine some of you have heard

the fable of the father who died owning 17 horses, and his will decreed that half should go to the first son, a third to his second, and a ninth to the third. Well, it was a plainly insoluble problem, try as they might the children could not put those horses into groups that would satisfy their fathers wishes – there was no way to take a half, or a third, or a ninth of 17. Eventually they took their problem to the local wise man. And he said, 'I understand your problem, and your dilemma. But let me help you. I will give you one of my horses.'

The boys were perplexed – what good would that do?

'Well,' said the wise man, 'you will have 18 horses – and the first son may have half, that's nine, and the second a third, that's six, and the third son a ninth, that's two, so you will be able to do as your father asked.'

The sons were of course delighted, and sat beaming at the old man, shaking his hand in gratitude. 'But then, of course,' the old man added, 'you will have 17 horses – nine plus six is 15, plus two is 17 – and so you may give the extra horse back to me. As soon as you've finished with it, of course.'

The problem as we have it today appears to be insoluble. But it is just possible that in the esotery, or something very much like it as an ecological model, we might have our extra horse, the small, appropriate, organic, living solution.

That at any rate is my vision. And I don't call it defeatist – I call it empowering. ■

Most people are slow to grasp how politics has changed; how the battle ground today 'is no longer left/right. It is top/down'.

Ralph Nader



FORUM

ANOTHER!

Whoever initiated the Radical Consultation must have had inside information on the horrific events which were to take place two days before. The timing couldn't have been more appropriate. Out of this excellent and informative conference must come an active and dynamic association of the participants to bring about the changes in conscience and lifestyle which will perpetuate harmonious, ecological life on this small planet, rather than destroy it. We were offered this opportunity on September 14 – which we neglect at our cost. Most encouraging was the participation of coherent young people.

To get together a battery of such eminent speakers and with such perfect timing, really was a stroke of genius. Looking forward to the action plan. We must have another conference this time next year to review progress.

DENNIS NIGHTINGALE-SMITH

St Mary's Villa, Hanley, Worcs WR8 0EA

APPROPRIATE PEOPLE?

Thanks to all for the impressive organisation of the Radical Consultation. You certainly drew some very nice, and thoughtful, people. Such gatherings can only help.



I would feed in the thoughts to appropriate people, such as UNED UK, Darren Johnson, Ken Livingstone's office, Michael Meacher, Liberal Democrat Environment spokesman etc.

Incidentally, my own workshop went well, except that some were reluctant to take radical positions or views, as we made clear on the population part of our report.

DR ED ECHLIN

*13 Thornbank Crescent, Bexhill,
East Sussex TN39 3ND*

WHAT THEN?

I read your sermon for 16 September and thought it was excellent. It is early days for the status quo to accept that global capitalism has harmed and is continuing to harm billions of people. The catastrophic attack on the World Trade Centre will result in increased violence from both sides.

However, the plus side is that the debate is finally entering some of the mainstream newspapers. People are realising why even the innocent are suffering because they are party to a system that is forcing billions of people in both the northern and southern hemispheres into abject poverty, homogenising diverse cultures and transforming unique communities into mass consumers.

If only the West would settle this international dispute through a judicial tribunal and peacefully rework the US presence in politics in every corner of the world, and resolve the debt crisis that has a stranglehold over every citizen, particularly in the third World. The estimated \$14 billion that a war on terrorism will cost could be spent to send an army of peaceful reconciliators to resolve disputes all over the world.

Keep up the good work in spite of the opposition from confused, angry people in your congregation.

The Radical Consultation was inspiring and I'm sure will have sown many seeds for change. I totally endorse its declaration and am sure we can get groups to endorse it but what then? Our study groups are looking at a similar analysis – perhaps we could hook the two together in some way.

TRACY, MARCHIONESS OF WORCESTER

The Cottage, Badminton, Avon GL9 1DG

FRUSTRATION

It was a great privilege to be able to take part in the Radical Consultation and to be able to chat and debate with like-minded people, including so many eminent writers and thinkers. I found it enormously enjoyable and stimulating.

However, it was frustrating that, in spite of all the good work carried out in the various workshops and the consensus reached

on so many subjects, we were able to produce so few plans for positive actions to widen public concern for the environmental and social problems which we had discussed. Since the consultation the British Prime Minister's apparently serious statement of intention to overcome all the current large scale political ills, while at the same time continuing the disastrous free trade arrangements, indicates how desperate is the need to increase understanding and concern for the problems being caused and exacerbated by those policies, and also by our profligate use of the finite resources of the planet.

ANGELA BATES

*The Manor House, North Witham,
Grantham, Lincs NG33 5LH*

INTEREST IN THE POOR

I came with mixed feelings. I've been too long hoping for real change and think it now too late. When I heard Kirkpatrick Sale talk of Esoterics, I joined his group but soon found no-one else wanted to be so pessimistic about our future! Had it not been for the apparent chance of getting it to begin to take an interest in the poor, I don't suppose I would have come.

GRAHAM KNIGHT

*15 Sandhurst Lane, Ashford,
Kent TN25 4NS*

CO-OPERATE

I've learned a great deal from my attendance at the Radical Consultation. I arrived as a sceptic and am still not sure how we will put the word out, but I'm encouraged by the community vision. We do need to co-operate. Visionaries are not always thanked. I'm putting in my vote of thanks now.

VERONA BASS

36 Gladstone Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HL

STUDYING INSIDE

I miss my family more than anything. There's always some sort of family problem or another arising and being in here and not being able to do anything to help resolve their problems gets to me. All I can do is pray and hope for the best.

I missed your *FWR* – please send me the issue I've missed. I'll probably spend the next four months on educational courses. There's a Maths and English course I should do quite quickly as they're GCSE level. I will enjoy the course on self employment. Start my own business. That will be of very good use to me. I will also do an computer and literacy and info-tech course. I already know computers at a basic level but it will be good to brush up on my skills and get a certificate at the end of it.

I've been getting into studying the Koran as well. I've been given a Bible and got a book on Judaism so I'd like to learn about the current principles behind all these religions. But one step at a time. The first week I was here the imam never made it for Friday service so I led the prayer with agreement of all the other lads and gave a short recitation and translation of one of the Koranic Suras!

MUJAHID RAFIQ

HM Prison Isle of Wight

ILLEGAL

Today we have an economic system that largely belies individual responsibility. Our pension funds, our savings and investments are all interlinked across the globe in a myriad of ways so that simply looking for 'growth' as an arbiter of decision-making may hide a multitude of sins. Essentially what happens is that if a company is not profitable then its share price drops and fund managers or individuals relocate their

monies elsewhere to those companies that are profitable.

We are told today that 'a butterfly flapping its wings in Singapore can cause a tornado in Texas', which although seemingly unlikely may well be true, but I also believe it may well be true that a loveable and ageing grandmother wishing to raise the value of her portfolio, so that she can buy her grandchildren a bigger and better Christmas present or whatever, may be directly linked to poverty wages being paid to tea and coffee workers in the third world. Funds managed on her behalf, or even she herself checking the interest rates, have an impact on the world economy. How many people would willingly accept a lower rate of return just so that others in the third world can fare better than they do at present, or pay more for their goods in a supermarket to ensure better facilities for peasant farmers?

We already see, in the IT industry for example, a move by some companies to outsource their software development to India, not because there is a shortage of skilled workers in this country but simply because wages in India are so much lower than they are here. It is interesting to reflect that paying a programmer less money just because he is Indian would be against the law in this country, but seemingly quite acceptable if the chap happens to actually live in India!

BRIAN HAINS

7 Bartons Drive, Yately, Hants GU46 6DW

LOVELY AND LIVELY

If you a minute ago happened to drop down from the sky into this desert area bordering Pakistan, you would have seen me, a grey-haired missionary reading *FWR* No. 108.

Thank you for the regular free mailing

of the review. I prayed for the success of the Radical Consultation in September.

Two years ago I prepared some material, on the feast of St Thomas More. No-one has accepted it for publication, though they smile at the ideas. I am hoping to make a few copies to distribute at my funeral.

By the way, my 'universal state' is not a world empire, but a place where all the small things of the Fourth World can flourish.

I am not an intellectual but a simple grassroot-level missionary. This is not only an uneducated area but an illiterate one as well. We were hit both by the earthquake and drought. So I am totally involved with relief work. Life is with the poorest of the poor and that is a privilege. Life, even in the heat of 45 degrees, is lovely and lively.

I wonder if you will read my pages – after all I have been reading yours for years now!

ANTHONY MOONU, SJ

*Catholic Ashram, PO Box No. 14,
Radhanpur-385 340, Gujarat, India*

Fr. Anthony's paper, My Political Thinking, advocates the abolition of states and national frontiers, and in their place a Universal State with 'government in charge of the whole universe'. But he gives no indications how ordinary people might have any more effective voice in its conduct than it has over current state governments. – Ed

ENIGMA

Thank you for FWR Nos. 109-110. The piece by General Butler makes horrific reading. India and Pakistan sit on the edge of nuclear war. General Butler's description of America's nuclear arsenal and the damage it can inflict is powerful. My wife and I do not believe that ordinary human beings can countenance such destruction. But, as we

have lately seen, a country under attack can countenance anything, such as America's attack on Afghanistan. The power and exhilaration to the leadership is right in line for a new way of acting, thinking, believing. These huge warheads are the creation of governments. I believe that nature is cruel as well as kind, and that man is just a product of nature in which conscience is a creation of our imagination, what makes us human, which gives us the right to believe in God – although no right-thinking person could believe in God, or any other force other than nature herself. That mind of God is hidden away in so many different compartments one could never bring it together to make a single sane action. Perhaps this is the enigma that enraps all of us at this moment – that we are behaving naturally and seeing destruction, even of humans, as natural. Perhaps we need to be less scientific and return to the old concept of divinity taught to us by our religions and religious. What General Butler is telling us is very powerful, and we are concerned for the future of humanity and the suffering man is imposing on man with the sanction of society.

BULU IMAM

*Sanskriti, Human Ecology Centre,
Sacred Grove, Hazaribag 825301, Bihar, India*

MISGIVING

Thanks for the recent issue, and my letter in Forum. I'm loyal, still, to *Resurgence*; but you're funnier than a duck's arse and twice as pungent, so I'll give it a whirl and support the 'small and local', despite my deep misgivings over your regrettable computer use. (I guess your heart's in the right place, though).

PETER QUINCE

12 Stephens Close, Faversham, Kent ME13 7SS

Solving a problem!

CRISIS WISDOM — Special offer!

*Send a seasonal greeting to your friends
they will treasure as long as they live*

Crisis Wisdom... it costs less than a throwaway card

Crisis Wisdom... a notebook for the perils of our time

Crisis Wisdom... quotes from more than fifty authors

Crisis Wisdom... the radical wisdom of the ages

CRISIS WISDOM... only £1/\$2 per copy

(normal price £2/\$4)

12 copies only £10/\$20. 25 copies £20/\$40

Herewith my order forcopies of Crisis Wisdom
for which I enclose the sum of.....

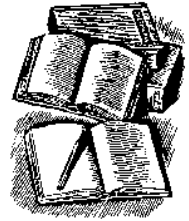
Name:

Address:


.....

Cheques The Fourth World, 26 High Street, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4AE
(overseas readers please add extra for airmail postage)

BOOKS



THE FIRE OF HIS GENIUS, by Kirkpatrick Sale. THE FREE PRESS, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, USA. \$24. ISBN 0-684-86715-x.

 *Reviewed by John Papworth*

KIRK SALE is one of those writers whose pen will always set the imagination alight regardless of his topic. In this case he focuses on Robert Fulton, a strange, erratic genius who, almost unwittingly, initiated developments that set in motion those forces which enabled his countrymen to realise the American dream.


For Fulton the steamboat was apparently a sideline to his preoccupation with instruments of war, torpedoes, mines and submarines. In none of these did he achieve more than a salt-sprinkling of success, but it was in his steamboats that his success lay. Sale takes the reader back to when the only form of serious water transport was by sail or barge. To get a boat on water driven by fuel, (in those days wood), which drove huge revolving paddles without bursting the boiler, was to unleash a tornado of developments in other spheres. The time of passenger journeys was decimated, as was that for shifting heavy cargo; it opened up vast areas of the expanding American

Empire to new settlement at the price of largely destroying the native civilisation and its peoples which had flourished for centuries, and laid the foundations of a system of power that now dominates with neurotic compulsiveness world affairs.

The American dream has become a nightmare imbued with a dangerous spirit of imperialistic patriotism which is already long past its state-of-sale date, (and if you want evidence, just contemplate a recent TV record of a ceremony attended by the current President where throughout he was pictured holding in his right hand a tiny stick from which stuck out a paper Stars and Stripes! Which other head of state in any part of the world would dream of flaunting his national emblem with such fatuous solemnity, for all the world like the leader of a troop of boy scouts parading his troop banner?).

Sale's vivid, scholarly vignette of Robert Fulton's erratic career helps to explain how so much of it got under way even before the railway age, itself a technological ripple effect of Fulton's steamboats, an account nobody could read without being the richer for doing so in terms of a deeper understanding of the forces now dominating our destinies.

STORMY WEATHER: 101 SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, by Guy Dauncey, with Patric Mazza. NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS, Canada, JON CARPENTER BOOKS, Oxford. Paperback, 265pp, £14.99

 *Reviewed by Colin Graham*

WANT to fly from London to Los Angeles? Remember that if you do go you will be sending another 6.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the earth's already overheated atmosphere.

This is merely one of a myriad of significant bits of data that Guy Dauncey has put together (with an assist from Patrick Mazza) in a book which, after graphically outlining the climate crisis now upon us, tells us how to get out of the fix we have so culpably brought upon ourselves.

Each of the book's 101 solutions to the job of preserving a liveable planet is given two visually attractive facing pages containing an analysis of the problem, ways of combatting it and, very often, a list of internet resources for further study. An immense quantity of research backs up each statement.

Dauncey is particularly good at getting down to specifics of a kind that is useful to a broad spectrum of people at all levels. Thus there are sections given over to individuals, citizens' organisations, towns and cities, businesses, energy companies, auto companies, states, provinces, national governments, and developing countries.

While the author doesn't mince words when describing the darkness of the tunnel we are entering, he sees no logic in

belabouring the issue if he can't point to light at the tunnel's end. This he does vividly and cheerfully. But what he does make clear is that the Kyoto Protocol calling for a 5.2% reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases is a pathetically tepid beginning and that if we really want to save our skins we had better start trying to achieve an 80% reduction by 2025.

This is a remarkable and truly comprehensive book. The world would become a safer place if mayors, councillors, MPs and cabinet ministers were to keep it for bedside reading. True, it might give them nightmares, but they could simply pledge to adopt Dauncey's solutions and then go back to sleep with a peaceful mind.

Dauncey has made such a thorough analysis of every aspect of the the problem of climate solutions that *Stormy Weather* deserves to become a permanent classic, updated every few years. It has already impressed enough leading experts to become just that. James Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute, and Jennifer Morgan of the Worldwide Fund's climate section have already given it rave reviews.

Working out of Victoria, British Columbia, Dauncey produces *Econews*, a monthly ecological analysis, and has authored several books on communitarian issues. The list of books produced by his Canadian publishers, New Society Publishers, based on a nearby island, prove that in the electronic age it is no longer necessary to operate from a major population centre to do globally significant work. ■

If England were divided into forty republics, each equal in population and extent to Athens, there is no reason to suppose but that, under institutions not more perfect than those of Athens, each would produce philosophers and poets equal to those who (if we except Shakespeare) have never been surpassed."

Percy Bysshe Shelley, Prometheus Unbound

Fourth World Bookshop

Parish Power: Peace Through Social Empowerment

John Papworth

If most people by far do not want war, why then do we still have it?

A penetrating analysis with pointers to a positive solution by one of the leading radical thinkers of our time. Based on an address given to the Okinawa People's Summit.

The General Declaration of the Fourth World

John Papworth

An original political document outlining the basic causes of the global crisis and the principles attendant on its solution. It was first published for the first assembly of the Fourth World in 1980 and this third edition has a new foreword by the author.

Leopold Kohr and Fritz Schumacher

John Papworth

A survey of the work of two of the most influential political thinkers of our time which explains their differences of approach, especially with reference to their major books *The Breakdown of Nations* and *Small is Beautiful*, written by one who enjoyed the personal friendship of both and who for many years has published their writings and promoted their ideas. The paper was originally presented to a dinner discussion of The Academic Inn, itself the brainchild of Leopold Kohr over half a century ago.

Retrieved From the Future

John Seymour

John Seymour has written many books on farming, travel, self-sufficiency, poetry and social comment. In *Retrieved From the Future* he reveals his natural bent as a novelist. He describes the fortunes of a group of people, their families, their friends and their neighbours after the crash, when, with a sudden break in the all-important supply of oil, normal life collapses, government ceases to function, food disappears, mass starvation, disease epidemics and civil war take over and how people coped. Despite the background the story is one full of hope: people did cope, they won through – largely by learning the lessons of what went wrong. And that is why the book is important; it is not only a superbly engrossing read, it shows how ordinary people can rise to a challenge and enable decency to prevail. And it is yours for just £5. The best paperback you can hope to buy and one of the best gifts you can give a friend.

All £5 each, post free. 26 The High St. Purton, Wiltshire, SNS 4AE, England.

THE SCIENTISTS' LAMENT

We scientists move in mysterious ways
Our wonders to perform
With fission power and fusion power
To cheer us and keep us warm.
And we have our wonderful flying machines
To take us away to the stars
To fly us about and sky us about
And dump bits of machinery on Mars.

We don't believe in a God any more
Any more than in fairies or elves
Roll ovah Jehovah we don't need a Prime Moveah
We only believe in Ourselves.
For We are omniscient – omnipotent too And We really begin to suspect
That Creation created itself for Ourselves And left it to Us to perfect!

But we're fed up with Earth for it's lacking in mirth
If you really consider it well
The air is polluted the water is putrid
And our cities are getting like Hell.
The crime rate is soaring our lives they are boring
The government's taxing our pay
The soil's all eroding the system's corroding
And we're thinking of going away.

Yes – somewhere up there boys – high in the sky
Somewhere up over the Plough
We know we'll discover some pie-in-the-sky
So much better than what we've got now.
This world has been ruined by people like us
We've made it a premature Hell
So we'll look for another one high in the sky
And make a bollocks of that one as well!

JOHN SEYMOUR

Playing It For Laughs,

a book of humourous verse on current topics



FOURTH WORLD SPECTATOR

I SPENT SO MUCH on buying this large 200-year-old farmhouse that I have nothing left to spend on it, which, with worm-eaten roof rafters and ancient, rusted, iron window frames which won't shut properly and other items, it badly needs.

Never mind. I reasoned on leaving London that with some spare bedrooms and some not inconsiderable culinary skills, although I say it myself as shouldn't, my family and friends would be happy not to neglect me, and so it has proved.

I get a fair number of friends passing through and the variety of their attributes is its own comment on the singularities of human nature. One guest firmly refuses to use silver plated teaspoons on the grounds they might cause lead poisoning, so at teatime he hunts for stainless steel; another cannot bear background music: what is the point of playing a Bach toccata and fugue if you are not actually listening to it? he asks with considerable point. Another insists I

should stock the pond in the garden with carp and asserts it is a monstrous waste to neglect such a resource. The pond was a dolorous sight of green scum until I fixed up a water butt to catch rainwater from the old granary shed roof, and then ran an overflow pipe down to it, so now the water is clear and free of growth. Then there was the American lady who made the most marvellous apple sweet called 'cobbler', so marvellous I made her give me the recipe, and the Dutch lady (or was she the one from Korea?) who did dishwashing by squeezing the concentrated liquid detergent on each item individually and then rinsing off.

But no less bemusing is the things they leave behind on departure. Umbrellas of course, and jackets and coats, and I still have a rucksack and a stout pair of climbing boots hanging in the lobby. Then there are books, handkerchiefs and odd items of jewellery, but above all, toilet articles. Never mind women's perfumes and make-up

items, when did men start to use aftershave lotions (and what for?) or hair gel and other attributes of the male quest? I like to shave, beards tend to make men look conceited. I have a brush, and a mug in which I collect all the odd bits of soap that get left in wash-basins and that serves for lathering purposes. I seem to have survived a longish time without using special soaps, lotions, shampoos, unguents and the rest of them, and if the toiletry industry continues to thrive it can't claim to do so on the basis of the reach of my pocket.

JOHN SEYMOUR came to stay, in great form at 87 but tragically he has lost much of his eyesight, which for a writer and an omnivorous reader is its own bleak penalty of age. Over dinner he announced he was compiling a special dictionary of collective adjectival nouns and the party proceeded to enlarge on his list to produce:

- An obfuscation of lawyers,
- An error of economists,
- A sleaze of MPs,
- A blunder of generals,
- A giggle of schoolgirls,
- An acne of schoolboys,
- A Monsanto of scientists,
- A piety of Vicars,
- A corruption of politicians,
- A treachery of europhiles,
- An usury of bankers,
- A swindle of businessmen,
- A swoop of inspectors, and
- An obstruction of planning officers.

No doubt the reader will be able to add to the list. At one stage we were discussing sport and John announced he had recently been watching a cricket match and he had suddenly realised why it was that after six balls there was a change of bowlers and a

general rearrangement of the field. He claimed it was in order to help the players to stay awake.

PERHAPS it was telephone day. The phone rang and it was a chap in Okinawa whom I had met some time ago. He told me with a note of urgency in his voice that owing to global warming the sea had risen alarmingly and was flooding the dock area and people's homes. He would tell me more when he came over for the Radical Consultation. Then Colin rang from a hospital bed in Gloucester, where he was about to have foot surgery for diabetic problems. When the surgeon came Colin urged him not to cut off too much, so the whitecoat gave him a marker pen to draw a guideline on his foot. It rang again, this time Zac Goldsmith, who expressed the view that if Ian Duncan-Smith was elected the Tory party might split and then the Labour left might also break off from the Blairites, 'After all Tony Benn has far more in common with Richard Body [a strong radical former Tory MP who stood down from parliament at the last voting exercise] than with Tony Blair, it might lead to a new political alignment.' I rather wondered about that. I was still wondering when another call came, this time from Goderic Bader: 'I can't think what has happened to us Quakers. With all this wrongdoing going on half of us should be in prison from our protests. Years ago Quakers were always going to prison but now things are far more evil, yet where are the Quaker prisoners?'

THAT Radical Consultation, (RADCON, as Kirk Sale dubbed it), was part of a traumatic week which began with the deliberate murder of thousands of people in the

destruction of a New York building complex which no sane, well balanced society would ever have allowed to be built in the first place. The shock waves emanating from the event were due in part to its totematic significance and, at a deeper level of consciousness, to an awareness of the utter vulnerability of the way of life that had gestated it. Suddenly millions were made aware that a lifestyle which had seemed assured, safe, comfortable and destined to go on and on was in reality a gangplank, that the Big Apple was in fact rotten to its core and that what might ensue were multiple forms of catastrophe whose end no man could foresee.

With predictable assiduity the media responded with a highly orchestrated orgasm of grief of which the death of a semi-royal young woman of dubious personal standards in a Parisian automobile accident some years earlier had been but a foretaste. People were glued to TV sets and special newspaper editions sold by the million as they were encouraged to wallow in the aftermath of an event which, in terms of numbers of victims, were more than matched by catastrophes in Kurdistan, Vietnam, Iraq, Bosnia, Serbia and elsewhere, which have scarcely infringed at all on the popular consciousness.

Should we modify our plans for the RADCON due two days later? Certainly not, I urged. The RADCON was, in any case, of far greater importance and should go ahead as planned. But then, on the opening day, I found I was summoned to appear in court before the Swindon magistrates for refusing to complete the UK government's census form. From the dock I argued that the census was a means of increasing government power when that power was

already being used to destroy Britain's sovereign identity and putting control of power even further from the reach of the people. I began by vehemently denouncing the ugliness of their fairly new court building and urged that passively to accept such ugliness involved a diminution of our human stature and involved an assault on the dignity of the court and its proceedings. I am not sure the three magistrates knew quite what to make of that. I embarked on a lengthy anti-euro statement of a highly patriotic tenor which an official insisted on interrupting by questioning its relevance. But when I pointed out that I had not had the privilege of being introduced to him and suggested that the court proceedings might be greatly facilitated if they were assisted, if not by his absence at least by his silence, the senior magistrate pointed out he was the Clerk to the Court and that I was guilty of disrespect. I demurely assured her that all offences come from the heart and that none had come from mine, which she appeared to accept. There was a lengthy adjournment after which I was fined £70 plus £50 costs. since the maximum fine was £1,000 and no insistence on completing the form had been made, I felt I had made my point with about as much effect as possible, not least since the media carried reports of the case.

THEN in the evening to chair the public meeting which opened the RADCON. A full house and a moment of silence to remember Nicholas Albery, whose sudden death had prompted me to take his place in the chair. As a kick-off to the main event, with the help of Teddy and Zac Goldsmith, Kirkpatrick Sale, John Seymour and Tracy Marchioness of Worcester, there was a mar-

vellous question and answer session which was all that might have been desired, despite the abominable acoustics of the hall.

Then two of the most exciting days of my life, the sense that at last radical-minded people were getting their act together and that a unity of consciousness and purpose was being mapped out which made sense in relation to the prevailing perils. Despite being totally drained each day I felt a sense of exhilaration. One Forum on work, run by Peter Etherden, produced a mine of practical proposals which will surely be standard reference material for any future initiatives, whilst the other I attended, on The Bioregional Vision, conducted by Kirkpatrick Sale who had come over from the US specially for the event, was itself a transformation of consciousness in action. This business of 'facilitating' such groups is a major skill in its own right. In the US they have special training courses for them and if Kirk were not so engaged with crafting some of the most important books for the needs of our time (*Rebels Against the Future*, *Dwellers in the Land*, *The Conquest of Paradise*, *The Human Scale* – you name it, he wrote it), he demonstrated with his easy-going mantle of authority just how superbly such skill can be employed and what a major Dean of Studies of the whole subject we are missing.

We were lucky indeed with our facilitators. Tom Greco, the US monarch of monetary theory, came to these shores specially to help and did a superb job with his group, as did Ed Echlin on questions of Ecology and Energy, whilst Toni Pinschoff and Aidan Rankin were in their element with the draft Charters on Real Nations and on Real Communities. What matters here, of course, as with Julian Rose's facilitating of the Land and Farming Workshop, is what

comes out from the wash. How tough-minded, clear and practicable are the different workshop proposals? What response are they likely to evoke from the wider radical community, or, for that matter, from the stomach and pocket brigade? Despite the current global scene I remain full of hope; I have a sense that at last the radical movement (a quite indefinable but useful portmanteau title) is really beginning to get its act together.

IT WAS GOOD to be able to acknowledge the work of Denis Nightingale-Smith, who is currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of his remarkable newsletter of *The Organic Living Association*. It consists of a couple of foolscap sheets of recycled paper on which is crammed a mass of topical and highly relevant information on health matters such as fluorides in our water, GM crops or factory farming. It arrives without fail every two months and is surely a marvellous example of what one person of limited resources endowed with vision and persistence can accomplish.

Adequately to express a due sense of gratitude to Anne Fealdman is a well-nigh impossible task. For twenty years she has been the honorary watchdog of our mailing list, patiently recording the ceaseless changes that accrue to it and ensuring that each issue is serviced with an up-to-date set of address labels to ensure that your copy will reach you. In many ways she embodies the real spirit of the revolution of our day, one not content with street protests and placards, but doing a vital job, quietly, purposefully, efficiently and persistently. It is a spirit which, multiplied around the world, will change it for the better as much as any other way can ever hope to do.

Then there was that evening of talk, laughter and singing over food and wine in my farmhouse kitchen, with John Seymour leading the revels with songs from his glorious book of doggerel *Playing it for Laughs*. It is a long time since I heard a company laugh so long and so loud and my only untoward sense was one of regret that the entire RADCON company could not have been in attendance, rather than the score or so present. But it was an evening of pleasure to treasure in remembrance. Thank you John:

*...only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all
can pay.*

THAT Swindon Academic Inn inaugural provoked the first-rate kind of discussion that Leopold Kohr must have envisioned when he first conceived such occasions, and Sir Julian Rose's paper on the farm crisis was an inspired model of such presentations, but the following morning my sermon in the local church appears to have provoked an altogether more tempestuous response. Several people walked out and one man came back and bawled me to silence. I stood in the pulpit wishing to God many more people would show a similar spirit of protest, if only in regard to the deafening silence of the Church in failing to give a lead to the giant moral conflicts of our time which are shaking our civilisation to pieces. The vicar asked me to stop and then took over the service and subsequently relegated me to a kind of ecclesiastical limbo on the grounds that some of his parishioners would not attend church if I were to be officiating. This really puts a false face on things. The vicar is a decent chap trying to keep his flock in one piece

when some of them have worked up feelings and see me, because of local tendentious newspaper reports, as the harbinger of a notorious Russian spy, as a 'shop-lifting vicar' and somebody who causes trouble by refusing to obey the law about the census form. But there we are, plus the encouraging support and solidarity of several of the more perceptive local people. Clearly, turbulent priests are an endangered species. I find the matter has all the elements of a tragi-comedy. I had encouraged RADCON people to join me in the service in the hope of conveying how the Church really was alive to its role in the world! Ah well. The Church is dying and at the current rate of decline will before long be all but stone dead. It seems to have lost its way in burying itself in obscurantist twaddle about sexual mores, women priests and in the endless unedifying loquacities of 'liturgical reform' which have simply murdered all the sublimity of its historic heritage of prayer in exchange for bleak exercises in political correctness which have about as much spiritual resonance as a plastic doorknob. I am all for women priests – we should really be arguing whether to keep men priests – but the destruction of beauty, whether in language, architecture or anything else, alarms me. If we tolerate ugliness, as everywhere today we do, it means there is something ugly in ourselves.

Anyway, as I sought to make the best of my clerical relegation and to lick my wounds the fates were not yet finished with me. After all my RADCON guests had departed and I was alone, thieves came in the night and stole my hi-fi equipment. It is sad to think equipment, on which one has spent hundred pounds or so and from which one has had the endless joy of

exploring the grand realm of great music, will be flogged off by some rascal for a fraction of its cost in order to sustain his drug habits. And then the following evening two masked persons burst into my sitting room and, when I struggled, one sprayed my face with some chemical. Fortunately I was wearing my specs and when I gave him a thump on the side of his head they both ran like rabbits. I am pacifically inclined, but I am not a pacifist: if you pursue any principle far enough you generally end in absurdity. And who was it said, 'A principle is a lazy-minded man's device for saving himself the trouble of making up his own mind on a particular issue'?

NEVER MIND, where do we go with RADCON from here? Several groups were formed for different tasks – to hone up the Charters for Real Nations and for Real Communities, to chew over proposals for a

weekly or fortnightly radical publication in order to hammer home human-scale themes, to explore the nuts and bolts of RADCON 2, to push the Swindon Academic Inn, and much else besides. More details anon. What impressed me most was the spirited determination of the younger brigade to take up the cudgels and get on with things, plus the prominence given to issues of agriculture and labour. It seems to suggest RADCON 2 will have fewer workshops and that they will focus on land, labour, capital and, if I heard aright, education. Well, the world is not going to be changed overnight, all we have done is take the first few steps of a long trail, but it seems to be the right (as distinct from the wrong) trail going in the right direction and one with its own moral and intellectual integrity, and as such one which can now command an ever widening circle of allegiance and commitment. ■

Copies of the following documents are available:

John Papworth — *Defence Statement to Swindon Magistrates* £2/\$4

John Papworth — *An Aborted Sermon* £2/\$4

Common Sense — a booklet edited by Peter Etherden, £5/\$10

with contributions from **John Papworth,**

Dr Aidan Rankin and **Kirkpatrick Sale.**

Includes:

- ◆ Charter of Real Communities;
- ◆ Charter of Real Nations;
- ◆ The Global Crisis, Local Opportunities; and
- ◆ The Radical Declaration



All available from Fourth World Review,
The Close, 26 High Street, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4AE

For a free copy of the *Organic Living Association Newsletter* (annual subscription £4) send a s.a.e. to: Dennis Nightingale-Smith, St. Mary's Villa, Hanley Swan, Worcs WR8 0EA.

Mea Culpa! So sorry, I really meant to do it. But you know how it is! The cat got run over and then there was that inquest on the driver who tried to miss it. And then we had that blocked drain – you should have seen the water! And the doormat was completely ruined. Anyway, here is my very late subscription for 2001. If I remember I will even try to add a bit extra.

Subscribe now for 2001

I enclose my subscription for the current calendar year £ _____
(Cheques: Fourth World Review. Please return to: Fourth World Review,
The Close, 26 High Street, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4AE).

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Instead of keeping the news all to myself, please send a free copy to:

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Annual Fourth World affiliation Self-assessment

Prisoners – free. **Third world countries & those in debt to the World Bank** – postal coupons. **Shirtless ones & musical buskers** – £10 or \$20 (20p/40 cents weekly). **Students, 2nd hand car owners & false teeth flashers** – £20 or \$40 (40p/80 cents weekly). **Jet-setters, dishwasher owners, those with wall-to-wall carpeting, taxi users, opera fans, regular wine drinkers, cigar smokers, experts, consultants & specialists** – £50 or \$100. **Company directors, presidents, royalty, europlotters, bankers, mediums, gurus, archbishops, pop stars & media personalities** – £500/£1000. **Millionaires & lawyers** – negotiable.

Send to: **UK & Sterling area:** Fourth World Review, The Close, 26 High Street, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4AE, England. **Australia:** Jacques Boulet, PO Box 8018, Camberwell North 3124, Victoria, Australia. **New Zealand:** Merv Dickinson, 16 Smugglers Cove, Sumner, Christchurch 8008, New Zealand. **USA:** Zach Stewart, Canessa Park, 708 Montgomery, San Francisco, California 94111, USA. **Other countries:** Please send international money orders, postal coupons or local produce (tea, coffee, sugar, gold, silver, rugs, hot water bottles, etc.) to UK HQ.

Fourth World News



A financial crisis in the **UK** Post Office is likely to lead to the loss of 15,000 jobs as it seeks to make savings of £1,200 billion. • Railtrack, the private company which took over the railway track from **British Rail**, has gone bust; lots of investors have lost lots of money and the railways are now heading back into government hands. • Prisons are running courses for violent offenders which involve giving them more privileges and increased responsibilities. Reports say the programme is showing good results, but there is no suggestion yet of adopting the same principles for the general public. • Mr Tony Blair has joined President Bush in going completely mad. • The economically non-viable Sellafield nuclear fuel plant has been given the go-ahead to reprocess radioactive plutonium despite protests that it presents environmental and security risks. • Talks being held to use armed marshals on British aircraft in line with similar moves in the USA. • Internet reports say that newsreel clippings widely shown on TV and purposing to show Palestinian crowds laughing and jeering at the news of the New York outrage on September 11 were in fact nine years old. • Reports suggest that if the **UK** government had acted more swiftly in culling foot-and-mouth infected animals the total of culled animals would have been halved. • It seems that if you stop smoking and then start again your lungs will be even more adversely affected. • The British High Court has ruled that secret service files (440,000!) should be made accessible to everyone – subject to national security considerations. There were loud cheers at the announcement but nobody seems able to explain how it makes any difference. • Gordon Brown, the **UK** government money minister, has urged his cabinet colleagues not to increase demands for more money so that he can pay for the Afghanistan war. • A major virulent flu epidemic is forecast for the coming winter. •

Flash floods have swept through three villages in **Thailand** killing 73 people. • A **Russian** airliner which crashed killing 144 people may have done so because its pilots were afraid of getting a pay cut for wasting fuel. • The **IMF** and **World Bank** have decided to shorten their autumn meetings in Washington because of violent clashes between police and protesters at previous meetings. • Research by the bank HSBC shows that one in five of its customers check their account at least three times a day. • Christians whose faith is shaken when they fall ill are at greater risk of dying, according to a study in two American hospitals. • The legal age for driving a tractor is to be raised from 13 to 16 to prevent children doing hazardous work on farms. • Motorists are now twice as likely to get caught in a traffic jam as they were last year. • Police in **Lincoln** have launched an inquiry after a confidential list of 204 sex offenders, listing names and addresses, was found in a supermarket car park. • **China** is facing an Aids epidemic that has led to the infection of 80% of the population in some areas. • Zimbabwean militants have looted more than £1 million in property from 30 abandoned farms in the Chinhoyi area. • Haulage companies look set to lose their vehicles if drivers are caught entering Britain with more than the legal amount of cigarettes and alcohol. • A study of the global effects of light pollution claims a flood of artificial light has left 1 in 5 people unable to see the bright band of the Milky Way at night. • **Italy's** Chief of Police has admitted that officers used excessive force at the G8 summit in Genoa. • 13,500 **Russians** have died from alcohol poisoning in the last four months. The country's top sanitary inspector has blamed heavy drinking and the low grade of spirits on sale. • The **British** cider industry faces the loss of 60,000 young apple trees after record rainfall last winter rotted their roots. – **S.H.**

Fourth World News

