PERSONAL ATTENTION, PLEASE, OF Mr. Jim Kenney FDA. THE MONSANTO STORY - GM FOODS, TERMINATOR SEEDS - is still being censored by our media giants (evidence enclosed). This is accomplished, not by deceit but by simple omission of fact. Thus it's not the N.Y.T.'s radical French farmer but unreported tens of thousands of India's farmers staging "cremate Monsanto" bonfire protests. Nor is it the WSJ's villain Jeremy Rifkin (representing a U.S.-based lawsuit) but the blind greed of Monsanto (other U.S. transnationals) intention to one day control international food production with GM crops and terminator seeds. It is this greed (often masked as a certain way to end world hunger), that has put the American farmer in his financially vulnerable situation. Along with the American people, they are not informed of why Prince Charles adamantly opposes GM crops, for example or the opposition of Brazilian farmers - or, most crucially, of Dr. Arnaud Pusztai's research exposing the grave health risks of GM-produced foods. (One must also assume they know nothing of factual data gathered and published by the Health & Environment Weekly, as well.) Once GM crops and their seeds are accepted, the decision is irreversible and pressures to do so will be quite ruthless via U.S. institutions/ private sector "interests." How will this international conflict be resolved to safeguard the health of this and future generations, the planet's already-endangered environment? Your influential voice will be part of the answer. Appreciation from,

GM-SOS Committee, P.O.Box [redacted], St. Paul, 55101

(see p. 4)

The Guardian **Editor** July 23 Editor is a Manchester Guardian Weekly Digest

News you weren't told

The top 10 censored stories of 1998

Each year, a California-based research project sets out to "track the news that didn't make the news". **Project Censored** aims "to stimulate responsible journalists to provide more mass media coverage" of the issues it believes have been ignored. These are what it considers the 10 most censored stories of 1998

1 A secret international trade agreement that undermines the sovereignty of nations

Some developments in the course of history have such potential to impact nations and humans that it would be irresponsible to ignore them. Yet few mainstream news organisations have reported on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), an international agreement which would set in place a vast series of protections for foreign investment. According to reports in the alternative press, the MAI would threaten national sovereignty by giving corporations near-equal rights to nations. This agreement has the potential to place profits ahead of human rights and social justice. MAI would thrust the world economy much closer to a system where international corporate capital would hold free reign over the democratic values and socioeconomic needs of people. The MAI will also have devastating effects on a nation's legal, environmental and cultural sovereignty.

2 Chemical corporations profit from breast cancer

In a cynical example of corporate

The American media didn't want to know...

3 Monsanto's genetically modified seeds threaten world production

Monsanto Corporation has been

GM crops 'will not end world hunger'

John Vidal February 12 1999

THE introduction of genetically modified crops to the world's poorest countries could lead to famine instead of feeding more than 800 million hungry people worldwide, says Christian Aid.

In a report out this week the charity argues that GM crops are "irrelevant" to ending world hunger, will concentrate power in too few hands and will strip small farmers of their independence.

It also condemns "suicide seeds" that contain a terminator gene which makes the next generation of seeds sterile, forcing farmers to buy new seed every year. Currently 80 per cent of crops in the developing world are from saved seed. Christian Aid says the consequences of such massive influence on the world food supply could be one of the most serious developments in history.

It says: "GM crops are . . . creating classic preconditions for hunger and famine. A food supply based on too few varieties of patented crops are the worst option for food security. More dependence and marginalisation loom for the poorest."

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The Observer
23 May 1999
London EC1R 3ER

Food scandal

International scientists back shock findings of suppressed research into modified food

The team found that the liver and heart sizes of the rats were decreasing — worse still, the brain was getting smaller.

How seeds of doubt were planted

May 1983 World's first transgenic plant is produced — a tobacco plant resistant to herbicide.

March 1986 Tobacco plant is released into the environment.

November 1988 Government advisers first consider the issue.

March 1993 Food Advisory Committee says strict labelling of GM foods is not necessary despite strong opposition from British Medical Association.

May 1994 First genetically engineered whole food, Colgene's Flavrsavr tomato, is introduced into the US food supply. British Government licenses Monsanto's GM soya beans for human consumption. Despite protests from supermarkets, Monsanto mixes GM beans with 'natural' ones.

February 1996 GM tomato puree goes on sale in the UK.

December 1997 English Nature calls for a moratorium on growing GM crops because of fears of threat to wildlife.

March 1998 Iceland becomes the first supermarket chain to ban GM food in its own-brand products.

June 1998 Prince Charles attacks GM organisms. In the *Daily Telegraph*, he writes that it 'takes mankind into realms that belong to God and to God alone. The lesson of BSE and other entirely man-made disasters in the cause of "cheap food" is surely that it is the unforeseen consequences which present the greatest cause for concern.'

July 1998 Eight members of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment revealed to be directly involved in the biotech industry. Government-backed £3m farm-scale trials of GM crops begin.

August 1998 AgrEvo announces it will not go ahead with plans to grow Britain's first GM commerical crop this year, in response to public fears. Dr Arpad Pusztai claims that GM potatoes damage the immune systems of

November 1998 Government passes new laws to speed the introduction of GM crops in UK.

February 1999 Tory leader William Hague calls for a moratorium on the introduction of GM food. Twenty international scientists demand that Pusztai's findings be reinstated. Labour's former chief spokesman, David Hill, and Tony Blair's US strategist, Stan Greenberg, are revealed as advisers to Monsanto. Science Minister Lord Sainsbury is found to control two companies involved in GM food. Local councils vote to ban GM food from schools, town halls and old people's homes. Monsanto is condemned for making 'wrong, unproven, misleading and confusing' claims in its £1m advertising campaign.

March 1999 Fast food chains Wimpy, Pizza Express, Domino Pizza, Burger King and KFC,

Arpad Pusztai

Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer, go GM food-free. New laws force restaurants and shops to label foods containing GM products or face fines of up to £5,000. GM-free Iceland raises profits by more than 10 per cent. Protests against GM foods held across Britain.

April 1999 Tesco removes GM foods from its own brands. Cadbury and Unilever go GM food-free.

May 1999 BMA calls for ban on GM foods and crops until more research is carried out

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Yet, in spite of the above readily available information, N.Y.T. states "no clear evid- exists that the crops are unsafe."

The New York Times

NEW TRADE THREAT FOR U. S. FARMERS

Dislike of Gene-Altered Food Is Now Proving Contagious

By MELODY PETERSEN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 — American farmers paid premium prices this spring to sow many of their fields with genetically engineered corn and soybeans, but now as the fall harvest nears, more of the international buyers they depend upon are saying they do not want those crops

rom Page one, 8/27/99 -
'Paper of record.")

WALL STREET JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 15, 1999

Seeds of Trouble

We guess the guy who came up with the name "terminator" gene won't be getting his bonus this year. It's one of the reasons that a plague of plaintiffs lawyers is now descending on the agricultural biotech industry.

The unfortunately ominous sounding term is in fact used to describe a method by which biotech companies produce seeds that are infertile after the first generation, thereby helping them recoup development costs through ongoing sales to their farming customers. By allowing companies to protect their intellectual property, such a technology should prove an enormous spur to agricultural innovation, which has already done so much to increase crop production around the world.

But an incoming litigants' plague is painting a very different picture: One of a world in which the rights to all important crops are held by a handful of large multinational corporations, such as DuPont, Monsanto and Novartis. On Monday it was announced that a coalition of biotech adversaries would file multibillion-dollar antitrust lawsuits in as many as 30 countries later this year. Twenty different American law firms will reportedly be arguing on their behalf.

And the publicity will be handled by none other than—Jeremy Rifkin.

Longtime readers of this page will recognize Mr. Rifkin. If memory serves, the indefatigable promoter first opened his biotech tent by filing a lawsuit in 1984 against a University of California experiment to fight frost damage in a field of potatoes using genetically altered bacteria. Years of similar Rifkin-driven court cases against biotech ensued, until the issue burned itself out, with biotechnology going on to become one of the showcase industries of late-20th-century America.

The plague of lawyers, meanwhile, is led by corporate shakedown artist Michael Hausfeld. He has sued Exxon for the Valdez oil spill, Texaco for alleged racial discrimination, Swiss banks over Nazi-era Jewish claims, and the makers of infamous "Fen-Phen" diet pill. The German conglomerate BASF has fallen victim to Mr. Hausfeld on two entirely different counts: alleged vitamin price fixing and the use of slave labor during the Nazi era.

The plaintiffs in these cases are something called the National Family Farm Coalition, plus individual farmers from around the world.

Of course bigness is not badness in legal terms, so the plaintiffs and lawyers know they have to point to some practices as "abuse" of a dominant position. But the best they seem to be able to come up with is a specious semantic distinction regarding the nature of the agreements between biotech companies and farmers.

Seeds are not really "sold" anymore, Messrs. Rifkin and Hausfeld both told us; they are effectively "leased." But a lease is after all a form of purchase: of a service, not a piece of property. And we don't see how it would be any harder for dissatisfied customers to stop "leasing" than stop "buying."

Nor, apparently, do most knowledgeable observers. Shares of most of the companies that are potential targets in this lawsuit don't seem to have been affected by the announcement, with analysts describing the action as both "ludicrous" and a "publicity stunt." The global seed market, they observed, is not very concentrated.

It's early in the development of this industry, which may make them vulnerable to spooky lawyers' tales, but that also suggests a normal course for their social maturation. Obviously, the seed companies want to protect their youthful intellectual property. But like the software and entertainment people before them, they're going to find there are limits to what you can do. Push too hard and you end up swamped by bootlegs. We suspect the high-tech seed people will eventually learn from Microsoft: Give farmers a broad, open-ended license to use a particular seed variety, then try to keep them coming back with upgrades.

Of course, any such lawsuit is a try-the-lock operation, and it's conceivable that a court or jury will tumble in one of the international venues. If that suppresses the development of this business, the losers will be the billions of people around the world for whom biotechnology promises a better life. Even in the developed world, after all, it wasn't so long ago that food was scarce and expensive enough that "a chicken in every pot" was actually a resonant political slogan.

If some 16 years after he sued his first potato field Mr. Rifkin still worries about what you get when you cross a firefly with a plant, he's free to do so. For our part, we're more worried about what you get when you cross a scaremonger with a tort lawyer.

The Guardian Weekly
June 13 1999

George Monbiot

MONSANTO'S advertising agency warned the company not to argue that genetic engineering would feed the world. But the temptation proved too great. "Worrying about starving future generations", its adverts claimed last year, "won't feed them. Food biotechnology will." It's hard to see how even a corporation with Monsanto's self-belief could have imagined that this claim would stand up.

For the corporation had already made its position quite clear. "What you are seeing", one of its executives explained in 1997, as his company bought up scores of seed merchants and biotech firms, "is a consolidation of the entire food chain."

Monsanto's argument was swiftly and comprehensively dismissed. Development agencies pointed out that people starve not because there is an absolute shortage of food (the world currently produces a surplus) but because food and the means to produce it are concentrated in the hands of the rich and powerful. Corporations seeking to consolidate the food chain threatened to make this situation far worse. Monsanto, sadder and perhaps a little wiser, slunk away. But it has just acquired a new and unlikely champion.

The Nuffield Council for Bioethics is a highly respected, independent body, whose recommendations often influence government policy. Last month its panel on the ethics of genetic engineering published its long-awaited report. Research into GM crops, the panel acknowledged, has tended to favour producers in Europe and the United States. Patenting of the new technologies, it pointed out, presents "potentially serious difficulties for developing countries". But, the report maintained, if the research effort could only be directed a little more evenly, GM crops would "produce more food, or more employment or income for those who need it most urgently". It concluded: "The moral imperative for making GM crops readily and economically available to developing countries who want them is compelling."

This is perhaps the most asinine report on biotechnology yet written. The stain it leaves on the Nuffield Council's excellent reputation will last for years.

The panel made three fundamental mistakes. The first was to assume that the technology is neutral and could, given the right conditions, be evenly deployed and distributed. In truth, genetic engineering is inseparable from its ownership. No genetically engineered crop reaches the market without a patent. Most of these forbid the farmer from saving seed for future plantings: control of the food chain remains with the corporation at every stage of production.

The second was its crude, even childish, supposition that any technology that produces more will feed the starving. The world is littered with the wreckage of such assumptions. Ethiopia's modern agro-industrialists were exporting animal feed to Europe throughout its devastating famine. Latin America's Green Revolution, Christian Aid points out, raised food production by 8 per cent a head, but malnutrition increased in the same period by 19 per cent. The Kalahandi region in India suffers repeated famines, but produces surpluses every year. Starvation occurs because of the distorted ownership of the food chain.

The panel's third mistake was its inexplicable premise that biotechnology will somehow boost jobs. Monsanto's leading biotech products — herbicide-resistant crops — are sold with the promise that they reduce the need for labour: farmers give their money not to local labourers but to one of the biggest corporations on earth.

So why did such a distinguished panel make such evident mistakes? You don't have to look very far for an answer. While people of every kind sat on the committee, all its biotechnology experts were drawn from the same ideological pool. It is not hard to see how restaurateur Prue Leith, for example, well meaning as she doubtless was, would have felt obliged to defer to the superior wisdom of the former chairman of the advisory committee for novel foods and processes, or the Unilever research professor of biological sciences.

So how do we feed the world? When I suggest that the answer lies in a combination of land reform and organic or semi-organic farming, you may think I've gone soft in the head. But Jules Pretty of Essex university has documented a quiet revolution across the developing world, in which peasant farmers have doubled or tripled their yields by modern organic techniques. They require lots of labour, no debt, and no help from predatory corporations. Only by such means can the world's poor maintain control over their food supply, and protect themselves from the technologies that the Nuffield panel celebrates.

SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND OF MONSANTO'S GM FOODS/TERMINATOR SEEDS FROM RACHEL's ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH WEEKLY ("Rachel" honors Rachel Carson - Peter Montague, editor.) Not one line of this data has been challenged.

Rachel's **Environment & Health Weekly** *February 11, 1999*

A new book by Marc Lappé and Britt Bailey, *Against the Grain*, makes it clear that genetic engineering is revolutionizing U.S. agriculture almost overnight.[1]

In 1997, 15% of the U.S. soybean crop was grown from genetically engineered seed. By next year, if Monsanto Corporation's timetable unfolds on schedule, 100% of the U.S. soybean crop (60 million acres) will be genetically engineered.[1,pg.5] The same revolution is occurring, at the same pace, in cotton. Corn, potatoes, tomatoes and other food crops are lagging slightly behind but, compared to traditional rates of change in farming, they are being deployed into the global ecosystem at blinding speed.

The mass media have largely maintained silence about the genetic engineering revolution in agriculture, and government regulators have imposed no labeling requirements, so the public has little or no knowledge that genetically altered foods are already being sold in grocery stores everywhere, and that soon few traditional forms of food may remain on the shelves.

Genetic engineering is the process whereby genes of one species are implanted in another species, to give new traits to the recipient. Traditionally the movement of genes has only been possible between closely-related species. Under the natural order established by the Creator, there was no way dog genes could get into cats. Now, however, genetic engineering allows scientists to play God, removing genes from a trout or a mosquito and implanting them in a tomato, for better or for worse.

Three federal agencies regulate genetically-engineered crops and foods -- the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The heads of all three agencies are on record with speeches that make them sound remarkably like cheerleaders for genetic engineering, rather than impartial judges of a novel and powerful new technology, and all three agencies have set policies that:

** No public records need be kept of which farms are using genetically-engineered seeds;

** Companies that buy from farmers and sell to food manufacturers and grocery chains do not need to keep genetically-engineered crops separate from traditional crops, so purchasers have no way to avoid purchasing genetically engineered foods;

** No one needs to label any crops, or any food products, with information about their genetically engineered origins, so consumers have no way to exercise informed choice in the grocery store. In the U.S., every food carries a label listing its important ingredients, with the remarkable exception of genetically engineered foods.

These policies have two main effects:

(1) they have kept the public in the dark about the rapid spread of genetically engineered foods onto the family dinner table, and

(2) they will prevent epidemiologists from being able to trace health effects, should any appear, because no one will know who has been exposed to novel gene products and who has not.

It is safe to say that never before in the history of the

Monsanto's other major line of genetically engineered crops contains the gene from a natural pesticide called Bt. Bt is a naturally-occurring soil organism that kills many kinds of caterpillars that like to eat the leaves of crops. Bt is the pesticide of choice in low-chemical-use farming, IPM [integrated pest management] and organic farming. Farmers who try to minimize their use of synthetic chemical pesticides rely on an occasional dusting with Bt to prevent a crop from being overrun with leaf-eating caterpillars. To them, Bt is a God-send, a miracle of nature.

Monsanto has taken the Bt gene and engineered it into cotton, corn and potatoes. Every cell of every plant contains the Bt gene and thus produces the Bt toxin. It is like dusting the crop heavily with Bt, day after day after day. The result is entirely predictable, and not in dispute. When insect pests eat any part of these crops, the only insects that will survive are those that are (a) resistant to the Bt toxin, or (b) change their diet to prefer other plants to eat, thus disrupting the local ecosystem and perhaps harming a neighboring farmer's crops.

According to Dow Chemical scientists who are marketing their own line of Bt-containing crops, within 10 years Bt will have lost its usefulness because so many insects will have developed resistance to its toxin.[1,pg.70] Thus Monsanto and Dow are profiting bountifully in the short term, while destroying the usefulness of the one natural pesticide that undergirds the low-pesticide approach of IPM and organic farming. It is another brilliant -- if utterly ruthless and antisocial -- Monsanto business plan.

* Monsanto -- the clear leader in genetically engineered crops -- argues that genetic engineering is necessary (nay, *essential*) if the world's food supply is to keep up with human population growth. Without genetic engineering, billions will starve, Monsanto says. However, neither Monsanto nor any of the other genetic engineering companies appears to be developing genetically engineered crops that might solve global food shortages. Quite the opposite.

* If genetically engineered crops were aimed at feeding the hungry, then Monsanto and the others would be developing seeds with certain predictable characteristics: (a) ability to grow on substandard or marginal soils; (b) plants able to produce more high-quality protein, with increased per-acre yield, without increasing the need for expensive machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, or water; (c) they would aim to favor small farms over larger farms; (d) the seeds would be cheap and freely available without restrictive licensing; and (e) they would be for crops that feed people, not meat animals.

* None of the genetically engineered crops now available, or in development (to the extent that these have been announced) has any of these desirable characteristics. Quite the opposite. The new genetically engineered seeds require high-quality soils, enormous investment in machinery, and increased use of chemicals. There is evidence that their per-acre yields are about 10% lower than traditional varieties (at least in the case of soybeans),[1,pg.84] and they produce crops largely intended as feed for meat animals, not to provide protein for people. The genetic engineering revolution has nothing to do with feeding the world's hungry.

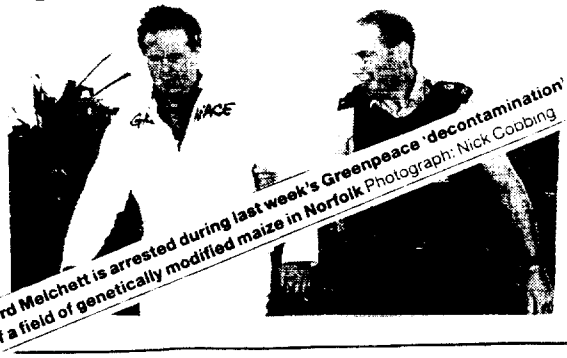
The Guardian Weekly August 11 1999

John Vidal

At least two and possibly more small-scale test sites of genetically modified crops – in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire – were destroyed in raids by activists last week.

The move takes the number of tests destroyed this year to more than 40. Four remaining government trial sites are, however, still intact.

Forty-five people were charged last Sunday with conspiracy to damage crops at a Lincolnshire farm growing GM maize.



Lord Melchett is arrested during last week's Greenpeace 'decontamination' of a field of genetically modified maize in Norfolk Photograph: Nick Cobbing

GUARDIAN WEEKLY February 21 1999

Big corporations tighten grip on world food supply

Katharine Inez Ainger reports on the massive rise of the environmental movement in India

MORE than 50 years after India's struggle for independence ended in victory, another resistance struggle is being waged. Rural India is home to one of the largest, most dynamic and vocal environmental movements in the world.

Subsistence farmers, traditional fisherfolk, tribal peoples (Adivasis), "untouchables" (Dalits), sweatshop workers, women's groups and ordinary villagers are all vociferously opposing what new coalitions of environmental and social movements are calling the "recolonisation" by global corporations and international institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

In many important protests and actions these "coalitions of the dispossessed" have deeply embarrassed state and national governments and made it difficult for transnational corporations to operate in the country.

For all India's rapid modernisation and growing middle classes, 60-70 per cent of the population, or more than 600 million people, are desperately poor and depend directly on the environment for survival. Environmentalism, they say, is not so much a luxury, as in the West, but a necessity.

"It is the life ra[illegible] thirds [illegible]

Burning issue . . . Indian farmers set fire to genetically modified crops as part of their 'Cremate Monsanto' day

Critical mass . . . thousands take to the streets to demand India's withdrawal from the WTO

dedicated to non-violent civil disobedience and call for a development based on self-reliance and village-level democracy.

As a result of the movement, illiterate peasant farmers in [illegible] gions are more [illegible] of [illegible]

Indian seeds and plants by foreign corporations. "Patents on seeds would destroy 75 per cent of [illegible] livelihoods [illegible] the [illegible]

people, une[illegible] be[illegible]

Brazil fights phantom menace in soya wars

'We were trying to make our agriculture more sustainable'

Guardian Weekly July 15–21 1999

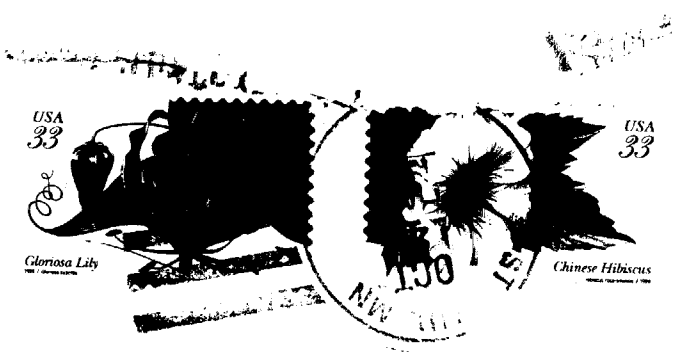
Alex Bellos on a GM showdown in gaucho country

The town of Nao-Me-Toque, or Don't Touch-Me, in southern Brazil owes its peculiar name to an obdurate trapper who slept rough on the land before it was settled. In May Nao-Me-Toque gained a more contemporary meaning when a depot there [illegible] [illegible]nal food giant M[illegible]

The crop, now in sealed packages in the silvery-blue Nao-Me-Toque dep[illegible] was planted by Monsanto wh[illegible] [illegible]zilian government gave [illegible]ear for test[illegible] in [illegible] stat[illegible]

28 February 1999 The Observer

Watchdog slams Monsan[illegible]



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