



Friday 6th June 2003

Free/Donation

Issue 408/409

G8 MY HAMSTER

“For us, the only division worth talking about is that between the people of the world and the masters of death and exploitation. The only ‘ring-leaders’ that need to be exposed, isolated, and removed from their position of menace to society are George Bush, Vladimir Putin, Tony Blair, Silvio Berlusconi... Our determination to disrupt their yearly feasts of power is matched only by our contempt for that other handful of losers in suits who, instead of fighting for the starving millions of the global South, came to Evian in order to kiss the hands of the torturers.” - Lausanne Solidarity Declaration.

Evian famous for its bottled water was instead busy last week bottling bullshit, as the leaders of the G8 summit meet to squabble over the spoils of war. Yet another conference for the new rulers of the world to be wine and dined, protected by thousands of armed police from the bottled-up emotions of the people they supposedly represent.

The US/UK invasion of Iraq has revealed big divisions between the main power blocks, all of them desperate to maintain their flagging economies by enforcing control over other parts of the world. The main reason for the invasion was that the US needed to secure military control of Middle East oil to prevent other power blocks getting their hands on it. It's no surprise that Russia and France, countries that traded most with Saddam's Iraq, were the countries that opposed the US invasion.

Despite the spin doctors telling us that the G8 wanted to help the poor there was no discussion of affordable drugs for an African continent held to ransom by money-crazed multinationals. The massive subsidies to western agriculture that seriously harm Majority World farmers were still in place by the end. George W. wanted to talk about terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (except his own) so that's what they talked about.

Bush's obsession with other people's terrorism distracts his own population from the falling dollar as the US economy nosedives. While growing numbers of people in the US suffer, Bush and his gang are building up their military might as their chosen way of maintaining dominance. Even though some European leaders like to portray the US as brutal and Europe as civilised, the truth is that the world economy is shaping up much like it has always done - rival capitalists ready to wage to war for their own interests, carving up the world's resources. And the G8 is the dinner table.

EVIAN FOR A RIOT?

The anti-G8 protests kicked-off on Friday with a march of 4,000 winding its way round Geneva's international institutions. It started at the headquarters of the World Trade Organisation where protesters pulled the gates off and threw bangers into the courtyard. Tear gas was fired outside the headquarters of the International Organisation of Migration responsible for forceful deportations in a world where the free movement of money (but not people) is a religion. Meanwhile in the French suburb of Geneva, the French Socialist party decided to hold a counter conference about globalisation - which the local French told SchNEWS was like Neo-Labour trying to tell you they were against the corporate takeover of hospitals. The conference got surrounded, barricaded and attacked by a mixture of locals and protesters throwing stones inside while undercover cops inside threw tear gas out.

Sunday was the day of the main blockades and demonstrations, with about 100,000 people taking part across three towns in two countries. There were three camps, the idea being to stop the roads that led to the conference. In Geneva three bridges were occupied by one camp. Later on, the city saw the smashing of bank windows and other corporate symbols. The streets of Geneva became a graffiti artists' dream with slogans in all languages adorning the boarded up shops. In Lausanne the pink and silver marched out first, decorating the police with glitter and stars, followed by the Black Bloc who were somewhat less polite. The locals cheered them on as they headed for the red zone, which contained the hotels of the ever-so precious delegates. Meanwhile on Lake Geneva delegates were crossing by ferry, as the roads to Evian were not safe to open. A crew of new age pirates on rafts and pedal boats tried to cross the lake to sink the summit and would have made it if it wasn't not for those pesky police. Then, of course, the protesters had to pay the price for delaying the summit for hours. In Lausanne, police with tanks, guns and gas had herded demonstrators back to their council-provided, out-of-town campsite by mid-morning where hundreds of them were illegally detained and held.

The police were as brutal and arbitrary as protesters have come to expect. A British protester, Martin Shaw, was seriously injured during an action blocking a road to the summit. While hanging from a bridge on a rope stretched across the highway

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being into Heavy Metal!

14 'devil worshippers' in Morocco received jail sentences ranging from three months to one year for 'undermining the Muslim faith' and 'possessing objects contrary to good morals'. Nine of the men, belonged to local heavy metal bands and the rest were fans. Among the objects exhibited in court to show they were in league with the devil was a black T-shirt with heavy metal symbols on it. This prompted the judge to comment that 'normal people go to concerts in a suit and tie'.

police turned up and cut the rope. He fell 20 metres and suffered injuries to his back and legs. On Monday a march with yet more extremists - this time calling for water to be available for everyone, were surrounded by riot police who began escalating the situation dramatically. One protester described it as: "being put in a kettle and boiled". Surrounded on all sides the police shot rubber bullets into the crowd. Thousands of German 'police' in unmarked, military uniforms joined in, stopping, searching and shouting instructions in German at locals along the lakefront. French speaking Geneva, in not-so-neutral Switzerland, didn't take kindly to this German military invasion. By the evening thousands of locals were chanting, "police off our streets", only to be met with water cannons, tear gas and plastic bullets. Local youth were soon masked up and took to the streets. Dozens were injured in clashes with the police. One of the main local organisers said "We have to question their actions. They are using indiscriminate force against peaceful protesters and attempting to criminalise the whole movement."

In the much-attacked global justice movement, local forums and alliances of creative, committed groups rooted in communities are working together, supporting each other and forming the basis of a growing movement against capitalism. It's a movement that celebrates diversity, taking strength from the rich variety of people involved. Inevitably politicians, the media and some monolithic sects try to dictate how to protest and fragment people by condemning anyone involved in property damage or self-defence. But as one protester put it: "One illusion that needs to be dispelled right now is the ritual separation between 'good' and 'bad' protesters, manufactured yet again by the corporate media. All the blockade actions had the clear objective of obstructing the arrival of G8 delegates. Whether this is done through a sit-in, a street party or symbolic assaults on corporate property we have (a) common goal."

For more on the protests: www.indymedia.org/g8/

It's yer SchNEWS Summer Party and Protest Guide

JUNE

Until 13 **Star Peace Camp Fylingdales**. Fylingdales Space Command Base, North Yorkshire Moors. 01287 660067 ** **Until 13 No to Starwars Tour**. CND tour to Missile Defence and nuclear hotspots across the UK. 01274 730795 www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk ** **7-15 Green Transport Week**. Environmental Transport Association 01932 828 882 www.eta.co.uk ** **7-22 Isle of Wight Festival**. Community Festival with big show act weekender in between. weekend: £50 day: £30 www.isleofwightfestival.com ** **8 World Oceans Day** global celebration of the planet's marine environment, events worldwide. 01989 566017 www.mcsuk.org ** **8 'Detained' (Asurot)**. Film of three Palestinian widows and their 11 children living in a house where the front is under Israeli guard and the Palestinian authority controls the back. www.dochose.org. 4pm, The Other Cinema, 11 Rupert Street London. Booking: 020 7734 1506. ** **9 Campaign for Justice in the Yarl's Wood Trial**, Harrow Crown Court, Hailsham Drive, Harrow. 10.00 am sady_campaign@yahoo.co.uk ** **9-15 Faslane Peace Camp 21st Birthday week of action**. Action holiday by the sea against nuclear weapons. Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Argyll, Scotland. 01436820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk ** **10 Eye witness report of the Iraqi war zone**. Upstairs, Downview pub, West Worthing, 7.45pm, 01903 206 588 www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/waw.html ** **11 Stop the arms trade - shut down DSEI arms fair benefit gig** with Conflict, Inner Terrestrials, Active Slaughter and FlatPig. From 7pm, Mean Fiddler, 157 Charing Cross Road, London. £6. 07765 615 841 www.mortarhate.co.uk ** **12 Protest Against Group4** recruiting staff to reopen Yarl's Wood Removal Centre (see SchNEWS 348). 8am Yarl's Wood Removal Centre, Twinwoods Road, Clapham Bedford. sady_campaign@yahoo.co.uk ** **12 Bush and Blair's War on Democracy**. Public meeting with George Galloway MP and eye witness report from G8 summit in Evian. 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London. 07989 578 840 www.camdenstopwar.org.uk ** **12 Jeremy Hardy vs. the Israeli Army**. Also activists from the International Solidarity Movement answering questions..Hebden Bridge Picture House, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire 7.45pm £5.00. Box Office: 01422 842 807 www.iamnotatwar.org.uk/ism ** **13 Pro Missile Defence Rally!?!?** Join Blair, Bin Laden, Bush and Saddam standing side by side, hand in hand supporting missile defence. US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London. Come dressed as a terrorist, soldier, businessperson, tyrant ... turn the facts on their head and see the truth from their eyes! 020 7700 2393 www.cnduk.org ** **14 Anti-war/Anti-imperialist benefit party**. Somewhere in London, for location ring 07742456480. Punk bands, soundsystems, Indymedia Cinema, Illuminitis dj visuals. ** **14 Film afternoon benefit** for Sussex Action for Peace, 2-5pm, The Sanctuary Café, Brunswick St East, Brighton. 07815 998127 www.safp.org.uk ** **14 Stop the War on Asylum Seekers** Assemble: All Saints, Oxford Rd. Manchester 1pm March and then rally in the Peace Gardens mark.krantz@ntlworld.com ** **14 Cambridge Vegetarian Festival**, 2.30pm at Bharatiya Bhavan (Indian Centre), Mill Road, Cambridge. Speakers, awards and veggie food. Info: 020 8686 6931 ** **14-15 Leamington Peace Festival**, Leamington Spa. Free. www.peacefestival.org.uk ** **14-15 World Development Movement Conference 'Whose Rules Rule?'** Get the latest on trade, debt and globalisation. Free. University of Bradford. 0800 328 2153 www.wdm.org.uk ** **14-15 Training Weekend for International Solidarity Movement volunteers in Manchester**. ISM volunteers go to Palestine to carry out human rights work on behalf of the Palestinian People. Email: ism_manchester@riseup.net for details. ** **15 Health Freedom Movement March**. Against restriction of health food supplement directive. Starting from North Carriage, Hyde Park. 11am. ** **15 Camden Green Fair & Bikefest** St James Gardens, Cardington St., Camden. NW1 12pm-7pm. Free. www.greenevents.fsnet.co.uk ** **15 Stokefest**, Clissold Park, London. www.stokenewingtonfestival.co.uk/2003/index.html ** **17 No to deportations of Iraqi asylum seekers** Picket the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London. 12pm-2pm 07734 704742 d.jamal@ukonline.co.uk **19 McLibel: Anniversary of 1997 High Court Victory!**

Genetically Mobilised

Have your say over whether the government should allow the commercial planting of genetically modified crops in UK, you can register your opinions via the website www.gmpublicdebate.org, or phone 020 7261 8528 for a paper form. It is worth putting in yer tuppence worth, even if the government will be more likely to listen to their multi-million pound big business chums who want to monopolise the food chain. There are a series of public consultation meetings in June: 7 Holiday Inn, Taunton (2pm). ** 9 Kings Hall, Belfast (2pm). ** 9 Shire Hall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, (1.30pm) ** 11 Quality Hotel, Glasgow (6pm). ** 13 Pavilions, Harrogate, (Yorkshire Showground, 2pm). ** 17 Awelon Hall, Ruthin, Denbighshire (7.30pm). ** 18 Church House, Llanfair Town Hall, Denbighshire (7.30pm). Interesting to see there are no meetings in areas where most GM crops will be grown! More information about the flawed and biased government "consultation": www.genewatch.org/Debate/Debate.htm

www.mcspotlight.org ** **19 Conscientious Objection in the 21st Century**. Manchester Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, 10am-4pm ** **19 North London Critical Mass**. Bring your wheels to take part in this carnival of anti-car culture. 2pm, Finsbury Park main gate, Seven Sisters Road. northlondoncm@home.se ** **19 International Refugee Day**. Vigil for asylum rights. Home Office, Queen Ann's Gate, London, 4.30pm-6pm. 020 7247 9907 www.naar.org.uk ** **20 'War, propaganda, lies and dissent'** with George Galloway MP, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton 7.30-9.00 pm. Free. 07815 998127 www.safp.org.uk ** **20-22 EU Summit, Halkidiki peninsula, Greece**. EU heads will discuss European enlargement, "security" and building Fortress Europe. www.wombles.org.uk ** **20-22 Holidays in the Sun 2003** Punk fun in the sun in Morecambe. Including The Damned, 999, The Crack, Funeral Dress, Resistance 77, Splodge, Stuntface. £67.50 02476 559992 www.holidaysinthesun.net ** **20-22 The Free Range Weekend**. A get-together for people to exchange tips on 'Trash Technology' - the recovering useful equipment from the junk society throws out. Pantlrag, near Llanwrda, West Wales. Booking essential - 01558 685353 timshaw@gn.apc.org ** **20-23 North-East Social Forum**, Durham City www.dur.ac.uk/durham.socialforum/NESF/ ** **21 Summer Solstice** at 7.10pm ** **21-22 Stonehenge Acoustic Free Festival** - Protest at English Heritage's decision to open the monument on the wrong day! The longest day is June 22, but English Heritage opens the stones on June 21 from 2am to noon. www.hardcorecarvers.co.uk/festival/stonehenge2003.html ** **21 Signs of the Times Summer School 'Days of Hope - Social Forums and the Politics of Protest.'** Discussion of the World, European and local Social Forums. Union Tavern, 52 Lloyd Baker St., London. 10am-6pm £5, www.signsofthetimes.org.uk ** **21 Reclaim the Beach**, London 11pm till 5am. www.swarming.org.uk for info on when and where! ** **21 National Badger Day** 020 7498 3220 www.nfbg.org.uk ** **21 'Call Time On Convoys'** A workshop on tracking, exposing and stopping nuclear weapon convoys. Cowane Centre, Cowane Street, Stirling, Scotland 1.30-4.30pm 01786 474450 davidmc@enterprise.net ** **21 Tottenham Festival**, Bruce Castle Park, Tottenham 2pm-8pm. Carnival starting noon from Ashley Road, N15. ** **22 Lordship Rec Summer Festival**. 'Green feel' festival with willow workers, story tellers, dog wizardry(!), sharing food picnic, local band, art and craft workshops, green stalls. Lordship Recreation Ground, London N22. 020 7239 1391 ** **22 National demonstration against Haslar removals centre** (see SchNEWS 405) meet 4pm at Haslar carpark, Dolphin Way, Gosport, Portsmouth. nooneillegal2002@yahoo.co.uk Transport from Brighton, tickets from Community Base, Queens Road or Cowley Club, London Road. ** **22 Brighton Alliance of Sound Systems Burning of the rigs** summer solstice knees up on the beach near the Concorde. 7.30-10.30pm. After party at the Concorde2. 10pm-2am £3, all profits to the free party cause. www.bass23.org ** **23 NO to forced deportations of refugees**: Defend the Kurdish and Afghan Refugees, 7-9pm, Parliament. Committee Room 11, Westminster Hosted by Jeremy Corbyn MP. 020 7586 5892 ** **27 Musical Crossroads A Benefit for Peace in Kurdistan and Campaign Against Criminalising Communities**. Kurdish songs and food. 8pm, Kufa Gallery, 26 Westbourne Grove, London W2. £10/£5 www.cacc.org.uk ** **27-29 Glastonbury Festival SOLD OUT** (and we don't just mean the tickets, see www.corporatewatch.org/news/glastonbury.htm). Direct Coaches from Brighton to Glastonbury from the Hemp Shop in Gardner Street, Brighton. 07944 152706 ** **28 Kids Peace Festival** Brighthelm, North Rd, Brighton 12-5pm Kids' musicals with an environmental theme and tons of activities Free. ** **29 Latin Splash**, Clapham Common, London £25 07941 552232 www.salsamagic.co.uk/introduction.htm

Autonomista Tour!

Over the last year an incredible wave of social protest and action has engulfed Argentina. In the midst of a severe economic crisis people are improving their own lives without bosses and politicians: over 200 factories are under workers control, over 300 cooperatives have been formed by unemployed people, countless neighbourhood associations formed and many other autonomous popular initiatives. Two women from the Piquetera (Unemployed Worker Movement) along with a full length puppet show are touring the UK about these inspiring grassroots organisations for global economic justice and social change. www.autonomista.org.

June: 16 Brighton 6pm, Cowley Club, 12 London Road. **18 Guildford** **19 London** 7pm, London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate St. **21 Durham** Durham University part of the North East Social Forum www.dur.ac.uk/durham.socialforum/NESF/ **23 Manchester** TBC **25 Hebden Bridge** 7.30pm The Trades Club. **July: 1 Glasgow** 7:30pm, Alexander Thompson Hotel, 320 Argyle St. **2 Edinburgh** 7.30pm Forest art space/café, Westport. **3 Edinburgh** 7.30pm, CWU, 15 Brunswick Street. **5 Lancaster** 8.30 pm, Lancaster Gregson Centre, Moor Lane **7 Bradford** 7pm, 1in12 Club, 21-23 Albion St. **Leeds** (8) **Liverpool** (9) **Cardiff** (11) and **Belfast & Dublin**.

For more details, venues and times see www.londonarc.org or ring 020 7377 9088

4th July, Party for Independence from the USA

You are cordially invited to the Gatecrasher's Ball, Menwith Hill Spy Base, North York Moors. Put on a party mask and wear your best tuxedo or ball gown. Bring food, a bottle of bubbly, party poppers, ladders, etc.

For your entertainment there will be sound systems, samba, bands and speakers including comedian Mark Thomas.

Menwith is America's leading spy base outside the US and played a crucial role in both Gulf wars. It is also central to plans for the "Star Wars" National Missile Defence programme.

Transport from Brighton - tickets from Community Base, Queens Road and Cowley Club, London Road.

More information: 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk

JULY

1-14 Barra Festival, Isle of Barra Western Isles 'Festival of Gaelic song, dance and drama. 01851 703 088/01851 810 336 ** **4-6 Guilfest Festival**, Guildford, Surrey. Manufactured corporate cock-suckers Atomic Kitten are headlining one night, £65, day tickets around £30, camping around £25 (per tent) www.guilford-live.co.uk ** **4-6 Introduction to Renewable Energy Weekend Course**, Centre of Continuing Education, Aberystwyth. £35/£25 01974 821 564 www.greendragonenergy.co.uk ** **4-6 Beyond the Border** storytelling festival St Donats Castle, near Cardiff <http://beyondtheborder.com> ** **5 Alternatives to war - security and sustainability, two sides of the same coin**. Conference with speakers including Vandana Shiva 10am-5.30pm City of London School for Girls, St. Giles Terrace, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8BB £25/15 unwaged 01237 441293 www.resurgence.org ** **5 St. Paul's Carnival, Bristol**. The second largest Caribbean Carnival in the UK with kids' camp, mass parade, sounds, stages etc. Kuumba project, 22 Hepburn Road, St Paul's, Bristol. 0117 942 1870. ** **7 Introduction to Community Composting** Newcastle Venue t.b.c 0114 258 0483 www.othas.org.uk/ccn ** **11-13 Willow Festival** Rock and pop acts on the Embankment of the River Nene in Peterborough. Food village, alternative market stalls, all day bars, extreme rides, children's funfair, and riverside picnic. Free 01733 346529 www.willowfestival.org.uk ** **13 Brighton Peace Festival**, Hove Lawns 01273 241625 peaceemessenger@harmonyculture.com ** **16-20 Somerset Buddhafield Gathering** www.buddhafield.com/budffest.html ** **17-20 Larmer Tree Festival** Larmer Tree Gardens, nr. Tollard Royal, on the Wilts/Dorset border. £68 weekend ticket. "the most unique festival setting with a FREE campsite right next door, overlooking the Cranborne Chase the friendliest, safest, child-friendly atmosphere" www.larmerfestival.co.uk ** **18-20 Wickerman Festival** nr Dundrennan, Scotland. Family friendly festival with main stage, northern soul tent, dance tent, acoustic stage, chill out area, free campsite, children's area. Bands will include Dead Men Walking, Bad Manners, and Nine Below Zero. Tickets £30 in advance are strictly limited 01738 449430, www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk ** **18-20 The Festival at the Edge**, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Storytelling festival. www.festivalattheedge.org ** **19 Respect Festival**, The Dome, North Greenwich. 020 7983 6554 www.london.gov.uk/respect ** **19-20 Ashton Court Festival**, Bristol Cost: around £3 per day, children under 14 free. Tel 0117 904 2275 www.ashtoncourtfestival.com ** **19-20 Truck Festival**, Hill Farm, Steventon, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire "There is no cut throat capitalism here, no huge entry fees... and a plethora of bands." www.truckrecords.com ** **20 Dartford Festival** Central Park, Dartford. 'Magic, Myths and Legends' Free. 01322 343961 www.dartfordfestival.co.uk ** **20 Ambient Green Picnic**, Shalford Park, Guildford. 4 music stages powered by ecologically sound energy sources, kids stuff, stalls, workshops. Free. www.surreywap.co.uk/Ambientgreen/AMBIENTHOME.htm ** **24-27 Healing Field Gathering** near Shepton Mallet healingfield@yahoo.co.uk www.healingfield.btinternet.co.uk ** **25-27 WOMAD**, Reading. Seven stages of music, arts and dance from around the world. Weekend tickets - £85, day tickets from £25. 01225 743481 www.womad.org ** **26 Pride Parade**. 12 noon Victoria Embankment then onto Pride in the Park, Hyde Park, London. £20 from 0870 1200 722. www.londonmardigras.com ** **26-3 Aug No Border Camp, Puglia, Italy**. Puglia has been chosen due to its position on the edge of "Fortress Europe" and because of the presence of thousands of migrants who work under conditions of total exploitation, especially in the agricultural sector. www.noborder.org ** **28 Unity demonstrations against the Nazis** in Burnley and Tipton Anti-Nazi activists, trade unionists and many others are joining forces to rally against the Nazi BNP. www.anl.org.uk/campaigns.htm ** **30-3 Aug Big Green Gathering** on new site near Cheddar, Mendip Hills. 01458 834629 www.big-green-gathering.com ** **31-3 Aug Cambridge Folk Festival** Cost: around £62 for the weekend with differing prices for day tickets. www.cam-folkfest.co.uk

AUGUST

1-3 Big Chill, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire. £99. 020 7684 2020 www.bigchill.net ** **1-8 Experience Festival**, Chennai, India. Western hippies go east to "discover themselves". Adult tickets from \$500 www.experiencefestival.com ** **1-8 Sidmouth International Festival**, Sidmouth, Devon www.sidmouthfestival.com ** **2-3 Nottingham Riverside Festival**. Roots and World Music stages, steam organs and fun

fairs street performance and fireworks. Free. 0115 915 3591 www.nottinghamevents.org/riverside/index.html ** **3-9 One World Summer Festival**, Witley, Surrey. Holistic Health, Macrobiotics, Arts, Dance, Spirituality, etc. £165-£235 weekend, £35-£55 day, all food included. 01273 279439 www.macrobios.com ** **7-10 Cropredy folk festival** www.faircrop.co.uk/crop2003/index.htm ** **9 Brighton and Hove Pride**. The Parade starts at 11am from Madeira Drive, fun starts in Preston Park from 12 noon www.prideinbrightonandhove.com ** **9-17 The World University**, Chennai, India. Rich hippies go to India to study mysticism. Courses cost from \$300. www.experiencefestival.com ** **11-17 Ladyfest, Bristol** Multi-platform arts feminist festival to celebrate the wealth and diversity of women's talents in the arts, open and available to all genders. Staffed entirely by volunteers and all profits go to local women's charities. www.ladyfestbristol.org/home.htm ** **13-17 Earth First! Summer Gathering**. Four days of discussion and skill sharing of radical ecological direct action. £10 on the gate, food £3 per day. In North Yorkshire, venue to be announced: EF! Summer Gathering c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB. www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk ** **16-17 Beautiful Days**, Escot Park, Fairmile, Devon. Organised by the Levellers. "Created to offer not only the best in live music today but to re-create a community spirit that many events nowadays lack or choose to ignore." £55 www.beautifuldays.org ** **21-25 Towersey Village Festival** Community festival with folk/roots music, dance and song. Large children's festival with activities. Indoor and open-air concerts, dances and displays. 01629 760 345 www.mrscasey.co.uk/towersey ** **20-26 WIT Festival, West Wales** "Women in Tunes annual music festival for women and girls of all ages and abilities." www.womenintune.org.uk ** **22-24 Canterbury Fayre**, Mount Ephraim Gardens, Hernhill, Kent. Including Robert Plant, Roy Harper and the John Otway Big Band plus Whirl-y-gig big top, Croissant Neuf circus, chill out tent and kids area. £70. 01494 794887 www.canterburyfayre.com ** **22-24 Leeds Festival** - organised by those tossers at the Mean Fiddler (check out www.urban75.com/Rave/raverant.html to find out why) and sponsored by piss week larger Carling (drink some to find out why, or perhaps not, just take our word for it.) www.leedsfestival.com ** **23 Tribal Gathering** Relive those achiid days with those tossers at the Mean Fiddler in a secret dirty warehouse in Manchester for just £30. Read the nostalgic drivel at www.tribalgathering.co.uk/warehouse ** **24 Deep Dale Jazz Festival**, Marsh Barn, Burnham Deepdale, Norfolk. Jazz and "nice" stuff! £7 advance/£10 on gate. 01485 210404 www.deepdalejazzfestival.co.uk ** **29-31 Eastern Green Gathering** near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 01284 728253 www.easterngreengathering.com ** **29-31 Off The Tracks Autumn Festival** Castle Donnington, Folk, Roots, Dance and Fusion. Cost: around £35 01332 384518 www.offthetracks.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

6- 12 Shut Down DSEi. DSEi (Defence Systems Equipment International) is Europe's largest trade fair for guns, bombs, military planes, small arms, mines and tanks. A mass international protest has been called. Disarm DSEi: 0781 7652 029 07887620379 www.dsei.org

Information and Entertainment

Keep up to date with what's happening with our Party and Protest guide on the web. www.schnews.org.uk/pap/guide.htm and submit your events. And here's some more useful resources...

* **Festival Eye**. £3.50 (postal order/cheque to Festival Eye) plus an A4 addressed envelope from BCM 2002, London, WC1N 3XX. www.festivaley.com

* **Guilfin's Something For the Weekend** - a weekly info-burst, keeping you up to date with the latest festival, party, gigs dates, and all the upcoming campaigns. www.guilfin.net

* **Free parties**: check out www.partyvibe.com/freeparties.htm

* **www.protest.net** reports actions around the world

* **Animal Rights Calendar** - www.veggies.org.uk/calendar, or in ARCNEWS, 0845 458 0146

* **Indymedia** for latest reports of protest and news you won't see on TV. www.uk.indymedia.org

NEW SchNEWS ANNUAL OUT FOR GLASTONBURY

A new SchNEWS annual is out soon. This year it is a collection of our stuff since April 2002 - which means that it's heavily focussed on direct action against the war in Iraq. Read about all the stuff that the 'meeja' didn't cover - like the repeated direct action against military bases in England, around Europe and elsewhere. Add to that articles about Palestine, Argentina and the usual range of piss-taking cartoons, subverts graphics, photos and more.

We're taking advanced orders now - to help us pay the printer - and you'll be posted one as soon as we get back from Glastonbury (and when we sober up). Copies will be available at Glastonbury and many summer events after that. If you can distribute a box in your area get in contact. Copies of SchNEWS Of The World (Annual 2002) - still a cracking read - is available at Strawberry Fair for a cut down price of £5.

S.W.A.B. Squad

Summer's here and despite the best efforts of the authorities free parties are still happening up and down the country. While people were dishing out a fortune during the last Bank Holiday to go to Homelands to see "superstars DJ's... the internationalist elite" a few thousand were partying for free at an 'illegal rave' in Leominster, Herefordshire.

Avon and Somerset cops however are promising there'll be no free fun for those unable to afford a ticket for Glastonbury: "Local police are working to identify likely sites for illegal raves. The police have particular powers to deal with these events and will use them in accordance with the Human Rights Law." The enlightened Smeatharpe Parish Magazine has also promised that steps have been taken to prevent a repeat of last years festival, when several thousand "unwashed drug-addicts and criminals" partied on the old airfield near Honiton, Devon. Infact if ever there was a perfect site to put on a free party it is here. Miles from the nearest village, lots of space and hard standing - the last time SchNEWS went there, half the village told the cops to get lost and then turned up to enjoy the festie themselves!

Corporate cocksuckers like the Mean Kiddie Fiddler have been busy over the years moving in on the dance scene (and now Glastonbury) - which is great if you like overpriced water, being spied on by cops, big fences and dumb shit bouncers. Infact SchNEWS can't wait for their "Tribal Gathering" anniversary bash in a ready made dirty warehouse in Manchester for £30 to relive the old acieeed house days.

Meanwhile people going to this years V festivals can look forward to having to provide swab samples from their hands to see if they've taken drugs. A small, sensitive detector will pick up microscopic traces of drugs in four seconds and flash green, amber or red to show whether or not they're a drug crazed maniac. It's voluntary but anyone refusing to take part will no doubt be searched.

Free festie info: www.guilfin.net/extra/freeparties.php3

Read why Mean Fiddler are such tossers www.urban75.com/Rave/raverant.html

SchNEWS in brief

Evolving Minds - new Undercurrents video offering a radical perspective on alternatives to the mental health system, exploring shamanism, nutrition, psychotherapy, meditation and protests against mental health legislation. Available from Organic Shamanic, Brighton (£6.50) and Undercurrents 01865 203661 (£8 including UK p&p) www.undercurrents.org ** **Don't Back Down!** detailed manual of how to take direct action and avoid the consequences. Published by the Revolution Now Press & Distro of 808, 14th Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 0P8 Donations.** **Congrats to Squall**, the online broadsheet of radical journalism, on reaching their 10th birthday. Here's to ten more. www.squall.co.uk ** If you want a giggle then SchNEWS recommends you get yerself the latest copy of '**Now That's What I Call Marxist.**' Send an SAE to SchNEWS Towers or check out www.worldsocialism.org/spgb ** '**Fanning the Flames**' is the new guide from Campaign Against Arms Trade - giving the low down on the UK's weapons sales to conflict zones around the world. For copies call 020 7281 0297 www.caat.org.uk ** **SchWOOPS!** Last week we reported that President Mobutu of Congo was assassinated in 1996. He was in fact overthrown when Rwandan and Ugandan forces (with US support) invaded the country in October of that year, forcing him to flee.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 10 for next 9 issues) or donations (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies. Post free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o on-the-fiddle, P.O. Box 2600, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 0EF.

Tel +44 (0)1273 685913 Email schnews@brighton.co.uk Download a PDF of this issue or subscribe at www.schnews.org.uk

DU Unto Others...

Last Thursday was the second International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium (DU). Actions included die-ins at test sites and people in chemical suits in town centres handing out leaflets. Some people were nicked in Tuscon, USA, for warning people about the health effects of DU ammo at an army recruiting centre.

In London protestors were warned by cops that they could be nicked for displaying a poster of a deformed new born baby because they were obscene images! Er, exactly. Dropping DU bombs is obscene, but then we don't want to upset the commuters do we?

DU is quite simply a nuclear weapon and already troops have started reporting symptoms of Gulf War syndrome. According to Dr Chris Busby, a nuclear physicist and Gulf war veterans' representative, this is probably caused by the massive amounts of depleted uranium weaponry used in the recent war on Iraq (see SchNEWS 406). While the neurological effects of Gulf War syndrome are most likely caused by vaccinations and anti-gas pills. Genetic effects such as chromosomal, immune system damage and cancer are caused by radiation. Dr Busby said "The Government is turning a blind eye to the problem... If they acknowledge that depleted uranium munitions cause horrendous problems for civilians and for their own troops, they'll have to withdraw those weapons from service."

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium. 0161 273 8293 www.cadu.org.uk

* In Afghanistan high levels of uranium have been found in the urine of Afghan civilians, 400 to 2000% above normal levels. Civilians in Kabul have reported pains in joints, back/kidney pain, muscle weakness, memory problems and confusion and disorientation. Many of these symptoms are found in Gulf War and Balkans veterans and civilians. Those exposed to the bombing report symptoms of flu-type illnesses, bleeding, runny noses and blood-stained mucus. The report by the Uranium Medical Research Centre says that it has not detected depleted uranium, but that the military may have used other sources of uranium (still toxic and radioactive) thanks to their new cave busting bombs. Of the contamination the report says "These levels of uranium internal contamination are considered medically significant. They point to a potential public health disaster for Afghanistan if corroborated by on-going studies of a wider population and bombsites." So much for liberation.

Read the report at www.umrc.net/AfghanistanOEF.asp

Childs Play

With confirmation that US and British military forces in Iraq used cluster bombs in built-up areas, the extent of the continuing danger to civilians of death or injury from unexploded bombs and bomblets is coming to light. Children are particularly threatened as they scavenge for firewood or for metal components of shells to sell.

There are reckoned to be up to 10,000 unexploded bombs and mines littering Iraq, and with the onset of the hot season the situation is made even more dangerous, as the heat alone can cause them to explode. Paul Hannon, editor of the Landmine Monitor Report explains "...they are designed to destroy heavy armour...When they explode near people, they can injure or kill anyone in a 150m area. One cluster bomb contains between 200 and 300 tiny bomblets, and they often do not all immediately explode... Most people do not recognise the danger of them."

Two weeks ago, six Iraqi children were killed and another ten injured trying to dismantle an unexploded bomb. Christian Aid emergency officer Dominic Nutt says: "This is happening every day, it doesn't always get reported officially." www.landmineaction.org

Macedraconian

For the past two weeks seven hundred Kosovo Romani, Ashkaelia and Egyptian refugees have been stuck on the Macedonian border, huddling together on a bare plateau, without tents, blankets or fuel while Macedonian border officials stop them from entering Greece. This is in violation of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, which states: "Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own."

The refugees arrived at the Macedonian town of Medzitlija, near the Greek border, after their camp in Skopje was closed by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The camp had provided them with 'surrogate protection' since their escape from ethnic cleansing in Kosovo in 1999, which claimed 80,000 Roma victims. The UNHCR, gradually withdrew basic services including schooling, medical provision and food aid, then closed the camp at the end of March. They advised the refugees to seek alternative settled accommodation, or else their temporary status would not be renewed and their presence in Macedonia would be considered illegal.

Doctors are warning that, denied proper shelter, food, water and medical care, deaths could occur at any time among the refugees, which include 270 children and ten pregnant women. The Macedonian Helsinki Committee has urged Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski to wave a visa agreement and give priority to the right of the refugees to leave the country. However, despite appeals, the border remains closed.

To email your objections to Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva go to: www.romanetwork.org/protest2.htm

More information at: www.lafn.org/~romanokongreso and www.oneworld.net

* Refugee Week runs from 16-22 June. For details of actions see www.ncadc.org.uk

Inside SchNEWS

There are lots of trials coming up for people nicked during anti-war protests and they would love your support.

On June 20th a British court will have to decide for the first time whether the Iraq war was legal. This is because various people who were nicked at Fairford airbase, will argue that they had a "lawful excuse" for committing criminal damage at the airbase where bombers were being loaded up to drop bombs on the people of Iraq.

* The trial of over 20 people charged with highway obstruction at a mass blockade of Britain's military HQ at Northwood takes place on 17th June at Hemel Hempstead Magistrates Court. Support welcome, phone 020 7937 0561.

* Four people from Pitstop Ploughshares who disarmed a US warplane, at Shannon airport in Ireland are in court on the 24th June. www.ploughsharesireland.org

* Danish grandmother Ulla Roder is on trial later this month after disarming a Tornado jet. She is currently on remand after breaking into RAF Leuchars in Fife and smashing up the jet, causing over £1 million worth of damage www.free-ulla.org

...and finally...

Forget terrorism, poverty, disease and capitalism, according to the King of Swaziland the cause of all the world's troubles is women wearing trousers. In a state radio sermon the absolute monarch complained that human rights were an "abomination before God" and that "The Bible says curse be unto a woman who wears pants, and those who wear their husband's clothes. That is why the world is in such a state today."

For Your Eyes Only Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all conspiracy theorists SchNEWS is produced by intelligent rogues not rogue Intelligence. Honest. (More secret messages next week, M.)