

SchNEWS

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Issue 168



Free/Donation

WORLD TRASHED ORGANISATION

Tripods tower against the Birmingham skyline as people dance around in a 10,000 strong street party, in front of a canary yellow army of nation-wide conscripted police. Only streets away, inside the secure walls of Birmingham's G8 conference hall, Clinton, Blair and the global summit team are dancing away to "All you need is love". By Monday the G8 globalisation tour has moved to the Palais des Nations in Geneva for World Trade Day to pay their respects to the great dollar of capitalism. Meanwhile, out on the street, hundreds of protesters are being arrested, beaten and deported by the Geneva authorities. And that's just for starters. Here's the SchNEWS guide to reclaiming the world...

As Clinton, Castro, Mandela and Blair flew out of Geneva this week, they left a city in shock after the worst riots seen here since 1932.

For four days this small city was under siege as the leaders of the 132-nation World Trade Organisation (WTO) met for their 50th anniversary at the United Nations building. The opposition was led by People's Global Action rejecting the whole process of globalisation and corporate power that is the new world government.

Even before the Ministers had stepped off the planes, the city had erupted. Five thousand people came to Saturday's Street Party, and by midnight it had turned into a full scale riot. One car was set alight and thousands of police charged the main encampment, firing teargas into the crowd. The demonstrators smashed hundreds of windows, mainly banks and corporate offices, until 5am causing over half a million pounds damage.

Genevans awoke as one on Sunday to a tense atmosphere of confusion, and a city resembling a warzone. On pavements, phone boxes and walls the graffiti message was clear: "WTO ASSASSIN"... "WTO vs THE PEOPLE"... "REVOLUTION '98".

From the moment the world leaders sat down on Monday morning to the conclusion on Wednesday evening the streets were filled with riot police and demonstrators, with the constant noise of sirens and low-flying helicopters.

MONDAY: The offices of Lockheed, multinational arms traders, were occupied by one group, while another spontaneous street demo stopped traffic and set off

smoke bombs. By lunchtime the United Bank of Switzerland was forced to close and police kept back while road after road was blockaded. The group continued up to the UN building, surrounded by armed police, chanting in French, Spanish and English. By nightfall there was a highly-charged stand-off as a party kicked off next to the University.

TUESDAY: Activists from Colombia, India, South Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Argentina, Aotearoa/NZ and across Europe, continued a frenzy of meetings under the banner of People's Global Action, networking and organising direct action. In a deliberate display of non-violence, hundreds marched gagged and bound through town, symbolising the global muting of human rights. At the Rousseau statue, they enacted a burial of his "social contract" between people and rulers. Meanwhile the director of the WTO, Renato Ruggiero, told the conference that everyone must pedal faster towards globalisation, or face the danger of falling off. (His Mercedes was later overturned).

Then, as darkness descended, so did the people. A crowd of around 500, many "L'Hiphop", kids from nearby council estates, confronted police at Plain Palais, systematically trashing the nearby McDonald's and Pizza Hut. The police fired CS gas to disperse the angry mass, who began to smash more shops, overturn cars and run through the city in small groups, causing chaos. Plainclothes police on mopeds gave chase. At 2am they surrounded Artamis, a huge squatted alternative Centre, and arrested everyone. Since Monday the total detained stood at 287. As SchNEWS went to press over 100 people were still being held in prison.

WEDNESDAY: Hundreds assembled outside the UN for a final push - an attempt to enter the building and stop the General Assembly using Gandhi-style tactics. As they walked headlong into the line of riot police, there was a blur of truncheons and the ambulances began to arrive. According to staff at the hospital over 60 people a day have been treated, some requiring major operations. The squatters are organising demonstrations against police brutality tomorrow (Saturday), and the inhumane treatment of those arrested:

Crap Arrest of the week

For being in a wheelee bin. OK the two occupants were pushed by their mates into the ranks of riot cops gathered in Birmingham. The two were held overnight but released without charge.

strip-searches, lack of medical assistance, and psychological stress. The conference is over, and for now Geneva is quiet.

"This is without doubt a popular uprising against the issue of globalisation," one activist told SchNEWS. "Not just in Geneva but in cities all over the world people are beginning to realise the consequences of this crazy process and the importance of resisting by any means necessary."

* The next meeting of People's Global Action will take place from April 1st 1999 in Bangalore, India. Contact www.agp.org

* SchNEWS and Squall have produced a little booklet 'United Colours of Peoples Global Action' - Interviews with people involved in global resistance from East Timor to India. For a copy send SAE to SchNEWS.

Global summits like the G8 are not cheap. Entertaining the world's richest robber baron national leaders costs a cool \$15 million dollars a shot. In contrast, for every pound that reaches Southern countries in aid, £10 is paid back in debt to the World Bank.

Global Street Parties Roundup

Birmingham: Seventy thousand people have gathered to hold hands round the International Convention Centre and are calling for the eight leaders of the worlds most industrialised nations (the G8) to give debt relief to the third world.

However, those eight leaders whom US President Bill Clinton said "will focus on things that really affect people on the street" won't hear them cos they've moved 35 miles away. The reason, according to a report on BBC "Midlands Today" was the planned protests!

A few hours later and most of the Christians have gone and it's the turn of a ten thousand strong Reclaim The Streets (RTS) posse, to bring the Bullring part of the city to a standstill, as they party and protest in the street. **Welcome to the Global Street Party**, happening in 37 cities across the world, not just against car culture but also free market globalisation...

Please, as they say, turn over...

RESIST

REFUSE

RECLAIM

Street parties in 37 cities - a selection...

Toronto, Canada: Hundreds of people took over one of Toronto's major streets, but soon after the party kicked off police did their best to spoil the fun, pushing people over and bursting balloons with knives just like the nasty kids that you didn't want at your party. A part of the crowd was intimidated and left, the rest tried to keep the street reclaimed and were met by more police violence. In the end four people were nicked under 'unlawful assembly' legislation. One man, Gregory Herrington, was also charged with three counts of assault police and one assault with a weapon, and released on a \$2,000 bail with his wrist in a cast. He faces the most serious charge against political activist in well over a decade.

Tel Aviv, Israel: Over 500 people joined Israel's first RTS. The organisers decided to get a police permission, but as the crowd got far bigger than they expected they ended up choosing their route as they pleased, ending in a pleasant sunset rave.

Ljubljana, Slovenia: The Ljubljana lot went for Critical Mass instead where, unfortunately only 40 people showed up. Still they had a good time biking around at an average speed of 5.3km/h as their "Ministry of Correct Image, Department of Statistics" informed us.

Lyon, France: Lyon crew (about 200) managed to block a main street for a while with tripods, drumming and a float, but decided to withdraw when "nearly a million police" (perhaps a slightly exaggerated estimate) eventually showed up with clear intentions to behave badly.

Utrecht, Netherlands: Nearly 1,000 had a wild party and blockaded a six lane highway for five hours. We don't know if there was a translation error but they say police mixed with the crowd at the meeting point, sat on the pavement, assisted to get the soundsystem generator going and were eager to go wherever the crowd would lead them, keeping a very low profile until the very end!

Brisbane, Australia: No info about the numbers. Lots of arrests, after one hour police towed away the soundsystem. Still the party went on with drumming and whistling until dark.

Sidney, Australia: The third RTS in Sidney seems to have been a massive success; about 3,000 people, three different stages (Rock, Techno and Reggae) and a nice and cheerful party. The English Judges on the scene voted "9.9 across the board, absolutely the best, culturally most diverse and interesting party we've ever seen"

Prague, Czech Republic: The party set off very well with four soundsystems, drummers, puppet theatre and fire performances enjoyed by more than 3,000 people. Somehow police didn't get the joke and ensured what turned out to be the biggest riots in their for the last four years. Three McDonald's were destroyed and sixty four people nicked, but all were later released without charge except nine who remain in custody facing hooliganism charges.

Stockholm, Sweden: Had a demo against "mad car disease" with party mood, colourful costumes, carnival drums and high spirits!

Turku, Finland: 1,000 people occupied a bridge and a street in the city Centre; they had seven bands playing and a hell of a time Reclaim The Streets, London: 0171 281 4621
Sat 6th June - meeting points @ 12 noon
North - outside Euston Station
South - outside Ritzy, Brixton Tube

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Scary Monsters

It's slightly unusual for Euro MPs to resort to direct action to make their point, but on May 12th the Greens, dressed in pirate costumes, unfurled jolly Roger flags & banners inside the Strasbourg plenary saying, "Stop Biopiracy!". The incident - to mark the second reading of the *European Life Patents Directive* caused consternation, with one member declaring to the chairperson, "This ship has been taken over by pirates. Will the chairman get rid of them." The vote in favour of the Directive ended a 10 year battle between the biotech industry and everybody from patients to indigenous peoples.

The decision gives the go-ahead for the privatisation of life in Europe. Human genes, embryos and body parts will become corporate property along with animals and plants, including entire species. Already, under current stricter rules, human umbilical cord blood cells have been patented by US company Biocyte and the application for the cloning process that created "Dolly" covers all mammals including humans.

Massive lobbying by pharmaceutical and biotech companies has taken its toll on MEPs who finally adopted this directive. "This is a most deplorable step on the road to degrading life into an industrial commodity...land an open invitation to bio-piracy in Third World countries," says Greenpeace's Benedikt Haerlin.

As well as the obvious ethical implications of patenting human and animal genetic material for "medical" purposes, the freedom to patent plant species could, in a short space of time, wreak havoc with the lives of small-scale farmers. Already Nestle's L'Oreal has patented South Pacific ceremonial plant Kava, for use in reducing hair loss, while India has reacted furiously to news that Basmati rice has been awarded a US patent by RiceTec.

Indigenous peoples, who reject the whole concept that the discovery of living material can be owned, are at particular risk of having blood lines and genetic sequences patented. The Directive will blatantly legalise the theft of indigenous genetic resources.

Many genetically engineered crop test sites have been trashed by locals who object to being guinea pigs in these often secret environmental experiments. And pressure is still needed from consumers to persuade retailers and manufacturers to label foods which contain modified ingredients.

*** Early last Sunday morning a large X was scythed across a field of genetically manipulated rapeseed at the Walton experimental farm in Aberdeen (fit like?), while the Grim Reaper and an angry tomato (!) joined in the destruction of mutant oil seed rape at Edge House Farm in Belsay - one of the North East's licensed 'Monsanto' test sites.

*** Occupy a test site for a month! Starting this weekend somewhere in East Anglia and in London: 01603 768235.

*** Genetics Forum, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PP. 0171 837 9229, email: geneticforum@gm.apc.org

Barkin' Students

Over 1,000 students at the Barking UEL have squatted the campus finance department in protest over £2.4 million education cuts, which will put 80 people out of work, remove a medical Centre, and scrap much needed grants. As SchNEWS goes to print they've been there for 60 hours - and have just been served an injunction. With the support of the NATFHE teachers union the students have lobbied

board meetings and set up picket lines outside the main building, and have now organised several committees. While the UEL sits in the bottom 10 on the Times Higher Education League Table, its fat cat manager Frank Gould is the fourth richest vice chancellor in Britain. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, students from Ohio State University have occupied their presidents main office over administrative cuts. Contact Cora Murphey: 0181 5906017 or 0956 267729.

SchNEWS in brief

Don't Forget the Dockers' March for Social Justice which kicks off 12 noon at Thames Embankment (Temple Tube) on Sat 30 May *** That is, if you're not taking part in a Party/Action (11am) to save the 20 acre wildflower meadow at Ashton Court, Bristol. Camps have so far been successful in delaying work but security is increasing so the camps need to do likewise. Call 0467 430211. NB It is not a beer free zone! *** Faslane Peace Camp is party-acting on 30-31st May in celebration of their recent eviction escape. 01436 820901.

*** AR/T/ERROR#1, a week of creation and activism (inc. films and D's!): 23-30th May at an undisclosed Brighton location. Non-Brighton residents call 01273 685089 *** Calling all West Country bands - the newly formed Devon Youth CND are planning an open air benefit in Exeter in August. 01237 477750 *** On Sun 7 June the Movement for Socialism is holding a Founding Conference at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, 10am-5pm. The fee is £5/£2/£1, send it (payable to Movement for Socialism) to: S. Ballard, 14 Dorset Rd, London, N22 4SL *** 50 activists (amongst them a 30-strong Dutch rent-a-mob) occupied a bridge in the Aspe Valley (French Pyrenees) to stop construction of a devastating motorway and blocked another construction site for the same motorway some days later, which is quite remarkable considering the heavy-handedness of local cops. Both actions were part of the Dutch action trip to the Aspe Valley (SchNEWS 159). La Goutte d'Eau, the action Centre based in a former railway station, is still threatened with eviction, the court decision is due in June. *** Okay so it was a while ago, but the cases of those nicked at the Brighton New Year Summerfield party are coming up. Give solicitor Des Murphy a ring on 602 111 if you saw any arrests.

and finally...
Some people at Birmingham were having a happy time chucking missiles that fell in party-goers nowhere near the police being targeted. What's this about? Obviously they'd been reading the Oddbin's Book of Streetfighting for Beginners. Those whose revolutionary credentials include an inability to think or aim straight may find more gainful employment lain out in front of oncoming police riot vans, and there's no shortage of people who'd like to put them there.

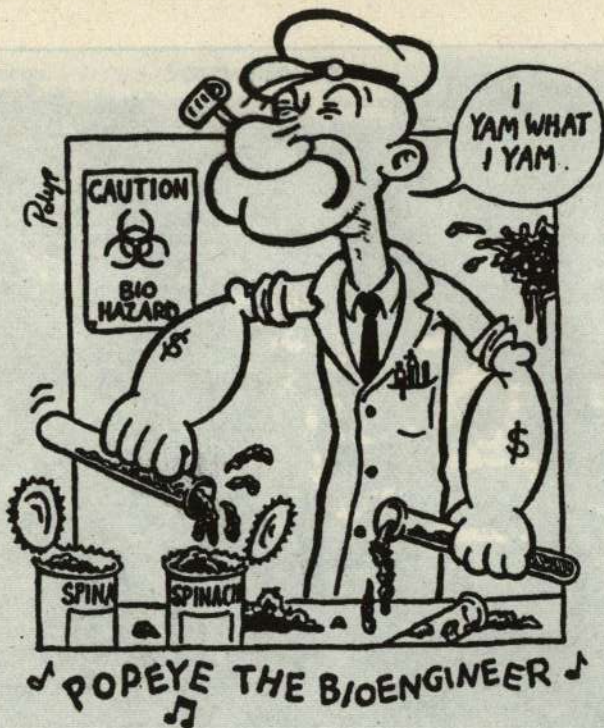
disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all Brighton readers not to believe the rumours that we are constantly loaded. Always try and book your coach tickets well in advance so we won't have to run around like blue-arsed flies trying to find extra coaches (which then cancel at the last moment). Put some donations in the collecting tin in the Peace Centre so we can cover the few hundred quid we lost taking people to Birmingham. Then we might be able to organise coaches to other events in the future. Honest.



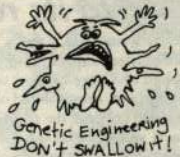
Nick Cobbing







WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER "MUM ME TOMATOE JUST RAN OFF DOWN THE STREET"



Friday 29th May 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

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MODIFIED FIELDS FOREVER

"It now seems that direct actions of this kind are the only way left for people to put this genie back in the bottle."

Last Saturday saw the UK's first occupation against the growing of genetically engineered crops (GE). The occupation, in Kirby Bedon near Norwich, Norfolk, promises to last a month and is on a field previously used to test GE sugar beet. We say 'used to' cos the sugar beet was mysteriously trashed a few weeks previous.

The idea of the occupation is to transform the land into a working alternative to industrial agriculture, with organic gardens, compost toilets and an information centre.

Genetic engineering basically means taking genes out of one thing and splicing them into another. You can pick n'mix genes with everything from bacteria, viruses, plants and animals. Over 3,000 GE foodstuffs are poised to enter the food chain around the world despite the fact that we don't know what effects eating them will have on our bodies - or on those of future generations.

On March 3rd an American cotton seed company and the US Dept of Agriculture announced they had received a patent on a technique that genetically disables a seed's capacity to germinate when planted again. So far only cotton and tobacco seeds have responded to the new technique, but in time it could mean that farmers would no longer be able to save their own seed - and instead have to buy seed each year from the massive agribusiness companies. The company in question (Monsanto) has now been bought in by leaders in the frankenstein technology Massive agribusiness companies like Monsanto say this is all needed to help feed the world, and is of course nothing to do with profit. They could be right. If they can patent umbilical blood, why not sperm, then we will all have to pay to produce more job slaves and if we don't... there will be a smaller world to feed!

There are currently 332 GE test sites in the UK, but resistance is blooming - with around a dozen sites trashed in the past year. One of the occupants Chris Cooper from Action Against Genetic Engineering explained "By seizing this land, our aim is to establish a working demonstration of the alternatives to the genetic engineering of crops... "The action is a protest against genetic engineering and the companies responsible. It is certainly not an attack on farmers...who are losing even more of their freedoms to the big seed and chemical corporations."

Join the camp! The site is located near the sewage works near Kirby Bedon, approx. ten minutes drive from Norwich with buses from the city centre running nearby. They can be contacted on: 0831 332520/ 0961 517324. www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html

* To find out where your nearest GE site is check out www.foe.co.uk or call the Biotechnology Unit, Floor 2/G9 Department of the Environment, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria St, London SW1E 6OE 0171 890 5275. Don't take no for an answer - they are required by law to provide this information to the public.

* For an in depth look at genetics get a copy of New Internationalist issue 293 (August '97) PO Box 79, Hertford, SG14 1AQ Tel 01992 822899

Crap Arrest of the Week

For getting yer kit off! Cast your minds back a year and a half ago, when people stripped off at the World Food Summit in Italy, to draw attention to "the naked truth about genetic engineering". They had thought the matter dropped but now are in court in july charged with 'obscene acts'

HOUSES FROM SHELL?

Yet another new housing development is being proposed on contaminated land, this time an old Shell depot in Wokingham. The depot was used for storing aviation fuel, petrol, diesel, and paraffin and is acknowledged by Shell and the council to be contaminated by Hydrocarbons and Lindane (a petrol additive). A report in 1994 commissioned by Shell recommended restoration of the site for industrial use, this was ok'd by Wokingham District Council. But a second report has since been commissioned on behalf of Persimmon Homes who now want the site for property development, but unfortunately for Persimmon the report has "identified significant hydrocarbon contamination over most of the site", and says, "further works would be needed in order to reduce contamination to levels acceptable for residential development". The report also says that contamination could have "migrated off site" but more tests are needed. One local man claims it has indeed 'migrated off site', to his back garden via a pipe line installed by Shell in 1961. He is now gathering enough evidence to sue Shell for the illnesses he now suffers from (including Radiation Poisoning!) After getting nowhere with doctors or Health Authorities he had to go to Germany to find out what was wrong with him, and was told his body contained fatal levels of Uranium and Plutonium. There is more to this story, to be continued when we have more space... **Reading Road Busters** are beginning actions on the site this Monday 1st June at 2pm at Wokingham Rd, Earley. Tel: 0118 986 6362

Crap Threat of the Week

A new twist of the screw is being attempted by Staffordshire Police, in charge of policing protestors on the route of Britains first pay road in Birmingham. On Thursday they called a press conference, and in another attempt to persuade the press and public that all activists are terrorists, started with a video of the squatted cottage evicted recently. As the camera zoomed in on the various defences, a top-cop kept up a running commentary, accusing the people who had lived in the house of booby trapping it "This was a dangerously unsafe building that could have collapsed and killed either a protester or anyone else who might have gone into it. We felt it highlighted the risks and dangers that arise as a direct result of what is termed a peaceful protest". They were also shown footage of other evictions. According to an activist who attended, Mr.Plod then delighted the assembled meeja whores with the news that if anyone, be they a protester, a bailiff, or the police was injured during the eviction, all of those on site would be arrested and charged with "conspiracy to commit murder".

The old bill then spent the rest of the day nailing the following notice to the trees at the site.

"THIS LAND OR BUILDING IS BEING UNLAWFULLY OCCUPIED BY TRESPASSERS IN ORDER TO PREVENT A PROPOSED ROAD SCHEME. IT IS BELIEVED THAT TUNNELS, SHAFTS, FORTIFICATIONS AND OTHER DEVICES, CAPABLE OF CAUSING HARM TO PEOPLE ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED ON THE LAND... BY YOUR PRESENCE AS A TRESPASSER ON THIS LAND... YOU CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE PERSONALLY AWARE THAT SUCH TUNNELS, SHAFTS, FORTIFICATIONS... ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED. IF YOU WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE, BY VIRTUE OF HAVING READ THIS NOTICE, YOU ARE NOW. ALTHOUGH THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN DEALING WITH PEACEFUL AND LAWFUL PROTEST IS ONE OF COMPLETE IMPARTIALITY, THE SERVICE DOES HAVE A DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE QUEENS PEACE AND TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ANY DIGGING OR TUNNELING... ARE BOUND TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS... SUCH WORKS CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN BE ASPHYXIATED, NOT TO MENTION BEING A FERTILE BREEDING GROUND FOR DISEASE. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT... A MAJOR CRIMINAL ENQUIRY WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE POLICE ANY PERSON SHOWN TO HAVE CARRIED OUT SUCH WORKS OR TO HAVE INCITED, CONSPIRED TOWARDS OR AIDED AND ABETTED SUCH WORKS, WOULD BE LIABLE TO ARREST AND PROSECUTION..."

* **No Birmingham Relief Road Campagin** 07970 301978

* **Every day** in the UK 25 people die prematurely from air pollution - 20% of this pollution is caused by traffic (Source New Scientist) and 15 die on the roads. (Government road accident stastic figures)

Europol taken back to its roots

30 activists paid a quick visit to the Europol Headquarters in The Hague last Sunday. They attached two large banners to the entrance of the building and spraypainted slogans on the walls. They also covered the front of the building with posters and replaced the Europol logos on three large garden boards by the word 'Gestapo' in gothic letters - all of which took just four minutes! When the action was finished, the The Hague city police started a hunt for the activists, eventually catching eight people, locking them up for 20 hours, and charging them with suspicion of membership in a criminal organisation.

"Who is waiting for a powerful, uncontrollable policeforce in an undemocratic Europe? Probably the political and economical elites, that want to protect their interests in a Europe which is marked by growing social contrasts, growing poverty, pauperization and civil protests." (from the group's statement) This is what they don't like about those decent Eurocops:

* There is no parliament that controls Europol. National parliaments have nothing to say about it, and the European Parliament only receive a vague annual report afterwards.

* There is no judge that controls Europol. Europol controls itself. Citizens for example cannot go to a judge when they feel badly treated by Europol.

* Europol officers do not have to testify in front of a judge. In this way, no-one can confirm whether an investigation is carried out correctly.

* Europol police officers have the same status as embassy personal: they cannot be persecuted if they break the law.

* Europol members can store data about someone's political ideas, sexual disposition, ethnicity and lots of other things of which Europol thinks may ever be of use.

* Europol can store data of people they suspect maybe doing something wrong in the future.

* All this information is being exchanged among European countries. But Europol also exchanges information with police forces from non-European countries. Also countries that violate human rights. Information gathered in torture chambers from befriended police forces can and will be used by Europol.

Before you know you will be registered in the Europol databanks as a "threat to the state!"

This message was distributed by Eurodusnie in Leiden, Holland. Eurodusnie has no responsibility for this action. <http://www.ds.nl/eurodusnie>

For more info on dodgy Europol plans see also the brilliant Statewatch magazine (PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW)

CHIAPAS

2000 indigenous people from 30 Zapatista communities marched on the 11th of May to demand the release of their comrades who are held in custody after the eviction of the autonomous municipality Tierra y Libertad on May 1st. 300 police, backed by the Mexican army smashed up buildings, terrified the inhabitants and arrested 53 people. Women were beaten when they tried to defend their sons and husbands. This is the second municipality to be attacked in this way. Foreign observers are becoming more central to the struggle as civilian Zapatista organisations try to find a peaceful solution; much to the annoyance of Mexican authorities who are deporting 80 Italians for breaking visa restrictions. Contact Chiapas Link, Box 19, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB

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SchNEWS in brief

Benefit gig for the Anarchist Teapot and Kate Evans Book launch with P.A.I.N., Headmix Collective and others at the Concorde, Thursday June 4th, 9pm, £4/3**Barking Students who occupied their uni's finance department (SchNEWS168) are carrying on their protest and are about to serve the University management an injunction as we go to press *** If there are any builders out there, the protesters at crystal palace (South London) are in need of scaffolding, concrete mix, sand and aggregate. The camp's been set up to stop a £56 million 20 screen multiplex cinema complex with 1,000 car parking spaces being built in the park. 0181 761 7826 *** The National March Against Vivisection and Cruelty-Free Exhibition takes place on Sat 6th June, and is this year in SHEFFIELD. The Rage '98 marquee opens 11am-5pm, with a carnival march kicking off at 1pm. Coach from Kings Cross and transport from many other areas arranged - call 0114 2530020 *** Apparently discussion is afoot about reintroducing the beaver into SCOTLAND - a move which would bring about other ecological restoration. Send for a consultation document to Design and Publications Section, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW or write to Scott Porter, 31 Bernard St, Edinburgh, EH6 6SH (before 17th July) telling him what a great idea the restoration proposal is. *** Take note: RevolutionFest, scheduled for 4th July is off, no new date has been set as yet *** EUROSATORY 1998, protest against the arms fair in Le Bourget, near Paris June 1-3. Contact European Network Against Arms Trade, c/o Pesthuisalaan 39, 1954 RH Amsterdam, Netherlands. phone: +31 (0) 20 61 64 684.

ZERO TOLERANCE ON WORMS

Two weeks ago New York City's Mayor, Rudolph "Zero Tolerance" Giuliani issued an emergency decree to eliminate all the city's 741 Green Thumb community gardens. In one of the most highly populated cities on the planet, space is at a premium and these vital green oases sandwiched between high rises, just 'aint profitable enough.

"Which type of worm do you want in the Neighbourhood?" ask the flyposters featuring a picture of an earth worm... and a property developer. The decree comes in response to community garden protesters disrupting the Department of Citywide Administrative Services auction in late March and reduces ALL community gardens to squatting status, like the Chico Mendez Mural Garden in Manhattan's Lower East Side, which was bulldozed the day before New Year's Eve (the garden was defended using tripod techniques lifted from a photo in the SchNEWSround).

Gardeners from the Lower East Side, the Upper West Side, Harlem, Brooklyn and the Bronx united as The New York City Coalition For The Preservation of Gardens, mobilising thousands in defence of the 20-year-old gardens and demanding their preservation as vital ecological treasures for generations to come. "These gardens are more than open space, they are the pride and soul of the people and the neighbourhood."

* NYC's only anarchist bookshop, Blackout, will keep you updated on <http://www.panix.com/~blackout/outrageous.html>. Faxjam Mayor Rudolph (Sieg Heil) Giuliani, City Hall, New York, NY 10007 T: 212/788-3000 Fax: 212/406-

History check: Did you know? eighty five years ago those peaceful protesters The Suffragettes set fire to the Royal Academy and Emily Davison sacrificed herself under the hooves of the King's racehorse.

STATELY ROAMS

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland is not only raking it in at Syon House with the Butterfly House, he's also getting his 40% tax break on the property. He's also claiming land exemption on a castle. To rattle his cage, visit: Syon House, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 8JF 0181 560 0881 or Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1NQ. 01665 510 777

Inside SchNEWS

"While out with my baby daughter (then aged just six weeks) and a family friend, I was attacked by 15 drunken students... I was hit over the head with a bottle or glass, punched, kicked, and cut with a knife. I was chased 150 yards and received a number of substantial injuries including a broken nose, broken and damaged cheek, broken ribs, a number of open wounds to my head, face and hands, and cuts and bruises covering my entire body, but in the course of the struggle, to stop myself being stabbed, I managed to gain possession of the knife produced by one of the attackers and five of the students were injured with it... Despite the fact that every single independent witness formed the clear view that I was the person being attacked I was the only person arrested. After spending over a year on remand, and following a trial characterized by... every dirty trick in the book I was convicted on 2 of the 5 counts of GBH and received a sentence of 12 years imprisonment."

My own 20 odd year history of revolutionary anarchism frequently brought me to the attention of the police and I maintained a high Special Branch profile for many years. It may be no co-incidence that the Special Branch Detective Inspector involved in my arrest in Dover in 1980 on an explosives charge was in charge of the police station in Sheffield which dealt with my prosecution 14 years later. Following the Pomona Incident (the attack took place outside the Pomona Pub) they really pulled out all the stops to secure my conviction and a lengthy prison sentence."

On Monday 8th June Mark Barnsley, will have been in prison for 4 years and has called for an anniversary day of action on Monday 8th June. He will be hunger-striking for 72 hours from Saturday till Tuesday, while supporters will gather outside Sheffield Crown Prosecution Service offices (Greenfield House, 32 Scotland St) @ 10am.

Drop him a line WA2897, HMP Full Sutton, York, YO4 1PS or Support Group, PO Box 567, Sheffield, S5 OYS

...and finally...

The Low Pay Commission reckons the minimum wage should be a pocket bulging £3.60 an hour! The bosses union the CBI say the level is workable - but failed to mention anything about it being liveable. For a 38 hour week this would mean £137 - just over £7,000 a year before tax. Take away rent, gas, electric, phone, water rates, and luxuries like food... and you'll be left with... Mind you, the figure goes down to £3.20 an hour if you're aged between 18 - 21 - and forget it if you're on the New Deal. SchNEWS didn't have the time to dig much dirt on the list of trade union big-wigs and academics who come up with these figures but we do know one commissioner is Stephanie Monk, of Granada Plc, the people who sacked the Hillingdon Hospital Workers for refusing to take a pay cut. What we want to know is just how much a week do these people live on?

Disclaimer: SchNEWS warns all readers not to turn into a mad scientist and start sticking tomatoes and scorpions, fish faces and bananas together. People will only look at you strangely and you're never get a girlfriend/boyfriend. Honest

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

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Excerpts from...

A Gardener's Guide for Survival in the Modern World!

by H.R.H. Prince Charles.

Appropriate Clothing and Preparation for the Shy Gardener

Gardening by its very nature is a dirty job and you will obviously get covered in the soil of your garden, which is unique. To make sure you can get clean with the minimum of hassle it is recommended to wear either a set of overalls, or a complete set of old clothes (jumble sales are good). If you are to wear gardening gloves make sure they are cotton as all others will mark your work. Have some nice warm clean clothes and boots to change into before you get home. And in today's disposable society it is hoped that you would get rid of your dirty old clothes and boots in wheelie bins, industrial skips or an allotment bonfire.

The tools you use for gardening will vary, and for some crops you won't need any at all. If you do use any tools make sure they are clean, no greasy fingerprints, before you put your gloves on. The only thing that will shift them is warm soapy water. Be thorough: even the batteries inside a torch have been touched, and you wouldn't want to drop anything while you were out and about! On the subject of dropping things, it's easy to lose things such as jewellery and specs when working hard so take them off beforehand or fix them to your person.

If you need to use a vehicle, it's worth parking away from your garden and walking in, as tyres leave those horrible distinctive marks. Leave someone with your vehicle as there can be thieves and other unexpected people about. Splashing your number plate and around it with mud will

mean no-one will remember it. Remember when you get home to vacuum and clean the whole thing. If you find yourself walking through the countryside early in the morning, go cross country or via footpaths, people walking on roads attract attention. Oh, and get rid of your directions before you go!

The Best Time to Go

The best gardening time for the shy gardener is obviously at night. And at the new moon is better than when it is full. You have two main choices; around 3am is the dead hour, but remember how long the job will take - slightly earlier in the evening and you'll have more of an excuse to be out and about. Remember the countryside can be a busy place, especially in the autumn and winter, as gamekeepers and poachers are regularly about. At this time a light of any sort will draw attention. It is worth bearing in mind that only nutters and gardeners are out when it's pissing it down, and it will wash away any trace. Remember dew, you'll get drenched anyway.

How to Spot Your Crop

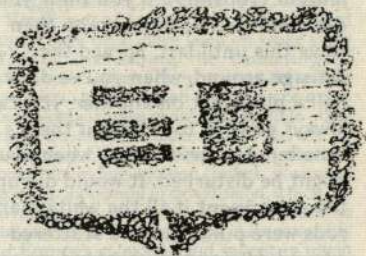
First step is to get the six-figure grid reference for your release site - this is available from Joseph Pereira, DETR biotech unit, 0171 890 5277 (phone and ask for GMO public register and the GMO Grid Reference List), or from the internet at <http://host.envirolink.org/shag/>. Unfortunately most of the grid references you'll be able to get will be of the main farm building rather than the field itself. Don your wax jacket,



bird book and binoculars, or take out a dog for a day in the countryside. Get yourself a "pathfinder" map and head for the fields. If you're lucky and they're being responsible (ha!) it'll be the only crop of that variety in the area. If not then check them all, a farm may have multiple release sites.

What does it look like? The release site will probably consist of several smallish rectangular areas of the crop (approximate sizes are listed in the register of the sites). Each area is separated by several feet of bare earth. The whole site is surrounded by a several yards wide strip of bare earth surrounded by a barrier crop. The barrier crop will usually be the same type as the release crop.

The different areas of the release crop will be marked out either by signs, or more likely just by small white rods. The different areas are for different things, at least one will be a



control crop, i.e. non-mutant to use as a comparison. The other smaller test sites will be the mutant crops. The mutant plots may have even more markers to the extent of each individual plant having its own white marker rod. Also if a release site is to test pesticide resistance, the plots with weeds in are more likely to be controls and plots of the crop where no weeds are growing will be mutants. For release sites in greenhouses or labs, look for the paperwork.

What to do when you get there

Obviously the number of people you need will depend on the size of the release site. Most release sites can be done quite happily with a couple of gardeners, about four would be better, but it could take a couple of hours. Make sure you're suitably dressed and if possible go a little ahead to scout out the site. In Scotland police have staked out a test site, some sites have been alarmed with synthesised American voices booming out of the dark (unfortunately for them no-one responded to the alarm call), in Devon they hired security guards (the site was blatantly and responsibly decontaminated), and who knows what they're doing with private detectives. Paranoia, Bool They who are careful stay free! Remember you are aiming to destroy the plants: you will either have to snap them off at the stem, or when uprooted pull them apart. At a release site in East Anglia, sugar beet was uprooted and left lying on the site, it was later replanted by the farmer (and later still dug up by concerned gardeners and removed from the site). Remember the release site is an experiment (with our future); if your aim is to disrupt this misguided experiment then you don't need to destroy all of the crop just 50 - 75%. Choose the plots with the mutant crops first; if you think you can identify the control crop then leave this until last. Spread the damage around, when you've done half a plot start on another, you can always go back to it later if there's time but you never know when you might be disturbed. It would disrupt the experiment if all the white marker rods were pulled up and scattered around, mixing the uprooted crops up in the remains of the crop. If it looks a mess it is less likely to be considered salvageable.

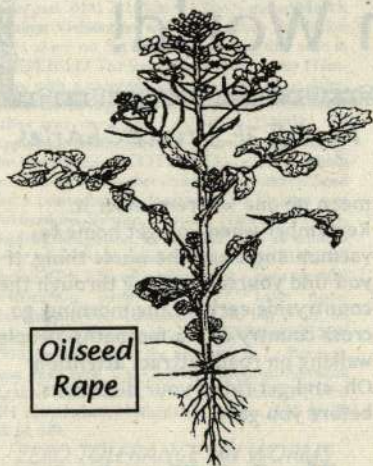
What you will be gardening

Oilseed Rape

There are two different breeds of oilseed rape that you might be gardening, winter and spring. The spring oilseed rape is sown between

mid March and April, and harvested late September to mid October. The winter crop is sown late August to mid September, flowering during May and is harvested mid July - mid August.

The plant has erect branching stems up to 3 foot high bearing deep lobed, grass green, bristly lower leaves and lobed blue upper leaves, with



Oilseed Rape

distinctive yellow flowers. It may be harvested early by breaking the stalk of the plant. This can be achieved by holding a large disposable stick outstretched and falling onto a row of the crop.

Maize

Maize is usually sown in late March - early April and is harvested between late June and early July. It has a single main stem with irregular long thin drooping leaves. It can be harvested in the same way as oilseed rape.

Tomatoes

This crop is usually sown in seed beds at the end of May and then transplanted to the test fields between late March and early April. It is then harvested between mid-July and early September.

They have a main stem which branches. Each branch produces five jagged weeping leaves. It produces a green fruit that turns red with ripening. To harvest early, pull or dig up the plant and snap the main stem.

Wheat

Winter wheat is sown between late September and early October and can be harvested between early January and late April. Spring wheat is planted

Maize



in early March and harvested in August or September. When young it is difficult to distinguish from barley, both of which look like large leafed grasses, but as they grow you can see that wheat has a much larger head. To harvest when young, pull up, if older use a "grass hook" (a type of crescent shaped knife)

Barley

Spring barley is sown February to March and harvested mid-May to mid-August. The winter crop is sown September to October and harvested July to August Garden as wheat.

Sugar Beet

This crop is sown in seed beds in late February and then transplanted to the fields between late March and late April, and is then harvested in early November.

It has a whitish conical root that produces a lot of stems each with a single irregular green and lobed leaf as well as a garland of flowers. It can be harvested early by pulling or digging up the crop and removing the root bit from the leaves and scattering in opposite directions.

Potato

There are a lot of varieties of potato grown in Britain, many of which it would be appropriate to garden. The description and the growing times of the plants will depend on the variety, but generally potato plants look like straggly tomato plants with either small yellow flowers or small green tomato-like fruit.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SPICED UP...

SchNEWS

PRINTED & PUBLISHED IN BRIGHTON EVERY WEEK



Friday 5th June 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 170

Free/Donation

GAZZA SPICE BABY

EXCLUSIVE

In an announcement yesterday that is sure to shake the very pillars of our society Paul Gascoigne broke down in tears and announced that he is the father of Ginger Spice's love child. The dumped England soccer star blamed his recent poor form on the pitch, on the extra time he was putting in the bedroom. Ginger's recent 'walkabout' was blamed on morning sickness.

Do you care? No, nor do we really, but you'd think there wasn't much else going on in the world recently. Well, there has been...

EAST ASIA

While currencies collapsed and financial institutions filed for bankruptcy in East Asia, the world's press bemoaned massive stock-market losses. The people who lost their jobs were mentioned only occasionally. Despite the Asian Tigers' 'miracle economies', most people live in abject poverty. According to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions over 950 million people in South east Asia struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day. Now the majority of East Asians are having to pay for the excesses and corruption of years of economic boom.

"Working people in South East Asia are angry and resentful that they are having to pay the heaviest price for the incompetence and corruption of a few very wealthy individuals and their international backers" Spokesperson for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

On May 27 some 120,000 Korean workers downed tools and took to the streets to protest about mass redundancies and to demand reform. The government responded by issuing a statement that the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) strike was illegal and vowed to crackdown on its leaders. Employers have also threatened to sue unions for losses and damages caused by the "illegal strike".

This is a bit rich coming from people that have overseen an economy in free-fall. According to the KCTU an average of more than 200 companies have shut down each day since the beginning of the crisis, with an average of 4,000 workers a day being made unemployed! Union leaders have responded by promising to increase strike action if the government harasses, arrests or penalises unionists. The KCTU declared "The government and the big business - supported by media who have become the mouthpiece of the rich - have exploited the good will of workers and ordinary people by forcing them to shoulder the entire burden of the crisis and the cost of recovery." Other resolutions

have called for the reduction of the working week, reduction of military spending and more accountability of corporate practices.

June 10th now looks set as the date for a general strike in South Korea after talks collapsed between unions and government.

NIGERIA

On 22nd May 15th of the 20 Ogoni political detainees who have been held in the same cell since May 1994 were granted bail by the Nigerian High Court. A ruling on bail applications by another 5 prisoners is expected on June 15th. They face the same politically motivated murder charge which sent MOSOP President Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight other Ogoni leaders to the gallows in November 1995.

Since MOSOP began its campaign in 1993, Ogoni people have suffered shootings, rapes, arbitrary arrests, mass looting, extortion, torture and imprisonment in degrading conditions at the hands of a military that is armed by and paid for by Shell. The Nigerian regime's use of military tribunals to silence political opponents has been universally condemned.

The Ogoni 20 have been in prison because they opposed Shell's dirty operations in Nigeria and the devastation of Ogoni land through 30 years of oil drilling. These men stood up for their rights when death squads began to sweep through their homeland in response to their protests. Shell has its own private police force operating in the region, an elite detachment of the Nigerian police, paid by and taking orders from the company.

For news on Ogoni, Shell and Nigeria contact Delta, Box Z, 13 Biddulph Street, Leicester LE2 1BH, UK Tel: 0116 255 3223; web: www.oneworld.org/delta

Reclaim Europe! 9th- 16th June

Radical alternative to Eurosummit and its corporate agenda. Over 2 days in June, the leaders of the European Union - will be dictating the direction of EU policy for the next six months in Cardiff. Lots of activities including on the Saturday 13th a massive demo followed by a PARTY! (Coaches are going from Brighton leaving at 8am from St. Peter's Church. Tickets £6/£5 from Peace Centre) and on Tuesday Reclaim the Streets. Meet Cardiff Central train station at 4pm 0122 220347 www.geocities.com/RainForest/5581

SchNEWS presents **The Killer Corporations versus Peoples Global Actions.** Eyewitness accounts of 4 days that 'shook Geneva in an orgy of party, protests and riots'. Mon 8th June 7pm, Hobgoblin Pub, London Rd.

RACIST CRAP OF THE WEEK

"All Travellers should be tagged like cattle to monitor them". This little gem from Irish Fine Gael Councillor John Flannery.

KOSOVA

Sandwiched between Serbia, Albania and Macedonia, the once-autonomous province of Kosova, home to a 90% ethnic-Albanian population, was invaded in 1990 by Milosevic's Serbian troops. Ever since, Kosova's Albanians have been denied education and healthcare, and now even basic medicines and food which are being looted or halted by Serbian police. Despite a massive underground resistance including schooling for 400,000 kids, healthcare and even an elected government, the population is now at risk of starvation. In the UK Workers' Aid for Kosova are planning to take 40 tonnes of medical supplies and food in July. Help, donations and support are needed. Call 0181 555 7045 or go to the next public meeting Wed 24 June at the Camden Irish Centre, Murray Street 7.30pm.

GREECE

"Greeks have been at the receiving end of economic austerity measures since 1986, we can't keep up with the break-neck speed of these reforms. They are inhumane. Brussels will have to wait." Christos Polyzogopoulos Confederation of Workers.

Employees of Ionian Bank, Greece's third largest state bank, have been on strike since May 11 demanding the canceling of privatization plans. They oppose the ruling Socialists' plans to sell off the country's fourth-largest state-owned bank, while other trade unions are furious at moves to restructure Olympic Airway. The industrial action, including violent clashes, illustrates growing opposition to privatisation, which the government says it has to do in order to 'streamline' its economy and make it qualify for Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU) by 2001. Solidarity strikes have begun at other banks as fears of mass lay-offs mount.

* If you wanna know more about stories that don't make the news, subscribe to New Internationalist PO Box 79, Hertford, SG14 1AQ Tel 01992 822899 <http://www.newint.org/>

* If you wanna read about nasty corporations get Corporate Watch, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ 01865 791391

* SchNEWS & Squall have produced a little booklet *United Colours of Peoples Global Action* - interviews with people involved in global resistance from East-Timor to India. For a copy send SAE to SchNEWS

PULPED NON-FICTION

2,000 copies of a book called "Liberating Cyberspace" are being pulped for 'naming' UK companies that sell military computer technology, surveillance equipment, and auto-fingerprint recognition systems to Indonesia and Third world military juntas.

At the risk of libel action, joint publishers civil rights group Liberty and Pluto Press, have decided to block the books publication, and called for authors to return all original copies for reprinting.

The 'offending' material comes from "Big Brother Incorporated", a report produced by surveillance watchdog group Privacy International. The 'hall of shame' in the report identified over 200 sources, which included police-military fairs - Copex, Farnborough, IPEC, defence catalogues, export licence papers and company documents.

Privacy International estimates that \$10 billion worth of surveillance equipment is sold every year to the Third World. Millions of these dollars are made up in corporate sales to the likes of Indonesia, China and Turkey - by the same companies being erased from the "Liberating Cyberspace" book. One of the PI report researchers told SchNEWS, "There is a slim risk of libel action, but when you've seen the UK company directors shaking hands with Indonesian police chiefs! The UK is the world no 1 for police-intelligence surveillance exports, it seems bizarre."

UK companies have been supplying Suharto with snooper tools to track, identify and monitor anti-government activists and East Timorese civilians for well over a decade. Here's a few we worried out in the SchNEWS UK-Indonesian Supermarket Surveillance Sweep:

ICL, Manchester, UK Sold 10 million pounds worth of computer equipment to Suharto in the early 1990s. Same company that kitted out South Africa with its apartheid passport computer system. Phone 'em on 0161 2231301. **De La Rue Printak, Hampshire, UK** Sold auto-fingerprint recognition equipment to the Indonesian police/security services. 01256 29122. **Marconi, Radar, and Control Systems, Surrey, UK** Sold "electronic equipment" to Indonesian military. Supplied Turkish infantry with "thermal imaging system". 01276 63311. **Siemens-Plessey Defence Systems, Essex, UK** Sold "command & control info systems" to the Kopassus (Indonesian SAS). 0181 4783040. **Ampex, Reading, UK** Sold "TV and recording equipment" to Indonesia. Incorporates a CCTV facial capture system for storing mugshots. 01734 875200

Spy surveillance exports, cloaked in Orwellian double-speak references will be flowing into the hands of the Indonesian military and security services like treacle under Robin Cook's all new flexible 'Arms Code of Practice'. So would ICL & Co have chosen to damage their lucrative technology contracts at the risk of another "Mc Libel" by dragging the book publishers through courts? Well SchNEWS think not, cos like their arms dealing buddies they are a pack of gutless wonders. Ooops!!... so sue us.

"Is it not odd that the slam duffers of Jakarta figure in television coverage as 'looters'? Shouldn't this term be reserved for their president, who has trousered \$40 billion since seizing power?"

GLOBAL CUTE PARTY

SchNEWS has had reports from all over the world about the Global Street Parties on May 16th (see SchNEWS 168) but HOUGHTON COUNTY in America was surely the cutest. Two people put out a dining table in the middle of the public highway by their isolated farmhouse on the Sunday (it was raining on Saturday) and had lunch. One lorry was scared off in the process!

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Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk
Big thnx to chumbawamba! Going to any parties and protests this year? why not take a bundle of SchNEWS to dish out? Ring the office if you can help.

SchNEWS in brief

The anti-Genetic occupation at Kirby Bedon (see SchNEWS 169) are in Norwich Crown Court today (Friday 3rd), hoping to precede the 10am eviction hearing with a demo. They're calling on anyone attending Strawberry Fayre to drop in afterwards. Buses from Norwich run near the site - call 0831 332520/ 0961 517324 for more info or try www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html **Don't forget **SALISBURY Reclaim The Streets** Sat 20 June meet 12 noon train station- and Stonehenge Free Festival June 19-28 bring what you expect to find (how about wire-cutters and a pole-vault?)*** It's time to **Reclaim the Pavement** folks. One BRIGHTON resident is so hacked off with cars, display boards and the like congesting our pavements that she has arranged a meeting - Monday 15 June, 4pm upstairs in the Hobgoblin pub, London Rd - to discuss the first ever Lift Off Day *** As part of **Green Transport Week**, on Sat 20th June, the streets of WORTHING are to be brought alive by community street parties. Worthing Friends of the Earth are calling on residents to group together with their neighbors to make the day a social event. Call Sophie Kempin on 01903 210351 for info pack *** Still in SUSSEX, for two **Mass Trespass Walks**, on Sundays 14th June & 5th July. Meet 12 noon @ Brighton Railway Station to travel out of town (bus tickets £3/£2 from Peace Centre) on a magical mystery tour of the Downs - walks will be 3-5 miles (with shorter kiddie route) with picnic stop halfway. Call SchNEWS office for more details *** A SEED **Activist Gathering** in Bulgaria, July 5-12, will take place in the beautiful Bulgarian mountains, focusing on activism in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Corporate Rule and Globalisation. Contact A SEED for an application for limited places (to be completed by June 12th): A SEED Europe, Postbus 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands *** The **McLibel** trial film is still on sale after the BBC and Channel 4 were both prevented by their lawyers from showing it. If you want to buy it, or better still, hold a public showing to coincide with the national Anniversary Days of Action on June 19th & 20th, send dosh (£12.99 waged, £9.99 unwaged + £2 p&p, payable to 'One-Off Productions') to: BCM Oops, London, WC1N 3XX, UK 0171 2478881 *** **Stop-press phone call from Paris** - occupation of Eurocopters who sell to Mexico and Turkey. 23 bottles of champagne drunk during the occupation, lots of things trashed..

JUSTICE FOR RITA PORTER

In June 1993, Rita Porter, a black mother was assaulted by police in a London Electricity Board showroom. She had waited all the previous day in a freezing flat with her children, (aged 3&3 months), for her electricity to be connected. In desperation she went to the showroom to ask to be connected that day. LEB refused unless she paid an additional charge, so Ms Porter refused to leave until the matter was resolved.

The police were then called to evict Ms Porter when a van of police officers arrived, they pulled the children from her arms, wrestled her to the ground, handcuffed and carried her to the police van. So outraged at the police actions were the large number of passers-by, that many contacted the local paper in protest. The *Camden New Journal* reported at the time: "An unprecedented number of eyewitnesses expressed 'outrage, horror and disgust'. Several said that the police were 'rude' and all said that the police were laughing while making the arrest and that they used 'unnecessary force and brutality'."

The Police Federation then sued the local paper for libel and tried to get Legal Aid withdrawn for Ms Porter's civil action. Those concerned with justice are urged to attend Central London County Court on **Mon 8th June** when the civil action will be heard. Legal Action for Women 0171 482 2496

BINGLEY BIRTHDAY BASH

Reclaim the Land at Ryelof Camp, Bingley, on Sat 13th till Mon 15th June.

The protest camp was set up to prevent a £64m road scheme, and has recently teamed up with Residents Action Group for the Environment, stopping building work on a nearby controversial housing site. On the Saturday, it's the anti-road campaign's 2nd Anniversary, so PARTY from 8pm onwards. Then on Sunday there's a discussion workshop - Greenbelt Housing: the second eco-war? followed on the Monday by a day of ACTION against greenbelt developers. More info call 0961 367421

...and finally...

1. Sack your staff - Hot on the heels of the letter sent out by Brighton Federation of Small Business who wrote to firms about the New Deal asking "Have you ever thought how profitable your business would be if you didn't have to pay out any wages?" comes a one day seminar by Lloyds Associates. It's all about how bosses can sack staff without being taken to an Industrial Tribunal for unfair dismissal. Topics include how to dismiss an employee with a 'bad attitude', dismissing a senior employee with long service, and dismissing during maternity.

If you want to find out more, go to Royal Hotel in Winchester (June 11th), Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London (June 16th) and the Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport, Gwent (June 30th). It will only set you back £217.38 - give 'em a bell on 01778 423890 and see if they can put you on the guest list.

2. Hassle them on the dole to take any crap job
Big round of applause for Brighton Against Benefit Cuts who have swamped the Employment Service with 50,000 high quality spoof leaflets about the New Deal. The Leaflets are so realistic that they went unnoticed in 40 jobcentres around the country for a whole month until jobseekers brought them to the attention of staff.

"The New Deal is just that - a deal, a new deal" reads the subverted text "The Employment Service has been contacting...[companies] with offers of free labour and hopes that they will form a network of local slave labour employees". It helpfully explains that the New Deal is "a program to help us cut unemployment figures and social security spending and to force young people into badly paid (or not even paid at all) jobs". Asked whether you will be able to go back on Job Seekers Allowance if you don't like the deal, the leaflet says "No, of course you can't, what do you think we are - a charity?"

The claimants group said that the aim of the stunt was to "mock, ridicule, demoralise, panic and disturb Employment Service management and amuse claimants and benefit workers across the country".

3. If we don't do nothing it'll happen here:
In Canada, the Ontario government has just introduced the 'Prevention of Union Act' which bans people who have to work for their dole from joining a trade union, having work conditions determined through collective bargaining, or going on strike! A High Court has already ruled that the so called 'Employment Enhancement Programs' (workfare to you and me) violates the Charter of Rights with non-existent training, and job displacement dispelling the pro-workfare propaganda which paints workfare as beneficial to claimants. Still, one government minister has brushed aside threats of more legal action and union picket lines against firms that take part. "Union opposition will not deflect us from our goal," he said, which is of course, to get people to work for peanuts.

DISCLAIMER SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in any criminal activities. Always stay within the law, sit indoors, watch TV and go on endless shopping sprees, filling your lives with endless consumer crap. Then you will feel content. Heneest.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BALL BREAKING BLUE GENES

SchNEWS

FROM HERE TO THERE EVERY WEEK



Friday 12th June 1998

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Issue 171 Free/Donation

MONSTER MERGER

"Through food, chemicals and drugs this malignant tumour of a company seeks to control and pervert our genetic code. The invasion of the gene snatchers has begun". Corporate Watch

In their quest to control the world (literally) Monsanto have agreed to merge with pharmaceuticals group American Home Products (AHP). The deal is the sixth largest in American corporate history. With a market value of \$96 billion, they now command majority control of the life-sciences industry, from maize seed gene patents to genetically mutated soya. Dubbed the, 'Microsoft of bio-technology,' Monsanto run the world's largest agricultural research and development body, with their main man Robert Shapiro being described as a 'deal a day man'.

NAMING NAMES SHOCK

Monsanto are now embarking on a open discussion campaign in an effort to appear 'consumer friendly'. They have already been slugging anti-Gen groups in adverts and on billboards across Europe, now in an attempt to persuade us that they have nothing to hide they have taken out ads in the 'liberal' press. Here are some excerpts from a press release published in last Sunday's Observer:

"Genetically modified food is the subject of much heated debate. As a biotechnology company, we firmly believe in it. Of course, we're a business and aim for our shareholders to profit from this technology... our excitement and commitment to food biotechnology stems from the real benefits it provides for both consumers and the environment.

There are others with less supportive views. Some are openly hostile. It is only fair that you appreciate the spectrum of opinions before making an informed decision. We're about to run an advertising campaign...As well as our views, we will be publishing the addresses and phone numbers of those with different views, including some of our most vocal critics, encouraging you to contact them. This may sound unusual, but we believe that food is so fundamentally important everyone should know all they want to about it.

Besides the advertising, there are leaflets in many supermarkets and you can call us free on 0800 092 0401 if you have any questions or would like further literature". (Sch)News warns all readers NOT to continuously use this freephone number and then leave the receiver off the book, they only have four operators and you would cost Monsanto a lot of money).

The press release then goes on to say;
"The world grows it's food at great cost to the environment. Insecticides, fertilizers and herbicides used in agriculture require scarce resources processed in eco-taxing industrial plants. We believe plant biotechnology can limit industrial and chemical impact on the earth. For instance, we have developed crops that are insect resistant, in some cases eliminating the need to apply insecticides altogether. (We also want you to know that we produce the world's top selling herbicide, Roundup.)"
The release ends- MONSANTO Food.Health.Hope

SchNEWS, like Monsanto, believe in providing 'information for action', so to save you waiting for their advertising, here are the numbers we think they should be printing, (probably).

*Genetic Engineering Network, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY 0181 374 9516 (this is for Genetics info)

*For genetics action info on the web check out: <http://www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html>

<http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag/genetix.html>

*Genetix Update PO Box 9656 London N4 4JY 0181 374 0516

*<genetics@gn.apc.org>

CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

Part Time Sales Assistant in Oxford - four hours on a Saturday @ £2.27 per hour - a whole £9.08 a week!

FAB JOB OF THE WEEK

World Development Movement (WDM) are looking for a Campaigns Officer to plan and manage popular campaigns, build public support and target key decision makers, working with UK activists and international partners. Salary £19,086 - £20,316. Write to Personnel, WDM, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR, tel: 0171 7376215

"The opportunity is just enormous, we see the value that we can create as several billion dollars". Monsanto's president.

A fortnight ago, consultants acting for Monsanto, wrote to some of Africa's most prominent academics and politicians, inviting them to sign a stirring public statement called "Let the Harvest Begin". It went on to say "Many of our needs have an ally in biotechnology and the promising advances it offers for our future, with these advances, we prosper; without them, we cannot thrive. Slowing its acceptance is a luxury our hungry world cannot afford."

While some responded with outrage, others signed up. Monsanto's name appears in such small print readers could think that the statement is from the signatories, rather than Monsanto. Monsanto's suggestion that the continent's freedom from famine depends upon it would be hilarious, were it not so sinister. Monsanto's operations can now be numbered among the continent's greatest threats.

The leading edge of Monsanto's new work is not the production of food, but the production of feed: crops, in other words, grown not for humans but for animals. Last month, the company announced a joint venture with the gigantic multinational grain merchant Cargill, to produce and market the seeds of genetically engineered fodder plants, particularly maize. Feed production is a growing component of Third World agriculture, supplying the ever-increasing consumption of meat, eggs and dairy produce in the First World. Growing animal fodder for McCrap food is also one of the reasons for African famine, as land previously used to grow food for local people has been 'acquired' to supply the rich world's luxuries. Much of Africa's most fertile territory is ideal for growing the new, more profitable strains of maize fodder being developed by Cargill and Monsanto.

But this is the least of the ways in which Monsanto threatens Africa. Three months ago, America's Delta and Pine Land Company patented a gene called "Terminator", which ensures that the plants which contain it produce only sterile seeds: Farmers planting these crops, in other words, will be forced to buy new stock every year. The new technology's "primary targets", are, according to the original patent holders, "Second and Third World" countries. Four weeks ago, Monsanto bought the company. If it succeeds in inserting the Terminator into its seed varieties, farmers will be presented with little choice but to buy its non-reproducing seed. Monsanto, in other words, threatens to become the hunger merchant of the third millennium.

Where they go, famine will follow.

RECLAIM THE STREETS

Report backs from North and South London
BRITXON An orange flare signalled to the gathered 1000's the start of another successful 'avin-it' historic street party. Having turned up in relatively small force 'The Old Bill' seemed content to stand back and let it happen. Perhaps this had something to do with the sensitive nature of the locale!

Although the main police CCTV had been skillfully covered-up, by an activist shimmying up a 60-80foot pole and placing a plastic bag over it. The CCTV unit on McMUCKS frenetically swivelled around filming anything it could. McMoney were also forced to shut their toilets as the celebrants took the piss big style. For hours a largish swathe of Brixton's streets were given over to fun, jollity and car free space as the RTS red, black and green 'flag' on top of McMurder fluttered in the cooling breeze, making their (McMuck's) Union Jack look grey tattered and by a bygone age. Of course the usual PC Plod 'snatch-squad' lurking about in Brixton tube station made a determined effort to ruin someones day by arresting people getting on the trains to go home.

Meanwhile a concurrent **NORTH LONDON** street party was in full swing in Tottenham, closing down every single road junction at some point during the day, between Euston and Seven Sisters as 2,000 made their way to the party. Euston tube was closed, so 1,500 people left for Kings Cross and a pig was overheard saying "We're doomed!" ha ha ha. Greater London Radio advised people not to enter north-east London as the Reclaim the Streets movement had taken control of it!!! 5,000 people well and truly reclaimed Tottenham High Road to the tunes of 3 soundsystems which entered and left the party without being pulled. Critical Mass cyclists initially took the site whilst party-goers following multi-coloured flags came forth in their thousands to celebrate the reclamation of what is rightfully theirs, "Freedom is there for the taking...so lets take it!" Local people joyfully joined in the festivities as the high road was taken over with music, laughter, performance, football and kids playing. Local residents said, "I saw this run pull up with lots of people running after it...the next thing we knew they had blocked the road started playing music and thousands of people started arriving!" Another said "It's great! When we came out of the tube and saw all these people we were completely entranced...I think it's fantastic!" At the end of the day two cars used for barricades were set alight and the police baton charged the remaining people making 11 arrests for public order offences. The police were totally out-witted all day. P.S. Thanks to the intellegent bods who erected toilets over the drains and the litterpickers. Nicely done!

Hunt SchNEWS

Three sabs wrongly fingered for damaging Hursley Hambledon Hunters' cars in Dec '97 are now subject to pressure to remand them.

In retaliation Ashford sabs have been hassling the police to prosecute members of Ashford Valley Hunt after evidence of a vicious assault on one of their number has been ignored. Neil McIvor was held down and beaten with an iron bar while a hunts woman took photographs (?). He identified his attackers and several present gave statements, but no-one was questioned or arrested. Neil has been told that this case has been dropped due to lack of evidence and he is due in court accused of attacking the Hunt Master who sustained no injuries and has no witnesses! Another member was ambushed by hunters, who smashed his car up, police arrested him for cruelty to a horse on the word of a hunter. You can contact Ashford sabs on 01233 620985.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)11273 685913 **GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk**
Please, Please, send us your old but REUSABLE A4 envelopes ***** If you're going on the South Downs Mass Trespass, Shut that gate!

SchNEWS in brief

West Country Activist Newsletter is out and is essential reading to anyone in the South West and a darn good read for everyone else. You can acquire your copy on paper - for 5 issues send 10 2nd class stamps to WCA, PO Box 426, Bath, BA1 2ZD - or by email - send a message entitled 'subscribe' to WCA@conk.com *** WCA are also staging a 3-day Gathering Fri 7th - Sun 9th Aug, possibly in South Devon, but if you've any better ideas let them know! The event will focus on workshops: direct action, sustainable lifestyle etc., but will also feature lots of entertainment, a healing area, a creche and a vegan cafe (£1 a meal) by Kebele. For more info/to offer your services in any area, call 01626 363844, for lifshanaing call 01225 425284 *** For those of you who get this in time, a last minute call for the A-SEED Mount Pinin activist gathering at Bulgaria, 5-12th July. The gathering will renew the Hot Spring '98 campaign against globalisation and corporate rule, plan the way forward until the millennium and improve networks between groups. Places are limited and you need to get to Sofia by the 5th but help can be found with travel costs (provided you don't fly!) The deadline is 14th June so get cracking! Tel Netherlands: 31-20-6682236, fax: 31-20-6650166, email: aseedeur@antenna.nl or drop in: http://www.antenna.nl/aseed/ *** Another Dance Parade UK gig is coming up in Brighton in collaboration with Fringe Festival: Metalheadz, feat. Hidden Agenda and DJ Clady on two floors of the Escape, Marine Parade, Thurs 2nd July, 10 till late. Tickets £5 on the door or advance from Rounder Records *** Good News from Barking - UEL students who have been occupying the campus finance department since around 20th May (see SchNEWS 168) have achieved a management U-turn and agreed to open the Learning Resources Centre. Direct Action works. SchNEWS says Congratulations!!! *** VIVA! has just produced a Guide to Vegetarian Brighton, having nominated the town the best in Europe for animal-free eating. Containing 150 fully cross-referenced entries it's an essential buy and you can get your copy for only £2.99 direct from Viva!, 12 Queen Square, Brighton, BN1 3FD *** SURVIVAL, who campaign for indigenous peoples' rights, are holding an 'ethnic beats and global grooves' benefit gig on 21 June, 6pm-midnight @ Cross Bar, 257-9 Pentonville Road, London N1. Tribal For Survival features Earthtribe, DJ Nelson Dilation etc. and costs £4 (£3 b4 8pm) *** Worthing's own campaign newsletter The Pork-Bolter is jointly 'celebrating' Big Brother's (well, George Orwell's) birthday (25 June 1903) and the anniversary of the town CCTV system (1 July 1996) with an as yet undisclosed event taking place at 12noon on Sat 27 June @ New South St pedestrian area, nr Lloyds, Worthing town centre. The town centre crime rate in Worthing has gone up by 19% since the system's installation. Said a spokesman: "The CCTV experiment in Worthing has been running for two years and has failed. The cameras must now come down." ***

KEBELE KULTURE

is a project based in a squatted building in Bristol since December 1995 which hosts exhibitions, talks, parties, workshops, meetings, music, a library and a cafe BUT it needs to raise a well-bargained £20k to buy the building from owners Lloyds Bank by the end of July, after the first eviction order was served last September. Basically, please donate some money! But you can still support them by attending events - the next is a Full Monty video evening on Wed 23rd June @ 8pm (vegan pop-corn available) and meetings - every Tuesday @ 8pm. Find/write to Kebele @ 14 Robertson Rd, Eastville, Bristol, BS5 6JY/0117 939 9469

Inside SchNEWS

The Campsfield Nine would love to get cards of support (they are especially keen on anything connected to the World Cup). They were not allowed to take back to prison a World Cup magazine one of the solicitors gave to them in court, but we can send cards. Please send to: Lucky Agbebaku, Enaharo Esemuze, Stanley Nwadike and John Quaquah at HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Bicester, OX6 0PR and Sambou Merong and Harrison Tubman at HMYOI Remand Centre Reading, HMP, 4 Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3HY (Sunny and Edward are out on bail)

SENSIBLE JURY RULING SHOCK

Colin Davies of Stockport who fell 60ft from a bridge in 1994 and now smokes to relieve pain after conventional painkillers saw him hospitalised, was last week cleared of cultivating cannabis in just 40 minutes. The 8-woman 4-man jury "thinks the law is an ass" according to Matthew Atha of the Independent Drugs Monitoring Unit, called as a witness by self-representing Davies. Following the verdict, Davies asked if he could have his 18 cannabis plants back. Meanwhile thousands of scientists, writers, former Heads of State, judges, former DS officers etc. have signed a letter to the UN denouncing the current war on drugs and calling for a policy reappraisal and stating "we believe that the global war on drugs is now causing more harm than drug abuse itself".

OUTSIDE SchNEWS

Lastly, some good news. Ten sabs convicted of aggravated trespass because they interrupted a hunt, achieved a landmark decision, during a High Court appeal, in having recognised that since the hunt was illegally on a railway line at the time, it had itself committed an offence. Unfortunately, convictions were upheld on the facts, but their case established that if a hunt is on local authority land when it is disrupted, no offence exists, a fact often ignored by the lower courts.

*Were you out side the Robinson Crusoe pub way back in May 18th 1994? (Hackney Homeless Festie) Hickman and Rose Solicitors are taking on the claims against Stoke Newington Police including one for a girl whose arm they broke. Get in touch with Rhona 0171 700 2211

...and finally...

In an outburst that said more about the decline of royal genetic mutation, one product of hundreds of years of selective breeding this week attacked the selective breeders of the future. Bony Prince Charlie, spawner of the tragic princes explains to us why genetics is bad. The man who would be King says that genetic engineering "takes mankind into realms that belong to God and to God alone... Apart from certain highly beneficial and specific medical applications, do we have the right to experiment with and commercialise the building blocks of life? We live in an age of rights - and it seems to me that it is time that our Creator had some rights too." In the article for The Daily Telegraph, he continues: "We simply do not know the long-term consequences for human health and the wider environment of releasing plants bred in this way... The lesson of BSE and other entirely man-made disasters on the road to 'cheap food' is surely that it is the unforeseen consequences which present the greatest cause for concern. Even the best science cannot predict the unpredictable."

ye olde disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in any criminal activities. Always stay within the law. In fact please just sit at tv, watch TV and go on endless shopping sprees, filling your house and lives with endless consumer crap. Then you will feel content. Honest.

The MAD SCIENTIST... and the TYRANNICAL CORPORATE MEGALOMANIAC...



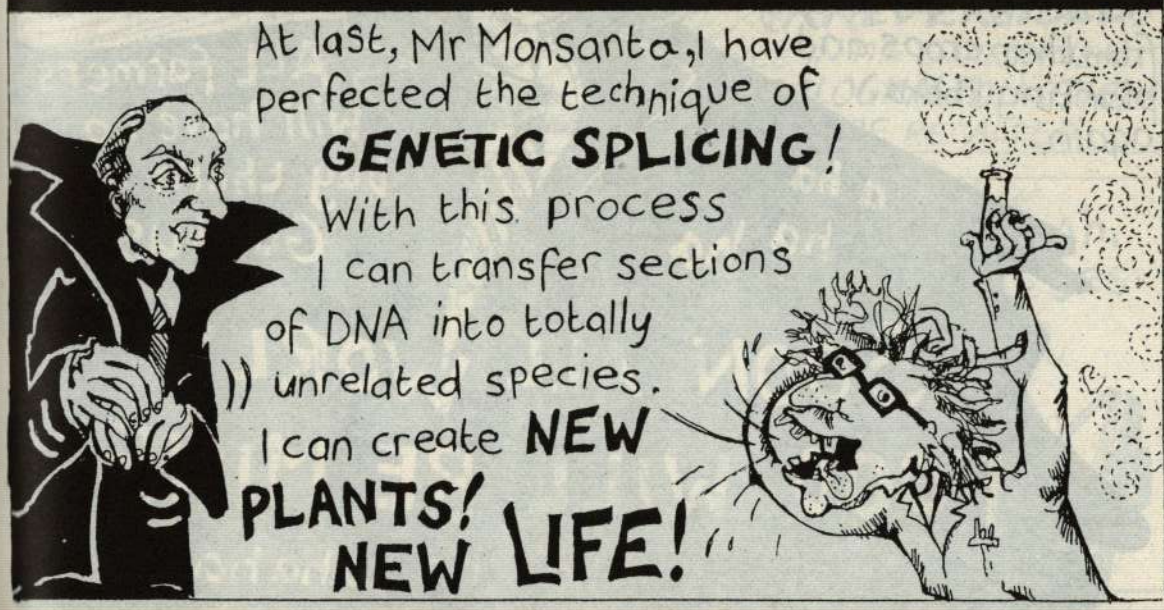
TOGETHER WE CAN
TAKE
OVER
ALL THE
FOOD IN
ALL THE
WORLD!

LIKE A BAD B-MOVIE ~ A REAL LIFE HORROR STORY

GENETIC EXPERIMENT

AT A SUPERMARKET
NEAR YOU, NOW!!!

k.evans.



At last, Mr Monsanto, I have perfected the technique of

GENETIC SPLICING!

With this process

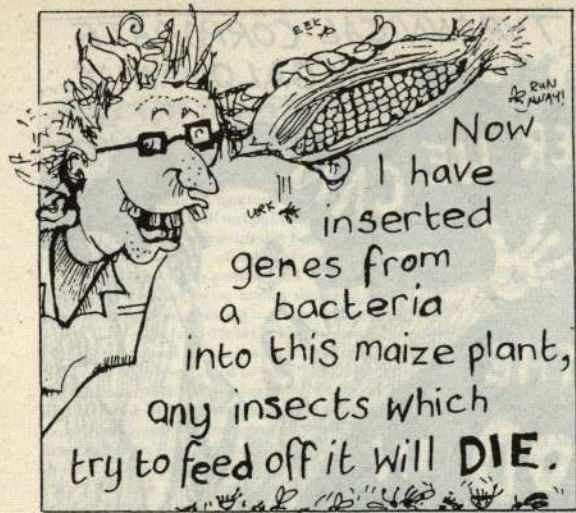
I can transfer sections
of DNA into totally

unrelated species.

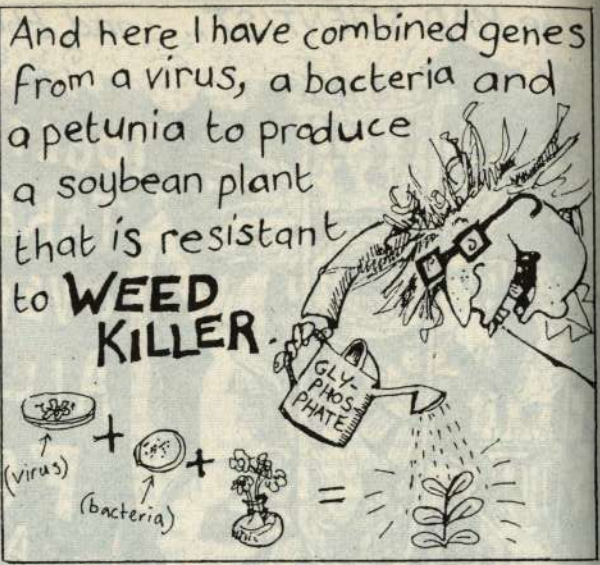
I can create **NEW**

PLANTS!

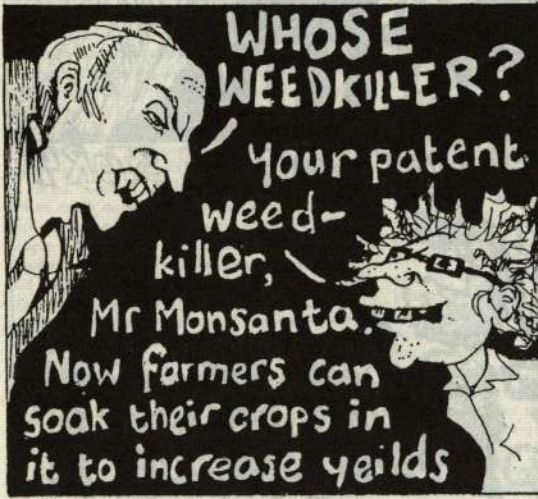
NEW LIFE!



Now I have inserted genes from a bacteria into this maize plant, any insects which try to feed off it will **DIE**.

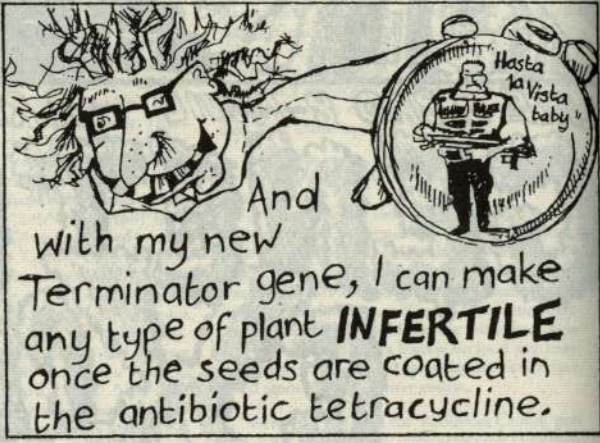


And here I have combined genes from a virus, a bacteria and a petunia to produce a soybean plant that is resistant to **WEED KILLER**.



WHOSE WEEDKILLER?

Your patent weed-killer, Mr Monsanto. Now farmers can soak their crops in it to increase yields



And with my new Terminator gene, I can make any type of plant **INFERTILE** once the seeds are coated in the antibiotic tetracycline.

BRILLIANT! No more problems with pesky Third World farmers saving seeds from their crops and planting them again.

My new seed varieties will be **MORE PROFITABLE**

ALL farmers will have to buy them or GO BUST!

SOON ALL WORLD FOOD WILL BE MINE!!

a ha ha ha

ha haahaha

JANUARY 1999

Our plan has been successful, Doctor Clone. Millions of acres of genetically modified crops are being grown. Mutant **SOYA, TOMATO** and **MAIZE** are present in 80% of processed food, and soon **VEGETABLE OIL SUGAR** and **POTATOES** will too.

But, Mr Monsanto, there are problems



THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS **UNPREDICTABLE**, AS PLANTS INTERBREED AND CROSS-POLLINATE, GENETIC MATERIAL IS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SPECIES...

...**"SUPERWEEDS"** BECOME RESISTANT TO WEEDKILLER...



"I'll be back!"



INDISCRIMINATE USE OF WEEDKILLER DESTROYS PLANTS WHICH ARE FOOD FOR WILDLIFE



AND THE TECHNOLOGY IS **IRREVERSIBLE**. ONCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT THE **BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION** CANNOT BE RECALLED



It is a barren, sterile world we are creating, Mr Monsanto.
But, Doctor Clone one in which we will be **EXTREMELY RICH.**



Ah, yes.

People are worried. They don't know what this food will do to them.

We just have to convince them that it's safe.



But **HOW** can we do that when we **DONT KNOW** if it's **TRUE?**

ONE POTENTIAL PROBLEM IS THAT OF **ALLERGIES**. PEOPLE WITH **NUT ALLERGIES**

EXPERIENCE **LIFE THREATENING** REACTIONS WHEN EATING **SOYA** WITH **BRAZIL NUT GENES** IN



SOAKING FOOD IN WEED-KILLER CAN'T BE GOOD



ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO PETUNIAS?



BUT ULTIMATELY **NO-ONE KNOWS** WHAT THE EFFECTS OF EATING ALTERED GENETIC MATERIAL WILL BE ON **HUMAN BEINGS**



COATING SEEDS IN TETRACYCLINE INCREASES RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS IN PEOPLE THAT EAT THE FOOD

FORTUNATELY these crops are classified as food, not drugs so we don't have to run tests before we feed them to the **HUMAN ENTIRE POPULATION**





Anyway, it doesn't have to be **TRUE** for us to **CONVINCE** people.

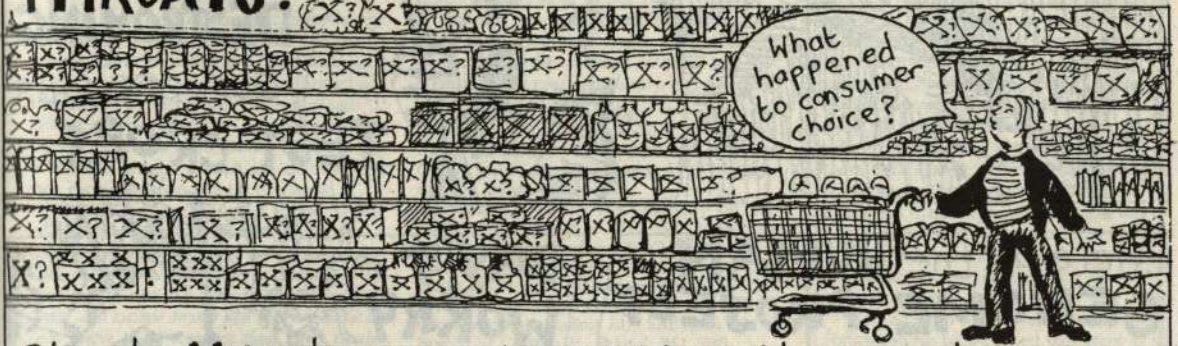
We'll present the case for G.M. food as **ONE SIDE** of a **DEBATE...**



FULL PAGE ADVERT

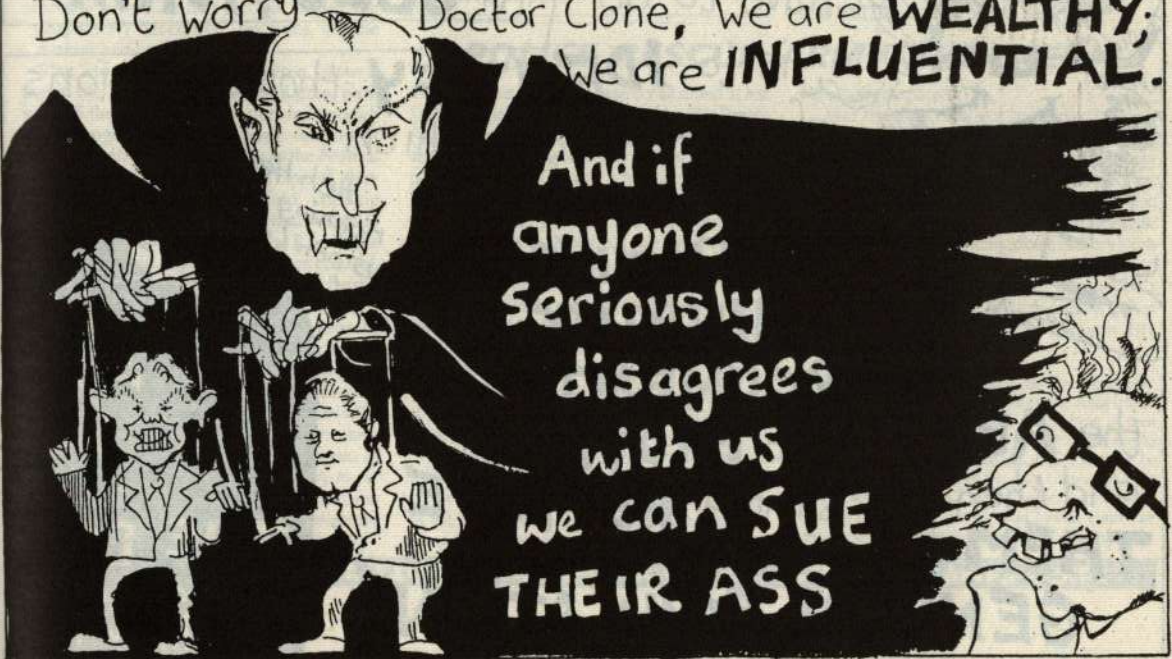
Here at Monsanto we are extremely **NICE** and **REASONABLE** people who only produce wierd food so we can all feed starving Third World babies.

before we **FORCE** it down people's **THROATS:**



Simply **MIX** the mutant crops in with normal ones, **CLAIM** that they cannot be separated, and then **RESIST** all attempts at labelling them correctly.

Don't worry Doctor Clone, We are **WEALTHY**. We are **INFLUENTIAL**.





But some people won't be silenced by the threat of legal action.

They lobby their **M.P.s.**

They target **SUPERMARKETS**

PUBLICISING the dangers of genetically modified food for **CONSUMERS.**

They even take **DIRECTION** **DESTROYING** our precious **TEST CROPS.**



..Here at the **HUMAN GENOME PROJECT** we are mapping the structure of every part of human **DNA.** All we have to do



is to **IDENTIFY** those sections of genetic code which are responsible for **RATIONAL THINKING,**

ARGUMENT and the **ABILITY** to **PROTEST** and then we simply **REMOVE THEM** from the **GENERAL POPULATION!**

DON'T WORRY Mr Monsanto **SCIENCE** will provide a **SOLUTION...**



Heh Heh nothing will stop us now!



THE END of food as we know it?

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SOMERSET SHANTY TOWN...



SchNEWS

Printed & Published in Brighton by Justice



Issue 172 and 173!

Glastonbury week, 24 June 1998

Free / Donation

STONEHENGE WHITEWASHED!

"They are turning an important historic and spiritual site into a theme park for tourists, a playground for the rich"

Matt, traveller, Brighton

English Heritage's opening of Stonehenge on summer solstice, to a limited number of people, has been branded a "stage managed stunt" by people campaigning to bring back free access to the Stones. Two busloads of invited guests were driven from Salisbury to witness the sunrise at the Stones, but the reality for people without a ticket was that the four mile exclusion zone remained as usual.

Many groups are opposed to the issuing of tickets to a limited number of people. A spokesperson for the Stonehenge Campaign said, "Tickets will never be acceptable to the campaign. It is felt that tickets include those 'in the know' and exclude anyone who does not know the right people, didn't know in time, aren't together enough to apply, or simply got up that morning and decided to go to the Stones."

Ever since 1986 the exclusion zone has been in force to stop the Stonehenge Free Festival from taking place. This year around five hundred cops kept watch but still 40 people managed to into get the field opposite the Hillstone, before they were chased out. Meanwhile King Arthur Pendragon was arrested with 12 other people under the "trespassory assembly" sections of the Criminal Justice Act.

The Stonehenge People's Free Festival began life in 1974 and grew and grew until in 1985 the powers-that-be decided enough was enough. That year a large convoy of travellers vehicles on their way to the Festival were blocked by the police. Trapped, they swung their vehicles into a field, crashing through a hedge. What happened next has gone down in traveller folklore as The Battle of the Beanfield. The police, out of control, started attacking people and vehicles. By the end 420 people had been arrested, and their homes had been systematically looted, smashed and burnt. One ITN reporter described the scene. "All of us [journalists] were shocked by what we saw: police tactics which seemed to break new grounds in the scale and the intensity of its violence. We saw police throw hammers, stones and other missiles through the windscreens of advancing vehicles; a woman dragged away by her hair; young men beaten over the head with truncheons as they tried to surrender; police using sledgehammers to smash up the interiors of the hippies' coaches."

The Battle of the Beanfield was the beginning of the clampdown for the free festival/traveller scene culminating in the draconian Criminal Justice Act.

The next year a four mile exclusion zone was placed round the stones for a five day period during the summer solstice - and will continue to be every year until it is challenged.

Stonehenge Campaign Newsletter: Quarterly update, comprehensive contacts listing inc all the Free Information Network (FINS). Send SAE+donation to c/o 99 Torriano Avenue London NW5 2RX.

Operation Solstice: Documentary on the Battle of the Beanfield, P.O. Box 10834, 44 Tottenham Lane, London, N8 0AW £10 + SAE

The Last of the Hippies: Booklet about Wally Hope, one of the main people who got the Stonehenge Festival going - and met with a very suspicious ending. £1 + SAE from DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol, BS1 5BB.

Stonehenge was given to the nation by Cecil Chubb in 1918. In his will he specified that no more than 1 shilling be charged for people wanting access to the stones (It's £3.60 now) and that no building be erected near the Stones (so they built a car-park).

POLICE RESCUE ARMY SHOCKER!

There were red faces and laughter all round at last Saturdays spectacular Salisbury Reclaim The Streets (RTS) when protesters bumped into two stalled army tanks on a ring-road roundabout. Dozens of people were quick to take advantage clambering aboard until the soldiers, who had tried to kick and push them off, gave up and accepted their humiliating defeat. Never has there been such a photo opportunity as echoes of Tianemen Sq. came to the sleepy English town.

The good vibe posse danced and cavorted on the tanks while others discussed with the young soldiers the error of their ways in choosing such a career, i.e. killing someone. Huge jams built-up as the police not knowing whether to laugh or cry took a while to get into gear and clear those naughty hippies and punks off the tanks.

Earlier 2-300 people had had a 'walkabout' of Salisbury city centre for a couple of hours squeezing down narrow streets turning corner after corner as the crowds of shoppers cheered and laughed along with the happy group of RTS'ers, as riot vans

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For using a kidney self dialysis machine! A man on his way to a demo at Hillgrove Farm (where cats are bred for vivisection) had his car searched and was then arrested. The police claimed the boxes in his car were "cat boxes" and would be used to take liberated cats from the farm (It should be noted on the day of the demo, to liberate any cats people would have had to get through a ring of riot police, mounted police, police dogs, a 12 foot high metal fence as well as be invisible to all the surveillance equipment like the police helicopter and video cameras on 60 foot watch towers!). The police wouldn't believe the boxes contained self-dialysis equipment which the man needs to use four times a day, even though 'dialysis' was written all over them! Before being taken to Oxford police station he was kept in a police van for two and a half hours, then thirty minutes before he was due to use the equipment he was thrown out of Oxford nick. It then took him another two and a half hours to get back to his car - and his vital self dialysis equipment!

*** The editor of Weed World magazine in Portsmouth has been charged with intent to supply, after eagle-eyed cops found 0.4 grammes of cannabis on him.

MEAN GITS OF THE WEEK

A Brighton man who lost all his belongings in a housefire at the weekend has had his application for a crisis loan turned down. The DSS told him he wasn't legible cos he still had the clothes on his back!

were easily outpaced.

After the demo had got "tanked-up" people decided to go for an escorted stroll out into the countryside, passing a family funday motorshow (sic) towards Old Sarum Fort where people were told by a loud-hailer on a passing police-car that "Your leaders have arranged a party venue-please follow us!" Finally meandering down country roads brought all to a chilled-out traveller's site in beautiful surroundings where it was agreed a fantastic day had been had & that the omens looked good for Stonehenge in the millennium. DIY culture does it again.

*** Suffolk, Saturday night and a tale of two England's. One rich, one poor. In the moneyed corner, some landed gentry let a private party happen in the front of their mansion. One police vehicle turns up with environmental health a few times and politely asks if the sound can be turned down. Meanwhile in the poor corner just a few miles down the road on a large travellers site, the police turn up in riot vans, set up road blocks, confiscate equipment and stop the Solstice celebrations going ahead.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION - YER SUMMER FESTIES, ACTIONS, & CAMPS INSIDE

Party & Protest

JULY Fri 3-Sun 5 Winchester Hat Festival FREE Tel:01962 849841/ Bracknell Festival, South Hill Park, Berkshire £30 01344 484123 ...**Fri 3-Sat 4** Bude Surf + Rock Festival, Dinscott Farm, Bude, Cornwall rock & pop & surf market £29.50 01288 359099... **Fri 3** In depth discussion on anarchism 8pm Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Sq, London WC1 the London Anarchist Forum meet every Friday at the above venue to discuss a range of topics 0181 847 0203... **Sat 4** Beginning of the Genetix Snowball Campaign which is encouraging groups and individuals to "nonviolently, accountably and safely pull up a small number of genetically modified crops." There are currently 300 test sites round the country growing genetically modified crops - at least 11 of these have been 'de-contaminated' in the past two weeks (that's trashed to you and me)... For your very own snowball pack send a SAE to One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester, M2 5NS. Tel 0161 834 0295, genetixsnowball@orangenet.co.uk **Sat 4** Pride 98 Clapham Common £5 in advance 0870 1210121 **Falmouth Community Green Fair**, Trescobas Rd Cornwall FREE 01326 375158 **Cannabis Conference**, Georges, Glastonbury Info: 01458 835769... **Sat 4 - Sun 5** Wirral Summer Green Fayre, Arrow Park, Upton FREE 0151 5128586 ... **Sun 5** Mass Trespass - Freedom to roam on the South Downs Meet 12 noon Brighton Railway Station 01273 685913 There will also be an over-night camping, so bring tent+sleeping bag...**Sun 5 National demo against Huntingdon Research Centre** who blind, torture, poison and kill hundreds of thousands of animals each year 12 noon outside gates, Woolley Rd., Alconbury, Huntingdon 0589 026435 / Lazy Sunday, St.Mary's Gardens, Bedford (rock/indie/dance) FREE 01234 360601... **Mon 6 Fight Poverty Pay!** Smash the New Deal Speakers Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism, Reinstate Nigel Cook Campaign and Tameside Careworkers 7.30 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1... **6-10 Cannabis Awareness Week**, Georges Rooms, Glastonbury. Info:01458 835769...**Wed 8 Full Moon Party at Ashton Court Quarry** Protest Camp.0467 430 211 /Abolition Day 1 (campaign of action against nuclear weapons) CND 0171 700 2393... **Thur 9** Release of *Undercurrents* around the country. For details of a screening near you (or why not put one on yourself?) ring 01865 243562...**Fri 10-Sun 12 Larmer Tree Festival** nr Tollard Royal (A354) Wiltshire folk/festival/world music £45/ 27/6 01722 415223/ Polapit Fayre, Tamar near Launceston, Cornwall dance+Global music £15 01566 772775 / Winchester Hat Fayre, Hampshire 01962 863966/ Alderminster Womens Peace Camp 0117 939 3746...**Sat 11** Demonstration against **Hillgrove Farm** who breed thousands of cats for vivisection. Meet at Leys Recreation Ground, Station Lane (Next to Sainsbury's), Witney Oxon. Transport from across the UK is being organised. For more info, and transport details call 0121 623 6460. (Further demonstrations against the farm are expected throughout the summer... **Sat 11 Greenwich Anti-Racist Festival**, Plumstead Common, London FREE 0181 317 8687/ Sponsored extravaganza to mark 40th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution Contact Rock around the Blockade 0171 837 1688...**Sat 11 McWorld Cup**. Activists are invited to organise a football match at your local McDonalds!!! to synchronise with other Mcmatches taking place Globally...**Sat 11-Sun 12 Community World Music Festival**/Finsbury Park, London £15 0171 272 2400 ...**Sun 12 Ambient Green Picnic** Shalford Park (Off A281) Guildford 01956 319692 FREE 12-9PM 4areas-separate dance & acoustic stage, cabaret tent (with SCFlive?) & the excellent Guilfin Ambient Lounge Tent.PLUS Children's area Healing area Rinky-Dink food/market stalls. Fireshow finale p.s. fax to GuilFIN for the listings update - subscribe to GuilFin £7 for 12 issues PO BOX 217 Guildford

Surrey GU1 1WS or guifin@quarks.co.uk...**12-9 August, Brussels to Faslane Peace Walk**. More information from Abolition Days 1998 c/o CND 0171 700 2393 email: ctdy@nccmail.org...**Sun 12** Hull Rainbow Festival 2 noon-6pm Bands/dance tent/stalls (no meat or animal products) FREE 01482 229782...**Tue 14** Launch of the **Portsmouth Anarchist Network** 7.30 pm Spithead Housing co-op community room, Montgomerie Rd...**Wed 15-Sun 19 Buddhafield Festival** nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset £25 0181 6779564...**Fri 17** Benefit gig for Sheffield Reclaim The Streets, evening of acoustic songs and storytelling at Morris Riverside, Sheffield £2...**Fri 17-19 Music in the Sun festival**, Don Valley Grass Bowl, Sheffield £4 a day/9.50 the weekend 0114 2754504/ Festival at the Edge 'storytelling, music and song' Stokes Barn, Much Wenlock, Shropshire £25 adults/12.50 kids over 5 01952 594929...**Sat 18 Music in the Square** Portsmouth 12-11pm FREE Tel: 01705 834142 Zion Train-Tofu's & lots of other goodies /Triangle Festival, Ransoms Rec, Nightingale Rd., Hitchin, Herts Folk/Reggae/Techno FREE 01462 632479/ Beatchester 98, Castlefield Arena, Manchester FREE 0976 224854 **Live animal exports day of action** starting at 9 am silent protest outside live export vet/inspector 58 Union Rd., Deal (A258 from Dover) ending with mass blockade of port at 3pm/ National Conference to Defend Council Housing, St.Matthias Centre, Poplar High St, London E14 Since the election of New Labour 40,000 council homes have been lost to private landlords. Some 26,000 sold at knock-down prices - an average of £9,400 each. How can tenants fight back against this privatisation? 10 am-5 pm 0171 538 2113 ...**Sat 18-Sun 19 Bristol Community Festival**, Ashton Court, Bristol FREE 0117 904 2275...**Sun 19** Festival of Global Rights, Hackney Marshes FREE ...**Sun 19th Fur Farm Demonstration**. Onnley Fur Farm, Stoke on Trent, 1pm. Contact 01902 711935...**Mon 20 The Legacy of the Black Panthers** video + discussion 7.30 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1...**Tue 21 Fight Poverty Pay!** No Slave Labour! Speakers Nigel Cook and Tameside careworkers 7.30 pm Sparkhill Centre, Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham ...**Fri 24 Anti Vivisection Night Vigil** at 9pm- Hadan Sera Labs, Dodgeford Lane, Belton, Leics. Contact 0116 236 6450...**Fri 24-Sun 26 Womad Reading** £58/53 tel: 01225 744494...**Sat 25 Sexual Freedom Parade** and Prostitution Pride 2pm Soho Square to Hyde Park with a picnic Bring your own nibbles. 0171 460 1979 / Day of action against Sainbury's Exotic Meat Sales. Local groups action everywhere For info packs ring Vival 01273 777688 / "I'd rather wear drag than wear fur" demo at Downing St. 11am 01902 711935...**Sun 26 Ashton Court anti-quarry campaign** Day of Action ...**Wed 29-Sun 2 Aug** Big Green Gathering, West Wiltshire £50/ concs 01747 870667 powered by sun & wind...**Fri 30 Giggawatt Festival** King's Function Groups 30 Ford Haven £17...Throughout July /Sept Mikron Theatre Company are performing "If You Go Down To The Woods - Tales From The Newbury Bypass" as part of their National Waterways Tour. It really captures the spirit of what happened. To see if they're performing on a water way near you, ring 01484 843701.

AUGUST

1-28 The first Natty Gathering. A 28 day experiment in positive impact living on 23 acres of land owned by the participants. 72hr permaculture course, music, all the usual. Bring what you wanna find! For details of location, ring 01273 234035 ...**1 Aug Harry Palmers Allotment Extravaganza** @ Uplands Allotments, Handsworth, Birmingham to celebrate 50th anniversary of largest post-war

allotment site in UK. Illuminations, Pyrotechnics, Chamber Music, multi-cultural seed packets and allotment academic Prof. David Crouch who will be wandering the site throughout the day spouting allotment info! 01482 218068 **Sat 1 Summer Rites Gay Festival** Brockwell Park, London, SE24 1-10 pm £3/ Demonstration against Huntingdon Vivisection Laboratories. Meet at Wimslow Railway Station, Cheshire at 12 noon. More info: 0589 026 435./ Not Another Reclaim The Streets 12 noon Fitzalan Square, Sheffield (this will be acoustic so bring musical instruments)...**Sun 2 Sundaze Festival**, Rushton Hall, Kettering, Northants 3 stages, market etc £7/5 01536 710002 / Taunton Green Fair, Somerset...**Mon 3-11 Week long international Peace Camp** at Brussels, Belgium 0171 700 2393 ...**Thu 6-Sun 9 Gaunts House Summer Gathering** Wimbome Dorset 01202 841522 ...**Fri 7 Full Moon Party at Ashton Court Park** protest camp ...**Fri 7-Sun 9 Big Chill Enchanted Garden Festival** 15 miles from Dorset coast £40 0171 9249999...**Mon 3-11 Week long international Peace Camp** at Brussels, Belgium 0171 700 2393 ...**Fri 7-9 West Country Activist Summer Gathering**. Workshops & fun. £5 + food. S.Devon. Info: 01626 363 844/ Guildford 98 festival, Stoke Park, Guildford. £42. Info 01483 454159...**Sat 8 - 22 Vegan summer Gathering** 0115 958 5666 Sat 8 March for All Animals- against Labours broken promises 12 noon Kennington Park, London 0181 2083289 / Brighton Pride 98 Preston park 01273 730562 ...**Tue 11-25** Two week disarmament camp at **Trident Base, Faslane**, bonnie Scotland inc. on Saturday march and rally at base, food and ceilidh 01603 611953...**Wed 12 'Glorious Twelfth'** Grouse shooting sabbage season begins. Transport from across the country. Hunt Saboteurs Association 01273 622827...**Fri 14-Sun 16 Megadogs Lizard Festival** becomes the Beach party, Caryon Bay, St.Austell, Cornwall £60 0990 344444...**Sat 15** Bristol Reclaim The Streets Meet Eastville Park 12 noon (M32 June 2) ...**Sun 16** Smokey Bears Picnic, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. 2pm. Free. Bring what you expect to find. Er...Riztas?...**Wed 19-Sun 23 Northern Green Gathering** nr Pontefract, Wyorks 0113 224 9885...**Fri 28-Mon 31 Exodus Gathering**...**Sat 29-Mon 31 Ashton Court anti-quarry** campaign weekend of action ...**Sun 29 Multi-Cultural Festival**, Pencester Gardens, Dover 11 am - 6 pm FREE 01305 262039/ Prague Reclaim The Streets Meet 2 pm Karlovo Namesti , Prague, Czech Republic...**Mon 31ST Ocean Festival**, Newquay, Cornwall Benefit gig for Surfers Against Sewage 01872 553011 **Sutton Green Fair**, Carshalton Park, Ruskin Rd., Surry FREE 0181 6477706... **Notting Hill Carnival**, London FREE

SEPTEMBER

Fri 4-Sun 6 Off The Tracks Festival Parks Farm Castle Donnington £26 tel:01332 348518...**Sat 5 - York Peace Festival** Rowntree Park York FREE tel: 01904 642493/ National Anti Vivisection Demo 2 noon at Queens Park, Loughborough 0116 236 6450 ...**Sun 6 Nottingham Green Festival**, Embankment. 11am-5pm. Info 0115 958 2369/ Full Moon Party at Ashton Court anti-quarry campaign protest camp... **Wed 9- Mon 14 Earth First! National Summer Gathering**, Dorset .Everything from 'how to do an office occupation', facilitate meetings and run a newsletter, first aid, self defence, climbing, land collectives, prisoner support, community organising, pirate radio stations. Discussions on past, present and future UK campaigns, the implications of the global economy, building international resistance and learning from activists elsewhere in the world. Costs £10 plus £3 a day for cheap organic vegan food. For more details send a first class SAE to Earth First! Summer Gathering, c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 3HB, UK; Tel 0113 262 9365. E-mail: cornerstone@gn.apc.org **11-13** Land grab! Activist/

permaculture/practical workshops, music + madness organised by the Land Is Ours. Phone for location nearer the time 01865 722016/0585 132080 - running on the same days but maybe not at the same venue Allotments Conference, to help publicise and increase use around the country.....**2nd Self Help Forum**, Sheffield Protest 0171 833 2071...**Fri 19-Thur 24 War Resisters' International Peace Conference**, Porec, Croatia 0171 278 0444...**Sat 26 Cannabis Picnic** on the 70th anniversary of cannabis prohibition. Meet Hyde Park, London, noon onwards. 01458 835 769.

OCTOBER

Fri 16 World Food Day, Vegan Society 01424 427393...**Sat 31 Fuck the Monarchy March** on Buckingham Palace 2 pm Embankment 01523 160145 - For a much more in depth listing (including lots of folk festies if you're into that) read Festival Eye, BCM 2002, LONDON, WC1 3XX 01568 760492 www.festivaleyeye.com For a list of **Free Information Networks** contact **Stonehenge Campaign**, www.geocities.com/soho/9000/stonego.htm

FREE PARTY GUIDELINES

Despite the best efforts of the authorities, people are still putting on free parties up and down the country. Here's a few do's and don'ts just in case you stumble wide-eyed across one.

- *Be prepared to be self sufficient. Facilities will be minimal.
 - *Park sensibly, keep site roads clear.
 - *Be friendly to local residents, rambblers etc. Smile you're at a free party!
 - *Bury your shit!
 - *Don't trash the site - take a bin bag
 - *Fires - use dead not live wood (it don't burn in any case).
 - *Make a donation - if someone passes a bucket round, don't be a mean git. It costs money to put on a free event.
 - *Know your rights - Get yourself a BUST CARD, 10p from Release. Advice line 0171 729 9904
- Emergency Help Line 0171 6038654** Enjoy yourself - and don't let the party poopers get yer down!

CRITICAL MASS BIKE RIDES

The term 'Critical Mass' is used by Scientists to describe the point at which a whole mess of stuff reaches the Critical moment when it is so dense something's gotta give. Activists use the term to describe the point at which there are so many cyclists gathered on one road that they have reached 'Critical Mass' and the car is no longer king!

First Sat of every month, Hull opposite Train station 5 pm / Victoria Square, Birmingham Noon
2nd Fri West London, Shepherds Bush Green 6pm...**3rd Fri** Bargate, Southampton 6 pm...**4th Fri** Nottingham Market Square 5.15 pm...**Last Sat** Byres Rd/Univ Ave Glasgow 2 pm...**Last Friday** London 5 pm under Waterloo Bridge by National Film Theatre...**Sheffield** meet British Rail 5 pm...**Guildford** Meet British Rail station 5.15 pm...**The mound Edinburgh** 5 pm... **St.Peters Sq, Manchester** 5 pm.

Protest Camps

Alvis Factory Peace Camp, Coventry Northwick, Walsgrave, Coventry Tel: 01926 338805 or 0336 774113 pager 07666 734373. Against a company that sells Scorpion tanks to Indonesia.

Ashton Court, Bristol Tel: 0467 430211. Fighting a twenty acre quarry extension into Ashton Court public park.

Bangor Tel: 01248 351541 or 0836 563980 or site mobile 0961 367421. Email: jimk@undeb.bangor.ac.uk. Greenbelt housing development.

Bingley Anti-Road Campaign Rye Loaf Camp, Bingley. Tel: 01274 511039. Bingley relief road, part of the Bradford-Cumbria link (DBFO). Will rip thro' 10,000 year old Bingley Bog

Cork Environmental Alliance Tel: +353 2 127 2277. Contact for camp against electricity pylons.

Crystal Palace Tel: 0181 7617826 or site mobile

0410452187. Twentyscreen multiplex cinema on inner-city green space. Brixton tube then No. 3 bus.

Reclaim Your Park, Derby Treetop Dwellings, Bass Recreation Ground, Derby, BE3 Tel: 07970-318397 Road through inner-city green space.

Faslane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland Tel: 01436 820901. Non Violent Direct Action against Trident.

Glen of the Downs Tel: +353 1 287 3341 or site mobile +353 882107471. Camp to oppose a motorway near Dublin that will trash a nature reserve.

Hills Not Holes PO Box 2113, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4. Fighting the destruction of the Mendip Hills, being dug up for aggregate quarrying.

Lyminge Forest Action Group Greensword, The Spout House, Lyminge, Kent CT21 4LQ Tel: 01303 862722 Mobile: 0467 604409 or 0468 945595. Well-established camp against proposed holiday village. Directions: from Canterbury take the Folkstone bus to Six Mile Garage and turn left for main West Wood car park for the camps.

St. Mary's Churchyard, Southampton Set up last Thursday in protest against plans to "redevelop" the old churchyard and build business units, apartment blocks etc. Call 0589 650993



Womens Peace Camps

Aldermaston c/o 33 Heron Road, Bristol BS5 OLT Tel: 0117 939 3746. Camp held on second weekend of each month.

Burghfield Tel: 01703 554 1134. Camp last weekend of every month.

Greenham Common Womens' Peace Camp Yellow Gate, Greenham Common, Newbury, Berks Tel: 01374 136728. Between 7-9.30pm only. Permanent camp outside main gate of Greenham Common. Organises info about, and actions against, the production of trident at Aldermaston and Burghfield.

Menwith Hill Kettleing Head Layby, Near Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG3 2RA Tel: 01943 468593. Opposing the massive US Spy Base.

Sellafield c/o 16 Sholebrook Avenue, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Chapeltown, Leeds LS7 Tel: 0113 262 1534. Bi-monthly camp.

Aspe Valley

Situated in the French Pyrenees, it's one of the most beautiful and unspoilt valleys and home to the last few Brown Bears in the Pyrenees. However, work has been started for a motorway which will devastate most of the valley. *La Goutte d'Eau* has been the action centre there for ten years and is now facing eviction anytime from the end of July till September. They're having a festival July 11th-14th and are asking people to stay and camp there afterwards. Go on - show them how to dig tunnels, dive diggers and climb trees, but beware of the full-on French Riot Police: *La Goutte d'Eau*, F-64490 Cete-Eygun (50 miles south-west of Pau, on the N134), Tel 0033 59347883

Manchester Airport

A new camp has just been set up at Manchester Airport in order to prevent Arthurswood being felled. The wood is mainly beech trees all of which apparently obstruct the satellite and radar reception on Runway 2! The land is owned by the National Trust who it is rumoured received a large donation and an entire farm for their co-operation. An injunction is being sought in an emergency session of the High Court to prevent the trees being felled. Directions to the camp go to the A538, turn left on to the Altrincham road, follow that for less than 100 yards and turn right off it onto the small road towards the Moathouse Hotel. Almost immediately there is a bridlepath on your right hand side follow this from there its obvious. Contact 07775 602954

ASHTON COURT

The sign on the entrance to Ashton Court Park says "You are visiting a beautiful and peaceful park. Help keep it that way so that everyone can enjoy it." So what do North Somerset Council do? They give planning permission for the extension of PoinerAggregates'Durnford Quarry into 20 acres of the park!

So how come a park given in 1959 to the people of Bristol, under the condition 'that no part of it should be set aside for works which detract from its value as a recreation ground or prejudice the enjoyment of the people' is gonna be parkexcavated for minerals? The quarrying will destroy a wildflower meadow containing rare flowers as well as nesting skylarks, foraging bats and badgers and Pioneer plan to spend £1 million on 'translocation' - scooping up the topsoil and moving it somewhere more convenient.

So people decided to set up a camp in nearby woods. However, the protestors point out the campaign "is not about hippies in the woods getting sentimental over a bunch of flowers. It is about local people fighting for their open space, it is about the continued unnecessary extraction of non renewable resources, our undemocratic planning system....It is about changing the world - but also about a beautiful, living, colourful, open space in a spectacular position and defending it because we love it and it is ours."

Why not visit - even stay - on the way back from Glastonbury?

For directions ring site mobiles and 0467 430 211 07970 423 834 <http://www.gn.apc.org/cycling/ashtoncourt/>

BANGOR

An urgent "Awrooga - eviction imminent" has been put out by protestors who have set up camp at the Brewery Fields in Bangor, North Wales to stop the trashing of common land.

People have been campaigning for five years to stop "a local haven for both wildlife and people... bordered by ancient woodland" from being built on, and the recent eviction of one of the camps has been dubbed as "torture-tactics" by protestors, eight of whom were hospitalised. One woman Jenny told of how "they pressured me behind the ears hurting me badly. My hearing slackened out as if voices were from a distance, though they were shouting in my ear to unlock... they knelt on my calf muscles forcefully... then my back thigh muscles, shooting unbearable pain up my leg, still pushing my pressure points. Then they twisted my left arm behind my back, bending my wrist. They put on a quick-cuff. Bending, tightening and twisting, I had to give in. The pain was excruciating. I unlocked screaming with pain."

A Chief Inspector has said they are happy with their use of "reasonable force" - and are prepared to do it again. But Brewery Fields campaigners reckon they will only get away with such tactics again if the campaign remains "small and neglected". One camp resident told SchNEWS "Obviously these tactics have implications for protests round the country - if other police forces think they can save a couple of grant by torturing us out rather than using cutting gear - hen they will. The more people here the harder for them, the more publicity the less likely they are to act like dick-heads!"

Contact: Save Brewery Fields Campaign office, c/o Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor Gwynedd 01248 335821 Site mobile, 0836 563 980 e-mail sup04a@bangor.ac.uk



SchNEWS Annual

The sexy SchNEWS Annual features issues 101-150 plus top photos, special articles, cartoons and a comprehensive contacts list - the Yellow Pages of direct action. It's yours for £6 +84p SAE to the usual address (seeback page)

Campsfield 9 Trial Collapses

The nine asylum seekers put on trial for alleged rioting and violent disorder at the Campsfield Detention Centre, have all had their charges dropped. The Court found the testimony given by the guards of the private security firm Group 4, was unreliable, with the companies own CCTV tapes contradicting the guards versions of events - with one guard with his hands around the neck of one of the detainees and an accusation that a detainee smashed up a telephone being shown to be false when a guard is shown on video smashing the phone! The collapse of the trial is yet another in a long line of embarrassments to Group 4 and the Home Office, and highlights the outrageous way asylum seekers are treated on their arrival to the UK.

Labour Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien claimed that £175,000 worth of damage had been done to the detention centre "in acts of madness." It is, presumably, an act of sanity to welcome people fleeing repressive dictatorships by treating them as criminals and incarcerating them in places like Campsfield. Amnesty International found that 82% of asylum seekers were detained immediately upon arrival to the UK. The decision to detain is taken by civil servants, in the absence of lawyers, people are not charged or brought before a magistrate, and there is no limit on how long they can be held. As for Campsfield, even the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbottom, who visited the detention centre following the uprising, condemned the place as, "a shambles", in a report.

Out of the nine had been imprisoned for ten months awaiting trial, two have now been granted refugee status, one is currently in a psychiatric hospital, while another has been granted temporary admission. Sadly five of them have been moved to Rochester Prison in Kent and are now, after racist abuse, imprisonment, false accusations and the threat of ten year prison sentences, very likely to be deported.

Send letters of support to: Stanley Nwaidike TC1057E-wing, Sambou Marong TC1005D-wing, John Quaquah TC1056E-wing, Enahoro Esemuzze TC1063E-wing, Harrison Tubman TC1064, all at HMP Rochester, Kent ME1 3QS

*** On Monday 70 asylum seekers detained in Campsfield and more in Tinsley House (near Gatwick) went on hunger strike. They are asking the Immigration Minister to respond to their letter and request to see him, for all detainees under 18 to be released, and those with surety to be given bail.

*** Next Demo at Campsfield (in Kidlington, north of Oxford) is on Saturday 25th July, 12 noon.

*** Contact **Close Down Campsfield Campaign**, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX 4 1RQ 01865 558145 email campsfield@ucadcdemon.co.uk Read Campsfield: How Britain Imprisons Refugees. £1 + SAE from the above address.

Fur Shop Campaign Goes National

The campaign to close down the delightful Philip Hockley fur shop in London continues... and is aiming for National support. Previous peaceful demonstrations have led to a number of arrests for obstruction - which have been thrown out of court. However following the court ruling the Police decided a change in tactics was needed to deal with Anti fur campaigners... On Sat 9 May demonstrators decided to have a pint or two in the pub around the corner from the fur shop and individually nip out with leaflets for passers-by. With video camera and mobile phone arrests were

recorded and the next demonstrator called up to distribute leaflets. Eight arrests later the shop closed for the day. Everyone was arrested "to prevent a breach of the peace" and released after the shop was closed without being charged! Two days later and two more activists were arrested handing out leaflets, charged with obstruction (despite one of them already being acquitted of the same charge just days before for doing exactly the same thing!) The police tried to impose bail conditions of not going near the fur shop but the activists refused to accept this and were held overnight to appear in court the next morning.

The campaign continues and needs more people to keep the pressure up, this isn't just about animal rights but the basic right to free assembly and peaceful protest! So get demonstrating at Philip Hockley fur shop, 20 Conduit St, London W1. For more information phone London Animal Aid on 0171 2783068.

*** The first campaigner to be found guilty under the Protection from Harassment Act was jailed for one week when she refused to pay court costs of £100. Liz Crocker, an animal rights supporter and Green Party activist, was found guilty of harassing the owners of Cornyhaugh Mink Farm in Ponteland, Northumberland, in February, during a campaign to try to close down the farm. The campaign was launched in September of last year following an undercover investigation in 1997 which revealed the shocking conditions in which mink are kept at the farm. For more information, contact Cornyhaugh Fur Campaign: 0191 2616151

*** For a comprehensive listing of animal rights groups get yourself a copy of the **Animal Contacts Directory** published by Veggies Catering Campaign, 180 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham NG1 3HW - Tel. 0115 958 5666 or email veggies@innotts.co.uk. Price £4.50!

Kosovo

A Kosovan living in Brighton is arranging to send warm clothing to the victims of the fighting. It must be hardcore material as the winter (which starts in September), reaches sub-zero. Stuff like old puffa jackets, heavy knit jumpers, thermals, fishing socks and hiking boots are ideal. The collection point for the time being is: Orest c/o The New Kensington Pub, Kensington Gdns, Brighton, E. Sussex 01273 681 907. You've the chance to stop women and children dying. Take it!

Football Shorts

*** While Tony Blair was warming up the EU summit in Cardiff with his usual hot air, 20 activists occupied the Welsh Labour Party offices down the road to protest against low pay and the New (bum) Deal. After dropping banners, rummaging through the files, answering a few phone calls, and using the fax, the police eventually turned up... to find everyone sat in the board room, feet up watching the England v. Tunisia game on TV!

*** Any World Cup fanatics who haven't got themselves a TV license - better watch out. So far over eight thousand people have been caught watching the box without a licence, a large majority during England and Scotland games. Still if all this mixture of footie and tv is driving you round the bend, maybe you should read *Get a Life!* by David Burke and Jean Lotus (published by Bloomsbury) which is all about getting rid of the small hypnotic box in our front rooms.

*** Twenty local activists wearing Anti-Nike T-shirts, members of the Edmonton (Canada) based: Citizens Concerned About Nike (CCAN), held a successful protest at the annual "Hoop It Up" basketball competition at a shopping Mall. The t-shirts bore the slogan: "Don't Be Naive" and on the back compared the salary of Michael Jordan and wages earned by Nike workers in Indonesia and Pakistan. Nike charge local people to take part in this "competition" which is no more than an opportunity

to sell 'em Nike's latest gear. Activists described it as "...a commercial orgy for the corporate sponsors and the NBA". Nike have been the subject of protests for a few years now, running sweatshops in third world countries where they can get a pair of trainers made for a few pence which are then sold in the west for \$60 plus. Nice profit margin. Visit the Boycott Nike web page: www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5232; email: boycottnike@hotmail.com

INSIDE SCHNEWS

*** Native American activist Leonard Peltier was jailed in 1976 for the deaths of two FBI agents. He was involved in the movement to protect the Black Hills area of South Dakota against uranium mining, when a fire-fight occurred between the FBI and activists on the Pine Ridge Reservation. 2 FBI and 1 Lakota were killed. The death of the Lakota was never investigated. There is no direct evidence that Peltier is guilty; in fact extensive trawling of FBI files have only revealed that the case against him is based on perjury, coercion of witnesses, fabrication of the murder weapon and the withholding of evidence. Leonard still remains in prison, guilty of only protecting the land and its people, but despite spending over twenty years inside, the authorities still see him as such a threat, they deny him parole.

He currently needs some serious medical attention and supporters are asking people to write to the prison to ask that Leonard gets access to outside medical treatment.

Write to Warden Page True, Leavenworth Prison, Leavenworth, Kansas, KS66048; and contact: Leonard Peltier Defence Committee, PO Box 583, Lawrence, Kansas 66044 or drop him a line, prison number 89637-132, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, Kansas, 66048. La lucha continua!

SchWOOPS

In the last issue (#171, front page, column three) we repeated some text from an article by George Monbiot. In our usual late night rush, we forgot to say who wrote it. Now you know. (Sorry George!)

...and finally...

We've been sent a copy of a DSS internal memo which we found hilarious. On a Wednesday afternoon Police were called to a benefits office to remove a drunk. As officers were removing him, another police car arrived and seeing the first car stopped to see if any help was needed. On entering the building, they saw someone they wanted in the office and arrested him. Another police car driving passed, seeing the 2 cars outside, stopped and, on entering, saw someone they too wanted to arrest. Yet another passing police car, seeing the first three, entered the benefits office. As they did so two customers hurled abuse at them, the police followed them inside and cautioned them. Due to the fact that four police cars were parked outside, a passing riot van stopped to give assistance, thinking a full-scale riot was going on. On entering, one of its officers also saw someone he wanted to arrest; his mate decides to have a go and is also arrested. There are now 4 cars, 1 van, 5 customers and 9 policemen all doing their own thing in our office. By now other guilty customers are getting the wind up and are leaving left, right and centre. A customer in room 4, having a go at the supervisor, dashes out and falls over a woman PC. Shock on his face, he asks if the Law are here for him, not waiting, he makes a rapid exit. So the total outcome of the action - 4 cars, 1 riot van, 9 police, 5 arrests 8 legging it; 1 problem customer gone and 13 blank tickets.

disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in any criminal activities. Always stay within the law. In fact, please just sit in, watch TV, and go on endless shopping sprees filling your house and lives with endless consumer crap... you will then be content. Honest.

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WEB: http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/





WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER KATE'S CARTOON SPECIAL



Printed and published in Brighton by Justice?

Friday 10th July 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 174/5 Free/Donation

Remember kids...
Breaking the Law
is Always
Wrong



URINE TROUBLE!

"We believe in non-violent action: this virtually accuses us of attempted murder" Muppet Dave

The campaign to stop the Birmingham North Relief Road took another bizarre twist last week with a leaked memo that told fire fighters not to respond to calls from road protesters. The document warns fire officers to "expect ditches lined with spikes, arson attacks to lure fire appliances so the equipment can be stolen, buildings designed to collapse and home-made grenades filled with fleas and urine!" (SchNEWS would be interested to see how you make a flea and urine bomb).

400 copies of the briefing paper were circulated to West Midlands Fire Service officers advising them to delay responding to emergency calls from road protesters and to tell the police when they receive a call.

The memo follows hot on the heels of a meeting called by West Midlands Police (see SchNEWS 169), attended by the bosses of both the fire brigade and the ambulance service. During the meeting they were told by police bigwigs that protesters were violent terrorists who had bobby trapped squatted buildings along the route to stop evictions.

The message obviously struck home with the Fire Service Chiefs, however, the Fire Brigades Union were furious and on Wednesday held a meeting with the protestors. One member commented; "I find it disgusting. How often do you see stories about heroic firefighters digging out a little Jack Russell - and they're telling us we shouldn't do the same thing for a human"

If the road schemes gets the go ahead twenty seven miles of farmland, woodland, green belt, water meadows, Special Sites of Scientific Interest and homes will be trashed to make way for Britain's first toll motorway. Privately built by Midland Expressway Ltd., construction is due to begin in January 1999 and is estimated to cost the taxpayer £415 million.

Directions: Catch 105/105A bus from Bull Street or Corporation Street, Birmingham City Centre to Roughley. Get out at the last stop (by a phone box) and directly ahead you will see a crossroads. Turn left down Weeford Road, straight on til you reach a sliproad up to the A38, follow this for about one and a half miles and you will see Greenwood Camp on the left, well illuminated with signs.

Birmingham Friends of the Earth 0121 632 6909/Camp mobile 07970 932224



Snowball

Five women were nicked last Saturday, as they launched the Snowball Campaign against genetically engineered (GE) foodcrops. Wearing protective clothing and openly declaring their intention to pull up GE plants at the test field site in Model Farm, Watlington, Oxfordshire, they managed to pull up 200 plants before being nicked for criminal damage. Two dozen cops, a helicopter, numerous police vans and landrovers, stood by and watched before making the arrests and confiscating garden tools. However, thanks to Monsanto, the owners of the GE crops, wanting to keep a low profile, they were all released without charge.

The campaign of mass nonviolent civil responsibility, takes its inspiration from the peace movement's 'snowball' campaign of the 1980's, in which more than 2,000 people were nicked. The women had openly declared their intention to pull up the GE plants in letters to the farmer, the company and the police. Representatives from GenetiX snowball had even met with the farmer, Mr Parker about two weeks ago.

*Info packs (send large SAE and some stamps) GenetiX snowball, One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester, M2 5NS 0161 834 0295 genetixsnowball@orangenet.co.uk

*Genetically Engineered wheat under 24 hour guard at the Royal Agricultural Show was yesterday nearly completely destroyed in broad daylight by a group calling themselves the Kenilworth Croppers

** To find out where your nearest GE site is check out: www.foe.co.uk or call the Biotechnology Unit, Floor 2/G9 Department of the Environment, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria St, London SW1E 6OE 0171 890 5275. Don't take no for an answer - they are required by law to provide this information to the public.

Crap of the Week

ELEPHANT POO CAN KILL!

Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged up pachyderm finally let fly - and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop! Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him like a dump truck full of mud "The sheer force of the elephants unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him", said a Police Detective" - stolen from ARCNEWS, PO Box 339 Wolverhampton, WV 10 7BZ <http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/arc>.

Faslane Eviction Alert II

In April, the sixteen year old Faslane peace camp won their fight against eviction from outside the Trident nuclear base in Scotland. However, Argull and Bute Council appealed - and won on a technicality, and so the camp is once again under threat and expecting eviction in the next couple of weeks. Eviction tat and bodies needed urgently For directions and more info 01436 820901

* 12th July - 9th August Brussels to Faslane Peace Walk CND 0171 700 2393 email eirtys@mcmail.com

*A new camp has been set up at Barry in Wales to oppose a large housing estate. There's massive local support to stop the houses being built - even the cops don't want them. More info ring 01446 409227

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For non-payment of poll tax! Fearless Doncaster police have found their jobs become less stressful when they pick on easy targets. Why risk chasing dangerous criminals, when you can arrest for poll tax non-payment, a 70-year-old woman with two hip replacements? She was just out of hospital; now she's out on bail. Some officers with still longer memories, for whom that offence wasn't quite old and stale enough, are said to be on the case of those who didn't pay the original English poll tax in 1381.

YA BAST



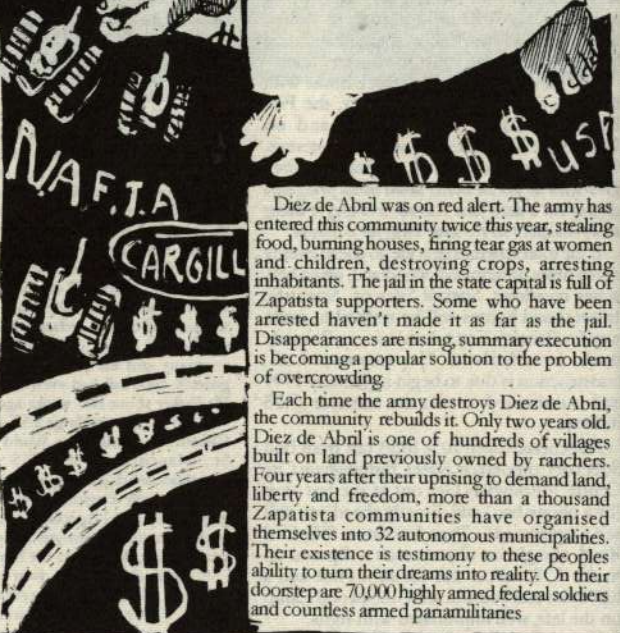
EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT FROM CHIAPAS

ke

"We will not surrender" At the emergency meeting of the Diez de Abril Zapatista Community this was the decision. It was June 10th. The radio transmissions were coming in fast and furious with news of the massacre by federal troops in the northern zone. The army had moved in to dismantle the autonomous municipality of San Juan de Libertad, it was the 3rd autonomous municipality to be razed to the ground in as many months. Only this time they went in shooting.

At this stage reports about deaths were sketchy. We were to find out later, that eight Zapatistas supporters had been executed. Three were shot on the spot, a further five were taken injured. Four days later eight bodies were returned to the communities. They had been so badly mutilated their families were unable to identify them. Twenty people are still missing.

A cheer went up as news filtered through that a helicopter had been forced to land. A bullet had lodged in its fuel tank. On the village TV, the government was broadcasting images of thousands of heavily armed soldiers and police storming the picturesque villages of El Bosque, Union Progreso and Chavajeval. What they didn't show was the army's arrival at Obregon where the community had blocked their entrance on the road. The army had turned round and left but not before saying they'd be back.



Diez de Abril was on red alert. The army has entered this community twice this year, stealing food, burning houses, firing tear gas at women and children, destroying crops, arresting inhabitants. The jail in the state capital is full of Zapatista supporters. Some who have been arrested haven't made it as far as the jail. Disappearances are rising, summary execution is becoming a popular solution to the problem of overcrowding.

Each time the army destroys Diez de Abril, the community rebuilds it. Only two years old. Diez de Abril is one of hundreds of villages built on land previously owned by ranchers. Four years after their uprising to demand land, liberty and freedom, more than a thousand Zapatista communities have organised themselves into 32 autonomous municipalities. Their existence is testimony to these peoples ability to turn their dreams into reality. On their doorstep are 70,000 highly armed federal soldiers and countless armed panamilitaries.



The International Peace Observers home at Diez de Abril is one of the old ranches which also houses the health centre and resource centres. It is positioned at the entrance to the community. From here you can see the whole village. That night I sat, with my rucksack packed ready to move to a pre-arranged location. If anything happened I needed to document it from a vantage point where I could see but not be seen. I watched the women, men and children file out of the meeting place. The anger and rage were on the surface tonight but their heads were held high. I don't know exactly what had been discussed at that long and tense meeting but it had ended with everyone deciding to split into three groups for communal work projects the next day.

"Where do you want to work?" Miguel asked me. In my naivete I thought everyone had gone collectively mad. The army was about to raze the place to the ground and everyone was talking about fixing the two village bridges and building the stone church. Later I realised that this spirit, was the reason the government and federal army were running scared.

The next day I went with the community to help rebuild the rope bridge that spanned one of the many rivers flowing through Diez de Abril. The tension from the night before didn't show as the teams of people spoke and joked in Tzeltal. But there are some words that don't exist in their native language.

Freedom and liberty are two of them. I heard the Spanish words for 'training' and 'EZLN'. A sudden reminder that although it's not what they want, here in the Zapatista communities they are preparing for war.

With their cry of Ya Basta (enough is enough) the Zapatistas have inspired millions of us around the world to link together in the fight against global capitalism. Now the Zapatistas urgently need our solidarity. To stand by and allow them to fail would be a failure for all of us.

So...
-Peace Observers are urgently needed on the ground in Chiapas. If you can speak Spanish and are interested in going to Mexico, get in touch with

<chiapaslink@acephale.org>
-Ideas for actions can be left on the above email. If any actions are called please support them. Watch this space.

-Write to the Zapatista Prisoners in Cerro Hueco, Carcel, Tuxtla, Chiapas.

Mexico. There are literally hundreds of them languishing here on false charges. Letters might not get through to the prisoners but the governor of the jail will get the general idea that the world is watching him. All foreigners have now been banned from visiting political prisoners. Address letters (Get them translated into Spanish) to the Detenidos de Taniperla, Tierra y Libertad, Nicolas Ruiz, San Juan de Libertad.

-Start a solidarity group. Videos, reports and possibly speakers are available if you're desperate.

-Get onto the <barrenador@acephale.org> mailing list to be kept up to date.

Footnote: Less than two weeks after the massacre in Chiapas the British government approved export licences for small arms, machine guns and accessories to be sent to Mexico. There is a Department of Trade and Industry building in most cities!

* Thursday 23rd July 7pm 'Massacre at Acteal: The Other Side of NAFTA - the role of the USA in the militarization and continuing violence in Chiapas, Mexico & 'Women and children confront the military Jan 98' @

Crossroads Video Cafe, Crossroads Women's Centre, 230a Kentish Town Rd (entrance Caversham Rd), London, NW5 0171 482 2496

* If you wanna find out more about the Zapatista movement read 'First World HalHaHa! Zapatista Challenge' by Elaine Katzberger and 'Zapatistas: Documents of the Nex Mexican Revolution' by Autonomedia. Both available from AK Press, P O Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE 0131 555 5165

MORNING SOCIETY

DISCLOSURE



Remember kids.
Respecting the Law
is always the
right way.

Dumbo in Flying Picket

Mickey Mouse and his Disney friends have gone on strike. Daily pandas have been disrupted, shows scrapped and instead of a friendly Disney character, children have been met by picketing strikers. Many of the actors who dress up as the children's favourites at Disneyland Paris have donned costumes. They're demanding a pay rise after complaining they are not treated as serious thespians: "We demand to be considered for what we are. That is fully fledged performers and not bit players", one striker said. This seriously worries some of the visitors: "This is horrible for the kids! The characters are the main attraction for them. Who is going to autograph their books?" complained a mother. The ongoing dispute shows no signs of ending and reports suggest it could escalate. The strike began on June 24, 100 performers left work in an effort to force through a 7% pay rise. Disneyland's management attempted to play down the strike action, claiming that the actors were gradually returning to work. They have maintained their tough stance against any pay rises. However unions said that the strike action was growing with around 200 actors leaving work and technicians and restaurant staff joining in. Apart from disappointed kids who don't get their their comics signed, the strike damages the happy Disney image. The company's shares fell more than 2% to FF12.10 in early trading on the French stockmarket on Wednesday on top of a 3% fall on Tuesday.

Net Knicked

Sat 27th June Italian Police in Bologna raided the Premises of the European Counter-Information Network (ECN), which was hosting internet material for Freedom Press.

The ECN, also known by the name of 'Islands in the Net', offered a wide choice of alternative information in various languages. More than 40 of the Italian Social Centres use the service along with labour organisations like the Spanish CNT and the Italian USI. Alternative radio stations such as Onda d'Urto, Radio Blackout and Radio Sherwood use space on the server alongside publications like Freedom Press, Bandiera Rossa from Milan and various digital publications like .zip. Music bands also have pages which bring in thousands of people who use the ECN server on a daily basis with a huge variety of subjects ranging from news about developments in Chiapas to citizens rights in a digital age and the only discussion list about gay rights in Italy.

Fortunately, they let us know that this won't be the end to their activities: "The ECN server will not be down for long and already moves are being made to mirror (duplicate) parts of the site elsewhere. This kind of move has precedents and sometimes when the authorities go for the little folk (remember Mr. Libel?) it can backfire."

So watch that space: <www.taio.ca/~freedom> or try <http://geocities.com/Hollywood/Set/2184/inr.html>

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Coughing up in Scotland

The Dept. of Trade and Industry has donated £64,000 for "Minerals '98 - Making more of Life" a week-long "celebration of mineral-extraction in the UK!" Meanwhile, Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland received another donation - two carrier bags full of coal dust, courtesy of the Scottish Opencast Action Group (SOAG). The accompanying message read: "Collected from the lungs of children living next to opencasts. There's more where this came from!" Warren Canham, a resident of Dalquhandie, Europe's biggest opencast site, commented, "Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, Lothian and Fife are rapidly becoming one huge opencast scar on the land." Contact Scottish Opencast Action Group on 01501 785202***

SchNEWS in brief

A transcript of the Independent On Sunday-sponsored debate, "Cannabis: Should it be Decriminalised?" (to which both the Home Office and the Drugs Czar refused to send a representative) is available from: **Rooted Media**, 145-149 Cardigan Road, Leeds, LS6 1YJ (Pamphlet-£1; Word disk-£2)*** **Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp has organised Women on the Road for Peace on Bikes**, a pleasant cycling tour of the south's key military and nuclear installations. From 31st July-7 August, support van, nothing too strenuous, so join in! Details: 0117 939 3746/01222 396563*** **Victory!** All charges have been dropped/dismissed against the 24 demonstrators arrested in Dover on 28th February during the anti-National Front protest. Thanks are due to Kent Police who surpassed their hitherto impressive record for incompetence and stupidity; those arrested are considering legal action and demanding the destruction of all "surveillance film" taken on the day. (More info - 01474 566701)

***In a bid to get you all communicating, Phil Broadhurst (of 1c New Rd, Ammanford, SA18 3ES) is dishing out FREE WRITING PAPER FOR ALL for an SAE, with one side full of historical facts about protests from the past. ***

Rambling Tale

The Land Is Ours Mass Trespass & Picnic brought together people from all 'walks' (groan) of life in a highly successful & pleasurable stroll across The Downs in defiance of inane trespass laws & to confirm their natural right to access of land. Around 100 people inc. @ 15 kids walked thru' fields & pathways that Brighton & Hove Council bars public access to although the land had been deeded to the public. Farmer Hammet (see SchNEWS 117) was reminded of the strength of direct action as he watched everyone traipse thru' his farm. For once there was no evidence of a police presence (joy oh joy)-perhaps they're waiting for regulation cross-country kit! Join in on Sun Aug 2 & 23. Details on 01273 685913

If you like SchNEWS, then you'll love

Squall

Last issue in the old format - out now and truly brilliant, in depth coverage of everything from ecstasy testing in Brixton to spying around Menwith Hill and a close look at Freemasons. Read it! For the future they have a brand new website to be found www.squall.co.uk and are going to dish out the bi-monthly Squall Download - the best of the rolling web service. £2 from PO Box 8959, London, N19 5HW

Do or Die

Voices from Earth First! Jammed packed with in depth articles on everything you ever wanted to know about the direct action movement. £2.50 PO Box 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2TT

Corporate Watch

Giving the low-down on all those multinational meenies and how they are trying to take over the world. Issue 7 out now. £3 to: Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RQ. e-mail: mail@corporatetwatch.i-way.co.uk

Bypass

PO Box 148, Hove BN3 3DQ -500+ zine reviews, DIY Media, agit prop, etc £2.30inc p+p or £1+ your mag

Undercurrents

an alternative video news service, and issue nine is out soon. On the video is Glen of the Downs, Hunt Sabbing, police are trying to suppress news, a round up of international peace, environmental, social, animal and justice actions. send £12.95 (£9.95 concessions) to 16b Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG 01865 203662. www.undercurrents.org

SchNews Annual

Our sexy third publication containing issues 101-150 plus articles, photos, cartoons and 13 pages of contacts. Price: £6.00 plus 85p p+p

...and finally...

It's great to see how our emergency services like to work together. Police in Tayside, Scotland, were getting on the case to the protect the interests of corporations whose genetically engineered test crops have been repeatedly trashed in recent weeks by nocturnal eco-activists. But after they set up a stake-out in a bam to catch the activists, police themselves ended up red-faced, as their exhaust pipe set fire to the hay and the whole place went up. The officers fled and as they watched the flames leap up around the barn, along with their Vauxhall Astra and specially installed surveillance cameras. So a 30 grand bill for the old bill, as guffaws rebound around the countryside, and activists remain on the loose.

Copse: The Cartoon Book of Tree Protesting
OUT NOW! Kate Evans's stunning new book gives the inside story of the British roads protest movement. Swanky, chunky, beautiful and funny. Cope is chock full of award winning photographs as well as 134 pages of cartoons. Also includes a practical, fully illustrated section on how to Do it Yourself. £9.50 + £2.50 p+p from Orange Dog Productions, PO Box 8959, London, N19 5HW. Order it at your local bookshop or library. ISBN: 095326740-7

HILLGROVE ARTICLE

"It was amazing to see such diverse people working together towards a common goal" said one activist. "There was a balacava youth talking to 60-year old women from the RSPCA about the best way to break through the police lines".

Things are hotting up down at t'farm - Hillgrove Farm, that is, the cat breeders run by Farmer Brown in Witney, Oxon which has supplied the vivisection industry for 27 years - including, according to leaked info, the horrific military research establishment at Porton Down. Animal Rights campaigners have been keeping up the pressure on this misanthropic yokel with National Demos every six weeks, which have seen Mr Plod out in force and the farm turned into a barricaded war zone. Now things have taken an even more sinister turn: on 12th July, activists gathering in nearby Witney for speeches and a planned march on the farm discovered that the Home Secretary (who, incidentally, has a house just down the road from the farm...) had imposed a last-minute Stonehenge-style 5-mile 'Unlawful Assembly' exclusion zone around the farm under Section 14a of the Criminal Justice Act, thus preventing the demo taking place, and effectively denying the right to protest. Undeterred, activists regrouped and decided to march on the offices and labs of Colin Blakemore, vivisector extraordinaire - the result? An impromptu Reclaim The Streets! Cops tried to set up roadblocks; activists broke through or dodged through sidestreets. Although the farm was unreachable, and only a few of the thousand or so present made it to Blakemore's, the horrendous costs to the cops of policing Hillgrove were pushed up once more.

Get involved! For more information on the Hillgrove campaign write to Save the Hillgrove Cats, Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ, or Tel: 0121 632 6460. Ask to be put on the mailing list

SchNEWS Vocab Watch: misanthropic - people hater. Well, do YOU know the word for cat-hater??

Meanwhile, the campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) rolls on. The company is the UK's biggest contract testing company who torture and kill for profit. They have been the focus of attention ever since two undercover investigators exposed the companies cruelty with 'It's a Dogs Life' which led to the company shares to plummet.

At the last demo HLS cunningly let their staff go home early denying protestors the opportunity to chat. The demo saw 10 varied arrests, several of which were made by Thames Valley Police who came to the party to pick up Hillgrove activists! People then moved on to nearby breeders Interfauna, and then to the home of Dr Pamela Mullins - previously head of Rodent Toxicology - who apparently covered behind closed curtains with an iron bar, while those attending enlightened the neighbourhood about her job, until police moved them on. Incidentally, one of the police Evidence Gatherer's cars crashed into an oncoming vehicle after taking a roundabout too fast! Tut!

HLS share prices are now just 17.5p (and they made a loss of over five million last year), so HLS can be closed down, keep up the pressure and support the activists outside the labs at Altringham Road, Wilmslow and Wooley Road, Alconbury. Next demo: Saturday 1st August, meet at noon, Wilmslow Railway Station, Cheshire.

Contact Huntingdon Death Sciences Campaign, PO Box 325, Cambridge, CB1 2UF

** On Saturday July 25th there is a national day of action against Sainsbury's - the last British supermarket continuing to stock viciously hunted kangaroo meat. Call Viva on 01273 777688 to find out what's happening in your area.

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SchNEWS in brief

The Observer pulled a swiftie on gene kings Monsanto on Sunday. A full page advert by the company, was followed by two pages devoted to those destroying genetically engineered sites around the country! Meanwhile George Monbiot was on Channel 4 news ripping apart a Biotechnology spokesperson last week. However, he told us, C4 originally intended to put him opposite a Monsanto man but the company said, "You are never getting us into a studio with him". So much for their open debate

*** Hey you with dreadlocks - want to know what to do with all those unwanted headlice? Well, researchers at Middlesex University are seeking volunteers to donate head lice for a project that's looking to find a natural treatment *** THE THIRD BATTLE OF NEWBURY is alive and well at a new address: PO Box 5642, Newbury, RG14 5WG New phone: 07000 785 201*** There is a new events listing available called the Networking Newsletter Project

<networkingnewsletter@diapipex.com>, most of the stuff takes place in Manchester but there are other actions listed check out: <http://www.poptel.org.uk/marc/members/Networking/calendar/dates.html> for latest additions *** WEST COUNTRY ACTIVIST SUMMER GATHERING Friday 7th - Sunday 9th August Location to be announced Further information: 01626 365844 - Email: WCA@conk.com. Subscribe to the West Country Activist Newsletter: 10, 2nd class stamps for 5 issues. Send name and address to: WCA, c/o PO Box 426, Bath, BA1 2ZD***

The Big Green Gathering is later this month from July 29th - August 2nd on the Wiltshire Downs near Warminster - more details Tel 01747 870667. Admission advance ticket only. Ecotrip will be there with many talks/shops over the three days including ten on the subject of genetic engineering issues***

Live Wild Or Die #7 - hot off the press. In defiance of expectations, sleep, and sanity: 40 newspaper-size pages full of anarchy, sabotage, direct action, militant labor, eco/animal liberation, primitivism/anti-tech, class war, Chumbawamba on veganism & ideology etc. LWOD, c/o POB 481, Tucson, AZ 85702, America.*** "Liz loves Ace. Stingray takes speed, Liz takes Stingray, Ace is choked, so's the Earth. The bailiff gets them all". A cracking new play called 'Cars' by Jon Salway is being performed at the Harvest Forestry 1 New England St, Brighton 7:45 21st-26 July for tickets ring 01273 689

KEBELE

ARROOGA at Kebele Culture Project in Bristol. This top community space, squatted for 3 years and now facing imminent eviction, has been trying to buy the building from the bank that owns it. They have got an ethical bank to promise a 70% loan on the £20,000 asking price which leaves Kebele just £6,000 to find. As well as the Cafe there is a book and video library, children's workshops, bike workshop, healing and Spanish lessons and the project is really making waves in trying to promote alternative ways of living. Kebele also managed to feed the working crews at Glastonbury this year with their mobile catering. They are so close to a secure future it would be madness for us to let this project fail - they DESPERATELY need your donations and maybe if you're a band or promoter, why not organise a benefit? Kebele is at: 14 Robertson Rd, Eastville, Bristol. 0117 939 9469. HELP 'EM!

STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS

Detective Sgtnt (I'll smash every Party and every Demo) Keating, Brighton's very own 'Public Order Robocop' is leaving! send your cards of condolence to: Brighton Police St, John St, Brighton

MANCHESTER

The new camp set up urgently needs support. The Arthur's woods apparently obstructs the satellite and radar reception of the expanding Manchester Airports. The police are currently nicking the key players, then baiting them off site. Directions - find Styal on a road atlas. Ask any local in Styal where Arthur's Wood is. "They all love us here and loads of them are involved." Camp mobile 0777 5602954.

* Following on from last weeks story about Faslane peace camp outside the Trident nuclear base in Scotland: Argull & Bute Council have proposed a meeting with the camp at the beginning of August. This change of tactics might have something to do with the fact that evicting the camp could possibly cost the cash strapped Council up to £200,000. The Council recently closed a community centre to save just 150,000!

TUBEWAY ARMY

At 7:30am on Monday morning train surfing Reclaim The Streets (RTS) activists dimmed onto the roof of a tube train at Bank Station and shut down the eastbound Central Line. The action was in support of the tubeworkers' strike against privatisation. They unfolded a carriage-length banner reading, "Private Profit at Public Expense", while others dressed as 'fat cats' offered to buy Bank station, handing out peanuts and explanatory leaflets to passengers, underground signs were subverted to read 'Laughing all the way to the Bank'. More supporters holding a huge "Stop Privatisation - Support the Tubeworkers" banner picketed the station entrance. A spokesperson for RTS said "...selling off the network, far from improving the service as the government claim, will bring only deteriorating conditions and higher prices for London's travellers while increasing air congestion and pollution on the streets. Three activists were arrested.

RTS have a history of supporting transport workers. During the 1996 tube strike activists organised a simultaneous Critical Mass bike blockade, while others occupied the office of the London Underground Manager

...Reclaim the Streets: 0171 281 4621; PO BOX 9656 London N4 4JY NOTE NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS! www.gn.apc.org rts.e-mail: rts@gn.apc.org

London meetings every Tuesday 7pm: At the moment we're at the Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Rd, London N4. (Finsbury Park tube) **Street parties coming up:** Sheffield (acoustic - bring an instrument) August 1st

*Bristol August 15th meet 12 noon Eastville Prk M32 junc 2 Tel 0117 939 093

*After the success of the Global Street Party PRAGUE is holding a FUN "n" ACTION Week, 26-30 September starting with a five year birthday celebration of occupying 'Squatt Ladronka', 3 days festival of punk rock, ska and other bands from all over the world, followed by a street party on the 29th. Meet 2 p.m. Palackeho square

Thousands expected with thirty Czech DJs and bands, fire show, drums, street theatre.

More info: Zeme predevsim (Earth First! Prague support group) PO BOX 237160 41 Praha 6 CZECH REPUBLIC Email: zemepredevsim@cz.cz

...and finally...

So apparently agents from M15 are being used to investigate 'benefit cheats'. Jeremy Corbyn Labour MP for Islington North said "This is desperation in the post-cold war era to find something for M15 to do. M15 would be better concentrating on pursuing large scale tax evasion by the wealthy in offshore tax havens". The DSS denied that the next James Bond film would be set in a DSS office.

(stolen from Of Some Benefit, the newsletter of the Independent Benefits Advice Service, 34 Saxon Place, Horton Kirby, Dartford, Kent, DA4 9JG 01322 865114)

DISCLAIMER (CONDENSED) "DON'T"

DISCLAIMER (CONDENSED) "DON'T" (payable to Justice?) Ask for "Originals" if you can make copies.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO DO OFFICE WORK

Before you get to the target office, agree on the aim. Is it to simply make your presence felt, to gather information or designed for maximum disruption? Everyone should agree on what to do inside, and how long to stay for - and stick to it.

Reconnaissance is important. Look for ways in, such as open ground floor windows, fire escapes, and side doors, and ensure everyone knows the basic layout.

The best way in is usually the front door! Anyone who doesn't want to go in could picket the entrance, and leaflet cars in the workers' car park. Make a simple plan to get in. Entrances often have security locks, swipe-card readers, or intercoms. One smartly dressed person going in and opening doors and windows for everyone else often works. It helps if this person has an excuse such as courier delivery, an employment inquiry or a pre-booked appointment with a named worker. This person must be prepared to react quickly and sometimes decisively, for example, to push past employees to get doors open when the rabble arrive. If the only door is a revolving one then windows will be a better bet. Alternatively, you can sneak in behind employees going in, or catch the door as one leaves. Ensure that you aren't spotted beforehand.

Once in, the fun starts! You might all look for specific offices or scatter through the building to cause chaos, but stay in pairs at least, as office workers can defend their space assertively. In the past it has often worked for groups to barricade themselves into unoccupied offices thus ensuring an uninterrupted search / reorganisation. In open plan offices, or when barricading options are limited, there is a tendency for activists to drift to one place after the initial rush. Try to avoid this as it makes it easier for staff / police to contain you and get you out. Keep it calm and non-confrontational, especially as most workers you come across will not be the decision makers; seek out the bosses! Reassure workers who seem frightened by your invasion that you intend no violence, and distribute leaflets explaining your case to them.

If your goal is disruption, rearrange paper and filing cabinets, lock doors and hide keys, unplug things, barricade yourself into empty offices, play

with computers (see facing page). Keep it tidy, and they might not discover what you've been up to until later; obvious criminal damage or theft on these type of actions may lead to everyone being arrested especially if you are few in number. That said, some occupations have involved smashing up as much as possible.

If your goal is info-gathering, get in and out quickly, there is nothing to be gained and a lot to be lost by hanging around because a 30 minute action seems too short. Rummage through filing cabinets, go through desk diaries, look at notice boards, search through computers and photograph or photocopy anything interesting. Alternatively, you could fax documents to someone on the outside, who should be briefed to keep their fax line free. You may want to borrow some documents or computer disks to study at your leisure...chuck them out of a window to waiting colleagues who can spirit them away immediately. Don't hang around waiting to be arrested. Leave a pre-printed disclaimer in their place, stating that anything removed will be returned undamaged within 24 hours. This gives time to read files and copy useful stuff. You can return the files either to the office doorstep in the middle of the night, or (anonymously) to a police station lost property office in a different town. It is essential to return everything if any one does get nicked for theft; although the disclaimer has no actual legal weight, charges should be dropped if files are returned as promised.

Everyone should leave together, and make sure no-one is left inside. Be aware that police often search everyone before they leave the office, especially if anything appears to have been removed or damaged.

Office occupations generally don't lead to arrest. However, there is the possibility of arrest, most likely for breach of the peace, burglary or section 241 of the Trade Unions Act 1994. Burglary is often used as an excuse to arrest. Don't openly eat food or use electrical equipment or they may indiscriminately make arrests.

Most arrests will not lead to a court case. People have sometimes gone in with a list of demands such as a meeting senior management.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO DO OFFICE WORK

These demands are generally not worth winning and negotiation for them may make a court conviction more likely. This happened to the 20 'Opencast Defendants' in 1998, when it was taken as evidence of coercion, to secure a conviction for section 241. This case was exceptional however as £350 000 worth of damage had been done to a nearby mine earlier in the day

While some of your mates are going through the desk diary, the filing cabinets and the drawers it may be worth you taking a look at the beige box with a telly on it in the corner of the desk.

Before you decide what best action to take you have to have a browse around the PC. If the computer is off, switch it on. The computer may appear to end its starting procedure with a logon box. Many systems save the last username to be used in this box, write this name down as if the user has e-mail it can probably be worked out using this `username@whatever.co.uk` (alternatively find the person's calling card). E-mail addresses are handy to have as viruses and hacking tools can be sent to the unwitting user at a later date. You may try a couple of passwords (look for obscure things written on post-it notes). This probably won't work and after a few tries it will tell you that you are locked out of the network. Just accept this and click cancel until the computer seems to be running.

If the computer is already on then open the windows explorer and check out how many drives there are. If there are more than 4 drives then you are probably already attached to the network. The following assumes that Windows 95 or 98 is installed but probably applies to Windows NT too.

RE-FORMATTING: This is quite un-subtle and may cause the least damage of all. In any fair sized company most data will be either stored on a file server or backed up nightly. Having said that most users are crap at doing this (especially those at the top of organisations). If there appears to be no network attachment then this may well be your best option. To format the disk select Start menu - shutdown - restart computer in MS-DOS mode. When you get the C:\> Prompt type `format c: /u`

Repartitioning. If you're going to re-format a hard disk then you may as well repartition it too. Repartitioning a drive just makes it a bit harder to recover any data than a simple format. Get to the C:\> prompt. Stick a floppy disk in and type `sys a:` then type `copy c:\windows\command\fdisk.* a:` -if no file is found then type `copy c:\dos\fdisk.* a:`. Then format as above. Reboot the PC with the floppy disk in the machine. Type `fdisk`. Then delete all partitions, reboot again, type `fdisk` again and create 2 or 3 new partitions.

DELETE FILES: Deleting files on the hard disk in the machine is pretty simple. Highlight the files you want to delete. Select lots by holding the Shift or control key down as you click (experiment with this). Before you press the delete key hold down the shift key. Do not release the shift key until the confirm file delete box comes up. If you don't hold shift down the files will only go to the recycle bin. After deleting you may as well empty the recycle bin (click on the recycle bin and choose empty recycle bin from the file menu). To make absolutely sure that the data can't be recovered install the Disk cleanup utility (www.execpc.com/~sbd/CleanUp.html) and totally wipe the free space. This is a really small utility that will easily fit on a floppy disk. Using this utility will make it almost impossible to recover data and is much more effective than simply formatting a disk.

Deleting files from a network drive is pretty similar. Once you've deleted something go to Start menu-Run, type `command`, then change to the drive that you have deleted from by typing the drive letter followed by a colon (e.g. `u:`) then type `cd/` and then type `purge */a:` on most networks this will ensure that files are completely deleted.

CHANGING FILES: This is pretty obvious really, rather than deleting files that will probably be restored from backup, try changing files instead. The best thing to do is probably to do a search for spreadsheet files (`*.xls` or `*.wk*`). Find them using the Start menu-Find, stick `*.xls`, `*.wk*` in the 'Named' box. Then sort them by modified date by clicking on the modified label, double

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO DO OFFICE WORK

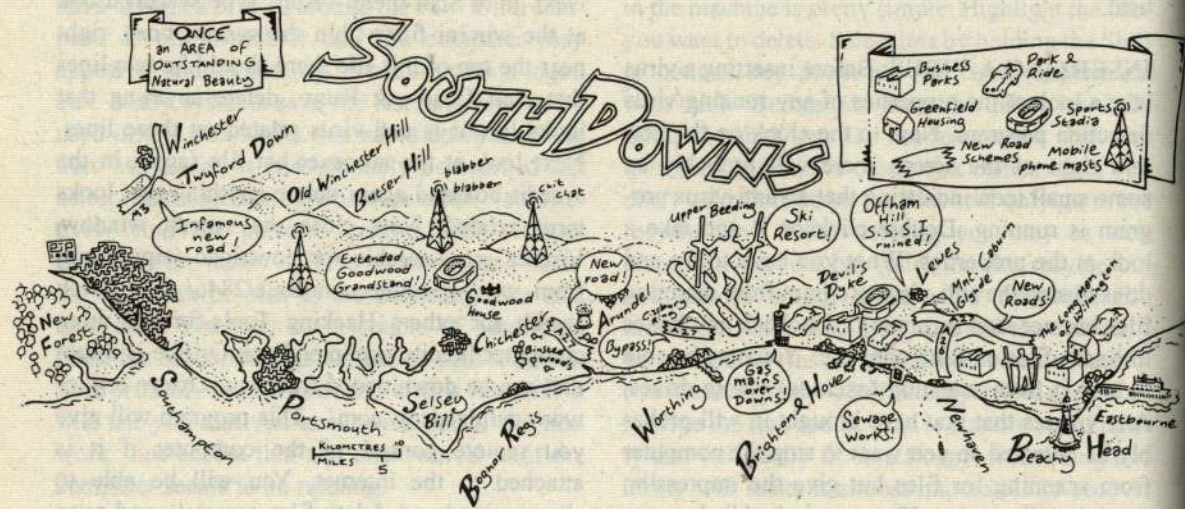
double click on the most recently modified file or one that looks like it contains important financial information (big files are best). Then simply change the odd number here and there. It may be a long time before they realise the error, and will mean that they have to do a lot of checking through out that file to look for other errors. They probably won't be able to restore from back-up as they may not know when the change occurred (it may not be discovered for months) and even if they know when the changes were made other parts of the spreadsheet may have been updated since then making a restore from backup impractical.

INSERTING A VIRUS: Before inserting a virus take a look at the properties of any running virus detection program. Next to the clock on the bottom right of the screen there will probably be some small icon indicating that an anti-virus program is running. Double click on it and take a look at the properties. What you have to try and do is to stop the anti-virus program from scanning files but not stop it running. Uncheck any boxes like scan files on Run, copy etc. You may be able to stop it from scanning (exclude) whole drives. Any viruses that you have brought in will probably be detected so you want to stop the computer from scanning for files but give the impression that it is still running. If you can't do this then you may have to disable the virus protection. This will probably be discovered earlier.

MACRO VIRUSES: If your virus is a Word virus then before you insert it you must disable Word's own virus protection. Open Word, open Tools - options and click on the General tab.

Uncheck the macro virus protection box (do the same in Excel if your virus is in an .xls file). Now try inserting your virus by either running the program or opening the document. If the virus protection on the machine finds it and you have the option to exclude this virus from the virus list then do so. If not then you will have to disable the anti-virus program. First simply close down the icon near the clock in the bottom right of the screen. Next open Windows Explorer and check out what is in C:\windows\start menu\programs\startup. If there is an icon there that looks like it is an anti-virus program delete it. Next go to Start menu - Run. Type sysedit. Look at the win.ini file(within the sysedit box), right near the top of this file there should be two lines that start Load= & Run=, delete anything that looks like it is anti-virus related on these lines. Next look at the autoexec.bat file (again in the sysedit box)and again delete anything that looks virus related. Now close the sysedit window. Viruses are available for download (zipped up) from www.geocities.com/Baja/2846/ (do a web search for others Hacking Tools-for the more computer literate occupier Back Orifice is a tool that can be downloaded from www.toxyn.org/ or www.cultdeadcow.com/. This program will give you remote control of the computer if it is attached to the internet. You will be able to change, read and delete files remotely and even randomly make their computer play .wav files or shut down from the comfort of your local internet cafe. Back Orifice is detected by most anti-virus programs so the host computer must be prepared following the instructions above and the IP address must be noted.





NATURE SPOTTING
WITH TANKSUIT GIRL
Evans 97

If we look carefully at this country hedgerow we can just make out the vibrant tones of the genus "Cola Canialis" nestling in the grass there. Lovely.

And perhaps one might mistake that for a butterfly, fluttering past there, but it is, in fact, a wrapper.



Greater or Lesser? It is hard to tell. But yes, see that "12% extra" marking there on the rear? It is in fact a Greater Chocolate Bar Wrapper. And isn't that just great to see.

But maybe best of all, if we gently part the grasses here we can see a little family of Speckled Fag Butts, just here by the road side.

A sign that some Nature Lover has paused here a while, and emptied their car ashtrays thus helping to boost the population of this charming little countryside inhabitant.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER 'NO!' TO BIG NOBS..

SchNEWS

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www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

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GET OFF MY PRIVATES!

The sign painted onto the Beech tree tells it as it is: 'Private Woods. Keep Out.'

Penn Wood near High Wycombe is the largest ancient woodland in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, believed to have been in existence since the last ice age.

The public aren't welcome despite it once being common land, but a proposed golf course is, if developers GBS Estates get their way. Planning permission has been applied for before - and refused, but GBS have been deliberately 'un-managing' the woods in the hope that it will lose any special status. If the golf course plan falls through, the woods could still be sold off piecemeal, and will be lost forever. Penn Woods is just one example. The 'Keep Out' sign could be anywhere in the UK, and the threat of development just as real.

So where do we start?

Since 1945 we have lost
95% of wildflower meadows
50% of chalk grasslands. (Less than 6% of the South Downs are now ancient grassland)

50% of ancient lowland woodlands

50% of wetlands

94% of lowland raised bog

300,000km of hedgerows

Over 300 Sites of Special Scientific Interest are damaged every year and seven of Britain's most common birds have been placed on the endangered list, with loss of habitat and modern farming practices blamed.

And where, pray, did all this start?

Modern farming practices and wholesale private land ownership by people more concerned with profit than nature have gone hand-in-hand to create the ravaged mess that is the modern British Countryside. And both have their roots in Enclosure: the process whereby common land and those that work it became incorporated into the money economy. Thus, the history of Enclosure is the history of our dispossession. But what exactly is it? Well, throughout the Middle Ages, the commons system of unfenced and communally-worked strips of land predominated, and while in no way a Utopia, it did guarantee land to the majority of the population. When the price of wool shot up, relative to wheat, in the 16th century, the elite took advantage of this by 'enclosing' (forcibly taking) the commons, evicting whole communities of peasants to make way for

sheep-grazing; the peasants forced to become dependent labourers or vagrants. And that was just the beginning: the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII and the parliamentary victory in the Civil War saw more and more land 'sold off' to 'professionals' - the ancestors of the landed gentry of today - and more and more 'little people' left landless. The 145 years preceding the General Enclosure Act of 1845 saw over 8000 enclosures covering 14 million acres. And when the land ends up in the hands of those who see it as a commodity, then in the name of 'efficiency' and the profit motive little things like the diversity of nature and freedom of access end up as just two more sacrifices on the altar of progress. And Penn Wood - is, again, just one more example. But this tragic history did not, of course, go unopposed: the peasants have *always* been revolting! The 'Ketts Men Revolt' - when 20,000 captured Norwich Castle in 1543, a month of sustained rioting in Northamptonshire in 1607 and - most famously - the 'Diggers' Revolt' of 1643 are just a few examples of literally hundreds of riots, revolts and insurrections that occurred in response to Enclosure in the 16th and 17th centuries. And the recent upsurge of Direct Action in defence of Our Land in the past decade is simply the continuation of this noble tradition. Penn Woods MAY have a chance - the Woodland Trust, an organisation aiming to buy up threatened ancient woodland (it already owns 900 woods - 40000 acres) - is desperately trying to raise money to save Penn Woods. Other places, without our actions, may not be so lucky...

STATELY ROOMS

Under the 'Conditional Exemption' scheme, owners of historic houses, landscapes and sites of special interest do not have to pay inheritance or capital transfer tax if they "allow reasonable public access". The cop out is: they do not have to publicise where these sites are!

Mark Thomas, whose Channel 4 Programme publicised this and have produced a list of sites, recently visited, (along with 100 'The Land is Ours'ers), Lady Lucy Phillips's 1500 acre estate nr Luton. To find out how you too can 'go a' wandering' in the countryside some rich bastard's ancestors squatted, write to 'The Lie of the Land', PO Box 4000, London, W12 8UF £1.00 or check out <http://www.channel4.com/news/dispatches/crack.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

87% of Britain's land is privately owned. 600 or so titled families own nearly a third of Great Britain's land. Only 0.3% of land is organically farmed

"Stop letting these townie buggers grind us down!"

R. Poole, Daily Telegraph

Earlier this year the Countryside Alliance organised a march in London to show not just their opposition to a bill that would have banned hunting, but to tell us townies that we just don't understand their country ways and we should let them get on with it. The CA is an 'alliance' orchestrated by rich and powerful - landowners - with their minions and employees 'encouraged' to join up. According to Friends of the Earth, the major threats to the countryside come not from 'townies', but developers, agribusiness, multinationals and large landowners, with the Alliance opposing any green policies that would help safeguard the countryside. It is the powerful landed gentry who are *really* at war with the land, decimating ecology in pursuit of a fast buck and denying people their birthright. From organic farmers worried about contamination by genetically engineered food, to greenbelt housing, to the right to roam on the land, to having to ask permission just to dance in a bloody field all night in a countryside full of Keep Out Signs, the message is becoming clear: The townies are shouting

* **The Woodland Trust** aims to raise £1 million to buy Penn Wood and put 'Welcome' signs at the entrance. Contact them at Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 6LL, or phone Penn Woods campaign organiser James Underhill on 01797 344794.

* **The Countryside Protection Group** aims to provide a focus for those who live in the countryside but do not support hunting. The Countryside Protection Group, Oakleigh House, Oakleigh Court, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4HZ. Confidential Helpline 01747 826633

* **The Land Is Ours** - a landrights movement for Britain 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ 01865 722016 www.oneworld.org/thio

* **Mass Trespass** on the South Downs Sunday August 2nd and 23rd. Meet Brighton Station 12pm, bring picnic, and there'll be an overnight camp for the intrepid (bring tent etc.) 01273 685913 - also, stewards urgently needed!!

* **Read Chris Baines' 'How To Start A Wildlife Garden'**. So much of our countryside is now a green desert, that those of us with gardens should look at ways of encouraging wildlife into them

* **Natty Trust Gathering 1 - 28 August** Experience in low impact living with permaculture courses + lots more Community Base, 113-7 Queens Rd., Brighton BN1 3XG 01273 234035

"No black person can ever trust the police"

Doreen Lawrence

Last week SchNEWS spent an afternoon at the public inquiry into the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence, killed five years ago by racists. In a packed room we listened to Mike Mansfield QC making mincemeat of senior police officers. From day one, five racist scum bags: Neil and Jamie Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, have been accused of stabbing Stephen Lawrence as he waited for a bus at Eltham, SE London. But none have ever spent a day behind bars. Later SchNEWS spoke to Barry Anthony, involved in the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign. He told us of an unbelievable catalogue of police racism, incompetence and corruption

SchNEWS: *Can tell us about the previous private prosecution?*

Barry: The Crown Prosecution Service refused to prosecute the five for the murder of Stephen because they said that they didn't have enough evidence, so Doreen and Neville Lawrence decided to go for a private prosecution, which was unprecedented at the time. The decision was a huge risk, as - had they lost - they would have had to have paid all the court costs. So a campaign was organised in order to raise money, should the prosecution fail. Neil Acourt, Dobson and Knight, were brought to the Old Bailey for private prosecution. Although this failed, the Judge refused to award costs against the Lawrence s because of the dignified manner in which they behaved. The prosecution only failed because of a lack of witnesses. Many local people came forward with information about the suspects, but were scared of recriminations. The Lawrence's had to rely on a secret video taken of the five accused, where they don't admit to killing Stephen Lawrence, but talk of every nigga being cut up, tortured, burnt alive. Duwayne Brooks, who was with Stephen at the time of his murder, was deemed an unreliable witness. This was originally because he was seen as anti-police, but then the police said he was in danger and needed police protection. However, the officer they assigned for protection was the same copper who had been seen drinking on three occasions with the father of David Norris - one of the accused! Clifford Norris is a big time gangsta, currently serving eight years for drugs and arms, suspected of at least murder with a reputation of jury nobbling and intimidation of witnesses. Duwayne had a breakdown, didn't give proper evidence, and so the case was thrown out. Duwayne wasn't even able to come to the inquiry - instead giving written evidence as he is so distraught by the case.

"I reckon that every nigger should be chopped up, Mate, and they should be left with nothing but fucking stumps"

Neil Acourt, caught on secret police surveillance camera.

Sch: *So this led to the Public Inquiry?*

B: When Jack Straw became the new Home Secretary, he had to be seen to act on the Stephen Lawrence case, as it was so high profile. It was supposed to run something like a public relations exercise - I'm sure he never dreamed this crap would come out. Even if you're a police supporter the inquiry has shown constant police incompetence - it's like something out of the Keystone Cops.

Sch: *Can you give us any examples of police incompetence?*

B: When Stephen was stabbed he didn't die instantly. When the police arrived he was still alive, the officers had first aid

THE STEPHEN LA

kits in their car but didn't use them to stop the bleeding. In their evidence to the inquiry they said they were not sure whether it was a stabbing or a neck injury. However on cross-examination, the defence revealed through radio records that the police knew it was a stabbing! Over 24 hours several witnesses gave the names of the killers responsible for Stephen's death, but the police didn't arrest anyone for two weeks. At the inquiry a senior copper said they could not make any arrests unless they had evidence. Mike Mansfield and legal experts said this wasn't true - you can make arrests on suspicion. Then this senior officer who had been in the force for 30 odd years claimed he had no idea of these powers

The police carried out surveillance on the suspects house. During the surveillance they missed someone leaving the house with what appeared to be clothes covered in black plastic. The next day Neil Acourt was captured on film taking out a black bin bag. The police had no phone to call for back up, and so no one checked what was in their bags.

One of the witnesses who wouldn't give his name told the police who stabbed Stephen, gave a description of the knife and said it was hidden underneath their floorboards. The cops went to search the house but didn't look underneath the floorboards. At the inquiry more than one officer said that the carpets were so immaculate and the place so well decorated they didn't want to disrupt by tearing up the carpets! Can you imagine if someone said to the police that their were

drugs under the floorboards in your house, whether they would worry about your carpets?

At one point Doreen gave the names of a couple of the boys that she'd heard had murdered Stephen. She handed it to a copper who said thank you but when he thought she wasn't looking screwed the piece of paper up into a ball.

Sch: *What about this wall of silence the police said they faced?*

B: This was the main argument the police gave in their defence for doing nothing, that no one in the white community wanted to talk, but that has now been proven to be rubbish. So many people gave names, but were too scared to give evidence in court. People were scared 'cos David Norris dad is a big time gangster, two of the other boys Neil And Jamie Acourt call themselves the Krays. In fact Reggie Kray wrote a letter from prison to Doreen saying these guys were nothing to do with him, and that he supported the Lawrences!

Sch: *!Why has this campaign been so successful? There have been lots of Black deaths in custody but the protests and anger seem to fade away after a while*

B: A lot of it comes down to Doreen and Neville Lawrence. A lot of the families I work with who want to fight back are determined and they want justice, but after a couple of years they've had enough, and they want to get on with their life's. The difference with the Lawrence s is they have never taken no for an answer, and had a few lucky breaks. Neville is a painter and decorator and on the Monday after Stephen's death rang the house he was supposed to be decorating, and told them he couldn't come in because his son had been killed in a racist attack. Well, it happened to be home of the editor of the Independent on Sunday who ran a sympathetic article which the rest of the press then picked up. Two weeks after the death, with still no one arrested despite all the police leads, Nelson Mandela came to visit Britain, heard about a black death and visited the Lawrence's (the police eventually made arrests 45 minutes after the visit of Mandela!)

Sch: *Do you think the Lawrence family think the struggle to get this far has been worth it?*

B: I think they do think it's been worth it but they know five guys got away with murder and they've pretty much given up them doing any time, so in that sense it's never gonna bring their son back, they are never gonna get justice. But they've always said that the police are just as responsible as the killers, because if the police had done

their job, the killers would have been behind bars years ago. They wanted to expose how the police fucked it up - and the inquiry has shown their incompetence racism and how they treat people. I can't say they are happy about it, but they feel it's been worth it. What they really want to see is discipline or sacking on the main coppers responsible, but even that's hard because they've all been given early retirement or sick pensions. The way Neville sees it, he's a decorator, if he doesn't do his work properly then he doesn't get paid. It should be the same for these police - they should get sacked without payoffs. They also wanted to make sure everyone knows who those five racists are. Even though they came to the inquiry and avoided all lines of questioning, by the end everyone knew that they were the ones who killed Stephen. What is pleasing is for years of walking round black people having to look over their shoulders, now it's their turn to look over their shoulders. Everyone knows their faces.

LAWRENCE STORY

Sch: *What about the wider implications? Do you think this case will inspire other black people to stand up to this shit?*

B: I think more people are willing to make noise about things now. It nearly kicked off at the inquiry the other day. Everyone who had been throwing bottles at the racists started throwing bottles at the police, because they'd heard over the last 50 days how racist the police are. In recent years, especially in the black community, there has been a lot of focus on police racism and corruption. People don't dwell on it usually, but this time the inquiry has brought attention back to the real issues. Maybe next time people hear about a death in police custody - like with Joy Gardner, people won't say "wasn't she an illegal immigrant" or "wasn't she violent". People will say fucking hell - the police murdered her. Sch: *How unusual was the Met Police's public apology?*

B: Unprecedented. And by the way - the Lawrence's told them where to stick their apology. The families attitude is that this apology isn't worth anything. It's about action. What they gonna do about it?

Sch: *At the inquiry Mrs Lawrence talked about the police treating them like "Gullible Simpletons", "Irritants", or "Criminals rather than victims because they were black"*

B: One disputed thing that has come out of this inquiry is that police thought 'black guy stabbed, must be some

drugs argument'. When they arrived at the murder scene they were told the five white guys driving around in a car had done it. Yet they never made any effort to drive around and look for anybody. Instead they investigated the Lawrence's and checked Stephen's background to see if he was a criminal. It was only when they found out they were a church going couple with an A-level studying son when they started to take it a bit more seriously. But as Neville pointed out - so what if his son had been in trouble with the police before, and was not studying - does that mean he deserved to die? Even if he was some tearaway, even if the Lawrence's weren't married and didn't go to church, what difference does it make? Someone still died and the police should investigate. Basically the police's main concern was shutting the Lawrence's up, not resolving the case.

"Basically, we were seen as gullible simpletons...Presumably there is no possibility of me being an intelligent black woman with thoughts of her own who is able to ask questions for herself. We were patronised and fobbed off." -Doreen Lawrence.

When then police did their own review a few months after the murder they gave their investigation a clean bill of health saying it had "progressed satisfactorily...all lines of enquiry correctly pursued." However a Kent Police Complaints Authority investigation later talked of the reports' 'highly damaging' nonsense, identifying 'serious professional failings' and omissions- witnesses not promptly followed up, ID parades bungled, cack-handed surveillance, no attempt to arrest early and secure forensic evidence, difficulties in handling the computer...

NOW WHAT?

The second part of the inquiry takes place in September with written and verbal submissions before going on a tour of Britain, holding open hearings in cities with large ethnic minorities. A report is expected before Christmas. SchNEWS doesn't expect much from the report, but the inquiry has at least helped put the spotlight on the way the cops work, for once. Already the police are saying the murder was five years ago and they have learnt their lesson, but the inquiry into the suspicious death of a twenty year old Asian Ricky Peel found drowned in the Thames at Kingston ten months ago, has been dealt with in a similar way.

"Ricky's murder shows that nothing has been learnt." said Neville Lawrence.

Reading this interview, people involved in protest, putting on free parties or just living in a vehicle, might wonder at the seemingly endless levels of resources the police find to strop their activities while racist murderers get away scot free.

While people who fight back are labelled outside agitators, professional demonstrators, ecoterrorists etc by the police, the Lawrence supporters were labelled black militants. But a can of racist worms has been opened and for white people it's an eye opener into what black people have had to put up with for years. This country is riddled with institutionalised racism, where every asylum seeker is deemed bogus and England supporters subject us all to chants of Rule Britannia during the World Cup.

SchNEWS isn't asking for the police to be reformed, to get rid of a few bad apples; we are fighting for a whole new society to be built where people come before profit. That will take a lot of hard work, solidarity and organisation - but it can and must be done.

Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign

0181 843 2333

Read: 'Beginners Guide to the Black Panthers'

'A Chronology of Injustice' records the events that led up to Winston Silcott stitch up for the murder of PC Blakelock in the Tottenham riots. £4 from Legal Action for Women, Crossroads Womens Centre, PO box 287, London, NW6

JOY GARDNER

Next Tuesday (28th), it will be 5 years since Joy Gardner was killed. She had come to visit her mother, Myma Simpson, but overstayed her 6 month visa. One morning, an immigration officer with 5 coppers turned up on her doorstep with a deportation notice. Answering the door in her knickers and t-shirt with her 2 year old in the house, she told them to get lost. The police at the inquest described what happened next as a struggle with a superhuman black woman. They put handcuffs and calf straps on her, and wrapped tape around her mouth- fourteen feet of it round and round until she suffocated and died. SchNEWS spoke briefly to Myma Simpson:

"We're paying them [The police] money to care for us, not to kill us. It's 5 years for the Lawrence's, and it's 5 years for me. They had my daughter on a life support machine in the hospital, stinking, pretending she wasn't dead. How could they kill my child, and have me there watching her dead? She didn't deserve to die. Look at that man Fred West; did they kill him? They went for him peacefully and took him to prison. Why did they treat her like that? Why? I can never forget- and I'll never forgive because they didn't have to do what they did. She wasn't violent. How could she be violent against six people with a young child? They killed her in front of her child. The state needs to root out all the bad weeds- it wants to be cleared up."

The inquest into Joy Gardeners' death said it was 'misadventure'. No-one was ever charged.

INSPECTING THE INSPECTORS

"The basic strategy of a citizens inspection is to carry a clipboard, go in, and when you get stopped by police or security, you politely tell them to stand aside... We are upholding international law. That confuses them a lot they're used to being the ones with the law on their side, but when it comes to nuclear disarmament there's a legal obligation on nuclear weapons states to disarm. And if they're not doing that then we have to take action. Under the Nuremberg Principles, which came out of Nazi War Trials, every person has a responsibility to act to prevent genocide. It's basic humanity - but it's also there in international law."

The Headquarters of NATO came under siege last week from activists calling themselves 'Citizens War Crimes Inspectors'. Activists climbed and cut through fences at the headquarters of the defence alliance in Brussels, on the hunt for 'evidence that might later be used in a prosecution for war crimes'.

The actions were part of the **Abolition Days** campaign, an international campaign of direct action against nuclear weapons.

The action began when around 15 activists went into the centre of Brussels to leaflet the shoppers but were prevented by police. The next day they received a phone call from the old bill who had orders to keep the demo 50 metres from the NATO HQ. This means the other side of a four-lane carriageway. This was followed by a second call from NATO granting a meeting on the condition there is 'no repetition of last year'. They're referring to a citizen's inspection on Hiroshima Day where the front gate was shut down and people cut their way into the base.

The day of Inspection kicks off with a press conference. Outside a negotiator is on the mobile to NATO, outlining conditions: 5 people, plus a camera. NATO say yes - but with no sound. Teams head off for the fences but don't get very far. Police are greeted with questions about the 'Nuremberg Principles'. One cop responds, "Look, I don't think when I'm on duty. When I'm on duty it's my boss' job to think." Another says, "Stop confusing me with a Nazi!" Two days later the activists, unannounced, cut their way through the perimeter fence and make their way to the main office buildings, someone spots an open window and they check out the translator's office. A poke of the head around the door and...

"We shut the door, and prepared ourselves. Took a deep breath, gripped our clipboards, opened the door and went for it. Once in the corridor, we went up to people and started asking them questions."

How long have you been working for NATO? Has NATO ever informed you about the Nuremberg principles? Do you think that you would be held responsible if you carried out an illegal order?"

"One woman was happily answering questions when security came up shouting, 'Don't talk to these people! They came in through a window!' The woman looked very confused and shocked and said, 'I can't talk to you any more. I'm scared of you!' Security are then told that any arrests would be against international law. By this time the other inspection team had also been apprehended - some of them handcuffed. "Can you imagine if this was the way they treated UN weapons inspectors?" one of the citizen's inspectors commented. Police confusion and chaos ruled for the next few hours with innocent backpackers being pulled and legal observers taking Tango lessons in the police foyer.

Abolition Days, c/o CND 162 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DQ, tel: 0171 700 2393 email: cirls@theearth.org

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SCHNEWS IN BRIEF

A driver is wanted to take the Ploughshares 2000 Brighton Affinity Group group to Faslane Peace Camp and back. Ring Clare on 01273 736454 if you're up for it *** If you're interested in a Raw Food/Fruitarian diet, why not get along to their centre at 50 Connell Crescent in Ealing, West London where they have workshops at the weekends (and yes SchNEWS knows that drinking is bad for your liver thank you Mr. Raw Food Police) *** **Women on the Road for Peace on Bikes** are going on tour to some of southern Europe's military and nuclear sites 31st July - 7 August Contact 0117 939 3746 *** A cash and carry food company have come up with a novel way of evicting travellers who've had the cheek to park up on their derelict land - you lock them in - Simple(tons)

GANDALF VICTORY

Three journalists who spent four months in prison for the 'crime' of reporting the facts about direct action protests, were celebrating this week when their convictions were quashed in the High Court. The editors of Green Anarchist (GA) magazine were originally found guilty of conspiracy and sentenced to three years each. The High Court judges strongly criticised the original judge for misdirecting the jury and giving excessive sentences. One of the three Noel Molland told SchNEWS "Thanks to all your readers and staff for all the support while we were inside, its been really appreciated, but let's not forget their are still activists in prison who still need our support."

Paul Rogers, another GA editor still up on the same ridiculous charges told us it was a "hammer blow" for the authorities, who have spent over £4 million of taxpayers money getting nowhere fast trying to silence the underground press. Ha!

* Meeting to sort out GANDALF regional support groups next Tuesday (27th) @ The Apple Tree, Mount Pleasant, London (nearest tube Chancery Lane)

Nous Demandons

Hot on the heels of John Prescotts White Paper on Transport, Reclaim The Streets have put out their own Green Black and Red Paper along with a campaign of subvertising Fords latest car ads. Channel 5 in a rare burst of originality filmed one activist in a red nose and bally pasting a bike over a KA advert and scapering. Commenting that Prescotts paper "will be about as much use to the UK as the exhaust pipe is to the lung...in an economy dedicated to growth at any cost" Here's some of the demands

* The private car is to be banned from central London and all major UK conurbations as of midnight on Monday July 20th; trams to be reintroduced. M25 to be closed down and converted into the world's largest (circular) organic allotment.

* All public transport is to become free to the public.

* All car ads to carry a government health warning mentioning the most recent years' road fatalities.

* Commemorative plaques and organic allotments to be unveiled at the sites of all UK Reclaim The Streets parties since 1995 * Contact: 0171 281 4621

website: <http://www.gn.apc.org/rts/>
VOCAB WATCH SUBVERTISING: To subvert an advert by cheekily pasting words in the same typeface as the original and/or changing the artwork

DAYLIGHT BLOODY ROBBERY MATE

People involved in the massive Brazilian Landless Peasant Movement (Movimento Sem Terra) have been getting into a bit of redistribution of food recently. Last week three hundred peasants held up five trucks carrying 120 tonnes of food - the 17th case of stolen food organized by the Landless movement in Pernambuco and the seventh on that particular stretch of road during the recent drought! The hijacked trucks carried sugar, corn, macaroni, powdered milk, cream crackers etc and the food was distributed among the hungry in Agroisa, Caxanga, Lagoa Grande and Jacare in Juazeiro. There were no arrests. About one thousand families are occupying four estates in Mato Grosso. Egidio Brunetto, a member of the coordination team for the Landless People, said that all of the lands that are being occupied had been stolen from the farmers in the first place.

The Movimento is one of the most radical and militant mass organizations in the world today, and according to Noam Chomsky "The most important social movement in the world."

<semterra@mail.sanet.com.br>

ELEMENTARY MAI DR. WATSON

Sherlock Holmes fans will be content to know the spirit of the old charlie snorting, pipe toking detective is alive and looming round the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC). On Friday 10th July three Sherlock look-alikes donned their deerstalkers and marched into the ICC offices to investigate their involvement in a global criminal conspiracy to destroy democracy. The three fearless investigators presented search warrants letting them look into conspiracy charges linking the ICC with the Multinational Agreement on Investment (MAI) - which will allow transnational corporations to take over the planet (SchNEWS 141). When thrown out, they sealed off the front of the offices to preserve the crime scene to the annoyance of the local Metropolitan police, who told them to move on or risk arrest. Some people just don't like being told how to do their own job! For copies of the search warrant contact: ARROW, c/o NVRN 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ. Phone no. 0171 6072302

...and finally...

The Countryside Alliance have put out a single, 'Guardians of the Land', written and performed by George Bowyer, heir of Lord Denham - obviously the kind of 'hep cat' the intouch CA feel will woo the teenybop masses; Morrissey or Jarvis Cocker he is not (sample lyric: 'For landscape and wildlife of all sorts, the future lies with Country sports!'). A letter has been sent to Alliance members advising them how to manipulate the chart. Do not buy more than two copies at one time or else this will be counted as multiple purchase and be discounted from the chart compilation system', warn our new rock messiahs. If we topple the Spice Girls, it will send a very clear message to Westminster". It then lists chart-compiler record shops, and urges members to buy from these emporiums. Alas for George, that make-or-break NME cover remains elusive, but he did make the front of the 'Shropshire Star. And, undeterred, George has been 'on the road', 'gogging' and 'payin' his dues' at such legendary venues as The Great Yorkshire Show, The CLA Game Fair and Weston Birt Polo Ground, where SchNEWS is pleased to report his performance was electrifying: a public-spirited roadie had plugged George's microphone direct into the mains!

Disclaimer: Don't... again

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

LAND-BASED COMMUNITY ACTION

When reversing planetary annihilation here are a few top tips:

1. From the site, add as much organic matter as is possible. The fertility of the annual crops can be maintained:

- using composted materials from land of the equivalent size - crop residues, veg peelings, mown pastures (hay), forest detritus, leaf mould, ramial chipped wood, wild flowers (nettles are rich in iron, copper and calcium, foxgloves in magnesium, fat hen in boron, rosebay willow herb in cobalt). Don't spread uncomposted plant materials as that is asking for pest, disease or fungal problems;

- using leguminous, nitrogen-fixing green manures e.g. Lucerne before vegetable planting;
- using bi-cropping techniques e.g. growing a nitrogen fixing clover sward underneath cabbages;

- using liquid feeds made from comfrey.

- peat and calcified seaweed are not recommended, because like animal residues they depend on natural resources that will soon run out.

2. There is no reason why human urine and composted faeces should not be used. An important nutrient cycle is broken when they're flushed down the kazi and out to sea. Within one year one person can shit enough nitrogen to maintain 800lb of wheat.

3. Surrounding the annual vegetable crop patch with edible perennial shrubs and trees checks erosion and nutrient leaching. Fast growing coppiced alder trees, lined up with vegetable rows have proved invaluable as a windbreak and are nitrogen fixing.

4. Soil can never be left bare to the mercy of the elements, and should be mulched. Cardboard boxes are a good barrier mulch against weeds, although weed paths can provide invaluable predator belts.

5. Vegan-organic systems set out to create a rich diverse agro-ecosystem, by growing as many different crops as possible. Annual crops are rotated to aid fertility and prevent disease.

6. Don't spray or introduce voracious insect predators, whilst initial crops may be lost, the

most sustainable option is creating the habitat for beetles, frogs and hedgehogs. Also planting companion wild flowers attract the bees, repel pests and adds to the beauty of the site.

7. Minimum digging methods are recommended to maintain soil structure. Digging speeds up the breakdown of beneficial humus, brings weed seeds to the surface and knackers your back. Potato tubers can be grown on top of the soil through straw and hay, but other annual crops, especially those that are weed intolerant-e.g. onions-will need a prepared seed bed. If you are prepared to experiment with perennial plants and eat unusual foods then vegan permaculture is the way forward. Tractors are out as they compact the soil; however, machines run off biodiesel may offer a solution.

8. As the gene base of commercially grown seeds narrows and the threat of mass starvation becomes more imminent, communities must maintain their own seed stocks and use traditional varieties.

9. Eating raw food within minutes of its picking gives you the most vitamins and minerals. Eating 65g of protein a day from unprocessed seasonal fruit, veg, nuts, pulses, grains and seed (avoiding over reliance on imported soya products), will give you the best clean, green, guilt free diet around.

10. Vegan-organic growing works well with community spirit and, yes you've guessed - hard graft. It also offers a real alternative to the dole queues. How is it possible to reclaim our land? The insanity of the European Common Agriculture Policy pays greedy farmers to set aside because they produce too much. Set aside does not benefit trees or wildlife -after 6 months Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller is dumped on it (obliterating any sign of life) and aggressive chemical monoculture then continues apace, denying future children the ability to feed themselves. The true lovers of the soil must squat prime arable land, because buying land is not an option-the corporate backers and the planning authorities have seen to that. Yet by following the dreams of the Diggers, Ranters and Levellers, the dispossessed will reclaim their survival and culture.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER GREEN YOGURT WEAVING

SchNEWS

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www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 178 Free/Donation

BUNCH OF BANKERS

"We live in the grip of an economy which encourages over lending and over borrowing. But the poorest are not just in the grip of this economy, they are enslaved by it. For every \$1 that rich countries send to developing countries, \$11 comes straight back in the form of repayments on debts owed to the richest countries. This is a form of economics that denies us our humanity, rich and poor alike."

Njongonkulu Ndungane, Archbishop of Cape Town.

Last Friday Jim Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank took to the stage at the world conference of Anglican bishops and defended his organisations' record on Third World debt.

Reacting angrily to attacks by Christian Aid, Wolfensohn warned bishops against naive, simplistic solutions, *"We have expertise on development, you have expertise in people and in communities. Instead of fighting each other, we can work together to help alleviate poverty."*

His outburst followed the voicing of almost unanimous outrage by the bishops at the meeting in Canterbury at the cost in human suffering of spiralling debt in the Third World. Many of the bishops are prominent members of Jubilee 2000 who are campaigning for the cancellation of unpayable debt by the millennium. In fact, virtually all the Third World debtor nations have now paid off the original sums they (or rather their dictators) borrowed - what they are now paying off is the crippling interest rates.

So what is the World Bank?

Set up at the end of the Second World War, its main role is to provide loans, with annual lending programmes to 'developing' countries of \$20-25 billion for projects such as roads, dams and schools. European parliaments vote large percentages of their aid budgets to the World Bank yet it often operates with minimal scrutiny from parliamentarians.

It also provides general support loans for governments that are willing to make economic changes. It claims that its primary aim is alleviating poverty and that all its work emphasises the environment.

But that's not how others see it.

In 1991 India received structural adjustment loans with very harsh conditions from the Bank. Despite 'adjustment' India's debt burden rose from \$72 billion in 1991 to \$99 billion in 1996.

In an open letter to the World Bank signed by nearly 40 Indian organisations and numerous individuals they point out that the banks, *"blind focus on privatisation and the mad rush for industrialisation... the policies imposed by the Bank have significantly distorted development priorities, destroyed resources and impoverished millions. And now, the 'new' policies being promoted by the Bank, under the Structural Adjustment Programme and in the name of Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation are aggravating these impacts many times over."*

Some of its more recent dodgy activities include the Nemada Dam project in India, where it eventually had to pull out because of local and international protests; the Polonoeste Road Project in Brazil which has destroyed large tracts of rainforest, and the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, in partnership with such third-world-friendly companies like Shell and Exxon.

The World Bank has come under a lot of pressure in recent years - its rackets been rumbled, and there are growing calls for it to be closed down entirely. While the concept of "development" itself is a dubious and arrogant one, the World Bank can't even do this job properly, in a way that would truly benefit ordinary people in poorer countries. Instead it channels money to dictators and corrupt elite's, and provides a gravy train of contracts to Western corporations, imposing unnecessary and unwanted megaprojects on the poor. Meanwhile, structural adjustment programmes slash vital social services and gears production to export, rather than providing for a country's own needs. The country is then locked into a subordinate position in the economic new world order.

The World Bank can never be reformed - it does too good a job for global capital - it can only be abolished! (and while we're at, let's get rid of global capitalism?)

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

- For being nice. A man stops to help a kid who had been hit with a baseball bat on the back of the neck, calms the boy and his mates and holds his neck in case there are any spinal injuries. Starksy and Hutch arrive, get all the kids hysterical again and arrest the kind gentlemen for refusing to leave the boy. 200 yards down the road they chuck him out of the van and tell him to fuck off. Good ole' community policing.

CRAP CONFERENCE OF THE WEEK

Just what SchNEWS readers have been waiting for 'Quality Parking Into A New Era' a two day Conference on...car-parking (co-sponsored by everybody's fave magazine Parking Review). Taking place at the London Imperial College in September, sessions include 'Car Parks are for People' (silly old us we thought they were for cars) 'What Does a Well Designed Car Park Look Like?' (rubble with trees starting to grow back?), and 'The Problem of Older Structures: Coping with Decay and Preventing Collapse (!)'. - Despite the blurb going on about 'contributing to traffic restraint and sustainable transport policies' no mention is made of a simple solution to car-parking problems - a cheap and reliable public transport system so people don't need to drive everywhere.

To book your place ring 0171 582 3872

* SchNEWS rang the London Planning Advisory Committee who gave us a very rough guesstimate that there could be 100,000 car-parking spaces in Central London alone. 60,000 of these are for commuters

* Gotta Conference you think our readers should know about?

CRAP STOP AND SEARCH OF THE WEEK

After Dorset Hunt Sabs were returning from a demonstration outside an Ostich Farm they were stopped by cops who said the police helicopter had seen the kingpin on the van wheel was loose. Obviously the entry requirements for Dorset police now include telescopic sight & x-ray vision!

* Figures just released by Statchwatch reveal that black people are eight times more likely to be stopped than whites. The average rate for stop & search per 1,000 people is 17; for blacks in Merseyside it is 189; in Cleveland 135 and the Met weigh in with 141. The police racist?...never!

Birds of a Feather...

How the mighty have fallen: Lady Thatcher is apparently going on tour with Rod Hull (he of EMU fame). Rod will 'shock' fans (?) by announcing that he wishes EMU had never been born: alas, 'tis only European Monetary Union, and not his noxious puppet. As well as sharing hairstyles and odiousness, it seems Rod and Thatch share the same political leanings: "She has a brilliant mind", quoth he, inaccurately - and the two will share a platform with Nazi alien John Redwood and mustached dullard Nigel Mansell on a national tour to highlight the tedious evils of Brussels.

MUM GASED FOR CHARLIE

"I was one unarmed middle-aged woman injured and alone in a police cell. How could I possibly be a threat to the police?"

Gravesham Borough News reported the police use of CS gas on Gill Emerson following her arrest during Prince Charles' recent visit to Gravesend, when police burst into her cell without warning and sprayed the gas in her face! They neglected to mention that Mrs Emerson, 43, of the Kent Socialist Alliance, also had her nose broken during the arrest (requiring 3 riot vans, and 20 of Kent's finest) in which she and three others were charged with conspiracy to cause a breach of the peace by sitting on a wall. An additional charge of "criminal damage to a police camcorder" has also been brought. Mrs Emerson told SchNEWS "I was thrown down by several policemen so hard my face hit the ground... by the time I was handcuffed and put in the van I was covered in blood. Later, several policemen burst into my cell and sprayed CS spray directly into my injured face causing me to collapse in severe pain. It was agonising and I couldn't breathe."

Could it be that the Plod were embarrassed that four anti-monarchist demonstrators were able to penetrate their high security/surveillance operation shortly before Big Ear's eagerly-anticipated arrival? Long live the Republic!!! Get well soon, Gill.

* A couple of weeks ago Prince Charles was banging on about how evil genetics were, so it's ironic that he's the head of an environmentally friendly business regeneration charity called 'business in the community', whose past vice-presidents include Sir David Barnes of leading Genetic modifiers Zeneca Pharmaceutical and Sir Anthony Cleaver who used to run the unsafe Dounray nuclear plant! The current vice president is Steven O'Brien who is on the environment panel of Tarmac who trashed Twyford Down. The panel punt out glossy brochures boasting how environmentally sound Tarmac is yet they are at the moment building Runway 2 at Manchester Airport and have just been served an enforcement order for trashing trees and hedgerows.

* A decision by the Chief cop of Merseyside police to issue CS spray to all officers at Liverpool and Everton football matches has not gone down well with local councillors. They have asked the Home Secretary to intervene after Sir Hames Sharples told the clubs they had the choice of officers carrying the spray or matches not being policed at all.

GEN UP

Protesters who set out to pull up genetically engineered crops at Manor Farm, Banbury, were delighted to discover that the farmer had stopped growing the trial crop of oil seed rape after discovering it was genetically engineered. He was not informed by the company that the trial was for G.E. and later pulled the crop out himself *** A group calling themselves 'Wardens of Wiltshire' pulled up a genetically engineered crop of oilseed rape belonging to agro-chemical company, Monsanto, and then asked the farmer to tell Monsanto that "We will not stop until every one of Monsanto's genetically engineered crops are pulled out of the ground". This action brings the total of decontaminated genetically engineered release sites in the UK to 27. Until that is people at Totnes in Devon trashed a genetically engineered maize site - growing next to large organic farm.

* Get dued up read 'Genetic Engineering - Dream or Nightmare?' The Brave New World of Bad Science and Big Business' by Dr Mae Wan Ho (Gateway)

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want to help us with sorting out our email messages - training day next at the office next Tuesday (4 Aug) 10m. Give us a call.

SchNEWS in brief

Anyone with ideas, info or help for the forthcoming **Big Brother Survival Kit** should get in touch with Privacy International. The kit will cover the full surveillance spectrum including - CCTV action, DNA databases, crypto facts, Europol, Corporate Clones, Biometrics etc. Contact Privacy International c/o SchNEWS *** Activists in Mexico have asked for help on to save an important nesting sites of Green and Loggerhead sea turtles. The nesting site was recently sold by the Mexican government to the Sol Melia hotel development corporation of Spain. August has been chosen for a month of action at Mexican embassies and the hotel company. Contact **Sea Turtle Restoration Project**, Earth Island Institute/POB 400/40 Montezuma Avenue, Forest Knolls, CA 94933 email seaturtles@earthisland.org *** A march is being held in London on Saturday, 8th August by the **Animals Betrayed Coalition**, to draw attention to New Labour's broken promises on animal rights. Starts at Kennington Park, (Oval tube), 12 noon. 0181-2083289 *** **The Fightback Festival**, a day of action against the New Deal, takes place in Blackburn on Saturday 8th August. Organised by the Reinstated Nigel Cook Campaign, the party kicks off in Blackburn Town Centre at 12 noon. Bring drums, banners etc. Info: 01254 679605/0171 8371688. *** **anarchist leaf stirring its wooden spoon in Plymouth's punk/syndicate cake mix**. If you like the sound of that then you need a copy of **A Nightingale Sings**. Send an SAE to SchNEWS *** **PICKET THE MEXICAN EMBASSY!** in support of the Zapatistas. 12.30 - 2 pm Friday 7th August (and the first Friday of every month) 42 Hertford Street W1 (Hyde Park Corner/Green Park Tubes) Info: 0181 6796930 Send Email Messages Of Protest to the Mexican Embassy: mexuk@easynet.co.uk; and to President Zedillo: webadmon@op.presidencia.gob.mx

Inside SchNEWS

It's had two suicides, eight mini-riots and two officers taken hostage - and that's before it was even officially opened by the Princess Royal on Thursday! Welcome to Parc prison near Bridgend, South Wales, Britain's first hi-tech prison run by Securicor. The £266 million prison was meant to be 'keyless' but SchNEWS reckons clueless might have been more apt. Keys have now had to be issued because of problems with the computer-controlled locking system, and at one point a group of young black teenage offenders thoughtfully transferred to Parc from Feltham in West London faced such racist abuse they had to be moved out again.

* **Prisoner Justice Day August 12th**. Since 1975 prisoners in Canada have commemorated the anniversary of Eddie Nalon's suicide in Millhaven Penitentiary whilst supporters outside have shown their solidarity in other ways. Since 1992 the Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) have been organising events in the UK. This year London ABC have organised a demonstration on Saturday 8th August outside HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd, London N7 Meet 12 noon

* **'Dark Night Field Notes'** A highly recommended magazine on the privatisation and brutalisation of the American prison system. Send £5 which should also cover postage, cheques payable to Dark Night Press, PO Box 3629, Chicago, IL 60690-3629

* Issue 13 of **The Law** - the magazine written by radical solicitors is out now. Well worth a look. Send £1.30 + 50p SAE to PO Box 3878, London, SW12 9ZE email judge@lawpaper.demon.co.uk

ANYONE FOR CAMPING?

People fighting plans to build a multiplex cinema on the site of the **Crystal Palace**, in South London, failed this week in their High Court battle to halt the scheme. Developers want to build a massive 1,000 foot long steel and glass building on the highest point in London with 18 cinemas, 9 bar/restaurants and various retail outlets, and parking space for 950 cars on the roof! 12 acres of the park and 150 trees will disappear under the building which has been likened to an 'airport terminal'. This has stirred up a hornets net of protest and a camp has been set up in the Grade II Listed Park for the past couple of months which could face eviction at any time.

Directions to the camp: It's at the corner of Crystal Palace Park Road & Westwood Hill. By train: Crystal Palace stn direct from Victoria, Gypsy Hill stn then walk up the hill, same line. Bus: there are many connections from all over London. Tube: Brixton, then no 3 bus [20 mins] Balham, then Crystal Palace overground. Contact 0181653 8977 Site mobile: 0467 355 381

* **RARR - Residents Against the Relief Road** in Epsom, Surrey, desperately need people at a camp set up to stop a road widening scheme. The local council don't have enough money to evict, so are playing a waiting game, hoping everyone will get bored and go away, so they can get vacant possession. Ring 0411 306330 if you fancy a new home.

* The eviction of the second camp at **Brewery Fields**, went ahead last Tuesday. The people of Bangor, North Wales are trying to stop another greenfield site being swallowed up by housing. Contact 01248 3555821 Site Mobile 0836 563980/ email sop04a@bangor.ac.uk

FOOD NOT BOMBS

In San Francisco on 14 July, speakers from Food Not Bombs addressed a crowd of 150 outside the United Nations Plaza building to protest to against Human Rights violations in the USA. Speakers talked about how the elimination of Federal Welfare Programmes was intensifying the war on the poor under the disguise of "Welfare Reform", the privatisation of public spaces and redesign of public parks were making them inaccessible to homeless people (such as the reconstruction of park benches that are impossible to recline or sleep on).

Following this, the final speakers urged those present to take direct action - protestors proceeded to dismantle fencing along the grassy embankment at the UN Plaza subway entrance and walk about on the grass in an 'illegal fashion'! But it was when a dozen demonstrators crossed to the other side of the plaza to liberate a further patch of grass that 80 San Francisco and Federal police in riot gear descended and beat the shit out of people (for a change). Following the attack 28 arrests were made and everyone charged with "Failure to leave the scene of a riot" (which the police caused in the bloody first place).

...and finally...

Out of work and loving it? Fed up with being hassled by the dole? A group in Germany feel the same way, and have formed the **Happy Unemployed**. Crusading for idleness, their manifesto, 'At Last I Have Time', argues that the only pressure the unemployed face is being hassled to get a job, and that people should be rewarded for leaving jobs free for those who enjoy work. Too right!

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers not to lend money to the World Bank as they will only go and spend it on something very big and nasty that totally fucks up the environment and makes corrupt politicians and big multinationals even richer. Or maybe we are just too naive and simplistic and don't really understand global economics. We'd better just shut up, carry on consuming and watching TV. Honest.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

LET'S INVENT A NEW GAME

This article first appeared in the *Fourth World Review*, No.87.

In Denver, where I went in June to participate in TOES (The Other Economic Summit), I started out at the Indigenous Peoples' Tribunal.

The stories were familiar, but always poignant: the lovely Australian girl who married a prince in one of the small indigenous kingdoms of Burma and raised a happy family with her new people till the junta killed her sons in tow; she tells the horrors of a regime using US government funds to murder its own people; ten-year old Burmese children are enslaved into laying dirty oil lines through the formerly happy forest at corporate gunpoint; videos of gentle Ken Saro Wiwa document his peaceful work to protect his Ogoni people and show Shell Oil's hired army ruthlessly mowing them down to lay another pipe line for robbing Nigeria of its liquid black gold; endless tales of corporate plunder and devastation on indigenous lands and people.

That evening, before I gave my first speech at the alternative Economic summit, I met a woman who recently had dinner with the Chief Executive Officer of Shell and reported what a sweet man of integrity he was, so I stewed in my bed all night, in the agony of searching for a way to understand the compartments men can make of their minds, and when I spoke the next morning - having been asked to keep it on a positive note - I railed a bit in my passion to wake people up to seeing that the fascist Nazi game is still being played, only now on a worldwide scale. During WWII the I.G. Farben Cartel, whose participants include Rockefeller Standard Oil and many other American corporations, set up slave labour factories in Germany and developed the global oil economy, fueling both sides of the war.

Now Congress in Washington has voted away the US national sovereignty, along with over 70 other countries, to join the corporate dream-becoming-reality World Trade Organisation (WTO). I saw one of the lesser effects while traveling in Thailand last

December, when it was ruled that Thailand could not refuse to import American cigarettes for health reasons, while Indonesia must export the rattan it wanted to keep at home. Soon the WTO will increase its powers through the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI), so that its corporations can legally displace any local business in any member nation.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines fascism as 'right-wing authoritarianism'. Meeting in utter secrecy and holding the world in their greedy hands, it's hard not to see the North American Free Trade Association/WTO/MAI structures as the ultimate ugly cartoon of capitalist fatcats, or WWII posters of fascist pigs. How do so few exploit so many so ruthlessly and still sleep at night? Compartmentalisation. George Soros, who became a multi-billionaire through the capitalist money market, warns us that capitalism is a greater threat than communism (Atlantic Monthly cover article, Feb. 97), yet deplores the insistence of his fans that he give up his landmine investments because they are so lucrative and he does so love making money.

These were the things I discussed to let off some steam before moving into my calm and positive image of the butterfly in metamorphosis, because I do know deep down that guilt and despair win no one, and that the capitalist caterpillar is doomed.

Throughout our conference, of course the G8 were disrupting Denver with their armoured cars motorcades and all we knew of their doings were the TV reports showing them hugging and smiling and apparently agreeing on whatever they talked of in secret. I stayed with a woman who lives a block away from the governor's mansion where they dined. We were told not to be seen on her balcony whilst they were around. Later reports indicated that Clinton spent a good deal of the conference trying to convince his cohorts to go the American Way of maximising profits globally at the expense of democracy and decent livelihoods for most Americans. It's really getting bizarre!

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

LET'S INVENT A NEW GAME

BUSINESS AS USUAL

So cynical to watch Congressional hearings deploring Chinese slave labour as our corporations rush to build skyscrapers in Shanghai and take advantage of the low wages. But then, it's business as usual, isn't it? In Mother Jones (July/August '97), Milton Moskowitz, 'lifelong chronicler of socially responsible business' is pessimistic about the whole new trend of 'spiritual awakening' in business, saying it seems to be 'more about personal transformation', a way to make employees, depressed by their fellows' mass firings, happier in the workplace!

Moscowitz cites the Oct. '96 issue of Fortune: Don Tyson, the head of ... The nation's largest chicken supplier, said: "If it makes money, we expand it. If it doesn't we cut its throat." In the same issue Doug Ivester, the president of Coca-Cola, tells his managers to follow the words of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc: "What do you do when your competitor is drowning? Get a live hose and stick it in his mouth." Now those are the authentic voices of business. And, mind you, Coca-Cola has just signed up as a member of Business for Social Responsibility.

I lived through WWII in horror of fascism; wondered for all those decades why the good Germans let it happen. Now I know. Because we are letting the same corporate alliance structure maximize their profits through slave labour and the murder of those in the way on a global scale without protesting; even letting them erode our own standard of living at a furious pace, while the good Germans were at least given an improved standard of living to mollify and distract them.

Sir James Goldsmith said in the London Times, Feb. '94, "what an astonishing thing it is to watch a civilisation destroy itself because it is unable to reexamine the validity, under totally new circumstances, of an economic ideology". I'd agree with him, except I don't see that there's anything new - just a lot more of it!

WAKING UP

What will it take to wake us up? To realise that we are the people of the Earth and do not have to play cut-throat Monopoly all our lives! What will it take to get us over the money-addiction and abuse of the Earth's substances? To invent and play the win/win games we are so capable of inventing and playing once we break the bonds of habitual, yet ever unsatisfying consumerism!

I think I saw a clue in a recent meeting I attended at the Foundation for Global Community in Palo Alto, California. We were listening to an invited spokeswoman for community currency, a positive, legal, community-building solution gaining ground again in the US, as it did after the Great Depression of 1929, when it got some 500 towns across the US out of that mess. Forward thinking as this group is, it was working itself into pessimistic depression: 'This is a rich town; no one will want to do this.' 'I can't imagine the mayor, much less the City Council agreeing to it.' 'It will never fly here.' And so on.

Suddenly I intervened, asking, "Why are we taking this so seriously? Let's get light about it; after all it's nothing but play money to design and use amongst ourselves and our friends, a way of finding out what we have to offer each other. And if we enjoy the game, we'll win others over to it a few at a time. Who cares if the City Council wants to play-it's up to them! Life is too important to be taken so seriously!"

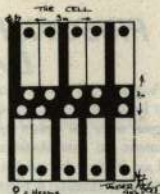
That's the problem. Work for consumerism under threat of job loss is a very serious and literal 'business'. We've been trained to be heavy. But it is said of angels that they fly because they take themselves lightly, and I believe that when we break this addictive bondage, we too will fly, like angels, or butterflies. Each and every one of us is more than this body engaged in a life struggle. We are spirit, too, and can soar above the game to see it for what it is, and then land and invent a new game called Community!



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER GONE TO THE BEACH

SchNEWS

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the opera ain't over 'til the...



ACCESS ALL ARIAS

"This is Communism! My family had all its land taken away in Poland by people like you... But now that's changed capitalism has given it all back". Opera-goer to an activist who sat in 'her' deckchair.

"If we can't have our parties then we'll gatecrash yours" was just one rallying cry last Sunday as the latest The Land Is Ours (South Downs)' Mass Trespass rural shindigs ended with an impromptu lunch amid the horrified upper classes at Glyndebourne Opera House, Lewes. A motley band of 50 assorted activists, revolutionaries and social deviants-including SchNEWS- and even a few genuine ramblers took a stroll over 6 miles of Downland, once accessible to all but now denied us by the machinations of history, before invading the manicured lawns of Sir James Christies' country seat where penguin-suited toffs were enjoying a pre-opera picnic. With tickets for the gig- featuring Dame Kiri Te Kanawa- a snip at only £118, opera-goers were disgusted at the invaders' audacity: "Why can't you get a £5 an hour cleaning job and pay for a ticket?" (£5 an hour for a cleaning job?!) "Why don't you just buy some land and have your own parties?" (Er, that's illegal under the Criminal Justice Act) and, of course, that old chestnut "What on earth are you trying to prove? You're pathetic."

Glyndebourne- an imposing manor with an opera house 'tacked on' the back as a rich mans' folly- was chosen as our lunch venue for its symbolic value. As our 'souvenir guide' pointed out: "The Christies locally represent the untitled land barons, a group of around 1,500 families mostly owning more than 3000 acres each... families like the Christies have spent hundreds of years gaining profit and power from the war against the poor." The land, once communally worked by the rural population has, through the processes of Enclosure (see SchNEWS 177) been gradually brought under the control of a few privileged people using destructive intensive agriculture to grow crops for the mass market. The rural poor were reduced from subsistence farmers to wage-slave farmworkers, vagrants, or forced to seek a new 'life' in the expanding factories in the towns, working 16-hour days for sod all.

Resistance and revolt were of course rife; most notorious were the 'Swing Riots' of 1830, where the disgruntled dispossessed, like their urban counterparts the Luddites, torched job-destroying farm machinery and buildings in the name of the mythical 'Captain Swing'.

"The Dispossessed have returned" was thus another cry that went up as the 'ramblers' commandeered lawn seats. Sir James himself, replete with wellies and gundogs waded amid the scruffy throng uttering oaths and attempting to turf the obstinate poor from his beloved chairs. 'To Captain Swing!' went the toasts as activists ignored remonstrations from Glyndebourne stage-hands sent out to appease the masses. "The only person you're upsetting is the landowner", "How would you like it if we came and sat in your back garden?" and, cleverly, "Are you going to stay here until you leave?" they scorned, to cheers, before the inevitable arrival of the boys in blue and our dignified departure in the direction of the pub.

Alas the cops, denied pickings at Glyndebourne, riot-vanned it to the hostelry. "No you can't get a beer- you're an anarchist" said Mr Plod to a thirsty 'rambler'; those already inside swiftly began passing pints through the window before a taunt of "Big Ears" saw the top cop 'lean on' the landlord to stop serving anyone who wasn't a local. Unwilling to upset the 'Squire', he said "He gives us lots of jobs, you know". And you thought feudalism was dead...? Meanwhile, tipping members of the Royal Philharmonic raised a glass to protesters- the delays caused by the Glyndebourne disturbance meant they got another pint in before showtime!

* Next Mass Trespass Sunday 23rd August Meet 12 noon Brighton Train Station

The Land Is Ours (South Downs) c/o SDEFI, PO Box 2971, Brighton, BN221T
SchNEWS vocab watch: 'Aria'- Extended song in three sections- common in 18th C Opera - Honest!

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For knocking on a door!

A freelance journalist covering the high-powered, secretive Bilderberg conference for the Daily Mail was arrested, handcuffed, kept in custody for eight hours and charged with a breach of the peace - after knocking on a flat door to get neighbours reaction to the Conference. Campbell Thomas, also a special constable was eventually released without charge. He winged "I was treated in an appallingly heavy-handed way, like a common criminal."

* If you wanna know more about the Bilderberg check out web pages tio.demon.co.uk/bilder.htm

For painting with water colours!

Two people involved in the campaign to stop part of Ashton Court Park being dug up were arrested this week for criminal damage after painting "hills not holes" on an eight foot high steel fence, with water based paint. A subsequent search of the protest camp by the police for evidence such as paint pots failed to uncover anything, which together with a downpour of English summer weather, left them with a lack of lasting evidence, and the water coloured artists were released without charge.

* People are needed urgently as Pioneer Aggregates have started to bulldoze one of the meadow. There is a safe camp for people to stay. Also from Saturday 29-Mon 31st August workshops, discussions, actions, parties at the camp. For directions ring 01179399469/07970 423834

TELESALES RIOT

Police fired bullets and tear gas last Wednesday as ten thousand angry demonstrators set up burning barricades in Rio de Janeiro to protest against the sale of the countries telephone company, which they say is the property of the Brazilian people. Around 3,000 armed police arrived in the capital to help control demonstrators who had threatened to disrupt a one day 'bonanza' auction where the government hopes raise \$14 billion in Latin America's largest privatization



SMOKEY BEARS PICNIC

Now in it's fifth year , this peaceful picnic for tokers, is fitting upwards of a 1,000 people of all ages and backgrounds to spend a day chilling with chillums on the Common. Yes, there has been Police presence but over the years there have been only a few arrests for possession so put your principles where your roach pin is and go along. Laid back sunbathing starts at 2:00 pm on Sunday 16th August on Southsea Common, Portsmouth

BE LUNKY ON FRIDAYS WE NEED URGENT HELP EVERY WEEK WITH THE MAIL OUT

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PRISONER JUSTICE DAY

August 10th is a way of remembering all those that have died unnatural deaths whilst in prison. It began over 20 years ago in Canada and has become an international solidarity event.

Last Friday the prison population of England and Wales reached a record breaking 66,570 - and is increasing by 200 a week. The Conservatives 'lock em up' philosophy has now been adopted by New Labour. Since they got in power a prison ship, childrens prison and two private prisons have been opened. Two more are in the pipeline. Labour also continued with a High Court appeal which bans prisoners from talking to journalists.

The Director General of the Prison Service has warned that more than 20 prisons will have to be built at a cost of £2 billion to meet an expected rise in jail numbers over the next seven years, possibly reaching 92,000 by 2005.

However, even Home Office research shows that the "incarceration effect" is so small that you need to increase the prison population by 25% just to cut crime by just 1%. Home Office surveys also show that the make-up of the prison population is overwhelmingly poor and that the vast majority of crime is directly or indirectly motivated by poverty. About one third are inside for non payment of fines, taxes and debts, this is particularly so for women. Thousands more are on remand, spending months inside only to be found not guilty. Many more are framed - think of the Guildford 4 or the Birmingham 6.

Write to a prisoner not your MP

"I have had many letters of support and the support has given me the strength to get through this nightmare"

prisoner writing to SchNEWS

PHIL DE SOUSA was recently found guilty of common assault and affray at the Southdown and Eridge (Check this) Hunt in September 96. He's been involved in direct action such as hunt sabbing, poll tax, prisoner support etc for the last eight years. He should be released on Nov 15th

AW6717, HMP Lewes, Brighton Rd., Lewes.

MARK BARNESLEY was attacked by 15 drunk students when out walking with his six week old baby daughter and a family friend. He fought back, and injured five of the students. Despite the fact that every single independent witness said he was the person being attacked he was the only one arrested and eventually received a 12 years prison sentence WA2897, HMP Full Sutton, York, YO4

* Mass phone in on Saturday August 8th to the Sheffield Star who've continually rubbished Marks' case 0114 2766666

GARY MILL and **TONY POOLE** are both serving life after being stiched up by the police, who killed a black man in custody then framed them. Gary is at HMP Erdstoke (check spelling), Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5TU. Tony is at Long Lartin, South Littleton, Eversham WR11 5TZ.

PABLO LOCKE inside for life after defending himself against a psycho with a multitude of violent convictions'. Pablo admits he was no angle but the sentence should have been more like 8 years.

MM2797, HMP Kingston, Milton Rd., Portsmouth, Hampshire (Pablo has also set up an Anarchist Black Cross group for prisoners inside)

Don't know what to write? Talk about your life, about the things you are doing. If you writing to people from political movements keep them involved in what's going on (but obviously don't drop people in the shit) Most prisoners aren't the mad dogs you forever hear about in the press - they are ordinary people - so get scribbling. If writing for first time its probably best to send letter recorded delivery.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk
congrats to Emly who had a baby boy Ferdinand on Monday!

MARK CHRISTIAN CULLINANE is presently serving a six year sentence in Tanger, Morocco, for possession of cannabis resin. Conditions in the prison are horrendous: 25 people in one cell measuring 5m x 7m (see drawing in top corner of this weeks SchNEWS) sharing one toilet between them, with one tap above the loo for use as a shower and for general food and clothes washing, one meal a day of vegetable soup and very little natural daylight. His girlfriend Deborah is having to bring up three children alone, as well as raise money to buy him extra food and toiletries. Money is also needed to help buy art materials for Mark which make his sentence more bearable.

Write to Mark No 21486, Chamber 5 Charter C, Prison Civil Tanger, Marroccous-Maroc, North Africa.

Donations to Deborah J.Hayes, Nationwide Building Society, Flex Account, No 0321/270370675

PRISONER JUSTICE DAY EVENTS

*Sat 8th August Brighton ABC are organising a picket outside Lewes Prison 9:00 am, get the 8.20 bus from the Old Steine * London ABC picketing Holloway Prison, Parkhurst Rd., London, N7 12 noon * Aug 10th Meet 11am at Tyrls, Bradford City Centre (outside Central Police Station) in support of Michael Singh who has spent ten years inside for a murder he did not commit.

*If you want a list of prisoners send a large SAE and some stamps to Brighton Anarchist Black Cross, PO Box 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT

SchNEWS in brief

Protestors who have set up an anti-nuclear camp on Skin Rock in Russia, near the Kola nuclear power plant have been told by sanitarian inspectors that "camp is threat to the environment" (unlike the plant)!*** On the 24th August there will be a procession with a wreath layed on the Westmoor watercourse killed by intensive farming. The watercourse on the Somerset Levels suffered run-off, slurry and toxic fertilizers which depleted all the oxygen and killed all the fish in August last year. More details 01460 53633 *** Thirteen people were arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of criminal damage to a genetically engineered (GE) site in Totnes, Devon. The trial crop of genetically engineered maize was being grown by Sharpes International Seeds next to a large organic farm. The trial site recently employed security guards in the wake of attacks on crops the previous week. Police also raided the house of a journalist who has been covering the unfolding story of direct action against ge crops, seized video tapes and his computer and held him for 24 hours.*** **Crystal Palace Park - Teddy Bears' Picnic** Groups concerned to save the Park from a 20 screen cinema monstrosity invite YOU to a family day of fun and frivolity. Top site of Crystal Palace Park off Crystal Palace Parade Saturday 15th August 1998 From 11am onwards*** **Sound and Fury - eco protests 1997** now you can relive, through the sounds, a London Reclaim The Streets, Reclaim the Ballots Tony Blair slugging an unenvironmental farmer, the rants of Ben Elton at the Fuming Mad Rally and more £3 from Dream Power Pictures PO Box 521, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 6HY *** Don't forget **Bristol Reclaim The Streets** August 15th Meet 12pm Eastville Park (M32 Junction 2) 0117 939 3093*** August 12th is the so-called 'glorious twelve' where thousands of grouse are blown out of the sky. If you don't think that's very nice, get in touch with the Hunt Sabs 01273 622827

NAZI GETS A LOTTA BOTTLE

The second suicide of an anarchist held in an Italian prison, sparked a mini riot in the "Campo de Fiori" square, Rome, last month. During the demonstration Teodoro Buontempo, ex-leader of Nazi groups and now a fascist congressman, emerged from a nearby restaurant and into the path of 200 anarchist. As they advanced on him, his two bodyguards legged it, leaving him on the receiving end of some quick 'justice'. He returned with 10 cops who also beat a hasty retreat after being pelted with bottles, chairs and tables. More cops arrived and, faced with identifying the anarchists among the 2,000 passers-by, did the only sensible thing, they began firing machine guns in the air, sending hundreds of tourists into panic. The anarchists once again attacked the police who drove off at high speed, crashing a couple of their cars into each other. The demonstration continued to another square before people scattered. There were 4 arrests. The next day the right wing press and TV launched attacks on the demonstrators, claiming the attack on their poor old fascist leader was "anti-democratic". The rest of the press stayed silent, because they remember Buontempo as a nazi. The moral of this story for the our Old Ball? Be thankful you get nothing worse than wheeie bins full of drunken Crusties chucked at you! (Sorry Silva)

"NO ONE IS ILLEGAL"

Kicking off with a 36 hours party attended by 800 people German activists have set up two new 'alternative' border crossings at the Neisse riverborder near the town of Goerlitz. The 'New' border crossings have been organized by the "No one is illegal" campaign. 300 people have gathered near the small town of Rothenburg to protest against the European migration policy and stress the right of free movement for everybody and free access for all to Europe. Each year especially in summertime the Neisse border is used by thousands of migrants and refugees, who are not allowed to enter Europe. However the area has seen ten thousand new border patrols being stationed to detect "illegal" border crossings. So far two activists have been arrested while trying to construct bridges, and the camps ferry boat has been seized. <http://www.contrast.org/borders/camp>

...and finally...

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

Mexican prisoner Juan Lopez escaped from jail after saving up six years worth of Salsa sauce before using the stuff to dissolve the bars of his cell window! In the same country six inmates escaped during keep fit sessions in the exercise yard - using a trampoline to bounce over the wall. In the USA three prisoners were playing Monopoly in their cells waiting to go to court when they used thiny wheel barrow playing piece to remove 'tamper resistant screws' on an arduck covering before crawling to the roof, lowering themselves down with a rope made of bedding and escaping in a stolen pick up truck.

Extracted from 'Taking Liberties' the newsletter of Black Cross

disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all Brighton readers to stop lazing on the beach and come and help in the office a couple of hours a week, otherwise we'll have to join you. In fact there is no SchNEWS next week cos we've hardly any money to print, no one to write stories, no one to check emails, no one to stuff envelopes, moan, moan, so we're off to the beach to get a suntan. And if you like yer SchNEWS we'll expect to see you in the office when we get back. It doesn't appear by magic.

Honest.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

SURVIVING PRISON

Britain has the largest prison population per capita in Europe and if Jack (lock'em up) Straw has his wicked way it'll carry on growing! More and more people are likely to do time for crimes they did or didn't commit, partly because the state is always creating more + more laws that we can break, especially laws criminalising political protest. The fear of prison is one of the state's ultimate deterrents to stifle dissent and protect the ruling classes from the wrath and poverty of the masses. This deterrent only works as effectively as we are fearful of it, and this is an attempt to dispel some of the fears and myths that surround prison.

Experiences of prison can vary greatly from person to person and from prison to prison. Obviously there's a big difference between a short stay and a long stretch, not so much on the experience while there but mentally it can be harder to remain unaffected, and will take longer to re-adjust to the outside world as it will have changed more, and old skills will have to be remembered. Being in prison on remand can be mentally and emotionally taxing, because of the uncertainty regarding length of sentence, and the stress of an

approaching court case, etc. Women's prisons are also quite different, not only are you likely to be further from friends and family because of the scarcity of women's prisons but many women are in for gender/poverty related crimes in a way that men aren't, basically because most coppers/judges are male chauvinists. Category 'A' prisoners (high security) also have less privileges than Category 'B', 'C', + 'D' respectively. It should also be remembered that worldwide, British prisons have a

reputation for being soft compared to elsewhere, especially outside of Europe.

If you know in advance that you're gonna be going inside it's helpful to talk to others with experience of prison. It's good to tie up any loose ends regarding family, housing, money, support before you go in. Also get a few good reading books together!!!

This guide is aimed mostly at those who do time for political 'crimes' or crimes(?) of conscience, although it can apply to anyone. Some political activists see going to prison as a natural extension of direct action. Political prisoners have the advantage of being part of a wider movement, which can offer practical support and boost moral. Having a good understanding of why you are there can give a degree of inner strength, calm and confidence and so from this perspective prison can be an empowering experience, and can also be somewhat amusing at times as well!

Most folk on knowing they're about to go down have a flood of varied emotions and/or passing attacks of anxiety and fear. It can feel like the whole weight of Babylon is falling upon your head.



A SURVIVAL GUIDE

SURVIVING PRISON

"with the threat of prison hanging over my head I try and find out as much as I possibly can about the prison I am likely to be sent to... I worry about what the other prisoners are like; will I fit in? How much stuff I can take with me? Will I be on my own or sharing? When I arrive different questions become a problem: where do I go to eat, to shower, where is everything, this place is big. After you come out of prison, take a holiday, or rest, to give yourself time to adjust to being out again and having space to move about. Give yourself time and tell others how you are feeling"

"Prisons and prison experiences vary enormously... the first time I went to a British prison was one of the most hellish weeks of my life: I was beaten up by the guards, denied a vegan diet, taken before the governor three times (and threatened with everything from the punishment block to the psychiatric wing) and put in a cell with someone in for murder and someone in for manslaughter. In contrast, much of my five months in another prison was a leisurely rest - badminton, jogging, table tennis, evening classes, my own cell, passable vegan food, friendly enough screws"

"I had sort of expected I was going to prison and actually felt quite prepared and calm. As the prison van pulled up at the gates I felt a strange sort of excitement mixed with a bit of nervousness and uncertainty. I found it fairly easy to settle in after the initial 'crikey! I'm in prison' type feelings. Getting used to the regime can be a bit hard - so many rules. When your life is totally in the hands of authoritarians you just have to adapt and get used to it, and know that they can't confine your thoughts or hold your true freedom. It's important to use the time well with things to focus your mind. There lots of potential for self-development and learning from people of different backgrounds. I really benefited from doing lots of meditation and tai chi, which helped me keep calm, especially when dealing with some of the screws who would try and draw me into confrontation because of my beliefs"

However the reality is a lot easier than the fears, and when you start meeting the other cons you realise most of them are just ordinary enough people brought here by unfortunate circumstances, rather than the social monsters the government and media would have you believe. Obviously there are some nutters but they ain't that common, and let's face it there's plenty of nutters on the outside as well! Very few people are looking for a fight 'cos that can mean time in solitary and less parole, so if you're not looking for trouble you're unlikely to find it. If you try and act hard, someone's gonna challenge you, so just be yourself and be calmly confident, and, *keep a good sense of humour!!!* Political prisoners tend to get a fair bit of respect in prison, if not a few strange looks for having somewhat alien beliefs. Most trouble in prison is over drugs and addictions (including tobacco) and bullying to get them when personal supplies run low (the prison shop's only open once/twice a week and everyone's skint anyway)... Time to Give Up..? Sometimes, especially if it's obviously your first time inside, you may find yourself challenged in some way by other prisoners, as a kind of test of strength which as long as you stand your ground in a calm but confident manner, will generally pass off without incident. Backing down to any threats or bullying leaves you wide open for abuse and bullying later if you become seen as an easy victim, so stand your ground. It's pretty similar to school playground philosophy really.

An open mind and a bit of common respect can go a long way in prison meeting half-way the many different lives, experiences and expectations that you'll meet there. It can be a time of learning and an insight into the inner workings of Babylon; both in the oppressive and overly bureaucratic organisation of prison and in the inmates themselves, most of whom are in for some kind of poverty (class) related crime. Prison can be a lonely place, it is designed to isolate. Communication and solidarity is essential, both with other inmates and with the outside world as well. Political prisoners usually get a lot of support and correspondence from the wider movement, this gives a big boost to morale and in some cases can be a lifeline (make sure they know you're there - see contacts below) It also makes a prisoner feel

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

SURVIVING PRISON

less anonymous, less of a number in a system to be pushed about.

Adapting to prison regime can be strange (if not interesting)... it's a culture unto itself - so many new rules and regulations, new behaviour norms, repetitive routines, social hierarchies, different language. You can expect some overcrowding, frustrating and irritating levels of noise and distraction and little personal space or privacy. It may be difficult to sleep properly, radios blaring, slamming bars, loud arguments etc. Food will be starchy and dull. You will learn to wait ... for a phone call, a shower, a meal, the answer to a question even the time of day. Time can become be distorted, days will slip by but each hour could seem like an eternity. Focusing your mind on something like a campaign, reading, studying, drawing, yoga etc. can be a great help in dealing with the monotony and stresses of prison life. Different diets can be catered for upon request although you are only guaranteed a Vegan diet if you're a member of the Vegan society *before* getting sent down. Some progress has been made recently on getting GMO-free diets, although such decisions (as are most decisions regarding personal welfare) are at the arbitrary discretion of the individual prison Governor. Visits and the sending in of books, money, stereo, what you can and can't send in/out varies greatly from prison to prison so check with the Prison Visitor Centre concerned. The screws are generally alright, if not a bit uptight, with a predisposition towards having authoritarian fantasies. Their prime concern is to preserve order through obedience and submission. However you don't have to indulge them in this fantasy and as long as you don't take the piss they generally leave you alone. Let them be responsible for keeping order while you stay responsible for keeping your conscience.

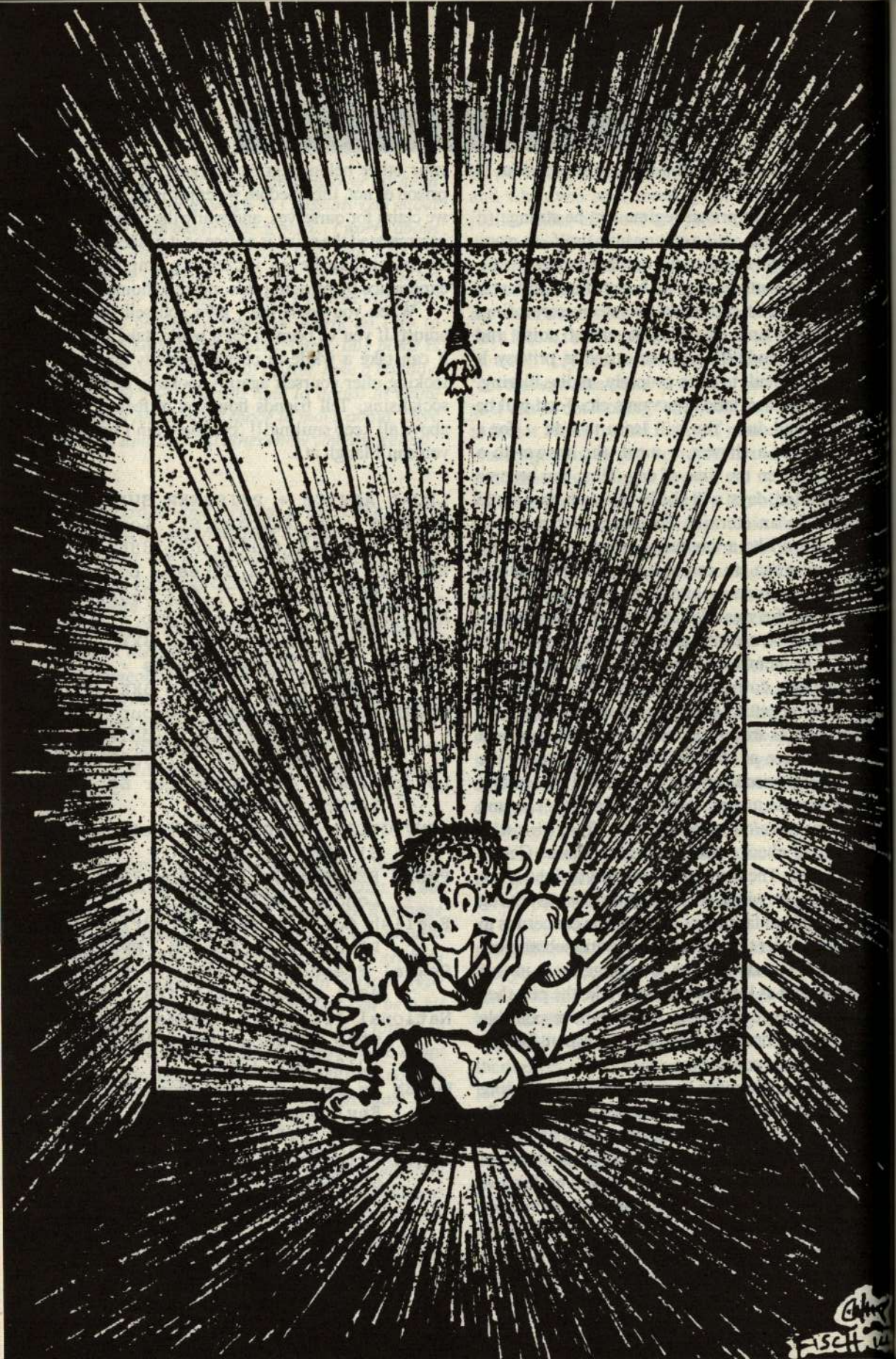
A sense of humour goes a long way in dealing with the daily routine of being inside, and a smile can disarm all but the meanest screws and cons. Sometimes it's hard not to laugh at those in authority when they take themselves far too seriously, especially if their authority and power is not having the desired effect on you. Just because your body is behind bars doesn't mean you've got to turn in your conscience or convictions with all

your other belongings at the gate. Whether in prison or not, the freedom we enjoy is the freedom we claim for ourselves, and while the body can be incarcerated the spirit is as free as it wishes. Being in prison can be an incredibly empowering experience by bringing this message home.

When you come out, give yourself time to adjust. If you've been in for a while, take it easy, it can take a while to psychologically adjust to looking after yourself again - cooking, cleaning, socialising. Tell friends how you're feeling and above all keep smiling!!! 'cos there ain't nothing you can't laugh at...

- LEGAL ADVICE + PRISONER SUPPORT
LIBERTY - 21 Tabbard St, London,
SE1 4LA (0171 403 3888)
- RELEASE - 388 Old Street, London,
EC1V 9LT (0171 603 8654)
- ALF Prisoner Support Group - BCM
1160, London, WC1N 3XX
- EARTH Liberation Prisoners - BM
HEAL, London, WC1N 3XX
- VEGAN PRISONER Support Group - PO
Box 194, Enfield, Middlesex,
EN1 3HD (0181 292 8325)
- London ABC - 27 Gloucester St,
London WC1N 3XX
- CONVICTION - PO Box 522, Sheffield,
S1 3FF
- PAGAN FEDERATION - BM Box 7097,
London, WC1N 3XX
- English Collective of Prostitutes
PO Box 287, London, NW6 5QU
- Sexual Freedom Coalition - PO Box
42B, London, W1A 4ZB
- National Prisoners Movement - BM-
PROP, London, WC1N 3XX
(0181 542 3744)
- WOMEN in Prison - c/o Women's
Environmental Network
(0171 247 3327)
- PEACE Prisoners Support - c/o 16
Sholebrook Avenue, Leeds
LS7 3HB

!!! DO SOMEONE A FAVOUR -
WRITE TO A PRISONER!!!



Chapman
F. Set...

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

WRITING TO PRISONERS



A Dedication to Revolution

*Twenty five days of penal revolution
after a century of intimidation
With no help those LIONS ROARED
year by year the brutality soared
Management and Religion with no care
they knew of the abuse but they were aware
Strangeways among others a national disgrace
then a report to bury the problems without a trace*

*The Woolfe report what a Joke
While twenty Jails went up in Smoke
destruction was evidently the only way
her Majesty's Prison officers they run away
the boys didn't carry batons, didn't hold Shields
the lions knew the score their fates were sealed
every one of those lions they done us proud
it just goes to show they never were cowed*

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

WRITING TO PRISONERS



WRITING TO PRISONERS

One of the main problems that puts people off getting involved in supporting prisoners is a feeling of being intimidated about writing to a prisoner for the first time... It is very hard to write a letter to someone you don't know: people find that they don't know what to say, they feel there are things they can't talk about, or think that prisoners won't be interested in what they have to say. Well this is a problem most of us have had to get over, so we've drawn up some suggestions to help you. Obviously they aren't rigid guidelines, and we don't pretend to have solved all problems here. Different people will write different letters. Hopefully they will be of use.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

WRITING FOR THE FIRST TIME

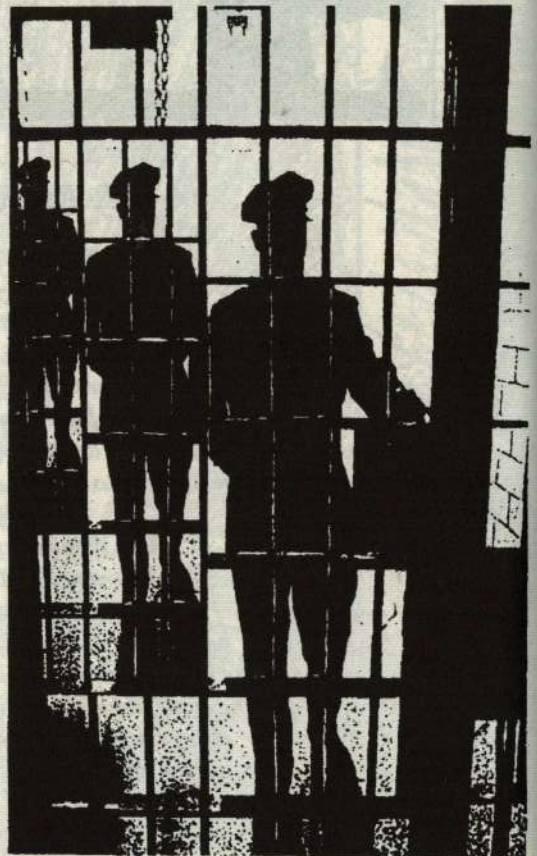
Say who you are, and if it's relevant that you're from such and such a group. Some people reckon it's better to be upfront about your politics as well, to give the prisoners the choice to stay in contact with you or not.

Say where you heard about them and their case.

Keep your first letter reasonably short and to the point, it's best not to overwhelm people. Also some prisons restrict the size of letters that can be sent in (4 sides of A4 has been quoted to me). Obviously when you get to know people better you'll have more to talk about.

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

Some people, when they write to prisoners, are afraid of talking about their lives, what they



A SURVIVAL GUIDE

WRITING TO PRISONERS



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

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

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

If you are offering support or to campaign for a prisoner, it is best to be realistic about what you can achieve. To someone serving a long sentence in prison, you can seem like a powerful ray of hope - it's important to keep hope alive but not create illusions about you being able to spring

them or necessarily 'clear their name'. If a prisoner believes you can do more for them than is possible, it can lead to disillusion and depression if you do not 'come up with the goods'.

THROUGH THE WALLS

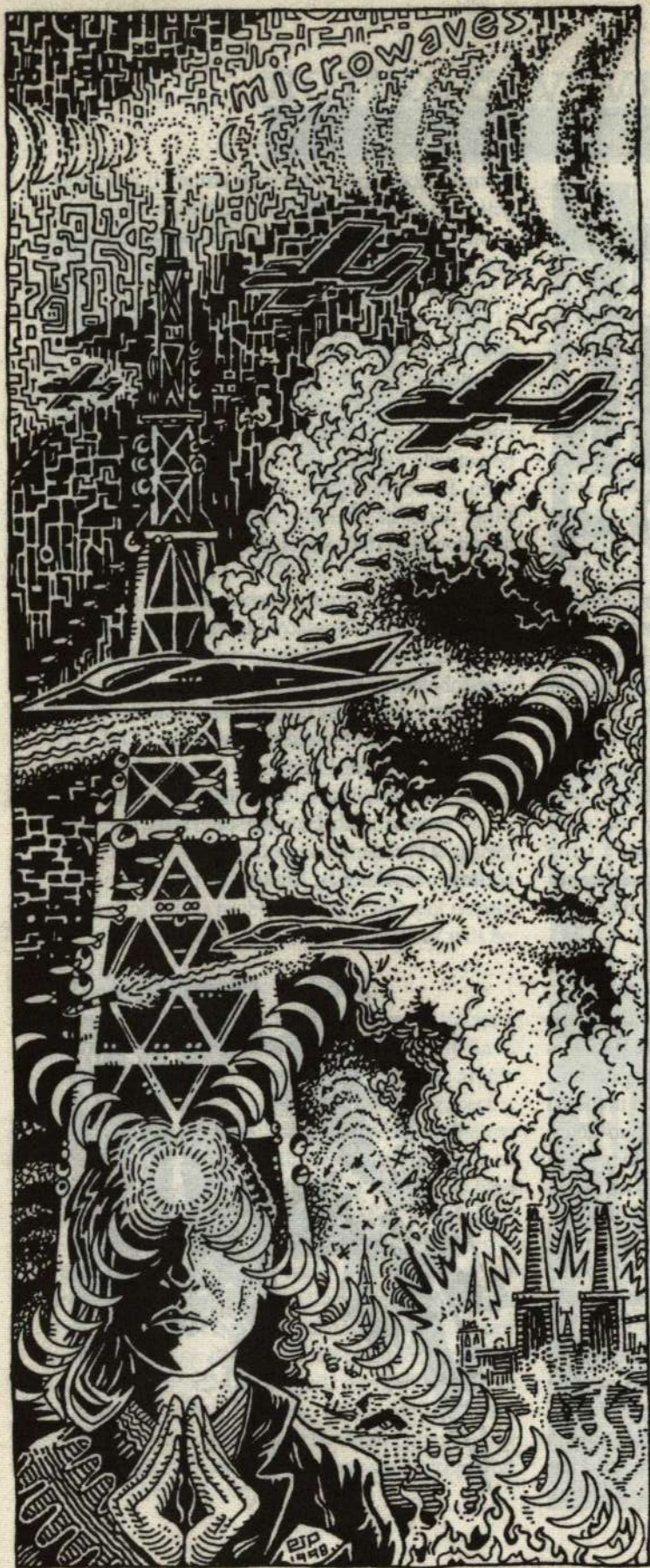
At the end of the day, writing to prisoners is about common sense and using your head. Most prisoners are not the mad beasts 'The Sun' would have us believe, they are ordinary people just like you. Prison is there to isolate people, so we must be actively keeping the link to the outside world open. Direct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

For further info and prisoner listings contact:
Anarchist Black Cross, c/o Sheffield ABC, PO Box 446, Sheffield, S3 8YG, or tel: 0171 326 0353 (ansaphone)

Also earth & animal liberation prisoners via:
Earth Liberation Prisoners BM Heal, LONDON WC1N 3XX earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/RainForest/Jungle/1664

Subscribe to free prisoners listing zine, 'Spirit of Freedom' by sending s.a.e.'s to the above address or updates by Email





Peter Poole

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER JUST SAY NO! TO DODGY CHEMICALS



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www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 180 Free/Donation

THE CORPORATIONS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ASYLUM

"Their influence has grown so much that today, of the world's richest economies, 51 are multinational corporations, and the total sales of the top 200 firms in the world are now equivalent to nearly 30% of global gross domestic product. Indeed, corporations have gained so much power over international political and economic life that we may well be entering a "Brave New Corporate World."

Ambika Chawla ASEED

Four weeks ago the Ethyl Corporation of America, received \$13 million from the Canadian government. *Well, so what?* The Ethyl Corporation make a chemical called methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, MMT for short. MMT is a fuel additive, which is mixed with petrol in order to prevent engine knocking. It is also a dangerous neurotoxin. Manganese entering the body through the lungs causes nerve damage which can lead to psychosis, memory loss, and early death. In April 1997 the Canadian government decided to ban it.

Had the vote taken place three years earlier, the Ethyl Corporation would have had to abide by the decision. But, since 1994, corporations in Canada, the United States and Mexico have enjoyed a powerful new tool over elected authorities. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allows companies to sue governments which, they believe, raise unfair barriers to trade.

"It is the butterfly's wings over North America that will cause a hurricane in Europe."

George Monbiot

Ethyl sued the Canadian government for the 'expropriation' of its 'property' (namely its anticipated profits) and the 'damage' to its 'good reputation' caused by the parliamentary debate. It took its suit to NAFTA, where a secret tribunal whose records are not disclosed and whose decisions cannot be appealed, began to assess the case. Last month, the Canadian government realising that its chances of success were approx zero, settled with Ethyl, agreed to allow the corporation to resume its sales of MMT and announced that "MMT poses no health risk."

So what has any of this got to do with us? Well, the NAFTA rules that allowed Ethyl to sue the Canadian government are almost identical to those in the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI - see SchNEWS 141)

The MAI is a multinationals wet dream. Discussed in secret for the past couple of

years before activists let the cat out of the bag, it will, like NAFTA, give corporations the right to sue governments for even debating issues which may harm their profits. As SchNews predicted in October last year, the MAI will force governments to respond to economic pressures by abolishing worker protections, public safety regulations and measures protecting the environment.

The Canadian 'pay the polluter' case should have alarm bells ringing in all of us. The signing of the MAI has been delayed, but the mentality of the multinationals will mean that a similar agreement will no doubt be rearing its ugly corporate head in the very near future.

Oil Barren

"Despite warnings of global warming and the alarming rate of extinction of plant and animal species, oil companies are scrambling to tap the world's remaining oil resources. With forecasts of many reserves drying up within the next few decades, the oil industry is in a race to explore the most remote areas of the world, with no regard for the fragile ecosystems they often destroy in the process."

Oilwatch

Last week BP announced a 67 billion pound move to merge with Amoco which will make them the 14th largest corporation in the world. Here are some things you might like to know about...

BP is proud of its 'miniscule' contribution to climate change from its production operations: only 1% of world CO2 - but that makes it the world's 21st largest polluter, bigger than countries like Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and the Netherlands!

A recent Colombian government report presents a catalogue of deforestation, contamination and dumping of toxic waste. They've been fined hundreds

CRAP ARRESTS OF THE WEEK

* **The human body:** made up of tender flesh and bones that crunch. It can however still pose a hazard to the delicate contours of a car, as MoD police recently found out to their cost. After driving into activists who were blocking the passage of their vehicle at Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland, the officers displayed an unexpectedly fine sense of irony in arresting one of them for criminal damage to the car's bodywork, inflicted as it struck the protester's somewhat softer body.

* **For picking up litter:** One person collecting litter out-side the missile base asked the sentries to dispose of it. Her pleas falling on deaf ears, she dumped it back on the ground and lay in the road, at which point police moved in choosing also to nick three others who tried to clear it up

* **For possession of spoons:** Apparently the base's sophisticated sonar security sensor can't distinguish between a pair of bolt cutters and a spoon. As five activists set about tapping out a synopacted rhythm on the wire fence the plod moved in again, later refusing to give the spoons back.

As SchNEWS went to press 100 people had been nicked during the Trident Ploughshare 2000 actions outside the nuclear submarine base! Faslane Peace Camp 01436-850488

of thousands of pounds by the Colombians and had four rigs temporarily suspended. It also finances the Colombian military for the presence of a 3,000 brigade of soldiers to protect its installations from 'guerrilla' attacks. Since 1994 six villagers who have objected to damage caused by the oil company, have been assassinated and others falsely imprisoned and harassed by the army. Human rights lawyers investigating the killings said that BP's military brigade are out of control.

Amoco Infamous for its Amoco Cadiz oil disaster in Brittany 1978, their US refineries have been plagued by fires, explosions, injuries and deaths. In Indiana, Amoco accepts responsibility for 75,600,000 litres of spillage and an explosion at a gas plant in Kansas forced a close down, it's also had a go in Papua New Guinea, where it bought up 30% of the OK Tedi correctmine. Toxic spillage from here proceeded via local rivers to the Torres Straights and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. In 1989 it paid Burma's brutal military regime \$5 Million for a concession in the country's virgin teak forests and its 1996 proposals for a World Bank financed oil exploration of Western Siberia outraged environmental groups. Amoco is a member of the Global Climate Coalition, an industry front group that tells everybody that global warming isn't happening and tries to stop laws that reduce in fossil fuel emissions. Last year it help fund a PR company by the Nigerian dictatorship to improve the countries image and prevent oil sanctions.

* **MAI-DAY Conference** - to help organise a co-ordinated UK campaign to stop the MAI 19th September at Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2. To book your place ring Chris 01268 682820 email chris.keene@which.net

* **Hot Spring 98 United Action Against Corporate Rule.** Excellent booklet. Send a large SAE to A SEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands Tel 31 20 668 2236 www.antenna.nl/aseed

Earth First!

Summer Gathering

Wednesday 9th to September 14th £10

To receive details of how to get to site

send SAE to: E.F. Gathering c/o

Cornerstone Resource Centre,

16 Sholebrooke Ave, Chapelton,

Leeds LS7 3JB 0113 262 9366

Get a vehicle? Ring SchNEWS office

SOUTH DOWNS MASS TRESSPASS THIS SUNDAY (23RD) MEET 12:00 BRIGTON STATION

BLOCKED LINES

"The blockades will continue until the government agrees to a process to legally recognise indigenous lands." The Indigenous Federation of the State of Bolivia 1,000 Pemón Indians of the Imataca and Gran Sabana regions of Venezuela are blockading the only highway between Venezuela and Brazil. They are trying to stop a 120 kilometre high voltage electrical line being built through their rainforest homeland. 50 National Guard are on the scene and telephone communications from the region are being blocked. At the beginning of the month in Caracas, a coalition of environmental organisations and university students marched in solidarity with the indigenous protesters in a march timed to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus. It was the third time in a week that the highway has been closed. The blockades began in July, protesters suspended the blockades after the government agreed to meet with indigenous leaders. But blockades began again with protesters saying, "...the government sent representatives with no real decision-making power."

In May 1997 the Venezuelan government signed a decree which opens up 40% of the Imataca Forest Reserve, an area of 3.6million hectares of diverse tropical forest to mining. About 10,000 Indians live in the reserve but were never consulted about the decrees and are worried that their land will be targeted by mining and loggers and that their small scale cooperative mining will be affected. The Pemón live mainly from their gardens supplemented by hunting and fishing. Palm trees provide housing materials and fruit. Some villages have set up small scale tourism. The Pemón came into sustained contact with national society in the 1920s but have so far successfully kept their own language and way of life.

Contact: Survival International, 11-15 Emerald St., London, WC1N 3QL 0171 242 1441 www.survival.org.uk

Binglaroooga

"There has been a site on the proposed route of the Bingley Bypass for two years. At present it may be tatted down even though the road has just been given the go ahead, due to a lack of support...It is a beautiful site next to a river and a few people have been struggling to keep it going. They are burnt out and can't handle being there anymore. "We are sending out a desperate plea to you, all we want is a few people to live on site. There are plenty of habitable tree houses and good skips near by. Please help so that we don't lose faith that there are still people out there willing to fight the destruction of our planet." Ring: Lizzie, 0961 932 179 NOW

IT'S MY PARTY

"We're up for it today. We know you're just a bunch of professional anarchists"

Chief Inspector Reid

Another street party, another dollar... So Bristol Reclaim the Streets showed impeccable professionalism in throwing down the gauntlet to the police, who picked it up and wielded it with an iron fist. But the three hundred-or-so party-goers weren't about to go home empty-handed. As the 'World of Public Order' theme park opened once again on the Bristol streets the old bill struggled to retain control, while party-goers dashed past cordons, outmanoeuvring officers on horses or with dogs, alternately to seize control of two major roundabouts. There were 66 nancies during a day in which the cheery throng danced two main roads and a Shell garage into closure, leaving the thin blue line just a pale smudge all over the disgruntled pavement.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

Big shout to B.F.N. and everyone else who sent us donations last week but dig deep readers, we aint out the woods yet, all those lovely summer double issues cleaned us out!!!!

SchNEWS in brief

*Reclaim the Streets - the movie. The history of RTS since 1992. The Criminal Justice Act, Castlemorton Free Festival, Claremont Road, Liverpool dock dispute and all your fave street parties. The 80 minute video is available from 72 Castlewood Rd, London N16 6DH. Costs at £6 unwaged £8 waged £10 well waged £2,000 for nasty corporations and cops! Cheques payable to Agustín Gutierrez. There's a showing this Sunday (23) at the RITZY CINEMA (15.45) Brixton tube, London - £6 waged £3 unwaged. Why not organise a showing in your home town? *** Eleven people were arrested last Sunday in another Genetix snowball action as they attempted to uproot genetically engineered sugar beet at Sharpe Seeds Ltd, Boothby Graffoe, 12 miles south of Lincoln. Three people managed to uproot some the freak-beet while others were nicked as they approached the field and charged with going equipped to cause criminal damage with gardening tools. It is not known if a man on his bike coming back from his allotment with a bagful of onions and a trowel was also nicked. To contact the snowball campaign ring 0161 834 0295 ***** The Worthing Friends of the Earth Eco-Festival is taking place in Homefield Park, Worthing on Monday 31st August. The festival still requires more performers, campaign groups, workshop facilitators, stewards, marquees, benders, tents and banners. For more information or to offer assistance contact Worthing FoE at 2 Brunswick Cottages, Western Row, Worthing, West Sussex *** A proposed permanent traveller's site is currently seeking planning permission. Brighton Friends, Families and Travellers Support Group are asking for letters of support to be headed "Proposed Travellers' Site at Horsdean" and addressed to Alan McCarthy, Director of Environmental Services, Brighton and Hove Council, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, Brighton.

INSIDE SchNEWS

Ben Thompson has been given a 3 month prison sentence for breaking bail conditions and for threatening behaviour during an action on Hillgrove Farm which breed cats for vivisection. Letters of solidarity to Ben: HMP Bullingdon, PO BOX 50, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0PR.

*The next Hillgrove demo is taking place on Sunday 6th September. Meet at 12 noon in Leys Recreation Ground, Station Lane (next to Sainsburys), Witney, Oxon. Transport is available from around the country, to offer or request lifts call 0121 632 6460.

*The following weekend (Saturday 12 Sept.) a demonstration is taking place at Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), Barrack Road, Occold, Nr Eye, Suffolk. HLS carry out animal research for the chemical, pharmaceutical and agricultural industries. They own the world's largest primates and beagle laboratories and plan on expanding. Activists have pledged to "stop this thing before it starts". Demo commences at 12 noon at the main gates. For more information call: 01394 384583 or 01379 678622.

IN PRINT

A new book 'DIY Culture' McKay (Pub: Verso, ISBN 1-85984-260-7) Irvine Welsh (Trainspotting) calls it, "The most uplifting and empowering book you'll read in a long time". In the intro McKay raises some interesting points about ideology, but for those of you who are more interested in reading what's going on as contemporary history is being lived, the book is a series of chapters written by activists involved in alternative media, early party scene, Road Protest *** For a well researched but readable copy of what's going on in the world of chemicals get TOXCAT. Copies are £2 + SAE from PO Box 29, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, L66 3TX.

Puffing in Pompey

The 4th Smokey Bears Picnic got off to a slow start this time round with tokers drifting to the common. Police tried it on, attempting to search people until the more clued up pointed out they could only search outer clothing in public. A kite in the shape of a dope leaf was confiscated but as more numbers turned up the tables were finally turned and the Plod beat a hasty retreat to the edges of the common where they s(k)ulked for the rest of the day. With the way clear a two foot long Camberwell Carrot was produced and passed around the 1,000 strong crowd until the soggy roach disintegrated. There were no arrests this year despite everyone openly smoking. There will be another Smokey Bear Picnic to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the illegalisation of cannabis on September 28th, this time in Hyde Park, meet at 1 o'clock at Speakers Corner.

A DEVELOPING GREED

The first protest camp has been set up to stop a housing development in Nantwich near Crewe. The proposed 500 house estate and 4 mile road threatens rare Black Poplars, (only 2,000 left in the UK), an orchard and hedge rows, some of which are up to 30 foot thick! The camp already has 4 treehouses, a tunnel and a tower. There is unanimous local support with even local builders donating materials. For directions ring 01270 560645 **Toytown Camp is an Autonomous Free Zone now in it's forth week in leafy Cheltenham. The camp's defending a beautiful piece of woodland right in the middle of Cheltenham, under threat from another (Waitrose) supermarket; and keeping a very close eye on a nearby 3-acre playing field, the planned site for a 600ft 'leisure shed' with bowling alley, another multiplex cinema, another road - the same old Babylon bollox - with a half-a-dozen treehouses, numerous benders and tepees. "Toytown Camp" is: just off the A40 junction of the M5, then a short bus ride into the middle of town. Ask anybody for the St James' site or the protest camp at: The Old Village Great Western Road Cheltenham Glos GL50 3QN phone box: 01242 525280 mobile: 0797 131 6597 email: toytown@stones.com.

*URGENT! is the newsletter of the Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment Network with tonnes of info on housing developments around the country. Issue 2 out now 50p + SAE Box HN, 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX4 1RQ Tel 07000 785202 email info@urgent.org.uk

...and finally...

A millionaire car dealer in a Rutland village has been rebuffed in court after attempting to sue a nearby farmer for having sheep that were too muddy. "Mud was inevitable" said Judge Victor Hall as he threw out Frank Sytner's application to Leicester Crown Court for a restraining order against farmer Edward Baines and his untidy flock.

While Judge Hall counselled that people living in the countryside had to expect such things, Sytner's wife Elizabeth told the court of her own rustic ordeal; "I was in my garden and heard cows making a noise in the field. It was annoying, so I went to see what was happening." When told it was normal for cows to be heard in the countryside, Mrs Sytner replied "Yes, it's unfortunate, isn't it?"

Sytner was ordered to pay his own and Mr. Baines legal costs, estimated at £35,000.

disclaimer

SchNEWS wants all readers not to believe in large corporations when they tell you that they only exist for the good of humanity. They are telling fibs. Rather large ones at that. And if you believe them then you are living in cloud cuckoo land. Honest



SchNEWS

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Issue 181

Free/Donation

TERRORISTS?

"The cliché, that one mans terrorist is another mans freedom fighter comes to mind. Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress, described by Thatcher as a terrorist organisation, would have been caught under such a definition." Richard Norton Taylor

President Clinton orders a bombing of targets in Afghanistan and the Sudan hoping everyone will forget about his sex life. (How can we, it's just so interesting)

After the horrors of Omagh, the Irish and British governments look set to recall parliament early and rush ahead with new state powers. Terrorism is top of the global agenda.

So is knee-jerk reaction and hypocrisy.

In Sudan the government have denied the US target was manufacturing chemical weapons and has asked the United Nations(UN) to investigate the rubble in Khartoum. Meanwhile a country already faced with desperate problems of famine, disease and civil war has seen its major source of pharmaceuticals destroyed by cruise missiles. And what would have happened if had been a 'poison gas' factory with its deadly cocktail drifting over a crowded city?

What is so different about the innocent victims of Omagh and the innocent victims of Sudan.

The difference it seems, are what journalist John Pilger describes as "televisions un-people"

Take the "un-people" of Iraq, half a million of whom have died according to conservative estimates by the Food and Agricultural Organisation and World Health Organisation since economic sanctions were imposed by the UN. Baby food and enriched powdered milk are blocked along with vital hospital equipment like stethoscopes, X-ray machines, medical swabs, scanners and water purifiers. The people of Iraq are punished because the West say Saddam Hussein is a terrorist. (However, during the Iran - Iraq war he wasn't a terrorist and the US and the West armed and backed Hussein in a war where a million people died.)

Or the 'un-people' of East Timor, where a third of the population have perished since it was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. But the government of Indonesia aren't labelled terrorists so its ok to do business, as Hawk jets, armoured tanks, water cannons etc. are sold to them by the West.

Business is business. Economic sanctions might be lifted soon if the Libyan leader Gaddafi, once described as the worlds most dangerous perpetrator of state terrorism, agrees to hand over the people accused of being involved in the Lockerbie. British Aerospace has already admitted

holding secret talks with Libya, with an eye on juicy contracts.

Meanwhile, nearer to home and we have the imminent return of the infamous Diplock docks, where a judge sitting alone would be able to put someone behind bars for seven years on the word of a single police officer that the accused was a member of a banned organisation. Internment by any other name, and one which flies in the face of international agreements on human rights that Britain has signed.

As Mitchel McLaughlin, chair of Sinn Fein pointed out "The result of such repressive legislation has historically been the routine violation of human and civil rights, and resulting miscarriages of justice. Given the history of the RUC it would be an act of extreme folly to give that force additional repressive powers."

In fact the governments new package of anti-terrorist legislation will include unprecedented powers to convict people of conspiring within Britain to commit terrorist offences anywhere in the world. The kind of sweeping changes envisaged would once have locked up Nelson Mandela and could threaten peaceful supporters of the Pakistani campaign for a 'Free Kashmir'.

So, when is a terrorist not a terrorist? Sections of the animal rights movement are already labelled terrorists and many have received longer sentences for damage to property (or merely conspiring to damage) than rapists and murderers.

For the direct action movement the warning signs have been here a while. Last week two people received prison sentences for alleged offences at the Whately Quarry mine which is destroying the Mendip Hills. The judge said he was making an example of them because "environmental protest was becoming so popular". As one activist pointed out "When the minor sentences don't work, you start by harassing people-raiding their homes. When this fails what do you do? You turn them into eco-terrorists."

If we ever really become a threat to a world where profit comes before people, if we ever start getting even half serious about overthrowing the corrupt elite that calls the shots, then we will find those missiles will be aimed at us. And all of a sudden we will be the terrorists.

Recommended Reading :

'Hidden Agendas' by John Pilger

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For collecting signatures! A man was arrested under the Criminal Justice Act while he was at Speakers Corner collecting names on a petition - on freedom of speech!

CRAP EXPERTS OF THE WEEK

Activists have dealt a blow to Belgian-owned Watts Blake Bearne's plans to divert the rivers Bovey and Teign, to enable them to extract ball clay for making toilets (see Schnews 126). A public inquiry inspector told WBB to "consider withdrawing your application" after it emerged that the quarry company was ready to build a mile long stretch of river two-thirds the size it should have been. This glaring error would have led to the rivers 'unzipping' after the first flood, risking flooding to homes as far afield as Newton Abbot. Apparently WBB's erm... experts have been 111% out on their flow rates since 1986 and are now responsible for a catalogue of botched river diversions around the world.

Derr...Fick!! Mike Clarke of Teigngrace Village Forum said: "If it had not been for the protestors entering the site last year, construction would be under way and we would be waiting for heaven knows what to happen". The inquiry resumes Sep 29. Latest - Dave: 01626 363844

"Every gun that is fired, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children . . . We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than eight thousand people . . . This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Dwight David Eisenhower
US President

**PUBLIC MEETING
TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER
ORGANISED BY THE
SIMON JONES
MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN
7.30 PM AT THE
HOBGOBLIN, LONDON RD.**

Simon would have been celebrating his 25 birthday, except four months ago he was killed while working as a casual labourer at Shoreham docks.

Speakers include sacked Liverpool dock workers and SchNEWS.

Loch Mass Mordor

"We don't do anything secret here at all. We're very open"

Ministry of Defence, Faslane

Which is why the Navy has spent an estimated £1million in just two weeks trying (not very well) to prevent over 130 activists from Trident Ploughshare 2000 (TP2000), along with the regular Faslane Peace Camp crew, from gaining access to the submarine base that houses Britain's nuclear arsenal. With the original 15 year old peace camp still under threat of eviction, members of TP2000 have been sending out daily multi-pixie missions from their own camp, bought and owned by a former Greenham Common protester. TP2000 is an alliance of priests, students, road protesters and peace campaigners from countries as far apart as Germany and Australia, calling themselves 'Hobbits'. Activists have nicknamed the base 'Mordor' after the evil castle in the 'The Hobbit'. The hobbits involved in the latest two week non-stop assault on the nuclear sub base have been pissing all over security, even cheekily giving embarrassed police and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) advance warnings. The MoD said, "There has never been a breach of security", funny that, considering that in the last two weeks activists have; cut the fences constantly, defeated the 'unscalable' razor wire with old carpet, played a half hour game of football inside the base before anyone noticed, performed classical music in the road, demanded access to the base as weapons and war crimes inspectors, two elderly women have planted wild flowers and in one action, hobbits played spoons on the sound sensitive fence, setting off the alarms and distracting the guards whilst others swam across a loch to the subs. "It was so easy it took almost no planning. We just started swimming, I was able to swim past two security boats ... and right up alongside Trident!". So far there have been 107 arrests, some being released without charge whilst others are being held on remand. One of those on remand for stealing a boat and taking a sightseeing trip to nearby Culpport nuclear arms depot, is Angie Zeltzer, one of the original Ploughshares acquitted last year of committing any crime when she helped sledgehammer Hawk Jets bound for Indonesia (SchNEWS 78+ 84).

"We see ourselves as fully open and accountable".

Just as they did then TP2000 have sent the MoD their names, addresses and videos of their actions "Most people would try to evade the law", says Angie, "we say we're within it and the Government is outside... we are upholding international law. Britain... uses it against Saddam Hussein or others but when they are applied against Britain, it goes blank". International law is why the Ploughshares are so up for it, they won the Hawk Jets case because the jury agreed that theirs was a lesser crime committed to prevent the greater crime of Genocide (Nuremberg Principles SchNEWS 177), now they want to put the British Government in the dock for breaking the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons which states, "(nuclear arms are)... the ultimate evil... destabilising humanitarian law". Whatever the outcome tp2000 have pledged to continue the actions from now until the the year 2000 unless Britain gives up the bombs (or some prat puts his coffee mug on the button?)

- * Faslane Peace Camp 01436 850 488
- * TP2000 1603 611 953
- * CND 0171 700 2393

Recommended reading:

Wings of Death by Dr Chris Busby, (Quaker)
From Polaris to Trident by Graham Spinardi (Cambridge Uni Press)

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TEL/Postfax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk
Anyone out there up for installing 3.11 and some e-mail software on a 2 Mhz laptop (yeah I know!) Phone office

SchNEWS in brief

Genetic Snowball Meeting September 3rd 7.30 pm East Oxford Community Centre, Cowley Rd, Oxford *** Right to Roamers should ramble on down to The Land Is Ours Autumn Gathering in Bristol on Sep 11-13 - 01865 722016 *** Workers Aid for Kosovo are holding a meeting on Sunday 6th September at Conway Hall Red Lion Sq, Holborn, London Updates on the food convoys, how you can get involved etc. *** Those chaps at Godhaven Ink have brought out some more cracking reads for you. First up is a 'zine called 'Neither work nor leisure' - 'a culture where we don't stop playing when we leave school'. Merrick who published 'Battle for the trees' a personal account of the Newbury Protest (£3.50) has now knocked out 'There's A Riot Going On' which compares media articles with personal accounts of the Newbury Reunion Rampage and the last Hyde Park Criminal Justice Act demo. Both booklets are £1 (inc. P+P) from and payable to: Godhaven Ink, Rooted Media, 145-149 Cardigan Rd, Leeds LS6 1JL *** GEC, the company which makes Scimitar military radios for the Turkish army, to help them carry out genocide on Kurds, has its AGM next Friday (Sep 4) Meanwhile, three days of peaceful protest are planned for Copex 98 (22-24th September) "The market place for electro-shock batons and other torture equipment". For details of both events contact Campaign Against Arms Trade 0171 281 0297 *** anti FUR NEWS is a new magazine from the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade £1 + SAE from CAFT P.O. Box 38, Manchester M60 1NX 0171 278 3068 *** *** Trouble with the Housing Benefit? Haringey Solidarity Group have a handy booklet called Housing Benefit: A Claimants Guide - send SAE to P.O. Box 2474, London N8 *** Queer Punks on Dope-calling all Queer Punks/ess's, Pagans, tran, pan, inna van or whatever- sexuals, check out a new 'zine called Anarquist available from 121 bookshop 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24 0LR *** There's an all-nighter, somewhere in Hampstead for the Sexual Freedom Coalition on Saturday 12th September. Ticket details 0171 460 1979 *** Bath Reclaim The Streets next Saturday (5th September) meet 12 noon at The Circus *** Want to read some decent books written by travellers, then get the catalogue from Enabler Publications, 3 Russell House, Lym Close, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3DE, Tel 01297 445024 *** A radical new attempt to unite socialists, greens and direct activists is 'The All Red and Green' bulletin, founded by the Network of Socialist Alliances in England. They're having a launching conference on @ Sat 5th Sep, 10am-4pm at the Rugby United Railway Club, Railway Terrace, Rugby. *** Various Centres in the UK engaged in environment, development, peace and social justice issues have set up the Centres For Change Network which focuses on sustainability to share their experiences and knowledge. Contact Jamie Hartzell, 1b Waterlow Rd, London N19 5NJ, email: jamiehartz@gn.apc.org *** The Corner House publish regular in depth briefings on everything from biotechnology, corporate PR, climate change, dams etc. Contact them at PO Box 3137, Station Rd., Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ Tel 01258 473795 *** Avon Ring Road an old railway bridge and lkm of tranquil cycle paths are set to disappear beneath the proposed dual carriageway given the go-ahead in 1995, but halted for the last 3 years by the SCRAPPIT campaign with a succession of legal challenges in the London High Courts. Request more information and buy Action Bonds to help pay legal costs from SCRAPPIT c/o 84 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB Or get a map to the Reclaim the Country party site, 19th

34 G.E. CROPS SITES DECONTAMINATED

...and last Saturday a team of concerned citizens removed potatoes being grown in fields near Tadcaster, owned by the University of Leeds. The mutant spuds were part of 40 different experiments using genes as diverse as jellyfish, chicken, rice, cow pea and sunflowers!

GenetiX Snowball have a large action coming up in the Cambridge area on the 19/20 September. More details 0161 834 0295.

*Two women have been charged with £605,000 of criminal damage after allegedly pulling up Genetically Engineered (GE) maize on an illegal Sharpes Seeds test site positioned less than 200 yards from a farm growing organic sweetcorn. Out of 300 GE sites around the country, 163 are now illegal because they are operating under another company's licence. More info from Totnes GE group - 01803 867951.

*Monsanto, those nice people responsible for Agent Orange and DDT, and naturally the future guardians of the world's food supply, are planning to field test their 'terminator' seeds. The plant's germination genes are switched off so that farmers only have one year crop before they have to buy more. Mmmmmmmmm

The Vegetarian Society has announced that from 1st August next year, all foods using the trusted V symbol will have to be GMO-free. (V's up to Monsanto)* GenetiX Update po Box 9656, London N4 4JY - 0181 374 9156

Smokey Bears picnic - Schwoops

The picnic will actually take place on 1 o'Clock Saturday 26th at Hyde Park, two days before the 70th anniversary of the illegalisation of cannabis

INSIDE SCHNEWS

Two people have been sent to prison after being found guilty of 'conspiracy to recklessly endanger life and cause criminal damage', after being accused of pulling up tracks on the private railway track which transports roadbuilding materials from Whitley Quarry in the Mendip Hills. The judge said he was making an example of them because "environmental protest was becoming so popular" (so that's official then, it is a crime to care!). Write to them at:

*12 months - Richard Dixon BK 7218, HMP Horfield, Cambridge Rd, Bristol, BS7 8PF

*6 months - Ruth Browning ME36330 HMP Eastwood Park, Falfield, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8DB

* Ben Thompson in prison after being nicked at Hillgrove vivisection farm has gone on hunger strike demanding, amongst other things, vegan toiletries and food that is guaranteed free of genetically modified organisms. He's asking people to write to the gov'nor to get him to implement his demands. Write to Mr. P. G. Cann, HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0PR

...and finally...

Crap Job of the Week Monsanto, makers of healthy genetically engineered soy beans and other goodies displayed a hotline number for complaints in a recent issue of The Grocer magazine. Since, they have received 2717 calls from angry customers. Says Ann Foster, Monsanto's PR person, "...we were totally unprepared for the hostility. Some calls were pure vitriol! Answering the phone for such a popular firm? No thanks. Pity the hotline doesn't put you straight through to the Board of Directors. Give it a go though! 0800 092 0401

disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to play with chemistry sets in their bedrooms you could KABOOM!

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

MASKING UP

At the Newbury Reunion Rampage in 97, two people leant against the wreck of a dumper-truck, cheerfully watching a digger burn. One (who'd clearly come prepared) was wearing an all-over stripy tiger suit. The other (who clearly hadn't) had removed her second layer of stockings and pulled them over her head. That is precisely the kind of scenario that springs to mind when you think of a good time to be masked up. It has obvious associations with criminal damage and large things being on fire. However, these associations mean that many people dismiss masking up as intimidating and counter-productive in other situations. Some feel it is never appropriate (except perhaps among consenting activists in their own homes while watching Land and Freedom!). Some feel that masking up is sometimes necessary but worry about the implications or are unsure about the issues surrounding it.

So is masking up a necessary and desirable tactic? Absolutely, and it is naïve not to be aware of this. The surveillance directed against dissidents by the State is real. Masking up or otherwise disguising yourself is not about intimidation. It is about remaining safe while breaching bail restrictions. It is about not being trapped by warrants that you may be able to pay your way out of eventually but not before a particular action that you wish to be part of. It is about jail terms that you're planning to serve only after you've made arrangements for your kids. It is about avoiding civil injunctions that may make you liable to thousands of pounds in costs or several months in a cell. It is about the plain clothes copper by your side, the CCTV camera on your road and the footage being shot from the helicopter overhead. It is about getting away with it. Need any more convincing?



Different methods of masking up will suit different occasions:

COOL,
PRACTICAL
but
STEREO
TYPICAL?



It is very amusing watching people trying to smoke a rollie wearing this outfit.

On a large action wear lots of black, or at least clothes that don't stand out, in order to blend in with as many people as possible. A black hood, shades and a black T-shirt sleeve over your face is a popular and effective option (the Hillgrove Cat Farm campaign has had people doing this in order to enable them to attend regular repeat actions with less follow-up risk). Masking up like this can be counter productive in the wrong situations. Don't do it on, for example, a fluffy student demo.



THE TRIBAL LOOK - a little DATED maybe? Very early 90's.

In some situations you may be worried more about being instantly recognised than about avoiding video identification. Face paints (half black, half white is best), hoods frequently changed, distinctive clothes are useful to make yourself look different.

NO COMMENT.



Go for looking silly rather than scary if you expect to be interacting with real people, rather than coppers, such as in an office occupation. In that context the Superheroes against Genetix were funny but got away with wearing eye masks.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

MASKING UP

If someone (not a copper) seems truly intimidated by your being disguised, explain in calm and friendly tones your reasons for being so.

Even if you plan to be the most well-behaved person ever, mask up to protect those who are currently running more risks than you in attending the same event. If everybody masks up then those intending to be 'full on' are not immediately identified as targets by the police. Masking up is not only about looking after yourself but about looking after each other.

Be imaginative - balaclavas are old hat. Start instead with your basic hooded top, then add T-shirt sleeves or army headovers, or cardboard party masks, or green-and-black kerchiefs lovingly hand-crafted by indigenous Brighton activists on their mums' sewing-machines

Unfortunately, new laws coming into force in the next month or so will allow the police to remove masks under certain circumstances. So here's some information about them and when they apply.

According to Government sources, sections 25-27 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 "aim at preventing violence by giving the police the power to unmask

potential violent offenders". It's important to note first these new laws, which come into force on 1 March 99, will NOT make masking up itself illegal unlike in some other countries.

Second, this power can only be used by the police when they already have an authorisation under Criminal Justice & Public Order Act, s60 to undertake random searches in anticipation of serious violence (the new laws actually form subsection 4A of s60). If you do not "remove any item which the constable reasonably believes you are wearing wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing your identity" you can be arrested, and the police have the power to seize any such item. There's nothing to stop you (as in quite a few of you or you'll get taken by snatch squads) having a stash of masks nearer wherever you're going, which you could then put on while in a crowd before any action for which you don't want to be IDed while doing and then get rid of the mask when you want to leave. Of course, where people are masked up, this could well count as reasonable grounds for an authorisation under s60 to be made, even if people are just trying not to be identified by the police evidence gathering teams.



SELF DEFENCE

by Kate Evans + Kaye Angus
Starring Kaye's kids ♡ x



Try this stuff out with some friends. You need some crash mats or a soft grassy field to practice. Take off your shoes and socks...

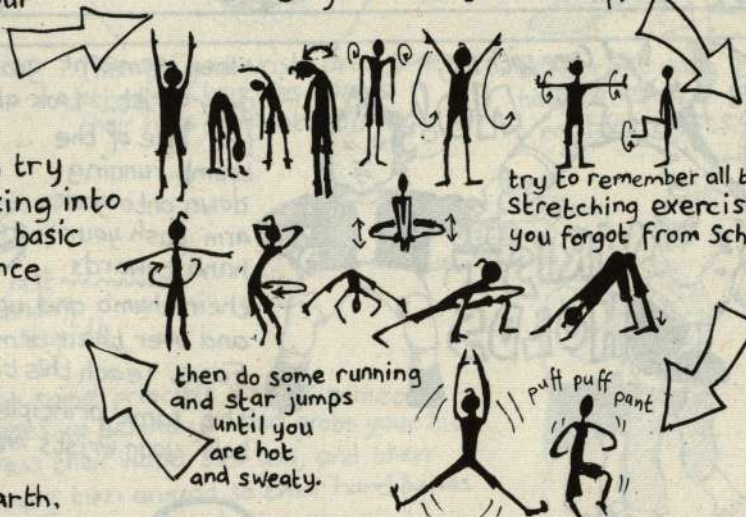
... First you have to warm up.



then try sinking into this basic stance

Like there's a saddle between your legs. Your feet firmly rooted to the earth.

Or the carpet. You are much harder to push over like this. Try it. And then try kicking out and swinging your arms or legs around. Many self defence moves depend on your being able to ground yourself like this, so pencil skirts + high heels are a bad idea.



try to remember all the stretching exercises you forgot from School

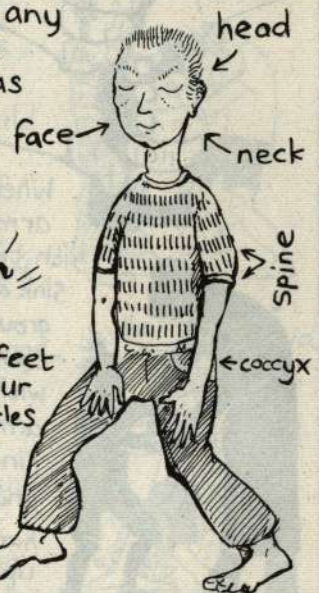
then do some running and star jumps until you are hot and sweaty.

puff puff pant

BREAK FALL

When you fall, in any situation, protect these danger areas

Practice falling forwards, quickly moving your hands up to cover your eyes, and taking your weight on your forearms.



The safe way to land backwards is to get your feet flat on the floor, push your bum up, tuck your head right in (you should feel your neck muscles twinge) and SLAM your arms down at a 45° angle to your body so only your shoulder blades, not your spine, takes your weight. Practise, from crouching if you have to, until you get it.



Next, learn to roll diagonally from one shoulder to the opposite arse cheek. Not down your spine. You should be able to roll back onto your feet.



BREAK FALL

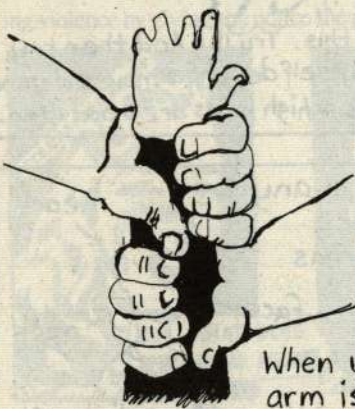
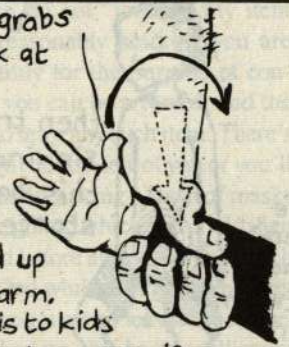
cont.

this one disperses the momentum of a hard fall.

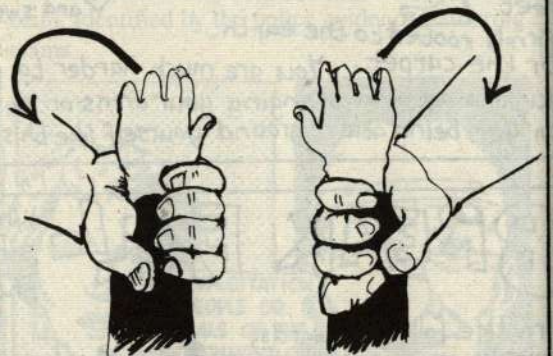


When someone grabs your wrist... Look at the line of the thumb running down onto your arm push your hand towards their thumb and up and over their arm. Easy. Teach this to kids

The same principle applies if both your wrists are held.



When your arm is held with two hands, sink down and ground yourself then reach over with your other arm, clasp your fingers together and pull your hands sharply upwards towards your face.



But Mrs Angus, we had to put your daughter in a headlock before we could get her to the headmasters office

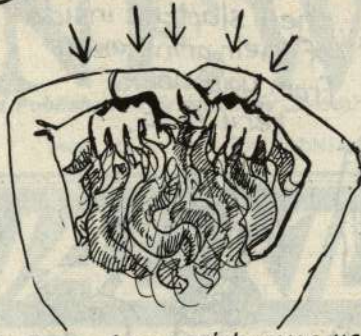
Yes well I haven't taught her how to get out of a headlock... yet.



ATTACKS TO THE HEAD ~ 90% of attacks are to the head.



Grabbed by the hair?
Don't pull away -
sink into a rooted stance...



...Then get your wrists over your
attacker's knuckles + press
their fists firmly into your head...



...Bend right over. They
have to let go, or they
break their wrists.



I haven't got
any tits!
We're just
pretendin',
stupid!

The same principle works if someone
comes up behind you and grabs your tit.
Press their hand into you, and then
simply turn around so their hand bends
back. But I digress...

Stupid!
Stupid!



Who are you calling 'Stupid'?



If you are about to be headbutted
quick, sink into that rooted stance,
then find their elbows with the palms
of your hands and push them up
and towards each other. This should
lock your attackers arms straight.
At the same time, duck your head
so if they do get you, they nut the
crown of your head, the hardest part.



You.



Stupid!

Look, their nuts are now nicely in range.
You have to have a good stance to be
able to kick out without losing your
balance.
Another thing you can do is, hook your
right foot behind their right foot
(diagonally opposite) and stand up.
This throws them, surprisingly easily.

He's the stupidest
stupid.



STRANGLE HOLDS

Quick,
sink into
a rooted
stance...



...then slap the inside
of their arms away
from your neck,
very fast...



Or, if your arms are
long enough, go
for their face
gouging their eyes with
your first + third fingers

Self defence is about
fighting back, whatever
your situation...

GROUND DEFENCE

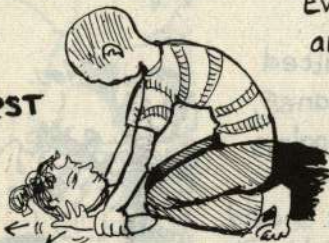


If your attacker is putting
the boot in, it is possible to
roll towards them at
the point when their
foot is raised and
is connecting with
your body...



...down they go.

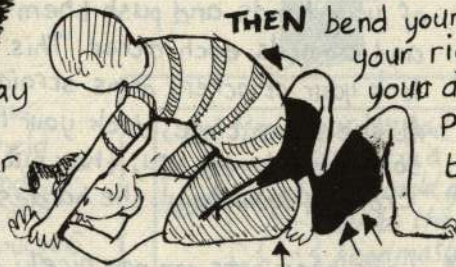
FIRST



Wriggle your left hand away
until they shift their
balance to grab it tighter

Even in this desperate situation, you can learn
and practice a way out. Your attacker
can control your upward movement, but can't
stop you wriggling horizontally

THEN bend your knees, wedge
your right foot under
your arse cheek +
PUSH yourself up
throwing them
diagonally



As they go over, your elbow is excellently
close to their groin.



THIS IS JUST FOR STARTERS.
LEARN MORE AT EVENING
CLASSES, SO IF SOME CREEP
TRIES TO TOUCH YOU UP IN THE
PUB YOU CAN THROW THEM
OVER THE BAR. Wahey!



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SHUT UP SHOP

SchNEWS

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CASUAL KILLERS

"Some employers seem to treat their workers like machinery. They're not. They have families and friends who are torn apart when things like this happen to them." Anne Jones, Simon's mother

Tuesday 1st. Some people have climbed the 80 foot floodlights and unfurled banners which say 'Simon Jones RIP' and 'Casualisation Kills'.

On the ground thirty people who have gathered at the docks to commemorate the death of their friend place a wreath. A banner reading "murderers" hangs from the dock gates, which have also been d-locked to stop trucks going in and out. Leaflets explaining what is happening are handed to mainly sympathetic workers. Simon would have been celebrating his 25th birthday today. Eventually the company are forced to close the docks down for the day. Workers are sent home on full pay, probably the first time Euromin have coughed up holiday pay.

Thursday 3rd. People occupy the offices of Personnel Selection, the temp agency that sent Simon to the docks when he was clearly unsuitable to do such a skilled job. The "murderers" banner is hung from the window, while outside his friends leaflet passers-by. The leaflet asks "Why should agencies such as Personnel Selection take half your wages when you're doing the work?"

Eventually Personnel Selection are also forced to shut down for the day, again sending the workers home on full pay with a notice in the window saying this is out of respect for Simon.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

Four months ago Simon was sent by Personnel Selection to work at Euromin as a stevedore. But as Emma Aynsley, his girlfriend at the time pointed out "Simon had no experience of working inside a ship and should never have been allowed to work there. He was doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the country for about £5 per hour, with no training whatsoever. It was like asking someone without a driving licence to drive an articulated lorry."

Simon had only been working on the ship for about an hour unloading stone when his head was crushed by the grab of a crane. He died instantly.

The death of Simon is tragic, but was no accident. Infact it was a direct result of the

low paid 'flexible' market workplace which is now endemic throughout the country.

Along the waterfront casualisation has returned to all British docks since the abolition of the National dock scheme in 1989. No holiday or sick pay, no job security, more injuries and deaths. Within four years the accident rate at British docks had leapt by a third. However, the advantages to the companies involved were enormous - a 41% saving in wages caused by 5,000 redundancies and cheaper labour with fewer rights.

Joining Simon's friends on Tuesday was Bob Ritchie, one of the 500 sacked Liverpool dockers, who told SchNEWS "We went on strike for over two years to prevent deaths like this, which are inevitable with an untrained, casual workforce. Before casualisation, this sort of thing would never have happened. If these companies are allowed to get away with employing casual staff to do skilled jobs the death toll will just keep rising."

Which it has. There were 302 deaths from accidents at work last year, 17% more than the year before. Meanwhile the record of Health and Safety Executive is appalling. Out of 50,000 major injuries at work last year 48,000 weren't even investigated by the

"But some things I wouldn't do. I remember being asked to clean up two bags of rubble stones that still had Simon's blood and other remains on them, so they could be sent out to customers. I wouldn't do that so I was sent home without any pay"

Executive. Despite New Labour talking about being 'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime' when it comes to companies like Euromin it goes decidedly soft.

Simon had gone to the agency after hassle from the dole. Under the JobSeekers Allowance unemployed people are forced to take any jobs, however unsuitable or unsafe, under threat of losing benefits. Employment agencies boom in this environment - there are six pages of them in the Brighton Yellow Pages alone. Bharti Patel of the Low Pay Unit believes Simon's situation was not unusual. "The sanction of benefit withdrawal can mean that people will take any job at any price". The situation is set to get even worse with the introduction of the New Deal."

The Liverpool dockers' strike, which

CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

Ask Euromin and Personnel Selection. We're sure they've got fuckloads more.

continued for longer than the miners' strike of 1985-86, received little media coverage, being viewed by many as a last ditch defence of dinosaur ways that were now a thing of the past. The New Britain of the late 1990's has little time for such 'labour market inflexibility'. During the dockers dispute Tony Blair was already voicing his support for the Tones' creation of "a more restricted trade union legislative framework than any other country in the western world."

Simon wrote for SchNEWS, and was a supporter of the direct action movement's decision to join the dockers in a mass picket on their first year anniversary. Whereas some people couldn't see what we had in common, Simon thought the connection was obvious - the dockers were fighting the crap-jobs-for-crap-pay system that affects just about everyone. In the end it was a connection that became all too real for him.

"But some things I wouldn't do. I remember being asked to clean up two bags of rubble stones that still had Simon's blood and other remains on them, so they could be sent out to customers. I wouldn't do that so I was sent home without any pay"

Sean Currey Dockworker

As Emma told SchNEWS "Simon was killed by the bosses he hated. I suppose there was a time when you had unions that went on strike over things like this, but not anymore. You've got to rely on yourselves, on each other, because there's no big organisations out there anymore that are going to make things right. If we want to make things better, it's up to us."

By closing down Euromin and Personnel Selection for the day we showed that if we work together then we can make a difference. Simon would have been proud.

The Simon Jones Memorial Campaign can be contacted on 01273 685913.

Spanish Stitchup

The basque nationalist newspaper Egin got its premises raided and closed down on July 15th. (We're rather late, we know, but the English Press didn't hardly mention it at all).

Egin has been appearing for 21 years and, as it has always been engaged in the Basque struggle for freedom, was used to harassment by the Spanish government. Still this dictatorial-like move came as a surprise:

300 armed cops, led by an anti-terrorist judge, invaded the building before dawn and searched it for five hours, systematically dismantling equipment and leaving 200 workers unemployed. 11 members of Egin's board of directors had been arrested a few hours before and kept in custody for five days.

The Spanish authorities accuse them -and the paper- of helping the Basque separatist organisation ETA. Egin published excerpts of ETA communiqués (also published by Spanish papers) and interviews with ETA-members. It provided a forum to debate freely social, cultural and political issues, as it was "born in response to a very real social demand" as one of its former journalists puts it.

The clamp down on Egin is just another sad event in the current Spanish crusade against Basque independence organisations: Last December, the entire leadership of the basque party Herri Batasuna was sentenced to a total of 161 years in jail, a series of raids then followed on small companies, charging them with helping ETA's finances.

The days following the raid on Egin saw massive campaigns of solidarity, including a 70,000 strong demo calling for a democratic solution for the Basque Country and the re-opening of Egin. Meanwhile the Egin workers set up a makeshift publication under the name of Euskadi Informacion.

"They call it suicide-we call it murder!"

On 5th March this year Italian Police arrested three anarchist activists, charging them with "subversive association for the purpose of constituting an armed gang". The matter behind these charges were sabotage actions against the construction of a high speed railway in the Val di Susa in Piemonte (SchNEWS reported).

Now only one of the three remains alive. Edoardo "Balleno" Massani died in his prison cell in Turin end of March; the authorities say he hung himself with a bed sheet. His friend Maria Soledad Rosas, 22 years old and from Argentina, hanged herself on July 11th. At that time she was under house arrest, forced to stay in a residential home near Turin. She wasn't even in Italy when the sabotage actions happened. It's nothing new that the authorities are eager to carry out raids and the arrests of innocents to learn about structures and connections of activists.

Yet these tragic incidents show once more what might happen if they fuck around with people's lives. As the Turin Anarchist Federation, in which Edoardo was involved, wrote: "Suicide in prison is murder, a murder for which responsibility cannot be avoided by those who, like the magistrate, decided that Edoardo should stay in a cell and in isolation."

On July 28th the 'Social Consent Anarsonists' burnt 2 cars at the Italian Embassy in Athens and eight more cars at Fiat and Alfa Romeo agencies and declared that the attacks were "a demonstration of international solidarity for the murdered anarchists Edoardo Massari and Maria Soledad Rosas in a context of persecution and terror that the Italian State has recently (re-)launched against anarchists."

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SchNEWS in brief

Big respect to the Exodus crew for putting on a free festie (without permission - naughty!) over the August Bank Holiday weekend (lasting till Wednesday). SchNEWS reckons it was just like the old days before road blocks and the Criminal Justice Act. Now if they can do it in Luton what's stopping the rest of us...? *** Steve Booth and friends will be talking about The Gandalf Trials, Green Anarchist and the aftermath at London Anarchist Forum on Sep 11th - 8pm Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square. *** Leicester commuters will get the opportunity to travel to work for just one penny, thanks to a bus travel offer. 'Turning the Tide' is an initiative by East Midlands businesses to encourage people to leave their car at home. "Don't get pissed off in a jam, spend a penny on a bus". *** Peace Conference in Manchester Town Hall, Fri Sep 18th, 9am-6pm. Admission free. Speakers from Northern Ireland and Nigeria with practical ideas how to abolish war. *** GenetiX Snowball Public Meetings - Brighton: Speakers, Video, Plans for further actions: Tues Sep 15th, upstairs at the Springfield Hotel, Springfield Rd (nr London Rd Station) - Glastonbury Town Hall: Sep 22nd at 7.30pm. Speakers include Patrick Holden from the Soil Association and Dr Mae Wan-To.***

Almost 400 people went to Tunbridge Wells during last month's First Natty Gathering. There were three-day Permaculture Design courses, lessons in breadmaking, samba, feltmaking and collecting wild food, and much more knowledge sharing and discussions besides. Trustees are negotiating with the landowner to buy the land, and have presented their plans so well, he's dropped the asking price. There will be further courses and projects on the land for the rest of the year. Natty Trust, Brickhurst Farm, Pembury, Nr Tunbridge Wells, Kent - 01273 234035.

Inside SchNEWS

Schwoops: We apologise for getting Rose Browning's address (and name) wrong in last week's issue. It should be: Rose Browning, ME 3630, DI 66 E-Wing, HMP Eastwood Park, Falfield, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8DB. She was given six months after being found guilty of 'conspiracy to recklessly endanger life and cause criminal damage' after being accused of pulling up the tracks that transport roadbuilding materials from Whateley Quarry in the Mendip Hills.

Richard Dixon has been transferred to an open prison. His address is now BF 20 HMP, Layhill Open Prison, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8BT. He was given 12 months for the same offence.

Ben Thompson, arrested during a demonstration at the Hillgrove cat vivisection farm, has finished his hunger strike after meeting with the prison gov'ner, who has promised to look into a prison diet that is vegan and guaranteed free of genetically modified food.

* The next national demonstration at Hillgrove Farm is on Sunday September 6th at noon on Leys Recreation Ground, Station Lane, Witney. A coach will be leaving from Hove Lagoon 9 am (£8.50 return) Ring 01403 785947.

At Tuesday's meeting at the Hobbogbin, Emma, (Simon's girlfriend), left a CD called 'Anoka - sounds of the Asian underground' behind. It was a present from Simon and had the music that was played at his funeral on it, so whoever found it, you can return it via the office address below, pretty please.

THE CLEANING POWER OF NON

VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

On 17 July, 6 Israelis calling themselves "Human Rights Watch" arrived in Hebron with the intention of removing anti-Arab graffiti, painted by Zionist settlers, from the city walls. Imagine their surprise to see that a platoon of Israeli soldiers had got there first and were busy whitewashing. Undeterred, they proceeded to clean up the sidestreets that the army had overlooked. All 6 were arrested the following day for entering an off-limits area.

Birmingham North Relief Road

"We're short of people"

The attempts to evict the protesters at the proposed site of Britain's first official privately funded toll-road has been stepped up. The activists (see SchNews174/5) have an appeal against eviction on the grounds of notices being served illegally pending in the High Court. Success would mean an extra 2 months at least, but if it fails the authorities are expected to begin eviction proceedings by 12 September.

They are not only asking (desperately) for more people on site but also donations of car batteries, cement, bicycle d-locks and stash food and water.

Directions to Greenwood Camp: 105/105A bus from Bull Street or Corporation Street, Birmingham City Centre, to Roughley. Get off at last stop (by phone box) directly ahead you will see the crossroads. Left down Weeford Road, straight on till you reach a sliproad up to the A38, follow for 1 and a half miles and you'll see the camp on the left. Birmingham Friends of the Earth 0121 632 6909 / camp mobile 07971 354045

...and finally...

This week's mard-arsed bigot award goes to Ron Noakes, Chairman of Worthing Rotary Club. Last month Friends of the Earth were running the Worthing Eco Festival in the town's park. Harmless and respectable enough, you may think. Not for Noakes, masterminding the Rotary Fair on the same field. Oh no! He couldn't have leftie greens, positively impacting on HIS field. He was going to do something about it. Show them who's boss.

Despite FoE having permission from the Rotary Club Committee to set up there, and paying a fee, 'Rocket Ronnie' and his team of Rotarian Rednecks did all they could to prevent the festival going ahead.

"I work for twenty four hours a day, you lot just claim the role!" he ranted at volunteers, many of whom have full time jobs. Abandoning the charity spirit and human reason entirely, he told FoE volunteers they couldn't sell their vegetarian food because there was a burger van on site, and attempted to stop Anarchist Teapot from selling food by calling in the Health and Safety - who promptly issued them a certificate to allow them to carry on. The breast beating continued as he accused FoE of stealing wheeie-bins (full-on anarchists that they are) from the Fair - they had been donated by a Council Rotarian. Re-inforcements were sent in to protect the carnival procession from the pinko liberal barbarians and threats made to park carnival trucks on their tents.

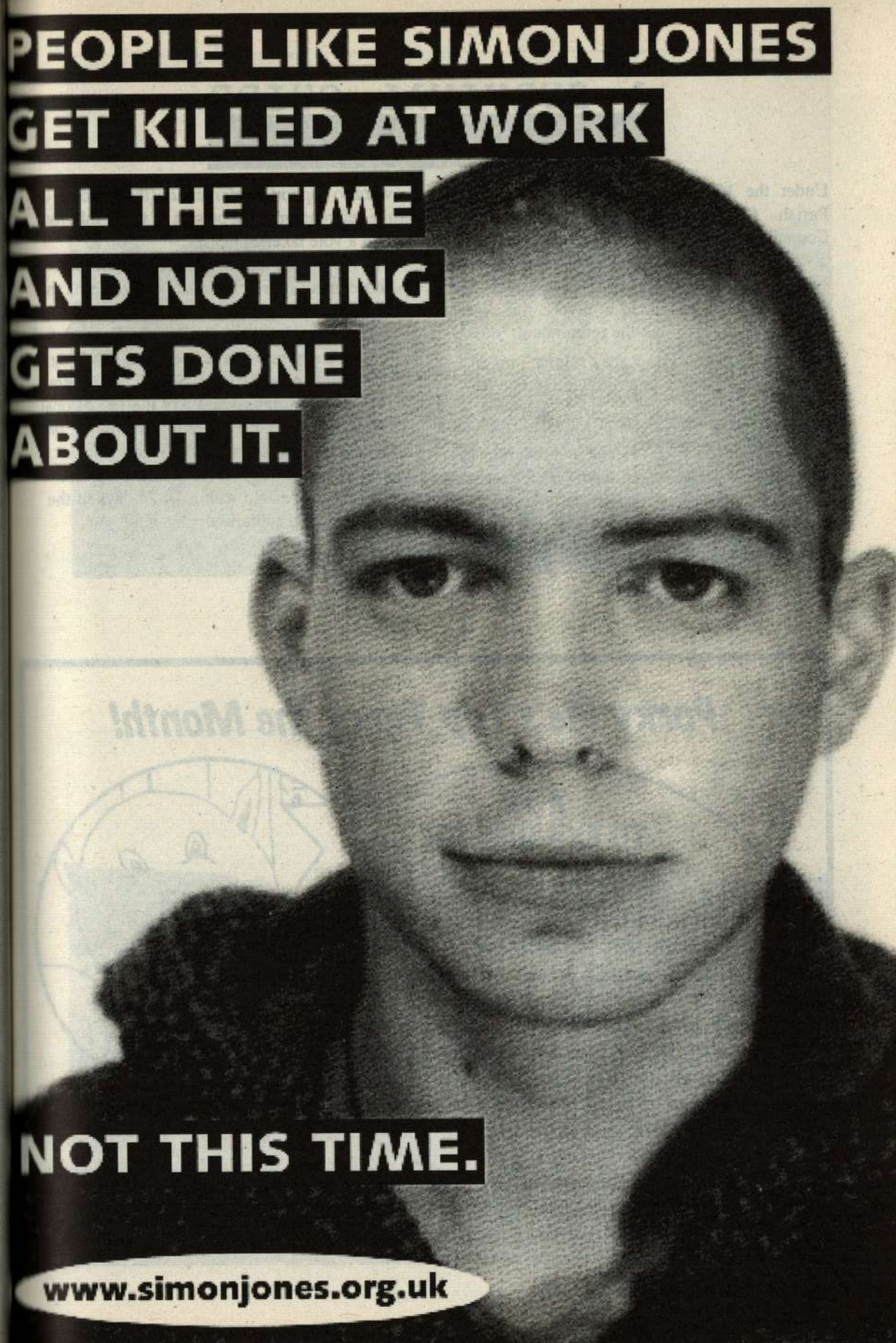
What a tossbrain! Everyone managed to enjoy themselves nevertheless.

Not even 'Rocket Ron' could stop freedom fighters for the Goldfish Liberation Front seizing goldfish-in-a-bags from the Rotary Fair to enable them to blow bubbles in a more pondlike environment!

disclaimer

The SchNEWS warns all readers not to attend any illegal gatherings or take part in any criminal activities. Always stay within the law. In fact please just sit in, watch TV and go on endless shopping sprees, filling your house and lives with endless consumer crap. Then you will feel content. Honest.

We still need Mail out crew please. please. please



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AND NOTHING
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ABOUT IT.**

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A SURVIVAL GUIDE

HOW TO GET A REFERENDUM

Under the 1972 Local Government Act, civic Parish Councils in England (Community Councils in Wales) can vote to request their local district council to hold a referendum on any issue of concern to the local parish.

Once the Parish has voted in favour, the District Council has to carry out the referendum:

- Choose an issue you want a referendum on.
- Decide on the wording of the referendum question.
- With at least five other local parish residents approach the Parish Council and request a Parish Council meeting. Advertise the meeting locally.

At least 10 people must be present at the meeting, where a formal motion must be put for

ward to support a referendum (the wording of the referendum must be part of the resolution), and a vote taken.

- The motion can only be carried if a third of those present, or at least 10 (whichever is the least) vote in favour.
- Take the resolution to the District Council and submit a request for a referendum, invoking your right under Part 111, Schedule 12, para 18, sub-paragraphs 4 and 5 of the 1972 Local Government Act (in Wales it is Section V, para 34, subsections 4 and 5). The District Council must respond within a week and the referendum has to be held within 14-25 days of the request being submitted.

Happy Voting!!

Porky Pie's Top Tip of the Month!

HOW TO EXHAUST THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!

1. VOTE FOR IT
2. WRITE TO IT
3. PETITION IT
4. IF IT STILL WON'T LISTEN,
CHASE IT DOWN TO THE BEACH
WITH BIG STICKS AND SET
FIRE TO IT!





Scott Grant

Green Winged Orchids in wildflower meadows at Ashton Court...

...destroyed by Pioneer Aggregates.



Scott Grant



Scott Grant

★ PIONEER? BAG OF PANTS



Scott Grant

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER DIRT DIGGIN'



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SOD OFF!!!

"You can't move a grassland without changing its environment - and if you change that, the community of plants and animals it supports is bound to change too. The first prerequisite for protecting an SSSI is to leave it where it is. Quite simply, if you move it, you lose it."*

Dr Richard Jefferson, English Nature ecologist

The sign on the entrance to Ashton Court Park reads. "You are visiting a beautiful and peaceful park. Help keep it that way so that everyone can enjoy it." So what do North Somerset Council do? They give planning permission for the extension of Pioneer Aggregates Durnford Quarry into 20 acres of the park! But how come a park given in 1959 to the people of Bristol, under the condition that 'no part of it should be set aside for works which would detract from its value as a recreation ground or prejudice the enjoyment of the people' can be excavated for minerals? You tell us!

Despite ongoing protests, Pioneer began removing topsoil from the park's wildflower meadow last week, which is a site of Nature Conservation Interest, and home to three rare species of wild orchids as well as nesting skylarks, foraging bats, and badgers. The company plan to spend £1 million to remove 51 per cent of the twenty acre site in two metre square chunks, to be relaid half a mile away in a field on the other side of the quarry.

This process is known as translocation and it has been an unmitigated disaster when tried elsewhere round the country.

"The idea that nature is so resilient that you just shift it around somewhere else and carry on has to be rejected." **Dr James Bullock, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology**

FAILED: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust acted as consultants for the translocation of a meadow supporting 'almost all the unusual and rare meadow plants found in Warwickshire'. The meadow was in the way of a supermarket. An 'impossibly tight timescale rushed the process of finding a receptor site'. Result? Sedges and reeds became dominant and nearly all the species present in the original meadow disappeared. The Trust said they would not invest so much voluntary time or money in a similar endeavour, should the situation arise again.

FAILED: Twyford Down, Hampshire. In 1992 the DoE arranged

for a flood meadow at Hockley Junction, lying in the path of the M3, to be translocated to an island in the River Test, 16 miles away. The receptor meadow was 'of poor agricultural quality.' Result? After initially being trampled by sheep, the translocated areas have since subsided due to the cracks in the turves (the cut up pieces of topsoil) accelerating the peat drying out.

FAILED: Selar Farm, West Glamorgan. 'A remnant of traditionally managed farmland, a mixture of flower-rich grassland, ancient woodland, scrub and streams, that had survived years of destruction caused all round by coal mining, urban development and conifer plantations.' The meadow was home to the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly and was on land designated for opencast mining by British Coal Opencast and Celtic Energy. In 1994 the meadow was moved.

*"In a couple of years we will have to write off this site for the Marsh Fritillary. It is another nail in the coffin of this nationally rare and declining species (P. Kirkland, Western Mail, March 1996) ** As far as we are concerned it is a successful project, and the planned process of re-introducing the butterflies, which has been happening, will continue." (Celtic Energy, Western Mail 1996) ** We visited the site in 1997 and reported that no adults had been seen that year. Current indications are it may well have died out." (John Davis, Butterfly Conservation Organisation, Sep 1998)*

FAILED: Brock's Farm, Devon. Owners of this SSSI, English China Clays International planned to relocate this site to allow them to tip ball clay waste. The show of green-winged orchids is enough to leave you breathless. In July this year ECCI told a Public Inquiry that they could prevent the loss of the grassland site by moving it to another location. English Nature objected, presenting evidence to show that previous attempts to transplant grasslands, both at Brock's Farm and elsewhere in England, had all failed. The inspector ruled in favour of the site remaining exactly where it is.

"Translocation should never be offered as an alternative to opposing a development." **John Davis Butterfly Conservation Organisation**

Pixies are asked to keep visiting Ashton Court as the project will take about three months to complete. There is a safe camp nearby. Contact Ashton Court Quarry Campaign - 0467 430211 or 07970 423834

VOCABWATCH: A SSSI is a Site of Special Scientific Interest designated by English Nature, the government's own conservation body.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For damaging a fire exit door. Kate Evan, (her of 'Copsie' - the cartoon book of road protesting fame), was enjoying a free drink or twenty at another DiY booklaunch, when security took a dislike to her dog being in the building. After a bit of a struggle they threw Kate against a fire-exit door and then had her arrested - charged with damaging the door to the tune of £200.

***For going to a seminar:** About 40 police officers took part in an early morning raid of an International Seminar on Globalisation and Resistance being held in Geneva at the end of last month. 50 participants, from 17 countries, were taken in riot vans to the local police station - including a 6 year old girl from the Ukraine - and questioned about Peoples Global Action. Speakers at the 16 day seminar included international economists, journalists, representatives of people's movements, and workers from grassroots organisations. A Nepali human rights worker commented "For me it is unthinkable that such police action in violation of human rights should take place in the same city as the UN Human Rights Commission headquarters." Quite.

The raid is part of a crackdown by the authorities after three days of rioting in May during 'celebrations' of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva (see SchNEWS 168)

CAMPS DO WORK!!

Victory! Campaigners up the trees at the Bass Recreation Ground in Derby are coming back down to earth following a Council decision to change road plans. Instead of going through the Park the road will now shave away the verge.

The Camp at St. Mary's Churchyard in Southampton has been disbanded after the Church scaled down plans to build business units, apartment blocks etc in the churchyard.

All these protest camps have (we think) been issued Possession Orders and so could be evicted any time soon.

Birmingham Northern relief road Tel:07970 301978/932224. Trying to stop the construction of Britain's first toll motorway. *** **Crystal Palace.** Campaigning against a twenty screen multiplex cinema to be built on inner city green space. Tel 07957 938 784, (site mobile)/0181 7617826. *** **Arthurs wood,** due for the chop because it apparently obstructs the satellite and radar reception of the Manchester Runway 2 airport extension. Tel 0161 998 1888 / 07775 602954. *** **Radstock railway Campaign,** fighting a housing development. Tel:01761 432273. *** **Swindon -** Fighting a housing development in Shrivensham (just north of Swindon) Sorry no phone number.

Town vs. gown

The countries first ever heritage protest camp in Central Oxford was finally evicted last Friday evening after 60 hours and 17 arrests. Taking 10 times longer than predicted by the acting Sheriff Nicholas Blandy, (he of Newbury-by-pass fame), the eviction cost Oxford University up to 1/2 million! The listed London Midland Scottish railway building had been squatted to stop a new six-lane road junction and a University Business School (part funded by a dodgy arms dealer). The plans by Oxford University were never open to public consultation, and fly in the face of over 10,000 protest signatures. Arrests included Green Party Councillor Mike Woodin who was nicked after complaining about the wrong trees getting the chop! (Eight officially to be chain-sawed, but clueless blunderers still got the wrong ones!) Damage was also done to the listed building - one copper even falling through the roof. This whole saga has rekindled a centuries-old feud: *Town vs Gown*. Thanks to widespread press coverage, the whole of the County has seen Oxford University run riot over the Gateway to Oxford. One activist told SchNEWS "The time has come to show the University that Oxford is NOT their playground, it is our HOME."

BREATHE, c/o 38a Walton Crescent, Oxford 07970 343 486 email: nomoroads@hotmail.com
* Oxford Reclaim the Streets Saturday 26th September, meeting 12 noon at Carfax tower (between Queens Street and Cornmarket Street) More details available from 04325 148339

OPERATION MERMAID

Sometime in September, police forces are springing a one-day nationwide roadblock check to snare "illegal immigrants, benefit cheats and anyone of 'interest' to the police". Codenamed "Operation Mermaid" the exercise will be conducted alongside a triple-whammy of immigration officials, benefits agency inspectors and customs officers, wired up with on site laptops to run names and numbers through DSS and police databases. Operations co-ordinator Bob Nockalls of the West Midlands force gives his own PR pitch: "People are in no way detained for anything other than road traffic matters. Whilst they are in that check then people like the benefits agency will speak to the occupants. Nobody can make anyone speak to the benefits agency." This surveillance swoop is the latest in a series of UK operations led by local forces. So far, 93,000 drivers have been stopped, leading to 673 arrests and 5,500 vehicles being taken off the road (no great shame there). Privacy International say Operation Mermaid is in clear breach of the privacy provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights. It also breaches several principles of the U.K.'s Data Protection Act. For example, police can't demand, or even request details like National Insurance numbers, because this information is outside the stated reason for detaining the motorist. Detention by police can be a harrowing and frightening experience, and previous studies indicate that motorists see themselves as "suspects" and often feel obliged to comply with any request for information. If you've been detained as part of Operation Mermaid let Privacy International know at mermaid@privacy.org. Meanwhile in an operation already underway police and DSS officials are 'shadowing' London Underground ticket collectors looking for claimants going to work, illegal immigrants and 'muggers'.

*Remember - you don't have to answer any questions put by police or government officials. You don't have to provide documentation of any description to benefits agency officials. Police can only ask for relevant information or documents - usually insurance papers, registration papers and drivers licence.

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belated hanov birthday to Dick Mick !!

SchNEWS in brief

Full Enjoyment Not Full Employment is the name of the Glasgow Radical Festival being held during the first week of October, and promises to be "A celebration of Do It Yourself and Oppositional Culture". More info c/o Fahrenheit bookshop, Virginia Galleries, 31-33 Virginia St, Glasgow email: radfest1@hotmail.com *** If you've got any dirt on Richard Turner Ltd - the company that hires the 'scab' climbers used in evictions, then let Corporate Watch know, as they are planning an article for the next issue of their magazine. Send to Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RQ; email@corporatwatch.i-way.co.uk *** As part of Gene Week, there's a Day of Action against Tesco on Friday 2nd October, to pressure them to remove Genetically Modified Organisms from their own brands. Contact Genetic Engineering Network 0181 3749516 / e-mail: genetics@gn.apc.org *** Against the 'ethnic cleansing' rampage in Kosovo, a 'Kosova Solidarity MARCH' is planned for Sunday 4th October ... MEET Hyde Park Corner 11-12 am, MARCH at 12 am, RALLY 1.30 pm Trafalgar Square. Protesting against the Albanian apartheid in Europe, systematic destruction of villages and complete lack of UN intervention (as ever) against human rights atrocities... more details 0181 674 2528.

*** fancy a bit of Hell in Hull? and that's not just visiting the place! From Sunday September 27th - Wednesday 30th September the Disabled Peoples Direct Action Network (DAN) have planned their 11th National Action which needs YOU to bombard Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott with the simple request of Accessible Transport by 2007. More info (accommodation/transport). 0181 889 1361 *** Highly recommended is the PorkBoiler, Worthings monthly newsheet about what's really going on in the town. The September issues is out now, but also see if they've got any of August's 'Standing Up To Big Brother'. SAE and donation to PO Box 4144, Worthing, BN14 7NZ. Every town should have one! *** The UK's first annual "Big Brother Awards" are taking place in London on 26th October. Organisers Privacy International are calling for government, corporate, and legislative policy nominations. To vote for your Big Brother, e-mail PI on bigbrother@privacy.org, or write to Privacy International c/o on the fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex *** There's a Demo at Shamrock Farm (breeders of monkeys for experiments), on Thursday the 24th. Transport from Brighton: meeting point is 2.30 pm outside Harvest Forestry New England St *** The Okasional squat cafe in Manchester has a new home - an old pub at 111 Newton Street. *** If you're interested in learning about permaculture get in touch with Naturewise who are holding an introductory weekend at the end of this month 0171 281 3765 *** For a while now a cyberbased collective called The Electronic Disturbance Theatre (EDT) has been supporting the Zapatistas in Mexico (SchNEWS 174/5). The idea behind EDT is to create mass protest in Cyberspace using tactics such as thousands of people sending faxes and e-mails to the same embassy or government at exactly the same time. These computerized versions of Critical Masses are called FloodNet and during the course of the last 7 FloodNet Actions some 80,000 plus have participated. EDT want to use this new tactic on other campaigns, if you would like to participate in or know more about FloodNet, e-mail: "disturbance.theater" <sjw210@is8.nyu.edu>.

*** Three Days of Action, Art, and Anarchy for queers of all sexualities. 25-27th Sept. at the 121 club, 121 Raiton Rd, Brixton.

And don't forget, the last Mass Tresspass on the South Downs of the summer, this Sunday (20th) Meet 12 noon outside Brighton Train St.

Inside SchNEWS

Richard Dixon and Rose Browning both jailed recently for 'conspiracy to recklessly endanger life and cause criminal damage' have been freed on bail pending an appeal. They had both been found guilty of cutting a private railway line into Whately Quarry, which is destroying the Mendip Hills. The rail line was a private line running into the quarry and there was never any danger to life, due to warning lights being placed up and down the track, and phone calls to the media.

*Animal Rights Campaigner Ben Thompson has won a mega important victory for prisoners rights. On Thursday his second hunger strike was called off after Deputy Governor Serjent of HMP Bullingdon agreed to his demands for a healthy and complete vegan diet that is free from Genetically Modified (GM) contamination. Ben is being held in Bullingdon prison for protesting against the breeding of cats at Hillgrove Farm for vivisection, he was tricked into calling off a previous 8-day hunger strike when he was promised GM free food which then never materialized. Yesterday (Thursday) Ben finally tucked into a GM free breakfast and was been shown a full menu for the next two days, however because of the Dep. Governors trickery Ben is still keeping a hunger strike option open. A spokesperson for the Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) said. "GEN will continue to monitor Ben's situation on a daily basis... If for some reason these meals are withdrawn, Ben will begin his hunger strike the following morning without fluids." Whilst Ben was inside GEN was busy contacting people with the result that the prison was inundated for over 24 hours with faxes of support for Ben from activists to NGOs to scientists and MPs. A vigil was planned for the entirety of his hunger strike and wholefood companies and stores gave food donations which although are now not needed, means Ben will have some top tuck when he gets out in two weeks. Ben has been blown away by the amount of support shown to him and sends thank and love to everyone that has helped in any way. Write to Ben for the next two weeks at HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0PA *** Genetic Engineering Network, Tel: 0181 374 9516. E-Mail: genetics@gn.apc.org. Website: http://www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html

...and finally...

Well, what if you know Britain's poor are worse off than ever, according to a new report by the United Nations. In fact deprivation, chronic unemployment and poor levels of literacy has turned the UK into one of the most poverty-stricken countries in the West. Worldwide, the gap between rich and poor countries has also widened, with the richest 225 people in the world having a combined wealth of more than \$1 trillion - equal to the annual income of the poorest 47% of the earth's population, some 2.5 billion people.

And Westerners spend \$37 billion a year on perfume and perfumes - enough to provide education, food, health care, water and sanitation for all those now deprived of the basics - with \$9 billion to spare. In fact a child born in New York, Paris or London will consume, pollute and waste more in their lifetime than 50 children born in a developing country. The report concludes that developing countries now face a strategic choice: they could repeat the industrialisation and growth of the past 50 years, or they could leapfrog to growth patterns that are pro-environment and pro-poor. SchNEWS wonders which one they will choose, and in the world of globalisation will they will even really have a choice?

disclaimer
SchNEWS warns all readers not to get all conspiratorial when they go out website and the word 'rebel' flashes up. Its nothing to do with MIS, M16 or the CIA, although we'd like it to be, so we can boast about down the pub. It will be sorted in the next fortnight. Honest.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

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GAGGING FOR IT

Last Friday at the High Court in London, bio-tech giants Monsanto were granted what has already been dubbed the most 'wide ranging injunctions ever seen in British law.'

Five women from the Genetix Snowball campaign along with the press officer have been effectively **SLAPP**ed. SLAPP's are *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation* and are a common weapon frequently used by American companies. Andrew Rowell author of 'Green Backlash' said the SLAPP was intended to "intimidate its critics into silence."

The injunction orders the six not to trespass on Monsanto's land and premises; uproot, destroy or otherwise damage or interfere with any of the companies plants or crops; plant or insert into the land or leave any crop or other article at a Monsanto site, or attempt or conspire with others to do any such act. In addition the six will be liable for any damage caused at Monsanto's sites by other 'members' of Genetix Snowball. This despite the fact that the campaign has no membership. In effect this means the six could be liable for damage done to genetically engineered (GE) sites without them even knowing the people involved!

The injunctions were rushed through last week to stop a planned mass Genetix Snowball action where plans were afoot to plant an organic garden on a GE test site.

The bio-tech industry obviously feels it's a little under siege. This summers favourite past-time for the direct action movement seems to have been 'hunt the gene field' before trashing it! So far 38 have been 'decontaminated'. However these often late night activities differ considerably from the snowball campaign in which people are up front about their activities telling the landowner and bio-tech companies what they are about to do. Dubbed 'a campaign of non-violent civil responsibility' they dig up GE plants and put them in biohazard bags. People are prepared beforehand in case of arrest. Those participating then hope to incite at least two other people to do the same thing - and so the snowball gathers momentum. However, the SLAPP could stop the campaign dead in its tracks...or will it? Rumours have also emerged that the bio-tech industry may even announce a 5 year voluntary moratorium in the UK to show they are listening to public fears. In a recent MORI poll 77% of those questioned wanted GE crops banned. However, even if it stopped temporarily in the UK, it doesn't mean we won't be eating GE foods. For example 60% of processed foodstuff we eat contains soya - and this could be genetically

modified, but with no effective food labeling it is impossible to tell.

More telling is a comment by Tom McDermott, head of Monsanto's public affairs in Europe "Our genes are incorporated into approximately 19 million acres around the world, covering an area larger than Switzerland and the Netherlands combined. Can Europe at this point really resist?" As Jim Snail from the American Earth First! movement explains "It may be at the end of the day that Europe can stay GE free, but unless resistance spreads there is still the rest of the world to lose."

Because even if you're not bothered about scoffing Frankensteins food, the wider implications should set alarm bells ringing. As environmentalist George Monbiot points out, if Monsanto get their way then "a small number of companies will be controlling the biggest commodity market of all-food."

And that's just scary.

INFORM YERSELF!

To find out more about Monsanto, get a copy of the latest issue 'The Ecologist', which is entitled the 'Monsanto Files'. Order a copy from your newsagents or send £4 to Unit 18, Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Rd., London, SW10 0QJ

Genetic Engineering Network,
PO BOX 9656, London, N4 4JY Td 0181 374 9516 Email: genetics@gn.apc.org/
www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html

Genetix Snowball Campaign, c/o
One World Centre, 6 Mount St., Manchester, M25NS 01618340295
genetixsnowball@orangenet.co.uk (SEND a large SAE for a copy of handbook and strategy paper)

Third World Network, 228 Macalister Road, 10400 Penang, Malaysia. Comprehensive legal and scientific reports on the perils of biotech are available on <http://www.twinside.org.sg>

GRAIN, Girona 25, pral, E-8010, Barcelona, Spain <http://www.grain.org> *Seedling*, a quarterly newsletter promoting sustainable agriculture / people's control over genetic resources and local knowledge.

GET (GARDEN) TOOLED UP!

For a list of GE release sites go to host: envirolink.org/shag/info/location/grid1.html
Not everyone thinks the snowball campaign is such a good idea - for a critique send a SAE c/o Leeds EFi, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Chapelton, Leeds, LS7 3HB

* Last Sunday the largest snowball action to date targeted the UK headquarters of AgrEvo at East Winch Hall near Kings Lynn. The testing ground was planted with organic seeds and flowers in protest at the fact that the company intend to begin

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For possession of herbs (more sharp-eyed coppers clamping down on suspect plants). Forty-nine year old George Singleton, runs an organisation called HOPE LA-USA who promote organic gardening in American inner cities. As an African-American with dreadlocks down to his waist, he's used to being stopped in states such as Texas, Ohio, Virginia, and California and searched for drugs. Those stops have turned up nothing and he can go on his way. However, in February he was driving through Oklahoma when he was once again stopped and his car searched. "The officer found some mullein and rosemary in my car. I take them for my tuberculosis. I told him it wasn't marijuana."

However, he was arrested and spent the next 25 days in prison until a lawyer could get his bail costs reduced and get him out of jail.

You see, Oklahoma has an unusual law under which it is illegal to possess any substance that a reasonable person might think was an illegal substance. George, who holds a doctorate in herbology, makes many cross country drives carrying herbs, as part of his job. Both the 'substances' that he was carrying and using are widely used and freely available over the counter. But hey, so what? George is set to return for trial on charges of possessing imitation illegal drugs on October 8th and could face a year in prison. God bless America.

CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

CARE ASSISTANT IN BOOTLE £2.75 PER HOUR

Age 25 + Experience essential to bathe, dress, feed and tend to the needs of elderly residents in a residential home.

Courtesy of Kirkby Job Centre.

Don't forget to send us your crap arrests and crap jobs of the week.

commercial plantings of genetically engineered oil seed rape in the UK next year. There were no arrests.

* Three people from the Scottish GenetiX Snowball were arrested last Sunday and charged with theft and housebreaking after taking sample plants from a GE potato crop to send off to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. Apparently a poly tunnel is now classified as a house!

* Wednesday 30th September 8 pm Public meeting about GE food with speakers from Genewatch, The Soil Association and Totness Genetics Group at Barton Hill Settlement, Duce Rd., Lawrence Hill, Bristol 0117 942 0129

* As part of **Gene Week** a loose collective of people called DNA, are setting up 'the Toxic Planet' - a cafe, cinema, permaculture garden, discussion forum, art exhibition, theatre, indoor playground...to explore the problems and solutions to the biotech future we are facing. It's happening between 3 - 10th October somewhere in Central London. Ring 0181 374 9516 for location nearer the time.

Greenfield Housing

So, we may have won the fight against the roads programme. But do we now sit back and watch as 1000 square miles of British countryside are covered in concrete because:

The wrong houses are being built in the wrong places!

Thanks to the House Builders' Federation (HBF) and New Labour's obsession with creating jobs in the construction industry, developers could have shoved up nearly 5 million new homes by 2016, based on spurious household projections that seem to crystallise Thatcherite values of individualism. Lobbyists have conned the government into thinking that the only way to deal with a national housing crisis is by building new houses - despite the fact that thousands of homes stand empty. And so the government has foisted quotas of new houses onto local councils, effectively forcing them to give permission to new schemes that invariably local people don't want

There is a presumption that there will be a "trickle down" in the housing market to homeless people, despite the fact that rich people buy houses as financial investments not to live in and that most people will never afford a mortgage. This is one of the sickest symptoms of capitalism in this country - housing is treated not as a basic need, but as a commodity. A genuine desire by government to address the housing crisis would lead to changes in legislation, for example on social housing and rents.

Homes for need, not greed

Typically the proposed houses are unaffordable to all but executive types, built without consideration of local infrastructure or ecological footprinting, not built to "Lifetime Homes Standard" and often come on the back of road schemes. It's cheaper for developers to build on

greenfield sites than to renovate derelict urban areas. Brownfield sites suitable for housing are being wasted with temples to consumerism such as the Millennium Dome.

Local opposition to housing developments has been dismissed as "NIMBYism" or, in the words of one of the top housebuilders, Bryant Homes, "unreasonable obstructions." Housebuilders such as Beazer and Wimpey have even been asking for the government to abolish the planning system. Apparently we should trust them to "self-regulate". Yet planning regulations still penalise sustainable low-impact developments. The "lost village" of Brithdir Mawr in Wales has recently been discovered after having to camouflage itself from planning officials for years, and anyone who's tried to put up a straw bale house will tell you how difficult it is to get planning permission.

Groups campaigning against the government housing allocations in their area are forming super-coalitions and starting to hook up with those with direct action skills. Posh conservationists the CPRE recently published a helpful free booklet on how the planning system works (kindly sponsored by Esso, oh dear, and available by sending an A5 sae to CPRE Publications, Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP) while issuing a reminder that "the first local people know of plans affecting their local countryside can be when the bull-

dozers move onto the site - and by then it is too late to make a difference." (!) Tell that to the residents of the village of Sandy Lane near Bradford who have managed to stuff Bryant Homes by moving their caravans onto the site, hooking up with Bingley road protestors to jump on bulldozers, and putting up posters in their windows warning off potential buyers of the Bryant greenfield houses.

Campaigners in Hertfordshire are up against Persimmon Homes, who want to build 10,000 houses on greenbelt land to the west of Stevenage. While groups from the huge CASE (Campaign Against Stevenage Expansion) coalition are still arguing through the planning system, some of them are already organising a "beat the bulldozer" pledge: to add your name contact CASE c/o Dyes Farm, Langley, Hertfordshire, SG4 4PQ. The strength of the situation is that by working together we can build alliances with disgruntled local people all over the country.

Information for action

Check the local press - There's bound to be an unpopular housing development near you. If possible, find out who the company behind it is and do some research on them (contact Corporate Watch for details of how). Most housebuilders have regional offices - an action at, on or in one of these hubs of corporate power may help remind the builders of the perils of ignoring local opinion.

You can also find out about cam-

paigns in your area by contacting: URGENT, Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RQ Tel. 07000 785202 info@urgent.org.uk <http://www.urgent.org.uk> . Protest groups are springing up all over the country which would benefit from input from hardened activists with a variety of tactics up their sleeves. URGENT (which stands for Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Environment NeT-work - you come up with a better inclusive acronym!) was set up earlier this year to bring together everybody concerned with this issue to share information and campaigning skills. To officially support the network and receive the newsletter and e-mail updates, preferably send a cheque for £10 (£5 for individuals) payable to "URGENT" to the address above. Or please help URGENT out with offers of office equipment / your articles / donations / newspaper clippings.

What's the alternative?

How are we to house ourselves sustainably? Ideas abound within the grassroots movement with solutions ranging from squats to yurts, housing co-ops to boats, self-build to strawbale homes. So the construction industry can sod off - give us the land and the powers and we'll house ourselves quite nicely thank you. Groundswell seem to be quite sorted for ideas: get in touch with them at the National Homeless Alliance, 5-15 Cromer Street, WC1H 8LS, Telephone 0171 833 2071, Fax 0171 278 6685 email, groundswell@home-all.org.uk

Other useful contacts are The Land Is Ours, the British Land Rights Campaign Network, and the Advisory Service for Squatters.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER SNEERING



SchNEWS

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Friday 2nd Oct 1998

www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS

Issue 185 Free/Donation

FEE'D OFF

So - you've just started at college, and are looking forward to some of the most exciting years of your life - endless parties, plotting the downfall of the state, debating the more esoteric passages of 'Das Capital', and generally spending all day in bed and all night drinking enough alcohol and taking enough drugs to incapacitate an elephant, all at the taxpayers' expense.

WAKE UP!!! Welcome to the grim reality in debt from the word go, having to work in McDonalds for a couple of quid an hour, fighting off 50 other students for the one copy of the book in the library you need for the essay you have to do by tomorrow morning, all the while being told how privileged you are to be in higher education, and that it's only fair that you spend the next 10 - 15 years of your life paying for it. *Ever get the feeling you've been cheated...?*

'Student bashing' has always been a favourite Tory occupation, but New Labour has decided to really stick the boot in by ending the idea of free education for all - this year students have to contribute up to £1000 towards their tuition fees, the grant has been savagely cut, and from next year the grant will disappear entirely, to be completely replaced by loans.

Since the 80's the government have been reducing students' financial support - by gradually removing their entitlements to social security benefits and reducing the grant year on year. In 1990 the government removed the vast majority of students from the benefits system entirely, froze the grant and introduced student loans - this really was the beginning of the end for students. They then reduced the grant by 30% over 3 years.

Whilst increasing the student loan, clearly with the intention to eventually abolish the grant. However, even the Tories thought this might be a bit too politically unpalatable - no such worries for New Labour though.

For students starting at college this year they can expect to get a maximum basic grant of around £800 a year, and a maximum student loan of £2735, and may have to contribute up to £1000 towards their fees. From the 1999/00 academic year, the grant will disappear entirely for most students to be completely replaced by loans. Certain students like single parents and those with dependants or disabilities can receive extra allowances - and whilst they will still be able to get these extra allowances next year the

basic grant will still be abolished for them too. This means that students will finish their courses with debts of at least £12,000, and the implications of this aren't too hard to spot. Whilst it is too early to get any concrete evidence, students from poor backgrounds and mature students are obviously going to have to think long and hard as to whether they can afford to enter higher education; inevitably many won't bother.

In a University of Brighton survey from 1996 it was found that more than double the number of students aged 21 and over were over £1000 in debt compared to 18-20 year olds, and this situation is obviously going to worsen under the new funding arrangements. As one final year mature student told SchNEWS *"The older you get the more financial responsibilities you take on - the cost of having kids, a mortgage, pre-existing debts - and I simply wouldn't be able to afford to go to university under the new rules. It makes me sick that Labour are doing this, as it discriminates against students who don't have rich mummies and daddies, and those students like me who were always told we were thick at school or weren't encouraged to aim for higher education so didn't think of going to university until we were older and realised we were actually good enough to go for it."*

So what can you do about all this? Well, don't expect the National Union of Students to be much use - they actually support the abolition of the grant, although they do disagree with students having to contribute towards their fees. There's also the Campaign for Free Education, which the NUS don't support. The silence within most Students' Unions about the introduction of fees and abolition of the grant is deafening - within many SUs politics in whatever form has become a dirty word, whilst others are run by New Labour clones or by students from rich enough backgrounds not to care. It's a particularly savage irony - although no great surprise - that New Labour are doing more to exclude the poor and 'economically disadvantaged' from higher education than the Tories ever did.

Or are we just sneering cynics?

Campaign for Free Education PO Box 332, Huddersfield, HD1 3YB

Calling all SchStudents come to a
SchNEW's TRAINING DAY

Wednesday 14th Oct. 12 Noon onwards
Limited space and biccies so book now
01273 685913

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

Shannon Coggins was arrested at Sainsburys in Haringey after putting a 'Contaminated with genetically engineered soya' sticker on 5 packets of Batchelors Beanfeast. She was charged with Section 38 of the Public Order Act (1996) which was introduced to prosecute people who blackmail companies by spiking their food! Highgate magistrates threw the case out of court.

* If you want to get hold of some of the stickers/disloyalty cards call Protect Your Food Campaign 0171 865 8222

OVER THE TOP COPS OF THE WEEK

SchNEWS is used to hearing about (and being in the middle of) over-the-top-policing, but the recent demo in Hull against **Banting and Kingman** animal breeders surely takes the biscuit. Police from Thames Valley, South Yorks and Humber made up the 30 plus riot vans, with 12 cops on horseback, 6 dog vans, four evidence gathering teams and a police operations unit in a church. A metal fence was erected to block off the village of Grimsden and all police were in riot gear.

And all this for just 30 protesters!

All the more strange is that the demonstrations happen every month with the largest one attracting no more than 100 people. And there have never been any arrests.

* Public Meeting to discuss how to help save **Hillgrove Cats** (bred for vivisection) in Brighton 7pm St Peters Hall, St Peters Church, York Place Thursday 8th October

* Stay up all night on a Saturday night? As unusual as they may be for a large percentage of you (yeah right!), on Saturday 3rd, there's an **all night vigil at Hillgrove cat farm** (10pm - 7am) - contact 0121 632 6460. This event looks set to occur every week.

Farmers urge Government to ban picnics shock

Are they 'avin a laugh? Apparently the National Farmers Union (NFU) is calling on the government to outlaw a number of highly damaging activities that take place on open land. You know, like having a picnic, flying kites, rock-climbing, camping and metal detecting.

These proposals are contained in the NFU's submission to the government in response to their consultation paper on access to open countryside.

The Ramblers Association campaigners wearing World War One gas masks held a protest picnic in the middle of a polluted traffic island in London in order to draw attention to the farmers' Mad Cow proposals.

Recycled Ecology

The *Ecologist* magazine, the established mouthpiece of the green movement, is looking for another printer after Penwell's of Liskeard refused to run-off its 'Monsanto Special' edition. "We have a long history of being forthright about issues and attacking powerful firms, yet not once in 29 years has this printer expressed the slightest qualms about what we were doing," said the magazine's co-editor, Zac Goldsmith.

Why should Penwell's suddenly buckle in fear of libel action and terminate a longstanding friendship with its publishers? The Defamation Act 1996 introduced an 'innocent dissemination' defence for printers who have taken 'reasonable care' and 'were not aware of' the libellous nature of the matter they may have printed. Penwell's it seems, were legally covered. Why this sudden parting of the ways?

"Following legal advice we thought it better not to print something that may or may not be libellous. We weren't prepared to take the risk," Penwell's David Montgomery told Schnews.

Of course Monsanto, then good ole wholesome superfood creators, who may not have anything to do with f**king the planet's life system for profit, have absolutely not threatened to put Penwell's out of business.

Monsanto's UK spokesman Daniel Verakis said he was mystified by the printer's action. "The fact that the edition has been pulped is news to me. We had nothing to do with it," he said in reply to reports that Penwell's had pulped every last copy.

Verakis also admitted that he did not know that the edition was especially about Monsanto, despite reports that a flyer advertising 'The Monsanto Files' edition was lying on his chair at a recent science conference.

Schnews also received a flyer. It reads "The giant Monsanto Corporation tells us that genetic engineering is all about feeding the hungry, about protecting the environment. But this is the company that brought us Agent Orange, PCB's and Bovine Growth Hormone: the same company that produces Roundup the world's biggest-selling pesticide, and the highly questionable Terminator Technology". This Special issue of *The Ecologist* asks the simple question: Can we allow corporations like Monsanto to gamble with the very future of life on Earth?"

The *Ecologist* costs £3.50 from newsgagents or send £4 to UNIT 18, Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Rd, London, SW10 0QJ.

McDOGSHIT

It's that time of the year again to picket everybody's favourite burger bar. October 16th is the Annual World Day of Action against McDonalds, while October 12th is the annual Day of Solidarity with McDonalds workers. The ever reliable **McLibel Support Campaign** have produced leaflets about these events for you to distribute, including a new one which outlines the conditions for workers in Asian countries who produce the so called 'Happy Meal' toys. Workers are paid as little as 5p an hour and in one factory last year 220 workers at one factory suffered chemical poisoning.

If you want to order copies contact the Campaign at 5 Caledonian Rd, London, N1 9DX Tel 0171 713 1269, email: mclibel@globalnet.co.uk / www.mcsportlight.org

Recommended: **McLibel: Burger Culture on Trial** by John Vidal available in bookshops and libraries; **McLibel: Two Worlds Collide** video directed by Ken Loach. For copies contact OOPS, 0171 375 3181

* If you're in Birmingham on the 16th October go to the top of New St outside the Halifax Building Society in the City Centre at 1pm for a demo against McDogshit.

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913 GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk

SchNEWS in brief

Strange bedfellows at the Labour Party Conference. Labour's official green business evening addressed by the environment minister Micheal Meacher was sponsored by Aggregate Industries, a worrying group (to the tune of £1,500) If that weren't enough Norman Fowler, the Tory Shadow home secretary is on its board of directors ***How American news dominates the British media Part 226 : St Kits - small island in the Caribbean: 85% of homes damaged and over 50% of the sugar crop destroyed. Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico lose many lives and have their economies wiped out. Not exactly headline news, but the damage was done by the same Hurricane George affecting southern America, and so of course is now top of the media agenda.

*** Meanwhile a New York entrepreneur is reporting brisk sales of a doll called "Fondle Me Bubba" that looks like President Clinton. Wearing only boxer shorts, the doll says things like "I'll bomb Baghdad, I'll bomb France, if you'll remove my underpants," or "Oral sex is not adultery" when squeezed below the waist *** Celebrating 7 years of existence 56a Infoshop is gonna 'explore the secret and hidden history of Southwarks radical past. "Radical Southwark" runs from 15-19th October with walks, talks, exhibitions, music, midnight cycle rides, nighty cheapo food - as well as re-naming Southwark during a poster and graffiti walk including afraid on a secret nuke bunker! To get a copy of the full programme send a SAE to 56 Crampton St., London SE17 or check out www.safetycat.org/56a *** A camp has been set up to stop a housing development just outside Swindon. The protestors are trying to stop the Berkeley group from going through a protected hedge to build houses on greenbelt land. The whole town is against the development including the local council. A possession order has been granted. The camp is on the B4000 just outside Highworth on the way to Shivenham (north of Swindon) Tel 07654 222 878 *** As part of Gene Week, Sunday 11th October is National Banner Drop day. Do it from everywhere with the simple message of "Stop playing God - STOP The Genetic Experiment" Contact 0181 374 9516 *** For those of you with next years diaries on hand, it's the Third Battle of Newbury - End of the Road Reunion, Sunday 10th January 1999. The campaign has also had a change of address P.O.Box 5642, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5WG, UK / 07000 785201 / email: thirdbattle@hotmail.com / They meet 1st Thursday of month 8pm Friends Meeting House, Newbury *** Reclaim Europe - Cologne 30th October - 1st November. Preparation conference for actions against the EU G8 summit (June 5th & 6th 1999) - remember Birmingham Reclaim the Streets?, make next year more hard hitting / in yer face / punk as fuck / ((please delete as appropriate)) Contact: +49-30-494-62-76 / email: 101337.2067@compuserve.com *** It's the International Front for Animal Welfare Animal Action Week from 4th - 11th October. Contact 01634 830888 for more details

DONT BE LATE

SchNEWS has been informed that JobCentre staff have been issued with instructions to rigidly enforce the JSA Late Signing regulations. This means that if you sign late you could lose JSA for the number of days you are late. You will also have to complete a new JSA Claim Form. Schnews advises readers to get your excuses in first; tell the JobCentre you are going to sign late. This latest turn of the thumbscrews for people on benefits will mean that more people lose benefit and signing on will become even more like reporting for parole. Job Centre staff aren't too happy either as the rules create loads of extra work and more chances of getting punched in the face.

GASSED TO DEATH

CS Gas claimed its second victim last week when a pensioner died in hospital ten days after being sprayed. 76 year old Frank Roberts, was sprayed in the face by two officers after being evicted from his house near Bangor, Gwynedd. Police said Mr. Roberts had acted in, "an aggressive manner" which isn't surprising really as he was being thrown out of his house he had been living in for the past 30 years.

As Cllr David Francis Jones pointed out "I am surprised that four or five able-bodied police officers and bailiffs could not have handled this matter without using CS spray." Quite.

Mr. Roberts' had shared the bungalow with his sister for nearly 30 years until two years ago when she moved to a nearby council property. There had been a legal wrangle about ownership which resulted in a court order being obtained against him.

The case has been referred to the Police Complaints Authority for investigation (you know the one where the police investigate the police). Meanwhile, the Department of Health has ordered two committees of independent scientists to investigate the possible danger to health of CS spray in the wake of mounting criticism.

When the gas was introduced into the UK in March 1996 the police said it would only be used 'where the police officer feels his or her own life is in danger.' Since then it's been used on kids in children's homes, football fans, protesters, pensioners, families - you name it. One man, Ibrahim Seyid after being sprayed with CS while being held down by cops whilst handcuffed at Ilford Police Station. (see SchNEWS 138) An inquest jury returned a verdict of 'unlawful killing' but none of the police involved have ever been prosecuted.

Super Store Scuppered

Brightonians was celebrating last Friday when a Department of the Environment Planning Inspector turned down Sainsbury's plans to build a massive superstore on land next to the train station. The campaign didn't just focus on no superstore, but got a blueprint together of what they wanted to see on the site. Keith from Brighton Urban Design Development (BUDD) told SchNEWS "Now we can push for our proposals for a community-driven project using the principles of sustainability"

Contact BUDD, 1 New England St., Brighton, E Sussex, BN1 4GT 01273 622727 email harvestforestry@fastnet.co.uk

STOP-PRESS
Yesterday (Thursday) as part of the 'Disgrace The Base' global days of action against nuclear weapons 80 activists blockaded Rolls Royce in Derby. Not a lot of people know that the company make nuclear reactors for trident submarines. Workers were leafleted and some people got into the site to make citizens inspections. There were 13 arrests, and at time of going to press 12 people were still being detained charged with 'going equipped'. More info Manchester Anti Nuclear Action 0161 834 8301

...and finally...

A message from our messiah
"SchNEWS's tough but honest challenge to our readers. We promise the future. Only together can we achieve. People may attack us from the left, from the right, from behind (ohh). But if we all put our back bones together, stronger, marching forward, working, battling racism, we can have courage to take those tough decisions (like one cba 'bob' or two) and make this newsletter once again great"

This is the third way, man, the only way.
This week and finally... was sponsored by Monsanto

* Tony Blair doesn't like verbs. He misses them out lots in his speeches. Is that cos verbs are doing words? No verbs, nothing doing.
disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all our student readers not to spend all their grant in one go down the pub / club / head shop. Instead why not become an (office) revolutionary and help out with SchNEWS. Book your place now on our free training day. Then you can write to your mum and dad and tell them your new friends are anarchist troublemakers and you are helping to change the world. That will give you a warm glow.



WAKE UP! WAKE UP! IT'S YER BULLSHIT BUSTING



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Issue 186 Free/Donation

CHINESE TAKE AWAY

This year sixty nine year old Thupten Ngodup, a Tibetan refugee, set himself on fire in Delhi for a Free Tibet. Has last words were:

"May all beings live in peace, long live his holiness, Dalai Lama. May Tibet soon be free."

New Labour showed once again this week, just how much they are in bed with big business during Tony Blair's trip to China.

Human rights abuses? The invasion of Tibet? Were these subjects hot on the lips of our Prime Minister? Er, not quite. Blair was more interested in what he called "softly, softly" diplomacy, despite China's Prime Minister Zhu Rongji telling Blair "to say anything on your mind".

Alison Reynolds, Director of the Free Tibet Campaign asked *"We are being told that there are other parts of the Sino British relationship that are more important than human rights, but what could be more important than freedom?"*

Profits silly!

China's population of 1.2 billion represents 'massive market potential' - hey, even the marbled Great Hall now boasts a Coke vending machine. So instead of denunciations 21 business leaders join Blair hoping to sell the United Kingdom plc, while the launch of the UK-China Forum joint-chaired by former Conservative deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine is announced.

FREE TIBET

"The real Tibet is on the brink of disappearing. These events may be taking place in a land so far away that it hardly seems real. But pain, torture and anguish are real." Palden Gyatso

A Tibetan Buddhist monk who has spent 33 years of his life in Chinese prison and labour camps.

China invaded Tibet in 1950 and since then 1.2 million have been killed - that's more than one out of every six Tibetans. With the Chinese settling in their millions, the policy is clearly one of ruthless ethnic cleansing. Their religion is brutally suppressed while young Tibetans are being 're-educated' about the history of their country. School textbooks don't even mention that Tibet was once independent.

Meanwhile natural resources are being stripped away. Half of the country's forests have gone since Chinese occupation. Ironically, this deforestation helped cause the recent massive flooding in China.

GULAGS AND SWEATSHOPS

"The gulag system has become an increasingly important part of the country's developing economy...the multi-million-dollar rush to invest in mainland China by companies across the world has marginalized concern for the abuses of human rights in China's 'laogai' system. As trade increases, so does a demand for products made with a 'stable supply of labour', better still, at 'zero labour cost'."

Kate Saunders 'Beneath The Iron Crust'

When someone in China disappears, their family says they have gone for *laogai*, reform through labour. The *laogai* consists of a vast network of prisons and labour camps stretching across China. It is the largest system of its kind in the world, with the Chinese government admitting to 684 'reform through labour' centres, 155 prisons, 492 rehabilitation centres and 37 social reintegration centres for young offenders.

Since the foundation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, an estimated 30 - 50 million prisoner have died from exhaustion, disease or torture in these camps, while an estimated ten to sixteen million prisoners still work on the grim production lines of farms, factories, and prison camps, or are held for years without trial in detention or shelter centres.

And even if you're not in prison, conditions at work aren't exactly rosy. Barbie and Sandy dolls, Power Rangers and Fisher-Price toddlers toys are made by mostly rural girls working 12 to 16 hours a day for the legal minimum wage of £27 a month, if they're lucky. Many will suffer from chronic industrial diseases, caused by the effects of plastics, paints and glues used without protection or ventilation.

The Third Way? Looks more like profits first, people second to SchNEWS.

"Freedom began the day I escaped from Lhasa (17th March 1959). Then we could openly criticise the Chinese. That was the first time I appreciated freedom of speech. Although I have refugee life I have complete freedom of speech, expression and thought. That I love." The Dalai Lama.

Pity Blair can't use his freedom of expression to speak out.

CRAP JOB OF THE WEEK

Car exhaust and Tyre Fitter

Full time £130 per week

(must have own full tool box)

Spotted in Blackburn Job Centre.

It should be pointed out that a full tool box costs up to £300!

CRAP SECRETS OF THE WEEK

Ever wanted to know just what's inside that high - tech building MI5 and MI6 live in besides the Thames? Well you can, for some bizarre reason they have put the blueprints for the entire building on public display at the Westminster and Lambeth planning office! The blueprints detail all the entrances, fire escapes, lift shafts, and air conditioning shafts. Documents accompanying the maps include not only the names of top MI5 bosses but descriptions of the counter terrorist measures protecting the building. So, is this a display of arrogant invulnerability or are our spies just plain stupid?

* This Saturday the worlds 'biggest ever dance floor link-up' EarthDance, takes place in 30 countries raising funds and awareness for Tibet. More info www.earthdance.org

*Free Tibet Campaign, 1 Rosomon Place, London, EC1R OJY Tel 0171 833 9958 www.freelibet.org

* One World Week 18 - 25th October. "Your chance to help shape the global landscape - to work for justice, peace and respect for the earth". Send for info pack/details of events in your area to PO Box 2555, Reading RG1 4XW 0118 9394933

* During the Labour Party Conference UNICEF were asked to take down a poster calling for a boycott of Nescafe, after the company complained. Nestle aggressively market their powdered milk products in the third world, telling mothers it's better than breast-feeding. As Victoria Scott of UNICEF pointed out *"There's nothing we can do, they'll be here next year because they can afford it. We're only here because we were lucky in a ballot"*

THE BIG BROTHER AWARDS

Will be taking place in London on the 26th Oct. Privacy International are calling for bad government, corporate or policy nominations. To vote for your Big Brother:

e-mail: bigbrother@privacy.org or write to: Privacy International, c/o on-the-fiddle, PO 2600, Brighton, BN2

LIRI A VDEKJE

"We love you fatherland, with us you are stronger, with us you are secure." **Jingle on Serbian state TV**

The t-shirts on Sundays solidarity march for Kosova read 'Nato-air: Just Do It'. In the past six months nearly 300,000 people have been driven from their homes, and up to 1,500 killed in fighting as Serbia troops attack the province. Currently, 50,000 displaced people are living in makeshift camps and hiding in forests, scared for their lives who risk freezing or starving to death in the fierce Balkan winter.

So SchNEWS asks should we support air strikes against Serbia?

"It cannot get any worse. At the risk of civilian casualties, at least it would be quick and painless with the possibility of peace rather than being chased by Serbian army or dying of starvation and cold."

A 70 year old Kosovan woman speaking at Sundays demonstration, who declared she would take up arms if she could.

Serbia has always seen Kosovans as second class citizens, but tension escalated in 1989 after a one week underground hunger strike by miners. Serbia reacted by closing the Kosovan Parliament. Then in 1990 workers were expelled from their jobs and replaced by Serbians. Language, culture, education and science was banned, while hospitals, schools and newspapers were shut down. Later 100,000 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia arrived with the offer of lucrative jobs, 10 times the wages of fellow Kosovans.

Kosova remains legally part of the extreme right-wing federal republic ruled by scumbag President Milosevic. It's lands are extremely fertile and rich in minerals and Milosevic needs Kosova to keep Serbia financially afloat. So once again he is practising "ethnic cleansing" to shore up his country. The two million Kosovans want independence, and world attention has now been focused on this small province with the threat of air strikes. However, in Turkey, the Kurds are demanding the same as the Kosovans, but because Turkey is an ally of the West and a member of NATO it is allowed to get away with savage repercussions without any threat of action by the Western powers. Can someone please explain the moral principles that NATO follows? As one Kosovan refugee told SchNEWS— "NATO's intervention is more to do with Clinton's sexual desire than his desire to help Kosovan people"

"For once SCHNEWS remains ambivalent, is this one of those rare occasions where air strikes are they only option? We leave you to make your own decisions.

A week ago a Red Cross car hit a land-mine, killing one doctor and seriously injuring another. They have now stopped sending help to the villages because of the threat of land-mines.

Workers Aid for Kosovo are planning a convoy to the country in the next couple of weeks and donations are urgently needed such as tinned food, warm clothing, waterproofs, boots as well as cash to buy staple food. Another convoy will be leaving in a couple of months time. Tel: 0181 674 2528

Reclaim The Streets are putting together a book and need material. Provisionally entitled "Who Are These Lunatics? The Pleasures and Politics of Reclaim the Streets." It won't be a heavy academic or historical tome - but a very alive piece of propaganda! So if you've got decent street party photographs or press cuttings send them to JJ Reclaim the Streets book, PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY. Deadline in Dec 1st 1998** Reclaim The Streets - the movie is being shown in Brighton on Wednesday 21st October at Cinematique, Ship St. 7.30 & 9.30pm. Tickets £2.50

Subscribe!

Keep SchNEWS FREE! Just send 1st Class stamps (e.g. 20 for next 20 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 2DX.

Tel/Autofax: +44 (0)1273 685913. GET IT EVERY WEEK BY E-MAIL: schnews@brighton.co.uk anyone fancy a bit of painting and decorating the hallway outside the SchNews office? Paint brushes and chair hobnobs provided

SchNEWS in brief

As announced in SchNews 184, Diverse Nature Alert (DNA) are now occupying the old Neighbourhood office opposite Islington Town Hall in Upper Street. **Toxic Planet** runs from Monday 5 October until Sunday 11 October, as part of Gene Week. Events for the week include a cinema, a multi-media exhibition, a genetically modified-free cafe with organic vegan food, a permaculture garden, an indoor playground for children (and adults), street theatre, as well as talks, workshops & up-to-date information for action against genetic engineering. Toxic Planet 'provides a springboard for people... to take positive direct action against the likes of Monsanto et al!'. Directions: Nearest Tube: Angel, Highbury Islington Buses: 4,18,30,43 Tel. 0171-226 8672/0831 817 584

THE ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR

Saturday 17th Oct 10:00 am, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. London

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR



Happy birthday to "The Pork Bolter" Worthing's monthly news-sheet digging the dirt on the town while putting a smile on your face at the same time. The latest issue 11, is the best yet. Every town needs one! SO START ONE!! Send a SAE to PO Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7NZ [www/members.xoom.com/porkbolter/](http://www.members.xoom.com/porkbolter/) *** **Movement against the Monarchy** has brand new webpage <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1793/Index.html> *** And don't forget any new Brighton students out there who'd like to get involved in SchNEWS, should come to our training day next Wednesday (14th). Starts at 12 noon - ring the office and book your place now.

MILLION POUND CAT COPS

"The numbers of protesters will dwindle and fade away"

Chief Inspector Charles Pollard

"We've put a counter on the phone and last month we had 5,000 inquiries"

Hillgrove campaign

Obviously wishful thinking on the part of the old bill as the costs for protecting the cat butcherers at Hillgrove farm, near Whitney, have now passed the £1.25 million mark! Hillgrove farm supplies cats and kittens for scientific, cosmetic and military vivisection and has been the subject of sustained demo's for months. Despite the ridiculous policing bill, at one demo the police built 12 foot walls around the farm complete with watch towers (SchNEWS 1648&7), Thames Valley Police continue to throw large amounts of their resources into protecting the ailing company, (is the fact that Home Secretary Jack Straw goes to church with Hillgrove owner Chris Brown anything to do with it?). In fact, since the protests started in September of last year, the numbers have anything but dwindled, 1,000's of people have protested, profits have plummeted and staff have left in droves. From a staff of 11 there are now only 5-6 and the farm is reduced to employing 17 year olds from an agency. With over a thousand cats caged up at the farm this gives each cat just 45 SECONDS OF CARE a day.

* Next vigil is on Wed 14th October 7am-5pm, Next demo on Sat 17th Oct. Transport is going from Brighton. Pick up at 9am outside Harvest Forestry. Hillgrove Campaign 0121 632 6460

DAN DARES

"If you can't get out the wheelchair, you can't get on the bus."

A spokesperson from Stagecoach buses of Hull, constituency of John Prescott, delivered this statement at their main garage during the 'Disabled Action Network's' three day 'Hell in Hull' demo last week. For many of DAN's members who cannot leave their wheelchairs, let alone fold them, this is little help. Earlier in the day activists crawled up John Prescott's front path and pushed their petitions through his letterbox. The Minister for Transport continues to refuse to comment, probably because he never has to rely on some of the worst-run buses in the country to get around. DAN activists also handcuffed themselves to a double decker in front of Hull University, and were joined by a number of students who, along with the Mayor of Hull, accompanied them on their protest march through the city centre. Hull City council have promised to end their contract with Stagecoach Buses if issues such as access are not addressed.

Contact DAN, 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London, N22 6AN, 0181 889 1361

GET YER (co) PEX OOT FOR THE LADS

Last Wednesday demonstrators against the COPEX arms exhibition at Wembley, occupied the offices of GEC calling for an end to GEC's involvement in the arms trade. A banner drop declared ARMS=PROFIT=MURDER. Two people were nicked on suspicion of criminal damage to a fire alarm system and theft of electricity via telephone calls, but later released. COPEX are behind arms fairs and exhibit all forms of surveillance and military hardware to some of the world's most oppressive governments (Whatever happened to New Labour's ethical arms sales policy?). Meanwhile, a beat copper regaled elected occupiers with his theory that the only way to really change things was through world revolution. Strange but true, now if only we'd thought of that...

Contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297.

On the Face of It

Britain's police are the first to be equipped with "spy on the street" CCTV which can recognise faces within seconds. The system, which is going on a six-month trial in east London from next week, is capable of checking 1,000 faces every second, and its developers reckon it can see through disguises, hats, glasses and facial hair. But civil rights campaigners warn that the "facial mapping" system - Mandrake - may lead to an increase in wrongful arrests, as innocent people are mistaken for villains. Mandrake works by checking key features on the faces of people and comparing them with photographs held in a database. The system has been tried out at football matches, but the trial being carried out by the Metropolitan Police in partnership with Newham Borough Council is the first time it has been used on the streets. 140 CCTV cameras and 11 mobile camera units will be installed in Forest Gate, East Ham and Stratford. (see SchNEWS ???)

...and finally...

When 'something of the night' Michael Howard M.P. & 200 other assorted Establishment 'luminaries' were banged-up a night for a cancer charity (not a prisoner one!) the call to 'throw away the key' on these criminals was mysteriously muted.

SchNEWS hopes their spot of stit was spent reflecting on increasing prisoner suicides especially among young inmates, the many fit-ups and health problems. so don't forget prisoners need constant contact and always appreciate a letter.

disclaimer

Confucius warns all readers not to fly off to repressive regimes with their big big chums. otherwise there'll be fireworks and you'll be the sound of one hand clapping to face Zen. Zen you will be content. Home-st